

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

February 24 2006
Volume 14 Issue 7



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honoring Black History Month

The Danish Cartoons
What about freedom of speech?

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

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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Unplugged

Sandra Livingston

The sympathy in the young girl's voice was genuine. It was a moment of pure compassion; of one person reaching out to another across the void in this hard-wired, fast-paced world. "Oh no," she sighed. "That's awful." We were talking about cable. Or, more precisely, cable TV and the really great deal that she could offer me on the latest bundle of specialty channels for my home-theatre experience. I had let her finish her spiel before breaking the news. "No, thank you," I said. "We don't have cable." And that was when the polite distance between buyer and seller evaporated and it became just she and I, two souls communing across the telephone line. "That's awful," she said. And then came the clincher, the assumption behind her empathy. "You got cut off, huh?" Her tone was that of one who could relate, who had also suffered the fate of having her lifeline to *Friends* cruelly severed. I struggled to keep a straight face. Not that she could see me, but I was trying to be as gentle as possible. "No," I said. "We didn't get cut off. We don't want TV." It was as though I'd dropped a bomb. There was a stunned silence, a polite groping for words, and then a whispered thank-you. She hung up.

They're a real conversation stopper, those four little words. It usually starts when someone asks if I've seen the latest instalment of *Survivor*, or didn't I just love it when The Donald (yes, he of the bad hair) fired the latest apprentice. The reaction is often the same, but one young man summed it up best. "But how," he wondered, "will you know what to think?" Without even realizing it, he had hit the nail on the head.

Now, don't get me wrong. Television isn't inherently evil. Our kids grew up watching *Sesame Street*. Heck, I love Lucy just as much as anyone else does. At its best, the medium can be a valuable source of information, of entertainment and a thoughtful exchange of ideas. I can't even argue against the amount of time most North Americans spend in front of the tube (one lady I know has a television in every room of the house, including the bathroom!). Let's face it, some people spend hours doing crossword puzzles or building model airplanes, and some of us even devote entire weekends to grappling with philosophy courses.

The mind-numbing banality of most prime-time fare isn't unique to television either. Even in the days before rabbit ears and Uncle Miltie, some people chose to read Shakespeare while others were happy poring over penny dreadfuls. People's tastes run the gamut in every medium, and television is no different. Its legacy includes *Masterpiece Theatre* right up there alongside *The Love Boat*.

No, the problem isn't the time people spend glued to the flickering screen, or even the rampant violence and stupidity that abound (sometimes together) in most network fare. Those things can be found in equal measure in books, movies, and the Internet. The real problem is that television is an eager beast, one that's willing to put forth every ounce of effort needed to keep our relationship alive. It's like a fawning guest that's been let loose in the house and refuses to let the inhabitants do more than lift a finger. Twenty-four hours a day, four hundred channels strong, it will please, amuse, or distract me at will. And it asks absolutely nothing in return. I don't have to turn the page. My eyes don't need to track the print across the paper, stumbling over unknown words that make me pause and put effort (even a little) into sounding it out or wondering what it means. I don't need to support the weight of it in my hands, or expend any physical energy to put it back on the shelf when I'm done. I don't have to actively participate, making decisions by clicking to get to the next part of a story or following hyperlinks to track down information. I don't have to read the text that accompanies the pictures on the screen in front of me.

Radio doesn't require much involvement either, but I like to think of it as television's shy cousin, the one that lets you do other things even while you nod politely and listen to what it has to say. It isn't like its more boisterous relative, the one who demands that you not only listen, but also watch it do somersaults across the living room. No, television is a breed of its own that makes me a passive receptacle, a lover whose adoring partner is willing to do all the work. And therein lies the problem. If it's always within reach, if this constant companion is always available to do it all for me, when do I lose the ability to do things for myself? To interact, to participate, to shoulder some of the burden of discourse or even thought?

With a doting friend like television, when does the problem become not just knowing what to think, but forgetting to think at all? I wonder about her sometimes, that girl who tried to sell me the Sports and Movie Package. I imagine she's still sitting there, a look of disbelief on her face. And I wonder if it would have been kinder to just buy the damn cable.



Women You Should Know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

"I speak to the black experience, but I am always talking about the human condition -- about what we can endure, dream, fail at, and still survive.

- Maya Angelou

February 29, 1860 - Canada's first female Chinese immigrant, Mrs. Kwong Lee, arrived in Victoria British Columbia.

February 2, 1897 - Clara Brett Martin, the first female lawyer in the British Empire set up her law practice in Toronto, Ontario.

February 1897 - Lady Aberdeen, the wife of Canadian Governor General Lord Aberdeen, visited Vancouver in 1896. During this visit, she heard vivid accounts of the hardship and illness affecting women and children in isolated areas. Recognizing a need, Lady Aberdeen formed an order of visiting nurses. As a result, the Right Honourable

Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier hosted an inauguration to create the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) as a way to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Lady Aberdeen was chosen the first president of the VON.

February 19, 1897 - Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, who was born in Ontario, founded the world's first Women's Institute, which was located in Stoney Creek, Ontario. This organization was formed to provide support for the rural wives of farmers.

February 23, 1901 - Ruth Nichols, renowned aviator, was born. Upon graduation from high school, Ruth's father presented her with the opportunity to ride with Eddie Stinson, ace pilot of World War I. Ruth was so impressed that she began to secretly study flying. She became the first woman in the world to earn an international hydroplane license. In 1927, she was one of the first of two women to receive a Department of Commerce transport license. Her success continued and in 1931, Nichols broke three major women's records for altitude, speed and distance. After a serious injury in a plane crash, Nichols turned her attention to humanitarian projects.

February 1963 - Marilyn Brooks, a pioneer in the Canadian fashion industry, opened her first boutique named "The Unicorn" in Toronto.

February 28, 1996 - The first time in history that a Canadian won four Grammys in one year. Alanis Morissette, singer/songwriter, won for Best Rock Song, Best Female Rock Vocal Performance, Best Rock Album and Album of the Year.

In recognition of Black History Awareness Month, the following are some notable black women in Canadian History.

Zanana Akande - The first Black female to serve in the Cabinet of the Government of Ontario.

Jean Augustine - First Black woman elected as a federal Member of Parliament.

Annie Aylestock - Canada's first female Black minister.

Anne Cools - First Black person to be named to the Senate of Canada.

Daurene Lewis - First Black woman in Canada to be elected as a mayor.

Juanita Westmoreland-Traore - First Black judge in Quebec.

Portia White - First Black Canadian woman to become a famous singer.

Reference

Forster, M. (2006). This Month in Canadian Herstory: February [web site]. heroines.ca - A Guide to Women in Canadian History. Retrieved from <http://www.heroines.ca/history/thismonth.html>

War of Our World -- Spielberg has crafted a masterpiece with Munich

Eddie Dwyer



Munich is a Universal Studios movie directed by Steven Spielberg. The screenplay was written by Tony Kushner and Eric Roth. It is based on the book *Vengeance* by George Jonas (1984). The movie has a running time of 164 minutes and is rated R for strong graphic violence, some sexual content, nudity and language.

"Home is everything" is the concluding statement from the leader of a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) group in a conversation with Avner (played by Eric Bana), the character is a leader of a secret Mossad group formed to avenge the deaths of eleven Israeli coaches and Olympians during the 1972 Munich Olympics. The Mossad group is tasked with hunting down and eliminating the Palestinians who were responsible for the massacre. I won't ruin the set up to that scene, but it is a comically eerie chain of events that leads to a chance encounter between an Israeli and a Palestinian in a stairwell in Athens discussing the endless conflict between Palestine and Israel. This scene, like the rest of the movie, is incredible and very memorable.

The book *Vengeance* was written by George Jonas as told to him by "Avner," who after becoming uncomfortable with the Mossad, came out of hiding to tell his story. Is it true? Only a handful of people know for sure. Palestinians connected to Munich and other assaults against Israel were murdered, and someone committed these murders. The book has caused some controversy within both the Mossad and the PLO groups who both say it is fiction. In making the film, Steven Spielberg has also caused some controversy, in that many Israelis feel that the film wasn't sufficiently sympathetic with their side. But that is not the point. Certainly Spielberg, being Jewish himself, could have painted the PLO more monstrosity and the Israelis as innocent victims, but to him, that would have been fiction. His point in making Munich is to say that both sides are guilty, both sides are capable of being monsters, and both sides have victims. It's the cycle of ceaseless tit-for-tat and revenge mentality that ought be brought to the surface. Without any attempt at compromise, the hatred will continue to grow for years and generations, like it has today.

The movie starts out with a recreation of the Munich attack, which also uses original footage from the actual event. The whole attack is gradually revealed to us through the nightmares and images that Avner has, which play out throughout the movie, until it is completed with the final horrendous moments at the airport in Munich. As a result of the attack, Golda Meir, the Israeli Prime Minister, asks that a team of Mossad agents be assembled to exact revenge against the Black September terrorists and the people responsible for the attack. We follow Avner and his partners across the globe as they cross paths with various government departments and pay incredible amounts of money for information that will lead to the whereabouts of the targets and hopefully to the demise of the targets. Soon the hunters become the hunted and Avner starts to question the mission as he tries to grasp what is really going on and if he and his men are accomplishing anything at all. He even questions if they are killing those responsible or just perpetuating the violence. He asserts that for every man they kill, someone worse takes his place and more Israelis are or will be murdered. His belief is that this is not what his God would have wanted; these men should be arrested and brought to justice. But that of course would not spill Palestinian blood and thus the revenge his employer seeks would not be achieved. Through the personal struggles that Avner and his men experience, Spielberg humanizes the men -- not a great trait to have when you are an assassin.

Munich is one of the best films of 2005. It is both a very well done drama and also very relevant today, even though its setting is the early seventies. In order to coexist with enemies, we need to work more on compromises and understanding differences and less on building bombs and seeking revenge. If a group finds it extremely offensive for others to publish cartoons of their God, perhaps we shouldn't publish them. If the same group takes offence to cartoons that are published, perhaps the issue could be debated in a civil forum. Should people be dying over cartoons? Is that the intent of any religion? Towards the end of

Munich, Avner returns to his wife and child in New York City. He has sex with his wife as he imagines the final moments for the Israeli victims in Munich. Perhaps during that moment, his wife conceives. Would it be hard to believe that his child will grow up to hate Arabs? At least his child will grow up away from all the violence. Spielberg wants the violence to end. If nothing changes, the violence and attacks will go on forever. I wonder if Avner was still in New York on September 11, 2001? Was he far away from home and the violence that plagues the Middle East?

Reference

Jonas, G. (1984). *Vengeance*. HarperCollins Publishers.

About the Danish Cartoons

El-ahrairah Jones



I have seen some of the Danish cartoons and their irreverent portrayal of Mohammed and of Muslims in general. They are crude, racist, tasteless, and not very funny. As examples of the editorial cartoonist's art, they are pretty low on the quality scale. In my opinion, they are also a shoddy collection to have to defend from a freedom of speech standpoint. Surely the right to express ourselves comes, like all rights, with some responsibilities as well. Just because we ideally are free to voice our criticisms of others, that does not mean that we should go out of our way to scandalize and outrage their sensibilities. It's an issue of respect.

Having said this, though, I also strongly believe that those of us who are committed to freedom of speech must defend the right of these artists, tasteless though they may be, to have their say. The thing about freedom of expression is that it doesn't work to pick and choose for others which issues can or cannot be discussed. All censorship, as far as I can see, is a slippery slope. As much as I despise the messages of violent video games, misogynistic rappers, and narrow-minded bigotry in whatever forms it takes, I am perpetually aware of the fact that there are plenty of people out there who find my views and those of others I respect, equally outrageous and distasteful. When I see that some newspapers, then, have come out and denounced the decision of publications such as the Calgary-based *Western Standard* to reproduce these cartoons, it makes me worry that we are entering some fairly Orwellian territory. Today, some journalists argue for acts of media self-censorship to protect the sensibilities of a particular religious group. What if tomorrow they do the same thing in order to protect the stability of the Bush government, the military-industrial complex, or the Catholic Church?

Interestingly, I made this point during a discussion with some friends recently, and the issue stirred up some pretty heated discussion. At one point, it was argued that the sort of racism evident in the Danish cartoons was an example of the sort of dangerous lies and hateful propaganda that helped the horrors of Nazi Germany to become a reality. With due respect to the person who made this statement, I would argue that those atrocities were due, at least in part, to the control and manipulation of public opinion through the suppression of free speech. When only certain views are allowed to be expressed, when dissenting voices and alternative outlooks are discouraged by threats of violent reprisals, thought control and totalitarianism are only a hair's breadth away.



FNCE 408: E-Commerce and Risk Management

One of the most predominant highlights of our era is the surge in technology development. New technological inventions affect our world, our culture, our lives, and, of course, our businesses. Yes, our businesses. With the Internet and e-commerce becoming so prominent in North American lives, those of us with businesses cannot afford to sit still. Instead, we need to be proactive in determining the risks and benefits of e-commerce. We need to determine how we can use online business technology to enhance our company's success. Athabasca University's new course, E-Commerce and Risk Management (FNCE 408), does just this in providing insights relating to online business transactions, as well as the positive and negative aspects associated with it.

The three-credit course in applied studies is authored by Dr. Eben Otuteye. E-Commerce and Risk Management (FNCE 408) has a prerequisite course of either FNCE 234 (Introduction To Finance) or FNCE 370 (Overview of Corporate Finance).

Over 12 interesting units, FNCE 408 will introduce you to the busy world of e-commerce. Unit one focuses on the main topic of the course, that being risk management scenarios in the online business world. You will be introduced to the concept of e-commerce risk, and gain a grasp on its benefits and downfalls. Through the next few units, you will delve more deeply into the network of factors related to e-commerce risk and how to successfully manage, or avoid, it. You will learn about security issues prevalent in online business transactions. You will also have the opportunity to explore basic e-commerce risks, both relative and absolute, as well as common pitfalls. A significant portion, consisting of several units, of E-Commerce and Risk Management (FNCE 408) will teach you valuable tools associated with being able to assess risk, which uses a relatively scientific approach with qualitative and quantitative parameters. In this section, you will also be taught how to correctly and efficiently interpret data related to e-commerce risks. Emphasis is also laid on how to manage risk in your business. Now, you will not only be able to recognize and interpret risks in your online business, but you will also be able to eliminate or reduce risks through correct management techniques. FNCE 408 concludes with a "big picture" approach enabling you to see everything in perspective.

Your evaluation in E-Commerce and Risk Management (FNCE 408) is determined in several ways. Ten percent of your final mark is allotted to the course's new online component, which involves online discussions with your peers. Three assignments (worth 10%, 10%, and 20%, respectively) enable you to delve deeper into some of the issues discussed in the course and collectively total 40% of your final mark. Lastly, your comprehension of the course material is tested in the final exam, that is worth 50%.

Be proactive about your business and use e-commerce technology to your benefit! Enroll in E-Commerce and Risk Management (FNCE 408). For more course information, visit the FNCE 408 syllabus at: www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/fnce408.htm

Another Lesson Learned



*From
Where
I Sit*

Hazel Anaka

Regular readers of this space will remember I along with my husband did some brutal, pressured home renovations in December. By way of reminder I stripped a wallpaper border, TSP'd the walls, applied a tinted primer, then painted 3, or was it 4, coats of deep red on my office walls. I also ripped up carpeting, scraped the glue residue and helped lay laminate flooring. All this in addition to the regular grind and extra prep required to host Christmas dinner for about twenty.

Add to that more time spent at my computer. Because I'm launching an e-commerce business and doing research for another home-based business, I've spent more time on the internet in the last three months than in my entire life. Is it any wonder I couldn't sleep because of hand and wrist pain? My body was paying the price. The unrelenting pain kept me awake, resulted in weakness and discomfort, and drove me to my doctor, chiropractor and finally physiotherapist. And scared the hell out of me. Where would I be without the use of my hands and arms?

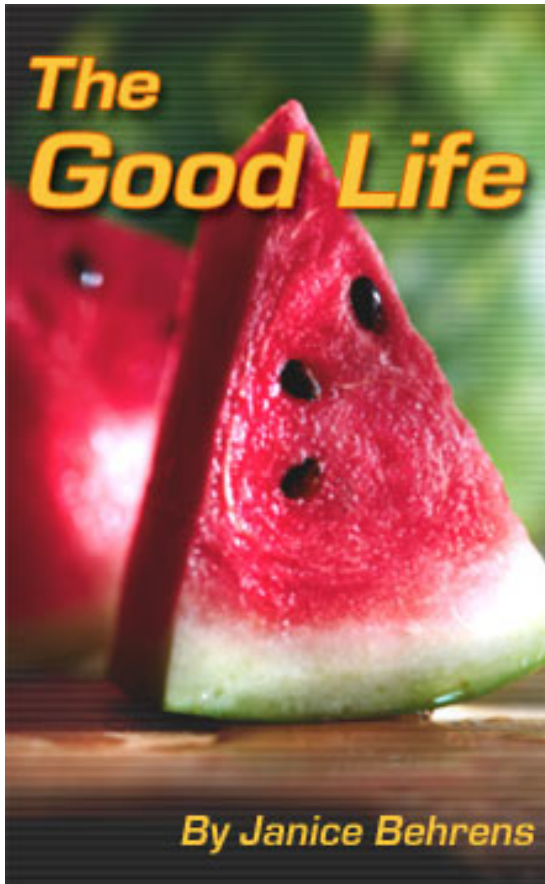
Yet again I had misdiagnosed myself. I didn't have carpal tunnel syndrome but rather tennis elbow in both arms. Through a series of tests and questions, the therapist established a baseline of pain, strength and function. I learned I had a repetitive stress injury or MSD (musculoskeletal disorder) and would require several treatments and a change in attitude and behaviour.

The first thing I did was improve the ergonomics of my workstation. Good chair with adjustable armrests and lumbar support—check. Footstool (because if my chair is adjusted properly for my work surface my feet don't touch the floor)—check. Top of the monitor screen at eye level—oops. With a laptop it's damn near impossible. Buy a riser. With a riser I can no longer reach the keys. Buy a wireless keyboard and full-size ergonomic mouse—check. Keep the wrists as level as possible when typing while supporting weight of arms on armrests. Keep the mouse nearby to avoid unnecessary stretching. Oh, and only work for about twenty minutes at a time. Stop frequently to do the neck stretching exercises.

Find time to drive 50 minutes each way once or twice a week for therapy and do all the exercises as prescribed every day, several times a day. Begin to understand this condition can realistically take six months to 'cure.'

There is no quick fix other than changing how I do things and following up with all aspects of the proposed treatment—physical therapy including ultrasound and exercises, icing the affected areas, doing the exercises, wearing supportive tennis elbow bands when using my arms in a repetitive way.

Take it from me it's so much easier not to get into this situation in the first place. Check your work station, pace yourself when doing hard, physical or repetitive work and heed warnings from your body. It can't be ignored from where I sit.



Put Some Mustard On It

For the longest time, growing up in Southern Alberta, the word "mustard" was synonymous in mind with the gluey substance that was squeezed out of bright yellow plastic containers. Along with relish and ketchup, it was a staple of summer cooking. We swirled it on top of grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. We slathered it between the white bread slices of our grilled cheese and baloney sandwiches. And we dolloped it on top of the boiled ham at Sunday dinner. Since those days, the taste of mass-produced supermarket mustard brings back treasured memories of baseball games and family picnics.

As I discovered much later in life, though, there is a lot more to this humble and ubiquitous product of the seed of the mustard plant. As many foodies will tell you, having good quality mustard in the kitchen is, like herbs and spices, a great way to add a lot of flavour wallop to your food without adding any extra unwanted fat.

Like all good things, such as cheeses, vinegars and butters, there are a large number of different mustards, each with its own subtleties of character and impact of heat, flavour and texture. As with wine, it's a good idea to pair the type of mustard you use with the food you are serving. The sweat-inducing Chinese mustard, for instance, is perfect with egg rolls. Try classic

English mustard by adding water to the powdered form from Coleman's, and serving it with bangers and mash, or ham. The French Dijon mustard is magic in thick, creamy sauces for ladling over fish and chicken. For a heart-stopping plate of cold cuts and cheese, or to have with grilled sausages, you can't go wrong with a good quality German variety.

One of my favourite mustard-enhanced items is a remoulade sauce, the recipe for which I managed to wheedle out of a waiter in New Orleans about fifteen years ago, and have continued to use ever since. The restaurant was a recommendation from the concierge at the hotel we were staying at. The restaurant turned out to be a pretty nondescript sort of place, far off the beaten track tourist-wise. But the food, especially the oysters and shrimp, was absolutely dynamite. The sauce for the shrimp called for a combination of chopped up shallots, parsley and celery seasoned with six teaspoons of paprika, a bit of fresh basil, salt and freshly ground pepper to taste, six tablespoons of white wine vinegar, a dash of cayenne, a half to three-quarters of a cup of the best olive oil you can find, and -- above all -- four tablespoons of hot Creole mustard (it is really worth checking around at specialty food stores to track this down).

Another simple and delicious mustard recipe comes from James Barber's delightful and foolproof *The Urban Peasant Quick and Simple* cookbook. It is called, appropriately, Alfredo the Quick, and takes almost no time or effort prepare. All you need is a tablespoon of Dijon mustard, a half cup of cream, two tablespoons each of grated cheddar and green onions, some parsley, pepper and nutmeg. All you do is combine the ingredients in a saucepan for a few minutes, stirring all the time. Then you pour it over your favourite noodles. Definitely a notch or two above Kraft dinner, flavour-wise!

Reference

Barber, J. (1993). *The Urban Peasant Quick and Simple*. TV Companion Recipes series. Urban Peasant.



Oxford University associates threatened for liaising with perpetrators of animal cruelty

Mandy Gardner

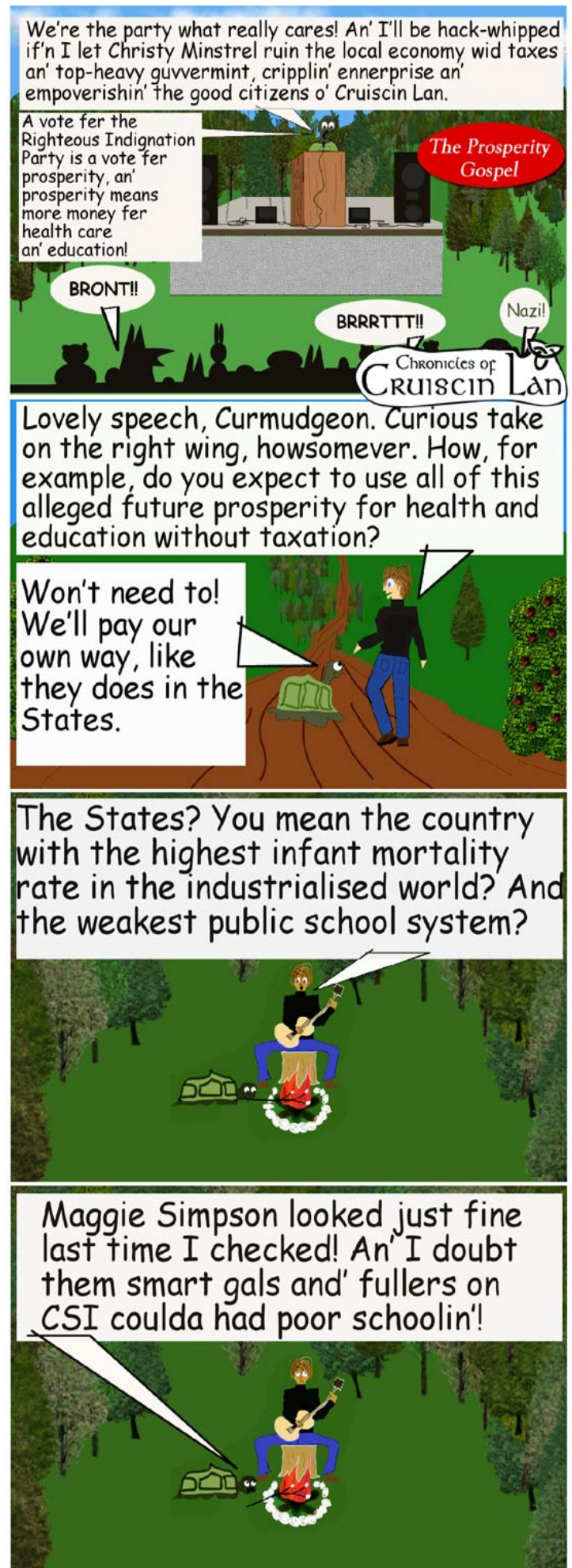
Several companies have been given a deadline of one week, concluding on February 20th, to withdraw their financial and comprehensive support for Oxford University or otherwise risk suffering action taken by

the members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). The ALF, as an American animal rights group, has apparently taken the names of companies affiliated with the University that are listed on the SPEAK website (published by a UK animal rights group). The ALF has threatened action against all individuals who do not renounce their relationship with the University immediately. The row has sprung up over the construction of a new animal testing facility at the Oxford site, a building that raises ethical issues concerning animal welfare.

Anxious construction workers hired to work on the new facility have gone to great lengths to ensure that they are incognito during work hours to avoid the wrath of the radical protestors. Bite Back Magazine, official newsletter for ALF members, paints a picture of just how real these threats might be. Equipped with easily identifiable icons labelled Pictures, Sabotage, Vandalism, Video, Arson, Liberation and Prisoner, the magazine sums up the actions of its devoted members against alleged perpetrators of animal cruelty in a page called *News from the Frontlines*. ALF members admit jovially to committing crimes against people only remotely linked to the individuals participating in animal-related trades. They make clear and vicious threats to all they deem responsible for animal cruelty.

Students at the University are aware of the issue and may have cause for concern after a post on the ALF website said, "We must target professors, teachers, heads, students, investors, partners, supporters and ANYONE that dares to deal in any part of the university in any way ... anything goes." Investigators believe that, of all ALF members whose objective is to "to abolish institutionalised animal exploitation because it assumes that animals are property" (ALF Mission Statement as published on the website), there are an estimated twenty radical protesters resorting to violence and destruction of property. The companies still affiliated with Oxford University by the end of the deadline are faced with threats to have "offices trashed and the homes of their directors and/or trustees attacked" (Guardian article, February 20, 2006).

100 companies connected to the University have been given the ultimatum by ALF, who says that "we will never let them [Oxford University] win!" (Guardian article, February 20, 2006). The University has made no move to stop construction of the animal-testing facility.



AUSU THIS MONTH



AUSU Election, Now Under Way

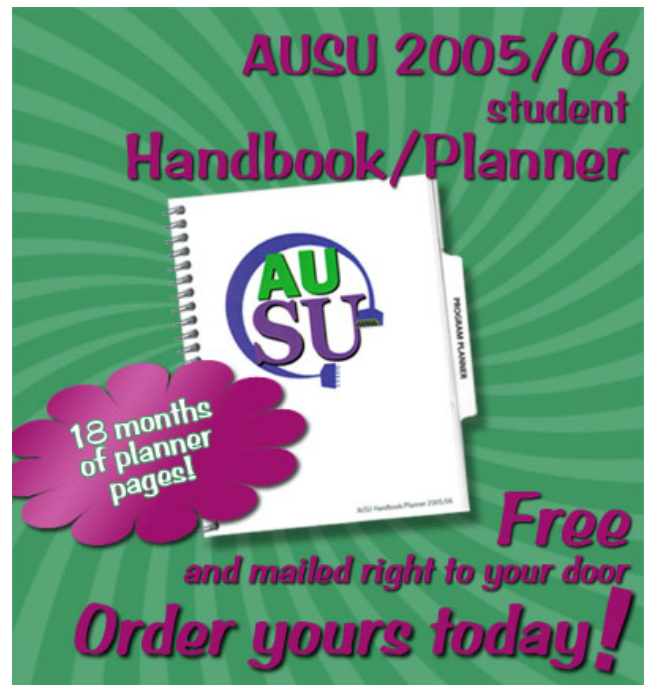
The 2006 AUSU election is now open, and members can expect to see campaign materials from candidates on this website and in our forums. Below is the candidate sheet, as approved by our Chief Returning Officer, Bevan Iwaskow. Candidates will be invited to create campaign posters for you to view, and as they become available you'll be able to access them by clicking on each candidate's name. If the name is blue and underlined, then there is a poster ready for viewing. We hope you all turn out to vote this year, for the council that will provide student services through March 2008!

This year's candidates are:

MacDonald McInnis - Calgary, AB
Joy Kryz - Edmonton, AB
Jamie Czerwinski - Sherwood Park, AB
Sarah Whaley - Surrey, BC
Lisa Priebe - Calgary, AB
Karl Low - Calgary, AB
Tania Davies - Carlsbad, CA
Alica Robichaud - Saint John, NB
Zil-E-Huma Lodhi - Waterloo, ON
Barbara Rielly - Westport, ON
Megan McIntyre - Niagara Falls, ON
Angele Gaudette - Sudbury, ON
Real Beaulieu - Nepean, ON
Peter Tretter - Greely, ON
Lonita Fraser - Hamilton, ON

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.





Dear Barb:

I guess what I have to say is more or less an observation. I have just started teaching grade seven and it seems to me young people today don't have basic manners. They don't seem to know how to treat each other with respect, nor do they treat adults with respect. Is it just me or are there others out there who feel the same way? Maybe you could comment on this topic in your column. Looking forward to your response.

Glenn - Cobourg

Hi Glenn. I believe many people share your sentiments and being a teacher you are experiencing this first-hand.

Today's parents seem to be so busy with work, career and children's activities that perhaps they have lost sight of the necessity of teaching children basic manners. It's a well-known fact that the child or adult with good manners will go further in life than those who do not practice good etiquette.

Imagine you are an employer interviewing two equally qualified candidates. One candidate greets you with a firm handshake, a wide

smile and a verbal greeting. The other person sits down, doesn't shake your hand, and only nods his head to greet you. How difficult would your decision be in choosing who gets the job?

As a teacher, there are things you can do to help the students in your classroom to become better equipped to face the world. You could spend a few minutes each day discussing and encouraging polite behaviour. Make it an interactive session, where students are asked to give examples of good manners. Perhaps try acting out scenarios (role playing) among the students, so they will be able to put this behaviour into practice.

Be sure to comment when you witness students exhibiting good manners. This will encourage them to continue. Another area where manners are important is in sports. Good sportsmanship seems to be a thing of the past for a lot of today's youth. Again as a teacher, you can do something to change this, at least for your students. When your students are involved in sports and competitive games, remind them to shake hands with the opposing team at the end of each game. Reaffirm that they had fun and did a good job. This will promote good sportsmanship.

Suggest your students practice this behaviour in their own homes. Have them report back to you the reactions from parents or other family members. Perhaps at the end of the year you may receive some positive feedback from parents who notice the change in their child's behaviour.

You brought up a good topic Glenn. Maybe some readers would like to write in with their comments or suggestions on this issue.

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.



A Little Clouseau in All of Us

The new *Pink Panther* film, with Steve Martin portraying the buffoonish Inspector Jacques Clouseau of the Surete, is one Hollywood remake that I will definitely not be going to see. I cannot imagine any actor other than Peter Sellers filling the stumbling shoes of the inept central character.

I have no illusions, by the way, that these old films were any great shakes artistically. In many ways, the humour in them was childish and perhaps even racist. By the end of the series especially, many of the pratfalls and jokes had become more than a little uninspired. I can't see the point of ever feeling guilty about enjoyment, but I suppose these films would fall under the category of "guilty pleasures" for many of us who are and were fans of them. The reason I still go on enjoying them, though, is for the utterly inspired talent of the late, great Peter Sellers. For my money, he was one of the true comic geniuses of our time.

The first time Peter Sellers made me laugh was during my childhood in Clacton-on-Sea. For a variety of reasons, those years were dark ones for me, filled with a lot of anguish. Fortunately, though, I had discovered a stack of record albums tucked away in a storage room of

the house we were renting. Amongst them were some vintage recordings of *The Goon Show*, a brilliant radio comedy show intermittently broadcast by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) from the early 1950s until the early 1970s. The show featured, along with Sellers, Michael Bentine, Spike Milligan, and Harry Secomb. The show included surrealistically hilarious sketches that are often cited as the inspiration for later comedy troupes such as *Beyond the Fringe* and *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. I don't recall any specific routines from these shows, but I do remember the hours spent listening to this creative craziness. It left me with a lifelong appreciation for imaginative comedy.

A few years later, I saw *A Shot in the Dark*, at the local repertory movie theatre. It was playing on a double bill with Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*. Since then, I have seen each of these films about a hundred times. I can't think of a more fitting double bill. At his best, Sellers, like Chaplin, was able to make you laugh on two levels of consciousness. The most obvious level was that of slapstick. To make people laugh by creating physical mayhem out of a simple scenario takes, as most of us can imagine, something of the grace and timing of a professional dancer. Seeing Clouseau demolish a rack of billiard cues is surely not a dissimilar experience to that of watching footage of Baryshnikov at his most inspired.

The other and more resonant level of the Chaplin/Sellers style of comedy, though, was the way that their displays of touching ineptitude somehow made a profound comment about the human condition. In this sense, they were of course continuing on a long and rich theatrical tradition including, amongst many others, both Shakespeare and the Commedia dell'Arte. What made Sellers' portrayal so poignant and extra funny was the fact that for all his blustering, Inspector Clouseau was really only trying to achieve the sense of human dignity that each of us is looking for. Like us, he just wanted to be respected, to be taken seriously, yet he was constantly tripped-up by his own clumsiness and pomposity. In this sense, comedians like Sellers and Chaplin were able to make us, at least subconsciously, take a look at our own frailties. They perhaps made us see that there is a little of both the little Tramp and the bungling Clouseau in each of us. That, to me, is art.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

LEA ROBACK FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Value: \$500 - \$3,000

Application Deadline: May 15

Description: For Canadian citizens, permanent residents or convention refugees who reside in Quebec, and women pursuing studies at any level from literacy up to the completion of an undergraduate degree. Must not have a university degree acknowledged in Quebec, and must be socially committed and require financial assistance.

Instructions: Submit resume, letters of reference, letter or audiocassette describing choice of programme and description of financial situation.

Contact Information: Lea Roback Foundation / Fondation Léa-Roback

Web Site: www.fondationlearoback.org/bourse.htm

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF DISCOVERIES PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST

Value: \$600

Application Deadline: June 15

Description: Open to students of all nations, college or university students who have not received a doctoral degree. Submit unpublished essay of a maximum of 6,000 words on voyages, travels, biography, history, cartography, techniques and technology, or other aspects of discovery.

Contact Information: Society for the History of Discoveries (SHD)

Web Site: www.sochistdisc.org

APEGGA MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP (2)

Administrator: APEGGA Education Foundation, The

Award Amount: \$2,000.00

Award Deadline: Saturday, July 15, 2006

Scholarship Criteria: Alberta resident. Intended to assist the children of APEGGA members to pursue a post-secondary education. Based on academic achievement with significant weight placed on accomplishments in other areas. Must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. Contact for more information.

Contact Information: 1500 Scotia One, 10060 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4A2

Phone: (780) 426-3990

Fax: (780) 426-1877

Toll Free: (800) 661-7020

Web Site: <http://www.apegga.org/Members/ScholarshipsAwards/schlist.html>

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

PHIL(ANTHROPY)

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Time: doors at 6:30, show at 7:30

Location: Red's, WEM - \$6 at the door

Bands: Forever After; My Perfect Enemy; OK Cadet; From The Ground Up

All ages show - Net proceeds are going to Grey Nun's Palliative Care Unit. The last three bands can be found on <http://www.thesoundradio.com/artist> All are local bands and incredibly talented.

british columbia

SPRING THEATRE CLASSES

February 06 to May 01, 2006 - Kelowna, BC

Kelowna Actors Studio

Ticket Prices very reasonable

Kelowna Actors Studio - 250-862-2867

info@kelownaactorsstudio.com

<http://www.KelownaActorsStudio.com>

21st CENTURY ANTIQUES FAIR

February 19, 2006 - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Vancouver, BC - Croatian Cultural Centre

General Admission 10am-3pm - \$3 at Door

Early Bird Admission 8am-10am - \$20 at Door

Children Under 13 Free with Adult Admission

Free Parking - <http://www.21cpromotions.com>

175 tables and booths of 19th & 20th Century Antiques & Collectibles! Decorative arts, vintage & estate jewellery, country collectibles, ephemera, mid-century Modernist decor, old dolls & toys, Christmas items, tins, art pottery & glass, native crafts, hand-painted china, textiles & linens, depression-era kitchenware, primitives, records & memorabilia, chintz, period lighting & fixtures, nautical, old books, and much, much more.

ontario

SCIENCE SATURDAYS WITH MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

January 22 to May 28, 2006 - Hamilton, ON

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Hamilton Children's Museum

Adults - \$1.00 - Children - \$3.00

905-546-4848 - childrensmuseum@hamilton.ca

McMaster University science students provide hands-on science activities for children and families. Venture

Physics and Let's Talk Science Team bring along "the punky physics roller coaster" and other creative science demonstrations and activities. DATES: Saturdays, March 12, 19 & 26; April 16 & 30; May 21 & 28. 6 yrs and up

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 - 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.

international

MARDI GRAS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Port Arthur, Texas, USA - Feb 23 - 26, 2006

<http://mardigras.portarthur.com/>

This year's theme is Floral Fantasy. Port Arthur hosts Mardi Gras Southeast Texas fun all. From arts and crafts to Zydeco music and Parades, there is an attraction to peak everyone's interest. Advance discount tickets are available. Admission is \$5 to \$10, and kids under 12 are free. There is free parking on the street, \$5 on lots.

BRAZILIAN CARNAVAL 2006

Long Beach, California, USA - February 25, 2006

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

8:00 pm to 2:00 am - Admission \$35 (\$40 at the door)

Reserved Table seats \$45 (\$50 at the door)

The largest Carnival Party in Southern California. Large dance floor, costume contest with a trip to Rio de Janeiro for the winner, booths of arts and crafts, food. Samba show, and lot's of batucada (brazilian drumming).

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

Conference Connections

GEOLOGY FOR NON-GEOLOGISTS - HOUSTON

March 6, 2006 - March 9, 2006 - Houston, Texas, USA

<http://www.peice.com/eventdetails.aspx?event=102400&ref=Allconferences&frfi=16734>

This popular four-day course will provide non-geologists with a practical understanding of the principles used by petroleum geologists in the search for oil and gas. The session will include both the scientific background and the practical applications of geology. The tools, techniques, and vocabulary of the petroleum geologist will be emphasized throughout the course. A complete set of course materials and lunches are included.

Delivery Method: Classroom Training

Fee: \$ 1995 USD

CEU: 3.2 Continuing Education Units

PDH: 32 Professional Development Hours

NASS SPRING BREAK: BACK TO THE EVIDENCE

March 8, 2006 - March 11, 2006 - San Diego, CA, USA

<http://www.spine.org/06SprgBrk.cfm>

NASS Spring Break will be a high-energy interactive meeting focusing on controversial and non-traditional topics. Look forward to interactive symposia and debate sessions. NASS Spring Break will provide physicians an opportunity to share current information and concepts relating to spinal problems in an open, interactive relaxed atmosphere.

ON-LINE METHODS IN CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE PROCESSING

March 21, 2006 - March 22, 2006 - New York

Understanding how children process language, in real time, is necessary for building comprehensive theories about language acquisition. This workshop is the first scientific gathering specifically dedicated to a new field of research that explores such issues, experimental developmental psycholinguistics. This workshop provides a forum in which scholars from different areas of expertise (psycholinguistics, language acquisition, and cognitive neuroscience), particularly those interested in applying on-line methods to study children's language processing, will discuss how current and developing empirical approaches can inform about language processing mechanisms in children.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2006

March 24, 2006 - March 26, 2006 - Mont Tremblant, Quebec

<http://www.mfrc.mcgill.ca/?section=Conferences>

A conference fee will be charged to cover expenses (C\$250 for academics, C\$500 for practitioners and C\$100 for students). Presenters, discussants and chairs will be provided with free accommodation. Conference participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses. Conference participants are eligible to pay discounted hotel rates starting at C\$199 per night, for arrival on Thursday March 23rd and departure Sunday March 26th.

The conference will be held at the Fairmont Resort Hotel situated at the foot of Mont Tremblant in Quebec's Laurentians.

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.



Prairie Universities Biological Symposium
40th Anniversary Conference
BY students FOR students

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



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

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACTS NOW!
Deadline: Jan 10, 2006

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

classifieds

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

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