

The Voice

A Bug in Your Ear . . .

By Tammy Moore



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2
January 17, 2001.
www.ausu.org/voice

I read a disturbing article today that reminded me how Canadians are very much free to live by their own will – even with the restriction of not infringing upon the freedom of others. Although we may not always have the support and love of our friends and family behind us, and in many cases, this checks our freedom, we are given opportunity to make our own choices, for better or for worse, and live with the consequences which occur.

Stephanie Nolan's article in the Globe and Mail on Wednesday, January 10th drove home the extent of freedom as I experience it, by sharing, in contrast, the plight of a Nigerian teen who has been sentenced by the Islamic court to a public flogging of 180 cane lashes due to premarital sex that resulted in pregnancy. This alone was enough to make me flinch – although I sometimes wish the moral police existed, I would be horrified if someone had the audacity to decide for me and those living in my nation what was considered a policable moral choice. Other circumstances around the case were equally, if not more disturbing. The girl is anywhere from 13 to 17 years old (her parents are unsure of her age) yet she was tried as an adult as she had already experienced the onset of puberty. There is some question as to whether or not her father was selling her body in exchange for debts owed. The men she testified against were all much older, married men who participated in business dealings with her father, all of whom were found not-guilty; although no paternity or blood tests were required by the court. The girl was relegated to the court by her uncles when her pregnancy became obvious; she is sentenced to be flogged one month after giving birth. A Nigerian human rights group and a Nigerian women's rights group are trying to appeal the decision of the Islamic court, or at least get a stay of execution for fifteen months so that the girl may nurse her baby.

Formal protests from the government of Canada have been dismissed, as have all Western attempts to interfere, as we do not operate under Muslim law.

How do you argue with this? Is it the cultural megalomania of our society that has engrained me with the notion that I must be right in feeling that this is a wrong? After all, I also believe that dogs and cats are for patting and taking on walks. I do understand the insensitivity and ignorance of preferring a country to have no meat to eat (an affordable luxury in a land as bountiful as Canada), rather than imagine the fate of my fuzzy companions on roasting spits. And in that light, is my outrage at the fate of this girl as simply founded as I believe, or is it just my lack of understanding regarding a culture that is alien to me? How much of a right do we have to try to change the way another culture operates? If another country were telling me that Canada's policies would have to conform with that of a larger majority, I would be up in arms defending my right to live the way I have always have. I am quite sure that Canada has customs that must seem as barbaric to other cultures as a public flogging seems to Canadians, yet we are blind to them as they are a part of what we live with. So how do you stand up and fight for something you truly believe in, if you're not sure there is ground upon which

to stand? To read the article, go to globeandmail.com Web Centre for Wednesday, January 10, 2001 The article was written by Stephanie Nolan

INCOME TAX TIME AND YEAR 2000 TUITION & EDUCATION AMOUNTS CERTIFICATE

Have you moved? If YOUR address with AU is not current, please update YOUR address now...



Athabasca University will mail Year 2000 Tuition and Education Tax Credits Certificates T2202A to all eligible students during the period of February 15th through 28th.



Even if you are not currently registered in a course you may be eligible for an income tax credit if any part of your AU course was taken in the 2000 calendar year. **For students to receive the T2202A without delay, Athabasca University requires notification of any outstanding address changes by January 31.** To update an address,

students should email the AU Academic Records department at acrec@athabascau.ca or contact the nearest Athabasca University Learning Centre in Calgary or Edmonton, or the Registration Department at Athabasca.

Eligibility for the number of months of part-time or full-time status for purposes of claiming the appropriate Education Tax Credit will be automatically determined and reflected on the T2202A certificate.

According to income tax regulations, total eligible fees paid to any one institution must exceed \$100 in a calendar year in order to qualify for a Tuition fee tax credit. Canada Custom's and Revenue Agency's Interpretation Bulletin IT-516R covering the Tuition Tax Credit also



dictates that "The tuition tax credit for a particular taxation year can be based only on tuition fees paid for that year. Thus, for example, when the academic session covered by eligible tuition fees paid in a particular year extends from September of that year to April of the next year, the tuition tax credit for the fees is computed for each of those years as one-half of the fees multiplied by the lowest tax rate



percentage." Unlike most Universities which deliver courses by semesters which start on or about January 1st and end on or about December 31st annually, Athabasca University's flexibility in course delivery periods means that courses with start and contract dates that transcend the calendar year end will be impacted by this requirement. Where applicable, the eligible tuition fees

disclosed on your T2202A's will have already been calculated on a prorated basis according to the number of months attributable to each calendar year during which the courses are taken.

Tax time is a particularly hectic time at Athabasca University, as thousands of student tax receipts (T2202A's) are produced, printed and distributed by mail. Every effort will be made to have these receipts mailed as soon as possible. Students are kindly requested to withhold inquiries concerning delivery pending allowance of reasonable mailing time to facilitate receipt shortly after February 28th.



On the Flip Side....

Peace of the Pie
Money Talks

Enlightening Information
Write for The Voice

at the full and change of the moon Dionne Brand

review by Desiree Petersen

Entering this novel is like wandering into a dream. Images flash and swirl, colors and sensations are rich yet ephemeral, and events seem at times completely disconnected. The storyteller shifts from one person to the next, all whirling together into a kaleidoscope of existence.

It begins with the fierce, loving diligence of Marie Ursule, collecting plants in order to create a poison. This poison will be the death of all the slaves on a plantation — a permanent revolution by the slaves. The only one spared by Marie Ursule is her small daughter, Bola. The subsequent life of Bola is as dreamlike as the state of Marie Ursule the morning of the mass suicide. There is no reality but the immediate surroundings, which are described in terms so raw and lush one can taste the salty, muggy jungle breeze. Bola births children as the sea turns on its tide. So many children that she gives them away. These children, the children of the doomed Marie Ursule and the earthy, ethereal Bola, live lives equally surreal.

Generation through generation, these lives are followed at a leisurely pace, in the same, dreamlike state. There is brutality, and discontent. There is passion and mistakes, junkies and hookers, pain and resurrection. There is, in short, brutal reality, but all delivered in the eloquence that belies reality.

There is no hurrying the stories of Bola's children. Each meanders through its own path. Each requires separate concentration. Each demands thought, as the link between the first mother and the generations that drip like rain are linked through small events and similarities.

The language is rich and textural, the mood dream-like yet at times disturbing, and the story as complex and convoluted as mangrove roots. This novel takes time to unfold its riches. Take the time.



A Peace of the Pie

by b.e. hydromako



The new millennium is finally upon us. Unlike last year, this year's celebrations were of a lower key, and this is odd considering that the year 2001 is the real start to the new millennium where as the year 2000 was the end of the last one (we started counting with year one and not year zero). However, that is not really what we ought to be quibbling over. The actual issue here is that during last new year's twenty-four hour telecast we heard people world wide wish everyone peace and love. In fact, it seems that every holiday season we all wish each other these two things, and yet, peace and love appear to be the furthest things from our world.

While a few of us may experience *real* love in our lives—if we are truly blessed—next to none of us have peace in our lives, and most of us have no idea what “peace” is about. It seems that this seasonal wish for peace is nothing other than an empty string of letters which we foist upon each other with the intent to placate the expectations of maintaining the spirit of the season (although these days the spirit of the season is best represented by the all important phrase, “how many shopping days left?” This number is meticulously calculated by every advertiser and every store vying for our holiday dough—we ain't talking shortbread here either!). Of course, this is a very sad state of affairs.

Peace is much more than the simple notion of nonviolence towards one and other. It takes more than the abandonment of physical conflict to lay claim to this concept of “peace.” Peace is the state that we attain when we are truly content with ourselves and the world we find ourselves



immersed in: there are few who can claim this. If we are at peace with the world, then there would not be such a need to hurry up and move on to the next big challenge, nor would there be such overwhelming social pressures to act in certain ways, and follow specific guidelines. As well, we would not be so hasty to judge those who are different from us, nor those that are unknown to us. Most importantly, if we truly had peace in our lives, then we would never feel the need to “keep up with the Jones'.”

MONEY TALKS

by JP Kearns



Ahead of you stretches your future and it is up to you to design your share of the good things in life. Like the law of gravity, there are universal and unchanging principles that prevail. Working within these principles will lead you to success. With regard to finances, one way to describe success is financial independence. Financial independence gives us control. Independence means that we will not have to rely on others for our financial welfare. Lifestyle is what it's all about, more than merely achieving wealth. Most people know that there are more important things in life than money. Although anyone who is affluent would quickly agree that solvency is better than insolvency. It is what you do with your life that counts, and wealth can be a critical tool for achieving the freedom - control - to maximize your experience and your impact on others. The following will help you get started.

Investment Strategy



I'm thinking tax-sheltered investments. The fact that the time has passed to submit our annual tax return may just be a coincidence, but perhaps not. A large percentage of the population has engaged in an entrepreneurial enterprise, and, the piper must be paid. Now, this strategy may send some of you scurrying for the phone to give me a scathing call. But hear me out. You've heard me say it before and it bears repeating. Investment strategies have changed dramatically for the 21st Century. So come with me while we forge some new brain paths.

Do You want to write for The Voice?

Fill on our online application at www.ausu.org or contact Tammy Moore at 1-800-788-9041 ext 2905 on Fridays between 8:30 and 4:30 MST. You can also email voice@ausu.org.

NEW AU DEVELOPMENT

Athabasca University is currently developing a number of new programs and has several waiting to be approved by the University. If you, or anyone you know has an interest in the following programs, please call 1-(800)-788-9041 to receive information as it becomes available, and to show the University which programs would be popularly received.

Master of Counselling
Master of Science in Information Systems
Psychology Doctorate
Bachelor of Arts- Public History
University Diploma in Computer and Information Systems
Bachelor of Arts –Governance, Law, and Management
Bachelor of Science –Environmental Science

Enlightening Information



2001 PACED CLASSROOM COURSES STARTING SOON

Yet again, there are opportunities to attend paced courses at the Learning Centres in Edmonton and Calgary starting the week of January 22, 2001. The courses being offered are:

Principles of Auditing (ACCT 460)
Business Policy (ADMN 404)
Microcomputer Applications II, Windows (CMIS 302) –
EDMONTON ONLY
Microeconomics (ECON 247)
Commercial Law (LGST 369)
Statistics for Business and Economics II (MGSC 312)
Introduction to Marketing (MKTG 396)
Managing Change (ORGB 390)
The Sociology of Work and Industry (SOCI 321)
Communication Skills: Feminist Practice (WMST 302)
Special Issues in Counselling Women (WMST 311)
Contact your Learning Centre for more information.

AU NIGHT ON PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION

Athabasca University has sponsored a night on Edmonton Public Access television on January 20th, 2001, as an opportunity for students to share their experiences at AU and discuss challenges and benefits of their AU education. There will be call-in opportunities for students who wish to be involved, as well as contests and prize-winning opportunities.

The Voice

The Voice is the newspaper of the Athabasca University Students' Union. Ideas, suggestions, and submissions are welcomed. The Editor retains the right to edit any submissions for length and content. The views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Athabasca University Students' Union.

Advertising

All Advertising will comply with the Advertising policy Established by AUSU. The Editor reserves the right to refuse advertisements which do not comply with this policy. Please direct inquiries to AUSU offices and request a copy of our Rate Card and Publication dates.

* *The Voice Editor in Chief:* Tammy Moore

* *The Voice Publisher:* Karen Mizeri

* *Contributors:* Desiree Petersen, Brian Hydromako, JP Kearns



Calgary Learning Centre

1040 7th Ave. SW. 3rd Flr.
Calgary, AB. T2P 3G9
Tel: 1-800-788-9041 (ext 2905)