

# The Voice

## A Bug in Your Ear . . .

by Tammy Moore



One of the things that bothers me about this life I lead is my continual search for more time. The amount of time I spend looking for it would probably greatly alarm me if I had a few moments to tally it up. I know that I am not the only human being to run this mad race, but what I can't figure out is when I signed up for the marathon? How did this happen to me? Where did my growing up and into responsibility become this insane desire to rush around in endless orbit taking care of mundane details that really



should make my life run more smoothly?—well, smoother if I were an observer who could just congratulate myself at the end of every day for a game well played, anyway. Why do we treat time like something we can gather, rather than something we spend continuously and at the same rate? I have come to notice that the time I 'save' is already spent as a future investment in saving. If I clean the bathroom while I brush my teeth, I can get downstairs to do the dishes more quickly...is it the stupidity clause in my brain that makes me believe this is an incentive? The more I think about it, the more I am convinced that I do not actually

enjoy this time I 'save', nor do I enjoy the extra things I cram into spending it. Time cannot be hoarded, but it can be savoured. Today, I am going to do one less thing that I should have, and not adopt another task into the time-share that is my life. I'm going to enjoy the minutes that make up my life, and realize that wasting a little time here and there may save a nervous break-down.

## Hang It Up

by b.e. hydromako

You know what makes me uncomfortable? Microwave ovens. I mean, these machines cook with microwaves: energy which is harmful to our health. I don't use my microwave very often, and when it is operating, I never stand near it. Micro-



waves have short wavelengths, see (yeah, *micro*), and apparently, if the oven isn't in my immediate proximity, then the waves are harmless enough. I still eat food "nuked" in it far too often: popcorn, fast food, and such—but damn, the *convenience*.

Hey, another thing that makes me sorta' squeamish is the big "C," and damn if occurrences of this disease aren't creeping to ever higher numbers. It isn't sexually discriminatory either: men get to worry about the common cases of prostate cancer, and women get to fear the high probability of this occurring in their breasts. In fact, with tumours occurring in people's testicles and uteri, it seems as if this mysterious affliction has a thing for attacking organs connected to sexual reproduction, and nobody would disagree when I say that this makes us all *really* uncomfortable.

They say hindsight is 20/20, but perhaps we shoulda' seen all this coming down the wire. I mean, for some time now, we have seen mysterious afflictions tear apart micro-ecosystems: amphibians have been especially prone to extinction due to mutations in their reproductive organs which cause the inability to procreate. As well, if I recall correctly, and I hope to high heaven that someone will correct me if I am wrong—*please*—this sorta' thing is occurring more and more in a larger variety of species. And really, besides our pollution, we don't know nearly enough about what is causing all this.

And speaking of wires, remember when these sorts of things were used to connect all telephones? Yeah really, there was a time when the "mobile phone" was as much science fiction as the environmentally friendly automobile—I swear! Damn, those were dark days, eh? Before the enlightenment brought its great microwave totems to be erected across the land. Yes, it is increasingly rare that your cell phone will be beyond the amplifying function of these signal transmitting structures: ah, the convenience. Wait a sec, did I say *microwave* towers? Well damn if those new fangled phones don't broadcast using microwaves! And you know what else? Some types of radiation are dangerous to us: the wavelengths cause mysterious mutations. I don't know about you, but I don't like having my head near the microwave...

## On the Flip Side....

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[www.ausu.org/voice](http://www.ausu.org/voice)



## Excessive Joy Injures the Heart

By Elisabeth Harvor

REVIEW by Desiree Petersen



"Excessive Joy Injures the Heart". An intriguing title, and an intriguing cover. Aside from the line being quoted at one point, there is no excessive joy. There is no excessive anything, except perhaps

vagueness. This is the story about part of the life of Clair, a dissatisfied woman. She is vaguely unhappy and a mild insomniac, who emotionally attaches herself to a strange therapist who, in my opinion, is a bit of a megalomaniac. He seems to amuse himself by playing odd mental games with Clair, which she, even more oddly, buys into. She finally stirs herself out of her inertia to leave the therapist, move to Toronto, and start a new life. She seeks happiness by dating and sleeping with men who she doesn't even seem to be attracted to. But she never really gets there. She never seems to be happy. Never feels a rush of joy. Never finds contentment. Maybe that's the point.

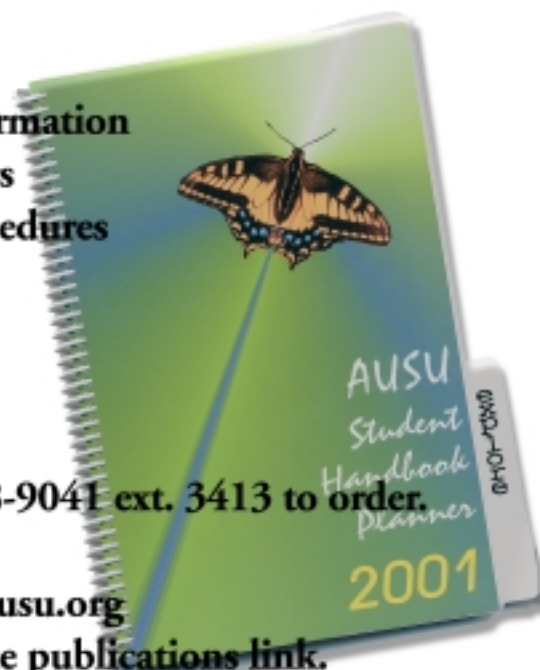
I hope it is, because when I finished the book I couldn't figure out why I had read the whole thing. What was the point? It was like being in someone else's vague, disassociated dream. And I don't mean it was all surreal and meaningful, because it wasn't. It was one, long, meandering through a life I could not bring myself to care about. Maybe I missed the point.

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# Enlightening Information

## NEW WAVE FOR STUDENT LOANS?

The Province of Saskatchewan and the Federal Government have created Canada's first unified federal-provincial student loan. Mark Kissel, National Director of The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) says "This is a commendable first step towards creating a better, simpler, quality student loan program that will serve the needs of Canadians" and hopes the rest of Canada will see Saskatchewan as a positive example in improving the post-secondary education system for Canadian students.

## EDUCATIONAL BURSARY PROGRAMS

17-21? Looking for a challenge? Katimavik offers a unique educational program for you to gain work experience, develop leadership skills, and explore Canada while having the time of your life! Costs related to travel, food, accommodation and group activities are covered. \$1000.00 bursary awarded upon program completion. For program/application info. CALL NOW 1-888-525-1503 or visit [www.katimavik.org](http://www.katimavik.org)

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITY IN CALGARY

Here is an opportunity for a fourth year female psychology student to volunteer time assisting in a stress and depression program – Thursdays, February 1 to March 22, 2001, from approximately 2:30pm to 6 pm. If interested, please call Dr. Arleigh Porte at 268-1620 between the hours of 9am and 5:15 pm.

## SUMMER POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR BILINGUAL STUDENTS

Roseau Hall, the official residence and workplace of the Governor General, is looking for bilingual students with a background in history, political or social sciences, communications, Canadian studies, or education. Applications will be accepted through the Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP) at [www.jobs.gc.ca](http://www.jobs.gc.ca) Forms will also be available through any Canada Employment Centre for Stu-

## CALGARY RECREATION HIRING FAIR

At the Youth Employment Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr, 315 –10<sup>th</sup> Ave SE on Thursday, February 22, 2001, there will be a hiring fair for full and part time summer and seasonal (as well as volunteer) job opportunities to get involved in recreational activities in and around Calgary. For more information, go to <http://www.nextsteps.org/yec/news.htm>

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>.

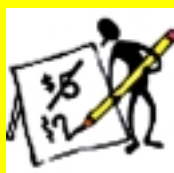


Even if you are not currently registered in a course you may be eligible for an income tax credit if any part of your AU course was taken in the 2000 calendar year. **For students to receive the T2202A without delay, Athabasca University requires notification of any outstanding address changes by January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

students should email the AU Academic Records department at [acrec@athabascau.ca](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> and end on or about December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>.



## University Students want careers, not jobs

By James Meers, Excalibur (CUP)



Despite the recent e-business explosion, a survey by the Royal Bank shows students are hesitant to embrace the booming industry.

Only 22 per cent of students polled said they were seeking a career in the e-business sector. Many more, 43 per cent aspire to be executives at large companies and nearly one in four would prefer to work at a company of more than 500 employees. Jerry Black, public relations manager for Microsoft Canada doesn't think students are ready to embrace the technology sector quite yet. "A new wave of students are arriving on the frontier, yet their minds are still set on becoming policemen, lawyers and doctors," he says.

Third year York student Victor Loo sees a similar trend at the university. "It's a minority now because the dot-com business is relatively new. If you ask a kid about their dream for the future they aren't likely to say CEO of an Internet business," he says adding the recent dips in the internet technology (IT) market have put the vulnerability of the dot-com industry into perspective for him. "The Internet economy is in its infant stages, why would I risk entering a business that could fail at anytime?" asks fourth-year student Dustin Todorovich. "The Internet has not proven itself stable enough for me to consider making a career out of it."

When choosing a place to work, 41 per cent of students want an organization that provides opportunities to learn, ranking professional development to be equally as important as salary.

Also, 32 per cent of students ranked a company's vision and mission and support of the work-life balance as priorities.

York community members were encouraged by the report's findings. "It's refreshing to hear that people still care about making a difference (in the workplace) in these spirit-crushing times. You have to enjoy your job and have passion for what you do. Work is about creating value that benefits society," says recent York alumna Ardene Shapiro.

Can companies meet the demands of this new generation of graduating students? John Wright, senior vice-president of Ipsos-Reid, which conducted the poll, believes that companies have no other option.

"Money is not enough to attract today's students to companies. Successful employers are not only being asked to provide challenging careers, but diverse opportunities as well," he says

The poll found that a majority, 79 per cent of students hope to enter the workforce immediately after university. Eight out of ten students want a career instead of a job.

"After I graduate all I want to do is transform my years of study into a job that is right for me. I think this is very possible after I get my BA," says Todorovich. Increasingly, companies searching for new talent have assisted students in their job quests.

"There has been a lot more interest in graduate-year recruiting," says York Career Services representative Heather Hines. "There is a war-for-talent going on and companies are trying to beat each other to the punch."

## 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

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