

# THE VOICE

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

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## A Bug In Your Ear...

By Tammy Moore

This has become so common, I should actually write it as a weekly column; however, having just answered my seventh e-mail of the week on the subject, I feel the need to plead with you all yet again.

The Voice is in need of writers. We have a thirty-thousand-member student body- and every single one of you is a bright and talented individual working on improving your educational status. This is thirty thousand voices of different experiences, understandings, opinions, political discourses, ideas, motivations, thoughts and outlooks –so why are we having so much trouble sharing this with each other- our peers in education, in life? Where are the passionate voices debating, explaining, discussing and broadening the horizons of each and every one of us?

Distance education is an approach to schooling that demands action –there is no room for apathy when convincing yourself to continue with your courses, to self-motivate yourself to complete what you started without a classroom of people breathing down your necks. So why are there so few of you willing to take an active approach to your own newspaper? This is your place to discuss issues that are important to you – I want to know how you think, what concerns you have, how politics effect your life, what this university needs to do to improve YOUR education. This is the arena for your voice: The Voice is where you can contact your peers and discuss what is important to you in the life that you lead.

I hear from a fair number of you asking why we use CUP stories from other universities to fill OUR student paper. As a candid response –none of you are writing anything and I cannot put up a blank screen as this week's issue of the Voice. I hope this makes you mad. I hope you cannot go another second without writing to tell me how mad this makes you, or what does make you mad, or why you are too busy to get involved, or what makes you apathetic to your fellow student, what does intrigue you to greater action than this paper? Of course, I will want to publish it all, because this is a student paper and it is YOUR VOICE.

If you are concerned on what to write, quit worrying. Write about what you know, what you do, and what you think. You are unique, and will be sharing knowledge, insight, and aspirations with the rest of us. If your writing isn't great, send it in anyway –I'm the editor, and I'll deal with it. You have an opportunity to reach out and touch the lives of others. Use it.

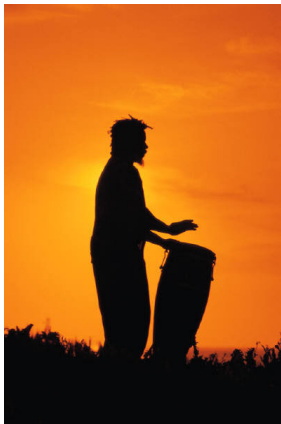
## Student Profile

By Mark Gueffroy

Carolyn Doyle is a forty-two year old Athabasca University student enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program with an English concentration. Her favorite course to date is English 211 Prose and Forms, as the course explains the various literary genres that exist in the literary industry.

Carolyn lives in Dundas, Ontario with her husband, two daughters (aged 16 and 18) and her large dog. She enjoys volunteering in her community, both for the local high school and the Big Brothers and Sisters of Canada. Carolyn is also a member of the AUSU Student Services committee, where her input is valued and appreciated.

Mark Gueffroy is a writer/reporter for The Voice, which is a student newspaper sponsored by the Athabasca University Students' Union. He may be contacted by e-mail at [advice75@hotmail.com](mailto:advice75@hotmail.com) or by phone at (780) 623-9488 or (780) 623-1632. If you are interested in being profiled in the Student Profile column, please contact Mark by email or phone. Thanks for reading!



## African Drums Becoming Popular in Calgary

By Chris Frey

Calgary is a very ethnic city; many cultures co-exist in this vast and growing metropolis. The next generation of youth in this town have found new ways to meld into the new cultures that exist. One feature of those new cultures is African drumming.

African drumming has existed for thousands of years and now in Calgary there is a resurgence of this primitive art.

The One World Drum Company is one place to get a feel for this very hypnotizing and alluring music. Roger Chambers, an instructor at One World, thinks that the recent increase in drum purchases has to do with a new spirituality:

"People I've met tell me that they find an intense spirituality in the rhythm and they find it cleansing," said Chambers. "People today feel uninspired and disillusioned. Basically they feel dead spiritually. But now we have this amazing new drum culture in Calgary and it's been busy ever since One World opened."

Chambers, who began drumming ten years ago in Nigeria, came back to Canada with a renewed sense of his goals. "I came back and started teaching the art of drumming, and then when One World opened I had a better outlet to use."

One World Drum Company sells, repairs and builds African hand drums. The drums are made from a variety of woods in different sizes and tones. The skins are goatskin because it has the toughest fibres of any animal.

The drum makers tension the goatskin around the wood with thick string. When finished the drum is played with only the hands in large groups to intensify the hypnotic deep sounds.

"It gets hard on the hands after a while but you get used to it," said red-fingered Janice Hardy who was drumming at One World's open drum night last Friday. The open night is on every second Friday of each month.

Another company that sells drums is Ten Thousand Villages on Crowchild Trail. They buy drums directly from African Nations and sell them for only the price of import giving all of the profit to the Village they buy them from in Africa.

Brian Goods, a volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages says they get many drums from many countries. "We buy drums from the Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia and lots more. There seems to be lots of interest with drumming now and we always sell them out before we get more."



## Job Hunting Blues

Patricia Bjornson

Ever noticed that there are all kinds of jobs that you can work at if you aren't a student, but nobody is willing to take a chance on those who are? Everyone wants experience, but how does one get experience when nobody is willing to give it to you? If you are only looking for the summer, things have just gone from bad to worse, and you are likely to end up landscaping, waitressing, or cleaning rooms at your local motel for the four months you have to make your tuition for next year. Oh wait - that's the traditional university student. AU isn't like that, right?

Wrong. In my experience, this is the universal student plight. Whether you had the time and the bucks to go to the University of Alberta or the University of Calgary, or you chose to do things the hard way and go the correspondence route, nobody wants to give the person with the unfinished degree a chance to prove themselves. Older, wiser, more ... completed candidates are chosen. But that ends when you graduate, right?

Wrong. When you graduate you face the lack of experience issue that employers like to demand. On the other side of things are the employers crying that there is nobody to fill these highly skilled jobs. Well folks, you can't have it both ways. It seems to me that Canadians could fill those positions that are vacant, as long as companies are willing to give less experienced people a chance. Then, because these less experienced people were given a chance, suddenly we would have the experience in our workforce that employers wished for. A good solution for both parties, right?

Then why aren't we taking it, this magical, seemingly simple solution? Why is our government allowing employers to import workers before employing young, freshly schooled Canadians? Shouldn't they be given a fair shake first? Don't get me wrong, I'm all for multi-culturalism and that isn't what this rant is about - it's about giving our workforce some experience. Here, at home. This would effectively plug the brain drain, and gainfully employ a host of skilled Canadians in their home workforce.

Until this fact hits home with the powers that be, enjoy your summer. And see you on the patio - I'll be the one with the degree slinging beer for a living.

## **Navigating your way through career and job challenges**

**OTTAWA-** With Spring upon us, many of us are thinking about new directions and opportunities. Deciding on a career, finding work or working your way through a career change is a huge challenge. Who do you talk to? Where do you look? How do you figure out what to do?

"Talking to family, friends and people whose opinions matter to you is an important step", says Peter Cameron, President of Canada WorkinfoNET. "No matter your age or interests, your own personal network is very important when planning your future. Another key step is personal research. Whatever decision you finally make, it needs to be based on reliable information from sources you can trust. After all, it's your future."

WorkinfoNET is a network of partners in all the provinces and territories that are working together to build an on-line information network for Canadians to use when looking for work, career and learning opportunities. WorkinfoNET's clearly laid out categories and headings help you quickly focus your research.

Located on the Internet - [www.workinfo.net.ca-it/s](http://www.workinfo.net.ca-it/s) also free, accessible seven days a week and 24 hours a day. WorkinfoNET is maintained daily by a national working group of career information specialists and practitioners from all governments and a number of specialized associations in the career field.

You can access WorkinfoNET through your own Internet access or anywhere there is public Internet access, including libraries, schools and community access points.

### **What you'll find on WorkinfoNET**

#### **Jobs, Work and Recruiting**

Connect to job postings, employment initiatives, résumé writing and interview tips as well as job search assistance

#### **Occupations and Careers**

Find out about your interests and skills, explore career possibilities, take the next step on your career path, and get advice from career professionals

#### **Learning, Education and Training**

Discover guides to the many full-time, part-time and distance learning opportunities that are available throughout Canada

#### **Labour Market Information and Outlook**

Learn about industry trends and forecast which employment sectors are expected to grow and those that may be slowing down

## **Self-Employment**

Do you have an entrepreneurial spirit? Learn about the many programs, services, financing options and business organizations that are available to help you start your own business

## **Workplace Issues and Supports**

Learn about employment standards, occupational health and safety and the services offered by unions, labour groups, industry and employer associations

## **Financial Help and Issues**

Link to financial support programs, student loans, scholarships, business loans and grants and other similar assistance

Whether you're looking for information about learning opportunities, a job, figuring out what occupations or careers would interest you, WorkinfoNET is Canada's best online information source.

"Trying to decide what you want to do next in your life is exciting and sometimes a bit overwhelming," adds Cameron. "Having a resource like WorkinfoNET at your fingertips can help find the information you need to plan where you're going and how you're going to get there."

## **For further information:**

Martin Béliveau  
Partnership and Communications Coordinator  
[martinb@workinfo.net](mailto:martinb@workinfo.net)  
(613)234-1016, extension 223

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*The mission of Canada WorkinfoNET (CanWIN) is to ensure that all Canadians can obtain career, learning and labour market information that is useful to them in planning their vocational development, and in their conduct of effective job searches in their own areas and further afield in Canada.*



**Canadian Co-operative Association**  
**CCA RECRUITS YOUTH FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE**  
**OF A LIFETIME**

**Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to gain valuable work experience in an international setting?** *The Youth Experience International (YEI)* program, offered by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), is recruiting 10 young people with University degrees or College program certificates who are currently unemployed or under-employed. We have recently been approved funding for 10 additional interns in the **Philippines, Indonesia, Ghana, South Africa, Kenya and Costa Rica**. Recruitment for these 10 internships will be commencing very soon. This year, internship opportunities include: Gender and Development, Organic Farming, Youth Programming, Resource Centre Development, Business Development and Co-operative Research.

The objective of the program, currently entering its fifth year, is to help young professionals make the transition from post-secondary education to long-term employment. The program provides young Canadians a unique opportunity to acquire invaluable professional and personal experience within the co-operative movement. CCA will assist participants in securing long-term employment upon their return to Canada.

CCA will place trainees in its international field offices or with CCA's international partner organizations for a six-month period. These exciting placements are designed to enhance skills, provide meaningful experience, and broaden participants' understanding of the global economy. In short, the YEI program will better prepare participants for long-term and fulfilling employment.

Applicants must be available for placement overseas between August 2001 and January 2002, as well as the necessary preparation and evaluation time.

**Interested?**

For more information on CCA's Youth Experience International (YEI) program, or to obtain an application package, please contact:

Preet Segaric, Program Officer, CCA  
Phone: (613) 238-6711 ext. 218, Toll Free: 1-866-266-7677  
or send an e-mail to [interns@coopcca.com](mailto:interns@coopcca.com)

Detailed Program Information and Application Forms available at: [www.coopcca.com/youth/yei.htm](http://www.coopcca.com/youth/yei.htm)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 9, 2001**

Funding and support for the Youth Experience International program is made available from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as part of the Government of Canada's *Youth Employment Strategy*.

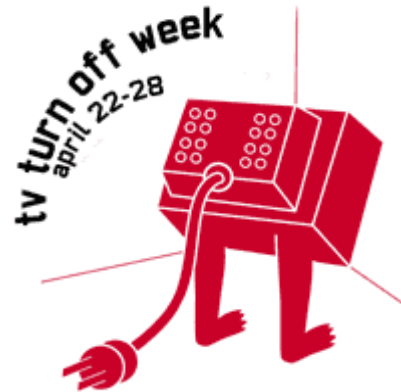


What happens during a seven-day experiment in life without TV? A whole new space to think emerges. You find yourself passing time in ways you never expected. And you start to wonder: when I reach for the remote, who is really in control?

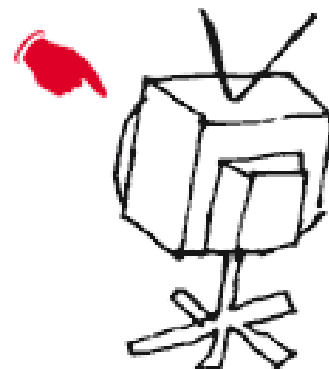
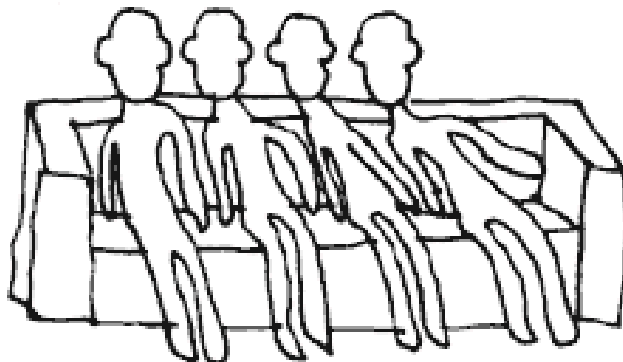
But [TV Turnoff](#) 2001 is much more than a social ritual. When millions of people let the screen fade to black this year, they'll be helping to build the [Media Carta](#) campaign – the human rights battle of the 21st century. Fewer and fewer people and companies own the media that set political agendas and shape our imaginations. We fought kings and church for freedom of opinion, and governments for freedom of expression. With the Media Carta movement, we're at it again: fighting for the right to access the most powerful communications media ever created.

**The next time** you're prepping to sit down for a few hours of sitcoms, ask a friend or family member to set an alarm for a random amount of time greater than half an hour – say, one hour 26 minutes. Then settle in and enjoy your TV. Eventually, the alarm will catch you off guard. When it does, immediately ask yourself this question: *In the instant before the alarm went off, did I feel really and truly alive?*

Watching TV is a passive, brain-emptying experience – not even network executives deny it. But that's not the point of the alarm clock experiment. The point is to think for a moment about what it means to spend hours every day somewhere in between living and dead. Watching TV, on the Internet, gaming on the PlayStation. It's a chance to wonder what it means to buy into the don't-worry-be-happy cool of a virtual life. That random alarm? Also known as a "wake-up call."



**TURN-OFF-WEEK**  
escape the fantasy  
april 22-28



## Advise the PM, Win Cash Too!

### Magna Scholarship Contest Offers Cash Prizes and Internships



Canadian auto parts manufacturer, Magna International Inc., is inviting Canadian students to participate in its 7th annual "As Prime Minister" scholarship competition. Open to full-time students currently enrolled in undergraduate or graduate studies at an accredited college, university or CEGEP, the contest asks participants to submit a 2500-word essay responding to the question: "If you were the Prime Minister of Canada, what political vision would you offer to improve our living standards?"

Winning submissions will be selected on the basis of practical, solution-driven and innovative proposals that demonstrate defensible, realistic visions for a stronger Canada.

Fifty semi-finalists will be flown to Toronto to present their essays to a panel of judges. The 10 best entries will then go on to the finals, to be announced at an awards dinner in Ottawa in November. All 50 semi-finalists will receive a \$500 award and a certificate recognizing their participation in the program, while the 10 finalists will receive \$10,000 and a four-month internship at Magna International, valued at \$12,000. The national winner will receive an additional \$10,000 and a one-year internship at Magna, valued at \$36,000.

While in Ottawa, finalists will formally submit their essays and be on hand while a complete summary of the 2001 As Prime Minister awards is presented to the Prime Minister and Canadian government. All program finalists will also be featured in the book @stake, "As Prime Minister I would." and be invited to take part in the national launch which will involve an opportunity for debate and discussion with the finalists and national winner. For more information, check out the As Prime Minister Awards Program website at [www.asprimeminister.com](http://www.asprimeminister.com). Entries are due by June 4th, 2001. Good luck and good writing!

### ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION:



#### APPLY TO JOIN THE STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF AUSU

The Student Services Committee of the Athabasca University Students' Union is currently accepting applications for four Committee Member positions. For further information, or to submit your application, please contact the Student Services Committee Chairperson, Mark Gueffroy, at [mark@ausu.org](mailto:mark@ausu.org), or fax Christine Lynch at (780) 497-7003. You may also contact Mark by phone at (780) 623-9488 or Christine at (800) 788-9041 EXT. 3413.

## **Convocation June 2001**

In order to graduate on June 08th from the graduate programs and June 09th from the undergraduate programs, the following conditions must be met:

Students must apply to graduate no later than April 16, 2001. The Application for Graduation form is available at the Learning Centres, AU Central, and on the web.

The Office of the Registrar must receive all final grades, including grades for courses completed through other institutions on Letters of Permission, no later than May 07, 2001.

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### **GOT PROBLEMS? NEED ADVICE? LOOKING FOR AN HONEST OPINION?**

Send your comment, question, or concern to The Voice's Advice Columnist at [advice75@hotmail.com](mailto:advice75@hotmail.com)

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### **WRITE FOR THE VOICE!**

Fill on our online application at [www.ausu.org/voice/write.html](http://www.ausu.org/voice/write.html) 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](mailto:voice@ausu.org) or contact Tammy Moore at 1-800-788-9041 ext 2905 on Fridays.

The ad stays in for another two weeks.