

THE VOICE

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www.ausu.org/voice



A Bug In Your Ear...

Anyone wanting information on the agenda of the upcoming convocation can find the information they need at:

<http://www.athabascau.ca/events/convocation/play.html>

I would like to post the following job opportunities for the Voice:

We are currently looking for students who would like to write for The Voice, either as regular columnists, or to submit individual articles. We have upped the ante, and now pay \$20 for every story published, and reserve the right to hold on to submissions, which we may use at a later date than time of submission. Deadlines are Tuesdays prior to publication (or a week in advance), and we have a word minimum of 250 words.

We also have **two job openings available** at The Voice for students interested in creating a political column. We are looking for one student to monitor the federal government website, and one to monitor the provincial government website for current news and events that will be of interest to AU students. These political journalists would be obligated to produce one story for the Voice per week, and be paid a monthly dividend of \$100.00 (expected work time of approx. ten hours).

Although we have not yet opened up The Voice to creative writing, having a literary journal is an avenue we would like to explore if you, as AU students, would be interested. Any suggestions or comments are welcome.

To write for The Voice, or to apply as a political journalist, please send a sample article to voice@ausu.org, and include your name, snail-mail address, and e-mail address, and I will respond immediately.

Thank-you, and I eagerly await your flood of responses.

Tammy Moore



FROM MY SOAPBOX... LOBSTER WARS! By Derek Broughton

Here in Nova Scotia, fishermen take their lobster very seriously. When you acquire a lobster fishing license in my area it's good for hundreds of kilometers of shoreline – from almost Halifax to Canso, so you might reasonably think that means you can fish anywhere in the area. Think again.

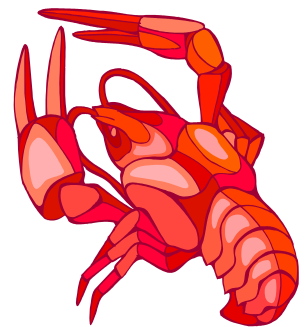
Apparently one of my neighbors, in the next harbor to my East (Jeddore), acquired a license from someone in the next harbor to my West. Now, he knew that *his* immediate neighbors wouldn't like him fishing locally, as that could reduce their potential catch, so he started fishing in my harbor. Some of the locals here apparently were outraged and cut the buoys off his traps. Imagine how they treated horse-thieves in the Wild West. While I haven't heard of an actual lynching in the Maritimes in recent history, it's close. Messing with a fisherman's traps is serious business and the fisherman brought his friends and relatives and now the whole thing is before the courts with numerous charges.

Of course, my friend told me, "they weren't really Jeddore men, well they were born and raised there but their *parents* weren't from Jeddore", which I guess absolves the locals of any responsibility. I found this a touch distressing. I knew I was always going to be a "come from away", but I did think that one's children could be considered locals. But I digress...

Given that situations like this arise, even though the number of licenses in the licensing area hasn't changed, it's easy to see how the Marshall decision and native lobster fishing is such a touchy subject here. To be fair to my new neighbors, I don't think racism is at the root of most fishermen's anger that natives will be allowed to fish lobster. They've seen our federal government (here I go biting the hand that feeds...) let the groundfish fishery collapse, the salmon fishery is almost done and now, potentially, every Mi'kmaq and Maliseet in the Maritimes will be fishing for "a moderate livelihood".

First, let's get some things clear. "A moderate livelihood" is not the vague concept it sounds like – it has been well defined by prior court rulings – and the Marshall decision does not mean that natives across the country can, or will, rape our environment. It applies to one specific treaty in the Maritime Provinces, and the courts are already ruling against any broadening of its application.

The Mi'kmaq and Maliseet have been told that they must abide by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulations and any negotiation is permitted only within that structure. The Supreme Court did **not** say that DFO has that right. They were told that they could regulate the fishery for *conservation* purposes. So far, most bands have accepted DFO's rules and only two bands declared the right to fish under their own regulations. I find it surprising that DFO has taken this hard-line stand. In 1997, DFO introduced "Community-based Quota Management" into some fisheries in Nova Scotia.



This was an attempt to get the fishing community involved in structuring resource usage to the best advantage of everybody. The people of Burnt Church say that their proposal does the same. Maybe it does, maybe it doesn't, but if the minister responsible (Herb Dhaliwal) won't even read their proposal,

and won't tell them which parts are of concern, how are they to believe the minister's promise that fishing rights will be negotiated?

The Supreme Court's decision stated: "His treaty right to fish and trade for sustenance was exercisable only at the absolute discretion of the Minister. Accordingly, the close season and the imposition of a discretionary licencing system would, if enforced, interfere with the accused's treaty right". This makes quite clear that the minister may **not** unilaterally rule on where and when natives may fish under their treaty right. It's about time for the white man to deal honestly with the aboriginal populations of Canada.

For the text of the Marshall decision, see:

http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/csc-scc/en/pub/1999/vol3/html/1999scr3_0456.html

If you agree with me, write. If you disagree with me, **write louder!** I can be reached at dbroughton@bigfoot.com . Next column: Democracy and Human Rights.

Playing Fair?

By Norm Greenfield

Confusion runs rampant with me now. This current bout of confusion comes from trying to figure out the reason for not inviting Cuba to the recent Summit of the Americas in Quebec City.

If we accept the premise that the Summit was more about democracy than trade, then fine. The question is as to why not Cuba, but Columbia, Panama, Ecuador, Haiti, and the many other American supported regimes. The fact is that the government of Columbia is in name only, and the cocaine drug cartels are really running the country through violence and intimidation.

Are any of the other countries that have been invited true democracies, or are they merely democracies for show, and profit by the American corporate interests?

If we believe the premise being put forward by the Summit perpetrators is that trade and improved economies will bring about and keep democracies, then why wouldn't Cuba be invited. Would it not seem that if we wanted Cuba to be more like us, that to have them within the Free Trade of the Americas Zone would be more beneficial to our supposed goal of democratizing the American Hemisphere?

So Cuba is not a democracy, but it does allow religion and elections to some extent, with no pretence that the government really embraces any of them. The Pope even felt there was a chance for a church to become re-established in Cuba. If the Pope can visit Cuba, could we not invite them to a conference that is supposedly to improve the live span of democracy in this hemisphere? If counting a select few nipped ballots in counties or districts in one state can be used to choose the president of the most powerful country on earth, then I would think Cuba's attempt at democracy should not be ridiculed by excluding them from the Summit of Americas and developing free trade amongst the hemisphere.

Cuba does have state funded health care, for everyone; maybe not to the standards of the Canadian healthcare system, but then neither is the American and they still sent their delegation to the Summit.

There is a state run education system that is open for everyone to attend. Again it is not as good as the system that we in Canada enjoy, but then the education facilities that we have provided to our First Nation's people is not either, nor is the system you find in the inner cities of many areas of our neighbour to the south, that again extols the virtues of democracy and how much better it is than Cuba. The United States of America knows that its campaign of isolation is not working the way it was planned. It also knows that with the fall of the Iron Curtain and all the inanity that brought with it in the name of a 'Cold War, ' has no relationship to the modern day Cuba.

On one hand Canada cowed to the US of A on this demand yet we allow Canadian companies to carry on business with Cuba to the tune of \$850,000,000, and China or even North Korea.

If the true stated reason for not allowing Cuba in to the Summit was what the politicians were spewing in their rhetoric, then by extension we should cease all economic and diplomatic ties to China, North Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, and all Arab theocracies run nations.

Do you think that will happen? I think not either.

It is one thing to stand on principles, but it is quite another thing to maintain those principles when faced with the economic realities of the world.

Canada should have not bowed to the US of A's demands and held the People's Conference without the other countries or without them.

Thanks
Norm Greenfield
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Sports and Drugs

By Chris Frey

Ever since the Olympics in Sydney began, talk of performance enhancing drugs has spread like a bad cold. Media sources say that drug use is rampant in North American amateur sports. Even in the new extreme sports such as climbing, evidence can be found of performance enhancing drugs. Ephedrine, Creatine, Glucosamine sulfate, amino acid supplements and caffeine are just some of the substances being taken regularly by competitive climbers.

Some of these substances speed up recovery time and strengthen tendons. Ephedrine is an over the counter stimulant that acts as an energy booster. All these drugs are banned by most amateur sports organizations including the IOC (International Olympic Committee). Climbing team Coach and fitness consultant Mike Hendry says the drug use for climbers is over rated. "Most drugs are useless and a waste of money. The drugs that do work cause premature aging of the muscle cells and of the organs in your body."

“Some supplements like glucosamine sulfate or GLS can be beneficial if used in moderation for connective tissue support. Like when you’re injured,” Mike adds. “Climbing is a really hard sport on your body. Sometimes other methods are needed to heal quickly in between competitions.”

At World Cup climbing competitions, the IOC performs random tests on competitors. The IOC is the only amateur organization that has both the money and resources to test large competitions randomly. Chris Weldon, a climber who competed in the last World Cup in Amsterdam this September, says he witnessed two American climbers disqualified for caffeine use.

“It seemed to be a big issue while I was there,” says Chris who finished a supplement-free 17th place. “They were urine testing all the winners and some of the more notorious personalities.” In 1996, four French climbers and a French team doctor were caught blood doping in the World Cup of climbing in Arco, Italy.

Although it is a small sport in North America, sport climbing is big money in Europe. Sponsorship from winning a World Cup can make the lowliest climber famous and stinking rich. As climbing grows in popularity in North America so too will the use of performance enhancing substances in its ranks.



Darren, You’re B.A.D!

By Darren L. Kereluk

To be quite honest, I can be rather difficult at times, but I can trace much of it to my friend of 35 years, Bipolar Affective Disorder II (ultradian rapid cycling type), the artist formerly known as manic depression. In terms that I can understand, this means that I can be overly happy one minute and sink into depression the next; hence my use of the term “ultradian.” The type of bipolar illness that I have is quite different from the one that many of you have seen on television, which generally shows the “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” type of character. In bipolar II, I do have to deal with depression, but I have the “benefit” of having only hypomania, versus full blown mania or manic psychosis that can be present in bipolar I.

Having this illness is not only hard for me, but it is hard for those in my environment. Imagine living with a person who could be “Mr. Sunshine” one minute, and Oscar the Grouch the next. How would you know how to react to such an unpredictable person? It’s quite a dilemma, I know, and very stressful to those that I hold dear to me. I can read all of the self-help books in the world to help me deal with my mood shifts, but the problem still exists---moodiness.

Part of my path to becoming a “kinder, gentler” Darren is through the use of medications. Amongst the repertoire of pills that I take are an antidepressant, two kinds of mood stabilisers, methylphenidate (Ritalin---to improve my attention span), and two different kinds of anxiolytics (nerve pills), lest anxiety whack me on the back of the head! Medications are my main line of defence to tame my bipolarism because proper psychotherapy is hard to come by in rural Saskatchewan. I know that if it is

readily available, psychotherapy can play an important part in turning bipolar disorder into a more manageable way of life.

One type of support mechanism that I use is the Internet. I am an avid user of newsgroups relating to depression and manic depression. It always helps to talk to people who are in the same boat as me, so to speak. The Internet is also very helpful in learning about new trends in the treatment of bipolar disorder, and in getting a quantitative measure of my hypomania or depression. Internet interactions and research cannot ever replace the advice and counsel of a qualified medical professional, but such activities certainly can serve as a springboard for discussion with doctors and mental health providers.

In future articles, I would like to take you a bit further into the topic of mental health so that you might be better able to understand people with these illnesses. It may be that you see some of yourself in the descriptions of disorders that I will provide, in which case, it might prompt you to see your doctor for further help and treatment. Until then, I wish you all good studying and high grades!



Struggles and Triumphs of Women Worldwide

By Alicia Miller, Ubysey

Women are Persons Commemorative Monument

On October 18 the Women are Persons Commemorative Monument, created by Barbara Paterson, was inaugurated on Ottawa's Parliament Hill. Presented in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Persons Case of 1929, the monument features depictions of the Famous Five: Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung and Irene Parlby.

These five women were instrumental in a landmark victory in Canadian women's struggle for equality. The Famous Five contested and eventually overturned the ruling that women were not persons according to Canada's governing constitution.

Afghanistan

Taliban Regime Restricts Rights

In the name of approximating "the true Islam," the Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamic political regime in power in Afghanistan since 1996, is accused of denying women their human rights and reversing more than a century of status improvement for Afghan women, including the Constitution of 1964's decree of equal rights for men and women.

The Taliban has mandated that women are not allowed out in public unless they are accompanied by a male family member and are wearing a burqa which is a head-to-toe garment with a mesh inset over the face. Women must also paint the windows of their homes so that they cannot be seen. As well,

many women have died as a result of a gender-segregated health system that gives women fewer and poorer health services.

United States

CEDAW Still Not Ratified

Despite their participation in the drafting of the document, the United States' government has not yet ratified the Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The Convention, adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly, defines and establishes a plan to end discrimination against women. States that ratify the Convention commit themselves to initiating several measures to end discrimination against women, including the incorporation of the principle of gender equality into law, the adoption of anti-discrimination laws and the establishment of public institutions which will ensure the protection of women from discrimination.

Bangladesh and Nepal

Trafficking of Women Worst in the World

Every year, nearly one million women are bought and sold across international borders. Bangladesh and Nepal are the primary sources of trafficked persons in South Asia. Two routes, from Bangladesh to Pakistan and from Nepal to India, are used to transport an estimated 9,000 girls each year. Destined for marriage, bonded labour, domestic servitude or prostitution, these women are often lured from poverty-stricken families by the promise of employment.

In Bangladesh, police estimate more than 15,000 women and children are smuggled out of the country every year. It is also estimated that 27,000 Bangladeshi women and children have been forced into prostitution in India.

Zimbabwe

HIV Epidemic Impacts Women and Children

At the end of 1999, Zimbabwe's Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection rate was third behind Botswana and Swaziland, having fallen from first place at the end of 1997. Approximately 1.5 million individuals were living with HIV or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) at that time and there were 900,000 cumulative AIDS orphans, a number that had doubled in just two years.

Six times more women than men, aged 15-19, are infected with HIV, with approximately one-quarter of all women aged 15-24 infected with the disease in the year 2000. Among women aged 20-39, 60-76 per cent of deaths were as a result of HIV. Deepening poverty, a lack of education about the disease, a woman's decreased options for protecting herself from transmission, the low education level of women and practices such as polygamy all serve to fuel the epidemic. The population growth of Zimbabwe, along with that of Botswana and South Africa, is projected to be negative as a result of AIDS.

Egypt and Gambia

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Continues

In 1997, the Egyptian court overturned previous bans and ruled against banning female genital mutilation (FGM), while the Gambian government decided that news items and radio and television programs opposing FGM were forbidden. FGM, or female circumcision, consists of either partially or completely removing the clitoris (clitoridectomy), removing the clitoris and labia minora (excision) or removing all external genitalia and sewing the sides of the vulva together (infibulation).

In Gambia, 70 to 80 percent of girls undergo excision or, more rarely, infibulation.

Bosnia-Herzegovina UN War Crimes Tribunal Rules on Sex Slavery

The February 22 ruling by the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal to convict three Bosnian Serbs of systematic rape, sexual slavery and torture was celebrated as a major step forward in women's human rights. The ruling put an end to an 11 month trial that included testimony from 16 women outlining the incidents of rape, torture and beating they suffered at the hands of Serb forces occupying the Bosnian town of Foca. The men, three Serb paramilitary fighters, were found guilty of numerous sexual crimes committed against women between 1992 and 1993. The judges recognized the rapes as instruments of terror and destruction of the women's dignity.

Calgary to receive substantial funding increase for learning

Calgary... School boards and post-secondary institutions in Calgary will receive roughly \$76 million in new funding for the next school year. This includes over \$55 million more for the kindergarten to grade 12 system and almost \$21 million more for post-secondary institutions.

"This new money for kindergarten to grade 12 will help both school boards meet the educational needs of children throughout Calgary. This budget provides the boards with the resources and the flexibility to meet their goals," says Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning. "I look to the school boards and the Alberta Teachers Association to ensure these significant resources are maximized - giving a fair salary to teachers and addressing classroom needs."

This new funding for each school board includes dollars for a 4% salary increase for teachers, effective September 1, 2001. This is the first time Alberta Learning has provided school boards with funding dedicated to teacher salaries. Also included in the new funding will be a 3.5% increase in the block grant for the 2001/02 school year. This money will provide both Calgary boards with the flexibility to spend on local priorities such as enhanced literacy, class sizes, additional salary increases for teachers or other priorities as identified by the boards.

Of the additional funding, \$5 million has been allocated to enhance transportation for urban centres beginning this September. The use of this money will be based on needs that have been outlined by the individual jurisdictions with regards to their bussing situations.

Post-secondary institutions' base operations grants for the 2001/02 school year have also received a boost, with dollars to help attract and retain faculty. In addition more dollars have been set aside to increase post-secondary spaces across the province.

As was outlined in Budget 2001, increases for Calgary include:

- Calgary Board of Education - almost \$38 million more
- Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School Board - just under \$17 million more
- The University of Calgary - over \$12.5 million more
- SAIT - roughly \$4 million more
- Mount Royal College - almost \$2.5 million more
- Bow Valley College - just under \$1.6 million more

Post-secondary students across Alberta will also benefit from a \$54 million boost in scholarships, loans and loan relief programs. These figures exclude \$101 million to be provided province-wide through the Access Fund for expanding program spaces.

Over the next three years an additional \$848 million will be invested in learning across the province. This will bring spending on Alberta's learning system to nearly \$5.5 billion by 2003-04.



Foot-and-Mouth Disease

With the escalating occurrence of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in the United Kingdom and other parts of the European Union, Albertans are being urged to take extra precautions when traveling overseas to help ensure the disease is not transmitted to Alberta livestock.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle and swine. It also affects sheep, goats, deer and other cloven-hoofed ruminants. Foot-and-Mouth Disease does *not* affect humans.

Travellers Recommendations

Travellers are asked to reassess their travel plans, in particular if they plan to have contact with the agricultural community on their return home. Visitors to the European Union are asked to follow the recommendations of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the federal agency responsible for this issue. These recommendations include:

- Refrain from returning home with meat or dairy or other livestock products from affected areas, as well as other livestock products.
- Refrain from contact with livestock, farm equipment on a livestock operation, animal feeds and slaughter plants for at least one week and preferably two weeks after returning to Canada. Alberta Agriculture also recommends a similar waiting period for travelers if they are planning excursions that could bring them into contact with wildlife on their return home.

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Proper Sanitary Precautions

If you absolutely must visit areas where animals could be affected, proper sanitary precautions should be taken.

- No contact with livestock for three days.
- Use only clothing and footwear that has not been out of the country.
- Clean footwear of all dirt or manure and disinfect with a solution of 50:50 water and vinegar or household bleach. Ensure all clothing is laundered and preferably dry-cleaned.
- Thorough showering and bathing, including cleaning under the fingernails, as soon as possible after entering Canada.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect luggage and equipment and other personal effects.

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For more information contact

Canadian Food Inspection Agency Web site www.cfia-acia.agr.ca or 1-877-227-677 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

TDD/TTY: 1-800-465-7735

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Web site - www.agric.gov.ab.ca/livestock/fmd

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. Entries are due by June 4th, 2001. Good luck and good writing!

ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION:



WINshop WORKshop

Use the WINshop's funky recycled exotic materials to create unique Artist Trading Cards!

The Waste It Not Shop (WINshop), in conjunction with The New Gallery, Chuck Stake Enterprises and ANOTHER ART PROJECT PROJECT, will present an **Artist Trading Card WORKshop on Saturday, May 26 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.**

The WINshop WORKshop will take place at the WINshop, 3811 Edmonton Trail NE, Calgary. The **WINshop WORKshop is free** and participants are invited to drop in and use the WINshop's telephone wire, shiny foil paper, textiles, and much, much more to create Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) at the WORKshop. **Phone (403) 230-1443 for more information.**

13th Annual Barnard Feminist Art History Conference

GENDER TOPOGRAPHIES: CALL FOR PAPERS

Since the 1970s, feminist theory has brought attention to the interrelation between the private and public spheres. Central issues to the feminist debate have included: the role of women in the marketplace, representations of private life, and the value of women's labor. We invite individual papers and complete panels that address and further interrogate how these problems have informed artistic production. We also invite proposals that address gender issues in any aspect of visual culture and encourage submissions from disciplines such as Art History, Architecture, Design, Film and Gender Studies.

Possible topics include:

- Feminist Methodologies: biography or social context?
- Constructions of Privacy in Architectural Space
- Photographic Enterprise: Family Album to Fashion Layout
- Digital Dilemmas: Privacy, Pornography, and Exploitation
- Women's Spaces in the Global Economy

Each individual paper should be 20 minutes long. Please send 4 copies of 500 word proposals and a CV to: Barnard Feminist Art History Conference, Department of Women's Studies, 201 Barnard Hall, Barnard College, New York, NY 10027. Please contact barnardconference@hotmail.com for information only. No electronic submissions accepted. All participants, including presenters, will be expected to pay a nominal registration fee. Deadline for Submissions: June 15, 2001

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, 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.

"WHAT MAKES BEING CANADIAN A PRIVILEGE? PRIME MINISTER JEAN CHRETIEN RECENTLY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, 'BEING A CANADIAN IS A PRIVILEGE!' WHAT MAKES BEING CANADIAN A PRIVILEGE FOR YOU?"

Please send your response to advice75@hotmail.com and your answer may be included in a future article in The Voice!"

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

WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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