

THE VOICE

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www.ausu.org/voice

A Bug In Your Ear...

Convocation 2001

June 8th - June 9th

Stay and Play at Convocation

We've arranged for a number of activities that you can participate in during Convocation weekend, [Friday](#), June 8 and [Saturday](#), June 9. To help us in our planning, please fill out the [online activity sign-up](#), or print a copy of it and fax it to (780) 675-6145.

Please Reply Before Friday, June 1 - Space is limited and activities fill quickly!

Friday, June 8

Please keep this information and note the activities you sign up for. No activity confirmation will be sent - just present yourself at the designated time and location of the activity.

Time	
All weekend	Grad Card Promotion
8 a.m.	Athabasca University Campus Tours (available until 11:00 a.m.)
11:30 a.m.	Luncheon, Athabasca University Main Campus (until 1:00 p.m.)
2 p.m.	Golf (18 holes) Jet Boat Ride
3 p.m.	Golf (9 holes)
3:15 p.m.	Jet Boat Ride

4 p.m.	Golf Nature Hike Historic Tour
4:30 p.m.	Jet Boat Ride
5 p.m.	Public Swim (until 10 p.m.) Historic Tour
5:30 p.m.	Jet Boat Ride
6 p.m.	Historic Tour
7 p.m.	Alumni Reception (7 p.m. to 11 p.m.)

Saturday, June 9

Please keep this information and note the activities you sign up for. No activity confirmation will be sent - just present yourself at the designated time and location of the activity.

Time	
All weekend	Grad Card Promotion
7 a.m.	AUSU bus from Edmonton to Athabasca
8 a.m.	AUSU Continental Breakfast (Best Western Athabasca Inn) Graduates' Photographs (until 6 p.m.) University Tours (until 10:30 a.m.)
8 a.m.	Athabasca University Campus Tours (available until 10:30 a.m.)
9 a.m.	Historic Tour Jet Boat Ride
10 a.m.	Nature Hike Historic Tour Quilting Display (until 5 p.m.)
10:15 a.m.	Jet Boat Ride
11:00 a.m.	AUSU Convocation Luncheon (from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
12:30 p.m.	Robing
1:30 p.m.	Convocation Ceremony

Grad Card Promotion

Don't forget to bring your Grad Card enclosed in your invitation package to take advantage of special offers by local businesses courtesy of the Athabasca District Chamber of Commerce.



AUSU Bus from Edmonton to Athabasca on Saturday, June 9

The Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) is pleased to offer free transportation to Athabasca from the AU Edmonton Learning Centre

- Depart Edmonton to Athabasca: 7:00 a.m. sharp
 - Depart Athabasca to Return to Edmonton: 5:00 p.m. (arrive in Edmonton at: 7:00 p.m.)
- Meet at the Edmonton Learning Centre, Seventh Street Plaza, 10030 - 107 Street.
Please reserve a space by calling [Christine Lynch](mailto:Christine.Lynch@athabasca.ab.ca) at 1-800-788-9041, ext. 3413.

AUSU Breakfast, Saturday, June 9

There will be a Continental Breakfast for all of you early risers at the Athabasca Inn from at 7:30 am to 9:30 am (before you get started on your exciting day).

Golf at the Athabasca Golf and Country Club

Join fellow graduates to golf at one of Alberta's finest 18-hole golf courses. This unique course sits adjacent to the majestic Athabasca River and features towering Pine trees, strategically placed bunkers, ponds, streams, and sand traps guarding the greens. The Athabasca course is designed for beginners who can tee off from the front tees, intermediate players who start from the middle tees, and for the experienced golfer who can challenge themselves on the championship tees. A beautiful new clubhouse is perched on a bluff with a spectacular view of the course and features a full pro shop and the delightful Maple Tree Grill restaurant.

Tee Times

- Friday, June 8: 2 p.m. for 18 holes and 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. for 9 holes.
- Saturday, June 9: Course is closed to the public for a tournament.
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Cost

18 holes: \$28; 9 holes: \$16

Club Rental: 18 holes, \$15; 9 holes, \$10

Power Golf Cart Rental: 18 holes, \$25; 9 holes, \$15

Free bucket of driving range balls when you present your Grad Card

Location

Located 5 minutes north of town. Take Highway 813 north across the Athabasca River bridge, travel approximately 2 kilometres; the course is on the right hand side of the highway.

Meet at the Golf Course Pro Shop 15 minutes prior to your tee time.

Horse Drawn Tour of Historic Athabasca

Experience the rich and colourful history of the Athabasca Landing as you travel back through time on a guided tour sitting atop a horse drawn flatrack with covered hay bales. A member of the Athabasca Historical Society will be your host to describe Athabasca past and present. Between the years 1880 and 1914, Athabasca Landing, as the town was then called, became known as the "Gateway to the North," a jumping off point for



the Peace and Athabasca trading rivers flowing to the Arctic. Every spring, Athabasca Landing became one of Canada's largest inland boat-building centres as Hudson's Bay men, Orkney islanders, natives, and Métis constructed the scows and paddle-wheelers used to carry goods and people northward and to bring furs back south. In the late 1890s, Klondiker's taking the poor man's overland route to the Yukon turned the Landing into a boomtown, building scows and waiting for spring break-up to set off northwards.

Historical Tour Times

Tours are one hour long. Dress is casual, suitable for a "hay ride".

- Friday, June 8: 4 p.m.; 5 p.m.; 6 p.m.
- Saturday, June 9: 9 a.m.; 10 a.m.

Cost: Free

Jet Boat Rides

Location

Meet at the parking lot adjacent to the Town Common (where the outdoor stage is located) at the junction of Highway 2 and Highway 55, across from the Union Hotel. You can't miss it.

Jet Boat Ride on the Mighty Athabasca River

Join Athabasca outfitter and wilderness guide Ted Hansen in his 18-foot Beaver jet boat for an enjoyable tour on the Athabasca River. Travel upriver to enjoy the majestic scenery of this major river and you might catch a glimpse of deer, moose, and eagles along with various other wildlife.

Departure Times

Rides are one hour long. Dress in comfortable, casual clothing and bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, light jacket, water or other drinks and (optional) binoculars and camera.

- Friday, June 8: 2 p.m.; 3:15 p.m.; 4:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 9: 9 a.m.; 10:15 a.m.

Cost: \$20 per person (4 people per boat).

Please bring correct change and pay as you board. Singles are welcome and will ride with fellow graduates.

Location

Meet at the Boat launch located on the river adjacent to the Town Common (where the outdoor stage is located).

Nature Hike on the Scenic Muskeg Creek Trail

Take an invigorating walk along this scenic trail with AU biology professor Robert Holmberg who will be your guide for the hike. Nestled deep within the natural beauty of a northern boreal forest, the Trail is located on the east edge of the University's campus and meanders alongside Muskeg Creek. Dr. Holmberg will point out the native plants, fungi, insects, spiders, and local wildlife. Don't be surprised if you see whitetail deer, beaver, and a wide variety of local birds. (See the enclosed brochure on the Muskeg Creek Trail).

Hike Times

Hikes are one-hour long. Bring comfortable shoes (preferably running shoes), suitable clothing for hiking, and be prepared to walk up and down about 50 stairs to the Trail and up and down a few hills.

- Friday, June 8: 4 p.m.
- Saturday, June 9: 10 a.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Meet at the front Reception Desk at Athabasca University campus.

Indoor Swimming

Relax and unwind at the Athabasca Landing Pool, a 25m indoor swimming pool with a children's pool, hot tub, and dry sauna. Try a variety of water activities including an over-the-pool climbing wall, slide, swinging rope, and diving board. Lifeguards are on duty at all times and children and families are more than welcome.

Swimming Times

Family and public swimming is open to everyone in the community.

- Friday, June 8: 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Cost

- **Adults:** \$3.75
- **Children:** ages 4 - 6, \$1.25; ages 7 - 12, \$2.75; ages 13 - 17, \$3.25

Location

Go directly to the Athabasca Landing Pool, located on 49 St. adjacent to the historic Brick School and Nancy Appleby Theatre.

Quilting Display

Come and see local artisans' quilting skills as you have a look at the colourful and varied themes and styles of quilts produced by quilters from the Athabasca area.

Display Times: Saturday, June 9: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location

The outdoor stage at the Town Common at the bottom of 50th Street, adjacent to Home Hardware.

Alumni Reception

Join us for a social evening to meet fellow graduates, AU faculty, tutors, Alumni Relations staff, and administrative staff. There will be plenty of delicious finger foods offered from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., so dining out beforehand is optional!

Time: Friday, June 8: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Cost: Free (No host bar)

Location: Best Western Athabasca Inn, Whispers Lounge



FED WATCH!

By Karl Low

Paul Martin's recently announced to the House of Commons that the Government of Canada expects to make five billion dollars more than they originally had budgeted for. This sounds wonderful until you remember how the Government makes its money. As his speech to the Throne indicates, "Based on the monthly results to date, budgetary revenues will be higher than estimated, largely because the tax base and tax yield for 2000 turned out to be higher than estimated: "...Mr. Martin has indicated that this extra surplus is devoted entirely to paying down the public debt.

When you consider that currently Canada's public debt stands at over 560 billion dollars, this probably isn't a bad thing. Unfortunately, this means that new help for students (be it in the form of tax cuts, reduced tuitions, or new scholarships) from the federal government is unlikely to be seen any time soon. However, Mr. Martin did manage to find enough money last year to squeak 79 million dollars into the budget for "Revitalizing Canada's Capital". Personally, I think a 79 million dollar scholarship program to revitalize Canada's students would provide a lot more benefit. You can find more information at: <http://www.fin.gc.ca/ec2001/ec01a2e.html>

If your field of study may one day include research on humans, you may want to look at this link: http://www.nserc.ca/programs/ethics/intro_e.htm. In there you'll find a call for nominations to the panel in charge of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research involving Humans. These are the folks who are setting out guidelines for what constitutes ethical and non-ethical research on human subjects – something particularly concerning to our psychology, sociology, and nursing students.

Health Canada has put out a report that says while women suffer from more stress, illness, and years of disability than men do, they also survive longer. The report suggests that this may in part be because women take better care of themselves than men, and are more apt to go to a doctor or treat a problem themselves when something occurs, while men will just ignore the symptoms.

In other news Canada's SchoolNet Youth Advisory board, a group of people, ranging from 10 to 18 years of age who were nominated by non-profit organizations working for youth, has presented recommendations on Internet Learning Content to the Honourable Brian Tobin, Minister of Industry. Having more recognition of the internet as a learning tool can only help us at Athabasca University, so I hope he takes their recommendations seriously. You can find out more at: [this link](#).

POLITICAL ENCOUNTERS

By Frederick Norman

The editor of the Voice was looking for a political commentator for the Voice that would have a relation to what the average student at AU has as concerns.

In the tradition of some of the political journalists of the past I hope to bring you my view of national or provincial politics and how it relates to the AU student. Every second week you will find an opinion of mine sprouting up here, and the alternating weeks reports on what is happening in the various corners of this great country. I will attempt wherever possible to provide hyperlinks or e-mails links to those that are a part of the story or issue I am commenting on. You may take your own action or sit back and allow me to have my say and go to bed knowing that someone is saying what you wanted to say, or not.

As students of a distance learning institution such as AU, there are a myriad of issues and pressures that are in your life that are unique to you, and sometimes shared in common with students at other 'real' Universities. These are what I will try to bring to bear in my reportage and commentary.

You are probably of the mind that what those politicians do, whether they are in the House of Commons, the provincial legislature, your town or school councils, or even band or tribal councils have nothing to do with you.

You are wrong. If it is the small town official who decides not to tell you that your water is no longer potable and will kill you; or the Minister of Finance in Ottawa decides to add another 5 cents to a litre of gasoline, it effects you.

Of course, what happens in Ottawa may seem like a millennium away from you, but in reality the politicians and their trusted bureaucrats do have an effect on your day-to-day life, and if or how you can achieve the degree you are working towards at AU.

It ranges from the ideas of the Provincial Student Finance Board in considering disallowing any loans to students at AU, or the federal Standing Committee On Human Resources Development And The Status Of Persons With Disabilities who said at a May 17th Committee hearing said, '...with respect to that report, one study we're conducting is on Canada student loans, which we're beginning today.'

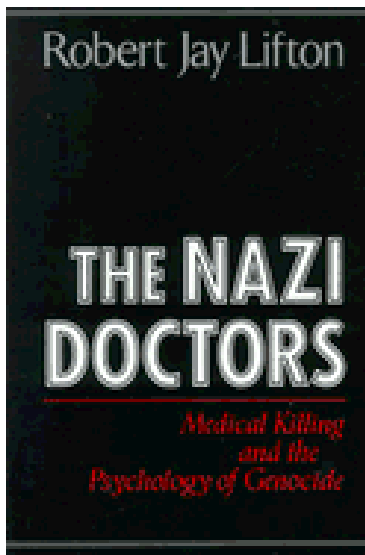
What is especially interesting at some of the government hearings and committee hearings is who does **not** appear from institutions such as AU to give the unique perspective of the people who do attend AU.

The people who do attend AU are not the average student, and this is something missed not only by the administration of AU, but the various levels of government.

My intent will be to draw the connections between the AU, government involvement or lack of, in your lives and how it will impact your studies and success in you achieving your goals. Those goals might be a degree, another degree, or your continuing journey along a life long learning path.

In our great political system, there are three areas where change can be effected. First there is the political end of the system and to some that could be the head of the horse or the opposite end of the bull. In between there are the various bureaucrats and officials who all have their part to play in the success or failure of a policy change that will directly effect you and your family, and quite frankly the success you will or will not enjoy in achieving what ever goals you have for your attendance at AU.

Please keep me informed as to what you care about in this area, and please let me know if you agree or not with what I have to say: write to me at Frederick_n@hotmail.com



The Nazi Doctors: Medical Killing & the Psychology of Genocide by Author Robert J. Lifton

Review by Wayne Benedict

This book would be of great interest to anyone endeavouring to further his or her understanding of Holocaust studies, WWII German National Socialist historiography, and/or the psychological phenomenon of "doubling" or "the double", which enables otherwise normal, intelligent, educated persons to undertake genocidal processes while retaining a moralistic self-image.

The author, Robert Jay Lifton, is Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at The City University of New York and he took ten years to amass the research for this book. He relied heavily on interviews with surviving Nazi physicians, Jewish prisoner doctors, survivors of the infamous Nazi medical experimental blocks, and others such as Albert Speer-Nazi architect and part of Hitler's inner circle.

Lifton begins with the early German "euthanasia" projects, which were run by physicians and concentrated on the severely mentally and/or physically disabled-many of whom were children. Anti-Semitism was so severe and so rampant in Germany during the beginning of the twentieth century that Jews-and others such as Poles-were considered by many to be less than human, "life unworthy of life". With "euthanasia" already being performed in Germany, it was a short ideological jump before it was being practiced on perfectly healthy human beings in the Nazi death camps.

Schutzstaffel (SS) physicians lead the projects, from the selections on the ramps (deciding which prisoners would go into the camp as slave labour and which would be sent directly to the gas chamber) to macabre pseudo-medical experimentation and even to outright murder through phenol injections. Yet, surrounded by the sights, sounds, and stench of death, these physicians managed to maintain their sanity and to even believe in the medical validity of their actions. Lifton explores the psyche of these individuals in an attempt to understand the psychological process of "doubling" that allowed the individual self-justification and mental self-protection.

Obviously, the subject matter of *The Nazi Doctors* is disturbing to say the least, but it is a journey well worth taking. It is not written in a sensationalistic manner, more like a book length study. And although the interviews-which are interspaced throughout the book-are riveting, the book is not an easy read and took me many months to get through, as I had to partake of lighter reading from other literature between forays into this dark subject. This book is not for everyone, but for those mentioned at the beginning of this review, it is a must read.

COUNSELLING SERVICES AT ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

The student life is not an easy one, particularly for AU students who are often working full- or part-time and/or trying to raise a family while squeezing out blocks of study time where possible. AU recognizes the challenges facing its students and provides a variety of support services through its counsellors - Julia McDonald, Julia Nielsen, and Ken Dickson, as well as through its other Student Services areas.

When students have been out of school for many years or even decades, the return to formal learning can be confusing and overwhelming at times. Counselling Services has a number of Study Skills resources, of which it makes available through AUSU. Students can also book an appointment with a counsellor to work through specific difficulties they are experiencing in their studies. This can be done by contacting Rhonda Guay or Monica Wolanuk in the Counselling Services intake unit either by phone (1-800-788-9041, extension 6723), by e-mail (counselling@athabascau.ca), or by using the Online Counselling Appointment Form on the AU Student Services web site (<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/counselling/apptForm.htm>).

In addition to helping students strengthen their study skills, counsellor also offer learning support in exam preparation, reducing exam anxiety, time management, overcoming procrastination and other areas of a student's life that may be interfering with greater academic success.

Proper alignment between program choice and career aspiration is important if a student is to maintain a strong sense of purpose and motivation in their studies. Career interest exploration and testing, career vision re-evaluation, appropriate program choice, and occupational information and awareness are other areas where AU's counsellors can assist students in a more rewarding AU experience.

The problems that students run into often become more difficult to resolve successfully because students do not access the learning support services available to them while there is still enough time remaining. Counselling Services is raising its profile through articles like this so students will have a greater chance of academic success by using our services as soon as the need arises. Don't ignore the problems that obstruct your academic progress. Such problems typically do not go away. Rather, they tend to get worse as less and less time remains to resolve them or learn new skills to overcome them. Call us as soon as you recognize that our learning support services could benefit you.

So, check out the Counselling Services web site at <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/advise/conserv.html> or contact us by phone or e-mail if we can assist you in achieving greater academic success, because your success is our goal.

Phone: 1-800-788-9041, extension 6723

E-mail: counselling@athabascau.ca

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:



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 labour. 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 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.