

THE VOICE

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 21

June 6, 2001.

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](#) 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.
-

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



Bipolar Disorder A Column on Mental Illness

By Darren L. Kereluk

In my last article, I introduced you to how bipolar disorder (manic depression) made its presence known in my life. The purpose of this installment in my series on mental illnesses is to give you a bit more “scientific” information so that you can learn more about bipolar affective disorder’s origins, causes, symptoms, treatments and outcomes. It is my hope that by presenting this series of articles that you will be better able to understand people with mental illnesses, and know how to deal with them, so that they might live better lives. If reading one of my articles spurs you to seek help for problems that you might have, that will be all the better. I also want to remind you that my articles are for information purposes only are in no way a substitute for professional medical advice.

What is Bipolar Disorder?

Bipolar disorder used to be officially known as manic depression until the powers that be (American Psychiatric Association) decided that the illness was much more than a simple range of moods of near-psychotic mania, and near-suicidal depression. While most people have some variance in their moods from day to day, bipolar disorder is diagnosed when these mood shifts become clinically significant by markedly interfering with a person’s day-to-day routine.

The manic part of the bipolar spectrum ranges begins with hypomania, which is an exaggerated sense of well-being and markedly increased sense of well-being and significantly increased levels of activity. At the other end of the manic subspectrum is mania, which is a multiplying of the symptoms of hypomania, with little or no need for sleep, very high amounts of activity, and racing thoughts, occasionally, leading to manic psychosis.

A depressive period in bipolar disorder also varies in their degree of severity. Mild depression leaves people feeling “blue”, irritable or with muted emotions. Depressed bipolars may lose some interest in day-to-day activities, and have shifts in their sleeping patterns. As the depression becomes more entrenched, the patients tend to lose pleasure in doing favourite activities, and tend to isolate themselves from friends and family. Some people may even begin to ignore personal and domestic hygiene, because of the overwhelming lack of energy that they are dealing with. Eventually, in the deepest parts of the depressive cycle, some patients may feel totally helpless about their situation, and may contemplate suicide.

Aetiology and Origins

Like many other mental illnesses, the specific cause of bipolar disorder is not clear. While many medical experts believe that it is a genetically inherited illness, not all people with a positive family history go on to develop the disorder. Although stress does not cause bipolar disorder, people who are predisposed to having the illness are very sensitive to stress, which can trigger the onset or recurrence of this illness. Some very intriguing studies connecting bipolar disorder with cases of childhood depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) point to another possible reason for the occurrence of bipolar disorder.

Types of Bipolar Disorder

Bipolar I-Patients with this “classic” type of the disorder will have manic episodes as well as major depressive periods.

Bipolar II-Patients with this “milder” version of the disorder will have symptoms ranging from short periods of hypomania, as well as a few periods of major depression.

Rapid Cycling-This is a subtype of both Bipolar I and II. Rapid cyclers are those patients who have had four or more changes between some form of mania and depression within a 12-month period.

Treatments

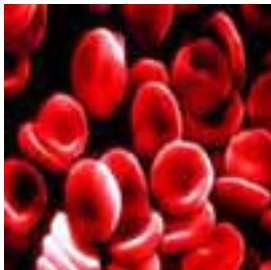
Psychotherapy can be most helpful for patients who are not rapid cyclers, and for all patients who also have problems with anxiety. It is often useful for bipolars to have somebody outside of their regular environment to discuss hopes, frustrations and problems with.

Several different types of medications can be used to help treat bipolar disorder, from traditional antidepressants, to anti-epileptics and lithium used to stabilize moods. Because of the sheer variety of medications involved, and because people tend to respond to medications in different ways, no one treatment protocol works for all patients. For people that are bipolars, I would suggest that you visit the following website for more information about the medications that they might be using:

<http://www.mentalhealth.com>. This website also provides a number of helpful articles on bipolar disorder and other mental illnesses. A good site for general mental health information can also be found at <http://mentalhelp.net>. This website also includes diagnostic tests and discussion forums that can be of help to bipolars. I should point out that the diagnostic tests are not designed to tell people if they have bipolar disorder, but are designed as tools to gauge the level of mania or depression that may be exhibited by patients. They should share this information with their physician at their next appointment.

Conclusion

Bipolar disorder is not an illness that has to be fought alone, nor are people that have the illness condemned to hopeless futures. The key to successfully managing this disorder includes a successful combination of knowledge about bipolar disorder, proper medical support, and an understanding family.



CIHR INTRODUCES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FUTURE SCIENCE WRITERS

1. CIHR

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the major federal agency responsible for funding health research in Canada. The objective of CIHR is to excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system. [See www.cihr.ca for more information about CIHR]

2. Science Writer Scholarships

CIHR has established scholarships at both undergraduate and graduate levels to increase the number of Canadian science writers engaged in communicating the findings and implications of health research.

Undergraduate Science Writer Scholarship and Internship: At the undergraduate level, two awards will be made annually: one for a student enrolled in an English language program and one for a student enrolled in a French language program. These awards consist of (i) a \$5,000 annual scholarship for a maximum of two years and (ii) up to \$5,000 for a four-month internship at CIHR or in affiliation with CIHR.

Graduate Science Writer Scholarship: At the graduate level, scholarships of \$20,000 per year for a maximum of two years will be awarded to graduates of life science degrees (i.e. holders of undergraduate, masters or doctoral degrees) who are undertaking additional training in recognized degree programs in journalism or communications. Up to five awards will be made annually.

The deadline for submission of applications is July 15, 2001. Awards will begin in September 2001.

3. Eligibility

These awards are open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada who are full-time students.

Undergraduate Science Writer Scholarships and Internships will be open to university and college students enrolled in a third or fourth year undergraduate program in the liberal arts (e.g. communications, journalism, history, literature, psychology, etc.) with a science minor. Students in a science program who have demonstrated an aptitude for writing are also eligible. All applicants must have previous work experience - either paid or volunteer - where science writing was a major part of the assignment.

Graduate Science Writer Scholarships will be open to those who have completed a life sciences degree (for example, B.Sc., M.Sc., or Ph.D.) and who have been accepted into a journalism or communications degree program. In addition, applicants must have a proven aptitude for writing and may not hold any other major scholarship or award.

4. Applications

The application form may be found on the CIHR website at www.cihr.ca/funding_opportunities/cihr_funding_pgms/req_for_proposal/science_writer_form_e.shtml. Applicants should complete this form and submit it electronically to CIHR by July 15, 2001 to the email address shown on the form. Within the application form, applicants will be asked to compose a 200-word text describing the reasons for their interest in a science writing career.

The following documents are to be sent by regular mail in support of applications:

- An official university transcript
- Two letters of reference from suitably qualified referees attesting to the applicant's writing ability and interest
- Two samples of the applicant's health science-based writing
- *For Undergraduate Scholarship only:* a proposal for a four-month internship at CIHR or in affiliation with CIHR
- *For Graduate Scholarship only:* proof of acceptance into a journalism or communications degree program

5. Selection Criteria

All applications will be evaluated by a peer review committee according to the following criteria:

- Excellence as a scholar
- Ability to write health science-based material
- Commitment to pursuing a career in science writing
- *For Undergraduate Scholarship only:* Quality of the proposed internship

6. Acknowledgement of Award

Award recipients must acknowledge support from the CIHR Science Writer Scholarship in any articles written or published during tenure of the award.

7. Questions may be directed to us as follows:

For Undergraduate Scholarships: sw-undergrad@cihr.ca

For Graduate Scholarships: sw-graduate@cihr.ca



Schools across Canada join the MonsterTRAK.ca career site

MONTREAL, May, 24, 2001 - Monster.ca, Canada's leading career management portal and part of the global Monster® network of TMP Worldwide (NASDAQ: TMPW), announced today that two of Canada's leading schools, Concordia University's John Molson School of Business and York's Schulich School of Business, have signed on to

MonsterTRAK.ca, the leading online careers site specializing in the post-secondary market, which will be launching services in Canada in the coming weeks. MonsterTRAK.ca facilitates the process of college and university students finding jobs, internships and part-time work during school and after graduation and makes it easier for employers to attract top graduates. Both of Concordia University's placement centers have signed on as well as many other schools across the country including Calgary University's School of Management, Red Deer College in Alberta, Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC, and John Abbott College in Montreal. MonsterTRAK links employers, students and career centers, offering significant benefits for each group:

- Students: MonsterTRAK.ca will offer free access to an easily searchable database of jobs that are in line with the students' experience level and educational background. MonsterTRAK.ca will benefit from Monster.ca's customer base of 18,000 employers and recruiters.
- Employers: At a fraction of the cost of traditional recruiting methods, MonsterTRAK.ca will help employers to shorten hiring cycles by offering them nationwide access to a large database of entry-level job seekers and the ability to target specific schools or programs. Employers can search resumes by campus, graduation date, field of study and degree.
- University career centers: They can expand their services through MonsterTRAK.ca which facilitates centralized on-campus recruiting and offers them free access to valuable career management resources. "As part of our ongoing mission to offer our students the best possible tools for finding employment opportunities, we are very excited about signing up for MonsterTRAK," said Cherine Zananiri, Director of the John Molson School of Business Career Center at Concordia University. "We believe that our students will greatly benefit from exposure to the leading North-American network for campus recruitment. This will expand the opportunities offered to them and provide our career center with highly effective tools." The John Molson School of Business (www.johnmolson.concordia.ca) offers the world's only IATA-affiliated MBA Aviation Program, Canada's premiere Masters Programs in Investment Management. The School has received the prestigious AACSB accreditation - the highest accreditation possible for university-level business schools. Calgary University's School of Management (www.mgmt3.ucalgary.ca), which recently signed on to MonsterTRAK, is also

one of seven Canadian AACSB-accredited schools. Joseph Palumbo, Director of Career Center and International Placement at the Schulich School of Business at York University, added, “ In line with our reputation as a leading business school in the world, we look forward to offering our students this free, user-friendly tool that will allow them to open doors to a global platform. Having been ranked by the Wall Street Journal as one of the top 50 business schools in the world just this May, we are looking for world-class tools and vendors to help us move up in this global ranking. We see MonsterTRAK as a solution for freeing our staff from clerical duties, allowing us to add value to both our internal customers and corporate clients.” The Schulich School of Business (www.schulich.yorku.ca) is one of the world’s top ten non-US business schools, according to a highly respected global ranking released in January 2001 by the Financial Times of London. In 2000, Schulich also ranked a close second in the first-ever comprehensive survey of MBA programs in Canada conducted by Canadian Business magazine. Gabriel Bouchard, VP and General Manager, Monster.ca, explained, “ Signing on these two substantial, well known educational institutions is key to our strategy of building partnerships with college and university career centers. This also helps to strengthen our leadership position in the online career space with targeted offerings for every level of job seeker—from intern-to-CEO. We are confident that this early acceptance of MonsterTRAK.ca is a strong precursor of future success. After all, there is no other product like this on the market and it will significantly benefit the career placement services in Canadian universities.” MonsterTRAK.ca builds on Monster.ca’s strong position in the student market. According to a study done by COGEM, Monster.ca’s brand awareness across Canada stands at 54 % of people 18 to 24 years old, higher than any other career site. “We find Monster.ca an effective method of recruitment, we are very excited to see the launch of MonsterTRAK in Canada,” said Susan Craig, Senior Consultant, Bank of Montreal. “Having a cost-effective and proven means of accessing university students for summer employment, internship opportunities and first career decisions is key in meeting our human resources mandate and fostering our growth with the best and brightest.” The launch of MonsterTRAK in Canada follows the acquisition of privately held JobTRAK.COM, the leading online job listing service for college students and alumni in the United States, by Monster.com on November 7, 2000.

About Monster.ca

Monster.ca, Canada’s leading career management portal, is a bilingual, user-friendly tool that is revolutionizing job seeking and recruitment. Free for job seekers, it provides them with greater control over their job search and career development. It allows employers and recruiters to find candidates more cost-efficiently, effectively and rapidly. Monster.ca has a database of over 600,000 resumes, the largest in Canada. Monster posts approximately 400,000 jobs, from entry-level to executive level. Built on robust, innovative technology, the portal also includes guides to careers and educational programs, comparative salary tables, a virtual job interview and online forums. Headquartered in Montreal, Monster.ca is the Canadian member of the global Monster Career Network, which operates in fifteen countries throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Monster .ca is a registered trademark of TMP Worldwide.

About TMP Worldwide

Founded in 1967, TMP Worldwide Inc., with more than 9,500 employees in 32 countries, is the online recruitment leader, the world’s largest Recruitment Advertising agency network, and one of the world’s largest Executive Search and Executive Selection agencies. TMP Worldwide, headquartered in New York, is also the world’s largest Yellow Pages advertising agency and a provider of direct marketing services. The company’s clients include more than 90 of the Fortune 100 and more than 480 of the Fortune 500 companies. More information about TMP Worldwide is available at www.tmp.com

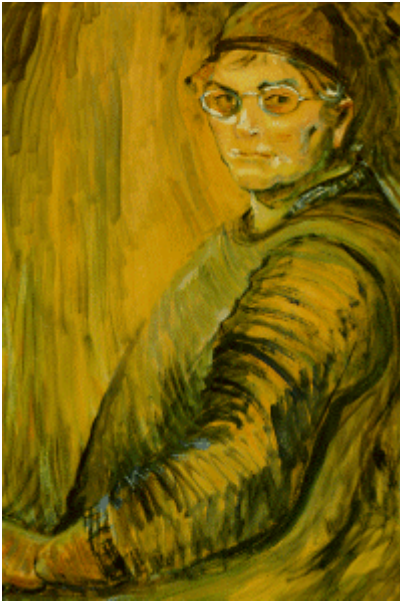
Contact: Cindy Hoffman, Monster.ca
(514) 350-0710
1-877-988-9188
choffman@monster.ca <mailto:choffman@monster.ca>
Web address: www.monster.ca

MonsterTRAK Fact Sheet

MonsterTRAK provides password-protected, co-branded job listing, resume database and interview scheduling software. Unlike traditional career sites, MonsterTRAK enables employers to target their job listings to students and alumni from specific campuses to ensure visibility within a highly qualified and motivated pool of candidates. In the United States, MonsterTRAK has partnerships with over 1,200 college career centers. With MonsterTRAK.ca, Monster.ca plans to follow the same partnership model that was a success in the US, offering free software that is focused on the needs of the career centers as well as co-op programs, and a split-revenue solution. Beyond providing password-protected, co-branded job listing, the new site will offer these products and services:

- Career & Alumni Contact Network - A database that helps job-seeking university students connect with career mentors in their desired field and geographical location.
- Student Employment Database - A system that allows college and university career centres to post and manage on-campus and co-op positions for students.
- MonsterTRAK Career Guide - An online library that provides students and counselors with complete career management training materials, job search exercises, case studies and PowerPoint presentations.
- Virtual Career Fairs - MonsterTRAK software enables career centers to create and host university or school consortium specific virtual career fairs. Job seekers can visit employer booths, research opportunities and apply for positions.
- InterviewTRAK - Partner schools facing greater on-campus recruiting and interviewing needs or COOP management needs can also upgrade the basic MonsterTRAK system to a complete on-campus recruitment solution with the higher-end InterviewTRAK software. This unprecedented on-campus interview schedule management tool for career centers and employers. This tool allows employers to review resumes and select candidates, and enables students to sign up for interview time slots online (available later this year).

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PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN STRATEGY SHEET

Citizens from across Alberta are asking the provincial government for an increase in arts funding. A general strategy has been developed to help make the message consistent and strong.

The Campaign Goal

This is a letter campaign. The goal is for each Progressive Conservative MLA to receive 100 letters from constituents by June 20, 2001* asking for an \$18 million increase to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) budget.

Who Writes the Letters:

In order to be successful, this must be seen as a grass-roots campaign. Letters should come primarily from individuals who do not make their living in the arts sector. People who have a non-paid relationship with your organization, especially board members and other volunteers, are the voice that the government will take most seriously.

What the Letters should be:

Letters need not be long and should be personal. We recommend relating them back to a central theme: the full development of a world-class artistic community in Alberta is being held back by significant pro-ration** of grants, caused by insufficient funding to the AFA. Letters must *not* be form letters or petitions. Ralph Klein has made it clear that he treats 10,000 form letters as only one letter. We have prepared a Fact Sheet with statistics to help writers craft their letters. They should be addressed to the individual writer's own MLA (see the attached list of addresses) and any other MLA contacts the writer may have.

What Arts Organizations Should Do:

Arts groups should help organize the involvement of their board members, volunteers and other interested citizens. We recommend the following steps:

1. Distribute this document to your board, volunteers, and other interested parties.
2. Include Provincial Advocacy on your next board meeting agenda. Form a Government Relations committee on your board. Make this campaign the committee's first priority.
3. Draw up a list of as many people as possible that are involved with your organization (especially non-staff) and encourage them to write letters.
4. Keep track of the number of letters sent and to which MLAs.

A few Do's and Don'ts:

DO

- Mention your ties to the Tories if you have them (campaign donor, party member, etc.)
- Ask Jock Osler, the AFA Chair, to address your next board meeting on this issue (Contact the AFA at 780-427-6315).
- Suggest that the writer Cc Premier Klein, the new Minister of Community Development - Gene Zwozdesky (addresses attached) and John Reid (CPAA Provincial Advocacy Chair - via email cmc@ucalgary.ca).

DON'T

- Don't focus on opposition MLAs - this backfires when trying to win government support
- Don't weaken the message by attacking other arts funding policies in your letter - our current concern is the size of the pie, not the way it is sliced up.

*The June 20 deadline would allow the government to incorporate our requests into the budget for the next financial year.

**Pro-ration means that successful grant applicants do not receive the full amount to which they are entitled under the AFA's guidelines due to an overall shortage of funds in the AFA's budget.

FACT SHEET - FUNDING FOR THE ARTS IN ALBERTA

Ø The arts are one of the cornerstones of a vibrant, exciting society. Music, literature, theatre, film, video, dance and the visual arts all help to develop healthy and educated citizens. The arts make Alberta a desirable place in which to live, work and visit.

Ø 90% of Albertans participated in or attended arts programs in the past year. 87% feel that arts activities are important to quality of life. 85% think that it is important for the government to continue to fund and support the arts.[\[1\]](#)

Ø In 5 years, Alberta's population increased by approximately 300,000 people (almost half the population of Edmonton). Population growth and geographical expansion create a higher demand for investment in the arts.

Ø The number of requests for arts funding submitted to The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) in 1999/00 increased by almost 30% from only 2 years ago. Of the 2100 requests, only 1268 individuals and organizations received funding.

Ø Funding to the AFA has remained static for the past 11 years. Alberta games and lotteries will generate approximately \$872 million in revenue during the current budget year. Less than 2% of this will be allocated toward the AFA.

Ø Due to inadequate funding, the AFA must pro-rate operational grant programs, causing some organizations to receive less than 60% of what they are eligible for.

Ø Arts organizations do their part to maintain viability, generating \$82.7 million in earned revenues during 2000/01 (as compared to \$52 million in 1997/98), an increase of 59% in only 3 years. AFA funding accounted for less than 10% (\$13,419,162) of these organizations' total combined revenue.

Ø Provincial funding can function as a catalyst for donors, corporate sponsors and other levels of government to make similar contributions to arts communities.

Ø By nurturing artists through every level of artistic endeavor, Alberta gains prestige on national and international levels. Many recipients of AFA funding have won prestigious awards. Five Alberta artists won the Governor General's Award for Literature in the past six years (all five acknowledged the AFA as being significant to their success). Many recipients of AFA funding participate in and contribute back to Alberta communities, either on a professional or volunteer level, through AFA assisted programs, such as summer courses and artists-in-schools programs.

Ø In order to stimulate the arts sector and address its urgent need for growth, we request that funding to the arts in Alberta be doubled from **\$16.1 million** to **over \$32 million**.

Ø PLEASE WRITE TO YOUR MLA AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU FEEL THAT INCREASED FUNDING TO THE ARTS IS IMPORTANT. THE GOAL IS FOR EVERY MLA IN THE PROVINCE TO RECEIVE 100 LETTERS BY **JUNE 1, 2001**, IN TIME FOR CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE NEXT PROVINCIAL BUDGET.

Ø When writing letters, please use personal experiences, explaining how you contribute to and benefit from the arts. Explain why increased funding to the arts is important to you and your community.

Please c.c. copies of your letters to John Reid, Chair of the Provincial Advocacy Committee for the Calgary Professional Arts Alliance, via e-mail (cmc@ucalgary.ca) or fax (289-4877).

[1] 2001 Survey of Albertans, Research Innovations Inc. Other sources of information for this report include Mr. Jock Osler, Chair of The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the Calgary Professional Arts Alliance's presentation, *The Arts in Alberta - Funding for The Alberta Foundation for the Arts*, presented to the Alberta Standing Policy Committee on Health and Safe Communities.



ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION:

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 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.athabasca.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@athabasca.ca

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