

THE VOICE

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www.ausu.org/voice



A Bug In Your Ear...

Look forward to next week's issue, which will share the joys of the 2001 Graduates of AU!



...From my soapbox Civil Liberties – the Slippery Slope By Derek Broughton

A while ago, I caught a news item on the radio that said civil liberties groups were preparing a court challenge to impending Canadian legislation that would make it illegal to use the internet to download child pornography. I'm not sure how much truth there was to the report, as I have been unable to find any references to the private members bills C-210 and C-

212 except on the parliamentary website (www.parl.gc.ca) and such bills rarely become law – but why should *anybody* oppose such a law?

Time and again, we hear stories of civil liberties groups (more often in the US than here) defending causes that we all **know** are wrong. Don't misunderstand me, I believe that anyone accused of a crime deserves the best defense available (as opposed to the best he can afford) but these challenges are often made because civil libertarians worry that any restriction of one person's rights affects us all. To that extent, they're right but there comes a point where you have to draw a line.

Positions of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association frequently use such phrases as “Consider also how the prohibition against advocacy [of sexual activity of minors] could affect the ability to publish accurate history.” (<http://www.ccla.org/pos/briefs/1999obscenity.shtml>). The assumption is always that learned judges should not be placed in the position of determining whether an action was a violation of criminal law or a valid and proper work of art or research. I accept the author’s misgivings that such laws could scare some people into not creating certain works of art, or delving into some fields of research, but only if the laws are misapplied in the first place. The CCLA’s viewpoint appears to be that no law should ever be made that allows of any interpretation in the courts, yet the alternative of clearly delineating every possible infraction, and the penalty for it, is far more than we can possibly expect of our lawmakers – many of whom have no legal training at all. In the reference above, the CCLA points out that even if we trust our courts to make the right decision, “the police may investigate, arrest, and even prosecute before those who are accused have effective recourse to these defenses.” The COLA should know that the police don’t prosecute in this country and Crown Attorneys are loath to start a case they don’t think they have a very good chance of winning. However, the fact that they may investigate and arrest innocent people is an argument for curbing the police and customs, not for curbing the courts.

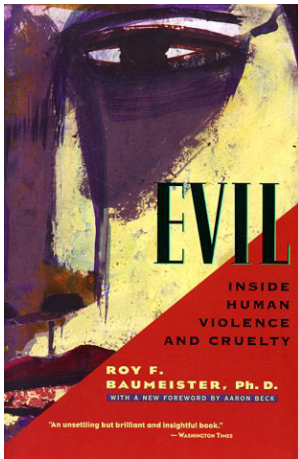
In the case of Bills C-210 and C-212, the member’s aim was to make it illegal to use the Internet for propagation of information already deemed to be illegal (which is pointless – if you charge somebody with “possession of child pornography” and “using the Internet for the distribution of child pornography”, upon conviction the felon would still receive the same time in jail). But the laws also aimed to make it possible to force Internet service providers to block access to the websites carrying information shown to be illegal. It’s probably impossible to accomplish in the long term (i.e., if you block access to www.childporn.com at one IP address, the supplier could register www.kiddieporn.org at another IP and the process would need to start all over) but it’s a beginning. It may also be that the bills, as written, are defective. That’s why our system requires three readings, committees and amendments. A bill in first reading (as these are) is rarely close to the final act.

Looking at it another way, the Halifax Daily News (Charles Moore, May 16) published a column headlined “Speech is free or it isn’t”. Moore condemned the concept of “qualified free speech” as an oxymoron and again I agree only to a point. I do believe that we have to allow people to hold any misguided opinions they want, and that they should be allowed freedom to “speak”. I don’t see why that means that we should be forced to allow them to publish. When laws protecting freedom of speech were created, the only means of dissemination of dissent were word of mouth and the printing press. This allows citizens to choose whether to associate with people whose ideas they dislike or to read their newspapers and handbills. With modern media pushing right into our homes, I see no problem with denying specific platforms to hate-mongers and pornographers.

For bills currently before the house, see

http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Bills_House_Private.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&Ses=1.

If you agree with me, write. If you disagree with me, **write louder!** I can be reached at dbroughton@bigfoot.com.



Evil: Inside Human Violence & Cruelty **By Author Roy F. Baumeister**

Review by Wayne E. Benedict

"Evil", in the strict sense of the word, might best have been left out of the title of this book. Baumeister does an excellent job of explaining the inner workings of the human psyche as it pertains to cruelty and violence. These actions are deeply or thinly veiled in all humans and held in check by the strength of one's self control and/or morality. A small step at a time could lead any human to acts of cruelty or violence, scarcely noticing the descending path one has taken. I wouldn't say that this book is light reading and it is sometimes disturbing, but it is well worth the effort for anyone who seeks insight into the darker sides of humanity. Beware; you might recognize some small part of yourself within these pages.

I am a subscriber of "Scientific American" magazine and was referred to this book by their recommendation.



FED WATCH! **By Karl Low**

Mind Your Head!

Though you might not know it, today is the second day in Brain Injury Awareness Week in Alberta. All in all, about 7,000 people per year get some form of brain injury, mostly through "accident" (read: carelessness or idiocy). Sadly, though 1000 people die through brain injury, most of these wouldn't happen if people simply obeyed the law and used common sense. If you're bicycling or roller-blading, wear a helmet. If you drive, do it at the speed limit with your seat belt on. And for goodness sakes, don't drink and drive! It could be somebody else's life you ruin, not just your own.

Lately, the Alberta Government has taken steps toward better addressing the needs of adults with brain injuries. 1.5 million has been devoted to the Community Development Ministry to develop and implement a program that will help brain injury survivors re-integrate into their communities. As Athabasca Students, we all know that our most important asset is in our heads. So take a moment to be grateful that you can know it's Brain Injury Awareness Week. Some people no longer can. More information can be found at [this link](#).

It Never Rains, but it...

It's raining as I write this, but the Alberta Government recently started up an emergency assistance program for drought-plagued farmers. They've pledged \$4 per acre for livestock farmers, and \$4 per

active hive for beekeepers, and set aside \$72 million dollars for this. There's also been an additional \$20 million set aside to help farmers come up with long-term solutions to drought condition.

Yet at the same time, we talk about how the Kyoto agreement will be bad for Alberta because it will cost us too much. I've looked at the Kyoto agreement, and while it's hardly a panacea, it's certainly a better step forward than none at all. The fear is that limits on carbon dioxide emissions would hurt the non-renewable energy industry, which is probably true. But a total of \$92 million dollars in emergency farm aid hurts all of us. It takes money from our health-care system, our education system, our debt-reduction policies – in short, our pockets. And that's just this year. Without environmental protections and action, does anybody really think that climate change will just suddenly stop and go away?

Find out more on the aid program [here](#) the Kyoto Agreement at [this link](#), and climate change in general at Environment Canada's [site](#).

The Wired Prairies

Distance education students come from all over, and with the internet forming a larger part of distance education, any news that makes it easier for people to connect is certainly welcome. Take Saskatchewan for instance, they're putting almost \$71 million dollars into making sure that their urban and rural communities have affordable access to the internet. This program will be implemented over the next five years or so, so we won't be seeing a rapid influx very soon, but it's something to consider. A Bachelor of Arts with a major in Agricultural Studies anybody? After all, if Athabasca can offer Nursing now, there's no reason it can't diversify further. Take a look at [Community Net](#) for more information.

From Point A to Point B

The Manitoba Government has been fairly busy in the education arena this week. First they've recently announced a Transportation Education program. This is basically something to help drivers understand and comply with federal and provincial legislation. They followed it up with a 1.5 million project to update and restore the Red River College building, and also funding for a "Take Action in Schools" program which is designed to build stronger communities, teach children better ways to avoid crime or violent encounters, and provide the skills for dealing with bullies and the other pressures of school life. This is the type of program that really should be spread across the country. We don't need another Taber shooting incident.

Most interesting to Athabasca Students however, is that Manitoba recently announced changes to the Manitoba High School course credit requirements that will allow their students to obtain high-school credits for distance education, post-secondary courses, locally developed courses and community service. To be honest, I'm not entirely sure if this is a good thing or not. While I always appreciate a larger audience for Athabasca University (after all, it increases the value of my degree) I wonder what happens when we're trying to interact with students who may still be going through high-school courses?

At any rate, you can find the information on each of these and other stories at the Manitoba News Release [site](#) if you want more information.



Public Smoking: Arrogance or Ignorance?

By Mclain D. Swift

A custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless (Collins).

James VI of Scotland I of England

Another debate about public smoking has hit the news as of late in Calgary. Supporters of proposed amendments to the existing bylaw to ban smoking in restaurants and other public places are calling for tougher guidelines than ever before. Smokers, on the other hand, are arguing that smoking is regulated enough, and contend that a new by-law is unnecessary and an infringement upon the rights of both smokers and business owners. I steadfastly disagree with the position held by smokers. Smoking is an extremely unhealthy, noxious, and disgusting habit—or should I say addiction. I support a complete ban of smoking in all public places, and I agree with the proposed amendments to Calgary’s current smoking bylaw.

The current bylaw allows smoking, if there is a designated smoking area, in many public facilities such as restaurants and workplaces. Hospitals and educational facilities may also designate smoking areas. However, public places such as reception and waiting areas, elevators, and public washrooms are currently smoke free (Bylaw). I believe the current smoking regulations are based around a smoker’s right to smoke as opposed to a non-smoker’s right to be at a location with clean air. I draw this inference from the assumption that a non-smoker does not *need* to be in a particular restaurant. If a non-smoker has an issue with the smoking, he or she is free to leave to go somewhere else. On the other hand, if a waiting room were the only place for a non-smoker to wait, it would be unfair to expose him or her to cigarette smoke; therefore, banning smoking in these areas would seem logical. The problem with the current method of deciding smoking and non-smoking areas, as I understand it, is a complete disrespect and even disregard for non-smokers’ rights.

The present level of separation between smoking and non-smoking is an example of this disrespect, and is akin to having a peeing and non-peeing section in a public swimming pool—absurd as it sounds—it is true. The solution to this problem is proposed in the amendments by prohibiting smoking in unlicensed restaurants, and where licensed and unlicensed facilities meet, businesses are to provide completely separate facilities with separate ventilation systems (Bylaw). While this option may be unavailable to some pre-existing businesses, the opportunity to outright forbid smoking is still a viable alternative.

It seems to me that smokers are always pushing the argument of rights when there comes a time to justify smoking—it seems to be their only defence. Smoking advocacy groups such as Smokers.com espouse the right to smoke saying in their Smoker’s Rights Pamphlet, “smokers derive pleasure and benefits from tobacco but it is not tobacco we are defending it is our legal right to smoke it that we defend...” (SRP). I do agree with their proclamation; however, I disagree with *where* smokers choose to perform their filthy habit. While in the same breath, the same group states in their policy statement, “we respect non-smokers’ rights to choose not to smoke, and also not to be exposed to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS), or Second Hand Smoke (SHS), or Side Stream Smoke (SSS), and, we encourage all smokers to respect this as well” (Smokers.com). How the very people pushing for smoking in public places can make such a statement is beyond my logical thinking. Smokers.com has

solved the problem, it would seem, that we non-smokers have with public smoking in public—simply respect our right to not be exposed to cigarette smoke and smoke elsewhere.

A non-smoker's right to be in an environment with clean, breathable air is just as equitable, if not more so when children are concerned, as the smoker's right to smoke. Why, then, is it such a hard concept for smokers to grasp: involuntarily exposing non-smokers to cigarette toxins is a violation of *our* rights. We should not be forced to inhale putrid fumes because we may want to sit in a pub and enjoy a drink with some friends. It is true we could go elsewhere, but non-smokers have just as much right to be in the pub as a smoker. Moreover, we have a right to clean air, which is being fouled by other people's actions. In concept, there is no difference between asking someone to leave an establishment for offending patrons by disruptively uttering profanities, and asking that an individual not smoke because it offends those trying to enjoy dinner.

Owners of establishments that are concerned a smoking ban will cause business to suffer need not worry. A survey conducted in 1999 by the Calgary Tobacco Reduction Action Coalition (CTRAC) indicates that if smoking were to be banned in public places such as restaurants, bars, and bowling alleys, twenty-five percent of those surveyed would frequent these places more often; conversely, only fifteen percent would avoid smoke-free places. The same survey indicated that over forty percent of those polled already avoid places that allow smoking (Survey). The concern over lost business may seem legitimate on the surface, however, an article printed in the Journal of the American Medical Association states that “researchers found no significant change in hotel revenue, and tourism was either unaffected or increased. Researchers tracked hotel revenues and tourism rates in three states and six cities before and after passage of smoking bans (Impact).” More evidence that a ban on smoking does not affect the bottom line is confirmed in “a study by Cornell University show[ing] that non-smokers dine out more and spend 2 ½ times as much in restaurants as smokers” (Impact).

Smoking is a hazard to those who partake, and smoking is their prerogative. However, for those of us that value our health and the health of our children, smoking in locations that expose non-smokers to the lethal fumes is a direct violation of our right for clean air. Non-smokers are not denying people the right to smoke; we are simply denying them the right to force us to unwillingly smoke along with them. When I sit down to a meal in a restaurant, I do not want nor should I expect to tolerate the acrid stench of a smoker's filthy addiction—no more than a smoker should tolerate an interruption of a meal by a rowdy drunk.

The amendments to Calgary's smoking bylaw are long overdue. It is time for smokers to acknowledge and respect the rights of the majority—smokers have had it their way long enough. Smoking has been proven repeatedly to be a major burden on healthcare and an annoyance to non-smokers. How can smokers, a mere quarter of the population (Smoking Facts), expect the non-smoking majority to compromise health and comfort so that they may get a nicotine fix? I chalk it up as blatant arrogance on the part of smokers.

Works Cited

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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/reg_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

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

- 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.
- 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]
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Provincial funding can function as a catalyst for donors, corporate sponsors and other levels of government to make similar contributions to arts communities.
- By nurturing artists through every level of artistic endeavour, 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.

- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.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

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