

THE VOICE

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If one is cruel to himself, how can we expect him to be compassionate with others?"

--Hasdai Ibn Shaprut



A Bug In Your Ear...

What Would Jesus Freakin' Do?

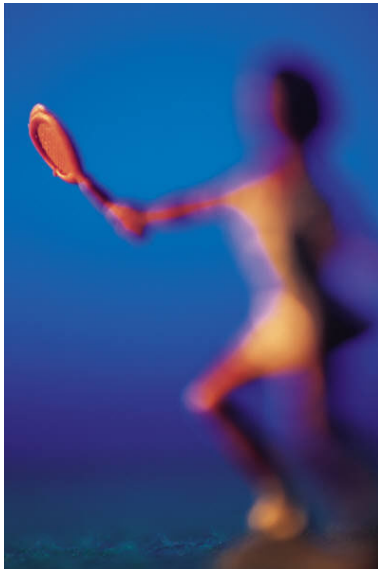
By b.e. hydromako

There is a rising movement of people that are inclined, when faced by the challenges of this life, to ask themselves, "what would Jesus do?" While this seems like a noble question to ponder, and to live by Jesus' example is a worthy pursuit, how many of these people even know what Jesus was trying to do?

In light of current study into the life and times of Jesus, it appears that he intended to transform the society he lived in (the Jewish society). He looked around him and saw that the Jews who had the power and money were not fulfilling their contract (the covenant) with God. This contract was as much social obligation as it was divine. The people who "had" were required to tend to the people who "had not," but Jesus saw that this certainly was not the case. The orphans and the widows, the neglected and the marginalized, were being ignored and ostracized by the community. Thus, Jesus was on a mission (in part) to reform the way that people treat and care for each other.

Jesus urged people to give up their possessions and families. Regardless of the spiritual effect such dissolution of ties was intended to create, we can see that the abandonment of traditional societal values was an act of rebellion against an unjust and rotting community. In this sense, it appears that Jesus was trying to reform society by taking away its greatest resource: the people who maintain it through daily transactions and interactions.

So, in modern times when we ask ourselves, “what would Jesus do?” we had better be prepared to answer this question in a serious and dedicated manner. It is not enough to decide intellectually that Jesus would have done such and such. We must reflect our answer in our deeds. Jesus would look at our modern society with apprehension—really, what has changed? There is still a minority of people who control the majority of wealth. There are still the few who lord over the many. There is still social inequality, injustice, and down right ignorance. Jesus desired that we live as a family striving to manifest the Kingdom of God here and now. It’s been over two millennia since he walked the earth, and we still live in the ghetto that sprawls outside of the glory.



Racism: Seek And You Shall Find. By Tamra Ross Low

My husband and I are tennis fanatics who for the last two weeks have followed the 2001 U. S. Open tournament, which has been marred by claims of racism like so many of the Grand Slam tournaments of the last few years.

Usually the focus is on the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, and their father and trainer, Richard Williams. His claims have been alarming: Earlier this year in [Indian Wells](#) California, Richard says that in the “worst act of prejudice [he’s] seen since they killed Martin Luther King, as he and Venus were walking to their seats for the final, about a dozen fans [called them niggers] and one spoke of skinning him alive... he watched near tears as fans jeered Serena and cheered when she double-faulted. He characterized the crowd as white and wealthy, with all but about a thousand fans in the crowd of 16,000 booing his daughter.”

It sounds extraordinary, but this was the southern United States, and tennis has long been dominated by white Americans and Europeans. But it’s dangerous to jump to conclusions, and there are a number of factors, which make me question Richard’s claim.

First, no one else heard the slurs. Venus and Serena back their father’s claims, but he is suspected of physically abusing them and their mother, and Serena admits she actually heard nothing herself. Second, the Williams sisters have angered tennis fans by dropping out of matches where they must play each other. It has been charged that Richard decides which of the sisters will play, and which will withdraw. These are not insignificant claims, because Venus and Serena are two of the top players in the world. In the controversial Indian Wells match, Venus and Serena would have played each other, but Venus suddenly developed tendonitis and dropped out, angering fans who are frustrated at the appearance of match fixing. This week Venus and Serena finally played each other for the finals of the US Open, and the fans were extremely receptive.

This raises the question – is negativity toward a black player necessarily racism? That question was raised this week in the men’s match between Aussie [Lleyton Hewitt](#) and African-American

James Blake. Hewitt was annoyed that a black linesman repeatedly called him for foot-faults, while the white linesman did not. Agitated, Hewitt complained to the chair umpire, saying "Look at him, mate. Look at him. You tell me what the similarity is." The comment was generally understood to refer to the racial similarity of the linesman and Blake, and a media storm ensued. Hewitt denied any racial slur, but commentators believe this incident might dog the twenty-year-old Hewitt for his career.

Was Hewitt's comment racist, or was he claiming to be the victim of racism? What if Serena or Venus garnered an unusual number of faults from a white linesman? Surely Richard would not hesitate to claim racism, and, maybe he would be right. So, if Hewitt's suspicions have any justification, should we not support his right to express a concern? If not, why do we allow black players to claim racism in their matches? Hewitt did not make any disparaging remarks against his opponent.

A cry of racism is a powerful weapon. I recall the advice given to women – 'if you are ever raped, cry 'fire,' because you'll get help faster. Racism is the media equivalent of a cry of 'fire.' Nothing brings the reporters more quickly. I worry that men like Richard Williams use this weapon for personal gain, and that this misuse will lead to less respect for legitimate claims.

My fears become stronger as I learn more about Richard. L. Jon Wertheim (*Venus Envy: A Sensational Season Inside the Women's Tour*, HarperCollins: 2001) notes that Richard has "an ugly habit of making virulently anti-Semitic remarks," and his answering-machine once said of intermarriage, "Anyone that's marrying outside of this race that's black should be hung by their necks at sundown." Once he asked a tournament director "So, how does it feel to have a couple of niggers in your draw." Statements like this have given Richard and his daughters a high profile and other players are terrified to contradict his claims. Earlier this year the top seed Martina Hingis denied that there is any racism on the tour and that the Williams sisters seem to have a lot of advantages because of their race – Hingis has since been labelled a racist. Irina Spirlea was branded racist in 1997 when she bumped into Venus as they crossed the court – Richard called it a racially-motivated attack.

Richard talks more about himself than his daughters, often making outrageous claims like that he studied law at Yale, played for the Lakers, his father-in-law was CEO of General Motors, and that he made \$531 million—outside tennis—last year. At Indian Wells, the media left Andre Agassi's match to interview Richard, who wore a shirt with his own picture on the front. According to Richard, the only way any of the other women on the tour can get their names in the paper, is to talk about him, despite the fact that there are 8 players ranked higher than his daughters (Wertheim, 2001).

Richard Williams promotes a racially charged atmosphere in tennis that is hurting everyone, and perhaps his daughters most of all. The Williams might be the most notorious black women in tennis, but others black players like Chanda Rubin, Althea Gibson, and James Blake are mostly ignored. I'm uncomfortable with labelling any player who does not get along with the Williams (and they are notoriously prickly) as a racist. I have seen how hurtful this kind of racial tension can be.

When I attended Viscount Bennett College an African woman [I'll call her Claire] told me that her math teacher was racist. Apparently the teacher checked student's papers as they worked, but she usually skipped Claire's desk. I found out, however, that Claire had an average of 96%,

the highest in the class. I scored high in math and my teacher often skipped my desk as well. I took it as a compliment. It saddens me that the same circumstances promoted pride in me and shame in Claire.

I was accused of racism last year at Tim Horton's. When I paid the black cashier, I dropped the loonies into her open hand rather than handing them to her. She asked me if I was afraid to touch black skin, and forcefully grasped my hand to show me that it was okay. I felt horrible, but later I realized that all the bad feelings came from a climate of racial tension and white guilt, which together place us all on the defensive. People like Richard Williams are always looking for racism, and thus they always find it. Whenever one of his daughters is disliked for any reason, they attribute it to racial hate. This makes them leery of white players, and leads to further tension. Sadly, this atmosphere of fear and distrust may be the primary cause of race-related pain in the William's lives.



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE – Foster care and the Immigrant experience - Part II By Debbie Jabbour

This article continues with last week's Voice story regarding my Grandfather's experience in foster care after arriving in Canada in 1915 at age 10.

It was now the middle of October, days were getting shorter and nights colder, much colder than anything Bob had been used to back home in England. He still had no other clothing besides his work shirt and overalls, and escape was still paramount in his mind. One bitter cold morning, Bob went outside to wash at the rainbarrel before daylight. It had rained the night before and a thick layer of ice covered the barrel. To make matters worse, there had been no wind, and Bob would have to pump water this morning.

He struggled up the slippery incline and began pumping, but the pump did not feel right, the usual gurgle of water was missing. Unbeknownst to him, the pump was frozen. He tried pumping harder and faster, but only succeeded in slipping on the ice and sliding down on his backside. At that moment Wescott came "charging out of the stables to see why no water was being pumped"*

The reason seemed clear - instead of working, Bob was sitting on the ground, apparently resting. He relates what happened next.

"Wescott came at me like a mad bull. He had no stick this time, but that didn't slow him down. As I tried to get back up the slippery slope, he kicked me back down with a vicious swing of that big boot. And he continued kicking...my back, my stomach--whatever part of me that happened to be in the way of that swinging foot. I was terrified. I had seen this man's rage so often that I had no doubt how this would end. If I couldn't get up off this ice somehow and run for it, he would continue to kick me until I was dead. Of that I

*was sure. Desperately, I tried to get up on my knees to try and make my escape, as I did so, his boot struck me in the face, knocking me back down. I must have passed out."**

The next thing Bob remembered was Wescott coming towards him with a steaming kettle. In a haze of pain and confusion, he wondered if he was going to be scalded to death. But Wescott was heading for the pump and with assistance from the boiling water, melted the ice and finally got the water running. As Bob sat up, still dizzy, Wescott ordered him to 'get up off his backside and get the damn water pumped"*

Blood was dripping from his chin, and Bob could scarcely see from one eye. For the first time in his life, he

*"felt hate for everything around me. I hated Wescott; I hated this farm; I hated Canada and I hated the government that has forced me to come to this evil place and to this evil man, this brute. It was all the fault of the Germans who had started this war, and forced me to leave England. I hated them, too."**

The next morning, his eye was swollen shut and his face a big black, swollen bruise.

"My back had been bleeding again and my bed was red with the blood. I hurt all over my bruised body. Wescott took one look at me and apparently decided my condition shouldn't be paraded for all the district to see.

*"You can't go to school with that eye. You stay home and chop feed instead. It's about time you did some constructive work around here, anyway."**

Bob did as he was told, still shaking with anger and hate. He thought about how to murder someone successfully. He thought about how to get away. With each piece of feed he tossed into the chopper, he imagined it was a part of Wescott's body....chopped into tiny pieces for pig food.

Two days later a visitor arrived with horse and buggy. He approached Bob, who was wheeling a barrel of manure to the manure pile, and asked him, "are you Roy Johnson?" (Bob was mistakenly registered this way on arrival to Canada)

Upon receiving an affirmative reply, the visitor asked, "why aren't you in school?" Bob immediately was gripped by fear. Was this the truant officer? Was he in even more trouble? He responded that he was not feeling well.

More questions followed. "How did you get that cut and black eye?" Bob hesitated, afraid to speak. The visitor continued. "I'm the government inspector, here to make sure everything is all right with each of the lads from England."*

Bob burst into tears of relief. After he told his story and showed his bruises, the Inspector asked where he could find Mr. Wescott, and instructed Bob to leave the job and accompany him. When Bob replied that he dared not for fear of further beatings, the Inspector spoke the most "wonderful words Bob would ever hear":

*"You will get no more beatings from Wescott. I am going to take you away from here today, so get yourself cleaned up and ready to leave."**

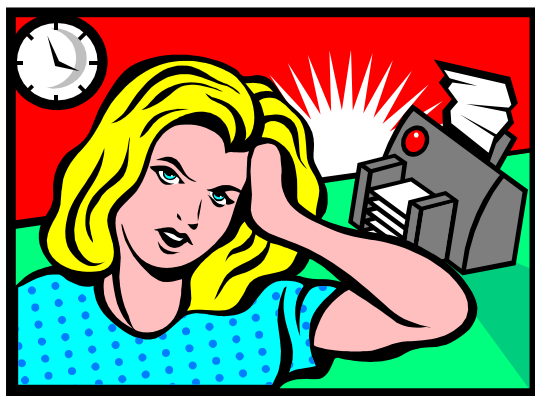
Bob began to weep with joy. He was free. His heart singing, he ran upstairs to gather his few possessions, pausing at the rainbarrel to 'wash every trace of Moorefield' from his body:

*"No more beatings, the man had said. No more kicks or ear-twists. No more jeers at school where my nickname of Cockney had been shortened to Cocky, then to stinky cock and many other variations. I was saved at last. I was leaving this detested place with what I had come with, plus bruises and cuts and hate in my heart. I couldn't stop crying. It was the happiest cry of my life. What a wonderful feeling! What a wonderful day it was! What a wonderful place, Canada, and what a wonderful government that sent inspectors around to help poor battered boys"**

My grandfather was rescued, and eventually sent to live with a kind man and wife, Mr. & Mrs. Webb - former schoolteachers, who treated him as their own son and lovingly helped him make the final transition from adolescence into teenager in this new country.

Bob Johnson survived, and somehow managed to let go of the hatred and move on, helped by many wonderful people he was yet to meet in Canada. I cannot help but wonder, however. In last week's article I noted a report by Alberta Children's services that cited the case of 122 children in government care who were being mistreated. Of those 122 Alberta children who are still living with an abusive 'Mr. Wescott' - how many will be rescued? How many will ever find their way back home to their families? And how many will be able to overcome the hatred in their hearts and go on to become happy, productive members of Canadian society?

*My Rugged Road, R.W. Johnson. Unpublished memoirs.



Stress and Your Health

By Darren L. Kereluk

Stress. Everybody seems to have stress in his or her lives, but they really don't know how to define it. The definition that I like to use is based on Carl Rogers' "client-centred" theory. To me, stress is an incongruence in people's lives, which simply means that while a person has set a goal, they have not reached it. When coupled with incongruence from other daily situations, a great degree of our friend,

stress, results. A close relative of stress, anxiety, is then created making a person's daily functioning much harder to achieve. For example, I want to be farther ahead in my degree studies than I am now, so the resulting incongruence between what I want and what "reality" is are both causing me stress and anxiety. Incongruence is damaging to the "self", as Carl Rogers would say, or put another way, a person's self esteem is decreased. This incongruence manifests itself as stress and anxiety. The purpose of this article is to give you a bit of information on stress and

some of the things that you can do to deal with it. This is the third in my series of articles on mental health issues and will be the first part of a two-part sub series on stress and anxiety.

In life, most of the psychologically stressors come from relationships, financial difficulties and in today's world, an excess of demands on people's time. As AU students, I know many of you are juggling work, and family responsibilities as well as trying very hard to complete your studies at university. It is often hard to find time to unwind, and it is from this that the stress of daily life adds up and causes problems. For example, one of the first signs that stress and anxiety are causing problems is a headache. Often coupled with this is tension pain around the neck and shoulders. Pain is not fun at the best of times, and when this pain could have been prevented or mitigated to some extent, it really can get a person down. Another problem with accumulated stress and anxiety is that both of them can depress the human immune system, leaving people more vulnerable to infectious diseases or can aggravate autoimmune disorders like arthritis.

The affects of stress can be lessened by a number of methods. It is often impossible to avoid things that need to be done in a person's daily life, but it always is worth the effort to reschedule activities to reduce scheduling conflicts. In your work life, this will allow you to be a bit more productive. In your family life, better scheduling might free up some extra quality family time to spend with your loved ones. With less stress at work and at home, you should be a bit more relaxed when it comes to do the inevitable assignments from AU. Keep in mind that high levels of stress and anxiety have a negative effect on memory, so the more that you can do to lower things that cause you anxiety in your non-academic endeavours, the better.

There is an expanding list of self help methods and groups that include "real life" discussion groups where people get together once or twice a week to share how they deal with stress and anxiety. For people with a belief in a higher power, religious and spiritual advisors can also serve a role by allowing people to "air" their problems in a non-judgmental and semi-cathartic fashion. In some cases, these types of advisors can offer helpful advice and guidance. Self-help groups on the Internet can be helpful to some people. Newsgroups that are well run, with reasonable people or moderated by a fair person, can allow people to share their frustrations and anxieties with others who understand the individual's problems. Support groups, be they in real life or on line, and consulting with religious advisors, are good starting points to help you cope with stress.

I would also suggest that you visit a medical professional if the level of stress and high anxiety are starting to cause physical and mood problems. Sometimes there is a physical basis to anxiety, and only a physician or other medical professional can help you deal with these types of difficulties. Doctors can point you to better sources of information and treatment than I can provide. I can only offer my experiences with stress management, and my words are meant to take the place of a qualified medical or psychological professional.

In the second part of this sub series on stress and anxiety, I will discuss some of the non-medicinal treatments that I have learned about through reading and from my stays in the hospital. I hope that by providing you some ideas about how to deal with stress and anxiety, that your life will seem a bit less harried and that because of this that your studies at AU will go along with great progress and achievement. The second part of this sub series will appear in next week's *Voice* because it is very important to act on stress and anxiety as quickly as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AUSU

Applications are currently being accepted for a Club Organizer Assistant, who will help maintain database information regarding student clubs and students. Applicants should be familiar with the use of computer databases, have access to email, and be aware of FOIPP issues. The amount of time required for this position will vary, and may be between 1-5 hours per week, depending on the interest expressed. For further information or for an application form, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator by email at mgueffroy@ausu.org.

The Volunteer Coordinator of AUSU is currently accepting applications for Academic Committee Members. These members are needed to address academic concerns of students requiring advocacy. Some research is involved, as well as the maintenance of a database of the concerns and their current status. Members will also be expected to provide support for student academic activities and inter-committee cooperatives, and to monitor student discussion boards and course reviews to pinpoint areas of concern. Applicants should be able to attend monthly meetings, and must have an interest in academic issues. They should be able to work cooperatively and in a spirit of mutual respect within a group, as well as having an understanding of the importance of maintaining a productive relationship with AU, and approaching advocacy issues in a non-conflictual way with AU at all times. For further information or for an application form, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator by email at mgueffroy@ausu.org.

Applications are currently being accepted for a Volunteer Coordinator Assistant, who will be responsible for maintaining a database of persons who have contacted the Volunteer Coordinator for information about volunteer positions at AUSU. This person should be familiar with the use of computers and specifically databases, have access to email daily, and be aware of FOIPP issues. The successful applicant may be required to complete an Oath of Confidentiality. The amount of time will vary, but ranges from about 1-5 hours per month, depending on the interest expressed by potential volunteers. For further information or for an application form, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator by email at mgueffroy@ausu.org!

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE POSITIONS: September 15, 2001

AUSU is currently seeking a volunteer to occupy the position of Chairperson, Student Funding Committee. This sub-committee will report to the Student Services Committee, and will be responsible for developing the criteria for granting student bursaries and scholarships, and making decisions on the qualifications of applicants to student bursary and scholarship programs. The applicant should have a desire to assist fellow students in situations of financial need, and have a respect for the need to place criteria on the distribution of scholarships and bursaries, as well as a respect for the need to adhere to criteria. They should be well-organized, and have some understanding of committee procedure.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: October 1, 2001

For an application form or more information, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator by email at mgueffroy@ausu.org, or contact the Edmonton office of AUSU at (800) 788-9041.

Bryon Paege Memorial Fund



Bryon Paege, November 28th, 1964 - February 27th, 1995
AU Graduate - AU Tutor

In July 2001, CUPE Local 3911 and AUSU cooperated in the creation of the first-ever grant from the Bryon Paege Memorial Fund. The grant was donated by Local 3911, and consisted of the cost of one 3-credit course at AU. This year it was awarded to one student randomly selected by AUSU from among those in need of, and eligible for, emergency funding. Although the emergency loan program is currently being revised, this award will become permanent once new criteria are firmly and clearly in place.

Bryon Paege graduated in June 1988 with a Bachelor of Administration from AU. Starting in 1990 he was employed by AU as a tutor, and worked in that capacity until his untimely death in 1995. He really lived the ultimate AU student dream, achieving his degree and then joining the AU academic community in giving his knowledge and expertise back to other AU students.

Bryon was a valued member of the AU family. He is vividly remembered by his sisters and brothers in Local 3911, and it is their intention, and now the intention of AUSU as well, that his achievements, contributions, dreams and passing never be forgotten.

Submitted by:

Debbie Jabbour on behalf of AUSU

Donna Koziak on behalf of CUPE 3911



Pizza Guy: Chapter Three

By Wayne Benedict

I was sixteen, a pizza delivery driver, and a male of the human species; thus, my libido was in overdrive 95% of the time. I was always on the lookout for a good prospect so the day that I was on my way to work and saw three girls hitchhiking in front of Port Moody Jr. Secondary School, I didn't hesitate to pick them up. The weather was typical Vancouver—pouring rain—and they were glad to climb into my spacious, warm and dry tank. I had barely pulled away from the curb when one of my new passengers said, “those are our friends”, as she pointed toward two more hitchhikers standing in the rain. Soon there were six of us in the tank and I was the only male. They were all on their way to the Coquitlam Center Mall, which was right on my way to work but left me little time to make a good impression.

Having acquired my driver's license a few months earlier, I was a novice driver but didn't consider myself as such. The fact was soon to be made clear to me, my passengers, and everyone else in Greater Vancouver thanks to the BCTV news. The rain was pelting down and large puddles were gathering over large sections of the highway. I was manoeuvring the tank from the left lane to the right in order to pass a slower moving vehicle when I felt the rear wheels begin to drift. I'd heard about hydroplaning but had never experienced it. I knew that I had to turn the wheels into the direction of the skid but, being a new driver, I overcompensated and was soon fishtailing with increasing intensity and a commensurate loss of control.

A loud thud announced the impact as my car sideswiped the unsuspecting motorist next to me. In an instant, all was in slow motion. In my reality I was sitting perfectly still with both hands on the steering wheel and the world outside the tank was rotating around me. Inside, numerous girls flew about shrieking as the sounds and concussions of rending steel and shattering glass buffeted us from all sides. Then, just as suddenly as it had begun, all was strangely quiet.

I kicked open the drivers door, as it was jammed, and exited the tank into a scene from Hell. Wreckage was strewn across the entire highway, pieces from five cars, including my own, that had been caught up in the accident. Luckily, no one in my car had been injured—no doubt attributable to the tank-like qualities of it—but others were not so lucky. The highway was closed in both directions for hours and I walked home in the rain after watching my first car being towed away to its final resting place.

I was a guilt ridden novice driver, an unsuccessful Casanova wannabe, and a pizza delivery driver with no car to make deliveries. Would all this be enough to convince me to leave delivering pizzas to others? It would take one more push...



FED WATCH

By Karl Low

Work for the Feds

The Public Service Commission of Canada is looking for a post-secondary students in their final year or who have recently graduated for employment in the Federal Government. The recruiting Campaign started on September 10th, and will

continue all year.

You can find out more, including where to apply and how by clicking on [this link](#).

If the Public Service Commission isn't quite what you're looking for, you might want to check out the Department of Finance's post-secondary recruitment [page](#) instead. Hey, it may be a chance to tell Paul Martin in person what you think of his policies.

Your Tax Dollars at the Movies

The National Film Board of Canada has two documentaries and seven animated short films that will be shown at the Vancouver International Film Festival. If you want to take a look at what your tax dollars do at the NFB, you can go to [this site](#) to take a look at clips from some of the animated ones, and descriptions of the longer documentaries.

Now while I'll admit that not all of these are my cup of tea, I certainly don't begrudge the NFB the tax money I pay to them. After all when you consider how much of the film industry is completely dominated by the Hollywood mentality of filming for the lowest common denominator, seeing small bits of something different like these movies really is nice. Of course, if these could be picked up by a festival outside of Canada I'd feel even better about it.

Now if only somebody could convince CBC to produce a show that isn't based around Anne of Green Gables or Canadian History.

Free Trade? Only for the US

The Honourable International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew has [stopped](#) the importation of breaded cheese sticks from the United States. This has been done in retaliation to the US reclassifying breaded cheese sticks as a cheese product, thereby subjecting them to tariff and quota controls. Or in essence, they stopped our product from going into the states.

At the time, Canadian exports of breaded cheese sticks had reached about three million dollars worth. That doesn't sound like a lot until you realize that the United States exports only ten million dollars worth to Canada. So percentage wise, a lot more of our production of these products was being exported.

This is just another case of the United States wanting free trade to simply mean free exportation rights for them. Sometimes I think that it might be useful for the rest of the world to engage in an international boycott of American products, if only to get their attention and make them realize that other countries exist in this world as well.

Cigarette Suspension

Two retailers in New Brunswick have had their tobacco selling licences suspended for a month after selling cigarettes to kids aged 16 and 17. The kids were hired by the New Brunswick Department of Public Safety to go around and try and buy cigarettes from various stores. You can read the original press release [here](#).

To me, this simply seems like a waste of money. Why are we bothering to enforce these type of laws when the solution is simply to regulate tobacco products like we do liquor? Sell them only in stores designated to sell liquor, and under the same conditions. This would mean less money spent on enforcement for the government, less time wasted in general stores as they would no longer have to ID young looking people coming in, fewer ethical dilemmas for drug store owners (is it ethical to sell cigarettes and asthma medicine in the same store?), and perhaps most importantly, less chance of kids getting cigarettes from those stores that happened to have been missed in the inspections.

I suppose the counter argument is that convenience store owners feel it would take away a portion of their business, but I'm sure they'd find some other product to fill up that shelf space. Likely a product that would be less of a hassle legally to get, and less likely to cause their store to be robbed. Who knows, it might even be in the interests of those insurance agencies that insure stores against theft to push for this type of legislation.

Graphic- mad bull



The Indignant Journalist

By Mark Gueffroy

Moving...moving...moving...what a gruesome chore. I have just completed my move from the Lac La Biche area to Blackfalds, Alberta. Lac La Biche is in north Alberta, while Blackfalds is in southern Alberta, so it was a fairly long move!

Not only do I hate moving, but I hate packing...I hate going through each room and sorting what I want to keep and what I'm throwing away. I hate deciding what I will try and sell, and what is going to the next-door neighbours. I hate using boxes for some things and bags for others. Then the whole process is repeated as you try and cram all the boxes and bags into your vehicle.

During this last move, I said that all I was going to take was my computer, my stereo, my TV and VCR, my fax machine, and my phone. I ended up making two trips and packing almost ALL of the things that I had before.

The best part of moving is when you have finished unpacking...then you can sleep for days and recuperate from the experience that drained you! So, please, have respect for the almost dead, and don't call!

The Advice Man (DEAR JEROME)

Dear Jerome:

I am a homosexual student and I am afraid to tell my friends and family about my orientation. Should I "come out of the closet?"

Closeted in Calgary

Dear Closeted:

My only response is that this needs to be your decision. Is there any specific reason that you are afraid to tell your friends and family? Are there any facts that would support your fears, or are you just nervous and afraid of rejection? There are times when "coming out of the closet" is not a wise or intelligent thing to do. Evaluate the pros and cons of both options, and then make your decision based on actual information and facts.

Jerome

Dear Jerome:

My girlfriend has been telling her family almost all of the personal and private things that we share. When I confronted her about it, she made it seem like it was not a problem, and refuses to stop broadcasting our business to her family and friends. Her behaviour makes me feel like I must be on a pedestal for her to show off. Am I being too sensitive, and if not, what should I do?

Girl Troubles in Toronto

Girl Troubles:

If your girlfriend refuses to keep things in confidence, then can you be assured that she is trustworthy in other areas of your relationship? I would attempt to discuss this with her one more

time, and then let her know that you feel you are unable to continue a relationship if she cannot be trusted to keep things between you!

Jerome

Dear Jerome:

My best friend is gay and met someone in a chat room on the Internet. They eventually did get together, and became involve intimately. While they were involved, the condom broke and he is now worried about STD/AIDS infection. What can you suggest?

Loyal Friend in Legal

Loyal:

My suggestion is that your friend goes to see their family physician. Every person that is sexually active should see their physician regularly, and be tested once every six months for various STDs and AIDS. Of course, the most important thing is to always practice safe sex and use protection, but as demonstrated in this case, that is not faultless either. Another resource that could be used is the AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease Information Centre, which can be contacted toll-free at 1-800-772-2437.

The other thing to consider is that meeting people on the internet is not usually the most reliable and safe way to meet someone! There are numerous problems that could arise. They could tell you that they are HIV- when in fact they are infected. There are also numerous other possibilities of how meeting a person through the Internet could be detrimental to the person's safety. If you are going to meet someone through the internet, at least play safely!

Jerome

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@athabasca.ca), or by using the Online Counselling Appointment Form on the AU Student Services web site (<http://www.athabasca.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



ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION:

\$7,000 in scholarships to be awarded to Métis students at Athabasca University

Edmonton, July 24, 2001 -- The competition is now open for seven \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded this fall to Métis students who have demonstrated scholarly merit in studies at Athabasca University.

The awards, funded by Canative Housing Corporation, are available to Métis students who have completed at least three credits (normally, one course) through Athabasca University. Canative Housing Corporation director Herb Belcourt presented the University with the scholarship monies -- and a commitment to fund the new awards for at least 10 years -- two years ago.

The application deadline is October 31, 2001. To apply, contact:

Janice De Girolamo
Office of the Registrar
1 University Drive
Athabasca, AB, T9S 3A3

T: 1-800-788-9041 (ext. 6249)

E: janiced@athabascau.ca

Are you an Artist? AUSU supports the arts!

AUSU is interested in purchasing original works of art from students for use in promotional purposes. These promotions may include: gifts from AUSU to graduates at convocation, tokens of appreciation for volunteers, special presentations, etc.

The works of art must:

- be created by an AU Student
- be within a value range \$0-\$500.
- be accessible or easily transportable to Alberta

If you are an artist of any kind who creates a product you feel we would be able to use for such a purpose, please contact djabbour@ausu.org. Supply a brief description of the art object, a picture if you have it, and its market value.

International Year of the Volunteer

2001 is the International Year of the Volunteer, and the title recognizes the contribution that volunteers make to our lives every day. Our communities would not be whole without volunteers.

As a Writer/Reporter for The Voice, I would like to include a profile of a worthy volunteer in each week's issue of this newsletter. I invite you to contact me by email at markgueffroy@hotmail.com if you know someone who has made a contribution to their community, or to the AU community, by volunteering their time. This person may receive an honorarium for their volunteer efforts, but cannot be a paid staff member or considered an employee.

Celebrate Volunteers with the staff and volunteers at The Voice!

WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Fill on our online application at www.ausu.org/voice/write.html or contact Tammy Moore at tmoore@ausu.org.