

THE VOICE

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www.ausu.org/voice

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There ain't nothing from the outside that can lick any of us."

--Margaret Mitchell



A Bug In Your Ear...

This has been a hard week for most of us, as the tragic events of the US have shattered an illusion of peace and security for us as Canadians, North Americans, and members of the human race. On behalf of the Voice, I would like to offer my condolences to everyone in the world for this loss, and specifically to those touched more intimately by the events.

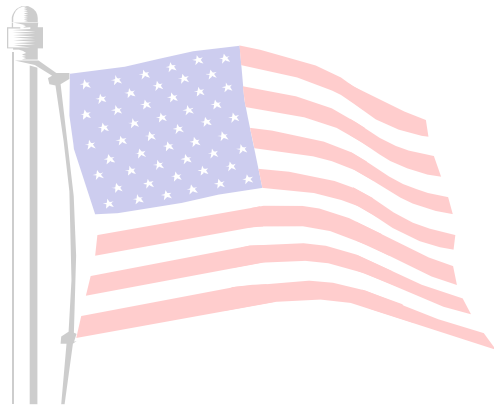
I would also like to take a moment to reflect on the American media coverage, of which I was very proud. On Tuesday morning, while glued to my T.V., they showed a brief clip of some Palestinian civilians dancing and cheering in the street for the strike against the Americans. My first reaction was repulsion, followed by a flash of terror that this was possibly the most stupid thing that American media has ever done – what about all the people in Eastern European countries who were saddened, or overcome by grief? What about those of different nationalities who live right here in North America, who are going to feel the brunt of our frustration? What kind of reasoning could the American media have for showing this unless it was to rile the people into a frenzy?

The American media, however, made use of these images to bring home some points for the American (and North American) people to reflect upon: America has been exposed by the propaganda of their media as the evil which perpetuates their war, and the reason which their lives are overshadowed by horrible circumstance. To some extent, the US has certainly played situations of political upheaval in other countries to their best interests. In the face of this, we can understand why some Palestinians were cheering, and not condemn them for feeling that perhaps a strike on North American freedom and liberty would allow them the chance to live in

freedom themselves. I was touched that the American media, in the face of such an attack, took the care to explain this to their North American viewing audience. It shows an open-minded approach from the media that I hadn't expected.

Please do not let the acts of a few decide animosity for an entire race or culture. Do not react hastily and make snap judgements or comments. Although I firmly believe that terrorism must be stopped, to take action without considering reaction, consequence and loss of life is a grave mistake. Two wrongs will never make a right.

Tammy Moore
Editor in Chief



To American AU students:

It is with great sadness that I learned of the horrific events which have befallen your country today (11 September, 2001). Never have so many innocent people been directly affected by such a series of unprovoked and dastardly attacks. It is incomprehensible how the taking of innocent lives can advance one's cause--but then psychopaths never do have to justify their actions. All that I can do now is to offer you the condolences of

both my family and myself as you all cope with this most terrible set of events.

Darren L. Kereluk

Undergraduate Student-Bachelor of Administration (Health Administration)



Terrorism: Politics, Or Another Word For Hate Crimes?

Tamra Ross Low

All week I've watched the coverage of the attacks on America. I'm pretty cynical, and a stone-cold realist on most issues, and in the past I scoffed at people who said "this can't happen here," or "better security would have protected us." I especially scoffed during the first World Trade Center bombing. You might recall that the perpetrator of that attack drove an explosives-filled van into the Center parkade, and left on foot just before the explosion. How could better security have prevented this incident? Should they have been searching all vehicles prior to admitting them to park? Clearly such a policy would be unworkable, but how else to be absolutely sure no one has a bomb? All this week, however, I've heard the same naïve lament: "This doesn't happen in America."

The chilling truth is, if someone wants to hurt people, they will find a way. We can ban knives and guns but someone, somewhere will kill his neighbour with a brick or a shovel or a broken

bottle. This is not to say that we cannot limit violence by instituting tighter weapons controls, just that if someone is really determined, they can hurt people. No level of security can render us totally immune from violence, and only the naïve believe that it is possible to thwart every possible attack.

So, I'm heartsick, but not shocked that this could happen, or that it did. As far as I'm concerned, any horror you can conceive of is possible, and may have been committed already. People like Jeffrey Dahmer, Adolph Hitler, Charles Manson, Charles Ng and Idi Amin have given us a glimpse at the potential for human depravity.

Some things have shocked me, though. First, I had no idea that people were allowed to take knives onto planes! Terrorism aside, cases of 'air rage' multiply each year. The idea that some joker sitting next to me might get drunk and irate while I'm trapped 3000 feet above ground is scary enough, but knowing that he could bring a knife onboard is terrifying. Air travel is highly stressful for a lot of people, and the availability of alcohol onboard can exacerbate this. Allowing knives, even before this attack, is irresponsible and really stupid.

I was also shocked to learn about those flimsy cockpit doors, which are locked to thwart terrorists but are nonetheless easily breached. This horror could not have happened if the pilots were secured behind a steel door with a hefty lock or in a compartment that was entirely separate from the passenger area. Hijackers could have threatened passengers to force the pilots to change their heading, but they would never have coerced them to fly into buildings. An accessible cockpit makes our jets easily available for terrorists to use as weapons. Our Calgary C-Train drivers are isolated in more secure compartments than most jumbo-jet pilots.

By far the most disturbing aspect of these events is that we have no idea why they occurred. Speculation has been rampant. The U.S. government insists that this was an attack on American values and prosperity. My problem with these theories is that they are very convenient for a government that is obviously loathe to admit that their actions could have provoked so much hatred. These explanations also serve to galvanize the anger of the nation against the Middle East and prepare the populous for war.

I have an excellent book called *Cleopatra: Histories, Dreams and Distortions* (Lucy Hughes-Hallett, Harper & Row: 1990) which details the roots of the myth of Cleopatra as a wanton, immoral seductress, and how the Greeks shaped and used this image to garner public support in their war against Egypt. I can't help but wonder if America uses this strategy today. The only people I've heard claim that this was an attack on American values have been American politicians, especially Colin Powell, who seems more excited than saddened by the attacks.

Probably the most common belief around the world is that the attacks were fuelled by anger over American foreign policy, and the harm these policies have caused to many Middle Eastern citizens. I certainly find this easy to believe. Anyone who has made even a cursory study of Middle Eastern, African, or South American countries is aware that many of these nations are under America's thumb politically, economically, or through world sanctions initiated by America. It is clear that many people in the Middle East feel that by allying with Israel, America is directly culpable for terrorism against Israel's enemies. Given this, the hypocrisy of the American government is all too evident when they vow to attack not only terrorists, but also those who support and ally with terrorists.

I would like to believe that the motivation was political, because I can make more sense out of these events if I frame them as a desperate manoeuvre by desperate men who saw no alternative. I am having more and more doubts about this, however. What keeps coming back to me is that the hijackers made no political statements, despite having opportunities to do so. Why die for a cause, and not let people know what it is?

On at least two of the planes, passengers were instructed to phone home. This was clearly planned and the hijackers could have given them messages to relay. If they had, nothing would have stopped the press from picking up on these stories, and they would have had massive, national exposure. This opportunity was neglected, however, which makes any political motivation seem highly unlikely, leaving us with the possibility that this crime, despite its magnitude, is motivated only by hate and fear, no different from the recent beating death of gay teen Matthew Shepard, or the dragging death of black man James Byrd in Texas. If so, our only hope to prevent these types of crimes is a war against hate. I'm not sure we're ready to win that war, though. Not while we still condone hate against homosexuals, or races or religions that we don't understand. How can we lead an international battle against hate when we do so little to stamp it out within our own borders (and here I refer both to Canada and America)? If we cannot win this battle on the home front, I'm not certain how we can possibly protect ourselves from it on a global level.

My thoughts are with those who remain in the rubble, waiting to be found.



AU NEWS RELEASE

Athabasca University professor decries commercialization of medical research

**Contributed by Pam Patten,
Communications**

Edmonton, September 12, 2001 -- New research and analyses published by nutrition and disease prevention expert Dr. Norman Temple of Edmonton suggest that the merits of breast and prostate cancer screening are "dubious," that the search for "wonder treatments" through the study of genomics is misguided, and that drug companies largely control and manipulate the research agenda, pushing the public debate from "Should I take a pill?" to "Which pill should I take?"

Temple, an Athabasca University professor and an outspoken advocate of disease prevention and full disclosure of research results, discusses how medical science has gone radically astray in its enthusiasm for technological "advances" in a new book, *Ethics, Medical Research, and Medicine*, published this summer by Kluwer Academic Publishers. Temple co-edited the book with Dr. Andrew Thompson, a retired professor from the University of Oregon.

Temple says that researchers and doctors tend to settle for the apparent worth of an intervention rather than its proven worth.

"As a result," he adds, "doctors often mislead or out-and-out lie to patients about cures and treatment. "If they don't have access to - or the time to access -- all of the information and research data surrounding a specific treatment or intervention, they can't help but give the patient a less than accurate picture.

"This translates into, at best, misguided reliance on dubious interventions and treatments, and, at worst, a potentially harmful or fatal result for the patient."

The authors' review of studies to date indicate that, for example, the efficacy of breast cancer and prostate cancer screening in reducing mortality has not been proven. In other studies, statin drugs, commonly prescribed to reduce the risk of heart disease, may not be giving good value for money and that diet and exercise should be used more often.

"However, there is no profit to the pharmaceutical industry if dietary changes are implemented. This may be why so much research has been expended in the development and trial of cholesterol-lowering drugs and so little in designing programs that would encourage and implement the establishment of healthy diet and exercise patterns, both as prevention and as treatment," the writers say.

"For the majority of people, not only are many of the interventions commonly taken valueless from a health perspective, they are costly, they build unnecessary fear, and they may deflect health care providers from other treatments and preventative actions," Temple suggests.

In *Ethics, Medical Research, and Medicine*, he and his coauthors take a hard line with researchers and medical practitioners, citing numerous examples of resource abuses, and outlining proposed standards to reverse the "deleterious effects of commercialization and professional ambitions on medical research."

Temple and Thompson believe a "the cure is just around corner" mentality is driving what has been dubbed "the age of the genome." Most of it, they believe, has little chance of making a significant difference in the quality and length of most people's lives.

"By far the biggest area where complex research dominates is cancer," they write. "Research on this disease demonstrates how it is possible to spend over a billion dollars year after year and yet make trivial progress. What we see is vast spending on complex research and regular announcements of 'breakthroughs.' However, based on the track record of complex research, we must be pessimistic over the likelihood that gene therapy will lead to real progress in finding cures for disease.

"Gene therapy seems well on its way to becoming the greatest sinkhole for research dollars."

The book has attracted the endorsements of such international notables as award-winning scientist, environmentalist, and broadcaster Dr. David Suzuki, Dr. Patricia Baird, the vice president of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research a respected geneticist, researcher, and educator, and Dr. David Horrobin one of the world's leading experts on cardiovascular disease,

prolactin, prostaglandins, essential fatty acids, alcoholism, schizophrenia, depression, diabetes, and cancer.

Dr. Suzuki says, "This book is very timely contribution of a much needed perspective in the ongoing discussion of the ethical, social and economic repercussions of biotechnology." Dr. Baird says, "I found the book a most useful gathering together in one place, of evidence on how we are not using our current knowledge in a way that brings benefit to most, but rather in a way that benefits special interests."

Dr. David Horrobin, Laxdale Research, Sterling, Scotland, adds, "This book provides admirable examinations of the issues and provides a wake-up call to those who should be concerned -- which means everyone."

Temple is also the co-editor of *Nutritional Health: Strategies for Disease Prevention*, a book published last spring by Humana Press. He co-edited *Western Diseases: Their Dietary Prevention and Reversibility* and is the author of *Health for the New Century: A Commonsense Nutritional Approach*. He has a PhD in Biochemistry from Wolverhampton University, UK (1980), publishes frequently on diet in relation to the diseases of lifestyle, especially cancer, and teaches Athabasca University's courses in nutrition and health.

Athabasca University is Canada's largest and fastest growing online and distance education university, with 25,000 current students. Founded in 1970, Athabasca University now offers more than 500 Individualized Study and Grouped Study courses, bachelors and masters degrees, university certificates, and diplomas, all through online learning and other distance delivery methods.

The Indignant Journalist - In The Face of Disaster

By Mark Gueffroy

This last week has been filled with uncertainty and shock, as well as questions about the future of our society. Several thousand people were killed at the hands of a man with his own agenda, and something to prove. It is with great sadness that I write this article. It has been said that sharing your grief will help you heal, so I share my grief with you and invite you to share yours as well.

As I watched the news on Tuesday morning, I felt very helpless and unimportant. The disaster forced me to think about the affect that I have on the world, and I realized that in the true realm of things, I mean nothing. I can only affect the small group of people I am in close contact with, and who I make myself vulnerable enough to trust. Will I be remembered in history? Will anyone talk about me when I am gone? Will I have made a difference, and will my life have had any meaning?

I realized that while all the things I have been striving for will look good on a resume, these things will not mean anything when I am no longer here to impact those around me. I will have made no difference in society; I will have made no great achievement. I will not have improved

the lives around me in any way, other than possibly through the meagre existence known as 'Mark.'

Now some people have been known to react to this realization by throwing their hands up in the air, praising God, and running off to some country as a “missionary” to catch malaria (etc.) and die! I do not believe that is the path for me to take (which was a given, I hope). So how can I impact society in a way that will improve the lives of those around me?

I realized that what I do as a person does make a difference. I go through my day without realizing how I have touched someone’s life. I can be a friend to someone while they struggle to deal with the trauma of this disaster. I can appreciate someone who may be feeling like they are unappreciated. I can go with someone to their doctor’s office and be there for them when they find out that their tests did not have good results. I can make myself vulnerable, taking the risk that I will be hurt, in order to improve the life of someone else.

The thought process is not over. This is only the beginning to what I will refer to as a “forced maturing process.”



Mankind: Master of Nature or Her Fool? By Maclain D. Swift

After having recently watched a program on the OLN (Outdoor Life Network), I feel compelled to write. The program was about the codfish. Not a glamorous subject, I know, but nonetheless a subject that is merely representative of thousands of similar stories needing to be told. I am not an animal rights activist or a “tree hugger”, just a person who has seen something that disturbs him enough to write. The story was informing of the depletion of cod stocks in Canadian waters, and how the government banned cod fishing to prevent extinction of the animal. I was sickened at the staggering numbers of fish that were harvested; numbers that ran into the millions of tons of fish. Pictures of huge commercial fishing vessels were shown reaming nets full of wiggling, silver cod onto slippery decks. These images were once a daily occurrence on our eastern shores; that is, until the fishermen quite nearly eradicated the cod from the seas.

Eradicated cod from the seas? My amazement stems from the simple math of the situation: How can humans remove billions of animals from the environment without consequence? This pillaging not only happens with fish, but countless other species of fauna as well as flora. Moreover, all the while we create such inexcusable waste, millions of human beings starve to death. If you do not believe me, turn on your television on a Sunday afternoon and you will surely find a program appealing to you for money to help these desperate people—there are even people in your own town suffering from malnourishment. Why can we not partake in anything that is sustainable? Our current methods of agriculture are surely unsustainable, we over-fish the

oceans, and the world's beef industry is already foreshadowing signs of a catastrophic breakdown. Now I may be speculating here, but I do not see how the planet can go on to support our present methods of living; we are simply *using* faster than the earth can *replace*. She may not give up in our lifetime, but should that dissuade us from seriously seeking alternatives to food and energy production? Make no mistake, there is going to be a generation of people that *will* have to come to terms with the centuries of neglect we (and past generations) have dealt our only home—the earth.

I know the earth is a big place and many people think it is infallible, but this is simply not so and such thinking shows the typical lack of forethought of mankind. Will we ever learn from our past? We have already unjustly caused the extinction of several species of plants and animals; we have killed thousands of lakes, streams, and rivers, not to mention significantly polluted the oceans. We have even managed to pollute beyond our planet! What will it take for us to realize that the world can and will only take so much human activity before it becomes a place incapable of sustaining life as we now know it. We are the only species that can consciously make a difference in the world and we choose to destroy it at every turn. Granted, there are a few groups of individuals that fight for change, chain themselves to trees, lobby the government, and vandalize property to get their point across, but I am positive that these gestures are too few in number and lack the global scope to be effectual.

I do not know the solution to the problems that are beginning to evolve. Money is the driving force behind human actions, and unfortunately, as Joyce McLean puts it, “once the last tree is cut and the last river is poisoned, you will find you cannot eat your money.” What do I do to help avert the potential fate of our planet? Not a heck-of-a-lot. I recycle what I can and that is about the extent of my involvement—I never said I was a fanatical environmental activist. More needs to be done than simply recycling or throwing your table scraps into your plastic, backyard compost. A willingness to dramatically change our lifestyles and find cleaner, sustainable methods of food and energy production is the only way we will leave a planet worth living on to our future generations. I wager, however, that these changes will never occur because we are human: infallible, arrogant, hasty, and quite simply—foolish—as history has shown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AUSU

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

The Academic Committee is currently looking for Committee Members. If you have an interest in student academic issues, and are willing to volunteer towards improving the student academic experience, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator by email or phone (volunteer@ausu.org or 800-788-9041 ext. 3413). Applications will be accepted until otherwise posted.

For an application form or more information, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator by email at mqueffroy@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 Four- The Final Verse

By Wayne Benedict

I was without a vehicle, jobless, and depressed. After watching me mope around the house for several weeks, my father once again took pity on me. He said that he would buy me another car so that I could resume my “career” as a pizza delivery driver. The two of us spent innumerable hours pouring over the Buy and Sell and test-driving older cars. We finally found a 1968 Cutlass Supreme. It was dark blue with a white vinyl roof and white bucket seats. I fell in love with it and dad bought it for \$1000.

I called up my old boss and was happy, albeit not surprised, to hear that the position was still open. Driving to work in my new car for the first shift back, I was pulled over by the police for failing to signal a lane change but I assured the officer that I *had* signalled and he let me off with a warning. The entire shift went by without incident and I had only one delivery left to make before going off duty. Pulling out of the pizzeria parking lot, I spotted two girls shivering in the night air, holding their thumbs out. I picked them up, of course, and told them that after I delivered the last pizza, I would drive them wherever they wanted to go. I rang the doorbell of the house, large steaming pizza in hand, and as the door swung open I heard the squeal of tires when my new car raced off down the road.

It took a few seconds to grasp the reality of the situation but once I did, I borrowed the customer’s phone to call the police and report my new car stolen. I then called my father to come down and pick me up at the pizzeria. A short time later, the same officer that had pulled me over earlier arrived and the two of us set off in search of my stolen car. We cruised around Port Coquitlam for some time with no luck when I saw my father trying to flag us down. He had been on his way to pick me up when he’d noticed my Cutlass traveling in the opposite direction with a female driver that could barely see over the dashboard and her accomplice seated next to her. He had managed a U-turn and had recovered the car by chasing them down and blocking them in. The girls had fled on foot but without their purses, which was all that the RCMP required in order to retrieve them later.

I had my car back and I’d finally had enough of delivering pizzas. After trying my hand at several other service sector and sales jobs, I came to the realization that I’d likely never make a living wage without an education so I began to work toward my grade 12 through correspondence. I finished grades 10, 11, 12 in ten months and my prospects for better employment improved markedly. Needless to say, I now tip pizza delivery drivers pretty well.



FED WATCH

By Karl Low

Take A Moment

After the horrible events of last week, you could do worse than to take a moment and go to [this site](#). It's an Electronic Book of Condolence established by the Canadian Government. You can add your own words until Friday the 21st. Read some of the thoughts there, add your own, and remember. If the link doesn't work for you, cut and paste this address into your browser:

<http://commemoration.gc.ca/11setp2001/index.cmf?Lang=EN>

Volunteering: What's it All About?

Particularly appropriate is that last week a report on the status of volunteering in Canada was released. You can see highlights from the report [here](#). One of the interesting things about it is that the primary obstacle most people cite as the reason they do not volunteer is a lack of time. I've long thought that it may be time we start petitioning once again for a shorter workday. After all, all of our technological benefits were originally supposed to make life easier for us. Instead, they've made it so that companies and corporations can have soaring growth rates year after year. Maybe it's time to start prioritizing the people once more.

At one point in our history, the legal workday was 12 hours. Unions and people got together and successfully caused the government to drop that to 10 hours per day, then 8 hours per day. Naysayers declared how this would stunt our economy, and make it impossible for people to make enough to live on. Yet neither of those has happened. Instead, we see that people are living better, and happier. Research done at Kellogg's showed that their workers were actually more efficient and effective on a six-hour workday than an eight-hour day, but social pressures eventually forced them to move back to an eight-hour per day schedule.

With a shorter workweek, more time would be freed up for people to volunteer. This would in turn foster better communities and perhaps increase our domestic security more than any suspension of freedoms ever could.

No Threat to Alberta Energy

Premier Ralph Klein has [said](#) that Alberta's Energy Sector is under no threat. He said this in clarification of earlier statements that if necessary, Alberta would call upon the Canadian Military to protect the pipelines. I couldn't help but laugh when I heard his first statement on CBC declaring that while the energy resources belong to Alberta, it is the duty of the Nation to protect them. To me it just signified again how thoroughly he has been purchased by the energy industry. In my eyes, the duty of our National Defence is to protect the citizenry of Canada first and foremost. A far distant second would be protecting the assets of the energy industry.

In a time of crisis, I'd far rather have Canadian planes circling over our cities rather than patrolling a long empty length of pipeline. If both could be done, so much the better, but why make specific reference to protecting those energy sites unless it was the foremost thing on his mind. Then again, I suppose I should just come to terms with the fact that Klein was never elected for his caring attitude toward the people of Alberta, but rather toward the economy and the corporate over-seers.

New Course of Studies in Manitoba

Brandon University in Manitoba is [developing](#) a new program in light of the recent terrorist attack. The program is in Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies. Students in it will be taught the skills necessary to respond to natural disasters or to an emergency crisis as it arises. There will also be advanced training and opportunities to research and create plans for early intervention and prevention of crisis situations.

This program sounds like an excellent idea for many members of our armed forces to take. Since it seems less likely that our forces will find themselves in a conventional war in the near future, why not train them for disaster relief in peacetime. I can only see this as continuing to foster the Canadian role as peacekeepers and the helpful nation. It fits with our national character.

Don't Forget to Donate

By now, our daily lives will mostly be back to normal. I'm writing this on Saturday, so I'm not sure what developments will occur between now and when you get this on Wednesday, but it seems likely that the news will be shifted more toward the beginning of U.S. military mobilization than on the tragedy of what's happened. I'd like to remind everyone that hasn't already donated to give 1-800-2-DONATE a call and consider setting up a time to give blood or what other assistance as you can. We had a serious shortage before the attack; we'll likely still have one after.

Nuclear winter in New York City

By Douglas Quan and with files from Alejandro Bustos, Ubysey

NEW YORK CITY (CUP) -- A massive collage of death is posted on the wall of New York's Bellevue Hospital. Days after the worst terrorist attack in United States history, the photos of the missing, most likely lost beneath piles of rubble, have been placed on the hospital wall. Hundreds of faces, presumably dead, adorn the side of Bellevue like a horrible nightmare. New Yorkers still haven't fully grasped Tuesday's horror, when two hijacked passenger planes crashed into the World Trade Center, a third slammed into the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and a fourth crashed in Pennsylvania. Thousands are feared dead and many anticipate the final death toll could top 20,000.

This tragedy has rocked the entire city. When the World Trade towers collapsed, the tragic symbolism shook the entire world. With a tragedy of this size, one can't help but be overwhelmed. But a look at the wall of pictures is one way the citizens of this city can put a

human face to the horror. It also adds reality to a situation that still feels unreal and unbelievable for so many.

On one photo, a man has written how his brother called him after the second plane crashed into the World Trade Center. He was on the 78th floor, but rather than escape with his life, he stayed behind to help others that were trapped. He hasn't been heard from since.

Days after the attack, New York is still reeling from the tragedy. Heavy winds carry the concrete ash into the sky, billowing and forming a large cloud that citizens have compared to a nuclear winter.

The air stinks. Even here, more than 20 blocks away from what is being referred to as "ground zero," the air is dirty.

Watching the second tower of the Trade Center collapse was like watching a horrible silent movie. The fall was very graceful, precise. It was like a waterfall. People gasped. They didn't scream; they gasped.

But in this moment of immense tragedy, there were signs that the community was coming together in ways that it had never done before. The city's police department, much criticized for several scandals and poor race relations, was being hailed for its heroic work.

One person said that New Yorkers are now sympathising with the police, especially given the large number of officers killed following the collapse of the building.

Then there is the memory of watching hundreds of construction workers, electricians and carpenters rush to the site and volunteer in the rescue effort following the collapse of the towers. But days after this tragedy, people are still stunned.

One person described the wreckage as a giant concrete twister. It's going to take a long time for people to fully grasp the horror of what just happened.

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

ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION:



The ART GALLERY OF CALGARY

Presents:

LUNCH PLATFORMS

The Alberta College of Art & Design moves downtown to the AGC to present Lunch Platforms, a series of noon-hour cultural conversations with architects, designers, curators, filmmakers, and writers. Regularly casual, always lively and consistently engaging, Lunch Platforms are the third Tuesday of every month, and free to the public.

Lust for Light: A History of Painters & Optical Devices
Artist/ACAD faculty member, Paul Rasporich will talk about the origins and use of photographic devices by some of the world's greatest painters.

Date: Tuesday, 18 September, 2001
Time: 12:10-12:50 PM
Cost: Admission by donation.
(Lunches may attend with you; refreshments served)

STORYBOOK STORY

Public reading by Fred Wah

Storybook Story is an exhibition featuring two primitive historical panoramic renderings of the Minnesota Massacre of 1862 from the Glenbow Museum's permanent collection. The AGC has commissioned four writers to construct short stories, when presented together as a serial draw the two paintings together. Readings will take place from 19 September through 31 October. Presented in partnership with **PanCanadian Wordfest: Banff/Calgary International Writers Festival**.

Date: Wednesday, 19 September
Time: 12:10-12:50PM
Cost: Admission by donation
(Lunches may attend with you; refreshments served)

For information contact Kellie Moynihan at 770-1350

**Art Gallery of Calgary
117 8 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta.
P. 770. 1350
F. 264. 8077**

**info@artgallerycalgary.org
www.artgallerycalgary.org**

\$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.