

THE VOICE

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www.ausu.org/voice

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Too many people miss the silver lining because they're expecting gold."

--Maurice Setter



A Bug In Your Ear...

Thank-you all for your patience through the many changing faces of the Voice, as we strive to build a site that will serve you better. Your insight and comments as we've progressed have been enlightening, and I hope we will see more of you sending in feedback, comments, and suggestions.

I am very proud of our writing staff, all of who have committed their time and energy to share their opinions, views, information and ideas with the student body at large. They have done a great job, and deserve our thanks and congratulations.

I would also like for all of you to get involved. There are many aspects to this University, and the student paper is only one. Your student council also needs your help.

We need more writers. Every one of you has an opinion and viewpoint unique to your individual experience. I would like you to share your voice with your fellow students – Become involved! Even those of you who cannot make a weekly commitment, or even a monthly commitment due to ever changing and hectic schedules, I beseech you to pick up your pens and share yourselves with your AU peers. You can submit an article without signing a lifetime commitment.

Writing, I'll admit, is not everyone's avenue of expertise. But there are other ways to be a part of your University. Check out the announcements from AUSU. An election is coming up – for YOUR student council. Apathy is holding back the pursuits of democracy. Oh, and YOU GET PAID TO BE ON COUNCIL! If decision making, fairness, politics, or even the concerns and needs of your fellow students interest you at all: **GET INVOLVED!** Elections can't be held when nobody runs for office. The best people for YOUR government can't even be decided if people are assigned to council through acclamation.

Be bothered by this. Pay attention, and do something about it. Run for office, or write for the Voice, or volunteer. Find and encourage other people whom you feel will do a good job. Support them. Ask us at The Voice, or the people on Council to support your efforts to be involved. Contribute to your school, to your peers, to your fellow students.

You deserve the best there is to offer. So do we – which is why we're asking **YOU** to be a part of the glue that joins Athabasca University students.

Tammy Moore
Editor In Chief
tmoore@ausu.org



Literacy in Politics: Could We Have Some?

Tamra Ross Low

This month Calgarians go to the polls to elect a new mayor, aldermen, and school board trustees. This means that our mailboxes are littered – literally – with pamphlets from candidates, as well as special interest groups who have a stake in who wins the election. 2001 is a turning point for our city, as our most popular mayor in history has decided not to run again.

Most of the candidates this year are unknowns, and many of them will not be appearing at any of the debates. Thus, the only way Calgarians can get to know the hopefuls is through the leaflets in our mailboxes. Given this, I assume that candidates are putting a lot of work into the presentation of their materials, especially since space on a 8.5" X 3.5" card leaves little room for wordiness or extraneous data.

This is good, though. A position in political office requires excellent communication skills, a good grasp of English, and the ability to present information in a way that is clear, succinct, and easily understood. The same skills are also vital for publicists in special interest groups, who often have scant opportunities to convince readers that their position is valid. Based on these criteria, the pool of candidates for the mayor's office are desperately under-qualified.

It seems likely that candidates would spend days or weeks poring over their literature before submitting it for print, especially those who are coming to the attention of citizens for the first time. I am curious, then, how it is that most of the pamphlets I have received are littered with sentence fragments, grammatical errors, and clumsy bulleted lists that vary throughout in verb tense and sentence construction. Punctuation marks – especially periods and apostrophes – are sprinkled liberally throughout, with the latter mark nearly always avoiding correct placement.

Bad writing is hardly rare these days. I get junk mail every day from places as diverse as pizza restaurants and credit lenders that are riddled with errors. In the last few years, many major papers and magazines have apparently reassigned their editorial staff to merely select articles, rather than actually edit them. The Calgary Herald has been one of the worst offenders of late, and this is unacceptable to me, because the Herald is a professional and well-staffed publication. By contrast, our casual little school paper has generally been better edited than many of the large publications, even though we mostly edit ourselves.

I think the final straw for me is the leaflet I received last week from the Alberta Teachers Association. I think they were trying to convince me to support governmental candidates who stress increased funding for education (already a high priority of mine), but all I noticed was the haphazard grouping of ideas, the punctuation errors, and the ill-conceived structure of the paper which had every single point end with an emphatic "That's a Fact!" I learned from this paper that Alberta has the 'highest' class sizes in Canada. I can almost hear my grade school English teacher remonstrating: "Small, medium, and large are sizes, dear, so are tiny and huge, massive and miniscule, but certainly not 'high'" Teachers are cool, and they know things like this. Clearly, no teachers were involved in drafting the pamphlet for their organization.

Too picky? I don't think so. What good are ideas if you cannot make others understand them? What good is the written word, if there are no standards that everyone understands? Most importantly, how effective can a politician be, if he/she has difficulty communicating clearly? I'm not saying that they all have to be English majors, but if they have weak language skills, they should recognize this and seek the assistance of someone who can help them present ideas in a way that emphasizes concepts, rather than confusion.

This, of course, assumes that today's candidates have ideas that are worth sharing. The number of ninnies running for mayor, who have no clear agenda, is most alarming. Most have focused on maligning the outgoing council, a stupid strategy since the incumbent is well liked and is not running anyway. Others are angry citizens or businessmen who want to use the mayor's seat to further their personal agenda, or to address a grievance. Some are just making wild claims, hoping to be believed. I got a leaflet today from a guy that says the City brings in \$10 billion each year in taxes, but that its expenses are only \$1 billion. "Where are the other \$9 billion dollars going?" he asks, ominously. Okay, and how stupid do I look. Am I to believe that the city has been frittering away \$9 billion every year, and only this one guy has noticed so far? He must be a genius.

One candidate is actually running on the sole promise that he will ban the multi-nova radar camera. Now I realize that the cameras are unpopular, but compared to the major tasks of running a City of nearly a million citizens, it's a small gripe and would be better addressed by a protest group. What really makes this guy's platform ridiculous is that the Mayor has no control over the use of the multi-nova – it is used at the discretion of the police department alone. So, we have someone running on a single, insignificant issue that he cannot possibly affect -even if he wins. Maybe next year he'll figure it out and apply for the post of Police Commissioner.

It is obvious that one of the two established candidates will win, if only because there is no quality competition for the job. The others cannot even enter the challenge as they don't seem to be capable of presenting their ideas in manner that promotes voter confidence. I was hoping for a better race.



FED WATCH! By Karl Low

The Silver Lining

I hate to be the one to say it, but it seems to be shaping up that in some ways the terrorist attack will turn out to be a good thing. As an example, Canada is delivering [six million](#) dollars to aid the Afghani refugees as a direct result of this attack. In addition, Canada is also working to convert over 443 million dollars in loans [owed by Pakistan](#) so that the 16 million dollars in payments they have had to make are no longer a burden on them. American President George W. Bush has suggested a long term humanitarian aid package for the Afghan region be established to aid the people there after his 'war on terrorism' is complete.

In recent weeks we've also seen the news media start to pay attention to the condition in other countries, and to making a set of voices heard that often have to struggle to gain any attention at all. In so many ways it seems that this attack was almost what was needed to wake the general public up to the depths of poverty and oppression that exist beyond our borders.

It's just sad it took so many people dying to cause it.

New University in Ontario

The Ontario government is investing sixty million dollars in the [creation](#) of a new University. The Ontario Institute of Technology is going to be a "new concept for a University that links the curriculum directly to the marketplace."

It could be I'm just out of touch with things, but I always thought that the purpose of a University was to provide people with a wide and diverse background of knowledge and skills, a general "universe" of learning, hence the name. With this institution being designed from the start to follow the marketplace, it seems to be missing the point.

Now there is absolutely nothing wrong with a technical education. We have SAIT and NAIT here in Alberta, and if you're looking for specific training for your career then these are fine institutions, probably better in some ways than the more general university education. They, however, are not Universities, and they don't pretend to be. I worry about these kinds of things where students go in expecting one type of education and then some four years later realized they haven't received it.

Body Image Attitude Adjustment

The Government of Alberta has launched a new program to teach kids about having a [healthy body image](#). I'm not even going to discuss how sad it is that we actually need a program like this these days.

Part of this program will also involve some instruction on media awareness. Personally, I think they might have the priorities in this thing mixed up. If we work on teaching our children media awareness and being critical of the images that come in, it simply follows that many of the problems with body image might not occur in the first place. Still, this is definitely a step in the right direction.

Other components of the course will address areas like bullying and discrimination based on appearance, health behaviours and self-acceptance. Now what we need to do is start teaching the parents these things.

World Mental Health Day

If you're reading this on Wednesday the 10th, then happy World Mental Health day. At least, I hope it's happy. It's estimated though that one in ten people suffer from clinical depression, which is part of what this day is about. The BC Government will be holding [depression screening](#) on Thursday the 11th, where people can go to learn more about the disorder, as well as take a preliminary screening test for themselves or for a loved one.

A large part of the activities around World Mental Health Day will be to educate the general public about this type of thing. It seems strange to me how there's such a stigma attached to mental illness. If someone is born with MS or Down Syndrome we don't just expect them to magically 'get better', so why then for depression? I think it's because as people we sometimes confuse our own experience of sadness with what those suffering clinical depression must feel, but I can't help but wonder if that's like someone who suffers mild headaches thinking a migraine is similar.

At any rate though, take a little time out to be grateful that you have your mental health if you do, and if you don't, then maybe days like today will help things get a little better for you.



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE: Librarians are Cool People

By Debbie Jabbour

[Lisa takes Bart to the library.]

Bart: Lisa, we can't afford all these books!

Lisa: Bart, we're just gonna borrow them.

Bart: Oh. Heh heh. Gotcha.

[wink]

The Simpsons, 1989 (<http://www.imdb.com/Sections/Quotes>)

This interchange between Bart and Lisa reminds me of an experience I had many years ago. I was barely five years old when my mother taught me to read, and I immediately fell in love with books. I would follow her around the house with my stack of books while she did housework,

and she patiently listened to me struggle through story after story. By the time I entered Grade 1, I was reading at a Grade 6 level, and devouring dozens of books weekly. In those days we had a visiting bookmobile at the school once a week, and I eagerly awaited its arrival so I could replenish my supply.

Although the library was on wheels, it smelled like a library and felt like a library, and I was in ecstasy from the moment I climbed aboard. I was soon to find out it had a very vigilant librarian as well! I browsed the shelves, selecting book after book, and after filling my arms with as many books as I could possibly hold, headed for the front of the bus. The librarian looked suspiciously at this small child weighed down by the heavy load of books she was carrying and immediately grabbed hold of me. "You can't take so many books!" he exclaimed, no doubt thinking I was up to some 'borrowing' mischief.

I looked up at him in despair at the thought of having my precious stash diminished. He started removing the books from my arms, looked at what I had chosen and then eyed me up and down, his suspicions confirmed. "You are too little to read these kinds of books," he declared sternly.

My heart sank, but I protested bravely. "I'm not too little. I CAN read them"

He looked at me thoughtfully for a moment, then relented, "All right, prove to me you can read them and I will let you take a few". He selected one, and I sat down on the floor of the bus to read aloud. I don't recall what the book was, but I do remember how nervous I was, knowing that my privileges of borrowing books would depend on my performance.

I took a deep breath and began to read. Within a sentence or two, my fear was gone and I was lost in the sheer pleasure of the written word. The librarian's expression changed from stern to bemused as I read on, and the silence around me grew as the small child and the librarian entered the world of the story together. It was not until some other children noisily entered the bus that he finally stopped me. Still trying to maintain his serious expression, but not quite succeeding, he said quietly, "you can borrow these books," then quickly added, "but not quite so many at once."

In the weeks to come, he gradually relaxed that rule for me, and eventually I was allowed to 'borrow' as many books as I could carry.

I learned a very valuable lesson that day. I learned just how precious books are, and that libraries and librarians act as guardians to ensure that those who wish to borrow books treat them with the respect they deserve.

Libraries have always evoked a certain emotion in me - a sense of peace, tranquility, a humble feeling of awe at being surrounded by the collective thoughts of the world. Those thoughts are an essential part of the human experience, and as such should be highly valued. As Elizabeth Taylor as Cleopatra so dramatically pointed out to Julius Caesar:

"How DARE you and the rest of your barbarians set fire to my library!?! Play conqueror all you want, Mighty Caesar! Rape, murder, pillage thousands, even millions of human beings! But neither you nor any other barbarian has the right to destroy one human thought!"

Cleopatra, 1963 (www.imdb.com)

Of course I would not go so far as to place the value of the library above that of human life, but at the same time, libraries serve to maintain and dignify human existence in that they contain the collective whole of our human knowledge throughout history. As such, libraries are an essential part of the human experience, an experience that is seriously diminished if a person has never had access to a library.

Nowhere is this more true than among University students. Last week I had an experience most AU students will likely never share, except perhaps at graduation - that of visiting the AU Campus in person. Part of my visit included some time in the library. Like so many other AU students, I rarely utilize the library, preferring local and online sources, and I was curious as to what special qualities the AU library might have to recommend itself.

It felt like a library as soon as I walked through the door, and as I made my way through the aisles to the far side I felt the familiar sense of awe at being surrounded by the diverse history of human thought. Salman Rushdie's 'Satanic Verses' on one shelf, Margaret Mead's 'Growing Up in New Guinea' on another. Books ranging from Roald Dahl to Pierre Berton to Sigmund Freud. Collections of newspapers, and rows of technical and medical journals from all over the world.

I looked longingly at the cozy readers' corner; two over-stuffed chairs beside a special shelf lined with books that were obviously handpicked by the librarians for their readability; but I resisted the impulse to linger, knowing I would end up reading the day away!

Kay Johnson, Head of Reference and Circulation services (head librarian in other words!), kindly took the time to educate me regarding some of the services the library offers AU students. Research assistance is a main one. When a student contacts the library with a specific research topic, the library will offer suggested databases, search strategies, search terms, and even samples of research material. Kay said their intention is not to actually do the research for you, but at the same time, they recognize that many students are in isolated areas without library access, so they provide as much assistance as they can.

I had used the online catalogue previously but only to a limited degree. Kay explained many features I had not been aware of. The ability to select multiple items, for example (I can hardly wait to try that one out - instead of loading up my arms, I will weigh the postman down instead!). Being able to search for materials by course, online Journals, a multitude of web-linked resources, access to video, tape, CD's and even DVD's. The library has a subscription to net library and students can use their Student ID to access numerous electronic books.

Another feature students can take advantage of is the TAL (The Alberta Library). This is a library card that gives students borrowing privileges at virtually every library in Alberta, including U of A, NAIT, and public libraries in any city or town. It can be ordered online through the website, or by calling the library.

Kay explained that the library is constantly updating these features, utilizing new technology as much as possible, working to respond to the unique needs of Athabasca University students learning at a distance. There is much more the library has to offer, and a visit to the website is a good start. For those who need personal assistance, call and ask questions - AU has knowledgeable librarians who are always ready and willing to be of service to students - librarians really are cool people!

I was very impressed by the AU library, and I've resolved to make better use of its incredible array of resources and services - to never forget just how important the library is in my quest for a University Degree. Check it out at: <http://library.athabasca.ca>

"What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books."

Thomas Carlyle



...From my soapbox: The Case for Marijuana

By Derek Broughton

Last month, Tamra Ross Low wrote an argument against the legalization of marijuana. Strangely, I agree her that marijuana shouldn't be legalized. Unfortunately, that's most of the problem with Ms. Low's argument – most people aren't asking for legalization, just decriminalization. Legalization would mean that you could never be charged for using marijuana in circumstances that are similar to the ways in which you may use alcohol, decriminalization could still leave it illegal to use cannabis, but without the ongoing stigma of a criminal record. Did you know that you are less likely to go to jail **or** get a record if you are an adult caught selling pot than if you're an 18 year old caught with a single joint?

Ms. Low said, “many non-users have taken up the banner of legalized pot. These people seem to have been convinced that legal marijuana is the only way to serve those people who are suffering from illnesses that can be effectively treated with pot.” Well, **if** people can be effectively treated, why shouldn't they be? Of course, she argues, there isn't much evidence that such treatment is effective. This is true, because it is practically impossible to get permission to perform studies using cannabis, in both Canada and the US. One American researcher found he couldn't get permission to study its positive effects, but had no trouble at all getting both permission **and** funding for a study of negative effects – even though he ended up showing there weren't any (in the particular case – I won't argue that it can't cause problems). Another (British) researcher found that marijuana didn't perform as well as the best painkillers or the best anti-nauseants and, what's worse, that it had negative side effects. What were the side effects? Believe it or not, euphoria! I admit there are people for whom euphoria is a negative side effect, but we're talking about treatment of a group of people for whom happiness is hard come by, let alone euphoria. Why shouldn't my friend with MS have a right to simply “feel better”? Is she simply “too high to care”? I wish she could be! And while the researcher showed that there were individual drugs that could better handle two of the most commonly claimed beneficial aspects of cannabis, he apparently didn't make any attempt to compare its use with those two drugs used together – perhaps their side-effects when used at the same time are worse.

Ms. Low argues that marijuana could be prescribed without decriminalizing it. In fact, marijuana is not a controlled drug, but legislatively considered so dangerous that (as noted above) you can't even use it in research. Making it a controlled drug is the correct first move – whether legalization proceeds beyond that point is of much lesser importance to me. If marijuana were a controlled drug, then people using it without legal right wouldn't end up with criminal records. When was the last time you heard of somebody addicted to prescription painkillers going to jail for possession?

Ms. Low says, “many therapists have noted a link between pot use and panic attacks”. Well, I guess so! Users are afraid the police will be coming for them. I understand that anxiety is not entirely rational, but surely if some of the rational roots of such anxiety were removed, it would be less likely to occur. People who shouldn't use alcohol drink too, but that's an issue of abuse, not criminality. Nobody is ever going to be required to use marijuana. If people are (wrongly) using marijuana to reduce anxiety, then it's an issue of education.

The most ludicrous argument is the issue of second-hand smoke. Smoking has become less and less acceptable in recent years throughout North America, not just Canada. Ms. Low suggests that people will be smoking it in bars where it will be impossible for a designated driver to remain sober. Already, there are places in Ontario where you can't smoke in a bar. There's no way that legislators are going to lay themselves open in this situation. I confidently predict that it's *never* going to be permitted for people to smoke pot in public places.

On the subject of driving or operating machinery, I'll even come out more firmly than Ms. Low's sources – I believe it's extremely dangerous. She says “We cannot even consider legalization without first deciding exactly how we will legislate drivers who use pot”. It's already a criminal act to drive while impaired by *any* drug. “Is there even a simple test, comparable to the breathalyzer, which the police can use to detect cannabinoids?” Not that I know of – but it's a circular argument. Nobody is going to develop such a test when there isn't any use for it. Right now, the only reason anybody is tested for cannabis is when authorities care only that it *has* been used, not *when*.

It's ludicrous that Ms. Low would ask a question like “would we support a government that would legalize a dangerous substance simply because it is too hard to control”. Well, yes! Think Prohibition. Ms. Low may think we should take the hard line at all costs, but I'm confident that the majority is with me. The “war on drugs” has accomplished absolutely nothing, at a horrendous cost to those who are criminalized by it and to those of us who have to pay for it.

Finally, Ms. Low discusses separating the medical and recreational use of marijuana and doing real research into marijuana's effects. Brava! I completely agree. But let's be honest here. We permit people to smoke cigarettes – a substance with no valid medical uses. We allow people to drink alcohol – even though it's a depressant and has caused countless deaths and dismemberments, let alone the toll on the families of alcoholics. There is no valid reason to treat marijuana as being as bad as either of these drugs, let alone worse. Let's take the ridiculous amount of money being spent on the war and turn it into treatment of **all** forms of drug abuse. The whole country will be better off.

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



The Indignant Journalist

By Mark Gueffroy

Since I have previously discussed the issue about if the government has any right to refuse the same rights to same sex couples, I will now take this opportunity to discuss the same issue from the light of organized religion. What right does the church have to dis-fellowship or reprimand someone who is involved in a same-sex relationship?

Abraham Lincoln once said, “The government has no place in the bedrooms of the nation.” It is my opinion that the same applies to a church. The church has no place in the bedrooms of it’s members, meaning that what they do in their own home, behind closed doors, should not be relevant to their membership within an organized religion.

Furthermore, I am not convinced that same-sex relationships are wrong in the eyes of God. There are only 7 references to homosexual behaviour in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. Sodom and Gomorra reference homosexual behaviour, but in this passage there is no reference to genuine love between two persons of the same sex, but a reference to an attempted gang rape. The passage in Deuteronomy 23 is also not relevant to the issue being discussed, as it presents the sin of Canaanite fertility rites infiltrating the worship of the Israelites. The passages in 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy refer to male prostitution. There are also two often-quoted passages in Leviticus that refer to homosexual behaviour, but Leviticus also stipulates that a man who touches a woman during her “time” is to be stoned to death, that adulterers are to be executed, that interracial marriage is sinful, that two types of cloth are not to be worn together, and that certain foods are not to be eaten. The last passage that refers to homosexual behaviour being an “abomination” is located in Romans, in a letter from Paul to the Romans. The background of this letter and for Paul’s understanding was the common practice of older males “keeping” young boys for sexual exploitation, which he was right to condemn. However, even if this background is not taken into consideration, even if Paul was referring to all types of homosexual behaviour, he also told women not to teach, not to cut their hair, and not to speak in church. He told slaves not to obey once, but five times. Lastly, but not least, the text that says, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” does not say, “Love your neighbour as yourself unless your neighbour happens to be homosexual.” Is this text truly being fulfilled by our churches if we dis-fellowship or condemn those who practice an alternate lifestyle?

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AUSU

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.

Here's your chance to get involved! **AUSU Student Council Elections 2002'**

Dear AU Student:

Hey! Have you ever wondered how you can get involved with your Students' Union? Here's your chance! It's Election time again and AUSU (Athabasca University Students' Union) is anxious to meet the new Council. So, what are you waiting for? Get to your post-office today and send in your nomination for new Council!

As in the By-Laws, Article 11_Elections, Section 2 under Nominations: it states "Any Active Member in good standing may submit to the Council a self-nomination together with the individuals written consent to act, if elected".

"Member in Good Standing" means an individual who is a member of the Association in any of the categories of Membership prescribed in the By-Laws, has paid all fees and has not been subject to disciplinary action from the University or the Association.

Deadline for self-nominations/nominations is December 22/01. Students must submit their nominations and the individual's written consent to act, if elected. Their nomination must also include student's name, I.D. number, address and/or e-mail address.

All self-nominations/nominations will be acknowledged after the closing date. Nominees will be given an opportunity to withdraw their name from the slate of nominees, provided that withdrawal is received by the end of January.

Any student submitting nominations must be a registered student of AU at time of nomination and as well as the close of the Election. A Council member must be a Student throughout his/her term on Council. Students, as defined by the Athabasca University handbook, or those who are currently enrolled in an AU course, or who have completed a course within the past six months.

Thanks,

AUSU (Athabasca University Students' Union)

As The Voice would like to encourage the active involvement and participation of all students of AU regarding student government, please feel free to submit campaign material to the Voice to be shared with your AU peers. (Campaign articles will not be subject for payment).



ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION:

The ART GALLERY OF CALGARY

Presents:

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 **Pan Canadian Wordfest: Banff/Calgary International Writers Festival.**

Date: Wednesdays

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.