

THE VOICE

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Risk! Risk anything!... Do the hardest thing on earth for you. Act for yourself. Face the truth."

--Katherine Mansfield



A Bug In Your Ear...A Night at the Forum By Karl Low

Last Tuesday I went to a political forum for a number of candidates for the upcoming Calgary elections. Hosted by the Catholic Women's League of the Holy Trinity Parish, it included our own Adam Heighes as a candidate for separate school board trustee, the ward 10 aldermanic candidates, Diane Danielson and Andre Chabot, ward 9 candidates Joe Ceci and Stan Waciak, and candidates for the health board for ward F, Bradley Berard and Mario Deshais.

First to speak was Adam Heighes. One thing that came through very clearly in his opening statement, as well as his description of past duties and even the later questions he raised to various candidates is his overwhelming concern for children. He stressed the need for the trustee for an area to actually live in the area as he does and his opponent does not, and to be readily involved with the people. His opponent in the running, Ralph Giordano declined the invitation. A member of the audience later clarified that Mr. Giordano could not attend due to tonsillitis and then asked Adam a question that seemed to speak to his one weakness in trying to gain the position, a lack of previous experience.

Unfortunately, I think Adam actually missed an opportunity there to explain how his experience working as the president of the student council of Athabasca University is likely a very similar type of experience.

In the questions that followed he identified as one of the most critical issues facing the Catholic School Board is the issue of support staff and teachers associations being treated with respect

and ensuring that they keep working for the children. Other issues included the importance of trusting the Parents' judgement toward certain events and reducing the bureaucracy in their dealings with the school board.

The second session started with a block of about ten people unceremoniously standing up and leaving after Adam's presentation. It seemed they were only there to hear from the Catholic School Board Trustee candidates. It continued with the candidates from Ward 10. Andre Chabot's opening speech emphasized his resume as being one of increasing responsibility from a lowly construction worker to the general manager of an electronics distribution franchise operation. He emphasized how he had managed to grow the business despite hard times and competition.

His opponent, the incumbent Diane Danielson instead used her opening comments to define some issues facing the community and how she would address them. She referred to her previous experience as alderman, and how the aldermanic job was one that concentrates on facilitating with others rather than being bogged down in the details herself.

The question and answer session seemed in this case mostly to be a session of complaining to Diane about how things had been run in the past and asking why certain issues had never been tackled. One of the more interesting questions though was how the candidates felt they should govern, by continual consultation with the constituents or by their own mandate. Andre Chabot put forward the notion of regular meetings with the constituents and pledged that if the constituents want something, it would be what he would support. Diane took a slightly different tact saying that it is important to balance the wishes of the constituents with the larger picture, of which constituents may not be aware.

In closing, Andre's remarks hearkened back to his opening statement about his experience and ability for the position. Diane instead read a World War 2 poem that she had printed on her first campaign leaflets in 1983 about the importance of voting.

After another small group of people left, the Candidates for Ward 9 began speaking. Joe Ceci emphasized his experience and ongoing projects that he was involved in for the community. He identified transportation, traffic, racial disparity and having people live together peacefully as primary issues.

Stan "The Man" Waciak (as his pamphlet calls him) started out with speaking about the proposed gas generation power plant and held up a gas mask with the question of "Do we want our children going to school with these?" His opening focussed on education, specifically the catholic system and on the future for seniors. A very personable speaker, one couldn't help but think that some of his ideas may be those borne from a lack of experience and not entirely realistic.

One of the questions from a Ward 9 resident involved the abundance of heavy industry along 52nd street and how to change the image of that area. Joe suggested that evolution of the area would slowly remove those businesses as they found cheaper land elsewhere. Of course, he could propose no timeline from this. On the same matter, Stan advocated looking at some alternative solutions such as implementing new high-density residential zoning for the area that would encourage this 'evolution' to happen quicker.

It was interesting comparing the two candidates. Joe's ideas seemed solid and conservative in nature while Stan's ideas were more original, though perhaps not as realistic in nature. One of these was the idea of attempting to move schools and necessary industries off of the power generation grid so as not to be having to pay Enmax every year by the use of solar panels and fuel cells.

They closed with Joe again emphasizing continuity and the ongoing projects he was part of while Stan was more suggesting the values of common sense and community be the primary ones required for an alderman.

Finally, after the last obligatory block of people left, the two candidates for the Health Board began to speak. Bradley Berard's opening was very short and simply stressed the need of more public oversight and fiscal responsibility of the health board, and his experience on the board of directors for an organization helping street kids. Mario Deshais spoke to his experience working in the health care system in Quebec and how his plans on being elected include a Town Hall meeting and increasing medical services in the South East area.

Both candidates stressed they would not be in support of user fees, though if they were imposed by the province, there would be little they could do about it. Bradley suggested that if more funding is needed, there are many ways of fundraising and his experience would assist him in developing these.

When questioned as to what they would do to combat the shortage of medical professionals in this city, Mr. Deshais was in favour of approaching medical students at the University of Calgary with contract offers that included a clause tying them to Calgary for some amount of time. Mr. Berard suggested that the best way to attract and keep medical professionals would be offering them additional incentives to remain in Calgary, whether these incentives are monetary or perhaps other things he would need to do more investigation.

Diane Danielson raised the question of the Health Board is an institution without very much power other than that of their influence. To this end, she asked the candidates how they would go about getting the community behind their issues. While neither candidate had very specific actions in mind, Bradley suggested public rallies and referred to his experience again in creating awareness among the business community for fund-raising and how that would translate to public awareness. Mario also mentioned public rallies such as his proposed town hall meetings as well as meeting with community leaders.

In closing, Mario Deshais mentioned some personal qualities of his own, how he was hardworking and single so would be able to devote considerable time to the position and emphasized how he felt the resources in health care should be going directly to the people while Bradley Berard suggested that on the Health Authority Board he would stress accountability among all members of the board.

2001 ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Students - win \$500!!!

Parkland Institute and Alberta Views present our annual Student Essay Contest! Students registered in any high school, under graduate or graduate program within Alberta are invited to write an essay of approximately 1000 words on the following question:

"How could young Albertans make citizenship more important than consumerism?"

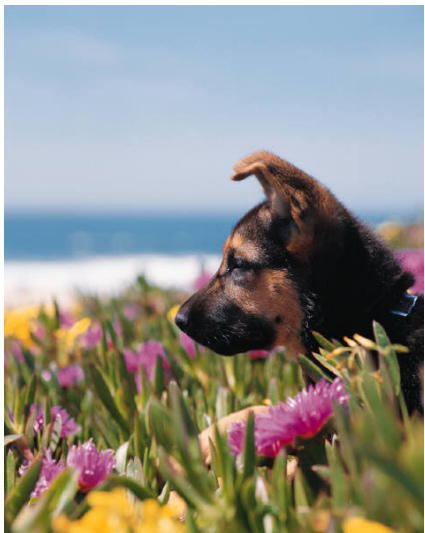
The high school student, undergraduate/college student and graduate student who write the best essay in their category will receive \$500. One of the winning essays will be published in Alberta Views Magazine.

The DEADLINE for submissions HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO October 26th, 2001. The winners will be announced at Parkland's annual conference in November.

(Please include your contact information and the school and program in which you enrolled.)

Please submit your essay to:

PARKLAND INSTITUTE
11045 Saskatchewan Drive,
Edmonton, AB. T6G 2E1
Phone: (780) 492-8558 - Fax:(780)492-8738
email: parkland@ualberta.ca



Dogs as Lawn Ornaments

By Tamra Ross Low

Last week I griped about the fate of roaming cats in our city. Traditionally, cats have been the most common pet to suffer the dangers of outdoor living and chronic neglect. After all, you can't let your canary out for the night, reptiles don't fare well in our northern climes, and rodents wouldn't last an hour with all the cats around. Dog owners haven't necessarily been any more caring than cat owners, but laws prevent us from allowing our canines to roam. Theoretically, dogs have it better because they have to be kept at home.

Lately, however, people have found a new use for their canines: as a combination lawn-ornament and security system. There are dogs around here that I'm certain have never seen inside their homes. Some are tied in the front yard (we don't have backyards here), while others are

confined to fenced partitions. Two massive Rottweilers on the street adjacent to mine live in an 8' by 4' cement pad behind a 6' fence. They bark chronically when home alone. At least their owner takes them out occasionally (in the front of the pick-up instead of the bed, I have to give her credit), but the pit-bull across the street is not so lucky. This dog is tied to a rope 24/7 in the front yard behind a 2.5' fence and in over a year, I have only seen someone play with him once. He's never gone for a walk or left the yard, to my knowledge. I've never seen his owners pet him, or greet him when they come home. After the first barking complaint they got a shock collar, but made no attempt to train him. Now his collar is broken, and he's barking again.

As distressing as this situation is (to me and the dog), I thought it was an anomaly. Who would have a dog and never touch it?? Then people moved into the neighbourhood with an Eskimo puppy. For those not familiar with the breed, this small, white, fluffy dog looks like a Samoyed, but only grows to about 10 inches tall. Normally these are housedogs. This one was outside day and night, sun and storm, tied up at the back of the driveway. When neighbours complained to the SPCA, the owners made him a doghouse and built a makeshift fence out of nylon mesh. The fence had no gate, so no one could easily enter the yard. Often the owner would sit on the step and talk on her phone or have coffee just 3 feet from the screeching dog, but she never acknowledged his presence or that he was barking endlessly. I'm not sure how she could hear the phone. Her kids ignored him, but played beside his fence all day. Once – just once – I saw her lean over and pet his head. He seemed euphoric. When I reported the chronic barking to the City, they got rid of the dog rather than have to buy him a license.

People like this baffle me. Why do they have dogs? If they want security, an alarm is cheaper, and while dogs do provide deterrence for robbers, to acquire a pet solely for this purpose is surely inappropriate. Besides, a tiny dog like an Eskimo provides little protection.

People do not seem to understand the strain their pets are under. Dogs have a need to protect their home, especially when the owner is away, during which the dog is never at rest. This might make the owners feel safer but it is cruel to the dog, especially if it is in a busy area that is difficult to protect. Dogs confined to front yards, in full view of passers-by, are in a constant state of high anxiety. Being tied increases their fear. Dogs that are constantly tied up often go wicked. You would too.

The neighbour's pit bull used to be sweet, but he's getting really aggressive. One day he'll bite someone and probably pay with his life. Even the little Eskimo got nasty. The bylaw officer told me that pups should never be vicious, but in this situation, they often are. Most dogs bite out of stress and fear, not anger. This is a real concern, because neglected dogs are more likely to become wicked, and dog attacks can be horrific. With so many dogs in our neighbourhood (mostly Rottweilers) and such short fences, it is common for dogs to get loose. I've had two encounters with aggressive dogs on my lawn, and last week a frightened adolescent rang our doorbell because a loose Rotty was chasing him. Breeds like the pit bull may be banned because they have been implicated in attacks, though statistically Cocker Spaniels bite most often. Pit bull aggression may not be a factor of the breed, however, but of some of the people who buy them for the look of the dog and the protection it affords, but who don't want a pet. The SPCA tells me that pit bulls are one of the most emotionally needy breeds, and that they suffer terribly when neglected, much more so than aloof breeds, like Chows. Dog attacks can be terrifying, but the real monsters are the people who buy powerful breeds only to place them in high-stress situations with little emotional support. You can hardly blame a bewildered pit bull when it feels it must bite first, and ask questions later. Bad owners not only make their pets suffer, but they

endanger the people who must live in the neighbourhood, as well as those who work near these homes.



FED WATCH! **By Karl Low**

Making Beer Better

The Federal Government has [announced](#) a two million dollar boost to a research facility for members of the Canadian Brewing Industry. This facility "will help the beer industry continue to evolve and meet consumers' tastes," said Member of Parliament, John Harvard. Brewers will be able to use the

facility to ensure that new varieties of barley "create quality product".

So let's see, that's two million dollars given to brewing companies so that they can try out new types of beer. These are the same brewing companies that spend millions of dollars in marketing every year already, and I'm pretty certain they could have gotten just about any University to do the same type of studies for half that amount – or even less if they hit the pubs right after exam week.

I guess the Parliamentary Bar just isn't stocking anything good these days.

Canada Sends 20% of Navy to help U.S. fight Terrorism

Or in real numbers, six ships, including one supply vessel. We're calling it [Operation Apollo](#). On the one hand, it seems kind of pitiful that a full fifth of our entire naval force is only six ships. On the other hand, I'm kind of proud of this. When you really think about it, a naval force is more of an attacking force than a defending one. If ships are off our coastline, you can send missiles or planes, even enemy submarines these days are dealt with in large part by helicopter. So to me, a Navy seems like more of a means of bringing firepower to other countries, and since we are repeatedly hearing that war is now going to be fought in a new kind of way, do we really need to be putting more money into the old way of heavy firepower?

Not that this will stop any branch of the military using the current crisis as a reason to ask for more funds, but I can always hope.

The announcement for this is located [here](#).

Take a Hike

If you live in Calgary, you may want to take a trip over to Pearce Estate Park as a new set of interpretive trails has been recently [completed](#). This trail is to demonstrate exactly how a large urban centre like Calgary can actively manage critical wildlife and aquatic habitats. Costing

almost a million dollars so far and worked on mostly by volunteers, this wetland will be fully completed in 2003 and will span over 14 hectares of land in our city. In addition to the ecological benefits of having a wetlands to help filter some of the pollutants from our air, water, and soil, this trail should serve as a bit of a tourist attraction, and a free one at that.

Alberta Library Week

This week is [Public Library Week](#) and is a good time to check out your local library as events are planned throughout the week at various libraries around the city. The number of resources available through the public library is really quite astounding, and their electronic collection actually rivals Athabasca University's own collection.

Who knows, there may even be free donuts.



September 11th at 35,000 Feet

By Jaime Lee

We are part way over the Atlantic Ocean when the news reaches us via datalink that two 767's have just crashed into the World Trade Centre.

Huddled in the back galley as the In-Charge flight attendant relays the horrific news, we are, as much of the world must have been, dumbfounded. My mouth drops open, then closes, and opens again, bobbing like a brainless goldfish, searching for words.

Our first thought is 'How do we tell the passengers?' Well, we don't. Jetting through the atmosphere in a metal tube at 35,000 feet, the only thing more dangerous than fire is hysteria. We explain, instead, that due to unusually high traffic volume over the Atlantic, we have been asked to turn around. In the face of disbelieving stares and sardonic comments, we modify this to include vague details on an incident that occurred in the United States.

Now, how to explain to the Bosnian family, who doesn't speak any of the six languages covered by our crew, why the depiction of our airplane on the airshow has turned around and is heading back to Europe. Every time I come down the aisle the woman grabs me, presumably to ask what is going on, each time hoping that this once I will miraculously understand her. I do my best to reassure her, inside hoping that we can find somebody at the airport in Glasgow who speaks her language.

Finally, in desperation, she shoves her immigration papers into my hands and starts gesturing wildly. She is mad. Mad that I can't understand her, mad that we don't have somebody who does. Some detached part of me thinks fleetingly how amazing it is just how much of what she is thinking and feeling I can understand from her facial expressions and body language. But she does not understand me. She is crying now and clutching her 4-year old daughter in her arms. "Now how will I protect her", her face seems to say.

Caught up in my own horror and shock of the recent events, I am slow to understand that these people are refugees. They are from Bosnia, a country torn by civil war and ravaged by a tyrant. These are people who have lived their entire lives with a kind of fear that I had never known. A kind of fear that I was just now beginning to experience after the attack on what may not have been my country, but was certainly very close culturally and geographically. Tears well up in my eyes as I begin to understand her frustration and fear.

The woman next to her suggests to me that maybe she understands Russian. Of course! I am angry with myself for not having thought of that. Bosnia is a slavic country and so is Russia, I should have thought of it. With a little effort, we find a passenger who speaks Russian to translate. "We are being diverted to Scotland", she says, "Nothing is wrong with our plane. There has been an incident in the United States, all air traffic is turning back. They will pay for your hotel, and they will feed you. When it is safe, then they will take you to Calgary. Please, don't worry, it will be ok."

Thankfully, she understands.

She is calmer now, but she is still angry with me. She seems to associate me with some all-powerful force that was trying to send her back to her life of fear. I try to justify my initial dismissive attitude of their plight. I couldn't understand them, it's not my fault I don't speak their language.

How was I to know they were refugees? They seemed well-fed, well-dressed...what do refugees look like?

Now I know. They look scared; desperate and scared.



From My Perspective. Bullies. **By Debbie Jabbour**

*bully: 1. one habitually cruel to others who are weaker.
2. to affect by means of force or coercion*

(Websters)

Most people are familiar with the first definition, and indeed, the classic schoolyard bully is a prime example. This type of bullying begins at kindergarten and has always been around. I remember being picked on in school because I was 'different'. The majority of young people crave acceptance, and those who don't quite fit in are vulnerable to being bullied. What is happening in schools today seems more than just traditional bullying of those weaker or different. There is an atmosphere of anger and violence among these bullies, an arrogance and brazenness that did not exist a few years ago. During the past month, the high school my daughter attends has been the scene of at least four assault charges being brought against persons

involved in acts of cruelty towards "others who are weaker." Even more worrisome is that three of these four attacks were perpetrated by female bullies.

We women like to think that if we ran the world, it would be a kinder, more nurturing, less violent place. While traditionally women have always been caregivers and nurturers, many young girls are rejecting that concept and instead turning to aggression and physical violence. A good number come from difficult family situations and are angry at the world. They feel helpless, subjugated by male domination, unable to take charge of events in their lives. They fight back by becoming bullies - the equivalent of a child kicking the dog after being punished by the parent.

At my daughter's school, there is a group of female bullies who define themselves as "queens of the school" and "the school bitches", and they challenge anyone to mess with them. I'm not talking an inner city school riddled with poverty and the resulting social dysfunctions many people associate with gangs & bullies. These young women all come from socioeconomic backgrounds ranging from upper middle class to wealthy. And they wield a great deal of power among other young girls who yearn for acceptance and a sense of belonging. They are in awe of the bullies and intimidated by their power, and they find that resistance carries a heavy price. One girl who got caught up in the group tried to break away, and was rewarded by having her cell phone stolen and returned to her smashed in pieces. Another girl was even less fortunate, her challenge resulted in a severe beating at the hand of six other girls.

The school administration is well aware of everything that is going on, but they can only do so much. They try to suspend the bullies, transfer them to other schools, and ban them from school property. But the bullies are powerful, and their victims are usually too afraid to speak up and strike back, although sometimes, they do manage to make a stand. The above-mentioned girl who was beaten has fought back by laying assault charges. But because she is being bullied, she has fought back blindly, irrationally, and has named every person even remotely associated with the bullies among her attackers - although the majority are innocent.

This is a story we've heard all too often in recent years, the victim striking back at the bully with tragic and serious consequences, such as school shootings that take the lives of innocent people.

That brings me to the second definition of bully: *To affect by means of force or coercion.*

This type of bully is not as easily recognized. The mature bully that surrounds us - in the workplace, among University students, and in world governments. Instead of aggressive schoolyard techniques, this bully finds more underhanded ways of forcing those weaker than themselves to fall in line. All too often, they succeed, and the victim has little recourse except to fight back blindly, indiscriminately.

Those of us who understand why the victim has responded this way are often afraid to speak out. We are afraid to stand up and say to the bully, "we don't agree with what you are doing," for fear that we will be next in line to feel the bully's wrath. If the victim has hurt innocent people in the process of fighting back against the bully, we face an even greater dilemma, since by speaking out we may be perceived as being in agreement with whatever tactic the victim used to strike back.

I have grappled with this dilemma for weeks, wondering if I should speak my mind and risk censure like so many others have; or remain silent, intimidated by the bully.

I watched the Trade Buildings fall...I cried at the horrific, senseless loss of life...but at the same time I understood why it happened. The United States is a bully who has spent years using force and coercion to obligate weaker nations to conform. It is inevitable that the victims respond with resentment and hatred. Combine that hatred with religious fanaticism (a rather twisted sort of 'bullyism') - and you create volatile conditions that lead to senseless acts of violence.

A few days after the 'attack on America' a picture in the Edmonton Journal caught my eye. I cannot recall what country it was from (and indeed, it could have been any Middle East country), but it showed a group of demonstrators holding up a sign "THINK AMERICA...WHY ARE YOU SO HATED?"

It made me pause and reflect. I've lived in Central America, and I know the hatred they feel for the U.S. due to its foreign policies and meddling that justifies using any means necessary to obligate these governments to fall in line - or else be replaced by a U.S.-sponsored revolution. I remember walking along a bridge in Honduras and being spat on by passerbys who called me "gringa". I visited Guatemala in 1983, and met peaceful humble Mayan peasants who were being slaughtered; deaths and disappearances have been estimated at 200,000 - victims of acts of genocide by a government assisted and supported by the U.S.¹

I have friends from Chile, for whom the day September 11 also has special meaning. They ran for their lives when the US-supported military under the leadership of Pinochet overthrew and murdered president Salvador Allende on September 11, 1973. This U.S.-backed military junta then embarked on a campaign of terror that resulted in the death and disappearance of tens of thousands of Chileans.¹

I have close ties to family members who have survived a war in Lebanon that turned the former "jewel of the Middle East" into a shattered ruin scattered with thousands of innocent bodies. A war between Palestine and Israel conducted on Lebanese soil that involved complex interactions with Muslims, Christians and Jews - a war waged with a great deal of background support from the U.S. on the side of Israel.

United States Intelligence services (CIA, FBI) have a long history of meddling in the affairs of other nations, with little regard for the loss of innocent lives. The U.S. even funded and trained Osama Bin Laden in attacks against Russia.

Like it or not, I understand what Thobhani is saying when she states that 'US Foreign policy is soaked in blood'

An article in today's Edmonton Journal describes how New York Mayor Guiliani rejected a \$10 million donation from a wealthy Saudi Arabian prince, Alwaleed Bin Talal. Why? The prince gave the cheque accompanied by a statement of condolences for the "loss of life that the city of NY has suffered," and condemning "all forms of terrorism". But the prince then dared to question U.S. foreign policy by adding, "However, at times like this one, we must address some of the issues that led to such a criminal attack. I believe the government of the United States of America should re-examine its policies in the Middle East and adopt a more balanced stance towards the Palestinian cause."²

The Saudi prince was correct - unless the U.S. stops and looks at how their actions contributed to these horrific events and starts to work towards some serious policy changes - the senseless violence will continue. But Guiliani's response reflects the bully's attitude - no disagreement is allowed - you either go along with them or you are the enemy.

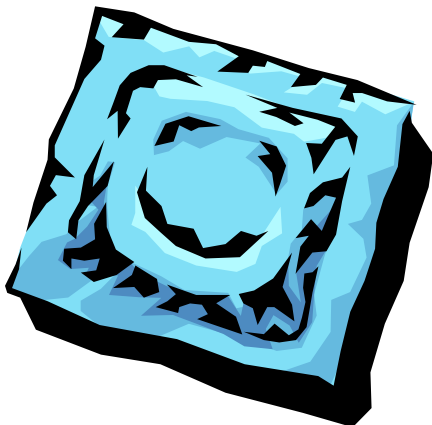
The US places a high value on lives - only if they are American. Frightening, but true. Here in Canada we felt that fear during the first days of uncertainty, wondering if we too might be branded as 'the enemy' because we may have inadvertently harboured some of the terrorists. Even more frightening is the loss of free speech. We are not allowed to disagree with the U.S.'s bullying tactics that have hurt so many because we will be assumed to be 'supporters' of terrorism. There is no justification for terrorism, regardless of the source. To label anyone who dares to question U.S. policies a supporter of terrorism is absolute nonsense. But that's how bullies work - try to speak up against them and you pay the price.

Its time we stood up and let our voice be heard. It's time we had the courage to admit that the U.S. is no innocent victim, but an active participant in global terrorism. They just do it in an underhanded way. They force other nations to conform.....or else. So now, after years of perpetuating terrorism on the soil of other countries, they have had it returned to them in a most horrible way. The U.S. has played an integral role in creating the conditions under which a group of people has become so blind with hatred and desperation that they strike back in the most unthinkable manner - with murder of innocent people.

When one nation is so hated in so many places in the world, its time to ask why. It's time to take a look at what that nation is doing to incite and inflame that hatred. It's time to have courage to stand up to the bully and speak out against terrorism regardless of who is responsible. Bullying is terrorism. There is no justification for what was done on September 11. But punishing the perpetrators will solve nothing. It is a simple scientific principle - cause and effect. We need to address the root cause - the issues that led to such a criminal act. Unless we do that with an open mind free from force or coercion - the effects will be impossible to control, and terrorism, bullying and hatred will continue to escalate.

¹ World Almanac Knowledge Source, First Search, Athabasca University Library.

² Edmonton Journal, October 12, 2000



Condom Country Is a White Nation **By Orville Lloyd Douglas**

Black AIDS community organizations are giving the thumbs down to the Condom Country safe-sex ads.

The pictures of pretty boys on horses raised a lot of dust when they hit the papers just before Pride Day. But it's not only who's on the mounts that has groups working with visible minority communities feeling left out and ripped off by the AIDS Committee of Toronto, sponsors of the campaign.

The main obstacle that organizations serving visible minority communities face is reaching men who are on the "down low" - those who have sex with men but discreetly and without adopting a gay identity.

Keith Wong, executive director of Asian Community AIDS Services, says the Condom Country ads cater only to the white gay males riding the white steeds. "It doesn't deal with the experiences of (our) clients. The ad campaign was to have been a team project but in the end, it was an ACT show - the other groups didn't even get their name and phone number on the posters."

Wong says his organization's job is made more difficult by the fact that the city's ethnic media doesn't want to deal with issues of homosexuality or AIDS. "The ethnic media such as the mainstream Chinese newspapers are not likely to publish ads that deal with homosexuality." Wong states ACAS needs money to find creative ways to reach the men that have sex with men on the Internet. "There's a large population of non-gay identified Asian men in the suburbs that we are trying to outreach to but our resources are limited."

The affair has only increased the tension between AIDS groups, already resentful that ACT's coffers are so much bigger than their own. For example, the \$400,000 that ACT received from the provincial and federal governments for the Condom Country campaign compares with the \$379,000 that's the entire annual budget of the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black Cap for short). By contrast, ACT gets \$4 million a year to spend.

According to Juanita Smith, executive director of Black CAP, a new education effort targeting a new generation of men who have sex with men would have been an ideal time for all the city's AIDS groups to work as a team. But this, she says, did not happen. Instead, the federal and provincial governments funnelled all their money to ACT.

"During the meetings, Black Cap ACAS, and the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention raised our voices and stated to ACT that the campaign should reflect the cultural diversity in Toronto."

Lee Zaslofsky, media coordinator for ACT, acknowledges that his organization would have preferred to have had more collaboration with other groups. But he says failings in this area are beyond the control of ACT and had to do with funding coming too late for consultation.

"There was a short time to prepare the campaign. We received the \$400,000 in February 2001 and the ad campaign was launched in mid-June. I am not denying more can be done. It would of been nice if ACT had placed the other groups phone numbers on the Condom Country poster."

So how are the ads going down with black guys who have sex with guys? They're not, according to the people I spoke to at Club Manhattan.

"The Condom Country campaign doesn't speak to black men," says Marvin. "It's for white gay men. The two images I saw were of two white guys on a horse."

But there was one poster with a black and Asian man together?

"So what?" concludes Marvin. "Why aren't there posters of two black men together or two Asian men? It seems to me that ACT just lumped us (the black and Asian men) together without putting any thought into it. "

Jared's view is that it's just not believable to picture a black guy and an Asian on the same mount. "It is very rare in the gay community for a black and an Asian to be together."

But Jared need not worry about seeing the black-Asian poster that often. It seems that because they're on separate and leaning in as if to kiss, some newspapers feared they were too racy to run. The white guys on the same horse didn't cause the same anxiety.

"The main poster (of the two white men) was considered less provocative," Zaslofsky says. "I think the other poster is believable (the image of the black and Asian man), but I know that some people were concerned about it."

So how many people of colour were on the advertising committee for the Condom Country campaign? None.

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.