

The Voice

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We must make the choices that enable us to fulfill the deepest capacities of our real selves."

-- Thomas Merton



A Bug In Your Ear...

BURSARY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED FOR COMMUNITY REHABILITATION STUDENTS

Students enrolled in a community rehabilitation or equivalent program at a post secondary institution in Alberta have an opportunity to apply for and receive a bursary established recently in partnership between the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Northwest Alberta Community Board and Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC).

A \$4000 bursary will be awarded to an Alberta student attending a Community Rehabilitation or equivalent diploma or degree program in Alberta. The bursary will be awarded under the NADC Bursary Partnerships Program.

Students applying for the bursary must be willing to live and work for a period of time in Northwest Alberta. The bursary is unique because it has a return service component, which means a student receiving funding must sign a contract agreeing to live and work in a community in the region for at least sixteen months following the completion of their school program.

Students receiving bursary funding will be required to complete their contracted term employed by either the PDD Northwest Alberta Community Board or one of its many Funded Agencies.

"We are very pleased to announce the launch of this bursary program for students in Alberta. Our organization is mandated to ensure persons with developmental disabilities are provided with a

high quality and appropriate level of supports and services so they can continue to become leaders and partners in our communities," says PDD Northwest Alberta Community Board Chair Paul Renfree.

"This bursary is beneficial for both students and agencies working with persons with developmental disabilities. Students can receive money to help reduce the cost of training in the community rehabilitation field. Our board and the service provider agencies we fund have a chance to obtain a qualified staff member dedicated to providing a high quality of supports and services to persons with developmental disabilities. It is our hope bursary recipients landing their first job in our region will seriously consider making our region their permanent home," he adds.

Applications are now being accepted from students interested in receiving the bursary when it is first awarded in January 2002. Information about the bursary program and criteria students must meet in order to apply for the bursary have been provided to post secondary institutions which offer Community Rehabilitation or equivalent programs. The deadline for bursary applications is December 14, 2001 at 4:30 P.M.

Students interested in receiving a bursary application form or with questions about the bursary program are encouraged to contact the PDD Northwest Alberta Community Board at (780) 624-6201 (310-0000 Toll Free).



A Crisis in the Arts by Tamra Ross Low

There is a crisis in Alberta's fine arts community. Early in October, musicians with Calgary's Philharmonic Orchestra were locked out when contract negotiations broke down. As a result the orchestra had to cancel subscription concerts and two school performances. Instead, musicians picketed outside Jack Singer Concert Hall near City Hall. Calgarians are accustomed to picket lines on the downtown streets, but usually the strikers are members of the City unions or other blue-collar organizations. Nurses and teachers, our most notoriously underpaid professionals, are also commonly on strike. We were not prepared, however, to see our orchestra trade its instruments for picket signs.

Opera, ballet, and classical music have long been associated with the upper class. Opulent fundraising galas, black tie affairs, and the mayor's ball come to mind. Performances have historically been very pricey and the dress code has seemed prohibitive to the working class. In truth, tickets to fine arts performances are now priced very low and much of the money raised by the artists comes from [fundraising](#) efforts. Nevertheless, not enough people are attending fine arts performances to keep the production companies in the black. This has prompted some arts associations – the Calgary Opera is one - to seek [corporate partnerships](#).

The problem is not isolated to Calgary, or even to Canada. It was recently [announced](#) that "musicians with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre will see a 12 per cent pay cut [for] three shows this season" because "the ballet theatre is facing a budget deficit." Additionally, "the theatre's 30

full-time administrative staff members will face a five-week layoff next year as a result of the budget problems." Similar situations exist with orchestras across Canada. A recent Canadian Press [article](#) based on the comments of industry experts concluded that "Canadian orchestras need [a] major shake-up" - they "must adapt to the modern world or die." In addition to the woes of the Calgary Philharmonic, the article mentions that the "venerable Toronto Symphony is millions in the red," and "Symphony New Brunswick announced last month it too is having serious cash problems."

Elisabeth Whitlock, executive director of Orchestras Canada, blames the downturn on technological advances that allow classical music fans to enjoy crystal-clear symphonies in their living rooms, and on the difficulty of attracting younger patrons as the core audience ages. Specifically Whitlock cites the "multitude of attractions that orchestras compete with for the arts dollar... top that off with an economic downturn and it's a formula for disaster."

It seems logical. The floundering economy means that people have less money to spend on entertainment. Combine this with the perception that fine arts tickets are priced much higher than pop entertainment (a fact that was true for many years), and it becomes unlikely that most working class people – not to mention students - would consider trying an opera or a play any time soon.

This need not be the case. That the fine arts are for the wealthy is an outdated misconception, and one that might end up hurting your entertainment budget. The truth is, popular entertainment today is often priced much higher than the arts. A perusal of Ticket Master's current roster shows that tickets for the current Rod Stewart tour are selling for \$90 to \$125, while upstarts Linkin Park are fetching \$35. Tickets to the Calgary Ballet's Nutcracker compare very nicely at \$16 to \$54. Opera tickets sell for \$13 to \$88 while Alberta Theatre Project's seats go for \$10 to \$26. This is an excellent deal for live entertainment, especially when you consider that tickets to a new release movie these days cost \$12 to \$13 in most of the new multiplexes. The arts also have special pricing for students and seniors – something that most movie theatres do not offer, nor do pop music shows. It is important to consider that a movie lasts only two hours, while an opera, if you take in the pre-show opera talk and refreshments, provides about four hours of entertainment.

The Calgary Philharmonic has signed a new [deal](#) and returned to the stage on November 7. This means that the Calgary Ballet and Calgary Opera, who use the CPO in all of their performances, will also be returning to the stage. There has never been a better time for an introduction to the arts. Price is no longer a barrier, and dress codes need not daunt you. Opera attire today ranges from ball gowns to khakis, and the audience spans all cultures and age groups.

To help newcomers appreciate the shows, opera organizers offer lively pre-opera talks, where the significant plot points are explained beforehand so that the story is easy to follow. Discreet, truncated, subtitles run across the top of the stage to ease the language barrier. The arts community is dedicated to helping children learn an appreciation for arts performances. Details of the Calgary Opera's many youth and education oriented programs can be found [here](#) on their website.

This holiday season, consider taking in a play, ballet or opera. You could try all three for less than one ticket to see Rod Stewart. Tickets also make great gifts, and if you like what you see, season tickets can be a steal.



FED WATCH! by Karl Low

What to do if Your Flight goes Belly-Up

With the recent bankruptcy of Canada 3000 many people have found themselves holding tickets for a carrier that no longer exists. The government has put up [this site](#) which has details of what you can do to try and work around the problem. Unfortunately, the instructions are mostly an expanded version of ‘contact the person who sold you the ticket.’

If the ticket was purchased directly from Canada 3000 however, you could find it a difficult proposition getting your money back. Supposedly, you would have a claim against Canada 3000 and qualify to get paid back once their bankruptcy is put through, but that does you little good for right now, and the chances of actually receiving anything once all the large creditors have taken their chunk is pretty miniscule.

It's a horrible place to be for those consumers left holding worthless tickets, but for the long term, the government showed proper restraint. Any vacuum in the market will soon be picked up by other carriers, and more competition is a good thing for flyers.

You Say Tomato, I Say Softwood

The Canadian Tomato Trade Alliance has complained to the federal government that the United States is dumping tomatoes. Our Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency has [announced](#) that it will begin an investigation into the matter. This claim is very similar to the claim of the United States' softwood lumber industry and will likely be viewed as a form of trade retaliation.

It seems that most corporate entities seem to feel free trade is fine and dandy until it imposes on their own profit margins. If our nations are truly interested in free trade, there should be no provisions to simply prevent "dumping". Laws to prevent monopoly abuse? Certainly. Laws that impose duties on companies not operating to the environmental standard of the country they are shipping to? Absolutely. (Though these are the laws that the WTO strikes down most often) Even laws to address taxpayer funded subsidies of certain industries are reasonable. But laws to prevent one company from selling a product at a lower price to gain a competitive advantage? Isn't that the point of what free trade was supposed to promote? Lower prices and better quality goods for everybody, no matter where you live?

So when the U.S. softwood lumber industry lobbies congress for a tax due to Canadian Companies dumping lumber, and when the Canadian Tomato Trade Alliance lobbies to stop U.S. farms from dumping tomatoes, both should be ignored unless they can come up with better reasons, and no country should be allowed to impose any tariffs or fines until the matter has been reviewed by a neutral group. Now that would be free trade.

Paul Martin and Debt Relief

On the 16th, Paul Martin made a speech to the G-20 meeting entitled [Globalism, Terrorism, and the World Economy](#) in which he made a number of points that, if he follows through, shows a side of Paul Martin that is not often seen. "The fact is, no country can develop its economic potential without meeting the basic needs of its people," he declares. If only that thought carried through to when he was making the federal budget and slashing the transfer payments for provincial health care and social services.

He goes on to say that a sensible framework to globalization means "... it should mean lifting the crushing burden of debt from the shoulders of the poorest of the poor." Unfortunately, it seems students on student loans only count as poor, so burdens of crushing debt on them are fine. For it was under Mr. Martin that the legislation preventing students from declaring bankruptcy from their student loans for ten years was put into place.

It is good to see though that Mr. Martin is recognizing that the debt load on developing nations is, at this point, a ludicrous concept. These nations are having to sell out what little materials they have simply to afford the interest payments. Realistically we know that the principal will never be re-paid. Mr. Martin's call for "mandated standstills [that] can play the same role internationally that Canada's Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act or the U.S.'s Chapter 11 plays domestically;" only makes sense. These countries are bankrupt already, let's let them declare it and get on with their lives.

Encouraging More Kids with Less Parental Care?

Under the auspices of the National Child Benefit the provincial government has reduced the amount of funding available in it's Support For Independence program. Some of the changes [announced](#) include:

Each working parent in a family able to earn \$115 before SFI benefits will be reduced. A single parent may earn \$230 before SFI benefits will be reduced;

Employment income earned by children under 18 will not be counted for determining SFI reductions;

New employment maintenance benefit of \$120/year for working parents to offset incidental expenses of employment such as transport

Interestingly, you'll note that if a couple with a child only has one wage earner, they get less of an exception than a single parent - even though they have more mouths to support. Also, if you have no children at all, you apparently have no incidental employment expenses such as transport.

So it seems that the government is encouraging poor families to have at least one child and then both parents should get out of the house to maximize their benefits. It also seems odd how the government is encouraging child labour. If little Johnny drops out of school at 15 to take a full time job as a Wal-Mart cashier, the government has no problem with the family keeping the extra money. This seems to be the wrong message to be sending to parents in difficult situations.



The 2001 Moose Hunt by Wayne Benedict

For over twenty years I hunted moose by wandering through areas where I thought that I might cross paths with one; floating down rivers, pushing through alder thickets, or sloshing through swamps. More often than not I would get lucky and fill my freezer but some years I would spend weeks without seeing anything, ultimately ending the season by purchasing beef. It was a hit and miss proposition that became very frustrating when it seemed as though all of the moose had packed up and migrated to Alaska.

In the mid 1990s my partner, Rob Potter, and I decided to try something that we'd both heard about but hadn't given much weight. Calling moose sounded far fetched but magazine stories, and a few other hunters, lauded it as an effective hunting technique. With nothing to lose we went to a local sporting goods store and purchased a plastic horn that came with an instructional audio tape. What an embarrassing racket it produced, but we practiced and persevered. Ultimately that horn brought nothing in for us and I had the feeling that all we were doing was broadcasting a warning to any wildlife near enough to hear. "Run! It's a human hunter sounding like a foghorn with a lemon stuck in it!" That horn is still gathering dust in a storage closet somewhere.

We didn't entirely give up on calling and with the help of a tape produced by an American big game hunter (Wayne Carlton); we practiced calling moose with nothing but hands and mouth. The first couple of seasons were disappointing but ever since then I have yet to have a season where one or more moose haven't come in to my call. What a different hunting experience now from when I wandered around looking for prey that can hear, smell or see the hunter long before the hunter sees the prey.

In 1999 and 2000, I successfully called in my moose on the first day that I hunted. This year I was getting very discouraged, after four days of hunting I hadn't seen or heard anything. It was turning into one of those "where have all the moose gone?" years. I hunted all day on the fifth day with no results and in the evening I made my way into a logging cut-block where I had seen sign in previous years. There was about an hour left before sunset when I set up in a small thicket of trees near the timberline. With a steady breeze blowing from the trees toward me and my back to the open cut-block, I began to call.

The wind was making it difficult to hear and I didn't think that my call would be heard very far. I was in the spot about twenty minutes when I turned to look over the cut-block. I was shocked to find that a bull moose was bearing down on my position. I hadn't heard him at all because of the wind and there was no more than forty yards between us as he charged toward me. I missed with my first shot but the percussion made him stop, giving me a close, unmoving target. I don't know what might have transpired had I not turned to survey the area behind me when I did, but believe me, I'm glad I did. The freezer is full again this year and I surely owe it to calling. I can say with certainty that the technique has made me a more effective, satisfied, and entertained hunter than I was previously. If you hunt moose, I urge you to try it out. You might feel silly at first—I sure did—but the results will make the practice more than worthwhile. I guarantee it.



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE: MONTREAL & THE CAUT CONFERENCE ON ONLINE LEARNING - PART B

by Debbie Jabbour

The promotional material for the CAUT conference stated, "Online delivery of educational programs raises many questions". It listed questions such as "what does it mean for teachers/students who have no direct contact?" and "Is this anonymity an advantage, a problem or irrelevant?" and promised a distinguished group of experts to explore these questions. As distance education students with a significant online component to our studies, we looked forward to an educational discussion, one that would assist us in our endeavours to improve communications with other students more effectively as a students union.

The manner in which the conference was presented led us to expect several things: perhaps a look at the ways in which online learning was being utilized to enhance education, or a discussion on the benefits of online learning and ways to improve the sense of community students feel while studying at a distance. We could not have been more wrong. From the outset, it became apparent that the organizers (and many of the participants) were strongly biased against the use of online learning, and were advocating ways to prevent it from becoming part of their teaching experience!!

In retrospect, and after hearing their side of the story, it should not have been so surprising, given that the conference was sponsored by several teachers' unions (AAUP, CAUT, FEUQ, FQPPU) and the Canadian Federation of Students. Throughout that first day we heard certain phrases repeatedly, "commercialization of education", "devaluation of teaching", "denigration of teachers", "loss of intellectual property rights", "loss of faculty control", "loss of academic freedom". Online learning was being targeted as an evil tool that was being used by school administrations under the influence of big corporations to destroy the traditional classroom and get rid of teachers.

As strong advocates of the importance online education holds as an alternative choice for students, Shirley and I were quick to make our voices heard. The structure of the conference was an unusual one. After panel discussions there was an open question period from the floor, Shirley proved that her role as VP External is well suited, since she always challenged the speakers with pointed questions and arguments. Since I find myself quite unable to ad lib verbally in such a coherent and aggressive manner, I was quite impressed! Other delegates were as well, and we heard many comments of appreciation for her outspokenness on behalf of distance learning.

A second feature of the conference that was unusual and helpful was the division of participants each day into 8 workgroups that discussed issues in a more intimate manner. This provided an excellent interactive forum for everyone involved, and gave me an opportunity to provide a perspective of online learning that was much more reasonable. In my group there were several strong supporters of online learning as something beneficial that could enhance the learning process overall, and many actively designed and taught such courses (including AU's Mike Gismondi). There were extreme dissenting voices as well; teachers who stated that they would never teach an online course, nor would they would not accept transfer credit from any of their

students who did. I answered a challenge by one graduate student who insisted that online and distance education students could not possibly participate in social awareness activities unless they were on a physical campus. I pointed out that the Internet is one of the most powerful tools available to reach distant parts of the world - and that students studying via this medium can take full advantage of this power in raising social awareness even more effectively than those on-campus students do. Receiving our education at a distance does not prevent us from exercising our right to protest and social activism.

By the second day, attitudes had begun to shift, and it was apparent that even the extremists were beginning to realize that online education had its place and a value - and that rather than feeling threatened by new technology they should find constructive ways to utilize its power. There were a couple notable exceptions, of course. Ingrid Banks was one, and David Noble another. Ms Banks teaches black studies at Virginia tech, and she argued that without the visual presence of a female professor of colour in the front of the classroom, students could not possibly get true value from the course. Online learning, in her opinion, compromises and de-politicizes courses such as ethnic women's studies. I found myself quite irritated by this assumption and its implications. How many students might be prevented from learning the valuable material in such a course because they were distracted by a prejudice towards the teacher? Would not an online course that removes the potential bias of the visual perception of the speaker be far more likely to promote an enlightened and open viewpoint? How many men might never take a women's studies course in the physical classroom out of embarrassment - yet would feel free in the anonymity of the online environment to do so? In my opinion, to insist that the course had no merit without her physical presence belittled the intelligence of her students.

David Noble was something else - and the media was quick to pick up on it, as Tamra Ross Low pointed out in a recent article. Noble is a sociology professor at York University who claims to have never used email, and although his paranoia regarding the Internet as an invasion of privacy seemed over the top, it was also quite thought provoking. While it seemed easy to discount him as a technophile, he backed up his allegations with some serious proof, prompting one of the speakers at the conclusion of the conference to comment, "If someone as smart as David Noble can embrace Luddism, why can't I?"

A good portion of his discourse dealt with Universities and librarians as being the last bastion of freedom of speech, a freedom that is increasingly being infringed on, either directly or by implicit acceptance of silencing on the part of the universities. He cited cases such as Nancy Oliveri and David Healy, who dared to speak out and paid serious consequences. Perhaps I felt a kinship to this discussion because I am such a proponent of free speech and have written previously about concerns regarding its loss. He also suggested that foreign students are being monitored closely in universities, and noted that students from several specific Middle Eastern countries are being prohibited from taking certain chemistry and biology courses in Canadian universities - an activity I found quite chilling in its implications.

However, Noble took it a bit too far in my opinion when he insisted that the Internet and online teaching were being used as a tool of 3rd party observation to 'invade privacy, inhibit speech and appropriate intellectual property'. While it cannot be denied that such spying occurs, online education is not responsible. University monitoring of student activities occurs continually and takes many forms, email being only one of them.

One thing I found quite disconcerting was the attitude of the Canadian Federation of Students. They gave the impression that they were speaking for all Canadian students, and proceeded to slam distance and online education as being harmful and less valid. Michael Conlon cynically used the disparaging term "single mother from Canora" to illustrate a stereotype who was being catered to by universities eager to provide an easy, quick, online education. In contrast to the impression people have of young people being eager to embrace technology, the CFS appeared to advocate the Luddite position, and I took real issue with them presenting themselves as the voice of students everywhere. In fact, this was one glaring exception to the whole conference - the lack of a student voice representing those who are utilizing online technology to successfully achieve their education.

Conlon did make one interesting point that made us all stop and think. In 1972 76% of University Presidents were from the humanities/science departments. Now 61% are from commerce/business backgrounds. Add to that the consumerist mentality we are increasingly being bombarded with, and it is really no surprise that education is being seen as a commodity. Acadia University provided everyone with a good example of how to take commercialism and corporate sponsorship to an extreme. For those who are unaware, Acadia is the university who went "laptop" under IBM's corporate support several years ago, and James Sacouman detailed the distress caused to the academic staff by this initiative, admitting that they jumped into it unprepared.

There was validity to many of the arguments. There are many private agencies delivering online education without proper quality controls in place, Phoenix University was most often cited as an example. Many university administrations have taken the position that online teaching is a cost-saving measure that will allow them to hire part-time faculty and dispense with senior tenured staff, yet in reality course development costs are significantly higher for online and distance delivery. It certainly cannot be denied that corporate interests are making inroads into the educational process. Overall, however, the atmosphere was one of fear of change, insistence that the traditional way of learning was the only valid one. Faculty control of content and curriculum was seen as superior to student-centred learning that occurs through online and distance education. Teachers were afraid that their intellectual property was being stolen and given away online, making them unnecessary participants in the process of education.

Voices of reason pointed out that when professors started to write books the complaint was "don't write it down, or no one will need you any more". Online learning is being viewed the same way, yet the fears are groundless. As MIT representative Steven Lerman explained, the MIT Open Courseware decision made a "strong statement on the importance of teaching rather than the materials used." Our workshop participants reinforced this concept, reaching the conclusion that the conference had ignored the core issue of maintaining the quality of the art of teaching itself, and the need for modifications to pedagogy. Meg Benke of SUNY put it nicely, stating, "Online teaching is a learning process"

Heather Menzies of Carleton University identified one of the key problems with the transition and implementation of new technology into the educational systems - the struggle for time and the loss of interpersonal connection. While acknowledging that there is a place for online education, the face-to-face interaction should not be lost. She reminded everyone of the importance of maintaining a sense of community and the "need to refuse to have our time occupied against our will, to our personal detriment."

By conference end, a general consensus had been achieved on several key points:

Online education is here to stay, we must find ways to use the technology to maximum advantage rather than fearing change

Quality of teaching and pedagogical methods should be of paramount concern regardless of the delivery format

We need to work together to ensure that this new technology is utilized properly, with appropriate quality control mechanisms and with continual focus on the needs of the learner. Such unity requires the involvement of university administration, academic/teaching staff, support staff, librarians, and most importantly - unions, both teacher and student.

There was much more: although initially biased, it was a conference full of debate that left you energized and excited at days' end. Although I did not agree with many perspectives, I was able to gain some insight into how and why teachers feel threatened by new technologies that seem designed to reduce the validity of their profession. We met many interesting people and gained some excellent perspectives and ideas that we hope to translate into our own student council activities. I left the conference with a renewed sense of commitment to distance and online education and to finding ways to promote and improve the experience for students, to work for a greater development of a sense of community among distance education participants, and to fight for acceptance of the validity of our degree. Michael Gismondi's words provide an excellent concluding perspective, "distance education penetrates walls - from solitary to open learning."



AIDS and Statistics **By Orville Lloyd Douglas**

Ten years ago when the Toronto police force wanted to compile statistics based on race in relation to crime, there was a public outcry, and many people were outraged –specifically by wanting to know how, and by what methods these statistics would be utilized. Now, the discussion of compiling statistics based on race has surfaced

again: in relation to the on going Aids crisis. It has been 20 years since the AIDS crises began, and with no cure in sight, new debates have emerged. The facts are that more men are becoming infected- but the question is: who are these men? What is their race and background? After speaking to various community groups in the Toronto area there is still no firm definite answer.

In the year 2001, one group that has been ignored in relation to the Aids crisis is men of colour that have sex with other men. Hose Franco, the Life Enhancement Coordinator and Counsellor for the Alliance of South Asian Aids Prevention, states that the cultural reality of South Asian men that have sex with other men should be considered. According to Mr. Franco “since the terrorist attacks on America, two HIV positive Muslim men have faced racism when attempting to access assistance in hospitals.” Mr. Franco continues, “ A south Asian that is HIV positive cannot tell his family. The culture would turn their back on him. The South Asian culture is a collective culture the family is very important.”

Part of the dilemma before even considering collecting statistics based on race is how will this assist men of colour who have sex with other men? According to Mr. Franco, "Different cultures view things differently. ACT is a mainstream organization that already services targeting white gay men. The literature at ACT is not culturally sensitive. For example, the safer sex ads of ACT uses swear words and direct language. Men of colour won't relate to that."

One of the problems in the Aids crisis is the stereotypes that are associated with African and black people. According to Darnace Torou the Outreach Coordinator for the Organization Africans in Partnership Against Aids, "there is already a stigma against black people. The question is how will the statistics be used?" Mr. Torou blames the mainstream media for perpetuating racist stereotypes about black people in relation to the Aids crisis. Mr. Torou states "The Toronto media points the finger at Africans. We are stereotyped as ignorant about Aids. Most of the time, the mainstream media states that Africans deny that Aids exists, and that is false. Just last year, in early Dec. 1 to 7th 2001 there was a conference on Aids in Africa." Mr. Torou elaborates: " Even if statistics are collected there needs to be a method to reach the African people in terms of outreach."

One method or one way doesn't work for everyone. African culture has a different attitude towards sex. It is viewed as a person's private business. Aids education in the year 2001 needs to speak to African people in their own language."

Keith Wong, the executive director of Asian community Aids services believes statistics should be collected on race, but he views the circumstances differently. For his organization, ACAS, he believes there needs to be a change in the way Aids is viewed in Toronto as just the white man's burden. For instance, earlier this year there was an uproar about ACT's condom country campaign not being culturally sensitive. Now, according to Mr. Wong, "ACAS has decided to pull out of the television ad, and print media ads for all of the Chinese, Vietnamese, and Filipino newspapers for the condom country campaign. However, ACAS is still involved in the target outreach to the bathhouses." When asked to elaborate Mr. Wong states "At ACAS we feel that the television ads still reinforces that Aids is still a white man's disease. The ads are mass media for the general community. The media ads by ACT are counterproductive and the incorrect stereotype continues."

Mr. Wong believes that statistics could provide a clearer picture into rectifying the stereotype that Aids is just a white man's disease. Mr. Wong says, "Statistics based on race can be useful. It is important that resources be devoted to provide support. It can help us understand the overall population and identify who needs help."

One of the problems in the AIDS crisis is the miscommunication of information. This needs to be improved to assist men of colour that speak different languages. According to Mr. Wong, "There is an imbalance of information for people that are not fluent in English. There is an inequity."

Mr. Wong's viewpoint is that statistics could assist ACAS in gaining access to more resources to assist Asian people. Mr. Wong's states "ACAS needs more funding. Most of our money is spent on resources for our programs. In the next two or three years we would need an additional \$100,000 to \$150,000 in funding to provide assistance for more people."

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).

Campaign Platform for JASON MORRIS

My name is Jason Morris. I am running for Council in the upcoming 2002 AUSU elections. I'd like to start by thanking the editor of the Voice for giving candidates in the upcoming election this important opportunity to talk to AUSU's members directly. I know that all of you need and want to make informed decisions, so I've taken some time to prepare this document. It gives

some background information on me, and outlines the specific things that I will endeavour to do as an elected councillor.

Who Am I?

I started my BSc Computing and Information Services degree program in January of 2001. My beautiful wife Maja is a BSc Nursing student at the University of Alberta in her final year. I have lived in and around Edmonton since birth. I was a BSc Engineering student at the University of Alberta for a short while in 1995. My previous experience with “bricks-and-mortar” post-secondary institutions has reinforced my belief in the quality of the service that Athabasca University and institutions like it provide.

I was a students’ union council member for all three years of high school. In the first year I was a delegate to the Alberta Student Leadership Conference, in the second an organizing committee member and master of ceremonies for that same conference, and in the third year a delegate to the National Student Leadership Conference. I also redrafted the constitution of that union. At the University of Alberta, I was an active member of the first-year engineering students’ association.

After leaving the University of Alberta, I was trained as a network administrator, and worked for a number of Edmonton computing firms before accepting a job as Informatics Technician with the Government of Canada, working in a minimum-security jail in Hobbema, Alberta. A year later I took a job working at the Cross Cancer Institute as a Support Analyst, and later accepted a different job in the Alberta Cancer Board as Systems Analyst.

Immediately after starting my first course at AU in January of 2001, I decided to continue my involvement with student organizations. In March of 2001, shortly after volunteering with AUSU, I was appointed to Students’ Council. I have chaired committees of the Council ever since.

What will I do?

I have four major goals for my two-year term in Council. First, I will drastically improve www.ausu.org, turning our web site in the international standard for distance education students’ unions. Second, I will save you money by eliminating the waste from the handbook/planner. Thirdly, I will get AU and distance education students on the political radar in this province, in the country, and in the world. Lastly, I will get the AUSU administration on its feet, and ensure that you can see what we’re doing, and tell us when we’re not meeting your expectations.

Improve AUSU.ORG

I was instrumental in the improvements to www.ausu.org in the last year. As councillor, I will continue to improve our website, providing advanced services in collaboration with Athabasca University CIS, including making ours the first totally interactive online student union newspaper.

Collaborating with AU’s CIS department, I will work to implement seamless services that connect you to students with similar interests, enable you to keep track of your classes, your

marks, and your friends through the web, and keep you up to date on the services that AU and AUSU provide.

I will also work toward reducing the duplication of web design and hosting services by moving the Voice, our student newspaper, to the front page of www.ausu.org, allowing you to interactively write new articles for the paper, and comment on the articles that your fellow students write.

Eliminate Handbook/Planner Waste

Vice President of Student Services Norm Greenfield wasted over \$30,000 of your student fees this past term in the printing of the Student Handbook/Planner. As councillor, I will see to it that these books will be printed in a way that does not cost our members money, or not print them at all.

Due to a single complaint from a single student about a single quotation in the original printing, all of the quotations were removed in the reprinted version except for one on the very last page, which read, "The important thing is not to stop questioning. – Albert Einstein." Well, I'm questioning whether or not this book should even exist.

Even if mistakes hadn't been made, Council fully expected the printing of the book to lose money. Their efforts to recover some of the costs through advertising were ill founded, and poorly executed. Among the incredibly few that were printed were advertisements for industrial trucking services, and a company that sells transistors.

The Council should have known that these books would not be used. AU students don't have the sorts of strict schedules that other university students have. In addition, many of us are students at other universities that already provide these books. We are now hard pressed to find a place to store these books that by the end of 2002 will be useless for anything but kindling.

I support providing online scheduling services over the www.ausu.org website. However, as not all of our members have constant Internet access, I can see how this handbook fills a need. Therefore, as councillor, I will see to it that if these books are printed, it will be in a way that does not penalize members that don't benefit from them.

Get AU onto Government Radar

It is rumoured that at a meeting with the Alberta Learning Minister he was heard to utter, "...our three universities." I don't want to know which of the four Alberta universities (Alberta, Calgary, Athabasca, and Lethbridge) the Minister had forgotten. As councillor, I will ensure that the desires of Athabasca University students are on the political radar of all levels of government.

AUSU is anticipated to become, within the next few years, the largest students' body in Alberta. Nevertheless, the increase in distance education students has made little if any perceptible impact on learning policy in this province.

As councillor, I will ensure that AUSU plays the role it deserves in promoting the unique concerns of distance education institutions to all levels of government. I will also ensure that

AUSU works with the Council of Alberta University Students to persuade the Government of Alberta to amend the Universities Act and the Athabasca University Regulation to ensure that all students' unions in Alberta receive equal, fair, and guaranteed representation in their respective universities.

Make AUSU Government Transparent/Consistent

AUSU's bylaws were written nine years ago and, despite numerous efforts, have not been revised since 1996. Even the bylaws we do have are not being followed. As councillor, I will ensure that the operations of AUSU are open, transparent, and in accordance with our bylaws. Our bylaws require that the Vice-President undertake a review of the bylaws annually. For five years now, this review has failed to result in any changes. The bylaws need to be rewritten from scratch, and as councillor, I will make sure that it happens, and that it happens in such a way as to ensure they will be effective for a very long time.

I will also ensure that the current bylaws, policies, and proceedings of AUSU will be documented and maintained on www.ausu.org, and made easily available to all students. It is your right to know what your representatives are doing, and the rules under which they operate. AUSU Members have been kept in the dark for far too long.

Summing Up

I take a great deal of pride in the opportunity to be so deeply involved with AUSU. I think it has the opportunity to provide valuable services to the students of AU, and to really enhance the learning experience. I also think that we, as a university, are on the forefront of what life-long learning will mean to our children and to our grandchildren, and that as such, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to make sure that we get it right. I say let's improve AUSU today, and improve education forever.

Election Platform for Sandra Moore Accessible & Accountable to You!

My name is Sandra Moore and I am running for a position in the upcoming Student Council Elections. I am a happily married mother of two, and I have sat on various school councils and committees as well as non-profit organization committees. I started at Athabasca University in June of this year working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Humanities. I will not rattle off a list of false promises to entice you to vote for me, the only promise I will make is to act on your behalf and be easily accessible and accountable to you if elected. An elected member should be easily approachable without making you feel intimidated or nervous; as well they should also be assertive enough to stand up for your rights and beliefs.

I feel the students of Athabasca University should demand more of an involvement in the running of Student Council. Plebiscite votes on major issues should be a consideration of Council instead of causing mass internal conflict among themselves. I also firmly believe the minutes from the Student Council Meetings should be published in the Voice- or even better, e-mailed to every student. We elect the Student Council to act on our behalf, keeping our ideals,

beliefs and attitudes in mind, yet a vast majority of Athabasca students have no idea what they do or even where they meet. Possibly some student may not care, but I believe if the Student Council minutes were distributed to the students either through the Voice or through mass e-mail or snail mail, more students would be actively involved in speaking up because the information is more easily accessible. As an elected member of Student Council, you are an advocate for all the students of Athabasca University, and if elected that is exactly what I intend to be for you.

Election Platform of Darren L. Kereluk

Introduction

Before I go into what I propose to do if I was elected to Council, I want to offer you a bit of a warning. If you are seeking somebody that is pleasant, knowledgeable, levelheaded and likely to tell you everything that you want to hear 100% of the time, then I am most certainly not your type of candidate. I would respectfully encourage you to move on and consider one of the other fine candidates running in this election. I am not a professional politician, nor am I much of a “people person”. I make mistakes—plenty of them, as I am sure that one of my detractors will surely point out to you. One of the things that I can say that I am proud of is my almost compulsive need to work for both ideas and people that I believe in, such as distance education and my fellow students at AU. **DON'T GET ME WRONG**, I am far from being perfect or successful at this, much like my ACCT 253 final, my “average” in this is roughly 43%, but my heart, such as it is, is in the right place. If you've read this far, I would like to thank you and encourage you to keep on reading. If what I have written bores you, or makes you so frustrated that you can't read any more of it, I'd like to apologize for taking up your time. Frankly, I don't like to listen to politicians, amateur (like me) or otherwise, so I wouldn't blame you if you ran away screaming!

Core Concept

“Let he who is without sin throw the first stone” goes a phrase in the Bible. I must admit that I've thrown quite a number of stones in the past, a couple of which should have been thrown, but many of which should not have even been taken off of the ground. I've learned that being in this perpetual state of attack is not only unhealthy for me, but also for those with whom I have to work with, and for those who I am trying to help. Nothing is ever accomplished by being in a permanent state of war, nor by being incessantly insulting to people. My “core concept” for operating my campaign for election is that I will not engage in mudslinging of any kind no matter how many times I am accused of having pulled a “hissy fit”, as one former colleague used to term it, called inept, bumbling, or even some names that I cannot write down here (use your imagination and pick one!) because of the wholesome family nature of The Voice.

Me, and Why I am Running

My name is Darren Kereluk. I live in Kamsack, Saskatchewan, a community of some 2100 souls that is located approximately 300 kilometres north east of Regina, or 440 kilometres north west of Winnipeg. I've been an AU student since September 1998 taking a Bachelor of Administration in Health Administration. In terms of my experience in student government, I was on AUSU Council and Executive from March 2000-March 2001 as Vice President-Student

Academics and Services. While I am happy with having raised the profile of the Students' Union within AU Central, I am going to be brutally honest by saying that I was totally clueless about political intrigue and people skills, both of which had an adverse affect on the performance of my duties at the time. I have been on the Student Academic Appeals Committee since January 2000. I enjoy this work quite a lot because I get to have a direct and positive effect on people's academic careers.

Why am I running? I'd be lying to you if I said that power and honoraria hadn't crossed my mind. Well, they have, but I am not so delusional or corrupt as to view your Union dues as my own personal bank account. After all, it is the Athabasca University Students' Union, not the Darren Kereluk Students' Union. My duty, if elected, would be to see that YOUR interests are represented before the powers that be, not the other way around. I mean, if the Administration at AU wants to raise your tuition to the maximum allowable by law, I think that it is my responsibility, as well as that of my potential future colleagues, to try and see why such a measure is being considered, with a few to mitigating any ill effects of such an action. If doing such a thing means voting against a pet project of AU administration, or voting against a "proposed" budget, then so be it. My *raison d'être* in mentioning all of this is that my reason for running far exceeds any consideration of money and power.

Promises, Promises and More Promises

One of the things that I've noticed about politicians in general is the fact that so very few of them operate with any great degree of consistency. People that are served by elected bodies need to know that if they are made certain promises by their representatives that these promises will be carried out in a manner that is consistent as possible. If there is some reason why a promised undertaking cannot be made, then the public (in AUSU's case, the student membership) should be informed forthwith. My particular promise for this situation is to ensure that my fellow colleagues and I, as well as any other parties involved in a particular transaction, are all fully aware of the full legal, financial and moral implications of a promise before it is made at all. In other words, everybody has to be operating from the same playbook, with the understanding that if changes are to be made, that the people directly involved know what form a resolution of the problem will take. Additionally, the members of AUSU must be notified of major changes that are likely to affect them—after all, as AUSU students, we all have a right to know. If elected, I want this concept of contingent consistency to be codified in a Policy, so that everybody involved knows what his or her rights are, and so that AUSU members can be kept fully informed of these changes as they happen.

There are some ongoing problems with the Bylaws of the AUSU. While some interesting and constructive changes have been to the version that is currently floating about, no mention has been made about direct election of the Executive, nor why there needs to be three Vice Presidents. Executive members in the current Council, with the exception of the President are "Acting" positions created by Council versus being legislatively sanctioned ones according to the Bylaws of 1996. If the 1996 ones that are to be followed, both for current operations and the 2002 elections, then the only people who legitimately could claim to have any legitimate claim to their positions as Executives are the President, Vice President (currently Vice President Academic) and the Secretary-Treasurer (currently operating as the Vice President of Finance and Administration). I have not come across anybody else that is on the Executive is there under the authority of any of the Bylaws of 1996. Such people are entitled, though, to any honoraria for extra duties that are authorized by a resolution of Council. These good people are not to blame

for these problems, because the Bylaws which they (and earlier, I) were left with were a disaster. Bylaw revisions are very hard to do owing to the complexity of issues and number of people that are affected. Because of the rather dispersed nature of AUSU's membership, more people need to get involved in order to bring about a proper semblance of legality and clarity to the Bylaws. I propose the establishment of a special Bylaw Committee of AUSU whose mandate shall be to solicit public input into Bylaw revisions, and then report to Council with their recommendations. Ideally, Council will have approved the revisions and any modifications to them by the beginning of June, with an Annual General Meeting of the membership to be held in mid July.

The AUSU's legal counsel would then do a final review of the draft 2002 Bylaws and forward them to Alberta Registries for approval before the end of summer. The problem is that the longer AUSU, Council and Executive gets bogged down in procedures, definitions and clarifications, the less time that they all have to get out and meet with as many of you as possible to find out what your concerns are. It's very well and good to rely on the Voice and the AUSU website to provide day-to-day information and elicit your comments on it, but students occasionally need to see their representatives out amongst them in order to feel the pulse of student thoughts.

With regard to putting AU and AUSU in the hearts and mind of people within Premier Klein's cabinet, this is something that has to be undertaken with the greatest dispatch, keeping in mind that this is not the sum total of the equation. The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) is a nice touch in terms of basic representation of AU students to Alberta Learning, but should your funds be used to equally fund projects for which you do not receive equal benefit? This is something that I want the next Council to consider. Based on recent figures, less than half (47%) of AU's undergraduate students currently live in Alberta, so the focus of the new AUSU Council needs to be increasing pressure on the governments in which the other 53% of the student population lives in order to ensure that AU's funding base is much more broader than the Government of Alberta and student fees. The pressure is on student fees right now, as I am sure that you all will agree. If elected, I would like to see an external affairs committee established with representatives of the student body selected to lobby their governments on a day-to-day basis to help fund "their" students at AU. My "selling point" for AU would be is that it is much more cost efficient to "buy" the AU model than to build additional facilities and pay the associated overhead costs for them. If other provinces begin to fund their students in a more direct manner, this would free some of the pressure on the already strained budgets of AU students. I would also like to see that all governments, including the one in Ottawa, modify their student aid programmes to reflect the 6-month contracts that are in place at AU in order to give our students a better chance to finish their coursework properly, without worrying about meeting a 4-month deadline. Keep in mind that AU students are rather unique in that they are often juggling careers, families and school responsibilities at the same time. When I explain the idea of computer multitasking to people, I always point to the average AU student as a "real life" example of this concept. This is a topic that I approached the University on in the past, and it is something that I would want to do the same in the future if I was elected.

The last plank of my "basic election platform" is for AUSU to reach beyond Alberta's borders to the rest of Canada to show our fellow students that their students' union cares about them and wants to hear what they have to say. It is only logical to make some attempt at reaching out to out of province students, since they compose more than half of the student body. While I am not suggesting in the least that AUSU cease sponsoring social events in Edmonton and Calgary, it must begin to hold these types of events in places where there is a sizable AU student population. This does not mean, of course, that I am suggesting that Council hop on the plane and visit every last community in Canada. It does mean that when Council is holding a retreat, it should consider planning it for a place where there is a significant number of AU students, such as in Vancouver

or Toronto. For example, it means that if I was elected, that I would need to get more involved in promoting AUSU within Saskatchewan. I travel a lot through the province as it is, so making time to meet with my fellow Saskatchewan AU students to discuss their University experience and their students' union at no cost to the AUSU treasury for travelling, since I would have been making the trip regardless.

Conclusion

My dear friends (now I am really starting to sound like a politician!), I've done like many other politicians that have come before me, and probably after me, and wrote a lot but told you nothing. I am very imperfect. Like other politicians, I have glossed over most of the major issues that need to be discussed in the name of brevity. I am very imperfect. I will have my full platform available to discuss with you by the time that this article is published. If you have any questions for me, or wish to find out more what I am about, I welcome your emails at dlk_2002_ausu@yahoo.ca I am very imperfect. If you aren't too wild for me as one of your representatives on AUSU Council, but would like to talk with me about my close personal friends Bipolar Disorder II (ultradian rapid cycling type) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (primarily inattentive type) please feel free to drop me a line about these subjects as well. By the way, keep in mind that I am very imperfect.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AU: Nominations for Honorary Degrees

Athabasca University Governing Council invites nominations for the following Honorary Degrees:

Honorary Doctor of Athabasca University
Honorary Doctor of Science
Honorary Doctor of Letters
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Candidates should be persons who have distinguished themselves in education, science, the arts, public service, or other areas, and who have contributed significantly to endeavours consistent with the mandate and purpose of Athabasca University.

Nomination letters, which include the rationale for the nomination, a résumé of the nominee, and any supporting documents, must be received by Monday, December 3, 2001. The nominator must include their address and signature. All nominations should be marked "Personal and Confidential" and should be addressed to:

Carol Lund
Office of the Governing Council
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A3

For additional information, contact Ms. Lund at the above address or by phone, (780) 675-6271, by fax, (780) 675-6450, or by email, caroll@athabascau.ca

Honorary degrees will be presented at Athabasca University's 25th Convocation Ceremonies to be held in Athabasca on Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, 2002.

Athabasca University is a leading open university specializing in individualized distance education. We offer complete graduate and undergraduate degree programs, and university certificate programs to more than 26,000 students annually.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AUSU:

AUSU Job Posting Chief Returning Officer

The Athabasca University Students' Union represents AU students and their interests. The Union strives for a fair and accessible election process for members to the Students' Council. To this end, AUSU is seeking a student to fulfil the role of Chief Returning Officer for the year 2002 AUSU General Election.

Position Duties and Responsibilities

The CRO's responsibilities, as outlined in AUSU policy, include arranging for a secure post office box, receiving, collecting and maintaining ballots in a secure location, overseeing counting of ballots with two (2) Scrutineers March 16, 2002, notifying candidates of results and conducting the appeal process as required.

The CRO reports to the General Manager of AUSU and AUSU Students' Council.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must be currently registered as an AU student.

Applicants must be bondable.

Applicants must have strong organizational and logistical abilities.

Applicants must be able to analyze and apply policy to ensure a fair election process.

Candidates in the 2002 AUSU General Election are ineligible for this competition.

Candidates must be able to operate out of the AUSU head office, located in Edmonton, AB.

Remuneration \$500 stipend

Application Deadline Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2002

Apply to the AUSU office at #306 North Tower, Seventh St. Plaza, 10030-107 St., Edmonton, AB T5J-3E4 ph. (780) 497-3413 or toll free (800) 788-9041 ext. 3413 or e-mail clynch@ausu.org

For an application form or more information, please contact the Edmonton office of AUSU at (800) 788-9041.



UNTITLED ART SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENT

Up coming shows in the Main Gallery

IN THE BACK OF THE FRONT OF MY MIND:

Tim Rechner

December 6 to December 21. Opening December 6, 8pm

BIG ALBERTA SKY Pictures of Home: An Exhibition of
Photography by Todd Korol, Bradford Uphill and Mike Drew.

Curated by Wendi Jenkins.

January 6 to 26, 2002. Opening: January 10, 2002, 8pm.

Untitled Art Society +15 Window Space in the Performing Arts Centre

PIECES OF A PICTURE: Ryan Hamilton and Tanya Mastrobuono

December 1 to January 26. Opening December 13.

PLEASE NOTE: Untitled Art Society's Gallery will be open on Fridays from 1pm to 4pm and on Saturdays from 12 noon to 5pm. 4th floor (Box 16), 319 10 Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta, Canada

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.

WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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