

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

December 22, 2004  
Volume 12 Issue 49



## ***Balancing school and family***

*A challenge for AU students*

## ***The joy of hypocrisy***

*It's all about the journey*

## ***RESPs, not just for kids***

*Take advantage of tax breaks for your own education*

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*and much more...*

# THE VOICE

Dec 22, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 49

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We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org), and please indicate if we may publish your letter.

**Response to Editorial, December 15, 2004 (v12 | 48)**  
<http://www.ausu.org/voice/articles/featuredisplay.php?ART=3413>

Dear Ms Editor,

Although I don't hold the same level of animosity for gay marriage as I would say Stephen Harper and his crew do. I have to admit that in a referendum I would vote against gay marriage if the word "marriage" was used to define it. "Oh my God you're Homophobic!" The constant rebuttal of any gay activist or supporter which in turn is really due to their inability to form any meaningful argument on the subject. My response is simple: my wife and I have been married for 5 years and we have one daughter (3 years old) and one on the way (due in Apr.) As far as I am concerned and last time I checked two men or two women cannot produce the same type of relationship as my wife and I can. Our marriage is unique and our children are a creation of the two of us.

That being said, I don't feel threatened by gay marriage enough to tell my MP not to vote in support of it in the House of Commons. Like the Editor I believe there are many more important things we could be talking about. As the Editor states in her letter to Alberta MP Mr. Obhrai: *"With all of the other very important concerns affecting Canadians today (prohibitively high post-secondary tuition; rampant poverty and homelessness; the frequency of child and animal abuse; high taxes [Note: Taxes are not too high in my opinion for some they're not high enough!]; environmental concerns; air quality and food quality concerns... the list goes on), you chose to focus instead on this one moral issue, and make it the forefront of your campaign?"*

Homosexuality has been around long before I came onto this planet and in the brief estimated 80 years that I will be on it I highly doubt that it will stop before I exit. So within my own walls if two men were to say they were married I would simply respond, "Thats nice..." Marriage isn't something between you and the government it's between you and your wife and your children. Government appointed marriage really means nothing to me. To get up in front of some guy I don't know and ask if he will marry me and if he will okay it is pointless part of the ceremony. I was already married in my mind and "the type" of wedding I had solidified this!

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## THE VOICE

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frequent contributions

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I don't feel threatened by gay marriage because I know they cannot have what my wife and I have. I believe in "civil unions" and I believe they should receive spousal benefits. But, I don't believe they can have what my wife and I have. So, it cannot be marriage. That's why I would vote against it. Their right to marry in my opinion is not a Human Rights issue. The inability to be recognized as a couple and receive spousal benefits is a Human Rights issue. However like the Editor, I'm more interested in asking my local MP why after being our Liberal MP for some 12 years our local Health Unit says that 1 in 5 children live below the poverty line in Peterborough.

**Arthur Setka**  
**Peterborough, ON**

*Thanks for the very detailed response, Arthur. It's interesting that by your definition I may not be married because my husband and I have chosen to not create children. The assertion that marriage is between "you and your wife and your children" leaves a large percentage of heterosexual married couples out. Is your definition one of marriage, or of family? After all, your children would continue to be your children if the marriage dissolved and children are often born outside of marriage. Also, this begs the question: what about couples who are infertile or who adopt children? What about step-parents, who are raising children that were not "created" with their spouse? And what about gay couples who adopt, or who are raising the genetic offspring of one of the partners? If children are a factor in the definition of marriage, then perhaps only couples with children -- gay or straight -- should be permitted to marry, while those without children should be relegated to civil unions.*

*I absolutely agree, though, that legal marriage probably has little meaning for any couple. I disagree with Ralph Kleins' recent statement that because legal marriage is no longer a necessity, there is no need to open it up to gays. My objection is based on simple logic: if legal marriage is no longer a necessity, then it should be a discontinued service for all people. His argument simply does not support retaining the man/woman definition of marriage, and it betrays his bias (and lack of thought).*

*Regarding the 1 in 5 children who live in poverty in your local area (I suspect the numbers are similar across Canada) - I'd love to hear the government answer that question as well, and explain why our country is more interested in the starving children in third world countries than the ones in our own back yard.!*

**Response to Editorial, December 15, 2004 (v12 I 48)**  
<http://www.ausu.org/voice/articles/featuredisplay.php?ART=3413>

Your editorial on the issue of same-sex marriage was very well timed, given Ralph Klein's entry into the debate. Apparently, Stephen Harper does not welcome the public statements made by his fellow red-neck!

In the article you covered many things that needed to be expressed, not the least of which is the issue of individuals who preach tolerance and yet are homophobic. The Conservatives talk about civil liberties, but only appear to be interested in human rights when it fits their own (narrow) agenda.

I also appreciate your concerns about imposing one's own religious values on other members of society. Although I am a member of a church, and enjoy freedom of religion, I believe that people also have the right to be protected from religion.

**John Buhler**

*One can always count on Ralph Klein to liven up a debate! Thanks for the reply, John.*

# EDITORIAL PAGES

## AU STUDENTS STRUGGLE TO BALANCE SCHOOL AND FAMILY

A recent poll on the AUSU front page presented some intriguing results about the pressures faced by AU students. The question was simple: What is the single greatest barrier to getting a university degree?

One could easily anticipate the replies would mostly centre on the cost of education, difficulties with the student loans system, or other financial concerns. As expected, 42% did cite high tuition as the number one factor preventing students from obtaining a degree, but what was surprising was the number who said their greatest barrier is prioritizing education against family needs (15.6%).

Maybe this should not have been unexpected. After all, AU has a larger percentage of women than most universities, and a much larger percentage of "adult" students with family responsibilities. As the expected caretakers of children, women often find it difficult to prioritize their own development and well being, often opting to instead put off personal interests until their children are older. While the survey did not ask for the gender of the respondent, I suspect that those who selected the family priorities response were primarily female or single parents. While men are often comfortable retreating to a home office for the evening with an admonition that they are working and mustn't be disturbed, women often say that they feel guilty about closing the door to their children for a while. One woman told me that she felt bad if her husband came home and dinner was not ready, because he had been working all day and she had been at home. This woman was taking a full five course load at AU, but did not consider her school work to be a valid excuse for being busy all day. It's unlikely this would be the case had she been studying on a university campus. Therefore, it's possible that one disadvantage of AU is that people find it harder to justify their time spent studying.

Also of interest was the response that received the second highest number of votes: procrastination, which was cited as the greatest barrier to a university degree by just under 22%. Again, this problem seems endemic to AU and the distance education study format. The results beg the question of whether AU should be putting more resources in to researching ways to keep in touch with students, to keep them on track and reminded of their course responsibilities. Many complain that they never hear a peep from AU or their tutors if they do not initiate the contact.

Clearly AU students are motivated individuals who place a priority on improving their lives. They have proven this by enrolling in university studies. It is just as clear that AU students take their studies very seriously -- no one shells out upwards of \$550 per course (over \$20,000 for a four year degree for tuition alone) on a whim and without the intention of completing the work. Nevertheless, an alarming number of AU students are allowing courses to expire unfinished, or purchasing the maximum number of extensions to allow for enough time to complete the course (which, invariably, is completed in a mad dash over the last two to four weeks).

The message for those who are struggling to balance home and school responsibilities, or who find themselves constantly putting off their course work, is that you are not alone. The cure is to remember that your studies are work--important, life-changing work--and a massive expenditure that promises significant benefits if you complete your studies. If you are looking for a New Year's resolution, here it is: Prioritize yourself! Your family will reap the benefits of the new, improved, higher-earning you. Happy holidays everyone.

Tamra



I find making New Year's resolutions an enjoyable experience. Some of my favourite traditional resolutions are to quit smoking, reduce my cholesterol intake and stick to a proper fitness program. Another good one is not to throw up on my neighbour Cecil Idris Idris Jones's shoes at the summer block party this year. I always get a good chuckle out of that one.

More and more, I hear people saying, though, that they are not making any resolutions for the coming year. I find this a depressingly defeatist attitude. I think perhaps it's part and parcel of getting older. *Let's face it*, the reasoning goes, *making New Year's resolutions just doesn't work--nobody ever changes their life that way*. Well, true enough, I'll grant you that. But does that mean that we should not actually make those resolutions?

I, for one, have absolutely no intention of contributing to society, taking tango lessons, or resisting the temptation to shamelessly flirt with complete strangers in the vain hope of attaining cheap sexual gratification. Nor do I have the slightest interest in following through on any of the other things that I proudly proclaim I will be or won't be doing in the year to come. I would maybe consider them, except for the fact that I just don't want to. That doesn't mean, however, that I won't be shooting my mouth off to everyone who'll listen about what a great transformation is about to take place in my life. You see, as the Buddhists well know, it's the journey that counts, not the destination.

Oh, I hear you say, in that clever pants way that you have (which, by the way, is not unattractive, you sexy devil you), that there is a name for that sort of person. That sort of person is what we call a *hypocrite*.

Well, you say that as if it's a *bad* thing. Surely anybody with any experience of life realizes that hypocrisy is the very foundation of our civilization. Without a good dose of hypocrisy, how could we get through even one day? How could we go to church? How could we drive our SUVs with our Save the Whales bumper stickers? How could we continue to go on living our pampered, privileged lives on stolen land and the backs of third world workers, and yet read our children books filled with uplifting, socially responsible life lessons? How could we continue to believe that we're progressive, enlightened souls able to look with contempt and disdain upon those right-wing knuckleheads south of the border? Gimme an "H", Gimme a "Y"...

Aaaaah, hypocrisy. It makes the world go round. After all, if those ads at the back of the magazines I subscribe to can claim to help me master Spanish and enlarge the size of my penis by listening to a thirty minute audio tape, then surely I can pretend that I'll quit smoking the next day. I mean, fair is fair.



*Happy Holidays*

*Best Wishes for the Coming  
Year from your AUSU  
Representatives and Staff*

*Clynn*

*Cindy  
Stobbe*

*Mac Michals*

*Happy Holidays  
Shannon Maguire*

*Thad*

*Terese Neuman*

*Scott*

*Joyce*

*Janice*

*Timothy*

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## CANADIAN FED WATCH!

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NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Christmas message.

### What's in a Name?

Currently in the United States there's a bit of a controversy about whether to call this time of year "Christmas" or the "Holiday Season." I could make various suppositions about why the American media is more concerned with that than it is about Diebold, the maker of their election counting machines, paying the state of California a settlement of 2.6 million over an alleged fraud case, but perhaps that is an issue for another column.

In this column I just wanted to celebrate that here in Canada, we don't seem to be so terribly caught up in the entire name game. Take New Brunswick as an example. Their Premier recently released his Christmas message, and called it that. It's not a "Holiday Message" or a "Message of the Season," it's a

Some people have difficulty with the amount of attention and the number of religious messages going about this time of year, but if we're all very honest with ourselves, we will recognize that this holiday is really a religious one--even for those of us who aren't Christians. Canadians generally seem to realize that calling it Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Festivus, Yule, the Winter Solstice, or whatever doesn't change the essential fact. It's a time for celebration and for thinking about those close to you. Now if only Alberta would clue in.

You see, here in Alberta, we have the Adult Interdependent Relationships Act (AIRA) which basically gives gay and lesbians couples equivalent rights to married couples. Except for one thing. The name. They still cannot be legally married. They cannot acquire a marriage license, Supreme Court of Canada ruling notwithstanding. So, what's in a name?

The essential fact about this season is that it's a time for celebration no matter what you call it.

### A Christmas Teaser

Premier Klein may finally start living up to his promises for post-secondary education that he made in 1988. The Edmonton sun has a quote that a tuition freeze "or something of that nature" may be in the works for Alberta's post-secondary institutions.

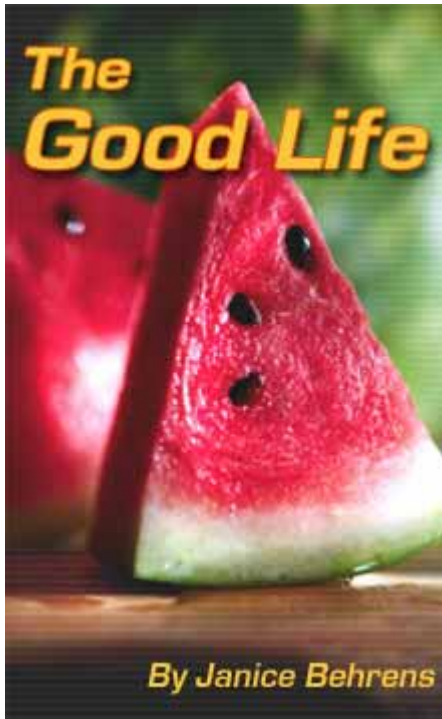
Not a lot of information is currently available as the plans are just being formulated. Still, the recognition that post-secondary education needs something to ensure that it remains affordable to students is a huge change from previously, where access was stressed over affordability.

As I always have said though, building more university space is not educating people. Perhaps Advanced Education Minister David Hancock understands that concept as well.

### Happy Holidays

Finally, just a quick note to thank those who read this. Hopefully you've found something as useful in reading these columns as I have in writing them.

Happy Festivus.. or whatever your choice!



## The Smells of Home

Aaaah, now it finally feels like home. Having moved into a new house in a new neighbourhood almost a year ago to the day, I now realize that there is much more to what makes a house a home than the dwelling and even the people who live in it. One of the most important of these is the neighbourhood itself. Just as the oldtime settlers looked for homesteading spots with ample timber, favourable soil and fresh running water, there are certain things that need to be discovered in the general vicinity of your home in order to live the good life.

If you're really lucky, maybe there'll be a quirky bookstore, a consignment clothing store where you can pick up a nearly-new Holt Renfrew black dress for the office Christmas party that'll look great with fishnet stockings, and a discount movie house where you can spend \$2.50 or so and watch incongruous double bills like Kramer vs. Kramer matched up with Lawrence of Arabia (I'm not kidding - I really saw that). A good, reasonably priced bakery

within walking distance is a valuable find. A good butcher shop where they know the difference between a tournedo and filet mignon is valuable. A cheap "greasy spoon" diner where you can recuperate on Saturday mornings from the office Christmas party with a cup of thick black coffee and a spicy Spanish omelette is even better.

For me, the best way of feeling connected to the place I'm living in, though, is through my nose. As everyone knows, smells have a direct route to our synapses. To this day, the smell of baloney sandwiches reminds me of a camping trip in Waterton when I was six years old. Tarragon and rosemary growing in clay pots on the kitchen window sill. Cedar firewood stacked in a bucket beside the fireplace. Floor polish, incense, cinnamon and cloves, candle wax, garlic. There are smells that families carry around with them as surely as their boxes full of books and their music collections when they move into a new home, and it takes a few months for these scents to be established. If I were to be truly honest, I would include, along with the above mentioned, the smell of dirty laundry in the basement, rotting compost in the pantry, and the lingering odour of cat pee coming from the litter box in the bathroom. Whether good or bad, though, it is the smell of home that surrounds me now, and I'm happy to be here.

## *Voice Writing Contest Update*

**Sorry folks, due to the timing of the contest (my bad!) and the large number of entries this year, you'll have to wait until the new year for the official announcement of the contest winners. This year, we had more than twice the number of entries as last year, and the judges have been working overtime to ensure that every one of them gets the attention they deserve. Entrants will be notified as soon as the results are in and the winning entries will appear in a January edition of The Voice!**



## THIS WEEK IN GLOBAL WOMEN'S NEWS

December 17, 2004

Wanda Waterman St. Louis

### Wangari Maathai for a Greener Tomorrow

Kenyan ecologist Wangari Maathai, the first environmentalist to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, said in her 2004 acceptance speech, "There can be no peace without equitable development and there can be no development without sustainable management of the environment in a democratic and

peaceful space. This shift is an idea whose time has come. Industry and global institutions must appreciate that ensuring economic justice, equity and ecological integrity are of greater value than profits at any cost."

In October media reported that Maathai had claimed the AIDS virus was a deliberately created biological agent, but she has since denied making such a statement.

- [http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20041210/sc\\_afp/nobelpeace\\_041210183857](http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20041210/sc_afp/nobelpeace_041210183857)

### Why Some Afghan Women Prefer Death to Marriage

In the past few years, there have been an increasing number of news reports about suicides by self-immolation among Afghan women. "There is an absolute level of despair, that you will never be able to make a choice about your life and that really there is no way out, and knowing that you will have to live with a man you have not chosen, who is probably older than you are, who is not going to allow you to work, to go out of the house," explained Rachel Wareham of L'Association Médicale Mondiale, or World Medical Association, an international physicians group. Self-immolation is a horrific act that often results in a slow, torturous death in hospital burn wards even as medical officials desperately struggle to save lives.

- <http://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/story?id=310968&page=1>

### From: Women Against Fundamentalism in Iran (WFAFI)

"As the year 2004 is coming to an end, there are at least two women facing stoning in Iran and 10 teenagers facing executions by various means. Among the victims is a 19-year-old mentally disabled girl, Leyla, who was forced into prostitution by her mother. Leyla has been sentenced to be flogged and executed for 'morality-related' offences."

"There is a state-sponsored of violence against women in Iran and the world community is standing by in silence. Even those women who flee Iran have no hope. Female asylum seekers from Canada, Sweden and Australia are extradited back to Iran on daily basis because the West is not recognizing the plight of Iranian women."

"An Iranian woman deported from Vancouver was arrested within minutes of her return to Tehran, but was released after spending many hours in detention. Haleh Sahba, 30, now faces charges of leaving Iran illegally. Sahba lived in the Vancouver area for three years after fleeing her home country, where she had been jailed for defending women's rights. She told Immigration Canada that she feared for her life if she was forced to return to Iran, but was refused refugee status and deported... WFAFI calls upon the freedom loving people of the world to join our 2005 campaign and stop violence against women in Iran. Please visit our website for more information on our monthly actions alerts."

- <http://www.wfafi.org/action.html>

### Rape in the U.S. on the Increase Though Still Underreported

Even though other violent crimes have dropped, FBI crime statistics are issuing reports that "forcible rape" is up by 1.4% and 6.5% in cities with populations of more than 1 million people even as the overall violent crime rate in America dropped 2% in the past year.

But this statistic is misleading; it tends to exclude much of "date rape" which is frequently accomplished by fear rather than force. In addition, the FBI does not include rape by a blood relative, incest or spousal rape in their statistics.

- <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/janbtucker>

## Liberia: Thousands Raped--No One Prosecuted

Amnesty International recently insisted that the perpetrators of rape during Liberia's civil war must be brought to justice: "Thousands of women and girls have suffered rape and other forms of sexual violence, yet, more than a year on from the signing of a peace agreement, no one has been prosecuted and it remains unclear if, how and when those responsible will ever face justice. This impunity is a disgraceful betrayal of the victims of what are crimes against humanity and war crimes. The protection of the rights of women and girls must be at the centre of all efforts to rebuild Liberia. Full and meaningful participation of Liberian women in their country's recovery is essential." For a copy of the report, Liberia: No impunity for rape - a crime against humanity and a war crime, please see:

- <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engaf340172004>

## Women in Black: Extradite!

Women in Black, Belgrade was joined by other human rights groups and NGOs in marking December 10th International Human Rights Day. The event was called "EXTRADITE THEM". A huge white banner with this slogan painted in red, referring to those accused of war crimes by the Hague Tribunal who remain protected by the Serbian regime, was displayed in the square.

- [womeninblack@listas.nodo50.org](mailto:womeninblack@listas.nodo50.org)
- <http://www.nodo50.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/womeninblack>

## Child Brides at Risk of HIV/AIDS, Early Pregnancy, and Perpetual Poverty

Child marriage--which affects about 51 million girls in developing countries worldwide--puts young girls at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS or developing health problems from becoming pregnant at an early age. Child marriage, common in India, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, has "negative and lasting" consequences for women's health, education and overall economic development, Rao Gupta said, the Tribune reports. The practice "perpetuates poverty" because girls stop going to school when they get married and subsequently miss out on "economic opportunities," Rao Gupta said, according to the Tribune. After learning of the "long-term ramifications" of child marriage, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-III.) drafted legislation aimed at "curbing the practice in the developing world," the Tribune reports. Durbin currently is seeking a Republican co-sponsor for the bill, which he plans to introduce in January, according to Joe Shoemaker, Durbin's press secretary.

- <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=17606>

## Truth About Rape

The Truth About Rape Campaign is calling for the dismissal of judges who fail to implement the law and continue to allow rapists to go free. The first judge to be targeted in the Christmas campaign is Judge Michael Hucker, who threw out the case of five footballers tried for the horrific gang rape of a 15-year-old girl. The campaign is also demanding that victims not be subjected to multiple questioning by different barristers in cases of gang rape and that victims should be allowed their own representation in court.

- <http://www.truthaboutrape.co.uk/christmas2004.html>

## Every War a War on Women

A recent UNIFEM (the U.N. women's fund) report on the progress of the world's women says that "violence against women during conflict has reached epidemic proportions, yet little is being done to prevent this violence or to support and protect women. Women's bodies have become a battleground over which opposing forces struggle."

- <http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1210-28.htm>

# AUSU THIS MONTH



## AUSU Christmas Hours

Over the Christmas Holidays, AUSU will be closed for the same duration as the university. Our hours will be as follows:

**Dec 24, 2004: office closes at 3:00 pm, MST**  
**Dec 25, 2004 through Jan 3, 2005: Office Closed**  
**Jan 4, 2005: Office open at 8:30 am, MST**

## Are you in Need of Financial Assistance? AUSU Can Help You

AUSU has many financial assistance, emergency and computer bursaries available to help students in need. Every year AUSU will give away 10 financial assistance bursaries, \$6000 in emergency bursaries and \$4800 in computer bursaries.

Visit our website at <http://www.ausu.org/services/scholarships.php> to find out if you qualify for a bursary and to fill out the online application form.

The next deadline for submitting applications for these bursaries is December 1, 2004.

## AUSU's Student Association Status is now Formalized Under the Law

AUSU has operated officially since its creation as the students' union for Athabasca University under the *Societies Act of Alberta*. Under the new *Post-secondary Learning Act* each University in Alberta must have a students' association established by an order in council. On September 13, 2004 the Lieutenant Governor approved an order in council which states:

*The Lieutenant Governor in council establishes and incorporates a students' association to be known as "The Students' Association of Athabasca University" to provide for the administration of students' affairs and the promotion of the general welfare of students consistent with the purposes of Athabasca University.*

## Student Mentors Available to Help New Students

If you are a new student looking for someone to help you adjust to life as an Athabasca University student, contact the AUSU Mentor Program. The Mentor Program pairs together new students with experienced students who will help them find their way around AU and AUSU. By participating in this program you will be able to meet someone new and learn from them.

You can find more information about this program on our website at <http://www.ausu.org/services/mentors.php>.

*Does the pressure of having to  
study alone keep you up at night?*

**AUSU STUDY BUDDY**



**Dear Barb;**

***I feel embarrassed to admit this, but I can't wait for Christmas to be over. It just seems so phony to me. I really wish I didn't feel this way. I'm not a religious person, so I can't really find a reason to celebrate Christmas. Am I a real "scrooge" or are there others who feel like I do?***

**Jackie in Halifax**

Thanks for writing Jackie. Unfortunately I think a lot of people feel the way you do and are confused about what Christmas really means to them.

A quick walk through any mall suggests that perhaps Christmas has become a commercial entity. People scurry everywhere in hopes of finding the perfect gift at any cost, often spending beyond their means, buying gifts that may end up in the back of someone's closet.

I guess if you really want to understand the true meaning of Christmas you have to look at where it all started, which is the religious aspect. Christmas Day is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If you are a believer, the birth of Jesus is the only reason to celebrate Christmas. From this perspective Christmas is about attending Church and giving modest gifts to close friends and family, with the focus always remaining on the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

However many people in today's society do not follow the traditional teachings of the Church. Spirituality for them is personal and may not include a celebration of the birth of Christ. For these people Christmas is still a joyous time, although it may include a different type of celebration. Perhaps they see Christmas as a time to reconnect with family members and friends they may not have seen for a while. As well, it may be a time for newly formed families to begin their own traditions.

For others Christmas is for helping the less fortunate in our society. They may spend time visiting people confined to hospitals, or those who are alone and unable to leave their homes due to age or sickness. The generosity of these individuals is a very vital part of our society, not only at Christmas, but also throughout the year.

Simply choosing to ignore Christmas is not a possibility as the celebrations are too vast. Stores are closed on Christmas Day, people don't work, and television shows and movies all reflect the sentiment of the day. Obviously Jackie you have not found what Christmas means to you. Spend some time thinking about what you want Christmas to represent to you. Don't allow yourself to be swept up into someone else's view of Christmas. Explore various interpretations and find one that fits for you, even better create your own.

Merry Christmas, Jackie. I hope you have a great day, no matter how you choose to spend it.

*E-mail your questions to [advice.voice@ausu.org](mailto:advice.voice@ausu.org). Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality: your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.*



## Remembering the Taste of Turkish Delight

I would imagine that anyone who has ever fallen under the spell of "Once upon a time," the enchantment of a well told story, has examples they can cite of books, plays, essays, pieces of poetry, or songs that have fundamentally changed and enriched the way they see the world. It's possible that this consciousness-altering phenomenon happened to me the first time I heard *Goodnight Moon*, or *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. But the first time I was actually aware of a piece of storytelling opening up a wider, more interesting world for me was in Miss Alleyne's fourth grade class.

Miss Alleyne had silvery hair and wore twinkling cat's-eye shaped spectacles and some kind of perfume that smelled of mandarin oranges. Every Friday afternoon, after we'd all finished colouring maps of Europe and pasting together collages of magazine clippings, she would take out a book and read to us with her sonorous Caribbean-lilted voice.

One winter afternoon the book she pulled from the shelf was C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. From the title onwards, I was transfixed and, like the book's characters, transported into another world. My imagination lit up like a magic

lantern, filling my head with images of goat-hoofed fauns, talking beavers, a terrible and magnificent lion, a sinister witch queen, and a mysterious, dangerous delicacy called Turkish Delight that I could almost taste.

When I was in high school, I read the book again. This time, of course, I read it more critically. I was, after all, like most other teenagers, a genius. To my more observant and mature eye, Lewis's story now seemed flat and rather poorly written. Worst of all, there was what seemed to me a smug and smarmy sort of didactic Christian agenda that left me feeling more than a little uncomfortable. Coincidentally, when doing my readings for an AU English course, I came across this sentence in *Written For Children*, John Rowe Townsend's critical study of children's literature, that almost perfectly sums up the way I had felt: "For an adult, a return to Narnia after a lapse of years can be disconcerting: there is much in the books that now seems derivative, condescending, dated, even at times shoddy, and the Christian allegory can occasionally cause queasiness." Yes, he was bang on.

A couple of years ago, my daughter got Lewis's book for a Christmas gift. She was bewitched. As soon as we'd finished it, she begged me to start again from the beginning. We read it again in one go on a rainy afternoon, while she filled a Hilroy notebook with her own illustrations of the White Witch, Tumnus the faun, and the old professor.

Later on, I began to think about why my experience of Lewis's book had been so much different for me as a young adult than as a child. I think it's because my education, from playschool on, had inexorably taught me to approach ideas more critically--to pick out the hidden agendas and underlying messages in what I'm reading, seeing or hearing. This critical thinking is a good thing, because it helps me to understand why I like or dislike a certain book, film, piece of music, work of art. It also helps me to avoid being manipulated and to form my own judgments. Because I'm not myself a Christian, and I can now clearly see that Lewis's work is, at least on one level, a Christian allegory, it's only natural that my enthusiasm for this book has been dampened.

On the other hand, when we completely lose the ability to see things through the eyes of a child, I think we have thrown away a pearl more valuable than all our experience. I thank my daughter for helping me get back that sense of wonder that can only come from seeing the world, at least sometimes, with an uncritical eye.

# Primetime Update

Week ending December 19, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

## WHAT'S NEW ON PRIMETIME?

### THE AMAZING RACE

Last week, 8 teams set out for Stockholm, then Dakar (Africa) where they searched for a grave. Next this visited the village of Kayar where they had to either stack fish or catch fish. Then they conquered the salt mines and a pink lake. In the end, Kris and Jon kept their lead, but Don and Mary-Jean fell behind and were the last to arrive at the pit stop. They were granted a reprieve, but had to give up all of their money and will start this next leg without being given any cash. This week, teams depart from Ile De Goree, just off the coast of Africa.

1st Clue: teams must find their next clue at the Slave House, on the island of Goree, where people were held prior to be sent to the new world as slaves. While here, teams are granted the ability to place a rose on the gate of no return, in honor of the slaves who passed through. From the doorway, teammates can see a tribute statue. It affects Gus and Hera the most, and brings them utterly to tears as they honor their ancestors.

2nd Clue: Take a ferry back to the mainland and then travel by plane 3000 miles to Berlin. Once in Berlin they must take a train to a portion of the Berlin wall that is still standing (East Side Gallery), for their next clue. Don and Mary-Jean can't bring themselves to ask the people of the poorest country in the world for money, and so they turn to the other teams, who pull together to get the old couple off the island.

Bolo gets in a huge fight with Hayden in the travel agency, over whether or not they should be allowed to purchase tickets for another team. In the end though, everyone gets on the same flight. At the train station, Jonathan gets mad at Adam for apparently "following them." To me this is funny, since they're all going to the same place anyway.

3rd Clue: Teams must then make their way to the Broken Chain Sculpture across from a famous destroyed church (symbol of the political unrest of the war). Don and Mary-Jean misread the clue and try to find the clue at the destroyed church.

DETOUR: **Beers** (go to a bar buy and trade steins of beer in search of 5 coasters with the team's pictures on them) or **Brats** (Go to the citadel and use a hand run sausage maker to make a continuous string of Bratwurst, consisting of 7" links).

4th Clue: Teams must now travel to Teufelsberg, German for Devil's Mountain; at the base of the mountain, teams will find their next clue. At this point, Hayden and Aaron get into a taxi, but the driver doesn't know where to go.

ROAD BLOCK: Soapbox Derby - person must climb to the top of Devil's Mountain and race a soapbox derby car down the track; teams must be under the traditional time of 37 seconds to receive their next clue.

PITSTOP: Finally, teams must choose a luxury vehicle (Mercedes) and drive into downtown Berlin to Brandenburg Gate (symbol of the reunification of Germany) which is the pit stop for this leg of the race. Jonathan gets fed up with Victoria's inability to read a map, and gets out of the car to let her drive, which puts them behind Freddy and Kendra. In the end, the two teams engage in a foot race. Jonathan drops his bag to run faster, and Victoria stops to pick it up. She runs crying her eyes out, and then he yells at her for picking up the bag. He later gets super mad at her, and pushes her shoulder (It's horrible that he physically hurt her, however the radio made it sound worse than it actually was). He yells at her in front of the host, and in front of Berlin's public. Phil tells him to talk to her, and he says that in competition there's no room for compassion. This guy should be taken out behind the shed and shot in the head.

Order of arrival: Freddy/Kendra (wins vacation to Mexico), Jonathan/Victoria, Hayden/Aaron, Kris/Jon, Gus/Hera, Adam/Rebecca, and Lori/Bolo, who thought they'd come in last because they took a train instead of a cab are the seventh team to arrive. As a result of their slow start, Don and Mary-Jean are eliminated from the race.

Next week: Jonathan and Victoria wage a battle of the sexes, and Kendra passes out on a bungee task.

Kris/John	Long distance dating for 1 year	<b>GONE HOME:</b>	
Lori/Bolo	Married/Professional Wrestlers	Avi/Joe	Best Friends (guys)
Hayden/Aaron	Dating/Actors	Meredith/Maria	Best Friends/Roommates
Gus/Hera	Father/Daughter	Lena/Kristy	Sisters/Models
Jonathan/Victoria	Married/Entrepreneurs (He's a dictator)	Don/Mary Jean	Married/Grandparents
Freddy/Kendra	Engaged/Models (He's 10 years older)		
Adam/Rebecca	Ex/Lovers (trying to rekindle)		

## THE APPRENTICE 2 Thursday, Sept. 9th, 2004

Last week we said Goodbye to Kevin and Sandy, and Kelly and Jen M, undertook their final task.

Jennifer M. is in charge of the Genworth Charity Basketball Classic to support the NBA's Read to Achieve program with employees Chris, Pamela, and Stacie. She encounters criticism of her decision to delegate important tasks, as well as almost losing the commitment of the event's emcee. Instead of being a passive, "nice" person to Chris Weber's assistant, Jennifer gets right in her face and is almost rude about the emcee's attempt to cancel.

Later, Jennifer insists that her team get some sleep, while she stays up all night printing out charts and timelines, and Pamela later criticizes her inability to strategize further. Later, she bails on the event, in favor of paper work. While everyone is watching, and getting excited, she's on her cell phone, attempting to get paperwork sorted out.

Kelly is running the Genworth/Trump Polo Cup to help raise money for the Alzheimer's Association, with employees John, Raj, and Elizabeth. He encounters problems with employee respect, as well as a continuous rain that threatens to cancel the entire event. Kelly gets super frustrated about the weather, and Raj and John's ability to forget the task, drink the event's wine, and then fool around. He later insists that the team must complete the goody bag task before anyone goes to bed.

Kelly and Elizabeth get lost driving around the countryside at night, and while putting up a tent, Raj and John, have trouble and end up breaking the sponsors' signs. Kelly insists that his team go to sleep; however, his lack of direction keeps him over an hour past his estimated arrival time and Raj and John fall asleep on the patio of the polo club, listening to the frogs and crickets.

At the end of the events, both are deemed successful accomplishments of the apprentices. Trump takes all six "employees" into the boardroom. Jennifer is criticized for not catering to the VIPs at her event. She's praised for her ability to delegate tasks and work hard to accomplish what needs to be accomplished. Kelly is criticized for his lack of catering to the VIPs. Raj calls Kelly robotic, and says that he lacks any sort of charisma. However, they all believe Kelly would be good, and solid.

Then each candidate has a chance to argue with Trump's panel about what happened at the events. Jen is full of fire, and is again criticized for not catering to the VIPs. Kelly, sits back and takes the criticism, and is criticized for his inability to motivate his three employees.

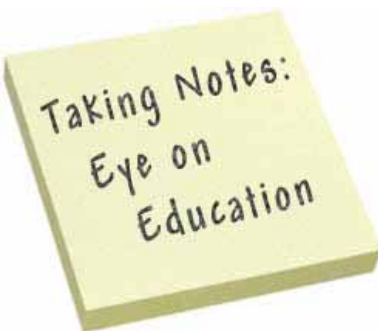
Then, at Trump's command, the facade of the boardroom is pulled away to reveal that the Trump Trio was onstage at the Lincoln Center in front of a cheering crowd. Trump admits even at this late date, he hasn't made up his mind. So, with the help of Regis Philbin, Trump takes a poll of major business leaders, the audience and even a few familiar faces from the first season of the show. The opinions are overwhelmingly in Kelly's favor.

Each candidate then gets one final chance to make their case on live TV. Jennifer M. says that she rose to the top of every organization she's ever been a part of. Kelly cites his experience and consistency. Even though Jennifer M. has more to say, Trump cuts her off. It is The Donald's turn to speak. Trump says that many of Jennifer M.'s teammates didn't like her. He also says that he isn't so sure Kelly will lead the way Trump would like him to lead. But finally, Donald looks at Jennifer M. and says... "You're, fired." Then Trump turns to Kelly, and speaks those oh-so-rare words, "You're hired." -- And Kelly becomes The Apprentice!

After a live O'Jays rendition of "For the Love of Money," the theme song of the show, Kelly has a choice to make. Donald has two massive construction projects that Kelly can be involved with. The first is Trump International Hotel and Tower, Las Vegas - a \$500 million dollar structure that, when completed, will be the tallest luxury building in Vegas. The second is Trump Place, a \$4 billion dollar project on Manhattan's West Side that will be over a dozen city blocks long. In his first executive decision as The Apprentice, Kelly chose Trump Place. He says his goal had always been to learn from Trump and so he wants to stay in New York to do just that. Then, Kelly hops into his waiting limo to start a new chapter in his life as The Apprentice!

**If there are any other shows you want updates on, or any comments you wish to make, please email me at [abaldwin@shaw.ca](mailto:abaldwin@shaw.ca)!**

**This column focuses on a wide range of issues affecting post-secondary students. Students are encouraged to submit suggestions and educational topics they are concerned about, or personal experiences with courses or university situations they feel other students should know about. If suggest a topic or a course alert for taking notes, contact [djabbour@ausu.org](mailto:djabbour@ausu.org)**



### **RESPs Not Just For Kids**

***Debbie Jabbour***

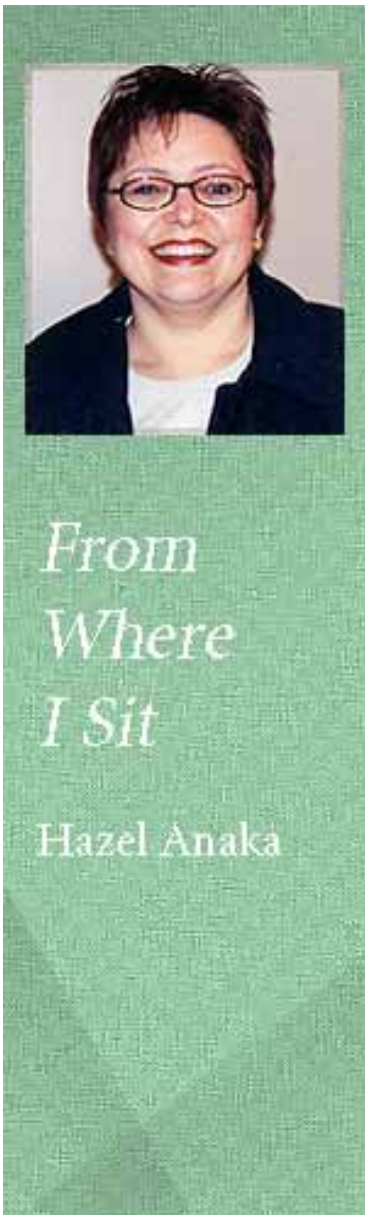
The reality of today's post secondary education environment means that many students are spending years working toward their degree. They may graduate with a bachelor degree, then work for some years before returning to complete a master's. Others seek specialized training or upgrading as they move along their career path. For these individuals, finances may be a key factor in the decisions they make regarding education.

Many assume that RESP's are strictly meant for saving for children's education. This is not the case. Full time students of any age can set up RESP's through an investment planner. These educational RESP's are similar to RRSP's, a type of 'envelope' into which other investments such as bonds or mutual funds can be placed. Capital gains taxes are not payable on RESP investments, and RESP's are not tax-deductible. Full-time students who are not working full time, however, are taxed at a lower rate.

RESP funds can be used for any school-related expenses, including tuition, books, and living costs. If you choose not to use the RESP for schooling, the money can be cashed out or transferred, although any investment gains will be taxable.

Students over eighteen are not eligible for the CESG, the government program that matches each savings dollar up to a maximum of \$400 a year. Even so, using the RESP option may be a viable alternative for many, improving our access to that all-important life-long learning. December 31, 2004, is the RESP contribution deadline.

Saving for *your* education? Get an RESP. Michael Citrome, Montreal Gazette, in the *Edmonton Journal*, November 20, 2004.



## Fresh Starts

One thing that distinguishes human beings from aardvarks, apple trees and apes is the ability to choose. To consciously, rationally, wisely choose life partners, homes, careers, what to eat for breakfast. Big or small the decisions are ours. As are the consequences.

At no time is this ability to chart our own course, choose our own destiny, decide our own fate, more "in your face" than with the start of a New Year. The setting and subsequent breaking of resolutions is a cruel joke for most of us. Who among us doesn't have a closet full of ghosts of resolutions past? It's risky to think about, or heaven forbid, commit to, quitting smoking, losing weight, starting an exercise program, reading a book or working for world peace. The almost certain failure to follow through only adds to the knapsack of guilt most of us are dragging through life, year after year, decade after decade. Who needs that extra burden?

What I'm proposing is quite different. Use the new year as I use September 1st or Ground Hog Day or my birthday or a week from Tuesday. Use it to begin making better choices. Use it for fresh starts. Use this day, this moment, to begin again.

It may be a new column in a new paper. It might be the patch or gum or hypnotherapy. It may be yogurt and fruit instead of a donut and coke. It may be a gentler start to waking your kid for school. It may be kissing your wife like when you were dating. It might be 'making do' with the old air seeder or video game or dress. It might be as simple as putting down the Enquirer and buying a library card. It might be as tough as loving a mother-in-law or a step-somebody.

The choice is yours. From day to day, moment to moment, make a fresh start. No ghosts, no guilt, just small choices that add up to big, life-affirming changes. Most of us needn't spend days in silent meditation at a retreat centre to know which of our attitudes and behaviours aren't serving us well. Maybe it's time to admit that the rush to judge or the inability to forgive or the hours watching the tube or the way we speak to our children is destructive to our health and well-being. Maybe we've left a trail of wounded souls in our wake. Maybe we've put off apologizing or saying I love you. Maybe we're careless with seat belts and stop signs. Maybe we talk too much at the movies or don't recycle our empties. Maybe we take the church for granted.

Perhaps we could start feeding the chickadees or a World Vision child. Perhaps we could clear our closets for Goodwill. Or balance our cheque books. Or plant a garden. Or register for a course. It's all about fresh starts, from where I sit.

*\*Reprinted with permission*



**Crop Circles**  
**The Cosmic Connection**  
**(1997)**  
**Film Review**

**By Laura Seymour**

When I think of the crop circle phenomenon I always ask myself about the people they are consulting and how many naysayers they hear. I was very surprised about this particular film. There is a rich supply of information and naysayers are limited simply because they have no answers either. *Crop Circles* opens with some of the most stunning views of so many different "circles" that it is a great visual tour de force. The producers also ask many questions and seek true answers with concrete details. I like a program willing to do that.

There are fascinating details in this film regarding the specifics of crop circles and each are well described. There are a number of individuals who need to be mentioned. I wish I had the column space to credit all of them. There are professors and experts in biology as well as circle researchers who fascinate me. There is a group of people who were to be in one location researching circles but by accident were on the wrong side of the hill when a number of fascinating phenomena happened. They all reported the same experiences and one man stated; "if this was a carefully orchestrated hoax it was brilliant because we weren't supposed to be there!" The rationale was well delivered.

In case anyone hasn't thought this out, "crop circle" is now a rather outdated term as so many of these patterns are anything but circles. One amazing pattern was pinwheel shaped and had 149 circles! It became a favorite pattern to dazzle visitors. It was the most visited and complex pattern at its time of appearance in 1996. There were many who stated that 1996 was a climax point for crop circles in England.

Comparisons were made and theories were given about the style changes around the world. One Oregon circle appeared to be rather spindly and North American Indian in style (frankly, I thought it looked faked). The English circles are far more computer template-like in their extreme precision and details.

Mathematical details are brought into play and boggle the mind on their possible meanings. But they also cite a perfect way to spot a faked circle. Faked circles often have far less precise lines such as broken corn or wheat and do not have the intricate woven pattern. Batteries on cameras do not die and embryo changes do not occur. These experiences are interesting.

Biological details of genetic changes in the crop embryos are fascinating and the likelihood of their natural appearance is discussed. The Doug and Dave phenomenon (two men in England claiming to make all circles) is explained and bashed to pieces nicely, including the famous bar buddies' claims being tested. The pair apparently had *no* knowledge of many of the nightly appearances of circles and many experts immediately dubbed their claims "unbelievable."


The analysis of the physics explanation of a crop circle's formation and the details of its development are amazing. Who has studied "gravitational radiation"? Apparently little is known about this phenomena but the theory is it would require waves of energy compressed and expanded in space and time and thus would cause matter to vibrate!! This is how they theorize a circle would form by non-human method. So neat to wrap my head around!

The pace of this film can be slow and can be a bit dull but I found it very informative and richly diverse on locations and viewpoints so I have to recommend it. But small touches (like the perfect clarification of the meaning of U.F.O. and a clear analysis of a reported film of a circle formation) make this an incredibly well put together project.

Let me know if you've seen this project and liked it.

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*Laura Seymour first published herself, at age 8. She has since gone on to publish a cookbook for the medical condition Candida. She is working toward her B.A. (Psyc).*



## Searching for Internships

**Lonita Fraser**

### LifeTime Media, Inc. - PR and Marketing Intern

**Job Location: New York - New York, NY, United States**

**Job Description:** We have a wonderful opportunity for the right candidate to join our team as a Marketing and PR intern for immediately or during the spring semester. You will be trained for a variety of special projects including:

- Announcing and publicizing our 10th anniversary and the relaunch of the company
- Marketing and PR for each of our books--published books and upcoming books
- Learning to create marketing and promotional plans for books
- Conceiving and organizing PR events that tie into book topics, which can then be linked to specific books
- Assisting in the creation of a platform and mission statement, a BRAND for the company
- Seeking out new and alternative sales channels

In our small office you will be exposed to and have a say in a broad range of projects. You will report directly to president of the company.

**Job Requirements:** Organized, impeccable with details, strong verbal and written skills; excellent phone manner; former PR or sales/ marketing experience, or book publishing background or strong interest is a plus; college senior or recent grad preferred.

**How To Apply:** e-mail: [jobs@lifetimemedia.com](mailto:jobs@lifetimemedia.com)

**Contact Information:** Jacqueline Varoli Grace, President, LifeTime Media, Inc., 352 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY, United States 10001. Phone: (212)-631-7524. FAX: (212) 631-7529

### Fishnet NewMedia - NewMedia Designer Intern

**Job Location: Cape Cod - Sagamore Beach, MA, United States**

**Job Description:** Individuals selected for the internship program will have the opportunity to work closely with our current staff in a challenging and upbeat professional environment. Candidates for the NewMedia Designer internship MUST have a portfolio and have expert knowledge of Photoshop and HTML. A degree in Art and/or Design is preferred. Production experience using Illustrator, Flash, Quark/PageMaker, CGI, JavaScript, etc., will be a plus. Strong interpersonal and communications skills required. All internships positions are full-time - Monday thru Friday. Candidates should contact us via our Web site only (no phone calls, please).

**How To Apply:** To be considered for an internship complete the following online application. Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

**Contact Information:** S. Morlock, Fishnet NewMedia, 180 State Road, Suite 3U, Sagamore Beach, MA, United States 02562 - WWW: <http://www.ahoy.com>

### Fishnet NewMedia - Marketing/PR Assistant Intern

**Job Location: Cape Cod - Sagamore Beach, MA, United States**

**Job Description:** Individuals selected for the internship program will have the opportunity to work closely with our current staff in a challenging and upbeat professional environment. Candidates for the Marketing/PR Assistance internship must have strong writing and communication skills, expert knowledge of the Web, keen research skills, and a creative mind. Strong interpersonal and communications skills required. All internships positions are full-time - Monday thru Friday. Candidates should contact us via our Web site only (no phone calls, please).

**How To Apply:** See above

**Contact Information:** See above

# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

## SPECIAL AWARD FOR NORTHERN RESIDENTS

**Award Amount:** \$2500

**Deadline:** January 31

**Notes:** Offered to long-time residents of the Canadian North requiring financial assistance. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the ACUNS Web site.

**Contact Information:**

Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies  
405 -17 York Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9J6

Phone: (613) 562-0515

Fax: (613) 562-0533

Toll Free: n/s

Web Site: <http://www.cyberus.ca/~acuns/EN/awards.html>

E-mail: [acuns@cyberus.ca](mailto:acuns@cyberus.ca)

## ENERGY AMBASSADORS - STUDENT COMPETITION

**Award Amount:** \$1000

**Deadline:** January 16

**Notes:** Open to undergraduate students who are in full or part-time attendance at an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada for at least six months between September 2003 and January 16, 2005. 20 students will be chosen from across Canada. Students or teams of students must write a summary of a scholastic project that had energy efficiency or reduced energy use as its theme. Please see Web site for more information.

**Contact Information:**

Office Of Energy Efficiency  
Natural Resources Canada  
580 Booth St. 18th floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4

Phone: 613-943-8058

Fax: 866-375-7453

Toll Free: 866-333-3970

Web Site: <http://energyambassadors.nrcan.gc.ca>

E-mail: [ambassadors.ambassadeurs@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:ambassadors.ambassadeurs@nrcan.gc.ca)

## MENSA CANADA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

**Award Amount:** \$1000

**Deadline:** January 31

**Notes:** Awarded to students enrolled full-time in a Canadian post-secondary institution on January 31, 2005. Candidates must write a 250-word essay, in English or French, describing their career plans, goals and the means undertaken to reach them. Applications are accepted only by email. Please consult the Web site for details.

**Contact Information:**

Mensa Canada Scholarship Programme

Web Site: <http://www.mensacanada.ca>

Application Address: <http://www.mensacanada.ca>



**CALL FOR PAPERS - Urban and Rural Flows and Counterflows**

**February 10-12, 2005**

**Splendid Isolation: Urban and Rural Flows and Counterflows in Electronic Music and Related Media**

**Berlin, Germany**

Held in conjunction with club transmediale.05

"The relationship between communication technologies and the city has been a long and complicated one, where the density of communicative activity has often been taken as defining characteristic of urban life. By contrast, rural areas have been idealized and marked by the relative absence of these technologies, a perception which tends to obscure the social and spatial consequences of communication technologies in rural areas. Out of this dichotomous set of associations has emerged a constellation of forces, ideas, images and experiences which have defined both the city and rural zones in unique and singular ways.

The history of art and music bears many traces of this productive tension, in which being immersed in city life and rural hermitage act as polar opposites. Popular music has been identified with contrapuntal movements that fluctuate between the celebration and derogation of both the rural and the urban. Within this interplay, various technologies, in particular electronic communication, have provided the principle forms of mediation between urban and rural areas, bridging and binding people and places in multiple ways and creating new hybrid territories situated within a shared mediasphere. In this context, the challenges of cultural production in and between rural and urban regions continue to be inflected by the specific demands of electronic/digital production, distribution and consumption.

This conference intends to address topics relating to the many debates and discourses produced by the intersection of cultural production, electronic arts/media, and social relations in urban and rural settings. We encourage artists, practitioners, journalists, writers and academics to participate in what promises to be provocative conference. In keeping with the overall themes of transmediale and club transmediale [BASICS], which investigate the aesthetic and ethical foundations of a hyper-potential culture, papers should address, but need not be restricted to, the following frameworks:

- \* (Exo/Endo)Polis: electronic music, urban/ruraldynamics, and cultural politics
- \* Refashioning Networks: circuits, nodes, communities, scenes and subcultures and extended milieu
- \* Mediations: the rural/urban digital nexus, imagining/ representing nature in the city/the city in nature; electronic music and the experience of nature
- \* Counterflows: fluctuating movements between urban and rural music subcultures
- \* The Best of Both worlds: bridging the urban/rural divide
- \* Splendid Isolation: productivity between seclusion, media networking and boredom; sound cultures beyond the major metropolises
- \* Perforating the Mainstream: marketing the margin
- \* Opposing Urbanity: f(r)actions of rural subcultures in the metropolis
- \* The City and Its Other: critiques from the centre and periphery, speaking from and to rural and urban perspectives"

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and are due by November 15, 2004. Panel proposals are also welcome. Please submit them to: [conference@transmediale.de](mailto:conference@transmediale.de)

**MEPHISTOS**

**March 5-6, 2005**

**Providence, Rhode Island USA**

**<http://www.brown.edu/Students/Mephistos/>**

Mephistos is an international graduate student conference in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, Technology and Medicine. The purpose of the conference is to stimulate open discussion among graduate students. The graduate community at Brown University, in association with the Committee on Science & Technology Studies, is proud to host the twenty-third annual edition of the event.

## 4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEER SUPPORT CONFERENCE

Jan 14 - 16/2005

Details to follow...

*Provided by Lonita Fraser*

## 2005 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities Honolulu, Hawaii USA

Jan 13 - 16/2005

Contact: Attn. Andrew Burge, 2005 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities  
PO Box 75036, Honolulu, HI 96836 USA  
<http://www.hichumanities.org/> [humanities@hichumanities.org](mailto:humanities@hichumanities.org)

The 3rd Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities will be held from January 13 (Tuesday) to January 16 (Friday), 2005 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. The 2005 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities will be the gathering place for academicians and professionals from the arts and humanities related fields from all over the world.

The main goal of the 2005 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities is to provide an opportunity for academicians and professionals from various arts and humanities related fields from all over the world to come together and learn from each other. An additional goal of the conference is to provide a place for academicians and professionals with cross-disciplinary interests related to arts and humanities to meet and interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines.

Topic Areas (All Areas of Arts and Humanities are Invited)

American Studies, Archeology, Architecture, Art, Art History, Dance, English, Ethnic Studies, Film, History, Landscape Architecture, Languages, Literature, Linguistics, Music, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Religion, Second Language Studies, Speech/Communication, Theatre, Visual Arts, Other Areas of Arts and Humanities, Cross-disciplinary areas of the above related to each other or other areas.

## Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **iCORE (Informatics Circle of Research Excellence) Summit - Aug. 2005 -Banff.**  
The second annual iCORE Banff Informatics Summit will bring together leading information and communications technology (ICT) researchers for three days. The field of informatics encompasses computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics and mathematics. (403) 210-5335. <http://www.icore.ca/>.
- **Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership Symposium - Oct. or Nov. 2005, Calgary.**  
The Chumir Foundation promotes an active, involved citizenry and principled leadership. (403) 244-6666. <http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/>.
- **InfraEDUCA 2004 - June 25-27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi -** The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialized Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distance Learning Systems, International Universities and Programs, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programs etc. Details: <http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>.
- **PISTA '04 - July 21-25 - Orlando, Florida -** Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are transforming our societies, therefore papers about research results, solutions and problems of the applications of ICT in Politics and Society are highly encouraged. Details: <http://www.confinf.org/Pista04/website/default.asp>
- **EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 - July 28 - 30 - Dhaka, Bangladesh.** EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 is the platform for you to promote your Institutions and services and to recruit students in Bangladesh. Details: <http://www.expam.com/bangladesh/>

Know of a conference that is not on this list? Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

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## THE VOICE

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