

# ***THE VOICE***

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**VOLUME 10 ISSUE 04**

**January 23, 2002.**

[www.ausu.org](http://www.ausu.org)

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## **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**"Faith that the thing can be done is essential to any great achievement."**

**--Thomas N. Carruther**



### **A Bug In Your Ear...**

**Indigenous Education Event**

**Thursday January 31, 2002 - 6:00 p.m.**

**@ the Provincial Museum of Alberta**

**Infoline: 428-2064 / E-mail:**

[janism@athabascau.ca](mailto:janism@athabascau.ca)

Athabasca University is launching its new Indigenous Education initiative with the Canadian premiere screening of *Yolngu Boy*, an Australian film about Indigenous youth, at the Provincial Museum in Edmonton the evening of Thursday, January 31.

The event begins at 6:00 p.m. in the foyer of the Museum with food and beverages, entertainment by Asani – an Edmonton-based a capella quartet – followed at 7:30 by a brief ceremony to officially launch the initiative.

We then move into the theatre by way of a grand entry processional, with Harold Cardinal introducing the event and Derek Starlight serving as the Master of Ceremonies. The White Buffalo Drummers and Dancers, will accompany the procession and perform. The short ceremony will be followed by an introduction to the film by Maria Campbell, followed by the film itself.

*Yolngu Boy* has attracted considerable international interest, and film festival awards, since its release. It is the story of three Yolngu teenagers who embark on an epic journey through the wilderness of Northern Australia. Colliding between the worlds of rap, football, and street credibility and the oldest living culture on Earth – the youths draw on ancient bush knowledge, street instinct, and the bonds of friendship to chase their childhood dreams.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students, and are available in advance by contacting Janice Makokis (428-2064 or [janism@athabascau.ca](mailto:janism@athabascau.ca)), or at the door. All proceeds will go to AU's Indigenous Education Scholarship Fund.

Courtesy of:

The Community Networks Group (c)  
6819 - 119 Avenue, Edmonton (Canada) T5B 4L9  
Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 / Pager: (780) 419-7654



## **From My Perspective: The Horse Lake Reserve and Accountability**

**By Debbie Jabbour**

Last week I commented on a recent court case involving eight members of the Horse Lake reserve who were convicted of numerous charges of sexual abuse against young female relatives. In the process of researching the article, I discovered something about this particular reserve; something that led me

to think that perhaps the sexual abuse is part of a much bigger issue - that of absolute refusal to be held accountable.

Given the closely intertwined family connections and internal pressure for victims to remain silent, the incidents of sexual abuse did not come to light until recently, although they have been occurring for decades. In this particular instance, all involved agreed that rather than seek jail term as punishment, focus instead should be on community healing.<sup>1</sup>

At the October 2001 Conference for Student Judicial Affairs, I had the opportunity to hear Judge Tony Mandamin of the Peacemaker Court of T'suu T'ina Nation speak. He spoke of the difficulties the traditional justice system has created for natives and described the genesis of the concept of restorative justice. The concept itself makes sense, certainly more is accomplished when we put our focus on healing and positive initiatives rather than strict crime & punishment.

But the Horse Lake reserve has another dynamic added that brings into question not only the appropriateness of the use of restorative justice, but also what kind of harm the

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<sup>1</sup> Edmonton Journal, January 10, 2002. "I Just Wanted Things to be Better". Lisa Gregoire, writer

policies of our government's Indian Affairs Department is doing to not only natives, but to Canada as a whole.

Many of us are familiar with the haunting images of the glue-sniffing children of Davis Inlet who begged to die rather than continue with the hopelessness of their existence. The perception of isolated, impoverished natives, damaged by centuries of unjust government policies and residential schools, caught in a cycle of welfare and substance abuse, is a common one. For psychology students, it is a perception that tears at our hearts and moves us to try and find ways to help repair the damage.

The Horse Lake reserve, however, is not an isolated, nor impoverished one. In March, 2001, under the leadership of Chief Robert Horseman, a [land claims settlement](#) was negotiated with the government in the amount of \$125,315,000 (seventy percent of this compensation is attributable to the Kiskatinaw natural gas deposits under the former reserve lands near Fairview, Alberta).

Just before this claim (the richest out-of-court land claim in Alberta's history) was finalized with the 360 band members, another 100 people came forward, alleging that they had been unlawfully and unfairly removed from band membership. These people insisted that they deserved a portion of this heritage, and have launched a judicial review in Federal court, alleging unlawful negotiations. The charge is being led by Verna Smith, who although a beneficiary, believes that many have been unfairly excluded. Ms. Smith also insists that band leaders are overpaid.<sup>2</sup> Just how much do they make?

Last year Chief Horseman received a salary of \$439,425. As a status Indian working on the reserve, his earnings were tax-free. His two band councillors received \$414,500.<sup>3</sup> The "Director of Special Projects" earned \$435,000. A comparison to the salary of Alberta Premier Ralph Klein helps give us some perspective - Mr. Klein earned \$121,596 last year.<sup>3</sup>

The Horse Lake reserve is a rich community thanks to the land claim settlement. So why is it a problem if they pay their top level officials such an exorbitant salary?

The issue is one of accountability - accountability to the people of Canada, who contributed to this land claim through our taxes, and accountability to the rest of the members of the Horse Lake reserve, who do not appear to be equal recipients in the windfall.

Unlike the wages of other public companies and executives, those of native bands are not subject to public release. By law, only band members are allowed to access this information. Journal writer Paula Simons commented on this, stating that "we only know how much (Chief) Horseman made because someone at Horse Lake sent the information

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<sup>2</sup> Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, March 19, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Edmonton Journal, January 9, 2002. "No jail for former chief in decades-old sex crimes"

to us, anonymously.”<sup>4</sup> The Government of Canada has given the Horse Lake reserve the amount of \$125,315,000. Not only do the leaders have no accountability to the Government for these funds, they have no accountability to band members either. Apparently this reserve has no bylaws and no structure that allows band members input into how this money is spent. According to Simons' article, last year the band spent \$2,340 on daycare, \$300 for a prenatal nutrition program, and cut its solvent abuse program from \$2,625 in 2000 to \$0 in 2001. At the same time, they spent \$23,932 for a golf tournament, \$7,019 on a demolition derby, and band councillors had a combined travel expense of \$84,000.

Incest has been called a crime of secrecy. Obviously the Horse Lake reserve has taken the whole concept of secrecy and turned it into an industry. Is it any wonder that a man who would rape and sexually abuse small, defenseless young girls, nieces, granddaughters - would also have no compunction at abusing the financial resources of the community he leads?

Some relatives of Chief Horseman and the others charged have tried to allege that these accusations are motivated by greed on the part of band members who have been excluded from their financial inheritance. The sheer magnitude of the charges belie this argument - 50 charges involving 8 men and 34 victims is not likely a fiction.

The victims have agreed to community healing instead of jail time. But unless accountability becomes the number one priority, nothing will change. Powerful men will continue to abuse those weaker than themselves, whether they be little girls, or community members at large. And the Canadian government? If they continue to simply throw money at the problem without demanding an accounting, nothing will change.

We all have a stake here. The Horse Lake reserve is arguably an extreme example, but the whole concept of land claims, Department of Indian Affairs, and financial accountability are issues that the government should be taking a hard look at. The Canadian government is in the process of negotiating hundreds of native land claims, claims that will result in huge sums of money being paid out - without any assurance of accountability - not to the government, not to Canadian taxpayers, and most importantly, not to the individual members of the native communities themselves.

Every Canadian should be concerned about how our tax dollars are being spent, and every Canadian should be vigilant when it comes to innocent children who become victims of powerful men who refuse to be held accountable for their actions.

And what of Robert Horseman himself? He has pled guilty to several of the charges and received a conditional sentence of two years less a day to be served in the community. He has been barred from the Horse Lake reserve for the next 11 months; forbidden unsupervised visits with children under 16, except in his immediate family; and must

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<sup>4</sup> Edmonton Journal, January 12, 2002. "Chief's high salary is money that belongs to every band member". Paula Simons, writer.

perform 120 hours of community service. His victims, on the other hand, have received a traumatic, emotional life sentence, one without \$439,425 to cushion the blow.



## **Teacher's On Strike - The Heart of the Issue**

**By Tamra Ross Low**

On February 4, teachers in several districts of the Alberta region will strike unless their demands for increased funding are met. If this occurs, not only children will suffer, but parents and communities as well. With children out of school, many working parents will have to stay at home until the strike is over. If it lasts very long, some may lose their jobs, putting their family at a financial disadvantage. Statistics show also that most youth crime occurs on weekdays prior to 4:00, when children are out of school and parents are not home. Should a teacher strike occur, it is likely that communities will suffer an increase in property damage and petty crime at the hands of teens and pre-teens who have nothing better to do. There was a teacher's strike only a few years ago in Calgary, and our community was like a zoo with the hundreds of aimless and restless kids milling about all day, making a tremendous amount of noise and getting to mischief. It is tempting to blame the parents when this occurs, but what can they do? Parents have to work, especially when they have multiple children to support, and many rely on the school system to be watching their children during the normal working week.

Schools not only educate children, but also provide an essential service to parents and communities by keeping kids safe, contained, and under close watch. Without this service, few families could have two working parents, although two incomes are vital to many middle and lower class homes. Without school, single parents could not work at all. Keeping kids in school during the day benefits everyone - so much so that teaching should be deemed a vital service. Just as police officers and doctors cannot walk out on their jobs, neither should we permit teachers to strike. The overall costs of a teacher's strike in terms of lost jobs, time off of work, increased crime, and the interruption of children's educations are difficult to calculate. So, while Learning Minister [Lyle Oberg](#) assures us that the strike will not be allowed to drag on for very long, I feel that deeming teachers an essential service and disallowing them to strike would be more appropriate.

That is not to say that teachers should not be allowed to take job action and demand more money. I do question, however, the reasons that teachers repeatedly cite for taking such action. Clearly the primary issue is wages, but still teachers often insist that large class sizes are their greatest concern. I have been suspicious of this claim, as I recall my

classes back in the 70's were as large or larger than many of those cited today. Occasional claims of classes containing 35-40 children sounded like aberrations. Today there is some proof to back this up.

The Alberta Government's recent province-wide [survey](#) of more than 1,100 kindergarten and elementary schools found an average of 19.7 students per class in kindergarten and 23.6 in grades 1 to 6." That seemed low to me, so I dug out my old class pictures from Kindergarten to grade six and counted heads (I assumed that all children were present on the day the pictures were taken, but in reality usually a couple were missing). My Kindergarten class had 24 children (5 above today's average), while my classes in grades 1-6 ranged from 27-30 students (for 4 years there were 28. I attended Ogden Elementary School in Calgary for all seven years. The survey also showed that there are an average of 4.6 teaching assistants in each elementary school, while I don't remember their being any assistants when I was in school. I recall how I feared being asked to read to my class when the teacher was away making copies.

It is tempting to think that the survey data is skewed by smaller, rural schools, but the data shows that class sizes in urban and rural schools are similar - urban kindergartens have an average of 19.9 students, while rural kindergartens have 19.3. In grades 1-6, urban schools have 22.9 per class, and rural schools have 22.7. Classes with [30 or more](#) students do exist, but make up only 6% of the total classes. 94% fall between 10 and 29 students. Despite this, the [Alberta Teachers Union](#) claims that "the strike is mainly about money, although many teachers are upset over crowded classrooms."

Given that the class size issue does not appear to have much validity, this strike is about money. This is a legitimate concern. I dislike, though, that teachers are framing their budgetary demands in a way that makes them seem insignificant. The Alberta teachers Association [FAQ](#) says "less than an additional \$1.30 per student per day would" cover the costs of increasing teachers salaries 12.3% to 15.7% as well as improving classroom conditions for all students.

Stated this way, the cost sounds very low, but to phrase yearly budgeting demands in terms of the daily cost per student is misleading. Teachers hope that we will not do the math, and they also make it hard to calculate. It is not made clear if this amount is based on \$1.30 for every day of the year (and some schools now have classes year round), or for each school day in a standard curriculum. Even if you use the smaller figure, however, the amount is staggering. According to the 2001/2002 School Year [Operating Schedule](#) most schools hold classes for 198.5-200 days of the year. To use 99 school days per student (there are 253779 students in Alberta elementary schools), results in a total of \$65,652,627.30! This is not the total educational budget, but rather an increase above current funding. This amount also only applies only to elementary schools as I have not factored in junior high and high school students. If all students are to be funded at this level, the number would be perhaps doubled.

This amount may be reasonable. Teachers are skilled professionals who perform a vital job and their wages should reflect this. Increased educational funding would not only

benefit our children, but our whole society, as our ability to compete in the new world economy demands that our people be strong, healthy, and highly educated. What I disagree with, however, is how teachers are trying to obscure the size of their demands. If they feel that the Alberta students and teachers legitimately require another \$120 million dollars a year, then they should be prepared to go to the public with this figure and justify why it is needed.

The issue of class sizes is getting old, and harder to support. There are other issues that are more powerful, such as school closures, program cuts, and the demise of many arts and music programs. To ask people for 'only' another \$1.30 per student per year is intentionally misleading. Fund raising organizations like the Christian Children's Fund frame their needs in this way, to make them seem very small. The teachers union is not a fund raising organization, however, and they should not be trying to slip large demands past an unsuspecting public. No matter how you look at it, their demands are huge. If they are legitimate, then we all need to be aware of the amount of money we are talking about, and know why we are spending it. Teachers cling to the issue of class sizes because it makes it seem like they are more concerned about students than their salaries. It also frightens parents who fear that their children are not being properly educated. If the strike is about teacher's salaries, they should stick to that issue, and stop adding additional worries to parents' lives. Nurses have caused the same fear by claiming that their strikes have been about poor patient care, when salaries have later emerged as the primary issue. Once nurses have secured a salary increase, they have returned to work despite the fact that little was done about patient services.

I understand the plight of teachers and nurses. Both, are predominantly women's occupations, and both are woefully underpaid compared to male-dominated professions that require similar training and dedication. I support teacher's demands for higher salaries, but I think they would get much further with their demands if they laid it all on the line, told us how much they are making, and compared that amount with other professions requiring a similar level of training and education. I do not, however, feel that teachers should have the right to strike, as the costs to all of the citizens of Alberta are too great, and outweigh the rights of any single group of workers.



## **FED WATCH!**

**By Karl Low**

### **Another Way to Sustainable Health**

New Brunswick has just [announced](#) a 1.8 million dollar prenatal benefit program. Tied to this program are sessions for the expectant mothers in healthy lifestyle and eating habits to help make sure that the baby is born healthy. It is hoped that by concentrating on the prevention of sick infants, this program will enable the health-care system of New Brunswick to save much more than the costs of the program.

This benefit program is part of a \$50 million five-year development program for New Brunswick children. One wonders how much the Alberta government might have saved if instead of requesting a mostly vapid report to back up their demands, they instead got on with the business of making health care sustainable.

### **Health Care for the People, by the People**

Meanwhile, in Manitoba, they are [holding](#) public discussions about what to do for the future of Health Care. This way, ordinary members of the public will have just as much ability for input as the board member of a [private insurance company](#). Whether this comes up with any innovative or useful solutions remains to be seen, but at least it can be said that it is being done in a democratic manner.

### **Do the Cabinet Shuffle**

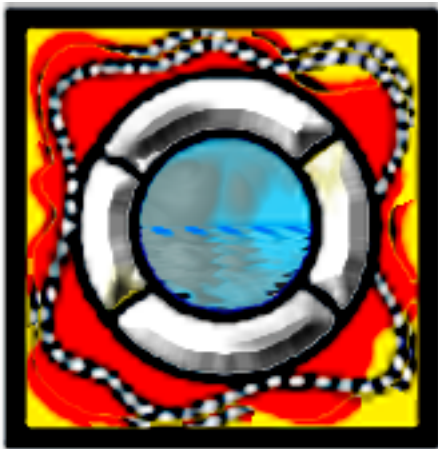
Prime Minister Chretien has [moved around](#) the members of his Cabinet, and the moves show how the Premier is still quite cagey. Of course, few people would actually claim the Prime Minister is dumb; it's his apparent lack of morals that are the problem. Case in point, the member responsible for Public Works and Government Services was caught using the influence of his position in order to get positions for his friends and supporters. He has conveniently been named the Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, which means he's no longer in Cabinet to make the Prime Minister look bad without the PM having to admit that maybe he wasn't the best choice to be in a Cabinet position. That Prime Minister Chretien does not think the man deserves to be punished for his actions makes perfect sense however, as according to Chretien, stepping in for your friends and constituents is just what a good politician does. He seems to have no inkling why such pressure is wrong. Perhaps if it were rephrased in the manner of a boss proposing a sexual encounter with an employee the PM would understand that even if intended completely innocently, an employer has undue influence over the employees.



In other moves, Alberta's own Anne McLellan has been named the Minister of Health, a particularly shrewd shift as her presence in Alberta might be able to give her, and hence the Federal Liberals, a little more insight into Klein's health care reform plans. The move is probably intended as a warning to Premier Klein that a very close eye is going to be kept on him.

Also, gone is Hedy Fry, she of the burning crosses in British Columbia - an embarrassing statement which she later had to admit she had no factual backing for. No doubt she's being moved out because she was unable to put together some sort of cover up story like the PM himself did for the Shawinagate affair.

If only honesty in politics were as valued as spin control.



## Riverboat

**By Wayne Benedict**

About 17 years ago, as my father prepared for retirement, he planned on buying himself a property in the very small community of Penny, BC where he had worked as a station agent for the Canadian National Railway in the 1950s and 60s. Penny is situated between the CN Rail tracks and the Fraser River (about halfway between Prince George and McBride). There is no electricity, telephone, or any other utility so a resident has to be virtually self-sufficient. One of the greatest necessities for a Pennyite is a river boat and my father decided to build himself one (it was not the first boat that he had constructed for himself). He was living in Vancouver at the time and he put the craft together in the garage of a friend's house. It was 21 feet long, made of plywood and two-by-fours, bolted together and painted green. With its new 20 Hp Mercury outboard motor, it worked wonderfully.

At that time, I was working in central BC for the Northern Initial Fire Attack Crews (NIFAC) unit of the BC Forest Service (see [the Voice, Aug. 01, 2001](#)). I had lots of use for Dad's new boat so he allowed me the use of it while he remained in Vancouver. In the autumn, my hunting partner (Rick Mayhew at the time) and I decided to go moose hunting up the Fraser River in Dad's river boat. The landing at Penny is anything but a boat launch, with a steep decline from the parking area to the river's edge. Looking the situation over, I decided that it would be difficult to drive my truck back up the bank once the boat was in the water, so Rick and I decided to remove the boat-trailer from the truck

and walk it to the river by hand. I backed the truck and trailer to the edge of the drop-off and we prepared to launch the boat.

The bank dropped steeply for ten feet and then leveled out for a further sixty feet to the water. We had not noticed that when I had parked the truck, the wheels of the trailer were just over the crest of the drop-off. Assuring each other that we were both ready, we lifted the tongue of the trailer off the truck hitch and it took off like a jet toward the river. After the first step I was being dragged through the sand face-down but unwilling to let go of the boat. Rick was taking giant leaps trying to keep up to it and we both lost our grip at roughly the same time. I lay in the sand watching as the boat receded from me toward the water and Rick stepped to the side and began a running commentary.

“It’s in the water; water is swamping the boat now; there goes the motor, it’s completely under now...” I just lay on the sand in complete disbelief, blowing particles from within my nostrils. Regaining our senses, I ran to the truck, turned it around and we spooled out the winch-cable down to the boat-trailer. Up came the trailer without the boat so we hooked the cable directly to the front of the water-filled boat. It strained the 8000 lbs. Ramsey winch to its limit, but Dad’s pride and joy finally emerged from beneath the murky waters of the Frazer. After bailing out the boat and removing the spark-plug to blow out the water, the motor fired right up and all’s well that ends well—or so we thought.

We went hunting with no further mishap and I had fun retelling the story to Dad over the phone (I played it to the hilt before confirming that all was well) but it wasn’t until the next summer that the incident came back to haunt me. That story is for next week’s Voice.



## **Education Revolutionary**

**By Cathy Thompson**

It’s a fascinating and somewhat unbelievably complex study into organizational cultures when one looks at the controversies that have erupted when traditional colleges and universities have tried to change their learning environments from ones that are mainly dependent on live-classroom lectures, the so called “teaching-centered” learning environment, into ones that are less dependent on the live-classroom lecture, the so-called “learning-centered” environment.

Thames Valley University in the U.K is one such university that has tried to transform into a “New Learning Environment (NLE).” As reported by Britain’s Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education the principles of Thames Valley’s NLE are to:

- focus on creating and sustaining confident and capable independent learners;
- develop resource based learning as a substitute for, rather than an addition to, traditional teaching and learning strategies;
- use assessment as a primary teaching method, and as a means to evaluate the effectiveness of our teaching;
- reorganise patterns of teaching to maximise small group interaction where learning takes place most effectively;
- provide for multiple media, rather than simply multi-media development, recognising that interactions between staff and students are crucial resources to support students' learning;
- require the development of "learning to learn" as a key strand at all levels of study;
- rearrange administrative and operational services to support students' learning.'

All of the above sounds like something educational institutions should have been doing all along but apparently they haven’t, and when Thames Valley tried to change things there was a lot of anger and confusion amongst the employees who did not want to change. The media picked up on the controversy when it was reported that student testing was being compromised. The Quality Assurance Agency was called in to investigate and gave Thames Valley a bad review which is posted on QAA’s web site, for public perusal. Thames Valley’s organizational culture would not allow change.

Even in Canada and the U.S, attempts to create “New Learning Environments” have wreaked havoc in organizational cultures. Terry O’Banion is the founder of California’s “League for Innovation in the Community College.” His book, “A Learning College for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” thoroughly explains how the organizational culture in the community college system fights against a learning-centered environment. Terry is considered to be the grandfather of the community college system and he has been trying for more than forty years to get the colleges to put student learning and achievement first. He hasn’t had much luck.

The Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Ontario has a publication on their web site called “Learning-Centered Education in Ontario Colleges.” One of the quotes in their paper states that the challenge of trying to change a college from one that is teaching-centered to one that is learning-centered is the same kind of challenge that was faced by past astronomers who tried to insist to the church that the sun was at the centre of the solar system rather than the earth, the analogy being that students are the sun, and teachers are the earth.

Nova Scotia’s Acadia University has suffered enormous disruption to their learning environment as their administration has tried to force resource-based learning upon the faculty via IBM laptop computers.

York University professor David Noble adds fuel to the fire in the fight against resource-based learning by bringing politics into the argument. He now sees university managements as evil capitalists looking to destroy publicly subsidized higher education by turning it into a for-profit enterprise. When MIT announced that they were putting their faculty lecture notes on the Internet for free, the Canadian Association of University Teachers hailed MIT for its gesture of putting education before profit.

And where does Athabasca University fit into all of this? They are an anomaly, a publicly supported, resource-based learning university that has always striven to take down the barriers for anyone to get high quality postsecondary education services. No traditional college or university will ever be able to accomplish this. Over the next decade AU should take over all education in Canada and should get some sort of humanitarian award when they do.

Read more:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/revreps/specrev/tvu/Context.htm>

<http://www.acaato.on.ca/new/swd/learningcentred.htm>

<http://communication.ucsd.edu/dl/>



## **Community Involvement**

**By Mark Gueffroy**

This last week, the youth group that I belong to in Red Deer went door to door, asking people to take a few moments and answer a few questions. Two of the questions were: 1) What can youth in this community do to improve their world? 2) Every day we hear about murders, child abuse, terrorism and other disasters. Why do you think that these things

are happening in today's society?

There were several answers that were interesting and provide a view into the opinions of those in our communities. Suggestions for how youth can improve their community included: promote equality and support freedom of choice, be more respectful of senior citizens, get more involved in the community, and be more productive.

Some of the answers to the question about why disasters are occurring in today's society included: demographics (the population has increased and media has become more advanced in making information about such disasters available to the public), the perpetrators were abused during childhood, and people are "stupid" or "nuts."

Using these answers of the people who took part in the survey, what do you think that you could do to improve your community? Could you be more active in promoting equality and freedom of choice? Could you take a few moments from your day to somehow honor or assist a senior citizen? How can you be more involved in your community? Is there any way that you could be more productive?

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## **ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION**

### **FUNDRAISING DINNER & AUCTION for**

#### **Afghanistan**

January 25th 2002, 7:00 p.m. @ Maharaja Banquet Hall, 9257 - 34A Ave.

Tix: \$40 (partial tax receipt to be issued)

Funds raised will be used to alleviate suffering of all people in Afghanistan regardless of race, religion, gender or age. Hear from Dave Rutherford and Dr. Noor Jaffer who have seen first hand the devastating conditions in Afghanistan...

Tickets available at:

- > Bollywood Fashions 19, 9261 34 Ave
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University of Alberta's

**INTERNATIONAL WEEK January 28 - February 1, 2002**

INFO: [www.international.ualberta.ca](http://www.international.ualberta.ca) / Phone: (780) 492-2692

"Living as if the Planet Matters"

The 17th annual International Week includes over 50 events examining the many facets of social and ecological sustainability and sustainable development in both local and international contexts. The Week features keynote speakers each evening and wraps up with a lively drumming concert, "Rhythms of the Planet."

A one day forum on Monday, January 28, "Global Water Crises: We Are All Downstream," will explore the dimensions of the water crises we are facing.

Experts and activists from Canada and abroad will focus on issues of health, water quality, water rights and conflict over water.

Monday evening's keynote speakers will discuss "Living as if Water Matters." Featured are Dr. David Schindler, Killam Memorial Professor of Ecology at the University of Alberta, limnologist and recent winner of the prestigious \$1 million Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering; and Maude Barlow, Volunteer Chairperson of the Council of Canadians. Tuesday, Allan Wolf Leg will highlight the Siksika, or Blackfoot, worldview on the state of being, the relationship of space and history, and the interrelationship of all elements.

Wednesday evening's program, "Living as if Forests Matter," brings us some of the world's leading forestry activists: Randy Hayes, the Founder and Director of the Rainforest Action Network based in San Francisco, and Colleen McCrory, Executive Director of the Valhalla Wilderness Society and winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize (the environmental equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize).

"Protecting the Planet: Options for Action" on Thursday evening features Isabel Altamirano, discussing options utilized by Indigenous peoples in Mexico, Dr. Virginia Cawagas, reflecting on People Power Philippine style, and Andrew Nikiforuk, author of

"Saboteurs: Wiebo Ludwig's War Against Big Oil." And not to be missed -- music and poetry from the Radical Cheerleaders and the Raging Grannies.

The Week spotlights a range of musicians from opening events in HUB Mall on January 25 to the wrap up concert. Performers include the University of Alberta's West African Music Ensemble and Asani, an Aboriginal women's vocal ensemble.

Friday evening's percussion concert, "Rhythms of the Planet," features the Okoto Dancers (African), Capoeira (Brazilian), Viajante Drumming Ensemble (Latin-American), Buffalo Tail Productions (Aboriginal) and the Drumcan Man who recently set a new speed world drumming record. Tickets for the concert are \$8 for students and \$10 for others available mid-January.

And there is so much more -- a found objects fashion show on January 23, a film from the Global Visions Festival, a story told by Gandalf the Wizard, the International Week Quiz, trash crafting and straw bale construction! Check it out by picking up a program guide at Gateway distribution points, Students' Union info booths and public libraries, on-line at <http://www.international.ualberta.ca> or by phoning (780) 492-2692.

NOTE: All but two events are free of charge. Everyone is welcome.

International Week 2002 is co-ordinated by the International Centre, University of Alberta and sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Environmental Research and Studies Centre, the Students' Union, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), World University Service of Canada (WUSC), HUB Mall, and VUE Weekly.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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## **The Lunch Hour Talk @ Expressionz Caf ©**

/ 9142 St. & 118 Avenue

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002 / Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Women & Islam: in their own words with Howaida Hassan and Karen Hamdon

Join us for a lunch hour conversation on Women & Islam. Two distinguished Edmontonians and women of the faith share their understanding of the principal tenets of Islam and their respective cultural experiences within the faith.

About our guests: Howaida Hassan is originally from Toronto. Her parents immigrated to Canada from Egypt in 1970. She's a Civil Engineer and currently works for the City of Edmonton in the area of Transportation. She's an active member of the International Society for Peace and Human Rights, Canadians for Equality & Peace for Palestinians, and the Canadian Society for Peace in Chechnya. Mrs. Hassan also sits on the Executive of the Islamic Family and Social Services Association of Edmonton.

Karen Hamdon was born in Edmonton and graduated from U. of A. Her grandparents emigrated from Lebanon to Canada at the turn of the last century and settled in Fort Chipywan. Her grand mother was a founding member of the first mosque in Canada here in Edmonton. Mrs. Hamdon has been active in the Muslim community, mostly on women's and social issues for over 25 years. She's the past president of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and committed to Inter-faith activities locally and internationally. This past November she attended an Interfaith Conference on Peace and Reconciliation in Hyderabad, India.

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002 / Noon - 1:00 p.m.  
Expressionz Caf ©, 9142 - 118 Avenue  
Infoline: 474-6058 / Admission is free

A presentation of:

The Community Networks Group    
6819 - 119 Avenue, Edmonton (Canada) T5B 4L9  
Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 / Pager: (780) 419-7654

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## **+15 Window in the Performing Arts Centre**

**Part & Parcel**

**Paul Robert**

**December 1, 2001 to January 31, 2002**

**Opening Reception: Thursday, December 13, 2001**

Paul Robert is a conceptual-based artist whose works often have a performative or participatory element. For his proposed work, Robert is constructing an object that uses the mechanics of Western perspective that plays on a Kesslerian model of the universe:



that the universe is made up of many individual parts that are all interconnected to create a whole depending on the perspective of the viewer.

Paul Robert is presently completing his BFA in Sculpture at the Alberta College of Art & Design in 2001. Paul is an active member of the Calgary art community, who recently worked as project assistance for Vera Gartley and who also presently sits on the board of directors for The New Gallery.

The artist was in attendance at the opening reception.

## **Main Space at Stride Gallery L'Hôtel SofiCalle**

**Vera Greenwood**

**January 18 - February 16, 2002**

**Opening Reception: Friday January 18 @ 8PM**

**Artist Meet and Greet: Saturday, January 19, 2002**

In her installation entitled L'Hôtel SofiCalle (2001), Vera Greenwood documents her somewhat failed attempts at surveillance of the French artist Sophie Calle. Through the 'evidence' collected during a three-month residency at the Canada Council Paris Studios, she produces an autobiographical account of her own behaviours, social transgressions, and psychological experiences that surround her 'investigations' of Calle. The exhibition itself follows the principles of an ethnographic display-cases holding objects, photographs and text that are identified and interpreted-yet it carries with it the feeling of the backstage of a theatrical performance. The traces of her activity, such as passport, plane tickets, rubber gloves, disguises, maps and spy camera are all displayed behind glass cabinets alongside excerpts from her detailed written diary. Like all good mysteries, her diary is replete with plot twistes and comedic moments while her exhibition is filled with a trail of descriptive props and various pieces of evidence.

Born in Calgary in 1954, Ottawa-based artist Vera Greenwood lives and works in Hull, Quebec. A graduate of the Alberta College of Art and Concordia University, Greenwood's training in printmaking has expanded to include mixed media installations. Her work has been widely exhibited across Canada and in England, which include The Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, On, The Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge, AB.; and The Beg Peg Gallery, Birmingham, UK.

The artist will be in attendance at the opening reception. A brochure will accompany the exhibition.

**Main Space at Stride Gallery Reginald Baxter  
King Charles Cavalier Spaniel**

**February 22 - March 23, 2002**

**Opening Reception: Friday, February 22 @ 8PM**

**Artist Meet and Greet: Saturday, February 23, 2002**

Since 1990 Reginald Baxter has been painting copies of a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel that at a rate of about 4 to 8 each year. The source for this image itself is a bit of a mystery as it was extracted from an "original art" catalogue where the artists' names appeared to have been fabricated. Upon the first examination the 30 or so dog paintings appear to be replicas of one another, but on closer inspection it is quite easy to spot subtle differences that render each work as a unique original. The paintings are a crude counterpart to current technologies (like photography or videography) where there is no such thing as an original, but only mechanically made duplicates. These collection of paintings that begun as a mechanically reproduced image of a forgery painting have ironically ended up as original pieces revealing the non-mechanical nature of the human touch and our ways of seeing.

Reginald Baxter graduated from the Ontario College of Art with Honours in Fine Art in 1989. His work has been widely exhibited in Canada and abroad in various galleries including Kenderline Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK; Mercer Union, Toronto, ON; and 494 Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; and the Venice Biennial, Canadian Pavillion (collaborative bookwork with Tom Dean), Venice, Italy.

The artist will be in attendance at the opening reception. A brochure will accompany the exhibition.

Stride Gallery 1004 MacLeod Trail S.E., Calgary, AB CANADA T2G 2M7

Hours of operation: Tuesdays - Saturdays 11 - 5 p.m.

Storefront. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

URL: [www.stride.ab.ca](http://www.stride.ab.ca)

E-mail: [stride2@telusplanet.net](mailto:stride2@telusplanet.net)

PHONE: 403.262.8507

FAX: 403.269.5220

For further information about Stride Gallery's upcoming program, please contact Lissa Robinson, Director at 403.262.8507. The Stride Gallery is an artist-run gallery that is funded in part by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Calgary Region Arts Foundation, the Canada Council and the generous support of the Calgary community.

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## **Big Alberta Sky – Pictures of Home**

This exhibition of photography curated by Calgary artist Wendi Jenkins, presents the work of 3 locally based photographers representing a wide spectrum of photographic practice. Bradford Uphill, who holds a BFA from the Alberta College of Art and Design, approaches the medium from a largely conceptual standpoint. Todd Korol has worked in advertising for a diverse clientele, with his work appearing in many national and international publications from Time and MacLean's to National Geographic and Saturday Night Magazine. Mike Drew's career has roots in journalism – he is currently a columnist and photographer with the Calgary Sun.

In this show, these artists explore notions of home as located in the landscape and country life of this province. Drew and Korol present iconic and distorted views of the hero of the modern west – the cowboy, while Uphill extends and fragments the rural landscape. These diverse “pictures of home” encourage the viewer to consider the photographer as the true lens of the camera.

On view

At

### **The Untitled Arts Society Gallery**

At 319 – 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

**January 6<sup>th</sup> to January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

**Gallery hours:** Friday and Saturday, Noon to 5pm

Otherwise, Viewing by Appointment

**For More Information or Viewing by appointment, Contact the curator at 714-7186 or Untitled Art Society at 262-7911 (please leave a message).**

## **UNTITLED ART SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Up coming shows in the Main Gallery

"Pieces of a Picture"

By Ryan Hamilton and Tanya Mastrobuono

Untitled Arts Society +15 Window

225 - 8th Ave. SE (West end of Performing Arts Centre corridors, 2nd Floor)

On view from December 1st, 2001 to January 31st, 2002

This collaborative show presents a whimsical series of collages by Ryan Hamilton and Tanya Mastrobuono, the former a University of Calgary Fine Arts graduate, and the latter, soon to be.

Random, discarded, leftover puzzle pieces are the key constituents of these light-hearted mixed media works. From this starting point these artists looked for surprising and unexpected ways to take the familiar and remake it as something new. Imaginary landscapes and flights of fancy result, as these recombinant puzzles show traces of their process of exploration, and the marks of the artists' hands.

The artists will be in attendance at the opening reception. All are welcome. For more information please contact the artists @ 340-3970 (Tanya) or 289-6743 (Ryan) or Untitled @ 262-7911 (leave a message).

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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

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### **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](mailto:djabbour@ausu.org). Supply a brief description of the art object, a picture if you have it, and its market value.

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## **WRITE FOR THE VOICE!**

Contact Tammy Moore at [tmoore@ausu.org](mailto:tmoore@ausu.org).