

THE VOICE

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"If we would have new knowledge, we must get a whole world of new questions."

--Suzanne Langer



A Bug In Your Ear...

Election Platform for James Baird-Foley

My name is James Baird-Foley and I have offered my name for consideration for election to the Athabasca University Students' Union for the 2002 election. I have been a student of Athabasca University since 1999 pursuing a Commerce Degree while serving full-time in the Canadian Armed Forces. I am married with three wonderful children. I am now in the second year of my degree that I hope to complete by the end of 2005. With the challenges that come from trying to complete my education while serving in the Military and at the same time trying to have a family life, I have come to understand and appreciate the opportunity that Athabasca University provides to me by being able to complete my education at a distance and outside the traditional University format (I have completed exams while at sea on deployments).

While pursuing my studies I have taken an interest in the workings of the AUSA and what benefit it could to me as a student. Upon further consideration I have come to the realization that if I want the AUSU to be a benefit to me I need to get involved. I feel that I could have something to offer to the rest of the Student body and the University as a whole. Some of the ways that I feel that I could serve the student body of Athabasca University are as follows:

1. The AUSU Council has the unique role of supporting the needs of a student population that is spread all over Canada and indeed the world. The Council needs to expand this role and raise the profile of the AUSU in the world of distance education.

2. Some steps have been taken to provide information to students through the use of "The Voice" and the AUSU Website on topics such as course reviews, and general knowledge. This role needs to be expanded. One of the major challenges facing students at Athabasca University is the feeling of isolation from other students of the University. While this feeling of isolation may never completely be alleviated, it is possible to provide a larger role in the area of student advocacy. When a student is having a problem with the University, their first point of contact should be the AUSU. In order for this advocacy role to be successful, the student would have to be aware that this help is available.
3. One way of providing information to students on issues that may affect them would be through a voluntary E-Mail mailing list that would allow the AUSU Council to provide information to the students directly on issue that may be important to them and pass on information on services that are offered from the AUSU.
4. Athabasca University is becoming a University that is well known on a National and International scale. It will be the job of the AUSA Council to protect the interests of students at a time that the University may move into the highly profitable area of "Education at a Price". AU is one of the few Universities in Canada that offers such a wide variety of courses and programs at a distance. If elected to the Council, I see it as my job of to ensure that this access to education remains an affordable option to students.

I feel that I have something to offer the council in the areas of leadership and the strategic direction that council could take in the areas of support to students who are studying at a distance and help raise the profile of Athabasca University as a leader in providing a quality education to people who would not normally be able to complete a Degree in a traditional University environment. I hope that I will be given an opportunity to put some ideas into action as your member of Student Council.

Thank You

Letter to The Editor:

Why is it that we haven't heard a thing in the Voice from the AUSU Council representatives about the upcoming revisions to the SUP?

Keep in mind that the projections, proposals and statements that AU administration will be making in the SUP will have a direct bearing on the services that you, as students, will receive, and also pay for in terms of tuition, "fees" (a wonderful catch-all term, isn't it?), and indirectly, pay for through your taxes. Do you want to be sucked into a position of supporting a plan that you've had no say about if the SUP is allowed to go through "as is?" What if the estimates and projections regarding enrolment levels that administration has made are incorrect, and funds need to be found to cover their errors?

Who is going to be stuck with the bill? It had better not be you and me! Ask your representatives what their stand is on the SUP. Demand that the administration send you a copy of the SUP if you are so inclined, and be sure to offer them your input. Stay on top of things and stay involved!

Sincerely,
Darren L. Kereluk
Undergraduate Student-Bachelor of Health Administration



Nature Notes: From the Backyard to the Biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

Welcome to the Voice's newest column – Nature Notes: From the Backyard to the Biosphere. The title is deliberately broad, representing my attempt to link environmental issues at the largest scale with natural goings-on at the smallest scale. Check in each month for a quick nature fix – a highlighting of a few of the million and one reasons why we all feel so “right” when in natural spaces.

True, a column on the environment would hardly be complete without some stats on the various ailments from which ecosystems worldwide are suffering. But rest assured: this is to be no doom and gloom section of the Voice. I may let you know of the thirteen new species that have just been added to COSEWIC's (the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada) list of threatened or endangered species. However, I will just as quickly tell you of exciting new trends in ecological restoration, whereby threatened native species and habitats are being restored to health.

For every abstract environmental woe, there is a close-at-hand, positive action that each individual can take. Did you know that across North America, biologists are concerned about declining songbird populations? A significant problem leading to this decline is loss of habitat. Did you also know that in the heavily-populated areas of Canada where most of us live, the majority of land is privately-owned (in my home of Southern Ontario, the figure is 90%). Enter the private land-owner, the ordinary citizen, and you see on the one hand a contributor to this habitat loss, but on the other hand, a person with incredible power to effect positive change.

The land where species are most threatened (Southern Ontario, Southern Quebec and South-Western BC) is in our hands – not the government's, not some expert conservation manager's. Ours. We are the conservation managers of the future, and it is our privilege to be able to carry on what Nature and evolution have worked so hard to produce. A world of such awe-inspiring diversity that biologists freely admit to knowing only a

fraction of what really exists. A realm in which the ugliest of caterpillars miraculously transforms into the most beguiling of butterflies. A country in which the hugeness of its geography is humanized by an ecological uniqueness of such clarity that we know we are home just by the texture of the vegetation and the smell of the wind blowing over it.

So if your home is the Pacific Northwest, help out the birds by planting your native salal (*Gaultheria shallon*). You won't regret the act when little flower-bells emerge in spring and the shrub in summer calls the birds with its tasty berries. Live in the Prairies or the Northeast? Plant the dazzlingly orange butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and please both your eyes and scores of butterflies.

Such are the pleasures of the eco-managers of the future. Such re-enlivening of the land is the lovely task bestowed on us, the readers of the Voice, the students of Athabasca, the citizens of Canada, and of the whole natural world.

Zoe Dalton is a graduate of York University's environmental science program, and is currently enjoying working towards a Master of Arts in Integrated Studies with Athabasca U. She can be reached for comments or questions at zk_dalton@hotmail.com.



From My Perspective - Saying Thanks

By Debbie Jabbour

Complaining always seems so easy - most of us tend to speak up when we don't like something, and at times it's very important that we do so. Some people take this to extremes and seem to do nothing but complain. Fortunately, most of us complain only when necessary, using the process in a constructive way to effect positive changes. But what about the

other side of the equation - commendations? How often do we actively speak up when we DO like something? How often do we take the time to say thank you when someone has done a good job? Although I try hard to show appreciation for things others do, I am often guilty of not taking the initiative to offer a commendation, and a recent experience showed me that withholding praise could have far-reaching consequences.

I'm ashamed to admit that I've never filled out one of the course reviews that come in the student manual. Actually I did fill out one for the very first course I took, but never bothered to mail it. Most of the time I've been happy with my courses and happy with my tutor, so I never felt the need to say anything. However, I was recently talking with

one of the course directors at AU, discussing a course that I had particularly enjoyed. He asked me who my tutor was. When I told him, he advised me that student feedback for that tutor had not been very positive, and the tutor was no longer working for AU.

I could not believe that other students had said the tutor was aloof and unhelpful. I told him my experience had been excellent, the tutor had explained interesting things about the course to me at length, and had really brought the course alive for me. Rather than being aloof, I found the tutor very friendly and approachable. Unfortunately, because I never bothered to send in my course review complimenting the tutor, the university apparently only received negative feedback. While there may be a variety of reasons why the tutor no longer works for AU, I could not help but wonder if I could have made a difference by sending in my positive course review!

Of course, I realize that when it comes to tutor-student relationships, everyone's experience is unique and complaints may be quite justified at times. However, when a tutor does a good job they deserve acknowledgement.

Saying thanks and offering praise should be a larger part of our daily routine. As a parent, I often forget to praise my daughters. It is so easy to yell at them for having a messy room, or for leaving wet towels on the floor, or not finishing an assigned task. It should be just as easy to say, "my, you look nice today" or "good job on that school assignment" or even just "thank you for being a great kid!"

People in intimate relationships, such as spouses, may take each other for granted too. Acknowledgement of the other's hard work and contribution to the relationship is a small thing that can mean a great deal. It takes so little effort to say, "I really appreciate what you do," but instead all too often we speak only words that are negative and critical.

In the workplace we may acknowledge the efforts of our co-workers, but many employers and managers fail to do the same, perhaps subscribing to the viewpoint that it is not necessary to say thanks to someone for doing the job they are paid to do. Yet I know how much it means to me when my manager takes the time to compliment me on a job well done. Not only does it encourage me and motivate me to keep doing my best, but also it puts me in a positive frame of mind that affects my interactions with others.

Unfortunately, not only do some think it unnecessary to say thanks when a person does a job they are paid to do, some also show no appreciation for those who volunteer their time for little or no money. This past summer, Edmonton hosted the World Track and Field Games with the assistance of thousands of volunteers. Many of these volunteers freely devoted hundreds of hours and effort, yet were left feeling unappreciated and un-thanked. This was especially true for those participating in the performances at the opening and closing ceremonies, many of whom stated afterwards that they would never get involved in such a venture again due to how they were treated. Volunteers are the backbone of any non-profit organization, and to lose their support due to lack of appreciation for their efforts is a fatal mistake.

When we show appreciation for others, it has positive consequences for everyone. Commendations encourage people to improve, to keep working hard and moving forward. Complaints discourage people, build negativity, and eventually cause people to give up. Saying thank you and showing appreciation will accomplish much more in the long run, regardless of whether it is a family member, a partner, a tutor, a co-worker, an employee, a volunteer, or a fellow student. I know I will be making a more conscious effort to acknowledge what others do for by remembering to say thanks more often!

Appreciation is a wonderful thing:
It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.
Voltaire



Damned if we do - damned if we don't: Should patients have greater access to prescription drug information?

By Tamra Ross Low

The last decade has seen a sharp increase in the number of television ads for prescription drugs. They have become so common that we might assume that these commercials are legal in Canada. In fact, Canada prohibits direct-to-consumer drug advertising but because so many of our available television stations are based in the US we are subjected to these ads every day. Currently, only the United States and New Zealand allow drug ads.

Drug advertising directed at consumers is still prohibited in most countries because there has been a fear that these ads might alter the way that drugs are prescribed - possibly compromising the quality of health care and increasing the incidence of unnecessary prescriptions. Until now, however, most of these concerns have been conjecture on the part of health care professionals. Today we have proof not only that these concerns are valid, but also that the damage done by these ads may be more serious than first feared.

This week the [British Medical Journal](#) published a study by a Health Canada research team headed by Barbara Mintzes that shows the extent to which drug advertising alters the prescription patterns of doctors in both the United States and Canada.

The cross-sectional survey data showed that during the test period, 12% of patients requested prescriptions and that 42% of the drugs requested were advertised to

consumers. "The prescribing rate was similar for [both] advertised and non-advertised drugs (about 74%)." However, the statistics also showed that "patients who requested a prescription were more likely to receive one" than those who did not.

Most importantly, the prescribing doctors were asked if they would, in the future, prescribe the same drug for patients with the same condition. In cases where patients specifically requested (and got) certain drugs, doctors were "ambivalent about the choice of treatment" 40% of the time. This number rose to 50% when the requested drugs were advertised to consumers. By contrast, doctors were only ambivalent about treatment in 12% of cases where the doctor had not recommended the drug.

Given this data, the researchers concluded, "patients' requests for medicines are a powerful driver of prescribing decisions." This could lead to doctors prescribing drugs that are not required, or even prescribing drugs that are not appropriate for the condition being treated.

An example of this type of inappropriate prescribing has been prevalent on the news the past few months. During the peak cold and flu season, people flock to their doctors asking for antibiotics to cure the pesky viruses, though antibiotics are known to have little or no effect on colds and flu's. Doctors, through local news stories, have advised patients not to request antibiotics for the flu, but this has done little to quell the problem because it is a common notion that antibiotics are necessary for overcoming the virus. Studies into the "abuse of antibiotics ... have shown that doctors don't like to say no to their patients (Canadian Press)," even though they may not feel that the drugs are needed. This has been shown to increase illness in many cases, as patients who frequently use antibiotics develop a resistance to them.

Despite the risks, drugs are already being advertised in Canada through a loophole that allows drug ads so long as the condition that is being treated is not mentioned. Imitrex, a migraine medication, has just begun advertising here. A recent ad urges viewers to ask their doctor if Imitrex is right for them, but the ad does not even give a clue as to what condition the product treats. In a similar vein, Viagra has been running television ads masked as public service announcements on the importance of seeking treatment for erectile dysfunction.



FED WATCH!

By Karl Low

Practice what you Preach

The Canadian International Development Agency (or CIDA) has just [released](#) released an Online Learning Course about Gender Equality. Now what we need to do is get Prime Minister Jean Chretien to sit down and take it. After his last cabinet shuffle, some Liberal members have taken the Prime Minister to task for the lack of women on the new Cabinet. Out of 39 members of Cabinet, only 8 are women. To have an agency devoted to international development trying to teach other nations how to go about gender equality when our performance in our own government is meagre at best smacks of hypocrisy.

It's always surprised me that there isn't a larger proportion of women in government, since women make up a slightly larger percentage of our population than men. To have a government that is truly concerned with gender equality it only makes sense that we need a reasonably equitable proportion of women to men in government. Yet rare is the woman who runs for a leadership position. Perhaps this is because the 'old guard' of the party is typically already men, perhaps it is the perception that only unfeminine women want such things.

If our government really wanted to encourage gender equality, perhaps it should start looking at ways to encourage more women to run, and more women to vote. Of course, if our government really wanted to encourage gender equality, it would have divided the Cabinet more equally to begin with.

Bad Time for Accountants

As if the Enron affair wasn't a bad enough blow for the reputation of accountants, Revenue Canada has now [announced](#) that it's made a mistake and overpaid transfer payments to several provinces in the amount of 3.3 billion dollars. What I don't understand is how an agency that is devoted strictly to accounting can make a mistake to the tune of 3.3 billion dollars.

That's \$3,300,000,000.00. How do you miss that many zeros on an accounting balance sheet?

At any rate, this comes at a welcome time for the federal government, as now they have a reason to pull back a huge amount of money that they've been overpaying certain provinces - something which no doubt eases their budget tightening.

Undeserved Credit

The Alberta government has [announced](#) that a recent survey by KPMG consulting has ranked Edmonton as the number one city in the world for the cost of owning and establishing a business. The article goes on to quote the Economic Minister as saying, "It's a ringing endorsement of this government's efforts, under Premier Klein's leadership, to create an environment where both business and people can thrive, and clearly demonstrates we're on the right track with our economic development and fiscal management policies."

In a related story, the government of Saskatchewan was also pleased with the [results](#) of KPMG's rankings, finding that Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Moosejaw all ranked higher than Calgary in the survey. It should be noted that the Saskatchewan government is lead by the NDP. Also, unlike Alberta, Saskatchewan faces no imminent teacher's strike, has had eight consecutive balanced budgets, and is working to improve health without enriching the insurance companies at the expense of services, and has done all this without the windfall oil revenues that Alberta has had. This would suggest that any attempt to relate Alberta's standing in the rankings to Klein's leadership is arguable at best, and pure falsehood at worst. As we move into tougher economic times, it remains to be seen which strategy has prepared the provinces better for the long run.



Life's Most Embarrassing Moments

By Wayne Benedict

The other day someone asked me to recall the most embarrassing moment in my life. Instantly, two episodes leapt to my mind and they still make me blush when I think of them. The first occurred when

I was about eight years old and my mother had taken my siblings and I to swim in Slim Creek, BC. Many of our extended family members from Alberta, which I hardly knew, were in attendance. We children were swimming and having a great time while the adults were talking on the banks of the creek. At some point, I felt the need to urinate, and thinking myself rather crafty, I decided that I need not leave the stream in order to add to it. The water was over my waist, so my mission would be hidden from any prying eyes. Unfortunately, I was wearing cut-off jeans with a zipper in the front and I imagine that "fly" was the correct bait because *it* was suddenly caught like a fish on a hook. The pain

was intense but I managed to maintain my composure as I struggled to release my catch. The harder I struggled, the more hooked it became until with a shriek equally measured in pain and embarrassment, I summoned my mother into the water. Being reluctant to divulge the origins of my despair, my mother had to decipher my honeybee-like dance in order to find a solution to my “problem”. Minutes seemed like hours in front of fifteen wide-eyed, open-mouthed people, but mercifully we (*it* and I) were eventually released from our torment when Mom managed to convince me that the zipper really did need to go up instead of down.

The second incident occurred when I was in my late teens. I’ve previously written about the fact that I was heavily involved in weight-lifting and that I spent a lot of time in the Canada Games Pool in New Westminster BC. It was (and presumably is) a wonderful establishment with a large gym overlooking the pool area. On the evening in question, I had finished my workout and decided to venture into the pool. I squeezed into my too-small swimsuit and, puffing out my chest, strode into the very busy swimming area. Being single, I was always open to an opportunity, so I attempted to “strut my stuff” in case anyone of the female persuasion might glance my way. I swam through the main pool and climbed out near the overly crowded hot-tub, re-inflated my thoracic cavity, and swaggered in amongst the group. Like the parting of the Red Sea, people cleared a path for me and I sat down in the steaming pool. It wasn’t long before I sensed that something was amiss. Of thirty or more people in the tub, not one would glance or look my way, no one talked, and all seemed to be concentrating on their feet below the swirling water. Several minutes went by and I was becoming more and more perplexed but the mystery was made clear to me when I reached up to scratch my nose. To my eternal mortification, I found that my sinus cavity had partially disgorged a goodly portion of entrails, which extended from my right nostril and lay atop my mustache like a ghoulish valance. Words cannot begin to describe the level of embarrassment that struck me at that point and I made a rapid, red-faced exit from the facility, promptly bought a membership to a different gym, and can’t recall if I ever set foot in the Canada Games Pool again.



EDUCATION REVOLUTIONARY:

Perception Is Its Own Form of Reality

by Cathy Thompson

Perception is its own form of reality, and the public's perceptions concerning the postsecondary system and the K-12 system are quite different. A report from America's "National Centre for Public Policy and Higher Education" explains why.

The report, "Doing Comparatively Well: Why the Public Loves Higher Education and Criticizes K-12" by John Immerwahr came out in 1999, and examines and analyzes public attitudes towards the two systems. It finds that the general public strongly supports higher education even though the K-12 system is thought of as having serious quality problems, and that these "sharp differences in attitudes towards the two education levels have important implications for public policy." Surveys in the report show that the general public knows a great deal more about the K-12 system than they do about the postsecondary system in areas such as how they are funded and what goes on inside them, and analyses suggests that this is a reason why criticisms of K-12 tend to stick, and criticisms of postsecondary bounce off. Another reason is that attendance in public K-12 is easily and freely accessible whereas access to postsecondary is more difficult. One has to be good enough or rich enough to get in and this increases the reverence that the public has for postsecondary. Because of this reverence any quality problems in postsecondary education are generally blamed on the high-schools for doing an inadequate job of preparing students for college work.

Are these American perceptions the same here in Canada? Here in Ontario, perhaps these similar public attitudes have had an enormous effect on public policy. Great amounts of political effort have gone into trying to reform the K-12,13 system and it may be argued that the last provincial election was won because of these efforts and the controversy they produced. However accountability actions towards the postsecondary system have been weak and were made basically only to appease the provincial auditor.

An Ontario socialist group called "People for Education" fights for funding for public education and relentlessly criticizes the conservative government for the high student failure and drop out rates its new curriculum has produced in the high-schools. However when it comes to the postsecondary system "People for Education" criticizes the conservative government only for not funding enough new spaces for the double cohort of students that will soon be graduating together because of the deletion of grade 13. They mention nothing about the high student failure and drop out rates that have existed

in the colleges and universities for years. Their only concern with postsecondary is access.

Immerwahr's 1999 report finds however that business leaders criticize both K-12 and postsecondary systems equally, and the report ends off by suggesting that general public attitudes may eventually come to criticize quality in higher education as well.

Last summer, an inquest into the death of a teenager at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto put partial blame on nurses training at the University of Toronto. In the year 2000 university rankings issue, *Maclean's* ranked U of T as number one in the Medical Doctoral category. It's latest issue back in November 2001 ranked U of T again at number one.

Obviously perceptions aren't changing yet.

Read more:

http://www.highereducation.org/news/news_102099.shtml

[“New curriculum proving too tough”](#) The Toronto Star, Jan 26, 2002

[“Universities could refuse 20,000 new students”](#) The Toronto Star, Jan 30, 2002

Cathy Thompson is an education activist and Athabasca University lifelong learner who lives in Ontario with her husband and their dog.



HOW ABOUT A STUDENT STRIKE?

By Mark Gueffroy

In the light of the pending teacher strike, former Athabasca University student Mark Gueffroy is advocating for a strike of post-secondary students demanding that institutes of higher learning lower tuition fees. Mr. Gueffroy says, “The price of a post-secondary education has become ridiculous, while a degree is becoming mandatory to obtain a

position that is reasonably acceptable. Colleges and universities have resorted to highway robbery, and the government bows out by offering very limited bursaries and saying ‘Wow. Look at how we value our students. We must be one good administration.’ Students need to look into the future and demand that the importance of learning be recognized. We aren't only concerned about our own education, but the education of our

children and the children of our friends and family. When the cost of tuition has reached \$100 000 or more, will our children be capable of working at Radio Shack?" Mr. Gueffroy also acknowledges that students also need to consider the consequences of taking action against their institution, stating, "I completely understand what students have at risk. If they refuse to attend classes, the college or university that they are attending may simply refuse to grant the degree they are pursuing. The hands of our students are tied." Shaking his head sadly, he comments that the government has failed in its responsibility to society and should invest more financially into the future of this country. He concludes, "Shame on you Ralph" and makes a comment about the capabilities (or lack thereof) of Prime Minister Chrétien and his cabinet.

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The anti-abortion terror campaign

By Shauna Nast, The Martlet

(CUP)Victoria physician Mary Conley is concerned. After devoting her entire medical career to providing women with access to safe abortions, she wonders if there will be someone to take her place when she retires.

"I'm from a generation that saw first hand the effects of unsafe abortions performed in back alleys or on the kitchen table," says Conley, who traces her own commitment to abortion rights to seeing her girlfriend receive an abortion on a kitchen table when they were only 13. This type of experience kindled a passion for the pro-choice movement and motivated many doctors to include abortion among the services they offer.

But Conley says that the younger generation of doctors is less acquainted with the reasons why access to safe abortions is important.

Victoria used to be home to about a dozen doctors who perform abortions. That number has since dropped by half, with a similar trend occurring across the country. Chronic underfunding of the health care system is partially responsible. Every week, another GP walks away from their practice because they can't afford to pay the overhead.

What's more, family doctors who have managed to stay afloat lack financial incentive to perform abortions. Abortion is considered a minor surgical procedure, and the fees for first and second trimester abortions have been cut by 17 per cent and 27 per cent, respectively. The fee for first trimester abortions currently sits at the 1982 level.

But perhaps the most significant reason for the decline in abortion services is the anti-abortion terror campaign. Every year, Conley trains young physicians who come to her wanting to know how to perform abortions. But when she asks them if they will make abortion part of their practice, they almost invariably say no. And the reason is always the same: it is too dangerous.

Since abortion was made legal and unrestricted in Canada in 1988, anti-abortion violence has skyrocketed. Clinics have been bombed and doctors have been attacked. In 1992 the Toronto Morgentaler clinic was firebombed, and in 1996 the Edmonton Morgentaler clinic suffered a butyric acid attack. In 1995 and 1997 Dr. Hugh Short of Hamilton and Dr. Jack Fainman of Winnipeg were both shot in their homes. In 1994 Dr. Garson Romalis of Vancouver was shot and seriously wounded at his home, and just last year he was stabbed in the back as he was entering his medical office. He survived the attack.

The government has taken steps to ensure the safety of doctors who make abortion part of their medical practice. After the shooting of Dr. Romalis the government hired private investigators to counsel all physicians who perform abortions on how to avoid a similar attack.

Conley remembers the eerie visit.

"They debriefed me at home for six hours, describing in detail all the possible ways in which I could be attacked and what strategies I could use to stay safe. Take a different route home from work every day, they said. Always have someone else pull the blinds or curtains shut before you enter a room. Get a dog."

In 1995 the B.C. government made it illegal to protest in front of abortion clinics, doctors' offices or doctors' homes. When a court struck down the Access to Abortion Services Act in 1996, the B.C. Court of Appeals restored the Act to full force, stating that in certain circumstances it is legitimate to restrict freedom of speech when individuals' lives are at risk.

A vigorous police effort was initiated in 1997 to find the individual or individuals responsible for the attacks on physicians. Given the similarity of the attacks, police suspected that a single individual was responsible. Their prime suspect, notorious anti-abortionist James Kopp, was arrested in France in March 2001. Doctors like Conley hoped for a cessation of violent attacks against abortion providers.

But the intimidation continues. Last year, a man was arrested hiding in the bushes in front of a Victoria medical office with a camera, a dreaded instrument to any physician performing a controversial procedure. These pictures are circulated among anti-abortionists, identifying the doctor as a target. Conley has also had her picture taken at public talks, where she is regularly heckled. And she frequently receives hate mail from anti-abortion groups.

"To this day I can't bring myself to enter a room with an uncovered window," says Conley. She also installed a bullet proof window at her Victoria office.

The fear of attack is enough to frighten most young doctors away from formally associating themselves with the procedure of abortion. In this sense the terror campaign of certain anti-abortionists is working.

As a result, a crisis of severely restricted access to abortion is looming on the horizon.

Women's groups are complaining that women in rural areas, or even small cities, lack access to abortion. That is both an inconvenience and expense that makes abortion significantly less accessible for many women; especially those most likely to be in need of it.

Conley feels that a small sector of society is using terror to derail the democratic process. Rather than engaging in dialogue, anti-abortionist terrorists are forcing doctors to choose between their security and their ideals. Most physicians choose their security. This bargain effectively places 'heroic' on the list of qualifications necessary to becoming a doctor who performs abortions in Canada.



McGill prof may have cure for diabetes

By Alex Singer, The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP) -- A McGill University researcher has developed a non-invasive technique that may hold the cure for diabetes.

Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg and Dr. Arthur Vinik, a University of Michigan colleague, have completed new work that hinges on the INGAP gene, which the two discovered in 1997. The gene produces the INGAP protein that apparently induces pancreatic cells to produce insulin. Many patients with diabetes are unable to produce their own insulin and must take daily injections.

The treatment has entered the first phase of clinical trials to test for toxicity in humans. If successful, diabetes sufferers will no longer need costly insulin injections or the inconvenience of constant blood tests.

The clinical trials, which began in recent weeks, use the INGAP protein to stimulate diabetes patients to produce insulin without the need for daily injections.

"Assuming the trials are successful, we could see this being used within five years," Rosenberg said. "If they are very successful, we could get fast track approval by the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] in the U.S. and see it being used even faster."

Rosenberg accidentally discovered the INGAP protein while researching pancreatic cancer formation due to partially obstructed ducts in the pancreas. It seemed that INGAP also caused cells to differentiate and start producing insulin. Using animal models to test his hypothesis, Rosenberg found he could artificially induce the formation of insulin-producing cells.

"There would be no need for the gene therapy or any medication," Rosenberg said. "The treatment causes patients to make their own insulin. I'm very optimistic about it."

If the clinical trials are successful, the treatment could garner international commendations and potentially millions of dollars in revenue.

Diabetes affects approximately 1.4 million Canadians and is the seventh leading cause of death in Canada. It is the leading cause of blindness, kidney failure and limb amputations.

Diabetes Health Canada reported that in economic terms, the burden of diabetes to the Canadian population due to health care costs, disability, work loss, and premature death is estimated to be up to \$9 billion annually.



Nuclear war with Pakistan not likely: Indian high commissioner

By Sarah Arruda, The Link

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Nuclear war between India and Pakistan isn't likely, India's high commissioner to Canada told students at Concordia University this week.

"The question is not whether there will be war, because a proxy war on India has been continuing for decades," said Rajanikanta Verma. "The question now is: will India's action result in the end of the proxy war?"

"India has publicly declared its commitment to no first use of nuclear weapons," he said. "Thus, there is no danger of engaging a nuclear conflict in our part.

"We all hope that nobody in Pakistan will be so irresponsible and suicidal as to even think of using them."

Verma expressed what he called India's hope of resolving the issue through peaceful bilateral negotiations, composite dialogue, trade, economic cooperation and cultural exchange.

While dismissing the possibility of a nuclear confrontation, Verma said: "India has run out of patience and has decided that it will not put up with cross-border terrorism."

The high commissioner said India's determination to stop terrorism is the impetus behind the current tension with Pakistan. Denying accusations that the situation is being made worse by reluctance to talk, Verma said India has always been open to dialogue.

He expressed concern, however, that "it is futile to talk while one side uses it only as an exercise in public relations and as a cover for continuing its covert aggression."

Verma said Pakistan must evince a commitment to peace, adding that Pakistani leader General Pervez Musharraf's present efforts have not gone far enough.

"Known terrorists must be handed over and the training and financing of terrorism must be stopped," said Verma.

Although Musharraf has banned terrorist groups from Pakistan, Verma accuses the banned organizations of having "simply shifted their headquarters and acquired new names."

In recent months, both India and Pakistan have moved troops to the border of the disputed province of Kashmir. Kashmir, a primarily Muslim province in overwhelmingly Hindu India, has long been a point of contention between the two countries.

Although Verma claimed that the current problem is terrorism and not the dispute over Kashmir, he noted there has been increased Pakistani pressure to address the problem of Kashmir first.

The speech was sponsored by the university's Indian students' association and the National Association of Canadians of Origins in India.



ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION

National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR) Visit - Feb. 6

ALL interested Athabasca University staff and students are invited to attend the NCEHR site visit team's noon hour presentation on Minimal Risk and Expedited Review Processes. Please respond to Jill Calliou at jillc@athabascau.ca by Feb 1st, as to whether you will be attending the presentation and luncheon (12:15 - 1:15 pm) at Athabasca Central on Wednesday, February 6. The noon presentation will be videoconferenced to Edmonton and Calgary Learning Centres, for the convenience of those who are unable to attend in Athabasca. (The luncheon, however, will only be available in Athabasca.)

For further information about the team's activities on Feb 6th, please refer to the schedule posted on the Research Ethics Board web page located at <http://www.athabascau.ca/ethics/>

The Lunch Hour Talk (c)

@ Expressionz Caf  / 9142 St. & 118 Avenue
February 07th 2002 / Noon - 1:00 p.m.
INFOLINE: 474-6058

Worker's Co-operatives?

The Multicultural Health Brokers Experience

with Yvonne Chiu & Sarah Borquez

Join us for a lunch hour conversation on **worker's co-operatives** in Edmonton, particularly the rich experience of the Multicultural Health Brokers, an organisation established to address issues of inequities related to the health and well being of immigrants and refugees in our city.

About our guests

Social Worker & Community Developer **Yvonne Chiu** is one of the founding members of the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative and has spent time exploring a variety of ways to engage immigrants/refugees and front-line service providers for the purpose of social / organizational change.

Sarah Borquez

Sarah is a founding members of the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op. Since the early 90's, she has worked as a health educator and community health developer in the Spanish-speaking community in many areas of health & wellness.

February 07th, 2002 / Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Expressionz Caf , 9142 - 118 Avenue
Infoline: 474-6058 - Admission is free -

A presentation of:

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

The NEW Gallery Press for Immediate Release

The NEW Gallery 516 D 9th Ave. SW
(403) 233-2399
www.nucleus.com/~thenewgallery
thenewgallery@nucleus.com

FEBRUARY 2002

Main Space

February 8 - March 2
Opening: February 8 @ 7 PM
Artist Talk: February 9 @ 2 PM
Title: DRIVING

Artist: Lee Goreas (Toronto)

Goreas will create an interactive installation surrounding our relationship (and more specifically the male relationship), to both institutional and popular culture through the use of humour. The exhibition will include: Par 2 Golf Course, an interactive sculpture based on the miniature golf course and Slow Down Show Down, a customized figure-8 race track that allows members of the audience to compete with each other using remote control racecars and other components. The video Ring of Fire will document the artists' view out of the front window of his automobile as he travels down the spiral exit ramp in a parkade. The car stereo plays Burning Ring of Fire by Johnny Cash.

The artist incorporates elements from contemporary film dialogue, Modernist Literature, North American car culture and urban architecture for both beauty and social criticism.

Front Space

February 8 - March 2
Opening: February 8 @ 7 PM

Artist: Richard Smolinski (Calgary)

Calgary artist, SMOLinski will exhibit approximately 20 black and white images executed on paper with water-based media that portray male figures in a variety of roles. By examining the male gender's conventions, stereotypes and roles, the artist illustrates a number of motivating factors and societal influences that contribute to this behaviour.

+15 Window Space Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts
February/March

Opening: February 21 @ 8 PM.

Title: PLASMODESMATA

Artist: James McDougall (Calgary)

McDougall will combine biology and art to create drawings of botanical diagrams. These drawings become abstract through layering, repetition and superimposing the diagrams one after another with oil pastel and coloured pencil. Plasmodesmata is a term used to refer to narrow tubes that connect one cell to another in plants. The work uses biological theory and art to display basic life processes: cell division, maturation and growth. The artist uses these links to parallel the ever changing yet similar cycles of all organic beings. This exhibition will examine the relationship between scientific thought and practice possibilities.

Would you like to contact us?

The New Gallery

516D - 9th Avenue S.W.

Calgary, AB T2P 1L4

P: 403-233-2399 F: 403-290-1714

E: thenewgallery@nucleus.com

W: <http://www.nucleus.com/~thenewgallery>

Candice Noakes, Administrative Coordinator; Tammy McGrath, Programming Coordinator;

Melody Jacobson, Resource Coordinator / Web Editor;

The New Gallery--supporting and promoting contemporary art and artists since 1975

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 an 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

eMail: 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.

UNTITLED ART SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENT

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).

Global Village Backpackers Banff.

Our hostel opened June 1, 2001 right in downtown Banff. Formerly the Woodland Village Inn, we are a unique hostel as all our rooms have ensuite bathroom facilities. We have a hot tub, sauna, internet access, kitchen facilities, pool table, tour desk, TV room, bike rentals, laundry facilities, lounge and a large outdoor courtyard patio.

A majority of our rooms are spacious 4-8 bed dorms. We also have, what we call, semi-private rooms. Each has a double bed in a loft above a 4 bed dorm. You share the washroom facilities with the dorm.

Room rates

October 1, 2001 - April 14, 2001

Dorm Beds	\$25.00	\$22.00
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Semi-private	\$55.00	\$51.00
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Weekly rate in a dorm room	\$129.50 (non-refundable)
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All prices include taxes and linen. Discounts are available to travelers carrying YHA, ISIC, VIP or GO cards.

2001/2002 Ski packages

3 Nights/2 days - only \$169

3 Nights shared accommodation

2 days ski passes (Lake Louise/Sunshine Village/Mount Norquay)

Transport to/from ski hills

Free pancake breakfast daily.

6 Nights/5 days - only \$369

6 Nights shared accommodation

5 days ski passes (Lake Louise/Sunshine Village/Mount Norquay)

Transport to/from ski hills

Free pancake breakfast daily.

We require credit card details to guarantee reservations.

We welcome group bookings. Please call the hostel directly for details.

Cheers

The Staff at the Global Village Backpackers Banff

449 Banff Avenue BOX 398

Banff AB Canada T1L 1A5

1-403-762-5521 Toll-free in North America 1-888-844-7875 fax 1-403-762-0385

Are you an Artist? AUSU supports the arts!

AUSU is interested in purchasing original works of art from students for use in promotional purposes. These promotions may include: gifts from AUSU to graduates at convocation, tokens of appreciation for volunteers, special presentations, etc.

The works of art must:

- be created by an AU Student
- be within a value range \$0-\$500.
- be accessible or easily transportable to Alberta

If you are an artist of any kind who creates a product you feel we would be able to use for such a purpose, please contact djabbour@ausu.org. Supply a brief description of the art object, a picture if you have it, and its market value.

WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Please contact Tammy Moore at tmoore@ausu.org.