

THE VOICE

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 10

March 20, 2002

www.ausu.org

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value."

--Albert Einstein



A Bug In Your Ear...

NEW COUNCIL OFFICIALLY STARTS TERM MARCH 16, 2002

On March 16, your new student council officially took office. In accordance with our bylaws, at the first meeting an executive was nominated and elected by the nine Councillors from amongst themselves. The election was held by secret ballot and presided over by scrutineers Judith Hughes (AU VP Student Services) and Christine Lynch (AUSU Staff).

The results are as follows:

President: Debbie Jabbour - djabbour@ausu.org

Vice-president: Shirley Barg - sbarg@ausu.org

Secretary-Treasurer: Gurpreet Dulai - gdulai@ausu.org

In addition to the executive, your new Council consists of:

Karie-Anne Getta- kgetta@ausu.org

Darren Kereluk - dkereluk@ausu.org

Mac MacInnis - mmcinnis@ausu.org

Sandra Moore - smoore@ausu.org

Nicholas Palamarchuk - npalamar@ausu.org
Tamra Ross-Low - trosslow@ausu.org

Council members live in several different locations: Edmonton; Calgary; Medicine Hat; Andrew (Alberta) and Kamsack (Saskatchewan). Although we had hoped for candidates from more distant parts, new Council will be working hard to represent students no matter where they live. More detailed information about your representatives (bios and pictures) will be coming soon.

WEBSITE STATUS

We are continuing to work on the redevelopment of our website. The Voice is finally back online, temporarily in pdf format. Other features of the site may take a bit longer. Unfortunately we've lost our discussion board and course reviews and it may be a few weeks before we can get something going again. In the interim, please feel free to email any of the new council members with your comments and feedback.

Thanks for your patience and understanding!

Debbie Jabbour
President, AUSU

Thanks to all of you who have been providing us with such great feedback on The Voice. Please continue providing your opinions, comments and support; any submissions can be sent to tmoore@ausu.org

Tammy Moore
Editor of The Voice

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Regarding: VOLUME 10 ISSUE 4
January 23, 2002
Teacher's On Strike - The Heart of the Issue *By Tamra Ross Low*

Dear Editor,

I am an undergraduate student teacher at the University of Alberta currently participating in my introductory professional term (IPT) and I would like to respond to the article by Tamra Ross Low in the issue above if it is not too late.

I feel that the author had some great points concerning the current dilemma of the teacher's in Alberta, but I find it hard to understand her bias when she herself was a teacher in the past. The message I get from her article is for teachers to "quit whining."

First of all, I would like to discuss this matter of wages, as the author compares a teacher's salary to that of nurses, paramedics, and "the rights of any single group of workers." Let us take paramedics for example. I happen to know a few and thus I do not see the relationship between 2 years of post-secondary education and a \$60 000 pay role. Even with 5 full years of post-secondary education, the maximum a beginning teacher could make is \$38 000 topping out after ten years at \$60 000. I for one am not to complain about the maximum wages of teachers, as if you take into consideration the 3 months off a year and an unreal benefit plan, with these two items not present, the average teacher would make more than \$90 000/year. But, where my concern is, is that of the starting teacher. I find it ridiculous to go to school for 5 years and make \$5000 more than I could earn in a summer at a hard labour job (4 months).

Secondly, I would have to agree with the author about class sizes as no research I have read provides evidence that smaller class sizes contribute to higher academic achievement. Only in K-3 does research suggest higher academics in mathematics and reading comprehension.

Thirdly, I would like to discuss this "emergency" in teachers going on strike. One of my fellow colleagues explained it best: "Parents feel that a school is a day care for their children." Let me take an exaggerated example. In an issue of *Language Arts* Volume 75, number 4, the authors Patrick Shannon and Patricia Crawford state it very clearly: "At a baby-sitting rate of four dollars an hour (with one dollar for overhead), teachers should be paid \$81 000 US for 25 students and a 180-day school year. Of course, actually teaching the twenty-five students anything should be extra." So let me ask you this...How much does the average parent spend on day-care or other modes of looking after their kids throughout the year? I rest my case...

And last but not least, the public and government never take into consideration the amount teachers spend out of their own pockets towards innovative teaching methods. In *Phi Delta Kappan* March 1997, an article was written by William Olszewski and Kathleen Maury dealing with their study in public schools in Minnesota. The data collected is quite outstanding. They found that the average teacher spends \$492 US/year out of their own pocket towards their profession! Let me, as a mathematics major, do the math, as Tamra Ross Low felt: "Teachers hope that [the public] will not do the math." I shall do it for them. The figures would exceed into the billions of dollars by a long shot for a nation's representative sample. They found that \$23 million US is spent in Minnesota alone annually.

I would like to conclude by quoting Patrick Shannon and Patricia Crawford: "Everyone is an expert [when it comes] to education. Everyone has years of experience at school and feels that experience entitles them to pass judgement on school policies, practices, and people." I feel that this strike of the teacher's is in the best interest of the students

and that we as the public should think about the long term positive effects of providing education with more money instead of how am I going to look after my kid. The classroom is not a day care. It is an institution of learning and cognitive development.

Dave Kiryluk
University of Alberta
Undergraduate Student
Bachelor of Education Secondary
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Re Teachers strike articles of January 23rd

Teachers' wanting better working conditions and smaller classes is a legitimate position. That is until they say that a pay raise will solve the problem. This an old, overused and transparent union tactic of tugging on the public hart strings with stated objectives that are not in line with there actual objectives which would gain them little ground in the battle for public support. Frankly the public should feel insulted at the unions attempt to deceive. I mean it's time to at least come up with a better smoke screen strategy for heaven sake.

Far be it for me to tell others what road they should take in their professional careers. However if you are not happy with the conditions you work in and you cannot change them then you have two choices, buck up and live with it or change jobs. I say this because I am living the advice. The whole reason I left a \$45,000 a year job at 27 to go to AU is because I did not like my working environment for health and social reasons. I tried to change some things but many are out of my control. I came to the same two choices that I mentioned before. I chose to change jobs. I did this knowing I would probably not start working in a new chosen career at the same wage as the job I left. The opportunity cost of not having to work in the environment I had been and still am in part-time will be in the tens of thousands by the time I am done my degree. I did this so I could work in better conditions knowing full well that higher wages would not fix my conditions. I feel it will be worth it.

It should be obvious that more money diverted to higher wages from areas that could help improve the conditions will only allow conditions to erode further. If working conditions were really a matter of principle for the teachers, then more money would not even be an option. In closing, I would like to remind teachers they are not Nurses or Doctors, I have lived in Alberta, Manitoba and now Ontario and I have yet to hear of a teacher shortage on the same level as our health care professional shortage. To ask for a big wage increase because a group in an entirely different field and environment got one really makes me ask the question, "these people are teaching our kids?" Oh I forgot it's not the unions' job to care about the kids. It's to bad the teachers are more loyal to the union then the kids. Who fights for the kids?

Trevor Siwak
Ottawa

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Please forgive this letter since it is more of a confession than anything else.

I remember asking myself immediately during the attacks on September 11th , "who is going to benefit financially from this atrocity."

I received the answer yesterday while filling up the car with gasoline, I AM!

Until I read the articles in the February issue of NEXUS magazine about a week ago I was constantly bewildered by the incredibly low gas prices, considering there was a war going on.

Since I AM the microcosm in the macrocosm and because I enjoy low gas prices as much as oil producers enjoy selling it to me, I now realize my micro-responsibility in the macro-tragedy.

We are all beneficiaries of September 11th.

The need and greed for oil is our shared shame.

We have the technology to eliminate the dependency on oil but WE (and I include myself), refuse to insist on its application, (read: it is not my problem, it is too difficult or expensive to convert to an electric car or solar power). Not true in any case.

The low fuel prices paid for with human lives is something we all have to live with, unfortunately.

Not to worry, though; some day the oil will be all gone and if we haven't learned something by that time we will be told that we need to kill for water while being surrounded by it.

Perhaps those of us living in Canada will finally understand what it is like to be an Afghani, Kuwaiti, South African, etc.

Thane Heins

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Re Teachers strike articles of January 23rd

Dear Editor,

Once upon a time in a small kingdom far away, people lived in peace and harmony. Each had work to do in order that the kingdom might thrive. The efforts of the one supported the efforts of the other so that the needs of all were reasonably met and each shared in the prosperity of the kingdom.

In this small kingdom, a couple accepted responsibility for providing care to a group of children whereby the children would grow, learn and develop skills to be contributing adults in their society when they were fully grown. The king provided the couple with a living for the services they provided, and the parents of the children who were in this couple's care looked upon them with respect and appreciation and acknowledged them as effective care givers for their children. Trust was high, and the couple were highly loved and respected in their community.

And the children joyfully went to this couple each morning. They saw in them the likeness of their parents. And they accepted the directions the couple gave them for they new the tasks and the studies that were expected of them were labours of love from a couple who cared deeply for each of them. And though, being children, they sometimes argued and bickered and behaved in inappropriate ways, they accepted the discipline of the couple when corrections were needed. And their parents and the king accepted the discipline they used with the children knowing that the couple was committed to providing and reinforcing solid values that reflected those things that the people of the kingdom considered important.

In time, the couple began to look upon their role and the rewards they were given for their efforts and the said to each other, 'What we are receiving from the king is not enough. Our contribution to the kingdom is inadequately compensated, and we deserve more. Let us go to the king and demand that he increase our living.'

So off they went. The king met with them and listened to their pleas for additional funds. He then explained to them that the people of the kingdom provided taxes whereby roads were built in the kingdom so that all people could travel safely from place to place, hospitals were built whereby those who are sick could attain medical attention, fire protection services were developed so that people's homes could be protected from accidental fires, water and sewer facilities were developed to bring water into our homes and take away waste. Many other services were also described, and at the end, the king said to the couple, 'From which of these other services do you think I should reduce funds in order that you might have more? Or do you think that I should take more funds from the livelihood of all the people through increased taxes so that I could increase what I give to you?'

The couple were not pleased with the king_s response. They saw things differently and had convinced each other that their role was not being adequately recognized in the kingdom in relation to others. We hold the future of the kingdom in our hands. Are we not as important as the doctors? . . . as the politicians? . . . as the lawyers? Yet, our compensation is different from theirs. Let us withdraw some of our services so that the king will change his position and give us the compensation we deserve.’

So the couple began to do less than they had been doing. First, they stopped looking after the children on the playground as they had been doing.

The children, being children got into squabbles and arguments. They looked to the couple to help resolve their concerns, but they were not around. So the biggest and the strongest were able to exert their will over the smaller and the weaker. In fact, the weakest became targets for the others to ridicule, make fun of, hurt, and exploit. The peacefulness of the playground was disrupted. And the children looked upon the couple and said, ‘Don_t they care for us anymore? Are we no longer loved? Can we no longer trust them to tend to our needs?’

And the couple stopped sending notes home to parents so that parents would know how their children were doing in their learning and in their behaviour. The parents’ only source of information was the children, and the children were less than happy. Tales of bullying were told at the dinner table, and the parents said, ‘Can_t we trust this couple anymore? We have let them represent us as models of the values we all hold dearly, but we don_t think they share these values. We can’t trust them to discipline our children fairly, so we will withdraw our support and demand explanations for any actions they exercise with our children.’

The uncertainty grew. Others in the kingdom saw the couple place their comfort and their workload and their compensation above all else. Children saw that the relationship between them and the couple, the relationship they had believed in, was phony. And as the couple accelerated their withdrawal of services, meetings with other care givers stopped happening, children_s assignments were not corrected, progress was not communicated to the parents or the children, and learning slowly deteriorated and threatened to stop all together. Even the couple stopped talking to each other.

Finally the king met with the couple. ‘You win,’ he said, ‘in a fashion. I have found more money for you by taking it from another service and from increased taxes on the people. But I fear you have lost far more than you have gained.’ He looked at them differently. It was a look of disdain. The respect, the honour that had been with their position was gone. He saw them differently. They saw themselves differently. They were different.

‘There is only so much money to go around,’ the king told them. ‘To give you more, someone else must have less. So they will be next to use similar tactics to yours. Then it will be the bus drivers, or the nurses or the . . .’ The list could go on and on. The couple left the presence of the king and returned to their home.

And the people saw them differently. And the children certainly saw them differently. And they saw themselves differently. And they were different.

And they looked at their pay cheques and they saw that they had more money; they tried to smile, but it was difficult. They looked at each other and said, 'We won!' but they also saw the cost, and it was hard to smile.

Sincerely,
G. M. Edwin



How Women's Magazines Fatten Us Up to Nourish The Diet Industry's Feeding Frenzy. **By Tamra Ross Low**

Women's magazines are obsessed with helping us lose weight. Or this is what they would have us believe. In reality, they are obsessed with helping us diet.

These might sound like the same thing. The magazines would surely claim that they are. In reality, these are opposing concepts. Diets don't lead to weight loss, as many modern studies have shown. Up until now, it's been kept rather quiet, however. If you read a lot of women's magazines, you'll note that this concept is still rather hush-hush. It's starting to leak out, though.

Metabolic Woes

This month the National Eating Disorder Information Centre of Canada ([NEDIC](#)) began running television commercials that bluntly tell women that dieting makes them fat. There couldn't be a better time to tackle this issue. According to NEDIC, "70% of women and 35% of men are dieting at any given time," and "95% of all diets fail." Why? NEDIC explains it well:

The Set Point theory of weight is well established in medical settings. This is the weight range at which we will naturally settle with a healthy lifestyle. A complex mix of genetics, metabolism and lifestyle determines our weight, shape and size. Our body will vigorously defend the weight range at which it is most healthy: If we go below our set point, our body will create a drive to eat, and sometimes even to binge, in order to get back to its natural weight. If we are above our set point, our body will work harder to lose the weight. Set point can be altered through extended periods of weight loss and regain. In these instances, the body may act to protect itself from future famine- which it cannot distinguish from restrictive eating or dieting - and set its set point higher, and slow metabolism.

Put more succinctly - when we starve ourselves, our body starts storing fat in self-defence. You'll then have to eat less and less to stay thin, and after long-term dieting, even a normal, healthy diet will make you fat. We all know that people with high metabolisms can eat what they want and stay thin, and that people with slow metabolisms gain weight easily, but what we often do not understand is that metabolism is not set and can be altered - for better, or for worse. People with high metabolism have eating habits that tend to keep it high.

Skipping breakfast, for example, is one of the best ways to slow your metabolism over the long term. Why? People who skip breakfast routinely go 15 or more hours without food. These same people often say they are not hungry in the morning. They probably aren't. Over time, fasting will slow the metabolism and train the body to function longer without fuel. If you aren't hungry in the morning, your metabolism is probably slow. The result is that what food you do eat at lunch and supper will be much more fattening because you are burning fewer calories. You probably also have less energy. To make matters worse, you might binge when you finally do eat - loading up on fats and junk-foods. Skipping breakfast is one of the habits common to people who have a slow metabolism. Dieting, over time, has a similar effect.

Magazines Serve Those Who Finance Them, and it is Not the Readers.

If this is so, why do women's magazines rely so heavily on articles that promote diets? The answer is simple - advertising. Look through any women's magazine, and you might be surprised to find dozens of ads for diet products, low-cal foods, body sculpting creams, and fat burning supplements. You'll also notice that these magazines are obsessed with food. Recipes for meaty entrées and gooey desserts are often advertised right on the front cover. Inside, there is usually an entire section devoted to food. It has been suspected for some time that mass-market magazines not only are primarily supported by advertisers dollars, but also may tailor their content to please these advertisers. It is completely logical, from a business standpoint.

The problem with this is that women tend to view these same magazines as reliable sources of health information. Indeed, a survey by Jan Hill and Kathy Radimer (Journal of Nutrition Education, Nov-Dec 1996 v28 n6 p313(8)) found "adults' sources of nutrition information have consistently found magazines to be nominated most frequently particularly among women." Concern over this issue is already being expressed by researchers who have noted a distinct link between cigarette advertising in women's publications, and these magazines' tendency to gloss-over the dangers of smoking.

The diet industry in America generates profits of [\\$40 billion](#) a year. It thrives on the insecurities of women - and works hard to foster these insecurities. They are well aware that diets don't work - in fact, they count on it. Dieters buy diet products for life. Because fad diets do produce some nominal results (mostly dehydration or muscle loss), women return again and again.

Women As Cash Cows

This scam is not new. Women have long been victims of industries that hook them for life. Birth control pills are a premier example. Not only do we purchase these every month for decades of our lives, but once we reach menopause, we are convinced that we must continue taking hormones to prevent premature aging and loss of sexual desire. Research has isolated a number of risks from these post-menopausal estrogen supplements, but this has done little to reduce the rate at which they are prescribed. It is no accident that the manufacturers of Premarin also make birth control pills. From a sales standpoint, it's brilliant. A similar tactic has been employed by the manufacturers of baby formula. Decades ago we were convinced that our babies were better off with canned formula than with our own milk. This ensured a year or two of heavy sales. Now liquid meal replacers are being marketed to seniors as an essential part of an active, older-person's diet - despite doctor's warnings that these oily, sugary drinks are only indicated for persons who have difficulty eating, or who need extra calories during chemotherapy or other such treatment.

Nevertheless, similar products are being targeted at athletes. The aim is to have us all on formula for life. Gerber baby food has followed suite by introducing bottled toddler food called [Graduates](#). Soon there will be Gerber teen-chow in bottles too (fortified, concentrated nutrition for growing adolescents!).

Diet products are just another in a long line of products that have profited greatly by hooking women for life (and why not, it's worked like a dream for the tobacco companies). Information that dieting does not work could topple this multi-billion dollar industry faster than you can say "soy-cheese." You might think that fast food producers would love to see the diet industry fail, but they, too, profit from its machinations. People on diets tend to binge - and fast food restaurants offer a quick fix - profiting greatly from people who make bad food choices while coming off of restrictive diets. Even diet counseling companies, like Weight Watchers and Jenny Craig, make their money from repeat business. Their aim is to convince you that they can help you lose weight, but not to help you to keep it off.

Next week: Part 2 - How women's magazines help ensnare women in the dangerous 'dieting for life' cycle.



From My Perspective: Pets & Other Animal Encounters By Debbie Jabbour

I'm not a pet owner currently, and I doubt I will become one in the near future. It is not because I don't like animals. But not only do pets require time (which I have little of to spare), many of my animal encounters have not been very conducive to developing a fondness for pets.

When I was a kid we always had cats. One in particular we dubbed Solomon, "because he was so wise". He was really a very intelligent creature - but one day he started 'marking his territory' in everyone's closet, and soon my mother was forced to get rid of him. I had this experience repeated a few years ago with my daughters' two cats - and its not a pleasant one.

I also had a bird as a pet when I was about 5 years old. One day the bird escaped the cage and our cat pounced on it and killed it in front of my eyes. Two friends and I cuddled helplessly in an oversized chair, screaming for my mother, watching the cat rip the feathers off the little creature.

As a child I was always afraid of dogs - mostly because our neighbours from three doors down had a huge German Shepard that they allowed to run free. To a little child of 4 or 5, an encounter with this monster was traumatic. Looking back now I realize the dog was probably quite friendly. But I was a shy and timid child - an encounter with the large drooling teeth of a beast twice my size was enough to send me running (with the dog close on my heels).

My grandparents had a farm, and I was fortunate enough to spend many weekends and holidays there. Just one drawback - the outhouse. The outhouse was not the drawback - I was pretty adaptable in that regard. The problem was that my grandparents kept pigs. And the pigs liked to hang around outside the outhouse. These weren't little pigs, but good sized ones - to a small child they seemed enormous. Every time I finished using the facilities, I would inch open the door cautiously....worried that one of these huge, ugly creatures would be waiting to attack me outside!

I would peek around the corner, hoping to be able to run to safety, only to meet an evil snout! Immediately I would slam the door and trap myself in the outhouse, securing the lock (as if the pigs could open it!). I would then holler myself hoarse. "Grandma....graaandmaaaaa"....GGGGGRAAAAAANDMAAAAAA!!!!!"

No matter how stuffy or unpleasant the atmosphere in the outhouse, I would stay put until my grandma finally arrived to shoo away the pigs.

I had a cousin who was really interested in wildlife, especially birds. He would lead us on adventures to seek barn swallows, owls and falcons, explaining all kinds of fascinating details about each one. One day he suggested we should try and trap gophers. Except he knew better than to call them gophers - they were "Richardson's Ground Squirrels". He pontificated on the qualities of these unique little creatures and organized a system whereby we could trap some alive.

We found a large box and devised a stick and string method that would trap any "Richardson Ground Squirrel" who took our food bait. After laying in wait for only a few minutes, we excitedly trapped our first victim! Gingerly we managed to pick him up and place him inside another box - a sturdy one that was about 4 feet high by 4 feet square. We were sure no gopher (or "ground squirrel") could possibly escape. We returned to the trap, and quickly caught our next victim! But when we went to place him in the box to join his companion - it was empty!!!!

Puzzled at how a small squirrel could possibly have escaped a box with such deep sides, we deposited the newest inmate and returned to our trap. This went on throughout the day. At one point we had caught six squirrels, yet they would all have escaped the next time we returned to the box!!!

The day finally drew to a close and it was time to head back to the city. There were still three squirrels in the box, and we transferred them to a smaller container in preparation for return to Edmonton. My mother was rather bemused, but did not argue about taking them back, since my cousin was insistent that they would have a very good home. Of course the squirrels quickly eluded captivity once we arrived in Edmonton.

It was not until years later that we solved the riddle of how they were disappearing from the box. My grandfather was a highly observant man who loved nature and had quite a sense of humour. Apparently he had watched us trapping squirrels. According to his philosophy; no wild animal should be in captivity....so every time he would notice the squirrels we had captured in the box....he would tip the box over and free them!

One of my most rewarding animal experiences came about a few years ago when my daughter agreed to babysit a bird for a friend. I only found out when I got a phone call at 7 AM....and Petey was dropped off. Given my childhood bird experience I was not sure how I would react, but of all the animals I've known, Petey was the most 'human'. Petey was a lovebird....who had been raised from the egg to think he was a person. He would eye you speculatively, chirping and scolding until you felt guilty and let him out of his cage. Once released, he would check out every corner of the house before settling in companionably on someone's shoulder.

One of Petey's specialties was decoration, using the most expensive (or colourful) book at hand. He would perch himself on the latest National Geographic, or one of my Psychology textbooks, and serrate the edge with his beak. He would then pick up the colorful strip of paper and insert it strategically among his tail feathers. After he had amassed several of these, he would strut around showing off his finery.

Petey would sit on my hand or shoulder while I worked at the computer, begging my attention. He especially liked it when I sang "Bird on a Wire" to him. I would stroke his green and gold feathers and he would lay his head to the side and cuddle into my fingers, vibrating and purring like a kitten! My daughters, knowing my general indifference to animals, found it quite amusing to see me bond with a bird.

Unfortunately shortly after Petey went back home, he ended up in bird heaven. I'm pretty sure my 'animal encounters' are over for the moment - although my daughter has been hinting at getting a snake!



FED WATCH!

By Karl Low

BC's Hike Beats Alberta's

Another province is starting to address the supply side of the health-care difficulties that Canada is going through. British Columbia has [announced](#) a program that will almost double the number of doctors that they graduate each year. The government is chipping in the \$134 million that it will cost to build facilities to house and train all these doctors. No doubt part of this money will come from BC health care premiums that are taking a [significant jump](#) on May 1 of this year.

In Alberta meanwhile, the health care premiums are going up and the only thing to show for it currently is a lighter pocket book and a broken promise. The provincial government argues that a health care premium isn't a tax, so Premier Klein's claim that "The only way taxes are going in this province is down," is still valid. But you must pay the premiums at the legislated rate, the rate is affected by your income, and it must be paid directly to the government. The only thing that makes it different from a tax is that there's no chance of a refund.

Personally, I never expected better from Premier Klein since the first election he ran in when he claimed, at least to universities, that education was his number one priority, and

then proceeded to slash funding to every post-secondary institution in the province. Perhaps now that we're out of the "good times" here in Alberta, the rest of the province will start to see what the less fortunate have been getting for most of Mr. Klein's reign.

Unfortunately, even if they do, I doubt we'll see a viable alternative to vote for in provincial politics. After all, the liberals are as right wing as the conservatives these days, and to think that the NDP would win in Alberta is a pipe dream.

Mental Health Given Help

Mental Health in BC is also getting a [financial boost](#) to the tune of 263 million dollars over the next six years. These funds include a major capital infusion to build new mental health areas that are closer to communities. Given the amount of cuts throughout the province in other areas such as education and social services allocating money for mental health seems to be a good idea. This is especially true when you consider the number of people who will be experiencing severe stress as they find the social-welfare rug pulled out from under them.

BC's Minister of Health Services, Colin Hanson, says that "People stay healthier and live better lives when they are close to their own communities and families," which is the reasoning behind moving to a community based mental health care system. Someone should inform the government that people also stay healthier and live better lives when they don't have to deal with the stress of seeing their income suddenly cut or eliminated, or having to somehow find more money to pay for health care premiums.

What is most disturbing is while health care premiums, which affect everybody equally, are going up, taxes, which affect the rich far more than the middle class, are going down.

Ontario Teacher Evaluations

In Ontario it is now [legislated](#) that students and parents be provided with the chance to have input in teacher appraisals. Whether parents and students will take advantage of this is another matter entirely. Experience here at Athabasca University suggests that it won't happen, although there are a lot of differences between Athabasca University and the Ontario School System.

The most obvious difference is that Athabasca University is post-secondary and the Ontario teacher evaluations are for the K-12 grade ranges. Oddly, you would expect this would give Athabasca University a higher response rate because we are more directly responsible for our own education, and if we receive a poor one have every right to let AU know about this.

Of course, there might be some difference in that parents and students will likely be provided forms to send in without having to ask for them, while Athabasca University students have to contact [tutor services](#) to get an evaluation form - something that many students are completely unaware that they can do, and even if they did, many likely

wouldn't bother doing so unless it was for a severe complaint. Understandably this makes tutors nervous about supplying tutor evaluation forms with every course, though if they did there might be the chance that the good tutors would get recognized.



Buddy

By Wayne Benedict

My family never had dogs while I was growing up and as an adult I felt that owning one would be more work than its worth. My wife Linda, on the other hand, grew up with various family dogs and has always been a dog-lover. It wasn't long after we were living together that the subject was broached. I was more than reluctant, but in the interest of marital compromise, agreed to tolerate a canine in our house. She went to the SPCA and brought home a Newfoundland/Labrador crossed puppy and named him Buddy.

Often to my chagrin and occasionally to my amusement, Buddy went nearly everywhere that we did and through prolonged exposure I began to actually enjoy his company—most of the time. When Linda and I were planning a hiking trip into grizzly habitat I felt strongly that Buddy should not come along, as I know of instances where dogs took after grizzlies only to bring the snarling beast right back to their owners when they discovered that grizzlies don't run away like a black bear will. Linda disagreed and won out in the end. My concerns were not abated when Buddy chased a black bear up a tree even before we began to climb into the alpine where the grizzlies reside. Once in the alpine, he chased a small herd of caribou around the hills, I just shook my head and rechecked my rifle.

It appeared that my worst fears were about to be realized when, a few days into our hiking trip, Linda, Buddy and I rounded a curve of the mountain and walked right into a grizzly of about 4 years. I thought that the dog would run straight for it but to my surprise, he sat shivering with fear beside my leg (this is quite telling of animal instincts, as Buddy had never seen a grizzly before this incident). I quickly put a cartridge into the chamber of my .375 H&H Sako and aimed at the bear that was 40 yards away from us—just a few jumps for a grizzly. I spoke loudly to it and hoped that, learning we were human, it might move off rather than charge. After long minutes of seeming indecision, it made up its mind and moved away, stopping every several yards to throw a backward glance at its lost meal potential.

I was quite impressed by Buddy's instincts that day and years later they proved invaluable to us. Linda, Buddy and I were spending the night in my father's rustic dwelling while he was away to Vancouver. It was winter and the heat was supplied by an

airtight wood burning stove. I stoked the fire before retiring and we were soon all fast asleep. Sometime in the night, I awoke as if drugged, shaking off sleep as Buddy whimpered and licked at my hand. I fumbled for the flashlight beside my bed and turning it on, found that I could see nothing but a pale streak of grey light emitting from its end. The room was entirely full of smoke. I woke Linda and the three of us stumbled coughing from the dwelling and into the crisp night air.

I later found that the chimney had become completely choked with creosote and the smudged fire had belched all of its smoke into the house. I truly believe that, were it not for Buddy, my father's house would have become a tomb for my wife and I. Buddy passed on in 1995 and we still miss him greatly. We have owned several dogs since then but none could hold a light to Buddy. Recently we have acquired a purebred Newfoundland who we have named Buck and I believe that my family has finally found a worthy successor for our Buddy. Buck is presently ten months old, 110 pounds, and makes a wonderful teddy-dog for our children.



**Thane Heins:
Disciple of Truth
By Mark
Gueffroy**

“My government is the world's number one purveyor of violence.”

Dr. Martin Luther King

It is the privilege of this writer to have been assigned by our Editor to write an article introducing a new Columnist for The Voice. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Thane Heins, and wish him the best of luck in his other endeavours.

Thane Heins is a former Green Party of Ontario candidate in the provincial election (1995), and an independent candidate in the federal election. Thane is presently the President of a company titled Fountain of Youth Water Distillers, and is in the process of obtaining a US patent for his distiller design. Thane plans to enrol in several AU courses that may include: Governance 301, Marketing 466, Taxation 301, Communications 301.

Thane has previously completed numerous and varied post-secondary programs at other institutions. He completed Electronics Technology at CEGEP after high school, although he did not enjoy the position that this program enabled him to obtain. After about a year in the Electronics Technology industry, Thane returned to college and studied culinary arts. While establishing his career in the culinary industry, Thane studied at the Ontario School of Art. Ten years after the program at OSA, Thane taught three art classes at Algonquin College for approximately three years. During this time, he studied calculus,

industrial design and psychology at Ottawa University and Carleton University. Thane has also completed a two-year program titled Computer Programming and Systems Analysis at the Toronto School of Business. He states that his goal is to “use my LIFE EDUCATION to respectfully challenge all preconceived ideas.”

Thane has a unique and radical perspective on life, saying “I think that we take a lot for granted...i.e. what we learn in school, what the government tells us through the media, what manufacturers tell us when they want us to buy their products. Because people are generally trusting, it is easy to be misled.” He cites as an example his understanding that Osama bin Laden was treated for kidney disease at the American Hospital in Dubai from July 4-14, 2001, and that a CIA official met with bin Laden and allowed him to leave Dubai on a private jet. “If people (we) had all the facts all of the time our perceptions of the world would be quite different than it is now. Readers should take the time to read my articles if something in the back of their mind keeps telling them that something is wrong with the picture here but are not sure what it is. If people do end up reading my column, they should not believe anything I tell them unless I am willing to provide proof.” Thane is likely to write column articles about politics, business, health and truth. He is presently co-authoring a book on health and nutrition, and comments that his first name (Thane) means “disciple of truth.”

Thane is 40 years old and currently separated with two daughters (one biological and one adopted). He is interested in being involved in AU or AUSU extra-curricular activities “if I can via email.” Thane lives in Pakenham, Ontario (about _ hour from Ottawa).



Worth a Second Look

Sacred Heart Community School: Beating the Odds - PART II By Teresa Neuman

This is the second of three columns about Sacred Heart Community School in Regina, Saskatchewan. In Part Two, Principal Loretta Tetreault is amazed by the wisdom of her students. Definitely Worth a Second Look!

Positive change was happening in the school and it was becoming a safe learning environment. Outside, in the schoolyard, there were still some problems and the staff was becoming frustrated. Traditional school routines were not working at the school. The solution was to make the school feel like “a good home” and eliminate some ingrained but unnecessary routines. Before school line-ups were eliminated, removing

the daily pushing and shoving that took place by the students waiting in line. Inside the school, traditional desks were replaced with clusters of tables where the students worked together in groups. Comfortable furniture for reading was added to some classrooms. The students no longer had to ask permission to use the bathroom or to get a drink of water. To the surprise of many visitors to the school, the teachers weren't necessarily found seated at the front of the classroom, unlike more traditional classroom settings.

One of the school's Grade Five classes, known as the "Class from Hell", and was now about to enter Grade Six. This class had several dominant leaders and had caused three teachers to leave. Tetreault felt that she couldn't put the class together again, and looked for a way to harness the positive energy of these students. While watching the students, she noticed that the negative leaders were nurturing and kind to their younger siblings attending the same school. There was no research to support it, but Tetreault got permission to create two classes of grades 2/6, based on the theory was that peer pressure would be eliminated with the combination of the two age groups. Two teachers eventually came forward to take on the project. Letters were sent home to the parents outlining the expectations of the new arrangement. Amazingly, only three parents declined to allow their children to participate. The Grade Six students were asked to rise to the challenge of the new classes. The students caucused and negotiated an "out clause" by Christmas of that year if they felt the arrangement wasn't working. The holidays came and went and not one student asked to end the arrangement. A parent survey was taken after 2 years of the project, resulting in 88% of parents and 89% of students voting yes to keeping the split classes. Seeing the success of the program, many parents requested an expansion, which led to the creation of several new split classes. Some of the unique splits at the school now include: Grades 1/2/3, Grades 3/5, and Grades 4/7.

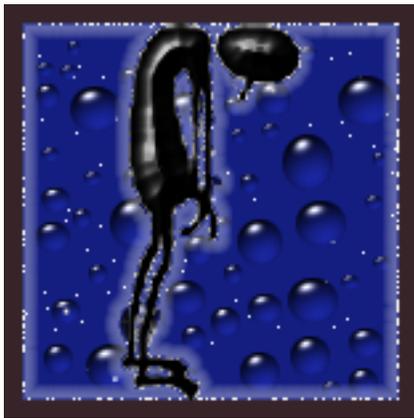
Outside the school was still a problem. The students had a safe and orderly environment inside the school, but had to rely on their survival skills everyday at recess and lunch. Non-violent resolution techniques were being taught in the classroom, but could not be applied by the children on the outside. One day, when discussing this problem with a student, the young man offered Tetreault some food for thought. The student related that in order to live in the neighbourhood, survival involved being able to fight. To the student, it was obvious. His solution was to eliminate going outside. Tetreault and the staff were amazed by this insight. Research and discussion with teachers, students and the school board led to approval from the Minister of Education for a new adjusted school day, which eliminated recess and shortened the lunch break. A one-year pilot project was set up and the parents were surveyed at the end of the year. The project received 92% - 95% approval from the parents.

The adjusted school day started at 9:30 am and was dismissed at 3:00 pm. In the place of recess, a 20-minute physical education classes was offered twice each day. The lunch hour was shortened to 30 minutes and all the students were requested to eat lunch at school. The result of these changes has been a dramatic decrease in schoolyard violence and reduced stress for the students. Activities and games are provided to keep the students occupied at lunch. The students report feeling safer on the streets because they

walk to school later, eliminating conflict with other neighborhood children who are already in school for the day.

Innovative changes like the adjusted school day and the unique grade split classes have eliminated many of the school's violence problems. My son loved his Grade 1/2/3 class and is rising to the challenge of Grade 3/5 this year. By harnessing the energy of the "Class from Hell" in a positive direction, this group of students became positive leaders and role models for their younger classmates.

Next week: The implementation of brain-based learning.



Suicide Versus Acne **By Amanda Lyn Baldwin**

Suicide or acne? Which would you pick? It's an easy choice for most people, but those who suffer from severe forms of acne, may choose the more extreme of the two: **suicide**. In fact, sixty-six people taking the acne drug Accutane have committed suicide, and 1,373 others reported psychiatric side effects. If this is how many incidents were reported, imagine how many incidents actually exist?

Accutane is a drug used to treat severe causes of acne. It has been marketed for this purpose since 1982 and an estimated 12 million patients have used it (FDA records, Dec. 2000). The first reports of its connection to depression and suicide came in 1985. **Thirteen years** later (1998) the FDA advised doctors who prescribe Accutane to monitor patients for signs of depression. Also in 1998, requests were made for patient-information pamphlets to be issued regarding the possible link between Accutane and depression.

The knowledge of the potential danger became widely know when the son of Congressman Bart Stupak, who was well-liked and a high school football player, shot and killed himself after a prom night party.

Rep. Stupak is now quite involved in the fight against Accutane. He reports "We are up over 100 reports of suicide, that's just what is coming in to us, so I believe there are probably over a thousand cases." He explains of the suicidal effects of Accutane, "The

average time is 88 days from when you start taking it, and the effect is very sudden...you're doing strange things at 3 am and you're dead at 7 am.”

In early 2001, the FDA announced that consent forms would have to be signed in order to issue the drug. The new consent forms urge patients to watch for signs of depression, such as feelings of sadness, irritability, unusual tiredness or appetite loss. However, an attempt to find research of the drug on the Internet pulls up numerous offers to purchase the drug with or without a prescription.

The drug's maker, Hoffman-La Roche of New Jersey funded a study two years ago that found no link between drug and suicide. They suggest that people with severe acne may be more prone to suicide.

However parents of the deceased adolescents argue that their children were happy and successful before taking the drug, and after discontinuing Accutane. A teenage girl who had attempted suicide while on the drug regrets her decision saying, “I would have been a really pretty corpse.” The benefits of Accutane may be worth it for some, but when presently faced with the choice between Acne and Suicide, many agree that life isn't long enough to worry about what you look like.

If you suffer from any symptoms of depression, please contact your doctor or call 911, someone WILL get you help.

Sources of Information:

<http://www.christianity.com/partner/>

<http://cgi.bergen.com/crisis/drug09200201095.htm>

<http://injurylawyernetwork.com/accutane.htm>

<http://www.montelshow.com>



**Newfoundland Judge grants Custody of a seven-year-old boy to the father...
Knowing the father has been charged with several counts of assault on his ex- wife.
By Benita Randell**

I found this to be a very sad and horrific story. It is bone-chilling to know that a Judge actually granted Custody of a 7-year old boy, to a man who has been accused and charged with such horrific acts of assault against the woman in this article.

The woman in this article requests to remain anonymous for safety reasons.

The first day of custody court commenced on January 22, 2002 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

This lady and her mother gave their testimonies and described incidents of abuse that had taken place in the marriage, and how the child involved was treated by both parents.

There was evidence provided to the court that showed, that this woman's ex-husband committed several counts of assault toward her, members of her family, and even his own family. Evidence was provided to the court that showed this man is very violent, cruel and cold-hearted.

This lady and her family were in great hope that the Judge would grant custody to her the mother, because she had given evidence that proved she was a wonderful mother and loves and cares for her son unconditionally.

The court heard the testimonies of the opposing side on January 23, 2002. They were unable to complete the court on that day, so the Judge asked the father to stay under an oath until he returned to court in February.

When court commenced in February 2002, the Judge made it known that he had already made a partial decision on this matter three days before the court commenced. The testimonies of the opposing side and the closing arguments of both Lawyers were not even heard by the Judge. The Judge granted custody to the father and asked that the mother be given access to her son for the summer months.

When the Judge granted custody to the father, the mother told me she felt that the Justice System had failed her and doesn't understand how this man had gained custody of her son.

She said, “maybe if this monster killed me, then the courts would see what type of man he really is, and I live every day in fear that my son will become his next victim.”

This woman stated that she was abused emotionally, physically and mentally by her ex-husband. She lives in constant fear every day even though she no longer resides in Newfoundland. Not only fear for herself, but mainly for her child.

In my personal opinion I believe that Justice wasn't done in regards to this woman's custody matter. I feel that it was unfair and that the decision made is incorrect. This woman has plenty of evidence to prove that this man is incapable of being a good father to the child.

How much does a woman have to endure before someone in the Justice System actually takes the time to listen and try and understand where they have been and what they are dealing with each day of their lives.

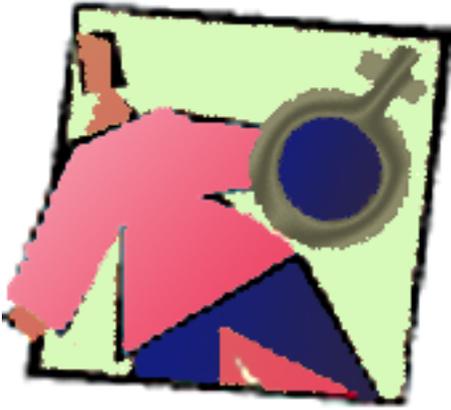
This was a very heartfelt and emotional article for me to write, but it was much more emotional and heartbreaking listening to this woman describe what she had to go through in the court room, and the final decision made by the Judge, devastated her when the father was granted custody of her child. This woman's story has a right to be seen and heard, not only by members of the Justice system but nation wide.

It is such a horrible thought to think that there are so many more woman out there that are treated and has been treated unfair and unjust. Not only by our Justice Systems but also by many individuals.

To all the victims of abuse out there, “fight for your rights and never give up!” You have a right to be treated has a wonderful individual and you have a right to your own opinion.

I will continue to follow up on this story in the up coming months.

If you would like to give your opinions on this article and have them printed in my column, you can email them to me at: journalistforthevoice27@yahoo.com



MediaWatch announces worst portrayals of women **By Carla Marie Loewen,** **The Manitoban**

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- A Canadian media watchdog group has published its annual report card on the best and worst advertising portrayals of women in 2001.

MediaWatch, a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the representation of women and girls in the media, released its report March 8, to coincide with International Women's Day.

"This is our chance to offer the advertising world a lighthearted reminder of the influence and concerns of female consumers," said Shari Graydon, a MediaWatch spokesperson.

More than 1,000 women, men and youth across the country cast their votes for the satirical review of the worst media portrayals of women. The report card tracks industry performance and consumer concerns each year.

"Once again, Canadians demonstrated their eagerness to tell the advertising industry how they feel about media portrayals that antagonize, as opposed to persuade, them," said Graydon. "When given the chance, consumers speak up loud and clear."

MediaWatch's audience research has previously found that although the vast majority of women (74 per cent) are sometimes or often offended by advertising portrayals of women, very few (eight per cent) ever take the time to express their concerns in writing.

The MediaWatch report gives voice to women's concerns and celebrates advertisers who are attentive to reflecting women in a more progressive and effective way.

The report's highlights include the "Skip the Loo" award given to Banana Magazine for publishing a juvenile photo of an Asian woman with her pants down in the toilet.

"Puerile bathroom 'humour' belongs to the pre-adolescent set who think seeing someone on the can is a giggle," said the report.

The "Pinch an Inch" award went to Vichy for using clothes pegs on a woman's thighs to highlight the need to remove "dimples." That Vichy used the thinnest of thighs for this painful test belies the statistics and growing public awareness about the relationship between media images and eating disorders among Canadian women, the group said.

Other awards such as the "Multiculturalism Run Amok," the "Keep it to Yourself" and "Been There, Done That" awards went to Brown Shoes, Kahlua Black Russian and Calvin Klein.

Brown Shoes used an image of a black woman, stereotypically depicting her as an ice-age savage wielding a spear to skewer shoes; Kahlua used its vision of an ultra-modern man with a giant tongue stuck out to lick female snowflakes; and Calvin Klein used an image of a thin, naked woman lying in a provocative manner.

Congratulatory awards went to the Body Shop for creating "Ruby" to acknowledge that only eight women in the world look like supermodels. The Body Shop was honoured with the "One Size Doesn't Fit All" award.

Also gaining a favourable award was Dasani for producing an ad that managed to reflect the life of an urban woman without sexualizing, stereotyping or demeaning her. It won the "I Wanna be in Her Shoes" award for a cartoon drawing of an Asian woman looking relaxed and comfortable in running shoes and casual clothes, sitting on a patio with her laptop and cell phone by her side as she watches the rest of the world rushing by.

The Breast Cancer Society also won an award for its "They're your breasts, you do it" campaign. Their award was called the "Health in Your Own Hands" award. Many consumers, including breast cancer survivors appreciated the humour and message of empowerment.

Graydon said the research for the report card takes a few months, for people need to fill out and return the survey. The advertisements that are used in the survey are found in magazines such as Flair and Cosmopolitan. Consumers and other media watchers also contribute ads they find meaningful or offensive.

Graydon noted she would prefer it if her group wasn't needed to point out what is wrong with the media.

"We'd like to make our job obsolete, but we haven't got to that point, so that's our goal."

Until then, awards will continue to be given out to offending and empowering advertisers.

"What we know is that although many people are offended by advertising, very few take the time to complain and when they do, that's what has the most power. So we do the report card to draw attention to the involvement that consumers can have, and we also do it to celebrate and acknowledge advertisers who have, in fact, gone out of their way to create positive alternative portrayals of women," said Graydon.



Debt reduction program a sham, lobby group claims

By David Skinner, The Muse

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) -- The Canadian Federation of Students says the federal government's student-debt reduction program is a sham and has helped just a handful of people.

The national program, part of the government's 1998 Canada's Opportunity Strategy, is an education plan that provides financial aid to students. It gives university graduates extra funding to offset their student debt.

According to CFS national chair Ian Bokyo, the program takes students on the basis of post-graduation income. The lower a student's income is, the better their chances are for acceptance.

However, Bokyo says the program's wage requirements are too low.

"Quite simply, the government has set it up so that the eligibility tables for the program are so incredibly strict that next to no one can qualify," he said.

"In the first year when it was implemented, it only helped 44 students, when it promised to help 12,000 in the 1998 budget."

Bokyo worries the program will help fewer and fewer people as time passes.

Jean-Michel Catta, a spokesperson for Finance Canada, challenges the CFS's claims. "I don't know where their numbers are coming from, but they're not the numbers we have," he said.

Catta says the program is growing. In its first year, the debt reduction program helped 146 applicants, he said. The next year, he says it invested over \$2 million into 467 applicants.

"It is being used, increasingly so," Catta said. "Numbers keep going up. It does meet a need."

There are no plans to change the way the program operates, he says. The government may try to promote it more, though.

"It may be that we need to do a bit more, to that effect," said Catta.

Boyko remains unsatisfied. Debt reduction is not even the best way to approach student financial problems, he says.

Instead, the CFS would like to see a national system of needs-based grants. This involves distributing unconditional sums of money to students who are in financial need.

Catta says replacing the loans system with a grants program wouldn't be feasible. Canada faces a number of different priorities, he says, and student debt is just one of several things the federal government has to deal with.

"The government's approach is to focus on those who need financial assistance," he said.

"The approach in a world of finite resources, in a world of other key priorities, in a world where the government does not want to go back into deficit . . . the government has to make choices. It has to decide where its resources are most effective."

Boyko, however, says the government needs to take a stand on the debt problem immediately.

"Students can't wait any longer," he said. "We need something to address the crushing debt load."



Fate of Bighorn Wildland decided this month

By Anna King, Environment Bureau

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- The advisory group appointed to recommend action on Alberta's Bighorn Wildland is ignoring key provincial policies, environmentalists say.

Pressure from government, industry and off-road vehicle (ORV) users is causing the advisory group to skip over 1986 policies that designated protected areas, says Tamaini Snaith, Conservation Specialist with the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) and a member of the advisory group.

"Before we joined [the advisory group] we were told by the government that the existing policies would be upheld. Now it is very clear that they will not be," said Snaith last week, after the fourth meeting of the advisory group.

Another advisory meeting and a public meeting on March 14 will take place before the fate of the Blackstone-Wapiabi -- a portion of the Bighorn -- will be decided on March 31. This is the date the oil and gas industry has said it will wait until before beginning to develop the 23 licences granted in the area over the last few years.

Policy developed in the mid 1980s blocked off large portions of Bighorn Country as prime protection zones, where industrial development and ORV use would have been barred.

In 1986, Dan Sparrow, then minister of forestry, announced the creation of the Bighorn Wildlife Recreation Area, 4,000 km of prime watershed and habitat within Bighorn Country. But legislation to officially create the park was never enacted and the government has stated it will not validate the former minister's pledge.

Oil and gas development in the Blackstone-Wapiabi will go ahead, according to the provincial government, even though documents show a majority of members on the advisory group oppose industrial activity in this area.

The government has not yet decided if it will allow ORV use in areas that were previously off-limits.

Snaith is pessimistic.

"They are pretty much ignoring studies on the effects of ORVs on wildlife . . . I have been told all my questions are irrelevant."

Snaith says ORV users constitute only 6.5 per cent of the population of Alberta and that only 8 per cent of provincial Crown land is closed to motorized recreation.

"There's plenty of room [for ORV use] in other areas," she said.

Dave Ealey, spokesperson for the ministry of sustainable resource development, says ORV use happens now in prohibited areas because the earlier policy is not enforceable.

"I don't think that when the Eastern Slopes policy was put in place they envisioned the explosion of ORV use," said Ealey. "There's a lot of pressure for this opportunity to be provided. We need to accommodate the variety of uses that have built up over time."

Lisa Block, an information officer with the ministry, points to a clause in the earlier policy that would allow the government to overturn its previous commitment to ORV-free areas.

"The letters we've received say 'we want [ORV] access,'" she said.

But Snaith says the March 31 decision won't be informed by good science, stated government policy or the majority of public opinion.

“We’ve gone backwards. At the beginning they said we were there to manage the access [already] allowed and now they’re adding access,” she said.



Cigarette makers accused of targeting teens

By Dan Delmar, The Plant

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Internal documents released in court earlier this week from Canada’s three major tobacco companies suggest an extensive effort goes into marketing their products to youth, some barely in their teens.

The country’s cigarette makers -- JTI-MacDonald, Rothman’s-Benson and Hedges and Imperial Tobacco -- are challenging Bill C-71, adopted by the federal government in 1996.

The legislation restricts advertising campaigns that promote smoking as a lifestyle and allows lawmakers to regulate the packaging and production of cigarettes. Since 1997, the industry has been taking steps to challenge the law, and on Tuesday, Richard Pollay, a professor of commerce at the University of British Columbia, testified for the defense at a hearing at the Palais de Justice of Montreal.

Pollay testified that Imperial’s ads for Players cigarettes, for example, are geared specifically toward teenagers because the ads “[offer] adult images, rich with connotations of independence, freedom from authority and self-reliance.”

Pollay said he believes the sponsorship of extreme sports, notably Formula 1 racing, fits in well with the “reckless” attitude the brand tries to project.

A 1996 Rothman’s-Benson and Hedges report on one of its competitors, which took prosecutors five years to obtain, stated that “Imperial Tobacco owns the 14-17 segment, with over 90 per cent of consumers smoking du Maurier or Players.”

The same document also said that Imperial’s own documents directly targeted pre-teens:

"The 1988 Tracking Study is the second of a planned series of research studies into the lifestyles and value systems of young men and women in the 13 to 24 age range."

According to a report Pollay published at UBC, "closed-circuit television observation facilities were in use for observers from Imperial Tobacco," set up in hotel rooms where the behavioral patterns of children as young as 11 were analyzed by advertising experts. The results of the experiment revealed that "the adolescent seeks to display his new urge for independence with a symbol, and cigarettes are such a symbol."

In Imperial's "Plus/Minus" marketing project, data were included on "starters and quitters among the young," and more specifically, teenagers 15 to 19 years of age.

"The purpose of project Plus/Minus is to update [Imperial Tobacco's] portraits of starters and quitters," and to "explore causal factors leading to quitting."

Pollay testified that he found most smokers picked up the habit at between the ages of 14 and 16, and most were male. The logical assumption, according to the witness, would be that the tobacco companies would try and target their advertising at that cross-section of the population.

"The younger segment represents the most critical source of business to maintain volume and grow share in a declining market," he said.

Lawyers for the tobacco companies claimed that their research showed the target market to be males of legal age: between the ages of 18 and 24.

"It's not [tobacco] advertising that convinces minors to smoke," said lawyer Simon Potter, "it's television and the media."

According to Pollay, only 3 per cent of smokers are considered "convertible," meaning they would be willing to switch brands. His testimony concluded that because "brand loyalty is so fierce," tobacco companies must attract new smokers, regardless of age. Furthermore, the existence of only a handful of companies in Canada owning numerous brands names, reduces the risk of a loss of business to the competition.

"The majority [of teenagers] will settle with a brand," said Pollay. "...and if you successfully capture a large share of [young adults], you will also capture a large share of 30- and 40-year-olds."

Crown prosecutor Claude Joyal also said "young people start smoking before 18."

Joyal defended law C-71, saying it serves to protect public interest, and rejected claims that the law is an over-reaction on the part of the government.

"This isn't an act of deception," said Potter.

He estimated that the companies incur "bottom-line losses of \$20 million for every 1 per cent" of lost market share. "They simply want to have the right to communicate with consumers."

Although the tobacco advertising laws are slowly going into effect, Rob Cunningham, senior policy analyst for the Canadian Cancer Society, believes the corporations will not tone down their campaigns.

Tobacco companies are "very creative," and "experts at finding loopholes," he said.

"Imperial's extensive sponsorship portfolio is being re-staged under new corporate names," added Pollay. "That will allow them to continue exploiting the huge equity in their investments in [major international events]."

Lawyers for the tobacco industry will cross-examine Pollay next week, in a trial that is only three months old, but with no apparent end in sight.



WE NEED READER FEEDBACK!

Any comments, suggestions, feedback, or submissions may be sent to Tammy Moore, Editor of The Voice at tmoore@ausu.org. Many thanks for your writing contributions and support, and I look forward to hearing from you all!

AUSU ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

The AUSU Academic Committee is looking for new members interested in exploring new ways of improving the academic experience of AU students.

Membership is on a volunteer basis. We meet once a month via teleconference, and welcome all new members with fresh ideas and a few spare hours each month. This is a great way to get involved with your school and get to know some fellow students.

Anyone interested can contact Tamra Ross Low at trosslow@ausu.org for more information.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Elections 2002

Due to changed personal circumstances, a candidate has withdrawn his name from the upcoming election. This means we now have only 9 candidates for the 9 positions, and all will be therefore elected by acclamation. The President will declare the slate of candidates elected on March 16, 2002.

It is somewhat disappointing that we will not have an opportunity to go through the election process. However, I'm confident that all of new Council will work very hard and do their utmost to ensure that they always represent the student body responsibly.

Thank you to everyone for your interest in the election. Watch this site for more information on the nine men & women who will form your new AUSU Council!

Debbie Jabbour,
President, AUSU

Council News

This has been an exceptionally busy couple of months. Elections are underway, a CRO has been appointed, and ballots will be mailed out this week. Some other highlights:

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- The peer portal is under development through AU's International Consortium for the Advancement of Academic Publication initiative. S. Barg has been working with the members of this team to ensure students' views are represented and that AUSU remains involved in this venture, since it will be of great benefit to all concerned. Students will sign into the peer portal, then will access things such as course-specific boards, chat, FAQ's, links, and a variety of student services.
 - A new ad hoc committee has been formed, with M. McInnes as chair. This committee will focus on website and Voice planning and development.
 - Council discussed the need for a grad student association (based on feedback and inquiries received) and will be looking at initiatives for grad students, with the goal of assisting in the formation of a grad student association linked to AUSU. This will build valuable collaborations with other organizations and will be in line with AU's focus on increased growth in grad programs.
 - G. Dulai submitted a proposal for a variety of new scholarships for our members. The proposal has been referred to the Finance Committee for review.
 - Emergency bursary and computer bursary are being revamped to make implementation more cost-effective.

- Members of AUSU executive met with AU President Dominique Abrioux and VP Finance Andy Woudstra regarding tuition costs. S. Barg travelled to Athabasca to represent AUSU on the Budget Advisory Committee February 7/8.
- S. Barg is arranging a seminar on board development with Alberta Community Development. This will involve the attendance of all on Council, to be held after elections.
- Bylaws are still being worked on, in conjunction with research on board development. The goal is to simplify and streamline our bylaws, while implementing more detailed policies.
- The Centre For Learning Accreditation Steering Committee has had an initial meeting and another coming up in March. They have invited two student representatives to sit on the committee, D. Jabbour and N. Palamarchuk.
- The Strategic University Planning Committee circulated initial discussion papers within the University for feedback. As student rep on this committee, D. Jabbour has been working to ensure student interests are taken into account in all university planning. Students with inquiries regarding the SUP can contact D. Jabbour or any member of the committee.
- Congratulations to AUSU staff member Christine Lynch on becoming an AU student.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

STUDENTS OFFERED \$ 346,000 IN CASH AND AWARDS FOR SHARING VISIONS ON IMPROVED CANADA

- Top Prize of \$70,000 to be Awarded to National Winner -

Toronto, On (March 4, 2002) — The As Prime Minister Awards announced today that it is again challenging students to present innovative ideas and solutions for charting the future course for Canada. The Magna for Canada Scholarship Fund will award more than \$346,000 in cash prizes and internships with Magna International Inc., Canada's largest supplier of automotive systems and components.

This year the As Prime Minister Awards program calls upon full-time undergraduate or graduate students from colleges, universities, or CEGEPs across Canada to prepare an essay answering the question:

"If you were the Prime Minister of Canada, what political vision would you offer to improve our living standards and ensure a secure and prosperous global community?"

Now in its eighth year, the program has grown consistently in popularity year over year; over 800 students from across the country participated in the 2001 program.

All entries are judged on the merit of innovative and workable solutions.

From the entries, 10 finalists are chosen and invited to present their essays before a distinguished panel of judges. The overall national winner is selected based upon his/her ability to express new, solution-driven ideas.

The deadline for essays is June 3, 2002. Program details are available through www.asprimeminister.com/ or by calling 1-866-AS-THE-PM.

All winning student essays are published in a special book entitled @stake "As Prime Minister, I Would..."

The Magna for Canada Scholarship Fund was established in 1995 by Magna International Inc to empower students to express their solutions for building a better Canada. \$1,000,000 has been placed in a charitable trust on behalf of the scholarship fund. The program is also sponsored by The Fair Enterprise Institute, a non-partisan and non-profit organization founded to provoke dialogue and debate, and propose innovative solutions to improve the living standards of Canadians.

NEWS FROM ALBERTA LEARNING

Proposed legislation would make Alberta's student finance system more responsive

Edmonton... Proposed legislative changes will simplify and strengthen Alberta's student finance system and build greater flexibility and responsiveness into the system. The Student Finance and Loan Amendment Act, 2002, was introduced in the Legislature today and combines and revises the Alberta Student Finance and Student Loan Acts.

"It is essential that post-secondary education remains accessible and affordable for all Albertans," said Minister of Learning, Dr. Lyle Oberg. "Alberta's student finance system is already among the most comprehensive in the country. This bill will give us greater flexibility to respond to changing student needs in the future."

The Student Finance and Loan Amendment Act, 2002, will:

- Provide a solid legislative framework for the direct lending of Alberta Student Loans. The province moved to this lending arrangement August 1, 2001.
- Streamline the process for adjusting yearly loan limits
- Enable further harmonization with federal student loan programs
- Facilitate the electronic delivery of students' finance services
- Simplify legislation and eliminate duplication by combining current legislation into a single act
- Clarify wording in some existing provisions

The proposed changes are largely administrative and are intended to help Alberta's student finance system prepare for the future. Students will not notice any immediate differences in how their financial assistance is provided.

This fiscal year the province budgeted about \$134 million in financial assistance for post-secondary students including scholarships, grants, bursaries, student loans and the new automatic Student Loan Relief Program. In 200/01 approximately 47,000 Alberta post-secondary learners received assistance through federal and provincial student loans and grants.

For more information about financial assistance available to Alberta students, visit www.alis.gov.ab.ca.

**The Lunch Hour Talk @
Expressionz Cafe© / 9142 Street & 118 Avenue
Infoline: 474-6058 / - Admission is free -**

March 21, 2002 / Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Getting Old: Issues & Trends for an Aging Population with Donna Wilson & Brian Staples

So, we are not getting any younger and we may have some concerns? Join us for a stimulating conversation on getting old - issues & trends for a 'maturing' population.

About our guests:

Donna Wilson, RN - PhD is a nurse and has a full-time continuing position as an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta. She's also the author of 'Dying and Death in Canada' (2000) and 'The Canadian Health Care System' (1995).

Brian Staples is currently Chair of SALT, the Seniors' Action and Liaison Team. SALT is a social action group of seniors concerned about advancing civil society. Brian has been a public servant responsible for developing and implementing Alberta's community school program and its system of local further education councils. He has also been a school trustee and Mayor of Devon.

March 21th, 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

**Main Space at Stride Gallery
Reginald Baxter**

King Charles Cavalier Spaniel
February 22 - March 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 Pavilion (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.

Beyond the Headlines (c)

It's easy for citizens to feel discouraged by the news -- famine, plagues, wars, civil conflicts, environmental destruction, human rights abuses, and so on. It gets so overwhelming at times that we simply tune out, feeling powerless & numb by it all. And yet, we also know that there are many involved in efforts to address these concerns.

We have decided that the time to highlight the good works of Alberta based NGO's (non-governmental organizations) has come. Every month, under the rubric "Beyond the Headlines" -- we will be featuring an NGO, who's work inspiring voices and proactive doings, deserve in our opinion your attention. We hope you will find this a useful service/resource. We begin this monthly feature with ...

HumanServe International Society for Relief and Development

HumanServe is a non-profit agency registered with the Government of Alberta and governed by a community-based board of directors.

HumanServe works with a number of local and international non-government organizations (NGOs) providing educational, community health, development and social services in Lebanon and Palestine. Initially, the society was the regional office of Medical Aid for Palestine, an NGO based in Montreal.

Between 1993 and 1996, several projects were implemented through the Edmonton office. Funds that were raised in Edmonton by the regional office were forwarded to the head office and MAP-Montreal maintained responsibility for developing the budgets and financial administration of the projects.

In December 1996, the Edmonton regional office of MAP closed and the Society changed its name to HumanServe International. We are now able to self-administer our funds and take responsibility for our projects from beginning to end. This society is committed to results based, practical and sustainable development work.

HumanServe International

Tel: 487-9373 / Fax: 486-7333

e-mail: info@humanserve.org

web site: <http://www.humanserve.org>

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
Semi-private	\$55.00	\$51.00

Weekly rate in a dorm room \$129.50 (non-refundable)

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!

Contact Tammy Moore at tmoore@ausu.org.