

THE VOICE

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I began my education at a very early age - in fact, right after I left college"

-- Winston Churchill



A Bug In Your Ear...

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



How Women's Magazines Fatten Us Up to Nourish The Diet Industry's Feeding Frenzy.

By Tamra Ross Low

A continuation from last week's paper...

Women's magazines gain a significant portion of their advertising revenue from the makers of diet products, and their content is carefully structured to support those who fund them. This is especially true of magazines that focus on beauty and/or fitness. To understand why this situation can lead to magazines providing inaccurate health and diet information, consider, for a moment, how magazines sell their space to new advertisers. Demographics are sent to companies showing what kind of people read the magazine, how many people read each copy, and why these readers would be good potential customers for the advertiser's products. Women's magazines, in order to profit, must convince the manufacturers of diet products that their readers are body-conscious, and likely to be long-term users of diet aids. In order to ensure this, these magazines must create an atmosphere of body-image anxiety and intense weight consciousness. The methods they use to do this are subtle, pervasive, and apparently quite effective.

Scan through any popular women's magazine - especially one of the big sellers like Good Housekeeping or Women's World. Notice how each and every issue promises a new diet that is "the one you've been waiting for!" Women's World is possibly the worst offender for this - they usually have a diet of the week prominently displayed on the cover of every issue). Notice, too, how every issue contains reams of recipes for fatty treats, and sometimes juxtaposes these against pictorials of svelte women demonstrating exercises to banish your 'thunder thighs' or your "tummy pooch." They often use terms like this - just to remind you that fat is unpleasant.

Fitness magazines might appear better on the surface, but they too are filled with ads for diet products, albeit ones that are geared toward the muscular crowd. These products not only claim to reduce fat, but also harden and maximize muscle. Regardless of the focus of the magazine, the combination of diet information and food-related articles can have a startling effect. Steven Thomsen, et al examined the relationship between women's eating habits and the use of fitness magazines. They found that among 498 high school girls, "the use of eating-disordered diet methods (laxatives, appetite suppressants/diet pills, skipping

two meals a day, intentional vomiting, excessive exercising, and restricting calories to 1,200 a day or less)” was positively correlated with the frequency at which girls read these magazines.

What is worse is that the recommended diets are clearly set up to fail. This month’s [Ladies Home Journal](#) has several diets offered (if any of them worked, why would there be more than one?), as well as recipes for tempting treats like Double Crust Pie, Frosted Layer Cake, and a Fondant Rose (“it’s French for ‘to melt’”). [Good Housekeeping](#) really takes the cake (pun intended), however. Their website has a section devoted entirely to dieting called Diet Central. This month it offers 10 different diets:

- The All-You-Can-Eat Soup Diet
- The New and Improved All-You-Can-Eat Soup Diet [if urging dieters to eat all they can is not setting them up for future weight gain, I don’t know what is.]
- The Third Annual All-New Soup Diet [what is with the soup!]
- The Best of the Fad Diets [unabashed recognition that diets are fads, not a sensible health practice!]
- The Frozen-Food Diet
- The No-Cook Diet
- 15 Pounds -- Gone! [Was David Copperfield consulted for this magical diet?]
- America’s Top 6 Fad Diets [No claim is made that they work]
- The Take-Out Diet
- The Town on Our Soup Diet [Again with the soup. Must be this year’s top fad]

All of these diets lower overall calorie intake by scrimping on breakfast (a bowl of bran cereal with skim milk is a common recommendation), despite the fact that research has shown that for successful weight control, breakfast should be the biggest meal of the day. These also tend to suggest ridiculously large portions of very low fat foods to accompany higher fat treats: the Frozen Food diet offsets a higher calorie lunch by prescribing a dinner of 2 cups of frozen, fat-free hash browns and a cup of sliced zucchini with plain baked fish. Nutrients, clearly, are not a concern. This lean, carbohydrate-rich dinner is also likely to leave you starving and binge-prone in the evening once the body comes down from the carb rush.

Notice, also, the insanely large servings of the low fat foods. These diets are low in calories, but they are also teaching you to eat big and to incorporate junk food into your regular eating habits. Each day on the Frozen Food Diet you are to eat a different frozen convenience food (burritos, lean pockets, frozen waffles, etc). Every item is explicitly listed by brand name. Once you get off the diet plan, you are eating more, and you have developed a taste for salty, sugary, frozen junk. Once the diet is over, it would be a miracle if your weight did not balloon.

Leaving nothing to change, however, the magazines provide plenty of recipes for those fattening treats that you promised yourself once the diet is over. Notice how all the advertisements for chocolaty, puddingy, milk-shakey diet supplements always stress that “you’ve earned it,” or “you deserve it.” Once the notion of working to deserve food (doesn’t this sound like a situation you might encounter in a prison camp?) is entrenched in our minds how could we not think, after getting off a 2 week diet of frozen snacks and calorie-bereft side dishes, that we deserve a chocolate layer cake with fudge sauce? There’s nothing like starvation to get the appetite going, or to slow your metabolism to a snail’s pace.

While many magazine diets will result in a small amount of lost weight, they also work to slow the metabolism, increase portions, and promote bingeing by making some meals far too low in calories. This leads to an uneven metabolism, and bingeing can occur

when the metabolism drops sharply after a spike. Even if this were not the case, these diets would have little effect in the long term, because our weight is determined by how we eat over the long term. John McGran, Editor-in-Chief for eDiets, put it very well in [Eating... On The Road Again](#): "Dieting isn't about deprivation. It's about making good choices and enjoying life." The diets in women's magazines, on the other hand, promote a guilt/reward cycle that can only end in eventual weight gain and dissatisfaction. Because women's magazines are also widely regarded as the best sources for diet information [see my last article], women often return to them for help when their weight increases, thus perpetuating the cycle.

There are alternatives to this cycle, however. Next week I will discuss ways that we can raise and stabilize the metabolism. This not only helps to stabilize the body at a healthy weight, but can also increase energy, and reduce stress and anxiety.



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE - Remembering Teachers

By Debbie Jabbour

Teachers have still not reached an agreement with the Government of Alberta, and are withdrawing many services to students as a result; for example: supervision of field trips, graduation events, concerts, etc. Regardless of how the situation is eventually resolved, it is certain that for many students the effects of this year will have a lasting impact. My daughter and I were talking about teachers this evening, musing about what makes a teacher special or memorable. She was having trouble remembering the names of some of hers, and was surprised that I still had very clear recollections of many of mine. These memories remain clear, not necessarily because of exceptional teaching skills, but because each teacher said or did something that influenced my viewpoint in some significant manner, either positively or negatively.

I do not remember my Grade 1 teacher's name, but I do remember clearly the day she passed out some insurance forms for us to take home. I was already a proficient reader and immediately studied the form to see what it was. She noticed, and in a puzzled voice said, "Debbie, can you read that?" I told her I could read a few words, and she made me prove it. When I insisted I could not read the 'big words' she said "I don't believe you.... keep

trying." She stood there silently prompting me as I finally managed to read the whole document out loud.

She obviously took her job seriously, because over the next few days all I recall is being summoned to the principal's office repeatedly for tests, and next thing I knew my Grade 1 teacher was telling me that I was too advanced for her class and that they would be putting me into the next grade. One day the Grade 6 teacher came in and took me out of the Grade 1 class, seating me on a stool in front of her Grade 6 class. She then had all the students read different sections of a textbook out loud. After they struggled and stumbled over the words, the teacher gave the book to me and announced, "Now, listen to this little Grade 1 girl read". I read it flawlessly.

At the time I was just a little kid proud to be able to show off my reading ability to others. As an adult I look back and shudder at the hurtful embarrassment this display must have caused for those Grade 6 students in that class. How humiliating to have your teacher bring in a small child to show you how inadequate you are! No doubt she did not intend to cause distress - but she taught me a lesson, one that admittedly I only learned years later - you do not teach by humiliation.

My Grade 2 teacher (whose name I do not recall) was part of the 'teach by humiliation' school. She looked at this upstart from Grade 1 and decided to teach me a lesson by belittling everything I did. She made me feel like I was totally undeserving of having "skipped" into her class, and took every opportunity to make sure I felt dumb and remained at the bottom of the class. My Grade 2 teacher was my first experience with people who derive pleasure from putting others down.

My grade 3 teacher, Mrs. Adams, had a reputation for being really mean. She was an older lady who had been teaching many years, and put up with no nonsense. I entered her class apprehensively, always very careful how I behaved. My most profound memory of Mrs. Adams was Remembrance Day. I was brought up in a pacifist religion that considered patriotism wrong, and on Remembrance Day when everyone else would rise and observe two minutes of silence, we were required to remain seated in opposition. There were five of us in the classroom who participated in this, and Mrs. Adams several times quietly requested that we stand and show respect. I was torn between showing respect for Mrs. Adams and obeying my religion, but religion and family won out and I remained seated. After two very long minutes, the class left the room, but Mrs. Adams asked that those of us who had remained seated please stay. She very calmly explained, "My husband fought in the war. He watched his friends die at his side. My son fought in the war. He never came home. How could you be so disrespectful of the sacrifice they made?" I could offer no response, and to this day I can see her face and recall the hurt in her voice. Mrs. Adams taught me that religious beliefs should never be used as an excuse to offend others.

My Grade 5 teacher was popular; everyone loved her (yet I can't recall her name). Unfortunately, a couple of months into the year she left abruptly and we were left with Miss Ifody. I was angry (along with my fellow classmates) and decided to hate Miss Ifody before she even set foot in the classroom. My mother offered me some words of wisdom - she told me that I should give this new teacher a chance, and that maybe I should try to see things from her perspective - coming into a classroom where everyone loved the old teacher and resented losing her: A classroom that would not be very welcoming to a new teacher.

She suggested I should wait and see, try to be really positive in all my interactions with the teacher, give her a chance. It was good advice. I came to respect Miss Iftody as one of the better teachers I've had. I learned from this experience to never prejudice people.

The following year, Grade 6, I had a teacher with a funny accent. Not only was she an enthusiastic teacher eager to open our minds, she was also attractive and vivacious, with long, dark curly hair. We all puzzled amongst ourselves where she might be from, since we were unfamiliar with how she talked. A few days into the school year, Miss Hallanan confessed that she was Australian! She was a very cool person, full of life and new ideas and ready to embrace everything. She was appalled at us eating corn on the cob, since she told us this was "pig food" in Australia - but she gamely tried it anyway! Miss Hallanan made learning exciting and helped spark my interest in other lands, other cultures.

My elementary school teachers left distinct impressions on me, but after entering Junior high, these influences were lessened, mostly because I now had several teachers during the day instead of just one. Of these, only one stands out in my mind as being an exceptional teacher - Mr. Jacques. He taught the new experimental science program, and we played with chemistry in his class, creating things like amorphous sulphur! But he had a temper when we got out of line, once breaking a ruler (metre stick) across the desk when reprimanding the class. Mr. Jacques fostered my interest in research.

My memories of other Junior High and High School teachers are largely negative. The Grade 7 Music teacher who told me I did not have a good enough ear to be part of the music class (I went on to make a living as a musician). The Grade 10 English teacher who told me I was not very good at essays and a slacker in her class (I regularly get top marks for my writing now). The Grade 11 Office Experience teacher who failed me (I went on the next year to secure a well-paid secretarial position). The Grade 8 Gym teacher who forced me to go outside in a windstorm right after I had just gotten contact lenses, insisting I had to run laps in the field while my eyes were streaming, full of dust.

Thinking about my educational experiences, the good and the bad seem to equal themselves on the scale. For every exceptional teacher I had a bad one. For every good experience, I had a negative one. But human nature is such that the negative memories are the stronger ones. For this reason it is important it is to ensure that teachers have much more than just educational qualifications. I do not recall my teachers for their skill at performing mathematical equations. I recall them because how they treated me affected my thinking and influenced my viewpoint.

I know it is not 'politically correct', but I think we should bring back merit systems for raises and advances. Why should a teacher who inspires students (like Miss Hallanan), be making the same wage as teachers (like my Grade 2 teacher) who are either indifferent or actually destroy interest in learning? Teachers play an extremely important role in the development of our youth, and deserve to be paid accordingly. Talented teachers who truly make a difference in their students deserve much more.

FED WATCH!



By Karl Low

You're a Thief

At least, that's what the music industry believes. They've organized into a group calling themselves the CPCC, or [Canadian Private Copying Collective](#), and have already successfully lobbied the government to change the Copyright Act so that they can claim fees on blank cassette tapes, CD-R/RWs, and removable hard drives. Now they're attempting to get the fees [raised and extended](#) to things like the amount of memory in MP3 players and DVD-RW discs.

The CPCC argues that this levy is only fairly compensating them for illegal copying of music. They suggest that about half the time when music is copied it is done by people who do not own the original CD. The question that immediately rises is how do they know this? If they have evidence of a person copying music illegally, then perhaps instead of charging the law-abiding people, they should charge the person who is illegally copying. Of course, that doesn't have such a positive affect on their bottom line as the current means.

Why the music industry deserves such special and arbitrary treatment is a mystery. After all, do retail stores collect a levy on baggy pants and trench coats, since those are often used in shoplifting? Do movie theatres get a cut from sales of popcorn sold in the grocery stores because people sneak into theatres with home-popped corn? Should credit card companies be paid a percentage by the telecommunications and internet provider industries because most credit card fraud is done using the phone or the internet?

CPCC suggests that they deserve this special treatment because "there is not now, and may never be, any way to find out what an individual actually copies", yet somehow, the software industry has been dealing with this very situation for years and does not seem to be hurting by not receiving similar fees. This argument is similar to saying that if we have been unable to solve a crime, everybody should spend a day in jail for it.

As if that isn't enough, the CPCC then goes on to say "People are generally creating their own compilations with their favourite tracks from many CDs. The CPCC believes the resulting custom-made CD is worth more than any single pre-recorded CD because it reflects the personal taste and the choices made by the copier. However, this extra value has not been taken into account in the amount of the levy proposed." Or in other words, they're being nice to us by not charging us extra money for any work we do to make CDs that we like more. How generous of them.

This is a completely ludicrous state of affairs. No other industry gets paid on the assumption of a crime, no other industry is allowed to charge everybody for their own misfortune, no other industry would have the gall to suggest that by adding value to a product we owe them something.

So what can you do? [Contact your MP](#) and let them know how you feel the Copyright Act should not include this unfair subsidy to the music industry. You can also consider signing [this petition](#), and if you are lucky enough to be living in the area, you might consider making a formal submission and attendance at the Copyright Board's [preliminary hearing](#) on the matter on May 23, 2002.

Youth Crime in Canada

Youth Courts have been trying fewer cases over the last year. Statistics Canada's new [release](#) on Youth Courts and Youth Crimes show that overall crime has dropped about 2 percent in the last year with drops in violent crimes and property damage cases. The report notes that drug related offences are up 29% though. Maybe we should stop worrying about drugs so much; it seems to keep them from doing anything worse.

Then again, maybe it's all that music they're stealing.

Unfortunately, these statistics don't tell the whole story. In recent years there has been a growing trend by the public to demand that young offenders be tried as adults in cases involving violence. How much this public outcry has had effect, we don't know. It could be that violent crime is actually on the rise among youths, but we're passing more of them up to adult court for harsher sentencing.



Hockey

By Wayne Benedict

My earliest memories of hockey are those of my uncle hogging the TV set to watch Hockey Night in Canada every time (it seemed to me) that I wanted to watch a show more appropriate to my age. I first remember the theme song reverberating throughout the house

when I was about five years old and I still experience shivers of annoyance at hearing it today. Growing up as a Canadian who is not only indifferent to our national sport, but actually dislikes it often made me the outsider during many of the conversations with groups of my peers. Even today, as a working adult, I find that my coworkers largely speak in hockey lexicon, which might as well be Japanese to me. They swap perspectives on plays and opinions on players that I don't understand and don't care to—their eyes fill with excitement as they speak while I roll mine to the ceiling.

My feelings for hockey are well known amongst any who have made my acquaintance for as long as it takes the subject to be raised (not long in Canada) so it came as a surprise to me when my friend and union co-officer, Dave Veniot, phoned and invited me to see the Vancouver Canucks play the St. Louis Blues in Vancouver's GM Place stadium. Dave is the same friend that I introduced to Vancouver China Town's authentic Dim Sum not long ago (The Voice Volume 9 Issue 49 December 19, 2001) and he wanted to return the favour by expanding my life experience. He told me that I wasn't allowed to go through my entire life without seeing at least one NHL game, as "it would be un-Canadian, man!" I agreed to accompany him with an open mind as long as he bought our seats in "the beer section".

The game was scheduled for February 26th while the two of us were in Vancouver on union business. After fulfilling our obligations for the day, we parked our rental car near the terminal of the sea-bus and boarded public transit -for the first time since my teens. During the ride across the bay, Dave and I were joking about my ignorance of the game that we were about to see. I said that he would spend the entire time responding to my niggling questions, "what are those things on the player's feet?" or "why did the teams swap jerseys after the first intermission?" Dave shot back that, should I enjoy the experience, I would proclaim to all that would hear: "What a smashing stick and puck competition that was! Wouldn't you agree?"

At the sky-train station, we were treated to a pre-game show. Upon entering the platform area, we were confronted by a scene that, at first glance, appeared to be that of a person receiving first aid after having had his head rolled between a train and the platform. It soon became clear that the topless, tattooed "patient" was actually being pinned to the ground by several transit police officials. The person was exclaiming "ouch...hey...now that's just unreasonable!" We boarded the train and soon arrived at Stadium Station where the crowd was growing thick with fans. Joining one of the long lines of people leading into the stadium I began to feel a strange sense of excitement coming over me.

Inside, I bought two plastic cups of beer and a pretzel for \$16.00; Dave did the same, and we made our way toward our seats. GM Place has seating for over eighteen thousand spectators and this game was sold out. The teams were warming up on the ice below as we sat down and fans continued to pour into the stadium like ants to a picnic. I have never been among a crowd so large and I wondered if the experience was similar for an ancient citizen of Rome entering a blood-sport coliseum for the first time. The sounds of pucks smashing against the Plexiglas partition separating the players from the crowd reverberated above the din of thousands of voices and I pictured what I would look like without teeth as I noticed a perfectly puck-shaped indentation in the wall behind Dave's head.

With help from my hockey guide, I picked up the rudiments of the game fairly quickly. After refreshing our beers at the first intermission, I was feeling rather comfortable and by the last period found myself exclaiming spontaneously with the crowd. The game seemed much faster than on TV and many times I lost the puck. I was very impressed when the Canucks scored two goals near the end of the last period, tying the score at 4 each. The teams played out the "sudden death" overtime and the game ended in a tie.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience: the company, the novelty and the infectious excitement of the enormous crowd. You won't, however, find me in front of my TV set watching "the game" this weekend; nor will I be taking part in conversations utilizing an abundance of newly learned hockey terminology. I would have been equally fulfilled had the venue been basketball, soccer, or football (none of which I follow) because it was the combined experience that I enjoyed, of which the game was but a small part. I still don't care for hockey but I understand better how others do and, given the right circumstances, I will attend another live game in the future.



MERCY

By Mark Gueffroy

A well-known Bible text says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Does this mean that if we are good to others, they will be good to us? Unfortunately this is not the case, as has been proven any number of times in my life and most likely yours as well. If that is not what the text means, then what does it mean, and how can a person that has been battered by organized religion use this text in their lives?

YOU are the subject of the first phrase—"Blessed are the merciful." God or your higher power (however you choose to identify the creator of the universe) is the subject of the second phrase—"for they shall obtain mercy." Mercy is an attribute of God/higher power/Creator. Mercy must become an attribute of the person that believes in a higher being.

Mercy is an attitude—not something that you can turn on and off or choose when to exhibit it. It is more than emotionalism and more than the shedding of tears. It is more than humanitarianism, and more than donating to the Salvation Army, the Dorcas Society, or any other charity.

Mercy includes four other attitudes: forgiveness, love, grace and justice. Mercy is infinitely bigger than forgiveness, which is an act of mercy. Love is merciful, although mercy acts out of need while love acts out of affection. There can be love without mercy but it is impossible to have mercy without love. Grace, however, deals with the problem, while mercy eliminates the pain caused by the problem. Outside of the usual Christian translation of how

mercy and justice met at the cross, is it possible to balance mercy and justice? Our government justice system does not seem capable of balancing these two attitudes equally with a positive effect. Justice is also an act of mercy, and the term “tough love” comes into the conversation at this point. Justice is an instructional tool; a consequence intended to remind the participant that the action resulting in justice is not acceptable. Indirectly this process is also mercy, as it results in the participant having no excuse for being ignorant about their actions.

Mercy cannot excuse our actions or become a license to do something that is unacceptable in society. Mercy is something that is relatively simple to develop. The first step is to recognize that you have a need for mercy. There is no person that is perfect, and as such, we all are in need of mercy at some point in our journey. The second step is to get to know the source of mercy (discover where mercy comes from, how it is exhibited, etc.).

As the author of the Merchant of Venice stated, “The quality of mercy is not strained.” Mercy cannot be diluted. It is or it isn’t! Mercy holds no grudge, harbours no resentment, and does not take advantage of others. Is there enough mercy in your life?



Worth a Second Look

Sacred Heart Community School: Beating the Odds -PART III

By Teresa Neuman

This is the final column about Sacred Heart Community School in Regina, Saskatchewan. Brain-based learning and changes to the school resource program increase the students learning skills. Definitely Worth a Second Look!

Dramatic changes had taken place to make the learning atmosphere safe and comfortable. Work was also happening to help the students with their learning skills and to make learning a positive experience.

“I heard many students say that they were dumb and that they hated school,” remarked Tetreault. Sacred Heart Community School is an inner-city school. The majority of the school’s students live in poverty. It was obvious to the staff that the curriculum set by the province of Saskatchewan was unrealistic for many of students at the school. The staff

researched poverty to gain a better understanding of what resources they could provide to the students. Based on Howard Gardner's proposals for Multiple Intelligences, the staff began to implement brain-based learning in the classroom. Brain-based learning works on the principle that children learn in different ways. Exercises developed by Eric Jansen are used at the beginning of the year to show students how they are smart. The students learn terms like "Body/Kinaesthetic smart", "Interpersonal/People smart", and "Logical/Mathematical smart" and can recognize that all students are smart in different ways. By using brain-based learning, it has become easier for the staff to concentrate on what the students are learning and are not focus just on classroom behaviour.

In 1995, standardized testing revealed that the students were fully two grade levels below the norm. 18 months ago, testing revealed that the students were four months behind the norm. The staff anticipates that the students should be at par this year.

Tetreault credits the student's successes to the school's safe environment where the students are encouraged to learn at their own ability. Class work is theme based, and modular, allowing the students to work at their own pace. The school resource program was changed to reduce the stigma associated for those students who needed access to resources. Instead of a pullout program, in-class resources are provided. The students in split classes help each other with work everyday. Many of the teachers start the day with programs like "Daily Oral Language" or "Daily Oral Math". These programs are part of a series of quick exercises that the students can do on their own or in a group, that reinforce skills that can be used in schoolwork all day.

The school's climbing enrolment speaks volumes about the successes at the school. Since 1995, enrolment has increased from 312 students to 450 students. The students want to be in school. As a result, absenteeism has dramatically decreased. The two teachers of the first Grade 2/6 split classes won the Roy C. Hill award, a Canadian award for innovative educational projects. Tetreault and the staff are often asked to speak at other schools about Sacred Heart School's successes. Most recently, Sacred Heart School has been chosen to be one of 20 schools to be featured at an international model schools conference.

Tetreault and the staff realize that kids will be kids and that there are still problems to solve at the school. Based on their successes to date, they are well on the way to beating the odds.

These columns about the successes at Sacred Heart Community School are just the tip of the iceberg of their story. Research grants from the Stirling McDowell foundation enabled Sacred Heart Community School to research and document its story. Phase III of the research is currently underway. The first two phases of research is complete and copies of the research papers are available on the website of the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation at <http://www.stf.sk.ca/mcdowell/> or at http://www.stf.sk.ca/mcdowell/latest_news/pdf/lfp1-5.pdf http://www.stf.sk.ca/mcdowell/latest_news/pdf/lfp2-1.pdf.



THE MACROCOSM IN THE MICROCOSM: HOW CANADA CAN SAVE THE WORLD

By Thane Heins

Is it possible that the attacks on the World Trade Center were designed to protect corporate interests vested in the 40 billion dollars worth of oil in the Caspian Sea?

Is it possible that the next step in the "War Against Terror" will simply be more terror, this time biological or nuclear in nature but blamed on Iraq?

Is it possible that we already suspect that this might be true but we have our own "private interests" to protect, so we deny it?

If we are in a position to tell the truth and we choose not to in fear of losing "something" does this not make us accomplices in a way?

Can we really protect ourselves while at the same time watching others suffer and die?

All of the above can be answered by anyone who watched Olympic figure skating. For years we silently suspected the "fix" was in, we even had proof in many cases but it was not blatantly obvious. We denied it and the media denied it.

The "fix" is in again and just like; THE WAR ON POVERTY, which led to an increase in poverty, THE WAR ON DRUGS, which led to an increase in drug use, THE WAR ON CANCER, which led to an increase in cancer and THE COLD WAR, which led to an increase in hostility, so too THE WAR ON TERROR can only lead in one direction. More terror.

We have two choices now; deny what we know in secret and allow it to continue or make it obvious to the world and hope. Either one will result in pain though this cannot be helped. TELLING THE TRUTH WILL ULTIMATELY SAVE FIGURE SKATING AND OUR WORLD. The final questions are how much and how long can we endure and how much are we willing to deny that which is right before our eyes?

WHY DOES HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF? BECAUSE WE WEREN'T LISTENING THE FIRST TIME.

BIN LADEN MET WITH THE CIA IN JULY AND WALKED AWAY

By Michael C. Ruppert

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[Expanded and Revised February 11, 2002]

October 31, the French daily Le Figaro dropped a bombshell. While in a Dubai hospital receiving treatment for a chronic kidney infection last July, Osama bin Laden met with a top CIA official - presumably the Chief of Station. The meeting, held in bin Laden's private suite, took place at the American hospital in Dubai at a time when he was a wanted fugitive for the bombings of two U.S. embassies and this year's attack on the U.S.S. Cole. Bin Laden was eligible for execution according to a 2000 intelligence finding issued by President Bill Clinton before leaving office in January. Yet on July 14th he was allowed to leave Dubai on a private jet and there were no Navy fighters waiting to force him down.

It gets worse, much worse. A more complete timeline listing crucial events both before and after the September 11th suicide attacks, which have been blamed on bin Laden, establishes CIA foreknowledge of them and strongly suggests that there was criminal complicity on the part of the U.S. government in their execution. It also makes clear that the events that have taken place since September 11th are based upon an agenda that has little to do with the attacks. One wonders how these events could have been ignored by the major media or treated as isolated incidents. Failing that, how could skilled news agencies avoid being outraged, or at least even just a little suspicious?

1. 1991-1997 Major U.S. oil companies including Exxon Mobil, Texaco, Unocal, BP Amoco and Shell directly invest almost \$3 billion in cash bribing heads of state in Kazakhstan to secure equity rights in the huge oil reserves in these regions. The oil companies further commit to future direct investments in Kazakhstan of \$35 billion. Not being willing to pay exorbitant prices to Russia to use Russian pipelines the major oil companies have no way to recoup their investments. [Sources Testimony before the House International Relations Committee 2/12/98]
2. December 4, 1997 Representatives of the Taliban are invited guests to the Texas headquarters of Unocal to negotiate their support for the pipeline. Subsequent reports will indicate that the negotiations failed, allegedly because the Taliban wanted too much money. [Source: The BBC, Dec. 4, 1997]
3. February 12, 1998 Unocal Vice President John J. Maresca later to become a Special Ambassador to Afghanistan testifies before the House that until a single, unified, friendly government is in place in Afghanistan the trans-Afghani pipeline needed to monetize the oil will not be built. [Source: Testimony before the House International Relations Committee.]

4. 1998 - The CIA ignores warnings from Case Officer Robert Baer that Saudi Arabia was harbouring an al-Q'aeda cell led by two known terrorists. A more detailed list of known terrorists is offered to Saudi intelligence in August 2001 and refused. [Source: Financial Times 1/12/01; See No Evil by a book by Robert Baer (release date Feb. 2002).

5. 1998 and 2000 - Former President George H.W. Bush travels to Saudi Arabia on behalf of the privately owned Carlyle Group, the 11th largest defence contractor in the U.S. While there he meets privately with the Saudi royal family and the bin Laden family. [Source: Wall Street Journal, Sept. 27, 2001. See also FTW, Vol. IV, No 7 "The Best Enemies Money Can Buy," - <http://www.copvcia.com/members/carlyle.html>.]

6. January, 2001 The Bush Administration orders the FBI and intelligence agencies to "back off" investigations involving the bin Laden family, including two of Osama bin Laden's relatives (Abdullah and Omar) who were living in Falls Church, VA right next to CIA headquarters. This followed previous orders dating back to 1996, frustrating efforts to investigate the bin Laden family. [Source: BBC Newsnight, Correspondent Gregg Palast Nov 7, 2001].

7. Feb 13, 2001 UPI Terrorism Correspondent Richard Sale while covering a trial of bin Laden's Al Q'aeda followers - reports that the National Security Agency has broken bin Laden's encrypted communications. Even if this indicates that bin Laden changed systems in February it does not mesh with the fact that the government insists that the attacks had been planned for years.

8. May 2001 Secretary of State Colin Powell gives \$43 million in aid to the Taliban regime, purportedly to assist hungry farmers who are starving since the destruction of their opium crop in January on orders of the Taliban regime. [Source: The Los Angeles Times, May 22, 2001].

9. May, 2001 Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, a career covert operative and former Navy Seal, travels to India on a publicized tour while CIA Director George Tenet makes a quiet visit to Pakistan to meet with Pakistani leader General Pervez Musharraf. Armitage has long and deep Pakistani intelligence connections and he is the recipient of the highest civil decoration awarded by Pakistan. It would be reasonable to assume that while in Islamabad, Tenet, in what was described as "an unusually long meeting," also met with his Pakistani counterpart, Lt. General Mahmud Ahmad, head of the ISI. [Source The Indian SAPRA news agency, May 22, 2001.]

10. June 2001 German intelligence, the BND, warns the CIA and Israel that Middle Eastern terrorists are "planning to hijack commercial aircraft to use as weapons to attack important symbols of American and Israeli culture." [Source: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, September 14, 2001.]

11. July, 2001 Three American officials: Tom Simmons (former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan), Karl Inderfurth (former Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian affairs) and Lee Coldren (former State Department expert on South Asia), meet with Pakistani and Russian intelligence officers in Berlin and tell them that the U.S. is planning military strikes

against Afghanistan in October. A French book released in November, "Bin Laden - La Verite´ Interdite," discloses that Taliban representatives often sat in on the meetings. British papers confirm that the Pakistani ISI relayed the threats to the Taliban. [Source: The Guardian, September 22, 2001; the BBC, September 18, 2001. The Inter Press Service, Nov 16, 2001]

12. Summer 2001 - According to a Sept. 26 story in Britain's The Guardian, correspondent David Leigh reported that, "U.S. department of defence official, Dr. Jeffrey Starr, visited Tajikistan in January. The Guardian's Felicity Lawrence established that US Rangers were also training special troops in Kyrgyzstan. There were unconfirmed reports that Tajik and Uzbek special troops were training in Alaska and Montana."

13. Summer 2001 (est.) Pakistani ISI Chief General Ahmad (see above) orders an aide to wire transfer \$100,000 to Mohammed Atta, who was according to the FBI, the lead terrorist in the suicide hijackings. Ahmad recently resigned after the transfer was disclosed in India and confirmed by the FBI. [Source: The Times of India, October 11, 2001.]

14. Summer 2001 An Iranian man phones U.S. law enforcement to warn of an imminent attack on the World Trade Center in the week of September 9th. German police confirm the calls but state that the U.S. Secret Service would not reveal any further information. [Source: German news agency "online.de", September 14, 2001, translation retrieved from online.ie in Ireland.]

15. June 26, 2001: The magazine indiareacts.com states, "India and Iran will 'facilitate' US and Russian plans for 'limited military action' against the Taliban." The story indicates that the fighting will be done by US and Russian troops with the help of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. [Source: indiareacts.com, June 26, 2001.]

16. August 2001 The FBI arrests an Islamic militant linked to bin Laden in Boston. French intelligence sources confirm that the man is a key member of bin Laden's network and the FBI learns that he has been taking flying lessons. At the time of his arrest the man is in possession of technical information on Boeing aircraft and flight manuals. [Source: Reuters, September 13.]

17. August 11 or 12 US Navy Lt. Delmart "Mike" Vreeland, jailed in Toronto on U.S. fraud charges and claiming to be an officer in U.S. Naval intelligence writes details of the pending WTC attacks and seals them in an envelope which he gives to Canadian authorities. [Source: The Toronto Star, Oct.23, 2001; Toronto Superior Court Records]

18. Summer 2001 Russian intelligence notifies the CIA that 25 terrorist pilots have been specifically training for suicide missions. This is reported in the Russian press and a retired CIA officer translates news stories for FTW.

19. July 4-14, 2001 Osama bin Laden receives treatments for kidney disease at the American hospital in Dubai and meets with a CIA official who returns to CIA headquarters on July 15th. Source: Le Figaro, October 31st, 2001.]

20. August 2001 Russian President Vladimir Putin orders Russian intelligence to warn the U.S. government "in the strongest possible terms" of imminent attacks on airports and government buildings. [Source: MS-NBC interview with Putin, September 15.]

21. August/September, 2001 The Dow Jones Industrial Average drops nearly 900 points in the three weeks prior to the attack. A major stock market crash is imminent.

22. Sept. 3-10, 2001 MS-NBC reports on September 16 that a caller to a Cayman Islands radio talk show gave several warnings of an imminent attack on the U.S. by bin Laden in the week prior to 9/11.

23. September 1-10, 2001 In an exercise, Operation "Swift Sword" planned for four years, 23,000 British troops are steaming toward Oman. Although the 9/11 attacks caused a hiccup in the deployment the massive operation was implemented as planned. At the same time two U.S. carrier battle groups arrive on station in the Gulf of Arabia just off the Pakistani coast. Also at the same time, some 17,000 U.S. troops join more than 23,000 NATO troops in Egypt for Operation "Bright Star." All of these forces are in place before the first plane hits the World Trade Center. [Sources: The Guardian, CNN, FOX, The Observer, International Law Professor Francis Boyle, the University of Illinois.]

24. September 7, 2001 Florida Governor Jeb Bush signs a two-year emergency executive order (01-261) making new provisions for the Florida National Guard to assist law enforcement and emergency-management personnel in the event of large civil disturbances, disaster or acts of terrorism.

[Source: State of Florida web site listing of Governor's Executive Orders.]

25. September 6-7, 2001 4,744 put options (a speculation that the stock will go down) are purchased on United Air Lines stock as opposed to only 396 call options (speculation that the stock will go up). This is a dramatic and abnormal increase in sales of put options. Many of the UAL puts are purchased through Deutschebank/AB Brown, a firm managed until 1998 by the current Executive Director of the CIA, A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard. [Source: The Herzliyya International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism, <http://www.ict.org.il/>, September 21; The New York Times; The Wall Street Journal.]

26. September 10, 2001 - 4,516 put options are purchased on American Airlines as compared to 748 call options. [Source: ICT above]

27. September 6-11, 2001 - No other airlines show any similar trading patterns to those experienced by UAL and American. The put option purchases on both airlines were 100% above normal. This at a time when Reuters (September 10) issues a business report stating, "Airline stocks may be poised to take off."

28. September 6-10, 2001 Highly abnormal levels of put options are purchased in Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, AXA Re(insurance) which owns 25% of American Airlines, and Munich Re. All of these companies are directly impacted by the September 11 attacks. [Source: ICT, above; FTW, Vol. IV, No.7, October 18, 2001, <http://www.copvcia.com/members/oct152001.html>.]

29. It has been documented that the CIA, the Israeli Mossad and many other intelligence agencies monitor stock trading in real time using highly advanced programs reported to be

descended from Promis software. This is to alert national intelligence services of just such kinds of attacks. Promis was reported, as recently as June, 2001 to be in Osama bin Laden's possession and, as a result of recent stories by FOX, both the FBI and the Justice Department have confirmed its use for U.S. Intelligence gathering through at least this summer. This would confirm that CIA had additional advance warning of imminent attacks. [Sources: The Washington Times, June 15, 2001; FOX News, October 16, 2001; FTW, October 26, 2001, -http://www.copvcia.com/members/magic_carpet.html; FTW, Vol. IV, No.6, Sept. 18, 2001 - <http://www.copvcia.com/members/sept1801.html>; FTW, Vol. 3, No 7, 9/30/00 - http://www.copvcia.com/stories/may_2001/052401_promis.html.

30. September 11, 2001 Gen Mahmud of the ISI (see above), friend of Mohammed Atta, is visiting Washington on behalf of the Taliban. [Source: MS-NBC, Oct. 7.]

31. September 11, 2001 Employees of Odigo, Inc. in Israel, one of the world's largest instant messaging companies, with offices in New York, receive threat warnings of an imminent attack on the WTC less than two hours before the first plane hits the WTC. Law enforcement authorities have gone silent about any investigation of this. The Odigo Research and Development offices in Israel are located in the city of Herzliyya, a ritzy suburb of Tel Aviv, which is the same location as the Institute for Counter Terrorism which breaks early details of insider trading on 9-11. [Source: CNN's Daniel Sieberg, 9/28/01; Newsbytes, Brian McWilliams, 9/27/01; Ha'aretz, 9/26/01.].

32. September 11, 2001 - For 35 minutes, from 8:15 AM until 9:05 AM, with it widely known within the FAA and the military that four planes have been simultaneously hijacked and taken off course, no one notifies the President of the United States. It is not until 9:30 that any Air Force planes are scrambled to intercept, but by then it is too late. This means that the National Command Authority waited for 75 minutes before scrambling aircraft, even though it was known that four simultaneous hijackings had occurred an event that has never happened in history. [Sources: CNN, ABC, MS-NBC, The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times.]

33. September 13, 2001 China is admitted to the World Trade Organization quickly, after 15 years of unsuccessful attempts. [Source: The New York Times, Sept. 30, 2001.]

34. September 14, 2001 Canadian jailers open the sealed envelope from Mike Vreeland in Toronto and see that it describes attacks against the WTC and Pentagon. The U.S. Navy subsequently states that Vreeland was discharged as a seaman in 1986 for unsatisfactory performance and has never worked in intelligence. [Source: The Toronto Star, Oct. 23, 2001; Toronto Superior Court records]

35. September 15, 2001 The New York Times reports that Mayo Shattuck III has resigned, effective immediately, as head of the Alex (A.B) Brown unit of Deutschebank.

36. September 29, 2001 The San Francisco Chronicle reports that \$2.5 million in put options on American Airlines and United Airlines are unclaimed. This is likely the result the suspension in trading on the NYSE after the attacks which gave the Securities and

Exchange Commission time to be waiting when the owners showed up to redeem their put options.

37. October 10, 2001 The Pakistani newspaper The Frontier Post reports that U.S. Ambassador Wendy Chamberlain has paid a call on the Pakistani oil minister. A previously abandoned Unocal pipeline from Turkmenistan, across Afghanistan, to the Pakistani coast, for the purpose of selling oil and gas to China, is now back on the table "in view of recent geopolitical developments."

38. Mid October, 2001 The Dow Jones Industrial Average, after having suffered a precipitous drop has recovered most of its pre-attack losses. Although still weak, and vulnerable to negative earnings reports, a crash has been averted by a massive infusion of government spending on defence programs, subsidies for "affected" industries and planned tax cuts for corporations.

39. November 21, 2001 The British paper The Independent runs a story headlined, "Opium Farmers Rejoice at the Defeat of the Taliban."
The story reports that massive opium planting is underway all over the country.

40. November 25, 2001 The Observer runs a story headlined "Victorious Warlords Set To Open the Opium Floodgates." It states that farmers are being encouraged by warlords allied with the victorious Americans are "being encouraged to plant "as much opium as possible."

41. December 4, 2001 Convicted drug lord and opium kingpin Ayub Afridi is recruited by the US government to help establish control in Afghanistan by unifying various Pashtun warlords. The former opium smuggler who was against the Russians is released from prison in order to do this. [Source: The Asia Times Online, 12/4/01].

42. December 25, 2001 Newly appointed Afghani Prime Minister Hamid Karzai is revealed as being a former paid consultant for Unocal. [Source: Le Monde.]

43. January 3, 2002 President Bush appoints Zalmay Khalilzad as a special envoy to Afghanistan. Khalilzad, a former employee of Unocal, also wrote op-eds in the Washington Post in 1997 supporting the Taliban regime.
[Source: Pravda, 1/9/02]

44. January 4, 2002 Florida drug trafficking explodes after 9-11. In a surge of trafficking reminiscent of the 1980s the diversion of resources away from drug enforcement has opened the floodgates for a new surge of cocaine and heroin from South America. [The Christian Science Monitor, January 4, 2002.

45. January 10, 2002 In a call from a speakerphone in open court, attorneys for "Mike" Vreeland call the Pentagon's switchboard operator who confirms that Vreeland is indeed a Naval Lieutenant on active duty. She provides an office number and a direct dial phone extension to his office in the Pentagon.
[Source: Attorney Rocco Galati; court records Toronto Superior Court.]

46. February 9, 2002 Pakistani leader General Musharraf and Afghan leader Hamid Karzai announce their agreement to "cooperate in all spheres of activity" including the proposed

Central Asian pipeline. Pakistan will give \$10 million to Afghanistan to help pay Afghani government workers. [Source: The Irish Times, 2/9/02]

Now, let's go back to the October 31 story by Le Figaro the one that has Osama bin Laden meeting with a CIA officer in Dubai this June.

The story says that, "Throughout his stay in the hospital, Osama Bin Laden received visits from many family members [There goes the story that he's a black sheep!] and Saudi Arabian Emirate personalities of status. During this time the local representative of the CIA was seen by many people taking the elevator and going to bin Laden's room.

"Several days later the CIA officer bragged to his friends about having visited the Saudi millionaire. From authoritative sources, this CIA agent visited CIA headquarters on July 15th, the day after bin Laden's departure for Quetta...

"According to various Arab diplomatic sources and French intelligence itself, precise information was communicated to the CIA concerning terrorist attacks aimed at American interests in the world, including its own territory."...

"Extremely bothered, they [American intelligence officers in a meeting with French intelligence officers] requested from their French peers exact details about the Algerian activists [connected to bin Laden through Dubai banking institutions], without explaining the exact nature of their inquiry. When asked the question, "What do you fear in the coming days?" the Americans responded with incomprehensible silence."...

On further investigation, the FBI discovered certain plans that had been put together between the CIA and its "Islamic friends" over the years. The meeting in Dubai is, so it would seem, consistent with 'a certain American policy.'"

Even though Le Figaro reported that it had confirmed with hospital staff that bin Laden had been there as reported, stories printed on November 1 contained quotes from hospital staff that these reports were untrue. On November 1, as reported by the Ananova press agency, the CIA flatly denied that any meeting between any CIA personnel and Osama bin Laden at any time.

In the most ironic twist of all, FTW has learned that Le Figaro is owned by the Carlyle Group, the American defence contractor which employs George Bush Sr., and which had as investors until they sold their stake on October 26 - the bin Laden family.

Who do you believe?

Sources: Michael C. Rupert, www.copvcia.com,
Jim Marrs, www.JimMarrs.com



COMMENTARY AND FEEDBACK! LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Accepted letters to the editor have not been edited, nor do they necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Voice* staff, AUSU, or Athabasca University.

Tammy Moore

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

In Response to: VOLUME 10 ISSUE 10
 March 20, 2002
 FED WATCH: Ontario teacher evaluations

In comparing Ontario's legislation for teacher appraisals with Athabasca University's course and tutor evaluation process, Fed Watch writer Karl Low subtly chastises Athabasca University students for their low response rates in filling out these forms. Is this fair?

Upon closer reading of the Ontario legislation one finds that there are now procedures for immediately removing an identified low-performing teacher from the classroom in order to save the students from further harm. Are there procedures like this for students in the universities? No, there aren't. Can AU students request a new tutor if they are unsatisfied with the one they have been assigned? No, they cannot. Can students request a refund if the course materials or tutor services aren't up to snuff? No, they cannot. So identifying a poor tutor or a poor course through an evaluation form does nothing for the student who has suffered. They

have already spent their money. What incentive do they have for sending in these forms? And all mail-in surveys have low response rates. It's human nature.

Although most would agree that a majority of AU's courses and tutors are wonderful, there are some poor ones. And a tutor may be unfairly identified as being poor when in fact it was the low quality of the course materials that made it difficult for the tutor to succeed.

Students are very busy people and they are very smart. They know that most universities do nothing with course and teacher evaluation input. Perhaps AU is different, or perhaps they are not. Because the Alberta government knows from public input that universities typically ignore student input from evaluations, they have amended their FOIPP to require universities to provide students access to completed course and teacher evaluation forms so that students may make informed choices. Do student unions that profess to provide student advocacy to their members take advantage of this new FOIPP feature? Do they know how easy it would be to check up on whether a university actually pays attention to evaluations completed by students?

RESPONSE FROM THE WRITER TO STUDENT FEEDBACK LAST ISSUE:

In regard to Dave Kiryluk's letter in last week's Voice, I wanted to clear up a small misconception. Mr. Kiryluk made many excellent points in his response to my January 23rd article on the Alberta Teacher's strike. However, he also stated that I was a teacher in the past. This is not the case. If my article led people to believe this to be the case, I apologize for the confusion.

Tamra Ross Low



UPDATE: 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

Our Justice System in Canada needs to change to help victims of abuse. I believe we need judges that are better qualified to proceed with the cases of abuse that are brought before them. In the last issue, I discussed a woman whose son had been awarded custody to a father who is currently awaiting a court date for inflicting abuse upon his ex-wife. The Judge was new to this position, having only six months experience. I feel a new judge should not be

allowed to take abuse cases, which could create the scary situation that this lady was put in by our Justice System in Newfoundland.

The lady has now been given partial Custody of her seven-year-old son. She feels that the Judge has given the message to everyone that spousal abuse is not an issue in a custody battle, and that children in situations like these can be raised to do the same as the abuser. She stated that she has taken many procedures to rectify the decision of the Judge; she has contacted the Canadian Traditional Council to have the Judge reviewed, and she has requested his resignation.

She is also working on an appeal to the Judge's decision. This woman is not only fighting a battle for her son, but also preparing for the upcoming trial for the assault charges against her ex-husband. She has been fighting both of those situations for a long time and now she wants peace in her life. Her main concern is too her son, and she wants to enjoy her life with him and attempt to rectify what the Justice System has taken from them both.

The woman claims, however, that she has not tried to cut her son out of her ex-husbands life. She stated to the Judge that no matter what this man did to her, he was still her son's father, and she told the Judge that she thinks both parents have a right to see their children.

This lady is only 28 years old and she has experienced more in life than most of us have had to live through. I find her to be a very strong person; she strives for the goodness in everything. I shed many tears while I was hearing her story about the issues that have taken place in her life. I feel so much heartache for this lady and all other women out there going through the same thing.

Can our Justice System not see that they are giving women of abuse little hope to be able to raise their children in a better home? Children need to be raised with good morals and taught right from wrong. They need to be kept from abusive situations, and taught that all forms of abuse are indeed wrong.

I encourage all of the victims of abuse out there: Never give up on life! This young lady has not given up, even though she felt like it many times. She believes that what happened to her has made her a very strong person and has given her a different outlook on life. She has inspired me, and I am sure that hearing her story has touched some hearts out there. I know she has touched mine.

Strive and fight for what you want to obtain in your life. Never let anyone tell you it is impossible to achieve anything you want. If you fight and work hard you can achieve anything in life. Reach for the stars and your dreams. Believe in yourself, and you can do anything!

Anyone interested in having me write about his or her personal experiences concerning the Justice System, or who would like their story to be heard, please feel free to contact me at journalistforthevoice27@yahoo.com



CONCERT REVIEW:

MERCEDES SOSA - Edmonton, March 21/02

By Debbie Jabbour

I had the privilege tonight of finally hearing Mercedes Sosa live at a concert at the Winspear Centre. I've been a fan for years; not only of her music, but also of how she has represented the hopeful struggles of the people of Argentina towards democratic freedom. The passion in her voice transcends language, and it is not necessary to understand Spanish in order to feel the emotion of her words.

Mercedes Sosa was born in Argentina in 1935, into a poor Indian family. She became inspired to sing about the downtrodden, and made her first recording in 1965 including the poetry of Victor Jara and Pablo Neruda. Shortly thereafter, the government of Argentina began to censor her work, culminating in 1979 with her arrest during a concert. She might have become one of the more than 30,000 'disaparecidos', but instead was sent into exile - a fate she calls the "worst punishment a human being can face.... leaving Argentina, my family and friends, was like dying" (Edmonton Journal, March 21/02)

The first half of the concert was very introspective and thoughtful. She immediately drew the audience in with her haunting voice; and only a few songs into the concert treated us to her signature song - Violetta Parra's Gracias A La Vida (thank you to life). When Mercedes sings the final stanza "y el canto de ustedes que es mi propio canto" in her rich, deep contralto, it sends chills down your spine. The literal translation is "your song is my own song", but it carries with it a much deeper meaning - "I sing for you and have become your voice because your song (and your pain) is my own"

She included a song in Arabic, a tribute written by a young man who had watched a friend murdered in front of him. Then she spoke of Argentina, the terrible difficulties they now face economically, and brought tears to my eyes with a song dedicated to "La Patria" (my country).

The second half of the concert Mercedes really let go with more Latin uptempo songs, complex rhythms that had parts of the audience clapping in harmony. Her musical sense of timing, and that of her accompanists was impeccable, but not always easy to follow for those accustomed to standard "western" rhythms. When she invited all of Latin America to "bailar" (dance), she listed each Latin American country in turn, eliciting cheers from audience members when their homeland was mentioned. She followed this up with "Todo

Cambio", entertaining the audience by dancing around the stage and waving a scarf in the traditional Argentinean style.

My only disappointment was that I did not hear more of her older music like "Razon de Vivir" or "Te Recuerdo Amanda", and that the wait for her encore was excessive (the audience chanted "Sosa Sosa" and applauded for a good 5 minutes, the lights went up and we were all finally leaving when she re-entered the stage. We ran back in a hurry).

It was an experience I will treasure. For students taking GLST308, or any Latin American study course, or for anyone who just loves music - I recommend becoming familiar with the music of Mercedes Sosa.



Ontario performance indicators 'hogwash,' critics charge - -But community college group says KPI data beneficial

By Shawn Jeffords, Ontario Bureau Chief, Ontario Bureau

TORONTO (CUP) -- The Ontario government's latest batch of key performance indicator (KPI) rewards are being dismissed as "hogwash" by critics.

In early March, the provincial Tories announced that an additional \$16.4 million has been awarded to colleges who met or surpassed criteria set out by employers and students, as well as employment rates after graduation. The government argues the measures promote accountability to taxpayers and students.

"The government thinks parents and students deserve a clear picture," said Tanya Cholakov, a spokesperson for Ontario's ministry of training, colleges and universities.

"This system gives concrete evidence and provides tools to find out how the colleges and universities are performing."

Bill Bruneau, former president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, says the ministry's reasoning for KPIs is "lazy academics." He says the world and economy change so fast that no one can predict trends in education. He also says the government should be encouraging students to get a more rounded education.

"They have bought into outdated business theories and let factory-floor style indicators and customer controls emerge," said Bruneau. "Customers don't control General Motors; that's hogwash. The governments of Ontario and Alberta have bought into this hogwash."

Bruneau says the only thing KPIs do successfully is justify budget cuts.

Joel Duff, Ontario chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, agrees.

Duff says the system is designed so that some colleges lose out and says the schools that lose the funding often need it to improve. He also says dangling a carrot tied to a stick does not encourage improvement.

"Train the best and shoot the rest -- that seems to be the government's philosophy" said Duff. "They take this 'beat them with the stick' approach if they fail.

"They stress efficiency over quality and want to micromanage policy. This is not encouraging and obviously long-term planning is not a government priority."

Tanya Boyer, executive director of the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association, says her group is in favour of the indicators.

"The system is shaping behaviour in a good way," said Boyer. "It's helping schools plan their course and do better work."

Boyer says there is still a lot of work to be done to improve the college system.

"Colleges benefit from KPIs because they get data about themselves when they find out their score," said Boyer. "They should then be able to use this data to affect change. They need to do more analysis and find better ways to support students and graduates."



Canada's stalling on Kyoto could kill pact, say environmentalists

By Jeremy Nelson, Environment Bureau Chief, Environment Bureau

TORONTO (CUP) -- A treaty that many scientists say is essential to prevent massive environmental destruction is running into big problems, and like the South Park song, many environmentalists are saying it's time to blame Canada.

The Kyoto Protocol aims to decrease greenhouse gas emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels, which would not stop global warming but would prevent some of its more dire consequences, like flooding of coastlines around the world and a rise in global temperature.

But there's a catch: In order for the treaty to go into effect, 55 countries which produce 55 per cent of the greenhouse gasses must ratify it. The top two per-capita producers of greenhouse gas -- the United States and Australia -- have backed out, and now the number-three per capita producer, Canada, has stepped back from promises to ratify the deal by June.

"We want to ratify, we hope to ratify, our goal is to ratify, but ratification will not take place until we've had full consultation with the provinces, the private sector, companies and the general public," said Minister of the Environment David Anderson.

But environmentalists say the time to talk is over. They point out that it took more than a decade to build Kyoto, and that if the pact collapses, global warming will be out of control by the time a new agreement emerges. They worry that Canada's delay will influence the two other big countries that would spell doom for Kyoto if they fail to ratify.

"Russia and Japan have been very close to Canada, and we remain very close," Anderson admits. "There's no question what we do would be influential on those countries."

Unlike the business and manufacturing lobby, which claims Kyoto will cost \$40 billion and result in 450,000 lost jobs, both Anderson and the environment lobby believe global warming is an indisputable scientific fact and that the cost of not doing anything is the major concern.

But the similarities stop there.

"This is not a government that is serious about reducing pollution," said Greenpeace spokesperson Jamie Heath, who notes that greenhouse gasses have been allowed to rise to 14 per cent above 1990 levels. "We're more than a decade into this. It's not like it came up last week."

Matthew Bramley of the Pembina Institute, a climate-change think tank, notes that the issue has been studied to death, and talk of consultation is just another stalling technique.

"There's no reason to hesitate. Let's just get on with the work," he said, noting the consequences of doing nothing are too much to risk.

"To put that rise [in temperature] in perspective, the difference between an ice age and the present day is only four or five degrees in global average temperatures. That gives you a sense of the kind of magnitude of changes you can expect if the earth's temperature rose by three to four degrees, which would be in the middle of the range that scientists predict."

Anderson says Canada will only ratify the deal after consultation, after a true estimate of costs have been developed by all levels of government, likely in April, and after a plan is built to spell out how Canada will meet Kyoto obligations.

"We would not ratify until we had a good expectation of a plan that would ensure that no part of the country would be unfairly forced to bear a larger part of the burden," he said.

As for why emissions have been increasing for the last decade, Anderson says a 30 per cent growth in the economy is responsible, and notes that the emissions have risen only a fraction of GDP.

But Heath wonders why the government didn't have a plan to ratify Kyoto already in place if it was really serious about adopting the agreement in June, as it had initially claimed it would.

"It's not a choice we have to make between the environment and the economy; the choice is if we are going to put our economy back on a sustainable path," he said.

Heath notes that municipalities have already made big changes that show how easy it is to reduce greenhouse gasses, and wishes the provincial and federal governments just rolled up their sleeves and started implementing proven solutions.

He sights the fact that Calgary powers its light urban transit and its biggest mall with windpower, and the fact Toronto is harnessing the methane from its dumps instead of letting the gas into the atmosphere, as two key examples of how easy it would be to reduce climate change.

"After you are in power for as long as the Liberals you either have an environmental record to stand on or you don't," he said. "They should re-commit to ratifying Kyoto by the G8 leaders summit (in June) and should just start talking about how they will meet Kyoto targets."



The "War on Terror": Sense and Nonsense

By Dru Oja Jay, Argosy

For a few months now, the media has been using the term "war on terror" as though it were a neutral description of U.S. military action in Afghanistan or of U.S. threats of future attacks elsewhere. On its face, the "war on terror" -- or even "war on terrorism" -- is at best a misnomer. How, exactly, does one declare war on a concept, on a tactic, and how would

such a war be won? Even if we assume that what Washington really means when it says "war on terror" is "war on terrorists", the term is deeply problematic.

A terrorist, according to conventional definitions, is someone who uses terror, or threats of terror, to coerce a government or population into granting demands. Clearly, levelling the World Trade towers, thus killing several thousand people counts as terrorism, though it's unclear what the terrorists in question were trying to coerce the U.S. to do, apart from provoking it to war. But what about bombing Afghanistan, thus killing several thousand (4,000 by the best estimates) innocent civilians over an eight week period? Which does not include the number of people maimed by the same bombs or the number of undocumented casualties; the fact that it's customary to bury the dead before sundown in Afghanistan, coupled with the fact that the Pentagon retroactively bought up all available civilian satellite photos, which would have allowed for accurate estimates, also make it seem likely that that figure is conservative.

Before the attacks began, UN officials warned that, in addition to the 2.5 million Afghan refugees dependent on aid, an additional 1 million could starve if aid workers were forced to evacuate (again, a conservative estimate). The attack proceeded and aid workers were forced to leave. US air drops of food did little to compensate; when aid workers had been on site, 700 tons of food had been getting into the country daily; air drops managed to deliver the same amount over three weeks. Pentagon officials routinely boast of psy-ops and brag about the "shattering" psychological effect of the "daisy cutter", a massive bomb that incinerates everything within 600 yards, producing a shockwave felt for miles.

Recently, 98 civilians were killed when the U.S. bombed a village. A Pentagon spokesperson said that "those people are dead because we wanted them dead", ostensibly because they were Taliban supporters.

Surely such actions count as terrorism. U.S. tactics are explicitly designed to "shatter" the opponent in order to further the pursuit of political goals. What do we risk by using terrorism as a tactic to fight a war on terrorism?

Some say that states, by definition, cannot commit acts of terrorism. Even if true, and U.S. foreign policy is merely horrifying and illegal, but not terrorism per se, the term "war on terror" is incoherent. Part of this "war on terror" -- a term so ubiquitous that it's difficult to find a replacement -- has been to censure, to punish, to threaten the use of force against countries which enable terrorists to operate, financially or otherwise. Yet there has been no word from Washington to end IRA fundraising in the parishes of Boston, New York, Chicago; and anti-Castro terrorists continue to operate out of Miami, with neither fear nor threat of law nor force. "Plan Colombia", by which Washington aims to hand the Colombian government \$1.5 billion and several heavily subsidized arms deals, was justified by that country's "good human rights record". Despite the fact that activists and candidates from the only opposition party to be formed there have been murdered and tortured by the hundreds.

Not so many years ago the U.S. supported, trained, and funded mujahideen like of Osama Bin Laden, cold war pawns whom Reagan called the moral equivalents of the founding fathers, even "freedom fighters". The U.S. supported Saddam Hussein, another potential target in the "war on terror", not too long ago, and stood idly by while, in the last gasps of the Gulf War, he brutally put down a rebellion of Kurds which the U.S. had prompted. That the Bush administration has neither acknowledged nor expressed regret at these prior affiliations is certainly cause for some doubt as to the motives of this self-righteous war.

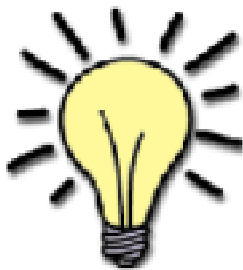
So perhaps the "war on terror" is more aptly named the "war on terrorists who attack the United States and on anyone who happens to live near the people who support those terrorists" -- more verbose and more accurate. Yet that's still not quite right. The U.S. -- and the U.K. and Canada, both of which have signed on wholesale -- still calls Saudi Arabia an ally in this war, despite the fact that most of bin Laden's funding likely originates there. Maybe the "war on terrorists that can be killed without messing up any major trade deals, sources of oil, or political connections" is even more apt.

Indeed, the closer one looks, the more one sees that the "war on terror" is mostly a convenient cover for the U.S., and its junior allies in London and Riyadh and Ottawa, to pursue with abandon its global interests. While "War on Terror" does not accurately refer to any US military policy, the practices that it describes do make sense in the historical context of the use of terror to further US policies overseas. A 1995 document, "Essentials of Post-Cold War Deterrence", authored by the U.S. Strategic Command, exhorts thus -- "That the U.S. may become irrational and vindictive if its vital interests are attacked should be a part of the national persona we project to all adversaries...It hurts to portray ourselves as too fully rational and cool-headed".

There are plenty of examples of this kind of policy being put into practice. State terrorism exists and works, which is to say that it's effective for the U.S. to be a rogue state, but only when no concern whatever is given to justice or fairness or the truth.

Just as we say that "gold is the corpse of value", or that words on a page are only meaningful in some interpretive context, so democracy is only democracy in a meaningful sense when citizens can communicate all of the relevant facts to each other.

When people stop telling the truth and accounting for the facts in the press, in the rooms of the powerful, and in everyday conversation, democracy stops being democracy. What is needed to keep democracy alive is clear enough; it's following through that is difficult. Democracy is only meaningful when based on the truth. The assumption that we can ignore some actions of our governments, submit to the government's propaganda, and still be able to act competently, fairly, justly -- as a country or as individuals -- is one that should always be questioned.



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!

A Healing Process

September 11: Dealing with the Backlash

Were you affected by the horrific events of September 11? Do you think / feel racism against certain groups has increased since the tragedy? Would you like to share your thoughts & views about it? If so, you are cordially invited to attend any one of the following Edmonton community meetings...

Thursday, April 04, 2002

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge Room

Host: Millwoods Welcome Centre for Immigrants

@ 335 Tower 2 Millbourne Mall, 7609 - 30th Avenue

Friday, April 05, 2002

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room

Host: Family Centre (Northside)

@ 513 Hermitage Road

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room

Host: University of Alberta, International Centre

@ 172 HUB International, U. of A. Campus

Thursday, April 11, 2002

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. 6th Flr., Board Room

Host: Edmonton Multicultural Society

@ the Stanley A. Milner Library (Downtown)

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Room 7-269

Host: Grant MacEwan College

@ City Centre Campus

Sunday, April 28, 2002

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. East Room

Host: Edmonton Immigrant Services Association

@ 11240 - 79 St. / Cromdale School (in French)

Additional community meetings will be scheduled for your convenience. If you wish to attend and bring a friend along, you are most welcome to do so.

For further information:

Ernest or Charlene @ 425-4644

e-mail us at: naarr@compusmart.ab.ca

Events co-ordinated by the Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR). Please visit our web site at: <http://www.naarr.org/>

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.

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 for details on writing for The Voice, providing a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.