

Volume 11 Issue 06
February 05, 2003

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the VOICE

Quote of the Week:

"Patience, n. A minor form of
dispair, disguised as a virtue."

- Ambrose Bierce,
The Devil's Dictionary
(1911)

THE VOICE

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Volume 11, Issue 06

Welcome To The New Format Voice PDF

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FROM THE READERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CLASSIFIEDS!



THE VOICE FICTION

The Voice wants your fiction.

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From My Perspective The Popstar Experience: Part Two

By Debbie Jabbour

Part 2 in a continuing series about the Canadian Television talent competition, Popstars: The One.

For part 1 of this series, see:

<http://www.ausu.org/voice/articles/articledisplay.php?ART=382>

Getting Amaya to the Citadel callbacks was a bit easier than the first auditions, but she was still not completely motivated. A second selection of songs had been provided to choose from, but these were not much better than the first. Amaya had finally settled on the Ashanti/Ja Rule duet “Always on Time,” but while she was comfortable with the chorus, she was still trying to memorize the rap part in the car on the way downtown. I had taken the morning off work, and her sisters all came along as well for support.

The Citadel was a buzz of excited young people, all dressed to be noticed. We waited for a long while upstairs, then finally everyone was called down to the theatre. The judges were introduced: Erica Ehm, Jason Rouse, and Paul Myers; and we were advised that random numbers had been assigned and that contestants would be called singly. As we waited, several of the auditioners tried to intimidate and psych out others by repeatedly going into a hallway around the corner to “practise” loudly. Others just burst into song on the spot, to be rewarded by loud praise and applause from their friends.



One young man in a Hawaiian shirt had his own media entourage who kept interviewing him, and in between dramatic poses for the camera he would sing snippets of song in his powerful voice. We wondered who he was to deserve such special treatment (we later found out the *Edmonton Journal* was doing an article on him).

Everyone was vying for the attention of the Popstars camera crew, who kept popping in and out of the audition room. One girl in a micro mini wearing 4 inch spike heels kept going into the bathroom to change parts of her outfit, and a group of black guys were creating impromptu harmonies outside the audition door.

We sat on the stairs, viewing the carnival-like scene with some cynicism as the hours passed. One thing I had always impressed on my girls through the years was the notion of good sportsmanship and respect for fellow competitors, and although we were well-acquainted with egoistic performers with diva attitudes, it was not pleasant to watch some of these antics.



A fellow auditioner had been in the school choir with Amaya some years before, and we struck up a conversation with him and his mother. Amaya was starting to get edgy and began to suggest that maybe we should just leave and forget the whole thing. I was finding myself half agreeing with her, especially watching the emotions of those exiting the audition. As each auditioner went in you could feel the tension increase in the room. Some came out smiling, screaming for joy, announcing they had been called back for the afternoon. Others came out silent, downcast, a few even in tears. Amaya's choir friend was one of the latter, and his disappointment was so palpable that my heart ached for him.

I thought of an Edmonton Popstar contestant from the previous season, Johnny Collins. He had made it almost to the end, only to be told that he was too strong a solo singer to fit into their notion of the group that would become Velvet Empire. We knew Johnny from many talent shows and performances over the years and he is an amazingly talented young man. I recalled an interview I saw with him after he was rejected by Popstars, in which he expressed that he no longer had much faith in himself and his own talent and would likely be giving up on his musical career. That had deeply saddened me, to see someone with such ability have their "dreams crushed," as the Popstars' commercial so proudly advertises.

The morning was almost over, and by this point we were trying to count how many were left in the room to get an idea of how much longer it might be. We just wanted this to be over. I had to leave for work, so I was hoping her number would come soon. At last she was called in. We sent her silent good wishes as we waited on the other side of the door. She came out with a smile – an afternoon callback! She told us that she had completely forgotten the lyrics for the rap portion and ended up just ad libbing the performance, but that they had been very complementary and told her they'd like to have her come back, and this time show them more of the "real Amaya." Knowing my daughter I wasn't sure if they could handle the real Amaya!

At that point she finally seemed motivated, actually wanting to do the next audition. They had provided yet another set of song choices to pick from, only one of which Amaya knew the lyrics for – Live's "Overcome." Unfortunately I had to leave for work, but I knew she was in good hands with her sisters, and we made arrangements to meet at home later.

I was in training for my new job that day, but of course it was impossible for me to concentrate all afternoon. Finally 5 PM arrived and I headed home. One of my daughters was waiting at the front door with as sad a face as she could muster. She started to announce in a somber voice, "she didn't make it," but she couldn't keep up the charade and started laughing and hugging me. It was quite a birthday gift - Amaya was going to Toronto!



They all eagerly filled me in on the details. Amaya seemed rather stunned and bemused, not having quite expected this. The afternoon callback performances were done in front of both the judges and the other contestants, and Amaya said that everyone who performed was extremely talented. The judges had even commented on how impressed they were at the Edmonton auditions in comparison to other cities they'd been to. At the end they had called them back in individually to give them the news. Amaya was the last one called in, and since they had already picked four finalists, at that point she knew she had made it. Erica Ehm smiled at her and said, "Amaya, the problem is we just don't know who you are - are you the sweet girl or the rocker girl? So we are sending you to Toronto to find out!"

Strangely enough, now I started to worry a bit. It was thrilling, exciting news, yet I knew how difficult the competition could be in Toronto, and worried that being under the camera lens with her every move scrutinized might be a difficult experience for Amaya. She was no stranger to performing or being in front of the camera, but it had been several years since she was last in that type of limelight and I hoped she could deal with it emotionally and mentally.

It was also a bit strange because we had all been so ambivalent about the whole thing – we had wanted her to have the opportunity but were only too aware of the potential drawbacks. We were confident that she had what it took to go the distance, but we also knew that it was not going to be a test of talent, but rather a media game - with the winner being the person who made "the best television." What if she didn't make it? What would rejection do to her? Would it damage her already fragile self-esteem?

Were we ready to see Amaya on weekly television being criticized and having her performance picked apart by people across Canada? Was Amaya ready for it?

Next week: On to Toronto "bootcamp"

Pictures, bios, episode summaries, and other information are available on the Popstars website at www.popstars.ca.

Edmonton Journal interview, January 30, 2003:
<http://www.canada.com/search/story.aspx?id=867107db-d80f-431f-891f-2828d8e2247e>

Debbie is a native Edmontonian, and a single parent with four daughters. She has worked as a professional musician for most of her life, and has enjoyed a rich variety of life experiences - with many more to come! Debbie is working towards an eventual doctorate in psychology, and currently serves as the president of the Athabasca University Students Union.

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February 05, 2003

Dear Sandra,

I am a twenty year-old virgin. I am comfortable with this, but I am nervous about how a girl will react when I tell her. I have always had dates, but none have ever gone “that” far. How might I clear the air about this topic when the time comes?

Nervous Nice Guy,

Dear Nervous Nice Guy,

So many people are under the impression that sex is something you have to do. Being a virgin at 20 is not an abnormality, it just means that you have deep values about sexuality. I think a lot of women would be impressed to hear a man admit that he is a virgin. Believe me, women are not impressed by how many other women you’ve scored with, only your buddies care about that. We care more about how willing you are to do the job right.

Remember, women are more emotionally sensitive than men. Telling a woman that you are a virgin will only make her feel thrilled that you have chosen her to be your first. A woman is unlikely to care that you are a virgin and may even respect you for not being promiscuous and choosing to wait for the right person. Being open and honest is the only way to go. Let her know that this is your first time and you would like to take it slow. Don’t be afraid to ask her what she wants and to tell her what you want. The fun part about sex is that you get to keep practicing! Married people report better sex than singles, because they have had years to perfect their lovemaking and both partners are in tune with what the other wants and needs.

Men seem to think that if they have been with a lot of women that automatically makes them professionals in the bedroom. Not so. Just because a lot of women have been in a man’s bed does not mean that they have left satisfied.

Sandra

**I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! TELL ME YOUR TROUBLES.
YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY IS ASSURED.**

This column is for entertainment only. Sandra is not a professional counsellor, but is an AU student who would like to give personal advice about school and life to her peers. Please forward your questions to Sandra care of smoore@ausu.org



Nature Notes: **From The Backyard to the Biosphere**

Salamanders: A Year in the Life

by Zoe Dalton

Salamanders – with their smooth skin, little heads, big eyes and long tails, where in the world of taxonomy do they belong? Are they a cuter version of lizards? Snakes with legs? Elongated frogs? How about attractively-evolved worms? Nope: salamanders, and their rougher skinned cousins, the newts, belong to the order, *Caudata*. *Caudata* essentially means “amphibian with a tail”, so of the above possibilities, salamanders fall taxonomically closest to frogs, their tailless amphibious cousins.

Some of you may be wondering why, at this frigid time of year, I am writing about creatures seldom seen in even the warmest months of summer. True, salamanders are inordinately shy little guys. Most spend their days hiding under moist logs or rocks, venturing out only in the cover of darkness to hunt down their prey. Themselves food to various fish, snakes and birds, their nocturnal lifestyle helps the lowly salamander to stay out of harm’s way.

But in this winter of winters, how do these little ectotherms make it? We survive in parkas, heated homes and by keeping a warm cup of coffee ever in view. So what do these essentially naked little creatures, dependent on the environment for warmth, do to survive the winter? Hibernation is the key, and I must admit that I too see the logic in such behaviour on these dark winter mornings. Burying themselves deep underground to avoid frost and maintain the ambient moisture levels so essential to their survival, salamanders wait out the cold.

Spring (ahh, spring) is another story. As many of us would like to do at that first sign of the sun’s returning power, salamanders and newts pick up their heads, do a little stretch, and head out for the beach. It is here, in the ponds and waterways of the world, that salamanders know spring love. Breeding ponds are the Mecca of salamanders, and migration from all directions centres on the nearest patch of *agua fresca*. Migration? I know, the term is generally reserved for the more highly esteemed members of the animal kingdom, including caribou, ducks and butterflies. But this widespread movement across the landscape, even by such miniature creatures, warrants the title of migration nonetheless.

For salamanders, as for all romantics, seeking true love can be a deadly business. While acid rain, polluted waterways and habitat loss (where is that pond, anyway?) rank high on the list of factors contributing to salamander decline, the animal’s passionate journey to the waters of romance leave many a casualty along the way. By the hundreds, salamanders march their way across the landscape, through forests and marshes and, just when the pond comes in sight, they march right on across the road. And by the hundreds, these delicate amphibians meet their maker, like their larger animal brethren the deer, moose or family pet, at the hands of motorists.

So therein lies the danger of salamander love. But what about those who make it? Well, it varies depending on what type of salamander we're talking about. We in North America are lucky to have the greatest diversity of salamanders in the world: representatives of nine of the ten families of salamanders are found here, in our moist woods and extensive waterways. Of the 360 species known worldwide, most in our region are small (less than 15 cm long). We are not graced with the bulk of *Andrias japonicus*, the world's largest salamander (1.5m in length!). But we do have an incredible variety of salamanders, ranging from entirely aquatic, to entirely terrestrial varieties, to those with the more common biphasic life cycle (i.e. metamorphosis from a gilled aquatic to a lunged terrestrial form).

Nevertheless, regardless of size, type or family history, for all to go well on arrival, the water has to be just right. As reliant on their skin's vascular network as they are on lungs or gills to breathe, salamanders of all kinds require clean, pure water within a restricted pH range. The specific environmental requirements of salamanders and other amphibians make them excellent indicator species. Because of the large degree of exchange that occurs through their skin, salamanders, like all amphibians, are especially vulnerable to external environmental changes. Therefore, the health and population trends of these species indicate to scientists changes that may be occurring in the environment, changes in factors such as pH, water chemistry or temperature variations.

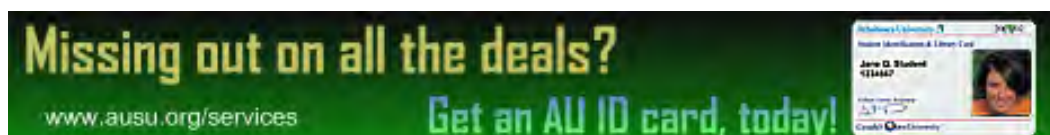
For those who find their water source just so, breeding can at last occur. For most types of salamanders, fertilization is internal: the female picks up the male's previously-deposited spermatophore (sperm sack), fertilization takes place, and soon enough the aquatic young are released to their new watery home.

Ponds in which the young first find themselves are often temporary bodies of water. With the onset of warm weather, water levels frequently begin to decrease and these gilled larvae go through the process of metamorphosis in which, among other things, the young develop lungs and legs. With their new equipment, specially designed for life on land, young salamanders leave the nest and set off to make their way in the world. On finding a snug log to call home, and a territory filled with soft, moist ground and plenty of smaller creatures to call dinner, the fledgling salamander will grow, mature, and prepare itself for the journeys its parents took a generation's cycle earlier.

For more information on salamanders, their life cycle and environmental threats, have a look at the following websites, as well as any introductory herpetology or biology textbooks:

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/salamand>
<http://tolweb.org/tree/eukaryotes/animals/chordata/caudata/caudata.html>
<http://home.total.net/~kaymur/>
http://www.chl.ca/AllAboutCanoesNewsJun01/20_sala-sun.html

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



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Canadian Fed Watch! News Across The Nation...

February 05, 2003

By Karl Low

Black History Month

February is Black History Month according to the [Federal Government](#) and the [Provincial Government of Ontario](#). The Federal Government has given \$40,000 to the Black History Month Round Table. This Round Table helps to organize events announcing and celebrating Black History and the diversity that helps to make up Canada.

Each year, the Round Table puts its focus on something different, this year it is expected that the focus will be on the contributions of Black women to Canadian Society. One of the things we are likely to learn, if we participate at all, is that the first black woman to become a Member of Parliament was Jean Augustine only ten years ago in 1993. As a comparison, the first black man to be elected was in 1968, almost 25 years previous. It seems funny to think that this is only 35 years ago, within many of our lifetimes, and certainly well after our own parents had been born.

If we do not have black friends or associates, it can sometimes seem like the whole issue of racism against blacks is over and done with. Personally I have no problems with the idea of a black person as Prime Minister, or President, but events like this help to remind me that of course the struggle is not over, and that many of the gains are still very recent to our society. We need to keep this in mind as we live our lives so that we are alert to when we see prejudice occurring today.

However, one thing I always find myself wondering is should the Federal Government be supporting this type of event with actual tax-payer dollars? Doing so seems to open the door to any of the hundreds of distinct groups to establish celebrations of their own history, something they should be encouraged to do; but should it all come at the expense of you and me who pay the taxes that go out to these groups? Do we want to find ourselves responsible in all fairness to be supporting the history months of the Irish, the Inuit, the Aboriginal, the Jewish, the Muslim, the Serbian, the Ukrainian, the Korean, and all of the other cultural groups that receive little attention in our schools?

Crop Insurance Seeing Changes

True to his word, Premier Klein of Alberta has [released](#) the first of the announcements we were promised in his annual speech. This one is on the new system that will be used for Crop Insurance for farmers. Basically, the new changes in the crop insurance program amount to low level subsidies for farmers in times of market troubles. The other changes are earlier application deadlines so that, like a true insurance program, you have to pay well before there are indications that the crops might be at risk.

To be honest, I have to admit that I like the general idea behind both of these changes, which is to protect the farmers both from the weather conditions and from folks who would simply play the system, whether that system be the market or the insurance system itself.

What is scary is that because of these changes, the government "will be highly unlikely to institute ad hoc programs to address agricultural disasters". So in other words, if you do not have the money to pay the insurance premiums (as many small farmers do not) and something happens that makes crops impossible to grow (such as, say, climactic change brought on by unsustainable economic activities) then it's time to sell your farm to one of the bigger corporations that happened to be able to afford the insurance.

About the only good thing is that if the Crop Insurance program does not pay out in claims more than it takes in, a portion of the difference is refunded back to the farmers. However, with Premier Klein's talks about private-public partnerships, does anybody care to guess how long it will be before the crop insurance program is privatized to one of Premier Klein's corporate board-room friends? Once that happens, it is unlikely to be long before the idea of refunding unpaid out money goes away.

Healthy U

A new project by the Alberta Government is a website known as [Healthy U](#). Part of the new strategy to help people stay healthy, the site gives advice on how to exercise and eat right in the limited time we all have.

A lot of people have the desire, but simply lack the information to actually manage their lives in a way that keeps them healthy. This site is a good place to go to find out how you can make a difference in your own life. Complete with recipes, contests, exercise tips and links to other sites, this makes a good starting point to help you with those new years health resolutions.

In addition, you can sign up for an email list that will give you a weekly tip on how to stay healthy – if nothing else, a good reminder about what you've set out to do.

A native Calgarian, Karl is perpetually nearing the completion of his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Information Studies. He also works for the Computer Sciences Virtual Helpdesk for Athabasca University and plans to eventually go on to tutor and obtain his Master's Degree.



Volunteers: Benefit or Burden?

By Diane L.M. Cook

Societies are made up of people and people help people. If it weren't for volunteers, many a community wouldn't be what it is today. But like everything else in life, times change and so do volunteers. Volunteers used to be

considered the biggest benefit to an organization or a community but now, sometimes volunteers can be considered a burden.

The Volunteer Scene in Calgary and Alberta

Alberta isn't quite "volunteer capital" of Canada but it's a very close second to Saskatchewan. In a recent survey titled "*Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating*," it was reported that 700,000 people volunteered 120 million hours in one year in Alberta. Loosely translated, Alberta averages approximately 200 hours per volunteer per year, which works out to be about 8.33 days per year. Now that's a lot of volunteering!

Who Volunteers

The survey revealed 4 out of 10 people volunteer "formally". This means a person approaches an organization and offers to volunteer for a certain position or offers to volunteer a certain amount of time on a regular, on-going basis. Three out of 10 people volunteer "informally". This means people volunteer spontaneously. For example, if a person is asked and agrees to volunteer for one specific task, only one time per year, this person is considered to volunteer "informally". In Calgary, the survey revealed that 7 out of 10 people over the age of 15 have performed some type of volunteer work, whether it was formal or informal. Surprisingly, the survey revealed that 2 out of 3 volunteers are employed, which eliminates the notion that people who work do not have time to volunteer. More Calgaryans volunteer, and volunteer more hours, than Edmontonians do. "Calgary's volunteer presence seems stronger than Edmonton's because Calgary has a central place that refers large numbers of volunteers to non-profit organizations, called Volunteer Calgary. Edmonton's volunteer center closed two years ago due to funding issues," said Dawn Lasby, Manager of Volunteer Services at Volunteer Calgary.

Before You Volunteer

These statistics are impressive but people must remember that it's a privilege to be a volunteer and each volunteer position brings with it accountability and responsibility. Having a "love" of something is great motivation, often assisting people in choosing where they want to volunteer, but people must remember that other people are counting on them to carry out the tasks they volunteered to do. If a person wants to volunteer for unskilled positions, such as painting fences, picking up litter, and setting up rummage sales, then no special skills, experience, or education is required, just a willing spirit and a desire to pitch in and help the community. If a person wants to volunteer for a position that does

require special skills, experience, or education, such as an accountant, legal advisor or area planner, the person should make sure they clearly understand the duties of the position, know whether or not they are capable of carrying out the duties, and know whether or not they actually have the time to perform the duties, as the people who volunteer for these positions will be held accountable for their actions.

Why Some People Volunteer

Some people volunteer because they really want to help other people or they want to pitch in to make their communities better places to live in. If it weren't for the tireless efforts of countless volunteers, a lot of things simply would not exist, things that most of us take for granted and that we think either the government or a corporate sponsor paid for. Volunteers are truly gifts from heaven and should be thanked graciously for their hard work.

There are also people who volunteer because it's a requirement of a goal. People who want to switch careers sometimes do volunteer work to gain new skills or experience, which employers will accept on a job application. Or as in the case of students, they know educational institutions and employers look for volunteer work on their applications because it shows they are community-minded individuals. People also volunteer because a judge has ordered them to perform community service work as part of their sentence and a select few people volunteer because they have self-serving motivation to make themselves look good.

Most people who volunteer are generally good-hearted people with the best intentions but the people who feel obligated to volunteer, are forced to volunteer, or volunteer to make themselves look good, may not put their "heart and soul" into their volunteer duties, leaving the other volunteers performing the lion's share of the work. The attitudes of these volunteers can also have devastating effects on the spirit of the other volunteers.

The Cornerstone of Good Volunteers

Why is it that when people apply for a paying job, they have to go through the Spanish Inquisition – provide a resume which details their education, skills and experience, a list of references, and sometimes identification such as their Social Insurance Numbers, birth certificates and driver's licenses? Although well-run organizations put potential volunteers through intensive screening procedures and interview review processing, many non-profit organizations are so thankful someone actually volunteered that they practically hand the job to them without so much as a "What's your name?" Good volunteers are just like good employees – they are hard to come by. Productive volunteers are no accident either. "Organizations who rely on volunteers will do well to have a well-trained, experienced volunteer manager. The duties of a volunteer manager are: to review job descriptions and hold interviews to recruit qualified volunteers; orient and train new volunteers; motivate current and new volunteers; evaluate the volunteer's performance on a regular basis; keep appropriate records of volunteers; and to show appreciation to all volunteers. Volunteer Calgary offers many courses and they can even teach a volunteer manager how to dismiss a volunteer, if necessary," said Lasby.

The Downside to Volunteering – Volunteer Burnout

The survey clearly showed that the number of people who volunteer, and the number of hours they volunteer, dropped in 2000. What the survey failed to do is identify the reasons for the drop in numbers. Could it be a case of volunteer burnout? As in any organization, whether it is a not-for-profit or a for-profit, it is usually the select few that do the bulk of the work. It's similar to the 80/20

rule where 80% of a company's business comes from 20% of its clients. In a volunteer organization, 20% of the volunteers could be doing 80% of the work. After awhile, these volunteers get tired of doing all the work all the time, and eventually they burn-out and stop volunteering. If there is no one else to fill their shoes, then the work goes undone, and people and organizations suffer. Many people who volunteer complain that shortly after they volunteered to do one thing, they were quickly commandeered into volunteering for something else, usually entire positions, sometimes two. Soon, this person starts to drown in volunteer work and again suffers from burnout. Many volunteers feel they are not shown the level of respect or appreciation they deserve. If a volunteer is over-worked, not respected, unappreciated, and is tired of dealing with the politics of the organization and other volunteers who are not fulfilling their obligations, then the volunteer often ends up leaving the organization.

The Volunteer Who Is a Burden

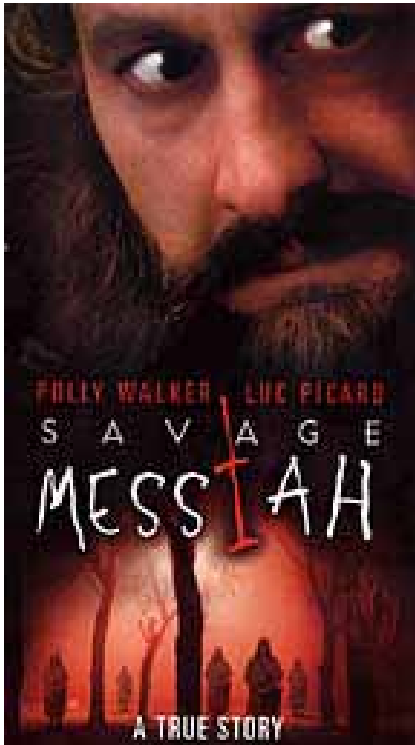
Volunteers who do not put their heart and soul into their volunteer position, who do not perform the duties they volunteered to do, or who perform the duties so poorly they might as well not even bother, can be a drain on any organization. Volunteer horror stories abound. I have had several bad volunteer experiences — a volunteer who said they don't answer their e-mail so the rest of the organization can't communicate with him; a volunteer who made a serious legal mistake that could have put the entire board in serious trouble (remember, being a volunteer does not absolve you from liability; you still have a duty of care); a volunteer who offered to do something very important and a year and a half later still has not completed the task; and the countless volunteers who said they are "too busy" to do what they volunteered to do. Why would a person volunteer to do something and then say they are too busy? Why even bother to volunteer? If a person cannot keep their volunteer commitment, then the proper thing to do would be to step down from the position and allow another person the opportunity to perform the duties. A volunteer board member once told me, "They're volunteers, so we have to accept what we get and not complain." This negative mentality has to go if the volunteer numbers are to go up.

Now more than ever, both not-for-profit and for-profit organizations are counting on volunteers to help run their organizations. A well-run volunteer program can ensure that the right volunteers are recruited for the right jobs. Hopefully, organizations will start to see the value in recruiting and training volunteer staff, and the number of people who volunteer and the number of hours they volunteer, will start to go up again.

Resources:

1. Volunteer Calgary – www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca
2. Volunteer Canada: Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement – www.volunteer.ca/volunteer/pdf/CodeEng.pdf
3. Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating – www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/71-542-XIE/71-542-XIE00001.pdf
4. Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources: Standards of Practice Summary – www.cavr.org (Standards of Practice Summary)

Diane is a full-time, freelance writer. She specializes in writing technical articles for the oil and gas industry, but also writes feature length magazine articles of all genres, including Calgary-based magazines. She is working towards a Bachelor of General Studies degree.



An Encounter With a Mass Murderer Part 2

by Tamra Ross Low

...continued from last week.

For part 1, see:

<http://www.ausu.org/voice/articles/articledisplay.php?ART=387>

To see him in pictures is not the same – film devours his strange charisma, imprinting only the most inconsequential details of his countenance. The resulting photograph depicts someone who looks more like your local insurance salesman than a man who held such power over his disciples that they would risk death or torture by his own hand, just to be near him. Nothing in the photo will explain why more than a dozen women became his wives and concubines, bore his children, and served him as though he were an earth-bound god. Like other powerful cult leaders – Charles Manson comes to mind – he is also a changeling, who can seem to take on an entirely new face with a change in temper.

He wore a ratty blue sweater, with thready, unraveling cuffs the colour of dirty Wedgwood china. His hair was long and matted, but with not very much gray at the time. His beard was also long, and entwined with the hair so that the two growths became a single mass, and though he looked old, he was still very young.

I recall he wore a pair of limp, medium-blue, cotton work pants, hemmed with dust, and a pair of equally dirty leather workboots that had started out black, but now were mostly a dullish brown as much of the outer shell of colour had cracked and worn off.

I recall these boots because the first thing I saw of Moïse was his feet. I was a shy, nervous child, and usually looked at the floor when out in public, rather than encounter the stares of strange adults. People who like children have the most unsettling habit of trying to make eye contact with them, smile at them, or ask them simple questions. For a shy child, such attention can be bothersome, or even frightening. Interested strangers always hold a taint of menace for someone too small or young to defend their self – people would do well to remember that.

So, I was looking at the floor, or something on a shelf near the floor, when the greasy old boots stepped into my view. I was immediately startled. This stranger in the dirty boots and pants was very close, and facing directly toward me. My mother – a loving but fearful woman – had many times told me to be fearful of strangers who might approach me. Even children have a concept of personal space, and these legs and feet were certainly well within mine.

Like a startled fawn, I lost track of my thoughts about skipper dolls and playing jacks with my cousin, and froze where I stood while watching intently. Fearfully, I let my eyes drift upward. Up the long legs, and just past the waist, I caught sight of the stranger's hands – large, brown, fat hands, with yellow fingernails and nicotine-colored stains around the finger tips. I also noted his sweater cuffs – unraveled and faded. In his hands he held a item that was at once incongruous, and yet somehow befitting this man.

It was a doll – a soft bodied doll with long messy yarn hair and a gingham dress. It seemed absurd for this man to be holding a doll, but nevertheless it was a doll made for such a man. It resembled a Raggedy Andy doll, but instead of bright red yarn for its hair, this one had coarser yarn of a dull, darkened wedgwood blue, much like the man's sweater. Its body was limp and under filled, and the white of the dress was darkened and brownish around the edges. Undoubtedly the doll had been in the store for years – probably dropped on the floor and kicked around many times, only to be repeatedly placed back on its perch each night by staff members during clean up. Maybe it even spent some time under the shelves where no one found it for a while. It was not surprising – it was a cheap, rather sad looking doll, and many prettier ones with shining hair and chubby, soft bodies were on the shelves.

This sad, dirty little doll was held out before me, in those big corrugated hands, and I was afraid. My mother told me about men with toys and candy and praises, and how they might come for pretty little girls. As a child I had waist-length platinum hair – I miss my blonde hair now that it's become thick and auburn – and people used to stop and look at my hair, and sometimes even touch or stroke it. It frightened me to receive such attention, but I came to expect it. Mom rarely let me more than a few feet away from her in public, and I was glad of this.

Mom was not beside me now, however. I was nine years old and starting to move off on my own a little. Not far, but sometimes I'd go to the next aisle from where she was. I knew she would be very near.

Still, I did not run or yell, or look around for my mother. I was afraid to anger the man, and so I stood quite still, but looked up higher yet, to see who he was. It was then that I saw the kinked, bristly hair and flowing beard, and the rugged brown face. But what caught my attention – something that very few photographs have captured – was his strange eyes. They burned blue like the base of a propane flame, but brighter – a harsh, clear colour like glacial ice.

His followers worshipped him like a God, and they say he had an aura of power and knowing. I think it was his eyes that made people crazy and willing to die, or see their own children die, just to be near him. His eyes were strangely beautiful, and his face round and utterly peaceful. It was the kind of face that might look jolly and warm when wearing a broad smile, but the eyes would have still seemed out of place – cold, intelligent and knowing, but without feeling. Psychotic eyes.

His gaze was locked directly with mine in a piercing, questioning stare that grown men do not bestow on little girls. Below his eyes, his face was hard and immobile, but there was something in his look that told me he wanted me to like him, and trust him. He smiled ever so slightly, but his eyes did not smile. He had a power to compel, and used it quite naturally. I felt I must be somehow special or important to warrant such attention, though I still shivered slightly with fear.

And then we were moving away from the man, my mother's hand holding mine and a slight panic to her pace. We paid for our purchases, and left through the front door into the bright August sun and went back to my Uncle's house, or to the beach, I can't recall. I went back to watching the strange neighbors from the front porch of the family home, but never caught sight of Moïse again, though I was both hopeful and fearful that I might.

I did not know until many years later that, among other things, Moïse was a pedophile, who enjoyed having sex with his harem of women and their children as well. Some of the women even taught their little girls how to fondle and stroke him to orgasm, such was their desire to please their great leader. It is said that a female psychologist, sent to interview the commune children as part of a social services investigation, learned about the sexuality between Moïse and the little girls, but came under the madman's thrall and in her report chastised the government for trying to break up a loving family. She conceded that the children were exposed to sex a little early, but that is all.

It was only a few months later, I am told, that Moïse and his troupe packed up and moved on. In the later years he committed increasingly heinous crimes against the people who devoted their lives to him. Fancying himself a surgeon and a holy healer, he would get drunk and decide that one of his people – or their children – was in need of an operation. Without benefit of anesthesia, that person would be subjected to an impromptu amputation, appendectomy, castration, disembowelment, tooth extraction, or whatever else Roch Theriault felt like experimenting with on that day. Children – mostly boys – were dunked like witches and nearly drowned in an attempt to disengage the Devil from their bodies, while others were hurled against trees. In his sober moments, Roch cried and repented for causing such harm. Only one adult is known for certain to have been murdered by Theriault [she died as the result of one of his 'surgeries'], and a child died of exposure, apparently on Roch's orders. The list of gruesome tortures that his victims had to endure, however, is startling and unmatched in the history of cult brutality.

Such was his thrall that his women remained devoted to him for many years after he brutally cut off the arm of one of his wives with a meat cleaver. Later she went on to write the book *Savage Messiah*, which has recently been made into a film, and she continues to attend his parole hearings to ensure that he is not released. Three of his wives are devoted to him this day, and regularly make conjugal visits to the prison. He continues to father children while incarcerated.

There have been many people in history that have caused more deaths, but few who have ever reached the level of insanity and brutality of Theriault. That he and his commune summered in my great aunt's house, across the street from our family home, and that I had such a close brush with the madman himself is still something quite startling and serves as a reminder: evil does exist, and it may be much closer than you know.

The people in that house were tortured, molested, dismembered, and subjected to repeated sexual and physical depravities. And I watched those very same people each day, as they worked and played outside, seemingly content with their lives and their leader. The truth really is far stranger than fiction.

New Carlisle is a tiny, peaceful, and beautiful east-coast town. The kind of place where nothing bad ever happens. People feel safe in a pretty little town, but never think about what might be going on next door. It is difficult to imagine evil living there – especially when driving down the tree-lined streets, dotted with goofy cartoon-character painted fire hydrants.

Ed Gein [the American serial killer who inspired such movies as *Psycho*, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, and *Silence of the Lambs*] lived in a quiet little Wisconsin town. No one suspected he was killing middle aged women and dressing them out like deer in his tool shed, or that he was actually wearing parts of his victims and decorating his home with their remains. Evil may lurk anywhere, we are wise to remember that ...

Amazon listing for the English version of *Savage Messiah* – includes a review by an actor once hired to play Moïse:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0385254407/crimemagazine/103-7783524-5296629>

Victims of Violence cult information page: <http://www.victimsofviolence.on.ca/research115.html>

Miscellaneous compiled information. Sources are not clear, but the picture gallery is interesting: <http://sabungan.homestead.com/page39.html>

The Movie: Moïse <http://www.christalfilms.com/moise/>

Tamra lives in Calgary with her husband and two cats. A fulltime AU student, she splits her free time between her duties as an AUSU councillor, writing her first novel, and editing written work by other students and friends.



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact The Voice editor at voice@ausu.org for details on writing for The Voice, providing a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.

BRIEFS FROM AU'S *THE INSIDER*



From Alberta ... It's CDE Live!

The Centre for Distance Education continues to break new ground in its online teaching techniques. Here, Dr. Jon Baggaley climbs inside a PowerPoint presentation for a live presentation to his MDDE662 class. "The students contribute to the online seminars via live audio and video," says Jon.

MDE student Jim Klaas says, "This sharing makes you feel like an insider in the process as opposed to a name and email address."

Online media convergence was one of the topics Jon addressed during his recent six-month sabbatical. In a lecture tour of Canada, Britain, Norway, and Sweden, he visited eight universities, and attended the launch of the Oxford Internet Institute. He also took part in distance education conferences across Canada, and represented the national actors' union, ACTRA, at the Canadian Conference of the Arts.

"North American distance education is behind Europe in its uses of the educational media," says Jon. "The new MDE662 seminar course illustrates a wide range of conferencing experiences, with live presentations by the international experts who are developing them."

MDE students also evaluate these online techniques, and their reviews of collaborative software packages (95 products so far) are published in IRRODL's Technical Reports series, and on the [CDE web site](#).

President to Receive Honorary Award

President Dominique Abrioux will once again be recognized internationally. The Senate of the Open University (UK) will confer upon him the honorary award of "Doctor of the University" in recognition of his work in areas of special educational concern to the University.

This award will be presented at a convocation ceremony in Versailles, France in September. This is the only Open University ceremony held outside of the UK, and it is attended both by UK and European graduands.

This latest recognition follows the "Honorary Fellow of COL Award" he received earlier this year from the Commonwealth of Learning for his contribution to distance education.

Dominique has also been asked to serve on the Board of Management of the Alberta Economic Development Authority (AEDA) as a member of the Labour Force Committee. He joins 60 volunteers from a variety of small and large business, local municipal development agencies, and academic and research institutions.

The AEDA is a partnership between the Government of Alberta and business that is unique in Canada. Established in 1994 and chaired by the premier, AEDA's mandate is to provide policy advice and direction on competitiveness and economic development. AEDA provides the private sector with an ongoing opportunity to help shape the future course of Alberta's economy.

Congratulations, Dominique!

For more information on AU President, Dr. Abrioux, see:
<http://www.athabascau.ca/presoff/staff/abrioux/abrioux2.htm>

AU Profiles:

STUDENT:

Zil-e-Huma Lodhi

What province and city/town do you live in?

I am currently residing in Montreal (Quebec).

Do you have a family/ kids/ pets ?

I am happily married and have a two year old cute daughter

What are your hobbies / interests/ activities/ etc.

I love to read books, listen to music and play chess (mostly online).

Can you tell us about the AU Courses you are taking at the moment?

I am taking the Bachelor of Health Administration (post diploma) and thoroughly enjoying it.

How long have you been a student?

I became an AU student last April (2002).

What do you think of your courses/ the AU experience/ distance education?

AU provides me an opportunity to study at my own pace. The tutors and AU staff have been a great help to me.

Do you work? What do you do?

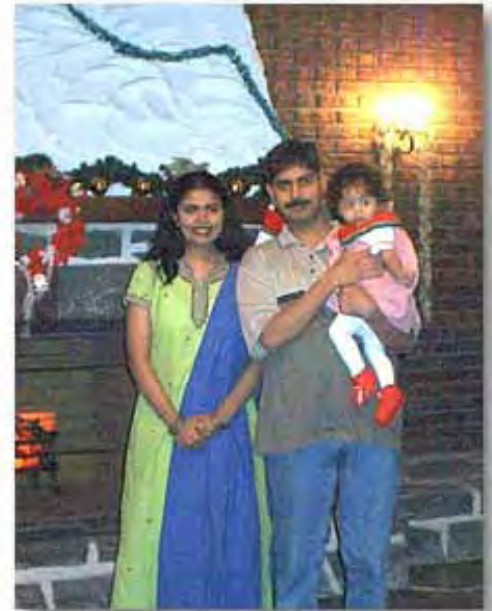
I am housewife and a full time mother for the time being.

How is AU helping you toward your goals?

The B. Admin degree will help me to understand the Health system of Canada .

What are your future goals?

I will pursue the Master's degree in Administration and then Doctorate in the Health studies or Administration.



Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for other students?

Take one day at a time .

Huma, thanks allowing us to feature you in AU Profiles. We wish you the best of luck with your ambitious educational goals!

Any Athabasca University student, faculty or staff member interested in being featured in AU Profiles should email the Voice Editor voice@ausu.org. Thanks for your participation and readership!

X-Press

Visual communications at the University of Alberta

What do Web developers, online educators, architectural designers, environmental advocates and political activists have in common? They all use the tools of visual communication to help change the world. In an era when images and typography have a powerful hold on the public imagination, there is a great demand for people who are skilled in visual communication design. Check out the bachelor's degree in VCD at the University of Alberta, a leading North American centre for art and design studies.

Read more: <http://www.ualberta.ca/ARTDESIGN/VCD.html>

Rhetoric and professional writing at University of Waterloo

Rhetoric and Professional Writing, an undergraduate program in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo, allows students to study rhetoric; the art of persuasion through written communication, language and writing. Students develop their analytical judgmental and critical thinking skills and have an opportunity to expand their sensitivity to language and its uses and develop their writing capabilities.

Rhetoric and Professional Writing can be studied through co-op (combining paid work terms and study terms) or through the regular stream. This program can prepare you for a future in teaching, government agencies, law, politics, the business or industrial sectors and for advanced studies leading to graduate degrees in English.

Read more: <http://english.uwaterloo.ca/undergrad-plans.htm>



Are you an artist?

**AUSU supports
the arts!**

AUSU is interested in purchasing original works of art from students for 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
- have 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, contact:

Debbie Jabbour
[djabbour@ausu.org].

Supply a description of the object, a picture if you have it, and its market value.

UBC tuition increase pushed through

30 per cent tuition increase passes despite heavy student opposition

Published: Thu-30-Jan-2003

By Kathleen Deering, Ubysey

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- This year's round of tuition consultations is over, as the University of British Columbia's Board of Governors (BoG) passed the 2003-04 tuition proposal early yesterday morning—despite many concerns voiced by students over the last several months.

Most undergraduate programs and post-baccalaureate fees will increase by 30 per cent. Research-based graduate tuition fees will be raised by 20 per cent. Most fees will change in May.



The BoG also passed a partial 2004-05 tuition proposal, which included a tuition schedule for some post-baccalaureate and graduate degrees.

"I'm disappointed there was not more discussion at the board meeting," said Kristen Harvey, student union president. "I felt there was very little debate ... it was great they invited more students to be there, and I wish there had been the full 300."

The BoG meeting was held Monday in order to allow up to 300 students to witness the meeting. A mass e-mail was sent out Friday afternoon. Only about 40 students were present.

Harvey was surprised at how little debate there was about the proposal itself at both the board meeting on Monday and the BoG tuition committee meeting held last Thursday afternoon.

Harvey and Brian De Alwis, graduate student society president, made a presentation to Thursday's committee, outlining five key concerns they felt the university should address. One was that last year's tuition hike will begin in September, and this year's hike would begin in May—meaning two increases for students this school year.

At the BoG meeting Piper argued that other universities had increased their tuition in May of last year after the tuition freeze was lifted. "Students got a break last year," she said, adding that UBC needed to align increases to match UBC's budget process, since UBC's fiscal year begins April 1.

But some students don't agree. "[The tuition increase] is too big, it's too much in one year," said Steve Price, Arts student union president. "To draw it out over a long run would be beneficial to students." In their report Harvey and De Alwis said increasing tuition in May would cause a financial hardship for students. Piper said the university would focus next year on increased financial support for students

who "fall through the cracks"—students who do not qualify for student loans with the B.C. or federal government, but still have monetary need.

Brian Sullivan, vice-president, students of UBC, said this year (taking figures up until January 22) there has been a 32 per cent increase in average monetary bursary allocation by the University to students. But although the amount of students applying for bursaries increased last year by 15 per cent, the eligibility of students only increased two per cent.

This year 15 per cent of the base increase and 20 per cent of the beyond-the-base increase (over 30 per cent) will be allocated to financial assistance, almost the same total increase as last year, Sullivan said. Another concern students had was what they felt was a lack of consultation done by the university this year, since much of it was done over December.

"In general, I know there was less consultation [this year]," said Harvey. "I personally don't count the exam period as meaningful consultation with students because ... students are busy...writing exams, and in the case of grad students and [teaching assistants], marking exams."

Piper said due to consultation with students last year, instead of raising tuition by 60 per cent to meet the national average (with Quebec fees based on out-of-province rates, which are thousands of dollars higher than in-province) UBC based tuition increases on assessed program needs.

But Kate Woznow, an executive member of the student union said she felt there has not been adequate demonstration of why 30 per cent increases are necessary this year, and felt that there are other methods the university could look at to gain new revenue. The University was supposed to address some of these concerns with its Benchmarking and Efficiency Analysis Report (BEAR), released recently.

Some students do not feel that BEAR was adequate. Harvey feels BEAR could have elaborated on how to make the school more efficient.

"I think it was a great first step, but I feel there was a lost opportunity there, and that was to find potential cost-savings," she said. "It didn't mention any recommendations of where there could be cost-savings found and where the university could move forward on that."

When asked what students could expect in the 2004-05 year in terms of tuition raises, Piper could not give a definite answer. She said after the federal budget is released in a few weeks, UBC will have a better idea. "I think it's too early to contemplate what next year looks like," she said.

C A U S
Council of Alberta University Students
Athabasca • Calgary • Alberta • Lethbridge

CAUS represents university students across Alberta. Visit the CAUS and the Tuition CAUSE websites to learn more about what CAUS is doing to keep Alberta tuitions affordable.

CAUS: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/caus/alpha/>
Tuition Cause: <http://tc.su.ualberta.ca/>

Who fares well on Welfare?

by Lonita Fraser



There is a gap, aggravated by the government and media, between how welfare recipients are perceived and the realities of living on social assistance. I know because I've been there. I am still there. Comments from Canadian politicians illustrate a theory that these misperceptions are being used as an excuse to reduce welfare spending by the government. Life on social assistance can be woeful, and welfare-to-work programs are negatively viewed, but there *are* other options and services available to help alleviate life on assistance. The problem with those services is that there may not be enough of them, and more often than not, people are not aware of them.

I am considered legally blind - on Social Assistance because of my disability.

My reality, as well as the unfortunate reality of many on social assistance, means going without milk money so you can have a coffee with your friends at Tim Hortons, or eating nothing but meals of rice and frozen vegetables for weeks at a time. So, when presented with the inadequacy of the welfare received by a mother of two in Toronto (Rebick, 1998), I can say that it's not all that much better for a disabled person, or someone living alone. It hurts and disgusts me that there are people around me who think I *like* living this way, but my biggest concern is finding a way to provide for myself. I want to work, you see, but it is not easy to make that want a reality. Moreover, the idea held by some that social assistance recipients are all deadbeats and drunkards is laughable. Who could afford beer on \$930 a month? I know I can't.

Beer is not the only thing I can barely afford whilst being on social assistance. My glasses can cost more than \$400 per pair. My social assistance program pays for those glasses, but if I were to obtain a minimum wage job, I would not be able to afford them, as I would not be able to save the money. Even with the assistance, though, I am still wearing a pair of 10-year-old glasses because social assistance only pays fully for the lenses, not for the frames*.

Despite my disability, I would gladly participate in a welfare-to-work program. The concept is sound, but existing programs are only superficially promising. Often they are thinly veiled "slave labour", pushing people into low-wage jobs with few benefits, and no opportunity to learn skills that could benefit them in future. "The shortest route to a job has become the mantra of Workfare in Ontario, with no regard to longer-term training." ([Workfare Watch Bulletin](#), April 2002) This view is echoed by Jean Swanson, former president of the National Anti-Poverty Organisation, who feels that welfare-to-work programs serve no purpose other than moving people from one form of poverty to another (Rebick).

The solution would be programs that genuinely offered participants a way out of unskilled, low-paid labour through on the job training, but such schemes are rare.

I've been fortunate in finding [Athabasca University](#)'s distance education program. Their open admissions policy coupled with a government loan will, hopefully, lead me to employment. In

addition, I have a computer provided through funding from ODSP ([Ontario Disability Support Program](#)) which allows me to function as a student, and provides me with my only means of making extra money. However, things like exam fees, bus fares, and Internet access cost extra, a drain on my meagre budget. Most people, though, are unaware of the existence of AU and ODSP, and in the case of AU specifically, many could not afford to go even if they knew. While a person who wants something badly enough will search it out themselves, if the government wants people off social assistance as badly as they seem to, they should put more effort into informing recipients of more options than just welfare-to-work programs. Another unfortunate reality: a government that seems bent more on reducing its spending "no matter what", with "caseload reduction [becoming] an end in itself." (Workfare Watch Bulletin) - rather than helping people to find solutions that will ensure they not only get off assistance, but manage to live decently enough to stay off.

Along with her concerns over the "poverty shuffle," Jean Swanson asks, "How can we get the rich to share" (Rebick)? It would be nice to think that those who have would willingly share with those who do not. However, the idea of expecting them to smacks of a sense of entitlement that strikes far too close to the very same misconception that many of the working public have of those on social assistance. That misconception being that we all just want handouts, a free ride, and not to have to "pay our dues" for what we receive in life.

I do not want handouts; taking something for nothing is a concept that is repugnant to me. I want a life I can stand up and be proud of. I don't want to continue depending on my grandmother for a decent meal, on my friend Diane to always buy the coffee when I'm out with her, on my friend Paul to pay for the beer. I want to be able to pay my way. I want to contribute. I want a system that doesn't penalise me for the mistakes of others, and a government that will help me in some way other than by propagating the notion that just because I'm on social assistance means I'm a drunken deadbeat with no use or potential. I want control over my life. That's what money means to someone like me; control. Feeling helpless is one of the worst feelings in the world, and, unfortunately, helpless is exactly how I feel being on social assistance.

** Currently my social assistance program covers 100% of the cost of lenses, but only up approximately \$40 for the frames. \$40 frames are not only ugly, they are often not suitable for the types of lenses my vision requires me to use.*

"Kick 'Em Again"

by Judy Rebick

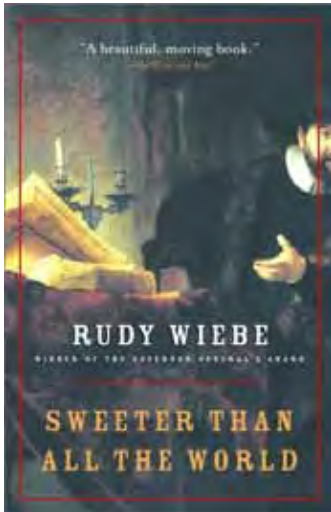
<http://www.alternatives.com/capp/v-rebick.htm>

"Michigan school shooting: a tragic consequence of US welfare 'reform' "

By Elisa Brehm, 28 April 2000

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2000/apr2000/welf-a28.shtml>





CanLit icon Rudy Wiebe talks about history, Canada and the writing life

Published: Fri-14-Dec-2001

By Steven Indrigo, The Varsity

"The beautiful thing about writing is, you never arrive at something that you're trying to do," says Rudy Wiebe. "You can never write a perfect book, you can never write a perfect story."

Perfection, however, is what Wiebe's ninth and most recent novel *Sweeter Than All The World* approaches. Sitting in an office above King Street in Toronto on a rainy October morning, Rudy Wiebe talks about history,

Canada, and the writing life.

"Writing is the kind of art, the kind of work that is endlessly, imaginatively drawing you on into something else. You can never stop, and you never want to stop. It's the most delightful thing on earth I think."

Characteristically Wiebe, *Sweeter Than All The World* is an epic sweep through 500 years of world history. It opens in the mid 20th century where we first meet young Adam Wiebe on his father's homestead in Waskahikan, Northern Alberta. By chapter three, however, we are in 16th century Netherlands, where we meet Trijntjen, the first of several historically authentic Wiebe ancestors who will tell us their stories.

In grisly detail, we learn about the religious persecution of the Mennonites, complete with tongue screws and burnings at the stake. Wiebe then goes on to share the harrows of descendants who survived starvation, rape and torture during the 400 years of war that ravaged Europe. We learn about the brilliant Wybe Adams van Harlingen, the man who invented the cable car and built and re-built the walls of Danzig in the 16th century. A man who for 30 years and through countless military attacks helped defend a city that wouldn't have him as a citizen because of his religion.

These historical episodes come at intervals in the narrative of the 20th century Adam Wiebe, who, as his marriage and family falls apart, has become obsessed with his history. Voices from the distant past appear as if by magic, giving first-person accounts of events that shaped world history and that landed Adam in Canada in the 20th century. One cannot escape the effect of the past as a haunting informant to the present.

Also characteristic of Wiebe is the emphasis on the relationship between his characters and the land they inhabit. As in Wiebe's earlier novels, *The Temptations of Big Bear* and *A Discovery of Strangers* (both winners of the Governor General's Award for fiction), characters are inextricably linked to their geography.

"It's very important, clearly, in this book, and the name 'Adam' gives you that," says Wiebe. "The marvelous story of Genesis where man, humanity, comes out of the earth, so that if you are working with the earth you are in effect working with yourself -- working with that out of which you came. It's like the Dene say, if you



eat caribou all your life, you're basically a caribou -- these are, for me, wonderfully evocative ways of understanding our own earthliness."



While Wiebe readily admits some of Canada's best known writers speak of urban landscapes, he is proud and happy to root himself in the earth, which he believes is every bit as universal as writing about cities.

"Even though my characters seem to live in cities, they're always dreaming about worlds that aren't surrounded like we are here by multi-storied buildings," says Wiebe. "If you go to Paraguay, or Russia, or Canada, or the United States there are worlds where you can still see the relative unimportance of human beings in relation to the landscape or the land which is simply there -- and you don't affect it much. In cities we can think that we've really changed the world, and in a way we have of course, but out in the landscape you don't, and that's a very strong feeling for me. It's an important thing in my imagination. That is where my roots are, that is what drives my imagination, that relationship to land."

Moving through the landscapes of 16th century Netherlands, to 19th century Russia, to Paraguay, and to the Alberta prairies, *Sweeter Than All The World* is an enveloping montage of stunningly detailed scenes filled with captive moments of sadness, wisdom, and poetic beauty without the slightest rumour of a less than well-wrought sentence in all of its 434 pages.

And writing the way Wiebe does, telling the kinds of stories he tells, there's little chance of his writing life slowing anytime soon.

"The world is as full of stories as it is full of people, more so because people have hundreds of stories each themselves. If you're curious, if you do the kind of writing that I've done most of my life, of snooping around in other people's lives, literal lives, not just making them up, then it's like what John the Evangelist says: if we were going to tell all the stories of the things that Jesus did on earth, the world wouldn't be big enough to hold the books we'd have to write. Now that's a marvelous hyperbole," he says laughing, "but it's sort of like that."

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Construction Woes

By Laura Seymour

Several weeks back I asked a construction worker in the nearest truck what the “street hacking” was about. He said that the railroad line had to move over and that the company wanted it dealt with by Christmas. He expressed pretty serious reservations about whether it would be done by Santa’s visit. He needn’t have worried. The street (forthwith known as Shawville Gate) has been pounded into shape and it’s only the third week in November.

When the hubby and I bought our little condo in the middle of nowhere (and I *do* mean nowhere - we had to imagine the street and buildings) we were told that this was the first street after the latest approved C-Train stop. We dreamed of strolling to the end of the block on a fine summer day and boarding the train. Sitting on the train we’d read our latest pocket book from the newest branch of the library and get off downtown to eat at our favorite restaurant in the whole world! (Not like we’ve checked out every restaurant in the world, but...) *Rose Garden Thai* would serve up our favourite spring rolls, roast chicken and veggies for the hubby and my fried noodles, veggies and chicken. Perhaps we’d spring for more than our pot of green tea and go for a Mai Tai and Larry’s Long Island Iced Tea. Then we’d pay our bills, pat our bellies and board our train back home. Sigh. The dream awaits.

Construction was almost killed when our new mayor took over. Many lobbied to get the new stops re-approved and then back onto schedule. We in Shawnessy worried about our homes gaining quicker transit service. Our bus schedules are frustrating! We no sooner step out the door toward the end of the block when a bus zooms by. And running is useless. First, the stop is another half block down the street and second there’s another railway train heading down the track! We’ve been foiled again!

When leaving the site after our first visit to see the progress our new home was making, I saw was a sign for a bus. So, I stood at the stop and waited. And waited ... Better than 3/4 of an hour later a bus loomed on the horizon. Okay it didn’t really loom...it more or less crept silently into sight. Baked, fried and ready for serving I stepped on the bus to go home with the results of my foray to the future home. My video camera showed a half constructed home, an unmarked building wrapped up in paper announcing to everyone for miles, TYVEK WRAP! Scaffolding was everywhere. I had crept down a hallway with a construction man’s boom box, well, booming. I finally found the penciled unit number in fine print on our entrance door. I had gone in and, nearly deaf from the saws and bulldozers, inspected what would go where as best as I could imagine it. The video shows plastic wrapped closet doors slapped up against our living room wall, concrete floors and spaces where appliances would soon, we hoped, be installed. I had made a few measurements of blank spaces and then left the dusty mess. The sun felt like a silent statement of promise for the future. It seemed to tell us to trust that the building would be finished. More recent construction has gone on throughout the winter and I’m glad I didn’t see our home in those grey, cold days.

Along the long ride home I wondered what it would be like to live in our building and new neighbourhood. I wondered about the new station and its conveniences.

Now I am wondering about the doohickeys that were used to move the tracks. They used machines I've never seen before. They seemed to be especially created just for the railroad industry. One big bruiser was riding the rails and depositing new gravel beside the track. The machine had a "tray" on its side to hold and slowly sift the gravel to the side of the track. Another machine appeared to be polishing the tracks! I don't know ...that doesn't make a lot of sense. Do tracks need to be polished before use? Trucks full of workers oversaw the bobcat that plowed up the old timber that sat under the rails. Hmm... I don't remember seeing new timber under the rails. Is this old railroad building practice now?

The street remained closed almost a day longer than was announced and those of us on foot found it annoying. Almost every car in the city seemed to be surprised that Shawville Gate was closed! Don't they watch signs? Of course they did find out soon enough, but then I watched some of the same vehicles return the next day?!

Now we have the tracks done and the street is opened. I don't have to walk through the park 'n' fly and past condos, parks and Canadian Tire to get to the Wal-Mart up the street. I can meander past the school, see the new tracks and check out the latest happenings at the library! Ahhhh civilization again.

Thank you Railroad workers...and now, please deliver our new C-Train stops just as promptly!

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



Electronic Publishing E-Zine At Mount Royal College Targets Budget-Conscious Students

Mount Royal College Press Release

Check it out: [Skrimp.com](http://www.skrimp.com). It's an e-zine produced by third-year Electronic Publishing students at Mount Royal College that offers stories and tips about living on the cheap for first-year and prospective post-secondary students.

The students created the online magazine as an assignment for their Magazine Production II course, using theory they learned in their previous two years of the program.

"What it really represents is two-and-a-half years of instruction, and hours logged in front of a computer," said Erol McKay at the official launch last week. "It really is our first baby."

Read more: <http://www.mtroyal.ca/news/view.php?item=000090>

Commission on Learning shares status report



Press release from Alberta Learning,
February 4, 2003

Edmonton... Thorough and thoughtful. That's how Alberta's Minister of Learning is describing the work done so far by Alberta's Commission on Learning. The Minister recently reviewed the Commission's status report and has asked them to share their progress with Albertans. "Alberta's Commission on Learning has shown dedication to its task," said Minister of Learning Dr. Lyle Oberg. "They've been diligent and I have confidence in their approach to reviewing Alberta's education system. I

appointed them with the expectation that they would look critically at our system today and focus on preparing it for the future. After reviewing their status report, I'm satisfied that things are moving in this direction."

The Commission's report, titled *The Homework Continues*, provides an overview of the Commission's progress, highlights some of the major themes that emerged during the public consultation process and outlines planned next steps. The Commission will be meeting with stakeholders, conducting research, talking to experts and consulting with Aboriginal Albertans and youth. A final report is expected by early fall.

"We've made quite a bit of progress in the past seven months," said Commission Chair, Patricia Mackenzie. "We've consulted with thousands of passionate and committed Albertans and we've completed a considerable amount of research. It's been hard work for us, but, in many ways, the most difficult work is still ahead. We want to make strong recommendations that are achievable and put students first. This is an important task and an incomparable opportunity to help prepare our province for the future."

The Commission's status report, *The Homework Continues*, is available online at www.learningcommission.gov.ab.ca. Photocopies can be requested by contacting the Commission office at (780) 427-3434. Dial 310-0000 to be connected toll-free from anywhere in Alberta.

C A U S
Council of Alberta University Students
Athabasca • Calgary • Alberta • Lethbridge

CAUS represents university students across Alberta. Visit the CAUS and the Tuition CAUSE websites to learn more about what CAUS is doing to keep Alberta tuitions affordable.

CAUS: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/caus/alpha/>
Tuition Cause: <http://tc.su.ualberta.ca/>



PRIZE FOR CREATIVE NON-FICTION 2003

ABOUT THE PRIZE

This Magazine's Prize for Creative Non-Fiction honours the brightest new voices in Canadian letters. Send us your work, and join This Magazine's long tradition of publishing outstanding literary and creative non-fiction. We're looking for personal and journalistic pieces with a strong voice, attention to narrative, experimental styles and, of course, compelling subject matter.

Creative non-fiction is a hybrid of literature and journalism. It uses the essay form, standard rhetorical patterns, and focuses on ideas and researched facts. Literary elements include: a literary voice, story/narration, characterization, descriptions of place, scenes, settings, a personally engaged author and polished language.

Entries should present holistic pictures of their subject, using concrete examples and narration to support a thesis. They must be based on exhaustive research and present subject matter grounded in real-world facts, and offer insight into important social, cultural and/or political issues.

Past winners include David Surjik for "A seedling for Samantha," a moving memoir of mental illness; Chris Tenove for "The Weight of Evidence," an exploration of the legacy of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia (the piece also received an honourable mention at the National Magazine Awards); and Joeline C. Heathcote for "Boys in Pieces," a powerful, poetic account of an attack on her brother.

WHO QUALIFIES?

Your first publishing credit (outside of a school or university publication or self-published chapbook or zine) must have been within the last 10 years. Of course, unpublished writers are welcome too.

SEND ENTRIES TO

This Magazine Prize for Creative Non-Fiction
401 Richmond St. W., Suite 396,
Toronto ON M5V 3A8.

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2003.
2. There is no entry fee.

3. You may send in multiple entries.
4. Entries must be submitted by post or messenger. Fax and email submissions will be discarded unread.
5. All entries must be original and unpublished.
6. Entries must be no longer than 3,000 words.
7. Entrant's first professional publishing credit (outside student media and self-published chapbooks or zines) must have been within the last 10 years.
8. Previous winners of the contest are not eligible.
9. The prize is \$250, plus publication in the May/June 2003 issue of *This Magazine*.
10. Judging will be blind. Entrant's name **MUST NOT** appear on the manuscript itself. Include your full name, address, telephone number and email address on a separate sheet.
11. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for notification of results.
12. Manuscripts will not be returned. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS.**

ENTRANTS ARE ADVISED TO:

- * Read back issues of *This Magazine*. Previous winners of this contest are included in our May/June 2001 and 2002 issues. General writers' guidelines are available at <http://www.thismagazine.ca/>. Entries should be on a subject suitable for the magazine.
- * Research thoroughly and provide accurate data. Combine primary research (interviews, trips to the place, personal experience) and secondary (library) research. Cite sources so readers know how you gathered the information. Give background to educate readers, and information to help them understand the subject better. **DO NOT** invent or change facts or events.
- * Cultivate relationships with subjects over a period of time to create trust, absorb information, note change, and know individuals in order to describe their thoughts, feelings, and attitudes correctly.
- * Organize the story in a logical, but interesting way (i.e. chronological, spacial, dramatic, general to specific)
- * Use interesting language: revealing metaphors, compelling imagery, vivid details, germane quotations. Aim for a clear style with rhythm, colour, and a dramatic pace.
- * Analyze, interpret, explain, synthesize the information, to convey the story's importance to readers.

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2003

Winners will be contacted by phone. Entrants who provide a SASE will receive contest results by mail.



JOBS-4-TEACHERS

Jobs-4-teachers is a free employment service that is offering jobs to graduates who are interested in experiencing a new culture, traveling overseas and teaching English as a second language in South Korea. No previous teaching experience is necessary. The only thing necessary is a degree in any field, a passport and the desire to try something new. We are offering

1. FREE return airfare
2. FREE apartment
3. Full working visa
4. CA\$2,340 per month minimum (US\$1,500)
5. One year contract with the option of staying longer
6. One month's bonus upon completion of contract
7. 50% health insurance paid by employer

Jobs-4-Teachers is a fabulous employment opportunity for newly graduated students. Over the coming months we anticipate a strong demand for teachers, particularly those from Canada.

For more information, contact:

info@jobs-4-teachers.com

<http://www.jobs-4-teachers.com/>.



CREATING WORK [YOU] WANT
REALM
life and work in your twenties

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH REALM MAGAZINE

ONLINE INTERNSHIP WITH NATIONAL MAGAZINE



Position: volunteer editorial intern

Location: various – job is fully online

Duration: TBD

REALM is a national Canadian magazine about life and work in your twenties and creating work you want. Located on every college and university campus across the country, REALM provides young Canadians with the tools they need to turn their passions into a career they'll love!

REALM Re·Verb is an online community of youth from across Canada who contribute to REALM in a variety of capacities. As a member of the REALM Re·Verb Editorial Team, you are a representative of REALM in your community, keeping REALM on top of the trends and attitudes affecting Canadian youth!

Duties may include but are not limited to:

- Advise REALM editors on issues of interest to or affecting youth
- Contribute story ideas and profile leads
- Contribute ideas on contests, formats or features for REALM
- Review quarterly editorial line-ups and provide feedback, ideas and leads for articles
- Contribute to **Trend Watch**, an exclusive Re- Verb section in REALM which highlights what's hip, what's happening and what's passé on campuses, in clubs, and in cities and towns across the country
- Review article drafts and provide feedback
- Provide design ideas
- Provide feedback and recommendations on questions of advertising and editorial policy for the magazines and webzines
- Review the magazine after it is published and provide critiques, feedback and ideas for improvement
- Represent REALM editors in your community - this may mean speaking to the media, and attending career fairs or entrepreneurship conferences (optional)

For more information on the position or to apply, please visit <http://realm.net> or contact Nikki Whites at nikki@realm.net. Please do not send resumes.

Position: volunteer marketing intern

Location: various – job is fully online

Duration: TBD

Duties may include but are not limited to:

- Advise REALM marketing staff on issues of interest to or affecting youth
- Advise on marketing policy
- Contribute ideas on contests, advertising in REALM
- Aid in various marketing initiatives
- Help with distribution opportunities in your community or on campus
- Help develop unique marketing initiatives
- Provide design ideas
- Consult on issues relating to REALM's web site
- Review the magazine after it is published and provide critiques, feedback and ideas for improvement
- Represent REALM in your community - this may mean speaking to the media, and attending career fairs or entrepreneurship conferences (optional)

For more information on the position or to apply, please visit <http://realm.net> or contact Nikki Whites at nikki@realm.net. Please do not send resumes



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact The Voice editor at voice@ausu.org for details on writing for The Voice. Provide a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.



Scholarship News

ASTRAL MEDIA SCHOLARSHIP FOR FRENCH STUDENTS

Value: \$5,000.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2003

Administrator: Canadian Association of Broadcasters

Notes:

Awarded to French Canadian students with broadcasting experience or who enrolled in, or wish to begin or complete a program of studies in Communications at the university level. Based on motivation, ability to complete studies, financial need and a recommendation.

Contact Information:

Canadian Association of Broadcasters
P.O. Box 627, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S2

Phone: 613.233.4035
Fax: 613.233.6961
Web Site: <http://www.cab-acr.ca>
E-mail: cab@cab-acr.ca
Application Address: <http://www.cab-acr.ca>

SATURN COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Value: \$2,500.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 29, 2003

Administrator: Saturn Canada

Scholarship Criteria:

Language: English; French
Activities: Arts; Athletics; School or Community Service; Work/Research Experience

Notes:

The awards recognize and honour the outstanding efforts of six female students attending any university, college or CEGEP in Canada for having made a significant accomplishment in one or more of the following areas: academic, business, arts, athletics, philanthropy or community. Please see the Web site for application details.

Contact Information:

Saturn Customer Communication Centre
1908 Colonel Sam Drive, Oshawa, ON, L1H 8P7

Phone: 1-888-4SATURN

Fax: 1-866-752-5363

Toll Free: 1-800-263-3777

Web Site: <http://www.saturncanada.com>

Application Address: <http://www.saturncanada.com/ssi/english/vehicles/saturn/community/scholarship.html>



Conference Connections

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **CASE District VIII** - March 8-11, 2003 - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - "Connect in Coeur d'Alene."
Details: <http://www.connectincda.com>
- **CU Expo** – Community University Institute for Social Research – “Partnerships, Policy & Progress” – May 8-10, 2003, Saskatoon, SK.
Details: <http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/cuexpo>
- **AMTEC (Association of Media & Technology in Education in Canada)** - "E-convergence: Education, Media & Technology" - May 25-28, 2003, Montreal, Quebec. Call For Papers deadline is Dec. 15, 2002.
Details: <http://www.amtec.ca>
- **ICDE World Conference** - 21st annual - June 1-5, 2003 - Hong Kong. Deadline for abstract submission is Aug. 1, 2002.
Details:
<http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/HK2003>
- **CADE** - June 7-11, 2003 - St. John's NF
- **International Studies Association and the Central and East European International Studies Association (ISA/CEEISA)** - June 26-28, 2003 - "The Global Tensions and Their Challenges to Governance of the International Community" conference at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

Notice to AU Graduate Students and Those Considering Grad Studies at AU

Athabasca University Students' Union is in the process of establishing an AU Graduate Students' Association.

Here's a sampling of benefits of belonging to a grad students' association:

- Grad student representation on University Committees
- University and government advocacy and lobbying
- Affiliation with provincial and national graduate students' organizations.
- Assistance with university/student dispute resolution
- Information source
- Networking

For more information contact:

Shirley Barg [sbarg@ausu.org], Vice-President
Athabasca University Students' Union
Call: 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413

ART OF LIVING PROJECT: U of A Professor Seeks Submissions for AIDS book project.

*Press release of
Dr. Diana Davidson
University of Alberta*

As people continue to be infected and affected by HIV, and the hope of an effective vaccine recedes longer and longer into the future, education and activism remain our best hopes in battling AIDS. Writing enables people to form arguments; provide testimony; break silences; trace histories; expose inequities and injustices; and imagine new ways of relating to, loving, and desiring each other. Writing helps us to see HIV/AIDS in new ways and encourage us to carry out the work of existing and future activists.

In association with "The Art of Living Committee" at HIV Edmonton, I am editing an anthology of creative writing (fiction and non-fiction) about HIV/AIDS by Albertans. Submissions can take any form -- poetry, short story, biography, creative nonfiction, drama -- as long as they are no more than 20 pages (approximately). The flexible (negotiable) deadline for submissions is Monday, February 19th, 2003.

As an editor, I am responsible for collecting submissions and assessing materials. I currently write and teach in the Department of English at the University of Alberta. I have multiple academic publications accepted for scholarly journals and anthologies, and have a book manuscript on AIDS literature under consideration at Manchester University Press. While employed as a counselor at the South Peace AIDS Council (in Grande Prairie, Alberta) I edited a self-published booklet entitled *Blue Streaks: A Collection of Poetry About HIV/AIDS By Residents of Northern Alberta* (1997). *Blue Streaks* gave marginal voices a vehicle for expression and created a community awareness of the disease and I anticipate the same success will be achieved with the new Art of Living project.

The Art of Living: Albertans Write HIV/AIDS will contribute to the small, growing, and socially essential field of AIDS narratives and criticism. I hope you will consider being a key player in making this vision a reality.

Submissions and inquiries can be directed to Dr. Diana Davidson at diana.davidson@ualberta.ca and 3-5 Humanities Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E5.

Dr. Diana Davidson's U of A Web site:
<http://www.ualberta.ca/~dmd3/>



Community Networks Group



Peace for Iraq

Canadian NGO's (non-governmental organizations) have been actively involved in educating, sensitizing and lobbying the Canadian government to refrain from military action against Iraq and foster peaceful means to resolve the crisis in the region ...

The **Canadian Council for International Co-operation**, (CCIC) in a letter to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, warned that war in Iraq *"will mean a humanitarian crisis" and that "peace, though it is not grievously threatened, provides the best context in which to pursue disarmament and regional stability."* A number of CCIC members have been active on the issue of a possible war against Iraq, visit their sites:

Alternatives www.alternatives.ca
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
www.pwrdf.org
AQOCI www.agoci.qc.ca
Development and Peace www.dev.org
Mennonite Central Committee www.mennonitecc.ca
Oxfam Québec www.oxfam.qc.ca
Physicians for Global Survival www.pgs.ca
Project Ploughshares www.ploughshares.ca
United Church of Canada www.united-church.ca
United Nations Association in Canada www.unac.org
World Vision www.worldvision.ca
CCIC www.ccic.ca

Courtesy of: **The Community Networks Group** (C) Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 > Cell: (780) 995-6819

Tilo Paiz & Friends @ the Yardbird Suite



11 Tommy Banks Way (102St. & 86 Ave.)
Friday Feb. 07 > doors 8:00 p.m. / Show 9:00 p.m.
Members \$6 / Guests \$10 INFOLINE: **432-0428**

Sabor Latino: Playing Carlos Santana ...

Tilo Paiz, Edmonton's own timbalist and percussionist extraordinaire, was born in El Salvador to a family with a long line of professional musicians. At the age of 7, Tilo started playing the marimba ... A graduate of the Music & Art School of El Salvador, Maestro Paiz spent years playing with many popular musical groups in South, Central and North America (including Carlos Santana), which gave Tilo not only an extensive amount of performing experience, but also a strong knowledge of theory and practice.

A warm, charismatic, highly energetic and skilled teacher & mentor, Tilo's musical performances and workshops are eclectic, energizing, stimulating, and downright fun...

Tilo's friends are: **Barrie Nighswander** (guitar), **Dennis Meneely** (keyboards), **Duane Smith** (bass), **Bill Hobson** (drums), **Jose Ripholl** (congas) and **Peter Lamark** (vocals).

For more information: www.yardbirdsuite.com

Courtesy of: **The Community Networks Group** (C) Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 > Cell: (780) 995-6819



Theatre Network ~ live at the Roxy Presents

Ghost River Theatre's **AN EYE FOR AN EYE**
An Oil & Gas, Piss & Vinegar Cabaret ...

Feb. 4-16, 2003, in Edmonton
Previews: February 4 and 5
Opening Night: Feb. 6 / 2for1 Tuesday: Feb. 11

10708 - 124 St., Edmonton
INFOLINE: 453 2440
website: www.attheroxy.com

What happens when you mix oil and fire? What happens when you mix Corporate Oil with the fire of religious zeal? Weibo Ludwig learned the answer to that when he tried it out. A theatre company in Calgary decided to explore the resulting explosion, adding their own fuel to the fire. Now it's coming to Edmonton.

"An Eye For An Eye blinds with its brilliance." - Edmonton Journal
Winner of the 2001 Betty Mitchell Award For Outstanding Musical Production

COMING SOON in 2003 @ The Roxy ...

STOP KISS Feb. 27-Mar 8 Kill Your Television Productions
Two twenty-something women meet and form a fast friendship that leads to an unexpected attraction.

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH Apr 1-Apr 20
An absolutely fabulous glam rock musical. Hedwig Schmidt is a German rock and roll goddess who also happens to be the victim of a gruesomely botched sex-change operation. www.hedwiginedmonton.com

DALE LADOUCEUR & THE BROKE ENSEMBLE CD RELEASE PARTY May 10th CD Release Party. *An indefinable blend of Jazz/Folk/Rock.*
Opening Acts: Craig Shafer and Babe Lloyd. Evening will include a silent auction.

SYNCRUDE NEXT GENERATION ARTS FESTIVAL June 5-15
A multidisciplinary festival that features the work of emerging professional artists.
Courtesy of: **The Community Networks Group** (C) Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 > Cell: (780) 995-6819

The Absolutely Yes! Co-op Presents: The Making of Warriors

A night of 3 stories about oppression, rights and courage ...
Feb. 6-16 @ The P.I.T.S Gallery: downstairs at 10154 103 St.
Tix: \$16 - Seating is very limited, call **420-1757** to reserve.

The Making of Warriors
A new play by [Sharon Pollock](#)
Directed by **Heather Inglis**

"You can either shoot me or throw me in jail for I will not testify nor be a false witness" "You co-operate and live. You don't co-operate and die."

A fatal confrontation breaks out at Wounded Knee on the Sioux reservation in South Dakota in 1973. **Anna Mae Pictou Aquash**, a Mi'kmaq, who is active in the American Indian Movement is there. Not long after, she is mysteriously killed. Some say it is the FBI. In South Carolina during the 1820's, **Sarah Moore Grimke** decides to speak out against the abuses of slavery and for the rights for women. Some try to silence her. **Eloise**, a woman not unlike us, recently recalls seeing a group of men by the side of the road one day when she is driving on a deserted highway, who are trying to hide something. She chooses to pass by, and look the other way.

The Making of Warriors, by two time Governor General Award winning playwright Sharon Pollock, weaves together fact, fiction, reporting, dramatization in a theatrical unfolding of the lives of these three women. Join us at the new and unconventional P.I.T.S. Art Gallery to become part of a theatrical experience created by some of Edmonton's best artists and performers and one of the country's most important storytellers.

"Women are bought and sold in slave markets to satisfy the lust of those who bear the names of Christians" "If you have any values higher than the possession of land, money, and prestige, I ask you to be outraged that your government values property more than human beings"

The Making of Warriors features Jon Baggaley, Julie Golosky, Sandy Paddick, Mike Unrau, Alison Wells, Sylvia Wong. **Set - Costumes** are designed by Brian Bast. **Videography - visuals** are created by Lindsay McIntyre. **Soundscapes** are designed by Dale Ladouceur and Crowtown Productions.

The Making of Warriors is **sponsored** by *The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The Edmonton Arts Council, Ground Zero Productions, Mothers Music, Scuffy Murphy's and Vue Weekly.*

February 6 16th, 2003 at 8pm. @ the P.I.T.S. Gallery, 10154 - 103rd St.
Matinee performances Sunday Feb. 9th /16th at 2pm. / (No performance Feb. 10th)
Call Tix On the SQ. **420-1757** to reserve your tix. **(recommended)** or at the door.

For more information, kindly contact: Heather Inglis @ 448-2517 / 420-6357

"We are part of all that we have met." Tennyson

Courtesy of: **The Community Networks Group** (C) Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 > Cell: (780) 995-6819



Uniting Rhythms of Resistance!

Friday, January 31, 2003 7:30 p.m. @ the Myer Horowitz Theatre, University of Alberta \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Tickets are also available at SUB Info/Ticket Centre and the International Centre
Infoline: **492-5962** / <http://www.international.ualberta.ca/iweek/02-08-concert.htm>

Stand up, sing out and revolt! Join us for this politically potent **concert** and unite with these rhythms of resistance. From punk to hip-hop to tango - celebrate the wrap up of the 18th International Week at the University of Alberta with six unique powerful performances rooted in social change.

The **Uniting Rhythms of Resistance** concert features local hip-hop artists ReflectUs and WARPARTY; punk band Passion//Revolt; folk music Singer/Songwriter Guy Smith; the Aboriginal Women's Vocal Ensemble, Asani; and the Argentine Tango Troupe, Tango Norte. Join us!

Friday, January 31st 7:30 p.m. @ the Myer Horowitz Theatre, University of Alberta
\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door / Tickets are available at SUB Info/Ticket Centre and the International Centre. For more information on the performances see:
<http://www.international.ualberta.ca/iweek/02-08-concert.htm>

Global Education Program Coordinator
International Centre - University of Alberta
Attn: Nancy.Hannemann@ualberta.ca
Tel: (780) 492-5962 / Fax: (780) 492-1134

www.international.ualberta.ca

Courtesy of: **The Community Networks Group** (C) Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 > Cell: (780) 995-6819



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM YOUR UNIVERSITY

NEW COUNSELLING RESOURCE: HOW TO WRITE A TERM PAPER

Julia Nielsen of AU's Counselling Services Unit [CSU] has created a fantastic resource to help students prepare term papers, available at:

<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/counselling/writing/>.

The interactive slideshow website takes students step by step through the process of planning, researching, writing, editing and documenting a term paper. Also included are links to sites describing the most popular citation formats and other writing help resources.

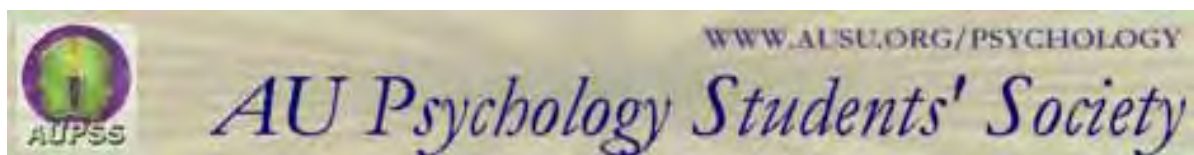


The site itself is beautiful, easy to use, and very quick to load.

Whether you are new to writing term papers, or you have some practice already, the advice contained on this site can help you improve your essay writing style, and avoid many of the simple mistakes students often lose marks for. The format of the site also makes using it quite fun!

This resource is the latest of several, excellent CSU web projects, which include the new Math and English assessments [See *News From your University* in this issue.]. All of these interactive web sites require a Flash plug-in for your browser, and links are provided at the menu pages so that you can easily download it. The Flash player is a one time download, and allows you to use many other websites as well.

Other study related resources of the CSU can be found at:
<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/advise/conserv.html>.



AU'S E-JOURNAL ON DISTANCE EDUCATION GETS A NEW LOOK

Contributed by AU's *The Insider*



Paula Smith, managing editor of The International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning (IRRODL), provides an update:

Every healthy child encounters growth spurts. And Athabasca University's e-journal *The International Review of Research in Open and Distance*

Learning is no different. Sporting a new design that strategically complements AU's new web presence, *IRRODL's* new web site also boasts of abstract translations in Spanish, French and Chinese. New features also include full search engine capabilities, as well as a new series called *Technical Notes*, showcasing the work of evaluators as well as AU's Master of Distance Education students. CDE's Jon Baggaley is the series editor for *Technical Notes*.

CHANGES TO THE UNDERGRAD GRADING POLICY AT AU!

This is to advise you of an important change in the undergraduate Grading Policy at Athabasca University.

Athabasca University has approved a new Alpha/4.0 grading scale for undergraduate studies effective January 1, 2003. The grades that students achieve will be stated, on transcripts and in student records, as alpha grades on a scale from A to F. Grade averages will be expressed as Grade Point Averages using the 4.0 grading scale.

These changes in grading scale are part of a province-wide initiative in Alberta.

Undergraduate courses that began before January 2003 will be graded using the percentage grading scale.

For a complete statement of this Athabasca University policy please go to:

<http://www.athabascau.ca/policy/registry/gradingpolicy2002.htm>

If you have questions please contact me.

Bruce Dawson
Assistant Registrar, Registration Services
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, AB T9S 3A3
Phone 780-675-6147, Fax 780-675-6174



AUSU SPEAKS: Winter Session Provided By AUSU

News from the January 19, 2003 council meeting

AUSU Council met on the evening of January 19th for a regularly scheduled council meeting. The main item of business for the evening was AUSU finance, and the annual audit for the 2002 financial year was reviewed and discussed.

Following this, tentative plans were set for the next Annual General Meeting of AUSU, which will take place in the spring of 2003. The date of this meeting will be announced once plans have been finalized.

Also on the agenda this week was the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee of AUSU. We didn't have one, but now we do! The new committee will focus on AUSU's future, and will establish long term goals for projects, finances, and student programs. AUSU Secretary-Treasurer Gurpreet Dulai will chair.

In order to help introduce new users to the chat function on the AUSU website, times will be scheduled when councillors will be present. We will try to schedule morning, afternoon, and evening times each week, and the scheduled times will be posted on the AUSU home page and on the AUSU calendar [on the right-hand information bar of the home page]. Drop in and say hello, or ask a question or two!

If you want to get even more involved with AUSU, consider volunteering. We have a really big project in the works that we hope will dramatically improve student-student relations, and we will need a lot of help getting it going. Write Sandra Moore [<mailto:smoore@ausu.org>] if you are interested in becoming an AUSU volunteer.

You can also contact Sandra if you are interested in starting up an AUSU club. The time has never been better. This year the Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society [AUPSS] has grown enormously, and two new clubs are in the works. If you have a special interest or simply want to form a students club for people who live in your area, let Sandra know.

We realize that some students might be reluctant to start up clubs in their local area for fear that they are the only student in their locale. If this is the case, let us know. You may be very surprised at how many other AU students live in your small town.

AUSU council had a great year, during which we saw many of our planned projects come to fruition. The most exciting so far have been the launch of the new websites for The Voice, and AUSU. Council members Debbie Jabbour, Gurpreet Dulai, Shirley Barg, Sandra Moore, Tamra Ross Low, Nicholas Palamarchuk, Mac McInnes and Karie-Anne Getta have plans for a number of new student services, and are looking forward to an even better 2003. Darren Kereluk is no longer a councillor with AUSU.

We wish all AU students, faculty and staff a happy and healthy new year.

AUSU



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 voice@ausu.org

****PLEASE REMEMBER ALL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE MARKED "FOR PUBLICATION".**

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

Editor



CLASSIFIEDS:

**PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE
January 08, 2002**

CLASSIFIED SPACE:

Students of AU may print classifieds in The Voice free of charge (maximum three per issue) as long as they are not representing a company or product.

Classified ads must follow the direct guidelines and ethics stated in the Voice Policy and should be submitted to the editor at voice@ausu.org with 'CLASSIFIED AD' listed in the subject title.

The Editor reserves the right to refuse any classified information at her discretion. Thank-you.