

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

April 07, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 14



Nature Notes

New Arrivals

ANTH 434

Course review

Fiction Feature

Poetry by Hazel Anaka

Plus:

From Where I Sit

From my Perspective

Dear Heather

Canadian Fedwatch

Primetime Update

Flicks & Folios

and much more...

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April 7, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 14

Welcome To The Voice PDF

The Voice has an interactive table of contents. Click on a story title or author name to jump to an article. Click the bottom-right corner of any page to return to the contents. Some ads and graphics are also links.

FEATURES

EDITORIAL PAGES

ARTICLES

NATURE NOTES: NEW ARRIVALS

Zoe Dalton

ANTH 434: THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THOUGHT: Review

Katie Patrick

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE: Face to face with homelessness

Debbie Jabbour

GOLD & GEMS

Wayne E. Benedict

FICTION FEATURE

FOR BETTER OR WORSE

Hazel Anaka

COLUMNS

FROM WHERE I SIT - Show me the way

Hazel Anaka

PRIMETIME UPDATE

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

DEAR HEATHER

FLICKS & FOLIOS: Murder on the Yellow Brick Road

Laura Seymour

TAKING NOTES: EYE ON EDUCATION

Debbie Jabbour

CANADIAN FEDWATCH!

Karl Low

AUSU THIS MONTH

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB POSTING

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

VOICE EVENTS LISTINGS

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

The Insider

FROM THE READERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLASSIFIEDS!



We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@ausu.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter in the Voice.

RE: John Buhler's review of Passion of The Christ
<http://www.ausu.org/voice/articles/articledisplay.php?ART=2715>

I also saw the Passion of the Christ and I thought it was a powerful experience. As a Christian, I thought it to be factual and Biblical. I for one, will never look at taking communion the same way! When he says, "This is my body, broken for you." I don't think that I ever had such a profound idea of exactly what Jesus meant. I do now!

Betty Woods

Response to Derek Broughton's letter - March 31, 2004 - v12i13

Thanks, Derek, for your comments on my article. I will confess that I started out holding one opinion about the matter, then gradually swung over to the other side after hearing feedback like yours. I do apologize for the "low blow" against lawyers and accountants - you are correct in saying that this was "too easy". I know better, and I'll try not to make that mistake again.

In my article, I was trying to define the issue of responsibility; determining where we should draw the line for those of us who are expected to give advice in our jobs -and asking who takes responsibility for accepting that advice and acting upon it if it turns out to be bad? After reviewing the whole incident, I tend to think that the fault is equally shared between the college and the university - the student got caught in the middle and did the right thing by fighting back. But is the individual counsellor to blame when acting upon the best info available to them at the time?

My worry is how this could play out for other situations in the counselling/ advice-giving field. You say you are working towards a BScis. Do you see any implications for your profession if individuals make information systems decisions that turn out badly? What if you advise a client to use a virus-protection program that you believe in and have received positive reviews about, yet the client is attacked by a virus/worm and loses time/money/equipment? Who is ultimately responsible?

Debbie Jabbour

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frequent contributions

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EDITORIAL PAGES

YOU MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED...

If you visit the AUSU and Voice websites mostly to read articles, check out what's new, and browse AUSU services, you might not notice anything different. If you spend any time in the AUSU forums, or the AUSU chatroom, you will surely notice the changes to the software, but not much else.

In fact, the changes go far beyond that. At the March 23rd council meeting, at the recommendation of the AUSU Web Committee, I was approved to proceed with a plan to move the AUSU and Voice websites to a new server with a new hosting company, and to proceed with the installation of a new AUSU forum. Since then, the main AUSU website programmer (Kara Tersen of Metafusion Design in Calgary) has been working hard to transfer our system and update it for the new server, and we've both been keeping both versions of the site up to date so that everything is ready when the change occurs. If all goes well, you won't notice much difference when you visit the AUSU or Voice sites.

There are many differences, however, not the least of which is the brand new AUSU forum system. Student's have complained about the old forums system for close to a year, and with good reason. It worked well when we installed it, and served a need when we were in a rush to get a forum up and going after the old site had to be abandoned. It was not able to keep up with our needs, however, and an improved interface was sought.

We are now using the PHP-BB forum system, which has many features that are new, much improved navigation, and most importantly - it can be fully maintained and administered by AUSU web staff. I'm also pleased that I was able to update the graphics and colours for the forum, to make it look a little more like an AUSU program, rather than something totally separate from the main site.

Moving also meant that we had to upgrade the chat software. This was originally planned for a later date, but since the old chat did not want to work on the new server, a replacement chat system was quickly sought. The new system is a bit ugly right now, but I'll be working to get it looking better in the next week or two. I think you'll all like that you can now select different rooms (great for club meetings, etc), and that you have a much larger viewing area.

By far the most complex change has been to the login system. The whole thing has been rewritten and overhauled, so that the AUSU website, forums and chat are now under a single integrated account system. This means that you only have to sign up once for all three sections, and you only have to log in once. In fact, if your system is accepting cookies and you are not on a public terminal, you should be automatically logged in each time you return to the site after your initial log in! You can't get much more convenient than that.

We expect a few small errors might crop up, and the appearance of the chat and forums still need a bit of work, so your comments are welcome and appreciated. Go ahead and write me at webmaster@ausu.org if you notice any errors or just want to let us know what you think (we really want to know!). I think I can say on behalf of all AUSU staff and council that we hope that the upgraded login system, forums and chat improve your experience with ausu.org

Tamra Ross Low
Editor in Chief



NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

New Arrivals

I try not to make my work the subject of too much of my writing. I feel that I should branch out, be more creative, pull information from outside sources. But we just get so many fascinating creatures in that I cannot help but be inspired by their miraculous adaptations, morphology and behaviours. Besides, only a little over a year ago, my work would have been an outside source of information for me. So what the heck – I'll go for it and share a little about a couple of our newest arrivals.

Two animals seem to be busying my mind today. Each has absolutely nothing to do with the other from a phylogenetic perspective; but they both arrived on our doorstep from distant locales, each an unintentional stowaway on planes bound far from home. One – from the phylum *Arthropoda* – is a lovely example of the order *Araneae*, the spiders. While I know that many may tremble at the mere thought of these invertebrates, I actually happen to find them quite beautiful. From an aesthetic perspective, any close examination, any exploration into the intricacies of their make-up would intrigue even the most wary. And remember: if unperturbed, these animals are generally as interested in leaving you alone as you are in avoiding their presence.

This particular individual, who came in just four days ago on a shipment of bananas from South America, is a particularly striking specimen. Daddy-long-legs watch out. This lady makes no bones about the fact that she means business. Her bright orange mandibles (jaws) are a sure warning sign, and I certainly wouldn't want to be the young predator testing out my 'eat this one mom?' instincts in her neighbourhood.

Bright colours almost invariably mean danger, and act as warning signs to would-be predators on the lookout for a tasty snack. It's actually quite a kind gesture on the spider's part if you think about it: Unless you're blind, or just not the sharpest knife in the drawer, you'd have a hard time missing her message of 'stay back, or else'. In this instance, a communication failure could have serious consequences – both for the eater and the eaten. The spider's desire to avoid all possibilities of falling prey to a hungry predator help her, and those who might wish to make her their lunch. Both parties will be helped immensely by her clear warning: Nature has shown that her aposomatic colouration will go a long way in keeping her alive and well, and keeping predators from making some nasty mistakes.

The other creature often on my mind these days is a little Mediterranean Gecko. Tiny, green, relatively nondescript – this animal is not physically striking, as is our new spider-friend. But he's got some great adaptations that one can't help but admire; and by virtue of minuteness alone he is quite adorable. Part of the phylum *Chordata*, order *Squamata*, this little lizard, originally from Texas, is blessed with the spiderman-like skill of being able to scale sheer surfaces. With his adhesive toe-pads, he is able to nimbly climb the smoothest of surfaces. If you've ever hung out in the warmth of the southern sun, you will have seen a gecko. They are almost like flies on the wall at the summer cottage; every sunny southern restaurant (open to the air as they must be just to have a bit of air circulation) sports these little living, moving art pieces on the walls and ceilings.

Ubiquitous in southern locales, the gecko is in some ways the polar opposite of the spider above. With no warning colouration, and in fact not much to warn of, the gecko is at the bottom of the food chain in the ecosystems in which it is found. But this doesn't indicate poor success in evolutionary terms. While their life span as individuals is no doubt quite brief, these animals have been slowly increasing their geographic range. The little one in

our care arrived in someone's luggage from Austin, Texas. Not part of its historical range, its presence in this location is just another sign that the Mediterranean Gecko is pushing the boundaries. Its range map shows a fanning out from the south to the north, east and west.

Of course, stowing oneself away in a plane bound for afar is a surefire way to rapid and effective dispersal. But I somehow don't think that this little guy, or Ms. clear-communicator *Arachnid*, would have picked Toronto as their ideal destination. From the sunny south to blustery Toronto in one fell swoop: talk about culture shock for these little lost wanderers. If only a fear of spiders and lizards didn't exist, we might have a line up of winter weary Canadians volunteering to take the stowaways home. Are you up for it?

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.

THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE

For Better or Worse

By Hazel Anaka

Dearly beloved we are gathered here today
a man, a woman, and me
my words, their words,
so few words
 to alter two lives forever
promises made for a life together
 for better or worse

At our first meeting
I ask the questions about bride and groom,
attendants, music, process, flower girl or not,
where, when, how many guests?

I don't ask why him, why her, why now?
I don't ask "Are you sure? Very sure that this is the one for all time?"

It's not my right or my role to question
their motives, their intentions, their love
the odds of success
 (though sometimes, silently I do)

It's not my right or my role to question
the baby to come or the merging of families or
why the church isn't an option or
why this marriage will work when the last one didn't or
why he answers all the questions and she looks compliant

It's my role to give them the day they want
 without judgement
To ensure a well orchestrated show for family and friends
with meaningful vows and tears all around
to remember the minutiae, to deliver the goods
to allow for photo ops, to congratulate the parents
To wish the happy couple all the best, good health,
 happiness always

For better or worse



Calling all Anthropology lovers! Athabasca University has released a new distance education course called the History of Anthropological Thought (ANTH 434). It is a 400-level course which delves right into the heart of anthropology by studying the progression and trends in anthropological thought over last the two centuries.

Consisting of 12 units, ANTH 434 begins with an overview of anthropological thought prior to 1800, then moves forward to discuss aspects of anthropology from 1800 to the present. The overview begins with theory formation and culture change, then moves on to psychological anthropology, cognitive anthropology, functionalism, and structuralism, and finally postmodern anthropology, society, feminism, and feminist theory.

The History of Anthropological Thought (ANTH 434), a 3-credit course in the Social Sciences, has 2 prerequisites; student should have previously taken ANTH 275 as well as another anthropology-related course, worth 3 credits. ANTH 434 is offered via individualized study only, and possesses a course webpage with fascinating readings related to the units and topics covered in the course. In addition, students are given a series of videos in their course packages, as a course supplement.

The evaluation for ANTH 434 consists of 2 essays, each worth 22% of your final mark. A telephone quiz counts for 6%, and the final 50% of your grade is derived from a research paper and the final exam, each of which is worth 25%.

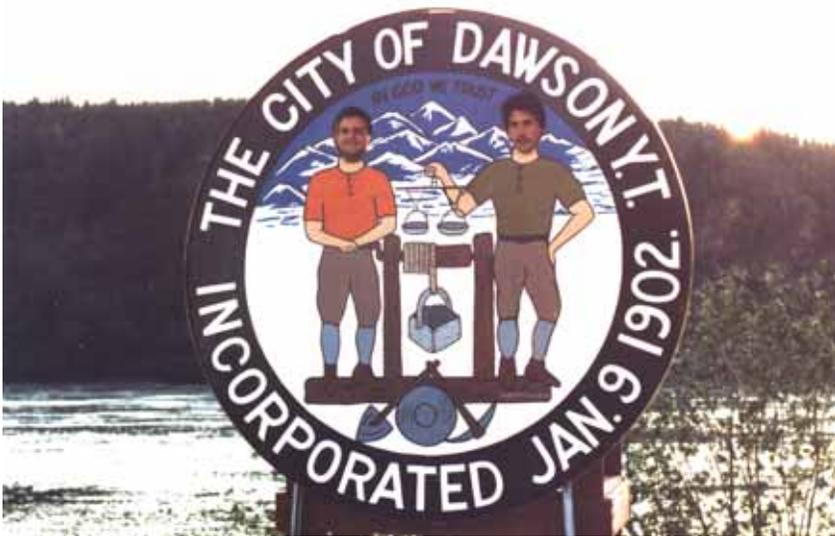
ANTH 434's course professor, Sheila Greaves, was introduced to the world of distance education while completing the last part of her PhD program, the dissertation of which focused on ethnicity and Canadian aboriginal cultures. She has worked with Athabasca University since 1991, first as a tutor, and currently now as the Assistant professor of Anthropology.

In addition to acting as course professor for The History of Anthropological Thought, Dr. Greaves also coordinates the following Athabasca anthropology courses: the Archaeology of Ancient Peoples (ANTH 277), the Inuit Way (ANTH 307), Ancient Civilizations of the Americas (ANTH 318), First Nations of Canada (ANTH 362), Alberta Archaeology: Prehistoric Lifeways (ANTH 376), Urban Anthropology (ANTH 394), and Archaeology: Principles in Practice (ANTH 476).

Dr. Greaves is also currently writing 2 additional 200-level anthropology courses for Athabasca University; one course deals with the archaeology of ancient peoples, and the other discusses human evolution. However, Dr Greaves' anthropological work does not end here; she is also currently active in literature pertaining to this subject, and has written several publications. For more information on Dr Greaves, you can visit: www.athabascau.ca/anthropology/staff/sheila.php

If you are interested in learning more about Athabasca University's new anthropology course, The History of Anthropological Thought (ANTH 434), you can visit the course syllabus at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/anth/anth434.htm>

For the AU Anthropology center, visit: <http://www.athabascau.ca/anthropology/>



In 1986, while working for the BC Ministry of Forests, some of my co-workers and I were temporarily transferred to the Yukon to help battle the territory's forest fire Bane. We spent about a week in Dawson City awaiting deployment and a couple of weeks battling a project forest fire near the Yukon-Alaska border. In the summer the population of Dawson City explodes with the influx of tourists arriving to relive a recreation of the gold-rush culture from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We found ourselves amidst the throngs and caught up in the excitement and romanticism of the place.

One of the major attractions of Dawson City (of which there are many) is Diamond Tooth Gerties gambling hall (1). I was thrilled to find it, as I'd heard all about it from my best high school buddy Jason Campbell. His mother, Gillian Campbell (2), was, and still is, a well-known entertainer who plays Klondike Kate—back then in the Yukon, and since then all over the world. One afternoon I found myself playing Blackjack while listening to the tunes of old-time piano; dancing girls plying their trade on the raised stage before the crowds. At that time, Diamond Tooth Gerties was one of the only gambling halls in Canada that was licensed to serve alcohol to clients while they sat at the tables, and I took great advantage of the service. I was soon plastered beyond my ability to see the cards clearly, but I continued playing well into the night. At some point I cashed in my chips and staggered toward my motel room along the dusty road that was lit by the midnight sun. My pockets bulged with \$250 more than I'd arrived with. The next day I thought to myself: "If I can win \$250 when I'm totally intoxicated, just imagining how much I can win if I stay sober!" Back to the gambling hall I went, but this time I vowed not to drink a drop of alcohol. I kept my bargain with myself and left the hall late that night. I was stone-sober and had \$850 less than I'd arrived with (damn debit cards). In 1986 \$850 represented two weeks wages for me, but I was a single twenty-one year old and relatively care-free. I'm pretty sure I'll recover emotionally from that loss any year now.

I've learned over the decades that the lure of quick riches is almost always illusory; shiny bars of gold most often turn out to be electro-plated lead. Even so, there is something about glittery things that ignites a passion in the belly of most people, including me. Many of the permanent Yukon residents that I met were infected with gold fever. Over and over I heard people talking about their gold claims: "if I can just raise enough money to work my claim, I'll be rich." It was the favorite mantra of the bulldozer operators who worked the project-fire that we would eventually be assigned to. After returning to BC from the Yukon, Bruce Martin and I bought gold-pans and trekked up the Goat River in search of placer gold. We had no luck panning gold, but the trip was a lot of fun.

These days, I still have an interest in Gold, but from the perspective of an investor. I see gold as the only stable currency in today's volatile economy—one



wracked with the uncertainty of war & terrorism; one where the world's countries have long abandoned the stability of national currencies grounded in the gold standard; one where national debts of formerly wealthy countries are in the trillions of dollars (3); one where consumers collectively owe more than their net worth; one where governments, such as the United States, intentionally try to undermine their own currencies by printing billions of (worthless) paper dollars so as to gain a trade advantage under globalization; one where governmental monetarist policies no longer work to stimulate economic growth. Unfortunately, many pundits feel as though a major world depression is unavoidable now, and that it will happen sooner than later. US Member of Congress Ron Paul wrote a paper that clearly explains the situation facing the US and the world (4). Should that eventuality come to pass, conventional stock-based investments will be no safer than they were in 1929 & gold may be a safe monetary haven. However, not all gold-related investments are safe. Those who experienced the wild ride of the Bre-X Fraud can attest to that (5). I recommend that those who wish to invest in gold do so through well-diversified and established precious-metals funds (6).

While I'm a far more conservative investor than I was at Diamond Tooth Gerties gambling hall all those years ago, my eye still wanders to the speculative glitter once in a while. When the first reports surfaced regarding the discovery of diamonds in Canada's Arctic, I was intrigued but not convinced that the reports were bona fide. I often wonder what an investment of a few thousand dollars in pre-production Canadian diamond mines would be worth today. Now Canada has a well-established and well respected Diamond mining sector that is obviously stable and long-term (7).

On August 25, 1998 Canada's first emerald discovery was made by a geologist of Expatriate Resources in the Yukon Territory. November 22, 2002 a 100% option agreement for the discovery at Regal Ridge was completed between True North Gems Inc. (10) and Expatriate, giving complete ownership of the Regal Ridge emeralds to the former. True North Gems closed its IPO and on November 25, 2002 began trading under the symbol TGX on the TSX Venture Exchange. In addition to the emeralds, in 2003 True North Gems discovered a new variety of aquamarine unique to Canada which it has named the "True Blue" Beryl (8). When first traded publicly, the stock came out at \$1.30; it traded at \$0.80 on the day of writing this article.

Do these discoveries amount to the nascence of a prosperous new emerald, "True Blue" mining industry in Canada? Or, will it turn out to be another Bre-X style disappointment. I'm not yet convinced either way, but it is an intriguing addition to the ongoing lore of Canadian gold and gems.

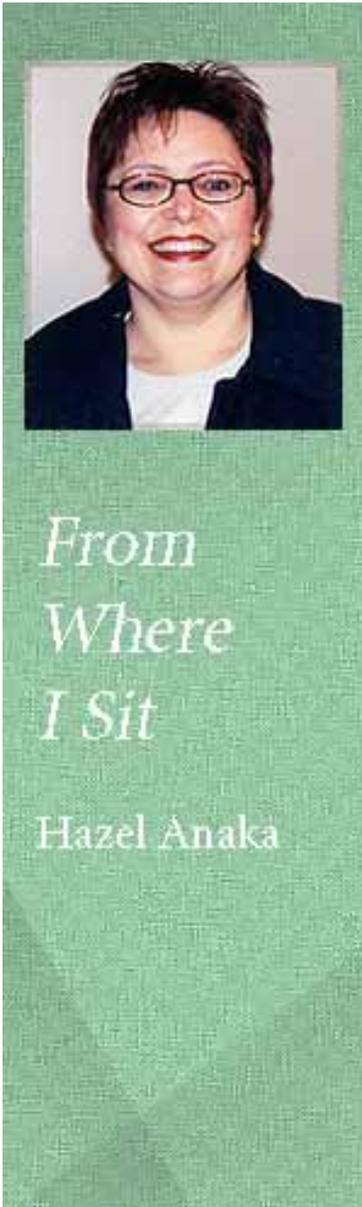
Table of pictures

- 1) Wayne Benedict (left) & Bruce Martin posing before of the Yukon River.
- 2) Diamond Tooth Gerties gambling hall in Dawson City, Yukon.

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Wayne E. Benedict has a varied career history and strong links to the Canadian labour movement. He is working part-time toward his Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations at AU. He is a fulltime first-year student of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. For a more detailed writer bio, see The Voice writers' feature page under 'About The Voice'. If you would like to send article-feedback to Wayne, he can be reached at wayneben@sasktel.net



SHOW ME THE WAY

Do you feel the lure of the open road? Whether you drive for work or for pleasure chances are you've relied on the work of a cartographer or map maker.

If you're a professional truck driver you rely on every image, particularly the first time your work takes you into a new area. The degree of dependence on maps and atlases increases incrementally with the distance from home. I can drive the hour to Edmonton without a map. I've done it thousands of times. I've got landmarks, road signs and experience on my side.

The same was not true a few years ago when three artist friends and I flew to Ottawa for the big Rembrandt show at the National Gallery. We then rented a car to drive to Montreal and the Charlevoix region of rural Quebec. We needed to be able to find our way there. And back.

Likewise when I accompanied Roy on a whirlwind drive through 4 provinces and 13 US states. It wasn't a pleasure trip. He had deadlines, commitments, a schedule to keep, and miles to make. I acted as something of a co-pilot, no mean feat in my pre-bifocal days. After dark, a map-reading magnifier with light saved me from those tiny fonts.

We've got hundreds of dollars invested in road atlases, including a \$30US one-inch thick Texas atlas. The \$80US laminated truckers' atlas has all the weigh scales, truck routes, interstates, speed limits and height restrictions identified for each state and most major cities. It includes mile marker and exit road numbers, toll roads and ports of entry. It also weighs about 8 pounds and is roughly the size of a small snack table. Hardly a handy dandy, pocket-sized number. The street atlas for *all* of Alberta is 266 pages. The Houston / Galveston street atlas is 550 pages.

I loved the nifty "Dist-o-map" from Rand-McNally that boasts 11,000 mileages between major US cities, with just the turn of a dial. It was a welcome toy for a bored co-pilot. The pop-up maps may be fun for kids.

A good-sized atlas could keep you reading for months. The obvious information is mileage and time traveled charts; identification of capital cities; rest stops; tourist attractions; provincial, federal and state parks; and First Nations' reserves. A detailed map will show cumulative miles between points; types of roads; and the location of golf courses, information centres, airports and ferries. Most will also provide a simplified street map of larger centres.

Only a truly devoted (or is that desperate?) map reader will notice statistics on elevations, tunnels, mountain peaks, swamps and deserts, county names, time zone boundaries, population, largest city stats and land area in square miles.

And don't forget the free highway and attractions maps from info centres and rest area offices. Neat, portable, light-weight, very site-specific. Refolding them is another thing.

Whatever your directional need, cartographers have you covered. That's a good thing, from where I sit.

**Reprinted with permission*

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Face to face with homelessness

By Debbie Jabbour



I recently came face-to-face with homelessness, when I allowed a young man who had been living on the street to spend the night in my home. This is not something I normally do, nor would I recommend it to others, since there are obvious risks involved. However, it was an important educational experience for me, and it gave me a very different perspective on who the homeless are.

Over the years I've often opened my home to young people in need who had nowhere else to go. Interestingly, I've never thought of these young people as homeless until now - yet having nowhere else to go is one of the criteria. Where would they have gone if I had not taken them in? Like this particular young man, they might have ended up on the streets. My actions did not always result in positive consequences, and on at least one occasion an individual I had helped later broke into my home. But overall those I helped have been very grateful and have gone on to do well in life.

This particular saga began a few weeks ago, when we were all having a relatively quiet evening at home. I was sitting in my easy chair studying and my daughter was stretched out on the floor doing some songwriting. We were idly chatting, when she received a phone call. She immediately got up, and I overheard her worried voice encouraging the caller not to be upset, stating that he could come over and she would try and help. After she hung up, she told me that the caller was a "friend" who was frightened and in fear of his life. He was calling from the house where her band members normally rehearse, but had nowhere to go and had been living on the streets for several weeks. A few days previously he had been accosted by a group of men who had robbed him and threatened him, and since that time he had been roaming the alleys in fear, walking all night long and finding shelter where he could.

I was naturally concerned at this whole story, and not eager to place my home and my family at risk. My daughter has a kind and tender heart, but is often too willing and trusting in helping people. The first question I asked was whether mental health issues were involved, and whether the threat of harm was real. She believed there were mental health problems, likely the individual was bipolar, but verified that the incident he spoke of had occurred. She said she had seen him accosted previously outside the bar where she worked, and that she and others had helped scare the guys off. I suggested that, rather than have this individual come to our home, it might be wiser to call the police and have them escort him to a shelter for the night. She agreed, but expressed the opinion that her "friend" had not found the police to be very helpful. We started to make calls to shelters in an effort to find him a place for the night, when the doorbell rang.

The young man had received a ride from one of the band members who was heading home, and like it or not, he was now in our home. He was a nice-looking, skinny young man in his early 20's, who obviously had fallen on hard times, now looking rather dishevelled and disreputable. His expression was hesitant and somewhat vulnerable as he came into the kitchen and sat down. I was not exactly sure how best to handle the situation that had now been thrust upon me, so I decided to gather as much information as possible in order to determine what this person was all about, how he had ended up on the streets, and what kind of danger his presence might represent to my home and family.

My daughter made him a cup of tea, and I grilled him with questions. As his story emerged, I realized that it was a story that could happen to almost anyone. Up until a few months ago, he had a job, an apartment and a girlfriend. Suddenly everything went downhill. He broke up with his girlfriend and lost his job. With no savings and no financial resources, he was unable to pay his rent and was evicted. Although he managed to find a place to store his meagre possessions, no friends were willing to take him in for more than a few days at a time. Without a place to call home, finding a job was extremely difficult, and after exhausting his friends'

hospitality, little by little he found himself out on the street, no money, no home, scared, and feeling helpless. As the days passed by, it became harder and harder to find a way out of the cycle, and he had taken to walking the streets all night long and hanging out and napping at different places during the day. Things finally came to a head earlier that morning when he had been accosted by a group of men who attempted to rob him, threatening to kill him if he remained in the area. At that point he had made his way to the rehearsal house and called my daughter in the hopes that she might be able to help him.

I asked about resources such as family. He told me his father is in Ontario, and his only other family in the city is his grandmother. He had gone to her for help, but she was unable to take him in to her seniors residence, nor was she able to assist him financially. Even if he had money for a long distance call or was able to raise bus fare to go back to Ontario, he was ashamed and too embarrassed to go to his father.

My questioning turned to his feelings of paranoia, and whether or not he really was in danger of being killed. This was my major area of concern, of course, and I suggested that he needed to call the police. It seemed plausible that he was, as my daughter suspected, suffering from mental illness, and his paranoia seemed to bear this out. However, he was very coherent and logical when explaining what happened, and looking at his somewhat shabby appearance and hang-dog expression, I did not doubt that his street survival skills were lacking, making him a convenient victim of a street attack. Reassured that those who had threatened him were not following him to my home, I again encouraged him to call the police if they surfaced.

The discussion then turned to his options. We discussed trying to find an available bed in a shelter (we had already called and been told they were full but still taking people in to sleep on mats), but he expressed a worry about getting there and the fear that his attackers would find him, since the shelter was in the same inner-city vicinity where he had been. Although the immediate goal was to find him a place for the night, I tried to encourage a plan that would be longer term, getting him off the street and back on track. He agreed that he would be willing to go to social services for temporary assistance, but I could see that a mixture of pride and embarrassment was still underlying, and he really seemed to have no idea where to begin.

The questions ran out and I finally decided to give the matter some thought. It was getting late, and he stretched out on the living room floor and fell into a restless sleep. My youngest daughter prepared a late supper, and we woke him up to what he said was his first meal in several days. By this point I was satisfied that he did not represent imminent danger to my family, and finally agreed that he could spend the night here, on the condition that first thing in the morning he would call social services and make some arrangements to get his life straightened out. He agreed, and left early the next morning.

In retrospect, it could have been a risky decision, but compassion got the better of me. He seemed young and helpless in many ways, and his story was not all that unusual. It could so easily have been one of my daughters who was left alone and living on the street - just the "right" combination of circumstances and an individual finds themselves homeless. Add mental illness to the mix, and I could understand how quickly a person could spiral down into a situation that is out of control. All too often there really is no place to go, no place for shelter, no money, and no place to get help for mental illness. The vast majority of the homeless do not fit the traditional picture of the transient street beggar. Most are like this young man, caught in a transitional situation, just needing a leg up to get life back on track.

About a week later, this young man came by. I asked how things had turned out, and he explained that he had applied for social assistance, and had managed to connect with a mental health professional who had helped him sort things out. He proudly added that he would be starting a new job that following Monday as a cook in a downtown restaurant, and that he had found a place to live. He thanked me profusely for being there for him that night. I wished him well and he went on his way. Hopefully he will remain among the success stories - I tend to think so.

I didn't thank him, but he did something valuable for me in return. He made me see the face of homelessness. It was not looking out the window to the other side. It was a reflection in a mirror.



This column focuses on a wide range of issues affecting post-secondary students. Students are encouraged to submit suggestions and educational topics they are concerned about, or personal experiences with courses or university situations they feel other students should know about. If suggest a topic or a course alert for taking notes, contact djabbour@ausu.org

HOW DO YOU DEFINE UNIVERSITY

Debbie Jabbour

A recently released StatsCan discussion paper is proposing a new way to define and classify postsecondary institutions. The intent is to find more inclusive definitions that make a clearer distinction between colleges and universities and private and public institutions.

The reliability of statistics is dependant on being grounded in credible definitions, and as the postsecondary environment evolves and becomes more complex, it is important to find a sharper way to count things.

The discussion paper suggests that postsecondary institutions be divided into three main types: university and degree-granting; college and institute; and career college. Each category would be further subdivided. For example, the university and degree-granting category is divided into the divisions used in the MacLean's rankings: undergraduate, comprehensive, medical-doctoral; along with two other divisions: First Nations and Metis; and special purpose.

This definition would allow inclusion of many private (predominantly religious) institutions that were not previously included in StatsCan surveys.

A further definition category uses the criteria of public, for-profit or non-profit, and the paper proposes the addition of a new category that would be called 'school board or adult education.' This is important since previous StatsCan surveys included any kind of schooling pursued after high school as postsecondary. The change would allow inclusion of any formal adult educational activities, regardless of whether high school was completed.

As students, we are interested in educational statistics that are relevant to us, such as ratio of earnings to degree earned. Any attempts to improve how these statistics are reported is a welcome move.

StatsCan is inviting feedback on the proposals, with a final document to be prepared this summer.

References:

What's a university? StatsCan proposes rethink of PSE definitions:

http://www.universityaffairs.ca/pdf/past_articles/2004/february/english/statscanpropose_e.html

Stats Canada on education:

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/educat.htm#gra>

Download a copy of the Stats Can discussion paper:

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/IPS/Data/81-595-MIE2003011.htm>

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CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



A Tale of Two Provinces

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Well, perhaps that's exaggerating a little bit. For post-secondary students in Newfoundland and Labrador, however, this certainly is one of the better times to be going to school.

The latest provincial budget reflects their announcements of a tuition freeze for the coming year.

According to the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the freeze "is a reflection of government's goal to ensure accessibility to higher education through the public post-secondary."

By contrast, here in Alberta, we also have a government that proposes to ensure accessibility to higher education, but rather than doing that through the obvious method of making it more affordable, they are instead doing it by giving a ton of money to universities as "capital" projects – or in other words more buildings for those who happen to live in the area.

I find this strange, because at the same time, the Alberta government is also promising in its budget to remember and support rural Albertans. Here's a hint, if you want to support rural Albertans, one good way might be to make sure they can get their education while remaining in rural Alberta. But that's just me.

After all, just because Statistics Canada lists distance as a major factor in whether people choose to pursue higher education, and people from lower-incomes being most affected by distance is no reason to actually address both those problems at once by making distance education more affordable, is it? That would just make too much sense.

So instead, we spend tons of money in creating great big buildings, with all the ongoing maintenance expenses that forces the institution to incur, and we call this type of action one that benefits the learning system in Alberta. That's Alberta Innovation for you folks.

So it Begins

The graduate crunch is already starting to be felt in the Province of New Brunswick. By graduate crunch, I mean how advanced graduates from universities across the nation are becoming increasingly valuable and in short supply as the knowledge economy gears up.

In New Brunswick, with help from the federal government, they are establishing a database of people who graduated while within New Brunswick in order to provide employers with information that they can use to hire these skilled workers.

This database is costing the province \$26,000 and the federal government almost \$20,000 so far. That's a lot of money to invest in a system to help employers find good workers, and just goes to show you how important this issue is becoming.

Wouldn't it be great if, instead of having to go look for employment, employers started looking for you. It's a future which may not be that far off, as since even fairly skilled employment can now be moved to foreign countries, all that will be left are the service jobs and the jobs for the exceptionally skilled. Personally, I'm hoping to be in the latter category.

Fuel Cell-abration

On a slightly different note, Prime Minister Paul Martin has announced funding for the worlds' first "Hydrogen Highway(TM)" It's an odd sign of the time that the announcement already has a trade-mark symbol on that, but that's another story.

This highway will be built between Whistler and Vancouver, British Columbia, in time for the 2010 winter Olympics and as a demonstration of just how hydrogen and fuel-cell savvy Canada is.

This highway and the associated projects of vehicles capable of running on hydrogen fuel cells have been promised just over 6 million dollars of government money over the next 5 years.

It's a lot of money, but if it works out, the benefits could be with us for a long time, and not just in the form of that particular highway, but also with Canada on the fore-front of a new economy based on hydrogen rather than fossil fuels for power.

I just find it nice to see that sometimes environmental concerns and business concerns really can work together if people try hard enough.

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.

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Dear Heather,

Recently, there was a column in our local newspaper in which the columnist complained about people who wear too much perfume. Now I'm worried that I may be one of those people. I thought everyone liked the smell of perfume. I would hate to think that mine was bothering others. This is going to seem like a silly question, but, how do you know if you're wearing too much?

Lacey R., Vancouver

Dear Lacey:

Most people have been in this situation before: you get onto a crowded bus, and someone is wearing so much cologne that it almost makes you gag. It's worse when the scent is one that you don't personally like, but even the nicest fragrance becomes cloying and unpleasant when too much is used. The 'too much perfume' issue is more than a case of personal preference, however: for people with certain health conditions, scents can be really harmful. Perfume can trigger allergic reactions and aggravate respiratory problems in these people. A friend of mine can't be in the presence of any artificial scent, or her eyes swell shut and stay that way for days.

Knowing how much perfume to wear can be difficult, because everyone's sense of smell is different. What seems like too much to one person will be hardly noticeable to someone else. Furthermore, when it's you that is wearing the perfume, you quickly become accustomed to the smell, so you notice it less than other people. This is why a quick touch-up in the ladies' room is a bad idea: you may think your scent has worn off, when in reality you've just gotten used to it and can't smell it anymore.

If you want to be sure you're not irritating others or setting off their allergies, it's probably best to wear no perfume at all when you're going to be in a public place. (Personally, I only wear it at home, for that reason.) If, however, you love perfume and would feel a little naked without it, just use the smallest amount you can possibly apply. (Spray bottles are bad because it's difficult to control the amount, though spraying the air and walking into the cloud is better than spraying directly on the skin.) Just one dab will do; you don't need to put some on every pulse point.

For reasons given above, don't reapply the scent halfway through the day. And you should never, ever wear perfume if you're visiting a hospital or nursing home, or any crowded place where people can't escape your scent (such as a bus or an airplane). As a general rule of thumb, the only people who should be able to detect your scent are those standing close enough to converse with you. If someone ten feet away can tell that you're wearing perfume, you're using too much.

If in doubt, ask a trusted girlfriend whether she thinks you're overdoing it. (Don't ask a guy: their sense of smell is less acute than ours, which is one reason why so many men overdo the cologne themselves. Men who wear cologne should definitely consult with a woman to ensure they're not in this category.) With perfume, as with so many things, less is definitely more.

There's something very seductive and mysterious about a person who smells wonderful, but only up close! Perhaps it has something to do with the mystique of not trying too hard. With perfume, as with so many other things, less is definitely more.

Heather

E-mail your questions to Heather at advice.voice@ausu.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality: your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. Heather is an AU student offering objective advice to her peers; she is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.



MURDER ON THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD Comedy Film Review

By Laura Seymour

Let's kick off April's comedy reviews' month with this little gem I found in a book swap. The pocketbook from Stuart Kaminsky is a winner for its hilarious premise. It is a whodunit that keeps you giggling and is so clean it contains only one swear word at almost the end of the book.

"Someone had murdered a Munchkin. The corpse lay bleeding on the yellow brick road that leads to the land of Oz. Young and frightened starlet Judy Garland summons private detective Toby Peters to the M.G.M. sound stage. His Assignment: keep the murder out of the papers and the studio free of scandal. Peters soon realizes, however, that Miss Garland's life is in danger. Then there's another murder –and another. As Dorothy says in *The Wizard of Oz*, "People come and go so quickly here."

So says the book descriptor and indeed the plot grabbed me by the throat and threatened not to let me go until I read every silly word. Well, really that is what the book is—silly. Now honestly, I think we all know there aren't any Munchkins except in the world of film and Judy Garland is dead...but, well...it's just so hilarious that I had to read it.

This book is filled with movie nostalgia, and icons like Clark Gable, Judy Garland, and Micky Rooney, who appear in the book and give "testimony". I like the touches of near reality evident in the characters of the "little people" in the book. A small person has a German accent according to one witness except he's not German he's from Switzerland and surprised anyone would know the difference. He's been wrongly accused of murder. In fact it appears everyone's been wrongly accused. So who's the murderer? You'll have to follow the little people being hurtled out of windows, the crooked dentist (isn't that a pun?), and the detective trying to evade being arrested by his own brother! This plot keeps rolling along, as do the laughs.

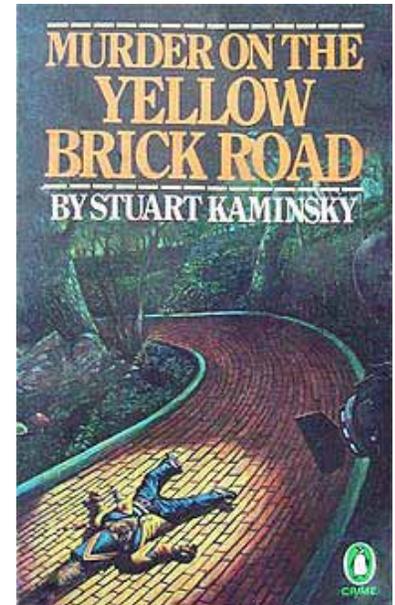
A word to the wise: *don't* read this book in public unless you're a) really comfortable being looked at funny when you laugh in front of others or b) have one of those vague smiles when something is funny. The sarcastic writing of Kaminsky is a natural laugh maker.

So many twists and turns usually make for a difficult plot to follow but Kaminsky's book is easy to make sense of. I theorize it is the fact that we actually know the players because of movie history. There is no clutching to remember, "Now who was the Clark Gable guy supposed to be?"

One of the most interesting points is how the detective is a lone wolf. He is offered a permanent job with MGM Studios but he's always poor, always alone and hates others telling him when he can go to the bathroom. I'm connected to that type of mentality so I get his attitude...and I've been that poor.

If the old gumshoe style of the 1930s and 1940s is your kind of book then *Murder On the Yellow Brick Road* is up your alley -- or is that road?! It sizzles with clear descriptors of nostalgic movie heroes and heroines. They are some of the biggest names in their day and easily recognizable. The characters added in are just as large as life (even the Munchkins!) as the huge movie stars and easily fit into the book's humorous style.

In today's rough and tough writing age and a time when blood and guts are on every page this is a truly refreshing book to read. If you are trying to break up a tension filled life, I recommend this book. I also think that if you are new to North America it would help you to learn about our history of film.



Primetime Update

Week of April 7, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

Missed your favourite shows? No problem. Primetime update gives you the rundown.

Friends

No new episode this week.

The last episode of Friends, ever, will air on May 6th.

Survivor - ALL STARS

Last time Ethan and the viewers were blind-sided by Jerri's ability to be a bitch while on the other side of the coin, Boston Rob and Amber took it "up" a notch.

This week the happy couple is woken up by Rupert and Tom's incessant worker bee attitude. Then Big Tom catches a little fish.

Jerri bitches about how wet the weather is, and Kathy laments her inability to guild and the team's inability to win a challenge. Tree mail contains: Paint. Chapera gets red (their tribe color) which they immediately apply all over themselves. Mogo-Mogo, is hesitant to use the paint (green) since it is not specified what it's for.

When they arrive, Jeff questions why each tribe did and didn't utilize the body paints, and then goes on with the event. The tribes number themselves off and in that order pick partners from the opposite tribe. Lex chooses Boston Rob, Tom picks Jerri, Shii Ann picks Rupert, Alicia and Kathy, and Jenna and Amber are left to spend more time together. The couples are given a picnic lunch to share along with private conversations which immediately dwell on strategy.

Afterwards, the tribes are reshuffled, however the first eight members are split the same as they were but Chapera's members are now Mogo-Mogo, and Mogo-Mogo's members are now Chapera, so effectively, the teams switch camps. Amber, however, is the only person to switch teammates. She stays a member of Chapera, with Jerri, Lex, Kathy and Shii Ann. Amber feels like she got screwed, but the rest of the new Chapera is excited about the new and much better camp complete with a welcome basket with cheese and wine.

On the new Mogo-Mogo, everyone bitches about the disarray and contemplates rebuilding the shelter in a new location. Even the welcome tray isn't enough to boost their spirits after loosing Amber and their successful camp. Rob can't seem to shut up about it. Back at Chapera, Amber is dampened by her new tribe's immediate use of the luxuries (toothbrushes and hair products).

Tree mail sparks the survivors to review their Survivor trivia, which is followed by the immunity challenge. First tribe to answer ten questions correct wins. The questions cover everything from the many seasons of Survivor, from the first ever food challenge to the only castaway that had to be rescued from the water by his team.

What is funny though, is that Tom doesn't even know which country he was in on in Survivor: Africa (Kenya). After 11 questions the tribes are tied at 10. The tiebreaker: write down all seven of the castaways that were voted out of their respective games; the tribe with the most right wins. Chapera answers 6 correct, while Mogo-Mogo nails all seven.

On their way away from the challenge, Boston Rob says to Lex that if he saves Amber, Rob will save him later. AND, on Chapera the request is thoroughly considered. Amber's plea: "I'm voting for Jerri." In the end, Lex and Cathy realize that Rob will hold a grudge if they don't honor his request. Lex tells Jerri. Tribal council goes very smooth, and finally Jerri is gone, crying.

Next time: Amber has to break some promises. And not knowing that Amber's still around, Rob makes a promise to Alicia, which he later has to break.

MOGO-MOGO

Alicia Calaway -	35 years old, 9th place in Australian Outback (1st Juror)
Rob Mariano -	28 years old, 10th place in Marquesas (Boston Rob)
Tom Buchanan -	48 years old, 4th place in Africa (Pig farmer)
Rupert Boneham -	40 years old, 8th place in Pearl Islands (2nd Juror)
Jenna Lewis -	26 years old, 8th place in Pulau Tiga (2nd Juror)

CHAPERA

Lex Van Den Berghe -	40 years old, 3rd place in Africa
Kathy Vavrick-O'Brien -	50 years old, 3rd place in Marquesas
Shii Ann Huang -	30 years old, 10th place in Thailand
Amber Brkich -	25 years old, 6th place in Australian Outback (4th Juror)

CASTAWAYS GONE

Chapera	Jerri Manthey	33, 8th place, Australian Outback (2nd Juror)	GONE 9TH
Mogo-Mogo	Ethan Zohn	30, SOLE SURVIVOR, Africa (soccer player)	GONE 8TH
Mogo-Mogo	Colby Donaldson	29, 2nd place, Australian Outback	GONE 7TH
Chapera	Susan Hawk	42, 4th place, Pulau Tiga (Big Mouth)	GONE 6TH , (took herself out)
Mogo-Mogo	Richard Hatch	42, SOLE SURVIVOR, Pulau Tiga (big naked gay guy)	GONE 5TH
Chapera	Rob Cesternino	25, 3rd place, Amazon	GONE 4TH
Mogo-Mogo	Jenna Morasca	22, SOLE SURVIVOR, Amazon	GONE 3RD (took herself out)
Saboga	Rudy Boesch	76, 3rd place, Pulau Tiga (retired navy man)	GONE 2ND
Saboga	Tina Wesson	42, SOLE SURVIVOR, Australian Outback	GONE 1ST

Survivor airs on Thursdays at 9:00pm Alberta Time, on Global (channel 7 in Calgary).

The Bachelor

The new season of the Bachelor will premiere April 7th.

The Apprentice

Last time Bill switched to Protégé, both teams did promotion schemes at Taj Mahal, and Nick and Amy got a little closer. Bill's brilliant idea to snag the VIPs won them the game and sent Versacorp to the boardroom. When Amy sent Nick back up to the suite, Katrina retaliated by revealing the couple's relationship to Donald Trump. In the end, Amy's past successes prevailed and Katrina was fired.

This week Amy is the last woman left. Bill makes remarks about Amy's rising confidence and Nick seems quite upset about Amy's previous comment to Trump that Bill is her strongest competition. Before leaving for the next task, Troy and Kwame divulge the secrets of their friendship, while Bill feels like an outsider looking in. Trump takes the teams to the penthouse of Trump World Tower. The ceilings are high and the rooms are large. The walls are white and the windows take up most of the wall space. Hardwood floors baby! The task: the teams have ten hours to rent out the property for one evening. The team that secures a lease for the highest amount, wins.

Immediately both teams get on the phone and start talking to event planners. Protégé meets with the building manager and find out that the space usually goes for upwards of \$40,000.00 per night. When people start viewing the suite, Amy criticizes Nick's strategy of building an image for each client. Amy emphasizes that the

event planners are skilled at what they do and should be left alone to make images of their own. Amy tries to hint to customers that people have paid over forty grand for the space. In the end, they have a very interested client, but the space has to be vacated by midnight, which is not good for say a New Years Eve Party.

Troy openly lies to the clients telling them that he already has two very firm offers on the space. In the end he plays one offer against the other, and one of the clients pulls out thinking that they're being hustled. They shift their attention to their remaining client and secure a deal for \$35,001.00. When they leave the building, Nick and Amy are still sitting in the lobby looking very glum. BUT, two minutes before the deadline, the previous client comes back in and secures a lease for \$40,800.00.

Protégé must go back to the boardroom while Nick and Amy (the last remaining members of Versacorp) head on Trump's private plane for a tour of Maralago, one of his luxury resorts in Florida. On they way there Amy's sister as well as Nick's father (who Amy refers to as her father-in-law) join them. The jet has everything in it including a bedroom (which Trump expresses that they better not utilize). The resort is filled with ten thousand dollar tables, hundred thousand dollar tapestries, and many expensive antiques. The group has lunch on the poolside.

Back in the boardroom Trump gives them heck for asking between 35 and 40 thousand dollars instead of 45. There is talk of each man's education, which centers on Troy's lack of in relationship to his great number of personal successes. In the end, Troy (project manager), who is likely afraid to go up against Bill, holds Kwame partially responsible for the teams loss. In the end, despite the toughness of the choice between instinct and education, Troy's history of being a loose canon turns against him and he is fired. Trump admits that Troy will be very successful one day, but is presently not ready to be an apprentice.

Next week: You'll have to tune in b/c we don't get a preview.

The Apprentice airs on NBC, Wednesday evenings at 10:00 pm Alberta Time

If there are any other shows you want updates on, or any comments you wish to make, please email me at abaldwin@shaw.ca!

Keeping Track

Where have all my records gone? They've all gone into large, yellow envelopes.

For each course I take I have a separate envelope, and into that envelope goes things like the introductory letters you receive when you start a course, notification of extensions, letters from tutors, course grade papers, returned assignments, etc. I also keep separate envelopes for documentation from the university and student loan papers. I put all these envelopes in a box and corner of their own for easy reach later on. You can also do the same with file folders if you prefer, or shoe boxes, or binders, or duo-tangs, or whatever organisational tool suits your fancy.

Also, as a distance student a large amount of what we do is done via the Internet. This could include a lot of email from tutors or other students, saved research material from the Internet, assignment documents that you've sent in online rather than mailing (and the copies you get returned to you), etc. For each course I've taken so far, I have a separate folder on my computer into which I put assignments, research, emails, etc.. It makes it much easier to find things later on. I also have separate folders in my email program for mails relating to course and university issues, and a couple of separate bookmark/favourites folders in my web browser with links to the university, course websites, study sites, my student loan organisation, etc.

It certainly makes everything a lot easier to find when I need them.

AUSU THIS MONTH

MEET YOUR NEW AUSU COUNCIL

Laura Seymour, AUSU Chief Returning Officer for 2004, and AUSU President Debbie Jabbour, are pleased to announce the results of the 2004 AUSU election:



Candidate	Votes	%vote
Karl Low	65	75 %
Shannon Maguire	56	64 %
Mac McInnis	55	63 %
Teresa Neuman	55	63 %
Joy Krys	49	56 %
Lisa Priebe	49	56 %
Cynthia Stobbe	49	56 %
Lonita Fraser	48	55 %
Stacey Steele	48	55 %
Melanie Gray	45	52 %
Zil-E-Huma Lodhi	43	49 %
Simon Davenport	39	45 %

The top nine candidates will comprise your new AUSU council, and will assume their new positions after a changeover period which will end by April 30th.

Thanks to everyone who ran for AUSU council!

AUSU IN PERSON DISCUSSION GROUPS

Getting together physically with fellow AU students adds to your university experience. Other students will be able to understand and relate to the joys and frustrations of distance learning. It's also a way to stay abreast of information relating to AU and the Athabasca University Students' Union.

See the Coffee Groups web page on the AUSU site, at <http://www.ausu.org/coffee> for a list of groups.

Anyone interested in starting up a group in your area (anywhere in Canada, from small towns to major centres) please contact LONITA at lfraser@ausu.org.

CHAT WITH AUSU ONLINE

If you have a question for AUSU, or would like to get to know your council, drop by the chat-room [accessible through the 'Message Forums' option on the AUSU home page www.ausu.org. You will need an AUSU web site account.] **Times are MST**

Mondays at 8:00 PM Councillor Karl Low



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REQUIRED

The Organization

The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) is a non-partisan group consisting of representatives from students' unions at Alberta universities. CAUS, on behalf of undergraduate university students, addresses post-secondary education issues with the provincial government, acts as an education stakeholders group, and works with other groups to support students' interests in post-secondary education.

The Position

Reporting to the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) membership in general and the CAUS Chair in particular, the Executive Director develops and coordinates activities including media campaigns, provincial government meetings and presentations, and CAUS meetings. The Executive Director also performs research and communications duties and provides administrative assistance to CAUS. The CAUS office is located in Edmonton, and the position is full-time.

Qualifications

- Undergraduate university degree with preference given to an Alberta university graduate
- Excellent writing and communication skills, including ability to write press releases and background documents
- Professional interpersonal skills, ability to develop and maintain relationships with CAUS members, government officials and staff, and coalition groups.
- Computer skills: E-mail and listserv communications, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint. Website maintenance skills a definite asset.
- Strong knowledge of the provincial and federal context of post-secondary education, ability to analyze trends, policies, and budget information
- Skills and experience in office administration, record-keeping, budget and project management
- Highly organized and able to effectively manage priorities and tasks.
- Demonstrated ability to organize and develop awareness campaigns
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to provide and accept direction

Remuneration

\$29,000/year plus benefits

Application

Deadline for application is April 23, 2004. With your resume please include a writing sample consisting of a mock news release on your choice of a post-secondary education issue. In your cover letter, please outline any involvement you may have had with post-secondary student issues or activities.

Please apply by email to sbarg@ausu.org using the subject line "CAUS Executive Director" or by mail to

Shirley Barg, CAUS Chair
2nd Floor, 10030 – 107 Street, Edmonton AB T5J 3E4

CAUS thanks all applicants for their interest; however, only candidates short-listed for interviews will be contacted.

Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

To list events in your area, e-mail voice@ausu.org with the word "events" in the subject line.

british columbia

Manufacturing Mod: Metal Tunics to Paper Dresses

Sponsored by the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, curator Jamila Dunn examines the use of non-traditional materials such as paper, plastic, and metal, and other experimental forms that challenged the limits of sartorial possibility. Innovative garments by Paco Rabanne, Pierre Cardin, Andre Courreges and others will be featured along with related media images that suggest broader social and historical contexts for situating the clothing. The free exhibition dates are: April 3 - 15, 2004. Satellite Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 12 - 5 pm. Opening: Friday, April 2, 2004, 8 - 10 pm. Belkin Satellite is located at 555 Hamilton St. (downtown Vancouver, btwn Pender St. and Dunsmuir St.) You can contact Monika Sczewczyk at belkin2@interchange.ubc.ca or 604-822-2759.

<http://www.liveat.ubc.ca/liveatubc/events/eventDetails.eventos?eventId=5494>

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TGIF Seminar Series, an ongoing event

The seminars, sponsored by the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, are held on Fridays at 4:00 p.m. in the Chan Auditorium (950 W. 28th.) They will feature invited external scientists and representatives from each lab. Refreshments will be available after the seminar. You can contact Dora Surname Pak at dora@cmmt.ubc.ca or (604) 875-3841 for more information on this free event. Check the website for future dates.

<http://www.liveat.ubc.ca/liveatubc/events/eventDetails.eventos?eventId=4670>

ontario

MISSISSAUGA

Mission Nutrition Show

International Centre

6900 Airport Rd. Mississauga, ON

9:00 am Friday, May 14, 2004

9:00 am Saturday, May 15, 2004

9:00 am Sunday, May 16, 2004

\$10 - For more information call (905) 761-0580

<http://www.missionnutritionshow.com>

Mission Nutrition Show focuses on the importance of healthy lifestyle initiatives in a unique, fun, festive, interactive and sophisticated environment. This Nutrition-Health Show breaks the conventional wave by introducing a show that appeals to people of all ages and walks of life! So far the list of keynote speakers includes: Dr. Earl Mindell, Dini Petty, Body Break, Dr. David Hill, MC Flipside, Caroline Dupont, Erika Wolff and many more to be confirmed.

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Sportscard and Memorabilia Expo

International Centre

6900 Airport Rd.

April 30: 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

May 1: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

May 2: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

\$10 adults; \$3 children (6-12)

For more information contact

alsinclair@sportcardexpo.com.

Buy, sell or swap your old cards at one of North America's largest sports card events. Autograph sessions with hockey legends are scheduled for each day. Then there's the 900 tables of memorabilia, including signed equipment and rare cards.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Shaw Festival

Begins April 2004

<http://www.shawfest.com/index.php>

This year's season includes productions of:

Pygmalion (George Bernard Shaw)

Ah, Wilderness! (Eugene O'Neill)

Man and Superman (George Bernard Shaw)

The Importance of Being Earnest (Oscar Wilde)

Rutherford and Son (Githa Sowerby)

Nothing Sacred (George F. Walker)

Three Men on a Horse (Holm & Abbott)

Waiting for the Parade (John Murrell)

Harlequinade (Terence Rattigan)

Pal Joey (Music by Richard Rogers, Lyrics by Lorenz Hart, Book by John O'Hara)

The Tinker's Wedding (J. M. Synge)
Floyd Collins (Music and lyrics by Adam Guettel,
Book by Tina Landau)

TORONTO

International School for Interdisciplinary Studies

5-7 p.m. - ISIS-Canada studio
66 Gerrard St. E., 3rd Floor, at the NW corner of
Church St. and Gerrard St. E. in Toronto.

Admission is Free

Tel: (416) 539-9728

Fax: (416) 531-8236

Email: admin@isis-canada.org

<http://www.isis-canada.org/>

Information session for prospective students: April
18th, 2004

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Harbourfront Reading Series

For a full events listing, including locations and fees:
<http://www.readings.org/>

The Harbourfront Reading Series is one of the oldest and most admired public reading programmes in the world. Since its inception, over 3,500 of the world's most distinguished authors have read at Harbourfront Centre, including a dozen Nobel laureates. The Series is designed to introduce the Canadian public to the finest international novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers and biographers, while simultaneously providing Canadian writers with an internationally recognized forum in which to present their work.

Upcoming reading events include:

- Robert Hough, Mark Sinnett - Mar 10
- Guy Gavriel Kay in conversation w Mark Askwith - Mar 17
- George Pelecanos, Peter Robinson - Mar24
- Marilyn Bowering, Edwidge Danticat, Genichiro Takahashi - Mar31
- David Helwig, Souvankham Thammavongsa, David Yezzi - Apr7
- Heather Birrell, Annabel Lyon, Lisa Moore - Apr14
- Natalee Caple, Russell Smith, Michael Turner - Apr 21
- Susan Goyette, Steven Heighton, Michael Holmes,
- August Kleinzahler - Apr28

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Signatures Spring Craft Show

Metro Toronto Convention Centre
255 Front St. W. (North Bldg.)
222 Bremner Blvd. (South Bldg.)
Wednesday, Apr. 7, 2004 - Sunday, Apr. 11, 2004

Discover some of Canada's most talented artisans, artists and designers. The show welcomes the arrival of spring with unique gifts for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, weddings or for those shopping for themselves. The spring event is ripe with handmade offerings in wood, glass, clay, leather, metal and fine art with a focus on fashions for the season with the latest designs in jewellery and clothing for the entire family.

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The Clothing Show

Automotive Building - Exhibition Place

11:00 am - 7 pm Saturday, May 15, 2004

11:00 am - 6 pm Sunday, May 16, 2004

\$8. For more information call (416) 516-9859

To see a list of who is exhibiting please check out
<http://www.theclothingshow.com>

The Clothing Show is a bi-annual shopping extravaganza held at the Automotive Building at the CNE. Featuring the best from independent Toronto clothing and jewellery designers, clothing stores and wholesalers with savings up to 80 per cent off retail. The show also hosts the best selection of vintage and retro clothing, along with accessories from across Ontario. More than 200 vendors will participate in the show.

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The National Job Fair

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

255 Front St. W. (North Bldg.)

222 Bremner Blvd. (South Bldg.)

10:00 am - 8 pm Wednesday, Apr. 14, 2004

10:00 am - 8 pm Thursday, Apr. 15, 2004

\$3.50 - For more info call (450) 448-5375

<http://www.thenationaljobfair.com>

The National Job Fair might have just what you are searching for. Between 50 and 100 exhibitors are expected to attend the Fair. Companies will be looking to fill a variety of positions, as well as answer all your questions. Approximately 15,000 to 20,000 job seekers are expected to attend. The job fair includes: a multitude of private and public companies looking for professional and/or technical personnel and students, employment agencies, public organizations and government services, professional and specialized training centres and colleges.

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Kodak Lectures

The Kodak Lectures is an ongoing international lecture series programmed by the School of Image

Arts at Ryerson University in Toronto. Since 1975, a veritable who's who from the world of image making has graced the stage at Ryerson, including Dutch photographer and video artist Rineke Dijkstra, Canadian "cyborg" Steven Mann, German artists Bernd and Hilla Becher, and Oscar-nominated Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan. You may contact Robert Burley at (416) 979-5167 for more information. A list of the presenters can be found via their website.

<http://www.ryerson.ca/news/events/imagesandideas/>

saskatchewan

SUNTEP Proudly Presents "WALKING ART", Fashion Show & Reception

Clothing from Jeff Chief will be available to purchase. This will be a fun filled evening on April 2, 2004 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Multipurpose Room, Riddell Centre, University of Regina. Admission is \$3.00. Tickets can be purchased at College West, room 227 or at the door. For further information contact Cathy Wheaton at 585-5627.

international

ALEXANDRIA, VA - USA

In2Words: Numbers & Words

June 10-July 18 and July 24-August 22

DEADLINES for both exhibitions: FRIDAY, APRIL 2.

\$25 for slides of up to 3 works.

Call 703.838.4565 x 4

Email: targetgallery@torpedofactory.org

Send SASE to:

In2Words, 105 N Union St, Alexandria VA, 22314

An exhibition in two parts exploring the use of numbers and words in art. Part One:Numbers, juried by Sarah Tanguy, Independent Curator, Washington, DC, exhibit dates: June 10-July 18. Part Two:Words, juried by Krystyna Wasserman, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington,

DC, exhibit dates: July 24-August 22. All artists/all media. Broad interpretations encouraged. Artists can apply to either or both exhibits. Awards up to \$650.

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The Unconventional Convention on Starting and Operating a Visual Art Center

May 21-22, 2004

Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA

Registration fee by March 1: \$300, \$350 thereafter. Organizations may pay registration for 2 attendees and send up to 5 representatives.

Contact AACVAC at: conference@torpedofactory.org

Call 703-838-4565 x 6.

<http://www.torpedofactory.org/conference/>

A convention focusing on how to start and operate visual arts centers for the benefit of both artists and the public. The exciting program will feature five panel sessions with experts and representatives from the following fields: Cultural Tourism; Visual Art Center Prototypes; Architectural Renovations and Occupational Health Considerations; Community Outreach and Support; and Self-Governance. One of the main goals of the conference is to examine the economic and cultural advantages of public visual art centers.

The panels will allow groups planning such centers to learn from established organizations and will provide existing centers an opportunity to compare experiences. The two-day program will include a closing night celebration that coincides with the Torpedo Factory Art Center's 30th Anniversary.

The Torpedo Factory is one of the oldest and most successful public visual art centers in the United States. Sponsored by The Alliance for the Advancement of Community Art Centers. Associate sponsors include Partners for Livable Communities, Americans for the Arts, National League of Cities, the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, and Home & Design Magazine.

To list events in your area, e-mail voice@ausu.org with "events" in the subject line.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT NATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION

Value: \$5000

Deadline: April 5, 2004

Award Information: Administrator: University of Toronto JD/MBA Students' Association Award

Amount: \$5,000.00 Award Deadline: Monday, April 05, 2004

<http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/essaycompetition/rules.html>

Scholarship Criteria: Gender: n/s Year of Study: All Years Field of Study: Any Field of Study School of Study: n/s Region of Study: n/s Region of Residence: n/s Academic Standing: n/s Language: n/s Activities: n/s Affiliation: n/s Financial Need: No Heritage: n/s Special Need: n/s Citizenship: n/s Automatic Consideration: No

Notes: Open to full time undergraduate students enrolled in a non-professional faculty of a Canadian university or cégep in the 2003/2004 school year. Must write an essay: "How can Canadians improve their standard of living without sacrificing what they hold to be distinctly 'Canadian values?'"

Contact Information: Contact Name: Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt National Essay Competition Title: n/s Address: n/s Postal Code: n/s Phone: n/s Fax: n/s Toll Free: n/s Web Site: E-mail: Application Address: n/s

ARTS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

<http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=5>

Value: \$5000

Sponsored by: Alberta Scholarship Programs.

Purpose: To reward outstanding students pursuing full-time study at the masters or equivalent level. Funding for short term or part-time studies is available through the Arts - Career Development Scholarships.

Value: Five awards of \$5,000 each

Deadline: Not specified

Eligibility: Applicants must be residents of Alberta enrolled or planning to enroll in full-time study either in music, drama, dance, literary arts or visual arts at a Master's level or equivalent level. There is a lifetime maximum of two awards per student. Scholarships are for study at graduate faculties and equivalent institutions anywhere in the world.

Selection: Recipients are chosen by a selection committee appointed by the Presidents of the universities in Alberta. Applicants are judged on previous academic accomplishments, program of study, appraiser's evaluations, answers to the essay question, and general impressions from the application form.



INTERNATIONAL CELTIC CONFERENCE

Oct 14-17

From October 14-17th, 2004, the University College of Cape Breton will host the International Celtic Conference, Forging a Future for Celtic Languages and Cultures, under the direction of Robert Morgan, Laurent Lavoie, Hector MacNeil and Pierre Siguret.

During the 20th century, in America and Australia a significant number of languages have disappeared, the inescapable consequence of the assimilation since the seventies. The same has happened with the Celtic languages. Our conference is organized by four professors who wish to promote a genuine interest in Celtic languages. Professor Hector MacNeil teaches Gaelic language, Professor Robert Morgan is an historian, specialist of Cape Breton History, Professor Laurent Lavoie favours the maintenance of minority languages and teaches French and Professor Pierre Siguret is a scholar in French with an intense interest in Breton.

Call for papers: We are asking for papers from scholars from everywhere. The organizing committee will invite participants with the best proposals. Different applied methodologies will be presented around the question from psycho-linguistics, social linguistics, theories of language acquisition, community development and cultural promotion. Specialists of Celtic languages will be invited together with scholars on such threatened languages as Maorie and Mi'kmaq.

Entertainment: Each night there will be live entertainment: Celtic music, songs and poetry perpetuating the formidable Gàidhlig heritage still surviving in Cape Breton and in the various Celtic countries of the world.

For further information or contributions to enhance the intellectual and economic success of the conference, you may visit our website at <http://www.uccb.ca/index1.htm> or email celtic.world@uccb.ca

TRANSPORTABLE ENVIRONMENTS 2004: 3rd International Conference on Portable Architecture and Design

April

Ryerson University in Toronto, will host the international academic conference; Transportable Environments. This will be the third in a series of conferences concerning portable architecture, buildings, landscape and design. It is being organized and co-chaired by Associate Professor Filiz Klassen of the School of Interior Design, Ryerson University and Professor Robert Kronenburg of the University of Liverpool, School of Architecture and Building Engineering, UK. The event takes place during April 2004, at the Eaton Auditorium, Rogers Communications Centre on 80 Gould. Contact Filiz Klassen at (416) 979-5000, ext. 6937 for more information.

<http://www.ryerson.ca/portable/>

NARRATIVE MATTERS 2004

May 20-May 23

Organized by faculty and students from St. Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick, and featuring an array of keynote addresses and pre-conference workshops, Narrative Matters 2004 will take place from May 20 to May 23, 2004, at the Sheraton Hotel in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. The conference is a unique experience in which theorists and practitioners, researchers and students from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines will have the opportunity to enjoy conversation and together explore the importance of narrative - or story - in countless aspects of human life. <http://www.stu.ca/conf/narrative/>

ideaCity

Jun 16-18

ideaCity, a "meeting of minds", is an annual conference held in Toronto, Ontario. It brings together some of the most interesting and fascinating personalities of our time, for three days of stimulating conversation, performances, thought-provoking ideas, and other social events.

The conference is not centred around any one discipline or industry, and there are no keynote or panel discussions. In fact, scripted speeches are forbidden; as the website states: "Everyone is in on the common narrative." Rather than the usual Q&A sessions after a speaker has completed their talk or performance, the conference has adopted the

practice of long breaks between sessions (and nightly parties) that invite conversation between speakers, performers, and attendees.

This year's presenters include...

Michael Adams - (President and CEO, Environics, Author, Sex in the Snow)

Henry Aubin - (Investigative Journalist, Author, The Rescue of Jerusalem)

Robert Bateman - (Artist, Naturalist)

Jane Bunnett - (Modern Jazz Musician)

Ken Finkleman - (Writer, Director, Producer; The Newsroom)

... and many more.

"In an age that seems to swing wildly between wide-eyed optimism and dire pessimism, perhaps our greatest challenge is to sustain a capacity for idealism. ideaCity is one small effort to establish a forum for the high ground of ideas and idealism." (ideaCity website)

This year's conference takes place from June 16th to the 18th in Toronto, Ontario. For more information regarding the conference, contact jenniferm@citytv.com or call 416 591 7400 x2475, or visit the conference website at <http://www.ideacityonline.com/>

Provided by Lonita Fraser

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **Real World LINUX 2004** - April 13-15 - Toronto, ON - Real World Linux Conference and Expo is Canada's only national comprehensive event focusing on Linux, Open Source and Embedded solutions targeting technology professionals working in industry sectors including Business, Education and Government users, resellers and developers. <http://www.realworldlinux.com/>
- **MIEF 2004** - April 30-May 2 - Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Malaysia International Education Fair - The Malaysian education market remains one of the most important to overseas institutions, providing a high number of full-fee paying students to countries like the U.S., U.K., Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Being one of the most important market share for overseas recruitment for many years, Malaysia should definitely be a target in your marketing and recruitment strategy. Details: <http://www.mief2004.com/>
- **Online Educa Madrid 2004** - May 12-14 - Madrid, Spain - The meeting point for European and Latin American E-Learning Professionals. Meeting the networking needs of the international e-learning and distance education industry, the annual Online Educa Madrid conference is the key networking venue for strategists and practitioners from Europe and Latin America. Details: <http://www.online-educa-madrid.com/english/index.htm>
- **AMTEC 2004** - May 25 - 28 - Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario - In Touch with Technology - Come and learn more about newest learning technologies and techniques. Meet leading developers and distributor of quality educational products. Details: <http://www.amtec.ca/site/conferences/conferences.shtml>.
- **CADE 2004** - May 30-June 2 - Keele Campus of York University, Toronto, ON - Planning is underway for the CADE and This is I.T. 2004 Conference: Pioneers in a New Age. The Conference is hosted by the Canadian Association for Distance Education, Education Technology Committee of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts of Ontario, and the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies in collaboration with Glendon College, York University. Details: <http://www.pioneers2004.yorku.ca/>
- **InfraEDUCA 2004** - June 25 - 27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi - The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialised Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distant Learning Systems, International Universities and Programmes, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programmes etc. Details: <http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>.
- **N.A.Web 2004** - Oct. 16-19 - Fredericton, NB, Canada - The Tenth Annual International Web-Based Teaching and Learning Conference - Details: <http://naweb.unb.ca>

Know of a conference that is not on this list? Contact voice@ausu.org with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

classifieds

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.

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AU SPORTS CLUB, NOW ONLINE!

The AU Student Sports Club is now online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausc> . If you are an AU student who is interested in sports, or in getting to know others who are, check out our new site and fill out a membership form if you like that you see. It's free to join!

AUSU GROUPS AND CLUBS COMMITTEE

The AUSU Clubs Committee is looking for student members who can commit just a few hours a month to answer email, and be part of a group committed to fostering and promoting student clubs and coffee groups at AU. Anyone interested in finding out more about this committee can email the chair, Lonita Fraser, at lfraser@ausu.org.

RED DEER COFFEE GROUPS

Red Deer Athabasca University students meet at the Chapter's Starbucks on the last Thursday of every month. From 8 pm to 9 pm, the goal is to share ideas that will help us all be successful AU students and collectively resolve our specific issues. Contact Ryan, lowrystcol@hotmail.com

THE VOICE

c/o Athabasca University Students' Union
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800.788.9041 ext. 3413

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