

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

May 26, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 21



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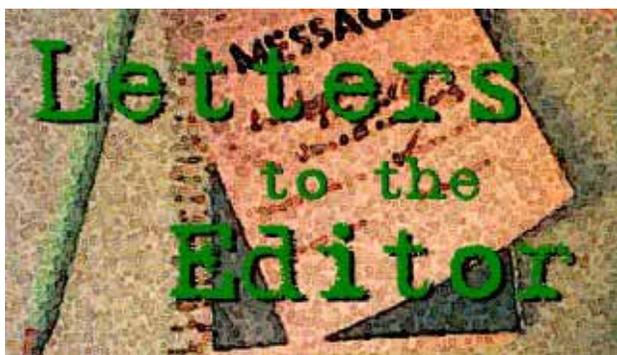
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[s]We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@ausu.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter in the Voice.[es]

THE VOICE

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Are you ready to graduate?

AU convocation 2004 takes place this year over the June 11th to 12th weekend. The undergraduate ceremony is on Friday June 11th, and the graduate ceremony is on Saturday, June 12th.

You may be eligible to convocate this June if you have finished all of your degree requirements. Students who are only just finishing their final course may not have received a convocation package or invitation yet. If you believe you should be graduating this June, see the AU convocation pages for information, and contact the convocation office to find out if you can still apply. You will find contact names and emails on the Contacts page in the convocation section.

For all convocation 2004 information, use this link:

<http://www.athabascau.ca/convocation/general/index.htm>

New Graduates, Contact The Voice!

If you are graduating this June, the Voice wants to hear from you. We are seeking grads for the student profiles column (you'll get a free Voice coffee mug if you participate) and comments from grads about this year's convocation ceremonies.

We are also interested in photographs from convocation for our graduation scrap book.

For more information, contact the Voice editor at voice@ausu.org, or look for a Voice representative on the AU grounds during the ceremonies.

You do not need to attend convocation in Athabasca to participate -- comments and profiles from all grads are welcome and appreciated.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY'S NEWEST COURSE! TAXX 401-Taxation II

Katie Patrick

It's nearly the end of May. Like me, if you operate a small business, you probably filed your income tax return several months ago. But how familiar are you with our Canadian federal income tax system and its procedures? Is your knowledge of the system confined to constant perusals of the income tax guidebook or does it result from an in-depth savvy of all its ins and outs?

If the former is the case, you may be interested in enrolling in one of Athabasca University's newest courses: Taxation II (TAXX 401). Opened in February of this year, Taxation II delves deeply into the Canadian government's Income Tax Act, with particular emphasis on federal income tax guidelines and procedures for businesses and corporations. TAXX 401 is divided into seven lessons. The first two are an introduction to corporate tax principles. Lesson three can be considered a crash course in the management of the many decisions, problems, and other issues that you may encounter in your dealings with the Canadian federal income tax system -- it will not only train you to be well informed of the many facets of the tax system, but will also give you the skills to be able to act competently. The following two lessons (4 and 5) build upon this foundation as you are introduced to more complex tax issues. The final two lessons deal with further complex issues, such as taxation rules and procedures in partnerships.

Taxation II (TAX 401)'s course professor and author, Dr Clarence Byrd, has an impressive background in both education and tax-related publications and specializes in corporate tax issues. Currently one of Athabasca University's accounting professors, he received his PhD from the University of Michigan after having received his BBA and MBA. Dr Byrd has authored over 100 tax-related books (several of which are published by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants), including the popular Canadian Tax Principles, used with success in many Canadian postsecondary institutions. He has also published work in numerous accounting journals across Canada. You can view Dr Byrd's staff page at: www.athabascau.ca/html/staff/academic/ccas/clarence.html

Your evaluation for Taxation II (TAXX 401) is calculated through 4 assignments (10% each, totalling 40%) and 2 exams (a midterm worth 25%, and a final exam worth 35%). Offered by the School of Business, Taxation II, a senior (400 level) 3-credit course, has a 300-level prerequisite: Introduction to Income Taxation (TAXX 301). Taxation II is offered via grouped or individualized study.

Register today to discover the ins and outs of the Canadian federal income tax system for businesses and corporations! You can view the course syllabus at: www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/taxx/taxx401.htm. To view the syllabus for TAXX 401's prerequisite, visit: www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/taxx/taxx301.htm

AU COMPUTING SERVICES HELP DESK - SUMMER HOURS

The Computing Services (CS) Help Desk's summer hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m daily, from July 5 through August 27. The CS Help Desk can be contacted by using the online trouble reporting form at

http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/compserv/helpdesk/students/helpdesk_students.html

(with the form link in the upper left), emailing helpdesk@athabascau.ca or phoning 1-800-788-9041, ext 6405. Make sure you leave your name, student ID number, and, if calling outside these hours, a number where you can be reached the next working day.



Many of us like to think that we live in a world that fosters equal opportunities for both sexes. We are wrong. There is only one truth, and that is all you can trust: Everything is subjective. As you will see toward the end of this article, the law can be twisted to serve a need or function. We'll start with my motivation to research statistics on sexual discrimination.

I recently applied for a promotion within the Society for which I work. The position was to be summer camp coordinator for a program designed for children with disabilities. The responsibilities would include supervising staff, planning activities, and writing progress reports. The position asked specifically for

someone enrolled in relevant post-secondary education. My current supervisor encouraged me to apply, and so apply I did. The candidates for the position were as follows:

1) Myself – I am enrolled in AU's Bachelor of Arts program, with majors in English and Psychology and almost three years under my belt. I also have four years of activity scheduling experience, multiple years of leadership experience, and one and a half years of working with the same kids who would be participating in the program. My ability to write is also quite stupendous (yes, I'm bragging).

2) Fireman – This guy works where I do because he can't get a job in his own field (which says a lot already). He's previously taken one year of general studies and a bunch of fire-fighting and paramedic related courses. At present he is *not enrolled* in post secondary education of any kind, however, he worked as a counsellor (very different from coordinator) for summer camp last year. He's worked in the same position as I have for the last year and a half, but is capable of working with only one of the 13 children in the program. He's dated at least half a dozen of the women I work with. Yes girls, he's a great looking guy; he's won medals and trophies in boxing.

3) Law-School Candidate – this girl has completed her first degree (from U of C) with a major in psychology. She started at the Society last spring, and thus has one year of experience; however, she was very successful in her position as a summer camp counsellor last year. She recently became a full-time employee with the Society (rather than part-time like the fireman and myself), which includes a large amount of responsibility and paperwork (including program planning).

My own supervisor, who has known me for the last year and a half, got the pleasure of making such a wonderful decision. Who would you pick? I, given that the position specifically asked for someone enrolled in relevant post secondary, would have chosen myself. However, the argument against me was that I don't have previous summer camp experience. Fine. Second choice: the woman with a post-secondary degree as well as experience. Nope. Reason for rejection not given. The decision: Fireman. Why? Well, you tell me.

I think my supervisor (who is a thirty-something married woman with a two-year-old daughter and a Bachelor of Science Degree) is having problems in her marriage and needs more men in her life, or something like that. I later found out that my Supervisor was not made aware of my psychology major or my experience in event planning. ARGH!!! It was right on my resume *and* my cover letter. Also, our fireman friend applied for the position more than a week after the deadline.

To top it off, when the two positions for assistant coordinator were filled, we again found males chosen over women for no logical reason. One of the guys started at the Society not even six months ago. He beat out a girl who was a summer camp counselor last year. My conclusion: Despite laws against it, sexism remains to be a modern problem in the workplace.

Sexism and The Law

The specific law I'm referring to is the Employment Equity Act, created on October 24, 1996. This Act was generated in support of the goal of improving the representation of women in the public sector. It enhances the merit principle by ensuring that all qualified candidates are considered for employment opportunities.

Here's the first twist: Employers are not obligated to employ anyone who is not qualified for the position in order to satisfy representation requirements. In this regard, is it not easy for us to say that the Fireman, as he has two months of experience more than me, is more qualified? In the eyes of those in favor of the fireman, I can see how this is so. Here is where subjectivity is a factor. In my eyes, education is a key factor when children's psychological advancement is concerned.

The 1996 Employment Equity Act applies "to private sector employers under federal jurisdiction, and it includes almost all employees in the federal public sector. In addition, the Act gives the Canadian Human Rights Commission the authority to conduct audits and to verify and gain employment equity compliance" and "where compliance is not attained within a designated period, the Commission may issue 'directions' to order compliance" (Bayefsky).

Specifically, the "Act requires federally regulated employers to move toward a more representative work force by developing and implementing an employment equity plan. The plan, based on a careful analysis of the employer's work force and a review of the employment systems to identify barriers, must contain flexible numerical goals (not rigid quotas) for the hiring and promotion of designated group members in those occupational groups where there is under-representation" (i.e. women, aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities) (Bayefsky).

It sounds all fine and dandy, but there's one small loophole. "Employers are required to make all reasonable efforts to implement their plan and achieve the goals they have set, but **failure to achieve these goals does not automatically result in sanctions**" (Bayefsky; emphasis added). In this regard, there is not enough support for women who are victims of gender discrimination. For instance, women who wish to argue with their employers are not only candidates for losing their job, but they must be able to prove (without slandering another individual) that they were discriminated against primarily because of their gender. In most cases, this is not possible.

In terms of how many women acquire positions of authority or power, we must consider this statistic: "Between April 1, 1994 and March 31, 1998, a total of 3,021 appointments were made to federal boards and commissions; of these 1,930 were men and 1,091 were women" (Fifth Report, p.45). Math 215 has taught me that these numbers indicate that the instances of sexual discrimination during this time period were much more than coincidence.

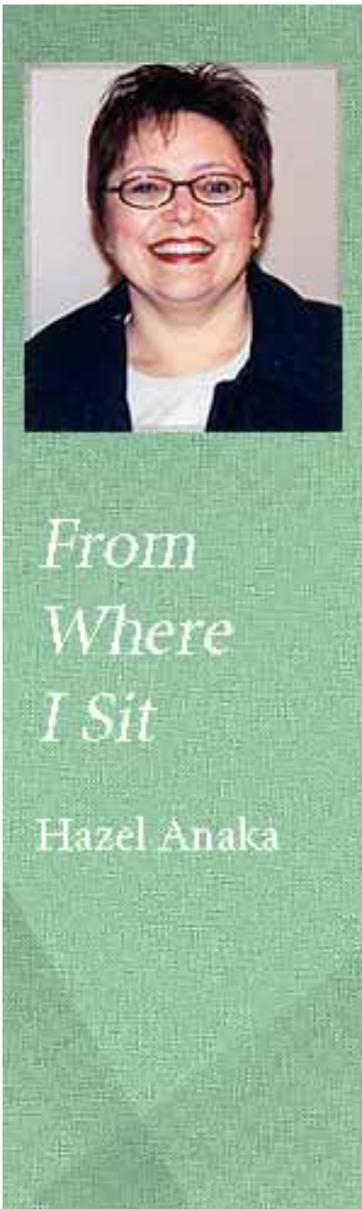
In the even that a company is obligated to hire a woman over a less qualified man, this woman still must face the music when it comes to the reality of her position. After she is hired, she is likely to make less money than the man would, she is more likely to be forced to deal with ostracism from co-workers (male), and in many cases must struggle to maintain her achieved position. For example, "the average salary of women working full time in the federally regulated private sector work force ... was \$39,282 in 1997, compared to \$51,727 for men" (Fifth Report, p. 39); a difference of almost \$12,500 in favor of men.

And guess what, ladies? There's not much we can do about it because apparently the programs that are in place to promote equality take time to work.

References:

Bayefsky, Professor A.F. *Measures adopted by the government of canada: part ii*. Article 2: Anti-Discrimination Measures. The United Nations Human Rights Treaties. 165-191. Website: http://www.bayefsky.com/reports/canada/cedaw5/fd_e.html

Fifth Report (2002). Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Fifth Report of Canada. Online at: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pdp-hrp/docs/cedaw5/5thcedawpart1.pdf>



WHAT MEN ARE GOOD FOR

At work the other day conversation turned to the relative value of men in our lives. Unscrewing pickle jars and checking oil were two quick responses. Assembling multi-part contraptions was another. Unfortunately, the end of coffee break signaled the end of the discussion -- just before it got juicy!

My interest was piqued. What better way to honor my ongoing commitment to you, dear reader, than to bring you the best in sound scientific research, deep, thought-provoking lifestyle questions, trendy topics, opinion pieces and... um... everyday, real life issues such as an impromptu telephone survey asking "what are men good for?"

Every woman I talked to first laughed out loud at the absurdity of the question. Despite promises of anonymity, I could practically hear the censoring mechanism softening the responses to come. I contacted seven women ranging in age from 17 to 70, the vast majority long-timed 'marrieds' still on their first husbands. Without exception, these are all normal, well-adjusted successful women. So how come the answers were so tongue in cheek? The amateur sociologist in me wants to understand the dismissive humor and confessions of exploitation evidenced in the majority of the responses. All of us are women who love and value the men in our lives, so what gives?

"Not a helluva lot," "nothing," "now that you mention it...," "someone to blame," and laughter were some of the first answers I received.

Bullwork, muscle, heavy lifting, dirty jobs, and tough jobs like installing storm windows, changing oil and roto-tilling were some of the next answers. Dead mouse removal ranked right up there too.

There were mixed reviews in the household department. "The tall ones are good for washing walls," said one. "Getting a new wardrobe when he adds bleach to the laundry," said another. "He doesn't have a clue where to hang a picture but at least he can pound in the nail," added a third. "Making a mess and not picking up after himself" was one sarcastic reply.

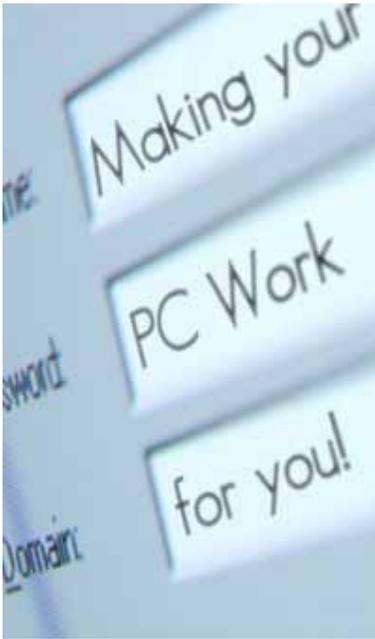
Parallel parking and driving late at night or in bad weather or in unfamiliar places means a lot to some women.

Financial security and the clockwork-like appearance of a paycheck every two weeks are also a huge part of the male appeal. Wheeling and dealing and making major purchases seems to be a male strength in many families. "Keeping me warm at night" and allusions to sexual favors came from the one divorcee in my sample. Love and tenderness and the acknowledgement that we couldn't live without 'em came from more than one woman. Companionship, heavy conversation and good arguments came from another.

Kind of makes you wonder what the guys would say if the shoe were on the other foot. So ladies whether your man is tall, strong, gainfully employed, sexy, a good driver, a great talker or all of the above, hang onto him.

That's only part of what men are good for, where I sit.

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SELF PC UPGRADE AND REPAIRS

Larry Seymour

Part 1

Buying a new computer every couple of years can really take its toll on your pocketbook. If you purchase a good, expandable system, you should be able to get good use out of it for several years without having to replace the whole thing. In many cases, simply adding some memory to your computer can dramatically improve performance and allow you to run newer software. Upgrading your computer isn't as hard as it sounds, and with the following tips, you should be able to do this yourself.

WHY MEMORY?

The fastest and cheapest upgrade to any computer is a memory upgrade. If your computer seems slow or if your hard drive starts whirling like crazy for what seems like hours whenever you try to do something, some additional memory might do the trick. My use of the term "upgrade" in this article means an increase to the amount of memory. You can do this either by increasing your virtual memory, or your system's main memory.

VIRTUAL MEMORY

Back to some basic computer workings - The CPU interprets information and stores bits of it in memory for later use. If you don't have enough RAM or main memory to store the programs it will store these programs on the hard drive in what is called **Virtual Memory**. Virtual memory stores the least used portions of the program, leaving the most used portions in the main memory.

An example of this is: If you can only remember 5 items at a time on a shopping list and your list is 10 items long, you write the remaining items down. So as you go shopping and remember coffee, bread, cookies, oranges and apples in your brain, on paper you have soup, chicken, paper towels, batteries and Soap Opera Weekly. The trick is to pick up items that are in your brain. So you start by getting coffee and cookies, then you have "space" to move an item from the paper into your brain. You pick up the soup. If the next two items are paper towels and batteries you need to move two items from your brain to paper, then move the paper towels and batteries to your brain. This would continue until all items are purchased.

Virtual memory or paging can work two ways. One way is that the virtual memory size is set as a range. This means the amount of disk space needed is not a constant size, but it varies. The other way is have the virtual memory as a constant. Virtual memory is slow, so the way to help speed it up is to set it to a constant size. When your computer starts it blocks off space on your hard drive and that file size never changes.

Now that we know about virtual memory, how do we set it?

Windows 95, 98, ME. - go to START - CONTROL PANEL - SYSTEM (double click). Select the PERFORMANCE tab - VIRTUAL MEMORY button - LET ME SPECIFY MY OWN MEMORY SETTING. If you have more than one hard drive, you may prefer to split the memory amount equally between the two drives. Another recommendation is to make the virtual memory size twice that of the amount of RAM that you have. You can check the amount of RAM you have by selecting the GENERAL tab on the SYSTEM PROPERTIES window. Setting the min and max values to the same amount creates a constant VM size. Then hit OK and reboot your computer.

Windows NT, Windows 2000 - go to START - CONTROL PANEL - SYSTEM (double click). Select the ADVANCED tab - PERFORMANCE OPTIONS button - CHANGE, and follow the instructions above.

Windows XP - go to START - CONTROL PANEL - PERFORMANCE AND MAINTENANCE then SYSTEM (if using CATEGORY view) or after CONTROL PANEL double click SYSTEM (if using CLASSIC view). Select the ADVANCED tab - the performance SETTINGS button - the ADVANCED tab, and click the CHANGE button under VIRTUAL MEMORY. Select the CUSTOM SIZE option and set both the INITIAL SIZE and MAXIMUM SIZE to the same amount. You can check the amount of RAM you have by selecting the

GENERAL tab on the SYSTEM PROPERTIES window. Setting the min and max values to the same amount creates a constant VM size. Then hit OK and reboot your computer.

MAIN MEMORY

Main memory is commonly referred to as RAM. If someone asks you how much memory or RAM you have they are talking about the amount of main memory. Ram is a physical object. It is something you can actually hold in your hand. It "sits" on your motherboard. Your motherboard is inside of your computer box; it is a big circuit board that allows you to "plug" things into it. One item that plugs into it is RAM.

RAM is one item that has gone through many changes in the last few years. There are many types of RAM available today, but your computer is very picky about the type it uses. RAM modules mostly fall into 5 categories for computers today. There are more types so along with these five I'll explain two older ones as well. The first five are 184-pin DIMM, 168-pin DIMM, 144-pin MICRODIMM, 200-pin SODIMM and 144-pin SODIMM. The 184 and 168-pin are for desktop computers; the remaining three are for laptops.

RAM can also be divided into ECC, parity and non-parity modules. ECC and parity modules are not necessary unless you are building a server or where you need an extra level of error checking for the data being processed. ECC and parity modules are also slower because of this check. How can you tell if the memory is parity or non-parity? Well, it's all in the chips. Each module contains a number of black microchips; the number determines its parity. If the number of chips can be evenly divided by three or five you have parity/ECC memory.

Memory also comes in many speeds, which are listed in different formats depending on the type. FPM and EDO speeds are written in nanoseconds (ns). SDRAM and DDR speeds are written in megahertz (MHz) or with a "PC" rating.

I have provided a list of acronyms at the end of the article since they are used many times in the next section. Following are some memory types and information on the computer types that use them. Contact your computer's manufacturer for further specifications.



184-pin DIMM: The 184-pin DIMM'S are commonly known as DDR SDRAM and are used in 64 bit computers. To complicate things, 184-pin DIMM's are available in PC2100 or PC2700 types. So why is it 184-pins? Count the little gold ticks on the bottom; there are 92 on the front and back. That's the total of 184. To use 184-pin memory a computer needs two things: it needs a motherboard that has 184-pin DIMM slots and a DDR-enabled chipset. Also notice the tiny notch in the bottom of the chip; 168-pin DIMM's don't have that.

168-pin DIMM: 168-pin DIMMs are normally found in Pentium and Athlon systems (each being a type of CPU), and also require a 64-bit system. They come in many flavours, including FPM, EDO, 66MHz SDRAM, PC100 SDRAM, and PC133 SDRAM. 162-pin chips have 84 gold pins on each side, and have two notches along the bottom.

144-pin MicroDIMM: MicroDIMMs are smaller than both regular DIMMs and SODIMMs so that they can fit in tiny, sub-notebook computers. This type of memory is also 64-bit and therefore needs to be installed in a 64-bit computer. 144-pin MicroDIMMs can be found as one type only, PC100 SDRAM. This memory has no notches and 72 pins per side

200-pin SODIMM: SODIMMs get their name because they are smaller and thinner than regular DIMMs. This memory provides DDR SDRAM memory for laptop computers. They are 64-bit for 64-bit computers, and also need a SODIMM memory slot and a DDR-enabled chipset. SODIMM's will not fit in a standard SDRAM SODIMM slot and it has a notch closer to the left side of the module. Not to be a broken record, but look for 100 pins per side.

144-pin SODIMM: The 144-pin SODIMM is much like the 200-pin SODIMM, but it is not DRR enabled and is available in many formats; EDO, 66MHz SDRAM, PC100 SDRAM, and PC133 SDRAM. By now you can probably guess how many pins per side. These also have a small notch slightly left of center.

Two other types of RAM are more or less obsolete, but could still be around in older computers. They are the 72-pin SIMM and the 30pin SIMM.

72-pin SIMM: 72-pin SIMMs are found in 486s and early Pentiums. Unlike previous modules, these are only 32 bits and can be installed as singles in a 32-bit systems in earlier 486s or in pairs in Pentiums class and older 486s. These SIMMs can be found as FPM or EDO types. They also have notches in the bottom left and in the centre.

30-pin SIMM: 30-pin SIMMs are found in 386 and 486 computers. These SIMMs are only 8 bits and must be installed in groups of 4 and only come in one type, FPM.

Common acronyms:

CPU - Central Processing Unit.

DDR - Double Data Rate.

DIMM - Dual Inline Memory Module.

ECC - Error-Correcting Code memory.

EDO - Extended Data Out

FPM - Fast Page Mode.

RAM - Random Access Memory.

SDRAM - Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory.

SIMM - Small Inline Memory Module.

SODIMM - Small Outline Dual Inline Memory Module.

If you are unsure of the type of memory you require go to <http://www.crucial.com/store/listmfgr.asp?cat=RAM> and select any manufacturer and go. The next page will give you an option to have a scan done to determine your motherboard make. Just follow the on-screen instructions.

If you own a DELL, a COMPAQ, or another brand name you maybe able to look it up on their website or speak to a representative who can give you answers. If you have an owner's manual, it too will show you allowable memory types and where to install them on your motherboard. Every computer has a limit to how many memory chips it can hold -- more expandable systems have more room to "grow."

NOTE When doing ANY work inside your computer, touch metal before and maintain contact with it while handling computer parts; or, purchase an anti-static wristband to prevent shorting out your hardware. Of course you should also turn the computer off and unplug it. Never use magnetized tools inside a computer.

WINDOWS TIP OF THE WEEK

You can create a montage of pictures on your Windows XP desktop by following these instructions:

Find a blank space on your desktop and RIGHT CLICK. Select PROPERTIES - the DISPLAY PROPERTIES window appears. Select the DESKTOP tab. Press the CUSTOMIZE DESKTOP button. The DESKTOP ITEM appears. Select the WEB tab. Press the NEW button.

Find the pictures you would want to use (they are probably stored in you're MY PICTURES folder in MY DOCUMENTS which is on the left side of your BROWSE window). You must select one picture at a time. Once all your pictures have been chosen press OK – APPLY – OK.

Selecting a picture on your desktop then moving your mouse to the top of the picture will show a small frame that will allow you to move the picture. At that time you may resize it as well to fit more items on the screen.

COOL SITE OF THE WEEK

To spice up your Windows XP visit www.xpthemes.com

NEXT WEEK: Hard drives.

The Voice accepts no responsibility for loss of data or any other computer related problem you might encounter as a result of following computer advice in this or any other column. The tip of the week is intended to help you personalize your computer system. Novice users should ensure they understand the directions, and make backups of any files changed.

Primetime Update

Week of May 21, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

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

The Bachelor

Last week, Jesse went on three overnight dates with three wonderful women, and was confronted by Trish who offered him a key to her room. Jesse, however, blew her off and ended up spending the night with Mandy Jaye instead. In the end, Mandy Jaye got the boot.

This week, Jesse brings both women to his hometown where they meet with the spy (Jenny), her husband, and Jesse's family. On Jessica's visit with Jenny, we find the spy giving her tips on how to "stay in the game." At Jesse's home, she gets the grill from pops. He questions her age (21) and her life experience. But, Jessica handles herself really well and Mum falls in love with her. On Tara's home visit, she's ecstatic to see Jenny, but Jenny turns around and tells Jesse that Jessica would make him happier than Tara would. Tara's effect on Jesse's parents is the opposite of Jessica's; Dad loves her, Mom... not so much. In fact, Mom has a hard time believing Tara's expressions of affection toward her son.

Jesse goes ring shopping, two different trips; one with each girl. Afterwards, he realizes that both women chose the same ring. This is great, since he doesn't really know which chick to pick.

Jesse spends a final evening with the women at his bachelor pad, in their street threads and eating like pigs. Tara tells Jesse that she's in love with him, and that she'd say yes if Jesse were to propose, then the couple gets intimate in front of the cameras. When Jessica comes to his pad, the talk is serious about how they feel about the whole situation. Jessica is on edge about Jesse's uncertainty and the idea that she and Tara tried on the same rings. Afterwards, they spend time in the hot tub but the intense conversation continues.

Jesse buys the ring that both women picked, and talks about the positive features of both Tara and Jessica, although he admits he's starting to lean in a particular direction. While getting ready for the evening, Tara gets very upset that she might be going home. In the limo, she hyperventilates and has to get out and vomit.

On the pedestal, Jessica is the first to greet Jesse. The speech starts with all the mushy stuff about how amazing Jessica is, and how she makes Jesse a better person. Finally, though, Jesse reveals his reciprocation of her feelings. He tells her that he wants to wake up next to her tomorrow; however, he's not ready to propose at the present. She accepts his feelings, and they make out for quite a while. Then he offers her a one way ticket to New York City. However, when Jessica suggests that they "get out of here," Jesse tells her that he still has to say good-bye to Tara. Surprised, Jessica heads upstairs, and watches through the window.

Meanwhile, back in the limo... Tara is still hyperventilating and totally stressing out. Before Jesse can even start talking, she breaks down crying and Chris must bring her a tissue. When she's finished telling him how much she loves him, how upset she is that either she or Jessica will be hurt (dramatic irony, eh?), and how much of a bad situation they're in, Jesse begins the speech, in much the same way as with Jessica. He tells Tara what a wonderful person she is, "but," he's fallen in love with another woman. And then, the twist, she tells him that she's upset that he misled her. She expresses her retrospective desire that he wouldn't have led her on and done things that he shouldn't have done unless they were to be together in the end. She tells him, on national television, that his actions were inappropriate. He lets her go with the cheesy line, "I'm sorry you feel that way." Loser. The tacky goodbye music takes us out of the season...

Next week, we'll watch the "After the Final Rose" episode, same time, same channel.

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

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Voting for the Masses

Every election year it happens. Among all the campaigning and hoopla, there's always a group of those who refuse to vote. Most of them are fairly quiet about it, but there always seems to be a few who loudly claim that their refusal to vote isn't just laziness, it's a valid political stance that none of the parties accurately represent them, or that the party they'd vote for is guaranteed to lose anyway.

Of course, these are both really excuses for people who don't want to be part of a democracy. The thing about a democracy is that it's a good way of dealing with the issue that not everybody can have what they want, so we all need to compromise.

What I always wanted to say to people was if they're so gung-ho on having somebody represent their exact views, they should get out and run themselves. Unfortunately, I couldn't say that because we had election rules that made it more difficult for an independent to run. So instead, I tried to point out that by not voting, they're not telling any of the parties anything. A person can try to rationalize it and say that not voting is making a statement against the system, but let's be real. All not voting does is tell the parties that the voter is either too lazy to peel their behind from the couch or so complacent they don't care what happens in the country. Even a spoiled ballot is better than no vote at all, as it at least shows that laziness wasn't the reason.

No longer, however. The Supreme Court of Canada has passed down a ruling that strikes the law thwarting independent candidates, and Elections Canada has made the necessary adjustments. So, I can freely tell those whiners and moaners that if they don't like it, they should get out and run.

But that still leaves the second excuse, that there's no point in voting for a party that's destined to lose. This excuse has always been garbage though. Unless a person is always writing the various political parties with their opinion, the vote is really the only way that the parties have to gauge what the public really wants.

I've never had a candidate I vote for win either a provincial or federal riding. In fact, my candidates never even seem to come in second place. Yet I vote every election. Why? Because I keep hoping that the runner up will take notice of where my vote went and consider adjusting their policies so that they might get my vote next time.

Back in 2001, people in the United States were complaining that Nader stole the election from Gore. Unfortunately, the truth is simply that Gore didn't have what it took to win. The democratic party needs to look at why Nader got a significant percentage of the votes and consider adjusting their policies to catch some of those. Had they done it last election, it might have been enough to put them into the President's office.

The key to making Canada the country you want is simple.

Don't vote to win.

Don't vote for a party.

Do vote for the local representative that best reflects your views. Get your friends and family to do the same. If your views are best represented by the candidate for the Marijuana Party, for instance (yes, there really is one registered for the federal election, and no, this is not an endorsement) then by all means vote for that candidate. No, they probably won't get in, but maybe a little of their influence will start to rub off on the major parties.

If nobody represents your views, spoil your ballot, but at least put it in the ballot box. Who knows, maybe if the number of spoiled ballots gets large enough, they'll know that people care about the way the country is headed but need something radically different to get behind.

Pizza Dumping

The federal government has announced that enough evidence has been presented to investigate accusations of "dumping" frozen pizza into Canada from the United States. Dumping is of course a trade term meaning that the producers in the US are selling the pizzas in Canada for a loss, or at least below what they would charge in their domestic markets after adjustments for shipping and dollar values are taken into account.

It's same type of accusation that the United States has used to cause massive duties on softwood lumber exports from Canada.

Like the softwood lumber dispute, my position remains the same. Accusations of dumping are meaningless. If a company is willing to risk its financial health to gain a foothold on the competition, let them do that. So long as we have good anti-trust laws in place to hold back monopolies, I see no problem with it.

To me, it seems that Free Trade is far too complex when all it really needs is three simple rules:

1. Each country can determine what they will produce and is under no obligation to sell anything internationally.
2. If a country produces something to be sold, whether within or beyond their borders, they must accept that thing for import from beyond their borders without extra duties or taxes.
3. If a country subsidizes production of something, that subsidy must be taxed back when it is being exported.

These three rules would allow us to protect the things that our precious to us, ensure that we get the best possible deal from around the globe, and that what we produce isn't unfairly hurting what other countries produce.

It doesn't have to be complex.

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.

BookCrossing

Lonita Fraser

Have you been looking for something to do with all those books you have laying around that you can't keep for whatever reason? BookCrossing is one of the more unique ways to simply give your books away.

The idea is to register your books with BookCrossing.com, then give them away to a friend, charity, or even release them into the wild for strangers to find. Before you do so, you mark down the BookCrossing ID in the cover so that the person who finds it knows to go to the BookCrossing site and hopefully leave a brief note about the book's whereabouts; maybe they'll even have read it, and will add a little commentary about the book they found. When you're done with the books you find, if you're not going to keep it, give it away to a friend or leave it in the wild for another stranger to find and enjoy.

No book is too big or small for this project, too general or too obscure; you could even leave your texts out for people to find - there might be an eager student who needs what you've left for them to find.

<http://www.bookcrossing.com/>



STILETTO DANCE Film Review

By Laura Seymour

May is Mystery Month

I admit that my choice of this film is biased. Eric Roberts is a solidly built hunk; take off Julia's brother's clothes and I *will* watch. In *Stiletto Dance* Eric does full frontal nudity on a bed (although everything is discretely tucked under) and some serious loving with the resident boob job!

May is mystery/thriller month, and this film is one of the most interesting I've seen.

The story begins with two cops, Kit Adrian (Roberts) and Jay Flowers (Romano Orzari), and their boss, played by Cameroonian Prince, now Canadian citizen, Yaphet Kotto (best known for *Alien* and the Bond movie, *Live and Let Die*). Kotto, playing a hard ass cop who has troubles getting the two guys to talk straight with him, has all too few scenes in this Canadian production. Romano hasn't done much before. It's hard to find photos and blurbs about him on the Internet, so who did he know to get this job!?

Kit and Jay end up hunting the Russian mafia through a world of drugs, vodka and murder. These Russians wear expensive suits and delight in cheap sex, or so the writer's would have us believe. They trust no one. All goes according to plan until an undercover cop infiltrates their ranks with orders to bring them down. But this cop may be in too deep; he begins to kill for them. Is this because the mob reputedly has a pirated nuclear bomb, or is he turning?

Kit seduces the wife of their most brutal "enforcer"; risking his life and the entire mission. Mind you, she *is* pretty. The temptation to cross the line could put him in a cold grave. For this cop every move could be deadly unless he stays one step ahead. But does he?

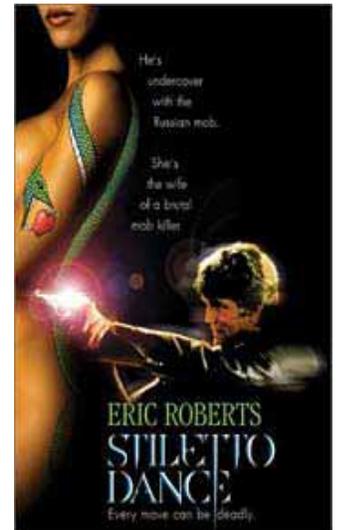
This film offers more than a glimpse of the Russian mob's kinky world, complete with a slew of gorgeous women in a sad excuse for a disco. They fall over any man with money (no matter HOW ugly he is!) and are obviously tripping out on something other than aspirin!

I'm not overly impressed with most mob movies. *Stiletto Dance* has its moments but also its downfalls. I didn't believe the severed hand that was delivered to a bad guy's restaurant in a fancy case: it looked fake. I admit I almost couldn't tell the film was made in Canada. So many really good films come out of Quebec. They seem to skip the "we're Canadian we need to be artsy" trend of so many others. But, the token American star is usually a tip off, as it was in this film. Plus, I bought a DVD copy and it says on the box "Quebec-Ontario production."

Despite that, as usual, I love my twists, and this one has a beauty at the end. I didn't see it coming. Ok, I was probably blinded by Eric's muscle bound abs, but it is a very interesting ending.

If you are wondering how the title of the film came about it is explained when Kit and Jay get into a fight after their boss shows up. A stiletto is a type of knife. It isn't the most creative fight scene but I have to say it was nice to see something other than just guns and fists.

This film is violent and the plot is very gangsterish, but the story is well done and there are plenty of twists and turns! I can say if you are seriously squeamish on body parts -- don't watch. Mind you, I was a little startled that it only got an 18A rating, not R! Nudity, body parts -- my my, what we're trusting to teens these days!



Much of the nudity involves Quebec Actress Lucie Laurier, who's done a slew of work in Canada. One website even sells images from this film. I admit she's had good work done, but the rest of us look so flat and "normal" next to these twelve-pound women!

Stay tuned for June reviews — Romance month! (June brides?!)

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

Sites of Interest *Lonita Fraser*

How Stuff Works - <http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

Widely recognized as the leading source for clear, reliable explanations of how everything around us actually works. Through their flagship site, a popular series of books, an acclaimed kids' magazine, as well as many other ventures, the award-winning company has helped demystify the world for millions of curious people.

NASA Education Enterprise - <http://education.nasa.gov/home/index.html>

Plays the leading role in NASA's Mission to inspire the next generation of explorers. From the excitement of the countdown to awe-inspiring images of planets and galaxies, aeronautics and space exploration can ignite imaginations young and old.

University for Peace - <http://www.upeace.org/>

Established as a Treaty Organization with its own Charter in an International Agreement adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, the University for Peace has the mission: "to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations."

math.com - <http://www.math.com/>

Math.com is dedicated to providing revolutionary ways for students, parents, teachers, and everyone to learn math. Combining educationally sound principles with proprietary technology, Math.com offers a unique experience that quickly guides the user to the solutions they need and the products they want.

Best of History Sites - <http://www.besthistorysites.net/>

A portal created for history teachers, students, and general history enthusiasts, featuring links to K-12 history lesson plans, teacher guides, activities, games, quizzes, and more throughout its pages.

The Virtual Museum of Canada - <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/>

This online hub offers access to information, stories, exhibits, links, games, and more, from museums all over Canada. At the core of these magnificent narratives are hundreds of museums. While a few are internationally admired giants, many are small gems that owe their existence to the passionate dedication of volunteers.

Visual Orgasm - <http://www.visualorgasm.com/>

The home of Canadian graffiti.

AUSU THIS MONTH

NEW AUSU EXECUTIVE ELECTED

This week, during the May 3rd council meeting, AUSU held an internal election to fill the three AUSU executive positions for this new term. The three positions were filled by acclamation, by a new President and Vice President External, and a returning VP Finance. The new Executive is:

President: Mac McInnis

VP External: Teresa Neuman

VP Finance: Karl Low



NEW AUSU SPONSORED CLUB



The AU Science Students Society is now online.

The Athabasca University Science Students Society is the newest AUSU sponsored club. Open to all AU students with an interest in any of the sciences, the AUSSS (or AUS³ as they prefer to be known) has a website featuring links to AU science programs, science news, and links to websites and programs of interest to science students.

Encompassing all of the sciences, including biology, chemistry, astronomy, physics, computer science, environmental science, geology and health, the AUSSS is sure to have something for everyone.

You can visit the AU home page at: <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausss/index.php>

Contact ausss@ausu.org for more information. Members of the AUSSS have access to a private forum on the AUSU website.

AUSU IN PERSON COFFEE 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 <http://www.ausu.org>. You will need an AUSU web site account.] **Times are MST**

Mondays at 8:00 PM Councillor Karl Low



Searching for Internships

Shannon Maguire

**A new regular Voice opportunities column
Check the News and Events section for new listings every two weeks**

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF CANADA

Website: www.jobs.gc.ca

The government of Canada's Public Service Commission website is a very valuable resource for students searching for internships. They have numerous programs for students including the Post-Secondary Recruitment Program, the Federal Student Work Experience Program, Co-op/Internship Programs, the Management Trainee Program and the Accelerated Economist Training Program. More detailed information about all of these programs can be found on the Public Service Commission website.

The Post-Secondary Recruitment Program

This program is the vehicle through which Federal Government Departments hire new university graduates to fill entry-level positions. Most of these positions are full time permanent careers. Although, not an internship program it is a valuable program for students to be aware of when they graduate and begin looking for a career.

The Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)

This program provides secondary and post-secondary students with temporary student jobs in federal government departments that will provide them with experience working in their area and with the federal government.

Position Description: Various jobs available in federal government departments. Some departments simply let the Public Service Commission know when there is a job available and others have created programs. The list of departmental programs is available in the FSWEP section of the Public Service Commission website.
Pay: Yes. Determined by the Treasury Board of the Secretariat (TBS).

Eligibility Requirements: The program is only available for full time students attending an accredited secondary or post-secondary institution and who are returning to full time studies in the next academic term. Part time students may apply if they have a disability that is recognized by their academic institution.
Time and length of position: Temporary positions. Time and length varies with each position.
How to Apply: The only way to apply for this program is to apply online at the Public Service Commission website.

The Co-op/Internship Program

This program provides post-secondary students with work placements that are required to earn academic credit towards their degree.

Position Description: Temporary work placements in various fields with the federal government.

Pay: Yes. Determined by the Treasury Board of the Secretariat (TBS).

Eligibility Requirements: In order to obtain a work placement you must be a full time post-secondary student enrolled in an educational program that requires you to complete a work placement in order to graduate. The

program you are enrolled in must also be approved by the Public Service Commission. You can find a list of approved programs on their website.

Time and Length of Position: The length of the positions are determined by the academic institution and are usually 4 months long but may also last up to 18 months.

How to Apply: To apply or to get more information you must contact a Public Service Commission Co-op Coordinator in your area.

The Management Trainee Program

This is a program for graduates that will provide them with the training and work experience necessary to obtain intermediate level managerial positions with the federal government.

Position Description: Trainees will participate in a program consisting of work experience assignments and educational components. Trainees will complete 4 or 5 assignments with federal government organizations that last for 12 months each.

Pay: Yes. Determined by the Treasury Board of the Secretariat (TBS).

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be bilingual but those who are not may be eligible for government sponsored language training. Applicants must possess a master's degree from a recognized university. Applicants may apply with only a bachelor's degree if they are federal public servants in participating departments and agencies.

Time and Length of Position: The program is 4 years long.

How to Apply: You must apply through the Post-Secondary Recruitment Campaign. The next campaign will be starting around the end of summer 2004. Keep checking the Public Service Commission website for information.

Accelerated Economist Training Program

This is a program for graduates that will provide them with the work experience necessary to become intermediate level economic and public policy analysts for the federal government.

Position Description: Trainees will complete four six month long work assignments in the economic and public policy sector.

Pay: Yes. Determined by the Treasury Board of the Secretariat (TBS).

Eligibility Requirements: Must possess a master's degree in economics, public administration or related disciplines.

Time and Length of Position: The program is 2 years long.

How to Apply: You must apply through the Post-Secondary Recruitment Campaign. The next campaign will be starting around the end of summer 2004. Keep checking the Public Service Commission website for information.

IBM CANADA

Website: www.can.ibm.com/hr/intern.html

IBM Canada offers internships, co-ops and summer internship programs. You can visit their website for more detailed information.

Position Description: Various positions are available that would be of interest primarily to engineering, information technology, or business students but they also employ people in the area of consulting, education and training, finance, human resources, manufacturing and testing, media design, operations, retail, sales and technical writing.

Pay: Yes.

Eligibility Requirements: Must be a full time student attending an accredited post-secondary institution. Co-op opportunities are only available for students registered in an accredited co-op program who have completed two years of their degree. Internship opportunities are only available for students enrolled in an internship or experience year program who have completed the third or fourth year of their degree. Summer internship opportunities are available to all full time post-secondary students.

Time and Length of Position: Co-ops are 4 or 8 months long and start in January, May or September. Internships are 12 or 16 months long and start in May. Some may also start in January or September but these are limited. Summer internships start in May or June and end in September.

How to Apply: For co-op or internships your school must have an internship or co-op program and you must ask your school to contact 905 316 2000 or 1 800 IBM 4 YOU or ibmhr@ca.ibm.com. To apply for summer internships you can apply through IBM's human resources website (www.can.ibm.com/hr) which also lists the opportunities available.

Bank of Canada

Website: www.bankofcanada.ca

Position Description: Various internships. The bank of Canada employs people in positions such as economic experts, financial market analysts, financial analysts, professionals in different fields, and administrators.

Pay: Unknown

Eligibility Requirements: Must be a university student.

Time and Length of Position: 3-6 months long.

How to Apply: You can apply online at http://works.workopolis.com/customers/bankcanada/h_coop_e.html.

Air Liquide

Website: www.airliquide.com

Air Liquide is an international company and the world leader in industrial and medical gases and related services.

Position Description: Air Liquide has internships in accounting, administration and payroll, audit, communication, engineering, finance, healthcare, human resources, insurance, IT, law, logistics, management, marketing, procurement, production, research and development and sales.

Pay: Unknown.

Eligibility Requirements: Must be a student in a post-secondary institution.

Time and Length of Position: Varies.

How to Apply: You can post your resume on their website at http://www.airliquide.com/en/corporate/careers/student_zone/internships.asp or you can browse their current internship opportunities at <http://194.2.192.4/genial/genial.nsf?opendatabase&langue=eng&open=CSS>



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.

Safe Boating Week - 22-28 May

Safe Boating Week reminds Canadians to be aware of the new safe boating regulations and to practice boat safety.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Canadian Coast Guard - Office of Boating Safety
Toll-free: (800) 267-6687
WWW: <http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca>

Aboriginal Awareness Week - 25-28 May

Aboriginal Awareness Week celebrates the richness of Aboriginal culture.

Contact local Aboriginal organizations.
WWW: <http://www.aaw-ssca.gc.ca>

Canadian Environment Week - 30 May - 5 June

Canadian Environment Week coincides each year with World Environment Day and aims to raise public awareness of the environment and of the benefits linked to its protection.

Environment Canada
Tel.: (819) 997-2800; Toll-free: (800) 668-6767
WWW: http://www.ec.gc.ca/eco/eweek_e.htm

alberta

Calgary International Children's Festival Calgary, Alberta

May 25, 2004 to May 29, 2004
<http://www.calgarychildfest.org/>

For event & ticket information:
Phone: (403) 294-7414 Ext: 2; Fax: (403) 294-7425
E-mail: mktmgr@calgarychildfest.org

One of the largest children's festivals in North America, this five-day event boasts the best in international theatre, music, puppetry, dance, storytelling, mime, physical comedy, spectacle and much more.

4th Street Lilac Festival
<http://www.4streetcalgary.com/lilacfestival/>
Calgary, Alberta - May 30, 2004

The 4th Street Lilac Festival is held every year the last Sunday in May on 4th Street SW Calgary. It is an amazing 13 block long street party which has been named Calgary's best "free" festival. Along with promoting the wonderful shops and services along 4th Street it also showcases many of Calgary's hottest art and entertainment.

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (403) 229.0902; Fax: (403) 229.0920
E-mail: jenrempel@4streetcalgary.com

british columbia

Bard on the Beach

Vancouver, BC
June 3 - Sept. 26, 2004

<http://www.bardonthebeach.org>

call the box office at 604-739-0559, or toll-free 1-877-739-0559.

Celebrating its 15th season in 2004, the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival runs in open-ended tents on the waterfront in Vanier Park, against a spectacular backdrop of mountains, sea & sky. The 2004 season features the delightful domestic comedy *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, the courtship folly *Much Ado About Nothing* and the dark tragedy *Macbeth*.

Taste of the Nation

Vancouver, BC
May 29 2004

For ticket and event information

call (604) 691-7764 - <http://www.tastevancouver.ca>

Join us at the 13th Annual "Taste of the Nation: A Culinary Benefit" presented by American Express and Jenn-Air, a Share Our Strength Program. Dedicated, tireless, passionate, and creatively daring are the adjectives that describe the over 50 Vancouver chefs, vintners, brewers, coffee roasters and tea purveyors, who will donate their time and talent through food and drink on this evening to win the fight against hunger. The theme of this year's Taste of the Nation is "Food is Art." The event includes live entertainment as well as an amazing silent auction. Come with friends and schmooze for a good cause! 100% of ticket sales will go directly towards fighting hunger. We hope that you join us in fighting hunger in our community and around the world!

ALCAN DRAGONBOAT FESTIVAL

<http://www.adbf.com/>
Vancouver, BC

Vancouver hosts the largest dragon boat celebration in North America. More than 180 teams plus entertainers, marketplace and food vendors and thousands of visitors take part in this unique 3-day event. Join us June 18, 19 and 20, 2004 at Concord Pacific Place, Science World and the waters of False Creek. Help celebrate our 16th edition and find out why there's more to the rhythm than a race!

saskatchewan

Government House Historical Society Victorian Tea - REGINA. SK

Tel: 306-787-5363; Fax: 306-787-5714

Enjoy a traditional Victorian Tea in Saskatchewan's unique and elegant Government House Ballroom. Tea served 1 - 4pm. 2004 dates: Mar 13 - 14, April 3 - 4, May 1 - 2, June 12 - 13, July 3 - 4, Aug 7 - 8, Sept 11 - 12, Oct 2 - 3, Nov 6 - 7, Dec 4 - 5 (reservations required for Dec dates only). Government House tours available. Groups of 8 or more, please call ahead. Due to construction, please call to confirm times. Mar 13, 2004 to Dec 6, 2004

Art Gallery of Swift Current presents Windowworks SWIFT CURRENT. SK

Tel: 306-778-2736; Fax: 306-773-8769

Email: k.houghtaling@city.swift-current.sk.ca

Web: <http://www.artgalleryofswiftcurrent.org>

Experience an intriguing, charming and beautiful exhibition of art and heritage presented throughout downtown windows in Swift Current. Talented artists present site-specific paintings, sculptures, installation artworks and dioramas. Apr 1, 2004 to Oct 31, 2004

ontario

Doors Open Toronto

Toronto, Ontario - May 29, 2004

<http://www.doorsopen.org> - Free

With its boxy spider body and 12 nine-storey steel legs, Will Alsop's OCAD addition (aka the Sharp Centre for Design) is perhaps the most eye-catching item on this year's tour—it looks like a jazzy parody of a '50s movie monster about to eat McCaul Street. But it's not the only novelty. Long a bastion of red brick conservatism (in all senses of the word), Toronto's biggest and most popular architectural tour has gone Jetsons-modern. You'll still be able to tour old faves like the Carlu, Old City Hall and Osgoode Hall. But at least half the sites on the tour are of more recent vintage. Armed with a hit of a cash from the Canada Council, Doors Open is highlighting architecture from post-1945. Site styles range from the subdued modernism of the TD Centre and the very '50s du Toit Allsopp Hillier building (formerly the Ontario Association of Architects) on Park Road to the glitzy glass of BMW's new showroom at the foot of the DVP and the engaging, uh, practicality of Regent Park, the country's oldest and

largest social housing project built in 1948. You'll even be able to tour the 54th-floor board room of the TD Centre, with its famous collection of furniture by Mies van der Rohe. Like many of the 130-odd buildings on the Doors Open map, it's normally closed to the public.

North by Northwest

<http://www.nxne.com/>

June 10 - 12 2004 - Toronto, Ontario

Canada's largest music festival of its kind, North by Northeast has been offering emerging talent from around the world the chance to shine in front of audiences packed with music industry insiders and hard-core music fans for a decade. Performers from Canada, the United States (which contributed a full 1/3 of the overall entries), Japan, Israel, Germany, Wales, Sweden, the Netherlands, Iceland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Italy, Scotland, Australia, Spain, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, Finland, and, for the first time, the Czech Republic, are all vying for the nearly 400 performance showcase slots up for grabs at this year's 10th Anniversary edition of NXNE.

Delegate badges, which entitle the bearer to priority access and no cover charge at the clubs, full access to the conference Friday and Saturday, and access to NXNE Film screenings and panels, are a steal at the early bird price of \$200 CDN/\$160 US and are on sale now. Registration on-line.

Children's Art Festival

Whistler, British Columbia

May 29, 2004 to May 30, 2004

<http://www.whistlerartscouncil.com/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (604) 938-8839

E-mail: info@whistlerartscouncil.com

The 22nd Annual Children's Art Festival hosts an abundance of fine arts, crafts and performance-based workshops for young people. The Festival brings together emerging and professional artists, artisans and performers to share their skills with kids and families. All day for two days at Myrtle Philip Community School.

Children's Groundwater Festival

Kitchener, Ontario

May 31, 2004 to Jun 04, 2004

<http://www.cwec.ca/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (519) 748-1914

E-mail: rsusan@region.waterloo.on.ca

Fax: (519) 748-0009

The Children's Water Institute, in cooperation with Doon Heritage Crossroads is pleased to present the Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival. This fun and creative week-long festival features a variety of hands-on activities, demonstrations and displays which will

challenge people of all ages to consider the source of and importance of water to themselves, the environment and society. More than 4,000 school children will take part in the week long Festival.

National Capital Race Weekend
Ottawa, Ontario
May 29 to May 30 - <http://www.ncm.ca/>

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (613) 234-2221
E-mail: ncm@storm.ca
Fax: (613) 234-5880

world-class 10K; marathon; and half marathon. Plus a 5K and 2K Family walk/run and in-line skating. A great weekend of fun.

Carassauga
Mississauga, Ontario
May 28 to May 30 - <http://www.carassauga.com/>

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (905) 615-3010; Fax: (905) 615-3429
E-mail: festival@carassauga.com

Celebrating its 19th anniversary, Carassauga is Mississauga's largest community festival. Over three dazzling days, you can experience first-hand a multitude of entertaining phenomena. From energetic salsa shows to exotic belly dances, you'll travel the world without leaving the city. Mouth-watering traditional delicacies from perogies and souvlaki to jerk chicken and haggis will energize as you move through the pavilions.

Passports are \$8.00 in advance and \$10 at the door. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult passport holder.

NIAGARA GRAPE AND WINE FESTIVALS
<http://www.grapeandwine.com/>
Niagara region of Ontario

The Niagara Grape & Wine Festival is a non-profit organization that runs a series of seasonal wine festivals in the Niagara region. The Niagara Icewine Festival, the Niagara New Vintage Festival, and the Niagara Wine Festival attract 100,000's of visitors to the area each year. The New Vintage Festival, for example, runs from June 12 to 27, 2004. You can find more information about it, and other area festivals, at their website.

NIAGARA FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL
St. Catharines, Ontario
May 14, 2004 to May 30, 2004
http://folk-arts.ca/folk_arts_festival_home_page.htm

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (905) 685-6589 Ext: 229 - Fax: (905) 685-8376
E-mail: pseabrook@folk-arts.ca

16 days of music, dance & food celebrating our rich cultural heritage. World famous RCMP Musical Ride (2 shows). Multicultural Open Houses. Live entertainment & world cuisine at Folk Arts in the Park

CONTACT
<http://www.contactphoto.com/>
May 1 - 31 2004 - Toronto, Ontario

The largest annual photography event in North America, comprised of Films, Lectures, Panels, Seminars, Workshops, Tours, Conference, and Exhibitions on a wide variety of photography related topics. See the website for specific dates, times, and events.

MILK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
Toronto, Ontario
May 23, 2004 to May 30, 2004
<http://www.harbourfront.on.ca/milk>

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (416) 973-4000
E-mail: info@harbourfront.on.ca
Fax: (416) 973-6055

North America's best festival for young people. The festival, sponsored by Dairy Farmers of Ontario, is a celebration of the world's finest theatre, music and puppetry for young audiences.

TORONTO
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/>

newfoundland

GATHERINGS
St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador
May 02, 2004 to Jun 18, 2004
<http://www.craftcouncil.nf.ca/>

For event & ticket information:
Phone: (709) 753-2749; Fax: (709) 753-2766
E-mail: info@craftcouncil.nf.ca

The Craft Council Gallery, 59 Duckworth Street, presents a group exhibition that explores a contemporary response to embroidery as seen through the eyes of four young Newfoundland artists: Stephanie Barry, Susan Furneaux, Catherine McCausland and Libby Moore. The work investigates this emotional connection that each artist feels toward their chosen craft, to this land and its people, and to each other. Opening reception Sunday May 2, 2-4 pm.

nova scotia

Histoires de la Baie Belliveau Cove, Nova Scotia

Histoires de la Baie. Guided interpretive walks in three coastal parks in the Municipality of Clare; Parc Joseph et Marie, Smuggler's Cove and Mavillette Beach Park. Highlights Acadian culture, folklore, natural history and local ecology (tides, marsh, clams, etc). Tours available in English and French. Regular tours offered weekly June to October, see website for detailed schedule. Special tours available upon request. Admission: \$5 adults, special rates for groups. May 1, 2004 to October 1, 2004

Admission: \$5 adults, special rates for groups.
<http://www.clarenovascotia.com>

Photography Show Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Photography Show. Sherman Hines Museum of Photography. Photographs from a recent book by Sherman Hines featuring Mahone Bay, Wolfville and others. Subject to change.

May 1, 2004 to December 23, 2004 - Admission: free
<http://www.shermanhinesphotographymuseum.com>

Soiree Acadienne / Acadian Music Pubnico, Nova Scotia

Soirée Acadienne / Acadian Music. Musée Acadien, West Pubnico. Music by local artists with singsong of Acadian songs. Bring your musical instrument. Everybody welcome! Taste traditional food. First Wednesday of each month. May 5 - Nov 3, 2004

Admission: \$4.00 - <http://www.museeacadien.ca>

Farmer's Market Belliveau Cove, Nova Scotia

Farmer's Market. Belliveau Cove Wharf. A quality merchandise market open in the Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas at the Belliveau Cove Wharf beside the tourist bureau. Products available include meats, produce, prepared foods, herbs, plants, art, craft & much more. Open Saturday mornings from 9 am to 2 pm.

May 15 - Oct 9 - Free - <http://www.clarenovascotia.com>

Charleston Days

Charleston, Nova Scotia

Charleston Days. Charleston. Parade, Queen pageant, entertainment, games, food & more. Always in May. May 21, 2004 to May 23, 2004: Admission: free.

Spring Art Exhibition Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

Spring Art Exhibition. Sign of the Whale, 543 Hwy. 1 Yarmouth, NS. May 21 to June 12; Admission: Free.

Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival Kentville, Nova Scotia

Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival. Windsor to Digby. Official opening, princess tea, coronation ceremonies, dance, concerts, barbecues, sports, art show, fireworks, children's parade, grand street parade, family entertainment, craft fair & "Sunday in the Park".

May 26 to May 31 - <http://www.appleblossom.com>

Photography Show Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Photography Show. Sherman Hines Museum of Photography. "Sherman Hines: Annual Outhouse Calendar Show". A humorous look at outhouses from around the world. Subject to change.

May 26 to September 30; Admission: free
<http://www.shermanhinesphotographymuseum.com>

Cabot Trail Relay Race Baddeck, Nova Scotia

Cabot Trail Relay Race. Cabot Trail. 250 km relay race around the Cabot Trail. Starting at the Gaelic College in St. Ann's, finishing in Baddeck. 60 teams, first come first served. Admission: \$680 for first 60 teams to register.

May 29 to May 30; Admission: \$680.00 for first 60 teams to register - <http://www.cabottrailrelay.com>

Studio Rally Weekend Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia

Studio Rally Weekend. Province-wide. 10 am - 6 pm, province-wide, the art and craft studios listed on the "Studio Map" open their doors for a province-wide open house. The coffee is on and demonstrations are given. Pick up a map and plan a route! (Available from tourism info centres). May 29 to May 30 - <http://www.studiorally.ca>

Mayfair Blockhouse, Nova Scotia

Mayfair. Blockhouse. Family-oriented festival, buffet, drinks, dessert, coffee house, live music, puppet show,

games for children. Yard sale & silent auction. 11 am to 3 pm. May 29; Admission: free; <http://www.waldorfns.org>

Scotia Festival of Music Halifax, Nova Scotia

Scotia Festival of Music. Dalhousie Arts Centre. A two-week celebration of chamber music featuring over 50 public events including concerts, recitals, lectures, master classes, clinics and workshops. The guest artists and faculty are all internationally acclaimed musicians and the performances are of the highest calibre. Admission: concerts are \$25 (\$20 for students & seniors). All other events (i.e. rehearsals & classes) are \$5 each, free with a \$25 "All Events Pass".

May 30 to June 13 - <http://www.scotiafestival.ns.ca>

Fishing Derby Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia

Fishing Derby. Murphy Lake. Trout fishing derby for mentally and physically challenged groups. At barrier-free boardwalk. Fishing tackle and refreshments provided. May 31, 2004 to June 4, 2004

Seacoast Celtic Concerts Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia May 15, 2004 to Sep 18, 2004 <http://www.seacoastescapes.ca/>

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (902) 889-3662; Fax: (902) 484-6991
E-mail: bbaker@seacoastescapes.ca

Seacoast Celtic Music Events are held at the Petpeswick Yacht Club in Musquodoboit Harbour (35 minutes from Halifax) on selected Saturday Nights. Food and Bar service begins at 7:00 and the music starts at 7:30.

Stone Soup Festival Moser River, Nova Scotia May 15 - Oct 31 - <http://bay-of-islands.org/festival/>

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (902) 347-2602 Fax: (902) 347-2602
E-mail: gail@bay-of-islands.org

Originating in 2002, Stone Soup Festival is a gathering place for musicians, songwriters, storytellers and variety performers to see and be seen. Hosted Eastern Shore

Talent Showcase in 2003 offering exposure to new talent. Studio on site at the Bay of Islands Centre and ongoing events all summer long.

Themed festival based on the experience of bringing a skill or talent to 'add to the pot'. Stone Soup 2004 features open mic, outdoor camping venues, including writers, storytellers, theatre and sustainable living events from May 15 to Oct 31. The Eastern Shore in Concert is featured on the Jul 30 - Aug 1st long weekend, 2004.

OPEN ART EXHIBITION OPENING Amherst, Nova Scotia

Open Art Exhibition Opening. Cumberland County Museum & Archives. Exhibit of Cumberland County Artists and Artisans. Apr 26 to Jun 12 - Opening free, exhibit daily admission. <http://www.creda.net/~ccmuseum/>

YUKON ART SOCIETY Whitehorse, Yukon - May 25, 2004 to Aug 13, 2004 <http://www.steveslade.com/park.htm> Info: (867)668-3136 - Email: steve@steveslade.com

Steve Slade, working with the Yukon Art Society, produces a 12 week summer concert series in Downtown Whitehorse. It features a different "act" every lunch hour (M-F) beginning immediately after the May long weekend and runs through till early august. Every week there is a different visual artist showcased. This festival is free to the public.

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

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 both exhibits. Awards up to \$650.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

PETER ELZINGA FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Value: \$1000

Application Deadline: June 1

Notes: For Alberta residents.

Awards are intended to assist anyone who has been away from formal education and/or any student who is continuing their education. Available for full- or part-time study at any recognized institution. Must complete an application form. Please contact for more information.

Contact Information:

The Peter Elzinga Family Foundation
2500-10303 Jasper Ave NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J3N6
E-mail: pelzinga@telusplanet.net

BP CANADA ABORIGINAL YOUTH ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP

Value: Not Specified

Application Deadline: June 1

Notes: For Inuit, Metis, status and non-status First Nations students enrolled in a post-secondary program of at least a two-year duration at a recognized technical institute, CEGEP, college or university in Canada.

Preference will be given to students who are enrolled in Business, Engineering, environmental studies and physical science. Selection is based on talent, academic merit, financial need and applicants' demonstrated interest and commitment to their education.

Contact Information:

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation / Fondation nationale des réalisations autochtones
website: <http://www.naaf.ca>

CN ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Value: \$1000

Application Deadline: June 1

Notes: Inuit, Metis, status and non-status First Nations students enrolled in post-secondary studies in preparation for a career in transportation.

Eligible fields of study include engineering, business, computer science, communications and technical studies. Based on talent, academic merit, financial need and applicants' demonstrated interest and commitment to their education

Contact Information:

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation / Fondation nationale des réalisations autochtones
Web Site: <http://www.naaf.ca/>



CADE AND THIS IS IT 2004 CONFERENCE

May 30-June 2

Conference Theme: Pioneers in a New Age

York University, Toronto, Ontario, <http://www.pioneers2004.yorku.ca/>

Contact: Division of Continuing Education; Ph: 416-736-5616; Fax: 416-650-8042; Email: Pioneers2004@yorku.ca

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Board Members/Trustees - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Facility Managers - Business Executives

The conference will showcase accessible, effective and innovative educational strategies, as well as ways to leverage technology to provide new ways of learning online, at a distance, in the classroom and in the workplace. This event will be of special interest to those involved in education, training and professional development, including: the K-12, college and university sectors; educational administrators, policy-makers/decision-makers and governmental agencies; trainers in private, public and not-for-profit sector organizations; and technology experts. Program highlights: -8 pre-conference workshops; -internationally renowned keynote speakers from Canada, the US and the UK; -over 80 conference sessions delivered by leaders in the field of distance, online and technology-enhanced education and training; -an awards banquet recognizing excellence in open and distance learning, and in the educational use of learning technologies; and -many opportunities to network with other professionals. Visit <http://www.Pioneers2004.yorku.ca> for registration and conference details.

INTERFACE 2004

Jun 16-18

Conference Theme: e-Learning Magic

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Calgary, AB, <http://centreforlearning.sait.ca/interface2004/>

Conference Contact: Ingrid Stammer; Phone: 403-319-7245; Email: ingrid_stammer@cpr.ca

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Technology Coordinators/ Specialists - Staff developers - Curriculum specialists

The Interface 2004 conference theme, e-Learning Magic, will bring educators, administrators, and corporate trainers together through presentations, workshops, and networking in the following areas: - New ideas in analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation of e-learning; - Innovative methods for the delivery of student services for e-learners; - Novel approaches to faculty professional development for e-learning.

ETOM HIGGINS LAKE RETREAT FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS 2004

June 1-2

DNR Conference Center, Roscommon, Michigan, United States, <http://www.etom.org/events/index.htm>

Contact: Colette Perugia, ETOM Business Manager, Ph: 734-462-4570, Fax: 734-462-4589, Email: cperugia@schoolcraft.cc.mi.us

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Library/Media Specialists - Curriculum specialists . This two-day retreat for distance educational professionals is a long standing tradition in Michigan.

JOINT CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES (JCDL 2004)

Jun 7-11

Conference Theme: Global Reach and Diverse Impact

The Hilton El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort, Tuscon, Arizona, US, <http://www.jcdl2004.org/>

Conference Contact: Catherine Larson, Email: cal@eller.arizona.edu

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Library/Media Specialists - Curriculum specialists - Researcher

The Joint Conference on Digital Libraries is a major international forum focusing on digital libraries and associated technical, practical, and social issues. JCDL encompasses the many meanings of the term "digital libraries," including (but not limited to) new forms of information institutions; operational information systems with all manner of digital content; new means of selecting, collecting, organizing, and distributing digital content; digital preservation and archiving; and theoretical models of information media, including document genres and electronic publishing. The intended community for this conference includes those interested in aspects of digital libraries such as infrastructure; institutions; metadata; content; services; digital preservation; system design; implementation; interface design; human-computer interaction; performance evaluation; usability evaluation; collection development; intellectual

property; privacy; electronic publishing; document genres; multimedia; social, institutional, and policy issues; user communities; and associated theoretical topics.

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.

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

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 Bunnnett** - (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*

- **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.

CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY AND REIKI. "Tired of sore shoulders, back or neck? History of injury or overwork causing chronic pain? Stop treating the short term... treat long-term with Craniosacral Therapy and Reiki. Laura Seymour--level 4 graduate of Upledger Institute and teaching assistant. Calgary, (403) 262-5589.

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!

AU SCIENCE STUDENTS SOCIETY The AUSSS is now online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausss>. The club is open to all AU students with an interest in any of the sciences, and has a private discussion forum with the AUSU forums system.

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

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