

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

June 23, 2004  
Volume 12 Issue 25

*Convocation 2004*  
*Photo album and on-the-scene reports!*



### *Convocation Extraordinaire!*

*AU Convocation is unlike any other  
Photo Feature*

### *Convocation 2004*

*Debbie Jabbour reports, from her perspective*

### *Dear Barb*

*The Voice advice column is back!*

*Plus:  
More on convocation  
Lost and Found  
From Where I Sit  
Taking Notes  
Canadian Fedwatch  
Flicks & Folios  
AUSU This Month*

*and much more...*

*A bigger, two week issue!*

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Jun 23, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 25

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

The voice wishes to congratulate all 2004 AU graduates!

Drop us a line at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) and let us know what you thought of this year's ceremonies!

### 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](http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/compserv/helpdesk/students/helpdesk_students.html)

(with the form link in the upper left), emailing [helpdesk@athabascau.ca](mailto: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.

## THE VOICE

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# Convocation 2004

## Graduation Photo Album

Photos and text  
by Carla Benavides

*Last week The Voice brought you profiles of several of this year's new AU graduates.*

*This week our convocation coverage continues with a report and photos by Carla Benavides.*

*The report is followed by several more of Carla's photos from the ceremonies and various locations around the AU campus.*



### 2004 Convocation Extraordinaire

When family and friends and even reporters hear the word convocation, it is often associated with a concealed rolling-of-the-eyes as it usually means long line ups, no parking, stuffy auditoriums and a somewhat long, boring experience where everyone, including the family and friends, file in and out; and that's as good as it gets!!

However, coming to this year's AU convocation has given me a totally fresh perspective on the word and I am sure I am not the only one.

This was not your normal run-of-the-mill graduation event, and to me it is reflective of how unique this university really is. With a convocation ceremony this well organized and down to earth, I could imagine how AU students might enjoy graduating more than once.

The morning started out calm and cool... this was nine o'clock in Athabasca. Weather conditions were perfect, and promising considering how on a warm day, the tents naturally get much warmer.

Tents were set out amongst the trees to host a grand brunch, "A taste of Athabasca". The food was excellent, to say the least, and was worth the trip on its own.

The menu was an assortment that would surely satisfy every taste bud.

My plate only had room for smoked salmon quiche, Moroccan potatoes, cabbage rolls, Caesar salad, oriental salad, a vegetarian wrap,





*Taste of Athabasca*

and fruit salad... yet there were plenty more treats to choose from!

To set a relaxed ambience, the soothing sounds of the harp and acoustic guitar were played by Terry McDade, as everyone lined up and eagerly gave full rein to their bellies. This was a good time to meet and greet one another as excitement was at its youngest.

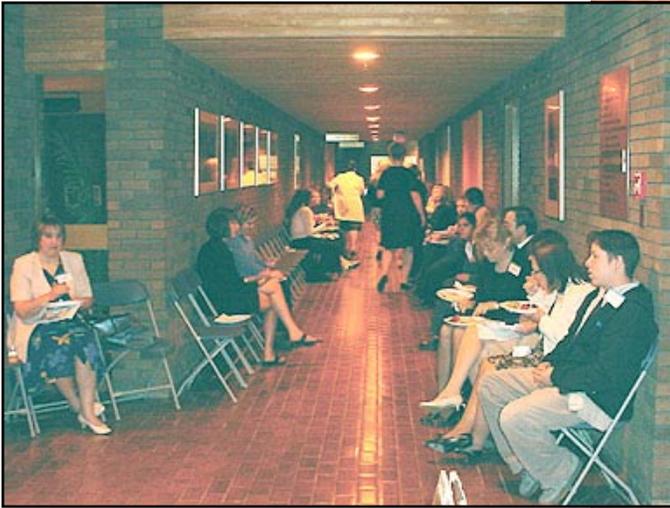
Graduands, family, and friends leisurely toured the University grounds, intermit-

tently posing for a picture or mini documentary (see last week's Voice for profiles of several of the graduates). The glistening green landscape decorated with beautiful flower pots and massive hanging baskets set around the prominent University building, formed the perfect backdrop.

It was before 11am with a little more than an hour to go. AU Students' Union (AUSU) sponsored a brunch, exclusive to graduands, held inside the building. This meal featured a light and fresh assortment of meats, cheeses, fruits, other goodies, and an oversized bowl of delicious fruit punch!

Inside the graduate area, a large projector screen was hung along the far wall so that staff and others could watch live footage coming from inside the tent that would host the main event.





*AUSU Sponsored Brunch*

It was an elegantly casual affair as all enthusiastically partook.



Everyone seemed content as they ate, and mingled through the hours leading up to the day's big moments.

All lounging areas, rooms, and hallways were buzzing, for this was a special opportunity for all students to find something in common; to exchange stories of the challenges and experiences while earning a degree. Plus, for many, it was thrilling to finally visit their University campus, and to possibly meet their tutors.



From 11 o'clock on, the graduands filtered into the wardrobe rooms to dress in their gowns. Shortly, all were organized down one long hallway, in order of program, to receive instructions on how the ceremony would proceed.

By 11:45 it was the ten minute call, and the first





graduands filled the door leading outside to the red carpet.

Leif Anderson initiated the procession, by sounding the bagpipes. Gilbert Perras, AU Registrar, followed carrying the symbolic mace, and then all of the graduands. After the graduands were members of the Governing Council, AU Academics, and the platform party, which includes AU executives and program representatives.

Once the grads, members of AU, and guests were on the stage in their seats, the audience was asked to remain standing for our National Anthem, which was sung by Elaine Magusin.

AU president Dr. Dominique Abrioux opened with the official greetings. A special presentation was made to install David J. Burnett as the new chair of the AU Governing council. This included a ceremonial dressing of David in the traditional robes, which was done by Gilbert Perras. Once in proper attire, Mr. Burnett gave an installation address in acceptance of the role. This was followed by the President's remarks. And then the moment everyone was anticipating... the conferring of degrees, which involves a series of formal addresses.

These addresses began with *the petition*, presented by Dr. Judith Hughes, AU VP Academic, who asked the candidates to rise and address the Chairman and President on their behalf. The Chair then replied by declaring the petition granted and so the President presented *the pledge*, addressed to the graduands. Once the graduands responded "I do so promise", the chair spoke to them as part of *the admission*. With that, the first group of undergrads lined up on stage left.



Standing for the anthem

As each students' name was called, they walked toward centre stage where they would kneel to receive

their hoods. Dr. Judith Hughes, VP Academic, introduced each grad and read a brief bio, during which the grad would remain kneeling. The new graduate accepted his or her parchment from the President, then shook hands with the new Governing council chair and the representative for their program.

As the students walked off to stage right, they received a classy engraved metal clock as a gift from the student's union, presented by AUSU office staff, Mark Jones and Christine Lynch.

No other University, that I know of, takes such time and care, not only to present each student, but to also offer the audience an inside glance at the students' perspective. Each student was treated equally, with respect and kindness.

The degrees were presented in this order:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of General Studies (Applied Studies)
- Bachelor of General Studies (Arts and Sciences)
- Bachelor of Administration
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Systems
- Bachelor of Professional Arts
- Bachelor of Management
- Bachelor of Health Administration

Awards began with the prestigious "Governor General's Silver Medal", which was presented to Jeri Lou Grieco, a Bachelor of Nursing Graduate of Calgary, Alberta. Jeri gave a superbly articulate address to the graduates and members of the audience.

An *Honorary degree of Doctor of Athabasca University* was presented by Dr. Terry Anderson and awarded to Dr. Tony Bates, "in recognition of his



*Governor General's Silver Medal award winner, Jeri Lou Grieco*



*Dr. Tony Bates*

outstanding scholarly contribution to open and distance education”. This was followed by Dr. Tony Bates’ address, which is provided on the University’s website.

In *closing*, Chair David Burnett asked the audience to rise and remain in their places until “the platform party, Governing Council members, academics, and the graduates have recessed.” As the platform party, Academics, and Governing council exited the tent, they all parted like the red sea, lining the edges of the red carpet to honor the new graduates’ passage into their new world. This was a defining moment of acknowledgement and acceptance into the academic community.

Having the procession proceed back down the path of the red carpet from which they began, felt representative of the students’ coming full circle, symbolically, in time, life, and education. It was now complete.

Excitement was renewed as the graduates faced a paparazzi of happy family and friends.

As if she knew, mother nature’s perfect timing brought the heavy rains of change. This downpour lasted only a short while and then the sun showed through the clouds to brighten the rest of the afternoon.

I was easily swept up in the energy, the love and openness that was being shared by all. It was then that I caught up with several of the graduates to get their final thoughts on all that had culminated to that day (see last week’s issue). Hearing the experiences through their words, brought a sense of reality to this very unique occasion.

Photo of Carla by Paul Nedza

## AUSU Presents Honorary Degree Recipients

*Photos by Paul Nedza*

Each year, AU selects two luminaries to be presented with honorary Athabasca University Degrees. One degree is awarded on each of the two convocation days: a Doctor of Arts during the undergraduate ceremony, and a Doctor of the University during the graduate ceremony.

This year journalist, author, and Canada’s Consul General to New York City, Pamela Wallin, was presented with the arts degree, and Distance Education pioneer Dr. Tony Bates received the Doctor of the University award.

AUSU presented each of the honorary degree winners with a gift on behalf of AU students: a rosewood photo album, engraved with a congratulatory message. Dr. Bates’ gift was presented by AUSU President Mac McInnis (sorry, no photo), and Ms. Wallin’s was presented by AUSU Councillor Cindy Stobbe (right).

Congratulations to both honorary degree recipients!





Clockwise from top left: Convocation procession with Voice writer and former AUSU President Debbie Jabbour on right (Debbie attended as the student representative on AU's Governing Council); AU academics & executives proceed to the stage; one of the many outdoor floral arrangements; empty tent before the ceremony; the AU Alumni Association booth (parchment frames and class rings for sale); President Abrioux on stage behind the ceremonial mace; AUSU Councillor Cindy Stobbe (left) with Pamela Wallin (photo Paul Nedza).

Center: from left: President Abrioux approaches the stage; D. Abrioux, C. Stobbe, and P. Wallin (photo Paul Nedza).

All photos by Carla Benavides for The Voice unless otherwise noted.

*The Voice congratulates all of this year's new AU grads!*

## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Convocation 2004

*Debbie Jabbour*



Once again, I had the privilege of attending Athabasca University's crown jewel performance - Convocation 2004. The university catch phrase most often heard regarding convocation is "this is why we are here," and you truly get a sense that convocation is the highlight of the year, the reason why the university exists. Every time I attend convocation I am struck anew by the honour bestowed by the university on its students, the unique way that Athabasca University graduates are individually acknowledged in this ceremony, cherished and valued. Last year I had the ultimate honour of attending my own convocation, and it was an unforgettable experience.

Certainly there may be many valid reasons why a student may choose not to attend their convocation, particularly if they are graduating from a traditional university where students are quickly herded across the stage and granted their diploma as just one more faceless student in an indifferent crowd of thousands. Not so Athabasca University students. The AU ceremony properly recognizes the hard work and accomplishment our degree represents to us, and each graduate is respectfully acknowledged. A student who skips their AU convocation is missing out on an experience of a lifetime.

This year I participated in convocation as a member of Governing Council once again, and it allowed me to see the process from yet another perspective. Last year I was on stage, receiving my degree. This year I was in the front row watching my fellow students receive theirs - but now it was different. This year I knew exactly how it felt to cross the stage, to kneel and receive my hood, to hear the words spoken by the VP Academic that made each graduate a real person. This year I proudly wore my own hood over my governing council gown, as I joined the other academics in welcoming the newly graduated.

I also was thrilled to have an old friend on stage graduating. We had lost touch some years ago, only to find each other again when he became an AU student and discovered me on the AUSU website. Over the last year we've compared student experiences. He told me that he had been wavering, unsure whether he would actually attend convocation, but after reading my report of my own convocation last year, he realized that this was something he could not miss.

There were a few changes to the ceremonies from previous years. They switched the undergraduate degrees to Friday and the graduate to Saturday, and moved the starting time to noon instead of 1 PM. This was done to accommodate a very special graduate event on Saturday evening - the celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the MBA program. Because of the earlier start, no AUSU breakfast was held. Instead, a delicious AUSU-sponsored brunch was hosted inside the university, and a separate, equally delicious, "Taste of Athabasca" brunch was set up under tents in an area away from the university.

This was the one disappointment for me this year. For the first time, graduands were separated from their families. Upon entering the university, they would register, and family members were given a hand stamp.

Graduands stayed inside the university and enjoyed the AUSU brunch, but family members were sent over to the tents outside for the Taste of Athabasca. The rationale was to reduce congestion inside the university, and this system also allowed the alumni table and the AU merchandise table to be set up in the front area instead of in the back robing area where they had been in previous years. Unfortunately, for me, it reduced some of the excitement of the event and marred the occasion. The hallways inside the university were strangely empty, right up to the moment the procession was scheduled to begin. Instead of being surrounded by excited family members who were proudly sharing the thrill of the occasion with their graduate-to-be, graduands wandered alone around the university looking somewhat lost; or sat by themselves on chairs, eating a solitary lunch while they waited for the signal to go don their robes. There was no buzz. No proud parents, spouses, children with cameras. No excited chatter. No sense of anticipation of the very special moment that was imminent. It felt anticlimactic, like nothing out of the ordinary was really happening. It felt wrong, somehow.



I remember working at the welcoming table one year, bemused by how every member of the family would answer "yes!" when I asked an individual if they were graduating. Families are key to the uniqueness of the Athabasca University experience - indeed, many said in their bios that they felt their spouses should receive honorary degrees, and almost all credited their families with giving them the strength and motivation to succeed in this achievement. To separate the families from the graduands diminished the day. The inconvenience of a crowded hallway for an hour is a small price to pay when compared with letting families share the moment with their loved one. I hope the university will re-think this arrangement and keep families and graduands together again next year.

Last year the heat was sweltering, and I confess I was hoping for an overcast day, knowing how uncomfortable it can be to wear those robes on stage for three hours when the temperature goes up. Fortunately both days were overcast and cool. Rain threatened, but held off for the most part, except for a few minutes during Saturday's event. Because convocation is held in a giant "circus" tent, rain can be problematic, since the pounding of water on canvas can drown out even the best speaker system.

As we lined up for the procession on Friday in our blue robes, I felt the familiar excitement start to build. Over to my right was a sea of black-gowned graduands, some restlessly pacing back and forth, some standing in contemplative thought, others smiling for the ubiquitous cameras. You could feel an underlying electric current energizing the whole area. Gilbert Perras, Registrar, stood in counterpoint to both lines, the ceremonial mace over his shoulder, ready to give the signal for the piper to start. This year marked the debut of a new piper, young Leif Anderson. Leif is second-generation Athabasca University. His father, Dr. Terry Anderson, is a professor of Distance Education, who holds one of AU's Canada Research Chairs. Dr. Anderson also had the privilege of introducing the honorary degree recipient, Dr. Tony Bates.



As one of the shortest people on Governing Council, I was at the front of the line. Gilbert Perras turned to advise us that since everything was so well-organized we were a few minutes ahead of schedule. With a deep breath, the piper stepped forward and played the first few notes, and the graduands were off! (As a side note, I finally learned last year why AU uses the term "graduands." It comes from the British tradition and means "one about to graduate").

We followed the black-robed graduands down the red carpet into the tent, surrounded by cameras and smiling faces. Behind us came the colourful procession of academics.

Many wore the mark of their own graduation - a particular robe, a hood of a certain colour, a hat, a tassel. Each of these symbols represents an achievement, an acceptance into the world of academia. I was proud to wear my own hood, to be able to announce to the world that I, too, was an Athabasca University graduate!

We all reached our seats, and "Oh Canada" began. I got all choked up last year and could barely sing, and this year was no different. Avowing our loyalty as Canadians while awaiting our induction as graduates, seems to reinforce the ability we now have to really make a difference, to improve society as a whole through education.

Once we were all seated, convocation began. I thought it was rather odd that David Burnett, the newly-appointed Chair of Governing Council, was dressed in his suit, not robed. It didn't dawn on me that this was part of the official ceremony until MLA Thomas Lukaszuk was introduced. Lukaszuk's role was to introduce David Burnett and appoint him officially as the new Chair, at which point he was robed. David Burnett then addressed the crowd, followed by Dr. Abrioux, then the conferring of the degrees began.

Watching the faces and the body language of the new graduates tells quite the story. Because of AU's very special individual acknowledgement of each graduate with a short bio, there is time to get to know a little bit about each individual, what they have gone through to graduate, and what this diploma means to them. Many gave credit to their families, sharing the diploma with those loved ones who had been so patient, supportive and sacrificing. As I listened, I knew the feelings and emotions that they were experiencing, and I watched them hold back tears when family members would shout out a "yeah mom" or a "go dad." Some would search the audience as they walked towards centre stage, then smile broadly when they located their family in the crowd. Others seemed to be concentrating very hard on not losing their composure.

This year marked the first time the new VP Academic, Judith Hughes, had the task of introducing the graduates and reading their bios. She did an amazing job of pronouncing all the names correctly, using the same techniques Dr. Alan Davis used in his term as VP Academic - practice the names, talk to the graduand in advance, and write it down phonetically. This attention to detail really highlights the respectful way graduates are treated at AU.

Once all the graduates had received their degrees, the recipient of this year's Governor General's Silver Medal addressed the graduates. Her words reflected the shared experience of all. Then Dr. Terry Anderson introduced Dr. Tony Bates as the honorary degree recipient. Dr. Bates has a close connection to distance learning, having worked for 20 years at the British Open University, five years with the Open Learning Agency in B.C. and most

recently the University of British Columbia as the Director of Distance Education and Technology, Continuing Studies. Dr. Anderson introduced him as "my hero," in acknowledgement of the great contribution Dr. Bates has made to the mission of Athabasca University and the advancement of distance education.

In his discourse, Dr. Bates spoke directly to the graduates in one of the most relevant commentaries I've ever heard. It is reproduced on the AU website in its entirety, and it makes for inspirational reading. He really does "get it." One of his comments in particular was very enlightening. He said that research conducted by the British Open University found that employers were far more likely to hire Open University graduates because their experience was that individuals who achieve their degree by distance learning had greater work experience and exhibited a much higher degree of determination and self-discipline. He encouraged graduates to keep their options open in this knowledge-based economy, since success will depend on life-long learning. Read his address at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/frontpage/articles/batesaddress.htm>

Finally the ceremony concluded with the recession. All remained standing, and the graduates remained on stage until the platform party, governing council and the academics all followed the piper back down the red carpet. We lined the sides of the red carpet to form an honour guard, a measure of respect and acceptance for the new graduates. As the first of the graduates reached the edge of the red carpet, we all burst into sustained applause until they had all left the tent, and no one could stop smiling!

The following day the process was repeated with the conferring of the master's degrees. The ceremony is very similar in many ways, but there are differences. The graduates themselves tend to be, in the case of the MBA's at least, business people who are already following a career path. One of the members of governing council commented to me that the participants in the undergrad ceremony were a picture of diversity - a snapshot of Canada itself. The graduate students, however, seemed somewhat older and more confident. In contrast to the undergrads where many did not come in person to receive their degrees, almost all the master's students were in attendance. This particular group also seemed highly charged, far more energetic and excited. Perhaps this was partly due to the fact that this was the tenth anniversary of the MBA program (which represents the majority of the graduates). This year also saw the first graduate from the Master of Science - Information Systems, and two of the graduates were Athabasca University staff. The graduate ceremony was attended by representatives from Red Deer College and the University of Lethbridge. The latter's brother was one of the MBA graduates, and he was extremely impressed with AU's graduation, commenting that this year he had attended almost every ceremony across the province on behalf of his university and that AU's was superior to all of them in the special way graduates were treated.



The stories of the struggles, however, were the same for both undergraduates and graduates. Both had put their lives and families on hold, working for their degree, and both gave credit to their loved ones for support and sacrifice. Both afternoons were filled with shared experience, humour, joy, and excitement.

The introduction of the Governor General's Gold Medal recipient, Cynthia Marie Fediuk-Mombourquette (Master of Health Studies) brought an impromptu standing ovation from her fellow graduates on stage. The address by graduate, however, was given by another student, Gerriane Martha Clare, since the graduate faculties rotate this honour. Dr. Anne Nothof then introduced the honorary degree recipient, Pamela Wallin. Ms. Wallin is well-known to many as a broadcast journalist, most recently appointed as Canadian Consul General to the U.S. Her address was well-spoken and thought-provoking. She spoke about the importance of the moment, how each would forever remember their graduation, and look back years from now with pride over what they will have accomplished. Ms. Wallin stated that "this degree is a tool to help you make different choices" because learning is about "knowing we can make a difference." She exhorted grads to always make it matter. In commenting about her upbringing, one line in particular stayed with me. She said she was thankful to have grown up in a home where her mother taught her to speak her mind - but only when that mind was informed. Her concluding comment left me with food for thought, as she quoted the words of Sydney Harris, "regret for the things we do can be tempered by time. It is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable." Ms. Wallin's address is also reproduced on the AU website at: <http://www.athabasca.ca/frontpage/articles/wallinaddress.htm>

There was one odd happening during the midpoint of the ceremonies. A bird flew into the tent and became trapped, unable to find the exit. For an hour the poor little thing flew up and down, back and forth, flying up to the centre of the tent in a futile attempt to escape. I kept wondering if the bird would fly too low and set an unsuspecting audience member into a panic. Just before the end of the ceremony, the bird disappeared, apparently having finally found the way out. There was something highly symbolic about the whole event, as if the new graduates had been held back previously but would now be able to fly free as they exercised all the new opportunities afforded by their degree.

The second convocation concluded with the same procession and honour guard, and once again we celebrated the achievement of these graduates as they made their way back out of the tent across the red carpet. In all, over 300 students attended the two ceremonies, and everyone I spoke with agreed that it was the highlight of their experience at AU!

Photos, from top:

- 1-2) Graduation ceremony, view of the stage
- 3) The procession of academics makes its way to the tent
- 4) Tents in the trees house the Taste of Athabasca brunch for graduand's families
- 5) Procession of graduates approaches the tent
- 6) Led by the piper, registrar Gilbert Perras carries the ceremonial mace.

All photos, Carla Benavides.

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

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## CAVITY CAVEAT

Sara Kinninmont



On a recent flight from Vancouver to New York, I spent the duration listening to music and reading magazines. In that time I'm certain that the Bow Wow Wow song "I want candy" never once played on the in-flight radio, nor did the Archies' "Sugar, Sugar", but in retrospect, they should have, for once I was home, it became clear that there were definite saccharine shades to my stay in the Big Apple.

While I was there, I came across candy being touted as a form of relaxation, candy posing as art, and a scion of the high fashion world peddling the couture equivalent of candy from a two-story Midtown Manhattan Candyland-come-to-life.

My first chance encounter with the candy in question was on a sunny Saturday morning in Soho. I was shopping with my best friend, having just come from brunch at Bubby's Pie Co. in Tribeca. Being that it was a sunny Saturday, of course, everyone and their dog was out, which not surprisingly consisted mostly of Pugs (apparently, Pugs are the new black).

Slowly, we made our way up West Broadway, stopping briefly to listen to five men standing on a doorstep sing a cappella. Continuing on, we popped in and out of stores, people-watched, and enjoyed the sun

regardless of the bitterly cold wind. On the corner, we spied one of our favourite stores, *Origins*. My friend had been a loyal user for years, while I was just a recent convert. We went in to try to score some free samples, as well as to check out their new products. As I made my way to the counter with a basket of items I hadn't initially set out to buy, one of the sales clerks offered me an Origins' Peace of Mind relaxation gumball. Never one to say no to a free sample, I took one. In fact, I took two. My friend didn't want one because it had sugar in it, so I felt entitled to take hers as well. I'm nowhere near as much a devotee of sugar-free gum as she is. What's a little sugar? As for the relaxation gumball, it's clearly the embodiment of our instant-gratification-loving fast-paced society in the shape of a tiny white chewable sphere. No time to sit and meditate, breathe deeply, or even take a moment to yourself? No problem, just chew your way to relaxation.

Upon closer scrutiny, a relaxation gumball, with sugar in it, seems about as effective as an aerobic meditation class. Skeptical or not, I popped it in my mouth. While minty and refreshing, it tasted no different than any other mint gumball. I certainly didn't feel myself slipping into a blissful state with every chew. I pocketed the other gumball in case of a possible stress attack at the Guggenheim later that day. Modern art can be very stressful to look at. What does it all mean?

Little did I know that I wouldn't need the gumball, at least not in the event of a possible sugar jonze, although it really could have come in handy to alleviate the stress of trying to decipher the many inexplicable art pieces: "But that's just a pile of twigs? Is that art? Is it really art if I made that exact same thing when I was five?"

While I was paying for my admission, I had no idea that again my sweet tooth was to be sated. We made our way up the circular ramp of the museum, more often than not shaking our heads in bewilderment at what constitutes art. Apparently -- and this was news to me -- a room painted entirely white with absolutely no adornment on the walls is art. I left the room convinced that I'd just witnessed the second coming of the emperor's new clothes. Tell them it's art, and even if there's nothing there no one will be brave enough to question it.

Nearing the upper section of the ramp, we came across an odd piece (okay, one of many). What stood out about it was that it consisted solely of the floor being blanketed in hard black candies in clear wrappers. I stood in front of the carpet of confections and took it in. My friend and I joked about what would happen if we took one. As we were about to move on to the next display, a security guard came over to us. Guiltily, I imagined she'd read our minds and was coming over to tell us to step away from the candy. Instead, she told us we could, in fact, take one.



When I tell people I took a piece of an exhibit at the Guggenheim, they look at me completely appalled. How could I have done something so disrespectful? Stealing art? How terrible. Yes, that's me, the art thief, a twenty-something female-version of Thomas Crown. Not quite. Truth is, it's an interactive art piece, and taking a candy allows for you to be a part of it. Don't worry. There's enough for everyone. The candy is replenished every night. The "Untitled" piece was created by American artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres (1957-1996). I was in such awe of the candy-strewn floor that I made a point of writing part of the accompanying caption down. It read, "*The missile-like shape of the candy and its brooding, almost sinister, appearance allude to our culture's pervasive militaristic outlook and hostile hegemonic stance.*" While a compelling description, last time I checked, the only sinister thing about a licorice-flavoured candy is its foul flavour. Have you tasted a licorice candy lately? Definitely sinister, no doubt about it.

After getting our fill of art, we made our way from the Upper East Side down to Midtown. Kitty-corner from Bloomingdale's is another upscale store, this one a purveyor of candy, but not just any candy, quite possibly the couture equivalent of candy. In the midst of the concrete jungle, on the corner of Third Ave and 60th Street, is a Candy Land-like oasis called Dylan's Candy Bar. Opened by Ralph Lauren's

daughter, Dylan, the store is awe-inspiring by any standards. The two-floor candy-lovers' mecca houses anything and everything your little sugar-loving heart could possibly desire, as well as many things it never would have thought to desire. Dylan's carries over 4,000 different kinds of candy, which includes 21 different colours of M&Ms, 16 flavours of Skittles, and 12 colours of Hershey's Kisses. They have a mind-boggling array of bulk candy, and a line of Dylan's Chocolate Bars, all of which happen to be kosher. The store also boasts a collection of Pez dispensers that run anywhere from \$2 upwards of \$2000 for a Swarovski crystal-encrusted or vintage one, not to mention their array of lollipops that run from 3oz to over 3 feet tall.

Needless to say, as soon as I walked in the door, I was like a kid in a candy store, and began filling my basket at a vigorous pace. I started by selecting one of each flavour of Dylan's Chocolate Bars. Then, I moved onto the bulk candy, which took up residence next to my chocolate-in-the-shape-of-sushi kit, complete with ginger-flavoured white chocolate for rice, green tea-flavoured candy paste for wasabi, and fudge syrup standing in for soy sauce. I also had to have Twinkie-flavoured lip balm and the Pez-scented hand soap. I did, however, draw the line at the indoor Smores maker, but only because I couldn't possibly see how it would fit in my suitcase.

It was in the basement of the store that I came across something I had never seen before, a rare species of tree, the Candy Tree. As I did a double take, I realised it must only be native to the New York area. Officially, the tree is known as Dylan's Chocolate Lovers Topiary Cone, and is said to be "a 'tree'mendous 'tree'at". The fact that the Candy Tree's foliage is made up entirely of mini chocolate bars like, Kit Kat, Mounds, Baby Ruth, Almond Joy, Pay Day, Butterfinger, Twix, and bags of regular and peanut M&Ms, is not the only thing that makes it exclusive and unique. This 4-foot tree is truly the couture equivalent of candy, and as such, will cost you about \$600. I cringe to think what that is in Canadian dollars. Other than the odd Park Avenue mother buying one for a birthday party that likely cost more than my entire university education, who can possibly afford such a candy concoction? Not I. I contented myself with the vast array of under \$500 candy, of which there were many.

Looking back, it's clear that my trip to New York should have come with a cavity caveat. My suitcase, on the way home, contained one Peace of Mind gumball, a few sinister licorice candies, and a vast array of Dylan's finest. In the end, even if I had wanted to buy the Candy Tree, I wouldn't have been able to bring it home. You know how picky they are about letting you bring plants through customs.



As we approach this year's Summer Solstice, it seems appropriate that we should divert our attention for a few minutes away from our own limited lives and consider for awhile some of the magic and mystery of the natural world that lies just beyond our waking awareness.

As our goddess-worshipping ancestors were well aware, the universe is an infinitely complex design of recurring patterns. On a primal and intuitive level they were able to recognize essential truths that we, in our rational, reality-television fuelled, materialistic, super-sized and ego-driven way of seeing things, have largely forgotten. They were able to grasp the idea

that mystery and death and renewal are integral aspects of our existence. Guided by a reverence and an awe of the cosmos, manifested in the mythology of the Great Goddess, their shamans explored the realm of dreams. Ignited by the wonder of the natural world, they celebrated, in art, story and ritual, the relationships between such things as the female menstrual cycle and the phases of the moon, the turning of the seasons, the rhythm of the crops, the eternal repeating patterns of life and death.

To understand the price we continue to pay for shutting ourselves off from this essential energy, it is necessary to apply this holistic, intuitive pattern recognition to our own existence. Just as the whorls of a sea shell reflect and evoke the spiralling of life energy throughout creation, from galaxies to mitochondria, the symptoms of our rationalistic, egoistic alienation are discernible on a number of planes. In the western world, where devotion to scientific rationalism is strongest, separation from the natural world and the ways of the goddess is most keenly felt. On an individual level we suffer from anxiety and depression. We fear living almost as much as we fear death.

We attempt to salve the damage we know is at the core of our beings with alcohol and drugs and endless trips to the shopping mall. We try to numb it with television and work. On a societal level we engage in racism, ageism, gender inequality, poor bashing, sexual exploitation and a host of other forms of pettiness, bigotry and intolerance. We lock ourselves up in gated communities and lock up those we perceive as a threat to ourselves in prisons and slums and in the invisible concentration camps of our immense indifference. On a national level we wage war for market share, for economic advantage and control of resources. We bomb schools and manipulate governments. We stockpile every manner of horror to be unleashed on those we fear. On a species level, as we shall see, we stumble blindly toward self-annihilation.

It's not too late, though, to make a change, to begin a new way of seeing things. In fact, it has already begun. The majesty of the goddess is everywhere. Celebrations of her presence are as ancient as the cave paintings of the Upper Paleolithic and the megalithic temples of Old Europe. They are as up to date as new age drum circles, the resurgence of Wiccan healing practices, and the Burning Man festival on the desert sands of Nevada. Her wisdom and mystery are encoded in nursery rhymes and lullabies, fairytales and folktales and the remnants of mummery buried

in our Hallowe'en and Christmas festivities, hidden in dark recesses within the ceremonies and iconography of our dominant religion.

She is explored and discussed in internet web sites, the treatises of analytical psychologists, and the millennia-old teachings of Chinese sages. If we know how to look for her, we find her in poetry and algebraic equations, in enchantments and in maps of the human genome. If we know how to look we see her vibrant presence in every facet of the natural world from the placid drift of plankton to the volcanic birth of stars. We see her in observatory telescopes and electron microscopes. We see her in dreams; not the pale, bloated waking dreams of a better car or a better lover or a bottle of beer, but the dreams that sometimes wake us up in the middle of the night filled with a sense of fear or longing or indescribable wonder.

Today, as we splutter and flounder in the turbulent waters of our supposed reality, she is the great stretch of space above us and the great depth of ocean beneath. We can go our whole lives, gasping for air, never truly fathoming her presence. The civilizations that for thousands of years lived in harmony with her laws are as distant and forgotten as a sunken city. But if we give ourselves over to the awful tides and currents, if we learn how to float and to dive and to resurface we may yet see that the lamps of that city are still lit, and that somewhere in the back of our minds we have long-suppressed childhood memories of its winding streets. Perhaps we will then acquire a special kind of breathing that will allow us to once again explore this city's gardens and dance halls and galleries, its playgrounds and graveyards. Perhaps we will once again understand our legacy and birthright -- once again find our way home.

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## **CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**

Congratulations to all AU graduates! Your determination and commitment to completing your studies is strong testimony to your personal strength. Those who have not experienced distance education really don't know what it takes to reach their education goals in that way. To students who attended the ceremony in Athabasca earlier this month, hearing your stories and seeing the looks of pride and achievement on your faces was indeed a privilege.

### **Shirley Barg**

The Athabasca University Students' Union would like to congratulate all of this year's graduates. You should all be proud of the hard work and dedication that you have put into obtaining your credentials. The future lies ahead of you and is yours for the taking.

**AUSU**



The Voice is pleased to present the new Voice advice column: Dear Barb. Look for it every week beginning in July.

**Dear Barb:**

***I just graduated, but have not been able to find a job. Therefore, I have no choice but to move back in with my parents. I feel really bad about this, as most of my friends seem to be moving forward with their lives. Any suggestions on how to make this move easier for my parents and myself?***

***Jamie in North Bay***

Hi Jamie, good to hear from you. It must be very disappointing for you to have to move back home. I'm sure this is not the outcome you had envisioned for yourself when you finished school. However, you are not alone. Many university graduates are finding themselves in similar situations. In fact the number of adults in their twenties and living at home has almost doubled in the last 20 years. The main reason for this shift is monetary. The soaring cost of education, as well as the high cost of living is contributing to this unfortunate situation. So Jamie, you have lots of

company. In fact, this situation is so common that the phrase "boomerang kids" has been used to describe this generation.

There are various things both you and your parents can do to make this transition easier. First of all, don't see this as a failure on your part, but rather just a delay in your plans. In the meantime you will have to make some compromises, as returning home as an adult brings with it a lot of the responsibilities of an adult. You cannot expect your parents to do everything for you, as they may have done before you left home. As well as helping out whenever possible you can, also contribute financially as much as you are able. I'm sure your parents would be happy to have the help and this will assist you in feeling that you are doing your part.

Before the actual move it may be a good idea to sit down and have a discussion with your parents, as well as any siblings living in the home. Together you can work out a schedule where everyone does his or her share of the chores, including cooking, laundry and yard work. Remember you have been living on your own; Mom knows you can cook, clean and do laundry.

In addition, a good plan would be to decide how long you would need to stay at home. For example, three months, or until you get a job and have a bit of money saved; perhaps six months will be the decided time frame. This gives both you and your parents a goal to strive for, and to be able to see a light at the end of the tunnel. You will need to discuss with your parents what their expectations are for you, in regards to rules; will you be allowed to use the family vehicle, have friends in, sleep out, have friends sleep in, etc. Moreover, your parents must treat you as an adult. You have a right to be respected and to be allowed to make your own decisions about how you will live your life, while also respecting the rules set out by your parents. This can be hard for parents, as it is natural for them to fall into the parental role and want to make everything all right for their children.

Nonetheless, this is a workable situation, with a bit of effort and negotiation from both sides. The rewards could prove very beneficial when you are able to land that job, or move into our own place. Consequently, your parents will have the pride of knowing they raised a son who is someone they can be proud of.

Good luck Jamie and thanks for asking a very important question.

*E-mail your questions to [advice.voice@ausu.org](mailto: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. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.*



In less than two weeks we will know who will form the next Canadian government, maybe. If we are to believe the polls in the national media, we could very well be headed for a minority government. The jury's still out on whether it will be a Liberal or Conservative minority. The national leaders debate could be a turning point for the campaign. The jury is also out on whether a minority government is a good thing. The last time we had a minority government in this country, Joe Clark was a young man and he was the leader of the Progressive Conservatives. Clark's government subsequently flamed out in spectacular style, leading to the final four years of Pierre Trudeau's 16-year legacy.

But that was back when there were only three real national parties, back before the Bloc Quebecois. In 1978, minority governments were a simple thing. Neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives had enough seats to form power. The NDP held the balance of power and whomever they sided with, formed government. Simple.

It's not that simple anymore. With four parties on the slate, the permutations can be complicated, but very interesting.

Depending on how the seats are distributed it might be something as simple as the NDP backing the Liberals to form a majority. However, don't hold your breath. There are plenty of possibilities.

There are 308 seats in the House of Commons. That means a party needs 155 seats to form a majority. Suppose, for argument's sake, the Liberals garner 120 seats, the Conservatives 110, the Bloc, 40, and the NDP 38. To form a government, the Liberals would have to cozy up to the either the NDP or the Bloc. For those who were repulsed by the thought of the Bloc being the Official Opposition a couple of elections back, feel your spine shiver at the thought of the Bloc holding the balance of power.

We could also face the possibility of the Conservatives making alliances (pun intended) with the Bloc and the NDP to, even though they have fewer seats than the Liberals, form the government. A Conservative/Bloc alliance (remember the Bloc, as with the new Conservatives, has its roots in the Brian Mulroney Progressive Conservatives), would not have enough seats (150) to form government. They would require some help.

If politics is about deal making, minority governments are epitome.

So let's have some more fun and throw into the mix the possibility that a Green Party candidate gets elected.

Let's suppose, just for a minute, that the Liberals win 125 seats, the Conservatives 124, the NDP 28, the Bloc 30, and the Green Party one. Remember, 155 seats are required to form a government, so, any combination wins. In this scenario a Liberal/Bloc alliance (155 seats), would form a government. However, we could end up with a real quagmire. A Conservative/Bloc alliance would give them 154 seats, while a Liberal/NDP/Green alliance would also have 154 seats. The one Green Party candidate would hold the balance of power for the entire government. The candidate could choose to side with the Conservative/Bloc crew and form a government or not, which would likely result in another election.

Are minority governments good or bad? Political parties, which strive for power more than anything else, abhor minority governments. Our country is used to majority governments where the party in power has no fear of losing that power short of its mandate. Politicians and party hacks will say a minority will hamstring the government. However, minority governments force those given power into ruling with the fear that their power could vanish in an instant. The result is that governments are more careful about the legislation that is passed. We all complain about government ramming things down our throats – gun registry, GST, etc. These types of legislation usually don't see the light of day in a minority government.

Are minority governments bad? No, they just make governing more difficult because political parties have to enact legislation that will appease more than the backbench minions of a majority government.



*"God made man because he loves stories"*  
-Elie Wiesel

I would like to offer a reminder, to anybody who hasn't done it for awhile, that reading a book aloud is one of the best ways there is to pass long, slow, lazy days.

Despite the fact that I've always loved reading, the idea of doing it aloud was something that for much of my adult life I only associated with picture books for children. It wasn't until my partner and I, in the early stages of our dating, were stuck in a Labour day ferry line-up heading to Vancouver Island that I discovered this new pleasure. Confined for six hours in the parking lot at the Tsawwassen terminal, it wasn't long before we finished all the sections of the newspaper, got bored with talk shows and classic rock on the radio, and turned to a book for entertainment. It was a book that my sister had sent me for my birthday. It was *Rain of Gold* by Victor Villasenor, a multigenerational story about two Mexican families. The writing was beautifully descriptive, and it wasn't long before we were caught up in the characters' struggles for survival, and in the descriptions that filled the pages of religious customs, vibrant landscapes and food.

Despite the fact that the book is a hefty five hundred odd pages, it was so engrossing that we'd finished it by the time we caught the ferry home again in the middle of the following week.

Since that day, Bill and I have read seemingly countless books to each other. Long hours spent in laundromats waiting for clothes to dry, in soggy campgrounds waiting for rain to pass, and in airport holding lounges waiting for planes to land, have been transformed into memorable experiences by the words of John Irving and Tom Robbins and Barbara Kingsolver. When we've had arguments and been too angry to speak to each other, Wayson Choy and Margaret Atwood have acted as tactful go-betweens.

When we had a child (who we decided to name after Scout from Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*), it added a whole new dimension to this activity. We soon discovered that it was possible to find books, like H.A. Rey's Curious George stories and Ludwig Bemelmans' Madeline books, that were attractive to even the youngest children, but still entertaining for adults to read aloud. From there, we progressed through bookcases full of books, including A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* stories, Baum's *Wizard of Oz*, Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*, Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, and eventually Madeleine L'Engle's *Wrinkle in Time*, Susan Cooper's *Dark is Rising* series, and Richard Adams' *Watership Down*. I will never forget one dreary and potentially cranky car trip from Moose Jaw to Calgary that was turned by Tolkien's *The Hobbit* into an enchanted journey through Middle Earth.

One of the best things about reading aloud, especially for a frustrated actress like myself, is to take on the voices and personalities of the characters. J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books are perfect for this. The characters and their ways of speaking are so vivid that it's almost impossible not to slip into their voices. In the space of a half-hour car drive you may find yourself becoming a gruff-voiced but tender-hearted giant, a precocious bookworm, a snivelling bully, a werewolf, a house elf, a young wizard, a malevolent teacher and a condescending politician.

The following is a list (completely random, in no particular order, and with gaping omissions) of some more particularly wonderful books, with the sort of characters that capture the imagination and the type of writing that simply flows off the tongue. If anybody has any other read-aloud favourites to share, I'd love to make a note of them. Happy reading.

**Great read-aloud books for adults:**

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*Bachelor Brothers Bed and Breakfast* by Bill Richardson  
*Skinny Legs and All* by Tom Robbins  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte  
*Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson  
*The Echo* by Minette Walters  
*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt  
*A Recipe for Bees* by Gail Anderson Dargatz

**Great read-aloud books for the whole family:**

**(with younger kids)**

*Anything* by Robert Munsch  
*Princess Prunella and the Purple Peanut* by Robert Munsch  
*Nonsense Songs* by Edward Lear  
*Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren  
*Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie

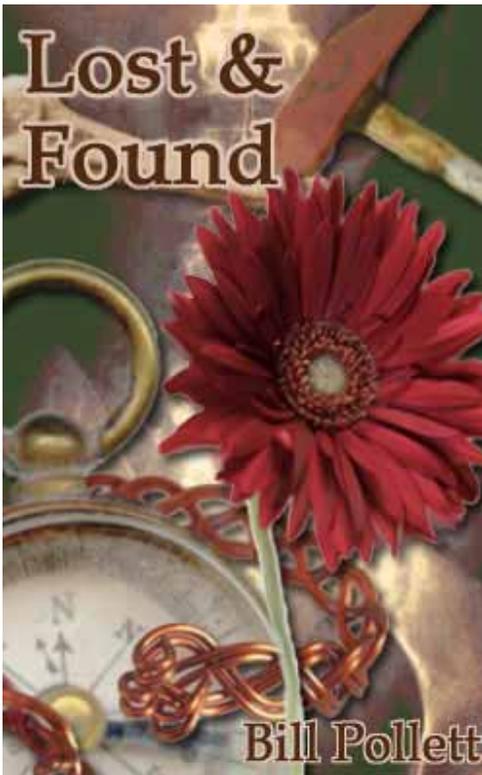
**(with older kids)**

*After Hamelin* by Bill Richardson  
*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis  
*Silverwing, Sunwing and Firewing* by Kenneth Oppel  
*The Trolls* by Polly Horvath  
*Charlotte's Web* by W.B. White



**WRITE FOR THE  
VOICE!**

Contact The Voice editor  
at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for  
details on writing for The  
Voice. Provide a sample  
selection of writing  
and preferred genre.



## RECONCILING ARCHETYPES

She's a trickster, stealing fire from the gods, sharing a joke with her sisters, crashing elevators through glass ceilings. She's a coyote, circling the campfire, a raven singing a raunchy song.

She's a witch, keeper of arcane knowledge, performer of healing rituals, holding a wet face cloth to the forehead of the fevered child. Like tides and wolves, she feels the influence of the moon, notices the way it slants through the wooden blinds onto the crisp white pillow, onto the sleeping face.

Next day, back bowed, she's gathering herbs in the backyard between the radishes and Swiss chard. Fennel and basil and bitterroot and sage: each word an incantation; each leaf dropped in a brown paper bag.

She's a fully grown woman, reckless and wanton, a modern day Amazon riding her motorcycle through the warm summer rain. She's a full grown woman, inventing new names for love, leaving her message in teeth marks and lipstick.

Sometimes she's a child again, drawing chalk circles, hopping up and down on one foot in the playground, still amazed by hummingbirds and laser beams. Sometimes she's afraid of noises in the night.

He's an alchemist, elbow-deep in poisons, searching the stars for meaning. His business is transformation, reconciling archetypes, interpreting dreams.

He's a knight in a land without obvious dragons. He's misplaced his grail, his sword is broken, but his horse is at full gallop.

He's a renaissance inventor, discovering perspective, filling his notebooks with designs for impractical machines.

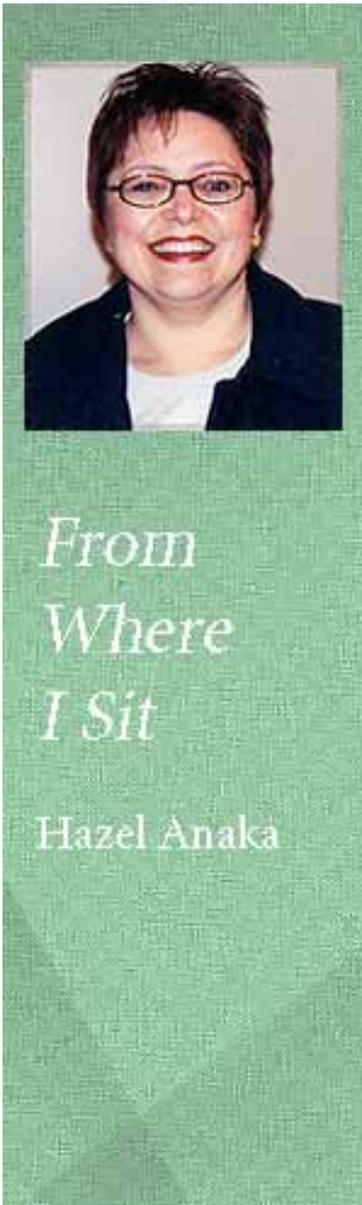
He's a circus performer, defying gravity, one step away from falling. He's the strong man, wearing the skins of animals, lifting impossible weights. He's the magician, practicing illusions; the juggler, cycling backwards, keeping too many things suspended.

He's a fully grown man, telling the truth, staring down demons. A full grown man, powerful in the midnight hour, gentle hands and faint taste of blood in his mouth, exploring sacred rivers.

Sometimes he's a child again, still amazed by bulldozers and his daughter's first steps. Sometimes, deep into the night, he sits listening to far off trains, drawing pictures in condensation, afraid of noises.

They are lovers in a darkened forest, travelling under curses. They are werewolves, moon-drunk and howling. They are clowns tripping over each other's feet, falling ass backwards.

They are only lovers. Saturday morning moves slowly, if at all. Django Reinhardt and raisin toast and dust linger on the sunlit air. An ordinary life; all the possibilities of small: the orange juice; the coffee beans; the fortunate geometries, like the simple curve of her turning hip, his finger running down her back, disappearing into forever.



## I'D RATHER BE THE WINDSHIELD

"Some days you're the bug and some days you're the windshield." Lately, I've felt like the bug. Take a peek at my week.

A few weeks ago, our 3/4 ton farm truck's transmission gave out. The dilemma is repair or replace. At almost 400,000 miles on the odometer, maybe its day is done. In the meantime it's parked.

A few days ago, our newer farm truck overheated in Edmonton on the Yellowhead during rush hour. After checking the fan belt and the antifreeze levels, the rad was power washed and that seemed to do the trick. Not so. It appears it's the head gasket and valves. Read a thousand dollars here.

Today I drive to town with the '85 Olds only to have it die -- silently and painlessly in front of the post office -- with the windows down. The windows were down because the air conditioning needs repair. Have I mentioned I don't do well in this heat?

The last remaining vehicle (other than grain trucks and collector cars) in the yard is Hilary's Probe and its brakes are howling something fierce.

Through no fault of my own, I'm also involved in a time-sensitive church pews and upright freezer saga. Don't ask.

Then the brother-in-law phones from Hinton to say he's coming in a few days for the old travel trailer he's buying. Just what I need during this week from hell.

Hilary's finishing up grade 11 and starts a Career Pathway project at Lamont Hospital July 2nd. In the meantime she's been asked to do some photojournalism coverage of Andrew Sportoff Days and The Class of '42 Reunion. I feel like her secretary as I field her calls, take messages, offer advice.

And each day I drag 100 feet of rubber hose around trying to keep our trees and flowers alive during this unrelenting heat wave. The only reason we have enough water to do this is a new \$7000 well. Surprise, surprise. It needs to be shock chlorinated because of bacteria counts. Until then, we buy bottled water.

We look in dismay at the crops and try to plan our next move. To spray or not to spray is the question. We feel for friends and neighbors with hungry cattle and no feed or pasture. We understand the domino effect of this disaster on morale, families, local merchants, farm suppliers. In the meantime we scramble to sell last year's grain and field calls about pasture rental.

Even lunches out (a fun one with girlfriends and a business one with Sonny) are tough to schedule.

I'm up to armpits in wedding preparations. My office/studio has become wedding central as I make topiaries, sew pew markers and Hilary's outfit, and plan, plan, plan so it runs like a well-oiled machine.

As a marriage commissioner I'm also scheduling meetings with couples to ensure their wedding day is magical and all they expected.

I don't know how much more of this I can take. From where I sit, I'd rather be the windshield.

*\*Reprinted with permission*



### CANADA ELECTION 2004 THE RUNDOWN ON POST-SECONDARY POLICY

#### Elect the Best

I thought it might be interesting to compare the stances of the federal parties and what they're saying with their provincial counterparts, especially on their records with post-secondary education. Unfortunately,

I hit a problem early on when looking at the performance of the Liberals. In British Columbia, for instance, the provincial liberals have removed tuition caps and students in BC have had the pleasure of watching their tuitions sky-rocket by over 30% in a single year.

On the other hand, the provincial Liberals in Ontario are taking steps to put a tuition cap on to the Ontario post-secondary institutions and have set aside money in their budget to help the universities deal with it.

With such a large gap in party policies, I realized comparing provincial to federal simply wasn't going to work. Then again, this just serves to strengthen my general feeling that we should always vote for the best candidate in our riding, not necessarily the party we most agree with.

Of course, the party policies are still a good idea to take a look at, after all, that'll give you some indication right off the bat what kind of things your particular candidates believe in.

So just to make looking easier, here are the websites of the parties that have candidates in every riding:

Conservative Party of Canada: <http://www.conservative.ca/>

Green Party of Canada: <http://greenparty.ca/>

Liberal Party of Canada: <http://www.liberal.ca/>

New Democratic Party: <http://www.ndp.ca/>

If you're interested in some of the smaller parties that may be running in your area, you can look them up at this site: <http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=pol&document=index&dir=par&lang=e&textonly=false>

Each of those will have a search engine so you can look up the candidate in your particular riding and get in touch with them by e-mail or phone. It's important to do this because it may change your decision. In my case, though I very much like the Green party policies, after questioning my candidates I may wind up voting Liberal on election day as the Liberal party candidate was the only one to respond to my e-mails. I don't see any point in voting for a candidate who can't even bother to try to convince me to vote for them when I'm asking them to.

Federal student organizations, The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) have both graded the major political parties according to their policies on post-secondary education. The CFS took a look at the Conservatives, Liberals, and the NDP for their party platforms on post-secondary education and determined that only the NDP were deserving of an "A" grade. The Liberal party did slightly better, earning a "C" grade for their stance on research funding, while the conservative party failed in the eyes of the CFS because they "chose aircraft carriers over access to education."

CASA, on the other hand, gave top marks to the Green party, with the NDP being a close second. The Bloc Quebecois received third-place honours though still a passing grade.

The Conservatives and Liberals both failed according to CASA, with the Conservatives earning slightly higher marks than the Liberals simply because the Liberals made no promises in their platform for further initiatives in post-secondary education.

The parties' stances on post-secondary education, while just one issue, are probably more important to AU students than they would be to most other universities, as AU is the most likely to be able to make a case that surpasses the provincial governments in its scope. Having a federal government that is receptive to post-secondary issues could be an enormous help in getting even greater recognition for our school and thus our degrees.

But however you feel on the issues or the parties, making sure you get that vote in is the most important. Not only will you be funding the party whose candidate you vote for, this is the one time in four years where the politicians really take notice of the rest of us. Let's make sure we don't waste it.

## The Rundown for Post-Secondary

All four parties that have candidates in every riding across Canada include post-secondary education in their platforms, but to some it appears to be a minor issue. Some promise specific changes, while others wax philosophical and repeat the vague promises of previous elections.

The Conservatives, for example, promise to "work with the provinces to reduce financial barriers to post-secondary education and training," but don't bother saying exactly how, nor do we know what actions the federal party will take if the provinces do not want to alter their education policies.

The only hint of how the party intends to improve access to higher education is a promise to "work with provinces to improve the Canada Student Loans Program to help overcome the barriers students face in pursuing post-secondary education and training opportunities." To me this just sounds as if they want to make it easier for students to go into debt to finance their education.

In contrast, the Liberals devote much more space in their platform for the issue of access to post-secondary learning. Their stated goal is to foster "a Canada in which everyone has the opportunity for further education regardless of financial means. A Canada in which universal literacy and lifelong learning are woven into the national fabric."

However, much of the information on the Liberal's fact sheet merely reiterates what we already know. They tell us, for example, that "students from low-income families are only half as likely to participate in university as those from higher income households ... [because] ...education costs have been rising more quickly than increases in family incomes."

The liberals go on to list the many initiatives they have undertaken in recent years to increase access to post-secondary education. These programs include:

- The Canada Millennium Scholarships Foundation (which has recently come under attack for failing to provide funding for those most in need).
- The Canada Education Savings Grant (which is continually under attack for only providing funding for students from middle or upper class families).
- Education grants (with no clear criteria established)
- The Canada Graduate Scholarships program
- and a number of large grants to research foundations.

These initiatives suggest that the Liberals have worked to support education in general, and research more specifically, but none of this makes clear how the Liberals have helped to increase access to post-secondary learning for those who cannot afford rising tuitions.

On the plus side, their promises for the future are very specific, often having actual dollar amounts attached, and include:

- "Establishing a Canada Learning Bond, to provide low-income families with a \$500 grant for each child born after January 2003... followed by annual \$100 instalments to assist these parents save for their children's education. "
- "Accelerating the growth of RESPs for low-income families..." (No statistics are given on how many low income families actually contribute to RESPs)
- Establishing a new up-front grant of up to \$3,000 to first-year students from low-income families who are eligible for Canada Student Loans;
- Establishing a new up-front grant of up to \$2,000 per year for students with disabilities;
- Increasing support to full-time students through the Canada Student Loans program by
- raising the weekly loan limit from \$165 to \$210 (There is no mention of raising the lifetime limit for student loans. If this is not done, then the increased weekly limit might only result in students' running out of funding options sooner).

Also promised are initiatives to: Broaden eligibility for Canada Student Loans; increasing the maximum amount of debt reduction from \$20,000 to \$26,000; creating a new tax deduction for persons with disabilities; and providing an additional \$125 million to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development.

The National Green Party, which is now running candidates in all ridings and showing a significant growth in support, claims to place a high priority on improving access to education at all levels. The party "believes in supporting and creating initiatives that further the education of all Canadians, at every stage of life."

The Green Party's platform is succinct, and their promises fairly specific in nature. To foster access to higher learning, the party promises to:

- Increase funding for early childhood education.
- Establish a Canadian mentorship network
- Ensure tuition-free access to college and university programs for retired people.
- Reduce the up-front costs of post-secondary tuition, making higher education more accessible
- Boost participation in cooperative education programs and apprenticeships.
- Work with provincial and territorial governments to roll back tuition to more affordable levels (like the Conservatives, however, no details of exactly how this will be accomplished are given)
- Reduce student debt by over 40% by providing needs-based grants, to ensure that every deserving student is able to access postsecondary education.

These initiatives, if implemented, would clearly make a significant difference in how accessible post-secondary education is to lower income students and the elderly. They are also indicative of a fresh and innovative approach toward post secondary in that these initiatives reflect what people have actually been asking for. This is in sharp contrast with the Liberal policies of yesterday, often ones that provide a very different kind of assistance than what many students have said that they need.

On the other hand, the Green party is new and has no track record to back up their claims. This is both good, and bad, as the track records of the existing parties often show a great deal of disparity between what is promised, and what is done.

Finally, we have Jack Layton's NDP -- and make no mistake, this is "Jack Layton's NDP." The party is clearly placing all of their hopes on the new leader, and working hard to establish Jack Layton as the real candidate, not the party. This may be a losing strategy as their insistence that the party is now much stronger may be alienating to those who supported previous leaders.

Nonetheless, the party scores points for their education policy which, like the Green party, has a specific focus on tuition as a barrier to access and ways to end that.

This time around the NDP promises to:

- Cut "tuition fees, just as NDP governments in British Columbia and Manitoba did, with a national plan to reduce fees by 10 per cent and then freeze them by increasing federal funding for post-secondary education and working with the provinces to make sure it happens" (comparing this definitive action plan to the vague assertions of the Liberals reveals a striking contrast in how the parties reveal their goals).
- Increase research funding to "halt the privatization of research on campus"
- Replace the Millennium Scholarship Fund "with needs-based grants"
- Credit "all interest accrued on the Canada Student Loans program against graduates' income taxes."

Additionally the party promises to establish a national strategy for lifelong learning, extending broadband access to all communities, and work with the provinces to establish a Canada Post-Secondary Education Act that, in return for stable, long-term funding, would prevent the creation of private, for-profit colleges and universities.

#### References:

Conservative Party of Canada:

[http://www.conservative.ca/platform/english/db\\_communities/db\\_communities\\_1.htm](http://www.conservative.ca/platform/english/db_communities/db_communities_1.htm)

Green Party of Canada:

<http://www.greenparty.ca/platform2004/en/policies.php?p=59>

Liberal Party of Canada: <http://www.liberal.ca/pdf/Policyeng1.pdf> (PDF file – Pg 9)

New Democratic Party: [http://ndp.ca/uploaded/20040526133626\\_PSE.pdf](http://ndp.ca/uploaded/20040526133626_PSE.pdf) (PDF file)

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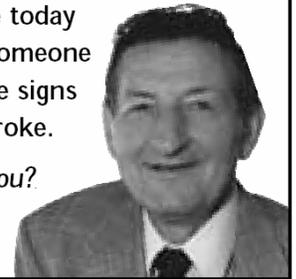
*A native Calgarian, Karl is perpetually nearing the completion of his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Information Studies. He also works for the Computer Sciences Virtual Helpdesk for Athabasca University and plans to eventually go on to tutor and obtain his Master's Degree.*

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Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor

I'm alive today  
because someone  
knew the signs  
of a stroke.

Do you?



## STROKE WARNING SIGNS

### WEAKNESS

Sudden weakness, numbness  
or tingling in the face,  
arm or leg

### TROUBLE SPEAKING

Sudden temporary  
loss of speech or trouble  
understanding speech

### VISION PROBLEMS

Sudden loss of vision,  
particularly in one eye, or  
double vision

### HEADACHE

Sudden severe  
and unusual headache

### DIZZINESS

Sudden loss of balance,  
especially with any of the  
above signs

Call 911  
or your medical  
emergency number  
immediately.



1-888-HSF-INFO  
(1-888-473-4636)  
[www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)



## SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE Film Review

By Laura Seymour

### June is Romance Month

I've never been much of a Jack Nicholson or a Diane Keaton fan, but this beauty of a film won me over.

The story goes like this: Marin (Amanda Peet), is a twenty- something with a new boyfriend, playboy Harry Sanborn (played by Jack Nicholson). The problem is, Harry is 63 years old. He's never been married and has the worst commitment problems ever! Along they go to the beach house her mom, famed writer Erica Barry (Diane Keaton), owns. This is the weekend that Harry is going to get lucky with his new young interest. But, as Marin changes to go swimming Harry heads to the fridge for a little something and in walks Erica and her feminist teacher buddy Zoe (Frances McDormand, who was so wonderful in Fargo).



Then the fun begins as Erica has a conniption fit and calls the police to report an intruder. The call finally gets canceled but not until her daughter confirms that Harry is her new boyfriend. Zoe decides to end the bickering that ensues when she suggests that as adults they all stay for the weekend.

Everything is fine until Harry has a heart attack. It isn't too bad of an attack, but tell that to the guy with the feeling of an elephant standing on his chest. This begins the medical treatments from the cutesy doctor (gorgeous Canadian, Keanu Reeves). Off and on Erica and the doctor get together for dinner and a little nookie. Erica is having a hell of a time with the age difference but the doctor is fine with it.

Now Harry has to have someone take care of him and his personal staff comes in to poor Erica's house. She has to put up with this intrusion on her home and his dopey staff's inability to figure out where to put an empty water glass. She hates Harry and all he stands for until Harry becomes a real silly flirt after he sees her naked by mistake. What ensues is a hilarious and very revealing Diane Keaton! (Incidentally Diane is in amazing shape and hasn't a baggy piece of skin on her. No doubt it's from all that sun avoidance.) Soon Harry and Erica are saying things and doing things they've never said to anyone before. It gets frightening between them and then Harry says, "I love ya." Erica cracks that she's not really sure it counts if it's "ya" instead of "you".

Soon Harry starts to crap out on this new set of feelings. He's so much more comfortable doing what he's always done. So he is a jerk and ignores Erica and she quickly finds him out with some ditzy young blond. Erica is soon wailing in tears and telling him a sappy earful. It's a shame that this only makes Harry fall back into the hospital with chest pains. He isn't happy about all this. So, Erica gets back to her wandering lost writing project and essentially writes every line Harry's ever said to her and everything that happened to them. Later when the hit play opens, Harry learns that "Henry" dies in the play, and winds up in hospital again from the shock of being made a public mockery! He then disappears for six months and gets his poop together the hard way. He listens to his ex girlfriends tell him all about the hard stuff about him. Meanwhile, Erica gives herself a gift of going to Paris (where her hit play takes place) for her birthday. Guess who strolls in? Harry has now decided that he can take this "older" woman in his life. But then in walks the good doctor Keanu who happens to have a ring box he's finally bought for her.

Harry is polite as hell to everyone and then bawls his eyes out on a snowy bridge in Paris. Perhaps he's finally aware what an idiot he's been.

As usual my mouth is closed as to how it ends.

Nancy Meyers (who wrote, directed and produced this) is the woman behind the characters. She is most known for her witty and intelligent comedies. This is another one. Three cheers to her brilliant project!

Ten thumbs up! Rent this Sony film or lose out.

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*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).*

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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](mailto:djabbour@ausu.org)

## UNIVERSITY DROPOUTS

*Debbie Jabbour*

One of the most disturbing articles I've read in a while was entitled, "too many dropping out of university" (Edmonton Journal, May 31, 2004). It referred to a new University of Manitoba study that found graduation rates have fallen to below 70 per cent in some university programs.

Researcher Rodney Clifton has been studying retention rates for some time, and he indicates that greater support for students, particularly in their first year, is needed. Students in the study reported that a lack of academic control, level of pride and hope regarding academic performance and negative emotions, all influenced academic achievement.

Retention rates for first year students ranged from 63.5 percent at Brandon University to 95 percent at the University of Toronto, and varied from program to program. The University of Ottawa had completion rates for humanities at 70.4 percent, engineering 66.5 percent, physical sciences 63.4 percent and computer science, 62.2 percent. At many universities there was a clear trend downward. Arts students at the University of British Columbia for example, went from a 76.4 percent completion rate in 1994 to a 72.8 percent completion only two years later.

Students are also taking longer to achieve degrees, with the University of Toronto reporting 82.4 percent of undergraduate students who started in 1994 completing their degrees in seven years, and the University of Victoria showing a 70 percent completion rate for the same period.

Athabasca University is concerned with retention rates as well, although these are measured differently due to the open nature of the university. Given the importance of a university degree to future career success, it seems apparent that universities have some work to do to improve retention rates. It is not enough to improve accessibility and get students into university - we need to keep them there long enough to graduate!

Too Many dropping out of university - Report. May 31, 2004, Sarah Schmidt, CanWest news service: <http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=4cd3cd6e-2266-41e3-9305-7acd446cb072>

Fund Success, Not seats in Lecture Halls, Sept 30, 2003: [http://www.fcpp.org/publication\\_detail.php?PubID=633](http://www.fcpp.org/publication_detail.php?PubID=633)

## AUSU THIS MONTH



### THE AU BUSINESS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION IS HERE!



**New AUBSA site, now online -- see the Clubs pages for information**

Finally, the long anticipated AU Business Students' Association (AUBSA) has a brand new website on the AUSU server, and the club is officially taking members.

This club is open to all students with an interest in business, and will be adding more business related resources over the next several months.

To learn more about the AUBSA, visit the club homepage at:  
<http://www.ausu.org/clubs/aubsa/index.php>

Contact [aubsa@ausu.org](mailto:aubsa@ausu.org) for more information. Members of the AUBSA also 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](mailto: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

## **GREENS EARN TOP MARKS FOR EDUCATION PLATFORM**

### **JUNE 18, 2004**

OTTAWA, June 18, 2004 – The Green Party has the best plan to improve Canada's system of post-secondary education, according to a report card on the party platforms released today by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).

"The Green Party has the best grasp of the issues facing students and they provide detailed proposals for improving the quality and accessibility of post-secondary education in Canada," said James Kusie, National Director of CASA. The Greens earned a grade of 90%, an "A" at most colleges and universities.

The Green Party proposes to increase funding for post-secondary education and work with the provinces to reduce tuition fees. In addition to addressing the cost of college and university, the Greens distinguish themselves from the other parties by making specific commitments to improve the quality of post-secondary education and support publicly-funded research.

The NDP earned the second highest grade, 78%, or a "B+". The NDP platform makes several important commitments to students, namely in the areas of tuition fees and financial aid. The party's mark would have been higher had their platform provided more details as to how and when their commitments would be fulfilled.

The Bloc Québécois platform received a mark of 74%, a "B" by most standards. The party deals with the crucial issue of transfer payments and promises to fight for increased money for the provinces. The Bloc also earned marks for committing to end the 10-year moratorium on declaring bankruptcy on student loans and for promising to amend the law prohibiting international students from working off-campus.

"The Conservatives and the Liberals barely passed on their reports cards. If they were majoring in post-secondary education, they probably wouldn't even get credit," said Kusie of the two party platforms.

The Conservatives fared slightly better than the Liberals, earning a 58%, or "D+". Their platform on post-secondary education is weak, skirting many issues that affect students, namely tuition fees and the lack of grants. Where they do discuss higher learning, they place emphasis on maintaining problematic programs already in existence and offer very little in terms of innovative, student-friendly policy development.

Finally, the Liberal Party platform on post-secondary education is virtually non-existent. While their platform discusses the government's record in detail, the party makes no commitments to new spending or programs. Two weeks ago in a nationally televised youth forum, Paul Martin promised to address escalating tuition fees by increasing funding directly to colleges and universities. He also said the new low-income grant should be extended and improved. Nevertheless, these commitments are no where to be found in the Liberal Party platform. Therefore, they earn the lowest grade – 54%, or "D".

The platforms were judged using a standard, quantitative evaluation system. Parties received points for mentioning post-secondary education, raising specific issues concerning students, making specific commitments, providing positive solutions, and offering detailed plans for implementing their initiatives.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is a non-partisan, non-profit organization representing nearly 300,000 students from coasts-to-coast.

View the entire report card here: <http://www.thinkeducation.ca/reportcard.asp>

**Canadian Alliance of Student Associations**

<http://www.casa.ca/index.asp>



## Searching for Internships

*Shannon Maguire*

### CBC/Radio Canada

**Website:** <http://cbc.radio-canada.ca/jobs/students/>

CBC/Radio Canada lists all internships they have available on their website. You can view the details of and apply for these internships online at the website listed above. You can also apply to have your resume added to a database that CBC/Radio Canada uses to fill its summer intern positions.

**Position Description:** Entry level positions in the areas of administrative, clerical, and TV & Radio programming and production.

**Pay:** Not mentioned.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a student.

**Time and length:** Not mentioned.

**How to apply:** Visit the website listed above and apply online.

### The Center for a New American Dream

**Website:** <http://www.newdream.org/main/jobs.html>

The Center for a New American Dream promotes protection of the environment and social justice. The Center offers paid, unpaid and for credit internships.

#### Unpaid Internships

**Position Description:** Various tasks available depending on whether the Center has space, capacity and appropriate projects.

**Pay:** Unpaid.

**Eligibility Requirements:** None mentioned.

**Time and Length:** Length varies. The Center is open Monday-Thursday 9 am – 5pm and interns are expected to work at least one 8 hour day a week.

**How to apply:** First review their programs and staff list to determine which area or for whom you would like to work for. Send a Cover Letter (stating the hours you would be able to work each week, what days and for how long you are available, and what areas you would like to work in), resume and a 2-4 page writing sample by mail to: Unpaid/Credit Internship, Center for a New American Dream, 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 900, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Or by e-mail to [newdream@newdream.org](mailto:newdream@newdream.org)

#### Paid Internships

**Position Description:** Various positions.

**Pay:** Yes, \$1,250 per month.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Recent College or University graduates preferred but students may apply. "Interns are expected to have an interest, knowledge, and/or experience in issues related to sustainable consumption, the environment, or social justice."

**Time and Length:** Internships are 12 months long and begin in the spring, summer and fall.

**How to apply:** The Center lists more details about each of their available paid internships online at the website mentioned above. Each internship description contains instructions on how to apply.

### **For Credit Internships**

Internships for academic credit are available in the fall or spring and require the intern to work 16 hours a week.

## **UNICEF Internship Program**

**Position description:** Various positions.

**Pay:** Unpaid.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a graduate or post graduate student enrolled at the time of the internship, must be fluent in English and either French or Spanish, must have excellent academic performance, your application must be supported by your University or a related institution (e.g. they will accept a letter from one of your professors supporting the application as a minimum), and work experience is an asset but not required.

**Time and length:** Internships range from 6 -16 weeks. Some internships may be part-time or virtual.

**How to apply:** You may apply at any time. In order to apply you must fill out the application form on their website and send it to [internships@unicef.org](mailto:internships@unicef.org) for internships in New York and to the head of the office concerned for internships outside of New York. A list of the offices is available on their website.

## **United Nations Development Program Internships**

**Website:** <http://www.undp.org/ohr/Interns/intern.htm>

**Position Description:** Interns will be working in areas related to development and international studies.

**Pay:** Unpaid.

**Eligibility requirements:** The UNDP lists the following minimum requirements on their website:

- Enrollment in a graduate-level degree programme in a development related field such as economics, international relations, anthropology, sociology, public or business administration, or environmental studies. Only those students who will return to their studies upon completion of their internship assignments are eligible.
- Demonstrated interest in the field of development
- Language skills: written and spoken proficiency in *at least two* of the three working languages used by UNDP: English, French and Spanish. Fluency in Arabic, Portuguese, Russian or Eastern European language is an asset.
- An interest in global mobility; adaptability to varied physical and other environments; a desire to work with and gain the confidence and respect of people with different language, national and cultural backgrounds.
- Respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and the UNDP Statement of Purpose.

**Time and length:** Part-time and full-time internships are available. The length varies.

**How to apply:** You must fill out the application form available on their website and mail it to the bureau/country office you are interested in working with. There is a list of all bureau/country offices and their addresses on the website.

# Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

To list events in your area, e-mail [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the word "events" in the subject line.

## alberta

**River City Shakespeare Festival Jun 24 - Jul 18, 2003**  
Heritage Amphitheatre, Hawrelak Park,  
Edmonton, AB

\* Playing The Merchant of Venice & The Twelfth Night

Show Times: Shows run nightly at 8 pm from June 24 to July 18, with Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2 pm. No shows on: Mondays, Sunday, July 11, and Sunday, June 27. Don't forget, opening nights (June 24 and 25) and Tuesday nights (June 29, July 6 and 13) are Pay-What-You-Will

Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$11 for students and seniors.  
Festival Pass: \$22 gets you admittance to both shows on any two nights of your choosing. Tickets are available at the park, or in advance by calling Tix On The Square at 420-1757 or online at [www.tixonthesquare.ca](http://www.tixonthesquare.ca)  
<http://www.rivercityshakespeare.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.

## 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](mailto: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

### 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/>

## 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>

**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.

**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>

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with "events" in the subject line.**



## **4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEER SUPPORT CONFERENCE**

**Jan 14th-16th/2005**

Details to follow...

## **IPSI 2004**

**July 28-Aug 2**

The International IPSI-2004 PESCARA Conference in Italy (IPSI = Internet, Processing, Systems for e-education/e-business, and Interdisciplinaries), will be held in the hotel Castello Chiola from July 28 till August 2, 2004. Detailed program and all relevant information are given at the web: [www.internetconferences.net](http://www.internetconferences.net).

The main goal of this conference is to bring together the elite VIP scientists from all over the world, and to provide a forum for exchange of ideas in a number of related fields that interact.

## **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](mailto:celtic.world@uccb.ca)

*Provided by Lonita Fraser*

## **Contributed By AU's *The Insider***

- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 BUSINESS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (AUBSA) NOW ONLINE!** The AU Business Students' Association website is now online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/aubsa/index.php>. If you are an AU business student, or a student with an interest in business, this club is for you! Contact [aubsa@ausu.org](mailto:aubsa@ausu.org) for more information. It's free to join!

**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](mailto:lowrystcol@hotmail.com)

## THE VOICE

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**THE VOICE ONLINE: [WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE](http://WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE)**

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