

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

July 7, 2004  
Volume 12 Issue 26



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*Deer Insights: lessons learned too late*

### **PSYC 210 - Introduction**

*Psychology course offers a unique approach to understanding culture through self-reflection*

### **The Politics of Persuasion**

*Recent events mirror the past*

*Plus:  
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From Where I Sit  
Taking Notes  
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*and much more...*

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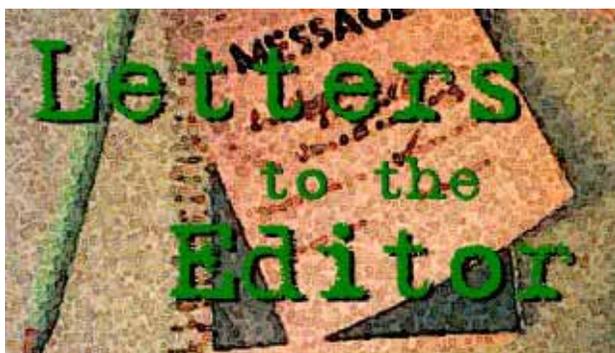
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We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org), and please indicate if we may publish your letter in the Voice.

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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c/o Athabasca University Students' Union  
2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street,  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4  
800.788.9041 ext. 3413

**Publisher** Athabasca University Students' Union

**Editor In Chief** Tamra Ross Low  
**News Contributor** Lonita Fraser

#### **Regular Columnists:**

Debbie Jabbour, Karl Low, Laura Seymour, Amanda Lyn Baldwin, Hazel Anaka, Larry Seymour, Bill Pollett

#### **Contributors to listings columns:**

Zil-E-Huma Lodhi, Shannon Maguire, Lonita Fraser

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**VOICE@AUSU.ORG**

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# NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

## Deer Insight

Don't you love summer weekends? There's no other time in which one can feel truly justified in doing absolutely nothing of consequence. Last weekend was one of those times – no responsibilities, no timetables, just four days in which my husband, our dog and myself could do anything (or nothing) of our choosing. We spent the weekend near Long Point, a UNESCO world heritage site on the shores of Lake Erie in extreme southwestern Ontario.

Cruising around checking out the marshes, the forests, and the fields, we had no particular goals, and yet were able to experience so much in the few days we had to spend in the area. We saw so many beautiful birds (Long Point's claim to fame), inspected and sketched an incredible diversity of plants, swam in the surprisingly substantial crashing waves of the Lake, and marvelled at expanses of wetland one rarely gets a chance to witness.

While the natural loveliness of the area is undisputed, we couldn't help as we strolled field and shore being struck by the paradox Long Point represents. As a protected area, and one renowned for the significant habitat it offers wildlife, Long Point sees a great many human activities that are enough to jar those accustomed to the 'hands-off' approach to wilderness protection. Hunting is permitted in the area; bumper to bumper traffic fills the road running straight down the Point; bustling villages and busy campsites jostle for space among the migratory birds and rare flora that grace the area; and fishing competitions are held in the waters within the heritage site's boundaries.

Long Point does, in many ways, represent one of our most significant contemporary conservation challenges: reconciling human use of an area with its ecological needs. The answer to such a conservation dilemma, particularly in heavily-populated areas such as southern Ontario, remains elusive. Such locations are precious both ecologically and to the human inhabitants of the area; the success of the balancing act currently being attempted in protected areas such as Long Point remains to be seen.

Interestingly, the Long Point area has long been the subject of intense conservation debate. Well over a hundred years ago, deer were extirpated from the area as a result of a variety of pressures. Driven by an awakening conservation ethic, those distraught by the elimination of such a previously important species reintroduced the animals to Long Point in the early 1900s. Such a decision could be considered by modern standards to be quite progressive.

Only one flaw marred the plan to bring back some semblance of ecological balance which, it was believed, the removal of the deer had undone. Those who wished to see the return of the lovely ungulate failed to notice that along with the disappearance of the deer had come the collapse of an entire web of which these animals were a part. The large predators of the area – black bears and wolves – had also been extirpated from Long Point, and the reintroduction of the deer in the absence of such predators meant an uncontrolled population explosion of this prey species.

The deer population ballooned to such an extent that, by the 1980s and 1990s, decisions were made to cull the deer in an attempt to minimize the havoc they were wreaking on

their already highly stressed habitat. Brought down to a level deemed appropriate for the extent of habitat remaining, the managed deer population is now considered to be 'under control'.

Hindsight is 20-20, there's no doubt about it; a million and one observations could be made about how the Long Point deer situation was handled, and how it all could have been done so much better. But the opportunity to look back at previous conservation attempts and learn from them is a privilege of which we should take full advantage.

What is it about the Long Point deer tale that provides us with insight on how to behave in a more ecologically appropriate way today? It's easy, right? Don't extirpate species in the first place. Close, but my holiday brain couldn't help thinking that there was something even more fundamental in the Long Point lesson: putting something back together is a heck of a lot harder than taking it apart. It's not just that losing one piece of the puzzle sucks; it's that the puzzle is so darn hard to figure out that we have no idea if we will ever be able to see the whole picture again if we misplace even just a couple of elements.

Ecological complexity is so great that foresight (in addition to, and based on the benefit of hindsight) remains our best chance at achieving sustainability. So come on, let's use those mighty human brains to look around us at the complexity of the natural world and recognize the limitations in our understanding. Knowing what we don't know may be the most important part of getting where we need to go.

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*Zoe Dalton is a graduate of York University's environmental science program, and is currently enjoying working toward a Master of Arts in Integrated Studies with Athabasca U. She can be reached for comments or questions at [zk\\_dalton@hotmail.com](mailto:zk_dalton@hotmail.com).*



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)

## DOCTOR SHORTAGE

*Debbie Jabbour*

A University of Alberta study indicates that Western Canada is looking forward to a worsening family doctor shortage. In a survey of medical students, 80 percent indicated intentions of specializing rather than remaining in family medicine. Higher pay and a less demanding workload are the main reasons cited, with high student debt load the driving force.

Medical students graduate with between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in student loan debt. It seems logical that the route that will pay this debt off most quickly is highly appealing.

What does this mean to Canadians seeking health care? It is not just a problem of family doctor shortage, but a doctor shortage in general. Already many general practitioners are refusing to take new patients. The situation for special practitioners is even worse, with patients often waiting months for an appointment. A provincial medical report estimates that Alberta alone needs another 1300 doctors.

The shortage is worsened by: the high cost of medical school, crushing graduation debt loads, and limited enrollment spaces and higher entrance standards that are putting medical school out of the reach of all but the rich elite.

### Reference:

Family doctor shortage will worsen: report. Medical students more interested in specializing than family practice. Larry Johnsrude, *Edmonton Journal*, July 3, 2004

# COURSE INTRODUCTION

## PSYC 210 (Experiential Learning in the Celebration of Diversity)

*Katie Patrick*



Are you interested in learning about other cultures? What about learning about your own culture in more detail? How about accomplishing both of these objectives, in the context of an exciting psychology course from Athabasca University?

Athabasca University's new course, PSYC 210, is called *Experiential Learning in the Celebration of Diversity* and it explores the many aspects of different cultures and cultural diversity using three learning theories.

The first learning theory discussed, Adult Learning, refers to the way adults learn (in

comparison, for example, with how children learn), using initiative, discussion, and self-direction. The second learning theory, Experiential Learning, emphasizes the hands-on approach for learning; and the last theory discussed in the course, Transformative Learning, consists of "the development of independent or self-directed thinking with respect to specific beliefs, attitudes, and emotional reactions", explains course professor Bob Brandes, a practicing psychologist for over 21 years.

One of the most interesting aspects of the course is the way students are encouraged to learn about other cultures. Instead of passively completing readings from selected texts, Brandes has implemented a fascinating "hands-on" component which, he says, involves students taking the role of ambassador and "representing their birth culture to someone who has a different birth culture, and vice versa.." This reciprocal learning ensures that the student "would be learning about their own cultures and teaching different aspects of it to their partner [and] their partner would do the same", says Brandes.

The course evaluation used for PSYC 210 is ingenious as well -- the first course assignment involves students completing a Student Cultural Profile describing their ideas and opinions of their own birth culture prior to taking the course, and any changes to these thoughts after completing the discussion forum with their "ambassador" partner. This information is then worked into a mini research paper which applies several concepts taught in the course, for a total of 25% of the student's final mark. Three essays on varied topics (worth 20% each) constitute 60% of PSYC 210's course mark. These essays include diverse culture-related topics including "religion and religious ceremonies; food and cuisine; sports and leisure; literature; art and sculpture; music and festivals; folkways and mores; and myths, legends and fairy tales" writes Dr. Brandes. There is no lack of essay topic suggestions for PSYC 210! The final 15% of the student's PSYC 210 mark involves the creation of a cultural web page, with the chance of having their page posted on the course website.

PSYC 210, *Experiential Learning in the Celebration of Diversity*, is a three credit course in Social Science offered by the Centre for Psychology. It is offered through individualized study, but has an additional online component to enhance student's learning experience.

For more information on PSYC 210, visit the course syllabus at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/psyc/psyc210.htm> and the course home page at: <http://psych.athabascau.ca/html/Psych210/>.

# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Summer School!

*Debbie Jabbour*



It's been many years since I attended summer school, in fact I can't say I've ever really done it before. I've taken courses that run at different times of the year, but this is the first time I've taken a course that actually has a summer component in which I have to physically attend a classroom full time.

As part of the AU Master of Counseling program, first year students must take a compulsory summer session, consisting of three weeks fulltime in the classroom. It wouldn't be quite so bad, except that the classroom is three hours away

from me – in Calgary. A daily commute is out of the question, so I've temporarily taken up residence away from home.

I can't say that I've been looking forward to this, although there are positives and negatives. Aside from the high cost of having to live away from home, living out of a suitcase in student residence can be a trying experience. I've had the "privilege" of staying in student residence only a few times before -- twice in Vancouver, at Gage Towers, a student residence at least 40 years old. In spite of its age, however, it is an attractive, clean apartment, built in a unique octagonal design, with a stunning view of the ocean. In contrast, a year ago I stayed at a student residence at the University of Calgary. It was at least as old as Gage Towers, but extremely run down and seedy. I could hardly wait to leave.

This time, we are staying at Mount Royal College and I had been assured that the residence was newly-built; pleasant and comfortable townhouses, with fully-equipped kitchens and Internet access. The assurances were accurate, and the residence is as nice as they promised. I'm sharing with three others from the program, and so far the experience has been positive, in spite of having to be away from home. I'm certainly better off than the majority of my classmates, many of whom have come here from B.C., Ontario, the U.S., and elsewhere.

I've tried to look at the positives: three weeks that I can just concentrate on school, plus the interaction and learning experience of the classroom. Also, by doing three weeks full time, we will not have to continue the course for as long and will get most of August off before classes begin again.

The first two days of the class is orientation, and day three we get down to work, with the ethics course in the morning and the working alliance course in the afternoon. Evenings, of course, will be for working on assignments. It is certainly going to be a different experience, and I'm expecting a lot of hard work ahead. We may be living in student residences, but I doubt we will be doing any of the partying that supposedly goes on in "res" throughout the year!

For second year students, the summer session is optional, but for those who don't take the three week summer school, their coursework will extend right into the fall, overlapping other courses, so it's advantageous to take the summer session. Perhaps by next year they will consider holding the session elsewhere. One possibility many students were asking about it attending the session by videoconference, and this is something the program developers are looking at.

During one of the orientation sessions today, one of the program directors spoke about the history of the master of counseling program, and a few of his comments were very interesting. He said that when they set out to build a program collaboratively with the three universities (Calgary, Lethbridge, Athabasca), it was treading very new ground. The campus-based universities were used to collaborations in which one university took the lead and others followed. With this program, all three were expected to be fully engaged as collaborators, entering a new course delivery environment. Fortunately, Athabasca was the most flexible and progressive of the three, and AU was already "doing it," so the other universities were provided a progressive model they could follow.

There were a few other hurdles to manage in the program development. One was the Alberta learning definition of "full time," and the program had to structure the coursework so that students in the three-year stream would be taking the equivalent of a fulltime course load (4 courses a year). In response to requests, they have now begun offering students the opportunity to finish the course in two years, but students are strongly discouraged from exercising that option, since it really is an overwhelming amount of work. As part of the orientation, we were given instructions on three very important and time-consuming activities that we must complete – two practicums and a final project.

Timing is a big issue, and today it was explained that if we want to be able to apply to graduate in time, we need to start thinking about the practicums well in advance, allowing several months of preparation time to find each practicum. This involves searching out employment with an approved supervisor where we can complete a requisite number of supervised and client-contact hours. In addition, both practicums have a weekend classroom component, currently held either in Calgary or Vancouver. Should there be enough students in any one location (a minimum of ten), the practicum weekends can be moved elsewhere.

The final project is another important component of our degree, and we were advised today to start thinking now about what we are going to be doing, since the project must be supervised and externally reviewed once completed. There are many areas of interest, however, and for most students the problem is narrowing it down to just one area. I had been leaning towards something related to music and psychology, but today it was pointed out that the use of technology in counseling is a wide open field with very little current research. In particular, on-line counseling is an area where a student could prepare a significant project - just on ethics alone! Obviously I have some serious thinking to do about where I'm going to be focusing my research.

The uniqueness of this program has also created another interesting problem. Graduates are considered graduates of all three universities. That means all three universities will be on our parchment, and our names will be on the convocation list of all three universities. I'm not sure yet how they will organize convocation itself. I've volunteered to be on the committee, and apparently the program can choose which university to convocate at. I can't imagine convocating anywhere but Athabasca, since to me, this program really belongs to AU.

The first class is scheduled to graduate next June, and if all goes well, mine will be in June 2007. Seems like a long way away, but given the amount of work that awaits me, I'm sure time will fly!

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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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**Crumbs**

The early days  
when you lived  
in the one-room apartment  
above Balducci's Deli

that whole summer  
spent with  
the windows open and  
the fan going

Commercial Drive's melody  
floating in  
making us  
a part of the action

days when your apartment  
above the deli's kitchen  
was fifteen degrees hotter  
than outside

we'd strip down

me  
in my white cotton underwear  
and no-nonsense bra

you  
in your boxers (the ones your mom made)  
with the Flintstone's on them

on the cool tan vinyl couch  
i watched you eat a kiwi  
whole  
skin and all

not caring  
about the green juice  
running down your arm  
and onto your chest

leaving nothing for me  
i licked the tart juice  
from your fingers

finding their way  
onto my over-heated skin  
the lingering taste  
of the fuzzy fruit  
still on your tongue

faint accordion music  
seeped  
through the floor boards  
an odd soundtrack for our hunger

today  
watching you eat samosas  
wiping the grease and crumbs  
on your pants

pausing only  
to cheer for the Canucks  
and sip your beer

not once taking your eyes  
off the TV to see me  
sitting on the same tan couch

I wonder how  
I became a girl  
willing to settle for  
crumbs

**Illusions**

The sense of satisfaction  
I felt last night  
as you held me in your arms

while she paged you, wondering  
where you were  
was short-lived.

Loneliness took up residence  
in your place,  
shortly after you drove away.



A good feeling, isn't it, to bring another around to one's point of view, converting opinions the way we might exchange currency, say yen for Eurodollars? Let's face it, most of us feel pretty strongly that we have a better grip on reality than our neighbours. Oh, certainly some of us do present an aspect of tolerance, even respect for opinions different from our own. With the furrowed brow of a genteel country doctor, we gravely nod our head, listening with feigned indulgence to wrong-headed notions, ill-informed beliefs of many stripes. In reality, though, much as we may profess an inclination toward open-mindedness, most human beings are not really in the market for new ways of looking at the world. We do not want to hear that everything we know is wrong.

Strongly held convictions, the willingness to act on them, and the wherewithal to foist them on others are the marks of leadership and greatness. We strive for this quality in ourselves, and are magnetically attracted to it in others. Doubt is for the weak, hesitation for the frail. It has always been thus. A millennia or so ago, a group of high-minded spiritual leaders, absolute in their conviction, persuaded great numbers of European nobles and commoners that nothing would be more delightful to God than the sight of them marching through the Near and Middle East, looting, pillaging, raping and performing sundry acts of desecration as they went. The masses, eager for salvation and adventure, bought into it, and the Crusades began.

Far more recently, a group of high-minded spiritual leaders from the Near and Middle East persuaded a group, smaller in number but no less determined than the Europeans, that the best way to cure the sickness of Western imperialism would be to fly a couple of planes into buildings. We called that "unprecedented." Persuasion and progress. Progress and persuasion.

Throughout history, the tools of persuasion have been ingenious and diverse. Sometimes, as with the shiny psychological scalpels wielded by spin doctors and advertising hacks and media consultants, the instruments have been subtle, almost invisible. Think of the billions of dollars spent by consumers every day on shiny, toxic crap - everything from cars to liposuction to cosmetics - promoted by advertising agencies that prey on our selfishness, greed, lust and insecurity. In other cases - inquisitions, gas chambers, mushroom clouds - the tools have been more crude.

Today, the poison of persuasion is more potent and more concentrated than ever. Newspapers, magazines, television and the internet form a bubbling cauldron of opinion and coercion, and for the most part the ingredients are provided by a tiny, supremely influential elite possessed of high-minded and firmly held convictions. From Tokyo to Nunavut, the poison is paralyzing our awareness. The values of Time-Warner and The Wall Street Journal are becoming the values of most of humanity. The pages turn, the shareholders peruse the columns. If the shareholders get nervous, the generals wait for word, governments topple, the people are persuaded it's all in the name of security and progress.

What's needed, it seems to me, is a little less certainty and a little more doubt; a lot less persuasion and a lot more soul-searching. We need to talk less and listen more. We need to suspect that others may be right and we may be wrong. We need to put ourselves in the shoes of the powerless and the disenfranchised. We need to become more aware that what is good or convenient or desirable for us may be hurtful or destructive for others. We need to see that we are connected to everyone and everything about us, part of one great whole. Above all, we need to question those who wield their influence and power to convince us that they have the solution.



**Dear Barb:**

***My boyfriend and I are struggling students, but we still want to have a vacation this summer. I realize it is late in the season, but can you suggest something we could do that wouldn't cost a lot, but would still be enjoyable?***

**Mary in Ontario**

Taking a vacation is important for everyone. It is a chance to relax and clear your mind of the stresses of daily life. Of course when you are a student, finances are an important consideration in whatever you choose to do.

The first thing that comes to mind is camping. Camping can be both fun and relaxing, depending on the activities in which you participate. As well, camping helps you get in touch with your natural environment, something people seem to have lost track of in today's hectic lifestyle. I'm not aware of what equipment you have access to. You will need some basic equipment, a tent, sleeping bags and a barbeque or stove, preferably a propane one. Perhaps you don't own this equipment, but you may be able to purchase some of these items at a second hand store, or even borrow from family or friends.

Next you must decide what type of campground you want to stay in. For example, Provincial Parks offer a fairly unspoiled environment and are generally near a lake or conservation area. Consequently, boating and fishing may be available. Provincial Parks usually include hiking and biking trails, so wear good shoes and bring your bike if possible. Some of the larger parks, like Pinery Provincial Park in Grand Bend Ontario, have Visitor's Centers where you can discover the wildlife and vegetation of the region.

Private campgrounds offer a more manicured environment. As well, they often have permanent campers who stay for the entire season. Private campgrounds frequently host dances, bingo and activities for children. However biking and hiking trails are limited.

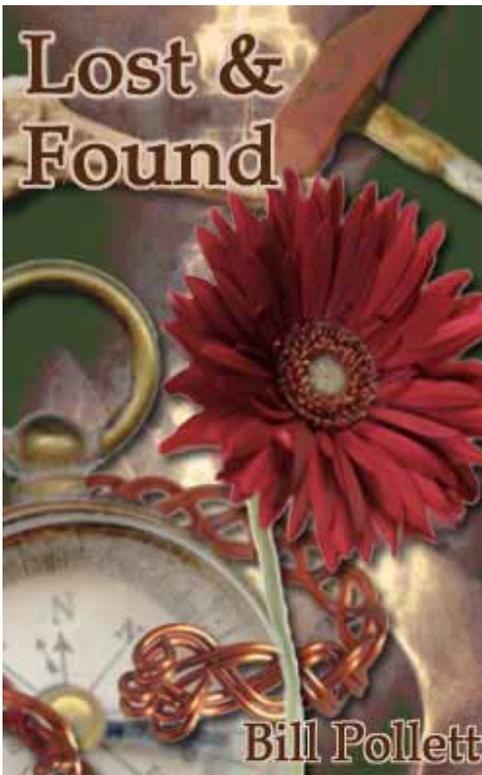
Another option is a KOA Campground. KOA's are located throughout Canada and the United States and are strategically placed near highways offering easy access for travelers. KOA's are clean, well-groomed campgrounds, which also include planned activities. However, the most appealing aspect of a KOA, from the perspective of a prudent camper, may be that you can stay in a Kabin. This means that if you do not have camping gear, you can still enjoy the benefits of camping. KOA Kabin's are equipped with beds; all you have to supply is bedding. Also, most include a gas barbeque or stove. Kabin's are more expensive than a regular campsite, but still a good value for your dollar.

If camping doesn't appeal to you, how about considering day trips? I bet you've never boarded the sightseeing bus in your own city or town. When was the last time you visited your neighborhood Art Gallery or Museum. Check out the local Tourist Bureau, you may be surprised to learn what your own city has to offer.

Finally, if none of the above strike your fancy, how about a weekend at a Bed & Breakfast? Most cities and towns have B&B's. Perhaps you enjoy an evening at the theater. When purchasing your tickets ask about the Bed & Breakfast's in the area. B&B's are historic homes that maintain the charm and comfort of the era in which they were built. As the name implies they include a scrumptious home made breakfast. Staying at a B&B will cost you more than camping, but still less than most hotels. The cost of campsites varies depending on where you live, but I think a safe average would be \$25.00 per night. Of course a stay at a Bed & Breakfast would cost much more.

I hope I was helpful and that you will be able to have an enjoyable and cost efficient vacation.

*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.*



## PROPER FLAT

*Down in the jungle, got a proper flat  
Do a bit of this and do a bit of that;  
The punters come and the punters go,  
Suits me fine, I'm Cushty Cho!  
Down in the jungle down on my luck.  
Me downhearted? Like fuck.*

- Ian Duhig

*We were bad. We read Andre Gide and struck elaborate poses to show that we didn't give a shit about anything. At night, we went up to Greasy Lake.*

- From "Greasy Lake" by T. Coraghessan Boyle

Here's what I remember: I'm eighteen years old, fresh out of high school, and it's my first night in my new apartment. It's late in the evening, and there's a prostitute standing at the corner nineteen floors below. Business must be slow, because she's lifting her dress for the benefit of the passing cars. There are five or six of us

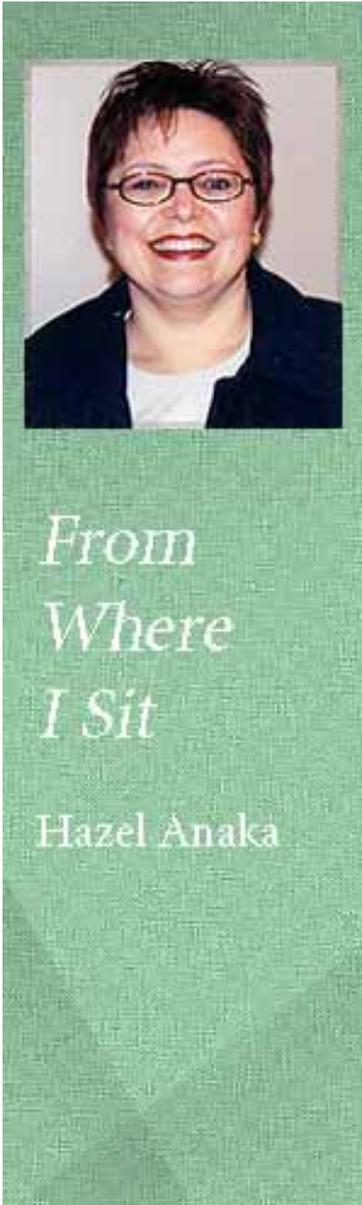
squeezed onto my postage-stamp sized balcony, watching the show.

Bored with that, we gather in the kitchen to drink lukewarm beer and hot-knife hash over the stove. Six months before the missed period and the drug store pregnancy test, seven months before the abortion, my girlfriend is drinking Baby Duck from a Dixie cup, and we're passing around a leaky paper carton filled with greasy Shanghai noodles.

Fifteen years before I give up on an unfulfilling insurance career and enroll in a community college creative writing course, I'm telling my friends, now that I have my own place, I'll be free to concentrate on writing the Great Canadian Novel. I did well in high school. I'll enroll in UBC in the fall.

The apartment I'm renting is what they call a "studio", which means it's maybe 500 square feet. There are a few cardboard boxes stacked in one corner of the living room and a black Naugahyde hide-a-bed stretches almost from wall to wall. My "entertainment centre" / bookcase is three two-by-fours balanced on cinder blocks stolen from the construction site across the street. My record collection, mostly Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd, with a Chet Baker album displayed at the front to lend me an air of mystery and sophistication, is stored in a yellow Dairyland milk crate.

Money's going to be a bit tight, I can already see that. My bicycle courier job pays me \$650 a month after taxes, and my rent is \$465. But Elvis Costello is singing on the stereo, Stanley Park is stretched out below me, and the lights of the city are plugged in just for me. I'm eighteen, and I'm smart, and I'm waiting for the future to unfold.



## SIGNATURE

signature n., 1 the name of a person, or something representing his name, written, stamped or inscribed as a sign of agreement or acknowledgement

My Funk and Wagnalls offers that as its first definition for the word signature. Graphologist Ruth Gardner defines it as "the writer's calling card." About the only thing more personal and distinct than our signature are our fingerprints.

Most of us probably remember as teens, practicing our signature. I smile as I look back at some of my first attempts at establishing my style. Over-sized, immature, curvaceous.

Initially the precision and clarity of each letter may have made our grade 3 teacher proud. The white knuckle pressure on our first ballpoint pen and the accompanying grimace revealed the concerted effort required. That soon gave way to a more stylized scrawl or a more relaxed version or an overly ornate approach. Eventually it became decidedly our own.

If we're female it may have included cutesy little heart-shaped symbols in place of dots. Or a happy face sign-off.

As our interest in boys in general and Mr. Right in particular grew, we began practicing a new signature incorporating our beloved's surname.

We laid claim by signing textbooks, notebooks, letters, autographs, yearbooks, and more.

I'd like to propose a new, grown-up definition: signature, n. 1 the definitive way one distinguishes oneself.

During my stint as census representative for the 2001 federal census I was exposed to many people I didn't know. I was in hundreds of farmyards. The job entailed drop-off, editing and follow-up of missing or incomplete questionnaires. It dawned on me that everything we do, everything we are, everything we have is our signature.

When we disrespect anyone in front of our children, that is our signature.

When we scrawl our answers in anger and enter an anti-government rant in the comments section, that is our signature.

When we screen our calls and hide behind locked doors, that is our signature.

When we stall and delay and procrastinate, that is our signature.

When we live in chaos and filth, that is our signature.

Likewise, when we do what is required in a civilized society, with grace, that is our signature.

When we choose real life events, like a federal census, as teaching tools for our children, that is our signature.

When we take pride in all we do -- from paperwork to yard work, that is our signature.

When we begin to understand the big picture and our place in it, that is our signature.

When we become aware that all we do, have and say is our signature, we begin to distinguish ourselves as unique. We begin to consciously choose those actions consistent with who we are. We walk our talk. We don't practice situational ethics. We are who we are, whether anyone's watching or not. We understand our children are looking and learning. We learn to sign our lives with pride.

At least that's the way it looks from where I sit.

*\*Reprinted with permission*



### It Is Finished... Almost

So the results from the 2004 General Election have now been announced, and those of us who care already know the basics, right? The Liberal Party managed to gain a minority government with the Conservative Party acting as the official opposition.

Except it's not quite over. While the general results are not at issue at Elections Canada, there's an official judicial recount going on in the riding of Jeanne-Le Ber between the Liberal candidate and the candidate for the Bloc Quebecois.

This recount is actually fairly important, because the results will determine if the Liberal Party must align with the Bloc Quebecois or the Conservative Party to get any legislation through. If the Liberal Candidate wins the recount, then the Liberal Party will retain their 135 seats -- just enough so that if they can gain the support of the NDP and the one independent candidate, they'll have a majority able to pass legislation.

However, if the Bloc candidate wins the recount, then no legislation will be able to pass without the approval of at least one member of either the Conservative Party or the Bloc Quebecois.

Another interesting point is that the party that lost the most due to our system of ridings and holding elections turns out to be the NDP. With over 15% of the popular vote, they only managed to take about 6% of the seats. No party had a larger difference between the percentage of the popular vote and their power in Parliament. In fact, the NDP are the only party that got a seat at all where percentage of people voting for them is actually higher than the amount of power they were granted. Fortunately, the new funding system put into place means that the NDP will be rewarded for their popularity regardless, in the amount of about three million dollars delivered over the next four years.

Incidentally, my choice, the Green Party candidate in my riding, came in a distant fourth to the Conservative Party's candidate. While I expected that result, I'm happy to know that my vote means an extra \$1.50 going to the Green Party over the next four years. Hopefully the funding they'll gain from their 4% of the popular vote will be enough to tell the other parties that they may need to take another look at the values espoused by the Greens.

### Newfoundland and Labrador: Thinking Narrow?

The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has recently commissioned an investigative review of the public post-secondary education system in the province.

Unfortunately, looking at the planned scope of this white paper, it seems the province is completely focussing on educational institutions within the province, rather than on the complete educational system, which of course includes Athabasca University. This is unfortunate because it not only means their white paper will be an incomplete view of educational opportunities in the province, but AU may also miss an opportunity to bring distance ed to the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador. When you consider the very seasonal nature of most work in the Maritimes, and couple that with some of the long-term off-shore work that needs to be done, it's clear that focussing on physical campuses will neglect opportunities for a good portion of your populace.

Hopefully, Athabasca University will be on the ball here and make contact with the two gentlemen who have been commissioned to create the paper. After all, the worst outcome would simply be that nothing changes

from what they're doing now. On the other hand, if the white paper gets expanded to even mention distance education, this gives Athabasca University a much better position to try to establish good working relations in yet another province.

Our University is currently operating under a Strategic University Plan that requires a growth of at least 10% in undergraduate enrolment every year, so when opportunities like these present themselves, we can only hope that they snap them up.

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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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## BRUSH UP ON YOUR SLANG

*Lonita Fraser*

One of the most fascinating aspects of human culture is language. Most of us are curious about how other people describe things, the words they use, how things are defined, and are delighted to learn a new turn of phrase now and then - even if it is something vulgar. The World Wide Web is bursting at its proverbial seams with all manner of language sites - from the sublime to the ridiculous, from the useful to the purely strange. Try some of them out.

**Cockney Rhyming Slang** - <http://www.cockneyrhymingslang.co.uk/>

You've probably heard rhyming slang and not even realised what it was -- a method of communication in which rhyming words or phrases are substituted for "normal" English terminology. There is often a connection between the rhyming slang and the thing being replaced, but the connection isn't always obvious.

**Regional Slang** - <http://www.slanguage.com/>

Learn what the locals in various parts of the world are talking about.

**Yiddish Words Found in English** - <http://www.bergen.org/AAST/Projects/Yiddish/English/comwor.html>

English is a bastardised language. It borrows words from other tongues - and more often than not, we don't even realize when we are using foreign phrases. Take the word "kakameyme" for example.

**Western Slang and Phrases** - <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~poindexterfamily/OldWestSlang.html>

More came out of the old west than cowboys and covered wagons.

**The English-to-American Dictionary** - <http://english2american.com/dictionary/a.html>

Because, whether you realise it or not, there is quite a bit of difference. As Canadians we may not notice it so much, since we are in between the two cultures.

**Pseudodictionary** - <http://www.pseudodictionary.com/>

A site dedicated to made-up slang words, where everyone can add and get credit for their own words too. "We're compiling a different sort of dictionary here... The words on this site are words that regular (and we use this term loosely) people like you use everyday. So here's your chance to be part of a dictionary and submit your own words!"

**World Wide Words** - <http://www.worldwidewords.org/>

A site with more information on words and language use than you could ever possibly want.

**The Rosetta Project** - <http://www.rosettaproject.org/>

"Fifty to ninety percent of the world's languages are predicted to disappear in the next century, many with little or no significant documentation... As part of the effort to secure this critical legacy of linguistic diversity, The Long Now Foundation is creating a broad online survey and near permanent physical archive of 1,000 of the approximately 7,000 languages on the planet."

**The Word Spy** - <http://www.wordspy.com/>

"This Web site is devoted to lexicpionage, the sleuthing of new words and phrases. These aren't "stunt words" or "sniglets," but new terms that have appeared multiple times in newspapers, magazines, books, Web sites, and other recorded sources."

**Nonsensicon** - <http://www.nonsensicon.com/>

A dictionary of nonexistent words that I'm sure we could bring into popular usage if we worked at it.



## FOOTLOOSE Film Review

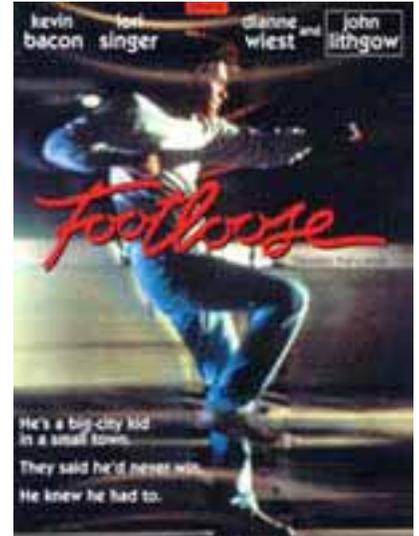
By Laura Seymour

### All July - Musicals

Have a new family move to a small town and make sure the town is in turmoil. That's the basic premise for this film. Then have a real cute kid, Ren McCormack, AKA Kevin Bacon come along and challenge all their small town excess baggage.

The stink began when the preacher's son died after a teen party involving rock music, resulting in a town-wide ban on live music and teen parties. Dianne Wiest is amazing as the preacher's tolerant and supportive wife, Vi, who loves her daughter and mourns the loss of her son but wants to tell her husband that maybe it's time to let the past rest. It's a tough job with a bull-headed man like the zealous Reverend Shaw Moore (John Lithgow).

Remember Marc Singer? He was the resident hunk in "V" the TV series as well as many movies. His little sister, Lori is the preacher's daughter Ariel, a key person in this 1980s movie hit. She's a bit "loose" and falls for Ren but he wants to make sure he's not going to be a notch on *her* belt!



This movie makes you want to jump Kevin Bacon who is just about the sexiest thing on two dancing legs. His moves are a combination of acrobatics and dance. He is especially powerful in the barn scene. Ren hates the little town he's has to live in with his mother, who has recently been widowed and forced to live with her brother and his family in a little town where narrow Christian religion is king and everyone is fearful of the preacher. Then along comes Ren who just wants to have a school dance.

The kids at school try sneaking over the county line for a night out but that isn't going to work for long. The drinks are liberal, there's a fight and then they have to find a way to get home without getting caught. Thank god for friends.

Ren's new friend in town is Willard Hewitt (Christopher Penn). You might want Kevin but I'll take slim and oh so toned Penn, who simply reeks of masculinity and strength. He does an amazing dance number with a solid gymnastic style after trying to convince us that he can't dance. BOY can he ever pick it up fast!

Eventually everyone wants to dance and the town council is petitioned by Ren and the school kids who want to have a party legally. They cite verses from the bible and manage to eventually get their way, but I'm not going to tell you how it ends and how that happens.

This is such a great movie for dance and get up and go. If you've been sitting on the couch too much with your studies why not slip it in the VCR and get up for some exercise. Just watch the walls with all those back flips you'll do!

This great musical keeps you boppin' with some of the best 80s music on the market, and has gained a huge following and many fans who both adore the music and want to fall under the spell of the dance and acrobatics.

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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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## 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

# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

## FRANK O'NEILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Value: \$500

**Application Deadline: August 14, 2004**

**Administrator:** CollegeFinancialAidInformation.com

Notes: A \$500 award towards higher education.

### Contact Information:

Geoff Anderla

11200 Wisconsin Ave #10 85363

Phone: 623-972-4282 Toll Free: 1-866-433-8243

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

E-mail: [info@easyaid.com](mailto:info@easyaid.com)

Application Address: [http://www.easyaid.com/scholarship\\_form.html](http://www.easyaid.com/scholarship_form.html)

## MESOTHELIOMA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Value: \$500

**Application Deadline: August 15, 2004**

**Administrator:** MesoScholarship

Notes: The \$500 Mesothelioma Memorial Scholarships are offered four times per year to honor the thousands of people who have died from mesothelioma due to exposure to asbestos, as well as the thousands of patients who are newly diagnosed with the disease every year. Please visit the Web site for more details about eligibility and applications.

### Contact Information:

Christina Barsch - Director of Media Relations

PO Box 2560

Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

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

E-mail: [questions@mesotheliomamemorial.com](mailto:questions@mesotheliomamemorial.com)

Application Address: <http://www.straightforwardmedia.com/mesothelioma/form.php>

## ALBERTA BLUE CROSS 50TH ANNIVERSARY TRAVELER'S BURSARY - FAIRVIEW CAMPUS

Value: \$500

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2004**

**Administrator:** Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Notes: For students entering, or in first year.

### Contact Information:

Bonnie Megley - Student Awards Administrator

Student Awards Office, O101-11762 106 Street NW

Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2R1

Phone: (780) 471-7547 Fax: (780) 471-8414

Web Site: <http://www.nait.ab.ca/scholarships/default.asp>

Application Address: <http://www.nait.ab.ca/scholarships/default.asp>



## Searching for Internships

*Shannon Maguire*

### Canadian Embassy-Washington, D.C. Internship

**Website:** <http://www.canadianembassy.org/embassy/internships-en.asp>

**Position description:** There are positions available in Public Affairs including Academic Relations, Culture, Press/Media, and Information Services. They also frequently have positions available in Trade, Environment, Energy and Congressional Relations.

**Pay:** Unpaid.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a Canadian or American attending a Canadian or American university or college.

**Time and Length:** Interns usually work 4 ½ days per week. The length is not mentioned.

**How to Apply:** You will need to send the following via fax to (202) 682-7791:

- completed Application Form (contact Ingrid Summa to obtain a copy);
- an autobiographical sketch stating your goals/interests and why you are applying to our program;
- a resume;
- an unofficial academic transcript; and
- three letters of recommendation (academic/employment).

For more information and to obtain an application form contact Ingrid Summa, Intern Coordinator, at (202) 682-1740, ext. 7530 or by e-mail: [ingrid.summa@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:ingrid.summa@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

### International Organization for Migration (IOM) Internships

**Website:** [http://www.iom.int/en/who/main\\_vacancies\\_internship.shtml](http://www.iom.int/en/who/main_vacancies_internship.shtml)

**Position description:** Various positions. They list available positions on their website.

**Pay:** Unpaid but you will receive a Monthly Subsistence Allowance which is calculated depending on the type of education you possess and the distance of your permanent residence from IOM's location in Geneva. Allowances range from 500 to 1500 CHF but will likely not cover your total costs.

**Eligibility requirements:** None specified.

**Time and Length:** Ranges from 8 weeks to 6 months.

**How to Apply:** Apply year round by sending your cover letter and resume to their Staffing Unit at [internships@iom.int](mailto:internships@iom.int).

You can find more detailed information on their website listed above.

### American Express Internships

**Website:** <http://www10.americanexpress.com/sif/cda/page/0,1641,16404,00.asp>

**Position description:** Various descriptions available around the world. There are currently 6 openings in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom: Project analyst, Design Specialist, CSI Leadership Development, Marketing, Operations and Financial Advisor.

**Pay:** Not mentioned.

**Eligibility requirements:** There are different requirements for each position which are listed on their website.

**Time and length:** Varies with positions.

**How to Apply:** Each position has its own application procedures listed in its description on their website.

### Sony Electronics Internships

**Website:** <http://sel.newjobs.com/university.asp>

**Position description:** Sony offers internships in the following areas: Accounting; Information Systems; Marketing; Public Relations; Communications; Human Resources; General Business Administration; Electrical, Mechanical, Industrial or Computer Engineering; Computer Science or Materials Science. There is a more detailed description of each area provided on their website mentioned above.

**Pay:** Not mentioned.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Be a full time student who has completed their sophomore year in a program related to one of the areas mentioned above, maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher, and pass a drug test.

**Time and Length:** Ranges from 5 weeks to 6 months.

**How to apply:** You can search their website for available internships and apply online for each individual position.

# 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*

- PISTA '04 - July 21-25 - Orlando, Florida - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are transforming our societies, therefore papers about research results, solutions and problems of the applications of ICT in Politics and Society are highly encouraged. Details: <http://www.confinf.org/Pista04/website/default.asp>
- EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 - July 28 - 30 - Dhaka, Bangladesh. EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 is the platform for you to promote your Institutions and services and to recruit students in Bangladesh. Details: <http://www.expam.com/bangladesh/>
- Learning Services Conference - Oct. 1-2 - Edmonton, AB. AU's annual Learning Services Conference returns to the Crown Plaza Chateau Lacombe in downtown Edmonton October 1 and 2, 2004. Please mark your calendar. We anticipate a great conference this year, and welcome your participation. TO REGISTER: please use the online form at [http://www.athabascau.ca/collab/lisconf\\_reg\\_form.html](http://www.athabascau.ca/collab/lisconf_reg_form.html) Just fill in the blanks and click "Submit." If the 2003 form appears, click on your refresh/reload button and it will revert to the 2004 form. TO RESERVE A ROOM at the hotel: please call 1-800-661-8801 and mention "AU conference" to qualify for the negotiated conference rate.
- N.A.Web 2004 - Oct. 16-19 - Fredericton, NB - 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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c/o Athabasca University Students' Union  
2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4  
Ph: 800.788.9041 ext. 3413 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

**Publisher** Athabasca University Students' Union  
**Editor In Chief** Tamra Ross Low  
**News Contributor** Lonita Fraser

### Regular Columnists:

Debbie Jabbour, Karl Low, Laura Seymour, Amanda Lyn Baldwin,  
Hazel Anaka, Larry Seymour, Bill Pollett

### Contributors to listings columns:

Zil-E-Huma Lodhi, Shannon Maguire, Lonita Fraser

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