

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

November 24, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 45



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

THE VOICE

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Voice Photo Feature

Edmonton's Gay Pride Parade

Text and Photos by John Buhler



As temperatures dip lower, and advertisers mount their annual Christmas season assault upon the shopping public, the parades of last summer may have become merely a distant memory. Certainly one of Edmonton's most interesting and dazzling public spectacles of the summer was the Gay Pride Parade, held on June 19th, 2004.

Aside from drag queens and a large dose of self-deprecating humour from the gay community, many groups promoted responsible sex practices and education about HIV/AIDS. PFLAG, or Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, marched in support of family members and friends who just happened to be born homosexual. Other parade participants represented businesses, cheering squads (including one from San Francisco), and political parties of many stripes.

Both the federal and provincial Conservatives, however, were conspicuously absent. That was not surprising as the Conservatives have never been known for their sense of humour, especially the newly minted federal party headed by the pathologically bland Stephen Harper. Edmonton's then mayor, "Smiling" Bill Smith, who for years had refused to declare a Gay Pride Day, was also absent, perhaps due to





his terminal lack of imagination.

While some politicians failed to support equality, several church groups and other Christian groups marched in favour of gay rights. No doubt this will surprise some people who see religion as a platform for anti-gay bigotry. Yet, a number of religious groups, including Unitarians, Lutherans, and United Church of Canada members, drew enthusiastic applause from the spectators.

Several blocks of Edmonton's Jasper Avenue were jammed with supporters of gay rights. The *Edmonton Journal* estimated that 5,000 people had turned out to see the parade. The crowds included gays, straights, families with children, and even family pets. In fact I attended the parade with my wife and her parents. It was, in spite of assumptions to the contrary, a real family event!

And of course, there were protestors, although very few in number. A pair of flamboyantly attired drag queens outshone a trio of protestors spotted in front of St. Joseph's Basilica. Towards the end of the parade route, another man held a sign proclaiming **MAN + MAN = ZERO**, as if human reproduction was about to come to an abrupt end.

In spite of fear mongering and homophobia, the Gay Pride Parade was a splash of colour in conservative Alberta, Canada's otherwise uptight Bible belt. For one day last June, it was possible to forget the bigotry, and just enjoy the spectacle.



Many church groups and individual Christians took part in the Gay Pride Parade. Some churches actually have a mandate to include gays and lesbians in their membership. Edmonton's McDougall United Church is one such congregation.

Covenant of McDougall United Church

As a Christian faith community in downtown Edmonton: We are rooted in worship that continues to reflect a pioneering spirit through innovative and traditional liturgies, variety in music, and the active engagement of the worshipper.

We are committed to accepting into fellowship and, according to their gifts, into leadership, persons of any race, gender, age, sexual orientation or disability. We are dedicated to programs, services and opportunities which nurture spiritual and theological growth, and which demand we work toward a more just, responsible and compassionate society. We actively and prayerfully seek partnerships within the wider community. We believe God is not limited to the notions of the past, nor of our own time. We recognize that our knowledge of God is partial and confined, and there is yet more truth to be discovered.

Such is the joy and excitement of the Christian quest of McDougall United Church.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Custom Applications with VBA (CMIS 312)

Katie Patrick



If you're like me, your curiosity has been piqued by the puzzling acronym in this new AU course's title, "Custom Applications with VBA." *What* could this mysterious "VBA" refer to? My less-than-stunning computer science background certainly didn't help me out. Succumbing to my curiosity, I quickly opened my AU course calendar, and began to read:

"Custom Applications with VBA", or CMIS 312, a type of Computers and Management Information Systems course, just opened at the end of this October." (If you enroll right away, you might have the honour of being one of the first students!) "A 3-credit course in Applied Studies, Custom Applications with VBA (CMIS 312) delves into the world of computer programming, exploring potential applications between Microsoft Office and Visual Basic, a prominent programming language in the computer science field.

"Students will have the opportunity to gain experience with the rudiments and concepts of computer programming in Visual Basic, and be able to make simple custom programs in Microsoft Office" (hence the name of the course, "Custom Applications"!)." "Additionally, they will also

become familiar with the "basic background" of other computer programming languages currently on the market."

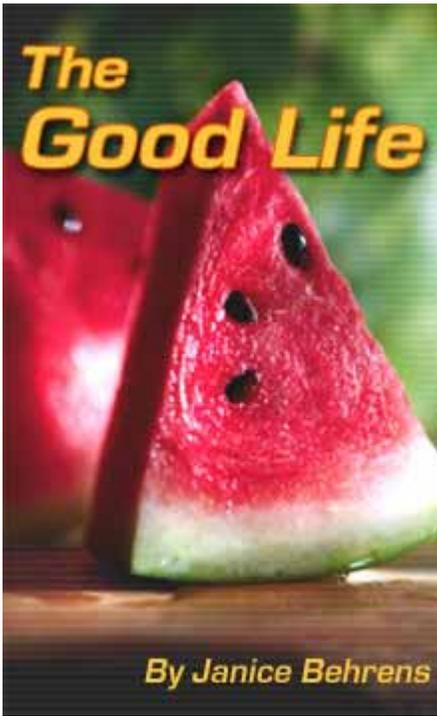
CMIS 312 consists of 9 tutorials, available through AU's "regular" independent study online format, or through the exciting e-class format (where students work together in a paced online class). The first tutorials provide students with a basic background, since no pre-requisites are required for the course. Students are then introduced to variables, logic, and control structures required for Visual Basic programming.

By the 5th tutorial, students are able to program simple applications in Microsoft Word; then they branch out to programming basic applications for Excel, Power Point, Access, and more.

CMIS 312's evaluation is in several parts. Students complete 3 assignments related to the course materials; the first 2 assignments are worth 15% of the final grade, and the last assignment is weighted more heavily: 25%. 15% of the course mark is also devoted to how effectively students participate in CMIS 312's online discussion board. The remaining 30% of the course grade is determined by the final exam.

Well, how does the course "Custom Applications in VBA" (CMIS 312) sound? Exciting and interesting, right? Be sure to check out the course syllabus at: www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/cmisis/cmisis312.htm. And by the way, "VBA" stands for Visual Basic Applications...if you hadn't already guessed...

To review more information about this course, and other courses offered by the AU School of Business, see the faculty website at: <http://business.athabascau.ca/>



Yuletide and the Senses

Every year it begins right after Halloween, when the stores start erecting their window displays for the maelstrom of shopping that is about to descend on us. I'm talking about the annual complaints from friends, relatives and coworkers that the Christmas season has become "so commercialized" and that it has "lost its spirituality". I often hear these statements coming from the mouths of people who rarely, if ever, set foot inside a church or a temple throughout the rest of the year.

I am not religious in any formal or organized sense of the word, but I believe that having a sense of spirituality, a feeling of connection to the mysterious, transcendent aspect of our existence, is vitally important to the living of a rich, fulfilled life. I believe that we are inundated with holiness every day of our lives, if we only know how to recognize it. The way to recognize it is through using the wondrous gifts that the Creator has bestowed upon us: I'm talking about the five senses.

In her commentary on the book of Chinese philosophy known as the *Tao Te Ching*, novelist Ursula LeGuin explains that one of the ideas implicit in Lao Tzu's teachings is that those who "ignore the body and live in the head...are both dangerous and in danger". The message Lao Tzu imparts, says LeGuin, is "enjoy your life; live in your body, you are your body; where else is there to go? Heaven and earth are one. As you walk the streets of your town you walk on the Way of heaven". If we believe this to be true, then everything that surrounds us is a potential source of spiritual enlightenment. Walking through the woods, surrounded by dripping fir trees, listening to Mozart, or emotionally connected sex are all potentially acts of spiritual enlightenment if they awaken us to the magic and the mystery that surrounds us. When we truly connect with the world about us we live, to borrow a phrase from the Irish rock band The Waterboys, in a "church not made with hands".

In her beautifully written and mind-altering book *A Natural History of the Senses*, poet and essayist Diane Ackerman agrees that it is the experience of our flesh and bone selves that connects us to the world. "Our several senses", she says, "which feel so personal and impromptu...reach far beyond us...an extension of the genetic chain that connects us to everyone who has ever lived...to other people and to animals, across time and country and happenstance...the personal and the impersonal, the one private soul with its many relatives, the individual with the universe, all of life on Earth" (308).

When we learn to truly appreciate the everyday magic in our lives, we give ourselves the opportunity of restoring that lost sense of spiritual transcendence to the upcoming holiday season. After all, before they were taken over by the agenda of the Catholic Church, the pagan Winter Solstice revelries were a celebration of the bounty of nature appreciated through the senses. They were a time of feasting, music, and fellowship--not so different from our Yuletide celebrations of today. When you notice the proliferation of cooking shows on television these days, you can see that the preparation and sharing of food, in particular, has once again become an expression of human vitality and connectedness to each other and to the world.

As Diane Ackerman points out, food is first experienced in the form of milk from our mother's breast, "accompanied by love and affection, stroking, a sense of security, warmth and well-being,

our first intense feelings of pleasure". It is amongst our first assurances that we will find nourishment in the world around us. Understandably, it takes on great resonance, becoming a "big source of pleasure" for most of us, a "complex realm of satisfaction both physiological and emotional".

Ackerman also points out that food is intimately connected to and symbolic of our relationships with others. In all cultures, eating together is an act of sharing and trust: "A companion is 'one who eats bread with another'". Also, as Ackerman says, "sexual hunger and physical hunger have always been allies". When we make love, we "play at devouring each other, digesting each other, we nurse on each other, drink each other's fluids". When we eat, we bring the outside world inside our bodies, incorporating it into ourselves.

We are, for better or worse, defined by the food we eat, the people we touch, the community we were born into. These, above all, are the elements that make up a good life. Perhaps if we reflect on this as we sit down to Christmas dinner with our friends and relatives, we will be able to regain some sense of the sacredness that our forays to the shopping malls have taken from us.

References

- Ackerman, Diane. *A Natural History of the Senses*. New York: Random House, 1990.
- Lao Tzu. *Tao Te Ching: A Book About The Way and the Power of The Way*. Ed. Ursula K. LeGuin. Boston: Shambhala Publications Inc., 1997.

CHECK IT OUT

Lonita Fraser

Ask An Expert - <http://www.askanexpert.com/>

Covering topics of all kinds, Ask An Expert provides information from real world experts who have volunteered to answer the questions you have.

The site, which is primarily geared to the learner, is suitable for all persons, from kids to parents, from students to teachers.

Some of the subjects covered on the site include aerospace, business, computing, cultural issues, humanities, specific trade information, repair questions, and much more.

All Experts - <http://www.allexperts.com/>

This site provides thousands of volunteers, including lawyers, doctors, engineers, and scientists, waiting to answer your questions. All answers are free and most come within a day!

Along with providing pointers to experts on a vast array of topics, the site provides directions on how you too can volunteer to provide answers for others.



I was reading Nietzsche's *Man and Superman* the other day when the doorbell rang. Well, okay, it wasn't actually Nietzsche (thank God for spell check). It was, let's say, the latest John Grisham novel. Alright, I was flipping through the lingerie ads in the Sears catalogue--the main point is that the doorbell rang, and I got up to answer it, okay?

Standing outside my door were a couple of kids from the local elementary school. This being Vancouver, they were raising money for their competitive yoga team by selling coupons for half-price Botox treatments at a neighbourhood cosmetic surgery clinic. Naturally, I did what I always do when I have solicitors at my door, which is release the wolf hounds.

Sturm and Drang are actually quite harmless, but their snarling and growling does tend to get the instinctual survival mechanism going, especially with the little tykes. It's truly amazing the merchandise they'll drop as they take off down the street. Suffice it to say that I haven't had to fork over cold hard cash for Girl Guide cookies for quite some time.

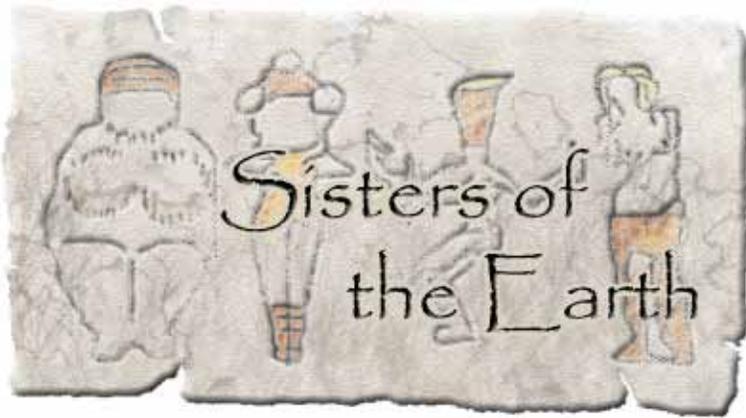
Looking through the stack of coupon books they left on my doorstep, the wheels began to turn. From what I'd been hearing, having a nose job or a liposuction these days has become something of a status symbol, like buying a new car or a pair of designer lederhosen.

I myself have always been on the cutting edge of lifestyle. For instance, I was making fashion statements in the area of bum cleavage back when it was a phenomenon known as "plumber's butt". I was also the very first among my friends to display multiple body piercings (albeit mostly accidental).

I have to confess, though, that I was caught by surprise by the whole "metrosexual" thing. The idea of urban males in touch with their sensitive, feminine side, displaying aesthetic savvy in clothes and household furnishings, spending time and money on fitness clubs, skin care products, cosmetic surgery--who knew? It took me by surprise that I even had a sensitive feminine side. It turns out that my hypothalamus had been illegally subletting a portion of my right cerebral hemisphere to her, along with my creative, intuitive, morally responsible and self-disciplined sides. Fortunately, they'd never disturbed the neighbours by calling too much attention to themselves.

Anyway, I digress. The more I thought about it, the more I began to see that this make-over racket might be a pretty lucrative gig. The first thing to do, I thought, is to investigate getting myself licensed. Being a realist, I did anticipate some problems in this area, owing to the fact that I have no conventional medical training, or high school diploma. Apparently the College of Physicians can get a little sticky in that area.

No problemo, though, because I quickly Googled up a correspondence medical school in the Bahamas that offers a distance-ed cosmetic surgery program. As I write this article, the textbooks are winging their way to me. Six weeks from now, I'll be ready to hang my shingle out the door and start inflating those lips, pecs and foreheads to whatever PSI my clients request. Hell, I'll make them look like the friggin' Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man from *Ghostbuster's* if they pay me enough. The doctor, as they say, is in.



THIS WEEK IN GLOBAL WOMEN'S NEWS Wanda Waterman St. Louis

The Murder of Margaret Hassan

Margaret Hassan, a British aid worker kidnapped in Baghdad a month ago, has probably been killed, according to her Iraqi husband and British diplomats. "I have been told that there is a video of Margaret which appears to show her murder," Tahsin Hassan

told Reuters in Baghdad, adding he was not entirely sure of its authenticity.

Dublin-born Margaret Hassan, who has joint British and Iraqi nationality, was kidnapped on Oct. 19 while on her way to work at Care International. Few foreign women have been taken hostage in Iraq. Militants have waged a campaign of kidnappings and killings to try to force US-led troops and foreigners to leave Iraq. More than thirty-five foreign hostages have been killed.

- http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?sf=2813&set_id=&sf=2813&click_id=3&art_id=qw1100628361774B262&set_id=1

"Margaret Hassan has been murdered. That is the most probable conclusion from a video given to Al Jazeera... Who killed her? Desperate, fanatic people who thereby cast a dark shadow over their nationality, organization, religion and philosophy. People who mistakenly believe that a better Iraq will emerge from such a crime and who cares nil for the welfare of the Iraqi people to whom she devoted most of her life and work. Or someone related to the occupation forces seeking to discredit the image of all Iraqi resistance..."

"Margaret Hassan was not killed in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, she was murdered in the Iraq that has been created by Messrs Bush, Blair, Berlusconi, Fogh Rasmussen and other Western leaders and by U.S. ambassador John Negroponte as well as by the former exile CIA hand and hand-picked prime minister Ayad Allawi."

- Jan Oberg, Director, Transnational Foundation For Peace and Future Research in Sweden (www.transnational.org), and Christian Hårleman, a TFF Associate -- <http://www.dissidentvoice.org/Nov2004/Harleman-Oberg1118.htm>

"One can get [past] the mesmerizing effect of the media by posing simple questions; those questions that have been left out. Margaret Hassan is now believed to be the first woman killed by kidnappers but nobody is asking who and why, given that the Iraqi resistance has denied any role in her captivity from the onset. In fact, Abu-Musab Al-Zarqawi's group issued a statement that they don't hold women prisoners unless they are proven to be belligerent enemies and they actually called for her release! Furthermore, no group has claimed responsibility, which is unprecedented in relation to previous cases of killing kidnapped hostages..."

"Another important question arises in the timing of the release of the video itself. It is too much of a coincidence for it to have been released when the world's eyes were focused on the atrocities committed by the US forces in Fallujah. Conversely, if this was the work of the Iraqi resistance, how does it benefit their cause to release the video now and especially when Margaret already had wide support amongst the Iraqis?"

- Yamin Zakaria -- The Guardian -- London -- Wednesday November 17 2004
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1352849,00.html>
- http://www.jihadunspun.com/intheatre_internal.php?article=100597&list=/home.php

Carolyn Parrish Removed for Bush-Bashing

Carolyn Parrish has been dismissed from the Liberal caucus by Prime Minister Paul Martin. Mr. Martin later commented, "I told her that, while I have defended her right to express her views frankly, I cannot, as leader of our party and the government caucus, tolerate behaviour that demeans and disrespects others..."

Mr. Martin's action reduces the likelihood that George W. Bush will be heckled from the government benches if the U.S. President addresses Parliament when he visits Ottawa at the end of the month.

Ms. Parrish has denounced Mr. Bush by calling him a "war-like" leader. But her most serious misdemeanour seems to have been not respecting the rule of her party's leader, saying Wednesday that Mr. Martin could "go to hell" if he didn't like her behaviour. "I have absolutely no loyalty to this team. None," Parrish told Canadian Press.

- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20041118.wparrish1118/BNStory/Front/> -- Outspoken Canadian MP Critical Of Bush Fired, By Oliver Moore, Globe and Mail Update 11-19-4

Nigerian Islamic Court Acquits Teenager

An Islamic court in northern Nigeria has acquitted a pregnant teenager of adultery, for which she had been sentenced to be stoned to death.

Presiding judge Muhammad Mustafa Omar of the Upper Sharia court said on Wednesday that the lower Sharia (Islamic law) court was wrong in sentencing Hajara Ibrahim, 18, to death by stoning on October 8.

"This court observes the following faults in the lower court judgment: Firstly, the judge was wrong in sentencing Hajara to 100 lashes and death by stoning, all at the same time," he said.

"Secondly, Dauda Sani was charged to court for having an affair with Hajara which he denied. Therefore, the lower court should have dismissed the case and sentenced Hajara's father who was the plaintiff to 80 lashes for slander," he said.

The judge at the court in Dass, in the northern Bauchi State, said the lower court also erred by not giving Hajara the chance for defense.

- http://metimes.com/2K4/issue2004-46/women/nigerian_islamic_court.htm, By Aminu Abubakar DASS, NIGERIA - The Middle East Times -- November 12 2004

American House and Senate Negotiators Add Abortion Clause to Spending Bill

Negotiators have added an anti-abortion provision to a \$388 billion spending bill, complicating plans for Congress to wrap up its business and adjourn for the year.

The abortion language would bar federal, state and local agencies from withholding taxpayer money from health care providers that refuse to provide or pay for abortions or refuse to offer abortion counselling or referrals. Current federal law, aimed at protecting Roman Catholic doctors, provides such "conscience protection" to doctors who do not want to undergo abortion training. The new language would expand that protection to all health care providers, including hospitals, doctors, clinics and insurers.

- <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/20/politics/20spend.html?ex=1101957766&ei=1&en=6c5682f4a3741373>

American Antifeminists in Iraq

The American right wing's antifeminist front, the Independent Women's Forum (IWF) will receive part of a new \$10 million grant program to "train Iraqi women in the skills and practices of democratic public life." Founded in the early 1990's with funds from conservative foundations, the IWF leads the U.S. opposition to the U.S. women's liberation movement.

Women's groups that work in Iraq suggest that such training should not be a high priority right now, the biggest problems affecting Iraqi women being contaminated water, malnutrition, and the scarcity of jobs.

Although known mainly for its critique of feminism, the IWF has always served an economic agenda which includes "free market" capitalism, corporate rights and government deregulation.

- from "Antifeminists Hit Iraq", by Laura Flanders & Laura Ross - <http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20041115&s=flanders>

Feminists in Iraq

Reihana Mohideen claims that the position taken by several feminist groups in Iraq gives tacit support for the occupation. She states that their stance prevents the women's movement from coming out strongly enough against the US assault on Falluja. She does credit groups such as Women in Black, for consistently opposing the occupation.

"Undermining support for the Iraqi resistance in the name of feminism," Mohideen points out, "is an extremely dangerous line to follow."

- GreenLeft_discussion@yahoo.com, <reihana_m@yahoo.com>

Taslima Gets UNESCO Award

"The United Nations' cultural agency on Tuesday awarded Taslima Nasrin, a Bangladeshi writer who has received death threats from some extremist Islamist groups, its tolerance and non-violence prize. Koiichi Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, gave the \$100,000 UNESCO Mandajeet Singh prize to Ms. Nasrin at the agency's headquarters in Paris. Ms. Nasrin, the author of more than 20 books in Bengali, has called for secular education and laws that would provide greater gender equality in her home country, UNESCO said. "

- The Hindu -- Thursday November 18 2004 - <http://www.hindu.com/2004/11/18/stories/2004111805151100.htm>

Feminist Students and Teachers Take Note!

Google has a new search engine especially for research. "Google Scholar enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web."

- <http://scholar.google.com/>

The Spiritual Wisdom of Women

The Women's Wisdom list is made up of people from varied spiritual backgrounds, all hoping to achieve the goal of healing our modern dysfunction by letting go of the ancient dysfunction that is kept alive by misogynist interpretations of ancient scriptures.

You can join by sending a post to womenswisdom-subscribe@yahoo.com

Loretta Kemsley President - Women Artists and Writers International

Publisher of MOONDANCE: Celebrating Creative Women Our vision, our wisdom, our strength

<http://www.moondance.org>

For information about WAWI: <mailto:wawi@moondance.org>

My personal pages: <http://lores.lair.moondance.org/>

New International Feminist Magazine

The first issue of *Digitall Future*, a quarterly International feminist magazine, will come out on December 1, 2004. This bilingual (English and French) paper aims to cover the international scene from a feminist perspective. *Digitall Future* is an initiative of European and North American Women Action ([Enawa/enawa.org](http://enawa.org)).

To order or help distribute copies of *Digitall Future*, please contact the following address: Les Penelopes: 21, rue Voltaire 75011 Paris France - renc@penelopes.org

AUSU THIS MONTH



Are you in Need of Financial Assistance? AUSU Can Help You

AUSU has many financial assistance, emergency and computer bursaries available to help students in need. Every year AUSU will give away 10 financial assistance bursaries, \$6000 in emergency bursaries and \$4800 in computer bursaries.

Visit our website at <http://www.ausu.org/services/scholarships.php> to find out if you qualify for a bursary and to fill out the online application form.

The next deadline for submitting applications for these bursaries is December 1, 2004.

AUSU's Student Association Status is now Formalized Under the Law

AUSU has operated officially since its creation as the students' union for Athabasca University under the *Societies Act of Alberta*. Under the new *Post-secondary Learning Act* each University in Alberta must have a students' association established by an order in council. On September 13, 2004 the Lieutenant Governor approved an order in council which states:

The Lieutenant Governor in council establishes and incorporates a students' association to be known as "The Students' Association of Athabasca University" to provide for the administration of students' affairs and the promotion of the general welfare of students consistent with the purposes of Athabasca University.

Student Mentors Available to Help New Students

If you are a new student looking for someone to help you adjust to life as an Athabasca University student, contact the AUSU Mentor Program. The Mentor Program pairs together new students with experienced students who will help them find their way around AU and AUSU. By participating in this program you will be able to meet someone new and learn from them.

You can find more information about this program on our website at <http://www.ausu.org/services/mentors.php>.

*Does the pressure of having to
study alone keep you up at night?*

AUSU STUDY BUDDY



Dear Barb;

I am a working mother of three in my mid thirties. My children are involved in many activities therefore my husband and I are very busy with work, household activities and driving our children here and there. As a result I am finding it hard to relax. Most of the time I feel stressed out, and consequently I am not able to enjoy my children or my husband. I would really like to learn to relax and find ways to spend more time with my family. Do you have any suggestions?

Diane, London

Dear Diane,

Your situation is far too common in today's society. However it is very important that you try to find time to enjoy your family, as before you know it your children will be grown and you and your husband will be looking for a new direction for your lives.

Initially, you need to work on pacing yourself. I know this is difficult to accomplish when you have a million things that have to be done. Perhaps you can begin by taking a few minutes in the morning and evening to

meditate. Meditating can be simply finding a spot where you can sit quietly while concentrating on your breathing. As you focus on your breathing, begin to breathe deeper by drawing in enough air to fill your lungs to capacity and when exhaling push the air completely out of your lungs. Start doing this five to ten times at a sitting. Gradually increase until you are meditating approximately 15 minutes. You'll be amazed how 15 minutes a day of deep breathing can be rejuvenating and give you a sense of inner peace.

Another way of relaxing is by muscle contracting and releasing. When you feel tense, or anytime you want to relax, try contracting groups of muscles and hold for a few minutes before releasing. Begin with your feet and work your way up, until you have systematically relaxed all the muscles in your body. This is beneficial to do before going to sleep at night, as it will help you fall asleep. As well, on your drive to work in the morning try listening to a relaxation tape or CD. These will often include the sounds of nature that we rarely take the time to enjoy.

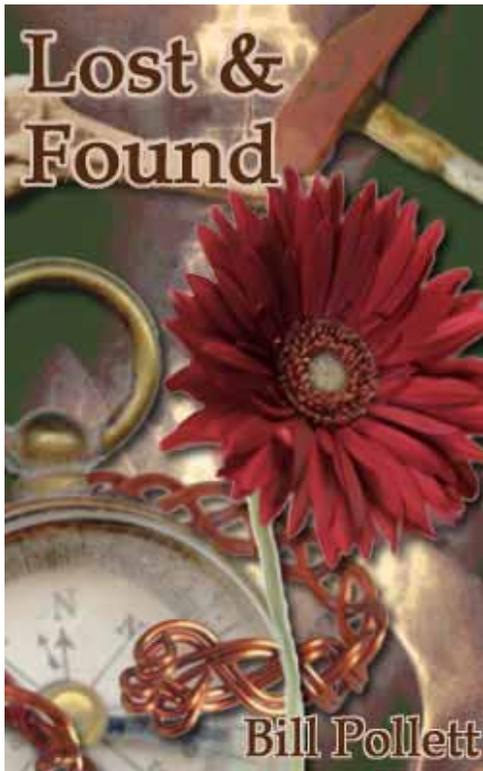
Above are ways to help you physically relax. However it sounds like part of your stress is a result of your busy lifestyle and not having enough family time. Perhaps you need to find ways you and your family can spend time together enjoying each other's company. Have you thought about hiring a housecleaning service? If you haven't already done this, you may find the cost well worth the benefits. For example, if you spend Saturday morning cleaning, you could hire a service to come in and clean your house during the week. As a result Saturday mornings could be spent doing family activities, such as hiking, skiing, or just enjoying time together.

Another option to make your weekdays less stressful is to prepare some of your meals ahead of time. Perhaps when preparing your weekend dinners, you could double up the recipe and freeze a couple of meals for weekdays. These are just a few techniques that may provide some options to help you slow down and take pleasure in your family.

Nevertheless, it's important to keep in mind that contemporary families are not like the "Leave it to Beaver" families of the 1950's and 60's, when mom stayed home and took care of everything while dad went out to work. Consequently a certain amount of stress is unavoidable with today's busy households.

Good luck Diane. I hope I have been able to assist you in finding ways to relax and enjoy your family.

E-mail your questions to 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.



THE JOY OF BEING ORDINARY

As a child my birthday and Christmas wish lists were filled with chemistry sets, ant farms, microscopes and telescopes. I loved field trips to the swamp behind my elementary school to fill plastic baggies with plant samples and jam jars with microbe-infested water, and the subsequent hours spent in biology labs huddled over glass slides and dissecting trays. In the summertime, many of my days were spent in the woods or in the fields searching for mushrooms, birds nests and animal tracks. As a young reader I lingered longingly--and still do--over descriptions of Faust in his laboratory, of Sherlock Holmes bent over test tubes in his Baker Street rooms, of shadowy eccentrics and alchemists, their libraries and studies filled with mysterious charts, stuffed owls, astrolabes, treatises on the location of the human soul, and an unnerving assortment of specimens floating in formaldehyde-filled jars.

Even now, when there is time on my hands and a good bookstore to grub through, my first and often only stop is the science and nature section. With no particular mental place to go, my eyes and mind tend to rummage magpie-like through the book stacks, picking out a brightly-coloured scrap of paper over here, a bit of shiny foil over there. Countless of my hours have been spent reading about the

formation of crystals and minerals, collecting and preserving beetles, the lifecycles of salamanders, nematodes, cockroaches, sea snails and rats. One grimy, poorly lit shop, with a leaky ceiling and a proprietor as approachable as a gila monster, yielded up a treasure trove in the form of a soggy cardboard box filled with old pamphlets and educational literature. There was priceless and no doubt outdated information on such things as egg candling, the bubonic plague, remedies for various forms of animal and insect venom.

Completely lacking the logical, sequential way of organizing the world that is a necessary skill for any serious approach to science, I remain rooted forever at the layman level of scientific understanding. I am an enthusiast rather than a practitioner, a fan rather than a performer. It's an approach to things that I've become used to in my life. A good deal of my time, for instance, is spent listening to recorded music, and I attend live concerts whenever my budget allows. To my mind, the ability to create music is the zenith of human creativity, surpassing all of the other arts in its universality and magical ability to engage both body and mind. I would give up much to have the gift of creating it. Unfortunately, while I can play the guitar a bit, I have little real talent in this area. Despite countless hours of lessons and plucking away in practise, I have none of the intangible essence that true musicianship requires. The same goes for golf, bowling, singing, and painting--all of which I love and none of which I'm particularly brilliant at.

The thing is, though, that my mediocrity in these areas has done nothing to blunt my passion and enthusiasm for them. I have long ago learned to accept the fact (hinted at, in the nicest possible terms, by teachers from kindergarten on) that my contributions in many aspects of life rest more on my enthusiasm than my talent.

None of which is to say that I don't have any talents or aspirations of my own. I can make people laugh, and I cook a mean bechemel sauce. I've been selling poetry, essays, and short stories to a variety of publications for several years now, and have hopes of seeing a book published in the not-too-distant future. I'm working on a play that I also hope will be produced by an amateur theatre group one day. I'm planning to continue my renewed interest in education as far as a doctoral degree, if I can. Also, my painting won't ever be hanging in the Vancouver Art Gallery, but I think it looks okay on my walls. And I don't actually get told to leave the room *every* time I start singing.

Ultimately, though, part of the maturing process for me has been to discover and accept that I am an ordinary human being leading an ordinary life. As a friend of mine once wonderfully put it, this amounts to being "big enough to be small". And there's nothing wrong with that.

Primetime Update

Week of November 21, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

WHAT'S NEW ON PRIMETIME?

THE AMAZING RACE

This season's 11 teams are listed below. For those who haven't seen the show before, the gist is that eleven teams set out from somewhere in the US, and race through multiple legs around the world in which they must follow clues, and compete in detours (choice of two culture-specific tasks) and roadblocks (one predetermined team member must complete a task alone). There are also options to fast-forward (complete one task that allows teams to skip everything else and go directly to the next pit stop) or to yield another team (force them to stop playing for a predetermined period of time). At the end of each leg, teams meet at a pit stop, where they are forced to rest for twelve hours.

Teams start out in Chicago but quickly depart to Iceland. Immediately I'm voting that Jonathan goes home. He's egotistical and extremely arrogant. This guy definitely doesn't have an inferiority complex. I find it humorous that his girlfriend calls him an idiot. Many of the teams get on the phone prior to getting to the airport, which to me seems useless because the three possible flights all land within five minutes of each other.

Jonathan/Victoria, Adam/Rebecca, Lori/Bolo, Kris/John are on the flight that connects through Minneapolis. Freddy/Kendra, Don/Mary Jean, Lena/Kristy, Meredith/Maria are on the flight that connects through Baltimore. Gus/Hera, Hayden/Aaron, and Avi/Joe are on the flight that connects through Boston, which is delayed 45 minutes because of the weather.

Once in Reykjavik, teams must choose a car and read clue on steering wheel. Read 130 miles to Sel Jalansfdso Waterfall, follow path behind torrent of water for next clue. Everyone seems to get lost on their way to the waterfall. Meredith and Maria follow a vehicle that had already been to the waterfall, and end up an hour and a half out of their way.

Teams must now drive 260 miles to Europe's largest glacier Vatnajokuli, and sign up for the glacier shuttle, which will take them 10 miles to the glacier's edge. On the way there, teams speed way too much in their SUVs, and Hera and her father try to keep calm.

Teams must now ride a snowmobile 2.5 miles across the glacier to a camp site. Once they arrive they must search the tents for departure times that will return them to land the next day. The tent from which they rip the ticket off, is the one in which they'll spend the night. There are four departure times: 10am, 10:30am, 11am, and 11:30am. After spending the night in a tent on a glacier, teams must drive themselves 20 miles to Glacier Ice Beach to find their next clue.

DETOUR: Ice climb (travel 35 miles, put on special gear, trek across a glacier, and then use picks to climb an ice wall), or ice search (travel short distance to lagoon, choose a boat and driver, and search for a clue attached to a buoy in seven square miles of water). Avi/Joe, Gus/Hera, and Jonathan/Victoria are the only ones to try the ice search; everyone else attempts the ice wall.

PITSTOP: After completing the detour teams must drive themselves 200 miles to The Blue Lagoon. The last team to check in will be eliminated. On their way, Adam and Rebecca fill their SUV with diesel instead of regular gasoline, and must wait to have their tank emptied. Gus/Hera and Avi/Joe take a wrong turn somewhere, and end up across the lake from the pit stop. Avi and Joe choose not to trust the father/daughter team and go into a building to search for more clues. In order of arrival: Hayden/Aaron (win trip to Hawaii), Kris/John, Lena/Kristy, Freddy/Kendra, Jonathan/Victoria, Lori/Bolo, Adam/Rebecca, Meredith/Maria, Gus/Hera. Avi and Joe's choice not to trust the other team put them in last place, and they're eliminated from the race. They're extremely shocked, to be in last place.

Next week: Meredith/Maria has car trouble, Jonathan and Victoria continue to fight, and Adam/Rebecca's relationship is pushed beyond the breaking point.

THE TEAMS:

Kris/John	Long distance dating for 1 year
Lena/Kristy	Sisters/Models
Lori/Bolo	Married/Professional Wrestlers
Don/Mary Jean	Married/Grandparents
Hayden/Aaron	Dating/Actors
Gus/Hera	Father/Daughter
Jonathan/Victoria	Married/Entrepreneurs (He's a dictator)
Freddy/Kendra	Engaged/Models (He's 10 years older than her)
Meredith/Maria	Best Friends/Roommates
Adam/Rebecca	Ex/Lovers (trying to rekindle) Hell Boys

GONE HOME:

Avi/Joe	Best Friends (guys)
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THE APPRENTICE 2 Thursday, Sept. 9th, 2004

Last week teams created a bridal shop, and Mosaic massacred Apex. Chris made the mistake of letting Jennifer off the hook, and as a result was fired. This week, Trump asks Mosaic to send one member to Apex. They choose Kelly.

THE TASK: Develop an in store promotional catalogue for Levi. Catalogues will be judged by one of Levi's executives, and the most creative and inspirational team will win.

MOSAIC: Wes is project manager. Maria and Sandy have conflicting ideas about what the layout should be and later Maria takes too much control during the photo shoot. She even shrugs off Andy's comments. Later, she and Wes get right into it and when she tells Wes to back off, he does. Later, the whole team criticizes Maria's attitude. Wholly conflict. It's disgusting. Then, Maria cries and apologizes. Later, she overly dominates the presentation, and then tells the evaluators that the jeans were too loose-fitting.

APEX: Kevin is project manager. Ivana creates a rotating wheel that she calls a "jean selector," which confuses Jennifer. Instead of using models, the team takes pictures of themselves. Jennifer M gets everyone's attention with her hair, makeup, and tight jeans, however, Kevin later calls her virtually useless. Later, Kevin, Kelly, and Ivana criticize Jennifer in front of Carolyn. In the presentation, Kevin comes off overly aggressive, mostly because of the sweat pouring off his face. Later, Jen tries to answer questions that are directed at Ivana, and ends up giving the wrong answers.

THE SCORES: Apex apparently isn't as sexy as they'd like, however their project is generally better than Mosaic's, who managed to only accomplish the sexy aspects. Robert also chooses Jen as the best team member, much to Ivana's distaste. As a reward, Apex gets to go see the Broadway show "Moving Out," and spend a lot of time with Billy Joel, listening to his music.

BOARDROOM: Maria is criticized for her choice not to show off the model's butt, and for kicking a team mate out of the room. Andy criticizes Wes for not keeping control of Maria. Sandy refers to Bill by his first name, without his permission, which is a strike against her. Andy is criticized for his quietness, to which he responds that it's more important to listen than to talk. Good move. Wes decides to bring all three of his team mates back into the board room. Maria is a handful, but Wes is unable to control his team. Surprisingly, BOTH are fired!!!!!!

Next week: The feuds continue, the final six fend for themselves and must design a new Pepsi bottle and present it to a large group of executives, and one apprentice advances to the final four.

Mosaic

Andy (23) - Recent Harvard Grad (nationally ranked debater)
 Maria (31) - Marketing Executive
 Sandy (28) - Bridal Salon Owner

Apex Corp.

Ivana (28) - Venture Capitalist
 Jennifer M (30) - Attorney
 Kevin (29) - Law Student
 Kelly (37) - Software Executive

You're Fired!

Rob (32) - Corporate Branding Salesman
Bradford (33) - Attorney
Stacie J (35) - Restaurateur
Jennifer C (31) - Real Estate Agent
Pamela (32) - Investment Firm Partner
John (24) - Marketing Director
Stacy R (26) – Attorney
Elizabeth (31) - Consulting Firm Owner
Raj (28) - Real Estate Developer (guy in red pants)
Chris (30) - Stockbroker
Wes (28) - Private Wealth Manager

SURVIVOR: VANUATU - Thursdays - 9pm on CBS

Last week the men were deceived by an all encompassing woman's alliance, a pig came to stay at the camp, and the pecking order was revealed when Leann won reward, which she shared with Julie. Ami won immunity. The men saw a weakness between Eliza and Scout, but could do nothing about it, so Chris voted for Sarge in an attempt to save himself with the women.

This week, Chris lies and tells everyone that Sarge asked him to vote for him but then tells the camera that he did it to get further in the game. Scout expresses her fear that Ami and Leann have replaced she and Twila with Julie. She goes to the men, and asks them to help her get rid of Eliza.

REWARD CHALLENGE: The team is divided into two (Chris, Chad, Eliza and Ami versus Scout, Twila, Julie and Leann). Each mini-tribe competes in an obstacle course with one tribe member attached to a robe and bound by the hands. The other three tribe members must maneuver the "sacrificial member" through the different obstacles. The obviously stronger team (the guys and two young women) wins without question or competition from the other team.

The prize: Cultural activities with a local tribe, including a big feast. The pig that was given to the tribe last week is presented to the local tribe. In return, the tribe gives our castaways a pig, which they seem to forget at the festivities when they leave. The team is given Kava, the ceremonial alcohol, which has mouth numbing effects on everyone, and totally intoxicates Chad. The feast includes a meat, partially raw, which castaways eat with their hands. The dancing, however, is very intoxicating and the song sung by the little kids is quite moving.

When the winning team returns to camp, the rest of the tribe gives them little welcome since they got rained on all night and were totally drenched.

IMMUNITY CHALLENGE: Survivors must hang onto a post for as long as they can with no foothold, just small lips made of rope. Last one whose feet touch the ground wins. Julie's out first; followed by Chris, Scout, Ami, Eliza, and Leann. This leaves Chad and Twila to battle it out. Chad starts to slip, and can't gain a foothold--remember he has an artificial leg--and ends up handing immunity to Twila.

TRIBAL COUNCIL: Scout, Twila, and the boys plan to get rid of Eliza, but Ami insists on getting rid of Chad first. Just before tribal council, however, Twila and Scout refuse to give the boys their word. Twila confronts Ami, and then turns around and tells Scout that the rest of the girls won't vote for Eliza. Twila doesn't want it to come down to a tie. In the end, the women stuck together and got rid of Chad, leaving Chris alone with six girls.

Next week: Scout and Twila's plot are revealed by Chris to the rest of the tribe.

THE TEAMS

ALINTA

Chris	33	Highway Construction
Julie	23	Youth Mentor
Twila	41	Highway Repair

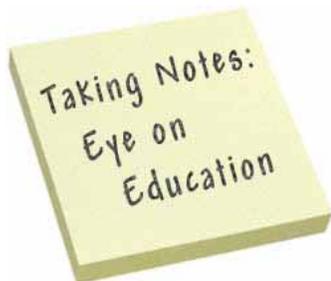
Ami	31	Barista/Model
Eliza	21	Pre-Law Student
Leann	35	Research Assistant
Scout	59	Rancher/Entrepreneur (artificial knee)

VOTED OUT

Brook	27	Project Manager
Dolly	25	Sheep Farmer
John P	31	Sales Manager
Mia	30	Finance Manager
Brady	33	FBI Agent/Ex Military
Travis	33	Loss Prevention (Bubba)
Lisa	44	Real Estate Agent
John K	22	Model/Mechanical Bull Operator
Rory	35	Housing Case Manager
Lea	40	Drill Sergeant
Chad	35	Teacher (Artificial leg)

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

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



RESEARCH ETHICS CRITICIZED

Debbie Jabbour

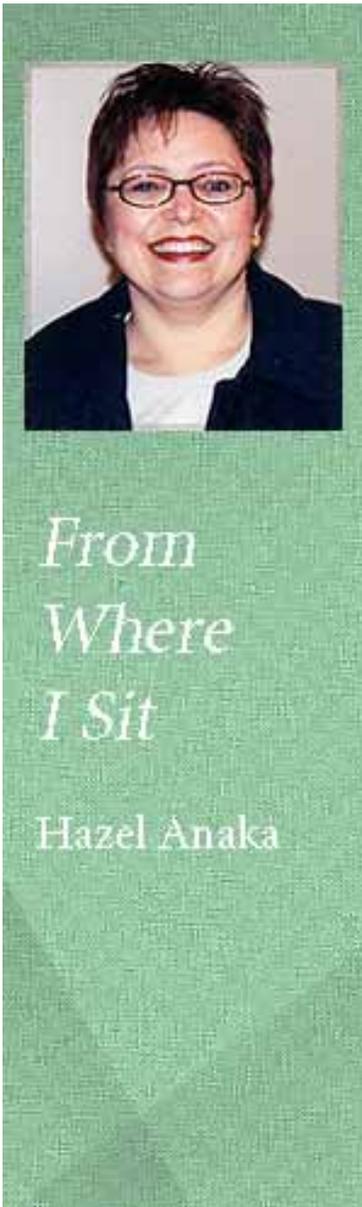
The University of British Columbia has just released a report acknowledging that, due to an inadequate review process, ethics breaches in hundreds of research projects has been occurring for some time. Earlier this year the B.C. government had launched an inquiry into the matter, but the university decided to voluntarily disclose disputed portions of the report.

According to the information released, the university's Clinical Research Ethics Board (CREB) showed "serious and indefensible deficiencies" in approving more than 500 research projects prior to 2001. Although the ethics board was to ensure that recruits to these projects understood the risks and were not exploited or harmed, the board staff were "overwhelmed and underfunded" and did not properly review these projects. To all intents and purposes, researchers were conducting their own ethics review--leading to possible conflict of interest, investigator bias, legal problems, and potentially dangerous outcomes due to "research misadventures" in UBC affiliate hospitals. Investigators revealed that this corner-cutting had been going on for years.

The situation became so serious that the B.C. Cancer Agency, concerned over the inadequacy of the CREB's review process, attempted to withdraw their projects and set up their own review process in order to ensure patient safety and research quality.

Once the matter came to light, Indira Samarasekera, head of UBC's research department, took immediate steps to correct the situation.

- UBC releases report critical of research ethics. Margaret Munro, In the Edmonton Journal, CanWest News Service, November 5, 2004.



Hooked on HGTV

A few years back my daughter Hilary and some of her friends toyed with the idea of starting a support group for teens. To join you must have a mother hooked on Home and Garden TV!

Hilary knows whereof she speaks. After a lifetime of resisting, we finally said goodbye to Peasant TV (CFRN, CBC, Global) and hello to the world of satellite.

It's like I died and went to heaven. Since my semi-retirement, I have the time to watch TV and actually act on the ideas rather than just add them to my "someday I'll do" list. I also need the creativity 'fix'. With the trend to cocooning and seeing home as a refuge, I turned a critical eye to both the house and yard. Both had suffered during my busy years.

I was a virtual sponge soaking up the visuals and design tips from the various hosts. From the delicious looking *Designer Guys* to the clever Dennis Flanagan of *Indoor Gardener* to the somewhat frivolous *Savoir Faire*.

Eventually I clued into the innumerable reruns. In the beginning, though, everything was new.

I couldn't sit through a whole episode of Martha. I appreciate the practicality of the projects on *Home to Go* and *One House, Two Looks*. I understand the value of studying the design examples in shows like *Design for Living* and *House and Home* even if I never have a 4000 square foot, architect-designed showplace filled with French antiques. I ignore the gardening advice from those softies in Ontario who think Zone 6 gardening is tough! I admire the chutzpah of the people featured in *Weird Homes*, *Awesome Interiors* and *Extreme Homes*. The clowns on *Broken House Chronicles* are people we all know, sometimes intimately. *Love by Design* is playing more with hormones than color swatches.

Home and Garden TV and selected other shows like *Trading Spaces* and *Decorating Challenge* have empowered me. I've assembled the requisite tools-low tack painter's tape, spray adhesive, paint, fabric, fringes, stencils, tape gun, cordless drill, sewing machine, upholstery tools, potting soil... I frequent second hand stores for salvageables. I dusted off my can-do attitude.

In short I've become a menace.

If you've ever started a home reno or do-it-yourself project you know the simplest idea has a way of taking on a life of its own. Improve one area and the rest looks worse in comparison. Spend \$50 to save 5. Discover that NOTHING is transformed in TV's half-hour format. Realize that all the stars have producers, directors, stylists, prep workers, production assistants, budgets.

So far I've re-painted most of the main floor, sewn draperies, planted mixed floral baskets, refurbished trays, started my bedding plants, decoupage anything that doesn't move, made topiaries, upholstered stools and chairs, started an indoor herb garden.

I still need to make my own stepping stones, construct an ottoman, appliqué guest towels, hang the rods, build my indoor fountain... Well, you get the idea.

Time and location of support group meetings to be announced. It's inevitable, from where I sit.

**Reprinted with permission*



The Sixth Sense Film Review

By Laura Seymour

Focus on Bruce Willis

There are few films gave me the incredible gasp I had as I found the "solution" to this one. This one grabbed me by my breasts and wrung hard! OUCH!

Bruce Willis, as Malcolm Crowe, is a happily married man who starts to have some problems when he and his wife go upstairs for some nookie one night. A former client of the child psychologist, (Vincent Grey, played by an absolutely unrecognizable Donnie Wahlberg, Mark Wahlberg's brother) emerges from the bathroom to interrupt the happy couple's strip tease. The now grown boy is stripped down to almost nothing. He is very upset and Bruce knocked me flat with his performance as a nervous man trying to deal with an upset person.

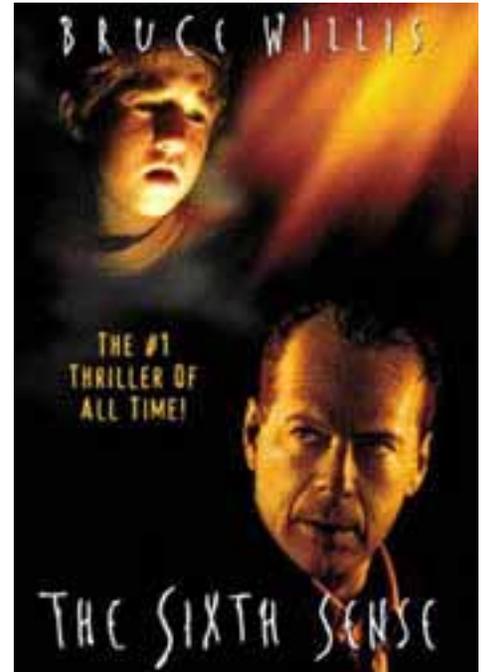
It takes him a while to remember who this guy is. When he finally realizes the name and case he winds up shot and the client then commits suicide in the bathroom. The entire scene is brilliantly set up so that people who are nervous about gory blood stuff don't have to freak out.

We back out of the bedroom as his wife tries to deal with Malcolm's injury. Then we rejoin him a year later as he is working on a case of a small boy, Cole Sear, played astonishingly well by Haley Joel Osment. Cole is not able to really enjoy his world. The boy has many of the same problems that the dead ex-patient had and Malcolm thinks he can redeem himself by helping this boy, who has all kinds of strange "behavior" problems. His mother keeps finding all the cupboards open, and her son is the only possibly suspect. It takes a long time before his mother will really believe he's not doing these things to her. Some brilliant dialogue occurs when the nervous child asks his mother more than once if she is angry with him. She assures the child with the same wording every time. "Look at my face" she tells him, and then asks him if it looks like an angry face. It is a wonderful touch to the film.

A long while later Malcolm finds out that the child "sees dead people" as the now famous line reads. He delivers the line in incredible awe and leaves us beautifully creeped out. Unfortunately Malcolm thinks the child is delusional and dictates that he may need to be medicated and hospitalized.

Brilliant director M. Night Shyamalan puts the film together in such a way that we do not suspect the brilliant end to this film. It grabs you and makes you shudder.

I love this film and highly recommend owning and watching it, especially on ghostly holidays like Halloween.



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).



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

Professional Career Training USA

Objectives: PCT USA is a new program that offers non-students, graduates and young professionals the unique opportunity to gain international training in the US. It's the kind of experience that adds a dynamic element to your CV and could secure your dream job in the future.

Dates: Allows you to train anywhere in the US for up to 18 months in a field related to your career or professional qualifications. You may apply at any time of year. On completion of your training the program allows you an optional 30 days to explore the US with the money you've earned.

CIEE provides: The legal sponsorship necessary to obtain your J-1 visa; Advice on jobs, housing and transport; Comprehensive on-line job search resources; USA Handbook providing tips on working and travelling around the US; Online meeting place for USA programme participants; International calling card; Medical and baggage insurance cover; 24-hour, 7 days a week help line

Eligibility: Must be between 20 and 40 years old, hold a secondary education diploma, and have at least one of the following:

- A university degree
- Have completed a professional certificate
- Have completed an apprenticeship of at least 2 years
- Have fluent spoken and written English skills
- Show strong ties to your country of origin

<http://www.ciee-trainee.net/>

7ate9 Entertainment

Production Internship

Job Location: Southern California, Hollywood, CA, USAU

Description: 7ate9 Entertainment is looking for several students to fill production intern position openings for the fall semester/ quarter.

Requirements: Applicants must be enrolled in college. Interns must commit to at least two full days a week for a three to five month period. Hours are 10am to 6pm, semi-flexible.

Compensation: Internship is unpaid. Interns may receive college credit for the internship if their college permits. Qualified international applicants who commit to a 6 month period may receive a small living stipend.

Responsibilities: Production office interns will be responsible for specific tasks assigned to them per project, as their schedule permits. Their tasks will vary greatly as each project can be different. Interns will be trained in every aspect of production from planning and permitting to casting, to on-set responsibilities and through to post production and client managing. After training is complete, interns handle a variety of tasks from contributing valuable creative input to scripting, graphics, marketing, office management, and editing.

Training: Training will be provided in many areas of production from office operations, to computer programs such as Final Cut Pro, Adobe Photoshop, to the fundamentals of writing and producing promos, interstitial and episodic television.

Bottom Line: We make sure production interns at 7ate9 always learn a lot about the industry and have a great time doing it.

Contact Information

David Glasgal, 7ate9 Entertainment, 6464 Sunset Blvd, suite 1080, Hollywood, CA United States 90028
Phone: 323-464-6789 FAX: 323-464-7979 Email: jobs@7ate9.com

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

ROCK OR A HARD PLACE \$500 GIC AND LAPTOP COMPUTER

Award Amount: See below

Deadline: December 15

NOTE: This scholarship is for high school students who are planning to enter university. This may not apply to AU students, but may apply to family members.

Value: One (1) Dell Inspiron 1150 laptop computer pre-loaded with Microsoft® Office 2003 Basic Edition One (1) Scotia® Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) valued at \$500.

Notes: Studentawards.com has partnered with Scotiabank to create a new online game, Rock or a Hard Place. It's designed to help get high school students thinking about the realities of paying for post-secondary education. In a Rock or a Hard Place, students can follow the financial ups and downs of Joolz, Jon, Derryk and Courtney as they try to pay tuition and rent, plus find money for clothes, food and band gear. Will they make smart decisions or costly mistakes?

Once students have played the game, they can enter to win a \$500 GIC and a laptop computer with financial software from studentawards.com and Scotiabank!

The winner will be notified by phone.

Web site: <http://www.studentawards.com/campaign/scotiabank2004/gameinfo.asp?>

ENERGY AMBASSADORS - STUDENT COMPETITION

Award Amount: \$1000

Deadline: January 16, 2005

Administrator: Natural Resources Canada

Notes: Open to undergraduate students who are in full or part-time attendance at an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada for at least six months between September 2003 and January 16, 2005. 20 students will be chosen from across Canada. Students or teams of students must write a summary of a scholastic project that had energy efficiency or reduced energy use as its theme. Please see Web site for more information.

Contact Information:

Office Of Energy Efficiency
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth St. 18th floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4

Phone: 613-943-8058

Fax: 866-375-7453

Toll Free: 866-333-3970

Web Site: <http://energyambassadors.nrcan.gc.ca>

E-mail: ambassadors.ambassadeurs@nrcan.gc.ca

Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

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

alberta

INDIE SONGSTRESS EMBER SWIFT TOUR DATES IN SUPPORT OF HER RELEASE, *DISARMING*



"Swift's opinions go down easily, thanks to her sensuous voice and intuitive jazz phrasing; some may find her disarming, some refreshing, but either way, this music has power."

Barnes&Noble.com

"Swift is a musician and activist who is true to both herself and others. She uses her 'hyphenated-style' of music to motivate people not only physically, but also mentally- hopefully allowing them to see the world in a new light." *Gazette*, Halifax, NS, Canada

Nov. 18 - St. Louis, MO - Off Broadway
Nov. 19 - Chicago, IL - Schuba's
Nov. 20 - Bloomington, IL - Wesleyan University Sun
Nov. 21 - Cedar Rapids, IA - SPS, Legion Arts
Nov. 26 - Fredericton, NB - U of New Brunswick Cellar Pub

For more information, interview requests, and photos please contact Kelly Coffey or Emily Lichter at public emily, 413.527.4900 or kelly@publicemily.com or emily@publicemily.com

JUST CHRISTMAS 2004!

A Global Craft Fair Trade Marketplace Nov. 26-27
@ The Prince of Wales Armouries, 10440 - 108A Avenue
Info: 474-6058/995-6819 - E-mail: leocamposa@aol.com

Friday Nov. 26 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Saturday Nov. 27 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wheelchair Accessible/Admission by donation (thank you)

About Just Christmas: From 'justice at Christmas' this progressive - annual fair trade event is an alternative global marketplace for quality crafts and other goods. Marketplace participants are not-for-profit organizations whose mandate is to foster global awareness and to support international development projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Join us!

Exhibitors: CEBES - Change for Children - Guatemala Solidarity Committee - Latin Craft - LINGAP - Romero House - Sombrilla - 10.000 Villages - UNICEF - KAIROS - Amnesty International - Changing Together - P.E.T. Project - Ghana Friendship Association - Filipino Canadian Women's Association - CSS Host Program - Peruvian Rett Syndrome Association - WUSC - Guatemalan Canadian Society - Canada Tibet Committee - Doctors Without Borders - Habitat for Humanity - Rainbow of Hope for Children - SAEF - Engineers Without Borders - Spirit of Our Land ...

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: 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

international

**FANTASY ARCHITECTURE: 1500AD-2036AD
1 October - 21 November 2004 (not Mon)
Tue-Sat 10am-5pm - Sun 12pm-5pm
Walsall, West Midlands, England**

New Art Gallery - Gallery Square
Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 8LG England
Tel +44 (0) 1922 654 400 Fax +44 (0) 1922 654 401
Email info@artatwalsall.org.uk

Imagined buildings, structures and schemes, from Renaissance set designs to 21st-century masterplans, are the focus of this touring exhibition visiting the New Art Gallery in Walsall. Featuring the work of visionary figures as diverse as Inigo Jones, Joseph Paxton, Robert Adam, Sir John Soane, Sir Edwin Lutyens, Archigram and Foreign Office Architects, the exhibition includes a wealth of historical and contemporary drawings. In addition, there are paintings, models, collage, film and computer renderings of designs for buildings that might have, or could still, radically change the face of our cities forever.

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



CALL FOR PAPERS - Urban and Rural Flows and Counterflows

February 10-12, 2005

**Splendid Isolation: Urban and Rural Flows and Counterflows in Electronic Music and Related Media
Berlin, Germany**

Held in conjunction with club transmediale.05

"The relationship between communication technologies and the city has been a long and complicated one, where the density of communicative activity has often been taken as defining characteristic of urban life. By contrast, rural areas have been idealized and marked by the relative absence of these technologies, a perception which tends to obscure the social and spatial consequences of communication technologies in rural areas. Out of this dichotomous set of associations has emerged a constellation of forces, ideas, images and experiences which have defined both the city and rural zones in unique and singular ways.

The history of art and music bears many traces of this productive tension, in which being immersed in city life and rural hermitage act as polar opposites. Popular music has been identified with contrapuntal movements that fluctuate between the celebration and derogation of both the rural and the urban. Within this interplay, various technologies, in particular electronic communication, have provided the principle forms of mediation between urban and rural areas, bridging and binding people and places in multiple ways and creating new hybrid territories situated within a shared mediasphere. In this context, the challenges of cultural production in and between rural and urban regions continue to be inflected by the specific demands of electronic/digital production, distribution and consumption.

This conference intends to address topics relating to the many debates and discourses produced by the intersection of cultural production, electronic arts/media, and social relations in urban and rural settings. We encourage artists, practitioners, journalists, writers and academics to participate in what promises to be provocative conference. In keeping with the overall themes of transmediale and club transmediale [BASICS], which investigate the aesthetic and ethical foundations of a hyper-potential culture, papers should address, but need not be restricted to, the following frameworks:

- * (Exo/Endo)Polis: electronic music, urban/ruraldynamics, and cultural politics
- * Refashioning Networks: circuits, nodes, communities, scenes and subcultures and extended milieu
- * Mediations: the rural/urban digital nexus, imagining/ representing nature in the city/the city in nature; electronic music and the experience of nature
- * Counterflows: fluctuating movements between urban and rural music subcultures
- * The Best of Both worlds: bridging the urban/rural divide
- * Splendid Isolation: productivity between seclusion, media networking and boredom; sound cultures beyond the major metropolises
- * Perforating the Mainstream: marketing the margin
- * Opposing Urbanity: f(r)actions of rural subcultures in the metropolis
- * The City and Its Other: critiques from the centre and periphery, speaking from and to rural and urban perspectives"

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and are due by November 15, 2004. Panel proposals are also welcome. Please submit them to: conference@transmediale.de

SEMINAR - THE 2004 OPAS VISIONARY SEMINAR

Monday November 08

Victoria, BC - 8:00 a.m. to 11 :00 a.m.

Join a national audience via a live satellite broadcast, and simultaneous Webcast, and participate in the 8th Annual Visionary Seminar presented by The Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills (OPAS) and universities across Canada. This year's Visionary is Pamela Wallin, Canada's Consul General in New York, and respected broadcaster/journalist.

Location: Building: University Centre, Farquhar Auditorium

Pricing: Free and open to the public.

Organizer: Community Relations, and Continuing Studies - 721-8480

<http://www.auditorium.uvic.ca>

MEPHISTOS

March 5-6, 2005

Providence, Rhode Island USA

<http://www.brown.edu/Students/Mephistos/>

Mephistos is an international graduate student conference in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, Technology and Medicine. The purpose of the conference is to stimulate open discussion among graduate students. The graduate community at Brown University, in association with the Committee on Science & Technology Studies, is proud to host the twenty-third annual edition of the event.

4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEER SUPPORT CONFERENCE

Jan 14th-16th/2005

Details to follow...

Provided by Lonita Fraser

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **Educating for Human Rights & Global Citizenship Conference - Nov. 11-13 - Edmonton**
Join local, national and international academics, researchers, pre-service and in-service teachers and community educators to explore issues and possibilities for human rights education and global citizenship. Topics include women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, human rights advocacy and education. Conference organizers are currently calling for proposals for paper sessions, working groups and multi-media and poster sessions. Organized by the Departments of Educational Policy Studies and Secondary Education. For information www.ualberta.ca/~hre04 or email hre04@ualberta.ca.
- **iCORE (Informatics Circle of Research Excellence) Summit - Aug. 2005 -Banff.**
The second annual iCORE Banff Informatics Summit will bring together leading information and communications technology (ICT) researchers for three days. The field of informatics encompasses computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics and mathematics. (403) 210-5335. <http://www.icore.ca/>.
- **Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership Symposium - Oct. or Nov. 2005, Calgary.**
The Chumir Foundation promotes an active, involved citizenry and principled leadership. (403) 244-6666. <http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/>.
- **InfraEDUCA 2004 - June 25-27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi -** The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialized Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distance Learning Systems, International Universities and Programs, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programs etc. Details: <http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>.
- **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/>

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

classifieds

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

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AU 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 for more information. It's free to join!

THE VOICE

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