

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

December 15, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 48



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Volume 12, Issue 48

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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.

An open letter to Alberta Justice Minister Ron Stevens

Honourable Minister,

I am concerned about the Alberta Government's opposition to the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriages. As an Albertan, I find it embarrassing that my provincial government is so homophobic.

I also find it rather dishonest of the Alberta Government to invoke "family values" as a rationalization for this homophobia. Ironically, Alberta has the lowest minimum wage in Canada, and the most regressive labour laws. If the Alberta Government truly believed in family values, it would raise the minimum wage in this province, and ensure better working conditions for Alberta workers, who would in turn be better able to care for their families.

I should also add that as a practicing Christian, I am opposed to discrimination, and discrimination against homosexuals is just as sickening as any other type of hate aimed at any other identifiable group. Stop using the Bible to promote hate.

In short, please stop hiding behind "family values" and the Christian faith: your government neither values families, nor is it Christian. And stop wasting Albertan's tax money on your shameful attempts to stop other Canadians from exercising their rights.

**Sincerely,
John Buhler**

Great letter, John! You've inspired me to publish the letter I wrote to my own MP recently. At this time of year, it's hard to not reflect on the injustices of the world, but most eyes focus on those happening overseas. Let's not forget that true freedom is far from secure on our own soil. You can read the editorial for my own comments on this issue. Agree, disagree, your choice. Let me know either way.

THE VOICE

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EDITORIAL PAGES

A couple of weeks ago I wrote my member of parliament and Stephen Harper because I was outraged by how my party representative has used public funding and his political office to push for hate-based legislation. My resentment has grown as publicly funded newsletters and postcards have been sent to my home, urging me to support these discriminatory laws. Just as important, though, is the underlying message that the most important role of the government is to control the family life and values of Canadians--a role that for the Conservative party seems to supercede the one which would provide Canadians with national security, good jobs, health care, accessible education, and a stable economy. My letter follows... Whether you agree or disagree, let me know. (also see the "Letters" section)

Conservatives' Priorities Dangerously Out of Touch

To: **The Conservative Party of Canada** and **Deepak Obhrai (Riding, Calgary East)**.

Dear Conservative Leaders and Mr. Obhrai,

Recently I received a flyer from your party which asked about the issues I feel are the most important. I'm glad you asked, because once again I am appalled by the focus of your party and I want to make you aware that you do not represent me or my family.

The only issue I can broach is gay marriage. Because this is a fundamental human rights issue, and because members of your party hold such hateful and inappropriate views on this matter, I cannot even consider other issues. You see, as long as a government is unable to provide basic human rights and equality to all members of this country, then no other issue matters much. When the government thinks that family and personal issues are appropriate subjects for the federal government to legislate, I fear for the future of our country.

I want to know what right the Conservative party feels it has to invade the bedrooms and personal lives of its constituents. Are you attempting to become the next government of Canada, or the next authoritarian church of Canada?

I believe that you are trying to legislate religious views, and therefore are in direct violation of the freedom of religion that is assured to all Canadians. I believe that you wish to legislate morality, ignoring the right of Canadians to choose their own morality. I am appalled, offended, and very frightened by your regressive views on this issue, and your willingness to use your government positions to try to force Canadians to conform to your views. I think you are well aware that polls have shown that a growing majority of Canadians support the rights of gays to marry, so you cannot claim to be speaking on behalf of the people you represent. It is also clear that Canadians do not want the government to be involved in such personal and moral decisions.

Mr. Obhrai, you have offended me more deeply than any politician. Last year you sent one communication to my home--a post-card seeking my support in opposing gay marriage. You did not ask me an open-ended question regarding how I feel about gay marriage--no, you asked for my support in your goal of defining marriage as applying only to a man and a woman. No other issue was mentioned on this post-card. In my opinion, you have used your position to send hate literature into the homes of your constituents. With all of the other very important concerns affecting Canadians today (prohibitively high post-secondary tuition; rampant poverty and homelessness; the frequency of child and animal abuse; high taxes; environmental concerns; air quality and food quality concerns... the list goes on), you chose to focus instead on this one moral issue, and make it the forefront of your campaign. Tell me, is the threat of gay marriage so heinous that it supersedes all other issues affecting Canadians today? Most importantly, why does this bother you so, Mr. Obhrai? How can you insist that gay marriage is more of a threat to Canadians than terrorism, ecological contamination, and crime?

In the flyer I just received [from the Conservative Party of Canada], you have again placed the issue of "Marriage and Family" on a list between "Defence" and "National Security", suggesting that I need to be as concerned with two men having a wedding as with terrorist bombings and violent crimes. Aside from making the Conservatives look foolish and out of touch, this shows a frightening lack of perspective regarding what

should concern the federal government of Canada.

I want to know, Mr. Obhrai, and the Conservative party, what gives you the right to invade the bedrooms of Canadians and impose your personal views on the country? What gives you the right to use your political office to push for legislation that has nothing to do with politics, and everything to do with people's intimate lives and your own morality? When did the Conservative party start to lean toward fascism, in other words?

Most importantly, I want to know how [Canadians] will benefit from legislation that prevents any two caring people from becoming legally married and establishing a stable family unit.

I'm angry about the focus of the Conservative government today, but more than that, I'm deeply saddened. I'm ashamed to be a member of Mr. Obhrai's constituency, and afraid for the future of Canada if our next government is at risk of being formed by a group who are willing to administer human rights selectively, to legislate hatred, and to even consider legislation that will control who Canadians may love and marry. The Conservative party is no longer a political body, but an oppressive moral force whose morals, in my opinion, are decidedly amoral. I, for one, think that marriage is always a very moral and healthy option, no matter who is choosing to become married, and that marriage, in general, is good for our country and all people. I would think that this should be a no-brainer.

Mr. Obhrai, you have spoken out (rightly) about "the evils of" (May 4, 2004) racial discrimination, but you do so with astonishing hypocrisy as you practice discrimination against other groups. Do you believe that you can direct focus away from racial discrimination by bringing together all races against a new common enemy, the homosexual? It's an old ploy, but a dangerous one, for who will be next?

If you have your way and bring the issue of gay marriage into the political arena, will you next entertain the goals of those who wish to outlaw interracial marriage? If you feel that this is a ridiculous suggestion, and do not see the similarity between [prohibiting] racial mixing and [prohibiting] gay marriage, then you really need to take the time to look at this issue with a perspective that is not coloured by your own moral principles. After all, you are supposed to be representing all of your constituents, not only those who share your prejudice, and you must realize that you cannot use governmental controls to affect one group and not have those controls employed against other groups. You are simply taking the first step toward allowing the government unprecedented control over the personal lives of Canadians, and opening the door for oppressive legislation affecting other minority groups.

Let me be clear, Mr. Obhrai--I am not homosexual or bisexual. I am a married heterosexual, business owner, university student and home owner in your constituency and I am appalled at your direction. As a woman working in the technical field, I have experienced many instances of discrimination, and easily relate to the issues of homosexuals. Why is the same not true for you?

Until you are able to speak for all Canadians and call for an end to discrimination in all forms (not just the kind that affects you, personally), you have no right to speak out against it at all. Discrimination affects gays, women, the disabled, and the elderly as much as it does those who are of non-white races. You must include all in your fight for equality, or you effectively include none... When you use legislation to attack one of these groups, you open the door for attacking all minority groups. If you hate one of us, you effectively hate us all.

If you have difficulty accepting the existence of homosexuals, then you must come to terms with that on your own and not allow it to affect how you do your job. The poem below is so well known it's practically a cliché, but it is so profound and meaningful that it bears repeating:

First They Came for the Jews

First they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out, because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the Communists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left, to speak out for me.

--Pastor Martin Niemöller

Tamra Ross Low



Special Alert: I don't think anyone could really have seen this coming, but apparently Christmas falls on December 25th this year. This means that anybody who's planning on sending me cash or gifts had better get a move on.

But try to remember that this season is, after all, about much more than *my* own personal enrichment. For me, Christmas is a special time of spreading heartiness and good cheer. A time of sneaking into corporate cocktail parties and downing as much free eggnog and Cornish game hen as I can lay my grubby hands on before somebody notices that I don't work in accounts receivable. A time of nursing particularly severe hangovers and yelling out my window to let the neighbourhood kids know that ten o'clock on Saturday morning, or any other morning, is not an appropriate time to be singing and playing in the street.

It's also a period of soulful reflection, of nursing grudges for all the little injustices that have been visited upon me throughout the year. One of my particular resentments this Yule season, for instance, is the nagging thought that if my father had only been a real dickhead--and one of the most hated politicians in the history of Canada--I might today have been a media celebrity like, say, Ben Mulroney, instead of pursuing a career selling bogus hair replacement treatments. Oh well, nobody ever said life was going to be fair. But, hey, other people have suffered too. The main thing is that I'm able to smile and move beyond my personal pain.

One of the ways I'm able to achieve this state of personal transcendence is by thinking about all the little people out there, considering others instead of just myself. That's why I've been thinking about my neighbour, Cecil Idris Idris Jones, and alternating between seething with resentment about the new Saab sitting in his driveway, and chuckling over the fact that he broke an ankle tripping over one of his imported Italian garden gnomes and hasn't been able to drive it.

In fact, this year I have made a determined decision that I will spend a *minimum* of eight minutes *per week* over the Christmas season finding ways to help others. One of the ways I intend to make the world a better place during this festive season is by being brutally honest with those around me. If I see somebody with overgrown nasal hair or pants that are too tight, I will no longer keep my opinions private. If this altruism turns out to be as enjoyable as I suspect, I may even continue it on into the coming new year.

May the joys of the season be with you.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE University Demand and Dropout

Debbie Jabbour



Last week, on Thanksgiving Day, I sat down to make a list of the top In May of this year, the Taking Notes column discussed high university high drop out rates across Canada, with graduation rates below 70 percent in some programs. A new study shows this trend worsening, with one out of seven Canadians leaving university within two years.

This trend comes in the face of dramatic enrolment increase and demand. Maclean's magazine reports that demand for university education is at an all time high. In Alberta, the number of qualified applicants turned away from the "province's three major universities" doubled between 1998 and 2002 (Macleans, 2004). Despite this huge demand, government funding to universities continues to decline (20 percent since 1980).

Yet, in spite of high demand, with qualified students being turned away due to lack of space, one out of every seven who are lucky enough to be admitted are dropping out within two years! What is behind this apparent anomaly? According to the Youth in Transition survey, the top reason given is "wrong academic fit" (Schmidt, 2004). Money, however, ranks highly. One in 10 cite money as the top reason for dropping out--easy to understand when tuition has risen 111 percent on average since 1990. Other reasons cited were also money-related. These included desire to work, low grades, or the need to take a break, but if you read between the lines, these factors can all be connected to the fact that a large number of students struggle to maintain a decent grade point average while having to work almost full time in order to subsidize their cost of living, leading to high stress and burnout. Low grades and the need for a break are inevitable consequences. One out of three who left tended to come from families with lower levels of education, a situation that corresponds with low income and lack of family financial support. It is also of interest to note that of dropouts who do return within two years, 40% of them are students who left because of lack of academic fit. Those experiencing financial problems apparently find it much more difficult to ever go back.

As noted in this week's *Taking Notes*, universities actively recruit international students, often because there is a strong financial incentive for doing so. The push at home is also on to fill seats, without necessarily placing the same focus on keeping these seats filled. It is worth noting that the University of Toronto has the highest student retention rates from first year to second, an impressive 95.8 percent. This, from a university with some 70,000 students and 300 programs. Their secret? Macleans states that "although the University of Toronto is not immune to problems of underfunding and overcrowding, its \$1.5 billion endowment, unparalleled among Canadian universities, has helped it put the needs of students front and centre" (p.49). This endowment has allowed U of T to hire top faculty and to allot \$54 million to undergraduate student aid (three-quarters based on need), along with many other student-centre initiatives aimed at improving the student experience.

It seems apparent that adequate government funding could help all of Canada's universities see similar retention rates, allowing universities to improve their offering to students and allowing students to remain in university without undue financial hardship.

Sadly, I'm finding myself in danger of being the next victim of the "financial-hardship drop out syndrome." Like many AU students, I've always had to work full time while studying. It makes for a stressful learning environment, prime territory for burnout. I've been able to manage my schooling costs up until now, largely because I was able to access student loans and several scholarships which helped pay my tuition. Now I've maxed out what I can obtain in student funding. I've also found myself in that difficult middle ground, because I now have a degree I'm able to earn a little bit more, but that little bit more has limited student loan eligibility

and put me just out of reach of any kind of tuition high-needs awards. Any graduate awards I might qualify for usually require an intensive application process, and when you are working three jobs and going to university, it's not easy finding time to devote to a lengthy application that may or may not have a benefit. With the help of a couple of greatly-appreciated academic-excellence scholarships I've managed to scrape up funds for my first year of graduate studies, but the likelihood of being able to do so for next year is slim, and the scenario is not looking good.

To say that I am discouraged is an understatement, and I've shed many tears of frustration. The ultimate catch-22 is that if I were to quit for a while in order to work more and earn money, my student loan would become payable. The added burden of that expense would make a return to university even less likely.

I've often heard AU administration comment that AU is more affordable because students do not have to lose income and can work while going to school. This may be true for students who take a single course at a time and who are prepared to spend years before graduating. Some AU students are fortunate and have their tuition paid by their employer, or are sponsored by their band, or have a spouse or family member to support them. For students like myself who are trying to study full time, and who don't have other resources, it's a different story. Finding tuition for a single course is a real challenge, let alone trying to pay for several at once. Scraping up \$578 every few months is not easy, and the situation is worse for those outside of Alberta who pay even higher tuition.

AU doesn't have very many full-time students, only a few thousand, in comparison with those who are single course takers. I believe this is largely because students are in situations like my own. AU students really do face exceptional challenges when it comes to funding their education, and we don't have as many funding options as we would if we were attending full time on a campus. From conversations I've had with students, the single biggest factor preventing them from going to university full time is tuition cost. This is particularly true for those who would like to continue on to graduate studies. Students at AU have the added disadvantage of not being able to fund their graduate studies through assistantships or working as teaching or research assistants.

In spite of average tuition hikes across Canada of 74 percent since 2002, it is encouraging to see several provinces are taking steps to reduce the negative impact of high tuition fees, with Newfoundland decreasing tuition by 32 percent, Manitoba by 10 percent, and Ontario implementing a tuition freeze. Quebec students, of course, have long enjoyed preferred tuition fee status, paying a fraction of what their counterparts in other provinces do. Unfortunately, Alberta, the "richest" province, has done little to improve the post-secondary outlook. With the recent appointment of Dave Hancock as Minister of Post Secondary Education, universities in Alberta are hopeful of positive change. Unlike the previous minister, who blindly insisted that Alberta students had no trouble at all with post secondary accessibility, Hancock is reportedly keenly interested in the state of Alberta's post secondary environment. Rumour has it that Premier Ralph Klein is eager to leave a "premier's legacy" that will involve post secondary education. Hopefully he will remember Athabasca University, and perhaps stop and think about the unique challenges we face in trying to fund our tuition.

In spite of my struggles to finance graduate studies, it is an experience like no other. Next week I will expand on what it has been like during my first year as a graduate student at AU.

References used:

...but more students are dropping out. Sarah Schmidt, CanWest news, *Edmonton Journal*, November 19, 2004.

Maclean's magazine, November, 2004. University Rankings.

HIST 209: A History of the World in The 20th Century: I **Course Introduction**

Katie Patrick

How would you like to embark on a time machine journey back to the turn of the 19th century, and wend your way up through the 1900's, watching and experiencing life at those times? (I would). Although time machine travel hasn't yet been invented, Athabasca University's new history course, A History of the World in The 20th Century (HIST 209), is an excellent substitute.

This new course, which recently opened in this fall, will take you on a virtual tour of the 1900's, enabling you to experience 20th century life in all aspects: socially, scientifically, technologically, politically, and economically. In the first unit, you'll use your history magnifying glass to zoom into life at the beginning of the century--for instance, the social life of pioneering peoples and the state of politics in European and North American countries. You'll take a peek at the medical practices of the time, and follow the creeping advance of technology. Over the next few units, you'll be transported to the battlegrounds of World War I, looking at the political and social state of the world just prior to and during the war, also discussing the causes of the war. You'll spend some time in the trenches, and watch for the dawn of the war's end. After World War I, you'll take a brief respite from wars and enjoy the peace that lasted before World War II. Your time machine will allow you to visit the 1930's Olympics, and notice the first rumblings of the push for the Aryan, or "Master" Race in Germany. Next you will become acquainted with Adolf Hitler, and his charismatic reign. Next you'll plunge into the second World War and follow Germany as it begins its invasions of Holland and surrounding countries. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour, you'll be there; you'll also be there watching the American women, left behind from the war, who begin to enter the workforce to help their country. In 1945, you'll breathe a sigh with the close of the war, and study in detail how the war has changed the scope of life in social, economic, political, and scientific dimensions. Lastly, your time machine will peek ahead to the "baby boomer" era of the late 1940's, after the war, and once again assess the state of the world at that time. Then with a click, your history time machine will revert back to the present, ending your tour--and at the same time, you will have finished the 14 videos accompanying the course.

Your evaluation for HIST 209 consists of 2 essay assignments, each worth 30%, and one final exam, which is worth 40% of your final grade.

The course professor, Alvin Finkel, is famous at Athabasca University for designing AU's first history courses starting in 1978. He has developed over 10 history courses, including HIST 224 (History of Canada to 1867) and its partner HIST 225 (Canadian History: 1867 to Present), HIT 336 (History of Canadian Labour), HIST 380 (Twentieth-Century United States), and Native Studies 368 (History of Canada's First Nations to 1830). A member of the Canadian Who's Who and editor of several history publications, Dr Finkel received his B.A. and M.A from the University of Manitoba, and completed his PhD from Ontario's University of Toronto. Dr Finkel is well acquainted with many aspects of history; he has authored publications and articles extensively, and is currently writing 3 books that deal with the history of the Canadian Peoples, and the history of Canadian social policies.

Embark on your time machine today for a history adventure--enroll in HIST 209 right away for a February start-date!

For more information, you can visit the course syllabus at:
<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/hist/hist209.htm>



Happy Holidays

*Best Wishes for the Coming
Year from your AUSU
Representatives and Staff*

Clynn

*Cindy
Stobbe*

Mac Michals

*Happy Holidays
Shannon Maguire*

Thad

Terese Neuman

Scott

Joyce

Janice

Timothy



British Columbia: The Land of Forgiveness

The provincial government of British Columbia is expanding their loan forgiveness program. Under this program, students in certain courses of study can have their loans eliminated by agreeing to work in locations that have a high need for those types of professionals. The program used to apply only to graduates from accredited schools in nursing (including licensed practical nursing), and medical, midwifery and pharmacy schools who began their programs on or after August 1, 2000.

The newly expanded program will also cover speech language pathologists, audiologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists. These types of forgiveness programs are excellent for the province, and certainly don't hurt the students. Unfortunately, such programs are left to the discretion of the

provinces and never reduce the amount owing on student loans provided by the federal government.

This is really too bad, because if this works at a provincial level it stands to reason that it work even better on a national level. Maybe it's time for the government to stop thinking of equalization as the redistribution of the country's wealth, and instead start thinking about the benefits of redistributing our skilled people.

Canadian Whiz Kids

Last year the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released its report on the mathematic and science skills of children aged 15 across the globe. Recently Statistics Canada released its examination of the data. The result is basically that Canada is in the top ten in all aspects of math and science for our kids, and generally sits around the top four or five.

Similarly, in reading, problem solving, and science Canada was in the top four or five countries in the world, so that's certainly something to be proud of. Alberta is naturally crowing because it outperformed the rest of Canada across the board in mathematics and generally in reading, problem solving, and science as well. Hopefully other provinces will take this as a testament as much to our teachers as to any initiatives the government has put forward.

Interestingly, the report showed that even in 15-year-olds, there is a noticeable difference in ability correlated to the socio-economic status of the household that the child grows up in. When you consider that learning is a cumulative process, it helps explain why people in the lower socio-economic classes are less likely to pursue higher education. For this reason we should be pressuring our government to try even harder to ensure that those in the lower socio-economic classes have the opportunity to become educated if they wish.

It seems that the best way to break the poverty cycle is to provide people with a good post-secondary education so that they can find their own way out. After all, we've all heard that if you don't have an education, you can't get a job. The key to eliminating poverty may simply lie in breaking the cycle of not enough early education leading to not enough higher education.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

December 6, 1989 is when 14 people were murdered at l'Ecole Polytechnique d'Montreal because they were women. If you didn't remember this horrific event on the 6th, you may want to take a moment and think about what it takes to make a person commit such a crime. Then perhaps think how we as individuals may be able to change just a little bit so that it's less likely to happen again.

DID YOU KNOW...

Lonita Fraser

... that the Centre for Science has a resource page for information of all kinds regarding astronomy and related subjects? This page includes links to the syllabi for AU astronomy courses, as well as links to tools and informational sites to help feed your star-gazing need. There is also information on astronomy quizzes for AU courses, and information to tell you all about the people behind the scenes. <http://science.pc.athabascau.ca/astr.nsf/resourcesastr?OpenPage>

... that AU offers books for sale? The current selections offer everything from information on our Native peoples, Health Studies, PLAR portfolios, and more. Check out the choices, there's sure to be something handy or interesting for everyone! <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/cmp/booksale.htm>

... that as a commercial pilot, you can receive transfer credits at AU? Your license must be gained through a flight school approved by Transport Canada, and help you gain credits towards the Bachelor of Administration (Organization concentration) and Bachelor of Science (post diploma). <http://www.athabascau.ca/main/pilots.htm>

... that if you're having tech troubles with your computer, there is a support service available at AU to help you? These full-time AU staff members are there to aid you with all non-course specific computer-related problems. You can contact these groups by phone, or check out their respective websites for more information. <http://www.athabascau.ca/main/support.html>

... about AU's Gateways project? Gateways aims to show that PLAR (prior learning assessment) is an integral part of post-secondary credential completion, develops PLAR tools for all education levels to aid in the dissemination of PLAR information to professional and educational sources to help broaden PLAR acceptance, and hopes to track and measure participants' success in achieving educational and employment goals. <http://gateways.athabascau.ca/>

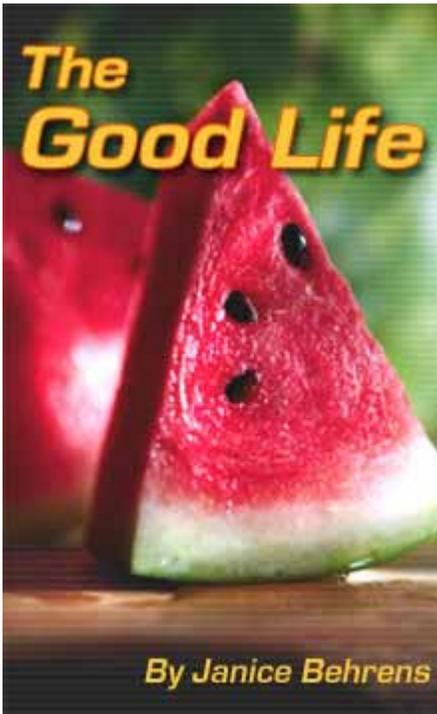
... about "AU In Your Community"? These are a series of information sessions held in various cities across Canada. Check the schedule to see when AU will be in your town. As many of 2004's dates have passed, keep your eyes on the schedule for next year. <http://www.athabascau.ca/events/AUevents.htm>

... AU provides a comprehensive list of publishers? If you're looking for publisher-specific information, or a place to begin your search for someone to publish your writing, this might be just the place to begin. <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/cmp/publishers.htm>

... about the Pathways project? This organisation aims to produce new, innovative, and flexible pathways to undergraduate degree completion, reduce barriers for adult learners, aid in the establishment of PLAR as an integral part of earning a degree, aid in the development of a seamless national education system, and much more. <http://pathways.athabascau.ca/>

... about AU's England Language Studies Assessment? A series of questions will help you assess your language skills in the areas of grammar, mechanics, reading, and writing. On completion of the questions, this tool will help you choose which AU English courses you should be able to complete with success. <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/counselling/esl/>

... about The Trumpeter publication? The Trumpeter is an environmental journal dedicated to the pursuit of understanding and wisdom as it attempts to aid in the development of an ecosophy, or, wisdom born of ecological understanding and insight. <http://trumpeter.athabascau.ca/>



Bring on the Feast

The thing I enjoy most about the Christmas season is the opportunity it brings for indulging in luxury. Before you accuse me of shameless materialism, or start to think that I'm wealthy or privileged, I'll point out that I'm not talking about the sort of luxury that only a well-padded bank account or a high Visa limit can bring. When it comes to celebrating Christmas, I'm a shameless romantic, and stacking scads of bleeping, whirring, over-priced gadgetry under the tree does not fit in with either my preference or my budget. I'm talking, instead, about the luxurious indulgence in some of the finer things in life that are relatively affordable, and don't wind up cluttering up your mantelpiece or toy box for years to come. I'm talking about food.

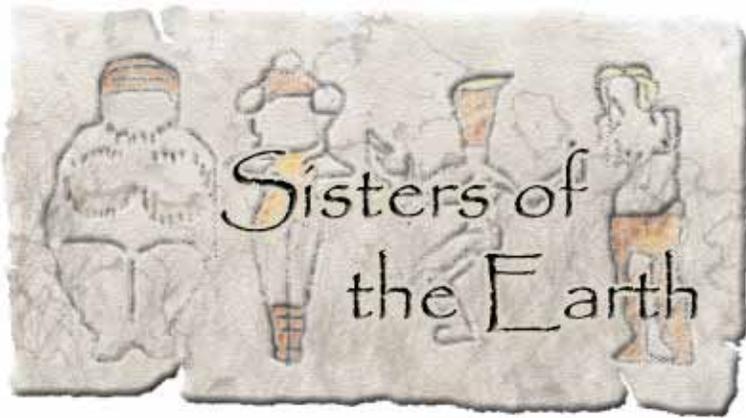
A few years ago I came across a book in the discard bin of my neighbourhood library called *Madame Benoit Cooks at Home*. I haven't tried too many of the recipes, but one of them, the recipe for tourtiere tartlets, has become as much a part of our Christmas Eve tradition as my daughter's opening of one present, my husband's after dinner glass of scotch and my glass of sherry beside a crackling fire, and our family reading of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. For those of you who are not familiar with this delicacy, there tourtiere a savoury pie filled with pork, potatoes and onions and spiced with savory, garlic and cloves. It's a truly Canadian tradition, rooted in Quebec, and truly delicious.

My husband is a roasted fowl lover, so turkey or goose are always on the Christmas day menu. I enjoy these too, as well as a modest sampling of shortbread, mince pies, etc., but for me it's the side dishes that send my calorie and cholesterol count into Christmas overdrive. Green beans barely parboiled then soaked in ice water, and finally quickly sauteed with three or four crushed cloves of garlic. Velvety garlic mashed potatoes made with sour cream and cream cheese and a dash of truffle-infused olive oil. Baked squash with the cavities forming perfect wells for butter to collect in, just waiting for French bread to be dipped into it. Best of all, Brussels sprouts. No, I'm not talking about the mushy things that our moms used to make, or the hideous factory-produced boil-in-a-bag versions. I mean careful picked green jewels washed, with the outer leaves picked off, and tossed in good olive oil, seasoning salt, onion powder, a splash of Worcestershire, and then baked in a three-fifty degree oven for forty minutes. Finally, toss them in a wok or large frying pan with some more oil. Throw in some pine nuts and pancetta or prosciutto, and a glug of real maple syrup, and you'll quickly get over those childhood phobias of poisonous-tasting shrunken cabbages.

I hope all of you have a terrific time this holiday, and a wonderful feast!



What's the one special Christmas treat you can't live without? For your editor, it's Gaspesian Sugar Pie. There are dozens of versions, but the only one that will satisfy is the one I grew up with, my mom's recipe. Everyone seems to have a special dish from their childhood that just has to be on the Christmas dinner table. Tell me yours and I'll send the first three respondents a new Voice coffee mug!



THIS WEEK IN GLOBAL WOMEN'S NEWS

December 10, 2004

Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Book Ban

Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian dissident and the first Muslim woman to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize, is being prohibited from publishing her memoirs in the United States because of laws that forbid "trading with the enemy."

Ebadi is a persuasive voice in the struggle against an Islam commandeered by fundamentalist extremists. This mother of two has endured great personal danger in order to act as a powerful voice for human rights. Islamic clerics in her homeland refer to her as "Islam's No. 1 enemy" and "the mare of the apocalypse."

The American Treasury Department has ruled that it is illegal even to enhance the value of anything, including books, created without permission in Iran.

- <http://www.workingforchange.com/article.cfm?itemid=18224>

Preventing Violence Against Women: Putting Past Perpetrators to Work

Sibongiseni Mgomezulu, a 32-year-old man from Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, South Africa realised that what he was doing was wrong, so he looked for help at Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT) project in the township. Mr Mgomezulu comes from a traditional Zulu family that taught him that the man had to be the head of the household. He once thought this meant having total power over women. "I became very aggressive towards women so that I could 'protect' my dignity," says Mr Mgomezulu.

After receiving therapy at ADAPT he started a theater company that dealt with women and child abuse as well as other social issues. ADAPT was founded in 1994, initially as an organisation that assisted abused women but in 1997 the men's programme for rehabilitation was introduced.

- <http://allafrica.com/stories/200412090263.html>

Experts: Distorting Religions to Defend Honour Killings

U.N. estimates show that more than 5,000 women are murdered every year in "honor"-related violence, but the real number could be much higher, said experts at a recent international conference near Stockholm. In many cases patriarchal violence against women is rooted in cultural and tribal beliefs.

"Islam as a reason for the honor killings is rubbish," said Nilofar Bakhtiar, adviser to Pakistan's prime minister on Women's Development, blaming such violence in Pakistan on "the feudal tradition, the culture and the tribal system." She said that men found it "very convenient to say that what they don't want to do is against Islam and what they want to do is in the name of Islam."

While most cases are reported in Muslim countries, "honor" violence also occurs among Christian families, delegates said.

- http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20041208/wl_nm/rights_women_dc

Pentagon Reports "No Willful or Intentional Neglect"

Former American Air Force cadet Beth Davis, who left the academy in August 2002, claims she was punished

for reporting that she had been raped (as a result of her report she was given a demerit for having sex in a dorm) and that her alleged attacker was not prosecuted.

Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz blamed, but did not identify, eight Air Force officers for their roles in policies that supervised sexual-assault reporting at the academy. Schmitz said academy commanders failed to recognize and confront the seriousness of sexual assaults against female cadets. "The inspector general found that there was no willful or intentional neglect," Dominguez told "Today."

Outside investigations have concluded the academy's culture established conditions that exacerbated the problem, one of these conditions being resistance to the inclusion of female cadets.

- http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=514&e=19&u=/ap/20041208/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/academy_assault_report

Governor Arnold on California Nurses: "I Kick Their Butts Every Day"

While four hundred registered nurses picketed California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in response to his attempt to roll back RN staffing ratios, Schwarzenegger told his audience, "Pay no attention to those voices over there... They're just angry because I kick their butts every day."

In early November the governor issued an order to rollback key provisions of the California law requiring adequate RN hospital staffing. His edict was made at the request of the state's multi-billion dollar healthcare industry which is among the special interests that have contributed more than \$26 million to the governor in his first year. The California Healthcare Association, whose members are major donors to Schwarzenegger, thanked him for the attempted rollback by paying for the ads applauding it.

- http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/041207/sftu141_1.html

Amnesty International says Women Bear the Brunt of War

Women are too often the first victims of conflict, Amnesty International charged Wednesday in a report demanding legal reparation. "Patterns of violence against women in conflict do not arise 'naturally' but are ordered, condoned or tolerated as a result of political calculations," secretary general Irene Khan said in introducing the 120-page report on women in war.

- http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20041208/wl_afp/rights_amnesty_women_041208000947

The December 6th Montreal Massacre Remembered

In 1989, the 25-year-old Marc Lepine entered the Ecole Polytechnique, the University of Montreal's engineering school, armed with a semi-automatic rifle. He went into a classroom, ordered the male students to leave, then began shooting.

"You're all a bunch of feminists and I hate feminists!" Lepine yelled at his victims during one point in his rampage. Lepine, who ended his attack by killing himself, left behind a note blaming "feminists" for all the problems in his troubled life. The killings shocked the country, triggering a debate about violence towards women, spurring gun control legislation and making Dec. 6 a National Day of Remembrance.

- http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-70-398/disasters_tragedies/montreal_massacre/
- <http://www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2004/12/06/Massacre-Remembrance.041206.html>

"There's so much action and awareness to violence against women. [Lépine] has not accomplished his mission. It's precisely the opposite."

-- Suzanne Laplante-Edward, mother of Anne Marie, one of the murder victims in the Montreal Massacre

Telmond's Palestinian Female Prisoners on Hunger Strike

On 30 November Samah Abdallah, a Palestinian detainee in the women's section of Telmond prison, informed a lawyer that on 28 November the female Palestinian prisoners in Telmond went out to the exercise yard. Before the end of their allotted time outdoors, the prison administration ordered the Palestinian women and girls to return to their cells. The representative of the Palestinian female detainees, Amna Mouna, complained to the guards that it was too soon for the women to go back inside. As she did so, she was severely beaten by a group of prison guards after which she was taken to the punishment cells, cold bare rooms with no bedding, heating, or natural light.

To protest against the manner in which the prison administration treats female Palestinian prisoners and in particular against the beating of their spokeswoman and her subsequent isolation, the remaining Palestinian female prisoners began screaming and shouting. The guards responded by bringing in other troops who beat the women and sprayed them with water and tear gas. The prison administration did not provide medical or first aid treatment to detainees injured in the confrontation.

The Palestinian female detainees in Telmond, among whom are at least five under-18 of age, have begun a hunger strike to protest against the treatment they have suffered at the hands of the prison administration and the appalling conditions in which they are held.

- <http://www.dci-pal.org>

DELHI CAMPAIGN FOR SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS ON TRAINS AND PLATFORMS

The Railway Campaign was launched in 1998 by women's groups in Delhi to demand safe travel conditions for women on trains. The Railway Campaign was the outcome of an experience of sexual violence at the hands of men in uniform. The campaign focuses on women's right to use public transport without the threat, fear or experience of violence.

- <http://www.jagori.org>

Marriage Scam Targets South African Women

Groups of foreigners have been bribing corrupt officials in South Africa's Ministry of Home Affairs. The officials then "marry" the foreigners to unsuspecting South African women. Until recently this gave any foreigner permanent residency and the right to look for a job in South Africa's growing economy.

In August, the South African Government, embarrassed by reports of the marriage scam, launched a "Marriage Verification Campaign" and urged women across the country to go to their nearest registry office to ensure that they have not been married without their knowledge. According to government figures, from August to mid-October, 1,300 fraudulent marriages were revealed.

- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4059731.stm>

Chilean Women Gain Right to Divorce

Chile has become one of the last countries to enact a law that makes divorce legal. In the past Chilean couples could separate and, rarely, get their marriages annulled. But the decision had to be mutual. The new law allows for a divorce after one year's separation if the request is mutual. If a woman wants a divorce and her husband refuses to grant one, they must be separated for three years before a divorce can be granted. The man still retains rights over his wife during the wait.

- <http://www.womensenews.com/article.cfm/dyn/aid/2095>
- http://www.comisiondefensoraciudadana.cl/noticia/ficha_noticia.php?noticia_id=69

AUSU THIS MONTH



AUSU Christmas Hours

Over the Christmas Holidays, AUSU will be closed for the same duration as the university. Our hours will be as follows:

Dec 24, 2004: office closes at 3:00 pm, MST
Dec 25, 2004 through Jan 3, 2005: Office Closed
Jan 4, 2005: Office open at 8:30 am, MST

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'm in my first year at University and many miles away from my home. Therefore, I will not be able to afford to fly home for Christmas this year. This will be very difficult since this is the first Christmas I have not been with my family. Is there anything I can do so I won't feel so lonely this holiday season? Thanks ahead of time.

John in Quebec

Hi John, It's unfortunate that you will not be able to be home for Christmas.

For most people Christmas is a time to get together with family and friends sharing gifts, meals and special times. Consequently, for those of us who are not able to get home, like yourself, Christmas can be a very difficult time.

Perhaps, John, you could start by going to the University's Student Union Office and see what services they provide for students who will be staying at school for Christmas. They may offer a Christmas dinner, gift exchange or just a place where students can get together. If you are not interested in participating in these activities, at least you will be able to connect with other students who are in a similar situation. Maybe you could work out something where some of you get together as a group and prepare Christmas dinner or exchange small gifts. Each person can prepare part of the dinner so everyone will feel they are contributing to the festivities. After dinner, possibly you could all go for a drive or a walk to a nearby park to enjoy the Christmas lights or, do some ice skating or skiing.

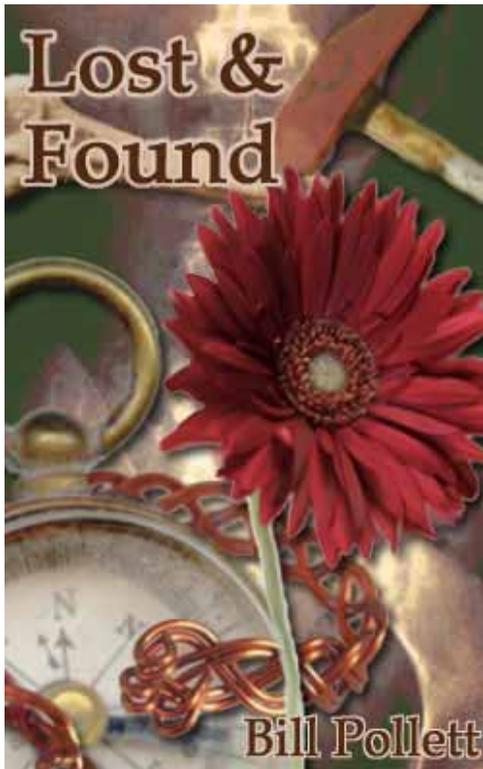
If preparing a meal is not something you enjoy doing, you can find out which organizations are offering Christmas dinner for people who are alone. Usually there is no charge, or they ask for a small donation to the local Food Bank. You will get a hot meal and again have the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation.

Another option is to do something to help the less fortunate. Again try to find out what organizations are providing Christmas dinner. These may be listed in the local newspaper or through a community bulletin board. Most homeless shelters or missions provide Christmas dinner for the needy and sometimes even provide a small gift to each person. It's always nice to have a gift to open on Christmas day. You may be able to lend a hand serving or preparing the meal. As a result, you will have the pleasure of knowing that you have also been able to help others enjoy their Christmas.

With a little bit of investigating, I'm confident you will be able to find many ways to enjoy your Christmas day and perhaps help others as well.

Merry Christmas John and remember the true spirit of Christmas can only be felt through giving and sharing with others.

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.



A Christmas Tale

It's Christmas Eve sometime in the distant past, and I'm in a ski cabin in the Kootenays that my roommate Todd and I rented with the last of our summer tree planting money. With both of our families in remote places, we decided to "get away from it all" this year. At this point in our lives, "it all" equals night shifts at Binos, a mountain of dirty laundry, and a sinkful of festering dishes.

Todd's cousin Susan and three year old daughter Angela have driven up from Kelowna to spend Christmas with us, so we've swept the empty wine bottles into the shadows beneath the bunk bed, and hidden the baggy of high grade chronic atop the medicine cabinet. We've also got a few presents wrapped up and hidden in the back of the closet, and a string of pink lights that we've wrapped around a rubber plant. The Tiki Tiki Lounge at the nearby motor hotel is offering a Hawaiian-themed All You Can Eat Christmas Buffet, so everything is set for a real traditional Yuletide.

Around suppertime, we're preparing to serve up the Christmas Eve buffet of canned smoked oysters and chilled Kokanees, when Angela wonders whether Santa will be bringing the Christmas tree with him when he comes down the woodstove chimney later that night. Something about the look in her eyes tells us that he had better, or else.

After Angela's tucked deep in the recesses of her sleeping bag, Todd and I tell Sue to "leave this to us". Not wanting to cut down anything on the campground property, we set out in Sue's pick-up truck (Todd's Malibu, as we discovered on the way up, is badly in need of maintenance, and is only reliable when driven really fast for really short distances), and head off into the icy darkness armed with a handsaw and the intention of finding the "perfect Christmas tree".

After a driving for two or three miles along the icy road searching for a likely spot to pull over and head into the woods, Todd--who has been on a two-week bender--is fast asleep and snoring. I'm trying to light a cigarette and find something good on the radio, when a fawn suddenly leaps out in front of the truck. It's one of those times when everything moves in slow motion. I swerve to avoid the collision, then try to pull out of the slide. Fortunately I manage to miss hitting a tree, but the truck is off the road and stuck in deep snow and ice. Incredibly, Todd is still snoring. Somewhere far off down the road I can see something that may or may not be a mailbox, so I leave the truck running and head off to try to find a telephone.

It's one of those winter evenings when the dimmer switch of the nearly-full moon is turned to full intensity, and you can see every ripple and pebble on the road, every blade of grass in the ditch. It's about twenty below, and the trees are caked with frost and ice. There's something frozen to the surface of the road that I think at first is a discarded red and black sock, but turns out to be a dead crow crushed beneath the wheels of a car. Suddenly, I get this strange feeling that something is watching me from the trees. Have you ever had the feeling that passes like a wave through every nerve of your body that says you're in some sort of imminent danger, and that something terrible is about to happen? It's a feeling that I've had once or twice in my life, but never as

strongly as at that particular moment. I truly felt as though something was moving abreast of me in the woods, tracking me and waiting for an opportunity to pounce.

I find myself half-running down the icy road, trying to keep down a rising sensation of panic, my boots nearly slipping out from under me with every step. Finally I get to the mailbox (thankfully that's what it is), but then look in dismay at the winding driveway closed in on both sides by densely packed trees. The branches are overhanging and blocking out most of the moonlight, so it's like walking into a shadowy cave. Nothing else for it, though, so I step into the shadows and try to keep from stumbling. I have no idea how far it is to the house, or whether anyone will be at home. I'm cursing myself for not bringing a flashlight, and I notice that I've bitten into my lip and I can taste blood on my tongue.

Without warning, I come out into the open at the end of the driveway, and I'm confronted by a magical scene. The house and all of the bushes around it are encrusted with brilliant white lights. There are red and white paper lanterns hanging from the eaves, and a ring of four-litre milk jugs filled with frozen water and lit up by multi-coloured bulbs. I feel like Bilbo Baggins coming across the elven bonfires in the darkness of the woods, and my irrational fear suddenly evaporates.

The owner of the house is a retired logging company accountant. She lets me use her phone to call B.C.A.A. I don't want to leave Todd in the truck any longer than I have to, so she sends me on my way with a cup of microwaved Ovaltine and some homemade shortbread.

On the way back, the frozen moonlit mountain world seems almost impossibly beautiful. Back at the truck, Todd's a few feet away sawing down a slender six foot tree. Half an hour later we're sitting in a tow truck, sharing a joint with the driver who looks like a member of Z.Z. Top, or maybe the Unabomber. We're singing *Life During Wartime* and *Silent Night*.

At the cabin, Sue is asleep on the couch. We set up the tree, plug in the lights and crack open some beers. Ah, Christmas is here.

Voice Writing Contest Update

Voice readers may be wondering when the results of this year's writing contest will be released. This year, we had more than twice the number of entries as last year, and the judges have been working overtime to ensure that every one of them gets the attention they deserve. I hope to be able to bring you the results in the next Voice issue (the entrants will be notified as soon as the results are in), and to print the winning entries in a January edition of The Voice!

Primetime Update

Week ending December 11, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

WHAT'S NEW ON PRIMETIME?

THE AMAZING RACE

Last week, 9 Teams set out from Norway and traveled to Sweden where they visited the ice bar as well as IKEA and had to do some tedious staff chores. Later, they had to unroll hay bales to search for a clue. It took Lena over 8 hours; in the middle of the night Phil met her and Christy in the field to tell them they'd been eliminated. This week, Hayden and Aaron and Kris and Jon start the race first. But can they keep their lead?

1st Clue: Teams must get to the top of Stockholm's Town Hall Tower. The tower doesn't open until 7 am, so teams must wait. Some of the teams (Jonathan/Victoria, Hayden/Aaron, and Kris/Jon) get the wrong info, and don't show up to traverse the tower until 10am.

2nd Clue: Teams must travel to Dakar in Synagogue (Africa), where they will find the next clue outside of the airport. At this point, all teams arrive at the airport at the same time.

3rd Clue: Read and interpret a poem written by Leopold Sedar Senghor, and then find his grave. All teams encounter problems with the language barrier during this leg, especially in finding different locations and negotiating prices for cab fare. Don and Mary-Jean choose a cab that gets a flat tire. Luckily for them, the cemetery doesn't open until 7:30am.

4th Clue: Teams must now travel 35 miles north to the village of Kayar, where they will search for a carpentry shop for the next clue.

DETOUR: **Stack em up** (walk to fish stacking area, carry a basket of fish to the stacking table, where they must be laid out to dry correctly to receive the next clue) or **Pile em Up** (walk down the beach, choose a fishing boat, and use traditional lines to catch four fish, give them to a guy on the dock for the next clue). On the way to stack em up, we find Jonathan has a passion for children (he gives candy to the little mulatto kids) and he and Victoria plan to have a baby. This couple needs therapy. Hera gets sick on the boat, and Don and Mary-Jean have trouble trying to snag a bite.

5th Clue: Travel by taxi to the pink lake called Lac Rose where the next clue will be found in the salt mounds.

ROAD BLOCK: Only one person may perform this task, and each teammate can compete in a maximum of 6 road blocks. Salt Harvest--wade into a lake and use traditional tools to harvest enough salt to fill a 35 gallon basket on shore. Some competitors get the salt in their eyes and must stop to relieve the pain and regain their vision. Adam (who looks as though he has big muscles) gets beat by all the girls. He tells Rebecca to shut up every time she gives him encouragement, and later threatens to jump off the boat when she says she didn't appreciate it (last week he threatened to get hit by a train).

PITSTOP: Travel by taxi and ferry to the island Ile De Goree, where they must run through the streets and find their next pit stop. Jonathan and Victoria's luggage gets stuck in their taxi's trunk, and by the time the trunk is opened, they've missed the first ferry. Don is overwhelmed by Mary-Jean's strength, and Gus definitely needs to put his shirt on. Order of arrival: Kris/Jon (win 7 night cruise through Western Caribbean), Jonathan/Victoria, Lori/Bolo, Hayden/Aaron, Freddy/Kendra, Adam/Rebecca, Gus/Hera, and finally Don/Mary-Jean, who are permitted to stay, but are stripped of all of their cash and will be denied any funds for the next leg. Next week: Can Don and Mary-Jean overcome the poor house? A tribute to African slaves brings Gus to tears and Lori/Bolo fight with Hayden/Aaron.

THE TEAMS:

Kris/John	Long distance dating for 1 year
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)
Adam/Rebecca	Ex/Lovers (trying to rekindle)

GONE HOME:

Avi/Joe	Best Friends (guys)
Meredith/Maria	Best Friends/Roommates
Lena/Kristy	Sisters/Models

THE APPRENTICE 2 Thursday, Sept. 9th, 2004

Last week the teams made candy bars and Sandy and Jen wore cute little red shirts, skirts, and heels, which won them the task. Ivana, who dropped her skirt for money, was unable to defend herself and was fired.

This week, I didn't watch the whole thing, because job interviews aren't my cup of tea. Go ahead and check the website if you want the details. [http://www.nbc.com/nbc/The Apprentice 2/](http://www.nbc.com/nbc/The_Apprentice_2/). I can tell you that Kevin and Sandy were fired, leaving Jen M and Kelly as this season's final two. After announcing the final two, Trump got them started on their final tasks: Kelly will manage the Genworth/Trump Polo Cup to help raise money for the **Alzheimer's Association** and his employees would be Elizabeth, John and Raj. Jennifer M. will be in charge of the Genworth Charity Basketball Classic to raise money for **the NBA's Read to Achieve program** and his employees would be Chris, Pamela and Stacy R

Each project manager would be judged by the same executive. Both competitors were whisked away to their event site by a chauffeur-driven Maybach. **See what happens next week during the three hour Season Finale.**

THE FINAL TWO

Jennifer M (30) - Attorney

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

Maria (31) - Marketing Executive

Wes (28) - Private Wealth Manager

Andy (23) - Recent Harvard Grad (nationally ranked debater)

Ivana (28) - Venture Capitalist

Sandy (28) - Bridal Salon Owner

Kevin (29) - Law Student

SURVIVOR: VANUATU - FINALE

Last week, Eliza won a car at the reward challenge and shared a trip to a resort with Ami and Chris. Chris, Eliza, Twila, and Scout remained allied forces and got rid of Ami. This week, Twila and Eliza have it out verbally. Basically Twila tells them all to go to hell, and to drop it. She's obviously regretting her choice.

REWARD CHALLENGE: a mud pit, after which one will be eliminated, a pig catch, again one will be eliminated, then solve a tikki puzzle, where a final person will be eliminated. The last two must climb a ladder, traverse a balance beam, slide down a net, and then shoot a slingshot and break three places to light a fire, which will win the game. The winner will take a horse back ride and spend the night at mount assur, which includes food and drink.

First eliminated is Scout, followed by Eliza then Chris (who misplaces a puzzle piece). Twila has problems on the ladder and the net, and can't make up time, practically handing the prize to Julie, who later selects Chris to go with her to Mount Yassur. They eat foot-long hotdogs and drink beer. Julie makes it clear that she doesn't want to leave the game. Chris doesn't tell her no, but rather leads her to believe that he'll help get rid of Twila. Later, after dark, they hike up to the top of the volcano and watch miniature eruptions. It looks like fireworks. Both castaways are in awe.

Back at camp, Eliza and Twila argue over some buried bananas. Both parties call the other party immature. The whole issue really *is* immature. Even more immature is Chris's move to tell Eliza that he'll help her and Julie get rid of Twila.

IMMUNITY CHALLENGE: Tribe members must listen to stories about some local natives, a Chief and a death ceremony, and then race to five of six different huts, assemble a puzzle and correctly answer questions relating to the stories. If correct, the tribe member obtains a white piece of husk to add to the necklace. If wrong, a black piece is obtained, which must be burned and the tribe member must go back for the right answer. Eliza and Julie are neck and neck going into their last question, but Eliza nails it and wins immunity.

TRIBAL COUNCIL: Chris is the swing vote for either Twila or Julie. In the end he sticks with the old chicks, who he can beat, and gets rid of Julie.

THE SEASON FINALE (Aired Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004 at 9:00pm)

We're left with Chris, Twila, Scout, and Eliza at the end of two hours; one will be a million dollars richer. Right off the start, Twila calls Eliza out and tells her she's useless. Chris comforts her though, and reassures her of their alliance to each other. However, he also reassures his alliance of Scout and Twila.

At the second to last immunity challenge the final four compete in the first ever vertical maze, in which they must collect ten pairs of tiles. The tiles are letters that must be unscrambled for a two word answer. The race goes threefold, with Scout lagging really far behind. Chris and Twila collect their last pair at the same time. Chris is the first to solve the puzzle though, and wins his spot in the final three.

At tribal council we're reminded that in the first immunity challenge of the season, Chris almost went home because he couldn't make it across a balance beam. When the count is done Eliza votes for Twila. Twila reciprocates the vote. Scout and Chris join Twila and get rid of the youngest member left; Eliza joins the jury, but not without a death look for Chris.

Back at camp, everyone is relishing in the peace and quiet without Eliza, and Chris admires the stars. In accordance with tradition, the final three endure a rite of passage in which they travel to Aritoka Island, the most sacred island (and burial grounds) in Vanuatu. They will visit the snuffed torches of each of their former tribe mates and then they will then visit the burial site of the dead Vanuatu chief (from the story presented in the last episode), and make an offering. Following the ceremony, the castaways take part in their last immunity challenge, one of endurance and will power in which they stand, barefoot on two small blocks of wood (stumps) in the archer position, holding and bow and arrow ready to shoot. If the string of the bow is released, the arrow will pierce a marker and the castaway will forgo immunity. If at any time the tribe member's feet touch the platform on which the blocks are set, they also will forgo immunity.

The sun starts to rise, and beads of sweat start to appear on the brows of our survivors. Scout is the first to pierce her marker and be eliminated. Twila continuously shakes on the stumps, and must fight to keep her balance, Chris does as well. Chris starts trying to make a deal, telling Twila that his word is good. Later, they both agree that it's in their best interests (both) to stay on the posts. After an hour and seven minutes, Twila loses her balance and in an attempt to regain it, she ends up piercing her marker. Chris is the first member of the final two. Chris plays the honesty card with Scout, and find out that Twila and Scout did NOT have a pact to go beyond the final four. Twila gave her alliance only to Chris, and he feels guilt that he doubted her. I wonder though, why Scout wouldn't lie and say Twila did make a pact with her, so that Chris would take her to the final two.

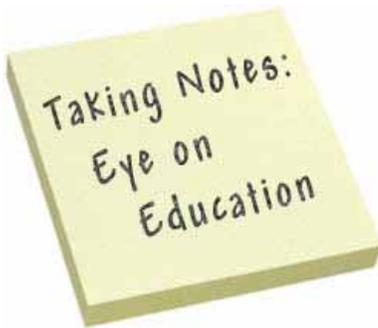
At tribal council the jury enters and Eliza shoots Chris the death glare again. Chris admits Scout and Twila played the game very differently, ranging from passive honesty, to overly aggressive willingness to do and say anything. However, he says he won't use this to make his decision; he'll only look at how he's played, because he has to make it to the end. That said, Chris votes off Scout, leaving Twila and Chris as the final two. In an attempt to enjoy their last moment at camp on the last day, Chris and Twila sit together in the hammock, and it snaps beneath their weight. Good stuff!

At the grand inquisition (the best part of every season), Chris sums up his qualifications as being the only one to overcome tremendous odds. Twila reciprocates by saying she deserves it because she played good and hard, and that she needs the million dollars to better her life. Eliza takes the floor and calls both competitors deceptive liars. Then she demands an apology from them. What a hypocrite. Julie cries. Leann convicts Twila for her deception and asks Chris why she should abandon her commitment to the women. Ami convicts Twila for her ability to falsely swear on her son but her inability to make a false apology to Eliza. Sarge tells Chris that Twila needs his help, and Chris reciprocates by saying it doesn't matter because the two of them will sit and have drinks and be good friends regardless of the outcome of the game. Scout is classy for not convicting the final two, but rather accepting them for who they are.

In closing, Twila explains that she didn't represent who she really is while playing the game; that the game changed her into a person she doesn't like. Twila again, apologizes. Chris addresses each jury member separately and tells them that they each deserve to be in the final two more than he himself does. Chris explains to all the women that they're sitting in the jury because he was selfish. He reiterates to Chad and Sarge that no matter how the vote goes, they're still friends. Chris gets votes from Sarge and Eliza, while Twila gets one from Scout and Ami (of course, they're both quite feminist). The votes from Chad, Julie, and Leann are left to be read out by Jeff, live, from the United States. This season Jeff goes bushwhacking, takes a plane ride, paraglides down to the ground and then takes a motorcycle into Hollywood to read the votes. Supreme Cheese. **The final count is five to two for Chris.**

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



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & TUITION

Debbie Jabbour

Recently the University of Alberta announced that, in addition to a 5.75 percent tuition increase for Canadian students, international students will be looking at a significant tuition hike of 23.5 percent. As usual, the argument is that university revenue shortfalls has created a budget deficit that can only be alleviated by increasing tuition. With the support of both the undergrad and graduate student unions, international students are protesting this move as discriminatory, arguing that they are disadvantaged and lacking a political voice.

International students provide many benefits to a university and many Canadian universities actively recruit students from the U.S. and abroad. In addition to differential tuition (usually double the domestic amount) and contributions to the economy, students and the community benefit from the diversity. A university's research status is enhanced when it draws top-notch students from around the world, and universities who attract large numbers of international students enjoy a high level of prestige and enhanced quality reputation.

To that end, one university in Canada has taken a different route. In 1998, the University of Windsor introduced the NAFTA tuition fee policy, under which U.S. students pay significantly less than other international students. They have not actively publicized this controversial move up until now, since it means Canadian taxpayers are subsidizing American students, but that is scheduled to change when their aggressive U.S. marketing campaign is unveiled. With U.S. universities such as the University of Phoenix taking up residence in Canada, the potential impact of NAFTA and free trade on our universities could be significant (in Alberta, the government legislates the tuition portion for international students at double that of Canadian citizens). Add to that the fact that Americans have boosted funding to public universities by 25 percent since 1980, while Canadians have decreased IT by 20 percent, and the picture becomes even more complicated (Macleans, 2004).

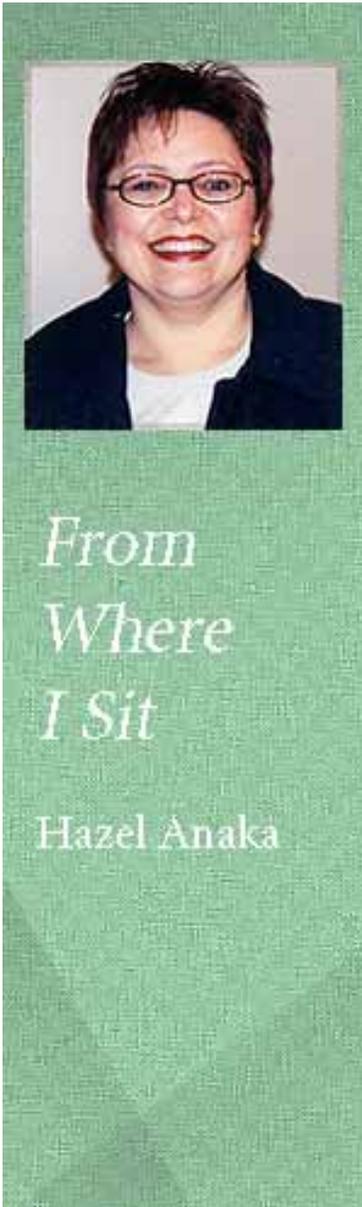
There are implications for Athabasca University. As we move toward U.S. accreditation, it is hoped that the university may become more attractive to American students. Undergraduate U.S. students currently pay the international rate (many of AU's graduate programs do not charge a differential). Under AU's strategic plan, the current differential tuition across provinces (\$55) is scheduled to be lowered and eventually eliminated, and although the idea of altering differential tuition for U.S. has been floated, any decisions in that regard remain to be seen.

International Students protest proposed tuition increase: Express News, University of Alberta, December 1, 2004. http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca/expressnews/articles/news.cfm?p_ID=6231

American students flock to 'cool' Canada: Canadian universities in fierce competition for lucrative foreign enrolment. Sarah Schmidt, CanWest News. *Edmonton Journal*, November 19, 2004.

MacLeans Magazine, November 15, 2004. University Rankings '04.

AU Calendar, course fees: http://www.athabascau.ca/calendar/page05_03.html#canadian



Three Challenges

In a calm, measured, almost dispassionate way, Reverend Dale Lang retold the story of his son's murder to an audience in Andrew. Seventeen-year old Jason Lang had been shot at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 28, 1999 in his Taber, Alberta high school. It was eight days after the Columbine massacre. Lang recalled how that Wednesday started like any 'normal day'--rushing to get the kids off to school, planning a trip into Lethbridge with his wife, normal stuff. Until the phone call that changed everything forever.

Is there a parent alive who can't imagine the horror of hearing that "your child's been shot" and later that "he didn't make it." Who really knows how we would react if our world was torn apart?

Lang spent the better part of his presentation explaining to us how and why he chose to forgive the fourteen-year-old who took Jason's life. This kid was a child of divorce who had recently begun home schooling. He was also the target of bullying--one of those kids who's different and didn't quite fit in. No doubt, like many bullied kids, he'd been told to walk away and ignore it. Maybe that works for a time. That day the boy reached his breaking point.

Lang recalls an elderly man with tears in his eyes telling him after another such talk how he could understand the boy's actions. This man clearly recalled his tormentors' faces and exact words sixty-some years later. We need to understand that the power of our words can last a lifetime.

At Jason's memorial service five days later, Reverend Lang closed with a prayer. He was surprised to hear himself asking the community to forgive and support this boy and not further ostracize him or his mother.

By choosing to forgive the shooter, Lang was setting himself free from the anger that may otherwise have consumed him. He credits his decision to become a Christian 22 years earlier with giving him the strength to do so. "Forgive those who've hurt you whether it leads to reconciliation or not. Do it for yourself. It's not saying that what happened was acceptable or that it's okay to keep hurting me," says Lang.

Reverend Lang discussed three disturbing trends that he sees. He bemoans the fact that as nice, polite Canadians we don't speak up when we see things going wrong. We've allowed things to be acceptable that shouldn't be--porn, euthanasia, a lost respect for ourselves and others. The first trend is the age of instant gratification. Too often followed by instant anger when our desires aren't fulfilled. It can manifest itself at the grocery store express lane or as date rape, abuse, road rage, or worse. The second is violence and a revenge theme in entertainment that has largely desensitized us. This desensitization causes an attitude shift. The third is a diminished age of innocence caused by exposing the young to information and situations they aren't equipped to handle.

Reverend Lang left us with some challenges. Don't just tolerate but begin to truly care about those he calls the 'unloveables'--those difficult, irritating people in our lives. Don't silently accept disturbing trends you see gaining momentum in our society. Don't let the sun set on your anger.

Dale Lang was so grateful that on that Wednesday he and Jason hadn't argued. They'd gone driving in Jason's second-hand Camaro that morning so he could practice shifting gears. What a great last memory of his son. There is no guarantee that today will be a 'normal day' for any of us. The best we can do is choose our words carefully, keep our anger in check, forgive others and ourselves, and end each encounter with loved ones on a happy note. Wise advice from a wise man, from where I sit.

**Reprinted with permission*



Area 51 Film Review

By Laura Seymour

This made for TV film has been in high demand on channels like the Discovery and the Learning Channels. The summer months often produce high demand programs in specialty weeks like Shark Week and UFO week., and this film is a result of the latter.

British TV producer Martin Belverson was smart enough to film Area 51 as a four-part TV series to allow it to be shown on the network channels. The second episode is very interesting and features a seemingly thorough investigation of the site. The film crew visited the area and spoke to many local participants in the whole UFO mystery. When the crew decided to fly over the area in a small plane, which I've never seen done before, they were apparently buzzed by military planes and forced into leaving the area. This area is known as Groom Lake.

The entire Groom Lake area has been carefully cordoned off by the American government in a final attempt to keep nosy people away. The last remaining safe place to observe the Area 51 section from is Tikaboo Peak, which is watched by military folk. That doesn't stop teams of "sight-seers" from visiting into the wee hours of the morning, however. Planes fly over during the day and activities are monitored by the patrols at night. Some people say they have been arrested and detained at the site and reportedly grilled.

Veteran TV news reporter, George Knapp, whom I have had the delight of "speaking" to in many emails, makes it infinitely clear in Area 51 that he has investigated the site many times. This in itself has impressed me enormously as he shares my disgust at the closed-mindedness of some members of the journalistic community. Despite his solid career credentials investigating many corporate crimes and other hard-boiled stories he is still known throughout the journalism community as "the UFO guy". Yet Knapp insists that he has never seen anything remotely unexplainable at the Area 51 site, and he continues to go back to see what he can. I respect that attitude enormously.

In Area 51, the film crew identifies the security patrols as private contractors flown in from a private area of an airport. The patrols at the base tour around in O.J.-style white trucks and are more than willing to do the "bad cop bad cop" routine on anyone found illegally in the area.

The famous black mailbox, which isn't even black, is a marker to watch out for as is the "Warning" sign at the entrance to the road (which is unmarked along "Extraterrestrial Highway".) The sign explains that trespassers may be subject to deadly force, a U.S. Federal prison life sentence, and revocation of American citizenship. These are pretty serious charges for a place that supposedly "doesn't exist" according to lawyers representing the U.S. government in a Nevada court when several government workers began a long lawsuit on the basis of being denied medical coverage, treatment or care after being contaminated during work. The film claims that a group of workers watched as a co-worker died a hideous death from exposure to a toxic chemical and then were told not to speak or seek care. Many of them supposedly began to experience severe symptoms themselves. Eventually President Bill Clinton signed a bill denying information about the site being used in court and essentially let the workers hang. Another claim is that their lawyer's office is cordoned off from the public and he is being forced slowly to lose business by the U.S. government.

The film also talks about ways in which buildings within Area 51 have been disguised to look like everything from mountain terrain (painted on the exterior of aircraft hangers) and the existence of secret underground facilities. Again, that sounds like an awful lot of trouble to go to for a reported "bombing range". Former workers have also reported projects attempting to duplicate an unknown craft's propulsion system. Indeed some of the craft said to be launched from the site have are very similar to a classic description of a UFO.

This program is one of the more interesting in the UFO TV investigation game. Go to this site for a few more comments on the show: <http://www.ufomind.com/area51/list/1997/jan/a07-009.shtml>

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

LifeTime Media, Inc. - PR and Marketing Intern

Job Location: New York - New York, NY, United States

Job Description: We have a wonderful opportunity for the right candidate to join our team as a Marketing and PR intern for immediately or during the spring semester. You will be trained for a variety of special projects including:

- Announcing and publicizing our 10th anniversary and the relaunch of the company
- Marketing and PR for each of our books--published books and upcoming books
- Learning to create marketing and promotional plans for books
- Conceiving and organizing PR events that tie into book topics, which can then be linked to specific books
- Assisting in the creation of a platform and mission statement, a BRAND for the company
- Seeking out new and alternative sales channels

In our small office you will be exposed to and have a say in a broad range of projects. You will report directly to president of the company.

Job Requirements: Organized, impeccable with details, strong verbal and written skills; excellent phone manner; former PR or sales/ marketing experience, or book publishing background or strong interest is a plus; college senior or recent grad preferred.

How To Apply: e-mail: jobs@lifetimemedia.com

Contact Information: Jacqueline Varoli Grace, President, LifeTime Media, Inc., 352 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY, United States 10001. Phone: (212)-631-7524. FAX: (212) 631-7529

Fishnet NewMedia - NewMedia Designer Intern

Job Location: Cape Cod - Sagamore Beach, MA, United States

Job Description: Individuals selected for the internship program will have the opportunity to work closely with our current staff in a challenging and upbeat professional environment. Candidates for the NewMedia Designer internship MUST have a portfolio and have expert knowledge of Photoshop and HTML. A degree in Art and/or Design is preferred. Production experience using Illustrator, Flash, Quark/PageMaker, CGI, JavaScript, etc., will be a plus. Strong interpersonal and communications skills required. All internships positions are full-time - Monday thru Friday. Candidates should contact us via our Web site only (no phone calls, please).

How To Apply: To be considered for an internship complete the following online application. Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

Contact Information: S. Morlock, Fishnet NewMedia, 180 State Road, Suite 3U, Sagamore Beach, MA, United States 02562 - WWW: <http://www.ahoy.com>

Fishnet NewMedia - Marketing/PR Assistant Intern

Job Location: Cape Cod - Sagamore Beach, MA, United States

Job Description: Individuals selected for the internship program will have the opportunity to work closely with our current staff in a challenging and upbeat professional environment. Candidates for the Marketing/PR Assistance internship must have strong writing and communication skills, expert knowledge of the Web, keen research skills, and a creative mind. Strong interpersonal and communications skills required. All internships positions are full-time - Monday thru Friday. Candidates should contact us via our Web site only (no phone calls, please).

How To Apply: See above

Contact Information: See above

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

SPECIAL AWARD FOR NORTHERN RESIDENTS

Award Amount: \$2500

Deadline: January 31

Notes: Offered to long-time residents of the Canadian North requiring financial assistance. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the ACUNS Web site.

Contact Information:

Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
405 -17 York Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9J6

Phone: (613) 562-0515

Fax: (613) 562-0533

Toll Free: n/s

Web Site: <http://www.cyberus.ca/~acuns/EN/awards.html>

E-mail: acuns@cyberus.ca

ENERGY AMBASSADORS - STUDENT COMPETITION

Award Amount: \$1000

Deadline: January 16

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

MENSA CANADA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Award Amount: \$1000

Deadline: January 31

Notes: Awarded to students enrolled full-time in a Canadian post-secondary institution on January 31, 2005. Candidates must write a 250-word essay, in English or French, describing their career plans, goals and the means undertaken to reach them. Applications are accepted only by email. Please consult the Web site for details.

Contact Information:

Mensa Canada Scholarship Programme

Web Site: <http://www.mensacanada.ca>

Application Address: <http://www.mensacanada.ca>



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

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 14 - 16/2005

Details to follow...

Provided by Lonita Fraser

2005 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities Honolulu, Hawaii USA

Jan 13 - 16/2005

Contact: Attn. Andrew Burge, 2005 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities
PO Box 75036, Honolulu, HI 96836 USA
<http://www.hichumanities.org/> humanities@hichumanities.org

The 3rd Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities will be held from January 13 (Tuesday) to January 16 (Friday), 2005 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. The 2005 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities will be the gathering place for academicians and professionals from the arts and humanities related fields from all over the world.

The main goal of the 2005 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities is to provide an opportunity for academicians and professionals from various arts and humanities related fields from all over the world to come together and learn from each other. An additional goal of the conference is to provide a place for academicians and professionals with cross-disciplinary interests related to arts and humanities to meet and interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines.

Topic Areas (All Areas of Arts and Humanities are Invited)

American Studies, Archeology, Architecture, Art, Art History, Dance, English, Ethnic Studies, Film, History, Landscape Architecture, Languages, Literature, Linguistics, Music, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Religion, Second Language Studies, Speech/Communication, Theatre, Visual Arts, Other Areas of Arts and Humanities, Cross-disciplinary areas of the above related to each other or other areas.

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **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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THE VOICE

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