

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

January 19, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 3



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His Shirt and Tie
The ravages of dementia

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Only English students need full year requirement

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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.

Response to Canadian Fedwatch! January 12, 2005 (v13 i2)
<http://www.ausu.org/voice/articles/columndisplay.php?ART=3479>

As an AU student and former Albertan currently living in a very small, poor, and isolated town/reserve in Northern Saskatchewan, I had to respond to Karl Low's comments on Saskatchewan's education tax relief. Karl proposed that Saskatchewan should use the money to put in place an equivalent to Alberta's SuperNet.

In fact, unlike Alberta, the Saskatchewan government does not need to pay a private company to provide internet access to rural areas, since the crown corporation SaskTel has already done it. My town of about 1200 people got high-speed internet more than a year and a half ago, without any fanfare or press conferences. In contrast, my in-laws, living only an hour from Edmonton, have access only to dial-up. Serving all people of the province, no matter where they live, seems to be just a matter of course for this public utility. Imagine the service Albertans could have if Telus were still Alberta Government Telephones!

Zandra Lea - Sandy Bay, SK

Zandra, thanks for your letter. Karl has sent the following comments:

Thanks, Zandra, you learn something new every day.

However, as a person who was living in rural Alberta while AGT was around, I have to say I don't share your fond imaginings as to where we'd be now.

The trick with privatization is that it's always a gamble. Will the competition make the service better for less, or will the profit-taking make the service worse for more? Too often governments seem to go one way or another based strictly on ideology and don't bother checking up after the fact to see how things have turned out.

Karl Low

THE VOICE

2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street,
Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
800.788.9041 ext. 2905

Publisher Athabasca University
Students' Union

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low
News Contributor Lonita Fraser

Regular Columnists:

Debbie Jabbour, Karl Low, Laura
Seymour, Hazel Anaka, Bill Pollett,
Janice Behrens, Barbara Godin,
Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Contributors to listings columns:

Zil-E-Huma Lodhi, Lonita Fraser

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VOICE@AUSU.ORG

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EDITORIAL PAGES

Choosing a degree

When I started at AU I had lofty goals. No way was I going to be one of those indecisive, underachievers who went for a bottom of the barrel, 3-year general studies degree. No, I had to be a four year degree with not one, but two majors, completed in just under three years...

How things have changed.

I realize now that when I started I didn't really understand what getting an education was all about. I just knew it was good for me, and would open doors in my future. I wanted the best for myself, and also to prove something to others. Only the most challenging and lengthy credential would do. I fancied myself a true scholar, working toward maximum enlightenment and diversity of knowledge, for knowledge sake.

An interesting thing happened along the way. I learned a lot about myself, about the world, and about the global, artistic, and scientific context in which we live. I guess that's what they call "being educated." Before long, I was deviating from my chosen degree path and taking courses from a wide variety of disciplines, exploring different choices of majors and eventually dropping the idea of a major altogether. What I once found challenging I began to see as limiting and detrimental to the scope of my education. Still, I remained on the four-year path because I've always wanted to leave my options open for a Masters degree.

That change last week, when I change my registration to the once-dreaded three-year B.GS, which I've now embraced for its flexibility. Think about it: it is highly unlikely that any two people with a B.GS will ever graduate with the same course selection! The B.GS may be the ultimate scholar's degree.

I have to admit that finances have become a larger consideration as my education has progressed. When I began with AU in 1998 courses cost \$378 each. They are now about \$200 more than that and the cost of a degree has skyrocketed. I began to question, just this year, if I was willing to complete my degree (for which I have about 3/4 of the credits). If only I'd known sooner that the AU MAIS degree (the true scholar's Master's program, in my opinion) program admits people with a three year credential! Hence my decision to switch to the three-year program and begin Masters studies that much earlier.

My point is that no matter what your initial goals when you enter university, never stop revisiting and revising those goals, and never stop asking questions. University program selection is so complex and offers so many options that it can take months or years in university before you have a firm grasp on all the paths that are open to you. You may also find that the subject that interested you most in the beginning, falls by the wayside as something new entices you.

2004 Tuition and Education Amounts Certificate

Update from Athabasca University Financial Services...

Athabasca University Financial Services is pleased to announce that the official 2004 Tuition and Education Tax Credit Certificate (T2202A) forms will be available on-line by the end of February to all eligible students.

The forms will not be mailed out and instead are on-line in printable format for all students to access. Please visit AU's web site at

www.athabascau.ca

for further details on obtaining your tuition and education tax credit information for your 2004 tax return.



The January 2005 newsletter for constituents of John Williams, the Member of Parliament representing Edmonton-St. Albert, is emblematic of the embarrassing Conservative stance on same-sex marriages. His recent issue of *Keeping In Touch* states that "if people want to enter into some other kind of relationship they can find some other name to call it, but it is not marriage." To me this sounds comparable to the "separate but equal" proposition that underpinned racist policies in the segregated Southern U.S. in the 1950s.

Williams' stand on same-sex marriage is based on a rather Pollyanna view of male-female relationships, and some incorrect assumptions about the history of human marriages. The MP's newsletter includes the absurd oversimplification that "Since time immemorial all societies have recognized the union of a man and a woman, celebrated the union and called it marriage." That does sound sweet, but this rose-coloured view is embarrassingly limited and unrealistic. Within human history, we know that there has been a great deal of polygamy, concubinage, slavery, divorce, infidelity, spousal abuse, wife-burning, etc. Yet, in spite of the failure of heterosexuals to uphold the value of marriage, many homosexuals simply

want to enter into committed relationships recognized by the state in the same way as heterosexual unions. And Williams has a problem with this?

Most disturbing is that Williams offers a completely self-serving and arbitrary pronouncement on human rights. He simply rejects the notion of marriage as a human right: "However, I do not agree that [marriage] is an issue of human rights since a human right is an inalienable right for all people, at all times." In other words, marriage is not a right because sometimes this right is withheld. This only indicates that Williams is the victim of circular logic. Williams elaborates:

"Marriage is not a human right, because there are many people in this country who want to marry and who have no recourse in law to do so. Marriage is a voluntary relationship between a man and a woman and no one is legally required to enter into marriage. We do not allow young people who are under the age of majority to marry. We do not allow close relatives to marry, therefore, marriage is not an inalienable right and therefore it is not a human right" (Williams Speaks Out On Same Sex Marriage, *Keeping in Touch*, January 2005).

Conservatives often talk about civil liberties, but only appear to be interested in human rights when it fits their own agenda. In this instance, it seems that Williams would simply deny rights to some members of society, and justify it through some rather bizarre reasoning. Here are a few newsflashes for Williams: charter rights such as freedom of association and freedom of expression, to name just two examples, are also subject to limitations just as marriage is. And what about the right to vote? In Canada voting is voluntary, no one is legally required to vote, and we do not allow young people who are under the age of majority to vote. But it is still a right! Williams does not appear to grasp the fact that in a democracy rights may have limitations, but those same rights can be actively asserted and need to be protected. That Williams appears to define and dictate human rights according to his own whims should be rather disturbing for any thinking person.

And what of inalienable rights? For all people, at all times? One might also conclude that Williams is painfully unaware of Canada's history of discrimination. What about the head-tax on Chinese immigrants, the internment of Japanese-Canadians, or the institution of residential schools? Our country has often failed to grant certain groups their "inalienable" rights, and it looks as if the Conservatives are prepared to follow the tradition.

Suggesting that he wants to keep his constituents "fully informed," Williams is offering two Town Hall meetings on the subject of same-sex marriages. The first one will be at the St. Albert Seniors Centre, and the second will be in Edmonton at the Calder Seniors' Centre. Is Mr. Williams simply packing the house with older people whom he assumes will be most likely to support his stance, allowing him to provide his partisan agenda to a traditionally conservative audience? I fear that Williams is not interested in determining the opinions of his constituents, but rather in advancing his regressive views.

Canadians should be outraged by the Conservative party's apparent support for discrimination, and their blatant disregard of the findings of the judicial system and the recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission. It should be of grave concern to Canadians that the Conservative party would vigorously campaign *against* minority rights.

Although Williams does not mention religion in his newsletter, the issue has been misused by individuals as a basis for opposing to same-sex marriage. The Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriages ensures religious freedoms. Furthermore, the Canadian Human Rights Commission has confirmed that religious officials will not be forced to perform same-sex marriages.

Canadian Human Rights Commission statement of facts on same-sex marriage:
http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/legislation_policies/factum/page3-en.asp

In the past, the Bible has been used to support slavery, child abuse, racism, and murder. Some conservative Christians cite the Biblical account of the patriarch Lot and the town of Sodom as a justification for homophobia:

Before the guests went to bed, the men of Sodom surrounded the house. All the men of the city, both young and old were there. They called out to Lot and asked, "Where are the men who came to stay with you tonight? Bring them out to us!" The men of Sodom wanted to have sex with them. (Genesis 19: 4-5, Good News Bible)

For some conservative Christians, this scene confirms their prejudices, portraying homosexuals as stereotypically depraved and violent. This story erroneously associates violence with homosexuals, even though in reality heterosexuals are more likely to inflict violence upon homosexuals ("gay-bashing") than vice versa. But there is more to Lot's story:

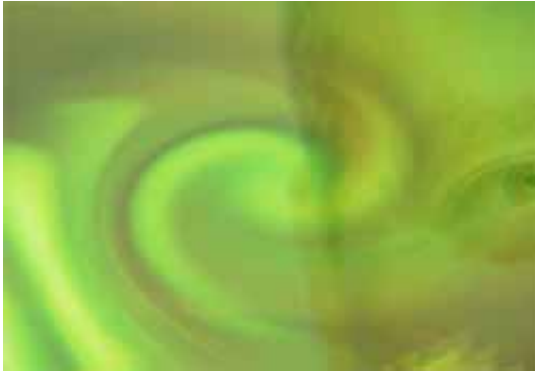
Lot went outside and closed the door behind him. He said to them, "Friends, I beg you, don't do such a wicked thing! Look, I have two daughters who are still virgins. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do whatever you want with them. But don't do anything to these men; they are guests in my house, and I must protect them." (Genesis 19: 6-8 [emphasis added] Good News Bible)

In order to project their personal hatred of homosexuality onto God, conservative Christians often repeat the story of Lot in Sodom, yet consistently neglect to include the second passage in which Lot offers his daughters to be violently raped by the crowd of men. The father's shameful offer is rarely criticized by fundamentalist Christians, even though Lot's crime appears to be much worse than that committed by the people of Sodom.

The story of Lot is only one example of the manner in which the Bible has been misused to justify hate. On the other hand, many Christians study the Bible in its historical and cultural context, apart from modern religious agendas and our own cultural assumptions (John Shelby Spong's *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture*, is one example). This level of objective Biblical analysis, however, is not consistent across Christian denominations. Compared to the ministry in mainline Protestant denominations, some Christian ministers have little training in higher Biblical criticism, and little understanding of the historical and political context in which the books of the Bible were written. Indeed, many conservative Christians seem to have an outright distrust of "intellectuals." Perhaps it is this anti-intellectualism that provides an environment conducive to ignorance and thus bigotry toward homosexuals.

HIS SHIRT AND TIE

Carole E. Trainor



(For my father, Hugh Patrick Trainor of Passmore Street)

My father is an old man and sometimes the nurses that work to feed him and bathe him now will sit him up in a chair and wrestle with the dead weight of him so they can dress him in a shirt and tie.

It was the day after Christmas. I walked into his room and saw a shirt and tie of his thrown over the chair as though he himself had just taken them off. My father's hands and legs are heavy as gravity now. They don't move by themselves. I

ask him, "Why do you wear a shirt and tie in here daddy?" His mind is near full of dementia. He doesn't know the answer to this.

He can't say "yes," on this day, so, of course, he can't say "no." He told me only 6 months ago that he needed a change of scenery. Looking at the wall is hard on him. After I heard him say this, I turned inward (in on myself with the pain). I stay away for months. The next time I visit he is in another room.

He can't say "yes, I see how the leaves are falling from the trees now," or "no, I don't want your godawful beef stew for supper again." He is fed his meals here in much the same way young children are fed pablum. His food is mashed. Everything is tasteless and textureless as pablum. Patient, able-bodied people stand on the other side of his supper fork waiting for him to swallow. Nobody questions why his hands don't work, suddenly. The attendants smile. They smile while they wait. I look toward the shirt and tie lying over the chair.

His teeth have been removed. I found them by mistake one day. I was searching for a phone book. They were in the drawer second to the bottom. I picked them up and tried to imagine them back in his mouth. I couldn't. His face is caved in now, hollowed. It is not the face of the man I know.

I tell him a lie. I tell him that soon I am going to buy us a piece of land. I tell him that soon I am going to build a house for all of us--for all of his children, and him. I tell him that soon I am coming to get him from this place. Soon he will be looking out onto the pink skies of autumn and the ocean that he loves. Soon he will be able to smell the wind and the grass with me. He tells me that yes, this is what he wants.

There are clouds inside his eyes now. They are full of mist. I call him, "Daddy!...Daddy...can you hear me?...It's me, Daddy." His mind is so full of dementia. I want him to remember the brown sugar fudge he'd make us on Sunday nights. I call him, "Daddy!"

I hold his hand now, heavy as gravity. The skin is cool. The veins beneath the skin are blue and shrunken. I tell him, "I'm going home now Daddy, but I'll be back tomorrow." He looks around him, wondering where I've gone even as I stand directly in front of him. He shouts out to the frame of the door, "I love you, too, dear." The shirt and tie hang over the chair like yesterday is still now. The tie is knotted perfectly for tomorrow.

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Well, the holiday season and that lighthearted feeling of escape from the daily grind has evaporated. It's gone, finished, kaput, shuffled off this mortal coil, now that most of us have landed back in the real world of schedules and deadlines with a resounding thud. Cranking out last minute English essays about fear and loathing in Henry XII, Part Nine (*note to self - double check this before submitting - editor getting cheesed with all the errors*) and some other work of so-called "literature" that we've been meaning to read; working nightshift at coffee bars and crematoriums; bustling the kids off to after-school kickboxing and terrorism awareness classes; picking up Kraft microwaveable organ-meat-and-powdered-cheese casseroles for supper (*note to self: change corporate brand name before submitting - uptight editor very upset about numerous lawsuits*): the demands on our limited time and energy can seem overwhelming. It needn't be that way, though. Following are a few helpful suggestions that will allow you to live a more leisurely and centred existence.

1) Be inventive about creating "wiggle room" for yourself in your daily schedule. Sometimes phoning in sick, taking a "mental health day" as I like to call it, can be just what the doctor ordered. If you've used too many sick days already, try phoning in a bomb threat or enrolling in some form of witness protection program. Faking an attack of flesh eating disease or sudden paralysis at the front door of the workplace, causing customers to step over you, can also be quite effective. Remember not to look too healthy and self-satisfied the next day, though. And definitely (take it from me) avoid any accidental mention of time spent at the race track or body rub parlour.

2) Try to eliminate unnecessary and time-consuming tasks from your schedule. The key here is to "think outside the box." Come on, do you *really* need to brush your teeth every single day? Does it make sense to boil water for those dehydrated mashed potatoes, or is it equally nutritious and just as delicious to simply empty the powder into your mouth right from the pouch? *Must* the housework be done, or is it more effective to just burn the place to the ground, collect on the insurance money, and then take out another policy under an assumed name? Only you can answer those questions.

3) Always remember to make time for your "significant other." Set aside a special block time each week for just the two of you to spend together. Do the things you used to do before your lives became so complicated: a walk in the park; a candlelit dinner; an autopsy or a cockfight. Whatever it is, it should be something that both, or at least one of you, really enjoy. Too often, caught up in the maelstrom of daily activities, we lose sight of the fact that a neglected marriage can be an endangered marriage. One day everything seems to be going along hunky dory. Then, without a word, you find out your spouse has run off to Scarborough with a greasy mutual fund consultant named Stan, who spends most of his spare time shopping for Speedo thongs, doing abdominal crunches, and teaching tantric sex classes at the community centre. Or something like that. Anyway, the point is that you should always remember to pay attention to your loved one, even if you suspect that she may have been seeing this Stan guy for quite some time, which would really explain a lot of things, come to think of it...

I hope that these few simple insights will help all of you to enjoy a healthier, happier lifestyle in the coming months. If you would like to share any of your own experiences or concerns, please don't hesitate to try to contact me.

BETTING YOUR LIFE AWAY

Stacey Tuttle

While not all gamblers are addicts, betting is not without its risks

The Aquinian (St. Thomas U)

FREDERICTON (CUP) -- Alcohol, smoking and drugs are some of the biggest addictions in North America today. All of these, however, are not as significant as gambling--currently the leading addiction--[which] continues to grow. Gambling is defined as the wager of money on an uncertain event. Most of us have already, or will eventually, gamble at some point in our lives. Gambling can range from betting on sports and horse races, to instant win and lottery tickets, to video lottery terminals, or VLTs, and slot machines. In recent years, gambling has become even more accessible through Internet sites, which offer everything from VLTs to card games like poker.

"I first became interested in gambling about 10 years ago when I conducted a study with one of my honours students," said Richard Nicki, a psychology professor at the University of New Brunswick.

Nicki has come to specialize in this area of psychology, even having some of his research published in the *Journal of Gambling Studies* in the winter of 2003. According to Nicki, the main reason people gamble is to try to strike it rich. "It is the only form of recreation in which participants have the chance to win big," he said.

The ideas of what money can bring--security, freedom from anxiety and the "good life"--are irresistibly attractive. Another reason people gamble is for recreation. Many gamblers participate in these activities due to their fun and social aspects, as a form of entertainment. There is also the anticipation and reward complex involved, making the gambling experience exciting and stimulating. "Gambling for charity related reasons is also quite popular," said Nicki. The charity aspect also lends gambling a guise of respectability in the eyes of society.

But by far the most dangerous reason for gambling is as a form of escape, to elude boredom, anxiety and emotional problems. According to Nicki, VLT gambling has actually been proven to reduce depression. However, it is far from a recommended treatment for emotional difficulties. Other research has found that there are other less important contributors to gambling, such as proximity to casinos, peer pressure and growing up with authoritarian parents.

VLTs are one of the most popular forms of gambling. These machines can be found in many bars, as well as in casinos. In Canada, gambling on these machines generated \$10.7 billion in 2003 alone. Due to their overwhelming popularity, these machines are being built at alarming rates. VLTs have constituted the primary focus of the research of Nicki and his colleagues. In the basement of Keirstead Hall at the University of New Brunswick is a VLT lab, where student volunteers come and their behaviour--including their verbal behaviour, betting behaviour, and heart rate--is monitored at different points.

"VLTs have been scientifically proven to be the most addictive form of gambling," said Nicki. "VLTs are problematic... what some refer to as the crack cocaine of gambling. "Repeat gamblers can often fall into the 'gambler's fallacy,'" he said. "After a certain number of losses, they will inevitably win; they believe that things will average out in the short term."

This theory is quite deceptive: they may win, but not win big, or else the win may be prolonged over a lengthy span of years. Most times this theory is false, as only a very small portion of the population will actually win big at gambling ventures.

"Many gamblers have the illusion of control," Nicki said, and think they can control the situation. For example, some believe their betting behaviour, the time or way in which they hit the stop button, or the way they roll the dice controls the outcome. Many people are superstitious, and believe they know which machines are the lucky ones. It is also widely believed that if a machine does not put out for a prolonged period, it is more likely to win. "Unfortunately," as Nicki said, "these machines are reprogrammed quite frequently, therefore all of these methods and beliefs are completely unfounded."

It is generally quite easy to detect a problem gambler from a number of key indicators. They generally begin to gamble for longer and longer periods, and are constantly thinking about or preparing for gambling activities. "They will often chase losses, trying to win back lost money, and gamble to escape the pressures of their everyday lives," Nicki said. They may also have a growing debt, and become involved in illegal activities to finance their habits. Often, they may demonstrate withdrawal symptoms at home, work or school, and lie about where they were and what they were doing.

"A person's gambling habits begin to have a negative impact upon other areas of their lives: relationships, health, employment, finances, and neglect of personal and family needs," Nicki said.

Students, namely 18 to 24 year olds, are the demographic group most likely to engage in gambling. They are also the most likely to develop a gambling problem. A relatively small number, between four and six per cent, are classified as being pathological gamblers. In general, the majority of gamblers are single middle-class males, and most are young adults.

The effects of problem gambling are varied. "People will commit fraud, steal money, or use credits cards to gamble. I've even heard of people who committed suicide because they racked up so much debt," said Nicki. "I've even heard stories of people who get so attached to a particular machine, they will wear a diaper so they don't have to leave it," he laughed.

"But that's probably just hearsay." Most of the students I talked to had previously engaged in some sort of gambling, and although none seemed to have particular problems related to gambling, many have heard stories. Krista Boland, a student at St. Thomas University in Fredericton and an admitted addict to sports gambling, let me in on her habits. "I'm a sports freak!" she said. "I mainly bet on hockey and baseball though. But if I don't get my tickets on time, look out." Allie Mercer, a Memorial University of Newfoundland student, commented: "I'll play the odd game of poker, drinking games, and scratch tickets are super addictive. I usually just buy more tickets with the money I win from them, so I don't think it's harmful."

Another St. Thomas student, Brandon Mapplebeck, said: "I don't really see gambling as a problem at STU. Of course there's tons of social gambling around, but I haven't seen anything I would classify as problematic." The good news is there are ways to gamble responsibly, without it quickly getting out of hand. In order to enjoy gambling in this way, it should be viewed as a form of entertainment. Gamble with others to enhance the social aspect. Gambling should also be well-balanced with other leisure activities. Finally, it is necessary to set a budget as well as a time limit on gambling, giving yourself a degree of control.

"In this sense it is just like any other addiction. In general terms, imposing the idea of everything in moderation should work in avoiding any sort of gambling addiction," said Nicki.

Many of Nicki's students have taken up his interests in gambling. Jason Doiron is currently completing his PhD thesis on the establishment of a problem gambling prevention centre in Prince Edward Island. This program aims to teach those at risk problem focus skills, as well as coping with the emotions and characteristics at the core of the problems.

Another thesis student, Steve Jefferson is seeking to interpret the way in which people deal with negative emotion, using 150 VLT players from Fredericton. He has found that a number of factors contribute to problem gambling, most importantly impulsive behaviour, irrational thinking and the ability to lose yourself in a mindless activity.

Organizations like the Responsible Gambling Council have been formed to promote prevention and awareness of gambling addictions. The Atlantic Lotto Corporation has also begun to deal with gambling in a responsible manner, hiring experts to research the effects of their services. Nicki had many suggestions in this area. "Professional help should be available," he said. "What we need is a board that will research, distribute information, and promote responsible ways of gambling."



Education over Regulation

In Nova Scotia, they'll be conducting a peer led program for people aged 19-24 about the dangers and risks of gambling. The program, called Know the Score, will be conducted at six post-secondary institutions across the province.

Things like this have always confused me. For instance, Marie Mullally, president and CEO of the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation, has said "The success of the two pilots confirm that Know the Score is an effective way to get accurate information about gambling out to people in this age group, who studies suggest are at a higher risk of developing gambling problems." [Ed. **For more information on the risks of gambling to university aged people, see *Betting Your Life Away* in this issue.**]

So here's my issue. We know there's a risk of "developing gambling problems," we know that gambling has really no benefit to society as a whole, and very little to most of the individuals involved in it. Can somebody tell me why we allow it? I mean, is there some genetically hardwired thing that just means some people happen to lead unfulfilled lives if they can't gamble? Are these people the reason we allow it? Maybe it's just me, but when I look at something that has virtually no benefit and is draining resources away from the public coffers, I wonder why we allow it in the first place.

Some people claim that gambling is a money-making venture for the governments, which is why it's permitted. But I've found that among the people I know, those who purchase the most lotto tickets and are hooked on gambling are also those who are generally relying on the government to support them to some extent. Which means you have to ask: if these people weren't spending on gambling to give a portion to the government, would the government need to spend so much on them in the first place?

I wonder if it might be more cost effective to regulate than try to educate.

Working Less or Less Working?

Statistics Canada has done a study comparing the output gap between the United States and Canada and has come to the stunning conclusion that we produce less than they do.

No, really. It's true. However, in typical Canadian fashion, the studies goes on to justify this trend by saying that it's not that we're that much less productive for how long we work, it's just that less of us, overall, are working. If you go down to a per hour basis, they find that we're just slightly less productive than our counterparts to the south. Funny thing about that, two groups of people with very close to the same culture and level of technology tend to be very similar in productivity. Go figure.

Of course, studies like this make you wonder if the reason for that small gap in productivity is specifically because Statistics Canada does a study like this rather than looking at something we didn't already know.

It's a Coin Toss

Alberta and Saskatchewan are celebrating their centennials this year. To commemorate these, the Royal Canadian Mint is producing two new quarters and wants Canadians to pick the artwork on them out of selections from each province.

The artwork on all of the coins was commissioned from local artists, and selected by provincial boards. Sadly, it seems the board for Alberta was particularly uninspired since two of the four coins are more in homage to the oil and gas industry than anything else. The industry that actually has been around since the beginning of Alberta--ranching--is not featured on any of them, though you see a few tiny cows on one and a tiny cowboy on another. Perhaps they decided they'd rather not feature Alberta Beef this year for reasons I cannot fathom.

Meanwhile, on the Saskatchewan side, they have only three choices, but they are quite diverse in style and subject matter. Maybe by the next centennial Alberta will come up with some originality for the designs.

CLICK ON THIS ***Speaking In Tongues***

Lonita Fraser

Every day we're confronted by mysteries of language, signs we don't understand, symbols that seem like gibberish, and words that sound like maybe they are not from this planet. Verbal communication is one of the most important abilities humans have, so here's some help, and humour, to help figure out what others are saying. These resources may also lend an air of authenticity to character studies for works of fiction.

Hobo Terminology - <http://www.angelfire.com/folk/famoustramp/terminology.html>

Although this site is intended, mainly, to detail hobo terminology from the 1880s to World War 1, there are also some modern hobo, homeless, and railroad terms as well.

How to Speak Gangsta - <http://www.velocity.net/~acekc/gangsta.htm>

Sometimes I wonder what the kids are on about, now I know. There's also sections on gang signs and hand signals. I don't think I'll be using any of those anytime soon.

Newfie Slang - <http://www.offdarock.com/newfieslang.asp>

Just as much a mystery as gangsta speech can be are some of the terms used by our neighbours on the east coast. Being from the east coast myself, I do find myself uttering a few of these every now and then.

Jazz Slang - <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/speak.htm>

Are you hip, daddy-o? Find out!

Grandiloquent Dictionary - <http://www.islandnet.com/~egbird/dict/dict.htm>

Now if slang isn't your speed, and you're looking for something a little more obscure, this would be the place for you. A large collection of five-dollar words you can be sure almost no one you know has ever heard before, and if they have, they've probably been to this site too.

Glossarist - <http://www.glossarist.com/>

Perhaps you're looking for something a little more specific in the language department. This site contains glossaries on a very wide range of subjects, from publishing, to terrorism, to the humorous and fanciful.

A Glossary of NADSAT - <http://wso.williams.edu/~mhacker/clockwork/clockglossary.html>

And speaking of glossaries, why not this glossary of the language used in Anthony Burgess' "A Clockwork Orange". Very bolshy, my little droogs.

British, Canadian, & American Vocabulary -

<http://www3.telus.net/linguisticsissues/britishcanadianamericanvocab.html>

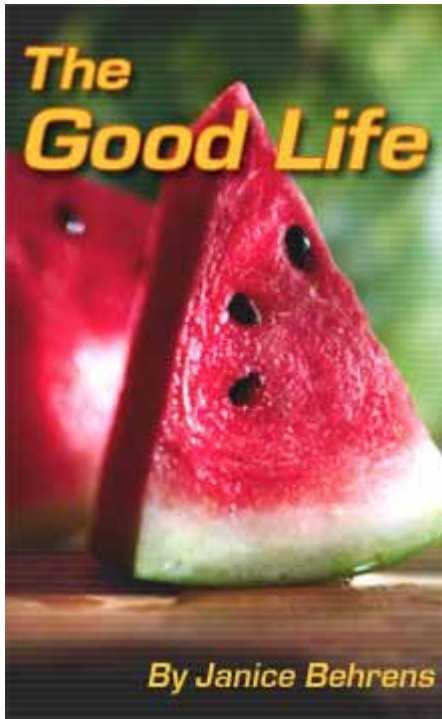
We may all be speaking the same language, more or less, but more often than not we're all a little mildly confused by our English-speaking neighbours worldwide. This site might help dispell the mystery a little.

Language Miniatures - <http://home.bluemarble.net/~langmin/>

Little essays about all kinds of aspects of human language.

"Oh my God, there's an axe in my head!" - <http://www.yamara.com/junk/xl970512.html>

In over 100 languages. You just never know when a phrase like that can come in handy.



Funeral for a Friend

A few days into the new year, my daughter's pet hamster, Cheerio, took ill and died. On average, hamsters live two or three years. Ours was less than eight months old. One moment, the animal had been hale and hearty, monkeybar-ing her way from one side of the cage to the other. A few hours later, when we next paid attention to her, she was lying on the floor of the cage, her eyes closed. By the following morning the hamster was stiff and cold.

Like so many people before her who have suffered the loss of someone or something they had been close to, my daughter was swept away by a mysterious tumult of emotion. She cried with sadness, and railed against the seeming injustice of losing someone she considered to be a friend and companion. She was also filled with regrets, accusing herself of not spending enough time with her pet.

Like so many people before us who have tried to offer a degree of comfort and a glimmer of hope to another, whether it be to a young child mourning the death of an animal, or to the survivors of some incomprehensible tragedy on the other side of the world, my husband and I voiced well-meaning but largely ineffectual platitudes. We assured her that Cheerio was not feeling any pain, that her death was part of a larger, mysterious plan. We talked about different spiritual beliefs, and about the fact that death is not something dreadful, but simply an act of transformation, another stage of existence. In the end, the most important thing we did was to just offer her the solace of our voices and our presence, and to give her the dignity of feeling what she felt and working her way through it.

After supper that night, we placed the hamster's body in a large matchbox that my daughter had decorated with tinfoil, beads and drawings. She made a cross out of popsicle sticks held together by an elastic band, and we buried the box beneath an apple tree in the backyard. I played Amazing Grace on a wooden flute, and my daughter recited a poem she had written for the occasion. I think all of this ceremony gave her a sense of closure, because after my husband read her a bedtime story that night--the first of her many inevitable encounters with mortality behind her--she told me about her plans to save up her allowance money for a budgie.

Quite often when we experience thoughts and emotions that we consider to be "negative"--such as sadness, worry, regret--we look for something to make us feel better, to distract us, at least temporarily, from the pain we're feeling. We turn on the television set or go to the supermarket, bury ourselves in a good mystery novel or crack open a tub of ice cream. Unfortunately, denying our feelings is, at best, a short term solution. At some point, the darker feelings we're trying to spare ourselves will come back to haunt us, and will continue to do so until we find the courage to simply allow ourselves to experience what are, after all, perfectly healthy and natural reactions to a complex world. When we stifle these thoughts and feelings, we are not only postponing the inevitable, we are submerging and denying a part of the richness of our lives. So the next time that darkness seems to be closing in, think perhaps of going for a walk through the woods, or explaining your feelings to somebody you care, about instead of looking for an "easy out". There is no greater tribute to our humanity than to allow ourselves to experience all of the states of mind, from jubilation to despair and back again, that our brains and souls are capable of.



THIS WEEK IN GLOBAL WOMEN'S NEWS

January 14, 2004

Wanda Waterman St. Louis

The Global Fund for Women: Tsunami Response

Some recent activities of the Global Fund for Women: contacting all 47 Global Fund grantees in Asia who are based in the disaster zones of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, to reassure them of

their long-term commitment to them; contacting 27 Global Fund grantees in eastern Africa (Somalia, Kenya, Madagascar, and Tanzania), who have been affected by the tsunami; awarding several grants to groups in Asia affected by the disaster that are responding to the crisis in their communities. These groups include the Siyath Foundation, a group in Sri Lanka that organizes fisher women in coastal communities; Hapsari, a rural women's group located in northern Sumatra; and Indira Female Peer Educators Collective, a grassroots women's group on the eastern coast of Tamil Nadu state in India.

- <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/1work/programs/tsunami.html>

Kiran Bedi on Women as Peacekeepers

"I think the very presence of a woman officer reduces violence. She is not standing armed to the teeth. She is standing as a symbol of peace, life, dignity, and reconciliation. Timor-Leste is an example. All peacekeeping directly benefits women, for they are most victimised by internal civil wars. When a woman in uniform wears a blue helmet or blue cap it empowers women and inspires girls. They don't scare people. That's why the larger presence of women in peacekeeping is so critical now. And that is where India's potential must be given to the world."

Kiran Bedi, Civilian Police Advisor in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations

- <http://www.hindu.com/2005/01/10/stories/2005011001771000.htm>

Disappearing Act

A recent report shows that the Bush administration has taken twenty-five reports from its Women's Bureau Web site, removing or corrupting important information on many issues of importance to women.

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

Shirin Ebadi Summoned by Iranian Judiciary

Iranian human rights activist and Nobel Peace prize laureate Shirin Ebadi has been summoned to answer questions by Iran's judiciary. "I have received a summons to a revolutionary court," the human rights activist and lawyer told AFP. "In the summons, it simply says that I must present myself to the court within three days to provide some explanations and that I will be arrested if I refuse," she added. The 57-year-old was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in October 2003 in recognition of her campaign for increased legal rights for women and children in Iran.

- <http://jang.com.pk/thenews/jan2005-daily/14-01-2005/world/w8.htm>

Iranian Woman Pardoned for Killing Attacker

Afsaneh Norouzi, an Iranian woman sentenced to death for killing a police official, has been pardoned by the victim's family. Norouzi insisted she had acted justly in defending herself. The family of Behzad Moghaddam has agreed to accept compensation instead of seeking Norouzi's execution.

In Iran, a married woman who is raped risks the death penalty for adultery if she cannot prove she was violated. If she kills her attacker, she may also face the death sentence for murder.

Women's rights activist and lawyer Sara Irani told The Associated Press news agency she welcomed the resolution of the case. "Norouzi's freedom will give new breath to women to find the courage to stand up for their rights and defend themselves," she said.

- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4172551.stm

Sister Helen Prejean's Latest Work

Sister Helen Prejean, the real woman behind Susan Sarandon's character in the 1995 film based on Prejean's book, *Dead Man Walking*, says, "We have so much Christianity-lite in this country, and George Bush is the embodiment of that. People are abysmally ignorant about the Bible and about the gospel of Jesus because all they hear is this stuff they get at the pulpit."

Prejean's latest book, *The Death of Innocents*, voices her opposition to the six state-sponsored killings she has witnessed. One of her goals is to show the American public that the US criminal justice system is so heavily flawed as to make the application of the death penalty unconstitutional.

- <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/story.jsp?story=599563>

Prison Terms for Miscarriages in Virginia

Bill HB1677: When a fetal death occurs without medical attendance, it shall be the woman's responsibility to report the death to the law-enforcement agency in the jurisdiction of which the delivery occurs within 12 hours after the delivery. A violation of this section shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Delegate John Cosgrove is pushing to have HB1677 made law in Virginia. Failure to comply with this law can bring up to 12 months in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

- http://democracyforvirginia.typepad.com/democracy_for_virginia/2005/01/legislative_sen.html

Swedish Paper on Trafficking and Prostitution

According to this recent paper, in Sweden, prostitution is officially acknowledged as exploitation of women and children, harmful not only to the individual prostituted woman or child, but also to society at large.

- <http://www.wunrn.com>
- <http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/03/16/13/110ab985.pdf>

Texan Gets Four Months for Killing Wife, Sixteen Years for Wounding Man

Jimmy Dean Watkins was recently sentenced to just four months in prison for killing his wife after a jury concluded he acted in a blind fury. He received a 15-year term for wounding her boyfriend. Watkins pleaded guilty to attempted murder for shooting Keith Fontenot on December 22, 1998. Watkins' estranged wife, Nancy, was killed by multiple gunshots as she tried to dial 911 during the attack.

The jury found Watkins guilty of murdering his wife but decided he acted with "sudden passion" when he discovered her with Fontenot.

- <http://www.cnn.com/2005/LAW/01/06/jealous.husband.ap/index.html>

Official Document System Finally a Go

After years of technical, financial and political hurdles, the United Nations "Official Document System" is finally open and free to the general public. The ODS is the main repository of 800,000+ UN documents dating

back to the organisation's earliest days, from General Assembly resolutions to UN agency memoranda, in all six of the UN official languages.

The ODS can be accessed at <http://documents.un.org>
soenke@kein.org

In Search of Happy Endings

In response to what she calls a "wave of disillusionment" among young American social activists, Lisa O'Neill of San Francisco is advocating a proactive stance in building hope by sharing stories of success in what looks like a hopeless global predicament.

Arundhati Roy: "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

- <http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0114-20.htm>
- <http://www.lisamoneill.com>

New Global Feminist Online Publication

A new quarterly publication called DigitalFuture is looking for people willing to contribute to the publication on international events and to distribute the paper version of the publication. To contact, email: Lin McDevitt-Pugh - ljpugh@xs4all.nl

- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/sessions/61/index.htm>

American Women on Death Row

In August 1998 Kathleen A. O'Shea began writing and publishing a newsletter about women on death row and in international capital trials called "Women on the Row." It is mailed out four times a year, and the next issue will come out March, 2005. Those working in prison ministry, chaplains, educators, students doing research or individuals involved in Peace and Justice issues may find this publication informative and useful.

Pulitzer nominee Kathleen A. O'Shea has been a nun for 30 years and is a social worker who does research on female offenders. MAILING ADDRESS: Kathleen A. O'Shea, 5505 Walnut Level Rd., Crozet, Virginia 22932.
Sisterko@aol.com wings@wings.org

Upcoming Events

Commission on the Status of Women meetings, 28 February - 11 March, 2005, New York. Information and registration forms now available for the 49th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women from 28 February to 11 March 2005 <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/49sess.htm>

WIDE Annual Conference: Poverty, inequality and insecurity:

What solutions do feminisms have? 23-25 June 2005

Regents College Conference Center, Regent's Park, Inner Circle, London UK, barbara@wide-network.org

The 10th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development, October 27-30, 2005 Bangkok, Thailand. Submission Deadline: March 1, 2005

- http://www.awid.org/forum/documents/CFP_English.txt
- http://www.awid.org/forum/documents/CFP_English.pdf

AWID offers grants to delegates with limited financial means. For more information, visit the "Access Fund" section of the Forum website

AUSU THIS MONTH



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Student Mentors Available to Help New Students

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

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

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

AUSU STUDY BUDDY



Dear Barb;

I am the youngest in a family of three children. My 22 year old sister, who has been away at university for the last three years, recently returned home with the announcement that she is gay. My parents are devastated and having a hard time believing this is true. They think she is just confused. My sister has always been a little different and I suspected she might be gay. Therefore I was not that surprised by this announcement and I would like to help my parents. Do you know of anything I can do to make it easier for my parents to accept this?

Tina in Edmonton

Hi Tina, you have brought up a very important issue.

It must have taken a lot of courage for your sister to tell your parents of her sexual orientation. If she is like most gay individuals she has probably been struggling with this issue for many years before finally

resolving it within herself.

It is not surprising that your parents are having difficulty with this issue, as most likely they are from the generation when gay people stayed in the closet. In the past being gay was something to be ashamed of, at the very least. Gay people were treated horribly. In fact some individuals were tormented even to the point of having to die simply because of their sexual orientation. For those who witnessed this horrible discrimination the last thing they want to hear is that their child may become a victim of this abuse.

Like yourself, your parents may have also seen signs that your sister was different, but chose to ignore them, hoping they were wrong, or simply that she would outgrow this. Tina, my advice to you is to be patient with your parents, and give them some time to digest what they've learned. Their hopes and dreams for your sister will have to be modified with this new revelation and this will take some time. As well, your parents may be blaming themselves for your sister's homosexuality. They may wonder if they did something to cause your sister to become gay. In the process of coming to terms with this situation, your parents will experience a wide array of emotions, which is perfectly normal.

Although today's society is more tolerant, being homosexual is still not totally accepted. However your acceptance of your sister's lifestyle will provide your parents with a good example to follow. Through their anguish I am confident they will come to see that being a lesbian has not changed their daughter. She is still the same person she was last week before they knew she was gay.

To be honest with you Tina, I can't really offer you much more advice except to have faith in your parent's ability to recognize that if they want to be a part of their daughter's life they will have to accept her as she is. Thanks for writing. I'm confident your support will be invaluable to your parents during this difficult time.

E-mail your questions to advice.voice@ausu.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality: your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.



The Strangeness of Us

I was watching late, late night TV a few months ago, and I came across a documentary about some European goth-metal band. There was concert footage interspersed with taped interviews with the members of the band. Watching the rock mockumentary *This is Spinal Tap* in my youth has all but ruined this kind of thing for me by making all future parody of rock star interviews redundant. What caught my attention, though, was an extended rant on the part of the lead-guitarist / singer about how pissed off he is at his band's music constantly being "labelled" by "lazy fucking journalists." It would have seemed a more credible complaint if I hadn't just watched him playing a series of generic guitar solos and singing about vampires and making a pact with you-know-who, all in front of a giant, flame-spewing animatronic death's head.

In interviews with other musicians, novelists, Hollywood movie stars, I've heard that complaint time and again, the one about how annoying it is to be labelled. I do believe it's a valid beef. After all, very few of us want to have our creative efforts, the labours of love that we have poured our souls into, boiled down, bagged, bar-coded and placed on some convenient shelf. The same goes for the image of ourselves that we present to the world. We all like to think that

we transcend the limitations of stereotypes, that we have a valid claim to uniqueness. I, for instance, am much, much more than a middle-aged, slightly paunchy white guy with two left feet and a bad golf swing.

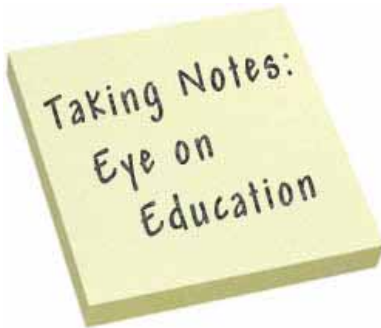
There is something in me, though, that sort of...well...*relishes* the idea of being labelled. There are times when I think it would be absolutely wonderful to have somebody come along with a clipboard, look up my name and say with one of those great Monty Python voices "Ah, yes, here you are. We know all about you, and we've prepared a detailed synopsis of your personality. Please look this over and let me know if you have any questions or concerns." I think the something inside of me that wants this wants it because, most of the time, I am absolutely bewildered about who I really am.

Don't get me wrong. There are many things I am absolutely certain about myself. I know that I like pirate films, handmade sweaters, live theatre, motorcycles, New Orleans jazz, French cooking, black coffee, and the smell of wet dogs and swimming pools. I know that I am devoted to my family and loyal to my friends. But there are so many times that I've found myself weak when I was sure that I would be strong, or found strength within myself that I never suspected I had. So many times I deliberately do something self-destructive, or find myself making the same mistakes over and over again. So many times I find myself asking "Who am I? Why am I here? How should I act? Why do I do what I do?"

I'm pretty sure that I'm not alone in this regard. Most of us spend at least some of the time drifting around in a state of befuddlement, wondering about these things. It's why the human race is so fond of its horoscopes and zodiacs, its psychoanalysis and its self-help books, its palm readers and its maps of the genome. Are you Virgo or Taurus, Dragon or Rat, extrovert or introvert, first born or middle child? Aaaah, it all becomes clear.

Ultimately, though, I don't think that these sorts of generalizations give a whole lot of genuine insight. On the one hand, we are infinitely complex equations with far too many variables for any easy categorizations to take place. Yet, at the same time, we can be so banal and predictable. Incredible to think that the same wildly inconsistent species can have produced a Galileo and a Hitler, a Gandhi and a Genghis Khan, a Nelson Mandela and a George Bush. Amazing to think that the same person who planted a land mine in the morning may have pushed a child on a swing in the afternoon and written a sonnet by the light of the moon. I suppose it's this sort of peculiarly human paradox that makes our planet such a consistent draw for extraterrestrial observers. Maybe someone *out there* can figure us out and let me know.

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



U OF A TO CUT ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

Debbie Jabbour

Citing a projected deficit of \$314,000 in this year's arts budget, the U of A has proposed cuts to English course requirements. Currently all students must complete the equivalent of a first year English course, regardless of program. The U of A says it no longer can fund this standard and is planning to scale it back to a half-year English course for all except English major students. These courses are taught primarily by sessional instructors, usually graduate students.

Many are very concerned with this proposal, suggesting that it will downgrade the quality of the degrees offered. Critics note that, regardless of major, all students require strong communication skills in order to succeed in today's competitive workplace. They argue that it makes "no sense to be graduating engineers who are not capable of reading and writing" (Johnsrude, 2005). Others feel an English course is irrelevant to a student who needs to write lab reports or psychology papers, suggesting that there are other ways to learn writing fundamentals.

The U of A claims they are already unique in requiring a full English course, stating that most Canadian universities have already eliminated the mandatory full-year English. At Athabasca University, a first year English course is no longer required for most degrees.

Reference

Johnsrude, L. (2005). U of A considers cutting English requirement in half: Budget deficit could mean first-year students need only half-year course. *Edmonton Journal*, January 3, 2005.

Women you should know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Carrie Matilda Derick
1862 -1941.

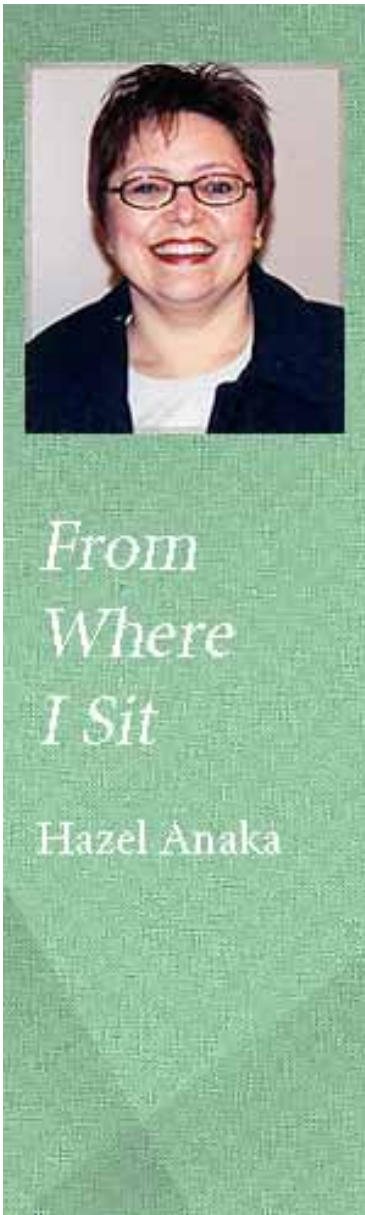
Born in Clarenceville Quebec Canada, Carrie Derick was a geneticist who became world renowned for her studies on heredity. She was also a crusader for women's rights and openly supported birth control at a time when it was illegal in Canada.

Derick received her B.A. in 1890 and her Master's degree in 1896 from McGill University in Montreal. A few years later Derick went on to the University of Bonn in Germany and completed the requirements for her PhD. Unfortunately, at that time the University of Bonn did not bequeath PhDs to women. Courageously Derick continued her research in spite of many barriers resulting from her female status.

Ultimately she triumphed and received the honor of being the first woman to receive full professorship at a Canadian University.

To read more about Carrie Derick, visit:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/women/h12-403-e.html>



Operation Cleanup

Readers familiar with this space will remember a column called Doing Life's Laundry. It covered the phenomenon of organizing and de-cluttering that's become a cottage industry of television shows, books and magazine articles, professional organizers, and suppliers of organizational structures, containers and systems. Perhaps it's the new pop psychology. Trying to understand *why* so many of us buy, collect, and hoard so darn much stuff. Why it's so hard to tackle the mess and confront the monster called clutter. Why we spend money on things we don't need. Why we lack the organizational systems to actually find the things we need when we need them. Why it's easier to procrastinate than to sift through a lifetime's worth of memories, treasures, and buying mistakes.

There's nothing quite like a sewer backup to make the project job one. There's no picking the timing of this most disgusting development. It happens when it happens. The insurance company has provided an adjuster and a contractor who will be doing the ripping up of flooring and assessment of drywall/paneling damage. So far they've supplied a 40 x 8 foot container to house our stuff during the cleanup and reconstruction. They also brought in dehumidifiers to help with the drying out process and to reduce the likelihood of mildew. The fact they sound like small airplanes and run day and night is just a bonus!

The *only* good thing about the timing of this fiasco is that it coincides with Hilary's move to her very first apartment just off trendy Whyte Avenue. The vintage chrome kitchen suite I found in a Hairy Hill antique shop 4 years ago will now finally be gone. The housewares we've collected and grad gifts she received will now be unpacked in Hilary's new pad.

She/we have been forced to purge. She's parting with purses(!!!), shoes, and clothing that no longer serve her needs. I'm parting with paper.

So between drop-offs at charity shops and an upcoming garage sale we'll be able to give the better items second life. The damaged and oh-so-bad have ended up at the landfill. What remains will be what we *choose* to keep--those things that make the cut based on our tastes and needs at this point in our life.

This cleanup, which is not yet complete, has been a pain in the butt. But it's also been priceless. How else would I have stumbled across a little notebook that Greg kept in which he lists: My Family, kind of bike (BMX 500 Constrictor), my savings (\$203 for Disneyland and \$10 for hockey school in Bonn(i)ville, my teacher (Sarwin Sihota), an inventory of John Deere things (including among others combines, front end loader and weedeater), tapes I have, a breakdown of the 1987-88 Andrew PeeWee Aces hockey team, my favorite 20 wrestlers, favorite rock bands, good NHL forwards (Gretzky didn't make the top 7), good defencemen, good goalies and more.

Only during Operation Cleanup do you find treasures like this. It's worth it from where I sit.

**Reprinted with permission*



Ishtar (1987) Film Review

By Laura Seymour

This is just a big mess.

Someone thought that Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman would be an incredible team on screen and figured "who cares about the script--they always bring in the money!" Or so it seems anyway. My concern is how they managed to sucker these two more-than-capable actors into performing in this crap.

The plot goes this way. Two lounge singers--and they are awful at the job--get booked to play the Ishtar Hilton, somewhere in the Middle East. Somehow, they become pawns in an international power play between the CIA, the Emir of Ishtar, and the rebels trying to overthrow his regime.

The film has horrible jokes, overacting and the worst thing of all is that the adoration that some people have for the two stars actually leads them to call this film a work of comic genius. This is far from the truth. Hoffman and Beatty go to great lengths to make the film work but fail miserably. They overact and work too hard to sell the jokes -- the crawling across the desert scene, for example, is just tragic.

The director, Elaine May, previously directed Robin Williams in the well received remake of *The Birdcage*, and previously wrote screenplays for both Beatty and Hoffman -- *Heaven Can Wait* and *Tootsie* respectively--both of which were very successful. This most likely explains why the megastars agreed to appear in this horrid project.

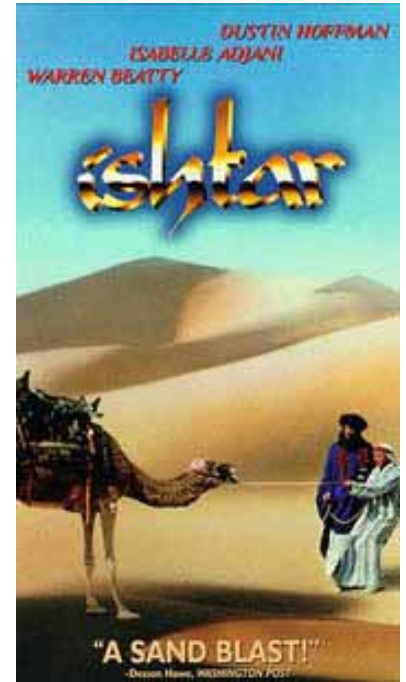
Most of the other actors are not especially well known however Matt Frewer (who used to star in the *Max Headroom* TV show), Tess Harper, Isabelle Adjani (a huge star in France) and Charles Grodin are in it. I would bet that most of the budget was used on the two main stars.

The costumes look hokey, which does not help, nor does the scenery which does not convince me that they are filming in the real locations.

The film was supposed to be in the style of the Bing Crosby and Bob Hope productions of the 1940s, but was plagued by production problems and budgets hold ups.

Crazy lady, Carol Kane, is in this too. Oh well. I wish it helped.

This film is at the top of the list of stinkers for many but some still think it's ok. The Razzies (horrible film awards) nominated it three times and the Rotten Tomatoes also ranks the film as "Rotten." Generally this film is rated at 3 to 4 stars out of 10 and still gets many nominations for poor quality programming. What's your impression? Tell *The Voice*.





Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

AAAS - Science Policy Internship - Job Location: Washington, DC, United States

Job Description: Interns will work closely with AAAS staff on a variety of projects, helping to prepare proposals, organize meetings, contribute to publications, manage computer databases, obtain resource materials, and participate in ongoing research. They will also have the opportunity to attend relevant conferences and meetings in the Washington, D.C. area. The internships are unpaid, but the Program will assist students desiring course credit from their institutions.

Job Requirements: Undergraduates, grad students and recent grads may apply. Prospective interns should have a background in science, law, ethics or a related field and have an interest in science policy.

How To Apply: Email, Fax or mail cover letter and resume. Indicate time period/semester for which you're applying.

Contact Information: Kristina Schaefer, AAAS, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Room 822, Washington, DC, USA 20005
Phone: 202-326-6217 - FAX: 202-289-4950 - Email: kschaefer@aaas.org

Boston Review - Editorial Intern - Job Location: Northeast - Cambridge, MA, United States

Job Description: The program includes copy editing, fact-checking, proofreading, and desktop publishing, for which training is provided. Other responsibilities include screening submissions for publication, summarizing and proposing books for review, corresponding with authors, updating our Web site, and maintaining our database of writers and contacts. Boston Review's office is small and gives interns a unique opportunity to be involved in nearly every aspect of magazine publishing. Boston Review welcomes interns from a wide range of backgrounds. Some enter the program while graduate or undergraduate students. Many use the internship as an introduction to publishing after completing studies or having pursued a different career. Previous Boston Review interns have gone on to work and write for Foreign Affairs, The Atlantic Monthly, The Times of London, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and other publications.

Job Requirements: Interns work year-round on a variety of editorial and promotional projects and are essential to the magazine's operation. Prior work experience in publishing is less important than the applicant's knowledge of Boston Review, and the level of commitment and creativity that he or she can bring to the magazine. We offer twelve internship positions each year, four per term. Two of the four positions are full-time, and two require a minimum commitment of fifteen hours a week. All internships are unpaid. Candidates are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Boston Review archives.

How To Apply: To submit an application, please send a hard copy of the following materials to the address below. Please note that we cannot accept applications sent via e-mail.

Your application should include: 1. A cover letter explaining why you would like to participate in the Boston Review internship program. Provide some sense of the ideas, issues, and debates that are important to you. Describe your proficiency in any languages other than English, your organizational and research background, and any specific areas of intellectual or academic concentration. Describe your computer proficiency. Macintosh experience with HTML, MS Word, Filemaker, Adobe InDesign, and Quark is particularly helpful. Finally, let us know whether you are applying for a full- or part-time position. Bear in mind that there is greater competition for part-time positions. 2. Your résumé or c.v. 3. The names and phone numbers or e-mail addresses of two references. Please specify their relationships to you. 4. A proposal for a Boston Review New Democracy Forum. Please include a specific topic for the lead article, and the names of at least five prospective respondents. 5. A list of five of your favorite books, and a brief statement explaining why you like two of them. 6. A list of five publications you read regularly.

The deadlines are as follows: Spring (Jan-May): Nov 15; Summer (Jun-Aug): Feb 15; Fall (Sept-Dec): Jun 15
Please understand that we cannot consider incomplete or late applications. If you questions, email review@mit.edu.

Contact Information: Joshua J. Friedman, Managing Editor, Boston Review, E53-407 MIT, 30 Wadsworth St., Cambridge, MA, US 02139. Phone: (617) 258-0805 - FAX: (617) 252-1549 - WWW: <http://www.bostonreview.net>

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

SPACEFLIGHT AND LIFE SCIENCES TRAINING PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: n/s

Deadline: **January 31, 2005**

Administrator: Canadian Space Agency (CSA) Award

Notes: For students entering or in second or third year. Field of Study: Biochemistry, Biological & Life Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Health Sciences, Inorganic Chemistry, Medical & Health Sciences, Neurosciences, and Organic Chemistry - Academic Standing: 75. The NASA Spaceflight and Life Sciences Training Program (SLSTP) is an intensive six-week training program at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida for about 25 university students interested in life sciences, bioengineering or related fields. In the program, students will take part in the preparation, pre- and post-flight testing, data analysis and reporting phases of simulated space flight experiments and NASA life sciences research. The Canadian Space Agency is sponsoring one or two Canadian students who have demonstrated scholastic excellence and an interest in space life sciences to participate in this unique learning experience.

See <http://www.space.gc.ca/slstp> for eligibility details and application requirements.

Web Site: <http://www.space.gc.ca/sls>

E-mail: slstp@space.gc.ca

DR. MAXWELL M. YAN EDUCATIONAL BURSARY IN CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

Amount: Varies

Deadline: **N/S**

Notes: Canadian students pursuing career in conductive education. Enrolled at any university providing accredited conductor programs. Current programs offered in England, Israel and Hungary. Recipients required to work as conductor in Ontario March of Dimes' Conductive Education program for two years.

Contact Information:

Conductive Education Clearinghouse

Ontario March of Dimes

10 Overlea Boulevard, Toronto , Ontario M4H 1A4

Phone: 416-425-3463

Phone 2: 1-800-263-3463

Web Site: <http://www.dimes.on.ca>

Email Address : info@dimes.on.ca

EDULINX EDUCATION AWARD

Amount: \$500

Deadline: **N/S**

Administrator: EDULINX Award

Notes: To enter, go to Web site to correctly answer the survey questions and complete the contest registration form. 2004 draw dates are: February 4th, May 3rd, August 2nd and November 1st.

Contact Information:

Address: 2 Robert Speck Parkway, Suite 1600

Mississauga, Ontario

Canada Postal Code: L4Z 1H8

Web Site: <http://www.edulinx.ca/en/contest.html>



Provided by Lonita Fraser

**Trans/national Film and Literature:
Cultural Production and the Claims of History
Tallahassee, Florida USA - FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

January 27-29 2005

555 West Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, FL 32306 - filmlit@englishmail.fsu.edu - <http://english3.fsu.edu/~filmlit2005>
KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "Making Films with an Accent: Transnational, Transitional, and Translational Strategies" Hamid Naficy, Department Chair, and Nina J. Cullinan Professor of Art History, Film and Media Studies, Rice University
The thirtieth anniversary of FSU's Conference on Literature and Film presents the opportunity to consider the last three decades of literature and film and their study in today's national and transnational contexts. What are the historical claims made in and through trans/national film and literature? Are the borders between film and literature dissolving under the broader category of cultural production? How has the integration of commodity culture markets affected film and literature in the age of economic and cultural globalization? How do national or transnational frames refigure our sense of history in and through film and literature? And how do these frames introject different times, temporalities, and speeds into our sense of history and forms of cultural production? How are strategies of hybridity translating new cultural forms for cosmopolitan subjectivities? How is cultural production itself transformed in the response to life and death in a time of war, terror, and counter-terror?

**3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

26 to 27 January 2005

<http://www.canadianinstitute.com/contentframes.cfm?ID=2932> - Patricia Godbille p.godbille@canadianinstitute.com
Organized by The Canadian Institute

**ROMANCE SLAM JAM 2005
Dallas, Texas USA**

March 10 - 13 2005

Contact: Cindi Louis - 972.623.2537; Emma Rodgers - 800.272.5027 - P.O. box 530326, Grand Prairie, TX, 75053
romanceslamjam2005@yahoo.com - <http://www.romanceslamjam.com/>

The four-day conference unites readers and writers of Black romance for an exciting fun-filled extended weekend of literary activities, entertainment, and awards presentations. Over 300 authors, readers, and industry professionals are expected to attend. Theme: Rolling Out the Red Carpet for the Readers

Key activities include:

- Literary activities - writer's workshops, editor and agent presentations, book signings, and aspiring writer's contest
- Keynote luncheon featuring best-selling author Jacquelin Thomas
- EMMA awards banquet acknowledging the top books in ten tempting categories.
- Readers participation and tributes in all major functions
- Fun activities like shopping and sightseeing in Dallas, a trip to Black Images Book Bazaar, tastes of Dallas, welcome reception, Sunday morning worship, skits, games, and prizes.

The per person registration fee is: Until Jan 15, 2005 - \$ 165.00 per person; Jan 15 - Mar 13, 2005 - \$200.00 per person. Bookclubs or writing groups submitting five or more registrations at one time will receive \$15 off the per person registration fee. (Price - \$150.00 per person) All five registrations and payment must be sent together.

**THE EYES ABOVE: SPACE & NEAR-SPACE TELESCOPE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
Toronto, Ontario**

Feb 17 2005

http://cadcwww.hia.nrc.ca/cadcbin/get_meetings?meeting_no=1605 - Mubdi Rahman - mubdi.rahman@utoronto.ca

DREAMCATCHING 2005

Feb 23 - 26 Feb 2005

**Professional Development Math and Science Workshops for Teachers of Aboriginal Students
Montreal, Quebec**

<http://www.dream-catching.com> - Contact: Dawn Wiseman - dawn@encs.concordia.ca

DreamCatching is a series of hands-on, professional development math and science workshops, that focus on the integration of western and indigenous perspectives on the teaching and learning of these subjects. Organized by Native Access to Engineering Programme, Concordia University

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENLIGHTENMENT

Jan 21 - 25 2005

Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States

<http://bizspirit.com> - Contact name: Gale Litvak - message@bizspirit.com - Immerse yourself in four days of Awareness – awareness of what is already here – with Richard Moss, Stephen Wolinsky, Saniel Bonder, Jim Dreaver, Ravindra Kumar, Brian Qara, Isaac Shapiro and many others. Organized by The Message Company

4th International Conference on Shamanism

Jan 21 -25 2005

Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States

<http://bizspirit.com> - Contact name: Gale Litvak - message@bizspirit.com - Explore indigenous wisdom traditions. Experience the mystery of Shamanism. Learn to access your own personal power. Esteemed presenters include Alberto Villoldo, Sandra Ingerman, Lewis Mehl-Madrona, Brant Secunda and many more. Organized by The Message Company

First International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology

Jan 23-26 2005

New Orleans, Louisiana, United States

<http://www.AASci.org/conference> Contact name: William G. Lyon - conference@AASci.org - The conference will provide a multidisciplinary platform for environmental scientists, engineers and management professionals to discuss the latest developments in environmental research and applications. Organized by American Academy of Sciences

Medicine Meets Virtual Reality 13

Jan 26 - 29 2005

Long Beach, California, United States

http://www.nextmed.com/mmvr_virtual_reality.html - Contact name: James Westwood - mmvr13@nextmed.com
Audience: Computer scientists; physicians and surgeons in multiple specialties (especially radiology), and allied healthcare professionals; medical educators; military medicine personnel/ Subjects: Data-focused technologies for clinical care. Organized by Aligned Management Associates, Inc.

8th Congress: Unity And Diversity In Religion And Culture

Jan 27 - 30 2005

Seattle, Washington, United States

<http://www.networkforpeace.org> - Contact name: Ms. Skye Burn - E-mail: udc@antiochsea.edu - Organized by: UNESCO Chair on Comparative Studies of Spiritual Traditions, Their Specific Cultures and Interreligious Dialogue

Eighth Annual Conference on the Americas

Feb 4 -5 2005

Savannah, Georgia, United States

<http://www.intl.armstrong.edu/AmericasCouncil.html> - Contact name: James Anderson - Armstrong Atlantic State University - E-mail: andersja@mail.armstrong.edu - A 2-day conference on a variety of topics regarding Canada, Mexico, the Carribean, & Central and South America. Does not include U.S. unless related to the other regions of the Americas (i.e., immigration). Organized by: University System of Georgia's Americas Council

Lavender Languages: Linguistics Conference

11 February 2005

Washington, DC, United States

<http://www.american.edu/lavenderlanguages> - Contact: Bill Leap - E-mail: wlm@american.edu

Tenth Annual Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy

18 February 2005

Tucson, Arizona, United States

<http://phil.web.arizona.edu/events/ancientphilo.htm> - Contact: Professor Mark McPherran - mcpheran@maine.edu

APSA Conference on Teaching and Learning in Political Science

19 February 2005

Washington, DC, United States

<http://www.apsanet.org/tlc> - E-mail: mwoodruff@apsanet.org

The John Donne Society Conference

23 to 27 February 2005

Baton Rouge, LA, United States

<http://www.chss.montclair.edu/donne/> - Contact name: Prof. Eugene R. Cunnar - E-mail: ecunnar@nmsu.edu

Thirty-third Annual Twentieth Century Literature and Culture Conference 24 February 2005
Louisville, Kentucky, United States

<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/cml/xxconf/> - Contact name: Danielle Day - E-mail: dlday@louisville.edu

72nd Meeting of the Society of Military History 24 February 2005
Charleston, South Carolina, United States

http://citadel.edu/history_dept/News%20and%20Announcements/News%20home.htm - E-mail: sinisik@citadel.edu

Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT)
24 February 2005

Charlotte, North Carolina, United States

<http://www.valdosta.edu/scolt> - Contact name: Lynne McClendon - E-mail: lynnemcc@mindspring.com

14th Annual British Commonwealth & Postcolonial Studies Conference 25 February 2005
& the 3rd Annual USACLALS Conference

Savannah, Georgia, United States

<http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/britishsubmitonline.html> - E-mail: schille@georgiasouthern.edu or dchampion@georgiasouthern.edu

Healing Through History: 25 February 2005

A Multi-disciplinary Conference Celebrating Oral Tradition

Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

<http://www.healingstory.org/events/overview.html> - Contact name: Diane Rooks - E-mail: diane@storyjourney.com

FaciliCon 2005 28 Feb - 3 Mar 2005

New Orleans, LA, United States

<http://www.wbresearch.com/facilicon/index.html> - Contact: Customer Service - E-mail: bchung@wbresearch.com

FaciliCon 2005 is the premier industry event for facilities management in higher education, connecting executives in facilities and capital construction from colleges and universities across North America - public and private, big and small. Organized by: Worldwide Business Research

46th Annual International Studies Association Convention 1 March 2005

Honolulu, Hawaii, United States

<http://www.isanet.org/hawaii/> - E-mail: isaprog@cgu.edu

Social and Political Philosophy: Christians and Communities 3 March 2005

Seattle, Washington, United States

<http://david.snu.edu/~brint.fs/wpsjnl/news.htm> - Contact name: Brint Montgomery - E-mail: brint@snu.edu - Organized by: Wesleyan Philosophical Society

Women's Stories, Women's Lives: Making Sense of Experience 4 March 2005

Bronxville, New York, United States

http://www.slc.edu/womens_history/ - E-mail: tjames@slc.edu

(RE)Examining Race & Gender Conference 4 - 5 March 2005

Seattle, Washington, United States

<http://www.seattleu.edu/wismer> - Contact name: Julie Stein - E-mail: jstein@seattleu.edu - Organized by: Seattle University

Sun Conference 4 - 5 March 2005

El Paso, Texas, United States

<http://cetal.utep.edu/sun/2005/> - Contact name: Jenny A. Fraire-Varela - jfraire@utep.edu - Focus is on practical, applied strategies, tools, and techniques. All university faculty, instructional staff, instructional developers are invited to share their innovative teaching practices. Sponsored by: University of Texas at El Paso

The Art of Gender in Everyday Life II: A Multidisciplinary Conference 4 to 5 March 2005
Pocatello, Idaho, United States

<http://www.isu.edu/andersoncenter> - Contact name: Rebecca Morrow - gndrctr@isu.edu - Explore the various ways in which gender is crafted, celebrated, endured, deciphered, expressed or, in short, the art of how it is lived on a daily basis. Organized by: Anderson Gender Resource Center and Women's Studies Program at Idaho State University

PerEL Workshop on Pervasive eLearning 8 to 12 March 2005
Kauai Island, Hawaii, United States

<http://wwwra.informatik.uni-rostock.de/perel2005> - PerEL Organization Team - perel05@informatik.uni-rostock.de
Held in conjunction with the IEEE Int. Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications (PerCom 05). It wants to bring together researchers and developers from different technical and educational disciplines.

4th Annual Race and Place Conference: Borderlands and Boundaries 10 March 2005
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States

<http://www.ua.edu/academic/colleges/raceandplace/> - E-mail: gdoorr@bama.ua.edu

Second International Conference on Positive Behavior Support 10 to 12 March 2005
Tampa, FL, United States

<http://www.apbs.org> - Contact name: Tim Knoster - E-mail: tknoster@bloomu.edu - Positive Behavior Support involves the assessment and engineering of environments so that people with problem behaviors can increase social, personal and professional quality in their lives.

International Dark-Sky Association 16th Annual Meeting 10 March 2005
Tucson, Arizona, United States

Website: <http://www.darksky.org/index.html> - Contact name: Bob Gent - E-mail: RLGent1@aol.com

Children's Literature 19 March 2005
Rochester, New York, United States

Contact name: Laurie Ousley - E-mail: lousley@monroecc.edu - We welcome abstracts on any aspect of children's literature, contemporary, classic, obscure or popular. Papers might focus on illustration, drama, poetry, the picture book, the historical novel, fantasy, science fiction, realism, fairy tale. Organized by: Monroe Community College

Conference on Southern Literature 31 Mar - 2 April 2005
Chattanooga, Tennessee, United States

<http://www.artsedcouncil.org/csl/cslit.html> - Contact: Susan Robinson - info@artsedcouncil.org - Nearly 40 writers convene for panel discussions, readings, lectures, book signings, and more. 2005 theme is The South: A Community of Outsiders. Keynote by Reynolds Price. Registration starts in January. Organized by: Arts & Education Council

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting 31 March 2005
Las Vegas, Nevada, United States

<http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/2005annualmtg.htm> - E-mail: asecs@wfu.edu

Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) 31 March 2005
New York, New York, United States

<http://www.dickinson.edu/nectfl> - E-mail: nectfl@dickinson.edu

EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS Feb 19 - Feb 22 2005
Philosophy of "e-ducation 2005"
<http://www.e-ducation2005.com/index.asp>

As more and more countries become information-based societies, the terms 'globalization' and 'information and communication technology' are no longer buzzwords, but instead, daily realities changing the way people live, work, and learn. However, in a world where technological divide and imbalance in resource distribution are still apparent, many countries have a long way to go before transforming into knowledge-based economies. What is the role of education in general—and e-learning in particular—in helping countries to maximize their potential? Recognizing the challenges this disparity presents, the theme of the This challenge is the theme of the "e-ducation Without Borders" conference, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, February 2005: e-learning through the Eyes of the World: Responsible Development and Desired Role

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.

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.

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.

Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

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

alberta

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



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

Barnes&Noble.com

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

Wed Jan 19 @ The Staircase Theatre in Hamilton, ON
27 Dundurn St. N/8:00pm / \$12 ticket
w/ Karyn Ellis ~DUOshow~ ALLAGES!

Thurs., January 20th @ Mickey Finn's Pub in Toledo, OH
602 Lagrange St./8:30 pm / \$6
For more info: 419-246-3466 ~DUOshow~

Fri Jan 21 @ Slammer's Club 202 in Columbus, OH
part fundraiser for Ladyfest Midwest!
202 N. Fifth St. / 8pm / \$5 students, \$10general
For more info: 614-221-9379
w/ Super Duper ~DUOshow~

Sat Jan 22 @ CRUSH in Cincinnati, OH
"An acoustic duo concert, storyteller style"
(upstairs from Carol's On Main)
825 Main St./9:00pm / 18+ / \$8
Limited capacity. Purchase ADVANCED TIX for \$10 to
guarantee a reserved table!
Advanced tix can be purchased by phoning: 513-608-4004
Info: <http://www.stepoutproductions.com>
~DUO show~

Mon Jan 24 @ UMASS in Amherst, MA
8:00pm/FREE! w/ Pamela Means
NortheastResidence Hall
For more info: 413-545-1278
ALL AGES! ~DUO show~

Tues Jan 25 @ The Paradise Lounge in Boston, MA

971 Commonwealth Ave / 9pm / \$10
w/ Pamela Means
For more info: 617-562-8814
18+show! ~DUO show~

Wed Jan 26 @ The Knitting Factory in New York, NY
74 Leonard St./8pm / cover t.b.a.
w/ Pamela Means
For more info: 212-219-3132
~DUO show~

Fri Jan 28 @ Gravity Lounge in Charlottesville, VA
103 South First St. / 8pm / \$12
For more info: 434-977-5590
Opening act t.b.a. ~DUOshow~

Sat Jan 29 @ Chandler Recital Hall in Norfolk, VA
MUSEEK&ODU Women's Centre Presents:
Old Dominion University / 8pm
For more info: 757-683-4109M ~DUO show~

Sun Jan 30 @ Jammin' Java in Vienna, VA
227 Maple Ave East / 8pm / \$10
For more info: 703-255-1566
Opening for: BigEgo ~DUOshow~

Thurs Feb 3 @ Grassroots Cafe in Peterborough, ON
395 Aylmer Street N / 8pm / \$10
For more info: 705-876-6530 ~DUO show~

Fri Feb 4 @ The Mod Club in Toronto, ON
722 College St. w/ Crawford / 9pm / \$10 adv. \$12 at door
Double Bill Performance w/ Madviolet
For more info or advance tix: (416) 588-4MOD
w/ TORONTO'S Madviolet

Sat., February 5th @ Co-operators Hall @ RiverRun Centre
in Guelph, ON
35 Woolwich Street / 8pm / \$10
<http://www.riverrun.guelph.on.ca>
w/ Kate Schutt

Thurs Feb 10 to Feb 13 @ Frostbite Music Festival
In Whitehorse, YK
Two main stage performances, plus workshops
Festival information: <http://www.frostbitefest.ca>

Fri., February 18th @ Nectar's in Burlington, VT
188 Main St / 7pm / \$5
For more info: 802-865-4563 ~DUO show~

Sat Feb 19 @ Rathskelliar in Ewing, NJ

Brower StudentCenter, College of New Jersey
9:00pm / Free for students ~DUOshow~

Thurs Feb 24 - 27 @ Folk Alliance Conference in Montreal,
QC

1255,rueJeanne-Mance

Multiple Showcases still being organized!

Currently:

Fri:10:30pm-12:00am - FlemingShowcase (15 min)

Fri: 12:00am-12:30am - MPRESSRECORDSShowcase

Sat: 10:40pm-11:00pm - OUTMUSICShowcase

Sat: 11:30pm-12:00am - SOS Annex (Ronda BartonRoom)

Sat: 1:00am-1:30am - Peppermint/Green Note Showcase

~DUOshows~

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

CALGARY WINTERFEST 11-21 FEBRUARY 2005 CALGARY, ALBERTA

All day - Cost: Free

Calgary Winter Festival Foundation

Number +1 403 543 5480

Fax +1 403 543 5490

info@calgarywinterfest.com

#100, 634 6th Ave SW

Calgary, Alberta, T2P 0S4

The highlight of the annual Calgary Winterfest must be
the Human Curling Championships, where Calgary's finest
line up to jump onto giant rubber tubes and slide, slide,
slide away...

The first weekend sees music, magic and mayhem in the
carnival at the Devonian Gardens and the Winterfest
wackiness keeps the kids entertained during the week
with ice sculpting, strongman competitions and the
Wacky Wing Eating Competition.

Live music and street performers fill the streets for the
duration of the festival as around 200,000 people
celebrate the midwinter and the imminent arrival of
spring.

manitoba

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR 11-20 FEBRUARY 2005 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

All day - Cost: Free

Contact - 1 204 237 7692

info@festivalvoyageur.mb.ca

768 Tache Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2H 2C4

The Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg is Western Canada's
largest winter festival. Reflecting the country's unique
French-Canadian heritage, the ten-day celebration recalls
the fur trade era of the 18th-century Red River colony.

Various venues across the town play host to a variety of
concerts and performances. There are three heated tents
in addition to the main stage in Voyageur Park, the main
focus of the celebrations.

Snow and ice sculptures are de rigeur for winter festivals
and this one features an International Snow Sculpting
Symposium. Dog sledding also features highly and
competitive races with between three and ten dogs are
quite a sight.

ontario

ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW 5-6 FEBRUARY 2005 - TORONTO, ONTARIO 10.30AM-5PM

Cost \$10 - under 13s free

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

6, Garamond Ct, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Z5

+1 416 441 2345

Contact - +1 905 625 3475 - show@soos.ca

The Southern Ontario Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Show
in Toronto's Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is an
exotic gardener's paradise. Displays feature thousands of
flowering orchid plants arranged in beautiful natural
exhibits.

Apart from wandering the Garden Centre to browse the
rare flowers on show, visitors can also buy orchids, attend
talks on how to care for and cultivate these wonderful
flowers and play the judge along with the Orchid Society,
who award prizes for the most well-cultured plant.

WINTERCITY FESTIVA 28 JANUARY - 10 FEBRUARY 2005 TORONTO, ONTARIO

Cost: Free

Contact - Access Toronto - +1 416 338 0338

Toronto's WinterCity Festival provides two weeks of fun
throughout the city - from puppeteers and storytellers to
dance performances and spectacular ice skating shows.

The annual event is a celebration of Toronto's unique diversity of spirit, offering a flurry of top free entertainment and a showcase of the city's vibrant arts scene. Winterlicious features delicious culinary experiences including special dinners and tastings. Forget the weather and join the party in the world's coolest winter city!

WINTERLUDE
4-20 FEBRUARY 2005
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

Fri-Sun all day - Cost: Most events are free
+1 613 239 5000

Amongst the myriad activities, the event boasts the world's largest skating rink in the form of the Rideau Canal. At seven kilometres long, it is a central focus of the event. Shows, snow sculpture and skating abound.

All sorts of weird and wonderful events take place under the banner of the festival, including the Hospital Bed Race, the parading of the Ice Hogs (the mascots of the festival) and extreme trampolining. The frozen canal is the venue for many of the shows that are performed both on and off skates.

It is very much a family event, with much of the entertainment being aimed at a younger audience. A trip to Snowflake Kingdom is a must, where mammoth mountains of snow have been transformed into a fairytale fantasy land, including around 30 giant snow slides carved with images depicting well-known fairy tale characters.

For the kid in you though, you can try your hand at such Canadian traditions as sledge hockey, ice climbing, curling and dog-sledding. Public ice block carving is also encouraged, but if sculpting is not your strong point, you can see how the professionals do it in an intriguing look at a continent far removed from this wintry landscape.

quebec

QUÉBEC WINTER CARNIVAL
28 JANUARY - 13 FEBRUARY 2005
QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC

Contact - Number +1 866 422 7628 (hotline)
Second Number +1 418 626 3716

Promoting itself as the largest snow festival in the world, the Québec Winter Carnival makes the most of the harsh climatic conditions in this part of the world. Intended primarily as a way to brighten up the bleak days of midwinter, the event has been a highlight on the local calendar for years.

If you do decide to take part, pack your warmest clothes: temperatures here average minus 10 degrees Celsius.

FÊTE DES NEIGES
22 JANUARY - 6 FEBRUARY
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Cost - Free
some activities are charged for

Parc Jean-Drapeau
1, Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve
Montreal, Quebec, H3C 1A9
apubliques@parcjeandrapeau.com

Contact - 1 514 872 6120 - webmaster@fetedesneiges.com

The famous joie de vivre of Montreal is never expressed better than during Canada's premier Winter Festival, the Fête des Neiges. Held in the Parc Jean-Drapeau, it runs over three consecutive weekends, with selected events during the intervening weeks. If you want to get a feel for Montreal in winter and the warm openness of the local people, there's no better time to visit.

A snow castle dominates the centre of the fairytale realm of Boule de Neige, the kingdom of la Fête. The size of a football pitch, its labyrinthine ways are populated by various medieval characters and are open to exploration. The fun includes a competition for the world record for speed in ice sculpting, dogsledding circuits for children and professionally-certified ice climbers, who teach the public how to scale a 12-metre-high ice tower - a useful skill in these parts.

ARTAPALOOZA
25 JANUARY - 8 FEBRUARY 2005
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Saidye Bronfman Centre for the Arts
5170, Côte Ste Catherine Rd
Montreal, Quebec, H3W 1M7
Tel +1 514 739 2301 - Fax +1 514 739 9340
theatre@saidyebrofman.org

Info & Tickets - 1 514 739 7944 - marc@thesaidye.org

Montreal's Saidye Bronfman Centre hosts Artapalooza! - an annual arts festival aimed especially at young people. Theatre, dance, music and mime troupes from around the world perform in English and French.

Varied presentations are aimed at young children and teenagers and most performances are followed by workshop activities. The festival also takes actors into schools to discuss their work.

CANADIAN SKI MARATHON
12-13 FEBRUARY 2005
LACHUTE, QUEBEC

Cost - \$22 - \$215, based on age and when you register

Canadian Ski Marathon
Number +1 819 770 6556
Second Number +1 877 770 6556 (toll-free)
ski@csm-mcs.com
CSM Office, 81 Jean-Proulx, Suite 200
Gatineau, QC, J8Z 1W2

The Canadian Ski Marathon at Lachute in Quebec is one of the world's largest cross-country ski events.

The event organisers provide useful backup in the form of snacks, check points, a shuttle bus and ski wax services. Chartered coaches transport skiers from Toronto, Montreal and Gatineau, so it's not even necessary to drive. You can't beat a great cross-country event for testing endurance and skill, or as a personal challenge.

BBCM RED PARTY WEEKEND
13-15 FEBRUARY 2005
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

10pm-8am - Cost: \$55

Parisian Laundry
3550, Saint-Antoine St West (at corner of Bel Air St)
Montreal, Quebec

Valentine's Day celebrations are sensibly given the whole weekend on the Montreal gay scene, the highlight being the Red Party, which takes place at the Parisian Laundry.

The weekend features a host of parties and social events. At the Red Party DJ Norm Robert, a big name on the local scene, and the excellent DJ Paulo, a star of the American circuit who regularly has top billing at prestigious events like the Alegria Party at New York's Sound Factory, spin the tunes. Dress code is red, unsurprisingly, with a touch of leather.

CARNAVAL-SOUVENIR
10-20 FEBRUARY 2005
CHICOUTIMI, QUEBEC

All day - Cost: Free

+1 418 543 4438
info@carnavalsouvenir.qc.ca
49, rue Lafontaine, C.P. 567
Chicoutimi, G7H 5C8

Over 100,000 people pay homage to the past as the citizens and guests of Chicoutimi dress up in period costumes and eat, drink and dance in the style of 100

years ago. It's a time to remember both your local and national identity, whether you're from Chicoutimi or not.

Visitors receive a real taste of Saguenayan hospitality and entertainment. The focus of the festival is place Carnaval, where laser shows open the festivities and snow castles and other monuments dot the landscape. The party continues for 11 days with all sorts of events both inside and out, including special theatre shows and an operetta, featuring 60 comedians and over 30 musicians. Outdoor types can wrap up warm and jump on horse or dog-drawn sleds for a tour through the picturesque landscape.

international

SMALL WORLD EXPO
THURSDAY, FEB 24, 2005 - SATURDAY, FEB 26, 2005
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Las Vegas Convention Center
3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

"Nanotechnology has the potential to profoundly change our economy and to improve our standard of living, in a manner not unlike the impact made by advances over the past two decades by information technology." - National Nanotechnology Initiative

Small World Expo - The Bridge Between Concept and Commercialization:

showcases the leading companies and developers in tiny technology
allows companies and attendees to develop partnerships, license technology and evaluate acquisitions
educates the individuals on the practical applications of nanotechnology, microsystems and MEMS.

Why this is a "must attend" event:

As an executive, we help you maximize your time at the show by pre-scheduling appointments with companies you'll want to partner with, license technology from or even acquire. Unlike other events, the show floor will be divided into pavilions so that you can save time finding companies of interest. On the conference side, unlike other events, the content will be delivered in an easily understandable fashion.

How you will benefit by attending personally:

Much confusion still exists about what this technology is truly capable of and how much it will cost to implement into your products and manufacturing. It's time to simplify, demystify, and clarify how these technologies can help your company become more efficient and more profitable. By attending, you'll return with the contacts, knowledge, and confidence you need to make intelligent buying decisions.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LINUX EXPO
SATURDAY, FEB 12, 2005 - SUNDAY, FEB 13, 2005
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Los Angeles Convention Center
1201 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

We are proud to announce the third annual Southern California Linux Expo. SCALE 3X will be two days of talks, tutorials and seminars on Linux and open-source software! We will also have a full exhibit hall running both days. It's set for February 12th and 13th, 2005 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

For more information on attending, exhibiting, sponsoring or speaking at SCALE 3x please see our website at <http://www.socallinuxexpo.org> for up to the minute information.

PENIS MUSEUM
NOW THROUGH APRIL 30TH, 2005
REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

Institute of Phallology
Laugavegur 24, Reykjavík, Iceland
May-Aug: Tue-Sat 2pm-5pm
Sep-Apr: Tue & Sat 2pm-5pm
Tel +354 561 6663 / 566 8668 Fax +354 552 6466
phallus@ismennet.is

A brave group of scientific entrepreneurs has set up the world's first Penis Museum (officially known as the Institute of Phallology) in Reykjavik - it's not for the squeamish.

The museum, as well as showcasing the rich diversity of nature's endowments, also has a gallery of phallological art and a section of "practical utensils" relating to the theme of the museum, whatever that means.

MR POTTER'S MUSEUM OF CURIOSITY - DAILY
BOLVENTOR, CORNWALL, ENGLAND

Jul-Aug 10am-7pm
Nov-Mar 11am-4pm
Sep-Oct & Apr-Jun 10am-5pm

Cost £2.50 concessions £2 family ticket £6.95
For more information: +44 1566 86838
jamaicainn@eclipse.co.uk

Mr Potter's "Famous" Museum of Curiosities in Cornwall is an experience of unadulterated madness, resembling more the result of a psychotic on the rampage at a car boot sale than a collection of relics of the past.

SHAMBHALA: SPIRIT OF TIBET PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Book Passages
(415) 927-0960 (800) 999-7909 Fax (415) 924-3838
51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera
San Francisco Bay Area, California 94925

Exhibition of black & white documentary photographs taken in Tibet, December 2003-January 2004.

Reception: Sunday, November 14, 2004 - 4 to 6pm
Exhibit: November 14 to January 30, 2005

Store Hours:
10:00 am to 9:30 pm, Monday through Saturday
10:30 am to 9:00 pm Sunday.

Tibetans believe that Shambhala is the legendary hidden Kingdom. In their every day life, Tibetans practice the vision of Shambhala believing that it creates a society that enables them to express the dignity of human existence and a way to live meaningful lives. While the world around them has lost sight of the truth and religion, and has degenerated into power struggles, warfare, and materialism.

Photographer Jo Farrell is a black and white documentary photographer, born in London, England, who over the past five years has concentrated her work on Tibet and China. Her photographic projects are social and cultural anthropological studies, capturing traditions and cultures before they are erased from our memory forever. The work featured in this exhibit is from her recent trip to Tibet in 2003/2004 and captures the spirit of Tibetan life today.

<http://www.JoFarrell.com>

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AU SCIENCE STUDENTS' SOCIETY (AUS3) ONLINE! The AU Science Students' Society is online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausss/index.php>. If you are an AU science student or a student with an interest in science, this club is for you! Contact aus3@ausu.org for more information. It's free to join!

THE VOICE

2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4 -- Ph: 800.788.9041 ext. 2905 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

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Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

News Contributors Lonita Fraser

Regular Columnists: Janice Behrens, Wanda Waterman St. Louis, Debbie Jabbour, Karl Low, Laura Seymour, Hazel Anaka, Bill Pollett, Barbara Godin

Contributors to listings columns: Zil-E-Huma Lodhi, Lonita Fraser

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