

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

January 26, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 4



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On Being
Poetry Feature

Down the Rabbit Hole
Losing yourself in time

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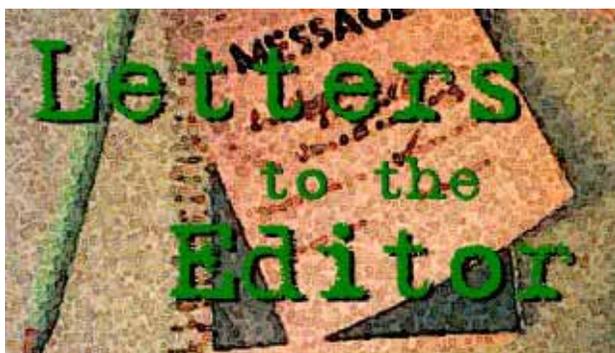
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We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@ausu.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.

THE VOICE

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EDITORIAL PAGES

Tuition!

The U of A has raised tuition again, as expected, and soon to follow, no doubt, is AU. But these aren't cost-of-living increases, oh no, these are massive cost hikes that exceed inflation by 300% or more. Even with six years of part-time university under my belt, I have to admit that I don't understand it.

I do understand that the cost of everything increases a little each year - hence the term "cost of living increase." And I also understand that once in a while a business undergoes a significant shift in services or operations that might require a one-time larger increase to keep pace with upgrades. But what is the reasoning behind a yearly 6-7% increase in university tuition?

The universities state many reasons for this, but none of them quite wash with me. First, they talk about the cost of providing new courses. Fair enough; I understand that course development and the wages of qualified professors are very high. But aren't universities constantly involved in the process of developing new courses? Our tuition was sufficient last year for the creation of several new courses, so why do they cost so much more this year, and every year? Is there a geometric progression in the cost of course development, or are we seeing more new courses each year than we did the year before? I don't think so.

They suggest, also, that more money is required to hire faculty. This is necessary, they say, due to higher student numbers. Fair enough; I understand that skilled faculty are vital to the university and that student numbers continue to increase. But wait a minute, didn't they have to hire new faculty last year, and the year before, and the year before that? Yes, AU is expecting about 10% more students this year, but we've had the same level of increase every year for the last several years. And doesn't a 10% increase in students mean a 10% increase in tuition revenue? I mean, these new students aren't attending for free, so it's not like we need to subsidize them.

Finally, the universities have pointed out that course materials costs are constantly increasing. Once again, fair enough! The cost of textbooks is indeed rising, and AU does offer the boon of free textbooks with course registrations (well, not free, but "included" in the registration fee). But wait, the textbook fee is separate from tuition, so an increase in tuition should have nothing to do with book fees, at least not at AU.

Of course the biggest factor in rising tuition has been a decrease in government funding for universities, but should students bear the brunt of this shortfall, or should universities be seeking alternate sources of funding and leaving the students' pocketbooks as a last resort? The better question is, does the university have a choice anymore? At what point does higher tuition mean that students begin abandoning their educations in droves, or consider a boycott? Given that the university relies so heavily on student income, they should be afraid, very afraid...

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.



What do I know about independence? That depends. The concept is certainly one I'm familiar with, but I won't lie, it's not one I've put into practice. My level of personal independence rivals that of a cat. I come and go as I please without a care in the world, yet when it comes to basic necessities like food, shelter, and Internet access, I'm completely dependent. For years, I've lived in my bubble of dependency, blissfully unconcerned that I'm nearing my mid-twenties, still live at home, have no real career on the horizon, and have been toiling away at my university degree part-time for the better part of five years. As they say, "all good things must come to an end."

Sadly, this appears to be all too true in my case. My twenty-fifth birthday blind-sided me, plunging me into a quarter-life crisis. Gone was the not-a-care-in-the-world girl, and in her place was self-doubting self-loathing introspective girl. She was the one that brought up the point that maybe I should be a little more concerned about the fact that I'm twenty-five and not yet self-sufficient. I decided to humour her, hoping that it would lead to her hasty departure, which is

how I found myself plumbing the depths of my psyche in an attempt to find the root of my dependency.

Here's what I learned.

My dependence is primarily fed by what I've dubbed Affluence Addiction Syndrome, a rarely acknowledged condition that has become rampant as the Baby Boomers' offspring have been reaching their twenties. The Syndrome is especially prevalent in twenty-somethings raised in upper-to-middle-class neighbourhoods, with its occurrence skyrocketing where the cost of living is exceedingly high. The double whammy of high cost of living and being accustomed to the good life is a direct factor in its onset. The twenty-something in question realises if they move out that their standard of living will plummet, thereby trading off their aspirations of independence for the dependence-induced illusion of affluence.

Several factors contribute to the spread of the Syndrome. First off, good jobs are scarce, which has resulted in almost mandatory post-secondary education of some kind, even post-graduate studies. The combination of few good jobs, the high cost of living, and the likely four-to-six year stretch of university, plus the fact that education is ridiculously expensive in itself, all contribute to its prevalence. Another factor that directly feeds Affluence Addiction Syndrome is the media and pop culture influence. Twenty-somethings today have never known life without TV, and are likely forgetting what life was like before the Internet. They've been exposed to pop cultural imagery their entire lives, with its incessant message that you can, should, and deserve to have it all. And therein lies the root of my problem.

I've bought into the cachet that surrounds the upwardly mobile existence. All the things pop culture has pimped to me are the things that I covet. Meaning, I want the good life: lots of travel, eating out, a nice car, and entertainment in its various forms. After being bombarded with the message that I can have it all, can you blame me? Shouldn't I be able to go for brunch, sushi, gelato, or tapas whenever I want? Shouldn't I be able to afford Pilates, yoga, and a gym membership? Is it too much to expect bi-monthly facials or visits to my Chinese herbalist? What's wrong with wanting to buy all the magazines and books that interest me? How can I not travel and explore all the places in the world that capture my imagination?

For years, I've knowingly traded my independence for all of the above. Sure, I could move out, embrace my independence, and give it all up. But why? To finally be granted that coveted independence badge from the would-be girl-scout leader that is modern day society? I don't covet the independence badge any more

than I do the one for sewing, fire starting, or the ability to execute the perfect bowline knot. It seems when I weigh my options that independence is simply too costly.

Due to extensive and none-too-scientific research, I've come to the conclusion that I'm not an anomaly. There are many Syndrome sufferers out there. Over the years, as I've run into various ex-classmates, and had the horrible mandatory "so what are you doing now?" conversation, I've discovered that many of them have also chosen the route of dependence. Having even come across a few recovered Syndrome sufferers, it seems that one's chance at recovery is directly related to whether or not there is a repressive regime on the home front. The more repressive the regime, the faster the Syndrome will dissipate, which explains why I am a lost cause. In my case, there is no regime. On the contrary, the home front is downright utopian.

Admittedly, knowing that I am one of many has helped soften the blow, not to mention the fact that it helped take some of the steam out of introspective girl's judgmental onslaught. I've managed to get rid of her, albeit temporarily, with the promise to continue to work at independence. Now that I've addressed the problem, I realise it is no easy thing to rectify. I certainly won't be cured overnight. Clearly, I'm going to have to take it day by day. I've already started looking into aromatherapy. Maybe a lovely scented candle or essential oil is the key to my embracing independence? Feng Shui is also a possibility. Maybe I've been enslaved by bad energy?

All in all, this independence thing is going to be a gradual process. No need for me to jump into it blindly. Plus, I'm pretty sure I've staved off introspective girl until my thirtieth birthday. However, just in case she plans to pop in unannounced at my twenty-sixth, I'm planning to spend it pondering my plight on the beaches of Costa Rica, a paradise far from the prying eyes of little miss party pooper.

CLICK ON THIS ***Winter Wonderland***

Lonita Fraser

We all look forward to winter when it means a white Christmas, or a little snow-fort weekend fun, but when January hits the winter blahs begin to set in, and snow becomes an unwelcome friend. So while the weather outside is frightful, why not make your indoor time more delightful with a little websurfing?

Snow Days - <http://www.popularfront.com/seasonsgreetings/>

A snow day doesn't have to mean no play. This site lets you make your very own snowflakes, and without the hassle of cold hands, wet clothes, and a drippy nose!

Electron Microscope Images of Snow - <http://emu.arsusda.gov/snowsite/default.html>

Of course, if you really love snow, you may want to see it up close, very close.

Weird and Different Recipes - <http://bertc.com/recipes.htm>

And when you're all tuckered out after a long afternoon's cutting out virtual snowflakes, why not snack on one of these tasty treats? Warning: This site contains some recipes that may not be suitable for the more sensitive. Please surf with caution.

Kwanzaa- <http://www.cnn.com/EVENTS/1996/kwanzaa/>

Most of us are familiar with Christmas and Hannukah, but I think Kwanzaa still remains a little mysterious. Here's a site that can help you understand this winter celebration.

Bizarre and Unusual Holidays - <http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/>

Speaking of celebrations and holidays, why not spend January celebrating Hot Tea Month or National Soup Month? It's chilly time of year, so it's a perfect time for tea and soup!

Bianca's Party Generator - <http://www.bianca.org/generator/>

Looking for a little whimsical help planning your next celebration? This site can help. But remember, you might get some suggestions that seem a little... left of centre.

On Being

By Barbara Godin

Born a girl, blonde curly locks
Playing Barbies

Dressing, undressing, pretending
Riding bicycles, skating, swimming
School!

Making friends, choosing favorites
Passing, failing
Speeches, exams
Graduation!

High school

Make-up, clothes, dances, boys
Boys in cars, touching, curfews
Rebelling, I hate you!
Crying, winning, losing, hurting, betrayal
Passing, failing
Speeches, exams
Graduation!

College

Money, cars, working
Friends, partying, drinking, hangovers
Relationships, future, career
I love you!
Fear, failure, accomplishment, bonding
Passing, failing
Seminars, exams
Graduation!

Engagement

Flowers, diamonds, dresses, colors, halls
Arrangements, future, honeymoon
I love you forever!
Doubts, hesitations, cold feet
Commitment, vows, rings
Sealed with a kiss
Marriage!

Happiness, sadness, arguments

Together, sharing, loving
Money, children, houses,
Hockey, soccer, dance, gymnastics
Tired, tired, tried
Work, school
Passing, failing, passing
Closeness, distance, arguing
Avoidance, togetherness
Family!

Middle Age

Sore, aching, contentment, acceptance
Sickness, heartache, loss
Avoidance, togetherness, aloneness
Success, exhaustion
Grandchildren!

Old age

Freedom, freedom
Aloneness, sadness, happiness
Illness, deterioration, saying goodbye
Hopelessness, revival, joy, giving, knowledge
Alive!

NO STATUS, NO FUTURE

Winnipeg family waits for permission to stay together

**Dave Brophy
Gradzette (U Manitoba)**



WINNIPEG (CUP) -- Ammar Khatib recently received a deportation order at his Winnipeg home, indicating the Canadian government's intent to force him to leave the country by Nov. 15. The order came despite repeated claims from Khatib and his supporters, which include Amnesty International, that incommunicado imprisonment, torture, and even death could await him in his native Syria, which is where he would end up if the Canadian government had its way.

Khatib is a Syrian-born man who came to Canada several years ago seeking asylum as a political refugee. He had been in Saudi Arabia as a non-recognized refugee for many years, following his family's escape from Syria in 1980, when Khatib was just four years old. The family was forced to leave Syria because of Khatib's father's involvement in the Muslim Brotherhood, which was the target of much state repression owing to the group's public opposition to

the dictatorial Syrian government.

Twice, Khatib has applied for protection from the Canadian government as a refugee. Khatib's refugee claim rested first and foremost on his familial association with the Muslim Brotherhood, which is so despised by the Syrian government the constitution holds its members are to be punished by death. However, Canadian government officers who handled Khatib's numerous applications for protection determined he, never having himself been a member of the Brotherhood, but rather being only the son of a member, would not be "at risk" if sent back to Syria.

Amnesty International presented considerable supporting documentation on Khatib's behalf as part of his refugee claim. It included, for example, one report of a woman who was detained, threatened, insulted and physically abused at the hands of Syrian authorities, because her husband and three sons were thought to be members of the Brotherhood. Nevertheless, according to the officers who handled Khatib's applications, such evidence did not demonstrate sufficient "risk" to merit protection.

Most recently Khatib paid the government's \$500 fee for a "humanitarian and compassionate," or H&C, application to stay in Canada. Under the H&C, a wider range of factors is considered as compared to the refugee claim and the pre-removal risk assessment, the first two channels through which Khatib applied for status. As such, Khatib was able to have not only the risks posed to him in the event of deportation to Syria considered, but also the fact his deportation would separate him from his Canadian wife and daughter. Khatib is married to Safiya Thiessen; their baby, Amal ("hope"), was born in June of this year. However, the H&C application was also rejected.

"There are not really any clear reasons for the rejection of my humanitarian and compassionate file. The reason they always give is that there is no risk for me to return to Syria. However, Amnesty International says otherwise," says Khatib. "Canada is the safest country for me. There is no other safe country to go to, and my wife is Canadian and so is my baby daughter. Why do they want to take me away from my baby and my wife?"

Khatib is not considered a security threat by the Canadian government, yet he is told he must leave the country. According to his lawyer, Ken Zaifman, this is despite the fact he would in all likelihood be admitted to Canada if he were to apply from outside the country to immigrate, given that his wife would readily sponsor him. Yet, if he is deported to Syria, he may not have the opportunity to leave again. Nor has he the option of going to a country other than Syria where he might wait in relative safety for permission to re-enter Canada as an immigrant. This is because no other country will allow him entry since he has no legal passport, having been without status ever since he fled Syria with his endangered family as a young child.

Khatib has a lot of support in the Winnipeg Muslim community, in which he has been very much involved, not least through his volunteer work at the Islamic Institute. Aezeden Muhamed, a University of Manitoba graduate student and president of the school's Muslim Students' Association, expressed grave concern about his friend's situation. "It is morally wrong, whatever the circumstances, for the Canadian government to continue their attempts at deporting Ammar knowing . . . what he may face. He deserves the chance and the right to remain in this country, live his life in peace with his family, and pursue his goals where he is safe from these threats. Knowing him as a person and knowing his character, he is definitely a big asset to this country, and it is utterly wrong what he has been put through and is still going through."

Khatib's story has reached many members of the broader community as well, helping to boost the numbers of outspoken voices condemning the government for its actions against him. Indeed, public protest of Khatib's deportation order has forced Citizenship and Immigration Minister Judy Sgro to intervene in the case insofar as she has agreed to postpone the deportation at least until government officials have had a chance to review Khatib's H&C application. This does not guarantee Khatib will be allowed to stay. At a recent public rally in support of Khatib, Krishna Lalbiharie, a member of the Winnipeg refugee advocacy group No One Is Illegal, urged supporters to remain vigilant. He claimed the government has, in the past, postponed deportations at the last minute in order to "quash or mollify public support."

The policies administered under Sgro as head of Citizenship and Immigration Canada have changed in recent years. One of the key pieces of legislation that has been instituted in Canada since the dawn of the official "War on Terror" is the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. IRPA was adopted by Parliament in June 2002, replacing the Immigration Act, which for the previous quarter-century had been the major legislation on immigrant and refugee policy in Canada.

Janis Nickel, refugee claimants' advocate at Welcome Place in Winnipeg, says, post-IRPA, it is harder for many refugee claimants to obtain status.

"When IRPA was passed by Parliament it contained provisions for an appeal which would involve someone actually looking at the (whole) case . . . and reconsidering it. Had this happened in Khatib's case there is a very good chance he would have been recognized as a Convention refugee," says Nickel.

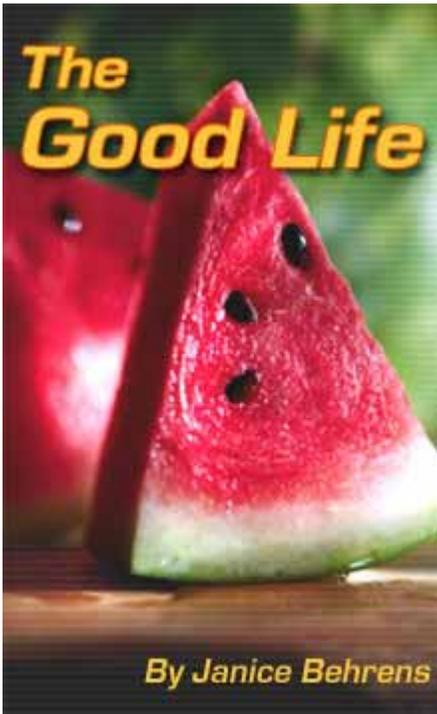
However, the IRPA has been in place for over two years, and the appeal provisions have still not been implemented. The result, Nickel says, is "the only appeal-type process failed claimants have access to, is the pre-removal risk assessment. This application allows only new evidence to be presented. Therefore anything that was, or even could have been, presented to the refugee board, cannot and will not be considered under the PRRA."

While the appeal provisions of IRPA have yet to be put into practice, another aspect of the act that has been implemented by the government concerns the H&C application. This has also been to refugee claimants' disadvantage, Nickel explains. "Pre-IRPA this application was routinely used and approved for individuals married to Canadian citizens, regardless of the foreign spouse's status. IRPA brought a new in-Canada spousal application that excludes all those in Canada without status--all refugee claimants, since to make a refugee claim is to lose status. "

According to Nickel, H&C applications are now "routinely" being refused by Citizenship and Immigration. "In my opinion," Nickel says, "this is meant to act as a deterrent, if not a punishment, to failed refugee claimants. The message is clear: if you are not recognized as a refugee you will not be granted any humanitarian or compassionate considerations.

"In Khatib's case, the buck stops with CIC," adds Nickel. "They could have, completely within the letter of the law of IRPA, allowed Khatib to remain in Canada. Unfortunately, the department is lacking in both humanitarian considerations and in compassion."

Whether the government will finally allow Khatib to stay remains in question until his H&C application is reviewed. In the meantime, Khatib and his wife wait, hope, and pray the government, this time, will give them and their baby permission to continue their life together.



The Pleasure of Games

This year, as per usual, my husband and I bought a family Christmas present instead of exchanging individual gifts. It's an approach that we've taken for quite a few years now, and it seems to remove some of the gift-buying stress. The rule is that the family present must involve some sort of an activity, something that we can enjoy and that doesn't hang around the house afterwards. In years past, before we became parents, it was things like cooking or kayaking lessons. In the last few years we've spent the days following Christmas doing such things as riding the train up to Whistler or venturing up the local mountains for cross-country or downhill ski trips. It sure beats spending time in line at the mall waiting to return a blouse that doesn't fit or a computer doodad that's not compatible with the specific type of watchamacallit.

This year, we broke with tradition and decided that we needed to get a new board game. Our friends recommended *Cadoo*, the "hot item" game of the season, which is a children's version of *Cranium*. When we went to the neighbourhood toy and game store, though, the only one left on the shelf was the deluxe edition, complete with metal box, selling for fifty dollars or so. After spending a breathtaking amount of money earlier in the day on a free range turkey, some organic vegetables and a few bottles of wine, we decided that we would have to opt for a lower-priced alternative. Rifling through the discount bin, we dug up a battered looking version of *Trouble* (with the pop-o-matic bubble) and *Snakes and Ladders*.

Coming from European backgrounds, we always have our big Christmas celebration on Christmas Eve, which means that Christmas Day is a lazy, lazy time of eating turkey sandwiches and leftover mashed potatoes, and drinking coffee with Bailey's Irish Cream. This year Christmas day brought gray skies and rain. None of us, including our daughter, had much inclination to leave the house, so we spent the day listening to the stereo and playing our new board games beside the fire. It was an absolutely wonderful day, totally carefree and relaxing. The next day, our fiends came by for dinner, along with another couple, and we spent the evening talking and watching our kids playing *Cadoo*. They were right, it is a great game, educational and fun, involving play-acting, drawing, riddles, and logic problems.

One of our friends told us she'd read an article about a growing trend in Europe that involves toy and game libraries--places where a family can check out a board game or a toy for a period of time. This sounded like a great idea, and we wondered what it would take to set up something like that in our community. The whole evening was so enjoyable that we decided to set up a monthly games night, a time when we can all get together and, instead of just sitting around talking, eating, drinking, or watching a film, we can spend our time playing with our kids and being kids again ourselves. I think I'll stay away from *Risk* and *Monopoly*, though. They always bring out the worst in me.

AUSU THIS MONTH



AUSU Donates \$350 to Aid Victims of the Tsunami

The AUSU student council would like to send their condolences and best wishes to all victims and the families of victims of the recent Asian Tsunami Disaster, and specifically to any of our students residing in the area who may have suffered loss. To contribute to the massive relief effort underway to help the victims of the Tsunami, AUSU has donated \$350 to the Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund on behalf of the students of AU. There will also be links on the AUSU web page to organizations that are accepting donations from any individual who would like to make a private donation.

AUSU currently has members in 75 countries around the world, representing every continent except Antarctica. Currently, just over 500 reside outside North America.

AUSU Website Usage and Satisfaction Survey Now Online

AUSU is in the process of evaluating the current AUSU website. As a result of this evaluation, students may expect to see major changes to our current site in the near future. The AUSU Website Usage and Satisfaction Survey, accessible at <http://www.ausu.org/websurvey2004/>, is your chance to be a part of our website development process. By filling out the brief form you can tell us whether you love our current website the way it is or if you can't stand it and think it needs a major overhaul. Don't miss out on the chance to make your opinion count.

Let AUSU Advocate on Your Behalf

If you think that you have been treated unfairly by AU, you can ask AUSU to advocate on your behalf. At the very least, AUSU may be able to help you understand your options or direct you to someone who can. AUSU is often able to advocate directly for you through lobbying or by taking other creative measures. If you have a concern, a question or even a suggestion, we want you to send it to us at ausu@ausu.org. To learn more about how AUSU will advocate on your behalf and to read about past advocacy initiatives visit the following links:

<http://www.ausu.org/advocacy/index.php>

<http://www.ausu.org/services/advocacy.php> .

Surf's Up!

The December issue of AUSU News has arrived. Please contact ausu@ausu.org if you didn't receive your copy. See page three for AUSU's Surf the Site contest and enter online at www.ausu.org/surfthesite by January 31. You could win one of three fleece vests!



Dear Barb;

I'm almost embarrassed to write you, let alone ask this question. I have been dating my girlfriend for about six months, our relationship has been kind of rocky, but I really care for her. Recently I've begun to wonder if I'm being verbally abused since she frequently calls me names and makes me feel like I can't do anything right. I'm starting to think maybe there is something wrong with me and I really deserve to be treated this way. How can I tell if I'm being verbally abused? Are there any specific signs I can look for? Thanks.

Jay in Saskatchewan

Hi Jay. I understand how difficult it must have been to write. As a society we often see verbal and physical abuse as only happening to women. Men tend to hide it if they are being abused, as it is not supposed to happen to them. For that reason, I commend you for bringing up this most important issue.

From your comments I can state unequivocally that yes, you are being abused. Verbal abuse includes name-calling, insults, put downs, yelling, swearing and humiliating another person. These are only a few of the ways in which a person can experience verbal and emotional abuse. Behaviors that cause a person to feel inferior, inadequate or that they have no value are also abusive. That you think you may deserve to be treated this way indicates how beaten down your self worth has become.

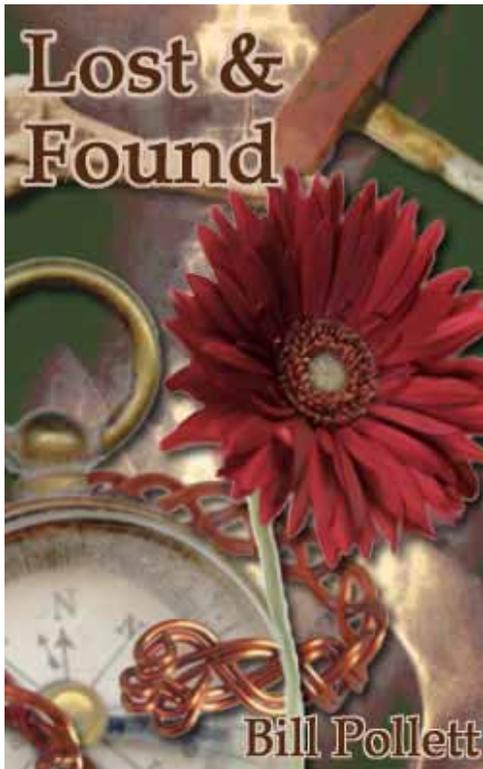
No one ever deserves to be insulted and put down. On the other hand, it is possible that at times others may become angry and say hurtful things. However, once they realize what they have done and take responsibility for their behavior, the other person does not need to feel inadequate or diminished in any way. No one is perfect so we must accept that this may happen from time to time.

Jay, it sounds as if you want to continue in this relationship, therefore you will need to stop this abuse before it destroys everything that you and your girlfriend have together. To change this into a healthy relationship you need to seek counselling immediately. Support groups usually prove to be most successful for these types of behaviors. Yet for any kind of therapy to work it requires cooperation from both sides. Cooperation includes mutual honesty and an openness to try new ways of communicating and relating to each other.

Since your relationship is fairly young, your behavior patterns are easier to change than they would be if you sought help a couple of years from now. However, if your girlfriend is not willing to accept help, my advice to you is to leave the relationship. I know this will be difficult as you obviously have strong feelings for this girl. On the other hand, if you stay in this relationship without counselling, the abuse will continue and most likely escalate to the point where it will destroy any feelings you have for this lady.

Again Jay, I want to thank you for having the courage to come forward with this difficult, but important issue.

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.



Down the Rabbit Hole

Every two or three weeks, there is a rabbit hole that takes the place of one of the rigid black-outlined squares on my desk calendar. It's a rabbit hole of free time, unaccounted for time. It's a tunnel of solitude down which I can disappear and emerge into a slightly different universe, a parallel dimension where no agenda is allowed and the rigid mathematics of daily activity become temporarily meaningless.

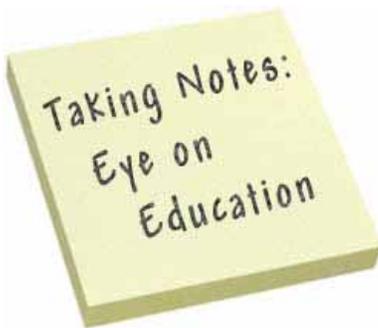
Sometimes the place I emerge into is a beach littered with purple sea stars and thick clumps of black mussels, or a trail through the rain drenched woods where grouse and crows make a sort of resonant chamber music, intercut by the muted gamelan percussion of woodpecker and dripping leaves. Sometimes it's an observatory or a bookstore, a public garden with ivy clinging to its walls, or an art gallery lined with Andy Warhol's soup tins or March Chagall's violin-playing goats.

In what should have been my last year of elementary school, when we'd just moved to Vancouver and my father was searching for a job, we stayed with a friend who lived in a house that backed onto a ravine in North Vancouver. Sometimes you could hear coyotes calling, or the eerie caterwauling of feral cats, or the throaty rumble of trail bikes. I was going through a bad stretch, then. I had never been a good student at the best of times, and leaving behind my friends and everything else that was familiar to me was not something that I adjusted to very well. It was during this time that I first discovered the joys of cutting classes; a habit that would ensure that I spent an extra year in elementary school and would ultimately contribute to the fact that I wound up spending twenty years of my adult life in a well-paying but joyless career that I had little interest in or aptitude for. Sometimes that's what happens when you disappear too long down the rabbit hole.

That first day of skipping out was glorious, though. I hid my school books under the mattress, packed two stolen cigarettes, a package of potato chips and some comic books into my backpack, and, leaving behind no breadcrumbs, I headed off into the woods. It was the greatest sense of freedom that I'd had since getting my first bicycle, and I was hooked for life.

Nowadays, with the sublime responsibilities of being a parent and a husband, having the privilege of sharing my life and time with others that I love, helping put food on the table and keep a roof over our heads, I obviously have to be much more disciplined about these disappearing acts. A few hours every once in awhile seems to be enough. I am always cognizant and grateful for the fact that our lifestyle, while it doesn't involve Swiss bank accounts or yearly trips to the Bahamas, does allow for creative expression, some modest comfort, and the odd fortnightly or so visit to a quiet place where the ordinary rules of time don't apply.

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



ALBERTA LABOUR SHORTAGE *Debbie Jabbour*

The Province of Alberta enjoys an abundance of energy wealth that has created such a vibrant economy that even the BSE crisis has not had much of an impact. We are debt free and the future looks positive--yet according to some, an "ominous labour trend" looms on the horizon (Lamphier, 2005). In a report released last week by the Canada West Foundation, chief economist Todd Hirsch warns that of 76 major industry associations, 73 are predicting moderate to severe worker shortages within five years. Sixty-two of these groups (81 percent) are already facing significant shortages of skilled labour, particularly in the rich province of Alberta. More than half of the industries predict that current post-secondary graduates from relevant programs will not be able to meet future needs.

The report identifies a solution to the problem that includes more funding for students and post-secondary institutions, more on-the-job training, and improved credit transfers between post-secondary schools. Other studies have said the same thing, noting that the situation will be exacerbated when large numbers of baby boomers retire.

The same week this report was released, the U of A announced a tuition hike of 5.75 percent. This represents a tuition increase for the 24th straight year, with tuition now at \$4800 - an amount double that of ten years ago and triple the tuition levels of the 1980s (Alberta tuition was \$1586 in 1990-1991 according to Statistics Canada). Other Alberta universities will likely follow suit with similar tuition hikes, a move that makes post-secondary education even less accessible. In the face of a severe shortage of skilled workers, a shortage that could lead to economic crisis, the government of the wealthy province of Alberta remains oblivious to the perilous state of post-secondary education.

Reference

Lamphier, G. (2005). Ominous labour trend threatens Alberta's century: Better visions in post-secondary education necessary to turn out much-needed skilled workers. *Edmonton Journal*, January 18, 2005.

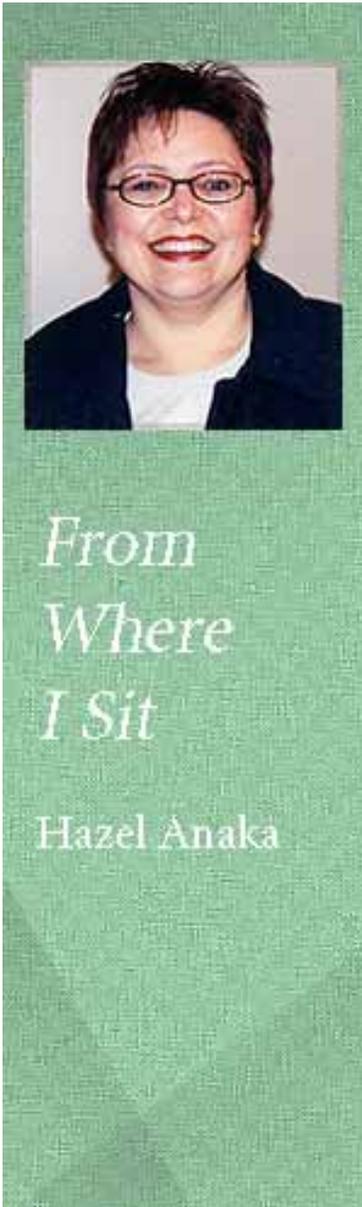
Women you should know

Compiled by *Barbara Godin*

Clare Boothe Luce
1903-1987

Clare Boothe was born in New York City on April 10, 1903. She grew up wanting to be an actress, but eventually lost interest. Throughout her life, Clare excelled equally in many careers, such as editor, playwright, politician, journalist and diplomat. In 1930 she became editorial assistant of *Vogue Magazine*, and in 1931 pursued her interest in writing, becoming associate editor of "Vanity Fair" magazine. As a playwright, Clare wrote three successful plays, "The Women" (1936), "Kiss The Boys Goodbye" (1938), and "Margin For Error" (1939). In 1937 she married Harry Luce, publisher and founder of *Time Magazine*. Clare's political career took off, when in 1942 she won a seat in the US House of Representatives. In 1953 President Eisenhower appointed Clare Ambassador to Italy, making her the first American woman ambassador to a major country - a position she held until 1957. After a very accomplished career, Clare Boothe Luce died of a brain tumor on October 9, 1987.

Read more about her at:
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/wcf/wcf0010.html>



Live Like You Were Dying

Every so often a song or a slogan or a book captures the attention of the masses with the simplicity or relevance or poignancy of its message. Eighteen years ago Robert Fulghum encapsulated his life message in a best seller called "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." The content may be even more relevant today than it was in 1986. Rules like "don't hit people," "clean up your own mess," "take a nap every afternoon" and "when you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together" are some of Fulghum's everyday truths.

Don't worry, be happy! Don't sweat the small stuff. These catch phrases are now part of our cultural fabric and cross generational lines of understanding.

Country and western star Tim McGraw's hit song "Live like You Were Dying" is this year's contribution to the mix. The song describes how a man chose to deal with a death sentence diagnosis in the prime of his life. He chose to do some risky machismo-type activities like sky-diving, rocky mountain climbing and bull riding. No big surprise there. Don't we all harbor a "before I die I want to...." list somewhere in our hearts?

More surprising was the revelation that he "loved deeper, spoke sweeter, and gave forgiveness he'd been denyin'." Who among us couldn't do better in those departments?

He hoped his friend would "get the chance to live like he was dyin'." As unbelievable as that concept may sound, apparently it is indeed true for many people who are dying. At last they feel clarity and insight as the important things in life become crystal clear and everything else falls away. The rest of us tend to get bogged down with the minutia of life: earning a living and paying the bills. Or we get crazy pursuing material

and experiential stuff to the exclusion of rest, relationships, rationality.

Verse two touches on relationships. "I was finally the husband, that most of the time I wasn't ... I became a friend, a friend would like to have." Suddenly going fishing wasn't an imposition. He finally "read the good book" and "took a good long hard look at what I'd do if I could do it all again." In the most tender way, this song reminds us that by changing course now we can improve our quality of life--however long it may be--and prevent deathbed regrets. The song urges us to love more deeply and to give the gift of forgiveness. To be the spouse or friend we would hope to have. (Sounds suspiciously like the golden rule.) It will be our relationships that in the end bring us either, joy and serenity or tears of regret. Live like you were dyin' is the only way to go, from where I sit.

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Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

Zink - Magazine INTERN - Job Location: New York, NY, United States

Job Description: Zink magazine is looking for interns in many facets of the industry. Fashion, advertising, editorial, and event interns to assist with phones, appointments, and other magazine related tasks. Zink is a very busy place and we need people who are self starters, good on the phone, have some knowledge about how the industry works. If you are interested in the fashion position we need someone who has worked and who at least knows the procedure for calling in items for shoots, wants to write and has some knowledge about fashion designers and magazines. Please send all resumes to intern@zinkmag.com, ok to mention ED, not ok to call. Please state in email which area of the business you are interested in. This is an UNPAID Internship but a great way to get your foot in the door in such a competitive industry.

Job Requirements: excellent self starter; great on the phones and with people; knowledge of magazine industry a plus; expertise in fashion a plus; flexible schedule

How To Apply: Please send all inquiries and resumes to intern@zinkmag.com. PLEASE NO PHONE CALLS. Also, state which area of the publishing industry you are interested in the email.

Contact Information: Denise Dandeneau, Zink, 304 Park Ave So., 12th Floor, USA, NY, United States 10010
Phone: 646 792 2333 Email: intern@zinkmag.com WWW: <http://www.zinkmag.com>

Placements Impact Canada Ltd.- International Trade and Export Consultants. - Location: Toronto, ON

Job Description: We are presently looking for many motivated candidates for our North-American Corporate clients in Export area (Entry-Level and Paid Internships Positions available in 2004-2005): International Business and Export Consultants. Attractive salaries and packages (including life insurance, paid vacation, etc.). We will provide the work placement/work permit (Visa) with our Corporate clients.

Job Requirements: You will be joining a dynamic team of seasoned sales professionals working with top multinational corporations. You will be calling on North American prospects who need to know about international markets. You may, however, have some opportunities to travel to meet face-to-face with your prospects and clients in the course of your work. Multilingual and strong multi-cultural management style are important. Strong process orientation to sales and sales management is critical. Export customer service and/or shipping experience helpful. Commercial courses and courses in export shipping and documentation helpful. Interacting as required with International Sales management team to insure their needs are met. Exposure to international credit and collections. Ability to manage multiple priorities and consistently deliver results. Must have good Word and Excel skills.

How To Apply: If you are interested by a position in International Trade or Export area, please, send us a resume thru email, mail or fax.

Contact Information: Mr Peter hamond, MBA, Associate and HR Manager, Placements Impact Canada Ltd., 1250 University Street (B.1073), Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B3K5
Phone: (514) 4092017 FAX: (450) 6567116 Email: Placement_ca@look.ca

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

UNIVERSITY WRITING SCHOLARSHIP (UWS)

Amount: n/s

Deadline: **January 31, 2005**

Administrator: Elder & Leemaur Publishers

Notes: The UWS Program will provide Canadian university students with the opportunity to have their literature works published, while at the same time entering them into scholarships that will help mitigate their university costs. There are a number of scholarships available for university students. Half of the available awards will go towards entrance scholarships, while the remainder will be given to current undergraduate students. Field of study will have no bearing on scholarship allocation. Recipients of the scholarships will be determined based on quality of work submitted. Students must submit an essay no longer than 500 words on ONE of the following topics to be eligible for the scholarships:

WINTER SEMESTER (January-April):

Award Amount: up to \$10,000 available

Deadline: February 15, 2005

Topic #1: Do you think today's athletes are overpaid?

Topic #2: Do you think NAFTA has had a negative or positive impact on our country?

SUMMER SEMESTER (May-August):

Award Amount: up to \$10,000 available

Deadline: June 15, 2005

Topic #1: Do you think the privatization of the Health Care System is or will have a negative impact on the service you receive?

Topic #2: Do you think the media has an influence on the decisions you make?

<http://www.elpublishers.com/content/uwsotherscholarships.php>.

MENSA CANADA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Amount: \$1000

Deadline: **January 31, 2005**

Administrator: MENSA Canada Scholarship Programme

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

Contact Information: Mensa Canada Scholarship Programme

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

EL PUBLISHERS UNIVERSITY WRITING SCHOLARSHIP - ENTRANCE

Amount: \$10,000

Deadline: **February 15, 2005**

Administrator: MENSA Canada Scholarship Programme

Notes: Up to \$10,000 available. Students must submit an essay no longer than 500 words on one of the topics listed at <http://www.elpublishers.com/content/uwsotherscholarships.php> to be eligible for the scholarship. Please visit the Web site to determine the topics for each semester. Fall Semester (September-December) Deadline: December 20, 2004. Winter Semester (Jan-Apr) Deadline: February 15, 2005. Summer Semester (May-Aug) Deadline: June 15, 2005.

Contact Information: Address: 1124 Holdom Ave. Burnaby, British Columbia

Canada Postal Code: V5B 3V6

Web Site: <http://www.elpublishers.co>

Application Address: <http://www.elpublishers.com/content/univsubmit.php>



Provided by Lonita Fraser

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://cadwww.hia.nrc.ca/cadcbn/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

Eighth Annual Conference on the Americas
Savannah, Georgia, United States

Feb 4 -5 2005

<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
Washington, DC, United States

11 February 2005

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

Tenth Annual Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy
Tucson, Arizona, United States

18 February 2005

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

APSA Conference on Teaching and Learning in Political Science
Washington, DC, United States

19 February 2005

<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-diciplinary 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 Interntaional 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

COMMUNITY EVENT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Explore Public Policy Issues, Student Seminar on Public Policy Issues. Free Admission.

Saturday, January 29, 2005 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Edmonton: Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, 10155 - 105 St
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION: The Fraser Institute

SPONSORED BY: EnCana Corporation and other Fraser Institute supporters in Alberta

FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT: Vanessa Schneider
Co-ordinator of Student Programs
1-800-665-3558 Ext. 571
student@fraserinstitute.ca

ADDITIONAL INFO:

This one-day seminar is free of charge and is open to all students. Topics to be discussed include: Alberta's fiscal future, health care reform, democratic reform, and criminal justice. Special luncheon presentation by National Post columnist Colby Cosh, called An Encounter with Policy Superstition.

The format of the event will include presentations, question and answer sessions, and breakout group discussions, in which the students will further consider the ideas presented.

For further details, (including a .pdf version of the flyer) please visit the Fraser Institute's website,
<http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/studentcentre/>

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

Fri Jan 28 @ Gravity Lounge in Charlottesville, VA
103 SouthFirstSt. / 8pm / \$12

For more info: 434-977-5590

Opening actt.b.a. ~DUOshow~

Sat Jan 29 @ Chandler Recital Hall in Norfolk, VA
MUSEEK&ODUWomen's Centre Presents:

Old Dominion University / 8pm

For moreinfo:757-683-4109M ~DUO show~

Sun Jan 30 @ Jammin' Java in Vienna, VA
227 Maple AveEast / 8pm / \$10

For more info: 703-255-1566

Opening for: BigEgo ~DUOshow~

Thurs Feb 3 @ Grassroots Cafe inPeterborough, ON

395 Aylmer StreetN / 8pm / \$10

For more info: 705-876-6530 ~DUO show~

Fri Feb 4 @ The Mod Club in Toronto, ON

722 College St. Wat Crawford /9pm/\$10 adv. \$12 at door

Double Bill Performance w/Madviolet

For more info oradvance tix: (416) 588-4MOD

w/ TORONTO'S Adviolet

Sat.,February 5th @ Co-operators Hall @ RiverRun Centre
in Guelph, ON

35 WoolwichStreet /8pm / \$10

<http://www.riverrun.guelph.on.ca>

w/ Kate Schutt

Thurs Feb 10 to Feb 13 @ Frostbite MusicFestival
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 @ Rathskelllear 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 - Fleming Showcase (15 min)

Fri: 12:00am-12:30am - MPRESSRECORDS Showcase

Sat: 10:40pm-11:00pm - OUTMUSIC Showcase

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

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@saidyebronfman.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>

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

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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

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