

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

February 2, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 5



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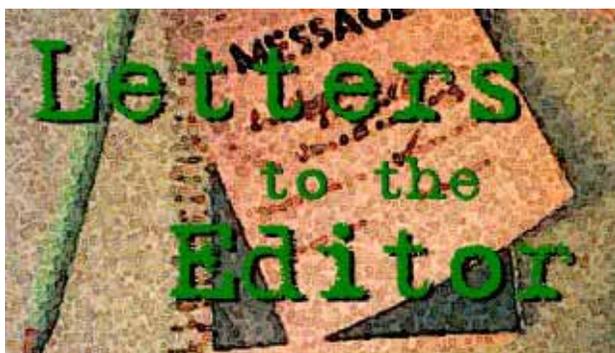
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We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@ausu.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.

Response to Editorial. January 26, 2005 (v13 i4)
<http://www.ausu.org/voice/articles/featuredisplay.php?ART=3516>

I am a distance learning student with a learning disability. I was married in 2003 and up to that point I received financial aid. I have three children at home and one is handicapped (I don't receive much for this child).

I am wondering how I am going to pay tuition to complete my bachelor's degree. It was difficult to pay tuition as for every year, tuition is still on the rise.

The government says you need the education in order to get a job that will sort of pay enough to support yourself. But on the other hand tuition continues to rise. The government appears to be able to donate monies to help everyone outside our country but it cannot help our country, Canada.

Also, many students who do not physically attend the university do not have the experience to get a job with their degree. I know Athabasca helps students to be placed but what is the school going to do for me, as I do not live in Alberta, I live in Ontario. What about this portion of students, is the school or government going to aid us in finding a job when we graduate? I find it very hard to believe that they will, as it appears to me, the schools and the government only want our money.

I hope to graduate by the end of 2006 but if I cannot afford the tuition then I will not be able to graduate. Who is going to help me. No one. There should be some type of help, rather than pushing aside this group of people outside the door and ignoring us.

**Marion Young
Brantford, Ontario**

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NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

The Looney Bin

The Common Loon (*Gavia immer*): in a way very few other species have managed to do, this bird has come to represent for many Canadians the meaning of *the north*. The magical paddle through still waters at dusk; those lovely summer mornings watching the mist rise from the lake--these already cherished moments are made yet more special by the presence of this magnificent bird. Simply hearing its haunting call sends chills through even the most urbanised of hearts. And there are few occurrences that can warm the soul like catching sight of a family of Loons, with the little ones riding atop mom's back. There's no denying it: Loons are the symbol of the wild for many, and do they ever suit the role well.

G. immer really is the perfect species to think of at this point in the year, when even an imaginary cottage will do. If you're having trouble conjuring up the appropriate images on this cold day in February, simply reach into your pocket and pull out our gold, shiny friend, the Loony. Close your eyes, toss it about a few times, release those everyday tensions, and let your imagination do the rest.

The Loon is master of its environment, eating and even sleeping in its watery home, diving to incredible depths in search of sustenance, and remaining submerged for up to three minutes at a time. With feet set uncannily far back on the body, Loons are particularly well adapted to swimming--and powerful swimmers they are. But these aquatic wonders are no strangers to the sky, either, and have been clocked at flight speeds of over 62 miles per hour. The parents (mates for life) teach the little ones well, and by only ten days of the age the young are able to swim and dive, paying early tribute to their heritage.

Such specific adaptations to the aquatic environment do get Loons into trouble, though. Getting out of the water is itself a challenge: Loons require long take-off 'runways' in order to propel themselves into the air. During flash winter freeze-ups on lakes or rivers, some Loons become trapped in the ice because there is simply too little open water to allow them to get their big bodies up into the air.

Even for those that do successfully make it out of their safe watery abodes, danger lurks in the form of dry land. Loons are literally unable to walk as a result of the positioning of their feet so far back on their bodies (think pivot points). So, in cases of accidental landings on solid ground, unable to transport themselves to even a nearby water body, Loons in this unfortunate position are left to the mercy of the fates. And winter brings with it some specific hazards in this respect: during flight, Loons can develop a covering of ice on their wings. If the build-up is severe enough, the ice layer can impede movement and cause weight and balance problems to the point that the bird will be sent plummeting to the ground. I tell you: it's no easy life for the Mint's lead animal.

In addition to all of these natural challenges facing the Common Loon, there are some not-so-natural threats out there, too. While the bird may be synonymous with thoughts of the pristine north, it is in fact one of the species suffering from some of the severest forms of poisoning. Toxic heavy metals--primarily lead and mercury, nasty things--are seriously jeopardising the health of these birds. These toxins can cause depression of the immune system, neurological disorders, and reproductive failure. Luckily, something as simple as the use by anglers of non-lead sinkers (weights used in fishing, which are ingested by Loons) can essentially eliminate lead

poisoning problems. And measures to curb acid precipitation (which causes mercury to transform into the highly toxic methylmercury) will help to stem the tide of Loons suffering from mercury poisoning.

The Common Loon: this is one bird that, pretty much universally admired, seems worth fighting for. It's beautiful, it does cool things, it makes nice sounds. We, even in our culture of quick and dirty consumption, seem to be able to recognise the Loon's importance--both to our own psyche, and to the north that we love to love. While there isn't much we can do for ice build-up on the wings, or for the awkward physicality of this bird, it's probably a good idea--both for us and them-- if we do what we can where we can to protect their health and environment. So as dreams of summer fishing turn into reality this spring, remember: lead sinkers bad, bismuth sinkers good. And when that legislation to curb acid rain comes up: calling MP good, leaving politics to politicians bad...

AUSU COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Stephanie Antscherl

This month's AUSU student council meeting revealed Council's concern over Athabasca University's tuition hike. The proposed increase is said to cover new courses being offered by Athabasca University. The student council does not support higher tuition fees, especially when the quality standards of courses remain the same.

In traditional universities, students pay extra fees for their textbooks--at Athabasca University, your course fee covers the cost of course materials. In instance of a tuition raise, the council discussed several issues, such as whether it's best that students are provided with course materials, versus the monetary and availability aspects of students finding their own or used textbooks (with a conceivable trading system on the AUSU website, of course.) One student guest at the teleconference made the suggestion that AU could offer reduced fees for courses in which students receive fewer course materials, or in instances of Challenge for Credit **[ed. It is already cheaper to challenge a course than to register in one normally]**.

Since international students and those in remote areas may not have the resources or access to the materials they would need, it was agreed that instead, AU be advised that more materials be available for borrowing, and that if AU wants to increase its tuition fees, they should build their library to accommodate the quality of student education. For example, at the back of any study guide, you will find a page of suggested reading, yes one councillor noted that the majority of those books are not available through the AU library. The council is adamant that AU stick to its mission statement of an "open university", and maintains that the many requests for AUSU's Emergency Bursary are anecdotal evidence that students can't afford increasingly higher tuition.

I asked what influence AUSU had on Athabasca University in terms of this proposed tuition hike. The council admitted their impact is low, and they were being informed of it as a formality only, the increase already being in AU's strategic plan two or three years ago; which begs the question: what impact do students actually have on their education at AU, and what can the students' union do for us, if the University isn't willing to listen? I have had a chance to sit in on many student council meetings, and know firsthand that the AUSU has its members in mind--after all, the council is made up of students! Yet student's union communication with Athabasca University seems to be strained; I often detect exasperation among council members reporting back on their contact with AU reps.

On a happier note, new scholarship information was relayed, with a plan to raise a quarter of a million dollars for the scholarship fund over the next five years. (to which one member joked the benefits would not be seen until after all council members have graduated.) Council member Lonita Fraser suggested that AUSU consider sponsored scholarships. (i.e.: Nursing Federation scholarships for AU nursing students.)

And, for those interested in debating, it was announced that a new AUSU Debate Club is underway. Although the club's status is in its initial stages, keep your eyes open on the AUSU website for more information in the coming weeks.



Western Culture: Since the Reformation (HUMN/HIST 202)

After AU's foundation history course HIST 201 (Western Culture I) was enthusiastically received by AU students, the AU history team, headed by Dr David Gregory, decided to launch a new AU course, Western Culture II: Since the Reformation (HIST 202), continuing the popular topic. According to Dr Gregory, this new course, when combined with HIST 201, "provides an overview of the development of Western thought and culture from the earliest Mediterranean civilizations to the late 20th century."

Western Culture II: Since the Reformation (HIST 202) will provide you with an accurate, informed position on world history from the Reformation in the 1500s to the near-present day. Despite the broadness of the topic, Dr Gregory indicates that HIST 202 "covers great ground" but "cannot go into great depth" as a result. The course, which is cross-listed as HUMN 202, consists of 12 units and opens with the stirring tale of Martin Luther nailing his thesis to the church door in Wittenburg, an action that sparked the Protestant Reformation. The next unit plunges you into the music of the time, enabling you to examine the composers, musicians, and music characteristic of the famous Baroque Era. This diversity in unit topics fulfills the course goals of "illustrating a goodly number of famous thinkers, artists, musicians...", thus familiarizing you with these.

As you progress through HIST 202, you will learn how movements like the Scientific Revolution of the 17th and 18th century have influenced themes in our modern world. Your study of the Enlightenment controversies and world revolutions, like the French Revolution, will further emphasize this, showing "parallels between the thought, music, and art of different periods," according to Dr. Gregory. As you wend your way through Western Culture II: Since the Reformation (HIST 202), you will be introduced to Liberalism and Nationalism, and discover how the advent of the two World Wars affected the temper of society worldwide. On a final note, HIST 202 brings history to the near-present day by examining the Post-Industrial Era and current topics.

HIST 202's course materials are enhanced by the use of several key videotapes, which provide additional information on specific units of the course. Dr. Gregory indicates that the videotapes have a bi-fold use: first, they "provide more background information on the social and political history of the periods studied" and second, they also provide an "intelligent and cultivated...perspective" on "the various eras and intellectual/cultural movements surveyed."

Dr. David Gregory has contributed to Athabasca University's history department since 1979. He received his M.A. in History from Sussex in England, and completed his Ph.D in Modern French History at Queen's University in Ontario. Dr Gregory currently acts as course professor for over 25 AU courses, ranging from history and humanities courses to introductory music. In addition to his work at AU, Dr. Gregory is also actively involved in planning a continuation of the TransCanada Trail.

Your course grade in HIST 202 is evaluated through two essays, worth 25% and 35%, respectively, and one final exam (worth 40%). Dr Gregory indicates that these essays "have several functions," possibly the most important of which is that the essays "give...the student an opportunity to pursue, in more depth" several different topics discussed in the course. Dr Gregory lists some interesting examples: "the religious thought of the Reformation, the controversial ideas of the Enlightenment 'philosophes', Romantic painting, [and] feminism." Additionally, the course essays provide students with excellent grounding in research, organizational, writing, and citation skills--which will definitely prove invaluable in later courses! For more

information on Western Culture II: Since the Reformation (HIST 202), you can visit the course syllabus at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/hist/hist202.htm>. Don't forget to check out the interesting AU history faculty webpage at: <http://history.athabascau.ca/>

Remember—it's not too late to enroll for a March start date!

CLICK ON THIS **Confusion, Illusion, Perception, Alteration**

Lonita Fraser

Sometimes our brains don't work quite the way we want them to, or quite the way they should. Sometimes this is intentional and sometimes it isn't. And sometimes there are visible results. Please note that caution should be exercised when viewing some of these sites, as content may not be suitable for all persons.

SwankSigns - <http://www.swanksigns.org/gallery.asp> - We spend, and depend, so much on signs, posts, things that indicate where to go, what to do when we get there, or places we shouldn't be. Generally they're clear enough - sometimes, they aren't.

Drunk Drawings - <http://www.drunkendrawings.com/index2.htm> - They tell you that you shouldn't call anyone, or get online to chat, when you've been exercising your intoxication gene. Maybe they should extend that to include one's altered-state artwork.

The ESP Game - <http://www.espgame.org/>

A two-player game, each time you play you are randomly paired with another player whose identity you don't know. You can't communicate with your partner, and the only thing you have in common with them is that you can both see the same image. The goal is to guess what your partner is typing on each image.

MysticBall - <http://mysticalball.com/> - The amazing mind reader never misses. It can see your thoughts!

Anxiety Culture - <http://www.anxietyculture.com/> - A web magazine with a wealth of ideas and gimmicks for navigating the crazy, paranoid, work-obsessed, media-crapulent times we live in.

Bartender Magic - <http://www.bartendermagic.com/> - Tricks and sleight of hand to impress on your next night down the pub.

The Cosmic Ray Deflection Society of North America - <http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/1483/>
No matter what else, just remember that the hat comes first!

Aphrodesiacs A - Z - <http://cook2.best.vwh.net/atoz/> - "Food and sex have been linked for centuries. It seems that almost every food from apples to zucchini was considered to be an aphrodisiac by one culture or another at some point in time." Check out this database of aphrodisiac information. Personally, I don't believe it about the zucchini.

Slow Wave - <http://www.slowwave.com/> - Slow Wave is a collective dream diary authored by different people from around the world, and drawn as a comic strip by Jesse Reklaw.

Gallery of Psychedelic Sketches & Diary Pages by Hans Taeger - <http://www.iol.ie/~taeger/psydicky/psydicky.html> - "This is a small selection of my psychedelic sketches and diary pages from the early seventies, done under the influence of LSD-25. They don't have any artistic value. But at that time of my spiritual development they had a very special meaning for me in clearing and freeing my mind, fighting through my various inner masks and barriers, and opening doors towards magical tantric dimensions of the higher self as best described in Tibetan Buddhism."

Psilocybin Visions - <http://www.bentolman.com/> - "The main focus of my art is currently the exploration of the infinite ever-changing worlds contained within the subconscious mind." Done whilst in the throes of magic mushrooms, these are some fabulous images.

Acid Trip - <http://www.cowboybooks.com.au/html/acidtrip1.html> - These 9 drawings were done by an artist under the influence of LSD -- part of a test conducted by the US government during its dalliance with psychotomimetic drugs in the late 1950's. The artist was given a dose of LSD 25 and free access to an activity box full of crayons and pencils. His subject is the medico that jabbed him.

WALKING A TIGHTROPE

Jody Waddle



With Reading Week arriving in just a few short weeks, what often comes to my mind are the many students around the world who, after struggling to balance school, work, kids, and home life, take their own lives to free themselves of stress. It's a sad but true reality of student life.

A typical student in today's society has a lot to worry about, including ever-rising tuition thanks to a wonderful (did you read the sarcasm?) government that doesn't seem to get that education should be a huge priority, and the extremely high cost of textbooks you'll only use once--although we distance Ed students pay indirectly for that, it's still a major factor in our high tuition costs (fortunately we do get to claim book fees against our income taxes whereas traditional students do not).

Exam anxiety is also high on the list of worries. With the increasing demand in the workplace for smarter, harder working employees, the pressure to excel is intense. The thought that you may not get that great job with a B+ under your belt is a factor in everyday student stress. The list of common student stressors is endless: roommate/dorm problems, dieting, time management, burnout, homesickness, loneliness, lack of sex, sex-deprived instructors, the list could go on and on.

What I have noticed as a student of distance education is that our type of student has a few more items to juggle in our everyday struggle to attend school. Sure, a few of us are part-timers that take one or two courses at a time, and the full-time student numbers aren't high, but that does not limit our stress. I've found that a student's decision to attend Athabasca University is often one of sheer desperation. That's not to say that AU should only be used as a last resort, but it can be the only option for many people. A distance ed student often has a full-time job to pay for their studies, plus a family to support, a mortgage, and bills, which traditional university students often don't have. Does that make us more susceptible to stress? I think so.

Whether it be a single mom looking to better the lives of her kids, or a father with a family to support who works nights as a security guard so he has time to study, or a childless couple just needing a better career to pay the mortgage, we all have our stress factors while we attend school. It is how we attempt to overcome, or handle, this stress that helps us win the everyday battle. Long-term stress can have disastrous affects on the body. It has been reported that stress can actually cause the body to break down over time (1). For students to manage our stress and limit our chances of becoming susceptible to drastic action like suicide, we must take an active role in managing our stressors. Of course there are a select few that handle stress as if it were something to be easily tamed, but the rest of us haven't any clue how to handle the pressure of everyday life without snapping. Stress management takes a conscious decision to fully get a grasp what plagues us.

To deal with stress you have to identify the cause. Is it that instructor that seems to pick on you? Or maybe that morning commute? Assessing exactly what causes the stress is the first step to getting a handle on it. After all, it won't help you to exercise and eat right when your dorm buddy is still keeping you awake at night. The second step involves how you react to that stress. When that son-of-a ... er, guy, cuts you off in traffic, instead of screaming at him and producing gestures you'd be embarrassed to use in front of your Grandma, think about what you can do to change your reaction.

Living in Calgary I find that traffic stress is enormous, so to bring my stress down a notch when I see someone weaving in and out of traffic I imagine that they must be in a bigger hurry than I am. Who's to say that they don't have an emergency on their hands? Changing the way you react to stressors can make a big difference in how little the stressors affect you. Nevertheless, there are times when stressors cannot be avoided. You can't avoid classes if your instructor is an ass, so what do you do? Do you punch the gal out because it would feel the best? I think not, considering that would add the future stressor of learning not to bend over in the shower at the local penitentiary.

There are a few other options: You could consume an insane amount of alcohol right before class, use writing or journaling to help you relieve the stress, or you could wrangle one of your friends one night to treat you as the instructor does in order to inoculate you to the barrage of stress. It sounds insane but if there's anything you can do to relieve the stress of its clutches on your health, so be it. Be creative. It could be fun in the end.

I think the most revitalizing way to relieve stress is to indulge in some humour. I'm within an hours drive of Yuk Yuks comedy club if I really want a good laugh, but even picking up a comedy at the local library, or a joke book while I'm there, can release a power pack of endorphins.

Another common way to relieve stress is through proper eating and exercise. I know you've heard it before, but exercise can help to release more of those endorphins that elevate your mood, which helps to reduce mental stress. Think about it this way, when that instructor gives you that C-, you can take it to the gym and beat the hell out of a punching bag instead of keeping it internal which beats the hell out of you.

Through these steps, and many more that can be found free online, distance Ed students prepare themselves to cope in our world of endless stress. With diligence, and conscious effort, we can beat the odds of capitulating to the stress demon. In the end if you know that you have made a difference for your body, you can feel good in the knowledge that you have made that one step toward avoiding the dreadful statistic of student suicide.

A guide to Stress Management
Helpguide: Stress Management and Stress Release
http://www.helpguide.org/mental/stress_management_relief_coping.htm

[1] Donatelle, Rebecca J. *Access to Health*. 7th ed. California: Pearson Education, Inc.



While on tour for tsunami relief, Prime Minister Paul Martin had to battle a religious edict from a Sikh clerical authority that calls upon all Sikh's to resist the legalization of same-sex marriage. "I would point out that we are a country of ethnic and religious minorities," Prime Minister Martin told a news conference. "And the purpose of the Charter of Rights is to protect minorities, to protect them against the oppression of the majority."

- <http://tinyurl.com/4t2pt>
 - <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/01/011805martin.htm>
-

A new survey of Massachusetts legislators shows that a proposed amendment to the state Constitution is likely to fail. Same-sex marriage was legalized in the state April 2004, and since then, state legislators have been seeking a way to amend the state Constitution so that it will be stopped in its tracks.

- <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/01/011805massAmend.htm>
-

Richard Hatch, the winner of the original *Survivor*, has been found guilty of tax evasion. He will be pleading guilty to two counts of tax evasion for not reporting income relating to the \$1.01 million he won on the show. He could face up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 for each charge.

- <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/01/011805hatch.htm>
-

George W. Bush is about to be inaugurated for a second time. However, the Human Rights Campaign launched a series of TV ads that asks "What will he do in the next four years?" trying to highlight the inconsistencies regarding equal rights for gays and lesbians.

- <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/01/011805bushAd.htm>
-

Ontario's Attorney General Michael Bryant reports that there is smooth sailing in regard to same-sex marriage in the province. No one has had to be forced to perform same-sex marriages in the province against their will. Marriage commissioners in British Columbia and Saskatchewan have quit their jobs because they object to same-sex marriage, although they had not been forced to perform any ceremony.

- <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/01/011705canMarr.htm>
-

Gay and Lesbian couples can now get married on Canada's military bases. The Royal Canadian Armed Forces has quietly drafted a policy calling for military chaplains to formally perform same-sex weddings. Interim guidelines have a process for pre-nuptial counselling and using the base chapel for same-sex ceremonies.

- <http://www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/OttawaSun/News/2005/01/19/903105-sun.html>
-

On Tuesday, February 1, the minority Liberal government tabled its same-sex marriage bill in the House of Commons. According to the *Globe and Mail*, 139 MPs will vote in favour, 118 are against the bill, and 49 are undecided. The bill needs 154 votes to become law. "No religious official will be forced to perform marriages that are contrary to their beliefs," Justice Minister Colter said at a press conference. The Liberals are expected to have a hard time passing the legislation. The Conservative party has taken out ads in several newspapers.

- <http://tinyurl.com/54gj9>
-

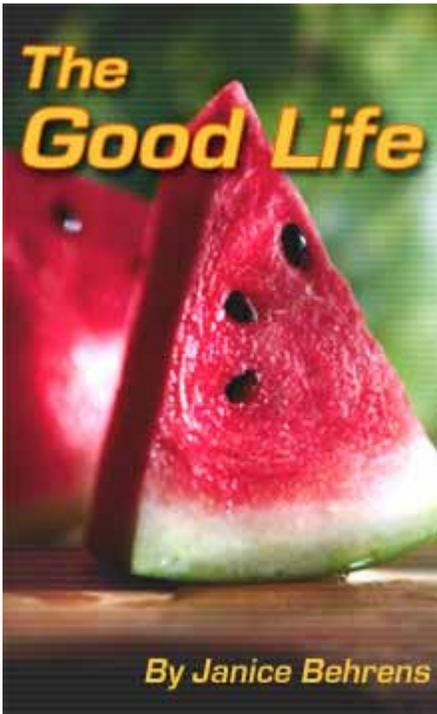
Quote of the Month

"Human sexuality is a powerful force, which society has acknowledged through many of our laws and social customs."

- Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic, Archbishop of Toronto, in an open letter to Prime Minister Paul Martin, Jan 19, 2005.

"It is wrong to invoke the love of God in order that one person's 'values' might diminish another's value. Those who claim that homosexual people threaten to dismantle the value of heterosexual marriage would do well to remember that if anyone destroys marriage, it is married people, not gays and lesbians."

- Right Rev. Dr. Peter Short, Moderator of the United Church of Canada in an open letter to all members of Parliament.



Soup Time

With both my husband and myself pursuing careers and trying to keep up with our higher education courses, as well as making time in our lives for our family and our selves, we sometimes feel that we're victims of a time crunch. Usually we do a pretty good job of trying not to bite off more than we can chew, and prioritizing the things that we value. But there are still a great many times when there's an unexpected deadline at work, or the buses are running late, or there's an exam coming up or essay that's due. That's when the short winter days feel even shorter still. It's tempting at those times to let things slip, and to grab some unhealthy fast food on the way home from work. However, when I'm compromising on the food I eat, it only seems to make matters worse.

What's needed on days like those is a simple, nutritious supper that can be ready in minutes. At this time of the year, the season of runny noses, the answer is very often a hearty, nutritious bowl of soup. So when I have the time, I make a large batch and freeze it in meal sized portions. Then, when there is no time to cook, it takes just a few minutes to heat up in a sauce pan. Add a good, crusty loaf of whole grain bread or a French baguette, and maybe a quickly tossed green salad, you'll feel like

you've got a delicious, and healthy, meal.

Now, making a good batch of soup is something that should not be rushed. The best thing is to set aside a good rainy afternoon, put on some relaxing music, and break out the largest cooking pot you have. The trick is in letting the ingredients simmer and lightly bubble in the pot, filling your living space with the delicious aromas of garlic, onion, sweet potatoes, carrots, ginger, herbs or whatever else you wish to throw in. With the herbs, I always try to have them fresh. After all, it takes very little effort to plant a few seeds in a pot and leave it on the window sill.

Many people feel that making a soup is a good way to use up those wilted, rubbery vegetables that have accumulated in the crisper of the fridge. True, it is a good way not to waste those things. However, I've always found that the best soups come from the best and freshest vegetables. You can't fool your taste buds.

No matter how you slice it, a hearty vegetable soup is a far cheaper alternative than a steak from the butcher shop or a prepared meal from the deli. By always trying to buy what's in season, and on sale, it's possible to treat yourself to the best produce that's available, hopefully organic. Happy simmering!

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.



Much Ado About Nothing

I thought I'd adopt a theme of nothing this week. Why not? The federal government seems to have decided it needs to do research into nothing. Or to be more specific, Health Canada is funding research into placebos. If you don't already know, a placebo is "an inactive substance (or therapeutic procedure with no intrinsic therapeutic value) that is used in clinical trials to determine the safety and efficacy of investigational treatments."

What is happening is that it seems that our government is a little confused when it comes to the use of placebos in medical trials. To deal with this they've had the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Health Canada look into the matter. The problem is that one set of legislation does not allow placebos to be given to patients in a clinical trial if there's a known treatment that would aid the patient, and another set of legislation does. Basically it boils down to someone not doing their homework when they came up with the rules and now we're having to sponsor a report to explain what the rules should be.

For me, the answer seems fairly obvious. If there's already a known treatment present, rather than simply measuring against a placebo, we should probably measure the new treatments against the old one. After all, what matters isn't whether a given treatment simply works better than nothing, but if it's better than what we already know. But then again, I'm no doctor.

Canadian Marketing Association to Protect Privacy

No, really. At least, that's what Jennifer Stoddart, the Privacy Commissioner of Canada thinks will happen. She's so sure of it that she's willing to send \$50,000 of tax-payer money to the Canadian Marketing Association so that they will develop "privacy best practices to assist businesses in better handling customer personal information under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)."

Isn't this a lot like paying the fox to guard the henhouse? Maybe I am being pessimistic, but when the organization is one that thrives on not only the collection but also the selling of personal information between companies, trusting them to come up with a set of best practices that benefits the rest of us seems like wishful thinking at best. I'm worried that getting nothing at all out of this might be the best possible outcome.

Canada Post Now Lets you *fetch*™

In a similar vein, Canada Post has established a new marketing system called *fetch*™ that will supposedly help protect your privacy by establishing better contact between you and the advertisers. The system itself is simple. Various advertisements will now have a logo or distinctive sound telling you that the ad is *fetch*™ enabled. You then call in to a special line and they provide you with more information or a contact to the service.

So how does this protect privacy? All of your information is supposedly stored securely by a third party so the advertiser never knows who is asking for the information unless you tell them. Given the rather widespread failure of the "click-through" model of banner advertising on the web, I have to question the wisdom of the marketing genius that thought up this new scheme. However, whoever it was is a savvy enough salesman to get Domino's Pizza, Telus, Safeway, a number of Royal Le Page real-estate offices, plus some other companies to sign up for the service already.

But maybe it'll work. I admit, there is probably some appeal to being able to get information out of a realtor's office without having to worry about the realtor calling you every month for the next year. For most of the companies listed however, I really don't think it applies. Or is there some huge telemarketing wing of Domino's Pizza that I've simply been lucky enough to avoid so far? Basically, I think this is another system that will wind up amounting to nothing.

Now that I think about it though, telemarketing for food might actually work. I know if somebody called me up out of the blue and said "Hey. Want a hot, gooey pizza with thin crust at your door in the next 20 minutes?" I'd be tempted to say yes. Maybe Canada Post should have come up with some system to help companies do that instead.

Ontario Pressuring Ottawa for Post-Secondary

Aside from the "nothing" theme this week, there is one item of interest that I spotted. This item is that a Provincial government is finally putting a call forward to Ottawa for more money for post-secondary education. Usually these complaints relate to health-care or infrastructure development, but with 61 billion dollars in projected federal surpluses over the next five years, there certainly could be some money in there for other things. If some other provinces would join in with this call for more post-secondary funding, who knows, we may be able to look forward to the day when the tuition increase is zero. I can dream, anyway.

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>.



Dear Barb;

I will be starting a new job next week. In my last job I had problems with my boss right from the beginning. I can't say specifically what the problems were, but they seemed to begin on day one. I'd like to avoid problems in this job. Are there any suggestions you can make that would help me start this job out on the right path? I will be looking forward to your reply.

Jeremy in Kingsville.

Hi Jeremy. Congratulations on your new job.

Beginning a new job can be very stressful. For this reason many people spend years at jobs they hate, since they know what to expect every day when they go to work. As you know your first days and weeks at a job will leave a lasting impact on your coworkers and especially your boss. Therefore you are right in acknowledging the importance of first impressions.

There are several tips I can suggest to assist you in starting out on the right path with your new employer. First of all, be confident and show it. There is nothing more impressive than a person who portrays confidence. As a result they are seen as capable, knowledgeable individuals. Along the same line, smile often and exhibit a positive attitude. Enthusiasm is catchy. Also dress appropriately. It is important that you fit in, don't over dress or under dress. If you dress in a careless manner, you may be perceived as being careless and sloppy in your work habits. Another good practice is when introduced to coworkers to strive to remember their names as quickly as possible. Taking into consideration how many coworkers you have, you may not accomplish this immediately, but you should be able to at least know the names of your direct coworkers within a short time. Another good practice is not to participate in office gossip. Do your best to stay neutral in any ongoing conflict in your work place.

If you are in doubt about some aspect of your job, ask questions. You will find people generally respond favorably to being asked for help. On the other hand beginning a new job with an arrogant or know-it-all attitude, will immediately rub coworkers the wrong way and put them on the defensive.

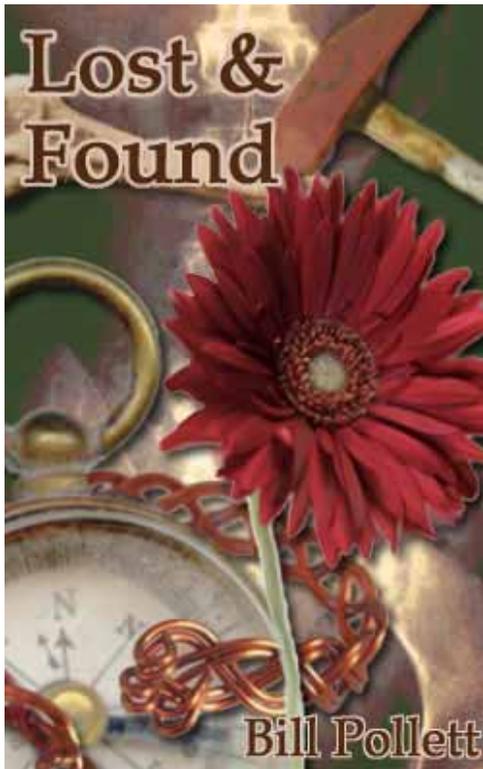
Try not to complain about your present or previous supervisors. This will reflect badly on your character. Moreover, you never know what type of relationship your coworkers have with your boss. A blunder here could definitely start you off on the wrong path.

Punctuality is important. Don't be the last to arrive in the morning or the first to leave at the end of the day. In addition, try to include yourself in after hours social activities. This is an opportunity to become a part of the team and get to know your coworkers on a more personal level. However, when you are out socially, it's a good idea to only have one or two drinks. You don't want to do something that will cause your coworkers, or your boss, to view you in an unfavorable manner as this memory will not be erased easily.

Finally Jeremy it is a good idea to set up regular meetings with your boss, at least initially until you are confident you are doing what is expected of you.

Good luck Jeremy. I hope these tips will help you to begin your new job on the right foot.

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.



When the Power Goes Out

It's one of those End of the World sort of days. Nature is pissed off, or wildly drunk, or maybe just letting her hair down and putting her foot to the gas pedal. Everything is transformed, charged with a tension that crackles like static electricity.

Late in the afternoon, I'm jogging along the seawall and the wind is blowing so hard I'm barely moving. It's throwing the spray of slate grey waves high in the air, flinging seagulls around like scraps of dirty white cloth. The sky is as dark as night, and I have a sudden irrational fear of being swept off into the deeps.

A while later, Stanley Park is closed to traffic. There are orange pylons marking a place where broken power lines are dancing a few inches above the ground--venomous snakes dangling from a tree branch. All the dogs in the neighbourhood are barking, but you can barely hear them.

When I get home, there's a cyclone of dead leaves spinning around in the backyard. Sheets of newspaper and other unknown types of debris are hurling themselves at the walls and windows of our house. I half expect to see the ghost of Cathy Linton hovering outside.

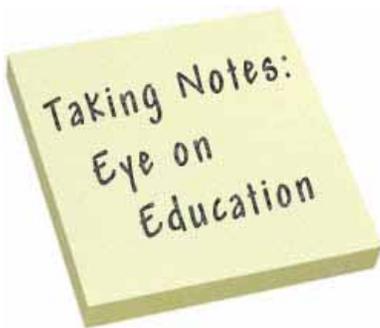
That night, dinner is eaten by candlelight. Potato chips and smoked oysters and mandarin oranges. We put batteries in the transistor radio and listen to Air Supply and Pablo Cruise on the oldies station.

We take ourselves off to bed and take turns reading a book to each other by flashlight. Gradually the beam loses its intensity and becomes a small buttery yellow blob on the page. Falling into dreams, sometimes the wind sounds like howling beasts, other times like an orchestra tuning up. Or the singing of mermaids.

At one in the morning our six-month-old daughter is awoken by the storm and we can't get her back to sleep. So we get in the car and drive around taking a look at all the damage. Branches and tree limbs everywhere. Emergency vehicle lights and screaming sirens.

We park the car on a bluff looking out over the ocean. The wind is rocking us from side to side, trying to rip the antenna off, shatter the glass, peel off the roof like the top of a sardine can. Then, it just starts to die away. And then nothing except the sound of breathing from the back seat. The lights of downtown look intensely bright and beautiful this night, as though somebody carefully arranged and lit them just for us. It's one of those times that you realize your memory is taking Polaroid pictures, one after another.

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



PSE FUNDING LAGS *Debbie Jabbour*

Premiers across Canada are meeting this week, intent on asking the federal government for increased post secondary funding. According to Manitoba's premier Greg Selinger, Ottawa needs to replenish the \$2 billion that was removed from the Canada Social Transfer base (which funds post-secondary education and social welfare programs in the provinces). This money was shifted into the Canadian Health Transfer as a result of health care agreements, but since the federal government is forecasting a \$8.9 billion surplus this year and in the future, the premiers believe education funding should now be the focus.

Saskatchewan Finance minister Harry Van Mulligen notes that even though the federal government is in better financial shape than most of the provinces, post-secondary contributions have dropped significantly. In spite of spiralling education costs and record enrolment increases, the Canada Social Transfer is set to increase by only 1.6 percent this year, and 1 percent next year – amounts well below inflation.

At least one province, however, is not planning on asking for more education money. Alberta instead intends to push for federal debt-reduction programs. Premier Ralph Klein has promised that post-secondary education will be a priority this year, but seeking federal money to support PSE in Alberta does not appear to be part of the plan.

It is worth noting that Canada's Open University, although situated in Alberta, is well-attended by students from all provinces across Canada. Seeking increased federal funding to Athabasca University might be seen as a logical move by some.

Beauchesne, E. (2005). Post-secondary education funding tops provinces' list for Goodale: Projected \$8.9B federal surplus allows for increased spending, they say. *Edmonton Journal*, January 29, 2005, CanWest News Service, Ottawa.

Women you should know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Dorothy Day *1897-1980*

Dorothy Day was born in Brooklyn New York, into a Protestant family. At the age of 31, after much spiritual searching, Dorothy converted to Catholicism. In 1932 Dorothy met Peter Maurin, with whom she cofounded The Catholic Worker Movement. The Catholic Worker Movement is comprised of hospitality houses located in over 185, primarily rural communities. It is staffed by volunteers who are guided by the teachings of Jesus. These houses provide clothing, food and shelter to the needy. The Catholic Worker Movement published its first newspaper May 1, 1933, which sold for a penny a copy. The price remains the same today. Dorothy was the editor of this paper until her death. She contributed over 1000 articles to The Catholic Worker. As well, she wrote eight books, one entitled "Loaves and Fishes" which was Day's account of the rise of The Catholic Worker Movement. Dorothy Day died November 8, 1980 and shortly after a controversy began about whether she should be canonized a Saint by the Church.

Read more about her at:
<http://www.wctc.net/~mjbach/dorothy.htm>

Pain and Consequences



From
Where
I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Do you remember those old westerns where some tough cowboy downed a swig (or two) of whiskey, grabbed some pliers and yanked out his own throbbing tooth? That's how desperate I felt when the jaw pain that began in August escalated to the point it was waking me in the night. And making me cry. And scaring me. And interfering with my quality of life.

A round of penicillin, salt water rinses and specialty brushes suggested by my dentist seemed initially to be helping. It took four weeks to get the consult with the oral surgeon. Neither man could really see any overt signs of infection yet I felt something was definitely wrong. The culprit appeared to be an impacted lower wisdom tooth.

The surgeon and I jointly decided that despite the increased risks at my age removal of the tooth was inevitable. He warned that my recovery time, bruising and swelling would all likely be worse than it would have been for a 17 year old. Plan for a least a week off work, he advised.

Because of commitments it looked like mid-November would be the soonest I could manage to fit it in. So much for my big plans. My tooth stopped me cold. I got the surgery moved up to the end of October. When over-the-counter medication wasn't even touching the pain I called the surgeon's nurse to request a prescription for something stronger that would allow me to survive the two weeks til the procedure.

"If you can get your pre-op medical, EKG and blood work done in the next day or two we'll make room for you on Friday, the 15th. You shouldn't wait any longer," was her reply.

After fasting, arranging for Hilary to be my responsible adult and abandoning the combine, I went under general anaesthetic. By all accounts it seems the surgery went well, except, of course for the nick to my lip that required 3 stitches. I had no nausea, very little swelling and one tiny bruise. My groggy little brain could hardly believe the doctor as he explained that the tooth (totally below gum level) had a huge cavity and was abscessed. No wonder the bugger hurt like hell.

It's ten days later and the healing continues. I expect my post-op checkup to go well. I anxiously await the return of all feeling in the area below my lip though I do understand that in some cases the numbness can be permanent if a nerve was damaged. I was diligent about the ice packs, hot compresses, soft diet, rinses, penicillin and pain-killers. I wasn't quite as good in the resting department. Staining and varnishing a media cabinet kit, sewing some cushions and painting the bedroom are some of the projects I tackled while recovering.

Pain is a huge motivator. It can stop you cold, change some well-laid plans, take away your options. I'm just glad I didn't need the whiskey or the pliers. That would've been downright scary, from where I sit.

**Reprinted with permission*



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 & Leemaar 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>.

DANIEL B. GOLDBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$10,000

Deadline: n/s

1)The Daniel B. Goldberg Scholarship of \$10,000 is available for award to a graduate student who is enrolled in full-time master's study preparing for a career in state and local government finance. This scholarship is funded by the Girard Miller Foundation. The winner of the scholarship is invited, as out guest, to attend the Government Finance Officers Association's annual conference, where the award is presented. Completed applications and other correspondence about the scholarship programs can be sent to:

Scholarship Committee, Government Finance Officers Association
203 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60601-1210, (312/977-9700)

Eligibility:

Currently a full-time student in a graduate program that prepares students for careers in state and local government finance and expecting to be enrolled in the spring semester of the year for which the scholarship is awarded (including graduates of that spring semester).

Baccalaureate degree or its equivalent.

Citizen or permanent resident of the United States or Canada.

Recommendation from student's academic advisor or dean of the graduate program.

Student has not been a past winner of a scholarship administered by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada are not eligible to apply.

Web site: <http://www.gfoa.org/services/scholarships.shtml>



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

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
Baton Rouge, LA, United States

23 to 27 February 2005

<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
Louisville, Kentucky, United States

24 February 2005

<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: sinistik@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
Kauai Island, Hawaii, United States**

8 to 12 March 2005

<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
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States**

10 March 2005

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

**Second International Conference on Positive Behavior Support
Tampa, FL, United States**

10 to 12 March 2005

<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
Tucson, Arizona, United States**

10 March 2005

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

**Children's Literature
Rochester, New York, United States**

19 March 2005

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
Chattanooga, Tennessee, United States**

31 Mar - 2 April 2005

<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
Las Vegas, Nevada, United States**

31 March 2005

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

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

31 March 2005

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

**EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS
Philosophy of "e-ducation 2005"**

Feb 19 - Feb 22 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*

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. Wat Crawford /9pm/\$10 adv. \$12 at door
Double Bill Performance w/Madviolet

For more info or advance tix: (416) 588-4M0D
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
Broer Student Center, College of New Jersey
9:00pm / Free for students ~DUO show~

Thurs Feb 24 - 27 @ Folk Alliance Conference in Montreal,
QC
1255, rue Jeanne-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

~DUO shows~

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 Phallogogy
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 Phallogogy) 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 phallogological 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.

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

classifieds

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

Adventure! Teach English Worldwide. Get TESOL Certified in 5-days. Study In-class, Online or by Correspondence. Travel & Earn \$\$\$\$. Job Guarantee. Find out more at globaltesol.com or 1-888-270-2941



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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