

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

May 11, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 19



Are we just passing our courses?
How American university compares to overseas

Baby Showers
Traditions, new and old

Fiction Feature
More poetry by Bill Pollett

Plus:
Lost & Found
The Good Life
Dear Barb
Women You Should Know
Canadian Fedwatch
From Where I Sit
Taking Notes
AUSU This Month

and much more...

Welcome To the Voice PDF

The Voice interactive Table of Contents allows you to click a story title to jump to an article. Clicking the bottom-right corner of any page returns you here. Some ads and graphics are also links.

articles

**FROM MY PERSPECTIVE: BABY SHOWERS
ARE WE JUST PASSING COURSES
VOICE FICTION: POETRY BY...**

Debbie Jabbour
Jana Thurova
Bill Pollett

columns

**GAY AND LESBIAN UPDATE
THE GOOD LIFE - Food as Adventure
LOST AND FOUND - 2:42 a.m. on Planet Earth
CANADIAN FEDWATCH
CHRONICLES OF CRUISCIN LAN
AUSU THIS MONTH
DEAR BARB - More good things to eat on a student budget
FROM WHERE I SIT - Fax Fury**

Raphael Jacobs
Janice Behrens
Bill Pollett
Karl Low
Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Barbara Godin
Hazel Anaka

news and events

**TAKING NOTES: University and Earnings
VOICE EVENTS LISTINGS
SEARCHING FOR INTERNSHIPS
SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS
CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS**

from the readers

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
CLASSIFIEDS**



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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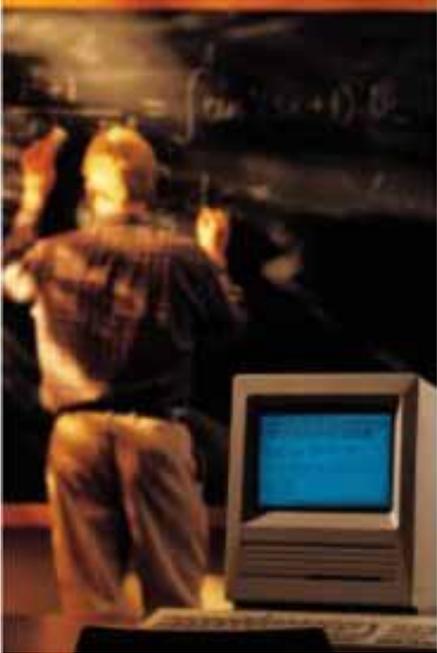
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Are we just passing courses?

Jana Thurova



Europeans say that Americans (and by that they mean the whole continent of America) are less intelligent than Europeans are. They deduce this from the fact that Americans don't have as much difficulty studying as Europeans do. American students are considered less active in the schooling process; their participation in studies Europeans perceive as partying, driving cars, and eating in MacDonal'd's (which is so unfair to Americans; they eat at Wendy's, too!).

But, let's move to what I intended to talk about. Among the many things that North Americans know little about, is Slovakia. Slovaks think Americans don't know about Slovakia because they are not educated enough. But I think Americans don't know about Slovakia, because they aren't interested. I ask my Slovak friends repeatedly what they know about the smallest state in the USA or any small province in Canada. They don't know anything about these places. They also have trouble remembering time zones and are a bit confused about the weather in America.

I would say that there are less intelligent and more intelligent people all over the world; it doesn't matter what nationalities we are. What is interesting is that people who don't have a chance to try living in different parts of the world would consider themselves different, maybe better than others are. Many Slovaks do think that their high schools and universities are "equipped" with a better content of books, instructions and lectures than American schools are. Slovaks would say that Americans don't study enough, that their courses are simple and that they don't pay adequate attention to facts that are important for students in other countries.

Since the Slovak Republic is located in the heart of Europe, Slovaks feel every nation in Europe and all over the world should know about us, the Slovaks. Moreover, they feel that whoever who does not know about us is probably not clever enough. Slovakia is a small country that hosted this year's summit of President Bush and President Putin. The Slovak government made the meeting of these two Presidents a great celebration. American flags were all over the capital and thousands of police officers spent hours figuring out what was going on. Believe me; it looked like Mr. Bush's presidential campaign or worse. Despite the gala, Slovaks are in shock because American media introduced Slovakia as a part of Former Soviet Union or former Jugoslavia.

I would say that it is mostly because of the misconceptions like this one that Slovaks consider Americans uneducated. A while ago, some of my Slovak friends had a chance to visit America and tried to take some courses at local colleges and universities. Based on their experience, they felt that studying in America is much easier than studying at home. I actually can compare the difficulty, because I have tried both systems. The first that makes the Slovak university system more challenging is that students need to pass an entrance exam while they are still in high school. They're preparing for final exams before graduation and studying to be accepted to universities they choose.

However, passing that exam does not guarantee a student's acceptance. Almost ten years ago, when I was sweating during the entrance exams, 3000 other students were sweating along with me but the number university seats open for the next year was a mere 300. Even though a student passes the exam, some other criteria are considered before they are admitted. For some, a

student's aunt or uncle, or neighbor may help in the admitting process or provide a key to a new car for a helper who is willing to provide a student with exam questions. Though students all over the world are familiar with entrance exams, Slovaks still think that the exams in Slovakia are the hardest ones. I believe, however, that most students are accepted based on their knowledge, not on their parents' bank accounts.

However, for those talented and smart individuals who are accepted, studies are no fun. It is hard work. Slovaks need to know a lot to pass a course and teachers expect them to score high. Mostly there are competitions among students. I dislike one particular thing about some Slovak teachers: they want their students to simply chase those books that are sometimes unavailable in local libraries and students need to travel to other towns, or call their friends in other universities and look for the books. One seminar work can destroy the relationship between a student and a teacher. There are many strict rules that are introduced to students from the very beginning.

On the other hand, I think being a Slovak abroad makes my studies in America hard because I learn new facts in foreign language; because of this, every success makes me extremely happy. However, if the American grading policy were to resemble the one in the Slovak republic, I would need to concentrate even more and work harder, too.

Passing grades of 50 or 60% in Americans schools are not comprehensible to Slovak students. In Slovakia, college and university students need 75% to pass their courses. I believe a passing grade of 70% is rare, so it is very hard to pass courses in Slovak universities. Many students are not able to do so. They end their studies, or even worse things happen, such as the firing of students from their last exams in the last year of their studies.

I think giving students an option in what is important to them, rather than drilling in insignificant statistics or issues, is laudable. A fifty percent passing grade gives students opportunities to decide what they need to improve more; they have time for concentration on topics they like, rather than being forced into reading and studying books they simply deny because of their contents, (or they don't learn about small unimportant countries located far away).

On the other hand, the pressure on students in countries where passing grades on assignments and exams are higher than in America wouldn't do American students any harm. Students who excel at higher standards know the word "toughness." I think foreign students who come to America are pleasantly surprised about the grading system. Still, as I have mentioned, studying in a foreign country is as hard as needing a passing grade of 80%, but I am happy to have an opportunity to choose among many courses. I did not have that chance in Slovakia.

I hope the Slovak school system will soon change its façade and will make itself more approachable for students of any age and any social status. It is all about money, because when students pay for their education, they are more appreciative, and better respected by their instructors (In Slovakia, a former communist country, university education is free.)

In America it may cost a lot, but that feeling you have is priceless. Believe me, I can compare now.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Baby Showers

Debbie Jabbour



A time-honoured tradition to welcome a new baby into the world is the baby shower - and they don't seem to change much over the years. When I had my children, I had the opportunity to attend many baby (and wedding) showers for friends and acquaintances who were going through the same life events as I. I was never all that excited about wedding showers, particularly when they made everyone play silly games and dressed up the bride-to-be with a ridiculous-looking pie plate hat covered with ribbons and bows.

Over the years, many wedding showers seemed to become extremely elaborate, with gift expectations growing beyond the small household odds and ends that wedding showers were originally intended for. When you watch a bride open the tenth toaster, you have to wonder what the point of it all is, especially when another shower of gifts would be expected at the wedding itself a few weeks later. Nowadays, of course, most brides have already been living away from home and are well set up with household necessities, so perhaps wedding showers have evolved in the process.

Baby showers, on the other hand, seem to be far more meaningful and necessary, an opportunity to share the excitement of motherhood and welcome a new life into the world, while helping new parents with many of the necessities that come along with the birth of a child. Oddly enough, I did not have a baby shower given for me until I had baby number four. When I had my first, there were two others in my circle of acquaintances who were also having babies around the same time, so friends just did one large get-together with gifts for everyone. It was nice, but it was not the same as a baby shower.

My circle of acquaintances believed that once you had one child you did not need any further gifts, on the assumption that you will have enough baby stuff already. So no one gave a shower for babies two and three. Beyond the idea of always dressing younger children in hand-me-downs, however, it always seemed to me that this thinking was flawed - every new child is an individual and deserves its own special welcome. By the time I had my last child, of course, I had long disposed of any baby items that were not already well-worn and I was a struggling single parent, so the baby shower was necessary and greatly appreciated.

I'm not a great fan of parties in general, especially those that require you to spend several hours in close company with a bunch of other women you don't know very well. My favourite kind of baby shower is given after the baby is born, so that the star of the show is able to be there and it becomes a true "welcome baby home" event. I've even given a wine and cheese post-birth shower for both parents with a mixed crowd in attendance, and it was an extremely enjoyable event. Somehow those silly shower games take on a new sense of fun when you add a glass of wine to the mix!

The days of baby showers seem very long ago, and my circle of friends has diminished greatly over time. But with a new baby in my family and another on the way, baby showers are part of my life

once again. This past weekend I attended one for my daughter, an intimate gathering of close family and a few friends only. My youngest took the lead in organizing it, and because she was trying to spare me, knowing how busy I am, she kept refusing all my offers of help throughout the week. Unfortunately, when the day of the shower arrived, she suddenly realized that food preparation was going to take much longer than expected - so I was abruptly pulled out from my computer room and recruited into the kitchen.

For a wild couple of hours we chopped, washed, blended and sliced; filling trays and dishes with tempting treats - bean and pasta salads, hummous and spinach dips, sandwiches, cheese & crackers, veggie trays - enough food for 100 people! By the time everything was packed to go, we were already late and on the run. My kitchen was a disaster, pots scattered everywhere, floor covered with crumbs, sink piled high, and countertop covered with bits and pieces of assorted food preparation leftovers. Frazzled and drenched in sweat, I threw on the first change of clothes I could find and we headed out the door. Fortunately everyone else was late too!

Something I was amazed to discover in the process was the amazing wealth of baby shower planning resources available on the Internet. A Google search brings up dozens of sites with ideas, games, activity suggestions, recipes, and much more. It seems that baby showers are big business these days! I had no idea there could be so many shower games. Some of them are interesting and fun, others are downright gross or humiliating. Stuffing shirts with balloons and engaging in pregnant belly races around the yard, or trying to walk around with a water-filled balloon between your legs doesn't quite fit my idea of a dignified party activity. Identifying baby food while blindfolded does nothing for my appetite (what on earth do they put into those little jars anyway?), and bobbing for pacifiers in a bowl of pudding is just plain nasty as far as I'm concerned. Judging by the websites, however, a lot of people apparently enjoy these kinds of baby shower activities.

Fortunately, my daughter kept the games to a minimum, creating a custom crossword puzzle with clues that were specific to this baby and a baby bingo game that kept us entertained in between the gift opening. It was a lovely afternoon, a lovely welcome for my eagerly-awaited new grandchild, and we had way too much food.

Of course, the party was over once I arrived back home and had to deal with the mess left behind!

Some baby shower sites & games:

Baby-Shower.com

<http://www.baby-shower.com/d-games/index.html>

Baby Showers Central

<http://www.babyshowerscentral.com/>

Baby Shower Games, etc.

<http://baby-shower-games-etc.com/>

The Baby Shower Site

<http://www.thebabyshowersite.com/>



This monthly column features news and issues affecting gays and lesbians in Canada and around the world. Look for it on the second week of each month, only in The Voice.

The legislation to legalize same-sex marriage has passed its second reading in the House of Commons, 164 to 137. The bill now goes to committee to be studied before it can be read a third time. After the bill passes the House of Commons after the third reading, it must still pass the Senate.

- <http://tinyurl.com/523ba>
 - <http://tinyurl.com/a53n7>
-

Connecticut's House and Senate have passed a bill legalizing same-sex civil unions. They are the only state to do this without prompting from the court. The Governor signed the bill, making the legislation law in the state.

- <http://tinyurl.com/66v2z>
 - <http://tinyurl.com/cwfun>
-

The Anglican Church of Canada has agreed for now to halt blessing same-sex unions, but refused to withdraw from the Anglican Consultative Council. The House of Bishops deferred the matter to the General Synod.

- <http://tinyurl.com/awqxc>
-

With the threat of an election, Canada's bill to legalize same-sex marriage could die on the order paper if it isn't voted on prior to the Governor General dropping the writ. Recently the Liberals and the NDP came to an understanding over the budget that could see the Liberals win a motion of no confidence, however, that will require them to win all of the independent votes in the House of Commons.

- <http://tinyurl.com/cm8kz>
 - <http://tinyurl.com/9uej8>
-

A Swedish restaurant has been fined 50,000 crowns by a Court of Appeals for throwing out a lesbian couple because they were kissing. The restaurant owner defended his actions by saying he did not let anyone engage in kissing on his premises.

- <http://tinyurl.com/cazau>
-

This week California is expected to get a bill on same-sex marriage. The Assembly's Judiciary Committee has approved a bill by Mark Leno, D-San Francisco to permit same-sex unions. Opponents are planning tactics to hopefully kill the bill.

- <http://tinyurl.com/do9x2>
-

Quote of the Month

The "frozen concepts" reasoning runs contrary to one of the most fundamental principles of Canadian constitutional interpretation: that our Constitution is a living tree which, by way of progressive interpretation, accommodates and addresses the realities of modern life.

- Supreme Court of Canada, in its ruling, Re: Same-sex marriage, December 2004

THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE

Poetry by...

Bill Pollett

bat haikus

in the old black barn
moondrunk negligence
leaves us unprepared

hanging from rafters
on the night of the solstice
we sway to-and-fro

as albino cats
walk through mercury puddles
with pale pink blossoms

draw close my love
wrap leather wings about me
sing me sonic hymns

of cool, cool planets,
ultraviolet lands and
woods that are hunted

by dark wild creatures
like those fabulous beasts from
that French cathedral

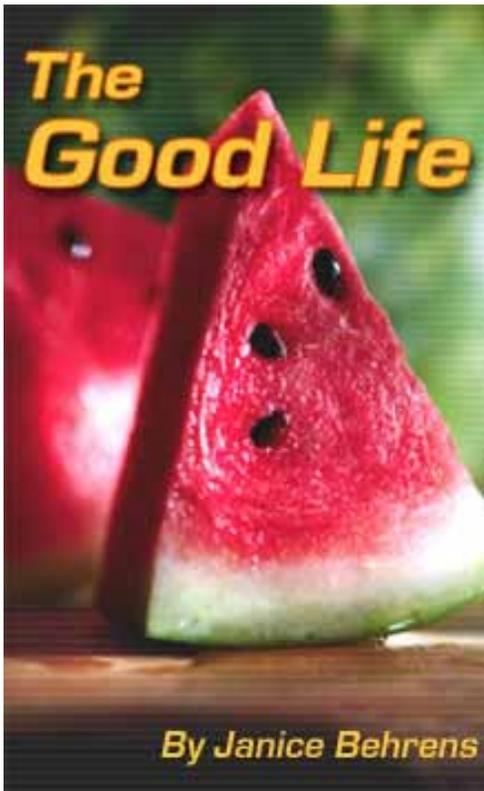
Premonitions

a dream of tornadoes
clouds the size of factories
whole buildings lifted in the air

the dreamer wakes to open sky
faint red glow distant light

nothing more awful in this world
than an unread newspaper
hitting the doorstep

than an empty horizon waiting
for something to appear



Food as Adventure

It seems strange to say so now, but growing up in small town Southern Alberta in the 1970s and coming from a family of German and Norwegian heritage, there was a time for me when authentic Italian cooking was something that seemed indescribably exotic. I still remember going for dinner at the home of my friend Dina and being delighted by the pungent aroma of the tomato sauces and the steam from the enormous pot of boiling pasta that steamed up the kitchen windows.

I remember the plates of delicious antipasto comprised of amazing ingredients that I had never encountered before, such as artichokes, anchovies, and eggplant. To my fifteen year-old taste buds, mozzarella and ricotta cheeses tasted *otherworldly*, opening whole new flavour vistas for me. Not to mention the half glass of sweet red wine that we were allowed to drink with dinner.

Most of all, I remember watching with rapt attention as Dina's mother prepared fresh sardines at the kitchen counter. With the swift precision of a neurosurgeon, she slit open the fish's belly from mouth to tail, first exposing and then removing the delicate backbone. It was a process that took a matter of a few seconds for each fish. Up until that point in my life, sardines were just slimy creatures that existed only in a roll-top metal can, embedded in foul-tasting oil.

There is something about those moments in life when our culinary horizons, the sense of what we can expect from the food we eat, become joyfully expanded. Besides my afternoons in Dina's kitchen, I will always remember the smoked meat from *Schlotsky's Delicatessen* in Montreal; the first time I sat down at a sushi bar; and my first plate of raw oysters at the *Acme Oyster Bar* in New Orleans with each oyster chased with a dash of hot pepper sauce and washed down with a swig of ice cold *Carib* beer.

The French term *amuse bouche* refers to the practice of chefs presenting their patrons with enticing little taste sensations -- unexpected combinations of flavours to make the jaded palate wake up and take notice. As much as there is a place in my life for the repertoire of comfort foods I grew up with (e.g., the reassuring taste of mashed potatoes and gravy, fried chicken and sweet-and-sour meatballs), there is another side to the enjoyment of food that is all about exploration -- stepping into personally uncharted territory filled with exciting new sights, smells and tastes.

It's the possibility of these new taste experiences that keeps me flipping through the pages of cookbooks and saving money for those occasional forays out to the latest new restaurant. Sometimes the best things in life are unexpected and waiting right around the next corner.

AUSU THIS MONTH



AU SPORTS CLUB SEEKS NEW EXECUTIVE

The AU Sports Club is looking for AU students who are interested in serving on the AUSA executive. All that is required is a few hours a week to respond to emails, add new members to the discussion forum, and locate information to update the website or forum sections. Being on a club executive is a great way to meet other AU students!

The AUSU Office has Moved

The Edmonton Learning Centre, which not only houses a number of AU services such as invigilation rooms and student advisors, but also the corporate offices of AUSU and The Voice, has moved to a new location in downtown Edmonton. The phone numbers and email addresses at the ELC remain the same. Watch the AUSU website for some photos of our new office once we get everything unpacked! Our new mailing address is:

Athabasca University Students' Union
Peace Hills Trust Tower
1200, 10011 109 St.
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

AUSU Helps Sponsor the Alberta Services for Students Conference

The Alberta Services for Students Conference will be held this May at Mount Royal College and AUSU Councillor Lisa Priebe will be in attendance to meet with students and answer questions. AUSU has donated \$500 to provide students with snacks and coffee during the conference. Students can attend the conference for \$110. For more details on this conference and how to attend please contact the AUSU Office at ausu@ausu.org or toll free at 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413.

AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

AUSU is in need of more volunteer mentors to help our new students adjust to AU and distance education. If you're an experienced AU student and interested in being matched to a new student, please email ausu@ausu.org for an application form. The mentor program is designed to aid new students in their adjustment to distance learning. If you're a new student and would like to be matched to one of our mentors please fill out the application form at this address: <http://www.ausu.org/services/mentorsforms.php>



Dear Barb,

A few months ago, your column included fast and easy recipes. I tried a couple of them and they were great, my roommates also enjoyed them. We want to know if you have any more main course recipes that would be fast and economical for struggling students. We would really appreciate it if you could find casserole dishes that we could just pop in the oven after school. Also, could you add some web addresses where we could find more recipes? Thanks Barb, these recipes will save a great deal of time.

The Roommates in North Carolina

Hi guys, good to hear you enjoyed the recipes. Below are a few more recipes and links to websites for more recipes for hearty, low-cost meals.

Egg and Potatoes Skillet Supper (4 to 8 servings)

1 to 2 tablespoons cooking oil

- 4 medium potatoes cooked and sliced (about 3 cups sliced)
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1 tablespoon snipped fresh parsley or 1 teaspoon parsley flakes
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- 8 eggs
- ½ cup milk
- 1 teaspoon salt, optional
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

In large skillet over medium-high heat cook potatoes, onion, parsley and paprika in hot oil, stirring occasionally, until potatoes begin to brown and onion is tender, about 5 to 7 minutes. Reduce heat to medium. Meanwhile, beat together eggs, milk, salt if desired, and pepper. Pour egg mixture over potato mixture. As the eggs begin to set, gently draw a pancake turner completely across bottom and along the sides of the pan, forming large soft curds. Continue until eggs are thickened, but do not stir constantly. Cook until no visible liquid egg remains.

Half-Hour Dinner (3 to 6 servings)

- ¾ cup uncooked regular rice
- 1 can (10 ¾ oz) condensed cream of celery soup, undiluted
- ¾ cup water
- 1 package (10 oz.) frozen peas
- 1 can (2 to 2 ½ oz.) sliced mushrooms drained, optional
- 6 eggs
- ½ cup (2 oz) shredded Swiss cheese, optional

In large skillet, stir together rice, soup and water. Cover the skillet and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to allow the skillet to simmer covered for 5 minutes. Stir in the frozen peas. Simmer covered skillet 5 minutes longer. Stir in the mushrooms, if desired. Make 6 indentations in the rice mixture. Break and add an egg into each indentation. Cover. Continue cooking over low to medium heat until the eggs are almost set, 3 to 5 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese, if desired. Cover. Cook until the whites of the eggs are completely set and the yolks begin to thicken but are not hard, about 5 to 7 minutes.

Quiche O'Brien (6 servings)

1 (9-inch) unbaked pie shell
1 ½ cups (6 oz.) shredded processed American cheese, cubed
¼ cup chopped green pepper
1 jar (2 oz.) chopped pimiento, drained
1 teaspoon instant minced onion
6 eggs
1 can (13 oz) evaporated milk
½ teaspoon seasoned salt, optional

Line unbaked pie shell with 12-inch square of aluminum foil. Fill with rice, dried beans or dried peas. Cover the rim of the pie shell with pieces of aluminum foil. Bake in preheated 450°F oven until lightly browned at the edges, about 10 to 15 minutes. Remove the foil and rice, dried beans or dried peas. Cool on wire rack.

Sprinkle cheese, pepper, pimiento and onion into the baked pie shell. In a medium bowl, beat together remaining ingredients until well blended. Pour the mixture over the cheese and vegetables. Bake in a preheated 375°F oven until either a knife inserted near the center comes out clean or a thermometer shows 160°F degrees, about 30 to 40 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Here's a little something to reward yourself after studying.

Peanut Banana Cake (serves 8)

¼ cup butter, softened
1/3 cup peanut butter
1 cup sugar
4 eggs
¾ cup mashed peeled ripe bananas (about 2 medium)
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons water
Peanut butter or confectioners' sugar, optional

In large mixing bowl, beat together butter and 1/3 cup of peanut butter until thoroughly blended. Beat in the sugar until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in bananas and vanilla. In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking powder and salt. Add 2/3 cup of the flour mixture to the banana mixture alternately with one tablespoon of the water, beating or stirring just until blended. Repeat with remaining flour mixture and another tablespoon of water. Pour into a well-greased 9 x 9 x 2 inch cake pan. Bake in a preheated 350°F oven until the top springs back when lightly touched and a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean, about 30 to 35 minutes. Cool on a wire rack for 5 minutes before removing from the cake pan. While still warm, spread lightly with peanut butter or cool completely and dust with confectioners' sugar.

I hope you guys find these recipes helpful, let me know how they turned out.

Sources for additional information

- American Egg Board. Recipes: Especially economical recipes.
<http://www.aeb.org/recipes/economical/economical-index.html>
- Healthy Cooking Recipes.com. [web site]. www.healthycookingrecipes.com/chickenrecipes.html

E-mail your questions to dearbarb.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.



Meeting of the Minds

Back in March, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, had a meeting. Why am I telling you now? Because on May 5th, the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat finally put up a notice informing people of this.

I know I'm not the world's fastest worker but this has taken them nearly two months to create a news release, when supposedly all this department does is, well, handle intergovernmental conferences. And people wonder where their tax dollars go.

At any rate, back in March when the Ministers met, they agreed to three "ambitious action plans" regarding education. One action plan each for literacy, aboriginal education, and postsecondary education. The ambitious plan for post-secondary education is "an invitation from ministers of education to their federal colleagues to discuss the capacity challenge in the post-secondary sector, particularly in the area of infrastructure, and to consider possible federal involvement. The Council of the Federation (COF) will be asked to take a leadership role on matters[sic] related to postsecondary capacity."

If sending out an invitation is considered ambitious, I wonder what they consider actually doing something? Running a spell-check, for example.

Perhaps that's a little more groundbreaking than this group can handle right now, but it should come as no surprise that they view the capacity challenge as one of infrastructure rather than human resources. Clearly the idea of distance education isn't getting through or they'd see encourage the government to spend money on providing Canadians with an education as opposed to providing a building for people to get educated in.

Or maybe they'd be better off encouraging their colleagues to pressure the federal government for a dedicated Ministry of Education at the federal level. After all, if the goal is ensuring all Canadian citizens have the best education possible, not just those from certain provinces, having some kind of federal counterpart could only help the Education Ministers in the long run.

Summer Help

It's nearly summer, and while that may not mean as much for AU students as others, it does mean that traditional summer-work programs are starting to come into effect. If you're an AU student looking for a job, there's no reason you shouldn't be able to benefit from these programs as well.

In Alberta, the program is known as STEP, and its opening for this year was recently announced. The provincial government pays employers \$4.50/hr toward STEP position costs, as well as 10% of the employer's contributions to federal employment tax, CPP, and vacation pay. More information for students can be found at the STEP website.

\$510 Million for Scientific Research

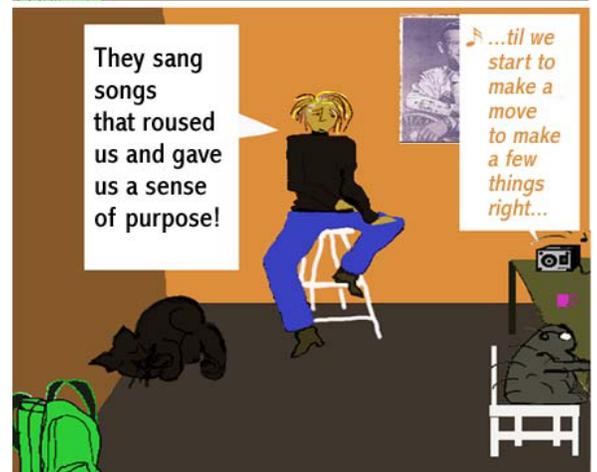
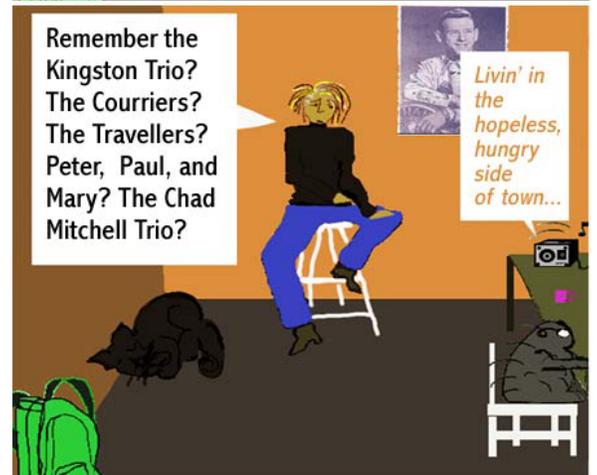
Natural Science and Engineering Research Canada has announced that it will be providing 510 million dollars in grants and research funding this year. 380 million will be split among just over 3000 professors for their research in natural science and engineering, with 111 million being split between graduate students to support their education in the form of scholarships.

However, research money isn't just for graduate students, as there is also just over 19 million being spent on the Undergraduate Student Research Awards.

While it is too late for any of us as undergraduates to apply for any of this money, the lesson that there is money available for undergraduate research should be remembered.

Who knows, if you have an innovative research idea, you may be able to not only get credit for it in a project course with AU, but you might even be able to get that course funded courtesy of the federal government. It certainly couldn't hurt to try.

Christy Minstrel in: ~ Where Have All the ~ Folk Trios Gone



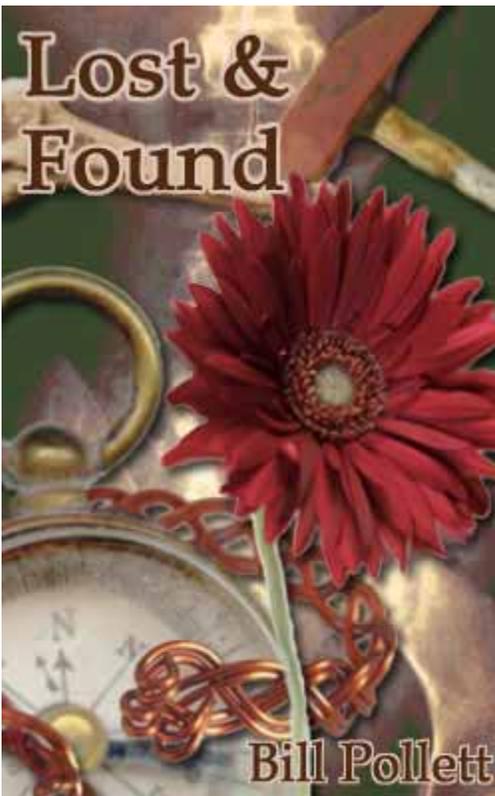
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Smoker's Help Line **1-866-33AADAC**

www.aadac.com

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Alberta Addictive and Alcoholism Centre
An Agency of the Government of Alberta

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HEALTH FIRST



2:42 a.m. on Planet Earth

It's 2:42 a.m. and I'm in my office -- a hopelessly cluttered space sealed off from the rest of the basement by a large wood and paper screen. There are precarious hoodoos of books on every available surface, including an old ironing board that now functions as a sideboard. There are cobwebs, mouse droppings and towers of shoeboxes filled with heaven-knows-what. There's a threadbare and water-stained Oriental carpet that covers up the pock-marked burgundy painted cement floor. There's a bookcase, a goldfish bowl half-filled with my collection of fortune cookie fortunes (preserved from many years of eating artery-clogging chow mein and eggrolls), and the gold-painted plaster bust of Richard M. Nixon that I bought for one dollar and fifty cents at a garage sale last year -- an item no truly modern office should be without. There are several statues of Buddha, a black velvet painting of Venice, and a cork notice board covered with several layers of quotations, postcards, family photos, children's artwork, and business cards. There's a hotplate for brewing pots of tea, a small cedar box filled with marijuana, wooden matches and Zig Zag rolling papers. There's a particularly crappy stereo system.

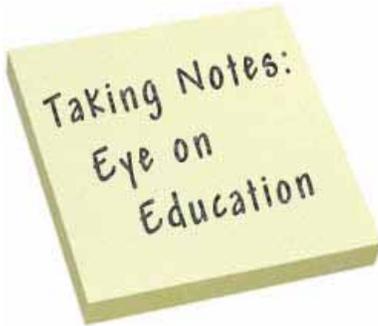
The smell of ancient cat pee hangs, spectre-like, in the early morning air.

I have this probably-idle fantasy that one day I'll start my own low-powered radio station from this cramped and disorganized space. It'll be an outlet for my after-midnight philosophical rants and state of the soul addresses. Its musical content will appeal to those few kindred-soul, attention deficit disorder insomniacs willing to listen to Eric Satie followed by Jah Wobble, *ABBA* on the heels of Art Blakey, *Corrosion of Conformity* neatly segueing into Louis Armstrong's *Hot Fives*.

Right now I'm listening to a CD that my friend has loaned me, a compilation of music from jazz guitar magus Bill Frisell, and it's 2:42 a.m. music if ever there was such a thing. Like the best surrealist paintings and Monty Python sketches, it's a series of quirky juxtapositions, an inspired matching of seemingly incongruous components. The bowed and plucked strings are sometimes rich and dark as Turkish coffee. At other times, they are crazily syncopated, a haywire sort of clockwork that brings to my mind visual images from Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*. There are sounds like the cry of seagulls calling out of the fog above a sea of radio static. There are cheesy, *Dr. Who*-like space-age warbles and wobbles, and creaking beams from a haunted house. There are beautiful melodies, like half-forgotten lullabies, suddenly interrupted by demonic, screeching guitar feedback.

Somehow, like T.S. Eliot's *The Wasteland* and the experimental films of British director Peter Greenaway, this music seems to me to capture the very essence of modern life in Western society -- the peculiar realization that nothing quite makes sense, and yet everything is somehow connected. We flip through television channels, or cruise the information superhighway, and watch scenes of beauty and horror squeezing up against each other like the ribs of an accordion. There is footage of the Dalai Lama, followed by a commercial for mouthwash, followed by scenes of devastation in the Middle East. Like the European sewer systems that connect brothels and cathedrals, palaces and crumbling tenements, our virtually unlimited access to information joins all these things together, all these strange jumble sale items scattered about our messy cultural home. And with the kind of inspired insomniac lunacy that sometimes visits us at 2:42 a.m., many of us are desperately trying to make some sense of it all.

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



UNIVERSITY AND EARNINGS

Debbie Jabbour

A recent Statistics Canada survey seems to indicate that better education is not a guarantee of higher wages. This study of low-paid labour trends indicates that, although the proportion of adult workers with university degrees increased 10 percent between 1981 and 2004, the number of adult employees earning less than \$10 an hour dropped only one percent.

The situation was worse for men aged 25 to 34 with a high school diploma only, -as their wages declined on average some 20 percent over the 1981 to 2004 time period. It appears that even though a university education will not guarantee more money, a lower education level leaves workers at a greater disadvantage.

Analysts suggest there is a general worldwide trend towards lower wages, as companies try to stay competitive globally and technology lowers the demand for less-educated workers. Since 1981, wages for workers aged 16-74 have only increased by about six percent overall. For women, the situation is even worse with approximately 25 percent of working females under 40 earning low wages and living in poverty in 2000. The comparable figure for men is approximately 17 percent.

Reference

CanWest News Service (2005, May 4). Education no guarantee of higher-paying job. Retrieved May 8, 2005, from <http://www.canada.com/search/story.html?id=de0c6f1a-92fb-46d4-91dd-0e0d82a37028>

Women you should know

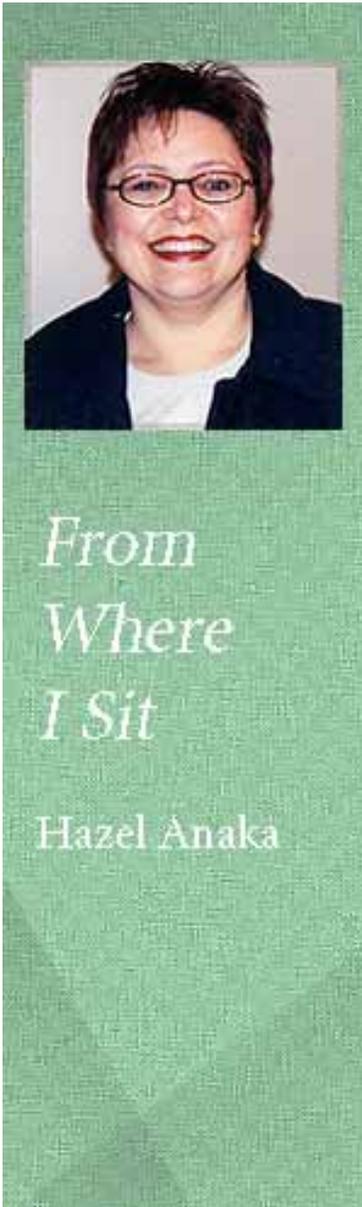
Compiled by Barbara Godin

Janet Guthrie (1938 -)

Janet Guthrie was born in Iowa City, Iowa on March 7, 1938. After completing high school, she attended the University of Michigan where she graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science degree. She began working for Republic Aviation in Farmingdale, New York, as a research and development engineer. Soon after, Janet purchased a Jaguar XK 120™ coupe and began competing in gymkhanas, field trials and hill climbs. Thus began her career in car racing. Guthrie's brief, yet remarkable career in racing includes earning top-ten starting positions and posting top-ten finishes in both Indy-car Championship racing and NASCAR Winston Cup. Janet Guthrie is the only woman to lead a Winston Cup race. In 1977, she placed sixth in the Winston Cup finish, which still stands as the best finishing position by a woman during the NASCAR era. Her helmet and driving suit are on display in the Smithsonian Institute. Watch for her autobiography entitled "Janet Guthrie: A Life at Full Throttle" to be published May 2005.

Source for additional information:

Janet Guthrie: Racing Legend [web site]. Retrieved May 2, 2005, from <http://www.janetguthrie.com>



Fax Fury

Replacement ink rollers for my Brother Intellifax 750 fax machine cost \$52.19 for two. Not an insignificant amount! We have a fax machine for convenience. Our convenience and the convenience of people we deal with.

In yet another example of intrusive marketing, we have become victims of the discount travel marketing scam promotion. I began noticing faxes outlining unbelievable travel deals. As students of the "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" school, we never seriously considered the offers. Furthermore, we began resenting that this crap was eating up those expensive cartridges and wasting precious paper.

There did seem to be a way out though. Each offer has a toll-free number to call to be removed from their database call list. Okay, I'll call and see if that does any good. How hard could that be?

When I began sorting the offers I discovered that we were receiving faxes from FOURTEEN different sources. This was going to take longer than I initially thought. Now I'm really ticked off! Who skimmed our number out of the phone book and sold it to these creeps?

Suffice to say that this wasn't number one on my *to do* list. Like many annoyances, it continued to irk us until I finally sat down to make the calls. I needn't have gotten too comfortable though, because 13 out of the 14 numbers I called were either "invalid or blocked from my area code" or "out of service" or "unable to connect the number from my area." Surprise, surprise!

The originating fax number never appears on any of the pages so I couldn't start faxing back the wonderful, time limited, unbelievably incredible deals. I may not have anyway because of long distance charges, but I was mad enough to enjoy thinking about it. We also

began disconnecting the calls when our fax phone rang. We really showed them, huh?

This intrusion ranks right up there with the pop-up ads for penis enlargers, bored housewives available for fun, and Internet pharmaceuticals that regularly appear via email. They make users of the technology vulnerable to the most predatory, aggressive, ballsy promoters out there flogging their wares. If some little girl in Florida had to manually dial the numbers and feed the faxes, you can be sure they wouldn't be bothering with some farmers at Andrew, Alberta. As long as mail and phone lists are available for sale, there will be buyers. Automatic dialing allows these people to reach out to larger and larger groups of potential customers in hope of hooking at least a few. I've discovered at least one couple who went on one of these junkets. The aim is to rather aggressively sell time-shares to a captive audience. Repeat after me, "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

We just received our first real estate marketing fax. A pox on fax marketers everywhere, from where I sit.

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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

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Calgary, Alberta - 24-28 May 2005

The festival introduces young people to a multicultural programme of theatre, puppetry, music, dance, mime and comedy, with Canadian and international performers appearing at the EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts, Olympic Plaza and the downtown Public Library. The outdoor Olympic Plaza is the place to be for the festival's free activities such as face painting, arts and crafts and The Nylon Zoo, where costumes are provided for the young ones to dress up and parade around. The Plaza also features an outdoor stage and street performers and is home to a huge dinosaur tent, where kids can enjoy storytelling. Meanwhile, the library and the Arts Centre feature concerts, shows and performances to inspire, educate and entertain the family.

Venue Details: EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts
205, 8th Ave SE, Calgary, AB Tel 403 294 7455
Fax 403 294 7457 info@theartscentre.org

british columbia

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Vancouver, BC - 16-23 May 2005

Provides an exciting treat for all the family and features the finest in children's entertainment from across Canada and around the world. Vanier Park springs to life during this popular annual extravaganza. Children are educated, entertained and inspired through a varied programme of theatre, dance, storytelling, puppetry and music. Jugglers, clowns, acrobats and trapeze artists blur the boundaries between reality and fantasy while singalong concerts, puppet shows and comedy performers entertain the crowds. Vanier Park, 1100, Chestnut St, Vancouver

ontario

INSIDE OUT - TORONTO LESBIAN & GAY FILM FESTIVAL

Toronto, Ontario - 19-29 May 2005

The Inside Out Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival, one of the biggest exponents of queer cinema

the world over, is also considered to be one of the best international film festivals. Screenings take place at a variety of venues around Toronto. The festival aims to show the full diversity of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual film and video and gives awards honouring work in ten different categories.

Contact Details - 416 977 6847 - inside@insideout.on.ca

quebec

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Mistassini, Quebec - 4-8 August 2005

Mistassini in Quebec claims to be the blueberry capital of the world, and the well-established annual Blueberry Festival offers blueberry-themed cooking and decorating demonstrations, shows and contests, as the organisers set about their task of promoting this wonderful little fruit. There is also a night parade, while the event wraps up with a taste of a giant blueberry pie for spectators.

Contact - 418 276 1241 - festival.bleuet@destination.ca

GIANT OMELETTE FESTIVAL

Granby, Quebec - 9-13 June 2005

They'll be breaking 5000 eggs to make the Giant Omelette in Granby, Québec this June. This international celebration involves five French-speaking cities - Abbeville, Bessieres and Frejus in France and Dumbea in New Caledonia as well as Granby - who at various times of the year convene to cook enormous omelettes to share with the public. Before the present-day event there is an elaborate parade and a knighting of the omelette chefs takes place. Then all the eggs are lobbed into one very large pan and sizzle away before becoming a delicious omelette.

Contact Details - Number 450 372 7273 - Second Number 1 800 567 7273 (in Canada)

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



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

EXPORT AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONSULTANTS.

Placements Impact Canada Ltd, 1250 University Street (B.1073)
Montreal, Quebec H3B 3K5 fax: (450) 6567116

Internship types: Accounting, Admin (Hospitality, Sports), Communications, Counselling, Economics, Engineering (Mechanical), Finance, International Relations, Labor & Industrial Relations, Liberal Arts, Marketing, Ad, PR, Political Science/Politics, Public Admin, Public Pol, Govt, Social Sciences, Social Work, Sociology, Urban & Regional Planning, Hotel/Restaurant/Hospitality, Tourism and Development

Qualifications / skills needed:

- 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.
- Candidates must be ready to travel overseas if required.
- Candidates must have some English skills (other languages a must).
- A College or University degree could be required by employers.
- Ability to work independently and in team situation.

Description: As an International Recruiting Firm based in Montreal (Business Partners in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Chicago and New-York city), we are presently looking for motivated candidates in Export and International Business area (Permanent and Contract Positions available in 2004-2005): International Business Consultants and Export Consultants. 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. Attractive salaries and packages (including life insurance, paid vacation,..). We will provide the work placement/work permit (Visa if necessary) with our Corporate clients in Canada and in USA.

Highlights: If you are interested by a high-level career/trainee position in Export/International trade, please, send us a resume thru email, mail or fax (ref. 024GA).

Company Address: Placements Impact Canada Ltd, 1250 University Street, (B.1073), H3B 3K5, Montreal, QC
Attn.: Mr Peter Hamond, MBA, Associate and HR Manager; Fax: (450) 6567116

Language required: English.

This internship is a paid position.

Application process involves: Resume, Written Application.

Post services include: Job and Internship Network.

Dates: Immediately and year January 2005.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

THE UNIVERSITY WRITING SCHOLARSHIP (UWS)

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA: 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.

NOTES: Students must submit an essay no longer than 500 words on ONE of the following topics to be eligible for the scholarships:

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>

PARKLAND ESSAY CONTEST

Deadline: May 31, 2005

The Parkland Institute and Alberta Views magazine have launched their annual essay writing contest for 2005. The contest is open to students registered in any high school, undergrad, and graduate program within Alberta. The essay should be approximately 1000 words in length and written about the following topic:

"Now that the Provincial government has declared Alberta 'debt free,' and with windfall resource revenues making anything possible, what does the Alberta you want to live in look like?"

The student with the best essay in each of the three categories will win \$500 and one of the winning essays will be published in the Alberta Views magazine.

Include your name, address, phone number, school, and category (high school, undergraduate, and graduate) on the first page of your essay.

Submit essays to:

Parkland Institute, 11045 Saskatchewan Drive, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E1

Phone: (780) 492-8558. Fax: (780) 492-8738

e-mail: parkland@ualberta.ca

CANADIAN SANITATION SUPPLY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Value: \$2,000

Number of Awards: 8

Application Deadline: June 1

Description: For Canadian students attending college or university in Canada. High school applicants must be in their graduating year. Applicants must demonstrate academic and social achievements. Must submit 500 word essay on: Why Go Green?

Instructions: Employment history, activity and leadership record, evaluation form, photograph, and transcripts are required. For more information, please visit the website posted below

Contact Information: Canadian Sanitation Supply Association (CSSA) / L'Association canadienne des fournisseurs de produits sanitaires (L'ACFPS)

Web Site: <http://www.cssa.com>



4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - PERSON. COLOR. NATURE. MUSIC
May 18, 2005 - May 21, 2005 - Daugavpils Latvia

- Psychology for Sustainable Education: challenge or illusion?
- Sustainable Education for All.
- Innovation in Teachers Professional Development - Changes in Education.
- Problems of Art and Art Education.
- Generative Art.
- Tendencies of Development of Music Pedagogy.
- Multi Media Technology and Computer Design.

ASSOCIATION, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT CONFERENCE
May 24, 2005 - Oakland, California, USA - <http://nposector.us>

The Association, Government, and NonProfit Symposium will be held on May 24, 2005, at the Jack London Inn, Oakland. Join professionals and colleagues for dynamic presentations in this collaborative environment:

- Fundraising for Non-Profits
- Starting Your Own Non-Profit
- Quickbooks for Associations and Non-Profits
- Legal Issues for Associations and Non-Profits
- Protect Your Employees with Medical Benefits
- Networking and Increasing Your Sphere of Influence
- Capacity Assessment for Non-Profit Organizations
- Marketing Techniques for Associations and Non-Profits
- Peer Consulting Roundtable

THE ART OF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
May 25, 2005 - May 26, 2005 - London, UK - <http://www.caol.info/conference05.htm>

Reservations Hotline - 0845 331 3402

Previous models for leadership training are no longer appropriate for the 21st Century. The Centre for Arts & Organisational Leadership recognises that we are all more business literate and aware than at any time in the past and, even at local level, are faced with ever increasing competition. We have instant access to more information than previous generations could have dreamed of, that wealth of data can create confusion. It is time for a new paradigm, for new models and new approaches to leadership and leadership practices, to ensure that you remain at the cutting edge of your sector.

The Conference will showcase expert international speakers who are all leaders in their fields of expertise. However, you will not just listen to a sage on a stage. You will be offered demonstrations, workshops and showcases. You will be challenged to adjust your vision to the way that the arts are perceived ... no longer as entertainment or relaxation but, as dynamic tools for change, for education and for success. You will discover how to convert that new vision into a set of powerful, practical strategies to create qualified and quantified improvements within your organisation. Delegates will come from the broadest spectrum of enterprise, including Government Agencies, Local Authorities, The National Health Service, Global Corporations and Entrepreneurial Manufacturing and Service Businesses and academic institutions. You will have ample opportunities to network with them all - from CEOs and Chairmen to innovators, academics and individuals in private practice.

You can meet and speak with our celebrity speakers, some of whom normally command large sums for their 'one-on-one' consultancy and coaching. In addition, you are offered the confidential services of an executive coach (either during or after the conference) to embed your new experience, sustain your learning and then introduce this knowledge into your own organisation. The exclusive Executive Coaching component of the Conference offers you a unique opportunity to test the effectiveness of coaching for yourself and will show how you can introduce coaching within all levels of your enterprise.

There is also opportunity to meet the speakers, celebrities and workshop facilitators in a relaxed atmosphere so join us for an early Champagne Breakfast on Day One or and Early Bird Breakfast on Day Two, rub shoulders with the speakers

and facilitators, book these separately but don't delay as we are only able to accept limited numbers for these special events. The Centre is dedicated to exploring research and cutting edge innovations in leadership and effective management. It offers dynamic interactive methodologies and practices that go way beyond the theoretical, to deliver practical and effective tools and support. Hosting this brand new event is just one of many proactive ventures that are undertaken during the year.

ELECTROCOR 2005

May 2 - May 4, 2005 - Cadiz, Spain - <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/ecor05/index.html>

ELECTROCOR 2005 aims to present and discuss the state of the art on the computer simulation of electrochemical processes and the electric fields associated with these processes. Comparison of simulation with experimental measurements is actively encouraged as well as the presentation of case studies.

Modern Industry applies a wide range of electrochemical processes to protect against corrosion, provide surface treatments and to manufacture products. This conference is focused on the computer modelling of these industrial processes and techniques. Engineering uses electrochemical processes to protect structures and systems against corrosion. Cathodic protection is widely used in the Maritime, Defence, Oil & Gas and Utility industries to control corrosion. The electrical and magnetic fields associated with the electrochemical processes is also of significant interest to engineers responsible for the performance of maritime systems, the operators of rail systems and owners of electrical transmission systems. For instance, system interactions between rail and commuter electric light-rail, are of concern to operators. Electrochemical systems are widely used to deposit coatings on the surface of products and structures. The accurate prediction of the performance of the coating and the optimisation of the process is of major importance to manufacturing engineers. Electrochemical techniques are also used to form or fabricate a wide variety of different products. The common theme of this conference is the development of computational models and their application.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR SUPERVISORS - HOUSTON

May 2, 2005 - May 3, 2005 - Houston, Texas, USA

<http://www.peice.com/eventdetails.aspx?event=101545&ref=Allconferences&rfi=16734>

Fee: \$ 1095 USD - This two-day course presents practical principles to assist supervisors and managers in their efforts to motivate and mobilize team members toward the fulfillment of objectives. Course discussions and case studies will focus on topics which participants have identified as challenges in their current job assignments. The session, designed to help participants bring out the best in their subordinates, is designed for those currently in, or aspiring to, supervisory positions. A complete set of course materials and lunch are included. Due to the highly interactive nature of this course, the session is limited to a maximum of 20 participants.

Course Outline:

- Introduction - Leadership
- The Uniqueness of Individuals - Basic Human Needs
- Understanding Personality Types and Motivational Differences
- The Requirement for Trust - The Leadership Entry Point
- "Good versus Best" - Prioritizing Activities and Resources
- Achieving Results Through Others - Strategic Delegation
- Significant Achievement Through Teams
- Cultivating Good Decision Making Habits
- Preventing and Resolving Inevitable Conflict
- Effective Negotiation - Building Mutually Beneficial Relationships

Please note that this course, or portions of this course, are also currently available as one or more live, interactive, instructor-led online seminars (typically 1-3 hour sessions) for groups of 6 or more participants from your organization.

TRANSLOCALITY. DISCUSSING CULTURE AND CHANGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MAY 3-8, 2005 - Merida, Mexico - <http://www.cas-sca.ca/meetings.htm>

Our increasingly complex world cannot be understood today as a collection of self-contained localities. Anthropology has been quick to respond to the challenges posed by the new forms of hybridity and intensified exchange between localities, nations and world regions. One of the implications of the new approaches is that our perspective itself has changed the way we perceive culture, borders, power and change. The relationships between localities and supralocal or global institutions continue to change according to fluctuations in larger socioeconomic cultural and political processes. It is possible to argue that localities may open or close themselves to the world, according to changes in their larger, socioeconomic and cultural environment. In the meantime, the new movements for aboriginal rights and

other social movements are staking their claims on strong notions of place and locality, which are often conflated with identity and cultural belonging. Furthermore, the idiom of the nation is gaining new strength as it is redefined outside its prior identification with the boundaries of States.

The Canadian Anthropological Society / Societe Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA), the Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA), and the Facultad de Ciencias Antropológicas de la Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY) have joined to hold together their 2005 Conference in the city of Merida, Yucatan, in Mexico. This tri-national and tri-lingual anthropology conference will take place May 3-8, 2005 at the central campus of the Autonomous University of Yucatan. We invite you to explore with us the issues of locality, translocality, nationality and transnationality in what promises to be an exciting transnational gathering, bringing together anthropologists from around the world.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CONFIDENTIALITY, PRIVACY AND DISCLOSURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY May 3, 2005 - Manchester, UK - <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/capri/symposium/>

The issues of Confidentiality and Privacy took numerous twists and turns during the second half of the 20th Century, as the media globalisation, computing, the Internet, surveillance technology all emerged and then became more sophisticated, faster, and more efficient. As we have entered the 21st century the notion of the Grid has appeared with its promise of fast distributed analyses over multiple, very large sets of data. The potential for linking data of different types, and from different sources has become more feasible.

In the light of these changes the notion of confidentiality has itself been required to change taking into account the new technology, but also using that technology through sophisticated systems of disclosure control and more recently through such ideas as intruder detection and data sentries. This symposium will bring together international experts in confidentiality and privacy research from the fields of law, data protection, statistics, social science and computer science to debate the implications of recent technological advances.

Key questions to be addressed are:

- How is new technology going to affect the way we view privacy, confidentiality and disclosure?
- How can technology be used to enable confidentiality rather than threatening it?
- How is disclosure risk assessed? How is that likely to change over time?

Papers will be given by experts in confidentiality and privacy: describing their research, discussing the relationship between research and policy, together with future gazing - outlining the possibilities, potential threats and opportunities. The day will be structured around eight speakers with plenty of discussion time.

Contributors: The keynote address will be given by Professor George Duncan from Carnegie Mellon University, USA. Other invited speakers include: Professor John Forster (University of Southampton); Professor JJ Salaza (University of Tenerife); Dr Michael Carlson (University of Stockholm); Julian Stander (University of Plymouth); Dr. Dean Judson (US Census Bureau); Prof. Charles Raab (University of Edinburgh) and Dr. Francis Aldhouse (UK, Information Commission).

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD May 6, 2005 - May 8, 2005 - Canterbury, UK

The Archaeology of Infancy and Childhood Conference 2005 is designed to provide a relaxed forum for postgraduate students and other researchers to explore new ideas concerning the place and worth of young children within the archaeological record. Despite previous attempts by past researchers, children remain largely invisible within modern archaeological reporting and theory formation. The aim of the conference is twofold. It seeks to highlight the social, cultural and symbolic worth of infants and children within period-specific societies, while also emphasising the ability of such individuals to inform archaeology on wider cultural issues.

GLOBALIZATION AND HORIZONS OF FUTURE EDUCATION May 10-11, 2005 - Ma'an, Jordan - <http://www.ahu.edu.jo>

Conference Objectives - The conference aims at presenting scientific papers which contribute to:

- promote learning/teaching processes to comprehend globalization concepts.
- benefit from globalization outputs in higher education institutions with the aims of benefiting from other nations' experience and promoting education.
- introduce concepts of cognitive economy and control quality curricula.
- introduce e-learning into higher education in situations.

Conference Themes

First Theme - Globalization Impact on Teaching and Learning

Second Theme - The Conflict between Localization and Globalization
Third Theme - Globalization Impact on Higher Education Institutions
Fourth Theme - Globalization Reality and Aspirations
Fifth Theme - E-education and Globalization
Sixth Theme - Cognitive Economy and Quality Control in the light of Globalization

Please address correspondence to the attention of:

Dr. Hani Obeidat, Chair, Dept. of Instruction and Curricula

College of Educational Sciences, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, P.O. Box 20, Ma'an, Jordan

Fax: 00962-3/2179050 Telephone: 00962-3/2179000 hussein_conf@ahu.edu.jo

EARLY LITERACY IN A CHANGING WORLD

May 7, 2005 - Portland, ME, USA - <http://www.mainehumanities.org/programs/btr-conference.html>

A conference for exploring the many paths to early literacy, sponsored by Born to Read, a program of the Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book at the Maine Humanities Council. This conference is designed for child care providers, preschool teachers, and others who work with children 0-5. Eight workshops offered in morning and afternoon sessions will promote the many paths to early literacy development-from storytelling to music to book selection and use. Lunch will be included to give conferees an opportunity to meet and discuss their work. The conference will feature keynote presentations from nationally acclaimed children's book writers and illustrators:

Rosemary Wells is the author and illustrator of over 60 picture books and is the creator of such memorable characters as Max and Ruby, Yoko and Emily. Well's picture books are entirely populated by animals. They address universal childhood themes of love, laughter, hope, and heroism in spirited tales, enabling children to confront their fears with confidence and optimism. At the conference, Wells will discuss the many issues relating to early literacy for children in today's changing social environment. Conferees will learn about her Read to Your Bunny initiative and her philosophy and ideas for tackling issues for young children.

Ashley Bryan is an artist, storyteller, poet, folklorist and performer who has traveled all over the world performing and talking about his books that highlight West African tales and the African-American experience. At the conference, Bryan will present a performance on Friday evening that is open to the public; on Saturday, he will present workshops on storytelling and folktales, open to early childhood professionals. This conference will be presented concurrently with "Blueberries and Moose: A Festival of Maine Children's Literature," being held at the Portland Public Market on May 7th. Conferees will have an opportunity to visit the displays and booths of many Maine authors and illustrators of children's books.

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- iCORE (Informatics Circle of Research Excellence) Summit - Aug. 2005 -Banff.
The second annual iCORE Banff Informatics Summit will bring together leading information and communications technology (ICT) researchers for three days. The field of informatics encompasses computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics and mathematics. (403) 210-5335. <http://www.icore.ca/>.
- Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership Symposium - Oct. or Nov. 2005, Calgary.
The Chumir Foundation promotes an active, involved citizenry and principled leadership. (403) 244-6666. <http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/>.
- InfraEDUCA 2004 - June 25-27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi - The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialized Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distance Learning Systems, International Universities and Programs, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programs etc. Details: <http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>.
- PISTA '04 - July 21-25 - Orlando, Florida - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are transforming our societies, therefore papers about research results, solutions and problems of the applications of ICT in Politics and Society are highly encouraged. Details: <http://www.confinf.org/Pista04/website/default.asp>
- EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 - July 28 - 30 - Dhaka, Bangladesh. EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 is the platform for you to promote your Institutions and services and to recruit students in Bangladesh. Details: <http://www.expam.com/bangladesh/>

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

classifieds

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

AU SPORTS CLUB SEEKS NEW EXECUTIVE The AU Sports Club is looking for AU students who are interested in serving on the AUSC executive. All that is required is a few hours a week to respond to emails, add new members to the discussion forum, and locate information to update the website or forum sections. Being on a club executive is a great way to meet other AU students!

THE VOICE

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