

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

May 18, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 20



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Gimme Gimme
A prayer from the dying

Cruiscin Lan
Auditions in toon land

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

THE VOICE

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FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Snow removal and mosquitoes

Debbie Jabbour



I really like Edmonton for the most part. It's a great place to live. Two things, however, completely spoil the experience -- snow removal and mosquitoes. As one of Canada's northernmost cities, we get our fair share of snow, and our winters seem much longer than normal. We often joke that we only have two seasons -- winter and construction -- since much of the short summer is spent fixing the damage winter conditions have wrought on our roads. But that's nothing compared to what we endure while the snow is actually still on the ground. Edmonton's city council has decided that residential street snow removal is a luxury we cannot afford, so the policy has always been to only

plow the streets when they become impassable for emergency vehicles. This means that we ordinary folk must suffer through months of snow-clogged side streets, getting stuck regularly, unable to navigate from our homes to the main street.

After a few freeze/melt/snow/freeze cycles, residential roads soon become a succession of natural speed bumps, rows of solid ice and snow surrounding the deep tire grooves left by those few vehicles that are successful in escaping this wintry prison. SUV's, monster trucks and 4-wheel drives can manage reasonably well, but everyone else is out of luck. The horrible condition of the roads tears out undercarriages, wears out shocks and damages tires -- plus there is the ever-present danger that you will bounce out of a rut and smash into a snow-covered parked car (as happened to my daughter's vehicle several months ago). The city's excuse that it is too expensive seems less logical when you start adding up the cost of repairs to vehicles damaged by road conditions.

On top of that, anyone who attempts to walk and cross the roads on foot must meet a challenge worthy of a seasoned mountain climber. Walkers old and young slip and fall on the icy ruts, often with serious and crippling results. Many elderly people become completely housebound for much of the long winter, afraid to venture out and risk a fall. A broken hip, particularly when it happens to a senior citizen, has dire consequences for both the individual and the health care system, often precipitating permanent disability. So where is the logic in trying to save money by refusing to plow our residential streets? I don't get it.

This kind of blind, backward thinking happens in summer too. It truly does seem that our summers are only a few months long, since we often have snow right into May and even June. One year I got brave and planted my garden early, putting my tomato plants in at the end of May with the rest of the garden. Two days later we were hit with a heavy snowfall that killed off all my delicate little plants! I learned my lesson and avoid planting anything much until the beginning of June.

Given the short summers we enjoy here in Edmonton, it would be nice if we could eke out maximum pleasure from the long summer evenings, enjoying our backyard, gardening, having a barbeque, walking or biking. However, here in Edmonton we have a powerful incentive to remain indoors during the summer -- mosquitoes! The plague has already begun in May, and it continues right through to late fall. The experts tell us this represents several life cycles of mosquitoes, and we are treated to different varieties, some of which supposedly do not bite. I've never met that kind. The biting ones, however, are plentiful.

In Edmonton, many beautiful summer evenings are spoiled because it is absolutely impossible to sit outside without being devoured by these rabid little black creatures. You can spray yourself with bug spray (yuck!),

burn mosquito coils and citronella candles, or light smudges, but the persistent creatures are impossible to escape from. The latest worry, of course, is West Nile Virus, a deadly disease spread by mosquitoes. The best advice the health professionals give us is to protect ourselves is "stay indoors" and "cover up completely when outdoors." What a way to spend our few lovely, hot summer months!

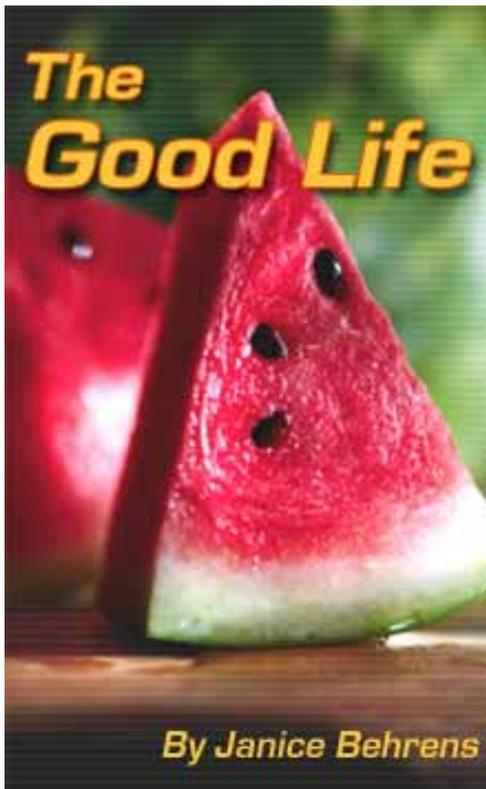
For some reason, in spite of our advanced technology, spraying efforts are quite ineffective at controlling the mosquito population. There is always some excuse -- the weather is too wet to spray, the weather is too hot to spray, mosquitoes like rain, mosquitoes like dry... the bottom line is that every year they make an effort, but every year the mosquitoes win out.

At least there has been some attempt at reducing the pest population, and at least we are getting minimal relief. However, given the profound wisdom of Edmonton city council regarding snow removal, I guess I should not have been surprised at the latest attempt to spoil quality of life in this city. Apparently our summer budget needs to be cut -- so the city has decided that mosquito spraying is one of those non-essentials that has to go! Along with fewer plants on public property and less-frequent watering, the city has announced that mosquito spraying will be reduced by 10 percent. So the city will save money while its citizens are tortured by even more mosquitoes than usual. Mothers will keep their children inside, fearful of the virus, and those precious evening hours of summer will be cut even shorter unless we want to be covered in itchy red welts.

Oh well, I guess I can put on my long johns and gloves, wrap my face in a scarf, and go sit outside to wait for winter!

Gimme Gimme: A Prayer From the Dying El-ahrairah Jones

I want the good things in life. I want to feel sexy. I want to feel that high that I get when I buy something that my friends want too. I want convenience. I want to buy goods and services so I'll be treated with respect. I want access to information twenty-four seven. I want things to be cheap and easy, especially food. I want to be entertained without having to think too hard. I want a steady bombardment of things that will keep me from feeling bored. I want classic rock, Vanilla Coke and Ben and Jerry's. I want to stay young forever. I want to indulge myself because I'm worth it. I want things that fall apart as soon as I buy them. I want television shows that treat me as though I'm an imbecile. I want my children to develop secondary sex characteristics as young as two or three years old due to all of the hormones added to the food they trust me to feed them. I want to feel good about myself by believing that I'm smarter and harder working than the welfare mother who can't afford to feed her children. I want to soothe my fears by believing that people live on the streets and beg for money because they are lazy and they want to. I want to see the people around me ravaged by cancer caused by environmental pollutants, food additives and cigarettes. I want newspapers, television shows and magazines to cause me to live in a perpetual state of fear of people who don't have the same values as me. I want these supposed *personal values* to be constructed for me by those same newspapers, television shows and magazines. If somebody gets murdered in Alabama, or a child is abducted in New Brunswick, I want those same media organizations to turn the pain of the victims into mindless dinner hour entertainment for me, just another opportunity to shill motor oil or computer equipment. I want to talk about how spiritual I am because I went to see U2. I want the air that my children breathe to one day resemble the toxic atmosphere on the surface of Venus. I want to feel sexy forever and ever. I want to be protected from true knowledge, such as the knowledge about what my lifestyle really costs. I want nearly every item I buy to be made by children working twelve to fifteen hours a day for subsistence wages in a third world country. I want the gap between the rich and poor to grow wider each and every year. I want to feel sexy and young -- until the day I die.



Disdain For Children and What it Tells Us About Ourselves

One morning my husband and I are having breakfast in a booth at the coffee shop of the *Radisson Hotel* in downtown Prince George. I'm nursing our three-month-old baby daughter. Little Jessie has what you might call healthy survival instincts, but not necessarily the daintiest of table manners. I'm trying to be as inconspicuous as possible, but the slurping and sucking sounds coming from our area are like, as my husband likes to say, a couple of wild dingoes devouring a gazelle.

A woman with a blue cardigan sweater, one half of the elderly couple sitting two booths away from us, is clearly appalled by this public display of what she obviously believes should be a private observance. In order to get a better view, the woman cranes her head above the screens separating the booths and favours us with a very disapproving scowl. As they exit the restaurant a few minutes later, she gives me a prim shake of a head and makes a "tch tch" sound. Head bent, her husband follows silently in tow. Shoulders trembling with suppressed

laughter, we wait until they've left the room before lapsing into hysterics.

Sometimes I think one of the great hidden facts of North American life is that, as a society, we don't actually *like* children. We might not mind seeing them dressed up in angel costumes for the Church's Christmas pageant and that sort of thing -- and we like living vicariously through them when they're collecting scholarships and soccer trophies, but on the whole, we're a bit put off by their alarming energy levels and their potential for embarrassing unpredictability. When they're infants, as the above anecdote illustrates, they're forever calling our attention to the unmentionable facts of food entering into and leaving digestive tracts. Later on, they're always eating ice cream cones too slowly, so that their hands are perpetually sticky. And they too frequently ask us awkward questions, particularly in public.

Evidence of their existence is found in the most awkward of places. If they're artwork could be confined to one or two things on the front of the fridge, for instance, it wouldn't be so bad, but they tend to invade and take over our carefully arranged living spaces, dangerously upsetting our Martha Stewart-inspired *Feng Shui*. Socially irresponsible parents bring them to restaurants, public parks, libraries, you name it -- disruptive agents of aggravation running wild in all the places that we would like to grab a few minutes of peace and quiet away from our busy and *oh-so-serious* adult pursuits.

I have often wondered what this disdain for children, this hangover from the Victorian *children should be seen but not heard* ethos says about our culture and civilization. The conclusion that I have come to is that we try to contain and curb the natural traits of children, such as their imagination, tendency to tell the truth, and capacity for spontaneous joy, because we are a bit ashamed of our own lack of these qualities. We, too, were once able to form spontaneous friendships without having to project some sort of carefully constructed image of ourselves. We were capable of laughing and crying without humiliation, of living fully and completely in the moment, and some of us perhaps just don't want to be reminded of everything that we've lost.

AUSU THIS MONTH



AUSU Course Evaluations

Would you like to know what your fellow students have thought of an AU course? If so, you are not alone. Many students find the input of their peers invaluable when selecting courses or a program of study. AU students may not have cafeterias and hallways in which to share this knowledge, but AUSU has provided an alternative: AUSU Course and Program Evaluation surveys. Accessible through the "Course Evaluations" link on the right side of the top bar of AUSU.org, these surveys ask a series of questions about AUSU courses and programs. Each student may rate each course or program only once, to ensure the validity of the results, so you must be logged in to access a survey form. Anyone, however, may view the results. If you haven't already, please rate some courses you have taken so that others may benefit from your experience. Note: these surveys are not the same as the ones that AU distributes with their course manuals. No AU staff or faculty member has access to the AUSU website, nor can they determine who has filled out a survey. Your anonymity is assured.

AUSU Discussion Forums and Chat

Looking for a way to interact with fellow students? Check out the AUSU discussion forums and chatroom, accessible through the top menu bar of AUSU.org. The forums contain many sections to address a wide variety of student interests. You'll find the most students in the General Student Chat section, but you may also wish to use one of the province or city-specific forums to speak with AU students in your local area.

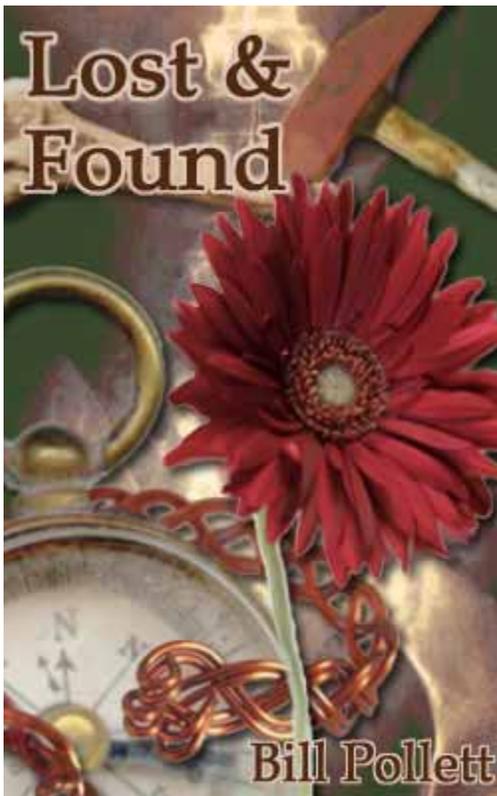
The AUSU Office has Moved

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 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>



Heading for Home

Last night, my daughter was reading aloud *The Jumblies* by Edward Lear (n.d.) while my wife was brushing her hair.

*They sailed away in a sieve, they did,
In a sieve they sailed so fast*

When I was a child, I was convinced for years that I was adopted. I questioned my father over and over again beyond the point of his breaking patience, which was always thin like a skin of treacherous late-season ice). I had a dream that I was handed over in a blanket on a dark night. Somewhere nearby there were fires burning and men's voices yelling. The air was crackling with danger, with no time for explanations.

*With only a beautiful pea-green veil
Tied with a ribbon, by way of a sail,
To a small tobacco-pipe mast*

I have a distinct memory of visiting family friends at a place that I thought might be my lost homeland. In my memory, there was this lake with weathered cottages and deep, secret backyards. There was slanting moonshine, the gospel humming of a fridge and the smell of an electrical storm approaching. "Yes," I thought, "I remember all of this. This is the place I came from."

*And every one said who saw them go,
"Oh! won't they be soon upset, you know?"*

Throughout the years though, I found myself in other places that seemed equally familiar. These places were scattered like clues across whole continents. There was this valley of hot summer days where church towers and country fairs would rise up out of the ground. At night, all the *tilt-a-whirl* planets would spin through the sky with a sound like the susurrus of frogs. There was dark, fragrant forest with mushroom-ringed trees and wood smoke on the air. On an island in a distant part of the world, there was a city of wrought-iron balconies on shining-white buildings and a sound of women's laughter drifting in the air. Every corner I turned there, I thought, would reveal the building I was born in.

For the sky is dark, and the voyage is long

During the darkest times, that could span years at a time, I knew in my heart that this was home. My *memory* glimpses were nothing more than an illusion. During those days, nothing seemed familiar or right. Like a wounded animal, I wandered around in strange lands searching for a place to hide. I filled up my time with idle pursuits.

Even in my darkest places, the clues would wash up like beach glass at my feet. The clues were like truffles or fragments of pottery, they were buried all around me in poems, stories, overheard conversations, snatches of music -like gypsy jazz violin coming from a tenement window, or a man singing opera in the park.

Last night, my daughter was reading aloud, while my wife was brushing her hair. Suddenly, it occurred to me that home is the place you discover over and over again -- strange and different, every time.

*Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green and their hands are blue;
And they went to sea in a sieve.*

Reference

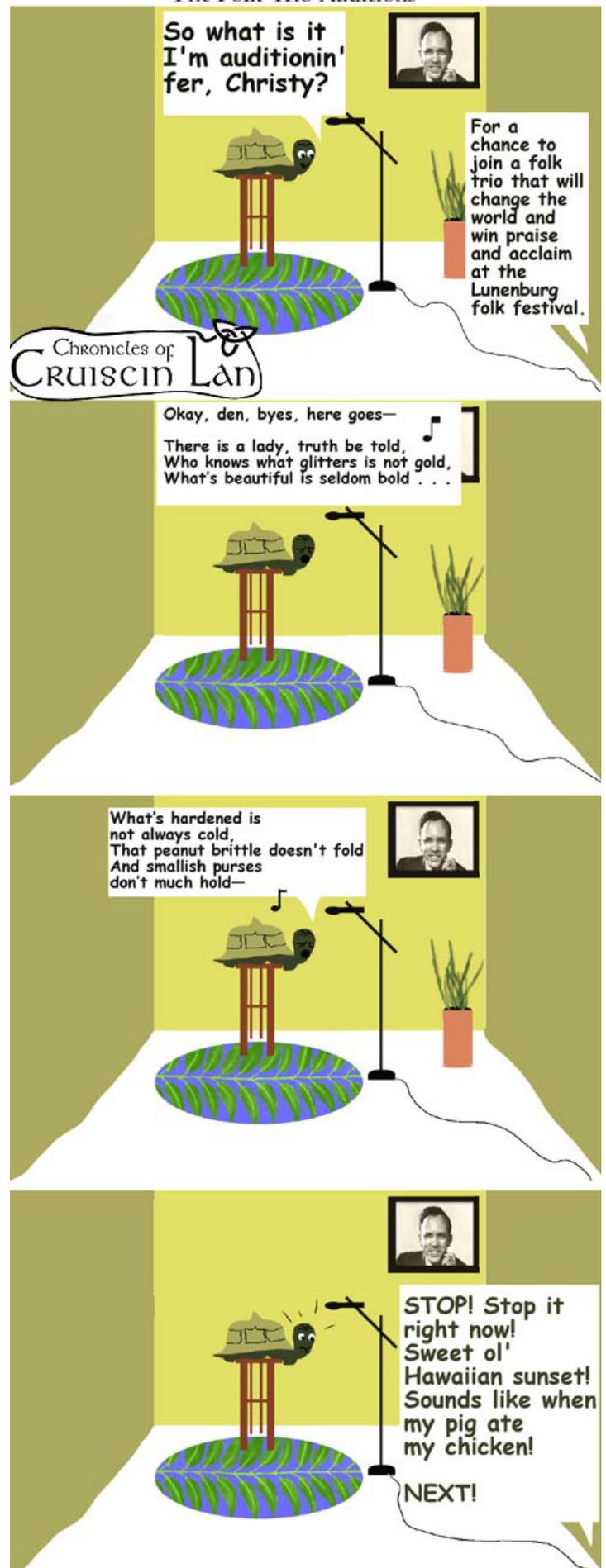
Lear, Edward (n.d.). The Jumblies. Edward Lear Home Page [web site] Retrieved May 16, 2005, from <http://www.nonsenselit.org/Lear/ns/jumblies.html>



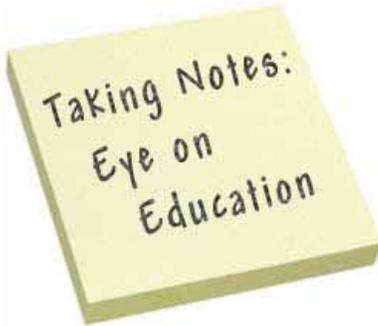
The *Dear Barb* column is on hiatus this week and next. Look for more new columns from Barb beginning in the June 1st Edition of The Voice. In the meantime,

Barb would love you to send more questions for upcoming columns to her email box at: dearbarb.voice@ausu.org.

Curmudgeon P. Snappenturtle and Christy Minstrel in: ~ The Folk Trio Auditions ~



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 voice@ausu.org, attn: Debbie Jabbour



COMPUTER MARKED ESSAYS

Debbie Jabbour

We have long been accustomed to computer-marked tests, but the forms of these tests have largely been limited to multiple choice or short answer. However, University of Missouri-Columbia professor Ed Brent has now developed computer software that he claims is capable of effectively marking essays. The software, entitled *SAGrader*, "counts the number of points" a professor wants included in the essay and "analyzes how well concepts are explained" (CNN.com, May 9, 2005). Brent developed the software according to his belief that students' essays are often "riddled with the same flaws" (Makris, May 11, 2005).

SAGrader relies on semantic analysis (SA) to analyze sentences and paragraphs, searching for keywords and relationships between terms, assessing whether points made in class are coming through in the essays that students submit. It uses the technology of a general-purpose program called Qualrus, which recognizes patterns in essays and compares these to a knowledge-base of correct answers. The program determines a grade and provides feedback. It can operate in automatic essay grading mode (i.e., the computer provides detailed feedback and a score). Alternatively, it can operate in computer-assisted mode (i.e., professors view the program's feedback, add their comments, and can override the program's score).

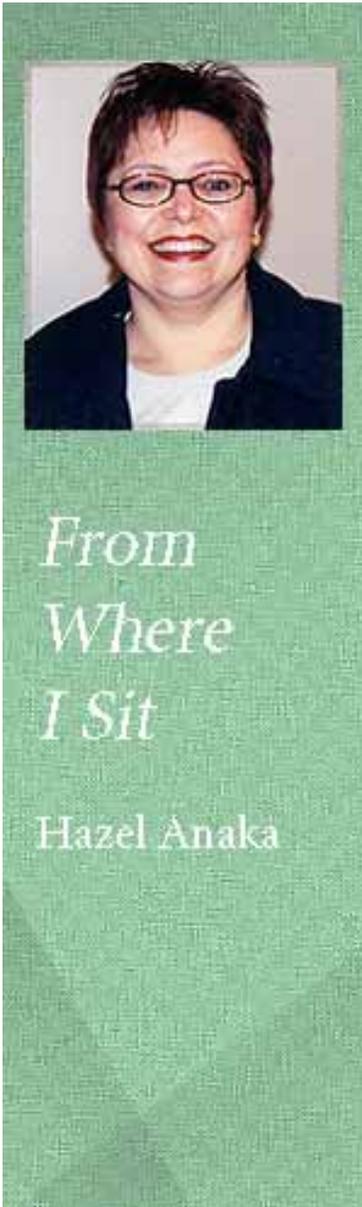
Program designers recommend that *SAGrader* is suitable for both K-12 and college-level essays, but state that it may be less effective for "very high-level reasoning in papers with broad topics and greater length" (Idea Works, 2005). The program can also be used to prevent plagiarism by comparing the essay's text to others in the database.

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- Idea Works, Inc. (2005). *SAGrader™: Automated essay grading with Qualrus™*. Retrieved May 16, 2005, from <http://sagrader.com/>
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Women You Should Know

This column is on hiatus for the next two weeks. Look for more women to be featured starting in June...



Follow The Signs

After work on Friday the 13th, I set out to Jackfish Lodge in Saskatchewan, the site of a board/management planning session.

Each participant had been provided, about a month earlier, with a description of the facility and a website address for more information. More recently, we received a photocopy of a Saskatchewan road map. The map had two alternate routes highlighted in yellow and a black dot to indicate the Lodge. Unfortunately, the dot and the destination were not the same.

Let's just say, at the outset, that I made two tactical errors. First, I did not take the phone number of the Lodge. And second, I thought I saw a possible shortcut on the map.

Outside of Lloydminster, I took Secondary 303, jogged north on 21, and then went back to Secondary 303 to hit Turtleford. I then headed south to Edam. Now things began to get interesting. The lady erecting garage sale signs on the highway directed me to proceed a few more miles down the road.

To say the signage in Saskatchewan leaves a little to be desired is to be extremely kind. Actually, the signage sucks big-time! Not only are the grid roads not marked, even highway signs are few and far between. Soon, I'm driving into a farmer's yard. I'm confronted with two big dogs and a big, big man standing too close and leering. He's the first person to tell me that Jackfish Lodge is in the Battlefords Provincial Park. This is a critical piece of information.

His directions get me closer to the Park. Eventually, I stop my car in the middle of the road and ask two natives fishing in a creek for more help. "Keep going," they say "and watch for the sign." Hah!

When I finally come upon the elusive sign, it directs me to take the *next right* turn. *Next right* takes me into an Indian Reserve. In the second yard I visit, I come across three young boys swinging golf clubs. They're probably 10 to 12 years of age. "How do I find Jackfish Lodge?" I ask. They don't seem particularly sure in their responses. "Go to the place with the flower." [It turns out that there's a flower on the Provincial Park sign.] "Then what?" I say. "Go past the place where the lady looks you over." [The park entrance booth, perhaps?] "Then what?" Now, they're getting impatient. "Just follow the signs," they say as they turn back to their game.

Very soon, I find the park (no thanks to any signs, though). The Park hasn't officially opened for the season, so there's no one to *look me over* or answer any more questions. As I come to a fork in the road, I veer right and decide to follow the Core Area Services sign. Good guess. I eventually find the Lodge much to the relief of everyone there.

At breakfast, I learn that everyone except the CEO (who had been there before) had also gotten lost. Jackfish Lodge -- one of Saskatchewan's best-kept secrets, 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

SOUND AND MUSIC RECORDING / MIDI

Recording Arts Canada [Toronto and Montreal Campuses]

111 Peter Street Suite 708, Toronto, ON M5V 2H1 ph: 416-977-5074 - fax: 416-977-8945

Dates: September and March

Internship types: Comm (Radio, TV, & Film), Music and Technology.

Qualifications / skills needed:

A minimum 80% gpa and a 95% attendance record must be maintained to qualify for the optional co-op program.

Description: Recording Arts Canada is a unique school that offers students an opportunity to learn and work in a creative and progressive environment. By studying in one of the best equipped audio schools you will learn the skills and technologies audio, music and multimedia production professional use everyday. Our internationally renowned facilities feature classic Neve recording consoles as centre pieces. Neve consoles of this vintage are considered the most distinguished consoles ever built. As a result; our students work in studio facilities that have hosted many internationally acclaimed artists including Grammy and Juno award winners. At Recording Arts Canada we provide sophisticated technology, quality theoretical instruction, and extensive practical activity within a small group format so that our students graduate as skilled and employable professionals.

Highlights: The optional co-op program places students in professional situations during their enrolment or immediately upon successful completion of our diploma program. Our co-op partners include recording studios, jingle production houses, radio and television broadcasters, theatre and staging companies, industrial video production companies, live sound reinforcement companies and post production facilities. Our co-op program provides students with the opportunity to develop skills in real production situations, demonstrate their ability to a potential employer, and establish a professional relationship with industry contacts.

Languages required: English and French

Application process involves: In-Person Interview when feasible, letters of reference, phone interview, resume, transcript, written application.

Typically the application process time is 8 - 10 weeks

Post services include: Alumni Network; Job and Internship Network

PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Toronto Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology

55 Town Centre Court, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M1P 4X4 ph: 416-296-1478 - fax: 416-296-7077

Dates: Inquire for specific dates

Internship types: Pharmaceuticals, Technology and Development

Qualifications / skills needed: Completion of Pharmaceutical Research and Development Diploma. Prerequisite for admission into Pharmaceutical R&D program: Minimum Canadian B.Sc. (or equivalent)

Program duration: Approx. 52 Weeks

The Pharmaceutical Research & Development Technology Diploma is an intensive post-graduate program for individuals with a science degree. The program is the foundation of all innovative pharmaceutical drug development. The current trends in the drug industry are towards re-formulation of existing drugs to improve their performance as well as designing and developing new drug products. The curriculum is structured to provide the skills required to undertake formulation development in the pharmaceutical industry. It also provides an in-depth understanding of pharmaceutical drug design, bio pharmaceuticals and manufacturing techniques. The program imparts advanced skills in:

- Pharmaceutical formulation
- Drug analysis
- Experimental design
- Process development
- Manufacturing technology

This program consists of three modules: Foundation Module. The foundation module is designed to provide students an in-depth knowledge of applied pharmaceutical sciences, bio pharmaceuticals, pharmacokinetics and regulatory affairs. Novel concepts in leading edge industrial pharmaceutical research, applied statistics and experimental design are a major component of the module.

Core Module. The core module focuses on practical training in pharmaceutical experimental design, formulation technology and manufacturing techniques. Hands-on experience is acquired through team-based projects, in compliance with GMP and GLP, in our state-of-the-art research laboratories and manufacturing plant. Analytical techniques, problem solving, protocol and technical writing skills are acquired throughout the module.

Advanced Module. The advanced module provides an opportunity to engage in independent drug development and research projects. The focus is on drug delivery, dosage form design, process development and scale-up technology.

Examination. Written, oral and practical examinations are mandatory at the end of the foundation and core modules. In the advanced module, assessment is based on dissertation and viva-voce. In addition, the overall grade is also based on continuous assessments encompassing GMP and GLP compliance, pharmaceutical documentation skills and interim quizzes.

The Pharmaceutical Research & Development Technology Diploma is awarded upon successful completion of all three modules. Work of exceptional quality may be considered for publication in pharmaceutical-oriented journals.

Description: Students who are at the final stages of their program and have excelled in all aspects of their training may apply for an internship. These opportunities allow selected students to gain additional experience through working with staff and faculty on one of the many unique projects undertaken at the Institute.

Highlights:

1. To gain Canadian working experience within a pharmaceutical industry setting.
2. Graduates of this program are qualified for a career as a:
 - Formulation Technologist
 - Drug Research Scientist
 - Process Development Technician
 - Analytical Research & Development Technician
 - Technical Writer

Language required: English; This internship is a paid position; Application process involves: In-person interview when feasible, transcript, written application.

Typically the application process time is 1 month

Post services include: Alumni Network; Job and Internship Network

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

GREAT CANADIAN SCHOLARSHIP

From the Rockies to the Maritimes, from the great lakes and rivers to the great white north, studentawards.com wants to celebrate all that's great about Canada, especially our country's most promising students. That's why we're kicking off our third annual Great Canadian Scholarship program! To thank you and all the studentawards.com members who have been loyal supporters, we've created four new \$1,500 scholarships for 2005 - one for each region of the country.

To get started, all you have to do is pick your region and apply today: This contest is open to all studentawards.com members - residents of Canada only. The Great Canadian Scholarship Awards end May 31, 2005 11:59 p.m. (EST).

<http://www.studentawards.com>

THE SERBIAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO SCHOLARSHIP

Please carefully read the eligibility criteria. Some restrictions apply.

Deadline : June 1, 2005

Applicants must be studying and living in Ontario.

Candidates must be of Serbian descent.

Candidates must be enrolled in an undergraduate program at an Ontario University on a full time basis.

Students must have successfully completed at least one year of a first undergraduate degree program.

Students must have a minimum average of 70% in their last two academic years.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Value : \$1,000 CND

Application form and guidelines are available in Word format (.doc)

For more information : Please visit the Serbian Business Association website at

www.SerbianBusinessAssociation.com or contact the Association of Universities and College of Canada at awards@aucc.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO CANADA LIMITED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

Value: \$5,000

Number of Awards: 10

Application Deadline: June 1

For:

Canadian citizens or permanent residents

Candidates must be entering or currently enrolled in their first undergraduate degree program

Students with disabilities that affect the ability to perform activities necessary to participate fully in post-secondary learning.

Award may be tenable at any Canadian degree-granting institution or community college (under the College-University transfer system)

For further information, please visit the website posted below

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) / Association des Universités et Collèges du Canada (AUCC)

Web Site: www.aucc.ca/programs/index_e.html



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.

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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