

# THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

July 29, 2005  
Volume 13 Issue 29



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# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

July 29, 2005 - Volume 13, Issue 29

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

**Dear Editor:**

Well, I finally finished my coursework. It was official, I could graduate. I was so tired of those dreaded three-hour exams, research papers, all of that reading. Then Dianne at AU called, asking if I would attend the convocation ceremonies. Gosh, I was so tired of school. I thought that finishing was reward enough. Why go to the convocation? After all, I didn't actually know anybody. I'd be graduating with strangers. I'd have to travel from BC to Alberta. I'd never been to Athabasca – it seemed a bit far away. Would my family travel that far? And besides, it's that degree, that piece of paper, that matters most, right? So, why bother?

I told Dianne I'd consider attending, but wasn't likely to, but a few hours later I got a phone call from my dad. Mom was very sick, and it would take some time and a lot of tests to find out what was wrong. Clearly, our family needed a ray of hope, something to look forward to. That call frightened me, but forced me to rearrange my priorities. So, I made a few calls. Mom said she would see me graduate if she had to be wheeled in on a stretcher, and my brother was more than willing to take time off of work. Next thing I knew, we were going to the convocation!

I learned how terribly wrong I was, and how important convocation is. There are no strangers at AU. Everywhere I went, I was warmly welcomed. The staff and volunteers were so down-to-earth and friendly, I felt right at home. I met my fellow graduates, and we had a great time chatting while lined up for the ceremony. The town of Athabasca is lovely, and definitely worth the visit. The floral displays and the grounds at the university were beautiful. I could tell that the town and the university worked very hard to make my day special, and they succeeded. The ceremony was beautiful--better than I could have imagined. I guess I'd been so wrapped up in finishing my courses and establishing my new career that I hadn't realized the importance of taking the time to celebrate. When that memorable day was over, I realized I'd gained enormous pride in my alma mater and I felt so grateful for everyone's work over the years. Perhaps most importantly, I gained pride in myself.

I realize that doling out unwanted advice is a risky venture, but I have a little message to all AU students: attend your grad. Even if you're busy, a bit shy, even or really don't want to travel--even if you don't think it matters. No matter what is happening in your life, set the time aside and go. Celebrate your accomplishment, and share it with your school and your fellow graduates. I can promise that you won't be sorry :)

**Janine Menard, BA (!!!!!!!)**

## THE VOICE

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# Guest Editorial

## Tutor Unavailable

*Peter V. Tretter*

A few days ago in the mail I got a letter from learning services. It was to inform me that for approximately two weeks my tutor is going to be unavailable, and if I can anticipate my tutorial needs, to please contact my tutor prior to this time. This includes marking of assignments.

When I paid over \$1000 for this 12 month course, no where did it say that my tutor may go away for two weeks. That costs me about \$25 a week that my tutor is unavailable. The letter makes no mention of a refund for this money while my tutor isn't here to mark my assignments or meet my tutorial needs, nor does it make any mention of any sort of accommodation due to this, such as a course extension, or another tutor I could talk to. While I understand and sympathize that the tutors do need to go on vacation, and many of them have other jobs aside from their tutoring duties at AU, the University should seek alternative arrangements for students to get advice for their course. Two weeks is a long time to remember a potentially critical question, and if my course was ending at the end of August, I may need that time to get questions answered for an exam, or to submit last minute work.

If I were at another University, such as the University of Alberta or York University, the Professor wouldn't just take off in the middle of a semester without alternative arrangements being made for that professor's services. So why can AU not simply find another tutor to fill in for the one that is going to be unavailable? (I made reference to the tutor going on vacation. This may not be the case. The tutor could be undergoing major surgery, or painting walls at the Ottawa location of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, in which case the tutor will be gone longer than two weeks -- but that's a topic for another article).

In the end, the letter really should have said: Your tutor will be unavailable for tutoring (insert dates), however, we have made alternate arrangements so that if you require tutorial services while your tutor is unavailable, you can utilize the services of this tutor. We appreciate your patronage.



**WRITE FOR THE VOICE!**

Contact The Voice editor at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for details on writing for The Voice. Provide a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.



"I wish I could work from home." my friend states willingly. She commutes three hours to get to her place of work. She may be the wrong person to ask, but working from home is part of her ideal job.

Working from home, or telecommuting, has been advocated lately by some businesses. According to an article in *The Globe and Mail*, telecommuting "is still in its infancy in this country" (Patriquin, 2004), but I wonder how long this will last with some major corporations singing its praises. The newspaper article cites Compaq Canada, Bank of Montreal, Nortel Networks Corp., Ontario Hydro and Imperial Oil Ltd., as among the companies

"experimenting with telecommuting." Dr Ken Envoy, whose company SiteSell is based on telecommuting, estimates he has saved \$800,000 since 1998 by not needing office space (Self Motivated).

It all sounds wonderful, like a utopian "never never land" for employees. You can sleep in a little longer, go to work in your slippers and still get paid. But it is still work and it isn't for everyone just yet. Dr. Envoy is quoted saying that about "70 per cent of workers aren't cut out for it." He goes on to explain that the perfect telecommuter is "self-motivated and deadline-friendly" (Ibid.).

This personality type sounds strikingly similar to the ideal Athabasca student, doesn't it? I consider Athabasca University to be excellent training for those of us who would consider working from home. Both distance learning and telecommuting require similar skills. The distance learner and telecommuter will likely face similar reactions from others. The questions and misunderstandings people have about distance education seem to be the same misperceptions people have about working in the home.

Since starting with Athabasca University, I have realized that people don't consider what you do from home as work. Of course, this is not exactly an epiphany. It's something stay-at-home moms, or involved parents of any kind really, have known for years. I've had people ask me, "So, are you taking a break from school?" even though they are aware I am taking classes with Athabasca University. This seems like a common reaction. When journalist Anna Quindlen quit her job at the *New York Times* to write from home, someone asked her how retirement was (Quindlen, 2005, p. 207). Perhaps we shouldn't be offended by this reaction. They think we're living the good life by not traveling to pursue our accomplishments. But no one likes to feel underestimated and eventually hard work deserves some credit. When working from home, this may not be something you will readily receive.

Sitting at my computer, listening to its buzzing, I wonder if I'm one of the 30 per cent that is supposedly cut out for telecommuting. I think about office drama, of people coming to work telling you what they did on vacation, where they went for dinner, or who's gossiping about whom. I think about relating with the person you work next to when they've had a hard day and making friendships that last longer than the job does. I wonder if this unproductive, but still mostly rewarding, part of working can be replaced by technology.

Dr Envoy views "his Australia-based programmer a good friend, despite having never met him" (Ibid.). I think about Voice editor Tamra Ross Low. I email her every two weeks, but I've never seen her in person. Are we on the high-speed track to friendship? People often talk more with each other via email than they do in person. People are said to have fallen in love over the Internet. Certainly relationships can be formed, but I'm reluctant to say that we have reached the point in our society where technology replaces face-to-face companionship.

My friend who commutes to work would settle for working closer to home. She used to work ten minutes from her house, but she hated the work. "It was nice to go home at lunch. I could feed the dog, do some laundry." When I asked her if she'd trade jobs (her previous job for her new job), she hesitated, but then

said no. For the most part, she likes what she does, but she's interested in doing something closer to home. She would definitely try telecommuting if given the chance. What she's really looking for is flexibility and balance. We all seem to be looking for that and may even be blessed to find it somehow. Telecommuting may be a means to work-life balance and happiness. So follow your bliss and disregard anyone who considers telecommuting to be retirement because we know it's not.

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## PHIL 350: Ethics Course Introduction

Ethics is a subject we all should know about. Our lives are continually touched by situations requiring the knowledge of ethics whether through the media, in-person situations or through hearsay. If you're one of those individuals who wishes to sharpen your ethics skills, be sure to take a look at Athabasca University's newly released course PHIL 350 entitled "Ethics."

Written by philosophy expert and tutor Jill Hunter, PHIL 350 is destined to give you an in-depth, focused look at the philosophy of Western ethics and how its development was influenced through people and events from ancient to current times. PHIL 350 is divided into three main parts, each of which emphasizes ethical points of view from different times. The first part of the course deals with deontological thought (the ethics of right and wrong) and explores this branch of ethics through the eyes of Aristotle, Saint Augustine, and Kant. You will look at ethics through the eyes of ancient, Middle Age, and Enlightenment philosophical leaders. Additionally, you will study the deontological thoughts of modern-day thinkers like Campbell, Rawls and Okin. The second part of the course focuses on virtue ethics (honour and dishonour). You will explore the code of virtue ethics of ancient to modern-day philosophers, including Aristotle, Saint Thomas, Hume, and MacIntyre. In the third and final section of the course, you will explore utilitarianism. PHIL 350 addresses what utilitarianism is, how it influences our lives, and how its concepts from Epicurius, Hobbes, Mill, and Moore have shaped our modern utilitarian thoughts.

Your evaluation in PHIL 350 consists of two written assignments worth 20% and 40% respectively. These assignments are "hands-on" and focus on particular cases or topics presented in the course, thus solidifying the concepts learned. The final 40% of your final mark is achieved through a final cumulative exam.

Sprinkled throughout the course are intriguing virtual debates on popular ethical questions, including defining morality and moral living, as well as questioning the concept of free will. You will also have the opportunity to discover answers to complex questions. According to course author Jill Hunter, PHIL 350 will explore understandings such as whether you can act in your own self-interest and act ethically at the same time.

Ensure your ethics skills are concrete by enrolling in PHIL 350 for the new September school year. For more information, visit: [www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/phil/phil350.htm](http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/phil/phil350.htm).



*We must keep up some semblance of normal life. If we were to cancel our plans, hide in our homes and cower in fear, the terrorists will have got what they wanted!*

So say the British as London was bombed twice in these past weeks. Where other cities and other nations would be erupting with fear and panic, one gets the impression of the Brits sipping tea and chatting idly about the horse races as explosions rattle out in the distance. How are these people so calm?

It comes from experience, I'm told. After all, London has survived the Great Fire of 1666, the German Blitz in World War II, and a relatively steady deluge of IRA (Irish Republican Army) bombings that may have yet to cease. Londoners simply can't afford to think twice about being attacked, because if they did their lives would be forever on hold.

It's no surprise really that panic in London has not ensued. Indeed, as the city came under attack, everyone stayed at work, everyone did their jobs, and aside from a few cancelled meetings in London, people just got on with it. Even most television channels returned to their usual programming, broadcasting the horse races, bargain

hunting and antique shows that generally grace the TV screen in the afternoons. It's not just speculation -- the Brits really are sipping tea and chatting about the races while things explode in the distance! I see them doing it.

The question really is, why London, yet again? On the surface of course, the United Kingdom capital is an obvious target. A prime example of the evils of Westernization, if that's what you're after. The citizens shop, dress casually, and are really quite liberal in all aspects of their lives. Aside from that, this country is directly involved in the U.S. led war in Iraq, a fact that further infuriates Islam extremists. It seems the final straw came two weeks ago as Tony Blair hosted the G8 Summit in Edinburgh. All those rich and empowered world leaders gathered together at one location was just too great of an opportunity to miss for the recently deceased terrorists. As a result, London paid the price. But hold on here...the price for what?

The usual ambivalent answer aside ("We are terrorized because they hate our freedoms"), I would like to portray just how wrong these people were in attacking London. Underneath the public façade of staunch American ally and fighter of terrorism, British citizens live in stark contrast to international opinions of them. Led by a Prime Minister who is steadily losing popularity, it is worth noting that the British people did not want to go to war at all -- only George Bush and Tony Blair did. Anti-war public protests in recent years have reached enormous proportions, even on the very streets of the city so recently ravaged by bomb blasts. How can Al Qaeda or whichever splinter group is responsible for these attacks have possibly condemned such people, who in fact did not want to send troops into Iraq in the first place?

In addition to huge public disagreement with their own government over the war and anti-terrorism efforts, I have found the British media to be extremely supportive of Muslim culture. The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) and Channel 4 in particular have produced exemplary programs that highlight both the differences and similarities between Western and Middle Eastern cultures. I have been incredibly impressed with the high quality of journalism presented on local television here in Britain. During my stay in Britain, I've enjoyed programming designed to show viewers that not all Muslims are terrorists, and that Muslim

communities around the world have actual reasons to dislike our society. It's not always pretty, but it's the truth. The British media does not shy away from the truth. I feel like this country that deserves our praise was instead bombed by terrorists.

It seems now terrorist attacks are getting less and less poignant. The people of Britain have their issues, like the rest of the world, but they were working hard to be fair. The citizens and the media have reached out to minority communities within the United Kingdom and offered them compromise. All the people of Britain want is peace and prosperity, but what do they get instead? Londoners, tourists and even fellow Muslims are subjected to terror and death. From my perspective, these terrorists have ceased to be martyrs for a cause. Now, they're just idiots with bombs.

## Name / Brand

El-ahrairah Jones



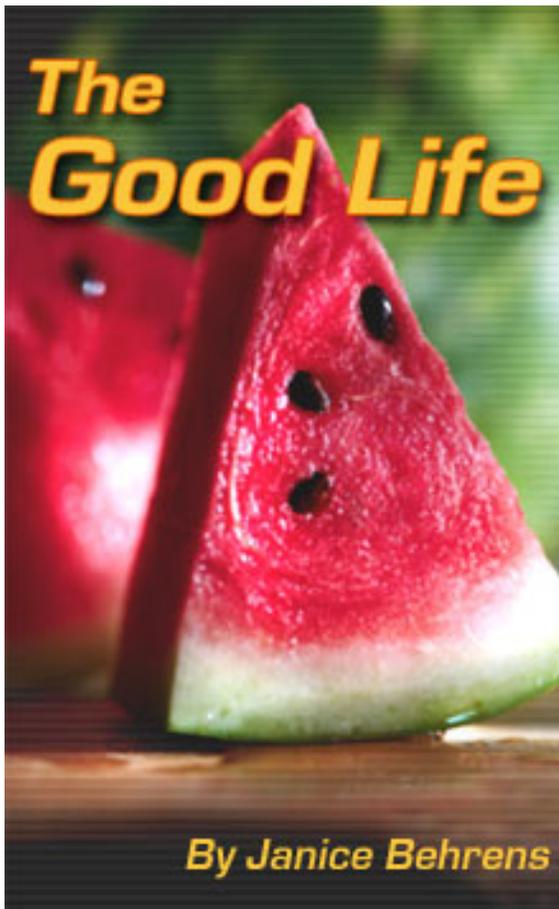
So this guy tells me I can make a hundred and fifty bucks just by having a corporate logo tattooed across my forehead. He has a nice Italian suit and a crocodile skin briefcase. He says I don't have to fill out an employment application, no need for a reference check, I don't have to be bonded or write an I.Q. test or be related to anybody in management. All I have to do is follow him to the tattoo parlour across the street. All I have to do is give up this little piece of skin.

At first I'm worried that this is some kind of a trick. Why me? But then I start to think of all the things I could buy with a hun and a half. New Nike basketball shoes, or Dylan tickets, or the complete second season of *Friends* on DVD. The temptation is too great, so I follow him into the storefront. Half an hour later I walk out with the name and insignia of a chain of discount military surplus stores cut into my skin just above my eyebrows.

That night, I hook up with some friends at a noodle bar on Robson. We get wasted on Tanqueray and head to Le Chateau for half-price tank tops, and then to Future Shop and Virgin Mega Store. I spend the last of the tattoo money on the new Vin Diesel flick at the Cineplex. But my buddy Todd made four hundred yesterday for selling his kidney to an outfit in the States, so he treats me to mojitos at The Cactus Club.

I wake up with an evil hangover the next morning, and I realize with a feeling of panic that the rent is due. Fortunately the adverstising dude is standing right outside my door. I sign up for an insurance company across the bridge of my nose, a tobacco manufacturer on my chin, laser surgery clinics up and down my arms, designer blinds and hotel chains and car rental agencies all over my chest, an erectile dysfunction cure on my balls. Pretty soon, every square centimetre of me is covered with advertising.

Back in my loft, I stand naked in front of the bathroom mirror. All of a sudden it hits me that I look like some kind of a freak. I'm horrified that I could have sold myself this way. I Want to to throw up. I don't want anyone to see me like this, so I pull on my new Ironhead hoodie, my Parasuco painters, my Kangol wool cap. I watch a documentary about some old hippie band on MuchMusic, then head out on the town to find some action.



## The Makers

Seven years ago, after she turned forty-five years old, my friend Kate, who is a special education assistant, decided that she was going to write and perform in a Fringe Festival play. Last week I was privileged to read the first draft, which she recently completed. The play is about her experiences growing up in a remote northern B.C. fishing town, and her sometimes troubled relationship with her artist father. She is now in the process of editing and revising the work, which she is doing with the assistance of a couple of actor friends. She hopes to have the play completely workshopped and ready to perform within the next couple of years. Prior to this experience, she had never written so much as a short story, or ever had the nerve to consider performing in front of a group of people.

A woman I know from a volunteer group I belong to spins her own yarn, some of it, believe it or not, made from the fur of her pet dog, on an antique spinning wheel that once belonged to her husband's great-grandmother. With this yarn she makes beautiful woven masks that bring to mind the gnarled, bearded faces you can sometimes make out in the moss covering the trunks of old growth trees.

The mask faces are partly inspired by her mother's native heritage, as well as by her own interest in Celtic folklore. They are decorated with sea shells, feathers, and bits of coloured glass she collects while walking along the beach at sunrise every morning.

Another friend of mine sews all of her own clothes, and designs many of them herself. She also reupholsters all her own furniture--usually pieces that people have abandoned on the curbside, or that she has picked up for next to nothing at flea markets and garage sales.

What these three remarkable and diverse women all share is their common commitment to be involved in the shaping of their world. Each of them takes an active role in transforming and enriching their lives and environments through patient dedication to the creative act.

In this age of mass production and cookie-cutter conformity, too many of us are losing the sense of what it means to be creators. We purchase generic reproductions of somebody else's art to hang on our walls. We buy tickets to movies and plays that have sprung from the imaginations of people we have never met. We fill our living spaces with brand new factory-produced furniture that has no story to tell us, and bears no mark of our own personal identities. We wear clothes that are made, often under deplorable conditions, in a third world country. Our food, music and stories are all prepackaged for our ready and convenient consumption. Too few of us these days imagine, plan, measure, dream, or sweat for ourselves. What these friends of mine inspire me to remember is that human beings have been given the sacred gift of creativity, and we should honour it in whatever way we can.



*Dear Barb,*

*my girlfriend and I are avid campers and have been camping for years. However in the past few years we have been hearing a lot about Lyme disease and West Nile Virus. What precautions can we take to prevent exposure? If we are exposed, how serious are these conditions? I realize you are not a doctor, but perhaps you can suggest general things we can do to protect ourselves. Thanks, I'll be watching your column for a reply.*

*Jeremy in Sudbury*

Thanks for writing Jeremy. After doing some research, I was able to find a wealth of helpful information on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)'s web site([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)). Information is also available by calling the CDC public hotline at 1-888-246-2675. Since there is so much information on these topics, I will discuss West Nile Virus this week and next week's column will include information about Lyme disease. West Nile Virus is a seasonal virus that arises with the onset of summer and stays until fall. Mosquitoes that become infected through contact with infected birds spread the virus. An infected mosquito that bites a human or animal can pass the virus on. In a minimal number of cases, the virus has been spread through organ transplantation, blood transfusions, breast-feeding and from a pregnant woman to her unborn child.

Once a person has been infected, symptoms can take anywhere from three to fourteen days to develop. However, approximately 80% of individuals who have been infected do not show any symptoms. In a small percentage of people, symptoms will be more pronounced, resembling a case of mild flu. Other symptoms can include generally feeling unwell, headache, fever, swollen glands, skin rash, nausea. These symptoms can last up to several weeks.

Unfortunately, a few individuals will become seriously ill after exposure to West Nile Virus. Since it attacks the central nervous system, the more serious effects include high fever, disorientation, stupor, convulsions, muscle weakness and even paralysis. In these severe cases symptoms can last weeks and may result in permanent damage. For some individuals this virus has been so debilitating that they have not been able to return to work or carry on their normal lives.

There is no treatment for West Nile Virus, but the more serious cases can be supported through medical treatment that may include hospitalization. However, Jeremy, you don't have to barricade yourself indoors, there are things you can do to lessen your risk of exposure to this virus.

1. Cover exposed skin as much as possible, especially during the early morning and evening hours when mosquitoes are most active.
2. Use mosquito repellent containing DEET. For individuals who are sensitive to DEET, most organic health food stores sell mosquito repellents consisting of natural ingredients that are promised to be just as effective.
3. Make sure you dispose of standing water around your home or campsite, as this is where mosquitoes breed.
4. Repair holes in tents or window screens to avoid mosquitoes entering your home.

I hope this helps, Jeremy. By taking a few simple precautions, I am sure you and your girlfriend can continue camping without fear of being infected by West Nile Virus.

**WATCH NEXT WEEK'S COLUMN TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF FROM LYME DISEASE.**

*E-mail your questions to [dearbarb.voice@ausu.org](mailto: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.*

## AUSU THIS MONTH



### AUSU Course Evaluations

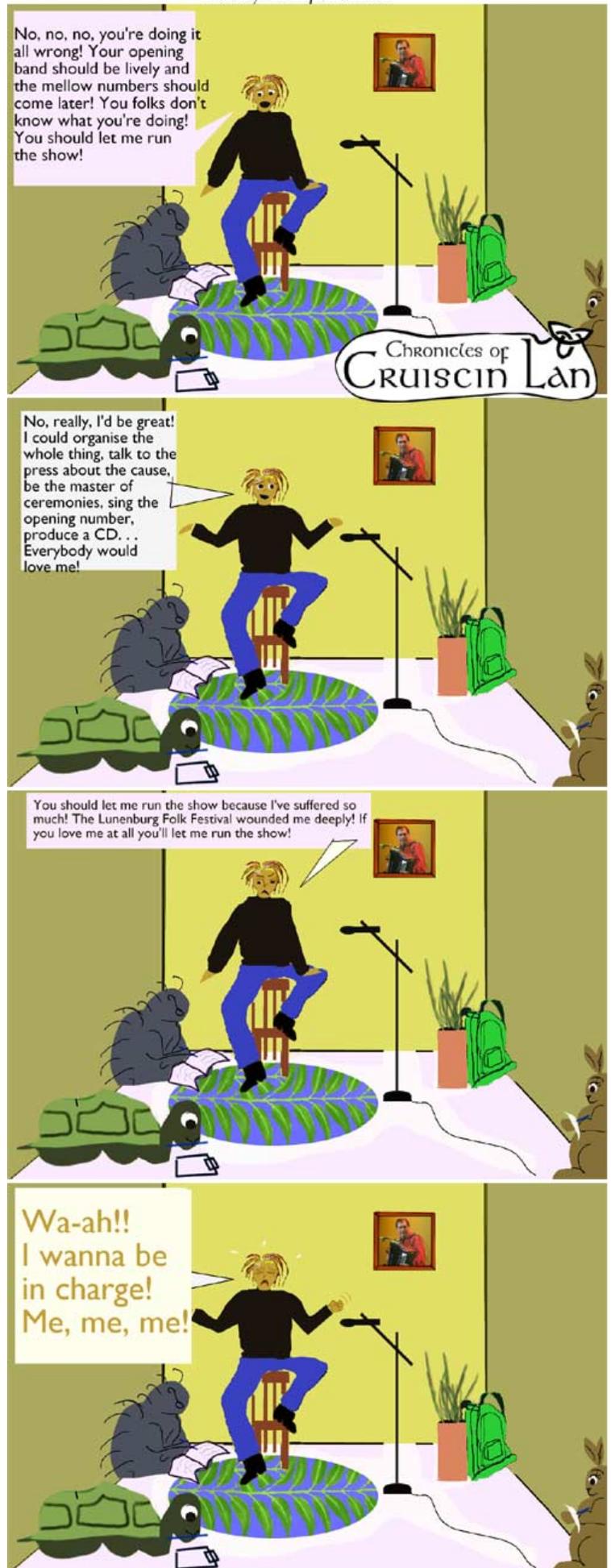
Would you like to know what your fellow students have thought of an AU course? If so, you are not alone. Many students find the input of their peers invaluable when selecting courses or a program of study. AU students may not have cafeterias and hallways in which to share this knowledge, but AUSU has 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.

### AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

AUSU needs volunteer mentors to help new students adjust to AU and distance education. If you're an experienced AU student interested in being matched to a new student, please email [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org) for an application form. The mentor program is designed to help new students succeed with 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>





## Reunion

Dinner is all about mismatched cutlery and drinking wine-in-a-bag out of water glasses from the *Super 8*. We're eating ham steaks and a potato salad that's made the way it's meant to be made, which means you can feel your arteries congealing with every bite. Outside, there's a full moon rising above the lake.

When I was eight years old, I spent every day of one summer vacation swimming in that lake. Until somebody told me it was bottomless, and about the Cavallo twins who disappeared in their rowboat. After that, it would creep me out just walking beside it. One night I couldn't sleep because I could hear the sound of lost children calling from beneath the water. That's when Great Aunt Ruth introduced me to the joys of late night Ovaltine and Chinese Checkers.

At night, after the children have gone to bed we gather like conspirators about the formica kitchen table with a bottle of whisky and a shiny silver toaster for making strawberry Pop Tarts. We play *euchre* and *sevens* and *oh shit*. Great Aunt Ruth is smoking wine-tipped cigarillos, and wearing her rhinestone cat-eye glasses and the *Rehab Is For Quitters* t-shirt that was her birthday present from cousin Shelly. Uncle Frank has the Tony Bennett records out, and the sentimental Irish love songs.

I'm slow dancing with Patty, the crazy lady from across the street who shoots squirrels from her bedroom window early in the morning. Ernie has had one too many Crown Royals, so I bite my tongue when he tries to bait me about the same-sex marriage issue. Sometimes he's a windbag, but basically he's okay, and he's a good step-dad for Cora's two kids. Somebody finds Gordon Lightfoot's Greatest Hits, and we drink a round in honour of *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*.

Lying in bed, I listen to the sound of the clock ticking in the hallway. I think about the day when some of us will have to gather here at the kitchen table to sort through the jam jars filled with foreign coins, the shoe boxes full of black and white photographs of dashing men and glamorous women smoking cigarettes, standing on train platforms and sitting on World War II motorcycles. There will be kitchen drawers haphazardly filled with immigration documents and christening records. There will be decks of playing cards and newspaper clippings referring to events of obscure significance.

But that time is not yet. Not just yet. Because Ruth has a hand full of diamonds, and she's going alone.

## Click On This

### Speaking in Tongues

*Lonita Fraser*

Other Words for Stuff - <http://www.otherwordsforstuff.com/>

Euphemisms are a way of life sometimes, and this site does a good job of showing us just how much of our language we devote to finding other words for things that we already have words for.

Learning Other Languages - <http://www.otherlanguages.org/>

More language resources than you can shake a lexicon at, this site includes loads of information, including dictionaries, alphabets, translator resources, and more.

Glossary of Caving Terms - <http://wasg.iinet.net.au/glossary.html>

Finally you can learn what spelunking really means!

IPA - <http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/ipa.html>

Probably only of much interest to linguists and others interested in the study of language, the International Phonetic Alphabet is a guide to learning the pronunciation of words in English and other languages.

Express Stories - <http://espressostories.com/>

Short, sweet, and to the point; these stories can be read in a single bound.

## *Women You Should Know*

*Compiled by Barbara Godin*

Elizabeth Blackwell (1826-1910) was born in England on February 3, 1826. Her family moved to the United States when Elizabeth was a young girl. In 1849, she became the first woman to graduate from medical school and thus paved the way for future women to enter the field of medicine. Elizabeth traveled a difficult road in deciding to study medicine. Women of Elizabeth's era were not accepted as medical professionals. All of the schools that Elizabeth applied to rejected her. When Geneva Medical College in New York received her application, they decided to let the students decide whether Elizabeth should be admitted. The students were in agreement only because they believed this was a practical joke. When the truth was discovered and the students realized they had a new classmate and she was female, they were appalled. However, eventually Elizabeth was respected for her remarkable ability and determination. After graduating with a medical degree in 1849, Elizabeth was not able to obtain employment in any medical establishment. Therefore, she set up a private practice in her home and began seeing women and children. Elizabeth and her sister, who was also a doctor, were acquainted with Florence Nightingale. The three women successfully collaborated and opened a Women's Medical College, which was part of a New York infirmary that the two sisters had established in 1857. Years later, Elizabeth returned to England and founded the London School of Medicine for Women. In 1875, Elizabeth was appointed Professor of Gynecology at the London School of Medicine for Children, a position she held until her retirement. She died on May 31, 1910. Many years later (1973) Elizabeth Blackwell was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Source for additional information

Women's History: Elizabeth Blackwell - [http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio\\_blackwell\\_eliz.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_blackwell_eliz.htm)



From  
Where  
I Sit

Hazel Anaka

## Buddy, part 1

No one, including me, would describe me as an animal lover. Yet, how to explain the depth of sorrow I felt when Buddy died? Bud was our 12-year-old Terrier cross. His death has left a break in our routine and a hole in our hearts.

Because Hilary, now 20, was afraid of dogs as a little girl we chose to get a dog. We responded to a classified ad. His owner brought him to Andrew "on spec." She must have felt sure of a sale because she brought his Sylvester plush toy, brush, comb, towel and shampoo. Needless to say it was a one way trip for Bud because it was love at first sight.

We declined an autopsy but the vet suspects cancer because of a mass in his abdomen detected post-mortem. We are so grateful he was only seriously ill for about 24 hours. We were spared the end-of-life, to-treat-or-not-to-treat decisions. Roy and I never articulated our feelings about heroic measures. I wouldn't have wanted to artificially extend his life with prescriptions or procedures, with hopes or promises. Luckily it wasn't our decision to make.

When the clinic called to say Bud had died—a scant hour and a half after he was admitted—we knew we had to get to Hilary. We drove into Edmonton to bring her home to begin what would be, for all of us, hours of crying, looking at photos, remembering.

The evening news had a temporary distracting effect as we contemplated the Michael and Liana White lead story. But no distraction was lasting enough to ease the sorrow or erase the memories. We each found our own way to deal with our grief. I wrote an email announcement to send to friends and family while Hilary looked on and sobbed. Roy disappeared outside to begin building Buddy's casket. He would be buried near the spruce trees on the way to my studio, with his

favourite bed, his ratty old plush mouse and squirrel, his quilt and of course Sylvester. He loved to go to the studio, find a sunbeam and sleep as I painted.

At only 14 pounds, Bud was small in size, but huge in impact--an eager little face greeting us at the door, loving us unconditionally. Well-behaved, good-natured, he had his own plush toys that he happily disemboweled. Only once did Barbie lose an arm--not enough meat on those bones!

We find comfort in remembering some of his antics. Being so big and brave in the corral... until the calves spotted him, that is. Or him tap, tap, tapping Roy on the knee during meals because he knew he was a soft touch. Or watching him spin in happy, little circles when he knew a truck ride was in store. Or watching him eat red peppers or ice cold watermelon.

We trust he's gone to doggie heaven where the treats are always tasty, the beds are always soft, and there is no pain....and all that new territory to mark. A great twelve years, dear Bud, from where I sit.

*\*Reprinted with permission*



# Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

To list events in your area, e-mail [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the word "events" in the subject line.

## british columbia

### ARTWALK

Whistler, BC - now til Jul 31, 2005  
Telephone: (604) 938-8839  
E-mail: [info@whistlerartscouncil.com](mailto:info@whistlerartscouncil.com)  
Website: [www.whistlerartscouncil.com](http://www.whistlerartscouncil.com)

## saskatchewan

### REGINA FOLK FESTIVAL

Regina , Saskatchewan - Jul 29 to 31, 2005  
Telephone: (306) 757-7684  
E-mail: [ad@reginafolkfestival.com](mailto:ad@reginafolkfestival.com)  
Fax: (306) 757-7688  
Website: [www.reginafolkfestival.com](http://www.reginafolkfestival.com)

## manitoba

### ISLENDINGADAGURINN THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

Gimli , Manitoba - Jul 29, 2005 to Aug 01, 2005  
Telephone: (204) 642-7417  
E-mail: [icefest@mts.net](mailto:icefest@mts.net)

Fax: (204) 642-9382

Website: [www.icelandicfestival.com](http://www.icelandicfestival.com)

## ontario

### BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Sioux Lookout , Ontario - Jul 29 to Aug 07, 2005  
Telephone: (807) 737-3227  
E-mail: [blueberry@siouxlookout.com](mailto:blueberry@siouxlookout.com)  
Fax: (807) 737-1778  
Website: [www.siouxlookout.com/bluefest](http://www.siouxlookout.com/bluefest)

## quebec

### LES FRANCOFOLIES DE MONTRÉAL

Montréal , Quebec - Jul 28 to Aug 06, 2005  
Telephone: 888-444-9114  
E-mail: [julie.desmarais@equipespectra.ca](mailto:julie.desmarais@equipespectra.ca)  
Fax: (514) 525-8033  
Website: [www.francofolies.com](http://www.francofolies.com)

To list events in your area, e-mail [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with "events" in the subject line.



# Searching for Internships

*Lonita Fraser*

## INTERNSHIP

Schools Without Borders - 3490 Aylmer Montreal, QC Canada

internship types: Accounting, Social Work, Theater, Drama, Dance, Urban & Regional Planning

Qualifications / skills needed: To be eligible to participate in a SWB seminar; - Applicants must be within the required age range (Kenya: 14-20 & Brazil: 15-20) at the time of the seminar, hold a valid passport; Be in good physical health.

If you would like to apply to participate in a SWB seminar, please complete the online application form.

Description: Canadians place great importance on learning, and have developed a first-rate education system with high standards. The country spends more on education. For nine consecutive years (1994-2002), a United Nations survey found Canada to be among the top three places in the world to live. Conducted every year, the survey evaluates quality of life in 174 countries, using over 200 performance indicators. Canada earned particularly high marks for its access to education, high life expectancy (due to universal health care system); and low crime and violence rates. In addition, Canada's largest cities -- Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal -- have been recognized as world class cities in which to live and work, for their cleanliness and safety and for their cultural activities and attractive lifestyles.

Almost all of the world's ethnic groups are represented in Canada. As a result, most ethnic foods and recreational activities associated with specific cultures are available in Canada. Clubs, informal clubs and associations representing a multitude of ethnic backgrounds are also easily accessible. International student advisors at schools can help students get in touch with such groups. All major urban centres have a variety of shopping malls, restaurants, theatres, art galleries and museums. Canadian cities provide numerous parks, gardens and beaches for public use, as well as excellent sports and recreation facilities.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Work in a Mobile Dental Clinic in Nepal - Central Nepal (Bagmati): Kathmandu

<http://www.humanitarian-tours.com/>

Durations of Program: 1-2 weeks and 2-4 weeks - Work in a mobile dental clinic in the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal. Group volunteer dental projects focus on providing first time dental care to orphans, monks and children in need. Projects combine the opportunity to volunteer in a stationary or mobile dental clinic, with an opportunity to trek along the Everest trail up to the village of Khumjung at 13,000ft. The project includes 7 days working in a dental clinic followed by 7 days trekking, plus travel time. In addition to setting up and managing a fully operational dental clinic, volunteers have the opportunity to provide oral hygiene education to children visiting the clinic. In a period of seven days, our dental clinic treats more than 500 children. Over the past three years, our dental clinics have provided first time care to more than 8,000 children in Nepal and surrounding countries. Come and change a child's life!

Qualifications:

- \* You do not need to be a Dentist or Dental professional to volunteer
- \* Dentists, Dental Hygienists and non-medical volunteers are accepted on this project
- \* Willingness to offer your skills and interests to a community requesting help; Flexible and open-minded attitude
- \* Ability to accept direction from Global Humanitarian Expeditions program leaders and local staff leaders
- \* Ability to work as a team member and place the interest of the team ahead of your personal interests
- \* Ability to acclimate to unfamiliar settings and unknown circumstances
- \* Interest in new cultures and unfamiliar lifestyles

Cost in US\$: \$3500 - includes round-trip air from LAX to Kathmandu via Bangkok. Two meals per day during the clinic and all meals during trek around the Everest Region; other days, breakfast only. 3-star hotels (except while trekking / Tea House Accommodation); all air tickets within Nepal; all transfers and sightseeing as listed in detailed project itinerary. Salary / Pay: GHE provides a fundraising kit to help guide volunteers in raising money to pay for their project fee. Contact us to receive a fundraising kit.

This Program Is Open to Families and Couples. Participants Travel to Nepal Independently Or in Groups. Typically Participants Work in Groups of 10-12

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi*

### Jimmie Condon Athletic Scholarships

Funds for these awards are sponsored by Alberta Lottery Fund and administered by Alberta Scholarship Programs. The scholarship was established in honour of Jimmie Condon.

Value: \$1,800

Applicants must be Alberta residents and be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate, professional or graduate program at a university, college or technical institute in Alberta. Students in upgrading programs may qualify after completing one semester of upgrading. A nominee must be a member of a designated sports team or a member of Provincial Disabled Athletic Team recognized by the Alberta Athlete Development Program.

Selection: Students must be maintaining a practice or training program acceptable to their coach. Applicants must have maintained a minimum average of 65% in their previous semester. Students entering the first semester of post-secondary study do not have to meet this requirement.

Application: Individual coaches nominate students.

Deadline: November 1

Disbursement: Two disbursements of \$900 each. The first one in December, the second in March.

Web site: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=30>

### Fellowships for Full-time Studies in French

This program is funded by the federal department of Canadian Heritage and administered by Alberta Scholarship Programs.

Purpose: To assist Albertans in pursuing post-secondary studies taught in French.

Value: \$500 per semester

Applicants must be Alberta residents, Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants, and plan to register full-time in a post-secondary program of at least one semester in length. In addition, applicants must be enrolled in a minimum of three courses per semester which have French as the language of instruction.

Application forms are also available from Alberta Scholarship Programs, and from the Student Awards Office at Alberta post-secondary institutions that offer programs taught in French.

Deadline: November 15

Web site: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/pdf/scholarships/StudiesFrench.pdf>



### **WIPCE 2005**

Nov 27-Dec 1, 2005 - Hamilton, New Zealand  
<http://www.wipce2005.com/>

Te Wananga o Aotearoa is dedicated to promoting inspirational ideas and practices from Indigenous communities that can be applied on an international scale. It is pleased to host this world renowned gathering of indigenous educators, researchers and students. The 2005 conference is an opportunity for honouring all previous hui (gatherings.) It also creates an occasion for bringing interesting and innovative ideas that evoke inspiration and pride as indigenous peoples.

### **Cultures of eBay**

August 24-25, 2005 - Colchester, England  
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/chimera/culturesofebay.html>

### **2005 Government & Health Technologies Forum**

August 30-31, 2005 - Ottawa, ON  
<http://gov.wowgao.com>

### **The IASTED Conference on Computer Graphics and Imaging CGIM 2005**

August 15 to 17, 2005 - Honolulu, USA  
<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/2005/hawaii/c478.htm>

### **Wooden O Symposium**

August 1 to 4, 2005 - Cedar City, Utah, USA  
<http://www.woodenosymposium.org/>  
The Wooden O Symposium is a cross disciplinary conference exploring Medieval, Renaissance, and Early Modern Studies, through the text and performance of Shakespeare's plays.

### **3rd Annual Generic Biopharmaceuticals Global Summit**

August 2 to 3, 2005 - Washington, DC, USA  
<http://srinstitute.com/cs306>

### **Technical Scientific Workshop Series: Principles and Techniques for Basic and Applied Research**

August 9 to 11, 2005 - Boston, MA, USA  
<http://www.scientificworkshops.com/>

### **Nanocomposites 2005**

August 22 to 24, 2005 - San Francisco, CA, USA  
<http://executive-conference.com/>

### **4th Annual Executive Assistants Forum:**

Maximizing Your Performance and Productivity for Professional Success  
August 16 to 17, 2005 - Toronto, Ont.  
<http://www.insightinfo.com/>

### **Cultures of eBay**

August 24 to 25, 2005 - Colchester, Essex, England  
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/chimera/culturesofebay.html>

### **Infectious Disease Review**

August 6 to 13/05 - Cruise sails from Vancouver, BC  
<http://www.continuingeducation.net/>

### **2005 Government & Health Technologies Forum**

August 30 to 31, 2005 - Ottawa, Ont.  
<http://gov.wowgao.com/>

### **National Student Government Summit**

September 8 to 11, 2005 - Washington, DC, USA  
<http://www.asgaonline.com/conferences/national>

## **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/>.

**Know of a conference that is not on this list? Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto: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](mailto: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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## THE VOICE ONLINE: [WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE](http://WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE)

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