

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

August 19, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 32



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New book reviews

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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.

Fellow Students:

Having just read a recent article in *The Voice* about the inevitability of tuition increases, one wonders when the rising tide will overwhelm the vast majority of students (and future students) to the point of tossing in the towel and heading to the golden arches in resignation and disgust. I think it's high time we joined forces with other university unions, organizations and bodies and demand an immediate end to this madness. Free tuition seems to be a better and yet perhaps more utopian goal but one nonetheless worth fighting for. Countries such as Ireland have had free tuition for years, which, along with reductions in corporate taxes, has made it the 'Celtic Tiger' of Europe.

Making undergraduate education freely available for those who desire and can achieve it seems a worthy goal, now recognized as the minimum to full participation in a modern technological society. How long can we wait before an undergraduate education eludes most who may have the ability but not the means to afford it. Athabasca Students unite!

Regards,
Robert Williams
MAIS Student

Thanks for the inspiration, Robert. Free tuition -- in the form of grants -- is one request made by AUSU in their recent submission to Alberta Learning. See the AUSU front page for a link to download this document. AUSU will keep you posted on any responses to this submission.

THE VOICE

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AU Offers New Awards for Students!

By Katie Patrick

Starting this fall, Athabasca University will be offering over \$200,000 in new awards for AU students. This massive awards campaign, designed to complement existing AU student awards, is being launched by the University as a means of off-setting increasing tuition costs and students' subsequent financial difficulties, as well as rewarding students for academic and social contributions. Jeff Wright, AU Scholarship & Awards Officer, indicated in a recent interview that although over the past seven years AU's student body has increased by over 10% annually, the AU awards program has been relatively static. However, with AU's new student awards budget, this has now changed. It is Athabasca University's commitment to "make access to education as open as possible," Wright confirmed.

AWARDS INFORMATION

The new awards can be divided into 7 categories, each of which contains several scholarships or bursaries. Categories include financial bursaries, assistance for students with disabilities, leadership scholarships; Aboriginal student awards; graduate studies scholarships; lab travel awards; and opportunity bursaries. Details of each type of awards follow.

Financial Bursaries

For Students With Disabilities

- AU Access for Students With Disabilities (ASD) Technology and Support Bursary (*6 awards of \$2500 each, and 1 award of \$4500*)

This bursary is offered to students with "an identified learning, physical, or mental disability." Those who are ineligible for various government grants are especially considered for this award, which helps students with disabilities achieve their higher education potential. The award is either presented as a cheque, or as "pre-purchased technology and software."

- AU ASD Educational Access Bursary (*1 award of approx. \$500, or one AU course fee*)

Students eligible for this bursary again must have a known disability, as well as demonstrate financial need.

For Students Without Disabilities

- AU Community Contribution Bursary (*15 awards of \$2000 each*)

AU students who have "completed a minimum of 9 AU credits" and have financial need are eligible for this bursary. Students who have been active in their community are given special consideration for this award.

AU Aboriginal Student Awards

- Harold Cardinal Award (*3 prizes of \$3000, \$1500, and \$500, respectively*)

AU currently offers only one award for aboriginal students; new awards like the Harold Cardinal award have supplemented the Aboriginal student awards collection, in recognition of the need for "breaking down the barriers that face Aboriginal peoples." Students eligible for the Harold Cardinal Award must have proof of Aboriginal status; application also involves completing an essay that discusses the necessity of aboriginal rights.

- First Peoples Technology Bursary (*up to \$1250*)

This award is given to a First Nations student who demonstrates sufficient financial need. Please note that the application deadline of October 15 does not apply to this award.

Leadership Awards

The leadership awards are innovative in that they are presented to students who not only maintain an acceptable GPA, but also successfully integrate community-related activities (ie. volunteer work) or other activities into their schedule. Eligible students should apply for these awards by submitting a cover letter and current resume. There are 4 main types of Leadership Awards:

- AU Community Leadership Award (*8 awards of \$1500 each*)

Students whose GPA is above 3.0 will be considered for this award; special consideration will be given to those students who exhibit leadership skills in their daily lives.

- AU Academic Leadership Scholarship (*18 awards of \$1500 each*)

Students eligible for this leadership award should have successfully finished 15 credits from AU; again, those who exhibit leadership skills will be given preference.

- AU Career Advancement Award (*2 awards of \$1,250 each*)

Both AU undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for this award; students should have completed at least 12 AU credits in the last year. Again, students should show leadership skills.

Graduate Studies Scholarships

- Excellence in Research Scholarships (*10 awards of \$3,000 each*)

AU graduate students are eligible for these graduate scholarships. Students who will be considered should have a GPA of 3.6 or higher, and should also demonstrate leadership skills. Students should apply by submitting a cover letter, resume, and two letters from appropriate references.

Lab Travel Support Awards

These awards are destined for AU undergraduate students who recently attended/plan to attend the lab session of an AU science course. Students should apply by submitting a cover letter and resume, as well as proof of travel and expenses.

- Undergraduate Lab Travel Awards (*10 awards of \$1000 each*)

Both in-province and out-of-province AU lab students can be considered for these awards. Students who have attended labs in the recent past will be considered as well as those who have signed up for lab session(s) in the future.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

So, how do students apply for these new awards? Unlike the majority of AU awards offered in the past, application is not automatic and requires student action. "The majority of these awards are application-driven," explained Wright, "which means that students must apply if they are to be considered for the awards." However, he added that the "application process and requirements are very simple." The majority of the scholarship awards require a cover letter and a resume for consideration. Applications for bursaries require students to complete an application found online to help AU staff assess financial need. Lab travel bursaries involve a cover letter and resume, proof of flight/other expenses, as well as the student's lab grade. Overall, the application procedure for the awards is relatively straightforward, and applications can be sent to the Registrar's Office (attention Student Awards Committee) via mail or email. **The application deadline for the majority of the awards is October 15, 2005.**

Detailed descriptions of the new awards and application requirements can be found at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/registry/studawrd.htm>

Be sure to pass on the information about AU's new awards to your AU study buddy! For more information, contact:

- Jeff Wright, Scholarship & Awards Officer: (780) 428 7285
- Email (E-mail applications should be sent to this address): awardsinfo@athabascau.ca



WORD NERDS, UNITE!

Book reviews for word lovers

Elizabeth Cousar

I have two book reviews to share today. Both books happen to be written by Canadians, interestingly enough.

WORD NERDS UNITE!

I am a self-described word-nerd. I love words and language. My number one favourite hobby is reading. I'm functionally fluent in three languages and have picked up a few words in at least seven others. I made serious efforts at learning Esperanto and Klingon. I love words!

That's why, when I saw *Spoken Here: Travels Among Threatened Languages* by Mark Abley (2003) in the virtual bargain bin of the online bookstore (<http://www.chapters.indigo.ca>), I had to buy it. Abley is a man after my own heart. I wish I'd known about this book back when I would have paid full price for it. He deserves the royalties.

Spoken Here is a book that discusses threatened and endangered languages worldwide. Abley has traveled to Australia, South America, Europe, Asia and parts of North America to find languages in danger of disappearance. He discusses some well-known languages such as Yiddish, Manx, Welsh, and Provençal. He also discusses some lesser-known ones such as Yuchi (or Euchee), Mati Ke, Boro, and Kanien'kehá. His main point is how much the world will lose if languages disappear. The author compares the loss of little-spoken languages to the loss of biodiversity. He believes each language has its own way of looking at the world, its own way of expressing human thought and human desire, the same way that each life form has of expressing its genetic potential. If hundreds of perspectives are inexpressible, Abley feels that we will lose something irreplaceable.

Abley has a delight in cultural and linguistic diversity that is palpable throughout the book. His delight is infectious. How could you not love a language that has separate verbs for "to express anger by a sidelong glance," "to create a pinching sensation in the armpit," "to love for the last time," and "to fall in a well unknowingly"? How could you not be fascinated by a culture that does not permit a brother and sister to speak to one another after puberty? This cultural feature means that the last two speakers of Mati Ke will never talk to one another. They can't. It's taboo.

Abley's lack of a linguistics background does not matter. He isn't discussing language structure with a ton of linguistic jargon. He's discussing words and people and he makes them shine. This book gives its readers an idea of what people must go through to try to revive a dying language. In some cases, there is no hope. In others, there is resounding success.

Spoken Here is a delightful book for anyone interested in human expression.

WHERE DO WE BELONG?

A novel that I enjoyed recently also discusses culture, but not the cultural past or cultural dying-out, but the future of belonging, and how we might define our cultures in the future. *Eastern Standard Tribe* by Cory Doctorow (2004) has a clear theme. In fact, it's so clear that his main character, Art, tells you flat-out that the theme of the story is "Would you rather be smart or happy?" right up front on page 12. But it is the world of the very -near future that Doctorow describes that is the real star of the book.

The appeal of the novel is not only in the plot (of two spies having the protagonist incarcerated in a mental hospital because he might mess up their plan) being rather fun, but also in the whimsy and downright

weirdness that are Art's life. Most of us don't feel normal. We define ourselves in the ways we differ from the norm. I am married with two kids and live in a house in the suburbs, but I'm not normal. I read too much, my husband and I play Dungeons and Dragons, he works a graveyard shift and gets Sunday and Monday nights off, and my kids go to a Francophone school. See? Those things are all abnormal. We're different. Art has the same experience of not belonging and he shares it with all of us. If my life is abnormal, Art's is completely nuts. Yet, it makes sense in the context given in Doctorow's world.

If you like a peek into things that are definitely different, this is a great near-future science-fiction novel. The science-fiction part is underplayed; the story stands on its own. *Eastern Standard Tribe* does what all the best science-fiction stories should do. It entertains as it forces the reader to think about something important. This isn't the science fiction of epic space battles or faster-than-light travel. This is the science fiction of next year not the next century and it rings true.

One warning, though, this book is not appropriate for children. There are adults in it, and they occasionally interact in an intimate way. Be warned, this book contains some mature content. Reader discretion is advised!

Got a suggestion for a book that should appear here? We're glad to read 'em!

References

Abley, M. (2003). *Spoken Here: Travels Among Threatened Languages*. Toronto: Random House Canada.
Doctorow, C. (2004). *Eastern Standard Tribe*. New York: Tor Books.



This monthly column features news and issues affecting gays and lesbians in Canada and around the world.

Same-sex marriage is now legal across Canada! The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 41 to 21 with 3 abstentions. Supreme Court Justice Beverly McLachlin, who was acting on behalf of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, signed the bill into law on the next day. Clarkson was recovering from having a pace maker installed at a Toronto hospital.

- <http://tinyurl.com/bqgyu>
- <http://tinyurl.com/aja76>
- <http://tinyurl.com/8zlap>
- <http://tinyurl.com/ddsqc>

Shortly after the bill granting same-sex marriage received Royal Assent, Alberta held its first same-sex wedding. Yahoo News is reporting that two Alberta women became the first couple in the province to be married under the legislation. Their names are not being released, as they requested the affair be kept private. Gay activists assert that not every same-sex wedding needs to be shown in the media.

- <http://tinyurl.com/892cj>

Prince Edward Island is Canada's holdout province. The province won't be issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples until the fall, so they can pass an omnibus bill to change the wording in the province's various statutes. This legislative process could take months. Critics argue that the province should have been ready before same-sex marriage was legalized in Canada.

- <http://tinyurl.com/8myaj>

With Bush re-elected in the USA and same-sex marriage now legal in Canada, many expected that Americans would be flocking to Canada. However, according to a processing centre in Buffalo, New York, six months before the election applications numbered 16,226, and after the election the number fell to 14,666. Critics say that it isn't easy to just up and move, as money has to be saved to prove they can provide for themselves in Canada, and there is a two year waiting period.

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

This week, a British court will hear a case of a couple of women who were married in Vancouver, and now wish to have their marriage recognized by the United Kingdom. Civil unions become law in December; however, the women argue that their relationship is a marriage and not a civil partnership. They say if the court rules against them, they will take it to the European Court of Human Rights.

- <http://tinyurl.com/cmzs2>

US Supreme Court nominee John G. Roberts, Jr. has worked behind the scenes to help out a gay rights case. At the time, he was a lawyer specializing in appeals. He helped out gay rights activists behind the scenes to successfully convince the US Supreme Court to issue a ruling protecting gay people from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Roberts is a presidential republican nominee.

- <http://tinyurl.com/9pa7v>

Ireland could be the next European nation to grant same-sex rights. The country's Minister of Justice confirmed that proposals are being drawn up to grant legal recognition to same-sex couples. So far, the government is discussing UK-style civil partnerships. Full marriage is unexpected in the predominately Catholic nation, despite Spain legalizing same-sex marriage.

- <http://tinyurl.com/d8szv>

Quote of the Month

"You have no idea what a difference it makes to the human spirit to know that you are treated equally under the law" (Email sent to 71-year-old Senator Ione Christensen from Whitehorse. These were the last words read to a hushed Senate before Bill C-38 was passed.)

- <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/07/072005canadaRxn.htm>

Oui ou Non? Is Our New Governor General a Quebec Sovereigntist?

Mandy Gardner



On Paul Martin's recommendation, Michaëlle Jean will become Canada's 27th Governor General on October 1st, an appointment that comes with widespread dispute. The question at the forefront of most Canadians' minds is, "Is Jean a Quebec sovereigntist?" Rumour has it that she voted in support for Quebec's independence during the 1995 sovereignty referendum.

The Haitian born successor to Governor General Adrienne Clarkson came to Canada in 1968 with her family to flee the dictatorship of François Duvalier. She has since made her name as a popular journalist and television host on CBC's *Rough Cuts* (www.cbc.ca/roughcuts/host.html) and *The Passionate Eye*, as well as RDI's (Réseau de l'Information) *Le Monde Ce Soir*, *Grands Reportages* and many others. As a Francophone, Jean has spent most of her Canadian years in Quebec, and according to *Le Québécois* (a popular sovereigntist magazine), she campaigned for

Quebec sovereignty during the 1995 referendum, but is this true? She has yet to address the issue herself, but Prime Minister (PM) Paul Martin is fervently defending his choice for head of state. The fact that Jean has been so closely involved in French Canadian politics -- separatist tendencies or not -- makes her a strong candidate for the position of Governor General, the PM argues. Certainly her background qualifies her as a liaison with our large French minority in Canada, but what about her other responsibilities as Governor General?

The position requires Jean to represent the Crown in Canada. She will be our nation's ultimate figurehead (www.gg.ca/governor_general/role_e.asp). She will have numerous symbolic duties, but mostly will be expected to promote Canadian sovereignty, celebrate Canadian excellence, and encourage national identity and unity. This is of course where her credentials wear thin. Can a former sovereigntist truly serve Canada in these prescribed duties? Paul Martin says yes. Many Canadians agree with him, but it seems just as many feel that Jean has been chosen despite her history and not because of it. In other words, the position could only have been filled by a high profile, female individual representing an ethnic minority. Indeed, there can be heard much sentiment in the way of, "Do not try to tell me a white male multi-generational Canadian from the West ever had a chance here" (Landry, 2005). I am inclined to agree, but that's beside the point.

The suitability of Michaëlle Jean as our next Governor General will not have anything to do with her ethnicity, first language, country of origin or even her political past. All we really need to know is whether or not she is a Nationalist now. By accepting the role as Canada's head of state, I think that question has been answered. Once the accusations and anger die down all across the country, Jean will hopefully find herself in the perfect place to finally unite all facets of Canada into one -- just as a good Governor General should.

The Prime Minister just might have made a good decision here. I don't know whether it's the accountability that comes of leading a minority Parliament or a misunderstanding of Martin's character from day one, but Paul is really starting to grow on me.

All the best to Michaëlle Jean and may she usher in a new era of strong Canadian sovereignty.

Reference

Landry, S. (2005, August 4). Small animals, the roadkill diaries: Why Michaëlle Jean? Retrieved from <http://www.smalldeadanimals.com/archives/002441.html>

Let me tell you (ahem) about my friend's toilet. You see, they're renovating their bathroom and they have ordered a new toilet. Did you know that when you order a toilet you most often have to order the seat separately? Yes, a brand-new toilet and the seat is not included. This is perhaps something someone should tell you when you order toilets. It should be simple. But, like so many simple things, it's not. This idea -- simple -- is actually quite complicated.

I've come to fear all things that claim to be simple, like furniture that requires a few simple steps of assembly before use. "Simple" if they included all the right parts and the instructions weren't in Spanish, Chinese or any other language that I can't read. While I'd love to learn these languages, right now I'm just trying to assemble some furniture.

I'm also skeptical of convenient things, like cell phones. When you really need to make a call, you are conveniently out of the service area. Or perhaps like a friend of mine, you find yourself in a cell phone crisis because you've lost your phone and all contact with the outside world! You will soon have to resort to SOS or a tin can-rope contraption for communication. The convenience cell phones has resulted in a friend of mine not committing to memory the telephone numbers of her loved ones (or anyone, actually). Instead, she conveniently calls the two people whose numbers she remembers and requests the numbers for other contacts she needs. I'll be sure to have my cell phone on so I can help her out. I know how I'd feel without my phone.

Don't tell her I told you, but in one of the cupboards in my mom's kitchen, you'll find a graveyard of Tupperware and plastics. They were bought to keep things like leftovers or lunches simply and easily stored. Finding the matching lid to the respective bowl however, is anything but simple or easy. So this Christmas, a relative bought her a revolving canister to organize all of the bowls and lids. Of course, then my mother had no room in her cupboard, so she had to spend an hour making room for these modern conveniences. I think of her as I search for a lid in my own cupboard.

That's the catch with simple and convenient. They sell the illusion that we have room for more things. Soon, our simple lifestyle is rather cluttered, crammed with all the conveniences we can muster. We multitask, but will we get anything done? I'm optimistic that we will see a return to simplicity, and not the mass-marketed simplicity of cell phones and Tupperware. But, maybe in our lifetime, we'll pick up the phone and have a real live person on the other end to answer our questions. They'll be able to tell us that we have ordered a toilet without a seat and ask us if we'd like one. We'll be able to call convenience's bluff. We won't clutter up our lives just because we've made room.

Until then, push one if you agree or please hold the line if you disagree. An operator will be with you shortly. After all, your call is important to us.

Women You Should Know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Alice Paul (1885-1977), an American suffragist leader, was born into a Quaker family in Moorestown, New Jersey on January 11, 1885. Her tireless struggle for women's rights triumphantly resulted in women being granted the right to vote in the United States federal election in 1920. However, this feat did not come easy for Paul. She fought a long hard battle, beginning in 1908 after joining the Women's Social and Political Union. Her activities resulted in her being imprisoned three times. While imprisoned Alice, along with other suffragettes, went on a hunger strike. Consequently she was put in the psychiatric ward and force-fed. Three years after Paul's 1920 victory, she became the original author of a proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution. The ERA was not passed in Congress until 1970, a few years before the death of Alice Paul in 1977. In 2004, HBO Films produced an aptly titled film *Iron Jawed Angels* that depicts the struggles of Alice Paul and other suffragists.

I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.

- Alice Paul

Source for additional information: Alice Paul Institute-<http://www.alicepaul.org/>

Reference: Von Garnier, K. (Director) (2004). *Iron Jawed Angels* [motion picture]. Warner Home Video.

Safety First: A News Release From Lionel T. Undershaft, III, President of the Canadian Independent Chamber of Commerce and Industry (a Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Crunk Genetics and Pharmaceuticals, Inc.)

As some of our politicians, civic leaders and law enforcement officials have recently pointed out, Canada as a nation is woefully unprepared for a terrorist attack. As the recent London transit bombings clearly demonstrate, this lack of foresight can lead to devastating results. Throughout this great country of ours, there are maniacs at work in basements and homeless shelters, preparing explosive devices with the intention of undermining our civilization. They are everywhere, never-sleeping, always watching, forever plotting, waiting for their chance to murder us when we least expect it.

And yet we, in our great complacency, still allow these undesirables to wander about, totally unfettered and unmonitored. Everyday, millions of suspicious people across Canada go about their business, performing who-knows-what sorts of sordid and threatening activities without any supervision at all. It may surprise you to learn that almost no homes in this country, and far too few workplaces, have adequate video and audio monitoring equipment in place. Do you have any idea what your dicey-looking neighbour is up to behind the walls of his monster home? Shockingly, neither do we in the business/military/law enforcement community -- yet!

Fortunately, all this is about to change. As president of the Canadian Independent Chamber of Industry and Commerce, I am pleased to announce a public-private partnership initiative that will vastly increase the personal security of our citizens through the widespread installation of video monitors in almost every conceivable space. We will start, of course, by installing the cameras in obvious spots: transit stations, public parks, city squares, shopping malls, churches, public washrooms, voting booths, confessionals, etc. These cameras, utilizing cutting-edge nanotechnology, will be almost invisible to the naked eye, so as to be as unobtrusive and unthreatening as possible. We will then be able to gather valuable security and law-enforcement information, permanently recording any deviant-looking behaviour.

Following very quickly on the heels of this initial phase, we will begin installing these devices in so-called private homes, beginning with the homes of... Well, you know whom we're talking about.

The information being provided by these monitors will then be collated and merged with other vital sources of information, such as medical histories, itemized lists of household products consumed, library materials borrowed, and religious affiliations, in order to produce accurate client profiles for each of our customers/citizens. We will quickly sort out who is posing a threat to our society due to their extremist alliances, criminal activities, and erratic shopping patterns. We will react with extreme prejudice.

I know that there will be some dangerously deluded and paranoid individuals out there who see this as an encroachment upon their civil liberties. It is these people we must eliminate first. If there is a silver lining in the war against terrorism that we are now fighting, it is the fact that the average person is now able to see how delusional this sort of extremist political thinking is.

Living as we do in a state of perpetual fear, we have all come to understand that we must choose between safety and freedom -- there is no middle ground anymore. I am confident, therefore, that this bold, proactive step -- initiated by the business community and funded by the taxpayer will be greeted with openhearted acceptance all around.

AUSU THIS MONTH



"A Learning Alberta"

Recently, the Alberta Government announced a comprehensive review of the Alberta post-secondary education system. Many discussion documents were placed online, and all stakeholders were invited to respond and make suggestions on how the post-secondary system can be improved. The students of the four universities of Alberta have responded through a document drafted by CAUS -- the Council of Alberta University Students --, which represents the students' unions of all four institutions.

Additionally, AUSU has drafted its own response, specifically addressing the needs of the diverse AU student body. You can read our response by downloading the PDF file from the link on the front page of the AUSU web site

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 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>

AUSU 2005/06
student
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Nova Scotia Helping AU

At the annual premiers meeting, it seems that the Premier of Nova Scotia was advocating that the federal government take steps that will benefit AU tremendously. As part of their recommendations to the Federal Government, Nova Scotia suggested that Ottawa adjust its funding for post-secondary education to utilize a per-student basis as opposed to a per-capita basis.

For Athabasca University, which now has over 35,000 students across the globe and has virtually no limits on its expansion, funding based on the number of students would enable our university to make significant headway in services for us. Of course, the federal government has said that while post-secondary education is a priority for it, it will not be saying any time soon exactly what it's going to do to help out. To me, this is government speak for "haven't even thought about it yet", so this is perhaps a good time to start getting plans and ideas to the ministers involved.

Myself, I may write Minister Ralph Goodale and give my support for Premier Hamm's plan. Perhaps an Alberta backing a Nova Scotia plan will give it the appearance of support across the country. It certainly can't hurt.

Smoking being Extinguished

Health Canada has recently released a report indicating that fewer Canadians are smoking than before, and those that are smoking are smoking fewer cigarettes on average. In 2003, 21% of Canadian's smoked. In 2004, only 20% did. So it looks like the tide is turning and I'm hoping that soon smoking will be as frowned upon as other habits that kill innocent bystanders, such as drunk driving.

I don't say this just because I'm a non-smoker, but because of the money that smoking costs our health-care system, dollars that could instead be put into our post-secondary education system, or even be put back into our pockets through lower taxes. Smoking is, in fact, one of the great examples of an industry that has externalized the real costs of its product. We all pay for the damage the industry causes, whether through health problems of ourselves or other people, of legal fees to fight an industry determined to make money on selling people poison,

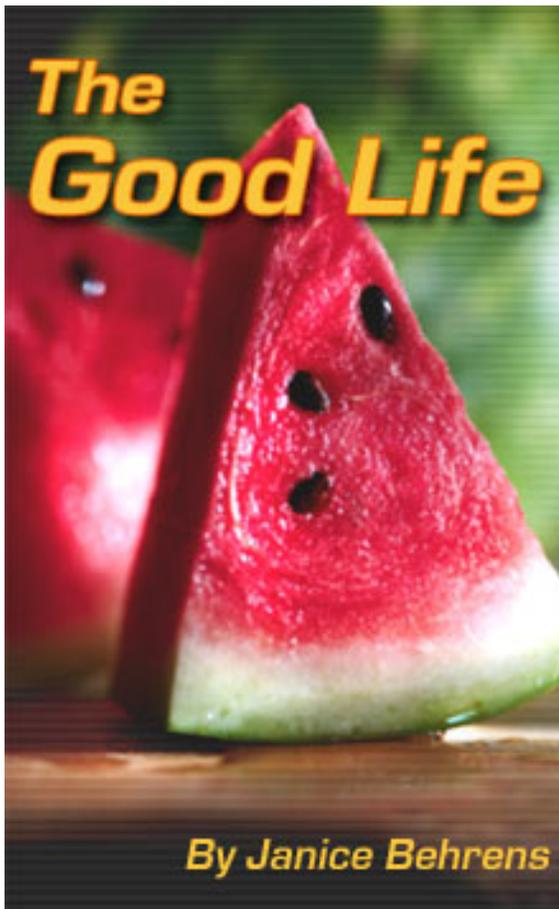
It's just one more thing to think about when you light up, I guess. If you don't like how high your tax bill is, consider stopping smoking. Even if it doesn't change your taxes in the short term, you'll have a lot more money to pay them with.

Secret Chocolate Ingredient

As a raving chocoholic and chocolate snob, I can't help but giggle a little at Hershey's latest mention by the Province of Ontario. It seems that one of the workers at the plant wound up adding a little "something special" to the peanuts in Hershey's chocolate recently, and the company was fined \$50,000 for the health and safety violation.

The extra ingredient was a piece of the worker's finger, as apparently Hershey's was putting safety as a back-seat to efficiency. I tend to strongly approve of fines like this. If you want robots to do the job, build robots, but if you want people, you have to treat them like people, and that means looking out for their safety before your bottom-line.

Still, it makes me thankful that I get all my chocolate from Bernard Callebaut here in Calgary.



The Meaning of Success

What does success mean to you? For me, it has always been a moving target. When I was a young girl, a successful day involved the arrival of the ice cream truck at the playground in town. Later on, it meant getting A's in math class, making the cut for the basketball team, and being invited to the right parties. During a particularly unevolved part of my life, being successful meant earning a certain amount of money, getting a promotion, and buying a house and a new car. Those were the things that, if I could only get my hands on them, would make me feel successful and complete. This was an illusion that I hung onto right up until the time that I had them all. Then I realized that the formula for success must have somehow slipped through my grasp. Or was there something wrong with me?

Now, being successful means having my family around me. It means having friends I can laugh and cry with. It means enjoying good food, listening to good music, volunteering, feeling wanted and necessary in the variety of personal and public roles that I play. Above all -- and this is something that a child had to teach me -- it means living in the moment, appreciating the beauty that is

around me right now, instead of picking away at the scabs of the past, or fretting about the mysteries of the future. One way of doing this is to attempt to consciously open my mind and senses to each experience, whether it's feeling of sunlight on my face, the sound of a wasp droning, or the taste of strawberries and cream on a hot summer day.

Every once in awhile, I come across a definition of success that my sister Jodi wrote on the back of a postcard she sent me from San Francisco. It's a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, and it read as follows:

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, or a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

I can't imagine that there is a more accurate definition to be found in any dictionary or encyclopaedia on Earth.



Dear Barb: I am a 25-year-old student completing my last year of university. As long as I can remember my friends have been telling me I'm too negative. I do tend to see the glass as half empty, rather than half full. My relationships rarely last longer than six months and I'm wondering if this is the reason. Do you know how I can become a more positive person before I lose all of my friends?

Kelly in Kincardine.

Hi Kelly. You may be right, as people tend to gravitate to upbeat positive people. Positive people give others hope and encouragement that things will work out. They bring out the best in others, whereas negative people often bring those around them down. Given a choice Kelly, which type of individual would you want to be around?

Also, studies have proven that positive thinking produces positive results. If you attempt to do something and believe you will be successful, you have a good chance of accomplishing your task. On the other hand, if you keep telling yourself you can't do something, you will most likely fail.

There are many things you can do to become the kind of person with whom others enjoy spending time. Begin with your inner dialogue. Stop and listen to what is going on in your head. If your thoughts are always focusing on the worst that can happen, you need to change

your outlook to see the other side of a situation. For example, if a friend introduces you to her new boyfriend, don't look for what is wrong with him. Instead look for his good qualities. Then, when she asks you what you think of him, mention only good things. She will appreciate this much more, after all maybe what you see as his negative qualities, may not appear that way to her. As well, when approaching a new situation and that familiar voice in your head says, "you can't do that, don't even try," change that can't to can so the voice will say, "you can do it." Every time a negative thought enters your mind, immediately replace it with a positive thought. This will be hard at first. You will have to constantly remind yourself as you keep slipping back into old habits.

Another way to become a more positive person is through reading inspirational books. There are many books available on this topic. A book that I read many years ago and I believe is still available is entitled *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale (2002). Some other books available are the *Feeling Good Handbook* (1999) and *Feeling Good: The New Mood Therapy* (1999) both written by David D. Burns. Another book that you can purchase online at www.chapters.indigo.ca for only \$8.50 is *The Power Behind Positive Thinking* by Eric Fellman (1997). If reading isn't for you, many of these books are available on tape.

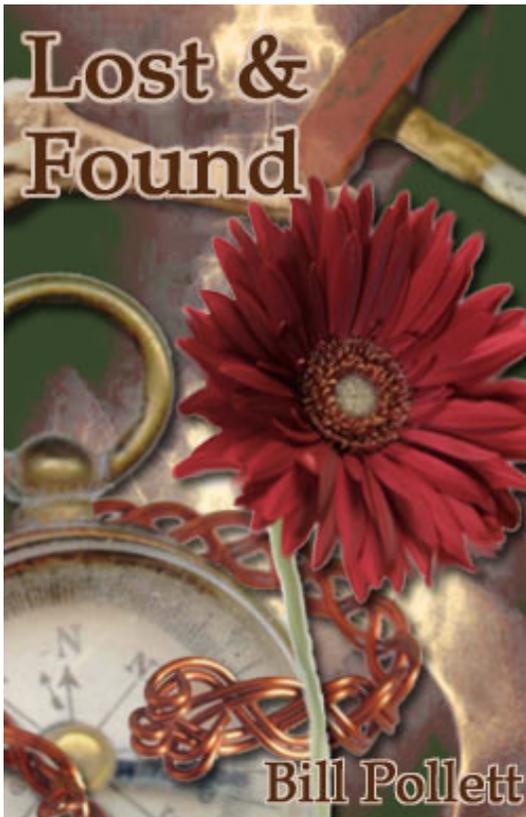
As you begin to notice the good things that happen rather than the bad, this will eventually become second nature. As a result, your friends will want to spend more time with you, hoping some of your upbeat energy will rub off on them. Also, when you see someone struggling to do something, offer encouraging words.

Many people spend much of their lives behaving a certain way simply because they do not think they can change. This is not true, you can change if you believe you can. Only you are in control of your thoughts. Consider the following quote by psychologist William James: "The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind." I hope this helps Kelly.

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- Burns, D. D. (1999). *Feeling Good: The New Mood Therapy*. Collins.
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Peale, N. V. (2002). *The Power of Positive Thinking*. Running Press Book Publishers.

E-mail your questions to dearbarb.voice@ausu.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality: your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.



In Our Garden

I plant an apple tree and wait for you to crawl through the grass toward me, and open my eyes to delicious worldly delight.

I plant red roses to remind me of the way your hips moved in the candlelight in the Moroccan hotel room the night before the bomb went off in the marketplace.

I plant blackberry bushes that will crawl with copper spiders and throb with silver bees.

I dig up the skulls of foxes and badgers.

I plant grape vines and wait for them to crawl up the brick wall, through the window, across our bedroom floor, and wrap themselves about our naked bodies.

I erect a circle of rocks as an astral calendar and landing site for aliens.

I plant a patch of poppies so I can tumble through delirious dreams, chased by winged fish and leopards with human faces.

I bury a book of dangerous curses.

I plant wolfbane and deadly nightshade, to add a sense of danger.

I plant ginger root that grows twisted beneath the ground in the shape of mummified fairies.

I set fire to your anxieties, and bury the ashes to attract the worms.

I plant aromatic herbs for use in various enchantments: Comfrey for protection whilst traveling under a curse; Arabic gum to ward off evil; Banyan for good fortune; Avocado for lust; Basil for exorcism and flying through the air.

I grow beets as large and red beneath the soil as the still-beating heart of a savage gnome.

In the rich soil above the grave of the feral cat who was killed by lightning, I plant pomegranates, saffron, frankincense, myrrh, cinnamon, and aloes to soothe your flesh.

I plant the pages of used telephone books, barbecue assembly instructions, investment literature and Sears catalogues. I wait for them to grow into folktales and sheet music.

I set fire to a bonfire of thorns, grass, vines, creepers, dead branches and brambles. I watch bright sparks and luminous moths rising like angels into the twilight.

I plant cannabis in order to cause anarchy in the streets and destabilize Western civilization.

I plant a plum tree so that the neighbourhood children can climb into its branches to watch icy comets and lunar eclipses, and so that Ukrainian grandmothers can play accordions with juice-stained hands.

I plant green tea so that, many years from now, we can sit under the shade of our apple tree watching the giant ornamental fish move beneath the surface of the pond, china cups resting in the grass beside us, as the seasons come and go.

A Hazel by Any Other Name



*From
Where
I Sit*

Hazel Anaka

Julia Roberts' twin daughter notwithstanding, Hazel is an old, uncommon name.

An Internet search for the word Hazel netted over 1.5 million items. Hazel is a botanical, old English name meaning the hazel tree. It was popular from the 1870s to the 1920s. No wonder all of the Hazels I see are in the obituaries! Little did I know that since about 1997, the name's been gradually gaining in popularity. The Baby Name Wizard (2004) Internet site insists that "Hazel has been a stylish favorite in the elite urban neighborhoods where artistic sensibilities and high incomes meet." Take that, all you baby boomers who only remember a maid, a medicinal remedy, a pop song, a line of office supplies, or a hurricane.

I wasn't particularly thrilled with my name, especially when I moved to a new school in grade three. A dopey boy in class was fond of calling me 'hazelnut chocolate bars,' not exactly an inspired insult. I was extremely mortified by the bossy maid who appeared in a weekly sitcom. Not exactly a career choice to aspire to. From 1961 to 1966, Shirley Booth starred in this show that hit the number four ratings slot. Beginning in 1943, there was also a Hazel comic created by Ted Key. After syndication, readership peaked at more than 29 million readers.

The bark and leaves of the witch hazel are used as an astringent, ointment or poultice for the treatment of varicose veins, haemorrhoids, diarrhoea, eye inflammation, stings, burns and bruises. Can't say I've ever tried it. These fifteen-foot trees are found from Nova Scotia to Georgia.

By the time a long-time customer of my flower and gift shop began greeting me by singing a line or two of "Hooray for Hazel" I had made peace with this old-fashioned name. Hell, years ago, the band at the Rosslyn Hotel tavern performed the song for me after one of my companions requested it. Research tells me the song, written and performed by Tommy Roe hit number six in 1966.

I don't know the story behind the line of Hazel office supplies, but I do have one of their black portfolios with brass corners. In its latest incarnation, the Hazel portfolio stores the documents I need when I meet with couples wishing to be married. It has served me well.

The decidedly most violent connotation of the name Hazel is the 1954 hurricane that hit southern Ontario on October 15th and killed more than 80 Canadians. Apparently, there is a considered process for the naming of hurricanes and now even male names have that dubious distinction. My dad was fond of referring to his three girls (Hazel, Sherry, and Gail) as a nut, a wine and a storm.

There's no exciting story about how I came to carry this name other than my mom liked it. Love it or hate it, our name is the most personal gift we receive. Ultimately, it's also the only thing we take from cradle to grave. Do we bring honour or shame to it? The choice is ours, from where I sit.

Reference

Baby Name Wizard (2004, December 28). Retrieved from http://www.babynamewizard.com/blog/archive/2004_12_01_nameblog-archive.html



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

FRINGE A-GO-GO

Edmonton, Alberta - 18-28 August 2005
For information: 780 448 9000
fta@fringetheatreadventures.ca
<http://www.fringetheatreadventures.ca/index.php/fta>

BANFF SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

Banff, Alberta - On now until August 26 2005
For information: 403 762 6100
box_office@banffcentre.ca
<http://www.banffcentre.ca/>

saskatchewan

SASKATOON INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - 4-14 August 2005
<http://www.25thstreettheatre.org/>

manitoba

FOLKLORAMA

Winnipeg, Manitoba - 7-13 August
For information: 204 982 6210
<http://www.folklorama.ca/folklorama.php>

ontario

OSHAWA JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Oshawa, Ontario - 8-13 August 2005
For information: 905 986 0666
<http://jazzandblues.eclipseconcerts.com/>

quebec

INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FESTIVAL OF SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU

Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec - Aug 13-21
For information: 450 347 9555
festival@ballooncanada.com
<http://www.montgolfieres.com/>

maritimes

ATLANTIC SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Moncton, New Brunswick - August 18-21
For information: 506 384 8585
<http://www.atlanticseafoodfestival.com/>

ATLANTIC THEATRE FESTIVAL

Wolfville, Nova Scotia - 27 June - 1 Sept 2005
For information: 902 542 4242
<http://www.atf.ns.ca/>

international

NISEI WEEK JAPANESE FESTIVAL

13-21 August 2005 - Los Angeles, California, USA
For information: 213 687 7193
niseiweek@niseiweek.org - <http://www.niseiweek.org/>

KITSAP DESTRUCTION DERBY

Now until 10 Sept 2005 - Bremerton, Washington
For information: 360 337 4595
<http://www.kitsapdestructionderby.com/>

TWIN PEAKS FESTIVAL

15-17 August 2005 - North Bend, Washington, USA
For information: 360 753 5601
<http://www.twinpeaksfestival.com/festival/>

To list events in your area, e-mail 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>

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 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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