

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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Volume 13 Issue 36



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

THE VOICE

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NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

Hanging out in the Den

Den is a lovely word, bringing to mind thoughts of relaxed evenings, tea and cookies at Granny's house, dimly-lit surroundings, and calm. The term seems to be falling out of favour now, getting a little old-fashioned (except, that is, in the vocabulary of condo salespeople, in which that closet beside the bathroom becomes a potential den). But, if the word is becoming outdated as a part of our language structure, dens have remained in the animal world every bit as important as they once were.

Loosely defined as the lair or shelter of a wild animal, a den is a place of varying description. Frequently thought of as mere holes in the ground, den sites can in fact be found in caves, under rocks, in wood piles, in tree cavities, or yes even below ground. In simplest terms, a den is an animal's home. But the complexity of a den, both in terms of structure and purpose, varies widely.

Dens may be used only in winter as protection against the cold and as a place to hibernate. Alternatively, some animals use their den sites as year-round homes, spaces important throughout all four seasons in providing a safe place from predators and protection from the elements. In the case of certain species, dens may constitute a place in which raising young is the primary purpose. In very dry, hot climates, dens help animals to regulate their body temperature and minimize moisture loss. And in fire-prone areas, dens of the underground sort ensure safety from the perils of the flames above.

Den dwellers are as varied as the homes in which they live. From garter snakes to the black bear, and from foxes to fishers, a wide diversity of wildlife makes use of some type of den. For each, the requirements of a den site are completely different. Layered in insulating fat by the time winter arrives, bears may den in the relatively temperature-stable underground environment or in as cold and uncomfortable sounding a place as a rock crevice. Small ground-dwelling mammals like chipmunks typically prefer dry ground in which to build or modify their subsurface homes. Snakes overwintering in underground dens (hibernacula) must reside where the water table is relatively high, near a marsh or other wetland environment, in order to avoid dehydration. Fishers' preferences change part way through the denning period. They prefer raising their young in tree cavities known as maternal dens and then these animals later move to a site on or below the ground.

For some animals, a den is a found place and little prep work is required before moving right on in. The female fisher seeks out a maternal den site made up of an already-excavated tree cavity, high up above the ground where predators are less likely to find and threaten her young. The endangered burrowing owl takes advantage of the hard work of badgers or other strong diggers when it moves into its prefabricated underground home. And the bear that decides to pass on the comforts of a subterranean den site benefits from the geological phenomenon of one rock face having parted from another.

On the other end of the spectrum, dens represent for some species the culmination of some significant heavy labour. Groundhogs, badgers, prairie dogs, chipmunks and other similar digging animals are what could be considered the construction workers among den-dwellers. These animals build extensive underground networks that are surprisingly important from an ecological standpoint. Their digging activities help in the cycling of nutrients and moisture, and of course provide homes for a plethora of other species not as gifted in the excavation department.

And these diggers do some pretty impressive design work. Consider the den of the lowly groundhog. Thought of as a terrible nuisance by many in the farming community (people whose horses and cows can break their legs in the groundhog's many holes), these animals build below ground tunnel systems that are complex and fascinating. Deep below the frost line, these networks are complete with multiple entrances and exits, nesting rooms, separate toilet areas, and spyholes (strategically-positioned openings that allow the animals to survey their surroundings without jeopardizing their safety).

The metres and metres of twisting pathways act as an underground highway for groundhogs and the many other species that ultimately take advantage of these burrows. Beneath the ground, wildlife of all types are able to travel hither and thither, staying warm in winter, keeping cool and comfortable in summer, and staying safely out of the sight of predators.

The phrase "there's no place like home" clearly has meaning for more than just our species. From mammals to birds to reptiles, homes, be they made of rock, wood or dirt, are an essential part of surviving and staying comfortable in what is often a harsh and challenging outside world.



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FALL DISTRACTIONS...

Rebecca Brewer

Change of Seasons

A man in a yellow rain slicker throws food to the herons on the beach. The sky is overcast and it threatens to rain. In the few years that I've lived in Vancouver, I've learned that neither rain nor a raincoat signifies much here. But a raincoat on the beach at the end of August is a subtle reminder that summer is ending.

Summer is the season I look forward to most. It has something to do with the potential of longer days and warm weather. It's the years growing up having summers off to do anything or nothing. As the light stays longer and the temperature rises, I start planning. I decide that we should go to the lake for the weekend, see an outdoor concert, spend an afternoon browsing and then sit all afternoon in the sunshine of an outdoor patio. I intend to invite friends for sushi on the beach and plan a weekly twilight tennis game. I want to try a restaurant that friends told us we'd enjoy, take an extra class, hike Cypress and learn how to paint my dining room.

As the summer ends, I have a list of good intentions that were never realized. I promise to do them all next summer, and try to stretch out the last warm days of summer, living in denial that fall fast approaches.

On my way back home, I pass by the man in the yellow rain slicker. The sky has made good on its promise and it has started to rain. The man has pulled his hood over his head as he continues to feed the herons. A sheep dog bounces around beside him. I decide that there are two people in the world--hose who let the weather dictate their plans, and those who simply dress for changing weather. I'd better buy a raincoat.

Celebrity tabloids—admit it, you know what I'm talking about...

The glossy pages invite you, entice you, from the aisles of your nearest grocery store. You see them amongst the stack of magazines at the dentist, the doctor or your local coffee shop. Sure, their facts are obscured and their tone dumbed-down and absurd, unprincipled even, but that's a tabloid in all its trashy glory. Shiny close-ups and secrets to the stars are all caught by the world's best paparazzi. They get you so close you can hear the flashbulbs...

It is incredibly important to determine who wore it best and to monitor the weight loss of Hilary Duff or Kirstie Alley. The stalkerrazzi pictures of Kate Hudson's grocery cart (I've just never been so fascinated with grocery carts before) shed a unique perspective on the daily grind. Oh, speaking of the daily grind, can anyone tell me (I simply must know), does Reese Witherspoon order a chai tea or vanilla latte? With growing interest, we can see Ben Affleck walk down the sidewalk, or Jared Leto eating corn on the cob (just who is Jared Leto, and why does he like corn on the cob so much anyway?). We can go on babe-watch and see how much weight Britney Spears can gain during her pregnancy. We can anticipate that any bloating a celebrity woman might have must mean baby-on-board, and then we can time how long it takes for the celebrity moms to shed the excess weight. Perhaps you nursing students can help; if you have a personal chef and a trainer, is three weeks enough? I've recently discovered that Lindsay Lohan drinks (*gasp*) water and learned the kind of cigarettes Jen Aniston smokes (although, I did find a discrepancy on this between *Vanity Fair's* and *Us Weekly's* rendition. That fact-checking class I took *finally* comes in handy). Oh, and be assured, you can sleep tonight knowing that Demi Moore has not had plastic surgery, nor has Nicole Kidman or Sharon Stone. They just have lots of money.

Invariably, the plot will thicken. Will they reconcile after his hideous affair with the nanny? Will he adopt her children? Will they ever get married? The drama continues, should you decide to purchase another issue.

The author would like to state that, yes, she does from time to time buy such reading material. She is in no way advocating it, nor is she judging fellow readers. It's your \$4.79. She does, however, ask that you recycle. It's just good sense.



Imagine you've won the lottery. You're looking for a good place to invest your million dollars but, unfortunately, your search isn't going well. Not a single broker you've talked with has given you all the facts, and some have outright lied. Most of them even work for the same company, a situation that's hardly conducive to ensuring you a fair choice. As a consumer, you're discouraged, distrustful, and your money is still at home, stuffed in your mattress. Then, on the horizon, you spy a new group of brokers. We're honest, they say. You can trust us. We're independent and, believe it or not, aren't even that interested in turning a profit. So, do you run out and hand over your winnings?

Like most people, you'll probably never have to make this fictional decision, but there's a similar--and very real--dilemma facing all of us today. One in which, arguably, there's a lot more at stake than a million dollars. Today's mainstream media is akin to the first group of brokers. On the surface, a wide variety of voices give you the facts you need to make informed decisions about the world (or your lottery winnings), but a closer look reveals huge conglomerates that own hundreds of small community newspapers, along with television stations, magazines, and Internet holdings. As with any commodity, the company's final product (your daily paper or nightly newscast) has been filtered to conform to the demands of those selling that product: advertisers, shareholders, and the corporation itself.

The argument can be made that news shouldn't be a commodity, but that's exactly what it's become (for a comprehensive list of who owns what in Canadian media, check out [Your Media at http://www.yourmedia.ca/library](http://www.yourmedia.ca/library)). One example is Quebecor, with 17 daily newspapers, 71 community papers, plus various television stations, Internet sites, and magazines. Both here and in the U.S., media empires are worth billions, a pretty sure sign that someone's selling a product and someone else is buying it. So, given that the lone head of a corporation holds the power to dictate the editorial content of several newspapers across the country (CanWest Global, anyone?), can your local daily news source be considered independent? And when Product X turns out to cause cancer, do you really trust the television stations under its corporate umbrella to report on that product's shortcomings in a fair and unbiased way?

This brings us to the second group of 'brokers', the self-titled independent media outlets. Their claim to fame is that they're anti-commercial and non-profit, that they're not beholden to the interests of corporations or governments and therefore are free to report what they want when they want. Just like the mainstream media, these organizations boast experienced writers and editors, many of whom have won awards for their journalistic contributions. A shortlist of these outlets includes The Dominion, Straight Goods, Independent Media Centre, COA (Currents of Awareness), FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting), the NewStandard (the flagship publication of PeoplesNetWorks), and Inter Press Service. Some sites that provide television broadcasts are Democracy Now and Independent World Television. Common themes run through most of these sites' mandates, the main ones being diversity and credibility. FAIR's bimonthly magazine, *Extra!*, sums it up as a look at "the major issues in the news, questioning the conventional wisdom that narrows the range of issues, sources and perspectives. Articles examine biased reporting, censored news, media mergers, press/state cronyism, the power of corporate owners and advertisers, and the exclusion of progressive voices from the media."

On the surface, this is all well and good, but the original question remains: should you accept the independent media at face value, trusting them to provide honest, open access to information simply because they're an alternative to the corporate-owned sources? In short, how quick should you be to hand over your million dollars?

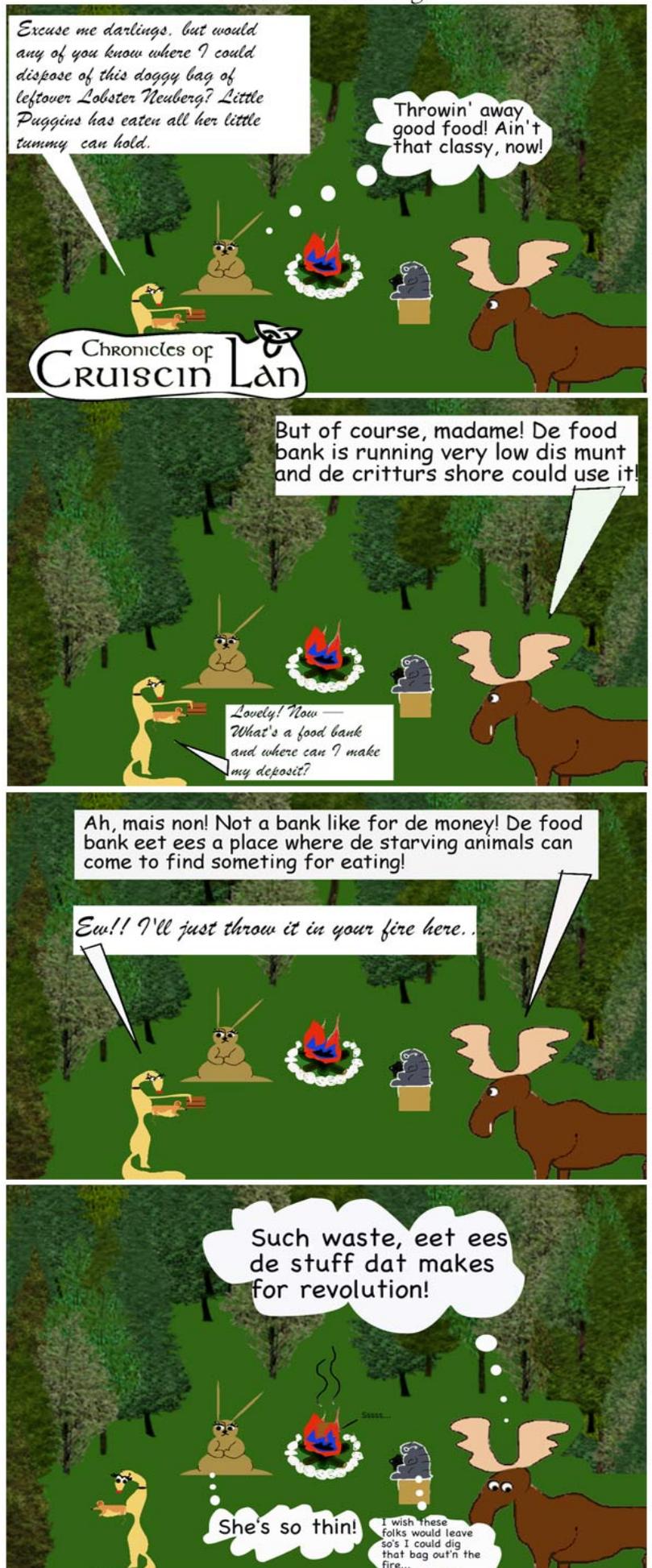
First, consider this: suppose that an independent newspaper has caught on. They're selling subscriptions and their customers enjoy the hard-driving, investigative journalism that exposes government corruption, corporate fraud, and human rights issues. But what happens when big business or the government does something positive, something fiscally or environmentally responsible? If the independent media reports these stories on a regular basis, do they risk alienating their readership and, consequently, their livelihood? Is it ever possible for any media provider to be truly independent of the influence of the groups supporting them? The answer to that question is a qualified yes.

"Freedom of the press is limited to those who own one." Journalist A.J. Liebling is partially right, but conscientious writers and editors do exist, people who are passionate about the unfettered flow of information that forms the heart of a democracy. So who's responsible for fostering that environment, for holding the media to account and questioning who is filtering the news that informs our world and shapes our decisions?

We are. Any news provider, indie or corporate, can proclaim their even-handedness and credibility. Ultimately, though, it's our responsibility to be informed consumers. Check out news coverage at both ends of the spectrum: mainstream media, independent presses, and those in between. Are they covering a wide variety of issues, albeit from different perspectives, or are certain topics consistently absent from one source or another? The answers you get may surprise, anger, or enlighten you.

With the growing proliferation of different media voices, exciting new opportunities are all around us, opportunities that have the potential to ensure the existence of unfettered, equitable news sources. Whether they're well established or a fledgling press, their most valuable contribution has already been made. It lies not in the details of individual stories, but as a reminder to question what we're being told and who is telling it to us.

If nothing else, inspiring readers to thoughtful, open-minded inquiry is proof that a thriving, independent network of news and information is possible. The only question now is, will we be bold enough to reach out and take it?





Turing the Pages...

Elizabeth Cousar

I love science fiction. In particular, I really enjoy the works of Spider Robinson, an American author who has lived a long time in Canada. In fact, he lives here in British Columbia, fairly close to my house. This week's selection is his newest work entitled *Very Bad Deaths*.

More a mystery novel or even a thriller than a science-fiction work, fans of Robinson's will notice some recurring bits from his other books. For instance, his protagonist is a tall, slim, pot-smoker who grew up in the USA and avoided the draft for Vietnam. One of the other characters is Serbian, another character is Croatian, and both of these individuals have difficult-to-pronounce names. Telepathy is involved. All of these are, individually, very familiar devices from this writer.

But Robinson puts it all together in new and interesting ways, like a musician playing variations on a lovely theme (Oh, yes. The Beatles and jazz music are both featured. Again). This time, the telepath has managed to glimpse the mind of an evil, serially murderous freak who looks so normal that he has blended in perfectly to society. Knowing only some of the worst details of the killer's life like the faces of his next victims and who he plans to kill "next week," but not the killer's name or location, the telepath sets to work. He engages his best friend, to whom he hasn't spoken for thirty years, to help him stop the murderer. But how?

There is a great deal of difficulty in stopping the killer, and I won't spoil all of it for you. Suffice it to say that this novel explores what it is to be a decent human being. If you *knew*, absolutely and without a shadow of a doubt, that someone was planning to kill another human being, but couldn't prove it, what would you be willing to do to stop him? How do you reconcile your point of view (about anything) with another's, opposite, point of view? Does it matter who's right? Do you have to be right all the time? Why? What beliefs do you hold firm? Why? Which of your beliefs are you willing to question? How far? Robinson explores those ideas for his protagonist, and encourages his readers to do the same for themselves.

There are, of course, some excruciatingly funny parts to this book. Robinson writes very humorous science fiction works and does it exceedingly well. His bit about how to find the Vancouver Police Department Headquarters is hilarious and obviously written from experience. He weaves some commentary about current events or recently past events, like the murders of the sex trade workers on Vancouver's east-side, into the book (and his opinion of the police is, let's just say, not generous).

This book has lots of Vancouver-area local colour, lots of funny bits, and many thought-provoking moments. It also includes a dandy puzzle (how do you get the police to help you track a murderer, based only on the word of a telepath who can't see the cops in person?). The familiar elements from Robinson's other works are a bit of a put-off for those of us who have been reading them in one form or another for thirty years, but they're good pieces and worth a look if you're not bored with them yet.

All in all, *Very Bad Deaths* is a Very Good Book, but I'd wait for the paperback.

Reference

Robinson, S. (2004). *Very Bad Deaths*. Riverdale, NY: Baen Books.

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.

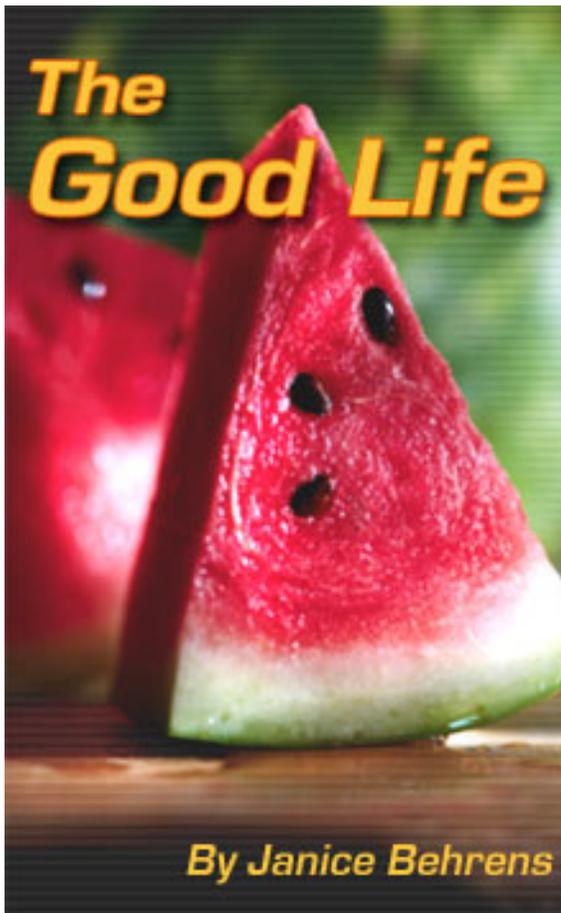
AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

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>

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The Dutch Oven: An Autumn Kitchen Treat

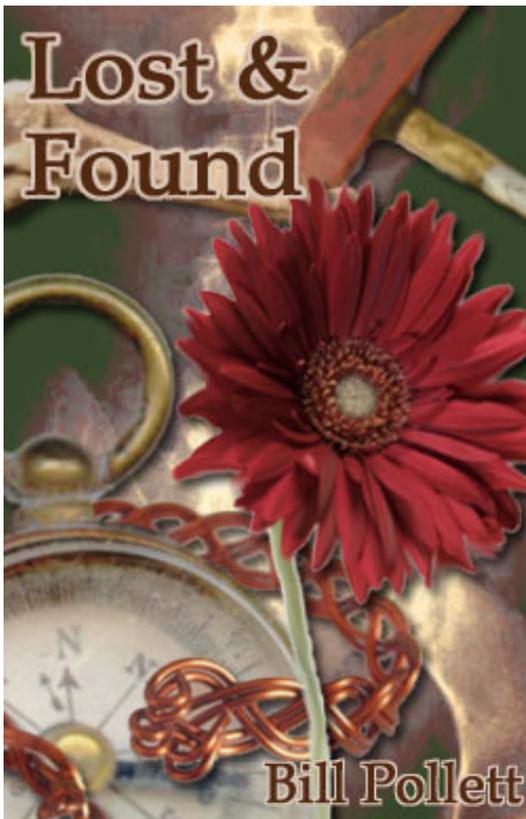
As far as I'm concerned, there is no better time of year to be cosily ensconced in the kitchen than late September onward. At this time, the gradual shortening of the days, a process that began right after the June 21st summer solstice, begins to make itself apparent and the air is becoming more crisp and cool. The late afternoon sunlight slants in through the kitchen window during the preparation of dinner, and the first turning leaves brighten up the trees in the garden. Any day now, I will be able to see my breath as I take last night's vegetable scrapings out to the compost pile first thing in the morning. Best of all, the local farmer's market at Trout Lake is well stocked with earthy delights in the form of abundant squashes, corn, and sharp-tasting local apples.

This is the time of year that the Dutch oven my mother gave me when I left home to attend university once again takes up a place of honour in my kitchen. This massive, cherry red cast iron cooking pot is covered in dents and chips, and according to my husband resembles a small meteorite that has entered through Earth's atmosphere. It weighs just about as much, too! But when it comes to

preparing delicious foods and filling the kitchen with savoury aromas, this sturdy pot is unparalleled.

For those of you not familiar with this formidable cookware item, the term Dutch oven refers to a large, lidded pot with handles, and sometimes legs (especially on the outdoor variety, used for cooking over open campfire flames). According to <http://www.chuckwagonsupply.com>, the name Dutch oven may date back to the early 18th century, when an Englishman named Abraham Darby began making pots for export to the New World colonies by means of a metal casting process he had picked up on a trip to Holland. Alternative theories of the pot's origin suggest that the name may come from early Dutch traders, who peddled the cookware, or from "Dutch settlers in the Pennsylvania area who used similar cast iron pots or kettles."

Whatever its true genesis, though, there is no disputing that this heavy pot's tendency to be even-heating makes it the ideal vessel for simmering such succulent and aromatic dishes as corn and seafood chowders, rich beef stews, chili con carne, stewed chicken with vegetables, slow-cooking lamb dishes such as osso bucco, and pot roasts--the types of food that fill the house with irresistible aromas and provide the body with the sort of central heating that the soon-to-be arriving brisk Autumn days call for.



Certain?

There is a lone figure sitting on a bench. From this distance it is impossible to tell whether the figure is a man or woman. He or she is dressed in tattered black rags or perhaps robes of crimson silk. The details are indistinct. The sun is beating down out of a clear blue afternoon sky. It is the dark of the moon, and satellites are passing across the sky. The figure on the bench is rocking back and forth in laughter or pain. The air is still. The trees are bending. When the howling wind momentarily stops blowing, I can hear that the woman on the bench is singing to herself.

Or else he is talking.

No, definitely singing. It is a hymn or a sea shanty, difficult to tell. Something about a devil standing on his coat tails. As the full moon slides out from behind a bank of clouds, I see that she is naked. She is shivering and curled into a tight ball. I think he is laughing. Crying. Laughing. The wind does a drunken dance through the prairie grasses, while somewhere a foghorn sounds. I think this man must be waiting for me. I have a vague idea that I'm late for our

appointment. Perhaps she is an optometrist. Or my executioner. Guardian angel. Sister. Mother. Brother. Wife. Something makes me want to run to her, to throw myself at his feet, and confess everything. I want to tell her about the point of no return, the seven deadly sins, the twelve unforgivable lies, the sixty-three acts of vengeance and the one mistake that will never be forgotten.

Then the sun sinks behind the meat packing plant, and the world is plunged into sudden darkness. As the sodium lights flicker on, I realize that my eyes have tricked me. It may not be a person at all. It could be a statue of some saint, or a gargoyle fallen from the cathedral, or an abandoned fridge. It's cold and dangerous at 3 a.m. in the inner city.

I pull my jacket tight about my throat. I light a cigarette and feel the death rattle in my throat. I've spent too long staring directly into the sun. I've ignored the curses. I've fallen asleep beneath the full moon at the place where the three roads meet. The demons have breathed their madness into my dreaming head. Something is closing in on me from behind. I move toward the indistinct shape ahead of me. The waves are foaming and tumbling about my ankles. The undertow is trying to drag me out to sea. The constellations are brilliant as diamonds in the desert sky, but the air is deadly cold. The fog is so thick that I can't see more than a few inches in front of me. Out of breath and sweating from the blazing summer heat, I collapse on the bench. I will never find my way home. I feel a hand on my forehead. Somebody puts a glass of cold lemonade against my lips. A voice asks me why I've been gone so long. I have no answers to give, so I just sit and listen. I listen to the voice, deep and light. Lecturing like a grandmother, gurgling like a babe. I listen to the voice filled with gladness and sorrow, the voice that is like a lighted window. And somehow I know that when I open my eyes, I will find myself at home. I will be found. I will be lost. Found. Lost. Lost. Found? That much is certain.



COLLEGES GETTING BOOSTS FOR BUILDINGS

Last week in Alberta, the Advanced Education Minister, David Hancock, announced that the provincial government would be investing 29 million dollars into Red Deer College to expand its facilities for trades training. At about the same time, another 8 million dollars were announced to go to Lakeland College for various building projects, with 5 million alone being used to expand the campus by 3500 square meters--with an additional 2 million having to be provided by the community.

Going by that calculation, we can see that the cost of expanding for Lakeland College is nearly \$2,000 per square meter. By that measure, my study space should qualify for infrastructure funding of about \$3,000 dollars, or, in essence, a free full-course load for the year.

So maybe it's time for us to start asking the government, where is our infrastructure funding? When AU adds students it does so with almost zero building costs. If the Alberta Government is such a big fan of cost-effectiveness, that 37 million dollars just donated would be much better spent at Athabasca University.

Coincidentally, that amount would entirely pay for the total tuition provided by students, both graduate and undergraduate, to AU last year, with a little bit left over. That's 35,000 students that could have had free education last year. How many years do you think it will be before the expanded facilities at Red Deer and Lakeland manage to process 35,000 students [Editors note: AU has by far the largest student body of any University or college in Alberta - more than 12,000 more than the University of Alberta]? And that's with both the students and the government having to pay additional funding every year as they normally do.

Free education can be a reality. We just need the governmental will behind it.

ALBERTA COLLEGES STILL NEEDING LOANS

Also last week, the Alberta government approved a loan request of the Board of Governors of Grant Macewan College for nearly six million dollars. I'm not sure I understand how, when amounts of nearly five times that are being given to Red Deer College, the provinces newest degree provider has to go beg for money. Sometimes I wonder if the current government simply feels a degree is not as useful as a trade skill.

Unfortunately, Statistics Canada has shown that the number one method that entrepreneurs fund their business is from personal savings and credit. They have also shown that the people who are most likely to have significant personal savings and credit, due to higher earnings, are degree holders. Put these two simple facts together and you understand that the chance of somebody being able to start their own business has a direct correlation to whether they have a degree or not.

So what do starting your own businesses have to do with trade skills? Typically, those who start businesses are those who hire people with trade skills. In other words, supporting the development of trade skills without supporting similar increases in the number of degrees is in many ways putting the cart before the horse.

However, perhaps there is hope. Since the government is still engaged in its "A Learning Alberta" project, the amounts going for trades might be just the first drops in what will become a sufficient flow of funding for degree education.

ONTARIO ON THE BANDWAGON

Just in case you think Alberta is the only province doing this kind of thing, Ontario also has just announced some significant funding increases. Like Alberta however, these increases are not going to provide Ontarians with an education; they're just going to build better and larger buildings for those students who can already afford their education.

Like Alberta, this funding comes from money set aside for capital project funding. In Ontario's case, that amount is 250 million dollars. If it seems like I'm in a rut with these things, it's because the government is making that rut deeper every time they go ahead with projects like these. Do improvements and renovations for physical universities need to be done? Absolutely. Do they need more buildings to expand the campuses? Perhaps ten years ago they did, before distance education was a viable reality.

Today though, we have accreditation in two of the most highly advanced countries in the world. The argument that distance education is substandard no longer exists. The argument that centralized campuses are needed to foster the sharing and promotion of new knowledge went out when the internet came in. What ties us to this expensive model of centralized campuses having to have the physical room to house students is simply government short-sightedness.



Dear Barb:

I am a single mother of a 13-year-old daughter who insisted that she needed a computer with Internet access for school. A friend of mind just happened to have an older computer that she was selling. I bought my daughter the computer and set it up in her room. Now I never see her. She's always in her room on the Internet. I am not very knowledgeable about the Internet, but I have heard about some of the stuff that kids are accessing. Is there any way I can monitor what my daughter is looking at on the Internet without making her feel like I'm intruding on her privacy? Thanks.

Bonnie in Atlanta

Hi Bonnie, what an important question! Surfing the Internet is a popular pastime for kids today and many are starting much younger than your daughter. The Internet has opened up a whole world of knowledge and information for kids; unfortunately it is not all good information. You are right in being concerned, but there are things parents can do to keep their kids safe on the Internet.

One of the ways you as a parent can protect your child is by becoming knowledgeable about the Internet. Perhaps you can take an introductory computer course to learn about the Internet. Many communities offer these courses for a reasonable fee.

The following are some tips I found online at the University of Oklahoma Department of Public Safety's website entitled "The Police Notebook" (<http://www.ou.edu/oupd/kidsafe/start.htm>).

1. Keep the computer in the family area of your home so you can see what your child is accessing on the Internet.
2. Regularly spend time with your child online to learn about his or her interests.

3. Teach your child how to get out of any site that makes them feel uncomfortable or scared. They can do this by logging off, pressing the back key, or telling a nearby adult what is going on.
4. If your child finds himself or herself on a questionable site don't become angry and blame them. You want them to trust you and feel that they can come to you with this information. Besides, it's very easy to get into areas that you don't want to be in, as you will find out after taking an Internet course.
5. Explain to your child the differences between advertising items, educational material, and entertainment content by showing them examples of each.
6. If you are going to allow your child to purchase items online, establish guidelines and rules that they must abide by.
7. Communicate with your Internet Provider to inform them of what you as a parent, expect in regard to keeping your children safe.

In addition to the above tips, you can purchase an application titled "parental controls" that will block access to inappropriate material. Parental controls can track your child's activity on the Internet for you to monitor at a later date. Boundaries can be set to allow only age appropriate content to be viewed. You can purchase parental controls through your Internet service provider, your web browser, or through retail outlets.

In addition to surfing the Internet, there are dangerous situations your child can get into by participating in online chat rooms and through email. It's very important to teach your child not to give out personal information in any of these venues.

There is an abundance of information available to help keep kids safe at the following online sites:

SafeKids.com - <http://www.safekids.com>
The Children's Partnership - <http://www.childrenspartnership.org>
Parry Aftab's Family Guide Book - <http://www.familyguidebook.com>

Also, your local library is a good source for further information.

Hope this helps, Bonnie.

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.

Women You Should Know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Gertrude B. Elion (1918-1999) was born in New York City on January 23, 1919. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1988 along with co-recipient George Hitchings and Sir James Black. Gertrude patented the leukemia-fighting drug 6-mercaptopurine in 1954. Her research led to the development of Imuran, a drug that aids the body in accepting transplanted organs, as well as Zovirax, a drug used to fight herpes. Dr. Gertrude Elion was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1991. Elion says the death of her beloved grandfather from cancer, when she was 15, is what motivated her to do something that might eventually lead to a cure. Gertrude continued to be an advocate for medical and scientific advancement until her death in February of 1999.

Source for additional information

Gertrude B. Elion Autobiography - <http://nobelprize.org/medicine/laureates/1988/elion-autobio.html>.
Excerpt from *Les Prix Nobel: The Nobel Prizes 1988*.



From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Terry

Where were you in 1980? Perhaps, like me, you were a young wife and mother. Or maybe like my daughter, you weren't even born yet. Maybe you were a 21-year-old university student. Maybe you were battling cancer.

What were you doing in 1980 or last year for that matter? I can say unequivocally that nothing I did that year or since comes close to the project Terry Fox undertook on April 12th.

Is it possible twenty-five years have passed since this young man began the unthinkable -- running across Canada to raise money for cancer. Has any other human being run the equivalent of a marathon every day for five months, much less someone who's lost a leg to cancer?

Can you imagine anyone in 2005 doing this the way Terry did it? He prided himself on doing it without endorsing any companies. In the early days, he did it without publicity, volunteers, police escorts, security people or much media attention. He did it with humility, fierce determination, unbelievable courage and integrity. He ran through the pain because of the suffering of other cancer patients. He did it with no-frills Adidas running shoes.

What he didn't have was an entourage, a convoy of hangers-on, space-age athletic shoes or prosthesis, corporate logos/sponsorship, a cent of payment, nor the comforts of an air-conditioned bus. Does anyone remember Steven Fonyo? He was another cancer survivor who attempted to complete what Terry started. His unsuccessful attempt was fraught with scandal and bad press. He was no Terry Fox.

I suspect Terry would be pumped to know that since his Marathon of Hope, annual Terry Fox runs in over 50 countries have raised over \$400 million dollars in his name for cancer research. He'd be humbled to know that countless books have been written about him, including Douglas Coupland's *Terry* for this twenty-fifth anniversary. This year, the Canadian Mint issued a one dollar commemorative coin with Terry's likeness on it. Adidas has just issued a special limited edition men's running shoe like the 1980 model that Terry wore

during his run. Across from Parliament Hill in Ottawa stands the Terry Fox memorial statue. Schools across the country have been named after this altruistic and genuine hero.

In a recent TV movie, Shawn Ashmore's portrayal of Terry was at once both endearing and irreverent. It gave a new appreciation for the primitive conditions under which Terry did the miraculous. Watching him sniff his shirts (for one that didn't reek) as he dressed for one of the countless public appearances was hilarious. The porta-potty was another glimpse into the real-life, gritty details that were part of this journey. His compassionate treatment of other survivors, speaking, signing autographs, and contacting media were all tacked onto days that began pre-dawn.

In these days of shallow, one-dimensional, it's-all-about-me celebrities, Terry continues to be an icon. Wisdom, hope, determination, and strength of character -- Terry had it all, from where I sit.

Reference

Coupland, D. (2005). *Terry: Terry Fox and His Marathon of Hope*. Douglas & McIntyre.



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

ONE VISION - MANY VOICES: A CROSS-CULTURAL / ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION CONFERENCE

University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Nov. 17-19, 2005

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/edpolicystudies/>

maritimes

HARVEST JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

13-18 September 2005 - Fredericton, NB

<http://www.harvestjazzblues.nb.ca/>

british columbia

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

20-24 September 2005 - Vancouver, BC

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

VANCOUVER FRINGE FESTIVAL

8-18 September 2005 - Vancouver, BC

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

international

THE SUSTAINABLE MUSEUM

Sept 25, 2005 - Sept 30, 2005 - Oxford, England

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/seminars-arts-0567.htm>

SAN GENNARO FEAST

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA - September 13 - 18, 2005

<http://www.sangennarofeast.net/>

quebec

WESTERN FESTIVAL

9-18 September 2005 - Bergeronnes, Quebec

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

TASTE OF ATLANTA

Atlanta, Georgia, USA - September 23 - 25, 2005

<http://www.tasteofatlanta.org/>

ontario

OWEN SOUND CELTIC FESTIVAL

Owen Sound, Ontario - Sept 16 - 18, 2005

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

WORLD ARTS FESTIVAL

Prescott Valley, Arizona, USA - Sept 17 - 18, 2005

<http://www.pvaz.net/>

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

8-17 September 2005 - Toronto, Ontario

<http://www.bell.ca/filmfest/>

FIESTA VIVA!

Bothell, Washington, USA - September 17 - 18, 2005

<http://www.fiestaviva.org/>

EPCOT INTERNATIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Lake Buena Vista, Florida - Sept 30 - Nov 13, 2005

<http://disneyworld.com/>

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



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

INTERNSHIP

Professional Internships in Vancouver and Toronto Canada

Term: Throughout the year

Length of Position: 12-24 weeks

Experience Required: no

Participants Travel to Canada Independently

Typically Participants Work Independently

Typically The Application Process Time Is 6 weeks

The InterNeX internship exchange is a program managed by WAYNE communications that arranges tailored internship placements for international candidates in accordance with the requirements of partner educational institutions in Canada and abroad. WAYNE communications combines 25 years of Human Resources and educational consulting and has placed over 200 candidates into over 100 positions in Canada over the last 6 years.

Who is this program for

- University students requiring a practicum for graduation
- Professionals seeking to upgrade their marketable skills
- Executives looking for a North American experience
- High School graduates looking for practical experience

Highlights

- Highly specialized placements dependent upon language ability, industry sector, candidate expectations, educational and professional background.
- Placements in all sectors and for all majors
- Most placements accredited with universities and professional associations
- Guaranteed placement in industry sector
- Program includes preparatory orientation program in city of placement of a minimum of 4 weeks
- Package includes accommodation, full-board, tuition, full support and placement guarantee

Qualifications / Requirements

See internship website, listed below

Application Process Involves

- Letters of Reference
- Other
- Phone Interview
- Resume
- Transcript
- Written Application

Go to the following URL to contact the appropriate party about this internship

<http://www.internabroad.com/sendmail.cfm?clientID=10829&listingID=21964>

This information was gathered from Intern Abroad <http://www.internabroad.com/>

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

Alberta Foundation for the Arts Individual Artists Project Grant Program, The

Administrator: Grant MacEwan College

Award Amount: \$10,000.00

Award Deadline: Thursday, September 15, 2005

Region of Study: Alberta

Notes: Awarded to support artistic projects. Based on artistic, educational merit, impact of project, reasonableness of budget, and ability to carry out proposed project.

Danielle Wycott or Barbara Greaves

Student Resource Centre, Room 7-112

10400 - 107 St., Edmonton, Alberta

Postal Code: T5J 2P2 Phone: (780) 497-5063

Fax: (780) 497-4656 Web Site: <http://www.gmcc.ab.ca/web/Prospective/Calendar>

Cal Callahan Memorial Bursaries

Administrator: Grant MacEwan College

Award Amount: \$6,000.00

Award Deadline: Friday, September 30, 2005

Year of Study: Entering or in first year

Notes: Awarded annually to a child or legal ward of persons who derive their principal income from the pipeline industry and whose employers are members of this association.

Danielle Wycott or Barbara Greaves

Student Resource Centre, Room 7-112

10400 - 107 St., Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2

Phone: (780) 497-5063 Fax: (780) 497-4656

Web Site: <http://www.gmcc.ab.ca/web/Prospective/Calendar>

John Gyles Education Awards

Administrator: John Gyles Education Awards

Award Amount: \$3,000.00

Citizenship: Canadian/American

Notes: Available each year to students in both Canada and the United States. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. Contact for more information.

Attention: The Secretary

John Gyles Education Awards

P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive

Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5G4

Phone: (506) 459-7460

Web Site: <http://gorams.wssu.edu/soe/scholarship/gyles.htm>



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.

National Student Government Summit

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

Second International Vernacular Colloquium

October 26 - 29, 2005 - Puebla, Mexico
<http://www.ipsonet.org/vernacular/2005>

A conference intended to explore the distinction between formalized reasoning and vernacular reasoning. Topics include areas such as Anthropology, sociology, archaeology, gender, tourism and travel, culture wars, photography, psychology, North American Indigenous Populations, ethno-botany, medicinal practices, ecology, Chicano and Chicana issues, Mexican History, art and architecture, the drug problem, linguistics, folklore, poetry and literature readings, music and performance, dance, film and television, food, computers, education, urban issues.

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- 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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