

University 102 is a course in the social sciences. It is part of the University 101 program that offers free, non-credit, academic courses to students who have faced barriers to post-secondary education. Respect and value for the students' knowledge, experiences, and differences are the foundations of the program. The program strives to be inclusive and to foster collaborative learning.

**thoughtful
intentional
expressive**



University
of Victoria

DIVERGENT/CONVERGENT
ДИВЕРГЕНТ\СОНВЕРГЕНТ

Journal of the University 102 Students
Spring 2013



University
of Victoria

DIVERGENT/CONVERGENT

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University 102

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**Appreciate
walking new
and old trails**
-Carlie McKenzie

A Note From The Dean:

Dr. Peter Keller, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

Congratulations to all graduates of this year's UNI 102. I hope that your journey through the diversity of the Social Sciences has been rewarding and challenging as well as of course lots of fun.

Whether you are a student, instructor or volunteer, it takes courage to sign up for courses like UNI 101 and 102 not knowing what to expect. Well done to all of you students who took that courageous step and who have stuck with it. Who knows where this new path may take you. This initiative would not happen without the extraordinary efforts and commitments given by the instructors, the teaching assistants and all volunteers. Well done and thank you to Becky and all her Team.

It is a genuine privilege to be in some way associated with this great initiative.

Expanding my Mind

by Pauline Thompson

I was excited when I was accepted in University 102 because I never thought I would attend the University of Victoria. I was worried because I didn't know what I was getting into. From the very beginning, the teachers and staff were friendly and helpful, and I was treated with respect. At first, I wasn't sure if I could do it, but as time went on, I realized the lectures were interesting for me. I thought, "I can do this!"

I have learned to participate in the Study Groups. This has helped me to understand the meaning of the topic and many words that I had never heard of. I have learned that I can express my thoughts and opinions in the group, even if I don't always agree. I have learned to listen and focus on the topics being presented. All of these have been new to me, and they have expanded my mind and my knowledge.

The University 102 experience has given me the confidence to continue learning. Yes, "I can do it".

Wait, Just Weight

by Michael Cameron

Enjoy your wait, while you can bear to wait
And enjoy your weight
While you can bear your weight
Because you can't always bear to wait
And you can't always bear your weight
So if I can help you enjoy your wait
And you can help me to bear mine
We can bear the wait together
And it will be over before its time.

Conscious and Respectful Parenting

by Kerri Garland

The realization that my parents were actually “human” only came to me when I had my own kids. I realized that even though I had this awesome new dimension to me, a new role, I was still Kerri. I was still Hillary and Maria's best friend. I still wanted to party, I wanted to sleep in; I wanted to *not* do anything if I didn't have to. Basically I was still a kid myself. I was 23 when my first child was born and still that same human that had all the same defects before Nicole was born. I didn't automatically become the “perfect human being” just because I had become a mother. On some level, I really believed that motherhood would make me straighten up and fly right. And it did in some ways, but alas, I would continue to make poor choices and hurt my loved ones.

When Nicole was born, so was, what I like to call my “Mother conscience” born. The voice of guilt a lot of the times, and whether it was healthy or not, it would motivate me to always strive to be the best mother I could be at that time. It was also the voice of a new found compassion, empathy and a strength that only motherhood could show me I have. I certainly wasn't always consciously or respectfully parenting my children, there was a lot of yelling when they were young. And there was probably a spanking or two. As they got older, and I got older, I would see the hurt in their faces when I would yell or shame them. It would hurt me. I started to become way more conscious of how I spoke to them. I started to gain some humility. I realized that I was going to make mistakes, and that

admitting when I was wrong to my girls, became part of my parenting. I realized that talking to them in a respectful tone and speaking my truth was a lot easier on them and me. I became more conscious of their humanity, their autonomy, and their rights as humans.

I've become even more adamant about "Conscious Parenting" since being in Uni 102 and 101.¹ While learning more about Humanity and its social behavior, it seems to me that, even as an early species, we learned and became cruel and violent, why? When and why did we start being so cruel to each other and our kids? I realize, that fear, among many others, is a huge factor, meaning, way back when we still had to fear saber-tooth tigers, maybe my father would have yanked me back into the cave, scolding me because he was afraid. But when did we decide it was a good idea to make our children feel bad or shame about their actions. Why call them names? Why be disrespectful? Speaking to them in such a disrespectful manner that eventually they internalized it and became really hard on themselves? And then continued the cycle by raising people who don't like, or even loath, themselves. And then *they* go out into the world and treat the other people in their communities disrespectfully, bullying being one example. The anti-bullying campaigns are great, but what about parents just being kinder to their children. Kindness starts at home. Teach them to speak kindly to you, and their siblings, *and* themselves. We've also been taught that being kind to *ourselves*, self love and self acceptance is a sign of conceit or selfishness.

I think if people were to actually listen to their own self talk, they would be surprised at how mean they speak to themselves. If I could start my life again, I would be more loving to myself, I would respect myself more. I would speak more kindly to myself. I have now begun this process for myself.

¹TED Talk by Shefali Tsabary Ph.D “Conscious Parenting”

I believe the simple act of speaking to our children in a respectful tone, no matter what the age, can change the course of their life.

I think a lot of parents operate from a place of superiority with their kids just because they are *their* kids, and that they can treat their kids however they like without consequence. If your child speaks disrespectfully to you, stop and listen to how you are speaking to them or even how you are speaking to yourself. We speak and treat our kids in a disrespectful way, a shaming way or an accusatory tone because somewhere along the line we thought it was a good idea to shame our children when they make mistakes, or when they don't perform the way the *parent* is expecting them to perform. It would do parents and their kids a great service if they would read up on how their kids develop physiologically, how their brains work at different ages.

Being a parent is a privilege, not a right.

Albert Einstein said, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid." This can also relate to a child's age. I think a lot of parents expect from their kids, intellect and behaviors that they may not be able to do yet because of their age and how their brains process at a particular age. The parent will shame that child for not doing something the child may not be able to do.

Having a better understanding of how our children develop would be a great parenting tool. And how about a crash course on our daughter's hormones, for our fathers? I think if our dads had a better understanding of how their

daughters' hormones function, fathers may be less apt to judge and more apt to encourage them.

I read once that a brain going through puberty releases the same chemicals a schizophrenic's brain releases. I read that the reason teenagers tend to be messy is because they are not focused as much on their outer environment as much as they are on their social and inner emotional environment. So when they don't clean up after themselves, they're not doing it to piss us off, they just aren't aware of the mess they have left. So I stopped bugging my daughter, Amber, about her room and when I ask her (for the 10th time) to clean the coffee she spilled on the counter, I say it in a respectful tone, no need to shame or guilt about little things like that. And in turn she speaks respectfully to me, and after awhile she starts cleaning up after herself. Respect is in place.

Parents who say "Look what I've done for you" are setting a tone of guilt and resentment in that child's life for years to come. I say, "Ya, look what I do for you, I brought you into this world, I am responsible for doing these things, teaching and helping you, until you are ready and able to be on your own." Being a parent is a privilege, not a right.

Be kind to the kids.

"Hurt people hurt people. That's how pain patterns get passed on, generation after generation. Break the chain today. Meet contempt with compassion, cruelty with kindness. Greet grimaces with smiles. Forgive and forget about finding fault. Love is the weapon of the future. "

- Yhuda Berg, *The Power of Kabbalah*

**Social balancing
is finding a
balance of ideas
and thoughts,
and not leaving
anyone behind.**
- Bill Cawker

What If and Why Not

by Ruth Johnson

What if – I don't fit in.

Why not – See and feel how there is so much
love and respect for each of us here.

What if – I can't find the words or my
processing of thoughts is too slow

Why not – Be patient with myself, and
slow down and take my time.

What if – I act like a turtle, pulling my head into a shell,
afraid to take the next step, afraid to open my mouth.

Why not – Take the next step. So far, so good:
So much help – so much caring.

What if – I can't find the classroom.

Why not – Just ask for directions.

What if – I am different.

Why not – See that I am the same (we are all
one), see that we bring our own unique
beauty to this family community.

What if - I took action.

Why not – Follow the results.

What if – Writing is too hard.

Why not – See Uni 102 as a gift, a blessing, one for
which I feel gratitude for the inspiration.

What if – I am not the best writer or communicator.

Why not – Accept and know that I gave it my best
and that this is a great opportunity for help.

What if – Uni 102 allowed me not to see our differences, but our unique sameness.

Why not – Be inspired once again within each desire of the heart, there is the same emotions, longings, and ambitions.

What if – I start talking too much.

Why not – Stop and listen more.

What if – I miss too many classes due to personal family matters.

Why not – Jump right back in and continue with the course.

What if – I was to eliminate my mind chatter that says I can't learn and learning is too hard. I can't write let alone remember.

Why not – Refocus on what I can do, what I am doing and be proud of my effort and results.

What if – I change my attitude towards my ability to learn.

Why not – Imagine that this could be my key to success.

What if – I slip up.

Why not – Make a quick recovery and continue.

What if – I try.

Why not – Do.

What if – My little successes lead to bigger successes.

Why not – Feel inspired, challenged, encouraged and blessed.

What if – My mind is closed.

Why not – Be open and flexible.

What if – I was to remove worry, self-doubt, and fear

Why not – Relax and be in the flow of all things.

What if – Due to my nervousness I over eat Oreos.

Why not – Eat a piece of fruit.

What if – I used my experience and my knowledge (about a subject) and used it as a powerful impetus for change.

Why not – See this as a matter of choice.

What if – My processing speed is slow and I can't respond as quickly as I would like.

Why not – Accept what is, take my time and allow it to come.

What if – I took it slow and gradual.

Why not – Go for it and jump in with full effort.

What if – I was to become inspired to a higher level of education.

Why not – Allow that inspiration and excitement to lead me on a unfamiliar journey. A place that I dared not to have adventured.

What if – Everything feels so forced.

Why not – Let it flow.

What if – I don't get it right (I am not up to speed).

Why not – Accept that there is no right or wrong, that it just is. See that I am putting too much pressure on myself, and examine my thinking around perfection.

What if – I panic and start to sweat, my heart begins to race, and my mind starts working overtime.

Why not – Relax and know that everything was being taken care of. Wow, what a sense of peace and calm.

What if – All I wanted was acceptance.

Why not – Accept myself without feeling that the acceptance must come from an outside source (**what is, is me**).

What if – Everything seems to go wrong.

Why not – See that everything is falling into place naturally, one after another unexpected opportunities.

What if – I did nothing other than attend class.

Why not – Choose to do something; action and inaction are both in a sense, actions.

What if – I just keep playing my anxiety, producing situations in my mind.

Why not – Know that my mind takes many side trips throughout the day, and that will change with practice and not worry.

What if – The existence we believe does not exist.

Why not – Just enjoy the journey.

What if – I remember that what appears on the surface of each person is not the whole story.

Why not – Take another viewpoint and embrace who they truly are.

What if – In group when I share, others are confused, go quiet, and don't understand what I have to say.

Why not – Know that it is okay. That my experience may not be within their realm of experience.

What if – I would like licorice tea.

Why not – Just ask Becky.

What if – The benefits I receive can benefit others.

Why not – Share with community.

What if – I can't make a decision or choice.

Why not – Just make a choice, take a stance. Knowing there is no right or wrong, good or bad. It just is.

What if – I respected the coming changes that will be forced upon me.

Why not – Smile, enjoy, and see there is growth and progress in each situation. I am growing and expanding.

What if – My desire to learn and write is overridden by my past negative experiences.

Why not – Make a committed effort to embrace not who I think I am but who I truly am.

What if – I was to choose to let go of my mistaken thinking.

Why not – Start today as tomorrow may not come.

What if – The students and professors are above me intellectually.

Why not – Accept that no one person has all the answers to all the questions. We each have something worthwhile to contribute.

What if – When I was told that I wasn't capable of learning, they made a mistake.

Why not – See the infinite possibilities.

What if – I did an assignment, my spelling was poor, and the punctuation ... (where does it go?) Did I understand the assignment? Could I convey that information using critical thinking?

Why not – Start, make an effort and find out. Look for unexpected opportunities in every situation.

What if – I stopped focusing and get distracted by my own and others' shortcomings.

Why not – Refocus and find the common ground in all people.

What if – I was to come to class and talk to a select few.

Why not – Have a genuine interest and appreciation for all my classmates.

What if – Uni 102 peaked an interest in the world and others.

Why not – Greet each class and person with curiosity and innocence, propelling my consciousness like an electrical charge filled with excitement.

What if – I was to stop using my mind to always rationalize.

Why not – Deliberately choose the actions and situations that feel more in harmony with my being.

What if – I was to tell myself that I was to receive minimal benefit from Uni 102.

Why not – Admit to myself that wasn't true. After writing this piece I acknowledge that I receive the most important gift – *me*.

What if – I was asked to provide feedback about Becky, Uni 102 or the TAs, what would I say?

Why not – Express what I truly experienced. I felt a nurturing environment that shared love and acceptance, kindness, compassion, empathy, respect, friendship, warmth, caring, appreciation, eagerness to listen, help, smiles, hugs, softness, tolerance, patience, and trust.

What if – Becky just makes taking Uni 101 and Uni 102 just too darn easy and is just too accommodating.

Why not – Acknowledge that I have just run out of excuses that no longer *serve me anymore*. I am now using a new approach, a new understanding and a new way of viewing each situation.

What if

Why not

The gift of appreciation.

Love and Acceptance is the core of all

by Ruth Johnson

Today let us begin by being the light that we truly are have you forgotten that once we had no thoughts of being unable incapable or not enough we only knew that we were able to manifest create our life not as it would appear today but there is no time in which there was there only is blessed are those that quiet oneself to hear or see what can be the life for which one has become shall forever be Sounds that have fallen on deaf ears shall once again be and the sounds of joy ring through our entire being for it will be again and yet it was never lost but in the midst of

living we shall sit tall among the forest and shall sit and ponder no more we are here to be the magician in our lives Sadly we mistake that feeling of exhaustion as never enough but can you not feel the energy of being alive There is no need to lay down to turn off to heed to one's circumstances but would you not live in the feeling of joy and feel the crispness of life I heed no message other than to share with you that we can co-create and be one.

Archeologist and Artifacts

by Andrea Lee Williams

While in attendance at the University 101 and 102, I found the subject of Archaeology most interesting.

Here are just a few fact that I've discovered studying this subject:

It is the study of people's fascination with the past and its objects.

Most museums are stuffed with objects. It's an obsession that runs gamut of our desires. The ground is being emptied so that these things can be possessed.

For example, the Peabody Museum, the oldest museum in the world devoted solely to human antiquity, has occupied an expansive Victoria manor on the Harvard University campus. In the U.S., they have over 200 million individually catalogued artifacts in the public trust and 26 million cubic feet of artifacts yet to be catalogued.

A looter in China will show a Chinese prospective buyer photographs of artifacts in an insufficiently guarded museum. Once a price is agreed upon, the object will be stolen and prepared for transport. Artifacts sitting on dealers' shelves must often be laundered beyond scientific recognition. The illicit artifact community is out for blood. You don't get this kind of talk from geologists or stamp collectors. In no other field of research have so many people wanted the other party killed.

In China, a lone monk found extremely rare texts of Christian teachings. They were the so-called *Jesus Sutras*. They are the *Diamond Sutra*, the oldest known printed book in the world. Its inscription read: May 11, 868 - that's 587 years earlier than Gutenberg's Bible.

There was even a thousand year old etiquette guide that explained the exact words one should use to apologize to a host for drunkenness at a party. And how a host would properly respond to such an apology. This is the kind of collection that archaeologists would die for.

In 2006, work construction exposed a thirteen-ton stone carving of an earth goddess, the *Topping Tomb* of an Aztec Emperor. This is Mexican history's biggest discovery.

From arrowhead hunters to global dealers, from amateurs excavating illegally, to archaeologists with university degrees picking at the ground with dental tools, we all want a piece of it.

This is what institutional obsession looks like. It is a picture of what archaeology has truly created, not a diorama of the past, but a diorama of ourselves.

Many archaeologists have made themselves ethically untouchable, writing commentaries about what is right and wrong.

One Ohh One

by Jay Alcantara

It is Christmas time: I get an email from German; it is **positive**.
Yeah! I have been accepted to the University 101 **program**.

I cannot avoid it, my heart rate is up. Breathe in, breathe out, in, out, **peace**.
Remain calm and do not let things get out of hand, just be **patient**.
Memories have kept me **prisoner**
in time. Just be here and now; diminish some of the **pain**
I am safe, I am protected, I am safe, I am **protected**.
The first day is great. Becky has worked hard to **put**
up a fascinating group of volunteers, TAs, and **professors**
from different departments eager to share their expert knowledge. They are **passionate**.
I want a **piece**
of that. Knowledge is **power**,
it opens a whole new world of **possibilities**.
We get incentives, free meals, materials, childcare and even free **parking**
tickets. Our group is diverse: ideas flare. Our **personalities**
make it challenging. So to build an environment where we can learn, laugh, **play**
is crucial. Readings, lectures, writings, groups and even a term **project**.
What have I got into? Why do I expose myself to this? What am I trying to **prove**?
Am I trying to bite off more than I can chew? I am **panicking**.
Everything is spinning in my head. The **pressure**
is on. Have I taken it too easy? I have to stop **procrastinating**
and get to work. Overwhelming? Very much. I wish all the **people**
would suddenly just yell, “you have been **pranked**
all this time.” Wait! I have an idea; I am inspired, where is my **pencil**?
I may not be the best in the class but I will **pull**
this off. I have to take advantage of the **pay-free**
TAs and their expertise. When all this is over, I will walk out with the **pleasure**
of having done something to improve my confidence and **pride**.
Going to University a few months ago did not look **possible**.
Now even if it is just for a short time I am **part**
of UVic’s family, thanks to **101**.

(Finished on π day, Victoria 2013)

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

by Wes Parfitt

Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

– Will Durant

History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.

– Napoleon Bonaparte

One part of knowledge is in being ignorant of such things as are not worth knowing.

– Crates (4th century)

Woe betide those who seek to save themselves the pain of mental building by inhabiting dead men's minds.

– G.D.H. Cole

One cannot say that all conservatives are stupid people, one can say that most stupid people are conservative.

– John Stuart Mill

People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid.

– Soren Kierkegaard

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

– Alvin Toffler

From the social point of view, the educational systems are oriented to maintaining the existing social and economic structures instead of transforming them.

– Wilhelm Von Humboldt

In times of change, learners inherit the Earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.

– Eric Hoffer

When the sufferers learn to think, then the thinkers will learn to suffer.

– Karl Marx

A problem well stated is a problem half solved.

– Charles F. Ketterling

It is the responsibility of intellectuals to speak the truth and expose lies.

– Noam Chomsky

Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.

– Eleanor Roosevelt

I can't understand why people are frightened by new ideas. I'm frightened of old ones.

– John Cage

The important thing is never to stop questioning.

– Albert Einstein

Before God we are all equally wise – and equally foolish.

– Albert Einstein

A love affair with knowledge will never end in heartbreak.

– Michael Garrett Marino

Everything has been figured out, except how to live.

– Jean Paul Sarte

It is a picture
of what
archaeology
has truly
created, not
a diorama of
the past, but
a diorama of
ourselves.

-Andrea Williams

How Did She Play the Hand She Was Dealt With?

by Joy Woodhams

What is Justice?

"Justice is just behaviour or treatment; it is moral rightness, based on ethics; it is rationality, fairness, equity, reasonableness and a restoring of equilibrium"

- Wikipedia

On March 18, 2013, a new family law protocol was issued in B. C. emphasizing children's wellbeing, best interests and the use of the word guardian rather than custodial parent. However, in practice children are not always at the centre in our culture.

Although there have been changes to family law since the 1970s and 1990s, the criteria of "unfit mother" is still used when a lawyer encourages a male client to be ruthless. This is usually done to keep ownership of a business or money.

More often than not, the use of "unfit mother" has no basis in fact, but has the effect of forcing a woman to relent on any claims to fairness. Legal fees are onerous and that is an additional reason, other than the emotional stress, for accepting whatever is offered. Male privilege, biased lawyers, and mothers' commitment to doing what is best for their children, can work against women. Too often, in our legal system, money equals power. Truth is disregarded in favour of coercion.

Children, Money, Integrity: "The Unfit Mother" and Irony

I was an unsophisticated, naive pregnant teenager, afraid of marriage and forced to relinquish my baby girl for adoption. As time went by I was married and my husband and I had a daughter that I could *keep*. We had a six year old business which was growing. My husband started an affair which progressed to divorce. There was discussion about child support, an education fund for our daughter, alimony and sharing of the business. The latter issue was contentious. I started to date 1.5 years after the separation, when suddenly there was a threat of my daughter being taken from me and a charge of "unfit mother" levelled against me (to this point I had sole custody and care). "Unfit mother" is used in the service of men getting what they want and is dropped as easily as it is brought up.

A year later there were minimal payments, no education fund and it was impossible to afford renegotiating enforcement with the lawyer. The new family law rules require that a \$5,000 bond be posted to ensure legal agreements are followed through on. So I moved on, as much to find a male father figure for my daughter as to find a partner for myself - as her father was not around. He subsequently divorced the 'other woman' and remarried a third time.

Too often, in our legal system, money equals power. Truth is disregarded in favour of coercion.

My second husband and I gave my daughter two brothers and a sister. There were many happy years during this time, with great memories on a farm and horses too! The relinquished daughter was found and our family were reunited with her, her husband and children.

Life presented many challenges and our family fell on hard times, with constant moving and loss. My husband had a breakdown and the "unfit

mother" came up again - it had to be the lawyers' suggestion and my husband apologized afterward - and through this, I carried on, raising the family, very successfully, alone financially, physically and psychologically. Irony? Unfit mother? Such fortunate men to have such beautiful adult children.

The second apology was a dark blue Mustang convertible, 40 years later.

Why the animosity and adversarial approach encouraged by lawyers?

"If your success is defined as being well-adjusted to injustice and well-adapted to indifference, then we do not want successful leaders. We want great leaders - who love the people enough and respect the people enough to be unbought, unbound, unafraid and unintimidated to tell the truth." - Dr. Cornel West

Social Balancing: No One Left Behind

by Bill Cawker

With this opportunity available at Uni 101/102 for people with disabilities, society positively changes. People with disabilities bring new ideas because of their challenges. With some changes, the program opens the door for those who have hearing, vision, and other challenges.

There is also the problem of costs involved, most people with disabilities could not afford this program. With support there is more accessibility to education for all students. Why should education be so unattainable for some in society?

Society has to change from only the Healthy and Wealthy succeeding. We just need to make education more affordable and available for all people. Anything to broaden our horizons is a good thing. Social balancing is finding a balance of ideas and thoughts, and not leaving anyone behind.

We learn at different speeds, methods, and avenues. Can we not all be treated equal, even with our different ways of learning?

The door has been opened with programs like Uni 101/102, where should we go next so everyone benefits?

Scientology: Fact or Fiction?

by Melanie King

Scientology, fact or fiction? Ask yourself this: what is religion? Does the Church Of Scientology legitimately qualify as one?

Origin of Scientology

Laffeyette Ronald Hubbard was born in Tilden, Nebraska. His father was in the Navy and his mother was the daughter of the town veterinarian. Hubbard claimed he became blood brothers with the Blackfoot tribe at age six, as well as travelled Asia by himself at that age. As he grew up, he also claimed to have become a philosopher, accomplished director, composer, cinematographer, choreographer, and of course, a photographer, each of which took comprehensive study. To top it all off, he also claimed to have published 15 million words, the equivalent of 200 mass-market novels. This all took place between 1921 and 1941. In the late 1930s, Hubbard was supporting himself writing pulp science fiction for such magazines as *Astounding* and *Unknown*.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Hubbard published the seminal article on Dianetics, the precursor to Scientology in *Astounding Science Fiction* and the full length treatment, Dianetics, which he subtitled *The Modern Science Of Mental Health*. Dianetics taught that the true spiritual essence of the human being, the soul (which Hubbard called the Thetan) was trapped and restricted by a myriad of past experiences of loss, pain and unconsciousness. Through Dianetic therapy these harmful accretions were cleared and

the person returned to a normal state of being. By the late fall of 1950 there were 750 groups across the country applying Dianetic techniques of auditing thetans from people's minds and bodies. In 1954 Hubbard founded the Church of Scientology.

Beliefs and Practices

The primary ritual in Scientology practise refers to auditing as a precise form of spiritual counselling between a minister and a parishioner. Using a device called an E-Meter and strictly controlled sets of questions and directions, these tools are designed to identify particular engrams, the single source of aberrations and psychosomatic ills. The engram is a moment of unconsciousness containing physical pain or painful emotion and in which all perceptions are not available to the analytical mind. Psychosomatic ills are all caused by engrams. The E-Meter shocks and pinches the person to free the practitioner from negative influence of past experience from lifetime to lifetime. Scientologists believe in reincarnation and that they will live forever.

Hubbard so believed in himself that he had a bust of himself in every Org (church), as well as a room set aside just in case he were to drop in for a visit, because of his belief in reincarnation. Scientologists so value Hubbard's voluminous output of writings that a special organization, The Church of Technology, is engraving the entire corpus of Hubbard's original texts on steel plates. The church is sure they will last for hundreds of years. Scientologists believe that Hubbard's teachings will be vital for rebuilding civilization when the world ends.

Organizational Structure

Like its theology, the Church of Scientology's organizational structures is complex, multi-faceted and highly bureaucratized. A single church is known as an Org and is minutely managed. Every Org is responsible for following precisely the instructions, procedures, and policies Hubbard laid out in his 12 volume administrative technology. In broad strokes, every element in the organization falls into three main categories: delivery of services and

products; management and support; and public relation service. It is certain that every penny is accounted for.

The Mother Church, located in Los Angeles, is the corporate head and responsible for managing the money. The next faithful church is the Sea Org and it offers the highest level of training. Members live communally on a ship and follow Hubbard's teaching. For that they receive nominal compensation and must sign a billion-a-year contract. The church owns many of these ships.

What is religion?

Finally, there is the Religious Technology Center (RTC), what many people regard as the real power behind the throne. They provide significant rites of passage for church members, weddings, funerals, and naming ceremonies. They follow on the heels of Christianity by wearing clerical garb normally worn by Christian Pastors. With such a vivid imagination one might wonder why Hubbard did not think of something more elaborate and different.

Since being deemed a church in the U.S., there is much controversy over the fact that they don't pay taxes, and they have questionable practices and procedures when it comes to the sick. For example, when a person has a diagnosed mental illness they refuse to allow their parishioners to seek professional help from a psychologist or psychiatrist. They are forbidden to take medication for any purpose and instead perform exorcism-like procedures on them to remove the engrams from their bodies. Scientologists believe all illnesses are psychosomatic, made up or imagined, and can only be cured by the E-Meter and the exorcism-like performances. All of this because Hubbard once wrote an article about the inner working of the human mind and spirit and submitted it to the American Psychological Association, but was thoroughly and somewhat summarily dismissed. Is his hatred of psychologists and psychiatrists sufficient cause for him to call what he does a religion of science?

Divergence

by Melanie King

Ronald Hubbard is nothing more than a very clever, creative individual who has a knack for convincing people to give his “orgs” all their money in order to be “cleared” for the next level which takes a lifetime to achieve, with the idea that you may one day be reincarnated.

What I have written here is only a fraction of the information about Ronald Hubbard and his so-called Church of Scientology. It’s hard to get a glimpse into the church because the wording in his texts is such that one cannot understand his messages.

His practises are questionable and his life story colorful and creative, but without a shred of truth to it. He had a vivid imagination for writing science fiction. The Church of Scientology is based on just that, fiction, which it so happened lead to the death of a young lady, Lisa McPherson, aboard the ship based in Clearwater, Florida.

Now, I ask you, is religion supposed to take lives? Sounds more like the definition of a cult. A cult is defined as a system of beliefs; the rites and ceremonies of any system of belief; a sect regarded as unorthodox or harmful to it’s adherents; an intense devotion to a person, or idea. I would say that Scientology meets all the requirements of a cult, wouldn’t you?



The Group of 102

by Linda Brown

We are the class of 2013. We came with the objective that we were going to learn something new. We came and with determination we accomplished our goals.

We all learned so many different things. Sometimes it was hard to comprehend it all. We learned things from the beginning of time, if we came from men or animals. We went on to learn things like how to use computers, took a tour of the library and learned about different people and races and many more things.

We can be proud of ourselves that we came and can go on to learn even more things. We have more goals in our lives, and it is good to know we can accomplish anything if we put our minds to it.

We can put what we learned to good use. With that in mind, we shall always be grateful for the help people gave us to accomplish our goals.

We made mistakes along the way, but we always kept on going, we never gave up.

There were days we felt we could not carry on, but we kept on pushing ourselves – we made it through!

Rejection

by Linda Brown

Rejection is a hurtful word.
I wish it did not exist.
Some people will make you feel like
 there's no reason for you
To be loved,
Or accepted,
In this world.

Even though we may not be all the same,
We all want to have a part,
Even though we may be different.

So I will try not to reject you if you can
 accept me for what I am.
I may not have the same abilities as you,
 but we can all make a difference.
If we all work together we can make
 the world a better place
For everyone.

Love

by Linda Brown

Love is gentle
Love is kind
Love is forgiving
But not all of the time.

You try and treat others with love and respect
But sometimes it is very hard.

When you show love you do receive love in return.

So give love to each other and the world
will be a wonderful place.
So give love and you will get it back in
so many different ways.

The Sundial of Feelings

by Linda Brown

We all have many mixed emotions and feelings
Inside of us.

So we find a true friend that we can
share our emotions with
And who will not judge us.

No matter where we have been or come from
Someone who will listen and understand us.

So my friend I will trust your love
With all my heart.

If you can give me respect
I will give you respect in return.

Changing Our Brains in Uni 102

by Wendy Penman

Our brains are good enough, but there is always room for change.

In Uni 102 we have been given the opportunity to change our brains in several ways; three examples of this are: engaged pedagogy, meeting new people, and eating a balanced meal.

Engaged Pedagogy can change our brains

As students of Uni 102, we are encouraged to ask questions, share our hopes and dreams, and get acquainted with our facilitators, professors and each other. This creates an atmosphere of trust and commitment. By becoming more engaged with the subject and the teacher, we can then absorb more meaningful information. When we engage our hearts and minds, and share our inner light, the classroom becomes more conducive to learning. Our brains are changed by the exchange of new ideas and new possibilities can be discovered.

Meeting new people can change our brains

As students of Uni 102, we get the chance to meet new people that are interested in learning and are open to new ideas. We can reach out and use the community as a resource for information. By listening to others' perspectives, opinions and ideas we can create a safe place to discuss and debate our feelings, thoughts and desires.

When we open ourselves to new people and new ideas we are able to scrap old ideas that don't work or are outdated.

Being brave enough to meet new people, and make new connections can change our brains.

Eating a balanced meal can change our brains

As students of Uni 102, we are given a free dinner every evening before class begins. This meal fuels our bodies and our minds, making it easier to learn and understand new ideas. Making healthy choices isn't always easy, but here in Uni 102 we are given lots of healthy choices to choose from. Sharing our meals together also brings us closer, giving a sense of trust and friendship, making it easier to share our ideas and thoughts in the classroom. Our bodies are hungry for food and our brains are hungry for change.

Being brave enough to meet new people, and make new connections can change our brains.

We have been given a great opportunity for changing our brains here in Uni 102.

Our brains are changed by engaging with other students and our teachers in a safe and non-judgemental environment. By being brave enough to trust others and share our own ideas, we open up our worlds to even greater possibilities. Sharing a wonderful dinner together every evening brings us closer and nourishes our souls. These are just a few things that can change our brains in Uni 102

Our brains are good enough, but there is always room for change.

Belle

by Wendy Penman

A magical gift
Kindred and soulful
Soft as a downy feather
Lively as a firecracker
Your heart beat to a different tune
Smiling with all your extra teeth
You gave me such joy and happiness
In your bossy little way
You always let me know where you were
 even if I already knew.
It's hard to say goodbye...
Especially to one whose life was way too short
Especially to one who gave so much to so many
Especially to you
Sometimes love is not enough
Sometimes things are born to die.

Multiplicity

by Wendy Penman



I drink more
coffee to get me
through class.
- Kim Willette

Impact of a Drop of Water

by Dennis Palubeski

do we have to hit
rock
bottom
before we can
re-surface ?

if we are manifestations
of God's bi-polar disorder
am I morally culpable
for a deemed
societal
wrong ?

if I say I do not know,
then do I know ?
you know ?
do I have to be ascetic
to be an austere mystic
or just another angst-ridden street hobo ?

how difficult to be spiritual
in a materialistic
world ?

is everyone living a life of quiet desperation ?
where is this
line of demarcation
between heaven and hell ?

... are all these questions rhetorical ?

Just Trying to Get By

by Dennis Palubeski

so it's come down to this ...

my feral drive;

the instinct to

survive

is in

turbo -

mode

I've taken to scoffin'

packets of pb & j

from the main

uvic cafeteria

combined with donated

day old bread

from the

shelter

it's become a veritable feast

I've also had to abscond

with a plastic

knife

necessity knows no law ...you know

perhaps, I'm just a natural born thief

able to rationalize my motives

to suit my bent & beat

existence

perhaps

I'm just hungry...

peanut butter & jam (raspberry) on rye

while chillin' at the library

... pass the milk

I Used to Think...

by Andrew Dickhout

I used to think I was the Six Million
Dollar Man, at the age of five
I stopped a car with my bare hands, and
still have the scar on my
head from the accident.

I used to think my father was a superman,
I can never remember
any one specific time he got sick, though
I will never forget the
last time he did.

I used to think my mom was the greatest
cook, until you haven't
Eaten at home in a while and remember
she still is. There is
a special ingredient (a dash of love).

I used to think the world was an awful,
dreadful place to live, now I
find out some guy is funding one-way
tickets to Mars, would I go if
given the chance, probably not.

Reflections

by Andrew Dickhout

Dark clouds my mind
Death's sister Despair visits
Hopes shattered, only shards
of a mirror remain.

Doubting Yourself

by Andrew Dickhout

Many ages ago when the Earth was young, The Great Mother was walking through the mountains and valleys and forests. Along the lakes and rivers, admiring all she had imagined and created.

One day, while strolling through a little valley she came to a little grove and there was a familiar chill in the air and the colors of the leaves on the trees pleased her. On the way out she noticed a little tree by a little brook, and this little tree's leaves were still green. Mother asked "Why haven't your leaves changed color? You need to be prepared, Father Winter will be here soon."

"I want to be more like Brother Douglas!" the little tree exclaimed. You can imagine this did not sit well with Mother "I made you like Brother Garry he is one of the mighty Oaks."

"I don't want to be like him, I like my leaves, I think they make me beautiful." the little tree yelled. "That's enough, I could have made you like Brother Benjamin." Mother rebuts and with a wave of her hands the little tree's leaves started to change color. Mother left the little valley and snow began to fall and gather on the little grove. The little tree, though cold, refused to shiver, knowing full well if she did her leaves would drop off. Father had been through the valley blanketing the riverbanks in white, freezing the lakes to ice. Winter was leaving the valley. Now the sleeping land was waking up. Mother started to make her way back to the little grove. She always enjoys seeing the trees in blossom. Passing through she heard crying, and found that it was the little tree.

"What is making you cry, child?" she asked.

"I wanted to be so much like my brothers and sisters I didn't allow my leaves to fall. Through sobs, the little tree told Mother "I saw my reflection in the

little brook, my bark it's all peeling, I'm ugly and everyone is going to laugh at me because I wanted to be more like them."

"Oh my dear child no need to cry." Mother replied: "You are beautiful, I made all my children equal, you are free to be you and now more dignified for it."

So the little tree stopped crying and rustled her leaves with glee."Now I know who I am," she proclaimed. The seasons passed and the grove thrived. Arbutus grew up and admired by her brothers and sisters for having the strength to change.

Depression

by Stefannie Postnikoff

Depends on prescription drugs

Ecstatic highs

Pushed me to do activities

Relief of grief

Engulfed with feelings

Sad all the time

Scary mood swings

Interested to try new things

Overwhelming lows most of the time

No hope in sight.

How I Got to be in University 102

by Stefannie Postnikoff

It all started with a poster saying: University 101/102 at the University of Victoria. Then another poster appeared: "To find out more about Uni 101/102 attend an information session at one of the following community centers."

So, I attended. All I wanted was some more information about the poster I saw. What is this University 101 and 102? So I met Becky and another professor. I told Becky that I have a severe comprehension problem, that I was not a good candidate. Becky told me to take the application and wait two days. I went to my peer support and asked her to fill it out with me. Then I mailed it on the spot. No thinking. Or nothing. How crazy is that? Then I forgot about it.

In the meantime, I delivered my newspapers and carried on with my life. Then German left me a message, saying congratulations I had been chosen to attend University 102. He told me where to go. I was so excited for a week. Then personal problems with my apartment plus my health got to me. I was hospitalized. I phoned German and cancelled, leaving him a message saying that I was hospitalized and I wouldn't be participating in the course.

At the hospital, the psych doctor said I should apply to a university course to meet people. I told the doctor I was supposed to go to University 102 about the Social Sciences and that it had already started. She said to phone the program, to go and start it. My anxiety hit the roof. But I played telephone tag with German. Then I started to go.

I got lost one day. I talked to Becky and German and told them I needed help. I needed somebody to wait at the bus stop. No problem they said. Also they gave me a TA to help with my comprehension problem.

One of the topics I enjoyed was the one on democracy, what it was and how it fit into our system. I couldn't wait to learn about geography, about mapping our common ground. Some of the speakers were really into what they presented and overall the lectures were really interesting to listen to.

The readings were hard to read. I have depression. To read is like having a tooth-ache. Trying to read is painful because I don't always understand what I read. The vocabulary was cool. Some of the big words in the readings I could pronounce, but I had difficulty comprehending them.

So I got a second chance to go to university. Some days were good and some days were bad. I loved to hear other people talk. As I am a really shy person, sometimes it is difficult to speak up in front of other people. Therefore, I didn't say a lot but I tried. I want to thank Becky; she saw a part of me I never knew.

The bus rides to class have been fun. Forty-five minutes one way with a whole bunch of high school students. The conversations they play out can be overwhelming, but I am very interested in what they say. The bus is always full, which is another challenge for me. That's why I missed half of the last lecture. I need to be the first one on the bus so I can take the first seat. One of the main behaviours I changed was to be the first one in the lineup at the bus stop.

My support system is just an old teddy bear who believes I will get my diploma and maybe use the university further or get a job in the future.

The other positive thing about attending University 102 was that everybody was so friendly, always saying "Hi, Stefannie" and spelling my name right. Thank you to whoever did that. That's what makes it so special. Students I didn't know saying hi to me as an adult, not a child. Seeing me, Stefannie, as a human being. That is what made it special.

Overall, my experience attending University 102 was very fruitful. I've learned a lot. It was a real eye opener.

Last Minute Poetry or Ode to Caffeine

by Kim Willette

I won't pretend;
I left this 'til the end,
But in my defense
There was always something else
That demanded my attention.
Not really more important than
University One Oh One,
But less forgiving of being ignored.
I need school and others need me;
Finding balance, that's the trick!
Work out a way to make it all fit.
I drink more coffee to get me through class.
Though it wrecks my sleep, it all works out.
My chinchillas want me awake past my bedtime
And my cat wants me to sleep in.

My places in the world as of 2013

by Carlie McKenzie

Daughter, step-daughter, sister, step-sister,
 aunt, cousin, granddaughter, best friend,
 friend, co-worker, partner, godmother
 24 years of age, 25 on July 13th, at 5:28 PM
 Cancerian
 Sensitive x 2
 Creature of habit
 Listener and shoulder to cry on
 Dancer
 Dreamer
 Caregiver
 Shy
 Empathetic
 Vibrant
 Student
 Master of avoidance
 Disney-lover
 Delighter in colorful language
 Believer and practiser of Nonviolent Communication
 Lover of dark chocolate and Kicking Horse coffee
 Described as a Sweetcorn, Charlie Bean, social
 butterfly, kindred spirit, sweetly provocative,
 and one who calls forth kindness
 Employed, but not owned by anyone
 Grew up and currently living in Victoria
 Want to move to Vancouver
 Appreciate walking new and old trails
 Brave when chooses to be
 Has potential to growl instead of meow

— University 102
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— University 102
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Dear Journal

by Ken Bernier

Dear Journal,
 On my route to enlightenment, the light has shone on people, places and things, especially on all the people in Uni 102. Like many, I do not know of the serendipity that happens to me until after the fact.

The people are as real as real get, somehow the community snatched us up and brought us together to share our experiences, strengths and hopes. The light has shone itself like it does on the trees in the courtyard, bringing life.

Diversity, at the University

by Elizabeth Syring

Here I was. Struggling to fulfill my dream of succeeding in a classroom. I somehow made it to high school and 'graduated.' Then another long journey to establish a 'career' path, whatever that was. Like a animal who is constantly chasing its own tail, that's how it felt like for me. Supports here and there. Nice and lite. But hardly any encouragement or opportunity....until I arrived at UVic! Whoa! What a total 180 degrees spin-around. The optimism, enthusiasm, encouragement AND support offered were outstanding.

Then, I landed in the UNI 102 program. Real people, with real hearts and minds. All here to learn, engage and share. I loved every moment of it. The exceptional team of Teacher's Assistants, Program Assistants and of course, the Coordinator were gracious and supportive. Week after week, we got to sample Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Geography. For the first time in my life, I was able to participate fully in group discussions and engage. Precious!

The wonderful privilege to be a part of the UNI 102 Winter, 2013 program helped me connect to my core desire, education. I feel rejuvenated and more self-confident. To be surrounded with such wonderful people, week after week was so beneficial to me. Sense of humanity and dignity. Priceless. No PhD could ever match the pride of experiencing the Uni 101 program. A big 'thank-you' to the teachers who taught us things and facilitate our learning. And also to the Dean of the Arts and Sciences, for his support and dedication to the UNI 101 program. The collaborative efforts of so many people, along with donors who were willing to help ease the barriers towards learning is so appreciated. Thank-you.

When a Deaf Person Hears Voices

by Elizabeth Syring

Like any classroom, there was a whole range of diversity in the UNI 102 Winter class.

A fellow who forgets, when he raises his hand. That's alright, Mr. (blank)____. I hope this journal will be useful for your memories of Uni 102 Winter.

Mr. Honest. A fellow declares he used to be in prison. I think, shouldn't that kind of be hush, hush.... The fellow goes on to add that he learned public-speaking in Toast-Masters while in prison. Such honesty...

Mr. Blunt! Can we change groups, I don't like my group! Okay, we get you, LOUD AND CLEAR. Sigh, such frankness is refreshing.

Mr. Bible. Occasionally we would hear the following utterance: 'Jesus', 'Amen', 'You are Forgiven.' All is good, God bless you!

Ms. Compassionate. 'I asked her, what did you think of the documentary, 'Long Train Ride Home'? She responds, 'It was soooo sad.' Another time, I asked what she thought of the Eye-Witness lecture week? 'It was so sad.' Compassion.

Mr. Nice Guy. He greets everyone, 'Hello!' Such a gentleman. Nice smile. Nice guy. Fifty Shades of Students, Fifty Shades of Personalities. Thanks to services of having a transcriber, I was so fortunate to get to know these wonderful people.

Iran nuclear negotiations

Another round bites the dust

By Salman Ansari Javid

The latest round of negotiations in the Kazakh city of Almaty between Iran and so-called P5+1, China, Russia, France, Britain and the U.S. plus Germany, ended this week without an agreement. These negotiations have been going on for over a decade, with threats of air strike from Israel and intimidation and sanctions from the West, without any results.

Catherine Ashton, the EU foreign policy chief, indicated that there were no immediate plans for another round of talks, saying that all sides would now go back to their capitals to evaluate how to move forward.

The nuclear negotiation train was set in motion with the 2003 Tehran Declaration. This train has travelled from station to station, from Brussels to Paris, Geneva, Istanbul, Baghdad and Moscow and now reached Almaty.

In a previous round of talks the group P5+1 had offered some relief on sanctions on Iranian petrochemicals and permitting Iran to use in gold as a currency for international trade in return for a scaling down of the nuclear program.

The Islamic Republic is open to the possibility of halting 20 percent uranium enrichment but it has refused the other demands of shipping out the bulk of its current 20 percent stock and halting production at the Fordo mountain bunker where this uranium is enriched.

Tehran argues that as a committed signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) member, it is entitled to acquire and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, namely to make reactor fuel and medical isotopes.

In an effort to show that it is willing to compromise, Iran has slowed down the conversion of some of the 20 percent enriched uranium stockpile to nuclear reactor fuel, leaving it below the amount that would allow a dash to produce bomb-grade material.

Breakthrough?

So far there have been no direct negotiations between Washington and Tehran. One key event could have been bilateral sit-down talks between chief Iranian and U.S. negotiators, Saeed Jalili and Wendy Sherman respectively.

In light of the June presidential elections pundits were pessimistic about any breakthrough in the nuclear negotiations. This is President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's second and last term as president.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's most powerful authority, commented that he was "not optimistic about these (direct) talks but not opposed to them either." His comments gave the negotiators the latitude to meet briefly. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

"Even a brief meeting would set a precedent," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov told the Interfax news agency, adding that world powers hoped that the "package of demands and stimuli" on offer would be the "basis" for progress in the negotiations.

Intimidation not a solution

Threat of a military strike by Israel on Iran's nuclear sites has been a reality for Iranians for the past few years. Due to these threats many foreign companies closed their offices in Tehran as they could not guarantee the safety of their employees.

Last summer, the US and EU hit Iran's economy and oil industry with tough sanctions to force it to comply. Iran's national currency, the Rial, was the one of the main casualty of the sanctions-battered economy. The rial is currently trading at more than 35,000 to \$1 compared with about 10,000 just two years ago. Prices of all Iranian products have been dragged higher by galloping inflation.

The Statistics Centre of Iran announced that the inflation for the Iranian month of Isfand (which ended March 20) had reached 40.6 percent. More realistic are estimates from my family in Tehran who say the prices of some food items had increased by as much as 100 percent in recent months.

Nuclear historians say intimidation alone can spur an atomic response, as when American hostility prompted China to seek nuclear arms. Beijing succeeded in 1964 with a thunderous blast. Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said, in 1965, "If India builds the bomb, we will eat grass or leaves, even go hungry, but we will get one of our own."

Threats of a military strike and sanctions have failed to produce any results so far.

Israel's attack on the Iraqi Osirak reactor in 1981 hardened the resolve of Saddam Hussain and gave his nuclear ambitions new life. Historical evidence suggests that Saddam had yet to decide to seek nuclear weapons until the humiliation of the strike.

On February 12, 2013 North Korea conducted its third nuclear test in defiance of the sanctions, the UN resolutions, threats from the West and condemnation from around the world. Recently, in light of the U.S. and S. Korean military maneuvers in the region, North Korea declared that it would bolster its "nuclear armed forces in both quantity and quality," describing its nuclear weapons program as a "treasure" that would not be abandoned or traded "for billions of dollars."

Military strike?

Failure of this round of talks does not mean a military strike by Israel is imminent or that diplomacy later this year has no chance. Only time will show whether Israel is on the verge of taking action or not. Certainly with the beginning of a military confrontation the consequences and borders are unpredictable.

Threats of a military strike and sanctions have failed to produce any results so far. Ayatollah Khamenei recently warned that "if they make the slightest mistake the Islamic Republic will raze Tel Aviv and Haifa to the ground."

Sanctions have been imposed on Iran since 1979, but it was in 2010 when Congress passed a law that changed the financial war. Previously on U.S. companies doing business with Iran were targeted. After 2010 any company would be risking their access to the U.S. financial system if found conducting proscribed Iranian trade.

In September the Iranian Rial dropped 30 percent in one week. The plunge of the Iranian currency continues spiraling inflation on all commodities, including food stuff and other basic essentials.

However, the sanctions, while the source of constant complaint and morbid jokes, have not set off price riots or serious opposition to the Iranian government.

During the negotiations of the 1979 hostage crisis in Iran then President Jimmy Carter once said: "Sometimes when you ask God for something he says 'Yes', sometimes 'No', and sometimes he says 'You gotta be kidding me'." Unfortunately no breakthrough came during Carter's presidency.

No direct negotiations between Tehran and Washington were conducted then, as is the case now. For any meaningful negotiation to take place there is the need for both the parties to sit down one on one, without intermediaries. For this to take place the first pre-requisite is for both sides to re-establish diplomatic ties.

Cosmogonic Jesologist's for Conscious Contact with the Creator

by John O'Carroll

Creator, make us serene in accepting
the things we can't change,
Make us brave in changing the things we can,
Make us smart in discerning the difference,
Make us patient for things that take time,
Make us grateful for all that we have,
Make us loving of those with different pains
And make us strong so we can get up and
do it again, one more time.
One day at a time.

*Cosmogonic Jesology Daily Prayer
The Gospel according to Johnny on the Spot
Dedicated to the folk at James Bay United
Church Attitude Adjustment AM Meeting*



Cosmogonic Jesology 102

by John O'Carroll

Cosmogonic Jesology is the new Theology,
Yesterday Hypocrisy, Today Celebratocracy,
Tomorrow Peace and Harmony...

The World goes round, day by day,
While within and without Atoms smash, spin and play,
And lights pour forth from these jars of clay...

From whence Spirit comes we do not know,
Neither how it flows, nor where it goes,
In its Presence our love grows and glows...

We see the Creator in every face,
We bring peace and mercy to our time and space,
While all the time the flesh beats as in a race...

So come my friends and let it be,
The Energy between us fills with Glee,
For it is not others who change the World, but We.

*The Gospel According to Johnny on the Spot.
Dedicated to the folk at Level Ground Mennonite Church*

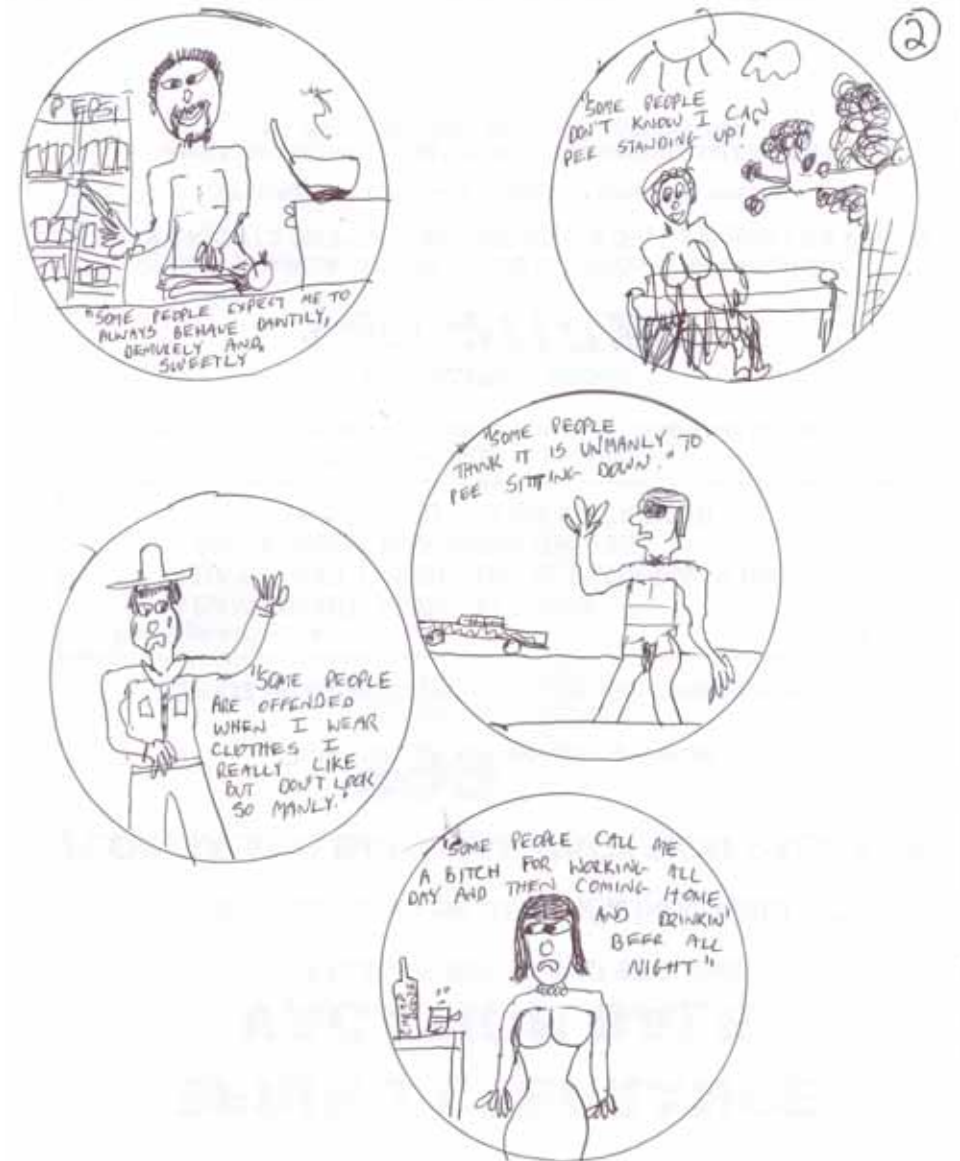


Some People ...

by Johnny On The Spot



Some People ...



Some People ...



Surrender Gender and Become a Free Spirit

Dedicated to Dr. Michelle Bass

by John O'Carroll

Okay, it's like this, a long time ago back when I was but a wee tyke, I became identified with my Mama and my bee-you-tee-ful sisters. Oh, I had a brother all right, an "Irish Twin," I believe as the saying goes for a baby that is born while there's still one at the breast. He was a born fighter and certainly identified as my #1 enemy.

I had a Dad, too. Though during my early years he was often absent, first while taking a teacher's training course in London, and traveling home only on weekends, and then for a whole year when he first got his teaching contract in Canada.

My Ma was a forward thinker, she was the first in her family to get a University degree, and she was a highly intelligent and capable person. As a woman, she was most decidedly gender atypical; not accepting or believing for a nanosecond her genderfication diminished her abilities. In all my born days with her, I never once saw her try to use coy femininity to interact with men. Nope, she took 'em on as equals. Even though she was a very pretty Irish lass. I only wished I had her balls for taking on the world and her heart for loving the children of it. But I never thought of myself as a female, so it was an impossible goal until now.

My old man, a very practical person, was also a gender atypical individual. Because of the untimely death of his Mama when he was but a mere lad of seven, he was raised in a "Two-Dad" household, as his Dad's Dad pitched in and helped look after all the kids. As a result my old man is a dab hand in the kitchen and he can also plumb a toilet, fix a car, put out a fire, rescue drowning kids and build boats, houses, and tree houses. I only wished I had his head for knowing how things work and his hands for making them work better. But I never thought of myself as a male, so it too, was an impossible goal until now.

So when I was a lonely horny teenager in buttfu*k nowhere Vancouver Island, I simply did not know how to think of myself in an increasingly gendered world as puberty came to fruition. One day I saw a commercial for shampoo on my 12 inch black and white TV set. The commercial featured beautiful dancing girls (incidentally with lovely hair), and I decided that was the first hopeful thing I had seen for a long, long time. I never really thought about it, but I guess I always felt I would be better off if I was a girl.

Oh, there's no doubt about it, I am anatomically presented as a man, but until fairly recently I had no awareness of how I did not actually in fact go around thinking of myself as a man despite outward appearances. For my whole life I was a woman who hated her body, and a man who hated his nature, and it sucked to be me. I worked out like a bandit in the gym and tried real hard to make the most of my male assets to succeed. I never quite felt I could ever be man enough to make the standard. In retrospect, it seems I must have presented as a person who was deeply divided at the core, and perhaps this created more barriers to career and social success than I might have believed at the time.

However, coming to a spiritual understanding that the Holy Spirit is not in fact a man, but clearly a mixed-gender entity, set me free from all this genderfied thinking.

It is an embarrassing biological fact that all human life begins in embryonic form as a female entity. Much development takes place before sex differentiations even appear in the average fetus. In fact, in the latter part of the first trimester, human embryos whom are destined to become male undergo a de-feminization process, and grow wee appendages and tiny testosterone factories. Thus becoming "male," different only in the internal repudiation of female sex characteristics, by developing systems that reproduce more testosterone type hormones and thereby influence the rest of physical presentation.

Clearly this happens to a greater or lesser degree as expressed in millions of mixed-gender presented individuals, such as your common garden variety masculine women or feminine men. One really crazy thing I heard on CBC's Documentary TV Series, *The Passionate Eye*, is that right here in li'l ol' Canada

with its cozy population of 35 million or so, one in every 300 births results in what is known in medical terms as an intersex baby.

The implications of this are staggering. It means that surgeons are making gender assignment decisions for individuals who for whatever reason were born with physical characteristics of the opposite sex, or with a mix of physical characteristics of both sexes.

Lord knows life exists in a multiplicity of ways, so is it really so impossible to imagine that perhaps mother nature builds a mixed-gender gene into humanity that expresses itself consistently and repeatedly over generations and apparently has for all of time?

Folks, this goes beyond gay, beyond straight and certainly beyond old-fashioned notions of binary gender. Ironically, sexuality is probably the smallest real issue here; however most folk don't actually realize that all human beings, whether male, female, intersex, poly-gendered, etc, are a DIRECT result of biological heterosexual congress. For instance it is NOT a scientific fact that people we think of as "gay" create "gay" children when they do reproduce—and they do, even if while presenting as "straight" people.

Let's get real for awhile and consider this fact. It's a given that gender identification has a disproportionate amount of power over an individual human's destiny. Now, contemplate as a human being—how many things every day do you do that are non-gender specific? This ain't rocket science—the things I am referring to are breathing, eating, sleeping, dreaming, speaking, seeing, drinking, peeing, eating, wearing clothes, thinking, being alive etc.

I'm guessin' that if you are even a wee bit like me, then most of things get done regardless of gendered thinking, presenting, behaving or believing. In light of all this, is it not truly asinine to give gender so much power over how we live our lives and think of ourselves and each other?

This is something that one must answer on one's own with the help of a higher spiritual power.

Dumbocracy

by Nathan Bell

Seems that you are satisfied with this right to vote.
Seems you are all glad to think that you have a choice.
As soon as we start to think we know,
that is when we give away our voice.
So you can point your finger
and shake your fist at me,
because I've already figured
that none of us are free.
Do you still think it is win or lose?
Do you still play those pointless games?
Can you not see the truth?
You are controlled by shame.
It is about time we break the rules
and do what we have to do.
Is your blood rich with wealth and fame
or prepared to fight and take the blame?

**Our brains are
changed by the
exchange of new
ideas and new
possibilities can
be discovered.**
- Wendy Penman

Rules for Claiming a Car

by Chloe Seguin

I've always been an adrenaline junkie. In 1990, I started racing cars at the local track, Western Speedway. I was able to get involved in racing because they had just started a program that was meant to make car racing more accessible and affordable for beginner drivers. Cars in this class, the Claimer Class, were meant to be worth no more than \$299 and anyone could claim a car at the end of a race. This meant that for a relatively small amount of money, you could get involved in car racing. A lot of new people started racing because of this class of cars.

I think that we need to reinvigorate the Claimer Class of cars so that new people can get involved in racing. I feel this is important because membership is dwindling. The best way to attract new members is to offer a class of race cars that are affordable and simple to build. All of the existing classes of cars are based on cars that were manufactured before 1988. These cars are getting increasingly hard to find.

What I am proposing is a class that uses cars that are much more contemporary: Front Wheel Drive (FWD), Electronic Fuel Injected (EFI) Four Cylinder powered cars. While these are not necessarily the best designed cars for racing, they are easy to find today. These are not race cars, but these are the cars we race. The claiming process would allow new members to get started in racing at an affordable and known cost.

What follows is one of the six pages that I have proposed as the rules for a new class of accessible and affordable racing cars.

Rules for Claiming a Car

Claimer price is \$500.

Money is to be placed in an envelope which will be sealed after Western Speedway Officials have counted it.

All drivers or their representatives must gather at the flag pole after the last event of the night.

Money will not be accepted until after time trials. A time will be marked on the envelope when it is presented to the Western Speedway Officials. Earliest time gets the claim in case of duplication.

If you are in the grandstands you can bring your money to the broadcast booth.

Claims will be kept secret until after the Claimer main event has finished.

If you do not accept a claim you will be banned from future races and will not receive any prize money or points for the event you have just completed. You will be able to keep any trophies collected during that event.

Cars will be impounded after the main event.

You will be able to remove your personal safety equipment (seat belts, window net and any fire suppression systems) and battery from the car after claims are finished.

Drivers and their crew who sabotage a car that has just been claimed will be banned from future events at Western Speedway.

The first two points races of the season will not have any claims.

You can not race the claimed car in any other Western Speedway events until after you have raced at least two other Claimer events.

Uni 102 Blossoming Conversation Groups

by Wayne Sheeran

What a learning environment of *Engaged Pedagogy*, beginning and ending each class with conversation groups.

To be chosen sometimes weekly or every other week into different conversation groups, meeting different classmates, becoming more familiar in time with each person.

Each person is valued for who they are.

Everyone offers their knowledge, wisdom, and life experiences relating to specific questions on different topics and issues.

We desire to do specific readings because we want to engage actively within our group.

We are challenged to be responsible in our behaviour and participation within our conversation group.

We are challenged to be inclusive, welcoming, accepting, respecting, honouring, supporting, encouraging and empowering within our discussion-dialogue-conversation groups, building community within mutual reciprocal learning and experiential connections.

We are challenged to be living out Engaged Pedagogy.

To be open to, and respectful of, differing viewpoints,

To be active listeners open to change, open to new possibilities, new ways of seeing current topics and issues, open to new learnings and greater understandings.

We are one another's teacher and student at the same time. We are challenged to be critical and creative thinkers, to ask powerful questions.

What an awesome experience, to be a member, a participant, a person who experiences such a unique learning environment of Engaged Pedagogy.

What freedom and joy there is in each and every Uni 102 conversation group.

I am grateful to each person I've spoken with, for their knowledge, wisdoms and life experiences.

I am grateful to each one of them for the gift they have been to me and for letting me benefit greatly by being in their presence.

Much gratitude to the TAs for their support and encouragement and excellent leadership within our conversation group.

Our Uni 102 Champion

by Wayne Sheeran

What pure pleasure to be a student in her class.
She is so committed to the Uni 101 program as evidenced
daily by what she says to us and what she does for us.
She speaks with passion and clarity about the Uni 101 program.
She is a firm advocate of critical thinking, creative thinking, engaged
pedagogy, powerful questions and conversation groups.

As a lecturer she shows with certainty what she wants to
inculcate, to convey to her students yet at the same
time she is totally open to our critical thinking.
She encourages us to ask powerful questions, she allows space and time
to integrate her needs as an instructor with our needs as students.
This creates highly bonding community building and mutual
reciprocal learning experiences and relationships.

Students experience her effervescent bubbly personality,
her beaming smile and spontaneous laughter.
She is so welcoming, accepting, supportive, encouraging and
empowering to each of us as student and person.
She is very authentic, respectful, honouring and nonjudgmental.
She is an active listener open to change to new ideas, to new possibilities.

She freely gives and shares her knowledge and
wisdom with all of us at all times.

She gives so much of herself to each of us that we
gladly want to say *yes* to support her in return.
We don't want to say *no* to someone
who always says *yes* to us.

She is such an amazing lecturer, instructor, coordinator,
leader, and above all, such a wonderful person.
What an honour it is for us students to be in her class.

Can we clone her so we can have a better planet earth?
She is the best of the best and the mostest of the most.

She is our Uni 102 champion.

Ever Wonder...?

by Paul Coderre

Why are we still using oil? Technologies like cold fusion were created in the mid 80s and yet 30 years later not one word. Worse, why has our 'Education' system stayed stupid? It's a proven fact that learning new languages increases intelligence, so if a child is taught five other languages aside from the national language before reaching grade 8, they should be more receptive to learning before bigotry or prejudice set in.

Most important for Canada is to become self reliant, working with all the provinces/territories as community equals. Stop depending on damaged goods from our "allies." The Arrow is an example on how the USA uses their power.

What don't we make our own like in previous wars?

Accountability, any decision that costs money, then whomever is caught wasting it or stealing should go to prison with no pension. MP's/MLA's should have report cards graded by the community they represent, if they do poorly, then they get the lowest pay. If they get a cheering community...then the perks kick in.

The taxpayer gets screwed by dummies worse than by politicians. Some sad case goes "hiking," gets lost, and \$80 thousand later we get the bill for the search and rescue crew. The hiker should get the full bill.

Speed on. Hell is only half full, stay stupid, do not think or ask question. Trust our governments and corporations. They will never lie to us or keep secrets...

Reward and Struggle

by Mitch Palubeski

Well, I just want to thank the University of Victoria for offering this chance to attend University 101 and 102 classes. I found it very rewarding even though I have struggled to make it to all of the classes. It has been great to learn and share with everyone. I look forward to 201.

Leadership & Democracy

by Blake Smith

Democracy:

demos = Folks, subjects, the people, the flock.
 cracy = control, rule, divide, cultivate, conviction, appeasement.

Values: the transfer of religious indoctrination to the state.

“The Contemporary State”: the illusion of a family structure, for dysfunctional citizens.

Elections: choosing the lesser evil.

Checks and Balances: Gangs and gang warfare.

Federalism: the practice of ruling one’s own destiny.

Contestants: warlords, rap music artists, cult faction leaders.

Social Capital: the ability to “read between the lines.”

This pertains to media, employer policy, institutions like Workers’ Compensation Board, Employment Insurance, Social Housing and Welfare, Revenue Canada, Indian Affairs, all Churches and Cults and, of course, Family Affairs (Foster Parent Employers).

Leaders with Purpose

Dennis Rodman, former professional basketball player, ambassador at large.

This guy has scope of universal focus. Mr. Rodman has recently befriended Kim Jong-Un. Kim Jong-Un is a very excitable North Korean. Kim Jong-Un and his associates (China, Mongolia) have publicly threatened nuclear holocaust.

In the act of establishing a relationship with Kim Jong-Un, Dennis Rodman could mellow this leader out to a possible dialog for peace! I hear these two are going for a game of golf this summer.

Elizabeth May, Green party MLA for the Gulf Islands, former American.

Well, she got off to a rough start. She has the ability to reach out to young adults in our region.

I think if she went on a walking tour of *all* her constituency she could promote “participaction” fitness. She would also have more opportunities to hear from people about what is really happening in their lives.

Divergent & Convergent

by Blake Smith

Divergent: Divide subject content into the relevant and the unobjective. Concept map it!

Convergent: Research the most pertinent questions from the concept map. Meditate on a vision or graphic for a conclusion. Find the right setting for written inspiration. For example, the lobby of a 5-star hotel. Wing back chairs, rich wood paneled walls. 7:00am to 11:00am has proven effective. Clear the palate. Try whole fresh peeled citrus fruit with lemon tea. Brain food, such as dates, almonds, raw swiss chard, and pure Manitoba wild rice. If you're crunched for food preparation, three or four hard shelled tacos will fill the quest, vegetarian with olives. Hydrate often.

Focus: Realize climbing the mountain to the final conclusion is the ultimate joy of expression.

Time outs: Try to avoid these! If you *need* a break, read such abstract publications as *The Art of War* by Sun Tsu, *World Weekly* tabloid (this is a newspaper that has mentioned Elvis Presley living with U.F.O. people in like a trailer court in Yacama, Washington), *Confidential Kitchen* by Anthony Bordian (this guy will cook and eat the most outrageous non-traditional foodstuffs).

If you get lost, laugh!

Laughter is the key to elevation.

If you get stuck, do 20-25 pushups. Endorphines clear the path to the power of conviction.

somehow the
community
snatched us up
and brought us
together to share
our experiences,
strengths
and hopes.

- Ken Bernier

DIVERGENT/ CONVERGENT
ДИВЕРГЕНЦ\ СОНВЕРГЕНЦ

Journal of the University 102 Students