

THE GATEWAY

www.thegatewayonline.ca

tuesday, 18 march, 2008
volume XCVIII number 41

Published since 21 november, 1910
Circulation 11 000
ISSN 0845-356X

Suite 3-04
Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665

Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Adam Gaumont
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168

MANAGING EDITOR Paul Owen
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654

SENIOR NEWS EDITOR Natalie Climenhaga
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR Ryan Heise
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664

OPINION EDITOR Conal Piersie
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Paul Blinov
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052

SPORTS EDITOR Robin Collum
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652

PHOTO EDITOR Mike Otto
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648

DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR Mike Kendrick
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663

ONLINE COORDINATOR Victor Vargas
online@gateway.ualberta.ca

businessstaff

BUSINESS MANAGER Steve Smith
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE Patrick Ciolek
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700

AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER Larissa Gilchrist
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647

CIRCULATION PAL Megan Cleaveley

CIRCULATION PAL Kelsey Tanasiuk
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca



THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

complaints

Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors; beyond that, appeal is to the non-partisan Society OmbudsBoard. The chairs of the Board of Directors and the OmbudsBoard can be reached at the address above.

copyright

All materials appearing in the Gateway bear copyright of their creator(s) and may not be used without written consent.

disclaimers

Opinions expressed in the pages of the Gateway are expressly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Gateway or the Gateway Student Journalism Society.

Additionally, the opinions expressed in advertisements appearing in the Gateway are those of the advertisers and not the Gateway nor the Gateway Student Journalism Society unless explicitly stated.

colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Patapon and The notpOn Riddle.

contributors

Tom Wagner, Jonathan Taves, Yaw Amoako-Tuffour, Elizabeth Vail, David Johnston, Sarah Stead, Kristina De Guzman, Sam "I'm not Motto" Brooks, Tom Wagner, Cody Civiero, Sam Brooks, Gary Allen, Norman Lau, Ross "Birthday Boy" Lockwood, Jeff Martin, Marie Gojmerac, Nathan Plumb, Nadiya Balukh, Pete Yee, Cyril Balitbit, Sam Brooks, Chris "Hero from afar" Roussakis

U of A lecturer honoured for promotion of science

From hosting a TV show to engaging students about nature, John Acorn shares his love of the outdoors

JONATHAN TAVES
News Staff

Combining folk songs with an enthusiastic love of wildlife, John Acorn brought the wonders of the outdoors up close and personal for children in the mid '90s with his television program *Acorn the Nature Nut*.

But the show is just one of the many ways the University of Alberta renewable resources lecturer has promoted an understanding of the natural sciences. He has also published countless books about the birds and insects of the province.

Now being added to Acorn's long list of decorations, which includes two Gemini nominations, is the Michael Smith Award for Science Promotion, which is awarded annually by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to an individual for publicizing science.

"The most valuable aspect of [science promotion] is reminding non-scientists of how scientists think," Acorn says.

"They are honestly trying their very hardest to figure out how the world works.

"I just think science is so much fun. It's not easy at all. It's really hard, but it's also really wonderful to talk about," he adds.

Acorn recalls his fervour for local wildlife at a very young age.

"I got interested in insects when I was five years old," he says. "I went down to the Edmonton Public Library,

and one of the books my parents got me was about bugs. That just got me cranked.

"The next year, my dad brought me here to campus to the entomology department. They showed me some bugs, and I've been hanging out here ever since."

With that dedication, Acorn eventually earned his undergraduate degree in zoology before gaining his graduate degree in entomology, both from the U of A.

He credits his parents for supporting his passion, an approach he has adopted for his own young sons.

"I was able to develop my own interests, my parents saying, 'Whatever it is you want to do, we'll support you and help you out with it,'" he explains. "That's how I feel about my kids. Whatever they want to do, I'll help them."

Acorn began his TV career working on a documentary for the Canadian-Chinese Dinosaur Project as their science advisor. The local producers he met gave him the opportunity to make a pilot of his own show.

"It took two and a half years to sell the idea to a broadcaster after we got the pilot together," he explains.

"My idea was, 'Let's look at the kind of nature that anyone can go out and see.' We don't have to go way out in the exotic *Natural Geographic* locations."

Between 1994 and 2001, 88 episodes were produced.

At the moment, Acorn teaches three classes, including one on



MIKE OTTO

NATURE NUT John Acorn was recognized for his work in publicizing science.

environmental interpretation, where students learn to lead nature walks and design exhibits.

"It's so different doing television or writing books or giving public lectures than it is lecturing at the University," he explains. "We are really quite constrained here because of our need to grade students. You have to slow down. It can be a drag."

Acorn says teaching at a university

is great, but believes personal links are what truly make it effective.

"Every instructor should take some of their lecture time to just speak freely and try to be inspiring if they can, or to share some of their personal thoughts and feelings about the subject," Acorn says. "Because it's that human connection that really makes it work, even if you don't put it on the exam."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches have rescheduled this year's St Patrick's Day to 15 March in order to comply with the prohibition on Saints' Days.

If you could reschedule any holiday, which one would you reschedule and why?



Bobby Buchkowsky
Arts III

"Saturday's my birthday, so I'd move Easter to the next weekend because Saints' Days can't [take place during Holy Week]." [So you're a saint?] "Yeah." [What are you the patron saint of?] "Cute blonds ... cute blond boys." [I don't think the Roman Catholics like that sort of thing.] "I think some of the priests do."



Aksana Vukolava
Nursing I

"I would put New Year's in summer just because it's so cold outside. Everybody's getting drunk, and you don't want to be outside. And there's fireworks, and it's cold outside; you want to do that when it's warm. I think you should do it right in the middle of summer. July 19th."



Adam Rosenke
Education IV

"I don't think I'd reschedule any holiday. Maybe I'd put Christmas in the summer when it's hot out so everyone could have a better time. But there's something about Christmas and snow. And then there's Christmas break ... yeah, I'm going to have to stick with my original answer."



Courtney Smith
Arts I

"I'd probably change New Year's. I'd put it in the summer, so there could be more parties when it's nice out."

STOLLIS PROUDLY SERVES

Daily Drink Specials

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAYS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAYS
.25cent Hi-Balls until 11pm.	\$2 Hi-Balls Until 11pm	\$2 Hi-Balls Until 11pm	\$2 Hi-Balls Until 11pm	\$2 Hi-Balls Until 11pm
	\$3.75 Kokanee All Nite Long	\$4.25 Corona's	\$3.75 Kokanee All Nite Long	\$3.75 Canadian All Nite Long

The Ultimate Party Package

- Gift Certificate**
- Free Camera**
- No Line, No Cover before 11pm**
- Free Tanning Minutes**
- Customized printed invitations**
- Free Spa Certificate**
- Complimentary Bottle of Champagne**
- Free Gym Passes**
- Reserved Section**
- A Guaranteed Evening of Fun!!**

ALL FREE OF CHARGE

CALL TO BOOK YOUR STAG, STAGETTE, BIRTHDAY, PRIVATE PARTY, OR FUNDRAISERS

CALL SANDRA AT 289.8799

10368-Whyte Ave 2nd Level stollis@telus.net www.stollis.ca