



VISIONS
16

***VISIONS is dedicated to
The students and staff of ABE***

*Thank you to those students who contributed stories,
poetry and other works to this anthology.*

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About the Artist

Work

My first job was when I was a waitress/ chambermaid at a hotel in Rossburn, Manitoba. To most people this kind of job may seem to be easy, but the actual labour that's required was a challenge. The duties were to disinfect the bathrooms, change all sheets and blankets on the beds, vacuum every inch of the room, and to dust every part of the room. You would not believe some of the things I found in rooms. These things I found are too gruesome to mention.

The second job I did was receptionist at the band office of Waywayseecappo First Nations. My duties were to answer all incoming calls for all the staff, take minutes for Chief and Council when the secretary was not available, operate the xerox machine, type and xerox the monthly newsletter, arrange and book meetings for Chief and Council, and order office supplies for band office. This type of job was very demanding and stressful because of certain individuals that were not so friendly. I was actually assaulted on the job at one time because of a misunderstanding due to gossip.

The third job I did was as a teacher's assistant at the Wayway Community School. I worked there for five years. The duties were to work with children at all levels from Kindergarten to Grade Eight, to assist the teachers with daily assignments and lessons, and assist students when they needed the extra help, to supervise in and outside the school during recess and class time, and to do photocopying of the next day's lesson. On top of all this, the teacher's assistant was required to keep a daily log. We really had to focus on student behaviour plus attend and report to all staff meetings and attend a few educational workshops in Brandon, Winnipeg and Regina. There were times when I had to report incidents such as child abuse cases, and I had to stop the older students from fighting.

What I really enjoyed were the Christmas, Halloween, Easter, and Valentines' parties. Was I ever full at the end of these days! I would really recommend this type of job to those individuals who are as wise as my mother, as strong as The Rock, as patient as Job, and as determined as a bull!

Between the various jobs mentioned, I also did volunteer work. I was also a Candy Striper in a nursing home in Birtle, Manitoba. As a Candy Striper my duties included serving supper to the elders, assisting nurses when they needed it, making evening snacks, and doing some cleaning. What I really enjoyed was the company of those elders because of the stories they told. The different committees that I volunteered to be on were the Sports Day Committee and the Pow-wow Committee. The Sports Day Committee had bingos twice a week for which I did the bookkeeping and sold cards. These were held on Wayway First Nation. On the Pow-Wow committee I had various duties that were assigned to me such as hiring security, receiving payments from a number of concessions and craft booths, arranging shifts for the committee canteen, spot checks, selling 50/50 tickets, and distributing prize payouts for every category of dance and drums. I also handled the budget and afterwards cleaned up. These were quite the learning experiences in management.

Carla Ledoux

Growing up in Yellowquill

I grew up in Yellowquill Reserve by Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. I came from a family of thirteen children: four girls and nine boys. I was the oldest sibling who helped raise my younger siblings, so I learned to be responsible at an early age. I never had time to play like other kids. I always had to do chores such as cleaning and cooking or hauling snow to make water. I had to saw and chop wood for heat. We didn't have electricity and used kerosene lamps for light. In order to survive, we went through many hardships. We lived in poverty and were deprived of many things as children. I never started school until I was ten years old. I went to school on the Reserve for one year. Then, I was sent away to a boarding school in Lestock, Saskatchewan. That's where I picked up my second language, English. I think that the reason why I started school late was because my parents moved back and forth from Yellowquill to Kinistin Reserve. My mother was originally from Kinistin Reserve by Tisdale, Saskatchewan.

I recall spending plenty of time with my grandparents in Kinistin. I loved my grandmother very much. She was very kind and was a great storyteller. She used to tell me about the pioneer times and the hardships and struggles that people had gone through. People in those days lived in harmony and helped and supported one another as a tribe. My grandpa was a stern and serious type of man. I used to help him feed his horses at the barn. The barn was made of logs and clay. We fed the horses with hay and oats. The horses were given water at the well every morning and evening. My grandparents weren't poor, just average kind of folks. My fondest memories of my grandparents were the times when we went to nearby general store to buy groceries. They also brought us some treats such as chocolate bars and soft drinks or bubble gum. Those were the happiest moments and times with them. Overall, my childhood wasn't a happy one. It's sad to say that I was robbed and deprived of many things that a child does when they are small such as playing with kids of my own age. Realistically, I have forgiven mom and dad for my upbringing. I understand that they did the best they could to raise us such a big family. I don't know how they did it but they raised us somehow with good values and traditions. Most of all, they taught us to show respect for all mankind. For example, two of my brothers are used as elders today because they were taught to carry those traditions and the cultural way of life. As a result, we still value and carry those teachings from our grandparents. I always remembered my parents and grandparents as strong people, who stood to their values and respect for other people.

On the other hand, my grandparents were kind and respectful people who were always willing to lend a hand. My grandpa was my hero because he was well respected and always stood his ground. My grandma other was sweet and kind. I have never seen her angry or raising her voice toward anyone. I loved my grandparents and have precious memories of them in my heart.

However, I have to admit that I have mixed feelings about my upbringing, even though I have worked very hard to deal with my inner child issues. I've continued to work on myself with various self help programs such as AA and Alanon. In conclusion, I'm also grateful that I've had good teachings from my family. That's what makes me the unique person that I am today.

Dorothy Nippi

I dreamed that I
was a butterfly
fluttering from flower to flower
gently

This Is Just To Say

I released your bird today
that was caged in all day.
You're probably upset with me, but I thought
the bird should be free
Forgive me
It was so sweet and so cool to see the bird fly away

Environmental
darkness cold over flowers
Light downcast tonight

School
hard work
teachers teaching lots
always doing homework everyday
tiring

Francine Bartsh

My Son

Jordan is my life
my way
my happiness and joy.
Jordan lights up a room.
He'll never let me down
never leave me,
never treat me wrong.
When Jordan does wrong or makes me angry,
I still love him and I know he's only young
and, it's really not that bad.
Jordan is there to comfort me and I him.
When I am down he is there to wipe my tears
and hug and kiss me to help make it all go away.
If I need a hand to hold he is always there.
Jordan is the best, little man and friend that I could ask for.
Jordan lights up my life.

I LOVE MY SON!

Francine Bartsh

My Life Story

I was born in Hamilton, Ontario, which is where the rest of my relatives are now. My dad got offered a job in the ministry so we had to move to Saskatoon when I was seven and we have been here since.

I am 25 years old and I have a 5 year-old son and his name is Jordan. I also have a brother who is 27 and he has a baby boy. I also have a sister who is 30 she has two kids. I met my sister when I was 14. She still lives in Hamilton so I don't see her very much.

My mom works as a machinist at FlexiCoil also known as CNH (Case New Holland); she has worked there for 14 years. She is a very dedicated worker and enjoys her job very much. She is a wonderful mother and grandmother. We have a very close relationship. She does everything she can for me and my son. I have a lot of respect for my mom.

My dad is in a wheelchair and has been for about six or seven years. He was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, a disease that affects your motor skills greatly. He is a very strong but stubborn man. He looks to God to keep him healthy. I love my father very much and I do what I can for him, although at times it is tough.

Once we moved here, we lived in Lawson Heights, and I was put into a Christian School that went from Kindergarten to grade five. I always got good marks in school, and I loved playing a lot of sports.

I first learned to ride my bike when I was about eight years old. We rode around the block, and I was so proud of myself that I turned around to talk to my dad; I ended up slamming into the front end of our station wagon and flew forward. That was the end of my bike riding for that day.

At that time we had a Border Collie and his name was Rusty. He was a beautiful dog, but unfortunately we had to get rid of him because he continued to chew up everything that we owned outside, including my brother's bike.

After we moved to Martinsville, I continued to going to the city school until I was finished Grade Five. Then I had to go to a closer school, so of course, my dad insisted that I go to another Christian School in Osler. So I did. That is where I became very athletic. I was into every kind of sport. My favourite kind of sport was soccer. I mostly played forward except when the other girl who played goalie, thought that she would be better on defence. However, she couldn't run very well, so she would complain to the coach and pretend that she was sick so that she wouldn't have to be goalie. So then the coach would put me in goal, since I was the only other good goalie on the team. We went to lots of tournaments and won a lot of them. I really enjoyed playing soccer. I also played badminton, floor hockey and a lot of track and field. In track and field I did mostly running, high jump and shot put. I also played baseball on a team. We went to a few tournaments. I played either catcher or outfield because I had one of the strongest arms on the team. Once in a while I had to pitch but not too often.

For a while I lived on a farm and did a lot of farm work such as the following: milking cows, building fences, picking rocks, raising pigs and even helping with the cows giving birth. Living on the farm kept me out of a lot of trouble, and I became very fit.

After a while I got tired of going to a Christian School, so I ran away from home because my dad wouldn't listen to anything that I had to say. He was determined to force me to go to a Christian School and I refused. I left for the city for the summer and I got into a lot of trouble with drugs and alcohol. My parents later found me and brought me home. I told them that I wanted to go to a regular high school, and my dad finally let me. I decided to go to Martinsville High, and I got to know a lot of people. That is where I started to play basketball. I wasn't very good at it, so I didn't play it for long. I quit for a bit but they called me back for the final games, and we won. I continued at Martinsville High until Grade Eleven.

My parents divorced when I was about seventeen. I had to move to the city with my mom. I refused to go to a city school, so I worked off and on. My mom and I supported each other.

When I was eighteen, I started to talk to my best friend Curt again. We had known each other since I was about 15 or 16. When I moved to the city, we eventually lost contact. We ran into each other again so we started to hang out a lot together again and decided to date and then we moved in together. Curt and I talked and decided to have a child together. We got married when I was 20 and had a beautiful boy named Jordan. Curt became abusive, so I finally got up the courage and divorced him at 24.

I tried going back to school a couple of times, but it was just too much to handle with everything that was going on in my life at the time. I even tried writing my GED but failed. I finally made the decision to come back to Kelsey and finish my Grade 12 this time. I'm not only doing this for myself, but also for my son, so that he will grow up knowing that Mom worked hard to get the things she wanted in life. Hopefully he will do the same. After grade 12, I plan to become a Youth Care Worker and help young kids.

My son is in pre-kindergarten and is doing great. The teachers are amazed at how smart he is and so am I. I think that if I keep trying to do the right things in life and be a good mom, he will grow up to be a great person and work hard in life for what he wants, too. Thanks to my friends and family, I now have all the support that I need to be a single mom and to finish school.

Francine Bartsch

I dreamt that
I was a rose
Standing straight and proud
Thornily!

Haiku

Majestic tall trees
Leaning, brown branches swaying
Birds, bugs, and flies live

Strong, healthy trees
Lumber for houses are made
Short, tall need them all

Cinquian

Children
Loveable and sweet
Trikes, bikes, skateboards
Scraped knees and dirty fingers
Help

Helen Michell

This is just to say
I have used up
Your bingo dabber

Which you thought
Was lucky for you

Forgive me
It was sweet yelling, "BINGO"
With your dabber ink all over my hands
I only won \$5.00

Helen Michell

Helen's Story

My name is Helen Michell; I am a friendly and caring person. My culture is Cree and I speak it fluently. I was born on a reserve called Pelican Narrows, and our band is called The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. I have two sisters and four brothers who all live on the reserve. Both my parents are deceased. My son Will is fourteen years old; he attends City Park Collegiate. He helps me a lot with his sisters. His goal is to someday join the army. The three girls are younger: Angie is ten years old, Jessica is six years old, and they both attend Westmount School, and our baby Arianna is three years old. She is the light of our lives.

The reason we moved to Saskatoon was for education reasons my husband is in his fourth year at the U of S. He is taking ITEP (Indian Teacher Education Program) and I decided to go back to school while we are in the city. I wanted to take a Teacher's Aide program here at SIAST, but when I tried to send for my transcripts in Regina they could not find them. I have my Adult Basic Education Grade 11, and I have also taken an office education course, but I wanted to work with children. I worked as a teacher aide before when I was back on my reserve. Now I have to try and get some kind of marks for myself so that I can take a Teacher Aide course. I have really enjoyed being at SIAST; I enjoyed meeting the students, instructors and new friends. I hope I can finish my Grade Twelve here and then go on to a post secondary program.

Helen Michell

Bushman

My Uncle John has time and time again proved to be an interesting and inspiring character. John is the real McCoy when it comes to being a bushman. First, my uncle spent his early years between Big River and the cabin on Little Island. Since he had a good childhood being raised on the island, he continued the tradition and raised his three daughters on the island. They were on the island almost all their pre-school years until they were old enough to attend school. Naturally, my uncle's father got too old to take care of the island and left the island to his only son, my Uncle John. Since he has taken over the island, he has initiated several business ventures and has proved to be a jack-of-all-trades.

For example, he works as a millwright in a sawmill that he owns and operates which enables him to produce sheets of freshly milled lumber for several of the northern communities that used to build houses and anything else you would want to erect. Not only does he sell lumber, but he uses the same lumber to build several different projects like improving the docks on the island and the mainland. In the past, he has made a living by fishing many of the northern lakes and raising fish in his fish farm. At the same time, he was a hunter trying to feed his family and a trapper selling the furs to whoever would pay for hides. During all this he has managed to make time to grow and harvest wild rice for sale to the public.

John not only owns an island outfitter's business, but he also runs the day-to-day operations. In addition, he acts as a guide for all the visitors on hunts and is in charge of leading guided nature hikes around the island and mainland. In fact, several of the people visiting the island are from foreign places. Some people from as far away as Germany would save all year long just to come up here to work on the island for the summer. Several Americans have made the long trip up north to hunt, but most of the time they would drink until they couldn't see straight. Lastly, my Uncle John started off with a two-room cabin that was as old as he is. Today he has a three-bedroom, two-story main cabin and four visitors' cabins. Just ten years ago the cabins were trees with leaves, but with the help of friends and family he has built his camp from the ground up. As you can see, my uncle is not one of those owners that hires people to do work that he is capable of doing himself.

My uncle has inspired me by facing and overcoming huge challenges during his lifetime. The first was when a group of local people, including my uncle, decided they were going to fight the lumber giant, Weyerhaeuser, in the courts. The group wanted the lumber company to stop with their plans to clear cut a forest directly across the lake from all the cabins. Several years have past since they first went to court, and I'm pleased to say that the forest is still there for future visitors to enjoy. More importantly, my uncle is a cancer survivor. In his later years he developed cancer in the colon. He spent just under five months in a hospital bed and endured many treatments of radiation. He spent several months afterwards being confined to a bed with continuous care. For most people it wouldn't seem so bad, but for a man who is always working it was hard for him to watch his plans being put on hold while he regained his strength. John has made a full recovery and is back to working on his dream. As a result, my uncle's many achievements such as opening an island outfitter, building an entire camp from scratch, owning and managing a milling machine, to his early years as a humble hunter and trapper to his later years when he overcame cancer makes him an unforgettable character. Uncle John is one of the most interesting and inspiring persons to have ever influenced me.

Jack Crain

School and Work

I spend most of my day at the school and at work. While I'm at school, it is like a full time job. First, I'm obligated to wake up early. Then, I go to school on time. Next, I attend three hour-long classes before I break for lunch. At last, I sit through two more classes, but I get a quick break in between. Finally, I'm ready to go to work after a long day at school.

At work I'm required to carry out vastly different duties. First, I clean an assigned area, or I restock the production areas. Second, I work on the tray assembly line; afterwards, I deliver trays to all the patients. Third, I go to a designated floor and pick up all patient trays before the trays are disassembled. Finally, I wash all the dishes by putting them through the dish machine in racks; once the dishes are taken out of the dish machine, they are put in their proper places. While at work I have a busy schedule. As a result, I'm usually very tired from a long day at school and a hectic schedule at work.

Jack Crain

Lana's Story

I am 23 years old with a three year old girl named Samantha. I have been on my own since I was 15. Growing up was difficult; my mother passed away when I was one and a half years old, and I was put in and out of foster care till I turned 15 and had enough. I used to go to B. C. when I was living with my father, but things changed and I lost out on that. When I was 19, I made a choice to have a child with a guy I really liked at the time, but things changed between us, so I was single and pregnant. During my pregnancy, I experienced the usual pregnancy cravings such as slurpees and fries. It was very exciting carrying a child around in my stomach; feeling it move all around and kick was truly amazing. During the birth I was laughing and joking with my friends who were there in the room with me.

Since Samantha was born, my life has changed dramatically. I was not only dependent on myself, but I also was responsible for a child. I could not find work and had lots trying to stay happy with my baby. During that time, I was notified that Samantha had a thyroid gland problem where she puffed up like a marshmallow. She was going in and out of hospitals regularly, but now she has to take pills every day or she will have a heart attack. When my daughter was born, she was six pounds one ounce and at the age of 5 months she was 40 pounds. I had my best friend take care of her for a while so I could get my life on the right track. During that time I found a steady income and steady home while getting myself on the waiting list for school so I could finish and get a good enough job to take care of myself and my baby. I have a steady relationship now, and it's going great. My baby adores him, and I think he loves her. They spend lots of time together and she now talks more and seems happier with the three of us. I got her a cat and that keeps her busy when I can't. In conclusion, I am happy with the way my life is going, and that my baby is doing better, and I wouldn't change it for anything in the world.

Lana Labatt

This is just to say
I borrowed your pants
your favourite pants
that were on the chair

and which you probably
wanted to wear
on your date tonight

Forgive me
they were too tight
I bent over and
oops!

I dreamed that
I was a star
soaring high in the sky, being wished upon
jubilantly

Rain sprinkled lightly
on top of the umbrella
like dancing fairies

Lisa Fehr

Husband
best friend
kind, thoughtful, caring
always will be there
loving

Lisa Fehr

How My Family Came Together

I was fourteen when I decided I wanted to have a baby. Naturally, I thought I had found someone I would want to spend my life with, but later on I realized that it was only a teenage crush. As a result of that relationship, I wound up pregnant. Consequently, our relationship came to an end while I was still pregnant, mainly because we were too young and he was very immature. I wanted this baby very much, but I was scared that I had to raise this baby by my self. My mom and my grandparents helped me a great deal and gave me a lot of support. I gave birth to my first son with my mom present.

My first son Malcolm Young was born on May 19, 1994 at the Royal University Hospital. In the middle of my pregnancy with Malcolm, my doctor informed me that Malcolm had Russell Silver Syndrome which is a disease like Dwarfism. In the last term of my pregnancy, it was confirmed that my son had this growth deficiency. In fact, when my son was born, he only weighed 3 pounds 10 oz, and he was born one day off my due date. Despite his height, he looked like all the other babies, just a little smaller. Nonetheless, I was shocked to hear about the Russell Silver Syndrome, but I am so happy that he was born.

When my son was one month old, I met my soon-to-be-husband, Bradley Fehr. The first time I met him was in my back yard; he was visiting with my mom. Naturally, we hit it off from the start; after all I always thought he was a very handsome man. Bradley had long curly blonde hair and blue eyes, and he was very tall. Besides his handsome good looks, his personality was also breathtaking. Shortly after we met, I got pregnant with my second son. We were very happy despite the timing. Nevertheless, I was scared as much as with the first baby, but this time I had a good man to help me and take care of me and the children.

My second son, Dallas Young, was born on June 9, 1995 at Royal University Hospital. Although Dallas was my second child, things didn't go as smoothly as I had hoped when he was born. Dallas was not breathing when he was born, and he went into distress while I was in labour. However they got him breathing, and I was happy to find out that he was going to be just fine. In spite of the troubles I had, I was thrilled to have another child to love and care for. The family I always wanted, I suddenly had

. As time went by, we talked about having another child. In fact I got pregnant again, but this time it was a girl. We named her Breeanna Young. Breeanna was born on May 7, 1997 at the Royal University Hospital just like her brothers. Naturally, when I found out I was pregnant with her, I thought that I was going to have problems having her, but there were no problems at all. Instead, every thing went very well. She was born 100% healthy. Besides having three children, I wanted to get married, but I guessed that I would have to leave that up to my boyfriend, Brad.

To my surprise, less than two months later, Brad asked me to marry him. In fact, we got married on July 29, 1997 at the house of the Justice of the Peace. Although we had a small wedding, it was the best wedding I have ever seen. After the wedding, I felt I was the queen of the world. Naturally, I felt that way because I have three beautiful children and now a wonderful husband. To sum it up, that's how my family came together, and I am so happy that all my dreams came true.

Lisa Fehr

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My School Days in Vietnam

My experiences in high school during the Vietnam War had both sad times and happy times. To begin with, in Vietnam high school began with Grade 7 and ended with Grade 12. When I started high school, it was run jointly by the French government and a dedicated group of doctors who were Chinese. Every day we had lessons in French, English, Chinese, and Vietnamese. At that time, this school was famous in Saigon and throughout all of South Vietnam. By this time, I had been there for four years. The Viet Cong army took over the school for living quarters because it was a large school which covered approximately two blocks. When I first went there, it also contained houses for the teachers to live in permanently. When the soldiers took over the school, we had no classes at all, and the teachers had to give up their houses. Consequently, many of them escaped to the countryside.

Although, we had no classes, we still had to go to school. Early every morning, we were forced to go to the school and do manual work for the soldiers. First, we had to clean the streets near the school and clean the river where people had dumped garbage in it. Then, inside the school, we had to do all the cleaning. Since the soldiers cooked, ate, and slept in the school, there was a lot of cleaning to do.

When the soldiers were going to cook, they went to the forest and got wood which they brought back to the school. In the gymnasium they actually made a fire on the floor, surrounded it with stones, and did their cooking. As a result of this, the floor was burnt and the walls became black because of the smoke. One day, when I was walking home from school, I saw a group of Viet Cong soldiers who had caught a pet cat which they had skinned and cooked; they also killed and cooked a dog. In addition, they caught frogs along the river and in the garden. The soldiers stole vegetables and fruit from other people's gardens. As you can see, unlike the American soldiers, they had very little to eat except what they could find or catch.

Furthermore, the Viet Cong soldiers caught a lot of fish in the river, as well as crabs and shrimps. One time, they caught so many fish that they asked the students how they could save some of the fish for the next day as they had more than they could eat that day. As students we pretended to be innocent, and we told them that they could store the fish in the water in the toilets to keep them fresh. When the soldiers left the school for their daily training, we decided to flush all the fish down the toilets. Afterwards, we were able to leave the school and go home before the soldiers returned.

The next day, we faced the fury of the VieCong soldiers as they questioned us about the disappearance of all the fish that they had wanted to eat that day. We tried to look surprised and shocked, and said that we had gone home and had no idea about the fish and their fate. When I got home, I told my parents, brother, and sister about the soldiers, their fish, and what we had done with them. They all laughed heartily as nobody in South Vietnam had any use for the Vietnamese soldiers because they had taken over our country, and had deprived us of our freedom. Moreover, the soldiers never found out the real story about their fish.

The next day, my mother and I went to see my uncle, my aunt, and their family. At that time, I told them the story about the fish. They laughed heartily because they also had played a similar joke on some Viet Cong soldiers and were not penalized for it. One time, the Viet Cong asked my uncle, "How do we get to the Army training centre? It took about two hours to get there, but my uncle showed them the wrong direction. As a result, it took them about three days to get there.

After seven months, classes resumed. Although we started back to school, all the teachers had changed, and we now had Hanoi teachers. We now studied communist lessons. After school, we studied new government laws until 7:00 p.m. Additionally, on Saturday and Sunday, we cleaned the river and streets. As you can imagine, we felt miserable and were unhappy at school.

Luc Chau

About Me

My name is Nadine Quewezance. I am from Keeseekoose First Nation. I grew up in the city of Saskatoon since the age of five. I recall having a cheerful, adventurous childhood. I was involved in softball, ringette and Girl Guides. My mother and stepdad used to keep us kids busy with extra curricular activities. My dad would attend our games, and he was always in the stands yelling and cheering. He was a kind and loving father who used to always tell me stories and do crazy things to make me laugh when he knew I was mad. He was always a lot of fun to be around. We were very fortunate to have this special man in our lives growing up. On April 24, 1999 he died of a massive heart attack. He is sadly missed and there isn't a day that goes by when I don't think of him. His memory will forever linger in my heart.

My mother is a loving, caring, nurturing grandmother to 14 grandchildren. My children and I look forward to her visits. She catches me up on current events back home on the rez. My mother is the Elders Co-ordinator for the Elders Program on the reserve. Just recently she was selected to attend a conference in Ottawa to represent her program. Her Elders program is one of the top 12 aboriginal healing programs in Canada. Because of her hard work and dedication, she is highly respected in the community of Keeseekoose. She returned with a lot of beautiful pictures and souvenirs from Ottawa. I'm very proud of my mother.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my ol' man, going for walks, reading and listening to music. My favourite rock group is Creed. I also enjoy watching wrestling. My favourite wrestlers are the Big Show and Undertaker. I returned to school in January 2003 to finish my Grade 10. I hope to complete my Grade 10 by June 2003. I left the program in 1999 due to babysitting problems. So far, my life seems in order and everything is going my way. My career goal is to finish my Grade 12 and get into nursing.

During the holidays, I leave Saskatoon to go to visit family and friends, to get a change of scenery, and to unwind. I'm the proud mother of three energetic, rambunctious children. My oldest son Theoren is seven years old and very headstrong; he is my little Oscar the Grouch. Ethan is five years old and is a comical little character. He is always making me laugh. My youngest child is my baby girl Alyssa who is two years old and is going through the terrible two's phase. She is very miserable and hard on the ears when I get home. My children's own different personalities bring excitement and happiness to each new day.

I am engaged to a very supportive and loving man. We've been together for four strong years and I love him dearly. We plan on getting married in the near future. My family is my anchor in life; without their support and encouragement I wouldn't be the motivated student I am today. As you can see, I feel I am truly blessed in all aspects of my life.

Nadine Quewezance

Regrets

When you asked me to stay longer,
I really wish I had.
When you made those jokes that weren't funny,
I wish I would've laughed.

All the unwelcome advice you gave,
I wish I would have taken
All the times I called you up
To say I simply couldn't make it

When the day came that I learnt the truth
When you looked me in the eyes, you knew
All the stress of looking after you
Showed me there was nothing I could do.
In the silence of that winter's night

Just hours before you lost your fight
I prayed to God with all my might
That you'd be taken through the light

So now you're gone And life goes on.
These regrets won't leave my head.
I'm haunted now by all the things I wish I hadn't said,

But if I ever get the chance to make another wish,
I'd wish for you to see this list
And know how much you're missed.

Richard Stubbs

The Enigmatic Life of Aristarco Solovino

Part I

Most people walk in and out of our life, but only truly good friends leave footprints in our heart. My fond memories of Aristarco Solovino impelled me to write about him. My friendship with him was very strong and he was always standing with me especially during the hard times. The friendship of Aristarco and myself developed through sharing many artistic projects. At the same time, Aristarco lived for some periods of time in my apartment. Therefore, I knew his ideas very well.

I have never known another character so curious, so strange as Aristarco Solovino because his whole life was full of unusual events, unpredictable ideas and enterprising projects. For instance, his aversion to employment was amazing. He elaborated complete homlies against the exploitation that occurred in some types of jobs, and he kept his virginity in the employment field fiercely and zealously.

My notable friend always was surrounded by people because of his peculiar yet well-mannered personality. At times he disappeared suddenly without any trace for a long period of time, and then he would show up as if nothing had happened. He lived without any barriers, and any place that he arrived at was his home. His life story was filled with a blurring mystification.

Aristarco appeared in the middle of our bohemian group from nowhere. Nobody remembers who introduced him to us. Nobody was sure about which country he belonged to. He claimed that he was a foundling, and a benevolent lady found him as a baby crying in a garbage dump. Then she raised him as her own child. He became an unconventional, talented artist. He was a painter, writer, actor, and a musical composer since his youth.

Because of his bizarre life, his ideas were very original, and he had a strong sense of responsibility. Even when he was against the law and power of governments, his dream was to see all the people working together despite the laws. He was convinced that science, religion, and art are the only three ways to reach the light, the supreme goodness and the truth, respectively. He said that extraterrestrial life is real because regardless of his ideas he believed in God, and God is not terrestrial. Finally, he maintained that the human being is immortal. He explained that we are composed of soul, spirit, and body. We live inside of our bodies. The body will die sooner or later, but not the other parts of the self such as the soul and the spirit because they are imperishable.

Part II

Once, I read in the newspaper about a man who died in his apartment in Europe, and his skeleton was not found until five years later. That news impressed me. Afterwards, Carmen Elena, my niece who lived in Germany, visited me. I was shocked when she brought me Aristarco's diary. She had found it among the discarded and not reclaimed articles of a person called Wolfgang Dickens, the solitary man from the news mentioned before. Carmen never knew Aristarco, she only knew that he was my friend. Presently, I have many questions. "Is Aristarco Solovino still alive?" And, "Where is he?" Was Wolfgang Dickens just another friend of Aristarco or was Wolfgang Dickens the last identity of Aristarco?"

Aristarco Solovino was an ordinary man who lived according to his own peculiar ideas and that is why his life was so eccentric. His disconcerting character is an eloquent symbol of our bewildering age.

Roberto Perez

Cinquain

Mademoiselle
Was hiding
Behind her bare
Fragile and empty hands,
Smiling

Parody

This is just to say
that I used your apartment
and some money that I found

and which you were probably
saving
to pay the rent.

Forgive me
I couldn't help it.
I organized a party
and we missed you a lot!

Roberto Perez

Haiku

Black, dark, cold swept tree
branches hanging wet and low
slowly, dying quiet

Cinquain

Buffalo
running free
across the plains
with heads held high
powerful
Moving hustle, bustle
push and shove
never stopping, never slowing
packing

Limerick

I once met a man named Dalley
I found lying naked in an alley
when I asked him why
all he could reply
because of his wife named Sally

Tina Delorme

My Life

My name is Tina Delorme. I was born in the small town of Broadview Saskatchewan. My reserve, Cowessess First Nation is located nearby in the Fort Quapelle Valley. I'm a single parent with three children. My oldest child is my daughter Sheryl; she's 20 and on her own and going to school. My other two children are boys and they live with me. My second youngest is Brendon, who is twelve, and my youngest is Shaun who is seven. I have three brothers and three sisters not including myself.

I was raised in a residential school from the time I was six to the age of fourteen. The boarding school on my reserve was called Marieval Residential School which has been torn down already. I never thought residential school was a big deal and I still don't. A lot of people have their own opinions of what went on in the boarding schools back then. My mother and my older brother are still going through the courts. They both asked me if I also wanted to, and I said I have no reason to do so because I wasn't harmed by the nuns. There were a few instances that I had seen and heard about, but had never experienced. There were some bad times and some good times, but I try to forget the bad and concentrate on the good.

However, I would like to share one bad incident. There once was this little girl who wet her bed and the nuns made us all stand at the foot of the bed while she walked down the aisle with her wet sheets, naked. Then they made us all stand around the sink while she washed her wet sheets. She was crying and asking if she could get dressed. You couldn't imagine how bad we all felt for her, but the nuns didn't even give her a second thought.

One of the good memories I have is of being on the cross-country track team. We used to travel everywhere to track meets at other schools. I liked travelling from school to school and hated facing the reality of the boarding school. Well, I made it to the provincials and came in third. I felt really proud of myself when they announced at my school that I had won the Female Athlete of the year award.

We all finally left the school when I was thirteen and moved here to Saskatoon. I had my first child when I was sixteen but still managed to go to school with the help of my mother. I believed back then, and I still believe that education is the way to your own self-reliance. By the time I was pregnant with my second child, Brendon, I was just finishing Radius and getting my diploma for my GED. My baby son, Shaun, was born 2 years later and that was when I believed that my two little ones needed a mom, full time. I knew how it was to be so young and not have a mother there to hug and kiss. My two boys are now in grades two and six, so I believed it was time to let them grow without mom always coddling them. I had not been to school for ten years, so I decided it was time to show my sons and myself that I could do it.

Tina Delorme

Brenda Arno: (Adult 12) I'm a single mother with a six-year-old son, Patrick. While taking English Bridging, I needed to create a poster representing Macbeth. Patrick decided that he would help me with the assignment. His artistic and creative work is on the cover of this edition.

Carla Ledoux (Adult 10): I was born in Pinefalls, Manitoba. I moved to Saskatoon last July of 2002 to return to school. I have three wonderful children; two are in high school and one is in elementary school. My goal is to finish my Grade 12 and take Business Management, which I am determined to complete.

Francine Bartsch: I am 25 years old. I was born in Hamilton, Ontario and moved to Saskatoon with my parents when I was 7. I have a brother and a sister. When I was 20 I got married and had a beautiful boy name Jordan Jose' Abram Bartsch. At 24 I divorced. I am now at Kelsey working to complete my grade 12; then I will go on to college to become a Youth Care Worker.

Helen Michell is a wife, mother and student here at S.I.A.S.T. Her hopes and dreams for her children are: that they be happy, healthy and to finish their education. She is planning to finish her grade 12 so she can be a role model for her kids. Helen would like to encourage everyone to continue on with their education.

Jack Tyler Crain: I was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. I come from a large family of eight children and one parent. I have two children: a beautiful girl, and a strong boy. I am currently employed at St Paul's Hospital where I've worked for the last four years as a dietary porter and an environmental service worker (housekeeper).

Lana Labatt: I was born in Saskatoon. My birthday is Oct 20 1979. I am taking the ABE 10 course at Kelsey.

Lisa K Fehr: I was born in Saskatoon on September 28, 1978. I lived here all my life. I have three children and a husband. I am attending school at SIAST Kelsey Campus, and I am graduating from the Ten program at the end of June. I intend to go to the 12 program in the fall of 2003. After I am done the 12, I would like to work as a Youth Care Worker.

Luc Chau: I am a student in the SIAST Adult 10 program. I came from Vietnam. I would like to improve my English. I hope to complete my Grade 12 at Kelsey and then take the Pharmacy Technician course.

Nadine Quewezance: I've been in the ABE 10 program since January 2003, and I'm going into the 12 program in the fall. I grew up in Saskatoon since the age of five. I continue to raise my family here, and I am the proud mother of three children. My career goal is to graduate and get into Nursing.

Richard Stubbs: I was born in Vernon, B.C. in December of 1978. I moved to Saskatchewan in the spring of 1997, settling in Mossbank. For many years I've wanted to become a journalist. I've always wanted to have something I wrote put into a booklet or magazine. That way, people would be able to see some of my work in its earliest stages. This poem was written in the early morning hours while I was thinking of my father. He passed away in November of 2002. This poem is about trying to deal with feelings of guilt and thoughts of what I could have done differently

Roberto Perez: I was born in El Salvador, the smallest country in Central America, but mostly, I lived in Mexico. I am a theatre actor. I like to write, read and paint. I am currently studying Basic Education Grade 10 at Kelsey Campus, and I intend to get my Grade 12. My career goal is to study Computer Service Technician

Tina Delorme: I started Adult 10 at SIAST Kelsey Campus in January, 2003. I have not decided what I'm going to be when I grow up. I have three children, Sheryl, 20; Brendon, 11 and Shaun, 7.