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# LEEPS & BOUNDS

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Volume 1, Issue 3

MARCH 2007

## Upcoming Events

*Barbecue season is just around the corner and you will soon find the barbecue out on the veranda at EEPS from time to time- sizzling with hotdogs for lunch!*

## Registering for Programs

### Study Skills Program

*This class offers 45 hours of instruction on time management and strategies for studying effectively. It is usually held in the summer months with morning classes. If there is enough interest, this program can also be run according to the demands of those interested.*

### Computer Literacy Program Level 1

*This class holds a maximum of 4 students and runs for a period of 2 hours twice a week for 10 weeks. We have this program to meet the demands of clients. Depending on the interest we can run this program continuously. If there is someone you have in mind or are interested, please contact us for further information. ☀*

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Any comments or suggestions are welcome at the following email address: [maureen@eepscentre.com](mailto:maureen@eepscentre.com) ☀

## Director's Comments:



Ludwig Wittgenstein was a philosopher in the early 1920's, a peer and associate of Bertrand Russell. He was highly regarded as a genius in his time. Wittgenstein proposed the idea that language that does not correspond to the empirical world in which we live is not very useful, and misleads more than it guides. He suggested that philosophical generalizations were to be avoided. He wrote one volume, which became very popular in its day. He then practiced what he preached, and resigned from further philosophical writing, and spent the rest of his years teaching school in a small Swiss village.

I love to read about ideas, and am drawn to making subsequent generalizations about ideas, but my experience in life to date is that I think that Wittgenstein had a proposal that holds considerable merit.

Recently, a friend who teaches at a local school was invited to a meeting with his principal to talk about his philosophy of education. The meeting was to be one of a series of consultations with teachers to arrive at a mission statement that reflected the school's philosophical position. During the meeting, the secretary called to indicate that one of the classrooms was experiencing crisis, as two children were saying that they were ill amidst a chaotic classroom environment where the substitute teacher was losing control. The principal's response was that they were not to be interrupted, as they were in consultation around education philosophy, and would deal with the problem later. Regardless of the

# The Voices of Students and Staff



Students that attend the EEPS classes are in different stages of learning. Writing is one of the projects we encourage and this newsletter contains a variety of poems and stories. Take some time and enjoy.

## IF TODAY WAS THE LAST DAY

If today was the last day of the rest of your life,  
What would you do?  
Would you do all the things you set out to do,  
All of your childhood dreams?  
Would you tell that certain someone you really do care?  
If today was the last day of the rest of your life,  
What would you do?  
Would you hold that old teddy bear your mother got for you  
on Valentine's Day?  
Would you call up your first love,  
The one who never got their last hug goodbye?  
Although we'll never know  
If today were going to be the last day of the rest of our  
lives, Ask yourself what would you do.....

*by Elizabeth Shorting ☀*

## I AM WOMAN, HEAR ME WHISPER

I am woman, hear me whisper.  
My baby's identity, I wonder?  
"Comment ce flut?" I hear constantly, ringing in my ears.  
I see my unborn child, alive and well, in my mind's eye.  
A good mother is what I want to be.  
I am woman, hear me whisper.

Imagine, a big and beautiful house, with a happy family.  
I am so lucky to be able to imagine.  
I hold my happy family, and I never let it go.

I worry if we will have enough, and be able to do what we want.

I shed a tear when my loved ones must go from this life, and onto the next.

I am woman, hear me whisper.

People have faults, I understand.

I believe, we are the only ones with the power to make our future what we want it to be.

I dream about being a good mother, with a happy family.

I try to keep up with home cooked meals everyday.

For I hope for a healthy, happy family...

Because, I am woman, hear me whisper!

*by Renée LeBlanc☀*

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## PLEASURE FOR THE PALATE

### Sherry's Swiss Chicken

4 chicken breasts-boned & skinned

4 slices Swiss cheese

4 onion rings (raw sliced onion)

1 cup sour cream (or milk to reduce fat)

1 cup canned mushroom soup

Place chicken breasts in "single" layer of deep baking dish. Cover each breast with a slice of Swiss cheese and an onion ring. Combine sour cream or milk with mushroom soup & pour over chicken pieces. Season as desired (not much will be needed) Bake at 300 – 325 for 45 min. – 1 hr. ....**enjoy! \***

## A JOKE A DAY....

Two bright young engineers applied for the same position at a computer company. Since they had identical qualifications, the company asked the two applicants to take a ten-question test. At the conclusion of the test, one of the applicants was called into the manager's office. **"I have graded the test, and you both scored nine correct answers and got one answer wrong. Thank you for your interest, but we've decided to give the job to the other applicant."** "And why would you choose him if we both got nine questions correct?" asked the rejected applicant. **"We have based our decision not on the correct answers, but on the question you missed,"** said the Department manager. "And just how would one incorrect answer be better than the other?" the rejected applicant inquired. **"Simple,"** said the Department manager, **"The other gentleman answered Question #5, 'I don't know.' Your answer to Question #5 was, 'Neither do I.'"** ☀

## SUCCESSES FOR THE SPRING

### SPRING NEWS –

.C.P.P.- There has been a mad rush of GED writing for the students of this class. There is a demand for a spot in this class as young adults continue to improve their living status beginning with attaining their GED. The class holds 8 students. ☀

## EEPS NEWS ITEMS

- Russell Howard has finished his tutorial sessions with Bernie and we wish him luck in his future endeavors.
- Kevin Strong from our CPP class has passed his GED exam.
- Elizabeth and Jessica Shorting (sisters) are also in attendance in the CPP class and will be writing at the end of February.
- George Larocque has completed his 3 exams for the Distance Education course in **Marketing 1**. He completed this course in 2 months time. Congratulations George!
- Brian Walker has written his GED after attending 1 month of class.
- Aaron Sniher- one of our graduates from the CPP program is now registered in an **Emergency Response Team** course
- Charles Lefterek has completed his GED and is now in attendance at **Mid Ocean School of Media Arts** for a music career. Good Luck Charles!
- Congratulations to Liz who just had a baby girl! 7lbs.11oz.
- Congratulations to Renée as well, who also had a baby girl! 8lbs.13oz. ☀

### Directors Comments (cont'd)

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appropriateness of this response, it caused me to reflect on the gap that can easily exist between the language of philosophy and the demands of the world as we experience it. The effort to develop a philosophical mission statement seemed in this instance to stand apart from a real life application. Wittgenstein's concern about the value of philosophical language seems to have merit here, where the value of an articulated mission took precedence over an appropriate human response to need. The mission statement, no matter how well stated, was not going to assist in ensuring a safe learning environment for the children of this stressed classroom.

I have been involved in mission statement discussions quite a few times, and find them interesting to a degree, sometimes even pragmatically useful. The tendency in my experience however is to dress up the language in such a way that is strangely divorced from the real demands the organization actually faces. In this way the statement misleads, and creates a credibility gap between those in charge of delivering services, those who receive the service, and those who manage the official position of the organization. The problem that Wittgenstein recognized was that the language of abstraction creates an artificial world, a world where the impression of values is more important than the appropriate response to real world demands.

Recently deceased scientist and writer, Stephen Jay Gould once said that one cannot describe the world by generalized statements of ideas, but by diving into the study and description of specific observed experience. Broad generalizations are not always wrong, but that they need to be the servant of observed experience, not the master.

At EEPS, we do have some broad ideas about how learning can best occur, and what the purpose of learning might be. We are however constantly humbled to find that our generalizations are not as important as we might have thought, and may be wrong often enough that being guided by them would be to the detriment of the needs of a particular student. One student learns so that he can minimize the demands of life, another learns so that he maximizes his involvement in these demands. Both are trying to navigate their way as we all are, in a world of complexity vastly greater than our understanding. Wittgenstein's suggestion is a worthy one. A good learning environment is well served by language that describes real experience, and avoids deception. We owe it to our students to assist them to see the details and complexities of their experience and to let these observations guide their actions through the day. ☀

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## The Voices of Students and Staff

You can manage to hear many success stories here at EEPS and I just realized an interesting twist to my own. Due to many unfixable issues, that I no longer dwell on or wish to share, I separated from my husband of 17 ½ years and came from a small town, jobless, to the city with my 5 children.

I managed to get into a 5 bedroom place with Manitoba Housing and land a job in a chicken hatchery. Hatchery work was not new to me as this was the type of job I left to come to the city. Previous to that, I had been a stay-at-home mom for 14 years (previously a banker in Winnipeg). After 1½ years of working at this factory in the city, I moved on to a factory job where they produced pizza pops at an amazing fast pace! If you have ever seen the show “I Love Lucy” where she is working in the chocolate factory --- well, that was exactly how it was! Meanwhile, I was trying to cling to a healthy sense of family life: juggling homework assistance, church, chores, financial struggles & law & order with 5 teenagers (grade 7 to 12).

Needless to say, I could not go on doing this physically demanding job, work evening shift work, and “neglect” my 5 children. I ended up going to Education and Training in St. Boniface and was helped by Mr. Denis Letain.

Through my journey up to this point there seemed to be no one (in the “system”) who really cared about my situation. But Denis Letain did. Through one of the provincial programs at that time, I was able to get financial assistance and into a program (at another organization) so that I could get a better job. I had never worked on a computer or done any typing, but I succeeded in getting my Computerized Accounting certificate. I have had few employers since, one of whom I was with for 5 years.

Life always amazes me, and it is fascinating to see how things seem to connect. I realized this as I greeted Denis Letain at our office one day! Here I am, years later, working full time for Roger Groening. Roger is the fairest and most engaging employer / person I have ever met, and the work environment is such that staff and students alike are almost always assured of success and positive self worth. I can not imagine finding anything better. That is what I call success!

The success does not stop at myself, either, because with this help I was able to better help my children. My three oldest children (2 daughters and 1 son) have put themselves through, or are still attending some form of University or College program and have many “doors” opened to them for excellent jobs. My two youngest daughters are living in Alberta and BC at this time and show great courage and promise of fulfilling their successful paths in life. I am so proud of them all and feel very blessed!

So, in receiving this goodness, I, in turn, move forward and reach out to help not only my children, but also friends, the elderly and just recently children of divorce through a program called Divorce Care for Kids. What a positive life changing influence this has been.

So, for all those of you in this line of work, you create somewhat of a “pay it forward” with this help and kindness. And maybe, things connect and circle around so that we can say “thank you!” **Thank you Denis!**

*by Maureen Kroll*

### GOLF

Canadian summers are very short. I love to golf, and I never seem to get enough of it. When I started to golf, I fell in love with the game immediately. I would play two or three games a week, or as many as I could. Golf is a sport that can be played by all age groups, male or female. I find the time very relaxing, and I have a group of friends whom I get out with and enjoy their company.

The first thing you should know about golf, is that each club has a purpose. Your three iron is designed on average to hit your ball about 190 yards plus. The rule of thumb is each club will change the distance of shot by ten yards. For example, your 3 iron 190 yards, 4 iron 180 yards, 5 iron 170 yards, 6 iron 160 yards and so on. Your sand wedge is designed for short shots or out of the sand traps. They are about a 60 % loft; this will bring the ball up fast and high, and create backspin on the ball when it

hits the green. The driver is the “big stick” as I like to call it; this club is the hardest to hit for many people, but it will give you the longest distance of all your clubs. The three and four woods are smaller drivers to go less distance because of their loft.

The game of golf has brought me a lot of pleasure, relaxation, and walking, which is good exercise. I have played about 38 years, and I have played at a higher level of golf when I played more games than I do now. When I played two or three games a week I would shoot a score about 78 – 82, and now I play about once a week and shoot about 80- 86. I don’t hit the ball as far as I did when I was young, but today they make better clubs and balls. That creates the ball to go further and straighter. Thank goodness for me they have. Now if I could learn to putt better, I would lower my score; putting is half of your game.  
.....by Russell Howard.☀

### *Interesting Fact:*

**Roger, the director, has an entertaining family that involves his 4 brothers and 1 sister and each play one or more instruments. They get together for musical jamming and periodically put on a little entertainment for the elderly. They can be seen at Bethel Place from time to time where their father resides. He also plays the violin and will join in and play some songs with his children at the age of 94. It is a pleasure to see!**



# The Groening Family

