

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*Volume 15 Issue 36
September 28, 2007*



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THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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AU to receive \$30 million for building/research centre

In an afternoon press conference this Friday, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, Doug Horner, announced a \$30 million grant for AU to address part of its request for technology and infrastructure funding.

This grant, the biggest one-time allotment to AU, was called the “second biggest milestone” in the history of the university by President Frits Pannekoek. The first, he said, was the original move to Athabasca and the development of the original campus.

The funding is earmarked for the expansion of the main AU campus building, which is to be doubled in size by the addition of a 72,000 foot environment-friendly building that will house staff, academics, and university executives. Currently, some key offices are located outside of the main building in portable units while renovations are completed. Others are sharing small spaces meant for single employees.

AU notes that this funding will allow expansions that will “provide capacity for up to 15,000 more course registrations in distance learning per year, or about 1,500 full-time equivalent students.”

AU Governing Council chair Joy Romero added that the funding will help AU reach its goal of 100,000 students by 2015 and go a long way toward “reducing barriers to quality post-secondary education.”

Premier Ed Stelmach said that the government recognizes “the importance new facilities have towards addressing government’s plan to build a stronger Alberta. This new capital investment will build upon Athabasca University’s position as Canada’s leading distance and online educator and will be another big step forward for our knowledge-based economy.”

As yet, no funding has been announced for increasing space in the cramped Edmonton and Calgary offices, nor is it clear if any of the monies will be earmarked for technology upgrades. Notably, the minister did not mention if this funding was a one-time allotment, or the first step toward bringing AU’s funding in line with other Alberta universities. He did, however, state that the grant “recognizes the unique needs of an institute and community” like AU and Athabasca, and will provide opportunities for Albertans to study no matter where they live.

No information is available at press time regarding plans for the new research centre or what opportunities may become available for AU students to be involved in research projects.

In a late Thursday announcement, teleconference lines were made available for AU students to dial in and listen to the conference, and a recording of the conference will be available through the AU website shortly.



Something Old, Something New

In the race to dash headlong into the spectacular future of the digital age, there are those who say that technology is destroying traditional relationships and the stability of society.

In some ways, they're right. People will spend countless hours on social networking sites or chat rooms, posting messages to hundreds of "friends" they'll never meet (and who may not even be who they say they are). At the same time, many of us will pass by the same

neighbours every day and never even say hello.

Even many traditional family interactions have fallen by the wayside thanks to technology. Parents are often glued to their wide-screen TVs and satellite channels, while the kids are isolated upstairs in their rooms, surfing the net and having IM conversations in shorthand.

With the focus on everything new, fast, and different, even workers are changing jobs at a faster rate than previous generations did—as often as every two years, according to a recent study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Which makes it especially interesting that one of the unforeseen results of this technological revolution is—well, just the opposite. Even as it gets harder and harder to keep up with the flurry of new gadgets, some employers are using them to slow things down, particularly when it comes to retaining employees over the long term.

When Ivan Bowman, an employee at a software company in Ontario, decided to move to Nova Scotia, his employer didn't want to lose him. There were the standard solutions of phone calls and emails, but they didn't allow the same level of spontaneous interaction in the office environment. So the company came up with a unique solution: they built a robot version of Ivan.

The human-sized contraption looks like a "coat rack on wheels," with a screen that allows workers to see Ivan at his desk three provinces away. The real Ivan can make the computer wander the halls, stop at a colleague's office, sit in on meetings, and hang out at the water cooler. At night, someone plugs the computer Ivan in at his cubicle for recharging and he's ready to go again the next day.

It's not quite as high-tech, but other companies are also using the rapid developments in technology to maintain the more old-fashioned, long-term relationships that used to be the norm.

In the call-centre business, especially, turnover rates are high, and it can be difficult for employers to retain good workers. In some case, annual employee turnover rates are 25 to 35 per cent, meaning the average employee is there for less than a year.¹ New technology, including Voice over Internet protocol (VoIP), is being used to change that, allowing employees who move or have health problems to continue with the stability of the same job.

Like any new technology, the tools of our new electronic world will change us—and the society we live in—in profound ways. But it's worth remembering that the more things change, the more they stay the same—even if they are wrapped up in a shiny new digital package.

¹ CBC News, 2007. "VoIP at work." Retrieved September 24, 2007, from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/tech/internet/voip.html>



HIST 365 - Girls and Women in Urban Canada

AU has recently welcomed a newly revised history course into their Centre for Work and Community Studies. This course, Girls and Women in Urban Canada (HIST 365), explores the role and life of Canadian women and girls in Canada from 1880 onwards.

Essentially, HIST 365 replaces AU's previous HIST 364 (Women and Family in Urban Canada); since HIST 364's last revision, there were a "number of developments" in Canadian women's history, explained course author Donna Belisle in an online interview. Due to this, she explained, "we have therefore replaced HIST 364 with a new course that showcases these developments."

"Essentially," indicated Dr. Belisle, "HIST 365 introduces students to the major themes in Canadian women's history." The course's main focus is on urban Canadian women "during a period of extreme social transformation." Students focus on this in the course's four units.

HIST 365 opens with a comprehensive introductory unit, ensuring that students are given an adequate foundation upon which further course knowledge will have the opportunity to build. Topics explored in the remaining three units include exploring women's domestic responsibilities from 1880 to 1940, enabling students to form in-depth ideas of the expected workload of a Canadian woman during this time period.

"Between 1880 and 1940," explained Dr. Belisle, "Canadians witnessed urbanization, industrialization, and the rise of the modern state. These occurrences affected Canadian women in several ways." HIST 365 enables students to become well versed in the challenges and triumphs of Canadian women during this time. Students explore the impact of racialization and immigration on Canadian women, as well as women and the labour activation movement. "By exploring Canadian women's responses to these events, the course teaches us about the gender of Canadian history, the consequences of modernization, and women's various experiences prior to World War II," indicated Dr. Belisle.

Evaluation for HIST 365 consists of two telephone assignments, worth 5% and 10% respectively. These telephone assignments, which are basically "informal discussions with course tutors about the readings in the course package," are interactive and fun, designed to help students gain maximum knowledge out of the course. HIST 365 evaluation also includes one essay assignment, worth 30%, and one final research paper, with a proposal and final paper combined weight of 55%. Essay and paper suggestions are varied, and include topics such as women's domestic responsibilities; women's voting equality; women and immigration; women and ethnicity in women's history; women and political activism; juvenile delinquents; girl culture and popular culture; and motherhood.

Course professor Donna Belisle is well versed in Canadian history, having recently received her PhD in this area from Trent University. Her dissertation focused on consumerism and its influence on the Canada of today. Dr. Belisle has been published in the Canadian Historical Review; Journal of Women's History; and Labour/Le Travail. Currently, she is pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of British Columbia.



Diabetes: A Rising Health Crisis

More than two million Canadians have diabetes

Diabetes was first observed in 1552 BC, when the physician Hesy-Ra recorded frequent urination as a symptom. Until the 11th century, diabetes was diagnosed by a group known as water tasters. Their job was to drink the urine of people who were thought to have diabetes. If the urine was sweet tasting, a diagnosis of diabetes was confirmed.

In the beginning of the 19th century, the first test using chemicals to measure the presence of sugar in urine was developed. By the late 19th century Claude Bernard began studying the link between the pancreas and the glycogen metabolism of the liver. Twenty years later, Oskar Minkowski and Joseph von Mering removed the pancreas of a dog to determine its effect on digestion.

On November 14, 1891, an event occurred that was eventually to have a profound effect on the study of this disease: Frederick Banting was born near Alliston, Ontario.

In 1912, Frederick Banting enrolled in medical school at the University of Toronto. He opened his medical practice in July 1920 and by October of that same year he had conceived of the idea of insulin. Within two years, human insulin testing began.

On October 25, 1923, Dr. Banting and Professor John Macleod were awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. In 1934, Dr. Banting was knighted, thus becoming Sir Frederick Banting, and advances in the treatment and management of diabetes have continued to the present day.

In spite of the ongoing progress in the management of diabetes, it continues to be a “serious public health problem” as stated by Health Canada. Two million Canadians have diabetes and that figure continues to rise. The financial costs to the Canadian health care system are an estimated \$13.2 billion every year.

There are many reasons for this upswing in diabetes, for example our aging population, rising obesity, and increasingly sedentary lifestyle.

Diabetes can be divided into three types. Type 1, which is usually diagnosed in childhood or early adolescence and occurs when the pancreas is unable to produce insulin. Type 2, which occurs in adulthood when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or the body is unable to effectively use the insulin that is produced. The third type is gestational diabetes, which is a temporary condition affecting 3.5 per cent of all pregnancies. Ninety percent of all diabetes is Type 2.

Type 1 diabetes cannot be prevented, but it can be managed with daily insulin injections along with other medications. The onset of Type 2 diabetes, on the other hand, can be prevented or delayed by making some important lifestyle changes including healthy eating, regular physical activity, and maintaining a healthy weight.

The Canadian Diabetes Association suggests the following lifestyle guidelines for anyone living with Type 2 diabetes:

1. Take medications regularly
2. Regular physical activity promotes weight loss and helps to lower blood glucose levels

3. Proper nutrition and maintaining a healthy weight is an important factor in regulating blood glucose levels
4. Learning to reduce stress levels is beneficial for people with diabetes

Furthermore, it is vital to monitor your blood pressure. High blood pressure in addition to Type 2 diabetes can lead to a wide variety of medical conditions including heart disease and kidney disease.

The most important factor in preventing or managing your diabetes is to get tested regularly. One third of people who have diabetes don't realize they have it.

Additional information is available on the [Canadian Diabetes Association](#) and [Health Canada](#) websites.

CLICK ON THIS - Bricktionary

Lonita Fraser

One of the great capacities of the human creature is the expansiveness of our imaginations; not only what we invent with our ceaseless ocean of creativity, but also what uses we put those inventions to. Toys are by no means free from imaginative use; and, in the case of LEGO, it seems that there is indeed no limit to what can be done with something so seemingly simple.

Brickshelf

A user-supplied site full to bursting with all manner of creations from the brickyard—bugs, cars, buildings, people, creatures, and more.

Brickfilms

This might be the closest any of us come to stardom in the world of film. All brick, all the time!

The Art of the Brick

And who says LEGO must be confined to the constructive arts? Why not the fine arts as well!

Reasonably Clever

All manner of LEGO-oriented goodies, including a bricktionary and a page where you can order custom-styled LEGO people that look just like you! I got one for my grandmother for her birthday; she loved it.

LEGO Blog

A blog dedicated to the wonder of the brick, and the wonders of the things we create with them.

LEGO Ice Cube Maker

Add some food colouring and you could make little frozen houses!

The Brick Testament

A charming visual relating Biblical material, each verse is depicted with, you guessed it, characters and scenery created with LEGO!

AUSU THIS MONTH



An open letter to Joy Romero, Chair of AU Governing Council.

Dear Ms. Romero;

On behalf of the students of Athabasca University, we are excited and encouraged by what Dr. Frits Pannekoek has called the “second greatest milestone” in the history of Athabasca University. The approval of \$30 million toward AU’s new administrative and research center, as announced today by Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner, is a tremendous step toward ensuring that

AU will remain one of Canada’s finest educational institutions.

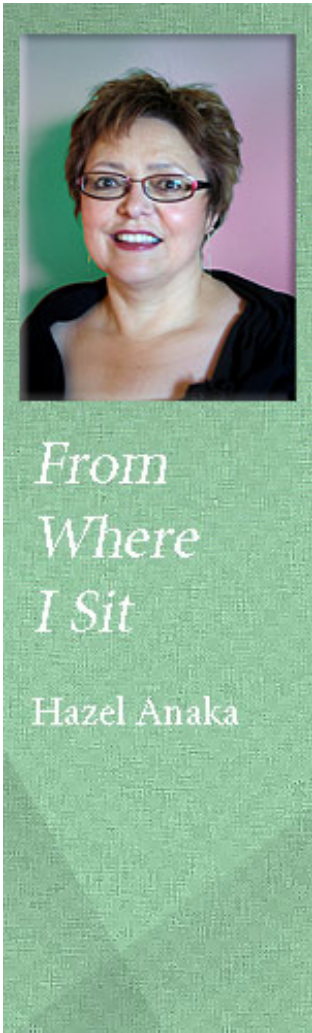
This funding demonstrates Alberta’s strong commitment to Alberta’s students, and the students of Athabasca University. Athabasca University also demonstrates this commitment through its focus on increasing affordability, accessibility, and quality of education for our members. Recent limits imposed on annual tuition increases are an important first step toward ensuring affordability. Today’s funding announcement will further address accessibility issues for AU students.

In early 2007, AUSU presented the government and AUGC with a document detailing our *Vision for a Skilled Alberta*. It is clear that our concerns have been heard and that steps are being taken to ensure that students’ views are incorporated into revisions to our education system and university services. We are encouraged that we have reached this milestone to improve the main campus of our university and ensure that AU has sufficient staff to address growing student needs.

We now look forward to learning how AUGC and Athabasca University will use these funds to enhance the quality of AU’s offerings and we request a communication from AUGC to our members explaining how this new funding will enhance student services.

We continue to look forward to reaching future milestones that will ensure that AU can address the urgent need for enhanced learning and virtual communication technologies, more courses and programs, and research opportunities for students.

AUSU



Job One

Gratitude is an elusive thing. It may be deeply felt but go unexpressed. Or it may be the stuff of Thanksgiving Day celebrations. Sometimes it represents the single most neglected aspect of our lives. We take our good health, our good fortune, our very lives for granted.

It may manifest as a prayer silently mouthed—thank you, Lord—when we get safely to and from our destination. Gratitude may be made visible through the sustained use of a gratitude journal. Or by invoking the karmic good when heartfelt gratitude is reciprocated by good deeds.

For many of us, prayer and gratitude go hand in hand. We say prayers of thanks when the diagnosis isn't life-threatening or our loved ones come safely home from war or travel.

If we're particularly mindful, we express thanks and feel gratitude for a baby's smile and milestone accomplishments, for a beautifully designed automobile, for the smell of stargazer lilies and sweet peas, for magnificent sunsets, for Pachelbel's Canon in D Major. Too often we're caught up in the hamster wheel of life and forget to notice and appreciate and express our gratitude. Too often we miss the cosmic lesson that says we won't be given more until we appreciate what we already have.

Personally, one of the times I feel the most gratitude is during harvest. Any farmer knows just how much is riding on getting the crop off in a timely manner. It's a race against the weather, the clock, and the calendar. With just a combine windshield separating me from the great outdoors, and hours of time to look around and think, I feel gratitude. I'm thankful for sunny, windy days. I'm grateful

for every kernel, every bushel filling my hopper. This year I'm grateful that grain prices have hit a 20- or 30-year high. I'm happy that Roy and I, with the occasional help of our kids, were able to pull off another harvest. I'm relieved that our aging combines and grain trucks held on for another year with only minimal mechanical intervention.

I'm even more grateful we all got through it without a trip to the emergency room or funny farm. Or marriage counsellor.

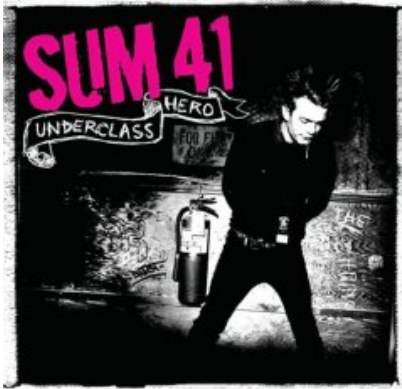
As someone who hates and fears mice, I was grateful each time a hawk swooped down and grabbed one scurrying away from my combine header. I was thrilled to see a cow moose loping along over the canola swaths. I didn't know she could jump a four-strand barbed-wire fence from a dead stop. I enjoyed the skittery mother white-tailed deer and her twins. I was grateful to see the jewel-toned leaves shimmering in the wind, because it meant the dew would stay off the swaths and we could work longer.

Regardless of who we are or what our circumstances, we all have reasons to be grateful. Finding those reasons is job one, from where I sit.

The Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan

by
Wanda
Waterman
St. Louis



Sum 41 - *Underclass Hero*

Release date: July 2007

Label: Aquarius

Tracks: 15 (1 bonus)

Rating: 10

Underclass Hero is the release me and thousands of other Sum 41 fans have been waiting for since the genre-mixing 2004 album *Chuck*. Where the last record was a dark and almost metal album to reflect the time the band spent in the Congo amidst fighting and sometimes calm, sometimes terrifying conditions, *Underclass Hero* has not just returned the band to

the pop-punk roots that were established with 2000's *Half Hour of Power*, but shows real growth as well. This is the first record released by Sum 41 without their original lead guitarist and backing vocalist Dave Baksh, who left in 2006 to work with another band and more completely explore his hard-rock tendencies. It is also the first Sum 41 record produced by front man Deryck Whibley.

The album begins with its two singles: "Underclass Hero" and "Walking Disaster," and it is these well-picked tracks that have helped the record peak at number one in Canada—just like every other album they have released to date. It's no secret that Sum 41 is loved very well in its home country, but after switching the tone from *Does This Look Infected?* (2002) to *Chuck* and back to *Underclass Hero*, it is impressive that any band, despite their rampant popularity, could not falter even a little on the top spot.

What strikes me most about this record is that you can hear so many different musical influences playing into so many of the tracks. "Count Your Last Blessings" features a piano solo on the intro and outro, something that instantly brings Linkin Park to mind. A little of The Offspring pops its head up here and there, as does The Used, and "March of the Dogs" begins with a bass solo that is reminiscent of Blink 182.

The biggest face within the record comes from Green Day, however, which is not hugely surprising since Sum 41 has claimed the band has been an influence on their own music since the beginning of their career.

Tracks 10 and 11, "Pull the Curtain" and "King of Contradiction," feel like they could have been pulled right out of *Kerplunk* (1992) and *Dookie* (1994) or *Nimrod* (1997), with the first enjoying a lot more polish from a more professional band than Green Day was at the time. At times it's as if the two bands have just melted right together and are indistinguishable from one another. The only way I can describe it, for Green Day and Sum 41 fans as single-minded as I am sometimes, is that it's like binging on chocolate, chips, dip, and greasy french fries after months of being uber-healthy. That's it exactly. This record is like poutine. Honestly!

I hate to say it, but the departure of Dave Baksh may have been exactly what Sum 41 needed to persevere and to keep writing outstanding music. Pop-punk is not a term I usually enjoy using, but in this case it suits so well and if I were in charge of the masses, it would only be used for bands just like this: punk-inspired but generally lighter in tone. Sum 41 couldn't have done a better job on this record, and I have to say I haven't enjoyed a new CD this much in a long time. Kudos.



Books, Music, and Film to Wake Up Your Muse and Help You Change the World

CD: Greg Brown, *Yellow Dog*

Release date: 2007

Label: Earthwork Music, Michigan

Recorded live in 2005 at Peterson Auditorium, Ishpeming, MI

Here is a performer who seems to have walked every harrowing step of his talk. Unlike more famous celebrity do-gooders who rake in far more hay devoting far less of their time to causes, Brown has formed deep bonds with the natural spaces he helps protect. In this case, all profits from *Yellow Dog* go to a coalition dedicated to protecting Michigan's Yellow Dog River from a proposed sulfide mine.

It's risky to be brazenly political in folk music, which is at least implicitly political by definition. Too many folkies have produced songs that are unlistenable by virtue of a total sacrifice of art to dogma. Others have abandoned social concern for navel-gazing. But globalization now threatens us in myriad subtle ways at every level of our lives whether or not we care to acknowledge it, which is why we need to listen carefully to those able to deliver an urgent dispatch without sounding as sanctimonious as raw-food vegans at a neighbourhood barbecue. And Greg Brown does it so well; anger, for example, over the hellish greed and subterfuge of government and big business is tempered by visions of grandma's pickle jars and the sweet, loving world that danced and glowed around them.

Greg Brown's stroke of genius (if it was genius and not just a lucky stab) in this concert was to sing a bunch of his notebook songs, which I assume means bits of journaling that never got recorded. This soul-plumbing vulnerability is one element that renders the personal political and the political personally meaningful.

Another element is the balancing of ire with visions of blessedness. In *Yellow Dog* a clear summons to look after people and places instead of killing or ravaging them is qualified by poignant reflections on the manifold delights of rural community.

Significant to the edification of we mindful bards is the way Brown presents the relationship between the male and the female. Hark back to Virginia Woolf, who speculates, in *A Room of One's Own*, that perhaps "the androgynous mind is resonant and porous; that it transmits emotion without impediment; that it is naturally creative, incandescent, and undivided."

And now listen to Brown's words from "All of Those Things":

I'm work, I'm a toy,

I'm a girl, I'm a boy,

Irritation and joy.

I'm all of those things with my baby.

Like all Brown's music, *Yellow Dog* makes you want to turn to the men in your life and say, "You see? You can be both whole and broken. You can have a love relationship that is clean and dirty at the same time. So let's, shall we?"

Here again are love songs without guile, love songs which lay the armour by, whose purpose is not to sexually exploit women with lies, bravado, or a carefully contrived grovelling. That raw, hurting, mating call that you hear in R.L. Burnside is here, as is a level of emotional excavation I've only heard in Joni Mitchell's songs. But more blessed than these is the chance to see into a mind ripe with generative ambiguity, to commune with a self whose sorrows have dug deeper holes for its joys, and to listen to that lovely baritone, that sweet guitar.

The Bard could use some help scouting out new material. If you discover any books, compact disks, or movies which came out in the last twelve months and which you think fit the Bard's criteria, please drop a line to bard@voicemagazine.org. If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.

EDUCATION NEWS



Canadian university programs increase global content

The distances—virtual and physical—around the world seem to get smaller and faster to navigate by the day. To reflect this, university programs must sharpen their international focus—and according to a recent survey, they're meeting that challenge.

In a 2006 survey conducted by the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada (AUCC), the past six years have seen Canadian universities respond to student demands by increasing the "internationalization" of degree programs.

An Ottawa media release defines internationalization as "the integration of an international and intercultural dimension into teaching, learning, research community functions of an institution." Simply put, this means that a university is actively increasing the global focus of its programs.

This might include increasing the international content of course material; providing funding for students to study abroad; targeting scholarships to international students; developing programs around global disciplines, such as international affairs; and delivering education and training programs abroad.

The survey found, among other key points, that 81 per cent of Canadian universities provide financial support for students wanting to study abroad, an 18 per cent increase since 2000.

But these efforts also face serious challenges. Many universities face a lack of financial support for internationalization efforts, and, without a coordinated national strategy, there remains a lack of consistency in this increasingly important area.

By overcoming these challenges and recognizing the need to keep pace with today's "global knowledge economy," Canadian universities will ensure that their graduates remain competitive on the world stage.



At Home: Loonie trades on par and higher than U.S. dollar

I don't know how many of you deal in foreign currency, but I often make exchanges from U.S. dollars to my Canadian account and today was one of those days. Usually I enjoy being paid in American dollars; no matter what the original amount is, I know that it will be higher when it's in my Canadian account.

Today, however, that logic flew out the window. My U.S. money went *down* in value once transferred to Canadian funds! I had been watching the news and hearing about how the loonie was trading on par with the U.S. dollar, but for some reason I forgot all about it while doing my online banking. Apparently, our dollar has risen again in value, because the latest currency exchange rate is 1 U.S. dollar for 1.00705 Canadian. Pardon me, but holy *shit*!

Over the last months and years, I've been watching the Canadian dollar gain strength against its American counterpart and yet held no real hope that it would reach parity, despite reporting in the June 8 edition of *The Voice* that after striking a 30-year high it was indeed in a position to do so.

Given the challenges of the U.S. economy these past years, however, such as lowered interest rates, an expensive war, and general unpopularity with foreign investors, it is perhaps no surprise that Canada's currency has been valued more highly.

But has it made any advances in terms of other currency? I checked the XE.com [website](#) for exchange rates and found that in the six months since I have been home from the United Kingdom, Canada's dollar has in fact been valued more highly in relation to the GBP than it was when I left. Where I had previously been trading £1 for \$2.1, now the trade would leave me with only around \$2.03.

So, there is no question that Canadian currency is actually rising on the world market, and not only in relation to a continuously failing U.S. dollar.

The question is, what does this mean for us? CTV reporters spoke with two economists, who tried to put currency fluctuations in layman's terms for the average Canadian; if you are confused by how a currency can gain or lose on another then "[A currency primer for the average Canadian](#)" will make for good reading.

Essentially, the strength of our dollar has to do with the number of foreign investors, who, in order to actually put money into Canadian businesses and enterprises, must first purchase Canadian money with which to do so. Stronger currency means, subsequently, that imported goods will be cheaper and that exported goods will be more expensive. All in all, this is a mixed blessing at best but something that the entire country has been waiting to see for a very long time. Whatever the economic outcome, parity is bound to be a source of pride for Canadians nationwide.

In Foreign News: Unemployed Australian surfers the target of new government schemes

Australia has struggled with high unemployment rates for much of its recent history. However, the last 15 years have been cited as a time of economic growth and reduced unemployment. In an effort to keep the economic success running strong, Australia's government has decided to target those of its citizens whom it feels are simply too lazy to find employment.

Apparently, surveys are showing that the areas with the most persistent cases of unemployment are located in beach neighbourhoods where much of the population receives government money for living costs and then spends the rest of their time surfing and hanging out on the beach.

Every welfare state has its share of hangers-on, those people who make a life based on their welfare cheques and doing their own thing during the day. It's inevitable. Australia, however, seems to have the sort of laid-back culture and amazing climate and landscapes to actually encourage such behaviour.

Further, Education Minister Andrew Robb has said outright that there is "a high correlation between high unemployment and coastal areas. We need to put some pressure in some of those areas."¹

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reports that government officials have been annoyed to find that so many Australian businesses are struggling to find employees while there are areas of such high and unrelenting unemployment throughout the coastal regions of the country.

Prime Minister John Howard has made his intentions clear to push dole receivers into full-time work sooner than regulations currently require.²

¹ BBC News, 2007. "Australia targets jobless surfers." Retrieved September 25, 2007, from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7008922.stm>

² *Sydney Morning Herald Online*, 2007. "Welfare reform to target dole bludgers." Retrieved September 25, 2007, from <http://www.smh.com.au/news/NATIONAL/Welfare-reform-to-target-dole-bludgers/2007/09/17/1189881377520.html>

FROM THE GALLERY

Sandra Livingston



This seems to be a week for sharing financial good news (check out the exciting announcement in the AUSU This Month column!) and council's Special General Meeting on September 24 did just that. After a thorough search, council approved the appointment of the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak as the AUSU auditors for the 2007/08 fiscal year.

One of the things council was looking for in an auditor was a proactive approach, as well as a firm that had experience with not-for-profit groups. And to ensure good oversight of student union funds, AUSU policies call for council to approve the choice of auditor on an annual basis.

In other council news, a new administrator recently joined the staff. Pam Schellenberger is hard at work in the AUSU office, and is a welcome (and very busy!) addition.

And speaking of the AUSU office, a long-overdue upgrade is in the works to replace the outdated furniture there. The proposal has been in the works since August, and visitors will soon see a bright, professional space representing AUSU.

Finally, councillors have been hard at work updating the AUSU policy manual (all those little details that keep things running smoothly) and updates are complete.

classifieds

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THE VOICE

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