

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 16  
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## **Car-Free Diet**

Hanging up the  
keys

## **Attitude**

It's everything

## **AU Profiles**

Sarah Kertcher

*Plus:*

*The Mindful Bard,  
Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan,  
AUSU This Month, and much more...*



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**The Voice  
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org), and please indicate if we may publish your letter.



## EDITORIAL

Sandra Livingston



## A Million Times Over

The magnitude of the glacier is overwhelming. Miles of ice roll in solid waves, a frozen monument to the incomprehensible immensity of time. It makes the knowledge that these massive blocks of ice are disappearing all the more staggering.

Common wisdom, and most science, holds that cracking Arctic ice shelves and melting glaciers are the handiwork of *Homo sapiens sapiens*. Other people claim that warmer temperatures and melting ice are simply part of the natural cycle of the Holocene, and of even broader climate patterns that have occurred for hundreds of millions of years.

But as Earth Day approaches, and the din about environmental issues becomes louder, it's clear we have a problem. Whether or not you believe human activity is the cause of global warming, we're gobbling up resources and polluting this planet at an unsustainable rate. And I mean precisely that—unsustainable. Some estimates give us only 10 or 15 years before the damage becomes irreversible.

Like the size of the glaciers, the problem can seem overwhelming, and as I look at my small pile of recycling I can't help but wonder—does the careful sorting of my little bundle of papers really make one bit of difference in the big picture? Does that one less plastic bag at the checkout truly matter when it comes to overflowing landfills and staggering levels of industrial pollution?

The answer is yes, it does. And that's because the key to keeping our little blue planet habitable lies in the same place that caused the problem: sheer numbers. It took millions, and then billions, of us one discarded pop can, one thrown-out keyboard, one bag of Christmas wrapping at a time to get here. The sprawling landfills and rivers of deadly chemical cocktails didn't appear overnight. We created them—are still creating them—every time we toss out that plastic packaging from our new gadget, or choose to buy carpets and clothes and furniture from people who don't care how much waste their companies produce as long as they make a buck.

The term critical mass is overused (and usually sounds like it's right out of a bad political thriller), but it fits the image I have in my head: my tiny pile of recycling multiplied billions upon billions of times. The lone plastic bag I *don't* use, stacked in imaginary piles, one for each of the millions of people who decide they don't need one more piece of petroleum jammed into a kitchen drawer.

The only way we're going to get out of this is the same way we got into it: by making thousands of small choices that add up to overwhelming results.

The big choices count too, of course they do, and major efforts by governments and industry should be demanded. The results can be seen in places like the River Thames. Considered "biologically dead" just 50 years ago, seals and dolphins have been spotted in it as the result of clean-up efforts, and the river "is filled with eel, sea bass, flounder, mullet, lamprey and sole."

Whether or not you agree that we're making our home hotter, there's no arguing that, together, we've polluted the water, clear-cut the forests, and fouled the skies. Proof that on Earth Day, and every day, the small choices we make do matter—a million times over.

## THIS WORLD

Christina M. Frey



## Hanging Up the Keys

"Lose 2,000 lbs. overnight," a local ad promises.

It's part of the city of Arlington, Virginia's Car-Free Diet program—an initiative encouraging people to use public transportation, walk, or bike rather than driving everywhere.

I became an unwilling participant in the program this year when my husband and I temporarily relocated to Virginia. My car is still sitting in the garage back in Alaska, so while I'm here in Arlington, I have no choice but to walk or use the bus or rail systems.

From starting out skeptical (can I survive without my car?), I've become a fan of reducing, or eliminating altogether, my car use. I've been amazed at how easy it is to walk, bike, or take public transportation. In fact, in many cases, I've found it's easier than driving would be.

Reducing or eliminating our driving is certainly an attractive idea, especially given the rising cost of gasoline and increased concern over pollution. However, since most communities simply don't have an extensive public transportation system, it's easy to dismiss the Car-Free Diet as unworkable except in certain areas.

That would be a mistake.

I realize that this summer, when I return to my small hometown in Alaska, I'll need to drive again if I want to do anything other than local errands. But that doesn't mean I have to abandon the Car-Free Diet concept and return to my gas-guzzling ways. With a little thought, I can implement some of the lessons I've learned while living here without a car:

- *Carpooling works, and it's not just for commuters.*

There was the occasional time when, to avoid a long bus trip, I hitched a ride with a friend. While it took some pre-planning, and we had to coordinate our shopping schedules, carpooling for errands was much easier than I had expected. I realized that there's no reason why in the future I can't trade off carpooling duties with a friend when making long trips into the city. I'll use less fuel and have some companionship along the way.

- *Clustering errands saves time AND fuel.*

I'm naturally lazy. If I have to walk everywhere, I'll combine as many errands as possible into one trip to save walking distance. It makes sense to follow the same reasoning with a car: instead of making



multiple trips, I'll pre-plan where I need to go, and hit everything in one trip. That will save time as well, since I'll only have to disrupt one day rather than many.

- *It's amazing how easy it is to just walk to the store.*

Or the bank, or the library, or the park. Of course, my home may not be within walking distance of every place I need to go. But I can park once and do the rest of my errands on foot once I get downtown.

- *Biking is even faster than walking—and great exercise, too.*

A trip around the corner for groceries takes just as long biking as driving in my small town—the speed limit's so low, and I'd have to take so much time parking and driving out of the lot that I might as well bike.

- *Walking in the rain won't kill you.*

It's true, I used to pull out the car for around-the-corner errands when it was raining. Here in Arlington, if I have to pick up something, I need to walk, regardless of the weather, or stay home until the sun comes out. I've been pleasantly surprised to discover that walking in the rain, especially as spring approaches, won't melt me into a puddle. While there's nothing more enjoyable than walking on a mild, sunny day, walking in the rain isn't as bad as it might seem.

*New Year's Day is long since past, but perhaps Earth Day, coming up on April 22, is an appropriate time to make a different kind of resolution—a resolution not to better ourselves, but to better our planet as well.*

New Year's Day is long since past, but perhaps Earth Day, coming up on April 22, is an appropriate time to make a different kind of resolution—a resolution not to better ourselves, but to better our planet as well.

Even if we aren't ready or able to hang up the keys, it's still possible to reduce our driving. With a little pre-planning, we can make a difference in our habits, and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

So let's dust off our sneakers, and start walking, carpooling, biking, and using public transportation wherever feasible. Every time we take out those keys, let's think it through: Can I walk? Can I combine this with another errand? Can it wait 'til tomorrow, when I have other appointments?

By trying to adopt a car-free mentality—driving as little as possible—we can do our part to reduce gas consumption and fuel emissions. Better still, we'll enjoy fresh air, companionship, exercise, and the knowledge that we're helping to keep our Earth safe and clean for future generations.

*For more information on Arlington's Car-Free Diet, check out the website [here](#).*

*Other resources include* How to Live Well Without Owning a Car: Save Money, Breathe Easier, and Get More Mileage Out of Life, *by Chris Balish (Ten Speed Press, 2006)*; Cutting Your Car Use: Save Money, Be Healthy, Be Green!, *by Randall Howard Ghent and Anna Semlyen (New Society Publishers, 2006)*; and Car Sick *by Lynn Sloman (Green Books, 2006)*.

# AU Profiles:

## AU Profiles: Sarah Kertcher

Christina M. Frey

*The Athabasca University Students' Union has just elected its new council! The next series of profiles will highlight the new and returning councillors of the AUSU Student Council.*



This week, we meet returning AUSU councillor Sarah Kertcher, a student in Athabasca University's Bachelor of Management program. Sarah, who's concentrating in marketing and who hopes to run her own business someday, explains why she's happy despite what she calls her "crazy busy schedule." She also tells how AU's flexibility will help her as she enters a new stage in her life.

Sarah, who lives in Surrey, British Columbia (just outside Vancouver), has found AU's flexibility to be its strongest drawing point.

"I'm not able to quit my full-time job to go to school," she says. "Or rather, I don't want to because I am . . . happily student-loan free!"

She also enjoys being able to work at her own pace and set her own study times and schedule—including "after work hours, and on weekends," she says. "No [traditional] university could offer me that."

An exciting new arrival has changed some plans, however, and AU's flexibility will be an even greater advantage later this spring, when Sarah becomes a stay-at-home mom: she and her husband are expecting their first child in May. Although she plans to take a short break from classes—"a month off to get into a routine," she says—Sarah plans to begin studying again soon after the baby is born.

"I don't want to take too much time off because I know the longer I take, the harder it'll be to get back into it," she says.

Sarah is the type of person who loves to get involved, and her schedule shows it. Besides her work on the student council, she's a co-founder and current member of a local planning committee in her community.

"[It] works with the residents to hold events, as well as . . . with various externals . . . to create positive change within our community," she explains. Sarah also volunteers with Big Sisters, is a Spark leader for Girl Guides, and plays on three baseball teams.

She is unfazed by all of these activities. "I've always had a chaotic schedule since I was a kid, so I think that it's just the norm for me," Sarah says.

Plus, she loves everything she does. "Getting motivation to do them is just natural. If I ever do lose motivation, I think I'll have to step back and make sure that I'm actually enjoying what it is I'm doing, and if I'm not, I have to make a change," she says.

Running for AUSU Student Council was an easy decision for Sarah, recently elected to her second term. "I've always been involved with most everything that I do, whether it be my work, my community, or my school," she says.

After initially inquiring about the council's work, she tried attending some meetings. She enjoyed them so much that she decided to run for election. "I . . . was . . . really interested in connecting with other people at AU," she says.

The chance to become involved in the AU community has meant Sarah feels less isolated. Although she misses socializing face to face, she has been happy to discover an increasing number of venues for communicating with other students.

"I find that with interacting during council time, as well as on the forum, and now through other avenues (Facebook, MSN [Messenger], etc.), I've really started communicating more with other students," Sarah says. "It definitely makes student life . . . more manageable."

Juggling work, hobbies, family, and studying means Sarah has to take advantage of any spare time she can find. "I usually do an hour of reading or assignment[s] . . . at work on my lunch break," she says. "After work I study as well, [but] only for a couple hours . . . I do it while hubby is watching TV and won't even notice I'm gone!"

However, like most AU students, Sarah sometimes finds the self-motivation aspect of distance studying challenging. "I'm the queen of procrastination!" she laughs. "When it's work at your own pace, it's easy to put it off . . . it's the one big disadvantage."

It's all a question of planning. "I've learned . . . that it's key to schedule," Sarah says.

After the baby is born, she's hoping to implement more scheduling into her education plan to keep on track. For example, she plans to read through the lesson outlines and set deadlines at the beginning—including booking exams at the outset "so that you have a deadline to work towards," she says. "That way you won't be able to leave the whole course to the last two months."

Although Sarah hasn't made definite post-graduation plans, "I hope to run my own business one day," she says. And regardless of what the future holds, Sarah feels she's on the right track.

"I've always liked marketing, and I've always worked in the admin field so it just seemed like the right thing to do," she says. "A management degree is . . . helpful in everything you do."

In the meantime, she's getting ready to enjoy motherhood. Although she knows a lot will change, "I'm sure we'll find a balance," she says. "[It's a] very exciting time for us."

*Editor's note: Sarah was recently elected to the position of Vice-President, Finance on the new AUSU Student Council Executive.*

*"I find that with interacting during council time, as well as on the forum, and now through other avenues . . . I've really started communicating more with other students."*



## FICTION

Erik Ditz



## Ante Up

They sat and played their game in a bright and busy park; the old men could always be found there when the weather was good.

The game changed from time to time, sometimes rummy or crib or euchre, but they liked poker most of all and it was around this game that the most severe bets took place. The hand was dealt, their faces serious and composed. I leaned nearby on my cane, quietly observing.

"Ante up!" cried the dealer. There was a pause. Slowly, the man to his left spoke up.

"Our fifty-seventh anniversary," he said, "that was the last time Jeannie and I ever danced." He sighed and paused, while the others let him take his time. "My brother was there too. Glenn Campbell was on the record player, and we danced all night . . ."

After a moment, the next man spoke.

"Hey, Barney, remember when you and me was kids and we found that watering hole? We nearly drowned your sister goofin' off in that hole, swimmin' for hours on end and building forts. I'm gonna toss that summer; that's the best one I got left and if that won't win this hand for me, I'm better off without it."

Barney cackled toothlessly across the table before gumming out a reply that suggested—mostly through vigorous nodding—that he was putting that memory on the table alongside his friend.

"All right," said the dealer, sounding more like a circus ringleader than an old man. "Twelve years old," he said, "beating the snot out of Jimmy Nicholls."

"Who's Jimmy Nicholls again?"

"He's the first kid that ever tried to steal my bike. I laid him straight out, boy."

Barney shook his head vehemently, baring his gums like moist and shapeless fangs.

"Tom," Barney's friend said to the dealer, "as usual I'm with him. That's not nearly as valuable as what we've wagered here. George's last dance with Jeannie and our childhood memories are worth more than a lousy fist fight over a bike."

At this, Tom got rather flushed and I'm sure I must have too, for it was at that moment I finally understood; these poor, sad old men were betting with their own dreams and memories. This game was literally worth the very thing that raises us above instinct, that makes a person more than the sum of the parts: the ability to remember who you are.

"You guys have cleaned me out and you know it," argued Tom. "You're lucky I haven't anted my memory of how to deal these stupid cards. Take it or leave it."

I suppose it's best to cut the majority of the game from this account. The technical details are uninteresting at best—the game consisted mostly of similar bickering—but in short, Tom's wager of a teenage brawl was accepted, and they played it through. Nobody really won.

# The Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan

by  
Wanda  
Waterman  
St. Louis





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

**Book:** Richard Rorty and Pascal Engel, *What's the Use of Truth?*

**Release date:** 2007

**Publisher:** Columbia University Press, New York, NY

*"... since Plato the meanings of normative terms like good, just, and true have been problems only for philosophers.*

*Everybody else knows how to use them and does not need an explanation of what they mean."*

Richard Rorty in *What's the Use of Truth?*

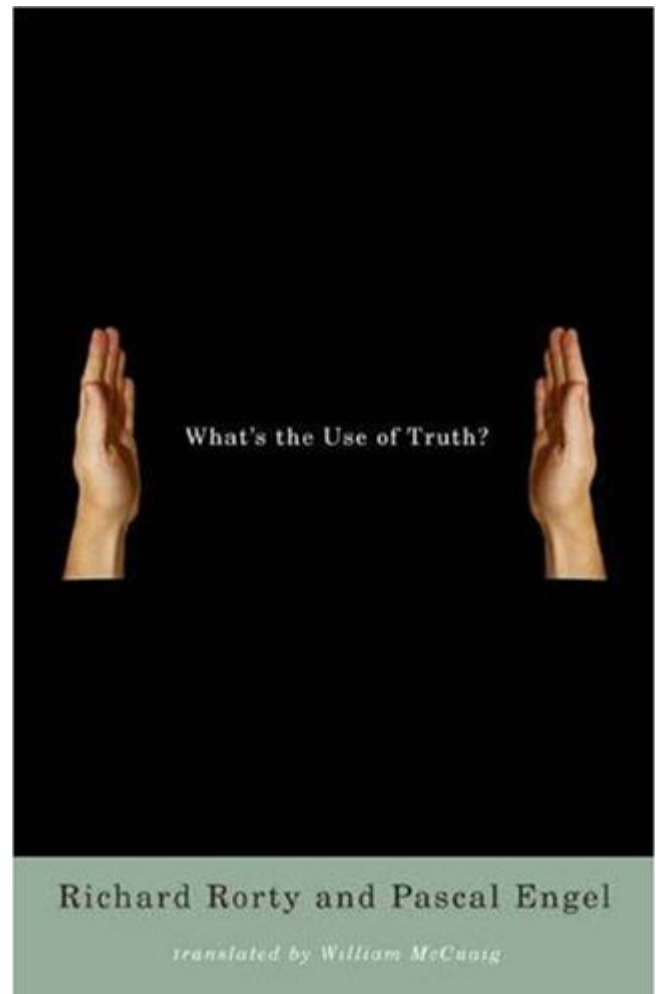
Camus ends *The Myth of Sisyphus* with an ecstatic portrayal of an imagined future in which people would contentedly till their fields and haul their water with no thought to a fictitious heaven awaiting their deaths. The tone of the rest of the book is so dispassionate that his fervour practically flies off the page. I couldn't help but be struck by the realization that this vision of pastoral felicity was—heaven!

And then I understood that the problem was not the concept of a heaven but rather the worship of a hypothetical future world at the expense of the present. Such worship keeps you both from seeing the heaven all around you and from responding attentively to the suffering of others.

Richard Rorty treads on the same thin ice when he asserts that our primary responsibility is to our fellow human beings. He makes this claim after quoting Henry James's dictum that we must stop believing we have an obligation to God, and Sartre's that we must stop inventing God-surrogates.

The danger is that the "fellow human being" can become a God-surrogate. The problem, similar to Camus's, is not with the idea of serving fellow human beings, but rather with the idea of responsibility. I'd like to see a discussion of these questions from the point of view of someone who chooses to obey God and serve her fellow human beings out of an overflowing of compassion cultivated by a long-term and deliberate mindfulness as opposed to a sense of obligation. But that wouldn't be philosophy.

In *What's the Use of Truth?* philosophers Richard Rorty and Pascal Engel present two seemingly opposing views regarding the use and the meaning of the concept of truth. Engel eventually suggests that Rorty's attempts





to divest the notion of truth of its classical philosophical status as an intrinsic good, reducing it to a useful social tool, will end in the notion disappearing entirely.

Rorty responds: "I do not believe that people will become less sincere or less concerned to be precise because they have become pragmatists . . . When the thinkers of the Enlightenment dissociated moral deliberation from divine commands, their writings did not provoke any notable increase in the amount of immorality" (p.43).

I became enamoured of existentialism in university when I saw the extent to which its proponents swept up the debris of false 19th century assumptions. My impulse when beginning this book was to side with Engel, as a superficial reading led me to see him as a defender of truth.

As the argument unfolded it revealed my sloppy thinking for what it was. If Rorty manages to clean up this kind of lazy reasoning, I'm grateful; more power to him. And if Engel and his ilk can keep Rorty and his fellow pragmatists from throwing the baby out with the bath water, good on him, too.

Why would a painter, a dancer, a writer, a musician, an actor, or a director choose to read a book like this, you might ask. Well, if you look back on your approach to your art you will recognize that the meaning you infuse into it is influenced directly by the way you think about life, yourself, and other strange fish. The continuation of inspiration is partly dependent on the intellectual growth you experience, especially when that growth is in an area significant to your audience.

*What's the Use of Truth?* lives up to three of The Mindful Bard's criteria for books well worth reading: 1) it gives me tools enabling me to respond with compassion and efficacy to the suffering around me; 2) it stimulates my mind; and 3) it poses and admirably responds to questions which have a direct bearing on my view of existence.

*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](mailto:bard@voicemagazine.org). For a list of criteria, go [here](#). If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.*

## DID YOU KNOW?



### Study Skills

If you're looking for great tips on how to handle some of the study problems that students encounter, check out AU's [Study Skills page](#).

You'll find practical solutions on a variety of topics, including time management, getting the most out of textbooks, and even advice on effective ways to highlight texts. Other topics include mastering exam anxiety, writing multiple-choice exams, as well as how to improve your study skills, overcome procrastination, or study with your kids around.

You can also try an online Vark questionnaire to find out what your learning style is. Each section is packed with great advice, and the time management segment even has sample documents to help you get organized. Check out the link today!



From  
Where  
I Sit

Hazel Anaka

## Attitude is Everything

"Some people turn back their odometers. Not me. I want people to know *why* I look this way. I've travelled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved." So goes this anonymous bit in an email I received called Great Thoughts.

"Life begins to suck at 40," reads the huge headline in the January 30 issue of the *National Post*.

"I need to open my mid-life crisis bank account," says the spouse of a bank manager.

Do you see a pattern developing here? Articles, cartoons, and jokes about aging are *de rigueur*, especially as the first wave of boomers retires. And whether you laugh out loud, nod in recognition, smile weakly, or wonder what it all means is largely dependent on your age. Let's take a closer look at each of these comments.

I think Miss Clairol, Botox, and plastic surgery constitute turning back the odometer. Maybe the writer was referring to physical appearance only. But I like to think about the inner growth and awareness that come from navigating those unpaved roads. Were the rough roads illness, divorce, bankruptcy? How well are each of us negotiating the potholes, loose gravel, and narrow shoulders on our own roads?

The *National Post* article points out that a mere 50 years ago the average person was too busy "with everyday survival to indulge in questions about whether their lives were meaningful enough." To say we've become more introspective is an understatement. Navel-gazing has become an Olympic event. Hell, even our dogs

have shrinks.

The gist of the article is that regardless of where in the world you live studies show happiness "dips when people hit mid-life." Two million people in 72 countries were studied for decades. Results are consistent regardless of "gender, education, marital status, children, occupation, and income."

We are reassured to read that, barring an accumulation of bad stuff like severe ill health, happiness improves and one can end their lives as happy as, or happier than, they were in their twenties. How well we live those years is still largely our own making.

Maybe the ability to bankroll the mid-life years makes a difference. The spouse of a bank manager needs the mid-life crisis account for the same reason we all need an account that's solely our own, away from the prying eyes of a spouse.

We all need to have a stash of money that is totally within our own control to be spent at our own discretion. Money we don't need to answer for to anyone. My account is smaller than Janet Gretzky's. When Janet was betting on sporting events, even Wayne didn't know. That's freedom.

While there's comfort in knowing that, around the world, we're all in the same boat, we still remain in charge of our lives, day in and day out, year in and year out. Older people say any day above ground is a good day. Attitude is everything, from where I sit.



## AUSU This Month



term; Joy Kryz, who served two terms; and Mac McInnis, who completed his third term on council. We wish them all the very best. Your new council is:

### New Council Takes Office

#### New Executive Elected

At 7:00 pm, April 14, 2008, the 2006/08 AUSU council was dissolved and the newly elected councillors began their two-year term.

The election of the new executives was also completed. The execs will serve for one year, at which time a mid-term re-election will take place for the three exec positions.

Council wishes to express our deepest gratitude to the four departing councillors—Lisa Priebe, who served two terms and was president for three years; Real Beaulieu, who served one

Karl Low - President

Barbara Rielly - Vice President, External

Sarah Kertcher - Vice President, Finance

Bethany Porter

Lonita Fraser

Shaun Driscoll

Heather Fraser

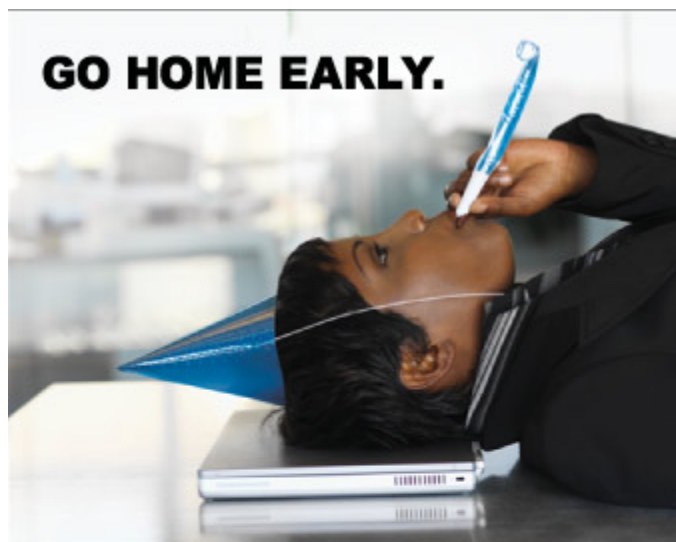
Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

Emily Dukeshire

Watch our site for bios of your new councillors, coming soon.

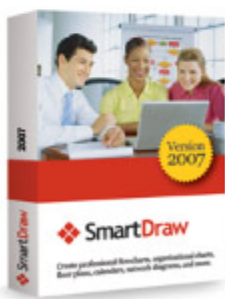
### AUSU Merchandise for Sale

Due to a high demand for AUSU merchandise, and delays in setting up our online store, we have put together a quick catalogue with a few items we have in stock now. To download it in pdf, visit our [home page](#). Shipping costs will be calculated per order and



Create professional-looking flowcharts, timelines, graphs, and more, in minutes, all by yourself. Then go spend some quality time with your family.

Free for AUSU members. Visit [www.ausu.org](http://www.ausu.org)



 **SmartDraw**

we'll let you know by phone or email.

We are only accepting credit card orders at this time, unless you are able to visit our Edmonton office. Please excuse the poor quality of the product photos. These will be improved shortly. More products will be available soon. Suggestions are welcome.

### AUSU Handbook/Planner 2008 in stock now!

The wait is over! The 2008 AUSU planner is in stock and on its way to members. We've added a few enhancements this year, including cheat sheets for common citation styles, a clip-in page-marker ruler, and a funky fridge magnet to remind you to get your weekly dose of *The Voice*.

Last year we had about 400 pre-orders, but this year we have 1,000! Please be patient. We're working as fast as we can to fill all of the orders and everyone should have their book by the end of January when the 2007 edition calendar pages run out. As always, we're excited to know what you think of the planner and welcome all feedback to [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org)

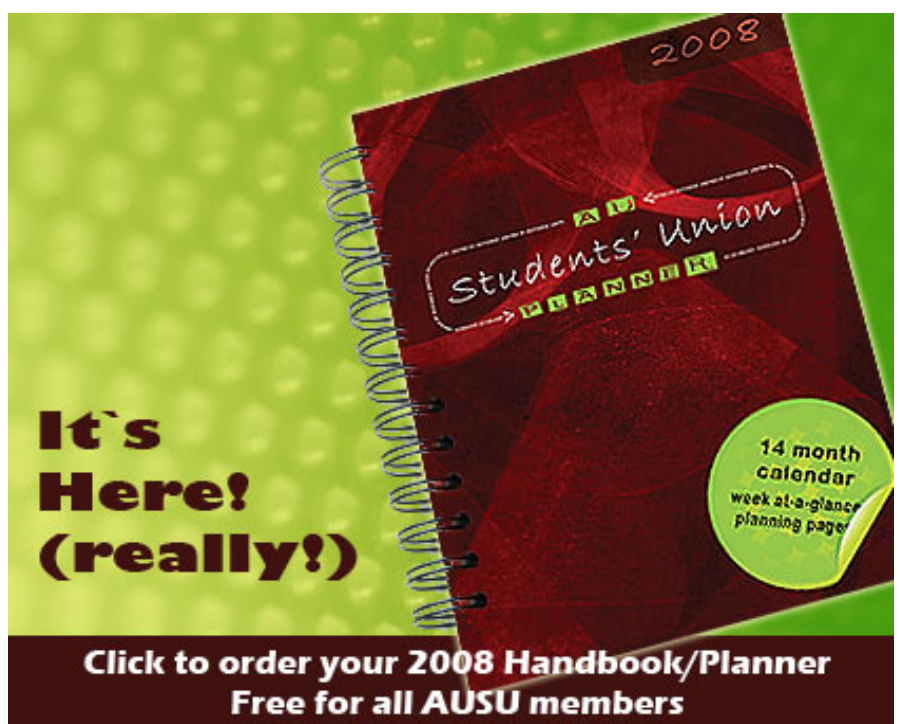
### Smart Draw – Benefit for AUSU members

AUSU has purchased a licence agreement to supply the award-winning SmartDraw software to all AUSU members (current undergraduate students). To access this deal and find out more, visit the front page of our [website](#).

SmartDraw allows you to create a wide range of graphics for your assignments and submit them electronically in a Word file. You can also place your graphics in Excel or PowerPoint files, or export them as TIF, GIF, or JPEG files to make a web graphic or even a logo. Just a few of the graphics you can make include Venn diagrams, genetics charts, graphs, organizational and flow charts, and Gantt charts.

For any course that requires charts that cannot be easily created in Word or Excel, this should be a real time saver and make it easier to submit all portions of an assignment by email. Remember, though, that you should always check with your tutor to find out if there is a specific format he or she prefers. Your tutor does not have to have SmartDraw to view these graphics, however.

Installations under this program are good for one year. The package includes both the Standard and Health Care editions of SmartDraw.





## At Home: Ontario Stays the Course with Trade Mission to China

Despite all the controversy over dealings with China as of late, the government of Ontario decided to continue its trade mission to the country.

Sandra Pupatello, Ontario's trade minister, travelled to China late last week with the goal of promoting business between Ontario and China.

China has been taking a lot of hits from the world over its stance on Tibet as well as other human rights issues. With the upcoming Olympic games to be held in Beijing this year, protests have been specifically aimed toward China and its questionable stance on human rights policies.

However, as CTV News reported, the premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty, "believes in Canada's long-standing policy of engaging China when it comes to trade."

Provincial Liberals insisted that keeping the dialogue open with China is a better way to deal with any controversial issues. The opposing Conservatives in the province stated that Sandra Pupatello should not go ahead with the trip. They noted that job loss numbers in Ontario were their main problem with the trade mission, rather than the human rights matters.

The Ontario NDP's stance on the matter is that the continuation of the trade mission at this time wrongly sends the message to China that Ontarians don't care about the problems facing Tibet.

Ms. Pupatello noted that she hoped to be able to bring up the problematic issues with Chinese officials during the visit, but in private forums rather than public ones.

## In Foreign News: Archeological Treasure to be Flooded in Turkey

Once again, the preservation of the world's history is clashing with development in the name of progress and efficiency. In Turkey, the ancient site of Allianoi is facing destruction in order to make way for a new dam.

Allianoi is approximately 2,000 years old and was the site of a thermal bathing facility that was considered to be one of the world's most important healing centres up until modern times. The natural spring waters in the area are naturally warmed and have been considered therapeutic for centuries.

This historically significant site was only discovered 10 years ago and was excavated by archaeologists despite future plans for the flooding of the area. Experts say that the "best preserved thermal spa from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD" was found when the area was examined.

While the historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists continue to pore over the site for every bit of information it has to tell, dam builders are preparing to move in and proceed with their project. The water

that is to be collected by the new dam is slated to provide irrigation to Turkish farmers who produce crops that would benefit greatly from added summer watering. Up to 18,000 hectares of crop-producing land would benefit from the irrigation system supplied by the dam.

This dam building project has been in the works for as long as 60 years and was not controversial until the ruins were found. Turkey's Minister of Culture and Tourism Conservation stated recently that they have decided to let the ancient site go for the dam building.

Coincidentally, it was the leading excavator that found the historically significant site that sparked this clash of ideals.

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## EDUCATION NEWS

Tessa Vanderhart

**Manitoba tuition frozen for one more year****But fees will increase by 10 per cent beginning in 2009**

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- Manitoba's tuition fee freeze will continue for the 2008-2009 academic year but, beginning in September 2009, tuition will begin a legislated 10 per cent increase.

"We decided to keep the tuition freeze for a year because we think it's important that students have a transition year to understand what their tuition is going to be," said Manitoba's Advanced Education Minister Diane McGifford.

Just how the freeze is lifted will depend on the recommendations of a one-person commission mandated to look at the government's tuition fee policy, McGifford said.

"I think it's really important that we have someone that's not in government's court, they're not in the universities' court, they're not in the students' court—and I don't mean to suggest that our aims are all very different, in fact we want the same thing but sometimes we go about it different ways."

The Doer government froze tuition fees in 2000. At the same time, tuition fees were reduced by 10 per cent, back to the 1999 level, through a grant passed on to each student.

Over the next three years, she added, provincial funding for bursaries will double, up from \$8 million to \$16 million. A new bursary will be also added in 2009 to help rural and northern students relocate to pursue post-secondary education.

"We realize it's costly to go to university; it's not just the living costs," McGifford said.

The operating grant to universities was increased by seven per cent—a two per cent increase over what they had expected. McGifford said that this increase is equivalent to a six per cent increase in tuition.

A 6.7 per cent increase was provided in the 2007-08 academic year.

But not everyone is pleased with the announcement. Garry Sran, president of the students' union at the University of Manitoba, questioned whether the increase is enough.

"University presidents have shown a propensity for being broke at the end of the year, no matter how much funding they get, while simultaneously finding millions to spend on pet projects like staircases or front lawns," he said.

"Our bigger concern is why universities are spending money on public relations and hiring administrators while, at the same time, not improving labs, and classrooms and hiring more faculty, TAs, et cetera. University administrators also provide no accounting of where their funding goes: it's just a mysterious black hole. They refuse to provide information to Board of Governors members or to the public through freedom of information requests."



Sran said that before questions of adequate funding can be answered, "we need to have an honest discussion with university administrators about where the money they have is going."

John Danakas, director of public affairs for the university, said the university welcomes the funding increase, but it falls short of the increase the university requested from the provincial Council on Post-Secondary Education.

"The university is encouraged by the province's acknowledgment of the need for additional funding for post-secondary education," he said.

"Today's announcement is certainly a step in the right direction. The tuition freeze has presented challenges to the university in terms of dealing with funding issues and has made it difficult for the university to remain competitive nationally and to offer students in Manitoba the highest possible quality education."

Since 1999, students in the faculties of Law, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Engineering have voted to increase their tuition fees despite the provincial freeze, arguing that the extra money was necessary to keep their schools competitive.

An additional \$465 in ancillary fees has been added to Manitoba university students' tuition since 1999. In 2007, the university also instituted \$30 laboratory fees.

Tuition for international students was deregulated in 2002. A 180 per cent differential fee is charged to international students.

## AROUND AU



### AU Library Offers Karvonen Films Natural History Collection

AU library's first digital collection is now available, and it represents over 30 years of work by Edmonton filmmaker Albert Karvonen. The Karvonen Films Natural History Collection is "a vital natural history resource including over 30 sound recordings, 15 videos and close to 400 images, all capturing the spectacle of the wild."

In 1975, Albert Karvonen left a 24-year teaching career to pursue his passion of capturing wildlife on film. From his first 10-minute film, *Drummer in the Woods*, he has gone on to create over 120 film, multimedia, and television titles. His company, Karvonen Films, is home to one of Canada's largest independent wildlife motion picture libraries.

Among the many honours earned throughout his career, Karvonen was awarded an Athabasca University honorary Doctor of Science degree in June 2007. As he told AU's *The Insider*, what excites him most about the project "is its potential to reach vast audiences, doing what I have tried to do most of my life: bring an awareness, understanding and a love for the natural world to audiences around the globe. As Thoreau wrote, 'In wildness is the preservation of the world.'"

*With special thanks to Athabasca University's The Insider.*

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## THE VOICE

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