

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 18

May 2, 2008

Media and Power
AU Course introduction

**Antebellum
Queens**
A fairy-tale romp

Careers
Social Worker

*Plus:
From Where I Sit,
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, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.



EDITORIAL

Sandra Livingston



Flooding the Gene Pool

In 1997, the predicament of *Gattaca*'s Vincent Freeman seemed like nothing more than a far-fetched—though intriguing—vision of the future. Vincent dreams of being an astronaut. He's intelligent, healthy, talented, committed—a perfect candidate, except for one small matter: his genetic makeup isn't quite "perfect" enough.

Fast forward to 2008 and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act that Congress is preparing to sign into law. Suddenly, the futuristic world of *Gattaca* seems chillingly real.

The Act has become necessary because employers and insurance companies have been using the increasingly affordable access to genetic testing to hire, fire, promote, set insurance premiums, or even deny coverage at all. For these purposes and others, your double helix is quickly becoming the new standard in deciding who is desirable and who isn't.

Here's an example: you apply for a job and the company insists you undergo a physical (according to a 2001 American Management Association study, nearly two-thirds of major U.S. companies do so). A DNA sample is taken and it reveals that you're at a slightly elevated genetic risk of developing breast cancer. You may never get the disease, but your profile shows you're more susceptible.

You're in good health, you've got the skills and education to do the job, but the company sees your DNA as a risk. What if you *do* get the disease? How will that affect corporate health care premiums? How much will it cost to hire and train a replacement while you're on sick leave? Your potential genetic liability means someone else gets the job. They may not be as well qualified, but their genes are.

If you think it couldn't (and doesn't) happen, think again. DNA discrimination isn't new. As *The New York Times* reports, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California carried out secret genetic tests on workers as early as the 1960s (the lab lied, telling workers it was "routine cholesterol screening"). During the 70s, several insurance companies were found to have refused coverage for blacks "who carried the gene for sickle cell anemia." And in 2002, the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co. paid over \$2 million to 36 employees, settling a lawsuit in which "the workers claimed the company sought to genetically test them without their knowledge after they had submitted work-related injury claims."

Although some liken genetic testing to standard health questionnaires that have been around for decades, there's a major difference: DNA testing means your entire genetic profile can be tested each time a new disease marker is found. Your employer or insurer can continue to screen you for years to come. And it's not hard to imagine that, once on file, your genetic profile could be put to uses we haven't even imagined yet (will exclusive schools begin testing for athletic or academic genes?)

As the human genome is mapped, the issue of DNA discrimination isn't going away. The genetic variants that contribute to diseases such as heart disease and diabetes are being rapidly discovered, and DNA testing continues to rise. Many companies already test for susceptibility to workplace hazards, or for the genetic probability of colon and breast cancer, and consumers can now pay to have their own DNA tested.

Is the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act a good idea? Of course. But if human history is any indication, no amount of legislation will control this genetic Pandora's Box.



Media and Power in Canadian Society (CMNS 202)

Are you curious about the role of mass media in Canada? Interested in how the mass media impacts Canadian life? Wondering about profit and loss in the media industry? Athabasca University has effectively answered these questions and more in its new Communication Studies course, Media and Power in Canadian Society (CMNS 202).

Cross-listed in the AU calendar as POLI 291, CMNS 202 enables students to have the opportunity to examine the role media plays in society, but “within a specifically Canadian context,” commented course author Dr. Karen Wall.

Dr. Wall continued that CMNS 202 “reflects the structure of most comparable undergraduate programs that examine themes of technology and society, and particularly how the mass media in particular work within pluralist, democratic societies to advance certain political and economic agendas.”

CMNS 202 contains 12 units, and is divided into four parts. Dr. Wall indicated that, from her experience, we are “used to a ‘mass media environment’ and rarely step back to think about the role of the media in everyday life beyond simply ‘what’s on tonight’.”

In response to this, CMNS 202 attempts to encourage students to consider other media-related details, including “who exactly gets to decide what we consume, who we talk to, who is listening and who profits from all of that.”

Through the course, students examine the effects of the media on our “cultural and political history.”

Additionally, students are taught to determine how “politicians and businesspeople have used the media to further certain agendas and suppress others.” Dr. Wall commented that “we’ve seen protesters on the news with banners and read blogs and indymedia reviews on the Internet; these are aspects of the mass media shaping Canadian life and linking us to the rest of the world.”

Dr. Wall encourages thoughtful questions for students: “How can the media work for you, as a citizen? What are you learning about your country and the world? How much say do you have in it? Should the federal government be able to dictate the content of film, television, or even news reports by wielding power over funding?”

The course material in CMNS 202 has been carefully selected to enable students to be aware of such thought-provoking questions.

The Canadian course content of CMNS 202 is particularly relevant to Canadians at AU, and for this reason is highlighted throughout the course. To quote Dr. Wall, “As Conrad Black goes from the height of media

moguldom to jail, citizens across the country protest CBC radio programming decisions, actors and directors unite to combat the threat of film censorship, multicultural and Aboriginal people demand an equitable voice in public affairs, and everyone wonders who will control the Internet, questions about the mass media are inextricable from others concerning the future of the nation."

Student evaluation in CMNS 202 is derived from reading exercises (worth 30% of the total course mark); a timeline (weighted at 10%); a news summary journal (40%); and a final exam (20%).

The reading exercises are assignments that encourage students to focus on the "role of the media in everyday life." Dr. Wall indicated that students can pick from a highly diverse topic selection, with topics that "range from the connection between customer loyalty cards, corporate profits and privacy protection, to the effect on popular culture and identity of the vast array of entertainment choices in movies, music, and television."

The timeline is innovative in that it enables students to focus on one aspect of the media they find relevant or interesting.

The timeline is innovative in that it enables students to focus on one aspect of the media they find relevant or interesting. Potential areas that students could include in their timeline include "Aboriginal broadcasting history, the development of film policy, the rise and fall of the CBC funding, the backstage drama of a major commercial television network, or the history of the Canadian recorded music industry," suggested Dr. Wall.

Similar to the timeline, the journal likewise enables students to "zoom in" on a particular media-related issue. Dr. Wall explained that, in addition, the journal allows students to "get a sense of what the media are saying about the media, by running a personal 'mediawatch' with commentary."

With this project, students may find, "with any luck, a major scandal . . . unfold over the months a student is working on this assignment." Even if this does not occur, students will benefit from the "detective-style journalism" that the assignment cultivates.

CMNS 202 course author, Karen Wall, is an assistant professor of Communication Studies at AU. Dr. Wall has a diverse and extensive background in the subject area, beginning with her pre-AU years as a journalist, graphic artist, typesetter, photographer, copywriter, film art director, scriptwriter, theatre set painter, and museum designer.

She jokes, "I consumed my share of Canadian content via print, audio, video, and live action, not to mention eavesdropping in public places." As a result, she finds "questions about such activities remain fascinating, which is why I like to ask them of students."

Dr. Wall's teaching experience began with teaching Canadian Studies, Leisure Studies, and Community Development programs at several institutions, and then teaching Communication Studies courses at AU. In January 2006, she joined AU's Centre for State and Legal Studies. Currently, she teaches for AU's new Heritage Resource Management program and has developed several of the new courses in this area, in addition to CMNS 202.

For more information on CMNS 202, visit the [course syllabus](#).

CAREERS

Behdin Nowrouzi



Consider a Career as a Social Worker

What is Social Work?

Social work is a discipline concerned with helping people, families, groups, and communities to enhance their individual and collective well-being.

According to the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW), social workers are concerned with “individual and personal problems but also with broader social issues such as poverty, unemployment, and domestic violence.”

Moreover, social workers strive to assist individuals develop their skills “to use their . . . resources and those of the community to resolve problems.”

Education and Training

The CASW stipulates that “a four-year undergraduate program is required for a bachelor’s degree.” Applicants who have a baccalaureate degree in social work (BSW) may obtain a master’s degree (MSW) after one year of postgraduate studies (advanced standing).

However, those who have a degree in another discipline would require a two-year postgraduate program in social work to obtain their MSW. Potential applications without a bachelor’s degree in social work “would require a two-year postgraduate program in social work to obtain the master’s degree in social work.”

Social workers are regulated professionals, and governed by a regulatory body. In Ontario, social workers are regulated by the Social Work and Social Service Work Act under the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

This Act requires that anyone who calls themselves a social worker must belong to the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. The initials RSW (Registered Social Worker) follow their name in recognition of their status.

Admission information and requirements

According to the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work (CASSW), 35 Canadian universities offer an undergraduate degree or master’s degree in social work. A further eight schools provide PhD level training for those interested in pursuing careers in academic research, administration, or policy development.

In general, the curriculum consists of theoretical courses and practical training at the undergraduate or graduate level. In most provinces, the BSW is the minimum educational requirement for entry into the profession. Postgraduate education leading to a master’s (MSW) or doctoral degree (PhD) is also available.

Admission requirements and program orientation vary among schools and the CASW recommends that applicants contact each school directly. Furthermore, it is suggested that students take a broad range of courses to be better prepared for the diverse nature of the discipline.

Where social workers work

The majority of social work jobs are funded, directly or indirectly, by federal, provincial, or municipal levels of government.

Social workers work in a variety of settings including general hospitals, correctional facilities, school boards, children's aid societies, community centers, and as consultants for the government. An increasing number of social workers work in private practice, offering a variety of services including counselling.

As the CASW explains, "Social workers provide services as members of a multidisciplinary team or on a one-to-one basis with the client." For instance, some social workers work as part of a team in an acute setting while others set up practice, offering a wide range of services. Essentially, social workers' tasks and responsibilities vary based on the nature of the workplace.

Salaries

Like many professions, the salary of social workers varies greatly based on years of experience, area of practice, demand for services, and geographic location. Therefore, it is difficult to provide estimates of annual salaries.

Additional information

For more information regarding social work, please visit the Canadian Association of Social Workers [website](#). For information about social work programs, visit the [Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work \(CASSW\)](#).

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!



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

CD: Rachael Davis, *Antebellum Queens*

Release date: 2008

Label: Fox on a Hill

Well, my things are old, ragged and worn,

My jeans are holey, my dress is torn.

Please, please, Papa, would you try to buy my love?

"Please, Please, Papa," *Antebellum Queens*

Forgive me, but I imagine the making of this CD as one great fairy-tale romp. There is a green hillside, I think, and a studio made of straw bales. The roof is a grassy turf on which Toggenburg goats are grazing. Banjo music is wafting from the windows, and the clean air is sweetened by new-mown hay.

Lumberjack men, and earth mothers in long flowing skirts, dance up the drive, carrying instrument cases inside from their battered old trucks. Suddenly a flock of doves flies from behind a hawthorn tree and out pops Rachael Davis, ready to record.

This CD opens with a squeal of laughter (and the epigrammatic "Dude!") and ends with the child Rachael singing "Starflower-O"; thus is painted a picture of a young woman so full of hijinks it's hard to believe she can settle herself down long enough to write a song, let alone to pen the thoughtful lyrics in this collection.

Davis's voice is so supple and limber even the trickiest runs sound effortless, and she is joined by a brain trust that gets just how these songs should sound. This is another brilliant collaboration from the Earthwork Collective, one of my pet subjects because they so beautifully exemplify the Bard perspective, their mandate being the harmonious union of music and social action.

These lyrics reveal a sensitivity belied by Davis's spirited delivery. There is an easygoing humour here, but the girl's no slouch; her craftsmanship is meticulous, and there's not a trace of those rhyming clichés that make us wince in so much commercial music.

At the same time she is thoroughly connected to American musical history and



seems committed to keeping those forms and traditions—blues, bluegrass, and gospel are three that stand out—vibrantly alive. I think she's even added a few songs to the canon.

Antebellum Queens lives up to three of The Mindful Bard's criteria for music well worth a listen: 1) it is authentic, original, and delightful; 2) it makes me want to be a better artist; and 3) it provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavour.

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. For a list of criteria, go [here](#). If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.

AROUND AU



Convocation 2008

It's almost here! On June 12, 13, and 14 the AU campus will be buzzing with the excitement of Convocation 2008.

The AU [website](#) has all the info you'll need to get ready for the big day, including travel information, schedules, a convocation checklist, and more.

You can also find out about the 2008 recipients of AU's honorary doctorates.

They include an Honorary Doctor of Laws to be conferred on Professor Patricia Anne Monture, Director of the Aboriginal Justice and Criminology program at the University of Saskatchewan, whose work in Indigenous Studies, Women's Studies, Law and Sociology has been recognized world-wide; an Honorary Doctor of Science to be conferred on Dr. Janice Morse, well known for her work in qualitative methodology; and an Honorary Doctor of Athabasca University to be conferred on Dr. Mary Lou Jepsen, Chief Technology Officer, and co-founder of One Laptop per Child, "a non-profit company whose humanitarian mission is to deliver low-cost laptops en-masse to the disadvantaged children of developing countries."

Of course, the highlight of convocation is the awarding of parchments, but if you plan to take your place in the graduands' procession this year, the deadline to register is fast approaching.

As the website says, "All final grades and Application For Graduation Forms must be received by the Office of the Registrar by May 9, 2008, in order to participate in the June Convocation ceremonies."

So make sure your application is submitted before the deadline, and see you at Convocation 2008!



*From
Where
I Sit*
Hazel Anaka

House Lust

The *National Post* has been excerpting Daniel McGinn's *House Lust*. In the three parts I've seen, he touches on a broad range of topics I find endlessly fascinating.

According to the book, "real estate falls into the category of intimate things"—topics like roles and relationships you discuss with close friends. Preoccupation with all things real estate is a growing concern when it manifests itself in a "voyeuristic hobby." Constantly checking out real estate websites and watching hours of HGTV are a couple of indicators. I don't do the online surfing but I definitely love the myriad home improvement, real estate, staging, and property flipping shows.

Who hasn't succumbed to the urge to translate that concentrated focus on design to a trip to the hardware store? Who isn't carrying paint and fabric swatches? Who doesn't know about crown mouldings and coping saws?

The excerpt points out that housing is no longer merely shelter or a status symbol or an investment, but has become an obsession for many of us. "Finding someone who doesn't know the square footage of her house is like finding a *Playboy* centrefold who doesn't know her bust size," writes McGinn.

Everyone wants the wow factor that accompanies the two-storey ceilings, granite countertops, travertine tiles, walk-in closets, Jacuzzi tubs, multiple fireplaces and bathrooms.

Home sizes have gone the way of serving portions (super-sized), or clothing sizes (distorted). At only 1,120 square feet, our 1960 house is minute. For our day-to-day living it's obviously adequate for two adults. For larger groups or

entertaining, think sardine can.

It is our home and we are grateful for it but that doesn't stop us from updating and tweaking it every so often. The old-fashioned layout and lack of support for today's technology don't really make it user-friendly.

McGinn's book looks beneath the superficial at the sociological implications of today's monster homes. It seems personal technology (iPods, computers, TVs, gaming systems) has more to do with causing isolation than large square footage does. Families still tend to congregate around the flat surface of a dining table or kitchen counter regardless of house size.

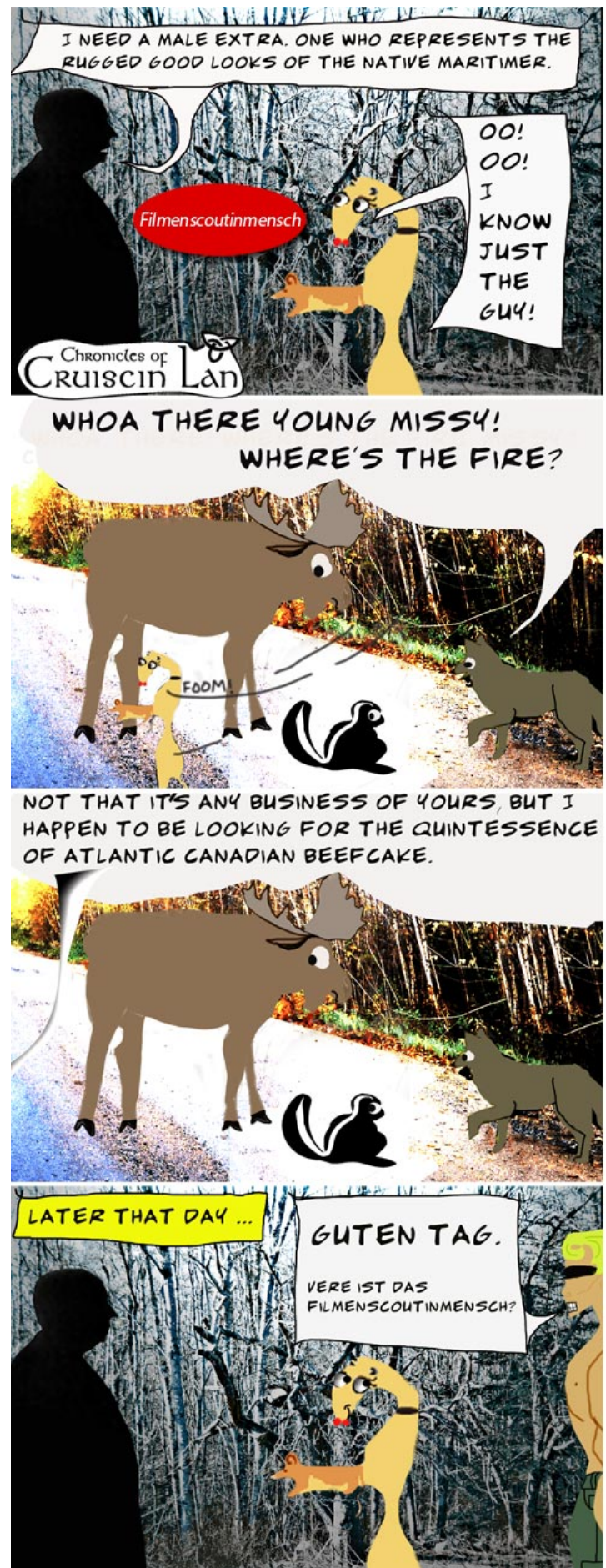
A British design show features a tagging system. Family members wear electronic devices that time where and for how long they use the various rooms in their homes. Sometimes the results are staggeringly lopsided, with a handful of minutes spent in one room versus hours and hours in another. It also tracks isolation. Of course, the resulting design remedies all that.

Last night I spent some time with family viewing condos for sale in Edmonton. The staging shows are right. We focus on the personal details of someone else's life. Together, the bright red bedroom-cum-weight room, leopard-print duvet and *Trailer Park Boys* poster in the master, monster black leather sectional and flat screen, and cereal boxes stored above the cupboards all spell bachelor pad.

Seeing how others live is great, from where I sit.

The Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan

by
Wanda
Waterman
St. Louis



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 we'll let you know by phone or email.



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



 **SmartDraw**

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

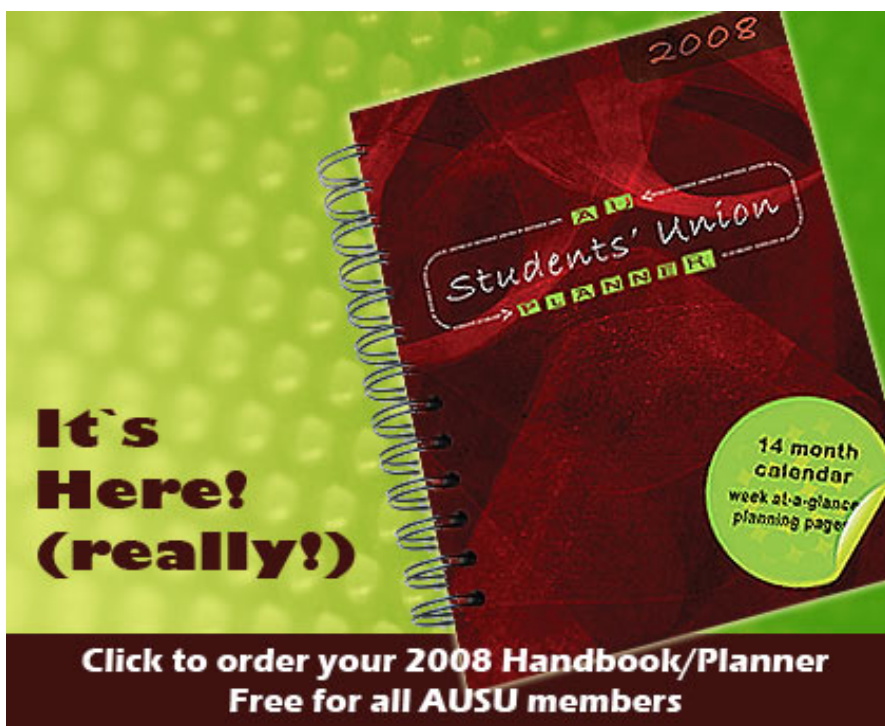
Smart Draw – Benefit for AUSU members

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: Canada Responds to World Food Crisis

Canada pledged an additional \$50 million this week to help fight the world food crisis. That brings the country's total monetary promises up to \$230 million.

In January the United Nations announced that there was a major need for emergency food in Afghanistan and several other countries around the world.

Canada was the first country to respond with both food and a monetary commitment. Tonnes of wheat were made available immediately and \$10 million was pledged at that time, in addition to a \$25 million commitment made in late 2007.

According to CNews, Tony Banbury, who is the regional director for the World Food Program's Asia division, stated that "Canada is an extremely important and generous partner and donor to us, and we would not be able to do our work here in Kandahar and in the southern region without the support of the

Canadian taxpayer."

Bev Oda, Canada's Minister of International Co-operation, said in a CBC News interview "this is a significant contribution which will have a real impact in helping starving people around the world."

Oda also announced that restrictions on where the food could be purchased for the aid would make help more forthcoming.

In the past, food aid was required to be purchased within Canada but now it can be purchased outside the country, making for a more efficient program. Oda explained that purchasing food from sources closer to the people in need could mean more food for the money as well as less money spent in transporting it to the crisis areas.

In Foreign News: Italians Victims of Their Own Government's Tactics

Anyone who ever felt even the slightest worry over privacy issues was aghast this week over what happened in Italy. Italians discovered that their personal income and their personal income tax paid had been listed online for anyone and everyone to see. The Italian tax collection agency posted the personal information online without letting the Italian public know what they planned to do.

Italy has had a reputation for laid-back taxpayers and according to Bloomberg News the country's outgoing Deputy Finance Minister, Vincenzo Visco, stated the move was "a matter of transparency, of democracy."

Some in Italy believe this kind of transparent approach to the matter will improve the negligent tax-payment situation there. Italy has been grappling with ways to collect billions of euros in unpaid taxes.

The personal tax information was from the 2005 tax year. Once Italians found out about the website, it became so bombarded with web traffic that it was virtually unusable. People were very interested in the

information provided as they could plainly see how much money their sports stars, neighbours, and favourite celebrities made in 2005.

Italy's governmental privacy agency took exception to this publication and had access to the information shut down within 24 hours of its debut.

Privacy advocates are very concerned that Italians have been allowed to learn the birthdate, income, and even home address of other Italians. The likelihood of criminals taking advantage of the private information has been raised as one of the possible effects of this unprecedented disclosure of personal information.

CLICK ON THIS – Reel/Unreel

Lonita Fraser

It's the weekend, and besides cleaning out eaves, gardening, doing the groceries, visiting family, washing the car, cleaning the house, and cooking like a demon, you might find time to fit in something social and entertaining like seeing a movie. If not, perhaps fitting in a couple of these sites will do the trick.

Forget the Film, Watch the Titles

Sometimes the best part of the film is the beginning.

The Official How it Should Have Ended Website

. . . and "sometimes movies don't end the way we'd like."

The Plot-o-Matic Movie Script Generator

. . . and there are times the middle parts seem like nothing more than a little from column A and a little from column B, and you know damned well you could do a better job. Well here's a little tool to help you out.

Movieoke

. . . and then there are those who can make any movie fun, especially after the fact.

Moviepooper

It's not just about the spoilers.

Internet Archive: Feature Films

A nice collection of treats whose copyright has run out and are therefore freely available to all.

Intuitor Insultingly Stupid Movie Physics

From the sublime, to the ridiculous, to the sort of thing that could make even the most soft-hearted scientist see red.

Movie Mistakes

No matter how careful they are, you can find a little flaw in just about anything.

EDUCATION NEWS

Angela Wilson



New Brunswick hoping to keep students in province after graduation

WOLFVILLE (CUP) -- The New Brunswick government is again hoping to convince students to stay in the province after completing their post-secondary degrees.

Under the Tuition Rebate program, post-secondary graduates of New Brunswick institutions who work and live in New Brunswick will be able to apply for up to \$10,000 cash back on their tuition costs.

"The New Brunswick Tuition Rebate is a major plus for our province," said Finance Minister Victor Boudreau.

"We believe it helps convince people who have pursued higher education to choose New Brunswick to live and work and to participate in our self-sufficiency project."

The initiative hopes to combat out-migration from the province, a trend that has been emptying many Atlantic Provinces of their work

force and productivity.

Under the program, anyone who has graduated from a post-secondary institution in New Brunswick and either stays in the province after graduation, or returns within 20 years, may apply for the rebate when they file their taxes.

The program follows the government's announcement in the 2008-2009 Budget that tuition fees will be frozen for all universities in the province.

The New Brunswick Student Alliance, a provincial student lobby group, is looking for more for students, though.

Justin Robichaud, President of the NBSA, said that "back-door help is not what is needed in New Brunswick right now."

"This is not up-front money helping access to post-secondary education," he said.

The NBSA has been lobbying the government to create targeted initiatives that will improve access to post-secondary education for specific groups, such as low-income families.

They are asking the government to commit to recommendations made by a Commission on post-secondary education earlier this year that endorsed a cap on student debt.

The Commission's recommendations are currently being considered by a working group made of university and community college presidents and government representatives. They are expected to announce their conclusions in late April or May.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.

THE VOICE

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