

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 20
May 16, 2008

Shut Up and Sing

These Chicks aren't
ready to make nice

AU Profiles

Heather Atkinson

Health Matters

Asthma

Plus:

*From Where I Sit,
Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan,
AUSU This Month, and much more...*



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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



The View From There

Getting the news from local, or even national, sources is a lot like looking in a mirror: we only ever see things from the front.

Admittedly, the view of the world is pretty incredible from here. You might even be forgiven for thinking, as you turn the pages of your local paper, watch the evening news, or click through sites like the *Globe and Mail* or *The New York Times*, that an entire 360-degree view of the world is on display.

There's in-depth coverage of the Iraq war, the devastation in Burma, earthquake rescue efforts in China, and, of course, the latest blunders and backpedalling of our own politicians.

But much like avoiding the embarrassment of getting the back of your skirt caught in your pantyhose, it sometimes pays to take a backwards glance into the mirror of world opinion and ask yourself the question: what does the world look like from *there*?

A recent news item is a good example of this. As [CTV](#) reported, yet another China-related protest had taken place, this one more than 6,000 strong and on Parliament Hill. But the protestors weren't calling for a boycott of the Beijing Olympics. Nor were they decrying China's human rights policies. Instead, they were there to show support for China, to make it known they were fed up with what they perceived as the one-sided portrayal of the country by the majority of Western media.

The story wasn't widely covered, but it was a tiny glimpse from the other side of the looking glass. "There" could be anywhere—Fiji, Bangladesh, Morocco, Estonia. Places most of us form opinions about through the filter of our national media; opinions that can become dangerously narrow if they're always from the same vantage point.

China is a case in point. Reading recent archives on the CBC, an immediate impression of China forms: the state has blacklisted a Chinese actress for a sexually explicit film role; authorities have only grudgingly unblocked access to some English-language Internet sites; in spite of the country's economic growth, it remains a quagmire of repression and corruption. But a recent headline in [*The Barbados Advocate*](#) offers a different perspective. A ceremony was held celebrating the signing of a grant-funding agreement between Barbados and China. Along with Chinese funding for arts and education projects, the agreement includes "plans to have an exchange programme involving teachers, artistes and artistic groups from Barbados and China." An open cultural exchange that doesn't fit the image portrayed by North American media.

Closer to home, Newfoundland has been the traditional butt of jokes; a have-not province that can only gaze wistfully at the glories of the west. The U.K.'s [*Telegraph*](#) has a different view. Forget the boom in Alberta. Apparently, the island is our best-kept secret—and Britons are snapping up vacation properties there in increasing numbers, delighting in the "superb scenery and . . . friendly, fast-talking neighbours."

Is there truth to both sides of these pictures? Yes. And as the world's borders (cultural, political, and economic) continue to shrink, it's a fact we'd be smart to remember. Especially if we don't want to be caught with our drawers showing.

HEALTH MATTERS

Barbara Godin



Asthma

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disorder that blocks air flow in and out of the lungs. In asthmatics, the airways may overreact and spasm when exposed to certain triggers. Triggers can include tobacco smoke, air pollution, dust mites, pet dander, exercise, cold air, and pollen.

As well, airways may become irritated and fill up with mucus, making it more difficult for the air to pass through.

The most common symptoms of asthma include wheezing, coughing, and shortness of breath. Less common signs of asthma include rapid breathing, difficulty concentrating, and a chronic cough that does not respond to cough suppressants or antibiotics.

Asthma medications can be classified into two categories: relievers and controllers. Reliever medications relax the muscles around the airways, causing the airway to open and allow improved airflow. Reliever medications are used on an as-needed basis. If you are using a reliever medication more than two or

three times a week, you are not receiving adequate control of your symptoms and may need additional medication. Examples of reliever medications include Ventolin, Maxair, Alupent, and Atrovent.

Controller medications are anti-inflammatory and include corticosteroids and inhaled non-steroidal agents. Inhaled corticosteroids are very effective and may be used daily with minimal side effects. Non-steroidal inhaled medications are useful in treating patients whose asthma is not controlled by inhaled corticosteroids alone. Newer medications are now available in pill form and some examples include Singulair and Accolate.

Most asthma attacks are mild, but they can be severe and life threatening. Signs of a serious asthma attack include struggling to breathe, sucking in of skin above breastbone and between ribs, nostrils flaring out, pale grey or blue lips or nail beds, sweating, and loss of consciousness. If you're experiencing these symptoms or witnessing someone who is, call 911 and continue to take your rescue medication (usually a blue puffer).

There are some things that put a person at increased risk for developing asthma. There is some controversy surrounding the claim that there is a genetic link in the occurrence of asthma; however, most experts agree that environmental pollutants, family history, and allergies may put a person at higher risk for developing asthma.

As well, people who work in certain occupations may be at increased risk. For example, spray painters (as a result of exposure to isocyanates) and grain handlers, due to exposure to grain dust. The [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety](#) provides further information on occupational asthma.

If you or someone close to you is diagnosed with asthma it is important to follow your doctor's advice and take your asthma medication as prescribed.

Further information on asthma can be found through The Canadian Lung Association's [website](#).

AU Profiles:

AU Profiles: Heather Atkinson

Christina M. Frey

This week's profile introduces Heather Atkinson, a new Athabasca University student who's taking the courses she needs to follow her dream of becoming an English teacher. The stay-at-home mom, who lives about an hour from Edmonton, explains why distance education works so well in her situation. She also tells how she persuades herself to study, even when she's tempted to procrastinate.

Heather, who is working through her first course with AU, initially attended university immediately following high school. "I don't think I appreciated it at all . . . it was just something that had to be done," she says.

Although she'd wanted to obtain her B.Ed., "my marks weren't good enough to get in . . . so I settled for . . . the B.A. in English," says Heather, who graduated in 2000. She hadn't forgotten about her hopes to teach English, however. Several years later, "I was talking with a teacher . . . and told him that, and he asked, 'So what's stopping you?'" she says. "That really lit a fire."

Heather plans to apply to the University of Alberta's B.Ed. after-degree program next spring. Although she's already earned her B.A. in her planned major, English, Heather still needs several prerequisites for her proposed minor, social studies. That's where AU fits in. By studying through AU's unclassified stream, she's able to obtain those courses without having to attend class.

Originally, Heather considered taking the prerequisite courses part-time at the University of Alberta, but the cost of the hour-long commute to Edmonton—along with childcare costs—made that impracticable.

"My husband suggested looking into online courses," Heather says. "[He] gave me a link he'd found after Googling—and here I am!"

The rising price of gas makes the convenience of studying at a distance especially apparent. Heather hopes to continue studying from home as much as possible, even when she begins the B.Ed. program.

"I will probably take as many courses as I can online," she says. "The less time spent driving to campus, the better."

So far, distance learning has worked well. "I'm enjoying doing things on my own time," Heather says. "Actually I'm finding it a lot more interesting than I did going to school the first time, maybe because I actually want to do it."

She also enjoys the concept of independent study: "I was never that much of a talker in class," Heather says. "The only part I miss is lectures . . . it's hard . . . to know what notes to take without someone writing on a board or actually talking at me."

"Actually I'm finding it a lot more interesting than I did going to school the first time, maybe because I actually want to do it."

Procrastination is sometimes difficult. “It’s really easy to slack off,” Heather says. “Making myself sit down and get it done can be a challenge.”

To keep herself on track, she tries to strictly follow the schedule set out in the course handbook. Remembering her end goal of teaching English also helps: “I really want to get my B.Ed., and the only way to do it is to do these classes . . . regardless of how much motivation I have at the time,” Heather says. “Once I start, I get right into it.”

Heather hopes to finish by next spring, in time to meet the B.Ed. application deadline. “I have it all planned out,” she says. “By the time I’m done school my youngest should be going into it . . . so I won’t be at home bored all day.”

In the meantime, studying and caring for her two children, aged four and almost one year, keeps her busy. “I tend to leave [studying] until after bedtime,” she says.

Although she’s currently just taking one course—to “test . . . the waters,” she says—she plans to try two classes next semester since it’s working so well.

She’s excited to be able to make progress toward her long-held dream. “When my books first arrived I was so happy and excited that I cried,” Heather says. “I had to explain to [my four-year-old] why I was so happy to be going to school!”

CLICK ON THIS – Wearables

Lonita Fraser

Of course we all want to look good, but most of the time I don't think we give a lot of thought to what we put on our bodies each day. Here are a few glimpses into the world of wearability.

Costume Collection

Going as far back as the 1700s, here's a taste of the Smithsonian Institute's clothing collections.

Knicker Picker

Sometimes you want to know how it's going to look on before you buy it, but with underthings that's not always possible. This site uses their models to show you how their products look right on the body, with several body shapes to choose from.

Ugly Dress

My eyes!

A Dress A Day

Sometimes I wonder what people were thinking, but then I realize that they probably weren't. Some good, some bad, some “charmingly grotesque.”

Top 10 Ugliest, Most Embarrassing Fashion Trends of the Past 25 Years

Not current, but still so frighteningly true. I could think of a few more recent items that could go on that list, like clothes so baggy they make you look like you raided your dad's closet as a five-year-old.

CAREERS

Behdin Nowrouzi



Consider a Career as a Dentist

What is dentistry?

Dentistry is the discipline concerned with oral health. Dentists are health care professionals involved in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders of the mouth and teeth.

Education and training

The practice of dentistry is a regulated health profession in Canada. A provincial or territorial

regulatory body protects the public's interest and restricts the use of the title of dentist or dental surgeon to its members.

The governing body in each province or territory sets practice standards and guidelines. Moreover, they issue licenses to those who meet the established qualifications.

According to the [Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials](#), all Canadian regulatory bodies "recognize the certificate of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB)." This recognition is essential in obtaining a dental license in Canada. To be eligible to write the examination, an individual must be a graduate of an accredited program in Canada or the United States.

Beyond the initial dental training, dentists may choose to take on a dental specialty. In order to be qualified as a specialist (e.g., pediatric dentistry), dentists must meet the specific licensure requirements of their specialty through the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC).

Admission information and requirements

There are 10 schools across Canada that offer the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine degree (DMD). While individual program requirements vary, the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) states that there are prerequisite courses in science and math that need to be completed prior to commencing dental studies.

Specialty programs are offered at certain schools and it is advisable that applicants contact each school directly to ensure their area of interest is offered.

Where do dentists work?

Dentistry encompasses many areas of oral health. Many dentists work in community private practice settings. These practitioners have a flexible work schedule compared to those employed in other settings, such as hospitals. Alternatively, some dentists work in primary health facilities, teach at universities, or are involved in policy making at different levels of government.

The CDA anticipates strong job growth in the future. As fluoridation (such as that found in toothpaste and water) has decreased the incidence of dental decay, especially in children, the profession will transition

toward a preventative approach utilizing public health strategies. As a result, dental public health is a specialty field that is growing in both interest and number of graduates.

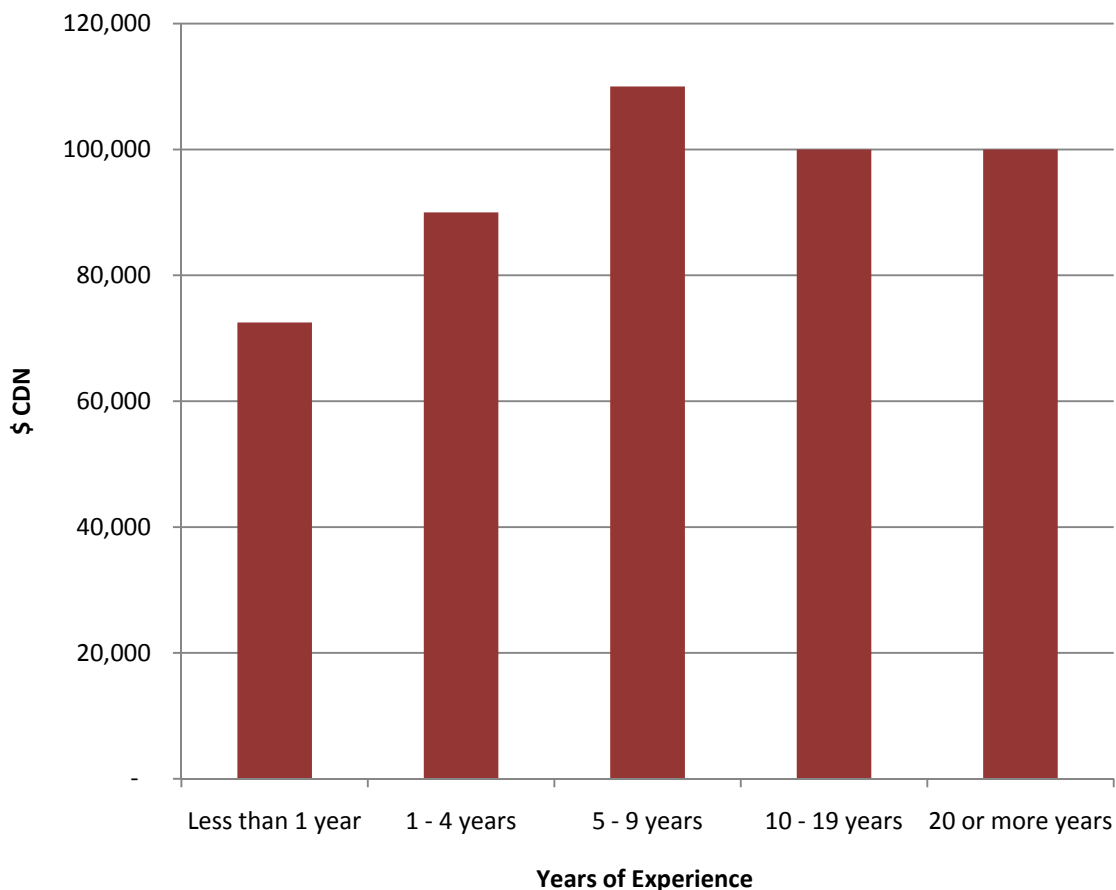
Salaries

Dentistry is a dynamic discipline. The CDA predicts the need for professional dental services will remain strong in the years ahead. Mass education and health policy initiatives have improved dental techniques and ultimately improved oral health.

However, the CDA cautions that gum disease continues as a serious threat, affecting 75 per cent of adults. Dental research is an area of growth, with funding and resources being poured into dental vaccines to prevent cavities, better developed materials, and procedures to enhance appearance.

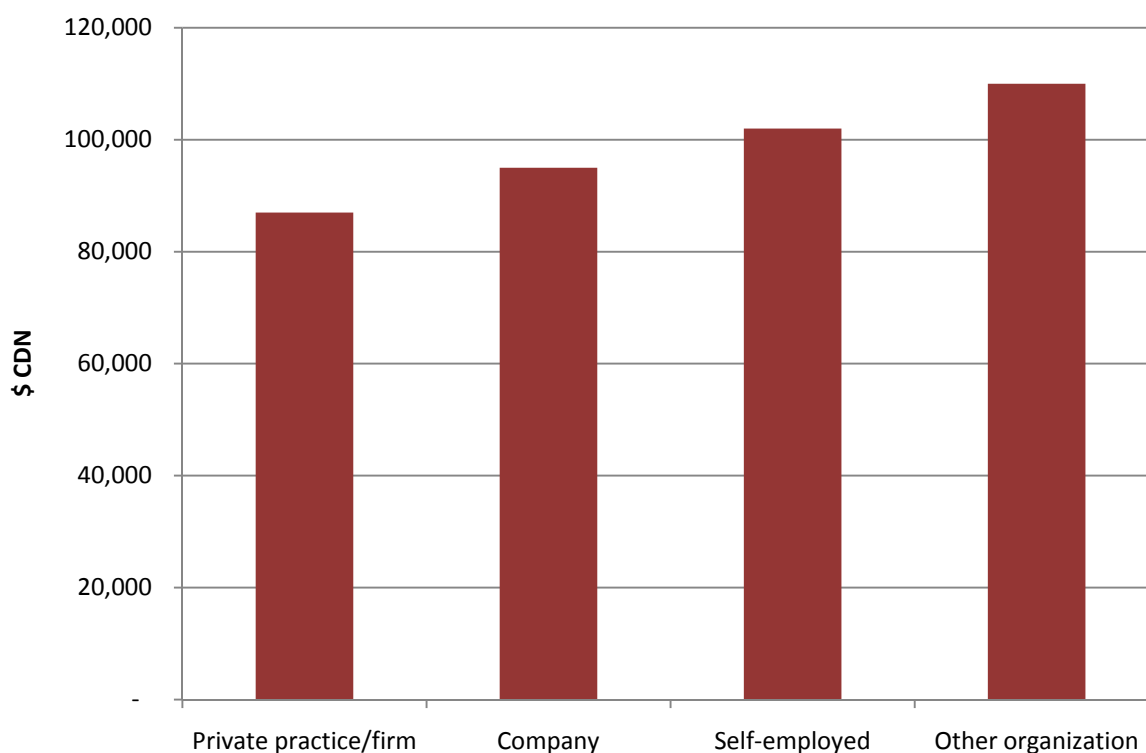
Dentists' salaries vary based on experience and also the type of workplace. According to [payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com), dental salaries in Canada can start at over \$70,000 for new graduates and rise well over \$100,000 for experienced clinicians (See Chart 1 and Chart 2). The salaries of more specialized areas of dentistry vary but are higher than for general dentists. Dental specialists' salaries will vary depending on their area of specialization.

Chart 1. Median dentist salary based on years of experience



Source: Adapted from www.payscale.com

Chart 2. Median dentist salary by type of workplace



Source: Adapted from www.payscale.com

For more information regarding dentistry, please visit the Canadian Dental Association's [website](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



Program Plans

Are you getting close to completing your degree and want to make sure you've covered all the requirements? Thinking of switching majors but not sure which courses will carry over? Or a new AU student trying to decide which program to enrol in?

You can check out the requirements for all AU programs with the online [Program Plans](#). Each plan is a handy checklist of core courses, electives, course levels (e.g., junior or senior), and examples to help plan your degree, certificate, or diploma.

There are also Practice Program Plans, templates available in Word format that you can download and fill in. Depending on your initial enrolment date, program requirements may vary, and plans are available for the past 10 years.

If you need help selecting courses it's always best to speak with an AU advisor, but the online program plans are a great place to start!

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

DVD: *Shut Up and Sing*

Release date: 2007

Directed by Barbara Kopple and Cecilia Peck

*It's a sad sad story when a mother will teach her
Daughter that she ought to hate a perfect stranger.
And how in the world can the words that I said
Send somebody so over the edge
That they'd write me a letter
Sayin' that I better shut up and sing
Or my life will be over?*

from "Not Ready To Make Nice," by Emily Robison, Dan Wilson, Natalie Maines, and Martie Maguire

In 2003 The Dixie Chicks are on stage at the Shepherd's Bush Empire theatre in London, England. Between songs the diminutive Natalie Maines pipes up, "Just so you know, we're on the good side with y'all. We do not want this war, this violence. And we're ashamed that the President of the United States is from Texas."

The crowd cheers wildly. But when this gets back to American country music fans, widespread boycotts swing into place, Dixie Chicks performances are picketed, country radio stations refuse to play their songs, and the girls receive disparaging and even threatening letters. In one chilling scene a young woman holding a toddler snaps, "Screw 'em!" and then demands that the toddler say it too.

The Chicks are denounced by other country performers, notably Toby Keith, who sings about "putting a boot" in Natalie Maines's ass, because "it's the American way."

The gals consider wearing T-shirts that say "Fuck You Toby Keith," but this evolves into a brilliant plan to simply wear the initials F.U.T.K. and innocently pretend that they stand for benign sentiments of the wearer's choosing. Natalie Maines claims that the initials on her shirt stand for "Fans United in Truth and Kindness." Fans are soon sporting the initials on their chests, one claiming they stand for "Freedom, Truth, Unity, Knowledge," another, "Freedom for the United States, a Democratic Country."

The Dixie Chicks know that this may break up the band, halt their careers, or worse. If you can remember McCarthyism it really isn't a stretch to expect the severest of squelchings. But the crisis actually ends up helping them; this turns out to be one of those movements that rise from minor events to gather their own momentum, movements whose times have come, and that appear to generate a beauty all their own. The Chicks boldly face chastisement and in the end are vindicated.

Rilke wrote, in *Letters to a Young Poet*, "Perhaps all the dragons in our lives are princesses who are only waiting to see us act, just once, with beauty and courage. Perhaps everything that frightens us is, in its deepest essence, something helpless that wants our love."

In light of recent drops in Bush's popularity it is fitting that opposition was voiced early on by three of the most dyed-in-the-wool country girls you could ever run across. And by country I mean humble folks who live in rural areas and love friends and family and are making a distinctive contribution to a distinctive musical tradition.

Contrary to the ravings of conservatives, this group has always included dissenters, individualists, eccentrics, political activists, and intellectuals even though these are not always easily tolerated by those who consider themselves the mainstream.

Sadly, American country radio has become so dependent on the approval of political conservatives that it's simply not free, having become a source of the kind of reverse propaganda that silences dissent and withholds important information from those who need it most.

Luckily for the Dixie Chicks and other rebels the music industry is shifting. The fact that their 2006 album, *Taking the Long Way*, was a financial success without the support of American country radio points to the increasing globalization of fan bases, but more notably to the pervasiveness of the Internet as a music source whose audience size exceeds that of privately owned and operated radio stations.

Shut Up and Sing lives up to five of The Mindful Bard's criteria for films well worth seeing: 1) it confronts, rebukes, and mocks existing injustices; 2) it renews my enthusiasm for positive social action; 3) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 4) it exemplifies attainment of the true self; and 5) it harmoniously unites art with social action, rescuing us from both the ivory tower and slavery to someone else's political agenda.



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.



From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Functional? Beautiful?

Have you caught the de-cluttering bug? The message of urging (and urgency) on television and in books and magazines is relentless. That message is at cross-purposes with the pressure to buy, buy, buy.

We're bombarded with the benefits of purging: breathing space; a calming, zen-like setting; simplicity. We're shamed into it by the hectoring advice of real estate agents and decorators: de-clutter to depersonalize and maximize your square footage and selling price. We're made to feel virtuous if we finally do it, especially if we repurpose, reinvent, or recycle our castoffs.

We're urged to do it and likewise urge others to do it. This is especially likely if we have a vested interest. We want our senior parents to do it so we won't someday have to when illness or death forces the issue.

I want us to do it to spare our children from someday having to. As children age it becomes painfully clear who values the same stuff we do and who's likely to fill a truck (or more) for the landfill. I don't want our kids saying, "What the hell did they keep this crap for?"

With that in mind, with spring coming in fits and starts, with our house not made of expandable materials, I've been systematically going through closets and cupboards, tackling the job in bite-sized chunks.

I've gone through my cookbooks. Who am I kidding? I don't really enjoy cooking. My idea of baking is making a loaf of banana bread a couple of times a year. I've got tried-and-true recipes and meal plans that are simple and haven't killed

anyone yet. I know people who read cookbooks like the finest fiction. Not this kid. Out they go—after Hilary looks through them, that is.

I also went through our collection of movies. I forced Greg to take the old tapes of his hockey team competing in provincials. He's the only clutter-free person in the family. Switched at birth, perchance? I'm hoping some friends with young children still have VCR technology because we've got some classic Disney to give away.

There are boxes awaiting delivery to Goodwill or the Salvation Army. They contain clothing, housewares, Roy's neckties, magazines, stitchery kits. Some stuff—usually paper—is quite simply garbage and out it goes. Why have I hung onto all the plastic pots that perennials and annuals come in? Gone. I take pleasure in using things like linens until they're ready for the rag bag. Makes me feel like a pioneer woman.

I look around and consider the fate of objects. To continue earning their spot they must be either functional or beautiful or, hopefully, both.

Of course, de-cluttering is only one aspect of the battle. The other is reducing acquisition. In the store the question must be do I need it, will I use it, is it beautiful? Now that takes discipline, from where I sit.

AUSU This Month



Meet Your New Council

The AUSU Council and staff have added and updated their bio pages. If you're curious about who these nine people are, you can go to our [council page](#) to find out more, or meet our Councillors in the AUSU chat room at the times announced on the front page of the AUSU website.

Also, on May 26, at 6:00 p.m. MST, the new AUSU Council will be having their first council meeting open to public attendance. See the people you elected in action. Contact ausu@ausu.org or phone 1-800-788-9041, ext 3413 for details on how you can attend.

New Addition to Council Family

The VP Finance and Administration, Sarah Kertcher, was not able to participate in the most recent AUSU executive meeting, but her absence was understandable. The night before, Sarah had a baby boy by the name of Nathan Ross Kertcher. Nathan came into this world at 7 lbs. and 13 oz. AUSU sends its congratulations out to Nathan and his parents, and looks forward to the day when he's an Active Member.



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.

You can download the catalogue in PDF from the link on our home page, or go to <http://www.ausu.org/services/store.php> to see the catalogue online. Shipping costs will be calculated per order and we'll let you know by phone or email.

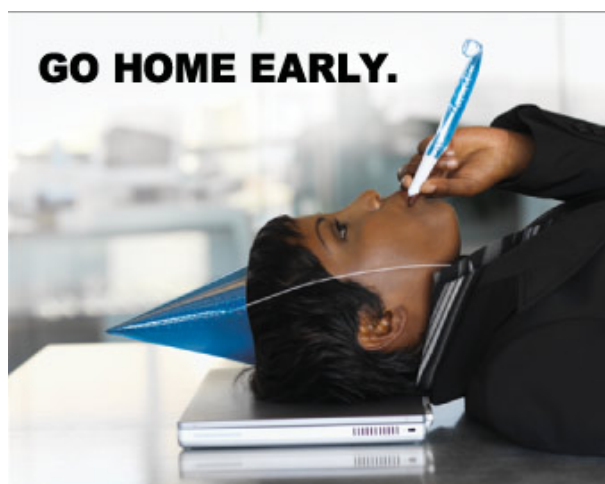
We are only accepting credit card orders at this time, unless you are able to visit our Edmonton office. We are in the process of selecting more product of good quality and use for our members, and some of these should start to be available soon. Suggestions as to other products are welcome.

AUSU Lock Loan Program

If you take exams at the Calgary or Edmonton campus, you can participate in our Lock Loan Program. Under this program, you can borrow a lock to secure your stuff while you take your exam, then return it at no cost and with no deposit. If you're not in Calgary or Edmonton, or would like to purchase a lock to keep, we are keeping the price close to our cost in the spirit of this program. However, to do this means we rely on you to return the borrowed locks, and to make sure the combination is reset to 0-0-0 when you do.

Employment Site Nearly Ready

Big news! AUSU has nearly completed the final testing of the new employment site developed in coordination with the Personnel Department. This site will be available to all of our members and their family or friends, and will help them to find employers looking for their skills.



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

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.

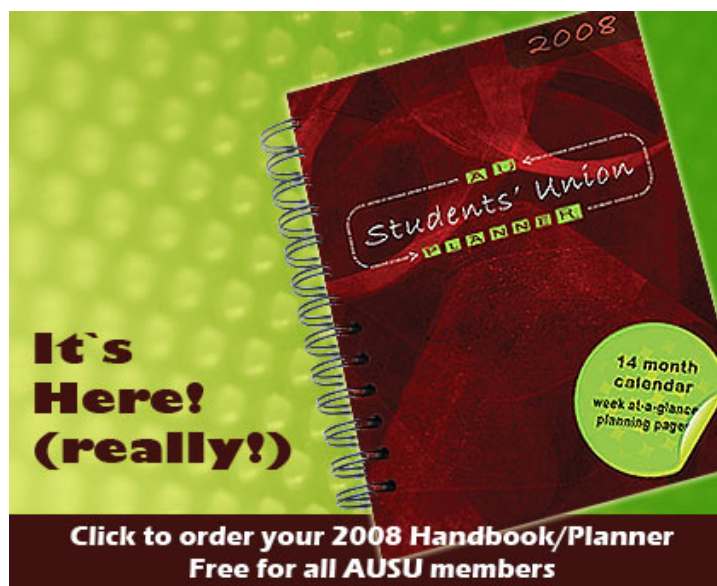
For any course that requires charts that cannot be easily created in Word or Excel, this should be a real time saver and make it easier to submit all portions of an assignment by email. Remember, though, that you should always check with your tutor to find out if there is a specific format he or she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

AUSU Handbook/Planner 2008 in stock!

The 2008 AUSU planner is still in stock. 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*.

As always, we're excited to know what you think of the planner.





At Home: What does global warming really mean for Canada?

CTV weather anchor Dory Rossiter said on Wednesday that “mother nature is smiling on us.” Her comment was in response to Lethbridge’s weather prediction for May 17, a remarkable 11 degrees Celsius higher than average for that day.

In light of global warming concerns, difficulties in curbing carbon emissions, and increased pressure from environmental groups, this comment comes across as entirely ignorant, especially for someone with a higher than average degree of climate training.

World Wildlife Fund Canada reports that melting ice caps, rising sea levels, disrupted ocean currents, more severe droughts, more frequent floods and hurricanes, and the wider spread of tropical diseases and food shortages are signs of global warming; all factors that have indeed been on the rise in Canada and worldwide according to scientific records.

Many people remain skeptical about the threat of global warming purely because its effects are often very difficult to identify; whether extreme weather disasters are related or not is difficult to prove or disprove. In the Prairie provinces, however, the fact that winters have been successively milder is something most people over the age of 20 have noticed. If you grew up in central or southern Alberta, you can probably think back to your childhood winters and remember huge walls of snow bordering the driveway, and massive drifts that could be turned into awesome ice forts with a day or two of intensive effort.

The last few years, however, these giant drifts of snow have shrunk down to no more than a couple of feet of snowfall at once—enough to warrant proper snow boots every once in a while but not enough to stop us from getting to work or to shut society down for a day or so. Scientists and regular citizens alike believe that this change is not imaginary, and that it is being caused by global warming.

The problem in proving this particular theory of global warming in Canada is the lack of hard evidence. Although hearsay may show an obvious decrease in snowfall, scientific records do not and it has been the recorded data that has stuck when it comes to global warming. Natural disasters have reportedly been on the rise in the last several decades, and Environment Canada says it is dedicated to improving its national weather networks and increasing communication with communities regarding oncoming weather disasters.

Sure, I’m going to love a nice hot May long weekend, but if proper weather records could be kept for future reference and scientific assessment, that would make me a little more able to enjoy freakishly good weather.

In Foreign News: World food shortages hit India hard; children at risk of starvation

The current trend of rising food prices has been affecting North America in terms of certain foods like rice and other grains; quotas have been placed on these items in some grocery stores, limiting the amount that can be sold to one person.

In large part, the global food shortage has been caused by the global warming concerns of Western governments, who have begun to rely on food-crop land to provide biofuel crops for clean-burning fuel. As this demand increases, both domestic and foreign food-crop land is being converted to biofuel cropland and agricultural concerns are falling to the back of governmental minds.

The global food shortage is hitting other regions of the world much harder than North America, especially India, where the country's struggling economy is failing to meet the nutritional needs of its children.

India is currently home to the highest number of malnourished children in the world, and this number was calculated before the recent food shortage became an issue. UNICEF claims that nearly one half of all Indian children show signs of stunted growth due to malnutrition, a situation that is directly related to widespread low wages in the country. Many households are surviving on less than one dollar per day.

Social and economic examiners working in the country say the result of rising food prices due to worldwide shortages means that Indian families are changing the way they eat. Not only is the quantity of meals decreasing, but the foods that Indians are preparing and feeding their children is changing as well.

Since meat is such an expensive ingredient, non-vegetarian Indians are starting to opt out of buying significant sources of protein. Without replacing this protein intake with enough protein alternatives, it is feared that India's number of malnourished children will skyrocket.

As well as changing their diets in response to high food prices, many Indian families have begun to pull their daughters out of school so that they might take up jobs and bring more income into the household.

Economists have suggested that the Indian government change its focus from technological advancements to agricultural investments. Currently, the national budget doles out only 2.2 per cent of investment money toward agriculture and much of the domestic rice crops are being sold to neighbouring Bangladesh.

EDUCATION NEWS

Kyle Palantzas



Juggling university life with military life

OTTAWA (CUP) -- When she isn't pulling all-nighters in the library, browsing Facebook, or putting in hours at her part-time job, Jennifer Power is wearing a gas mask, jumping off towers and firing her rifle.

Power, 21, lives two different lives: one as a student at Carleton University and one as a member of the Canadian Forces.

One of 200 military students who are pursuing both an education and career in the nation's capital, Power admits

the balance has its ups and downs. An aspiring lawyer, the second-year criminology student joined the military for the challenge and to reap the rewards that come with it.

"My tuition, books, and school supplies are all covered by the Canadian Forces," said Power. "I also receive a salary of \$600.00 every two weeks."

The price tag? Five years of service after she graduates.

It all started three years ago with a lengthy process of interviews, followed by aptitude and physical tests. Suddenly, the next portion of Power's life was on a timeline.

"After I graduate from Carleton I'm going to become a second-lieutenant and I'll be posted in Petawawa [one of Canada's largest military bases]."

With the anticipation of the battlefield lingering, Power's current priorities mirror those of a regular student: pulling off good grades.

The future officer is packing in six courses a year, working part-time as a server, and still keeping her marks on the school's scholarship radar.

"I got an \$8,000 scholarship last year, but because I'm in the military I was not allowed to accept it."

Once her undergraduate degree is complete, Power plans to put her education on hold and pay her dues to her country.

After her five years of mandatory service in the Forces, she will be faced with an ultimatum: continuing a 25-year career with the military, or putting it behind her and joining the society she dedicated half of her life to protect.

"It's going to be after my five years of service that I leave the military and go to law school," said Power.

"But having your life planned out for you when you're 21 is scary."

Before, after or in between classes, Power hits the gym to prepare for her annual summer training—what her platoon refers to as boot camp.

A 10-week course in Fort St. Jean Sur Richelieu, Que., will see Power dedicate 18-hour training days to running, weight lifting, weaponry, and hand-to-hand combat.

Having already been around the block once, she said she has built up her pain tolerance and military knowledge, while acquiring her right to carry and fire a small arms assault rifle.

"The transition in the summer is difficult," said Power. "It's like living two different lives."

According to Power, the secrets to juggling a double life are to stay organized and focused while looking at her bigger picture—becoming a lawyer.

Her educational life doesn't differ from the ideal view of the student experience.

Power is no stranger to Kraft Dinner, buses, roommates, and debt. But at the same time she said she wouldn't want to have it any other way.

"I'm a normal student," said Power. "When I'm on campus I'm no different from anyone else."

On the military front, Power is in her second year of training to become an armoured officer.

Currently training in the army, Power admits she is excited to serve her time and hopes she gets the chance to go overseas.

"Being a normal student and being in the military are two different worlds," said Power. "I just happen to live in both."

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THE VOICE

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