

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 27
July 4, 2008

Convocation 2008

Convocation, part 3

Photos, grad interviews,
and more

Inferno

The devastation of
Hamburg

The Interviewer

Home sweet home

Plus:

The Mindful Bard,

From Where I Sit, 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.



CONVOCATION 2008

Sandra Livingston

This is the last of a special three-part Voice report on Athabasca University's 2008 Convocation, which took place June 12, 13, and 14. The Voice offers its warmest congratulations to all this year's graduates!

The third and final day of AU's 2008 convocation brought many reminders that the achievements being celebrated were not the end of life's learning journey, but only one step along the way.

Throughout the sunny grounds of the campus and inside the hallways of AU's main building, many grads and visitors could already be heard discussing the possibilities for future goals.

A master's degree, maybe a Ph.D., taking courses for fun: all these ideas and more were part of the excited chatter as grads celebrated with family, reconnected with old acquaintances, and discovered new friends.

The day began with the sound of bagpipes as the graduands' procession was escorted into the spacious tent. A cooling breeze drifted through the air and cameras flashed, following the platform party as they took their places on the stage.



The graduands take the stage



Jeff Johnson, MLA Athabasca-Redwater

Following a warm welcome from Joy Romero, Chair of AU's governing council, the idea of lifelong learning was echoed by Jeff Johnson, MLA Athabasca-Redwater, as he greeted the audience.

Instead of convocation being an end to education, Jeff noted that it's a milestone for graduates, and that perhaps the most important lesson learned is that grads "have the ability to reach their goals."

And AU's lifelong learners represent a large group. As AU President Frits Pannekoek said, the more than 1,600 graduates of 2008 join over 12,000 proud AU alumni.

Then, after years of hard work by the grads, and countless hours of preparation by staff, it was time to confer the final degrees of 2008.

The traditional petition was read, the Chair declared it granted, and the graduands replied to the pledge put forward by Dr. Pannekoek.



Dr. Margaret Haughey, Vice-President (Academic), reads the bios

The Master of Business Administration was the only graduate degree being presented on the final day, but it was a large group, with grads from around the world in attendance: Safat, Kuwait; Beaverton, Oregon; Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia; and Brossard, Quebec, are just a few of the locales the MBA grads travelled from.

And their bios were as diverse as their locations. Members of the group work as oil and gas consultants, project managers, and a team leader in medical imagery.

After 22 years with the Canadian Navy, one MBA grad plans to start a business in Australia, while others plan to continue in their current fields.

Their bios also offered some interesting glimpses into their journeys to convocation. One grad studied during plane rides, while another stood on a cliff during vacation in order to find a cell phone signal and download assignments to his computer.

And one piece of valuable advice was offered: never drink Merlot near your laptop while working on assignments.

Following the graduate degrees, two special honours were awarded. First, David J. Burnett was inducted into the Order of Athabasca University, "in recognition of his service and dedication to the mandate, mission, and vision" of the university.

As well, Dr. Mary Lou Jepsen was presented with an honorary Doctor of Athabasca University.

Dr. Jepsen is the Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of One Laptop Per Child, a non-profit company that works to deliver low-cost laptops to disadvantaged children in developing countries. In May, Dr. Jepsen was also



Dr. Frits Pannekoek, David J. Burnett, and Joy Romero

named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, as well as one of the 19 most influential scientists and thinkers.

In accepting the degree, Dr. Jepsen noted that while AU students may realize that information is

everywhere, many people around the world still do not have access to it, and she encouraged the graduates to use their experience at AU to make the world a better place.

Another highlight was the graduate address presented by Anna Fabbroni, a graduate of the Bachelor of Health Administration program. Anna shared the text of her address with *The Voice*, and it's included in this issue. (You can also find the address presented June 12, by Lorna Weisbrod of the Master of Arts—Integrated Studies program.)

And then it was time for the final presentations of Convocation 2008—the undergraduate degrees, including Bachelor of Administration, Bachelor of

Commerce, Bachelor of Management, Bachelor of Health Administration, and Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations.

Like their counterparts in the graduate program, the new alumni travelled from all across the country—and beyond—to celebrate the day, but AU's home province, Alberta, was especially well represented. No doubt many grads saw some familiar faces from places such as Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton, Brooks, and Peace River.

For at least one grad, convocation was a particularly memorable event: having missed both his high school and college graduations, crossing the stage to receive his university degree was a long-awaited moment.

Whether they are pursuing further education, embarking on new careers, or simply looking forward to spending more free time with family, *The Voice* congratulates all the graduates of 2008!



Joy Romero, Dr. Mary Lou Jepsen, and Dr. Frits Pannekook



See you next year!

CONVOCATION 2008 PHOTO ALBUM

Join us for a tour of Athabasca, Alberta . . .



The Athabasca River

Welcome to AU!



A sense of history is never far away in this scenic spot



The Athabasca tourist information booth

The wading park, ready for a summer day





Several murals adorn the town



On the way to the AU campus



Ready for a concert in the park



Time for a rest!

CONVOCATION 2008 – ADDRESS BY GRADUATE, JUNE 14**Anna Fabbroni**

During each of the three days of convocation, one graduate addressed their fellow students and convocation guests, sharing their thoughts about graduation and the journey that brought them there.



On Saturday, June 14, the graduate address was given by Anna Fabbroni, of Ottawa, Ontario, who received her Bachelor of Health Administration degree.

The Voice thanks Anna for sharing the text of her address, which is printed below.

Madam Chairman, Mr. President, distinguished guests, members of the platform party, graduates, ladies and gentlemen,

I was honoured and speechless when I received a call from Mr. D'Arcy asking me to give the Graduate Address. First and foremost, I would like to thank Athabasca University for the opportunity to have allowed me to reach an important goal in my life and education.

My story may not be unique and can probably relate with many of my fellow graduates. We may come from different backgrounds but we all share

a long and tedious journey which brings us to this stage today, proud of our accomplishments and knowing that our hard work has finally paid off.

I was born and raised in Toronto by parents who emigrated from a small town in Italy. I always enjoyed studying and perceived school as a place where I can expand my knowledge and allow myself to grow and understand the world around me.

However, when I was 15, my parents decided to move back to Italy and of course, I had no choice but to follow them. Although Italy was a lovely country, I had severe language barriers and no support systems were available to foreign students. High school teachers felt that it would be best that I drop out of school and go to work. As a teenager who invested all her future in education, I felt helpless.

It took 20 years and lots of hard work to understand that ignorance and intolerance were not a reason for abandoning a dream. I thank my dear friend Prof. Fiore Cianci for helping me work through my long and personal journey of analysis and re-discovering the concepts of identity, dignity, and home. Thank you Fiore for seeing, believing, and above all, making me believe in my potentials. You always said I would go far and you were right.

I began my university studies in Italy by taking a few French courses at Athabasca University, which is where I discovered the Health Administration Program. I called the university one day and asked to speak to the Director, Thomas Palakkamanil.

Thomas demonstrated kindness, availability, and professionalism. I chose the Health Administration Program because it offers an array of different courses. You never have the chance to get bored! But its uniqueness lays in the fact that it has two practicums, which allows students to gain an incredible hands-on experience in the health care field and as a result, have better opportunities in finding jobs in that sector.

When I returned to Canada four years ago, I completed both practicums with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch at Health Canada in the Alberta Region. I thank everyone who worked and collaborated with me in completing the projects successfully. These practicums were an amazing learning experience as well as a milestone in helping me obtain a permanent position with Health Canada.

However, these fulfilling accomplishments would have never been possible without the help of the many great people I met during this extraordinary journey. Thank you Pam Patten for welcoming me into your home when I arrived in Edmonton with more hopes than suitcases, and for always providing an encouraging word when all my thoughts were a concentration of how to pay the bills and tuition fees, get through casual jobs, and study for exams. It makes today even more rewarding.

Many of we, Athabasca University graduates, were not only students. We are full-time workers and providers for our families with all the responsibilities that come with it. I think I can speak on behalf of all my fellow graduates when I say that, whereas for many of the people we know, the day was over when they came home from work, ours was not even half way through. Our perseverance and determination were the fuel which helped us find the strength, at nights and weekends, to sit in front of our computers and complete an assignment or prepare for an exam.

Athabasca University tutors have a profound understanding of the meaning of these hardships and for this reason, have often gone beyond their call of duty to help us. I remember scheduling odd tutor hours in Italy because of the time difference or my strange working hours. But what was most important is that I felt I was treated as a person with the right to learn and not just an ID number. I never felt rejected nor was I told that there was no hope for me.

Thank you, Athabasca University. With your wonderful tutors and staff, you have been such an integral part of our lives. You allowed us to understand that obtaining an education is possible regardless of the barriers, ignorance, and intolerance we may encounter. Education is a right and not a privilege and is worth every effort and commitment invested. Everyone has an equal opportunity to a second chance in life and this is why Athabasca University is so different from the rest.

Thank you to our families and friends, near and far, who were there to support us and encourage us to never give up during our long nights of studies, preparation for exams, and trying to balance time between home, work, and school. If we are here today, this is also because we have had such a strong backbone like you.

It was a lot of hard work but look at what we have accomplished and our profound sense of satisfaction. By walking this stage today, we prove to be examples that we have the ability of setting no boundaries as to what we are capable of doing when we truly believe in a dream and do everything, in our power and beyond, to make it come true.

Please join me in congratulating the graduates of 2008. Thank you.

***Everyone has an equal
opportunity to a
second chance in life
and this is why
Athabasca University
is so different from the
rest.***

CONVOCATION 2008 – ADDRESS BY GRADUATE, JUNE 12

Lorna Weisbrod

On Thursday, June 12, the graduate address was given by Lorna Weisbrod, of Lumsden, Saskatchewan, who received her Master of Arts—Integrated Studies degree.



The Voice thanks Lorna for sharing the text of her address, which is printed below.

Madam Chair, Mr. President, distinguished guests, members of the platform party, graduates, families and friends, ladies and gentlemen,

I am both privileged and honoured today to stand before you to deliver the graduate address for the Athabasca University 2008 Convocation.

When Mr. D'Arcy phoned me a short while ago, I was expecting a somewhat different conversation given that I had just left a voice mail at the university the day before.

Not initially believing what Mr. D'Arcy was asking me, I responded with "You're going to have to tell me that again from the beginning!"

My excitement spilled over that day, and my family and work colleagues soon knew that I

would be giving the graduate address at the Athabasca convocation ceremonies!

The reaction by others to my graduate address news was mixed and was an experience all onto itself. Overall, there was consensus: all shared in my excitement and were very supportive of my latest endeavour.

My family were most excited and wanted to tell everyone else; they shared their reflections of my life as a student. One friend asked me if my graduate address would be delivered online, and I thought that was a really good question and better yet, a really good idea.

A colleague suggested that writing the graduate address would be like writing another course paper, and one unassuming acquaintance queried how I was chosen and if my name was picked out of a hat.

In preparation for this address, I decided that I needed to spend some time reviewing the tangibles of my educational journey at Athabasca University. This involved reviewing binders of organized and somewhat disorganized notes and learning materials, randomly reading saved emails from faculty and classmates, and returning to overview what seemed like an endless number of computer files.

I was really hoping to find that perfect research article or email message which might have acted as a springboard for this address. Instead, unexpectedly, this process provided me the opportunity for deep reflection of the diverse life experiences and lessons learned as a graduate student at Athabasca University.

Upon this reflection, it occurred to me that perhaps the most important personal work of convocation is the opportunity for review and consolidation of life experiences as a student, an opportunity to reflect on the

events which we (and our families and friends) experienced, an opportunity to reflect how those events impacted our lives for the few short years that we were engaged in our studies, and an opportunity to reflect and contemplate how we see our future lives unfolding as we close this part of our learning journey.

For most of us, it probably seems like such a short time ago that we gathered the courage to apply for admission into Athabasca University.

My reflection of studies at Athabasca University also brought to mind fond memories of the online dialogue with classmates from around the globe.

After careful consideration of other university programs, I chose Athabasca because of its strong reputation for and commitment to high quality adult education, and because of the online delivery mode which would allow me to continue to finely balance my family, work, and community commitments alongside my studies. Each of us came to Athabasca with unique and individual life circumstances which brought us to our studies.

I rather suspect that, for most of us, the learning experiences of our first courses remain etched in our memories. At first, the readings were daunting, and our initial papers were written with much trepidation. I recall having to look up an endless number of words in the dictionary as I worked my way through one of the first required texts.

I also recall, early in the program, reading a difficult and lengthy article which took me hours to complete. Being an avid reader, my mother asked me what the article was about—I had to tell her that, after spending the whole day reading, I really didn't understand any of it.

Thankfully, we had the support, encouragement, and understanding of the faculty and our classmates to assist us through many of these first learning challenges.

My reflection of studies at Athabasca University also brought to mind fond memories of the online dialogue with classmates from around the globe. The relationships which developed with peers were supportive, collaborative, and open.

There were great debates and challenges to our thinking which frequently elicited a range of emotions often difficult to convey and interpret online. I suspect that we all took the opportunity from time to time to step on our soapboxes while our classmates provided supportive comments and actively probed and pushed our thinking in different directions.

And then there were those challenging group projects where Tuckman's developmental stages of group process (as cited in Johnson and Johnson, 2003)—the stages of forming, storming, norming, and performing—became so predictable.

This group work provided the opportunity to work closely with our peers, and it was truly a privilege to learn alongside classmates who valued diversity and who supported exploration of thinking and knowing through a variety of approaches. As a side note, thank goodness for the performing stage of group work because the storming stage was usually a challenge in itself!

My review of learning experiences also brought to focus the role of others in our education. Our families and friends shared in our learning journey, providing us with emotional support, listening to the endless stories about our latest reading and writing challenges, assuming family responsibilities as we focused on our studies, and giving us space when we needed it.

Thank you to our families and friends for your patience as our books, notes, and assorted papers gradually infiltrated every corner of our homes, and thank you for your tolerance as we claimed rights to the computer night after night. We could not have completed our learning journey without the support of our family and friends—thank you for your role in our success.

Although the review of my learning materials initially centred my reflection on the beginning of this learning journey, it also brought to focus the months leading to the completion.

In particular, as I reviewed the feminist perspectives of my research project, it struck me that many of the foundational threads which I incorporated into my research were also critical underpinnings of our virtual learning environments.

Underpinnings of valuing multiple perspectives, critical reflexivity, collaboration, egalitarianism, and caring were embraced and supported by the Athabasca faculty. Through the supportive guidance and gentle—and sometimes necessary ‘not so gentle’—nudges of the faculty, we are celebrating our success today. I extend a sincere thank you to the faculty.

I am also reminded of the support of the Athabasca staff—to name a few—the staff in each of our programs who attended to our many phone and email queries, the Helpdesk staff who provided us with virtual support and kept us up and running in a technological sense, the Research Department staff who guided us through our first nervous attempts at completing research ethics approval submissions, and the library staff who mailed those exciting boxes of books and who were so understanding when we requested borrowing extensions. Thank you to all of the Athabasca staff for sharing in our learning in a multitude of ways.

To conclude, I would like to extend my best wishes to the graduates. You have demonstrated determination, hard work, and perseverance in reaching your educational goals.

As described by O’Sullivan, Morrell, and O’Connor (as cited in McAllister, Tower, and Walker, 2007), “Transformative learning involves experiencing a deep, structural shift in the basic premises of thought, feelings, and actions. It is a shift of consciousness that dramatically and irreversibly alters our way of being in the world” (p. 305).

Our selves have been transformed, and upon reflection, we perhaps realize that returning to our previous state of being is no longer possible or perhaps desired: “It is impossible [to return] to step into the same river twice” (Bateson, 1994, p. 44).

We are left to reflectively consider, “Now what?” The paths ahead appear slightly blurred as we move forward into another phase of our lives.

The transition will call for deep reflection and contemplation about which paths we choose to travel, which challenges we need to tackle first, and which stones we refuse to leave unturned. But most importantly, we will continue to challenge ourselves and others as we set about in our work of transforming the world.

Please join me in congratulating the Class of 2008!

***The paths ahead
appear slightly
blurred as we
move forward
into another
phase of our
lives.***

CONVOCATION 2008 – GRADUATE INTERVIEWS

Sandra Livingston



This is the last of a three-part *Voice* series featuring interviews with some of AU's 2008 graduates.

For many graduates, convocation weekend was the first time they had seen the beautiful grounds and buildings of the AU campus, and they attended the ceremonies from places near and far, including Athabasca, Alberta, and Beaverton, Oregon.

The Voice would like to offer its sincere congratulations to all this year's graduates, and knows that their accomplishments will encourage all those students who are still completing their studies at AU.

Carla Spadafora

Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations

Carla travelled from Edmonton, Alberta, to attend convocation, accompanied by family.

The BHRLR program took Carla around four-and-a-half years to complete and she's enjoying her career in Human Resources—and there's always the possibility of pursuing a master's.

As Carla says, AU's flexibility is an important factor in allowing students to balance work and family while still earning a degree.

"As long as you're committed and dedicated, this is the best program I've ever seen," she adds.

Since completing her degree, she says that some of her co-workers have become interested in AU as well.

Along with celebrating her achievement at convocation, Carla marked the completion of her degree in 2007 with another special event—a trip to Cuba!

Congratulations, Carla!



Melanie Doyle

Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations

The BHRLR program took Melanie approximately seven years to complete, and she travelled from Edmonton to attend convocation.

Melanie's advice is to "read all the material thoroughly before you attempt to begin an assignment or make any decisions about what the course is going to be about."

For Melanie, the highlight of the program was the academics, and she says that, with the program's focus on both sociology and business, it provided a broad knowledge base that's relevant even outside her field.

Although she hasn't made any final decisions on a program, a master's is likely in her plans for the future.

Congratulations, Melanie!



Morley Hewison

Bachelor of Management

Morley made the trip to convocation from La Ronge, Saskatchewan, accompanied by his family.

He worked full-time while completing the Bachelor of Management, which took four years, and one of the highlights of the program for Morley was "the quality of the courses."

They were "right in the line of what I was looking for," he adds.

Morley works with the Ministry of Health in Saskatchewan, and found that the flexibility of both AU and his employer contributed to his success in the program.

After a short break from his studies, Morley plans to continue with his long-term education goals and is looking at options for a master's degree.

Congratulations, Morley!



Verna Landry**Bachelor of Management**

Verna completed the Bachelor of Management program in six years, and is looking forward to a well-earned break from her studies.

She travelled from St. Alberta, Alberta, to receive her degree, and celebrated the end of her program last year with a holiday.

For Verna, the highlight of the program “was the satisfaction of knowing that I can do it.”

One of the biggest challenges for Verna was balancing her time commitments, but she found that once she “made a schedule and stuck to it,” it made a real difference.

Her advice to others in the program is to review the course material carefully, and she offered another message to her fellow grads: “Have fun and enjoy your success.”

Congratulations, Verna!

**Eric Barfoot****Bachelor of Commerce**

Eric travelled from Newmarket, Ontario, to attend convocation, and combined the trip with a holiday to visit friends in Edmonton and Calgary.

He’s exploring future educational options, including an MBA, but first he’s looking forward to relaxing—without any textbooks.

After beginning his studies at the University of Toronto, Eric completed his Bachelor of Commerce at AU and says the highlight of the program was the sense of achievement in completing his degree.

The key to success in the program is organization, Eric says. Although AU’s individual-study option allows a great deal of flexibility, it’s important to be “very self-motivated and organized,” skills that students build during the program.

Congratulations, Eric!



Dale Bencharsky

Master of Business Administration

Dale's family accompanied him from Boyle, Alberta, to attend convocation, but when his applied project was complete they celebrated with a longer journey—to the Mayan Riviera.

Dale is looking forward to taking some time off from his studies, and for those still in the program he says the key to success is that "you have to want to do it for you. You have to have the personal drive."

The program took three years for Dale to complete, and one of the highlights was the collaboration with fellow students.

As Dale says, "The most benefit that I got was interacting both through Lotus Notes as well as during the electives," and he enjoyed meeting people and sharing the "different backgrounds [and] different experience" everyone brought to the discussions.

Congratulations, Dale!



Peter So

Master of Business Administration

Peter completed the MBA program (in Information Technology Management) in two-and-a-half years.

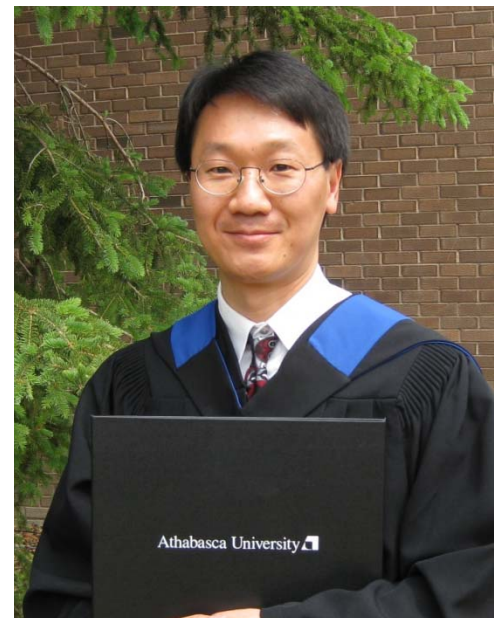
He travelled from Vancouver, British Columbia, accompanied by family, to receive his degree.

For Peter, one of the highlights of his experience at AU was the "exchange of knowledge" with fellow students, and he was pleased to find that aspect was one of the cores of the program.

As Peter says, while the students are instructed and guided in how to use the material, they do so collaboratively and much of their learning comes from "knowledge we share with each other."

Peter strongly encourages others to check out the MBA program, and notes that AU's flexibility provides opportunities for those who may not otherwise be able to pursue their education.

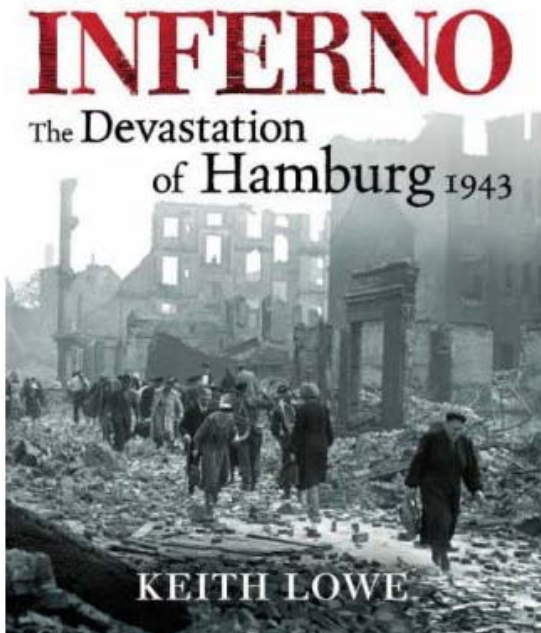
Congratulations, Peter!



PAGES

John Buhler

A brilliant and harrowing account of one of
the biggest tragedies of World War II



Inferno: The Devastation of Hamburg, 1943, by Keith Lowe

Keith Lowe's *Inferno: The Devastation of Hamburg, 1943*, recounts in great detail Operation Gomorrah, the Allied bombing of Hamburg, Germany 65 years ago.

Between July 24 and August 3, 1943, 10 thousand tons of high explosives and incendiaries rained down upon the people of Hamburg.

Lowe shows great empathy for the people of Hamburg: its 45,000 citizens who suffered horrific deaths in the resulting firestorm; for the survivors, often injured and homeless; and the one million evacuees from the devastated city.

His empathy also extends to the Allied aircrews—once considered heroes, but more recently characterized as war criminals—that bombed the unfortunate city.

Even as Lowe questions the value of targeting civilian populations, he makes it clear that Royal Air Force crews had been led to believe that they were in fact attacking strategic

targets. (The USAAF did not attack civilian targets in Germany, although they did in Japan.)

This type of warfare, however, was not unprecedented. The British had learned from the German bombing of London and other British cities that the resulting fires created more damage than explosives alone. Based on this experience, the RAF used a combination of high explosive bombs and incendiaries. Rather than simply flatten buildings, the explosives were used to blow out doors and windows, providing air for the fires, and spreading the fire as efficiently as possible.

The explosives also helped the incendiaries to penetrate buildings, and kept fire crews and their equipment away from the scene of devastation, allowing the fires to burn to maximum effect.

What Hamburg experienced as a result was a firestorm; hurricane-force winds and massive fires producing incredible heat. In some areas of the city, the temperature may have been as high as 1,400 degrees Celsius.

Glass melted and bricks turned to ash. Wind speeds may have reached as much as 170 miles per hour. The conflagration consumed available oxygen, so that many of its victims died of carbon monoxide poisoning or smoke inhalation.

Lowe quantitates the destruction: the loss of 40,385 residential buildings, or about 275,000 apartments; “24 hospitals, 277 schools, 58 churches, 77

*... more people died
in Operation
Gomorrah than died
in the immediate
aftermath of the
bombing of Nagasaki
with a nuclear bomb.*

cultural centres (cinemas, theatres, and opera houses), and one zoo"; 45,000 dead; 37,439 injured; one million people evacuated from the shattered city.

Lowe compares this level of destruction to that which was soon possible with atomic bombs. In fact, he notes, more people died in Operation Gomorrah than died in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of Nagasaki with a nuclear bomb.

"The purpose of this book, therefore, has been to try to give an impression of what bombing means to those unlucky enough to be caught up in it" writes Lowe. To that end, he does an admirable job.

One cannot be unaffected by the scenes that Lowe presents to the reader. The terror experienced by Hamburg's citizens, and the harrowing experiences of the bomber crews, are vividly portrayed by this skilled author.

Trying to assess the efficacy of the British strategy, however, is the book's greatest weakness. One feels that Lowe is struggling to find some value in this devastating and costly campaign to destroy German morale.

No doubt it was true that ". . . the effect of Operation Gomorrah on ordinary Germans—not only survivors of Hamburg, but people across the country—was phenomenal."

The actual effect of the bombing on German morale, nevertheless, seems to have had a rather questionable effect on the outcome of the war.

Lowe quotes one Hamburg resident about the effects of the bombing: ". . . if anything I think it strengthened people's resolve and gave them more backbone."

This should perhaps not have been surprising, as the German Blitz on London and other British cities had hardly forced the British to surrender. Why should the bombing of German cities have had a different result? Perhaps the British are not the only people capable of maintaining a "stiff upper lip."

Clearly, however, Lowe does have problems with Bomber Command's strategy. "The only thing that saves this policy [of bombing civilians] from the charge of total immorality was that it was born of the best intentions," writes Lowe.

Or perhaps, reflecting, as it did, the knowledge gained from German attacks upon British cities, might the British bombing of German civilians simply have been motivated by the less honourable, though certainly understandable, desire for revenge?

Nevertheless, *Inferno* is a powerful account of human tragedy on a massive scale. Drawing upon extensive documentation and eyewitness accounts, this important book is detailed and well researched. Lowe presents a well-balanced analysis of his subject, approaching this controversial topic with great insight and compassion.

Inferno: The Devastation of Hamburg, 1943 is published by Viking Books (2007) ISBN: 978-0670915576

CAREERS

Behdin Nowrouzi



Consider a Career as a Teacher

What is a teacher?

Teachers play an important role in creating an environment to allow children and young people to learn during their developmental years.

In high school, teachers teach academic, technical, and vocational subjects either in a public or private setting. Conversely, their colleagues in elementary schools and kindergarten teach the fundamental skills in the subjects of reading, writing, mathematics, and other languages such as French.

Moreover, they may act as mentors, coaches, and facilitators in helping students learn in the areas of science, math, and English.

Education and training

In Canada, education falls under the mandate of the provincial or territorial government. In most Canadian provinces and territories, the requirements to become a teacher are the completion of secondary school (grade 12), four years of post-secondary education, and at least one year of professional studies in teacher education.

Since there are variations to this basic requirement, candidates should directly contact the relevant certification regulatory body across the country.

Furthermore, applicants applying to teacher education programs are interviewed to assess their suitability for a professional career. A strong command of one of the official languages, responsibility, enthusiasm, and a genuine interest in improving the education of young people are highly desirable.

Interviews assess candidates for their ability to relate effectively with students and to establish a fostering learning environment in the classroom. Related to this ability, teachers foster critical thinking skills and enable students to develop and implement problem-solving skills to a variety of topics.

Secondary school teachers may specialize in a particular subject such as chemistry or biology or in a vocational trade area such as auto mechanics or hair design. Elementary school teachers may specialize in secondary language instruction or special education.

Admission requirements

Education programs for elementary school teachers include courses that prepare them for a career in teaching, including courses in teaching methods, psychology of learning, developmental psychology, professional education courses, and science.

For example, in Alberta (as in many provinces), the minimum qualification required to teach in a secondary school is four years of post-secondary education leading to a Baccalaureate of Education (B.Ed.) degree.

Where do teachers work?

Most teachers work as part of the public education system. Some teachers also work in private schools. Elementary and secondary teachers spend most of their working day instructing classes, grading, and preparing lesson plans for their students.

Salaries and demographic information

The salary scale and benefit package offered to a newly hired teacher is established through negotiations between the teacher's association and the provincial or territorial education representative. Such packages also include a compulsory retirement plan that allows teachers to receive a pension upon retirement.

According to the Canadian Teachers' Federation, entry level educator salaries vary across provinces and territories but a new graduate can earn \$36,305 to \$58,980 per year.

In Alberta, the average salary of secondary school teachers was \$67,800 whereas the number was \$63,500 for elementary school teachers.

Moreover, teachers with advanced or specialized training or graduate degrees can expect to earn more than the maximum salary as part of their collective bargaining agreement. In general, salaries are determined by a combination of years of teaching experience and education. Those with additional responsibilities such as administrative duties are provided with additional allowances.

The majority of elementary school teachers are female, while it is approximately split in gender for secondary school teachers. Job opportunities are expected to remain average but may increase as many baby boomers retire. Certain school boards, such as the Toronto Catholic District School Board, are experiencing surpluses of teachers and are recruiting fewer teachers.

For more information regarding a career as a teacher, please visit the [Canadian Teachers' Federation](#) website.

Voice Vacation



It's time for summer vacation! *The Voice* will be taking one week off, from July 7 to July 11.

We're going to recharge, re-energize, and be back with more great stuff (including, of course, all your regular favourites) on Friday, July 18.

Even though we'll be enjoying a little downtime, we won't be able to help sneaking a peek at our email, so keep sending in your comments and letters.

See you on July 18!

CROSSING THE FLOOR

Lonita Fraser



Now, we all have the right to change our minds. I do it frequently. I like a nice, fresh mind, with an ocean scent and clean sheets. Presumably, changing my mind harms no one except me, and possibly a few of my friends, and perhaps the guy at the pizza shop if I decide that dieting isn't such a bad idea after all.

But then there's Canadian politics.

For example, what harm might be done by a party member who, after being elected to office in the Plaid Party, suddenly changes his mind and joins the Paisley Party? Is Plaid Party person now acting in my best

interest, or are they acting in their own?

In good faith, I voted to have a Plaid Party person running my business for me because I like Plaid Party principles. I did not ask for Paisley Party principles; in fact, I just voted against them.

So what good is it doing me, or my vote, if the person I chose has suddenly become a switch hitter in the middle of the ninth inning, bases loaded, two men out? It doesn't do much good for my political ideals, or the way governments conduct people's lives; or, rather, "orchestrate."

And I think it's long past time for there to be consequences.

If a person crosses the floor to the Other Side (by which I do not mean the much-lamented former drinking haunt of me and some of my friends during our misspent youth), that person shouldn't be able to continue reaping the benefits of the things that put them in power to begin with, i.e., the votes of me and my aforementioned drinking buddies.

(Most of us gave up paisley when we discarded being '80s-era mods and adopted a more plaid-like outlook on life, becoming '90s-era Madchester and grunge addicts and devotees of the god-like Pixies.)

All kidding aside, though, don't you think your vote should count in the place you put it, given that we have a party system in this country?

I don't believe any of us should be put in the position of having to vote against ourselves (sounds naughty), which is essentially what a floor-crossing would equate to. Sure, you vote for a person, but you don't *just* vote for a person.

Voting for the party is like religion in this country: a good chunk of the time people don't give a flying tinker's toy box whose name is on the ballot, so long as they belong to the right party. So how 'bout some recourse when a person divorces that party?

It seems to me that the best way to affect someone in government is to threaten either their status or their wallet—or both. So here are a few choices for payback:

If you decide to cross the floor, you must repay all the money you reaped from the party that got you elected. Furthermore, you automatically lose your seat. So, really, you win—a battle of personal conscience that reaps you no actual benefits.

And now that you've done so, there's also the joy of facing the judgement of those who followed their conscience when they elected you, and will follow it when they hand you your hat. Don't cry foul, matey; they're just doing to you what you did to them: asking for their conscience to remain *intacta*.

You are also ineligible for any potential by-election that happens in your riding because of your move, and must wait until the next full election to run again. Or, if you wish to run, the party in whose bosom you now rest must foot the bill for said by-election. The people already paid for their choice; they shouldn't pay twice. (We have the GST for that.) Oh, I can just about smell the love this would generate.

There's really only one major flaw in my theories of punishment: people who don't cross because they don't want to face the storm it would kindle, and who then fail to work in the interest of the party that got them elected. Or worse, even go so far as to work to its detriment.

We'll call this double-dealing, mole-type bullshit, yet how this would be different from a good bit of what goes on in the political forum now I'd be hard-pressed to figure out.

I'd like to say I had a vehicle for effecting some kind of political alteration but I don't, and anything else I might add right now would leave me sounding preachy; I would have about as much popularity as the jerk at the back of the bar who keeps shouting for the band to play "Freebird."

Yet whatever the consequences might be, and despite its rarity and the fact that we don't ever seem to question it when it happens, crossing the floor of Parliament shouldn't go unnoticed, or garner only a little ill will as its punishment.

I made a choice at the polls and I'd like to have at least some modicum of my integrity held up. If they can't do it, I'll happily send them packing, but they'll go bare-handed—not with the contents of the mini-bar in the hotel room of my political ideals.

CLICK ON THIS – Weirdopedia

Lonita Fraser

See, I like to think of Wikipedia as a fair attempt at being the sum of all human knowledge. You just never know when you might want to get some pointers on the fine art of soap making, find out just how many versions of "Hitler had only one left . . ." there really are (and there are many), or hunt up the entire Vangelis discography (please bring a large snack, drinks, and a blanket for this one; you'll be there a while). So, in the interest of plumbing some of Wikipedia's depths, I share with you the following. Enjoy the ride.

Bielefeld Conspiracy - Does it, or does it not, exist? If you say yes, you're just in on it. Ooh ooh, I know! It's the Illuminati!

Forest Swastika - Well, that's one way to leave your mark—although I don't think it proved terribly effective, given the lack of personal airplanes.

Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker - Sooo, the fact that I know where it is, and so do you, in no way diminishes its secrecy?

Principality of Sealand - This micronation, 10 km off the coast of England, rests comfortably on an old WW II sea fort. Its population rarely exceeds 10.

More Click of the Wrist

THE LEARNING CURVE

Heather Fraser



Favourite Campgrounds

We're in the middle of preparing for summer, which means putting the hockey equipment and sleds in the crawl space and giving our camping equipment a good airing before the season of mosquitoes and construction really start to ramp up.

When camping season starts, we fish, play on the beach, go for hikes, cook our supper over a campfire, stargaze—and enjoy meeting other families. We also bring our dog, who really enjoys the random sniffing that goes on when canines meet in the “wilderness”

(as a two-pound toy poodle, a provincial park is the closest he's going to get to the great outdoors!)

So if you're considering a camping trip this summer, here's the scoop on some of our favourite places in the Manitoba/Northwest Ontario region (most with sites ranging from basic tenting to full-service sites for full-sized trailers).

Whiteshell Provincial Park

Whiteshell Provincial Park is huge. Located in eastern Manitoba, it contains 10 campgrounds with reasonable camping fees. We're talking really reasonable: at \$7-12 per night for a provincially run campground, plus a Manitoba Park Pass (\$7 for 3 days or \$28 for a season), camping here is a great choice!

West Hawk Lake is an amazing natural attraction in the region. It's located on the Trans-Canada trail and has wonderful walking trails. Created by a meteorite, the lake is reported to be as deep as a football field and is used for federal scuba diving training. Also on West Hawk Lake is the Whiteshell Fish Hatchery, which gives tours and explains how Manitoba Conservation is repopulating fish species in Manitoba lakes.

Falcon Lake has three campgrounds, but my favourite is Falcon Beach. The campground is beautiful and a walk to the beach or town is only a few minutes. The long beach is white sand, and you can rent a giant tube and spend the day floating in the sun.

There's also a large playground that kids of all ages seem to love, and hidden beside it is the Falcon Lake Interpretive Workshop, with interesting displays and conservation-centred activities for kids.

You can find more information on the Manitoba Parks [website](#) (including a link to online campsite reservations) and the Trans-Canada Trail [website](#).

Lilac Resort

Lilac Resort is located on the Trans-Canada highway approximately half an hour east of Winnipeg. On the other end of the spectrum from most campgrounds, it has everything from waterslides to concerts, mini golf to paddle boats, and much, much more. If you've never camped, or the lake scares you, this would be a good place to start.

In fact, it isn't really camping; more like a resort you can sleep at in a tent. Small hotel rooms are available, or you could use a day pass if you are passing through.

Rates are pricier than provincial parks, but include all activities in the resort—even concerts. There are paddle boats for the duck pond, and amazing staff, but just remember—the pools are chlorinated and after three days this can start to irritate sensitive skin.

Lilac is an awesome family retreat, and I've seen a lot of people there having a blast without kids.

Rushing River

Located 20 minutes east of Kenora, Ontario, Rushing River is one of the most beautiful parks I've seen in the region.

The campground is really rocky, so some sites are walk-in only, situated on a cliff overlooking the water. As well, some of the campsites are located right *on* the water. There are at least five beach areas within walking distance of the campground, ranging from larger family beaches to small hideaways.

The larger beach (a large swimming area, but not much beach—most people park themselves on the rocks or grass) has a lot of rock crops a short swim out that are great for diving off, and the water is crystal clear.

Rushing River also has three hiking trails, two easy and one moderate, that even inexperienced hikers will enjoy (less than an hour and a half) because of the gorgeous scenery and wildlife viewing.

If you want a secluded spot, choose a tent-only, walk-in site on a rock cliff. You'll feel like you are the only people in the world!

Rates are higher in Ontario Provincial Parks (about three times higher than Manitoba), but include the cost of an Ontario Park pass for the time you are camping—normally \$16 per day, or \$89.15 for the season.

Go here to find more information on Rushing River or other Ontario Parks campgrounds.

Anicinabe Park

Located about a two-minute drive from downtown Kenora, this privately owned RV/campground/beach park is a local favourite—which should speak volumes to travellers.

The beach is the big draw (along with the boat launch), and has beautiful sand, a small playground, a picnic area, an on-beach playground, and a dock that circles the swimming area so you won't float away on your air mattress. This park is on Lake of the Woods, but the water is much nicer earlier in the summer due to the shallowness of the swimming area.

This park is a great alternative to a hotel if you are visiting the region over the summer. Harbourfest (August long weekend) is an amazing city-wide party with concerts featuring big-ticket performers. This year's line-up includes Loverboy and Paul Brandt, with past performers such as Nazareth and Tom Cochrane.

The Sunday evening fireworks are absolutely breathtaking, the days are filled with different activities at the Harbourfront for kids and adults, and down the road at the Recreation Centre there's the Agricultural Fair with displays and a good-sized midway.

You can find out more at the Anicinabe Park website, or visit Harbourfest - Annual Kenora Festival.

The Interviewer

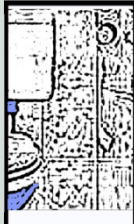
It is the ninth decade of the twentieth century...

written and illustrated by Wanda Waterman ft. Louis

Caramel Baby #2: The Rooming House



Reuben has to wash himself and his dishes in the bathroom he shares with the rest of the floor.



There are often pee stains on the toilet seat like some guy just didn't bother to lift the seat, which comforts Reuben somehow, making him feel relaxed, not judged. It's okay to clog up the sink with rice or to hammer your walls full of nails to hang your pictures on because hey there PEE stains on the toilet seat and no one says anything about THEM.



At one end of the hall lives Irving, a disturbed painter...

What does an eighteen-year-old want with Perry Como? Reuben has been trying to find something good about that music. He hasn't had much choice, living here.



Mike's door is scarred with four foot cracks from Irving's nightly thrashings.



Living in that rooming house is like living in the bowels of hell, and Reuben loves it so very much.

He wouldn't want to be suicidal anywhere but here.



...who at night runs screaming down the hall to pound on the door of Mike...



...the young guy on the other side,



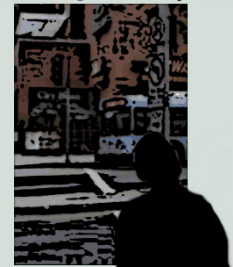
who's playing his Perry Como records loud enough to rattle the windows..

...while singing along, off-key and molto gusto.



...there'll never be another night like this, a girl like you, to hold and kiss....

Reuben doesn't own a car, and the Halifax buses, which are supposed to swing through every ten minutes, rarely appear.



When they do, Reuben can rarely afford them.



Fortunately, work is just down the street.

next: radio head



*From
Where
I Sit*
Hazel Anaka

Ha Ha Ha

Everyone from Norman Cousins to stand-up comedians understands the benefits of humour. Cousins discovered he could remain pain-free for hours if he watched funny movies. Speakers and consultants have emerged who focus on workplace humour as a way to build teams and reduce stress.

Scientists have studied the physical and mental health benefits of good belly laughs. Since 1995, Dr. Madan Kataria of Mumbai, India, has started 5,000 Laughter Clubs in over 40 countries. Sessions typically last 20 to 30 minutes and combine the rhythmic breathing of yoga with forced laughing.

Anyone who's ever gone to a comedy club knows first-hand the laugh-'til-you-cry effect. Have you ever laughed so hard and so long that your face aches? Do you try to see something funny or absurd in your life each day? Easier said than done, I know. Thank God for the pros.

I am so grateful for those gifted souls who can make us laugh. The world just lost George Carlin. Not long before his death someone emailed a video of his Modern Man performance. It truly is a thing to behold. The concept, detail, timing, and delivery of this three-and-a-half minute piece are amazing. I couldn't detect any cue cards or teleprompter. To have a man his age remember the whole piece is damn impressive.

Wish I had his memory. Have you seen his New Rules for 2008? Are you old enough to remember his Hippy Dippy Weatherman routine? He is a treasure lost.

My honey Craig Ferguson announced his 19th-place standing on the *Entertainment Weekly* list of The 25 Funniest People in America. I love the guy and was thrilled

Roy and I could see him at the Winspear in Edmonton a few weeks ago. His warm-up act, Big Daddy Taz from Winnipeg, was hilarious and primed the crowd for the Craigmeister.

Think Steve Smith (of Red Green fame), hosers Dave Thomas and Rick Moranis, lovable John Candy, Jim Carrey, Catherine O'Hara, Luba Goy, Brent Butt, Andrea Martin, Martin Short—in fact, any of the old SCTV alumni.

Does Canada have more comedians per capita than the average country? We are blessed. A hundred years ago Roy and I saw the Second City comedy troupe in Edmonton. We've also been to Yuk Yuks a few times, and we saw Bill Cosby in Vegas in 1977 (though I didn't really appreciate his style. Sorry.)

Whether it's improv, stand-up, live, taped, Seinfeldian, frenetic à la Robin Williams, ethnic comics, female, young, or old, I admire the talent and chutzpah of the performers. I also don't want to be anywhere near the front row at a live performance.

I just wish I had a better memory for jokes so I could enjoy them over and over again. Whatever—there are more jokes where those came from and more funny people emerging every day. I just don't count Conan among them.

Dear reader, laugh anywhere, anytime, every chance you get. It makes life worth living and it's good for you too, from where I sit.



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

DVD: *The Great Debaters*, 2007

Directed by Denzel Washington

"How does it become a man to behave toward this American government to-day? I answer, that he cannot without disgrace be associated with it. I cannot for an instant recognize that political organization as my government which is the slave's government also."

Henry David Thoreau, "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience," 1849

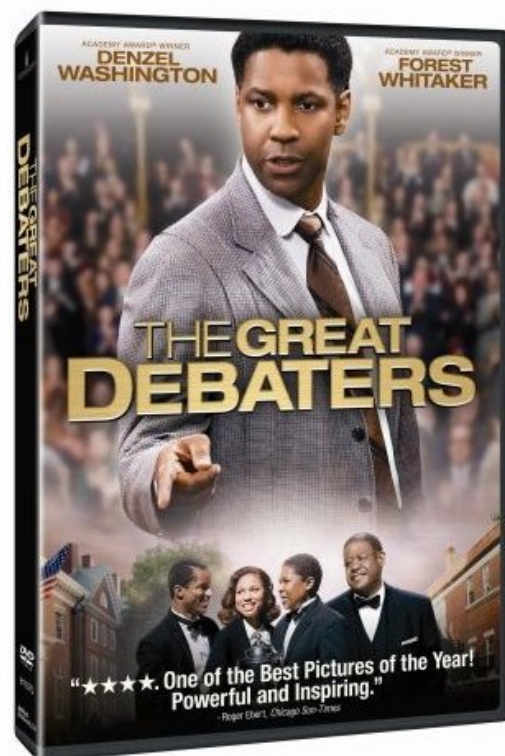
In a scene from *The Great Debaters*, a farmer drives his horse and wagon past an old shack in the Deep South. A massive billboard shows a happy white family in a car. Above the ecstatic faces the dispatch "World's Highest Standard of Living" recalls the propaganda slogans of communist China during the disastrous series of agricultural experiments deemed The Great Leap Forward, during which untold numbers died of starvation.

The Great Debaters is a salient reminder that the things about America that make the heart glow are not, nor have they ever been, universally available to Americans. One difficulty with political conservatism (and the marketplace it supports) is that it depends on the existence of an elite, therefore part of its mandate is to protect that elite at all costs.

One way for minorities to combat the injustice endemic to conservative societies is to create a new elite with which the old elite is compelled to compete for power. This is precisely what was accomplished by numerous African-American universities in the United States in the generations following Abolition.

It is important to take note of the stream of thought passing through the historical epoch on which this movie was based, a stream that continued on to nourish the civil rights movement. It is impossible to trace the beginnings of ideas about freedom and justice because we cannot find an era in which these did not exist, yet very specific responses were made by Western thinkers to the particular denials of freedom that reached their zenith in the industrial revolution.

There were, for example, the anti-slavery poems of William Blake, "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience" by Henry David Thoreau, and *The Kingdom of God is Within You* by Tolstoy, which powerfully influenced the Christ-based pacifism of Gandhi. The works of these thinkers were all made available to black students in the United States as a means of enabling them for the freedom their country so ardently and hypocritically promised them.



It was Gandhi who showed Martin Luther King Jr., then on the threshold of accepting violence as the only way out of the African-American plight, a central meaning of the teachings of the very master to whom King had surrendered and Gandhi had not. This contact was key in making the American civil rights movement one of pacifist conscientious objection.

In your quest for self-expression you must not forget that you are a wounded person living in a broken world. It is tempting to succumb to the world's tender blandishments and pretend that all's right, but for culture makers this can lead to attempts to anaesthetize inscrutable pain with substance abuse and other forms of self-abandonment. More important, social progress and healing depend heavily on the brave selflessness of culture makers. Use your gifts, if for nothing else, to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

The Great Debaters lives up to eight of *The Mindful Bard's* criteria for films well worth watching: 1) it confronts existing injustices; 2) it renews my enthusiasm for positive social action; 3) it gives me tools enabling me to respond with compassion and efficacy to the suffering around me; 4) it makes me want to be a better artist; 5) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 6) it inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; 7) it is about attainment of the true self; and 8) 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. For a list of criteria, go [here](#). If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.

CLICK OF THE WRIST – Weirdopedia

Lonita Fraser

February 30

And we thought the 29th was bad enough.

Phantom Time Hypothesis - So, what you're saying here, is that it's really 1711? Must I wear a corset?

Inherently Funny Word - Well, I laughed.

Toynbee Tiles - So, this weekend, if you're not doing anything . . .

List of English Words Containing Q Not Followed by U - U see what I mean by Wikipedia being fun *and* U'ful?

Schmidt Sting Pain Index - Oh *hell* no.

As Slow As Possible - Concluding its performance in 2640, this John Cage piece began in 2001.

List of Films Considered to be the Worst - Hey, I take exception to that! I happen to LOVE *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*!

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 co-ordination 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.

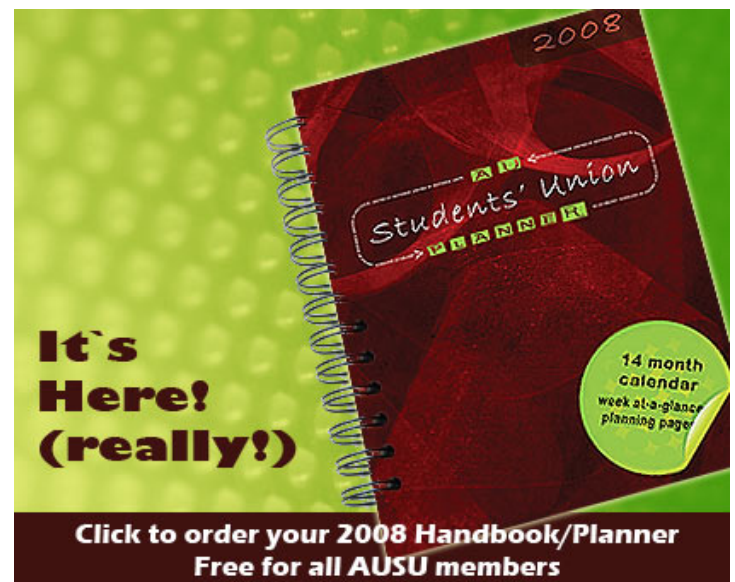
For any course that requires charts that cannot be easily created in Word or Excel, this should be a real time saver and make it easier to submit all portions of an assignment by email. Remember, though, that you should always check with your tutor to find out if there is a specific format he or she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



INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Roadside drug sobriety tests hit the streets

Most Canadians are aware that roadside Breathalyzer tests are used to help keep our roads free of drunk drivers.

And starting July 2, officials have another tool to help in their fight against impaired drivers: roadside drug tests.

As *The Toronto Star* reports, “police can now require drivers to submit to roadside tests,” meaning Canadians who are suspected of taking to the roads high won’t be able to refuse a trip to the police station or hospital to undergo urine, blood, or saliva testing.

Before the new law came into force, police had no choice but to tell drivers suspected of being impaired by drugs that they weren’t obligated to take the roadside test.

Beginning July 2, however, “refusing the test will be considered a criminal offence.”

If convicted of drug-impaired driving, individuals with a first offense face a minimum \$1,000 fine. For a second conviction, it’s a minimum one-month jail sentence.

And if drug-impaired drivers are involved in a fatal collision, they could be facing a maximum of life in prison.

The new law came into effect in time for the summer’s first long weekend. It was unveiled in Toronto by Justice Minister Robert Nicholson, supported by many in both public and law enforcement roles, including the Toronto Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

At the time the new law was made public, Justice Nicholson also noted that the federal government is closing “one of the great loopholes” in the legal system, making it more difficult for drivers to challenge Breathalyzer tests in court.

In Foreign News: Speculation over possible GM bankruptcy

It seems that everyone is feeling the pinch these days, but beleaguered General Motors Corp. will need to raise as much as \$15 billion US to solve their financial woes.

And according to news reports, financial giant Merrill Lynch has said that a GM bankruptcy is “not impossible” if the US auto market’s current slump continues.

The automaker recently saw their shares fall nearly 15 per cent to a new 54-year low. The dip marked “the biggest one-day decline in GM shares in percentage terms since 1999,” accompanied by a rise in the cost to insure the company’s debt.

Merrill Lynch's comments were the starkest yet about the automaker's economic viability, but other analysts have also suggested that GM will need to raise funds to make it through the auto industry's latest downturn.

GM didn't offer a direct comment on Merrill Lynch's report, but a company spokesperson told reporters the automaker feels confident in its ability to weather the industry storm.

"We continue to believe the company has sufficient liquidity for 2008, despite lower volumes," said GM spokeswoman Renee Rashid-Merem. "If conditions continue to deteriorate, we would consider other operating measures."

One analyst with Merrill Lynch, John Murphy, sees the decline in automotive sales as a trend that's likely to continue through 2009, and for the third time this year has lowered his forecast for the 2008 US industry-wide light vehicle sales.

Although most major automakers are projecting higher sales than industry analysts, concerns about GM's sales outlook have been heightened after a June report showed industry-wide sales "dropping to a 15-year low."

Other major Wall Street concerns, including Citigroup, are also showing confidence declines in automakers and parts suppliers, and recently lowered their outlook for US auto sales for both 2008 and 2009.

EDUCATION NEWS

Rebecca Vasluianu



Bill C-61 bad for students, say campus bookstores

Amendments to the Copyright Act could make learning materials less accessible

WATERLOO (CUP) - Bill C-61, which outlines various amendments to the Copyright Act, has many campus bookstores across Canada worried about the continued overpricing of course materials, as well as a decrease in their accessibility.

Industry Minister Jim Prentice introduced the Bill in the House of Commons about three weeks ago. It aims to halt copyright infringement by preventing people from copying or sharing electronic material.

According to Chris Tabor, manager of the Queens University Bookstore, Bill C-61 threatens to maintain old limitations that have kept course books expensive while creating new restrictions that will make it more difficult for students to complete their readings.

As a member of Campus Stores Canada, an organization of almost 100 member stores across the country, Tabor believes that "the Copyright Act has not been fair to students both academically and financially."

He says changes made to the 1997 Copyright Act allow publishers across Canada to create Canadian import monopolies, making it impossible for bookstores to buy from distributors around the world whose prices may be cheaper.

"In Canada, publishers do two things—publish and distribute. If they have exclusive distribution rights in Canada, the bookstores aren't allowed to purchase from cheaper places in the United States, the United Kingdom, or others," he said.

"Students are paying a 10 to 15 per cent premium. We believe we can have that decreased by 15 per cent over night just by purchasing from other places in the world," he added.

Bill C-61 will keep these high costs in place and add detrimental rules regarding the copying of reading material, says Tabor.

These changes would allow creators of material to put digital locks on their work in order to impose copy restrictions.

In addition, all electronic copies made could be designed to self-destruct or delete after five days.

"A lot of copying that could've taken place under principles of fair use will be put into question," said Tabor. "I think it's a step backwards and it will make things a lot more confusing."

Tabor notes, however, that the Bill is still in discussion and he will continue to fight for its removal.

"We've been lobbying the government and individual MPs for the removal of the clause [imposed in 1997]," he said.

"A great many students can be part of the grassroots effort. They could visit faircopyright.ca and there's a great deal of discussion there about the act and how it affects students," he added.

While the Bill may prove harmful to university students, it is also a source of great controversy in Canada in general, as many avidly criticize or support it.

CBCNews.ca writes that one of the greatest problems critics have with the Bill is the strengthening of digital locks by CD makers, DVD makers, and even television networks, allowing them to make it impossible for users to copy chosen media.

Moreover, individuals caught illegally uploading to YouTube or a peer-to-peer network could be sued for as much as \$20,000 per file.

Bill C-61 will have obvious gains for members of the entertainment industry. The Entertainment Software Association of Canada, a video game industry lobby group, supports the legislation, as it will serve to keep profits in the hands of game developers and publishers.

Likewise, musicians, moviemakers, record labels, and other media creators have praised the Bill, as it could serve to help entertainment industries, giving them back a greater cut of the profit.

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THE VOICE

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