

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 36  
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## **Toddler Philosophy**

Eat your mac-and-cheese

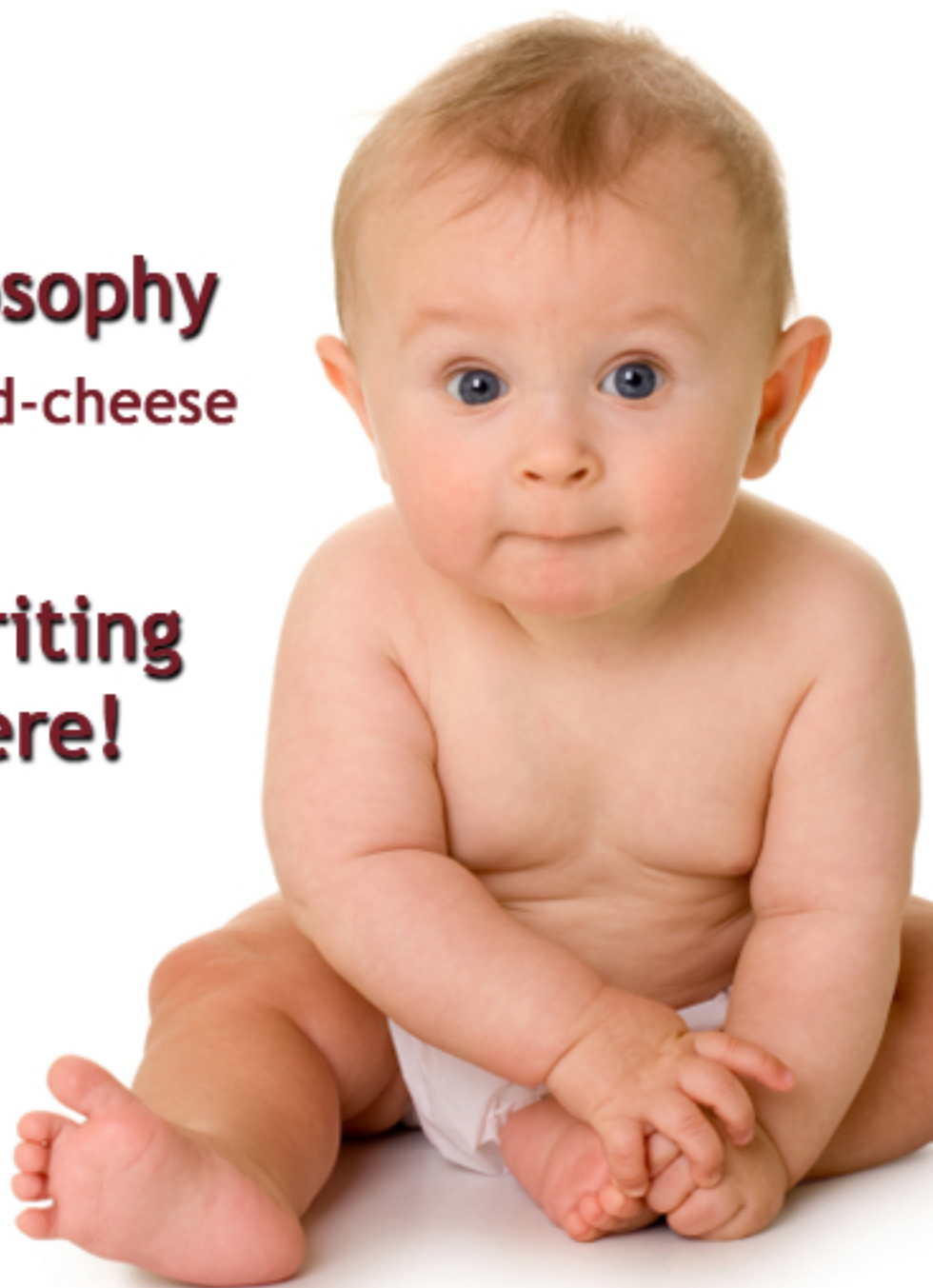
## ***The Voice Writing Contest is Here!***

## **Porkpie Hat**

Hitching a ride

*Plus:*

*The Mindful Bard, From Where I Sit,  
The Interviewer, and much more...*



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**The Voice  
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



## Everything I Should Know Now, I Used To Know When I Was Two

Christina M. Frey



There's a certain class of people—a group that's courageous, honest, earnest, creative, and sensitive—that universally faces cruel discrimination.

Instead of being perceptive of their high emotional needs, appreciative of their fresh and honest take on life, and tolerant of their creative and intellectual pursuits, we ignore them, label them, and send them away.

I'm talking about toddlers.

Toddlers get a bum rap in modern society. We've all heard the smears: "Oh, the terrible twos." "Just wait 'til she's three!" "Toddlers are like

little cavemen." "Lady, can you please restrain your two-year-old from eating the cardboard cookie display?"

We've also seen the smears: grubby handprints, mashed potatoes, and squished banana on every window, wall, or piece of furniture that stands three feet high.

But personal hygiene aside, a two- or three-year-old can offer a fresh and unique outlook on living. If we examine the nature of toddlers, we can learn a lot about life and how we should approach it.

### ***They recognize the value of simplicity***

Who needs a closet full of clothes when one single outfit can be proudly worn day after day after day (and sometimes at night, too)?

What except gluttony causes adults to crave variations of chicken, beef, pork, fish, pasta, rice, and potatoes every night? A toddler is content with mac-and-cheese for breakfast, lunch, and supper.

### ***They are fashion-forward***

If you thought young Hollywood started the trend of wearing a shirt and pretending it's a dress, you'd be mistaken. My two-year-old daughter has worn the same oversized pink tank top as a minidress with knee-high pink socks every day for the past three weeks. I think it's catching on, because later I saw the identical outfit in a trendy store window. How chic.

### ***They think outside the box***

Did you ever consider that marker caps make beautiful jewellery when stuck onto stubby fingers? Or that a bra can double as a hat? I'll bet it never occurred to you that spaghetti sauce has a second use as 3-D furniture paint.

To a toddler, radical concepts like these come naturally. I'm surprised more of them aren't CEOs.

### ***They deal with their emotions in a healthy way***

While it's true that the middle of the toy aisle in Wal-Mart may not be the ideal venue for psychological release, the method undeniably works. After the storm clears and you're asked to leave the store, the kid is friendly and happy and can't even recall what upset him in the first place.

Contrast this with adults, who bottle up frustration and rage until they get complexes or become serial killers.

I happen to know something about this—about venting like a toddler, that is. One day, I was furious about something or other, and my husband suggested taking a cue from our daughter and having an all-out tantrum on the floor. Since the neighbours weren't home, I did. I lay on my back, kicked my legs in the air, and raged until I was out of breath.

It worked—I ended up laughing and not mad at all. And as I no longer remember what caused my anger, it seems that the tantrum chased it away. Either that, or embarrassment is causing selective memory.

### ***They're genuine and honest***

While an adult might think a guy with an eye patch looks like Jack Sparrow's first mate, they won't say it out loud. In contrast, a two-year-old will cheerfully point and say "Look, Mommy, a pirate!"

It makes for an awkward situation when you're stuck in line with the pirate, but at least you know where you stand with a toddler. You never have to worry she'll be nice to your face and then make comments behind your back.

### ***They appreciate the importance of exercise***

I've never met a preschooler who doesn't love to run . . . from her parents. Irritating to the parents, maybe, but that just shows the little girl's concern for their health and fitness too. And the commitment to calisthenics! If I, too, pulled out, and tried on, every item of clothing from my closet every day, I'd burn many more calories than I do by sitting at the computer.

### ***They're artistic***

Broad-minded toddlers aren't limited to paper media. The whole world literally is their canvas, especially if the part of the world they're drawing on belongs to the landlord. And they express themselves in such a wide variety of ways: indelible magic marker, indelible pen, indelible highlighter, or furniture-scoring tool.

### ***They're great fans of alternative dispute resolution***

And it's not just the use of fists or dump trucks to get their points across. Toddlers also heavily support mediation. Cries of "Mommy, he won't shaaaaaaare," and "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGH" are toddlerese for "We'd like to submit this dispute to a mediator, please." And afterwards, everyone is the best of friends.

Toddlers may be at times loud, messy, dirty, or rude, but they're also the cleverest philosophers you'll ever meet. The next time you see a three-year-old having a screaming meltdown in front of a candy display, feel free to join him and rage about your boss, that assignment you can't quite get, and the fact that you want to be able to eat the whole candy display in front of you without getting fat.

You'll see more clearly, think more clearly, and go happily home to eat your mac-and-cheese. Life truly is better from three feet high.

## ON THE HILL

Sandra Livingston



## Promises, Promises

These days, Canadians can be forgiven for being overwhelmed by a sudden, giddy sensation; an undeniable feeling that we're being swept off our feet.

All this unexpected attention feels a little like being pursued by not one but several suitors, caught up in a tizzy of promises and sweet nothings in our ear, not sure whether to wear the formal blue outfit or the functional green one, the practical orange or the stylish red.

Make no mistake about it: we are indeed being wooed. With a general election set for October 14, the political parties have launched a whirlwind courtship for our votes. And just like the hopeful date who shows up at your door clutching a handful of flowers and a box of Laura Secord's assorted, the politicians are willing to promise you the moon in exchange for your favour.

Stephen Harper and the Conservatives claim they'll bring you "leadership certainty"—a lovely box of lower taxes and improved health care wrapped up in Arctic sovereignty. In the Liberal camp, Stéphane Dion's offerings include a Green Shift plan and "a more robust food safety net," garnished with a stronger economy.

Elizabeth May and the Green Party promise to increase financial support for post-secondary students and end their "debt sentence," all while promoting a healthy environment. Jack Layton and the NDP offer solutions for a cleaner environment too, along with an end to manufacturing-sector woes, promising to adopt "a Made-in-Canada procurement policy for the federal government and its agencies."

For its part, the Bloc Québécois' goals include reducing dependence on oil and adopting a federal pay equity act, while holding firm to promoting the interests of Quebec culture.

It's all enough to make your head spin, with the promises coming as quickly as the sound bites can be broadcast. The question is, what's a poor Canadian voter to believe? With broken election promises, backpedalling, and shifting alliances seeming almost *de rigueur* these days, the answer is simple: nothing.

That doesn't mean don't vote. And it certainly doesn't mean that you shouldn't examine whatever basket of tempting goodies each party is holding out with eager, sweating palms.

What it does mean is that, rather than being seduced by soaring declarations of commitment, we need to ask a more significant question about each party: not what they *will* do, but instead what they already *have done*.

Instead of getting caught up in the popularity contests as the political posturing gets into full swing, we owe it to ourselves to take a long, hard look at the proverbial pig without its lipstick; at how the parties have behaved when the hard-sell is over (although 15 minutes of Question Period is enough to make a civilized person want to stuff that pig back into its party dress again).

Look at their track record compared to past promises. Major examples from each party aren't hard to find (the current election call being one, coming in spite of the Conservative Party's own legislation that set a fixed election date for October 2009).

No political party or leader is perfect, but as the rhetoric revs up, we'd be smart to remember that choosing our leaders should be based on more than just glowing promises. Because as we all know, promises—both political and passionate—are easy to make in the heat of the moment, and just as easy to break in the harsh light of day.

## AU COMPUTING SERVICES – NOTICE TO STUDENTS



### System Upgrade

Attention Students - From Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 3 p.m. until Monday, October 6, 2008 at 8 a.m., the AU Student Information Computer System will be shut down to implement a major upgrade.

Access to online course materials may be limited throughout this period.

The AU Student Information System administers the following functions:

- Admissions
- Course registrations
- Student financial records
- Academic history
- Student personal information (address, etc.)
- Tutor assignments
- Professor information and professor approvals
- Course materials (versions and revisions)
- Course coordinators
- Transcripts
- Transfer credit
- Letters, including e-letters and letters of permission
- Grades
- Exams and requests for exams
- Tax receipts

We apologize for the inconvenience. Please call the AU Info Centre at 1-800-788-9041 (Canada/U.S.) or 780-675-6100 if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Athabasca University Computing Services

# Course Introduction

Behdin Nowrouzi



## Thinking from Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies (WMST 266)

Feminism is dynamic and about change, about a reorganization of power, confronting stereotypes and challenging the status quo.

In WMST 266, explains course tutor Dr. Arlene Young, "Students learn how women have been excluded, or written out, of almost every human activity and learn possibly for the first time about many of the contributions women have made."

Often, students may enter the course with the idea that feminists are misandrists. Contrary to this belief, Dr. Young states, feminism is more "than the media tends to portray, and working toward social equity for the genders remains important in Canada and around the world."

Thinking from Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies (WMST 266) is offered through AU's Centre for Work and Community Studies, a collection of varying humanities and social science disciplines.

This 3-credit junior-level course is required for students enrolled in the University Certificate in Counselling Women, BA Women's Studies Concentration, and the Women's Studies Major.

Dr. Young began tutoring the course five years ago and explains that she enjoys the course because she and her students learn a great deal. She explains that "I learn about women's and men's visions for society and their own lives. I also learn about some of their accomplishments, their struggles, and the context of their lives. My understanding grows richer because of them."

Dr. Young provides timely assistance and advice to students as they tackle complex theoretical topics and vocabulary. Course textbooks include *Introducing Women's Studies* and *Canadian Woman Studies: An Introductory Reader*.

The topics that are introduced and examined by students include feminist theory and research methodology, sexuality, the representation of women in literature, and the media and popular culture.

Other topics include the discourse of violence, power, and social inequity between genders. As scholar Gloria Steinem argues, "Feminism is, of course, simply the belief in the full social-political equality of human beings, which means that men can be feminists, too." Supporting social justice and equity is a vision that feminists, and hopefully students of this course, believe is espoused by both women and men.

The course is organized into two major sections. In part one, students learn about women by critically examining the discourse surrounding important issues to women (e.g., sexuality, social inequality, violence

and male power) through six units. Moreover, the readings present background information on these topics and place debated topics for discussion.

In part two, students take a closer look at the social construction of gender. There are 11 units in total, and for each unit, students are presented with learning objectives, readings, questions, and a list of recommended readings to supplement their learning.

The course evaluation is composed of two oral quizzes (5% respectively), a short essay test (20%), a research project (35%), and a final essay (35%). The quizzes are based on the readings and enhance the students' understanding of the material and can be helpful in writing the research paper. The course also offers a glossary, a resource that can help with the readings as they present debates regarding this complex topic.

For more information on WMST 266, visit the course homepage [here](#).

### **CLICK OF THE WRIST – Big Bang**

A remarkable experiment is underway in Geneva, Switzerland, where scientists are testing a giant particle accelerator, sending beams of protons around a 27-kilometre underground tunnel to discover the origins of the universe. For those of us who don't even know what a particle accelerator is, here's a gentler look at the world of science.

#### **Star Trek Inventions**

From science fiction to real science, this is a list of the top-10 *Star Trek* technologies that have made it into the realm of reality—although if you don't like your in-laws, the idea of Telepresence might be a little scary.

#### **Bill Nye The Science Guy**

This site has all kinds of kid-friendly science facts, e-cards, and experiments to try, including how to make your own pair of Mars 3-D glasses!

#### **Hilarious Science Fair Projects**

Here's a glimpse at some of the science fair projects that sharp young minds are coming up with these days. The one called "The Ideal Pancreas: Part 2" makes me want to run down to the video store and rent part one.

#### **Top 10 Scientific Discoveries**

Of course, any list of the top 10 scientific discoveries is debatable, but you've got to admit that discovering real-life kryptonite is pretty cool.

#### **Funny Science Quotes**

A collection of science-related wisdom from some of the world's greatest minds. Best summed up, perhaps, by Anthony Burgess: "I didn't think; I experimented."

## THE 2008 VOICE MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST!



Write for *The Voice* and win money for your education!

*The Voice* is launching its 2008 writing contest, with categories for both fiction and non-fiction.

We've got over \$1,000 in prizes to give away: one winner in each category will receive a scholarship of one Athabasca University undergraduate course.

Please read the contest rules and regulations and submission guidelines carefully to ensure you are not disqualified.

It's free to enter, but the length limits are firm and all entries that go beyond these limits will be disqualified. Good luck!

### Categories

#### Non-Fiction:

In 1,500 words or less, write about any issue affecting freedom of speech. You may write about issues in the press, in politics, or on a personal scale. You may focus on current issues of free speech, or take a historical approach. Feel free to use research or statistics in your article (with proper citations), or write a creative opinion piece.

#### Fiction:

This category is open to your imagination! Write a 1,500 word or less fiction submission in any genre or format. Short stories, poetry, a scene from a play, even a comic. Be creative!

### Rules and Regulations

- The *Voice* writing contest is open to anyone 16 years of age or older, with the following exceptions: AU, AUSU, and *Voice* staff and AUSU councillors are not eligible to enter the contest.
- Winning entries will be published in *The Voice*. *The Voice* reserves the right to print non-winning entries at a rate of remuneration in accordance with current *Voice* freelance submission rates. *The Voice* may use portions of non-winning non-fiction entries in a composite about perspectives on free speech. No remuneration will be provided for such use.
- All decisions regarding this contest and the selection of winners remain with the judging panel and are final.
- Entries will be judged by a panel to be selected by the *Voice* editors, and this panel may include: AU students, AU tutors, and/or AUSU councillors. The panel will include at least 3 members.
- *The Voice* editors will collect articles and oversee the judging, but will not be judges.

- Entries must be original works that have not been printed or published elsewhere (including online), and must not be course assignment papers or derivatives of.
- Entries must not contain any information that would make the identity of the author evident to judges. To ensure fairness, all entries will be forwarded to the judging panel with a reference number attached, but no personally identifying information. *The Voice* editors will keep the identity of the authors private until the contest closes. *The Voice* editors will keep a record of the authors of submissions, and will be the sole owner of this list.
- Entries will not be edited for grammar, spelling, or content, although *The Voice* editors may black out any personally identifying information contained within the submission. Otherwise, entries will be forwarded to the judging panel as is, with the exception that all entries will be converted to use the same file format, margins, font size, and font style to ensure that all entries are equally readable.
- The deadline for submissions in both categories will be December 31, 2008. The winners will be announced by February 28, 2009. *The Voice* reserves the right to extend either deadline if necessary.
- One grand prize winner will be selected in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. If no entries are received in one of the categories, the prize money will be returned to the *Voice* scholarship budget. Prizes will be awarded in the form of a certificate for one free Athabasca University undergraduate course. Prize certificates have no cash value.
- *The Voice* reserves the right to add additional, secondary prizes.
- *The Voice* is not responsible for lost emails. *The Voice* editors will confirm receipt of all entries by email. Please follow up if you do not receive a reply in two business days.
- All entrants agree to allow their name and city of residence to be printed, along with their submission, should it be selected as a winning entry. No further remuneration—beyond the contest prize—will be paid to the contest winner when their entry is printed.
- Winners will be asked to sign a standard Release and Indemnity form; each prize winner agrees to release the sponsor and its agents from any liability in connection with the prizes awarded in this contest.
- Any entrant found to be tampering with the contest results, or attempting to influence any of the judging members, or using any forums or other public communications media to advise others of which entry is theirs will be disqualified; or if *The Voice* editors determine, at their sole discretion, that any other form of tampering has been attempted, that entrant will be disqualified.
- No preference will be given to regular *Voice* writers. Entries will not identify the writer as a regular *Voice* contributor when sent to the judging panel.
- Where applicable, this contest is subject to all federal, provincial, and municipal laws. Contest void where prohibited.

***The deadline for submissions  
in both categories will be  
December 31, 2008. The  
winners will be announced by  
February 28, 2009. The Voice  
reserves the right to extend  
either deadline if necessary.***

### Submission Guidelines

- Your submission must be an electronic file attached to an email and submitted to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org). Submissions sent as the body of an email will not be accepted. Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) if you require instructions on how to attach a file to an email.
- Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format [.doc or .docx], rich text format [.rtf] or plain text format [.txt].

- If you use footnotes or endnotes, type them in at the end of the document, rather than using the endnote feature of your word processor.
- If you use a word processor other than Word or work on a Mac computer, you can save a file in one of these alternate formats using the 'save as' function and selecting the desired format on the save menu. Contact *The Voice* editors if you require assistance in formatting your submission. Users of older Macs may have to send entries in HTML format.
- Each entrant may submit one entry in each of the two categories.
- All entries must be under 1,500 words due to judging time constraints. Length will be determined by the word count feature in Microsoft Word. Your references and citations section will not be included in the word count.
- References should be formatted consistently according to a standardized publishing style guide, such as the American Psychological Association (APA) or the MLA press style.
- Entries should not include unnecessary formatting such as drop caps, graphics (unless the graphic is integral to the work), or unusual fonts. Entries must be text; scans of handwritten or typed documents will not be accepted.
- The email should include the following information: Your full name, AU student ID number (if applicable), email address, telephone number, mailing address, the title of your entry, and whether you are submitting to the fiction or non-fiction category.
- Make sure non-fiction entries are based on the topic question detailed above. Fiction entries can be on any topic you like. Do not include your contact information within your article but be sure to include a title.

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Non-Fiction entries will be judged on originality, creativity, accuracy, and how well you support your assertions with data or argument. You will also be judged on the presentation of your article, including professionalism, proper spelling, grammar and syntax, and readability. You may write in journalistic style or essay format.
- Fiction entries will be judged on creativity, entertainment value, and the originality of your writing style.
- Regardless of the genre you choose, you will be judged on the effectiveness of your piece and your technical writing skills.

Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) if you have any questions.

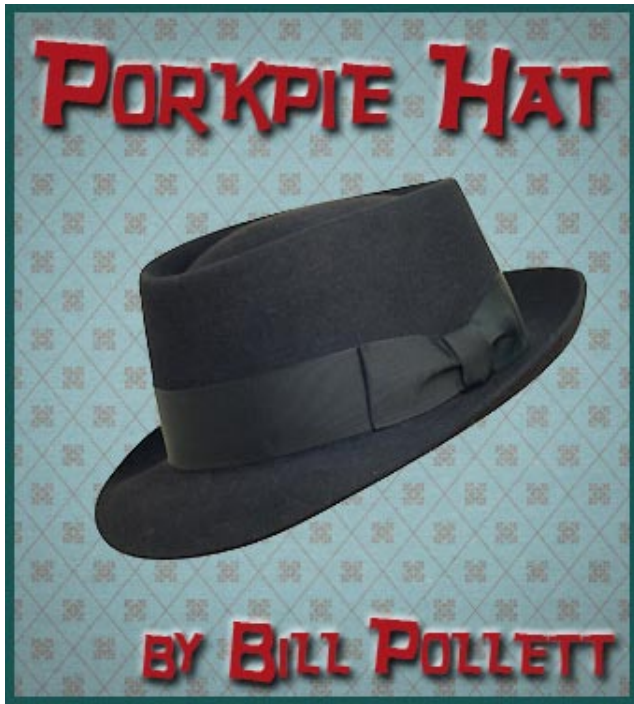
## 2008/09 AU CALENDAR



AU's new 2008/09 academic calendar is now in effect, and it's your official resource for all the latest info on courses, programs, fees, and more.

The undergraduate calendar is available [here](#), and you can link to the graduate studies calendar from the same page or click [here](#). Course fees and regulations are effective September 1, 2008, to August 31, 2009.

Whether you're signing up for new courses, choosing a program, or thinking about becoming an AU student, the online calendar has it all!



## A Hidden Knife

I am driving my father to the airport on a rainy Monday morning. He's flying out to attend the funeral of an old childhood friend. There is this girl on the shoulder of the highway, maybe 15 years old with a green mohawk and a leather bomber jacket, hitchhiking, holding a cardboard sign that says "Montreal."

"Bloody stupid girl," my father says. "No sense at all to be hitchhiking in this day and age."

At another time, I might have argued with him, might have pointed out that, statistically speaking, it is no more dangerous to thumb a ride today than it was in the '70s, or the '60s, or the '50s.

I might have pointed out that there was a far better chance any one of us in our vehicles on the road that morning would meet our deaths in a fiery car wreck—or

as the victim of bone cancer or viral infection, Alzheimer's or suicide—than at the hands of some random serial killer.

This morning, I have no heart to argue against the logic of paranoia. Besides, all of the newspapers and magazines and television news anchors are on my father's side.

There are bombs in the theatre and in the subway, poisons in the food supply. There are orbiting satellites hanging from the heavens like immense disco glitter balls, casting down kerjillions of dots of pixelated terror.

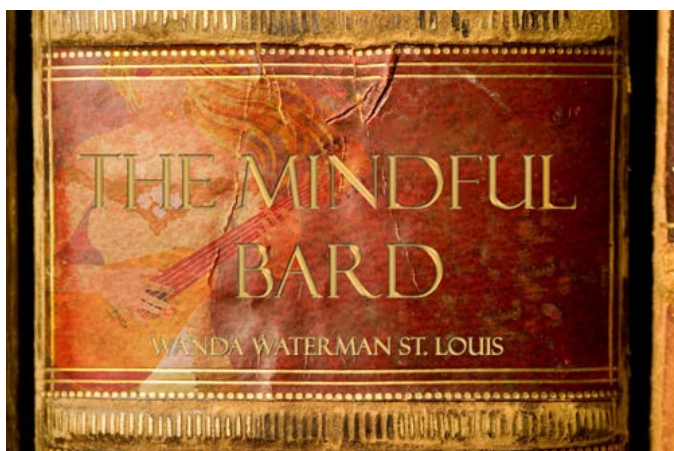
At the departure area of the airport, I watch my father step through the security metal detector, becoming lost in the tidal flow of other obedient, non-threatening passengers. I think of a story I heard about the relative of a friend, a crusty old Norwegian man who had flown—for the first time ever—in his late sixties.

A lifelong bachelor and leathery-skinned outdoorsman, he had stuffed his trusty, sharp-bladed hunting knife in his sock, never for a moment dreaming that airport security would be sophisticated enough to catch it. He had simply thought he might need it for his fishing trip in Minnesota.

In my imagination, I like to picture the old man and the mohawk girl as travelling companions. They are refugees from another time and place; a time and place with a little less fear.

They are taking shelter from the weather at some roadside diner. He is dissecting his chicken pot pie, telling her about the way that black bear tastes when heated up on an open fire. She is telling him about writing poetry in the attic of a condemned warehouse.

They drink black coffee and share a cigarette. The rest of us are passing by on the darkened highway, in transit between security checkpoints.



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

CD: Doctor Sparkles, *Monkey Swing Monkey Doo*

Release date: 2008

The ukulele-strumming shaman-trickster-guru with a cartoon roadmap of creative mindfulness

*"Just where 'time' and 'space' (or so we're told) begin to pretend to be two there lives The King of Toys who's so wonderfully made that he may only be*

*played with by what children would become if there never were (alas! alas!) any people."*

Kenneth Patchen

In Fellini's film *La Strada* the simple, childlike Gelsomina becomes the slave of Zampanò, a swinish carnival he-man. She eventually identifies herself as an artist, and becomes drawn to the playful circus clown Il Matto (The Fool). In a lighthearted but moving soliloquy Il Matto introduces Gelsomina to a world view whose beauty redeems her heartache. Il Matto shows no fear in the face of Zampanò's blind hatred, continuing to clown and cavort to his own detriment. Gelsomina fully grasps the meaning of his martyrdom and takes it utterly to heart.

Doctor Sparkles (the alias of Kevin Patrick Baiko) is the Il Matto of 21st century culture makers. We are poor enslaved players for a heartless brute and Doctor Sparkles our clown, a droll mouse who pluckily razzes the roaring lion.

Anybody old enough to remember listening to "Three Little Fishies in an Itty Bitty Pool" will be transported back to the nursery with these songs. The swing revival of the '90s was not so short-lived after all; the Squirrel Nut Zippers, The Brian Setzer Orchestra, and their ilk have simply passed the torch.

The tone is lively and bright but there's a Rive Gauche dark side to this CD as well; one minute you're at a kindergartener's birthday party and the next you're jive-stepping down a dark alley in 1930s Berlin. Yes, this is a swing album, but there's klezmer, blues, cabaret, and gypsy jazz here keeping it company.

The hokey song subjects and musical treatments are totally in keeping with the swing tradition, with deep observations thrown in for depth and grounding. This ukulele-strumming shaman-trickster-guru is here to provide you with a cartoon roadmap of creative mindfulness.

For one thing, Sparkles advocates opening the heart as a means of transcending fate. In "The Anahata" (the chakra to which, incidentally, he has dedicated the album) he invites us, to the throbbing of deep, jungly drums, to step outside karma:



*Can you feel the beating?*

*Do you fear the beating?*

*Take hold of your fear!*

*Let your heart take it from here.*

*Give in to the beating!*

*Be one with the beating!*

*Embrace what you fear!*

*Let your heart take it from here.*

Sparkles uses swing as a metaphor for creation, human origins, the Dance of Life. ("The Golden Age of Swing" is the funniest creation song you ever heard.)

Throughout this album the music shifts emotionally to frame the words. Every musician here is a virtuoso, and they sound like they're having a very good time.

On the back of the CD is the sage epigram, "Between Life and Light swings the Star Monkey, rising and falling in Love" (backing my conviction that the universe is a manifestation of love and is imperfect only because it is not Love Itself). At the end of his charming letter is written "Making Light of Self." What does this mean? Who knows, but I like to think of it as a formula for not taking yourself too seriously on the road to Self-Knowledge.

*Monkey Swing Monkey Doo* manifests eight of *The Mindful Bard's* criteria for music well worth a listen: 1) it is authentic, original, and delightful; 2) it confronts, rebukes, and mocks existing injustices; 3) it makes me want to be a better artist; 4) it gives me tools which help me 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 provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavour.

## DID YOU KNOW?



### New Academic Research Centre Website

Plans for AU's new Academic Research Centre are in full swing, and you can check out all the details on the project [website](#).

There are news releases from AU, along with links to [media coverage](#), as well as a history of the project. You can also view the floor plans and see an artist's concept of the building in the image gallery.

With an expected occupation date of spring 2010, the research centre will meet the goal of creating "a unique and distinctive design that captures the innovative essence of Athabasca University and integrates the building with its surroundings in the boreal forest, balancing rural beauty with the building users' high-tech needs."

Watch the project website for all the latest news!



## Walk a Mile in My Shoes

Dorothy knew the magic of red slippers. Click your heels together three times, say “There’s no place like home,” and suddenly you’re back in Kansas.

Earlier this year Pope Benedict XVI wore red loafers during his visit to the United States. Apparently this is a return to papal tradition. But why red? Red is the colour of martyrdom.

A Google search for more red-shoe stories led me to a website explaining the Red Shoe Project. In it the instructor offers to teach workshop participants how to make their own handcrafted red shoes. The result may be frivolous and fun, soulful and symbolic, revealing or cryptic in its message.

The origin of this idea is Clarissa Pinkola Estés’s story about red shoes in *Women Who Run with the Wolves*.

The site’s home page explores the symbolism of shoes (mobility, freedom, warmth, and protection) and the color red (passion, rage, heat, love, seduction, life, death). Ideally, participants will leave with insight and a sense of gratitude for the abundance we all enjoy.

Speaking of enjoying . . . doesn’t every girl want a pair of red shoes? Yes. Does the world really need any more black or brown shoes? Hell, no.

My latest pair of red shoes is only a day old and hasn’t hit the mean streets yet. I paid just over \$180 dollars for a candy-apple red pair of Wolkys. The style is called Passion. They’re casual flats with contrasting top stitching, crossover

straps with Velcro closure, and removable footbeds.

The Wolky is Dutch in design, though the shoes sold in North America are made in their Mexican factory. The word means “cloud” and signifies the walking-on-clouds comfort. When you wear orthotics comfort is key and I think these will become favourites. I own very few pairs of shoes but the ones I have are expensive and well-made ones that promote foot health through sound design. These get bonus points for being stylin’ hot red.

Cuz I was on a roll, I also bought my first pair of Josef Seibel shoes. This pair is more casual, oxblood in colour, and made in Hungary. This company has been making shoes since 1886 and, like Wolkys, stresses comfort without sacrificing style. No one with plantar fasciitis or other foot condition wants to wear matronly, grandmother shoes . . . at least not before we’re matronly grandmothers.

I’m looking forward to enjoying both pairs for years. And they’re in good company with my Merrells, Naots, and Birkenstocks. There’s not a Croc, Dawg, flip-flop, Manolo Blahnik, or Jimmy Choo among them.

Now if only someone would come up with a good looking navy shoe that doesn’t cripple I’d be set. There’s nothing worse than hobbling off into the sunset because of poor design, lousy workmanship, and blind devotion to fashion, from where I sit.

# The Interviewer

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

*written and illustrated by Wanda Waterman St. Louis*

## Caramel Baby #10: In the Studio



Fortunately there were enough cynics and apathetic a-holes and closet racists on the committee that he'd had his way in the end.



Wayne had had second thoughts after seeing how bohemian the radio station was and how many African students were working there.

Hey, no problem. I really appreciate you having me. We all do; the whole chapter is going to be listening when this airs.



None of the other radio stations would interview me. When you came and talked to us we said to ourselves, -hey, here's a guy who'll give us a fair representation.-



*If you get an outfit you can be a cowboy, too!*

But Reuben had just winked at him as if to say --we're gonna change all this, you and me---, and Casey'd bought it.



First of all, Wayne, I really want to thank you for coming in.



Well, that's exactly what I plan to do.

It is just SO WRONG to curtail freedom of expression!

Fer sher!



*Next: People Like Us*

## AUSU This Month



### Merchandise Still for Sale

We still have some locks and memory keys available for sale. Both of these were designed with ease of mailing in mind, which means they're small enough to be easily stored pretty much anywhere. The wristband USB key is a unique way to carry around your assignments, online materials, and even emails while you're on the go. With a 1 gigabyte capacity, it can even handle a good chunk of your music collection, and the design means you no longer have to worry about losing it. *The Voice* memory key has less capacity (512 MB) but the dark, flip-top design is classy enough to accompany you anywhere.

### AUSU Lock Loan Program

Still running, and still popular, the lock loan program can allow you to rest easy knowing your valuables are safe if you're taking an exam at the Calgary or Edmonton campus. The locks can be set to any combination, and are loaned to people without any deposit, but we ask that you please remember to reset them to 0-0-0 before returning them so that we can continue this program.

### Employment Site is here!

Many of you will already have seen the link to our new employment site on the front page, and while there are not a lot of employers in evidence yet, it's a great opportunity to get your resume, skills, and talents in there. The Personnel Department is busily working on finding employers who could use your unique abilities as a distance education student. Be sure yours are available to get the early opportunities!



### Appointments

AUSU VP External, Barb Rielly, has stepped down from her position as chair of the AUSU Awards Committee, and new Councillor Bethany Porter has taken on the role. Council wishes Bethany good luck in this position, which can involve making some hard decisions.

Increasing AUSU's representation within AU, VP Finance and Administration, Sarah Kertcher, has been appointed to AU's integrated learning centre steering committee. This committee will examine the possibility of integrating all AU sites in the Edmonton Area into one building. Sarah will ensure that the committee keeps concerns of our members with respect to ease of access and exam conditions as well as AUSU's own special needs for storage and physical office space well in mind.

The MyAU steering committee sees two new AUSU representatives, President Karl Low, and VP External Barb Rielly, joining to provide their input on how MyAU could be better structured to meet your needs. If there's something that's been bugging you about the MyAU system, now is a great time to call or email our office and let them know. We'll be sure to bring your concerns forward.

### SmartDraw Program Continues

If you haven't yet, you might want to download a copy of SmartDraw. 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 has a few copies left!

We still have a number of copies of the 2008 AUSU planner available. We're getting closer to the end of the year, however, so our supplies are steadily decreasing. 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, and especially want to hear of any improvements you think could be made.

### Chat with a Councillor

Have a beef? Want to know where your \$8 per course goes or who's trying to make it work for you? Check out the AUSU chat times on our front page. Every Councillor has agreed to spend an hour each week making themselves available to you for your questions, concerns, or just to shoot the breeze while you take a break from your studying. It's not only a great way for you to learn more about what AUSU can do for you, but for us to learn what you want from AUSU. We hope to see you there!



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

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



 **SmartDraw**

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK****Mandy Gardner****At Home: Green Party wins place in federal debate**

Canada is once again facing a national election and therefore will be putting the leaders of each political party into a televised debate of the issues and election promises.

As a general rule, we can expect to see the leaders of the Conservative and Liberal parties present at these important debates, and the New Democrats have made it their business to be as much a part of governmental affairs as they possibly can (with 20 to 30 per cent of the popular vote it would be absurd to exclude them, despite Canadian Parliament having only two major contenders for leadership).

According to a news release issued by the network consortium (made up of the TV networks that host the debate) some of the other political party leaders stated they would not take part in the event if Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party, was included.

According to CP News in Toronto, the release stated there would be no debate if she were included because three other parties promised to pull out. This resulted in the consortium's decision to exclude May, a move that had the Green Party understandably upset.

Stéphane Dion, head of the Liberal Party, went on the record as welcoming May to the debates, which left the NDP, the Conservatives, and the Bloc Québécois as the most likely dissenters. Given the atmosphere of the current minority government, with parties hanging on to power by the thin balance of their alliances with one another, the proposed Green Party exclusion seemed the epitome of what could be viewed as manipulative, childish behaviour on the part of most federal politicians.

As far as precedent goes, it must be noted that the Green Party does hold one seat in Parliament and that when the Reform Party was in the same position, Preston Manning was indeed invited to take part in the debates.

In the most recent development, the networks finally decided to let May participate in the debates, and thanks goes out from the Green Party to all Canadians who wrote in to protest and signed the petition.

**In Foreign News: Thai prime minister loses office over TV cooking show**

Thailand's prime minister has been legally ordered to step down from his position and it is all because of a cooking show on television. Mr. Samak Sundaravej, as well as his entire cabinet, has been told by a Thai court that they must vacate their positions over the matter.

Anti-government protestors in Thailand took over the prime minister's office while others took up positions outside the buildings, continuing the occupation for two weeks while waiting for a constitutional court to make a ruling. In the meantime, a state of emergency has been in effect there for a week.

Samak has only been prime minister of Thailand for seven months. Prior to taking the top government job, he hosted a cooking show on Thai television for seven years. The show was called *Tasting and Grumbling* and featured both Mr. Samak's cooking skills and his opinions, which were often controversial.

Constitutionally, the prime minister of Thailand is forbidden to be employed by anyone other than the government during his tenure. As Samak was paid for appearances on the cooking show a few times after he was in office, he violated the rules. The court also stated that there was evidence Samak took measures to fabricate evidence during the case.

Samak's government has not been a popular one for many and being removed from office over a cooking show is merely considered an easy way to remove him from power.

## EDUCATION NEWS

Carl Meyer



### Education lobby groups strive for attention

#### CFS, CASA, and CAUT gear up for federal election

OTTAWA (CUP) - Student and teacher lobby groups in Canada want post-secondary education to be an election issue, and they are rolling out campaigns this fall to make sure it is.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper [called] a federal election on Sunday slated for October 14.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) all say they have campaign strategies mapped out.

These strategies include lobbying the parties directly on issues, hosting all-candidates' debates, providing analysis on party platforms, and helping organize student voting on campuses.

"We'll be housing an election centre on our website," said CASA National Director Zach Churchill. "We'll be informing students how to vote on campus, how to do absentee voting, [and] if they want to vote in their riding back home."

David Robinson, CAUT associate executive director, expects his group to organize all-candidates' debates, as well as meetings about post-secondary education.

As well, he suggested CAUT would conduct "an analysis once the party platforms are out of where [each party] stands on post-secondary issues."

Ian Boyko, CFS government relations co-ordinator, says the Federation wants federal parties to adopt several CFS policies.

Most of these policies advocate for an increase in federal funding. The CFS would like to see funds increased to provincial transfer payments, to Statistics Canada, to aboriginal students, to the Canada Student Grant Program, and to the Canada Graduate Scholarships Program.

As well, at their last semi-annual meeting in May 2008, the CFS distributed a “federal election preparations” paper that noted a meeting with Elections Canada and pointed out several initiatives such as a “media strategy.”

“Federation representatives offered to assist in the dissemination of promotional material from Elections Canada,” the paper read.

CASA, CFS, and CAUT boast a number of lobbying initiatives that aim for similar outcomes.

Both the CFS and the CAUT oppose the new Copyright Act amendment, bill C-61, introduced in June before the Parliamentary summer recess.

The bill makes several references to restrictions placed on material generated in educational environments, and both organizations feel this restriction would hinder students’ development.

As well, both CASA and CAUT say they did not see either the current government or past governments provide a philosophical approach to education governance.

“We’re going to be looking for a long-term vision being put forward by the parties that addresses two fundamental things: an individual’s ability to reach their full potential in society, and a country that can deal with an impending labour crisis,” said Churchill.

“No one to this point has tackled this issue holistically, or provided any sort of long-term vision or strategy for post-secondary education.”

Robinson also notes the lack of federal party discussion on post-secondary issues.

“We just don’t have any political parties at this point that are ready to take the federal government into a leadership role, dealing with some of the issues that we need to deal with,” he said.

Student and youth involvement in elections is another issue the three organizations are concerned with.

Elections Canada estimated that in the 2006 general election, 43.8 per cent of those aged 18 to 24 voted, as compared to the national average of 62.8 per cent.

As well, students made up the highest percentage of first-time voters, at 82 per cent.

“I think if our politicians can provide dialogue and platform discussions on issues about education and issues that really matter to students, I think you’ll see a more engaged student body,” said Churchill.

Robinson, however, pointed out the ambiguity over the need for an election in the first place.

“It’s going to be interesting to see how the Conservatives are going to justify the need for an election right now, given that this has probably been one of the most well-functioning minority governments in Canadian history.”

# CLASSIFIEDS

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Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for more information.

## THE VOICE

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