

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 41
October 24, 2008

Pod Parents

They're here . . .

AU Profiles

Heather Jirousek

The Learning Curve

Dear Journal



Plus:

*Porkpie Hat, 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.



THIS WORLD

Christina M. Frey

Across the Continent in 22 Days

Part IV: Edmonton, Alberta to Gardiner, Montana

This is the fourth instalment in a series chronicling the adventures of the author; her husband, Adam; and two-year-old daughter, Kiersten, as they travelled by car from Alaska to Louisiana in summer 2008.



Day 11: Edmonton, Alberta to Calgary, Alberta

Since today's drive is only three hours, we set out hoping to arrive in Calgary early enough to do some sightseeing.

Unfortunately, we hadn't counted on the dozens of little delays that seem to be the norm for us.

A grocery stop turns into an hour-and-a-half-long marathon as I try to anticipate our food needs. Then, on the way out of Edmonton, we miss our turnoff twice and end up on country roads, neither of which goes to Calgary.

Once we finally find the right road, it's noon. We start driving, but after half a mile, we find an outlet mall with a huge children's clothing store.

Still smarting from yesterday's disappointing shopping trip, I can't pass by without a quick peek.

An hour (and \$60) later, we're finally on our way. By now, it's after one and I'm exhausted; my late night in Edmonton is catching up with me, and I can't keep my eyes open anymore. I drift in and out of sleep as we head south.

It's quite flat out here, so we see Calgary miles before arriving in the city limits. As traffic starts picking up, we realize that we forgot to get directions to our hotel, which is somewhere downtown. We've gotten so used to towns with only one or two main streets that we forgot Calgary is the third-largest city in Canada!

By the time we finish arguing about who was supposed to get directions, we're on the other side of the city. And by the time we find our hotel, check in, and eat dinner, it's Kiersten's bedtime. To our regret, we won't be doing any sightseeing here.

I spend the rest of the evening doing laundry. The next few days, we'll be camping—the first time since my childhood, and the first time ever for Adam and Kiersten—and we're a little apprehensive. At least we'll be prepared in the clean-clothes department!

Day 12: Calgary, Alberta to Glacier National Park, Montana

Our priority this morning is getting supplies for the next few days, since we're not sure what grocery facilities are available outside Glacier National Park. Since it's our first time camping, I'm planning very basic meals. We'll be camping again a few days later in Yellowstone National Park, so we're treating Glacier as a test run. A little experience will be helpful when we're more remote.



On the way to Glacier National Park

Driving through southern Alberta, we pass through a few small towns and a lot of open farmland. After a while, we turn east for another detour. We're going an hour or two out of our way to visit the small community of Coleman, Alberta. Nearly 80 years ago, my maternal grandfather and his family made the trip across Canada from Coleman to southern Ontario.



It's been more than three quarters of a century since his family was back in those parts, so it seems a unique chance to connect with history.

We take a few pictures of the area, and we know my grandfather will be thrilled to see his hometown again.

Mid-afternoon, we head back toward the US-Canadian border. The drive seems to be taking eons; we just want to get to our campsite!

Finally, we do, and it's gorgeous.

Glacier National Park, together with Waterton Lakes National Park on the Canadian side, forms an International Peace Park marking US-Canadian joint conservation efforts.

It's beautiful here, and the mountain formations are rocky and rugged, but more flat-topped than

what we've seen further north. I'm awed, and that surprises me. On this trip, I've seen so many spectacular views that I didn't think mountains could still impress me! We're excited to camp amid such beautiful scenery.

Despite our inexperience, we set up our tent without difficulty. However, by now it's past seven, and we're ravenously hungry. We don't have any firewood, the Park doesn't sell it, and it's illegal to use wood from

the Park, so we'd have to drive back into town to get it. We also recall that we've never started a fire before. Cereal for dinner sounds delicious, and it is.

Camp chores and cleanup seem to take longer than I expected. Since this is bear country, there are a lot of rules about storing food and utensils to keep a very clean camp. Essentially, everything—even drinking water—must be kept inside if not in immediate use. It takes a lot of effort, but we're not keen to attract bears our first night under the canvas.

Kiersten is excited at the concept of sleeping in her "cocoon" tonight, and falls asleep fairly quickly. In the meantime, Adam has gone out to purchase firewood, and we take advantage of the last light of the day to attempt to build a fire. Our inexperience shows when we unsuccessfully try to light a log with a match. A magnesium fire starter we'd purchased is equally unsuccessful. The starter logs aren't much better. We wonder: how can houses burn down if it's so hard to start a fire? Finally, with the help of several starter logs, whatever newspaper we can scrounge from the car, and illegally gathered sticks and weeds, we get a blaze going.

It's not a moment too soon. As the sun disappears, the temperature plummets. It was in the 60s when we arrived, but now we watch in horror as our thermometer heads down through the 50s and into the 40s.

We were not expecting this! We dress in many layers and huddle into our sleeping bags—and I pull Kiersten, "cocoon" and all, into my bag to keep her extra warm—but my face and feet are still cold.

It was in the 60s when we arrived, but now we watch in horror as our thermometer heads down through the 50s and into the 40s. We were not expecting this!

Day 13: Glacier National Park, Montana

It's coooooold this morning! I force myself to leave the protective coziness of my sleeping bag around 7:30 a.m. Adam has already started a fire, but it's no match for the 40-degree air temperature. Gradually the sun warms us, but it's a while before we're comfortable. We're also a little sore from the bumpy ground.

This morning I try cooking over a campfire for the very first time. It's a huge success. Whether it's because we ate lightly last night, burned energy trying to stay warm, or that food cooked outdoors just tastes better, we thoroughly enjoy breakfast.

Since we arrived so late yesterday, we haven't yet had the opportunity to explore the Park. One of the biggest attractions is the Going-to-the-Sun Road, a scenic route through the Park. However, it takes two or more hours to drive one way, and we're car-weary after 12 days of travelling. Instead, we decide to hike a waterfall trail.

It turns out to be an excellent choice. The falls are beautiful, and one is so tall and powerful that it makes its own wind! It's also good to be outdoors rather than in the car. Later, we return to our campsite refreshed . . . and hungry. Kiersten enjoys cooking hot dogs and marshmallows over a campfire, although she's nervous about getting too near. This is fine with me, of course.

Tonight, the temperature drops even earlier, and we're dreading another cold night. One advantage of the cold, clear air, though, is the beauty of the night sky. Without haze or light pollution, we're seeing so many stars and galaxies that we can't distinguish very many constellations. We do see a planet, which we later learn is Jupiter. Stargazing together feels magical, but the cold ends the moment prematurely. It's time for another chilly night!

Day 14: Glacier National Park, Montana to Gardiner, Montana

This morning, there's *frost* on the ground, in August, no less, and the temperature is 37 degrees. We can't believe it's so cold! A well-meaning fellow camper assures us that Yellowstone National Park, where we're headed next, is much, much colder. It's not very heartening.



The majestic landscape of Glacier National Park

However, we can feel good about one thing: we've survived our first camping adventure! Cold, fires, lumpy ground, and a two year old—we conquered them all. We've also learned a few things for our next camping trip tomorrow, namely things we need: thermal underwear, thermal socks, gloves, and especially an air mattress!

Although we tried packing last night, taking down the campsite seems to take a while, as many of the bags in the car were shifted around when we removed the camp gear. We finally leave after 10. Tonight, we're staying in a hotel just outside Yellowstone. It'll give us a chance to shower, do laundry, and generally enjoy civilization before communing with nature again.

The first part of our drive seems to last forever. The landscape here looks like plains-type farmland, but it's in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains and the effect is a little surreal. We finally arrive in Helena, Montana, mid-afternoon. It's a good-sized city and will give us the chance to stock up on food and supplies.

The food is easy, but the supplies less so. No one in town, from Wal-Mart to dedicated outdoors stores, seems to be selling anything thermal. "It's out of season," we're told. We do find an air mattress, though. Perhaps we'll freeze in Yellowstone, but at least we'll be comfortable!

We do find it difficult to believe it will be so cold, though. The temperature in Helena is quite warm, in the upper 80s. It's an adjustment for us—a difference of 50 degrees since this morning!

Getting out of the city is a nightmare, and we aren't back on the interstate until 5:30 p.m., with two hours still to go. It has been a long day, but we're holding up. Kiersten has even taken a liking to Enya; it means we have to listen to "Orinoco Flow" on repeat, but it's infinitely preferable to "Bippity Boppity Boo."

When we finally arrive in Gardiner, Montana, just outside Yellowstone, we can just make out the famous Yellowstone arch through the growing dark. It's after eight, so we're very glad we didn't decide to camp tonight. Tomorrow morning, we'll do some sightseeing in the Park and leisurely set up our campsite. Here's hoping for continued success camping, and warmer nights!

AU Press Publication Nominated for International Prize



AU Press may only have been launched a mere five months ago, but this fledgling open-access press is already making its mark. Its first offering, *The Importance of Being Monogamous* by Sarah Carter, has been named to the long list for the Cundill International Prize in History.

This prestigious international prize was established at McGill University by renowned investment manager Peter Cundill. It is the world's largest prize for historical non-fiction literature. The winner will be announced on November 25 and will receive the Canadian equivalent of \$75,000 USD.

The long list of 15 titles was selected from 171 entries. The books represent 75 publishing houses worldwide, and *The Importance of Being Monogamous* (a co-publication of AU Press and the University of Alberta Press) is the only title that deals with a Canadian subject.

Author Sarah Carter is the H.M. Tory Chair and Professor in the Department of History and Classics, and the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

"I would say it's stunningly amazing that a press like ours can make a list for an international prize as big and prestigious as this one," said Walter Hildebrandt, Director of Athabasca University Press. "To be on the same list with the likes of Yale, Harvard and Oxford is really quite gratifying and speaks well to the importance of Sarah's book."

All AU Press electronic publications are available free on the Internet. To find out more about this unique initiative, Canada's only open-access scholarly press, visit their [website](#) today.

ON THE HILL

Sandra Livingston



Surprise, Surprise

Just when we thought it was time for a reprieve from the foolishness of federal politics (at least until Parliament reconvenes), another gust of hot air blows our way.

This time, it's courtesy of former prime minister Jean Chrétien.

Addressing an audience at the University of Western Ontario, where he was receiving an honorary degree, Chrétien said he was stunned by the low voter turnout in the recent federal election.

As the *Toronto Star* reports, Chrétien claims he was "shocked by the low voter turnout in the most recent election. Less than 60 per cent of Canadians went and voted, a historic low."

Perhaps the most surprising thing about this statement is that Mr. Chrétien is—well, surprised. After all, as someone who's been involved in Canadian politics since 1946, he's bound to have witnessed firsthand some of the reasons that voters don't show up at the polls: the corruption, waste, and lies that have plagued our politics from the start.

Even in 1873, the political fix was in. When Sir John A. Macdonald was re-elected in 1872, it wasn't long before a scandal broke. It seems that Macdonald and his Conservatives received \$350,000 in campaign funds "in exchange for a lucrative railway contract," and personally pocketed up to \$25,000 of those funds.

And while the Liberals accused the Conservatives of corruption, it seems the lesson didn't stick—at least, not for the Liberals. Who can forget the sponsorship scandal of 2002, in which "up to \$100 million of the \$250 million spent" was blown on commissions or other fees to ad firms. Government lavishness at its finest—and under Chrétien's own watch.

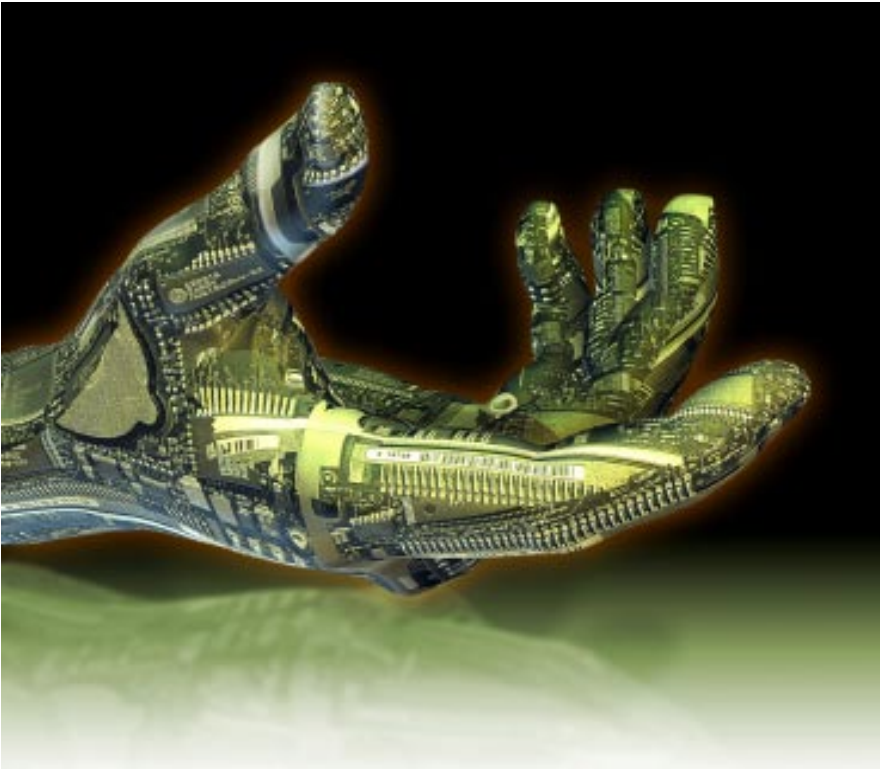
This is just a guess, but it's likely the sheer bloody wastefulness of our tax dollars that alienates voters the most. Sadly, the Canadian Taxpayer Association doesn't have to look far to find nominees for its annual Teddies Waste Awards Ceremony, which acknowledges "a government, public office holder, civil servant, department or agency that most exemplifies government waste, overspending, over-taxation, excessive regulation, lack of accountability, or any combination of the five."

One notorious example (and Lifetime Achievement Teddy winner) is David Dingwall. As Chrétien was leaving office, he handed Dingwall a plum five-year appointment as President of the Royal Canadian Mint. In 2004, Dingwall and his top associates "racked up \$846,464 in expenses for wining and dining, traveling the globe, limousines rides, and country club memberships." The bill to taxpayers included \$5,998 for leased vehicles (including limos) even though Dingwall had a car available for use, courtesy of the public purse.

In light of these excesses, and others just as egregious, it's more important than ever that Canadians make a point of finding out the facts; of taking the time call their leaders out on waste and corruption. But is it a shock that this kind of political arrogance turns voters off? Not at all, and with the history of profligacy that went on while he was in charge, Mr. Chrétien is the last one who should be surprised.

INVASION OF THE POD PARENTS!

Adam Thackeray



I've been chasing my kids around the indoor playground for close to an hour now. They scream with glee as I mutate into some hideous half-dad/half-alien beast, uttering sinister, monotone, Martian clichés.

Needless to say, I affect the obligatory hunch and limp so as to afford them ample time to flee in terror.

In my experience, I have found that the average pre-schooler would sooner play some form or other of this particular game than they would any other activity on the planet; indeed, with the chase comes the adrenalin-fueled rush and wide-eyed bliss that only children have such an effortless capacity for.

As I pursue the earth-children across a padded terrain, my reptilian eyes perceive another dreaded form of extraterrestrial life—one of a breed far more unsettling than my own: the notoriously languid and remote subspecies known as the “half-parent.”

Paradoxically, these half-parents are present in a temporal sense, but, in actuality, they are not really there at all. The “half-children” of these specimens vie for the attention of their seemingly comatose parental units in manners ranging from subtly pathetic to desperately violent.

They may, at times, play a solitary game of air hockey, knock down a fellow half-child for the pure, unsupervised joy of it, or even relieve their aggression vicariously via the vestibule of voluminous video game violence.

During this time, the half-parent appears oblivious of its progeny, occupied instead with an array of technology and half-important distractions: communicating with other half-people on tiny hand-held devices; staring into space, at some fixed point just beyond their offspring (possibly some form of telekinetic activity); and researching Earth literature dedicated to the study of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie—earthlings of great cosmic significance, apparently.

There is a sad, strange moment when one of the half-children (not of my own brood) calls me “Dad.” I hesitate only slightly before acknowledging her address, for I don’t have the heart to ignore her role-play. If, for only a moment, in this imaginary universe, she sees some hunching, limping, alien beast as a preferred role model over the sedate, clock-watching mass of flesh sitting in the corner—so be it. Of course, children should always be wary of strangers, but, in this particular instance, the stranger seems apparent.

Closing time for the playground arrives. My kids wind down and wander inevitably to the display of sugar-coated point-of-purchase merchandise (my only salvation in what can sometimes be a difficult and tear-filled exit from the building).

My eyes revert to their usual hazel, myopic guise of normalcy, and through thick lenses, smudged with tiny fingerprints, I see the half-parent moving faster than I've seen him move all afternoon. He manoeuvres his half-child toward the exit with skill, speed, and efficiency; he speaks a language to the child that is clipped and barren of affection. They quickly board their vessel, and set course for some distant, nondescript destination.

As for my little humans and I—we have other galaxies to explore.

CLICK OF THE WRIST - Dinosaurs!

This week, it was announced that researchers had discovered a “dinosaur dance floor” in Utah, a site packed with over a thousand prehistoric animal tracks. In honour of those 190-million-year-old party animals, here's a look at the always fascinating world of Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Dinosaur Planet

It's only animation, but this very cool video of a velociraptor's struggle for survival is probably too scary for younger children.

Top 12 Dinosaur Finds

Newsroom staffers at Discovery Channel Canada offer their picks for the top 12 dinosaur finds of all time. There's a lot to discover here, with each of the top picks linked to interesting articles and videos.

Dinosaur Central

This Discovery Channel site has it all: video, slideshows, articles, and games. I never knew there were dinosaurs called entelodonts, but after checking out their picture I'm glad these prehistoric, seven-foot-tall scavengers are extinct today!

Attack of the Dinosaur

This video clip from a BBC series offers an intriguing look of how things may have been when a T. Rex mother went hunting for food.

Dino Dig

Strictly for the little ones, this TVO site lets kids go on a virtual dinosaur dig around the world, from Alberta to Mongolia and points in between. They can keep track of how many fossils they've discovered and work their way up from a junior palaeontologist to a pro.

THE LEARNING CURVE

Sara Windross



Dear Journal

Writing in a paper journal throughout your university years can quickly become a hobby. It has many benefits, but it's often difficult to keep a journal because many AU students don't have the time to write in one on a regular basis.

The lack of time might be caused by heavy course loads or many family obligations, but this can be rectified if you work journaling into your schedule. Doing so takes just as much determination as it does to complete an AU course within six months.

I remember the first course package I received from AU. The study schedule they included to help me budget my time wisely (wisely enough so I could complete the course within a six-month period) frightened me. At first, I worried this goal would be too difficult to accomplish. Eventually, I ignored this emotion and used the schedule regularly and completed the course on time.

This is how you should approach journaling. First, think about a time of day you'd like to spend writing then stick to it. The time could be an hour each evening or it could be an hour for two evenings a week; just make sure that you won't be interrupted.

If you need to, unplug the phone because its ringing will make you lose your concentration. Once this concentration is lost you will feel journaling is a chore and that may cause you to lose interest.

If you do so, you'll miss out on the three benefits of journaling. The first benefit is the freedom you have to write about whatever you desire. Perhaps you want to write about a recent breakup with your boyfriend or about a bad grade you received on a research paper because you failed to understand the material. There are so many writing possibilities.

The second benefit is that when you write, you never need to worry about being too emotional (or about spelling errors) because you are the only one who will read the journal.

The third benefit is that the time you spend writing in your journal will allow you to discover different sides of yourself. Perhaps when you write about a certain story from your life, you'll discover you are outgoing and adventurous and it'll make you want to try rock climbing, something you said you'd never do because it looked unsafe.

The cover of a journal is also important because it will inspire you to write in it more frequently. I usually look for warm-coloured journal covers such as blue, pink, or green. Sometimes, I'll pay the extra money for a leather journal because I love the look and the smell of it (I've always preferred black leather over brown).

If you buy a paper journal that has a cover you really like, and if you follow my suggestions on how to keep a journal, maybe one day you won't need to plan a time to write in it. You'll just open it and the first words you write, "Dear Journal," will encourage you to write long and often.

AU Profiles:

AU Profiles: Heather Jirousek

Christina M. Frey



To quote cartoonist Charles Schultz, "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

Recent AU graduate and Yukon resident Heather Jirousek might agree.

Heather, who graduated with a BPA in government law and management this past spring, credits chocolate as a motivating factor: "As long as I had two chunks of dark chocolate and a cup of tea," she was ready to go, she says. "It sweetened the deal."

Heather, who spent 16 years working on her degree, became interested in higher education after working for a year as an administrative assistant. She knew she wanted to do more than paperwork for the rest of her career, and she definitely wanted to do something that did not involve numbers.

"I didn't like numbers," Heather says. "I'd worry about numbers, and dream about [them]."

Her boss suggested studying public policy, and Heather was intrigued. Although her long-term goals weren't clear at the time ("anything not to be crunching numbers!" she says) she preferred working in a field that incorporated issues relevant to the whole community. Public policy seemed to fit the bill; it encompassed many important issues, all of which had a human element.

"Numbers don't have a face, [but] water and environmental issues do," Heather says. For example, in her current position of water resources program advisor for the Yukon government, she tries to balance the competing needs of resource extractors and environmental preservation.

Heather discovered AU's BPA program, which could build on her two-year business administration degree from Yukon College. She was familiar with AU already, as she'd done some of her diploma courses through AU to avoid daytime class schedules.

After beginning the BPA program, Heather applied for a temporary work assignment in policy, and enjoyed it so much that she continued working in the position after her trial year ended. The more relevant her studies became to her work, the more she became interested in her studies.

For example, her coursework described new concerns in water valuation, which applied directly to what she did every day. Heather learned to structure her courses based on her current work projects, and attempted to relate her studies to her policy work.

"I made it fit with my job," she says. The advantage: self-motivation, a stumbling block for many distance students, was easier for her.

For Heather, a bigger challenge was finding the time to study, particularly in her final year, when she juggled a heavier course load with work and family. Planning and scheduling were vital to her success as a student. "It has to be done," Heather says. Carving out blocks of time into her schedule helped her stay on track, particularly after her children were born.

"A lot of people say, 'I can't do it, I have kids'," she points out. "You have to routine your life."

"Don't give up! . . .

***The sense of
accomplishment
and pride is really
worth it."***

But making a plan doesn't mean flexibility should go by the wayside. "If it doesn't work out, [move it] to another time," she says.

Distance study was the perfect solution for many reasons. Heather lives in the Yukon Territory, where there are no universities. The ability to study by correspondence meant she didn't need to move south, which wasn't financially possible for her.

Heather particularly appreciated the flexible schedule distance study provided. "I could do it anytime," she explains. That meant she didn't have to give up her job, and even after having children several years into her studies, she still could squeeze in study hours during her their nap time.

Flexibility also meant Heather could spend as much time as she wanted working on her degree, although she thinks 16 years is a little too long!

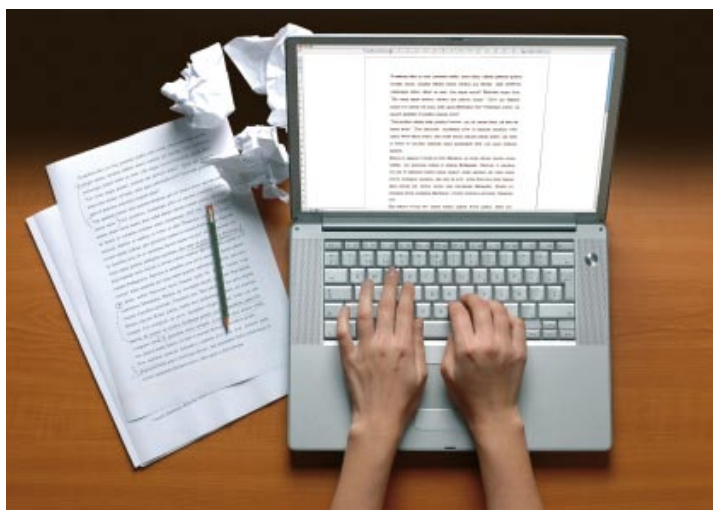
"I would have liked to have done it in a shorter time," Heather says. "Sixteen years is very draining . . . it's always in the back of your mind."

Now, the need to study no longer overshadows this happy graduate, and she's enjoying her freedom. "I really pushed in the end," she says. As her children grew older, studying with family obligations became more of a challenge. This became an incentive to fast-track her degree. She finished nine courses in her final year, graduating in June.

To students who might think the road ahead seems long, Heather advises: "Don't give up! . . . The sense of accomplishment and pride is really worth it."

For Heather, the benefits of higher education are greater than a piece of paper; they've made her work more relevant. "All the courses I've taken didn't just get me a different job," she says. "The knowledge I've gained helped me grow in [my] position and made me feel that I was . . . able to contribute to it."

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. Submissions sent as the body of an email will not be accepted. Contact 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 if you have any questions.

DID YOU KNOW?

Call for Nominations



Each year at convocation, AU presents the Honorary Doctorate and Order of Athabasca University awards, in recognition of those who (among other achievements) provide “exceptional contributions to the enhancement of the Canadian culture or society,” as well as “leadership and inspiration by being a role model to our graduates.”

Does that sound like someone you know? If so, nominations for the 2009 awards are now open. Nominations for both awards must be received by November 14, 2008.

You can find all the details by following the links on the [AU home page](#), and a complete list of past recipients can be found [here](#).

The Interviewer

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

written and illustrated by Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Caramel Baby #15: Winning Their Trust



It hadn't been hard to win their trust in the beginning.

He might not have a psychology degree but he'd audited enough courses for three degrees. One of his personal lines of research involved using nonverbal communication to make someone believe that you got them, that you were in full agreement with all they said, and that you would be loyal to the death.

With these supremacists he couldn't have relied on subtlety.



Kush is here.

Those Klanners haven't been coming to the LBR.



I think they hate me for being your friend.



You told me you were washing your hair this afternoon!

It had to do with knowing when to look away and when to fix your gaze, when to offer an affirming nod, when to echo their thoughts in different words.



He'd also made a habit of aping his enemies, enemies like the fascists in the student union who'd get all chummy just before stabbing him in the back.

Probably. But there is no Klan now in Halifax. Not officially.

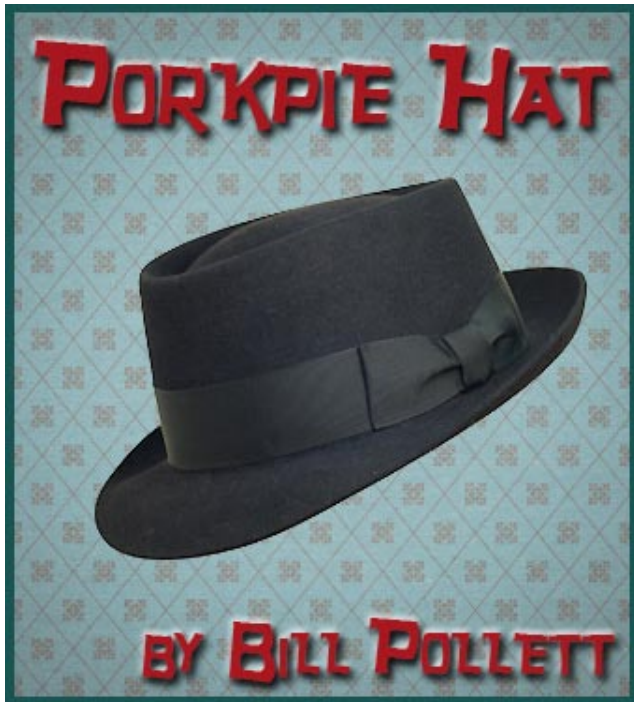


Wayne was ousted and then nobody knew who to trust so they disbanded.

Nothing to do with you, eh, Piker?



next: Sun Just Keep on Rising



October Street

To the untrained eye, there is a street, cleverly disguised, looking like any other quiet, suburban, tree-lined autumn street.

Driving down it at night, you would see the usual sorts of things. Brightly lit windows filled with images of cut glass vases, watchful cats, families gathered around a dining table.

You would see respectable homeowners out walking respectable dogs, doorways decorated with strings of skeleton-shaped patio lights, dollar store witches suspended from eaves.

What you would not see, though, is the dark, hidden, October heart of this avenue. You would not see the wicked shadows gathering like rare, dark insects in the spaces between the houses.

Driving down the safe, buttoned-up boulevard, you would miss the subtle, coded text of back-alley revelations: the discarded blood-stained bandage sitting in a puddle of antifreeze; the grave-shaped piles of leaves; the ripples on the surface of the abandoned-since-mid-summer inflatable swimming pool, signalling the arrival of a gathering storm.

In your comfortable and sensible family sedan, late for a dinner party, you would drive blithely by the plague-ridden rats scuttling about in the rafters of a boarded-up house, and the tasteful bungalow in which a real estate agent is methodically planning the murder of her invalid father.

Carefully checking your GPS navigator, you would fail to notice the lost cat poster written in a child's looping handwriting, or the hedge-hidden home across the street, in which the neighbourhood poisoner of cats sits in his TV room, watching a sitcom.

Returning home after eating a little too much ham, drinking a little too much red wine, you slip off your shoes, undo your tie. You turn on the stereo, check your email, and upload some photos. Outside, unnoticed, the weather is turning nasty, moving from bad to worse.

There are hands and faces raw with cold. There are collars turned up against the wind. There is ice forming on the naked branches of trees. A black crow lands on your balcony railing, holding something in its beak, and begins carefully tearing it apart.

You draw the curtains, and draw yourself a bath. The alcohol and the warm water make you feel heavy and numb. To ward off the bad dreams, you take a little pill, climb into bed, fall asleep listening to Diana Krall.

On the October Street, miles beneath you, there are video cameras watching high-rent doorways. Half an October world away, there are early-warning systems monitoring empty horizons, waiting for something to appear.



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

Book: Muriel Barbery, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*

Publisher: Europa Editions, New York, 2008

English translation by Alison Anderson

An Enchanting Postmodern Fairy Tale

"Now it happened that one day the three princes went out hunting in a large forest at some distance from their father's palace, and the youngest prince

lost his way, so his brothers had to return home without him."

"The Magician's Horse," from The Grey Fairy Book, edited by Andrew Lang

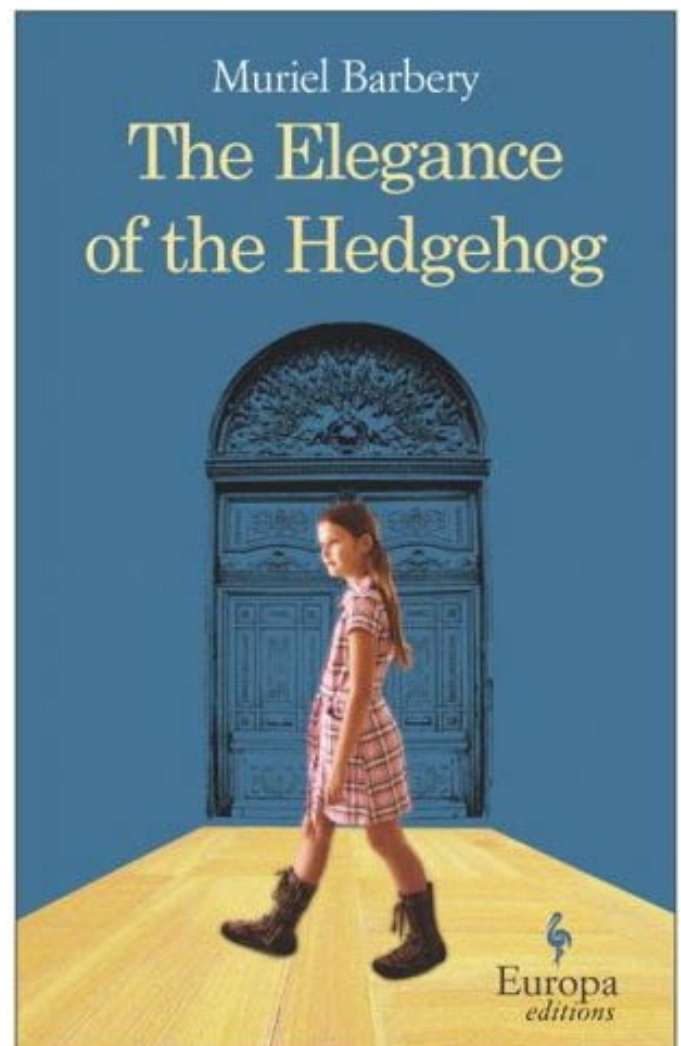
Do you know the story? By means of witchcraft, accident, miscommunication, or trickery someone loses his or her royal status. The protagonist is still royal, mind you, it's just that no one else sees it, and the story revolves around the means of eventual return to royal estate.

Cordelia in *King Lear* is one example. So is *The Frog Prince*. And so is *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, in which a stifling and sophistic class system is held entirely responsible for the blindness of the world at large to the true nature of two amazing human beings.

One, Renée Michel, is a fallen royal. Born into abject poverty, her birthright dictates her royal status must not be acknowledged. She grows up in a world of struggle, meanness, and sullen silences, a world wherein the poor die waiting for the rich to treat them with respect and dignity.

In spite of her stark upbringing Renée has become, by her own description, a proletarian autodidact. With no formal schooling she grasps the psychological observations of Tolstoy, the phenomenology of Husserl, the formal elegance of Satie.

The middle-aged concierge of a posh building in Paris, Renée is obliged, she feels, to pose as a typical concierge, that is, to be cranky, dishevelled, and lowbrow. She leaves her television on but never watches it, sneaking into a back room to watch fine



films on DVD. She also hides her books and music, and is careful never to correct the bad grammar, political pretensions, or cultural flubs of the snooty people in her building.

To a large extent she is simply submitting to the general farce that is social inequality, but there is a deeper justification for her stealth. Just you try to imagine what that might be.

In one of the luxurious apartments upstairs lives a young girl named Paloma who has decided to kill herself. Paloma is also a clandestine intellectual, and, also like Renée, has only contempt for the emptiness and pretensions of the lives around her. Her thirteenth birthday will be the festive occasion of a grand fire she plans to create to burn down her home, her family, and herself.

You may be appalled at Paloma's callousness, her suicidal ideation born of a pampered, pain-free life. But Paloma's suicide plan is in one sense an existential experiment, a challenge to life to step up to the bat and show itself meaningful.

Hang in there and you'll hear Paloma redeem her heartlessness with this penetrating observation: "I think I wanted to die and make Colombe and Maman and Papa suffer because I hadn't ever really suffered. Or rather, I was suffering but it didn't hurt . . ."

Into the picture comes the new tenant Kakuro, who is, thankfully, both Japanese and a true aesthete. Kakuro inadvertently discovers the secret natures of the two narrators, shamelessly befriending them and bringing them together.

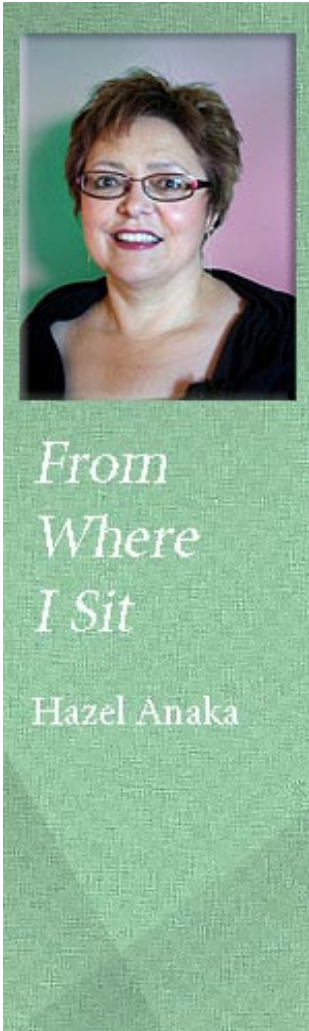
One thing that makes this book such a gratifying read for artists is that it's written from the point of view of art lovers who are not artists themselves; it thus grants us an objective affirmation of the value of what we do. Barbery touches on the same idea Reginald Shepherd expounded in *Orpheus in the Bronx*: art, far from being a means of asserting elitism, is a way out of ugliness, squalor, stupidity, and inequality.

This book is relevant reading for culture makers because it assures artists of their essential value in a market economy that would have them marginalized, and also shows up the absurdity and injustice of social hierarchy.

Isn't the novel always in some way about class? This book is openly about class from the beginning, but it ushers in a postmodern denunciation of class just as its characters denounce postmodernism. In one calm affirmation—"We can be friends. We can be anything we want to be"—Kakuro makes class prejudices fall away like dead leaves and appoints love of beauty and friendship the star criteria of fellowship.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog manifests 11 of The Mindful Bard's criteria for books well worth reading: 1) it is authentic, original, and delightful; 2) it confronts, rebukes, and mocks existing injustices; 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 gives me tools which help me be a better artist; 6) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 7) it inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; 8) it is about attainment of the true self; 9) it provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavour; 10) it stimulates my mind; and 11) it poses and admirably responds to questions which have a direct bearing on my view of existence.

**. . . art, far from
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Cold Cases

Each night this week, CTV Edmonton is airing a special assignment by David Ewasuk on some of Edmonton's unsolved murders.

We've all seen episodes of *Cold Case* and other prime-time dramas that show fictional detectives reopening murder cases that have gone cold. Inevitably there's a grizzled old cop who's spent the last 10 or 20 years having this mystery gnaw at his gut.

The *CSI* series of television shows enjoy millions of viewers each week and focus on some of the tools in the arsenal of crime fighters. Breakthroughs in technology and forensic science like DNA matches and offender registries are starting to pay dividends on TV and in real life.

Millions are riveted to these often sensational, gruesome, bloody, perverted crimes. It's easy to get seduced by the special effects and star quality of the players.

What's not so easy is watching the six o'clock news, knowing full well that this is all real. The bloodshed is real. The disbelieving family and friends are real. The police officers, crime scene tape, and memorials are all real.

So too are the real costs of investigating, prosecuting, incarcerating. But most tragic of all is the loss of human potential. As onlookers, many of us shake our heads and wonder why another young life is lost through crime.

As Ewasuk brings these stories back into the spotlight and back to our consciousness I'm surprised that the names and circumstances come flooding back to me. I remember the details of the horrific death of Shernell Pierre. She was a health care worker shot at close range and set ablaze in her car just blocks from the hospital where she worked. The update reassures us that detectives have a suspect and are building the case against him.

I remember the details of Dylan's death: the seemingly senseless, unprovoked stabbing on Whyte Avenue; the distraught family asking for the public's help. Erin Tilley was the victim of a drive-by shooting after a rave at the West Edmonton Mall. There are people who know something but refuse to co-operate. How bright is that?

I welcome the attention these crimes are getting. Ideally it will bring some calls to Crime Stoppers. For sure it will bring comfort and validation to the survivors who cannot forget their loss. I hope this attention results in charges and convictions. I hope it brings closure for grieving families.

I want to believe that you can run but you can't hide, that criminals get punished, that we are safe in our homes and cars and lives. I want to believe that anyone with information has the scruples and conscience and courage to do the right thing. I want to believe that our lives haven't deteriorated into a weekly television drama.

In the meantime, the best we can do is say another prayer for these lost souls and their loved ones, from where I sit.

AUSU This Month



Merchandise Still for Sale

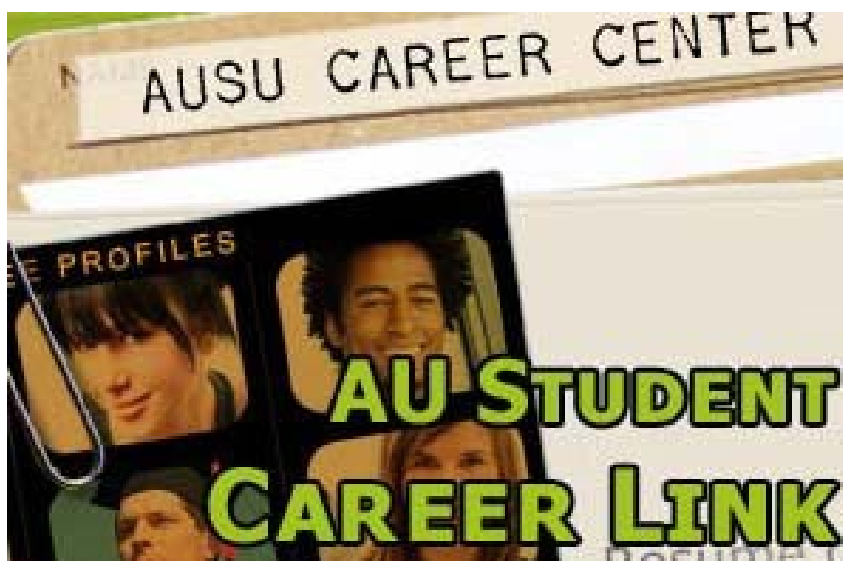
We still have some locks and memory keys available for sale. Both of these were designed with ease of mailing in mind, which means they're small enough to be easily stored pretty much anywhere. The wristband USB key is a unique way to carry around your assignments, online materials, and even emails while 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



 **SmartDraw**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK

Mandy Gardner

**At Home: Loonie is on a roller coaster**

Financial news is grim worldwide these days, mostly due to the American banking and mortgage crisis. While the Canadian economy is no longer as closely tied to the ups and downs of the US economy as it once was, our financial world is suffering from the falling markets right along with the rest of the world.

This week our loonie is hovering around the 80-cent mark again in comparison to the US dollar, which many Canadians find troubling especially after recent highs this spring that had our currency at a strong \$1.01 against the American dollar.

Earlier this year Canadians were shopping south of the border, both in person and online, in droves due to the strong currency and good exchange rate. And many Canadians with money to invest found the crumbling US housing market to be an excellent place to put some of those loonies this year.

With US housing values down, however, those may be some very long-term investments that don't show much in returns for several years.

As the world faces fears of recessions and depressions brought on by the current financial situation, Canada's dollar is being affected by the now-falling price of oil and the fact that some investors are slowly moving back into US markets. It has been some time, though, since the Canadian dollar has actually gone below the 80-cent mark (the last time was 2005).

Canada is by no means in this boat alone, however. The British pound has not been valued this low for five years and the Australian dollar recently traded at only 66 cents to the US dollar.

While the loonie continues to ride the tide of financial markets, Canada's economy does remain one of the strongest in the world and is enjoying very low unemployment numbers right now.

In Foreign News: Greece crippled by striking workers

Greece practically shut down completely on October 22 as hundreds of thousands of the country's workers walked out on their jobs in a general protest. In some sectors, up to 90 per cent of the workers were out protesting rather than doing their jobs, according to the spokesman for one of the country's trade unions in an interview with the [BBC](#).

Transportation in and out of Greece (including air traffic) came to a halt as most services were cancelled there. Participation in the 24-hour strike was widespread as even bankers, lawyers, teachers, and hospital workers took part.

The general strike was called for by Greece's trade unions and was in response to government plans to spend 28 billion euros on helping banks suffering in the current credit crisis, privatization of the country's primary airline, Olympic Airlines, and talk of changes to the many retirement plans there.

Workers also demanded doubling of the minimum wage in Greece and protested an illegal land deal many cabinet ministers have been implicated in that might have cost the government up to 100 million euros. One prominent cabinet minister has already resigned over the scandal.

Greece's Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis is due to release a new budget shortly and it is expected that he will press forward with his plans to rework the country's pension plans that are operating in the red and to privatize Olympic Airlines. He says that workers affected by the privatization will be compensated and that Greek consumers will be protected from rising prices as much as possible.

EDUCATION NEWS

Kelwryn Ord

Cracking the crunch: What the US financial crisis means for students

OTTAWA (CUP) - Billionaire investor Warren Buffet has called the current financial crisis gripping the global economy a "financial Pearl Harbor," and former US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has described it as a "once-in-a-century event."

But figuring out what exactly has happened and how it affects students at Canadian universities is, like the problem itself, multi-faceted and complex.



Any student can relate to financial crunch times, especially at the end of each semester, when December rolls around: the money starts to dry up and the unpaid bills start to collect.

In these times of financial hardship, students tend to seek an injection of liquidity—which is essentially the capability to readily convert assets into cash—in the form of loans from their parents or banks, while some resort to the dreaded part-time job.

Picture this same financial crunch on a global economic scale but with no parents, banks, or part-time jobs to provide the required infusion of cash.

This lack of liquidity is at the heart of the American financial crisis, as banks have become almost completely reluctant to provide loans to other banks, let alone businesses and consumers.

"Someone has to pick up the hot potato, and without the private sector taking on debt, the government has to," said Mario Saccareccia, a University of Ottawa economics professor.

"Even former free-market fundamentalists accept the need for greater government intervention and deficit spending in order to retain jobs and stave off potential large-scale unemployment."

To evaluate how the credit crisis will impact students, it is imperative to understand how it impacts the Canadian economy, and how the crisis came to a head.

On Sept. 29, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 777 points—the largest single-point drop, albeit not the largest percentage drop, in history—when the United States House of Representatives rejected the original \$700-billion US bailout plan to purchase primarily mortgage-backed securities from American banks.

The lack of available bank credit is the central problem behind the financial crisis. Banks and companies have stopped lending to one another, or will only do so at extremely high rates, thus slowing financial transactions.

Saccareccia says despite that the origins of the crisis lie outside the Canadian system, we should still expect to suffer from its consequences.

“While the practice of sub-prime mortgage lending, which is at the heart of the crisis, was almost entirely centred in the United States, the deep integration of the American and Canadian financial sectors leaves us quite vulnerable to the fallout from the crisis,” he said.

Saccareccia says the credit crisis arose because sub-prime mortgages—which no one knows the actual value of—were packaged into securities and sold to other financial institutions around the world as safe assets.

“These securities are essentially anonymous and banks simply do not know or trust that other banks are clean of the potentially toxic assets and thus are very apprehensive about risking lending them money,” Saccareccia said. “Thus, it has become imperative that the government intervene in the markets to ensure that capital flows continue.”

Saccareccia claims Canadian banks, which are well leveraged, will not experience the same level of crisis as the banks in the US, but the potential for some volatility still exists.

Like all Canadians, students can expect to find it more difficult to get loans from banks, or find employment, both now and possibly even after graduation.

With parents potentially losing more money, students may also experience greater difficulty in wrestling away that much-needed cash come December.

And despite the best efforts of the Canadian Federation of Students’ Drop Fees campaign, students are highly unlikely to receive much reprieve from high tuition.

The prospect of a recession means that government revenues from taxation will likely fall while expenditures—due to higher unemployment and welfare service costs—will likely rise.

Saccareccia remains sceptical about the capabilities of Canadian political leadership in this crisis: all parties refuse to accept that deficit spending may be necessary. A Canadian deficit is more likely to result from US demand slowing down after the credit crunch, rather than as a direct result of the credit crunch.

Errol Mendes, a U of O law professor, suggests the US might be so overloaded by these toxic assets that any government bailout package could come up short.

“The amount of bad debt currently in the financial system could be into the tens of trillions of dollars and the existing bailout packages are likely insufficient,” he said.

***Canadians are caught
in the middle of this
financial storm like
everyone else, and
will likely remain so in
the years to come.***

"The much heralded recent \$700-billion US bailout package will do little to stem the tide of [personal mortgage] foreclosures in the United States, and thus the financial crisis itself, as it doesn't actually do anything for homeowners."

Ultimately, both Saccareccia and Mendes agree the global economic crisis is the worst since the Great Depression and that recovery may be a long and difficult affair.

... managing the crisis correctly could help Canadians escape the worst of the recession. It's now up to the newly elected Conservative government.

Americans reflect this assumption. A CNN opinion poll released on October 6 states six in 10 Americans believe an economic depression is likely. Consumer confidence south of the border is low, which does not bode well for a global economy still somewhat dependent on US consumer spending.

Canadians are caught in the middle of this financial storm like everyone else, and will likely remain so in the years to come.

Mendes contends that if this crisis is not managed correctly, the global economy is "potentially on the precipice of a major collapse."

The Canadian economy, he explains, "has thus far been relatively insulated by high commodity prices; however, with a global economic recession appearing imminent, commodity prices have declined substantially over the past few weeks, as evidenced by the massive drops in the Toronto Stock Exchange."

In the coming months, the crisis will, at the very least, affect certain regions of the Canadian economy.

Saccareccia believes the Canadian economy is already in recession due to significant drops in exports to the US, which account for approximately one-third of Canada's Gross Domestic Product.

"Due to the deep integration in the financial sectors, Canadian access to credit is likely to reflect the growing trend in the United States," he said. "Therefore, whatever freezes up in the United States will also freeze up in Canada."

Mendes suggests we are currently "six months to one year away from recording a budget deficit." This is particularly true for Ontario where "exports to the United States have dropped substantially and recent layoffs in the manufacturing sector reflect the difficulty ahead."

Saccareccia says the failure of government to intervene decisively in the economy following the 1929 collapse, when they chose instead to limit spending, exacerbated the crisis as capital flows dried up. This brings up the need for government intervention in the market.

Economists today have a far greater understanding of the economic and financial systems than they did in 1929, even though many regulators did not foresee just how dangerous credit default swaps could become.

But any increased government intervention in the Western financial markets to ensure continued capital flows will be expensive.

As far as this country is concerned, both Saccareccia and Mendes agree that managing the crisis correctly could help Canadians escape the worst of the recession. It's now up to the newly elected Conservative government.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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