

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 43
November 7, 2008

Lest We Forget

From Where I Sit

Careers

Naturopathic
doctor

This World

The journey's end



Plus:

*The Mindful Bard, On the Hill,
Porkpie Hat, 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, Conclusion

Part VI: Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming to Shreveport, Louisiana

This is the final 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 17: Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

It rained last night, but we stayed dry! However, the dampness gives us trouble when we try to start our breakfast fire. Although eventually we get our food cooked, we're already running behind when we start driving toward the trailhead to join the guided hike. Then we get held up by countless caravans of RVs and,



The "Grand Canyon" of Yellowstone

to top it off, a herd of buffalo crossing the road. When we arrive, we see a ranger and his group of hikers disappearing down a trail. Although we bolt from the car, by the time we reach the trailhead, they're long gone.

After consulting our guidebook, we decide to attempt our own hike. We're in the so-called Grand Canyon of Yellowstone area, and a three- to four-mile hike will take us to a very scenic view.

It turns out to be so pleasant, we're glad we missed the other hike, as interesting as it would have been. Although the trail goes uphill somewhat, it's not as painful as our Kluane hike a week and a half ago, and the beautiful views of the Canyon and its waterfalls more than make up for it.

At the end of the trail, there's a flat, grassy area where we let Kiersten play among the roots and stumps to get some energy out. We had a good workout, but she's been stuck in the hiking backpack and needs to

stretch her legs. She happily wears herself out and falls asleep on the hike back. In fact, she's still sleeping when we reach the car, and we're reluctant to interrupt her first nap in days. Adam decides to check out the Canyon's visitor centre while I sit and catch up on my journaling as Kiersten sleeps.

I spend the next hour sitting under the trees, listening to outdoor sounds as I write. I feel the gentle breeze and I realize I've never felt so close to nature.

There's something about writing that opens the soul, and writing outdoors allows the wilderness to enter. It's an amazing feeling.

This evening, after enjoying marshmallows over the campfire, Kiersten spends some time playing with some little girls from the adjacent campsite. When they ask where she lives, she says (to our chagrin), "Campsite!"

We realize that although this travelling adventure must be exciting for her, it's also disorienting for someone so small.

After Kiersten goes to bed, we focus on packing the car so we can get out early tomorrow morning. Our great camping experiment is nearly over, and to my surprise, we both like it—particularly when the weather isn't freezing. Here at Yellowstone, the temperatures have remained pleasant; in fact, last night we didn't even need our cold-rated sleeping bags.

Tomorrow, we're setting out on the last third of our trip. From here, it's slightly west and then straight south toward Louisiana!



Falls emptying into the Yellowstone River

Day 18: Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming to Casper, Wyoming

This morning after leaving Yellowstone, we pass through another national park: Grand Teton, which borders Yellowstone to the south. Grand Teton is home to the mountain range of the same name. Roughly translated, it's the French-Canadian equivalent of "big breasts." We don't see the resemblance, but we marvel at how far from Quebec French-Canadian influence has been extended.

Although we're delayed by construction just outside Grand Teton, the speed limit jumps to 75 mph and we begin making good time. From here to our resting point in Casper, Wyoming, there aren't many towns, so we can go at a fairly consistent speed.



We do stop to take some pictures of the area. The terrain is different than in Yellowstone and Grand Teton: it's red, rocky, and dry. The formations are jagged and look like they belong to a different planet. We're consistently amazed by the wide diversity of landscapes that can be seen up and down North America.

The higher speed limit means we arrive in Casper earlier than we'd expected. We can relax, eat dinner, and take Kiersten to the pool. The temperature here is in the upper 80s, and we realize that we're finished with the cold-weather portion of our trip. I wash and pack the jeans and sweatshirts, and take out the sundresses and shorts. South, here we come!



The jagged red landscape of Wyoming

Day 19: Casper, Wyoming to Denver, Colorado

Packing takes a while this morning. Trying to repack for maximum efficiency—since I know we won't be using certain clothes again on this trip—always takes so long that I wonder whether I'm saving time in the long run! We eventually leave around 10 in the morning. Today we're headed for Denver, and since it's a shorter drive, the late start shouldn't significantly hinder us. We'll be visiting and staying with friends whom we haven't seen in five years.

Most of the drive is uneventful and flat, with mountains in the distance. The traffic picks up significantly once we arrive on the outskirts of Denver. Once again, I'm surprised at its size. So much of this trip has been spent in the wilderness, whether driving or camping, that I'm unused to large cities!

Our friends live just south of Denver. It's great to see them again after so many years. We meet their children for the first time, and they meet Kiersten. And Kiersten meets their toys! It's her first time in a house in more than three weeks, and she makes a beeline for the toy box. It's not until after dinner that she discovers the other kids exist.

Day 20: Denver, Colorado to WaKeeney, Kansas

This morning, after church and brunch, we say goodbye to our friends. It was a great visit, but we're pretty tired today. Being in a house again reminded us how desperately we want to be settled. For the first time, we wish we were done driving already!

It doesn't help that we're running late. Brunch took much longer than we expected. Then, at a grocery stop on our way out of the city, we discover that Adam's credit card is missing. After 15 minutes of panic, we find it at the restaurant—but imagine if we hadn't discovered its loss until we were already in Kansas!

Still, it's nearly two by the time we leave Denver. Not far from the Colorado/Kansas border, we cross into the central time zone. This is our last time-zone change; it's good news, since it feels like we're really in the home stretch now, but it puts us even further behind schedule. We start looking for a place to spend the night.

Here in western Kansas, towns—or at least, towns large enough to boast hotels—are few and far between. The highway is surrounded by a lot of fields, and not corn and wheat fields like I expected. There are countless sunflowers, and we learn that this crop is so predominant that Kansas's nickname is the "Sunflower State." We finally pull over in a small town, and hope we can make up for lost time tomorrow.

There are countless sunflowers, and we learn that this crop is so predominant that Kansas's nickname is the "Sunflower State."

Day 21: WaKeeney, Kansas to Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

It's our second-last day of driving! With that encouraging thought, we pack the car in record time and head out. We have a hundred or so miles to make up today, but we can do it easily.

Driving through central Kansas gives us views of flat plains and farms reaching far into the distance. We arrive in Wichita around lunchtime, but our plans for a quick break are dashed when we get lost twice trying to get to a supermarket. When we finally arrive, it's closed. We're discouraged by the delay, and the cold and rainy weather reflects our feelings.

Things pick up after we enter Oklahoma. The weather clears, the temperature rises, and by dinnertime we find ourselves in Oklahoma City. Because the rush hour traffic seems so congested, we decide to delay dinner until we pass the city. It turns out to be a good decision, as we discover our favourite taco joint, and next to it, one of our favourite stores. We spend so long there that now we're really behind. It's after seven and Kiersten's almost falling asleep in the car. We're going to have to make up our lost time tomorrow.

Day 22: Pauls Valley, Oklahoma to Shreveport, Louisiana

It's finally here—our last day of travel! We'd initially planned to arrive in Louisiana early in the day. However, the last few days have put us a hundred-some miles north of where we'd hoped to be. And as we're getting ready to leave, we discover that Pauls Valley is home to a toy and action figure museum. Adam persuades me that it's our last chance to sightsee, so in we go.

The museum is surprisingly well curated. And they have a fantastic kids' play area, complete with Legos, cars, and—gasp!—a Cinderella dress that puts Kiersten over the moon. We have difficulty persuading her to get back into the car for more driving.

Although the museum stop delayed us an hour or two, we're still making good time as we press on through southern Oklahoma. We are taking a slight detour to Dallas, Texas, where our other car has been shipped. It means an hour or two extra driving, but we prefer to do it now rather than make a separate trip. At this point, for the next month, we're only going to walk places!

As we drive west through Texas, I notice how much higher the humidity is here: my hands are sticking to the steering wheel. We pick up our car and head west. Now, we really are in the home stretch. Next stop, Shreveport, Louisiana!

It's a pleasant drive, even though we're travelling separately now. Kiersten is very well-behaved for someone who largely has to entertain herself. It might be helping that we moved a lot of the bags to the other car, so the back seat feels roomier. I think, though, that she somehow senses that Louisiana—and stability—is just around the corner.

After several hours, we take a break and calculate that we have another hour and a half left to go. We're amazed when we arrive at the Texas-Louisiana border only 15 minutes later! Shreveport is just another 20 miles ahead.

And then it's 10 miles further, then five—and we're there! It doesn't seem possible, but after 22 days on the road, 5,000 miles, and \$950 in gas, we have finally arrived at our destination. We've seen an enormous range of landscapes: from glacial mountains to subalpine forests to rocky buttes to flat plains to tree-lined southern streets.

We've stayed in cabins, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and tent-camped under the stars. We've seen temperatures ranging from 37 degrees (Glacier National Park) to 97 degrees (Dallas, Texas). We've crossed paths with animals from buffalo to elk to gophers (but no bears). It's been an adventure, with incredible memories. And are we ever glad it's finally over!

Secretly, though—I almost can't wait for the next trip . . .



Cinderella meets R2D2

ON THE HILL

Sandra Livingston



Soldier, Sailor

On November 4, cheers erupted around the world at news of Barack Obama's election, and Canadians were among those cheering loudest.

It's not just the sense of hope that has risen with the election of the first black US president, breaking barriers and rekindling the promise held in the Declaration of Independence.

It's also the sense of possibility that Obama brings to the world; the optimism that his diplomacy, intelligence, and grace under pressure herald a

meaningful shift in global relations. But as he noted in his victory speech, realizing that promise will come at a cost; it will take "a new spirit of service, a new spirit of sacrifice."

And it is that spirit of sacrifice that will be one of Canada's biggest tests in a new relationship with our southern neighbour, one that will be played out half a world away—in Afghanistan.

Currently, there are more than 2,900 Canadian soldiers, sailors, and Air Force personnel deployed overseas on operational missions. Roughly 2,500 of those are in Afghanistan. Canada's military has been there since 2001, and 98 Canadians have died. Public opinion is increasingly against our involvement, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper has vowed that in 2011 those troops will come home. As the *Globe and Mail* put it, "a decade of war is enough."

The Harper government renewed that commitment on November 5, one day after the US election and at a time when the president-elect has vowed to deploy up to 12,000 more troops to Afghanistan, shifting the fight against terrorism out of Iraq and into that country.

It's a marked departure from the latest Bush-era policies, and it's precisely this anticipated shift in the US stance (along with economic and diplomatic fronts) that will make it so difficult for Harper to keep his pledge.

If, indeed, a new era of international cooperation is dawning, Afghanistan will be a testing ground. It will become a highly symbolic measure of a country's intention to forge new alliances and repair old ones, and Canada won't be alone in this dilemma.

Although Great Britain has made it clear that their troops are in it for the long haul, there are 40 other nations in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Australia has over 1,000 troops in Afghanistan; France nearly 3,000. Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland all have between one and three thousand personnel stationed there.

As the new political landscape evolves, Harper may embrace a realignment, shifting Canadian troops away from the southern province of Kandahar, one of the most perilous regions in the country.

But for the Canadian Forces fighting for stability in a political quagmire far from home, it may not be time to start cheering yet.

CAREERS

Behdin Nowrouzi



Consider a Career as a Naturopathic Doctor

What is a naturopathic doctor?

Naturopathic doctors are primary care practitioners in North America. They are trained in the basic and medical sciences and able to diagnosis and treat patients using natural therapeutics.

According to the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors, it is mixture of the art and science of treating and preventing diseases using natural therapies, including clinical nutrition, hydrotherapy, acupuncture, and botanical medicine.

Education and training

Currently, four Canadian provinces have formal licensing and educational requirements: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. Regulation is pending in Alberta and Nova Scotia and expected to be finalized in 2009. The remaining provinces are also pursuing regulation.

In these provinces, naturopathic doctors must pass boards as set by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners and after having fulfilled their

academic and clinical training at a school approved by the council on Naturopathic Medical Education.

Admission requirements

Currently, only the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in Toronto is accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME).

The remaining accredited schools are in the United States, including The National College of Natural Medicine (Portland, OR); Bastyr University (Seattle, WA); the University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine (Bridgeport, CT); and Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine (Tempe, AZ).

The Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine in New Westminster, BC has been given candidacy for accreditation by the CNME.

According to the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine website, applicants will be considered for the Naturopathic Medicine (ND) program if they have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

Students applying to the ND program will require six credits of general biology, three credits of biochemistry, six credits of general chemistry with a laboratory component, three credits of organic

chemistry with a laboratory component, and six credits of introductory psychology and humanities electives (i.e., anthropology, women's studies, literature, sociology, etc.) respectively.

The average cumulative GPA of accepted students has been 3.3 on a 4.0 scale.

Where do naturopathic doctors work?

Many NDs set up private practices of their own or join clinics with other health care practitioners. Alternatively, some NDs work in research, are employed by public or private organizations, or work in areas of policy or for the government.

As with other health professions, practitioners of naturopathy establish rapport with their patients and their success depends on individual ability and experience.

Salaries and demographic information

The median salary of naturopathic doctors tends to fall in the range of family physicians, and those having a busy practice can make between \$80,000 and \$90,000 per year. In Alberta, incomes for naturopathic doctors may vary considerably but, in general, are comparable to those of other family doctors.

For more information regarding naturopathic medicine, please visit [The Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors](#) website.

AROUND AU



AU Store

Want to show off your AU pride? Looking for a Christmas gift for that special AU student?

Simple: just go to the [AU store](#) and check out all the latest gear.

There are some great AU branded items available, including women's fleece zip jackets in colours from green to orange to purple and more.

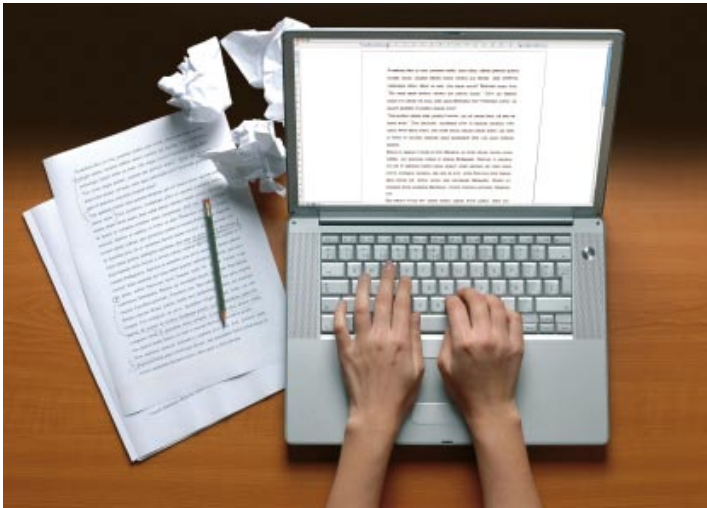
You'll also find men's fleece zip jackets, unisex pullover hoodies, men's and women's jackets, and a variety of golf shirts and other clothing.

There are some great little stocking stuffers too, and the always popular stainless steel travel mug.

To order items from the AU store, call 1-800-788-9041, extension 7285, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (be sure to have your credit card number and expiry date).

All items are shipped via Canada Post, but you can save the shipping charges by picking up your order at the main AU campus in Athabasca, at the Edmonton Learning Centre, or at the Calgary Learning Centre.

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 your 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?

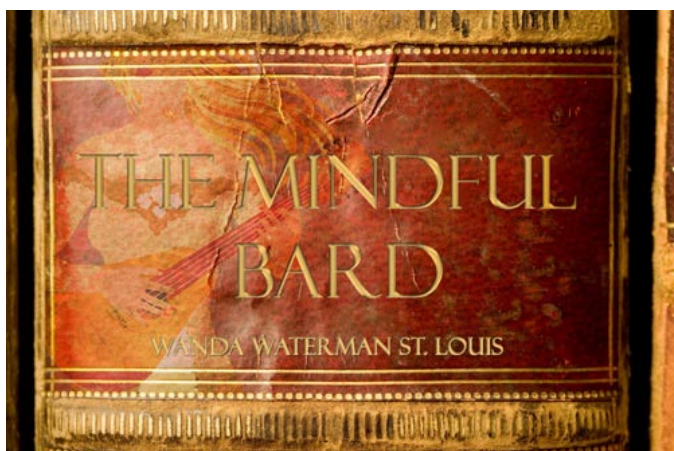


Holiday Exam Requests

Planning on writing an AU exam as the holiday season approaches? If so, there are a couple of important things to keep in mind.

If your course contract ends on December 31, you'll be allowed some extra time to schedule your exam. As the AU calendar explains: "All examinations for courses with a contract end date of December 31 must be completed no later than January 15 of the following year." Remember, though, that all your other coursework, including assignments and quizzes, must be completed on or before the December 31 course contract end date.

As well, the university will be closed from 3:00 p.m. December 24 until January 2. For all the details, check out the [AU calendar](#) online.



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

DVD: *The Band's Visit*

Theatrical Release: February 8, 2008

DVD Release: July 29, 2008

Starring Sasson Gabai, Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri, Khalifa Natour

Directed by Eran Kolirin.

Deep Calling Unto Deep

"There's nothing more lofty and more wonderful than our ability to be with each other and create. Why, this is a cure for everything!"

lead actress Ronit Elkabetz, from an interview about *The Band's Visit*

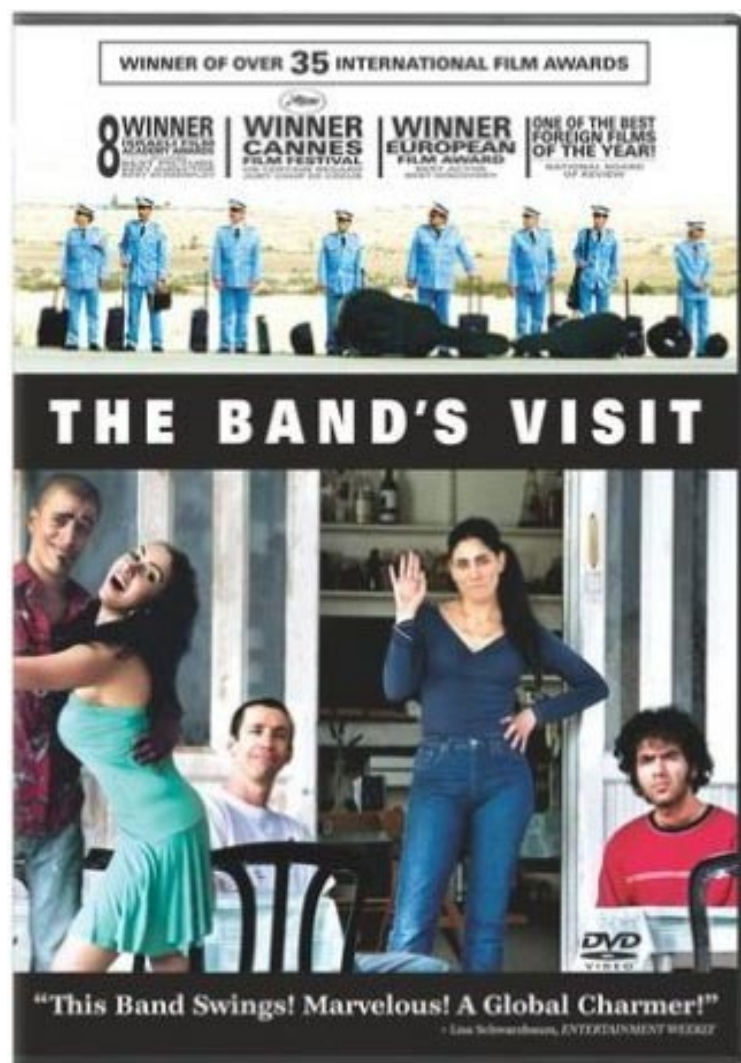
Papi, a gawky young Israeli, is getting nowhere on his date with the morose young woman sitting beside him. On his other side, Haled, an experienced Arab Lothario, feels bad for them both and so begins to offer a series of pantomimed pointers.

He hands the young man his handkerchief; Papi figures out he is supposed to give it to the crying girl beside him and gently offers it to her.

Haled places his hand on the Jew's knee; the Jew does likewise to the girl. The Arab caresses Papi's knee with his thumb; Papi copies the motion on the girl's knee.

Then the girl places her hand on Papi's knee and Papi, getting his signals crossed, reaches over and places his hand on Haled's. The Arab gently corrects him, and the date is a success.

"I didn't feel like having one of those projects," says Israeli director Eran Kolirin in the extras portion of the DVD, "where Arabs and Jews are building a bridge between them and go on a trip together. That's not it. And I



think that everyone felt that we came here to find our own truth, inside ourselves."

This movie is not about Israelis or Arabs or the tensions between them, and neither does it advocate a means of bringing the two sides together. *The Band's Visit* is about the arms of Love Itself inexorably extended out from one side to the other, symbolically spearheaded on the Israeli side by the sexual aggressor Dina (played by Ronit Elkabetz) and on the Arab side by the bedroom-eyed lover Haled (Saleh Bakri). When these two characters meet they appear conspiratorial; it is as if they have known each other for a very long time and have nothing new to say to each other.

One playful motif in the film is the singing of classic jazz songs, a metaphor of deep significance in light of the tensions between the two ethnic groups.

Love Itself is gentle and kind, yet brooks no opposition. It moves on until it is received and that's that. It asks for nothing in return—no peace talks, no commitments, and no settlement—but only to be allowed to continue flowing onward until it is admitted. Sometimes its only refuge is with itself.

Love Itself is tender and mocking and confident and instructive. It's also a trickster throwing a necessary wrench into the works, as Haled does when he is told to get directions to a town called Petah Tikvah and instead brings back directions to Beit Hatikvah.

One playful motif in the film is the singing of classic jazz songs, a metaphor of deep significance in light of the tensions between the two ethnic groups. A brief and inexplicable peace descends when these songs are sung.

Haled, for example, silences and mesmerizes young girls by asking, "Do you like Chet Baker?" and then launching into a low, crooning version of "My Funny Valentine." An extremely awkward dinner between reluctant guests and still more reluctant hosts is given respite when the men break into an off-key version of "Summertime" in two kinds of broken English.

From both sides Love Itself is manifested every time music is made. "It will flame out," as Hopkins said, "like shining from shook foil," despite long-standing historical divisions.

The extreme commonness of some of the details—the sound of seven suitcases wheeling over a gravel field, a cleaner sullenly pushing a supply cart in front of a group being photographed—is almost shocking to a North American film viewer. This is refreshing; there is nothing rose-coloured about this view of life but neither does it wallow in grittiness.

The classical Egyptian song the band plays at the end is so wise and joyful that nothing else needs be said. It lauds the indomitable character of art as a compassionate response to a suffering humanity and speaks into the possibility of a future world that can be treasured whether or not it can ever exist.

The Band's Visit manifests seven of The Mindful Bard's criteria for movies well worth watching: 1) it is authentic, original, and delightful; 2) it 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 displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 6) it inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; and 7) it provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavour.



*From
Where
I Sit*

Hazel Anaka

Easy, Affordable, and Simple

Over the years I've bought many Remembrance Day poppies. This year was no exception. Each day I wear one on my outfit and another on my coat so whether I'm coming or going, inside or out, there's no doubt that I remember.

Even the laziest and cheapest among us can do this. It's easy, affordable, and simple. You needn't be a philanthropist. There are no complicated or inconvenient instructions to follow. You simply need awareness, an understanding of why this matters, and as much or as little as you can afford to donate. So why, pray tell, isn't everyone wearing a poppy?

At work I printed off a copy of John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields," attached a poppy and slipped the paper into an eight-by-10 inch dollar-store plastic sign holder. It was simple, easy, and affordable. It adds a touch of quiet elegance to our front counter and hopefully sparks some recognition with anyone seeing it.

Just hours after I placed it there an elderly Legion member came by trying to sell us a wreath or solicit a donation. I gladly bought a petite version to sit beside my sign. It cost 22 dollars and will serve us for years to come.

How moving to see that on November 4, Queen Elizabeth II launched an electronic tribute to the 68,000 fallen Canadian soldiers of World War I.

Every night between dusk and dawn from now until November 11, the names will be projected onto the wall of Canada House in London. Each name, without rank, will appear once for eight seconds before being replaced by other names. The last name, George L. Price, will be projected at dawn on the 11th.

Vigil 1914-1918: Canada, the Commonwealth and the Great War is a trans-Atlantic tribute that moved westward to Halifax, Fredericton, Ottawa, Toronto, Regina, and Edmonton. It signifies the journey home that the fallen would have taken. This project was the brainchild of actor R.H. Thomson and lighting designer Martin Conboy to mark the 90th anniversary of the Great War. Veterans Affairs provided \$300,000 for the project. Private, provincial, and municipal donations provided the additional funding to make this possible in six Canadian cities.

In doing the research for last year's similar but smaller Vimy Ridge tribute, R.H. Thomson spoke to the 80- and 90-year-old children of the lost soldiers. He was surprised by the extent of emotion shown by these people so long after their fathers had died.

Nothing about Vigil is easy, affordable, or simple. And thank God for that. We need to remember the ultimate price these heroes (and their survivors) paid. We need to recognize that in 2008 other Canadians and their families are paying the ultimate price. We need to do what we can do: the easy, affordable, and simple act of wearing a poppy, saying a prayer, attending a cenotaph service. Anything less is a disgrace, 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: Final Chapter

He remembers the day his mother brought home the little caramel baby.



Reuben, he's gonna love you, 'cause all boys love their big brothers, so you gotta be the best brother you can be, y'understand?

His goodhearted stepdad had let him hold it.



As a baby Wendel would turn to look whenever he heard Reuben's voice...

When Wendel was leaving for Montreal with his band their mother had cried from her soul.



Pub Murder

Montreal Gazette 12 July 1978

pe Breton Nova Scotia musician Wendel Gagnon is murdered last night

a preliminary investigation resulted in the interview of several suspects with ties to racist organizations in the city. After

Had she somehow known?

...and later, when he was older, followed Reuben everywhere and did everything Reuben did.



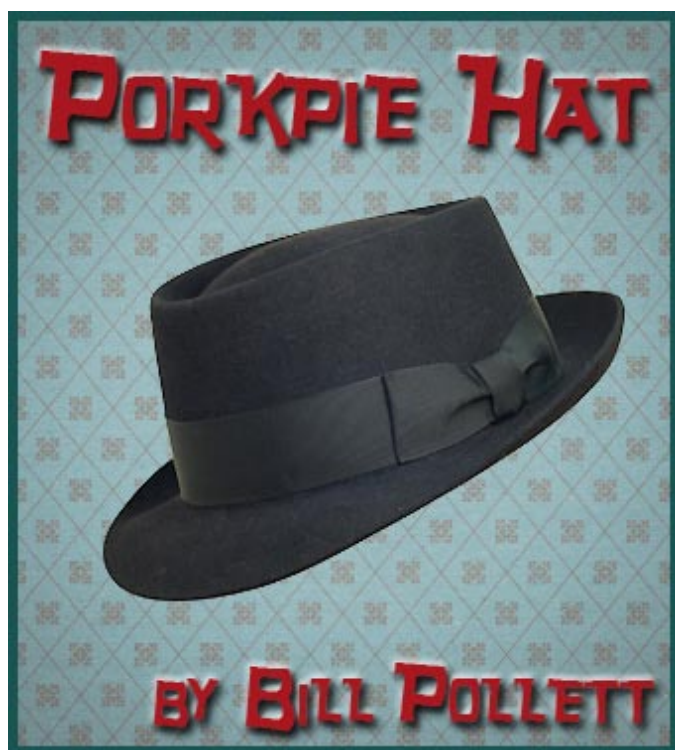
He'd listened to all of Reuben's records and then taught himself to play the guitar. Like a wizard. No lessons.

Come on, now, Mum. Don't worry. I'll be okay.



Really. I'll be fine.

The End



Uninvisible

There was a time when they walked through shopping malls and admired all the plastic-wrapped wonders, every dollar store and Zellers as exotic as a spice route bazaar.

They filled shopping baskets with out-of-season gifts—Teletubbies and digital watches—for the kids of family members they (suddenly and mysteriously) no longer begrudged.

In the Super Valu, they exchanged jokes in the produce aisle, bantered with butchers in bloodstained jackets. He showed her how to juggle grapefruit; she introduced him to the art of sniffing cantaloupes.

She emerged from the changing room in her new jeans, an updated Venus rising from a new-millennium clamshell. Sometimes the security guards and checkout ladies (they don't know what love is)

didn't get their subtle sense of humour.

At concerts and movies, they whispered through the first bits, always surprised at being shushed. Driving home in the new minivan, each silently marvelled, as they sang along to Celine Dion, at the ways in which poetry and song can lay bare the longings of the human soul. Late into the night, they made jasmine-scented love, they ate Indian takeout by candlelight.

Slowly, they too began to forget what love is. They glared dark thoughts at each other across sensible Ikea tables. They hid private resentments behind the thin steam rising off cups of peppermint tea. They arrived home late from the office, ate their leftovers with plastic forks by fridge light.

They turned the television up and fell asleep, without saying goodnight, to the sound of bombs falling in the Middle East, the sound research findings related to the dramatic increase in sudden and unexplained weight loss. They developed, and carefully nurtured, deep-seated grudges toward each other, and each other's friends and relatives, and each other's relatives' pets.

They each of them downloaded music they had listened to as teenagers, and felt that the haunting words spoke eloquently to their own senses of betrayal at the hands of fate. *Bismillah! We will not let him go!*

Every now and then, though, the strangest things will randomly happen. The sunlight will catch her hair in a certain way, or she will smack her lips when she's waking up. He will have a nightmare about being abducted by aliens, and cradle his head between her breasts. Without notice, they will briefly defy gravity, rising up off the backyard lawn chairs, or walk backwards up rickety ladders, juggling grapefruit.

They will go shopping at the mall, or turn a corner together downtown, and this whole lost world will be there, waiting for them, invisible.

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



At Home: Canadians cheer Obama victory

The ballots may have been cast south of the border, but to the north Canadians were also celebrating the victory of new US president-elect Barack Obama.

From the Yaletown pub in Vancouver to the Halifax Metro Centre in Nova Scotia, crowds erupted in cheers as Obama's triumph was announced.

Watching the election results from the Metro Centre, Lynn Jones shared her reaction with the [CBC](#).

"All the different issues that Barack talked about for the United States of America, we're really hoping that that translates into an agenda for Canada," she said.

Others watching the historic moment expressed their desire that, one day, Canada might also have a politician who inspires such hope and enthusiasm in voters.

Daurene Lewis was one of them. In 1984, she made history when she was elected mayor of Annapolis Royal, becoming the first

black woman elected to the position in Canada.

"It also is very reflective or very indicative of why we had such low turnout in Canada," Lewis told reporters. "There was nothing new, there was no change, no one was coming up with anything that was new and different."

Whether in America, Canada, or anywhere else on the globe, there was no doubt that those watching the election witnessed a pivotal moment in history.

In Foreign News: Taiwan and China sign cross-strait deals

In spite of the interest garnered by the US election, it was also business as usual on November 4 as Taiwan and China signed on to four accords between their countries. Three of the agreements, which deal with direct links between the two, are the realization of ideas first put forward more than a decade ago.

As the [China Post](#) reports, the accords will expand the countries' dealings in flights, maritime shipping, and mail service. The fourth agreement concerns food safety, a topic that's causing a lot of worry in Taiwan after melamine-tainted mild powder was imported from China. Food processors, distributors, and even bakers have been affected, losing billions of dollars in sales.

P.K. Chiang, Taiwan's chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), said it was hoped the four agreements would bring "the distance between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait ever closer not only substantially but also in form."

It's hoped that policies in other areas, such as Taiwan's restrictions on Chinese tourists, will also be loosened.

EDUCATION NEWS

Carl Meyer

**Finley oversees federal student aid again****Re-appointment of old minister invokes harsh memories**

OTTAWA (CUP) – Diane Finley has got her old job back—a move that has frustrated at least one post-secondary lobby group.

The Conservative government announced its new ministry at a swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, October 30 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

As part of the cabinet shuffle, Finley became the

new minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, a post she had previously held in 2006 before being replaced by Monte Solberg. HRSD is responsible for the federal government's post-secondary education portfolio, which oversees federal student aid.

David Robinson, associate executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, calls Finley's shift back to HRSD "worrisome." "She was a shadow minister. No one really saw her," he said. "It's a bit of an uninspiring appointment."

Finley did not personally meet with any prominent student lobby group during the 10 months she held the position in 2006.

Finley could not be reached for comment as of press time, as neither she nor her staff appeared at the office today, said spokesperson Julie Hahn.

When asked about whether the minister plans to meet with student groups in the coming weeks, Hahn said the minister's timetable would be distributed soon. "The minister was just sworn in today. The logistics behind this can take a while," she said.

Robinson stated he had "asked to meet with her many times" during her previous appointment, but was never granted a meeting.

"The first day or two of [Solberg's] appointment, he actually phoned us," Robinson reflected. "It was a different kind of approach."

Ian Boyko—the government relations co-ordinator for Canada's largest student lobby group, the Canadian Federation of Students—is cautiously optimistic.

"It continues to pose a challenge," Boyko said of the minister's track record. He adds, however, that the Federation still accomplished some of its goals in 2006. "We can have an effect, and did have an effect, without meeting with the minister," he said.

Boyko says Finley's move back into Human Resources may speak to the government's priorities.

"They probably think they've done a lot of work on the post-secondary education file," he said. "There's still a considerable funding gap . . . despite the increase, there's still room to be made up."

In 2007, Finley swapped positions with Solberg, who was minister of Citizenship and Immigration (now called Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism). This September, Solberg announced he would not be running for re-election.

Other Cabinet appointments

Out of 38 members of the Canadian ministry, only 12 spots remained the same.

Finley is replaced by Jason Kenney, who was previously minister for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity. That ministry no longer exists, as it appears to have been merged with Immigration. Jim Prentice, who was previously minister of Industry, is now minister for Environment.

Prentice brought forward the controversial bill that would have amended the Copyright Act to bring Canadian law in line with many elements of the United States Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

He is replaced by Tony Clement, who was previously minister of health. Clement was minister during the Health Ministry's battle with many lobby groups, including the CAUT, over whether safe-injection sites should be permitted in Canada.

CLICK OF THE WRIST - Let It Snow

We're barely past Halloween, but snow has already started falling and shovels and mittens have hit the store shelves. Winter isn't all bad, though, as this look at the beauty of the season proves.

Canadian Snow Sculpture Team

Who knew there was a Canadian snow-sculpting team—or even an international organization, the Association Internationale de Sculpture sur Neige et Glace? Not me, but their incredible work speaks for itself.

Vermont Snows

Here's a collection of photo galleries from ice-sculpting shows in the US.

Harbin Snow Sculpture Art Fair

Now *these* are some truly amazing works of art, seen at the 19th Annual China Harbin Sun Island festival in (where else?) Harbin, China. The festival was staged as part of a co-operative effort with Montreal, and these snow sculptures have to be seen to be believed.

Main Street Meltdown

Here's an interesting take on the current financial crisis. Artists created an ice-sculpture in the shape of the word "economy"—then photographed it as it did a slow meltdown in the middle of Manhattan's financial district.

The Snowflake

According to National Geographic News, the tiny snowflake is "winter's secret beauty." That's not exactly what I'm thinking as I scrape them off my windshield by the millions, but these photos of the fragile crystals are remarkable.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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