

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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On Hugs and Hits

Will the kids be alright?

A Life and Legacy

Hunter S. Thompson

Protest This

A fine line



*Plus: The Interviewer, From Where I Sit,
Dear Barb, and much more...*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@voicemagazine.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.



ON ASSAULT (AS COMMITTED BY A TWO-YEAR-OLD)

Bethany Tynes



In all my time spent as a childcare worker, I had never received a parent complaint about my performance.

Not until near the end of my childcare career, that is, when the father of a child in my care lodged a complaint against both my co-worker and myself.

We had failed in our duties, he said. A young girl was harassed, assaulted, and compromised while under our supervision.

While this occurred, I stood by and, worse than idle, encouraged the offences. Why would I encourage such an atrocity? What had happened to enrage this father so?

A two-year-old boy simply hugged a two-year-old girl.

Hugs are shocking and indecent acts, I admit, especially between toddlers. On this particular morning it was raining when the little girl arrived at daycare.

She'd been home sick for a few days, and it was clear when she walked into the room that she would rather be at home still. As soon as her father began to step out and shut the door, tears rolled down her cheeks. She silently cried.

It was then that innocent little Michael approached with his big blue eyes full of concern. He quietly said, "It's alright. He'll come back and get you later. You don't need to be sad." As he hugged her, I told him that he was a very nice little boy.

Michael smiled, took the hand of the girl (who was no longer crying), and offered to play blocks with her. She smiled. Little did we know that the girl's never-before-unreasonable father had witnessed the scene as he peered in through the classroom window.

He immediately returned, went straight to the director's office, and remained there for nearly an hour. As a result of "the incident" our director informed us that hugging must now be "strictly forbidden," since it is known to "cause problems." Children who hug are to be told that they must keep their hands to themselves because it is *not* nice to touch their friends in *any* circumstances.

Ironically, though I must act so swiftly to end gentle hugs, it is considered "too harsh" to use the word "no" when one child hits another. After all, when a larger, stronger child pins a smaller one to the ground and proceeds to whack their victim in the head (repeatedly), the primary concern in the matter is to validate the feelings of both children involved, rather than ridiculously protecting the physical well-being of the weaker.

We can't forget the emotional damage we could do by neglecting to validate the feelings of a developing child. We must always swiftly empathize and validate to assure children that we value their individuality.

Using the word “no” with children is mentally and emotionally damaging. Children who hit need to be reassured, not reprimanded.

Not like children who hug. Comforting a sobbing classmate “causes problems.” Hugs must be “strictly forbidden.” Damnable acts, hugs are.

That’s not to say I work in a bad daycare. It certainly isn’t. In fact, it’s not only licensed by the local children’s authority, it’s also accredited as a “Centre of Excellence” by an independent province-wide organization. It has a deservedly spotless reputation. The director is genuine, warm, and caring. Each of the staff has been handpicked for his or her qualifications and ability to encourage and facilitate children’s physical, social, mental, and emotional development. Children at the centre receive maximal praise and minimal discouragement.

Unless they hug, that is. Hugging must always be discouraged.

And somehow these children of the daycare era manage to grow into adults. As children, they are taught that it is wrong to hug, but are reassured and validated when they strike or lash out at others. Suicides abound throughout North America, but children are taught never to hug a crying friend. Children bring weapons to school, sometimes even killing fellow students, but children who hit others are reassured.

Perhaps it’s time that we take a careful look at the messages we’re sending to the next generation in North America. When a two-year-old boy kindly hugs a teary-eyed friend and suffers worse consequences than the three-year-old who deliberately strikes another, something is very wrong in society. We wonder why some young adults display so little compassion: it’s time to review the lessons we’re teaching children.

And maybe if we’re progressive, take chances, and live dangerously, someday we’ll even be able to loosen up to the point that innocent little two-year-old Michael can hug a crying two-year-old friend.

CONVOCATION 2009



Calling All Soon-to-Be AU Grads!

Are you one of the proud AU students who will be graduating this June? If so, *Voice* readers want to hear from you!

One of the most popular features of our convocation coverage is the grad interviews—a chance for brand-new grads to share their thoughts on what it took (and how great it feels!) to reach their goal.

If you’d like to have your photo and a brief interview included in one of our special convocation issues, just email voice@voicemagazine.org and we’ll send you the details.

And if you’re going to be graduating in person, here’s your chance to be part of AUSU’s exciting new video coverage of events! AUSU staff will be on hand with their video camera to capture the excitement of a grad’s day. To get in on the action, email voice@voicemagazine.org

See you at Convocation 2009!

ON THE HILL

Sandra Livingston



Protest This

When the protest by Tamil-Canadians swarmed onto Toronto's Gardiner Expressway last week, the frustration of thousands of observers boiled over too.

For the most part, the outrage was well-founded. Not only did the protesters use small children as barriers between themselves and riot police, they put thousands of other innocent lives at risk.

It wouldn't have taken much to spark a stampede, one that imperilled both the protestors and those around them. And it's only by sheer luck that no one in those blocked vehicles was trying to make it to a hospital, or was on their way to pick up a child left stranded when they were late. The situation could have turned much, much uglier in so many ways.

Other objections, though, simply don't hold up. It's all well and good to say that protests should never impede a society's function. But oh how we'd be congratulating ourselves if massive civil disobedience had brought cities to their knees and crippled the early days of Hitler's sway, or forced the Rwandan genocide to a halt. It's the context, not the tactic, that's arguable.

Another question being asked is this: How dare they bring their homeland's battles and ambitions to our shores? That's a question for the history books. The same could be posed about the English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese forces that have dragged indigenous peoples into violent, foreign-backed conflicts in this hemisphere, or those settlers who weren't thrilled about the taxation system imposed by their native soil and started a little something called the American Revolution on the shores of their new home.

And the argument that a country (in this case, Canada) has no right meddling in another nation's affairs is a little disingenuous too. Few of us make a fuss about it when our corporate interests move in and forever alter the landscape and culture of a place, such as our mining operations in South America. The effects are deep, long lasting, and often disastrous for impoverished locals, but we're not so eager to preach about interference when we're turning a profit.

A better question, perhaps, is this: are the Tamil supporters rallying in the name of everyone's human rights, or just in defence of their own?

As one protestor told the CBC, "When I see pictures of children being bombed by illegal weapons, when I see pictures of elderly women being killed by chemical weapons, it makes me want to act." But there are any number of recent atrocities to have shouted long and loud about. Bosnia. Rwanda. Darfur. China. The Middle East.

Odds are that many Tamil-Canadians contribute to human rights organizations or particular causes. But in the face of other widespread, appalling human rights violations, the mass protests have been conspicuously absent by the same group that's turning out in the thousands now. Where were their leaders, or those youth suddenly hungry for human rights, when millions of other innocents were being slaughtered?

How then, do they justify intimidating the Canadian government with threats of more mass disruptions, in the name of protecting such rights? How can they, as a community, be taken seriously about their own rights when they haven't made their voices heard on behalf of others in this interconnected global family?

For that matter, how can any of us?

IN CONVERSATION WITH . . .

Wanda Waterman St. Louis



Lawrence Blatt

Lawrence Blatt is a multi-string instrumentalist known for flawless, inventive playing and compositions based on meditations on such things as colour, number, and the laws of physics.

*Blatt's latest album, *The Color of Sunshine*, was produced by renowned guitarist (and once owner of Windham Hill Records) William Ackerman and recorded in Ackerman's studio in Brattleboro, Vermont. (Keep an eye on The Voice for an upcoming review of Blatt's recent work.)*

Recently Blatt spoke to Wanda Waterman St. Louis from his home in San Francisco.

On Theme Albums

I like schematic albums. I like to base an album on an overall theme of inspiration because I like an album that holds together, not just one song after another that might not be linked in any way. Especially with the latest one, *The Color of Sunshine*, it's really important how the album comes together in the light spectrum. The album is actually presented in the order of the light spectrum and there is actually a journey of emotions and thoughts.

On the Composition Process

Sometimes I can sit down and write out a full song in 30 minutes; it just comes out and that's it. For example, on the new album, "Green Corn in Spring" and "Black Rock Beach," those were both written in one sitting, in about 30 minutes. Others I laboured with for a long time. Writing "Jaune," the track for yellow, was quite a long process.

Many Instruments

On *Fibonacci's Dream* I actually play every instrument on the album: guitar, bass, piano, mandolin, various percussion instruments; also some unusual instruments like the charango, a South American instrument.

I play all the same instruments on *The Color of Sunshine* but there are additional artists like Steve Schuch on violin. William is actually playing on "Reach for the Rainbow." He's also playing a little on "The Color of Sunshine." On that track we also have Jeff Oster on flugelhorn and Derrik Jordan on percussion with me on a couple of tracks.

Fingerpad Picking

Like most people I started out playing with a pick. I did the singer-songwriter thing for a while. I participated in a week-long workshop a number of years ago that was run by a guy named Laurence Juber. He was the lead guitarist for Wings. I spent about a week working with Laurence and with another performer named Brian Gore and they introduced me to playing without the pick and using just the pads of my fingers.

It takes some time to build up the calluses; the steel strings are really hard on your fingers. It takes a good year to stop tearing up your fingers. I think it's just such a natural sound, and it allows you to do things you can't do with picks. There are a number of other players who are starting to employ this method. A Hawaiian ukulele player named Jake Shimabukuro also plays with the pads of his fingers.



Time

I'm a microbiologist and I work at a biotech company here in San Francisco. It's hard to balance that with an independent music career. When you're an independent musician you have to spend a lot of time getting your music out there and promoting it, dealing with the production and packaging of the album. If you're with a record label they do all that for you. On the other hand the ability to have complete creative control over what I'm doing is absolutely essential.

Working with Will

I had self-produced the first two albums, but with those two I felt I was working in too much of a vacuum; I didn't have anybody to constructively listen to the material before it went out. It was important to find a producer who understood the kind of work I was doing and could maintain the sound that I had and enhance it. I think that was really successfully done with Will. And his engineer Corin Nelson was just fantastic in terms of getting you set up in the studio and working on the mixes. The album was recorded over a two-week period, so it was pretty intense.

Inspiration

On the music side a big inspiration was Paul McCartney and his early albums after leaving the Beatles. *Ram* was amazing to me because Paul was playing all those instruments and layering it all. That was a huge inspiration for what I do. I was always influenced by the singer-songwriters, especially James Taylor. I really span the gamut in my own music tastes, from country to jazz to rhythm and blues. I just like music that's done well and the genre doesn't really matter.

I'm also inspired by people who accomplish things, people who can take nothing and make something. That's what you do with music—you take an idea and turn it into something.

Currently

I'm now working on my fourth album, which is also produced by Will Ackerman. It's called *String Theory*. We're using that as a kind of metaphor uniting events, people, and places, and we're trying to incorporate a lot of stringed instruments. We are actually working on orchestrating a number of the piece, working with some classical musicians here in the Bay area.

CLICK OF THE WRIST – Spy Game

A recent *New York Times* article revealed that, along with the usual military training, some West Point cadets are getting lessons in cyber war: learning to defend a computer network against enemy attacks. James Bond may not wear fatigues, but here's a look at the way the spy game used to be played.

Mata Hari

Her name conjures up images of dark-eyed mystery and coded messages, but the jury is still out on whether Margaretha Zelle (better known as Mata Hari) was really a spy during World War I. Either way, her life has certainly become the stuff of legend.

Enigma

Brilliantly simple—once you know how it works. Although most people associate the name with the German Wehrmacht Enigma used during WWII, this electro-mechanical rotor machine was actually invented in 1918 and was in commercial use as early as the 1920s.

Top 10 Famous Spies

Not surprisingly, Mata Hari makes the top of this list, but there are plenty of other fascinating spies here. Perhaps the most surprising is Casanova. Better known for his romantic escapades, he apparently also worked as a spy for the Venetian Inquisitors of State.

CIA

Everyone's got an Internet presence these days, even spy agencies. This section of the CIA's website is aimed at kids, but some of the games are likely to test adults' skills too. Check out the Aerial Analysis and Photo Analysis challenges.

James Bond

No list of double agents would be complete without a nod to that suave superspy himself: James Bond. This site isn't a detailed history of the fictional character, but it gives an interesting summary of Bond in films, and some of the leading men who've played him.



Shameless Huckster

It's Wednesday night as I write this and I feel an odd mixture of fatigue, anticipation, and nervous energy. My sister, my mother, and I are all joining forces for a multi-family garage sale this Victoria Day weekend.

We bought a couple of newspaper ads and Sherry's Jim is making some very professional looking signs with his vinyl-cutting machine. We were a bit dismayed with yesterday's skiff of snow and wind chill but today was decidedly better. The weekend forecast is pretty decent, with temperatures in the mid-to-high teens.

This extravaganza is taking place in Sherry's yard in beautiful downtown Andrew, population 485. Luckily, Andrew is en route to some of Alberta's nicest lakes and holiday traffic should be heavy if the forecast holds.

I need to haul everything I'm selling to her place. Roy is seeding the crop so his help is sporadic and conditional. We will have on offer some bigger ticket items like a sofa and chair, wall unit, picnic tables, tires, and more. I've gotten some grief from family members because I'm also going to sell Roy's recliner.

"How could you be so heartless? So what if it doesn't fit the decor—a guy should have one comfy chair all his own. Todd got to keep *his* eyesore of a chair." (Picture TV's Marty Crane's duct-taped, striped green recliner—the bane of Frasier's existence.) Incidentally, I would not be averse to taking garage sale proceeds and buying a recliner that is comfy, attractive, and more in scale with the space we have. Just don't tell Roy.

Also for sale will be a set of six seagrass and metal bistro chairs I bought at a hotel disposal sale a few years ago. They'd be great in a sunroom or enclosed deck, neither of which I've got. They are value-added because I re-covered all the seat cushions. I hope to turn a profit and have them go to a good home.

There will be an eclectic mix of other buying mistakes (er, goodies), including but not limited to porcelain dolls, scarves, purses and totes, fabric remnants, household stuff, and collectable tins. Jim has Beanie Babies, bearded collie accoutrement, a Singer treadle sewing machine, a Noritake dinner set, a pocket bike, and a couple of vehicles. It hasn't been easy for those two to bring two households together in one small house but this sale should help.

With this excellent assortment of great stuff, a good forecast, and cash to be made I'm getting excited. It's back-breaking work but purging feels good. And I'm awesome at working the sale.

Okay, I'm a shameless huckster. There, I said it. There's a lesson in all this of course: buy smarter, buy less. Perhaps the biggie is: don't hang onto things expecting them to appreciate in value. Use them, enjoy them. But don't delude yourself into thinking there's profit to be made in Beanie Babies or porcelain dolls or farm toys or magazines or model cars ad nauseam.

Simplifying life, making space, and recouping some money are what it's all about this weekend, from where I sit.

The Interviewer

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

written and illustrated by Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Rockhead #23: Expecting Pay

And you were expecting to be paid for it?



You say that like it's a bad thing! I'm providing a professional service. You wouldn't get work from a dentist and not expect to pay him.



Or her.



Yeah. Whatever.



So... you were working on this and expecting to be paid for it around the time of the first quarterly meeting?



Ye-ah.



The same meeting at which Della Chute presented the student union newsletter she had developed and which she was offering the student union free of charge?

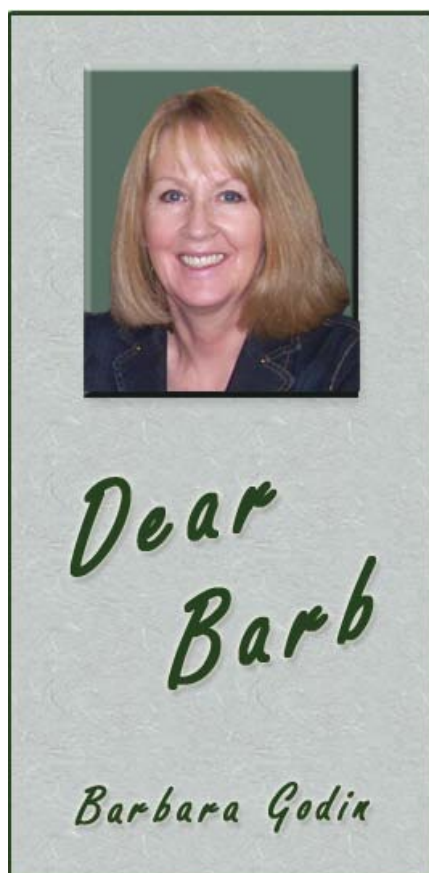


Oh, that! Yeah, I guess.



*My date's waiting.
Does my breath smell fresh?*

next: Persuasive Arguments



Focus on Simple Pleasures in Tough Times

Dear Barb:

My husband and I have two small children and due to the tough economic times we are finding it hard to make ends meet, let alone save for the future. This will be the first year that we will not be able to go on a vacation. Even though our children are young, we are so worried about whether we will be able to afford to send them to college or university.

How can we find joy in our lives when everything around us is doom and gloom?

Sara

Times are tough, no doubt about it, Sara. You are not alone in your situation, even though you may feel you are. Everyone is struggling, from heads of business to sales associates at Walmart.

At times like this we are forced to focus on other aspects of life, rather than material things. Live your life with gratitude for what you do have, rather than yearning for what is missing. You and your husband can be thankful that you have each other. Keep in mind all the single parents who are going through the same tough times as you, but don't have a

partner with whom to share. As well, your children are a special gift that many people have not been fortunate enough to have.

You don't need a lot of money to have fun. Rather than spending close to \$100 to go to a movie theatre, stay home and rent a movie. Make homemade treats together. Children love that type of activity. Allow your children to invite a friend for a sleepover and set up a camping scene in your living room, complete with sleeping bags and tents if you have them.

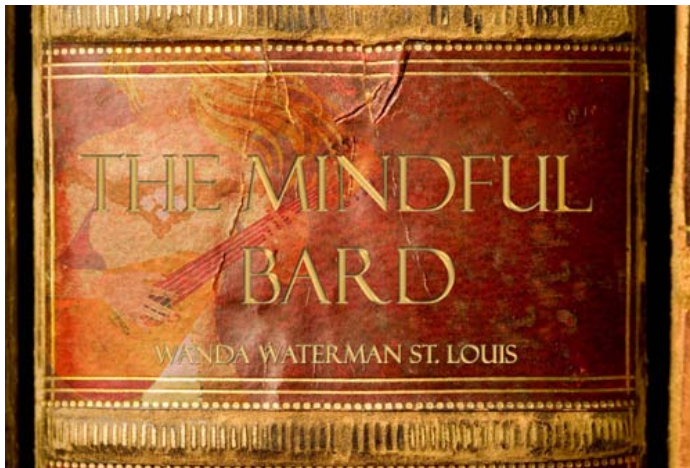
Instead of an expensive vacation, spend a week camping. If you don't have a camper, or don't want to stay in a tent, most provincial parks have yurts, permanent structures that are equipped with cots, kitchen utensils, and barbeques. No question about it, kids like camping indoors or out!

Another idea is to join a hiking club. It's free and lots of fun and, most important, great exercise for everyone.

Remember, everything is cyclical and history has shown that we have experienced difficult times in the past and recovery always followed. This situation is out of your control for the most part, so do your best to focus on what you can control and enjoy your life.

Hope I was helpful. Happy camping, Sara.

Email your questions to voice@voicemagazine.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality; your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.



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

DVD: *Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson*

Theatrical Release: July 2, 2008

DVD Release: November 18, 2008

Starring: Gary Hart, George McGovern, Jann Wenner, Jimmy Buffett

Director: Alex Gibney

The Road to Notoriety is Paved With Cigarette Butts and Empty Wild Turkey Bottles

"Some people thought it was a very courageous act. It was a noble act. Get out when you're on top! He wasn't on top. He was nowhere near on top. But some people thought that. And some people thought it was a very courageous act. I think just the opposite. I think this is a time when a together Hunter Thompson could make a difference in this country."

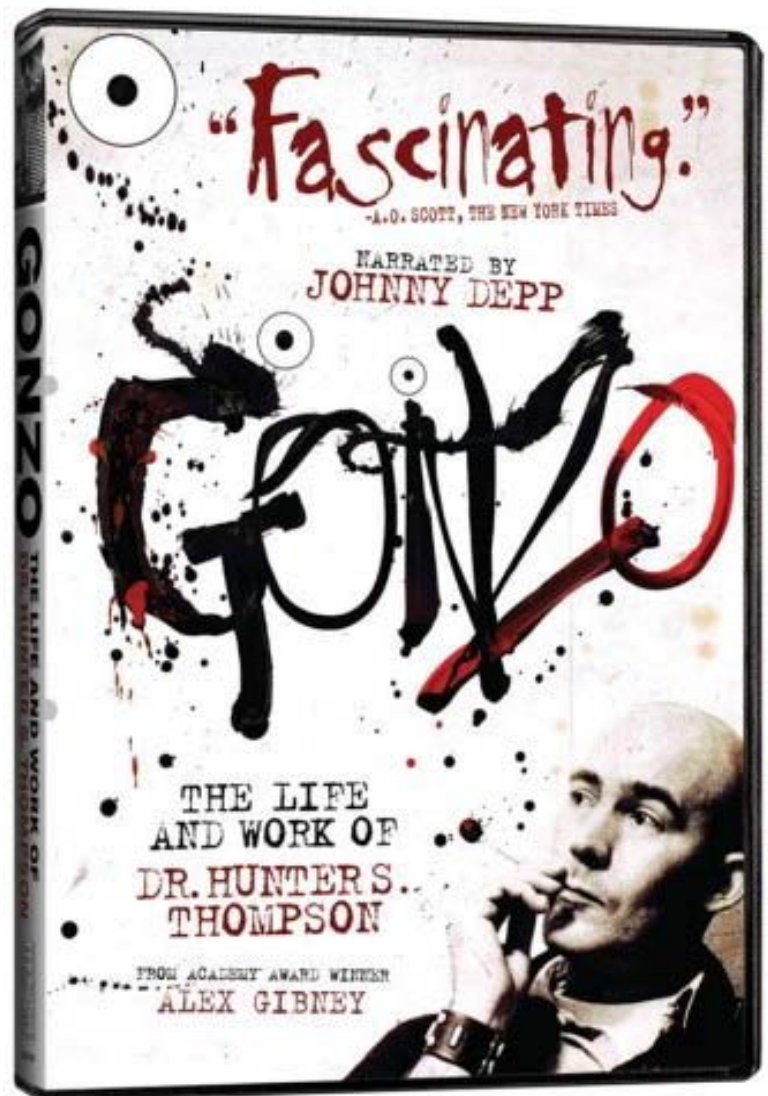
Thompson's first wife, Sandy, regarding his suicide in 2005

It's dusk and a huge party is going on in and around what looks to be a giant greenhouse. Well-dressed, attractive people are milling happily. A waitress serves champagne.

A huge double-thumbed fist is mounted on a massive upright pole. Fireworks shoot out of this fist and everyone cheers wildly; Hunter S. Thompson's ashes have just been dispersed over the Rockies.

Thompson's suicidal urges, which he had been discussing openly for years, appeared to be a desire not to be overtaken by death and a wish to be in control in spite of perilous inevitabilities, a mindset that marked his whole life and that propelled him and his cohorts into crazily dangerous situations.

His philosophical defence was the convoluted logic that if he didn't see suicide as an option he couldn't bear to go on living on such a screwed-up planet.



This film is a jewel, presenting a different facet depending on your viewing angle. It's painfully accurate while laced with illuminating untruths. It's a lot like Hunter S. Thompson's writing.

If only the legend could have separated from the talent to allow the talent to flourish unimpeded. The substance of Thompson's work was so much more solid (even if only because we can't get his imagery and his plot lines out of our heads) than the vicissitudes of his private life; his work only suffered when his personal dilemma broke into it.

Yes, Thompson's brain, had it not been first pickled and then annihilated, might have been useful in helping America get itself back together right about now.

One drawback to Thompson's popularity was that he was frequently worshipped for the most inane reasons, and I'm not just referring to those who reinforced his sickness by idolizing him for being a licentious, gun-toting booze hound.

When we know how brilliant some of his best insights were (his ability to judge human characters and cultural tides gave him a truly prophetic sensibility) it's painful to watch Thompson's gaggle of bohemian hangers-on cheering histrionically in response to the most vacuous of his remarks. (On marijuana laws: "When you get a whole generation that grows up as felons, and they know the law is ridiculous and are told all this gibberish about it, that it drives you crazy and makes your brain soft and your feet fall off, even the police know it's a silly law.")

Although Thompson's generation are renowned for having fallen far short of their ideals, don't be quick to dismiss the capacities of those who participated in The Summer of Love. I am continually amazed by granola fogeys I've known, not only at the wealth of wisdom they have accrued but also at the tenaciousness of their desire to find solutions, to further their own creative development, and to recreate society even if this means falling on their faces again and again before they succeed.

The other day I ran into one of them at a thrift shop and we fell into a discussion of the possibility of a local art school. I suggested it be created as a co-operative. "A co-op?" he gasped "Won't work. Too many people think they own it and can run it. And they can't. Keep your leadership group small and do everything as equals."

Yes, Thompson's brain, had it not been first pickled and then annihilated, might have been useful in helping America get itself back together right about now. It could have rejoiced with the current administration and offered pointers on how to avoid sliding back into the old horrors.

Yes, I'd have to agree with Sandy, even if the only evidence is anecdotal.

Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson manifests seven of The Mindful Bard's criteria for films well worth watching: 1) it is authentic, original, and delightful; 2) it confronts, rebukes, or mocks existing injustices; 3) it renews my enthusiasm for positive social action; 4) it gives me tools enabling me to respond with compassion and efficacy to the suffering around me; 5) it harmoniously unites art with social action, saving me from both seclusion in an ivory tower and slavery to someone else's political agenda; 6) it stimulates my mind; 7) it poses and admirably responds to questions which have a direct bearing on my view of existence.

The Bard could use some help scouting out new material. If you discover any books, compact disks, or movies which came out in the last twelve months and which you think fit the Bard's criteria, please drop a line to bard@voicemagazine.org. For a list of criteria, go [here](#). If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.

AUSU THIS MONTH



Annual AGM Held

As you probably already know from the AGM Report put out by the *Voice*, AUSU held its annual general meeting on March 23, 2009.

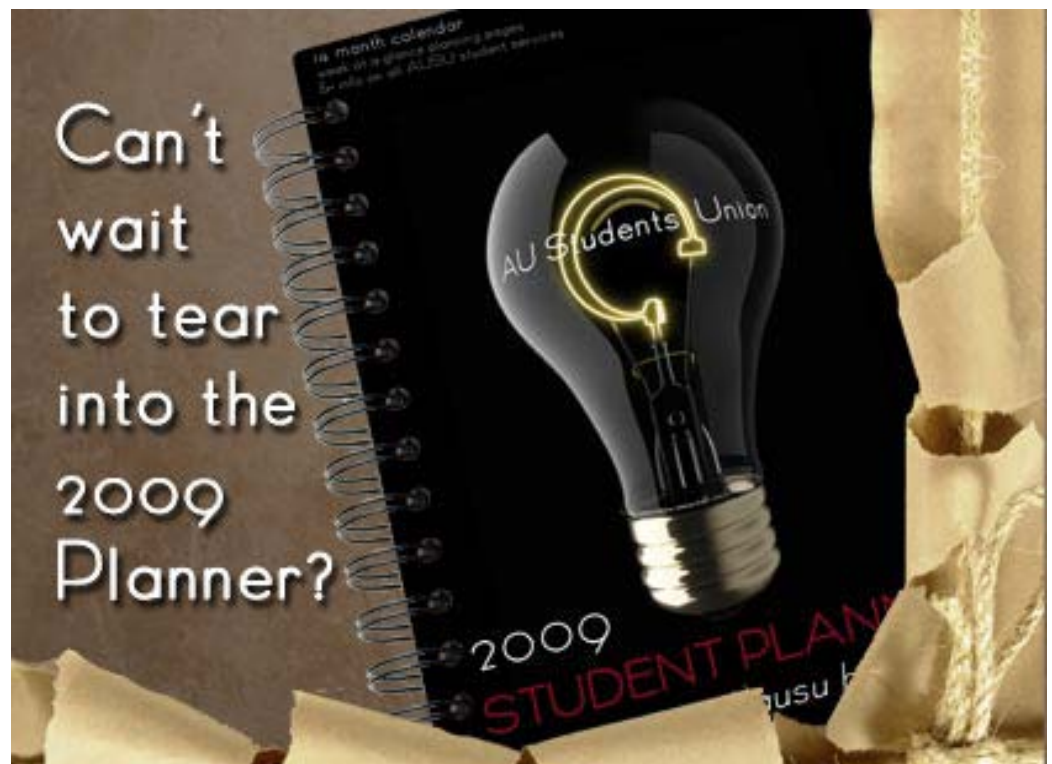
In that meeting a number of important revisions to the definitions of AUSU membership occurred, to make sure that the Councillors you elect are able to represent you during General Meetings and so that if you're a student in an AU collaborative undergrad program, you'll still be counted as an AUSU member even during a term that doesn't have any AUSU courses scheduled.

Also, our fees were changed from being \$8, \$16, or \$24 per course depending on the number of credits, to being a flat \$3 per credit, an increase of a dollar per course for most students. With this extra money, AUSU should be able to begin moving forward with a lot of desired programs that have been held up due to our staffing not being as big as our ambitions.

Also at the AGM, some good discussion was held with respect to email accounts, an issue we know a lot of you are concerned about, and we'll keep working with the university to see if a reasonable solution can be found among all of the priority issues AU needs to deal with.

Media Committee Started

Council has approved the terms of reference for the new media committee. This group, including your *Voice* editor, will be working hard to deliver new multimedia content to you on a regular basis. Our hope is to bring forward a more engaging, interactive AUSU, one that can help you get everything you want out of your education.



AU Fees Increasing

On March 27, the AUGC approved the new fees that will come into effect in September 2009. The bottom line is you'll be paying an additional \$29 per 3-credit course, including the increase to the AUSU fees. This includes an \$18 increase to base tuition and a \$10 increase to the Learning Resources fee. AUSU has noted

concerns with the university continuing to increase fees by the maximum allowable by Alberta legislation, but has agreed that lower quality service is not a viable alternative.

More concerning is the increase to the Learning Resources fee. AUSU will continue to press for details on how this fee relates to the prices the university has to pay for your textbooks and online materials.

au.world Closes

AUSU has noted the closing of the au.world publication with sadness, and has brought this to the governing council of AU. In its place, AU has begun a new magazine called *AU Open* which, rather than being strictly student focussed, contains a mix of stories for alumni, investors, and students. We have strong hopes that AU will increase the focus of this new magazine to be at least as relevant to current students as the old au.world was.

2009 AUSU Handbook/Planners

Members are snapping up our 2009 AUSU Handbook/Planner. Now in full colour, it has more course tracking pages, brief guides to the citation styles you'll need for your essays at AU, and of course, all the important AU dates and addresses that you need to know. You can order your own copy by going to <http://www.ausu.org/handbook/index.php>



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.

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.

In addition, we have recently purchased some steel water bottles. With all the concerns about BPA in clear plastic, the decision was made to go stainless steel. Cheaper and more environmentally friendly than purchasing plastic bottles of water, fill up your AUSU bottle to keep thirst away no matter where you're travelling.

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!



INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Bylaws block veterinary college from putting horses out to pasture

The barn is half finished, but Charlottetown's Atlantic Veterinary College needs to tame local bylaws before it can put its teaching horses to pasture.

As this [CBC](#) article reports, the pasturing facility is ready except for the proposed barn. The structure would include a synthetic fabric roof, which are "commonly used for modern horse barns."

For the animals, there are several benefits to this type of barn: it allows light in, and provides good air exchange and ventilation.

Greg Clayton, director of facilities management, told reporters, "It's been proven that it reduces horses being spooked in the facility."

The fabric roof would be a plus for the AVC as well, because it's economical to build and does not require electricity. However, local bylaws prohibit synthetic fabric roofs, "to make sure buildings look tasteful."

A proposal to amend the bylaw for the college was discussed but has been rejected. David Macdonald, city councillor for the area, hopes to find a solution but so far the barn remains uncompleted and the pasture empty.

In Foreign News: Google Street View blocked in Greece

Authorities in Athens have blocked Google's Street View cameras from Greece—at least until they can decide whether the service invades people's privacy.

In a report from [The Telegraph](#), the nation's data protection agency has prohibited Google's street mapping service from taking to Greece's streets. The agency is requesting more information from the browser giant, including "guarantees that the service did not invade personal privacy."

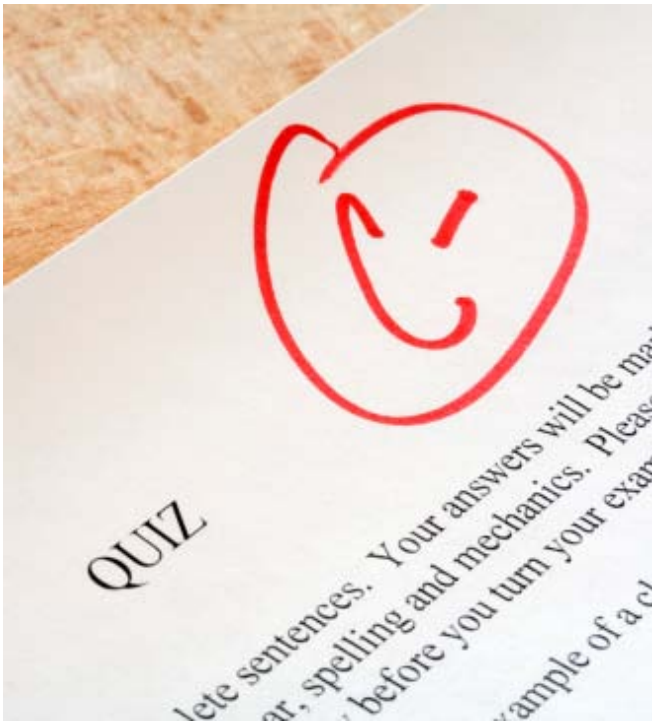
An unnamed government source told reporters, "We are not going to allow our country to become a Big Brother society."

A Google spokesperson denied that Greek authorities have banned the cameras, but did acknowledge that the government wants more information. In a statement, Google asserted that "We have received a request for further information from the Greek authorities, and we are happy to continue discussing these issues with them and provide information they request."

Controversy has followed Google's recent Street View launches in other countries, including the UK. A formal complaint was lodged with the Information Commissioner's Office, but the ICO denied the claim, saying that Google Street View did not breach the Data Protection Act.

EDUCATION NEWS

Sam VanSchie

**Facebook users get lower grades: study**

VICTORIA (CUP) - It takes little more than a glance at the computer screens on any campus to see that Facebook is a frequent distraction for students, both out of class and in.

And while it may seem like a harmless pastime, a recent study by Ohio State University education doctoral student Aryn Karpinski found that students who use Facebook spend less time studying and have lower grade point averages than those who avoid the social networking website.

Chelsea Rushton, a 22-year-old writing student at the University of Victoria, ended a year-long hiatus from Facebook last March. She says her membership on the site made no difference to her study habits.

"I need a certain amount of nothing time between working to rest my brain," Rushton said. "Even without

Facebook, I'm still on the Internet, surfing blogs, photo sites, or whatever."

Three-quarters of the Facebook users in Karpinski's sample also claimed their use of the site didn't interfere with their studies, though her research showed otherwise. But this doesn't guarantee a causal relationship.

"We can't say that use of Facebook leads to lower grades and less studying—but we did find a relationship there," Karpinski said in a media release. "There may be other factors involved, such as personality traits, that link Facebook use and lower grades."

Typically, Facebook users in her study had GPAs between 3.0 and 3.5, while non-users had GPAs between 3.5 and 4.0. And users said they averaged one to five hours a week studying, while non-users studied 11 to 15 hours per week.

Additionally, she found that students who spent more time working at paid jobs were less likely to use Facebook, while students who were more involved in extracurricular activities at school were more likely to use Facebook.

For Rushton, her use of Facebook is best correlated with her general happiness. "I feel way better as a person when I'm not part of the site," she said. "It's so much drama. That's why people love it. But it's obscuring our reality."

While she says she would communicate with people less when she wasn't a member, she didn't think it was a bad thing.

"I did a lot more projects—not school work, but just other useful things," she said. "Anybody who wanted to contact me could still contact me; it wasn't much of an inconvenience that way."

The reason she went back? "I needed to find someone, and it was the easiest way. So, I'm back in that world again."

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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