

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 17 Issue 34
September 4, 2009

Blog This

Owning opinions

AU Options

Bachelor of Nursing

The Cyber Life

Nothing virtual about it

Plus:

Sister Aurora, Dear Barb,

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@voicemagazine.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.



EDITORIAL

Sandra Livingston



Nothing Virtual About It

When L. Frank Baum wrote *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in 1900, it's a safe bet he wasn't thinking about the Internet. Today, though, Baum's book is a good parallel for how most of us think of the Net: just like Dorothy opened the door and stepped into Oz, we tend to view what happens online as a magical virtual world that doesn't have much to do with reality.

And that's a dangerous illusion, because in spite of the increasing overlap between man and machine we haven't yet done away with one important factor: human emotions.

The illusion, perhaps, is understandable. After all, machines are fulfilling human roles more and more every day. Television acts as babysitter, entertainer, and role model. For millions, the text on a computer or cell phone screen replaces live human interaction, even

though pixels of conversation can't compare to the subtleties of a live exchange with another person. The computer in your car will talk to you in almost any voice you choose, guiding you and encouraging you on a journey.

Yet we owe no respect or courtesy to the technology we interact with every day. We can yell at the GPS system or call our malfunctioning phone a "skank." The GPS won't get upset and the phone doesn't care.

It's no surprise that this kind of social conditioning spills over to the Internet, but there's a key difference: behind the hyperlinks lie real people. It's an important distinction that was demonstrated when Liskula Cohen, a Canadian model, won the right to unmask an anonymous blogger who was writing venomous comments about her. And it was seen, tragically, in the case of a Missouri mother whose cruel and humiliating online hoax played a role in a 13-year-old neighbour girl's suicide.

There have always been (and always will be) people who scrawl insults on bathroom walls then sneak away, the old-fashioned equivalent of an anonymous blog. The Internet simply adds the enticing illusion that none of it is real. That it doesn't affect anyone. That when we turn the machine off, much like Dorothy's dream it all disappears, including the feelings and reactions of the people on the other end.

Except that isn't the way it works. We can fool ourselves that the guiding voice of a GPS is somehow real. We can marvel at the increasingly human-like robots being created. Science, however, has yet to succeed at turning humans into machines. Artificial limbs and joints, yes. Emotions, no.

Which means that even though the Internet may sometimes seem like a parallel world, a vast and virtual landscape, the things we say and do there matter in a very flesh and blood way. Posting photos or a blog is no different than walking up to a bulletin board in a public square and tacking up a handwritten note. People are affected, even if we don't see them.

Technology may one day allow us to overwrite human emotions as easily as we post comments on the Internet. But until that day comes, there's nothing virtual about it.

AU OPTIONS

Bethany Tynes



Bachelor of Nursing

In a March 2007 *Calgary Herald* article, Don Braid described the Athabasca University method of teaching nursing classes by distance as “risky.” Braid’s comments caused great concern for many AU students, and AUSU replied to the article with an open letter to Braid.

The letter pointed out not only that “hundreds of nurses are currently practicing in Alberta with credentials granted by AU,” but also that Athabasca nursing graduates “have one of the

highest averages across Alberta for the written nursing exam.”

Linda Philbric graduated from AU’s post-RN Bachelor of Nursing program in June 2006. After graduating, she was accepted to a “very competitive” Emergency Nurse Practitioner program in the United States. Philbric considers the flexibility offered by AU’s distance course delivery to be one of the greatest strengths of the BN program. “I love distance ed because it gives me the flexibility to work,” she says, “and to do my studies when it is convenient for me.”

Dr. Beth Perry, a registered nurse and faculty member with the Athabasca University Centre for Nursing and Health Studies, agrees. “Students are able to access all nursing courses online from anywhere at any time, and, like the majority of AU undergraduate courses, post-RNs are able to start a course on the first of any month, provided they are registered by [the] 10th day of the preceding month.” In this way, “learners who are already working, and who may have other personal and professional commitments,” are given the opportunity to complete their BN.

The flexibility of the program also forces students to build positive study skills: it “requires students to be self disciplined and motivated to complete courses in a timely manner,” explains Dr. Perry. Philbric says that AU BN students must develop “tremendous self-discipline and the ability to be a self-starter. You have [to] love to read, and be responsible for your own learning.”

And when asked if classes delivered at a distance can really be applicable to a career as hands-on as nursing, both Philbric and Dr. Perry reply with a resounding yes.

Dr. Perry explains that to gain admittance to the post-RN Bachelor of Nursing program, students must have already completed a diploma in nursing, and must be practicing, registered nurses. “Hence, all post-RN BN program students are practicing registered nurses and we believe that we have developed courses that apply directly to current nursing practice.”

She goes on to describe how in Nursing 432: Management and Leadership in Nursing Practice, for example, students are encouraged “to complete activities in their workplace that help them to achieve certain learning objectives . . . They may be asked to discuss certain leadership scenarios and case studies with their work colleagues, or to complete a self-assessment based on their involvement in a committee in their

workplace. In these ways the students are able to apply their real-life issues and situations to their academic learning."

Philbric thinks that "the program is very relevant to nurses who are seeking their undergraduate degree . . . The physical assessment class and research classes are essential. The other classes have varying applicability depending on what you do, but all are still helpful."

Her AU BN classes also helped prepare Philbric for further studies: they have "served as an excellent foundation for my master's program," she says.

AU's Bachelor of Nursing is certainly much more than a "risky" way of "handing [out] Athabasca sheepskins." The Centre for Nursing and Health Studies is a "strong and popular nursing department that has been offering both undergraduate and graduate nursing programs for many years." And as for AU post-RN BN program graduate Philbric, she would "highly recommend AU's BN program to anyone," and believes that "many universities would do well to emulate AU's programs."

AROUND AU



Exam Request Deadlines Changed

September brings changes for all students heading back to school—and this year, there's an important change that AU students need to know about.

Effective September 1, the exam request policy has changed, and that means new deadlines for arranging exams.

Requests for invigilated exams inside Canada and the US must now be made 20 calendar days before the exam write date. For students outside Canada and the US, requests must be made 30 calendar days in advance.

(The previous deadline, which ended August 31, was that exam requests within Canada and the US needed to be submitted at least 10 calendar days before the planned write date.)

Although the deadlines are longer, the updated policy also contains a new option for writing exams late. If students request an exam *after* the 20- or 30-day deadlines, they can now write their exams up to 30 days after the course end date. The late-request fee is \$50 and applies to all exams requested after the deadlines (even if the exam does get written before the course end date).

The 30-day allowance may prove to be a welcome alternative to a standard course extension, which is two months at a fee of \$165. You can find full details about AU's current exam policies in the [Examinations and Grades](#) section of the online calendar.

If you're an AU student and want to share your thoughts about the change, join the conversation titled "Changes to Exam Request Policy" in the General Student Chat section of AUSU's [discussion forum](#).

Sister Aurora

There's a rainbow dancing in the sky tonight, and I think I'm gonna go outside . . .

#8

What'll you
change your
name to, Bert?



Not sure
yet. I like
"Aurora".



Of course you do.

Oh, that
reminds me—
I heard
tonight'll be
Aurora
Borealis.

Really?
I've never
seen
it!

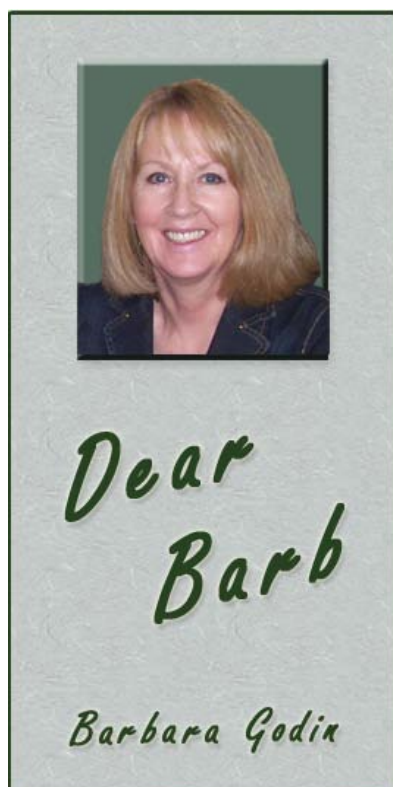
It's to
die for.

Hmph.



Don't get
too
excited,
Lynn. It
doesn't
look
anything
like my
brother.





Dating Decision Must be Respected

Dear Barb:

I am a single guy who has had trouble meeting attractive and interesting women in their forties or fifties during the last while. Recently, a good friend of mine told me that he knew such a woman who was both attractive and intelligent. Having seen a few photos of her, I have to concur with his assessment. My friend felt that I and this lady might have some things in common and he attempted to arrange an informal meeting (Starbucks was suggested).

Unfortunately, my friend informed me that this lady had recently met a guy and did not want to offend this new companion; hence, she was unwilling to make any sort of social arrangement with another male. My friend was astounded and I was disappointed to hear this lady's position. We both wondered why she would close herself from possible opportunities unless she was sure that her new male companion was likely to be her lifelong partner! Even if that were the case, her lack of openness to suggestion seemed overly restrictive. I await your advice as to how to break up this situational log jam or whether it may be a lost cause.

Andrew

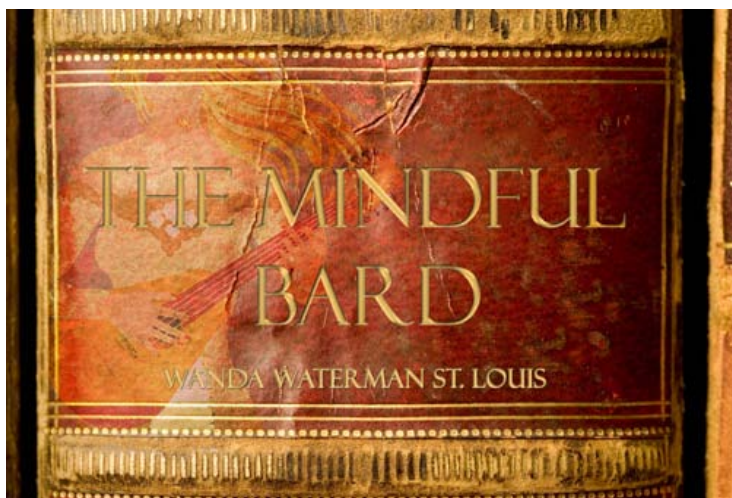
Hi, Andrew. Interesting dilemma! For me to answer your question fairly I would need to know more details. For example, how long has this lady been seeing her present companion? If she is reluctant to see you perhaps this relationship has been going on for a while and this lady feels committed to this man. Or she may have discussed the possibility of meeting with you and her companion was not happy about it. Therefore if she were to meet with you it would cause problems. Consequently, you can assume she cares enough about this person that she does not want to jeopardize the relationship in order to meet with you.

Let's look at this scenario from a different perspective. If you were in this situation, how would you feel if your lady agreed to meet with another man? Wouldn't you feel that her intention in meeting with another man may be to see if he has more to offer her than you? Subsequently, this would not be a positive experience for you.

As for this man being this lady's life partner, if this is a fairly new relationship, I don't know that this lady would be able to conclusively know the answer to that question. I guess all you can do is assume this lady is content with her present relationship.

I don't know that I was able to answer your question, other than to say that it appears at the present time this lady is not interested in pursuing anything with any other males. You said at the beginning of your question that you have had trouble meeting attractive and interesting women. Have you tried some of the online dating sites? I know of many people who have found their lifelong partners on such sites. Thanks for writing, Andrew.

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

Book: Louise Gray, *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Music*

Publisher: Between the Lines, in association with New Internationalist Publications Ltd.

Publication date: 2009

What is “World Music” Saying About the World?

“... this memory was also the beginning of a realization that music was charged with meanings

that go far beyond the organization of notes on a staff. Music is greater than that: it is a multidimensional system that can at any point require new instruments to express new sounds, the blessings of ancestors or the return to ancient systems of knowledge.”

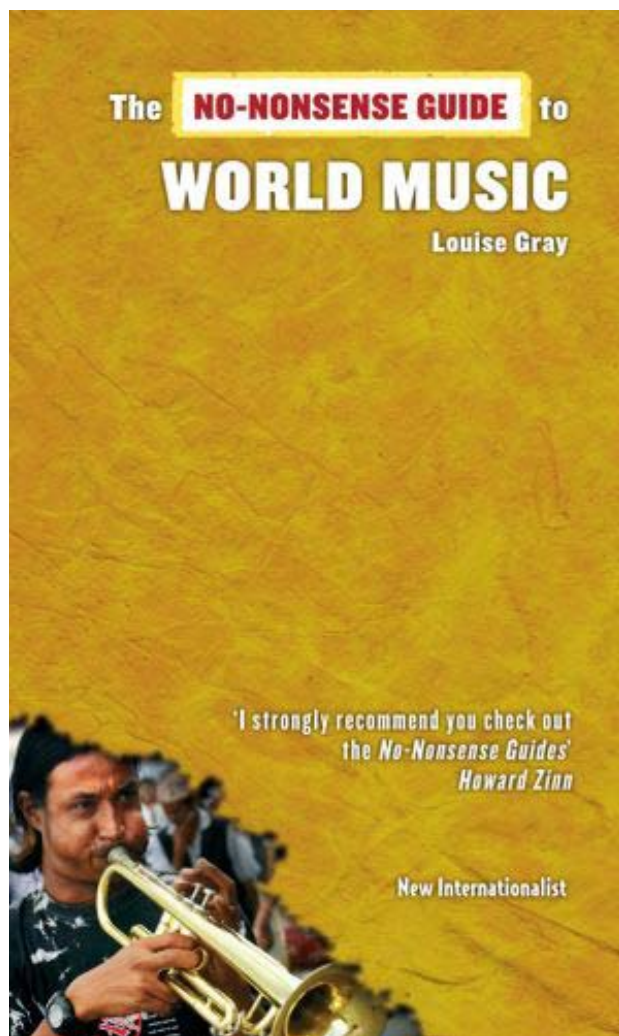
Louise Gray, from *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Music*

Most blues guitarists are familiar with Robert Johnson’s story about the dark man at the crossroads who took his soul in exchange for a profound musical ability. (Gurf Morlix references this myth in his recent song “Crossroads,” with a canny twist at the end: “I know some people who sold their souls to the devil, and they don’t sound nuthin’ like Robert Johnson.”) Go deep enough into any influential world music genre and you’ll find similar creation myths, attempts to explain the magic created by a uniquely mesmerizing sound.

Is the term “world music” meaningless? Yes and no, according to Gray. But she doesn’t attempt to replace it, so obviously the term is eminently practical regardless of the hordes that consider it demeaning when applied to them.

The method Gray uses to disseminate her gargantuan subject is to locate nerve centres of musical inspiration all over the planet and to follow the spreading of their concentric circles until they fade out or morph into other forms. Most of these loci have distinct political contexts, but others are simply well-aged and mellowed products of specific cultures.

One fountainhead of primal musical energy, for example, is fado, Portugal’s peculiar genre of catharsis, channelling deep melancholy and profound desire into soul-shaking words and sound.



The Sufi music performed—and ecstatically danced to—in Djemaa el Fna, a large square in Morocco's Marrakech, has attracted famous Western musicians by the planeload.

Greece's rembetika is the musical backdrop of brothels, violent fights, drug abuse, drunkenness, and the criminal dregs of society. It is a music of futility and hopelessness, of pride taken in devilry, of eating, drinking, and making merry in view of an imminent mortality.

Sound familiar? American blues music shares the same agenda and context and is in itself another deep source of creative ferment on the world stage, with repercussions reaching into myriad genres, its mythos, crossroads and all, now an integral part of the modern psyche.

With these and a number of other international examples Gray shows us the kinds of changes a musical genre can take as it travels outward into other cultures. Eventually the fervent aura dies and you end up with commercial canned goods, but the path there is exciting and multi-faceted. And if you can reach back far enough in time you'll find the place where that allegedly primal genre was itself the product of a mix of other cultures and styles.

This book is part of the series of No-Nonsense Guides (put out by Between the Lines) that encompass the subjects Globalization, Human Rights, Fair Trade, and Democracy, among many other worthy topics. If this music guide is an indication, these books represent a high standard in insightful journalism. Especially cogent is Gray's analysis of our search for authenticity in music.

The No-Nonsense Guide to World Music manifests seven of The Mindful Bard's criteria for books well worth reading: 1) it confronts existing injustices; 2) it gives me tools that can help me become a better artist; 3) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 4) it inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; 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; and 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. If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.

Voice Vacation

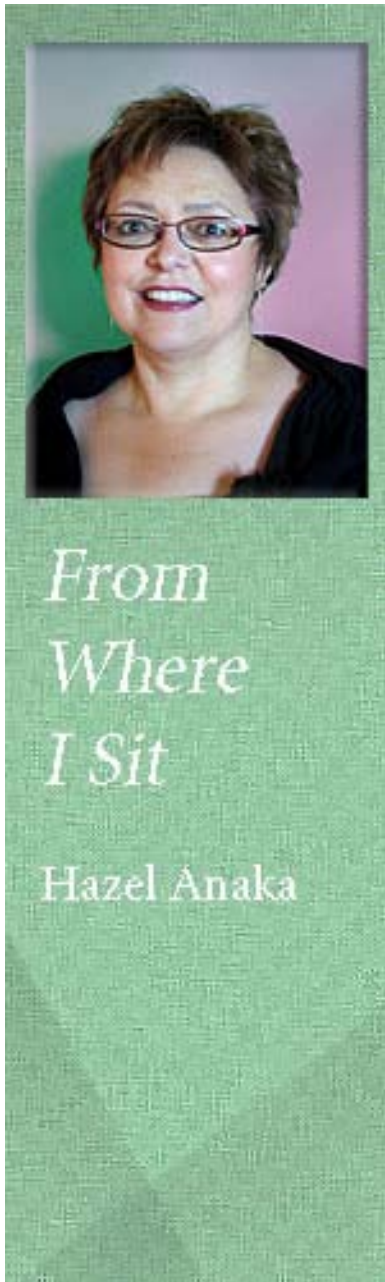


It's that time of year: school's around the corner, the leaves will soon be gold, and *The Voice* is taking its final summer sojourn.

We'll be on vacation from September 7 to 11, enjoying the lingering summer sunshine and getting ready to bring you some fabulous fall and winter issues.

We'll be back with more great stuff, including all your regular favourites, on Friday, September 18 (but we won't be able to help sneaking a peek at our email, so keep sending in your comments and letters).

Pull out those new textbooks, dust off your fall jacket, and we'll see you on September 18!



Hypocrisy

Rosemary Port's actions exude hypocrisy. Port is the up-until-now-anonymous blogger who wrote five posts in August 2008 on a website called Skanks in NYC. In the posts, she labelled Canadian model Liskula Cohen a "skank" and a "ho."

Dictionary.com lists three results for the word skank. I think it's a safe bet that Port wasn't referring to a "rhythmic dance performed to reggae" music. More likely it's definition number three: "one who is disgustingly foul or filthy and often considered sexually promiscuous." Likewise I guess she meant "ho" as slang for a prostitute and not one of the 17 other possible definitions.

So how did this become page two news in the August 25 *National Post*? It seems that in January Cohen sued Google (who provided the blogger service) after they refused to hand over the identity of the blogger. In mid-August, a New York Supreme Court judge forced Google to provide the email address of the blogger. This is when Rosemary Port, a 29-year-old fashion student, was identified to Cohen. They knew each through "friends and parties on the New York fashion scene."

Ms. Port and her attorney now intend to sue Google for 15 million dollars because they didn't protect her identity. She was quoted as saying, "When I was being defended by attorneys for Google, I thought my right to privacy was being protected . . . Without any warning, I was put on a silver platter for the press to attack me."

Now stop the train. I'm no lawyer. I've never written a blog and have read perhaps four in my life. I'm not up on the blogger's code of ethics, rights and responsibilities, protection, or anything else. I don't know about stuff like that but I think this stinks.

How can Port expect to defame someone under the cloak of anonymity and then be all righteous and indignant when the judicial system yanks the cover off her? She said, "I feel proud to live in a country where you're not persecuted for your opinions. That right has to be protected."

In my humble opinion, the issue is not the right to hold an opinion about Cohen or anyone or anything else. I think the issue is doing it in a defamatory way without having the moral fibre to own up to your opinion. It's cowardly and unfair to attack someone and expect to keep your identity a secret. That's why newspapers don't print anonymous letters to the editor. The world is not short of critics or hateful attacks on all kinds of people for all kinds of reasons. Ms. Port, if you're so sure of yourself and the correctness of your opinion, then have the courage to take credit for it; don't hide behind the anonymity of a blog.

Ms. Port goes on to say "I feel my right to privacy has been violated." Well, duh. Who started this game? What about Ms. Cohen's right to privacy and protection from ridicule and defamation by an unknown attacker? As far as I'm concerned your 15 minutes of fame are over, from where I sit.

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.

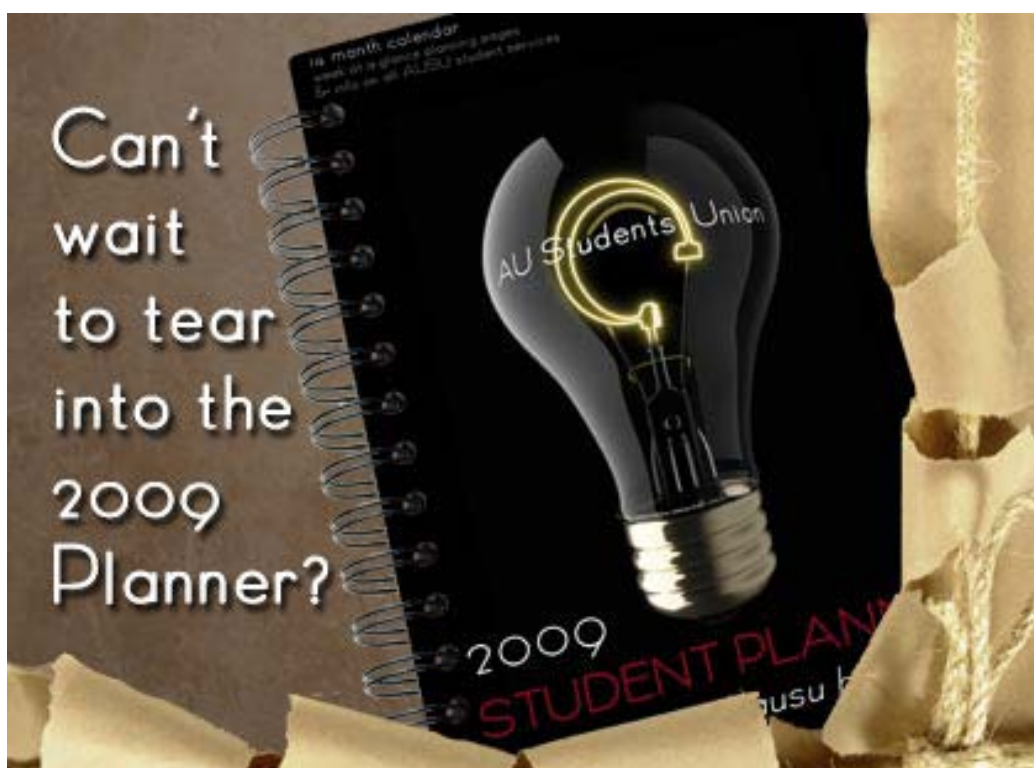
In that meeting a number of important revisions to the definitions of AUSU membership occurred, to make sure that the Councillors you elect are able to represent you during General Meetings and so that if you're a student in an AU collaborative undergrad program, you'll still be counted as an AUSU member 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: Licence battle continues for Hutterites

The battle over drivers' licence photos looks set to continue for a southern Alberta Hutterite community. As the [CBC](#) reports, the group has asked the Supreme Court of Canada for a rehearing on the issue.

The issue began when a member of the Hutterian Brethren of Wilson Colony was "pulled over and fined for not having a valid licence because it didn't have a picture." The group argued that the photo requirement (introduced in 2003) was a breach of their right to freedom of religion.

In the original suit, the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench sided with the Hutterites, ruling that the photo regulation was in violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The case then went to the Alberta Court of Appeal, which upheld the ruling in a 2-1 decision. However, when the case reached the Supreme Court of Canada the ruling went in favour of the Alberta government, with the Supreme Court arguing that "licences without

photos could lead to identity theft."

Because the Supreme Court represents the highest judicial level in Canada, the only legal avenue for the Hutterites to pursue is to ask the Court for a rehearing. The Court has noted that such requests are hardly ever approved.

In Foreign News: Denmark's grads facing jobs deadline

A new law in Denmark may get graduates into the workforce quickly, but the cost may be too high for the workers themselves. Effective August 1, the government has set a 13-week deadline for university grads to find employment.

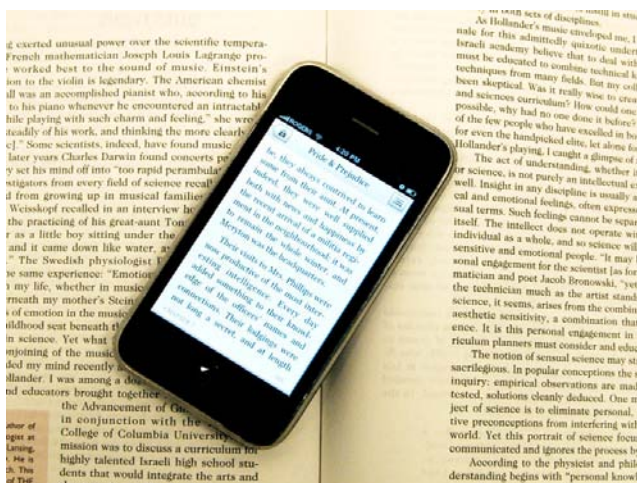
But as [The Copenhagen Post](#) reports, grads in highly skilled areas "such as biotech and engineering" are being forced into low-paying manual labour jobs in order to comply with the law. The new rule applies to unemployed persons under the age of 30. If they don't want to lose the right to unemployment benefits after the 13-week deadline, they have three options: return to school, begin an apprenticeship, or take "a job at reduced wages."

Jørn Guldborg, president of the engineers' unemployment fund, explained the downside to reporters. With an average of two to three months for engineering grads to land a job, young workers are ending up in positions that don't allow them to use their hard-earned skills. And the longer their skills remain untested, the harder it becomes for them to break into their field.

"What we'll end up seeing is newly educated engineers taking unskilled labour because that's the easiest way to get them into the workforce," Guldborg told reporters. Denmark's engineering field has a current unemployment rate of 23.4 per cent.

EDUCATION NEWS

Kyle Gibson



Textbooks going digital

Digital textbook use is rising, but some have reservations about the technology

EDMONTON (CUP) - Digital textbooks may soon become the new popular learning medium as rising costs of physical textbooks drive students to look for alternatives.

Digital textbooks have seen a rise in popularity already in the United States, due to increasing numbers of books available through websites such as CourseSmart.com. Online textbook prices are, on average, 50 per cent less than their physical counterparts, according to Paul

Wilde, course material manager at the University of Alberta Bookstore.

Wilde explained that parts of the inflation in bookstore textbook prices are due to the supplementary material that most publishers now package with their textbooks.

"There is a definite trend of textbook prices far exceeding the national inflation rate. The publishers will tell you that it's the cost of production, the cost of shipping and so on, but I don't see that. We pay the shipping for the books coming here. And when you're talking an overall market where inflation is down 0.9 per cent, how do you justify a five to seven per cent price increase?" he said.

However, Wilde stated that until the technology catches up with the database of course material, buying used books remains a more practical option. "From the student perspective, used books are still the best deal, mainly for the reason that with a new book you have the option of reselling it or keeping it. There is no residual used book value for a digital textbook," he said.

Leah Trueblood, vice president (academic) of the UofA Students' Union, said that she believes that digital textbooks are a cost-effective option compared to physical textbooks, but has reservations on how user-friendly the technology currently is.

"As we see new instruments becoming usable, we will see prices of textbooks go down and I think we will see the industry change. But in terms of right now, I don't think things like CourseSmart will make a large impact," she said.

Trueblood stated that other options are still available to students with other forms of textbook purchase. The UofA Students' Union sponsors the website BeBooksmart.ca, which was created for the purpose of giving students affordable options when purchasing textbooks. This includes research done on popular new editions to determine the amount of relevant changes made in comparison to previous editions—making it easy for students to find out if they can save a dollar without losing knowledge by buying a used old edition of a textbook.

The UofA Students' Union is also involved with The Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials, which includes bookstores and students' unions across Canada, in order to find ways of curtailing rising book costs. Should the demand for virtual textbooks increase, Wilde says the bookstore has the digital infrastructure to provide the service to students. "It's going to take the stores that are more tech savvy and [have] the digital infrastructure to deliver the content, but yes, the bookstore is prepared," he said.

CLASSIFIEDS

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THE VOICE

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