

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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Enduring Classics

Romance in the air

Software 101

The big switch

Saints vs. Colts

Super Bowl preview



*Plus: From Where I Sit, Around eCampus,
Eras in Education, and much more...*

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO THE VOICE PDF

The Voice interactive Table of Contents allows you to click a story title to jump to an article. Clicking the bottom-right corner of any page returns you here. Some ads and graphics are also links.

Features

Saturday Night at the (Old) Movies: Romance in the Air, Part I	3
Switching Operating Systems 101	6

Articles

In Conversation With: Gordie Tentrees.....	9
Eras in Education: A Look Back at the Educational History of Haiti..	11
Super Bowl XLIV Preview	13

Columns

Maghreb Voices	14
Dear Barb	16
Around eCampus	17
The Mindful Bard.....	19
From Where I Sit	21
AUSU Update	22

News and Events

Click of the Wrist	7
Did You Know?: Postsecondary Page from StatsCan	18
International News Desk	24

From the Readers

Letters to the Editor	2
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE (OLD) MOVIES

Christina M. Frey



Romance in the Air, Part I: Romantic Dramas

The experience of human love is universal, passing barriers of time and social custom. It's no surprise, then, that romance films are some of the most watchable old movies around. This February, in honour of Valentine's Day, we'll fill the month with romance by enjoying classic romantic dramas and comedies. Watch them with your lover, or with a good friend; what a great way to introduce those we love to the world of classic film!

Some of the most enduring movie classics are sweeping romantic dramas exploring human love against a backdrop of war or social status. This week, we'll look specifically at some of the love stories that have stood the test of time. From the Civil War-era American south to the African jungle, romance is a timeless theme, one that continues to inspire filmmakers and moviegoers.

It's not surprising, then, that two of Hollywood's most famous films are romantic dramas. *Gone With the Wind* (1939), the epic Civil War romance, is considered one of the most popular films of all time. Set in the American South during the Civil War and post-war reconstruction period, it follows the fortunes of strong-minded Southern belle Scarlett O'Hara and

her turbulent affair with rogue Rhett Butler. Deeply passionate, with elaborate cinematography, *Gone With the Wind* runs long but is worth the time!

Trivia: The scene in which the Atlanta Depot was burned cost \$25,000 to film. It was filmed on a studio backlot, and the structures that were set on fire were actually old film sets that the studio wished to clear off its property. One of these sets was the wall from the 1930's *King Kong*.

The other top romance film is, of course, *Casablanca* (1942). Rick (Humphrey Bogart) runs a bar in German-occupied Morocco. He calls himself a neutral, serves drinks, and pretends not to notice the illegal gambling and the resistance activities going on in the club. Then one evening, who should walk in but his former lover, Ilsa—with her husband. They're seeking papers to flee the country. When the romance between Rick and Ilsa rekindles, Rick is torn between using the papers himself and giving up his former love to help a greater cause.

Trivia: Ingrid Bergman (Ilsa) was actually two inches taller than Humphrey Bogart. To make up for the height difference, the filmmakers ensured that during their scenes together, Bogart was either sitting on pillows or standing on platforms to give the illusion of height.

War is also a backdrop to 1951's *The African Queen*, which we discussed more fully in the World War I installment of "Saturday Night at the (Old) Movies." Here, the romance between prim missionary Rose

(Katharine Hepburn) and coarse boatman Charley (Humphrey Bogart) is played out on a boat travelling down a river in the heart of Africa. “Mismatched lovers” was a popular theme in old romance films, but usually tended toward the comedic. *The African Queen* follows a similar theme, but although there is some humour, it’s truly a drama of love despite past background and present adversity.

Trivia: The scenes aboard the *African Queen* were filmed mid-river on a raft with a fake “boat” on top. The boat parts were movable to make it easier for camera and crew to manoeuvre.

There’s a similarly mismatched couple in *Roman Holiday* (1953). Young Princess Ann, in Rome as part of an exhausting European tour, has had enough of official business. She sneaks out of the palace where she’s staying, determined to see the city. Then she meets Joe, an American reporter who’s out of favour with his editor. She doesn’t know his background, but he guesses her identity and realizes that his experiences sightseeing with the runaway princess could make his journalistic career. It’s a clever plan, but only one thing could go wrong: they could fall in love.

Trivia: Although in older versions of the film, the screenwriter is listed as Ian McLellan Hunter, Hunter was actually fronting for the real writer, Dalton Trumbo. Trumbo, one of the “Hollywood Ten” blacklisted by the entertainment industry for Communist leanings, wrote the script from Mexico, where he’d moved after serving his sentence for refusing to testify before Congress about Communist sympathies in Hollywood. Hunter was awarded the Oscar for Best Screenplay for *Roman Holiday*, but in the 1990s the Academy awarded Trumbo his Oscar posthumously.

Class also plays a role in *Wuthering Heights* (1939), along with a good mixture of pride, greed, passion, and revenge. Young Cathy’s father takes in a homeless gypsy boy, Heathcliff. The two become playmates and fast friends, but their evolving romance is thwarted by Cathy’s ambition and Heathcliff’s pride. Their passionate love affair continues, but has become twisted by pride and revenge into something destructive. Look for beautiful production quality as well as a good story; this film won an Oscar for its incredible cinematography.

Trivia: Although they played passionate—if doomed—lovers, Merle Oberon (Cathy) and Laurence Olivier (Heathcliff) allegedly loathed one another, fighting between takes.

Another classic romance is *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* (1961). Audrey Hepburn’s character, flighty and naïve socialite Holly Golightly, fears permanence and commitment in all its forms. Then she meets Paul, a writer who turns her world upside down. Holly’s odd ways and gold-digging tendencies aside, she’s a sympathetic character and is masterfully portrayed by Hepburn.



Trivia: The Tiffany's scenes were actually filmed inside the famous jewellery store itself. They were filmed on a Sunday, when Tiffany's was closed to the public.



Most *Sleepless in Seattle* fans are familiar with the storyline of *An Affair to Remember* (1957), but the classic romance itself is a must-see. Nickie and Terry meet while travelling by ocean liner to Europe. They quickly fall for one another, but there's a catch: both are engaged to other people back home. Feeling guilty about their respective fiancés, they make a pact that if they are still in love with one another, they will meet again in six months' time at the top of the Empire State Building. Nickie ends his engagement with his heiress fiancée and is ready and waiting at the top of the building. Terry doesn't arrive, but, unknown to Nickie, she's been involved in a terrible accident. Will their love affair ever exist in more than just their memories?

Trivia: Who can forget the *Sleepless in Seattle* scene in which Meg Ryan and Rosie O'Donnell sob over the ending of *An Affair to Remember*? But they weren't the only ones who reached for the tissue box. Cary Grant, who played Nickie, later admitted that he, too, would cry at the film's end.

Another sweet romance, *City Lights* (1931) tells

of Chaplin's signature character, The Tramp, and his love for a blind young flower seller. Determined to win her heart, pay her bills, and perhaps even cure her blindness, The Tramp sets out on a series of misadventures, including an on-and-off friendship with a millionaire who only recognizes the friendship when he's drunk. It's a heartwarming story, and since it is also somewhat comical—it is a Chaplin film, after all—it provides a good bridge to next week's romantic comedy reviews.

Trivia: Although the silent film era essentially ended in 1929, Chaplin—who was part owner of United Artists and had the resources to produce a film on his own—decided to make *City Lights* a silent picture nonetheless. Despite its lack of spoken dialogue, the film was greeted enthusiastically by viewers (including, at the Hollywood premiere, Albert Einstein and his wife). It has been critically acclaimed by directors from Orson Welles to Woody Allen and remains a favourite.

Romance movies are the perfect vehicle for changing a cold, dreary February into a romantic escape. Next week, we'll continue looking at love stories, but we'll shift our focus from the dramatic to classic romantic comedies. Until then, happy watching!

When she's not watching old movies, Christina M. Frey can be found blogging about kids and media at [Woozles and Heffalumps](#).

SWITCHING OPERATING SYSTEMS 101

Christine Purfield



I'm one of those people who bought a new computer a couple of years ago and found themselves immersed in the never-never land called Vista. I was quite excited to be at what was then considered the cutting edge of technology. That feeling lasted all of about 30 minutes. Then, Vista became vexing.

I won't bore you with all the intimate details, but Minnie, the springer spaniel, went from being the innocent babe of the puppy world to a competent swearer in bark language over the course of the first six months of her life. Sooky Treadlight, the cat, winced in her basket as I threw things when the computer asked for the seventieth time: "Are you really sure you want to do this?" They both hid under (separate) tables when the inevitable blue screen of death reared its ugly head, knowing that I'd start foaming at the mouth. They put up with my endless and unanswered

question, "Why does it take over four minutes just to get to the 'welcome' screen?" When the arrival of Windows 7 was heralded, I almost wept with joy.

Not that I rushed out to buy it. Once bitten twice shy, as they say. I waited all of two minutes before running to the Internet to check out the initial reactions of the computer geeks. The comments all seemed positive and encouraging. Then I discovered that because I was enrolled in university courses I was eligible for a Windows 7 upgrade for \$40. Sold! I signed up and downloaded. And then read the instructions.

The computer geeks on the web seemed to be unanimous that a "clean install" was preferable over an upgrade. A clean install meant wiping the hard drive clean. An upgrade just wrote over what was already there. A clean install, they said, meant that all the junk your operating system had accumulated over time got erased, including that insidious little virus you didn't even know was there but which had been slowing your system down. Sold again! I set aside the New Year's weekend to accomplish the task. A New Year to wipe vexing Vista off the face of the earth. I could hardly wait.

It turns out that you do have to wait when switching operating systems. The difference between an upgrade and a clean install is that with the former you lose a little and with the latter you lose a lot. So, step one means putting everything that's near and dear to your heart somewhere else. "No problem," said the perky little instructions, "please use the Windows file transfer program, especially designed for just such a purpose." Check.

"Are you sure you know what you're doing?" cried the little voice in my head. "Not really," was the honest response. Okay, so the first time I got it wrong and installed the Windows 7 system alongside Vista (don't ask: you need to be really "clever" to do that, apparently) and ended up with not enough hard drive space to install the backed up information. The second time all appeared to go well. Of course, you learned from your mother that appearances can be deceiving, didn't you? Mother was right.

That neat little Windows file transfer program reinstalled everything just where it should be. The problem is, if you don't know where it should be, you don't know where it is. As in, do you know where to find the root directory that houses your emails? Because when you switch from Vista to Windows 7, you lose the

email program. And when you install a new one, you have to know where the emails now live. Not in their old house, I can assure you. And they don't leave a forwarding address.

Oh, and you do know that the email attachments live in a different condo than the email they came with, right? Well, good for you, because I didn't. Saved all the emails, lost all the attachments. And given that most of the emails with attachments exalted such illuminating information as "just see attached," this turned out to be a bigger problem than I imagined.

Nevertheless, I now have Windows 7 installed. I get to legitimately say "What email attachment?" I smile sadly and sigh, "Sorry, I lost your email address in the shuffle which is why I no longer acknowledge your existence." I sound knowledgeable when I hold forth about clean installs versus upgrades, even though I'm still not clear what the difference is other than one requires more work and grief than the other.

Would I do it again? In a heartbeat. Anything's better than Vista. And I mean *anything*. Minnie sleeps soundly without the interruption of cursing and swearing. Sooky's gone back to ignoring us both. All is well with the world.

CLICK OF THE WRIST – Handmade

These days, it seems like there are machines to do just about everything. Cook meals, animate movies, build cars. But that doesn't mean the art of doing things the old-fashioned way—completely by hand—has disappeared. If you want proof, check out these sites.

Pavement Art

Sure, you can create all kinds of amazing effects with graphics programs, but artist Julian Beever doesn't need anything more complicated than a patch of sidewalk and a box of colours. Oh, and a whole lot of talent.

Handmade Candy Canes at Disneyland

This video could probably even bring a smile to the Grinch's face—and it will likely tempt your sweet tooth as the candy cane makers at Disneyland demonstrate making the treats the old-fashioned way. So *that's* how they get the stripes in them!

Master Violin Maker

Vasile Gliga is a master violin maker who takes the idea of handmade to a whole new level: selecting the tree, cutting the wood, planing, chiselling, and sanding every inch by hand.

Handmade Nation

If the sight of big-box stores overflowing with cheaply made, disposable stuff makes you cringe, you'll want to feast your eyes on this clip from the documentary *Handmade Nation*. Filmmaker Faythe Levine travelled more than "19,000 miles to document the new wave of craft in America."

Handmade in Canada

This CBC Archives site offers several interesting clips of artisans who, even as far back as the Victorian Age, railed against the "dehumanizing" effects of mass production. The profiles cover English poet William Morris, lifelong potter Michael Cardew, Innu "tea dolls," and several others.

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IN CONVERSATION WITH . . .

Wanda Waterman St. Louis



Gordie Tentrees

*Gordie Tentrees is a roots-influenced singer-songwriter with a penchant for gritty, feel-good hymns to love, restlessness, and the pure religion of the open road. His latest CD, *Mercy or Sin*, is a rich stew of poetry and blues minstrelsy (see [Voice review here](#)).*

Recently Gordie took the time to chat with Wanda Waterman St. Louis about mentors, creativity, and believing in oneself.

The Old Days

I grew up in Southern Ontario in a little farming town called Bancroft. I was raised by a hippie goat farmer and a moonshine-making redneck entrepreneur. I grew up playing sports a lot. I listened to CBC radio and my mother playing folk songs and the flute around the house. There were a lot of artists in my small town, so music was all around though I didn't take any interest in it until my early twenties.

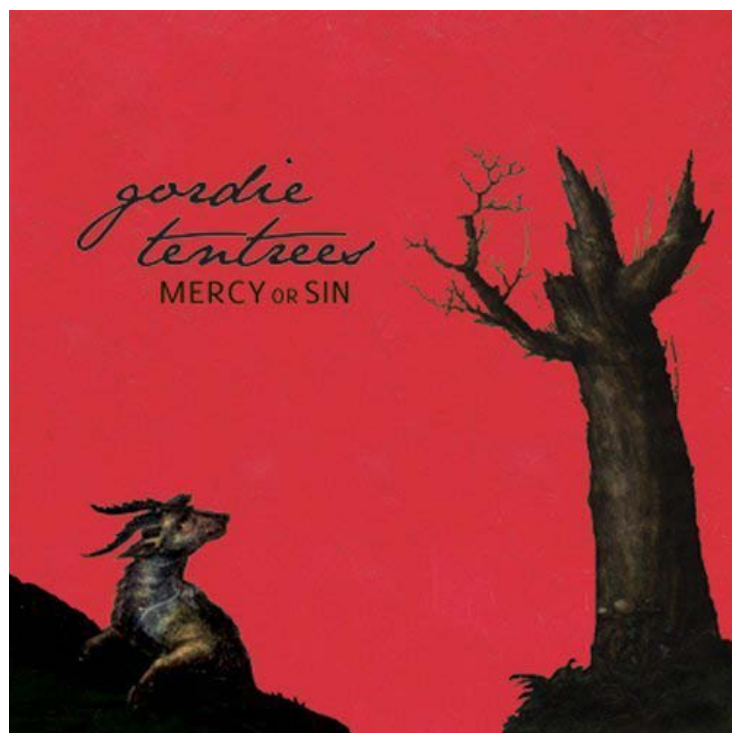
Into the Music

I had virtually no musical education. I picked up my first guitar when I was 24, after moving to the Yukon. I went to an open stage and decided I'd better write some songs because I didn't know any; then I became addicted, adding dobro and harmonica into the mix. I took lessons of various sorts from other Yukon artists who kindly took me under their wings. I probably wouldn't be where I am if music weren't such a big part of the community in the Yukon here and it wasn't so supportive of people like myself.

My favourite musical experience was getting invited to open for my favourite songwriter, Fred Eaglesmith, in Europe and the UK. We got to spend 30 days together and it was a dream to do that. I thought, *If nothing ever comes of this after I don't care, it does not get any better.* What a great guy.

Writing

I write what I know. Most of it's personal. I've had the privilege of experiencing some difficult, drama-filled experiences, all of which I seem to capture and let go in song. Not all of them are heavy; even the lighthearted ones are mostly things I've experienced and can connect with.



When an idea is starting to come together I try to just let out words and thoughts as they come, not analyze what's happening. I edit stuff later. I just get it out and down on paper. I never give up on an idea or lyric or throw it away; you never know when it'll come in handy down the road. I've written songs in three minutes or taken as long as five years to finish them. Each song seems to have its own process and that's what I enjoy the most about songwriting.

As a kid I was always told to believe in myself before anything else. That seems to have stuck with me.

Turntable

I've listened to 17 Fred Eaglesmith albums I bet two thousand times. I grew up hearing Fred, Rick Fines, Willie P. Bennett, Ray Bonneville, and Washboard Hank. I listen to a lot of old blues and old country, and lately my favourite songwriters have been Sam Baker and Adam Carroll.

I was first attracted to blues and country music because of the story songs and the realness, along with the dynamic instruments and groove-based sound that could be done in a simple way yet contain so much. With blues I like the about-to-fall-apart-barely-hanging-on interpretation you can give it.

On the Road, Again?

We're now on a 50-date US tour and headed for an Olympic Games appearance and a big summer festival season as well as tours in Germany, Holland, and the UK. I'm looking forward to taking the new album out on the road.



The musician's life has made me appreciate the quiet moments at home a little more. I feel really lucky these days. I get to travel and play my music, period. I appreciate that people let me play my songs.

ERAS IN EDUCATION

Jason Sullivan



A Look Back at the Educational History of Haiti

When I was growing up in a suburb of Vancouver, my school occasionally conducted an earthquake drill, which basically consisted of us crawling under our desks and giggling at one another.

Invariably one comedic-minded student would knock his desk over as he stood up. For us, an earthquake seemed a remote possibility and in any case we had no doubts about the efficacy of the emergency-response institutions of our

society.

In Haiti the tragic reality is that none of the privileges of our society are present. For instance, the earthquake killed school children and their teachers because schools were unable to withstand the trembling earth. In the aftermath, the local government has lacked the wherewithal to provide effective relief for the survivors.

The history of Haiti and Haitian education reveals interesting facts and details about this complex country. Other than the United States, Haiti was the first nation in the Americas to become independent from its colonial rulers. During the French Revolution (itself influenced heavily by the American Revolution, in which Louis XVI of France played a spoiler role in support of the Americans) ideas such as the "Declaration of the Rights of Man" were promulgated.

In Haiti, largely populated by African slaves as well as "free coloureds" and a few white French, these ideas led to the declaration of an independent Haitian republic. The original Haitian constitution of 1805 declared Haiti a black nation, and barred whites from owning property. This was done out of a reasonable fear that colonial power would return and deprive the people of their land once again. Education was addressed in this constitution and mandated the creation of "rural, primary schools." Unfortunately "a comprehensive, accessible school system never developed" in the way that it did in other Caribbean nations.

In the year 1860 the Haitian government signed a "Concordat with the Vatican" which provided "new teachers, mostly French clergy." However, these "clerics promoted an attachment to France and a respect for all that was French" and also "emphasized the backwardness of all that was Haitian and denigrated Haitian capacity for self-rule." This racist and elitist approach did not empower the Haitian people and furthermore "few priests went to rural areas," thus accentuating a rural-urban divide which worked to the advantage of privileged elites in cities.

In a non-industrial country such as Haiti agriculture was the primary focus of most people's lives, yet in the 19th-century education in Haiti consisted mostly of literature and memorization rather than practical skills. Over time this improved, and courses in trades and agronomy were established to some extent. In 1978, an educational restructuring took place that created a National Department of Education.

An important change was the use of Haitian Creole “as the language of instruction in the first four grades.” This allowed young students to use their true native tongue in their formative educational years. However, despite these modest improvements, by 1982 “more than 65% of the population over the age of ten had received no formal education at all, and only 8% of the population had received more than a primary education.” What education was given still involved “rote learning and memorization” and rigid discipline including punishment for eye contact. Students were only addressed by their surnames, further enforcing a parochial and authoritative method of instruction.

Firmin “challenged racist writings”

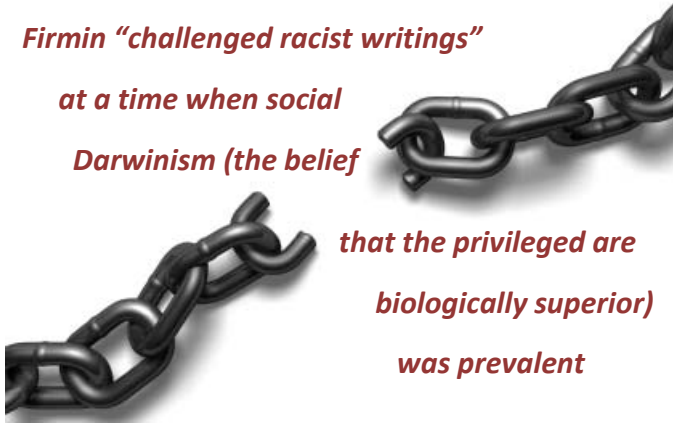
at a time when social

Darwinism (the belief

that the privileged are

biologically superior)

was prevalent



From its beginnings as a Roman-Catholic dominated sphere, to its slow change in the later 20th century, Haiti remained a country of non- or under-educated citizens. There are, however, some important intellectual figures in Haiti’s history.

One man, named Anténor Firmin, in 1885 published a book called *The Equality of the Human Races*. His essential point was that “the equality of the races could be demonstrated through a positivist scientific approach.” Firmin “challenged racist writings” at a time when social Darwinism (the belief that the

privileged are biologically superior) was prevalent and even “socialist” academics routinely denigrated blacks and other minorities.

Firmin stood out as a strong Haitian. In his career he “studied law and held several political offices before being posted as a diplomat to Paris.” He also spoke about nearby America, where slavery had only recently been abolished.

In his writing he noted how the end of slavery in Haiti had influenced abolitionist thought in the States, and went on to say of America that “this big country is destined to strike the first blow against the theory of the inequality of the human races . . . it seems quite possible that, in less than a century from now, a Black man might be called to head the government of Washington and manage the affairs of the most progressive country on earth.” From the example of Haiti, America did many decades later finally end the abomination of slavery and now in the 21st century proudly has a black man as its president.

Above all, Firmin spoke of his desire to “inspire in all of the children of the Black race around the world the love of progress, justice, and liberty.”

The human devastation of the recent earthquake seems starkest against a backdrop of rational idealism such as Firmin’s. Among the dead were three of Haiti’s most prominent feminists: Myriam Merlet, Magalie Marcelin, and Anne Marie Coriolan. They were known as “enterprising activists who had taken on a legal and social system which, in Marcelin’s words, treats women’s bodies as commodities” including the “use of sexual assault as a means of control and oppression by soldiers, police and criminal gangs.” In the face of the immense impoverishment (both educational and material) of their nation, these women maintained an idealism “so forceful and so visionary and so original.”

Out of the devastation of the earthquake, one can only hope that the strength of the Haitian people, and humanity as a whole, will shine through and lead to a better future for the groundbreaking yet starkly impoverished nation of Haiti.

SUPER BOWL XLIV PREVIEW

Behnam Nowrouzi-Kia



After winning their respective conference championship games, the Saints are set to clash with the Colts in Super Bowl XLIV. Not since 1994 have the first- and second-ranked teams played in the championship game.

Due to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Saints are the inspiring story of the NFL and the city of New Orleans. Recently, even President Obama admitted he will be cheering for the Saints during his annual Super Bowl party. However, the Saints are a five-point underdog and given the recent play of both teams, the odds makers are

justified.

The Colts have their biggest weapon, Peyton Manning, who is not simply a pro bowl quarterback with four Most Valuable Player titles, but orchestrates their devastating offence. In essence, the success of the Colts is entirely dependent on his ability to perform. Manning has an uncanny ability to dissect the line scrimmage, call the appropriate audible, and expose weaknesses of the defence.

The Colts also have the edge in experience, and will use it to confidently assert their offence to disproportionately control the clock. Therefore, Drew Brees's first-ranked offence will have few opportunities to take the field and score points.

Despite being last in the league in rushing, the pass offence of the Colts was second in the league, placing their total offence to ninth overall. Although the offence appears one dimensional, the offensive coordinator of the Colts, Tom Moore, is an expert at disguising the passing game by using screens and mid-range routes. His genius was apparent during the AFC championship game where the Jets double-covered both Reggie Wayne and Dallas Clark—daring Indianapolis to run the ball. Instead, Tom Moore created pass plays for Pierre Garçon and Austin Collie, who collectively accounted for 19 catches for 279 yards.

The only hope on defence for the Saints is to confuse Peyton Manning by applying pressure with a barrage of blitzes and confusing pass-rushing schemes. The Saints hope to rush Manning and make him uncomfortable in the pocket. This has been a successful strategy for Gregg Williams's defence; they were first in regular season takeaways, and demonstrated their capability during the NFC championship game. The Saints defence caused 6 fumbles (3 turnovers) and one interception to edge the Minnesota Vikings.

However, the dominant offence line of the Colts, including Charlie Johnson, Ryan Lilja, Jeff Saturday, Kyle DeVan, and Ryan Diem, allowed a league low of only 13 sacks during the entire regular season. Furthermore, Peyton Manning is the master of identifying blitzes at the line of scrimmage. He exposed the first-ranked blitz-happy New York Jets defence with 377 passing yards along and three touchdowns in the AFC championship game. Therefore, unless Manning is an off-game, it is unforeseeable the yielding defence of the Saints will prevent Indianapolis from scoring points and controlling the clock.

For the Saints to win, they must fire on all cylinders and hope for a lacklustre performance from Manning. This may be difficult as Drew Brees showed bursts of his inexperience during the NFC championship game

against the Vikings, especially during the final drive against the Vikings where two lucky calls from the officials allowed the Saints to win the game.

On paper, the game should be close but the Colts have the edge in every intangible category. They have a Hall of Fame quarterback, highly experienced coaching staff, and the confidence of a recent championship. Therefore, the most likely scenario is Peyton Manning holding the Vince Lombardi trophy on Sunday.



Blogger El Bashir Hazzam and the Strange Destiny of Free Speech in Morocco, Part I

"...happy, man!

just happy!

until we grudgingly shuffled outside

to find the horizon had sucked

the sun in leaving behind

a smudge of colors like a

fly swatted against the wall

and our nightmares standing

out there patiently waiting."

A. T. B., from *"this American dream"* 2009

On December 1 university students gathered to stage a protest in the village of Taghjijt in Morocco's Guelmim province. They wanted the government to help provide, among other resources essential to their educations, public transportation to their university, Ibn Zohr, two hundred kilometres north in Agadir.

The authorities, immediately sensing that such an event required a swift and punitive response, sent out security forces. When three students—Mohammed Suisse, Ahmed Habibi, and Abdul Aziz Al-Salami—were arrested a larger protest was instigated, which in turn drew an even more violent reaction from law enforcers.

Over the next few days Taghjijt was placed under a curfew and local Internet cafés were either closed or placed under surveillance to prevent news of the incident from reaching the outside world. Sources say that for six days all those leaving or entering the village were searched and students were not allowed to leave.

One source observes that the reaction to the students' demonstration seems especially absurd considering that the students' demands could easily have been met.

"In essence, the political dynamics operating in Morocco have not changed since 1956. We have been stuck in the interregnum between the independence from the French and the promised democracy."

More arrests were carried out, including, on December 7, one week after the demonstration, that of blogger El Bashir Hazzam. Hazzam had not attended the demonstration but had blogged about the incident and had also published the students' declaration condemning police action during the protest.

Police questioned Hazzam regarding the recent blog and also about a blog he had published in 2007. In the end Hazzam was charged with "spreading false information about human rights that undermined the kingdom's image" and sentenced to four months in prison.

Also arrested was Internet café owner Abdullah Boukhou, who was sentenced to six months on the same charges as Hazzam and given an additional six months for having in his possession a flash drive holding Hazzam's blog post and statements from Berber organization Al Haraka. Boukhou was charged with "possession of publications inciting racial hatred."

Regarding the incident, A.T.B., award-winning blogger and creator of A Moroccan About the World Around Him, has this view to offer: "In essence, the political dynamics operating in Morocco have not changed since 1956. We have been stuck in the interregnum between the independence from the French and the promised democracy.

"Every new government the king appoints is a tool of harassment, repression, and intimidation whittling away at the resilience of Moroccans to effect community driven change. With every new election, the growing sense that our country is politically paralysed intensifies."

On Tuesday and Wednesday (February 2 and 3) Hazzam and two of the students undertook a hunger strike to protest the suppression of free speech in Morocco and the conditions of their detention.



On Monday, February 8, a tribunal is being set up to offer emotional and psychological support to Hazzam and also to bring the situation to the attention of as much of the media, domestic and foreign, as possible. It is hoped that a large show of solidarity from lawyers, bloggers, and activists will not only bolster Hazzam's spirits but that it will also bring more attention to his plight and pressure the government to free him.

The Association of Moroccan Bloggers has set up this Facebook page in support of El Bashir Hazzam and his fellow detainees.

Maghreb Voices is about the art, culture, and struggles of the peoples of Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, in northern Africa. The column features history and current events as well as profiles of artists, musicians, and writers who 1) live within a Maghreb country; 2) are originally from the Maghreb and are now using the culture of their homeland as inspiration in their art; and 3) come from outside the Maghreb but have based their art largely on the cultures of the Maghreb.



Give Friendship Time to Bloom into Romance

Dear Barb:

I am in my early twenties. I've been on a lot of dates but haven't had a serious girlfriend yet. I have many female friends who kind of see me as a big brother. One girl in particular has been going through a rough time lately and I have been there for her. I've even let her stay at my place and helped her out financially.

I'm starting to feel more than friendship for her, but I don't know if she feels the same about me. I don't know if I should tell her how I feel. If she doesn't feel the same way I'm afraid it will affect our friendship. Looking forward to hearing your advice.

Jeremy

Hi, Jeremy. Thanks for your question. You obviously are a great guy who is well liked and has lots of friends. That in itself is a great accomplishment.

You are in a sensitive situation. Are you getting any vibes from her that would suggest she may have similar feelings? I don't know whether you should come right out and tell her how you feel because, if you are right, it will probably affect your friendship as you both may feel uncomfortable afterwards.

I think you should continue offering her your friendship while paying close attention to anything that may be an indication that she also has special feelings for you. You could ask her out to a movie or dinner, just the two of you—as friends of course. Being alone together will give both of you an opportunity to display any feelings you may have for each other that are beyond friendship. On the other hand, if during this outing your interaction is the same as when you are in a group, I think you can safely assume there is nothing more than friendship on her part.

Don't rush things. Many relationships begin after a long friendship. It is very important to be friends as well as lovers. Take your time and enjoy your friendships, as good friends are hard to find. If this doesn't develop into anything, don't despair. You will find the right girl.

There is a cute old saying that a friend of mine used to say when friends, including me, were becoming discouraged about whether they would ever find the right person. "On every pot fits a lid." Something worth remembering.

Good luck, Jeremy.

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.



AU's People and Places

Greg Wiens

Greg Wiens is a professional engineer and Director, Facilities and Services, for Athabasca University. He spent 12 years at the University of Alberta before joining AU in April of 2001, and works from AU Central in Athabasca.

When asked what his position entails, Wiens explains that on a day-to-day basis it involves "the management and leadership of those people, whether on staff or provided under

contract, who ensure that the buildings, site and associated infrastructure are kept operating and in good condition to support all the staff, students and visitors who attend our campus, whether in person or via electronic means. This is by no means limited to only those buildings located in Athabasca but also includes properties in Calgary, Edmonton, and St. Albert. Integral to this is energy management, sustainability, and all aspects of responsible management and application of resources.

"This probably sounds somewhat more glamorous than it really is as," Wiens continues. It means that Wiens supervises and coordinates "everyday" details on campus: "that the lights work when you hit the switch, you have a properly set up work area, the roof doesn't leak, the heating (or AC in the summer) works properly or, as basic as it gets, there is toilet paper there when you need it.

"Ensuring that resources, including the right people, are in place, all the support infrastructure and buildings work properly and all the expected workplace amenities are in place means that all the AU staff supporting the students can do their jobs seamlessly and without concern for the day-to-day issues of buildings, site and infrastructure."

As the Director of Facilities and Services, a "large part" of Wiens's position is "focused on obtaining the needed resources for my staff so that they can focus on doing the task(s) at hand as effectively as possible."

Another key part of Wiens's job is "planning for the future," both by "keeping what AU has running" and by "expanding (adding facilities, staff or equipment) to provide continuous support of the universities mission and goals."

Like many at AU, Wiens is unsure "if there is such a thing as an average day," but his schedule often entails plenty of time spent in the office. "My day usually starts at about 7:30 a.m. and ends when I leave for home, usually around 6:00 p.m.," Wiens says. "There are some weekend commitments but these are dependent on the needs of the tasks at hand so are not very predictable."

On arriving at the office, "one of the very first tasks is to respond to any emails or voice mails received . . . These can be requests for assistance, requests for information, reminders of the various reports that are required on a regular basis and, in some cases, concerns or complaints that need to be addressed."

"Always part of my day is to touch bases with my staff. This keeps me current on the various tasks they have underway, lets me know where they may be needing some support or assistance, and helps to keep us on the same page so the team is pulling in the same direction. This also provides them the opportunity to provide me feedback so I can focus my efforts to provide them the support they need to do their job."

One project currently on Wiens's platter is the "decanting of the Science Lab, in preparation for a major renovation," a project that is now "almost completed. There are a few final issues for IT connectivity and furniture logistics but this remains on schedule for completion by this Friday." He recently "met with the skylight contractor to review and approve access and scaffold relocation for access to the next two phases of the project."

"When you complete a task, report or project, and the customer likes the final product, there is not much that is more rewarding than that!" Wiens says. One such recent highlight was the completion of the new front circulation area in the AU library. "Yes, it is a very good job, on time and on budget and with very nice aesthetics but, most importantly, the space functions very well and the library staff really like this rebuilt and reconfigured space. That makes all the time and effort most rewarding."

Wiens "really enjoys the rural setting in Athabasca. Fishing, boating, hunting, snowmobiling are all outdoor [activities] in which I find rest and relaxation. I also enjoy backyard mechanics and have a vintage 1969 muscle car that needs plenty of TLC. There are always plenty of around-the-house tasks and having to use power tools to get these done is always fun. Usually noisy and dusty too!"

Athabasca is also the setting for what Wiens calls the "single biggest point of contact" with students: convocation. "This is AU's premiere event, when the most students are on campus, and it is to celebrate their achievements. Speaking for all of Facilities and Services, including myself, it is the one day when we all see that our efforts were worth it. The smiles on the graduands' faces, the pride evident amongst their family and friends proves to us that what we do matters."

"I have utmost respect for all those students who take courses through AU and, most especially, for those who graduate. The level of dedication and self-discipline required to study and learn at home is something that not everyone can do," says Wiens. "It is seeing students graduating at convocation that brings everything I do into perspective and makes it worthwhile. Many thanks to all of AU's students, past, present and future."

DID YOU KNOW?



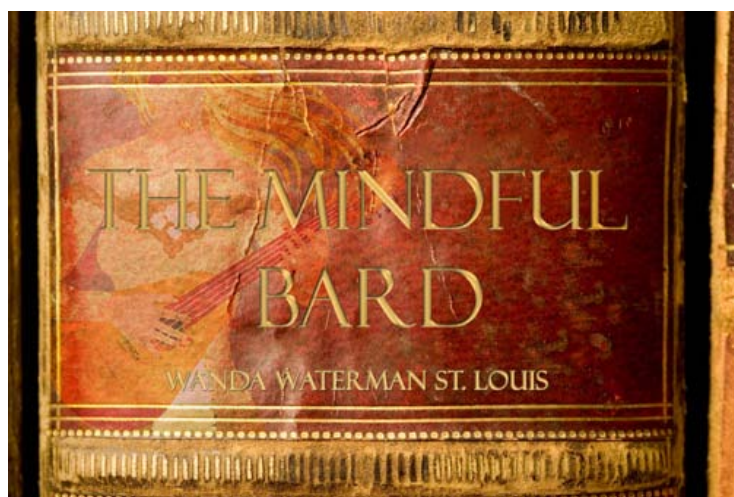
The Postsecondary Page from Statistics Canada

If you need statistics on just about any aspect of postsecondary education, this [Statistics Canada](#) page is the place to find them.

The info is divided into several sections: Postsecondary; Data, Research and Analysis; Support for Faculty; Support for Students; and Additional Publications. There's a wealth of information here—everything from links to student awards to things like an educator listserv and historical stats.

The link to depository libraries offers "free access across Canada to many Statistics Canada publications and standard electronic products." There's also access to over 700 free StatsCan publications, along with information on how to cite Statistics Canada resources.

You'll also find something called E-Stat, an "online learning tool specially designed for use by the educational community" that lets you "generate dynamic tables, customize graphs and maps using Statistics Canada's Census of Population and socioeconomic data."



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

Two Buoyant and Life-affirming Oeuvres Involving Corin Raymond

CD: Corin Raymond, *There Will Always Be a Small Time*

Release date: 2009

*"I went down to the record store
the record store weren't there no more
and though I hate to see it go*

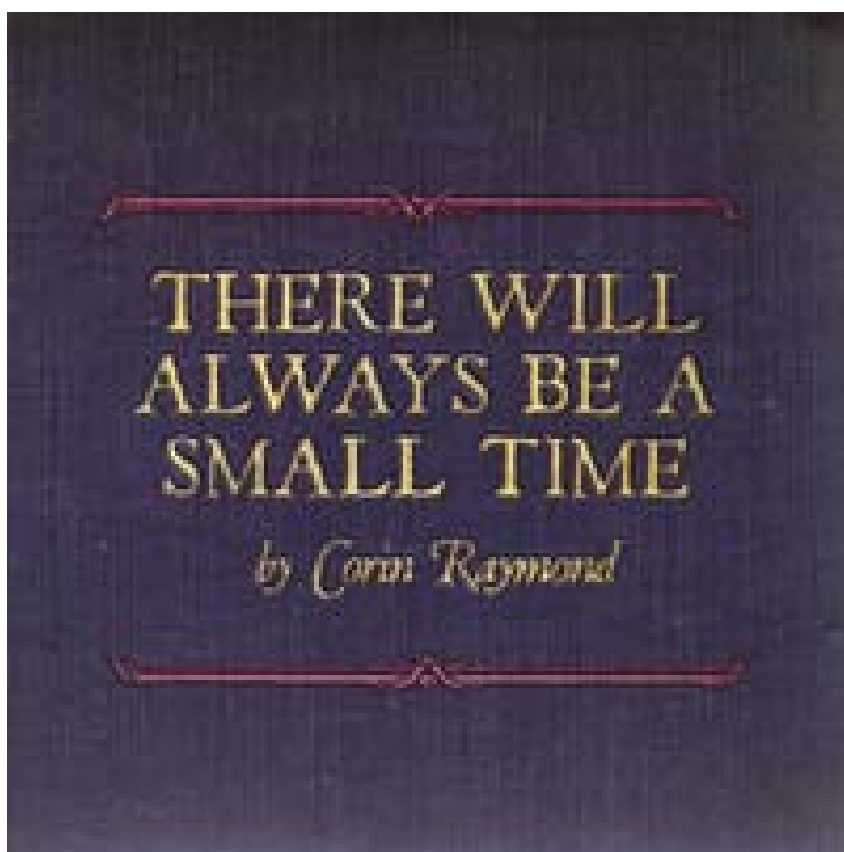
*I guess that don't really bother me
I pay my bills and drink for free
I'm selling records of my own
The music's gone back home again
Nowadays we're playing in the parlours like the way they used to do"*

Corin Raymond, "There Will Always Be a Small Time"

I love the way this guy helps himself to a massive smorgasbord of pop and roots styles. His albums are like heavenly kitchen parties where Roy Orbison, Hank Williams, Van Morrison, Bob Dylan, Zachary Richard, Fred Eaglesmith, and Tom Waits are sitting around trading tunes.

From the sweet, ardent "Micheline" to the triumphant "Better Him Than Me" to the small-time musicians' anthem "Stealin' My Heart" this album is not about Pollyanna happiness. There is a hard-won, unconditional serendipity here, a conscious choice to be joyful in spite of everything. In spite of yourself.

The theme of this album is ensconced in the title, and the CD booklet cogently elaborates, bearing witness to a movement afoot in the world at large to reverse the historical events of the early '60s, when the folk music movement grew like a bubble before it was unceremoniously burst by the British Invasion.



We've reached a point where all the technology and capital and hype in the world will not draw audiences from the host of humble modern troubadours now making a modest living performing live in communities big and small. Corin bears witness.

CD: The Undesirables (Corin Raymond and Sean Cotton), *Travelling Show*

Release date: 2009

This album exhibits the same philosophy as the last but with the generous addition of an infectious dance-ability and party-hearty zeal that will carry you through a case of the blahs in half no time.

The incongruity of the macabre "Night Train," the ominous tone of the suspicious, brooding lover in "Sippin' Strange Wine," and the thoroughly haunting "Singing Bones" just add to the fun, but most of this album comprises rollicking tunes sung to creative and enthusiastic accompaniment.

"I love a travelling show

leavin' trees in the road and the power down

leavin' wind-torn branches strewn all around

like a carnival ground in the town they leave behind

every storm is a vagabond"

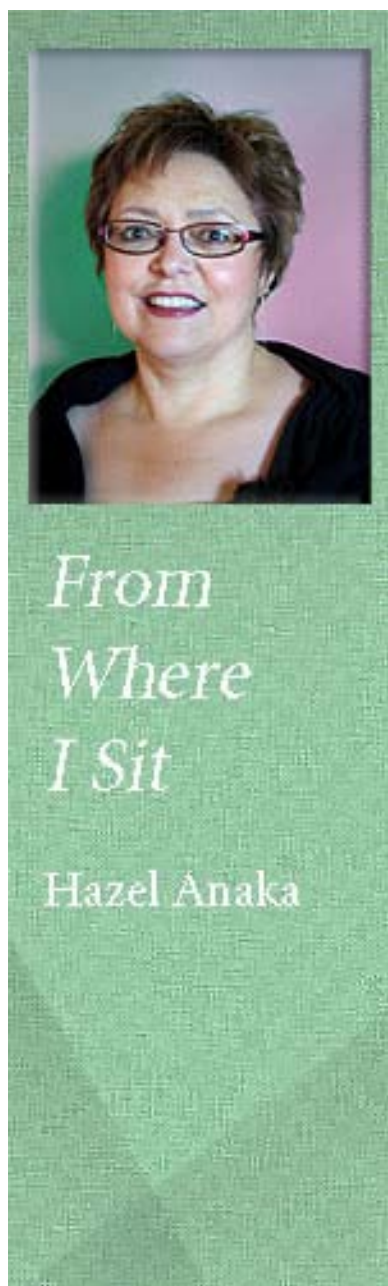
Corin Raymond and Sean Cotton, "Travelling Show"

If you're not in your cups or speeding down a highway while playing this CD full blast you'll do well to read the lyrics at least once while listening. Lots there to chew on.

There Will Always Be a Small Time and *Travelling Show* manifest four of The Mindful Bard's criteria for music well worth a listen: 1) they are authentic, original, and delightful; 2) they display an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 3) they inspire an awareness of the sanctity of creation; and 4) they provide respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavour.

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.





Use It or Lose It

We've all heard and used the expression "Use it or lose it." It's become a cliché increasingly linked to the exploding numbers of baby boomers and the epidemic of Alzheimer's disease that's expected to beset them/us.

I remember my mom and her siblings taking shifts to help care for their father and ease the load on his wife. His behaviour baffled and saddened them. He would wake and wander. Most homes aren't secure enough to keep a person from escaping in the dead of night in an Alberta winter. The emotional and physical cost to the caregivers is crippling. Sooner or later all sufferers are hospitalized for the sake of both patient and loved ones.

I have a friend—male, competent, career policeman—who couldn't cope with the decline of his mother. He was badly affected by her inability to ever recognize him and eventually left the visiting to his wife and children. He feared for his own lucidity.

Any of us who have misplaced our keys wonder if we're losing it. I remember someone saying losing keys is fine; it's when you don't know what to do with a key that you have a problem. We've all been advised to consciously work on using our faculties. Do crossword puzzles. Play Sudoku. Alter your route when driving; don't do things by rote. Play games like Brain Age that challenge you and monitor your progress. Read.

These are all great devices. But maybe what's even more effective is arranging our lives so that learning and firing those synapses is required to get through the day. Last Saturday I took an extension course called Blog Your Book at an Edmonton university. All (except one) in the class, including the instructor, were clearly card-carrying boomers. Young whippersnappers are probably self-taught and don't need instruction on types, functions, and the how-to of blogging.

I was stretched by the listening, looking, and note-taking required. And while it felt like information overload, my brain loved the workout. The

next challenge, of course, is using all the resources and info I now have, to get up and running. More brain work. Yippee.

Yesterday Roy started a new job hauling gravel on the logging roads north of Lac La Biche. From his description of the day, I know another boomer whose brain is being tested. There are dedicated Transport Canada radio frequencies that must be used to avoid head-on collisions on these scary roads. The curvy roads are narrow and icy and without gravel. The loaded trucks strain to climb the short, steep hills that come one after the other. In places the speed limit is 20 kilometres an hour. It takes a masterful driver to keep his baby on the road, shift for the constant grade changes, and announce his location via radio in especially dangerous places (like one-lane bridges) on the haul road.

Soooo, what are you doing today to hang onto your functioning? It boils down to use it or lose it, from where I sit.

AUSU UPDATE



AUSU Election!

It's here! The Election for your 2010-2012 Council. AUSU is looking for interested individuals who believe they can speak for the students of AU. To be eligible, you need to have completed at least one course, and be currently enrolled in a course. Self-nominations will be accepted until February 15th. Voting starts on March 7th and runs until March 11th. For more information, see our election page.

New 2010 AUSU Handbook/Planners – Delayed!

We know you want them, trust us, we want them too! Unfortunately, our printer has informed us that there was a problem with the paper order for our planner cover, and so there's going to be a little bit more of a delay. Don't worry though, we've been assured they're doing everything they can and we want to be getting these planners into your hands as soon as possible! If you haven't already pre-ordered your planner, now's as good a time as any to do so. You can reserve your copy here: <http://www.ausu.org/handbook/index.php>

Remember, we only print a limited number of these each year, so when they're gone, they're gone.

SmartDraw Program Renewal

Some of you who took advantage of our program to provide SmartDraw software to members have been getting notifications that your software license will soon be expiring. Fortunately, AUSU will be continuing this program, so if you haven't already, go to the AUSU home page to download the newest version.

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.



Let 'em Know who Represents for You!

AUSU logo mugs, hoodies, USB keys, and much more are all available for sale from our office. Also, used locks can be purchased at half price! Check out our merchandise catalog on our front page. You should check out our hoodies in particular—made in Canada and 100% bamboo, we're offering them for just barely over our cost, and they're both durable and comfortable.

AUSU Council Down to Seven

Lonita Fraser recently tendered her resignation to Council. Lonita's gotten busier and realized she wasn't really keeping up with what it meant to be an AU Student any longer. As a result, she chose to step down from Council, saving AUSU some money. AUSU extends its thanks to Lonita for her service, and wishes her well in her ongoing endeavours. This brings us down to seven just before the election.

AUSU Scheduling Meeting with Tutors' Union – Update!

We're still waiting for a response from the Tutor's Union as to when we might be able to meet with them to discuss ways that AUSU and the Tutor's Union can work together to ensure that students are getting the contact they need. Unfortunately, they haven't yet replied, so we're stepping up our campaign to get in touch with them. If you want to help, the next time you're talking to your tutor, ask them if they know when the Tutor's Union will meet with AUSU so that the groups can work together on common issues.

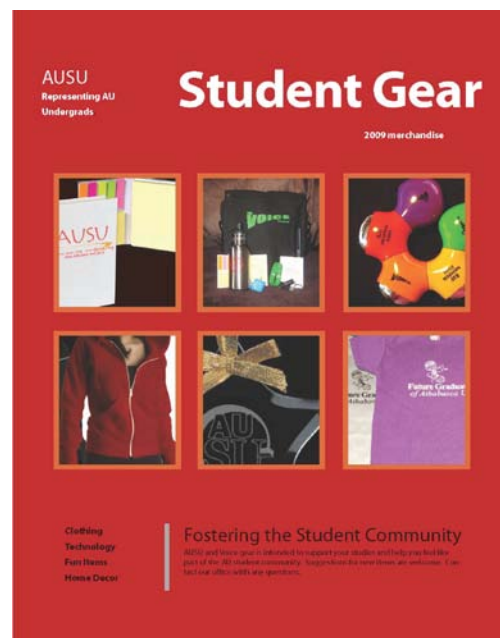
Tuition Increase Upcoming

Recently, AUSU Executive met with the university executive to discuss the new year's tuition. AU, like all other Alberta universities, is raising tuition by the maximum of 1.5%. For AU that increase works out to only \$7 per three credit course. Even better, unlike U of A which is considering a mandatory annual fee of \$500, the other mandatory fees at AU—your Learning Resources and Lab Fees—will remain where they were last year, meaning that the \$7 per three credit course is the only increase you'll have to see this September.

It's not all roses, however, as every university is feeling the crunch. For AU, they will be increasing many of the non-mandatory fees. For instance, the late exam and exam rebooking fees are both going up to \$100. While they had concerns that some students were abusing these opportunities to take exams beyond the course contract date, we convinced them to investigate this issue further, and possibly move to a graduated fee that would increase the more times you used the option. Of course, with some planning, you shouldn't have to pay these fees at all, so that's an even better option.

In addition, PLAR costs will be going up by \$250 to a total of \$750 to better represent the amount of work they have to pay for to carefully evaluate your PLAR, and the Write Site has proposed a fee of \$50 for students who need to take an online assessment and \$100 for non-students who want to use AU's expertise. In their discussion with us, however, they agreed to remove the Write-Site planned fee for students, and to slightly reduce the fee for non-students.

So while perhaps not perfect, we think it was a successful meeting, and we hope you do too!



INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Demand rises for Canadian-made shelters in Haiti

When last year's crisis hit the auto industry, the owners of Canadian company Ground Effects Ltd. had to shift gears to stay in business. They slowly began making modular shelters alongside the auto parts they'd been producing for nearly 25 years.

As the CBC reports, the company had already "sent test units to Haiti to serve as school classrooms and residences" before the earthquake struck Port-au-Prince on January 12.

Following the massive quake, all eight of the company's pre-fabricated shelters were still intact. Now the shelters are in high demand, with aid organizations placing urgent orders for them.

James Scott, president of Ground Effects, told reporters that one of the benefits of the shelters is that no power tools are needed to erect them. That makes the shelters especially well-suited to the conditions faced in Port-au-Prince, where it may be weeks before essential services are fully restored.

Scott explained to the CBC that "a lot of it goes together with wing nuts on the interior of the unit, so really you can do things by hand, for the most part."

Demand will likely continue as Haiti slowly rebuilds but the need is especially high right now, with aid agencies requesting at least 400 shelters a week, "to be used for housing, hospitals, offices and schools."

In Foreign News: More students using cell phones to cheat on SQA exams

Most students find cell phones and the Internet can be valuable resources for studying. But figures released by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) show that rising numbers of students in Scotland are also using those tools to cheat on exams.

As the BBC reports, there was a 22 per cent overall rise from 2008 to 2009 in students caught cheating on exams. Incidents of cheating include things like students exchanging information or using crib sheets, but cases involving mobile phones, some with Internet capability, have "more than doubled." They rose from 49 in 2008 to 113 last year.

In 2009, some 160,000 candidates took National Qualification tests. Of those, 506 were investigated for cheating and penalties were "applied to 314 candidates." Penalties can range from a failing mark on individual exams to being disqualified from all further exams.

All students are warned prior to taking exams of the consequences of cheating, and Dr. Janet Brown, Chief Executive of the Scottish Qualifications Authority, told reporters that the numbers need to be kept in perspective. "If you look at the percentage rises, yes it sounds a lot, but the numbers that are cheating are very low and I think we need to understand how we can prepare pupils better for examinations," she said.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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