

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 25 Issue 20 2017-05-19

All the Music be Happenin' Now
Digging Into the New Meaning of Genre

Doing Your Student Duty
Why You Should go to the AGM

The House
Do You Know Your Neighbours?

*Plus:
Council Connection
The Fly on the Wall
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.

Hey! Did you know the Voice Magazine has a [Facebook page](#)?

No kidding! We also do the [twitter](#) thing once in a while if you're into that.

EDITORIAL**Karl Low****A Bit of This, a Bid of That.**

This week, The Voice Magazine is taking on a little more of a literary bent, although we're still bringing you a decent round-up of the news that affects AU and AUSU, but two stories in particular caught my attention as they came across my desk. The first you'll find is a bit of flash fiction from Barb Godin titled simply "The House". It's not easy getting a mood into under 600 words, but I think that Barb managed to pull that off nicely with this story.

Also this week, Wanda Waterman has been exploring the meaning behind the idea of genres of music. Her essay, looking at some of the personal nature of this exploration, struck a chord in me as an extremely evocative piece. This piece is part of her "All the Music Be Happening Now" series, which she usually submits as a graphic, but I think the words paint pictures just as clearly as the pictures she submitted along with the writing do. Check it out and see if you don't agree.

And we couldn't really say we're having a literary issue without one of Jason Sullivan's look at the intersection of philosophy and being an AU student, so we do.

Beyond that, we also have our report on the most recent AUSU Council meeting, where our Council reporter dug into the question of whatever happened to the annual AUSU planner, as well as some details for the Annual General Meeting of AUSU this coming Tuesday, May 23rd. If you haven't indicated you're going to be there already, Barb Lehtiniemi has an article explaining why you shouldn't wait any longer. Even if you're a student who's only taking a single course at a time, you're still getting charged AUSU fees, and the Annual General Meetings are a good time to see for yourself what is happening with that money.

We also have our news, reviews, events, interviews, scholarships, and all the regular stuff that makes the Voice Magazine valuable to you. One of the things you won't find in any of those, however, is notice about the AU 2017 Facilities Auction. It just didn't quite seem to slot into any place else, so I'll tell you about it here. In brief, AU will occasionally auction a bunch of things that they are no longer using. This year includes everything from a 2002 Windstar van, multiple Macbook Pros and other laptops, professional photography and video equipment, all the way to lawn mowers, deep freezers, light fixtures, lots of chairs and desks, and even a washer and dryer set. The only catch is that there's no delivery, you'll have to arrange pick-up on your own. If you're going to convocation, that's probably not such a big deal (unless you're wanting something like the deep freezer).

If you're interested in bidding on anything, or just are curious about what is up for offer, the auction is open to the public and online at <https://athabascau2017.eflea.ca/view> and runs until the end of May.

Also, if you're not following our Facebook page, you haven't heard that The Voice Magazine is looking for people who are willing to track down and talk to students for articles. It's a great way to meet your fellow students, and we'll even pay you for it. Contact karl@voicemagazine.org if you want more information. Until then, I hope to see you at the AGM, and enjoy the read!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Doing Your Student Duty

Barbara Lehtiniemi



Why should you take 90 minutes out of your busy life to attend AUSU's Annual General Meeting May 23? You pay your membership fees every time you enrol in an AU undergraduate course. Does your obligation end there?

Membership in AUSU has benefits (advocacy, scholarships, study aids, a superb weekly student magazine) but also carries obligations. While these obligations are not spelled out in AUSU's bylaws, and nobody is going to force students to honour them, the obligations still carry a lot of weight.

What are your duties as an AUSU member (and if you're enrolled in an undergraduate course, you're most likely a member)?

The Duty to Vote. AUSU is governed by a council. Councillors are elected by member vote every two years (more often if vacancies on council require a by-election.) Who sits on AUSU council to represent students is up to you.

The Duty to Be Informed. What AUSU does affects all AU students. Members of AUSU's council have seats at the table at AU's Board of Governors and other AU committees. What is AUSU telling AU at these meetings? AUSU took in over \$600,000 in student fees in 2016, and they're holding over \$1 million in cash and equivalents. What are they doing with all that money? Who's keeping an eye on AUSU council if you're not?

The Duty to Hold AUSU Council Accountable. The elected members of AUSU council have a duty to each student member—duties which are enshrined in AUSU's bylaws. Everything that councillors do on behalf of AUSU (and therefore its members) is—or should be—open to scrutiny. Members have only a few formal opportunities to make themselves heard, to ask questions, and to get answers. The AGM is one of those opportunities.

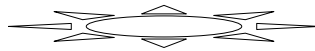
During the AGM, which students can connect to online or by phone, members have the right to vote on any motion presented. Members can also present motions, within guidelines (see the meeting agenda for details.) Motions made by members at the 2015 AGM, for example, prompted AUSU council to undertake two in-depth reviews, one of which resulted in the roll-back of executive councillor wage hikes.

Members will also have the opportunity to ask questions directly of council toward the end of the meeting. While students can contact AUSU council at any time with concerns about council activities, the AGM is an ideal opportunity to ask questions relating to the financial statements and the Annual Report, both of which are formally presented at the meeting. If you have concerns about anything council is doing or spending, the AGM is the perfect time to ask questions—and get answers.

AUSU's Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 23, from 5:30 pm to approximately 7:00 pm (MDT.) The agenda is available at: www.ausu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-05-23-AGM-Agenda.pdf and you can download a copy of AUSU's 2017 Annual Report at www.ausu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Annual-Report-2017.pdf.

Pre-registration is not necessary, but preferable. As a bonus to attendees, those who RSVP for the meeting to admin@ausu.org and also attend the meeting, will receive free study tools from AUSU. Do it for duty or free stuff, but just do it.

Barbara Lehtiniemi is a writer, photographer, and AU student. She lives on a windswept rural road in Eastern Ontario.



The Fit Student I Want a New Brain

Marie Well



Do you want a complete makeover? I mean a new body, a new brain, and a new bank balance? You can build a whole new body within eleven months, says Joseph Murphy in his book *The Power of Your Subconscious Mind*. In other words, in eleven months you can go from Richard Simmons to Rocky or Mother Teresa to Madonna (a.k.a Madge).

Even your spirit can change, depending on your choices. You can go from self-loathing to spiritualist in eleven months. Even your brain can change. You can go from F grades to straight A's in eleven months. Even your name can change, your beliefs can change, your health can change, your residence and your career can change—all in eleven months.

I spent six hour days in hospitals for three years—a patient. And not a very good patient at that. My doctor said I had no hope of living a normal life—no school, no job, no hope. So, I plumped up and languished.

I even watched video clips of how my brain would progressively slacken, how my IQ would deteriorate, and how my prognosis would worsen. When I expressed big dreams, nurses hushed me, reminding me to think small.

But, I eventually met a woman who saw potential in me. She told me I could promote public performances. So, I held a musical performance—in less than eleven months. She told me I could thin down. So, I lost 70 pounds—in less than eleven months. She told me I could get a university degree, so I upgraded and entered university—in less than eleven months.

Murphy says our subconscious minds are highly receptive to messages. Just look to hypnosis. Hypnosis can turn someone with social anxiety into a social butterfly—in an instant. Suggestions gave me hope. What could the power of suggestion do to you?

Joseph Murphy tells you how to self-improve in his book *The Power of Your Subconscious Mind*.

- Whenever a negative thought comes to mind, change it to the positive immediately.
- Don't listen to anyone who says, "You can't" or "You'll fail."
- Imagine the best possible outcome of anything you do—and your subconscious mind will go to work at fulfilling that outcome.
- Believe in your success right from the start—and your subconscious mind will work toward that end.
- Do what you love. If you don't know what you love, ask for guidance from a higher power. At the very least, your subconscious will set out to provide that guidance.
- If you have a problem, believe that you already know the answer, and your subconscious mind will work toward finding a solution.
- Your most productive years might happen between the ages of 65 to 95. Don't underestimate what you can do during the later stages of life.
- You are as young as your thoughts. [My happy-go-lucky 80-year-old landlady felt like a big kid in an old body.]
- Some of the greatest minds in history made their intellectual marks after they turned eighty.
- Make your biggest dreams the ones that serve humanity.

So, let your subconscious mind take you from troubles to triumphs, from Doritos to turnips, and from Madge to Mother Teresa—in eleven months. And if you've got brains to spare, I'm looking for a new one.

Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

Scholarship name: Student Essay Contest

Sponsored by: Fraser Institute

Deadline: June 1, 2017

Potential payout: up to \$1500

Eligibility restriction: Applicants must be a Canadian high-school, undergraduate, or graduate student enrolled in the 2016-2017 and/or the 2017-2018 year. See the full [eligibility requirements](#).

What's required: An essay of 1000 to 1500 words on "Regulating the Sharing Economy: Do the Costs Outweigh the Benefits?"

Tips: Essays can have more than one author; prizes will be split evenly among multiple authors. Read the [Application Rules](#) carefully.

Where to get info: www.fraserinstitute.org/education-programs/west/students/essay-contest



The House

Barb Godin



I have walked past it hundreds of times, always wondering who lived there. It is an old, red brick house standing awkwardly amongst strip malls and condos. Everything about it suggests it had been there since the early fifties, but who lived there? An ancient looking TV antenna indicated the owner probably watches television. Maybe the antenna was placed there years ago by a previous owner, but who lives there now? I had never seen anyone other than the landscaping company cutting grass in the summer and shoveling snow in the winter. Maybe it was an old man who had lost his wife, or an old woman who had lost her husband? Maybe it was a young

man, who had lost his parents in a terrible accident. Maybe it was a millionaire who keeps his money in the house in his mattress! I don't know, but every day when I walk by my mind conjures up a variety of scenarios, some believable and some from a dark place within.

One Sunday morning as I was approaching the house, I noticed a crowd gathering. I tried to push my way through to see what was happening. All I could make out was the flashing lights of an ambulance and a stretcher with paramedics on each side. A body lying on the stretcher was completely covered with a white sheet and being carried down the front steps to be placed into the back of the ambulance. Hushed voices could be heard from people gathering. I tried to listen to what they were saying; did anyone know what had happened? From what I overheard, most people had the same unanswered questions I did. For the rest of the day, I wondered what could have happened. I even walked by the house a couple of times, looking for clues. Dare I walk up the front steps and look through the windows? What if someone was still inside?

The next morning everything appeared quiet and still around the house. With a fresh layer of snow and no foot prints, I knew no one had been about. I walked down the driveway and into the backyard. I was not really sure what I was looking for, but mostly I wanted a clue as to who lived here and who had been taken out on the stretcher. But in the blank snow, no clues were found.

A few days later part of the mystery would be solved. A local newspaper carried the story with the headline "Famous Author Found Dead in Her Home." I quickly began reading. "Successful author, Abigail Stewart, was found dead in her Adelaied street home with nearly a million dollars kept in built-in safety deposit boxes. The 99-year-old author of New York Times best sellers such as *Mosh Pit Kids*, *Screaming Voices* and *The People in the Angry House* was described to be a recluse by estranged family members, who say she never accepted the loss of her husband and son in a car accident over 60 years go. Sources say her son's room was exactly as he left it and her husbands clothes still hung in the closet when investigators entered the house. The safety deposit boxes had been custom built into the walls of the basement. Ms. Stuart's will leaves over a million dollars to local charities."

As a teen, Abigail Stuart was one of my favorite authors. It's hard to believe she was right down the street and lived such an eccentric lifestyle. I guess it's true that you never really know who lives in the house next door.

Barbara Godin is a graduate of AU and writes the "Dear Barb" column. She lives in London, Ontario with her husband, two dogs, and one cat. She can be reached on twitter @BarbGodin

Fly on the Wall

The Muchness of Many

Jason Sullivan



I like to think that at AU we learn critical thinking such that almost anything may be seen in a new light; our engrained presuppositions about other people and our traditional interpretations about things become questionable. This ability to find new; or, what Gilles Deleuze referred to as *minoritarian* viewpoints is a sublime aspect of being a university student. He wrote that this process of thinking "can be thought of as seeds, as crystals of becoming whose value is to trigger uncontrollable movements and deterritorializations of the mean or majority" (Deleuze, online). The latter refers to domains of power that underlay our expectations. As a

thought experiment, this process of actively seeking new meanings and understandings has value for our creative minds.

A process of engagement and questioning is at the core of what used to be termed *higher learning*. As University students at AU we aren't just memorizing facts and figures. We are learning to hone our thinking skills. The Canadian philosopher, Charles Taylor, envisions this craft as "retooling the mind" in such a way that we excavate down to the core of our beliefs and then reconsider in a light of doubt (Taylor, online). This allows us to embrace contact with others on terms of creative inquiry rather than pedantic argument. He states that "when you get to somebody thinking beyond the obvious, at first you're baffled by what they're saying-they seem to be speaking nonsense: 'two and two is five!' (Taylor, online). Most everything bears at least a scintilla of alternative interpretation.

I think here of the epic (and elegantly short) 1938 poem '*The Red Wheelbarrow*' by William Carlos Williams:

"so much depends
upon
a red wheel
barrow
glazed with rain
water
beside the white
chickens"

Assessing this poem, the consensus probably would be that the wheelbarrow is important because it allows work to get done. As a rural AU student there's certainly much to relate to. My yard has chickens (including a white hen named Snowball and a white rooster named Fang), a red wheelbarrow (aged and rusting, maybe even dating back to nearly 1938!), and stormy monsoon conditions on this 5th day of May, 2017. Even so, my AU spidey-senses suspect that something else is going on in this poem. My teenage self was just pleased with its brevity but my adult education mind is cultured in curiosity thanks to AU.

What of the line *so much depends*? The term *much* implies an abiding abundance and something beyond just the physical. Enjoyable ineffability seems the essence of *much*. I think of cascading raindrops that blurs the blossoms and flowers in one's vision. Contrast that with *many*, such as if the line had been written "so many depend" which creates a very literal interpretation. Somehow the words *much* and *many* have different worlds and the two don't quite overlap

Richard Odenberg draws parallels between Williams' use of *much* and Martin Heidegger's conception of *being-in-the-world (Dasein)*. Odenberg suggests that:

"'So much' does not refer to a collection of entities and 'depends upon' does not refer to a causal or logical relation. We already know – we know with a pre-philosophic understanding that is ours because we ourselves are the very sorts of beings who might utter the words "so much depends upon..." – we already know what this line refers to...There is a human being, somehow, in this poem."

In this sense "The Red Wheelbarrow" is about emotions, about feeling, about something ontologically distinct about being as a human. (Ontology is the science of being; "ontology is a particular theory about the nature of being" (Merriam-Webster online))

We humans as beings, rather than engaging in many individual relations that add up to *many*, have in fact a certain intangible *muchness* about us. This seems odd to our traditional ways of thinking. A quick read of the poem, like a casual repetition of expectations about a person, might not yield a different interpretive approach. However, our hermeneutics, "the study of the methodological principles of interpretation" can, like Deleuze, begin by questioning what it is the majority takes for granted (Merriam Webster, online). As distance students immersed in society rather than a brick and mortar campus, we invariably encounter the realities of commonly-held beliefs. Yet thanks to our education we're empowered to dig through the rut of expectations.

If, instead of *so much*, Williams had used the term *so many*, he would have chosen to directly reveal a greater range of truths lurking in the barnyard. As a poet in the Great Depression Williams could easily have said 'so many depend' and made perfect sense. We, the audience, fill in our expectations of the reality of rural life when we think of the necessity of the wheelbarrow; we don't necessarily focus on the transcendental beauty of the glaze of rainwater on its surface. Yet although the wheelbarrow is certainly a tool for technical means (*many*) it also may imply the whimsical dispensation of rides for children or puppies (*much*). It's presentation in the poem certainly isn't from the point of view of farm worker; Williams is a poet giving a poetic view on the world he sees. He might worry about what happens if the wheelbarrow springs a flat tire but his language is one of artful appreciation and not engineering detail. In this sense, the education provides much that mundane life may lack; no matter how many great things and people were in our life before we may have felt something missing, something hard to quantify. We may have had *many* good things and lacked the *much* of further studies.

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[poems/detail/45502](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/resources/learning/core-poems/detail/45502)

Jason Hazel-rah Sullivan is a Masters of Integrated Studies student who loves engaging in discourse while working in the sunny orchards and forests of the Okanagan.

In Conversation

..with Kristeen Young

Wanda Waterman



Kristeen Young is an operatic-punk singer-songwriter-pianist based in New York City. She's just released the single "Nice" from her album *Live at the Witch's Tit*, to be released later this year. In addition to having sung on David Bowie's album, *Heathen*, and touring with Morrissey, Young has been on *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* and *David Letterman* and been lauded by high-ranking critics. Her St. Louis childhood in dysfunctional foster homes drove her to choose music as a way to transcend her pain, which may explain the intensity of her performances and the innovative quality of her compositions. She

recently took the time to talk to us about her feelings surrounding music.

What were your early years like?

Terror-filled.

What role did music play in your childhood?

Music was everything. And it was monitored, so I had to sneak it. But it was my only escape.

What or who in your musical training had the most—and best—influence on you, as a musician, a composer, and a human being?

This is difficult. As a child I would say music teacher/jazz master, Aquilla Tinglin, who not only validated me as a musician, but rescued me in the physical sense by, many times, letting me stay at her apartment. She also taught me how to be a human being. since I was a wild animal. As an adult, Tony Visconti did much the same thing: plucked me out of the trench, told me I could be more, validated my feelings, and taught me how to be a human being on a deeper level.

What initially drew you to punk rock?

I was never in the punk rock "scene." The later period never appealed to me; it was too narrow. I appreciated the earlier records, when a friend of mine played them for me. I identified with the freedom, of course. And the individuality of people in the genre. In the early-to-mid time-period of punk the scope was immense. Later it was a skeleton with osteoporosis. A white skeleton.

If you had to give your music a genre, what would you call it?

Do whatever the fuck you want-ville.

What's the story behind the song "Nice?"

I've seen a lot of bullshit; let me give you some examples.

What advice do you have for other female musicians?

Try to forget you're females.

Do you have any advice for adolescent girls that you wish had been given to you?

I think adolescent girls are much different today. I think they're doing just fine.

What do you like best about *Live at the Witch's Tit* so far?

What I like the best is what I like the worst. It's been obstacle-laden, which means it's its own thing, and I can't do much to navigate the ride.

What conditions do you require in your life in order to go on being creative?

Thermostat at 68 degrees at all times, lots of water intake, consuming a different man every night, and an endless flow of cash.

Are there any books, films, or albums that have deeply influenced your development as an artist?

Controversy by Prince, Mozart's *Requiem Mass*, and *Urgh! A Music War* will always reset the controls.

Are you happy with your life so far?

"You came a long way from St. Louis, but you still got a long long way to go."

Do you feel any desire to straighten out the world a little with your music?

No. I feel a desire to straighten out myself and maybe someone else will relate. I think making music of any kind is a revolutionary act and it can't help but affect other people. Making music (any kind) is in itself away of saying that life can be better.

Wanda also writes the blog *The Mindful Bard: The Care and Feeding of the Creative Self*.



The Creative Spark!

All Work and No Pun

Marie Well



Do you like puns? Maybe you busk in the summer and call your act "Busking in the Sun." Or maybe you plan to start the next GroupOn for soup-spoons called *Group De Jour*.

If you've groaned at least once, then you see why advertisers avoid puns. But one type of pun works well in ads, namely puns with double meanings.

Let me illustrate:

Just over a week ago, I had an interview at an electric company. The interviewer told me he aimed to "tell stories" through ads. He promised to short list four of us interviewees. Each short listed candidate would create an ad based on one of his story ideas. The job would go to the candidate with the best ad.

I decided to act early as I felt equipped, given I had read the first chapters of Pete Barry's *The Advertising Concept Book*. I chose to play off the double meaning of the word "power" in creating a two-ad campaign.

My first ad included the following text: "You have the power to do good ... the power to protect ... the power to build communities. It's all in our power." This ad took popular slogans on power and twisted them with a double meaning: moral power and electric power—a pun.

The second ad campaign included a video of a bustling night scene of a lit petroleum camp. The text read "power on." The next image showed pure blackness with the text "power off. It's all in our power." Puns with double meanings work well in ad campaigns.

So, why learn ad tricks? Once you know the blueprint for making ads, you've got the skills for creating catchy titles and essay openers.

With that in mind, Pete Barry disclosed (in bold below) a couple of advertiser tricks found in his tome titled *The Advertising Concept Book*. I follow with tips for scholars.

Don't replace words with rhyming or sound alike words (puns). Double meaning puns (with same spelling) work well, even when one of the meanings is negative.

A double-meaning ad for full-figure bras could include the tagline, "All the perks."

So, what does this have to do with your essay? Well, avoid puns where you substitute similar sounding or rhyming words. Don't title your essay on toxic fumes "For whom the smell tolls." Puns stink.

Instead, use one word with two meanings—for instance, "Take the bait" for an essay on government welfare for Newfoundland fishermen. The word "bait" has double-meaning—and double-meaning puns make great titles.

Fred Manley of BBDO indicated that "the more you put in an ad, the worse it gets" (as cited in Barry, p. 77). Minimalize the ad.

When planning a title for your essay reduce the text just enough to make the viewers think. For instance, on an essay on nepotism in corporate culture, title it, "Ties." Don't add a visual of twins in suits. Don't add a subtitle (especially if you don't plan to publish). Do open your essay with the topic statement (i.e, "Nepotism in corporate culture reduces ... "). And do add flare: place the word "Ties" in the center of the title page in small font.

AU-thentic Events

Upcoming AU Related Events

AUSU Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 5:30 to 7:00 pm MDT

Telephone and online

Hosted by AUSU

www.ausu.org/event/annual-general-meeting-2/

Free study tools from AUSU when you RSVP and attend the AGM; RSVP to

admin@ausu.org

Accounting Conference—Research, Teaching, and Practice - Edmonton

Friday, May 26, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm MDT

DoubleTree by Hilton West Edmonton, 16615 109 Ave NW, Edmonton AB

In-person; limited seating

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business

business.athabascau.ca/event-details/accounting-conference-research-teaching-and-practice/

RSVP by May 19 at above link

Looking ahead...

Introducing AU President Dr Neil Fassina - Calgary

Thursday, June 1, 6:00 pm MDT

Fort Calgary, 750 - 9 Avenue SE, Calgary AB

In-person; limited seating

Hosted by AU

RSVP by May 24 to

CalgaryCommunityRSVP@athabascau.ca or

In short, bare down your titles without losing the gist.

Tag lines are mini arguments for why people must buy your product.

Similarly, in your papers, you can use a tag line as subtitles.

You can include the subtitle "Nepotism in Corporate Culture" from your title "Ties." But if you do include it, make it surreal—like an award-winning ad. In other words, put the subtitle in small font at the bottom right of your title page—like an advertisement tagline.

So, make your title page bare. Minimalize the title text, add the subtitle as a tag line tucked in the corner, and sprinkle in some double meaning. The least says the most. A paradox? I call it a Creative Spark!



Council Connection
May 9, 2017 Council Meeting

Bonita Arbeau

The May 9th AUSU council meeting started at 5:30 pm MST, and lasted for exactly two hours. All councillors were in attendance, except for VP External and Student Affairs Julian Teterenko, who was late due to other AUSU business.

After a quick approval of the meeting agenda and the April 11th meeting minutes, council moved to approve a "2017 Voice Action Plan." AUSU President Shawna Wasylyshyn prepared the document as an extension of the report and recommendations from the Joint Council/Voice Action Plan Committee (February 2017) which includes specific actions and deadlines. The Voice's Managing Editor and AUSU's Executive Director and VPEx will form a task force responsible to complete the action plan, including:

- Contracting additional hours for the Voice Managing Editor to work on various improvement projects for the Voice;
- Creating a flow chart for how decisions related to the Voice will be made, and updating policy accordingly;
- Creating and implementing a Voice marketing plan;
- Putting together a request for proposals and selecting a service provider, with a "go live" goal for the Voice's new website of September 1, 2017; and
- Negotiating and signing a new, updated version of the Voice Autonomy Agreement.

Councillor Kim Newsome asked Shawna if she thought the deadlines in the action plan were achievable and whether the progress of the plan would be reported on to council. Shawna said that she hopes having specific deadlines for projects will provide motivation for participants to complete tasks in a timely manner. She also clarified that, as goals are completed, an updated copy of the document will be provided to council. Shawna expects that the Voice Managing Editor and Editor in Chief will be autonomously responsible for the Voice once the action plan's goals are completed.

After council voted unanimously to make a few minor changes to AUSU Policies 3.04 and 3.05, none of which affected the substance of the policies, the Member Engagement and Communications (MEC) Committee put forward a motion to approve a new logo and colour scheme for AUSU's 25th anniversary. The design of the new

logo is identical to the current one, except for the addition of "est. 1992," and a colour change to orange, blue, and grayish silver, much like AU's colours. Council unanimously approved this change.

Next, council voted to ratify an e-mail motion allowing Julian Teterenko to purchase a computer for \$1513.56. Each AUSU Executive receives a computer, owned by and returned to AUSU, to use for their AUSU work, but the value of the computer is not to exceed \$1000. Julian wants a higher value computer, so AUSU created a contract in which he immediately pays \$513.56, receives a loan for the remaining cost of the computer, pays the unamortized cost out of his final pay as an AUSU Executive, and owns the computer. Both the vote and its ratification were approved unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, council went in-camera to discuss HR matters. As a non-councillor, I had to leave the meeting, but I later found out that council made a motion to hire an executive director. This was made official on May 15th when AUSU announced that they had hired Jodi Campbell and posted his bio on the AUSU website.

Next, during the review of the monthly reports, Awards Committee Chair, Robin Bleich, noted that AUSU received a record number of applications for the May 1 deadline and would be meeting on May 29 to decide on the award and bursary recipients. It was also noted that all applications for the new single parent bursary were disqualified as they did not meet the basic criteria, so, like the November awards deadline, this bursary will not be given out.

In the MEC committee report, Julian noted that the committee hosted a "virtual fireside chat" for students in the Maritime region and that turnout was low. The committee decided to host these virtual meet-and-greets for members who would like to connect with their students' union representatives and with other students in their area. Invitations were sent by e-mail to students living in the Maritime region. Kim asked Julian if he had any theories as to why attendance was so low for the event; he said that one factor may be that invitees were not asked to RSVP to the event. Considering the long-time lack of interest that students have had in council meetings, AGMs, and other AU-hosted teleconferences, it is not at all surprising that this concept might not attract many students. An in-person meet-and-greet is appealing for the social aspect of connecting with fellow students and escaping the mundane solitude that can come with distance education, but that same effect isn't achieved through a teleconference.

Finally, in the question-and-answer period, I asked for an update on AUSU's annual planners which the November MEC committee report indicated had been ordered. I noted that there has been no mention of the planners in any AUSU reports or on their website since that time. Julian responded that, because of high costs (\$4,326 in 2016) and "not too much interest" (500 planners, AUSU's entire stock, were ordered in one day), the MEC committee decided not to distribute planners to AUSU members in 2017. AUSU staff clarified that they did order a small number of planners, but only for the purpose of having something to give to those students who would come looking; they did not advertise them. It was also mentioned that only a few students have proactively asked for the planners. Shawna added that, after last year's planner was sent to students, AUSU conducted a survey of the recipients and a "large number of students" responded that they did not find the planner useful.

A quick look at Athabasca University's informal Facebook page, although anecdotal, tells a different story. In a popular Facebook post on January 7, 2016, two students commented how much they liked the new, smaller version of AUSU's planner and eight other students expressed disappointment and frustration that they were unable to get a planner. In that same thread, Shawna responded to these students, saying that AUSU would

"take this level of demand into consideration in future years" and that she was "happy that [AUSU] found a product that so many people wanted and a way to bring it to their attention." In a technological environment where many students are forced to convert to e-texts and much of our lives are turning digital (including the new virtual meet-and-greets by AUSU), making a physical connection can be very meaningful. Also, students may appreciate receiving something tangible for their student union fees of \$9 per 3-credit course.

Council will be holding their annual retreat in Athabasca, Alberta from June 7 to 10, a new tradition started in 2016. Councillors fly in from across Canada and attend various events over four days, including the AU Board of Governors dinner during Convocation. This retreat provides councillors with an opportunity to bond, to meet AU executives, and to discuss goals for the upcoming year. According to AUSU's 2017 budget, this event will cost AUSU members approximately \$12,000.

AUSU's annual general meeting is scheduled for May 23rd at 5:30 pm MST. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the AGM, and the agenda and 2016 annual report are available on AUSU's website. There is no council meeting scheduled for June, so the next council meeting will be held on July 11 at 5:30 pm MST.

Bonita is a 3rd year bachelor of commerce student at AU, a mom-of-three, a political junkie, and an impassioned tennis fan, who just so happens to enjoy attending AUSU council meetings in her "spare" time. You can follow her on twitter @BonitaRenee88.

Student Sizzle AU's Hot Social Media Topics

Following what's hot around AU's social media sites.

AthaU Facebook Group

Lesley shows off her book haul for ENGL 305 Literature for Children. Dean seeks feedback on the Bachelor of Science Computing and Information Systems Major. Micheál seeks input on courses to complement psychology studies. Other posts include ProctorU, convocation, exam request deadlines, etext choices, and courses ADMN 233, CRJS 360, MATH 244, PSYC 323, and WGST 303.

Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "[#AthaU](#) is [#NowHiring](#) several Individualized Tutors to provide academic support for students & mark assignments <http://ow.ly/FETH30bG2Tg>."

@AthabascaUSU (AUSU) tweets: "Check out our brand new FAQ page on the AUSU website! <http://bit.ly/2qB6cV9>."

@AU Press tweets: "Our Fall 2017 catalogue has arrived! Take a peek at what's inside: <http://ow.ly/UHmo30bFU3c>."

Youtube

Brush up on long weekend trivia with [Did You Know? - Victoria Day](#), posted by CPAC.



Canadian Science News

Scott Jacobsen



University of Calgary Works with Energy Regulator on Data Visualization Initiative

According to the [University of Calgary](#), University of Calgary researchers are working with the National Energy Board (NEB), the country's energy regulator. It is the beginning of a 3-year project to transform the NEB energy data into "clear, publicly accessible, online visual tools."

Professor in the faculty of science's department of computer science, and a Canada Research Chair, Sheelagh Carpendale, said, "Data visualization is a way of realizing the potential of data by helping

people as individuals understand what's there, and empowering them so they can use that data and make their own decisions."

It is enabling human being see the patterns in the data. The work from this initiative will be completely freely available too. In other words, the designs and other information created by the project will be freely available for "libraries, other regulators and third parties."

10th Science Rendezvous Festival in Saskatoon and Other Events Across Canada

The [Star Phoenix](#) reported that the "10th Science Rendezvous Festival in Saskatoon — one of hundreds of events across 30 Canadian cities — showcases science achievements and features hands-on activities for people of all ages."

The event's organizers are working with [Let's Talk Science from the University of Saskatchewan](#). Let's talk Science is housed in the Geology building. A biology graduate student, Laurel Sacco, talked about the 2017 event.

Sacco said, "There's a lot of new things ... I'd like a ton of people to come and participate and have a good time ... I think one of our favourite things is whenever a kid or an adult comes away saying, 'Oh, that's awesome', and then you see them go tell somebody else about it."

Canada Signs Arctic Agreement with Seven Neighbours

Foreign affairs minister of Canada, Chrystia Freeland, said, "The Agreement will reinforce Canada's role as a leader in Arctic science and help attract international researchers to the Canadian Arctic...It will also facilitate Arctic scientific cooperation, which will help us make better decisions for Northerners and all Canadians."

According to [Radio Canada International](#), Freeland was describing the binding science cooperation agreement signed by Canada and seven of its Arctic neighbors. The purpose of the science agreement is to ease cooperation between them.

One important aspect to Canada is the reinforcement of Canadian leadership in the Arctic. Besides the scientific and politic benefits, Freeland argued this will "help us make better decisions for Northerners and all Canadians."

16-year-old wins top national science prize

"A 16-year-old student from Vincent Massey Secondary School in Windsor took home the top prize at the national final for the Sanofi Biogenius Canada competition held in Ottawa on Monday," CBC News: Windsor said.

The 16-year-old, Tasnia Nabil, produced a research project entitled "A Novel Computational Approach to Advance Ferromagnetic NanoTherapy as a Therapeutic Solution for Cancer." It explored new ways to calculate the impacts on the human body's cancerous cells from nanoparticles.

Nabil has worked on the project for 3 years. Her parents were supporting her work from a young age, according to Nabil. \$500 of the prize money will be for the Vincent Massey Secondary School. The remaining \$5,000 will go to Nabil.

New Canada Research Chairs, 15 for McGill University alone

McGill Reporter reported, on May 4, that the Honorable Kirsty Duncan, Canadian Minister of Science, made the announcement that \$126 million will be for 142 new and renewed Canada Research Chairs (CRCs). 15 went to McGill University alone, coming in at \$12 million.

The Government of Canada also made the announcement of \$7.3 million for modern research tools through the John R. Evans Leaders Fund of the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI). CFI and the CRC program assist Canadian universities attract top researchers, and keep them.

The finances equip the CRCs with up-to-date research technologies too. Six of the 15 CRCs for McGill University are women. "Minister Duncan also announced new measures designed to ensure better representation among chairholders of women, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities," McGill Report said.

Advancing science here in Canada

The Winnipeg Free Press, in a Saint Boniface-Saint Vital MP Constituency Report of Dan Vandal, stated, "In mid-April, researchers at the St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre and the University of Manitoba announced an important scientific breakthrough that can help in the fight against antibiotic resistant bacteria."

Drs. Grant Pierce and Pavel Dibrov developed PEG-2S. It is able to fight against 2 of the top 10 antibiotic-resistant pathogens described by the World Health Organization (WHO). The top 10 are the worst threats to human health.

It may take 10 years for the complete development and approval, and distribution, of the PEG-2S. Drs. Pierce and Dibrov are at the Saint Boniface-Saint Vital Albrechtsen Research Centre.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen is the AUSU VPFA. He works with various organizations, and runs In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal, and In-Sight Publishing.

Music Review

Foxpalmer

Drew Kolohon



Artist: Foxpalmer

EP: *Locked in Memory*

The music scene in London has a lot to take in after Foxpalmer's release of their debut mini album, *Locked in Memory*. Fronted by Fern McNulty, Foxpalmer's style is difficult to nail down. Folk, pop, and rock are but a mere few of the many styles that grace this album. Fern uses this mix of styles to her advantage, showing off her wide range and unique tone that set this album to thrive in the busy London music scene. A strong comparison can be made between Fleetwood Mac and Foxpalmer, sharing in their haunting vocals and catchy guitar lines.

Starting the album strong with "End", this song shows Fern's strong points, her voice and guitar skills. The catchy and intricate guitar patterns explode out of the gate and are only made better

by Fern's passionate vocals. "End" is a perfect choice to start this album as it exemplifies her strong points while at the same time being a pleasure to listen to. Slowing things down, Fern gives us "Where Do You Sleep Tonight". Even though this song has a slower pace it is not any less entertaining. With this song, we get to take a deeper look into the theme of this album. Passion and struggle are heavy undertones though-out this album, but particularly in this song. This message leads perfectly into the next song "Alone".

The title would lead someone to believe that this song would be a lament, but Fern gives it much more meaning. Through her voice, Fern makes "Alone" a song about feeling incredibly sad. But she also shows how, out of such hardship, can come strength. The power that emanates from this song makes an interesting contrast between the title and the feeling, which is echoed with the entire album.

One of the final songs on the album, "In My Head", holds on to the theme of the album while at the same time giving us a powerful finish. This song has a much deeper rock vibe than the folk and pop that we have heard in the songs before. Fern has a definite understanding of how to put an album together; the flow from song to song is perfect. It tells a story of sadness but, also, understanding. Strength can come from sadness, and Fern, through her music, brings truth to this. A pleasant surprise at the end of this album are acoustic versions of "Alone" and "Fault". This is a nice touch as it gives us a sample of Fern without her accompaniment, which is a perfect end for this already outstanding album.

The album cover is a perfect look into what you are getting from Foxpalmer, Fern, and her guitar, as well as an intense personal journey. If *Locked In Memory* is a hint at what we can expect from Fern McNulty then London has a lot coming. The album is available in all of the typically digital media formats as well as on [Bandcamp](#). I strongly recommend getting this album.

Drew Kolohon is an avid music fan who is finishing up his Bachelor's degree in English.

Canadian Education News

Scott Jacobsen



Education reduces criminal activity

If you want to prevent online criminal activity, according to the Delta Optimist, one major way is to focus on education. The ability to catch the online/cyber criminals around the world is a difficult thing. Our dependence on technology makes us manage our lives online more. This can include everyday things: "...planning our social lives and booking appointments to shopping, banking and even filing taxes..."

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre reported on the Canadians defrauded out of their money per year,

and it came out to about \$100 million. Some of the most common frauds are those involving identity theft, such as "government issued ID and credit cards stolen from vehicles." For more info, you can visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud website.

Peel District School Board recognized by the National Council of Canadian Muslims

The Brampton Guardian states that the frontlines of the Peel District School Board controversy is based on religious accommodation. Tony Pontes, education director; Brian Woodland, communications director; and the entire board were given recognition by the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM).

The recognition was given at a May 6 awards event. Following this, at the May 9 board meeting, one trustee, Robert Crocker, considered the Peel District School Board award as indicative of the nurturance of inclusive schools for how they dealt with a controversial issue.

The original controversy was sparked with the religious accommodation to the operating procedure for the Peel District School Board. Some Muslims were upset because the changes did not permit students to "write their own sermons for Friday prayer."

Thomas Doherty, and others, recognized for excellence in teaching

Wawatay News said, "Thomas Doherty, a teacher with the Keewatinook Okimakanak Board of Education has been recognized by the Prime Minister's Awards (PMA) for Teaching Excellence. Mr. Doherty is one of eleven national-level recipients who received the 2016/2017 PMA for Teaching Excellence, Certificate of Excellence from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau."

The award was given at an awards ceremony in Ottawa on May 3. The ceremony was celebrating the nation's top early childhood educators and teachers. It is national-level recognition of excellence in teaching.

Those who are recognized are given the award based on the outstanding achievements in education, to both honour and award them, for the digital environment. Their students will be better prepared for the "digital and innovation-based economy."

NELSON acquires part of the business holdings of McGraw-Hill Ryerson

The [Canadian News Wire](#), in a printed release, reported that NELSON, which is the top educational publisher in the country, entered into agreement with McGraw-Hill Ryerson. The agreement is for NELSON to acquire the business holdings for K-12 education of McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

This business holding purchase is part of a strategic acquisition move by NELSON. Steve Nelson, the president and CEO of NELSON, said, "As the only remaining all-Canadian-operated educational publisher and leading content provider in the K-12 classroom, the addition of the McGraw-Hill Ryerson portfolio enables us to pursue our commitment to providing the best possible educational resources and content across the nation."

Recognition of Jeanette Christine Armstrong, and her work for First Nations education

[University Affairs](#) states that the numerous Canadian graduate schools, in the wake of the travel ban from American President Donald Trump, are providing open support for researchers and graduate students affected by the travel ban.

Canadian graduate schools gave offerings of workspaces, extended application deadlines, as well as granting visiting-researcher status to the stranded academics and students. This was reported as a "deep commitment to the tenets of diversity, inclusivity and global citizenry that underpin graduate education."

A large number of international students partake of graduate studies in Canada. The newest [Statistics Canada data](#) (PDF) shows more than 30% of doctoral students in Canada are non-Canadian. It is argued by the author that "[in] a global knowledge economy, it's imperative that we invest in training highly qualified individuals regardless of their country of origin."

Sheridan College students campaigning for education of Indigenous communities' treatment

"The [Travelers Institute](#), the public policy division of The Travelers Companies, Inc. (NYSE: [TRV](#)), [hosted] a panel discussion during the Insurance Brokers Association of Alberta (IBAA) 2017 Convention, kicking off a series of Canadian education activities in 2017," [Cantech Letters](#) said.

President of the Travelers Institute and the executive vice president of public policy at Travelers, Joan Woodward, facilitated discussion with cybersecurity professionals on common cyber threats and cyber incidents.

The CEO of Travels Canada, Heather Masterson, stated that the Travelers Institute was pleased to help with the advancement of the opportunities in education on cybersecurity and general public policy subject matter for businesses throughout Canada.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen is the AUSU VPFA. He works with various organizations, and runs In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal, and In-Sight Publishing.

Filtering Advice



Deanna Roney

When heading down a new path there comes both solicited and unsolicited advice. It can be difficult, with so much information being thrown at you, to know which to heed and which to ignore. It's not that the "ignored" advice is bad, it is just that it isn't best for you. When I graduated from Athabasca University I was left with a decision: what step do I take next? I had been so focused on getting to the end I hadn't allowed myself much time to consider what would come next, what would be that next step needed to take to achieve what I worked so hard for to get this far?

With this looming decision, I solicited lots of advice, I reached out to professors in my field

of interest and asked them questions about what might be the best choice for me. I reached out to family and friends and discussed my choices. I also had plenty of unsolicited advice, suggestions, and nudges. Everything mentioned had merit.

But, as the opinions rolled in, the water became muddier and muddier. I was losing a sense of what I was wanting to get out of it—what I was even thinking about this for. While it is important to be well-informed to make the choice, it can be easy to lose sight of the end goal. What I ended up doing was—literally—writing down my end goal. From there I made a list of all the suggested paths and I looked at my end goal and compared it with the list, asking "Will this path get me here?" Some of the advice would have, yes, some in a round-about way, maybe. And some of these paths I was interested in for other reasons. But those that didn't contribute *now* to that first end goal I decided to move to another list, a possible "future" list.

When faced with these choices it's important to keep the water as clear as possible, it is hard to know which way to go without confusing it more with other options. Once you have your choices narrowed down into two groups, "future" and "now", comes the more difficult part—which one of the "now" choices is the one to take.

There isn't really a wrong choice here, usually. This is the point where you should solicit advice from others within the industry. What path did they take, which would they recommend, what are the pros and cons that they're aware of? They may be able to confirm some of the things you've found while doing your own research—or debunk some myths you have read. Research is important and making sure you are as well-informed as possible.

Once you have gathered your information on the narrowed down list of choices, confirm again that you are keeping true to the end goal. And then go with what feels the best to you. If that choice doesn't work the way you intended it isn't impossible to turn around and take another path. Whatever path you take, whether it leads directly to the end goal or leaves you back-tracking, either way, you will be learning about your desired profession and setting yourself up for success.

Deanna is an AU graduate who loves adventure in life and literature. Follow her path on the writing journey at <https://deannaroney.wordpress.com/>



Please Excuse Me

I don't consider myself to have a depressive personality. I tend to be even-keeled and don't enjoy euphoric highs or suffer debilitating lows in my moods. I can rationalize and absorb most things. Sooner or later, I can see the "silver lining" in bad news.

But I find myself being tested. Regular readers will know that my husband and I farm. Anyone who's been paying attention will know that, for much of Alberta, 2016 was the harvest from hell—with nearly half the crop not getting picked up. We were among those who didn't finish combining. To be clear, last year's crop needs to be either combined, burned, or plowed under to seed the new crop. To make an insurance claim, you must combine it.

Then a few weeks ago we got about five inches of wet snow. Finally, last week, we attempted to combine a field of canola. We had to leave undone large areas that are under water. We had to leave parts of swaths where we were getting stuck with the combines. We had to have our largest tractor in the field to pull out the combines that sank to their axles. We had to travel long distances across the field with a half full hopper (to minimize the weight) to a grain truck parked on higher ground.

Moving to the next field was no better and was in fact, worse. And that was before the weekend of rain that left two inches in the rain gauge. The only good news is that there appears to be a buyer for the canola we did grab. It's lighter than normal, the colour isn't great, the grade is poorer but someone is willing to pay for it. Unfortunately, our yard and the roads are so soft, loaded trucks can't get anywhere near for the time being.

Here's the thing. The growing season is only so long. If you can't seed the 2017 crop when you should, you're playing Russian roulette hoping it ripens before it's ruined by an early frost or snowfall. Farmers know the last day you can seed a particular crop. This is hard-won wisdom based on first-hand experience. Many of the fields that were harvested last year didn't have any preparatory work done last fall. Others have standing water right now. Which means that the seeding will be delayed, which means this year's harvest could be delayed. Which starts to feel like a domino effect, vicious cycle, gloom and doom, hopeless scenario.

Throw in several cold, overcast, rainy days in a row and I see my mood deteriorating. Logically, I know there isn't a damn thing I can do about the weather. Logically, I know there are others in Alberta and elsewhere who have fought wildfires, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and tsunamis and lost much more than we have. Unfortunately, I'm not feeling too logical at the moment. Now, please excuse me while I search for a silver lining, from where I sit.

Hazel Anaka's first novel is *Lucky Dog*. Visit her [website](#) for more information or follow her on Twitter @anakawrites.



Blending the Kids

Dear Barb:

My husband and I have been married two years and we each brought children into the marriage. He has two boys and I have one. His youngest is 12, and is autistic, and the other 15, while my son is eight. We have been having a lot of problems with the three boys getting along. They each have their own issues and naturally we each favor our own children. I find the 12 year old very hard to deal with. My husband caters to him and has no expectations for him. He goes to a regular school and functions fairly well; he just seems to have social issues. The oldest is a teen and knows everything. My youngest is a sweet, good natured boy who really wants to hang out with his older brothers, but they aren't very accommodating. My husband is a great guy and when it is just the two of us there are no problems, but when we begin discussing the boys, we end up in an argument. I don't want this to ruin our marriage, but I don't know what to do. I've suggested family counselling but my husband says we just need to adjust to each other. Well it's been two years; I think we're beyond the adjustment phase. Do you have any suggestions on where we can go from here? Thanks, Laura.

Hi Laura:

Great Question! Blended families are the new norm and they can and do work, but it takes compromise and understanding from everyone involved. The ideal of the Brady Bunch is basically that, an ideal, not

a reality. According to the University of Houston, 1300 new stepfamilies are established every day in the USA. A concern for stepfamilies is that the chances of second and third marriages ending in divorce is considerably higher than first marriages. A major reason for this is because of the challenges involved in blended families. For example, I assume your son was an only child and now he has to make the adjustment to having two new brothers, one of which autistic. Autism can be many things and requires knowledge and adjustment from everyone in the family. You could contact autismcanada.org to assist with understanding some questions you and your son may have about it. As well, the middle child has now lost his position as the youngest in the family, which changes his view of where he belongs. As you can see there are many issues going on. It's important that you continue to spend time alone with your son and that your husband spend time with his sons. The children need to know that they still have their place with their biological parent. As well, you need to have family time, set a tradition where you all do things together as a family. Perhaps a movie or game night, or a hike together, find an activity that will help you bond together. You each need to have your relationship with your own child/children, then you have the relationship with the whole family, and you and your husband still have to spend time alone together. It may seem complicated, but it can work, with patience, love, and understanding. I also agree that a few visits to a family counselor would be helpful. Good luck with your new family.

Follow Barb on twitter @BarbGod

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.

All the Music Be Happenen' Now Truth, Rage, and the Tambourine Man

Wanda Waterman



At 10:00 pm, November 17, 2000, Jade and I swung out the acoustics for a low-key jam. We were sitting on the floor of the living room, and the lamps were dim. Riffing through our raggedy chord and lyric sheets: *Know this one? Yeah, love it. Let's try it. Not in that key. What about G? Yeah, G's good. Okay play it in G with the capo on the third fret.*

*Then take me disappearin' through the
smoke rings of my mind
Down the foggy ruins of time, far past
the frozen leaves
The haunted, frightened trees, out to the
windy beach
Far from the twisted reach of crazy
sorrow.*

- Bob Dylan, 1965, "Mr. Tambourine Man"

Pierre Trudeau had just died. Jean Chrétien was prime minister of Canada, and George W Bush had just beat Al Gore to the American presidency. This was long before I'd started using government leaders as musical forecasts, so it hadn't registered with me then, but I now understand why such kickass punk

was to come out of the next few years, putting us "far from the twisted reach of crazy sorrow."

Sandy arrived, letting in indigo sky, black silhouettes of pines, and the glowing path of the timid moon on the Bay of Fundy. Later she was to describe the scene to a coworker: "My God, I thought I'd walked into a sixties love-in!"

Mr. Tambourine Man

On a Friday in 1965, Deborah in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of California got her waitress pay and went to the record shop to pull Dylan's new album, *Bringing it All Back Home*, from the hands of the clerk just as he was about to slide it into the D section of the folk bin. She took the album back to the loft she shared with a bunch of other people, listened to it, and taught herself how to play "Mr. Tambourine Man," having rightly determined it to be the most significant song on the album.

Then she took her guitar down to the street and played it for the prep school, grad school, and old school gypsies. For the rest of her life the memory of this event justified Deborah's existence. Whatever failures and losses were to come, she'd been there, she'd done that.

Where Was the New?

Jade and I weren't playing for the gypsies, because the gypsies who'd flocked to Nova Scotia were now altered beyond recognition. We were, however, in a position to grasp the words of the song better than Deborah could have, and only because of all that had happened since 1965.

But where was the new for us? Why were we still playing "Tambourine Man?" Which 2000 album was so significant, so revelatory, and so transformative that we learned it and passed it on the day it was released? It wasn't like the music had really died, as Don McLean hymned in "American Pie," and if it had died, it surely didn't die with Buddy Holly.

While we're still trying to make sense of the past, we're no longer inclined to want to "forget about today until tomorrow." The school of hard knocks and years of meditating have brought us to a fuller understanding of what it means to "live in the now" as sixties philosophers urged, and why it's important.

For the last twenty years I've been talking to musicians who've experienced profoundly stirring musical experiences, people whose childhoods were bathed in music like noodles in butter, people crafting startlingly original work, both delightful and meaningful. But the cultural context has changed. Our whole way of thinking about music and listening to it—and being influenced by it—has changed. And this has left a mark on the music itself.

We Never Asked to Be Heros

But back to Dylan, who never asked to be the poster child for the sixties radical resistance. He was revolted by efforts to get him to be the spokesperson for the anti-Vietnam movement. He resented attempts to deconstruct his songs in ways he never intended. (Doggett, 2007) And when people finally got that, they stopped looking for pied pipers.



Not even the soft-spoken Saskatonian Joni Mitchel, her dreamy manner aped by hippy girls from San Francisco to Cornerbrook, could lead the stardust, golden, million-year-old carbon back to the garden. She refused most requests to play for charitable causes. Efforts to get her to speak out for feminism were rebuffed; in her opinion feminists rejected the world of the feminine that she embraced.

Since then most authentic musicians have shied away from direct affiliation with social causes. But the *loss* of the sixties culture's expectation of a connection between music and social concern, while leaving creativity vulnerable to corporate takeover, at the same time opened doors to greater personal achievement, greater introspection and personal exploration, something which, as we'll see later, couldn't help bearing fruit in the form of compassion for the suffering in the world and the desire to use one's art to speak to it in a healing way.



No Pure Genre

In 2000 I was as obsessed with music as I'd ever been. I was bringing my guitar to work. At home I had a vinyl collection that just kept growing because everyone was still chucking records. I played guitar and tenor banjo in an amateur Dixieland band and also in a fledgling jazz trio called The Radio Stardust Jazz Orchestra.

I was also in a folk group called The Same Boat. We played music from the historical Nova Scotian ethnicities, me representing the Celtic diaspora. I got in trouble with one fellow musician for diluting the purity of the traditional genres, mixing blues with reels, African drumming with First Nations chants, and Acadian music with old time country.

Why did I do it? Because there is no pure genre, and there has never been. It's a truth we can no longer avoid.

References

- Dogget, Peter. 2007. *There's a Riot Going On: Revolutionaries, Rock Stars, and the Rise and Fall of the '60s*. Canongate
- Dylan, Bob. 1965. *Bringing it All Back Home*. Columbia Records

Wanda also writes the blog [The Mindful Bard: The Care and Feeding of the Creative Self](#).



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Come to AUSU's AGM!

All members are invited to come to AUSU's Annual General Meeting, held by **teleconference**. It's a great opportunity to 'meet' the council and ask questions!

RSVP to admin@ausu.org and attend the AGM and receive some **FREE STUDY TOOLS** from AUSU!

DATE: Tuesday, May 23

TIME: 5:30 pm MT

Click [here](#) to add this event to your calendar.

The AGM Meeting Agenda is available on our website [here](#). The teleconference instructions are in the agenda.



Course Evaluations

Completed any courses recently? Fill out a course evaluation online [here](#).

Make note, AUSU's course evaluations are different than the ones sent by AU, and are completely confidential.



IMPORTANT DATES

- **May 23:** [AUSU's Annual General Meeting](#)
- **May 28:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for July](#)
- **Jun 8-10:** [AU 2017 Convocation](#)
- **Jun 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting July 1](#)
- **Jun 15:** [July degree requirements deadline](#)
- **Jun 30:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for July](#)
- **July 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Aug 1](#)

Last Chance to Fill out our Survey for a Chance to Win!

We need your feedback! We want to know how we can best serve you, our members, and make sure you have a positive experience with AUSU and at Athabasca University! [Please fill out AUSU's Services Survey](#).

Over \$500 in prizes will be given away to members who fill out [our survey](#)! Prizes include gift cards to a store of the winners' choosing (**2X \$100, 4 X \$50, 4 X \$25**) and some great AUSU swag!

Deadline: Wednesday, May 24, 2017

AU Services Survey



AUSU Career Resources

AUSU's careers page includes links for resume building, interview preparation, career fairs across Canada, national and provincial job search engines and more!

Check out AUSU's Career Resources page [here](#).



CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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