

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Vol 25 Issue 36 2017-09-15

### Meeting the Minds

Dr. Rory McGreal

### Combat Tuition Increases

Discounts and Freebies for AU Students

### Good Porn or Good Sex?

The Choice of a New Generation

*Plus:*

*The Fall Routine of Change  
You Love To Write!  
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](mailto: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

### Before the Fall

Karl Low



A late announcement this week about CASA. At the start of September, the group, (which we've been profiling over the past several weeks) accepted Capilano University from BC as one of its new members. This brings the organization up to 22 student association members, representing approximately 255,000 students to the federal government, including you through AUSU. CASA is one of the primary ways that AUSU lobbies at the federal level, so if you're ever thinking there's something that you think the country should do for post-secondary education, contact AUSU Council and they'll do what they can to get it on the agenda with CASA, and hence the federal government.

So if you ever find yourself shaking your fist, and saying "Why there oughta be a law," well, now you know what to do once the neighborhood kids stop laughing.

Aside from that, however, this week we have an interview with Dr. Rory McGreal, a professor in the centre for distance education and the holder of the Chair of the UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning for Open Education Resources. It's worth a read, especially near the end, as Dr. McGreal gives his idea for something he thinks AU students should be pushing the university for. Considering his position is with the university, it's certainly something that we should sit up and take notice of.

Also, this week, with rising increases in tuition and possible increases to your AUSU fees, saving a bit of extra money becomes more important than ever. That's why this week, in addition to our regular scholarship of the week showcase, we also have some tips and discounts that you should be taking advantage of. Had I actually checked the discounts before finishing up the article this week, I probably would have saved myself a couple hundred dollars. Don't be like me. Read the article first, then go buy stuff.

Also, the last consultation about AUSU's new bylaws will be occurring this week on Tuesday, September 19th, which also happens to be International Talk Like a Pirate Day. Unfortunately, we didn't get any articles celebrating this international festival of doing something silly just because you can, but that doesn't mean you can't take advantage of it anyway. I'd be tickled pink if I heard that someone attended the bylaw consultation and spoke the entire time in fluent piratese.

As its mid-September, the impending approach of autumn is on students' minds, and Deanna Roney captures some of it in her article about how Autumn tends to bring change, often in ways that we can rely on, but sometimes in ways that we never expected.

The new season also brings new album releases, and we have a music review of an upcoming EP from punk band Bad Mary. Will their new EP be worth the money? Our student reviewer seems to think so. That, plus news, advice, oh, and an article that asks the question if we can have good sex while having good porn, plus a number of other thoughts and articles from AU students, all add up to something to keep you busy as the leaves start to change and you seriously get into your studies. Enjoy the read!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karl", with a stylized flourish at the end.

# MEETING THE MINDS

INTERVIEWS with AU's EDUCATORS



*Professor Rory McGreal is the Chairholder in Open Educational Resources for the UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning. He is also a professor in the Centre for Distance Education at Athabasca University, the director of the Technology Enhanced Knowledge Research Institute (TEKRI), and the co-Editor of the International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning (IRRODL). He is also a founder of the OER Knowledge Cloud.*

**How did you find AU originally, and why did you choose it?**

Before I came in 2001, I was the executive director of Tele-Education at New Brunswick at Distance Education Network in Eastern Canada. When the government changed, everything changed. I looked for other opportunities at that time. Athabasca is the leader in distance education, so I applied here and, fortunately, I was accepted.

**Was it during the time of Prime Minister Stephen Harper?**

No, it was before. It was the provincial government. I was there when Frank McKenna was in. He was very big on IT. In fact, he was the first politician in Canada to have an email address, so we were very progressive.

But he left after ten years and then the next government gave us no support at all and it started to die down and that was unfortunate.

**What do you consider a unique aspect of AU compared to all other institutions in Canada?**

Simple, we are the only online university. We have student residents in every province and territory in Canada.

**What do you think is the main attraction for students outside of being online and distance?**

I think by taking an AU course you are participating in the modern economy and society. But there is no such thing as a traditional course anymore. We are the leaders in online learning. The world economy is online; the world society is online; education must be online, and we are totally online.

**For those who don't know what UNESCO is, what is involved in holding the UNESCO chair?**

UNESCO is a World United Nation Educational Organization. Our role there is to support strategic development goal number four: Education for All. It is estimated there will be about one hundred million students worldwide capable of post-secondary education by 2025 who wouldn't be able to access it because either it's not there, or they can't afford it. We need to find new ways of addressing this problem. We believe, UNESCO believes,

that open educational resources and free resources available on the internet will be part any of the solutions to the problems.

**What's the matrix that is measuring education readiness for that one hundred million?**

That's difficult to say because you are talking about 196 different countries. There cannot be one matrix for that.

But I think in a general way, it is how many of them we can provide within the university. In education, can we increase the number? How far down the road of massive open online courses can we go, and help to give access to these students who request access? By the way, they are not in a developing country.

In Canada, it's a problem too because of the expensive education for our students—students in remote areas and students in inner cities—who don't have the funding they need to find ways of addressing their problem and getting access to higher education.

**If you look at the services AU offers, what are one or two of the bigger ones that students don't know about or don't sufficiently take advantage of?**

One that comes to mind immediately that is not necessarily AU. There are a huge number of scholarships, bursaries, and other things that remain unapplied for in Canada. There is a huge list of them, very easy to find online, and people don't just apply. There is one, to give an example, the Irish Sport and Social Society will give a bursary to a student in first-year university or a second-year university student and half of the time they don't even get any applications for it. You don't have to be Irish to apply for it. That's one example, but there are all kinds of societies and groups and philanthropic organizations that have funding for students. If you apply, you have a chance to get it; and if you don't apply; you don't get it.

**If you can take a look at the next five years what do you think are some of the bigger changes in technology, generally, that we could take advantage of?**

At AU, we have been the leader in the research and application of educational mobile devices. The fact is the world is going that way. We are using a mobile device right now for this interview, in fact.

We need to ensure that our courses are accessible and available on mobile devices. We have gone a long way down that road. I believe more than most of the universities in Canada. But we need to go fully down that road and accept the fact that the world is on mobile devices. One out of every three people worldwide accesses the internet through a mobile device and desktop sales for the last three years have been less than tablet and other mobile devices.

So that's one of the big wins. The other one is for us to get our databases in shape to use learning to help students by finding out more about our students, and how we can address their specific needs.

**Where can students find mobile research opportunities at AU? Because they probably don't take as much advantage of it as they probably could?**

In general research, I would say talk to your professor and see. Professors, especially at the undergraduate level, don't get many students asking them can I do research with you or anything like that.

I can give you an example. I just sent out a call for the Centre for Distance Education to graduate students. Hopefully, they get a research project with colleagues in Brazil, and the Canadian government will pay for this.

They will give bursaries for travel and expenses while in Brazil. They will give bursaries and expenses to Brazilian students to come Canada. That's one example of what we do. I have worked with graduate students on a project to figure out who is using Fair Dealing policies in Canada, which universities are aggressively using them and which ones aren't. What their policies are and how they are going about it?

So, for me, I welcome working with the students. They are cheap. They get about twenty or thirty dollars per hour depending on their level. We can get grant money to help them with that and it's great experience for them, as well.

### Any final thoughts?

I am the chair in open education resources. I believe they are very important for education, they have already saved millions of dollars for students in Alberta alone. Athabasca saved millions of dollars for the university because of the student service fees.

So, I think the students should take a look at that and challenge us, see what happens as far as getting some relief on the student service fees. Because of the open educational resources, we now have about twenty courses at Athabasca University that are almost completely open educational resources, and that save a huge amount of money rather than paying for expensive text books.

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

## Scholarship of the Week

### Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

**Scholarship name:** Hiking Ambition Wellness Scholarship

**Sponsored by:** Hiking Ambition

**Deadline:** September 30, 2017

**Potential payout:** \$1000

**Eligibility restriction:** Applicants must be enrolled at high school, college, university, or trade school, and must have a passion for a healthy lifestyle.

**What's required:** An e-mail with contact and school info, along with a 500-1000-word essay on maintaining a healthy lifestyle during your school years.

**Tips:** Since Hiking Ambition is all about hiking, you might want to incorporate a hiking activity into your essay.

**Where to get info:** [hikingambition.com/scholarship/](http://hikingambition.com/scholarship/)



## Combat Tuition Increases with Discounts and Freebies

Barabara Lehtiniemi



Post-secondary education is expensive. If you've enrolled in an AU course recently, you may have noticed tuition has become even more expensive for most students. Brace yourself: you may be paying even more soon, as AUSU is revising their bylaws and the new structure will probably require an increase to the membership fees it levies on each AU undergraduate course.

Despite the ever-increasing expense of tuition, there are still some perks available to AU students. We've sifted through the AU and AUSU websites and summarized some available discounts and freebies:

**Software Discounts.** AU partners with online retailer OnTheHub, to provide a variety of software to students at discounted prices. Available software includes Windows 10, MS- Office suites, plus Adobe, IBM, Norton products and dozens more.

[athabasca.onthehub.com](http://athabasca.onthehub.com).

**Student ID cards.** Many retailers and other organizations offer discounts to students. To access discounts offered only to students with ID, you'll need to obtain an AU Student ID Card. You can apply for a free card from AU any time. Cards are effective for the current academic year of September 1 to August 31; after expiry, continuing students can request a date sticker to keep their card current.

[registrar.athabascau.ca/enrolment/records/idcards.php](http://registrar.athabascau.ca/enrolment/records/idcards.php)

**lynda.com Online Learning.** AUSU provides undergrad students with free access to [lynda.com](http://lynda.com)'s online video training website. lynda.com offers hundreds of training videos on computer software, business skills, design, photography, and much more. Any student enrolled in a for-credit AU undergrad course can apply for access to lynda.com through AUSU.

[www.ausu.org/services/student-resources/lynda/](http://www.ausu.org/services/student-resources/lynda/)

**Eye-wear Discounts.** AUSU has partnered with [FYidoctors.com](http://FYidoctors.com) to provide discounted prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses. Any student enrolled in a for-credit AU undergrad course can access these discounts by obtaining a promo code from AUSU, then visiting one of FYidoctors' participating eyewear retailers across Canada.

[www.ausu.org/services/student-resources/eyewear/](http://www.ausu.org/services/student-resources/eyewear/)

**Shaw Television and Internet Discounts.** For September, Shaw Communications provides discounted rates for full-time AU students. These discounts are available to new subscribers only and apply to the first twelve months of service. Act quickly: this offer expires September 30, 2017. Shaw services are available in Western Canada only, from BC to Thunder Bay ON. Read the [fine print](#) on this offer.

[www.ausu.org/shaw/](http://www.ausu.org/shaw/)

**Student Lifeline Mental Health and Wellness Program.** AUSU provides free access for its members to the Student Lifeline wellness program through Lifeworks.com. In addition to online resources, the Student Lifeline program offers access to counselling and community resources.

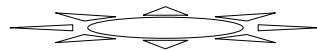
[www.ausu.org/services/lifeline/](http://www.ausu.org/services/lifeline/)

**The Voice Magazine.** Not only is this magazine available to you absolutely free from their website, they might even pay you! AU students can earn real money for writing news, views, and interviews, or submitting poetry, prose, or photos. Contact the editor ([karl@voicemagazine.org](mailto:karl@voicemagazine.org)) to learn more.

[www.voicemagazine.org/](http://www.voicemagazine.org/)

With rising tuition, students have to be, more than ever, financially savvy to stay afloat. Taking advantage of every possible discount and freebie allows you to combat the rising costs of education.

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



## Canadian Education News

**Scott Jacobsen**



### Canadian Universities Continue to Rank Among the Best

According to The Globe and Mail, The Times Higher Education World University Rankings listed Canadian universities with the best in the world, again. But there is a shortage in the appropriate investment in research, especially compared to the global competition.

The University of Toronto ranked 22nd and the University of British Columbia took spot number 34. Other Canadian universities to make the top 200 were McMaster University, McGill University, the University of Montreal, and the University of Alberta.

The Editorial Director of Global rankings for Times Higher Education, Phil Baty, said, "Holding steady in the way Canada has is a really positive finding. You really do have to run fast to stand still in this context of intense global competition."

### Jump in University Tuition Fees for the 2017-2018 Academic Year

CBC News: Politics said that tuition fees for students attending post-secondary institutions has risen by an average of 3.1%. This is for undergraduate programs for the 2017-18 academia year based on Statistics Canada data.

Tuition costs \$6,571 on average, which is up \$196 from the 2016-2017 academic year. The Deputy Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, Charlotte Kiddell, said, "When post-secondary education is essential to pursue a decent quality of life, it's absurd that people should be denied that opportunity based on costs."

Kiddell expanded on the idea that the costs will impact lower income Canadian students such as Indigenous post-secondary hopefuls. She viewed this as perpetuating a cycle of poverty with 70% of new jobs requiring post-secondary education.

Some of the most expensive programs:

- *Dentistry: \$22,297.*
- *Medicine: \$14,444.*
- *Law: \$13,642.*
- *Pharmacy: \$10,279.*
- *Engineering: \$8,099.*
- *Veterinary medicine: \$7,667.*
- *Math, computer and information sciences: \$7,140.*
- *Architecture: \$7,081.*
- *Business, management and public admin: \$7,068.*
- *Health, parks, recreation and fitness: \$6,261.*

### **Reduction of Costs to Education Paying Off**

Maclean's says, "Alisha Gordon, an Indigenous undergraduate at the University of Calgary, will have less than \$1,000 in student debt at the end of her four-year degree. Like many students in Canada, she's benefitted from the federal and provincial governments' efforts to reduce the cost of an education."

The grants for low-income students from the Government of Alberta and the Indigenous Careers Award help with the payments for her tuition. Gordon noted that with her parents being deceased she finds debt is a major source of stress.

It is noted by the article that, for many students, finances associated with post-secondary education are a source of strain. About 50% of students report having debt based on a 2015 survey from the Canadian University Survey Consortium.

The federal government increased the maximum Canada Student Grant for the low-income grouping to \$3,000 per year for the full-time students and to \$1,800 for part-time students.

## **AU-thentic Events**

### **Upcoming AU Related Events**

#### **Writing an Abstract for a Conference**

Mon, September 18, 2:00 to 3:00 pm MDT  
Online

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Graduate Studies  
[fgs.athabascau.ca/news/presentations/](https://fgs.athabascau.ca/news/presentations/)  
e-mail [fgs@athabascau.ca](mailto:fgs@athabascau.ca) with your student ID number to register

#### **Zotero and Mendeley Citation Management Tools Webinar**

Tues, September 19, 5:00 to 6:00 pm MDT  
Online

Hosted by AU Library  
[library.athabascau.ca/orientations.html](https://library.athabascau.ca/orientations.html)  
No pre-registration required

#### **AU Faculty of Business Ottawa Mixer - Ottawa**

Tues, September 19, 5:00 to 7:00 pm EDT  
Joey Lansdowne, 103-825 Exhibition Way, Ottawa ON  
In-person  
Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business  
[business.athabascau.ca/event-details/au-faculty-business-ottawa-mixer/](https://business.athabascau.ca/event-details/au-faculty-business-ottawa-mixer/)  
register online at above link by Sept 8

#### **AUSU Member Consultation for Bylaw Revisions**

Tues, September 19, 6:00 to 7:00 pm MDT  
Online  
Hosted by AUSU  
[www.ausu.org/event/member-consultation-bylaw-revisions-2/](https://www.ausu.org/event/member-consultation-bylaw-revisions-2/)  
No pre-registration required

#### **Undergrad Info Session - Ottawa**

Wed, September 20, 9:00 to 10:00 am EDT  
The Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON  
In-person  
Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business  
[business.athabascau.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-executive-mba-information-session-copy-2/](https://business.athabascau.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-executive-mba-information-session-copy-2/)  
register online at above link

Also, the Repayment Assistance Plan allows for recent graduates to not have to immediately pay back their loans until they earn an income over \$25,000 per year.

### **Security Threats to Post-Secondary Institutions in Alberta**

Toronto Metro News reported on the potential for security threats online or cyberthreats to post-secondary institutions in Alberta. The Advanced Education Minister, Marlin Schmidt, sent letters to schools requesting updates from post-secondary institutions in the province.

This was to be able to plan to prevent cyber attacks. "We're also giving them a conduit to coordinate their efforts and share information," Schmidt said, "Because we're all in this together, and the more we work together I think the better off we'll be handling these threats."

These comments come in the recent wake, in August, of a cyberattack on MacEwan University, where they were defrauded of \$11.8 million. The scam artists convinced the university staff to make changes to banking information for one of their big vendors.

### **Greater St. Albert Catholic School Board (GSACRD) Trustee Spots up for Grabs**

According to the Morinville News, the Greater St. Albert Catholic School Board (GSACRD) has two spots, on October 16, open for a municipal election. The incumbent René Tremblay is looking to grab one of the trustee positions.

He is running on a strong Catholic educational system in the province of Alberta. Also, he is targeting the GSACRD's bigger projects for French-immersion. Tremblay has noted that the Carbon Levy of Alberta has affected school budgets including the functioning of transportation and heating.

"I've also been a part of some of GSACRD's big projects, like the building of new schools, and I really want to be there when they open," Tremblay said. If re-elected, he noted a desire to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

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

## **More AU-thentic Events**

### **MBA Info Session - Ottawa**

Wed, September 20, 12:00 to 1:30 pm EDT  
The Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Drive,  
Ottawa, ON  
In-person

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business  
[business.athabasca.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-executive-mba-information-session-ottawa-copy/](https://business.athabasca.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-executive-mba-information-session-ottawa-copy/)  
register online at above link

### **Revising a Dissertation for Publication**

Wed, September 20, 2:00 to 3:00 pm MDT  
Online  
Hosted by AU's Faculty of Graduate Studies  
[fgs.athabasca.ca/news/presentations/](https://fgs.athabasca.ca/news/presentations/)  
e-mail [fgs@athabasca.ca](mailto:fgs@athabasca.ca) with your student ID number to register

### **MBA in Hockey Management Info Session**

Thurs, September 21, 10:00 to 11:00 am MDT  
Online  
Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business  
[business.athabasca.ca/event-details/executive-mba-business-hockey-info-session-5pm-mst-online-3-copy-copy/](https://business.athabasca.ca/event-details/executive-mba-business-hockey-info-session-5pm-mst-online-3-copy-copy/)  
register online at above link

### **MBA Info Session - Red Deer**

Fri, September 22, 12:00 to 1:30 pm MDT  
Sheraton Red Deer, 3310 50 Ave, Red Deer AB  
In-person  
Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business  
[business.athabasca.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-executive-mba-information-session-edmonton-5-copy/](https://business.athabasca.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-executive-mba-information-session-edmonton-5-copy/)  
register online at above link

Looking ahead...

### **Future Alumni Award Event**

Fri, September 29, 7:00 to 9:00 pm EDT  
Queenston Heights Restaurant, 14184 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake ON  
In-person  
Hosted by AU  
[createsend.com/t/r-E21D3246E6F14FB22540EF23F30FEDED](https://createsend.com/t/r-E21D3246E6F14FB22540EF23F30FEDED)  
RSVP by September 22 to  
[mschultz@athabasca.ca](mailto:mschultz@athabasca.ca) or 1.403.298.2912

## The Fit Student

### Right Attitude

Marie Well



Do you want to thrive socially? At your workplace? At school? Well, you need the right attitude. And the right attitude changes, depending on who runs the show.

I once interviewed at a funeral home. The staff beamed with smiles. The friendly HR fellow said, "When you cross paths with colleagues, you must chat." I felt a belonging I longed to feel with my own family.

At another job, staff groaned when I greeted them. Yet, they cheered when one staff attended corporate events—during the death of her grandma. So, the corporate world seemed to favor coldness. And often they do.

Clearly, the above two companies hold different values.

What are my values? When I acted as a tutorial assistant, I got riled when a student faced ostracization. I knew the feeling firsthand. The fear of walking home safely. The fear of my friend's safety. The loneliness.

So, I got stern. I called security to haul out the bully. I then threatened to slash her class participation grade. The sad face of the ostracized student peered hopefully at me; in the end, he earned his A.

Anger signals when a key value is violated, says author Trevor Thrones (2016). Yet, when one of my students got bullied she bullied back. But I felt unable to protect her. My value? Non-retaliation.

Many of us have values others don't hold. Just as the differences between the workplaces above. Same with schools. So, lay out your values and find the fits.

Trevor Thrones speaks of values in his book *The Power of People Skills: How to Eliminate 90% of Your HR Problems and Dramatically Increase Team and Company Morale and Performance*:

- In families, classes, and offices, the central players often shape the values.
- Educate your new people on your values to make them stick.
- People fire new hires mostly because of attitude—not skills.
- If you want to dissect the values of your family, class, or office, then look to the traits of the insiders you most cherish. Ask if all members share that trait. (My family members all have high work ethics. Papa especially shines. He speaks few words but performs countless acts of kindness.)
- The values you choose should stay stable over time. If not, seek your truest values.

- Use three phrases for your right attitude "motto."
- Use an acronym or alliteration when choosing your right attitude words. (My family's motto would be *hard work, high standards, and leadership.*)
- When coming up with your right attitude motto, use words already in use.
- Use stories—like legends—to come up with your right attitude motto. (My family legend? Papa. He has taken care of several neighborhood seniors. I recently learned of yet *another* senior he supports. Papa disappears during the days, secretly helping others.)

Grandma calls her girls *hearty*. My brother calls us *survivors*. I call the clan *go-getters*. What right attitude defines yours?



## All the Music be Happenin' Now Why Raï?

**Wanda Waterman**



By the time I heard Rachid Taha and his band perform at the Olympia Theatre in Montreal, I'd come to see musical syncretism—the mixing of various genres—as an operating principle in music, something that music really couldn't do without.

### Syncretism: The way of all music

From the dawn of history musical traditions have been developing via contact with neighboring tribes. And yet, such a natural and inevitable process rarely escapes the hue and cry of musical purists who think of *their* genre as spotless and all-of-a-piece, believing it to have arrived at the dawn of time in the same shape they find it in today.

We get this kind of resistance from haters of fusion jazz, from the folk Nazis who despise electronic instruments, and from the people who hated Van Morrison for singing Celtic songs with a bluesy inflection.

So where were the raï Nazis? Where was the anger when raï artists travelled the world, mixing raï with blues, rock, reggae, and heaven knows what else? Why, when raï artists began leaving Oran for Europe and elsewhere, did no one say, "Wait a minute, they're mixing raï with hip hop—that's not done!"

### Roots of raï

Here's an even bigger question: What drove the raï artists to pursue, with such single-minded fervor, opportunities to meld their music with the most engaging world genres they could find? Sure, syncretism

happens, but usually it happens slowly, and as if by chance. The raï musicians displayed an unusual taste for collaboration and genre-blending.

Raï's folk roots go deep, but it first began developing its distinctive form in the late 1920's, around the time Jelly Roll Morton was recording most of his albums and Tin Pan Alley was still churning out classic American hits. Raï emerged among the poor in cities like Oran, near the Mediterranean Sea, a region that dishes up a veritable mulligan stew of European, African, and American musical influences—very much like New Orleans. But Raï didn't climb to the world's notice until the 1980's, when the careers of the best-known raï artists were taking off.

### **Conditions of creative achievement**

Remembering that jazz first emerged during the Jim Crow years and might not have been possible if not for the unique social conditions of the postwar south, one can't help but assume that the North African raï artists had some unique cultural condition that explained their achievement.

Sure enough, such a condition exists. Call it "exile."

If there's any mercy in injustice it's that it sometimes creates fertile soil for the explosion of genius. North African immigration to Europe and North America enabled the drive to mix raï with other genres, bringing an indigenous music to other countries and also making of that music a means of uniting musicians around the world.

But why did so many North Africans leave their beloved homes? Why did a people so attached to the hearth, to communal life, to family, pull up roots and leave in such great numbers? It's complicated, but by most accounts it's Islamic extremism, widely seen as the most destabilising influence in Muslim societies today and the one that has most saliently eroded social orders, damaged economies, and created an atmosphere of fear and despair. (And we think we've got it bad.)

### **Dwindling hope**

Although leaving seemed like the only choice, many immigrants saw their hopes dwindle when, after fleeing to European countries, they found that Islamist extremists had beaten them there. They found that, between the extremists and the racist oppression they experienced at the hands of European society, their lives had only slightly improved.

### **Beauty from ashes**

This kind of dilemma will make anybody sing the blues. And from within the blues emerges a voice so deep, so compassionate, so ancient and beautiful that it's a pearl of great price, something you're willing to sell your soul for.

When one has an awful life but nothing to go back to, it puts double spurs to artistic creativity. You have two choices: lie down and die or get to work making something amazing to lift you out of your misery.

It was their distinctive cultural backgrounds as well as the experience of exile that drove Rachid Taha, Cheb Khaled, and many other Arab musicians to take the poverty and racial oppression and turn it into artistic influence and collaboration.

Yes, the parallels with American jazz are truly remarkable.

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

## Music Review

### Bad Mary

Drew Kolohon



**Artist:** Bad Mary

**EP:** *Glitter Bomb*

On September 29, Bad Mary are dropping their new EP, *Glitter Bomb*. Based out of Long Island, New York, this four-piece punk band has given us a treat with their new EP. Bad Mary consists of Amanda Mac on vocals, Mike Staub on bass and vocals, Bill Mac on drums, and David Henderson on guitar. No stranger to the punk scene, Bad Mary has realised multiple EP's and have played at festivals such as the Warped Tour and the Liberty Music Festival. *Glitter Bomb* has some pretty amazing album art. The pictures depict an old timey black bomb with a fuse (similar to coyote and the road runner) all decked out in glitter and pony tails. This band is clearly having fun with their style and wants to show it off.

The first song on the EP, "Motor Mouth", is a high

energy, vocally powerful song. In some punk bands the lead vocalist can get drowned out by the aggressive instruments; this is not the case for Amanda. The vocals rip through the intense drum beat and heavy guitar lines, raising the energy levels of this already powerful sing. There is a part after the guitar solo where underneath the vocals there is a demonic sounding voice repeating the lines. It truly sounds like a motor mouth.

"Will You Still Love Me" is an interesting take on a love song. Rather than reminiscing about old loves, Amanda tells a story about breaking off a love and "walking out the door". This is a refreshing take on a love song as it isn't a lament, but rather a cathartic experience. *Glitter Bomb* sounds as if it has taken inspiration from No Doubt and The Ramones. The great thing about Bad Mary is that they can take inspiration from other artists but still put their own style into the song.

The group also gives us a special treat with the cover of "Hybrid Moments" originally done by The Misfits. Mike takes the reins on the vocals and he does an excellent job emulating Glenn Danzig's voice while still adding his own flare. Rounding off the EP is "Japan". Amanda gives us an electrifying end to this EP with her fast lyrics and strong vocals. The off beats of the drums and the break downs by the guitar create a spirited song that showcases the band's strong points. This song has a sense of finality, which makes it a perfect closing song. It is an amazing feat that a band can have an EP full of bold, enthusiastic songs and still keep you hooked.

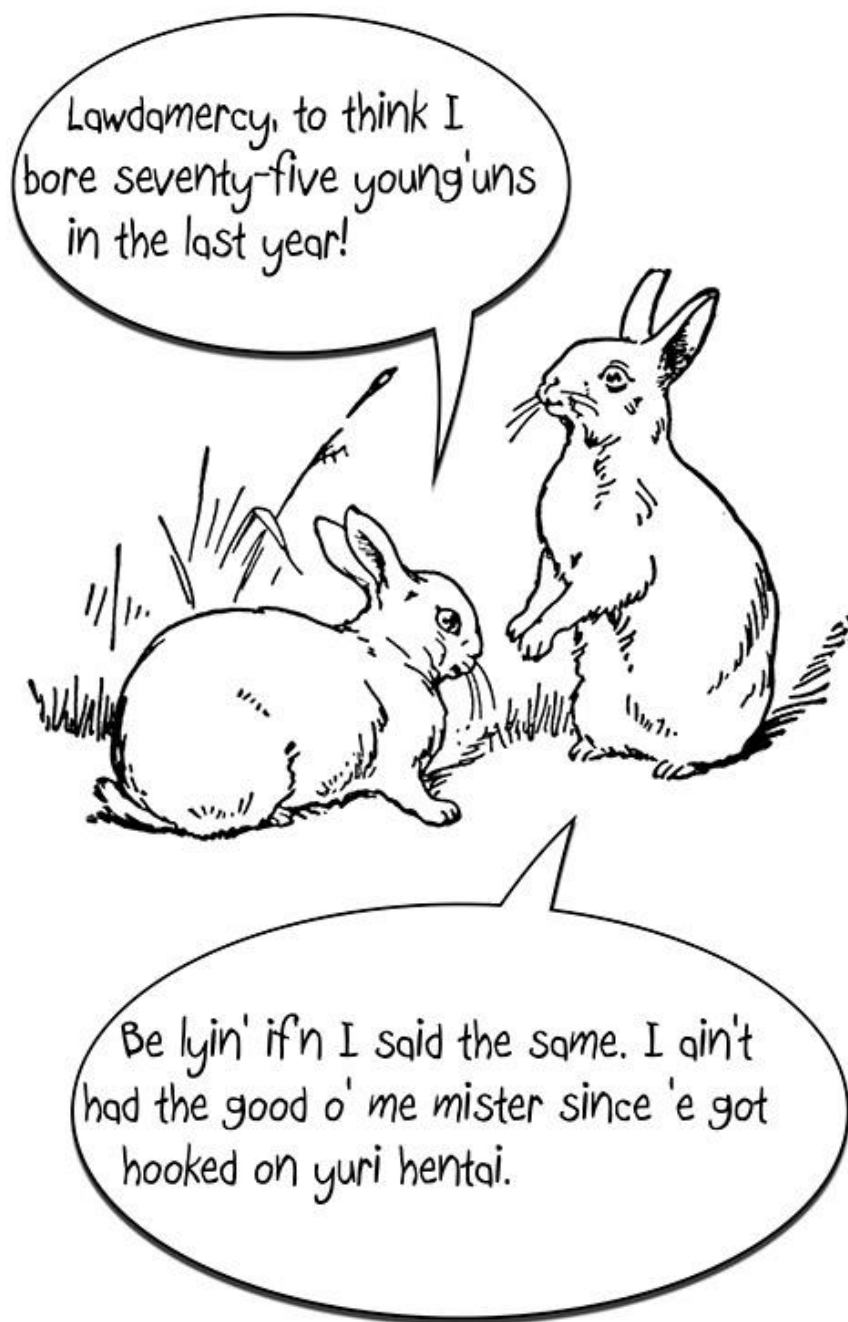
Bad Mary is a band that is transcending what people think of punk music. Taking styling from 70's rock while still maintaining their modern punk is a refreshing take on this music scene. If you can't catch them live, their [YouTube](#) channel is full of live content. If you would like to pre-order *Glitter Bomb* you can do so on their [website](#) or on iTunes.

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

## Politically Bereft

### Good Porn, Good Sex—Take Your Pick

## Wanda Waterman



Thanks to the Internet, access to pornography is faster and easier now than it's ever been, which means that porn has branched out into ever weirder incarnations as users seek out more and more varied configurations of the cheap thrill. This can be seen as a normal development on the one hand, or a threat to public health and safety on the other.

But wait—can't porn use be a part of healthy sexuality? And aren't the people who say otherwise just jealous shrews, paranoid feminists, or religious prudes?

Sorry, but the scientific jury is in: If you value your sexuality, shun porn like it's the devil's collection agency.

But let me define my terms. "Pornography" for my purposes means printed or visual materials designed to reduce the spectrum of sexual experience to a basic, primitive, thrill-seeking urge that can be exploited for money. One could argue that in comparison to gambling or cocaine, for example, porn is a pretty cheap habit, especially while so much is available for free. But the true cost of heavy porn use is drawn from other, more valuable personal resources.

To surrender your sexuality to pornography is to eventually forget relational bonding, sensual expression, compassion, humanity, oneness, spiritual transcendence, or any of the other blessings included in the full experience of sexual bliss. Porn offers thrills. Period. And evidence is mounting that the pursuit of these thrills eventually shuts down higher functioning.

Ease and speed of access have rendered porn far more addictive; because searches are so quickly rewarded, the mind becomes hooked on the rush and keeps seeking more. Like drugs and alcohol, the substance has to keep

getting stronger or the doses increased to create the same effect. The drive to keep the buzz leads to impairments in both sexual and mental functioning. Worse, the evidence is mounting that not just addiction but porn consumption alone is behind many violent crimes.

But don't take my word for it. Read what the experts are finding:

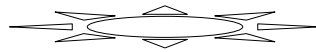
[Exposure to Pornography and Acceptance of Rape Myths](#)

[Pornography addiction: A neuroscience perspective](#)

[Influence of unrestrained access to erotica on adolescents' and young adults' dispositions toward sexuality](#)

[Wives' Experience of Husbands' Pornography Use and Concomitant Deception as an Attachment Threat in the Adult Pair-Bond Relationship](#)

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



## The Creative Spark!

### You Love to Write

Marie Well



How does Stephen King do it? Sit and write five-hour marathons? Well, maybe he has fun—like you soon will. How? By doing something fun before you write, suggests Helen Sword. Or find fun places to write papers.

During undergrad, I had little playtime. My time-off revolved around a two-hour visit with a senior. I'd put sunglasses, sneakers, and makeup on her and wheel her to the mall. Or we played bridge.

But then I discovered the gym, which led to dancing, martial arts, weightlifting, cycling—even singing. I de-stressed with barbells. I studied on stationary bikes. I used dance moves as mnemonics. In other words, I packed fun into schoolwork.

To make class projects thrilling, I'd craft multimedia performances. I'd splash art, music, voice-overs, video, even dance into presentations. I'd hire crews of tech experts and designers, citing them all.

One time I rented a stereo system for my class presentation. The professor asked, "You plan on a proper presentation, don't you?" I quipped, "I'm going to stand on this table and sing Barbara Streisand." The audience looked sullen. Only my enemy smiled.

I later proposed to the same professor to hire actors for a script I'd write. The professor balked, but later, pulled me aside. She whispered, "I think edutainment isn't such a bad idea," and scurried off. When I readied for a teaching contract, I revisited edutainment. I searched online and clicked on a rubber chicken. I asked an AU mentor his views on the rubber beast. No reply.

Since then, my creativity toned down. Now, I love sprinkling random thoughts into reading notes, and adding thoughts far off the beaten path. Adding our own ideas steps up originality—which academia sadly stomps out.

While I write, I ask my boyfriend for funny fodder. He fires off funnies in a flash, and we share lots of laughs. He also serves as a living thesaurus. Ask him any word, and he promptly replies with synonyms.

Helen Sword researches the emotions—and fun time—of writers in her book *Air & Light & Time & Space: How Successful Academics Write*:

- Infuse your writing with joy and upbeat language.
- Don't crash from five-hour daily writing marathons. Instead, do like Helen, and spice writing with fun.
- List stuff you love. Try to add more fun before or during your writing stints.
- Mix up different writing tasks—for variety. Start with research; switch to bibliography; shift to edits. Or do whatever you fancy.
- Or do like Helen and record your voice during a light walk. Dash to the library for a change-up. Use colorful sticky notes.
- Exercise before writing. Or write poetry. Or station yourself in a restaurant.
- Write about what you love—or change topics, says Brian Boyd (as cited in Sword).
- Often, how-to-books on academic writing say avoid university settings if you want writing fun.

So, light candles, sniff lavender, and warm up with downward facing dog. Dip into a hot bubble bath and read fiction. Oh yes, and at some point, write. A paradox? I call it a creative spark.

### Women of Interest

**Cathy Crowe** was born in 1952 in Cobourg, Ontario. She is a street nurse, educator, and author who is a strong advocate for the homeless in Canada, and is also a Distinguished Visiting Practitioner in the Faculty of Arts, Department of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University. She received her nursing degree from Toronto General Hospital in 1972 and her Master of Education in Sociology from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Cathy is most well-known for her work with the homeless in Toronto. She cofounded the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, where she stated that homelessness is a man-made disaster. In 2010 she entered politics and ran for the Ontario New Democratic Party, finishing a strong second. She worked closely with the leader of the federal NDP, the late Jack Layton, and wrote a foreword to his book "Homelessness. How to End the National Crisis." Cathy Crowe authored her own book "Dying for a Home" which suggests way to combat homelessness in this country.

She is the recipient of many awards and honorary degrees—too many to name here—that may be found at the following websites:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathy\\_Crowe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathy_Crowe)

<http://cathycrowe.ca/>

<http://www.ryerson.ca/politics/about-us/personnel/visiting-scholars/crowe-cathy/>

## The Fall Routine of Change

Deanna Roney



September has struck. Which means cooler temperatures, getting back into routines, and some new seasonal outdoor activities. While the "back to school" feeling that September brings doesn't necessarily relate to Athabasca University students it still can bring a sense of calm. Everyone else around is getting back into schedules with their kids off to school or with your own kids heading back to school which grants you a bit more time to concentrate on your own studies.

Fall has always been a favourite season of mine. Maybe because I've been the type who enjoyed school. Now it brings a sense of calm; I'm not going back to school but those around me are settling in. The hurry up and enjoy summer while it lasts strain is passing and I can finally dig those hoodies out of the closet.

The calm that comes with fall, the routine and rhythm, is also joined with change. Sometimes it is something small, like starting a new grade but with your same classmates. Other times it might be bigger, like moving away to start at university. For us, this fall has brought an unexpected change and challenges we did not see coming, they are exciting and stressful.

After deciding earlier that we would stay in our current house, we have now jumped into the real estate game.

These things always seem to happen after you've made up your mind to stay on your current path. This has pushed us into mortgage rates, life insurance rates, listing our place—and that means decluttering all that stuff we stopped noticing and keeping the place clean so a walk through can happen within a few hours if need be. And we still have to get all our regular day-to-day tasks done.

One thing that has been a great positive about this is that it has forced me to keep on top of the small things (loading the dishwasher immediately) and also forced me into some of those spring cleaning things that were successfully ignored for the last couple springs. It also, to our great amusement, meant we needed to get a light put on the outside of our back door. Something we talked about doing for years. Six years. We had to do it as part of the electrical inspection. It took them half an hour. So, after years of stumbling through the backyard, in the dark, and usually through the snow and ice, for more years than I like to admit, we now have light.

Even if it all falls through it at least pushed us to do some things that we had been putting off. It also taught us a lot about banks and their mentality, as well as rates, loans, and insurance. We've learned to double check every number, to do our own research, and to double check everything. A big contributor to said research was sending documents and running numbers by my dad, who is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to these things.

It is so easy to get swept up in a pitch. It might sound like a great idea, like the life and disability insurance. By the end, the sales guy had successfully made me think "how have we lived without this for so long?" but, remember, it is their job to make you feel like that. Everyone's situation is different, so always take the information and sleep on it. Ask around for other people's experiences, and never sign the first one. You might go back to it, but look around.

So while this fall has carried with it some high strung nerves and anxieties, it has also brought excitement and renewal. Spring may seem like the obvious choice for a season to symbolize rejuvenation, but for me, it has always been fall.

At this moment, the sun is shining and it is a torrential downpour. Which means the best of both worlds, I can enjoy the look of the sun but not feel like I need to run out and enjoy it this moment. The best of fall all bundled into one.

The thing I love about fall beyond the sweaters and schedules is it always seems to bring with it change. It starts young with those first steps onto school grounds, then new grades, new friends, new experiences. When you graduate you move onto a new job, a new town, a new school, perhaps. This fall is proving again to bring about change, even though we didn't expect it.

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

## Student Sizzle — AU's Hot Social Media Topics

**Following What's Hot around AU's Social Media Sites.**



### AthaU Facebook Group

A few related threads have popped up with tips about quiet study spaces in Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer. Laura invites students to contact her to participate in interviews for *The Voice*. New member Andrea is looking for insight into ACCT 352.

Other posts include beer, graphing for economics, and—of course—cats.

### Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "Looking for some fresh strategies that can make you a better online learner? Sign up for our Free #MOOC: <http://ow.ly/WaUg30f807W>."

@AthabascaUSU (AUSU) tweets: "Is moving causing you stress? Find out how AUSU's Student Lifeline program can help! <http://bit.ly/2wXTwro>."

### YouTube

Are you procrastinating the right way? Check out all the [Things to Do Instead of Studying](#), posted by expert [Dennis Kent](#).



Dear  
Barb

Barbara Godin

## The Bite of the Law

**Dear Barb:**

*I was at my friends' house the other day and another friend came to visit with her dog. I'm not sure what kind of dog it was, some kind of terrier cross and weighed about 45 pounds. I'm always a little leery of dogs I don't know, so I asked if he was friendly. The owner said he was, so I began petting him and initially he seemed fine. Of a sudden I heard the dog growl and he snapped at me, biting my hand and drawing blood. The owner pulled the dog back, then went and sat down. My other friend came to see how I was, while the dog's owner continued to sit with the dog, not offering any explanation or apology. I was upset and said to her "I thought you said he was friendly?" She turned to me and said he usually is, then grabbed the dog's leash and walked out the door. I can't believe someone would be so nonchalant about their dog biting someone, to not even say they are sorry or see if I was okay! The bite was not serious, but if it was a child that the dog had bit it could have been serious. Is there any place I can report this and make the owner do something about their dog so that someone else doesn't have to go through a similar experience? Thanks, Sarah.*

Hey Sarah:

Thank you for your question. Dog bites are definitely a concern in Canada. In 2014, 32% of households in Canada owned at least one dog and there were over 500,000 dog bites reported. Most likely there are many more that are not reported. I assume you took the proper precautions and cleaned out the bite and confirmed that the dog is up to date on its vaccinations. These are things you should do if a dog bites you, first, call your local public health department,

as well as the local Animal services in your area and report the dog bite. This could be the Humane Society, SPCA or Animal Care and control. Provide the name and address of the owner if possible. Liability laws differ from one province to the other, but under common law, liability depends on whether the owner knew that the dog could be dangerous, due to a history of aggressive behaviour. If there was no reason to believe the dog would be dangerous then the owner will probably not be liable. However, if the dog has a history of aggressive behaviour or the owner has cause to believe the dog may be dangerous and the dog bites someone, the owner is liable.

These laws may change depending on the province of occurrence and the situation. Owners will be dealt with accordingly. Likely the owner of the dog that bit you will face some consequences and may have to muzzle their dog in the future. You are doing the right thing in reporting this incident and as you say, hopefully prevent someone else from having to go through this experience. Thanks for your question Sarah and hope you are on the mend.

*Follow Barb on twitter @BarbGod*

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Sept 15:** [October degree requirements deadline](#)
- **Sept 19:** [Member Consultation re: Bylaw Revisions](#)
- **Sept 29:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for Nov](#)
- **Oct 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Nov 1](#)
- **Oct 12:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#)
- **Oct 13:** [November degree requirements deadline](#)
- **Oct 31:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for Dec](#)

## Student Lifeline -Adapting to Change

This month, the **Student Lifeline** program is featuring resources to help you keep pace with and effectively manage stress during times of change—whether you're feeling anxious about getting back to school or starting a new program, adjusting to a new job, going through a breakup, facing a big financial change, or missing your best friend who recently moved away.

Contact **Student LifeLine** any time, 24/7 at **1-800-567-2255 (TTY:1-877-371-9978)** to speak to a caring, professional consultant for free expert advice.

You can also log in to [www.lifeworks.com](http://www.lifeworks.com) (username: **AUSU**, password: **wellness**) to access a wealth of helpful articles and resources, such as:

- Adapting to Change, this month's feature on our homepage, where you'll find links to articles, a toolkit, and a new infographic. A
- New podcast, Finding Opportunity in Change

If you're trying to cope with changes or experiencing a life transition, and you could use helpful resources and guidance, **Student Lifeline** can help.

**This is a FREE service for all AUSU members!**

**Student Lifeline provides help and support 24/7 for any issues, from health, wellness, work, life, money, school, community referrals, and more!**



## Bylaw Revisions Member Consultation

As announced in August, AUSU council will be voting on some proposed bylaw revisions. To ensure that our membership has opportunities to provide feedback on the proposed changes, we are holding our second member consultation on **Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00pm**.

The consultation will be by teleconference, and all members are welcome. The teleconference instructions are online [here](#).

You can also provide feedback or ask questions in our **bylaw forum** online [here](#).

To find out more about the bylaw revisions, visit our website [here](#).

**AUSU BYLAW REVISIONS**



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