



THE VOICE

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Council Connection

AUSU October 8, 2024 Meeting

The Greatest Hacks are Seldom Told

My Crazy Life

Hallowe'en the Day After

Fly on the Wall

Plus:

*As We Grow Older
We've Got the Power
and much more!*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

By the Pricking of My Thumbs

Karl Low



This coming week is election day in the United States. There have already been far right groups in the United States threatening violence if their candidate doesn't win. Some suggest if that comes to pass, it shows that democracy has failed in the U.S. It was a nice experiment and all, but, as always, we're the reason we can't have nice things.

The point of democracy, after all, is so that large groups of people can pick the types of policies everybody lives under without having to kill each other to do it. So when people die trying to change the course of an election by the people, it seems to fly directly into the face of the idea of democracy. And one could argue that this happened back on that January 6th in the U.S. when the deaths were caused of seven people, some from either side, in an effort to overturn an election by force. But their democracy still seems to be trying to limp along, with another election moving ahead. Even though there's violence threatened against this one as well.

So perhaps, like any political system, it's more complex than that. If the ideal of democracy is held by enough people, even if there's a significant minority who've decided they don't want it because it means they can't always get their way (and how petty is that), then maybe it doesn't really matter if there's some violence, not in the grand scheme of successful political theories, anyway. After all, there's always someone willing to break the law. That's why we have the laws in the first place. We don't tend to pass laws against something nobody is doing. And we don't claim a law has failed just because somebody broke it.

Of course, if Mr. Trump succeeds, then, given his previous statements, all bets are off as to whether the U.S. will remain a democracy in anything but name. The last two times Mr. Trump was on the ballot, people threatened to leave the US if he was elected. Very few followed through on those threats. This time, I'm not so sure. He, and the MAGA/Republican party, have already shown, through things like gaslighting lawsuits only brought forward to put into the record and the media that there are bad ballots and electoral counts, that they're not terribly concerned about the law, nor about the people who support them—seeming to think of them as useful fodder of outrage.

The question remains of what can be done about this, because what happens in the US eventually filters over to us. Fortunately, our parties seem to have a little more care about the rule of law and the role of democracy. Peace, Order, and Good Governance, after all, are Canada's watchwords. While in the U.S. we have the classic Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. There's no limits put on that pursuit. Lie, cheat, and steal so you can have your way and you're just living up to the American motto. Not so, here.

But when the elephant sneezes, everybody catches a cold, as they say. And I don't think there's any vaccination on offer.

At any rate, it's a small but fun issue this week. We have a report from the last Council meeting, a look at the crossover of identity and Halloween, and a new installment of My Crazy Life, a story of a life that sounds like a tall tale, but that I'm assured is 100% true. Also events, scholarships (which I still need writers for) and more! Enjoy the read!

Council Connection—October 8, 2024 Meeting

Halen Deng



On October 8, 2024, President Jan Lehmann initiated the AUSU council meeting on Zoom at 3:06 PM Mountain Time. Vice President Finance and Administration (VPFA) Diana Ramirez was announced as the accessibility officer for the meeting. AUSU Councillor Aiza Nazarmatova was absent. This meeting focused on the 2024-2025 AUSU budget approval, scholarships and bursaries policy update, health and dental plan cancellation, and new council & committee appointments. The agenda for the October 2024 meeting was approved unanimously. The minutes from the August 15, September 9, and September 18 meetings were also reviewed and approved. The meeting had two main topics to deal with, the new AUSU budget, and the changes in AUSU's leadership.

2024-2025 AUSU Budget

The 2024-2025 AUSU budget was presented by Vice President Finance and Administration (VPFA) Diana Ramirez and approved following discussions. The budget balances projected revenue from student fees with expenses, including inflation impacts and increased food bank services, and discontinuation of LinkedIn Learning services.

- **Increased Food Bank Gift Cards for Students:** Notably, the council decided to increase the number of \$100 food bank gift cards from 10 per month to 15 per month, sustained by both the grant and budget allocations of \$12,000 Alberta food security grant dedicated to the food bank and Food Assistance Program.
- **Discontinuation of LinkedIn Learning services:** This decision aligns with the council's commitment to exploring alternative services that offer more value directly to students which would reduce the cost from \$59,500 to \$20,000 for the fiscal year.

Scholarships and Bursaries Policy Update: AUSU council approved changes to the policy governing member representatives on AUSU committees, as well as modifications to scholarships, awards, and bursaries programs. These changes include:

- Increasing available funds for new awards and bursaries, reflecting growing demand for financial aid among AU students
- Emphasizes inclusivity, allowing Indigenous students to provide alternative forms of documentation such as community testimonies.

Health and Dental Plan Cancellation: AUSU discussed the recent discontinuation of the student health and dental plan by the insurer due to low usage. This raised concerns among council members about the limited benefits currently offered to students, and several councillors, including Councillor Faustina Arsenault, Councillor Kari Thompson, Indigenous Circle Voice Neenah Brown, and President Jan Lehmann all voiced the need for AUSU to explore more affordable insurance options. It was agreed that finding a new health plan provider would be prioritized.

Appointments and Terminations

Appointment of AUSU Financial Auditor: AUSU Council approved the re-appointment of KRP LLP as the financial auditor for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This decision was made upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and the motion was moved by VPFA Ramirez and seconded by VPCW Shepherd. VPFA Ramirez indicated that while AUSU has worked with KRP LLP for several years, the council may consider finding a new auditor for the following fiscal year.

Appointment of Amal Harol to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee: During the October 2024 meeting, a motion was presented by Vice President of Community and Wellness (VPCW) Olivia Shepherd to appoint Amal Harol as a voting member of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee. Harol was selected based on her impressive qualifications and her demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives. Harol's appointment fills a crucial vacancy and is expected to bolster the committee's efforts to ensure equitable representation and inclusivity for all AU students. "Amal was one of our top choices to fill the vacancy on the EDI Committee," said VPCW Shepherd. "Her experience and perspectives will be a great asset to our ongoing initiatives" The motion was seconded by Councillor Faustina Arsenault and passed with unanimous consent.

Ratification of Jan Lehmann as AUSU President: A significant appointment ratified during the meeting was the confirmation of Jan Lehmann as AUSU President for the remainder of the 2024-2025 council term. Lehmann had been serving as Vice President External (VPE), and this transition followed a period of leadership reorganization, and previous president Chantel Groening resigning. Lehmann's ratification was supported by the council as she had demonstrated strong leadership during her time as VPE and was well-suited to guide AUSU through the upcoming term.

Termination of Executive Director Jodi Campbell: One of the key motions ratified during the meeting was the termination of Executive Director Jodi Campbell's employment. This decision followed an email motion that had been circulated and passed by council members on September 20, 2024. The council cited a need for new leadership and direction as reasons for the termination.

The updated Executive and EDI committee members are:

Executive Committee

Committee Chair: Jan Lehmann (President)

Voting Members:

- Chimaraoke Akuchie (Vice-President External)
- Diana Ramirez (Vice-President Finance and Administration)
- Olivia Shepherd (Vice-President of Community and Wellness)

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Committee Chair: Olivia Shepherd (AUSU Vice President of Community and Wellness)

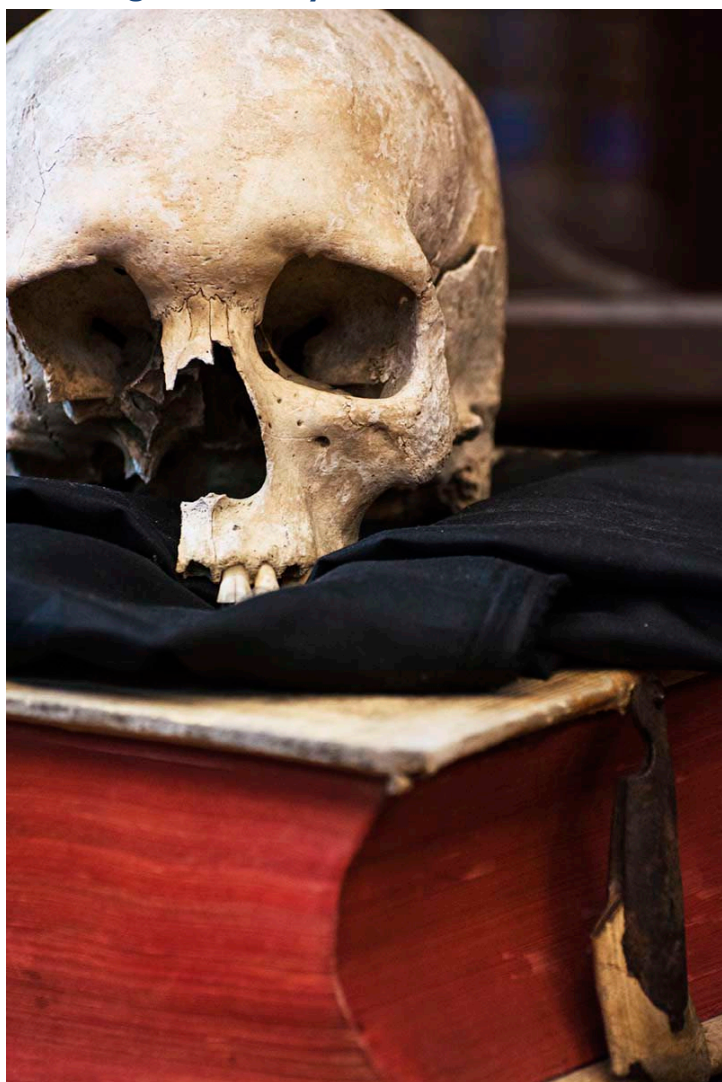
Voting Members:

- Aiza Nazarmatova (AUSU Councillor)
 - Annette Karien (AUSU Councillor)
 - Chimaraoke Akuchie (AUSU Councillor)
 - Faustina Arsenault (AUSU Councillor)
 - Kari Thompson (AUSU Councillor)
 - Amanda Leeman (Member-at-Large)
 - Amol Hirole (Member-at-Large)
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 PM and the next meeting of AUSU Council will be on November 21, 2024. If you are interested in attending the AUSU Council meeting on Zoom, or if you have any questions about the AUSU Council meeting, contact governance@ausu.org.

Halen is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce Degree, specializing in Business Technology Management.

Fly on the Wall—Hallowe'en the Day After Wreckage of Identity

Jason Sullivan



Red Solo cups lie akimbo, their shallow brackish contents daring any quicker picker upper to accidentally spill them and make things worse. A light, Tchaikovsky, dusting of snowy powdered sugar coats tabletop surfaces creating a sticky gloss. It's the morning after Hallowe'en and the real trick is cleaning up from all the commotion! But, like any task, with cleaning a critical thinking opportunity awaits.

What's the least common Hallowe'en getup? Dumpy domestic house-husband (or wife)? Costumes, like academic disciplines, include an array of stigmatized identities – but not ones that hit too close to home. Instead, it's a night abundant in fantasy, with wizards, warlocks, dragons, and spiders – and no small number of sexy nurses of assorted genders. Any costume to get a laugh and a spooky imaginary sense of being a much more glamorous or edgy Other to one's normal self. Like activists professing to be joyful and comedic while they denigrate their interlocutor, Hallowe'en most of all conveys a sense of being something that one isn't, or would prefer to be but cannot be – by the laws of nature, mores, ethos, or all of the above.

Popular culture polices what gains admittance to the acceptable realm of scary costumes each year and what is a little too realistic for taste. Noteworthy here is that in our times the “mad

scientist” in the vein of *Back to the Future* is on the outs – because any whiff of mental health degradation has rightly become problematic. This is Albertan sociologist Erving Goffman's stigma process at work: at first a stigma is feared and shunned, and then later is it embraced and ghettoized—made special, but shackled to the external and coercive identification society has strapped onto it. Harvard experts describe how “stigma operates at the micro-level, restricting the well-being of stigmatized individuals”. Basically, a person is born and becomes themselves only to find, when entering the snake pit of social interaction, that their version of being human is not at all what's expected of them by society. It's like: “be yourself, oh but not like *that!*”. As a result, “stigma reproduces social inequality through the maintenance of group hierarchies.”

In a sense, though, Hallowe'en allows us to glance over our shoulder and, once the shock and horror subsides, realize that each of us carries a proverbial monkey on our back: the stigma of not being quite as adept at being normal and well-adjusted as we'd like to convey. In silent study, or while cleaning up in a Zen like trance, cathartic truths of self and society further emerge. “America, why are your libraries full of tears?” wailed Ginsberg. Well, laughter, fright, and tears are all ways to release repression and pent-up energy. Perhaps without Hallowe'en society would be even scarier in tangible real ways.

Sanitized though costumes tend to be, (can you imagine a school shooter costume? Better stick with that sexy alien suit!) the sociological reason is clear. Much of history and hate is too real, and too near to hand. Too scary. Topics that don't seem funny and identities in vogue as present-day pariahs don't generally fit the bill of a good costume either. Goffman termed these beyond-the-pale people members of "stigmatized identities". It's a category that includes the mentally ill, the physically disabled, the ethnically oppressed, and the politically marginalized. And, despite recent progress, those once termed "sexually deviant". To this end, Hallowe'en can be said to function as an exercise in collectively taking a deep breath and not taking our identities, and their conformity or weirdness, quite so literally. For those unwilling to play along, a trick awaits: those costumed denizens of Otherness who seek to express our deepest essential drive to be accepted for who we are, rather than for how others wish us to be, exact revenge with toilet paper, silly string, and even spray paint.

In some cases, conscience leads families or communities to divest themselves of the Hallowe'en impulse to identity-erasure. My Mennonite neighbours in the Fraser Valley would hold their kids back from attendance at school on October 31st each year even as the terrors of carcass odor and the sight of decapitated chicken beaks and legs carried aloft by intrepid crows emanated from their chicken factory. Business, unlike pleasure, only takes a day off when the powers that be demand it so—one reason why November 1st is marked not only by a lot of garbage barrels stuffed with party refuse but also a lot of haggard, bleary, faces of folks with no statutory holiday to protect them from the realities of their excess.

Stigmatized identities need neither be full victims nor full heroes. The falling away of the masquerade of normalcy can be liberating for anyone who feels like they don't quite belong (and maybe that's all of us). Those who already inhabit the margins can find a delicious irony in realizing that the unlabouring beauty of simply being alive feels most authentic and true when in a recovery mode from a nocturnal evening empire of celebration. Allen Ginsberg captured this Fibonacci symmetry with Jack Kerouac late one afternoon:

"Poor dead flower? when did you forget you were a flower? when did you look at your skin and decide you were an impotent dirty old locomotive? the ghost of a locomotive? the specter and shade of a once powerful mad American locomotive?

You were never no locomotive, Sunflower, you were a sunflower!

And you, Locomotive, you are a locomotive, forget me not!

So, I grabbed up the skeleton thick sunflower and stuck it at my side like a scepter,
and deliver my sermon to my soul, and Jack's soul too, and anyone who'll listen,

—We're not our skin of grime, we're not dread bleak dusty imageless locomotives, we're golden sunflowers inside, blessed by our own seed & hairy naked accomplishment-bodies growing into mad black formal sunflowers in the sunset, spied on by our own eyes under the shadow of the mad locomotive riverbank sunset Frisco hilly tincan evening sitdown vision."

Perhaps only when we awake from the vision of social unity that makes more sense in viral memes and television commercials than it does in how we actually feel, will we realize the humor in the horror that is the present planet. Despite Hallowe'en bestseller costume lists in clickbait articles we might realize that the dressing-up, the dross and pomp and circumstance of All Hallowed Eves, makes the most sense as a play on the everyday fools errand of belonging, of fitting in, of accepting life as it is sold to us rather than how it really feels deep down in our soulful depths, depths too deep for even a Werewolf's moonlight to penetrate. In glimpses where the charade of play gives

way to the morning-after mess we create, we can glean a sense of what many founders of social theory were after when they spoke of alienation (Karl Marx), authoritarian personalities (Theodor Adorno), devastations wrought on art by mechanical reproduction (Walter Benjamin) and abstract nullities masquerading as productive office workers (Max Weber). When we realize that in the daily toll taken by social belonging, by running the asphalt hamster wheel to and fro even as our winter's hay store of money and goodwill diminishes by inflation and declining living standards, is more stark and scary than any ghoulish True Crime encounter group series, then, perhaps, we will realize our true vocation as distance education students. Our task, behind the mask, is to uncover the meaning of cultural reality beneath the facade and cover-up, beneath the brave faces put forward by our peers as they attend work by day and therapy by night (and credit counselling in between) – and help imagine a saner, less petrifying and stultifying, way forward within these toxic times. After all, there is nothing wrong with us *per se* – as Ginsberg with his sunflower scepter proclaimed, “the grime was no man’s grime but death and human locomotives”.

Truthfully, a stigma, even a mental health diagnosis advertising one’s inner malaise, is an “attribute that is deeply discrediting” in the eyes of society (Goffman). Yet, sure as countless parents point with pride to their offspring’s mental health diagnosis, we can foist our social and emotional scars from challenging life moments as part of what makes us special; enlightened, even, in spite of so many forces seeking to Whack-A-Mole us into rigid identity pigeonholes. It is life, after all, that is interdisciplinary—not our fantasies or imaginary worlds!

And in the meantime, we can clean up the party mess and see the whole disaster zone not as work but as symbolic of the Zeitgeist of our culture. And what a horrifying scene! I mean, really!

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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.



Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

Scholarship name: Consolidated Credit Canada Scholarship Program

Sponsored by: Consolidated Credit

Deadline: December 13, 2024

Potential payout: \$500

Eligibility restriction: A Canadian resident who is enrolled or starting post-secondary in the upcoming semester.

What's required: An essay on your greatest financial achievement and how you made it happen.

Tips: Be sure to read the previous winner’s essays on the site to get a sense of the style they like.

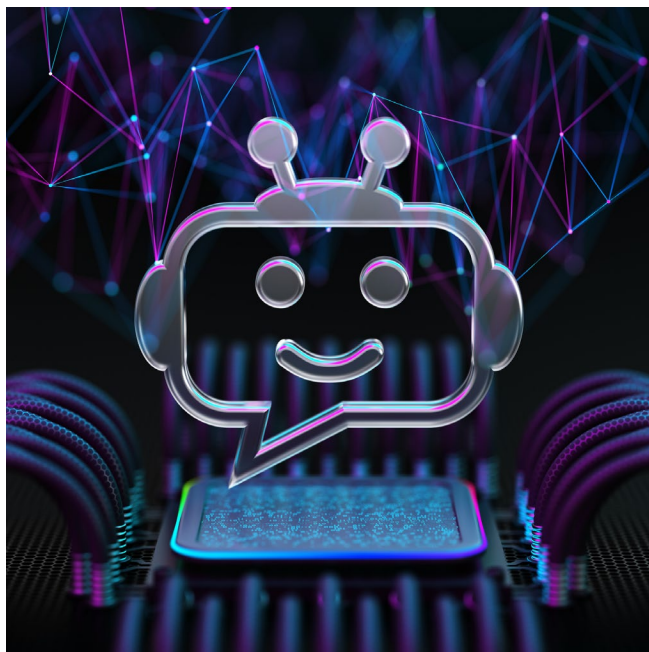
Where to get info: <https://www.consolidatedcreditcanada.ca/scholarship-program/>



My Crazy Life

The Greatest Hacks Are Seldom Told.

Aleksander Golijanin



Seldom told are the greatest hacks. The kind of hacks where nobody gets harmed, and where everyone involved becomes better for them. Such hacks have unfolded in the digital world. If, by some luck, such stories do make the airwaves, they are almost exclusively detailed by Crown prosecutors at trial and to the presiding judge. In such instances, a judge's courtroom becomes the equivalent of a premier screening for a Hollywood movie. But these stories are better because they are not written, and because the individuals involved can be so eccentric that actors would refuse to play them because of how unbelievable they are. That said, not all hacks go to trial.

Some hacks are more complicated than others. Some hacks might have no "reasonable prospect of conviction". Prosecuting them would do more harm than good, so prosecuting them falls into the grey

space of not being "in the public interest". Because not all "hacks" are same. Ever so rarely, such a story will end up skipping its big screen premiere in favour of a straight-to-DVD release, directly into the public domain.

A few trailers before the film starts.

Recently, I found myself talking about the digital world and cyber security and some of the exploits from around 15 years ago. One of the stories I told referenced how a fellow high schooler had set up an illegal underground radio and the sequence of events that transpired. After sharing that story, I encouraged listeners to reach out to any friends they might have that work in policing or public safety, in this case the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), or the Ottawa Police Service (OPS), and to ask them to validate the details of the 2009/10 story. Before I could finish the suggestion, I heard, "That is -so and so's- boy. I knew of that incident, but not all the details." Because none of my stories are embellished and they are all 100% true.

As I have previously wrote in "*The Crazyiness of the Digital World: Hacking and the Dark Web*", Canadians are the most eccentric, ballsiest, and greatest hackers to ever walk the digital world. Sure, there are some great YouTube videos and podcast episodes that detail other over-the-top hacks, like an Albanian-British teenager who hacked Rockstar and leaked promo material for Grand Theft Auto (GTA) 6 because he was such a huge fan of the GTA series. Rockstar (who did not appreciate this fan's approach to fanboying) got the FBI involved, and a British Court eventually sentenced the fanboy to life in a hospital prison, solely because the fanboy was mad and said he was going to hack again. The tit-for-tat escalation between the teenage hacker, Rockstar, international police agencies, and a British court belongs in an episode of *Beavis and Butt-head* (1993-2011) or a parallel universe of the film *Dumb and Dumber* (1994).

More recently, Jack Rhysider, creator of the investigative podcast *Darknet Diaries*, wrote about how a story he was told in the first year of his podcast "broke his brain." A 17-year-old teenager shared all the illegal stuff that they were doing over the web, with Rhysider recording around 12 hours worth of conversations with the teen over the span of a few months. If Rhysider, who has heard

it all, describes an interaction as breaking his brain and did not post about because it might romanticize crime, then it must have been crazy. But few stories, if any, can match the goody feel or reach the level of hilarity of some Canadian hacks, where everyone involved becomes better for them. And I have such a story. One I think might be one of the best to-be-told stories ever.

Imagine a plot that rivals Hollywood's greatest thriller films, which involves another high schooler from Hillcrest High School, a school that only saw only one student get disciplined for taking advantage of the vulnerabilities of the OPS' back-end webpage. In reality, there was another high schooler, who did not send silly emails between police brass, and who focused on gathering information in order to hack everyone from the Hell's Angels in Ottawa to ethnic organized crime establishments and their associates.

"I am 'in' the mafia", code for successfully hacking organized criminal groups.

Remember the Hillcrest High School student who I wrote about having hacked into the Ottawa Police Service's (OPS) network and snooping through the emails of police brass back in the Fall of 2010 during a grade 12 class taught at the school's computer lab? Well, that high school hacker, Big Ross, went on to work on Wall Street in tech and cyber security. But Big Ross may not have been the first high schooler to discover that the login credentials of OPS personnel were publicly stored on the back end of their website and available to anyone who bothered to toggle the settings, nor were they the first student to do so from Hillcrest High School's computer lab. There seems to have been another high schooler who had also been snooping around, who was around the same age, but who had predated Big Ross by around 2 years.

Between the Fall of 2008 and the Summer of 2009, that grade 12 student may have had a graduation motto that sounded something like, "09, organized crime". That was when, *"I am 'in' the mafia"*, was code for having successfully hacked organized criminal groups after coming across persons of interest when browsing OPS communications. Back then, there were no operational rules around what sensitive information police personnel would share over email, and emails often contained names of confidential informants and details of organized criminal activity, but there were also details related to major undercover operations including illegal online gambling and other major drug operations – all related to organized crime. Some of the more interesting bits related to outlaw motorcycle gangs and ethnic crime groups, including Italian and South Asian organized crime.

Rumor has is that after canvassing much of the information on the OPS network, there were some Google searches for other information, with the high school detective eventually shifting their search from Ottawa to Hamilton and Niagara, as locations of interest. Thanks to more faulty back-end systems and software hacks, snooping around those emails uncovered more ethnic organized crime groups, including Serbian organized crime. The GTA-related discoveries involved limited edition super cars showing up in low-income communities, money laundering via racehorses, and more. Although all of those troublemaking Serbian-Canadians in the GTA eventually got brought to justice, the craziness of that GTA saga deserves its own standalone article, with some never before heard details.

But back to Ottawa. Only a place like Ottawa would have a high schooler who found themselves snooping around through a treasure trove of archives and using that knowledge to further Canadian national security interests, hacking organized criminal establishments, including clubhouses, restaurants, and other businesses.

Lo and behold, that high schooler, a Lincoln-loving Harley-hating marauder, was “in” the mafia, and “in” the Hell’s Angels too. So, did these networks have traces of drug contraband being smuggled between provinces by the way of private airports, because of the lack of security at private airports? You can bet your arse that they did.

What the little “Lincoln lawyer” had going for them was that they were not operationally bound by the courts, a situation that is every police officer’s wet dream. They found it quick to bypass the putrid security of the crummy Wi-Fi routers from the 2000s, or identify emails and IP addresses associated with their internet services, and backdooring into the network before saying, “Sono a casa.”

As it relates to Italian organized crime and getting into their networks, it was no different. There may have arisen an unexpected side-mission, however, one that involved filtering through the credentials of different people with accounts on an illegal online gambling website and a blank landing page that required a precise click to proceed. Intentional small nighttime bets may have been made on some of those accounts. Owners of those accounts may have even mentioned that they did not remember placing bets, but their group of friends would laugh at them and tell them they had a drinking problem. Perhaps they did have substance dependency struggles, but something tells me that was not the cause of “accidental bets”. But how much better would this story be if the “accidental bets” had been for tens of hundreds of dollars on the hundreds of accounts that existed?

Another outcome as a result of snooping around the networks of Italian organized crime was the creation of a communications web. A web that identified other business owners who were associating with those operating on the far-side of the law, and who were also caught up in the illegal online gambling phenomenon.

One of the more recognizable business owners gave his teenage son permission to use the illegal gambling website after someone had mentioned it to his son. The father did not want his son to hide bets from him and to develop an addiction to gambling, so he did what any father would do—told him to be transparent with it. Despite that it was supposed to stay a secret between father and son, that teenage boy went around trying to get his high school and post-secondary school friends to make bets because he would get a cut of around 40%, and to impress the babes and to pick-up “chicks”. Safe to say, thinking that it is possible to trust any adolescent boy that is going through puberty with something that could be leveraged as a “chick magnet” will never a good idea.

A lesser-known detail in this saga is an incident that could have changed how everything unfolded, a few months after Big Ross had been suspended for hacking into the OPS network, at the New Years Eve house party of a close friend in 2010. Now an OPS officer, the close friend, whose older brother and sister-in-law were OPS officers at the time, almost got this high schooler “busted”. During a shisha session in the garage, just before midnight, the topic of policing came up, and the little “Lincoln lawyer” started running his big mouth. “Well, I know that the OPS intentionally mishandled the evidence related to drug trafficking charges stemming from a drug raid at an ethnic Italian restaurant because they got the business owner to snitch on everyone else....” The

AU-thentic Event Upcoming AU Related Events

AUGSA Special General Meeting and Council Meeting

November 7, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Online

Hosted by Athabasca University Graduate Students’ Association

Register by contacting chair@augsa.com

Only one event this week. But it’s free to attend.

garage became full of shocked faces, with the off-duty OPS officers shooting out questions like, “Who told you that?” and “Are you friends with the Hillcrest High School hacker?” But close-call sequences are the staple of every great thriller film.

Emails. Faulty back-end systems. Blotchy software.

After acquiring blotchy software and targeting the “baddest of the bad”, only to find out that many were quite insecure, some of the “worst” were playing both sides. All their confidence stemmed from being confidential informants. Those individuals were pathetic people who were given a free pass to do what they wanted, for cooperating with police. However, those undercover operations were often left uncontained and innocent Ottawa residents continued to get caught up in the mess, including minors.

Slowly building a dossier on Ottawa’s underworld, the high school hacker, now a first-year university (Nursing) student, submitted an application to CSIS. If you are wondering who the hell decides to study Nursing and gets cold feet less than two months into the program, it definitely is not Gaylord “Greg” Focker. However, the final question on that CSIS application should provide some closure, which included a blank area that was designed for an essay-type answer, which the little “Honest Abe” completed by writing what might be the single greatest sentence ever written in job application history, “I hate criminals”.

Overall, the major takeaway from snooping on organized crime circles in Ottawa might be that big-time police investigations have almost never prioritized containing harms and preventing them from spilling out and harming others. Because these big-time police investigations are so secretive, nobody ever shares specifics about the extent of the new cycle of victims that are created. Instead, the public only ever receives generic responses from police stakeholders about how everything is going well. Legislators, who do not know any better, are led to believe all is great. As a result, what needs to get changed does not change until the chickens come home to roost, and after damage to the institution of policing has already been done.

As crazy as this story sounds (I still have a few that top this one), it is one that can be found in the annals of all policing and public safety stakeholders in Canada. All of them are aware of it. They are quite furious with the Lincoln-loving Harley-hating marauder, now an adult and a “supernova”. In comparison, however, literally everyone is irate with the OPS and how reckless the police service has been over the decades, and how police service board members of the past seem to have been more interested in acquiring “get out of jail free” cards for friends and family than doing effective public policy work and bettering the institution of policing. And they’re also angry about the misuse of policing powers in an attempt to criminalize a community builder and two-time host of the Serbian Festival in Ottawa after he reported the same undercover operations that he hacked as a teenager when multiple youth sought his help because an RCMP officer refused to get involved.

“I had no idea Canada could be this much fun?”

– John McClane (Die Hard with a Vengeance, 1995).

If there is one thing that spooks individuals who are involved in small- to mid-level criminal activity, it is when someone knows a lot about them, especially if that someone is outside their inner circle. Heck, even members within the Serbian- and Bosnian-Canadian community have asked me whether I worked for “Interpol”. Many of the youth I grew up with, and others that I met through sports or partying who operated on the far-side of the law started to ask questions about me like, “How the f**k does Alek know everything about everyone?”

Knowing practically everything about practically everyone who was operating on the far-side of the law and exactly how much money they made from it, may be why nobody ever bothered this

“digital-cowboy”—a sharpshooter who is said to have had one of the quickest draws in the Wild West era of the internet. It may also explain why a high number of people working in different sectors have enquired if I could assist them with recovering deleted files off phones or laptops, or help recover email passwords, even though these people have access to IT teams and despite that a regular person should never be recovering and viewing files of such importance. But this cool guy always suggests that those requests be redirected to their IT geek squads.

Not that long ago, however, I had the opportunity to potentially pursue a career in the “I hate criminals” space. The way that process would have unfolded eventually requires being sent places with little choice on the location, which was the sole point of contention. Knowing me, or not knowing me, there are only four places I would live outside of Ottawa that can match my personality: Hawaii, Hollywood, New York City, and Las Vegas. Anything outside of Ottawa and those four places I consider to be the boonies, and I am the farthest thing from a boonies-kind-of-guy. Plus, I like not being operationally bound by the courts, made to receive my policing powers and judicial powers via policing stakeholders playing at policing and undermining the two institutions.

Surprisingly, while I was interviewing for that role, no OPS officers were filing frivolous police reports like they had done when I had been interviewing for the RCMP. Maybe those OPS officers were “paying it forward” after I helped Ontario’s Ministry of the Solicitor General, the Ontario Police College, and a litany of other stakeholders recognize the limitations of public policies (like *Applicable Standards Ontario Policing Standard: AI-007*) and mandates that are no longer adequate for today’s time.

Whether I get recognition for advancing public policies and the public interest matters not. Because the praise for identifying those public policy limitations belongs to the learning experience provided by Harvard Kennedy School’s Executive Education program (Public Policy), and I am entirely content being viewed as their favourite son. After John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963), and Pierre Trudeau (1919-2000), of course. And the doors to that learning experience were only open thanks to the greatness of Athabasca University, which I owe everything to, and me being mentally mature enough to take my studies seriously.

If Netflix or an Amazon was ever to come along, however, I would not mind getting my “*Larry King Live*” (1985-2010) moment and sitting across from high-ranking individuals who were once involved in crime and high-ranking police and seeing how they respond when I detail their digital footprint. I imagine it would be something along the lines of Sean Penn’s interview of El Chapo, but I would need to be guaranteed the Pulitzer Prize for my interview. That, and to set the record for the biggest payday in that line of work, which I would split with all the participants (I am the A-side like Floyd Money Mayweather, so it would have to be an 85-15 split). However, if that does not sit well with everyone, we can do a spin-off of *Gs to Gents* (2008-2009), where the “Gs” are active in organized crime, and I take the role of Fonzworth Bentley and attempt to mould them into becoming respectable members of society.

In any case, John McClane may have said it best, “I had no idea Canada could be this much fun” (*Die Hard with a Vengeance*, 1995). So, welcome to my Canada, and Yippee Ki Yay. And if you enjoyed this read, then you might also enjoy the “My Crazy Life” series, which often revolves around the “digital world” activities like “My Crazy Life – Cybercrime During Covid-19 Lockdowns” and “My Crazy Life – The First 48”.

Disclaimer: Whoever. Wherever. Lives matter. And it does not change.

On a more serious note, this saga was detailed in an eight-page submission to the Foreign Interference Commission because of its relation to foreign interference. The full story details the

fallout from policing gone bad and serves as the perfect case study for everything that is wrong in policing, because policing and public safety work is the bedrock of a safe society when done right.

Police attempting to cover for criminal informants and attempting to criminalize non-criminal Canadians, on the other hand, is beyond comprehension and something that no Canadian should support. Such actions were certainly not on the minds of our Fathers of Confederation, when they signed the *British North America Act, 1867* and entered Confederation, with George Etienne Cartier leading the French and John A. MacDonald leading the English. They took every precaution to ensure institutional powers could not get misappropriated. Unfortunately, it happens, but at least in this instance, they are to be thanked for inspiring academic breakdowns of institutional shortcomings, sprinkled with a touch of entertainment.

Many people who might end up on the receiving side of misappropriated policing powers might feel embarrassed because of the lack of control over police narratives, as well as the damage such actions may have on another person's opportunities, credibility, and for other reasons—just not me. Because I am authentic and trend in the right direction, and because those kinds of individuals are incapable of matching me mind-for-mind through-for-thought. Because iron sharpens iron, and I melt steel, baby.



Student Sizzle — AU's Hot Social Media Topics

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

Facebook:

A finance degree can be overwhelming without a tutor. Students find the finance curriculum challenging to learn independently of instruction. Students provide advice, including hiring a tutor, asking ChatGPT for guidance, watching YouTube videos, and locating a study group.

Reddit:

Sick of writing papers. A student laments his frustration with constantly writing essays and long-form written assignments. Other students say they prefer papers over virtual group work and timed exams. Another student writes the papers using general research before the course starts, revising the essays after exposure to the course material. Another student indicates writing more essays in 9 credits of courses from AU than in 60 credits of courses from UBC.

Twitter:

Anxiety can't stop us. @AthabascaU reposted, CMI Canadian Mortgages Inc @cmi_mortgages: "Please join us in congratulating our CAO & CCO, Elizabeth Wood, on receiving the <https://ow.ly/LazG50TRCbW> from Athabasca University! Her journey of resilience, leadership and advocacy for mental health and gender equality inspires us all. Read more at: <https://www.athabascau.ca/news/alumni/distance-education-opens-doors-for-mental-health-advocate>."



Boldly Say It with Delightful Conviction

Marie Well



I desperately want my latest movie ad in the theatre pre-shows this Christmas. It will bring a message of love and hope to many people, especially those undergoing depression or loneliness, at Christmastime. I find out today if I get the tax credit, and if I do, I will pay for the movie ad to be featured this Christmas in a theater. Also, I may be invited to two companies' third rounds of job interviews, and if hired, I will have the funds to feature the ad.

As a hedge, I started my first Kickstarter campaign just now, which should go live in less than eight days. I aim to earn \$2000 within a month. The campaign images and videos look stunning, and the text is spiritually moving. However, I didn't get permission to proceed from a friend, so I deleted the campaign. But it truly looked beautiful. I highly recommend starting a Kickstarter campaign.

Yesterday, I had my second interview for a Marketing Director role with a company that pays

\$120,000 yearly, this time with a Jewish woman president. She was beyond lovely, a wise paragon of peaceful, nurturing, intelligent beauty. She seemed so wise that she instantly "got" any spiritual comment I made; she was a class act. (As I waited in reception for the interview, I met another senior female staff member who I felt like I had known all my life.) During the interview with the lovely Jewish president, I gained high grades for people-pleasing skills, as a client engagement component to the marketing director role is required. However, during the interview, I over-emphasized my love for creating marketing content. I've learned that our hands-on, creative skills come second when seeking high-paying leadership roles. We must highlight our leadership traits first and foremost; otherwise, we jeopardize our chances of getting a director role.

So, highlight the aspects of leadership we do best. I love coaching people, especially when my coaching causes others to flourish. I made great long-term friends teaching adult women math, and I coached an employee so that she became the star immediately. It brought me great joy. So, highlight our leadership skills, whether coaching, nurturing stars, inspiring people, or something else. As a challenge, think of times we said inspiring words to others. What were those words, and how do they translate to leadership? It all matters.

But I just realized something critical. I might need to prepare for a third interview with the Jewish woman, and I need to prepare now before receiving the invitation to interview. Fortunately, during the interview, I discovered their software technology, two of which I have never used. So, that lack of know-how could knock me out of the box. I can't risk it. None of us should risk the loss of an opportunity of a lifetime. So, starting right now, after I finish this paragraph, I will learn the first software: Power BI, a data visualization software tool. I will then learn all the software she mentioned via LinkedIn Learning until I'm contacted about the status of the third interview stage. I may be at an advantage by learning the software by the time of the interview. At the very least, it's a show of character.

Lastly, I approached yesterday's interview as Maxine did in her acting audition in the movie MaXXXine. When the agents asked her why they should hire her, Maxine said, "Because I'm a star. There is nobody quite like me. Everybody is going to know my name." Similarly, to my surprise, I concluded my interview with the Jewish president with a spontaneous show of bravado, saying, "If you hire me, I guarantee I'm going to do everything in my power, give everything I've got, to make you and your team number one in Canada." And I meant it. So, end with a passionate statement articulating what we can positively do for the company, and say it with delightful conviction. And watch our dreams shift and shape into the epitome of success!

As We Grow Older: A Poetry Collection

Jaydan Harrison

The Cycle

(Elegy)

A lifetime or two

Finding, taking, thinking, making

Little souvenirs of the brain

Fill the pool of recollection

A currency called time

Saving, spending, stealing, lending

In this haze of distraction

We search for meaning

A slow, sinister change

Fleeting, falling, losing, stalling

The pain of this process

Passed down to those who remain

A face so unfamiliar

Wishing, wanting, hoping, haunting

Faint echoes of a distant past

Like the mind's own vanishing act



Reason and Ration

(Prose Poetry)

The boy resented the abstract. Modern art and millennial poetry felt like senseless noise. There was comfort in clarity, and symmetry tasted infinitely sweeter. He favoured the simplicity of straight lines, even numbers, and flat surfaces. Nothing was better than the perfect equation of a right angle.

He regarded spirituality with a particular disdain. Was faith anything more than a distraction? Mythology was just that—myths. Fantasies. He longed for others to embrace reality—fact over fiction, conviction over doubt. The texture of silk in his hands, the paralyzing brightness of the sun—these things were tangible. He had complete certainty in his perception. Why dwell on the immaterial? He subscribed to a singular truth, some universal oneness in experience. Conceptualizing a world beyond the current one seemed disrespectful to the gift of life.

His temperament defined him: impatience and the kind of ignorance only youth can possess. He retained the skills to create and imagine and feel but chose to employ them pragmatically. He was endlessly critical and dismissed emotions as unproductive. Dreams were mere tools of the unconscious waiting to be brought into actuality. There was little time to get lost in escapism. He believed in hard work, cause and effect, the power of intention. Practicality was not just preferable; it was paramount.

He clung to his beliefs. It was a miserable existence marked by loneliness.

Then—the arrival of adulthood. A chance encounter. A shift in perspective.

He fell foolishly, wildly, absurdly in love.

Lone Freeze

(Haiku)

The depth of winter
Solitude frozen in ice—
Crack, thaw, new presence



How to Live Through an Apocalypse [blue rare]

Oliver Moorcraft-Sykes



I'm not saying the apocalypse is upon us, or even necessarily imminent. But, what with one thing and another, it doesn't feel entirely out of the realm of possibility, either. For all I know, humanity's best days may be yet to come. Perhaps, outdoing old King Canute, we will find a way to turn back the swelling tides of our global demise, both literal and figurative. (As the old saying goes, "The Good Lord willing, and the creek don't rise".) Still, at the very least it's worth sketching out one or two possible strategies for making the most of the end of the world, assuming we have the chance to see it coming.

For me it really comes down to just a couple of feasible alternatives. The first of these, which I have decided to call the Salty Margarita Stratagem, involves entirely devoting myself, for the remainder of our species' collective lifespan, to all sorts of heedless hedonistic pursuits. As Warren Zevon—that late, lamented, cynical bard of lost souls—once poignantly sang, "All the salty margaritas in Los Angeles/ I'm gonna drink 'em up".

This scenario is a fun one to contemplate. It would involve me applying for all the forms of financial credit I could possibly lay my hands upon, then maxing them all out as I and my friends and loved ones ate and drank our way around the world.

The chief problem with that option is the very real possibility that the world doesn't succumb to fire and /or flood in a timely enough fashion, and I'm stuck holding the tab. The debt collectors may have to travel down some dusty trails to find me, but find me they will. As Zevon sang, in the very same song I referenced earlier, "If California slides into the ocean/ Like the mystics and statistics say it will/ I predict this motel will be standing/ Until I pay my bill".

I wish I could say that the second strategy under consideration involves fearless, selfless dedication to the betterment of all humanity. Although I will fight tooth and nail to protect those nearest and dearest to me, I'm no beacon of courage, no Alexander Navalny or Malala Yousafzai. I have no problem voicing my opinion, but I tend to take the course of least resistance. I need my creature comforts, and I don't like drama unless it's on the page, stage, or screen. I will gladly bake canapes for the Resistance, or hide them in my basement, but I'll probably not be manning the barricades when the mutant cannibal hordes or the MAGA-militia come marching north.

No, to my mind the only other feasible strategy is to just keep on going. Keep learning, growing, loving, fucking up, breaking down, trying to improve, getting worse, getting better, and slowly, just maybe, figuring out what it means to live a good life. Just waking up every day and doing the best I can, with the limited capacities that I have, to add to, rather than subtracting from, the world. This, I call the "Suck It Up, Princess" strategy. Sadly, it involves far less lobster thermidor and cocaine.



All I Ate During my Layover at Incheon Airport

Cassandra Wang

One of my favorite parts of any destination I visit is the food. Although I have traveled to South Korea in the past, since the pandemic I have not returned (especially since airfare has nearly doubled since pre-pandemic era). However, whenever I get the opportunity to visit Asia, I never skimp out on the opportunity to eat at local airports as they offer some of the most authentic treats and snacks. Recently I had the opportunity to fly to Taipei with a stopover in Seoul. The airport was enormous and featured a variety of Korean cuisine to try. These were some of my favorite finds in the airport during this 5-hour layover.

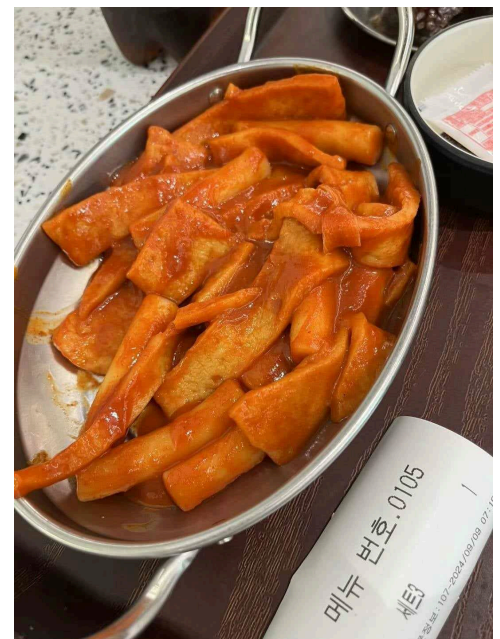


Gimhari

These are crispy, lightly seasoned deep fried seaweed rolls. They are a popular snack at street stalls in South Korea. Gim refers to seafood and mari means rolls. Gimhari consist of seaweed-wrapped glass noodles that are deep fried to perfection. The snack is cherished for its crunchy texture and savory flavor and is served often as a side dish or snack. The airport Gimhari was surprisingly crunchy and savory and fairly authentic compared to ones I've had in Canada.

Tteokbokki

This is one of Korea's most beloved comfort foods. It is made of chewy rice cakes and cooked in a spicy, sweet-and-savory sauce. It has a long cultural significance in Korean cuisine with an addictive flavor, and it made for the perfect airport snack as I waited for my flight during the layover. Despite having made this at home, I still much prefer those in the restaurant since cleaning up can be such a hassle for this dish.





Fish Cake Soup (Odeng and Eomuk)

Odeng-guk is a classic street food originating from the Japanese word “oden” and with simmering ingredients in a soy-flavored broth. Eomuk is the Korean word for fish cake, which is made by grinding white fish into paste and mixing it with flour, starch, and seasoning.

This soup combo was so savory I was already craving it as my return flight left for Canada. There were many toppings in the soup including scallions, tofu slices, and radishes and garlic. These are relatively easy to make at home as well and can be a great way to warm up on a cold day.

This set came with some side dishes, including kimchi and pickled daikon, which added flavor and complexity to the dishes.

Korean Hot Cocoa Cookies

Although I don’t have much of a sweet tooth, these cookies are a unique twist on your usual hot chocolate cookies. They use a sweet rice flour for a chewy texture and also have a filling that mimics the gooeyness of melted marshmallows. I enjoyed these so much that I brought back a few for friends and family.

Cassandra Wang is a post-graduate health-science AU student, aspiring clinician, globe-trotter, parrot-breeder and tea-connoisseur.



Beyond Literary Landscapes

Raymond Carver

Nat Writes



From my early beginnings as a young introvert, the public library has always been a bit of a refuge. Years later, not much has changed, albeit with an additional affinity for endless hours spent scouring second-hand bookstores to add to my ever-growing “to-read” pile.

From one bookworm to another, this column will be underscoring and outlining various literary genres, authors, and recent reads and can serve as an introduction for those unfamiliar with these works, as a refresher for long-time aficionados, and maybe as an inspiration for readers to share their own suggested topics. Do you have a topic that you would like covered in this column? Feel free to [contact me](#) for an interview and a feature in an upcoming column.

Who

This week, we take a look at notable US fiction author Raymond Carver.

Carver was born on May 25, 1938, in Clatskanie, Oregon and died on August 2, 1988, in Port Angeles, Washington.

He is most known for his short stories and poetry. In particular, his “realistic writings about the working poor mirrored his own life.”

What

Some of Carver’s well-known texts include several short story collections, including *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*, *Furious Seasons and Other Stories*, and *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*.

Some of his poetry collections include *Near Klamath*, *Winter Insomnia*, and *At Night The Salmon Move*.

Where

Many of Carver’s works take place in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States.

When

These works are predominantly set in the 20th century.

Why

Carver’s works may be of interest to AU students interested in themes, such as socio-economic problems, divorce, and job loss.

How

AU’s wide range of diverse courses make it easy to study this topic in depth. Courses related to the works of Raymond Carver are available in a variety of disciplines, including some that may fit into your Degree Works. (Always check with an AU counsellor to see if these particular courses fulfill your personal graduation requirements!)

AU students interested in learning more about this topic may enroll in ENGL 344: American Literature I, a senior-level, three-credit course, which “introduces students to American literature,

its history and development, and its rich variety of forms and techniques.” (Please note that this course requires ENGL 211: Prose Forms and ENGL 212: Poetry and Prose as prerequisites.)

Students may also be interested in ENGL 345: American Literature II, a senior-level, three-credit course, which continues on from ENGL 344. In particular, this course, “continues the exploration of the history and development of American literature and its rich variety of forms and techniques.” (Similarly to ENGL 344, this course, requires ENGL 211 and ENGL 212 as prerequisites.) Happy reading!



We've Got the Power

Marie Well



I'm in the second round of interviews for two companies. One pays \$160,000 a year, and another pays \$120,000, and both look super fun. I've got to minimize my head movement because I have a sweet, childlike voice, and when I get animated, I look like a teenage girl about to go on her first date. I can't blow it. One interview is in an hour and a half. This one is a dream. I will meet the CEO today, too.

I prepared by making cue cards in Canva, addressing every point on the job description with my relevant skills and experiences. I then practiced my presentation upward of seven times, constantly correcting my performance, which I video recorded and watched many times. Then, I looked at common interview questions from LinkedIn, such as “tell me about a time you had conflict with a colleague,” and typed them into the cue cards, although I still need to practice these. The secret for all of us in achieving our dreams is heavy preparation. We can overcome

any barrier by taking thorough steps toward our inevitable success.

However, I am sick today from chronic fatigue, which might work in my favor. It may make me more low-energy, which is the goal. Otherwise, I present like a five-year-old at my first school birthday party. We all have weaknesses (and strengths) working against us, and that pertains to every soul, whether it's us or the President of a multinational corporation. But we can overcome it all. Nothing can stop us when our souls are alight with love and ambition, or at the very least, love.

My next interview is in two days. The skills I am developing in my current digital marketing certificate course make me even better at my job. For instance, I developed some incredible video skills from the certificate program. It's making me a powerhouse with video, video screen captures, and AI software. Every skill we learn launches us into a new dimension of possibilities for success, so we must keep learning every day. Take nonstop courses, read books, listen to audiobooks--maximize every opportunity to learn constantly.

However, my hand is shaking from chronic fatigue right now, as I haven't had many fruits and vegetables lately due to unemployment. I was so sick yesterday and today that I couldn't do a single full run-through practice of my interview today, and my interview is just about to start. But I think even the struggles are prizes in the rough, and I will perform my very best: tilt my head so my ponytail looks nice, smile, and hold my head still. Whatever challenges we face, staying disciplined can make us our best if we keep trying. Sometimes, bad things bring us the successes we would otherwise miss out on. Embrace it all, the good and the bad, for it's shaping us into who we need to be to complete our life missions.

I phoned Papa and told him about my interview. He is proud since he cared for me for over a decade of severe illnesses, during which time I was unable to work. I love him. We make God proud with every success we have in life, even with every tiny show of kindness, especially with every show of kindness.

I am so sick and weak, and it's less than half an hour before the interview. I need a sip of milk every five minutes to keep my energy alert enough to function. I am lying down as my hand feels weak. So, I prayed that God would guide me through the interview, that I would do the career role for humane reasons, and that He would prop me up and give me strength, as I am so weak that I couldn't complete a practice run of the interview. I believe we all have guardian angels, and they eagerly await us to cry out for their guidance and nurturing. I think they provide love and support in many ways we are unaware of.

And now the interview just happened, and I was on fire. I answered questions intelligently and passionately and focused on what the CEO wanted to hear, as she said, "great answer" multiple times. I didn't answer one question sufficiently at the end, which focused on my independence in leadership style, but I learned a strategy all of us at AU can adopt. Whatever we get wrong in the interview, follow up in a thank you email with the right answer. That's what I did, so it will help dispel any reservations. There is an in-person round of interviews next. It will be the third round of interviews. I hope and pray to be invited.

I have another corporate interview on Thursday for a director role that pays \$120,000, and it looks super fun. And Papa is proud of me. I just learned that the President for the Thursday interview is a Jewish female, which strikes my heart as I especially love our dear Jewish community, as I do all people. It is Providence. Our love for others leads us to opportunities that enable us to express it more fully.

Although it's not the most ethical movie, MaXXXine has a highly ambitious and confident star character; Maxine would say, "There is no one quite like me. I'm gonna be a star! Everybody will know my name. You just got to work hard; the rest will come." (I should have skipped watching the movie from a moral point of view, but from a goal-driven perspective, she becomes a Hollywood celebrity by the show's end. She gets the goal.) We are all going to reach our goals. Just set the goals and watch them unfold.

It's true that our struggles, sicknesses, or so-called "limitations" make our successes sweeter. Preparing for the interview I boosted my motivation with an '80s song: The Power. I remember getting supercharged by the song when I was younger, dancing my heart out to it after being freshly diagnosed with the first of several life-altering disabilities, told by the doctor I would never work a real job, go to school, or live in the real world. That doctor is terrific because everyone, good or bad, is ultimately positive in our life quest, as everyone we encounter shapes us into who we need to be to complete our life missions. We chose those missions and those people prior to arriving in this existence. Yes, we've got the power, and that power culminates in us giving nothing but unconditional love!



"Passing the Baton: Welcoming the 2024-2025 AUSU Executive Committee"

AUSU UPDATE

April 12, 2024



Passing the Baton:
Welcoming the 2024-2025 AUSU
Executive Committee

The Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) would like to thank our outgoing 2023-2024 Executive Committee, including President Naju Syed, VP External Manmeet Kaur, VP Finance and Administration Chantel Groening (formerly Bradley), and VP Community and Wellness Natalia Iwanek. Their commitment and dedication to student success have helped guide our organization and enhance the student experience at Athabasca University (AU) over the past year. To celebrate and reflect with them, check out the latest AUSU Open Mic Podcast, "[Episode 86: AUSU Executives Wrap Up Their Term.](#)" This episode explores the wins and personal growth experienced

by your outgoing student executive leaders.

With the upcoming AUSU Council changeover meeting on April 18th, we are thrilled to [welcome the incoming 2024-2025 AUSU Executive Committee](#). Chantel Groening will be moving to the role of President, having served the past year as your VP Finance and Administration. Jan Lehmann will step into the role of VP External, eager to forge strong partnerships and advocate for our students on a provincial and federal level. Diana Ramirez, your new VP Finance and Administration, will help ensure the organization is fiscally responsible and managed effectively. And, Olivia Shepherd will take on the VP Community and Wellness role, committed to fostering a supportive and healthy learning environment for all AU students.

We are excited to see the new heights this dynamic team will reach and look forward to a year of growth, achievement, and student advocacy!

Provided by

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