

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Jan 5, 2007 - Volume 15, Issue 1

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We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org), and please indicate if we may publish your letter.

Happy New Year!

*The Voice Magazine*

## THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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*The Voice* is published every Friday in HTML and PDF format

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Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its frequent contributions

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## Capricorn December 22 - January 19



Glyph (written symbol) for Capricorn is two straight lines that meet and are connected to a circle. This could be seen as the twisted horns of the goat, which is Capricorn's symbol.

Capricorn, the tenth house of the zodiac is a negative, cardinal earth sign. Capricorns are influenced by the feminine night forces and ruled by the planet Saturn. Capricorns' mission is to lead in a secretive and reflective manner. They have a strong desire to succeed at whatever they do.

The goat loves a challenge and is determined to overcome any obstacle encountered. Capricorns can be seen as nit-picky, as they often become consumed with minor details. Fear is not a familiar emotion to the Capricorn. They are courageous and often fight for the underdog. As well, Capricorns are extremely sensitive, but usually hide this under a cool, aloof exterior.

They are the planners and organizers of the zodiac. Their homes and offices are impeccably neat and tidy. Everything is put away in its assigned space. Patience is a natural part of the goat's nature. They can wait an inordinate length of time for what they want.

Capricorns' analytical mind is combined with their amazing ability to concentrate results in an intellectual icon. However, deeply imbedded in the Capricorns' psyche is a feeling that they really are inferior and unworthy individuals. This causes them to be defensive. Goats have a unique sense of humour, a wonderful laugh and the ability to laugh at themselves. They possess the child-like quality that allows them to see most issues in black and white. There are no gray areas for the goat. Because of this quality, Capricorns have the ability to reach decisions quickly.

Capricorns do not have a jealous nature. Relationships are important to the goat. But, due to their loner nature, can be difficult to establish. Both male and female goats have high standards and look for a companion who will fit in with their plan to succeed. They rarely fall in love at first sight. Capricorns are extremely uncomfortable exposing their true selves, even after they have known someone for a long time. Therefore, don't expect a Capricorn to pour out their feelings. Most likely, you will have to look for other clues to decipher the Capricorns' innermost feelings.

The older the Capricorn gets, the younger he or she appears. They are romantic, but their strong disciplined nature forces them to keep this hidden. They make faithful partners. The rare Capricorn who does stray will be terribly remorseful.

Capricorns have a tendency to be athletic. When they move, it's not uncommon to hear their joints crackle and grind, due to their tendency to develop arthritis. They have small hands and feet. As well, their heads are often small, although

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their facial features are well defined and prominent. Both sexes are slight of build with an obvious fragility about them.

Capricorns will never remain in a subordinate position. They make devoted employees who are usually the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave. Capricorns excel in many professions, including serving in the professional positions of bankers, teachers, engineers, ministers, funeral directors and dentists -- just to name a few.

### SUMMARY

**Positive qualities:** ambitious, responsible, practical, and self-disciplined.

**Negative qualities:** unforgiving, stubborn, defensive, and condescending.

**Lucky day:** Saturday.

**Birthstone:** Garnet.

**Most compatible marriage signs:** Taurus and Virgo.

**Famous Capricorns:** Martin Luther King Jr., Elvis Presley, Ellen DeGeneres, Sissy Spacek, Tiger Woods, Ricky Martin, Diane Keaton, Janis Joplin, Joan of Arc, and Kate Moss.



MUSIC TO EAT LUNCH TO  
Anti-Flag: *For Blood and Empire*

Mandy Gardner



Released: 2006  
Label: RCA  
Tracks: 13  
Rating: 9

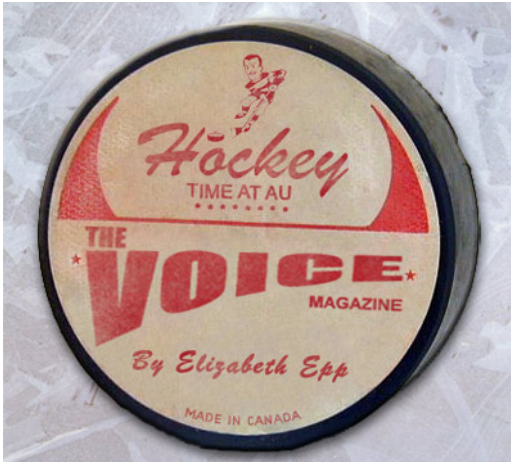
It's the New Year. But seeing as we're still so tangibly close to 2006, I think there's nothing wrong with doing one last review for 2006 as a great year of music. The last lucky album is *For Blood and Empire*, a controversial release from those kings of punk, Anti-Flag. After ten years of independent releases and affiliation with Fat Wreck Chords, that refuge for the unsigned punk band, Anti-Flag have frightened a lot of hardcore fans by signing on with RCA and finally getting fully funded.

Why the worry? If you've paid any attention to the last albums and especially if you've managed to catch Anti-Flag live, you'll know that Justin Sane, Chris #2, Chris Head and Pat Thetic aren't just against the flag, they're against corporate control and evil manifestations of capitalism. How does RCA differ from this school of thought? Justin and Chris have blown off the negativity with their claims that RCA isn't going to have anything to do with the band's production of music, the concert line-ups or the videos. It is simply going to aim some excellent funding their way. It's definitely been worth controversy for the band, which has been working hard for years now to capture a wider audience. With the release of this album, two songs have been made into singles and can be found on music television stations in several countries.

As far as I'm concerned, the contract with RCA has done exactly what Anti-Flag says it has. It has given the band the ability to reach a larger audience without compromising their music or ideals. It's great to now see the occasional Anti-Flag video on television at least once a week, whereas before I had pretty much no chance -- even on Much Music, which is known for playing Fat Wreck Chords bands.

The album itself is of fantastic quality. Fans who have followed the band for the last ten years are saying that the sound has become a bit main-stream. Invariably, they will blame this on RCA. However, I think the case is simply that the band has evolved just like everyone else has. The sound of this album is great. The morals are just as strong, the lyrics just as worthwhile and the sound is every bit as catchy and hardcore as it has ever been. The entire album is easy to listen to, easy to understand and, as a loyal fan, I completely accept and adore this release.

In particular, check out "This is the End for You My Friend," "The Exodus," "One Trillion Dollars," and "Hymn for the Dead." These songs are, as always, focused on the battle against unjustified violence, such as in Iraq, unqualified government control and commercial mind control. How can you not respect these guys? Chris Head comes out with some of the greatest bass riffs you are ever going to hear. The vocalists have perfected their hardcore harmonies and, on the whole, there really is no modern punk band anywhere else that embodies all the crucial aspects of punk rock as these guys. Anti-Flag says it all and so do the band members. Check it out and learn something!



Okay, so the season has suddenly taken an interesting turn. All those teams that were doing better than expected have suddenly bombed, reaching losing streaks of seven games and counting. Yet those that were failing early in the season have suddenly begun to shine, creating gaps in the standings of six points or more. What are the reasons for these sudden shifts in stats? Well, we as fans like to chalk it up to improved (or, in other cases, deteriorated) playing and enhanced strategy. Yet, ask a player and you may find they are more superstitious than one would ever be led to believe.

Superstitions have been around for centuries, whether in religion, work or everyday life. However, it is not as well known that superstitions pervade most sports, with a large impact on hockey players. I'm sure everyone knows about playoff superstitions. All players believe, as long as their team remains in the playoffs, that they cannot shave at all, for it will bring them bad luck and lead to the team's failure. There are numerous other, lesser known superstitions and traditions that plague both players and teams at large.

Many players believe that it is good luck to tap the goaltender on his shin pads before a game, so when the players skate past the goalie in a line and hit him, don't be too shocked. Hockey players also refuse to say "shutout" in the locker room before a game, believing that it will guarantee a loss for their team. They also are very careful with their sticks, as they feel that two hockey sticks lying crossed over each other will curse their team with a losing streak.

The most well-known hockey tradition revolves around the "hat trick." Whenever a player scores three goals in the same game, it is known as a hat trick. This results in fans throwing all their headgear onto the ice to honour this rare occurrence. Some teams, however, have their own traditions. The Detroit Red Wings fans will throw octopi onto the ice after a big win. Two brothers, Pete and Jerry Cusimano, started this in 1952 when they threw their octopus onto the ice, using the tentacles to represent the eight wins in the playoffs. The Florida Panthers had a similar tradition involving rats. In 1996, Panthers' forward Scott Mellanby killed a rat in the dressing room with his stick and then went on to score two goals. Fans took that as a good luck omen and began to throw plastic rats onto the ice in hopes of encouraging a win. It was so popular that the goalies had to hide in the nets to prevent getting hit with the plastic rats. The practice was banned later in the year, because the delays were too long while the rats were cleaned up. And probably the most amusing team tradition involves the Vancouver Canucks. In 1982, the Canucks were playing the Chicago Blackhawks. The officials had called nine penalties and disallowed one goal, all of which seem unjustified. Roger Neilson, head coach of the Canucks at the time, placed a white towel on the end of the hockey stick in surrender to protest the referee's seemingly incongruous calls. The Canucks' players and fans took it up in support of the coach. The practice became known as "towel power." The tradition has caught on. Today, thousands of fans across North America use towel power to protest referee's calls.

So next time you are watching a game, and you notice the unshaven player, or see thousands of hats flying through the air, remember -- even hockey players can be superstitious.



From  
Where  
I Sit  
Hazel Anaka

## More of the Same or Something Meaningful?

Enclosed in a plastic bag with last November's issue of *Style at Home* magazine was a copy of the World Vision 2005 Christmas Gift Guide. I hung onto it because I thought it would make a great column. The other day the 2006 guide arrived.

These Christmas guides are like nothing you've ever seen before. There isn't a scented candle or sequin sweater or electronic gadget to be found. You'll be pleased to know, there are three ways to order: mail, online or an 800 number. Mastercard, Visa, American Express or a cheque are the available payment options. Bonus -- no shipping charges.

In a creative move by World Vision to capture the hearts and wallets of potential donors, the catalogue is full of livestock. Yes, livestock. Poultry, piglets, goats, rabbits, heifers, and sheep are available for sale. Your purchase/donation is used to buy the product, which is then distributed to a child or family in one of World Vision's projects overseas.

This fundraiser is genius. For those people turned off by the blatant commercialization of Christmas or the embarrassment of riches and over-consumption of our society, this is a very palatable choice. It appeals to the altruistic desire to do good, give a hand up to those less fortunate, and get that warm, fuzzy feeling in the process.

According to the product description of "two hens and a rooster," "Up to 150 eggs a year explain why a set of breeding chickens and a rooster is our most popular gift, year after year. Two hens and a rooster are the beginning of a fantastic flock that can provide a healthy source of protein and steady income for years to come. What a perfect way to help a struggling family feed their children and achieve self-reliance!" All that for only fifty bucks.

I guess the \$700 water buffalo wasn't a big seller, because it's not in the current catalogue. It seems that World Vision replaced it with the turkey farm for \$1200, two turkeys for \$75, and four for \$150. Though it's not marked as such, there seems to be a sale on goats. The price has dropped from \$150 per goat or two for \$300 as advertised last year down to \$100 and \$200 respectively in 2006. Pigs, on the other hand, those plump and perfect presents, according to the catalogue, have gone up in price by five dollars.

If you're not into buying a stable of animals for \$1,200, you can purchase clothing, school supply kits, clean water, fruit trees, immunizations, and emergency food supplies.

Groups at school, church or the office are encouraged to pool their resources to make a greater impact. I've just requested the kit. Who knows what might happen this Christmas.

Encouraging is the fact that program spending has risen to 84.3% (out of each dollar raised) from 79.9% last year. Both the fundraising and administration costs have dropped by a percentage point each.

So this year will it be more of the same or something truly meaningful? The answer is clear from where I sit.

## AUSU THIS MONTH



### AU Students Applaud Affordability Framework

New policy addresses many concerns, but barriers still exist

**Athabasca University Students' Union** – Friday's press release on the Affordability Framework for Post-Secondary education included a number of surprises and addressed many of the concerns expressed in AUSU's 2005 submission to the A Learning Alberta Steering Committee's post-secondary review.

Requests from AUSU's wish list that have been addressed by the report include:

- **Tuition rollbacks to 2004 levels with assurance that future tuition increases will be limited to the Alberta Consumer Price Index.** While 2004's tuition rates are still too high and continue to present a barrier for many students, the limit on increases was one of AUSU's most important wish list items and an important first step in addressing the affordability issues encountered by Alberta students.
- **More financial support for part-time students.** AUSU represents many adult learners who are studying part-time, and these new supports will ensure that more of our members can remain in the workforce while furthering their educations.
- **Lifetime student loan limits will be extended for students who have repaid previous loans.** Many AUSU members are returning students with prior loans who encounter funding roadblocks despite having repaid their previous debts. AUSU is excited about this change which will go a long way toward fulfilling Alberta's promise to foster lifelong learning.

One item that was not specifically requested by AUSU, which we are delighted to see in the new policy, is the requirement that universities and the government must consult with students groups – who are, after all, those most affected by the policy – before making any changes. We are excited about being among the students' groups who will work with the Advanced Education Ministry on future policy revisions.

It is clear that the Alberta government gave serious consideration to the input of students groups and stakeholders when developing their recommendations and the tuition fee policy. AUSU feels that new policy is a promising sign of things to come.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK***What's new here and around the world*

Mandy Gardner

**Saddam Hussein Executed in Iraq**

Mandy Gardner

After three years of waiting for a trial to be set up and then finally for the court to reach a ruling, the news still comes as a shock. Saddam Hussein has been executed. In fact, as I watched early morning holiday television on December 30th, my mid-morning sitcom was quietly disturbed by a small line of text at the bottom of the screen. The text read, "Saddam Hussein has been executed." That was all. Then back to the laughs.

Since October 15, 2005, Saddam has first denied the authority of the court, denounced U.S. President George W. Bush as the "real criminal" (CBC, December 29, 2006), claimed his captors were beating him (a claim disregarded by the court) and finally called for Iraqi people "not to hate" (Ibid) their U.S. invaders or any of the other nations with which Iraq has fought, since as he put it "hate does not leave space for a person to be fair" (Ibid).

It has been quite a ride for old Saddam before he got to that final retrospective and quite sane point. He was a socialist

revolutionary who turned to assassination schemes in his early twenties and had to flee the country only to return when the Baathist Party gained power of Iraq. In 1979, Saddam rose to the position of President and immediately ordered the executions of several government officials who he declared were disloyal to the Party. It is all a bit 1984-ish, and in an age of Western ideals of fairness and human rights, how can it be that this man, no matter how unethical or disturbed, can be subjected to the same treatment as he has himself been on trial for?

It is just a case of revenge, at this point. Behind a banner of justice, Iraqi and American people are able to treat this man exactly the same way that he treated his people when he was President. Nobody will really kick-up a fuss because, deep down, this is how most of us think justice should work. An eye for an eye; fight fire with fire.

Nothing ever changes. Saddam was doomed right from the moment George Bush decided Saddam was an easy replacement for Osama Bin Laden as a target in the War on Terrorism. So much for the principles of Christianity.

**Reference**

CBC news staff (2006, December 29). Timeline of Saddam's trials. CBC News. Retrieved from [http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/iraq/timeline\\_saddamtrial.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/iraq/timeline_saddamtrial.html)

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## THE VOICE

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*The Voice* is published every Friday in html and pdf format

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