

**THE**

# **VOICE**

**MAGAZINE**

Volume 16 Issue 14

April 4, 2008

## **A Feast of Hypocrisy**

Pass the beef and start  
the protests

## **AU Profiles**

Barb Rielly

## **Bulletin**

Psst! Want  
to buy a . . .



*Plus:*

*Milk-Crate Bandit, Music To Eat Lunch To,  
AUSU This Month, and much more...*

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# CONTENTS

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## WELCOME TO THE VOICE PDF

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

## Features

Editorial ..... 3

## Articles

AU Profiles: Barb Rielly ..... 5

Milk-Crate Bandit: First-Person Shooters..... 7

Canadian Fashion: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow? ..... 9

## Columns

From Where I Sit ..... 11

Music To Eat Lunch To..... 12

AUSU This Month ..... 13

## News and Events

Did You Know?: Software Savings..... 8

Getting It 'Write': AU's Write Site ..... 10

International News Desk ..... 15

Click of the Wrist ..... 16

Education News..... 17

Hair Brain Scheme Fundraiser: It's Here! ..... 19

## From the Readers

Letters to the Editor ..... 2

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.



Re: "The Mindful Bard: The Bible" by Wanda Waterman St. Louis, v16 i13  
(2008-03-28)

Thanks Wanda for another thoughtful recommendation. I'll be adding *The Bible* to my reading list, which is, granted, a bit long, and when do I get time to read anyway, but it's good to have a list nonetheless.

Darryl Klassen

## EDITORIAL

Sandra Livingston



### A Feast of Hypocrisy

Let's get this straight: this is not a pro-seal hunt piece. Nor is it anti-sealing. Instead, it's a question. A question that I don't have the answer to, but one that, amid the rhetoric and heated emotions swirling (as they do every year) like a snowstorm around the Canadian seal hunt, needs to be asked.

It starts with a familiar sight: against the crisp, white snow, a figure looms over a baby seal, weapon in hand. A rifle cracks, or a hakapik is brought down again and again to bludgeon the animal's skull. Whether the sealer uses a gun or a hakapik, the result is the same. A young harp, hooded, or grey seal is killed, and the public debate begins anew.

One side says the seal hunt is cruel and inhumane; the other side says it's well-regulated and an economic necessity. Whatever your stance, there's no denying that when it comes to the commercial seal hunt, it's the kind of imagery that inflames even the most apathetic among us. Celebrities and animal rights activists come out to protest; images of bloody seal carcasses are shown on the news; the debate rages over whether the hunt should be stopped.

Joe and Jane Canadian chime in, posting outraged (and sometimes outrageous) comments in response to news items. Following the recent accident involving the *Acadien II*, one reader suggested that taxpayers should not foot the bill to rescue those involved in the "outdated barbaric slaughter," and that sealing vessels should be on their own if they run into trouble. And now, in the face of the continued outcry, the European Union is considering a ban on all seal products.

But hold on a minute. Let's rewind those provocative images and take a closer look. In fact, let's swing our lenses away from those vast frozen expanses and go inside: inside the fridges and cupboards of the average news watcher who shakes his head in disgust at the footage, and inside the commercial farms where our bacon, hamburger, chicken wings, milk, and eggs come from.

If you want barbaric, the footage isn't hard to find. Imagine for a moment those baby seals everyone is so concerned about, being crammed into tractor trailers bound for the slaughterhouse. They're piled so deeply that many of them suffocate. Others have their flippers (or legs) broken under the crush of bodies. They travel in this misery for hours.

In cold weather, some become frozen to the metal sides of the truck, their flesh ripped away as they're prodded onto the ramp. Occasionally, these baby seals are boiled alive in the scalding baths that remove their hair—or they would be, if they were the pigs destined to become the bacon and pork chops sitting in your freezer.

Or perhaps those cute baby seals are lucky enough to escape the overcrowded conditions. They're placed in a tiny pen, where chains around their necks keep them from moving normally or strengthening their limbs. By the time they're paraded in a pen for auction, they are unable to support their own weight, and some can only flop through the dirt in a futile attempt to stand. This is their entire life, the only thing they know until they die. Or it would be if they were a veal calf.

***"To be blunt, why is the Canadian seal hunt considered more inhumane than the horrific practices we blithely ignore as we enjoy our shrink-wrapped chicken breasts and ground beef each week?"***

The life of these adorable seals may even be reduced to the torture of being forced into tiny cages; so tiny that, in order to avoid the animals killing each other, their beaks are cut off. Some will be artificially fattened to the point that their legs can't hold them up. If they are sick or dying, they may be hurled against the floor until they are nothing but a twitching mass. At least, they might be if they were a commercially bred chicken.

Is every commercial farm guilty of these "cruel and inhumane" practices? No. But the life of a commercially bred animal is far from wholesome, and the misery these animals endure has been well documented: there are the factory-farming videos at [PETA](#), admittedly disturbing to watch. If you're inclined to dismiss the proof offered by activist groups, the [Toronto Vegetarian Association](#) offers a well-cited article.

The [Winnipeg Humane Society](#) affirms the main issues these other groups point to, such as the overcrowded conditions that force sows to live in "gestation crates and then farrowing crates so small that they can't even turn around. They must carry out all of their life functions (eating, sleeping, urinating, defecating, giving birth to their young and nursing their young) in this one small area."

The Canadian branch of the [Humane Society International](#) offers more data.

Which brings us back to the question at hand: where are all the protests? Where are the celebrity photo ops outside factory farms? Where is the outcry by the average citizen posting reader comments?

To be blunt, why is the Canadian seal hunt considered more inhumane than the horrific practices we blithely ignore as we enjoy our shrink-wrapped chicken breasts and ground beef each week?

Is it because seals are slaughtered in higher numbers than their feathered and four-legged counterparts? Wrong. According to [Statistics Canada](#), as of January 2008 there are nearly 14 million cattle in Canada, including over 6 million animals bred for beef. That doesn't include the millions of pigs and chickens that are slaughtered or kept in appalling conditions. Yet in 2008, the [Department of Fisheries and Oceans'](#) total allowable catch for harp seals is 275,000; for hooded and grey seals, it's 8,200 and 12,000 respectively.

Is it because the seals are a natural resource, a vital part of our ecosystem, as opposed to the renewable supply of domesticated livestock? If that's the case, one would expect to see the same level of outcry over all commercial fishing practices, the kind that leads to all those cans of tuna that seem to be on sale in the grocery store flyers each week. If they were full of seal meat instead of fish, would the protests begin?

Is it the shock of watching an animal die a violent, bloody death? Surely we aren't so naive as to think that a slaughterhouse is a gentle, pain-free place. Perhaps the only difference is that seals are killed in the open, while those other beasts of industry die by the millions in closed sheds or slaughterhouses, far from our delicate eyes and burger-craving stomachs.

I don't have the answer to this question. I do know that, for some, protesting the seal hunt is a reflection of their broader sensibilities. They would no more wear a cow's hide than they would a seal's. It's logical that they would denounce the killing of *any* animal, and that consistency of beliefs is understandable.

But it defies the odds that every individual and every media outlet speaking out against the seal hunt is vegetarian, or supports only free-range farming. If they were, then small, free-range farms would outpace the billion-dollar factory-farm industry (but they don't). Or there would be high-profile news items on animal rights every week (but there aren't).

And simply put, to decry the commercial killing of one animal while supporting the industrial slaughter of others is nothing more than a feast of hypocrisy.

# AU Profiles:

## AU Profiles: Barb Rielly

**Christina M. Frey**

*The Athabasca University Students' Union has just elected its new council! The next series of profiles will highlight the new and returning councillors of the AUSU Student Council.*

This week, we meet returning AUSU councillor Barb Rielly, hailing from central Ontario, near Lake Ontario. Barb, whose children are grown, explains why she decided to return to school. She also speaks about the importance of balance in her life, and advises other students to “keep perspective.” “Know your limits!” she says.

Barb is halfway through AU’s Bachelor of Arts four-year program, with a double major in anthropology and psychology.

“Cultural anthropology is my first love,” she says, and initially she’d planned it to be her sole major. However, as she found herself filling up her electives with psychology classes, she realized that “at that point, a double major seemed appropriate,” she says.

Moreover, Barb discovered a relation between the two subjects. They are “not . . . so far apart as it might seem,” she says. “They are different aspects of being human.”

Pointing out that cross-cultural psychology has become a “growing field,” she notes that people of different cultures will not necessarily respond in the same way to the same situation. “We have a lot to learn about how others see things, and how they act and react in their world and ours,” she says.

Barb is a big fan of studying by distance. “I love doing school this way,” she says. “I love not having to drive anywhere or find parking in a hurry because I have a class.”

There’s another advantage: “I never miss a class,” she says. She’s even considering further distance education after graduation. “I like where I am, so if I can pursue further education without too much disruption I shall,” Barb says, “but that is a long way off . . . I’d like to survive my B.A. first!”

Barb enjoys reading, and course-related books are no exception. “I get excited when the books arrive,” she says. “I haunt the post office until they come!”

In the future, however, she would also like to see more lectures offered with courses—delivered on tape or DVD. In the meantime, “courses with video [lectures] are great,” she says.

Barb's decision to return to school came as her children grew older. "I didn't get to go to university out of high school, and ended up married with kids," she says. "At one point I realized that they really didn't need me so much anymore, and that I needed to be more than just Mum."

After seeing a television ad for AU, she went to the school's website and filled out an application. Then "I sat there like a deer in the headlights," Barb says. "I couldn't press send. I was scared to death, afraid of finding out that I really couldn't do it."

She instead had her husband push the "send" button, and her fears soon became history. "There's nothing like an A+ to give the old ego a boost," Barb laughs.

Barb studies part-time, leaving the rest of her time for family, AUSU Student Council duties, and what she refers to as her "part-time job": "counsellor, mom, wife, gardener, and dog owner."

Key to maintaining her sanity is preserving a sense of balance: "I need to be Barb, not just Barb the mom, Barb the student," she says. "So I keep some time off-limits to school."

"It's balanced," she adds. "I can't just be a student . . . I would burn right out."

One of her main priorities is family. "When the kids still lived at home I did school work when they were at school—that left family time untouched," Barb says. Now, she studies while her husband, who works from home, is busy. "That leaves couple time alone," she notes.

Another large part of her life is gardening. "My garden . . . is my joy," says Barb, who grows both flowers and vegetables. "Come planting season, all else can wait!"

While Barb calls herself a "serious gardener"—"every available surface in my house is covered with flats of plants!"—she also finds it a source of relaxation. "There is nothing more therapeutic than ripping out weeds!" she says.

In addition to gardening, Barb also enjoys spending time outdoors. "I have my dogs and our walks to really make the world go away for a bit," she says, "and in the summer there is the lake."

"I am [also] very active on council," adds Barb, who was recently re-elected to the AUSU Student Council for her second term.

For the past year, she has headed the council's Awards Committee—the committee that oversees academic awards, student service awards, and financial need, emergency, travel, and computer bursaries.

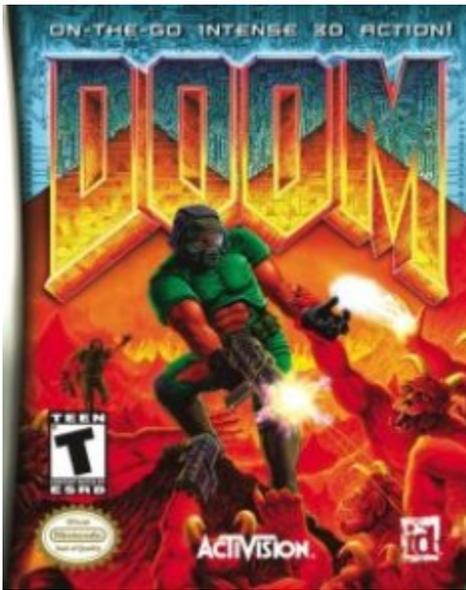
Barb is looking forward to serving on council again.

"We had a great group of people [last year] so it was a good experience all around," she says.



## MILK-CRATE BANDIT

Erik Ditz



### First-Person Shooters: Dos and Don'ts

Now, I'm not normally one to follow video games avidly; I do not own any consoles, hand-held or otherwise, and the only one I ever have had was my dad's old ColecoVision from when *he* was a kid. I'm shocked by the way that people can become so utterly engrossed in fantasy worlds like SecondLife, EverQuest and World of Warcraft that they actually file lawsuits for virtual damages, and the fact that the latest Nintendo system, Wii (pronounced "Wheeee!"; doesn't that sound fun?), actually has built-in reminders that pop up every 15 minutes or so, suggesting that the player go outside and get some air, because people are just that crazy about sitting in front of screens.

The only frame of reference I have for this game craze is the mid-90s, when I was loyally obsessed with DOS-based first-person shooters. I must have spent half of 1995 playing Doom I and II, so I vaguely appreciate the borderline schizophrenia enveloping MMORPG nerds in pixelated characters. Today I wanted to travel back a little bit to those glorious demon-blasting episodes that enriched my life so much, with a look at some of the best games I ever played.

#### Wolfenstein 3D

Wolfenstein is one of the first and remains one of the best. You are an American soldier captured by Nazis and taken prisoner to Wolfenstein Castle, where your goal is to kill everybody you can get your sights on. This game pioneered the style that would be adopted by every single FPS to come after it; simple taskbar display, strategic game play, and fast, near-sentient enemies, and it's still fun after nearly two decades.

#### Doom

Doom has many instalments, including three DOS games, several console adaptations, and a Vin Diesel movie, and it is probably the most widely recognized and copied FPS series ever. Even though most of the elements, like the main character, weapons, level textures, and game play are lifted directly from Wolfenstein, this is forgivable since they were both made by the same company.

The major difference here is that the levels in the game have become puzzle based, forcing the player not just to be a skilled demon hunter but a fast-thinking problem solver as well. The all-MIDI soundtrack has tributes to Slayer, Anthrax, Sepultura and lots of other metal gods, making it the toughest MIDI ever, including Anton Maiden, the guy who killed himself over an online argument about how tuff his MIDI was.

#### Duke Nukem 3D

DN3D is essentially a combination of the original two side-scrolling Nukems with the play style of Doom. Again, this is a very puzzle-based game with smart, quick enemies, but Duke introduces a lot of elements that were non-existent with previous shooters. For one thing, it has a sense of humour, stealing pithy one-liners from Ash (Bruce Campbell in Sam Raimi's *Evil Dead*) and other B-culture heroes, and incorporating plenty of gratuitous bitmap babes. There are also numerous bonuses like inventory (the ability to store

items for later use), jetpacks (the introduction of totally three-dimensional game play), and triggerable weapons like pipe bombs and laser-activated mines. Groovy.

### Hexen

Hexen is a witchcraft-themed version of Doom, where you play a hooded initiate of some kind of clandestine group out to slay monsters by magic and might. Though early console games like Final Fantasy and Gauntlet introduced medieval-themed puzzle solvers and *mana*—a magical energy used to cast spells—Hexen and its sequel Heretic were the only games at the time using these concepts in an FPS. Like Doom, this game is limited to moon-boot gravity (i.e., no jetpacks or jumping around; you're stuck permanently to the floor until you fall off something) and takes itself pretty seriously, but has excellent levels easy to waste a sunny afternoon on.

### Descent

Now this one really shook the foundations of first-person shooting: you're piloting a tiny spaceship through loads of underground mines on distant planets, which means that it's not just your standard labyrinth full of monsters—it's played in three dimensions at all times. Adapting to the controls makes you a bit queasy at first, but this game has all the best parts of those other games and more, making it well worth playing.

### Quake

There are three instalments in the Quake series, which was a revolutionary release to the FPS world; sharper graphics, simplified game play, awesome weapons like the nail gun, and a non-MIDI soundtrack written by Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails. Once these games got online they spawned death-match games like Medal of Honor, Soldier of Fortune, and many, many more. This is a lot of fun to play.

### Redneck Rampage

What? A game about killing coverall-wearing, rebel-flag-flying, chicken-molesting, Democrat-voting, true-blooded Americans? Well, before we get all incensed and write congress a letter, let's see what actual gamers think about the subject of racism in their video games. Yup, thought so: still considered fun.

## DID YOU KNOW?



### Software Savings

As a post-secondary student, you know that the cost of a software program can often add up to more than a couple of courses. So if you're looking for great deals on the software that will make your essays and Venn diagrams shine, check out JourneyEd.

They offer substantial discounts on programs from Microsoft, Adobe, Dell, Avid, and more. All you need is proof of student status, such as your AU Student ID card. If you don't have an AU student card, visit the AU website for info on how to apply—and start saving!

## CANADIAN FASHION

Zuzia Danielski

**Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?**

Fashion lovers are abandoning their own designers and local businesses are paying the price

MONTREAL (CUP) -- It broke our hearts. The last customer trying on the final outfit. The last "ooh la la." The final "ping" of the cash register. And we closed the door behind her. It was the end of Zoola & Loola. Maybe an odd name, but we had poured our soul into that clothing store for the short time it was open.

In early 2005, my mother and I decided to open up a women's clothing store in Peterborough, Ont. A small town, it nevertheless had a large clientele we wanted to cater to: the "authentic woman." Not the super skinny young girl with the choice of a new store each day, but for women size 12 and above. We renovated and turned an old shoe store in a prime downtown location into a boutique.

We had been banking on carrying Linda Lundström. Although likely unknown among the younger generation, women have been turning to her for years for comfortable clothing that comes in "regular" sizes.

The store opened to much acclaim. Since women loved our clothes and flocked to the store, we thought we would ride on the successes of Lundström, one of Canada's top fashion designers.

We were wrong. Although women loved our store and the clothes we carried, they didn't open their wallets as much as we had hoped. After less than two years, we decided to cut our losses. It was one of the hardest things we have ever done.

We weren't the only ones having trouble staying afloat.

One month ago, Linda Lundström announced that she intended to file for bankruptcy. She has been in business for 34 years and was hailed as one of Canada's most successful designers. Just last year she was named one of Canada's most powerful women, ranking in the Women's Executive Network top 100.

How can one of Canada's most successful female entrepreneurs go bankrupt?

Lundström was known for refusing to ship her clothing manufacturing to a cheaper labour destination, such as Asia. Her factory is located in Toronto, where she supervises all production and prides herself on having a company that is environmentally friendly. Many of her designs for the last few seasons were made from "green" fabrics. It was the newest trend—eco-friendly clothing. But it didn't work.

In interviews she stated that the cost of running the business, as well as international currencies, hurt her severely. However, in an interview with the CBC, she also said independent retailers that carry her clothing are also having difficulties.

As I sat in our store in Peterborough, I watched as women came in to browse and try clothing on. The women looked fantastic and they told us they knew they looked good, then they looked at the price tag. It wasn't overly expensive, but maybe they could find something for a better price.

I watched them march right out and drive down to the local Winners store in search of the identical outfit for a quarter of the price. How do I know this? Because I would go to Winners and see our customers trying to hide, embarrassed behind a rack of dresses.

They shouldn't have been shy. Winners is a fantastic store. But it destroys the small independent retailers in the area. It was always a surprise to see the same clothes that we had, hanging on their racks for not even half the price.

At Winners you won't find clothing from a Canadian designer who produces their clothing in Canada, who knows how much is produced, and, if there is any excess, where it will end up.

You end up buying international names instead of supporting the Canadian designer that may be a few dollars more expensive. The problem is that it is only normal to want a good bargain.

So we wait for that fantastic-yet-expensive coat to go on sale. We wait . . . and we wait . . . until we consider the price a good enough deal. Everybody does it. Even I do it.

But that's what kills the store. Because by the time it's at a price low enough for the customer to buy it, the shop owner is making just enough to barely cover the costs of running the business.

When you buy Canadian you know that the garment you have just purchased has been made in a factory here in your own country, by a Canadian who is paid a regulated wage, in good working conditions.

Unfortunately, going to Winners to buy that \$20 shirt means we could be buying in denial. We don't want to know where it's coming from. Maybe knowing whose hands stitched that shirt together might disturb us.

We ignore what we know and contribute to the Canadian fashion industry's failure, allowing great designers to slowly go out of business.

Who knows, maybe if Linda Lundström had her factory out somewhere in Asia she wouldn't be fighting to save her company.

## GETTING IT 'WRITE'



### AU's Write Site

If you're looking for a single place to find all the academic writing help you need, look no further. AU's [Write Site](#) has it covered, from grammar quizzes to ESL support to feedback on individual assignments.

Whether you're trying to organize an essay or put the finishing touches on a project, there's something for everyone at this easy-to-navigate site: the main page outlines just what the Write Site can do; the Staff and Coaching sections explain how to request feedback; and there's even a link to AU writing courses.

Along with the support offered by Write Site staff, students have access to lots of great information, including links to Evaluation of ESL sites. The Writing Resources section includes a comprehensive look at topics such as The Writing Process, Organization, Style, and more, as well as the English Grammar Handbook provided by the AU Centre for Language and Literature.

The writing samples are a great help when you just can't figure out how to organize that argumentative or expository essay, and sections on other writing genres are being added.

There's a lot more to explore at the Write Site, including timed writing assessments, so why not grab your mouse and check it out? It might just make writing that next essay a breeze.



*From  
Where  
I Sit*

Hazel Anaka

## Bulletin, Bulletin

I'm not sure if it's a small-town phenomenon or not. I intend to pay more attention and see if my theory is right. At issue is the matter of community bulletin boards.

Today I paused long enough to actually read some of the stuff covering such a board at the local grocery store. It's about five feet wide by four feet high and the largest indoor bulletin board in this village of 500. It was plastered with signs from top to bottom. There are two large outdoor boards: one beside the post office and another on Main Street. I know the school has several for their very specific audience. There are also smaller ones in various businesses.

There were two notices offering pickup trucks for sale. Each of them included a photo and the familiar fringe of phone number strips at the bottom of the page. There were only three or four missing for the 40,000 dollar truck.

If you can't afford one of the trucks, how about a dusty-rose wing chair? Maybe you've already got the chair but nowhere to plunk it. I was surprised to see two posters asking for a place to live. How thrilled would anyone be to accommodate a "senior woman with dog?" I don't mean the senior, I mean the dog. A bit much to want in a rental, I suspect.

Maybe you're interested in buying a property in Andrew for only \$159,000: two bedrooms, large garage. While I can't exactly picture the property in question the lots all tend to be large; could be a deal for the right people.

And of course in rural Alberta it's not so much spring as it is auction sale season.

A stack of Lindstrand Auction sale posters was front and centre. Posters have come a long way since the one my parents got decades ago when they left the farm. Today's auction posters include full colour photos, graphics, and website backup for more info.

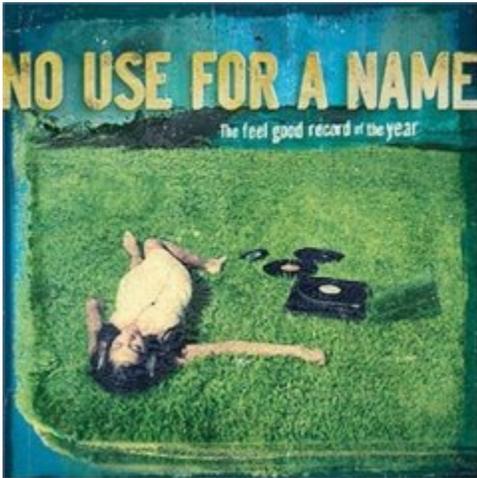
Not every notice has a commercial bent. How about attending a session on completing grant applications? Or the notice advising that the 40-year-old Andrew Sportoff Days held every Canada Day weekend since the country's centennial are officially over because no one is willing to sit on the organizing committee?

Of course, there are the requisite notices about upcoming events both in town and in neighbouring communities. How else would anyone know about spring tea and bake sales, drama productions, skating carnivals, or the restart of the farmers' market for the season? How else would anyone know where to get free kittens, after all? Soon the garage sale posters will appear because there's a lot of good stuff that needs to change hands.

With my kids gone and my business closed my pipeline to what's happening in and around town is severed. I'm glad I took the time to check out the board and get back into the loop, at least momentarily. Scoping out the bulletin board near you makes for some fine reading, from where I sit.

## MUSIC TO EAT LUNCH TO

Mandy Gardner

No Use for a Name – *The Feel Good Record of the Year*

Release date: April 1, 2008

Label: Fat Wreck Chords

Tracks: 14

Rating: 8

No Use for a Name is one of the core bands on the Fat Wreck Chords label, and with the release of *The Feel Good Record of the Year* (no doubt a somewhat tongue-in-cheek title, as is the personality of the record label and band itself) it is evident that despite the dissolution of other major punk bands there are some that can still be relied on. From the characteristic tracks "Under the Garden" and "I Want to be Wrong," the entire record is like a comfort blanket for people like

me who have always had this band in the background of their lives.

"Under the Garden" is the classic type of No Use song:

*We live under the garden where we can hide and not smell the dregs of earth beneath the sun on the same planet on arid ground in arid dirt*

"Ontario" takes the pace a step down, with piano accompaniment and a very Ben Folds feel to the composition, but incorporating lyrics that are reflective of the band's earlier hits like "Justified Black Eye" and the cover single "Redemption Song":

*Nothing could prepare you for that rain*

*When you're living for every minute*

*Makes the moment seem further away*

*Unimaginable for me*

*No words can repair this*

*So why do people still talk about faith*

*When it's proving to be nothing great*

There are some music fans and critics who think that No Use has been a somewhat characterless face within the industry, but I think that *The Feel Good Record of the Year* proves the band is a real force within the music world and is very much deserving of its pedestal within Fat Wreck Chords. The musical composition is, as always, flawless and non-conforming to any demands of the genre, punk or otherwise.

The record has raised my level of respect and appreciation for No Use for a Name, and actually caused me to question my previous indifference to a group of musicians who are able to write such touching songs with longevity; a feat not often accomplished by the most promising of artists.

## AUSU This Month



### AUSU Elections 2008

#### New Council Elected

On March 13 2008, Rehan Qureshi, AUSU's Chief Returning Officer for 2008, announced the results of our election. Your new council, who will take office by April 14, 2008, are:

Karl Low  
Lonita Fraser  
Zil-E-Huma Lodhi  
Barb Rielly  
Sarah Kertcher

Bethany Porter  
Sean Driscoll  
Emily Dukeshire  
Heather Fraser

The new executive will be elected at the time of changeover. Until then, the new councillors-elect will shadow the current council to learn about our programs and services and to begin taking part in council's discussions.

Voter turnout for this year's election was about 80% higher than our last election, but this increase is less impressive when the low turnout overall for both years is taken into account. However, the very large ballot this year may have contributed to this issue. We realize that making selections from this large ballot was difficult and thank everyone who took the time to cast a ballot this year.



The incumbents look forward to working with the new group to continue providing services to AU students and to develop new programs for our members.

Election materials will remain in the forum for a while so that students can learn more about their new councillors.

An announcement of the executive election will appear on the AUSU front page, including a full list of your new council, on April 14th.

Create professional-looking flowcharts, timelines, graphs, and more, in minutes, all by yourself. Then go spend some quality time with your family.

Free for AUSU members. Visit [www.ausu.org](http://www.ausu.org)



### AUSU Merchandise for Sale

Due to a high demand for AUSU merchandise, and delays in setting up our online store, we have put together a quick catalogue with a few items we have

in stock now. To download it in pdf, visit our [home page](#). Shipping costs will be calculated per order and we'll let you know by phone or email.

We are only accepting credit card orders at this time, unless you are able to visit our Edmonton office. Please excuse the poor quality of the product photos. These will be improved shortly. More products will be available soon. Suggestions are welcome.

### AUSU Handbook/Planner 2008 in stock now!

The wait is over! The 2008 AUSU planner is in stock and on its way to members. We've added a few enhancements this year, including cheat sheets for common citation styles, a clip-in page-marker ruler, and a funky fridge magnet to remind you to get your weekly dose of *The Voice*.

Last year we had about 400 pre-orders, but this year we have 1,000! Please be patient. We're working as fast as we can to fill all of the orders and everyone should have their book by the end of January when the 2007 edition calendar pages run out. As always, we're excited to know what you think of the planner and welcome all feedback to [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org)

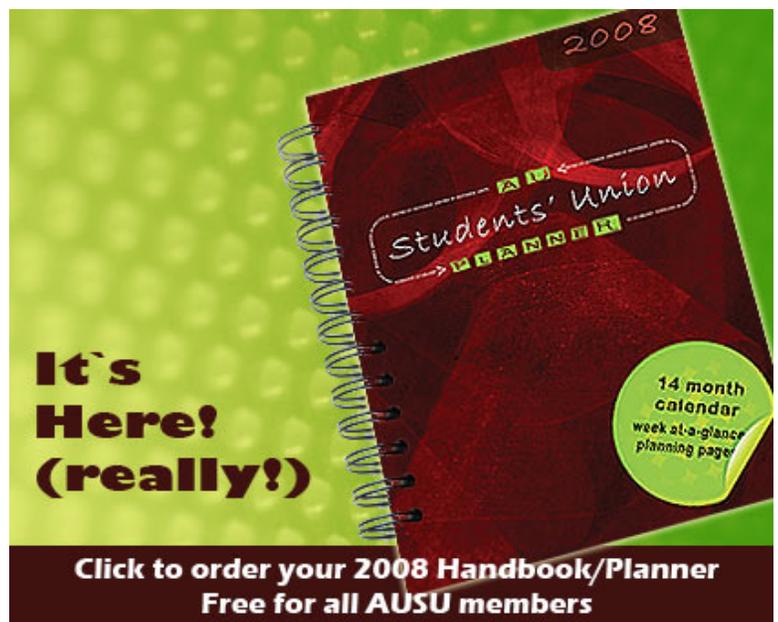
### Smart Draw – Benefit for AUSU members

AUSU has purchased a licence agreement to supply the award-winning SmartDraw software to all AUSU members (current undergraduate students). To access this deal and find out more, visit the front page of our [website](#).

SmartDraw allows you to create a wide range of graphics for your assignments and submit them electronically in a Word file. You can also place your graphics in Excel or PowerPoint files, or export them as TIF, GIF, or JPEG files to make a web graphic or even a logo. Just a few of the graphics you can make include Venn diagrams, genetics charts, graphs, organizational and flow charts, and Gantt charts.

For any course that requires charts that cannot be easily created in Word or Excel, this should be a real time saver and make it easier to submit all portions of an assignment by email. Remember, though, that you should always check with your tutor to find out if there is a specific format he or she prefers. Your tutor does not have to have SmartDraw to view these graphics, however.

Installations under this program are good for one year. The package includes both the Standard and Health Care editions of SmartDraw.





## At Home: Canada's immigration stats changing

Statistics Canada says that the ethnicity of Canada is changing. Groups that make up what are considered Canada's visible minorities are now larger than ever before. The statistical agency tells us that a full 16 per cent of the Canadian population comprises those minorities. This translates into over five million people nationwide.

Visible minorities in Canada include those of Chinese descent, South Asians, Filipinos, Latin Americans, blacks, and Koreans, among others.

Although the term "visible minorities" was called a racist term in 2007 by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Statistics Canada continues to use it in regard to the ethnic groups immigrating to Canada. The employment equity policy of the Canadian government also uses the term to help identify those who can benefit from targeted employment programs.

The majority of Canada's visible minorities primarily make two Canadian areas home, as Toronto and Vancouver continue to draw by far the highest numbers of these immigrants.

In fact, approximately 43 per cent of the entire population of Toronto now comprises visible minorities. Vancouver is nearly the same, with approximately 42 per cent of its total population being from these groups.

Statistics show that the vast majority of immigrants from such minorities settle in major metropolitan areas within Canada, even if Toronto or Vancouver are not their destinations. The shortage of workers in places like Alberta still does not translate into a higher percentage of immigrants settling there, where jobs are plenty.

As CTV News reports, Stats Canada states that in 2006 more than two hundred ethnic origins were represented in Canada's immigrants. Worldwide, Canada is still considered to have one of the friendliest policies toward the immigration of ethnically diverse groups. Currently, Canada could not maintain its population base without massive immigration, as the birth rate continues to remain lower than at any time in history.

## In Foreign News: UK immigration policy changing

Britain has moved ahead this week with new regulations on immigration. Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said that while Britain is still "happy to look at what you have to offer to our country," there will be a new system for managing all the immigration applications.

The Brits have been struggling with how to reduce the influx of workers who only possess low skill levels and to increase the immigration of highly skilled labour. Many politicians there have been working to alter the way migrant workers are judged for the value which they could bring to Britain. It is a common opinion in

the British Isles that workers who only bring low levels of employment skills are not of the most benefit to Britain.

A brand new five-tiered system for assessing immigrants will help limit those approved to work there. This system requires applicants to pass an English test (unless they have a minimum of £1 million to invest in the British economy). Another criterion applicants will face with the new system is based on the current income of an applicant in their home country. Those from wealthier native countries must show higher income than those from less economically stable countries. Income levels are pre-set by British officials by country.

The full five-tiered program will not take effect immediately. The second tier will not begin until later in 2008 and focuses on filling current labour needs in Britain from immigration applicants. Later on, the rest of the five tiers will become a part of the new regulatory process. These levels of assessment will deal with matters of immigrating students, temporary workers, and younger applicants.

Britain's latest immigration regulations will also deal with fines that will be levelled against any business found to be employing illegal immigrants.

### **CLICK OF THE WRIST – Out With It**

With winter finally over and spring weather on the way, everyone's thoughts turn, naturally, to the great outdoors. Whether gardening, jogging, hiking, or soaking up the sun is your thing, it's time to get outside and rediscover what was under all that snow—from top to bottom.

[The Cloud Appreciation Society](#) - Look up. Look way up. Since most of us have spent the last few months with our heads buried in our collars and our eyes on the icy ground, these photos of clouds that look like other things are a welcome sight.

[Satellite Signal Imagery](#) - Instead of looking up at the clouds, this site lets you look down. Use the map controls to navigate to your location, then switch to the satellite view. You might even be able to see your driveway.

[Trees](#) - There's nothing more to be said, because these stunning photographs speak volumes. Incredible.

[Atmospheric Optics](#) - From mountain shadows to rainbows to moon bows (yes, moon bows), this site reveals the optical tricks the sky can play.

[National Trust Gardens](#) - If you find yourself craving the well-ordered paths of an English garden, check out these photos of famous National Trust greenery. I suddenly feel like having high tea.

[George W. Bush Garden Gnomes](#) - And what's a garden without a gnome? Especially one in the likeness of Dubya himself? You can even get a George W. Bush lumberjack garden gnome.

[ABC of Mountain Biking](#) - If gardens (and presidential gnomes) are too sedate for you, there's nothing like some heavy-duty mountain biking to welcome the warm weather. Start with the basics, or book a biking getaway in Switzerland. It's all here.

[Caving Canada](#) - If you're daring enough, you'll find all the info you need to start exploring Canada's caves. Or just enjoy the photos from the comfort of your chair.

## EDUCATION NEWS

Sheena Goodyear



### Nova Scotians study in Newfoundland to save money

As tuition soars in their home province, more Nova Scotia students are flocking to Newfoundland

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) -- Newfoundland may have a problem with the out-migration of skilled workers to Alberta, but it also boasts a steady influx of energetic young Nova Scotians in the form of students seeking cheap tuition fees.

In the last five years, the number Nova Scotian students at Memorial University of Newfoundland has more than tripled. In fact, about half of Memorial's out-of-province students hail from the neighbouring province.

Over a thousand Nova Scotians walk the halls of Memorial this year.

"My sister went to med school at MUN and I just followed her here. Low tuition prices was a big part of it," said Heather McDermott from Cole Harbour, NS.

McDermott is also the president of the university's new-formed MUN Nova Scotia Society.

"We felt that it was really important to give them a place where they could have people with similar backgrounds," McDermott said.

The Society tends to focus on social networking events such as mixers, pub crawls, and fundraisers for charities like the Janeway and the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research.

According to Statistics Canada, Nova Scotia's average annual tuition is \$5,878, while the national average is \$4,524. MUN's is \$2,550—the lowest in the country outside Quebec.

"It's close to home and it's a very similar atmosphere in Newfoundland that you find in Nova Scotia, but a lot of it would have to do with tuition prices, where most of Nova Scotia is increasing without subsidizing," McDermott said.

Acadia University in Wolfville, NS, has among the heftiest tuition fees in the country, at \$6,152 for Nova Scotia students, not including union dues or additional fees. It's \$6,652 for non-Nova Scotians.

"To go to Acadia for a year, it's like the cost of two or three years here in just the tuition," said Steph Power, a Halifax native and director of advocacy with the MUN Students' Union (MUNSU).

"And I mean, you're getting the same quality of education. The degree has the same worth, definitely," she added.

University enrolment has taken hits across the Atlantic provinces this year, especially in Nova Scotia. Acadia University was hit the hardest, registering a 10.1 per cent drop in enrolment. Memorial, however, shirked the trend, only dropping 0.9 per cent, as it boosted its national and international recruitment efforts.

"Newfoundland and Labrador is a vibrant and exciting place to live and study, and is still relatively close to home for students coming from Atlantic Canada," said Sheila Devine, the director of MUN's Office of Student Recruitment.

Devine said that Memorial recruits heavily in Nova Scotia through career fairs, high-school visits, and marketing campaigns like the Rant Like Rick contest, which drew two winners from Nova Scotia last year.

When Power decided to go to university to study kinesiology, she said the choice was between MUN and Dalhousie University in Halifax.

"At Dal I would be paying the same price to go to school and live with my parents as I would be to go to MUN and live at residence," she said.

And it turns out Newfoundland was a good fit.

"It's such a learning opportunity to take yourself out of where you're comfortable and your community, and find a new community and sense of belonging somewhere else," said Power.

Despite her love for St. John's, though, Nova Scotia is still home.

"I love Halifax. I love being home. I don't know where I'm going from here, but I'd definitely like to live there again."

But Nova Scotians won't go unrepresented in the students' union when Power steps down as the vice-president internal of the union.

Cameron Campbell is MUNSU's incoming director of external affairs and chair of the Nova Scotia Society. He hails from Hammonds Plains, a suburb of Halifax—and he's got no plans to go back.

"Now I don't even like it in Halifax—I like it more here," he said. "I just like the city more. The people are similar but a bit more friendly I find. It's still got that East Coast feel," he said.

"I find [Newfoundland] a lot like Nova Scotia. It's very, very comparable, only I can go downtown and I don't have to worry about getting mugged. I have a sister who got mugged twice in the same night [in Halifax] just last semester. I don't like to have to worry about things like that."

But low crime rates and safe streets aren't what drew Campbell to the island in the first place. Just like McDermott and Power, for him, it was all about the money.

"I come from a big family. I'm the oldest of six children, and I'm also the only child in the family to not have any kind of education savings fund," said Campbell. "Price was definitely the number one motivator."

Not to mention, it's close to home, so flying back and forth is fast and affordable.

For Katherine Quackenbush, a star MUN athlete and Halifax native, the choice was simpler.

"My main reason for coming to MUN was because of the strong basketball program," she said.

Quackenbush, guard on the Sea Hawks women's basketball team, has been named the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) Most Valuable Player two years in a row, and Defensive Player of the Year twice in her MUN career. She also just nabbed the James Bayer Memorial Scholarship Award—the most prestigious award offered by the AUS.

Quackenbush says her closest friends are her teammates, and most of them are Newfoundlanders. But McDermott, Campbell, and Power are all members of the Nova Scotia Society, and they say the Nova Scotian community at MUN is tight-knit.

"We all seem to hang out together, which is kind of funny, even though barely any of us knew each other before we came here. There's just such a strong community of us that we get to know each other through residence, 'cause most of us do end up living in residence," said Power.

"We were sitting around the other day, me and Heather [McDermott] were talking about this, and we were trying to think about our circle of friends, and probably 75 per cent of them are from Nova Scotia," said Campbell.

What draws Nova Scotians together? Why is there a Nova Scotia Society, and not, say, an Ontario Society?

"Maybe because NS is a much smaller province than Ontario and there's a greater sense of identity being from a smaller province," said Quackenbush. "Or it could be that some people from NS wanted an excuse to get together and drink Alexander Keith's."

### Hair Brain Scheme 2008 Fundraiser – It's Here!



It's here! The Hair Brain Scheme 2008 fundraiser for Alzheimer research takes place Saturday, April 5.

Come out and support AU's own Bonnie Nahornick as she shaves her head (for the fourth time!) in aid of two good causes: the event will raise funds for the Alzheimer Society, and Bonnie's hair will be donated to Wigs for Kids.

Her co-worker Aretha Smith will be joining in, shaving her head for the first time, and her hair will also be donated to Wigs for Kids!

The event takes place from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 4001 - 49 Street NW (across from Market Mall Professional building), in the Building A Party Room. Please note that parking is on 50th Street.

Seating is limited, so RSVP to Bonnie at baldster2008@yahoo.com or by phone at (403) 860-6569.

There are lots of prizes to be won, including gift certificates to stores and restaurants and prizes from the arts community.

All those who volunteer or have donated prizes will be mentioned during the event and acknowledged on the Gratitude Website.

Here's a glimpse of past fundraisers from 2002 and 2004, just to give you an idea of the hair-raising time you'll be in for!

# CLASSIFIEDS

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Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for more information.

## THE VOICE

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