

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE
Vol 19 Iss 18 2011-05-13

Tahiti Thrills

Should you catch the wave?

Secret Garden

The indie book world

Trash to Treasure

Art with heart

*Plus:
In Conversation With,
From Where I Sit,
and much more!*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@voicemagazine.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.



IN REVIEW

John Buhler

*The Ultimate Wave Tahiti*

Although the surfing and science film *The Ultimate Wave Tahiti* has already made the transition to Blu-ray and DVD, you can still catch the wave in some IMAX theatres. I recently saw the movie at TELUS World of Science in Edmonton, where it is currently playing.

Typical of IMAX films, *The Ultimate Wave* features awe-inspiring cinematography and

exhilarating action. The camera glides along mountain peaks, soars over and around ocean waves, reveals nature's diversity within the coral reef, and portrays the skill and athleticism of highly accomplished surfers as they take on the legendary waves at Teahupo'o in Tahiti.

Filmed on location in Tahiti and its neighbouring islands, the film is informative as well as entertaining, detailing the volcanic formation of the islands, the dynamics of ocean waves, and the development of the coral reefs that make Tahiti a surfer's paradise.

Although surfers are drawn to the location, the film also demonstrates the dark side of the massive waves off the coast. The coral reefs have sunk many boats and ships, claiming an untold number of lives along Tahiti's shores. To drive the point home, we are shown the haunting images of wrecks scattered across the ocean floor surrounding the island. Even surfers themselves are in danger of being pinned under the water until they drown, or getting slammed against the jagged coral reef—although no doubt this knowledge only adds to the adrenaline rush that lures surfers to the island.

However, one element of the film that does definitely not excite is the tedious and occasionally heavy-handed product placement that appears throughout. One shot that lingers on the hood of a Suzuki vehicle, for example, is far from subtle. I couldn't help wondering whether the film's token global warming message would have been stronger if an automobile manufacturer had not been a major sponsor.

There are other problems. The film also features two surfers, Raimana Van Bastolaer (described on the film's website as a "Tahitian surfing legend") and world surfing champion Kelly Slater. Van Bastolaer watches for the signs that will herald the arrival of the big Teahupo'o waves, and, when the time is right, summons the world's best surfers to the island. Van Bastolaer is strongly connected to nature, to the island, and to his family. But when he talks of the island's mythology, his words, along with displays of traditional Tahitian dances and images of primitive masks, give the viewer a sense that the island's culture is steeped in superstition. And although surfing is an ancient Polynesian art, Van Bastolaer has grown older and flabby; the pinnacle of surfing prowess belongs to a non-native.

"[E]ven if unintentional, the film's contrast between Van Bastolaer—the older, perhaps spiritual practitioner of the ancient Polynesian art of surfing—and the white super-athlete outsider is disturbing."

In contrast to the somewhat out-of-shape Polynesian who talks about legend and mythology, the super-fit and award-winning Kelly Slater is the one who (briefly) makes reference to global warming and the possible death of the coral reef. (We can only wonder whether Van Bastolaer has an opinion on the subject.) As a result, Slater is not only associated with the competitive edge and international success, but also with scientific knowledge and environmental awareness.

The two surfers are presented as comrades. Yet even if unintentional, the film's contrast between Van Bastolaer—the older, perhaps spiritual practitioner of the ancient Polynesian art of surfing—and the white super-athlete outsider is disturbing. It's telling that although the movie might try to treat the two surfers as equals, the film's advertisement outside the TELUS World of Science only features Slater. The depiction of Van Bastolaer comes across as the stereotype of the mystical native elder. Slater, meanwhile, reminded me of Old Shatterhand from the Karl May novels of more than a century ago: like May's fictional European character among North American natives, Slater appears to outdo the native Polynesians in performing their own traditional skills.

Yet, in spite of its watered-down environmental message, an almost painful use of product placement, and the manner in which the two principal surfers are presented, *The Ultimate Wave Tahiti* is in many respects a good film. It offers great cinematography, easy-to-grasp explanations of natural processes, and an engaging portrayal of a surfing adventure. Caveats aside, it is a worthwhile learning experience and thrilling entertainment that will appeal to the entire family.



The Ultimate Wave Tahiti is playing in several other IMAX venues across Canada, some for a limited time. For locations, check the film's theatre [listings page](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Bilingual Chat

Learning a new language can be difficult, particularly if you're in a distance learning setting or picking it up on your own. Even the best self-study programs lack the immersion aspect and the opportunity to casually converse in that language, thus practicing speaking and listening fluency.

[Bilingual Chat](#), a brand new initiative, is a social network created to fulfill that need. Accounts are free, and users can join forums, log into open chat rooms, and make one-on-one connections for additional conversational practice. You can also use a basic e-translator or set up instant messaging or video chats.

Not learning a language, but interested in international cultures? Bilingual Chat also allows you to “help others with their English, learn about foreign countries, and get some valuable travel advice.”

Whether you're a student struggling through first-year German, a manager looking to upgrade her French skills, or a traveller seeking to learn the basics of Japanese language and culture, Bilingual Chat may help you further your linguistic goals.



IN CONVERSATION WITH . . .

Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Charge of the Light Brigade, Part II

Charge of the Light Brigade is a Toronto-based alternative band influenced by punk, rockabilly, 60s folk-rock, techno, and prog rock. It's known for its thoughtful, evocative lyrics and has recently released a debut album, The Defiant Ones.

A previous solo release by the group's songwriter and guitarist, Luke Sneyd, included an early demo of his track "The Prisoner"—a finalist in the Unisong International Songwriting Contest. The video won him a Top 5 spot in the Great Canadian Band Challenge.



Recently, Luke took the time to talk with Wanda Waterman St. Louis about creative consumption, the politics of the libertarian left, and surviving the occupational hazards of family life. (Read Part I of the interview [here](#).)

Backstory

My uncle got me a ukulele for Christmas when I was eight; I fell in love with it instantly. A couple of years later, my grandfather repaired a broken guitar that had been left in my parents' basement, and that was that. I studied some blues, jazz, and classical, but was always most interested in creating my own stuff.

Marc's a classical pianist and one of those natural multi-instrumentalist types who just blow your mind. After dabbling with trumpet and sousaphone for his high school marching band, Jason picked up bass and never looked back. Owen went to Humber for drums, but quit when the bands he was playing with began to take off. We've all played with different bands. My first serious band was Mountain Mama, an over-the-top electro-rock act back in the early 2000s. Jason played with power-pop acts Ryan Luchuck and Clockwise. Owen's played with lots of people, including Blue Peter and the Infidels.

The Tender Years

I grew up in Toronto. My parents were divorced and both remarried when I was pretty young. Early on, life was pretty good, though a little disjointed, shuffling between family units every few weekends.

My mother eventually split from my stepdad, who was high-strung and controlling. She was bipolar—vivacious, depressive, bright, creative, funny, and occasionally terrifying. A lot of the time I was in high school life was very free, as she encouraged me to explore my creative side. But the dark patches kept getting worse. I moved out when I was 20; things felt like they were spiralling out of control, which they were.

She couldn't work, and moved back to her parents'. There were multiple suicide attempts. Things did get better; she met someone completely randomly, a Slavic immigrant she saw on the subway. He helped her

piece her life back together. They married and were fairly happy, though their life together was weird by pretty much any standard. Then she had a heart attack and died, probably due to all the medications and overdoses she'd subjected herself to over the years.

"I'm a big believer that you create the value in your life. No one measures it for you."

Ain't life grand? In spite of all that, there were a lot of great moments in my childhood—travelling together, laughter, lots of good friends from the gifted program I was in. Those memories I hold close.

On Ideology

My Facebook page says I'm a "quasi-agnostic existential spiritualist with a deep-seated belief in the pointless interrelatedness of all things." More seriously, I'm a big believer that you create the value in your life. No one measures it for you.

Politically, I'm a lefty libertarian. I was just reading David Suzuki lamenting how people are more focused on the gun registry than they are on the environment, and that captures our current predicament well. Narrow, self-interested concerns tend to trump larger, more challenging issues. The economy could be tooled to be more sustainable, less environmentally destructive, but the will has to be there for it to happen, to counter all the entrenched interests.

When some . . . mayor gets elected because he wants to "stop the gravy train" and then starts handing out lucrative consulting contracts on cuts, cuts that will lead to more privatization and higher costs down the road, you have to question if anyone's really paying attention.

Creative Consumption

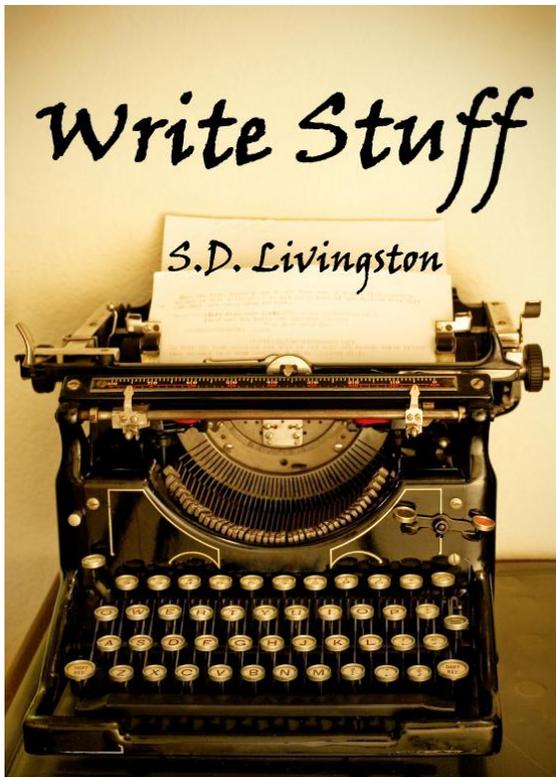
Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*, Roman Polanski's *Chinatown*, Coppola's *The Godfather Parts I & II*, David Lynch's *Blue Velvet*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, the entire canon of zombie films, the *Battlestar Galactica* reboot series, Cormack McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*, Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* series—anything that explores our ambiguous place in the world, the power we wield rightly and wrongly, and the tenuousness of our relationships. I live and breathe that stuff. Musically, The Cure's *Disintegration* reflects that. But a host of other bands, from The Beatles, Zeppelin, and the Stones through The Clash, Elvis Costello, Radiohead, Smashing Pumpkins, The Pixies, and current acts like Phoenix and Muse have all had an influence.

What's Next?

We're playing the International Pop Overthrow festival in Liverpool in May. Can't wait to clamber onto the stage at The Cavern Club, where the Beatles got their start. After that, gigging around closer to home, as much as we can, bringing the album to the people.



**Above: Charge of the Light Brigade.
Photo: Allison Janzen.**



Indie World of Publishing, Part I: Finding Treasure

It's official: publishing options abound, readers are ready, and the indie publishing revolution's become a driving force. If you're in the business, you've probably got RSS feeds pinging away and can quote J.A. Konrath's blog posts chapter and verse. But for the average reader—and aspiring indie writer—it can all seem a bit overwhelming.

To help you navigate, we've lined up some great jumping-off points; sites with reliable info and plenty of credibility earned in the indie trenches. Whether you're looking for a great indie read, want to talk about your new favourite indie author, or are thinking of putting your own literary darling in front of the world, these links will start you down the yellow brick road. This week, it's all about getting the lowdown on that indie book you're eyeing before you take a chance at the e-checkout.

For readers, choice isn't the issue. We're positively spoiled by the stuff, and surfing indie offerings is akin to standing in the world's largest Costco, surrounded by acres of merchandise.

The trick is wading through it to find just the right thing.

Of course, readers can check the star ratings and reader comments at retail sites. But there's nothing quite like finding one or two trusted voices, bloggers who've gained reputations for fair, thoughtful reviews. So besides the obvious names (like Goodreads), here are a few sites that might have slipped past your radar.

Spalding's Racket is one site that posts indie book titles and helps readers find new authors. The site doesn't do reviews, but as the guidelines note, quality matters and the site "won't just upload anything!" Think of it as a pre-flight check. Regular blog readers can subscribe to find new titles as they're posted, but if it's your first visit you might want to scroll through the archives to make sure you haven't missed anything (I recently stumbled across a couple of great finds that way).

If you're looking to dig deeper, **Red Adept Reviews** has garnered attention for unbiased, detailed reviews, along with author interviews.

Another site that gets kudos for honest reviews (in spite of the occasional author meltdown) is **BigAl's Books and Pals**. The site offers "reviews and more from the world of the Kindle," so there's a chance you may spot a great read that's only available for Kindle. However, since most indie authors offer their books at multiple retailers, a little Googling should do the trick.

The motherlode, though, can be found at **Hampton Networks**, billed as the "Indie Book Blog Database." You can search by category, and one nice feature is that the review blogs themselves can be rated. There's no guarantee that every review site maintains a high level of quality, but with a



little surfing you're bound to find some solid favourites.

Two more sites deserve a mention. First up is the [Indie eBook Hall of Fame](#). This blog doesn't do reviews, but it does list books that have "received a positive recommendation from at least three independent bloggers." Simply follow the "Books" link at the top of the page to search by genre.

Finally, be sure to check out the [Book Corner](#) over at Kindle Boards. Community spirit truly thrives there, and the boards are well moderated. It's also a bonus that you don't need to create an account to follow the discussions, so you're free to pop in and get the scoop on what other readers are saying.

Next week we'll look at some of the places indie authors gather—and discuss a few things to watch out for if you're thinking of taking the plunge and self-publishing. Until then, happy reading!

CLICK OF THE WRIST

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Now that spring seems to have finally sprung, both experienced and newbie gardeners are pulling out trowels and rakes and stocking up on seeds and plants. Even if you hate vegetables, it's hard not to get excited about the idea of little green plants poking up through the dark earth. This week's links offer tips on planning and preparing your summer garden.

Frost Free

When is it safe to plant? That depends on your area—and how likely you are to have one last spring frost. This chart, from The Gardener's Resource website, lists the last frost dates for Canadian cities.

An App for That

Gardening is all about getting close to nature. So how do new technology and the gardener's world mix? Very well, according to *Canadian Gardening* magazine. Their top 10 smart phone apps for gardeners are sure to help you get in bloom.

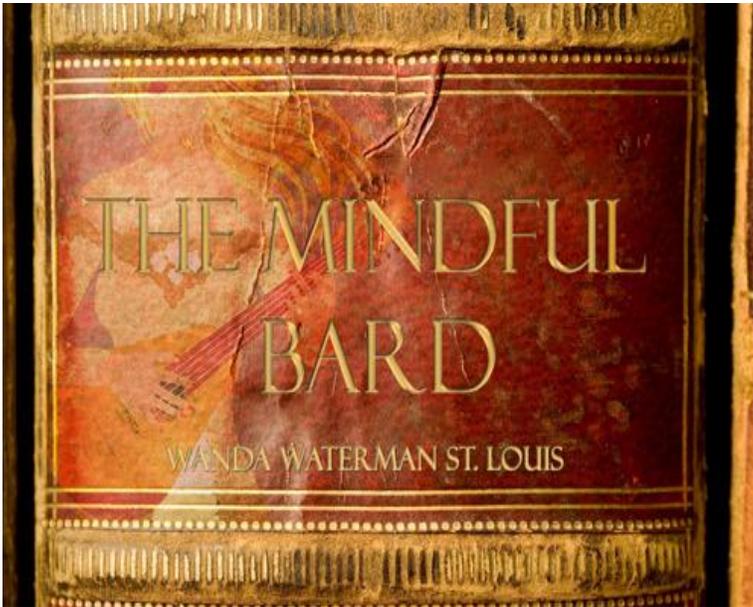
Fertilize It

One person's trash may be another's treasure, but your own kitchen garbage may help you grow glorious plants. Intrigued? The *Globe and Mail's* guide to building a compost heap will get you started.

No Room

Live in an apartment or townhouse, or simply don't want to deal with creating and maintaining a traditional garden? This video, from the University of Minnesota's extension program, shows how you can grow vegetables and herbs on your deck or balcony. It also discusses why container gardening is important in terms of the local food movement.





Books, Music, and Film to Wake Up Your Muse and Help You Change the World

Film: *Waste Land* (2010)

Genre: Documentary

Director: Lucy Walker

The Magical Kingdom at the Threshold of a Broken World

Every spring, it's carnival time in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. And even while the parade is still in progress the dancers and prancers begin to shed their costumes and surrender them to the busy host of sanitation workers who clear

the streets of the wire, gauze, feathers, sequins, great iridescent dragon wings, and towering headpieces.

All these trappings of spurious glamour end up at a gargantuan landfill called Jardim Gramacho, the biggest dump in the world, where drug addicts, homeless people, the mentally ill, and even middle class people down on their luck eke out a living sorting through the refuse for recyclable materials which they can sell to a motley collection of buyers. The area is surrounded by a drug cartel. The occasional dead body is stashed here. Many of the three thousand *catadores* (pickers of recyclable materials) live on site for most of the week in makeshift shacks containing appliances and furniture gathered from the dump. Many live in family groups, and some are teenage girls raising small children.

Famed Brazilian artist Vik Muniz has made a career of using “garbage” or unusual substances as his media. He and the film’s producers have perfectly fulfilled the Mindful Bard objectives by wedding a social project—painting the *catadores* and then giving them the proceeds of the paintings’ sales—with the creation of good art.

When he first visits Jardim Gramacho, Muniz sees a site milling with dump trucks and workers, as flocks of birds hover nearby. It's a *tableau vivant* under the brilliant Brazilian sky: athletes limber as monkeys climbing over mountains of colourful garbage to weed out whatever can be sold.

The *catadores* always seem to be in such good spirits, even those who claim that the life there is terrible. They exhibit a sense of camaraderie. They have loving families. They look fit and healthy. Some of them are attractive enough to be actors or models, and some are articulate enough for public



Above: Jardim Gramacho.
Photo: Vik Muniz, courtesy of Vik Muniz Studio.

*“Thank God for poverty
That makes and keeps us free,
And lets us go our unobtrusive way,
Glad of the sun and rain,
Upright, serene, humane,
Contented with the fortune of a
day.”*

William Bliss Carman

life, discussing Nietzsche and Machiavelli. And they’re organized—they’ve formed the Association of Pickers of Jardim Gramacho, advocating for each other and for better working conditions with a clear-headed zeal.

To outsiders, they are seen as the dregs of Brazilian society. That is, until Vik Muniz paints their portraits.

Watching the garbage roll off these trucks, hearing the clinking of broken glass, seeing these people sliding precariously on the mountains of trash, and imagining the rich stench rolling off of the loose garbage is an incredible vicarious sensory experience. And as the aerial photos of the landfill reveal the magical qualities of various sights of Jardim Gramacho—like the shimmer of the slopes or the incessant gliding and circling of the winged carrion eaters—

you start to fall in love. When you get to know some of the *catadores*, you’re utterly smitten.

Vik Muniz and the makers of this film did not simply respond to a suffering planet by making art. Neither did they respond to suffering with social action that had no cultural or aesthetic value. They responded with compassion by means of a social project founded on good art. From where *The Mindful Bard* is standing, this is one of the few effective formulas for social change.

It doesn’t hurt that the *catadores* are contributing to a reduction in greenhouse gasses, that they exemplify the kind of simplicity in living advocated by Thoreau, and that they are incredible human beings, every last one.

Waste Land manifests seven of *The Mindful Bard*’s criteria for films well worth seeing: 1) it poses and admirably responds to questions that have a direct bearing on my view of existence; 2) it harmoniously unites art with social action, saving me from both seclusion in an ivory tower and slavery to someone else’s political agenda; 3) it inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; 4) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 5) it renews my enthusiasm for positive social action; 6) it is authentic, original, and delightful; and 7) it makes me appreciate that life is a complex and rare phenomenon, making living a unique opportunity.



**Above: Muniz’s artwork, created from trash and inspired by the *catadores*.
Photo: Vik Muniz,
courtesy of Vik Muniz Studio.**



*From
Where
I Sit*

Hazel Anaka

Lovely

Is there anything quite as lovely as a good haircut? The kind of cut that does exactly what you ask of it: it flatters your features and falls naturally without a ton of product and hours of fussing. It maximizes what you've got in terms of thickness and texture, and doesn't rely on gimmicks or extraordinary measures.

In a world of mediocrity with a whole whack of hairdressers who finished in the bottom half of their class, finding a stylist who "gets it" is akin to winning the lottery. She's part shrink (the good listener), part technician (understands the geometry, tools, and products) and part sorcerer (turns vision into reality).

After an absence of many years—during which I had dalliances with many others—I recently returned to Sheila. During my lifetime of getting haircuts she is the best I've encountered, with Diane running a close second. I left Sheila years ago because of the no small matter of money. Her haircuts were approaching \$40 16 years ago, and it was more than I could comfortably pay. Today, \$40 looks like a bargain; of course, now the cut is \$55.

In a masterful act of rationalization, I decided that if I could spend a bundle on my acrylic nails, surely my hair was worth the splurge too. Roy will retire today as my colourist, because this grey hair isn't going anywhere and it needs the technical skill of a trained professional using quality product. Not a good guy blundering through with a drugstore box of colour.

The colour correction, foil highlights, haircut, and about three and a half ounces of Aveda protector for use with straighteners set me back four hours and \$210. The next round will be cheaper because it'll just be root touch-up and a few strategic highlights. The highlights are intended to give an overall lighter look and provide more camouflage for the unrelenting grey. The salon's loyalty program means that after six cuts, the seventh is free.

Woohoo.

With her 25 years of experience, Sheila knew how to ask questions—and listened intently. She switched my part from the right to the left to hide a cowlick I didn't know I had. That little bugger had ruined many a hairdo because no one had ever explained it before and I had no clue. Sheila reduced the bulk and sharpened up the profile of the style. She gave me bangs that weren't laughable anymore. She explained what she did and why. Lovely.

Equally lovely are two bouquets of tulips: one gracing the corner of my desk, the other in the living room. Delicate purple, bright orange, and soft baby pink blooms combine to make me smile. They carry a message of hope and renewal. They scream spring. Forty stems for \$20 is a great deal.

Whether we spend a little or a lot, we all need a bit of *lovely* in our lives, from where I sit.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Incredible Journey Through Social Media

Oh, the things you can do with social media. Locate old friends. Make new contacts. Spread videos and share articles. Track down criminals. Or, in the case of one runaway cat, find your missing owner.

As the *Edmonton Journal* [reports](#), the lost cat had begun living under a deck at a home in Victoria, BC. The locals, who were “concerned for its welfare,” contacted Animal Control Services.

Animal Control Services realized that the cat had an identifying microchip, and the technology linked it to the Montreal SPCA from which it had been adopted. However, when the records were checked, staff realized that the cat’s owners had moved, and their number had since been disconnected. Unknown to the organization, the owners were now in British Columbia.

A staff member “suggested Facebook was worth a try,” soon finding a matching Victoria-based name and initiating a friend request. For legitimacy purposes, the staff member “decided to take photographs of the cat and use one as a profile picture.”

From there, “contact was made” and cat and owner were reunited again. And equally happy with the outcome was Ian Fraser of Victoria Animal Control Services, who told reporters, “It just shows you what ends we’ll go to try to locate someone and reunite them with their animal.”

Around the World: The Case for More Sleep

Feeling sleepy at work? That’s a cue you need more rest. But even if you don’t feel tired, minimal sleep can cause your brain to function at lower levels—without your knowledge.

As *National Geographic’s* Daily News site [reports](#), recent studies suggest that “[parts] of your brain may doze off even if you’re totally awake.”

The study, which “observed the electrical activity of brains in rats forced to stay up longer than usual,” showed that while the rats’ “overall brain activity” indicated that they were awake, parts of their brains were taking a snooze. Specifically, the brain regions which aid in problem solving “fell into a kind of ‘local’ sleep.” Meanwhile, the rats had more difficulty performing more “challenging” tasks.

However, a bystander “couldn’t tell” that the rats were “in any way in a different state of wakefulness,” University of Wisconsin, Madison neuroscientist Giulio Tononi told reporters. Tononi co-authored the study.

Scientists believe a similar effect occurs among sleep-deprived humans as well, which is significant. As Tononi told reporters, lack of sleep “actually affects behaviour—you make a mistake.” Additionally, he cautioned that “you don’t need to feel sleepy to screw up.”

AUSU UPDATE



Convocation 2010

AUSU wishes to congratulate this year's graduates, whether attending Convocation in person or by distance. We wish you the best of luck in your future pursuits. You are an inspiration to all AU students!

AUSU Executive Election

AUSU has recently held its internal election for the Executive. We wish to congratulate Barbara Rielly (President), Bethany Tynes (Vice President External and Student Affairs) and Sarah Kertcher (Vice President Finance and Administration) on their election and thank those that ran for their willingness to serve.

Internal elections are being held to determine committee membership and we expect that all will be in place shortly. Our new Council is taking its bearings and has already begun to set the direction for this term.

Student Issues

AUSU recently completed a compilation of reported student issues covering a two year period; all issues were recorded in such a way as to ensure that student information remains protected and private. This effort confirmed what we long suspected; that tutor problems were the single biggest issue faced by our students (56 of 120 complaints).

Outdated course materials and errors in texts continue to be reported as well as were exam issues, slowness of the transfer process, and the scantiness of information in School of Business FAQs. Over that two year period there was a decrease in the number of complaints about student financing, exam request problems, difficulty registering in more than six courses, and materials shortages for courses. Kudos to AU for improving in those areas. Now if we could only get the Tutors' Union to the table . . .

New 2010 AUSU Handbook/Planners – Arrived!

Finally! People have already started receiving the new planners in the mail, and we're currently shipping them out as fast as the orders come in. Full of useful information about AUSU, writing styles, course grading, great finds online for your studies that you may not have known about, as well as having places to write down your phone numbers, keep track of your assignments, and, oh yeah, a year's worth of calendar to plan out your schedule too. We'll give one free to each AUSU member just for the asking.

Remember, though, we only print a limited number of these each year, so when they're gone, they're gone.

Let 'em Know who Represents for You!

AUSU logo mugs, hoodies, USB keys, and much more are all available for sale from our office. Also, used locks can be purchased at half price! Check out our merchandise catalog on our front page. You should

check out our hoodies in particular—made in Canada and 100% bamboo, we're offering them for just barely over our cost, and they're both durable and comfortable.

And if you have new little ones in your family, or know somebody who does, check out our baby onesies. Made by American Apparel, these onesies are high quality and let folks know your kids are growing up to great things as a "Future Graduate of Athabasca U"

AUSU Scheduling Meeting with Tutors' Union – Not really an Update

Some things resist change. We're still waiting for a response from the Tutor's Union as to when we might be able to meet with them to discuss ways that AUSU and the Tutor's Union can work together to ensure that students are getting the contact they need. Unfortunately, they haven't yet replied, so we're stepping up our campaign to get in touch with them. If you want to help, the next time you're talking to your tutor, ask them if they know when the Tutor's Union will meet with AUSU so that the groups can work together on common issues.

Our statistics we've been collecting from the forums and your calls show that issues with tutors - specifically the amount of time taken for marking assignments and exams are your number one concern. Help us help you.

SmartDraw Program Renewal

Some of you who took advantage of our program to provide SmartDraw software to members have been getting notifications that your software license will soon be expiring. Fortunately, AUSU will be continuing this program, so if you haven't already, go to the AUSU home page to download the newest version.

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.

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Representing AU
Undergrads

Student Gear

2009 merchandise

Clothing
Technology
Fun Items
Home Decor

Fostering the Student Community

AUSU and Voice gear is intended to support your studies and help you feel like part of the AU student community. Suggestions for new items are welcome. Contact our office with any questions.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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