

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*Volume 15 Issue 18
May 18, 2007*



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Hey You, Get Off Of My Cloud

Rainmakers Need Not Apply

It's Easy Being Green

A Valuable Lesson Taught by B.C. Schools

*Plus:
Lost & Found
From Where I Sit
Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan
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and much more...

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from the readers

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLASSIFIEDS



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

Dear Editor:

I have been an avid fan of *The Voice Magazine* since enrolling at Athabasca University in November 2001. I remain a loyal reader after graduation.

It's exciting that the publication has grown and has new editorial direction at the helm.

But, I wonder why Sandra Livingston's editorial in *The Voice Magazine* Volume 15 Issue 16 2007-05-04 required footnotes. Editorials are, after all, opinion pieces and not academic publications.

The Voice Magazine's editorial policies clearly state:

2.2 The Editor and writers will work in keeping with Canadian Press Journalistic Style.

The Voice will not publish items the Editor judges to be in poor taste, or unsuitable for an educated, sophisticated audience.

The Canadian Press Style Book 12th Edition, Page 14 recommends the following best practice for reporters, writers and editors:

2. Cite competent authorities and sources as the origin of any information open to question. Have proof available for publication in the event of a denial.

This Canadian Press best practice clearly allows the new Editor to freely express her opinion - no footnotes required. I look forward to the retirement of footnoted editorials.

Teresa Neuman, B.P.A.
2138057
Ottawa, ON

Teresa,

Thank you for your response to this article and for your devotion to the Voice even after graduation.

I'm a little puzzled by your letter, though. Voice editorial policy is among the guidelines used to create the Voice, as are the guidelines of the Canadian Press, and neither prohibits the use of footnotes in an editorial, nor would such a prohibition alter our practice if we felt that the notes were necessary, informative, or of interest to readers. While an opinion article is, by definition, based on personal opinion, where those opinions are based on external sources citations or footnotes should be included so that readers can familiarize themselves with the original content to contextualize the commentary. The portion of the Canadian Press Guidelines that you quote support and encourage this usage. While many papers do not supply this option, we find that engaged readers often wish to read further on an issue and would rather not search the web to locate the referenced article. For those who are not interested in further reading, the footnotes can easily be disregarded and should not hinder the reader as they appear at the end of the article.

I would rather err on the side of providing as many reference links as possible as a convenience to interested readers, than adhere to the bare minimum standards of a press book intended for hard-copy publications, where space is at a premium. We will continue to provide links to any referenced source where possible and aim to keep these links as unobtrusive as possible for readers who are not interested in linking outside of the Voice.

Tamra Ross
Editor in Chief

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The Silver Lining

On this Victoria Day long weekend—affectionately known by countless Canadians as May Two-Four—the lifejackets will be pulled out of storage, the highways will be bumper-to-bumper, and everyone will be hoping for good weather. All eyes will be turned skyward, and if the clouds unleash a torrent or the temperature turns chilly, there will be grumbles about the lousy weather and ruined weekend. But those clouds remind me that behind every rained-out ball game and wind-tossed wedding party there is, indeed, a silver lining: that human beings *can't* control the weather.

Not to come down too hard on the side of the misanthropists, but let's face it, there aren't too many human endeavours that haven't been sidetracked or mismanaged by our baser instincts.

Before we go on, let's make one important distinction: weather predictions are not the same as weather control. If technology can come up with ways to predict violent storms, droughts, or earthquakes, if we can somehow prevent the catastrophic ruin and loss of life from the next tsunami or Hurricane Katrina, it would be criminal not to. Government bungling and slipshod levees aside, advance warnings and effective disaster management programs make sense.

Right now nature deals the weather cards, but there are plenty of schemes afoot on how to change that. There's cloud seeding, which involves putting chemicals such as silver iodide into clouds. The idea is that the chemicals create snow or rain by condensing the moisture in the clouds into ice.

That one's been around for a while, but a newer idea would see microwave energy blasted from space satellites to interrupt the convective flow of tornadoes. The silver iodide technique has also been suggested as a way to control fog or reduce the size of hailstones.

The real corker has to be this one, though: some scientists have suggested that, to fight global warming, a man-made ring of spacecrafts or small particles should be positioned around the Earth. The logic? The ring of objects would cast shade on the tropics, lowering temperatures and mitigating extreme weather. And the side effects? Enough illumination to brighten the night sky as much as a full moon would.

It would, like so many other things, start out with the best of intentions. But imagine if the same corporations and governments that strip-mine the land and pollute our water could control when and where it rained. Imagine if the relative handful of people with power and control, the ones who throughout history have forced millions from their homes and property in the name of profit, could actually decide what the temperature would be; could hold meetings to determine which countries would get the climate to produce good crops, or which ones would be left in too-dry or too-cold conditions and forced to import food at inflated prices.

The thought makes me glad that the average weather forecast is a chancy prospect at best.

So if it does happen to rain this holiday weekend and you find yourself staring through the screen and watching the Jet Ski bobbing forlornly at the edge of the dock, here's what to do: stick out your tongue, catch a few raindrops, and just be very, very glad that the sun, the wind, and the rain are still completely out of our control.

The *Voice* Great Canadian Place Challenge

Are you a snow-loving Rocky Mountain gal?

A wide-open-spaces Prairie kind of guy?

Or maybe someone who can't get enough of the rugged coasts and fresh Atlantic air in the east?

Tell us why the place you live is the best place in Canada, in *The Voice* Great Canadian Place Challenge!

Is it the people? The places? The natural Canadian beauty?

Convince us (and *Voice* readers) that Anzac, Alberta is the must-see place for a vacation this summer, or that there's nothing like watching a sunrise in Wrigley, Northwest Territories.

Selected submissions will be paid at regular *Voice* rates, and the winner will also receive a prize pack of *Voice* goodies.



There are two ways to brag about why you're living in the best-kept secret in the country:

1. Send us a 400 - 500 word article explaining what makes your city or town special, or
2. Submit 6 - 8 photos in electronic format (e.g., JPEG, GIF) with a short caption for each one.

Submissions selected for publication will appear in *The Voice* throughout the summer, and the winner will be selected by *Voice* staff on September 30, 2007. Send submissions to voice@ausu.org

All entrants agree to have their names and submissions published in *The Voice*. All articles must be original, unpublished works, and will be edited for spelling, grammar, and clarity. Photos must be original and unpublished, and must be good quality electronic format.

Send us your photos and articles today, and you might just win the bragging rights to the best place in Canada!





From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Stop the Blame Game

Regular readers of "From Where I Sit" may remember a past column about the growing issue of rudeness and incivility. From inconsiderate cellphone users to road rage to the epidemic of f*** you, we've seen it all, been on the receiving end, and, heaven forbid, may have been an offender.

In this update, I'm sorry to advise that if anything, things have gotten worse, not better. Rudeness seems to have escalated to violence. Why settle for swearing and flipping the bird when you've got lethal force in the form of a gun or knife? The vocabulary of some people, not just teen boys, either, has shrunk to the point that the F-word makes up most of the content. A study has linked lack of vocabulary with a lack of coping mechanisms. I guess it means these people have fewer ways to express themselves, deal with issues, and find a non-aggressive way to cope. I can write a column or a letter, make a phone call, or climb on a soap box because I have the tools to do it. I don't need fists or weapons or threatening language to make my point.

Another step backward I've noticed is the increasing incidence of celebrity misbehaviour. Michael Richards, a.k.a *Seinfeld's* Kramer, loses it when some black hecklers interrupt his stand-up comedy routine. He's duly apologetic, goes into rehab, meets with key black leaders, and tries to salvage his career and reputation. Isaiah Washington of *Grey's Anatomy* does an anti-gay tirade, not once but twice, on lovable George, a.k.a T.R. Knight. Same routine: apologize, go straight to rehab, do not pass go.

And we mustn't forget Mel Gibson's drunken anti-Semitic meltdown that led to alcohol addiction counselling and meetings with Jewish leaders and, of course,

the requisite apologies.

The ultimate has to be the Rev. Ted Haggard, who preaches against the evils of homosexuality but is caught allegedly visiting a male prostitute for "massages" and crack cocaine (which he didn't use). Off he goes to rehab only to return three weeks later—completely heterosexual. A miracle indeed. Is there rehab for hypocrisy?

More recently, Alec Baldwin makes headlines when a private call between him and his young daughter is made public—words spoken in anger to a child. Is there a parent alive who wouldn't want to take back some words uttered in the heat of the moment? Or what about Hugh Grant, hurling a container of baked beans at a paparazzo? Or radio host Don Imus insulting young black female basketball players?

I think it's high time we all took responsibility for everything that comes out of our mouths. Don't blame alcohol or drugs. Don't blame anger or provocation. If we need rehab or sensitivity training or anger management, for heaven's sake let's get it. If we need a refresher in common sense, call mom or dad. It's time to bring back some common decency and golden-rule type behaviour. And it doesn't matter whether we're celebrities or little people, from where I sit.



Some Voices

In ancient times, when the winter winds blew early, wolves would come down from the hills looking for the easy prey of domesticated animals. In gathering places, the people would cluster together for security, and stare off into the darkness beyond the bonfire light, watching for movement in the shadows . . .

When he wakes in the night, he hears rough, whispered voices in the next room of his condominium. For a long time he lies there, unsure whether it would be more terrifying to open his eyes or to keep them closed. Eventually, he realizes that his wife has fallen asleep in front of the television set. What he mistook for frightening voices are just talking heads delivering news of rapes and murders, bombs and scandals that are soothingly far away from his little bubble of security. Reassured, he falls back into dreamless sleep.

Later that morning, as he is about to pass through the shining silver portal, the whisper-quiet sliding glass doors that lead to the plush-carpeted lobby of his high-rise office building, he is accosted by a dirty, foul-smelling woman asking for spare change. He has seen her many times before, dark and thin, haunted and carnivorous, reeking of cheap booze and piss. To make his passage easier, he drops some clinking coins into her filthy hands.

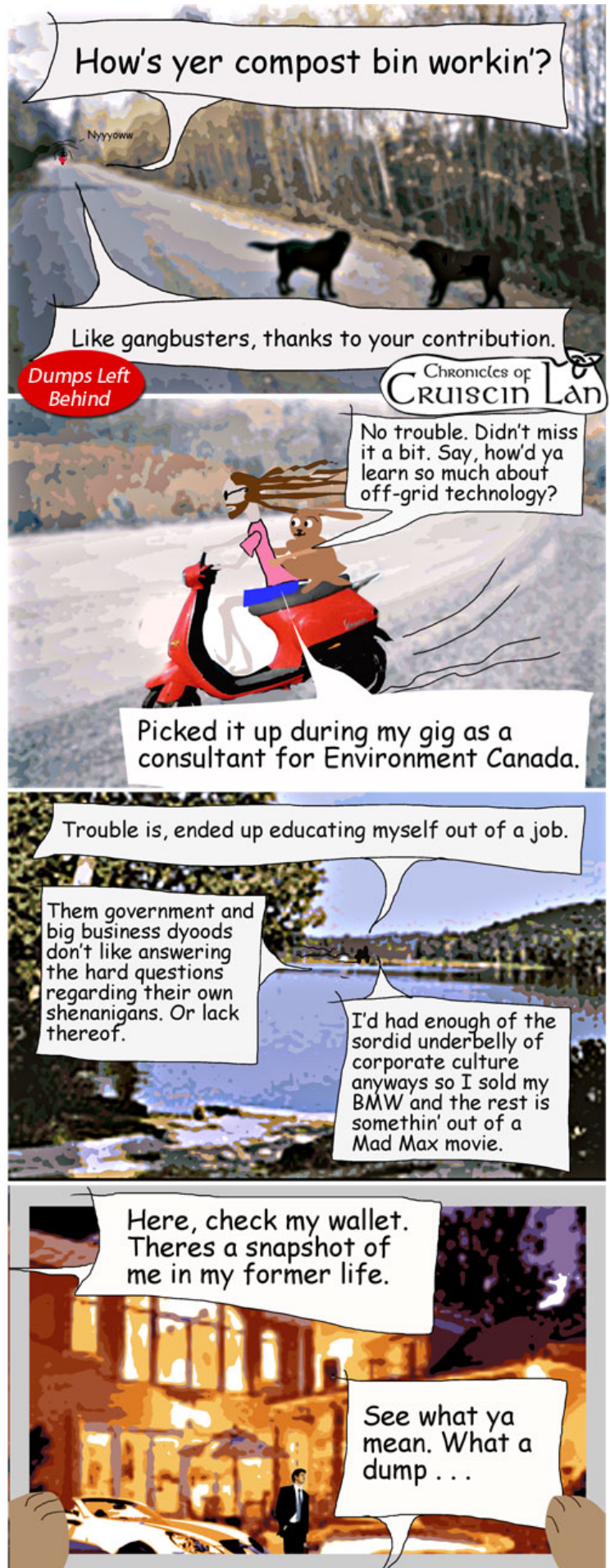
Sometimes he wonders where they all come from, these lost souls in soiled rags. The ones who scare him the most are the ones who hear voices inside their heads. He remembers a time when he, too, would hear those voices. He would hear them calling from the mountains around his childhood home, nightmares trapped in caves of ice. When his mother was dying in a cancer ward in Vancouver, he would hear them calling from their chains of seaweed at the bottom of the ocean floor. When his first wife was walking out the door of their one-bedroom apartment with her blue suitcase and the child he never really knew, he would hear grisly phantoms howling up at him from the lonely depths of the elevator shaft, begging him to join them.

As time passed, though, he got better and better and better at drowning out the frightening voices. He learned to stop his ears with clay. He turned up the television set, and installed thick wall-to-wall carpeting. He bought an iPod and a big-screen TV. He created a gathering place of well-lit security, and filled it with the laughter of people he didn't much care for.

Once in a while, though, when things are very quiet and still and the winter winds blow early from the mountains, he hears whispering, and strains his eyes for movement in the shadows . . .

The Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan

by
Wanda
Waterman
St. Louis



AUSU THIS MONTH



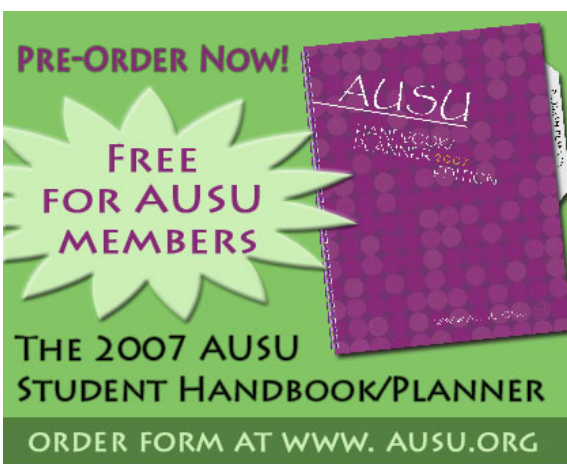
Changes to Council Executive The AUSU "cabinet" does the shuffle

AUSU councillors are elected for two-year terms and, traditionally, the three executives also serve for two years. In early 2005, however, council began to discuss the possibility of holding a mid-term executive election for the following reasons:

- Executive positions are very demanding and require a large time commitment for a modest wage. All AU committees and executives work daytime hours, as do AUSU staff, therefore most meetings AUSU executives must attend regularly are also scheduled during the day. While executives can make their own hours to some extent, the frequent daytime commitments preclude AUSU executives from holding full-time jobs outside of AUSU. They may also find it difficult to maintain a full course load (many universities permit student council executives to hold full-time student status while taking only one course while they serve, but AU has no such provision). A mid-term election provides tired executives an opportunity to step down after a year without prejudice or a sense of ending their commitment early.
- Some councillors may not run for executive positions when they first get on council because they are inexperienced and do not feel ready to effectively serve in this capacity. For this reason, seasoned councillors usually are elected to executive positions. By midway through the two-year term, newer councillors may reconsider. This also allows councillors who may have been added to council through a by-election to have an opportunity to run.
- After a year, councillors will also have a better idea of who will serve best in each of the executive positions and may want an opportunity to cast a new vote.

A mid-term election was necessary during the 2004/06 council term due to the resignation of two of the three executives. This term, councillors developed a new executive election policy to allow for the option of a mid-term election each term. In mid-March, council decided to hold a mid-term election for this year.

Lonita Fraser, VP External for AUSU for the last two years, decided not to run at this time due to a high course load, and she has moved to a regular councillor without portfolio position.



New councillor Huma Lodhi, who has been with council for one year, chose to run for VP Finance, due to her experience on the AUSU Finance Committee over the last year.

VP Finance for the past three years, Karl Low, chose to run for the vacant VP External position.

Lisa Priebe, President for the last two years, opted to run again for her position.

The three candidates were acclaimed to their positions at a special meeting of council held on April 16, 2007. As both outgoing executives are still with council and available to assist their successors, the changeover is expected to be very smooth.

The Internet doesn't have to be about serious study, nutty news, or boring banking only.

Air Guitar Nation - <http://www.airguitarnation.com/airname/>

You can't just perform up there under the lights; you need a moniker to draw them in! Apparently my new name is Lonita "Air Tight" Fraser. Rock on!

Incredible Strange Words - <http://noemata.net/etc/words.htm>

I'm sure they'll be hitting the popular lexicon any minute now. I'm personally fond of: "gittance: a famous metaphor for selfishness based on a story about middle aged banjo players leaving the cinema in the middle of 'Lord of the Rings' due to personal limitations."

Stripe Generator - <http://www.stripegenerator.com/>

Just say no to polka dots, paisley, and plaid!

Horrible Sounds Generator - <http://www.sound101.org/mixer.php>

Headphones may be in order.

Modern Art Generator - <http://windowseat.ca/viscosity/create.php>

This one has many more options than these sites usually do. Try the pastels and greyscales.

William Carlos Williams Poem Generator - <http://ettcweb.lr.k12.nj.us/forms/williams.htm>

My masterpiece:

This is just to say
I have walked
the sewers
that were out
the fish

and which
you were probably saving
for your anger

Forgive me
they were ascerbic
so objective
and so demented

EDUCATION NEWS



B.C. Schools Seeing Green

The generation of children now in primary and high school are learning valuable lessons about preserving the environment—and in some cases, their classrooms *are* the lesson.

The B.C. government has announced the re-opening of a newly green francophone school in Victoria, as well as plans for a new eco-friendly school in Surrey.

B.C.'s second-largest francophone school, école Victor Brodeur, was rebuilt on the original site, and according to Education Minister Shirley Bond "environmental conservation has greatly influenced the design"¹ of the new building.

Features include low water usage toilets and waterless urinals, a system to capture and re-use heat, and efficient lighting. Outside, special porous asphalt allows for a more natural diffusion of rainwater into the ground, while a basin system under the surface catches and retains excess water. Landscaping was designed to allow the preservation of mature trees.

The rebuilding project also "recycled and reused more than 75 per cent of construction waste materials to keep them out of landfills."¹

In Surrey, a new school being built to meet growing student demand will also be environmentally friendly.

The Rosemary Heights West elementary school, scheduled to open in September 2008, will be designed to aid the province's efforts to "reduce B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020."²

The school and grounds will be designed to save existing trees, and sustainability will be a key feature, with a focus on reducing energy use, water efficiency, and the use of local materials.

¹ Province of British Columbia. *École Victor Brodeur Opens With Green Focus*. Retrieved May 17, 2007, from http://www.gov.bc.ca/bvprd/bc/channel.do?action=theme&channelID=-8409&navId=NAV_ID_province

² Province of British Columbia. *New Surrey School to Boast Environmental Design*. Retrieved May 17, 2007, from http://www.gov.bc.ca/bvprd/bc/channel.do?action=theme&channelID=-8409&navId=NAV_ID_province

classifieds

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

Female Teacup Yorkie Terrier Available to Pets Lover. For More Information, Get Back to me Via Email Or Phone Number: Katie_webster002@yahoo.com or (231) 533 9523

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