

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 30
August 1, 2008

The Honeydripper

Playing the blues

The Interviewer

Nobody gets it

Health Matters

Favism

Plus:

*From Where I Sit,
In Conversation With,
AUSU This Month,
and much more...*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



EDITORIAL

Sandra Livingston



Like a House on Fire

It takes a certain something to put your life in danger—day in, day out—to rescue others. Police and firefighters are the two most obvious examples that come to mind.

And when those who lay their lives on the line are volunteers, there's an added element. These are people who give a damn; people willing to risk their own safety for the good of their communities, without pay and sometimes at their own financial expense.

Society owes them an immeasurable debt of thanks on so many levels, but the decision makers at Aviva Insurance seem to think *they're* the ones who are owed.

Even as Canadian insurance companies are raking in record profits (\$4.2 billion in one recent year), Aviva has decided to sue two volunteer fire departments in Nova Scotia for failing to stop a house fire.

In July 2007, the North Sydney and Frenchvale volunteer departments attended a house fire in North Sydney. Firefighters put out a blaze in a back bedroom and advised the occupants, Larry and Diane Stonehouse, to find other lodgings. But the fire broke out again some six hours later, destroying the house.

After nine months in hotels, Aviva compensated the couple an estimated \$400,000—and the insurance company is now trying to recoup the money from the volunteer fire departments.

(It should be noted that, as the CBC reports, the Stonehouses are named in the lawsuit because their names are on the policy. However, Diane Stonehouse has told reporters she and her husband are not behind the suit.)

Aviva is suing for damages and court costs. Court documents show the company claims the volunteer fire departments “failed to properly protect [the] home after a fire broke out in a bedroom.”

In a ChronicleHerald report, “the suit alleges the fire departments failed to properly train their members; adequately equip firefighters; properly extinguish the blaze and search for possible hot spots; and remain at the scene to ensure the fire was out.”

Not that the volunteer firefighters didn't do the best job they could with the training and equipment they had. Not that they failed to respond to an alarm, or were wilfully negligent in their duties. Simply that, as unpaid volunteers putting themselves at risk, their efforts weren't good enough for Aviva.

But there are no guarantees, especially when it comes to emergency situations, a fact Aviva should know well.

And being in the insurance business, it's surprising the company has missed another crucial point: if volunteer fire departments decide the risk of being sued just isn't worth it, the lives and property they *do* save may just go up in smoke—something that, in the long run, could cost Aviva more than it realizes.

IN CONVERSATION WITH . . .

Wanda Waterman St. Louis



Jacob McArthur Mooney

*Jacob McArthur Mooney grew up in Nova Scotia and attended university in Newfoundland. He is now pursuing an MFA at the University of Guelph. His first book of poems, *The New Layman's Almanac*, was recently published by McClelland & Stewart (see the [Mindful Bard review here](#)).*

*He edits the web journal [ThievesJargon.com](#) and is the founder of *The Facebook Review*.*

Surprised by Poetry

I grew up in a tiny little town on the ocean, about 30 minutes south of Halifax, Nova Scotia. I liked to read. I didn't write anything myself back then. My "career" as a writer is pretty short. I started writing poems and plays my third year of college, when I was, say, 20. I'm 24 now. No one is more surprised to find me doing this than I am.

The birthplace of my writing is St. John's, Newfoundland, where I went to college. Newfoundland is a wonderful place for arriving at language because language there is so idiosyncratic, so specific. And so confident in itself. I feel that the Maritimes are always fighting to normalize themselves with the rest of the country, to file down their sharper edges and to make themselves more Canadian. Newfoundland is disinterested in that abstract notion of a Canadian normalcy (and they're right, as that notion doesn't actually exist). Sometimes this cultural self-confidence melts into something uglier (xenophobia) but it's so rare in our country that it's still worth it.

On *The New Layman's Almanac*

This collection precedes my MFA program. Some of the poems were already written by this time and submitted to literary journals under different names. Some weren't. The structure of the book came into being just as I was leaving Newfoundland and developing an interest in the history of the publishing industry.

It was the self-starting trend in North American publishing that interested me—the history of micro-presses and house presses and the layman tendency, that very socialist idea of one non-expert giving his or her knowledge to another and trying to build expertise out of the social element of publishing. Of course, the modern equivalent is Wikipedia, to whom the book is dedicated.

Conditions of Creativity

I need comfort. I need to have my rent paid and my bills paid and some idea of where my next several meals are coming from. I write at night, mostly, though I'm not adverse to other times of the day. I don't write well when I'm angry, or worried, or heartbroken, or frustrated, or jealous. I don't write well under pressure to write.

*Regeneration is an
excuse for blinking, it's
just another way of
saying you need a
breather from the
intensity of life.*

Favourite Poets

The list is very Canadian, and very contemporary: Lorna Crozier; Karen Solie; Patrick Friesen; Leonard Cohen; Dennis Lee; and Kim Maltman. Don McKay is a big influence, though nobody believes me when I say that. Plus the usual suspects for someone of my age, race, and gender—Bukowski, Ginsberg, Rimbaud, Elliott Smith, Bob Dylan, The Television.

I read a lot, and I try to read widely, but it would be dishonest of me to not accept the impact on my writing that comes from the “other” sources of input like TV, newspapers, popular music, and especially the Internet. These things, even if you’re not trying to open yourself to influence when interacting with them, are so prevalent that they affect your thought patterns, your ethics, your sense of timing and flow. And that affects how you write. Luckily, the majority of my readership is cursed by the same inputs, so in a way we are all speaking the same corrupted language, and it works.

***Writing is political
because it's inherently
argumentative; you
want to get somebody
to see the world a
different way.***

Regeneration?

I don’t know if I need to be regenerated. Regeneration sounds to me like a sort of stepping back from the subject, a wiping clean and a starting over. The point of my writing, a lot of the time, is that it doesn’t want to do that. Regeneration is an excuse for blinking, it’s just another way of saying you need a breather from the intensity of life.

Burnout is something people warn me about, probably because I write a lot and I write quickly. I’m noticing that what I’ve been writing more recently is different from the stuff in *Almanac*, and I think it may have to do with lifestyle. I’m definitely a lot more clean-living now than when I wrote the poems in *Almanac*, by every definition of those words. Better-living, I think, too. I think that as long as I see a correlation between the quality of my work and the quality of my lifestyle, I’m going to try and maintain the latter in the interest of maintaining the former.

Social Concern

I don’t know how to write an apolitical poem, or story. What would that even sound like? A writer who says “I’m not into politics” is deluding him- or herself. Everything about the literary experience is political. Writing is political because it’s inherently argumentative; you want to get somebody to see the world a different way.

And of course reading is political, both because we have incredible choice of what, if anything, we can read and because reading is so often a displayed action. We read in public, on the bus, at the beach. Can you imagine any more radical a political act in 2008 than sitting down at the head of your corporate boardroom and, while waiting for the meeting to start, casually thumbing yourself through the pages of the newest book of verse produced in your home country?

All that aside, I cringe at the expression *socially conscious*. When a piece of art is deemed *socially conscious* you can bet we’ve stopped caring about what it actually has to say and are applauding it for saying anything at all. Some of the most regressive, dehumanizing work of this century has gone without question because people, in their disinterest to deal with the ideas expressed, have simply labelled it *socially conscious* and moved on. Like “*socially conscious*” is a genre, like horror or the epic. There’s a poem in *Almanac* that deals with all that.

HEALTH MATTERS

Behdin Nowrouzi



Favism: A Brief Overview

Background

Favism is characterized as an enzymatic deficiency of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G-6-PD).

It is believed to be one of the most common enzyme deficiencies worldwide, affecting nearly 400 million people.

G-6-PD deficiency can lead to jaundice, hemolysis (bursting of red blood cells), or acute hemolytic

anemia or a chronic spherocytic type (premature destruction of red blood cells).

There are 5 classes of G-6-PD and they explain the polymorphism of this gene. These classes of G-6-PD deficiency exist based on enzyme activity levels, as follows: enzyme deficiency with chronic non-spherocytic hemolytic anemia, severe enzyme deficiency (<10 per cent), moderate-to-mild enzyme deficiency (10 - 60 per cent), very mild-to-no enzyme deficiency (60 per cent), and increased enzyme activity.

Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase is present in every cell in the body. G-6-PD protects the cells from oxidants, chemicals that oxidize or break bonds between atoms in a molecule. G-6-PD has a crucial role in the control of oxidant stress in red blood cells.

Oxidation causes lysis of the cell or, in the case of red blood cells, hemolysis; the cell membranes disintegrate, allowing the contents to leak out. Fava beans have pyrimidine aglycones, vicine, and convicine, possible causes of hemolytic anemia. These compounds have the capacity to oxidize the reduced glutathione (GSH) of G-6-PD deficient enzyme.

Favism is found in many different regions of the world. Most commonly, favism is found in Mediterranean countries, South West Asia, and certain parts of Africa. Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase is an inheritable X-linked genetic trait. In regions where the disorder is prevalent, pregnant women are advised to avoid consuming fava beans.

Symptoms

Susceptible individuals include those who are exposed to as little as one fava bean seed or traces of pollen from the fava flowering plant. The degree of severity varies between individuals being asymptomatic in some cases but causing death in others.

Symptoms of fava bean ingestion usually occur five to 24 hours later. Pollen inhalation symptoms occur within minutes of exposure.

Importantly, the common route of exposure is through ingestion of fava beans and not through breathing in pollen particles. Typical symptoms of favism include tiredness, malaise, headache, dizziness, nausea,

vomiting, chills, back pain (lumbar region), and increased heart rate, yellowing of the skin (jaundice), and fever.

Vicia faba

Fava, or faba bean, is a cultivated bean used in human food and animal feed. This vegetable is green or yellow and can be dried, fresh, or canned. In South West Asia, the Mediterranean region, and China it is a common breakfast food.

Diagnosis

If jaundice and anemia occur concurrently, a diagnosis of G-6-PD is investigated by blood tests. The volume of red blood cells is measured.

Specifically, tests for bilirubin to determine liver function and hemoglobin are important to determine if favism is the cause. Furthermore, other metabolic laboratory testing is conducted to confirm a diagnosis.

Treatment

The best available treatment is the avoidance of fava beans and pollen of the *vicia faba* plant. In addition, many drugs that precipitate hemolysis must be avoided, such as aspirin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID). Therefore, current treatments are aimed at preventing the onset of hemolysis rather than treating the visible symptoms.

Non-traditional therapies have included the use of vitamin E, and other anti-oxidants to minimize hemolysis in patients.

For more information on favism, visit the Favism Association [website](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

AU Library E-Books



Are you looking for one more reference to take that essay from a B to an A? Need to double check a quotation or page number, but you've already returned your books in the mail? Then AU library e-books just might help you find what you're looking for.

Along with all the great resources available to AU students, the library also offers plenty of items as electronic books (e-books) online. From the AU library [homepage](#), you'll find the e-books link on the left. Besides public e-book sites such as Bartleby.com and Project Gutenberg, you'll also find links to a wide variety of online texts available with your AU library login.

From Roman mosaics to sensor technology to literary classics, there's something for everyone.

The Interviewer

It is the ninth decade of the twentieth century...

written and illustrated by Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Caramel Baby: Nobody Gets It

ERRRGCHH! WHY CAN'T SHE HEAR THIS?!

She didn't like More Songs About Buildings and Food either. And I can forget about playing her Zeke and the Mountaineers...

This is lonely, this Ur quest of his, everyone ga-ga over the latest top forty flash-in-the-pan while he weeps over a field recording.

Rube? Y'okay?

Where's the Comet?

Next street up.

Why so far?

There's a wedding or something at the church and this street's full.

Anyway, I gotta go pick up Casey at school.

Kush has three beer-slinging jobs and a hyperactive kid...

Oh. There's a rapist alert on campus.

...who, like Reuben, is both too smart and too dumb for this veil of tears.

A wedding in October? Must be a funeral.

It's raining.

I do so love the rain.

Tch. It gets dark so early.

I love that, too.

next: these three guys



From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Seeing Red

On Friday, July 25, I made a conscious decision to wear red during a trip to Edmonton. Most of my errands kept me in the area from 137 Avenue in the north to 111 Avenue in the south, and between about 97 Street and 45 Street. Not a huge area to be sure, and I mention the location for a reason.

That morning I had had a different coloured, cooler cotton top in mind but opted for the red instead. I wanted to be part of Red Friday—the easy, visible, significant way to show support for the troops.

I'd seen footage of a sea of red shirts on Parliament Hill in Ottawa several months earlier and hoped the movement would come west. It has, but based on my observations that day, very few of us seem to have heard about it. The area of the city I mentioned is fairly close geographically to Edmonton Garrison and I expected to see red.

At the Londonderry Mall food court I approached two women in red and asked if they were supporting the troops. Their Bank of Montreal branch was indeed wearing red.

As I was parking near London Drugs I spotted a woman decked out in a sizzling red camisole and blouse walking to her vehicle. By the time I parked she was already in her car, about to back out of her spot. I waved at her and approached her passenger door. Amazingly, she opened her door to me.

"Are you wearing red for the troops?" I asked. No, she'd completely forgotten about it, it was just a coincidence.

"Well, you know we need to wear red every Friday 'til the troops come home," I said.

At Costco I did the same questioning of a young man and a middle-aged woman. He didn't know anything about it but red was his favourite color and he seemed pleased to think he was accidentally part of something big.

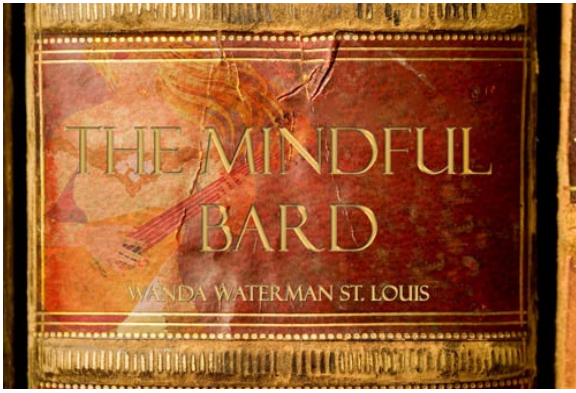
The woman was a mother who knew exactly what she was doing and had "forced" her kids to wear red too.

I was disappointed that so few people seemed to be in tune with this movement. I couldn't help remembering how Rexall Place was transformed into a sea of nearly seventeen thousand souls in white to support the Oilers in their run for the Cup. Couldn't we do at least as much for real heroes?

The [Red Fridays Foundation](#) exists to promote support for the troops and their families. There is also a link to a poignant email. If you can read it without crying I will be amazed. There's another, equally sad, one circulating as well that ended up in my inbox.

In typical Canadian fashion we need to clarify that wearing red *doesn't* necessarily mean you support the war. It means you support the troops and their ultimate sacrifice both abroad and at home.

Spread the word, do your part, wear red until. I'm looking forward to seeing red every Friday, from where I sit.



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

DVD: *The Honeydripper*

Released: 2008

Directed by John Sayles

"White folks look right through me. Besides, how much mischief an old blind spook like me gon' git up to anyhow?"

Possum, in *The Honeydripper*

You've heard the blues played, sweetly, majestically, on a twangy guitar, and you're now deeply in thrall. You *have* to learn to play like that.

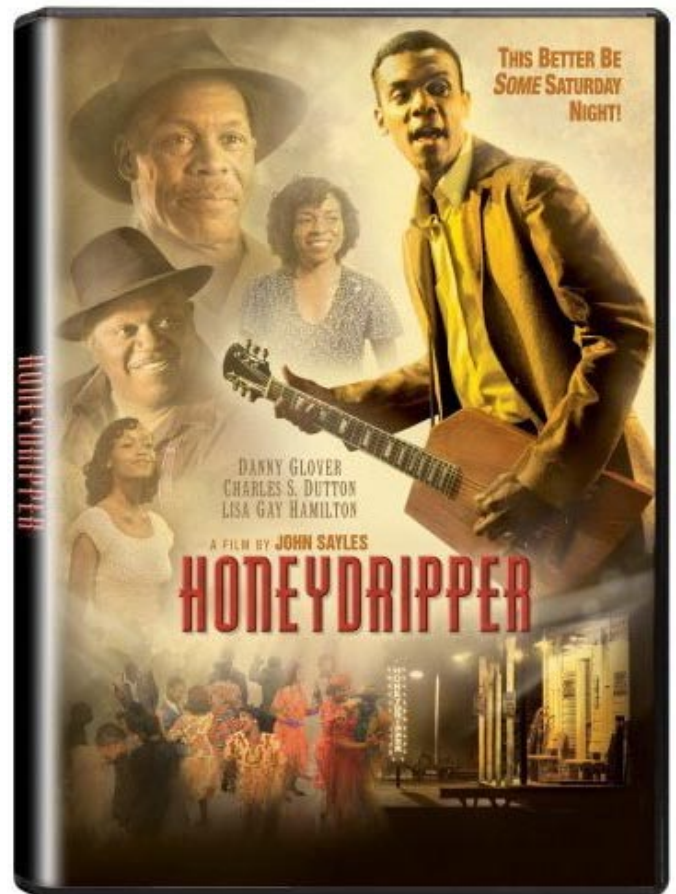
So you go out to the crossroads at midnight and meet a dark man who'll teach you the secrets of guitar wizardry in one mystical and transformative lesson. The price is your soul, which means you are now not only a superlative blues player, you are also a drinking, smoking, snorting, killing machine with an abbreviated life span.

In *The Honeydripper* this dark man (played by the transcendent Keb' Mo') is blind and sitting on a chair on a sidewalk in a three-piece suit playing a guitar.

Only two people in the movie can see and hear him—the young newbie guitarist and the owner of the Honeydripper Lounge—and them rarely. He's in their view just long enough to deliver a cryptic warning buried in chilling mockery.

Back at university in the early '80s, I and my white discophile friends were simply dotty about the blues. Every one of us had only recently discovered this amazing music that had been around for decades but which had been kept from our soft little ears.

(I remember trying to tell an elderly woman in my hometown about the blues only to be told, "Oh, I *know* what blues music is. It's certainly not the kind of music *we* would have listened to.")



I was disappointed that our black friends couldn't stand it. They were all into soul, Motown, disco, and reggae, which we all learned to appreciate later on.

The Africans listened to widely differing recordings from their widely disparate cultures, but they didn't like blues either. I couldn't see how anyone could reject a genre that was so good *as music*, which so illuminated the human condition and was so universal in its power to dignify human misery.

The Honeydripper is an attempt to present a view of blues from within black American popular culture . . .

My first impression of this movie was that it was too staged, the dialogue occasionally so contrived not even these actors could save it.

I got the impression that it had started out as a piece of art and then been buried under the demands of the marketplace, as if one more brilliant treatment had been prematurely ripped from the hands of the geniuses who thought it up and handed over to writers with good box office track records. I was off by a mile.

This film has been called disappointing for a John Sayles film. I think Sayles may deserve a Pulitzer, especially if what I see in this movie was no accident.

The Honeydripper is an attempt to present a view of blues *from within black American popular culture* and to illustrate why it had to be retained as a raw ingredient of black (and some white) American musical genres but deliberately abandoned as the soundtrack of the leisure hour.

The cinematography is peppered with frameable metaphors: the symbolism, for example, of the elegantly fedoraed Negro artist's head against a backdrop of rural southern squalor is all that needs saying; it is said often.

Another motif is that of the two little overalled boys playing zealously on their homemade instruments. Look for these images, and inscribe them on your consciousness.

The Honeydripper lives up to six of The Mindful Bard's criteria for movies well worth watching: 1) it is authentic, original, and delightful; 2) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 3) it confronts existing injustices; 4) it inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; 5) it makes me want to be a better artist; and 6) it poses and admirably responds to questions which have a direct bearing on my view of existence.

The Bard could use some help scouting out new material. If you discover any books, compact disks, or movies which came out in the last twelve months and which you think fit the Bard's criteria, please drop a line to bard@voicemagazine.org. For a list of criteria, go [here](#). If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.

AUSU This Month



Merchandise Still for Sale

We still have some locks and memory keys available for sale. Both of these were designed with ease of mailing in mind, which means they're small enough to be easily stored pretty much anywhere. The wristband USB key is a unique way to carry around your assignments, online materials, and even emails while you're on the go. With a 1 gigabyte capacity, it can even handle a good chunk of your music collection, and the design means you no longer have to worry about losing it. *The Voice* memory key has less capacity (512 MB) but the dark, flip-top design is classy enough to accompany you anywhere.

AUSU Lock Loan Program

Still running, and still popular, the lock loan program can allow you to rest easy knowing your valuables are safe if you're taking an exam at the Calgary or Edmonton campus. The locks can be set to any combination, and are loaned to people without any deposit, but we ask that you please remember to reset them to 0-0-0 before returning them so that we can continue this program.

Employment Site is here!

Many of you will already have seen the link to our new employment site on the front page, and while there are not a lot of employers in evidence yet, it's a great opportunity to get your resume, skills, and talents in there. The Personnel Department is busily working on finding employers who could use your unique abilities as a distance education student. Be sure yours are available to get the early opportunities!



Appointments

AUSU VP External, Barb Rielly, has stepped down from her position as chair of the AUSU Awards Committee, and new Councillor Bethany Porter has taken on the role. Council wishes Bethany good luck in this position, which can involve making some hard decisions.

Increasing AUSU's representation within AU, VP Finance and Administration, Sarah Kertcher, has been appointed to AU's integrated learning centre steering committee. This committee will examine the possibility of integrating all AU sites in the Edmonton Area into one building. Sarah will ensure that the committee keeps concerns of our members with respect to ease of access and exam conditions as well as AUSU's own special needs for storage and physical office space well in mind.

The MyAU steering committee sees two new AUSU representatives, President Karl Low, and VP External Barb Rielly, joining to provide their input on how MyAU could be better structured to meet your needs. If there's something that's been bugging you about the MyAU system, now is a great time to call or email our office and let them know. We'll be sure to bring your concerns forward.

SmartDraw Program Continues

If you haven't yet, you might want to download a copy of SmartDraw. 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.

AUSU Handbook/Planner 2008 has a few copies left!

We still have a number of copies of the 2008 AUSU planner available. We're getting closer to the end of the year, however, so our supplies are steadily decreasing. 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*.

As always, we're excited to know what you think of the planner, and especially want to hear of any improvements you think could be made.

Chat with a Councillor

Have a beef? Want to know where your \$8 per course goes or who's trying to make it work for you? Check out the AUSU chat times on our front page. Every Councillor has agreed to spend an hour each week making themselves available to you for your questions, concerns, or just to shoot the breeze while you take a break from your studying. It's not only a great way for you to learn more about what AUSU can do for you, but for us to learn what you want from AUSU. We hope to see you there!



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

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 **SmartDraw**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Bell, Telus face class action suit over texting fees

Canadian consumers have plenty to complain about when it comes to the high prices and rigid contracts for their cell phone service, but Bell Mobility and Telus may have pushed customers too far.

Recently, both service providers announced new charges for incoming text messages, and a class action lawsuit has been launched in response to what many see as another excuse to gouge consumers.

Eric Cormier, a Quebec man who has subscribed to Bell Mobility for the past decade, launched the suit, saying that by introducing the incoming-text fees the companies have changed their contract terms.

As the [CBC](#) reports, Cormier's lawyer, Noel Saint-Pierre, says "This was something that was free up until then and the problem for the consumers is that they cannot re-negotiate the contract."

The goal, says Saint-Pierre, is to get the court to rule "that for the duration of a contract . . . the telephone company should not be able to unilaterally modify the conditions of the contract."

Under the new fee plans, incoming text messages will cost customers 15 cents—a charge that applies to unwanted spam messages as well. Before the new charges were announced, customers who paid on a per-message basis were charged only for outgoing messages. The new fees won't affect customers with a text messaging rate plan or bundle.

Bell customers will see the charges take effect August 8, while Telus will introduce the new fees on August 24.

It isn't only Bell and Telus customers who think the new fees are a blunder: Industry Minister Jim Prentice has called the introduction of the fees a "poorly thought out decision," and is hoping to meet with chief executive officers of both companies.

In a similar case, T-Mobile is facing a court case over text messaging charges. Last week, a U.S. District Court in Seattle rejected a motion by the company to dismiss the suit.

In Foreign News: Daily life in Egypt means sexual harassment for women

A recent study conducted by the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR) found that sexual harassment is still a daily reality for the majority of Egyptian women.

As the [Egypt Daily News](#) reports, the study's findings show that "48.4 percent of Egyptian and 51.4 per cent of foreign women of all ages are subjected to sexual harassment." The study also revealed that "88 percent of the sample witnessed a harassment incident."

Responses from males who participated in the survey confirmed that sexual harassment is widespread in Egyptian society, with 62.4 per cent of the men surveyed confirming that they have perpetrated—or continue to perpetrate—one or more forms of harassment.

Nehad Abu El-Komsan, ECWR Chair, told reporters that “creating awareness of the issue is the most important step.”

She added that men committing the harassment aren’t afraid of their actions because they’re confident they won’t face consequences, an attitude reflected in the openness of many harassment incidents. Survey results showed that the majority of harassment occurs in public places, with 69 per cent taking place on the streets.

Abul Komsan has announced that a draft law is currently being created at the National Council for Women.

CLICK OF THE WRIST – Where in the World

Whether they fly, drive, bike, or take the train, millions of people spend their summer holidays travelling. And that means maps—lots of maps. Here are some interesting sites to help you find your way—or keep the kids amused while you’re hanging out in the airport terminal.

Map Games

This is a great site for kids, with games that take them around the globe. Find places in Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia, and more. They can even help some friendly aliens find their way around planet Earth.

Map Machine

The world is at your fingertips with this National Geographic map machine. View detailed road maps, satellite maps, topographical maps. You can even create maps using a theme, such as population density or extreme weather events.

Map of Strange

This site is “a way of recording strange, wacky, weird and wonderful anomalies, sights and oddities from Google Maps and Google Earth.” Choose a category on the right then browse individual maps from the menu on the left. They’ve even got an image of Oprah’s head in a crop circle.

Celebrity Maps

We can’t vouch for the accuracy of these maps, but they claim to show you exactly where your favourite stars live—from Paula Abdul to Billy Zane and everyone in between.

World Happiness Map

A professor at the University of Leicester created this happiness map, a “global projection of subjective well-being.” If you’re not interested in the academics behind it, just scroll down to see how happy you are.

EDUCATION NEWS

Morgan Modjeski



New tax could hinder campus radio, podcasters

Tariff 22 aims to tax websites who use licensed media

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- The Copyright Board of Canada is considering a law that would tax websites for distributing music and other media—a move that could be harmful for small-time podcasters and campus radio stations.

The tariff was introduced by the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN), and would only tax sites that distribute or use SOCAN-licensed material.

An earlier version of the tariff, which sought to tax Internet service providers, was rejected in 1995.

"SOCAN restructured the tariff by identifying an extensive list of online uses of music, including on-demand streaming, webcasting, music streaming on gaming sites, and other services that potentially include podcasting," said Michael Giest, a University of Ottawa prof who holds a research chair in Internet and E-commerce law.

The legislation would tax sites 25 per cent of their gross revenue, or 25 per cent of their gross operating expenses, with a minimum monthly fee of \$200.

Jared McKetiak, station manager at University of Manitoba's 101.5 FM, says the Tariff is bad for campus radio.

"Last year we made \$19,883.3, and giving up \$5,000 (roughly 25 per cent) . . . stations need that money to survive," he said. "It's going to get to a point where campus radio stations are going to have to close down because they cannot continue to do business, not because the cost of doing business is expensive, but because it's getting taxed."

The new tariff, if passed, will make it mandatory for people who communicate music to the public to have a licence for doing so. Mark Blevis, editor of Canadapodcast.ca, says even though this licence will be enforced, it will not affect people who podcast as a hobby.

"For those who have the budget, \$200 a month is nothing, but for those who don't, it is a lot of money," said Blevis. "It's a little pricey for people who are doing this from their basement just because they love it."

But Blevis believes the licence will have "zero affect" on the podcasting community. "People who are already established will continue their podcasts without the licence," he said.

According to Blevis, SOCAN is taking a huge step. But he notes the tariff only takes into consideration performance rights, and ignores the mechanical rights and publishing rights that go along with using music.

"What this really shows is that SOCAN is ready to come to the table," said Blevis. "But right now, it's lip service."

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THE VOICE

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