

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 19 Iss 22 2011-06-17

Roll Up the Sleeve and Grin

Blood Donor Week

Magnetic Ear

Down to brass tacks

Bad Medicine

Taking inspiration

Plus:

*From Where I Sit
The Mindful Bard
and much more!*



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***The Voice
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www.voicemagazine.org

1213, 10011 109th
Street NW
Edmonton AB
T5J 3S8

800.788.9041 ext. 2905

Email
voice@voicemagazine.org

Publisher
AU Students' Union

Editor-In-Chief
Tamra Ross

Managing Editor
Christina M. Frey

Regular Contributors
Hazel Anaka
Katie D'Souza
S.D. Livingston
Wanda Waterman St.
Louis

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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.



EDITORIAL

Christina M. Frey

Bad Medicine



“Genius,” wrote inventor Thomas Edison, “is 1 per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration.” Yet in the desire for inspired work but with quicker results, some individuals choose to take the easy way out. They substitute someone else’s inspiration for their own perspiration—and the result is plagiarism.

As content proliferates across the Internet, attitudes toward intellectual property become more and more lax. Lines blur and are crossed, and some writers claim to be unaware of the relationship between online material and plagiarism.

Not so most students. From the outset, universities, colleges, and even grade schools and high schools make it abundantly clear that plagiarizing material—essentially cheating—is always inappropriate. In fact, it’s so offensive that students caught plagiarizing are disciplined, often being dismissed or suspended from their school or program of study. And although the web has caused some confusion, university officials are unambiguous: plagiarizing will not be tolerated. Period.

With this as the background, it’s hard to understand some of the disagreement over the recent scandal surrounding the Dean of the University of Alberta’s Medical School. The Dean, Dr. Philip Baker, allegedly heavily plagiarized another doctor’s speech during his recent commencement address. Some students in the audience, recognizing the speech, quickly found it online (with one hearer apparently following along on his mobile device).

Dr. Baker apologized profusely to the indignant student body. But, as CTV Edmonton reported, this was no accident: Dr. Baker’s excuse was that the original speech had “inspired [him] and resonated with [his] experiences.”

It inspired him, but apparently not enough to write his own material.

There’s talk of dismissing Dr. Baker, or of asking for his resignation. Yet others are quick to defend him, noting that because the speech wasn’t technically academic work, it didn’t merit strong discipline.

Does it matter? Even if it the speech’s purpose wasn’t directly academic, it was in an academic setting—and a school’s Dean speaking at a school function carries a certain weight of example.

More than that, ignoring such an instance of plagiarism hurts the whole academic world.

Clifford Orwin, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, got it right when he said that plagiarism is an offence that rises above any others perpetrated at a school. In fact, he notes, plagiarism is a “crime against the university, the primordial academic offence . . . [and it] strikes at the soul of the institution.”

It makes little sense that a school that takes plagiarism so seriously could possibly look the other way when a flagrant abuse of intellectual honesty occurs.

And it's in even poorer taste given the occasion. Commencement is the culmination of an educational journey, almost the pinnacle of that journey, if you will. It's a time during which students, professors, and friends and family can all reflect with pride on the very best of the road travelled. Awards are presented to top achievers. Degrees—the goals long pursued and long sweated over—are finally granted. The finest class representative is chosen to deliver a speech on the students' behalf. Hard work finally pays off. The mood is one of success, of pride in one's accomplishments.

Commencement is a celebration of excellence—and all aspects of the event should reflect that.

That's why plagiarism in a commencement speech is especially inappropriate. Universities rely on, and require, independent thinking and analysis in order to foster a true spirit of learning. It's unthinkable that in a speech intended to celebrate the ability of students to pass through the challenges of this analysis and thought, on a day dedicated to success, a Dean would flaunt the long-standing pillars of academic institutions and would choose to plagiarize materials.

It's even more unthinkable that other professors, equally representative of the academic world's commitment to intellectual honesty, would defend him.

DID YOU KNOW?



Career Plan: Self-Assessment

Whether you're getting ready to take your first class or have recently graduated with a certificate or degree, chances are you've been giving a great deal of thought to career planning. AU Counselling Services' Self-Assessment [page](#) offers a number of online resources to point you in the right direction.

If you're just starting out or are seeking a career or program change, the "Mapping Your Future" [assessment quiz](#) will guide you toward fields that mesh well with your personality and values. Those who are mid-degree should also consider taking the quiz, as interests and values can change in the course of life.

New degree or certificate students will want to check out the "Am I ready for studies in . . ." [quiz](#), which flags "strengths and weaknesses in English, Math, Chemistry, and Computing Science." At the end of the quiz, you can browse a list of remedial courses designed to bring students up to speed in several areas.

The page includes additional assessment and career planning tools, including downloadable career planning forms. It's a good place from which to jump-start your career and educational journey.

IN CONVERSATION WITH . . .

Wanda Waterman St. Louis

**Magnetic Ear**

*Magnetic Ear is a New Orleans pocket brass band whose members include Martin Krusche (tenor sax), Michael Watson (trombone), Wes Anderson IV (trombone), Dan Oestreicher (baritone sax), Jason Jurzak (sousaphone), and Paul Thibodeaux (drums). Rooted in the brass band tradition (in particular the New Orleans second line tradition), the band incorporates an eclectic host of musical influences in its dynamic, danceable sound. It has recently released its third CD, *Aliens of Extraordinary Ability* (see Voice review [here](#)),*

and has embarked on a tour of the US and Europe.

Recently, Martin Krusche—the band’s leader, tenor sax player, and composer— took the time to answer Wanda Waterman St. Louis’s questions about the differences between jazz and brass band and where Magnetic Ear fits into the glorious hodgepodge of New Orleans music.

Beginnings

Magnetic Ear started as a trio and progressed to a five-piece jazz band—and from there to much more of a brass band than we’ve ever been since we’ve added another trombone and are now a six-piece band. Because we’ve inched over to becoming a brass band, the question of jazz is a whole different question.

There is a Difference

I don’t mean to create an unnecessary separation, but the jazz band and the brass band traditions are two different things. In the broadest sense they have common roots, but they are very different animals. The brass band is a format designed for playing music in the street while parading, while second lining. The band needs to be moving while playing, so you can’t have a stationary drum set.

Brass band music comes originally from military music and consists of, in addition to the brass players, a bass drum player and a snare drummer. Along with this goes the whole culture of the second line (the first line is the band and the second line consists of the dancers who follow the music). If you are aware of that, then you’re aware of the differences between jazz, whether traditional or modern, and the brass band. These are two very different genres that have served two different cultural purposes.

*The key to productivity?
“When it comes to writing
[music], having the gun to
your head helps . . . You have
to find a way to not go crazy
and to continue to write.”*

Martin Krusche, Magnetic Ear

We try to get as big a sound out of our small six-piece ensemble as possible, to get as close as possible to the sound of a bigger brass band. That has to do with arranging and how you spread it out to make it sound big, but that's basically what we're after.

This is New Orleans, and everything is dominated by brass bands. The most dominant New Orleans brass bands are the Rebirth Brass Band, the Soul Rebels Brass Band, the Hot 8 Brass Band, and the Stooges Brass Band. And then you have the more traditional brass bands like Treme Brass Band. There are also a lot of new, up-and-coming brass bands.

Our band plays in clubs, and so we have a drum set player. We also occasionally have a percussion player with us, but our format is in that aspect not completely true to the classic brass band format, where you have a separate bass drummer and snare drummer. We are a little bit of a hybrid, if you will. The Dirty Dozen band is similar in that sense . . . they have a drum set player and not the divided section between bass and snare drum.

Do You Make 'em Dance?

Yes, that's a big part of what we're trying to do. In the broadest sense, we're trying to play exciting, hip dance music.

I think for a long time we've been in a place where we're free about where we're getting our inspiration from, and that goes for other brass bands as well; everybody covers whatever they like. So we do a mix of original music influenced by all different styles and/or different covers that we like. In that sense we're completely in the tradition of brass bands, and I've never heard anybody taking issue with us being eclectic. We've never tried to be anything other than an entertaining, danceable, interesting band.

On Writing Music for a Brass Band

Duke Ellington said that if it wasn't for deadlines, there wouldn't be any written music. I wrote a lot of music when we decided to make this last record. When it comes to writing, having the gun to your head helps.

You have to find a way to not go crazy and to continue to write. You enter a process where you get used to returning to your pieces every day. Maybe you're writing multiple pieces at the same time and switching back and forth; if you run out of inspiration here, you go over there. That's when you're in an intense writing period, which I had leading up to the making of that record.

Other than that, there's simple inspiration that hits you . . . if you have a lucky day, you have a great idea that's the start of a song or something. But with the music that we play, there's a moment of an idea and you have your



inspiration, but you work it out, you flesh it out, because it's not just the original idea. You also need to arrange that idea.

It's different from writing for the jazz combo. Every member of this band has some music in front of him when he first starts playing the original composition. When you write for a jazz band, writing the chords and the melody suffices. Everybody knows what to do with it. If you give a bass player in a jazz band a chart, that chart contains the melody and the chords and the man knows what to do with it. So will the drummer and the piano player . . . and so on and so forth. But in the case of the brass band, everyone has to have his own particular harmony part, and it's something that you might work on some more when you put the music to everybody. It's still something that has to be written out in every last bit for everybody.

(To be concluded next week.)

CLICK OF THE WRIST

Mr. Golden Sun

It simply doesn't feel like summer unless the sky is blue and the sun is shining—and the bright skies make the perfect backdrop for outdoor activities, too. On the other hand, a little too much sunshine can damage skin and cause heat exhaustion. This week's links take a closer look at the great ball of fire that warms our planet.

Have a Blast

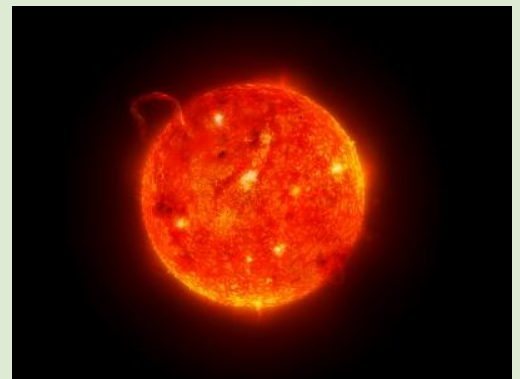
Last week was an exciting one for solar scientists: the sun had a solar flare, which was particularly memorable as it ejected incredibly large numbers of particles into space. Scientists believe it may have been one of the biggest solar emissions in history. The above video of the flare is fascinating to watch. (For more information, check out *National Geographic's* [article](#).)

Size Matters

The sun may look small in the sky, but its size compared to Earth is, well, astronomical. In fact, scientists say that nearly "99.9% of all the matter in the solar system is inside the Sun." But don't assume that the sun is the largest star out there in space. As this size slideshow demonstrates, it's actually quite small in comparison to some of the massive, and familiar, stars visible in the night sky.

Sun Smart

Sure, the sun's hot, but it's the ultraviolet rays emanating from it that cause skin damage and put sunbathers at risk for melanoma. This brochure, from the US Environmental Protection Agency, talks candidly about the types of UV radiation and how best to protect ourselves from them.



HEALTH MATTERS

Katie D'Souza

**Blood Donor Week**

It may not have been marked on your calendar, but this week (June 13-19) has been National Blood Donor Week in Canada. During this time, Canadian Blood Services has been raising awareness about donating blood, plasma, platelets, and bone and stem cell marrow. Even more importantly, it is extending the call to all eligible Canadians: others need your generosity in order to live.

The Crisis

It is estimated that approximately one in two Canadians can donate usable blood. However “this year, only 1 in 60 has” done so, notes Canadian Blood Services. This means that people in need of blood may be in crisis in the future. Although Canadian blood donors are traditionally generous, there is great need for even more donated blood. Currently, there are only 100,000 registered blood donors in Canada; Canadian Blood Services hopes to reach 500,000 in the next three years.

Additionally, those donors do not necessarily match the blood needs of Canadians. Only seven per cent of registered blood donors are of ethnic origin, yet statistically, over twenty per cent of Canadians fit this demographic. Canadian Blood Services underscores the importance of more blood donors from cultural groups like Chinese, South Asian, and Filipino, because some “patients require matching beyond basic blood groups which they are most likely to find in a donor from the same ethnic background.”

Who Needs It?

When we think of who needs our donated blood, the image of a cancer patient often comes to mind. But did you know that your donated blood is also used for motor vehicle accident victims, organ transplant patients, hip joint surgery patients, as well as brain surgery and coronary artery bypass patients? Even infants and children in need of blood can benefit.

Can I Donate?

Not everyone is eligible to donate. There are some basic blood donation requirements: potential donors must be between 18 and 66 years, although the latter age limit applies only if you have not previously donated blood (if you are 67 years of age or older, are a prior donor, and would like to donate again, ask your doctor for a note detailing good health). Also, donors should weigh at least 50 kg (110 lb).

Even if you fit the basic requirements, you need to wait to give blood if you have had recent dental treatment (fillings, root canal, etc.), have had piercings or tattoos done in the last six months, or are sick with a cold, flu, or sore throat. These precautions ensure that those receiving the donated blood will not be adversely affected.

Additionally, those with certain infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, may not be eligible to donate blood, nor may those with a history of malaria infection. For more information on whether you are eligible, visit [Canadian Blood Services](#) to access the donation questionnaire or call 1-888-2-DONATE to speak to a representative.

Is It Safe?

If you qualify, then donating blood is safe. Your hemoglobin (iron in the bloodstream) levels are tested, your blood pressure is taken, and if everything checks out, your blood is drawn by a knowledgeable staff member like a nurse or lab technician. It's done quickly and efficiently. And with this one donation, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that one hour later, your blood may have saved three lives.

If you're concerned about weakness during the blood draw process, take a bottle of orange juice along with you. Should you feel lightheaded or nervous, it can help revive you. After the blood draw, you should avoid strenuous activity or heavy lifting with that arm, for about six to eight hours.

And don't worry about the blood loss factor. Your body quickly will recreate the portion of blood you donate. Donated plasma is replaced in hours, and the platelets and red blood cells within 56 days.

The Blood Signal

For more information on how blood donation can save lives, visit the Canadian Blood Services [website](#). This site also includes eligibility questionnaires and other resources covering the basics of blood donation.



And for a reality check, be sure to visit [Blood Signal](#). This new interactive website, a project of Canadian Blood Services, empowers Canadians with both knowledge and a sense of urgency.

We're all diverse, but as human beings we have a responsibility to look out for one another. If you qualify to donate blood, don't hesitate, but take the challenge. Roll up your sleeve and head to your nearest blood donor clinic for your good deed of the day!

Katie D'Souza is an AU graduate and a licensed naturopathic doctor. She currently practices in Ontario.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this article is for personal interest only; it is not intended for diagnosis or treatment of any condition. Readers are always encouraged to seek the professional advice of a licensed physician or qualified health care practitioner for personal health or medical conditions

Did you know:

"52 per cent of Canadians say they, or a family member, have needed blood or blood products for surgery or for medical treatment."

Yet this year, only 1.6 per cent of Canadians have donated blood.

Source: Canadian Blood Services



From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

No Other Way

After one has read the two daily newspapers and corralled the errant paperclips; after one has made a cup of tea and snatched the last two graham crackers; after one has visited the john and wiped her glasses, it is, at long last, time to write. Then again, this could be a good time to alphabetize the several hundred volumes in one's library. And is it wrong, on the return trip from the fridge, if one were to do a quick wipe of the dust on the hall table with the tail of her t-shirt? Or water the plants? Or check her email?

Looking for the can of compressed air to blow the grit out of the keyboard is not procrastination in action, it is simply good maintenance of expensive equipment. Really, how can a gal be expected to type when the skin on her hands is so dry it snaps, crackles, and pops? Giving the Aveeno lotion time to absorb just keeps the keyboard from getting greasy and is not a delaying tactic.

Stalling would just be wrong.

After all, any would-be writer knows that the first rule of success is to actually write. Not to read about writing, not to talk about writing, not to dream about writing, but to actually apply butt to chair and do it. Or in the words of Red Smith: "There's nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and open a vein."

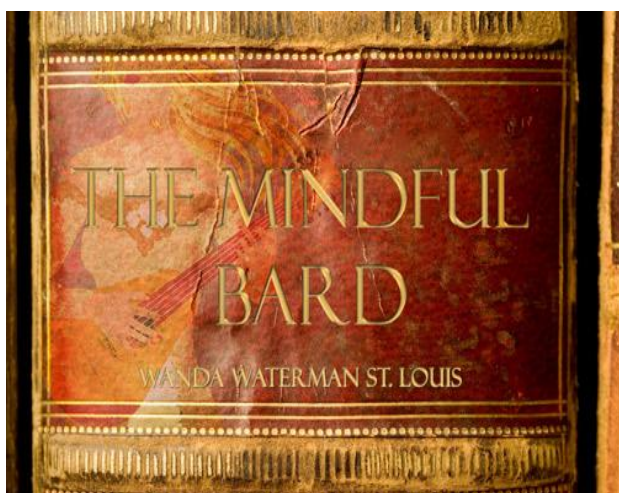
Smith, an American sportswriter who died in 1982, can be forgiven for his dated technology while being credited for a bang-on visual. Millions of words have been written about the struggle, the reward, the challenges, and the process of writing. My new favourite quote is from author/blogger/mentor Joe Konrath: "There's a word for a writer who never gives up . . . published."

As writers we get to set our own goals. It may be a number of hours, words, or pages that we aim for each day. We're also in charge of rewards, and I'm sure you don't need my suggestions there.

Having some good people in our corner is just as important as attitude and discipline. We need people who are walking the walk and generous enough to share insight, advice, and shortcuts through the learning curve. In the last few weeks, I visited an elderly writer in my area, a woman with a thousand magazine stories to her credit. I loved listening to the war stories of her career. I was touched by her belief in my skill. There's a not-so-subtle inducement to live up to her opinion.

I am also the benefactor of fellow columnist and former *Voice* editor Sandra Livingston's generosity. When my first novel appears as a Smashwords edition, when my website goes live, when I do my first Tweet and first blog post, it will be because Sandra provided gentle encouragement and nitty-gritty practical advice.

And yes, it will be because I got butt to chair and opened a vein. When it comes down to it, there's no other way, from where I sit.



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

Film: *Even the Rain* (*También La Lluvia*) (Vitagraph Films 2011).

Director: Iciar Bollain.

Cast: Gael García Bernal, Luis Tosar.

"We are a conquering race. We must obey our blood and occupy new markets and if necessary new lands."

Albert J. Beveridge

"Man has set for himself the goal of conquering the world but in the processes loses his soul."

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The Unbearable Lightness of Moral Superiority

We arrive at a movie set on the outskirts of Cochabamba, Bolivia. The director, Sebastián, receives many more auditioners than needed; he simply hasn't time to audition them all. The producer orders him to pick whom he likes and to send the rest home. Sebastián is gracious and polite with those waiting in line as he gently breaks it to them that their dream of stardom—or of simply knowing where they'll get their next meal—ends here.

But the mestizos and the Quechua have walked miles and have waited for hours in the hot sun. One of them, Daniel, reacts to the dismissal by inciting a small insurrection—winning himself a leading role in the film.

The film within the film is about the Spanish conquest of South America 500 years ago. Sebastián is smitten with one historical personage, a priest who condemns the conquest, and it's this character who has sparked his enthusiasm for the story.

But although Sebastián's film is set five centuries ago, the overarching film takes place in the year 2000, the year when Bolivia, under pressure from the World Bank on which it depended, privatized its water supply and began charging ridiculously high prices for the privilege of using water. This price, and the multinational water company's punitive means of crushing any attempts to circumvent the water fee, eventually met



Gael Garcia Bernal as Sebastian, an idealistic film director on shoot in Cochabamba, Bolivia when the 2000 Water Wars break out.

Credit: (c) 2010 Moreno Films.

with massive violent demonstrations.

A group of Quechua, led by the firebrand Daniel, buys a well. Everyone commences to dig a ditch several kilometres long in order to deliver the water to their community, but their hard work is rewarded with locks being put on their well. And so the troubles begin.

Filming continues while production and cast fret about whether the escalating protests will prematurely terminate the project that they've poured themselves into. It has become for them a god to whom they seem willing to sacrifice lives.

The self-righteous liberals are constantly accusing each other of moral laxness, just as the conquistadores accused the natives of sin and godlessness on arrival in the New World. There are endless disputes about who is the most ethical, or rather, who can best rationalize his or her lack of ethics.

Ironically the actor who plays Christopher Columbus is the biggest accuser of them all, frequently and brazenly pointing out the blatant hypocrisies of all in the cast and of the historical personages on whom their characters are based.

The message of the film within this film appears to be that yes, the Spanish conquest was brutal and unjust, but that some of the people who took part in it were *really good people* and that we modern Europeans are *just like those good ones* and so why can't you trust us now?

There's a meeting between the cast and government officials, during which Sebastián suggests that the \$450 annual water rate is too high for people who only make two dollars a day. The official archly replies, "I've heard that this is what you're paying your extras."

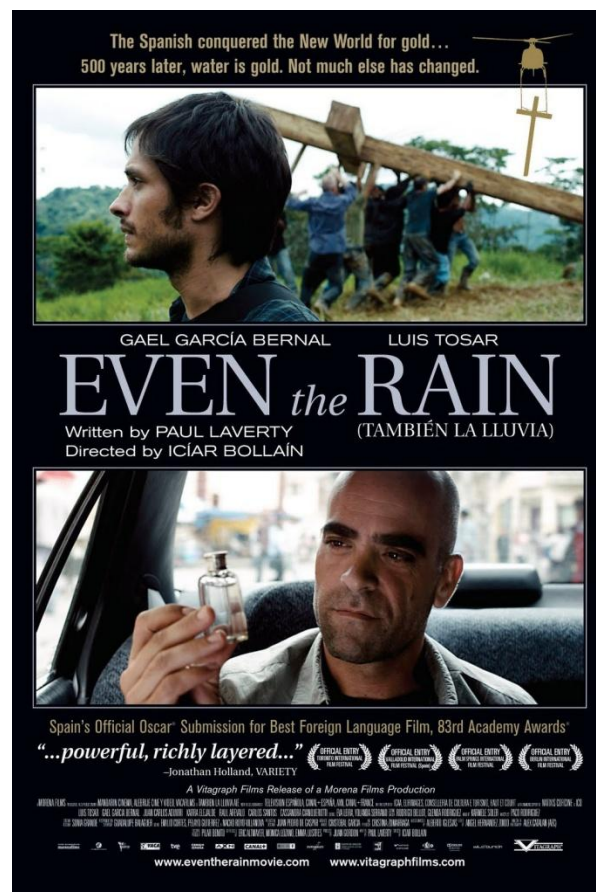
Sebastián, unabashed, says, "Yes, but we're on a tight budget."

The official: "We're all on a tight budget."

Appropriately, the film is about finding a saviour. In one scene a massive cross sweeps onto the set, dragged across the sky by helicopter. In the film the Quechua are to erect this cross and bow down to it or be burned at the stake.

The paradox of the cross is that the paradigm of salvation by means of belief in it often leads to actions and attitudes that are in direct contradiction to the teachings of Jesus. Particularly dangerous is the belief that God smiles on those who accept—or who claim to accept—a particular doctrine, regardless of the actual state of the soul or the nature of the sins. The true saints are those who, like Mahatma Gandhi, reject the cross as a symbol of moral and political superiority and choose instead to embrace the teachings of Jesus and to fulfill his social mandate.

In the end it's the recalcitrant producer Costa who is transformed by his descent into this hell of injustice. After



springing Daniel from jail, Costa looks like Brando in that scene in *Apocalypse Now* where he's about to pontificate on the virtues of embracing "the horror." Even the lighting is similar.

Even the Rain is dedicated to the memory of Howard Zinn, an American scholar and social activist and a very salient example of the kind of person we should all be aspiring to emulate.

Even the Rain manifests seven of The Mindful Bard's criteria for films well worth seeing: 1) it poses and admirably responds to questions which 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.

CHRONICLES OF CRUISCIN LAN

Wanda Waterman St. Louis



INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Rough Terrain

For those trying to increase their mobility, there are a number of therapeutic training centres scattered across the country. Few, however, take the real-world approach of the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation, an innovative outdoor rehabilitation park in Fredericton, NB.

As *The Globe and Mail* [reports](#), the park, unique within Canada, “is designed with real-world obstacles such as potholes, curbs and uneven surfaces.” Because the park is outdoors, “patients have to contend with the weather as well . . . [but] in a supervised setting.”

Robert Leckey, medical director for the Centre, told reporters, “The big theme for us is transition back into the community in a safe way.” He added that “Too often people go home and stay home because they’re scared to go outside ... here they can learn to handle all the conditions.”

The facility encourages maximum independence for patients, who visit the Centre for “speech therapy, mobility assistance and training for a transition to independent living.” It sees some 30,000 patient visits per year, of which 3,000 are children.

The park, which is named rehabilitation advocate and entrepreneur Stan Cassidy, is “funded by a mix of government money and corporate donations.”

Around the World: Galactic Vampires

Vampire mythology has surged to record popularity as books, movies, and TV shows featuring the bloodsuckers jump on the trend. But a recent scientific discovery suggests that vampires may actually exist, and they may be closer than you think.

As the *National Geographic’s* Daily News Site [reports](#), vampire stars, which “drain life away from other stars,” have been discovered in our home galaxy, the Milky Way.

The stars appear hotter and younger than their neighbouring stars, and scientists believe that they “look so youthful because they’ve stolen hydrogen fuel from other stars.”

Usually, such stars are seen “in dense star clusters,” but these were found “in the Milky Way’s galactic bulge, a dense region of stars and gas surrounding the galaxy’s center.” Scientists theorize that these so-called “blue stragglers” may have formed differently than vampire stars in other galaxies. While usually such stars steal energy by colliding with others, it’s possible that these vampires “may have formed by ripping hydrogen off their companion stars.”

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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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

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THE VOICE

1213, 10011 109th Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8 - Ph: 800.788.9041 ext. 2905 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union
Editor-In-Chief Tamra Ross
Managing Editor Christina M. Frey

Regular Columnists Hazel Anaka, Katie D'Souza, S.D. Livingston, Wanda Waterman
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