

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 19 Iss 24 2011-07-01

Canadian, Eh?

Identity crisis

Mad Men

Making the sell

Accent Assist

ENGL 149

*Plus:
From Where I Sit
Gregor's Bed
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.



EDITORIAL

Christina M. Frey

**Oh, Canada?**

Well, it's been quite a year. From the controversial G20 Summit fallout, to a federal election and all the snark that politics typically entails, to a post-hockey loss riot in Vancouver last month, Canada has been taking a beating to its reputation.

And it's not surprising. After all, the stereotypical Canadian—if the media has it right—is “nice,” polite, and friendly. Oh, and loves hockey (and beer!). Yet that totally

mild-mannered citizen is not quite the image we've been projecting internationally.

Small wonder that after the hockey riots more than a few of my American friends asked me, “Geeze, what happened to you Canadians? I thought you were supposed to be all nice and polite.”

Yeah—me too.

Not too long ago, a trip to my hometown—now tripled in size—had me questioning the notion of a Canadian identity. Run-ins with several unpleasant people made me wonder whether the trite old adage is true: can you ever really go home? Maybe I'd idealized it and was experiencing a let-down. Or maybe I'd just grown up and let my cynical side take over. Was nothing as it once seemed?

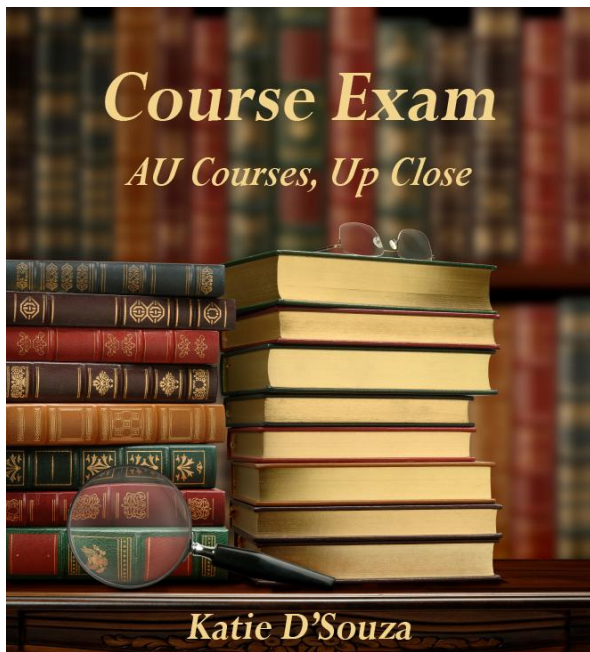
It's so easy to over-focus on the negative—at the expense of the positive. Because there is positive, but you have to sort through the layers of media muck to find it. Scientific breakthroughs, social solutions, and just plain good-neighbourism don't tend to make the news, but that doesn't mean they don't happen.

Being Canadian is more than channelling national pride into destruction of others' property. It's more than beating up anyone who disses our country, our hockey, or our Timmies. Sure, people might speak rudely on occasion. Cast snobbish glances. Not return a friendly greeting. Cut you off in traffic. Disagree with you. Abuse power.

But people will also go out of their way to smile. A courteous driver will let you into her highway lane. For every rude passer-by, there are plenty more friendly ones. Despite changes and new priorities, family and long-time friends still have your back.

And people still support one another: taking in strangers during disasters, reaching agreements despite political differences, and cleaning up their city the morning after it's been trashed by rioters.

Canada's embarrassment makes the news a lot more than its joy, and that's a shame. This weekend, let's celebrate the good in Canada. The people who try to live good lives. The pleasant person on the street. The friends, family, and strangers who take care of one another. The Canadians.



ENGL 149: Advanced Speaking and Listening

Many students tend to gloss over AU's 100-level courses. But these classes often serve a valuable purpose, helping to solidify skills that are crucial not only in the academic world but also in most career fields. One of these courses is the practically-driven ENGL 149 (Advanced Speaking and Listening), which features one-on-one training with an accent reduction specialist. The course teaches students how to reduce their accents when speaking in English—giving them an edge up in the job marketplace.

Why would students wish to minimize their accents, which many see as an integral part of who they are? Unfortunately, today's job market can be very competitive, and having an accent can set up a vicious cycle. When some North

Americans hear another speaking English with a foreign accent, they automatically latch onto that "difference." Then, even unconsciously, they may treat the accented individuals differently.

In the job marketplace, this can mean fewer job opportunities, poorer treatment, and fewer chances to gain promotions and raises. Worse, some employers paint certain nationalities or cultures with the same brush ("they are all like this"), despite the falsities involved with such stereotypes. Again, even though the attitude is wrong, it can damage the career path of the accented individual.

Finally, although some employers pay identical wages for accented and non-accented employees, they often feel that an accent can compound problems in the firm by causing more "trouble dealing with clients." As well, employers fear cultural differences, especially for employees in the customer service industry.

In ENGL 149, AU offers a unique opportunity: the chance to succeed in the challenging art of accent reduction. Course author Peggy Kayne is a well-known accent reduction specialist, and in ENGL 149 she personally works with students to help them succeed and build their confidence in speaking and writing English.

How does this work? There are several ways to "re-train the ear to the English language," Kayne says, and it's not only about pronouncing words properly. Kayne tells students to imagine their mouths like a machine, one that has to learn new ways to open and close as it speaks the English language. For instance, English has a certain up and down rhythm to it. Recognizing this rhythm is an important step in mastering accent-free speech.

Unlike many other English language courses, ENGL 149 doesn't only teach students about what makes a language sound a certain way; rather, it trains students to pick out what is wrong. And of course Kayne

"Actors get watched closely to pick up an accent; this course teaches the reverse!"

Peggy Kane, course author

ensures that students are aware of common spelling errors so that they won't make these errors themselves.

Kayne likens her course to the opposite of what actors do to *learn* foreign accents. “Actors get watched closely to pick up an accent,” she points out, and “this course teaches the reverse!”

To help students achieve success in accent reduction, ENGL 149 uses self-directed learning via CDs as well as regular one-on-one tutorials with Kayne. Using the CDs, students listen to conversations and then “have to interpret [them].” Sometimes the meaning is carefully hidden in the sentence, meaning that students have to master nuances to sort it out. It’s all about “being aware,” says Kayne.

Peggy Kayne holds a degree in Speech Therapy and Education, and has been on AU’s staff since 2000. Since 1989 she has been following her dream of helping ESL students and newcomers to Canada learn English—and use it to their advantage.

For more information on ENGL 149, visit the course [website](#).

CLICK OF THE WRIST

Snap, Crackle, Pop

With the holiday weekend here, chances are you’ll be viewing a large-scale fireworks display—or shooting off a few in your backyard (local by-laws permitting!). Fireworks can be magnificent from a distance, but what are they like up close? This week’s links check out the science behind the colourful explosions?

Colourful Chemistry

What does a firework look like inside? What makes it explode mid-air? What causes different colour combinations? A pyrotechnic expert gives the full lowdown on fireworks and chemistry in this LiveScience video.

Ready to Go

Sure, we all know that chemical reactions cause the explosive displays in fireworks shows. But what lights the firework—and keeps it going up several hundred feet in the air? This video segment, from PBS’ NOVA, explains.

Elements of a Show

It’s easy to gloss over the long lists of chemical elements present in fireworks. Instead, check out this interactive periodic table: it highlights which elements are crucial to firework creation, and explains how and why they’re used.





Intriguing New Trends in Music

OK Go: 180/365 (EMI June 2011)

A Divine Outpouring of Celestial Rock to Make You Do Your Happy Dance

You may have noticed that I rarely write about rock 'n' roll. It's not that I don't like it or that I am ignorant of its glorious history. In fact, I was once a zealous rock fan for years—I just got sick of hearing nothing authentic. Those years are done. *180/365*, a live album from the LA band OK Go, is no *fuges*i.

We all need a back-from-the-brink song list, songs that keep you from doing something stupid when you've forgotten the point of living. Mine would include Bernie Taupin and Elton John's "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me," Johnny Nash's "I Can See Clearly Now," Joni Mitchell's "Chelsea Morning," Lennon/McCartney's "Fool on the Hill," and a host of other juicy tunes that taught me to love life again.

Of what social benefit is straight-ahead rock 'n' roll music? A lot of use if it has certain characteristics, the most important being a kind of anthemic force that's hard to define, but you know it when you hear it. When you're young and uncomfortable about everything and you don't know how to handle all those new feelings, you tend to get depressed a lot; you need music that will lure you away from suicidal ideation. We artsy, creative types don't always outgrow this stage. I personally have an iTunes playlist called "Rousers" that I go to every time I need an emotional or motivational boost or if I'm falling asleep toward the end of a review. *180/365* now figures prominently there.

Why? It grants solidarity, it gives you a reason to move on, and it's insanely optimistic without being bubblegummy. Cheery but tough. Tough but fair. It is not an easy feat to combine hard, driving rhythms and spectacular lead and rhythm guitars with such a positive message and attitude, but OK Go has mastered it.

It's not easy to create songs bursting with testosterone but that are not overtly sexist (some of my sisters might disagree but I hold my ground here). Again, kudos to OK Go.

I hate making comparisons for bands that are this original, but you will feel that same rush of joy you used to feel with the Beatles, Elton John, The Band, Tragically Hip, Queen, The Doors, The Who, and their ilk. It's like



they took all the best chord sequences from rock's history and made them new again. And there are also extra-rock musical references like jazz and blues to give dimension.

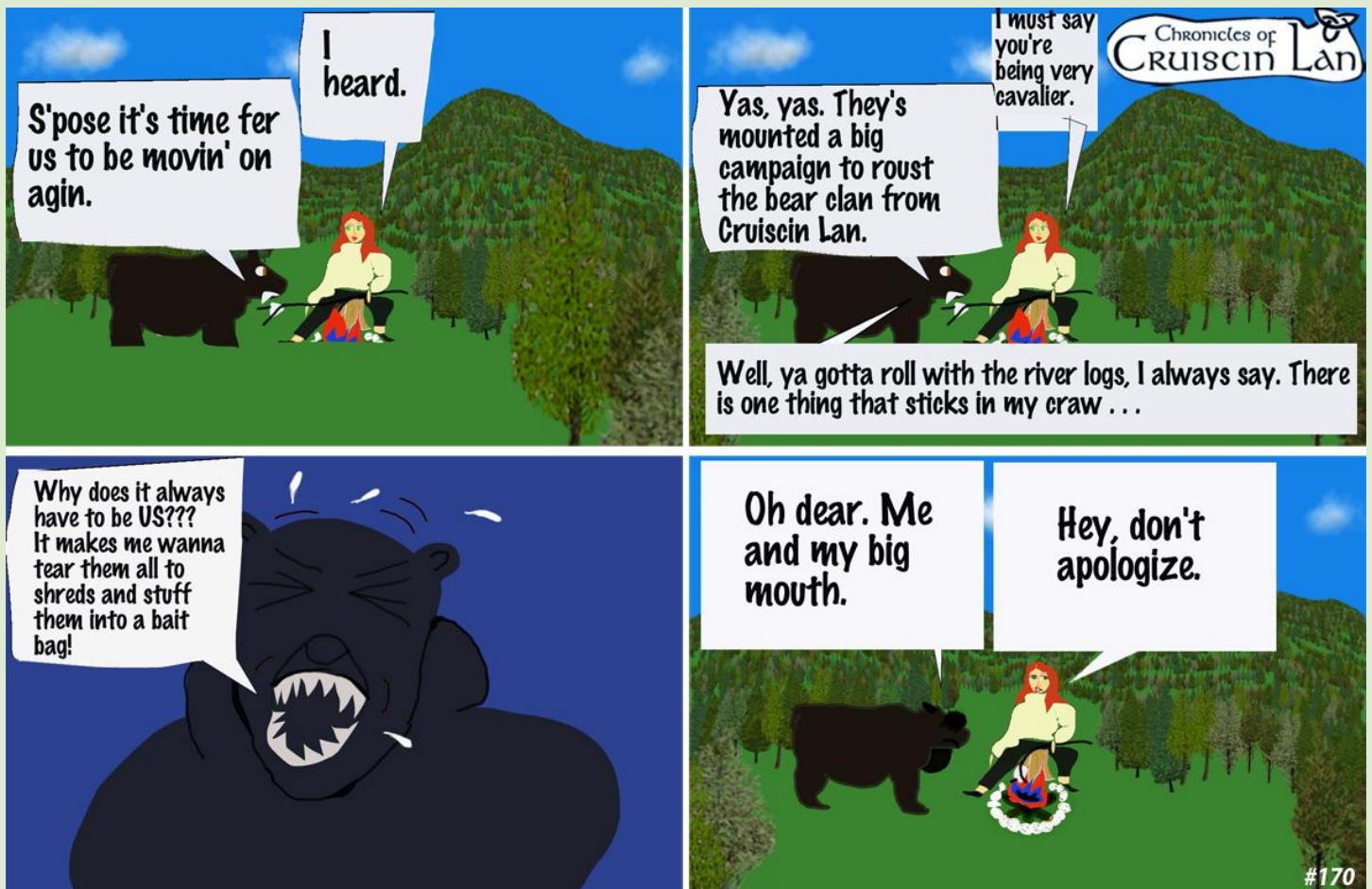
Take a listen:

*"You can't keep letting it get you down,
And you can't keep dragging that dead weight around
Is it really that much to lug around?
Better run like hell when you hit the ground.
When the morning comes
You can't stop those kids from dancing—
Why would you want to?"*

Hardly deathless poetry, but matched up with the joyful tune and the zealous delivery it makes the heart sing.

CHRONICLES OF CRUISCIN LAN

Wanda Waterman





From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

How Not to Spend Your Summer Vacation

During my recent writer's retreat at a condo in Canmore, I was being an especially good girl. I had taken a lot of work to do and over several days had gotten a rhythm going. I had quantified my intentions on five Post-its. One big one was finishing final revisions to my novel *Lucky Dog*. Another asked for a thousand words each day on a non-fiction project begun in 2008 during another such retreat. An even older project would get kick-started with five new chunks of writing per day. Still another goal was rereading 10 (!) years' worth of "From Where I Sit columns" and several morning pages journals. And because I didn't know how long any of this would really take, I had also dragged along my second novel-in-progress.

The TV was off and the CD player was on. I didn't leave my unit except for a long walk one day. I didn't nap. I stayed away from the Artspeak Festival that was on when I arrived. I considered attending the Sunday night reading by Sid Marty and Robert Kroetsch, but then passed; better to do my own writing than listen to others talk about writing, I reasoned.

By Wednesday I decided I needed to get out and visit the two bookstores in town.

I was walking away from The Second Story, purchase in hand, and was on my way to Cafe Books. Then without warning I tripped over some uneven pavement and fell. Battered pride and unbelievable shock were my first companions. Three ladies nearby came to my aid and made sure I was okay. A bad scrape on my right knee and some road rash below it seemed the extent of my injuries, so I soldiered on. A nasty fall wouldn't keep me from a bookstore.

As I touched and considered the lovely array of books, bookmarks, and giftware, I noticed pain in my left wrist. It was difficult to hold anything, and my range of motion was limited by pain. By four o'clock I had registered at the Canmore General Hospital. At first, lying down with an ice pack on my wrist and another on my knee worked fine. I amused myself by eavesdropping on all the activity around me. When a medical student came to take my history a couple of hours into this adventure, I was still chipper. As the evening wore on, though, I could understand why the confused old lady asked three separate times for a cab to take her home for supper. She eventually left without treatment or signing the waiver.

About four hours in I approached the desk and said, "I'm the wrist, how far down the list have I fallen?" The only doctor working overheard me and assured me I was next.

Trust me when I say I understood the meaning and spirit of the word triage. I knew the Japanese man next to me (with travel health insurance that didn't cover climbing accidents) who cut his eyelid open

during a climbing fall was ahead of me in priority. I knew that Mary, who was having trouble expressing herself and who'd had a stroke last July and aortic aneurysm surgery in the past, was ahead of me. Her expressive aphasia meant an ambulance trip to Calgary to treat the stroke she was obviously having.

"I was alone five hours from home. Rescuing me would mean two people driving another vehicle that distance . . . For the first time that day, I wanted to cry."

It seemed I was ahead of the foolish young man who was going 50 km/h on his skateboard without wearing a helmet when he wiped out. Wearing only a t-shirt and shorts made his road rash worthy of some Advil and some food to buffer his stomach. The sounds of young male bravado had me shaking my head until he fell asleep.

The physical exam that assessed my range of motion and pain had the doctor doubting a break in my wrist, but as a precaution he ordered an x-ray. That's when things got complicated. The good news was there didn't appear to be a break where I felt the most pain. The bad news was that my scaphoid bone (at the base of the thumb) looked like it had been broken in the past. That, coupled with pain, coupled with the complications possible with that particular bone had him recommending a cast. And no driving. For the first time that day, I wanted to cry.

I was alone five hours from home. Rescuing me would mean two people driving another vehicle that distance. I thought of the inconvenience and expense.

I tried to negotiate a splint instead by promising to cut my trip short and get help closer to home. *That would be sub-optimal, you still couldn't drive and you'd have to be treated within 12 hours*, he said. *Let me call my peeps*, I said.

A pep talk from Hilary had me agreeing to the cast. I left my loved ones to sort out the who and how of my rescue the next day. I learned that the scaphoid has a poor blood supply that hampers healing and can lead to bone death and all sorts of bad outcomes. The pain more than the suspicious x-ray determined the treatment. I got the doctor to admit that the pain could be muscular or related to a repetitive stress injury. "We need to rule out the really nasty stuff first," he said.

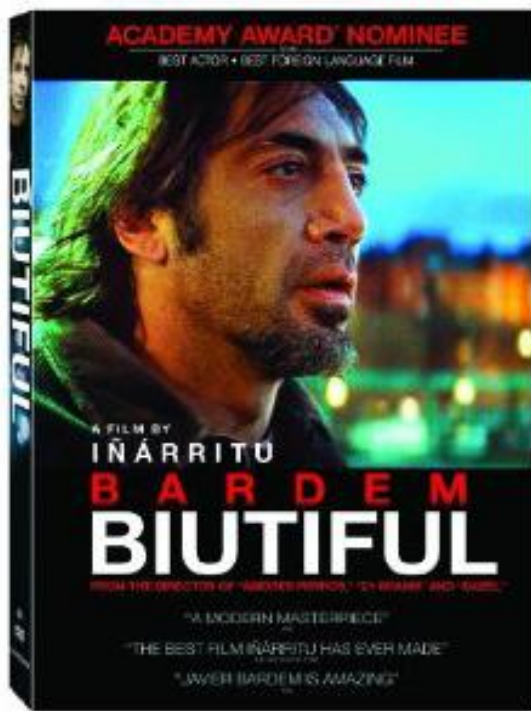
Plan of attack: 10 days in a cast followed by another x-ray and physical exam. Depending on that outcome, maybe another 10 days in a cast. Repeat as necessary until it's healed or a break has been ruled out. If it continues to be a problem, a bone or CT scan will be next.

So despite big writing plans, a garden overrun with weeds, several weddings to perform, and a dozen other to-dos, I'm pecking out this column while trying to figure out how to wash my hair, cook, clean and . . . the list goes on. Surely not how I intended to spend my summer vacation, from where I sit.



THE MINDFUL BARD

Wanda Waterman



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

Film: *Biutiful* (2010)

Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu

Cast: Javier Bardem, Maricel Álvarez, Hanaa Bouchaib, Guillermo Estrella, Eduard Fernández, Cheikh Ndiaye, Diaryatou Daff, Cheng Tai Shen

He Stoops, He Groans, He Falters

Uxbal, a soft-core criminal who is dying of prostate cancer, goes to visit his wife Marambra after she has run the gamut of another bout of bipolar debauchery. As she's lying in his brother's bed, she paraphrases a quote from *La Dolce Vita*: "I want to be faithful to you. But I also want to amuse myself, like a whore."

In *La Dolce Vita*, Maddalena, the character who says these words, is part and parcel of the world of the unreal, the phony, and the temporary, of all things careening toward death in the superficial modern world. *Biutiful* looks this theme of decadence and decay from another angle: in this film there is sickness everywhere, and the debauchery fails to ever appear glamorous. Those engaged in destructive lifestyles do so compulsively, even obsessively, deriving little or no pleasure from their vices. All is sick—the body, the sexuality, human ambitions, culture, society, the economy, relationships, and mental states.

Medical science, much as it raises hopes, provides no respite from all this human suffering. In one blissful scene Marambra excitedly tells Uxbal that she no longer needs medication because she has begun full spectrum light therapy and it's actually making her feel normal. She sits in the light, her frantic face framed by its rays, and says ecstatically, "Look— isn't it wonderful?"

Uxbal looks almost happy at this point. In the end this light fails as therapy, but there is the sense that it has not failed as a metaphor for life beyond death.

Uxbal is an expert on death from several vantage points. First, he is dying of cancer, and he's also participating in a culture that has sold out to the almighty dollar with extremely unfortunate results. But the thing which links him most profoundly to death is his psychic ability. If you happen to be skeptical about the paranormal you'll need to suspend your disbelief, because in this film his clairvoyance is very real and provides some powerful visual messages.

Uxbal, played by the inimitable Javier Bardem, has the task of coming to terms both with the modern fear of death and with the fact of humanity's reckless trajectory toward it.

When his daughter is doing her homework she asks Uxbal how to spell “beautiful.” Of course, as the title attests, he gives her the wrong spelling. He doesn’t know how to spell “beautiful” because he’s never known beauty, but in his clumsy, erring way he’s stumbling toward it.

“He doesn’t know how to spell ‘beautiful’ because he’s never known beauty, but in his clumsy, erring way he’s stumbling toward it.”

Part of the modern tragedy is a sense of being for whatever reasons parentless. Uxbal’s dad was forced to flee Franco’s Spain but ended up dying anyway, before Uxbal ever knew him. Thus the film provides a link with fascism, suggesting a root for the absurdity in which we are now living as well as the sense that fascism is still, in a manner of speaking, very much alive.

Rarely has gritty realism been so gorgeously portrayed, garish interiors and all, or with such moving and magical symbolism. And Javier Bardem’s phenomenal presence is like a jewelled crown that shows up the wretchedness of a heartless world while assuring us that love continues to exist in spite of terrible losses.

Biutiful manifests 10 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 stimulates my mind; 3) it harmoniously unites art with social action, saving me from both seclusion in an ivory tower and slavery to someone else’s political agenda; 4) it provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavour; 5) it is about attainment of the true self; 6) it inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; 7) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 8) it makes me want to be a better artist; 9) it is authentic, original, and delightful; and 10) it makes me appreciate that life is a complex and rare phenomenon, making living a unique opportunity (Cybiont).

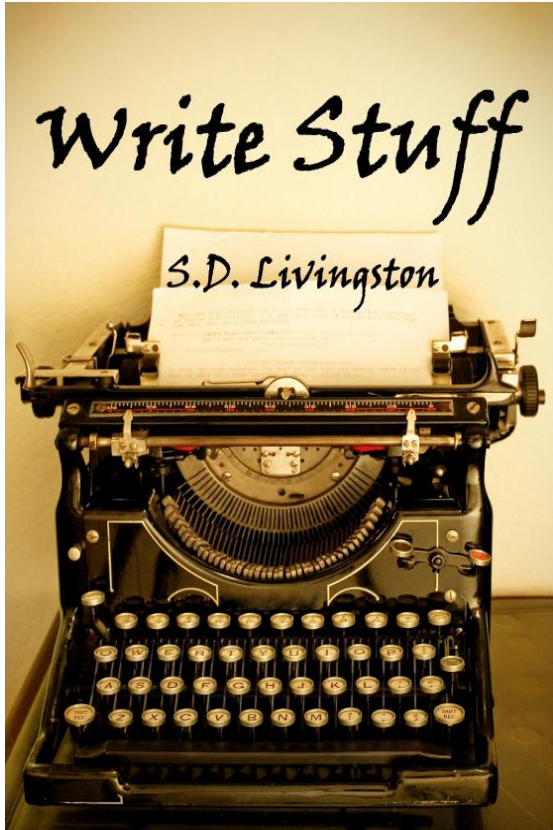
How Do You Like Your Voice?

It’s no secret that the patterns of media consumption have changed drastically over the past couple of years—and that they’re going to keep evolving with new technological breakthroughs. We at *The Voice* want to ensure that we’re continuing to meet your needs, and we need your help.

How would you prefer to read *The Voice Magazine*? Do you like downloading the PDF, or does reading articles online suit your browsing needs better? Do you prefer flipping through articles on a smart phone, e-reader, or other mobile device?

Let us know; we’re listening!





The Art of Persuasion

In the hit show *Mad Men*, it's all about the art of the sell. The clothes are cool, the ad men slick. It's fun to watch, but how often do you think about the messages advertisers aim at you? This week, we take a look at real-life ad men and women and the words they use to sway your loyalty—and our culture.

The most obvious place to start is with three of the most lucrative words ever pitched to consumers: rinse and repeat. For decades we blindly followed those instructions on shampoo bottles, buying twice as much product as we needed even after the original logic disappeared (as this CNN Money article [explains](#), there used to be a very good reason to shampoo twice.)

But the real ad magic can be discovered in *The Age of Persuasion*, a brilliant piece of radio hosted by Terry O'Reilly, who takes us behind the scenes with an engrossing style. As he says in [this episode](#), "the advertising business has been built on the backs of great slogans," and with over 30 years in the ad trenches he should know.

Don't think a pitchman's words can influence you? If you've ever worn a T-shirt that declared "Just do it," or used the phrase "Finger lickin' good," you've felt just how powerfully an ad's words can invade our collective consciousness. Those words are still irrevocably linked to their products, but how about a familiar saying like "When it rains it pours"? According to O'Reilly, those words came straight from an ad campaign by the Morton Salt Company back in 1911. That was the year they started adding magnesium carbonate to their product, forever changing the way salt clumped (or rather, didn't) when exposed to moisture. The line was so successful that it's still in use today, one hundred years later.

Catchy slogans are one thing, but what about when creative minds play with language to deceive us? Maybe not deceive, but definitely influence. As Dwight Bolinger noted in *Language, the Loaded Weapon*, a bit of linguistic sleight of hand goes a long way—and advertisers employ several standard techniques in this area. Want to sell individual servings of something? Don't say it's convenient but overpriced. Just use words like "handy version" or "fun size." It's a tactic known as euphemism, and it's had plenty of parents shelling out to load kids' backpacks with tiny pouches of colourful gummy treats.



Then there's a little something called literalism, another technique noted by Bolinger and described by *Pocket Fowler's Modern English Usage* as a statement that's "literally true but [that] will normally be understood in special ways that the advertiser intends." Here's an example: *Dentists recommend Toothpaste X*. They probably do—even if those "dentists" only amount to two people hand-picked by the toothpaste company.

Recent versions of that spin run along the lines of "three out of four dentists surveyed," but the wordplay's the same. Nobody's going to tell you whether the total survey consisted of four dentists or four hundred.

In the book *Subliminal Persuasion* by Dave Lakhani, the author takes the idea of words and influence even further. Not only do words have the power to persuade, he argues, but "words are the basis for all persuasion."

I'm not so sure about that (after all, a picture alone can be incredibly persuasive), but words are powerful tools in advertisers' hands. How are they used to persuade you? To influence the way you feel? For adults, there's no better place to start than *The Age of Persuasion* (besides listening to the live stream, you can get the podcast via RSS or iTunes). And for kids, *Admongo* offers a fun, interactive way to become more ad-savvy (it's run by the US Federal Trade Commission).

Because when it comes to the real-life *Mad Men*, it truly is a mad, mad, mad world.

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.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Help for Troubled Teens

Trouble: it often seems like a normal part of growing up. But for some youth, trouble's more than just a phase. Dropping out of school, developing drug addictions, and attempting suicide—these are teens who need a lot of help, and traditional programs won't necessarily meet their needs.

There's good news, though: an Ontario woman has pioneered one of Canada's first private treatment centres for troubled teens, and the government is now recognizing its worth.

As *The Globe and Mail* [reports](#), Karen Minden developed the idea after watching a family member suffer through a troubled youth and then find help through a "long-term residential treatment program in the United States."

But although some provinces pay to send youth to such centres in the US, there was a lack of local options, and the government and other "local institutions" seemed reluctant to establish such a centre.

Minden decided "that she'd have to do it herself." She raised funds privately, "consulted hundreds of experts," and found the ideal, outdoorsy location. She's now been operating the Pine River Institute for five years—with an 80 per cent success rate—and the government is stepping in to help provide funding for the residential program.

Around the World: Noodle Nonsense

The customer is always right, the old saying goes. But that wasn't the case for one Taiwanese food blogger who wasn't happy with the meal she was served. When she went online to complain about her restaurant experience, she was sued for defamation—and lost.

As the *Daily Telegraph* [reports](#), the restaurant blogger received a 30-day jail sentence, two years of probation, and a large fine for commenting on her blog about her unpleasant meal.

The blogger, whose small site is "relatively little-read," criticized the food as being "too salty," and complained about the presence of cockroaches and the owner's behaviour.

The judge ruled that the blogger's 2008 review was defamatory because she described the food as too salty but "had only eaten one dish of fried noodles," making her "unqualified" to comment on "the rest of the . . . menu."

The owner, whom the blogger had described as a "bully," told reporters he hoped that "the case would teach [the blogger] a lesson."

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.

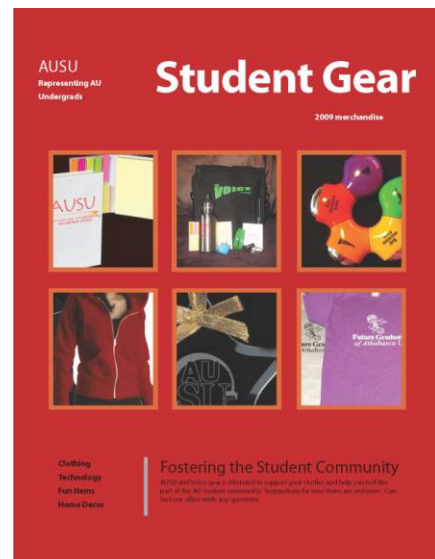
SmartDraw Program Renewal

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.



CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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