

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 19 Iss 30 2011-08-12

Look at Me!

Facebook psychology

Beyond Barriers

Peace in Palestine

Flying Dragons

Learn for learning's sake

Plus:

*Voix du Maghreb
Cruiscin Lan
and much more!*



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***The Voice
Magazine***

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The Voice is published
every Friday in HTML and
PDF format.

For weekly email
reminders as each issue is
posted, fill out the
subscription form [here](#).

The Voice does not share
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We love to hear from you! Send your questions and
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indicate if we may publish your letter.



EDITORIAL

Christina M. Frey



Facebook Made Me Do It

Facebook is like the difficult kid in high school who spends most of his spare time in detention. At once intriguing and controversial, the social media giant is always in some kind of trouble with watchdogs. Privacy concerns and worries about how it's affecting interpersonal relationships keep Facebook in the headlines constantly.

Yet despite the bad press, Facebook grows—and other forms of social media, no longer a “new” phenomenon, continue to develop as innovative new ways of sharing thoughts and information spread across the web. Twitter, Pinterest, CaringBridge, Google+, DropBox—these and countless more are integrating with faster and web-savvier browsers, laptops, smart phones, and tablet PCs.

The latest on the Facebook-alert front comes from a California State University professor and psychologist, Dr. Larry Rosen. He's worried that Facebook is turning teens into narcissists.

There's plenty of fodder for jokes here—many teens can be legendary for their narcissistic tendencies—but I'm not laughing. Dr. Rosen's concerns may make a point, but the endless fear of Facebook and other social media needs to stop.

“Facebook has, without a doubt, changed the landscape of how people interact with each other,” Rosen told reporters. That's no exaggeration. Social media, together with new technological breakthroughs in smart phones and tablets, may well be as earth-shattering a development as the creation of the printing press or the discovery that the earth moves 'round the sun. And that's why we need to embrace it, not run away from it; like it or not, social media is going to transform the way we communicate, and working with it is the only way to ensure it remains a servant of humanity.

Rosen's research showed “a relationship between heavy Facebook use and narcissism in teens,” *The Huffington Post* reported. Of course, while people with self-aggrandizing tendencies might flock to social media, that doesn't mean Facebook causes the condition. At the same time, it doesn't mean there's no cause-effect at all. As Rosen explained in an interview with *Canada A.M.*, we act differently when we're interacting behind screens because we feel as though there's no real-life person on the other end. Rosen told *Canada A.M.* that bad behaviour isn't met with the filters of real life: “You simply keep going on and doing what you're doing.”

Granted, Facebook may perpetuate negative tendencies. But it also accentuates positive ones, something Rosen acknowledges as well. In fact, his same research suggests that Facebook helps teens become “nice, social and engaged.”

In other words, Facebook makes us bad. Except when it makes us good.

Sounds like just about any other communications medium—or any technological development, for that matter—since the dawn of history.

Social media is here to stay. Like any other platform of communication, it presents challenges as it interacts with people’s tendencies toward selfishness, lying, manipulation, self-aggrandizement, and the like. But like any other platform of communication, it also offers opportunities for people’s better natures to shine through. Like all technological developments, it can be both beneficial and harmful, depending upon the user.

It’s time to stop fearing the brave new world that’s opening up, and instead focus on embracing it. And if we concern ourselves with bringing humanness to the medium, rather than fearing it will leach our humanity from us, we’ll create a legacy of integration and responsible use that will continue long after the new generation grows up.

CLICK OF THE WRIST

Acadiana

The Canadian government has designated August 15 as National Acadian Day in honour of the Acadian people who were forced to flee Eastern Canada in the 18th century. Despite the destruction of their settlements and the dispersion of their families, the Acadians and their culture survived—and survive still. Click through these links for a taste of Acadian history and culture.

Evangeline

What’s the real story behind Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s epic poem *Evangeline*? Although it’s uncertain whether the poem is factually accurate, it shot Longfellow to fame and created a lasting cultural impact. The Maine Historical Society explains some of its effects.

Check the Records

What were the circumstances surrounding the Acadian expulsion? What was the culture of the time? History books offer answers, but it’s hard to beat a look at the original sources. Here, the Nova Scotia Archives offers an online collection of “primary source documents relating to the Deportation of the Acadians from Nova Scotia.” The page also links to portraits and drawings from the time.

Moving Forward

What happened after the Acadians were forced out of their homes and villages? They were dispersed to several different locations, but many were unhappy and migrated south toward Louisiana. The Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site in Louisiana has both preserved and recreated buildings and farmsteads to show what life was like for Acadian refugees centuries ago. Check out the other [photo gallery](#) for more images.





Entretien Avec Guitariste Jack Djeyim

« Le goût de l'harmonie classique, l'improvisation du jazzman, les atmosphères nostalgiques du Sahel ou les polyrythmies saccadées de l'Afrique centrale se résument dans un style afro-jazz-fusion, ou les influences diverses ne dénaturent pas l'atout principal de cet artiste à la personnalité inclassable : un phrasé assez original, avec un picking bien reconnaissable par la maîtrise des accords et la sincérité expressive qui l'éloigne de toute attitude cérébrale. »

Jack Djeyim

Où avez-vous grandi ? Parlez-moi de votre enfance.

Je suis né à Douala, au Cameroun. Je suis issu d'une famille de sept enfants dont je suis le quatrième – de famille modeste, une mère au foyer et un père commerçant.

Quand avez-vous commencé à apprendre la musique ? Quelle a été votre éducation musicale ?

J'ai commencé à jouer de la guitare à l'âge de 15 ans. Je m'amusais à emprunter la guitare de mon voisin tailleur après mes cours au collège, je passais mes après-midi à gratter sur la guitare et interpréter quelques standards locaux. Après quelques années d'apprentissage, le patron d'un club de Bafoussam, « La paillotte », est venu chercher des musiciens à Douala pour son club, et ce fut ma 1ère expérience en tant que musicien de club.

Après deux années dans cette ville, je décide de partir pour le Nigéria. Je passe cinq années dans ce pays en tant que « musicien guitariste accompagnateur » - de Geraldo PINO, Tony Okorogie et beaucoup d'autres.

En 1984, je pars pour l'Europe dont 6 mois à Madrid; en 1985, j'arrive à Paris et deux années plus tard je m'inscris au conservatoire de musique (IACP PARIS 11) pendant quatre ans.

Parlez-moi de vos plus merveilleuses expériences musicales.

Ma plus belle expérience en tant que musicien est la rencontre avec Manu DIBANGO à Paris; et aussi ma grande tournée africaine en 1983, pour la première libération de prison de FELA au Nigeria. Comme artistes principaux sur scène, il y avait ROY AYES, GERALDO PINO et FELA.

De quels types de guitares jouez-vous ?

Je joue de la guitare électrique et acoustique, je suis un gaucher qui joue en position de droitier.

Pourquoi avoir choisi celles-là ?

C'est l'instrument qui est venu vers moi.

Jouez-vous d'autres instruments ?

Basse, piano à pouces (sanza), percussions.

Vous êtes installé en France à présent. Est-ce un endroit favorable pour un artiste comme vous ?

J'habite Paris, j'aime cette ville magnifique. Concernant ma carrière sur la place parisienne, les choses avancent doucement.

De quelles conditions avez-vous besoin dans votre vie pour être créative ?

Je souhaiterais avoir une maison de disque, pour être plus libre dans ma création et ne pas avoir à investir financièrement dans ma production et ma promotion.

Êtes-vous inspiré par certains livres ? Par des films ? Par la vie quotidienne ?

J'aime lire. Par contre, je suis plus inspiré par les faits divers.

Quelles pensées et quels sentiments le nom « Afrique » suscite-t-il en vous ?

Grandeur, beauté, rythme, chant, danse, et tout simplement « MON HISTOIRE ».

Êtes-vous fidèle à une croyance religieuse ou à une idéologie politique ?

Mes idéologies et ma religion, c'est « L'AMOUR ET LE PARTAGE ! » Et mon arme : « MA GUITARE ».

Comment êtes-vous parvenu à un style personnel aussi éclectique ?

C'est une combinaison de plusieurs musiques africaines, en partant de l'est à l'ouest et du nord au sud.

Quels sont vos projets pour la prochaine année ?

L'année prochaine, je prévois de sortir mon nouveau concept « tradi/moderne » (Sanza Trio Family).

**Green Light**

concept for a boost of inspiration.

Tube Talk

Over the summer it's easy to become lax about our commitment to caring for our planet. But even the smallest actions can make an impact in the aggregate! Take a look at your trash; odds are good that it contains those cardboard tubes from toilet paper and paper towel rolls. Did you know that they can be recycled along with your other cardboard items? And if you want to give the rolls an even longer life, try transforming them into some avant-garde artwork. Check out one blogger's



From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Learning for Learning's Sake

So far this has been a disappointing summer weather-wise. In my part of the world it has been cooler and wetter than normal—or at least what we've come to regard as normal. Yet the conditions must have been just right for dragonflies, for they are everywhere.

Not since I was a young girl do I remember seeing so many. The fascination with their size and lovely iridescent colour is as keen today as it was then. As a kid I remember trying, usually unsuccessfully, to catch them; they were too fast, too elusive. Despite their huge size and noisy flight, I wasn't afraid of them. Unlike the horseflies of my youth, they didn't bite or sting. They were simply pretty flying novelties.

Turning to my Lone Pine field guide *Bugs of Alberta* and the Internet for more information has been like sitting in a science class—except that I wanted to be there! Now that I know that these lovely little creatures are voracious and efficient hunters of insects, including mosquitoes, they are number one in my books. That may also explain why there are so many dragonflies; the bumper crop of mosquitoes assures quick and easy meals, just what the on-the-go dragonfly demands.

I also now know why it's impossible to sneak up on a resting dragonfly. They have huge compound eyes (made up of about 30,000 ommatidia or individual eyes) with a full 360-degree range of vision. They can see you coming or going. Their vision itself isn't that great; it's more of a motion detection thing. The flattened front of the eye, with its concentration of eye cells, allows them to spot prey on the fly.

Speaking of flight, dragonflies are fast; one in Australia was clocked at 36 miles per hour. They can fly backward, forward, and sideways, and can hover like hummingbirds. Their two pairs of large, strong wings are designed to catch the slightest breeze and require a minimum of effort: only thirty beats per second compared to the hundreds of beats required by a housefly.

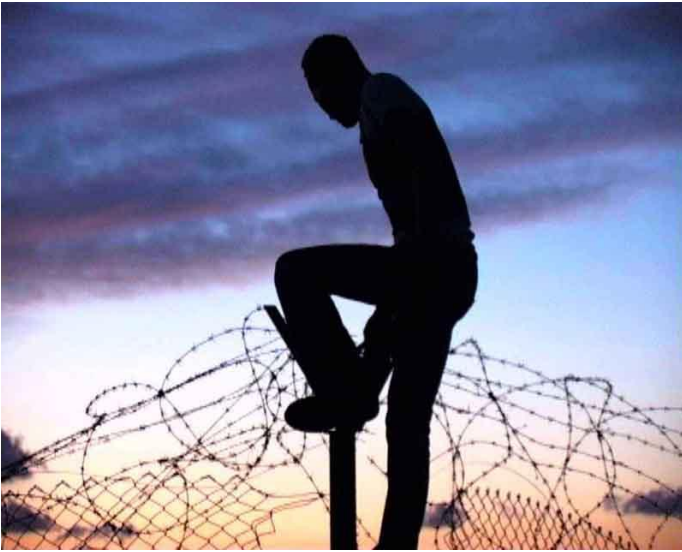
The only dragonflies I can differentiate are the super-sized blue ones and the smaller orange ones, even though my bug guide mentions over 50 species in Alberta. Colours include blue, green, black, brown, red, orange, and yellow in varying combinations. Fossils of prehistoric dragonflies indicate a wingspan of 28 inches! Of the five thousand varieties in the world today, some have a wingspan of seven inches.

Most of a dragonfly's lifespan is spent as a nymph. Some varieties are in a nymph state for up to four years before emerging from the water body where they hatched. They are weak and vulnerable for a short time while their new wings dry. Most dragonflies will live from two months to up to one year, depending on climate.

What fun it is to learn for the sake of learning rather than to pass a quiz! Just imagine the world if we all knew more about the miracle of our creature companions, from where I sit.

THE MINDFUL BARD

Wanda Waterman



Above: Budrus.

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

Film: Budrus (2010)

Director: Julie Bacha

Genre: Documentary

The Israeli army is uprooting Palestinian olive trees in order to replace them with its Separation Barrier, allegedly being built to keep West Bank suicide bombers from killing any more civilian Israelis. When the villagers try to stop the bulldozer from uprooting a tree, the tree is wrenched from the earth anyway. But just as the bulldozer driver is ready to refill the

hole with dirt, young Iltezam Morrar jumps down into the hole, and the bulldozer driver has no choice but to move off. When the machine is gone, the villagers put the tree back into its hole.

According to Israel's plan, one large section of the Separation Barrier will be constructed inside the West Bank, on Palestinian land. In one area it will surround six Palestinian villages, including Budrus, separating the inhabitants from hundreds of acres of their land.

Israeli army Captain Doron Spielman is taking a pragmatic approach to defending the construction of the Barrier. He rationalizes that Israel's best answer to Palestinian suicide bombers is a fence; it's unfortunate, he admits, for the Palestinians, but less unfortunate than the death of an Israeli civilian.

Palestinian activist and family man Ayed Morrar, the focal point of this film, is inclined to agree with Doron's view. He acknowledges a nation's responsibility to protect its citizens, but at the same time, and with quiet dignity, he states that his issue is not with the fence itself but rather with the planned location of long segments of it. The construction plans for the Separation Barrier involve not only encroachment on Palestinians' lands but also the uprooting of thousands of the olive trees on which the village of Budrus depends for its livelihood.

And it's not just a question of financial matters. The Palestinians have planted and nurtured these trees from seedlings. They've named many of them after their

"Non-violent resistance implies the very opposite of weakness. Defiance combined with non-retaliatory acceptance of repression from one's opponents is active, not passive. It requires strength, and there is nothing automatic or intuitive about the resoluteness required for using non-violent methods in political struggle and the quest for Truth."

Mahatma Gandhi

mothers. There is a strong attachment to the land on which the trees have been planted, land sometimes owned by families for generations.

Ayed Morrar is a born grassroots leader. He takes part in everything he organizes. He discourages violence. He enlists Israeli activists in the cause, thus providing a shield for the Palestinians against Israeli soldiers and granting Palestinian Arabs the chance to encounter and develop solidarity with peace-loving Israelis. He encourages women to join in the demonstrations. He calls on political leaders to show support. Though he actively opposes their methods and ideology, he even includes Hamas in events, knowing that their influence in Palestine can make or break this small but growing peace movement.

Morrar addresses his community in a village meeting, pointing out the only viable choices before them. They can simply accept their fate as the will of God and do nothing. Or, they can recognize that they are confronted with an obstacle that must be faced with intelligence and fortitude. Morrar does not appear to be an ideologue, but violence is not an option—he insists that they must save their olive groves by the safest route possible, which means not doing anything which would have them labelled as terrorists.

I've seen this argument before, made by Wangari Maathai in [Taking Root](#), the documentary about Kenya's Green Belt Movement. This was another grassroots movement that achieved its goals peacefully and had many positive repercussions for the world at large.

Kudos to the makers of this film for bringing to light a very positive series of initiatives that are perhaps not volatile or exciting enough to garner media coverage, but which have huge potential for bringing a kind of resolution to the conflicts in Israel and the Middle East.



Above: Iltezam Morrar, Women's Leader.

Budrus manifests six 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 inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; 3) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 4) it gives me tools enabling me to respond with compassion and efficacy to the suffering around me; 5) it renews my enthusiasm for positive social action; and 6) it makes me appreciate that life is a complex and rare phenomenon, making living a unique opportunity.

AUSU UPDATE: JULY 29, 2011**Bethany Tynes, President****AUSU Joins ASEC!**

On Friday, July 15, AUSU was officially accepted into membership by the Alberta Students' Executive Council. ASEC is a provincial lobby group that now represents students from fourteen post-secondary institutes across Alberta, including schools from five of the six categories described in Alberta's Post-Secondary Learning Act. ASEC is focused on advocating on behalf of all post-secondary students at Alberta institutions, recognizing that each school has a unique student population and there is no such thing as a "normal" student. ASEC has recently been incredibly successful

in their efforts with government and media, having been the driving force behind the newly-launched Serving Communities Internship Program, which provides students with the opportunity to pay for their education through volunteer work. AUSU is incredibly excited to work with ASEC! For more information on ASEC, visit albertastudents.ca.

Meetings with CUPE 3911

CUPE 3911 is the union that represents our AU tutors, and for a very long time AUSU sought to meet with representatives from this union to discuss how we can work together to improve students' experiences at AU. A few months ago, we were delighted to have the opportunity to meet with members from the CUPE Executive, who expressed great support for students. Our AUSU Executive will now be meeting with CUPE on a quarterly basis to keep communication channels open and discuss our mutual concerns.

Relationship with AUGSA

AUSU is excited to see the growth and development that has happened in the AU Graduate Students' Association recently, and has also met with AUGSA to talk about how we can join forces to advocate on behalf of all AU students. AUSU will be meeting with AUGSA on a bimonthly basis from now on, with the two unions' presidents meeting on a monthly basis.

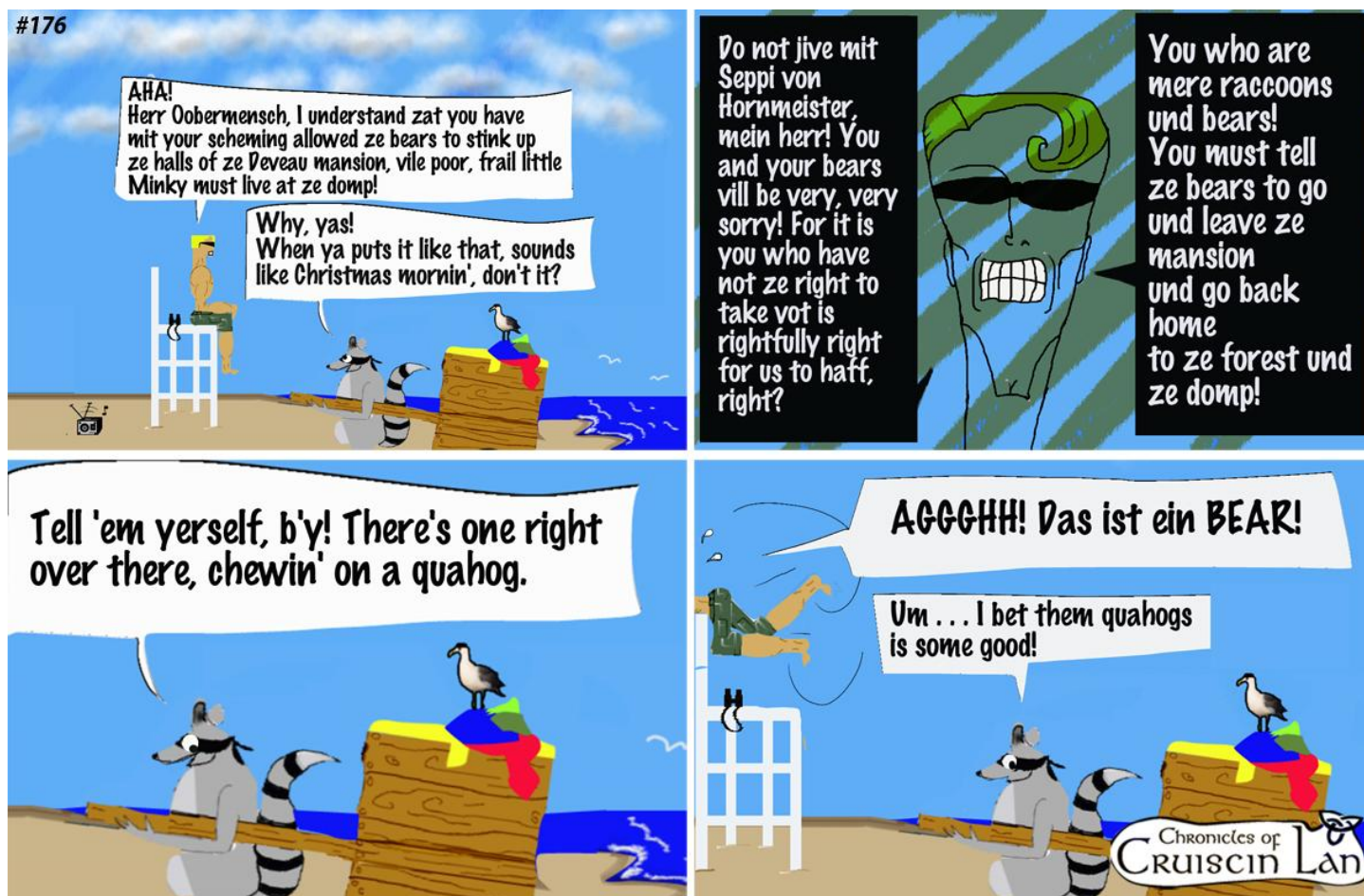
SmartDraw License Renewed

Did you know that as an AU student and AUSU member, you can get free software? SmartDraw is a design program that can allow you to create detailed charts and graphics. These can then be inserted into Word or PDF files or exported as JPG images so you can submit them to your tutor with your assignments! Contact our office to find out how YOU can download this program for free, and then let us know if it's useful to you! This is a program that AUSU has offered for a few years, but we have been informed that the price will be increasing drastically in the years to come. So check it out and let us know if it's a service you'd like to see continued, or if you'd rather we investigate other options.

This column is provided by AUSU to facilitate communication with its members. The Voice does not write or edit this section; all content has been exclusively and directly provided by AUSU, and any questions or comments about the material should be directed to ausu@ausu.org.

CHRONICLES OF CRUISCIN LAN

Wanda Waterman



DID YOU KNOW?

AU's Advising Services



For first-time students, program selection and planning is a significant undertaking. But even if you're well on your way to earning that degree or certificate, it's important to revisit and revise your program plan continuously as circumstances and interests change.

It's easy to get bogged down in the confusing swirl of prerequisites, program requirements, and transfer credit. Fortunately, AU's Advising Services is there to help.

The advisors, who are available by phone, email, and in person at one of AU's Centres, "can assist you in areas ranging from clarifying your undergraduate program requirements, to helping choose the next course for your program of studies." They also can answer your questions about "university regulations and procedures" as well as "transfer credit evaluation." Special academic advising is also available for specific programs.

For more information, visit the [Advising Services page](#), or fill out the [online contact form](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Ancient Village

Anthropological digs tend to focus on finding and verifying details of a particular culture or time period. But sometimes, the digs unearth a surprise—literally.

As *The Globe and Mail* [reports](#), a team of anthropologists and students from the University of Northern British Columbia accidentally discovered the location of an ancient village “that may be 10,000 years old.”

The dig, located on Calvert Island, B.C., is believed to be the location of the “long-lost, ancient village” of Luxvbalis. According to First Nations tradition, the village was used as a winter home by members of the Heiltsuk First Nations tribe until “it was abandoned after a smallpox epidemic swept the coast in the 1800s.”

The village’s remains are buried under many layers of shells beneath the forest floor, and the dig has so far only recovered a limited amount of evidence. UNBC anthropology professor Dr. Farid Rahemtulla estimates that the depth of the material “[suggests] a very, very ancient time period,” he told reporters. He added that the deeper, still-buried part of the village site could be older than 6,000 to 10,000 years. Currently the team is waiting for carbon dating estimates to clarify a time period.

Around the World: The Right Way to Play

When the score is close, the pressure is on for soccer players to score a goal—or keep one from happening. But it doesn’t only come down to physical skills. As some fascinating new psychology research suggests, knowing how we act in certain situations can help players better their game.

As NPR [reports](#), the study found that “during penalty shootouts, goalies will dive to the right side 71 percent of the time when their team is down, but not when they’re tied or ahead.” In other situations, diving to the right or left is equally likely.

The study authors, psychologists at the University of Amsterdam, “believe the bias likely extends to other sports as well that involve rapid decision-making under pressure.”

Right-handedness seems irrelevant. It’s commonly known that certain mammals, including humans, “unconsciously move to the right when they approach something they really want.” Psychologists believe that the unconscious favouring of one side over another “arose . . . [as] an evolutionary advantage.”

Although physical survival may no longer be on the line, the intense pressures of a high-stakes game present a similar quandary.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union
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www.voicemagazine.org

The Voice is published every Friday in HTML and PDF format.

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