

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Vol 19 Iss 43 2011-11-11

### Day of Peace

War and remembrance

### Angel's Wings

Feathered foes

### Larry Potter

Copycat wizardry

*Plus:  
From Where I Sit  
Maghreb Voices  
and much more!*



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***The Voice  
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We love to hear from you! Send your questions and  
comments to [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org), and please  
indicate if we may publish your letter.



## REMEMBER THE FUTURE

Max Birkner



The author in Afghanistan.

I remember waking up in my bunk to the first volley from the artillery guns just across the motorcade from where we slept. The entire old school building would shake, and dust from the concrete ceiling came down in trickles.

I remember jumping out of the slowly moving vehicle on Route Brown, watching where we stepped as we set up ambushes in the grape fields, hoping the ground wouldn't blow up beneath us.

I remember the entire body of troops, hundreds of men and women in the desert uniform, our hands pinned rigidly in the

long salute as the sun set over Kandahar Airfield. To the wail of the bagpipes the flag-draped casket was carried slowly up the ramp of the C-17 Globemaster.

Most Canadians will never have seen it, but a handful will never forget it.

Every year the schoolkids write essays describing what Remembrance Day means to them. But the truth is, to a large number of Canadian adults Remembrance Day doesn't hold a lot of meaning. To many it's a day off: a day off school or work, a Day of the Pillow, a Day of the Remote (while carefully avoiding the CBC). It's kind of sadly ironic that so many people forget about what is supposed to be our day of remembrance.

Granted, we have to be realistic: the reasons for remembering aren't in the common experience. In a quiet country like Canada, where most people will apologize to someone who has just stepped on their foot, it is easy to file war and sacrifice in the bottom drawer. There are so few people left who fought during the Great Wars and Korea. Everyone knows about peacekeeping missions in general, but very few Canadians could describe what "peacekeeping" really means. Perhaps we have a vague image of men in blue helmets outlined against bombed-out Bosnian towns—or a dusty television clip—but for most people, that is as far it goes.

What about the conflict in Afghanistan? Most people know there is a war going on *somewhere*, but judging from the number of people who've looked me in the eye and said that in their opinion Canada should get out of Iraq, most of them are both unconcerned and uninformed. Unfortunately this applies particularly to my own generation—the next leaders of the country.

My parents emigrated from the neutral country of Sweden in 1973. They had very little idea what Remembrance Day was all about until one October morning, when their son got on the grey-painted military airliner and flew off to Afghanistan. What I had been trying to explain since the start of my cadet years was suddenly at the front of their minds. Every day for the next six months they would stop for a minute and wonder, "Is he dead now and I don't know it yet?" The same question has been asked by many households in this country, and sometimes the parents haven't been so lucky.



Furthermore, it is not just the dead we must remember. Countless Canadians have been permanently injured in the service. Enter any Canadian Forces base, from Edmonton to Gagetown, and you will see men in their 20s working to rebuild their lives on the running track with their new prosthetic limbs. You might see someone rolling up to the mess hall by use of the wheelchair ramps.

But how can the average person relate? If you don't know any soldiers, or don't have relatives who once fought, how do you get a sense of all those faceless people? Perhaps parachute flares and crimson tracer bullets will never light up the night sky above your head, but everyone aged 15 and older remembers where they were when the Twin Towers went down. Do you know a police officer or firefighter? This is their day as well: whether we know the specifics or not, we all owe something to the people who patrol our streets and wait for the fires that may break out in our homes. Some perish in the line of duty, too—like the four RCMP officers who were killed near Mayerthorpe, Alberta in the spring of 2005.

This year is an important time in the annals of the Canadian Forces: it is the beginning of the end of Canada's nearly decade-long mission in Afghanistan. While a smaller body of personnel will stay behind to train local police and military, the time of actively routing Taliban fighters is running out as far as Canadian troops are concerned. Already there is a new mission in Libya, although how big it will get or how long it will draw itself out is yet to be determined. As veterans from the old times depart, new ones take their place. But even if someday there are no visible symbols of war and sacrifice, Remembrance Day must never stop.

On this day, 11/11/11, go downtown, to the cenotaph, or the stadium and join with the others who have decided that today will not be a Day of the Pillow. It is a day to hear the guns fire in salute and to hear the bagpipes of the local reserve regiment. It is a time to get together as a community. It is not a day for politics. It is not a day of fear-mongering or propaganda. If anything it is a day of peace, a day when everyone from every corner of the country, from Cape Spear in Newfoundland to Masset, Haida Gwaii, comes together to be thankful and mournful at the same time.



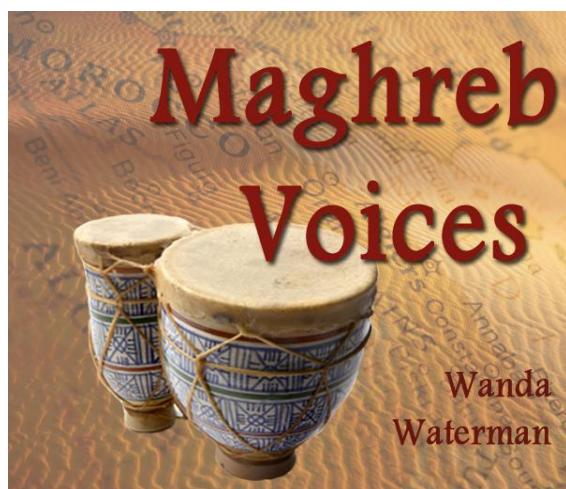
## SOUND OFF



*Last week we highlighted some of the controversy surrounding Athabasca University's new coat of arms and crest. What do you think? How well do they represent the university and its students?*

**Tell *The Voice*, and you could win!**

Email us today at [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org) and let us know your opinion. *Ten respondents will win free Voice swag!*



**Album:** Terakaft, *Aratan N Azawad* [Children of the Azawad]  
(World Village: Harmonia Mundi, 2011)

**Musicians:** Liya Ag Ablil (a.k.a. Diara), guitars, vocals; Sanou Ag Ahmed, guitars, vocals; Abdallah Ag Ahmed; bass, guitar, vocals; and Mathias Vaguenez, percussions

*"... even in the songs of the new guitar music, including those from the Tuareg rebellion in which younger groups have been active, there is not complete rejection of the interests of elders or conservative customs of nomadic Tuareg culture."*

S.J. Rasmussen, "Between Several Worlds: Images of Youth and Age in Tuareg Popular Performance," *Anthropological Quarterly* (July 2000)

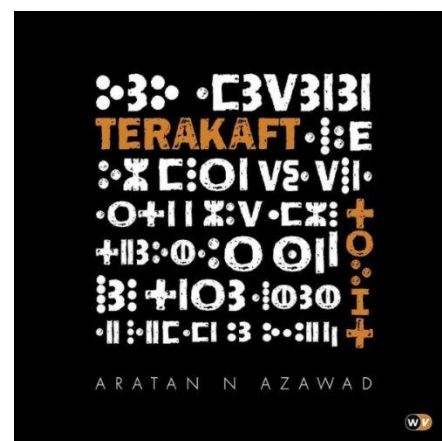
### Barrelhouse Rallying Cry of the Tuareg Diaspora

In the wake of Gadhafi's death I saw a video clip of a group of Libyan freedom fighters slapping and berating a fettered Tuareg, a member of one of the more prominent nomadic tribes of the Sahara Desert. He was a beautiful man, so much taller than his attackers that they had to stretch to hit his face.

This Tuareg, like many of his tribesmen, had allegedly fought for Gadhafi. It's now common knowledge that due to Libyan taboos against fighting one's own tribesmen at home or abroad, Gadhafi had hired, armed, and trained mercenaries from hither and yon (including European countries). When the Tuaregs fled Mali and ended up in Libyan refugee camps, Gadhafi was quick to arm and train them to fight in campaigns against surrounding African nations and to quash rebellions within Libya. It's said that Gadhafi offered the impoverished Tuaregs huge sums of money up front to do his bidding.

In spite of my sympathy for the Libyan freedom fighters, the slapping party was a little hard for me to watch. Whatever the Tuareg's guilt, he was and still is the victim of horrendous upheavals and encroachments that have frequently left his people homeless and starving.

But the peculiar circumstances of Tuareg marginalization—racial, cultural, social, and geographic—have somehow enabled this tribe to become a fountainhead of musical inspiration for centuries, in much the same way that blues music provided raw material for a host of American genres in the 20th century. The Tuareg continue to pour incredible sounds into our lives today: witness the burgeoning global popularity of bands like Tinariwen, Etran Finatawa, Mamane Barka—and Terakaft.



To give you a general idea of the feel of Tuareg music, picture the kind of mellifluous guitar rhapsody we associate with Ali Farka Touré, North African gnawa music, and northern Mississippi blues. There are

additional musical elements that are reggae-like, with the weight on the third beat. It's too engaging to be elitist, but too spare and acoustic to be commercial.

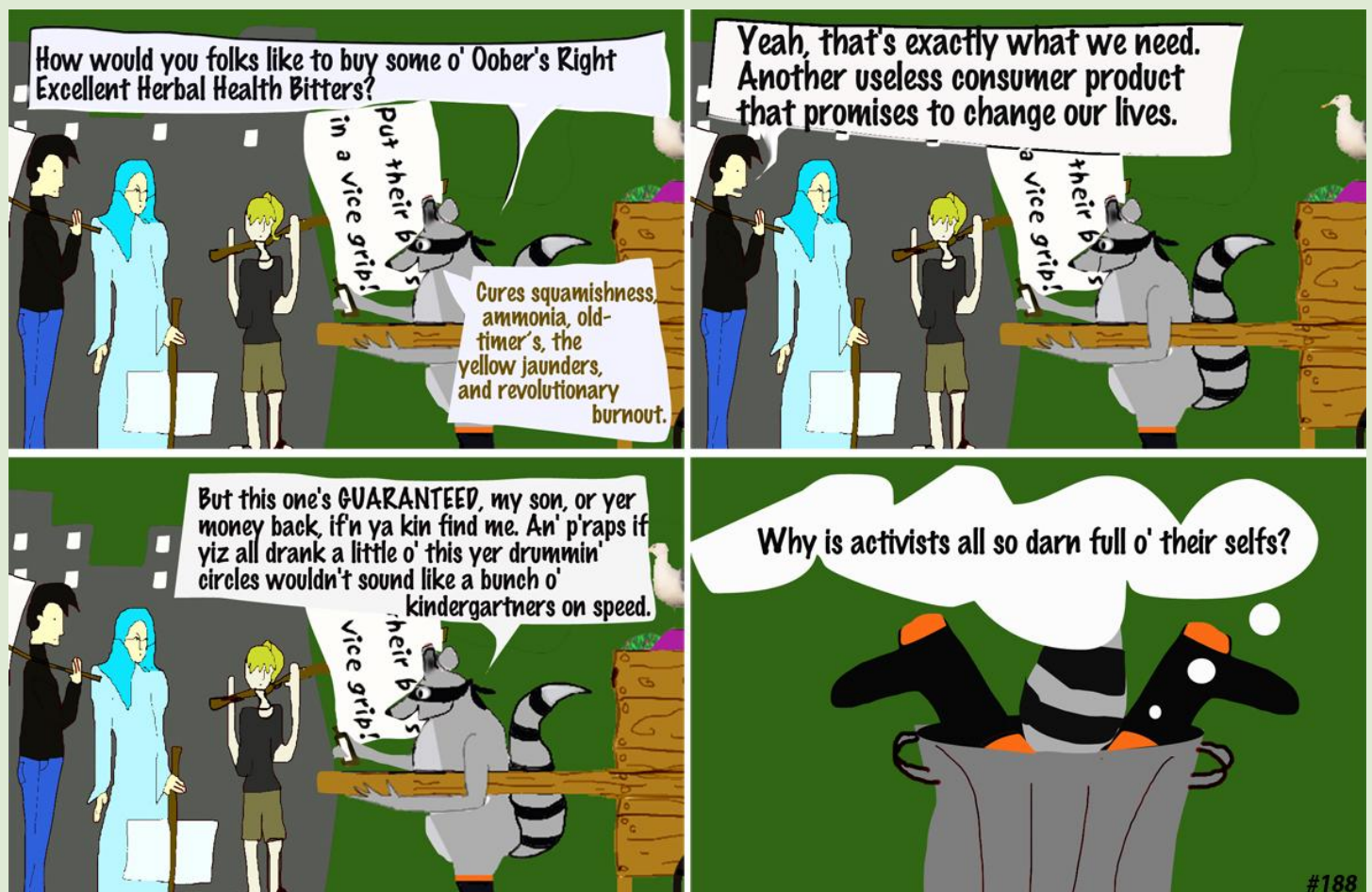
*Aratan N Azawad* showcases a great complexity of emotional subtleties, including tenderness, determination, grief, transcendence, and engagement. There is a primal call and response between vocal soloist and chorus, between the guitars, and between the drums. The modal riffs repeat and increase in intensity until they reach a thrilling crescendo. Terakaft are no folk Nazis, and a commitment to raw sparseness doesn't preclude electric guitars when electric sustain is precisely what the doctor ordered.

Musically Terakaft and other recent Tuareg groups inhabit a cultural-historical space that makes it impossible to know who has inspired whom; did their African heritage influence their blues or did the blues influence their interpretation of their African heritage? Did they learn the reggae beat from the radio, or did it just emerge from their fertile desert souls? Perhaps, as I've speculated before, it is the nature of the Sahara to conceive the very roots of the roots of world music.

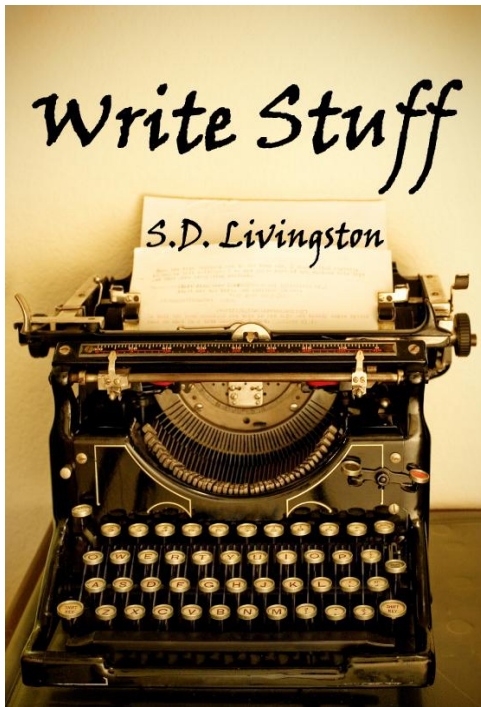
Wanda also penned the poems for the artist book *They Tell My Tale to Children Now to Help Them to be Good*, a collection of meditations on fairy tales, illustrated by artist Susan Malmstrom.

## CHRONICLES OF CRUISCIN LAN

Wanda Waterman







## Larry Potter, Boy Wizard

Once upon a time there was a boy wizard named Larry Potter. Larry was an orphan and didn't know he was a wizard until one day, a letter arrived . . . wait. Doesn't this all sound a little familiar? Of course it does. Which brings us to the crux of a recent literary lawsuit: can anyone really own the idea behind a tale?

That's the question Canadian courts will have to decide in a lawsuit over *Gold Mountain Blues*, a novel by Toronto author Ling Zhang. The book, described by *The Globe and Mail* as "a family saga about Chinese immigrants to Canada," was originally published in Chinese, but the lawsuit concerns the new English-language version. Three noted Canadian writers—Sky Lee, Paul Yee, and Wayson Choy—filed the \$6 million suit, claiming "Zhang's book contains numerous elements copied from their work, including characters, plots and descriptions."

And that, naturally, makes me wonder about vampires. Not the mythical creatures themselves, but books and movies with plots about vampires. Especially plots that contain a plucky teenage heroine or hero, a loyal band of friends, and battles (both physical and emotional) against various sinister creatures—either the vampires themselves, or werewolves, or any strange combination thereof.

Off the top of my head I can name *The Lost Boys*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, the *Twilight* series, and *The Vampire Diaries*. A search on Amazon turns up dozens more, with vampire romances a popular theme. All these plots are rooted, of course, in the tradition of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and the tales of Vlad the Impaler that go back centuries before that.

The names are changed, but all these works contain strikingly similar themes, descriptions, and plots. Whether your vampire is the hero, à la Edward Cullen, or the villain, there are only so many ways to describe his nocturnal wanderings and taste for blood. Should all these authors and filmmakers be sued for the similarities, a sort of domino effect of lawsuits based on whichever book was published first? Of course not.

*Who owns an idea—and what happens when there's overlap among plots, characters, and settings? A lawsuit isn't always the answer.*

Obviously, *Gold Mountain Blues* has nothing to do with vampires. And the tales of millions of Chinese immigrants are fact, not fantasy. But many of those immigrants' lives had common threads: difficult journeys, the deaths of loved ones, and abysmal working conditions, for example. With more than 15,000 migrant Chinese workers hired between 1880 and 1885 to build the Canadian Pacific Railway, plus the vast numbers that worked the California gold fields in that same century, there were bound to be many that suffered permanent injuries.



So it's no surprise that both *Gold Mountain Blues* and *The Jade Peony* (Wayson Choy's 1995 novel) feature a "disfigured railway worker who saves his foreman from death." Or, indeed, that several other Chinese-immigrant characters in Zhang's book resemble those in the plaintiffs' works.

If there truly are only seven stories in the world, and all cultures and periods repeat those themes endlessly, we must make allowances for the well-intentioned overlap that's bound to take place. Still, I think I'll change the name of my boy wizard to Larry Totter. Just in case.

*S.D. Livingston is the author of several books, including the new suspense novel Kings of Providence. Visit her [website](#) for information on her writing (and for more musings on the literary world!).*

## CLICK OF THE WRIST

## The Write Type

**Got something to say? The words themselves aren't the only things that matter in getting your message across. As Marshall McLuhan's famous line goes, "The medium is the message"—and if you're using a medium involving typeface, the font you choose becomes part of that message too. Confused? Click through these links for an idea of how much thought goes into the lettering your eyes glance over each day.**

### Sorting It All Out

Confused about leading, kerning, points, and the like? Video blogger Karen Kavett takes on typography in this quick but informative clip. Click through to her YouTube channel for more typography-related videos (including part 2 of this lesson!).

### Digging Deeper

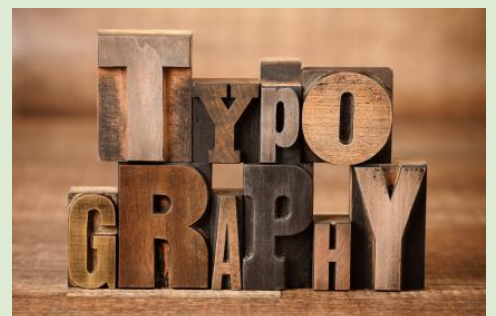
If you're still curious about type, fonts, lettering, and layout—or want to learn to use them most effectively in your ads or presentations—poke through this fascinating blog. It's an online companion to the book *Thinking with Type*, and will change the way you look at a page.

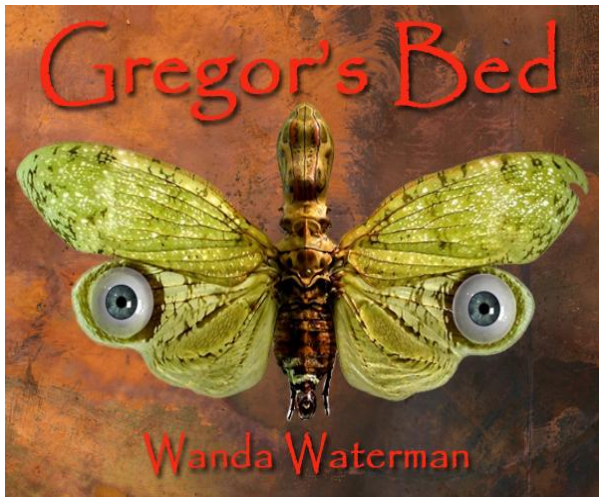
### Innovation

Dyslexic readers often have difficulty with traditional fonts; their brains flip around similar letters, causing them to misread text. One dyslexic Dutch student decided to do something about it: he created a new typeface font specialized to counteract the way a dyslexic reader's brain works. This *Toronto Star* interview includes a video that explains how a "typical" font was adjusted to make it more readable.

### The Lighter Side

What do the fonts you use *really* say about you? Cracked.com applies its own special brand of irreverent humour to typography. The piece gets a bit more serious with its "fonting guidelines" further down.





## Recent Discoveries From the Realm of the Experimental and Avant-Garde

**Film:** *Idiots & Angels* (2008)

**Genre:** Animated

**Writer/Director/Animator:** Bill Plympton

### 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Gregor Wakes with Wings

In the Sioux myth of White Buffalo Woman, two braves on a hunting trip see a beautiful woman in white buckskin approaching them from a distance. The first recognizes

her spiritual character and warns the other against making a pass at her. The second brave doesn't listen, and ends up a pile of bones and writhing snakes.

White Buffalo Woman returns home with the wise brave and teaches the villagers the ritual of the pipe, a necessary exchange of energy between the spirit world and the material world.

What does this have to do with *Idiots & Angels*? The film is about what happens when the Good breaks into this vale of tears: some will attempt to exploit it and will be destroyed by it, while others will accept it and permit it to open the window that lets in, in the words of C.S. Lewis, "the sweet air blowing from 'the land of righteousness.'"

Donald starts out with the first group. A jerk if there ever was one, he drinks too much, hurts innocent people for kicks, goes out of his way to be selfish and inconsiderate, shows an obscene lack of respect for women, and sells contraband firearms. He practically squirms with delight at his own boorishness.

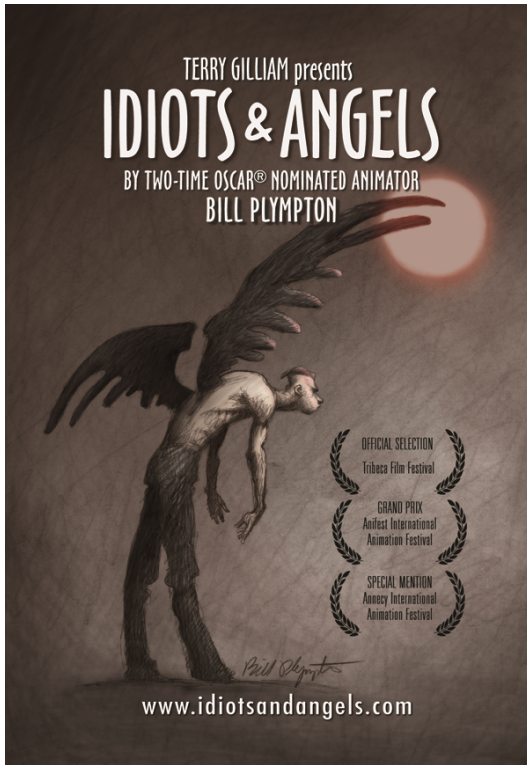
So why does a pair of angel wings slowly and mysteriously sprout from Donald's back? Why this guy, of all people? The appearance of the wings is testament to the unfathomable quality of the divine and its apparent foolhardiness in targeting and tackling evil.

Donald is at first puzzled by the appearance of these wings, then embarrassed—then humiliated when they draw derision from others. But when he realizes he can fly, he immediately tries to force the wings into the service of his libidinous and cruel ego.

But the wings appear to have a mind of their own, choosing to prevent him from doing the evil he wishes; they even make him make amends for the harm he's done. Because they compel him to commit deeds which his arseholery finds repugnant, he becomes enraged and determines to cut them off.

This turns out to not be an option, as a series of unfortunate and bizarre after-effects reveals. The wings are now part of Donald and he is compelled to make room for them in the soulless shell of his identity. This stimulates him to create a new sense of self that doesn't quite fit into the world as he knows it—but which ends up changing that world.

This is not the typical candy-coated animation I've always loved, but it's still highly lovable. The colours are all beige-y and there's a lack of fluency in the frame progressions. There's no speech, just a series of idiot groans and grunts and the occasional humming. And Donald's a schmuck. You'd think there wasn't much to like here, but deeper into the story the magnificence shines through.



In *Anatomy of Criticism* Northrop Frye argues that when irony is pushed to its limits it morphs into myth. You see this happening as Donald, the poster child for self-absorbed cynical and sinister self-interest, is transformed. And the goodness that he finds embraces nature, love, beauty, music, and joy as it violently eschews power, religion, and ambition.

*Idiots & Angels* focuses on an individual's struggle with evil. In a world presently prickly with pointing fingers it's refreshing to see this theme addressed with such vision and clarity. But no personal moral struggle is relevant unless it also speaks into the universal problem of evil.

This film is eminently relevant.

As a postscript: Donald's tombstone reads "1918-1946," incidentally the life years of Alberto Marvelli, an Italian philanthropist killed by an army truck. The symbolism is so apt I can't help thinking Plympton must have used it on purpose.

## DID YOU KNOW?

## Visual Thesaurus



If vocabulary and word issues have you in a creative rut, consider checking out the online Visual Thesaurus. The innovative site doesn't simply list synonyms, but instead creates colour-coded word maps with synonyms, antonyms, and slight variations in meaning laid out spatially in an "intuitive interface."

In conjunction with the visual thesaurus-dictionary, Visual Thesaurus also offers many resources for students and writers—including cross-linked, interactive vocabulary lists for popular books, typical English class reading list requirements, and even standard tests like the GRE.

The Visual Thesaurus is a subscribers-only service (cost: \$19.99/year or 2.99/month USD), but you can try it free for 14 days. Subscribers have unlimited access to the thesaurus-dictionary and all other resources, including the online magazine about language, creativity, and education and the VocabGrabber, which helps you discover context for new words. For more information, or to take a test run, [visit the site](#).





*From  
Where  
I Sit*

*Hazel Anaka*

## Why Should We Remember?

The theme of this year's Veteran's Week in Canada is "How Will You Remember?" Perhaps the more important question is "Why Should You Remember?" Simply put, there are more than 110,000 reasons. That is the number of men and women who have died in service to our country. In total more than one and a half million people have served and continue to serve in combat and peacekeeping missions all over the world.

These people are not faceless. They may be our neighbours, friends, or even sons and daughters. Their sacrifice is real and personal and is shared by their spouses, children, and families. The sacrifice may be anything from extended time away from home and family to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to debilitating injuries to death.

Years ago, as an elected official, I gave a Remembrance Day speech. My son was a teenager then and I spoke about how as a mother I couldn't fathom sending a boy off to war not knowing if or in what condition he might come back. Years later, I feel the same way. I am still in awe of those mothers and fathers who kiss their kids goodbye as they support their child's calling.

The very least we can do is acknowledge and honour the sacrifices that these brave men and women made and continue to make. While the rules and tools of combat have changed over the decades, the mission and the goals remain the same: to protect peace and freedom efforts around the world. We are blessed that a war has never been fought on Canadian soil.

Through God's grace may we be spared ever experiencing the cost and horror of combat at home.

With veterans of past conflicts getting older and dying it is more critical than ever that we preserve the history and awareness of what has happened. Resolving to work toward peace and avoiding armed combat is part of our shared duty.

How will *you* remember? We can make sure that no matter where we are or what we are doing on November 11, we take time for two minutes of silence. This is not just a "day off." Wearing a poppy, attending a Remembrance Day ceremony in your community, laying a wreath, and respecting the moments of silence are some of the easiest ways to show our gratitude.

But each of us can do more. We can talk to young people about war, we can personally thank armed forces personnel when we see them, and we can encourage our government to improve resources for veterans and families who have lost members to war. If we have young children we need to support teachers' efforts to instruct through art, poetry, school services, and special projects like writing letters to soldiers. For many more ideas for Veterans' Week activities check out [this site](#).

Every morning that we wake up safe and free in the best country in the world, we need to say thanks. Remembering is the best way, from where I sit.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



### At Home: Help Will Come to Those Who Give It

Pay it forward. Remember karma. Do unto others as you'd have others do to you. No matter how you say it, the principle has been ingrained into our collective consciousness: do good, and good will follow you someday. *Someday*. But for one Canadian Good Samaritan, payback came a lot more quickly than he might have expected.

As *The Toronto Star* [reports](#), Winnipeg native Victor Giesbrecht was driving through Wisconsin “when he stopped to help a motorist change a tire.” After giving assistance, Giesbrecht and his wife continued travelling—but they hadn’t driven far when “Giesbrecht was stricken by a heart attack.”

His wife helped stop the vehicle and called 911 while attempting to flag down passers-by. Who should stop to help but the stranded motorists Giesbrecht had just assisted!

One of the motorists “performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on him until emergency personnel arrived” with an AED. Giesbrecht was later moved by helicopter to a local hospital.

It was suggested by those at the rescue scene that “if Giesbrecht hadn’t helped with the tire change, his initial rescuer [might] have remained stranded for too long to play a life-saving role.”

Giesbrecht remained in critical condition as of Monday.

### Around the World: Age Remover

Potions and concoctions for removing or slowing the effects of aging may seem like a lot of overeager marketing, but the concept might not be completely out of the question. A new study from the Mayo Clinic suggests that the key to eradicating the ravages of the years is to find the so-called “old cells”—and remove them from the body to delay aging and age-related illness.

As *The Toronto Star’s* [healthzone.ca reports](#), the study found that when “senescent cells — cells that accumulate in various tissues with aging — were removed in genetically altered mice . . . chronic ailments and disabilities routinely associated with aging — such as muscle weakness, chronic inflammation, lack of fat under the skin and cataracts — were all delayed.”

Senescent cells “have lost the capacity to divide but . . . don’t die.” They gradually build up as our bodies age, although they still form just a tenth of the cells in aging tissue. However, as the study leader told reporters, “[if] you clear these cells, you can delay age-related changes.”

So far the process hasn’t had any negative effects on the mice, but more research is needed. Still, scientists are hopeful that they may someday be able to “[increase] the health span of the elderly.”

**AUSU UPDATE: October 21, 2011****Bethany Tynes, President****AUSU congratulates new party leaders!**

AU students are spread all over Canada and the world, but AU's funding comes from the Government of Alberta, so it's important for us, as AU students, to remain aware of political issues in Alberta. Alberta's political parties have recently undergone some transitions, as both the Progressive Conservative and Liberal parties recently elected new leaders: Dr. Raj Sherman will now head up the Liberal party, while Alison Redford has been selected to lead the Progressive Conservatives. Redford was sworn in as Premier of Alberta on Friday, October 7. AUSU would like to thank all those who participated in the leadership races, and congratulate Sherman and Redford on their wins.

**Councillors training to serve you better**

All eight current AUSU councillors, as well as our two full-time student service staff, are currently involved in a Certified Student Leader training program through the National Centre for Student Leadership. This training covers critical issues such as successful communication, strategic planning, and conflict resolution, which we hope will better equip us to work productively together to serve the needs of our student members.

**Increased student representation at AU**

At most Alberta universities, two of the highest decision-making bodies are the Board of Governors, which provides strategic direction, and the General Faculties Council, which deals with academic matters. At AU, meanwhile, there has always been a Governing Council and an Academic Council—until recently! The Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology has amended the Athabasca University regulations, moving AU closer into line with other Alberta universities. AU's Governing Council has now been replaced by a Board of Governors, and while this is mostly a change in nomenclature, the transformation as AU moves from an Academic Council (AUAC) to a General Faculties Council (AUGFC) will be more noticeable. AUSU is particularly pleased that undergraduate students at AU will now have two seats on AUGFC, as opposed to only one on AUAC. There will also be a reserved space on the GFC Executive Committee for an undergraduate student representative. This is great news, and will allow us, as undergraduate students, to ensure that our voice is heard within this important decision-making body at AU!

**What are your course materials preferences?**

AU is currently re-examining their course materials model. Currently, the cost of all undergraduate courses includes access to the necessary textbooks, and these are usually mailed directly to your door. This is convenient for many students, but many others have asked for the opportunity to look for bargains elsewhere, or to buy and sell used textbooks. What about you? How do you feel about the course materials system at AU? AU is asking students for their opinion! The question currently being posed to students is as follows:

In response to student feedback, AU is considering changing the way in which students access or receive their learning resources. Currently, all the learning resources costs are covered through tuition fees and the learning resources fee. These costs include textbooks, printed materials, access to the LMS and other digital resources, copyright fees for third party materials, and the administrative costs associated with the production of such



materials. For items that a student could purchase directly from a source other than AU (e.g., books, e-books), which of the following options would you prefer?

- To purchase materials directly from a non-Athabasca University source such as Amazon
- To have the choice to purchase course materials from either AU or a different source such as Amazon
- To purchase course materials from AU but have the learning resources fee reflect the actual cost of the materials for the particular course (for example, if the learning resources in Course A cost \$100, then the learning resources fee would be \$100)
- The status quo (a fixed learning services fee per course –currently about \$170)

Email us your thoughts and we'll make sure that they're voiced in the appropriate committee!

### **AU honorary doctorates**

Did you know that AU bestows honorary doctorates each year at Convocation? Do you have an idea for someone you'd like to see honoured by the university? Candidates should "have distinguished themselves in education, science, the arts, public service, or other areas, and have made significant life-long contributions to endeavours consistent with the mandate and purpose of Athabasca University." AUSU has a seat on the committee that nominates and selects the recipients of honorary doctorates, so to have your voice heard, drop us an email with your thoughts!

### **Have you heard . . .**

. . . that we still have some of our awesome 2011 AUSU Handbook/Planners available? Some of the information in these little books is priceless when it comes to helping AU students navigate the university and our services—but they're free for you, just for being an AUSU member! We even mail them right to your door. All you have to do is ask!

. . . about our SmartDraw program? We've been arranging for a licence for our students to use this software for the last few years. It lets you create detailed charts and insert them into your assignments (even ones you submit as Word or PDF documents). The company has warned us, though, that there will be a massive price increase next year, so we want to know if our students feel that the software is a help to them, or if they'd rather have us look into other options. Get your copy today, and let us know what you think.

. . . there's a new AUSU website on the way? We want our site to provide dynamic content and updates so that it's a place that you, as an AU student, WANT to visit regularly! If you have suggestions on content you'd like to see on our website, please get in touch with us to share your ideas.

. . . AUSU has scholarships, awards, and bursaries for our student members? The next major awards deadline is November 1, but some bursaries are also available year-round. Make sure you check our site for more information!

### **Get in touch with us**

Have comments or questions about AUSU or anything in this column? Feel free to get in touch with AUSU President Bethany at [president@ausu.org](mailto:president@ausu.org). You can also email our office at [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org) or call 1.800.788.9041 ext. 3413. We'd love to hear from you!

*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](mailto:ausu@ausu.org).*

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## THE VOICE

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