

Paper Chase

Facing the facts

Joy and Pain

Post-Soviet blues

Artemis Sleeps

Moonlit dreams

Plus: Health Matters From Where I Sit and much more!



CONTENTS

The Voice's interactive Table of Contents allows you to click a story title to jump to an article. Clicking the bottom right corner of any page returns you here. Some ads and graphics are also links.

Features

Artemis Sleeps	3
In Conversation with Lel Wa Ain, Part I	5
Health Matters: Inflammatory Foods	7
Columns	
From Where I Sit: Rock Solid	9
The Mindful Bard: My Joy	10
Write Stuff: Pretty as a Picture	13
Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan	14
AUSU Update	16
News and Events	
Did You Know?	4
Click of the Wrist	12
International News Desk	15
From Our Readers	
Letters to the Editor	2

The Voice Magazine

www.voicemagazine.org

500 Energy Square 10109 – 106 ST NW Edmonton AB T5J 3L7

800.788.9041 ext. 2905

Email voice@voicemagazine.org

Publisher AU Students' Union

> Editor-In-Chief Tamra Ross

Managing Editor Christina M. Frey

Regular Contributors

Hazel Anaka Katie D'Souza S.D. Livingston Wanda Waterman

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 its subscriber list with anyone.

© 2012 by The Voice

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.

ARTEMIS SLEEPS E.L. Farris



I lean on her bedroom door and listen for the sound of her bedsprings creaking. Like me, my daughter will stay awake past midnight reading, but she is only eight. She needs her sleep. Hearing nothing, I pull open the door and peer around the corner. She sleeps. An hour ago, she howled and bellowed like the orange-haired virgin queen she admires so much, but now she lies under the sweet spell of Morpheus.

Beside her I stand, watching her breath rise and fall. There was a time when her entire body would fit on the pillow

that her head rests upon, but now her dark blond hair fans out and covers all but a tiny sliver of cotton. I used to study her face and try to imagine what sort of girl she would become, but now I follow the lines that lead from firm jaw to deep-set blue-grey eyes and I struggle to recall how she appeared as a newborn baby. Her eyes remain the same, but every other feature has been transformed by the passing years.

I reach out my hand and stroke her cheek. My own mother used to do that, and the memory is bittersweet. Every time I felt her soft, ivory hand touching me, I pretended I was asleep--as if somehow I could preserve the unusually tender touch forever in my heart. I know for certain that my daughter will remember kinder times between the two of us, and this is enough for me. I touch her cheek; not to tell her I love her, but to hold back, for a moment, time's inexorable march forward.

Years ago, as I helped her get dressed for bed, an intense look entered her eye.

"Mom?"

"Yeah?"

"What will happen when we die?"

I took a deep breath. "We will go to heaven."

"But what if you die first? I don't want you to die first. I want to die with you so that I will never leave you." She fumbled with a button and I caressed her cheek.

"Oh no, darling. It must not work that way. You see, you are young and when you are my age, I will be old, and I will want to pass away to heaven and watch you and your children from high above the clouds." I swallowed back a lump in my throat.

She gazed at me with a love so pure, so blinding, that I found it difficult to breathe. "But I will miss you. I want you to help me raise my children."

"I know, darling." I thought as fast as I could, for I knew I needed to nail this answer so that she could rest in peace that night. "See, I will always be with you here." I touched her heart and continued, "And you can always talk to me, in your dreams. You will call me and I will hear you in heaven, and we will talk."

"Like on a telephone?"

I tried to smile as I hugged her that night. "Yes, like a telephone."

Before I leave her room tonight, I recall another conversation, one from only just this morning. My daughter has a great love for Greek mythology, and the goddess Artemis has a special place in her heart. As I imagined my own girl clutching a bow and arrow, I asked her why she loved Artemis best.

She wrinkled her nose and pondered for a moment with all the gravitas of an eight-year-old. "Artemis is an eternal maiden."

"Yes."

"She will stay a girl forever. She will never get old and die."

The moon shines in through her bedroom window, and I hold on tight to the dream before it flees. For that brief moment she, my Artemis, resides forever young, full of peace. Artemis sleeps, but one day she will wake and I will not. Even then, I will still visit her while she slumbers and then, always then, I will caress her face and together we will exist for eternity.

Writer E.L. Farris blogs at Running from Hell with El.

DID YOU KNOW? Connexions



Whether you're in need of supplemental material for a course, want to hone your skills or brush up on the basics over the summer, or just have a keen interest in pursuing a subject a little further, be sure to check out the customizable learning modules at Connexions.

Connexions, which describes itself as "the textbook equivalent of Wikipedia," is really a lot more. The innovative resource is an open education "dynamic digital educational ecosystem" with two components: a huge content repository and a customizable content management system. The repository is made up of over 17,000 quality-controlled learning modules, short lessons that include multimedia as well as examples, problems, and text. Subject matter ranges from math to copyright law to disaster management to business and finance—and everything in between.

If you want to put together your own studies, you can use the content management software to copy modules and group them into a personal collection—which you can save and view online or download for working through at your leisure.

Overwhelmed? The repository also includes ready-made collections, which are sets of modules that have been grouped according to subject matter and specific level. There are over 1,000 collections currently available.

The resources at Connexions are freely available to all, and content can be accessed and downloaded via mobile devices as well as over the Internet.

IN CONVERSATION WITH . . .

Wanda Waterman



Lel Wa Ain, Part I

Listen Global, Play Local

"I love our Egyptian music," says Nour Eldin Nageh Ali, "[but] I also love Western genres like jazz, blues, and reggae. I like to blend them together and I also like to find ways to mix all of these with Oriental and Sufi music."

Nour is the composer and vocalist for <u>Lel Wa</u> <u>Ain</u>, a Cairo-based underground band composed of extraordinary musicians with a penchant for bending rules and blending an

assortment of musical genres, wedding them to traditional Egyptian musical forms to produce a sound that's lively, intense, and brilliant.

There's also a dimension of social concern to the band's lyrics and personal beliefs, but this consciousness comes across as difficult and hard-won, born of a determined struggle within a school of hard knocks.

Getting to Mastery

In the Egyptian educational system, musically gifted children don't have the opportunity to study music in public school; if they wish to prepare for a university program they must rely on private lessons from professionals. Students who are poor or simply want to learn how to play can try to entreat free lessons from older musicians.

"I remember in elementary school," says Nour, "we received one music lesson—from the math teacher. I'll never forget what she told me: 'Music is rhythm and tune together.'

"Later I paid for music lessons from a teacher here in Cairo. Around that time I decided to play guitar, but I needed money for lessons. I found one guy in my town who taught me for free how to play and to read music. I learned by ear and started to go to the streets in Cairo to play. That's how I learned to play the guitar."

As soon as he'd gained sufficient experience with different instruments, Nour began working with other musicians.

Eventually he achieved his dream of acceptance in a university music program. But it wasn't the Utopia he's expected; his autodidact life had accustomed him to a degree of liberty frowned upon by academia.

"When I studied music at the university," he confesses, "I argued with the professors. I asked them why I had to study math and psychology and Arabic when I'd gone there to study music. They told me that if I didn't come to every class I wouldn't have enough points to graduate.

"They acted like they were gods—if they didn't like you, you couldn't succeed—and they didn't like me. They didn't like my attitude, my long hair, or the fact that I always wore a hat.

"One day a teacher told me to take off my hat; when I refused, she tried to take it from my head. Soon after that I left the college. Then I left home, telling my father I wouldn't return until I'd made something of myself."

Freedom of Expression

"In many countries they're not interested in hearing Eastern music because they don't understand it," Nour says. "I want to make it more accessible. The attractive thing about Oriental music is the improvisation."

In the West we tend to think of improvisatory music as the exception rather than the norm, but in fact on the world music stage Western notated music is the anomaly. Egyptian music is just one example of a traditional form that encourages musicians to elaborate in original ways within certain parameters. This emphasis on creative freedom communicates to the political sphere as well.

The Legacy of Mohamed Mounir

"There is a tradition of songs here in Egypt that talk about fighting, corruption, politics, dictatorship, and democracy. When I was a child these kinds of songs were very important. There's one singer who's really

famous for this kind of song—Mohamed Mounir. He started making songs in 1979 . . . [his] second album was really nice, so people started to buy.

"Mounir also developed a new musical genre in Egypt by mixing African with Oriental music and introducing elements of blues and hard rock, local music, [and] jazz.

"It's not only about the music—it's about the lyrics too. He talked about deep subjects, not like in commercial music. In the early '90s he was talking about some really bad stuff happening in Egypt, how people suffered, especially the poor people. He motivated the people to be alive again, to move against the old regime.

"The government tried to stop him from singing. He was outside of Egypt for a while. He wasn't exiled, but the government was really angry with him so he left for his own safety. He's a very cultured person, with great knowledge. And he cares about people; he gives concerts for a cheap price."

(To be continued.)



HEALTH MATTERS Katie D'Souza



(Don't) let them eat cake: white sugar, refined carbohydrates, and shortening can all increase inflammation in the body.

Inflammatory Foods

When you think of inflammation, what comes to mind tends to be obvious symptoms: painful joints, swollen knees, and lower back stiffness. Although these are all indications of inflammation, you might be surprised to know that there are other, more hidden, symptoms—and some of them might be affecting you right now.

Why worry? You can't necessarily feel hidden inflammation, but its long-term effects can cause problems. Internal inflammation can predispose individuals to stroke, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and, of course, arthritis. In this article, you'll see how diet can increase—and reduce—the level of inflammation in your body.

The Basics

Your body reacts differently to different types of foods. As an easy example, think back to your teen years. Did you suffer from acne? You may have noticed that consuming foods like fries, chips, and chocolate aggravated the acne, making it much worse. Conversely, a diet high in vegetables might have had a calming effect on the condition.

Why? Some foods trigger an "inflammation cascade" in the body. When these foods are ingested, the body produces inflammatory proteins that create what is known as a pro-inflammatory environment. This in turn predisposes the body to larger-scale inflammatory conditions like diabetes or arthritis.

Pro-Inflammatory Foods

The following foods can exacerbate inflammation in your body. While some are typical unhealthy fare, others might come as a bit of a surprise:

- White sugar and refined carbohydrates. Those pastries aren't great for your waistline or for your health. Studies show that diets high in refined flour and white sugar are associated with the presence of inflammatory proteins; they create a greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes, which is an inflammatory condition.
- Trans fats. You've probably heard about trans fats and their association with heart disease.
 Another problem: they're also associated with boosting inflammation levels in the body!
 Remember that trans fats are created during the hydrogenation of oil, so watch out for many deep-fried foods, hydrogenated margarines, and foods made with shortening (particularly baked goods like cookies and cakes).

Peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, potatoes, and paprika. Surprised? Although vegetables in general provide a wealth of health benefits in the form of nutrients and fibre, these few particular vegetables from the *Solonaceae* (nightshade) family may actually exacerbate inflammation. Does this mean you should never consume them? Not necessarily, since unlike trans fats and refined carbohydrates they do have nutritional power. However, if you have a pre-existing inflammatory condition (osteoarthritis, for example), you might want to steer clear of these vegetables or keep your intake moderate.

Did you know that some vegetables can be inflammatory, too? Watch your intake of tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, and peppers.

Watch for worsening of symptoms post-consumption, as not everyone's inflammation is aggravated by this group of vegetables.

Anti-Inflammatory Foods

When cutting out the inflammatory foods from your diet, why not fill the empty space with anti-inflammatory foods? Not only will you decrease inflammation even further in your body, but you will also experience the anti-aging benefits of an anti-inflammatory diet!

- Omega-3 oils. Fat is not all bad. In moderation, healthy oils full of the anti-inflammatory omega-3s are the way to go. They reduce inflammation, protect against heart disease, and make your skin happy! Fish oil is a common source of omega-3 oil (aim for 750 mg EPA per day), but if you're vegetarian, you can find omega-3 oils derived from algae (containing EPA) or flax. Note, though, that flax oil does not directly provide EPAs; your body will have to do some conversions first.
- Pomegranates and dark berries. In fruits, those dark colours mean only one thing: healthy. Purples, blacks, and dark reds found in nature's fruits are a sign of anthocyanins, components that have strong anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.
- Olive oil. The Mediterranean diet is right; olive oil is the healthier choice. Not only does olive oil have an anti-inflammatory component due to its oleic acid component, but it also protects the



heart and keeps your skin looking younger. A note of caution, though: don't cook on high heat with olive oil, as this denatures it and can nullify its benefits.

An anti-inflammatory diet can keep you looking and feeling younger and can help stave off certain chronic diseases. Check your diet: are you promoting inflammation?

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

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



Rock Solid

Several years ago I became interested in rocks. During walks down our country road, I started noticing what was beneath my feet—and like a magpie, I was attracted to those with a bit of glitter or shine. But because I was an equal opportunity collector I also pocketed those rocks and stones with interesting shapes and colours.

In the tall, clear, cylindrical vase that now holds the smaller rocks in my collection, you'll see what looks like a black Smartie wedged among angular, striated, or speckled stones. Some are larger and some are impossibly small. I pop two or three in my pocket during each walk. Once home, I scrub them with a nail brush to remove surface grit, revealing their beauty. Some look best when they're wet; the colours are more vivid. The fist-sized ones sit on top of a bookcase in my office.

Having a gravel pit on our home quarter section has made rocks come alive for me. When huge construction equipment is digging holes 15 feet deep, one can really see the colour range of what lies beneath the surface. The strata include rich black topsoil, layers of rock and sand, and finally clay at the bottom of the hole. The rock layers are coloured with an artist's palette of earth tones: browns, sienna, ochre, and grey.

Too bad I didn't pay more attention during science class. Then I'd know how and why these formations happened where they did. I'd understand the differences among geologists, petrologists, and gemologists; or minerals, crystals, and gemstones. I'd know whether I should invest in a rock tumbler or accept them *au naturel* as God created them.

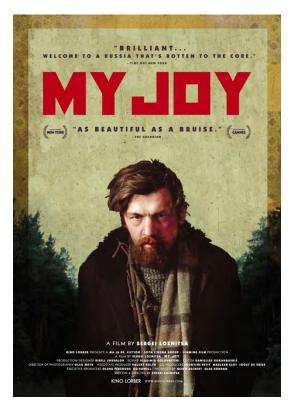
In the meantime I refer to books to round out and refresh my knowledge. The most recent addition to my library is the 1986 edition of *A Field Guide in Colour to Minerals, Rocks and Precious Stones.* A couple of sentences grabbed me: "There are some 3000 different minerals, composed of 92 chemical elements, from oxygen to uranium. Of the known minerals only a small number—some 40-50—are generally rockforming, e.g., quartz, feldspar, mica, pyroxene, amphibole and olivine."

That's probably more science than I want—or need. I should be able to happily observe and collect and appreciate the rocks I stumble across without knowing a thing.

And yet I can't leave well enough alone. Someday soon I'll invite myself over to the home of a retired geologist. The local newspaper reported that he set up an exhibit during the school's education week program. Had I known, I would have been there. Now I need to sweet talk him into giving me a private showing (and answering all my questions!). He won't know what hit him, from where I sit.

Hazel Anaka's first novel is Lucky Dog. Visit her website for more information or follow her on Twitter @anakawrites.

THE MINDFUL BARD Wanda Waterman



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

Film: My Joy (Kino Lorber 2010) (Russian with English subtitles)

Director/Screenwriter: Sergei Loznitsa

Cast: Viktor Nemets, Vlad Ivanov, Olga Shuvalova

Genre: Art House/International/Drama

"Anyone who doesn't regret the passing of the Soviet Union has no heart. Anyone who wants it restored has no brains."

Vladimir Putin

"Virtue is praised, but hated. People run from it, for it is ice-cold and in this world you have to keep your feet warm."

Denis Diderot, Rameau's Nephew (1762)

In a Bad World the Good Children Get All the Spankings

There's a traffic jam on a dirt road in a forest, if you can believe it. When Georgy gets out of his transport truck to make polite inquiries about what's happening up ahead, he's met with wisecracks. A prostitute approaches him. She says she's 18, but looks not more than 12 years old. Another trucker tries to proposition her, so Georgy takes her to his cab, feeds her, and gives her some money to buy food, never

making the transaction she expects. She thanks him by throwing the money in his face and telling him she doesn't need his pity or his money, thank you very much—she's perfectly capable of making her own living.

This is one of the strange misadventures visited upon this hell-harrowing angel after he loses his way in the Russian countryside.

In post-Soviet Russia, "might makes right" seems to be the only moral standard. Contrary to the theme of *The Lord of the Rings*, not only has good lost the battle, it's also lost the will to fight.

"As a result of half a century of Soviet rule people have been weaned from a belief in human kindness."

Svetlana Alliluyeva

So why go on? Why even finish the film? People here are so jaded, so evil, so heartless, so miserable, and so desperately greedy, that even those who recoil in horror at the depths of their depravity still have no defence against their clawing, grasping cruelty.



Olga Shuvalova as Girl Prostitute & Viktor Nemets as Georgy.
Credit: Kino Lorber, Inc.

My Joy (a more incongruous title would be hard to find) is a good example of a coherent message within an incoherent plot, the antithesis of the commercial Hollywood formula. Critics and filmgoers have complained that in spite of its aesthetic value this movie is hard to watch not only because its subject is so bleak but also because the plot appears to meander sadly and aimlessly, much like the forlorn figure in the final shot.

But dig deeper and you'll find a solid theme emerging almost organically from every scene: Nature abhors a (moral) vacuum. Righteous wrath may sleep, but it can't die. Pushed to the wall, it eventually explodes in all directions without consideration of guilt or innocence.

Early in the story, after Georgy is clubbed in the head by thieves and left for dead, we see what looks like a flashback to his Soviet-era childhood at the end of the Second World War. His mother has died and he's being raised by his kind, sensitive father. One night his father graciously allows two strange soldiers to enter the house. He gives his best food to these ill-mannered men and invites them to spend the night, but at dinner he makes the mistake of suggesting it wouldn't be so bad if the God-fearing Germans took over. Later that night as he's sleeping, the soldiers punish his treason against the Soviet Union by giving him a summary execution, looting his house, and leaving his little boy to fend for himself.

This trauma has made of Georgy a "wise child," the early shock forcing on him a transcendent wisdom and a singular mission.

My Joy fulfills nine of the Mindful Bard's criteria for films well worth seeing: 1) it is authentic and original; 2) it poses and admirably responds to questions that have a direct bearing on my view of existence; 3) it mind: stimulates my it harmoniously unites with conscience, saving me from both seclusion in an ivory tower and slavery to someone else's political agenda; 5) it is about attainment of the true self; 6) it inspires an



Viktor Nemets as Georgy (left). No info on character or actor on the right.

Credit: Kino Lorber, Inc.

awareness of the sanctity of creation; 7) it displays an engagement with and a compassionate response to suffering; 8) it makes me want to be a better artist; and 9) it makes me appreciate that life is a complex and rare phenomenon, making living a unique opportunity.

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

CLICK OF THE WRIST Picture This

Maybe you love to snap photos of the family vacation—or can't resist experimenting with capturing the essence of nature through your camera lense. Or perhaps you just appreciate the art of beautiful photography. For some personal inspiration, check out the intriguing, jaw-dropping, and moving photos linked to here!

Blow Your Mind

Photo enthusiast site pxleyes.com promises that this photo collection will "blow you away," and they're not kidding. The shots are awe-inspiring in their portrayal of the essence of nature. No Photoshopping here! Be sure to click through the link to view the next set, too.

Power of Emotion

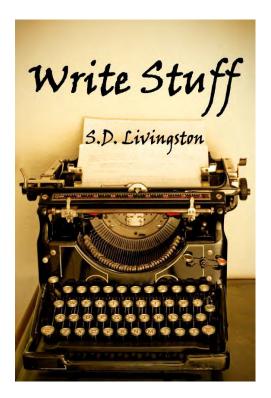
A picture says a thousand words, the old saying goes, and this moving collection of "iconic photographs from the last 100 years" tells a beautiful story about the human race: "the heartbreak of loss, the

tremendous power of loyalty, and the triumph of the human spirit."

All about Angles

Care for a laugh? In photography, perspective, distance, and angle are everything—and sometimes an unusual twist on the photographer's or subject's position can mean a bizarre-looking shot. Click through this hilarious list for some examples.





Pretty as a Picture

Ah, the poor old newspaper article. It just doesn't get any respect these days. Not only are newsroom budgets shrinking, but readers even protest at pay walls. To top it off, the article form itself may soon be passé, with tiny nuggets of information served up instead—a sort of fact buffet readers can choose from. But is a steady diet of appetizers really as satisfying as a full meal?

This Gigaom <u>article</u> explains the concept. As Mathew Ingram May writes, the traditional news article could soon be replaced by a customizable collection of "small pieces, loosely joined." The individual components of a story, such as photos or background, would be thought of as assets, with readers able to gather only the components they want.

So if you're a financial analyst reading a piece on housing markets, you don't need the newsprint (or pixels) devoted to a primer on

how mortgages work. But consumers worried about rising interest rates might need that background to help put things in context.

It's an interesting approach, one that definitely has merit. There's a danger, though, in putting those information blinkers on—because it means we could easily miss some important parts of the picture.

We obviously don't have the time or mental capacity to know every story or subject in depth. After all, we long ago passed the point where it was possible for an individual to know the sum of all human knowledge that had been gathered. There was a time when knowing how to make a fire and do some basic flint knapping meant you had all the bases covered. Today, not even Stephen Hawking could absorb every piece of information out there.

But it's still important to step back and get the big picture, to skim enough of the pieces—even the ones we think we know—to put events into context.

A good visual analogy can be found at the Google Art Project. It lets you view some astonishing works of art from around the world, and you can even zoom in to microscopic levels, viewing images one small section at a time. For example, take a look at the details on the globe in *The Ambassadors*.

A customizable "fact buffet" may sound cool, but when we pick and choose what information we want to see, we may lose sight of the bigger picture.

Zoom in too close, though, and you lose all context. Sure, I can look at individual parts of the picture, admiring them in whichever order I choose. But to get the entire effect, to understand how the individual

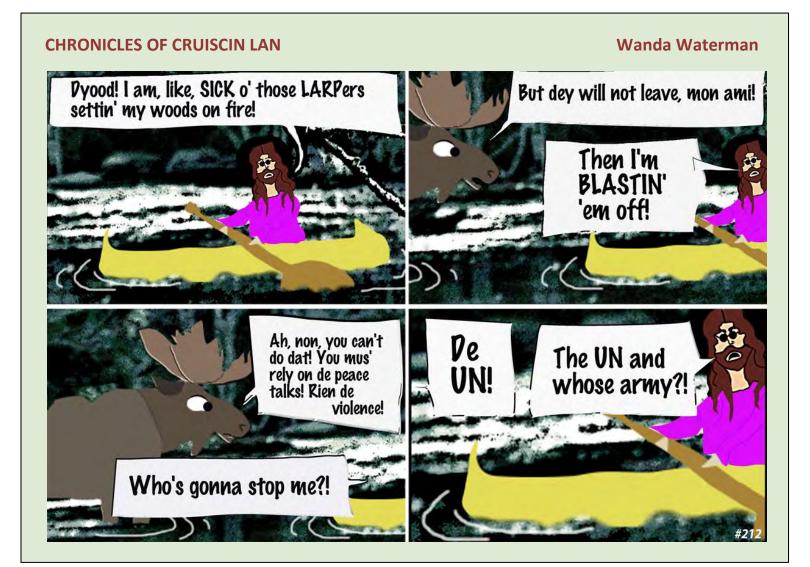
sections of the image come together as a whole, I eventually need to stand back and gather all the elements into a single view.

It's the same with most things, articles on current events included. It might help to click on links and explore things in more depth, but we still need to view the whole picture—even if we only glance at parts of it.

And that's the beauty of the traditional article format. It pulls all, or most, of the elements into a cohesive whole. It shows me the image, the headline, and the background, all bound together into one useful package.

A package that, when done right, can be pretty as a picture.

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



INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: You Want Fries with That?

In the mood for junk food—with the ambience of fine dining? You may want to check out the new upscale food court in Toronto's Yorkdale Mall.

As *The Toronto Star* reports, the food court—which mall management told reporters is more appropriately referred to as a "food collection"—"takes reservations" by phone or via a smart phone app.

The reservation system allows customers to have a more relaxed and "civil" experience, management told reporters, even though hungry shoppers can still chow down on KFC,

Subway, and the like. Oversized fireplaces, plates and cutlery, a patio, bag hooks under the tables, a translator service, and a "perfume butler" add to the upscale mood.

The food court is located on the third floor, near high-end shopping like Tiffany's, Tory Burch, and Cartier.

Around the World: Incredible Paint

You wouldn't like him when he's angry—but right now he's more embarrassed than anything else.

As the *Toronto Sun* reports, a Brazilian man found his transformation into the Incredible Hulk was a bit more permanent than he would have liked.

As part of a charity fundraiser for the group Challenge for Peace, the 35-year-old Paul Henrique dos Santos had donned a costume and green body paint to resemble the "angry Marvel Hero."

His generous gesture fell flat, however, when he tried to remove the paint after the event. After "20 baths" and much rigorous scrubbing, the vibrant green colour has not diminished.

"I spent hours in the bath trying to get this makeup and nothing," he told reporters, adding that the colour appears to be "impregnated in [his] body." He has been sleeping on plastic to protect other surfaces from the colour.

Dos Santos is now concerned that his future is on the line; he fears that his unusual appearance "will hamper his jobs as a pool cleaner and DJ/singer, or worse, give him lead poisoning." He "plans to sue the store and the manufacturer."

AUSU UPDATE



AU Students urge candidates to improve university funding

AU students are concerned about the financial health of Athabasca University and the effect of recent news stories on the reputation of the AUSU membership.

A recent CBC report notes that in recent years the university has made a series of reserve draws to cover budget shortfalls, draining the once \$30-million reserve fund.

Tuition and fees at AU, meanwhile, continue to increase despite the concerns of AUSU that education is becoming increasingly unaffordable in Alberta.

"I'm very concerned about AU's financial situation," says AUSU President Bethany Tynes. "AU is increasing student fees, observing hiring freezes, denying sabbaticals, delaying projects, and downsizing their offices due to a lack of available funds. We don't want to see the quality of our education diminish."

"At the same time," Tynes continues, "I am confused by AU Board Chair Barry Walker's comment to the CBC that AU is 'in a very sound financial position,' as the concerns we've noted do not support the notion that we're financially sound."

Chronic underfunding of public post-secondary education is a factor in AU's financial stress. AU students have lobbied Alberta in recent years to address the shortfall; our members call on the candidates in Alberta's provincial election to make post-secondary funding a priority in their platforms and to ensure that all Alberta universities are funded equally and sufficiently. Public post-secondary institutions need a reliable, predictable funding model that provides sufficient base operating funds to support a world-class education.

Athabasca University Students' Union is the largest students' union in Alberta, representing nearly 40,000 undergraduates annually.

Media Contact:

Tamra Ross, Executive Director, AUSU

1-800-788-9041 extension 2905

executivedirector@ausu.org

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

500 Energy Square - 10109 – 106 St NW - Edmonton AB - T5J 3L7 - Ph: 800.788.9041 ext. 2905 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union

Editor-In-Chief Tamra Ross
Managing Editor Christina M. Frey

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

www.voicemagazine.org

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

Contact The Voice at voice@voicemagazine.org.

To receive a weekly email announcing each issue, subscribe <u>here</u>. The Voice does not share its subscriber list.