

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 22 Issue 08 2014-02-21

In Conversation

Suzie LeBlanc, Part III

Speak for Yourself

Why AUSU Elections Matter

Candidate Coverage

Who are these people?

Plus:

From Where I Sit

The Writer's Toolbox

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

In Conversation: <i>Suzie LeBlanc, Part III</i>	5
Speak for Yourself.....	11

Articles

Editorial: <i>Candidate Coverage</i>	3
--	---

Columns

Writer's Toolbox: <i>New and Popular</i>	9
Dear Barb	12
Mindful Bard: <i>Cycling With Molière</i>	14
From Where I Sit: <i>In the Know</i>	8
AUSU Update	17

News and Events

Did You Know?.....	13
Council connection	7
Click of the Wrist	13
Classifieds	18

Comics

AntBoy: <i>The Lonely Cynic</i>	16
---------------------------------------	----

***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

Karl Low

Regular Contributors

Hazel Anaka
Barbara Lehtiniemi
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.

© 2014 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.

EDITORIAL

Karl Low



Candidate Coverage

The AUSU Election is in full swing, and with it comes a Council Connection from the February 19th meeting, and Barbara Lehtiniemi's article looking at how the election has affected her, even though she's not a candidate herself.

If you haven't already voted, you've got until 8:30pm on Saturday, MST to do so. The campaign period seemed very short to me, and with 18 people running for nine spots, I had expected involvement to be quite intense. It came as a bit of a surprise then, to realize that only 14 of the people actually participated in the campaign opportunities, and even of those, not all of them bothered to answer all of the questions posed in the official forums, never mind the extra questions I posted in the regular forum so we could get to know the candidates at a little more personal level.

To help those few voters left who haven't quite made up their minds yet (or are just hearing about this all now), I've put together a small chart with the name, faculty, and location of each candidate. The names are links to the candidate's posting history in the AUSU forums, so you can look up everything they've shared with AUSU to decide if they're who you want speaking for you. Things can get even more interesting if you google the candidate's names, as you'll find false arrests and paranoid schizophrenics among our candidates. But I'm constraining myself simply to the AUSU site, as people often have the same names, and I'd hate to prejudice someone where I'm not fully sure it's deserved.

So, without further ado, and in alphabetical (surname) order:

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Location</i>
<u>Bonita Arbeau</u>	Business	Fredericton, NB
<u>Megan Daigneault</u>	Business	Mount-Brydges, ON
<u>Joseph A. Gaetan</u>	Humanities	Burlington, ON
<u>Corrina Green</u>	Business	Belleville, ON
<u>Steven Heer</u>	Business	Edmonton, AB
<u>Don Janzen</u>	Business	Lethbridge, AB
<u>Shaunese Lawrence</u>	Business	Brampton, ON
<u>Sakib Manjawala</u>	Business	Toronton, ON
<u>Kim Newsome</u>	Business	Digby, NS
<u>Jason Nixon</u>	Business	Sundre, AB
<u>Alexander Poulton</u>	Business	Calgary, AB
<u>Shane Romualdi</u>	Humanities	Learnington, ON
<u>Evan Schmidt</u>	Business	Vaudreuil-Dorian, QC
<u>Dezrine Tomlin-Smith</u>	Unknown	Wetaskawin, AB
<u>Christine Villeneuve</u>	Science & Tech	Barrhead, AB
<u>Grace Wakatama</u>	Business	Fort McMurray, AB
<u>Shawna Wasylyshyn</u>	Business	St. Alberta, AB
<u>Laura Zhu</u>	Unknown	Edmonton, AB

You'll note how many of the candidates are in AU's faculty of business. This is especially concerning when you consider that AUSU representatives are requested when faculties are creating strategic plans. How much extra work will a Business faculty student have to do to understand the issues of the Humanities or Science & Tech or Nursing faculty students? I hope that whoever gets elected keeps this in mind and make the extra effort to include viewpoints from the other faculties. Otherwise AU could end up in a spiral where we're losing students from other faculties because AU doesn't know what they want or need, and doesn't know what they want or need because we have fewer students from them to be representatives.

You'll also note that four candidates, Heer, Lawrence, Romualdi, and Zhu are not links. This is because they have absolutely no posting history on our site at all as of Friday morning. Who are these people, and what will they say on your behalf if elected? I certainly couldn't tell you, but if they don't have enough interest to even explain to students who they are to get elected, I don't understand how they think they could represent us.

Switching gears, I'm happy to announce we finally have a winner for the Voice Reader Survey that happened way back in 2013. Congratulations go to Laura B., our alternate winner, who has received the Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 (8.0"). Hopefully she's using it to read *The Voice Magazine* right now. For those of you who didn't win, my condolences, but remember that you're going to have another chance, as now that that survey is finally complete, I need to finish the Voice Interest Survey, the one that will be going out from our new Facebook page and seek to find out more about what all AUSU members want—even those who don't read *The Voice Magazine* right now.

Also in this issue, you'll find the conclusion of our interview with Suzie LeBlanc, a look at the new styleguide for those of us who write on the internet, courtesy of The Writer's Toolbox, Hazel Anaka discovering the world of Tea (welcome to the dark side, Hazel), reviews, comics, advice, and more. Unfortunately, we do not have a Primal Numbers this week, but expect it to return next week as S.D. Livingston recharges her creative spark.

One thing which you'll find new in this issue is the inclusion of some paid advertising. It is one of my goals to start developing independent funding for *The Voice Magazine*, so on page 10 and in the classifieds section you'll find the start of these efforts. While AUSU continues to fund *The Voice Magazine* without controlling our content, having more than a single source of funding not only helps ensure *The Voice Magazine's* survival, but can help readers and writers know that this is a safe place to voice concerns with AUSU Council, and that any praise they get from *The Voice Magazine* is unsolicited.

Is there something you'd like to see in *The Voice Magazine*? Or do you have comments on anything you've read? If so, feel free to write me at voice@voicemagazine.org.

Also, if you're a writer, consider writing for us. We still need more content. In particular, I'm looking for people who can provide interesting serial fiction, music reviews, or good interviews with AU tutors or faculty. If you think you can handle any of those, let me know.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl', with a stylized, flowing script.

In Conversation with Suzie LeBlanc, Part III

Wanda Waterman



The same mist hangs in thin layers
among the valleys and gorges of the mainland
like rotting snow-ice sucked away
almost to spirit; the ghosts of glaciers drift
among those folds and folds of fir: spruce and hackmatack--
- Elizabeth Bishop (excerpt from poem "Cape Breton")

*Suzie LeBlanc is an internationally acclaimed Canadian soprano. Her most recent project, the album I Am in Need of Music, is a group of 11 songs whose settings she commissioned from six prominent Canadian composers and whose lyrics are taken from the poems of Elizabeth Bishop, a new England poet who spent her formative years in Canada's Maritime provinces (read Voice review [here](#)). In order to prepare to sing to these poems for the album, as well as for sheer love of Bishop's poetry, Suzie and artist Linda Rae Dornan retraced the steps of a hike Bishop took through Newfoundland in 1932 (this is documented in the video *Walking with EB*). Recently she took the time to answer Wanda Waterman's questions about her influences, inspirations, and future plans. (See [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) of this interview here in The Voice Magazine.)*

How the Trip Influenced the Album

I am not sure that I was more connected to Bishop after the trip, but I was certainly more connected to myself and to my surroundings. I had time to read her prose and her letters, not just her poems, which meant that my knowledge of her was broadened. I like to think of it as being able to see a larger map of the area I was working in. Her spirit and her sense of humour were palpable throughout the whole trip.

On Conductor Dinuk Wijeratne

It was actually very inspirational working with Dinuk. He couldn't have been a more perfect choice as a conductor of this recording; he knew each of the players, having conducted Symphony Nova Scotia, and he seemed to understand and adapt to the style and language of each of the four composers.

He already knew Christos Hatzis a little, but now he studies with him at the University of Toronto! I like to think I helped build that bridge.

Dinuk is incredibly gifted as a pianist, composer, and conductor. We met in Halifax to discuss the Elizabeth Bishop centenary and the possibility of commissioning Canadian works for it. Dinuk wrote a piece for the centenary in 2011, but his piece is not on the CD because it absolutely needed to be on a DVD. You see, it has 30 *capoeira* dancers in it, and they need to be seen!

Creative Needs

I need to be passionate about a project or an idea and feel that I have enough support and talent to make it happen. (A little cash doesn't hurt, and a lot of cash goes a long way when it comes to supporting great art!)

Creative Influences

Books

When Women Were Birds, by Terry Tempest Williams (and all of her other books!)

Elizabeth Bishop's prose and poems

Ru, by Kim Thuy

Albums

The Rite of Spring, with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Yannick Nezet-Seguin

Films

Bergman's *The Magic Flute*

The King's Speech

La Grande Bellezza

Next on the Horizon . . .

Tours

Ontario tour with the Blue Engine String Quartet, this autumn

Touring Canada with Bishop songs, spring, summer, and autumn

Recording Projects

Editing my just-recorded Acadian Christmas Album (2014 Christmas)

Recording Barbara Strozzi with Constantinople

Singing in *The Myth of Europa*, Toronto Masque Theatre, April 2014

Teaching, Speaking, and Aspiring

Teaching at the Orford Festival in June

Early July Concert at Orford

Mid-August appearing at the Acadian Congress Recital

TedTalk, Edmundston, NB

Singing the role of *Melisande* (Debussy) in a stage production.

Would love to help John Plant with the creation of his opera *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*, on a libretto by Gertrude Stein!

Council Connection

February 19th Meeting



On February 19th, Council met for the last time before the results of the election would be announced. All Councillors were present except for Wendy Barnard, who, due to personal family issues, decided she needed to leave both Council and remove herself from the election. Council thanked her for her hard work, and regretfully accepted her resignation.

Not present at this meeting were any of the candidates for this year's election except for the incumbents. While Council made no remark on this themselves, I personally found it a bit odd that those running for Council wouldn't bother showing up for a meeting happening during the election period, just to see what it's like.

The meeting itself was fairly uneventful, with the policies under review generally having little change required. There was some discussion, however, as to whether AUSU should increase the current mileage rate (currently \$0.35/km) it gives for Councillors who have to travel with their own vehicle. It was noted that many other organizations seem to be basing their mileage rates on the rates of the government, which are much higher. However, once it was pointed out that the current rate would allow you to fuel a Lamborghini, Council decided they did not need further adjustment.

One other interesting change this meeting was the repeal of one of AUSU's position policies about encouraging AU to develop an electronic degree audit and program planning system to be accessible online. The repeal is because the policy is no longer needed, AU is rolling out its DegreeWorks system to all new students, meaning that AUSU has successfully realized this position. Congratulations to them for that.

More interesting is that during this meeting, the executive group announced a new procedure for their reports. Instead of just disappearing into a black-hole of document storage, once the executive reports are approved by Council (to make sure they don't contain anything that might get Council in trouble with privacy legislation or confidential AU committees) they will be made available to the student body. These reports contain details of what the Executive Councillors have been doing, their meetings with AU and external groups, their travel, and perhaps some additional details as to what's going on in Council at the time. This will be a welcome addition to the information available to us as members, and help us to see if our \$3.00/credit is being well spent.



In the Know

I don't about you but I hate to be the last to know. Let me qualify that. I don't necessarily care about what is trending on Twitter because anyone who's awake and aware of her surroundings could figure that out based on general media (print, radio, TV) buzz. That is, after all how people got the scoop for ages after the smoke signal thing became *passé*.

I manage a Twitter account for the big event I'm coordinating, Babas and Borshch Ukrainian Festival, so that I could get into the habit of checking the trends list. That would up my 'connectedness quotient.'

Catching the odd episode of *The Social* also keeps me aware of lifestyle issues that may be affecting my kids' lives more so than my own. FYI: Our Canadian equivalent of *The View* is so much smarter, hipper, nicer—well except for Lainey, perhaps: she revels in her mean girl vibe.

But I digress. What got me thinking about being in the know was a trip to the DAVIDsTEA store in West Edmonton Mall. I first became aware of the company at Christmas when my mom got a sampler gift pack from someone. Then I saw the beautiful ceramic mug, stainless steel diffuser, and lid they sell when I sampled some very nice tea at Greg and Carrie's. To learn my son drinks tea from his very own mug should have been a clue.

So when did tea drinking go from something mock-worthy that little old ladies did to something young hipsters do? Beats me. But popular it is. That store was hopping. It was loud, busy, and heavily staffed. One wall was lined with sampler gift sets and accouterment like spoons, mugs, travel mugs, teapots, filters, and more. There was nary a teacup or saucer in sight.

The shelves on the wall behind the counter are lined with large canisters of loose tea. The bright coloured labels separate the teas into types: white, green, oolong, black, *pu'erh*, *maté*, rooibos, and herbal. According to their website, there are

more than 150 types. The staff is knowledgeable about the makeup of the specific blends and their health benefits.

And health is what brought me there in the first place. I was exploring Dr. Oz's website and found a piece promising that drinking tea can whittle down one's waist size. No exercise-induced sweating required. My short shopping list included a white tea, an oolong and *yerba maté*.

Eighty-seven dollars and a crash course in teas later I was heading out of the store with my beautiful turquoise bag of treasures. And you thought Tiffany's blue box was special. Hah.

That bought me a mug set, four tins of one hundred gram batches of tea I chose (based on sniffing and ingredient lists), a gift with purchase called Forever Nuts that smells good enough to eat, and a full colour tea menu.

Just a few days in, my waist is the same but my hip-ness is trending, from where I sit.

Hazel Anaka's first novel is *Lucky Dog*. Visit her [website](#) for more information or follow her on Twitter @anakawrites.

Resources:

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/business-strategy/steeped-in-success/>

Writer's Toolbox

Christina M. Frey



New and Popular

Did you feel that online shockwave a few weeks back? For the first time a formal attempt was made to tame the wilds of Internet writing—or at least some semblance of a lasso was thrown out. Regardless, editors and writers everywhere are intrigued by BuzzFeed's new style guide, which "aims to provide a prevailing, and evolving, set of standards for the internet and social media." It's an ambitious goal, but it's incredibly exciting.

And it'll make the life of this editor so much easier.

Buzzfeed is a popular news and entertainment site that tends toward the informal (though it's more than just Cracked-style lists or fun quizzes). While the style guide's purpose is to create consistency across all categories of work published on the site, ultimately it's positioned BuzzFeed as a leader in creating standards in modern, popular usage.

The Internet has long been a source of despair to writers, editors, and academics alike; while it's given everyone a voice (or a soapbox), it's also allowed the promulgation of common errors to the point that the correct grammar, spelling, or usage is often thoroughly obscured. So while we're mostly past the point of believing everything we read online, Googling our spelling, usage, or grammar questions can lead us astray if we make grammar, style, or syntax decisions based on the general consensus of the web.

On the other hand, sometimes the Internet is the only resource we have. Both print and online dictionaries are notoriously slow to recognize, accept, and assimilate new words, particularly slang and technological terms that might become obsolete in between printings. This conservative approach makes sense when you consider the linguistic permanence that dictionaries represent; but it doesn't help when you're unclear on the correct spacing of "fanboy" or whether to capitalize "F-you" when it's used as a noun.

That's why BuzzFeed's foray into formalizing and documenting popular, current terms is an exciting development for anyone interested in the growth of the language. It's also interesting to read through as a snapshot of our culture. "De-friend" (never "unfriend"), to "fave" ("faved", "fave-ing"), "It girl", "photobomb", "screengrab", "LOL-ing", "crazy-ass"—what do these say about what we're communicating about right now?

From a social perspective, BuzzFeed's guide is also helpful because it offers a standard for writing about very current topics. For example, there's an extensive section on LGBT-specific style issues (like what personal pronouns to use when writing about a transgender person's background)—information that will allow writers to avoid unintentionally insulting their subject or confusing their readers. Though this information's available online already—Buzzfeed cites the GLAAD website a few times—here it's amalgamated in one convenient location.

There are style guides that are appropriate for different situations, and BuzzFeed's recommendations aren't necessarily going to apply to your academic paper. But be sure to check out the style guide if your writing is more informal—or you just want to get the cultural pulse in linguistic terms.

Christina M. Frey is a book editor and a lover of great writing. Chat with her on Twitter about all things literary @turntopage2.

Personal Credits Notice



If you received a Common Experience Payment, you could get \$3,000 in Personal Credits for educational programs and services.

The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The healing continues.

Since 2007, almost 80,000 former students have received a Common Experience Payment (“CEP”) as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. CEP recipients are now eligible to receive non-cash Personal Credits of up to \$3,000, for either themselves or certain family members, for educational programs and services.

What are Personal Credits? Personal Credits may be used for a wide range of educational programs and services, including those provided by universities, colleges, trade or training schools, Indigenous Institutions of Higher Learning, or which relate to literacy or trades, as well as programs and services related to Aboriginal identities, histories, cultures or languages.

How much are Personal Credits? Adequate funds are available for each CEP recipient to receive up to \$3,000 in Personal Credits, depending on your approved educational expenses.

Which educational entities and groups are included? A list of approved educational entities and groups has been jointly developed by Canada, the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit representatives. If an educational entity or group is not on the list, please consult the website for more information.

Will I receive a cheque? No. Cheques will be issued directly to the educational entity or group providing the service.

Who can use Personal Credits? CEP recipients can use the full amount themselves or give part or all of their Personal Credits to certain family members such as a spouse, child, grandchild or sibling, as defined in the terms and conditions. Personal Credits

of multiple CEP recipients can be combined to support a group learning activity.

How can I get Personal Credits? Each CEP recipient will be mailed an Acknowledgement Form. If you do not receive an Acknowledgement Form by the end of January 2014, please call 1-866-343-1858. Completed Acknowledgement Forms should be returned as soon as possible and must be postmarked no later than **October 31, 2014.**

How do I redeem my Personal Credits? Once approved, you will be sent a personalized Redemption Form for each individual using Personal Credits at each educational entity or group. Once the Form is received, provide it to the educational entity or group listed. The educational entity or group must then complete and mail back the Redemption Form postmarked no later than **December 1, 2014.**

What happens to unused Personal Credits? The value of unused Personal Credits will be transferred to the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund and Inuvialuit Education Foundation for educational programs.

For more information, including how Personal Credits can be redeemed by certain family members of CEP recipients that are deceased, visit www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca or call 1-866-343-1858.

The IRS Crisis Line (1-866-925-4419) provides immediate and culturally appropriate counselling support to former students who are experiencing distress.

CEP recipients have the option of sharing their Personal Credits with certain family members, such as:

- **Children**
- **Spouses**
- **Grandchildren**
- **Siblings**

1-866-343-1858 • www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca

Speak For Yourself

Barbara Lehtiniemi



I wasn't around for AUSU's last student council election in 2012, so I've been following the 2014 elections with great curiosity. Unlike federal or provincial government elections and their unrelentingly coverage, the AUSU election is subtle. No campaign buses, no media interviews, no all-candidates meetings, and no mudslinging. I like it!

AU's Student Union is important to me. It is often my primary source of information for what's happening at AU. E-text initiative and call-centre model? I heard about these issues first from AUSU. It is also reassuring to know that I have AUSU campaigning on my behalf. They have a seat at AU's table and a voice to remind AU that they're here to serve their

students and not the other way around. AUSU is on my side.

I've learned more about AU from AUSU, and I've learned more about AUSU from following the election campaign. The call for candidates on January 20 led me to wonder more about AUSU council. How does it work when council members are spread across Canada? I headed to the AUSU website's [governance page](#) where I found the AUSU student council's [policies](#) and bylaws as well as [meeting minutes](#) for the past two years. (Reading meeting minutes, by the way, is an excellent tool for [essay-avoidance-procrastination](#) you can feel good about.)

I learned even more once nominations closed and the candidates were announced. The "*Election 2014 Q&A*" forum opened up February 8 on the AUSU discussion forum [page](#). Reading comments that candidates posted led me to more questions, followed by more information-hunting. For example, what about this surplus they're talking about? Back to ausu.org to look up the [AUSU 2013 Annual Report](#).

Following the candidates' comments on the election forum has been enlightening. Learning where each candidate stands on issues such as funding, student engagement, and tuition increases has helped me make informed choices on the ballot. Even responses to the more light-hearted inquiries, such as the one about chunky versus smooth, helped create a fuller picture of each council hopeful.

Following this election has not only been enlightening, but it's making me a more engaged student. I am not a random, free-floating unit, but part of a whole. I have heavily invested both time and money into my education, and AUSU student council is my voice at AU to help preserve and protect that investment. I'm not just a fish in AU's revenue stream! My vote in this election is my voice at AUSU council.

If you want your voice to be heard, you have to speak for yourself. Voting runs February 19 to 22 online at ausu.org. Spend a few minutes reading the [candidate bios](#) and, to learn more, read through their comments on the "*Election 2014 Q&A*" [forum](#). Candidates have spent valuable time campaigning in this election; reading their bios and their comments shows appreciation for their efforts.

Casting your vote shows AU that AUSU truly does represent the student body. When you vote (and you only have until February 22, so do it now!) don't forget to also vote on the referendum question about the proposed health plan for students. You can find information on that [here](#).

AUSU wants to know what you think. Don't miss this opportunity to speak for yourself.

Barbara Lehtiniemi is a writer, photographer, and AU student. She lives on a windswept rural road in Eastern Ontario.



Dear Barb:

Hi, I have been dating my girlfriend for three months and we really get along great. Recently Dawn invited me to her apartment and I was shocked as her place was a complete mess! I could hardly find a place to sit down. I wasn't prepared for this because she has always been well groomed and very attractive. Surprisingly, she did not seem embarrassed or attempt to make excuses for her messy apartment. I've seen a few of those shows about hoarders and I'm wondering if Dawn may be a hoarder. I know I could never live in this kind of disarray. I want to discuss it but I don't know how to bring it up without offending her. Do you have any suggestions as to what would be the best approach to take?

James

Hi James:

Without a doubt, this is a tough situation. I think you realize that you are going to have to use a lot of diplomacy with this matter. Perhaps you could begin by discussing the subject of housekeeping and see how she reacts. You could casually say that you usually clean your apartment on Saturdays or whatever. This would get the topic underway. I guess from there you will have to see how she responds. She may make an excuse for her messy apartment, or she may say nothing. If she says nothing you could surmise that she is comfortable with the level of clutter/mess. You say that you can't live in this type of environment, therefore it's unlikely that Dawn is the girl for you. Moreover, if she is content in

these surroundings, you may not be able to change her, and attempting to will most likely become a point of contention between you and lead to additional stress. Hoarding can be a symptom of something deeper going on within a person. Here is an online description of [hoarding](#) from the Mayo Clinic.

Ultimately, if Dawn is willing to go for counseling to discover the possibility of an underlying cause that may be contributing to this hoarding behavior, and if she is willing work through it, there may be hope for this relationship. Before you make a final decision share your concerns with Dawn and decide together what you want to do. Hope this helps. Thanks for your question James.

Email your questions to voice@voicemagazine.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality; your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.



Click of the Wrist

Sick of the cold and snow? Spring seem like it'll never come? The outdoors may seem like a bleak wasteland, but there's incredible beauty to be found. This week's links look at art—including music—that's dependent on cold temperatures.

The Art of Winter

Orchestral Ice

Talk about seasonal shows! This CNN photo feature highlights a unique Swedish orchestra that combats the wintry weather by creating music on handcrafted instruments made from ice. Why ice? According to the instrument creator, a stone sculptor, "Ice makes a sharper sound than wood." Of course the fragile nature of the instruments means that the slightest bit of melting can throw off their precise sound, so they are suspended from the ceiling to avoid heat damage from their players.

Snow Designer

No canvas? No paints? No problem—not if you're snow artist Simon Beck, whose beautiful designs went viral late last year. Created with a mix of careful on-paper planning (no tracing here) and up to ten hours outdoors, each design is etched on a blank snowfall using only Beck's footsteps. For more designs, see [Beck's Facebook gallery](#).

All Natural

This year's unusually harsh winter may have caused a lot of inconvenience, but it's also offered some rare opportunities. This *Smithsonian* magazine feature shows a glimpse of the sea ice caves on Lake Superior's Apostle Islands. These natural wonders are usually inaccessible to visitors, but this winter it's been possible thanks to the prolonged cold temperatures that have made it safe to make the one-mile walk across the frozen lake to the island caves.



DID YOU KNOW?



During the Election, AUSU will be holding a vote to approve the implementation of a new [Health Care Plan](#). This plan will cost \$325 per year, however students can opt out of the plan before the fees are applied. Those who do not, however, will receive benefits of up to \$500 in dental (including preventative work), \$300 in physician care (including chiropractors, naturopaths, and physiotherapists), 80% coverage of prescription drugs, and up to \$2000 coverage of private tutorial service if they've been hospitalized, and this coverage is in addition to any other plans they might already have.

However, before these benefits can be offered, students need to vote for the plan alongside the AUSU Election from Feb 19-22. Even if you do not want the plan personally, your vote could enable some other student who needs it to take advantage of it.

Mindful Bard

Wanda Waterman

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



Courtesy Tribeca Film Festival

Film: *Cycling With Molière*

Director: Phillippe Le Guay

Sometimes the Answers are Too Simple to Accept

"He who is unable to live in society, or who has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god."

- Aristotle

Gauthier is a handsome theatre actor whose claim to fame is a cheesy role as a doctor in a television drama. He's travelled to the île de Ré to try to

convince an old colleague, Serge, to perform in a production of Molière's play, *The Misanthrope*, that he's staging so that he can finally get the chance to play the main character, Alceste. He wants his friend to take the part of Philinte, Alceste's friend and the calm voice of civility in the play. However, Serge insists that he should be the one playing Alceste. Much bellyaching ensues until they finally agree to take turns playing Philinte and Alceste on different nights during the play's run.

At this point we must say something about *The Misanthrope*. Watching a dramatic work that has been inspired by another dramatic work is something like standing between two mirrors and looking back and forth to see how each mirror interprets the infinite repetition of your face and the back of your head. In this case, the play illuminates not only the characters of Serge and Gauthier, but also the profession of acting and, in particular, the kind of person who becomes an actor.

In one scene, a sexy, young, blond woman has joined the two middle-aged actors to take part in a reading. The two men read their parts in a studied, academic fashion. They argue, as is their wont, as to how Alceste should be played, while the girl texts on her cell phone. At the end of the scene they turn to her and ask what she thinks. She smiles and says they did wonderfully but that she really must leave to catch her train to Bucharest where she'll be playing in a porn film.

"Oh, no", the two men insist. "You can't leave without first reading a little from the play!"

Finally, she relents and they hand her some lines from the part of the flirt Célimène. We shudder and wait for the crash and burn. It's as bad as you'd expect; she reads the lines as if she were in grade school: haltingly, without feeling. Then something strange happens. As the lines become more emotionally intense, she pulls herself up, begins to make eye contact with her audience, and expresses the lines with an authentic tenderness and a charming fluidity. The two seasoned actors stare at her, dumbfounded.

And then, "Well, thanks so much I really must be going." She's about to hit the big leagues as a porn actress, and has no interest in entering the world of art. Nonetheless, she has just exhibited a capacity that the two veterans can only approach. This movie is essentially about why.

The character Alceste despises humanity and yet obviously hopes to be loved, admired, and appreciated by human beings. This is very much the character of Serge in the film (which may be why he so desperately longs to play the role) while Gauthier is really much more like the character's buddy Philinte—he even has a hard time properly saying a line about hating human beings.

Through most of the story, Serge and Gauthier are locked in a battle that boils down to who gets the love and admiration. The only thing that works, that gives them a temporary respite from the hellishness of their own relationship, is the age-old, time-honoured process of repentance and forgiveness.

After Serge apologises for mocking and patronizing Gauthier's television role, Gauthier forgives him wholeheartedly and the men enter a period of childish delight, creativity, deepening friendship, joy, and even good acting. It's during this part of the story that we see them flying along on bicycles—joyously racing each other like small boys.

But, oh, how the ego can make a mess of things. When Gauthier wrongs Serge and apologises, everything changes. Serge quickly assumes power and relentlessly executes his revenge. Their halcyon days are over.

In the end, Serge is alone on the beach, once again like Alceste, proclaiming his hatred of humanity and assuming his solitude to be a triumphant one—but all the viewer can feel for him is pity. The thing in which he had taken such pride—his prowess as an actor—is now done and over with. The same is true for Gauthier. Sometimes the conditions for artistic excellence involve traditional values that really can't be transcended just because you think you're fabulous.

Cycling With Molière manifests six of the Mindful Bard's criteria for films well worth seeing.

It's authentic, original, and delightful; it poses and admirably responds to questions that have a direct bearing on my view of existence; it stimulates my mind; it provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavor; it is about attainment of the true self; and it makes me appreciate that life is a complex and rare phenomena, making living a unique opportunity.

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.

Comic

Wanda Waterman

ANTBOY AND HAPPY RABBIT IN: THE LONELY CYNIC



Antboy, you've GOTTA come to the autocrat soirée we're organising!

OH, PLEASE!!! HONESTLY! Who's going to come to THAT?!

FINE! Stay here in your dank dungeon of despair! I'm gonna go eat goulash with Victor Orban and quote John Lennon to him until he mends his ways!



GOOD-BYE Mr. Cynical-pants! Enjoy another lonely evening!



...

Please Come back. Please.



WRITTEN BY WANDA WATERMAN

AUSU UPDATE



Dear Members,

You may have recently seen information on the internet speculating about the future of Athabasca University. These reports suggest that the Alberta government may broker a merger between AU and University of Alberta, and that this may result in drastic changes to the services and programs offered to students AU students.

We want you to know that AUSU is aware of these rumours and is actively investigating the source – we will keep you informed as we know more.

We can tell you that AU is governed via a bicameral structure with two main governing bodies: the General Faculties Council (formerly Academic Council) and the Board of Governors (formerly Governing Council). AUSU has representatives on both of these governing bodies and we can confirm that there has been no formal discussion of a university merger among these groups. The AU president, Frits Pannekoek, has also assured the press that there is no truth to the rumour. On behalf of our members, we are seeking more information from the Board of Governors, the minister, and AU executives.

At this time we simply have no evidence that a merger is being seriously considered by AU, the U of A, or the Alberta government, and we note that among the many committees and working groups of AU, planning and development for the future continues as usual.

We know that our members are worried and want more information. We will update you as soon as we know more. At this time we do not feel there is any reason for students to worry or make changes to their study plans.

Do not hesitate to contact our office if you wish to talk about this or any other issue affecting AU students.

AUSU.

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.

Free Motorcycle

Free 2006 Kawasaki Ninja ZX-636R Sportbike

It is in excellent condition—100% mechanically.

If interested pls contact: jacobgreen2001@yahoo.com

THE VOICE

500 Energy Square - 10109 – 106 St NW - Edmonton AB - T5J 3L7
Ph: 855.497.7003 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union
Editor-In-Chief Tamra Ross
Managing Editor Karl Low

Regular Columnists Hazel Anaka, Barbara Lehtiniemi, 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 [here](#). *The Voice* does not share its subscriber list.

© 2014 by *The Voice Magazine*