

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 22 Issue 24 2014-06-13

The Writer's Toolbox

There and Back Again

Getting Laid

It's How you Use It

Summer Holiday

A Break by Law

Plus:

*From Where I Sit
In Conversation
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.

Feature

The Writer's Toolbox: *How to Comfort an Editor*..... 6

Articles

Editorial: *We're All Going on a Summer Holiday*..... 3

Getting Laid 5

Columns

Primal Numbers: *Here Comes the Sun* 4

Mindful Bard: *Anatomy of Clay* 8

From Where I Sit: *Time to Smell the Flowers* 12

In Conversation: *With Don Rosenthal, Part III* 10

Dear Barb: *Dating Choices*..... 14

News and Events

Click of the Wrist 9

Did You Know?..... 11

Council Connection..... 13

International News Desk 13

AUSU Update..... 16

Comics

Weird Canada: *Hare on the Menu*..... 15

***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

**We're All Going on a Summer Holiday**

Okay, maybe not all of us are, but I am. I have been informed by AUSU that those two weeks of holiday time that are included in my contract are mandatory by Alberta Law. Which means that no matter how much I enjoy putting together the Voice each week, there's at least two weeks during the year when I'm not allowed. So I've decided that I'll take one of those weeks during the first week of July. I expect you're probably already pretty busy for those summer days, and I know that around Canada day a lot of people like to take a few days off to take advantage of that long weekend and the various celebrations, so it seems as good a time as any.

Of course, as we get older we start to realize that "vacation" often just means an opportunity to catch up on all the other jobs we've been leaving behind. For us, it'll be a good opportunity to finally clean out the garage and maybe start looking at developing the basement. But I expect we'll take in some fireworks as well.

Also in July is the start of the annual Calgary Stampede. If you've never been to one, you should consider at least taking in the fair grounds and some of the concerts and variety shows that they have in Calgary during that time. Personally, I've got problems with the rodeo and chuck wagon events, as I think they're needlessly cruel to the animals in them. I know many rodeo people say they treat their animals with a lot of love and respect, but you simply can't tell me that flipping a calf over and using your knee to literally drive the wind out of it so that it stays docile enough to tie up is something that the calf enjoys. And as there always seems to be at least a couple of horses that die during the chuck wagon races, there's not a lot of hope of convincing me that those aren't harming the animals either. Still, during that week, the city does put on a lot of shows and throws a lot of great parties, so even without supporting the Stampede itself, it's possible to have a great time here.

However, that's still a couple weeks away. Right now, we've got another solid issue of *The Voice Magazine* to keep you distracted for a few minutes. This week, "The Writer's Toolbox" makes its return, and if you ask Barbara Lehtineimi, not a moment too soon. She's apparently been missing her writing advice, so went out and found a bunch of other resources for you if you want extra help with your writing. "Primal Numbers" takes a look at solar powered flight, while Hazel Anaka looks at solar powered gardens. We finish up our interview with Don Rosenthal, and the Mindful Bard examines poetry in the context of *The New Yorker*.

Also, if you're reading this before the weekend, be sure to check out the streamed AU Convocation ceremonies on at least one of the days during the weekend. You can find more information on this in the "Did You Know?" section, but suffice it to say that if you've never heard Asani perform, you're in for a bit of a treat. Also this week, Weird Canada has found some hare-raising fare, and Dear Barb has someone who's got themselves into a bit of a pickle.

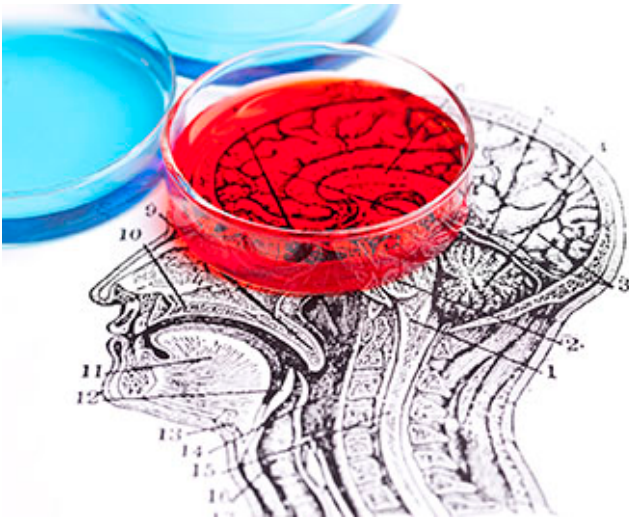
Finally, I just wanted to wish those in Ontario good luck on their recent election results. I don't know if I would have voted for the Liberals myself, but the alternative of Mr. Hudak's path seemed to me like a set-up for disaster.

Handwritten signature of Karl Low.

Primal Numbers

Here Comes the Sun

S.D. Livingston



Way back in 1010 AD, when Oliver of Malmesbury flew 125 paces with a set of homemade wings, there were probably plenty of critics who thought he was crazy to try it. And when the Wright brothers completed the world's first powered flight in 1903, only three newspapers even bothered to cover the historic event. Now, a group of test pilots are attempting another incredible feat: a flight around the world in a solar-powered plane. Is it an impossible dream, or a sign that we can soon power our world with the sun?

The Solar Impulse 2, and its potential, are enormous—over 5,000 pounds of enormous, with

a wingspan of nearly 250 feet (the wingspan of a 747 Classic measures 196 feet). Even at that size, the Solar Impulse can only carry one passenger. Most of the plane's structure is devoted to the 17,000 solar cells needed to power the engines. But as this Solar Power World article explains, the point right now is simply to prove that it can be done.

"Our goal," says pilot Bertrand Piccard, "is to show that it is now possible to achieve things considered impossible without fossil fuels." Undoubtedly, the news will intrigue those who already enjoy all things related to airplanes and flight. But the truly exciting thing is the potential the Solar Impulse holds for harnessing the sun's power for other large, industrial applications.

The issue, of course, is the time, money, and innovation to get us there. Like any other source of power, solar has its own unique drawbacks. Hours of sunlight can vary widely, especially during winter months. Solar panels and arrays are large and heavy, and it can be challenging to find a suitable location—especially in a city. Then there's the question of how to store and transport that power on a significant scale, such as providing electricity for a mall or factory.

And we can't forget the dirty little secret that most people don't know about solar energy. As this *Financial Post* article explains, the panels that capture all that clean, renewable sunlight are also the source of "millions of pounds of polluted sludge and contaminated water." In California alone, the hazardous waste created by the manufacture of solar panels was 46.5 million pounds from 2007 to 2011. That's nowhere near the environmental damage caused by our addiction to fossil fuels, but it's hardly acceptable if we're looking for a truly clean energy source.

But much like Oliver of Malmesbury, who broke both his legs when he tested his wings, we're still in the infancy of making this new technology work for us. We need to innovate, to improve, to focus on the possibilities while overcoming the drawbacks.

So the news about the Solar Impulse 2 holds far more promise than the achievement of an around-the-world flight. It reminds us that, sometimes, even the most impossible things can become possible when we dare to reach for the sky.

S.D. Livingston is the author and creator of the Madeline M. Mystery Series for kids, as well as several books for older readers. Visit her website for information on her writing.

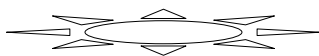
"The Grammar Lady," newspaper columnist Mary Newton Bruder, unfortunately passed away in 2004 (but you can still get her book called, not surprisingly, *The Grammar Lady*.) But look for the next generation's Grammar Girl at QuickandDirtyTips.com. And then there's [Dr. Grammar](#) from the University of Iowa, or the [Online Grammar Handbook](#) from the University of Minnesota. And of course, you can access all of the previous Writer's Toolbox columns at [The Voice Magazine](#) (search for "toolbox" or "Frey" to get a list of articles.)

Wondering whether to put punctuation inside or outside of quotation marks? See this Writer's Toolbox [column](#) from November. Is it "towards" or "toward?" Check out this January [column](#). Confused about possessive forms? The answer is in Frey's March 7 [column](#).

So, while The Writer's Toolbox is on hiatus, I'll keep working on my verb tenses and use of quotation marks and commas. And maybe I'll finally get it: laid is the past tense of lay, while lay is the past tense of lie.

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

(Wish granted! It's back! -- Editor)



Writer's Toolbox How to Comfort an Editor

Christina M. Frey



When you're comforting an editor, the meme goes, tell her "There, their, they're."

True? Perhaps. Correct usage may not be the antidote for all editorial ills—that's what caffeine is for—but using *there*, *their*, and *they're* correctly can go a long way. This week's Toolbox shows you how.

Their

The word *their* is a possessive pronoun, which is much simpler than it sounds. A pronoun stands in for a noun. Possessive means there's some sort of possession, ownership, or similar relationship going on. Whenever you've got a situation involving a possessive relationship, use *their*. If you can answer the question *Whose?*, use *their*.

Example A: We went over to their house. Whose house? Their house.

Example B: The students were disappointed with their grades. Whose grades? Their grades.

There

There is an adverb, which is a word that modifies, or describes or explains, a noun, adjective, verb, or (another) adverb. It often references location or answers the question *Where?*, though it also is used to make statements.

It actually plays a lot of roles, but one thing it never, never does is show possession, ownership, or any similar relationship. Never! Don't use *there* to show possession. (Butterflies may die, and so might your editor.)

Example C: I want to go over there.

Example D: There are three chocolates left in the box.

Incorrect Example E: Tom and Jeff invited me over to there house. There's a possessive relationship here—the house belongs to someone (Tom and Jeff). The correct word is *their*.

Corrected Example E: Tom and Jeff invited me over to their house.

They're

They're is a contraction, a combination word where the apostrophe indicates one or more missing letters. *They're* always, always stands for *they are* or, in conversation, *they were*. It never shows possession or location. If you're trying to say *they are* or *they were*, use *they're*. If you're unsure, try the full form; if *they are* doesn't make sense, *they're* is not the right word.

Example F: They're going to put the house on the market. This example is correct, since it can also be written this way: *They are going to put the house on the market.*

Example G: He's going to DJ they're wedding. This example is incorrect. *He's going to DJ they are wedding* makes no sense, so *they're* is the wrong choice. (Whose wedding is it? There's possession implied, so use *their*.)

A Challenge

Some sentences combine two or more of these words. If you remember and apply the rules above, though, you'll find them easy to sort out.

Example H: They're keeping an eye on how many of their students are going over there. Breaking it down: *They're* keeping an eye is correct, since we can substitute *They are*. *Their students* is correct because there's possession implied (Whose students? *Their* students). And *there* is used correctly as an adverb, here showing location.

Now it's time for the challenge. These sentences are incorrect. Can you tackle them on your own?

I look over they're and see that their there with their kids and there pets.

Their will come a time when their going to fight because their just not happy with there relationship.

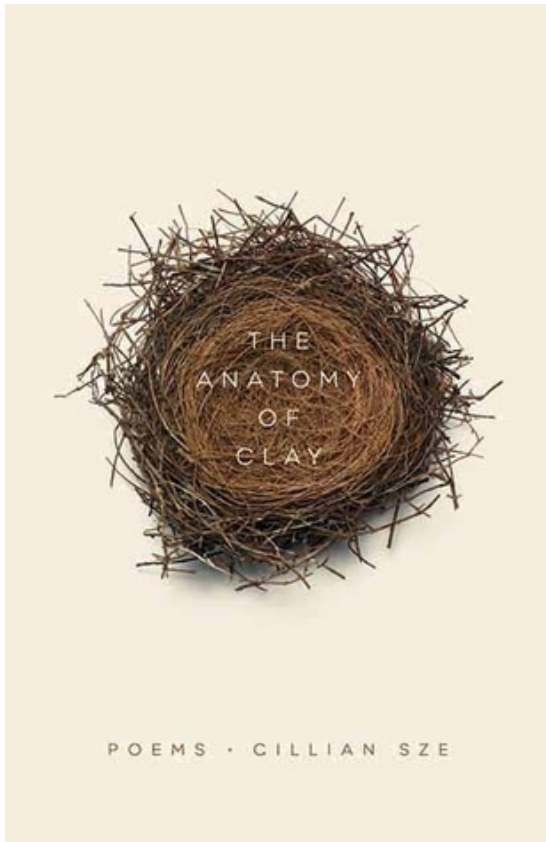
Email me at editor@pagetwoediting.com if you can figure it out on your own. Honour system—no peeking! I'll post the correct answers next week.

Christina M. Frey is a book editor, literary coach, and lover of great writing. For more tips and techniques for your toolbox, follow her on Twitter (@turntopage2) or visit her [blog](#).

The Mindful Bard

An Eagle's Eye View of the God in the Details

Wanda Waterman



Book: *Anatomy of Clay*

Author: Gillian Sze

"It's ordinary to love the beautiful, but it's beautiful to love the ordinary."

- Anonymous

Have you ever leafed through a stack of *New Yorker* issues just to check out what kind of poetry they publish? Did you conclude that the point was to be just as pointless as possible while still sounding eloquent and perceptive?

If so, join the club. In spite of adoring everything else about *The New Yorker*, the Mindful Bard has often confessed a dislike for imagist poetry (poems comprised of a succession of images with little if any reference to a message), in part because of the effort required to decipher dense imagery that, in the end as often as not, signifies nothing, and in part because it's still such a fixture of the best mainstream magazines. Which is why poetry rich in metaphor, meaning, and wordplay is such a breath of fresh air.

Enter Gillian Sze, born in Winnipeg and now living in Montreal, whose poems are so spare, so jewel-like, so vivid, and so enlightening that you think it must be painful to walk around with that level of sensitivity to ordinary things.

In her poetic landscape a line of streetlights encircles a city's wrist, buildings in a drab neighborhood are like old men with sagging shoulders, and after a doctor's appointment a couple is disappointed to find that what they thought were a group of storks is actually herons (one might assume the doctor had delivered unwanted news).

And it's not just the metaphors. When you pay attention to the rhythm of the lines they turn out to be deeply musical. This is easy to miss; Sze's rhythm is so in keeping with the natural rhythms of the best human speech that they'd fit well in a classic film, spoken in the melodious accents of a gifted thespian.

In the meaning department Sze draws out the poignancy and significance of the most mundane scenes and events. She empathizes deeply with the people she observes, creating backstories for whatever simple or bizarre behavior they're engaged in at the moment.

There's also an overarching story; what emerges from within all the pithy observations is the tale of a young woman who lives a self-examined life but who hasn't yet received a return on her investment in it. There's an organic salience to her loneliness, expressed in images you can almost smell. We don't know if this is the author or someone else—that's how acute is Sze's empathy—but this story gives scope to the other observations in the book, painting a sharply detailed picture of the great human stew of despairs and joys.

Anatomy of Clay manifests eight of the Mindful Bard's criteria for books well worth reading.

- It's authentic, original, and delightful.
- It poses and admirably responds to questions that have a direct bearing on my view of existence.
- 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.
- It inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation.
- It displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering.
- It makes me want to be a better artist.
- 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.

Click of the Wrist

No Kids Allowed

School's nearly out, and kids are gearing up for summer camp. But they're not the only ones. In fact, there an increasing number of summer camps geared exclusively to adults. Here's a sampling of what's available:

On Broadway

If you love the idea of seeing your name in lights, you can live out your performing dream at the Broadway Fantasy Camp. Campers sing, dance, and perform in the same venues used by professional Broadway actors. No experience necessary—you're welcome "even if you think you have two left feet."

Ghost Hunters

Interested in the paranormal? Ghost Hunters University takes place in a New Orleans hotel that's said to be haunted. Participants learn paranormal investigation techniques and take part in two ghost hunts.

Astronaut Training

If you grew up wanting to explore the cosmos, the Adult Space Academy will give you a taste of real astronaut training. Participants also perform mission control and get to launch a small rocket!

And More!

Grownupcamps.com is a great resource for "fantasy camps, recreational adventures, volunteer & enrichment vacations for the adult traveler." Whether you're interested in bridge, baseball, or ballet, you're sure to find ideas here for summer fun.



In Conversation With Don Rosenthal, Part III

Wanda Waterman



The Full Spectrum of Life in This Moment

"The primary cause of unhappiness is not the situation, but your thoughts about it. Be aware of the thoughts you are thinking. Separate them from the situation, which is always neutral, which always is as it is."

- Eckhart Tolle

"We move through the day with our mind almost continually occupied ... While we are thus preoccupied with our thoughts, we are living like a person in a dream: walking through life in an unconscious and mechanical state. Within this

dream, we create conflict in our mind, in our home, and in the world."

- Don Rosenthal in *Learning to Love*

Don and Martha Rosenthal are couples therapists and also the authors of a number of books for couples, including the enlightening Learning to Love, a marriage manual informed by their own experiences as a couple as well as by their in-depth knowledge of psychology and spirituality.

(You can read the first part of this article here, and the second part here.)

What is Mindfulness and How Can it Heal a Hurting Marriage?

I see mindfulness as a state of being present, conscious, aware, and attentive to the full spectrum of life in this moment. Judgment, closing the heart, and even ordinary thought get in the way of the pure sense of being aware of my total consciousness in this moment. I think mindfulness is needed to see clearly enough to gain perspective on my unconscious and heavily conditioned habits of thinking and acting.

What I learn from mindfulness about the true source of wellbeing takes on another level of reality when I apply it to my relationship. I have become more sceptical regarding the strange belief that closing my heart and blaming my partner for my pain will keep me safe. Mindfulness has educated me on how my feelings come not from my partner's behaviour but from how my mind *interprets* what is happening. For me, a measure of my spiritual understanding and a barometer of my peace lies in my honest answer to the question, "Who is responsible for my suffering?"

Mindfulness has enabled me to see how things are not what they seem in the world of mind. It has gifted me with elusive glimpses of how in the mystery of identity is hidden the key to emerging from our painful dream.

The Most Amazing Fact About Love: An Open Heart Feels Good

I have observed a simple, undeniable truth: when my heart is open I feel good. Therefore when I feel bad my heart must be closed. Whoever closes my heart must be the source of my feeling bad. Do I believe my partner has the power to make me close my heart? Or does the closing of my heart come from within?

Since it is clearly the latter, nobody other than myself closes my heart and therefore causes me pain. I resent whomever I believe is the source of my pain. Therefore the fact that I can still resent my partner suggests I must be persisting in seeing them as the culprit.

From this insane attitude arises an equally insane strategy: *I'm going to get you to love me more by blaming you for not loving me enough.* The contradiction and futility of this approach has become strikingly uncomfortable for my ego. The only strategy that does work is to demonstrate in myself more of the quality I'd like to see coming from my partner.

New Book on the Horizon

My second book, *The Uncharted Journey*, arose organically from a bunch of thoughts I had that I wrote down and later put together as a book. I have another group of thoughts that seem as though they might also morph into a book.

My theme seems to be: *how can I use awareness and intelligence in the service of opening the closed heart?* To me it seems like our most important task, and the central issue in relationship at every level, from marital to international.

Readers are free to write to me at: couples@sover.net.

Thanks to all for listening.

DID YOU KNOW?



If you haven't already, you can watch Athabasca University's annual convocation ceremony online at this link: <http://t.co/Ckv78DJ4Tk> While Thursday and Friday's ceremonies are already over, the Saturday and Sunday ceremonies are still to come and are worth checking out, if for nothing other than to hear the vocal group Asani's multi-lingual rendition of "Oh Canada" at the beginning, as it's an extremely good performance. Word from those who are actually at the convocation say that it's even better in person, and can send chills down your spine.

You'll also get to see the new president of the University, Peter MacKinnon, and witness the rather unique graduating ceremonies that AU holds, with those attending having short bios read about them as they cross the stage to receive their degree.

So far, the stream has been reasonably decent, although the first day they had the microphones turned up so high as to almost do damage to a person's speakers, (or ears if they were listening to it through headphones, like me). Hopefully, AU will be able to present the recording on the website like they've done for the 2012 convocation. Of course, if they do, it will make the missing 2013 convocation all the more obvious.

Convocation's Here!



Time to Smell the Flowers

This spring, for the first time ever as a grown-up, home-owning woman, I will not be buying or setting out bedding plants. Shocking, I know, but, near as I can tell, the earth has not stopped spinning on its axis.

I'm not totally surprised. Years ago, as a newlywed of Ukrainian ancestry living on a farm with nothing but wide-open spaces, I decided NOT to plant a vegetable garden. Damn near had my papers revoked. It seemed positively sinful not to use the rich dark soil to grow fresh, unadulterated food for my family as generations before me had.

God knows in the early years, when we lived in a tiny house in town, I tried. I had a small plot and really, really tried. But I also worked and had a toddler. I also loved flowers more than potatoes. Or tomatoes. Those always struck me as particularly needy.

Sure, who doesn't love standing in the garden shelling sweet succulent peas and popping handful after handful into your own or your kid's mouth? But ... first you have to buy the seed for the right variety for your growing zone. Then you need to make laser-straight rows and push the seeds into the furrow just a couple inches apart—not too deep or too shallow, mind you. Tamp down the soil. Stay on top of the weeding and watering. Erect a small chicken wire fence for the delicate new plants to cling to. Avoid the mildew rot that plagues them if it's too wet or the plants fall over. Other than that, no sweat.

In town, little old widows whose lives revolved around their gardens surrounded us. They were consumed with the rigors of planting, upkeep, and harvest. Often they complained that their *second* chest-sized freezer was already full; that the kids came out from the city wanting the fruits of their labours without having worked like the industrious ant (or little red hen) to earn the crop; that they had to haul the surplus

to such and such a farmer's hogs because nobody wanted it. Well, cry me a river.

I'm not sure this makes any sense from an economic standpoint, never mind the required gut-busting work usually done while swatting clouds of mosquitos, but that's another story.

Fast forward to 2014. This year I 'invested' a hundred bucks in two sixteen-inch balls covered in plastic boxwood that I can pop into the cast iron planters on our steps. Is that not genius? No buying potting soil, no watering, no covering when frost threatens, no leggy or bedraggled parts needing pruning. All the planter beds are filled with reliable, hardy perennials so only weeding is required there.

So this year, another crazy busy year I can choose to leave all the patio pots in storage and make my life just a wee bit easier and guilt-free. If I have time to smell the flowers I can visit a friend, from where I sit.

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

Council Connection

Karl Low



The June 11th, 2014 Council meeting was uneventful, perhaps because it was sparsely populated. President Jason Nixon was unable to attend due to illness, and both the Vice-President, Finance & Administration Corrina Green and Office Manager, Karyna McDonald were on their way up to the Convocation Ceremonies in Athabasca, so were unable to attend as well.

The policies dealt with revolved around AUSU's hiring procedures for employees, and seemed to be entirely housekeeping issues to make sure that the policies were well organized and easier to understand for subsequent AUSU Councils. The only real change of note is that AUSU has eliminated the category of project positions, noting that these are more aptly described as either temporary positions or as consultants, neither of which were served by the limitations that had been placed on project positions.

After the policy section in the meeting comes the report section, and in this, also, there was little that council noted or sought extra explanation for, and with the President and Executive committee reports not being submitted (again, due to the illness of the president) was a fairly short section. The longest discussion occurred during the discussion of the Executive Director's report, where she pointed out that their most recent mass-mail to students about e-texts had an open rate of 42%, which is an extremely impressive number for mass e-mails. A couple of councillors pointed out that they'd also been recently contacted by a graduate student who was doing her own research into e-texts, and some concerns were noted as to whether students might start to feel they were getting polled too much, even though it would be by two completely separate groups.

Council also expressed a desire to see if they could collaborate with the graduate student, both to help her data collection with what AUSU is collecting now, as well as to see what type of data she managed to gather.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK

At Home and Abroad



At Home: Study says Canada needs to Promote Bi-Lingualism

The Canadian Association of Public Schools – International (CAPSI) has recently completed a study that concludes that Canada's public schools are not doing enough to promote French classes as an option for either domestic or international students. For many international students, English is already a second language, but the survey reveals, as reported by the PIE News, that being able to learn French as a third language at the same time as the rest of their Canadian education is a strong selling point that has gone un-promoted by public schools.

Around the Globe: Rising Tuition pushes UK students to US.

The New York Times is reporting that the recent increases in tuition in the UK has been a benefit to institution in the US, as more students are looking overseas to getting their education. At the same time, institutions in the

UK have found that the increase in tuition has also come with an increase in complaints about the institution itself. Complaints the universities have topped 20,000 last year, which is a record and an increase of over 10% since the tuition in the UK nearly tripled. It seems that when you charge exorbitant amounts, people start getting exorbitant expectations. Huh. Who'd have thought?



Dear
Barb

Barbara Godin

Dating Choices

Dear Barb:

I have been reading your column for a while, hoping I would see my situation in one of the questions, but I haven't yet. I am in my early twenties and just finished my second year of university. This year my roommates were both guys. I was a little hesitant to move in with them, but they both had girlfriends and at the time I had a boyfriend. Throughout the year all three of us ended up breaking off our relationships. As a result we spent a lot of time at home, or going out to bars and partying together. The problem is that I have become intimately involved with both guys. I really feel awful and I don't know how it happened. We have not talked about it, but I believe each guy has a suspicion that I may be involved with the other. Since the school year is over I am now in the process of moving back home to work for the summer. Both guys have been pressuring me to renew our arrangement for the next school year. I really don't want to move back in with them, as my ex-boyfriend has contacted me and there is a possibility we may reconcile. I don't want to tell my boyfriend about what happened with my roommates, but I fear it will come out, since he knows both guys. I think my boyfriend would not want to reconcile with me if he knew about what happened. Not sure how to handle this situation. I know I really messed up.

Dana

Hey Dana:

You are right, you messed up!

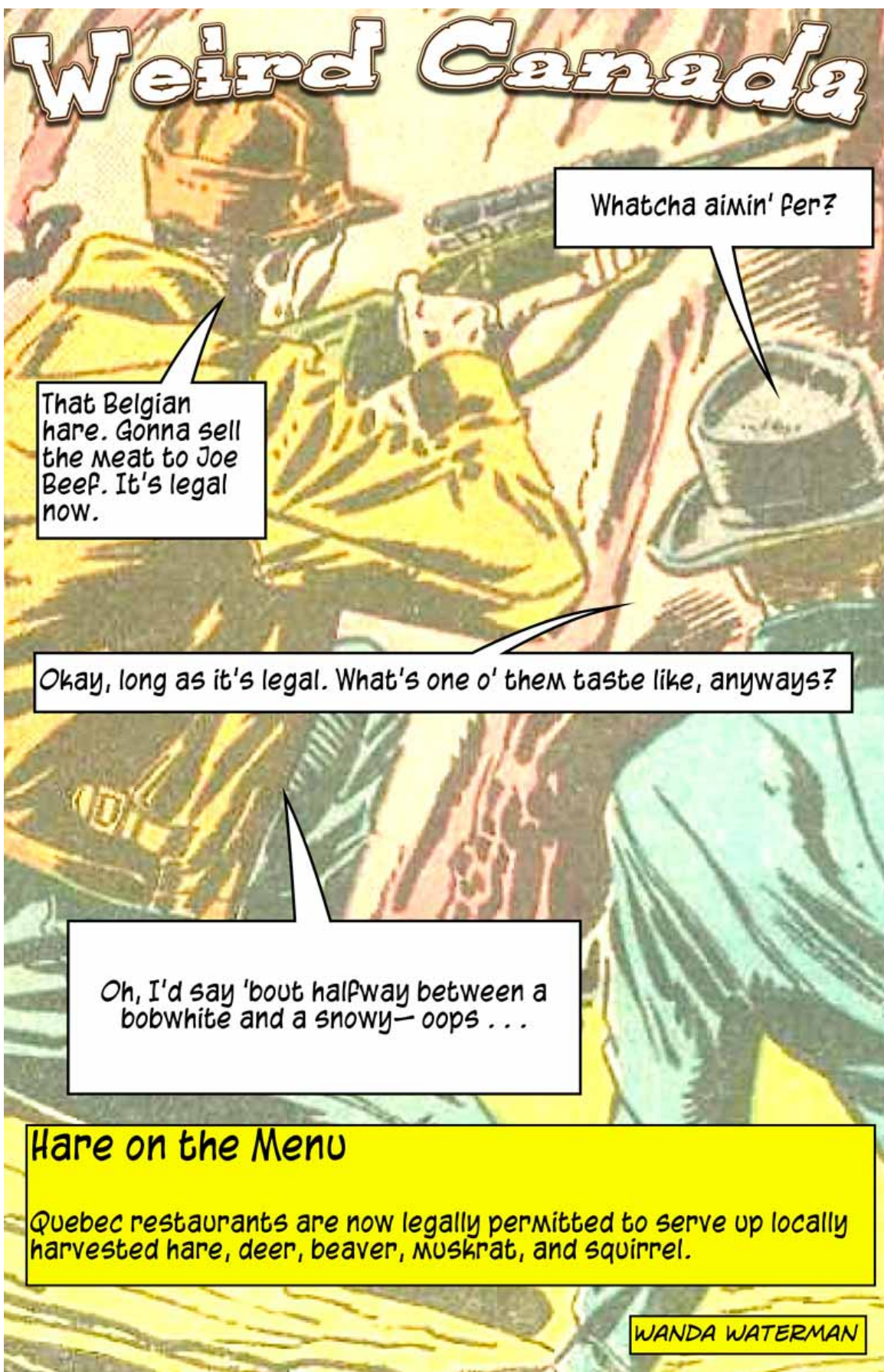
There are a lot of different things going on here. You say you don't know how this happened; you might want to spend some time trying to figure that out before you move into a relationship with anyone. Don't jump back into a relationship with your ex-boyfriend, as there were obviously problems in that relationship that needs to be worked out, or you never would have broken up. If you move back in with your previous roommates you are just asking for trouble, as they may expect things to continue as before. You must get away from this unhealthy situation and begin a fresh start. At some point, when you have figured out exactly why this happened, and if you still want to reconcile with your ex-boyfriend, you need to discuss this situation with him. You don't want to enter into a relationship keeping secrets from each other. Secrets always have a way of finding their way to the surface.

Good Luck Dana, hope I was able to help.

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.

Comic

Wanda Waterman





Changes to AU Course Materials

In the fall of 2013 AU began the process of replacing hard-copy textbooks for all undergraduate courses with e-text versions. Implementation has been staged in phases with about two dozen courses being transitioned each month. AUSU is supportive of the provision of electronic materials for students who want them, but has consistently lobbied AU to provide students with a choice of materials format to accommodate the diverse needs of our membership.

Over the last six months many AUSU members have been vocal in their opposition to e-texts as the only, mandatory option for all courses. AU has listened, and is considering several options to provide students with the choices they want. One option might include removing textbooks as a mandatory purchase with course enrolment, and allowing students to purchase their own books.

AUSU needed to know more about student perspectives on the options that have been proposed and held a survey to find out more. The results will be shared with members in an upcoming newsletter.

A New Era at AU - A New AU president

After two terms in the Office of President, Dr. Frits Pannekoek is retiring. Last week, in recognition of his contributions to distance education, the University of South Africa (Unisa) granted him an honorary Doctor of Literature and Philosophy award. AUSU congratulates Dr. Pannekoek on this great honour, and the recognition it brings to AU as a world leader in distance and open learning. We wish him all the best over his final weeks in the role of president, and in all his future endeavours!

We had hoped by now to be able to announce the selection of the presidential search committee for a new, full-term president; however, as a suitable candidate has not yet been found, AU has instead appointed an interim president: Dr. Peter MacKinnon, formerly of the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. MacKinnon has also served as chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and on the Science, Technology and Innovation Council of Canada. We look forward to working with him over the coming year!



Convocation travel information

AUSU wants to make sure this year's graduating class has a fantastic convocation. To make this happen, we're providing free transportation via bus or limo service to take people from Edmonton to the Athabasca Multiplex each day of convocation 2014. This applies to those graduating from AU undergraduate programs, and their guests (some limits may apply).

We've also arranged hotel discounts in Edmonton.

Plus, if you stay at the Edmonton hotel where our discounts apply, the shuttle will pick you up right out front, and drop you off at your hotel after the ceremonies.

This service is provided exclusively by AUSU, but grads in some faculties may already be eligible for free transportation. Check your program website or the dean's office to find out.

For more information, contact ausu@ausu.org as soon as possible. We'll also send you a tip sheet with more information about travelling to Edmonton, getting to and from the airport, etc.

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.

Come One, Come All...

To DECSA's 8th Annual Community Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, July 9th, 2014 from 7:30am to 10:30am

11515-71 Street, Edmonton AB

Everyone is Welcome!

Enjoy **FREE** Pancakes, Eggs, Sausages, Juice and Coffee

Games and activities for the children

RAIN OR SHINE

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, Barb Godin, Christina Frey

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*