

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 22 Issue 29 2014-07-25

Introducing..

The Study Dude

Unlimited Engagement

Getting Involved

In Conversation

Michael Gauthier, Conclusion

Plus:

The Writer's Toolbox

Chazz Bravado

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 Study Dude: *Study Tips from a Semi-Anonymous Friend* 7

Articles

Editorial: *The Big Box Squeeze* 3

Unlimited Engagement..... 5

Columns

Primal Numbers: *All in Your Head* 4

Writer's Toolbox: *Time Is On Our Side, Conclusion* 9

Mindful Bard: *We Cause Scenes* 11

In Conversation: *With Michael Gauthier, Conclusion* 13

Dear Barb: *Husband Issues* 15

News and Events

Click of the Wrist 10

International News Desk 6

AUSU Update 17

Comics

Chazz Bravado: *Tell you What I Want* 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

**The Big Box Squeeze**

I was reading this [article](#) from CBC news about how the big discount store Target is trying to demand an extra 2% discount from its suppliers. This is not terribly unexpected. It's simply the nature of capitalism and economies of scale. Those with more resources can demand more for them from those with less. But it struck me that "must" does not necessarily follow "can." That is, simply having the ability to squeeze your suppliers for every ounce of profit until they finally have to leave you isn't required.

Until I thought about it more.

People are blaming Target for being greedy, but the management of Target hardly has any choice in the matter. After all, if they do not improve their performance, year over year, the market will judge them harshly. And with it given that most management these days receive a substantial portion of their pay the form of stock options, which therefore require that the price of the stock increase if they are to realize a profit, what choice do they have but to squeeze every ounce

of growth from wherever they can?

Yet why is this? Why is it necessary that a company be growing? The answer for that brings us back to the stock market. There was a time when those involved in the market were primarily investors. They put money into a company with their primary expectation being to receive dividends if the company was profitable. But today people don't speak so much of investing, they speak of trading. And with that comes an entirely new set of expectations. Dividends are secondary to the valuation of the stock itself. After all, a trader does not expect to be holding the stock long enough to receive a dividend. They buy the stock, typically from some other trader, wait for it to increase in value, and then sell the stock to another trader, as if the company, not what it produces, was the commodity. With this in mind, the company can never sit still. A company that is hugely profitable and giving out large annual dividends but not expanding is not interesting to the traders that make up the bulk of the market volume. Yet, from a societal point of view, the profit a company makes is not important. What is important is if it fulfills a need that the people have. Our trading system rewards the former without regard to the latter, under the assumption that if what the company produces is useful, it will profit, and the more useful it is, the more profit it will make.

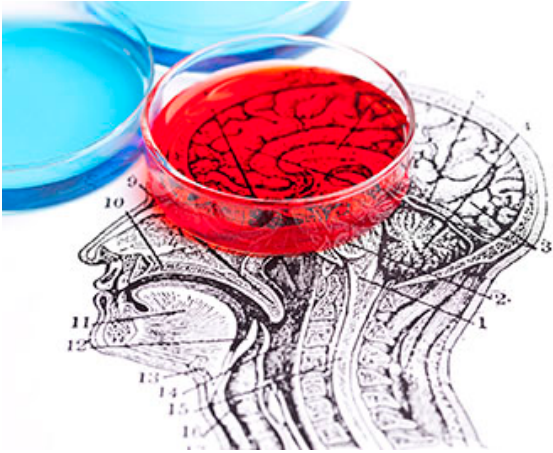
But as the Target example shows us, economies of scale can create other means to profit as well, means which do not enrich society, but merely concentrate the wealth that is there.

I'm not sure what the answer to this is, but fortunately, *The Voice Magazine* will try to enrich you through this week's set of articles, including Barb Lehtineimi's examination of why getting involved is something you need to do. Primal Numbers takes us into the world of technologic telepathy, and why our parents may be better at it than we will be. The Writer's Toolbox completes her look at how to properly show time in your writing, and we have the addition this week of The Study Dude, who points out that while we may be distance students, that doesn't mean we can't learn from one another.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl".

Primal Numbers All in Your Head

S.D. Livingston



As scary as the prom scene in *Carrie* was, lots of people were intrigued by something else in Stephen King's famous novel: the idea of telekinesis, or moving objects with the power of your mind. We're not there yet, but science has brought us one step closer with a new app that lets you control Google Glass with your thoughts. The idea has huge potential—and might just bring attention spans back into style.

The app is called MindRDR, and it's the creative project of a company called [This Place](#). According to the developer's website, it allows you to "create content and socialise it using the power of your mind." Unlike real telekinesis (if it even exists), MindRDR is an interface between your brain

and Google Glass. To make Google Glass do your bidding, such as taking a photo and posting it to social media sites, you'll also need the special headset that lets the app read your brain waves.

Right now, the combination of headset and Google Glass is probably a little bulkier than the average person would wear. But for those with limited movement, such as quadriplegia or severe multiple sclerosis, the headset is probably a minor inconvenience compared to the benefits it might bring. And those benefits could be huge. As this *Wired* [article](#) notes, the app "has been launched on GitHub in the hope that the open source tool will be further investigated and developed." Someday, the MindRDR app could let us harness our thoughts to drive cars, open doors, or use the smart appliances in our homes.

But there's one other thing the app needs to fulfill all that promise, and it's something the developers can't provide. It's the ability to focus—an ability that, paradoxically, is becoming a rare thing thanks to the very types of digital technology that make MindRDR possible.

Of course, there's always the possibility that the concern over short, fractured attention spans will come to nothing. Instead, the race of the future might go to the swift—those who know how to access information quickly, rather than those who know how to remember or ponder.

Then again, a 2012 [report](#) from Elon University and the Pew Research Center makes a case for working the muscles of your attention span. In one future scenario, the report notes that part of the new division of labor might be "specialists who retain the skills of focused, deep thinking." If the shallow-thinking, Internet-surfing workers are a dime a dozen, the biggest rewards could go to the few who can perform the tasks no one else can. The type of tasks that require the sustained focus to let you control your environment with your mind.

In an interesting twist, this could mean that older workers who grew up with a need for focus (say, to memorize schoolwork) would find it easier to sharpen that skill, while today's toddlers of the Internet age, who never had it, could find it impossible to cultivate. If tools like MindRDR become the way of the future, it could have surprising results for the workforce.

So if you've ever wondered if it's truly possible to control things with your mind, you might not have to wonder much longer. And, unlike the plot of a horror novel, it won't just all be in your head.

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.

Unlimited Engagement

Barbara Lehtiniemi



Do you know what's going on? If you don't, how do you find out? Many people wait until someone tells them or until they read it in the papers. Getting news second hand is limited engagement.

I recently attended three council meetings in eight days. One, the AUSU monthly council meeting, was via telephone. At another, a monthly council meeting for an Ontario municipality, I sat in the visitor's gallery, which consisted of a few chairs against the wall. For the third, I sat at the table as a member of the local public library board.

Three very different experiences but with one common thread: if I didn't show up, I wouldn't really know what's going on. The recorded minutes to such meetings, assuming anybody takes the trouble to read them, really only scratch the surface. A 2-hour meeting is reduced to two pages of cryptic notes and decisions.

For example, you may have heard that AU has a new interim president, Peter MacKinnon, whose term runs to June 2015. But did you know that AUSU has a representative on the selection committee? I didn't until I heard it at an AUSU council meeting. Or did you know that AUSU is the only student union that provides free Lynda.com access to its members? I heard that mentioned in passing at a council meeting earlier this year, and it made me appreciate my access to Lynda.com all the more.

If you're an AU undergraduate student, you're welcome to attend the AUSU council meetings and I encourage you to do so. It's interesting, informative, and increases your engagement with your AU community.

The next AUSU council meeting is Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 5:30MST. To gain access, send an e-mail to ausu@ausu.org and you'll get information on how to connect. If you can't make that date, the council usually meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month and you can attend as many or as few meetings as you want.

I find council meetings via phone a bit limiting, in that I can't see the council members and I'm not always certain who is speaking. But there are advantages, too. They can't see me either. If a discussion becomes, shall we say, a bit less interesting, I can do a bit of internet surfing or even leave the room. I usually can't get away with that at an in-person meeting.

If you have an opportunity to attend your local government's council meetings on occasion, you may find those enlightening, too. Surprisingly few members of the public show up at these open-to-the-public meetings. It can make municipal councillors a bit nervous to have observers, but it's a good reminder to them of who they are accountable to.

Attending a meeting, whether in person or electronically, opens up the view. A two-line summary of a decision in the minutes was the culmination of a 30-minute discussion. Who said what? You won't know unless you were there. The minutes in most cases don't even indicate who voted for or against a motion.

Who held up the meeting with trivial questions? Who had a juvenile meltdown when he didn't get his way? Who demonstrated thoughtful insight? Who demonstrated ignorance? Who was silent? Who would you vote for in the next election?

That last question is a zinger. How can you vote for someone if you haven't seen them in action? A candidate's bio is a idealized version of reality. It's how they want to be perceived. Until you've seen someone at the council table, you really don't know who you're voting for.

Your local mayor may be an upstanding member of the community, with a pedigree that goes back to Noah. But this same mayor may be bullying other council members to accept his decisions. He may be incompetent. He may be tipsy. (Yeah, okay, "or she.") You won't get that from reading the minutes or the newspapers.

Don't limit your engagement by waiting to hear news through the grapevine. Open up your horizons and get the scoop first hand. Attend a council meeting and see what your elected representatives are up to.

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK

At Home and Abroad



At Home: Saskatchewan Revamping Teacher Regulation

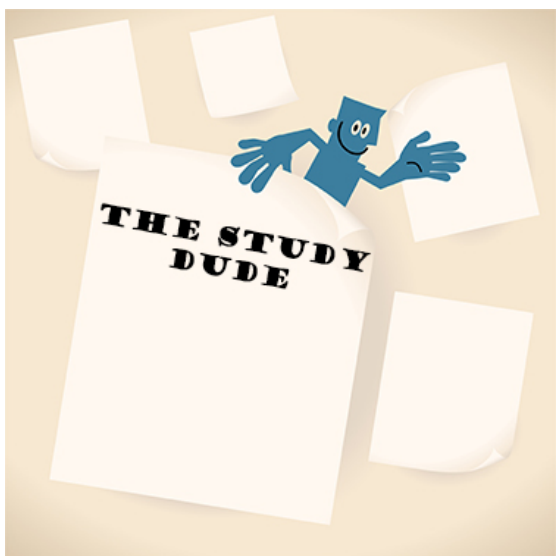
Did you know that, currently, complaints about teacher competence and behaviour are handled internally by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation? This is the union that is supposed to represent teachers to management.

The Saskatchewan government has some understandable concerns about this system, and so has appointed a "transition committee" to create a new, arms-length body that will handle these complaints, according to a new [report](#) by CBC. The government has suggested that this new body might be modelled after groups such as the Law Society of Saskatchewan or the College of Physicians and Surgeons—groups that are supposed to advocate for the profession as a whole, not the individual members of it.

Around the Globe: EU Student Funding System Under Threat

If you're an international student studying at AU, you may be interested in the recent [report](#) from PIE News. The report suggests that, with 43% of EU student loans outstanding, the entire state funding system of post-secondary is under threat. For every £1 the UK government lends, it loses about 45p. This has led to about £111 million less being collected than was expected during 2011-2012, and a potential £330 billion by 2044. Created by the Business, Innovation, and Skills Committee of the UK House of Commons, the report suggests that unless the government begins to make plans to examine the student loans system, it could leave the entire post-secondary system unfunded as the budget hole becomes too big to ignore.

Adrien Bailey, chair of the committee, said, "the financial funding system for higher education is looking increasingly fragile, coming under the strain of unfunded commitments and poor debt collection."



Study Tips from a Semi-Anonymous Friend

Studying from a distance often means studying alone. Without any other students to serve as examples or help, just figuring out the best ways to learn the material can be a task in itself. As The Study Dude, I'll try to give you the advice you need to help make your learning easier.

There is nothing more that the Study Dude wants than to see you whip off A+ after A+, make it into graduate school, and become a professor. I made it all the way through graduate school, myself, but stopped short at the PhD. So, what went wrong?

Well, in these articles, I'll show you lessons learned on how to study with the hope to groom you for your greatest performance ever!

I'll also give you straight and honest opinions and personal anecdotes—even the embarrassing ones that you wouldn't ever dare read about from any other study tip guru.

Today's study tips are based on a reading of Coles Notes Study Skills Study Guide (2012).

Highlighting

The Study Dude had a troubling quirk of not wanting to miss a detail. This meant I highlighted almost the entire page, for page after page, of readings, then typed up and memorized every highlighted tidbit. While it worked marvellously for a lighter course load, when the clinch came on in full-time graduate studies, I yearned for a better method. To make sure that you don't shoo the Study Dude away when it comes to exam time, here are some tips on how to highlight.

- Read the paragraph in full and then go back, aiming to highlight the main idea (every paragraph should have one)—again, only once the entire paragraph is fully read. Do this for each successive paragraph.
- Don't feel obligated to highlight entire sentences. Sometimes, just a few poignant words in a sentence, here or there, will capture the main point.
- Don't use multiple color highlighters as this just proves confusing when it comes time to transfer your highlights to a computer.

(Coles Notes, 2012)

Brown-Nosing

Admittedly, the Study Dude was a big brown-noser throughout school—often assuming the role of teacher's pet ever since grade three. While this may seem contemptible to most, Coles Notes highlights courteous behavior toward the instructor as essential to success.

For example, not only will courtesy impact your grades now (especially for participation), but later in your academic career or job search, you will oftentimes find these professors lending you a hand with reference letters. Sound decent? Here is what Coles Notes say about making friends with your instructor:

- Always be polite, courteous, and respectful to your instructor.

- Always give honest reasons for missed assignments or exams—your instructor will typically know when you are telling the truth or not and will respect you that much more for coming up with an honest answer.
- If there is conflict that arises between you and your instructor, continue to be nothing less than polite and courteous, while considering—and taking responsibility for—what it is that you might have done wrong in the matter.

(Coles Notes, 2012)

(But the Study Dude refuses to believe you did wrong anyway, so that's not important)

Note Taking

Sometimes the Study Dude uses brilliant self-made shorthand in note taking, such as using symbols such as "+" for "and" and "=" for "in conclusion". Also, I underline key points and put additional thoughts in the margin—all while documenting every word the instructor says almost verbatim. However, when it comes time to review the notes, my eyes glaze over at endless pages of large scrawl that even I have trouble reading.

So, what is the solution? While taking actual (albeit obsolete) shorthand courses could work miracles in note taking, it can take more than a year to learn shorthand in enough detail to use. Coles Notes, on the other hand, has some ideas, as documented below, but the Study Dude remains on the quest to find you a better solution. Here are some of the ideas in the book:

- Don't record every word your instructor says verbatim. Paraphrase.
- Create a system for shorthand note taking, such as abbreviating proper names once they are introduced, using symbols such as "+", "=", "-", "w/o" for "without", or "b/c" for "because".
- Indent segments to show hierarchy of thought wherever applicable.
- Do the readings that relate to the lecture prior to the class so that you will know the structure and content in better detail.
- Take lots of notes on the readings prior to the class, too, as this will fine tune your ears and allow you more time to find patterns and make connections between points.
- Leave out almost everything but the nouns and verbs (omitting items such as prepositions such as "to" and "from" and articles such as "the" and "an".)
- Document the main ideas and leave spaces to fill in detail later on when you return to your notes for further study.

(Coles Notes, 2012)

- Use the "!" or some other symbol in the margins to denote important points (that will likely be on tests) (This one is not in the book, but the study dude relied heavily on it.)

After reading Coles Notes on the topic of note taking, I'm hesitant to try out the ideas in the book. You see, I don't want to miss documenting a single thing the instructor says.

Quite frankly, I am phobic of paraphrasing—especially of getting so lost in thought on what to paraphrase next that I miss out on the main idea. It seems the above method requires you to do the readings in advance in order to be on your toes enough to paraphrase, all while making instant connections and seeing instant patterns. What about if you haven't done the readings? If the lectures and the readings aren't in sync?

Well, while Coles Notes are pretty sound, the above system leaves me a little leery about switching to this method out for good.

Later on in the Study Dude series, we will look at a more hearty method for taking notes, as outlined by Stefanie Weisman in her book *The Secrets of Top Students: Tips, Tools, and Techniques for Acing High School and College*.

So, there's nothing to fear. The Study Dude is determined to make right for you all the wrongs I made in grad school—one A+ at a time.

References

Coles Notes. (2012). *Study skills: Study guide*. Mississauga, Ontario: John Wiley & Sons Canada, Ltd.



Writer's Toolbox

Christina M. Frey

Time is On Our Side, Part III

Day and Night



What time is it? You probably answered this question with an easy *a.m.* or *p.m.*, but saying these abbreviations verbally and writing them down are two very different things. This week I'll try to simplify these abbreviations by giving a few basic rules.

Morning and Afternoon

The abbreviation *a.m.* stands for *ante meridiem*, which means "before noon"; *p.m.* stands for *post meridiem*, or "after noon." The meaning is basically "in the morning" or "in the afternoon," so if you're using one of these abbreviations, there's no need for further time expressions like "in the morning." When in doubt, read the sentence aloud with the full unabbreviated version and see if it makes sense.

Incorrect Example A: The meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. in the morning. This is essentially saying "10:30 in the morning in the morning," which is obviously incorrect.

Corrected Example A: The meeting will be at 10:30 a.m.

Of course, if you're not using *a.m.* and you're writing the time out in long form, then "in the morning" is fine:

Example B: The meeting will be at ten thirty in the morning.

Punctuation

You've probably seen *a.m.* and *p.m.* written all kinds of ways: small capitals, uppercase letters, and lowercase letters—with or without periods. **The standard rule is to put *a.m.* and *p.m.* in lowercase form, with periods.** No italics (the italicized instances in this article are for emphasis). Individual organizations and publications might have their own preferences, but the standard rule is followed by both Chicago and AP style. In the absence of specific guidance, follow the standard rule.

Note also that there's always a space between the time and *a.m.* or *p.m.*

Example C: The parade will start at 10:45 a.m.

There is one very commonly seen exception to the standard rule: the television show *Canada AM* uses uppercase letters and no periods (curiously, its logo uses lowercase letters and no periods).

Example D: Tune in to Canada AM at 6 a.m.

To Use or Not to Use?

Sometimes you don't need to include *a.m.* or *p.m.* at all. If it's clear whether you mean morning or afternoon, you can leave off the abbreviation and make your writing even more concise.

Example E: We will meet with our accounting department at 2:30. Unless your office keeps a very unusual schedule, it's safe to assume you mean 2:30 p.m.

But in the following situation, the abbreviation clarifies it:

Example F: The CEO's flight will arrive at 6:45 a.m. Adding the abbreviation will avoid risking a CEO furious at being left at the airport for 12 hours.

This wraps up this timely (sorry!) series on time of day. If you need a refresher, click through [Part I](#) and [Part II](#). Find out your organizations preferences for numerals vs. long form and for the styling of *a.m.* and *p.m.*, and work those into your cheat sheet so you're always consistent in your treatment of time.

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](#).

Click of the Wrist

August is around the corner—which means there's only a month left of summer holidays. But don't let that get you down! Instead, try out these apps and start planning a road trip that'll make this month the best part of summer yet.

Road Trip

On the Go

Whether you like planning or prefer to travel on the fly, the Roadtrippers app is something you can take on the go. It covers Canada and the US and allows you to plan your trip, synch the navigation to your phone, and explore lodging and attractions along the way.

Corner Gas

You know where to find cheap gas in your neighbourhood, but what about on the road? For US road trips, the Fuel My Route app helps you find gas prices along whatever route you take.

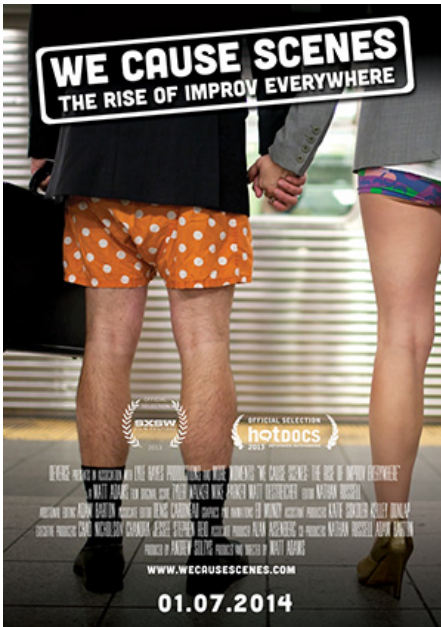
Pet Stop

If you're travelling with your pet, you'll need an app for that. Go Pet Friendly gives travellers in Canada and the US guidance on finding pet-friendly places to stay, as well as "beaches and off-leash parks where your dog can run [and] veterinarians and pet supply stores—even restaurants and wineries where your pooch is welcome to join you."



The Mindful Bard We Cause Scenes

Wanda Waterman



Film: *We Cause Scenes: The Rise of Improv Everywhere*

Director: Matt Adams

It's Never Too Late to Have A Happy Childhood

"Brilliant. There is just something so emotionally overwhelming to me when I watch a group of human beings . . . just being. To see them all spontaneously break out in smiles and laughter, even just for a moment. What a wonderful world we could have with just a little effort from us all."
- "Theoneisis," in a comment on Improv Everywhere's Youtube channel

"Improv Everywhere has inspired millions, created a new form of performance art, and reminded people what it's like to play."
- Collider

We Cause Scenes is a documentary about Improv Everywhere (IE), an artistic collective that doesn't raise funds for aids orphans, doesn't engage in social protest, doesn't actively promote peace, and doesn't protect the rights of marginalised peoples. All that the folks at Improv Everywhere do is have fun by masterminding public pranks and then getting people together to perform them. That's it.

Try to grasp the social value of this by taking a moment to think back over your life and remember those amazing, unexpected, hilarious moments that lifted you from the slough of despond and brought out the sun when all was grey.

I, for one, remember a dance where the sound system stopped working for a whole hour, so a bunch of us decided to get up and dance anyway, throwing all our energies into dancing to a beat that wasn't there. There was something about that experience that not only made us all incredibly happy, it magically solidified our bonds as friends and formed one of our sweetest memories.

This is what it's like for those who witness IE public pranks in person, and to a lesser degree, for those who watch them on Youtube. But what is it about moments like this that suddenly make life seem worthwhile?

A clue can be found in another documentary film, *Happy*, reviewed [here](#) last year; according to the research it quotes, one of the top ten dopamine-producing conditions is something called "optimal experience"—life events so moving, so novel, so out-of-the-box that they can't help but give you a rush when they're happening and a smile every time you remember them.

Such experiences are the fruition of intrinsic goals, goals that, in contrast to extrinsic goals like the accumulation of wealth, have actually been proven effective in creating happiness. And harmless, clever pranks are actually one of the top forms of optimal experience.

There's no question that these IE productions stir up big gobs of joy; "These frozen people make me happy!"

comments one Youtube fan in response to the Frozen Grand Central stunt, in which over a hundred agents mixed with the crowd at New York's Grand Central Station and suddenly froze in their tracks.

It all began in 2001 when the young Charlie Todd (who appears to be a bit of a frustrated film director) came up with the idea of staging public pranks as a kind of communal improv. Since then IE has grown into an extremely popular phenomenon with a Youtube channel that attracts millions of views, but in his very first prank Todd pretended to be pianist Ben Folds. In a recent event Todd again pretended to be Ben Folds at a Folds concert. The crowd was beside itself as the faltering sound system showed Todd to be a fake and the real Ben Folds (who was in on it) showed up to sock him in the gut.

Other staged events have included synchronized swimming in park fountains, repeating a five-minute sequence of events in a Starbucks coffee shop over and over again for an hour, getting an actor to pose as Anton Chekhov and give a reading at a Barnes & Noble, and putting on a wedding reception for the first newlywed couple to emerge from an office of the Justice of the Peace.

But it's not all happy, and to its credit the film doesn't shrink from the types of questions that emerged as a direct result of IE's staged events as well as the objections raised by a disgruntled few. These questions got some heated, on-the-spot dialogue going on issues like "What is art?" "How much joking is appropriate?" and, most notably, this question posed *a propos* of IE in *This American Life*: "Can you mess with someone's sense of reality as a force for good?"

Todd discusses his emotional response to those few people who can't seem to take his kind of joke. Surprisingly he doesn't seem to be the type of person who enjoys giving offense, and for him the simple pleasure of putting smiles on a crowd doesn't make it any easier to know that some think he's just being annoying, showing a lack of respect for people's feelings, or wasting people's time with foolishness. But although these objections have given him pause and were once instrumental in keeping NBC from producing a show about IE that they'd optioned, the naysayers haven't really slowed him down. This may have something to do with the fact that he can see how much good IE is doing.

This film is a great way of seeing how art (in this case public participatory performance art) gets started, develops, faces challenges, and takes advantage of new technology and modes of communication (in this case Youtube) to thrive and prosper. But even more, it shows that grown-ups getting together to create good clean fun can actually be a force for peace, solidarity, and a weird kind of enlightenment.

We Cause Scenes manifests five 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 provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavor.
- 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.

In Conversation With Michael Gauthier, Conclusion

Wanda Waterman

The Zen and the Art of Teaching Jazz Guitar



Michael Gauthier is a Montreal-based jazz guitarist and teacher. His guitar sound is characterised by a warm, earthy blues inspired music and the technical skill of a jazz master. A native of Drummondville and a long-time pillar of the Montreal jazz scene, he's played with and learned from many jazz greats, including, Archie Shepp, Bill Hardman, J.R. Monterose, Big John Patton, Fraser McPherson, Clifford Jordan, Charles Davis, Ray Drummond, Curtis Fuller, and Oliver Jones. Recently he took the time to answer Wanda Waterman's questions about the care and feeding of budding jazz talents. See Part I of this interview [here](#), Part II [here](#), and Part III [here](#). His music can be sampled and purchased [here](#).

"My music is a reflection of exactly what I'm feeling about life, and that's what I want my guitar playing to be. I want it to represent what I love."

-Michael Gauthier

Jazz Can't Be Taught, Only Learned

Wayne Shorter, the great saxophone player, said this, "Jazz can be learned, but it cannot be taught." So I tell my students that I can't teach them but I can help them learn.

Jazz students don't have to plan what they want their music to be in twenty years, because they're apt to change their minds in the interim, but in the short term they should be strengthening their weaknesses, honing their strengths, and deciding what they want to sound like.

Students should be able to wake up in the morning and know exactly what they want to do, not what the teacher wants them to do. Waking up and feeling this way in the mornings is what has developed me more than anything else; I know where I want to go.

Consistently Changing

I've told my students that they're allowed to change their minds. Coltrane was a genius, and he changed his mind. He had a very short, twelve-year, maybe, recording career. His music style changed four times in those twelve years, and drastically.

I tell my students that the faster I succeed in getting them to the point where they don't need me anymore, the better I've done. I realize I'm kind of shooting myself in the foot in saying that, as I seem to be telling them, "I want to get rid of you," but the more quickly they become autonomous, the faster they evolve as artists.

In order to be autonomous, though, you must have a vision of who you are, or who you want to be.

My music is a reflection of exactly what I'm feeling about life, and that's what I want my guitar playing to be. I want it to represent what I love.

Sound and Emotion

With my students I emphasize two things: sound and emotion. Sound, that is the physical sound of the instrument, is the sound that the student wants to be known for. This doesn't have to have anything to do with music yet—it's just a signature sound from them that's different from the sound any old guitar can make. Whether or not a person is a trained musician, the first thing they listen for when hearing somebody else play music is not the musical ideas, but rather the sound of the instrument. They'll notice whether or not the sound grabs them.

The next thing that I mention to my students is the emotion. Even with Les Paul, who historically was a great musician, you must ask, "Where's the emotion?" Unfortunately, a lot of jazz is very aesthetic and intellectual. It's a bunch of notes that may be brilliant or intriguing, but I want to hear love, sadness, nostalgia—a sense of loss. I want to hear love lost and broken hearts. I want to hear about happiness. I can't teach students how to do all of that for them; I can only know how to do it for me.

I see blues as being a perfect vehicle for that. Blues is about expressing emotion, and it is very rare for you to hear blues that is devoid of it; emotion is part of the deal.

This may sound like a stupid statement, but I try to make my guitar not sound like a guitar, and I teach others the same thing. I want it to sound like a singer, like the human voice. The most expressive instrument of all is the human voice; it's instrument the most directly connected to your soul.

The Ultimate Pat on the Back

To me, the biggest compliment I can get is not a pat on the back from another musician but rather one from somebody who knows little to nothing about music. When I just sort of "touch" somebody I'm ecstatic and feel as though I've really succeeded.

A Jazz Epiphany

Back in the eighties there was an *el primo* jazz club in Montreal called The Rising Sun. Sonny Stitt, the famous bebop alto sax player, was playing there with a local band that included my friend, Art Roberts, on the piano. Art invited me to come see the show for free, so of course I went, and during the break Art invited me upstairs to hang out with the other musicians. He introduced me to Sonny, but after that I just sat there like a peanut, saying nothing, just listening to all these guys in their forties and fifties talking together.

Suddenly Sonny turned to me and said, "Mike [he'd remembered my name!], they can take your woman, they can take your house, they can take your money, but they can never take your music. Never forget that."

It was like God had spoken to me. It affirmed what I already suspected to be true.

Soon afterwards some bozo walked in with his girlfriend, acting the fool and going on, like "Hey, my man, Sonny Stitt!" After enduring this for a while Sonny looked at him and said, "You are dismissed." The guy ignored him and kept on chattering away. Sonny looked at him again and said, with greater force, "I *said*, you are *dismissed*!" The guy finally got the message, stopped clowning around, and left. It made me feel good that Sonny had not only tolerated me and let me stay, he'd shared an important piece of wisdom with me. It was unforgettable.

*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.*



Dear
Barb

Barbara Godin

Husband Issues

Dear Barb:

My husband and I have been taking my elderly neighbor shopping with us for the past few months. I thought everything was fine until last week when she told me she no longer wants to go with us. She said she doesn't want my husband to be responsible for her; she needs to take care of herself. She also said something about my husband's ego and was very critical of him. I just said well whatever you want and let it go, but it has been bothering me. Her husband of 40 years left her for a younger woman and I know that is still bothering her. Every time she gets in the car the conversation always ends up with her trash talking her husband. I think maybe she just hates men, which would explain why she did not want my husband helping her, what do you think?

Thanks, Catherine.

Hi Catherine:

It's nice for you to take your neighbor shopping, but it does seem like she has some issues. I guess it would be very disheartening to have your husband leave after 40 years! She probably does have some resentment for men, especially since you mentioned she was critical of your husband. Obviously she fears becoming dependent on your husband, even for her groceries. She may be more inclined to go if you take her shopping, thus alleviating her fear of becoming dependant on a

man. My advice would be to just let it go; sometimes it's very difficult to figure out why people do the things they do.

Dear Barb:

I'm a forty year-old mom of three who is working full time and taking courses at AU. Life just seems to be so busy for me; I never have time to relax. My husband is very laid back and leaves everything up to me. I feel like I'm going through the motions of life and not enjoying anything. I was thinking of seeing my doctor to get some tranquilizers to help me relax, but I'm not sure that is the right thing to do. Everyone tells me to just relax, but that's easier said than done!!! Do you have any suggestions on how I can learn to relax?

Stressed in Calgary!

Dear Stressed:

I am not surprised that you are stressed as your life is very busy with working full time, going to school and raising three children. Wow I'm exhausted just thinking about it! You say your husband is very laid back and that is fine, but he needs to help out. A lot of men are reluctant to take on a task for fear of not doing it the way their wife would like it to be done. Try making up a schedule so he is responsible for some of the chores and child care. Suggesting ways he can help out will give him the direction he needs. Also discuss your stress levels with your doctor; there may be other options for you besides tranquilizers. You need to learn to relax. Join a yoga or meditation class. While you are driving to and from work pop in a relaxation CD, it will calm you and give you quiet breaks during the day. Take care of yourself first, otherwise your family, marriage and work will suffer. Good Luck!

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

CHAZZ BRAVADO IN: TELL YOU WHAT I WANT

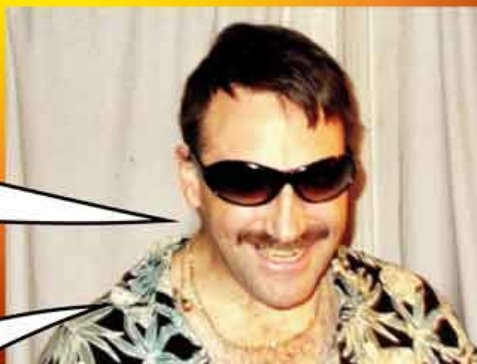


Hey baby, I think if we're really free we should be able to tell each other what we want—and get it!



Okay, sooo . . . you're free to bring me a cup of coffee?

I sure am, sugar! And you're free to touch your elbows together behind your back!



The Chazzman just looooooves to see women being free!

WRITTEN BY WANDA WATERMAN

Your tutor is waiting.



lynda.com
Online Software Training

Training in:

3D

Animation

Audio

Business

Design

Developer

Home Computing

Photography

Video

Web + Interactive

plus

Creative Inspirations



Access training at <http://www.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: 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*