

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 22 Issue 33 2014-08-22

Free At Last?

Modern Slavery

Holodeck Holidays, II

Who's Your Filter?

Rest In Peace

Remembering Robin

Plus:

AUSU Updates - Updated!

The Study Dude

and much more!



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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****Plans Derailed**

I had a good piece lined up about e-text books about how students weren't getting what they were promised and how we should all be pressuring the university to make good on it, based on a question and subsequent response in the AU Landing, but it turns out I was jumping the gun. What I took as an AU response was just the response of a student who, unfortunately, didn't have the right information. When a real representative of AU responded, it took the wind right out of my sails. Which is a good thing for students, but leaves me in a bit of a bind having to create a new editorial when the old one is still burning so hot in my brain.

The episode highlights to me one of the problems of AU trying to use the AU landing (or really, most social media platforms) as a teaching or learning platform. When anybody can write anything they want, they will. I'm hopeful the person who posed the question wasn't misled by the wrong answer, as I was, but in an environment where every piece of information is presented as the same as any other, it becomes all too possible to waste a lot of time and effort chasing down the wrong path.

There are ways around this, of course. Things such as making AU staff responses be in a color that normal student responses aren't, or by providing some other indicator as to whether someone who is responding to you knows what they're talking about, but the AU Landing doesn't have any of these.

Nor do most social communication sites. Usually in some sort of effort to "democratize" communication between people. But, honestly, and this may sound rude or snobbish, but there's a reason the phrase is "ignorant masses." In a crowd of random people, the number of people who aren't experts in a given topic will always outnumber those who are, by the very definition of the word expert. Yet for some reason we tend to believe that it's a good idea that everybody be given an equal voice.

This incident is also why I won't be reporting on what I've heard so far about emails from the University President and the CUPE regarding the call-centre model (which some are now referring to as the Student Success Centre) until I've had a chance to get some verification. What I will bring you this week is a selection of our usual entertaining, helpful, and thought-provoking articles, such as our feature article looking at the topic of modern slavery, or The Study Dude and Christina Frey's articles that are designed to help you get better grades through your AU courses.

Also, Hazel Anaka takes a look back at the late Robin Williams (and there's something I never thought I'd be writing) which kind of brings it home. Plus we of course have the second part of Primal Numbers look at virtual vacations, and film and music explorations from The Mindful Bard and Gregor's Bed.

Plus, if you didn't catch it last time, check out the new AUSU Update column. It actually is an update!

Until next time, have a good read!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Primal Numbers

Holodecks on Holiday, Part II

S.D. Livingston



Welcome back to the *USS Enterprise*, where the next big thing in travel awaits you: a holiday on the holodeck. No need to pack, buy insurance, or get inoculated. Soon, you can take the entire family to Europe from the comfort of your couch. The only question is, who will control what you see when you get there?

Before we answer that, let's look at the obvious benefits. First of all, the technology itself is pretty cool. As this [Telegraph article](#) reports, the virtual reality visors by Oculus can take you to popular destinations around the world. No doubt the number of locations will expand and

the quality will improve. In the next decade, researchers even hope to include physical sensations such as taste and touch in the experience.

Holodeck holidays could also democratize travel. Since a virtual trip to the Parthenon would be far less expensive than the real thing, millions of people could enjoy a holiday they might not otherwise take.

And then there's the sheer convenience of it all. Afraid of flying? No problem on the holodeck. Worried about trekking your family halfway around the world? It's much easier to keep an eye young kids (and avoid unexpected illness) when you know the customs, language, and food.

So, what's not to like, then? Well, if your holodeck holiday is just an interesting add-on to real travel adventures, the pros definitely outweigh the cons. The danger will be if we start *replacing* real travel with virtual trips, because here be dragons.

The dragons, of course, are simply a catch-all for our fear of the unknown. Uncharted territory that's presumably crawling with fearsome creatures and dangers aplenty (the colourful medieval phrase first appeared on the Hunt-Lenox Globe, made in 1510, as this [Atlantic article](#) explains.)

Which is not to say that holodeck holidays will turn us all into fearful, racist xenophobes. Those problems have existed for thousands of years, long before the first kings and dynasties conquered their neighbours.

No, the problem with holodeck holidays lies in the gatekeepers of those real-yet-virtual worlds. Who will create them? Whose version of a real country or culture will we be wandering through?

Whether it's a tiny company or a massive corporation, someone else's vision will form the places you see. Politics, profit, religion, and a hundred other factors will lay a filter over the landscape. There may be no intent to deceive, but you're never going to see those places as they truly are—or be aware of deliberate distortion when it does exist.

In the real world, you can talk to locals. You can come to know, firsthand, how other people view the world. You can discover differences and similarities to your own life, even though their culture might seem unknowably foreign to you. Travel to a different country, or even another province, and you'll probably discover that "they" have a lot in common with "us."

You may well find out that those dragons really were a figment of your imagination.

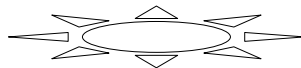
On a holodeck, though, unfiltered exchanges don't exist. There's no chance to see peoples or cultures as they actually are, for better or worse.

We put up filters in the real world too (you don't act the same way around your boss and your best friend, for example). But what we're talking about here is an entire place and culture being portrayed as though it's the real thing. Not a book or movie, but a virtual duplicate of what you'd encounter in person.

And that's where it pays to remember that, no matter how good the technology might get, there's more than just an ordinary window between you and the scenery. There are also the agendas, beliefs, and interpretations of people you've never met. People who, intentionally or not, are showing you the world through their own eyes.

Holodeck travel brochure? Count me in. But when it's time to explore distant places, I'd rather slay those dragons for myself.

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.



Free At Last? Why We Still Need to Talk About Slavery

Barbara Lehtiniemi



On August 23, UNESCO marks the sombre "International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition."

The Slave Trade referred to in UNESCO's proclamation is the so-called Atlantic slave trade, in which more than 12 million men, women, and children were wrenched from their homes in Africa to toil in the fields of the United States, the Caribbean, and elsewhere.

In her 2014 message, UNESCO's Director General, Irina Bokova, says that, "transmission of this history is an essential

condition for any lasting peace based on mutual understanding among peoples and full awareness of the dangers of racism and prejudice." That may be true, but recent events in Ferguson, Missouri suggest we have a long way to go to achieve this.

It's tempting to believe that humankind has matured from the thinking that allowed centuries of sickening slavery to take place. Yet today there are an estimated 20 million people enslaved in the world. To put that number in context: it's more than half the population of Canada. Modern slavery may not involve the wholesale, state-sponsored barbarousness of the Atlantic slave trade, but for those enslaved, the distinction doesn't much matter.

Slavery neither began nor ended with the Atlantic slave trade. The practice of enslavement is as old as human civilization. For example, almost 4000 years ago in Mesopotamia, the cradle of Western Civilization, the ruler Hammurabi set out laws regarding slaves. Slaves were used in Egypt to build the pyramids, and also in China to build the Great Wall.

The Roman Empire at its height included an estimated 12 million slaves. At times, one-quarter of the empire's population were slaves. The rise of Christianity and Islam did not end slavery, but shifted the dynamics. Slavery remained a fact of life, but slaves could not be made of those from the same faith. During the Middle Ages, millions of slaves were traded both ways across the Mediterranean.

Even before the Americas were colonized, slaves were abducted from Africa to labour in Egypt, Arabia, and beyond. Once the plantations of North and South America were established, the trade routes flowed west instead of east. For over 300 years, the insatiable need for labourers in the Americas resulted in an appalling period of history. It is painful to realize that slavery in the Americas only ended, officially at least, around 150 years ago in 1863-1865. (The trade in slaves was abolished earlier by Britain and the United States in 1807; other countries followed their example over the next decades. However, ending the trade did not end slavery in those countries—that came later.)

Today, slavery and slave trading are illegal in every country of the world. Despite slavery's illegality, however, the United Nations estimates that 20 million people—the [Global Slave Index](#) says closer to 30 million—are enslaved worldwide. Almost half of those are children. According to UNESCO's [website](#), "while the means through which modern and traditional forms of slavery have operated differ greatly, the violation of human rights and human dignity are central issues in both practices."

Modern slavery is often referred to as "human trafficking," which the UN defines as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

The existence of slavery and the trade of slaves—a.k.a. human trafficking—continues. Sadly, humankind appears not to have matured to the extent we would wish. Philosopher and poet George Santayana (1863-1952) observed that "those who forget history are doomed to repeat it." On August 23, let us remember this history.

You can find more information about the "International Day For the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition" on UNESCO's [website](#). Enlightening statistics on modern slavery appear on [Global Slavery Index's website](#). You can also follow the conversation on the United Nation's "Remember Slavery" pages on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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

The Mindful Bard

Vipassana

Wanda Waterman



Album: Vipassana

Artists: Eric Harland - Voyager

Come Dance Rapturously to a Very Different Drummer

"The deepest secret is that life is not a process of discovery, but a process of creation."

- Eric Harland

"E-Land in the house
Layin' down tracks
Tryin' to promote consciousness
Come on . . .
It's about you. "
- Eric Harland on "Relax"

Eric Harland's roster of achievements, collaborations, and appearances is jaw-dropping, and to top it all off he's also an ordained, seminary-trained Baptist minister *and* has modeled for some of the world's finest style rags.

The last accomplishment must be the ultimate "in-your-face" to those who teased and bullied him when he was an obese teenager. The lonely boy's obsession with drumming turned into some pretty important kudos in his teens, and when Wynton Marsalis noted his talent at a music workshop it wasn't long before Harland began the climb to jazz notoriety.

His mother claimed to have seen a vision about him when he was born, prophesying a divine calling that, when you hear his music, you'd be hard pressed to doubt; he displays a mystical bent at every turn of word and beat. Even the title is numinous; *Vipassana* is the Buddhist meditation of seeing things as they really are, a concept that no doubt contributes to the authenticity of this music.

Harland's contribution to the future of music in this album is that it's a unique mélange—serious jazz uncompromised by its appeal to a younger and perhaps less jazz-steeped audience, delivered with passion and unquenchable joy.

Vipassana, his second solo album, keeps one foot solidly planted in modern jazz and the other doing its own little funky little trip hop dance. It's a singular achievement—Harlan is one of those rare drummers who can almost generate a melody with his richness of pattern, texture, allusion, and counterpoint, and he's finally manifested the fullness of his phenomenal talent.

Often when bassists or drummers make solo records they allow their own playing to be buried under more commanding instruments, but this is hardly the case here. The very present salience of the drums on each track, although never overwhelming, is unflaggingly striking, engaging, delightful, and significant within the context of the exquisite contributions of the musicians.

The second most incredible performance on this album is from pianist Taylor Eigsti, a technical maestro who sounds inspired and deliciously reckless; every phrase is a treasure.

The hip-hop, spoken-word segments are refreshingly cliché free, notably "Vi," a hip-hop survey of the history of black music and poetry in America; it's an amazing tapestry of sounds and words that brings history vividly to life.

Other high points: "Raghavan," "Relax," and "Eminence." But really, it's all good.

Vipassana manifests six of the Mindful Bard's criteria for music well worth hearing.

- It's authentic, original, and delightful.
- It provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavor.
- It's 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 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

Right now winter is probably the last thing we want to think about, but a bit of foresight now will help preserve—literally—the summer harvest we're enjoying on our tables. Hit up the farmer's market, gather your supplies, and stock your pantry for the colder weather!

Lasting Harvest

Savour the Flavour

Fresh herbs add incredible flavour, but you can get pretty close to that during the off-season if you dry or freeze herbs in preparation for the winter. This article, from *Vegetable Gardener* magazine, includes videos on drying and freezing herbs—as well as tips on the best time to harvest herbs for maximum flavour.

Canning Season

Want to try canning this year? Mother Earth News offers a free canning guide in app format, available for Apple and Android smart phones and tablets. It explains the types of canning and includes instructions, charts, recipes, and safety tips for preserving several different vegetables and fruits.

Play It Safe

Many people are afraid to try canning because of the risk of botulism. If you practice safe methods of canning, though, you'll avoid any problems. This HealthLinkBC fact sheet tells you what you need to do and what you need to watch for to keep your food safe.

Frozen

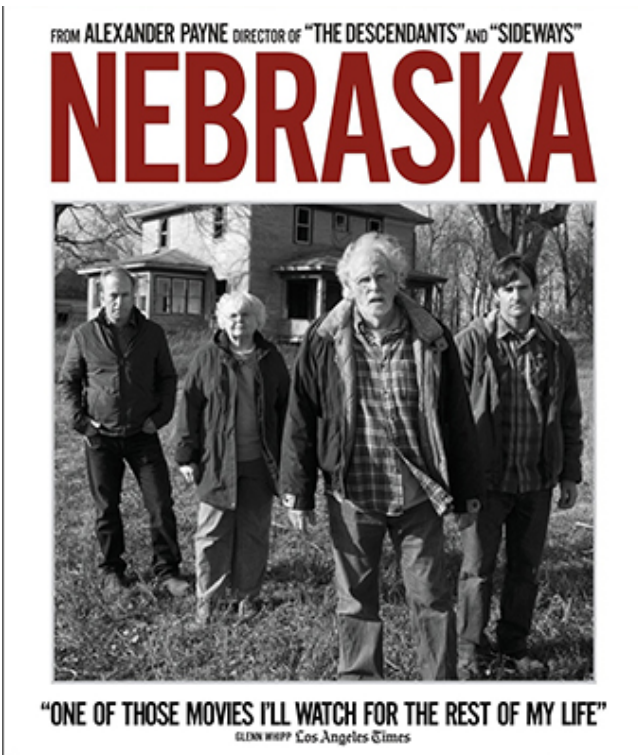
If you're not ready to take on canning this year, try making freezer jam—it's simple, safe, and will deliver sunny flavour months after the fruit is out of season. The Better Homes and Gardens Test Kitchen demonstrates the process.



Gregor's Bed Nebraska

Wanda Waterman

Not Your Average Black-and-White Existentialist Road Movie



DAVID: Hey, Dad, how about we go see Mount Rushmore?
 WOODROW: We don't have time to see that!
 DAVID: It's just 30 minutes off the interstate. And we're right here.
 WOODROW: It's just a bunch of rocks!
 - Dialogue from *Nebraska*

Woody wants to go to Nebraska to pick up his million dollars in winnings. His family knows the "sweepstakes" he's supposedly won is just a scheme to get people to buy magazines, but Woody is going to Nebraska come Hell or high water.

His son David sells stereo equipment in a working class town in a recession economy (you do the math). He's a handsome guy with an obese, plain, and surly ex-girlfriend he's begging

to come back to live with him. She won't come back unless they marry, and she's not even sure she wants to marry him.

David looks around him and realizes that driving his father to Nebraska makes about as much sense as anything else in his meaningless life, so he decides to call in sick and hit the road.

Woodrow T. Grant is an aging mechanic who rationalizes his drinking problem ("beer isn't drinking!") and admits that he never really loved his wife and hadn't especially wanted children. His name contains the first name of one American president and the last name of another (if we're to believe Garrison Keillor, such hopefully pretentious names are fairly typical of rural Midwestern families of Scandinavian descent). He is, like his ilk, trapped in the mundane and longing for something new, occasionally intoxicated by gleams of the transcendent between bouts of intoxication by beer.

His wife is one of the most foul-mouthed mothers in film history; the film asks us to consider whether she's an abusive psychopath or simply a woman at the end of her rope dealing with a husband who seems to be growing ever more useless and demented each day.

In the cemetery scene we see the historical context of the family's woes. Here lies the depressed Swedish grandfather. Here lies the uncle who died in infancy, after whom David had been named. Here lies Woody's slutty sister who died in a car crash at 19. Over there is the Catholic side of the family, who literally would not be caught dead with these Catholics.

As if to prove Freud right in his theory of the proximity of sexual to death urges, Mother just gets cruder and cruder, finally lifting her skirt over a dead boyfriend's grave to show him what he missed out on.

Yes, it's all a big downer, but the new romanticism must include realism, and the grittier the better. Alexander Payne fills the order with this aching unglamorous portrayal of a midwestern father and son road trip.

The film presents mostly just the seamy side of small town life, and if you've ever lived in a small town some of the scenes will seem annoyingly familiar. This is no bucolic *pastorale*, and these are neither kindly peasants nor simple farm folk. Their mean little hearts harbour no warm fuzzy feelings about America despite the fact that their votes and apathy have made America what it is. They're petty, narrow-minded, graspingly greedy folks who work hard but lack initiative. There's no spiritual dimension to them although they appear to be religious in name at least; these stalwart Catholics and Lutherans see their religious affiliations as political divides more than calls to higher ground.

The lowest point of the underbelly of rural middle America with all its bitterness and inertia is represented by David's two loser cousins (played brilliantly by Devin Ratray and Tim Driscoll). The actors really need to be commended on a superlative portrayal of n'er-do-wells practically rotted out with envy, laziness, and moral depravity.

The sometimes deliberately wooden, amateurish acting is reminiscent of sixties educational films created by social workers to explain interpersonal family dynamics, or the films they showed us in school to help make us better citizens.

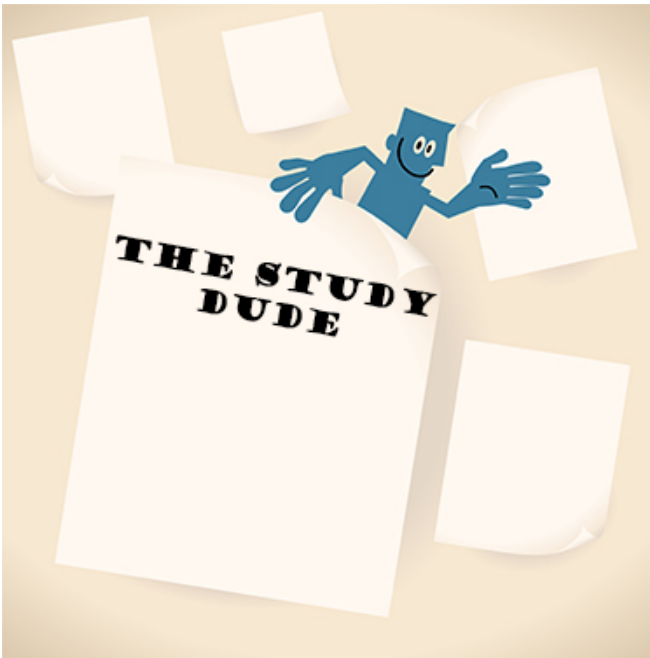
The scenery is like an extra character. Even in black and white the sky is an amazing spectacle and a potent symbol of the freedom to which everyone seems to be aspiring but is woefully ill equipped to achieve. The slow transformation of the rolling hills of Montana into Nebraska prairie is a drama worth watching unfold, and there's one oddly lovely scene in which groups of bikers slowly pass the car.

Juxtapositions of signs are a motif in *Nebraska*—a newspaper office called "The Hawthorn Republican," a misspelled loan offer, and a store that boasts "Monster Tan" are jarring reminders that this was the America that voted in the younger Bush.

In most hero journeys we don't know our own misery until we catch a glimpse of the possibilities beyond it, and these possibilities put our pain in sharp relief. The sweepstakes letter telling him that he's a winner has shown him a way out of his despair and so sets him on one last hero's journey. He'd sooner die than pass up this chance.

Woody chooses to believe in the letter because believing in it makes him a better man, gives him a purpose, sets him on a hero quest for the first time. In contrast, his friend, Ed Pegrarn, is punished not just for denying the existence of a hero quest, but also because life without a hero's journey is not worth living.

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.



Study Tips from a Semi-Anonymous Friend

There is nothing more that The Study Dude wants than for you to have gainful employment, reams of extracurricular activities, a social life, and a 4.0 GPA to boot. Think it's impossible? Well, our friend Cal Newport (2007) thinks you can have it all.

In these articles, as The Study Dude, I'll try to give you the study tips you need to help make your learning easier. 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 Cal Newport's *How to Become a Straight-A Student: The Unconventional Strategies Real College Students Use to Score High While**

Studying Less (2007).

How Do the Dudes at MIT Wade Through so Much Reading? The Triage Approach

Ever have your jaw drop at how much reading Ivy League schools assign--and at the endless readings students somehow complete? If you are taking five classes in addition to extracurricular activities, working full-time and taking academics on the side, or attending graduate studies and feeling overwhelmed by the mountains of readings, then the following system may work wonders for you:

- Triage your readings. In other words, separate them into three groups: one, to always read; two, to skim only; and three, to not read but to bring to the lectures and mark up if discussed.
- The always read books are typically textbooks that contain assigned readings from most (if not all) lectures. They tend to "make an argument" (Newport, 2007, p. 87).
- The skim read only books are typically materials that are not the favoured readings, but tend to be things like speeches, papers, and book chapters. Skim the most important ones of these, and bypass the rest, unless, of course you have time to address them. For the ones you bypass, bring them to the lecture so that you can mark them up with notes when and if they are discussed.
- Readings to skim tend to "describe an event or person" (Newport, 2007, p. 87). Readings to bypass tend to be things like speeches and newspaper articles that just provide additional context.
- What do you do if you are not certain which books of a list are the ones to read as opposed to skim? If you have a list of reading materials, read the ones that have the same subject matter as the lecture title. Skim (or bypass in some cases) the rest. For instance, if Clinton's Inaugural Address is the lecture topic, read deliberately the material on Clinton's speeches and only skim the reading on a more general topic such as communications strategies of political leaders.

(Newport, 2007)

The Study Dude urges you to do all of the readings if you have the time and the motivation. It is ideal to examine and study all of your materials in depth, but if you are too far behind in reading, or strapped with some other commitments—such as work that prevents you from keeping up at the pace you desire—perhaps Newport's methods might help with prioritizing your readings.

Great Strategy for Note-Taking on Readings

The Study Dude tried out Newport's (2007) advice on how to take notes with readings, and the method seems quite practical. Here are a few highlights:

- Don't take too many or too few notes—find a balance.
- To find that balance, use a "question, evidence, and conclusion" (Newport, 2007, p. 92) approach.
- Take the notes on your computer, one question, evidence, and conclusion combination per page (or, in other words, each one starting fresh on a new page).
- Take the question from either rewriting the title of the chapter or section or searching the first few sentences.
- Find the conclusion (i.e., the thesis) in the first few paragraphs.
- Skim the reading for points that jump out at you as primarily answering the question (mark them with a pencil and then transfer them to your computer in bullet point form).
- "Label each point with the page number where you found it" (Newport, 2007, p. 94).
- Voila! You now have your question/evidence/conclusion combinations for each major (or even minor, to be thorough) question that arises in the readings.

(Newport, 2007)

The above makes up what is referred to as your study guide. Now for the icing on the cake.

Constructing Practice Exams from Great Notes

Building on the previous note-taking strategy for readings, The Study Dude finds that using the questions, supporting points, and conclusion format brilliant for exam preparation. I can hardly wait to tell you the method Newport recommends for constructing practice exams using the above method for note taking:

- Make practice quizzes for each chapter, first, by taking the larger questions and breaking them into smaller ones or into sizes that at least answer all the material covered (the main ideas and supporting points).
- Compile all your questions into a sheet of paper.
- Go through the questions, answering each one out loud in your head. Pretend you are lecturing in front of an audience or are a guest speaker at an event. Add some music for dramatic flair (or simply write out answers if you are stymied by your surroundings).
- Place checkmarks by the questions that you stumbled with answering. Go back to the study guide to get the correct answer.
- Repeat the process only addressing the questions that you stumbled upon. Keep going through the steps, referring back to your study guide after each pass and then further narrowing down the questions to practice—that is, until they are all perfected.
- For technical subjects such as mathematics, do the problem sets over and over, placing checkmarks beside the ones you had trouble with and then redoing just the problem areas on subsequent pass-throughs.
- For facts, dates, names, and the like, rely on good old flashcards.

(Newport, 2007)

Pretend you are lecturing in front of an audience or are a guest speaker at an event. Add some music for dramatic flair.

Feel like an aspiring prodigy yet? Well, that's your destiny, my prodigious friend. And, you can take notes from lectures (and not just readings) using the questions, supporting points, and conclusion format, too. I haven't tried it, but it looks so awesome that I aim to further hone the tactic.

Final Few Pointers

The Study Dude has heard views that it is wise to take breaks every half hour to hour, with the breaks being five to fifteen minutes long. I studied for half hour stints, taking a fifteen minute break in between, but stopped short during graduate studies, when I just couldn't fit all my work into this relatively lackadaisical system.

However, the Web site for the IPFW Center for Academic Support and Advancement (as cited in Newport, 2007) states that attention span takes a nosedive after 40 or 50 minutes.

With that in mind, Cal Newport (2007) says to study no more than a one hour stint without a break (for which the break should be five to ten minutes long).

However, I've also seen that it is wise to switch subjects or study activities (such as going from reading to writing or making cue cards) every thirty to forty-five minutes--instead of taking breaks.

So, why not combine both pieces of advice?

The Study Dude recommends studying in two 30 to 45 minute consecutive stints (preferably 45 minutes for sheer endurance's sake), switching from one subject or academic activity to another after each stint, and then following up the two sessions with a final glorious ten to fifteen minute break. This will keep retention super high while ensuring lots of productivity and, most importantly, providing you with a reward--a pending break with some actual substance. I know you probably deserve some solid down time that five minutes just can't capture. With that said, if you are like Cal Newport and want lots of free time for extracurricular activities--and a social life to boot--then maybe the accumulation of short five or ten minute breaks instead of fifteen minute chunks might free up a date night or sporting activity later on.

Wait! Don't forget to purchase a cooking timer if you really want to ensure success with the system (or if you have The Study Dude's "judging" Myers Briggs personality type).

Lastly, Newport (2007) urges you to do your studying as early in the day as can be warranted. For instance, if you have a twenty or thirty minute interval between tasks, fit in a study session. It's unwise to rely on the long stretches in the evening to do all of your work when earlier on there are lots of opportunities to study--and to free up time for fun later on.

Newport (2007) also spends a great of time talking about organizing your studies through list-building. For more on this essential strategy of his system, please consider reading his book.

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.

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Writer's Toolbox

Special Effects

Christina M. Frey



The CGI wizards discussed effecting some special effects that would affect each viewer's affect.

Tongue tied in knots? Try spelling it! *Effect* and *affect* are commonly confused and misspelled even by grammar gurus. This week's Toolbox will sort the two words and their various usages and meanings.

The Verb *Effect* Does Not Mean Influence

This is where most of the mix-ups occur: the verb *effect* does not mean "to influence." That's *affect* (which can also mean to influence emotions specifically). *Effect*, when used as a verb, means "to produce" or "to bring about"—as in the following examples:

Example A: The council voted to effect changes to the organization's charter. The council wanted to "bring about" changes, so you should use *effect*.

Example B: Ariana's letters effected several new policies toward foreign students. This is a tricky one, but if you're trying to say that because of Ariana's letters, new policies came into being, use *effect*.

Contrast that with these examples showing the common verb use of *affect*:

Example C: I think the heat has affected my appetite. The heat influenced the appetite, so use *affect*.

Example D: The movie deeply affected him. Again, the movie influenced him emotionally, so *affect* is correct.

What about these?

Example E: When the school districting by-laws are effected, it may affect your child's placement. The first is *effect*, since it refers to something being brought about (the by-laws); the second is *affect*, since it involves influencing something or someone (placement).

Example F: Ariana's letters affected the new policies toward foreign students. Compare this sentence with Example B above; here, using *affect* instead of *effect* changes the meaning. Now you're saying that Ariana's letters influenced the new (presumably pre-existing) policies rather than bringing them about.

A final note: it's fun to go through some of the trickier examples, but as a general rule, mixing both forms can cause confusion to your reader. If there's a chance your sentence will be misread, find a different way to say it.

Almost Never Use the Noun *Affect*

The noun *effect* is much more common; it means "outcome" or "result." The noun *affect* is a real word, but it's a psychology term that's not used much outside that field (it refers to a person's emotional state).

The majority of the time, if you want a noun, use *effect*.

Example G: Ariana's letters had a surprising effect on the student body.

Cheat Sheet

Still a little confused? This quick two-question process may help.

Noun? Use *effect* (unless you're writing a psychology paper).

Verb? If you're writing about influencing a thing or state *already* in existence, use *affect* (the two *a*'s go together). If you're writing about bringing about changes that have (had) not *yet* happened, use *effect* (the two *e*'s go together).

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](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK

At Home and Abroad



At Home: Students Who Want Work not Welcome at Federal Gov't.

CBC News is reporting that, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has found that, since 2009, the hiring of summer students by the federal government has decreased by more than a third, and by almost a quarter during the regular academic year. This in spite of the federal government saying it wants to make it a priority to curb youth unemployment.

This is also raising concerns about how well the federal government will be able to handle normal attrition if fewer students are getting trained in the tasks needed to be done in government offices.

Around the Globe: Fremont Bans Textbook

Your Health Today, a textbook introduced in June to six high schools in Fremont, California, has been pulled from classrooms at the demand of over 2000 protestors for its "inappropriate" coverage of sex. The textbook,

focussed on sex education, has anatomical drawings (entirely safe-for-work) which some parents are attacking as not necessary for these children.

The book also briefly mentions bondage as a game where restriction of movement or sensory deprivation is employed for sexual enjoyment, which readers should only do what they are comfortable doing. Many parents were particularly disturbed by this, and by how the book talks about masturbation.



Rest In Peace

Like the rest of the world I was shocked and saddened by the death of Robin Williams. The first reaction is disbelief—how could this be true? Then to hear the early reports that he died by his own hand seemed to make the story doubly tragic.

It's one thing to die suddenly or after a long illness. After all, that is the fate that awaits each of us. But to hear that he willfully took his own life hurt more. To know that through that one deliberate act he deprived the world of his genius. It seemed like a cruel joke and so very senseless. Why, the world wondered, had it come to this? We knew he was actively working to stay clean and sober. His career was humming along.

Then we learn of the early Parkinson's diagnosis. That must have devastated him. So much of his act and persona manifested in a physical way. We just need remember him on some late night talk show couch. Inevitably he sprung up and thrilled us with some crazy stream of consciousness punctuated with spastic moves.

His timing was impeccable. No subject matter was off limits. His voice and his body were his tools. Often his stand-up material echoed the challenge of addictions in his own life.

And we loved him for it. Last night I re-watched *Good Morning, Vietnam* and marveled again at his talent. That movie is as solid and funny as it was in 1987. And who will ever forget him in *Mrs. Doubtfire*?

One of my favourites was *Dead Poet's Society*. Now, from a newsreader in Germany, to selfies from ordinary people, to Jimmy Fallon, to university employees, people have taken to standing on top of their desks in tribute to his genius. It's reminds us of Williams' role as John Keating, English teacher in which he frequently stood atop his desk to teach his students to get another perspective. In the final scene when Keating leaves the classroom for the last time his students pay an "O Captain, My Captain" tribute.

From the early days of improv in the comedy clubs, to the series *Mork and Mindy* ("nanoo, nanoo") Robin was a rising star who would go onto appear in more than fifty movies and win Academy Awards for his efforts. We can take consolation in the fact that there are a handful of his movies that are yet to be screened.

If Robin Williams' life and death start a meaningful dialogue about addiction, depression, and Parkinson's, that will be just one more reason to love the man. In a Maclean's story, writer Jaime Weinman tells us when you say Robin Williams "people think of a man who can't stop being funny, can't stop talking, just can't stop—that is a character everyone can love."

As we cope with our loss, we can turn to his body of work and relive the best of his gifts. And may he finally rest in peace, from where I sit.

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



Dear
Barb

Barbara Godin

Privacy and Libido

Dear Barb:

I read your column a few weeks back from Matt who deactivated his face book account. I can relate, as I've been considering doing the same thing. Every time I begin dating a new girl and we become Facebook friends, she goes through my pictures and asks me about all my previous girlfriends. I really don't want to discuss this with someone I just started dating. I feel like my whole life is an open book. Also if I meet a new girl and decide not to put her picture on my face book, she gets angry, because all my previous girlfriends pictures are on. It's a vicious circle! Although I do like being on Facebook so I can keep up with my friends activities, I would like to remove my pictures. Would it be weird to have a Facebook page without pictures?

Adam P.

Hey Adam:

Not at all. That's a great idea. Begin with a clean slate and if you do decide to put pictures back on Facebook, be selective and make sure they are pictures you would be proud to show anyone. You probably know how to remove your pictures, but if you don't here's a recap, go to your Account settings and select "download your facebook data." From there you can select what information or photos you want to remove, thus they will not be viewable on Facebook anymore and you will still be able to keep them on your device.

Dear Barb:

I have been married to my wife for three years. We get along great, but our intimate life is suffering, as my wife is not interested in having sex anymore. I have been trying to talk to her about what is wrong but she says it's nothing, just that she's tired or has to get up early or whatever. I am not happy about this and don't know what to do? I don't think she is having an affair, as there is nothing wrong between us. Any advice?

Doug in Calgary

Hi Doug:

Hm, are you sure there is no underlying stress between the two of you? Are you still connected? Do you treat her as you did when you were first married? Do you spend time talking with her and resolving conflicts? Do you show her respect and help with household chores? How about your lovemaking, are you considering her needs? Unfortunately it's easy to get into a rut and start taking someone for granted. Marriage requires a lot of work from both parties; otherwise it can go sour pretty quickly. If everything is good, perhaps your wife has something physical going on with her. Is she on medication, many types of prescription drugs can affect libido, as can fluctuations in hormone levels. Possibly a visit to her doctor may rule out many of these issues. Ultimately, your wife may just have a lower sex drive than you. If this is the case, you will have to work together to reach a compromise. Share your needs and negotiate a compromise. Remember quality not quantity is most important.

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

ANGRY AND CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS IN: Self-Defense



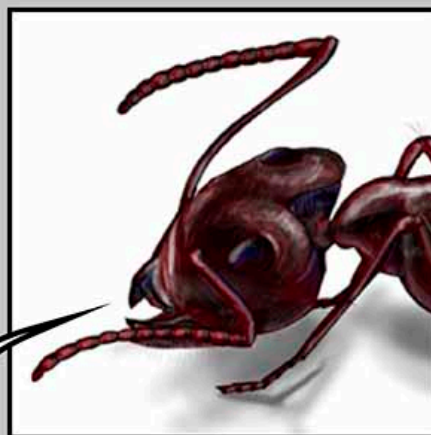
Here I am
once again to
report on my
latest feats of
derring-do!



Don't bother. I've been hearing all about it. I'm told you set fire to some
pot plants that belonged to a paraplegic who was growing them for medicinal
purposes—



Fighting the
scourge of
Demon Dope, my
friend!



—and that when he tried to stop you, you
tipped his wheelchair over.



Do I not have the right to
defend myself?!



AUSU
ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' UNION

This space is provided free to AUSU: The Voice does not create this content. Contact ausu@ausu.org with questions or comments about this page.

IMPORTANT DATES, AUGUST

- August 4: AU & AUSU closed – Civic Holiday
- August 10: registration deadline for a Sept 1 start date
- August 13: AUSU Council Meeting
- August 31: extension deadline for a Sept 30 contract date.

Featured AUSU Member Service

Smart Draw

AUSU has partnered with Smart Draw to provide members with their award winning business graphics software. This is a \$297 package is free for one year, only for AUSU members.

Smart draw allows users to create a wide range of charts, diagrams and other business graphics that can be dropped in to Microsoft Word or Excel files. This makes it easy for students to include professional diagrams in their assignments for AU classes.

To get more info on how to get this software for free, visit AUSU's website at ausu.org/services/smartdraw.php

Note: SmartDraw CI is the latest version. If you are upgrading an earlier version, email us for instructions.

AUSU Featured Groups & Clubs

Group Name: **Athabasca University**

Where: **Facebook**

Members: 1211

About: Members are all types of students taking all types of AU courses. The members of the group seem to support, encourage, and give advice to each other on course content, study tips, and other AU topics.

Activity: multiple posts daily with lots of replies and discussion

Great AU Finds Online

Open AU – AU's student-focused magazine is distributed through various national daily and regional weekly newspapers in Canada. This publication is no longer available online, but has been replaced with a news link through the banner at the top of the AU home page. You'll find more AU news in the News and

Announcements feeds at the bottom of the home page, and AU will continue to publish Open magazine, in print form, for the AU community, once a year.

<http://www.athabascau.ca/>



This Week at lynda.com

lynda.com experts have curated playlists to help you get started. With hundreds of playlists in a variety of subjects, there is something for

*everyone. **Check out the playlist center for more information and enter the playlist title.** This week's featured list:*

Go Job Hunting

AU lacks a career services department, and there is no indication one will be provided in the near future. Fortunately, lynda.com has training on a wide range of career and business skills. The Go Job Hunting list is ideal for new grads, or anyone seeking employment while they study. This stream of courses will teach you:

- job-hunting strategies, the use of popular employment sites like Monster and Indeed;
- how to create an effective resume that is tailored to a potential employer's needs;
- networking skills, including techniques for in-person and social media relationship building; and
- how to ace an interview, and answer the most difficult questions with confidence;

Additionally, career coach Valerie Sutton provides tips on everything from finding your passion, to maintaining a compelling on-line presence.

Courses: 7

Duration: 11h 12m

Skill Level: Appropriate for all

Have you signed up for lynda? It's free for AUSU members. To learn more, check out ausu.org/services/lynda.php

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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