

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Vol 24 Issue 41 2016-10-21

### Minds We Meet

Interviewing Students Like You!

### Typewriters

The Newest Trend in Writing?

### Leave Sent Material Be

Dealing With the Late Errors

*Plus:  
Online Learners & Libraries  
Top 10 Ways to Nail an F  
and much more!*



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

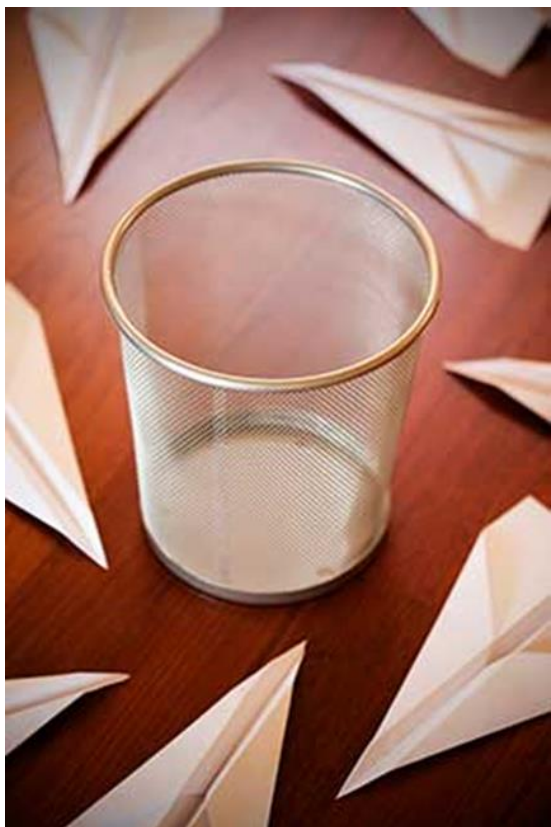


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***Hey! Did you know the Voice Magazine has a [Facebook page](#)?***

No kidding! We also do the [twitter](#) thing once in a while if you're into that.



**EDITORIAL****Interrupting a Theme****Karl Low**

What's this? Two installments of Minds We Meet in a row? There's a reason for that. Next week, the Voice Magazine will be taking a brief hiatus as I use the time to get started in a new course, make some preparations for Halloween, and catch up on some long overdue reading.

All of which means that this week's Voice Magazine is also next week's. And so, when an issue of The Voice Magazine is going to be hanging around for longer than usual, I like to make sure we've got a great student interview sitting up front to draw in new readers. In this case, we're featuring our interview with another candidate who ran in the recent by-election, Joshua Ryan.

If you're thinking there might be a theme of who is getting interviewed here, you're right! But you could interrupt that theme by becoming one of our interviewees yourself. We're always looking for new student stories, and to make it worth your while, we send out a little grab bag of stuff for each interviewee. Even if you think your story doesn't hold any interest, think of how many other people are in the exact same situation as you. Now wouldn't it be neat to read about someone like you? To see

those little things they've done that might have made their lives completely different – or not?

Well, I bet they're thinking the exact same thing! Which is why you need to be the one to step forward. Email me at [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org) and I can get you set up with our interviewer for a future issue.

This week, we've got a virtual grab bag of stuff, whether it's the resurgence of type-writing and what the lack of a delete key does, to how to handle that we always seem to be able to find one last mistake once we've hit submit, to even a top 10 list on how to get an F (don't worry, it's also got some tips on how to avoid it, just in case). Plus, as this is Canadian Library Month, we couldn't let the month go by without at least a passing mention of how even AU students can make use of an actual library once in a while.

Also this week, our ongoing graphic novel, the Doppelgänger Cure, takes an unexpected turn, and the Creative Spark gives us some tips to help conquer our fear of public speaking, and maybe even take the act on the road. Then of course there's our regular selection of news, reviews, entertainment, and advice to keep you somewhat distracted from the craziness going on with the election in the United States.

And when we come back in November, we'll have a new small section that should be of use to all students as well. I'm a bit excited about it.

So, until then, enjoy the read!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl'.

# MINDS WE MEET



*Originally from Timmins, Ontario, Joshua Ryan currently lives in Ottawa with his future wife, a cat, and a rescued border collie. A reserve army officer with the Canadian Armed Forces who works with youth to develop their life skills, for the last six months he's been working full as a strategic technology advisor in the government of Canada, and before that as a technical manager. Between all this, he's been working on his Bachelor of Science, Computing, and Informations Systems degree from Athabasca University.*

## **What brought you to AU?**

When I started working for the federal public service, a university degree was the requirement for getting in to a management role. I knew I had to get a degree, but wanted to balance that with full time work. I was fortunate that my community college had an articulation agreement with AU that allowed me in to the Bachelor of Science, Computing and Information Systems (Post-Diploma) so here I am.

## **What do you do like to do when you're not studying?**

I lead a fairly active life, with a border collie that requires a lot of outdoor time. Aside from that, I work and volunteer part-time with a youth program, the Army Cadets. It's great to have a chance to give back to a program that helps shape tomorrow's citizens.

## **Who in your life had the greatest influence on your desire to learn?**

My future wife has been my greatest influence. We're both employed in the technology field which comes with a requirement for lifelong learning to stay current. That said, where I went to college, she went to university and completed a double major in engineering and management with distinction. Without her support, I wouldn't be able to balance the commitments I have to be able to pursue my studies, and she's constantly pushing me to my goals.

## **Describe your experience with online learning. What do you like or dislike?**

Like many, I've had good and bad moments with online learning. I love that it's self-paced and that I can do my courses anywhere that I have internet access. I've had some great courses where there's a lot of tutor contact and interaction. My dislikes so far have been that the courses are very reading heavy with in some cases very little interaction with the tutor. It requires a very high level of dedication to ensure you don't fall behind.

## **Does this reflect other students' experiences based on your conversations with them?**

So far, yes.

**Have you had a time when you wavered about your education?**

I had a short period of time where I took a break and spent a year debating whether I wanted to finish my degree. It was after a particularly rough course experience and during a very busy time in my life. Fortunately, I chose to stick it out and am now three courses closer to finishing my degree.

**What was your most memorable AU course?**

POLI277, Intro to Politics. It was great course material but the highlight was an assignment where you called the tutor, defined terms then answered a random question from the chapter questions. You had to explain your answer. It led to a great conversation that I really appreciated and which really helped reinforce my comprehension.

**What is the most valuable thing in life to you?**

My friends. I've been very fortunate to meet a great group of people over the years. Despite the occasional distance, we all seem to find ourselves back living in the same cities together every few years and it's as if nothing has changed. I cherish all my friendships.

**What have you given up to go to AU that you regret the most? Was it worth it?**

I've been fortunate that the biggest sacrifice has been free time. My work and home life is occasionally very hectic and I've missed out on social gatherings and events I would have loved to attend. In the end, very worth it though. It's a medium-term sacrifice for a long-term gain.

**What's the single best thing AU could do to improve your student experience?**

More interaction. It doesn't always have to be with the tutors. I took a course a few years ago that started each unit off with a video blurb from a Masters-level student on the topic you were about to cover. It broke up the heavy reading in a very creative way.

**What is the most important lesson in life?**

Be true to yourself and always find time for what's important in life. We live in a society that's increasingly characterized by never disconnecting from our devices but that's preventing us from really engaging in the world around us and spending time with those we love.

**E-texts or textbooks? Any particular reason(s)? Other than the aforementioned ones.**

I like both. E-texts are convenient because I can take them with me without added bulk but the traditional texts are still nice. It would be great to have a choice.

**How do you find the tutors?**

Overall, I've been very satisfied with my tutors. They're knowledgeable, however on a few cases I've been told "I can't help you with that, I can only help with what's in the course" or "Just Google it" which, when you don't understand a course concept isn't helpful. So, there's room to grow but they're human just like us.

**Where has life taken you so far? (travels for pleasure, work, etc.)**

I was fortunate to spend three weeks in Hawaii for work doing lunar simulations with NASA and the Canadian Space Agency. I've also been to Morocco with work, Chicago and across Canada on personal travel.

## Online Learners Love Libraries

Barbara Lehtiniemi



Libraries and learning go together. While libraries are for more than learning, and learning can take place anywhere, there is still a vital link. October is Canadian Library Month, and in my home province this week, October 16 to 22, it's Ontario Public Library Week.

Libraries—both academic and public—are a valuable resource for students. And not just for books. As an online learner, I find I rely on libraries often:

**libraries the best.** I've written exams—online and paper—at three different library branches and they've all been good experiences. Libraries offer a quiet, unrushed atmosphere, computers with internet access and ample desk space. Although it might be different in a large city, the smaller libraries near me have one designated invigilation contact, which makes exam scheduling anxiety-free.

**Study space.** Libraries offer a study-friendly atmosphere just right for focused work. Although libraries are no longer the "quiet, please!" places of former years, they still offer a tranquil atmosphere conducive to study. I usually study at home but it's easy to get distracted by all the little tasks that must get done. When I want to force myself to focus, I pack up my textbooks and head for the library. Tucked into a quiet corner or a study carrel, I get significantly more studying done than at home.

**Research materials.** Libraries are the go-to place for research materials. As an AU student, I rely heavily on AU's library for online and physical research materials. And I've just requested a COPPUL card from the AU Library so I can access participating academic libraries across Canada. But the public library plays a role, too. While my local library tends not to stock the academic materials needed for research, I can often find supplementary materials to help me broaden my subject knowledge. And through inter-library loan, a service available in most provinces, I can access materials from other public libraries across Ontario. Often I can get approved research materials from big-city libraries, like Ottawa's, sent directly to my local branch. Between these three tiers of libraries—local, province-wide, and academic—I can always find what I need.

**Relaxation.** Balance is important to students. Although online learning requires more discipline than classroom learning, sometimes we have to remind ourselves to take a break, too. I use the public library often to get my fix of leisure. Books in fiction or non-fiction, photo-essays, videos, music, just about anything to take my mind away from my studies for a few minutes. Even the act of going to the library and browsing through shelves is a relaxing activity that allows my student brain to go off duty for a while.

For me, libraries and learning go hand-in-hand. I couldn't imagine getting through my degree program without the support of libraries. While I love libraries year round, in celebration of Canadian Library Month I'll renew that love—with no due date and no late fees.

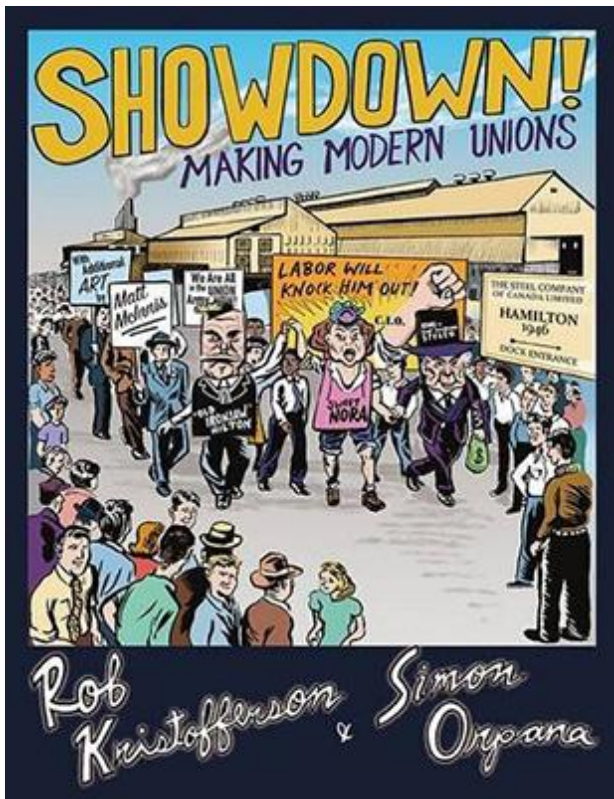
*Barbara Lehtiniemi is a writer, photographer, and AU student. She lives on a windswept rural road in Eastern Ontario*



## The Mindful Bard Showdown!

Wanda Waterman

### What We Can Do With the End of the Rope When We All Pull Together



**Book:** *Showdown!*

**Authors:** Rob Kristofferson and Simon Orpana  
(Graphic Novel)

"Workers in there are still afraid."

"What they're afraid of losing we'd all stand a better chance of gaining if we stood together."

-from *Showdown!*

*Showdown!* is a small piece of a huge puzzle. It distills the story of the North American labour movement by telling us about a specific labour struggle that took place in Hamilton, Ontario in the 1940's, a struggle culminating in the multiple strikes of 1946.

We see the unbearable conditions that lead to widespread labour discontent. We see the depression era effectively silencing this discontent and forcing workers to accept

deplorable working conditions, abusive bosses, long hours, and paltry wages.

We then see how during the Second World War the American and Canadian governments compelled employers to recognise workers' unions in order to safeguard the manufacture of arms for the war effort.

After the war ended and the atrocities of fascism became well known, the sleeping dragon awoke; workers launched a rallying cry for democracy at home. Why, after all, had they risked their lives to protect democracy only to return to what amounted to forced labour?

Step by step the labour movement evolved and gathered steam. Desperate circumstances called not only for desperate measures but also for vision, creativity, and determination. In the end the workers' struggle altered the world for the better, manifesting a new set of social conditions that it alone had envisaged and brought into being.

The 1946 Stelco picket line provided many opportunities for logistics and contingency planning (it's not surprising to note that many of the workers were WWII veterans). These workers took the picket line seriously, defending it with their very lives. They managed to consistently interrupt road traffic, rail travel, boats bringing in supplies and strikebreakers, and skulking pedestrians trying to sneak things into and out of the blockaded plants.

We see illustrated again and again the futility of acting when the conditions aren't right as well as the urgency of quickly taking advantage of helpful circumstances as they arrive. The war, as regrettable an event as it was, provided an avenue for agitation. It was also serendipitous that during this period Hamilton had a pro-labour



mayor, Sam Lawrence, a man who'd worked at International Harvester and who knew from experience why workers were pushing back.

There are many droll moments, such as when Stelco president Hugh Hilton buys a full-page ad in the national paper, calling for the government to squelch the "minority pressure group" behind the strike. It was clear that the bulk of the city's population was made up of either striking workers or their families, friends, and sympathisers. No minority here, Mr. Hilton.

It's moving to read about the solidarity shown not only among workers and their families but also to witness the waves of love that came from local community members, other Canadian union locals, and even American unions. The entire city of Hamilton appeared to have mustered its resources to care for the strikers and their families. And when Stelco, for example, tried to ship to Quebec the steel made by its strike-breakers, unionised workers there refused to fabricate it. Railway workers refused to cross the picket line. And thousands of unionised workers from other locals showed up to show support for the strikers.

There's also a lesson for management in all this, and it has to do with the folly of assuming that one always has a choice. When labour relations hit an impasse employers are sometimes forced to admit one irrefutable truth: you can't have your cake and eat it, too. The question as to whether unions help or hinder the economy is moot in light of the clear limits to what workers will tolerate— and the limitlessness of what they can do once they realise they have nothing to lose and everything to gain from collective action.

*Showdown!* manages to be an entertaining read while drawing on an extensive and rigorous body of scholarship, working from the memories and photos of those who'd participated in the struggle as it unfolded. The black-and-white graphics aren't pretty, chic, or artsy, but neither were the events that inspired them, and the rough outlines and busy pages beautifully express the gritty reality of workers' lives during this period.

Telling this story in graphic novel form makes it come alive and forces writers to reduce text to a bare minimum. Key ideas, such as the illustrated "domino effect" of the Stelco strike on other industries is easily shown in graphic terms. Spaghetti dinners being delivered to the picket line, Arlo Guthrie and Pete Seeger entertaining the strikers and their families, strikers in the courtroom singing "Solidarity Forever" while an anti-union council member tries to persuade the city to invoke the law of mob rule—these are all images that quickly become etched in the mind.

This book should be required reading in every Canadian high school. The 1946 strikes in Hamilton as elsewhere were the instigators of a greater independence and autonomy for the working classes, of a sense that the people had the power to compel government and business to act with fairness. Out of this movement emerged a commitment to social welfare that eventually created old age pensions, employment insurance, universal health care, and a host of other measures, and the lessons learned during the 1946 labour struggle continue to echo today in the occupy movements, as well as in ongoing labour, feminist, and race struggles.

*Showdown!* manifests five 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 displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering.
- It renews my enthusiasm for positive social action.
- It makes me appreciate that life is a complex and rare phenomena, making living a unique opportunity.

Wanda also writes the blog *The Mindful Bard: [The Care and Feeding of the Creative Self](#)*.

## The Creative Spark

### Foil Fear with Fun

Marie Well



Do you get spooked with public speaking? Then add color with comedy. Why? A smiling audience fends off fear.

Given 24 hours, you can make a one-minute comedy act, according to David Nihill in his book *Do You Talk Funny?* That one minute can slingshot you into public-speaker stardom.

And what other prizes come with the one-minute-joke? Well, a corporate edge, an academic edge—hey, even extra cash spinning jokes in nightclubs.

But you can't crack a smile even with a sip of helium? Don't worry. Get a quick makeover: the funny kind. And if you're serious about paying down student debt, go pro: four-hour days writing jokes, watching comedians, performing your yarn—paying down student debt.

But if the one-minute joke sounds more your gig, then, either way, I'll sic comedian David Nihill on you (with his comments in bold):

**Best talks use comedy.** You'll gain kudos with comedy. Class-act execs use comedy. So, use comedy in your class. (Disclaimer: If your prof rarely cracks a smile, reconsider.)

**Infotainment trumps information.** A new wave in education is edutainment. People learn better with laughter, says Nihill. So, up the IQ's.

**Tell personal stories.** When you include yourself, people get engaged. And everybody wants to hear your dirty laundry. Start with your failures, hardships, and embarrassments before you state your successes, says Nihill. A list of your successes will turn-off audiences. We love a fool.

**State your hero's desire and obstacles to said desire.** Your research question should involve a desire or motivation: to discover this or that. Have obstacles to getting that goal, such as conflicting views (audiences love a fist-fight). Give your presentation a story-structure.

**Write your final punch line first.** Writing your last line first gives you a roadmap, keeps you honest. Make your last line funny—at least punchy.

**Salivate over three.** Make a list of three related jokes, with your best joke the third, says Nihill. If no-one laughs at the first two, you'll at least get smiles on the third. (And keep your thesis to three parts: three is sublime. Just ask Pythagoras.)

**Make the stakes personal; otherwise don't tell the tale.** If you tell a story, make it mean big in your life. If the story means little to you, why should anyone care?

**Write ten jokes a week.** Polish your pencil with jokes. Write ten jokes every week until you stockpile enough to publish a mini eBook on Amazon. Pay down that student debt.

**Grab attention right away with a word like "crazy," "weird," "scary," "stupid."** I started this article with the word "spooked."

**Use funny images.** Google the words "funny" followed by one or two words describing your topic, says Nihill. When you find a funny image, lead into it with introductory words and then flash the funny pic.

**Only a tiny handful of comedians are actually naturally funny.** You've never gotten a laugh your whole life? Then make-up for lost time: ham up your speeches. Better yet, seek out ...

**... open mic nights.** But prepare. Practice in front of a mirror. Get your gig down. Then visit open mic nights. Eventually, moonlight as a comedy act.

*Nihill overcame his fear of public speaking through comedy; so can you.*

*So, make a quip in your paper opening. Sprinkle jokes in your act. Borrow cartoons for your presentations.*

*But whatever you do, don't freeze. Blast the ice—with belly-laughs.*



## Canadian Education News

Scott Jacobsen



### Post-secondary not providing support for the next generation.

According to *Betakit*, there was a study by The Conference Board of Canada through its Center for Skills and Post-Secondary Education. They found the Canadian technology industry continues to grow and post-secondary students have further interest in that sector too.

However, "post-secondary education (PSE) institutions aren't providing support for e-learning" to be able to prepare students for the "next generation of jobs." E-learning is being adopted by multiple institutions across Canada.

It accounts for "10 to 15 percent of all full-time post-secondary enrolments". The Vice President of Industry and Business Strategy at The Conference Board of Canada, Michael Bloom, said, "E-learning could profoundly change the way post-secondary education is designed and delivered."

### Attempts to capitalize on the marijuana industry in Canada's schools

As well, *Maclean's* has stated that Canadian schools are trying to make a profit from the marijuana industry. "Canadian producers are...upping their game by brining in professional management" as the preparation for the legalization of marijuana takes place.

Marijuana, or cannabis, will be a legalized controlled substance with the estimated industry to be worth \$10 billion (CAD), which is based on CIBC estimations. With the maturation of the marijuana sales industry, there is an expansion into post-secondary institutions.



There has "been a push to have post-secondary institutions" provide the requisite training for this industry with an emphasis on "middle management". Canadian schools could establish themselves as "global leaders in marijuana-related research and business training."

### **BC sweeps the Canadian Innovators in Education Awards.**

*Market Wired* states that the British Columbia school districts have had a "clean sweep" for the 2016 Canadian Innovators in Education Award Winners. Reader's Digest Canada and The Canadian Education Association (CEA) awarded three school districts for "promoting lasting, system-wide change for K-12".

First prize is worth \$25,000. Second prize is worth \$10,000. Third prize is worth \$5,000. Profiles of the awardees will be present in the November issue of Reader's Digest magazine.

First prize was award to the Fine Arts eCademy, which is Comox Valley School District 71. Second prize was award to the School District 5 Southeast Kootenay in Cranbrook, B.C. Third prize was awarded to West Vancouver School District in West Vancouver, B.C.



## **Typewriters are the Newest Trend In Writing**

**Carla Knipe**



Typewriters belong to an era of a recipe box of index cards, carefully typed out by your mother or grandmother, or of formal business letters meticulously formatted on embossed company stationery. These documents have such charm because they have an invisible subtext, a connection that exists between the words on the page and the writer. They were produced on the type of machine that, if it is lucky, is now gathering dust in an old basement or attic, smelling delightfully musty; or if it is not, buried in a landfill. But rather than being consigned to a historical age, typewriters are finding a second life.

This revelation may come as a complete surprise because computer technology has made the act of writing so effortless. Laptops have created all-in-one workstations that, like typewriters, are completely portable but gloriously efficient at everything they do. But typewriters are fighting their way back from obscurity, from the deepest corners of junk shops and antique malls, to reclaim their place in the canon of writing technology.

At one time, typewriters were everywhere. They were essential in every home, school, and workplace. People of certain generations have memories of learning to type in school by doing endless drills for speed and accuracy. Or, if not, the two-fingered hunt and peck method of producing written work, often accompanied by the liberal use of correction fluid. Advertising for the latest and most technologically advanced typewriters could be found on billboards and in magazines everywhere. But, while the modern world often sees typewriters as a part of history, one cannot take for granted that it was typewriters that truly opened up new avenues in the business world. One of the largest career avenues for women who worked outside the home was to join a typing pool that created a company's correspondence. And the image of seasoned authors (think of Hemmingway and even Woody Allen) is one of them laboriously pounding out their manuscripts one page at a time.

It seemed, for a while at least, that typewriters would never go away. But the coming of the personal computer swept the typewriter's influence aside. By the mid 1990s typewriters were antiquated and obsolete. The once mighty names of the day, such as Remington, Smith-Corona, Underwood, and Royal all drifted away one by one. Even IBM, one of the largest names in electric typewriters, abandoned them to concentrate on manufacturing personal computers.

There is a growing realization in our internet age that typewriters have a tangible connection to the act of writing. One that is incomparable with that of computers. Typing on a manual typewriter is a deliberate act, from the inserting and aligning of the paper, to the pressure required to press the keys so the ink makes a solid impression on the page, and to the ding of the bell after each line, which then required the user to physically advance the paper. Then there is that typing requires a consciousness about what to write, that the operator had better know ahead of time what to write because there is no delete key. In contrast, the ease of writing with computers has created a detached relationship between the writer, the device, and the words on the page. On a computer, words are not made real until they exit the computer via a printer. Typewriters, on the other hand, are concrete, they are immediate and they are sensory. Typing with a typewriter is, overall, a mindful act.

Typewriters appeal to this generation of "digital natives", those who do not know any time in their lives without the personal computer or even the internet. This might go some way to explain why they are so trendy. What was viewed as the symbol of the industrial past is now very much the alternative to modern mass production. As well, the "Slow Movement", articulated by Carl Honoré, seeks to address the speed of modern culture that emphasizes doing everything instantaneously—from eating to travelling to working—and tries to reclaim the sense of the quality of what we fill our time with, as opposed to the quantity of what we do in it.. The whole culture of typing fits in with this movement because it recognizes that all communication should foster relationships between people, not be something that is done simply for the sake of it.

The new typing revolution is giving a new life to typewriters by tapping into the disillusionment with the fast pace of modern communication. This revolution is leading to the National Day of Unplugging, public typing (hanging out in coffee shops or a park, but typing away on a manual typewriter rather than a laptop), typing socials, Nanowrimo type-ins where the challenge is to produce an original novel typed completely manually, as well as producing old-school fan zines entirely by typewritten copy and hand-drawn illustrations.

Typewriting is also proving to have a positive effect on students with disabilities such as ADHD or dyslexia who are using typewriters as a "new" kind of assistive technology. The deliberate nature of typing is helping them to make the connection between getting their thoughts out of their brain and onto a page in another way. The novelty of writing on a typewriter and the nature of typing, including the necessity of touch and hearing to produce their work, may give these students a more holistic experience that computers cannot provide.

But whatever the reason for the typewriter's comeback, it is leading to an overall desire to keep this part of literacy technology alive. People are seeking out typewriters like never before through Ebay, online classified ads, garage sales, antique fairs, and second hand stores. There are collectors who pride themselves on the variety and number of machines they own. But it is also leading to a realization that the original typewriter culture needs to be prolonged as long as possible. The people skilled in repairing and refurbishing typewriters are becoming far fewer in number as the years go by, and parts for these machines are becoming increasingly scarce. However, replacement ribbons are still available to make typewriters still very much usable. One side effect that the new appetite for collecting has is that the demand is pushing prices up on the more obscure and older models. Nevertheless, people are discussing typewriters more frequently than they have in decades, and are determined not to let them die.

If you aren't lucky enough to find a manual typewriter to use, modern technology is creating more ways to incorporate typewriting. The actor Tom Hanks is also a well-known collector who has co-created an app called HanxWriter for Apple devices. According to the website, the app "reflects the look, feel, and sound of old-fashioned word-processing while embracing a few new-fashioned luxuries (like the DELETE key!)." Also, the craft product manufacturer We R Memory Keepers has created the TypeCast machine that is a fully functioning retro-style manual typewriter but resized so that large scrapbook paper and other craft materials, such as cardstock, can fit into the machine.

It may be that the trend of typewriters will wane and eventually fade back to near-obscurity. But even if it does, the role and importance of typewriters is being recognized in a way that it hasn't been previously. One thing is for sure, however, a secret that people of a certain age know, is that typewriters make writing more feel more real, more than just any old Word document.

For more Information:

<http://www.slowmovement.com> --If you want to find out more about the Slow Movement

<http://nationaldayofunplugging.com> -- How you can pledge to take a periodic break from too much technology.

<http://typewriterdatabase.com> -- A comprehensive list of typewriters and their characteristics, including links to user manuals.

<http://www.typewritercollector.com> -- If you want to get started in typewriter collecting, this database is a great start.

<http://www.typewriterrevolution.com> -- A fun homage to typewriter culture and ways to find out more about the trend of typewriters in the digital age.

<http://site.xavier.edu/polit/typewriters/typers.html> -- A comprehensive and fascinating list of famous writers and the machines they used to produce their masterpieces.

*Carla would love to start her own typewriter collection and recently bought her first manual machine! She wonders what would happen if she were to submit a hand-typed essay to her tutors.*

## Student Sizzle AU's Hot Social Media Topics

### Following what's hot around AU's social media sites.

#### AthaU Facebook Group

Nicole seeks feedback on students' exam experience with ProctorU. Rae has textbooks for PSYC 304 and PSYC 350 for sale. Eli wonders if MS2010 is adequate for CMIS 245, or if MS2016 is required.

Other posts include research projects, AU bursary response times, and courses BIOL 235, CMIS 380, FREN 374, and POEC 393.

#### reddit

ABLurker inquires how much storage space is required (ballpark) for each e-text.

#### Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "Is using an online studying resource considered cheating? Better to make sure: <https://goo.gl/6slzYP> #AskAU #onlineEd #distanceEd."

@AthabascaUBiz tweets: "Learn more, just by listening! Educational podcasts to keep you sharp: <https://goo.gl/qiipBQ> #OnlineEd #AthaUbiz #NeverStopLearning."

@AU\_Press tweets: "Open Access Week is right around the corner! Brush up on your #OA jargon on the blog: <http://ow.ly/YqI53059CRR>."







## Study Tips from a Semi-Anonymous Friend

### The Top 10 Ways to Nail an F In English 101

Want to ensure your next writing assignment gets an F? The Study Dude shows you how.

No? Well nobody said the dude can't be flexible. So I'll give you what it takes to avoid it as well.

Here is the list of the top ten ways to nail an F in English 101, and underneath, what you need to do if you want to avoid it:

#### **Number 10: Read your paper aloud while rapping Snoop Dogg.**

When editing your paper, read it aloud. Cut anything that stifles the rhythm of your tongue.

#### **Number 9: Go psychedelic when reading Dr. Seuss.**

Read widely on books that challenge you. Scan tables-of-contents and indexes. Mark-up book margins with key ideas or engaging tidbits. Look up definitions of words that stump you.

#### **Number 8: Make your paper as active as a Quiznos employee.**

Wherever possible, avoid the passive voice. The passive voice uses variants of the verb "to be" and has no actor. An example of the passive voice is "The paper was marked." Who marked the paper? *Dunno*.

Profs usually disallow first-person, however, so you may be forced to use the passive voice anyway.

#### **Number 7: Give your verbs less punch than the last match of Rhonda Rousey.**

Use short, lively verbs with lots of action. For instance, words like *grope*, *sparked*, *sprinkled*, and *shone*.

#### **Number 6: Mistake your audiobooks for the hiccups.**

Vary your sentence structure. At least once every paragraph, slip in a subordinate clause at the start of a sentence. Follow-up a long sentence with a short snappy one.

#### **Number 5: When stuck without an adjective, consult slogans on Coke machines.**

Use adjectives and adverbs that add meaning. If your adjectives or adverbs repeat the meaning, delete them.

#### **Number 4: Thank your grandma for recycling your papers in the outhouse.**

Write as if you are speaking to your dearest friend. Leave an impression. Once you've written from the heart, polish the paper.

#### **Number 3: Let NASA hire you as a translator for E.T.**

Write in everyday English. Avoid multisyllabic words unless they are more precise than a shorter alternative. Only once you've drafted your piece, replace the wordy stuff with the concise.

**Number 2: Chew more fat than Donald Trump.**

Once you get to a list of three, stop. Don't list four or five items. Order your three items from least to most wordy or exciting or abstract.

**Number 1: Make your paper a firewall for WikiLeaks.**

Avoid too many abstractions in your writing. After all, you're writing English, not code. Instead, use metaphors and analogies, replacing abstractions with things you can see or touch or smell or hear or taste.

*In English 101, when you get your F, say the Study Dude sent you.*

*And you know The Study Dude won't take an F for an answer.*

**Music Review**  
**Jas Patrick****Samantha Stevens****Musician:** Jas Patrick  
**EP:** *Inky Ovine*

*Inky Ovine* is the third EP from Nashville singer/songwriter Jas Patrick, and every music lover needs to check out this hidden gem. Although Jas's music is typically considered rock, soul, blues, and Americana, he also tosses in elements of alternative, gypsy-punk, reggae, flamenco, folk, country, and even jazz. Jas's multi-genre style is a beautiful and complex woven blend of melodies, beats, and sounds.

Released in 2015 on Tiny Lion Records, *Inky Ovine* was first conceptualized in 2012. After the release of his EP *Tributaries* in early 2012, Jas found himself with depleted funds and slightly discouraged. He decided to move into a home studio, which came to be called Osa Madre Studios, and for two years he slowly populated his new studio with the gear he needed. In 2014, Jas was ready to begin recording *Inky Ovine* and he enlisted the help of Nashville recording engineer Brad Bass of First Avenue Sound. Together Jas and Brad recorded the six songs for *Inky Ovine*, and

have plans to release another eight on an LP.

The creation of *Inky Ovine* was definitely a labour of love for Jas. On the EP Jas was the lead vocals and harmony vocals, and he played the acoustic, electric, and slide guitars, banjo, mandolin, drums, percussion, melodica, bass synth, keyboards, sequences and synths. But he was also joined by Jake Willemain on the bass guitar, Vicki Garrison and Bernadine Upson who also sang the harmony Vocals, and Jeff Peterson who played the steel guitar for the tracks "Little Bug" and "Didn't Ask."

Fans of Eric Clapton will love Jas's intense yet down-to-earth and charming vocals. Jas shows off his amazing vocal range in the EP's opening track "Harpy." It is in this song that listeners can fully appreciate Jas's rapid range, hitting both high and low notes one after the other. It is also in "Harpy" that Jas doesn't hold back the intensity of his commanding voice, the result being a blues song that deserves—no—demands to be taken notice of.

The sound in "Party Line (Classified)" starts off a little softer than "Harpy," and the rhythm and melodies slowly crescendo to a satisfying climax at the resolution of the song. In "Party Line (Classified)" Jas's vocals remind of Blue Rodeo and the Barenaked Ladies.

The EP's title track, "Inky Ovine", is perhaps the most unusual song on the EP. It begins with a gypsy-punk inspired intro but then subtly slips into a reggae rhythm as Jas begins to sing. Then at the chorus, Jas's rock and blues sound shines through. At the bridge, the guitar slides into a more alternative rock sound, and then later has a distinct flamenco flare. However, for all its unorthodox genre-bending melodies and rhythms, "Inky Ovine" is an astounding peek into Jas's abilities as a musician, and the track is truly the "black sheep" of a music industry that harps on the necessity of genre-labelling.

Those interested in checking out *Inky Ovine* can find the EP on Jas's [website](#), as well as on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, and Noisetrade. Also, be sure to check out the quirky and dark video for "[Harpy](#)", and download the track for free on Jas's [website](#).

*Samantha currently uses her skills as a writer to promote independent musicians and raise awareness and support for many global, environmental, and humanitarian issues. Check out her website and blog at: <http://sstevenswriter.wix.com/writer>*

### Women Of Interest

**Grace Hopper** was born on December 9, 1906, in New York City and died January 1, 1992, in Arlington, Virginia. Hopper was involved in the development of UNIVAC (Universal Automatic Computer 1) the first all electronic digital computer. However, she is best known for inventing the first computer compiler program, which translates written instructions into codes that computers can read. This development led to Hopper becoming a co-developer of COBOL (Common Business Oriented Language) which is one of the earliest computer languages. Hopper foresaw that one day computers would become a part of everyday life; not only in business, but for everyone and that they would be small enough to fit on a desk. Throughout her career Hopper lectured extensively on computers, at times up to 300 lectures per year. During her life she received many awards, including being elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1963), and Achievement Awards from the Society of Women Engineers (1964). Hopper was given the Man of the Year Award by the Data Processing Management Association in 1969. Between the years of 1972 and 1987 Hopper received no less than 37 honorary degrees. President George Bush awarded Grace Hopper the National Medal of Technology... ... the first woman to receive America's highest technology award as an individual. The award recognises her as a computer pioneer, who spent a half century helping keep America on the leading edge of high technology.

Hopper received far too many awards to be listed here. Further information about this noteworthy woman may be found at the following websites:

<http://www.biography.com/people/grace-hopper-21406809#later-years-and-legacy>

<http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/Biographies/Hopper.html>

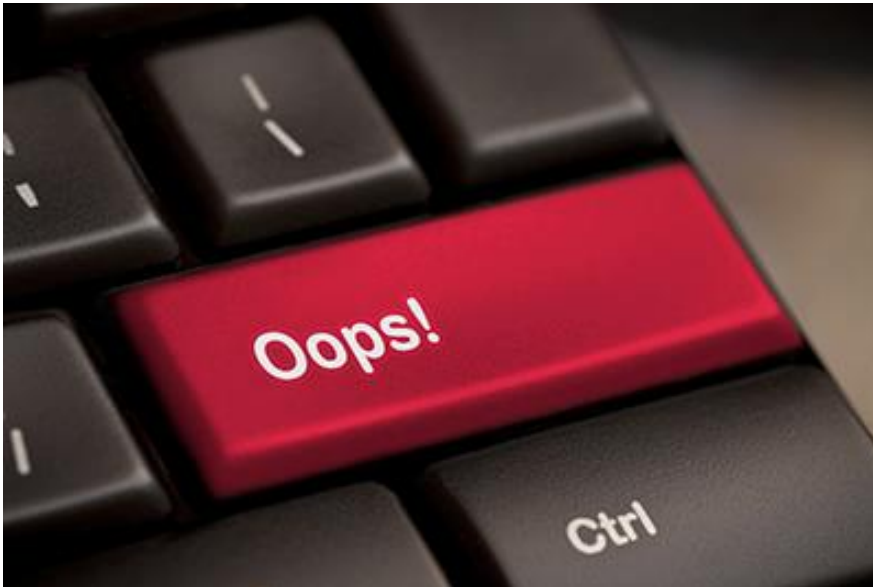
<https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/grace-murray-hopper/>

*compiled by Barb Godin*



## Leave Sent Material Be

Deanna Roney



got feedback. That little mistake would eat at my stomach and make me incapable of focusing on anything else: How could I have missed it?

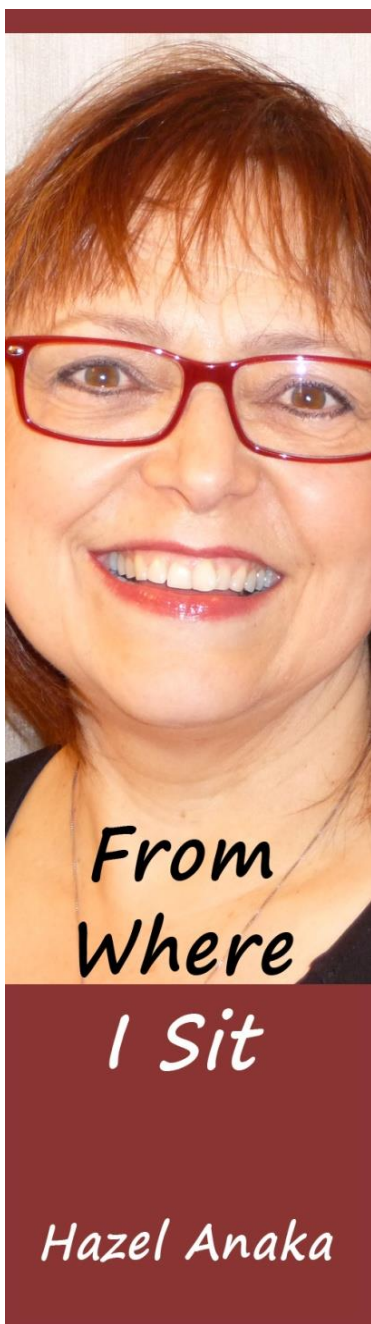
So, I developed a rule, it works sometimes (but not all the time). After I feel a work is complete and I have edited it until I can no longer look at it. I send it, and I do not look at it again. I will not read the email, the article, or whatever else until I get feedback. I will not allow myself to become anxious over a small detail that cannot be changed. Instead I focus on the next project, the new idea, and let the one that has been sent into cyber-space be.

Chances are any error that is found after extensive editing will be small. It won't be a significant impact on your grade, perception, or chances of success. But, the anxiety of editing after sending will have an impact on all current works, the things that you should be giving your full attention to now. Even with this rule though, sometimes there is a moment when you realise, "I forgot to date it," "I forgot page numbers," "I forgot..." This realization comes without having to look. At this point you have to just breathe. Ask yourself if it is worth emailing again, resubmitting, or contacting someone in order to hopefully wipe the original from existence.

The answer to this question for me comes down to two parts. Is it a significant mistake? What will appear less professional? If it was an assignment and I forgot to attach the list of references, then yes, email your tutor and explain, apologize, and ask for forgiveness. If you sent the assignment without a date, or without page numbers, it may not be worth the email. It all depends on the significance: did they specifically ask for it? It also depends if the piece is an assignment, an article, perhaps an application cover letter. If it is a cover letter, job proposal etc. it will likely appear unprofessional to email or contact them on such a small detail and it is best to leave it up to them to decide. Will they cut you based on a simple error? Likely not.

It is all a matter of perspective, a matter of who is on the receiving end, and which is the best way to present yourself professionally. Everyone, from tutor, employer, agent...everyone is human and people make simple mistakes, they are not going to cut you based on something minute. And, if they do (excluding tutors), you may have just dodged a bullet, so to speak.

*Deanna Roney is an AU graduate who loves adventure in life and literature.*



## Listen Up

Before my time, and before the first television sets found their ways into our homes in the 1950s, radio was king. Guglielmo Marconi's invention of the radio in Italy in 1895 led to more advances in the use of the technology. By 1906, Canadian inventor, Reginald Fessenden did the first public broadcast. Canada's first national news broadcast happened in 1934. Public radio became widely available.

When I worked as a caseworker at CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) in the 1970s, the importance of sound was driven home to me. I don't think closed captioning for TV existed yet, so my blind colleagues and clients relied on LP records and radio. After all these years I'm blurry on the details, but I do remember my boss having oldies radio shows like Gunsmoke, Dragnet, Jack Benny, and Our Miss Brooks on reel to reel tapes.

Fast-forward to this fall when Hilary introduced me to podcasts. I thought it was new technology and I was an early adopter. Na-huh. As I researched this I found a British guy named Ben Hammersley invented the podcast in 2004, *twelve* years ago. Much like my confusion about how microwaves and fax machines work, I have no idea how a podcast happens. Wikipedia to the rescue: "A podcast is an episodic series of digital media files which a user can set up so that new episodes are automatically downloaded via web syndication to the user's own computer or portable media player." There, clear as mud.

Downloading some podcasts to my iPhone was to save me from hours of tedium and radio static in my combine. With harvest aborted at the halfway mark because of wet, then snowy, weather, this became moot. However, I'm hooked. In the meantime, I searched topics that appealed to me: personal development and writing. Using Bluetooth and listening in the car is great for short trips.

I have learned that just because you can do something, it doesn't mean you should. Go Self Help Yourself is a huge disappointment. I could tolerate all the f-bombs if there was some compelling content; if the hosts didn't sound like

fourteen-year-old boys; if they weren't wasting my precious time with disconnected tangents and bullshit ramblings. Luckily I figured out how to delete them and free up that space in my phone.

One of the wonderful gifts from this experience was finding Soul Feed (hosted by Alex Kip and Shannon Algeo) and Beautiful Writers (Linda Sivertsen and Danielle LaPorte). These people have some street cred and attract great guests who convey actual information. Of course, this new pastime of mine could take on a life of its own. Everyone has a website, newsletters to subscribe to, more downloads, exclusive coaching groups to buy into, daily e-blasts, books, and products to sell. So far, I've drunk the Danielle LaPorte Kool-Aid. One book down, another to read. But it's okay; she's got chops and is Canadian, too.

If Marconi was here, I'm sure he'd say listen up, 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

## Ch-ch-ch-changes

Dear Barb:

My mother and I have not always gotten along and now that we are both getting older I really wish things were different between us. I love her, but I've been so involved in my own life that I never think about what she is going through. As my kids are growing up and moving away from me I am beginning to identify with my mother more than ever. She has always been a good mom and took care of me; she just didn't always agree with me and didn't do things the way I wanted her to. I now realize this was just selfishness on my part. The problem is I don't know how to change this now. Do you have any suggestions? Michelle.

Hi Michelle:

What you are feeling is pretty normal. Sometimes to be able to truly understand another person we have to "walk a mile in their shoes." As your children are growing up and becoming their own people, you are beginning to realize they have their own thoughts on how they want to live their lives and it is not always what you want for them, or what you think they should do. This philosophy can apply to your mother as well. You also have to accept your mother as she is and realize she will live her life according to her own philosophy, which may not particularly coincide with yours. As you state in your letter, you are maturing and perhaps beginning to realize this was

selfishness on your part. It is never too late to change things and I believe the best way to change this situation is to sit down with your mom and discuss your feelings. You both can begin a new relationship from this point on with a new appreciation of each other. One of the most important aspects of living a peaceful life is the ability to accept others as they are, rather than expecting them to be what you want them to be. Everyone has experienced a life that is unique to them and as a result their responses will be unique to them. We cannot judge another based on our perspectives of how things should be. Thanks for writing Michelle.

Dear Barb:

Hi, my husband and I recently eloped and now our families are mad because they didn't get to share in our day! We were going to have a big wedding and even had the arrangements made, but it seemed to be so stressful with everybody wanting things their way, so we cancelled the wedding. Then the two of us and two of our closest friends went to Vegas and got married. The wedding was stress free and happy. When we came home and told our families they freaked out and said we were selfish and only thinking of ourselves! I don't think I should feel bad, after all it is supposed to be our wedding! Am I just being selfish? Tammy.

Hi Tammy:

Thanks for your letter. No you are not being selfish, this is your wedding and you and your fiancé should do whatever you want, as long as you are not being inconsiderate to others. However, if your parents were paying for the wedding, their desires should be taken into account. Good luck with your nuptials Tammy.

Follow Barb on Twitter @BarbGod

Email your questions to [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto: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.









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## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Oct 30:** November course extension deadline
- **Nov 3:** [AU Open House Webinar](#)
- **Nov 8:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#) (tentative)
- **Nov 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Dec 1](#)
- **Nov 15:** December degree requirements deadline
- **Nov 30:** December course extension deadline
- **Dec 9:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Jan 1](#)

## Student Lifeline – Out of Balance

Chances are, like most AU students, you are knee-deep in papers and assignments, while also trying to juggle work, family, and personal responsibilities. Perhaps you're feeling short on the downtime you need to recharge. Or maybe you never seem to be able to get out and do the things you love to do -- passions that energize and sustain you -- because of all that you're handling in your busy life.

If you're overloaded, overwhelmed, and maybe even feeling unfulfilled, peace and balance likely seem out of reach. **Student LifeLine** can help you determine what matters to you most, and achieve balance.

Contact **Student LifeLine** any time, 24/7 at **1-800-567-2255 (TTY:1-877-371-9978)** to speak with a caring consultant for expert advice.

You can also log in any time to [www.lifeworks.com](http://www.lifeworks.com) (username: **AUSU**, password: **wellness**) to access a wealth of helpful articles and tools, including:

- [Quick Tips for Making Time for Yourself](#), [Time Squeeze Tips](#), [Setting Life Priorities: Figuring Out What is Important to You](#), [Four Ways to Achieve Greater Happiness in Your Life](#)
- [Mindfulness Toolkit](#) relaxation techniques
- Podcasts on [Practicing Gratitude](#) and [Setting Goals for Happiness](#).
- [10 Ways to Overcome Overload](#) ebook, or [Simplify](#) recording.

**The Student Lifeline Program is provided FREE to AUSU members!**

**Student Lifeline is not just for stress - you can access help and support 24/7 for any issues, from health, wellness, work, life, money, school, community referrals, and more!**

**Student LifeLine**

WHAT CAN IT DO FOR YOU?

"I'm overloaded, overwhelmed & feeling out of balance. What can I do?"

LifeWorks.com

User ID AUSU

Password wellness

Help is at your fingertips, 24/7

Available on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Get it on BlackBerry World

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org) for more information.

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## THE VOICE

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