

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 24 Issue 42 2016-11-04

Student to Student Feedback

Connections that Matter

Ten Dumb Things

A Student To-Do List

Music Nostalgia

Dealing with the new Music

Plus:

*The Last Music Review
Council Connection
and much more!*



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Magazine***www.voicemagazine.org

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represent the views of AUSU
Student Council

The Voice is published
every Friday in HTML and
PDF format.

For weekly email
reminders as each issue is
posted, fill out the
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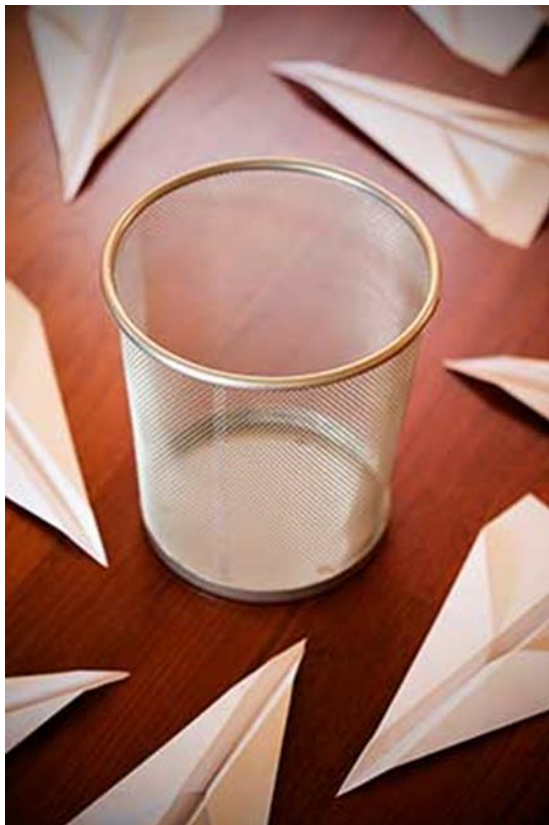
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@voicemagazine.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.

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**Firsts and Lasts****Karl Low**

Only a few more days remain until the United States has its election. And despite all the brouhaha that's been brewing in the media, I expect the results will be fairly routine. Despite sometimes close national polling, state by state polling shows that Hillary Clinton's advantage in the electoral college is almost assured. My own bet is that I expect one of the two houses of their government will become Democrat, and neither house will have enough of an advantage to break a filibuster.

This sets up the stage for four years of not much of consequence happening. Rumblings that there might be a revolution if Ms. Clinton wins are purely that, rumblings. The might of the militarized US law enforcement community is likely to make short work of any thing other than a massive uprising, and most Americans, if we're being honest, can't be bothered to make the effort.

But on the bright side, it means that the news will finally be able to start devoting attention to other subjects again.

Meanwhile, this week brings *The Voice Magazine* the first instalment of "Scholarship of the Week." Each week, this piece will bring you some information about a scholarship you might not have

heard of, including some tips on how you might improve your chances. Every student can use a few extra dollars, after all.

We're also going to be running a special "Post-Secondary Education News" segment where we can. This is different from our regular Canadian Education News in that will keep a tight focus on issues directly relevant to post-secondary education, while Canadian Education News continues to bring us stories on a broader scope.

Also, this week will see the last music review article from Samantha Stevens. Samantha has informed me that she's going on to a graduate journalism degree at Concordia university, so we wish her good luck with that. For me this is a loss because Athabasca University has no campus, we are students that come from no single town, province, or even country. This makes it difficult to find articles and stories that all of us can relate to, but music is one of those things. No matter where we hail from, we all know and can access music, so being able to help you find stuff that's worth listening to is something I think fits within the purpose of *The Voice Magazine*.

This ease of finding music, and the difficulty of finding good music, is something Carla Knipe looks at this week in her article on music nostalgia. But our feature article this week is a look at AUSU's Course Evaluations. Barb Lehtiniemi takes a look at the evaluations a year after they were launched, and gives you the information you need to get the most out of them.

But that's just the start. We discuss how you might be like a fish on a bicycle, crazy quilting your essays, what went on in the last meeting of AUSU Council, dumb things you need to do, designing, and much more.

Enjoy the read!

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

Student to Student Feedback

Barbara Lehtiniemi



Want to know what other students think about an AU course you're contemplating taking? Check out AUSU's Course Evaluations!

Launched one year ago, the AUSU Course Evaluation tool allows students to provide info to other students on AU undergraduate courses. Students can add their own evaluations on the [Course Evaluations](#) page and view summarized evaluations on the [Course Evaluation Results](#) page. AUSU Course Evaluations can also be accessed from the mobile app, under both "Services" and "Links." (Note: the AUSU Course Evaluation tool is distinct from the AU Course Satisfaction

Survey that students are invited to complete toward the end of each course.)

Adding an evaluation takes only a few minutes. AUSU's Course Evaluation uses the online Survey Monkey platform to walk students through the evaluation. After selecting the course from drop-down menus, students are asked to select fixed responses (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, not applicable) to approximately 15 questions about various aspects of the course.

Questions enlist the student's opinion of such aspects such as course content, tutorial or Student Support Centre support, learning resources and assessment tools, and overall course value. The evaluation concludes with a comment box in which students can suggest areas of improvement for the course.

Take care with your answers, as you will not have an opportunity to go back and change any once you move to the next set. Students also need to remember which courses they've completed an evaluation for; because the AUSU Course Evaluation tool is completely anonymous, AUSU's system doesn't track who has filled them out.

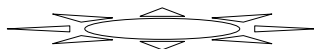
Responses are aggregated so that other students can quickly view how students feel about the various aspects of a course. While this doesn't answer every question a student might have about a course, the AUSU Course Evaluations provide some student feedback not otherwise available.

One element missing from the AUSU Course Evaluations is the ability to share specific information with other students. There is no method of explaining answers and no box for general comments. Students who formerly used the now-defunct AUSU Forums will also miss the ability to contact other students directly to ask questions about a course. However, students can still reach out to other students using the AU student [group page](#) on Facebook, for example.

If you've been putting off adding a course evaluation of your own, now is a great time to get started. Filling out an AUSU Course Evaluation is one of the tasks you can complete to earn an entry into AUSU's [#igo2AU contest](#). The contest closes November 30, 2016, and one lucky winner will receive a free AU undergraduate course.

The AUSU Course Evaluations are a great way for students to give—and get—anonymous feedback on courses. And, unlike AU's Course Satisfaction Survey, AUSU's Course Evaluations can be completed any time—even months after you finish a course. Check them out today on ausu.org under Services.

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



10 Dumb Things Every Student Should Boldly Embrace

Wanda Waterman



Now that you're in university you're expected to lay aside childish things, to take life a little more seriously, and to apply yourself to the pursuit of higher knowledge. The problem is that every so often all the *seriousness* weighs so heavily it clogs your neural pathways.

If you don't consciously inject a little stupidity into your life from time to time you may eventually find yourself dressing like a beat poet and haunting back alleys in search of Godot. Or you might just chuck it all and go back home to spend the next two years in your underwear playing video games and watching *Jackass* reruns.

Be warned— the danger is real. But prevention is simple: regular temporary escapes into the mindless, the silly, the gauche, and the campy.

So let's get started.

1. **Television.** You've heard enough about how the idiot box saps initiative and creativity, turning your mind to applesauce and your body to rice pudding. And you know that television allows covert manipulation-bots to enter your brain and force you to do the bidding of government and big business. But television feeds your brain when it's too tired to feed itself, and this mental fast food diverts you from the gravity of your educational goals, granting you the respite needed to dive fearlessly back into Neurology 101. So, find yourself a silly sitcom and enjoy it without shame. If the urge to change your deodorant brand overtakes you, it's a small price to pay.
2. **Comic books.** True, graphic novels have now entered the libraries of the intelligentsia, but this in no way erases their humble roots. Lest we forget, authorities railed against comic books for years, insisting that they would impede literacy and lead youth into lives of crime. Who cares? Comic books are fun to read; they remind us of the carefree days of childhood, and they're designed to hold our interest. It's the perfect escape.
3. **Bad grammar.** Today's bad grammar is the dialogue of tomorrow's literary classic. There's a time and a place for "isn't" and a time and a place for "ain't." When you need to relax, throw the Queen's English under the bus and talk just like the folks back home. Mark Twain would certainly approve.

4. **Pop music.** Okay, yes, most of it is unbelievably boring and derivative, which is why most of you prefer alternative, jazz, classical and avant garde music, but there are times when that bubble-gum broken heart ballad or that rock victory anthem says exactly what you need to hear to get you up and swinging again. Ditto for commercial country music.
5. **Fake cologne.** Sure, some of it carries that mysterious whiff of dog urine, but you can still find scents that surpass the beauty and staying power of those produced by the top *haute couture* houses, and you, dear student, have hardly any disposable income. *In your face, Coco Chanel— I've got Avec Amour, the Chinese version of With Love by Paris Hilton. I paid three bucks for it at Dollarama. It smells divine, and it lasts.* If you live with snooty roommates, just hide the bottle.
6. **Velvet paintings.** There's a reason why these won't go away. There's just something so evocative about that questionable subject matter surrounded by inky blackness. Search the local flea markets for the dogs playing poker painting and put it up over your desk. Every time you start taking your academic struggle too seriously, just look at the painting, have a little chuckle, shake your head, and remember that at least you're better than *that*.
7. **Weird food.** Defining this is highly personal. It might be baba ghanoush dip, pickled pig's feet, or peanut butter and onion sandwiches, but eating weird food wins you rebel points, double for every time someone watching says, "Ew!"
8. **Muzak.** Stop hating it. It can make your summer job at Zeller's or your weekend burger-flipping job seem slightly less hellish. Let it carry you away to a land of gumdrop trees and cotton candy clouds. You need that sometimes.
9. **Belly laughs.** Yes, they're usually about dumb things— a thwarting of expectations, a telling-it-like-it-is, a shocking impropriety. However they come, they're always an escape from an oppressive reality. The next time you want to laugh, cut loose and don't worry about looking like a buddha and sounding like Laughy Smurf.
10. **Farts.** I don't care what you say, farts are hilarious. How dull life would be without that bass clarinet *blat* breaking all the rules of social order. Surely you've been in a situation wherein someone farts unexpectedly, provoking hysterical laughter that in turn provokes more farts and more laughter, and then someone snorts and everyone loses it, which provokes more farts until everyone's exhausted. School, summer camp, elevators, you name it, farts have an undeniable right of way. Why? Because they're so forbidden, so nasty, so embarrassing, and yet so harmless.

Yes, when you begin to feel overwhelmed by intelligent pursuits it's time to raise the fool flag and indulge for a short season in those things you're embarrassed to admit you love. Dumb things can provide a needed escape from smart things. They can relieve us of the burden of always having to be capable, competent, classy, serious, and worthy.

So set aside your dignity from time to time and indulge in things that are pooh-poohed, snorted at, and disdained by highbrows. Dumb things don't judge you and condescend. They throw the door open and say, "Do what you want— you're just fine the way you are!" Have fun.

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

The Creative Spark

Bookended by Butterflies

Marie Well



Do you go crazy when drafting papers? Worse yet, does zilch about your essay's structure stand-out as special?

All my life, my intros and conclusions fizzled. And my paper structures? Complex yet homely. Downright homely.

That is, until now. You see, I discovered tricks for structuring essays. Tricks that trigger critical thinking. But beware: critical thinking starts when you stretch—not snap—the rules; snap the rules and you'll get splattered by stink bombs.

So, why stretch the rules? We like to play. And we like A's. So, play with patterns: wild and bold patterns add easy complexity and head-scratching creativity.

To stir up some pattern fun, add a hot-button question (that you answer). A wild structure. A flashback. A bookend. Yes,

The Creative Spark! loves making movie-like essays.

And Jane K. Cleland wrote *Mastering Suspense, Structure, & Plot*. We're going to steal, I mean synthesize, her structure tricks.

Set-up a narrative question, answered by the end of your story. Zoom into a research question at the start of your paper. The research question must tie nicely into your thesis—and stir suspense. Your paper will dish out the answer, argument by argument.

Fire Chekov's gun. What's Chekov's gun? Well, Chekov said, "If you say in the first chapter that there is a rifle hanging on the wall, in the second or third chapter it absolutely must go off. If it's not going to be fired, it shouldn't be hanging there" (Chekov, as cited in Cleland, p. 15). In other words, if something in your paper doesn't serve your thesis, delete.

Structures are linear or nonlinear. Linear structures for stories and essays are mostly chronological. Nonlinear structures in essays can be ordered by theme, by significance, or by rising tension.

You can even order by thrills. Comedy books (Joe Toplyn's) has structures for top ten lists with the second funniest joke at the start, the funniest joke at the end, and the least funniest slipped in near the beginning or middle. In your paper, put your second-best argument first and your best argument last; slip in-between the stuff that sucks. Better yet, cut the junk.

In a chronological paper, you can even have categories further structure your thesis. For Donald Trump, you could have towers, the media, and politics as your three chronological categories.

Structures can also be wild things, which I will soon reveal. Make your wild structures enticing—like implied love scenes at the flicks.

Inject a fast-forward at the start. At the start of your essay, introduce a flash-forward that shows how the essay will end, but omit the whodunit. Yes, omit some key part to stir the readers' suspense.

Flash the flashbacks. To give backstory in your essay, flash the flashback. But, end your prior paragraph with a reference to the flashback before launching into it.

Let loose the wild things. One pattern for structuring your essay is crazy: a quilt, says Cleland. Yes, you can take the time you stitched a quilt and discuss events that happened during the addition of each quilt square. Wild? Yes, so tiptoe with the wild things: use them only when they mesh with your thesis. Many wild ideas lurk in your imagination: lure, but don't force, them.

So much for the wild, implied love scene at the flick. Granny stitching a quilt is the PG version.

Bookend your stories. Start and end your essay with the same theme or idea, called a motif. I start and end this piece with the same theme: how you feel when you write an essay. Do you go bananas? Or do you get butterflies? You could start with Peter the Great playing the drums and end with mention of his own funeral's music—especially one on a thesis of Peter the Great's love of the arts. Anchor the motif to your thesis. Bookend it.

So, when you draft your piece, don't go bananas; get butterflies: butterflies with wild patterns. A motif? I say, a Creative Spark!

References

Cleland, Jane K., *Mastering Suspense, Structure, & Plot*. Writer's Digest Books. 2016



Music Nostalgia Ain't What It Used To Be

Carla Knipe



My husband turned to me one evening and said, "Do you know that some of our favourite albums turn 25 years old this year?" "Oh yeah? Name them," I replied. He proceeded to rattle off a list straight from our iTunes playlist. Tori Amos, *Little Earthquakes*. Pearl Jam, *Ten*. REM, *Out of Time*. Nirvana, *Nevermind*. U2, *Achtung Baby*. My husband then informed me that 2016 also marks the 30th anniversary of even more iconic albums. Peter Gabriel *So*. Paul Simon, *Graceland*. Pet Shop Boys, *Please*. Genesis, *Invisible Touch*.

I was fascinated by these facts but I also instantly just felt really old and kind of depressed. In that

moment I understood what the flower children of the 1960s went through during the 1980s, when their youth became relegated to department store background music and was labelled "retro" or "classic." Now it was Generation X's turn to go through the same thing. But this time, there would be no version of *The Big Chill* that would both celebrate and lament this milestone.

This got me reflecting on the current state of music. People—of whatever generation they were raised in—are likely to experience a moment where they swear that current music has reached a terminal state of decline and it just can't compare to the music they grew up with. I'm not sure about that, but as a parent I experience the changing climate of music through the musical tastes of my tweenaged son.

Before parenthood, I vowed I would never criticize my kid's fashion/music/pop culture in the way that my own parents did. I swore that I would never, ever restrict my offspring's self-expression because I remember their arguments, that I was wasting my time in front of the stereo or television and there were chores to do. But, in reality, my previous idealism hasn't quite matched my actual practice. My son listens to goodness-knows-what, found via YouTube and played at high volume. Sometimes, it is video game music and other times it is a song that his peers are talking about. I find myself saying to him what my parents shouted at me: "Turn it off, it's complete rubbish...and go do your homework."

But the key difference with today's youth is that, for the first time, they are Generation Wired. They have never known life without the internet and they have an amazing array of technological devices—and the apps that go with them—at their disposal. Technology will shape their personality and worldview in a way that no other generation can imagine. What effect that this relationship with technology will have on the future of pop culture is almost impossible

I honestly can't make any predictions. Trying to pin down statistics to find out the exact current state of modern music is difficult, because they vary widely between markets, regions and genres and even vary so much from year to year. But pop culture is changing. From my own experience, speaking as a "child of the 80s" who grew up in the pre-Internet days, I think the pre-Internet teenagers had to work harder for our musical identity. Music came to us through the Top 40 charts, by rifling through the stacks of albums (either on just vinyl or cassette at first, then on compact disc) at the record store, or through watching television shows like CBC's *Video Hits* after school or the American-based *Friday Night Videos*. If we were lucky to live near a major city, we could see our favourite bands or we could afford to take a gamble to see up and coming artists for a reasonable price. Because we had to actively seek out our music, it really was a soundtrack for our lives and we could pinpoint when and why a particular song or an album affected us the way it did and why it still affects us today.

Because of technology, access to music is now much easier. Where once there were boom boxes, now there are iPhones. YouTube and Vevo are the watch-anywhere platforms of choice for music videos while the video channels, MuchMusic and MTV, tied to the television set, have lost their allure. Discussion about music has been taken away from the pages of *Rolling Stone* and transferred to blogs and chat on social media. Where exposure to music was once limited to listening to local and national radio, listeners have a whole world's worth of stations and genres to explore thanks to online streaming. Artists now have many more ways to promote themselves beyond relying on concerts or the music video or the radio interview. The weekly music chart shows are no longer an event listened to by millions and people are now just vaguely aware of a song's chart status. Record shops are closing and traditional album sales are dying.

However, despite this shift, the same challenges that existed before the internet still exist. Despite the world of pop culture being opened, musical artists still face the same struggles to become known and establish a fan base. There are still artists who are household names and dominate the industry, and at the other end there are still independent artists who are waiting for their first big break.

But, overall, I get the impression that despite the difficulties that the music industry is facing, to paraphrase Mark Twain, the reports of music's death are greatly exaggerated. It has a huge part to play in the lives of both the current generation of teenagers and "older" people like me. I observe my son and love how he doesn't feel he must be limited to what is considered cool. I'm glad that he feels free to explore what he is interested in, and not what someone just tells him to based on what is most popular at the moment. Our family's iTunes playlist, gleaned from years of collecting physical CDs as well as purchasing digital albums for download, is exposing him to all sorts of genres from classical to ambient and rock. I also try to listen to his opinions of what he and his peers are listening to because having that dialogue and an open mind is important.

As my son gets older, I know there is bound to be conflict in our differing musical tastes. But if music is what a person values and enjoys, no matter the genre or technology, it takes effort to cultivate that appreciation. Music will still take effort to seek out what is interesting and worth listening to. Music will always be around us and be a soundtrack to our lives if we let it. It will just, more than likely, be so in a different way than what we grew up with.

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.

Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

Scholarship name: The Dalton Camp Award

Sponsored by: Friends of Canadian Broadcasting

Deadline: December 1, 2016

Potential payout: \$10,000, with a second award of \$2500 limited to post-secondary students

What's required: A 2000-word essay on the link between democracy and the media in Canada. "Essays should be creative, engaging and provocative and be written in a dynamic, compelling style." Full rules [here](#).

Tips: Read the [Q & A](#) page for insight from previous winners, as well as the previous [winning essays](#).

Where to get info: www.friends.ca/DCA





Council Connection

October 13, 2016 Meeting

Karl Low

The first meeting for the newly elected Councillors was held October 13th, but aside from that, the meeting was fairly routine. As the meeting started, however, the new councillors were not quite part of the official group, as it first needed to go over old business, and then administer the oath of office.

Agenda, and minutes from the two meetings held (the regular AUSU council meeting in September and the special one held to accept the results of the election in October) were both quickly accepted, and a review of the action items noted that they were all essentially complete as the new councillors joined the group. A new point was added to make sure that the new Councillors take the governance training that AUSU provides to the Councillors.

The old council then moved on to ratify an email motion that had been passed between the two meetings. This motion was to approve the award of one additional student service award (worth \$1000) for this award cycle to honor the contribution of outgoing president Peter MacKinnon.

With that, the old business was complete, and the oath of office was administered, in its usual chaotic fashion, where Councillors all recite the oath at the same time, well, more or less. Getting several people in sync over a teleconference isn't easy, and the results are usually good for a brief laugh.

Committee seats were then filled, with new councillor Robin Bleich taking seats on both the awards and the finance committee, and new councillor Amanda Lipinski taking a seat on the awards committee.

Council also passed a large motion to continue to pay former VP External, Brandon Simmons, \$200 per month for him continuing to be AUSU's representative on governing council, and doing the work that requires, until the Minister of Advanced Education passes an order appointing the new VP External, Julian Teterenko, in his place. This motion came as a surprise to Brandon, who said that whether it passed or not, he would continue to attend meetings and put in the time required to do so meaningfully, but that he certainly appreciated the gesture from AUSU. It was noted by President Shawna Wasylyshyn that AUSU has no provisions in policy for a non-executive councillor to be part of the Board of Governors, which is why the motion contained many "WHEREAS" clauses to ensure that the reasoning for this action was on record. This motion passed unanimously, and like all AUSU motions, will be able to be seen in full on the AUSU Minutes [page](#) after the next meeting.

The next item on the agenda was Shawna Wasylyshyn giving a brief review of AUSU's current report to the stakeholders about the retroactive changes being applied in the Faculty of Health Disciplines, which I talked about briefly in my editorial "[Changing the Program](#)"

Only two policies were changed at this meeting. The first was about dealing with absences on AUSU committees of non-council members. Since non-council members get a nominal fee for participating in AUSU committees, it was noted that there should be something in place to make sure they're actually providing some input and value to the committee, and something was needed in policy to address if that did not happen. The second change was to broaden the awards policy to ensure that people seeking emergency bursaries for supplementary exams were not disallowed due to their contract ending before the request for the supplementary exam could be submitted.

Finally, the reports to Council were presented, but no questions were raised about any of them by the Councillors.

With that, the October meeting adjourned.

Student Sizzle AU's Hot Social Media Topics

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



AthaU Facebook Group

Stephanie seeks tips for effective note-taking. Renée looks for advice on balancing two dissimilar courses. Djenana seeks students to participate in research on studying online with a disability.

Other posts include AU study resources, MAIS, motivation, and courses EDPY 470, GEOL 200, and PSYC 289 and 395.

Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "Meet the 2016 @au_press All Stars! These are the most downloaded books (& can be downloaded for free!): <http://ow.ly/lr3Y305AOMD>."

@AthabascaUSU (AUSU) tweets: "Are you connected to the campus community?? If not, download the free AU Student Mobile App, courtesy of AUSU! <http://bit.ly/1WNxQ7X>."

Youtube

Utilize your lingering Halloween sugar high to pit your wits against the Edmonton Eskimos in this Halloween-themed Athabasca University Trivia.

Women Of Interest

Harriet Brooks was born on July 2, 1876, in Exeter, Ontario, and she passed on April 17, 1933, in Montreal, Quebec. Brooks is credited with being Canada's first nuclear physicist and is a member of the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame. In 1901 she was the first woman to obtain a Master's Degree from McGill University in Montreal. Early in her career, Brooks worked briefly with two-time Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Marie Curie. In 1904 Brooks moved to New York City and obtained a position as tutor in the Physics Department, where she became engaged to another physicist. At that time, if women married, they were forced to resign their position. Because of this, Brooks broke off her engagement, but did marry at a later date and stayed home to raise her three children. Harriet Brooks's obituary, as recorded in the New York Times, credited her as the "Discoverer of the Recoil of a Radioactive Atom." Harriet Brooks, along with Marie Curie, were recognized as being leading women in the field of nuclear physics.

Addition information about Harriet Brooks may be found at the following websites:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harriet_Brooks

<http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/2011/03/women%E2%80%99s-day-profile-remembering-harriet-brooks-canada%E2%80%99s-first-woman-nuclear-physicist/>

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/brooks_harriet_16E.html

compiled by Barb Godin

Canadian Education News

Scott Jacobsen



"Stronger legislation" needed to protect kids from Christian home school

According to [CBC News: Edmonton](#), Wisdom Home Schooling, which teaches from grades 2 to 12, is "not registered with or accredited by the provincial government." Bari Miller, a recent graduate of the Christian home-schooling organization, stated the need for stronger legislation by government.

When Miller attempted to apply to the University of Alberta, she found the transcripts were not accepted. "To me, it was a meaningless, worthless piece of

paper," Miller said. This sparked questions about her instruction at home.

The instruction, including Biblical analysis, prompted Miller to say "I really didn't learn any science that would be acceptable to a lot of Canadian universities," she said, "I was told that evolution didn't happen, and just a lot of things that I think didn't prepare me for the real world or for university."

[Alberta Education recently [shut down the school](#).]

Christian Pastor refuses to comply with LGBTQ policies set by Alberta Education Minister

[The Barrhead Leader](#) opined that Alberta Education Minister, David Eggen, must not cross lines. Lines associated with the recent decisions by Eggen. Two lines linked to LGBTQ policies in schools and compliance with section 16.1 of the School Act.

The former line happened as Eggen told "schools and school boards that they must have policies" to provide protection for "students identifying themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ).

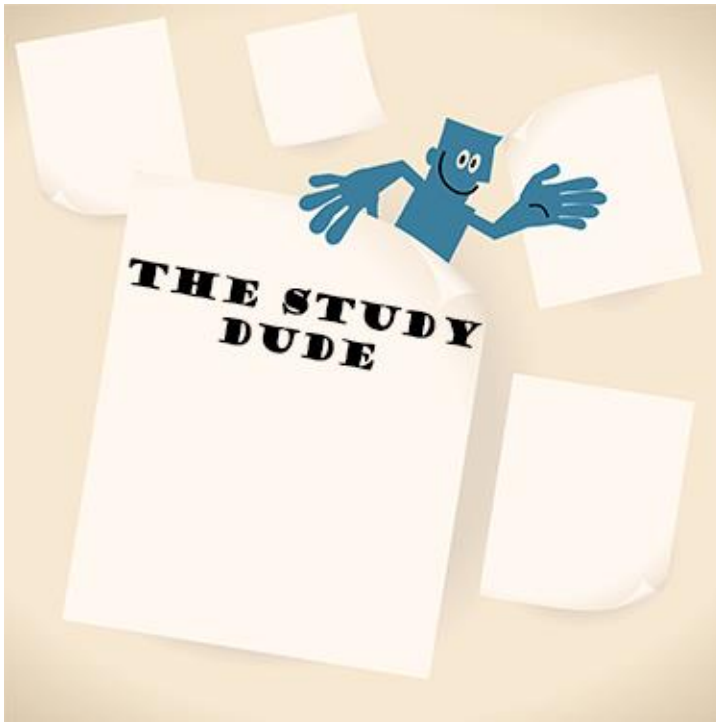
Pastor Brian Coldwell, Chair of the Independent Baptist Christian Education Society, did not comply with Eggen. The latter line was 'crossed' with an inquiry launched by Eggen into the Independent Baptist Christian Education Society based on responsibilities to comply under section 16.1 of the School Act.

University of Alberta Professor wants re-education for judges on "Alternative Sexualities"

In addition, [LifeSite](#) reports that a professor from the University of Alberta (U of A), Kris Wells, wants to have re-education for judges in diversity and about "alternative sexualities." This is based on a "custody battle that included two family court rulings," which prevented "a boy from wearing skirts in public."

Wells is from the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at U of A. He is counselling the mother of the five-year-old. The father is against it. Two of three judges support the dad and the third supports the mother and the boy. Wells advocates for anti-bullying policy within schools in Alberta.

"These kinds of decisions shouldn't be happening, particularly when our human rights legislation has changed," Wells said, "[Gender identity in Alberta is now grounds for discrimination along with religion, ethnicity, age, sex, etc]. Some of these attitudes need to be challenged and corrected."



Study Tips from a Semi-Anonymous Friend

What Bono Knows

There is nothing more that The Study Dude wants for you than to write survey questions U2's lead singer Bono understands.

Well, 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.

This week's Study Dude looks at the article by Alice Bloch (as cited in Seale) called *Doing Social Surveys*. Alice teaches how to gather data and how to word your surveys.

Wed the Data

Do you want to gather data for your research project? As a final year undergrad, you'll entertain a research methods course; as a grad student, you'll wed one.

Even better, do you want to make thousands of dollars on one survey? You can!

I worked for a market research company. A single survey would syphon tens of thousands of dollars out of government grips. And my boss? A salesman; he farmed out the heavy work.

To him, the know-how of proposal writing and PowerPoint seemed secondary to the "connections."

How did he gain his connections? Maybe through the greenbook: a directory of market research service providers. But I doubt it. The greenbook lists direct competitors and costly services. Perhaps their services fit in the budget of a scholarship-crazy PhD student. Not in my budget. Neither in my lavish boss's.

And my boss must have had a list of techies to create instant online surveys. Just a nod from him and a Web survey would pop up.

The process for my boss making a five-digit dollar survey? Seamless and behind the scenes.

But somebody did all the heavy-lifting: not me or my boss. We formed a leisurely office of two: he wining-and-dining; me bored at the desk.

Alice Bloch (as cited in Seale) fleshes out ways to gain survey data:

- Face-to-face interviews: These use either interview guides or questionnaires. Interview guides (the qualitative approach) have topics to discuss, but you don't need to follow the exact order of the guide's

topics. Questionnaires (the quantitative approach) have the exact same words and same order of questions for every respondent. Semi-structured interviews have a combination of both the qualitative and quantitative approach, although you need to code the qualitative parts into categories for statistical analysis.

- Self-completed questionnaire: These can be done through the Web, email, or mail. Make the questions as simple as you can. These questionnaires are cheap and can cover greater terrain than face-to-face interviews.
- Telephone interview: You can use computer-assisted telephone interviews. You enter the respondent's answers into the computer. These telephone interviews remove the bias that your physical presence has during face-to-face interviews. Telephone interviews can also include a larger geographical area of respondents than face-to-face.

A Double- or Single-Barrel? Yes or No?

When you see a survey question asking your household income, does your finger twitch at the \$100,000 plus a year choice? Mine does. Reminds me of buying a lotto ticket while dreaming of 7-11 chicken strips—with plum sauce of course.

As I ponder the high costs of bottled pop, I tend to bias my answer to the double-barreled question "Does Trudeau have nice hair and create economic growth?" The second quarter of contraction of negative 1.2% sums it up: it's a toupee.

And does Bono have the necessary knowledge to give geopolitical advice? You bet, on low tax hot spots.

Alice Bloch (as cited in Seale) exposes the secrets of correct survey word-choice:

- Write up short, quick, and clear survey questions.
- Pretest your surveys to catch any ambiguity or confusing wordings.
- Avoid double-barrelled questions that ask two questions in one: "Does Trudeau have nice hair and create economic growth?" Well, yes for the hair, no for economic growth. But, you've got only one choice: yes or no. A double-barrel.
- Avoid leading questions: "Do you think Bono, *given his lack of smarts*, has the necessary knowledge to give geopolitical advice?" Now that's biased.
- Avoid prestige bias: "Do you write A exams?" Well, of course I do. Cough.
- Clarify the frame of reference: "Are you good-looking?" Yes, my grandmother thinks so. Instead, clarify the frame of reference; ask, "How many hours a week do you exercise on average?" or "How many hours of grooming on average do you do each day?" or "How much do you spend on average on clothing and grooming per month?"

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

References

Alice Bloch. "Doing Social Surveys". In Clive Seale (Ed.). *Researching Society and Culture*. (2nd Edition). London: SAGE.

Biking and Climbing Fish

Deanna Roney



I was listening to a podcast by Sarah Werner about the things that we weren't taught in school, things like how to do our taxes, or the importance of and differences in healthcare. Many every day things that were missed to teach us what we needed to know to get through standardized testing.

It reminded me of a cartoon I have seen popping up for several years, something along the lines of a fish will think it is stupid if you judge it on how well it can ride a bike or climb a tree. Meaning that because you are not good at one thing does not mean you are stupid, it means your skill lies elsewhere. A friend of mine's son is exceptionally skilled at math and woodworking, his attention to detail is incredible, he already knows what he wants, and is actively working towards his career. But, grammar and words are not something he enjoys. I am the opposite, I love words, I love writing and reading and anything to do with crafting

a sentence or thought. But, give me math and I am reaching for my calculator (which, math teachers of my past, I *do* carry around in my pocket.)

For a well-rounded society we need people who excel at different things: the cabinet makers, the story tellers, the mechanics, and apothecaries. No one can do it all. Throughout school, though, we are all tested in the same manner, taught the same way, and given the same basics to function in society and understand our history (or the snippet of history that is in the textbooks). Beyond this we are given the skills to find more information—the skills to find our niche.

Schools, from elementaries to high-schools, trades schools to universities, give us the skills to find that one thing in life that we want more than anything else. The thing that we are good at. These educational institutes cannot give us all the answers. But, they can give us the confidence to strive on our own and learn the skills we desire ourselves. To find places where we can educate ourselves on the topics that mean the most to us. Be them trade-schools or creative writing retreats.

University gave me the skill to think critically and the confidence in my ability to do so. It gave me the skills to research an industry and find reputable websites. It taught me how to understand when something may be slander and when something could be fact. I was not taught how to find reputable agencies or what the warning signs were. But I was given the skills to figure it out for myself.

So, while you shouldn't judge a fish on its ability to ride a bike, or climb a tree, it shouldn't be discounted and never given the opportunity to see if perhaps that was what it was meant for. Education gives us skills to find our own path. That path may lead to academics, or it may lead far away from that world. No choice is better than the other as a whole, but, for the individual, there certainly is.

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

Music Review Rose Cora Perry

Samantha Stevens



Musician: Rose Cora Perry

Album: *Onto the Floor*

Ontario's own Rose Cora Perry is gearing up to launch her upcoming solo sophomore solo album *Onto the Floor*. Fans of Sheryl Crow and Alanis Morissette are sure to love her emotionally driven vocals and her laid back, no nonsense music.

Also working as a model, graphic/web designer, social media manager/publicist, and as a media personality who has hosted two programs on RogersTV, Rose has an impressive professional history. She began performing at the tender age of four, became a writer at seven, and at fifteen Rose became the CEO of Record Label & Publicity Firm.

Rose is also "the former frontwoman of major label signed act Anti-Hero", and has performed at many notable music festivals: Canadian Music Week, NorthbyNortheast, Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Regatta, Warped Tour, and MEANYFest NYC. Rose was even "invited to attend the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles as an honorary special guest artist" (<http://www.rosecoraperry.com/story/4591397623>).

Onto the Floor is the follow-up to Rose's debut solo album, *Off Of the Pages*. All the songwriting, music, lyrics, voices, and guitars on *Onto the Floor* were done by Rose. Joining her on piano, lead riffs, and bass is Ariel Kasler (with the exception of the track "Empty" in which Rose plays the bass), and on drums is Ted Peacock. The recording, editing, production, and mixing were done by Ryan McNevin of REM Productions in London, Ontario, and the mastering was completed by Roger Lian Mastering in New York City. All proceeds from *Onto the Floor* will go to MUSICSAVES, a non-for-profit organization founded by Rose "which aims to impart onto troubled youth the healing capacity of music" (<http://www.rosecoraperry.com/story/4591397623>).

Onto the Floor is set to release on November 21st, 2016. The album is full of intense vocals, relatable themes, and fantastic music.

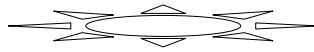
The album abruptly rumbles to life with the intro track "Love, Hate & Everything." The track is a toe-tapper and the lyrics are a brilliant invitation, an invitation to join Rose as she shares some of her best and worst life experiences through the medium of music.

"Away I Go" and "Six Feet Under" have a very folk rock feel to them, and the tracks, which are also the singles for the album and have videos now available, blend together very well. Then there is the third track "Empty" where Rose lets go a bit more. There is a distinct heavy rock feel to "Empty" and a robustness to the song that is amplified by the dominant bass guitar.

Each song on *Onto the Floor* is distinct and different, and the tracks can be listen to individually. However, there is also a cohesiveness to the tracks and the album also works as a whole, with each track flowing into the next, something that isn't often done anymore.

If you want to know more about Rose check out her [website](#) and be sure to get your copy of *Onto the Floor* on November 21st. Until then, you can catch her live at VegFest and 70s Revolution, both in London, Ontario on November 12, and on November 19 at Fort Erie for Sessions on the River: Live Streaming Concert & Showcase.

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>



Cause and Effect

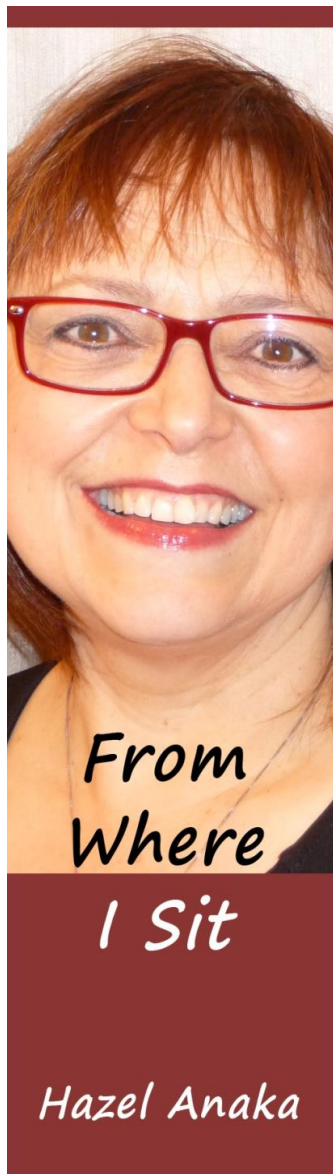
We all know about the principle of cause and effect. Do this and that will result. Read on for a recent real world example from my life.

Monday evening, I read the Edmonton Journal and saw Liane Faulder's nearly full-page interview with Neil Pasricha. He is the New York Times best selling author of *The Book of Awesome* and its sequels and spin-offs. The interview appears as a teaser for his talk the next evening as the headliner of LitFest, Edmonton's Non-Fiction Festival. It also plugs his latest book, *The Happiness Equation*.

I text Hilary wondering if she has a connection to free tickets. She doesn't. But she'd be happy to go with me. I say buy tickets. Since I was already going to be in the city for other appointments, it would be no problem staying a bit longer and possibly spending the night if the weather deteriorates.

We barely have time to gobble down takeout Chopped Leaf salads before we head downtown for the talk at the Winspear. We get an awesome parking spot in the library parkade, cut through the Citadel, and we're there. Take our main floor aisle seats and chat it up with the couple next to us.

Neil Pasricha, who has done TedTalks and spoken around the world is good. He has the right mix of humour, useable content, self-deprecation, storytelling, and timing— bada bing. We are awed by the story of his incredible success. But, we're quickly disabused of the idea that success and happiness are the same thing. This disconnect in his life led him to review 300 studies of happiness. This book, the result of that research, was also a gift to his then unborn son. He spoke for an hour, then took questions from the audience. Hilary, bless her soul took notes on her phone and captured a lot of the meat.



The applause was still dying down as we peeled out of there and headed to the lobby. I held a spot in the autograph seekers line while Hilary tore over to the book buying line. This was a strategy she learned at a David Sedaris event that didn't go as well. Volunteers wrote our name on a tiny sticky if we wanted an inscription.

Another volunteer made sure it was stuck on the title page. The same volunteer wondered if we had a phone cued up for a photo.

We were very close to the front of the line. I was surprised and miffed at how long each person was taking to get through. Don't these people know he's a busy guy? Our turn arrives. We hand over our books. He asks Hilary why she came. My mom told me about it. Why did I come, he asks me. The Journal story and the synchronicity with other things I'm focusing on in my life right now. I loved your talk, I say. Hilary just got me into podcasts and you mentioned podcasts, so which ones do you listen to? "Oh, which ones do you listen to?" he asks.

"Ahh, Soul Feed, Beautiful Writers, have Hay House but haven't listened yet."

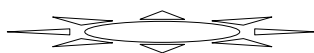
"I haven't heard of those; let me write it down," he says. "Here's the one I like, The Good Life Project," he says as he writes it down for me. Hilary says he reminds her of Jerry Seinfeld. He says it's not the first time he's heard that. "Why do you think so?"

"Your mannerisms, some of the expressions you use," she replies.

A real guy acting real. Not going through the motions; not just tolerating the very people who enable his success as an author and a speaker but engaging in a two-way conversation. Gotta say I'm impressed. And I can't wait to dive deep into this book. It's coming to my Canmore retreat.

To recap: see an intriguing call to action Monday night; find a willing, like-minded companion; expend time and money on Tuesday night; enjoy the gift and the memory of the event forever. Pure cause and effect, from where I sit.

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



From the PSE News Desk

What's making the news in Post-Secondary Education.

Free Tuition is Possible. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has published a report that calls for free post-secondary education in Canada. The report, "Time to Think BIG: The Case for Free Tuition", outlines why the CFS thinks post-secondary education should be free. Citing barriers to education experienced by those who can't afford it, and the sometimes crippling debt of those who can, the CFS's report points out the need for change, and how it can be achieved. The first step, challenges the report, is to expand the limits of conventional thinking. Appended to the report is an outline from Canadians for Tax Fairness, which proposes potential revenue-producing tax reforms that could go toward funding the estimated \$10.2 billion annual cost of providing free post-secondary education across the country. The report also notes the discrepancy between low-paying, temporary campus jobs with the "handsomely paid" executive wages, some of which are detailed, complete with appendices of university president employment contracts.





Dear
Barb

Barbara Godin

A New Stand-Off

Dear Barb:

I have been married for five years and my husband and I are very happy and get along well. But before we got married my husband was a lot more affectionate than now. For example, he always used to sit beside me on the sofa and now he sits in his own chair. Also at times he would massage my feet, now he will only do that if I ask him and I feel he is only doing this because I asked him. At times, I feel distant from him, but I am beginning to accept that this is the way our relationship will be. I have asked him numerous times if he is happy and he always says he is. He never asks me if I'm happy. The only time he sits with me on the sofa is if we have company and there is nowhere else for him to sit. To be honest we have gotten into such a habit of sitting apart that when he does sit with me if feels uncomfortable. I fear we are growing far apart physically and I'm not sure that this good thing for me, although he seems to be quite happy with the way things are. We have friends who are much more affectionate and they have been together longer than us. Should I just accept this and push my needs aside? I am at a loss for what to do? Gina.

Hi Gina:

Thanks for your excellent letter. Judging by some of the research I've done many women feel as you do. On the whole men are not an affectionate group. There are many reasons why your husband may not be affectionate. He may simply have never learned it in his home while growing up; also he may have been in a relationship where his

advances were rejected by his partner. Men are very sensitive to rejection and he may fear being rejected again. If his parents weren't affectionate with each other he wouldn't have learned how to be affectionate and will not feel comfortable with affection. You say you are happy and get along well, so if this is the only issue in your relationship it is worth putting in the effort necessary to change the dynamics between you and your husband. Begin by discussing how you feel, but not in an accusatory manner, as this will just cause him to become defensive. Following your discussion he may attempt to be more affectionate for a while, but eventually he will revert to his comfort level. Don't follow his lead; continue to be affectionate with him, just a playful touch, maybe holding his hand, the occasional hug, will help him to feel comfortable with affection. If he doesn't respond right away, don't give up, be patient. Remember no relationship, or person is perfect. If you are happy and you get along with each other, that's a big part of a happy relationship.

Follow Barb on Twitter @BarbGod

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.

Dewey is true to his word. I react with my customary self-possession.



NOOOO! NO, NO, NO!

Why are you always asking me questions? Don't you know everything I know?



I know if you tell me. So let's talk about what's happening on earth.



I have a better idea: Why don't YOU tell ME about my last visit to earth? And don't cheat. Tell me what only I know. That way I'll know if you are what you say you are.

Then I get to work. Later in the evening . . .



You woke me.

You think I'm gonna let a closed holochamber keep me from therapy?



But how—?

I only know all you knew up to the day of your brain scan.



But you know all about that; it started happening before my brain scan.

I'd like to hear you articulate your viewpoint.

Then you DON'T know what's happening on earth. Or that I can now shoot holes in Dewey's firewall.



Fair enough. I'll start by talking about your stint in prison.

11

The Doppelgänger Cure, by Wanda Waterman

We have the choice of two identities: the external mask which seems to be real...and the hidden, inner person who seems to us to be nothing, but who can give himself eternally to the truth in whom he subsists. —Thomas Merton



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Year-Round Bursaries

Although the deadline for our November cycle awards has passed, we also have numerous bursaries that members in financial need can apply for year-round!

Computer Bursary - Do you need a new computer to do your AU studies, but can't afford one? The AUSU Computer Bursary provides students in need with brand new laptops worth up to \$800!

Emergency Bursary - Do you need a supplemental exam or course extension due to some unforeseen circumstances? AUSU's Emergency Bursary can pay the fees for these for students in financial need!

Health Care Bursary - Need a health plan but can't afford it? AUSU's Health Care Bursary can provide up to \$1000 towards a health care plan for students in need! Applicants must submit a quote or proof of enrollment for a health care plan to apply.

Travel Bursary - Need to travel for an AU course, conference, exam, practicum or lab, but don't have the funds? AUSU's Travel Bursary can pay for up to \$1000 worth of travel and accommodation costs!

Find out more or apply online [here](#).



AUSU
Year-Round
Bursaries

IMPORTANT DATES

- **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 13:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#) (tentative)
- **Dec 15:** January degree requirements deadline
- **Dec 25 – Jan 3:** Holiday Closure (AUSU and AU)

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Visit our website [here](#) to find out how to enter!

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

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www.voicemagazine.org

The Voice is published every Friday in HTML and PDF format.

Contact *The Voice* at voice@voicemagazine.org.

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