

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Vol 25 Issue 05 2017-02-03

### I've Decided to Plant Explosives

An Extreme Reaction to Events in Quebec

### News Flash:

A Little Known day Exposed!

### Job Scam Nearly Confounds Student

Don't Let it Happen to You!

*Plus:*

*Take a Chance*

*Romance Resistance*

*and much more!*



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***The Voice  
Magazine***

[www.voicemagazine.org](http://www.voicemagazine.org)

500 Energy Square  
10109 – 106 ST NW  
Edmonton AB  
T5J 3L7

800.788.9041 ext. 2905

Email  
[voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org)

**Publisher**

AU Students' Union

**Editor-In-Chief**

**Sarah Cornett**

**Managing Editor**

Karl Low

**Regular Contributors**

Hazel Anaka  
Barb Godin  
Scott Jacobsen  
Barbara Lehtiniemi  
Carla Knipe  
Deanna Roney  
Wanda Waterman

Views and articles presented  
here are those of the  
contributors and do not  
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  
subscription form [here](#).

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org), and please indicate if we may publish your letter.**

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

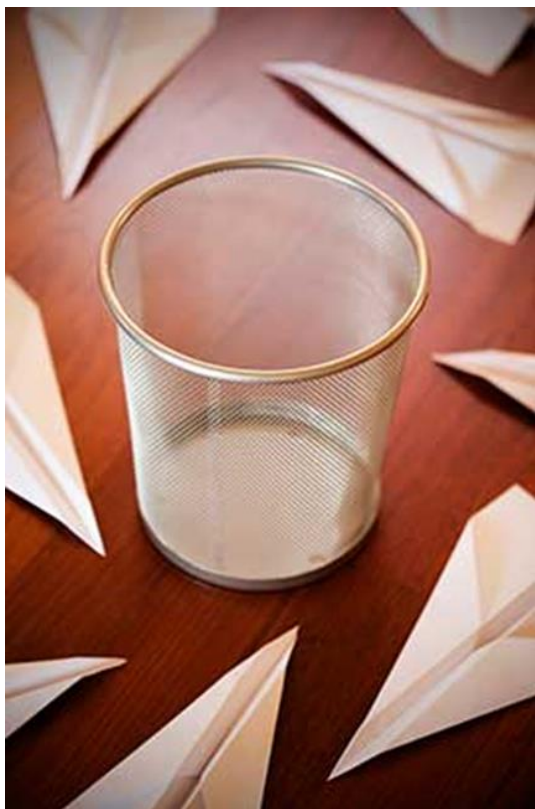
No kidding! We also do the [twitter](#) thing once in a while if you're into that.



## EDITORIAL

### Double Meanings

Karl Low



I'm doing something a little bit unusual this week. Normally, *The Voice Magazine* is all original content, and I'm proud of that. But we were running a little light on content this week and I happened to see a story published by a fellow member of the Canadian University Press that I think hits an issue that all students should keep at the back of their minds. So, reprinted from Quills, the student paper from Brandon University in Manitoba, is an article about a job scam that nearly caught a recent graduate. Let me know what you think. Especially if it scares you as much as it scared me.

In other news, I'm currently grappling with the decision of the Liberal party to abandon its promise of electoral reform. I've got strong views on the subject, the issue being the primary one that brought me over to voting for the Liberal Party in the last election despite their stance on bill C-51. To say I'm unhappy about this recent turn of events is understating the matter. However, it does bring to light, once again, how even though most of our modern society is based on words and agreements between people, how little those agreements really mean if the people involved change their minds.

There is no natural justice system that enforces truth. It can be argued that, when it comes to politics, there's no system at all. But our world works, primarily, on the idea that people will generally do what they say, generally not do what they say the will not, and that agreements rely on each party believing the other. To understand why this should frighten you, consider the idea of MAD, Mutually Assured Destruction. That which has helped to ensure that no side decides to fire nuclear weapons, because of how the other side has said it will do the same, and we all lose.

But those are just words. What happens if one side stops believing the other? What happens if Mr. Putin one day decides he has enough influence over Mr. Trump (whether he actually does or does not is unimportant) that Russia can safely turn to a nuclear option, say against the Ukraine or Syria, without risking a counter-attack? When you think about it, you realize it is only words and the belief in them that hold our existence in place. More important, it is the shared belief, the idea that we both have the same interpretation of those words, that ensures our safety.

This then leads to the idea of questioning the meaning that words have, and in that vein, we have a couple of great articles to make you think twice about what it is you're reading. Something that we call could probably do more of. Our feature article, for instance, "Planting Explosives in Quebec," by Wanda Waterman, had me worried about what kind of watch lists *The Voice Magazine* might be placed on. It still does, but for different reasons now. And with Barb Lehtiniemi's article, "News Flash", half the fun is realizing just how much of the article has a double meaning.

But then we look back down south, and, try as I have been to avoid it over the past week, Mr. Trump keeps pushing himself into my news feeds. His is an interesting case because it seems his words hold either no meaning at all, or are exactly what he said. And strangely, I find myself unsure if that's any better. It's something to think about at least. Enjoy the Read!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl', with a stylized, flowing script.

## I've Decided to Plant Explosives in Quebec

Wanda Waterman



January 30, 2017: Montreal vigil to commemorate the victims of the Quebec City mosque massacre. (Wanda Waterman photo)

This spring I'm going to be planting a small bundle of explosives near my home in Montreal, Quebec. I'll be burying them in the soil at Dante Park, where I often go to sit on a bench, drink a thermos of tea, and talk to my good buddy, the bust of Dante.

I've been a pacifist all my life. I've read just enough history to know that you can't make peace with a bomb. But I feel like I have to do this, like the balance of the world is way out of whack and I have to make this gesture to prove to myself that at the very least, I'm not a part of the cruel chaos we're drowning in.

I don't claim this to be a rational decision. But the time for reason is past and now we must act, like the Weather Underground and like

those theologians in Germany who tried to assassinate Hitler. We reach a point where we realise that all the dialogue and understanding in the world won't stanch this deadly tide so we must as well add our own two cents worth. Like seeds in a pod, we'll explode whether or not we choose to.

I guess what pushed me over the edge was seeing the photo of the children playing upstairs in the mosque in Quebec City just before the gunman, high on right wing propaganda, opened fire on their daddies, men prostrating themselves before their creator in prayer, bowing to the ground in a gesture of loving devotion to the God of Compassion and Mercy.

If this is where tolerance, patience, and open-mindedness get us, to hell with tolerance, patience, and open-mindedness. No more trying to see things from the haters' point of view. No more sympathizing with some overblown fiction about their marginalized status. They haven't suffered any more than anyone else, and even if they had it wouldn't entitle them to acts like this. They're just a bunch of stupid whiney babies and I refuse to listen to another word from them until they grow up.

I'm going to make a hole about five feet to the left of the Dante statue. It doesn't have to be very deep. I think it may be illegal to plant things like this in public parks but if it's legal for the media to lie and for a hate-inciting criminal to rule a country then hey, anything goes, right? Consider this an act of civil disobedience against a decadent system of law and order.

Right now it's too early to plant explosives because the ground is frozen, so I'm preparing my explosives indoors in tiny seed trays. I'm guessing that if I plant the seedlings in the park in April, Ramadan 2017 should see an explosion of violets there.

Violet seeds disperse by means of a sudden bursting of the seedpod; the seeds fly out, sometimes landing nearby, sometimes carried on the wind or on nearby sentient beings. The seeds spread out, find their place, and plant themselves, creating more violets, keeping weeds down, perfuming the air, and looking beautiful.

It's not likely anyone will see this while it's happening, but when they explode it will look something like this:



And when they bloom, like this.

Australians already have Violet Day, during which they commemorate the soldiers who died in World War I. Let's generalize that a little, shall we? Let's plant violets to commemorate those beloved men who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in Quebec City. Plant them inside, outside, on your own property, and yes, of course, in public spaces.

Let's create an explosion of violets across Canada. The time has come.

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

### From the PSE Newsdesk

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



**A Course in Bullshit.** If you think the world is awash in bullshit, this course is for you. Also, if you *don't* think the world is awash in bullshit, this course is for you. University of Washington instructors Carl T. Bergstrom and Jevin West will deliver a 1-credit course entitled "Calling Bullshit in the Age of Big Data" this spring. For those who can't attend in person, videotaped lectures will be posted online. The lectures will cover such topics as "The Natural Ecology of Bullshit", "Publication Bias", and "Fake News." According to the [Calling Bullshit syllabus](#), "We will be astonished if these skills do not turn out to be among the most useful and most broadly applicable of those that you acquire during the course of your college education." Indeed.



## Take A Chance

Deanna Roney



Sometimes you have to take a chance, an opportunity won't "fall in your lap", or appear before you. You create your own opportunities and chances. Just like there are no overnight successes there are no (or very few) chances falling from the sky with no work/effort to create them. When we attend university we are doing so with an end goal in mind, it might be a vague dream, or a more specific one. But there is a reason we choose to go to university, to spend the money, the time, and the hair we lose from stress. But graduating university isn't a dream-job-in-hand guarantee. How close you are to that dream job will

depend on the program you're in. It will depend on the dream itself. But, the work doesn't stop because you get your degree.

I have been working toward a career in publishing or being published. I have worked hard since I got that elusive piece of paper. But one difference is there is no definitive progress. When I worked on my degree, those days that it felt like it would never happen, all I had to do was log into DegreeWorks and see all the green ticked boxes, or the blue ~ ones to see how far I had come. I could see the progress and the end. But now? It isn't so clear, and I kind of miss that about university.

I work as hard now, or harder, than when I was attending university. I log hours and hours at my desk, with my tablet in front of me, or reading through books. I research tirelessly, I write and revise, I attend events, talks, and webinars. I applied for remote internships but the competition for these is fierce. There are some internships that require experience in the industry.

I took a chance when I emailed Karl and asked questions about writing for the magazine. He gave me an opportunity (and thankfully feedback because that first article was terrible). I took his advice and I wrote an article that he published, and I continued to write, every week, until he got used to seeing my work come in and offered me a weekly spot. It took several weeks of submitting articles every week before that was offered, and I was thrilled. But it took work.

While attending a talk a few weeks ago, I took a chance to mention my eagerness for the publishing industry and that I was seeking a remote internship. This led to an opportunity to prove myself, and, eventually, I got the internship. I am beyond thrilled to be starting down this path. I anticipate it will be a lot of work but this chance will open so many doors for me.

These chances didn't come because I wished for them. I worked hard to create that chance, I spent the time attending talks, refining my writing, learning my voice, and gaining the confidence to leap on these chances as they appeared. It would have been easy to give up when my first article tanked, or to stay the shy person I am and not mention my interest in a position. It would be easy to send applications semi-anonymously, but these

are not what presented the opportunities. It was showing my willingness to learn, my eagerness to be a part of an industry, and working for that dream.

If there is something you have been considering, something you have been wanting to do, go for it: apply for the position, take that extra course, stick your neck out for your dream. The worst thing that will happen is you get a "no," but when you get that no (and inevitably you will), learn from it, apply what you learn the next time, and each time you will be a step closer to realizing what you want: achieving a piece of that dream you have been working for.

Anything seems possible if you are persistent enough. It might take longer than you want to see something come from the efforts but, if you stick it out, it will eventually come. Don't lose sight of what drives you, of why you started this path, because that will be what keeps you going when it seems impossible.

*Deanna is an AU graduate who loves adventure in life and literature. Follow her path on the writing journey at <https://deannaroney.wordpress.com/>*

## Scholarship of the Week

**Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.**

**Scholarship name:** AU First in Family to Attend University Award

**Sponsored by:** Athabasca University

**Deadline:** February 15, 2017

**Potential payout:** \$1000

**Eligibility restriction:** Applicants must not have grandparents, parents nor siblings who have earned a post-secondary degree, diploma, or certificate, must have completed a minimum 9 AU program credits, and have a GPA of at least 3.0. See [application form](#) for full eligibility requirements.

**What's required:** A completed application form, which includes a maximum 300-word essay describing the educational achievements of your family and what impact a university education will have on you.

**Tips:** Read the conditions of eligibility and follow the application instructions carefully.

**Where to get info:** [registrar.athabascau.ca/studentawards/undergraduate.php#68](http://registrar.athabascau.ca/studentawards/undergraduate.php#68)





## The Fit Student

### A Moment of Silence

Marie Well



What do *your* workplace conditions look like?

I survived my first month of work after overcoming years of daily panic attacks. At first, I felt strong in the workplace. But, now, I feel frazzled. I work in a high-stress, scatterbrained environment. My boss's negative personality trait is "uncooperative"; mine is "oversensitive"—not the best fit. Some days I love work. Other days I spray swimming pools of tears. Sound familiar?

The boss often says, "If you don't do it, I'll fire you" and then, after a moment of silence, heaves laughter. We join in on the laughter, only to later whisper around the water cooler. Over half the office is as new as I am. None of us newbies know why.

But, oddly enough, I haven't felt workplace anxiety. The rushes of the office bustle give me euphoric highs—so high that I forget to use cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), otherwise known as self-talk. Strangely, I love chaos.

But deep down, I know I'm skydiving to a nervous breakdown. I work nine hour days for the lowest pay possible in a highly-disorganized environment with a micromanager boss. So, during lunch hours, I read CBT At Work for Dummies by Gill Garratt.

At last—Garratt teaches the formula for CBT in bold font below. I add in a school case study to help cement your learning.

**Step 1: Rationalize your thoughts.** If your teaching assistant (TA) acts like a tyrant boss, know that the situation is only temporary. Rationalize your way to calmness.

**Step 2: Accept that you feel bad, sad, angry, or anxious.** One TA had a reputation for throwing temper tantrums, and his tantrums flared anxiety within me. Have you ever tried computer programming while stricken with anxiety? It doesn't work.

Had I had CBT, I could have accepted that I was feeling anxiety or anger or frustration.

**Step 3: Label your feelings.** Are you feeling helpless? Frightened? Doomed? These emotions describe some of the feelings I felt with the TA. Name your feelings.

Whenever you come across a word for an emotion, make a mental note and jot it down later. By making lists of words for emotions, you'll better label your feelings.

**Step 4: Know that your thoughts are triggering your feelings.**

My thoughts with the TA included, "He will give me a poor grade even with top-notch work," and, "His temper tantrums will trigger daily anxiety within me," and, "If I get a poor grade, I will see myself as unsuited for computer programming."

When you know the thoughts behind your feelings, you can begin to change your thinking patterns.

**Step 5: Know that events are triggering your thoughts.** I got assigned to the TA, contacted him, and hadn't heard a peep for almost three weeks. So, I emailed administration. The TA wrote a furious letter about how I wrongly told administration that he hadn't replied in three weeks. It was about two-and-a-half weeks, but I had rounded to three. He became an instant enemy.

Also, in the course forum, the TA wrote furious replies to a disabled student's request for help. I wrote a note of encouragement to the student. Thus, I made a friend, but not with the TA. These events triggered the anxiety I felt with the TA. Know the events that stir worrisome thoughts.

**Step 6: Know that your thoughts are causing your feelings.** Now that you know the events, consider your triggered thoughts. My thoughts included "he'll give me a poor grade." Such a thought would cause anyone stress.

**Step 7: Let go of "should," "ought," and "must" thoughts.** The subtext of my thoughts? I *must* get a good grade. But, nothing says I must or ought to get a good grade—even with great work. Life isn't fair. Accept this.

**Step 8: Change your thoughts.** Acceptance is the key. If the TA lowers my GPA, the world won't end. And if his temper stirs anxiety, I wouldn't like it, but that's life. Accept this.

And if the boss howls at the thought of firing you, know that you have choices. You can choose to stay or choose to go. You can choose to accept that people aren't perfect. You can choose to accept that you aren't perfect. And the CBT list of calming thoughts goes on.



## AU-thentic Events

### Upcoming AU Related Events

**Business Undergraduate Information Session**

Monday, February 6, 5:00 to 6:00 pm MST

Online

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business

[business.athabascau.ca/event-details/business-undergraduate-information-session/](http://business.athabascau.ca/event-details/business-undergraduate-information-session/)  
register online at the above address

**AU Leadership and Management Development (LMD) Information Session**

Tuesday, February 7, 10:00 to 11:00 am MST

Online

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business

[business.athabascau.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-leadership-management-development-lmd-information-session-4/](http://business.athabascau.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-leadership-management-development-lmd-information-session-4/)  
register online at the above address

**AU Manufacturing Management (MMC) Information Session**

Tuesday, February 7, 5:00 to 6:00 pm MST

Online

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business

[business.athabascau.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-manufacturing-management-mmc-information-session-4/](http://business.athabascau.ca/event-details/athabasca-university-manufacturing-management-mmc-information-session-4/)  
register online at the above address

**BComm/CPA Information Session**

Wednesday, February 8, 5:00 to 6:30 pm MST

Online

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Business

[business.athabascau.ca/event-details/bcomm-cpa-information-session-4/](http://business.athabascau.ca/event-details/bcomm-cpa-information-session-4/)  
register online at the above address

**Dissemination of your Research Findings**

Wednesday, February 8, 6:00 to 7:00pm MST

Online, Adobe Connect

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Graduate Studies

[fgs.athabascau.ca/news/presentations/](http://fgs.athabascau.ca/news/presentations/)  
e-mail [fgseducation@athabascau.ca](mailto:fgseducation@athabascau.ca) to register

## News Flash: It's Time to get Naked

Barbara Lehtiniemi



It's time to turn off the web cam, turn up the heat, and take it all off! You almost missed it, but February 3 is the eighth annual "Working Naked Day."

The first Friday in February is the designated day to strip away encumbrances and celebrate the unconcealed freedom that accompanies working—or studying—from home.

Working Naked Day is the brain child of Lisa Kanarek, a home-office expert and author of *Working Naked: A Guide to the Bare Essentials of Home Office Life*. According to her website,

naturally at <http://workingnaked.com>, Kanarek has been working from home for over 20 years "commute-free, boss-free, and annoying co-worker-free" and is now a work-from-home guru.

Although the concept of Working Naked Day is—dare I say it—tongue in cheek, Kanarek founded this essential day to expose the unadorned pleasures of working from home. It's not just about wearing—or not wearing—what you want, according to Kanarek. It's about finding your own motivation, being resourceful, and celebrating your own successes.

Since AU's unofficial motto is "Study Naked!", AU students are plainly well-positioned to embrace the unfettered freedom of Working Naked Day. As Kanarek writes in her blog post for 2016's Working Naked Day, "it's all about celebrating the freedom you have to work from home." We get that! AU students are all about freedom and flexibility (and not just in our wardrobe choices.)

As an AU student, I can relate to the freedom of working—and studying—from home and the advantage of wearing what I want. I spend most days in comfy casuals: yoga pants in winter, shorts in summer, and slippers all year long. My commute is a seconds-long shuffle from the kitchen during which I spill not a drop of coffee. I haven't yet tried the nude option, but I revel in the freedom of knowing that I could.

On the eve of the eighth annual Working Naked Day, I asked Lisa Kanarek whether the attention surrounding the day still serves its original purpose. "It serves as a way to bring awareness to the advantages of working from home: the freedom to work when you want, where you want, and wear (or not wear) whatever you want," replied Kanarek. "The term 'Working Naked' has a dual meaning," Kanarek explains. "The first is working on your own, without the support of a corporate workplace. The other is working in your birthday suit. We focus more on the former."

Shivering Canadian students might think cruel February an odd choice for Working Naked Day. However, in Dallas, Texas, where founder Kanarek lives and works, today's forecast was for a refreshing 21° Celsius. For the rest of us, pyjamas might be the safer option. But today at least, the choice is yours.

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



## Canadian Education News

**Scott Jacobsen**



### Canadian Christians are behind in education

According to The Catholic Register, the Canadian Christian population "is less educated than Canadian Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and even those who have no religious affiliation." This is based on reportage from the Pew Research Center.

The Pew Research Center, based in the United States, conducted a global study of the education level among various religious groups. Based on the analysis, Canadian Christians average 12.7 years of and Canadian Jews average 14.3.

David Seljak, St. Jerome's and Waterloo University sociologist of religion, reports that age and immigration suffice to explain the differences. "Immigrants tend to be better educated than the Canadian average since the point system filters out the under-educated," Seljak said.

### Canada makes call to international students

The New York Times says that Canada is making an open call to international students with a path to citizenship. One young Chinese woman, Fei Jie, at the College of the North Atlantic said, "The environment here is really good, so I think for my health I will stay," said Fei Jie, from China's eastern Shandong Province.

There are tens and hundreds of thousand of international students within Canada that remain a crucial element in the governmental plans to change the landscape of Canadian demographics "by funneling well-educated, skilled workers through the university system."

That is, it is a conscious federal strategy to incorporate international, highly educated, and skilled workers. It is necessary, too. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada reports that immigrants comprise 75% of the annual net growth for Canada. It could account for 100% in a decade.

### A university graduate program would enhance Canadian competitiveness

University Affairs reported that Brenda Brouwer, President of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, said, "In Canada, labour outcomes for earned doctorates have remained steady over the past 15 years."

Canada is behind other Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) countries in the keeping pace with the need for the development of the PhD population. That's an issue in the modern knowledge economy.

One inhibitory mechanism in the ability of students to be able to train is the higher cost of education. Student debt is high and it is difficult for students to pay back their debt and to pay the credit interest rates. It has been suggested that this could be alleviated if postgraduate student debt was restructured under the same type of terms as mortgage debt.

"If that same individual was in the workforce and applied for a mortgage to buy a house," University Affairs said, "she or he would have up to 25 years to repay the debt and would be charged current mortgage rates."

## Student Sizzle AU's Hot Social Media Topics

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



### AthaU Facebook Group

New student Brittany wants to know where to find her instructor's name. Amanda seeks input on the material differences of undergrad vs grad courses. Jeffi inquires when the 2016 T2202A forms will be ready. Komal is curious how quickly others have finished their programs.

Other posts include student interviews, AUSU, AU's Writer-in-Residence, exam fees, Proctor U, and courses MATH 215, MGSC 368, and PSYC 355.

### Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "A message from President Neil Fassina on AU's commitment to a culture of inclusiveness, respect, & diversity: <http://ow.ly/DJS2308zEb6>."

@AthabascaUBiz tweets: "Stay connected! Subscribe to our monthly newsletter for the latest #AthaUBiz news <http://business.athabascau.ca/subscribe/>."

@AthabascaUSU (AUSU) tweets: "Canadian nursing students calling for changes to entry-to-practice exam via @CBCNews @CNSA1 <http://bit.ly/2kdKnJW> #cndpse."

## Women of Interest

**Viola Irene Desmond** was born July 6, 1914, in Halifax Nova Scotia and died February 7, 1965, in New York City, New York. Viola Desmond will be the first Canadian woman to be featured on a 10 dollar bill, beginning in 2018. In 1946 in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Desmond refused to leave the main floor of a whites only film theatre. She was informed that it was against policy to allow blacks to occupy a seat on the main floor. Still Desmond refused to move to the balcony which was reserved for blacks. As a result, she was forcibly removed, arrested, and detained in jail overnight. She ultimately was charged with tax evasion for not paying the one cent tax charge for the more expensive seat on the main floor and fined \$20. Upon returning to Halifax, Desmond decided to fight the charge and was assisted by NSAACP to hire a lawyer. The lawyer was unsuccessful in filing a lawsuit against the theatre. In subsequent trials the government claimed it was a simply case of tax evasion, not racial discrimination. Desmond was often compared to Rosa Parks. She eventually received a pardon and an apology from the government of Nova Scotia.

Additional information about Desmond's case can be found at the following websites:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viola\\_Desmond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viola_Desmond)

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/viola-desmond/>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/viola-desmond-canadian-woman-banknote-161208175229492.html>

## Job Scam Nearly Confounds Student

Ariele Kehler/Ashlyn Pearce  
Courtesy Canadian University Press, The Quill



The end of the 2016-2017 school year is fast approaching – it may still feel early, with January just ending, but for those students in their final year, now is the time to be plastering the job market with resumes. That is exactly what Kevin MacCharles, a geology student in his final year, has been doing. He made a LinkedIn account to establish professional contacts and to learn of potential job offers in his field of interest. When he received an email from Alban Oil Co. requesting an interview, he was thrilled.

"It was too good to be true..." MacCharles told The Quill, "My first job after university being international, and with a salary like that... That was my first red flag."

Alban Oil Co. had sent MacCharles a detailed seven-page pdf file including a job description, details about the interview including the location, dates, times, and what was expected of MacCharles for the interview itself, and had a signature from the hiring manager, as well as a link to the company's website. From every angle, it looked like a legitimate job offer. MacCharles showed it to several of his friends, asking if they thought it was real, and something that he should go for. All but one of the people he showed it to encouraged him to go for the interview. It was that one person's doubt that prompted MacCharles to show the offer to his professor, Dr. Simon Pattison for a more experienced opinion.

When MacCharles brought the file to Pattison, he'd already called the travel agency that Alban Oil Co. had named in the pdf offer for an interview. He'd received the agent's voicemail and instead emailed as he was instructed. When the agent replied, MacCharles was requested to send a copy of his passport, as well as purchase his own plane ticket to the site Alban Oil Co. listed for the interview – Amsterdam – and send Alban Oil Co. a Western Union money transfer "to cover administrative expenses." He was told he would be reimbursed for the plane tickets, and that the reason they required applicants to pay for their own transportation was because they had too many people take a free plane ticket to The Netherlands and then never show up for the interview.

"That was another red flag for me," MacCharles said, shaking his head. "No one who is actively looking for a job in this field would look at this opportunity and then blow it off."

The job opportunity may have been suspicious, but it was still an amazing offer. MacCharles was informed by Alban Oil Co. that he had 48 hours to confirm his position on the shortlist and purchase his plane tickets, and he and Pattison scoured the website to confirm its legitimacy. The Alban Oil Co. website looked like a legitimate corporate web page. One thing that seemed off to both MacCharles and Pattison was that the Alban Oil Co. contact page had only a form email for questions and comments, rather than a human resources contact



number, corporate email, mailing address, or telephone number. On closer examination, Pattison discovered that the company overview had one suspicious line: "...we at Hunt..."

"I'd never heard of Alban Oil Co., but there are so many that it could have been a newer company. I had heard of Hunt, however." Pattison said. "It was a quick Google search after that."

Upon discovering Hunt Consolidated Inc.'s website, Pattison and MacCharles saw that the two sites were very similar, with a few important details from the Hunt Consolidated Inc. website missing from Alban's: Hunt's page has the correct corporate contact information, and on their career page lists known scam companies.

While Alban Oil Co. was not listed, it was now clear that they were not a legitimate company. Hunt clarified in the warning on their page that "Hunt Consolidated, Inc. and its affiliated companies would never ask potential job seekers for any sort of advance payments during the recruitment and employment process."

Another company listed in the Hunt Consolidated Inc. fraud alert was for ZenGas Oil and Gas Company, which is another exact replica of the Hunt webpage. On both ZenGas and Alban's websites, everything down to the photos mirror Hunt's, including some clever photoshopping to remove Hunt's company name from clothing to replace their own.

"If it hadn't been for that capital 'H' on Hunt, I might have encouraged Kevin to apply," Pattison said ruefully. "(For a company to be) preying on students like Kevin, just getting their start in the field is disgusting."

Further research into graduating students receiving false job offers failed to turn up any recent, relevant results, but false job offers very similar to that which MacCharles received from Alban have been reported by many in the last year. All false jobs that have been reported have been in the oil and energy fields, and with the industry in Canada suffering layoffs at the time, many workers have been desperate for the opportunities – some haven't been as lucky as MacCharles to have caught the scam.

"They would have had all my passport information. That would have been ten years of headaches to get it fixed. And I would've been out \$2000 for the flights," said MacCharles.

Pattison reported Alban Oil Co. to Hunt Consolidated Inc. as a fraud page on MacCharles' behalf, and MacCharles himself continues his post-graduate job search, although with more caution.

MacCharles shared his experience with the hopes that all other students proceed into their careers with caution, and learn from what could have happened to him. While the only reported cases of fraudulent job offers have come from the oil and energy industry, that is not to say that other industries are completely without scam artists. MacCharles also advises that those using LinkedIn to send their resumes keep track of all the companies they've applied to.

It was discovered later in the week that the website for Alban Oil Co. had been taken down. The website for ZenGas Oil and Gas Company, however, still remains active at the time of publication.

*Republished from The Quill print edition, Volume 107, Issue 20, January 31, 2017. Courtesy of Canadian University Press. Online at [Job Scam Nearly Confounds Student](#)*

## Canadian Science News

Scott Jacobsen



### A Canadian scientists support American scientists now

According to [The Guardian](#), Canadian scientists are offering peer support for scientists from the United States in light of the muzzling of some of them in the wake of recent events in America. Canadian scientists are not immune to the effects of being "muzzled" in their scientific work, having been so for about a decade from the previous Conservative government. Now, Canadian scientists are offering "support and solidarity amid mounting fears that Donald Trump's presidency will seek to suppress climate science."

In Canada, libraries of science were closed, programs felt saw significant cutbacks, and federal scientists were banned from speaking to the media. Robert MacDonald, who worked with the federal government said, "It was a dramatic departure from past practices."

### Canadian fusion 2030?(!)

[Business Vancouver](#) says that universities across British Columbia are keen on the push for one company to be producing fusion energy, even as early as the year 2030. A group of Canadian universities and institutes, including the Universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan, is rallying around Burnaby's General Fusion.

The goal is to establish a program for national fusion power similar to that established in 1952 around nuclear energy as a power source. Matthew Dalzell, Partnerships manager at the Fedoruk Centre (part of the group), said it's "an indigenous technology and potentially they [General Fusion] are considered to be one of the leaders in this field."

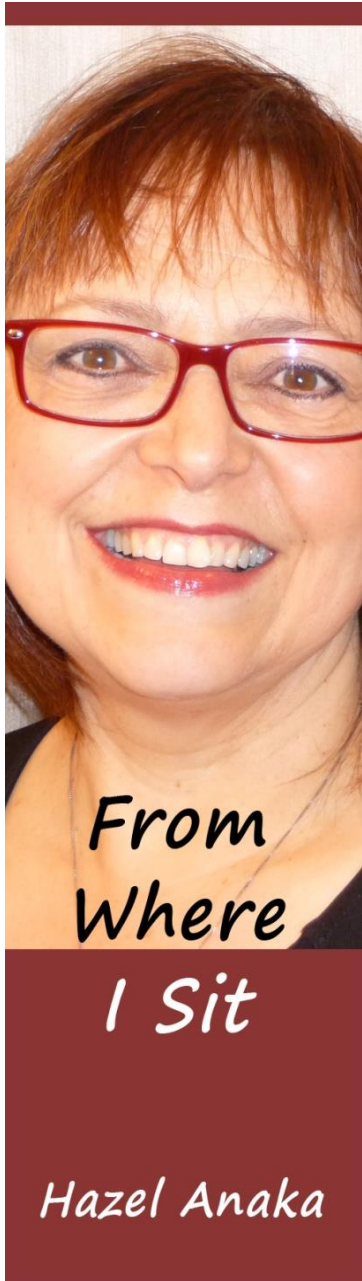
"So what can we do to help build a strategy that would advance fusion?" Dalzell asked. The group is assisting with the "Fusion 2030 strategy." The strategy calls for \$125 million in federal funding over five years to rebuild academic capacity in plasma physics and related fields.

### Microplastics found in supermarket fish and shellfish

[CBC](#) says, microplastics, or very small plastics, "are making their way into fish and shellfish found at the supermarket, a new study has shown." One study from a UN agency, International maritime Organization, the affect on humans is unknown at this time.

The microplastics enter the environment through a variety of means, though. They can come from synthetic fabrics from clothing, tire bits, and other products and materials that are plastic or synthetic-based.

Chelsea Rochman, Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto and Co-Editor of the report, said, "It has infiltrated every level of the food chain in marine environments ... and so now we're seeing it come back to us on our dinner plates."



## In the Meantime

It will come as no surprise that I love words. From a behaviour perspective, that means I'm a dedicated reader. It also explains why I've collected words for as long as I can remember. If some piece or paragraph, some book or story, some cartoon or poster has said something brilliant or funny chances are I saved it.

I also maximize my driving (or is that reading?) time by listening to audio books. Because I love a deal, I end up buying at a thrift store or library discard sale. That's led to a disparate selection of material.

One of my newest acquisitions is Debbie Macomber's *One Perfect Word*. I love, love, love it and its premise. I've since bought a used paper copy.

According to her website bio, Debbie Macomber is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author with more than 200 million copies of her books in print worldwide. She uplifts her readers with stories of connection and hope. In addition to fiction, she's published two bestselling cookbooks, an adult coloring book, numerous inspirational and nonfiction works, and two acclaimed children's books. Her Cedar Cove books led to a TV series; her Christmas books to five Hallmark Channel movies. She also has a café and gift shop.

She's no slouch. Her faith in a God-focused life is no secret and underlies the premise of the book.

More than twenty years ago, she decided to select one (perfect) word to focus on for an entire year. This book covers fourteen such words. They are biggies: Desire, Believe, Hunger, Trust, Brokenness, Seek, Surrender, Wisdom, Hope, Passion, Purpose, Balance, Prayer, and Obedience. She begins with a quote from scripture and the dictionary definition of her chosen word. The chapter typically includes journal entries, a prayer, and a story or two. She includes advice on choosing one's word. In the section called Wordplay, she suggests tangible ways of having fun with the selected word: design a greeting card with the word, carve your word into a

paperweight or doorstop, find a talisman that reminds you of your word, get a charm with the word for your bracelet, create a stepping stone for your garden, scrapbook about your word, work your word into a quilt, stencil your word on your wall, create a Christmas ornament, do an altered book.

Naturally, I too wanted a word. My first impulse because I'm starting so late was to give my word a week. No, that's shortsighted. Okay, maybe a month. Six months. Foolishness. To get the full benefit why not do what is proven instead of trying to find a shortcut?

I began with brainstorming a list. After a few days of reflection I chose FREE. It had possibilities as both a verb and an adverb. I started to play with a sketchbook. Yet, just a week later, I changed it to KINDNESS. As I see where this focus takes me over the year, I'll report back. In the meantime, I hope you choose your own one perfect word, 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*

## Romance Resistance

**Dear Barb:**

*I am in my mid thirties and have been married for seven years. Recently, I attended a New Year's Eve party with four other couples. We have known each other for many years and always have a lot of fun together. At the party we were all drinking and by midnight we were pretty buzzed. We gave each other the obligatory New Year's Eve kiss, but with one of my friend's the kiss was a little longer than usual. This particular man and I have been friends since we were in our early teens. There always seemed to be an attraction between us, but we never got together because we were never both unattached at the same time. I just assumed it wasn't meant to be, but I felt something with this kiss and I'm pretty sure he did too. I love my husband but we have been having problems, so that just seems to add to the situation. We both have young children and I don't want to break up my family over an attraction that may not materialize into anything. On the other hand, maybe this is the love of my life and I don't want to pass up something that could be truly amazing. I really need some help sorting this out. From Merica in Sudbury.*

Hi Merica:

How serious are the problems in your marriage? Have you had some counselling? If you are still in love with your husband then you do not want to throw that away for something that may or may not work out. My suggestion would be to try your best to work it out with your husband. Breaking up two families will undoubtedly cause a lot of

resentment with everyone, including the children. Thanks for your letter Merica and think before you act.

**Dear Barb:**

*My wife passed away five years ago and I have not dated anyone since. My children are dead set against me dating anyone else and they have openly told me that. I don't want to live the rest of my life alone, but I don't want to alienate my children either. I want to do the right thing, but do I do the right thing for me, or for my children? Thanks for your advice, Glenn.*

Hey Glenn:

I'm going to start out my answer with a famous quote, which I'm sure you have heard, "You can please some of the people some of the time, all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but you can never please all of the people all of the time." (Abraham Lincoln)

My advice would be to do what feels right to you, while still being sensitive to your children's feelings. You only have one life and you have to live it. Take the time to discuss your desires with your children, but don't ask their permission. Tell them you hope they will respect your desire to move on with your life. If your children are reasonable people, they will accept your decision, but it may take them time to adjust to Dad being with someone else. Good Luck Glenn.

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.

*Next session . . .*



What will you be playing?

"Nightbook," by Einaudi.



Wonderful! Let me accompany you on the piano!



Close your eyes. Take a long, deep breath. Now let it out, slowly. Remember the giant darbuka from your dream? Imagine it now. Listen for the small voice. Let it come closer. What is it saying?

It's saying, "I am thy God, that heareth thee."

But first things first . . .



Now-- the children who fell from the sky-- what do they see when they stop playing and look up?



They see air. An infinite loveliness of air. All for their breathing.

Now search for the bottomless well. Climb in.



Keep descending.



Now tell me what you see there.

You, Doc.  
I see you.

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*The Doppelgänger Cure, by Wanda Waterman*





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## Mental Health Resource

We understand that everyone faces difficulty from time to time, and we want you to know there is help. AUSU provides free access to the [Student Lifeline](#) for all members, which provides expert support for a wide range of issues, including:

**LIFE:** Stress, Anxiety, Depression, Grief/Loss, Community Resources, Legal Support

**FAMILY:** Couples, Parenting, Separation/Divorce, Child & Elder Care, Education

**MONEY:** Savings, Debt Management, Estate Planning/Wills, Home Buying/Renting

**WORK:** Starting Your Career, Work Relationships, Job Stress/Burnout, Being Organized

**HEALTH:** Nutrition Counselling, Naturopathy, Sleep, Addiction, Smoking Cessation

### Student LifeLine includes:

- **24/7 assistance** (with professional consultants)
- **counselling** (in-person, by video, or by phone with 3000+ counsellors across Canada. Up to 3 sessions)
- **community referrals**
- **thousands of online tools and resources**

Find out more on the AUSU website [here](#).



## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Feb 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Mar 1](#)
- **Feb 15:** [February degree requirements deadline](#)
- **Feb 16:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#)
- **Feb 28:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for April](#)
- **Mar 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Apr 1](#)
- **Mar 14:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#)
- **Mar 15:** [April degree requirements deadline](#)

## AU Student Mobile App

Want to connect with other students? How about an easy way to access services and resources available to you? Or perhaps a study timer?

Download the [AU Student Mobile App](#) to help you stay on top of your studies, access resources, and chat with other students!

### Download the AU MOBILE APP

FREE courtesy of your AU Students' Union!

Connect with other students, get quick access to programs, links, services, and deals, and stay on top of your classes!



## AUSU Career Resources

AUSU's careers page includes links for resume building, interview preparation, career fairs across Canada, national and provincial job search engines and more!

Check out AUSU's Career Resources page [here](#).





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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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500 Energy Square - 10109 – 106 St NW - Edmonton AB - T5J 3L7  
Ph: 855.497.7003 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

<b>Publisher</b>	Athabasca University Students' Union
<b>Editor-In-Chief</b>	Sarah Cornett
<b>Managing Editor</b>	Karl Low

**Regular Columnists** Hazel Anaka, Barbara Lehtiniemi, S.D. Livingston,  
Wanda Waterman, Barb Godin, Christina Frey,  
Samantha Stevens

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

Contact *The Voice* at [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org).

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