



THE VOICE

Vol 32 Issue 17 - 2024-04-26

Minds We Meet

Interviewing Students Like You

Council Connection

Transition Meeting

John “Duke” Wayne

The Golden Age of Hollywood



Plus:

DIY Chinese Crepes

Shipping Creative Work

and much more!

CONTENTS

The Voice's interactive Table of Contents allows you to click a story title to jump to an article. Clicking the bottom right corner of any page returns you here. Some ads and graphics are also links.

Features

Minds We Meet: *Interviewing Aisling O'Brien* 4

Articles

Editorial: *Alberta Inside Baseball* 3

John “Duke” Wayne in the Golden Age of Hollywood 8

The Practice: Shipping Creative Work..... 13

Machiavelli’s Sister 15

Toxic versus Healthy Choices 16

DIY Chinese Crepe (Jianbing) 18

Columns

Council Connection: *Transition Meeting* 5

Beyond Literary Landscapes: *Sacrifice*..... 12

[blue rare]: *Pick Your Own Apocalypse*..... 20

Fly on the Wall: *Truth and Audacity* 21

News and Events

AU-thentic Events 10

Research Assistant Opportunity 17

Student Sizzle 19

Scholarship of the Week..... 23

AUSU Update 25

Comics

Chazz Bravado: *Summer Flicks* 24

The Voice Magazine
www.voicemagazine.org

Email
voice@voicemagazine.org

Publisher
AU Students' Union

Editor-In-Chief
Jodi Campbell

Managing Editor
Karl Low

Regular Contributors
Barbara Lehtiniemi, Alek
Golijanin, Jason Sullivan,
Wanda Waterman, Xine
Wang and others

Views and articles
presented here are those
of the contributors and do
not represent the views of
AUSU Student Council.

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

For weekly email reminders
as each issue is posted, fill
out the subscription form
[here](#).

The Voice does not share its
subscriber list with anyone.
Even I don't look at it, it's
all on auto.

Volume 32, Issue 17

© 2024 by The Voice
Magazine

ISSN 2561-3634



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Alberta Inside Baseball

Karl Low



The phrase “inside baseball” actually came from a form of baseball where power hitting the ball was not allowed. Instead, scores could be made through bunts, singles, walks, and stolen bases. Later it apparently came to mean highly specialized knowledge within a field, ie, what the heck a single actually is, and from there on to politics.

Now in politics, it tends to mean those things that are done quietly or behind the scenes and which only those who are really invested bother to care about. It’s also where a lot of things happen that people probably wouldn’t like if it were made public.

Case in point, Alberta’s Bill 18. “Bill 18, the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024,” reads the Alberta government website, “will support Alberta’s government in pushing back against overreach by the federal government.”

How does it do that? By requiring that absolutely ever single agreement with the federal government that any provincial agency, which includes all public-in-name post-secondary institutions, must be approved by the government. These types of agreements include things like the Canada Research Chairs, where significant funding for research comes. Given that they say this bill is for “Defending Alberta’s provincial priorities” what do you suppose might happen if there happens to be a professor attempting to do research on the environmental impact of, say, land developers in the township of Athabasca who may have been hoping for a windfall of people forced to move to Athabasca by the government’s legislation on AU? Never mind research on the oil sands.

The government can’t even say that they would not prevent such funding for political reasons when the point of the bill is to give them the ability to stop agreements with the federal government for political reasons.

But let’s imagine we get a reasonable government in power, who never actually uses this bill to block research funding from the federal government. Even then, if you’re a researcher who is focussed on how we can help our environment, that this bill exists seems a massive disincentive to come to Alberta in the first place. Getting research funding is hard enough, after all, and if you know that even if you get it, the Alberta government can prevent it from happening, if for no other reason than the minister doesn’t like you because of a tweet you made some time ago, are you going to bother coming to Alberta, or will you take your skill-set elsewhere where it might be easier to get your research done?

At best, this bill will be nothing more than a rubber stamp situation, a waste of time and taxpayer money to have no effect whatsoever. At worst it will have a chilling effect on post-secondary in the province and be used in support of a majority of oilsands shareholders who don’t even live in Canada, or to prevent research into social issues, such as those of the LGBTQ++ community, that the current Alberta government has no interest in furthering.

What can we do? Well, directly, not much, as the government website notes, “Comprehensive stakeholder engagement is expected to take place in summer 2024 *following* the passage of the bill.” So guess what, your opinion won’t matter (assuming it ever does) until the bill is passed. Which means that the only solution is to get ahead of it, and start writing to your MLAs and letting them know this bill will affect the way you vote in the next election.

Enjoy the read!

Handwritten signature of Karl Low.

MINDS WE MEET



The Voice Magazine recently had a chance to chat with Aisling O'Brien (she/her), a recent graduate from the Bachelor of General Studies program with a Designation in Arts and Science from Ottawa, Ontario. Aisling acknowledged, "The City of Ottawa honours the peoples and land of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation."

On a personal note, this 37-year old was born in Ottawa—as the middle child of three—is "a proud Auntie and [has] the cutest puppy named Púca."

The recent grad had some great study tips for students still working on their degrees. She stated, "It took me a while to figure out how I study best. I tried it all. What finally worked for me was sitting at a table, listening to smooth jazz and setting a timer for a break about 1.5 hours in. Taking short breaks kept me energized and setting the timer allowed for me to keep my head down focusing on the assignment on hand rather than wondering how long I'd been studying for."

As for her advice to those just beginning their AU journeys? "Don't give up. It is not going to be easy but it IS going to be worth it. Ask for help. Remember, it is their job to help you!"

She also let readers know a little about her greatest influence of her desire to learn. "My entire family influenced me. From my sisters, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins they all inspired me, encouraged and supported me throughout my education! My mum went to university as a mature student and a mother of 3. Growing up, watching her studying, writing papers and growing. Her drive and motivation is inspiring. She showed me that if you want something badly enough you can achieve it no matter the obstacles or how tiring it can be."

Like many students, Aisling had ups and downs with the online learning experience. "There were definitely challenges with online learning from internet connections being lost during exams, or feeling like you're teaching yourself and completely alone. However, whenever these issues arose AU actively supported and helped me. When I initially was looking at attending university I contacted a few to see where I wanted to go. AU staff were so kind, informative, and accessible that I was instantly drawn to Athabasca University online education."

In addition, she had a memorable course. "That would have been WGST 322: Sexuality in Society. "My educator was super connected with her students, the assignments were not just writing papers—believe it or not, some were actually fun! They made you think, reflect, learn and grow. The assignments triggered several questions that created hilarious and amazing conversations with friends and family. I recommend this course to anyone who is open and interested in learning about relationships and what sexuality means," she explained.

As for communication with her former course tutors? “I think it absolutely depends on the tutor. Sometimes I felt like I had made a new friend leaving the course while others I had 0 contact with.”

The Voice Magazine also asked Aisling which famous person, past or present, she would like to have lunch with, and why, and she chose Dolly Parton “[b]ecause she is DOLLY PARTON!” She explained, “Not only does this super strong woman have incredible talent, she also has a huge passion for education and reading. (Imagination Library):” And the lunch? “Lunch would be definitely something southern.”

On a final note, we asked Aisling to tell us about her most valuable lesson learned in life. She let us know that “you can’t fail at something if you don’t give up because then it is just your

First
Attempt
In
Learning.”

- Best of luck, Aisling!

At times, in an online learning environment, it can feel like you are all alone, but across the nation and around the globe, students just like you are also pursuing their Athabasca University (AU) studies! Each week, *The Voice Magazine* will be bringing you some of these stories. If you would like to be featured next, do not hesitate to get in touch!

Natalia Iwanek (she/they) recently completed her Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Political Science at Athabasca University.



Council Connection: April 18, 2024 Transition Meeting with Outgoing and Incoming Councils

Halen Deng



On April 18, 2024, both the outgoing and incoming AUSU councils convened in a Zoom meeting. Naju Syed, the president of the outgoing council, officially called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM Mountain Time. AUSU Executive Director Jodi Campbell was announced as the accessibility officer.

As the 2024 AUSU Council term came to a close, the atmosphere during the latest council meeting was tinged with both nostalgia and excitement. The meeting served as a platform for outgoing members to pass the baton to the incoming council, sharing lessons and words of encouragement.

Land Acknowledgement

The outgoing President, Naju Syed read the land acknowledgement: “Athabasca University Students’ Union respectfully acknowledges that we are on and

work on the traditional lands of the Indigenous Peoples (Inuit, First Nations, Métis) of Canada. We also recognize that our student members span across the lands we now know as Canada and abroad, and we acknowledge and celebrate these Indigenous histories, languages, and cultures. As an organization, AUSU is committed to decolonization, reconciliation, and conciliation efforts,

acknowledging that there is much to unlearn. AUSU will continuously strive to build equitable relationships with Indigenous learners at AU, as well as Indigenous members and staff within AUSU, advocate with and for Indigenous learners through consultation, and create spaces that are inclusive, respectful, and equitable.”

The Outgoing AUSU Council Action Items

In this meeting, all incoming councillors and almost all outgoing councillors are present except the outgoing Indigenous Circle Voice councillor. The outgoing councillor Karen Fletcher proposed to declare that AUSU council 2022 -2024 term has officially dissolved. Naju Syed expressed, “This is such a sad motion! But I will allow it.”

The agenda for the April 18, 2024, Council meeting, along with the minutes from the March 21 and March 28, 2024, meetings—including the Executive Election—were unanimously approved without opposition. President Naju Syed, Vice Presidents Manmeet Kaur, Chantel Groening, and Natalia Iwanek, along with Executive Director Jodi Campbell, presented their reports for March 2024. President Syed and Vice President of Community and Wellness Natalia Iwanek also highlighted their efforts in spending time with the incoming council to ensure a seamless transition throughout April. Additionally, Vice President of External Affairs Manmeet Kaur reported attending board meetings and listening to the budget speech in Ottawa earlier in April.

Executive Director Jodi Campbell emphasized, “For AUSU, one of the things that's absolutely imperative that we do and do well is running airtight elections and running amazing transition. This is a milestone moment because we've got both of those things all happening within a short period of time. The amount of commitment and dedication that it takes to do what you guys do is high. When you look at our current councillors, and we've also had some that have already graduated. So congratulations! I mean, graduating from AUSU is a huge accomplishment. And so we've got a lot of people moving on. Maybe what I might even say is the largest changeover on our Council ever. So it really is a kind of a timestamp for AUSU and one I very much look forward to! We've got students representing AUSU and AU students from Newfoundland, Labrador all the way as far west as you can go as well. And so that's a true testament of the diversity in this room and the new Council is no different. You guys are about to embark on on a two year journey with AUSU!”

President Syed, along with Councillors Amber McDuffe, Blake Colett, and Karen Fletcher, expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the AUSU Council over the past two years. President Syed then officially declared the dissolution of the 2022-2024 AUSU Council term and handed over leadership to the new president, Chantel Groening, who previously served as Vice President of Finance and Administration.

The New AUSU Council Action Items

President, Chantel Groening, led the council in reciting the Oath of Office, “I do solemnly swear that I will support, uphold, and defend the mission of the Athabasca University Students' Union at Athabasca University. I take this obligation freely and will adhere to and respect the bylaws, policies, and all other facets of the Union while doing the work to decolonize Athabasca University. I will always strive to enhance the quality of the learning experience of AU students and all distance learners; while advocating for the unique needs of the AUSU membership and fulfilling my council duties with honesty and integrity.”

The first action item for the 2024-2026 AUSU Council term is the appointment of councillors to various AUSU committees. These include the Awards Committee, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Finance Committee, Member Engagement and Communications Committee, and Policy Committee. Following a thorough discussion and voting session among all AUSU council members, the appointment results are as follows:

Awards Committee

Committee Chair:

- Diana Ramirez (AUSU Vice President of Finance and Administration)

Voting Members:

- Aiza Nazarmatova (AUSU Councillor)
- Faustina Arsenault (AUSU Councillor)
- Melanie Rousseau (AUSU Councillor)
- Tammy Monro (AUSU Councillor)

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Committee Chair:

- Olivia Shepherd (AUSU Vice President of Community and Wellness)

Voting Members:

- Aiza Nazarmatova (AUSU Councillor)
- Annette Karien (AUSU Councillor)
- Chimaraoke Akuchie (AUSU Councillor)
- Faustina Arsenault (AUSU Councillor)
- Josh Flis (AUSU Councillor)
- Kari Thompson (AUSU Councillor)

Finance Committee

Committee Chair:

- Diana Ramirez (AUSU Vice President of Finance and Administration)

Voting Members:

- Annette Karien (AUSU Councillor)
- Kari Thompson (AUSU Councillor)
- Tammy Monro (AUSU Councillor)

Member Engagement and Communications Committee

Committee Chair:

- Olivia Shepherd (AUSU Vice President of Community and Wellness)

Voting Members:

- Aiza Nazarmatova (AUSU Councillor)
- Annette Karien (AUSU Councillor)
- Faustina Arsenault (AUSU Councillor)

Policy Committee

Committee Chair:

- Diana Ramirez (AUSU Vice President of Finance and Administration)

Voting Members:

- Neenah Brown (Indigenous Circle Voice)
- Chimaraoke Akuchie (AUSU Councillor)
- Melanie Rousseau (AUSU Councillor)
- Kari Thompson (AUSU Councillor)

Advice from the Outgoing Council to the Incoming Council

The outgoing councillor Karen Fletcher highlighted the courage it takes to serve on the council, encouraging the new members never to underestimate their value or expertise simply because they are students. Her empowering words reminded everyone that their primary qualification — being students — gives them the unique insight needed to advocate effectively for their peers. Former President Naju brought a lighter tone to the proceedings, focusing on the importance of finding joy in their responsibilities. "Have fun," She advised, emphasizing that despite the challenges, the experience should be enjoyable. His remarks not only reflected a deep appreciation for the role but also underscored the balance necessary between duty and personal fulfillment.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 PM Mountain Time with the incoming councillors, full of enthusiasm and ready to tackle their new roles, listened intently as their predecessors shared insights and advice.

In Summary

This meeting was not just a routine council turnover but a reminder of the impact and importance of student governance in shaping educational experiences and policies at Athabasca University. The next meeting of AUSU Council will be on May 16, 2024. If you are interested to attend the AUSU Council meeting on Zoom or if you have any questions about the AUSU Council meeting, please contact governance@ausu.org

John “Duke” Wayne in the Golden Age of Hollywood

Alek Golijanin



The most famous cowboy of all, John “Duke” Wayne, was best described in comments that were made after his passing, as being someone that embodied what the masses wished that cowboy history was all about. A great actor with humble beginnings, Wayne’s journey was full circle, from humble beginnings and growing up in a small town in Iowa to becoming a big screen icon to living out his older days in somewhat of a late-life crisis, unable to adapt with the changing times. It is a story of how the flow of Wayne’s fluid identity, flowed from his real attitude and pooled into his reel attitude, and it goes something like this.

Wayne’s high school days.

As a highschooler, Wayne was beloved by all his teachers and classmates, especially the girls. If Wayne had continued with his high school dreams for the future, he would have become a journalist, as he was known for enthusiastic writing and flamboyant vocabulary. His writing skills allowed him to win a contest for best essay after he wrote about World War I. However, Wayne also was quite the chess player and he even participated in school plays including *Dulcy* and *The First Lady of the Land*.

Despite that Wayne was great academically, many described him as having a confidence and maturity beyond his years, and how he also had a knack for the public arena. In addition to this,

there was a rambunctious exuberance that was becoming apparent, and it was why he almost got kicked out of high school after his pranks started to get out of hand.

On one occasion, Wayne had got his hands on some gum resin that was used as an antispasmodic, and after applying it across the hall, he left the bottle behind. When the next day arrived, anyone who smelled the scent became instantly nauseous, but a chemistry professor who found the bottle was able to trace it back to Wayne's father. When Wayne's father confronted his son and asked him to spell the bottle's name, which had been misspelled, Wayne spelled it the same way. As a result, Wayne ended up having to apologize in front of the whole school.

On other occasions, on Saturday nights, Wayne and some friends would gather rotten eggs and old tomatoes. They would then carry out drive-by "attacks" by throwing them at the old street cars which had open sections on the backside where people would stand. Additionally, they would also grease the tracks of the Eagle Rockglendale streetcar so that they could watch it slide backwards downhill and laugh hysterically.

What also stuck out about Wayne was that he was gifted athletically, and his high school football career was enough to help him earn a university scholarship. However, the football field might be where his then-identity defining moment was made, after a teammate called another teammate a "Jap". After this, the kid who used the derogatory term toward the Japanese-American kid would get beaten up. Wayne described it as all of the teammates being bound by the same conditions, poverty, despite their lines of difference, and standing up for what was right and supporting each other regardless of race or background.

By the end of his high school journey, the parents of girls at Glendale High School did not want their daughters to date him because they thought he ran with the fast crowd. In his yearbook, he was predicted to become the president of an ice cream company, and that he would one day author a book titled, "The Most Famous Men Have Humble Beginnings".

Wayne's university days.

Transitioning from high school to university never proved to be a challenge for Wayne, but his first choice was to join the Navy rather than following through on his football scholarship at University of Southern California (USC). At USC, Wayne was a decent student, but he experienced a few football injuries that limited his ability to play. As a result, Wayne would go on to find some part-time work on film sets where he worked as a prop boy and sometimes served as an extra on set.

On one occasion, Wayne was tasked with throwing leaves in front of a fan and some custodial work for a film called *Four Sons* (1928), and where he would become the butt of all the jokes. Margaret Mann was one of the leading actresses in the film and during one of the scenes, everyone caught Wayne checking out Mann. Everyone laughed, including the actress, and they would all do so whenever they saw Wayne, for the rest of the film's production.

Some of Wayne's other extracurricular activities during his time at USC included joining a frat, where he escaped getting hazed by putting ketchup in his mouth and pretending to bleed, so kids left him alone. He was also described as lacking the "frat" aggression, always being in control of himself, and never looking for trouble.

There may have been some challenging times during Wayne's university days, but he managed to make the most of the experience before transitioning onto the big screen.

Wayne's big screen days.

The time that Wayne spent working on film sets while in school is what helped him get his foot in the door into Hollywood. As a Western cinema enthusiast, Wayne had quite the take on the Western stars of the 1920s and 1930s, which might have been what helped him to modernize the Western hero into somewhat of an anti-villain. "I felt many of the Western stars of the twenties and thirties were too goddamn perfect. They never drank nor smoked. They never wanted to go to bed with a beautiful girl. They never had a fight. A heavy might throw a chair at them, and they just looked surprised and didn't fight back in this spirit. They were too goddamn sweet and pure to be dirty fighters."

The cinema portrayal of anti-villain heroes was still far from who Wayne was as a person and how he thought about others. When Wayne had found out that one of his co-stars, Gail Russel, was sexually abused by a director, via the "casting couch", his subsequent words were the "f" word followed by SOB, directed at the studio for taking advantage of her. Wayne was reported to have been one of the few actors, and later director, who never participated in exploiting young talent by the way of the "casting couch". Wayne would later recount how he would go on to secure Russel parts on the basis of her merit and never shouted at her because he understood that she was insecure, and that she had anxiety struggles which Wayne could relate with from his time as a kid.

At some point during his big screen days, something about Wayne seemed to change. It may have stemmed from the purge of communists from Hollywood, where he went from being a quiet conservative to leader of the pack and was involved in helping blacklist and exile people from Hollywood. Politics would become the biggest determining factor when it came to applying judgement on potential projects, and where Wayne decided he only wanted to play characters that mirrored his beliefs and values.

On one occasion, Wayne was quoted as criticizing Kirk Douglas by asking him how he could play some of the parts that he did considering there was only a few of "us" left and that they had to play strong and tough characters and not weak queers. In his response back to Wayne, Douglas explained that he enjoyed playing interesting roles and that it was all make-believe and not real.

Wayne's later-life crisis.

Arguably the biggest disappoint among Wayne enthusiast stems from his later-life views on civil rights and the manner in which he spoke about minorities, which was well away from how he once viewed all people.

AU-thentic Events Upcoming AU Related Events

Info Session: Study abroad in Lesotho!

Mon, Apr 29, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm (MDT)
Online

Hosted by AU and Relationships Inspiring Social Enterprise (rise)
www.athabascau.ca/news/events/information-session-study-abroad-in-lesotho
Register through above link

AUSU Awards and Bursaries application deadline

Tues, Apr 30

Online

Hosted by AUSU

www.ausu.org/services/awards-and-bursaries/

More info and online application form at above link

Library Chat

Tues, Apr 30, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm MDT

Online

Hosted by AU Library

www.athabascau.ca/library/index.html

No pre-registration needed; access through chat box on home page

Library Chat

Thur, May 2, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm MDT

Online

Hosted by AU Library

www.athabascau.ca/library/index.html

No pre-registration needed; access through chat box on home page

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

During his infamous interview with Playboy Magazine in 1971, Wayne used shocking language related to the civil rights fight of African Americans. Wayne would go on to mention how he believed in white supremacy until blacks were educated to a point of responsibility and that he did not believe in giving authority and positions of leadership and judgement to irresponsible people.

When discussing American history, Wayne stated how there were only a few thousand Indians over millions of miles of land at the time of the arrival of European explorers, and that he did not think there was anything wrong with taking this great country away from those people. He described the process as being progressive and something that was good for everyone.

Regarding the matter of sexual orientation, it was not uncommon for Wayne to use derogatory language like “faggot”, and he did on one occasion during the filming of The War Wagon (1967). On another occasion, he commented about another actor, Rock Hudson, complaining how a handsome face had been wasted on a queer. But to others in private he would say that it never bothered him that he was queer.

How could someone like Wayne who would concurrently say things like, “Never lose the common touch, never think anyone is better than you but never think you are superior to anyone else. Try to be decent to everyone until they give you reason not to” make the kind of statements that he did?

One possible explanation is that in 1964, Wayne had been diagnosed with lung cancer and eventually had his left lung removed. After overcoming cancer, Wayne’s status grew to that of the unkillable American ideal. However, that experience was described as being something of a near-death experience that left Wayne having suicidal ideations at times, and Wayne’s subsequent behavior from that point on would go on to be described as being more erratic, which is when he began being expressing some of his more bigoted statements.

John “Duke” Wayne explained.

John “Duke” Wayne, was born Marion Robert Morrison. His early life years and growing up in poverty contributed to a philosophy centered around being self-sufficient, but it also included being kind to everyone. Throughout much of his life, he was described as being cultured, charming, polite, and elegant. But to those that knew him best, he felt insecure, awkward, and plagued by terror dreams, but forever a slave to his “big screen” image.

The Hollywood purge of “communists” may have driven him to further embrace the “cowboy ideals” that people wished American history had been all about – including Wayne. And some experts in the field of psychology have chimed in to explain that it was likely that Wayne was unfamiliar with method acting, and that he had developed a new person out of a Jungian process stemming from trauma with a new name and identity. To what extent that assessment of Wayne is accurate is will forever remain unknown, but he definitely was someone who was not always comfortable with being true to himself when in the presence of others. One example of that discomfort is how he hid a sneaking affection for John F. Kennedy and how he recognized an Irish rogue when he saw one, because he was a Democrat and Wayne was a Republican.

No explanation is justification for what was said by Wayne in his later-life, but it does help provide a better understanding on who John Wayne was and why may have lived the life he had.

Alek Golijanin is an AU alum who considers himself a gentleman first, a scholar second, and a combat sports fanatic third. In that order.



Beyond Literary Landscapes Sacrifice

Natalia Iwanek



From my early beginnings as a young introvert, the public library has always been a bit of a refuge. Years later, not much has changed, albeit with an additional affinity for endless hours spent scouring second-hand bookstores to add to my ever-growing “to-read” pile.

From one bookworm to another, this column will be underscoring and outlining various literary genres, authors, and recent reads and can serve as an introduction for those unfamiliar with these works, as a refresher for long-time aficionados, and maybe as an inspiration for readers to share their own suggested topics. Do you have a topic that you would like covered in this column? Feel free to [contact me](#) for an interview and a feature in an upcoming column.

Who

This week’s column focuses on the popular, but lesser discussed, theme of sacrifice in literature.

Many of the works mentioned below focus on sacrifice, and particularly self-sacrifice, for a variety of reasons, including for the greater good and for one’s friends, family, and loved ones.

Authors notable for writing about themes of sacrifice include Charles Dickens, Victor Hugo, and Cormac McCarthy.

Additional authors include Suzanne Collins, Stephen King, and Ernest Hemingway.

What

Novels focusing on the sacrifice and self-sacrifice of various protagonists include *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo, and *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy.

Additional novels include *The Hunger Games Trilogy* by Suzanne Collins, *The Stand* by Stephen King, and *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway.

Where

These novels are set in England, France, the United States, Spain, and the fictional Panem.

When

These works are set in the 20 and 21-centuries.

Why

The theme of sacrifice may be of interest to students across various AU faculties and disciplines. For example, these works may interest ENGL students as a thought-provoking literary theme, as well as SOCI, POLI SCI, HIST, and PSYC students who are trying to understand human nature, across various socio-political and historical eras.

How

AU’s wide range of diverse courses make it easy to study this topic in depth. Courses related to the theme of sacrifice are available in a variety of disciplines, including one’s that may fit into

your Degree Works. (Always check with an AU counsellor to see if these particular courses fulfill your personal graduation requirements!)

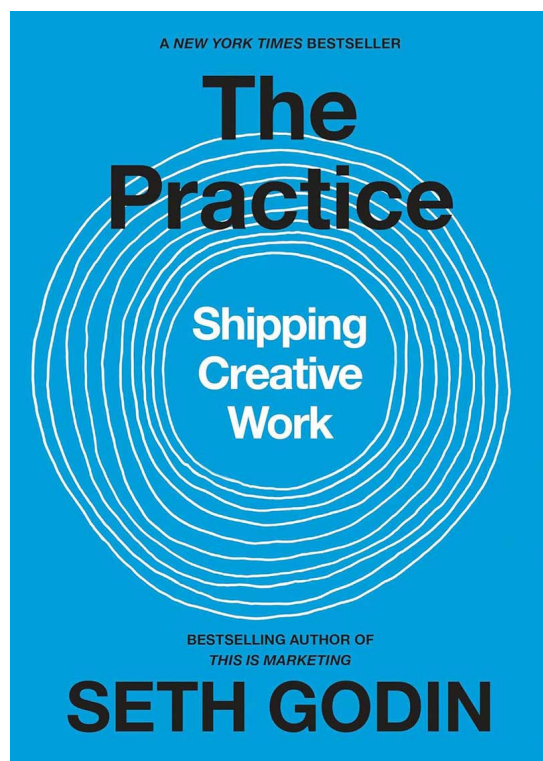
AU students interested in learning more about this topic may enroll in SOCI 287: Introduction to Sociology I, a junior-level, three credit course, which “introduces students to the critical study of society . . . [with topics, such as] socialization, culture, race and ethnicity, gender, and the family.” (No prerequisites are currently required).

In addition, students may be interested in SOCI 290: Social Problems, another junior-level three-credit course, which “is designed to introduce students to the study of social problems: their definition, their dimensions and interconnections, and the effects and strategies for alleviating them.” (Once again, no prerequisites are required for this course). Happy reading!

Natalia Iwanek (she/they) is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Political Science at Athabasca University.

The Practice: Shipping Creative Work Book Review

Jessica MacLeod



Kind of like colourful post-it notes that deliver us short, helpful reminders to stay on track, Seth Godin's *The Practice: Shipping Creative Work* (Portfolio/Penguin, 2020) presents quick, and sometimes hard-hitting, notes of motivation and truth about the two most important mindsets needed for creative work: a) the practice of showing up day after day and doing the work, and b) trusting yourself to ship the work.

A creative practice is crucial for writers, thinkers, artists, product designers, and creative entrepreneurs. What Godin means by *practice* is the commitment to creative work—that is, showing up day after day, even as our ideas, formats, methods, tastes, or styles change. For writers, the practice can include writing every day for a given amount of time or producing a certain word count. Some writers (including Godin) advocate blogging daily. For artists, the practice is showing up to your studio or workspace and sketching, planning, testing, and experimenting. The practice grounds us, encourages us to learn, and builds our confidence and trust.

Our practice is also the only thing that we can control. We can't control results, outcomes, fickle fans, or social trends. We can only control coming to the table, letting go of judgement and perfectionism, and deciding to learn, problem-solve, make, and think. Godin points out, “If you do something creative each day, you're now a creative person. Not a blocked person, not a striving person, not an untalented person. A creative person. Because creative people create” (Godin, 34). It's only by having lots of bad ideas that we get to the good ones; it's only by building streaks of showing up and working daily that we get inspired and enter a state of flow. Not the other way around. Doing is within our control, and doing is what builds trust in ourselves.

When we trust our practice and our work, it gets easier to “ship” our work. Godin uses the term “shipping” to cover just about anything you do to get your work out into the world. Sending this

article to *The Voice* is shipping my work. No boxes, shipping labels, or brown UPS van, as the term might suggest. For writers, “shipping the work” can be sending out queries or works for consideration, blogging regularly, reading your work out loud to others, or even engaging in regular written correspondence with a fellow writer or two. Visual artists participate in shows, investigate gallery options, share their work online, or sell at local shops, fairs, and events. The point Godin makes is that creatives should share their visions, original perspectives, and creations. Creative work provides new experiences for people.

Many creatives are afraid of sharing and shipping, though. They may fear failure, rejection, and criticism. Some fear that audiences will confuse the art with the person and see them differently. But by not shipping the work, by not entering that show, or not sending out that article, you are “isolating yourself from the circle of people who can cheer you on and challenge you to do more” (47). It’s only by first building and trusting our practice and ourselves, however, that we can make that leap to trusting an audience. And we can only learn to trust the audience if we ship.

I like the uncomfortable truths Godin presents in this book. I appreciate perspectives that shove me out of my excuses and self-pity. For example, he dedicates a whole section to “There’s no such thing as writer’s block” (153). We don’t get blocked: we just decide to wait for a better idea or some kind of unknown outside force to help us. “The magic is that there is no magic,” Godin asserts. “Start where you are. Don’t stop” (257). Some of these truths can separate the “hacks” from the “professionals.” If we give in to a mood and dodge our practice, we’re a hack. Showing up and doing the work makes us professional. Hacks wait for inspiration; professionals show up and work their way into inspiration. The practice, the commitment, is our “choice to do something for long-term reasons, not because we’re having a tantrum” (149). Have you ever found yourself envious of another person’s success? Chances are, that person is succeeding because “they shipped their work, and you hesitated” (203). Let that one settle in. Godin’s little truth bombs can destroy some of your favourite excuses.

One area of the book that was not as effective, however, was when Godin talked about finding an audience. Finding a supportive and paying audience is a really big deal. After all, creative people need to eat and pay bills just like everyone else and would like to do so without totally selling out. In raising this issue, Godin recognizes that creatives need to solve this problem, but because his target audience is so wide, and he tries to cover many possible creative fields, his advice isn’t all that specific or helpful. He tells us that we can’t aim for everyone and that having some good clients is more desirable than having many mediocre ones. He tells us to start small: “First find ten. Ten people who care enough about your work to enroll in the journey and then bring others along” (123). He is not wrong. It’s just old advice—stale and vague—that many will need to break down into concrete doable steps on their own.

The Practice, Shipping Creative Work is only 260 pages, and it is divided into 219 chapters spread across eight sections. Some chapters are shorter than ten lines, while others are a page or two. The chapters are short, clear, and easy to understand. While you could probably fly through this book quickly, I recommend spreading your reading out. Take on a couple of chapters at a time and really think about how they apply to your creative work and what you are making and shipping. While some of Godin’s ideas are repeated throughout the book, I didn’t mind. Reminders can take a while to work. Tasks sometimes show up in our to-do lists and on post-it notes for weeks. I appreciate a bit of repeated advice and guidance. After all, writing this review had been on my to-do list for several weeks.

References

Godin, Seth. 2020. *The Practice: Shipping Creative Work*. Penguin Publishing Group.

Machiavelli's Sister

Marie Well



"Here is a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: if you're alive, it isn't."

—Richard Bach (as cited in Pim van Lommel, 2010, p. 1)

I want to write a treatise called *Machiavelli's Sister*! It will be the polar opposite of *The Prince*, by Machiavelli. My goal is the spiritual ideal, not the cutthroat Machiavellian ideal. I plan to take his unscrupulous leadership strategies, mainly as they occur in politics during wartime (and arguably, at times, in academia), and subvert them by homing in on spiritual and harmonious ideals. While some people might say ideals are impossible, it's not true. If one person or leader can demonstrate a spiritual ideal during wartime, as some of the Jewish Holocaust survivors did, it may be enough to change the world's dynamic toward the light. At the very least, pursuing ideals during wartime, even if they lead to one's demise, culminates in a noble life.

I will apply for funding next year for the research stage for the book through an arts foundation. If I receive funding, I will research the philosophies of Paul Friedman (from The Marriage Foundation); the many religious, spiritual, and self-help texts I've read; various philosophers on idealism I've yet to read; biographies of spiritual icons during political unrest (such as Gandhi, Anne Frank, and others); accounts of

heavenly encounters by people who temporarily die (called near-death experiences); and, of course, the book *The Prince* by Machiavelli, and put them through the synthesis machine to produce a spiritual-idealistic philosophy of war. I guarantee it's not protesting against our beloved Jewish community; in fact, it's not harming any community. And it's not pointing fingers and saying, "But look at what they're doing!" It's looking at ourselves and saying, "What am I doing, and how can I achieve the spiritual ideal?"

I will start with research on the ancient philosophies of idealism. My beautiful philosophy professor, who passed away from H1N1, will guide me as she speaks to my soul. I've heard her talk to me on many occasions since her passing, once shockingly so, where she said, "I love you," with such clarity that it shook me to the core. In her class, I performed a creative presentation on Plato's story of near-death experiences, although I was an atheist then. I believe she is guiding me and all her beloved students, although no one would admit it for fear of being committed to an institution.

The ideals for the book *Machiavelli's Sister* will be formulated as they might exist in heaven (or even higher heavenly realms, such as the Christian third heaven or the infinite degrees of heaven in Sikhism). In other words, whatever generates bliss and unconditional love for all encapsulates ideal states. So why not theorize in a way that brings heavenly ideals to Earth during wartime?

My beautiful friend, who had four near-death experiences, said that visions of future war were presented to her during her heavenly visit. I saw other NDEs who say they were presented with visions of future possible war outcomes for Earth. These people often say that we must change the horrific outcomes by choosing unconditional love. My friend believes that the opposite of love is not hate but selfishness, which may explain why great wealth can contribute to mass suffering.

Whether my book will be funded is a gamble, but it's a goal, and when we keep throwing stuff at the wall, something eventually sticks. And what better pursuit to make than one that advocates for unconditional love for every soul, as love is the purpose of life, and love is who we all essentially are?

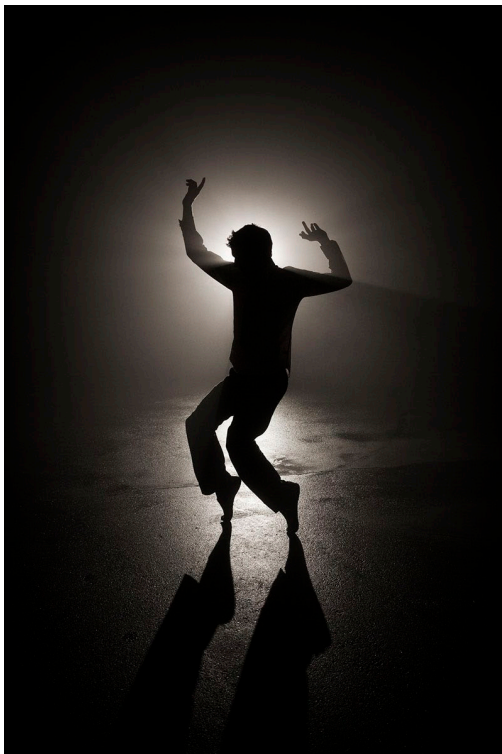
Reference

van Lommel, P. (2010). *Consciousness Beyond Life: The science of the near-death experience*. New York, NY. Harper One.



Toxic Versus Healthy Choices

Marie Well



Health can become a fun form of fanaticism and has many benefits. Toxins, on the other hand, lead to suffering. Getting hit with a disease where we can no longer work, where we suffer to the point of nausea, where we are isolated for a decade in a black room with no sound, barely able to communicate with our children and families, can be a brutal wake-up call regarding toxins. Cigarettes, cannabis, coffee, sugar, alcohol, fast foods, trans fats, just a day of any of these would drag me back into hellish sickness.

But getting healthy becomes an addiction. The healthier we become, the healthier we want to get. It's a tipping point. To illustrate, I exercise regularly and eat foods near their natural states. My positive choices have become more extreme over time, which is a good outcome, as my health has turned around 360. Healthy choices are influencing my loved ones to get healthier.

For example, a loved one gave up coffee and pop and is now drinking green tea, water, and probiotic-rich Kombucha instead. She also started watching YouTube health videos that may have inadvertently populated her YouTube through my

YouTube viewing, which showed her how damaging sugar is to the arteries, causing her to give up sweetened chocolate and sugary treats. As a result, she looks healthier and leaner, and her skin, hair, and eyes shine. She loves the changes!

Toxins send us the other way. They can make us ugly and sick. To illustrate, I went for a job interview to sell smokeless cigarettes a while back. The interviewers lit up their smokeless cigarettes, and the room was filled with vile smokeless smoke. My lungs tightened, and I felt sick for the next three days. I could taste the smokeless smoke strangling my lungs, and I felt less motivated to exercise, which shocked me, and my hunger to eat healthily halted, as I felt like a giant bag of lung butter. If I got the job, I'd rapidly plummet into poor health and maybe end up smoking, plummeting down the toxin path. So, eliminate all toxins from our diet and lifestyle, as 100% abstinence is significantly easier than 99%. From my experience, the difference between daily consumption of no toxins versus one percent toxins can be life or death.

Like toxins begets toxins and health begets health, toxic thoughts (anything negative) bear toxic outcomes. In contrast, loving thoughts beget positive outcomes, as thoughts lead to feelings, behaviors, perceptions, and "feedback." The positivity that begets more positivity tends to

nurture, love, inspire, and support others. When someone is in a pinch, for instance, and asks us to go a mile, if we go four miles, they leave the situation empowered and feeling good, and we feel elated.

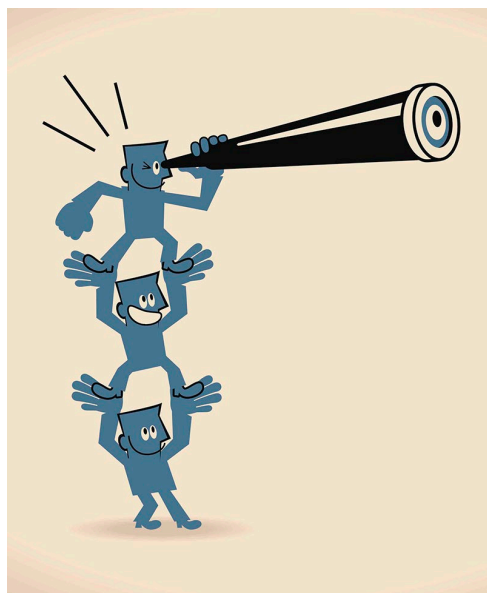
Positive words and actions can make someone proud because what we said touched the core of their self-worth. Everyone is deeply special, despite whatever path we are on, including if we are on the darkest path, as we are all essentially brilliant beings of light! I believe all our paths are meant to arrive at a state of unconditional, selfless love for all others. We all have missions to complete, every one of us, and I believe the underlying theme of those missions is unconditional love.

Recently, I told a plumber how great his work was, and he said he was just a plumber. I told him he was probably the best in the country as he cared greatly about his work, and his posture straightened. I truly meant what I said, and I was surprised he didn't know this. His work, compared to a prior plumber, was worlds apart. Also, today, a magazine editor reached out to me in a panic for a story, and I couldn't help him but gave him a resource that would greatly benefit his work and offered free labor to find a solution. His stress turned to empowerment, which brought me joy. Also, yesterday, I was in a meeting with over a hundred others online, and a guest speaker looked unsure of herself, almost like she would cry. So, I posted an encouraging comment for her, and when she stopped talking and looked down at the comment, her face broke into a smile, and I felt elated. Love begets joy.

Positive choices lead to joy. Negative ones lead to suffering. The dark side is suffering, and it's not our friend. The dark side leads us to toxic lifestyles, disease, heartache, and early death. And if that's not bad enough, there's the dark side of the afterlife, commonly referred to as hell, which many near-death experiencers discuss, and it's unbelievable suffering. But a step toward the light can lead to joy. Ask anyone who has had a near-death experience where they most want to be. It's certainly not in the hell realm or even on Earth. It's in the unconditional love of heaven, and it has a home for every religion and every soul. I believe we can have that bliss to an unlimited degree here on Earth, but it culminates by making healthier and healthier choices, as one healthy choice spawns infinitely more.

Research Assistant Opportunity!

Stand Aside Julia Roberts: AU, Too, Can Do Environmental Protection!



If you were inspired by the 2000 movie *Erin Brockovich*, replete as it was with righteously defending victims of environmental degradation, this is the job posting for you. Monsanto and other Big Agriculture corporations have certainly trod a dark path in the public's eye and the most famous pariah of chemical technology, where food is concerned, is their product named *glyphosate*.

Furthering the inquiring cause of assessing possible damage by this herbicide, this job entails "studying the microbial community structure and functions using 16S gene amplicons in an environmental setting to study microbial metabolisms of interest, including but not limited to glyphosate degradation." This particular job search desires a literal "molecular biologist". So, if you're a science major within this purview please do send your resume, cover letter, transcript, and references to Dr. Srijak Bhatnagar at sbhatnagar@athabascau.ca.

DIY Chinese Crepe (Jianbing)

Xine Wang



Crispy on the outside and extremely eggy and flavorful with every bite.

Chinese Crepe is a staple within many areas of China as a popular breakfast item. They are known for its quick and easy ingredients and steps. Many vendors along the side of the road offer this quick snack or breakfast fix. Usually it can be made in a few minutes and boasts some incredible textures and flavors. Whenever I crave this unique and authentic breakfast item, I like to make it at home with simple ingredients that can be found in the fridge.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup water
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
- 2 tablespoons chili sauce or sriracha
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame seeds
- Optional fillings: cooked shredded chicken, sliced ham, pickled vegetables, cilantro, lettuce leaves

Instructions:

- 1) Prepare the Batter: In a mixing bowl, combine the all-purpose flour, water, egg, and salt. Whisk until smooth and well combined. The batter should be thin and pourable, similar to pancake batter. If it's too thick, add a little more water. Let the batter rest for 10-15 minutes.
- 2) Cook the Crepe: Heat a non-stick skillet or crepe pan over medium heat. Brush the pan lightly with vegetable oil. Pour about 1/4 cup of the batter onto the pan, swirling it around to coat the bottom evenly in a thin layer. Cook for 1-2 minutes until the edges start to lift and the bottom is golden brown.
- 3) Flip and Cook: Carefully flip the crepe using a spatula. Cook for another 1-2 minutes until the other side is golden brown and cooked through. Repeat with the remaining batter, stacking the cooked crepes on a plate and covering them with a clean kitchen towel to keep them warm.
- 4) Assemble the Jianbing: Lay a cooked crepe flat on a clean surface. Brush the center of the crepe with a thin layer of hoisin sauce, leaving a border around the edges. Drizzle with



A crepe-maker or an over-stove pizza pan are both excellent methods to create your masterpiece jianbing.



Jianbing can be customized with various fillings and sauces to suit your taste preferences. For myself, I used spam and shredded lettuce to add flavor and color to my crepe.

chili sauce or sriracha, then sprinkle with soy sauce, chopped green onions, and toasted sesame seeds.

5) **Add Fillings (Optional):** If using fillings, arrange them in a line down the center of the crepe. Some popular options include shredded chicken, sliced ham, pickled vegetables, cilantro, and lettuce leaves.

6) **Roll and Serve:** Starting from one end, fold the crepe over the fillings, then fold in the sides to enclose them. Roll the crepe tightly into a cylinder. If desired, cut the crepe in half crosswise for easier eating. Serve immediately and enjoy!

Xine Wang is a post-graduate health-science AU student, aspiring clinician, globe-trotter, parrot-breeder and tea-connoisseur.

Student Sizzle — AU's Hot Social Media Topics

Following What's Hot around AU's Social Media Sites.

Facebook:

How to juggle full-time work and studies. A student asks how students work full-time while completing an AU course within three months. Twenty-four commentators respond with various types of advice including combining reading with writing for assignments, dedicating two days to the assignment, six to ten hours each day, or sticking to the hours committed to studying each day, like a day job, always moving forward by switching to another class or reading a chapter when stuck. Other students utilize learning objectives to focus their studies, or waking up at 3 AM to study. One student with a full-time career, who had to complete three courses within four months, scheduled small daily tasks (such as 250 to 500 words for an assignment), documented in Excel, ensuring each semester had one course with a final exam and two with final essays.

Reddit:

How do AU certificates work? A student inquires about a year-long computer science University Certificate and its relevance for a full-time degree. According to two students, the accounting certificate contains only courses that apply to the two-year certificate, and the two-year certificate contains only courses that apply to the degree, which takes an additional two years to complete. Another student says the (HR) certificate looks good on a resume while pursuing the degree.

Twitter:

Space to connect. @athabascau writes, "AU Trans Student Connect is a space for transgender, non-binary, Two Spirit, and gender nonconforming students to socialize. The sessions will be facilitated by Dr. Tobias Wiggins, a trans scholar in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. <https://www.athabascau.ca/news/events/athabasca-university-trans-student-connect>."



[blue rare]Pick Your Own Apocalypse

Oliver-Moorcraft Sykes



A friend of mine (let's call him Nels, because that's his name) is one of those really gloomy types you sometimes meet. He's forever whingeing on about the way human beings are devastating and wasting the planet. Sort of like doom scrolling personified.

Maybe I am shallow, blasé, and oblivious, but I just can't abide that negative kind of thinking. Obviously, in whatever form it eventually arrives, the end of life on Earth or the collapse of civilization as we know it will be a dreadful thing. Still, it can't be that much worse than the mind-numbing ennui one feels while listening to people fretting about it ad

nauseum. From social studies classes to daily news feeds to second rate disaster films, it's a seemingly ubiquitous and never-ending topic of conversation. And where does it really get us?

Besides, if and when it does happen during our lifetimes, will there not be a certain cachet in being, after all the countless generations that have preceded us, the very last human beings to walk the planet? If you weren't lucky enough to see the recent eclipse, or score tickets to U2 at The Sphere in Las Vegas, take heart in the possibility that the coming cataclysm will be even more spectacular.

Of course, there is the *en vogue* philosophical conjecture that we are all of just living in a computer-generated simulation, anyway, and what we perceive as reality is merely an illusion perpetrated by a highly advanced species, presumably with a lot of time on their hands and an impressive research budget.

It's possible, then, that the ways in which we each react to a climactic existential crisis will be a rich source of data for these creepy eggheads. If this is the case, I am hoping that, as a reward for our valuable (if unwitting) service, our unseen overlords will allow each of us to *choose* the unique form of apocalypse that is most relevant, most aesthetically and spiritually satisfying to us as individuals. At the end of the day, having it all end in fire or ice, as the poet Robert Frost predicted, seems dismally binary. And the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse is nearly as bad, offering the sort of limited consumer choice one might have expected to encounter in Soviet-era Russia. Screw thermonuclear war, lethal pandemic, climate upheaval, and all the usual uninspiring iterations. Some of us need better and more imaginative scenarios.

That said, many people would understandably opt for a comforting, familiar sort of Armageddon. Their perfect apocalypse may, for example, involve the appearance (or second coming) of a preferred deity, followed by a pleasant afterlife as seen in religious prophecies. Fair enough. Should I be given the choice, however, I would definitely custom design a Judgement Day involving valkyries, centaurs, and the Tower of Power horn section, and pimp a "world beyond" that looks something like a cross between my favourite bookstore and Studio 54.

Or, let's face it, maybe it won't happen at all. Maybe humanity will find some way to just keep limping along, or even manage to one day build a golden utopia amongst the stars, and all the hyped-up "end times" will be seen as just another fraudulent letdown, like sea monkeys and Fyre Festival. Guess we'll just have to wait and see what happens next, won't we? Either way, I'm sure it'll be a trip.



Fly on the Wall: Truth and Audacity

Winnie The Pooh Meets Punk Rock Geopolitics

Jason Sullivan



P Truth's magical pull accompanies us through all life's adventures: true love, authentic vocations, and meaningful hobbies all require a ring of certainty for them to feel right. Like following the North Star on a mission to become found when once lost, the nature of finding truth is above all about being tethered to truth as an *idea*. John Lennon and Yoko Ono proclaimed: peace if you want it. Truth, too, has more to do with desire, certitude, and purpose than we might expect.

While absolution from ambiguity can be a noble goal, the reality of truth's pursuit is as much about state of mind as it is tied to facts in hand. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, truth-wise. Witness A.A. Milne's beloved *The Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* characters as they ponder a journey to discover the North Pole:

"It's—I wondered—It's only—Rabbit, I suppose you don't know, what does the North Pole look like?"

"Well," said Rabbit, stroking his whiskers. "Now you're asking me."

"I did know once, only I've sort of forgotten," said Christopher Robin carelessly.

"It's a funny thing," said Rabbit, "but I've sort of forgotten too, although I did know once."

"I suppose it's just a pole stuck in the ground?"

"Sure to be a pole," said Rabbit, "because of calling it a pole, and if it's a pole, well, I should think it would be sticking in the ground, shouldn't you, because there'd be nowhere else to stick it."

"Yes, that's what I thought."

"The only thing," said Rabbit, "is, where is it sticking?"

"That's what we're looking for," said Christopher Robin.

Now, for those among us (maybe just me!) who instinctively reach for our Freudian metaphors, there's clearly unconscious sentiments at work as regards the value of, er, searching at once for a pole and a purpose. But we'll leave that aside for today and see what happens next in terms of truth as a concept.

Truth, in the sense of an object of inquiry at once provided by and yielding valid data, is clarified by Milne's characters. Truth can be lost, and it can be found; it may be eternal but only fleetingly—as far as consciousness goes, anyway. Truth is a place or thing, a noun, but it's also something existing *in situ*. It's contextual and presumably transcends consciousness; like the mythical tree that falls in the forest, truth is assumed to be there whether we like it or not. Of course, just as we never prove with utmost certainty that the world exists without recourse to our senses, so too do one or many truths depend on our thinking minds—a mindless truth is beyond the pale of the knowable. This latter, affective, component of truth matters oh so very much; the manner in which truth appears is inseparable from its context, its metrics of being, it's vital

ontology. As Christopher Robin explores the nether regions of reality of his backyard, the One Hundred Acre Wood, he and his plush friends eventually come to a startling realization: they've *had* the North Pole, the truth for which they searched, right there with them for some time – in the boy's hand, on his body as it were. Let's witness what happens when the comrades discover this fact:

"But Christopher Robin wasn't listening. He was looking at Pooh.

"Pooh," he said, "where did you find that pole?"

Pooh looked at the pole in his hands.

"I just found it," he said. "I thought it ought to be useful. I just picked it up."

"Pooh," said Christopher Robin solemnly, "the Expedition is over. You have found the North Pole!"

"Oh!" said Pooh."

Like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, who realized that she need only click her hind heels (there's only one sort of heel, the ones on our feet, but the *in behind* of oneself, temporally, like the person who taps you on one shoulder only to appear abreast of the other shoulder, is crucial) together in order to return home, the truth of the Milne's North Pole is the truth of truth itself: a reality discovered as soon as we turn our attention to its presence. After all, there is nothing in the universe that can be thought of or experienced without it existing – in the manner of its appraisal. Truth in this sense appears as a most interesting philosophical specimen. Truth as such appears as not only a place but also a way of seeing one's reality.

Now, it's worth pointing out that just prior to Pooh's big discovery his best friend, Piglet the Suckling-Aged-Hog (post-farrow, I assume) was in fact facing mortal consequences from being swept away by risen river water. The stark contrast between saving a life and discovering truth appears, perhaps, as a metaphor for the way in which events and circumstances frame and indeed bring forth the appearance of truths: life depends not on finding truth as much as on believing in things such that we act accordingly. It's for this reason that aspersions of misconduct are easily cast onto people who fail to pay attention to this or that issue or cause, the assumption being that if such wayfarers weren't so self-absorbed they would duly take notice of truths that a particular consensus holds dear. We ought not be too surprised, however, that when the going gets important key truths appear.

In life as in education, and certainly in fiction so wed to the requirement of a climactic crucial scene, truths have a habit of appearing when we need them most. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, for instance, middle-aged punk rocker Joe Strummer from the band the Clash concluded that he needed to be more politically balanced given that, as he put it somewhere, "we've been attacked". His Iran hostage era punk anthem "Rock the Casbah" took on an added gravitas after 9/11: the literal truth in its lyrics conveys the reality of Islamic youth embracing rock and roll and generalized modernity – at the expense of the authoritarian pronouncements of their local religious leaders.

"By order of the prophet
We'll ban that boogie sound
Degenerate the faithful
With that crazy Casbah sound
But the Bedouin they brought out an electric camel drum
The local guitar picker got his guitar pickin' thumb
As soon as the Shareef had cleared the square

They began to wail
Shareef don't like it
Rockin' the Casbah, rock the Casbah"

Famously, Joe Strummer outlined his meaning: "don't write slogans, write truths!"

Rebellion implicit in challenging the truth of this or that status quo thus appears as the means by which cultural changes occur. Yet, what means one thing or implies one policy prescription can be applied in other ways. "On December 22, 2002, the day Joe Strummer died, the United States began dropping leaflets and making radio broadcasts over Iraq in hopes of getting people to rise up against Saddam Hussein. As they did in the first Gulf War, some US fighter pilots used "Rock the Casbah" as a soundtrack as they bombed Baghdad."

The darker side of truth, its invisible shadow, is that each truth implies an addendum: "for who"? S/he who deploys a truth is the key user of it and, to a great extent, the interpreter of its meaning and purpose. So, too, the audience—each of us, as pupils and as thinkers, is tasked with making the truth of the world match our own experience. Failing that, we must decide how to reassess our vision for how things are and how things might be. Truth is not a patented item; no matter the intentions of what we say or do we cannot control how others interpret and repeat our reality. The academic task of teasing out meaning from intent is core to an applied jurisprudence of our scholarly skills. And hey, if we're ever not sure what a thinker means then that's when we can add our own interpretation!

References

D'Ambrosio, A. (2006). 'Joe Strummer, Terrorist?'. *The Nation*. Retrieved from <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/joe-strummer-terrorist/>

Milne, A.A. (1926/2022). *Winnie-The-Pooh*. Retrieved from <https://americanliterature.com/author/a-a-milne/book/winnie-the-pooh/chapter-viii-in-which-christopher-robin-leads-an-expedition-to-the-north-pole>

The Clash. (1982). 'Rock the Casbah'. Retrieved from <https://songmeanings.com/songs/view/5843/>

Jason Hazel-rah Sullivan is a Masters of Integrated Studies student who loves engaging in discourse while working in the sunny orchards and forests of the Okanagan.



Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

Scholarship name: Aging Matters Scholarship

Sponsored by: SeniorCare

Deadline: May 15, 2024

Potential payout: \$1500

Eligibility restriction: Applicants must be current or incoming university or college students as of Fall 2024, attending school full-time in a two- to four-year program.

What's required: An online application with contact and academic info, along with an 800-1000 word essay on "Why aging matters to you."

Tips: Read the Past Winners section for ideas on what a winning essay looks like.

Where to get info: www.seniorcare.com/scholarship/



Chazz Bravado Summer Flicks

Wanda Waterman



THE CHAZZ MAN
HAS LEARNED
A VERY USEFUL
FILM INDUSTRY
PHRASE.
ALLOW ME
TO SHARE IT:
"NOBODY KNOWS
ANYTHING."



IT WAS FIRST
COINED
BY WILLIAM
GOLDMAN
IN REFERENCE
TO WHAT FILM
IS COMING
AND WHETHER
OR NOT AUDIENCES
WILL LOVE IT.



THE CHAZZ MAN
IS REPURPOSING
THIS PLATITUDE
TO HIS OWN
BENEFIT.



I LIKE
TO APPROACH
CHICKY-POOS
AND HINT
THAT I HAVE
AN IMPORTANT
ROLE IN AN
UPCOMING
BIKER FLICK.
OR SUPERHERO
STORY.
OR MAD MAX SAGA.



SO OF COURSE
THEY SQUEAL
AND SAY,
"REALLY?"



THAT'S WHEN
I REPLY, WITH
A WINK AND A
KNOWING LOOK,
"NOBODY KNOWS
ANYTHING."

AUSU UPDATE

COMMUNITY. RESOURCES . SERVICES

AUSU UPDATE

April 12, 2024



Passing the Baton:
Welcoming the 2024-2025 AUSU
Executive Committee

"Passing the Baton: Welcoming the 2024-2025 AUSU Executive Committee"

The Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) would like to thank our outgoing 2023-2024 Executive Committee, including President Najju Syed, VP External Manmeet Kaur, VP Finance and Administration Chantel Groening (formerly Bradley), and VP Community and Wellness Natalia Iwanek. Their commitment and dedication to student success have helped guide our organization and enhance the student experience at Athabasca University (AU) over the past year.

To celebrate and reflect with them, check out the latest AUSU Open Mic Podcast, "[Episode 86: AUSU Executives Wrap Up Their Term.](#)" This episode explores the wins and personal growth experienced by your outgoing student executive leaders.

With the upcoming AUSU Council changeover meeting on April 18th, we are thrilled to [welcome the incoming 2024-2025 AUSU Executive Committee](#). Chantel Groening will be moving to the role of President, having served the past year as your VP Finance and Administration. Jan Lehmann will step into the role of VP External, eager to forge strong partnerships and advocate for our students on a provincial and federal level. Diana Ramirez, your new VP Finance and Administration, will help ensure the organization is fiscally responsible and managed effectively. And, Olivia Shepherd will take on the VP Community and Wellness role, committed to fostering a supportive and healthy learning environment for all AU students.

We are excited to see the new heights this dynamic team will reach and look forward to a year of growth, achievement, and student advocacy!

[The Voice Magazine does not edit or review this content.]

Provided by

ausu@ausu.org

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

Ph: 855.497.7003

Publisher	Athabasca University Students' Union
Editor-In-Chief	Jodi Campbell
Managing Editor	Karl Low

Regular Columnists Natalia Iwanek, Barbara Lehtiniemi, Jason Sullivan,
Alek Golijanin, Wanda Waterman, Xine Wang and others!

www.voicemagazine.org

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

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

To receive a weekly email announcing each issue, subscribe [here](#). *The Voice* does not share its subscriber list.

© 2024 by *The Voice Magazine*

ISSN 2561-3634