

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

*Volume 15 Issue 20
June 1, 2007*



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Time and tide

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Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan
Click On This
Music To Eat Lunch To*

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THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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THE VOICE MAGAZINE

1200, 10011 109th Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8
800.788.9041 ext. 2905

Publisher AU Students' Union
Editor In Chief Tamra Ross
Managing Editor Sandra
Livingston

Regular Contributors:
Mandy Gardner, Katie Patrick,
Hazel Anaka, Bill Pollett,
Janice Behrens, Barbara Godin,
Wanda Waterman St. Louis,
John Buhler, Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

THE VOICE ONLINE:
www.voicemagazine.org

The Voice is published every
Friday in HTML and PDF
format

Contact *The Voice* at:
VOICE@AUSU.ORG

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Special thanks to Athabasca
University's *The Insider* for its
frequent contributions

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On Death and Dissent

When protestors refused to ride the buses during the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott of 1955 and 1956, they struck a blow against one of the many institutions that upheld segregation.

When suffragettes disrupted Britain's House of Commons in 1908, they targeted a body that was determined to deny them the right to vote.

Protest—steadfast, prolonged, sometimes violent—has played a part in these and many other hard-won triumphs. Too often, the traditions and institutions that are held up as sacrosanct are merely an excuse for the powerful to maintain their hold on the oppressed. But there is a time, and a place, and, even for the most noble of causes, some arenas that must remain sacred and some ground that protestors should never walk.

On a recent episode of CBC Radio's *Sounds Like Canada*,¹ panel members discussed the power of protest. One participant questioned whether, as a way to object to Canada's presence in Afghanistan, it would be appropriate for protestors to appear at a fallen soldier's funeral.

To one panellist, Carolina Echeverria, the answer was a resounding yes. "Why not?" she argued. "It's the only time the media is there."

This wasn't only a weak argument; it also showed a remarkable lack of regard for the basic human right to mourn a loved one's death.

Ms. Echevarria's stance hinged on the fact that, because soldiers are involved in the violence of combat, because they are shooting at, and possibly taking the lives of, others, their own funerals are fair ground to protest these acts. But Ms. Echavarria forgets one important thing: War, even if it's a fight you believe in, strips away human dignity and makes a mockery of the value of life. Our basic human rituals—especially those surrounding birth and death—defy that. To politicize a funeral, to deny mourners the dignity of this final rite, demonstrates the same lack of respect for the nobler side of humanity that war does.

It also assumes that a soldier's family supported the war that their son or daughter, husband or wife, chose to take part in. It fails to realize that, along with the pain of losing a loved one, friends and family may be torn apart by the belief that it was an unjust or unnecessary cause; that the soldier being laid to rest has died for no good reason at all.

We can, and must, question the status quo. In the face of injustice, we must raise our voices and refuse to be silenced. Nonviolent civil protest has proven to be a powerful tool in the gains against racism, sexism, and other discrimination.

As Ms. Echevarria asked in the panel discussion, "How far will you go?" In answer I would say that, even with the best of intentions, there's such a thing as going too far.

¹ CBC Radio, 2007. *Sounds Like Canada*. "The Thursday Think Tank." Originally aired May 24, 2007. Audio file available at <http://www.cbc.ca/soundslikecanada/>

The *Voice* Great Canadian Place Challenge

Are you a snow-loving Rocky Mountain gal?

A wide-open-spaces Prairie kind of guy?

Or maybe someone who can't get enough of the rugged coasts and fresh Atlantic air in the east?

Tell us why the place you live is the best place in Canada, in *The Voice* Great Canadian Place Challenge!

Is it the people? The places? The natural Canadian beauty?

Convince us (and *Voice* readers) that Anzac, Alberta is the must-see place for a vacation this summer, or that there's nothing like watching a sunrise in Wrigley, Northwest Territories.

Selected submissions will be paid at regular *Voice* rates, and the winner will also receive a prize pack of *Voice* goodies.



There are two ways to brag about why you're living in the best-kept secret in the country:

1. Send us a 400 - 500 word article explaining what makes your city or town special, or
2. Submit 6 - 8 photos in electronic format (e.g., JPEG, GIF) with a short caption for each one.

Submissions selected for publication will appear in *The Voice* throughout the summer, and the winner will be selected by *Voice* staff on September 30, 2007. Send submissions to voice@ausu.org

All entrants agree to have their names and submissions published in *The Voice*. All articles must be original, unpublished works, and will be edited for spelling, grammar, and clarity. Photos must be original and unpublished, and must be good quality electronic format.

Send us your photos and articles today, and you might just win the bragging rights to the best place in Canada!





Galapagos

The human consciousness is an immense body of water, an ocean of immeasurable depth. We carry billions of tide pools in the delicate bowls of our skulls.

At night, if you put your ear to your lover's head, you can hear the sound of foghorns blowing, of waves lapping at a distant shore. You can hear the crackle of a ship's radio sending signals of distress, of hope, of expectation, of faith out across vast stretches of uncharted space. Look closely at your lover's skin, and you will see an almost invisible tattoo of a serpent or a rose—a seagoing history of places you didn't know they had been.

Out on this ocean is a terrible ghost ship, a factory ship, a floating processing plant equipped for ripping and boiling the sweet blubber of things that are vaster and more wonderful than we can conceive. The hull is rusty, the colour of bone and dried blood. The boiler room is filled with industrial light, infernal fire. It looms up and up out of the water, big beyond description. Big as a school, big as a cathedral, big as an office tower, big as a parent's hand. There is a never-ending fine-mesh net trailing lazily through the green waters. Weird dreams we can't explain are trapped like dolphins, like flying fish in the strangling threads. Every day the ocean has fewer and fewer magnificent things living within it.

Every now and then, though, a manatee or a swordfish slips through the rips and tears. There are seismic shocks emanating from tectonic plates a billion miles beneath the surface of our waking thoughts, causing mysterious miniature tsunamis in the bloodstream. There is the magnetic witchcraft of an invisible moon creating flood tides that spill out from the canals of our ears, filling the streets of our workaday sinking cities.

Every now and then, someone we know sets out to sea in a flimsy boat made of paper and wood. We watch the lantern suspended from its prow until it disappears at the gathering point of the horizon, a tiny spark of bioluminescence merging with the stars. After that, the person's life becomes the subject matter of bawdy shanties and ill-conceived legends. Some say that their lungs are long ago filled with water. Others that they have slipped off the edge of the world, or been shredded by dragons. Some of us, the more hopeful, like to imagine that they've been shipwrecked on some weird shore, a place where the rocks are shaped like awful, beautiful gods, a lost Galapagos of near-impossible things.

Sanctity - *Road to Bloodshed*



Release date: April 24, 2007

Label: Roadrunner Records

Tracks: 12

Rating: 8

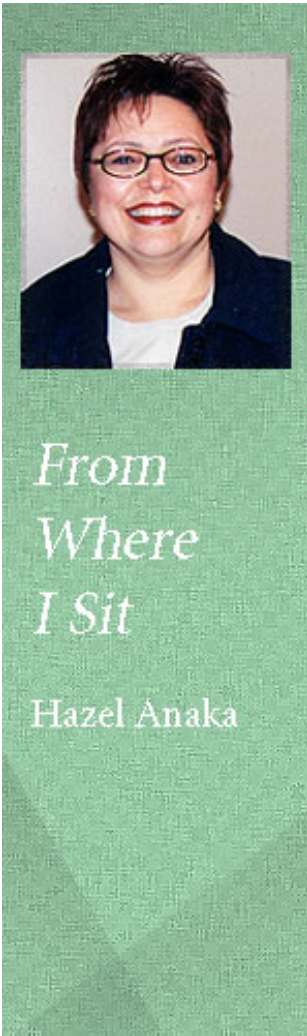
Road to Bloodshed is the debut album for the four-piece North Carolina metal band Sanctity, and it's a showstopper. The band was thrilled to receive the highest praise from Trivium's front man Matthew Heafy, who helped them get the record deal, and shortly after that their idol Dave Mustaine (Megadeth) caught a show and was impressed enough to offer Sanctity a spot on the Gigantour stage. The product of the record deal with Roadrunner was a 12-track metalfest that is tightly played, well composed, and ultimately a real tribute to the metal giants on the band members' constant playlist: Metallica, Slayer, Pantera, and Megadeth.

Vocalist Jared MacEachern says he was a choir member in his youth, a crucial piece of training that means he is able to not only bring a purely metal edge to the tracks but can manipulate his voice to be deep, harsh, reflective, and melodic in the space of one well-executed song. Think Slipknot's "Wait and Bleed" (self-titled album, 2000) and you'll understand the abilities of this front man. The vocal range does a lot to bring the tracks together in a way that is compelling where it might have otherwise been merely endurable.

Of course, the requirement of a metal band is the ability to manipulate the guitar and bass with speed, agility, and pure harmonic melody. Have they done it? Sanctity passes with a top grade—Zeff Childress on guitar and Derek Anderson on bass bring the perfect riffs and many, many solos to pull together the insistent pounding of Jeremy London on drums and MacEachern on the mic. According to London, songwriting is a "collaborative effort"¹ for the entire band. "Usually Zeff will come up with a riff, and then he and I will work the song out a bit. Then Jared will come in and help shape it and give it a dynamic voice,"¹ says London, who started his musical career as a bass player.

Overall, it's a great album even if you aren't the biggest metal fan; of course you'll need a solid appreciation of guitar, bass, drums, and rock vocals to listen or the entire endeavour will be wasted on you! The songs are stable, work well with one another, and if this debut is anything to judge by, Sanctity is destined to see their name tattooed across legions of fans in the not-too-distant future.

¹ Roadrunner Records. "Band Biography." Retrieved May 30, 2007, from <http://www.roadrunnerrecords.com/artists/Sanctity/bio.aspx>



Changing Bite by Bite

Occasionally—okay, every chance I get—I use this space to promote reading, lifelong learning, investing in numero uno. I believe trite little phrases like “I’m the CEO of Me Incorporated.” I believe that regardless of how we earn our living, all of us are in sales. We are all selling ourselves all the time.

I’ve invested a lot of time, energy, and money in buying resources and attending live presentations. I take as many detailed notes as I possibly can. I mark up my books with underlining, flags, highlighting. Regrettably, I haven’t listened to my tape programs as often or as recently as I should have. But that is changing.

The phenomenon called *The Secret* has got me rediscovering some of the great stuff in my own library. I came across some notes I took in August 2002. I attended a daylong seminar in Edmonton called “Get Motivated.” On the bill were Krish Dhanam, Tim Timmons, Dr. Earl Mindell, Peter Lowe, Salé and Pelletier, and legendary Zig Ziglar. Unfortunately, not all the notes are legible or coherent. (Memo to self: rewrite notes that night while the thoughts are fresh and there’s time for neater penmanship.)

As a review for me and perhaps news for you, I’d like to hit some of the high points of one presentation. It’s interesting to note that all this good stuff is timeless. It’s also not new. We just forget.

Zig Ziglar was 75 years old that day in Edmonton. We can only hope we all have the same energy level and faculties when we hit that age. Ziglar reminded us that we can do something in the next three weeks to either make our lives better or worse. The choice is ours. We can take what we already know and the experiences we’ve already had and refine them and put them to work.

He said the business of success begins between the ears. As important as money is, it will only buy a house, not a home; a companion but not a friend; a bed but not a good night’s sleep. There are moral absolutes like honesty and fidelity. Long-term relationships are built on trust.

We can make radical changes in our lives by taking minute bites. Termites can do more damage than tornadoes—bite by bite.

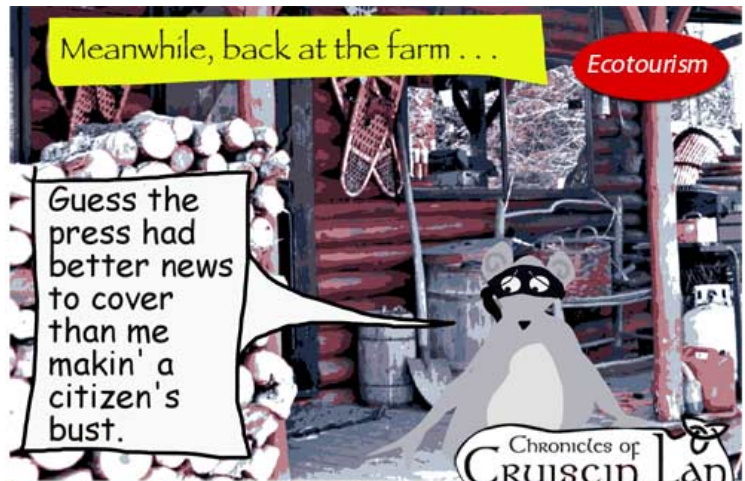
Ziglar asked us to picture a \$5 million racehorse staying up all night, drinking booze, smoking cigarettes, and eating junk food. He asked us to consider what we’re putting into ourselves and encouraged us to start putting good stuff in: tapes, CDs, books. Does this mean I have to give up spider solitaire or decorating shows? God, I hope not.

On the subject of relationships he suggested we do little things for our loved one that they can do for themselves because if they can’t, it’s a duty, not a loving gesture.

Be aware of the power of self-talk. It can build you up or tear you down. Like most things in life, the choice is ours, from where I sit.

The Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan

by
Wanda
Waterman
St. Louis



AUSU THIS MONTH



AGM 2007

All AUSU Members Invited

The AUSU Annual General Meeting for 2007 will be held on June 18 at 6:00 p.m. by teleconference. All AUSU members are invited to attend. If you are currently in an open AU undergraduate course, or have completed a course in the last six months, you are an AUSU member.

While members are invited to observe all AUSU meetings, at the AGM, members may also participate in the meeting, ask questions, and vote! This year we will present important updates to our bylaws, so member input is vital. There will be discussion on all proposed changes.

Contact our office at ausu@ausu.org or 1-800-788-9041 ext. 3413 for more information. Also, watch our website for a link to our annual report, which will be available shortly.

Changes to Council Executive

The AUSU "cabinet" does the shuffle

AUSU councillors are elected for two-year terms and, traditionally, the three executives also serve for two years. In early 2005, however, council began to discuss the possibility of holding a mid-term executive election. This term, councillors developed a new executive election policy to allow for the option of a mid-term election each term. In mid-March, council decided to hold a mid-term election for this year.

Lonita Fraser, VP External for AUSU for the last two years, decided not to run at this time due to a high course load, and she has moved to a regular councillor without portfolio position.

New councillor Huma Lodhi, who has been with council for one year, chose to run for VP Finance, due to her experience on the AUSU Finance Committee over the last year.

VP Finance for the past three years, Karl Low, chose to run for the vacant VP External position.

Lisa Priebe, President for the last two years, opted to run again for her position.

The three candidates were acclaimed to their positions at a special meeting of council held on April 16, 2007. As both outgoing executives are still with council and available to assist their successors, the changeover is expected to be very smooth.



At Home: PowerCost Monitor keeps Canadians informed about their energy costs

Canada's Blue Line Innovation has presented a new PowerCost Monitor system that will enable households to closely watch their energy consumption; the hope is that once put under such close surveillance, energy use will go down.

The main drive behind this proposal is the fact that the PowerCost Monitor will show households exactly what their energy use is costing them—users interviewed on CTV News said that their consumption went down by about 10 to 20% following the instalment of the device. A reviewer featured on the [Blue Line Innovation website](#) claimed that his energy consumption actually plummeted 40% this winter in comparison to the winter before; a stunning claim despite his admission that he and his wife spent less time in the cold basement this year.

The Monitor comes in two parts: the actual system that connects to your utility meter, usually outside, and the display monitor that sits inside the home and shows the amount of energy being used at any time. Thanks to a per-hour cost display on the monitor, users are apparently drawn to find out what each appliance costs them per hour and to spend hours switching lights and machines on and off to calculate the difference to the energy bill. The company, as well as reviewers, make the device out to be an addictive and positive influence on their lives; Blue Line Innovation is looking into widespread instalment of the Monitor throughout Canada.

If this were the case, Canadians would all be faced directly with their energy consumption in perhaps the only way it might have an impact: a constant preview of the cost. There are a lot of us who might not care in the least about energy reduction in terms of the environment, but we're all tightwads at heart. It just might work.

In Foreign News: Greenpeace protests in Berlin to stop whaling

CTV announced that protests this week in Berlin marked the start of a heightened campaign by Greenpeace against world whaling laws. Activists laid out 17 small whale and dolphin carcasses on the street to draw attention to the fact that that many of the animals were being killed every half hour all over the world. The group hoped that the shock tactic would work its way into people's consciences so that more protesters could be gathered together for the main event on May 27 in Alaska.

Greenpeace says, [via its website](#), that it is merely looking for the members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to start paying more attention to the deaths of whales and dolphins than they have been. According to the protest group, IWC members have made baby steps toward more humane policies but have failed to acknowledge the fact that their policies have frailties that continue to cause deaths in the oceans each day.

The protest came just before the IWC meeting in Alaska on May 27; to draw more attention to their campaign Greenpeace urged people internationally to don a blue T-shirt and support the Big Blue March on that day. The protest was expected to be carried out in cities across the world and the IWC will face harsh criticisms if it fails to revise outdated policies that leave dolphins and whales at the mercy of regional hunting techniques.

Click On This - Vehicular

Lonita Fraser

We've all got to get there in the end somehow; but who says getting there has to be a bore?

Twike - <http://www.twike.us/>

I wonder if I can get this little beauty in neon green?

Gypsy Caravans - <http://gypsy-caravans.co.uk/>

Not just a thing of vehicular beauty, you can have one of your very own!

Strange and Unusual Vehicles - http://www.diseno-art.com/encyclopedia/strange_vehicles/strange_vehicles.html

And I bet you thought the Smart car was the cutest little thing on wheels.

Worst Cars Ever Made - http://www.automotoportal.com/article/Worst_cars_ever_made

After all the gettable little dreams above, here's a collection of what to stay away from.

Yugo Art - <http://magliery.com/Graphics/YugoArt/>

And here's what to do with it when you get sick of it, or if it does turn out to be an unsellable lemon.

EDUCATION NEWS



Google Bans Ads for Essay-Writing Services

In response to complaints that essay-writing services “undermine the integrity of university degrees,”¹ Google will ban advertisements for these services from its site.

Beginning in June, the popular search engine will no longer carry ads from companies that sell made-to-order essays. Several such ads can still be found on Google, with some sites offering essay-writing services for as much as \$15 per page. Fast turnaround times are promised, with advertisers quoting delivery within eight to twenty-four hours of an essay being ordered.

A London Times article reports that essay-writing companies are unhappy about the decision, claiming that their services are only intended to act as educational guides to students and that “they warn students not to use such essays dishonestly.”¹

However, a review of essay-writing sites reveals that many promise to use plagiarism-detecting software to ensure that students are not caught cheating when they hand in their purchased assignments, a move that belies the idea of buying essays for example purposes only.

As Drummond Bone, president of Universities U.K., puts it, “Essay writing sites claim that students pay hundreds of pounds for model answers—but do not then submit these as their own work. We all know this claim is absurd.”¹

Although students wanting to purchase essays can still perform a Google search to find those services, the new ad ban means that essay-writing sites will be harder to find—and scholars may just find themselves turning to ads for tutoring services instead.

¹ London Times Online, 2007. “Google bans internet essays that help students cheat on degrees.” Retrieved May 23, 2007, from http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/the_web/article1827302.ece

classifieds

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

THE VOICE

1200, 10011 109th Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4 -- Ph: 800.788.9041 ext. 2905 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross

Managing Editor Sandra Livingston

Regular Columnists: Janice Behrens, Wanda Waterman St. Louis,
Katie Patrick, Hazel Anaka, Bill Pollett, Barbara Godin, John Buhler

Contributors to listings columns: Zil-E-Huma Lodhi, Lonita Fraser

THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.VOICEMAGAZINE.ORG

The Voice is published every Friday in html and pdf format

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Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its contributions

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