

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 22 Issue 04 2014-01-24

Discussion Forums

Digging in

Home, James

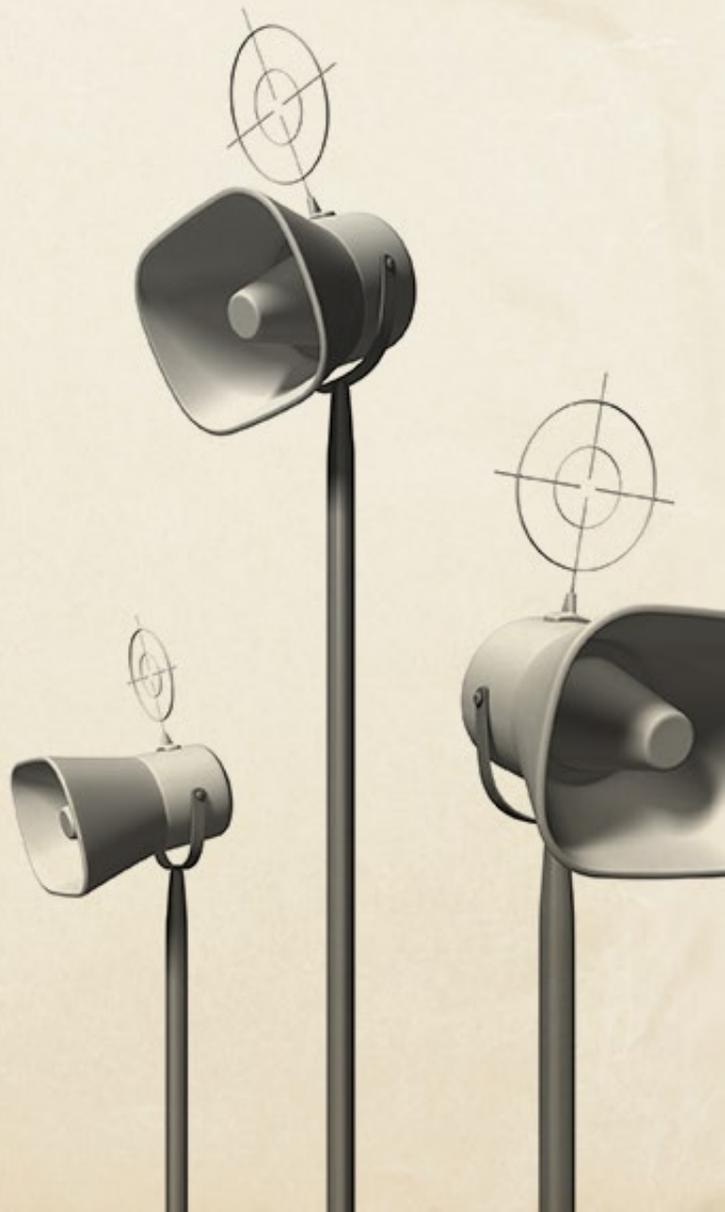
Automatic Autos?

Who Speaks For You?

When Your Voice Isn't Yours

Plus:

*From Where I Sit
Writer's Toolbox
and much more!*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

EDITORIAL

Karl Low

**The Importance of Being Elected**

I've been following the reaction to the claims by AU Graduate Students' Association President, Amanda Nielsen, since I became aware of them in the *Athabasca Advocate*. I am not the only one who did not like being spoken for, especially with an opinion that was the complete opposite of my own. It seems I'm not alone in this, because each week since, the *Advocate* has published a letter they received refuting her.

More interesting is that most of these letters are from graduates or graduate students of AU, even though the changes to a call centre model won't directly affect them at all. The first response, in the Jan 7 edition, was from Dr. Bob Barnetson, and signed by some 60 academics currently working at Athabasca University right now. They contend that there is no clear distinction between administrative questions and teaching questions, giving the example of if a student asks for the format of an exam, a straight administrative answer misses the opportunity for the tutor to emphasize the importance of certain concepts in the course, and have a short dialogue with the student that can help them identify short-falls in the students knowledge and recommend ways to remedy that.

Then in the Jan 14 issue, a graduate student wrote in to say that she disagreed with the idea that a call centre is a better model, and points out how the call centre can affect all AU graduates if it creates the impression that AU's courses are not academically sound. This strikes as a very true note to me, and one I hadn't thought of. Call centres, by and large, do not enjoy a good reputation for providing either service or information. If employers who have that impression hear that AU is entirely call centre based, what impression will that give them of the education we gain here, and more importantly, about the worth of our degree. We run the risk of once again taking on the mantle of simply a correspondence school or degree mill, a reputation AU has had to fight nearly since its inception to dispel. And that's without considering what a fully call-centre based model of education might mean to the Middle-States Accreditation Committee where AU receives it's US accreditation from.

The latest issue, January 21, has a letter from a recent graduate of AU's Professional Arts program, who goes so far as to say he detested the school of business courses that he had to take, specifically because the call centre served as a block between him and his education, and suggesting that having a specific professor has other benefits generally not thought of, such as providing a meaningful point of contact in what can otherwise be a very isolating experience. He also writes about how call centre people attempt to answer his question by reading verbatim from the text book or Moodle course notes, which isn't teaching but simply wasting time, as we can assume that by a university level we already know how to read the material that is provided by the university.

All of this brings me to my point. When someone is elected to represent us, we need to make sure they're going to be the type of person who represents our viewpoints, not just one they've made up on the fly. They need to be someone who refrains from saying what we think when they simply don't know. And not knowing who the candidates are, or not voting, does not excuse us from the responsibility, because when they speak, they do so with our voice, so when the AUSU election rolls around, it's important for every one of us to participate. Make sure the people who get elected deserve to speak with your voice—because they will.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl', written in a cursive style.



*Dear
Barb*

Barbara Godin

Dear Barb:

Hi, my husband and I have been married almost two years and I am already having trouble with my sister-in-law. My husband and I have been previously married and, unfortunately, our spouses passed away within six months of each other. We met while living in the same condo development while married to our late spouses. The problem is my sister-in-law is convinced we knew each other while our spouses were alive and that I had pursued my husband immediately following the death of his wife.

This is not true! I have told her this many times, but she chooses not to believe me. My husband has also told her this is not true, but to no avail. She tells other people this story while my husband and I are present. I find this embarrassing and feel a need to defend myself. It doesn't seem to matter to her what I say, as she speaks over me and insists her version of events is the truth. I am not sure how to handle this. I really don't want this to create a problem between my husband and his brother. Please help!

Looking forward to your advice, Karen.

Hi Karen.

Wow, your sister-in-law appears to be inconsiderate and not care how you or your husband feel. You didn't say whether her husband has an opinion about this situation. I assume he is aware of how his wife's behaviour is affecting you and his brother. If not, perhaps your husband could talk to his brother and explain how uncomfortable his wife's comments are making you both.

On the other hand, if the brothers do not communicate well enough to be able to discuss this situation, perhaps the four of you could sit down together and you, or your husband, could casually bring up this issue. You will have to be careful how you approach this matter. Do not make it into a hostile encounter, as this will cause problems between the brothers and they will each feel a need to defend their wife.

Calmly explain to your sister-in-law how you feel when she says these things, however she may be more receptive to your husband, as she has known him longer. It is possible that she was close to your husband's late wife and that she has difficulty accepting the fact that he has moved on, subsequently she is painting you as the pursuer/instigator of the relationship. Ultimately, if this is not resolved it will affect your relationship with this couple, since you will not want to get together with them. Sometimes all it takes is bringing an issue out in the open for it to change.

Thanks for writing and good luck Karen.

Dear Barb

Follow Up

Below is the response to the [January 10, 2012](#) Dear Barb column.

Barb my short answer to this is for John to talk to Pete without Melissa there and find out what objections he has. I do not understand why Melissa would have any objection to Pete dating his (John's) sister. Maybe Melissa also likes Pete

...Name Withheld

You make a good point for the two men to talk without Melissa. Perhaps Melissa's motivation is just to support her boyfriend. She seems to be more outspoken than John.

Barb
Email your questions to voice@voicemagazine.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality; your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.

Click of the Wrist

No More Procrastinating

You resolved that 2014 would be the year of no more procrastination—and though the first week went well, you've noticed bad habits creeping back in. But it's not too late to get back on track. Take a few minutes to check out these links, and you might just rethink procrastination. It's not time-wasting, it's research!

All in the Mind

It's all in the mind, they say, but humor blog *Wait But Why* explains a little better how procrastination is a push-pull between the Rational Decision Maker and Instant Gratification Monkey cohabiting in the procrastinator's brain. It's tongue-in-cheek, but it makes sense—and the follow-up [post](#) explains how to turn the imagery into a procrastination solution.

Mood Over Matter

Recent research suggests that mood regulation may be the answer to persistent procrastination. According to this *Wall Street Journal* article, "negative emotions can derail attempts at self-control"; we delay tasks to make ourselves feel better (which of course furthers anxiety and other negative emotions when we're scrambling to catch up later). Next time you feel the pull of procrastination, check your mood before moving forward.

A Good Thing

Procrastination is usually seen as a negative quality—but not according to University of San Diego professor Frank Partnoy. *Smithsonian* magazine's interview with Partnoy is enlightening and might change the way you feel about your "bad habit."



Primal Numbers



notes, autonomous cars were being tested on an “electronic highway” in the 1950s by General Motors, RCA, and others. Back then, a lot of the testing involved adding technology to the roads. Today, the technical wizardry is built right into the cars, and it’s already common to see features like Active Parking Assist for parallel parking—not to mention new technology that will let your car park itself without you being inside.

Besides being just plain cool to play with, this type of technology holds real potential for easing traffic, lowering emissions, preventing accidents, and allowing some drivers to maintain their independence. But it raises a lot of questions, too.

Suppose, for instance, that you’re cruising along in your driverless car. The computer’s in charge, traffic is flowing, and you’ve just about cracked the morning Sudoku. But then a glitch in the system takes the car off auto pilot and, before you can take control, you’re crunching fenders with the driver ahead of you. Who’s responsible?

Is it you, the driver, even though your car’s computer was supposed to be in control? Or is it the software maker, whose latest OS upgrade caused the digital hiccup?

Driverless cars won’t be at dealerships for a few years yet, but the same questions apply to existing technology. Who shoulders the blame if the parallel parking system in your car goes haywire and ends up scratching that BMW behind you? As if insurance policies aren’t obscure enough as it is, they’ll become positively labyrinthine once underwriters start adding clauses about misbehaving drones and current software upgrades.

Not, of course, that human driver error doesn’t cause countless accidents, big and small, every single day. But vehicle safety recalls are already remarkably common, and that’s without the gadgetry of self-driving cars. In Canada alone, a search of the Transport Canada recall database turned up over 1,800 safety recalls for all makes and models during 2012–2013.

Are driverless cars a good idea? Absolutely, especially with planned safety features like sensors that will stop a vehicle before it hits a pedestrian or other vehicle. But should we put our absolute trust in a machine that will hurtle us along the highway with only a computer at the helm? Until they’re a proven entity, it will probably be a good idea not to assume we can take a snooze behind the wheel.

In the meantime—home, James.

S.D. Livingston is the author and creator of the Madeline M. Mystery Series for kids, as well as several books for older readers. Visit her [website](#) for information on her writing.

S.D. Livingston

Home, James

The next time you’re stuck in traffic, frustrated by gridlock, imagine this: the cars around you flowing smoothly—not a blocked intersection in sight—as you relax behind the wheel and sip your morning coffee. That little piece of auto heaven is closer than you think as driverless cars and self-guided delivery drones move closer to the mainstream. The only question is who’s to blame if things take a wrong turn?

The idea of self-driving cars goes back at least a half century, to the golden age of the American automobile, when Bel Airs and Bonnevilles cruised the roads. As this [LiveScience article](#)



The Winner's List

“The medium is the message,” Marshall McLuhan famously said, and there’s nowhere this is more true than in the job search market. In fact, job seekers experience the effects of the saying every time their resumes create a good impression—or are tossed on the rejection pile.

When you’re putting together a resume, having good content will only get you so far; how you lay out your accomplishments is as important as what you include. This week’s column will discuss how to create one of the most important aspects of a strong resume: an effective bulleted list.

Professional Bullets

The first step is to ensure that your list is **properly bulleted**. Avoid anything too “cute”; a plain bullet is better than an asterisk, and both are preferable to hearts or flags. While spacing and indentation are beyond the scope of this article, avoid anything too extreme—and whatever you choose, make sure that all of the bullets are **formatted consistently**.

Top to Bottom

Next, check that the elements of the list are in proper order. This depends on the context, but unless chronological order is required, put the bullets in order **from most to least important**. If your past job involved responsibilities ranging from answering phones to coordinating city-wide tradeshow, you’ll definitely want to highlight the latter by putting it higher on your list of past responsibilities.

Parallel Elements

Finally, **ensure that the list elements are parallel**. This is one of the most common resume pitfalls, but it’s vital if you want to show you’re a strong, organized candidate.

What is a parallel list? If it sounds like a math problem, that’s actually good imagery—each bulleted line must be alike in structure and direction. This means that each bullet must be similar in grammatical structure and in scope.

Example A

Job responsibilities:

- *I was responsible for processing and counting ballots*
- *Elector registration*
- *Issuing correction certificates*

The above is an example of a list whose bullets are not parallel. Notice how one bullet is a full sentence and the other two are not; the structure is grammatically different, so the list is not parallel and creates the impression of disorganization.

Example B

Job responsibilities:

- ***processing and counting ballots***
- ***registered electors***
- ***correction certificates***

Example B changes the full sentence to a shorter phrase, but the list still sounds “off” because the elements are not parallel. Grammatically, the bullets are not the same, even though there are no full sentences—there are two verb phrases and one noun phrase, which are considered structurally different and should not be mixed. “Processing and counting” is a present tense verb. “Registered” is a past tense verb. And “correction certificates” is a noun and not a verb phrase at all.

Example C

Job responsibilities:

- ***processing and counting ballots***
- ***registering electors***
- ***issuing correction certificates***

Example C shows the correct way to create a parallel bulleted list. All the bullets are similar in structure (all present-tense verbs) and scope (all action-based tasks).

Be careful, though, that the parallel elements don’t sound too awkward or unwieldy. The following example is structurally consistent, but it sounds a little wordy and needs revision:

Example D

Job responsibilities:

- ***processing and counting of ballots***
- ***elector registration***
- ***issuance of correction certificates***

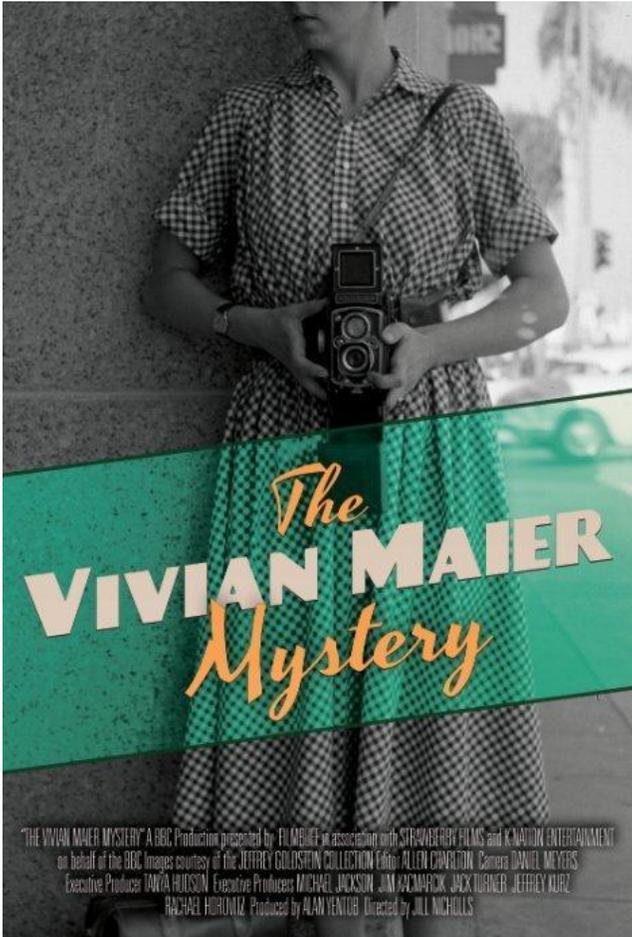
Your resume is a snapshot of your personality, and correctly formatted and structured lists will give the impression of an organized mind and a competent employee. Keep your bulleted lists consistent, professional, and parallel, and your 2014 resume could be your strongest yet.

Christina M. Frey is a book editor and a lover of great writing. Chat with her on Twitter about all things literary @turntopage2.

Mindful Bard

Books, Music, and Film to Wake Up Your Muse and Help You Change the World

Wanda Waterman



The Cleansing of the Doors of Perception

If the doors of perception were cleansed every thing would appear to man as it is, Infinite. For man has closed himself up, till he sees all things thro' narrow chinks of his cavern.

- William Blake

In a time when photography has become so ubiquitous that cameras are an integral part of our cellphones, laptops, and tablet devices, what possessed a small group of investors to drop everything to buy and develop thousands of old photos from the 'fifties and 'sixties, taken by an unknown dour-faced oddball? And what would provoke a jaded art world to sit up and take avid notice?

Vivian Maier was able to capture the universal human essence on film as easily in France, her ancestral home, as in America, where she grew up. Her photos radiate beams of light. Every one begs a question or tells a story, often both. It's as if Blake's dictum had been strictly respected; Maier simply saw heaven all around her and all she needed to do to turn it all into art was to point and shoot.

Remarkably, she didn't often print and scrutinize the results of her work; she simply kept shooting, with an enviable single-mindedness. Where was her ego? And where was the artist's natural instinct to examine one's work to find ways to improve it? She was like the singer who waltzes into a studio, does one perfect take, and waltzes out again, never to listen to the recording. Are such artists born perfect?

From a purely technical viewpoint, her success in creating photographic masterpieces owes much to her quickly determining the perfect moment to snap the shutter. This talent may have developed of necessity; she could afford only one roll of 12 frames per day. Today's photographers would consider this far short of the number of opportunities needed to develop a good body of work, but, again and again, Maier got that perfect shot in one take.

She didn't use the standard photographer's standby—the single lens reflex camera—but rather a Rolleiflex box camera, the kind with a viewfinder you have to look down into—as if staring down a chimney in search of Santa. This way she never had to look a subject in the eye.

Now one wonders if this fact, as well as her abrasive nature, her obvious eccentricity, her disagreeable personality, and her solitary lifestyle might have been a foil to keep her photographic subjects from becoming too engaged with her as a person. Being more conspicuous would no doubt have robbed her of some of her freedom and at the very least have sabotaged the realist authenticity of the photos.

As much as outsider art—art by artists who are unschooled and who work outside any established artistic community—is lauded today, the success of such artists is still an anomaly. I grew up in an artist’s community and I remember that every time an art show was planned or a gallery opened the only artists asked to contribute were those who had degrees in fine art and who had shown their work; the merits of the works themselves didn’t seem to be an issue. Maier’s fame, on the other hand, is founded on the actual quality of her work.

Well, not entirely. It has been suggested that the story behind her is a major selling point, but I think the tale of her unusual life is just gravy; the pictures are so good that Maier deserves all the posthumous fame we can throw at her. Would she mind that she was only famous after her death? I doubt it.

The causes of Maier’s deliberate anonymity, in spite of a phenomenal talent, are a bit of a mystery, and one would think that her outsider status may have had something to do with being working class, an autodidact, and a woman. But she worked for a time as a nanny for a woman who was a newspaper photography editor. One who knew many photographers and who could easily have helped launch Maier’s career as a photojournalist. Yet Vivian never once discussed her photographs with her employer.

Most artists would prefer to do what they love and make a lot of money at it, but, given the choice, I think most serious artists would be content to be allowed simply to go on doing what they love. Given the means to do that, they don’t always devote much time or effort to promoting their careers, because the purpose of promoting one’s career is to enable one to go on making art. If you already have the means to make art, the art is what you want to be busy doing.

Still, it’s a little hard to swallow that she made her art, as Joel Meyerowitz puts it in the film, just for herself, even though there is much evidence in her life to support this. It’s possible that she was one of those rare birds that doesn’t need to see herself reflected in the eyes of others, who as an artist has a direct link to that underground stream of genius that feeds the collective unconscious.

Herein lies a lesson for all mindful artists. A difficult life had compelled her, as it does many of us, to choose to devote herself to art as a means of brightening the darkness of her existence. Her emphasis was on maintaining the conditions necessary for the exercise of her creativity, the first of those conditions being an abiding solitude.

Yet, ultimately, this solitude clearly became too heavy for her to bear. It makes a person wonder if maybe this unique talent could have been better fostered had she developed a greater sense of personal connection with the humanity she documented.

The Vivian Maier Mystery manifests seven of the Mindful Bard's criteria for films well worth seeing.

1. It’s authentic, original, and delightful;
2. It poses and admirably responds to questions that have a direct bearing on my view of existence;
3. It stimulates my mind;
4. It’s about attainment of the true self;
5. It inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation;
6. It makes me want to be a better artist; and
7. It makes me appreciate that life is a complex and rare phenomena, making living a unique opportunity.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Quebec Universities Stand Against Quebec Charter.

The establishment of a Quebec Charter of Values, which details what kind of religious imagery a person can display or wear in public institutions, has not come without controversy. The Montreal Gazette, for instance, is [reporting](#) on how universities such as Concordia are demanding to be exempted from the charter because its' restrictions on religious clothing could cause top quality students and staff to look elsewhere. Concordia's academic vice-rector Benoit-Antoine Bacon said that since the establishment of the Charter, the university has already noticed a small drop in the number of applications for Masters and Ph.D programs.

Around the World: UK Public University Accepts Bitcoin

[Bitcoin](#), if you don't already know, is a form of digital currency. There are a number of them out there, based on cryptographic measures to keep them from being counterfeited easily, but bitcoin is one of the largest because it's got the largest set of businesses and organizations that accept it. Now being [added to that roster](#) is the University of Cumbria in the UK, which has the distinction of being the first public university in the world that will accept the digital currency. While no students have currently signed up using the currency, Professor Jem Bendell has suggested that it might prove attractive to international students because of how it can enable them to save on transaction fees.

However, the University is quick to point out that they do not encourage students to seek out and acquire any bitcoins for payment, as the currency is extremely volatile.

DID YOU KNOW?

AUSU Call for Candidates



Every other year, AUSU holds its election to determine who the members of the next student council will be. These positions are part time for regular council members, but three of the elected members will be chosen from within the group to serve as the executive, the president, vice-president external and vice-president finance & administration. These three positions are considered full-time because of the number of meetings and work that are required of them.

The call for candidates is currently open (until Feb 2) and any AUSU member in good standing who has completed at least one AU course is allowed to run. You can find more information on how to nominate yourself [here](#). Positions on council are paid according to the work required.



The Reality of Routine

Depending on the destination, there are world-class museums and attractions to captivate the tourist. If you seek out a tourist information centre you'll find lure cards, pamphlets, and coupons all vying for your attention and dollars.

It will likely also list all the free activities. In the case of Palm Springs with its year-round hot rain-free days there are half a dozen street fairs to choose from. Every weekend there's the one at the College of the Desert grounds with over 140 exhibitors. On Thursday nights the downtown area is blocked off for a street fair that boasts entertainment, food vendors and artisans. The adjacent businesses stay open to capture their share of the pedestrian traffic and disposable income.

Another good source of info about arts and culture activities and shopping are the glossy guides that fill racks in the entrances of restaurants with ads in said guides. That's where you find out that the antique car show was held last weekend or that the has-been LA entertainer is coming in February long after you're back home.

But, one of the bigger thrills associated with travel is the outlet shopping experience. Just twenty minutes from Palm Springs is the Desert Hills Premium Outlet Mall at Cabazon. With over 140 stores (and another forty-five currently under construction) it is a shopper's paradise. A coupon book available at the information office is free if you bring the voucher you receive when you join the online VIP Club or show your AMA (or other) membership card. Failing that, a small fee will put one in your hot little hands. If you are a strategic shopper in the know, there are also additional and different online deals with printable coupons. If you're over the age of fifty, Tuesday will be your favourite day of the week because many merchants take an additional ten percent off your sales total.

If you play your cards right you can get a clearance item with an additional percentage off and still use a coupon or get the seniors' discount. Hell, they practically pay you to take it.

As attractive as this all appears at first blush one must hang onto her head. When we were there two years ago our dollar was par or slightly over. Now it's at a four year low. As Albertans sales tax is a foreign concept so California's eight percent is a shocker. Doing the math is vital to ensure that what appears to be a steal is in fact a deal.

The other strategy to remember is that most of the designers have their haute couture line and their cheaper one for us mortals. Kenneth Cole Reaction is less than Kenneth Cole.

Obtaining a department store credit card nets an additional discount. This is only smart if you pay it immediately after. A loyalty card from DSW can lead to free stuff. Bottom line, shopping anywhere is a game of nerves and wit coupled with serendipity, from where I sit.

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

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to the Discussion Form

Barbara Lehtiniemi



One of the most common internet experiences must be stumbling over one thing while looking for another. You begin with a very focused search, notice an intriguing menu item, and several clicks later you discover hidden internet treasure.

That's how I found the AU Students' Union [Discussion Forums](#). There's no attempt to hide these forums. I may have even come across them before. But with so much information available to students, sometimes it is only chance that takes us to the right place. These discussion forums are a valuable

resource for AU students and worth checking out.

To find the forums, go to www.ausu.org, click on "Members," then "Discussion Forums," or click on this [link](#). You have to be logged in to your AUSU account to view the forums. Log in at the top of the AUSU website pages or at the bottom of the discussion forum page. There are three active forums listed and a new one, relating to the 2014 election campaign for AUSU council, will be added soon.

The first forum, *Welcome and Introductions*, invites new students to introduce themselves and say hi. This is a good place to connect with students in the same program or taking the same course. Since online courses can feel isolating to those used to classroom study, this forum helps students know they are not alone. It's worthwhile to connect with real people out there in similar circumstances.

The second forum, *General Student Chat*, is perhaps the most valuable. It's also the most popular. In this forum, students can ask questions of other students. Whether it's help in finding an AU service, advice about what courses to choose, how to stay motivated, or a discussion about e-texts, every topic of interest to students is covered here. Toss out a question or a topic, and other students will weigh in with advice and opinions.

In the third forum, *Ask AUSU*, students are invited to post questions for the AUSU council. If you have a question about what AUSU is doing or a comment about the website, this seems like a good spot. AUSU council members are prompt with responses.

Once nominations have closed for the 2014 general election for AUSU council, a forum will be added for the campaign period. This forum will allow students to ask questions of those running for council (follow the forum rules when adding your post.) Candidates can then post a response. Considering the nature of a distance campaign, this forum will provide the most effective way for student voters to get to know the candidates. Be sure to visit this forum in February.

Each forum contains a list of topics with the most recent at the top. The number of responses and date of the latest post is indicated for each topic. After clicking on a topic, you can read the original posts and replies, in the order they were posted. Buttons to post a new topic, or reply to a current one, are found at both the top and bottom of the page. While composing a reply, users can select the option to be notified by e-mail when any further posts are made to that topic. Harder to spot is the small "Subscribe forum" button at the top of a forum's topic list. By subscribing to a forum you'll receive an e-mail notification whenever new posts are made in that forum.

The "User Control Panel" button is found near the top of all forum pages and is the place to go to manage your forum settings. You can unsubscribe from a topic or forum in the "Manage Subscriptions" section. In the "Profile" section, you can go to "Edit Signature" and add a signature line to be used in your posts. Many users add their first name, along with the program and course(s) they are taking. Go to "Edit Avatar" to add a profile photo to appear next to your username. In "Private Messages" you can compose and send a message to another forum user, instead of posting publicly. You can also adjust your message settings here. Of note is the "Friends & Foes" section. Here you can identify users you communicate with frequently (friends) and those whose posts you do not wish to see (foes.)

The AUSU student discussion forums are valuable in two ways. First, the forums provide students with a tool for engaging other students. Whether to solve a problem or just chat, students can make that vital human connection. Second, it provides a quick method of having a question answered. If you have a question related to your studies at AU, another student probably has the answer. Rather than wade through the internet and hope to stumble over the solution, just post the question on the forum and let your fellow students show the way.

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

Once nominations have closed for the 2014 general election for AUSU council, a forum will be added for the campaign period. ... Considering the nature of a distance campaign, this forum will provide the most effective way for student voters to get to know the candidates.

Comic

Wanda Waterman

ANTBOY IN: VEDDY VULGAR

GOOD EVENING, MY ERSTWHILE COMRADE. I TRUST THAT YOU ARE WELL?

WHAT'S WITH THE HIGH-FLOWN LINGO, LONGFELLOW?

JUST THOUGHT I'D ADD A LITTLE CLASS TO YOUR COMIC STRIP WITH SOME HIGH-TONED DICTION.

OK.

BBRRRRFFFT

OOPS—SORRY... UM... BWAA-HA-HA!

GADZOOKS! HOW VEDDY, VEDDY VULGAR!

I KNOW! I'M SO SORRY! HAHAHAHAAAA!

I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYBODY SAYS—FARTS WILL ALWAYS BE HILARIOUS.

WRITTEN BY WANDA WATERMAN

AUSU UPDATE



Dear Members,

You may have recently seen information on the internet speculating about the future of Athabasca University. These reports suggest that the Alberta government may broker a merger between AU and University of Alberta, and that this may result in drastic changes to the services and programs offered to students AU students.

We want you to know that AUSU is aware of these rumours and is actively investigating the source – we will keep you informed as we know more.

We can tell you that AU is governed via a bicameral structure with two main governing bodies: the General Faculties Council (formerly Academic Council) and the Board of Governors (formerly Governing Council). AUSU has representatives on both of these governing bodies and we can confirm that there has been no formal discussion of a university merger among these groups. The AU president, Frits Pannekoek, has also assured the press that there is no truth to the rumour. On behalf of our members, we are seeking more information from the Board of Governors, the minister, and AU executives.

At this time we simply have no evidence that a merger is being seriously considered by AU, the U of A, or the Alberta government, and we note that among the many committees and working groups of AU, planning and development for the future continues as usual.

We know that our members are worried and want more information. We will update you as soon as we know more. At this time we do not feel there is any reason for students to worry or make changes to their study plans.

Do not hesitate to contact our office if you wish to talk about this or any other issue affecting AU students.

AUSU.

This column is provided by AUSU to facilitate communication with its members. *The Voice* does not write or edit this section; all content has been exclusively and directly provided by AUSU, and any questions or comments about the material should be directed to ausu@ausu.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

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