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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.

Posted by [Vitaminous](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 00:54:19 GMT

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For those who didn't know, I have been 'fatherless' since the age of 5.

Today, my mother dug an article my father wrote to Pierre Foglia, which was a journalist at La Presse (Montréal based newspaper).

Let me translate it for you.

André Potvin from Buckingham is dieing. From an extremely rare and deadly form of cancer, a cancer he's never heard of in 18 years of work as a civil servant in the 'social help' division of the Government of Québec where he was examining medical certificats.

André Potvin is 42 years old, he has a wife, a girl, a boy (me), a house, a car, a lot of televisions, a lawn mower, a few savings, he's got everything most people collected after 42 years. He also has a pirated version of Word Perfect in English, which is forcing him to add accents manually, without the help of a computer.

5 pages without any 'line spaces'.

He tells me:

"This year's St-Valentine I spent it with my wife and the Notary, to do my testament.

During the first hospitalization came two new age lamers with their pyramids and their crystals to visualise the cancer of the dieing one who I was sharing my room with. The urologist just announced mine..."

He tells simply at the end, he tells me why he wrote this letter to me, but I already understood why he was writting to me, for the best reason you could ever find to write: naming things. The emergency of naming who, in the proximity of death, makes any other form of litterature feel weak. Also, all the books I opened since I have red this letter fell from my hands.

It's been in my head since I received it, a dieing man telling me that he's dieing.

I'm trying to visualise a guy re-reading the letter that just came out of his printer, and is adding with his hands all the missing accents.

You know Foglia, death's funny. - André Potvin

Source: La Presse - Archives.

If I wish I'll be able to find the full version of that letter one time.

((Born with heart problems, my father never gave up, he had so many projects he wanted to complete before his death, the unfortunate thing is that he never got the time nor energy to finish

them, but he had all the help he needed, which also included my support.))

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [z310](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 01:38:00 GMT  
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I dont quite understand

But best wishes

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [IRON FART](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 01:49:10 GMT  
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I'm very sorry. I truly hope you find that letter some day.

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [Ripintou](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 02:58:10 GMT  
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What's the difference between the letter your mother found and what was wrote to the newspaper? I see they want \$5 for the letter at La Presse.

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [Vitaminous](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 03:03:09 GMT  
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Erm, nevermind.

Edit: The letter is actually 5 pages long while the article is... Well... A lot shorter.

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [glyde51](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 03:04:15 GMT  
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French Canadian? I always wanted to go to Quebec, it would be much nicer than cold frozen Manitoba.

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [xptek](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 03:44:05 GMT  
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Aprime.

I think I should have a talk with my mother... Like... Now.

Erm, yeah, so... You speak French eh?

Omg..

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [z310](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 04:35:51 GMT  
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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [cowmisfit](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2005 11:54:38 GMT  
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This is confusing as fuck.

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [PointlessAmbler](#) on Thu, 27 Jan 2005 01:00:54 GMT  
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I can't really see what you're trying to say... the English is confusingly worded.

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Subject: OT: Circumflex accent.  
Posted by [Vitaminous](#) on Fri, 28 Jan 2005 03:04:19 GMT  
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Blame the author, not the translator.

Believe me, it's confusing in French too.

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