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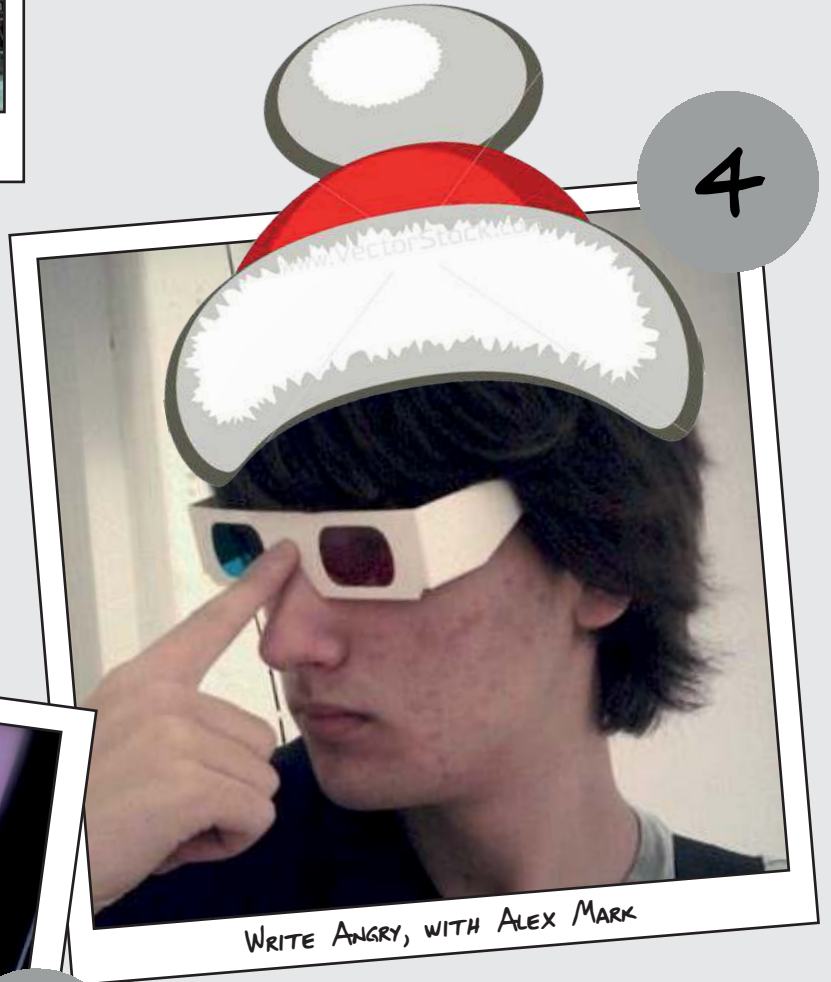


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Go Dawg

Writing About Writing 2: Electric Boogaloo



See, they told me to write about the holidays for this one. But I'm sorry guys, that's just not happening. Why? Because A) the holidays and I are like rat poison and, well, rats, and B) because I guarantee you everyone else is writing something about the holidays! But see; look at what I'm doing here. I'm talking about the holidays. And if I do that, I'm going against my promise, and the Communists win, so let's talk about writing.

Last time, I talked about NaNoWriMo¹ because it was very appropriately timed, but in doing so I fear that I may have missed a step. A lot of people don't like writing.

Hell, I bet a lot of you despise it. Which is really a shame, because there's a lot of enjoyment to be had in writing. Some people enjoy writing in a controlled setting about a specific topic, while others just don't find it that interesting -- I bet most people who don't write were simply turned off at a young age. The whole point of getting people into writing creatively, though, is to break those boundaries and basically do whatever you want. So, with a vast stretch of holiday spare time looming over you like a precarious Himalayan mountain path, the *ibid*² submission deadline closing in, and the ever-present *Live! in Print*³ deadlines, here are a couple ideas to help you pick up that metaphorical pen and do some hopefully non-metaphorical writing.

1) Inspiration comes from Everywhere

Dreams can be a funny thing. If something absolutely insane happens in a dream you have, don't do the ordinary thing. Don't just think, "Huh, that was weird," and then go on to forget it. Write it down! And then write about it. Not just dreams, either. Whenever some crazy idea comes into your head that you think sounds cool, don't let it fade away. Act on it. That's how famous people got famous, remember.

2) Break the Mold

At the end of the day, the thing about writing creatively is that you can do whatever you can think of. Think that history is boring? Rewrite it. Wish that gravity pushed people away instead? Your world. Want any kind of life experience you can think of? Go ahead. The power is literally in your hands to do anything. There are no rules when it comes to imagination.

With my page space drawing short, I can't help but end with a few words of encouragement. At the end of the day, it's not the practical thinkers, but the dreamers who end up shaping the world. And that's where writing comes in.

¹ Shameless Plug Counter: 1
² Shameless Plug Counter: 2
³ Shameless Plug Counter: 3
Yes, I stole the footnote idea from Alex. Deal with it.

Ryan Sherbo

Please enjoy our holiday word search!

E	H	R	R	L	P	O	Z	A	H	N	R	T	O	K	CHRISTMAS
S	P	K	M	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	HANUKKAH
T	U	F	H	A	K	K	U	N	A	H	S	N	O	W	DECORATIONS
Z	E	A	M	D	A	Y	E	L	D	A	R	D	X	W	TOYS
G	D	W	L	Q	E	B	A	J	L	Q	O	Y	O	R	KWANZAA
Q	I	I	R	C	B	B	S	S	J	I	G	D	U	A	REINDEER
X	N	N	N	A	T	N	A	S	N	H	Z	L	Y	P	GINGERBREAD
N	G	T	G	B	U	C	M	E	N	O	R	A	H	P	DRADLE
A	W	E	G	E	L	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	I	SANTA
Y	A	R	I	G	R	F	S	V	J	Y	O	N	S	N	CLAUS
B	J	Z	I	Z	U	B	I	P	F	V	T	S	L	G	SLEIGH
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	D	B	P	T	L	E	A	PRESENTS
Y	T	B	J	A	D	Z	H	E	Q	D	O	D	I	U	SNOW
P	J	L	V	A	W	D	C	J	A	U	Y	F	G	L	WINTER
U	G	X	P	K	S	K	W	W	Q	D	S	C	H	P	WRAPPING

Surviving Winter



For those of you living in a cave, if you haven't noticed yet, there is SNOW on the ground, SNOW! (cue the screaming). Now if you love snow, I understand; it's fluffy and fun and pretty and there is nothing better than curling up with a blanket and a massive mug of coco in front of a big window. I get it, but for those times when the winter is getting the absolute WORST of you, here are some warm-er-up, bring-the-heat-to-you or just general winter tips.

- 1) Find some hot packs! Costco sells these in multi packs for super cheap! Get the hand ones and stick them in your pockets, or the foot ones and stick 'em in your shoes. They get nice and toasty and are SUPER portable!
- 2) Plan not only according to the weather, but what you want to do. Do you want to spend 15 minutes outside? Half an hour? What's the wind chill? It sounds basic, but it will keep you from turning into a human Popsicle!
- 3) Have you ever tried to cut across the school outside and been locked out? Tired of shaking and freezing, banging on the door waiting for some hero to open it? Do we have the product for you! It's called a fob! You should have one! Don't get left out in the cold! Make sure yours is always accessible and you'll be thankful!
- 4) Find some thicker socks! Seriously! You can lose up to 20% of your body heat through your feet! There are NO uniform rules about wearing thicker socks!
- 5) Find a thermos! Hot drinks are a great way to keep you warm! Tea, coffee, hot chocolate, hot water, hot soda....er, OK, maybe not hot soda, but whatever else you like, find a thermos and fill 'er up!
- 6) Find that cardigan in the back of your closet! Turns out it's a lot warmer than a blazer! It seems so easy but it's one of the warmest uniform pieces we own! So WEAR IT!
- 7) There are heating vents in a lot of classrooms and hallways. Find that secret little spot and STEAL IT! It's going to be one of the warmest spots in the school!
- 8) Finally, keep moving! As tempting as it may seem to sit around all break, try to walk around a bit, you'll just get colder if you just sit around, and sometimes the scenic route is better anyway!

Now when the snow begins to melt and the flowers begin to bloom, you'll know that Spring has finally come! Until then, though, the days will get longer and the time to find daylight will get shorter, and when find yourself shaking in the far corner of the classroom, keep these tips in mind -- they can last you through the deepest, darkest depths of Winter into the lovely heights of Spring.

Jen Baron

Coffee Dilemma

I would like to establish something right now.

I, Adrienne Tessier, am not a coffee drinker. Nor a tea drinker. Nor an anything drinker, for that matter. Of one thing I am certain, however, with regards to my beverage preferences: if it's over two

bucks, it is with much grimacing and usually a gift card that I present my hard-earned dollars. For this reason, I prefer Tim Hortons over Starbucks for just a simple heat-me-up in the depths of winter.

The good, cheap food, simple décor in tasteful shades of beige and "WE ARE CANADIAN!" ads have always appealed to me. Unfortunately, the low-endedness of Timmies, what I really enjoy, is about to come to an end. Tim Horton's execs have announced a plan which, in my opinion, will merely turn our beloved Canadian classic into more Starbucks.

Now, don't get me wrong. When presented with the opportunity, I do indulge in a soy milk no-whip decaf chocolate frappuccino. Furthermore, there is no better place to sit with friends having long, usually deep discussions about a whole manner of things than a Starbucks. Soft lighting, wifi, and art create an aura of relaxation, welcoming you in. It is these design elements that will soon turn up in our neighborhood Tims, along with (the execs hope) the lingering, discussing, possibly Mac carrying customers.

It's all part of an effort to make Tims more upscale and keep up with competitors like McDonalds. Ahem, McCafe. Based in Oakville, Ont., Tim Horton's is Canada's biggest restaurant chain and North America's fourth-biggest, with almost 4,000 locations across the continent. With 300 locations opening in the next three years in the US and 120 in UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain, our little Canadian icon isn't so little anymore. But one thing that will never change is the coffee, right?

Nope. If you've been into a Tims recently, you'll see the cash register plastered with posters for their new Holiday espresso-based drinks. CEO Paul House has said that there will still be room for those who just want a double-double and a walnut crunch, but I'm not so sure. Seeing high-end McDonalds/McCafes in Vienna and Krakow last summer really seemed wrong to me -- almost a betrayal of what fast food is supposed to be: a small, side-of-the-road place where you can get a cheap burger and pop and keep going. Not a place for gourmet drinks and food. Furthermore, an essential part of Tim's branding from the very beginning has been the homey, just-like-you atmosphere. Going to a location in Ottawa or Calgary feels the same as the one at the top of my street here. Sprucing it up is almost like taking away what it has come to be: a place where anyone, construction worker or CEO, can come and get a half decent cup of coffee.

Source: CBC - "Upscale Tim Hortons 'ambience' revamp planned"

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Adrienne Tessier

4

Write Angry

Existing Painfully: The Bovine Method for Unhappiness

Alright, you people probably saw *this* one coming. Yep. It just happens to be Christmas, or Chi-mas or Ecks-mas or whatever. Presents, joy, love, specials, etc. It's a pretty crappy time of the year except that I've found something really, really interesting about it: you can ignore it. Despite the carol songs (whose lyrics I change with Lovecraft versions) and the advertising (which using adblock and PVR I skip) and dreadful Happy-Day specials (Charlie Brown and Frosty are the only good ones, kiddos) and the obsession with giving and getting and ruthless capitalism, I have found the capacity to calmly remove from my head any of the less pleasant aspects of the Yuletide season. It's chocolate and greed for me, fools.

"But God-Emperor¹ Alex!" I hear you cry, for once addressing me by my proper title, "I want to ignore Kwanzaa too! How can I do the Ignorance like you can?" There are a few simple steps, the first one not being apathy.

Ignorance, especially of culturally approved festivals, can only be attained by reaching a point of enlightenment which I will title MOO². MOO is a state of intellectual grazing, as if a cow ate not grass but memes, wherein the subject of MOO (the moocow) is constantly taking in information and digesting it but paying no mind to it. The moocow is a glutton for information, which, like a glutton for food with absolutely no taste, doesn't appreciate the food (or grass, or knowledge) it's being given. It consumes on autopilot. This is the first stage of MOO.

This is the easiest stage to attain as cell phones and other devices with internet enabled (DIEs) are commonplace. In this way, everyone had DIEed³ and become a cow already. One must simply have Facebook or a million RSS feeds which you never check. Tweeting may help you become a better cow. The information displayed on Twitter, regardless of where it comes from, has no meaning anyways and you couldn't squeeze an intelligent conversation out of that mess if you tried. It's like cold fusion. If you need an explanation for that *you are already being a terrible cow*.

The second stage is harder to attain. The first stage will inevitably lead you to an eventual overload, where you simply cannot keep with the mind bashing amount of hashtags and unread news items. It becomes obvious that there is so much in the world that you cannot possibly know it all anymore. For those who've attained the first stage of MOO, this is distressing (and ought to be!) because their lifestyle involves them, requires of them, to consume information like chocolate cigarettes⁴. Herein lies the submission in the Taoist philosophy. Being naturally inclined towards an impossible task, the consummation of all knowledge (or at least the lifestyle which lends itself to that incredibly stupid goal), one must allow the Shepherd of Ignorance to lead them into the second stage, the Pained reJection of All Knowing.

During the Pained reJection of All Knowing (PJ-AK or Bedtime Gunfight⁵ stage) the moocow will, obviously, hurt. Not just emotionally, but spiritually and physically as well. Especially physically. Spiritually, the moocow will only feel mildly uncomfortable consuming veal as they'll grow to believe that God is watching them only when that particular food is on the table, and he'd be disappointed in their consuming of it. But physically the pain is brutal, and purely in the moocow's head. The second stage will continue to chip away at the moocow's worldview and encourage said moocow to delve into Nihilism. The remnants of the old worldview and the new one create a mental lacuna so large that it eventually engulfs the moocow's entire existence. Then they hit the third stage called the Mad Cow.



continued over --->

Mad Cow is pretty self explanatory; it's a state in which the moocow is absolutely bat[sexual intercourse] bonkers. After things having meaning and then not having meaning at all, things finally stop making sense entirely and their lives begin to break down. It's not a pretty sight, but after this third stage they tend to revert back to the first one and the loop begins again.

Now, ultimate ignorance, the kind which is needed to ignore the ever pervading presence of this repellent season of Holy Days, is only attained in the fourth stage, a kind of Nirvana only attainable by the most tranquil and absent-minded of moocows. This is MOO. It comes when the cycle of Consumption, Rejection and Madness has finally been broken and transitions into a state of pure Apathy. Or Acceptance. We're not quite sure which. I figure absolute acceptance might as well be apathy in any case. MOO is indescribable. The closest I can get is that it is the mindset of a sanguine Elder God, sitting on top and within Yog-Sothoth not even pondering existence.

Another thing about this state is that in MOO, the MOOcow is not entirely OK with this. Existing, I mean. The MOOcow will, by any means necessary, attempt to terminate its own being. This does not mean simply dying, it means completely removing evidence of itself on Earth and, on a much greater scale, the universe. This is a difficult thing to do, particularly if you're in a position quite like mine where you're being forced to create against your will and all you can do is constantly add to the pile of your own miserable existence.

But that's beside the point! Even in this unique and difficult state of despair I've found it in myself to ignore the Most Wonderful Time of the Year and have, as a result of my MOO training, been successful. My unhappiness has been preserved once again by the power of religious worship and being a complete and total moocow.⁶

¹ Is the "Emperor of Gods" or "a God who is also an Emperor"? Here's a hint: it's *both*.

² Not like the moo cow MOO unless you are a moo cow, but mu cow, or μmoo which is a very small moo.

³ The verbing of nouns is also crucial to being a good cow. No cow would be a true cow without it.

⁴ Note: Someone needs to invent chocolate cigarettes.

⁵ How is this *not* an action movie?

⁶ I went the whole article without making a sacred cow joke! Hooray for -- Oh [defecate].



the recycle bin.

Staying Green This Winter



The environment is great!! Here are some things you can do to help keep it that way:

1. Turn off the lights when you leave a room. It only takes a second.
2. Recycle. You can help reduce pollution by simply putting that soda can in the recycle bin.
3. Unplug appliances that aren't in use.
4. Make sure your tires are not underinflated. It can improve your fuel efficiency by three percent.
5. Change your light bulbs. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) last ten times longer than a standard bulb and use at least two-thirds less energy.
6. Turn off your computer at night.

continued over ---->

7. Use both sides of the paper.
8. Rethink bottled water. Nearly 90 percent of plastic water bottles used are not recycled. If you do use them, recycle them.
9. Switch to Q-tips with paperboard spindles. This can save 567,812 liters per year of gas to make plastic spindle Q-tips.
10. Brush your teeth without running the tap! It's simple, yet effective.

Alli Knox

6

Holiday Spirit



We've nearly reached it.

The day we've been waiting for since snow first started falling, since it started to get cold outside, maybe even since before then. A day we looked to when we first stepped into the school for yet another year of tests, exams, and stress. The greatest day of the year, the one-and-only, the ever-loved and ever-blessed, First Day of Winter Break. That's right, the 23rd of December is nearly here, and with it a much-needed break from the daily grind that we call school (cue a chorus of Angels).

In schools everywhere, students are counting down the days, hours, minutes – I even know someone who's been counting in seconds – until that wonderful day when we can wake up (much later than usual) and realize: *"I don't have to go to school today. I'M ON VACATION!"*. There are even teachers who have been known to say *"it'll be the greatest day of the year when I don't have to wake up, go to school, and see those snotty-nosed brats they call students"*¹.

Holidays are the times when students and teachers alike kick back, relax, and eat way too much food. It's a time to write creatively, to snuggle up next to heating vents, to discuss coffee within the confines of your lovely neighbourhood Starbucks, or to... discuss cows. And, I suppose, to enjoy the presence of family and friends.

Maybe you want to spend some time writing an article for *Live! in Print* (I promise, Alex, that I won't turn this into a "Cover Art Contest") or *ibid*². Maybe you want finish reading a great book you haven't had enough time to finish (*Game of Thrones*) or watch your favourite TV show. Or, maybe, you just want to relax, and enjoy some 'doing nothing' time. Whatever your plans are, rest assured that whatever you're doing is almost definitely more fun than going to school³.

So take a break, readers, and enjoy your holidays. Have a cookie on us⁴. And remember, school will start again before you know it.

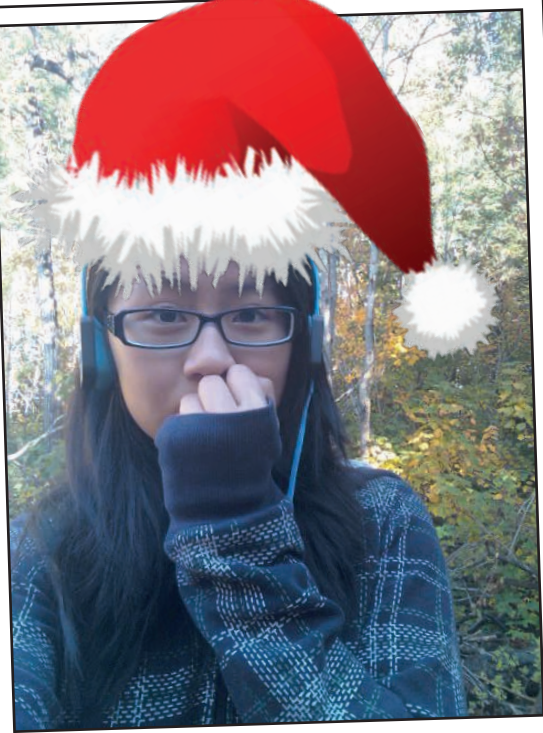
¹ I just made up this quote.

² Ryan's Shameless Plug Counter: 4

³ SJR Administrators: Please skip this sentence.

⁴ No, we're not giving our free cookies.

Kevin Carruthers

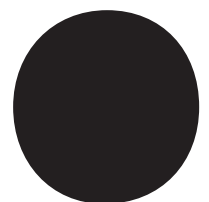
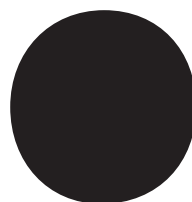
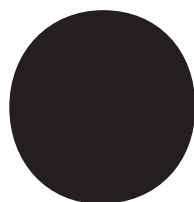


On a Lighter Note

30 Things to Hate

Odile Huynh

- 1)putting up Christmas lights.
- 2)when the light strands are all knotted.
- 3)that one little bad bulb which makes all the other lights go out.
- 4)when it's time to take down the Christmas lights.
- 5)when people leave their Christmas lights up all year long.
- 6)that I don't have the audacity to do that myself.
- 7)that wind chimes don't always chime.
- 8)the wind (I hate that you saw that one coming).
- 9)being predictable.
- 10) ...when people sing me 'Happy Birthday' -- *awkward!!*
- 11) ...that you have to let kids blow out YOUR candles.
- 13) ...how they have more birthdays left than you...
- 14) ...how you thought there was a number 12.
- 15) ...how you are looking back to see if I was lying.
- 16) ...how you are smiling because you think it's funny (it isn't...)
- 17) ...how my spider senses don't tingle...
- 18) ...how the hero ALWAYS gets the girl.
- 19) ...that capes aren't in fashion.
- 20) ...how our school doesn't have capes as our uniform!
- 21) ...waking up for school.
- 22) ...being at school for nearly 8 hours.
- 23) ...being sleepy IN class.
- 24) ...when I forget to do my homework... and it's due today.
- 25) ...how I didn't find the one ring that will rule them all.
- 26) ...how I will never be the Lord of the Rings (being a doctor is OK too).
- 27) ...how I don't know how many lords are a-leaping.
- 28) ...how I'm lame and could only think of this many things.
- 29) ...how I'm rambling to get to 30.
- 30) ...how I'm at 30... and I've wasted 2 hours of my time on this.



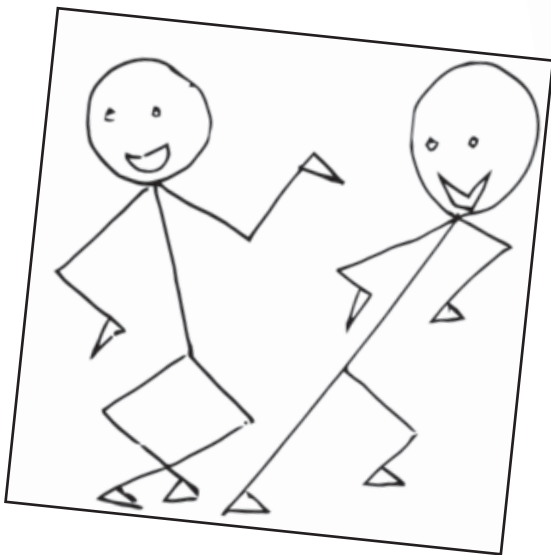
The Snow Ball

Adrienne Tessier

Image
Not Available

I don't know about you guys, but I absolutely love dances. I'll take any excuse to hang with my friends, but it's not every weekend that you can dress up and go dancing with a huge group of your closest buddies. The *Snow Ball* will definitely be on my list of best dances ever. DJ Tony came back and kept the tunes coming all night while Mr. Panas took awesome pics of all of us (See him if you would like a print: \$2). Special thanks to Student Council for organizing such a great night for all of us.

Keep your eyes on the DIS for notes about Semi in the Spring - I know I'll be the first one in line for a ticket!



Note: Due to legal issues, actual photographs could not be used. The above are artists' renditions of the aforementioned event. Any resemblance in part or in whole to real people is purely coincidental.
Image source: Graphicsarotto.com

Adrienne Tessier

seasons greetings, and
happy holidays, from the
team at Live! in Print

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Kevin Carruthers

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Mr. Berhane