

# TWO THOUSAND GREAT (2008)

## 53 WEEKS OF DREWY GOODNESS

January 1, 2008 | Info

With 2007 in the books, it's time for the new year, which means new challenges and new resolutions. I made an incredible commitment to myself (and my readers) last year with the **365 Days of Drewy Goodness**. I also had a feeling that 2007 was going to be a big comedic year for me. Well this year I'll be stepping it up a notch, and I have no doubt it will be even better. 2008? More like 200GREAT.

To have the type of year I want, I'll need some goals (or resolutions for you New Year's fanatics). **Similar to last year**, there will be a challenge involved, so make sure you read the disclaimer at the bottom to fully understand the rules. Let's see what's in store for 2008:

1. **53 Weeks of Drewy Goodness.** Whereas last year my big commitment was to have some type of post every single day, my major goal now is to complete 53 "projects" over the course of the year. A project might include: a completed website, a 1,000+ word article about comedy, or a video sketch. I'll announce the week's project on the Sunday of that week, and then have the post for that project up by that Saturday. If I miss a project for a given week, I'll pay \$100 to the first person to call me on it.
2. **A Joke a Day.** Though I could have technically done this last year, I often ventured into random thoughts, and would feel bad if all I posted was a simple one-liner. However, I think one-liners are important for stand-up sets, they can lead to bigger ideas, and can be turned into a cartoon strip. Therefore I'll be posting a joke each day. If I miss a joke for a day, I'll pay \$10 to the first person to call me on it.
3. **Perform Comedy 53 times.** Last year I gauged my performing by how many people I performed in front of. This year it's all about the number of times I reach the stage. Ideally I'd like to average 1x a week, even if it's a small open mic somewhere. This will help lead to better confidence and more material that's stage tested, mother approved.
4. **Get over 100,000 views on YouTube.** With the huge advancements in the Internet and the explosion of YouTube, it seems like almost anyone can get their piece of Internet fame. I want mine. I want to create a video that spreads enough to reach 100,000 views.
5. **Publish an Article.** One thing that can really help your credibility is to be published in a given field. It's also cool to say, "I was published in X." I'd like to get some type of article (could be a how-to guide, personal development article, a random joke) published in some type of publication (could be an online site, magazine, or a book).
6. **Break into Top 10 Internal Blogs at P&G.** P&G has a number of internal blogs ranging a variety of subjects. I currently blog as the "Corporate Humorist," but have been slacking as of late. I'd like to become 1 of the top 10 blogs in the company, exploring "humor in the workplace" even further.
7. **Start a business.** Ever since reading the *Four Hour Work Week*, it seems feasible to have a side business that involves minimum overhead. Working with a good friend, I'd like to set up at least one business to that effect.
8. **Have 13.5" Guns.** One of the things I was missing from last year's resolutions was one revolving around my health. I'd like to increase the size of my biceps + triceps by 1".
9. **Never hit Snooze.** I tried this last year and failed miserably. Hopefully the Select Comfort bed will give me such a great night's sleep that I never find the need to hit the snooze button. Hopefully.
10. **Help Someone Achieve a Goal.** Also missing last year was focusing on someone other than myself. This year I'd really like to help at least one person (or more) achieve some type of goal of their own. If you have something you'd like help with, feel free to let me know and you could be that someone (or one of them).

So there you have it, 10 goals for 2008. I'm both excited and a little worried – there's a lot involved on that list. But, if I fast forward to this time next year, imagine how amazing it will be to have accomplished them all. So here's to an ambitious year, and best of luck on your goals.

### DISCLAIMER

Rules of the "53 Weeks of Drewy Goodness" and "A Joke a Day."

1. Missing a post means not posting by 5am on the "evening" of the due date. Unfortunately our lives don't revolve around the 24 hour clock where midnight starts the new day, so if a post is due on Saturday, I have until 5am on that Sunday to post.
2. The first person to comment on my blog is the first person to "call me on it." To be fair to those of you without Facebook, the comment has to be on drewtarvin.com. I will pay \$100 for the first person to notice if I miss a project, and \$10 to the first person to notice if I miss a joke (both payable via check). If no one manages to post a comment before I make up for the missing post, then I'll be the winner.
3. There are certain circumstances where I may not be able to post an entry right away (such as travel out-of-town or extreme sickness). In these cases I will post a note IN ADVANCED so you are all aware.
4. Rules are subject to change at anytime, but they will be announced either as an update to this post, or as a new posting. If I no longer have a passion for writing (very unlikely), then the challenge could end indefinitely. (Any missing entries prior to the announcement of

discontinuation WILL be paid).

# BLOG UPDATES

*January 14, 2008 | Info*

To the observant reader (specifically those of you who read on the site and not through an RSS feed), you'll notice a few changes around each of the blog posts. The two obvious things are the stars and the little icons that you find at the bottom of each entry.

The stars are a rating system for each post that I write. As suggested by a smart reader, using the ratings will be an easy way for the readers to say which jokes (and posts in general) they liked, and didn't like. A 1 Star Rating means "Boo that joke was terrible" and a 5 means "I laughed out loud, do that in your show." The middle ranges help reflect your luke-warmness or coldness to the joke.

The icons are quick links to social bookmarking sites. Basically they allow you to tell other people "Hey I read this post, and it's worth sharing with others." It's a great way for me to generate more traffic to the site and for you to bookmark your favorite posts – but each one requires an account in order to use. Most (maybe all) are free, but they just take a bit of time to set up.

The final change is something you won't be able to notice, but it's something called "Google Analytics." It gives me a better idea of how many people are reading the blog, where they are clicking on the site, etc.

Anyway, that's the run-down of the new stuff. Hope you enjoy and definitely take advantage of the rating system.

# IMPROV AT WORK

*February 10, 2008 | Articles*

## **Improv at Work**

Stepping on stage, before 60 managers at a Fortune 50 company, Matt has no idea what he is about to say. Normally external speakers prepare days in advanced the exact speeches they are going to give when charged with the task of engaging corporate clients such as those at one of the world's largest consumer products company. But Matt is prepared only with a mental outline of how the next 45 minutes will go—no notes, no PowerPoint presentation, and no script.

Matt is a member of the Smarty Pants Theater Company getting set to go to work. Smarty Pants specializes in a form of entertainment called improvisational comedy. There are no scripted lines, rehearsed scenes, or extensive props and sets. Instead, Matt and his fellow improvisers use a framework of simple predefined rules, and suggestions from the audience, to create a customized show for their corporate clients.

Asked if he gets nervous before performing and having no idea what he's going to say, Matt responds, "Not knowing what I'm going to say doesn't scare me anymore. I know I've got the support from my fellow improvisers, and I trust my instincts for the rest. After hundreds of shows, you don't get nervous, you get excited." His fellow entertainers agree. "In improv, there is no failing. With my team here to support me, I know that any little mishap, any 'mistake,' can turn into a huge laugh," says fellow Smarty Pants member, Dave Powell.

## **Calm in the Unknown**

How can these performers be so calm and confident before performing before a corporate audience? And what can the business world learn from improv? It all lies in the power of two words, "Yes And." The number one rule in improvisation, "Yes And" is a short phrase that improvisers around the world embrace and use every time they take the stage.

The amazing thing about these two words is that they can have a tremendous effect when applied to business. Not to be confused with a "Yes Man" (someone who blindly agrees with everything and is often viewed as a "suck-up"), and not the equivalent of blind optimism, "Yes And" is about the acceptance and building of an idea, situation or action.

When you first start learning the art and science (it is both) of improvisation, the "Yes And" rule is very literal. In fact, one of the first games new improvisers are taught is called "Yes And." The game teaches the fundamental skills of listening and accepting ("Yes") and building or contributing ("And"). By forcing the players to repeatedly say these words, they are reiterating, "YES I heard what you said and accept what you offered, AND here's how I'm going to build on that."

## **Advanced Yes And**

At its root, this interpretation of "Yes And" is about listening to understand, rather than listening to respond. Knowing that you will have to accept what the other person is saying (notice the distinction between agreeing with what they say), and that you will have to build on it, shifts our goal from "Here's my idea" aka "Me me me" to "Here's our idea" aka "We we we" (all the way home).

The most basic form of "Yes And" is about literally saying the words, accepting what the person has said and adding to it. But it is important to note that the concept is not about agreeing with everything offered, but rather accepting that it was offered. In essence, it is about agreeing to have the conversation.

Novice improvisers assume "Yes And" means you can't say "no" on stage. They don't realize that it's perfectly fine (and sometimes necessary) to disagree on stage, so long as they agree on the premise of the scene. Some of the best scenes on stage are when players are in a disagreement with one another (over money, how to spend their Friday, where to eat), but they are agreeing to argue.

### **Business Applications of Yes And**

In business, this translates into a willingness to accept that something has been offered – a proposal, a corporate mandate, a budget cut. It doesn't mean you have to agree with it, just that you acknowledge AND build on it, where "building" could include offering a new proposal (you are accepting that there is a perceived problem or opportunity and building on that by offering an alternative solution).

At first glance, "Yes And" seems to be synonymous with blind optimism. It seemingly adds to the stigmatism against theater (more specifically, theater actors or thespians) that they are "care-free," that "everything happens for a reason," that there is this zen-like "hippie" idealism that everything is positive. This type of mentality would not bode well for any business – crises do occur, projects do fail, companies do lose money.

These events are hardly "for the best," and that's not what "Yes And" is suggesting. Rather, "Yes And" is about accepting a given situation and figuring out how you can build from there.

The theory of "Yes And" is quite powerful, but, at the end of the day, theory doesn't sell product. The true benefit from the "Yes And" mentality isn't realized until it is internalized. When "Yes And" becomes a part of how you behave, the effects are profound. When an individual, or even better, a team, understands "Yes And," negating becomes building, complaining becomes doing, and wishing becomes getting things done. There's no challenge a team can't handle when they agree to work and build together.

### **How to Improv Work**

So how does one go about "internalizing" this mentality? The short answer is to incorporate it into how you think and behave. Improv workshops can augment this process, as can talking the concept with others. Consciously applying this mentality in key business applications can lead to incredible results.

No matter what situation you find yourself in, rarely will growing frustrated and giving up lead to the best results. It is in these moments that "Yes And" proves its worth. Instead of growing frustrated due to lack of funding, or angry over mounting issues, you can accept the circumstances and figure out how you can build from where you are. Ask any manager, this type of attitude will surely lead to success.

The beauty is that once you internalize this process, you come to trust your instinct, and you become more confident that you can handle a variety of situations. You don't need a word-for-word script to succeed, you're able to accept new challenges, and you can do it with confidence and a smile.

### **Yes And Goodnight**

The lights turn on and staring at Matt are the 120 eyes of the audience. He looks at his fellow players and smiles. Over the next 45 minutes, Matt and his fellow improvisers perform an unscripted show, taking audience suggestions like "spatula" and "project management," interviewing one of the Vice Presidents in the crowd and acting out her "typical" day, and doing a series of stand-up jokes based on products shouted out by the crowd.

The show ends to a great applause from the audience. One man leaving the theater comments to Matt that he hasn't "laughed like that in a long time." A woman is in disbelief, wondering if there was some way they could've scripted the show. The Smarty Pants members shake hands with people as they leave. Despite not knowing what they were going to say or do, were they still able to deliver great results? Yes, and they'll do it again the next time they step on stage. And that's what business is about.

# THE INNER GAME OF TENNIS

*February 16, 2008 | Articles*

Book Review: "The Inner Game of Tennis" by W. Timothy Gallwey  
Published: 1974

Pages: 134

## In Troduction

"The Inner Game of Tennis" is subtitled as "the classic guide to the mental side of peak performance." It has been in publication for more than 30 years and followed by a number of highly successful professionals in the tennis, football, music, and corporate worlds. I decided to read this book for two reasons: 1) A good friend gave me the book and spoke of it highly, and 2) Improving mental performance would seem to be beneficial in any activity, whether it's tennis, stand-up or picking up chicks.

## Selfish Thinking

The entire book is based on the premise that there are two "selves." Gallwey names them Self 1 and Self 2, where Self 1 is the ego-mind or "teller" ("Hit the ball like this") and Self 2 is natural ability or the "doer" (the actual movement of the muscles to hit the ball). In order to achieve peak performance, one must "quiet the mind" (Self 1) and let Self 2 do what it knows how to do.

At a high-level, this makes sense: stop thinking so much and just do it. In improv, you're forced into situations where you don't have time to think, and you just have to open your mouth and hope something comes out. Think back to the last interview you saw of someone doing something incredible such as saving a child from a fire or helping a drowning man. Some reporter inevitably asks them "what was going through your mind?" and the typical "boring" response is "I don't remember. I just reacted."

Sure, stop thinking, just do it, sounds easy enough right? Go ahead and try it now. Stop thinking.... I said stop. You can't do it. The brain naturally thinks of something (such as the Stay-Puft Marshmallows). So Mr. Gallwey, how are we supposed to quiet Self 1 if it's impossible to stop thinking?

"The best way to quiet the mind is not by telling it to shut up, or by arguing with it, or criticizing it for criticizing you. What works best is learning to focus it." (pg 82) Ah, so "to still the mind, one must learn to put it somewhere." (pg 83) But what does it mean to focus the mind? Focus means picking up only "those aspects of a situation that are needed to accomplish the task at hand." (pg 84) So if you're hitting a tennis ball, all you really need to focus on is the ball. That's it.

## Changes

Getting out of the way of Self 2 makes a lot of sense ... if Self 2 knows the right thing to do. When I'm on stage, I don't consciously tell myself to look down during my segues, or to say "uh" to fill pauses. I just do it. Neither are particularly beneficial to my performance, but how can they be corrected if Self 1 has to stay out of it? How do I fix a bad habit if I can't tell myself what to do?

"There is no need to fight old habits. Start new ones." (pg 74) In order to "fix" a bad habit, you don't actually have to "fix" the habit. Instead just start working on a good one. The bad habit doesn't necessarily "disappear," you just stop doing it. Gallwey edifies this point with the analogy of babies: just because they learn to walk doesn't mean they forget how to crawl.

Theoretically this makes sense. Hey stop doing A and start doing B. Magically, A disappears, hooray. But we return to the above problem: how do you start doing B if you can't tell Self 2 what it means to do B (doo bee doo)?

## A Thousand Words

The trick is that you *can* communicate with Self 2, just not in the traditional sense of "Hey head. Yeah, you up at the top. Don't look down in between your jokes." but in the sense of imagery, or rather sensory images. Gallwey refers to this as heightening awareness. Become "aware" of important aspects of whatever you are working to improve, get an accurate image of the correct action, imagine you doing that action, and then let Self 2 do the action.

Suppose you could use some improvement in your typing ability. You always seem to struggle to find the '.' key quickly and it slows down your typing when writing multiple sentences. You know from your study of the "home row" that the '.' key rests on the lower right of the keyboard, next to the ';' and '/', and that you're supposed to hit the key with your ring finger on your right hand. How would you fix this?

Gallwey's four step process is defined as 1) Nonjudgmental observation, 2) Picture the desired outcome, 3) Trust Self 2, and 4) Nonjudgmental observation of change and results. It's important to note his use of the word "nonjudgmental." When observing your own behavior (becoming aware of what is happening), you must do it without judging your behavior as positive or negative, right or wrong, good or bad. This type of analysis of the situation is Self 1 talking, so let it go. Instead you just observe the behavior as it is, indifferent to whether it's "good" or "bad."

So you nonjudgmentally observe you typing a few sentences. You notice that whenever you need to hit the '.' key, you move your hand down and hit it with your middle finger. After hitting the key, you find that you have to move your entire hand back to the home row to get ready for the next sentence. Now that you've observed this action, you picture the correct behavior, that is, you picture your ring finger hitting the '.' key. In fact you may even hit the '.' key a few times, each time bringing the ring finger down to hit it and returning it back to its starting position, just noticing how it feels to bring the finger down, and letting Self 2 feel what it's like. With all the information it needs, Self 2 is ready to go. You start typing again, observing what your fingers are doing. You don't make a conscious effort to hit the '.' with your ring

finger, you just observe which finger is doing it. If the "Inner Game" and Gallwey's theory works, you'll observe that you were hitting it with your ring finger.

(Note: I purposefully gave this as an example because it's something that I need to work on. While typing the above paragraphs, I observed where my fingers were, but refrained from thinking "hit it with your ring finger." Based on the above results, it does seem that I am more consistently hitting it with the right finger and speeding up my typing.)

### The Inner Game of ?

The concept of mastering "Inner Game" is certainly an interesting one, and it seems pretty obvious that it can be applied to other areas of your life. However, what are its limitations? Does it only make sense in sports? Sure it can help the golf swing, but what about the business world?

To me it seems that Gallwey's theory works best for actions that are physical, those using muscle memory (such as a tennis swing or looking down during a stand-up set). But how would it apply to the cessation of smoking cigarettes, saying "uh," or picking up chicks? How does Self 2 learn/imagine a desired outcome of not standing there with a cigarette in your mouth, the lack of a verbal tick, or sweeping a girl off her feet?

For the more cerebral, verbal, theoretical circumstances, Self 2 doesn't get much of a say. If Self 2 is out of the picture, then that means Self 1 is the only one available. And while a lot of Gallwey's tips are dependent on Self 2's presence, I think the underlying concept of increasing awareness, focus and observation can help with the less physical actions. Being aware of the smoke filling my lungs might lead to a more pressing desire to quit (I can't say as I never started). Focusing on the words I'm saying could help me limit the number of "uhs" that creep out. Observing both my own and other people's body language could improve my "macking" skills. As Self 2 accepts the Inner Game, maybe I'll find out.

### In Conclusion

At 134 pages, the "Inner Game" is a quick read. The concepts within are thought-provoking and applicable to a number of areas (plus I have a head start if I ever want to pick up the game of tennis). If you found any of the above thoughts interesting, I highly recommend you pick up your own copy. I barely scratched the surface of its big picture concept, and Gallwey does a great job of providing details and examples to further your comprehension of his ideas. Of all the words in the book, I think my favorite might have been the following, found on page 127:

*"Maybe wisdom is not so much to come up with new answers as to recognize at a deeper level the profundity of the age-old answers." - W. Timothy Gallwey*

# REVIEW YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES

March 1, 2008 | Articles

"Money can't buy happiness, but ...

- ... it allows you to rent." – Anon.
- ... neither can poverty." – Leo Rosten
- ... it can make you awfully comfortable while you're being miserable." – Clare Boothe Luce

### Introduction

Regardless of your opinion about money (whether they resemble those sentiments above, or more aligned with Biggie's "Mo Money, Mo Problems" claim), we all know there is a minimum amount of "the green" necessary just to meet the "bear" necessities (thanks Baloo). That minimum is different for all of us (based on cost of living, what we consider to be the bare necessities, and who all is dependent on us).

This past week, I tried to gauge my current circumstances, accounting for my location, salary, typical expenses, and existing debt. Here's what I learned.

### Young Fabulous and Broke

As part of my financial reflection, I realized that I needed some suggestions to get started. Based on a recommendation from a friend, I picked up Suze Orman's "The Money Book for the Young Fabulous & Broke." The book focuses on advice for those recently out of college that are trying to handle new careers, student loans, credit card debt, and future retirement demands.

While the book was a solid, quick read, there wasn't a whole lot that I learned that I hadn't already read on "I Will Teach You to Be Rich" or "Get Rich Slowly." Having said that, if you are completely new to finances, YF&B is a great starting point. From the nearly 400-page book, I picked up the following:

- For all things financial: Your **FICO score** is incredibly important. It's the "credit score" that almost all banks and loan companies use to determine your interest rate. While many things affect your score, I didn't realize that your debt/credit limit ratio accounts for 30% of the number you receive.
- For retirement: If your company offers a 401k match, focus on contributing whatever amount required to get the maximum contribution from your company (it is "free money" after all). If they don't offer matching, or if you've already contributed the max, the next place to go is a Roth IRA.
- For saving money: All cost-savings help. Some of the more interesting suggestions included:
  - Avoid ATM fees at all costs (which happens to be \$1.50 to \$4.00 per). Luckily this is easy for me because Charles Schwab will reimburse any ATM fees I incur.
  - Stop getting a tax refund. It's a free loan to the government that you could be using for investing. The key is to find the right number of exemptions that limit your refund but doesn't leave you owing the government.
  - If you don't have anyone dependent on you financially (no kids, spouse, etc), drop your Life Insurance.
- For investing: Index funds can be a good starting point for getting into investing. They don't require hours of research and historically have returned moderate returns.
- For loaning money: Everyone wants to help their friends and family when they can. However when it comes to loaning money, failing to set clear, written expectations around repayment of loans can lead to strained relationships. So before loaning someone money, write down the terms of the loan (how it will be repaid, how often, will there be interest, etc).

### My Current Currency Situation

After reading through the book, I assessed my current situation. I feel very fortunate to be able to say that I have no student loans or credit card debt. My only loan is for my (former) car, which will be sold to my brother before too long. I have 4 different bank accounts, each with varying amounts of money in them. One is a "brick-and-mortar" checking account, another is an **online checking account** (with 3% interest), the third is an **online savings account** (with 4.2% interest), and the last is an online brokerage account.

My living expenses have recently increased with the move to NYC. Thanks to an **Excel spreadsheet** I created, I have a handle on what my expenses have been since the move (and compared to Ohio), and what they "should" be. Using an **online finance program**, I was also able to see exactly where I've been spending my money (sadly I've been to McDonald's 19 times in the past 6 months).

### Financial Plan

Based on my assessment, I realized there are a number of things that I needed to improve:

1. **Organize.** Based on interest rates and convenience, I need to move some of my money around. My "bills" account will move to the online checking account, the "emergency fund" to the online savings account, the retirement/investment money to the brokerage account, and a new "drew tarvin inc."-type account to the brick-and-mortar bank.
2. **Automate.** I already do Direct Deposit at work, but I need to modify it so that it goes to the "bills" account. After that, I need to automatically contribute money for investments. I'll have 4 types of investments: 1) Retirement 2) Investing/Money Growth 3) Small business and 4) "drew tarvin, inc." (With #4, I'm saying that I will be investing in the business of me, aka my comedy).
3. **Adjust.** Based on where I saw I was spending my money, I need to make some changes. For example, food (more specifically dining out) accounted for a huge portion of my monthly expenses. Considering I have, on average, 90 "meals" a month (30 days at 3 meals a piece), dining out for all of them would get quite expensive. Assuming a typical breakfast is \$4 (reasonable if it's at McDonald's or Starbucks), a lunch is \$8 (assuming it's not a formal sit-down restaurant), and dinner is \$15 (the average for a moderately nice establishment), that's over \$800. If I can keep the number of meals I eat out to 50%, and assume a \$200 monthly grocery bill (2x my current average), then I could save \$200 a month or \$2400 a year.
4. **Invest.** As it stands, I have yet to enter the realm of the stock market. As any financial site will tell me, the biggest thing I have going for me is time. If I start a moderate investment program now and get a modest 8% return, I could be looking at over \$1 million for retirement easily. Through a Roth IRA and otherwise, I need to pick a few Index funds and other investments to get started soon.

### Conclusion

Everyone's financial situation is different. Maybe you have more debt than me, or make more money. But hopefully seeing my personal exploration can help you with your own. Though not everything will apply, I can tell you that you can reapply doing the research on personal finance (online or through books like YF&B) and research on yourself (through a budget or online service). Those two steps alone will get you on the right track to financial clarity and freedom.

With some smart decisions, conscious spending, and diligent tracking, hopefully we can all be experiencing "Mo Problems" in a few years.

# VACATION 5/17 TO 5/24

May 16, 2008 | *announcements*

I'm leaving for vacation bright and early tomorrow morning (6am flight!). I'll be gone from 5/17 to 5/24, and will resume the blogging (filling in the missing days) starting on May 25th.

For those of you interested, me and the fam are going on a cruise out of LA. I have no idea what ports we're stopping at, but really, does it matter?

## 000 5/30 TO 6/6

May 29, 2008 | *announcements*

I'll be "Out of the Office" starting tomorrow afternoon until June 6th. I say "Out of the Office" as opposed to "Vacation" because I'll be in Chicago over the weekend (vacation), and then in Phoenix during the week (business meeting). I have no idea if I'll have Internet access or time to post in either place, so I'll catch up with everything when I get back.

## UCB IMPROV 101 REVIEW

August 20, 2008 | *Improv*

I recently wrapped up my first class at UCB with my class performance on August 16. This a review of the Upright Citizens Brigade's Improv 101 class.

### Summary

UCB's Improv 101 class is a great introduction into the world of improv. It provides an end-to-end look at the key skills it takes to be a strong improviser. I recommend the course for anyone interested in gaining a basic understanding of improv, whether it's to improve your comedic timing, enhance your performing abilities, or just to have fun.

### Course Details

*Length:* 8 3-hour classes + show

*Cost:* \$325

*Instructor:* Bobby Moynihan

*Description:* From the UCB Website:

*Students will learn the fundamentals of long-form improvisation. Core concepts covered include using character agreement to make your scenes succeed, developing character, character status, object and environment work, "playing at the top of your intelligence," and heightening (finding ways to make your scenes get funnier from start to finish).*

### Review of the Class

UCB's Improv 101 is their introductory class to long-form improv. The 101 level focuses on the basics of improv and has two elements I really like: a class show at the end of the course, and a syllabus that covers all of the basics, including game. Some introductory courses pick only one thing, such as characters or "yes and," and only teach that. While UCB definitely focuses more on "yes and" in 101, they introduce many other elements—backline support, 2nd beats, game, characters, status, object work, etc. It should be noted that some of the more advanced teachings could have been because of our instructor, or the level of our class. Also I have prior improv experience, so I can't speak directly to how the class is for a new improviser, but from others have told me, they too enjoyed the class.

### Review of the Instructor

The class as a whole was fairly structured. The UCB Training Center opened in 2006 and has refined their courses over that time, having specific objectives for each level. With that being said, the instructor does play a big role in your experience in the course. I was fortunate enough to have Bobby Moynihan before he made the leap to Saturday Night Live. Bobby was a great 101 teacher; he understood the basics of improv and was always very positive towards what people did correctly (an important focus for people's first introduction to improv). Bobby also adapted the content of the course to the level of the people in our class, allowing us to get into some more advanced topics.

### Top 5 Notes

There were a number of things that I learned from the course, but here are the Top 5 notes, quotes, and suggestions:

1. Play to the top of your intelligence.
2. Listen for that first unusual thing.
3. If this is true, then what else it true.
4. Don't be "coy" – be specific.
5. Buy the The Upright Citizens Brigade: Asssscat! DVD and watch the audio commentary.

# STOP HITTING SNOOZE AND WAKE UP EARLY

*August 30, 2008 | Articles*

Note: This post has moved to my new blog, [Humor That Works](#). You can find the same content at [How to Stop Hitting Snooze and Wake Up Early](#). On the site you'll also find ways to use humor to be more effective, at work, at home and in life.

Cheers! =Drew

# SITE CHANGES

*September 1, 2008 | announcements*

As you may have noticed, there are quite a few site changes going on. Please be patient during this week as I figure out the new design of my site. Thanks!

# STAND-UP PICTURES

*September 6, 2008 | Pictures*

# 8TH FLOOR IMPROV PICTURES

*| Pictures*



# SMARTY PANTS PICTURES

*| Pictures*

# 12 MONTHS OF DREWY GOODNESS CALENDAR

*| Cartoons*

# 8TH FLOOR PROMO VIDEO

*| Video*

# 8TH FLOOR SEND-OFF SHOW - MOST DANGEROUS GAME

*| Video*

# 8TH FLOOR - BEST OF SEASON 2 AT WARP SPEED

*| Video*

## **8TH FLOOR - BEST OF SEASON 2 - CDM CHALLENGE**

*| Video*

## **DREW TARVIN STAND-UP - NOVEMBER 2007**

*| Video*

# DREW TARVIN STAND-UP PROMO VIDEO

*/ Video*

# OPTIMIZE YOUR PERSONAL WORDPRESS BLOG

*September 9, 2008 | Articles*

## **Why Optimize a Personal Blog?**

There are a number of different sites and services that offer ways to build a website; there are hundreds of ebooks available describing the best "online marketing" strategies; there are thousands of techniques that are supposedly guaranteed to get you traffic and generate sales. That's all fine and dandy, but what if you just want to create a personal blog? A blog where you aren't concerned with selling a product, or even creating sales pages for other people's products?

This is the current state of my website, [drewtarvin.com](http://drewtarvin.com). I'm not trying to sell a product or generate sales for someone else- I'm just sharing my ideas, writing articles to improve my writing skills and sharing what I've learned, and providing a place to find out more information about some of the other stuff I do (like stand-up). That doesn't mean that I wouldn't love to optimize my site. I love seeing new visitors come to the site, I like seeing what search terms people are clicking in Google to get here (recently someone searched for "heterokini" ... why?). In short, I want to increase the traffic to my site. Maybe it's narcissistic to think that what I write is worthy of being shared with family, friends, and strangers alike, but if I didn't believe that, why even write publicly?

## **A Little Background**

With that being said, I am creating a few other sites with the intention of generating income. As a result, I've done a lot of research on ways to organically drive search engine traffic simply by making some simple changes. What follows below is the steps I took during last week's project – "Optimize My Blog." Many of the steps come from a couple of different online marketing guides. While the guides themselves are great resources in and of themselves, they are all focused on making money. The steps below are specific just to optimizing your blog, and they leave out anything related to generating sales or affiliates or more involved promotional techniques.

Note: Most of the steps are links to external resources that explain in greater detail how to do what I describe.

# HOW TO OPTIMIZE YOUR PERSONAL WORDPRESS BLOG

## 1) Set Up Your WordPress Blog

NOTES:

- If you already have a WordPress blog, make sure you upgrade to the most recent version. You can also skip directly to Part 2.
- To find even more themes (Step 4), check out:
  - 83 Beautiful WordPress Themes You Probably Haven't Seen
  - 100 Excellent Free High Quality WordPress Themes
  - Other WordPress Themes
- For Plug-ins, the definite ones to use are:
  - Akismet
  - All In One SEO Pack
  - Google XML Sitemaps
  - Enforce www. Preference
  - Google Analyticator
  - Feedburner Feedsmith
- Other good plug-ins to consider:
  - Brian's Threaded Comments
  - WWSGD
  - Subscribe Remind
  - Sociable
  - Related Posts
  - Smart Archives
  - Post Views
  - Post Ratings
  - EMail
  - Stats

## 2) Tweak the Navigation

NOTES:

- Where John Cow mentions "Non-money" and "Money" pages, think in terms of "Non unique content" and "content" pages respectively.
- Hold off on creating the robots.txt file (Part 3) for right now.
- When linking to pages within your site, remember to "anchor" your links: <http://www.webpronews.com/topnews/2004/04/08/anchor-text-optimization>

## 3) Create your Sitemap.xml file

NOTES:

- Don't turn on "Ping" yet.

## 4) Create your Robots.txt file

NOTES:

- In addition to the example provided on the site, add a sitemap.xml link in your robots.txt file.
- To create the file, just open a Notepad, copy the code from the site, save as "robots.txt" and upload to the root directory of your website.

## 5) Submit your Sitemap.xml and Robots.txt files

NOTES:

- To do this, create an account <http://www.google.com/webmasters/>.
- Follow the guides in Webmasters to see guides on how to submit each file.
- Make sure you “verify” the site.

## 6) Test Your Site

NOTES:

- Fix any errors or warnings listed in Webmasters.
- See how your site looks in different browsers – <http://browsershots.org/>
- Validate your site at <http://validator.w3.org/checklink> or <http://www.xinureturns.com>

## 7) Set Up Feedburner and All-in-One SEO

NOTES:

- Fill out the All-in-One SEO information for the posts you want to drive more traffic to.
- You can skip the steps related to Aweber (Steps 7-20).
- You can sign up for feedburner at <http://www.feedburner.com>.
- Once you have everything setup, make sure you add “<http://ping.feedburner.com>” under Update Services in “Settings -> Writing” in your WordPress blog.

## What To Do Next

Once you’ve made the above changes, you’re well on your way to improving your blog for increased traffic. The next step is to make sure you have good content and take a look at optimizing your actual articles for different keywords. To learn more about promoting your site, or if you are interested in monetizing your site, I’ve listed the resources I’ve been using below.

A note of warning about “online marketing” sites in general. Many sites out there will offer a free video or article talking about the next great way to make money online. All of these sites will require an email address which they then use to try to sell you stuff through. While you can learn a good deal for free from many of the sites, there’s a lot of garbage and spam-like email you’ll have to go through. The links below are some of the best sites I’ve found that also don’t drown you in trying to sell you products.

- “How to Build a Business, NOT Just a Blog” – An entire ebook about optimizing your blog. The full version of all of the John Cow articles I linked to above- definitely worth looking at for promotion strategies and if you are interested in monetizing your site.
- The 30 Day Challenge – A “challenge” held every August to try to create a website that you earn at least \$1 from within 30 days. You can check out the site any time of year and get access to the resources from the last 30 day challenge.
- Connected Internet – Various blog posts about how to optimize or improve your blog.

# LIVING ON A \$100 BUDGET

*September 13, 2008 | Other*

This week’s project was to live on a \$100 budget for the entire week. Below is the “diary” of that spending.

## Day 1 – Sunday

*9:17am* – The start of this week isn’t so bad. Matt is leaving today, so his parents are in town to pick him up. Luckily, we go to breakfast at Bagel Express which is cheap, and even more luckily, Matt’s parents insist on paying for my \$2.25 buttered bagel and \$1.79 Nesquik Chocolate Milk. One meal down and \$0 spent.

*11:15am* – My first expense! Today is the last class of my sketch class and we have to make copies for everyone in our class. The total comes to \$4.39. I should’ve written a shorter sketch, or better yet, printed it out at work on Friday.

*2:47pm* – I’ve felt my first discomfort from the challenge (yes, already). I only have a short break between my sketch class and an audition for an improv group, so I have to eat fast and somewhere in between the two places. McDonald’s is the only feasible option, and unfortunately it’s Manhattan so the \$1 menu doesn’t really exist. Knowing I have an entire week ahead of me, I get a 4-piece nugget, small

fry, and cup of water – \$2.70.

2:59pm – I'm still hungry.

5:45pm – I just got back from the audition (it went OK, I should know sometime this week). I am starving. I have to make my grocery list. This is probably the most important event this entire week. Poor planning here could leave me miserable towards the end.

6:37pm – Grocery shopping is proving harder than I imagined- individual items add up very quickly. And why don't these stores put prices on everything? If I don't know how much it costs, I can't put it in my cart with confidence.

6:50pm – I'm back from the grocery store and I have to eat something...anything. I elect for a granola bar before even putting away the groceries, even the frozen foods. I technically only spent \$13.04, but that's because I already had a lot of food here. But, in the spirit of this challenge, I've decided to total the cost of the food that I would've bought if I didn't already have it (since it makes no sense to waste the food I already have by not eating it and buying it again). My new total grocery bill is 61.97... Holy crap it's going to be a tough week.

7:55pm – I had my first meal from stuff I bought at the store – 9 chicken nuggets and a piece of bread. I feel full for the first time today.

9:45pm – I'm heading to bed to make sure I'm well rested for work tomorrow and more importantly not get hungry again tonight. My total spending for the day: \$69.06.

## Day 2 – Monday

8:30am – It's a really good thing that I started waking up at 6am two weeks ago- living cheaply requires a lot of preparation. I woke up at 6am, worked out in my room at 6:30am, cooked and ate breakfast (3 eggs and a piece of toast) at 7:15am, showered, and packed a lunch for the day and was finally done by 8am. Then, as I was getting ready to leave for work, I realized the laptop bag I've been using, a nice leather, over-the-shoulder one, isn't designed for carrying a lunch. So I made the switch to a backpack to make sure I could carry everything. Who knew saving money meant returning back to your high school days?

11:17am – I'm starting to get hungry- I don't think I'll make it to lunch. Luckily we have free pretzels here in the office- they should hold me over for now.

1:55pm – This challenge would be a heckuva lot easier if I had just decided to keep to myself for the whole week- but that's not what I'd want to do if I really were on a strict budget. With that said, I just spent \$16.96 on lunch at europa café. Why? Because a friend of mine was able to hook me up with tickets to David Letterman, and the least I could do was pay for her lunch.

2:57pm – Getting hungry again. Since I didn't eat my packed lunch, I can grab the granola bar and have myself a snack.

3:44pm – I'm not feeling all that well (headache and a little nauseous. Is it because of something I ate? Or my altered eating schedule? Either way, I did not budget for getting sick).

4:54pm – Not eating my packed lunch has proved beneficial for the second time- I grabbed the turkey sandwich and ate on the way to picking up tickets for the Letterman show.

8:25pm – I just had to make my first public sacrifice, which sucks. The friend that went with me to Letterman (which was pretty cool to see) asked if I wanted to grab dinner after the show. With only \$13.98 in my pocket, I can't afford to do it, so I have to politely decline.

9:35pm – I just got done eating two delicious chili dogs and watching "The Daily Show" on Hulu.com. Great meal, great entertainment.

11:15pm – It's about time for bed and I'm not hungry at all. My total spending today was \$16.96.

## Day 3 – Tuesday

6:15am – I still have a bit of a headache and am feeling a little nauseous. I don't feel like eating yet, but hopefully the Gandalf of my body will let this pass.

7:01am – Time for the breakfast of champions- store brand Frosted Flakes. It's a nice, cheap meal, but generally doesn't keep me very full. We'll see how the morning goes.

10:30am – I just got done with a conference call, and I think it's time I worked the rest of the day from home. Hopefully being in more relaxing clothing and in the comfort of my own home will help me feel better. Plus I have a lot more food choices there.

12:35pm – Seeing as how I didn't budget for being sick, I don't really have anything suitable to eat. The closest thing to soup I have is \$.33 ramen noodles, so I had that plus two slices of buttered bread. Now it's time to get back to work.

2:45pm – OK, so by work I meant nap off being sick for a little bit. The sad thing is that I actually feel a bit worse then when I went to sleep.

4:30pm – Finally feeling better, and thanks to a delicious peanut butter & jelly sandwich, I'm feeling full as well.

7:45pm – Woodruff is over to talk about how we want to try to get Smarty Pants up and running in New York. Unfortunately I didn't really buy any food that was good for more than one person, so we have to run to the store. We decide to go with some hamburger helper- him paying for the hamburger and me getting the helper at \$3.49.

11:15pm – I still haven't even made it a day with spending no money. My total budget left is \$10.49.

#### **Day 4 – Wednesday**

7:30am – I've got a pretty long day today, so I have to make sure I plan appropriately. I started the day with a bowl of cereal and just finished packing some sandwiches and snacks to hold me over through work and ComedySportz practice. I hope it's enough because I won't be back home till after 10pm tonight.

8:05am – My fear came to fruition this morning – my monthly subway pass expired. Fortunately I wasn't going to include this cost in the challenge (it's a monthly expense), but it still requires a trip back to the apartment to grab a credit card to pay the \$81. Also, in the spirit of experiencing what it would be like if I didn't have the option to take the subway, I'm walking to work this morning. Luckily it's a nice day, so hopefully it won't be miserable.

8:45am – What a walk... Google says it's 2.1 miles. On the plus side it was nice out and I got in a good morning workout. On the minus side it took me 40 minutes to do, I'm now sweaty and starving, I couldn't read or write like I normally do on the subway, and I have a bit of a headache. I definitely couldn't do that every morning and afternoon, especially considering tonight I have to go to the west side for practice.

9:03am – I couldn't do it, I had to eat something. There goes the granola bar for the day.

1:07pm – After a challenging morning (my head hurt the worst it has in awhile), I'm now feeling good and full, thanks to my sliced chicken sandwich and Doritos.

3:56pm – The advantage to packing my lunch was that I was able to pack two sandwiches, the second of which I just consumed. This is supposedly the better way to eat anyway – smaller, more frequent meals.

6:04pm – Thanks to my preparation this morning, I have a chicken pot pie I can cook in the office kitchen. Throw in some left over carrots and things are going well.

10:15pm – I just got back home from improv practice and I'm glad to be back in the presence of food. Even though I had them two days ago, the chili dogs are calling my name again. Bon appetit.

11:47pm – I was finally able to make it a day without spending any money. I'm sure I've done this many a-time without realizing it, but when you're away from home from 8am to 10pm, it requires some planning ahead. Still sitting at \$10.49 left for the week.

#### **Day 5 – Thursday**

6:41am – I got bored of the cereal, so I went back to scrambled eggs and toast. After starting the eggs, I realized I probably should've waited to cook/eat them till after I worked out, but I can't change that now. Today's eggs were a little dry, but definitely edible.

7:35am – My worry about eating too much before working out (a weight-free routine I do in my room) was unwarranted. My worry that I'd be hungry after the workout was accurate. Luckily a handful of carrots should tide me over for awhile.

11:11am – My wish for more food came true- someone had leftover bagels after a meeting and offered them up to the rest of the office. Who would've thought a simple bagel with butter would be like Thanksgiving in September.

1:06pm – Thanks to the free bagel, I was able to wait a little longer till lunch- a turkey sandwich and some Doritos.

3:47pm – Snack time with Mr. Granola bar.

5:40pm – Just like yesterday, I came to work with two sandwiches. I'm not starving by any means, but rather than take the PB&J home or



leave it for another day, I figure I might as well eat it right?

9:34pm – With only a couple days left, I decided it was time to bust out a long-time staple in my “cook at home” diet- pizza rolls. I have to imagine I’ve been eating the pepperoni variety since 2001.

10:12pm – I’m calling it a bit early tonight to make sure I’m back to 100%. It was another \$0 day, AND no headaches—maybe I’m not allergic to being broke after all. \$10.49 left for 2 days.

### Day 6 – Friday

7:10am – Thanks to me forgetting about an 8am meeting I have today, I have to scarf down a small bowl of cereal, throw a sandwich in my bag, hop in the shower, and get to work. We’ll have to see if this poor planning affects my day.

10:11am – Yep, the skimpy breakfast is already leaving me hungry. Pretzels in the office to the rescue.

11:59am – I can’t hold out any longer, I have to eat lunch. Another turkey sandwich and Doritos.

3:47pm – Down goes the granola bar.

6:11pm – I made the mistake of not making a second sandwich for the afternoon, so I am absolutely starving. I decided to finally reheat the pizza from Monday, which at least makes me feel a little bit better about spending \$5.50 on it.

12:35am – So I accidentally spent the last 6 hours watching the first 8 episodes of the first season of The West Wing. I had never seen the show but have had Season 1 sitting in my DVD collection for well over a year. While not the most exciting of evenings, it was relaxing and best of all free. No dollars spent today and \$10.49 left for the last day of the project.

### Day 7 – Saturday

8:41am – The last day of the challenge and I couldn’t be happier (or I guess maybe tomorrow when it’s over I will be). Unfortunately due to me going through my email and RSS feeds for the past hour, I have to eat a quick bowl of cereal before heading out to meet a friend to observe the taping of his weekly talk show. We all know how well a bowl of cereal lasted me yesterday...

11:15am – Luckily I threw a granola bar and sandwich in my bag before heading out the door. Nothing has really happened yet on the set, so I have some time to eat.

11:46am – I wanted to wait until later in the day to resort to the sandwich, but I can’t make it.

2:25pm – Due to some technical difficulties, they still haven’t actually taped anything yet. On a positive note, they did order pizza for everyone.

10:03pm – The good news is that heading into the evening, I had a few dollars left in the budget (\$10.49 to be exact). The better news is that I spent \$5.78 on cream cheese and tortilla chips, meaning I was able to make Skyline Chili Dip. The bad news is that Ohio State is not doing that well against USC.

11:41pm – With the week almost over, and the OSU vs. USC game being a blowout, I just want to get this post done and get to bed. As a “reward” for my frugal spending Wednesday through Friday, and what was supposed to be in celebration of the OSU game, I spent \$5.78 today. That brings my grand total for the week to \$95.29, leaving a \$4.71 surplus!

# MANUALTYPE

October 3, 2008 | Video

Who needs fancy, new fangled computers when you have ManualType- the patented technology of handwriting.

# SAVE MONEY BY BEING POOR FOR A WEEK

October 7, 2008 | Articles

In the current economic climate, it seems that just about everyone is trying to find ways to save money and prepare for the challenging months ahead. I recently challenged myself to live on only \$100 for an entire week to see if I could and what I would learn.

I didn't realize that the project would be so tough, rewarding, and powerful. Throughout the course of 7 days, I experienced a myriad of emotions, and learned a lot about myself and my spending. The best part is that I'm sure you would experience the same powerful effects I did. Being poor for one week can give you amazing insights on how to save money every week that follows, more than passively reading articles such as [15 Tips for Saving Money](#) or even [Reviewing Your Personal Finances](#). This provides real lessons taught the best way possible – through experience.

Moreso than **any of my other projects**, I highly encourage everyone to give it a try. Maybe \$100 isn't the right number for you, but based on your current financial habits, try spending 75% less than your normal weekly budget. A quick tip: take notes throughout that week, because you're going to learn a lot.

Still not sure if it's worth trying? Or wondering what you could learn by doing the challenge? Keep reading to see what you'll learn about saving money by being poor for a week.

## Sensitivity to True Cost

When you have a very limited budget, you start to look at everything you spend money on in terms of "true cost" – the cost of the item or service compared to its value, and what you're giving up in order to have it. I especially thought about this in terms of food. When deciding between a \$3 box of cereal or \$5 pack of chicken nuggets, you have to think of the actual "cost per meal" (the total cost of all ingredients divided by the number of meals it supplies). The box of cereal requires milk (+\$2.39), but will also give you 6-8 light meals. The chicken nuggets will likely fill you up more and don't necessarily require any sides, but will only get you 2-3 meals.

*Why It Helps* – Learning about true cost first hand will help you make better purchasing decisions in the future. It's foolish to spend \$100 on something you'll use only once. It's smart to spend \$100 on something you'll use 100 times or more.

## Your Image Is Expensive

Living cheaply means choosing functionality over design or style. Though my leather laptop bag is more in style, my backpack can carry more stuff and has the added advantage of being better for my back. Similarly, it's hard to justify the added cost when two things have equal functionality, but the more stylish one is more expensive- as is the case with wearing glasses versus contacts.

Your image can also take a hit if you go from a position of affluence to one of financial struggles. Keeping up the façade of having money is tough to do and at times not worth the cost. If you work in the corporate world, it may be important to keep a professional appearance. This means remaining clean-shaven, keeping your clothes pressed, and wearing more expensive dress pants instead of shorts. But living cheaply also means swallowing your pride and declining on Starbucks, even if you're co-workers are going.

*Why It Helps* – Many fashion items have the highest true cost associated with them, and are often the least functional. By thinking about the practicality of an item before purchasing it, you can realize if it's worth the investment and hassle of even owning the item.

### **Variety Isn't Cheap**

Variety is the spice of life, but not of living cheaply. One of the things I noticed on my limited budget was that I quickly grew tired of having turkey sandwiches and carrots for lunch. But buying items in bulk is cheaper and drives down true cost. It's hard to justify spending more money on different options for lunch when you know there's very little money to go around.

*Why It Helps* – It's the simple things that really make a difference. Until you experience eating Ramen noodles every day, or doing the same activity daily, you won't appreciate how the smallest changes can make a day more enjoyable.

### **Hard Times Inspire Creativity**

As the days progressed and my budget shrank further, I found more creative ways to save money and still be happy. Whether it's new ways to cook chicken, or how you can have fun with just a pen and paper, your mind starts to see everyday things in a new way.

*Why It Helps* – There's a common belief that you have to have money to have fun and be happy. Once you accept your financial limitations and start thinking positively, you find ways to still have fun by experiencing the free (or at least cheaper) things in life.

### **Barebones Living**

It turns out that one of the best ways to declutter your life also applies to saving money. When you want to get rid of the crap of your life, one method is to put almost all of your belongings in a specified place in your home, such as a closet. Then, as you truly need an item, you retrieve it from the closet. After a certain amount of time (a couple of weeks), anything you didn't get out of the closet that isn't seasonal, you can safely get rid of.

Well the same method applies to your finances. I realized that I didn't really miss dining out that much, but that I couldn't survive even a day without Internet access. To cut my expenses, I know that I should focus on cooking at home more, not stopping my Internet service.

*Why It Helps* – If you cut down all of your spending (dining out, subscription services, alcohol), you'll learn what you really need, what you really like, and what you were mostly wasting money on.

### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

When you don't have the money to buy new crap, you start finding uses for your old crap. With a limited budget, I couldn't afford to go to the movies. But that didn't really matter, because I had plenty of DVDs that I've either never watched, haven't seen in a long time, or didn't watch the special features for. Also there are plenty of secondary uses for many items – plastic bags can carry your lunch or serve as garbage bags, junk mail can serve as scratch paper, and **baking soda can be used for about 800 things** (ok, maybe 60).

*Why It Helps* – Using that new-found creativity from a restricted budget, you can start seeing how items can be re-used before you even buy them, helping you choose the items with the lowest true costs.

### **Money Triggers**

While trying to stick to my budget, I started to see where I would normally want to spend my money. Once you're hyper-sensitive to where you're money is going, you learn what triggers you to spend money in the first place. Some common triggers include dating (you are, after all, trying to impress the person), friends, alcohol, poor planning (if you have a busy day and forget to pack multiple meals, you either starve or have to dine out), and laziness.

*Why It Helps* – The only way you're going to prevent spending money is to know what causes you to spend it in the first place. By identify the triggers, you can take steps to correct them, such as learning how to relax and have fun without alcohol, or **waking up earlier** so you have more time to prepare for your day.

### **Money Isn't Everything (In Fact, It's Hardly Anything)**

I'll admit, at the beginning of the week, I was not happy. I made it a point to fully immerse myself in the experience and really believe that \$100 was the absolute max I could spend during that week and for weeks to come. As a result, as I made sacrifices and tough choices, I became depressed and pitied my situation. But as the week progressed, as I learned ways to cope with my budget and accepted my situation, I realized feeling sorry for myself didn't do anything to help put food on the table; it just demotivated me. I accepted my circumstances and decided to build from there- it was an example of "**yes and**" in real life.

*Why It Helps* – The cliché is that money can't buy happiness, and you'll start to realize that's true. There's a reason that even the richest of people end up depressed- material things aren't the answer. Living a week without money helps you realize that, and decreases the importance of money in your life. Sure you'll still work to make dough, but you won't put an unwarranted significance on it.

## You Can Survive

The ultimate realization you'll have at the end of the week is that you can survive. Regardless of what happens, you can make it through it and come out in the end. I know that I can live on only \$100 a week, and even less if I had to. I hope to never be in that position as I've worked hard to earn where I am now, but if something were to knock me down financially, I'd be able to get back up.

*Why It Helps* – Having the confidence to know you can take a licking and keep on ticking is powerful. It emboldens you to make stronger choices and bigger risks. At the same time, it helps you appreciate the important things in life. No one lays on their deathbed wishing they had more money; they wish for more time with their friends and family, experiencing life.

## A Poor Week Leads to a Richer Life

I can promise you, if you go through this experience, you'll come out feeling richer at the end. Not only will you actually be richer (you did, in fact, spend 75% less than you normally would), but you'll also know how you can personally save some more money, and start appreciating the more important things. Have you tried the challenge? Post about it in the comments.

# DREW TARVIN NEWSLETTER

*/ announcements*

Want to stay up to date with drewtarvin.com? Sign up for the newsletter.

# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SMART PEOPLE

*October 25, 2008 | Articles*

In a smart marketing move, **Steve Pavlina** recently offered a free copy of his book, **Personal Development for Smart People**, to any blogger willing to write a review about it. It's brilliant because for a man who is already financially secure, writing a book is either a stroke to his own ego, or he wants to share his ideas with as many people as possible, hoping to help them in some way. Either way, free publicity at the cost of lost sales is a no-brainer. I would have bought the book any way (and written a review), but it was nice to get it for free.

Below is my unbiased review of the book (I don't want you thinking that since I got it for free that I'd lean towards rating it positively. I've gotten a number of things for free that I've openly hated, like the flu for example).

## About the Author

I've been following Steve Pavlina for over a year on his blog at [stevepavlina.com](http://stevepavlina.com). He's written some great articles, such as his suggestion of using **30 day trials**, experimenting with **polyphasic sleep**, **learning how to wake up early**, and **making money from your blog**. He also has some viewpoints that are very "new age-y" and there's a bit of cheesiness to him (just look at his headshot). I generally ignore what he has to say about vegetarianism, veganism, and raw food; I disagree with the existence of the "law of attraction" (which incidentally can't be proven so therefore should be the "theory of attraction"); and I don't know what to think of his "paranormal encounters" with the dead and his wife's psychic abilities. Like I said, a bit of cheesiness.

## About the Book

I wasn't sure of what to expect from Pavlina's book. I know from his blog posts that he's a good writer, but I didn't know what side of Steve he was going to write about: the normal, more applicable personal development side, or the "I talk to ghosts" side. Luckily for us, he (mostly) stuck with the personal development topics.

The book is divided into two parts. Part One, Fundamental Principles, covers the explanation and exploration of what Pavlina calls the seven universal principles of personal development. The core principles of truth, love and power also combine (like in Captain Planet) to create the secondary principles of oneness, authority, courage, and intelligence.

Part Two, Practical Application, applies each of those principles to habits, career, money, health, relationships, and spirituality. Essentially the first part talks about the theory, the second part talks about the application.

## Fundamental Principles

Truth, love, and power make up the three core principles of Pavlina's philosophy. In the subsequent chapters he explores the secondary principles that come from them. Each chapter has a set of roadblocks and exercises to help you grow in each principle, but I'll leave those

for you to discover for the sake of brevity (which is weird to say considering this post sits at around 2900 words), and focus more on the core principles.

## Truth

Pavlina tells us that "We primarily grow as human beings by discovering new truths about ourselves and reality." (pg 3) All growth comes from finding out new truths, which makes sense because if you're not discovering anything new, every day, week, or year is essentially the same as the one before.

But what is truth? The key components are perception, prediction, accuracy, acceptance, and self-awareness.

Perception, "the most basic aspect of truth" (pg 4), says that in order to improve something, you have to look at it, or more specifically yourself, first.

Once you have a sense of where you are now, you can use prediction to help you to grow. Prediction is the ability to draw from previous experiences to predict (and plan) future outcomes. The more experiences you have, the more accurate your predictions become. Accuracy becomes important for both perception and prediction, "The closer your internal model of reality matches actual reality, the more capable you become." (pg 8)

Of course none of this really matters if you don't have a high degree of self-awareness (your strengths, weaknesses, etc) and that you accept yourself as you are. And looking at yourself objectively isn't always the easiest thing to do: "One of the most important skills to develop in the area of personal growth is the ability to admit the whole truth to yourself, *even if you don't like what you see and even if you feel powerless to change it.*" (pg 11)

Until I admitted to myself that hitting snooze was a problem I wanted to fix, I didn't make the conscious effort to remedy the problem. Once I accurately perceived my current situation through heightened self-awareness, I accepted my current state and used past experiences to predict that if I treated waking up early as **weekly project**, I would succeed at it. And I did (see "**Stop Hitting Snooze and Wake Up Early**").

Truth doesn't come without it's challenges though. Pavlina points to a number of roadblocks, including media and social conditioning, false beliefs, and emotional interferences. For example, society (at least in the US) says that the week starts on Sunday, but the truth is that it starts on Monday (otherwise Sunday wouldn't be part of weekend).

So how do you improve your truthiness (thanks Colbert)? Pavlina provides a few exercises, the most powerful of which is the Self Assessment (pg 20). The assessment has you rate your satisfaction for where you are in key areas of your life on a scale from 1-10. He then goes on to say that any area you rate less than a 9 or 10 is really a 1. "Either you have what you want, or you don't." (pg 21) It's like the project management philosophy that a task is either complete or it isn't. A task 70% complete is as bad as a task that's 0% complete if the remaining 30% never gets finished. This isn't too be confused with Pareto's 80/20 principal – that applies to the design of a project, not the execution of the tasks.

It's important to note that "an honest rating has more to do with your path than your position." (pg 21) I'm far from where I want to be comedically, but I would rate the current path I'm on as a 10 since I feel I'm headed in the right direction.

## Love

Pavlina's definition of love is more than just the emotion, specifically that "the decision to connect is the essence of love." (pg 27). He goes on to say "your life becomes a reflection of what you choose to connect with most often," (pg 28)—meaning you are what you love.

But what is it to "connect"? Simply put, it means "to give something your attention, to think about it, to engage with it." (pg 28) What you spend your time on is what defines you; your calendar (what's on it, not whether it's a Far Side calendar or a Fireman one) is a better depiction of who you are than any mission statement you claim to adhere to.

In addition to connection, communication and communion are the two other aspects of love. Communication is how we express love and communion is "the deep sense of bonding that gives rise to the emotional side of love." (pg 31) Based on this definition of love, it becomes apparent that you choose what it is you love, such as yourself, another person, or Chick Fil A.

Naturally there are problems that exist that can prevent you from forming new, or deepening existing, connections. The first one Pavlina mentions also dabbles in the realm of "new age" philosophies, stating "The assumption that we're all inherently separate beings is among the worst of [disconnected] thoughts." (pg 33) Pavlina gets into this more in the chapter of "oneness." I believe we are all connected, in the sense that we're all on this planet together, and what I do ultimately affects what others do, but to make the leap that we're all apart of the same being is a bit too big of a jump for me.

Aside from the disconnected mindset, Pavlina lists other blocks to love that cover the standard fare of fear of rejection and lack of social skills, both of which are solved by "get over it, the worst that happens in a failed connection is you move on."

Improving your ability to connect with love revolves around accepting the concept of connectedness (in one form or another). Each exercise presented builds on the most important point in the chapter: "Love is not an accident." (pg 40)

## Power

Power is about making things happen, "deliberately creating the world around you." (pg 47) And until you take responsibility for your life, it's impossible to have power. The concept is actually related to the improv idea of "Yes And." "It's entirely pointless to blame God, your parents, the government, or anyone else for your lot in life. It doesn't matter who contributed to your current situation—all that matters is that you must live with it." (pg 49) That's essentially saying to accept the situation you are currently in (regardless of how you got there), and build from there to improve your life.

Power, like love, is also based on what you actually do, what you focus on. "Time isn't a disposable resource. You can't spend time. No matter what you do or don't do, time passes on its own. You have no choice regarding whether to spend time or not; your only choice is how you direct your focus in the present moment." (pg 52) You are indeed what you do since that's the only thing you have control over.

The tools that make up power are motivation and self-discipline. "Motivation starts the race, but self-discipline ultimately crosses the finish line." (pg 58) When looking at the exercises Pavlina provides to build power, you start to understand that power is what drives personal productivity. Building productive habits for the first waking hour of the day, establishing personal quotas, and working on your hardest task first are all great ways to be more productive.

## Oneness

Pavlina returns to the concept that we are all a part of a greater being in the principle of oneness. Oneness is truth plus love, taking love one step further: "Love is *choosing* to connect. Oneness is *knowing* you're already connected." (pg 70) Luckily there is still much to gain from the principle of oneness without needing to fully believe this idea.

Oneness centers around the aspects of empathy, compassion, honesty, fairness, contribution, and unity- all building back towards this idea that we are all in this together and helping others is really helping ourselves. But Pavlina also dispels the idea that you have to sacrifice greatly for the good of others. "A sense of oneness encourages you to optimize and expand your contribution as an individual. If you perform well below your capacity, you're denying responsibility for your role in the larger body." (pg 75) Like Jay Z says, "I can't help the poor if I'm one of them / So I got rich and gave back / To me that's the win, win."

## Authority

"Truth without power accomplishes nothing. Power without truth generates wasted action." (pg 85) Authority bridges those disconnects by combining truth and power empowering you to take complete control over your life. Authority is also about taking action and persevering through failed attempts. "Failure and success are not opposites. Failure is an unavoidable part of success." (pg 90)

As your authority grows, so too will your confidence. And not the "cocky" confidence, but the truthful confidence that you are capable of greatness. "Too often we fear our own greatness. We pretend to be powerless, mistakenly thinking that this somehow frees us from the responsibility of power." (pg 92) It does not. We are responsible for our own lives, no one else.

To build authority, we must become comfortable making independent decisions regardless of what others think. It's disagreeing with party lines, questioning religious dogma, and seeking our own truth and authority for ourselves. As Cartman so gracefully put it, "you will respect my authori-tay."

## Courage

The combination of love and power yields courage. "Courage is being ready to take the initiative, to make the first move, and to set things in motion." (pg 104) It's being direct and asking for what you want, risking possible rejection in the process. As you build the confidence that comes with authority, you start to recognize that this directness is a win-win situation. If you ask and you receive, you get what you want. If you get rejected, then you've eliminated one option and have avoided wasting your time on something that wasn't meant for you. It's true, she/he/it doesn't know what she/he/it is missing.

Courage also includes honor and your conscience. Courage is discerning right from wrong and following up with what's right, regardless of the consequences. "Courage is a choice." (pg 112)

## Intelligence

"Intelligence is the highest form of human expression." (pg 116) It's the combination of the three core principles of truth, love, and power. Intelligence requires being authentic, expressing yourself creatively, and seeking continual growth. If you're not learning, you're dying. Pavlina considers growth such a key part of his book, he writes, "If you forget everything else from this book and remember only one piece of advice, it's simply this: *The most important thing you can possibly do with your life is grow.*" (pg 120)

Intelligence also includes the concept of flow—once you align with the three core principles, you'll work with the flow of life instead of struggling against it. While I don't know if I agree with the "flow" of life, I do agree with what it means—it's the journey that's the most important, not the end result. After all, life is nothing but a series of journeys. And once you combine all of the principles, you can sit back and enjoy the ride because "You know in advance that reaching your goals is basically a done deal." (pg 122)

Living intelligently "results from an integrated process of perception, thought, and action." (pg 124) Pavlina provides a Conscious Assessment (pg 124) that assesses your alignment with each of the seven principles, helping to build that integrated process. He also talks about "Growth Blitzing," which is basically creating small challenges for yourself (sound similar to the aforementioned **weekly projects** to anyone?).

### Practical Application

In the second part of the book, Pavlina applies the seven principles to six key areas of life: habits, career, money, health, relationships, and spirituality. With each area, he steps through each principle and describes what it means to live in alignment with that principle.

*Habits* – Habits, which Pavlina calls "memorized solutions" (pg 138), are what allow us to go on autopilot and get into the flow of things. Of course this is under the assumption that we have the correct habits. Pavlina lists 66 productive habits to have (pg 149), including having daily goals, waking up early, being punctual and expressing gratitude.

*Career* – Your career is "your primary outlet for self-expression." (pg 161) Applying the seven principles helps us find an authentic career, one that satisfies what our bodies, minds, hearts, and spirits must, can, want and should do.

*Money* – "Money is essentially social credit. The more money you have, the more society owes you, and the more value you can extract." (pg 180) The seven principles help us get into a contributor-mindset which recognizes that providing fair value is the best way to make money. Of course, "Intelligence is the ultimate source of wealth." (pg 194)

*Health* – The natural view of health is that it's vitally important. Pavlina goes off on a bit of a tangent about veganism here, but does make a good point in that "if the average person wouldn't consider your current health practices extreme, you probably aren't very healthy." (pg 205) This is an example where you must have the courage to stray away from society and say you deserve better.

*Relationships* – Relationships naturally align with love and oneness, but the other principles also apply by helping you find your honest connections, encouraging you to seek out those you want to connect with, and giving you the courage to forge new relationships. "It's been said that you can predict your future by looking at the people with whom you spend the most time." (pg 224)

*Spirituality* – "Spirituality refers to your collection of beliefs about reality, including your understanding of how reality works, as well as your personal role in the universe." (pg 235) Exploring and defining your spirituality isn't about finding a religion, but finding universal beliefs that hold up in every situation. In that sense, the principles shared in the book align with that idea.

### Review

Steve Pavlina's book covers a wide variety of topics but ultimately breaks them down to the core principles of truth, love, and power. Less a book about personal development (in the sense of "do this, do that"), and more an exploration for universal principals, Personal Development for Smart People is an interesting conglomeration of various theories (sometimes making the assumption that the readers already know those existing theories). Though there are a few ideas that could be deemed "new age" or "hokey," the majority of the book is applicable to any person seeking personal growth. Like any good self-help book should, it encourages you to challenge the norms, to step out of your comfort zone and seek growth opportunities. As Pavlina writes, "Real conscious growth is seldom undemanding, but it's always worthwhile."

# MY FIRST TIME VOTING

November 4, 2008 | Other

Sadly, at 24 years of age, today was my first time voting in an election for the US government. I've voted for where our family should go for vacation, who should be Prom Queen, who should be #1 in the AP Preseason NCAA Football poll, and even who should be the Last Comic Standing, but I had never voted for someone for a government position, until today.

If you only count national elections, then really I've only missed one. I turned 18 in 2002, and abstained from voting in 2004 (I didn't like either candidate). But the election of the President is only one of many that take place over the course of 4 years. Considering there are countries where people aren't afforded this opportunity, and that people die protecting our ability to vote, it seems selfish not to.

More than any year before, I've been following this election closely (of course with this media coverage it's impossible not to). Since the initial caucuses this year, I've kept abreast of what's going on in both parties. As a registered Independent, I could vote either way in any election, it all depends on the candidates and the issues.

And everything, all the campaigning, all the smear ads, all of The Daily Show and Saturday Night Live sketches, comes down to today.

### My First Voting Experience

Now that I reside in New York, I registered here many weeks ago. Unfortunately I forgot to sign the registration form, so it got sent back to me and I had to re-send it in. This would prove to be costly as I wasn't on the voter registration list when I checked in this morning. I cast an affidavit ballot to "have my voice heard" but it doesn't quite feel the same as if I'd gone in the booth and pulled the lever or whatever it is you do.

I should also mention that I made the mistake of not following some of the other offices I would be voting for. Aside from the Presidential candidate, I didn't know a single thing about any of the Senate or House candidates. Naturally, rather than abstain from voting for a candidate that I know nothing about, I picked based on their name (again I'm Independent so voting only one platform isn't my thing). At least I can be happy that my voting location was the lobby of my building, and that I only waited an hour in the morning when I was still waking up.

The results are coming in now, but in a few hours we'll know the next President of the United States. Hopefully you all had enjoyable voting experiences, and good luck to your candidate. And if you're curious, I voted for ... oh what's that over there.

(Note: I'm more than happy to discuss the merits of the person I voted for, but that wasn't the purpose of this article—maybe another day.)

# UCB IMPROV 201 REVIEW

November 9, 2008 | Improv

I just finished my 201 intensive at UCB with my class show on October 26. This is a review of the Upright Citizens Brigade's Improv 201 class.

### Summary

UCB's Improv 201 Intensive class was a great class that helped me learn how to better identify the game of the scene and heighten it, both in the same scene and in the second beat of the scene. I continue to believe the UCB program is a great one for people interested in learning improv and comedy in general.

### Course Details

*Length:* 8 3-hour classes + show

*Cost:* \$325

*Instructor:* Neil Casey / Kevin Hines

*Description:* From the UCB Website:

*This course will focus on teaching students how to use the idea of "The Game" to create their improvised scenes. Students will be taught how to identify "games" within their scenes, and how to use the concept of heightening to properly play out their scenes once they have them. (Heightening is finding new ways to make your scenes get funnier from start to finish.) The class will heavily focus on learning how to use patterns to fill out comedic scenes based around one central "game."*

*Students will also be introduced to the idea of "second beats," or returning to scenes, characters, and concepts from earlier in an improvised piece.*

### Review of the Class

UCB's Improv 201 is the second course in the school's improv program (Improv 101 being the first). I elected to do the intensive version of the class, which means instead of meeting once a week for eight weeks, you meet four times a week for two weeks. Considering I had to leave work in the middle of the day and return back after the class was over, it made for an interesting two weeks. The focus of 201 is on "game" and second beats. The first half covers what game is (the interesting thing in the scene), and how you heighten it within that scene. The second half covers second beats of scenes, which is where you basically do another scene based on the same game from the first scene.

The biggest difference between 101 and 201 is the focus on notes. In 101, the notes generally cover what you did well in a scene. In 201, the notes generally cover what you didn't do well, which rules you broke or what could have been improved. This tends to make you think you're a terrible improviser, but it is important to making you better.

### Review of the Instructor



For some reason, when you do the intensive class, they assign two different instructors, one for the first week and one for the second week. When I learned this, I got worried that there would be some problems with the transition, but Neil Casey and Kevin Hines made it relatively seamless.

Neil Casey focused more on teaching "game" and was more high-level in his notes. Kevin Hines focused on second beats and was very specific in his notes to individual players. The combination of the two worked out really well, balancing theory with practical application. Both helped me learn a lot, and I'll definitely be looking for classes taught by them in the future.

### Top 5 Notes

There were a number of things that I learned from both Neil and Kevin, but here are the Top 5 notes, quotes, and suggestions:

1. "Yes And" until you find the interesting thing, then move to "If this is true, what else is true."
2. You don't have to do as much as you think, "save yourself the work" and play honestly.
3. Pay attention to opinions and reactions, that's where you'll find interesting things. Whatever makes your partner react, you want to provide more of that.
4. Follow the "Karaoke rule" – it doesn't matter what you're doing on stage, as long as you sell it.
5. Name people in your scenes. It's actually harder to carry out a scene without naming each other.

# THE CITY CLOCKED! REVIEW

| Improv

I recently completed my Clocked! class at The City with my class show on November 2. This is a review of the The City's Clocked! class.

### Summary

The City's Clocked! class was the first class I've taken that taught a specific improv form (you don't get into Harold's until the later classes at UCB). And while the class helped me learn the form of 30 second scenes, it also did wonders for my regular improv skills. For the advanced improvisers out there looking to learn how to get into scenes faster and remove the fluff, this class is a great way to do it.

### Course Details

*Length:* 6 3-hour classes + show

*Cost:* \$175

*Instructor:* Aaron Haber

*Description:* From the Improv Resource Center:

*Want to sharpen your scene work skills and build your brain into a lean, mean improv machine? Take my Clocked class.*

*Based on the long form I created and performed in Chicago, Clocked tests your improv skills with 100, 30-second scenes followed by 10 minutes of 10-second scenes. The result is a furiously paced improv performance that doesn't leave you time to think.*

### Review of the Class

Unlike the classes I've taken at UCB (Improv 101 and Improv 201), Clocked! isn't as formally structured. There was no syllabus provided, and the class focus each week was determined by where we were in relation to being able to perform the format: 10 minutes of 30-second scenes, 5 minutes of 10-second scenes, 10 minutes of 30-second scenes. Even still, the instructor had a strong sense of where we needed to get to by the end of the six weeks.

Performing 70 scenes in 25 minutes requires getting to the point of the scene as quick as possible, basically becoming 3-line scenes on steroids. Naturally the form helps you learn to remove the fluff from your scenes, but it also helps you learn to explore different ways to heighten scenes. Performing short scenes encourages the ones with strong games to come back for second, third, or even eighth beats. By exploring one area so thoroughly, it helps you understand where scenes can go, so instead of A to C, you get A to F to M to Z, all in a natural way that the audience can follow.

### Review of the Instructor

The City's Clocked! class is an advanced improv course, and Aaron Haber is an advanced improviser's director. I could tell in the first class some of the other students were put off by his no bullshit, direct style of directing and teaching. As someone who is confident enough in my base level of improv, I welcomed the brutally honest notes as a way to further improve my improv, but I think it proved to be a little too

much for some people, as a class that started with 10 students ended with 6.

Aaron doesn't have the advantage of having a training program already defined (like at UCB), so the class is limited to his own personal knowledge. In fact the Clocked! form is one that was created by Aaron. This actually provides a nice contrast to some of the structured classes elsewhere, and works because Aaron is clearly a student of comedy—he trained at the three main improv schools in Chicago (Second City, iO, and Annoyance), and has performed in or directed more than 1500 shows.

### Top 5 Notes

Aaron was able to teach me a number of things, below are the top 5 notes, quotes and suggestions:

1. General improv rule of thumb – give one piece of information then let your partner speak.
2. Scenes are about relationships. They should also be the most important scene/moment in that relationship.
3. Start all scenes with action and intention.
4. "You are no longer allowed to judge yourself, that's why you have a director."
5. "Improv is like text messaging – you have to be short and to the point."

# MY SUPER EXAGGERATED RESUME

November 12, 2008 | Other

I am many things, but modest isn't necessarily one of them. Even still, I do try to accurately depict my past experience and current skillset. But I have noticed, especially in the entertainment industry, a lot of people like to inflate what they've done as much as possible. As such, here is my super exaggerated comedy résumé. My "claim" is listed in **bold** and the reality of it listed in parenthesis.

- **International Comedian** (I performed for my family in Mexico) **with fans in more than 50 countries** (based on the people who have visited my website).
- **Published Author** (by publishing an article on ezinearticles.com).
- **International corporate humor trainer** (An internal training I did had some people call in Europe and Asia).
- **One of the Funniest People in Cincinnati** (finalist in "Funniest Person in Cincinnati 2008").
- **Award winning corporate humorist** (I won an internal award for building the organization for a team-building workshop).
- **As seen** (in the audience) **on The Daily Show, Late Night with David Letterman, and Comedy Central Presents.**
- **As seen at the Cincinnati Brew Haha Comedy Festival** (in the up-and-coming show), **the New York Underground Comedy Festival** (in the open competition), **the New York Comedy Festival** (at the open call auditions), **and the New York Television Festival** (I wasn't in it, but I was there as an audience member).
- **Has worked with Daniel Tosh, Jo Koy, and Mark Curry** (they performed after a competition I was in), **Steve Caminiti** (we were on the same benefit show), **Steve Trevino, Joe Starr, and Pauly Shore** (I MCed for their shows at the Funny Bone).
- **(Co-)Founder of the 8th Floor Improv Comedy Group, the (self-proclaimed) Premiere Improv Comedy Group in Columbus that is "loud, unpredictable, and hilarious"** (according to the OSU campus newspaper, The Lantern).
- **Member of the Smarty Pants Theater Company, the Best Comedy Troupe in Cincinnati, OH** (according to a local Cincinnati newspaper), **has been described as nonstop hilarity** (by a high school newspaper).
- **Member of ComedySportz New York**, (self-described as) **America's favorite funny, fast, and clean show for the whole family.**
- **Principle character on the** (not much of a) **hit sitcom, Kollege** (airing on OSUs college TV channel).
- **Writer for the PanDesi network** (submitting sketches for one of their shows), **reaching over 50 million viewers across the United States.**
- **Has been called "hilarious"** (as in "that one joke is hilarious"), **"funny and smart"** (that's what my mom says), **and "one of the funniest people I've ever heard"** (I have to be in at least the top 1 million funniest people you've ever heard).

# THE WORST JOKES OF 2008

December 31, 2008 | Info

Over the course of the year, I've written some pretty bad jokes for "Joke of the Day". Some of them I knew were bad before posting, others took some time for me to realize how poor they were. If you're so inclined to check out what a bad joke is, here are the 10 worst jokes of 2008, or you can also check out the Best Jokes of 2008.

1. Computer Breakup
2. 32 Grandmothers
3. Can I Help You Ma'am

4. Internet Browser
5. Snap, Crackle and the King of Pop
6. Muslim Football
7. Pizza Delivery
8. Fingernails
9. Recess
10. Easy Test

# THE BEST JOKES OF 2008

*/ Info*

Of the 366 daily jokes, I've had a few that have really made me (and others according to the ratings) chuckle. Here are the Top 10 Jokes of 2008. To see the flip side, you can also check out the [Worst Jokes of 2008](#).

1. Cyber Bullying
2. Jersey Turnpike
3. Astronaut Dreams
4. Music Teacher
5. Electric Slide
6. Server Crash
7. What's the Worst that Could Happen
8. Learning Guitar
9. Mattress Company CEO
10. Exercise Bike

# DREW'S BEST OF 2008

*/ Info*

A lot can happen in an entire year, so here's a list of some of the random "bests" of 2008.

## **Best Weekly Project – \$100 Budget**

By far the hardest and most impactful project of the year was living on a \$100 Budget. The revelations I had and experience was enough to change how I've behaved since then, and also reminded me of why I work as hard as I do, so that I don't have to find myself in that situation every week.

## **Best Joke – Music Teacher**

With 366 jokes, there are bound to be some good ones and some bad ones. Music Teacher was my favorite from the year, but you can check out the [best](#) and [worst](#) jokes of 2008.

## **Best Decision – Go with Rajiv to PanDesi**

Many of the best decisions that affected me in 2008 were actually made in 2007: move to NYC, do a weekly project, have Thanksgiving in NYC. So my best decision that actually occurred in 2008 was to go with the [Funny Indian](#) to a taping of his show "Desi States of America." Not only was seeing the behind-the-scenes process fun, but it lead to a discussion with the CEO of the network, a submission of writing samples from me, and ultimately my writing gig for the show. Since then, I've written 19 sketches and 9 monologues.

## **Best Personal Development – Saying No**

Perhaps my biggest development personally was learning the ability to say no, mostly to myself. Which is weird since my overarching philosophy learned from improv is "yes and." But whereas "yes and" is my general attitude, saying no has helped me focus. There are so many things I want to do, but I have to be choiceful; I can't do all of them. Time is our most precious resource, so it's best to make the best of it by focusing on the most important things, not everything that may sound interesting.

## **Best Sketch – Don't Vote**

Throughout the year, I wrote a decent number of sketches, both personal and for PanDesi. My favorite sketch that I wrote in 2008 that was actually produced was "Don't Vote" for the Desi States of America.

## **Best Travel – Trip to LA & Cruise to Mexico**

Back in May, my mom, brother and I went to Los Angeles to visit the city and to take a cruise to Catalina. It was a great trip because it was my first time to LA, I got a chance to do the touristy stuff like see the Walk of Fame, take a tour of houses, and hit up Universal Studios, and

I got a chance to see the "real LA" (thanks Rajiv). And that was all in just the first 2 days of the trip. Then we hopped on a cruise to Mexico where we were privy to an authentic Mexican meal and tour by one of David's former host parents.

#### **Best NYC Visit – The 8th Floor**

Sorry for everyone else that came, I definitely enjoyed your stay, but nothing beats having 10 8th Floor members in the apartment and seeing over 20 hours of improv over the course of a weekend.

#### **Best Improv Show – 2 Square**

The shows I saw during the Del Close Marathon were amazing; 2 Square was better. A two person group from Chicago, Peter Grosz and John Lutz seamlessly built multi-character scenes and hilarious dialogue. If I one day became half as good as them, I'd be happy.

#### **Best Life Hack – Drying off your razor after shaving**

Lifehacker.com is definitely one of my favorite websites and one of the only ones I consistently follow. Of all the tips I've found there, and some of my own, the best life hack was a simple change to my shaving regimen. By **drying off my razor** with a towel after shaving, I've been able to use the same razor for the entire year. Apparently it's not the blades getting dull that makes razors unusable, but them getting rusty, thus the drying to extend their use.

#### **Best Open Mic Stand-up Bit – College Degree**

I've had the pleasure of watching some great comedians at the open mics I've attended, and some of them have told some amazing jokes. I think my favorite has to be from Nore Davis: "My mom told me, go to college, get a degree and you can get you a job making \$60,000 a year. I got my degree, I do stand-up, and I owe the college \$60,000. People ask, 'what was your degree?' Bankruptcy, that was my major."

#### **Best Movie I Saw – Forgetting Sarah Marshall**

I didn't really see all that many movies this year, but I did see some great ones such as The Dark Knight, Iron Man, and Tropic Thunder. Forgetting Sarah Marshall wins though because it was hilarious, a well-done comedy with perfectly absurd moments, and made me think: "I hope to one day write something that funny." An honorable mention goes to Dr. Horrible's Sing A Long Blog. It's not really a feature length movie, but it is incredible.

#### **Best TV Show I Watched – The Daily Show**

I also didn't watch TV in 2008, but there was one show I made it a point to watch when I could – The Daily Show. Maybe it was because of the election, or their knack for pointing out the ridiculous, but The Daily Show was my source of entertainment on the small screen (well technically computer screen since I watched it on [hulu.com](http://hulu.com)). And shout out to Matt for getting me tickets to see the show live!

#### **Best Book I Read – Improv Wisdom**

I read quite a few good books this year (The Inner Game of Tennis and Personal Development for Smart People come to mind), but the book I enjoyed most was Improv Wisdom: Don't Prepare, Just Show Up. It covers some of the basic ways improv can be applied to business and life situations, and is very much along the lines of what I want to do with Humor That Works.

# DREW'S WORST OF 2008

*/ Info*

2008 made for some great moments, but it wasn't all sunshines and applesauce. There were certainly some things that could have been better.

#### **Worst Weekly Project – Survive the Week**

The worst project of the year was really just a cop-out for not doing a project. Thinking about, there's always time to do at least one small thing each week to build towards one of my goals.

#### **Worst Joke – Fingernails**

I've written some poor jokes, and the worst of the year had to be about **fingernails**. For more humor (and unhumor), check out the **best** and **worst** jokes of 2008.

#### **Worst Decision – Flying SkyBus**

I try not to think of any decision as a terrible one (as I like to believe that I made the best one that I could at the time, as well as that I should be able to learn from any decision and it's consequences), but the worst decision I made in terms of how it affected me was flying SkyBus to Columbus. The flight to Columbus was fine, the problem was that the airline went out of business before I got a plane ride back. That led to a long stay in the airport and an expensive one-way ticket back to NYC.

#### **Worst Personal Undevelopment – Hitting Snooze**

Hitting snooze in the morning is my Achilles's Heel, ankle, and entire foot. I have short periods where I'm great at getting up at the first buzz, but then I seem to always fall back into remission. If hitting snooze was a drug, I'd be Amy Winehouse.

#### **Worst Improv Show – Late Night at DCM 10**

While the Del Close Marathon showcased some of the very best improv I've ever seen, it also had some of the worst, especially when it got into the wee hours of the morning. I don't remember many specific details, but it did involve poor listening, outrageous characters, and some undesired nudity.

#### **Worst Open Mic Stand-up Bit – Too Many to Choose**

With the number of hours I spent at open mics this year, there were far too many bits that could deserve this title. The majority of the bad ones involved unnecessary cursing and discussion of sex, drugs, or excrement.

#### **Worst Movie I Saw – There Will Be Blood**

I didn't see all that many movies, but my least favorite was *There Will Be Blood*. I'm know there are plenty of people who disagree with me, and I know it won some awards, but it still doesn't change my opinion that I thought it was unnecessarily long and boring in spots. I do think it had some interesting moments and themes, and the whole "I drink your milkshake" was hilarious, but that doesn't make up for what I thought was poor story structure and progression.

#### **Worst TV Show I Watched – Kath & Kim**

I've only seen about 10 minutes of one episode, so maybe I'm not qualified to say it, but Kath and Kim has to be one of the worst shows on TV. And I'm sure there are plenty of other bad shows out there (especially on cable), but it was the worst show I personally witnessed.

#### **Worst Book I Read – Don't Let the Bastards Get You Down**

I had high hopes for the book, it certainly looked interesting by the cover, but the writing, ideas and overall execution was not good. The only value came from some of the quotes from other people that I was able to find.

# A JOKE DAY - 2008

*/ comedian*

One of my goals for 2008 is to write a joke for every single day of the year. All 366 of them. So here they are.

#### **Joke #1 – January 1, 2008**

Why type of car tire did Frank Sinatra use? "It was a (very) Goodyear."

#### **Joke #2 – January 2, 2008**

My cousin isn't very smart. He thinks a "mobile phone" is the one he uses in his double-wide...

#### **Joke #3 – January 3, 2008**

Reports have stated that they will be increasing the number of "Wonders of the World" from 7 to 10. The three new Wonders are: Stevie Wonder, Wonder Woman, and Wonder Bread.

#### **Joke #4 – January 5, 2008**

I had to drive around the Jersey Turnpike. Man did that take its toll.

#### **Joke #5 –**

They say "Behind every good man is a great woman." I guess transvestites really believe that.

#### **Joke #6 – January 6, 2008**

I want to open a Pizza/Delivery shop. I'd sell pizza and also have a pregnancy ward. If your baby isn't delivered in 30 minutes or less, you get a free pizza.

#### **Joke #7 – January 8, 2008**

If you are Muslim, are you allowed to play football (aka "toss the pigskin")?

#### **Joke #8 –**

I wanna meet an Australian just so I can have them ask someone to be intimate with their co-inhabitant: "Why don't you and my roommate mate mate?"

**Joke #9 – January 9, 2008**

I joined a gym today, but it's really crowded. The weight time is just ridiculous.

**Joke #10 – January 10, 2008**

I rode the Metro today. The driver wasn't very attractive, you might even say she was bus-ted.

**Joke #11 – January 11, 2008**

I had bad acne as a kid. One day a blind guy felt my face to "see what I looked like." He said my zits spelled "virgin" in braille...

**Joke #12 – January 13, 2008**

I was a thin kid, and got picked on a lot. For the longest time, I thought "skinny dipping" was me getting a swirlie.

**Joke #13 –**

Do you think if a cannibal wants to get his starches, he eats a couch potato?

**Joke #14 – January 14, 2008**

I got stuck in the subway today. Not like the subway train was stuck in between stops... literally I was stuck in the subway doors. It took about 30 seconds of wrestling the doors before I was able to get completely in the train. The worst part – it was the wrong train.

Subway – 1. Drew – 0.

**Joke #15 – January 15, 2008**

I remember taking a test in school once that was so easy, it was like playing musical chairs with deaf kids.

**Joke #16 – January 16, 2008**

I just read a story about a guy who put a blow-up doll in his passenger seat just so he could use the carpool lane on his commute into the city. He's been caught doing it 4 or 5 times, and has now been diagnosed with "Carpool tunnel syndrome."

**Joke #17 – January 18, 2008**

They say honesty is the best policy. But then again, if lying were the best policy, how would we know? Who would tell us? Damn "they."

**Joke #18 –**

I saw a gardener sleeping on his tools today, which in a way, made him a "nappy headed ho."

**Joke #19 – January 19, 2008**

My Dad lost his finger in an accident at work. I took a picture of him and photoshopped it back in so he was "digitally enhanced."

**Joke #20 – January 20, 2008**

If a mute talks to himself, does he use his hands?

**Joke #21 – January 21, 2008**

I should've known I was going to be an engineer when I grew up. I used to always try to take things apart and then put them back together, like the radio, a telephone, my parent's marriage...

#### **Joke #22 – January 22, 2008**

I tried cooking for the first time in my new apartment. Or I should say, I tested my smoke detector for the first time in my new apartment. I wouldn't say I'm a terrible cook, but it's a good thing I can't get pregnant because I would most definitely burn the bun in my oven.

#### **Joke #23 – January 23, 2008**

Pregnancy is such a weird thing to me. Like as a guy, how do you know when your wife is going into labor? When her contractions are 8 seconds apart?

"I **can't** believe how much this hurts." "I **don't** want you near me." "I'm going to kill you for getting me pregnant."

(You get it? I switched contractions for contractions... I would be OK with you booing me now.)

#### **Joke #24 – January 24, 2008**

I've found that it's very entertaining to always assume people mean the Biblical version of "know." For example:

- "Knowing is half the battle." (If you're getting laid all the time, who has time to fight?)
- "It's not what you know, but who you know." (I believe Monica Lewinsky proved how right this was.)
- "I know \_\_\_ like the back of my hand." (I think you get the idea.)

#### **Joke #25 – January 25, 2008**

I always wanted to be an astronaut when I was kid. And not because I wanted to explore the unknown, or possibly seek out extraterrestrials. It was more about the fact that I thought it would be hilarious to make it to the moon, and moon the earth. Like a moon moon thing. It wasn't till later I found out that that wouldn't have been possible because I would have died the instant I dropped by astro-pants. I guess you could say I didn't understand the gravity of the situation.

#### **Joke #26 – January 26, 2008**

I've found that it can be very entertaining to make fun of people for things that they could easily make fun of you for. It really throws them off.

I was talking to a guy at work and proclaimed, "You're so pale, your shadow is gray." At first he just kind of laughed, and then realized, "Wait, you're paler than I am. Your face looks like it's permanently set in black & white."

#### **Joke #27 – January 27, 2008**

I'm obsessed with the color orange. To me, everything is better orange: Starburst, Skittles, M&Ms. I don't know, there's just something magical about the mix of Yellow-5 and Red-40 that hits the spot.

I'm even more attracted to things that are orange, like women wearing orange, and red heads, and Oompa Loompas.

#### **Joke #28 – January 28, 2008**

An appropriate voicemail greeting for the times:

*"Hi, you've reached Drew Tarvin's cell phone. I'm unable to take the call right now, but feel free to leave a message. You could also try my Grand Central number or just shoot me a text. If you'd like, you can send me a message on LinkedIn, drop me a comment on MySpace or write on my wall on Facebook. I also suggest leaving a comment on my blog, catching me on AIM, checking my message on Twitter, viewing my videos on YouTube, or trying good old fashioned email. And of course there's always the postal service, carrier pigeon, or beaming a light up in the night's sky. Please no Morse code. Beep."*

#### **Joke #29 – January 29, 2008**

A good friend of mine is a male model for catalogs and stuff, and I realized that I can't walk down the street or go a lot of places with him. I don't exist to girls when he's around. I look at them and smile, and they're just staring at him.

I'm like Spam sitting next to a Filet Mignon. Or for you vegetarians, it's like carrots sitting next to ... I guess better looking carrots. (I don't know vegetables all that well).

#### **Joke #30 – January 30, 2008**

Today was a long day at the office. You should never have to eat all three of your main meals in your cubicle. And of course I got crumbs all over my keyboard. I came back from a meeting, and found a mouse on my desk...

#### **Joke #31 – January 31, 2008**

A leader of an orchestra was recently electrocuted, proving after all, he was a good conductor.

#### **Joke #32 – February 1, 2008**

I played the saxophone growing up. Man did that blow... I had an instructor who thought he was so clever, he'd always end class by saying "... and on that note, have a good day." So "clever." I used to talk in class all the time, always getting into treble.

#### **Joke #33 – February 2, 2008**

I was on the plane today and the flight attendant mentioned some 2-for-1 special they had with the packs of peanuts on the plane. Unfortunately I didn't hear her completely so I had to ask, "What's the deal with airline peanuts?"

#### **Joke #34 – February 3, 2008**

Have ever realized that the addition of quotation marks can turn any innocent statement into a insult?

- That dress looks "good."
- It was so "nice" meeting you.
- Of course I'm your "real" "father."

#### **Joke #35 – February 4, 2008**

Despite what my appearance suggests, I was an athlete in high school. I even lettered in a popular indoor sport... bowling. Which is why I was excited when I heard about the movie "300." I saw it. Not at all what I expected.

But as you can imagine, it made me quite the stud with the ladies. They'd always be like, "Oh Silk -that was the nickname my coach gave me, because I was so smooth- Oh Silk, I love it when you throw your ball." And I'd be all like, "Baby, get your mind out of the gutter." And they'd be all, "Spare me the jokes funny man." And then I'd be like "How about you and me share a bowl of spaghetti like Lady and the Tramp."

And then I'd move in for a kiss, but she would 7-10 split and I'd strike out yet again.

#### **Joke #36 – February 5, 2008**

I spent forever searching for a recipe today, but I couldn't find it anywhere. It was for "Disaster." I don't know what's in it, but I think one of the ingredients is Britney Spears.

#### **Joke #37 – February 6, 2008**

Note to self: just because they are called a "Chief" Executive Officer, it does not mean it is appropriate to ask them if they know how to do a rain dance.

#### **Joke #38 – February 7, 2008**

It was common practice in my house that if you cussed, my mom would clean your mouth out with soap. Well one time I flipped some guy the bird.



My Mom was livid, but she didn't know what to do, so she washed my hands with toothpaste.

#### **Joke #39 – February 8, 2008**

Martin Luther King Jr. was fortunate that his first name wasn't Joe. Imagine his famous speech, some guy in the audience, "Is this guy Joe King?"

#### **Joke #40 – February 10, 2008**

I tried to make some appetizers for the get together tonight, but I burned the wings. Talk about a party "fowl."

#### **Joke #41 –**

They say that staying awake for 24 straight hours is like having a blood alcohol level of .1. Which I think is true, because I remember whenever I pulled all-night study sessions, I'd often wake up with a particularly ugly Scantron in bed next to me.

#### **Joke #42 – February 11, 2008**

My birthday is 3 days before Valentine's Day, which is great. Because I base the Valentine's Day gift I get the girl I'm dating on what she gets me for my birthday. If she gets me a cool movie, she'll get roses. If it's tickets to Jerry Seinfeld, she'll get jewelry. If it's a sweater, then she'll get to be single again.

#### **Joke #43 – February 13, 2008**

I went to a bar last night, and they had a mechanical bull. I don't know why those people in Spain get all crazy about them, it was not hard to run away from.

#### **Joke #44 –**

I'm a little bummed. I just went through a terrible break-up, but I couldn't take it anymore. I had to end it, I had to break-up with my computer.

She was driving me nuts, always so slow, always asking "Does this hard drive make me look fat?" I think she was cheating on me with another user, probably some young teenager that treats her right and knows all about Flash and Java and the coolest new websites.

#### **Joke #45 – February 14, 2008**

A Potato versus a Rose:

A more superficial woman might wonder, why a Potato and not a rose?  
But I know you know better, as I describe in prose.

A rose is nice to look at, but full of dangerous thorns.  
Potatoes on the other hand, are cute and highly adored.

Where a rose says, "I only care about your artificial looks"  
The potato says, "I care for you in many ways, and our relationship can't be shook."

Roses only last a week, and then they die away,  
A potato lasts forever, and grow stronger with each passing day.

So when that rose is long and gone, and the potato is around to stay,  
You'll sit and laugh at all the suckers, with roses on Valentine's Day.

(Plus potatoes are a heckuva lot cheaper.)  
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

(I got the inspiration for this poem a long time ago from a [random IRC quote on Bash](#). Bash is not for the feint of heart and definitely for computer nerds.)

**Joke #46 – February 15, 2008**

I think I'm too uptight, I can't even wear relaxed jeans.

**Joke #47 – February 16, 2008**

I was at a bar the other night and found out why they're called "bouncers." I accidentally walked into one, bounced right off him. She didn't even notice.

**Joke #48 – February 18, 2008**

I got hit by a car today. It was parked. I was walking down the street when I saw this gorgeous girl and so I turned to watch her and BAM! walked right into the car. Oddly enough it was a Dodge.

**Joke #49 –**

It's about time for me to get a haircut, which means I'll spend 3 days thinking of how I want to get it cut different this time, only to end up at the barber getting the exact same haircut I've had since 7th grade when I had a bull cut. Ah the bull cut, the George W. Bush of haircuts. Simple, dumb, and embarrassing to admit that you used to like it.

**Joke #50 – February 19, 2008**

I feel bad for today's kids, because for me, my parents could only embarrass me when they were actually around. Now with MySpace and Facebook and parents starting to get on the Internet, they can do it virtually. Could you imagine how much you'd get made fun of if your Mom left you a message on your wall, "Don't forget to take your little brother to soccer today, and pick up your acne medicine after school..." There's no prom date after that.

My Mom asked me about that stuff the other day. She asked, "How do I get on that MyFace thing?" And after laughing hysterically I had to tell her the "truth", "Sorry Mom, those don't exist any more. They all broke. Nope, no point in trying to create a profile and then becoming my friend. None whatsoever."

**Joke #51 – February 20, 2008**

Man, I don't know if it was just my imagination, but this bum came up to me today and was like "Beauty is only skin deep." And I was this ball of confusion because he was just a hobo, what did he know? But he told me "since I lost my baby, I ain't been too proud to beg." So I'm like, dude, "With the way you do things the things you do, you should just run away child" which it's weird that I called him child because he was probably 50 years old. I don't even know why I kept talking to him, I guess I just couldn't resist the temptation.

**Joke #52 – February 21, 2008**

I love the fact that taxidermists "stuff" animals. Why is that the verb of choice for that action? Did the first taxidermist just put whatever he could find in the animal?

"Hey Cleatus, I wanna make this beaver into a trophy, but we done already ate it's inside. What should I do?"

"I dunno Jethro, just put some stuff in there."

**Joke #53 – February 22, 2008**

I saw a movie about databases, it was awesome. I can't wait for the SQL.

**Joke #54 – February 23, 2008**

It seems like everyone has a website these days. When people ask "what's your address?" you have to specify postal or URL. And I'll admit, I'm vain enough to believe that people want to read what I have to write, but I at least have enough class not to shamelessly plug my website at <http://www.drewtarvin.com>.

**Joke #55 – February 24, 2008**

I'm trying to decide if I should become an investor or not, but I haven't been able to find any vests that I like.

**Joke #56 – February 25, 2008**

I bought stamps today, and the thing I don't understand is, how many letters does the post office think we still send? My options were buying stamps in packages of 20 or 100. Do they think I decided to get a pen pal and found the one person in the US that doesn't have Internet access? Sorry post office, pens are on their way out, and no one says pal any more. Dude, bro, or buddy maybe, but no pal.

**Joke #57 – February 26, 2008**

I saw a guy on the subway wearing these huge prescription glasses. It was quite the spectacle.

**Joke #58 – February 27, 2008**

If the Miami Redhawks played the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, would the outcome be the Syracuse Orangemen?

**Joke #59 – February 28, 2008**

The walls in my apartment are paper-thin, which if I've learned anything from my childhood, that's better than if they were rock-solid because, as we all know, paper beats rock.

**Joke #60 – February 29, 2008**

I think my taste buds are mad at me because I ate something that was too hot and they got burned. I guess at this point they're really only taste acquaintances.

**Joke #61 – March 1, 2008**

I knew this really wealthy married couple. The wife wanted her husband to get a vasectomy, but I always thought "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

**Joke #62 – March 2, 2008**

I tried to sneak a miniature furnace onto a plane. They arrested me for "packing heat."

**Joke #63 – March 4, 2008**

Sitting in the runway, with nothing to do,  
I pulled out my pad, to write a joke or two.

Nothing comes to mind, so I'm starting this rhyme,  
Just as a way to, you know, pass the time.

Looking at the planes, just coming and going,  
I think I need a haircut, cuz it is really fro'ing.

Wow that was odd, what a weird thing to say,  
Who knows what will come out, when your mind is at play.

Oh we just moved, maybe we're about to take-off.  
Nope, false alarm, the pilot just coughed.

So I'm forced to sit, and think a little longer,  
With each passing minute, the reseltness gets stronger.

I just now realized, how odd it must seem,  
That my stream-of-conscious thoughts, are all rhyming-ing.

Wouldn't it be weird, if this was how we all spoke,  
It'd be hard to write an essay, or even a joke.

For the sake of boredom, let's give it a try,

Maybe it'll be so funny, that you'll want to cry.

What do you call a platform, for the greatest warrior in the land?  
Nothing is as fitting, as a "One Knight Stand."

Ok I'll admit, maybe that wasn't the greatest,  
But what do you expect, when Monty Python's on your playlist.

I just had a thought, I wonder how long this can go.  
I started this poem, over 15 minutes ago.

We're finally taking off, only a 90 minute delay,  
I should almost be in Cincy by now, stupid US Airways.

As we lift into the air, I can't help but think,  
I wonder if I should request, a water to drink.

My throat is kind of parched, but I've got a small bladder,  
I hate peeing on planes, because you can't control the splatter.

That was a little gross, so I apologize,  
At least I didn't say, whether or not I'm circumcized.

OK Drew, let's get your mind out of the gutter,  
Just because you're cranky, doesn't mean your rhymes should suffer.

The steward just passed, I succumbed to the water.  
Or maybe it's "flight attendant," ah what does it matter.

That's the second time, I've used an approximate rhyme.  
My speech is getting as eloquent, as a silent mime.

Silent mime, Drew? Way to be redundant.  
That's about as dumb, as our President incumbent.

I don't want to be mean, or get any violenter,  
But if you kill a mime, do you have to use a silencer?

Ok what the heck, I've had two sips of liquid.  
I'm already looking to see, if the loo is occupied.

Ok I made that word up, but I don't care,  
I speak my own English, with some added flare.

I'm at 30 minutes, and I'm starting to wonder,  
Is anyone still reading, or have they all fell to slumber?

Ah blessed sleep, I wish I could drift off right now,  
But alas the contacts in my eyes, would make that a party foul.

Instead I sit here in my seat, and continue to write,  
Wondering how much longer, I have on this 2 hour flight.

I realize now that my handwriting, is quite the chicken scratch,  
Like someone tried to write, with their fingers all detached.

They say the smaller your handwriting, the lower your self-esteem,  
Well I must feel like the last kid picked, on the soccer team.

My handwriting's so small, I could write a novel on my arm,  
And I have an appendix I could add, without doing any harm.

But the advantage to my handwriting, is that it's definitely efficient,  
Less ink, shorter movements, all adds up to being proficient.

Which that makes me think, of yet another joke,  
This one is about, a rather incompetent young bloke.

A guy sees "1 + 1 = 1," on the side of a big cup,  
He thinks to himself, "Wait something doesn't add up."

You get how 1 + 1 equals two, and not the total one,  
So it doesn't "add up," it's the wrong sum.

If you thought that was dumb, it's ok to be mean,  
You'd be like the average person, if you know what I mean.

Wait can you use the same word twice, to make a valid rhyme,  
If the meaning and definition, are different each time?

Another thing to ponder, an hour into this prose,  
I have to wonder if this was the best thing, that I could have chose.

In the hour that I've written, I could've read a new book,  
Or I could've reviewed, all the notes I took.

But instead I've written my thoughts, down in two line stanzas.  
That's about as useless, as the actor Tony Danza.

Ok, I'll admit, that was a stretch on my part,  
I don't always think of the second line, when the first one starts.

Speaking of start, how did this all begin?  
Oh yeah that's right, my plane got delayed again.

Sometime it's fun, to go back and explore,  
What your thoughts are now, and what they were before.

Like when I was a kid, I used to think Mayo was bad,  
Now I actually prefer it, albeit just a tad.

They say your tastebuds change, every 7 years,  
Maybe 7 years from now, I'll actually enjoy some beers.

I highly doubt it though, I can't even stand the smell,  
And I'd have to get over my stubbornness, and that's not a likely sell.

I think I've decided, I don't like the "for kicks and giggles" phrase,  
I get the giggling part, but who just kicks when they play?

Maybe karate students, but I don't see them giggling,  
Unless of course they're being taught, self-defense for tickle-ing.

Oh no, not now, a baby started squeling,  
The initial scream almost, sent me through the ceiling.

I guess it's fortunate, that we're about to land,  
I don't know how much more of that, I can withstand.

So as we make our descent, back down to the Earth,  
This monstrous poem ends, 90 minutes after birth.

I don't exactly know, how this thing evolved,  
But if you're still here, I applaud your resolve.

So as per the usual, thanks to all reading,  
The rhyming conscious thoughts, of a stand-up comedian.

**Joke #64 – March 5, 2008**

The big news in Ohio tonight are all the numbers coming from the Primary. Still no news on numbers 4, 6, 8, 9...

**Joke #65 –**

I tried to order my Filet Mignon tonight "Well Done," and my entire table refused to let me do it. Apparently that would be insulting the cow I would be eating. If you're not supposed to order a steak that way, why is it called well done, as in a job "well done."

**Joke #66 – March 6, 2008**

I found out today that I'm easily amused. I was talking with a guy at work and he said something that was interesting, so I responded, "Oh that's pretty cool, but I have a question, Mark."

And for the next 5 minutes I couldn't ask my question because I was laughing at my unintentional pun. The only thing that would've made it better is if Sarah would have added, "And I have a period."

**Joke #67 – March 7, 2008**

A friend of mine starting dating a masseuse recently. After I met her, he asked me what I thought of her. I replied, "She's seem OK, but is kind of kneady."

**Joke #68 – March 8, 2008**

(Click image for bigger picture).

**Joke #69 – March 9, 2008**

It's certainly a sign of our times when a number, such as "69," is generally thought of perversely. The Romans didn't do that. No one snickered when someone said "LXIX."

**Joke #70 – March 10, 2008**

Gatorade came out with a new drink called G2. It has half the calories of regular Gatorade, which means they just took out half the flavoring and added more water.

One of their flavors is "Fruit Punch." If you've tasted it you'll realize they should've called it "Fruit Slap."

**Joke #71 – March 11, 2008**

If "Adult Movies" are movies full of pornography, what is "Adult Education?"

**Joke #72 – March 12, 2008**

I've been trying to get back in shape, trying to work on my flexibility. I'd like to be able to touch my toes by April, but that might be a bit of a stretch.

**Joke #73 – March 13, 2008**

The problem with kids these days is if you tell them to go play in traffic, they jump on the Internet.

**Joke #74 – March 14, 2008**

I don't understand why they censor rap songs on the radio by leaving out the curse words, but for movies on TBS, they interject a "nicer" word instead. I think they should do the same thing for the rap songs.

Could you imagine listening to some classic rap on the radio: "Jigga that Homey," "Me and my Female Compatriot," or "Fudge da Police"

**Joke #75 – March 16, 2008**

I used to date a girl taller than me. I miss her. She was head and shoulders above the rest.

**Joke #76 –**

Statistically speaking, "bell curve, standard deviation, percentage, numbers."

**Joke #77 – March 17, 2008**

Happy St. Patty Cakes Day! ... What? St. Patrick's Day? Well, that makes what I did with the guy on the subway a little awkward.

**Joke #78 – March 18, 2008**

I was looking at some of my old pictures today. One was back in the middle of winter, and the other was from the summer when I gotten a tan. Looking at the two, the one from the winter really paled in comparison to the one from the summer.

**Joke #79 – March 19, 2008**

I rode the Amtrak into Richmond today. I had no idea how confusing that was gonna be, I could've used some training.

**Joke #80 – March 21, 2008**

I've never had a problem falling asleep, my problem is waking up. I can sleep just about anywhere: a couch, the floor, meetings at work. And when I am out, I am out like 3 strikes in baseball. I once slept through a tornado. I woke up in Kansas.

**Joke #81 – March 22, 2008**

My one buddy is always talking in metaphors. Except for most of the time, no one has any idea what he's talking about.

The other day he's telling us about a date he had, and he starts off, "Alright, so I was at the bar, hitting on this girl like I'm sneaking up on a squirrel, right? And she's loving everything I'm saying, I was a snake charmer in a pit of cobras, right? And then I went home, and buried that treasure!"

And we're all like, "What are you talking about Mark?"

"You know, buried that treasure? You know what I'm saying?"

"No. I don't know if you had a one night stand or killed someone."

**Joke #82 – March 23, 2008**

I've never been a big fan of taking naps, because I love my sleep too much. And naps are just a tease. Taking a nap is like getting to smell the Chick Fil A, but not getting to eat it.

**Joke #83 –**

I tried learning a language via audio CD. It didn't work at all. I listened to the whole CD and I still don't know any sign language.

**Joke #84 – March 24, 2008**

I realized today that I don't know of any celebrities that have epilepsy. I guess the first part of "Lights, Camera, Action" makes that kind of difficult.

**Joke #85 – March 25, 2008**

It amazes me the crap that's on TV these days. And what's the excuse people have for watching the crap? "Oh I just watch it because it's so bad." Whatever happened to watching TV because it was good? You talk to people now and they're like "Oh, I watch wrestling to make fun of the stupid people that think it's real." Or "Yeah, I watch the Tyra Banks show to see how insane she is." It's amazing to me that shows are successful because of that.

That doesn't happen in other industries. I'm not gonna be at work and they be like "Drew, your performance review this last quarter was absolutely terrible." "Oh, sorry sir, I guess I'll pack up my things...." "No no, we've really enjoyed watching how bad you really are. Stay on to keep us entertained."

**Joke #86 – March 26, 2008**

You know what's annoying? People who think you're going to thank them for something, and so before you can even say "Thank You," they say "You're welcome." I was at work today and I was gonna thank this person for helping me out. "Susan, thanks for..." She cuts me off "You're Welcome." Oh, well, if you're gonna be all presumptuous about it, "Thanks for being a doodoo head." Ha! Bet you didn't see that one coming.

**Joke #87 – March 27, 2008**

Macintosh started a revolution with i-Stuff – iPod, iPhone, iMac. There's a girl at work named iRene. I wonder if we bought her at Apple.

**Joke #88 – March 28, 2008**

I accidentally teabagged a small child today. I was riding on the subway during rush hour and someone bumped into me knocking me forward. My crotch went right onto the head of a 8 year old girl.

**Joke #89 – March 29, 2008**

In 1803, the US bought the Louisiana Territory from France for 2 cents per acre. Which proves that the US is a woman, because even back then she couldn't pass up a great sale on a state shaped like a shoe.

**Joke #90 – March 30, 2008**

I spent nearly all day in front of my computer. If I stay hooked on my monitor, I'm going to need to be hooked up to a monitor.

**Joke #91 – March 31, 2008**

I was reading a book the other day and it had the phrase "they lionized the man." Man was I surprised, and somewhat saddened, when I found out that lionized does *not* mean to be fed to lions.

**Joke #92 – April 1, 2008**

Apparently there's a new movie coming out about two secretly gay artists. It's called "Baroque Back Mountain."

**Joke #93 – April 2, 2008**

"I want to get in her pants" has an entirely different meaning for cross-dressers.

**Joke #94 – April 3, 2008**

I don't think I could ever be a stunt devil. I mean I do stupid things, but I've never had the urge to do something so colossally foolish as try to jump the Grand Canyon. If I were a stunt devil, I'd get a stunt double. A stunt devil double, do they have those?

**Joke #95 – April 4, 2008**

I've realized that the earlier I wake up, the longer I stay in the shower. If I get up after Noon, I'm done in 5. Between 10am and 12pm, it's 10 minutes. 8am or 9am it's up to about 15. Anything before 8am and I have to set my alarm 1/2 hour early just to account for the added shower time. If I'm up before 7, I come out wrinkled.



**Joke #96 – April 5, 2008**

Note to self: When booking flight arrangements, take into account that your airline might GO BANKRUPT BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT BACK HOME...

**Joke #97 – April 6, 2008**

I had to go through airport security today. I got "selected" to go through the more "enhanced" security screening process, which is sweet, because I never win anything. My prize? Metal detector wand molestation and some groping from a middle-aged man. Yay me!

**Joke #98 – April 7, 2008**

My brother claims that semantically, dogs get mad and people get angry. I guess that means tonight is the finals for "March Angry-ness."

**Joke #99 – April 8, 2008**

If I'm the host of a party, are all of my guests considered parasites?

**Joke #100 – April 9, 2008**

I've written 100 jokes this year. If each joke was a yard on a football field, I would have just now scored a touchdown. If each joke was a year, I'd now be a century. If each joke was a degree Celsius, I'd be boiling now.

**Joke #101 – April 10, 2008**

It was a beautiful day today, which means I shouldn't have taken a lunch at work. Days like today always make you contemplate on your way back, "Should I lie and say I've become terribly ill and have to go home, and then spend the rest of the day outside?" "Would they believe that my grandma was dying and her last wish was to play with me in Central Park? Would they believe that?"

Of course you've got to be very careful with that one; no one has 32 grandmothers.

**Joke #102 – April 11, 2008**

I had to call tech support at work today, and after I explained my situation, the guy said, "That's no problem, ma'am. I mean man." And I have no idea if he was really going to say "man" or if he just slipped and said "ma'am" instead of "sir," but he then stuck with it the entire rest of the conversation.

"Oh just do this, man." "Anything else I can help you with, man?" "Thank you man."

And I'm mad at the guy, only because I've never thought of that. It's genius. You slip up, and just say you said "man." Accidentally call a woman "sir"? Just say you were trying to say, "girrrrrl."

**Joke #103 – April 13, 2008**

Whenever I come up with a stand-up idea on the subway, I text myself a message so that I can remember it later. Earlier tonight I came up with an idea, so I start typing it out on my phone. The entire time, the girl next to me was reading over my shoulder. So after I finished the joke, I wrote this message:

*Hey random girl sitting next 2 me on the subway- if ur reading over my shoulder, whats up?*

Which is like the modern-day version of "passing notes" and checking "yes or no." Unfortunately she didn't respond to the message, but imagine if she had and we ended up dating. That would have been an SMS message that would have stood the test of time.

**Joke #104 –**

I stumbled upon the following in some old notes (this is an away message i made on 11/9/04):

its been a long time,  
since ive tried to rap,  
so im sure my skills

have started to lack.  
 but someone asked me  
 to continue on  
 and make another bad  
 rapping song  
 and so i sit,  
 before i sleep  
 thinkin of a flow  
 for yall to peep.  
 its not very good  
 and is a waste of time  
 but yall got issues,  
 and i got mines.  
 so step up off  
 before i count to 11,  
 dont hate on me  
 cuz you aint 1.3.3.7.

Seriously... whats wrong with me?

#### **Joke #105 – April 14, 2008**

I've got to remember to schedule time to eat during the day. I had a string of back-to-back-to-back-to-back meetings from 10am to 3pm, with no time to eat. By the middle of the 4th meeting, my stomach had become a participant in the discussion, and it did not align with my manager. He asked, "All those in favor, say aye." It replied, "grrghgrgh," which I think is a no.

#### **Joke #106 – April 15, 2008**

I think the unwritten rule in NYC is that you can bring a dog on the subway if you can fit him into a little purse or carry-on bag. I think you're taking it a little too far when you have a golden retriever with his head sticking out of a laundry bag that you're hoisting over your shoulder. If someone scares the dog, you're going to have a crap-load of laundry to do.

#### **Joke #107 – April 16, 2008**

Note to self: Remember to stop remotely sharing your desktop BEFORE having personal conversations with your friends over IM. It helps you avoid getting asked questions such as. "Did you really spend 20 minutes coming up with puns about geometry?"

"The answer is yes. Yes I did."

#### **Joke #108 – April 17, 2008**

I once dated an acrobat. She was head over heels for me.

#### **Joke #109 – April 18, 2008**

They say an apple a day keeps the doctor away, so I try to lick something in New York City every day.

#### **Joke #110 – April 19, 2008**

Do you think if the main character in Iron Man was a chemist instead of an industrialist, they would have called it Fe Man?

#### **Joke #111 – April 20, 2008**

It must be rush hour in my nose because man is it congested.

#### **Joke #112 – April 21, 2008**

I knew a guy who ate 144 hot dogs in a day. That's just gross.

#### **Joke #113 – April 22, 2008**

It's always a little creepy to see someone right outside your window. It's particularly frightening when you live on the 30th floor.

Damn window cleaners; scared the bejesus out of me. I don't even know what 'bejesuses' are, but they were gone.

#### **Joke #114 – April 23, 2008**

I am definitely a nerd. I was coughing today at work and a co-worker quipped, "Sounds like you're hacking up a lung."

All I could think of was a little computer geek sitting in my bronchioles, typing:

*10 Cough  
20 Goto 10*

#### **Joke #115 – April 24, 2008**

According to T9 predictive text on my phone, I:

1. Use an '!' more than a ','
2. Say 'yall' more than 'walk'
3. Say 'looj' more than 'look'
4. Say 'ne9' more than 'new'

Of course 'ne9' is one of my favorite phrases; it's so much easier than typing out "any nine." You know, as in "Drew, which of these players do you want in your baseball lineup?" "Oh, ne9 will do."

Seriously T9 Predictive Text? Seriously?

#### **Joke #116 – April 25, 2008**

I went to a fashion show. Runway model- that's gotta be the hardest job ever. Despite the title, they don't even have to run. They just walk, turn, walk. If they had to run in those 3 inch heels, that would be impressive.

I bumped into one of the models afterwards, and I was gonna hit on her, but I didn't know what to say. Nice dress? She didn't design it. Nice make-up? She didn't do it. Nice promenading? She doesn't know what that means.

Ultimately I just mumbled "Nice walking. You were making some great strides..."

#### **Joke #117 – April 26, 2008**

I'm tired of sports teams that don't live up their team names. Like the Pittsburgh Pirates should lead the league in steals every year, the San Francisco Giants should not be allowed to sign anyone under 6' 5", and the Milwaukee Brewers should have to play every game drunk.

#### **Joke #118 – April 27, 2008**

I saw quite the interesting outfit on the bus today. It was an 80 year old woman, in a sweat suit, pants tucked into cowboy boots, topped off with a bike helmet. Unless old folks have replaced bingo with rowdy rodeo workouts, I'm thinking that's not a particularly practical outfit.

#### **Joke #119 – April 28, 2008**

When I was in the bathroom today, I happened to get to the sinks at the same time as another guy- which naturally means there was an unspoken "contest" to see who more thoroughly washed their hands. I am proud to say that I won; he couldn't handle my double soaping. Oh yeah, I double-soaped. I got soap, lathered my hands, and got MORE soap. Rebel without a cause baby, rebel without a cause...

#### **Joke #120 – April 29, 2008**

A girl at work told me that when she was in the Seventh Grade, and still a virgin, she thought she might be pregnant with the "second coming of Baby Jesus." Which is just a silly thing to say. 1) You don't have to specify "Baby"- I don't think you'd give birth to a 33 year old Jesus. And 2) I don't God would pick a 13 year old for the second "Immaculate Conception." Somehow I think the pedophilia would ruin the whole "conceived without sin" thing.

#### **Joke #121 – April 30, 2008**

A thought costs a penny, a bag of weed can be a nickel, an attractive girl is a dime, a football player gets you a quarter back, and you can holla for a dollar. Yeah, that all makes cents.

**Joke #122 – May 1, 2008**

I don't understand why they have bathroom attendants. Why would I tip someone for something that is easily replaced by a machine on the wall? I could understand back in the "old days" when you had to manually crank out your own paper towel, but now you can just wave your hand and it spits it out for you.

The bar tonight was awkward because they had a bathroom guy, but they also wanted to save the environment. So he didn't give you towels, he just blew on your hands. The good thing is that I did find a way to avoid the guy altogether- just don't wash your hands.

**Joke #123 – May 2, 2008**

I was listening to some rap earlier, but it was putting me to sleep. But what can you expect from Snooze Doggy Dog.

**Joke #124 – May 3, 2008**

If the camera adds 10 pounds, how does McDonald's take a picture of a quarter pounder?

**Joke #125 – May 4, 2008**

We have high cubicle walls at my office. They don't block any sound, but you can't see over them. As a result, there's a girl at work that I know intimate details about (what she's working on, when her doctor's appointments are, what she's going to make her husband for dinner), but have no idea what she looks like.

As far as I know, she could actually be just a really bad radio station that someone's left on. A really annoying, high pitched, whiny radio station. 97.3 WTF – Your station for the crazies.

**Joke #126 – May 5, 2008**

It's pretty embarrassing to not know your receptionist's name after working at a place for 4 months. It's even more embarrassing when you think you know it, and call her by the wrong name.

I asked one of my co-workers what the receptionist's name was, and she refused to tell me, saying I was a horrible person for walking by the lady every day for 4 months and not knowing her name. All she gave me was a hint: "The first part of her name is a popular flower, and the second part is a popular name from the Bible."

I was surprised to find out it was "Rosemary" and not "Violetjesus." I could've sworn that was it.

**Joke #127 – May 6, 2008**

I had to do a training session today over the phone / LiveMeeting. During the call I kept asking if anyone had any questions, and much to my elation no one did, so I assumed that I was just explaining things perfectly. Unfortunately, I was not aware that the call had been dropped 5 minutes into the meeting, and that no one could hear me, or contact me because I was in presentation mode and couldn't see the hundred's of IM messages they had left me.

It was a terrible experience, like it was "Silence of the LANs."

**Joke #128 – May 7, 2008**

There was a "Retirement Farewell" for a co-worker today after work at a bar. And I think it went well; it was a good celebration and really brought some of us co-workers together. After all, nothing says "team building" like body shots off the boss's secretary.

**Joke #129 – May 8, 2008**

I asked my manager for a raise. He told me to go stand in an elevator.

**Joke #130 – May 10, 2008**

Larry didn't show up for work today, and some of us joked "I get his 24 inch flat screen monitor if he's dead." He didn't show up today because he passed away in his sleep last night. I felt terrible. I made an ass of myself... and I didn't even get the monitor.

**Joke #131 –**

I used to think that it was fun to work from home, wearing only boxers. I'd laugh to myself when talking with my co-workers because they had no idea I was barely clothed. Then I realized that other people at my work could be doing the same thing, or worse- they could be working while naked. I now try to avoid interacting with anyone working at home. The last thing I need is to be on a conference call with my manager's manager and have the mental image of her sitting bucked-naked at her computer pop up in my head.

**Joke #132 – May 11, 2008**

I guess the one nice thing about working on the weekends is that Monday doesn't seem as bad. And there's no one around to pipe "looks like somebody's got a case of the Sundays."

**Joke #133 – May 12, 2008**

Cell phones are so advanced these days; I'm making this post from one right now. When kids see the movie ET, they probably assume he uses an iPhone and take advantage of that touch screen.

**Joke #134 – May 13, 2008**

I find Boston to be an interesting place. If cities were an amusement park, NYC would be the big rides, and Boston would be kiddie-land.

**Joke #135 – May 14, 2008**

Does anyone else sing that song "Ah, push it..." when they go to the bathroom, or is that just me?

**Joke #136 – May 15, 2008**

Do judges have illusions of grandjur-ies?

**Joke #137 – May 16, 2008**

There's so much planning and work you have to do for most vacations these days, that you need to take a vacation from the vacation. Between all the stuff you have to get done at work before you leave, and all the stuff you come back to, plus all the planning you have to do for the actual vacation, you come back more tired after your "days off."

I think the only true vacation is if you just accidentally fall into a coma for like a week. Because then you didn't waste any extra time preparing for your absence at work, you didn't have to plan a trip, and people are sympathetic afterwards, so you have plenty of time to catch up once you awaken. Maybe that's where I'll go next year: comatose.

**Joke #138 – May 25, 2008**

(post for Saturday, May 17th)

I like to use words based on their dictionary definitions, not their common usage; this can lead to some seemingly naughty sentences that are 100% innocent:

"There was a pregnant pause as she conceived what I had ejaculated."

**Joke #139 –**

(post for Sunday, May 18th)

What time is it? 7:47? Wow, time's just flying by.

**Joke #140 –**

(post for Monday, May 19th)

I find having meetings with people in Europe to be particularly challenging; the timezone differences really mess things up. People in Europe don't want to be in the meeting because it's keeping them from going home, while people in the US don't want to be there because they just woke up.

**Joke #141 –**

(post for Tuesday, May 20th)

What aquatic sport is all but gone? Water polio.

**Joke #142 –**

(post for Wednesday May 21st)

What did people do for "booty calls" before there were phones? Do you think they had "booty messenger pigeons" or "booty smoke signals"? Is that why people like to smoke after sex? They used to do it before?

**Joke #143 –**

(post for Thursday, May 22nd)

They say you can't judge a book by it's cover, and I think that's true. Because if I were a book, I'd be a nerdy computer manual on the outside, but then a cartoon strip on the inside. Of course I'd be a cartoon about computers, but still.

Similarly, if Jessica Simpson was a book, she'd have a nice, beautiful cover, but the pages inside would be blank.

**Joke #144 –**

(post for Friday, May 23rd)

While in Mexico, I had a strange urge to go to a strip club there. I don't know why, I've never been to a strip club here in the states. I think a part of me wanted to see if chips and salsa would be involved.

**Joke #145 –**

(post for Saturday, May 24th)

I used to think that when people traveled far distances, they suffered from "jet leg." Which in retrospect, I have no idea what I thought it meant. You sit on a plane for a couple of hours and suddenly your leg starts to take off? Your leg becomes prone to delays and cancellations? Just stops working as promised?

**Joke #146 – May 26, 2008**

Where does the phrase "flesh out" come from? The only time I could think that "fleshing" something out would be a good thing is if you are a cannibal or zombie. Are zombie's getting their own colloquialisms into pop culture now?

**Joke #147 – May 27, 2008**

I don't think my body is built for 6am. I could be receiving the keys to the city, a brand new car, and \$1 million dollars. If the award ceremony was at 6:15am, I'd wake up at 6 and think, yeah, I can sleep just a little bit longer.

**Joke #148 –**

I made fun of a kid because he couldn't calculate the average of 3 numbers. He told me "that's just mean."

**Joke #149 – May 28, 2008**

A friend of mine is either dyslexic, or he read a book about a Jewish girl's adventures in breast feeding. That's all I can gather considering he sent me a message saying he had just finished "The Dairy of Anne Frank."

#### **Joke #150 – May 29, 2008**

Have you ever heard the saying, "It's 11:11, make a wish"? What's so special about 11:11? Apparently 4 1's next to each other is the equivalent of finding a magic lamp with a genie in it, or being part of a foundation.

Do you think military people say that at 10:22pm too?

I have my own saying. "It's 12:34, make a list. 1) Write a joke about time. 2) Figure out a better way to spend my time. 3.) ..."

#### **Joke #151 – June 6, 2008**

(post for Friday, May 30th)

Why is that when you show up early for your flight, it gets delayed, but when you're running late, it always leaves on time?

#### **Joke #152 –**

(post for Saturday, May 31st)

Why can't designers like Gucci have their own airlines? Their planes would just taxi down the runway, spin a few times, and then taxi back.

#### **Joke #153 –**

(post for Sunday, June 1st)

Can the Amish do the Electric Slide?

#### **Joke #154 –**

(post for Monday, June 2nd)

Never ask an ice sculptor for some "Iced Tea." You won't get a beverage, you'll get a block of ice chiseled into a letter of the alphabet.

#### **Joke #155 –**

(post for Tuesday, June 3rd)

I have confirmation that I'm a huge computer geek. I was a restaurant and a waiter slipped and fell on the ground. I laughed to myself, "ha, the server crashed."

#### **Joke #156 –**

(post for Wednesday, June 4th)

It seems like there's every single week there's a new story about a teacher sleeping with a student. That didn't happen when I was in school. At least not the part about it making the news. So what if Nate took Ms. Glazer to the Prom, doesn't mean anything was happening.

#### **Joke #157 –**

(post for Thursday, June 5th)

Note to self: If you're going to hit on a girl on the plane, do it towards the end of the flight. That way if things go awkwardly, you don't have to sit next to her for three hours wishing you hadn't said, "So... sit here often?"

**Joke #158 –**

(post for Friday, June 6th)

It's always nice to have a "lazy" day every now and then. You know you've successfully had a lazy day when the most productive thing you've done all day is order food to be delivered so you don't have to stray too far from the couch, and you go to sleep wearing the exact same thing you woke up in.

**Joke #159 – June 7, 2008**

I attempted to make French Toast this morning. The only thing French about it was that it crumbled easily.

**Joke #160 – June 8, 2008**

I watched live television today, which reminded me how much I hate commercials. They're so bad. It's like watching Gigli in 30 second installments.

**Joke #161 – June 9, 2008**

I walked 40 blocks today in 90 degree weather. By the time I got home, my sweat was sweating. I was perspiring in places I didn't even know I could. My ears were sweating. Are they supposed to do that?

**Joke #162 – June 10, 2008**

They say you have a better chance of getting hit by lightning than winning big at the lottery. That means my chances at the lotto are pretty much nil, because I don't put myself in the position to be hit by lightning. I don't go outside and say, "oh look at the pretty storm with the flashing li- ZAP!"

And if you ever get hit by lightning, you might as well give up gambling. What are the chances you get hit by lightning AND win the lottery?

**Joke #163 – June 11, 2008**

Do you tell handicapped actors to "break a leg?" Or is it "break a wheel?"

**Joke #164 – June 13, 2008**

I was forced to see "Sex and the City" tonight (stupid bet). It reminded me of "Titanic." You knew what was going to happen from the very beginning, but they still managed to draw it out over 2+ hours. Unfortunately there's no heart-wrenching death at the end of this one though.

**Joke #165 – June 14, 2008**

Back in high school, before I had accepted my nerd-ism, I tried to rock a stud earring while wearing Harry Potter-like glasses. It was like the Mullet of Accessories. All business with the glasses, and then party with the earring.

**Joke #166 – June 15, 2008**

A painter recently found out he was the son of a king. He's now (a) prince formerly known as (an) artist.

**Joke #167 –**

I made brownies last night. Brownies – that has to be one of the worst names for a dessert. You have cookies, cake, ice cream, and then brownies. What creative mind came up with that? It sounds more like a racial slur than it does a delicious treat. But I guess it's a good thing it's not, I'd hate to have to say "I made b-words last night."

**Joke #168 – June 16, 2008**

Tiger Woods won the US Open in a "sudden death" playoff today. "Sudden death?" In golf? Really? Don't get me wrong, I thought the story was entertaining, but unless your back fighting in the Coliseum, I don't think any sport really has a "sudden death."



**Joke #169 – June 18, 2008**

Why do they call it a "fast"? It's not like you move quicker when you haven't eaten all day. And the day doesn't go by fast when you're starving, because all you can think about it is when you'll get to eat next. Fast? More like "agonizingly slow."

**Joke #170 –**

I kind of miss the days when there was no caller id. Now there's no longer a surprise to who's calling. You look at your phone, and it tells you. There used to be a sense of excitement when someone called. Is it a bill collector? Your mom yelling at you for something? That hot chick you saw at the bar but were too afraid to talk, thinking maybe she thought you were so cute that she stalked you when you left, found out where you lived, and looked up your telephone number (it could happen...)? You don't have that excitement now, you know who it is before you even say hello.

**Joke #171 – June 19, 2008**

I want to get rabbit at a restaurant once, just so I can say, "Excuse me waiter, there's a hare in my food."

**Joke #172 – June 20, 2008**

I got poison ivy... Ain't that a b-itch.

**Joke #173 – June 21, 2008**

Does Spiderman take pictures using a webcam?

**Joke #174 – June 22, 2008**

If a bikini is two pieces, shouldn't a one piece be called a homokini (or unikini)?

**Joke #175 – June 23, 2008**

What is it about the shower that is conducive to brainstorming? Every time I get in, I always have great ideas, and then by the time I get out, I forget them. Is it the running water? The shampoo? The being naked? Because I have no problem sitting at work in the nude, but I've got to have a reason for the boss.

**Joke #176 – June 24, 2008**

They say the eyes are the windows to the soul, but I wouldn't recommend cleaning them with Windex.

**Joke #177 – June 25, 2008**

It's amazing how, to a drunk person, one more shot can turn a "Happy Hour" into a "Everyone-gets-to-hear-me-complain-about-everything" Evening.

**Joke #178 – June 26, 2008**

The nice thing about working with a lot of women is that they like to celebrate everything. Between parties for people changing assignments, getting raises, having babies, getting married, parrallel parking, we have cake in the office twice a week. I no longer have a sweet tooth, I have a whole set of sweet teeth (or would it be swoot teeth?).

**Joke #179 – June 27, 2008**

It occurred to me today that the phrase "dropping like flies" makes more sense as a sexual innuendo towards promiscuous girls than it does a metaphor for anything else.

**Joke #180 – June 28, 2008**

My philosophy of life was all messed up, so I cleaned it up with a paper Tao.

**Joke #181 – June 29, 2008**

There's no greater feeling than fixing something in a matter of seconds what it's taken a person all day to figure out. There's no worse feeling than being that person that took all day.

**Joke #182 – June 30, 2008**

I think Noah's Ark was probably the first reality show. All of the animals, one boat, who will survive? Noah was Jeff Probst, losers left the ship. That's where all of the extinct animals went. "Unicorns, the group has spoken. Goodbye."

**Joke #183 – July 1, 2008**

Why are fingernails called fingernails? It's the only body part that's also a tool. Is it because you always hit the fingernails when trying to hit a regular nail?

**Joke #184 – July 2, 2008**

I took a personality test today... I failed.

**Joke #185 – July 4, 2008**

A friend of mine was telling me that she used to work in a psyche hospital, but all I could think of when she said that was "sike" hospital. Like everyone went around saying "sike" all day. "Ah, yes, Mr. Johnson, we were able to get all of the cancer, you're going to be fine.... sike!"

**Joke #186 –**

I'm a fan of the 4th of July. Well actually, I'm a fan of any holiday that is referred to by its date- 4th of July, Cinco de Mayo. It makes it easy to remember, you'll always know when it is. They can't do that with all holidays though, otherwise Labor Day would be "First Monday in September," and Easter would be ... "???"

**Joke #187 – July 6, 2008**

Where does the expression "Egg on your face" come from? Were egg tosses popular at some point and it was embarrassing to have it crack on your head? Did people used to chuck eggs at each other? Was it common for eggs to just explode on you if you were a bad cook? Where does it come from? And which phrase came first, "getting egg on your face" or "being a chicken"?

**Joke #188 –**

I was reading a story about a new Internet Browser coming out, but in the story they misspelled "browser" as "Bowser." Which to me would be so much cooler than what they actually were doing. You'd type in google into the address bar and it'd come back "Thank you Mario. But our site is in another URL."

**Joke #189 – July 7, 2008**

If a person forgets how to ride a bicycle, is that "rider's block"?

**Joke #190 – July 8, 2008**

I don't know why, but it is ungodly hot in the subway stations during the summer. You don't even need a gym membership in the summer, you can just use the subway station as a sauna, though they might frown on you sitting down there naked. On second thought, it's New York, so they probably wouldn't even notice.

**Joke #191 – July 9, 2008**

A man gave me a penny for my thoughts. I was thinking about blueberries and unicorns, so I think it was a good trade.

**Joke #192 – July 10, 2008**

It's weird to me that if your golf game is sub-par, that's a good thing.

**Joke #193 – July 11, 2008**

Whether or not kids should be subjected to certain school subjects is subjective. Subject.

**Joke #194 – July 12, 2008**

I wish conversations were like luggage and you were restricted to only 1 carry-on item. The woman next to me on the plane kept carrying on and on and on...

**Joke #195 – July 13, 2008**

I was in the park today and they had a tree that had to be supported by some 2x4's. And to me, that's seems a little inappropriate. It's like "here, we're going to help support you by your murdered comrades." It's like building a log cabin in the forest, it's an insult to the trees. Not only did we kill your family, now we're going to make a house out of their bodies.

**Joke #196 – July 14, 2008**

If a pizza with pepperoni has "toppings," I think we should call cheese pizza "topless."

**Joke #197 – July 15, 2008**

If a Twix is 2 candy bars, what do you call only one of the bars? A twi? A twick? A twixen? I don't know, it's very Twixy.

**Joke #198 – July 16, 2008**

I'm glad I don't get PMS. I think it'd really cramp my style.

**Joke #199 – July 17, 2008**

I don't understand why parents always "fly an airplane" into a kids mouth to get them to eat something. Why not a train? Then you can add in the sound effects. "Here comes the train, chew chew!"

**Joke #200 – July 18, 2008**

My name is Drew Tarvin. I am an Aquarius and I like long walks on the beach. I'm looking for an audience with a sense of humor and that loves to laugh and is interested in more than just a one night stand... up performance.

**Joke #201 – July 19, 2008**

If you renovate your kitchen with fake marble, is that considered counterfeiting?

**Joke #202 – July 20, 2008**

Songs in the 80's were pretty weird. For example, Culture Club loved punctuation: "Comma comma comma comma comma Chameleon."

**Joke #203 – July 21, 2008**

I think Microsoft Word has been messing with me. It keeps underlining words in red that are spelled correctly, but I always second guess myself. I think Word is tired of all my spelling mistakes and is finally testing how dumb I really am. I stared at the word "still" for 20 minutes yesterday because Word said is wrong.

**Joke #204 – July 22, 2008**

Do you think the Death Star had Darth Ele-vaders?

**Joke #205 – July 23, 2008**

I saw an Indian restaurant named Gandhi. Is it a real good marketing move to name a restaurant after someone who is known for his

hunger strike and being deathly skinny? Perhaps Buddha would've been a better choice.

**Joke #206 – July 24, 2008**

I find it interesting that McDonald's is allowed to call information about their food "Nutrition Facts." Doesn't that imply it provides some type of nutrition? Unless by "nu" they mean "new" and trition they mean "pair of pants you'll need to buy after eating here too often."

**Joke #207 – July 25, 2008**

Apparently there's a new problem in schools – cyber bullying. What the hell is that? When I was going to school it was still about who was the biggest and the baddest- that's who the bully was. I'm a computer geek; if we had had cyber bullying, everyone would've been paying me money, even the teachers.

"Give me your bandwidth, Sarah, or your Facebook account is going to say you made out with Tyler Derkins!"

**Joke #208 – July 26, 2008**

Do you think Gandalf read the "7 Hobbits of Highly Effective People?"

**Joke #209 – July 27, 2008**

I wasn't much of a fighter growing up. The only punch I ever threw was Hawaiian, got my brother drenched.

**Joke #210 – July 28, 2008**

Dad: "Johnny had an accident in bed last night."

Mom: "You me he wet the bed?"

Dad: "No, an SUV t-boned a minivan and the car got knocked thru his bedroom onto his bed."

**Joke #211 – July 29, 2008**

I could've sworn I heard a bug singing the other day. It must have been Gnat King Cole

**Joke #212 – July 30, 2008**

A lot people are pushing for wind power. My question is- what happens in a tornado? Does everything just blow up from too much power?

**Joke #213 – July 31, 2008**

I was eating a bag of chips today, and it had "Best used by Date" ... and Time. Really? Technology is so good that you can tell me down to the minute when my Doritos are going to go from delicious to stale? I want to eat a bag of chips a minute before the timestamp and see if the first half of the bag really is better than the second.

**Joke #214 – August 1, 2008**

I fell down the other day, but my calendar broke my Fall. Of course now my August, September and October is completely screwed up.

**Joke #215 – August 2, 2008**

A church near my office serves breakfast. I have to know, can you get a sausage egg and jees-sus there?

**Joke #216 – August 3, 2008**

I would never say that I need a doorman in my building pushing revolving doors for me... but I do find that when there are none there to do it, I get a little pissed... and winded.

**Joke #217 – August 4, 2008**

Man, I hate PDA on the subway, it's so gross. Seriously, put the Blackberry away.

**Joke #218 – August 5, 2008**

I had a Freudian slip the other day. I fell on my mother.

**Joke #219 – August 6, 2008**

I've always taken solace in the fact that I don't think cannibals would eat me because I'm not a big guy. Then I realized, lean meat is supposed to be a lot healthier for you. If you give me floaties made of onion, I'm pretty much a walking shish kabob.

**Joke #220 – August 7, 2008**

I know why they're called committees now. When you're on one for too long, you start to think about committing something else- suicide, murder, yourself into a mental institute...

**Joke #221 – August 8, 2008**

A friend of mine told me she got a pair of crocs. Imagine my disappointment when I found out she meant a pair of ugly shoes.

**Joke #222 – August 9, 2008**

I burnt one of my... oh what's the word... it's on the tip of my tongue... Oh yeah, I burnt one of my tastebuds today.

**Joke #223 – August 10, 2008**

I saw a female taxi driver today. I'm not sexist, but with the stereotype for cab drivers being bad at driving, I don't know if I want to take the chance and throw the whole woman stereotype on that as well.

**Joke #224 – August 11, 2008**

I hear Gucci is going to be sponsoring a car in Nascar. I guess it's time we "fashion our seatbelts."

**Joke #225 – August 12, 2008**

I had some really pretentious chocolate the other day. It was Go-diva.

**Joke #226 – August 13, 2008**

Do babies looking to get into show business go into aww-ditions? As in "Awww, that baby is so cute"?

**Joke #227 – August 14, 2008**

I think swimmer's do themselves a disservice when they call their competitions a "meet." It sounds like something pleasant and casual, that requires little effort, as in "I'll meet you later." A "match" is much more intense- like fire.

**Joke #228 – August 15, 2008**

I remember a girl in geometry class getting really mad because she couldn't get a line to connect to a circle at a single point. She even started yelling at it. All I could think was "Man, she is really going off on a tangent."

**Joke #229 – August 16, 2008**

Whenever Sarah calls me, "Baby Got Back" plays on my phone. She got mad at me and told me "Don't you take that (ring)tone with me."

**Joke #230 – August 17, 2008**

Some guy tried to sell me a piece of art done all in pencil. I declined. It looked a little sketchy.

**Joke #231 – August 18, 2008**

I upset a girl today at work. Sadly splashing Pepto-Bismol on her did not remedy the situation.

**Joke #232 – August 19, 2008**

Some people think it's weird that I have binoculars next to my window, like I'm some kind of creepy peeping tom. But I say, if people didn't want me looking into their windows, they wouldn't leave their blinds open, even if they are on the 30th floor of some building. I encourage other people to look into my apartment, in fact, sometimes I stand in front of the window just to give them something to look at, maybe do something dancing or a naked handstand- you know, something for them to tell their kids about.

**Joke #233 – August 20, 2008**

Is there a Chinese version of Scrabble? Are each of the tiles just a series of lines that you stack on top of each other?

**Joke #234 – August 21, 2008**

I wanted to write a joke about a current event, but there were no news stories about rivers today.

**Joke #235 – August 22, 2008**

I was at Barnes & Noble today and saw a book called the Athiest's Bible. How is that book longer than a page long? "No god." That's all that's needed.

**Joke #236 – August 23, 2008**

A friend of mine at work was complaining that her boss was "working her like a slave," and I'd have to disagree. Let's not trivialize slavery for the sake of you complaining about a job. Sure she might be working you hard, but you're still getting paid. I don't know of any slaves that are sitting pretty with a \$60,000 a year job and a dental plan.

**Joke #237 – August 24, 2008**

I read a popular children's story the other day, but it was an incredibly geeky version. It was called Ma~.

**Joke #238 – August 25, 2008**

I started doing yoga because I heard it can help you with your balance. I didn't realize they meant you work on balancing getting a good workout and trying to convince people you're not gay.

**Joke #239 – August 26, 2008**

I want to create a reality TV show that's about who can do nothing the longest. I'll call it American Idle.

**Joke #240 – August 27, 2008**

Growing up I always got confused at weddings when it came time for the vows. I thought they were "wedding vowels." "Do you Lauren, a e i o u?" "I do." "And do you Drew, sometimes y?" "I do."

**Joke #241 – August 28, 2008**

Whoever said love conquers all never played tennis.

**Joke #242 – August 29, 2008**

I wish I was there when the first mobsters were trying to think of a coy way of saying they were going to kill someone. What were some of the rejected euphemisms? "Going to downtown?" "Visit a waterfall?" "Kill someone and drop him in the river?"

**Joke #243 – August 30, 2008**

I'm disappointed with myself. I was synchronizing my phone and computer and actually thought to myself, "Heh just call me Justin because i am N\*Sync."

**Joke #244 – August 31, 2008**

"Gladiator" sandals are very in style right. The only thing I can think of when I see them is "Sppppaaarrtttttaannnnssss!" FYI, girls get a little freaked out when you just yell that out at them.

**Joke #245 – September 1, 2008**

Delays at the airport are absurd now; even a flight of stairs just recently got canceled.

**Joke #246 – September 2, 2008**

I thought about joining geek patrol, but heard bootcamp is brutal. You just start and restart computers all day.

**Joke #247 – September 3, 2008**

I just realized I've never seen a swan dive. And I don't mean a person doing that kind of dive, I mean an actual swan doing an actual dive. Do you think it yells, "Hey guys watch this?"

**Joke #248 – September 4, 2008**

Why is chicken so good? If I were a chicken, I think I'd still eat other chickens. I'd be Hen-ible Lecter.

**Joke #249 – September 5, 2008**

A deli near me is either dyslexic or has a unique target market. They are advertising "Whole Wheat Creeps."

**Joke #250 – September 6, 2008**

I had to have oral surgery. All the dentist did was yell at me. "Open mouth!" "Novacaine!" "Cut tooth!"

**Joke #251 – September 7, 2008**

Would it be inappropriate if "c-sections" used the slogan, "It's not delivery, its Digiorno's"?

**Joke #252 – September 8, 2008**

When a coworker told me he was gay, I immediately offended him on accident. I responded "Let me get this straight..." and he interrupted, "What do you mean straight?"

**Joke #253 – September 9, 2008**

I've discovered that the easiest way to make fun of someone without them getting mad is to just use 1920's insults. While you can't get away with calling someone a whore, they won't even bat an eye if you call them a trollop or floozie.

**Joke #254 – September 10, 2008**

I heard a girl on the subway that had the nasliest (most nasal?) voice in the world. And I realize thats like the pot calling the kettle black, but she sounded like me on helium.

**Joke #255 – September 11, 2008**

Apparently the MTA (the organization that runs the subway in NYC) is now selling "subway boxers." That's exactly what I want to equate my underpants with: uncomfortable humidity, terrible smells, and homeless people.

**Joke #256 – September 12, 2008**

A friend of mine made a joke about suicide, and afterwards said "just kidding." I don't think that's something that you can say "just kidding" about. Kidding implies it's something a kid might jokingly say, and if you've got kids joking about suicide, then something is terribly wrong.

**Joke #257 – September 13, 2008**

iDropped my iPod and it broke. iCried.

**Joke #258 – September 14, 2008**

Why were Novel S and Novel U upset? Because the new Novel T was getting all of the attention.

**Joke #259 – September 15, 2008**

They say we're in a recession right now, but I'm not worried. You just drop the last 3 letters off the word and you've got recess, and who doesn't love that?

**Joke #260 – September 16, 2008**

Someone recently told me I reminded them of their pet turtle, and I'm not sure how to feel about that. Unless they have Leonardo or Donatello at home, I think I'm insulted.

**Joke #261 – September 17, 2008**

The first word of any sentence should be capitalized. It's weird then that capital punishment comes at the end of the sentence.

**Joke #262 – September 18, 2008**

The 2008 Presidential Race is kind of like Mac vs. PC. Except Mac is the newest, fastest version, and the PC has Windows 95.

**Joke #263 – September 19, 2008**

I want to make a movie about gangstas in Italy. I'll call it Venice II Society.

**Joke #264 – September 20, 2008**

Someone recently said "they had a child out of wedlock." But I heard "they had a child out of headlock." My version of the story was a lot more interesting.

**Joke #265 – September 21, 2008**

If anyone wants to help me sell some of my comedy ideas, I'll give them a quarter of the profits. Not 25% of them, but a quarter of them. That's a shiny new quarter for you.

**Joke #266 – September 22, 2008**

A friend of mine was reading "Love the One You're With," which I found out the awkward way is not a self-help book but rather a fiction novel. I'm reading "How to Deal with Stress." It's not a self-help book either, it's a story about a physics professor.

**Joke #267 – September 23, 2008**

I saw an ad for a lawyer that handled accidents and divorces. Aren't they the same thing?

**Joke #268 – September 24, 2008**

What is it about a bar hanging in the air that compels guys to do chin-ups on it? I guess it's some type of macho thing to be able to do a bunch, but I think it's because some guys never handled their first pull-ups very well. You know, the diaper kind.



**Joke #269 – September 25, 2008**

I told my manager that I always try to get the best bang for my buck, which isn't really awkward until you realize your manager's last name is Buck.

**Joke #270 – September 26, 2008**

Do you ever wonder if some of the people in the Bible were really just the first musicians? Like maybe it was really Guns n Moses, MC Abrahammer, and of course eve.

**Joke #271 – September 27, 2008**

A girl was batting her eye at me in a restaurant. It was a glass one. I still don't know where she got the baseball bat from.

**Joke #272 – September 28, 2008**

In the fashion world, they say pink is the new black, and I disagree. Priests haven't made the switch. And I haven't seen any ninjas running around in pink. Until I see a priest, a ninja, or a ninja priest, I'm going to say that black is still the new black.

**Joke #273 – September 29, 2008**

A guy on the street tried to get me to come to his rap show. I asked if he had a record and replied "one count of robbery."

**Joke #274 – September 30, 2008**

What's so great about sliced bread? Don't get me wrong, I enjoy not having to cut a loaf into slices, but that's what we compare things to? The car isn't better than sliced bread? Computer maybe? The Baconator?

**Joke #275 – October 1, 2008**

I don't think I could be Alex Trebek. His life is constantly in Jeopardy.

**Joke #276 – October 2, 2008**

The Vice Presidential debates are like two kids arguing, "My dad can beat up your dad."

**Joke #277 – October 3, 2008**

I was looking to eat a breakfast of champions, so I ate an Olympic swim team.

**Joke #278 – October 4, 2008**

I might have caught a cold from someone in the airport, which I guess is the better kind of terminal illness.

**Joke #279 – October 5, 2008**

Do you think they serve international foods at the UN? You know, things like French toast, Belgian waffles, and Canadian bacon?

**Joke #280 – October 6, 2008**

Is a hangover technically an ale-ment?

**Joke #281 – October 7, 2008**

The second Presidential debate was considered a "Town-Hall" meeting. It didn't take place in a town (Nashville is a city), nor in a hall (it was more like a big room). They should've called it what it really was, a "We're not really going to say anything new or substantial, but rather just attack each other" meeting.

**Joke #282 – October 8, 2008**

Note to self: before taking a piece of gum from someone, make sure it's not Nicorette.

**Joke #283 – October 9, 2008**

I foolishly used my cellphone when I went to Italy. I got screwed with Rome-ing charges.

**Joke #284 – October 10, 2008**

I read the dictionary. It was ok, but the climax came too early in the beginning. There were still 23 more chapters left.

**Joke #285 – October 11, 2008**

I kind of wish I had become an aerospace engineer so that when people talked about something being hard, I could say, "Well it's not rocket science... because I would know."

**Joke #286 – October 12, 2008**

I fell asleep on the subway. I ended up at Jared's house.

**Joke #287 – October 13, 2008**

I always wanted to be a plumber when I was growing up. I guess they were just pipe dreams.

**Joke #288 – October 14, 2008**

I did a commercial where I had broken foot. Then I did another where I had a broken hand. I'm starting to get tired of being typecasted.

**Joke #289 – October 15, 2008**

I think I'm getting more impatient, which sucks because I don't want to be losing wait.

**Joke #290 – October 16, 2008**

I never use any of the calculus that I learned in college. Supposedly it's integral to success in my field, but I don't know who derived that.

**Joke #291 – October 17, 2008**

I saw a Starbucks sign introducing signature hot chocolate. How can it be signature if they're just now introducing it?

**Joke #292 – October 18, 2008**

I got sucker punched today. Someone threw a Blowpop at me.

**Joke #293 – October 19, 2008**

Do cats automatically get 9 lives, or is it just the ones that do the Konami code before they're born?

**Joke #294 – October 20, 2008**

My mom is so against gambling, she doesn't even like the alphabet.

**Joke #295 – October 21, 2008**

Is a grouchy improviser extempore-mental.

**Joke #296 – October 22, 2008**

Do fish fear the Bait's Motel?

**Joke #297 – October 23, 2008**

The bags under my eyes are so big that if I went to the airport, they'd make me check them.

**Joke #298 – October 25, 2008**

I saw one of the most stunningly gorgeous woman the other day, she was so amazing just to look at. It was like she was like the stare-way to heaven.

**Joke #299 –**

I saw a commercial tonight for the Country Music Awards that claimed it was bring the "entire country together." Really? The entire country? I forgot that country music was the epitome of diversity.

**Joke #300 – October 26, 2008**

I can't wait for a Boyz II Men reunion tour. Or I guess it'd be a Men II Geezers tour.

**Joke #301 – October 27, 2008**

I spilled Tide on some stained-glass windows at church. Now they're just glass windows.

**Joke #302 – October 28, 2008**

Do you think Abraham Lincoln would've shopped at JC Penney?

**Joke #303 – October 29, 2008**

I just realized that I have a number of tennis shoes that I've never played tennis in. Of course, to be fair, I also have dress shoes I've never worn with a dress.

**Joke #304 – October 30, 2008**

Where does the word recess come from? Cess means a tax. So if you tax something again it suddenly becomes fun? Did the IRS coin the term?

**Joke #305 – October 31, 2008**

I have an awesome Halloween costume. I'm going to go as Jim Carrey, impersonating me. He's such a great impressionist I think he'll do a good job.

**Joke #306 – November 1, 2008**

Do you think for Halloween, Barack Obama gave out "Yes We Can-dy"?

**Joke #307 – November 2, 2008**

If your first degree is a bachelor's degree, second degree is a masters, third degree is a PHD, what's after that? I don't know about numbers four and five, but I think your six degree is a Kevin Bacon.

**Joke #308 – November 3, 2008**

When the animal kingdom votes, do they consult the poll-ar bear?

**Joke #309 – November 4, 2008**

In order to be President you have to be at least 35 years old. That's what I want- a guy running for commander and chief as he's entering his mid-life crisis.

**Joke #310 – November 5, 2008**

I think the army is kind of like going to college, but instead of hearing "what was your major?", you get "who was your major?"

**Joke #311 – November 6, 2008**

A girl at work said she had to buy a baby monitor. I'm such a nerd-I thought she meant she bought a computer for her toddler.

**Joke #312 – November 7, 2008**

If you combine the people who have wronged you, with the things you'd be willing to do back to them, you get a Venn-deta diagram.

**Joke #313 – November 8, 2008**

If you specialize in billboard advertising do you know sign language?

**Joke #314 – November 9, 2008**

I just read in a study that men are subconsciously attracted to the color red, which explains my weird attraction to Clifford the Big Red Dog.

**Joke #315 – November 10, 2008**

I paid for \$.75 candy bar with a \$1. The cashier tried to write me a check for the change I was owed; I told him that was non-cents.

**Joke #316 – November 11, 2008**

A girl asked me to buy her something sexy, something with lace, so I got her some tennis shoes.

**Joke #317 – November 12, 2008**

An older lady got mad at me for not giving my seat to her on the subway. The way I see it, if she thinks she's still young enough to wear UGG boots, she's still young enough to stand on the subway.

**Joke #318 – November 13, 2008**

I want to see a "where are they now" special on Waldo.

**Joke #319 – November 14, 2008**

My last project at work suffered from scope creep. Some sketchy guy kept showing up, scoping things out.

**Joke #320 – November 15, 2008**

I feel like "whats the worst that could happen?" is a pretty dumb question, because it seems to me the answer would be death. Death could happen.

**Joke #321 – November 16, 2008**

A group of my friends were being all snippy because they had to stay in some sub-par housing while I got to stay in a hotel. I was like "whoa, no need to be so hostel."

**Joke #322 – November 17, 2008**

If you're standing behind a group of people, waiting for something, are you in line, or on line? If you say on line, well you're wrong, I'm sorry. Very rarely is there a line on the ground for you to be standing on, plus being "on line" means you're connected to the internet. In line makes more sense—not only are you in a line, but you're complying with societal rules, so you're in line. To say on line is out of line. Of course none of this matters if you're British, because then you're in a queue.

**Joke #323 – November 18, 2008**

A friend of mine was so excited because he thought he came up with a brilliant idea—gloves for your feet. I didn't have the heart to tell him they already have that: they're called socks.

**Joke #324 – November 19, 2008**

Apparently it's insulting to tell someone they look the skinniest they've ever looked when they happen to be 8 months pregnant.

**Joke #325 – November 20, 2008**

Despite being in smart classes, I still had some dumb classmates. In 7th grade, we were studying World War I. A girl in my class asked, "How did they know there was going to be a second one?"

**Joke #326 – November 21, 2008**

I know it sounds dumb, but I enjoy wearing an A-shirt under my T-shirt because it makes my initials.

**Joke #327 – November 22, 2008**

I think a Rubik's cube is a perfect analogy for life. It can take you years to get everything lined up, and then only 2 seconds for someone to come in and mess things up.

**Joke #328 – November 23, 2008**

Man, the craziest thing happened to me today. I don't want to get into it, so to make a long story short, the end.

**Joke #329 – November 24, 2008**

A friend of mine was upset because he was having a hard time learning the guitar. I tried to console him and told him not to fret.

**Joke #330 – November 25, 2008**

My mom was a little overprotective; she made me wear a helmet on an exercise bike.

**Joke #331 – November 26, 2008**

Do you ever wake up from a dream and get confused as to whether it happened in real life? Like did I really have that conversation, go to that park, ride that dragon?

**Joke #332 – November 27, 2008**

I know a girl so selfish she only celebrates Thanks-taking day.

**Joke #333 – November 28, 2008**

Do S&M people celebrate Spanksgiving?

**Joke #334 – November 29, 2008**

I just bought some new dress shoes that apparently need some time to be broken in. I wore them out last night and by the end of the night, I felt like a woman—"Oh my God, I can't walk another step in these shoes, they are killing me!" I was dancing out on the dance floor with no shoes on. A girl in stilettos had to carry me home.

**Joke #335 – November 30, 2008**

I don't like the phrase "egg on your face." Any expression that presumably came from being bad at egg tosses seems pretty lame.

**Joke #336 – December 1, 2008**

You know what's awkward? Thinking someone sneezed and saying "God bless you" after a person introduces herself. "Hi, I'm Shaneeza." "God bless you."

**Joke #337 – December 3, 2008**

Listening to Journey for a thousand miles begins with a single broken CD player.

**Joke #338 –**

I was indebted to my friend named Allen Edwards but he went by AE. I told him, "A E, I O U."

**Joke #339 – December 4, 2008**

My website was hacked into. Now I know why they call them hackers. Once you figure out how much you have to go through to get your site restored, you want to hack those bastards into tiny pieces.

**Joke #340 – December 6, 2008**

My dentist is a jokester; he said clean teeth lead to a clean life, and that's his flossophy.

**Joke #341 – December 7, 2008**

Note to self: the following pickup line does not work—"I'm a writer for a show. I guess you could say I put the stud in studio TV."

**Joke #342 –**

If sleep is the cousin of death, is a nap the cousin of a coma?

**Joke #343 – December 9, 2008**

I heard Michael Jackson is coming out with a new kid's cereal, which I think is inappropriate. The name is pretty cool though, "Snap, Crackle & King of Pop."

**Joke #344 – December 10, 2008**

I have to stop taking things so literally. For years I played poker with gloves on because I was told not to ever show my hand.

**Joke #345 –**

Why is it that "ants in my pants" is a saying, but not "ox in my sox," or "hoes in my shoes"?

**Joke #346 – December 11, 2008**

My mom never let me cuss. In fact, I couldn't even say "hello." It was always "h-e-double hockey sticks o."

**Joke #347 – December 13, 2008**

A friend of mine is the CEO of a mattress company. It's not that he's smart, he just slept his way to the top.

**Joke #348 – December 14, 2008**

I'm trying to become more cultured so I've started licking petri dishes.

**Joke #349 –**

I think "say it don't spray it" is a great campaign slogan against graffiti.

**Joke #350 – December 15, 2008**

The concept of terrorism is to scare you into different behavior, which means that Veggie Tales is terrorism. It is unnatural for vegetables to talk, and growing up they freaked me out and made me not want to eat vegetables.

**Joke #351 – December 16, 2008**

Growing up I thought those candy cigarettes were so cool until I got candy cancer and had to get a candy tracheotomy. All through 3rd grade I had to talk through a pez dispenser.

**Joke #352 – December 17, 2008**

If you have a stomachache, you're sick to the stomach, so if you have a headache, are you sick to the head?

**Joke #353 – December 18, 2008**

A man recently died when someone riverdanced on his chest. He died of clogged arteries.

**Joke #354 – December 19, 2008**

You know what I've never understood? Yankee Doodle. So he went to town, cool, but on a pony? He didn't have a real horse? And then he stuck a feather in his cap, I guess to each his own, but he called it macaroni? Really Mr. Doodle? Really? A hat is not a box of Kraft's cheesiest.

**Joke #355 – December 20, 2008**

I saw a cute girl in one of those trendy hats. She was fedorable.

**Joke #356 – December 21, 2008**

I just now realized that the section of a book that catches all of the resources used is called a bib-liography.

**Joke #357 – December 22, 2008**

You know what's fun? Replacing someone's acne medicine with sunless tanner. Not only will they have pimples, but they'll also be highlighted by a fake orange tan.

**Joke #358 – December 23, 2008**

I want to create a line of products based on old 90's TV shows. Like have Danny Sunless Tanner, Kitchen Hux-tables, and of course Lisa Turtle Necks.

**Joke #359 – December 24, 2008**

Do you think Eve from Adam & Eve is upset that Christmas Eve is the more popular of the Christian Eves?

**Joke #360 – December 25, 2008**

Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday to Santa Clause! What's that? Jesus who?

**Joke #361 – December 26, 2008**

This guy at work has no technical skills whatsoever. He graduated from the Amish School of Technology.

**Joke #362 – December 27, 2008**

A guy at work has an accent where he switches his w's and v's. Is it wrong to want to try to get him to say: "Waldo worried walking while wearing wool would wreck winding windmills."

**Joke #363 – December 28, 2008**

I made some serious eye contact with this chick on the subway. The train came to a quick stop and our heads knocked into each other.

**Joke #364 – December 29, 2008**

I was chewing a piece of Dentyne Ice and kissed a girl eating Red Hots. The hot and cold air mixed causing a tornado in our mouths, knocking out half her teeth.

**Joke #365 – December 30, 2008**

Are stores that are open 365 days a year closed tomorrow?

**Joke #366 – December 31, 2008**

Tomorrow starts a new year, on a brand new day, and I'll be new and improved, a new kid on the block, exploring a whole new world. Who knew?