



Lindsay WINCHERAUK

GUEST SHOT: 28 OCTOBER 2005

NATURAL DISASTERS, OIL + DRIVE-THRUS

Wow!

What a couple of months on our home planet Earth.

Let's see Iraq, terrorist strikes in London and Indonesia, hurricanes, soaring gas prices due to natural disasters and the looming oil crisis. Luckily, we save 3.5 cents per litre in the Lower Mainland – no membership required.

To top it off, before we can pick up the pieces, and our emotions for that matter, we are being told that the bird flu will wipe out a large portion of the world population, and we may not be able to do anything to avoid it.

If the birds don't get us, crystal meth will, if not us, then our kids.

If not the birds or meth, then obesity, our girth is rapidly expanding.

As if that was not enough, our beloved and respected teachers decided to bring their issues to the forefront and put those same kids on the mean streets for a couple of weeks, not that their problems aren't significant – but that's excellent timing. After all, we're all a little emotionally bankrupt, to the point where the teachers' strike may have been a pleasant distraction. Well, that and who Paris Hilton is pissed at. No wonder those Desperate Housewives are so popular.

Unless you're lucky enough to be counting to 54 million right now – the world can be scary. George W. is telling us: *"America is currently consuming oil at a rate where we are using 40 percent more oil than we are capable of producing."*

Whew!

Far too much for any of us to digest and keep a level of happiness simultaneously, unless, of course, you are still counting 53 million... 53 million and 1.

I don't know about you; I want to laugh, I want to smile, and I want to cry from time to time.

Then it hit me: A solution to a couple of the problems facing today, at least the Western world. On a day when I was stressed to the max – working ridiculous hours and still needing to find time to run errands and eat, I pulled into a drive-thru at a local fast-food joint. While idling behind nine vehicles, waiting for my sodium-enriched fix, a light went on: BAN DRIVE-THRU'S.

Just think about it for a moment. If we were to eliminate the drive-thru, roughly 330-million North Americans would have to get off their lazy butts and walk to their favourite burger joint for their fix; OK, maybe only from their cars. To carry it even further, we would eliminate all those idling vehicles. Think of the oil that would save.

Radical, I know, but it's a start.

WHO IS LINDSAY WINCHERAUK?

Lindsay Wincherauk is a fearless writer. He has published two books and has had more than eighteen OPEDs appear in major commuter newspapers. Lindsay wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His father (who wasn't his father) worked as a mechanic. His mother (who wasn't his mother) worked as an excellent chef in a diner. In fact, his birth was in a secret place where |society deemed| unfit mothers were sent to give birth in isolation – shading families from shame. If the babies survived being born, usually, they were sold to wealthy Americans or adopted out to farm families.

Lindsay's life began with a lie.

Despite Lindsay's perilous beginnings, starting with deception, Lindsay knew no better and went through life excelling at things, usually in two-year stints. Be that athletics (hall of fame, record holding, one-eyed quarterback), scholastically, career-wise (generating more than \$70 million in revenue for one company), socially, + without question: creatively!

Lindsay's challenging beginning instilled in Lindsay heaping doses of compassion and empathy. Lindsay's life starting out as a lie gave him a keen sense to spot BS from miles away. It also provided him with a dry sense of humour and an understanding those born with silver spoons in their mouths will never be self-aware enough to understand (or admit) their good fortune.

During Lindsay's work career, he was well-liked by all coworkers. Lindsay was also well respected by his diverse collection of clients, developing several fantastic friendships, primarily because Lindsay is known for his unflinching integrity and ability to hold conversations on most topics.

Lindsay's life mantra is:

The most valuable part of life is the fabulous people we meet during our journeys. If you treat people with respect (leaving judgment at the door), and more importantly, by opening doors for those less fortunate or who can't speak up for themselves, you are living a good, compassionate life. Making money at all costs is not the only thing mattering. Life can be difficult + devastatingly unfair.

Lindsay believes sharing vulnerability is what makes us human. Lindsay will never shy away from being honest about his pain.

Lindsay also believes we must stand up for ourselves, + more importantly, for those who are too burdened by the injustices of life, they can't find the strength to stand up for themselves.

SOME THINGS LINDSAY IS MOST PROUD OF ARE WHEN:

- A sixty-year-old employee of his, who had entered a point of life where life had become more struggle than joy (it happens to all of us as we age), said to Lindsay, *"I must thank you. I've listened to how you treat people, + by listening, I've learned so much about compassion and patience. Thank you. I consider you a great friend."*
- Another employee who was struggling with addiction thanked Lindsay for his kindness, presenting Lindsay with a Christmas card from him and his girlfriend. Tucked inside the card: lottery tickets.

LINDSAY WINCHERAUK, compassionate, empathetic, well-read, kind, blessed with unflinching integrity, humour in balance, loved by coworkers + friends alike.

Lindsay will always stick up for the underdog. Lindsay understands there are countless older people suffering job loss because COVID gave some companies an opportunity to – Lindsay thinks it is essential to draw attention to this life-threatening issue by being the voice for those too broken to speak up for themselves.

Lindsay is currently pitching four manuscripts to publishers and literary agencies. One of the manuscripts (he can't talk about) will blow the roof off the predatory practices of – Lindsay is writing relentlessly and is also pitching OPEDs and short stories, fiction, + non to literary magazines around the globe.

Lindsay has appeared on Breakfast Television, radio programs in Montreal, + several others in the Vancouver area. Lindsay has also been a featured guest on CKNW + CBC, both on several occasions. And Lindsay was a vital witness of a Hate Crime. This led to the first Hate Crime conviction in Canadian legal history, resulting in him being a speaker at an Enough is Enough Rally (anti-violence rally) with dignitaries, politicians, law enforcement, and community leaders in front of a crowd of approximately five thousand.

Lindsay was the **#1 MIXED-TAPE DJ** at the **UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN** for most of the nineteen-eighties, a fact bringing him joy.

Lindsay resides in Vancouver.
