



## Lindsay WINCHERAUK

GUEST SHOT: 27 JANUARY 2006

### IT'S NOT ABOUT THE VIDEO GAMES

Until a few days ago, my head was in the virtual sand about the proliferation of gaming (video games) and its impact on society.

Suddenly my eyes were propped wide open by the death of Toronto cabbie Tahir Khan at the hands of two eighteen-year-old university students.

They were racing each other in high-end sports cars, and one of them T-boned Mr. Khan's car. On the seat lay the video game, Need for Speed.

Once again, society flew into an uproar.

Could we have skewed the lines of reality because of these elaborate games?

We need to find someone or something to blame.

Game Daily Biz reports that there is new anti-video game legislation brewing in both Iowa and Utah, essentially classifying violent games as porn. Under the existing Utah statute, the distribution or showing of pornography and explicit nudity to minors is a felony, putting playing violent games in the same category as porn or smoking cigarettes.

How could we allow this to happen?

Indeed, we are civilized. I rewind to a few years ago when I was a kid and remember playing Pac-Man for hours on end.

Guess what?

It didn't lead to eating binges, and I still went outside and played and interacted with others.

### REMEMBER COLUMBINE?

Games were blamed there as well.

It couldn't have been partly due to inattentive parenting and the fact that the popular

kids had ostracized the shooters, deeming them as outcasts?

What did they think a kid would do after being bullied for ten years and being called names every day?

Just about shoot someone.

While we are laying blame: Dancing sometimes leads to sex, so why don't we ban dancing?

*Footloose, footloose –*

Wait – if we ban music first, we won't have anything to dance to.

Food is the culprit when it comes down to obesity.

So, why don't we make heavier forks?

Why don't we build bubbles around ourselves and avoid all contact with the world and its harsh realities?

Because it is not a solution.

## **RADICAL SUGGESTION**

Be active in our kids' lives. Teaching morals and values and helping them develop a sense of right and wrong. Stress the importance of balance. Make them go outside and play. And teach them to treat others with kindness.

Understand that inevitably some kids and adults are going to screw up, even the good ones.

Accept it.

My heart goes out to Mr. Khan's family. It really is a senseless loss of life. I just feel that blaming a game is taking the easy way out.

## **ONE LAST THING**

I'm confused if video games are the new porn: What is porn?

## 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.

---