

MARKER

Sometimes we find a nice answer to some nice questions, but not always...

by Mark Taylor

'Marker' is a regular column in Coyote, written by Mark Taylor, looking at issues in training and hoping to encourage debate, questions and a fusion between straight and curly. It may also inspire thaumaturges. Little quotes dotted around were (over)heard by myself in Ghent.

Youth should be conquered by youth!



We wonder: can we get flat sticky notes?

To those who wonder if they will ever find a use for anything in Marker articles, read on...



Sometimes we have the chance to learn something which is: **clever**, **fairly simple**, and **immediately useful**

A great experiential learning trainer — Luk Peeters — told recently of the frustration of using an otherwise wonderful training tool: sticky notes (or to use the name of the most popular trade mark 'Post-Its'). Too often we are faced with a host of these notes, curling upwards and therefore mainly unreadable unless you stand right next to them.

Luk asked us if we knew what he had learnt from a colleague called Jacopo Nicelli? Surprisingly, none of us had a clue what he was talking about. It appears that we have all been taking the sticky notes the wrong way off their friends and this increases the tendency to curl upwards! We need to take them off horizontally, placing our fingers as close as possible to the sticky part.

It is not completely easy as you have to unlearn your previous practice of grasping one of the free corners and just pulling. But it is admirably possible and, yes, you too can have flat sticky notes in your sessions!

Are you a digital native or immigrant?



Who says who is a trainer?

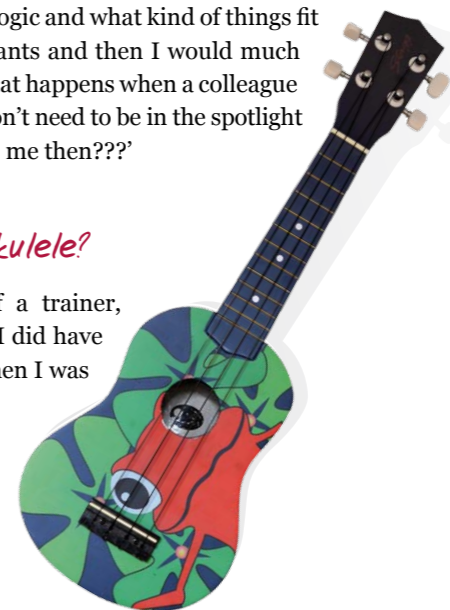
It may not have escaped your notice in this edition of Coyote that there were many spirited discussions during the convention about the developing concepts of 'youth worker' — for me, this is great, as long as we don't get stuck in a downward spiral of definitions without end. We find much the same dynamic surrounding the concept of 'trainer' and we are still working on finding agreements about it in the context of the youth work field. When people who call themselves 'trainers' meet, then there is often a discussion which includes professional exchange about others and how they are to work with, (or you could call this 'gossip'). 'So what about X? what was he like?' I asked a colleague, totally unprepared for the venom which came back in the reply: 'Oh him, personally I don't regard him as a TRAINER... He's more an Organiser of Activities'. Have you heard any better descriptions lately?

And what to do with people who can't describe themselves?

What advice to give here? 'Personally, I don't look at myself as a TRAINER... I prefer concentrating on all the preparations in a team and thinking about the educational logic and what kind of things fit for this particular group of participants and then I would much rather sit in the corner and watch what happens when a colleague delivers what we have agreed on. I don't need to be in the spotlight or run a session. So what do you call me then???'

How to live without an ukulele?

Until recently I was a shadow of a trainer, without rhyme or reason, although I did have a beautiful guitar which did help. Then I was persuaded to get this →



And I find it difficult to imagine life without it. Will ukuleles influence the new generation of key competences for trainers? Who knows? Try one!

And lastly

Thank you for writing and poking me, although I continue to worry about the consequences of facebooking. Next time we look more closely into the pataphysics of endless prevarication.

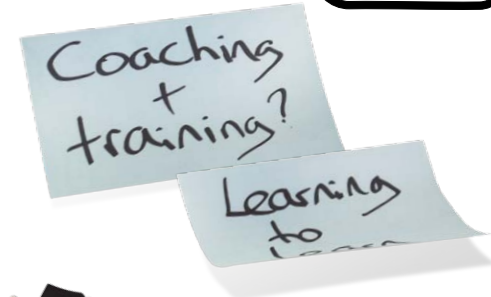
What a great job this is!

Being a platform of youth workers ourselves...

If we don't promote youth work, who will?!

Childhood is a time of anxiety; during adulthood we are not happy; there is a prospect of youth being happy!

Invest in the young!



Sounds, words, inspirations

Gordon Burn (2008)
born yesterday — the news as novel,
faber & faber

The Books (2010)
The Way Out,
Temporary Resident

John Hegley (1990)
Glad to wear Glasses,
Andre Deutsch, Ltd

'Palin returns to Alaska to feed',
headline, The Onion,
www.theonion.com

Rosamund Stone Zander,
Benjamin Sander (2000)
The Art of Possibility, Penguin