

Ah, 2011, some things you might have considered...

by Mark Taylor

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“Marker” is a regular column in Coyote, written by Mark Taylor, looking at issues in training and hoping to encourage debate, questions and a certain regard.



Babies in training, seminars, meetings...

Don't know about you, but I have noticed with great delight an increase in the numbers of babies as participants in various events over the past year. Some of them are not only participating but are also even unofficial members of organising teams. So I wonder if we are really taking them into account in our pedagogical approaches (if we put into practice our claims to be participant-centred, etc.). Are their needs assessed at all? Do we take their possible inputs into account? Apart from some jolly photos, do we record any of their contributions? Some of them seem to learn a lot during different activities, including an increased (intercultural) social competence – is this recognised by anyone? Apart from socially and informally of course... As this year is promoted as the European Year of Intergenerational Dialogue, it could be a nice challenge! And looking towards the future, it is a little-known fact that “Erasmus” rhymes with “Apfelmus” (stewed apple, a favourite baby food) so we could have a think about making Erasmus truly for all.

Jogging the memory

As my sporty frame becomes ever more refined, I find it stimulating of a morning to head out into the local neighbourhood for a run before jumping into work sessions. To call it a “run” is actually an exaggeration; it is more of a rolling jog which lasts usually up to an hour. During this time, all sorts of thoughts buzz through the head and can even lead to inspiration for an article (like this part of this one). Highlights in the jogging sphere have seen me sweating nicely this year through some great places:

- next to the Atlantic Ocean, where I noticed increasing nausea as the fumes of the nearby boiling seafood industry made themselves felt!
- through a pine forest, seemingly full of dogs looking for a human meal, but good fun all the same
- slipping and sliding along an icy track trying hard to avoid the massive 4x4s which careered past this lone jogger
- whooping round a real track used by high-level athletes who could only laugh at the sight
- a never-ending road straight to the Mediterranean sea and back again

What memories have you been jogging recently?



Forget the photos, let's go cartooning!

Do photos capture the atmosphere of an event for you? We have discussed before about the explosion of digital snap shots being shared at the end of courses – they are nice to have, but... So it was something quite special for me at the Tool Fair in Tallinn to watch a team of two young artists from Estonia, Siiri Taimla and Tanel Rannala, otherwise known as Joonmedia. They watched what was happening and distilled the essence into a series of swiftly and skilfully drawn cartoons. Each day they would add more cartoons to their display which was seen by all participants and gave rise to many discussions and explanations. A real addition to the event!

Cartoons used by kind permission of Joonmedia and the Tool Fair organisers.

For more, go to their websites:

Joonmedia: www.drawingmedia.blogspot.com

Tool Fair 6: <http://toolfair.eu/tf6/>

The spirit of Peter Lauritzen lives on

Reading through the articles to appear in this issue, I'm struck time and again how much Peter Lauritzen's influence continues to be felt long after he sadly left us in 2007. (There are two books recommended below and a great appreciation of him in *Coyote 13*). Without him, for example, there would have been no “Pathways” paper (which gave such a tremendous boost to the development of strategies for recognition). Recently I came across the work of education scientist, Sugata Mitra. You may have heard of his “The Hole in the Wall Experiment” in which children from the poorest of backgrounds teach themselves how to use computers without any outside help.

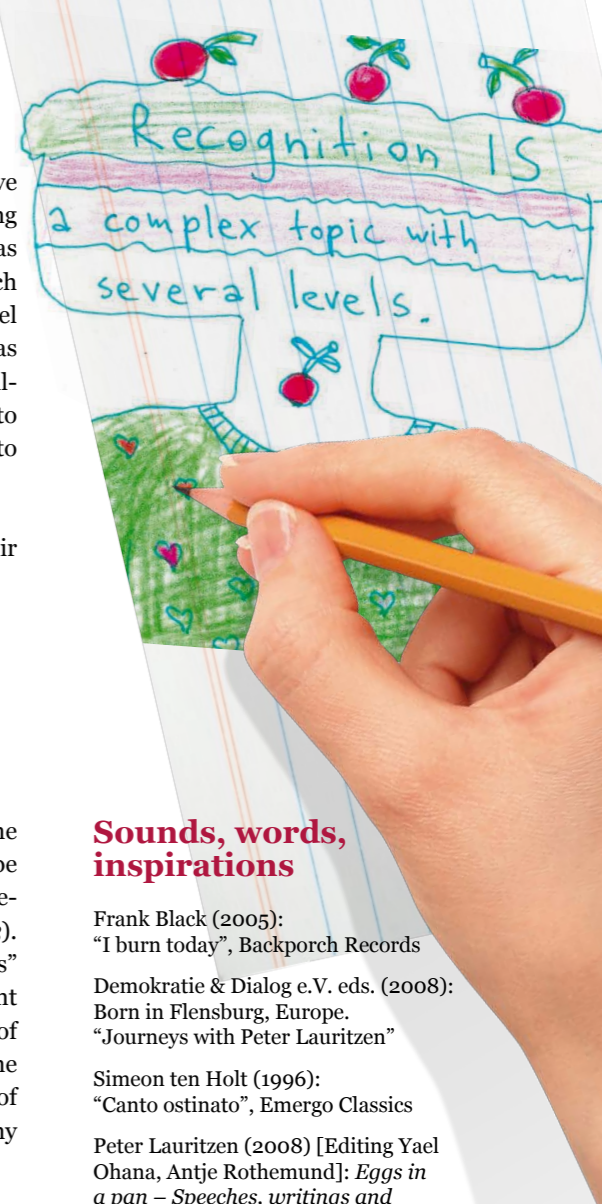
www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/sugata_mitra_the_child_driven_education.html

Have a look at his TED talks – those who knew Peter might recognise a kindred spirit as Sugata Mitra talks passionately, clearly and with wonderful humour.

And finally

Thanks to those who write or give informal feedback – we are considering awarding badges. Back to thinking about silence, we are wondering about posing the following question in our next workshop: “In which language are you silent?” After the curtain closes we go into the possible pataphysics of poppy seeds in *galette des rois*.

(Thanks to Kateryna Shalayeva for photos of her son Alexander!)



Sounds, words, inspirations

Frank Black (2005): “I burn today”, Backporch Records

Demokratie & Dialog e.V. eds. (2008): Born in Flensburg, Europe. “Journeys with Peter Lauritzen”

Simeon ten Holt (1996): “Canto ostinato”, Emergo Classics

Peter Lauritzen (2008) [Editing Yael Ohana, Antje Rothemund]: *Eggs in a pan – Speeches, writings and reflections by Peter Lauritzen*, Council of Europe Publishing

Julien Norwood (2004): *Les Oiseaux du Muséum – Voyages à travers les collections*, Delachaux et Niestlé

Antonio Tabucchi (1994): *Pereira Maintains*, Canongate Books Ltd (original in Italian *Sostiene Pereira*)

Rummelsnuff (2010): “Mandy”, Out of Line records

(Gratitude for the tips to Gav, Paul, Jean-Noël, Kristiina and Manfred)

