

Eighty-Five Percent True Stories

RANDALL E. AUXIER

Randy Auxier belongs to the twenty-seven percent of college professors who are physically indistinguishable from hobos. He skulks around the campus of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale saying things like “That’s an interesting point,” and “I’ll think about that and get back to you.” He is either: 1. not a member of Generation X, or (B) not as smart as he thinks he is, or (iii) neither of those, and (d.) married to a better woman than he deserves. His fantasy is to introduce Chuck Klosterman to each of his cats, someday.

JOHN THOMAS BRITTINGHAM

John Brittingham received an MA in Philosophy from Boston College in 2009 and is a PhD candidate at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. When he’s not taking the disparate elements of mass culture to task with Kierkegaard, Levinas, and Derrida, John works in the area of phenomenology of religion. John also appreciates a decent hipster dance party when the opportunity presents itself. Remember, 15% of the above is not really true.

KEVIN BROOKS

Brooks moved to Fargo about the time Klosterman left; he likes to think of Klosterman as his nemesis, (as opposed to his archenemy). Brooks has since spent the last fourteen years working in the English department at North Dakota State University, occasionally teaching *Fargo Rock City*, regularly teaching about Marshall McLuhan, but never, until now, bringing the two together.

BRUNO ČURKO

Bruno Čurko works at the Institute of Philosophy in Zagreb, Croatia, and the philosophy department in Osijek, Croatia. Bruno works with

the Philosophy for Children in Association “Petit philosophy” (www.petit-philosophy.com). He is an avid fan of hard, glam, and metal rock music. He has founded two bands, and he intends to return to active playing after the defense of his PhD thesis, which has been known to derail many a music career. He has published papers in philosophy of education, philosophy for children, and Renaissance philosophy, and has written a high-school textbook on ethics. In addition to his other professional services, Bruno has served as secretary of the editor of the philosophical journal, *Metodicki ogledi*, which, rumor has it, Chuck Klosterman subscribes to and reads in Croatian.

LUKE DICK

Confined to a small apartment with no less than six female creatures of varying species (two canines, two felines, one human, one oviraptor), Luke Dick resides in Manhattan, where he is a mercenary philosophy lecturer in just about every borough. Prone to taking strolls through the east village, Dick occasionally catches revelatory glimpses of the pop-culture secrets of the universe: Sebastian Bach is taller than most rock stars and haggles for better cell phone rates in public; James Iha has a distinguished cheese pallet; Jim Gaffigan enjoys McDonalds and Polish sausage. When sequestered to his apartment, Dick spends most of his time on creative endeavors, both of musical and philosophic varieties. He is co-editor of *The Rolling Stones and Philosophy: It's Just a Thought Away* (2012) and composes songs for TV and film (www.lukedick.com).

JOHN R. FITZPATRICK

John Fitzpatrick is a lecturer in philosophy at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. He received a PhD in Philosophy from the main branch of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 2001. He is the author of *John Stuart Mill's Political Philosophy: Balancing Freedom and the Collective Good* (2006), and *Starting with Mill* (2010). He is a contributor to *House and Philosophy* (2009), and shares with Gregory House a commitment to the virtue of eccentricity, and with Chuck Klosterman a belief in the utility of low culture.

CHAD FLANDERS

Chad Flanders is assistant professor of law at Saint Louis University School of Law. He has a PhD in philosophy from the University of Chicago and a law degree from Yale, so we assume the aggregate cost of his education rivals the aggregate revenue produced by Klosterman's book sales. Chad has written on law and religion, political philosophy, and criminal law. He also writes for the indie music blog inourspeakers.com. He is grateful to David Svolba for comments and suggestions on his chapter. Some of the best lines are his.

IVANA GREGURIC

Ivana Greguric is a doctoral student in philosophy at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. Currently she is working as research assistant in a project on “Cyborg Ethics.” She has published articles on various topics such as philosophy of media, bioethics, philosophy of technology, and philosophy of music. Besides her academic interests in cyborgs, posthumanism, and cybernetics, Ivana is also a songwriter, and performer in the glam rock band Rockstill, whose award winning songs are aired daily on Croatian radio. (She also plays in a tribute band to her own band, which has the exact same members as the original.) She shares with Klosterman her love of glam rock bands such as Guns N’ Roses, W.A.S.P. , Metallica, Joe Satriani, and more. She has been known to hang out with current lead guitarist Ron “Bumblefoot” Thal and the rest of Guns N’ Roses band after their shows.

BENJAMIN D. LISLE

Benjamin Lisle is a historian of popular culture, the built environment, and sport who teaches American Studies at Colby College. A Celtics man ideologically—though not because he’s a closet Republican, as Klosterman would have it—he lives with a woman who would rather watch soccer than gridiron football (because it takes half the time) and Mookie Blaylock (the cat, not the thieving point guard). He thoroughly appreciates Chuck Klosterman’s broad intellectual project—to illustrate how popular culture is meaningful and legible. But he can only take Chuck in small doses that inevitably result in shaken fists and imaginary arguments.

DANIEL R. MISTICH

Daniel (“Dan Halen”) Mistich is a doctoral student in the Department of Communications Studies at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. Dan received his BA in Communications Studies and Political Science at Marshall University. He later received his MA in Communications Studies and Rhetorical Studies at Syracuse University. In addition to purchasing new frames for his glasses based solely on recommendations from attractive women, Dan pursues research in the areas of contemporary rhetoric and criticism, political theory, and continental philosophy. Although he is far from being the type of KISS fan Chuck is, Dan is at the point in his life where he considers the band “archetypally essential” (especially Ace Frehley’s self-titled 1978 solo album).

RYAN P. McCULLOUGH

Ryan McCullough is an Instructor and Director of Forensics in the Department of Journalism and Communications Studies at West Liberty University in West Liberty, West Virginia. He received his BA

in Communications Studies and Political Science and his MA in Communications Studies at Marshall University. His research interests include forensic competition, narrative analysis, media/communication ethics, rhetorical theory and criticism and poverty and Appalachian discourse. Ryan spends entirely too much time on things related to sports: this includes playing NCAA Football by EA Sports. Like Chuck, Ryan makes his team run the option every single play. He also loves sugary cereal and Iron Maiden, even though he is too old to love those things like he once did.

SYBIL PRIEBE

Sybil Priebe is an Assistant Professor of English and Humanities at the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota—twenty-five miles from Chuck’s hometown. When she’s not teaching, she blogs, reads, listens to classic rock (via 107.9 The Fox), and randomly meets people who know Chuck. She often sees many of the fictional characters from Owl, North Dakota, at the local bar. Rumor has it she put a total beat down on Grendel and Cubby Candy at the same time.

GEORGE A. REISCH

George Reisch is the series editor for Open Court’s Popular Culture and Philosophy series. He also teaches philosophy and intellectual history at Northwestern’s School of Continuing Studies and is writing a book about the Cold War and its impact on our understanding of scientific knowledge. He would take the Brain Pill and, in fact, has taken it already.

CRAIG ROOD

Craig Rood is a graduate student and teacher in the rhetoric and composition program at North Dakota State University. In addition to fake laughs and discussions about the weather, Craig also finds writing in the third person strange—and that is partially why he is interested in Klosterman. He likes Klosterman as much as he does his über-academic colleagues. They’re all really intelligent people who are passionate about making sense of culture and life. He’s not a fan of 1980s rock, but he finds Klosterman’s analysis of pop-culture smart and funny.

MATT SIENKIEWICZ

Matt Sienkiewicz, whose PhD is from the University of Wisconsin, is a professor at Gettysburg College, as well as an Emmy-nominated screenwriter and documentary filmmaker. His research focuses on the West’s investment in Middle Eastern broadcasting initiatives and ethnic representation in American media. His work has been published in *The Journal of Film and Video*, *The Velvet Light Trap*, and

Understanding Community Media. His most recent movie, *Live From Bethlehem*, released by the Media Education Foundation in 2009, has screened worldwide at film festivals from Rhode Island to London. He anticipates his chapter in this volume will earn the same worldwide attention.

SETH VANNATTA

Seth is Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore. He's the author of several book chapters including "The Player Prophet and the Phenomenology of Reading the Ref," in *Soccer and Philosophy: Beautiful Thoughts on the Beautiful Game* (2010) and "The Most Dangerous Rock'n'Roll Band in the World" in *The Rolling Stones and Philosophy: It's Just a Thought Away* (2012). Seth shares with Val Kilmer an unparalleled degree of self-knowledge. By editing this book, he knows what it is like to be Chuck Klosterman better than Chuck himself does.

MELISSA VOSEN

Melissa Vosen is currently working hard to resurrect VH1's short-lived game show *The World Series of Pop Culture*; she hopes to one day go head to head with Klosterman on things that matter most: Guns N' Roses tribute bands, Tom Cruise movies, and serial killer celebrities. When not watching television and listening to music, she teaches first-year composition and visual communication courses at North Dakota State University in Fargo Rock City (the same city in which Klosterman went on his all chicken nugget diet for a week). Rumor has it she once snapped a buck's neck with her bare hands after her brother rifled it from the cab of the family combine.

