

In the Florida Supreme Court

Ashu Solo,
Appellant

Florida Supreme Court Case No.: SC18-163

vs.

First DCA Case No.: 1D17-2303

Bhanu Prasad,
Appellee

Leon County Circuit Civil Court Case No.: 2013 CA 582

APPELLANT'S MOTION

The Appellant (Ashu Solo) hereby moves this Honorable Court to not publish for public viewing on the world wide web the court documents submitted for this case by the Appellant and Appellee (Bhanu Prasad) and not publish for public viewing on the world wide web the court orders, judgments, and decisions for this case. In support of this motion, the Appellant states:

1. Bhanu Prasad will likely lose his job as an associate professor at Florida A&M University if his employer finds out that he was found liable for such an extensive defamation campaign against other researchers and an organization offering research conferences. Furthermore, it will be nearly impossible for Bhanu Prasad to find another decent paying job in his field if employers find out that he was found liable for such an extensive defamation campaign against other researchers and an organization offering research conferences. Bhanu Prasad owes over \$2.9 million in damages and legal costs to Plaintiffs for this case and might owe more after the Appeal. The Plaintiffs need Bhanu Prasad to be able to retain his employment and be able to get other employment so he can pay the damages and legal costs that he owes to them. If employers see the court documents involving Bhanu Prasad on the world wide web and see what he did or dig deeper to find out what he did, it's highly unlikely that they will hire or continue to employ Bhanu Prasad.
2. If Bhanu Prasad's children see the court documents involving Bhanu Prasad on the world wide web and see what he did or dig deeper to find out what he did, they would likely lose respect for him. The Appellant doesn't want Bhanu Prasad's children to lose respect for him or to be in any way negatively influenced by what Bhanu Prasad did.

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3. Once the defamation by Bhanu Prasad is removed from the world wide web, the Appellant doesn't want other people seeing Bhanu Prasad's defamation. If people see the court documents on the world wide web, they will see the defamation or can dig deeper to see the defamation and may repeat the defamation and that will continue to harm the Appellant's reputation, especially if he runs for public office. The Appellant has already suffered enough damages due to Bhanu Prasad.
4. The Petition for Writ of Mandamus submitted by the Appellant mentions confidential information about depression and gastrointestinal problems caused by defamation against the Appellant and will make it harder for the Appellant to get employment if people see this confidential information. The Appellant has already suffered enough damages due to Bhanu Prasad.
5. The Petition for Writ of Mandamus submitted by the Appellant mentions confidential information about indigence caused by defamation against the Appellant and will make it harder for the Appellant to get business loans or employment if people see this confidential information. The Appellant has already suffered enough damages due to Bhanu Prasad.
6. The Petition for Writ of Mandamus submitted by the Appellant mentions confidential information about his family, particularly two minor children. It lets people know the children were living with the Appellant and endangers the safety of these children because the Appellant has a lot of enemies due to reporting people to the police for crimes, due to controversial civil rights cases that he filed in Canada, and due to controversial progressive political commentaries that he wrote. The Appellant has received numerous implied threats of violence and threats of violence against him. Some samples of these implied threats of violence and threats of violence against him are in the accompanying Affidavit. Also, the Appellant has received countless hate messages.
7. The Appellant certifies that this motion is brought in good faith and not for any improper purpose.

Wherefore, the Appellant respectfully requests this Honorable Court grant this motion and not publish for public viewing on the world wide web any documents, orders, judgments, or decisions filed for this case by the Appellant, Appellee, and court.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

A Solo

Ashu Solo
P.O. Box 25038
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 8B7
Canada

In the Florida Supreme Court

Ashu Solo,
Appellant

Florida Supreme Court Case No.: SC18-163

vs.

First DCA Case No.: 1D17-2303

Bhanu Prasad,
Appellee

Leon County Circuit Civil Court Case No.: 2013 CA 582

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPELLANT'S MOTION

I, ASHU SOLO, of the City of Saskatoon in the Province of Saskatchewan in the Country of Canada, solemnly affirm:

1. Further to paragraph 6 of my Motion, Exhibit A, Exhibit B, and Exhibit C show implied threats that I received from members of the public in response to controversial civil rights cases I filed. The names and email addresses of the people making these implied threats have been crossed out so that the Appellee (Bhanu Prasad) isn't able to email people severely hostile to me with his defamatory statements against me or impersonate me with these people. Bhanu Prasad been found liable for defaming and impersonating me in the past.
2. Further to paragraph 6 of my Motion, Exhibit D shows a threat made by an individual in response to a controversial letter to the editor that I wrote. On or about October 17, 2013 at 2:52 pm, an unknown individual named Jaclynn wrote, "I feel that Mr Solo is nothing but an attention hog/shit disturber. It is not up to him or anyone else, how I choose to spend MY tuition. If I want to get a degree in Drama, I will. I truly feel sorry for those who do nothing but try to pick on people just to get a rise out of them or to make them feel bad. With that said, if I ever meet Mr Solo I WILL wish him a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with a black eye to match."
3. Further to paragraph 6 of my Motion, Exhibit E shows a graphic design with text telling me to kill myself. This graphic design was created by an unknown individual and posted on the world wide web. Counselling suicide is a crime under section 241 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

4. Further to paragraph 6 of my Motion, I have received numerous other threats of violence and implied threats of violence from different individuals due to reporting people to the police for crimes, due to controversial civil rights cases that I filed in Canada, and due to controversial progressive political commentaries that I wrote.
5. Further to paragraph 6 of my Motion, I have received countless hate messages from different individuals due to controversial civil rights cases that I filed in Canada and due to controversial progressive political commentaries that I wrote. I'm not including the hate messages because there are too many and the threats of violence and implied threats of violence are much worse.
6. Further to paragraph 6 of my Motion, an individual I'm suing outside Florida for, inter alia, republishing Bhanu Prasad's defamation has made what I interpret to be numerous implied threats of violence and an oral threat to kill me. I'm not including his name here so that he can't claim that I'm lying and make a counter-claim against me. This individual finds quotations with a threatening tone from literature and includes them in his emails in what I believe is an attempt at intimidation. He has emailed the following quotations in what appears to be an attempt at intimidation:

I did not die, and yet I lost life's breath
—Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*

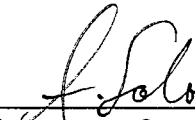
Anton Inbedkov: "Shall we say pistols at dawn?"
Boris Grushenko: "Well, we can say it. I don't know what it means, but we can say it."

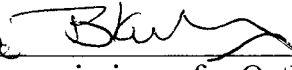
I prithee, take thy fingers from my throat
For though I am not splenitive and rash,
Yet I have something in me dangerous,
Which let thy wisdom fear.
Hold off thy hand.
Act 5, Scene 1, *Hamlet*

7. Further to paragraph 6 of my Motion, today I saw an email from a fake name that says, "I like it. Sounds like a cranky bird. Better not get too close to it or you'll lose some fingers." I'm not sure what this person is

talking about, but the last sentence sounds threatening. I don't know for sure who sent this email, but I think it could have been sent by the same individual I'm suing outside Florida for, inter alia, republishing Bhanu Prasad's defamation because he has sent numerous bizarre nonsensical emails without a fake name in the past.

Affirmed before me in the
City of Saskatoon
in the Province of Saskatchewan
in the Country of Canada
this 27 day of March, 2018.



Signature of Ashu Solo

Notary public 
A Commissioner for Oaths in and
for the Province of Saskatchewan.
My ~~commission~~ expires March 31, 2021
appointment



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy hereof has been furnished to Gary Lee Printy by electronic filing system and fax this 9th day of March, 2018. Gary Lee Printy is the lawyer for Bhanu Prasad. Gary Lee Printy's address is The Law Offices of Printy & Printy, P.A., 1804 Miccosukee Commons Drive, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida 32308. Gary Lee Printy's email addresses are attygaryprinty@gmail.com, gary@talstar.com, and gary@printylawfirm.com. Bhanu Prasad's home address is 6533 Saylers Creek Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32309. Bhanu Prasad's work address is Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Department of Computer and Information Sciences, 1333 Wahnish Way, 308-A Banneker Technical Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32307. Bhanu Prasad's email addresses are prasad@cis.famu.edu, bhanupvsr@gmail.com, and bhanupvsr1@gmail.com.



Signature

Name: Ashu Solo

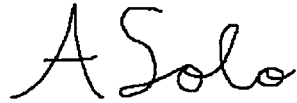
Address: P.O. Box 25038, Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 8B7
Canada

Phone: (306) 242-0566

Email: amgsolo@mavericktechnologies.us

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that the size and style of type used in this motion is Times New Roman 14 point font and complies with the font requirements of Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.210(a)(2).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashu Solo". The letters are cursive and fluidly connected.

Signature

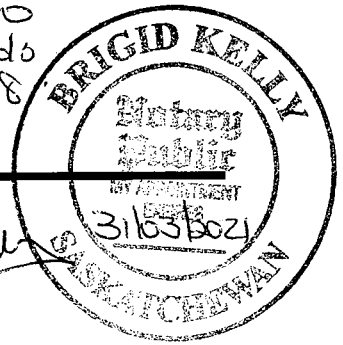
Name: Ashu Solo

Address: P.O. Box 25038, Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 8B7
Canada

Phone: (306) 242-0566

Email: amgsolo@mavericktechnologies.us

This Exhibit "A" referred to
in the affidavit of Ashu Solo
Sworn before me on 8/30/18
Saskatoon, SK



Ashu M. G. Solo

From: Jeff Decker <tyler_69_55@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 4:18 PM
To: amgsolo@mavericktechnologies.us
Subject: See you around, buddy

Asho,

I hope I see you around Saskatoon. It will be fun, for me anyways.

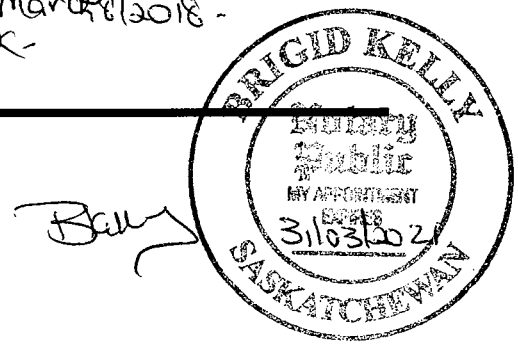
Bye Bye big boy..

muahahahhahahahahha.... Maverick Technologies

This Exhibit "B" referred to
in the affidavit of Ashu Solo
sworn before me March 2018 -
Saskatoon SK-

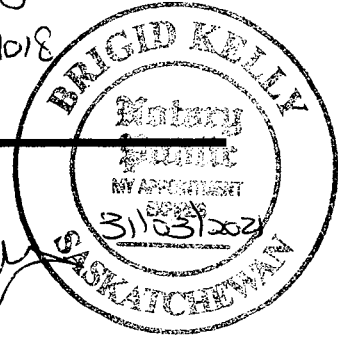
Ashu M. G. Solo

From: steve macsuga <macsugastv@nexicom.net>
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 6:43 PM
To: amgsolo@mavericktechnologies.us
Subject: you



what a fucking dirt bag! If I had a truck and if you stepped in front of it.....

This Exhibit "B" referred to
in the affidavit of Ashu Solo
Sworn before me March 8/2018
Saxatash, S.K.



Ashu M. G. Solo

From: Anonymous Remailer (austria) <mixmaster@remailer.privacy.at>
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 1:11 PM
To: amgsolo@mavericktechnologies.US
Subject: no subject

you better shut your fucking muslim face cocksucker

Saskatoon's Theatre Blog

A place for the theatre community of Saskatoon to discuss what matters to us

This exhibit "D" referred to in the affidavit of Ashu Solo sworn before me March 8/2013 Saskatoon SK.



Should the U of S Drama Department be cut?

Posted on October 11, 2013

Today I read a letter to the editor that was printed in this week's edition of The Sheaf. The letter, written by Ashu M. G. Solo, expresses the opinion that the U of S should cut the Drama Department to keep other programs afloat. Among other things, Ashu says that the program is worthless, and that theatre programs belong in community colleges, not universities. You can read the article here (at the bottom of page 14): https://issuu.com/thesheaf/docs/2013-10-03__october_3__2013_16pg/15?e=0

Let's have a discussion in the comments below. I would love to hear your reactions to this letter.

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About Saskatoon Theatre Blog

We are all about giving everyone in the theatre community a voice, whether they be an actor, director, producer, designer, audience member, or any kind of theatre participant. We publish articles written by members of all theatre communities on Saskatoon-specific topics. We welcome and encourage constructive criticism. We want as much honesty as can be given, and we give everyone the option of writing to or for us anonymously. Weekly we will pose a question to the community at large and ask for your input. We publish articles as topics arise or as they are submitted. We will be publishing reviews after the community has discussed and decided clear guidelines to the writing of these reviews.

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95 Responses to *Should the U of S Drama Department be cut?*



Kathy Allen says:

October 11, 2013 at 1:32 pm

I think it's fair to say that the U of S drama department has had a profound and positive effect on the theatre community in Saskatoon. The city is a better place because of the thriving scene here and the amount of people working in the community who are alumni of the U of S drama department is exceedingly high. Too bad the author of the letter is not better informed about what's involved in becoming a professional actor and in the work and influence of the U of S drama department .



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:05 am

I think it's fairer to say that the engineering, math, science, and medical departments have had an infinitely greater positive effect on society and Saskatoon. Solo is calling for drama to be moved to community colleges with other applied nonacademic training.



Blair Woynarski says:

October 17, 2013 at 5:02 pm

No, that's not fair at all. An Engineering, Math, Science, or Medicine education may vary slightly from college to college, but not nearly as much as a fine arts education will. If the drama department at the U of S disappears, we will never see another like it.

And the drama department feeds directly into our community, enriching Saskatoon culture as a whole (I'm sorry you've never bothered to participate in it). It's different from handing out degrees to people who will then GTFO as quickly as they can. Sciences and medicine are important, but they're not something you can base a community around.



Danielle Byl says:

October 11, 2013 at 1:49 pm

Wow. Wow is all I can say. This Mr. Solo is clearly uniformed. He has attacked our department, our passions and our livelihoods. He clearly is also unaware which department has been partially funding the Medical departments at the U of S. This was an unprovoked blatant attack... maybe he didn't make it into a musical and the wound has festered since childhood which is when his maturity, unfortunately, has peaked.

Frankly I am getting sick and tired of the fact that the department and industry has to keep defending it's self. It is a legitimate profession. FACT. So take your pompous close-minded careerist attitude to your research lab and use your energy for something more constructive your own studies. End Of.



Anna lee says:

October 16, 2013 at 7:15 am

I would be more concerned with the President of the UofS rather than one persons expressed opinion of the Drama Dept. How are actors going to keep those beautiful smiles if they have no teeth. Save Medical and Science depts over Drama IF there had to be a choice!

**Nigel Batherhorne says:**

October 16, 2013 at 6:23 pm

Good point.

**Nigel Batherhorne says:**

October 17, 2013 at 12:09 am

You have no arguments so you engage in ad hominem attacks against someone expressing his opinion in a constructive way.

Maybe the department has to keep defending itself because it's a joke. I heard a lot of actors with degrees end up in porn. Is that a legitimate profession?

**Jimmy Stuart says:**

October 17, 2013 at 9:13 am

"Ad hominem attacks are bad! You have no argument!" "You're a joke! You're all going to end up in porn, somebody once told me!" Pot, kettle, black.

**Blair Woynarski says:**

October 17, 2013 at 4:55 pm

A) Yes, porn is a legitimate profession. Kind of like how professional cake decorating is a legitimate profession. Both have about the same amount to do with acting.

B) Yes, some porn stars have degrees. Degrees in various subjects. I have yet to hear about one with a theatre degree, though.

C) What is your point, again?

**Lia Pas says:**

October 11, 2013 at 2:03 pm

What a horrible attack not just on the Drama department but on the arts as a whole. Perhaps Mr. Solo would benefit from reading this article:

<http://changeagent.wordpress.com/2013/09/13/9-ways-a-theatre-degree-trumps-a-business-degree/>

Mr. Solo's statement that "many of the best actors never took any actor training" is subjective at best. Many of the best actors spend years honing their craft whether at a university or at an arts college (which is VERY different from a community college). I wonder which actors he is speaking of, and what his definition of a good actor might be.

I went elsewhere for my music and theatre training because I didn't feel the UofS taught in the aesthetic that I like to work in, but that doesn't mean that the department is worthless, only that they tend to focus on the more traditional aspects of the craft. Kathy is right in pointing out that a lot of UofS Drama graduates stay in Saskatoon and work in the theatre community. If there was no need for a drama department that would be shown in the larger community as a whole. Persephone Theatre would close down, Live Five wouldn't exist, and there would be no Fringe Festival.

Also, is there any way to get all these responses back to Mr. Solo? Perhaps a response in the Sheaf?

**Crossing Bridges says:**

October 11, 2013 at 2:08 pm

Thank you all for your feedback, it is greatly appreciated and very interesting to read! Lia, Jillian Borrowman has been asked to write a reply in the Sheaf. I have sent her a link to the blog, so she at least has the opportunity to read what we say and take that into consideration for her own writing. It would really help if you all spread the word about this discussion through Facebook and Twitter, or any other place you wish. Ta!

Lauren



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 16, 2013 at 6:23 pm

The notion that a theatre degree is more useful than a business degree is ridiculous.



Lia Pas says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:45 pm

Did you actually read the article, Nigel? I'm be curious what you think about it beyond its title.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:29 am

I don't agree with the article. I think the skills mentioned in the article are common sense and no degree is needed to learn them.



Mark von Eschen says:

October 11, 2013 at 2:51 pm

It is very short sighted to say the drama department is worthless. Many graduates from other colleges have benefited from training in the drama department. Students in the College of Education, Engineering and Commerce (and in other departments) who lacked effective presentation skills received excellent instruction in the drama department that allowed them to excel in their chosen fields and make contributions to the community in those professions

Graduates from the drama department have done much work to better the quality of our lives in this community. Several years back Saskatoon was named as Canada's Cultural Capital – giving Saskatoon recognition nationally and internationally. Research has shown that a vibrant arts and cultural community is imperative to attract the brightest minds in science and engineering. The Canadian Light Source attracts people to Saskatoon because of the quality of the facility – but Saskatoon attracts people to the Light Source because of the quality and vibrancy of our cultural landscape. Does the Canadian Light Source think arts are important? Probably, as they have included several artist in residence programs since opening its doors.

Professional theatres in Saskatoon are part of a very lucrative tourism market. Many patrons come from outside of the city to take in a show and contribute much to the local retail and restaurant trade. Theatre patrons and theatre professionals make a significant contribution to the local economy – maybe not as much as the mining industry – but the mining industry does invest in the arts community through many many sponsorships. Their executives believe theatre is important because it adds to the quality of life for their employees and clients

Ashu M. G. Solo should have done more research before writing the letter to the editor. There is much value in our drama department.

Mark von Eschen
Artistic and Executive Director
Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan
(and drama department graduate)

**Nigel Batherhorne says:**

October 16, 2013 at 6:24 pm

Solo called the department almost worthless, not worthless.

**Nigel Batherhorne says:**

October 16, 2013 at 6:25 pm

There are currently no presentation courses in the drama department, but even an engineering or science department can teach how to make effective presentations. Get a real degree.

**Stephen Heatley says:**

October 11, 2013 at 3:12 pm

Mr Solo's comments are truly ill informed. Actually, they aren't thoughtful enough to warrant a measured response. I would like to imagine that in a university environment that his "Letter to the Editor" would have been better researched so he could argue his thoughts intelligently and a real discussion could take place between thoughtful people. He clearly knows nothing about the level of discipline, rigour, tenacity and hours of commitment that are required to create a work of theatre art. He obviously has no idea about a theatre artist's need to exercise acute critical thinking to find their way into a text and then breathe life into it. He has no idea about emotional intelligence and its part in creating a well-rounded human being. And he doesn't have any idea about how creativity is demanded in ALL the disciplines studied across the university – every student would do well to take a class in theatre. They would bring so much more dynamic and responsiveness to their work. As for research, he hasn't done his.

And Danielle Byl, any of us who work in the arts are going to have to set the record straight for the rest of our lives because, sadly, there are too many folks like Mr Solo who have no idea what we do but are quite anxious to dismiss it without ever finding out.

Cheers,
Stephen Heatley
Professor, Department of Theatre and Film
University of British Columbia

**Nigel Batherhorne says:**

October 16, 2013 at 6:18 pm

Professors should have Ph.D. degrees. Do you have a Ph.D., Stephen Heatley?

**Nigel Batherhorne says:**

October 16, 2013 at 6:27 pm

Professors should be publishing research. What kind of research have you published, Stephen Heatley?

**Kent Allen says:**

October 11, 2013 at 3:54 pm

Ah, Mr. Solo, you have done yourself a great disservice with your misguided comments on theatre and the role it plays in society, no matter it's particular level or venue. Your petulant maundering has robbed you of credence, and given substance to the old wisdom that "intelligence is invisible to those who don,t have it".

**Nigel Batherhorne says:**

October 16, 2013 at 6:28 pm

Maybe it's the drama graduates who did themselves a great disservice by getting a degree that a well-trained monkey can do.



Bob Turner says:

October 11, 2013 at 5:10 pm

Without the Arts life is not worth living. I want to live in a world full of well rounded, whole people, not in a hive of worker bees.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 16, 2013 at 6:28 pm

He didn't say there should be no arts. He said practical nonacademic training like acting belongs in community colleges, not universities.



Anna Lee says:

October 16, 2013 at 7:19 pm

Actually I agree with that Nigel! What if it were privately funded (Dramatic arts) by other 'famous' actors. An industry that would support it's self. Hmm you might be onto something like that.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 16, 2013 at 7:36 pm

Good idea, Anna Lee. Hollyweird makes enough money that they can fund the training for new actors.



Jillian Millar Drysdale says:

October 11, 2013 at 5:43 pm

As a graduate of the drama program who has since gone on to a career in another field, I'd like to assure Mr. Solo that the skills learned in this department benefit many other professions. On stage, students learn to think on their feet and express ideas with flair. Behind the scenes, they learn to organize, manage and stage events. Teachers, lawyers, broadcast news reporters, marketers, professional communicators, event planners – in these professions and many more, these skills are used every day.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:03 am

There are no skills in drama that you can use in other fields and that can't be picked up in a crash course. Degrees shouldn't be for applied nonacademic training.



Lia Pas says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:47 pm

How is a Drama degree nonacademic? History, composition, and practice-led research are all part of a Drama degree and most definitely academic.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:05 am

There should be no nonacademic courses like acting in a university program. You may have a few somewhat academic courses, but there are too many nonacademic courses in drama. There are no nonacademic courses in engineering, science, humanities, social sciences, math, etc.



David Peters says:

October 12, 2013 at 9:30 am

As someone who enjoys drama but does not work in that said field I can see where his lack on knowledge comes from. from the outside (I mean no knowledge of the arts what so ever) and from a business (conservative point of view) theatre appears to have no benefits to society.

Looking at theatre, one would see an industry that needs business and government support to survive. In a "ideal free market" that would mean that that "business" (theatre) would not make enough money to support itself and therefore bring about it's own demise.

I am not taking into account that people's moral to work would be down without the entertainment theatre gives or that business's would lose money over loss of productivity. I am just saying that on the surface theatre's look like a bad investment.

PS theatre's also train actors who go on to be big Hollywood actors who most likely have given this gentleman some form of entertainment throughout his life.



Anna lee says:

October 16, 2013 at 6:56 am

Why on earth do we as a species need more people contributing to Hollywood? Sciences and Technology moves us forward, yet people want more Jersey Shore?



Ceilidh M. says:

October 16, 2013 at 12:58 pm

Why you think theatre and drama has anything to do with "Hollywood" and "Jersey Shore" is beyond me.. And clearly the concept of thought-provoking, intelligent and emotional TV shows, movies, plays, musicals, etc. is beyond you..



Lia Pas says:

October 16, 2013 at 2:50 pm

Hollywood and Theatre are two very different genres of performance. Jersey Shore is actually a very good example of why people need drama training.

Art also moves us forward but in a cultural way as opposed to an objective and technological way. Think of all the great cultures of history – all the arts were intrinsic parts of those cultures. It's not an either or proposition. All aspects of our culture deserve respect.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 16, 2013 at 6:17 pm

I agree with Anna Lee.



Anna lee says:

October 16, 2013 at 7:23 pm

Ceilidh, I was merely replying to a statement that was all ready made about 'Hollywood'. Funny how quickly people turn to insults when another simply expresses an opinion. The topic is up for debate. What would be the point if we all just agreed? It's ok though, I am comfortable with your lack of emotional intelligence.



Nigel Batherhone says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:01 am

I'm not comfortable with the lack of emotional intelligence.



Jen Sheasby says:

October 12, 2013 at 11:17 am

Aww he's like a pouty little grinch having a temper tantrum. But it's not only Christmas he wants to steal, it's fun in all forms! I have my BFA in Acting and I use it daily in my job. AND I also have a theatre company with my high school drama teacher and get to perform in the Fringe when our scripts call for someone older. We also employ (and have employed) many younger actors who have gone on to make this community a vibrant exciting place to live. I have the best of both worlds, a stable well paying job and the opportunity to use my creative muscle. I feel sorry for you Mr Solo, you seem to forget that the world does not revolve around you, it must be hard to not get your way all the time (hence your many public temper tantrums).



Nigel Batherhone says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:00 am

You obviously don't understand how democracy works. In a democracy, people have the right to state their opinions and fight for what they believe in. In the end, judges, politicians, administrators, etc. decide who wins.



Anna lee says:

October 16, 2013 at 6:54 am

I think Mr Solo has a point. If we HAD to pick Departments to cut why would we save a Department like drama over say a Medical Dept? I wonder if the College of Dentistry would agree with the Drama? After reading the comments here, I think a Department of Critical Thinking should be created.



Kenneth T. Williams says:

October 16, 2013 at 1:59 pm

It's a false premise. Cutting the Drama Department will not save the Med school. Cutting all other departments in the university aside from it won't save it. The Med school is its own greatest enemy as the recent history-making decision to put it on probation for a second time just proved. All the money in the world won't save the Med school if the many structural and leadership problems within it aren't first fixed.

Secondly, Mr. Solo does not have a point. He made up a bunch of stuff that suited his opinion. He didn't state one factual point to support anything he said.



Nigel Batherhone says:

October 16, 2013 at 6:20 pm

That's bullshit that the drama department generates money. EVERY university department loses money. EVERY department takes much more in government funding than it generates. You don't know what the hell you're talking about. Quit spreading lies.

What did Solo make up? All he did was said that practical nonacademic training like acting belongs in community colleges, not universities.



David Peters says:

October 17, 2013 at 10:23 am

Med school now makes it so you have to do an interview before you are allowed to enter. This was put in place recently because so many graduates could not confidently talk to their patients and/or could barely speak english/french. To Med school the drama department is the place they can go to gain the skills they need to pass the interview and become a doctor/nurse. What is the point of having the world full of doctors and nurses who cannot talk to their patients. I work for the Saskatoon Health Region and believe me, communication is a skill that not all employee's have.



Mark Turner says:

October 16, 2013 at 1:02 pm

While modern society can quickly justice the merits of studies in medicine, dentistry, and the more 'useful' educational paths, I think it too quickly tosses aside the need for art.

Ever go to the movies? We all do. We all watch tv. If we start cutting colleges of fine arts, we won't have TV. We need properly educated artists to help shape and grow the cultural landscape and continue to fulfil the artistic needs of society – as such, the arts asks bold questions, and address issues of immediacy and relevant topics we struggle to communicate eloquently otherwise.

Does every doctor go on to impact an entire society? No. Does every engineer work on a project used by millions? No.

Without artists you wouldn't have critical thinking. The University is not proposing that cutting drama would save another college; in fact, cutting drama would have no positive budgetary effect on operations. It's a cost recovery college – it's not a drain on finances, so cutting it would actually drain revenues from the university...now, is that a good idea?



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 9:01 am

Mark, judging by your Twitter comments, you obviously don't understand how democracy works. In a democracy, people have the right to state their opinions and fight for what they believe in. In the end, judges, politicians, administrators, etc. decide who wins.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 16, 2013 at 6:16 pm

That's bullshit that the drama department generates money. EVERY university department loses money. EVERY department takes much more in government funding than it generates. You don't know what the hell you're talking about. Quit spreading lies.

And actors are not artists. They're line readers. They're morons. A well trained monkey can do what they do. Ever see Bedtime for Bonzo?



Mark Turner says:

October 17, 2013 at 8:53 am

Nigel, I never said that Drama generates money. What I said was that its a cost recovery. Yes, it requires government funding, but minimal funding when compared to other departments and colleges.

And I do in fact know what I'm talking about – I may not be an actor, nor did I attend the U of S but I am incredible well informed on the subject.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 8:59 am

You claimed “cutting drama would have no positive budgetary effect on operations” and “cutting it would actually drain revenues from the university.” That’s not true. If it loses more money than it takes in as it does, cutting it would save money.



Byron Hnatuk says:

October 17, 2013 at 10:12 am

You may be correct...but doubt it, that actors are just “line readers” but they use their creativity to take those lines add a character trait or two that is not in the “lines” and brings the story and written character to life. Creating something, anything by using your creative mind is....wait for it....wait for it...ART which makes the person an ARTIST. Clearly you are totally uninformed when it comes to theatre as there are many upon many people that make theatre happen, not just the actor. There are designers, technicians, management, directors etc etc that all contribute their creative juices and have an input to the creation of theatre. How the hell do you think music is created, or film? There are many collaborators that work together to produce the end product.

You seriously need to get out from under your rock, and experience culture and life from an open mind, not a closed stubborn and rude one. Now quick, get me a banana, because I got a theatre design degree from the U of S and this “monkey” needs breakfast!



Blair Woynarski says:

October 17, 2013 at 5:07 pm

I can see that you are extremely agitated, obsessive, and borderline psychotic. You should probably consult one of those medical professionals you're always raving about and receive some medication.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:02 am

This sounds like raving.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 16, 2013 at 6:16 pm

Get a real degree. Try taking a real course and see what it's like. Try taking an engineering, math, or science course and see what it's like. Drama is a joke and unworthy of being in a university.



Crossing Bridges says:

October 17, 2013 at 2:08 am

Hi Nigel,

I thought it might better inform your argument if you knew that most University theatre programs require “electives” - most people in a theatre program do indeed have to take a math, science, history, or English course.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 5:11 am

Crossing Bridges,

That may be the case, but I'm sure most drama students take the electives in history or English or other arts courses. Why don't they try to be more well-rounded by taking engineering, math, or science courses? These are infinitely more difficult than drama courses. Engineers, mathematicians, and scientists have to take a bunch of arts courses. Why don't artsies have to take a bunch of engineering, math, or science courses?



Lia Pas says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:50 pm

Nigel, artists DO have to take science courses, and in the Drama department anatomy (which is a science) is integrated into their movement and vocal studies.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:02 am

Who cares about movement and vocal studies?



Miranda Hughes says:

October 16, 2013 at 9:02 pm

I think Nigel, that you have a basic misunderstanding of what Universities are for. Universities were not created to get people jobs. Universities were created to educate people in all fields. To be a haven of knowledge, where all disciplines are in one spot. This way, all who come to a university can have access to as much knowledge possible.

Do you want a real degree? Then take a variety of courses. Make yourself familiar with all the great thinkers throughout history who made Universities possible. Try taking a philosophy class. THAT was the origin of Universities. The Humanities. Sciences came in later, in addition to a study of the human condition.

Sciences are important, but they are not the supreme hot spot of worth. You are not a better person than I am for having taken a math class, or having received a different degree than me.

Do you know what happens in a Drama class? Probably not because you appear to not have taken any. Currently in my Drama classes (I'm in my 3rd year of my degree.) I'm being asked to face my deepest darkest self. I am being asked to be vulnerable to other people. To re-train my body to be able to move in ways that I have never moved before. I am having to learn and understand human anatomy. I am being asked to spend many hours working on a multitude of projects. I am learning about the human condition.

We're taking it back to Sophocles- "Know Thy Self!" Was inscribed on the temple of Apollo (a haven of knowledge and learning, sounds familiar, eh?) when Oedipus went a calling to the oracle of Delphi to have her prophecy to him. This is important because later in the iconic greek play, everything ends in tragedy because Oedipus did not know himself. At the heart of all acting training, and all higher education is a deeper understanding of self and of others.

Actors are not always artists. Sometimes they are simply line-reading morons. Not all people are good at their job, that doesn't mean they should represent the whole.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 16, 2013 at 11:35 pm

Miranda, you have the misunderstanding of what universities are for. They aren't for applied nonacademic training like acting, dancing, and singing. They're for academic education.

You say, "I'm being asked to face my deepest darkest self. I am being asked to be vulnerable to other people. To re-train my body to be able to move in ways that I have never moved before." This sounds like complete bullshit to me. Take a real course and see what it's like.

You say I should take philosophy. Why don't you take an engineering course and see what that's like? Why should engineers and scientists take arts courses when artsies don't take engineering or science courses?



Andrew McNab says:

October 17, 2013 at 4:15 am

Nigel, I fail to understand why you insist on being condescending, disrespectful and are content to belittle those that wish to further their education in their chosen field, whether it is a "real course" or not. To resort to calling actors "trained monkeys" or "morons" and to call their profession "a joke" to defend your opinion invalidates it because you have to resort to petty name calling. Instead justify your position beyond the phrases "Drama is a joke and unworthy of being in a university" and "nonacademic training like acting belongs in community colleges, not universities" why exactly is this fact? Enlighten, rather than attack. While I respect your right to your opinion, just because you have the right to express it, doesn't mean you should to it in such a rude manor.

To the moderator: I apologize for this intrusion, but I feel that respectful and intelligent discourse is a required element in any form of the higher learning that a University is expected to provide, whether that in be the artistic, scientific or any another scholarly discipline. Nigel Batherhone and also those that have launched direct attacks at the character of Mr. Solo have not observed this. Name calling and disrespect demean the artistic and scientific fields. Let's have some civility please.



Lia Pas says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:54 pm

Again, art students do need to take a science course, though it is usually up to them which one, just as it is up to the science majors which Humanities course they take. Basic engineering concepts are used in light and set design (which all Drama students study).

Facing one's "deepest darkest self" is a basic tenet of Philosophical study. Are you saying no one should study Philosophy?

Re-training bodies to move in ways they haven't moved before is a basic tenet of physiotherapy and sports training. Are you saying no one should study and practice the Physical Sciences?

Drama is an integrative mode of study. It IS a real course.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:24 am

I don't think they really use engineering concepts.



Miranda Hughes says:

October 16, 2013 at 9:34 pm

Also, that degree in Critical Thinking you were proposing earlier? That's a Humanities degree. Philosophy 140 – Critical Thinking



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 16, 2013 at 11:37 pm

Solo never called for the abolition of a philosophy degree.



Miranda Hughes says:

October 17, 2013 at 7:43 am

The final thing that I will say is that everyone who gets a drama degree must take at least 6 credits of natural science, humanities, social science, language, and a fine art other than their own. They must take theatre history classes and other academic drama related classes as well as the wishy washy applied ones. I waxed poetic a little bit there when describing them, but I'm sure that nothing I type here will properly express to you their worth. So I have taken "real" courses before, and continue too, especially because I think they give me a fuller life and influence my understanding of my major. Thus, I tried earlier to show the connection between the arts and humanities.

I respect everyone who gets an engineering degree. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, and it should. The job is very high stakes.

Engineers, doctors, and so many other people create the world we live in, and artists make it worth living in.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 8:00 am

6 credits is only 2 courses. I'm sure most drama students take other arts courses instead of taking a natural science course. Taking 2 courses in arts outside drama doesn't make someone well rounded. Why should engineers and scientists take arts courses when artsies don't take engineering or science courses?

Theatre history is a waste of time unlike national and international history.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 8:01 am

If engineers and scientists have to take a bunch of arts courses, why shouldn't artsies have to take a bunch of engineering, math, or science courses?



Laura Andreas says:

October 17, 2013 at 9:56 am

It's 6 credits each of natural science, humanities, social science, language, and another fine art. I'm currently in my final year of a drama degree at the U of S. I have taken plenty of "real" courses (including 3 mathematics courses) because I was interested in the subjects and not because they were required. I also know other people who are getting or have gotten drama degrees who have taken courses in engineering, physics, mathematics, etc.



Lia Pas says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:56 pm

Theatre history is an aspect of national and international history. Plays written in various time frames teach us about what was going on in those times just as much as reading about those times in a history textbook.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:53 am

But many drama students also never take science, math, or engineering courses. I think that most don't. I think that the ones who do, only take one or two.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 8:06 am

I think the point is Solo isn't calling for the abolition of drama programs. He's just saying they should be moved to community colleges with other applied nonacademic training. Drama is too easy of a subject to get a degree in.



Mark Turner says:

October 17, 2013 at 8:53 am

Nigel, have you taken drama courses?



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 8:57 am

We had to do plays in elementary school.



Nigel Batherhorne says:

October 17, 2013 at 9:00 am

I've met people who took drama courses and they said there was nothing academic about them and that they were so simplistic that they were a joke.



moksy says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:20 pm

I'm guessing those people only took some lower level courses. Most 100 level classes start off pretty basic, don't they?



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:22 am

I met people with drama degrees who said it was an extremely easy program.



Crossing Bridges says:

October 17, 2013 at 9:29 am

Hello all,

The point of this discussion was to present all arguments about Mr. Solo's letter regarding the U of S drama department. It is very important to me that we present all opinions brought to us, however, that does not include personal attacks. All of Nigel's further comments will be removed. If you receive e-mail notifications about the comments, you may still see them before they are removed from the discussion, and for this I apologize.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:01 am

Looks like the moderator is only interested in one point of view. There are many comments here worse than those by the individual banned.



dhr148 says:

October 17, 2013 at 11:14 am

It would appear you've made up your mind about the drama department Mr Nigel. We get it. Why go on? Is it possibly because you seek "drama" in your life? Do you get a rush from this? Are you "entertained"? No, you just want to save the University money. How noble. Well as you can see, many of us are very passionate about what we do. We know what we want, and why we want it – objectives- and despite your disagreeing with our pursuits, they're still our pursuits. They don't affect you in the larger scheme of things, we're not asking you to empty your pockets into our department and yet you continue to insult us with your uneducated opinions on what we do. But I have a feeling you don't care about what we do or what any of us have to say no matter how valid our points may be because you have chosen in your mind to fight this, because, after all, you are still searching for something meaningful to fight for and because you don't yet know what that truly is, you chose this. Easy target. Okay. Fair enough. I just hope that one day you can let go of your pride and find happiness within yourself. I hope you can find something that serves you as drama has served me. Because honestly, I don't buy this "save the university money – get a real degree" speech. I think it roots from something deeper within you that feels the need bully and belittle us. I think you know that you are worth more than that. We certainly are.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:55 am

What I don't like is the drama department makes the university look bad because its subject matter is too easy for a degree in my opinion.



moksy says:

October 17, 2013 at 12:18 pm

One thing that bugs me more than the rest:

"inconsequential research", well, no more inconsequential than any other art class, or English class for that matter. Art classes and English classes and drama classes all study other artists and works from the past. Why single out drama in this? English teaches you how to write about literature, Drama teaches you how to present literature dramatically. Both teach you how to share literature with others. But apparently this isn't a worthwhile endeavour and you'd much rather...do what for fun? There's not a lot of entertainment out there that doesn't include either English or Drama. Movies? Youtube? TV? Books? Articles online? Read a textbook? What do you do in your down-time that wasn't the result of English or Drama?

Anyway, it's weird how much attention this letter is getting considering it reads like an internet comment section troll. No sources cited, no fleshed out arguments, just one dude's opinion.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 12:00 pm

I agree, Moksy, that most of the research in arts is inconsequential.



Jaclynn says:

October 17, 2013 at 2:52 pm

I feel that Mr Solo is nothing but an attention hog/shit disturber. It is not up to him or anyone else, how I choose to spend MY tuition. If I want to get a degree in Drama, I will. I truly feel sorry for those who do nothing but try to pick on people just

to get a rise out of them or to make them feel bad. With that said, if I ever meet Mr Solo I WILL wish him a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with a black eye to match.



Crossing Bridges says:

October 17, 2013 at 6:55 pm

Hello all,

This is an anonymous comment I have received, and with this person's permission, I am posting it for your perusal.

As a professional artist, I'm never going to encourage the defunding or dismissing of the arts- they are essential. However, what I'm wondering is if the university is the best place for that kind of department. The university is supposed to be primarily a research facility, is there a lot of research in the dramatic arts? (Actually a question that I don't know the answer to... not being sarcastic or anything) As has been established by numerous contributors on your blog there is a vibrant and fervent theatre community in Saskatoon, enough perhaps to envision an actual dedicated arts [college]. I feel like with the community support that has been demonstrated and the professed market in Saskatoon, it might be something to be considered?



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:00 am

I agree that a dedicated fine arts college is a good idea for acting, dancing, singing, painting, sculpting, drawing, photographing, and other nonacademic courses.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:07 am

This dedicated fine arts college could be like SIAST and issue diplomas.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:21 am

I agree that a university is supposed to primarily be a research facility. I'm also wondering: Is there a lot of research in drama?



Lia Pas says:

October 21, 2013 at 4:46 pm

From what I understand, most undergraduate programs are not generally research-based but more about gaining skills and practice in a field as well as gaining a well-rounded education. It is at the Masters level and beyond that research takes place. Students who want to focus only on the practice of drama will often choose to study at a conservatory instead of an University. Same as in music.

Having said that, there IS research done in the Performing arts. In fact, there is an academic journal called "Performance Research" that is very well-regarded in the performance community. <http://www.performance-research.org>

I have an undergraduate degree in music and an MA in theatre. In the Masters program I was in all students were able to choose the weighting of their degree on practice or research, 25%-75% or 50%-50%. The research done was usually presented as a dissertation but always informed the practice work. Research subjects included ritual and theatre, devising as a solo practice, and multi-disciplinary practices (and those are only ones I can remember).

Most of the research going on at any given university in any given department has a lot to do with the current faculty there and their expertise. From what I understand (and someone please correct me if I'm wrong) at the UofS the focus in the Drama department is on traditional modes of theatre and Canadian playwrights so I would think a lot of the research happening there has to do with the history of theatre or writing about current conditions of Canadian theatre.

So, I would think that Saskatoon might be well-served by a conservatory program of some type, but not to negate the research and academic nature of the UofS Drama Department. They serve different needs.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:16 am

Here are a bunch of famous actors who didn't graduate from high school:

<http://styleblazer.com/66451/15-celebrities-who-dont-have-a-high-school-diploma-not-like-they-need-it/>

If they didn't need university degrees or high school diplomas to become famous actors, why do you? Also, there are numerous excellent child actors who don't have university degrees and haven't even finished elementary school. These people are at the top of the acting profession. If these people can become top-notch actors without even high school diplomas, it shows that acting is a nonacademic profession and therefore shouldn't be in university.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:23 am

You may disagree with my opinion, but I'll state it anyway. In my opinion, drama is too simple of a subject to learn to be awarded a degree or to have in a university.



Crossing Bridges says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:24 am

Hi Engineer,

I'm sorry that you feel that I'm not being as effective as possible. As I have said, it's very important to me to voice all opinions that are presented to me. I am also very much aware that Nigel was not the only person to attack people on a personal level. However, I was appealed to as moderator to intervene and, as Nigel was able to post 28 comments, I felt that his opinion was heard and that I should respect the wishes of my other readers. This is my third week of operations and I'm still discovering the best ways to effectively run the page. I am sorry if I have caused offense.

Lauren



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:27 am

That's okay. I think the drama readers asked you to ban Nigel because they didn't like his opinion more than how he expressed it.



Engineer says:

October 18, 2013 at 6:41 pm

I don't agree that actors are artists. It doesn't require much creativity to act. Engineering research and development requires much more creativity, so really we're the artists.



Crossing Bridges says:

October 18, 2013 at 9:38 pm

Hello all,

Having recently discovered that Nigel and Engineer are in fact the same person, I will be removing their comments as well.



Crossing Bridges says:

October 18, 2013 at 11:23 pm

Greetings,

Here is Jillian Borrowman's response to Mr. Solo's letter that was published in The Sheaf

[http://thesheaf.com/2013/10/18/it-is-time-to-value-the-arts/?](http://thesheaf.com/2013/10/18/it-is-time-to-value-the-arts/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+thesheafRSS+%28The+Sheaf+in+RSS%29)

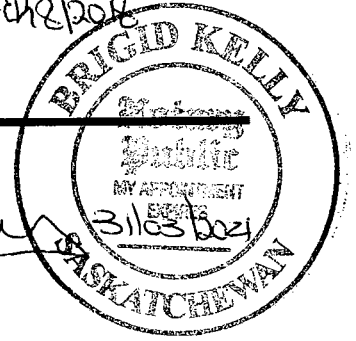
[utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+thesheafRSS+%28The+Sheaf+in+RSS%29](http://thesheaf.com/2013/10/18/it-is-time-to-value-the-arts/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+thesheafRSS+%28The+Sheaf+in+RSS%29)

**Kathy Allen says:**

October 19, 2013 at 9:35 am

well said Jillian Borrowman!

This Exhibit "E" referred to
in the affidavit of Ashu Solo
Sworn before me March 8, 2014
Saskatoon, SK.



Ashu M. G. Solo

From: Ashu M. G. Solo <amgsolo@mavericktechnologies.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:20 PM
To: dean.gulka@police.saskatoon.sk.ca
Subject: Threatening Message #8
Attachments: killyourself.png

Hi Sgt. Gulka,

In the attachment to this email, there is a graphic design created by somebody with text telling me to kill myself. I found this by searching my name on the Web. It was at <http://memecrunch.com/meme/1JVJ9/ashu-solo>. As you can see in an email below, I asked the moderator to delete the graphic and he did. It looks like it was created on Dec. 18, 2013. I requested information on who created this, as you can see in an email below. The moderator wouldn't provide me with the IP address, but may provide it to you. I believe that counselling suicide violates section 241 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Best regards,

Ashu Solo

-----Original Message-----

From: Ashu M. G. Solo [<mailto:solo@mavericktechnologies.us>]
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2014 10:18 AM
To: 'support@memecrunch.com'
Subject: RE: Takedown request completed

The creation of this graphic telling me to kill myself was a crime under Canadian law because inciting suicide is a crime in Canada. I live in Canada. Can you give me the IP address and other details of the person who created this graphic so that I can give it to the police?

Ashu Solo

-----Original Message-----

From: support@memecrunch.com [<mailto:support@memecrunch.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2014 5:35 AM
Subject: Takedown request completed

Ashu Solo,

We've taken down the items you requested, namely:

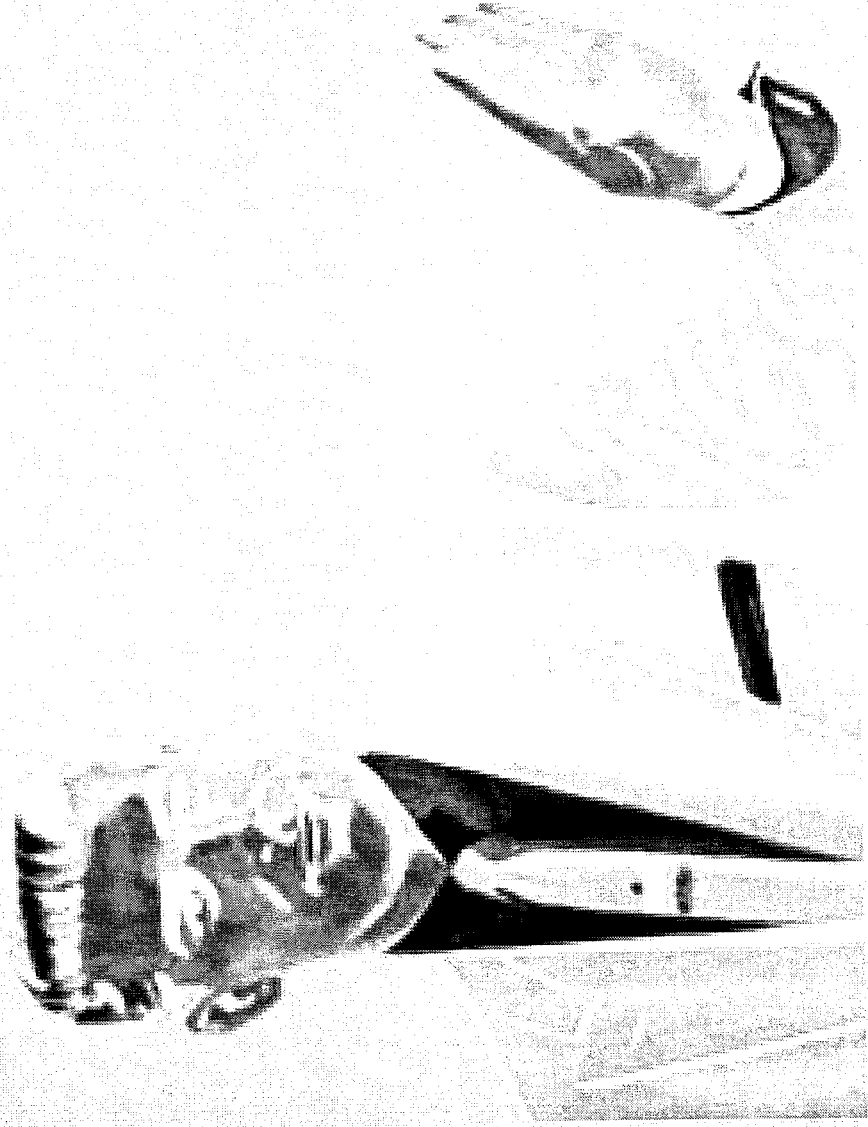
Memes:

<http://memecrunch.com/meme/1JVJ9/ashu-solo>

Please, keep in mind that if the content was already indexed by Google or other search engines, we have requested them to remove it, but it will take some days until it disappears from their search results. There's nothing else we (or you) can do to speed up that process.

Regards,
Memecrunch's team

HEY ASHU SOLO



KILL YOURSELF