

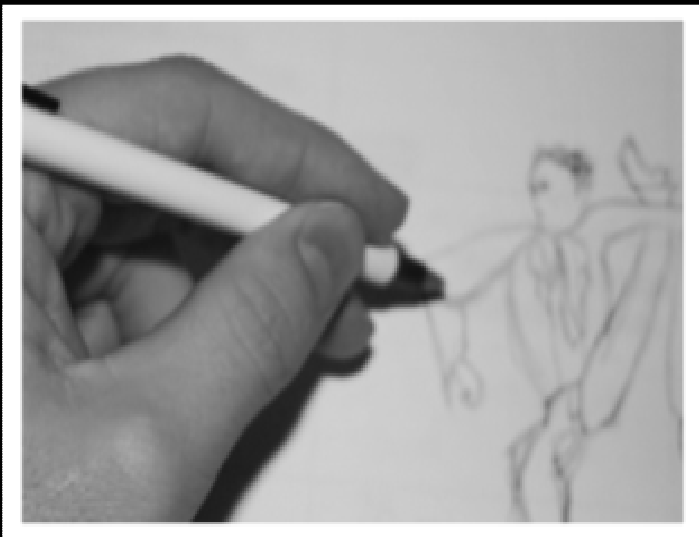
Helicon West & The USU Writing Center Present:

Silence in the Stall
Kevin Larsen

I see your shoes below the metal wall.
They glare and seem to say,
“What in the world are you looking at?”
A reeking stall is not the place to talk
about the weather or your weekend thrills.
We sit in the silence of our awkward sounds,
pretending, hoping that no one we know
can recognize the color of our shoes.

From: Right and Wrong

Justin Potter



For some reason, I like writing with pencil a lot more than with a pen. There are only two problems with pencils: one, finding a pencil sharpener in today's digital age; and two, being left-handed in an English-speaking country. In our language, we write from left to right. This structure is designed for a right-hander. When writing, left-handers need to drag their hands across what they have written. Using a pencil, the graphite rubs off onto our hands. The same goes for wet marker, chalk, and probably the worse, dry-erase pen. Half of what I write with those gets erased unless I lift my hand at a weird angle so I don't touch the board.

Right-handers haven't just infected writing in English, but even the meanings of words themselves. Isn't it ironic that the word "right" has come to mean "correct" in the English language? All right-handers are correct-handers. Don't worry though; we left-handers have words that are derived from our hand's orientation, as well. Words like sinister. The Latin root means "on the left-hand." It is more commonly used to mean evil, or base, or wicked. So, let's get this straight: "right" means correct and is also used in "*righteous*" meaning holy or godly; whereas left is used to mean evil? The word "left" itself comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lyft" which means weak or useless. So, basically, all of us left-handers must be satanic pussies.

In 2007, researchers discovered the first gene that increased the odds of becoming left-handed. It was also discovered that possessing this gene, called LRRTM1, increased one's chances of developing psychotic mental illnesses. If statistics serve, about ninety percent of those scientists are right-handed. How convenient.