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**Life In The Comic Zone**

**By Stephanie West Allen**

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Loosen Up, Lighten Up, or LULU, for short. Let's look at the remarkable, extraordinary, amazing LULU.

Loose Mind: Ticket To Dreams

A person in the Comic Zone has a fresh, loosened mind. The mind of the person in the Drama Zone is inflexible, fixed, and rigid. It thinks in locked-in ways. Only a loose mind can support the artistry and inventiveness of focusing on, and achieving, one's wildest dreams.

The locked-in, rut-filled mind only leads to more of what we have had in the past. If you want to change what you have had in the past, that mind of yours needs to get loose. Unfetter your mind, untie it, release it, free it. Two surefire ways to do this: have a sense of humor, and question assumptions.

A Joking Matter

A key element of humor is the unexpected. Look at jokes. Jokes are often based on reversal. Reversal is an unexpected shift in the point of view of the person hearing the joke. The listener is led down a path by the person telling the joke and then all of a sudden the joke switches directions -- usually bringing about laughter.

Examples:

A Garry Shandling joke: I sold my house this week. I thought I got a good price for it — but it made my landlord mad as hell.

A Woody Allen joke: I divorced my first wife because she was so immature. I'd be in the tub taking a bath and she would walk in whenever she felt like it and sink my boats.

More? Go to:

<http://www.romwell.com/humor/Comedians.htm>

You're going one way and all of a sudden you're somewhere else. Your mind has to jump off the path you thought you were following to get the joke and laugh. The unexpected has occurred and the humor depends on the unexpected.

Sometimes we are going along one way and quite unexpectedly life takes another direction. A sense of humor helps you to laugh at unexpected turns in jokes and life.

Another way of creating humor is to juxtapose opposites. Recall the movie *The Odd Couple*; Felix and Oscar were certainly opposites and did they make us laugh. Humor comes with the contrast and the difference.

So often, we come upon people in our life who are very different from us. A person with a sense of humor smiles and appreciates the differences.

A sense of humor allows people to think more expansively; and to associate more freely, both in relationships between ideas and between people.

### Let No Assumption Go Unquestioned

Questioning assumptions is another way to loosen up the mind. Questioning assumptions gives us more options for behavior and thought because we examine the assumptions and see them for what they are.

For years, couples may be operating on assumptions

they have never checked out with each other.

"I hate spinach."

"So do I."

"Why have we eaten it all these years?"

"I thought you liked it."

"I thought you liked it."

Free yourself from any spinach tyranny in your life.

Ask yourself about everything you do:

Why am I doing it this way?

Does this way make sense?

Is there a better way?

Is there a more fun way?

When we question assumptions, we then have a choice to perhaps behave and think in new ways. The more you question assumptions, the more you may laugh at some silly things you may have been doing.

When a person or company becomes attuned to the process of questioning assumptions, it will happen with greater and greater frequency. Those burned-in thought furrows in the mind will begin to shift, and change, and the mind will LULU.

Cause and Effect, Or Effect And Cause, or What?

One kind of questioning assumptions is the questioning of cause and effect relationships. We often have these unexamined notions that A leads to B; we assume that B happens because A happened first. We set up these rules of cause and effect.

Turn these rules of cause and effect upside down — get unruly — to see if there is any truth, or humor, there. Where is the cause and where is the effect in these examples?

I yell so my dog gets nervous. Or maybe I yell because my dog is nervous, or a yelling person picks out nervous dogs.

I cannot go out in the world and contribute because I

feel sick. Or maybe I feel sick because I do not go out into the world and contribute my skills and talents. Or the person who is unlikely to get involved outside herself is likely to get sick.

The workplace is frenetic so I feel stressed. Or I feel stressed so my workplace is frenetic. Or a stress-prone person chooses frenetic workplaces.

Let us hear it for the assumption questioners. May they live long, loosely, and lightly.

Little Lulu: A Role Model?

Do you remember the irrepressible, feisty, lovable cartoon character Little Lulu? That girl had LULU down. She questioned everything. Yes, she had a bit of a rascal in her but most LULUers do. She had a great sense of humor. And did she question assumptions!

Remember what she did with her dad's tie? She used it for the tail on her kite. Her mom's lipstick? She wrote letters with it. Remember Lulu, see if you can find a Lulu comic book, and let her inspire you to LULU.

Stephanie West Allen, JD, is the author of *\_24 7 This!The Merry Method To Accelerate Success\_*. Excerpts at <http://www.allen-nichols.com/success.cfm> She coaches people in using the two Merry Maxims, WYTUG(What You Think Upon Grows) and LULU (Loosen Up, LightenUp), to achieve health, wealth, creativity, and harmonizedrelationships. Contact her at [Stephanie@allen-nichols.com](mailto:Stephanie@allen-nichols.com)

## **How To Make Money With Comic Books**

**By Joe Goertz**

In someway or another, we all try to find super hero characters in ourselves. Children love them, and even grown ups go to theatres to watch movies like Spiderman and Fantastic Four.

Fantastic stories are described in comic books, which are just soft cover magazines with pictures and words. The cover is made of glossy paper and the inside is a high quality paper, with its spine held together by staples. Comic books cover everything from horror to sci-fi, from crime to adventure and mystery. Usually there are evil doers and a person or a group to stop them, who become our superheroes.

History

## Life In The Comic Zone

Comic books were first introduced in the USA in 1896. The idea was to collect all the comic strips from the newspapers and produce and publish a book with them, and the result was the birth of comic books. People loved it, and it got popular rapidly. Because of this, they wanted to produce and reproduce more and more comic books. People wanted new stories, new adventures. This is one version of how comic books were born, although some people believe that comic books existed in some form in the earlier days, such as the Egyptian wall art and prehistoric cavemen paintings.

In the year of 1938, Superman was first introduced, and he became so popular and successful that people wanted to see more of him, and more characters with super powers. That was how characters like Spiderman were born.

The first comic books began as humorous books for children and that is why till now the word comic is used for humour in English. Characters like Popeye the sailor man and Krazy Kat are still loved by all. After that there were characters like Sabrina the teenage witch and Archie, which were introduced for the teenage group, so that they could relate to them. Archie and his group got so popular that they had fan clubs for the readers. There are currently leading stores which sell t-shirts, mugs, diaries and stickers of these comic book characters.

### Comic book collectors

The fans of comic books love to collect them, and this becomes their hobby. They want to have all the editions, so they keep buying them more and more. The new ones are usually easy to find, these you can pick up from your local comic book store or toy stores and also some corner markets. The most difficult ones to find are the older issues, but if you are lucky enough, you can find them in comic stores as most of them keep some type of back issues.

Sometimes, people who have collected comic books for a long while decide to sell their personal collection, and you can also do that, in case you make up your mind. First you have to decide where to sell them, if in a comic store or even on auction sites. But you have to be aware that you take full responsibility of the condition and you must know how to protect your comic books during shipment if you want a good price.

Besides selling personal collections, there are other ways of making money with comic books and their characters. The might and mightiest of Hollywood want to make movies on these comic superheroes or want to be a part of it. So, now you know how big comic books can get!

Read more from this author at:



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