



Close View 1 Special Report

Producent: Fern Scott Olsson

Sändningsdatum: 17 september 2003

Programlängd: 15 min

KF: This is Close View Special Report. I'm Keith Foster. And now for something completely different.

(Sound effect)

KF: Close view welcomes you to be the judge of a Public Speaking Contest.

Public speaking or presentation making is an important part of many courses, especially English classes. The gift of gab is truly a gift and many people are afraid of speaking in public. To be able to express yourself clearly, logically, and with a personal touch, is a challenge for many of us.

This programme invites you to sit back and be the judge of young speech-givers from Canada. You have a chance to listen to their speeches and then grade them on subject matter, language use, and their personal style.

This particular contest was organised by the Optimist's Club who organise contest like this every year. This year students delivered speeches on the topic "Why people should be optimistic". The speeches are two and a half minutes long. With me in the Close View studio is Fern Scott Olsson and together we'll be listening to the speeches and giving our marks and expressions later on.

OK, get your pencils ready!

The scoring is divided into three parts, worth a total of 25 points.

First is the content of speech and that gives 10 points; a good start, sticking to the subject and a good ending. Is the speech interesting to listen to? Do they use figures of speech, similes, metaphors, a colourful choice of words? That's what you have to judge in the first part.

Part two is delivery and presentation, also for 10 points. How do they use their voice? What's their pronunciation like? And what do they emphasize in their speech?

Finally part three; the over all impression, for 5 points. What is the attitude of the speaker and how do you feel about their speech and their personal style?

OK, here come the speeches.

(Sound effect)



Speaker #1: Good evening fellow speakers and judges. Remember, you should always think of the glasses half full not half empty. When one door closes another door opens. Always look on the sunny side of the road. When we are faced with trouble and disappointment we say these things, but do we really take them to heart or do we think of them as silly clichés. They won't make us any or happier healthier, why should we believe that they can help us? But there are some people in this world who believe that the clichés mean something. As a result, they are happier and healthier. They think of each day as a fresh beginning and find the positive in every situation. In the words of a Chinese proverb, they believe that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. These people are optimists. We often sit there, scowling at their optimism and positive outlook. But, what if we could all try to be like these people. Optimism is a virtue that we should all aspire to have. Some people are born optimistic and some people develop their optimism through times of sorrow. One man, who developed a great sense of optimism, is Patch Adams. Patch realized, that dwelling on his problems and having a negative attitude about life, was not going to make him forget all the sad things in the world or make them go away. He realized that the one medicine that could cure everything, from a scrape on the knee to a deep depression, was laughter. He learned from personal experience in the hospital, that when other patients or doctors made him laugh, he started to feel less and less depressed.

Patch decided that he would include this practice in his own study of medicine. He made his patients laugh and be happy by performing clown tricks. He believed in his patients and told them that if they thought positively and were optimistic about their health, then they would get better. Although Patch was a doctor for thirty years, his theory of optimism never failed, he never once had to give a patient a tranquilizer or a psychiatric medication. This one man not only showed optimism himself, but put optimism into action. His optimism and belief in the power of the human spirit changed lives.

(Sound effect)



Speaker #2: Anne Frank once said: "We all live with the objective of being happy, our lives are different and yet we are the same". When the optimist Anne Frank wrote this in her now famous diary, it was during a time when a great amount of racism existed- the holocaust. Yet she always made the best out of her situation. If I was like Anne Frank and I handled my situation optimistically like her, then I'm certain it wouldn't seem as bad. I would live a happier life. What did she mean? How could we all be the same? We do live such different lives. Yet I figure, we must still have the same hopes and dreams. And if we have the same hopes and dreams, then we can't be all that different. What would our world be like if we realized that everyone is equal? We all have a right to live in peace on this planet and we need to share it. Race, religion and title are all on the exterior. But what is really important can only be found on the interior. Throughout our history there have been people whose words have the deepest meanings. Going back to Aristotle, the great philosopher, will you remember his words: "We are what we repeatedly do". I believe that his words mean that if we insist on destroying the hopes of other cultures, then we are destroyers. But if we help them grow and flourish to all that they can be, then we are nurturers and I wonder; would you rather be a destroyer or a nurturer? Many of our people wish to forget the horrors of the past; war, cold hearted murderer, diseases, death. In simpler terms all their tragic, we can all agree on that. But if we remember how horrible they are, we can remember how they must never happen again. So I say remember, remember the good, the bad, the sad and the pain and you can predict the love, the happiness, the smiles and the peace. I interpret that even though hope may seem so far away, I interpret that even though there are so many difficulties that face us directly, just behind it is hope. And if we just take a few steps together we'll be in arms reach of it. Hope is always there, it just doesn't always seem like it. Never give up hope. All throughout our history, there have been the optimists who realized that world peace was the only way to ensure our future. From Aristotle to Gandhi, from mother Teresa to Anne Frank, from Nelson Mandela to the protesters of war, there have been the optimists. Whether they are only young children, who are encouraging mothers of the firemen in New York after September 11th or children who save up their own allowance to help save another child or animal, they all make a difference. We all need to listen to the little voice in the big crowd, because that voice just may be the wisest and most optimistic.

(Sound effect)



Speaker #3: Good evening parents, guests, judges and fellow contestants. As each day, each year, each moment goes by, what are we thinking? When the next world war will be? Or of all the positive things like the next time you get to see your family, or the fact that you're alive today no matter what the next day will bring. Good or bad. Optimism is probably one of the key points in living a happy, successful and prosperous life. Always looking on the bright side of things by having faith and hope that whatever shall come in the future, we will stand strong as a nation, family or whatever group we might belong to, to pull through. I truly believe that something good always comes from something bad. Whenever something horrible happens, we immediately think of the worst case scenarios and all the bad situations. But what we need to be doing is realizing; we can't change the past, but we can embrace the future with optimism, enthusiasm and of course the help and support from the people around us. When my mum was thirteen years old, she lost everything that had ever owned. This all happened one day when her house burnt down, unfortunately taking the life of her grand mum. This could have been a time for the family to just give up, but instead they began thanking God for all that they still had. They'd lost a life and all they had ever worked for, but with their amazing self-confidence they began to be more of a family than ever before. As the years have gone past, my grand mum says that although she has lost many materialistic items, she has gained things as well by at the time reassuring herself that everything would work out for the best as long as they had each other. My mum believes that her family has been brought closer together by this incident and that her life has been slowed down to see the bright side of things and always be thankful for everything you have. But what if people weren't always thinking like optimists and didn't accept the help or support of others, then where would we be? We definitely wouldn't have gotten this far. If ideas and inventions were always thought of as impossible and dreams were never followed, then we wouldn't have anything. We wouldn't have hydro, computers or the things we rely on most, but most important our happiness, the key that opens worlds of opportunities for us. But in my thirteen years I would say that our world has been filled with more great optimists than pessimists. People have invented things, followed their dreams and this has definitely created doors for me, overflowing with happiness and great chances to learn. So the thing that I have learnt most in my lifetime is that your life is here to live, it's up to you to make the right things happen.

(Sound effect)



KF: And now it's time for you to be the judges. So stop the tape and start thinking.

(Sound effect)

KF: Welcome back! Those were the three speeches and Fern, what did you think of contestant number one?

FSO: Well Keith, I thought she was quite good. She had a good intro, you knew that the speech was starting and I liked how she used Chinese proverbs and she used sort of a good story that she stuck to throughout, which I thought exemplified her point very well. And I think her voice was very good, her delivery was very good as well as the story being rather appealing. So I actually gave her 20 out of 25 points.

KF: Yes, I thought the story was good, the Patch Adams story, many people recognise that from the movie. And her voice was good; she was cute but not too cute. I guess she must have been the youngest competitor.

FSO: Yes that's right, she's actually just twelve years old, while the others are thirteen. You could tell her voice was a bit high and squeaky.

KF: Right, but a good voice. I gave her 18 out of 25. All right, what about the boy?

FSO: I don't think his intro was as good. He sort of just jumped in and you didn't feel prepared for his speech. But I thought the speech was very interesting, he used a wide variety of topics and he exemplified them very well. However, I think he lost points in that his voice was very shaky. It was obvious that he was very nervous, which is understandable but he was very nervous, he took long breaks which I interpret he lost his place. So he didn't do as well I gave him 18 out of 20.

KF: Mm, but I guess one of the ideas with the competition is to help people who are nervous to actually get up on stage and say things in public. So he did a good job, I gave him 16 out of 25. All right the third speaker was another girl, what did you think of her?

FSO: Right, I think that she also did quite well, they all did excellent of course but of course if you are going to be a judge you must choose. So her story I think was a rather personal one and I think she presented it very well, she slowed down to make emphasis and sped up when things were more exciting and I thought her voice was very, very good, she made excellent presentation. However what I faulted her for was a mistake, she referred to her grandmother as dying as the point of the story and then later on the grandmother showed up again having thoughts about optimism in life, so there's obviously a mistake there. So I gave her 19 out of 25 points.

KF: I reacted a little bit about the sugary sweetness of this particular



speaker and I thought that took optimism a little bit too far. So I just gave her 16 out of 25 as well. So there the three contestants, you've heard what Fern and I thought of them. Fern, what about the judges on the spot, who did they give the best marks to?

FSO: Well, interesting enough, they chose the contestants pretty much as we did. The youngest girl won the first place and actually the second girl came in second and the boy came in third, so we were pretty close to what they thought as well.

KF: I wonder if you made the same judgements out there, if you gave the same sort of marks to those three speeches as we did. Perhaps it would be a good idea for you, in your classes, to have a little speech competition and then you can judge each other on your speeches in English. But that'll be too hard, not like we were here. So that's Close View for today. Fern it must have been fun to be in Canada and see this competition.

FSO: It was and it's really impressive for young people to stand up like this and speak up in public. I take my hat off to them.

KF: Well, from this very optimistic edition of Close View, that's it from me Keith.

FSO: And me, bye bye.

KF: Bye.



Words

public speaking contest	tävling i att tala offentligt
topic	ämne
score	poängräkning
stick to the subject	hålla sig till ämnet
figures of speech	bildligt uttryck
simile	liknelse, jämförelse
metaphor	liknelse, bild
look at the sunny side of the road	se saken från den ljusa sidan
dissappointment	besvikelse
proverb	ordspråk
curse something	förbanna något
virtue	kraft, förmåga
aspire	sträva efter
dwell on	älta
cure	botemedel
tranquilizer	lugnande medel
Holocaust	Förintelsen
nurture	vårda
horrible	fasansfull
in arms reach	inom räckhåll
encourage	uppmuntra
prosperous	blomstrande, välmående
faith and hope	tro och hopp
embrace	omfamna, ta emot
invention	uppfinning

Questions

1. How do you personally feel about speaking in public? Why? What if any experience do you have?
2. Is it important to be able to speak in front of other people? Why?
3. What do you think is easier to do, write down your thought or to just say whatever comes to mind? Are there other ways to make a presentation? Are there other ways than writing to help someone prepare for making a speech?
4. Many politicians and other public persons have their scripts written for them. Is this a good idea? Why or why not?
5. Can the audience make it easy or difficult to make a speech? How?



Close View 2 (HT 2003)

Producent: Fern Scott Olsson
Sändningsdatum: 8 oktober 2003

Interview

LW: On the morning of June 5th, I had the privilege to be on the first flight in.

(Sound effect)

LW: And the Channel was a seething mass, seething mass of shipping, of barges, of boats of all sizes. Battleships, cruisers and it reminded me of an ant-hill and all the ants moving and crawling around down there.

Studio

FSO: Welcome to Close View, I'm Fern Scott Olsson. In this programme I spoke with Larry Wilcox, a Canadian veteran in the Second World War. Canada played an important role in the war, supplying men, material and equipment. Canada trained pilots and air controllers and also took part in the invasion in France.

Interview

FSO: How old were you when you joined the forces?

LW: I was eighteen. And of course now I'm eighty, it's a long time.

FSO: And how did it happen that you joined the forces, were you drafted, did you volunteer?

LW: That's something that I'm very proud of. My dad went overseas in the First World War and he became a fighter pilot, so it was natural for me to want to follow in dad's footsteps.

FSO: So the family didn't react negatively that their young son was going off to war?

LW: No, as a matter of fact, I think they were rather proud. And most of my friends were all voluntary like myself. We didn't have to be conscripted, that was something that you were going to do. You were going to enlist and go and fight for your country.

FSO: So what year was it that you went over?

LW: I went overseas in 1943 and returned in 1945. And when I went overseas, I became a fighter pilot flying the famous Spitfire.

(Music)

Interview



- FSO:** Perhaps you could start off explaining to us about the Spitfire.
- LW:** Well, the Spitfire is of course very famous and it's probably one of the world's best fighter aircraft there was ever developed. It was an English built aircraft and there were many models. I flew the Spitfire 9E, we jokingly said if you couldn't fly that, you couldn't fly anything. It was a beautiful aircraft to handle. Totally equipped, we had 4.5 machine guns and two 20 millimetre canons. We also could carry 500 pound bombs.
- FSO:** How many people sat in the plane?
- LW:** Well, it was a single person, it was a single fighter. Just one, you were there all alone. Yeah, it was scary at times, but it was one of these things you do, then you think about it afterwards. You were alone in the sense that you were alone in the aircraft but you had your flying buddies with you in the squadron. And of course we all looked out for one another and watched one another's tails and protected one another.

(Music)

Interview

- FSO:** What would the job of the planes be?
- LW:** Well, we did escort work. We often used to escort the American B54:s in, we escorted the Lancasters and the Halifaxes in on their bombing rounds. And then we did straight patrol, which was both beach and inland patrol. And we would look out and try to find enemy motor transport, anything that moved we would shoot up.
- FSO:** Did you see a lot of German airplanes?
- LW:** Oh, all kinds of them. We saw what we call a gaggle, and we see gaggles means a group of enemy aircraft. And the idea was to break up their attack; we tear into them and send them scooting for home. And of course we would engage them and if you were force enough you shoot one down.
- FSO:** So the goal wasn't shoot to kill, just shoot to maim?
- LW:** Essentially shoot to kill. I didn't want to have to face that guy again tomorrow.
- FSO:** Did the pilots have sort of hits on their plane, would you paint little symbols to show...
- LW:** Oh yes, yes by all means. Some put bombs on, some put crosses on, some had different ways of indicating what they... you know their kills as they called it. A kill meaning that you had shot an aircraft down. So if you had three kills to your credit it means that you had shot three aircraft down.
- FSO:** Would there be other ways that you would personalize the planes, would you name them or would you write something on them?



LW: Some of the fellows would put their sweetheart's name or their wife's name or their kid's. Some of them had little ways of personalizing the plane as you call it, yes.

(Music)

Interview

FSO: I was wondering if you could tell me about a mission, if there's anything particular that stands out for you.

LW: I suppose that the most important mission to me was prior to D-day and D-day itself. D-day is the day that we invaded France and it was originally supposed to on June 4th. But as a result of our flight it was delayed 24 hours as in the history books, that is a fact. And our job was to fly in, check the beachheads and report back by coded message and give a full weather report. On the trip across the English Channel to France there was not a boat to be seen anywhere. There wasn't a ship or a boat, there was nothing moving. The Channel was just in terrible condition as far as waves and terrible water. As a result of our weather report the invasion was put off to June 5th in 1944. Now, the next thing I saw was in the morning of June 5th. I had the privilege of being on the first flight in and the Channel was a seething mass, a seething mass of shipping, of barges, of boats of all sizes. Battleships, cruisers and it reminded me of an ant-hill and all the ants crawling and moving around down there. From nothing the day before to thousands of ships and men going from the boats, in the landing barges, onto the beachheads and fighting their way up through the sand up to the towns flanking the beaches. It's a sight I'll never forget.

FSO: You said that you used a lot of coded messages. What would that have been?

LW: Well, you send it by radio. Like, for instance, they might use daylight for the word meaning rain or they might use sunshine meaning cloud formations.

FSO: Would these be sent in Morse code?

LW: Oh no, by radio. Oh yeah, we had full radio communication with our base and then that was relayed in the headquarters in London.

(Sound effect)

FSO: I wanted to ask you that it was a very glorious position, but it must have been also a very risky job?

LW: Well, war is risky and if something goes wrong with the aircraft, you don't get out and walk home. Each time you went out you didn't think about the risk, you concentrated on your flying and employing your techniques so that you would get home. And it's hard to

describe the feeling each time you took off. You didn't say to yourself "I may not come home this time". You looked forward to doing the job you were sent to do, be it to bomb a suspected storage dump or just to do a patrol or whatever it was. So you employed all the techniques that you'd learned along the way to make sure you did come home.

(Music)

Interview

FSO: Did most of your squadron return?

LW: We didn't lose as many men as some squadrons but we lost a lot of fellows, terrific guys, but that's all part of war. You actually get very callous, because if you don't you don't survive. You don't have time to dwell on the loss of the various buddies and that. And one of the terrible parts of war is the loss of life in the young people.

FSO: How did you feel when you heard the war was over?

LW: Well, just excited like everyone else "Hey, I made it I'm going home and I'm going to see my family". So I guess I was just like any other guy, just happy it was all over.

(Music)

Interview

FSO: And have you told these stories before?

LW: When I first came home, I didn't want to talk about the war. And recently it seems that people have become more interested in the vets and I've been asked more questions the last three or four years than it ever was during my life. And at first I was a little reticent but then I thought that people would like to share that experience and so for that reason I've spoken out and spoken about it and talked about it.

(Music)

Studio

FSO: You have been listening to Close View. This programme was produced by myself, Fern Scott Olsson, Ingmarie Wahrolin and Gunnar Csiffary. For the scripts, words and some questions, go to our website at www.ur.se/closeview. Until the next time, bye for now.

(Music)



Words:

it was a seething mass of	<i>det var ett myller av</i>
ant-hill	<i>myrstack</i>
veteran	<i>en som deltagit i krig</i>
the forces	<i>här: väpnade styrkor (armén, flygvapnet eller marinen)</i>
drafted	<i>inkallad (till militärtjänstgöring)</i>
volunteer	<i>frivillig</i>
fighter aircraft	<i>stridsflygplan</i>
scoot	<i>kuta, sticka</i>
maim	<i>skadskjuta</i>
mission	<i>här: uppdrag</i>
beachhead	<i>brohuvud</i>
barge	<i>skuta, präm</i>
glorious	<i>här: ärorik</i>
risky	<i>riskabel, riskfylld</i>
callous	<i>känslökall</i>
reticent	<i>tystlåten, förtegen</i>

CLOSE VIEW

Drugs go Dutch

Sändningsdatum: 12/11 2003

Producent: Keith Foster

Musik: Pretty like drugs Queen Adreena

KF: Hello, I'm Keith Foster and this is a Close View report on a subject that divides people into two camps.
Drugs – should they be allowed or not?

Let's get one thing straight. There are drugs that no society allows. Heroin, cocaine, rohypnol – the so-called hard drugs – are all illegal throughout the world.

People who call for them to be legalised are very few, and they are often people who hate any kind of government interference with what we do or consume.

But it's when it comes to the so-called softer drugs: marijuana, hash, cannabis.. that opinions really differ.

In Sweden all forms of drug trading are illegal, apart from alcohol and tobacco. The Swedish policy is “zero tolerance”, and official voices say there is no change in sight. That's the way it is and that's the way it will stay.

Not every country shares that view. In Holland's capital city Amsterdam, the authorities have another method of handling the drugs problem. In Amsterdam, smoking marijuana or cannabis is as simple as lighting an ordinary cigarette, and so-called health shops have plenty to sell too...

Drugseller: Yeah, we sell four types, we have Mexican, Thai, Philosopher's Stone, Copilania, and we have mushrooms for starters, mushrooms for beginners and people who are very experienced in mushrooms. And we have also herbal ecstasy, as you see over there....

CV: Just one of dozens of shops selling herbal drugs and mushrooms that give you hallucinations or feelings – whatever you desire.

The central parts of Amsterdam are also full of coffee shops, but coffee is not their most popular product. No: there you're allowed to smoke joints. There are restrictions: you must be over

the age of 18, you can only buy a certain amount of the drug at one time, and the shops are not allowed to advertise. The local police are very strong on keeping to these rules and maintaining control over the trade.

So what's it like to live in a city where the view of soft drugs is so different from cities and towns here in Sweden? Close View talked to two Swedes, Julia and Malin, who live and work in an Amsterdam pub. Is life so different?

J&M:

J: It's the same in one way. We get along well with Dutch people, there's never any problem. They always like Swedish people. There's no big misunderstandings or anything like that. So that's good. And also it's different because they're much more liberal than in Sweden: I mean, prostitution, drugs, things like that. It's a very different culture. The first months you get really shocked as a Swede. In the beginning I lived with some Dutch people, they just smoked joints in front of the TV, and as Swede it's like – "Oh no, what are they doing?". But now you never react. I don't know. you're becoming more and more Dutch-minded. The Dutch think that – if that person wants to do that, then go ahead, and they treat everybody more adult. In Sweden we have – this is right and this is wrong. And I still think like that in a lot of ways. I've had many discussions with the Dutch people. If they want to do it... I don't, so...

Why should I stop them? It's their life.

M: It's something that I believe works in Amsterdam and only in Amsterdam. Nowhere else in the world. It would never work in Sweden and there wouldn't be any purpose in putting (introducing) it into Sweden. I think if you look at the drug policy, for instance, we have alcohol creating plenty of abuse, so why put in other drugs to abuse? Why put it under people's noses and go, "Go on, try this drug as well. Use it."

It's also funny because in this restaurant you see the Dutch people come in here and they have their dinner or whatever and they go down and play some pool and they just roll a joint and it's no big deal y'know? But tourists coming here, they're like "Can I roll a joint in here if I go outside to smoke it?" and I say "You can

smoke in here.” They say “Can I smoke cannabis in here? Can I smoke a joint in here?”. You go “Yeah” and they go “Wow! This is Amsterdam”. People are fascinated by it.

And it’s not a big thing that people talk about. It’s like having a pint of lager, it’s not that big a difference.

K: But in Sweden it is a huge difference. In Sweden it’s very serious. The policy on drugs is – no drugs at all coming into this country. So by coming here you’ve made a big jump, in a way.

M: That’s wrong though, in a way, because saying that there’s no drugs allowed is not right, because alcohol is a drug. Which is a very bad drug for you, if you look at the body and all this. It’s just a completely different way of looking at it.

Music:

Drugseller: “Like the main thing we sell are mushrooms. Mushrooms are psychaedelics. We sell only fresh mushrooms. They make you laugh, see colours, hallucinations, visuals. Yeah, we sell four types, we have Mexican, Thai, Philosopher’s Stone, Copilania, and we have mushrooms for starters, mushrooms for beginners and people who are very experienced in mushrooms. And we have also herbal ecstasy, as you see over there. It comes very close to the ecstasy feeling, it’s exactly the same. It’s made of herbs, herbs that are very strong. They simulate the feeling. It’s not exactly the same thing, real Indian-made but it’s nice. It gives you a lot of energy, a happy feeling. It also depends how your body reacts to it. Like with the mushrooms it’s how you feel, how you react to it.

We have also seeds for marijuana, you can grow plants. We also have sex stimulants for men and women. We have energisers and other herbs that make you relax or are for concentration and for energy.

CV: Many of these things wouldn’t be allowed in some countries. They say they’re unhealthy. What do you think about that?

D: Everything is unhealthy: alcohol if you use it too much is also dangerous. That’s why we give a lot of good information in this shop, you know? We give info for people, how to use them. When to do them and when not to do them. We ask people if they use medicine or if they’re sick or ill. With mushrooms people cannot do it if they don’t feel good, if they are paranoid or if they are afraid. So it depends. So we try always to give the right information.

CV: As you heard, there's plenty here to buy. As well as the mushrooms and pills sold in some shops, there are the criminal sellers just like in any big city. Out on the streets at night men selling cocaine and other drugs nod and whisper to passers-by, and the atmosphere can feel dangerous.

Nobody argues with the fact that drugs are dangerous in many ways. In Amsterdam the Jellinek Centre is the major treatment clinic for all forms of addiction – drugs, alcohol and gambling all included. It's their job to bring down the number of addicts.

Ruud Kesomakis is one of the centre's experts. Surely he must be against the soft drugs on sale?

Jellinek. “No we are in fact in favour of this coffee shop policy. We think it has also some positive effects. In fact what we have done is to liberalise a drug which certainly has some risks but the risks are less than, for example, heroin. So we have liberalised these drugs but on the other hand we have been quite firm with the harder drugs like heroin. What we have seen is a drop in heroin and partly we think that has to do with the coffee shop policy.

In fact I would even prefer to go one step further and legalise it completely. Because if you legalise cannabis I think you can even have a better system of prevention. Because then you can carry out a price policy. Cannabis is in fact very cheap and if you legalise it you can raise taxes and then you can make it much more expensive. And you can also do some quality control. But there's something else I'd like to stress in general, and that is a little bit about how we think about people. What I mean is that we in general think that people can decide for themselves. That governments shouldn't decide for people. Governments have to take care that people are informed, but then at a certain level people can decide for themselves.

So that's why I think repression, or forbidding a drug, in fact denies the possibility that people can decide for themselves. This has to do with a kind of liberal background that we believe that people can do this.”

CV: Ruud says the biggest addiction problem in Amsterdam is the same as that of most of Europe – alcohol. In terms of what we call drugs, he sees plenty of good news in his home city. But what about the argument that free use of soft drugs just leads to people moving on to so-called hard drugs

- Jellinek. “We have in fact proven that this is not the case. In the 1980’s we had about ten thousand heroin addicts and now we have about five thousand. So if you just look to the figures, then you can see that this is not true. Cannabis has, in fact, a very strong effect. It is not so that it is a soft effect or anything like that. No, the effect is strong, and this effect doesn’t become less when you are an experienced user. So there is also no need to go to something else. In fact the words “soft” and “hard” suggest that it is a soft effect, but this is not the case.
- CV: Let’s not forget that there are massive disadvantages to using soft drugs. The physical addictive effects are fewer, but users become psychologically addicted. They find it very hard to give up.
Smoking cannabis damages your short-term memory, leaving you confused and disoriented, and it is very bad for your lungs. One joint is as damaging to your lungs as at least four ordinary cigarettes.
- Julia and Malin get plenty of smoke of all kinds during a shift behind the bar in the popular pub where they work in Amsterdam. But I asked them if staying in that city had altered their views about whether they wanted to try any kind of drug.
- J&M: Well not for me. No, not really. There’s more excitement doing drugs in Sweden. I’ve been to a couple of parties where people have marijuana, hash, and they’re like – shouldn’t you smoke? And everybody’s sitting in a ring passing it on and it’s like, “Come on you should try it! At least try it!” But here when they’re passing the joint around and they say “Do you smoke” and you say no thank you, they just pass it on. They never push you or ask you why you don’t smoke. It’s always there and you can always try it if you want to, but I don’t feel that moving here makes me want to smoke more, or... I don’t know, I don’t think so. It’s just no excitement about it. For me? No.
- M: I’ve come to the point where I feel – yet again to come back to drugs and the liberal way of looking at it – I don’t really want to raise a family in Amsterdam. Where I’m going I don’t know. Sweden or somewhere else. Amsterdam for a few more years maybe, but not forever.



CV: So who's right, and who's wrong? The argument goes on through all of Europe.

 Some English cities are taking the same line as Amsterdam. Other countries are in the EU want stronger drug laws. The one thing nobody wants is more drug abusers.

 This has been Close View, from Amsterdam, Holland. Check out our script at www.ur.se/closeview. Bye bye

Music: Pretty like drugs

Close View 4- Do it yourself

Producent: Anna Swantesson

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Keith: Hello, and welcome to Close View which today will be about how to do it yourself. People who don't wait for things to happen but who instead make things happen themselves.

Toby: There's this possibility! You can do it, which is just so empowering! It actually makes you feel like there's nothing that can stop you.

Robin: If they can't find anything that they like, and there's nowhere to play the music that they like then just do it yourself.

Matt: You often don't need lots of money; you need lots of ambition and patience but most of all you need to enjoy what you're doing.

Keith: We'll meet Toby whose pop group Aerospace didn't wait for a big record company to sign them, but who instead released their records themselves.

We'll meet Robin and Simon who couldn't find a club that played the music that they liked and no-one arranged concerts with their favourite bands, so they started a club where bands that they really liked could play live.

Finally you'll meet Matt who, because of his love for literature started his own publishing company so that he could sell books by new writers on the Internet.

Toby Thorsén sings and plays guitar in a band called Aerospace. They have released three records themselves without help from a major record company. He says that the older guys and the punk-groups in his hometown Sandviken have inspired him; they released their own music themselves. So he wanted to do the same.

Toby: They did it! It all started with that they were the cool ones in my city and I looked up to them and they played guitar so I wanted to play guitar as well. And a couple of years later after that when we actually had our first band that sounded good, or at least we thought we sounded good - probably never did- we got together

with some friends and they had another band and we decided to do a split-single together. Just because... we actually did demo tapes before, which we sold, we never sent them to any record label or anything; we just made the tapes, made the covers, made posters, played shows and sold the tapes just as if it would be a legitimate, or actual real release. And we sold 500 copies in two weeks just by asking every single person that we knew: this is our first record, please buy it! And they did!

And after that it seemed like the only way to go. No one told us that there was supposed to be a major record company involved, and that there was supposed to be a producer and a promoter...we didn't know! So we just thought that: Hey! Let's do it!

(Music)

Keith: That was Toby's band Aerospace with the song "My Love Don't Care About Time" from their latest record "In a Place of Silver Eaves". Sounds like a professional recording to me, but how do you actually record yourself? Don't you need a professional studio? The fact is that it's not that complicated and expensive to record music yourself today. Equipment and computers to record are not dear and you can actually record at home instead of hiring an expensive studio. But wouldn't it be better and cheaper to record with the help from a big record company?

Toby: Well, it is expensive but if you sell it you get all the money back. If we as a band - we're five people - when we record, the only people that need to get paid, is us five. If we contact a major record label, we need to get paid, the studio engineer needs to get paid, the producer needs to get paid, the girl who answers the phone need to get paid, a whole lot of people need to get paid. And if we do it on our own the only people who need the money is us, that's five people instead of forty. Even though they pay for the initial investment we're going to get less money back and today when you can use cheaper computers, you don't have to have a studio, you don't need a studio to record.

(Music)

Toby: There's always the problem with the initial investment. You have to have some money. But if you're five people and you maybe need five thousand crowns to record an album, then that's one thousand per person. It might sound like a lot of money but it's not an impossible amount of money.

Keith: Lately, television programmes about the making of an artist have become popular:
TV-programmes that can make you a famous artist - and will let you release a record, if the jury think you're good enough.
Wouldn't it be smarter to apply for these programmes: Popstars or Fame Factory if you want to become an artist? Toby doesn't think so.

Toby: Don't even look at Popstars or don't even look at Fame Factory. Okay, they can give you lots of great tips if you want to be a middle-of-the-road-artist but you're going to become a product from day one. I'm not really sure that human beings are actually meant to become products that way. If you do it yourself, of course you're definitely a product, but you're the one who is controlling it and I think that is just so much more important. There is just so much more out there, and it's just so much more empowering for you as a person if you try to do it yourself. I think you can gain so much more confidence by building your own networks, by doing things on your own, setting your own goals. There is so much more to learn in life experience that way.

Keith: Simon Gooch and Robin Sumpton moved to Stockholm from England a couple of years ago. Robin had been working in a record shop in London and Simon used to be a music journalist. They were now both unemployed shared the same taste in music and came up with the idea to start a club called Accelerator. On the first club-night hundreds of people turned up, lots of them didn't even get in. Today Simon and Robin work full time and get paid for doing the job. The club has grown and they have brought big acts like The Strokes, Håkan Hellström and The Hives to play at Accelerator.
Here's their advice on how to start something yourself.

Simon: Don't just sit around waiting for stuff to happen to you. The most important thing is to go out and make your own luck. I think that's the biggest thing we've done since moving here; we've made our own luck. Just doing something that comes from your heart and it doesn't have to be about music, it can be whatever, just start writing something on the Internet, just start doing whatever it is that you love, just try to find a medium to express that.

Keith: One of the most important things to think of if you want to arrange a concert is to have a good PA - that is a proper sound system. Other advice from Simon and Robin is to start off with small Swedish bands. You also have to be prepared to work hard. And don't expect to make a lot of money from it.

Simon: There's cooking food for them, making sure that they've got the beer that you promised them.

Robin: Carrying their stuff...

Simon: Yeah, carrying their stuff into the venue, helping them set up. It's all that sort of hard work that you have to be prepared to do. And be prepared to be very, very tired at three in the morning when the club's finished and the band's offstage and you've taken them home to their hotel or back to yours or whatever. Because the next day you're going to be shattered, but if you love it you don't care.

(Music)

Simon: It's best to start off with bands you know. Try to get to know some bands and just talk to people who are already working with that kind of stuff, become friends with the people around and hopefully that will lead to...be able to work with people and getting help from people, help and doing stuff. Maybe there's something you didn't ever think about that someone will tip you about

Robin: Yeah, ask other people that do the same sort of thing. They will usually be more than willing to help out and probably a little bit flattered that you asked them.

Keith: Matt Ward used to work for a fashion company that supported young designers. The company used to sell young designers on their web-site, so then Matt came up with the idea that he could do the same with books - publish new writers and sell them through a web-site. That's how Matt started his publishing company "Flame books".

He learned the skills on how to do it at his previous job and has now transferred those skills to this new job. But the job at Flame Books is not just something he's doing to make money.

Matt: Oh, one day it might be a career but it takes a little while to set things up. I'm in it because at the end of the day I want to be my own boss. I basically used to run the last company I worked for and I thought "Why am I working for this other person when I'm doing it all myself", so I thought "Why not set up my own company and try to do what I think is fun". Because you have to have a go, because if you want a good job, then set something up yourself. And it's not all about career as well, it's a good hobby to have, it's good fun and you never know, one day one of the authors might win a prize, that will make it all worthwhile and we could print lots and lots more books!

(Music)

Matt: I didn't have any authors in mind when I started. But I really enjoy reading books by new writers and I thought that lots of books in bookshops are often written by celebrities and big names and I think it's a shame that new writers aren't published more often. So I thought that I would do something about it and publish new writers because I enjoy that and I know that a lot of other people enjoy that too. Even though they might not be the best selling books in the world, they are good books in their own right and as long as quite a few people enjoy it, that makes it worthwhile for me.

Keith: Matt Ward reads through hundreds of manuscripts that people have sent in from all over the world. He chooses the stories that Flame Books will publish, he pre-read and edits them and suggest changes that will make the book better.
The books that he sells can only be bought through his web site, not in any bookshops.
Today the Internet is a lot of help for people who do it themselves. It's easy to reach out to a lot of people that way. You can promote and sell your music, your books, fanzines or whatever it is that you want to sell on a web site.
When Matt started Flame Books he got a lot of help from friends but he didn't have much money. He says that it of course helps if you have money to invest in your company when you start.

Here's more advice from Matt to someone who wants to start something

Matt: If you really enjoy something, you should first of all investigate all the details surrounding what you enjoy. You could maybe work for a company that does similar things just to learn the skills but at the end of the day you should just go for what you enjoy because even if it doesn't turn out to be the biggest company in the world and you become the richest person, you still have the enjoyment of, you know, you enjoy what you're doing. I didn't have any money and I was still able to set it up. I found lots of friends that had different skills, like designing websites and they all did the work for less money because they wanted to support what I was doing, they wanted to be part of it and they knew we didn't have much money so they wanted to help out. But you often don't need lots of money; you need lots of ambition and patience but most of all you need to enjoy what you're doing

Keith: You have been listening to Close View. My name is Keith Foster. This programme was created and produced by Anna Swantesson with help from our sound engineer Gunnar Csiffary. Remember not to wait around for things to happen. If you want something or miss something – do it yourself. Take Care, bye for now.

Words:

Release -	släppa
Publishing company -	bokförlag
Record company -	skivbolag
Record label –	skivetikett
Empower -	göra det möjligt
Promoter -	någon som marknadsför och säljer.
Network -	nätverk, system
Acts -	uppträdande, I detta fallet band eller artist.
Shattered -	förkrossad, nedbruten
Support -	stötta
Ambition -	strävan, nå sitt mål
Enjoy -	njuta av, tycka om

Inspired -	inspirerad
Cheaper -	billigare
Apply -	ansöka
Flattered -	smickrad
Worthwhile -	värt besväret
Skills -	skicklighet, färdighet

Questions:

1. Would you like to do something yourself? If so, what would that be? How would you do it?
2. Do you know someone who has started something? Tell me about that!
3. Fame Factory and Popstars: Good or bad? Discuss!
4. People that do it themselves and start things: Good or bad? Difficulties? Discuss!