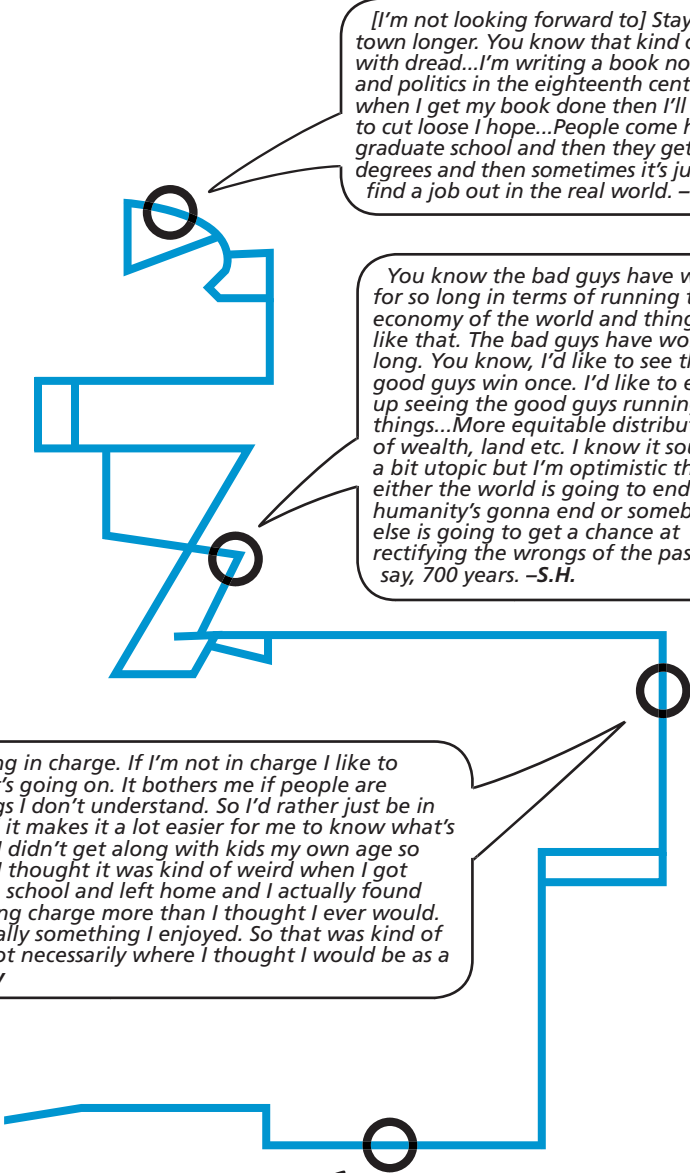




On the Bus:

An art project intended to spark interest in those around you

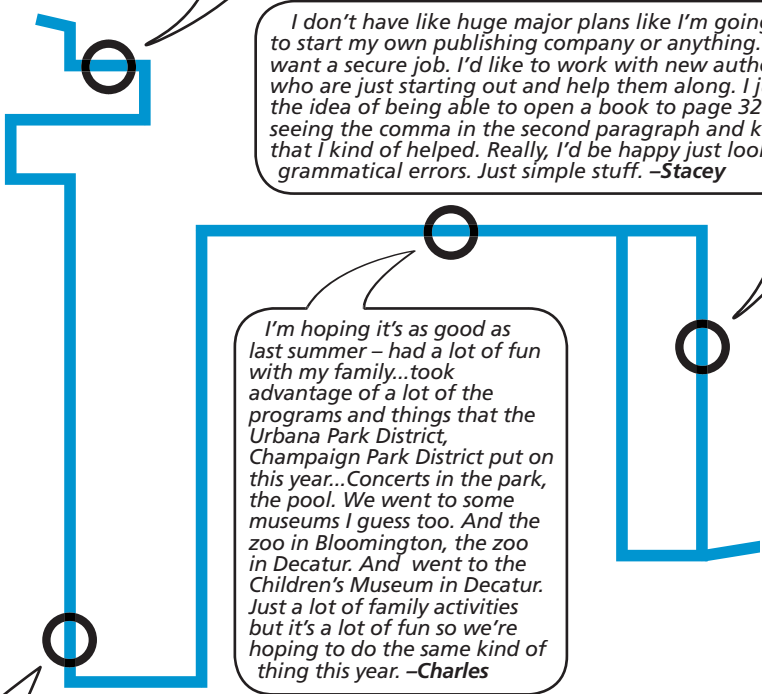


[I'm not looking forward to] Staying in this town longer. You know that kind of fills me with dread...I'm writing a book now [opera and politics in the eighteenth century] and when I get my book done then I'll be able to cut loose I hope...People come here for graduate school and then they get advanced degrees and then sometimes it's just hard to find a job out in the real world. -Thomas

You know the bad guys have won for so long in terms of running the economy of the world and things like that. The bad guys have won so long. You know, I'd like to see the good guys win once. I'd like to end up seeing the good guys running things...More equitable distribution of wealth, land etc. I know it sounds a bit utopic but I'm optimistic that either the world is going to end or humanity's gonna end or somebody else is going to get a chance at rectifying the wrongs of the past, say, 700 years. -S.H.

I like being in charge. If I'm not in charge I like to know what's going on. It bothers me if people are doing things I don't understand. So I'd rather just be in charge and it makes it a lot easier for me to know what's going on...I didn't get along with kids my own age so that's why I thought it was kind of weird when I got out of high school and left home and I actually found myself taking charge more than I thought I ever would. It was actually something I enjoyed. So that was kind of unusual. Not necessarily where I thought I would be as a kid. -Kelly

My wife is expecting a baby so that's what I'm looking for right now. That's my big issue in my life...There are weeks that I think 'Oh, I'd like to have a boy'. Next week, 'Oh, I'd like to have a girl'. I go up and down on these things...We have a name for a girl. If it's a girl it will be named Ana Lua. Lua means moon in Portuguese - that's my language. If it's a boy, we don't have any agreement. It will be kind of hard. But my wife wants a native Brazilian Indian name and I don't like that. I want a more common name and she doesn't like that. So we'll have to negotiate a lot. -Claudio



I want to go to Iceland again...We went there sort of on a whim and liked it so much and we're just into Vikings and stuff. We're into living history. So we picked Vikings and Iceland's pretty cool. They have the museums and stuff there and it's beautiful scenery and everything like that. -Julie

I don't have like huge major plans like I'm going to start my own publishing company or anything. I just want a secure job. I'd like to work with new authors who are just starting out and help them along. I just like the idea of being able to open a book to page 32 and seeing the comma in the second paragraph and know that I kind of helped. Really, I'd be happy just looking for grammatical errors. Just simple stuff. -Stacey

I'm hoping it's as good as last summer - had a lot of fun with my family...took advantage of a lot of the programs and things that the Urbana Park District, Champaign Park District put on this year...Concerts in the park, the pool. We went to some museums I guess too. And the zoo in Bloomington, the zoo in Decatur. And went to the Children's Museum in Decatur. Just a lot of family activities but it's a lot of fun so we're hoping to do the same kind of thing this year. -Charles

[I'm not looking forward to] Trying to find a job in this economy right now. It's pretty hard. I'd like to work with kids because I really enjoy tutoring. I'd like to find something that helps children whether that be disadvantaged children - or anything with children really is what I'd like to do. Don't know if I'll get there. -Liz

○ The Project

From February to April of 2002, I began an interview-based art project about the bus system in Champaign-Urbana. I rode five bus lines (yellow, red, blue, orange, and green) from beginning to end and back again. Trying to maintain a diverse group, I approached people with two questions: "What are you looking forward to?" and "What are you not looking forward to?". With these two questions as a starting point, conversations developed, each one as unique as the people I met.

This project is about increasing awareness of and appreciation for people we encounter in our daily lives. Have you ever wondered what the person sitting next to you on the bus is thinking about? Is she on her way home to check the day's lotto numbers? Are he and his wife trying to decide what to name their baby?

Because having a specific purpose makes it easier to ask personal questions of strangers, this project gave me the excuse to approach people and ask them what was on their minds. The recorded conversations resulting from this process are the basis of the project installations on the buses and in the bus station. Audio recordings of the interviews are installed in the transit building and quotes from these conversations can be found on area buses. As people encounter these remnants of my experiences on the bus, I hope that their interest in their own fellow passengers is heightened.