

backtalk



By Tanna Guthrie

Living in the Now

Sitting behind two girls at the Collective Soul concert, I was distracted by the flashes of their camera phones. Click. Look. Giggle. No need to watch the stage when you can amuse yourself with endless photos of the great time that you're having. Of course, one must text friends with details of the aforementioned fun. "Oh my gawd! The singer waved at me! Maybe I'll take a picture of him and send it to you."

My sister, Monica, was sitting in a nice restaurant overlooking the Ohio River and noticed a young couple dining with a male friend. The man ignored his partner as he peered intently at his phone, click, click, clicking away while she animatedly chatted with the friend who may end up with a real woman and not a hologram.

When did we stop interacting with each other? I'm guilty of it, too. How many times have I driven through the Metcalf Starbucks lane, ignoring the barrista's perky greeting while I chatted on the phone with clients or friends. "Mom, I can't believe the Guthrie family reunion is, hold on ... no, I don't want a breakfast sandwich with my double tall skinny latte ... sorry, Mom. Yes, I think

Uncle Leroy should bring the Corn Hole game. It's fun watching Aunt Alice do the happy dance when she wins."

Tweeting, blogging, e-mailing, texting, Facebooking ... that's a verb isn't it? When did electronic communication replace a human voice? Sitting with your best friend and actually talking with her; listening to her; laughing without having to sign LOL or leave one of those smiley faces?

Four years ago, I didn't keep a cell phone on me. It was only for emergencies. Now, it is an emergency if I forget and leave it at home. I panic and will rush to retrieve it, hurriedly checking for messages or missed calls. My iPhone is my umbilical cord. What would happen if I cut it, for just one day? Imagine. Alone on a park bench. The sun on my face. A gentle breeze blowing. The sounds of "Welcome to the Jungle." Wait. That's my cell phone ringing.

Tanna is the afternoon host at 98.1 KUDL, as well as a charity fundraising auctioneer and an agent for Prudential Kansas City Realty. She can normally be reached at 913.568.4888, but not today. She's on break, and your message can wait.

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