

MATT'S NOTES

SEPTEMBER 26TH
2026



So, this is the last thing before the episode is considered finished, from my standpoint. These notes, that is!

This is also my final weekend in BC visiting my kids before heading back to Charlotte County, New Brunswick, AKA "the middle of everywhere", in a few days.

The whole *autodidacticism* topic this time around caused me to wonder a bit how much of what I know qualifies as "self-taught".

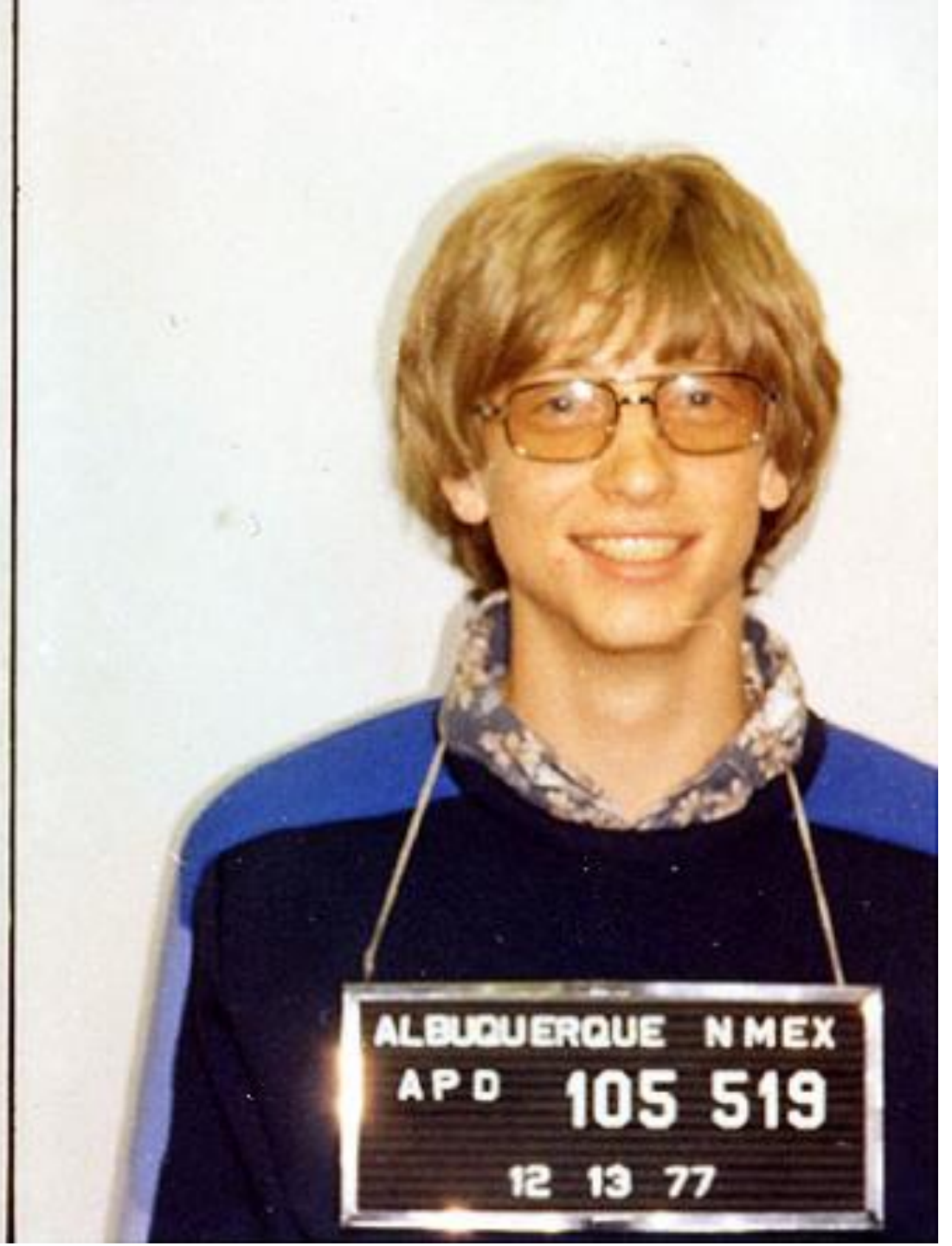
I've read more of Plato's dialogues over the past year than I have previously, since university. And while I was typing up this slide, I actually Googled: "Was Socrates an autodidact?"



And similarly for the likes of: Kurt Cobain, Ernest Hemingway, Marilyn Monroe, Virginia Woolf, Prince, Leadbelly, Bill Gates, and various other "famous" personages over the decades. This was for the purpose of populating our video with images for the intro and outro elements—

Leonardo Da Vinci was both an autodidact and a polymath— note to Doug: the polymath phenomenon may make a worthwhile topic for an episode sometime!

Included herein are some excess images from the searches. Also hereabouts is an image of Dean the Magnificent Chihuahua and the ad hoc dumbbell setups in the garage of the place I'm staying while visiting my kids. Everyone should have the opportunity to get proficient at something! Or at least to the point of enjoyably bad.





Probably my favorite picture from the episode and associated searches and whatnot is of poet Alden Nowlan at the Fredericton Mall from 1982. Nowlan is one of my favorite poets ever, and as a Frederictonian, I have strong attachments to my memories of the Freddy Mall across from Fredericton High School and the McDonald's restaurant where I worked during those years. Nowlan passed away in 1983 at 50, only a couple years older than I am now.

I'd strongly recommend him, if you're looking for the best writing my region has ever produced in the second half of the twentieth century! Self-taught, to be sure. Surely, that's part of his enduring appeal more than forty years after his passing!

