

SPECIAL, FOR-PRINT VERSION

AGORA ROAD E-ZINE

VOLO
4

*Why? Because we are
out of our minds...
And out of Chicken...*



**Being trans isnt being femboy
- Pangolin**

**joke - don't take anything literally. Any similarity with real webs (addresses, below) is totally random. Bye!*

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... Recipes · ...& many more!

SPECIAL, FOR-PRINT (/1) VERSION: /* if not forgotten or (not) mentioned otherwise, posts w/o thread/other links (in this, for-print distro) were submitted personally into storage of s_p or admin before publishing, i.e. not copied from threads on Agora

THERE IS PAGE MISSING INTO PAIR - you can THEMATICALLY add your own, personal space there, then
- I guess...

*Also, if there is not link written down(1) despite header having one, one is to assume names stood unchanged or at least similar.

www.enjoy-the-best-kept-secret-of-the-inter.net

YOUR AD HERE!

AGORA ROAD

Put your Ad Here And We Will Help You shine!

<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-travelouge-august-blogging.5966/post-85300>



Alt. visual of the Zine made by VoiceDrew

TRAVELER'S ANTHALOGIA

TRAVELERS OF AGORA ROAD #1

"NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST"

A SERIES OF ECCLECTIC TEXTS FROM THE ROAD

WOJACK HOPMAN

7% ABV

The best kept secret on the Internet

Dust off those internet pipes, take a break from twitter and >reddit and dive deep into the **AGORA ROAD**

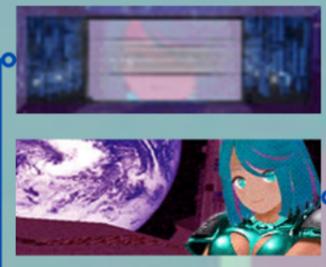
The Road presents a Virtual Cafe where travelers from all around the world can come here to talk about nostalgia of the Y2K era, vaporwave music, and things of the past. A cozy one-of-a-kind community for cool interesting sites, 90's E-Zines, and internet cultures awaits you!

No payment required*

Use our Web site at <http://forum.agoraroad.com>
 *Don't pay anything to 100% Agorawave Inc. Boston, MA, USA



*fictious ads: created by agoran wave-creator (Wo.Ho. cans) | Soma-Spice (AgoraCola) | Pirate (The best kept secret...)



GIFs (top (2x) -to-bottom):

Unreal Tournament 99
 | "Fri @083.beats" (Sat 01:00 UTC) (8:00PM EST) (2:00 AM CET (i.e. Sat))

<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-roads-unreal-tournament-ut99-server.6494/>
<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/waffles-house-of-quake-sunday-service-on-agora-road.7262/>

Quake 3 Arena
 | Sun @750.beats (17:00 UTC) (12:00PM EST) (6:00 PM CET)

EUTZ + US Movie Nights
 | any Sat @792 (18:00UTC). IPTV will open 30 min before.

QUAKE IS FOREVER

"THE MOST IMPORTANT PC GAME EVER"

WAFFLES HOUSE OF QUAKE

Sunday Service

Service Time: Dec 8th @750.beats

Ad(s) for Quake (Night), posted by waffle



(Re)Introducing the Agora Radio Show (eponym. /thread)
 Do you remember? There is possibility to revive tradition...

<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-eutz-movie-nights.7158/> >
<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/introducing-agora-movie-nights.5583/> ^

2024 AGORA ROAD GAME JAM

I want to thank EVERYONE who participated and every user who plays our game so very much. I love that we got together and all made things. I think it's actually even more special that each of these projects are all from Solo devs here on Agora Road. We hopefully will have a few more submissions for everyone to enjoy from some of the other users who participated but were not able to meet the deadline. Time will defiantly4r5 be much more plentiful the next time we do one of these again. Until then, please, Get on some comfy clothes, grab a snack or a drink and enjoy some games made by other users on the road. <3

Thank you again to everyone! Enjoy the holidays everyone and we will see what 2025 holds for the this awesome place on the internet.

AGORA GAME JAM (Aug-Dec) 2024 (possibly) ext.
 Hey everyone! Sorry for the late write up, I wanted to take a little time away from the computer today.

The Agora **Game Jam 2024** (p. 22) has come to an close!

These are the final submissions!
 ^ <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-game-jam-2024-possibly.7039/post-122337>

*joke - don't take anything here literally. Any similarity with real webs (adresses, below) is totally random. Bye!

THE NEON GOD -BY EDEN

The Neon God (https://foreverliketh.is/blog/the-neon-god/)

Posted in *Personal Web, Psychology* on February 29, 2024 by foreverliketh.is - 5 min read

(*link is main to one ref. above)

This post is part of...

- [IndieWeb Carnival](https://indieweb.org/indieweb-carnival): (https://indieweb.org/indieweb-carnival) - A project helping motivate people to write more on their personal websites. This month's host is [Manuel Moreale](https://manuelmoreale.com), and the topic was 'Digital Relationships'.
- [Lainchan Web Festival](https://newdigitalera.org/special/lainchan-web-festival-march-2024): (https://newdigitalera.org/special/lainchan-web-festival-march-2024) - A project trying to foster a more active, independent web community. This month's host (and founder) is newdigitalera.org, (ref. above) and the topic was 'Nature'.
- [Agora Road Travelogue - Feb](https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-travelogue-february-24.6409/): (https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-travelogue-february-24.6409/) - A project attempting to encourage individuals to both write and exercise ownership over their content.
- [Tales of Agora Road - Ezine #4](https://www.agoraroad.com/issue/tales-of-agora-road-ezine-4): - A digital publication created by, and representative of, the Agora Road forum. (One in your hands, now.)

Finally, this post was heavily inspired by [suragu](https://suragu.net) (.net) and his post: [suragu posmoderno](https://suragu.net/blog/20240220). It's written in [Spanish](https://suragu.net/blog/20240220), (https://suragu.net/blog/20240220) but you can read it in (Google Translated) English here. | ¿Oye, tú tiene WhassApp? (https://suragu-net.translate.goog/blog/20240220?_x_tr_sl=es&_x_tr_tl=en) | (https://youtu.be/I2Ou5sJYWdA)

In Spanish, we have the saying: 'Amor de lejos, amor de pendejos'. In English it'd be, roughly: 'Love from afar, love for idiots'. Like the proverb, I won't be bothering to [define love](https://andrei.xyz/post/what-is-love/) today. (https://andrei.xyz/post/what-is-love/) For the sake of discussion though, let's roll with the idea that love is present, in some way, throughout the typical trifecta of:

Co-workers / Acquaintances <-> Friends <-> Family.

Ergo: Abuelita doesn't approve of far-off friends, and she sure as hell ain't commending you for having a long-distance lover.

I don't hear the adage as much as I used to anymore. I suspect its perceived value has been slowly eroding away; not that it was ever intended to be dogma. Though, lol, Gran Gran did enjoy having the highest likelihood of getting to say 'I told you so'. But, ha! She couldn't foresee the future! We sure got one over on her in the end... Right?

Syndication: [32-Bit Cafe](https://32-bit-cafe.com) | [Agora Road](https://agoraroad.com) | [basement community](https://basementcommunity.com)

(links from/at (https://foreverliketh.is/blog/the-neon-god/ ^>))

Present Day, Present Time

Meemaw, for all her faults, be spitting straight fax, yo. Unfortunately, her wisdom is up against a formidable force, an adversary capable of warping humanity's sense of spacetime.

- [When journeys that once seemed impossible, now take hours](https://standardebooks.org/ebooks/homer/the-odyssey/william-cullen-bryant): (https://standardebooks.org/ebooks/homer/the-odyssey/william-cullen-bryant)
- [When our studies of the heavens make the earth feel small](https://pale-blue-dot.webp): ([main header link ^]/pale-blue-dot.webp)
- [When "relating" can occur between anyone, anywhere, at near-light speeds](https://archive.org/details/serial-experiments-lain-english): (https://archive.org/details/serial-experiments-lain-english)

[...]The meaning of 'far away' begins to blur. And detractors proclaim Nana's perception of proximity as "primitive". Because their new lord has bestowed upon them a "more accurate" understanding.

Just a Man (https://youtu.be/Pi-dmufCcong)

The deity has no shortage of such "gifts" either. Each one individually, and cumulatively, granting all manner of "celestial power". How could anyone blame us faithful for our worship? We've become "almighty":

Carrying "omniscience" in our pockets, manifesting fantasies as "reality", [larping as Frankensteins!](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) We converse as phantoms, the diluted remnants of intimacy's essence, and yet still, somehow, retain the gall to call that a "relationship". (foreverliketh.is/blog/here-be-ai/) Clearly, we've deemed Nature as "inadequate". God's labour as "insufficient". And that, where He "falters", the imitator "provides": Synthesized light, fueled by the unrelenting, subatomic dissection of the apple. A sad substitute for the Sun's sanctuary. But we'd trade ANYTHING to keep away the dark. ANYTHING for "salvation". For the absence of hardship, uncertainty, unknowns, loss, loneliness, hate, heartbreak, struggles, pain, death. Indeed, a "perfect world" knows not of night...

And so, we sooner play at divine architects, at semi-gods, than attempt to live humbly, boldly, gracefully, (w)holy, as men.

-foreverliketh.is (Eden)

Contributors: [Simon & Garfunkel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> *The Sounds of Silence* [#1 & #2] | [Serial Experiments Lain](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1, #2 & #3] -> [Lainchan](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Yukinu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Lainring](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) + [sizeof.cat](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [CozyBroz](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [CozyNet IRC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [suragu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [suragu posmoderno](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [spa & eng] + [Lil Pump](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Don Omar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [King of Kings](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Salió el Sol](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1 & #2] | [Charles Darwin](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [On the Origin of Species](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) | [Gilbert Ryle](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Ghost in the machine](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) | [Andrei](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) | [Albert Einstein](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [special theory of relativity](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) | [The Voyager Program](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Carl Sagan](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Pale Blue Dot](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1 & #2] | [The Bible](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1 & #2] + [Aaron Leonard](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Book of Genesis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1 & #2] -> [Garden of Eden](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Tree of the knowledge of good and evil](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Forbidden fruit](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [John Milton](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Paradise Lost](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1 & #2] | [Homer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [The Odyssey](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1 & #2] -> [Odysseus](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Astanax](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Jorge Rivera-Herrans / Epic: The Musical](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) | [Prometheus](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Mary Shelley](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Frankenstein](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong); or, [The Modern Prometheus](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1 & #2] -> [Victor Frankenstein](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Frankenstein's monster](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) | [Avocado Animations](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [Velma Meets the Original Velma](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) | [Rush \(band\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [2112 \(album\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) -> [2112 \(song\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi-dmufCcong) [#1 & #2]

ECHOES OF DIAL TONE -BY CAPTAIN

I remember looking up at the stars, much like tonight, in 1999. I remember checking the time on my Sprint PCS TouchPoint phone. It's display simple and glowing green. It was almost midnight on Christmas Eve. I had just signed off AOL for the night and was processing everything that just happened.

I was thinking how big the world was and how I could never fully know it. I was thinking of the internet. It's evolution and how amazing it was that I could talk to someone anywhere at any time.

I could almost see cyberspace in the night sky as if the Netscape splash screen had come to life. But even that did not make the world seem smaller, it made it even bigger and more mysterious.

I remember the feeling of the anticipated adventure of life that lay ahead of me and the mystery of it all. The mystery wrapped up around me the stars around the Earth in the sky. The air was quiet and still.

In the stillness I could feel something, almost like a sixth sense, the data was overflowing out of the phone lines above my head. I could almost feel the presence of the people chatting in chatrooms like an invisible light washing over me from them.

Life was happening above my head in tiny copper wires, an explosion of emotions traveling at the speed of light from all the ends of the planet.

For the first time the human experience was happening all around me invisible and in complete silence. Yet somehow knew it was there. This is the feeling I chase but will never feel again.

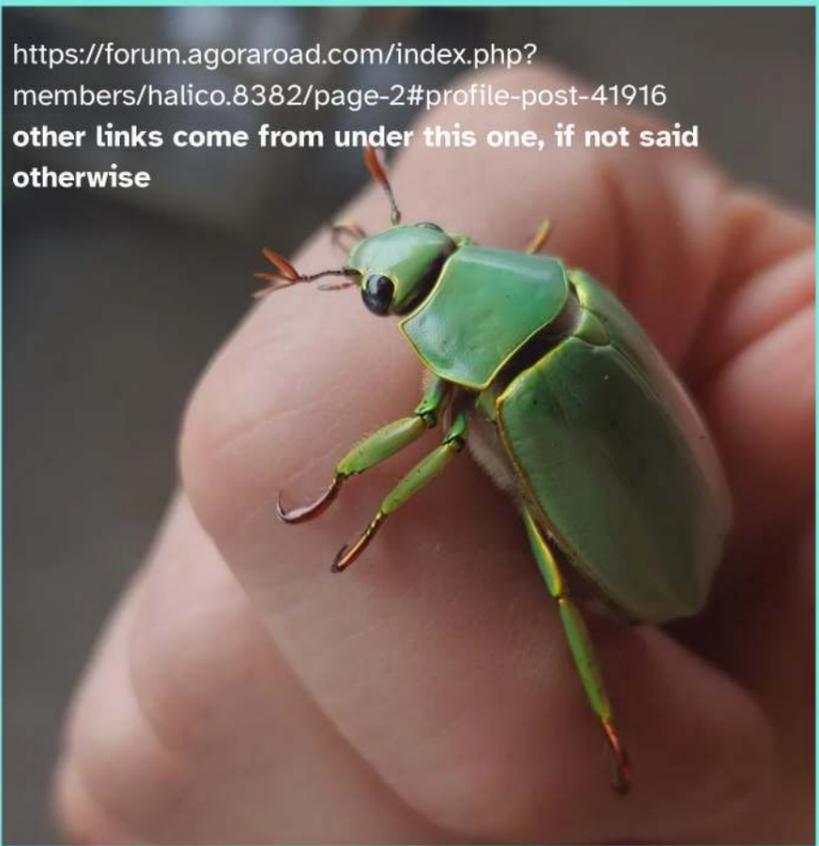
This is nostalgia. Unfortunately, in our hyperconnected social world, it will never feel big again. I will chase nostalgia until I can't any longer. The internet raceway of telephone lines above my head is dead quiet, and I can feel its absence like a loud silence making my ears bleed. There is no internet traffic, no dial tone, no voices.

That world is gone, but I will never forget it.

-Captain

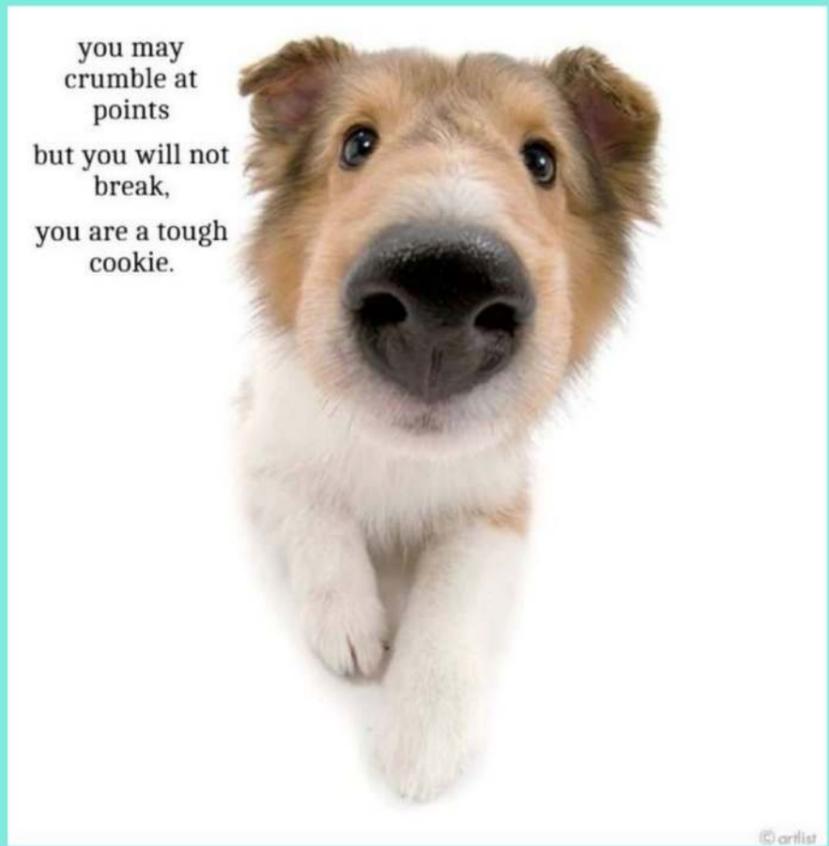
/ if not forgotten or (not) mentioned otherwise, posts w/o thread/other links (in this, for-print distro) were submitted personally into storage of s_p or admin before publishing, i.e. not copied from threads on Agora*

"WHOLE SOME CHILDHOOD WONDER" -POST BY HALICO



<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?members/halico.8382/page-2#profile-post-41916>
other links come from under this one, if not said otherwise

**Stop hating yourself for everything you're not.
And start loving yourself for everything you are, nigga.**



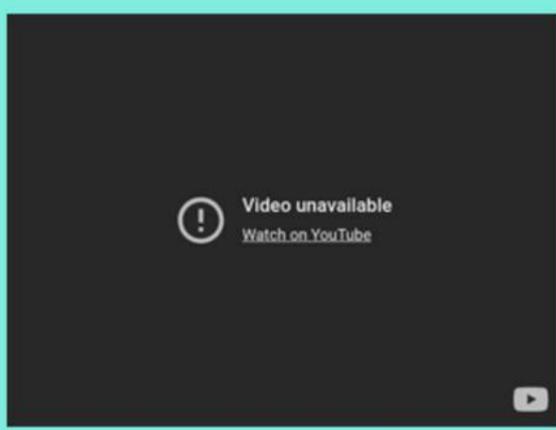
you may crumble at points
but you will not break,
you are a tough cookie.

**You may crumble at points
but you will never break,
You are a tough cookie.**



-Post by Oedipus

(<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?profile-posts/41695/>)

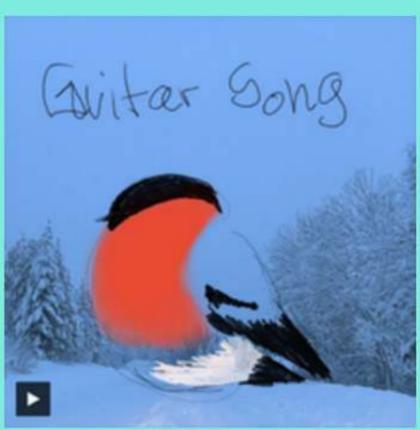


-Post by Antice to Waffle

(<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?members/waffle.7679/#profile-post-4190>)

(<https://guitarsaurus.bandcamp.com/album/guitar>) [3llie, below]

(deleted/privated: showed elderly japane/asian man playing dj set with great passion)



-Post by 3llie ▲

◀ Post by Andy Kaufman (<https://streamable.com/fejr0c>)



Catposting

-Post by remember_summer_days

Everything the light touches is her kingdom

(https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.phpmembers/remember_summer_days.2894/page-8#profile-post-41913)

Speedometer. - Private (2000)
/* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKCgsu9p30Q>

▲ -Post by Taleisin (<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?members/taleisin.3203/page-2#profile-post-41900>)

THE RISE OF PROFILICITY & THE FUTURE OF SOC.-BY DEL.3373

This thread is based on a post I made about the recent massacres in the United States. A sort of sequel to my meme critique thread which got a surprising amount of attention.

Over the past decade I have found a lot of my social interactions to feel strange and stilted. *Like the other person isn't really... there.* There is no connection or any interest in connecting. In the past year or two there has been growing attention given to the concept of *profilicity*.

To understand profilicity you must understand *human identity formation*. There are (to date) three forms of identity formation that have existed across human societies. They are as follows:

1. Sincerity

Sincerity is the most common form of identity having existed throughout most of human history. In sincere societies your identity is given to you by a village or tribe which assigns a role to you (often based on family ties) which you must then carry out. The more sincerely you carry it out (that is to say effort you put in and how much pride you take in your work) the better you are seen by a community. This is how humans have operated for most of our existence.

2. Authenticity

This is one that I imagine virtually everyone here will be familiar with. *Authenticity* rose with industrialisation which gave a person more choice in terms of consumption and activities as commodities and info. became more widespread. Thus breaking down sincerity. Authenticity was defined more by how one was different from the people around them. Think back to any pre-school entertainment from say... the 90s. / Programmes like *Barney the dinosaur* liked to talk about how kids were "**special and unique**". A phrase that I would later go on to be mocked to no end.

During this time period we saw various teenage subcultures like the goths, punks, grunge, and emo. The idea was to have the most diversified interests and to bond with people over said interests. This would result in social status and networking.

3. Profilicity

Today however we have fallen into a new form of identity formation called *profilicity* (although I sometimes like to call it **relatability**). This is a form that has arisen very recently but has already had a massive impact. It is heavily tied to social media and can be best described as follows. / *Imagine an artist paints a picture of the ocean. He then posts this piece of art to instagram.*

A person views this image and then proceeds fetch himself a glass of water. When the water is a clear fluid rather than blue he feels as if something is wrong as the water is not matching the artist's rendition as this person believes that renditions are a more accurate reflection of reality than well... reality itself. That is *profilitic thinking* in a nutshell. A focus on the **hyperreal** over the real.

In profilitic society people become obsessed with *online identity groups*. *Politics, LGBT, memes, the works*. This is a trend that I think was best exemplified on old tumblr. Many of the identities we see today can be traced back to this website. Agender, pansexual, a bunch of mental illnesses, etc.

The people there grew very attached to **their labels** very quickly. Kins were among the more infamous and bizarre of them with some claiming to feel like an animal.

However what does, say, a fox feel like? No one really knows as no human can experience the mind of a fox. And yet in spite of this you had; a whole community of teens bonding over claiming to feel like a fox.

"Fox" isn't even an emotional state. A fox has no single emotional state as a fox can feel a number of different feelings depending on the situation (as can all mammals).

So this leaves the question of *what exactly these people were bonding over*. If "fox" has no consistent qualities then what is it besides a word? The answer to this question is quite straight forward. It is nothing more than a word. A word that **has been given qualities** by a "community" that has no real bond.

Over the past decade I noticed something of a shift in the emphasis of a lot of entertainment. Whereas in the past (as mentioned above) it was about being "special and unique" it has since shifted to "**everyone is included**".

That is quite a drastic shift. Instead of all being different, everyone becomes included under a single umbrella. Advertisers love this as it allows people to literally identify with their products. But it's not loved for just that reason.

I take the example of the Lego company. Lego requires no introduction, most of us will be familiar with that company and its' products in one way or another. Here we will compare two designs of their website.

Note: Images on the link in name

Well it's a lot more simplistic for one. But even then things get more interesting if one is to look at the shop page.

Of course I don't collect Lego but the front page of the shop interested me. As I scroll down the page I noticed there are banners for various sets that are currently in production.

Of these however there was one very strange difference from the Lego of my childhood. It depicts humans. *Not* the minifigures, not the sets, but the humans (usually adults) constructing the sets.

The focus is on humans and their reaction to these sets. This is *profilicity in action*. These products are not advertised as products with amusement value; but rather as lifestyle. In Lego's more recent advertising campaigns there is a notable increase in use of humans.

Simply compare the ads* from the 2000s and the ones from the last few years and see the contrast. I have also since learned that the company now runs an app titled "Lego Life". No matter what way you look at it products are now being advertised as *a state of existence rather than as just products*. Hell, a lot of companies nowadays use the **phrase "experience"** to describe *whatever* they are selling.

There was also a notable up tick in replacing the term "**customer service**" with "**costumer care squad**". Companies seem hellbent on promoting their products within the realm of **hyperreality**. "*Owning this product means you are happy and awesome*". Of course advertising has always done this to some extent but the idea is that consuming a product will create a sense of happiness and satisfaction. Now consuming a product is *like having a family, a friend. An identity*.

Ultimately though **these identities** are hollowed out means of dopamine. There is no connection to be had over them as they are simply words or products presented in a hyperrealistic manner so as to *gaslight consumers into thinking that they should feel a certain way*.

It's why a lot of people now identify with memes. Because memes are (in many cases) a mere means of dopamine. People change their identities based on whatever brings dopamine in a given moment. / I am reminded of the scene from Wall-E in which humans are presented with an ad* telling them to change their color to red because it is "*the new blue*" (or something to that effect).

That is quite literally what we're seeing here. "*This gender equals euphoria*", "*this product equals happiness*", "*this meme means you are popular*". It is people bonding over dopamine instead of any kind of common action or ideal.

Because of this we now live in a society of *people who cannot shift away from scripts prescribed by the net**. To shift away from them *violates the identity*. We can see this in *pronoun bills* in which an individual must have their pronouns recognised. You are legally required to re-enforce the thoughts in other people's heads. / It becomes **fundamentally anti-social** as it negates one's self in relation to others. In effect, *we must now all validate the nonsense in other people's heads and may someday face legal penalties for not doing so*. Life becomes your oyster and in the process you become nothing but a means to dopamine.

Feel free to ponder where this may go and if you think it's even real or not. ●

POP CULTURAL VAPIDITY IN THE 90S & 2000S -BY ANHERO

I don't exactly have a proper 'thesis' for this, since this is something I only think about sometimes when something reminds me, but have you ever looked at stuff from the 90 and 00s and marvelled at the lack of overbearing 'social awareness'? I'm not exactly saying that politics took a break at this time, or that everyone was gloriously 'politically incorrect'

Spoiler

(actually, if you're looking for a time when people cared the least about political correctness, without being outright bigots, that was probably the late 60s and 70s, people in the 90s were already feeling stifled and wishing that things could go back to how they were)

, however, I notice there was a certain irreverence of, or disinterest in dealing politics.

I first noticed this while I was watching **a movie from '98 called Wild Things.**

The movie's basic premise, at the start, is that a beloved high-school teacher is suddenly in very deep shit when a student whose advances he'd rejected falsely accuses him of rape. A man falsely accused of rape? Nowadays that's quite a politically charged topic. I figured that would be the storyline for the whole movie. Thus, it came as a shock when, halfway through, the case is solved, and everyone goes home. After that, the movie launches into loads of thriller movie hijinks and increasing double-crosses, with the false rape plot left far behind. I don't know, I found it very interesting that a movie would totally jettison the 'political' element like that. That would be basically blasphemy at this point. I mean, imagine if the movie came out last year, *with all of that 'Amber vs Johnny' stuff, and it casually did away with a false accusation plot like that.*

Another point. I like to consider myself as being an 'early adopter' of the 'y2k aesthetic'. As early as 2018 and 2019 I was digging up magazines from around the house, browsing dead forums, sorting by 'oldest' all over the place. Soon enough I ran into this article by Vanity Fair, originally published in 2003 called *'It's Raining Teens'*.

It's Raining Teens (<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2003/07/teens-portfolio200307>)

They're everywhere, and they're targeting a teen near you! Mark Seliger captures the girl-power goddesses and cute-boy wonders currently wowing Hollywood, while Krista Smith pops a quiz on their crushes and pet peeves. / www.vanityfair.com

Basically the idea is that they assembled quite a large number of kid stars who were big circa 2003; everyone from Raven Symone to the Harry Potter kids. I went into the article with this kind of lofty expectation that they would totally address everything about 'being alive in 2003'.

More accurately, I figured things would get very topical and political. You know, Racism, Climate Change, The Iraq War, whatever. What I didn't expect that it would basically be short bios of the stars, featuring questions like *'What's your catchphrase?' and 'Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera?'*

The closest thing to a *'pertinent, topical' question* you get in this article is *'What video-games do you play?'*, asked of the boys and *'How many Juicy Couture sweatpants do you own?'*, asked of the girls. Honestly, this kind of floored me, in a way, with its simplicity.

Seriously, God only knows what kind of questions they would be asking *if this article came out 20 years later*; *'How did you survive Covid?' 'How would you deal with climate crisis?' 'What would you do to stop police brutality?' 'What is the meaning of life?'*

Another minor thing, I saw just today, which is what reminded me. A song by Lily Allen from 2009 called 'Fag Hag'. Very provocative, apparently a critique of girls who use gay guys as accessories; the 'Gay Best Friend' thing, you know. Coming out today a song like this would be ripe for analysis. Every reaction to it would be swimming in jargon. Video-essay after video-essay...However, look at the comments. People don't give a shit. The comments are all just having a laugh.

The statement made by the song is seemingly totally ignored in a way that would be unthinkable now. There are actually a few more recent commenters who make note of this difference.

For example:

"How does no one in this comment section understand that this song is satire its taking the piss out of people like this who use gay men as accessories and only see gay men for their sexuality and not as people the song is calling you out for being shallow naive and superficially nice"

and

This comment section is unintentionally an interesting peek into late 2000s sensibilities. You just know that if this song came out today there would be analysis up the ass about its political significance, whether it's an effective message or a bad one, probably half of it taken up by whether she should be allowed to use the word at all... But all the comments here from way back when are very brief and unassuming.

I first noticed this while I was watching a movie from '98 called **Wild Things.**



It's Raining Teens



View: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqTVvKjhmkw>

<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/pop-cultural-vapidity-in-the-90s-2000s.5851/>

Its worth a years salary to see

charles
chaplin

in



AGORA
ROAD

Written and Directed by Charles Chaplin

FIRST NATIONAL  ATTRACTION

THE ABYSS THAT IS SONICHU -BY MCGOVERN '72!

You've felt it too, haven't you? The epidemic... This morning I woke up to find I had a bent penis and a gaping, bleeding hole below it; the hole ripped through my perineum, a deep cavern between a metallic taint piercing lodged beneath my withered ballsack and my shit-laden anus. And I'd also gained fifty pounds while a mat of dyed, crusty hair sprouted from my head... I tried to scream for help but all that would come out was a faint, pathetic screeching which reeked of incomplete speech therapy and a particularly Hitlerian form of that northern southern accent belonging to that great liminality known as Northern Virginia... I don't think I have much time left. I've got to get this down fast, because the merge is coming...

The lolcow is really a modern phenomenon. In medieval times you had village idiots and shit but nothing with such cohesive lore as Christine Ricardo Weston Chandler Sonichu. Imagine, sending some poor scribe at a monastery shit like: "I WANT ALL THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF MY CASTLE OUT OF THE ARCHIVES!!!"... Yes, the lolcow is a cyborg, their existence intertwined with the computer screen and the demons that come out of it. Like Plato's cave only somehow stupider. Only there is no escape from the computer because the domain of the CPU Goddesses layers itself atop the real, not suppressing it or covering it up but rendering it a backdrop, some unfortunate set dressing for whatever dumbass shit is going on.

No, no, that's completely wrong.

Wide is my motherland. I am from a desolate waste known as Fuckersville Virginia. Things are nice where I live but they haven't always been nice sigh I'm a high-functioning autistic and around here hmph. it's a regional pastime to bully autistic people because of That Kafkaesque Southern Hospitality, the one where someone may grant you a warm welcome or a gift but it's a trick, you have fallen into their Protestant morality debt, you owe them your life now, and your debt will increase massively if you carry the wrong mannerisms such as tone of voice yes you can say things like "Thank you" in response but if you say it in the wrong way your debt will mount immensely. In the South your friends are your creditors. Naturally this is bad for autistics because we can't pick up on the slow-in-the-minds or neurotypical stupids or Dear god what am I doing with my life so we get harassed into nothing... really it is a LABYRINTH that you get lost in like Borges's Minotaur or Sonichu in the Idea Guy Corruptions special issue I stuck my fist up Sonichu's anus to purify him of his incestuous rape desires...

Oh my god. What am I thinking? Chris Chan is an abyss, that's what he is, something that sucks you in through that bastard pseud documentary... As a wise redditor once said, 'what makes Chris Chan so intriguing is the fact you see yourself in him...' It's not that Chris Chan is stuck in a labyrinth but that he is the labyrinth himself; [...]

/ if not forgotten or (not) mentioned otherwise, posts w/o thread/other links (in this, for-print distro) were submitted personally into storage of s_p or admin before publishing, i.e. not copied from threads on Agora*

we're all lost in Chris Chan's world, trying to bridge the Iron Curtain between each other how poetic. Yes, le internet only makes the labyrinths grow more rapidly like viruses or mold. My duck has started to bend more. It's folding in on itself, going into the taint wound: my duck is a labyrinth. That's it! Hmph... I am a labyrinth I've got to escape from.

But I don't think that it was Barb that was the amnesiac, no no, I think she was an empty vessel for Chris Chan's fantasies, a parental figure like Magi-chan Sonichu, Chris' husband who watched her when she was locked in that dark room by that horrible babysitter. And it was him that let her out- not Bob and Barb, no, Magi-Chan. The past is an abstract story told through wiki pages and sagas.

Chris Chan is a retrograde amnesiac, but this amnesia lingers, forcing her to live constantly in the present, pasting it onto the past.

Wait a minute- this is that same bullshit about "the real" or whatever- who the hell can say what "the real" even is, with the internet, what's outside and what's in but everyone knows that already. Every troll exists in objective reality that reasserts itself through labyrinth walls. Even if I wanted to I couldn't somehow turn Liquid Chris into a fake Chris, because he's already been turned into a real Chris, even by Christine herself: He's a doppelganger created by dimensional resonance.

That's fucking odd. Where am I? I'm not quite schizophrenic but I feel like I've been scattered all over. There are duplicates of me running around behind these iron walls. I can't even find myself in here. What kind of crazy bastard... What's that? Flesh? Blood?! Oh god, it's the hole that's opened in my taint, letting my vagina breathe, except it isn't there, and my cock isn't, either- I've become my cock! I am a pathetic fleshy thing searching for a boyfriend-free girl O Megan Schroeder wherefore art thou... Thesis the internet has divided us and united us more than ever before with a great cry of guns, insults, and... yuck! And if you DAMN DIRTY HOMOS would listen to me then you'd hear that... hear what? What's that, yknow?

There's this girl called Genie she was isolated from everything at a young age, stopped from learning the psychic mind virus that is language and its codes, and she was prevented from moving, too, which really stunted her growth. But she never could learn language because she missed the critical period and she is living a happy if intellectually disabled life.

Chris Chan is the opposite of Genie, his girth spilling outwards and his limbs flailing happily undistorted (save his duck it's so bent how does he even mass debate with that?) but then the house the lack of travel well he doesn't need to because everything comes in...

Yes the merge is coming the merge is coming oh god it flows through the curtain very soon now Sonichu was always in his head, always peeking through the Iron Curtain and zappin' to the extreme now and forever I must find Sonichu to get out of here- No, what am I thinking?! Arghhh- An electric shock through my spine, a unicorn horn growing out of my head- SIGH..... is that you, Night Star...?

My time is up I swear to god I don't know who I am anymore. Barbara Chandler shifts from mother to equal to lover imperceptibly because really in an eternal present there is only one creator: Me, the CPU Goddess Christ-Chan Sonichu- No, no, no! I am... I am someone else, I'm not him no matter what the mirror tells me but there are no mirrors only the face of the our lord and savior. I am Barb and my G-Spot is hit. In the anchuent past the settlers of this land believed in debt as the [...]

Story continue on next Page 10

THE ABYSS THAT IS SONICHU -BY MCGOVERN '72!

primary mode of existence, something irreparable to pay to god who originated all social relations. But god died and now what's the point of all this debt? Everyone is indebted to everyone else yet no one can benefit because everyone is a debtor and no one a lender. So who does it come from, this labyrinth? ...It comes from me the CPU Goddess the designated refuse for all that violates and all that accrues debt, look at my transformation, I am always what is uncool. First it was Bush-era Conservatism and then it was Obama-era Liberalism and then it was a deep dark pit.

I am lost in myself. That's what those naïve trolls don't get that they're lost in me too the great and terrible vastness of the multi-verse which I am god of they say I am bound here bound by these labyrinths by BlueSpike and Clyde Cash and Null and Bella but I love them. I love them all I am Jesus Christ Sonichu. The stick that beats me I love it. I love you. The trolls animate the shadows on the walls the labyrinth ever shifts the iron curtain rearranges letting in a little light from other dimensions while closing this one off. The whole world is contained in 14 Branchland Ct. Through accruing infinite life-debt I have come to love debt and love life... All are instruments before my disposal... I can see my own reflection in them and it is Sonichu... So lonely. So lonely together... Did I hit your G-Spot, Barbie? ●



MOVING ON FROM THE 'CULTURE WAR' - ANHERO

Orlando Smooth

Good to see this thread bumped again, I guess the topic is perennial. Rereading the OP gave me some thoughts and reminded me of another thread, specif'ly:

AnHero said:

"Ultimately the idea is quite simple: why can't you write about a topic without inserting all kinds of special snowflake delusions on one end and "scandal du jour" on the other? By all means go blog about your day. If you want to talk about how seeing zigzag patterns gives you seizures, be my guest. But don't disguise it as an interesting discussion"

"And this applies in the most general way possible because everything is like that, now. I can't checkout a Neocities site about 16-bit computers because it won't actually be about 16-bit computers, it will be about which hair color best matches the Commodore 64's replacement keyboard that came in the mail along with a dragon dildo or something. If it's not about that, it will be all about how much the author hates people who write articles like that, instead of just writing about goddamned 16-bit computers."

*I've written about this **before**, but basically yes I do think it is currently functionally impossible (or at least highly improbable) to consistently write about your niche topic of interest without devolving into rage bait of one variety or another.*

As time went by, the internet became increasingly inwardly focused and meta-referential which, when combined with monetization and exploding user counts, led to changes in prioritization.

Sharing something interesting became less important than talking about something interesting, bc. there are only so many interesting things to be shared but there is a limitless supply of talk.

If you're a platform whose priority is keeping people logged in for as long as possible, day after day, why would you hitch yourself to the easily depleted resource of interesting stuff when you can depend on people always wanting to run their mouths?

The incentive structure is perverse in that it prioritizes engagement and user retention over all else, but given that there's a limited availability of high quality "effort posting" it becomes necessary to promote trash-tier hot takes as *intellectual junk food* to keep users engaged. This isn't exclusively the big social's incentive structure either, though.

Think of the **iron triangle of modern slop movies**:

1/// Disney makes an unasked-for sequel or remake that has diverse casting or otherwise "controversial" artistic vision.

2/// This garners free advertising when *journos* pick up the topic and write about how it's "stunning and brave" or "eroding our culture" or whatever else, - thus serving as the raw fodder for the journalist to cement their personal brand, unobviously signal their faction in the culture war and gain the potential for substack *subers* or a new position at whichever media corp they're aiming for.

3/// Finally, the big socials are happy bc. as long as people are raging at each other over a fucking children's movie, they're doing it on the big social (b.s.) and thus ensuring that particular b.s. remains culturally relevant and garners ad revenue in the process.

This process is fused with the point I quoted regarding the necessity of promoting *talking* about s/t. interesting over *doing* s/t. interesting bc., again, there are natural limitations on how much quality material can ever be made in a given timeframe but there's an endless supply of drama that drives engagement.

It is unlikely to change without burning *the entire thing* down, bc. the people who hold the ability to make the change are incentivized against challenging the status quo. Remember when people thought Elon would make Twitter better? *Right, *that* totally happened.*

MOVING ON FROM THE 'CULTURE WAR' - ANHERO

Any potential solution is also confounded by the fact that there are legitimate grievances that fall in the bounds of what is widely considered the culture war at this time.

I will not go into which topics are and are not legitimate to avoid derailing, but nearly everyone holds at least an opinion or two (as genuine, heartfelt opinions) that could easily be turned into a social media slap fest.

Who gets to determine which opinions are sufficiently valid to be debated in the digital public square? Are certain topics completely off limits?

Even if you forget about the free speech implications for a moment, the admin. heft that would be required for such an undertaking would be immense.

Ultimately, I have come to believe that this nothing new to human nature and the reason that it feels new is because we have seen changes in how we interact with the internet.

It's not a coincidence that the golden age of forums, with its focus on niche topics and absence of culture wars nonsense, coincided with people accessing those forums on family computers in the living room or maybe pulling out the laptop on the couch.

In that era, the internet was a place that you went and visited for a short while, before logging off and going about your day.

That is simply not how people interface the internet anymore. And as others have pointed out, trying to artificially coerce people into behaving in that old fashioned way with strict rules on posting and what-not only serves to create a reactionary subculture that is itself a part of the culture war by virtue of the fact that it is trying to combat the very existence of the culture war.

We have to learn to live with this new reality, in much the same way that people in the 15th century had to learn to live with the new reality of the printing press.●

<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/moving-on-from-the-culture-war.5799/>

XPIRITUALISM - THE AESTHETIC OF NET SURFING

A lot of the actual images are definitely y2k zoomer tiktok-core feeling but one picture in this post feels very authentic.

Oh man, do I miss this sort of stuff. The fading effects, the custom photoshop brushes used to add texture, that obligatory quote that nowadays would be referred to as "edgy" since people aren't allowed to be sincere anymore somewhere on it. These sorts of pictures elicit a response from me personally. From the dreamlike editing to the quote, which sort of serves the purpose of setting the mood for the image edit itself.

Yet it still maintains an authentic amateur feel to it. You can tell it's someone who, as the OP post puts it, wants to express their genuine love for something. Be it a character, a show, etc. I do agree with most of the words in the OP post here even if I think a lot of youngins have no idea what stuff back then looked like.

In my experience most graphics back then were very pixelated and jagged. You'd see 2D sprites in them often from retro video games, too. Though there were some that went for more dreamlike faded visuals, the quality still wasn't so hilariously low as a lot of the pictures here are. Which gives away that it's a post-humous creation and not something endemic to the times, **look at the first picture and the fifth picture especially for examples of this.**

On that note, in general most old school graphics had much more consistent theming. What gives away the last picture and arguably third picture as being something created by zoomers is how so much random shit is strewn about with no regard for how it clashes. Forum signatures, userbars, 100 x 100 avatars, 468 x 60 banners etc. would focus on one thing (usually one character or object, at that) and try to represent that thing. Whereas zoomer aesthetics just have far more visual noise and tonal whiplash. Old school graphics would stick to a specific color palette while with this stuff it looks like you puked a rainbow onto the screen. You see this on Neocities too with a lot of the websites there.

The only real capacity that these sorts of sensory overload graphics existed in would be online emo/"scene" culture which was decidedly not representative of internet culture as a whole. And, in my experience, even scene-y Blingee stuff tended to be more thematically consistent than a lot of these newer graphics are. Yeah there was a lot of random stuff, but they tended to conform more strictly to a color palette and generally didn't fill up every pixel of the screen with something. Here are some examples from my collection in varying dimensions & styles to convey what I mean.

You notice this on Neocities too. A lot less regard for web design principles and a lot more sensory overload. Which, I think that in a way older websites could almost be too prickly about remaining "boring". So I don't exactly dislike it until it makes the site annoying to browse.

This (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080224050445/http://mango.afrochan.net/wp/>) is a little website from the 00s dedicated to reviewing animanga graphics websites; / by reading some of these reviews, you can sort of gauge what it is that people valued in both web design and graphic design (g.d.) at the time. There are also links to lots of g.d. sites that you can view to see more graphics like the ones I've posted, as well as their website UIs.

With that being said, I like these messy aesthetics. Just pointing out how it's pretty obvious that a lot of your image examples aren't from the time period that you're describing. Rather, these are romanticizations of the past through the lense of someone who didn't experience that past. There's some beauty in that too though. I do like the aesthetic, both here and also on Neocities. It'd be boring if things never evolved after all.●

-Holy

Gallery can be found [here](#) in (p.37) Aesthetics galleries Section

THE BLOCKLAND FORUMS -BY HADRIAN HARDRADA

Holy fucking shit this is going to be a long ass post.

Here's a game you folks may have fond memories of.

But yes, Blockland is a brick based building sandbox where you play with virtual LEGOs and build various things such as houses, bases, castles, cities.... etc. created by Eric "Badspot" Hartman. The game has been around since it's alpha stages in 2004 predating ROBLOX (2006) and Minecraft (2009) by a few good chunk of years.

Like many online games in the 2000s, it too has a forum which has a very "unique" history of the community and the people that used to or are currently playing BL. As someone who has played the game and still do time to time I can say that the community is a very colorful one at that. I can't bring up most of the stuff that happened on the forums but thankfully a friend of mine who is both a well known member and a veteran of the community has made a thread listing all of the events that went down in the forums and it's still being updated to this day.

--The Chronology of the BL Forums--

(<https://forum.blockland.us/index.php?topic=299007.0>)

Click the link at your own expense, sides will be thrown into orbital space.

Oh one more thing, in a drama a long while back Badspot had temporarily disabled forum registration but also tied people's account to their BL_ID (Blockland ID) meaning if you get banned from the site, you're gone no second chances. This lead into the creation of this thread here.

~~~

To keep this in line with the board here (as requested by the site owner), to those who have played Blockland or experienced with the community, what are your most cherished memories on Blockland?

For me it was finding the most outlandish names, usually something crude, raunchy, or offensive in the Unlimited Mining server due to the ability to find your own ore and being able to rename it to something else.

*Blockland, shortened to "BL" on places for typo-graphic & stylistic purposes*

Another found memory was participating a massive summer build project with my friends where I was able to build a house for myself.

*Here's a few pics to get the memories jogging, one being the famous Bedroom map and the rest mostly videos being from versions prior to v21 while also posting some screenshots from stuff I've built on the current version of Blockland (v21).*



Map screenshots



*Videos; prior to the v21 release > (Old Trailer for Blockland prior to v21's release) ▲*



*A very famous Blockland Tennis video series that was the talk in the community long ago. (1, 2) ▲*

*Video from a very well known member of the community as well (volume waring!) (below) ▼*



[further data from original thread damaged] ●

# IS "NIGHT MALL" A UTOPIA OR MALL-SOFT? -BY VAPORWAVEMASTER1

## ORLANDOSMOOTH "FANDOMS"

Pluto said:

*I'm not talking about fandoms in general... I'm talking specifically about the way the cart is put before the horse, and kids talk about "joining a fandom" like it's a cult.*

I think there have been a huge number of excellent points made already in this thread, but I want to return to this particular point as I think there's more to explore here. As others have said,

*fandoms have existed for a very long time now (predating the internet itself, even), and more general interest groups for various hobbies have existed for even longer and typically have the same kind of general structure.*

What seems to be different now, from my perspective, is that the fandoms of today are

*ready-made personalities that someone can simply choose a La carte and then dispose of like an old pair of pants that's no longer stylish. It's like a watered-down version of \*a certain type of very Online person\* who uses self diagnosed mental health issues as a substitute or description of their personality rather than just, you know, having one [a personality].*

*This is compared to the experiences that I had when I was younger and the experiences conveyed to me by older family members about what it was like to become a part of a fandom (though obviously they'd never use that word) back in the day.*

*For example, my maternal grandfather got really into woodworking in early middle age and became an accomplished hobbyist furniture maker who would occasionally submit his work to local or state level exhibits.*

*But this was a long process over the course of decades. He had worked with wood at a job early in life and knew he liked it, slowly accumulated the disposable income necessary to purchase the tools and wood, would go to local workshops to discuss ideas with other interested people, sub'bed to magazines, and of course practiced the craft.*

*The point is that in order to achieve whatever was necessary to say "I'm a woodworker" was hard-earned knowledge and experience.*

Now, someone can easily get enough of the lingo, merch, and opinions common to the interest group to be a convincing facsimile of an actual enthusiast regardless of if they've ever held a saw.

*Note that criticism of this practice is distinctly different from gatekeeping n00bs of a given pursuit, because / the basic assumption there is that while the new members are inexperienced and lacking in practical knowledge, they are at least genuine participants in hobby and enjoy it for the sake of it.*

*Compare this to the practice of caring to be a part of a given community more, than caring about the activity around which; the community is formed.*

*The point I'm trying to get at is that freely accessible, high quality information about hobbies or fandoms can be good for genuine participants as it allows people to advance their skills faster, form more interesting opinions, or construct more insightful criticisms.*

*But it also creates opportunities for "interest group voyeurs" if you will. / These voyeurs may be harmless at first, but [...]*

(search: forum.

agoraroad.com/index.php?tags/nightmall/ >

"vaporwavemaster1 · Thread · Dec15, '20")

[This (2020)] Halloween, I released a new album, [sic] *Night Mall*. The question is, is it [faux-] **utopia or mall soft?**

In my opinion, the album contains both elements. It is set in a mall, and the world and story of the album takes place in empty corridors and dilapidated boutiques. However, the album can also be classified as a false utopia, as it reveals the hidden dark side of consumerism.

What genre do you think *Night Mall* belongs to? Please let me know.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3J2DZb3pgg>

***This is it. What are your thoughts?***  
[/**VWM1**]

The visuals are really cool, reminds me of running around JCPenny at 8pm, liminal space aesthetic. Also so far (意図的な足音) is my favorite. [/**Sultana**]

Rarely does such a delightful shop become so creepy and quiet. This album is well mastered, partly because I was an instrumental figure of Vaporwave from the beginning. (-V)

ToysRus closed down here recently, like a couple months ago, and that aesthetic really did show, decrepit floors, 15 year old stains, overall a product of a era long past. (-S)

Yes, how do you classify *night malls*? Mallsoft or fake utopia, or a mixture of both? (-V)

defiantly mall soft, the whole thing brings me back. you didnt even have to name it *night malls*, and i wouldve still thought it was mall-themed. i liked it (-S)

Yes, it's a fun Halloween experience (-V) ●

***/\* https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?hreads/does-anyone-else-notice-how-a-lot-of-younger-guys-online-talk-about-communities-fandoms-cultures-tc.7474/page-2#post-139159 >***

***\*left-align: VWM1 (OP | (-V)), right-align: Sultana (-S)***

Story continue on next Page **16**

[...]

*But it also creates opportunities for "interest group voyeurs" if you will. / These voyeurs may be harmless at first, but if there is enough of them they can create artificial feedback loops wherein they echo and amplify each others opinions even if those opinions are not held by genuine participants of the interest group.*

*Like how dead internet theory can end up causing actual humans to act like bots, bc. the actual humans are exposed to so many bots that they think that's how normal people interact; / an excessive number of voyeurs ends up distorting the real community and dry rotting it from within.*

This is precisely why I drifted so far away from the retro video game community in the early 2010's, --- as I felt that it became less about playing old games and more about espousing the fact *that you were a fan of old games and had super esoteric opinions on decades-old games that weren't even popular in their time.* I still play my N64 and enjoy it, but I feel no need to participate in online conversations about it because they serve only to dilute my own enjoyment.

What is truly sad about all of this is that it indicates that there is a significant number of people who either *can't or don't want to foster genuine (g.) personal pursuits* and instead opt for attaining in-group status through *vanity purchases and parroting* observed opinions, rather than acquisitions of necessity (or pref.) and opinions derived of experience.

*It's one of the things that, in my opinion, contributes to the slow but accelerating decay of culture* and why so many people feel that modern life is soul crushing. Because the final frustration in all of this is that if you find ys. with a genuine interest in a topic, it is now that much harder to find a group of people who themselves share that *g. interest*, often leading to increased *feelings of loneliness and isolation.*●

/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/does-anyone-else-notice-how-a-lot-of-younger-guys-online-talk-about-communities-fandoms-cultures-etc.7474/page-2#post-139159>

## MEDIA LITERACY ARGUMENT - ANDY K

Dec 10, 2024, #519

Media literacy is good and important and can highly elevate your experiences with many works. The knee jerk, anti-intellectual reaction to the term is cringe and short sighted virtue signalling. (Andy = BLUE)

Dec 11, 2024, #539

Andy Kaufman said:  
*Media literacy is good and important and can highly elevate your experiences with many works. The knee jerk, anti-intellectual reaction to the term is cringe and short sighted virtue signalling.*

*I don't think it's cringe to hate the term when the overwhelming majority of people who invoke it do so to push their own me utter media illiteracy. That's what most people are reacting to, not the concept itself. (Parzival = ORANGE)*

Dec 11, 2024, #540

Parzival said:  
*I don't think it's cringe to hate the term when the overwhelming majority of people who invoke it do so to push their own me utter media illiteracy. That's what most people are reacting to, not the concept itself. [...]*

*No, I think you just politically disagree with people who tend to use the term and want to counter signal which results in maybe unintended but still tangible anti-intellectualism. I know your posts and reactings, you're one of the culture warriors.*

· Dec 11, 2024, · #541

Andy Kaufman said:  
*No, I think you just politically disagree with people who tend to use the term and want to counter signal*

*I mean, sure, that's a way to put it if that's how you see it, but the people who tend to use it are also using it for similar reasons, so I think it's unhelpful to look at it that way because then the term doesn't really mean anything beyond "someone's opinion of a work".*

**Story continue on next Page**

/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/unpopular-opinions.4336/page-26#post-138162> >

[...]

**Andy Kaufman said:**  
which results in maybe unintended but still tangible anti-intellectualism.

*How so? The point is to promote genuinely thoughtful analyses of works of art rather than the regurgitation of talking points. Maybe you're talking about the attitude of "sometimes there's nothing there/it's not that deep bro"? I'd say calling that anti-intellectualism is a gross overstatement, sometimes it really isn't that deep and you're actually doing a disservice to a work by trying to erase its simplistic beauty, even if that's not what you intend.*

**Andy Kaufman said:**  
you're one of the culture warriors.

*Ok? So are you, we all are. The internet's made culture warriors of us all, and I haven't seen a shred of evidence from anyone here to the contrary.*

[Dec 11, 2024, #542](#)

**Parzival said:**  
the term doesn't really mean anything beyond "someone's opinion of a work"

That's just not true. Completely disingenuous and clouded definition. The term means that e.g. if you read a lot of books then other books you read can be meaningfully contextualised. Same with movies. Authors get inspiration and make references that might go straight over your head if you're not as deeply immersed into the medium / genre. The fact that you think media literacy has to do with opinion is why I called you out on it because I knew you can't see the word for what it actually means.

**Parzival said:**

*Ok? So are you, we all are. The internet's made culture warriors of us all, and I haven't seen a shred of evidence from anyone here to the contrary.*

Always funny to see people like you parrot the wokoids you hate so much. "The personal is political!" Nah bro, that's just what you think. Don't try to drag me down to your level. nuser /pol/ tourist that you are.

[Dec 11, 2024, #543, wawe-creator](#)

**Parzival said:**  
culture warriors

Most over used term of 2024. @Andy Kaufman @Parzival Ya'll are debating terminology. At best your a "Jargaon Initiate" maybe even a "Thread Squire" at best. None of you deserve the rank of culture warrior.

[Dec 11, 2024, #544](#)

**Andy Kaufman said:**

*That's just not true. Completely disingenuous and clouded definition. The term means that e.g. if you read a lot of books then other books you read can be meaningfully contextualised. Same with movies.*

*Authors get inspiration and make references that might go straight over your head if you're not as deeply immersed into the medium/genre. The fact that you think media literacy has to do with opinion is why I called you out on it because I knew you can't see the word for what it actually means.*

*Uh, yeah? I know that. I'm calling out your obscurantist view of the term and the reaction to it that strips it of all functional meaning and strips it down to what you seem to be accusing me of defining it as. All this time you've basically been saying that because the people who don't like other people's usage of the term have a different political view from yourself, that means they're engaging in anti-intellectualism, which is just so not true it's laughable. You are the one making it about nothing other than your and other's opinions.*

**Andy Kaufman said:**

*Always funny to see people like you parrot the wokoids you hate so much. / "The personal is political!" / Nah bro, that's just what you think. Don't try to drag me down to your level. nuser /pol/ tourist that you are. [...]*

I don't know where I said or even hinted at any take as inane as "the personal is political" I've literally been saying this whole time that no it's not hence why you "media literates" need to get your heads out of your asses.

You are the one who called me a culture warrior for no real reason. I'm just here because I generally like what people have to say on here and have a few things to say myself. I don't see myself as anything even approaching a culture warrior but any definition that includes me in it includes pretty much everyone who even occasionally posts on the internet, and especially yourself. I've seen you around Agora enough, out of the two of us you're the one who by far gets incredibly invested in and needlessly antagonistic over culture war topics ranging from this convo on media literacy to the war in Ukraine and everything in-between. You're the one calling me a "nuser /pol/ tourist" and getting your panties in a twist over a mild disagreement like we're on some KF thread, so please, don't project your own attempts at baiting me to stoop down to your level onto me. I just wanted to offer a different perspective on a take I thought was missing some rather crucial context.

**wawe-creator said:**

*Most over used term of 2024. @Andy Kaufman @Parzival Ya'll are debating terminology. At best your a "Jargaon Initiate" maybe even a "Thread Squire" at best. None of you deserve the rank of culture warrior.*

*I'm not worthy, it's true. It's clear Andy and I agree on the actual denotation of the term, he just doesn't seem to care about the connotation that's been built up around it by people much like himself. Which, fair, you don't have to. I just think it's silly to get upset at people who do care, it's like getting mad at someone for getting called a faggot because you know it literally just means "a bundle of sticks".*

[Dec 11, 2024, #545](#)

**Parzival said:**

*Uh, yeah? I know that. I'm calling out your obscurantist view of the term and the reaction to it that strips it of all functional meaning and strips it down to what you seem to be accusing me of defining it as. All this time you've basically been saying that because the people who don't like other people's usage of the term have a different political view from yourself, that means they're engaging in anti-intellectualism, which is just so not true it's laughable. You are the one making it about nothing other than your and other's opinions.*

[View attachment 124461](#)

I don't know where I said or even hinted at any take as inane as "the personal is political" I've literally been saying this whole time that no it's not hence why you "media literates" need to get your heads out of your asses.

*You are the one who called me a culture warrior for no real reason. I'm just here because I generally like what people have to say on here and have a few things to say [...] to stoop down to your level onto me. I just wanted to offer a different perspective on a take I thought was missing some rather crucial context.*

*I'm not worthy, it's true. It's clear Andy and I agree on the actual denotation of the term, [...] for getting called a faggot because you know it literally just means "a bundle of sticks".*

Everytime I call out cringe culture warriors you get mad. And when I call out cringe c. ws for misunderstanding the term *media literacy* you're the only one to try to defend it with a nonsensical approach because you're still very much in the loop. / You're trying to call a pacifist a warmonger because he's asking you to lay down your weapons. / I know the cloth you're cut from. And I react the way I do because we already have enough /pol/tards here stuck in the mid 2010s. This isn't needless antagonism, this is a necessary immune reaction.

And the fact that you immediately lump me in with the wokoids only confirms my accusations. You can't even fathom someone outside the loop. You just pretend every-one is a culture warrior and that means in your eyes people are either for or against you and this retarded way of thinking is something I'd love to see less here.

[Dec 11, 2024, #546 \(Andy\)](#)

also stop getting mad in the unpopular opinion thread. it's meant for unpopular opinions.

[Dec 12, 2024, #554 \(Ne56\)](#)

**Andy Kaufman said:**

*Media literacy is good and important and can highly elevate your experiences with many works. The knee jerk, anti-intellectual reaction to the term is cringe and short sighted virtue signalling.*

I have a knee-jerk negative reaction to the phrase, but only because it's become associated with the discourse surrounding Paul Verhoeven's adaptation of Starship Troopers (via Helldivers), which - actual unpopular opinion incoming - I think is seriously overrated. It's a satire of Hollywood action movies where the irony/comedy comes from all the things the movie does wrong on purpose. The acting, fight choreography, special effects, costumes, lighting, etc. are all about as bad as you can get away with in a blockbuster action movie - and Verhoeven has been pretty open about intentionally making it that way. One side of the internet debate is made up of people who are either too stupid to pick up on this or who insist on appreciating it ironically just to dab on the libtards. On the other side, you have people who are only watching the movie ironically because they want to laugh at it and feel superior to the first two groups. It's a good satire and very funny in places, but (unless you've got a double-digit IQ) it's impossible to appreciate without taking a side in the stupid culture war debate the movie creates for itself. It forces you to do this because it's got nothing else going for it, by design.

I wouldn't feel as strongly about this as I do if it weren't for the fact that RoboCop (also by Verhoeven) does the EXACT same thing Starship Troopers sets out to do while also being an unironically good film. It's a biting satire of both action movies and 80s attitudes towards violent crime, the police, and corporations. At the same time it's got great special effects, great action, good acting, etc. There are no intentional compromises in quality and you can still enjoy it if you ignore the satire. RoboCop is an action movie with elements of irony, Starship Troopers is an ironic joke on the audience disguised as a legitimate action movie. I strongly prefer the former to the latter. Making a movie badly on purpose to get a point across is irritating enough - doing that when you've already demonstrated your ability to make the exact same point without compromising your filmmaking is even more irritating.

TL;DR everyone arguing about "media literacy" on Twitter should log off and watch RoboCop and Total Recall instead because they kick ass.

[Dec 12, 2024, #556](#)

**Andy Kaufman said:**

*Everytime I call out cringe culture warriors you get mad.*

*And when I call out cringe culture warriors for misunderstanding [...] because he's asking you to lay down your weapons. / I know the cloth you're cut from. [...] / And the fact that you immediately lump me in [...] and this retarded way of thinking is some-thing I'd love to see less here.*

You're not calling out anything is the thing, you're waffling about nothing really, just going in circles about some imaginary /pol/tard strawman you've constructed in your head. I didn't even call you a "wokoid" (and I'm the /pol/tard), you're just clearly someone who uses the term media literacy as a cudgel to try and get people to shut up for disagreeing with you.

Anyways, I'm happy to just stop here and go back to shitposting but I'm also happy to continue until you stop being a retard.

[Dec 12, 2024, #558](#)

**Ne56 said:**

*I have a knee-jerk negative reaction to the phrase, but only bc. it's become associated with the discourse surrounding Paul Verhoeven's adaptation of SSTroopers (via Helldivers), which - actual unpopular opinion incoming - I think is seriously overrated... [...]*

But then you kinda got my point. That something universal and scholarly as media literacy got dragged down to this dumb internet culture war shitflogging was exactly my gripe. People trying to ascribe political camps to the term are the retards.

[Dec 12, 2024, #559](#)

**Parzival said:**

*You're not calling out anything is the thing, you're waffling about nothing really, just going in circles about some imaginary /pol/tard strawman you've [...] someone who uses the term media literacy as a cudgel to try and get people to shut up for disagreeing with you.*

Anyways, I'm happy to just stop here and go back to shitposting but I'm also happy to continue until you stop being a retard.

Oh come on. Don't act all innocent now. Your world view just happens to align 1:1 with contrarian Chud talking points every single time, huh? Also I expanded on the term several times now. I didn't use it as a cudgel, you were the one who unironically said [...]

Story continue on next Page

Parzival said:  
*the term doesn't really mean anything beyond "someone's opinion of a work".*

THAT is a cudgel. A stupid oversimplification because you didn't like the the opinion of some people who use the term in the most recent culture war shitflinging circus:

Parzival said:  
*overwhelming majority of people who invoke it do so to push their own me utter media illiteracy.*

This is the essence right here.  
"media literacy is a useless thing because people I don't like used the word".

Dec 12, 2024, #565  
Andy Kaufman said:  
*Oh come on. Don't act all innocent now. Your world view just happens to align 1:1 with contrarian Chud talking points every single time, huh?  
Also I expanded on the term several times now. I didn't use it as a cudgel, you were the one who unironically said*

*THAT is a cudgel. A stupid oversimplification because you didn't like the the opinion of some people who use the term in the most recent culture war shitflinging circus:*

*This is the essence right here.  
"media literacy is a useless thing because people I don't like used the word". [...]*

*Please don't play dumb, you're well aware that I was critiquing your very own statements when I said that. You're the one who believes that because people disagree with you that that makes them anti-intellectuals for some nebulous non-reason.*

*You're also well aware I never said it was a useless thing, only that it's completely understandable why the connotation around the term has formed. I'm against both the views of "wokoids" and yourself in trying to turn the term into something utterly meaningless because I actually believe it means something, something valuable to discourse around art and entertainment.*

Dec 13, 2024, #573  
Parzival said:  
*Please don't play dumb, you're well aware [...] that makes them anti-intellectuals for some nebulous non-reason.*

*You're also well aware [...] valuable to discourse around art and entertainment.*

Are you retarded? How is my definition of the word meaningless? I explained the meaning several times now. Maybe you just actually too dumb to get it.

Dec 13, 2024, #576  
Andy Kaufman said:  
*Are you retarded? How is my definition [...] just actually too dumb to get it.*

*You can't be this retarded. Pulling out the dictionary definition of media literacy and then saying, "unless you disagree with me, in which case then you're an anti-intellectual, media illiterate chud.  
And if you disagree with THAT, then you're just one of those chuds." makes your view less than worthless, yes.*

Dec 13, 2024, #577  
Parzival said:  
*You can't be this retarded. [...] then] makes your view less than worthless, yes.*

Ok so at this point you just wanna troll, right? ●



I feel the need to point out that *this rule* has not made Heyuri into an interesting website. Every thread on the imageboard section is either loli hentai or nonsensical y2k-LARP baby-talk with zero replies. The text-boards are marginally better (probably because you can't post porn), but most of the content there is equally cretinous. (I do like the text art threads.) Banning stupid buzzwords and memes isn't a bad idea, but you need to have more going for your community than an urge *to no be like "the other guys"* (in this case, 4chan and soyjak.party). Heyuri does have "a very distinctive userbase," but it's a userbase mostly made up of boring retards and *pedos*. The fact that they don't use soy-speak doesn't make up for that.

To connect this back to the main theme of the thread, I think most "small web" sites have a similar problem in that this preoccupation with ***not being like the rest of the internet***

distracts the userbase from developing an identity of their own. Avoiding culture war discussion is not enough to make you interesting or unique. In fact, the "culture war" has (unfortunately) grown to encompass so many different things that banning discussion of it often results in throwing a lot of babies out with the bathwater. **In my opinion it's better to tolerate (to some extent) the presence of the culture war and other topics associated with the "larger internet"**

because *the alt. means forcing your users into a hugbox that stifles sincerity and free expression. I actually agree with Heyuri's policy\** of not being a space for *free speech absolutism* - having some rules to keep discussion on-topic and intelligent is a good idea - *but those rules shouldn't be defined in terms of an external factor like the culture war or the existence of soyjaks.*

**You can't build anything new if you're preoccupied with *not being like everyone else.***●

/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/moving-on-from-the-culture-war.5799/page-2#post-137141>

\*Links to quote that ▲ this\* Post refers to

# BASIC VIDEO GAME CRACKING AND REPACKING / THREAD

Sometimes there isn't a repack of a game you want. So go get a raw copy and crack it.

## GETTING THE SOURCE

**CS RIN RU** is a very good source for raaw material. Just go "Steam Sharing Content" and download what you want. Alt-ly if a friend of yours owns a copy just ask him to copy the files just tell him you can crack the DRM yourself.

## CRACKING DRM

Now for Steam usually, either *steamworksAPI* or *steamless* is used. / *Uplay r2* also exists. I will cover it. / There are other forms of DRM. / I might cover them in a future post in [this thread](#).

Games might contain multiple forms of DRM (stuff like *SteamworksAPI* + *Xboxlive* DRM).

## STEAMWORKSAPI

*SteamworksAPI* is the most common type of DRM you will encounter within Steam games.

It's trivially easy to crack. You can tell that a game has that DRM if it has any of the following files:

- *steam\_api.dll*
- *steam\_api64.dll*
- *libsteam\_api.so*
- *steamclient.so*

## What you need to do is

1. download *Goldberg's Steam Emulator* from [here](#)
2. locate any of the *mentioned telltale files*
3. replace said files w. **G's** files of the same name

Go to the *steam store* page of the game, copy the ID, create a file called "*steam\_appid.txt*" in every *dir/* which the DRM files are located in and paste the *ID* there.

A lot of the time **step 4** is not even necessary. If the game's *steamapi* library is older than 2016, you might need a *steam\_interface.txt* file. *Goldberg* has a tool that generates it. Just point it to the *steamapi* libs & paste it in the *dirs* where the *steamapi* files are located.

## Notes on DLCs

Some games such as *PDX* games require additional configuration in order to use their *DLCs*.

To achieve such simply create a file called *DLC.txt* and fill it with the metadata of the *DLCs* in the following format: *{Product ID}={Product name}*. You can find both the *ID* and the name at the *steam store* page of the *DLC*.

## steamDRM

It's rarer, often found in older games but *steamDRM* exists. To break it, simply download **Steamless**, and apply it to the game executable.

## UPLAY R2

Telltale files are:

- *uplay\_r2\_loader.dll*
- *uplay\_r2\_loader64.dll*

To crack, just:

1. Download *Goldberg's uplay r2 emulator*
2. copy *uplay\_r2\_loader64.dll* and *uplay\_r2.ini* into the game *dir*
3. configure *uplay\_r2.ini* to your liking

## REPACKING

Due to the fact that most *vidya* files are already compressed we need a diff. format for *rep..*

Usually repackers use *freearc* for this so just:

1. Download **Freearc Next**
2. compress the game by executing:

**fa a -threads=<how many threads you want> -dup <the cracked game dir>**

(there are a plethora of options in order to optim. compression, seek the *data compression forums* for more info).

And that is it, if you want to extract the game just execute **fa x -threads=<how many threads you want> -dp<where you want to it to be>**

## NOTES

If a game contains **Denuvo DRM** you are fucked, - only 3 people know how to crack the bloody thing.

Under many countries (at least where I live) cracking DRM is completely legal. Only the act of redistributing said cracked games isn't. So you shouldn't get into any trouble doing **-Ashman.**

/\*  
<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/basic-video-game-cracking-and-repacking-thread.6930/>



< video games

< repacking

# CUTE THINGS GOING 'ROUND 'GORA

[happy-6-year-anniversary-to-agora-road.6791/](#)

[/GPE/ - Global Pancake Exchange](#)

[agora-road-family-photo.6664/](#)

[Agora Road EUTZ Movie Nights](#)

[waffles-house-of-quake-sunday-service-on-agora-road.7262](#)

[& agora-roads-unreal-tournament-ut99-server.6494](#)

[Aprender el Español en Agora Road \(Learn Spanish on Agora Road\)](#)

[agoracraft-minecraft-beta-1-7-3-server-better-than-adventure.4794/](#) (below)\*\*

*This is the annual agora birthday thread!  
May 30th 2018*

*/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/happy-6-year-anniversary-to-agora-road.6791/>*

*I wish you all have an amazing day in this special day of celebration of this great website!*

*\*\* rest of threads follow same name as written here*

*A small forum that connected all of us in our love for the old internet, vaporwave (and schizoposting) !*

*If you could make an Agora rewind of this year, what would you include in it?*

*-\_TF*



**Apr 26, 2024**  
(../post-109(-)111)

*It's in the name. All shapes and sizes.  
Give us pics, recipes, lore, merch, anything you can put  
your mind to.*

*I'll start with a couple go-to recipes and pancake kino from over the years.*

**Apr 20, 2024** (/page-10#post-108596)

**Apr 21, 2024** (page-11#post-108679)



**Apr 16, 2024** (<https://forum.../index.php?media/agoracraft-20240415-jpeg.29746/>)



**Apr 19, 2024** (page-10#post-108412)

**Apr 14, 2024** (page-9#post-107963)

**Oct 14, 2023** (<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agoracraft-minecraft-beta-1-7-3-server-better-than-adventure.4794/post-89773>)\*\*

[agora-road-gikopoi-meetup-hangout.6941\(\\*\\*\)](#)

**in!**

< p. 24

< p. 28

p. 02\* >

(this zine) (\*both)

**Introducing the Agora Radio Show\*\***  
In memory

**in!**

**Agora Game Jam 2024\*\***

Hopes we could do this again next time!

**\*\*Motion for Agora Road to adopt Internet .beat Time.**

**in!**

# GIKOPOI - THE NEWEST FAD!

[gikopoi.com](http://gikopoi.com)  
 ギコっぽいぽい  
[play.gikopoi.com](http://play.gikopoi.com)

Based on a 2000s Japanese flash chatroom game similar to habbo hotel, this is a modernised rehost by @stance

I propose a virtual agora road meetup!

choose a name and avatar:

use the warp/rula button to change rooms or walk there manually by moving your character on the yellow arrows:

There are many rooms to explore:

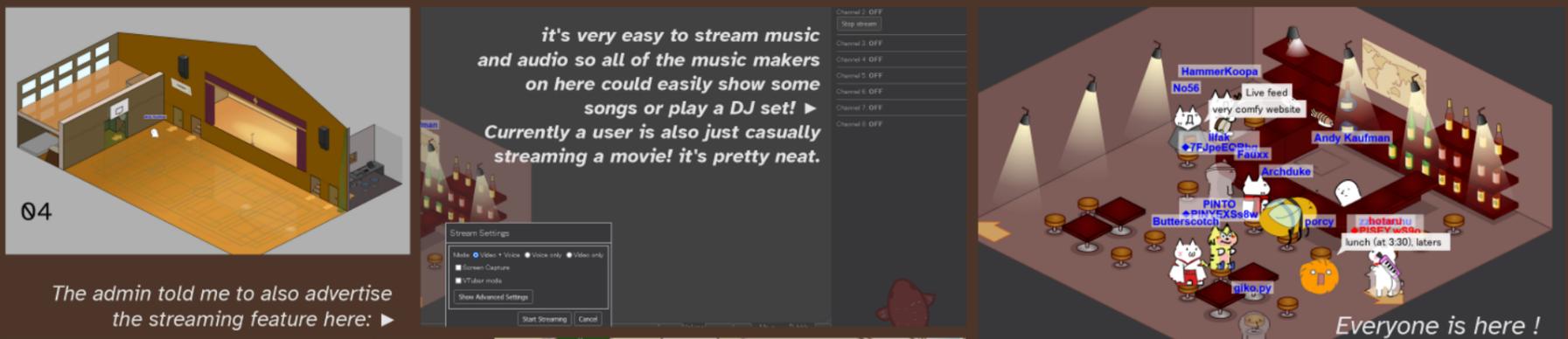
We could also just vote on a room and claim it for agora (talked to the residents and they told me this giko is big enough so we can just choose a space for ourselves) and make it a permanent hangout.

Check out the wiki for more indepth information:

WWW: GikoPoi

(<https://wiki.gikopoi.com/w/GikoPoi>)

/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-gikopoi-meetup-hangout.6941/#post-118671>



Article continue on next Page

This just happened ▼ (<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-gikopoi-meetup-hangout.6941/post-118777>)



/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-gikopoi-meetup-hangout.6941/page-3#post-118777>

# GIKOPOI - CONTINUATION

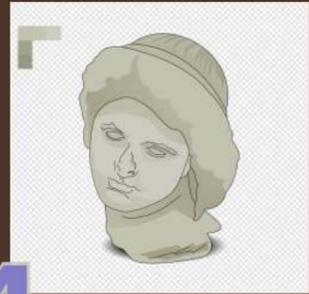
/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-gikopoi-meetup-hangout.6941/page-4#post-118927>, ...~928



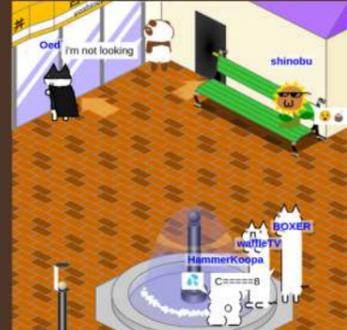
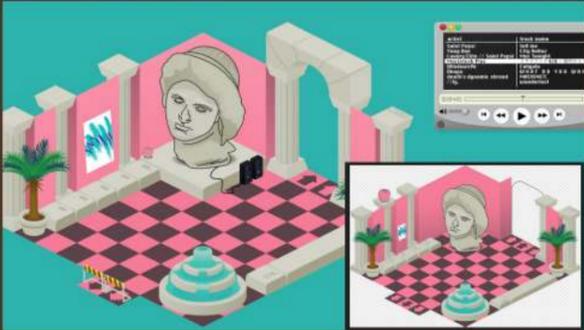
Yume 3kki: agora edition **coming soon** to gikopoi -shinobu

<https://booru.gikopoi.com/post/view/120>

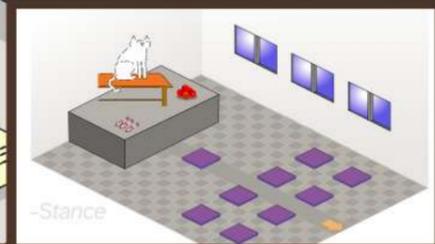
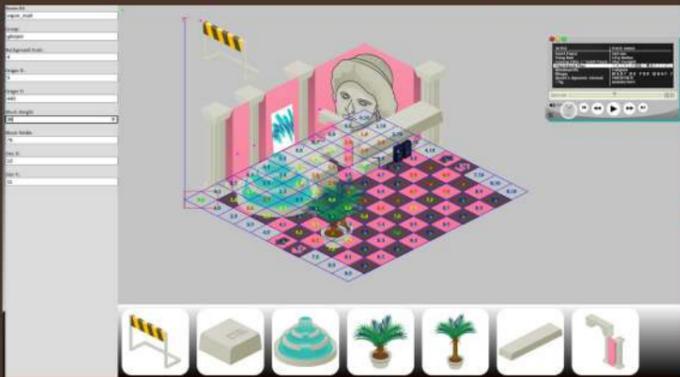
Progress on Helios and **the mall** is going well. Four hours in. -Punp (both)



## GIKOPOI - VAPORWAVE ROOM

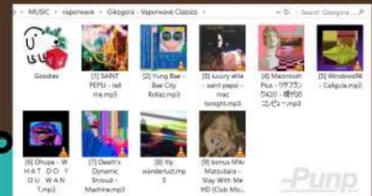


Goofing up...



Some progress on the editor with @Punp's assets for the vaporwave mall room! Its helping a lot when it comes to the debugging and feature adding! Lots of things to add feature wise and kinks to iron out, but its getting the job done so far. -HammerKoopaa

EDIT: added more to the arcade part this afternoon, ft. @RIG's Disillusion. -Punp (below)



-Punp (Entrance to VW room)



Oct 25, 2024



History been made today | @Punp @shinobu @waffle @big\_ping07 @Halico @Some\_porcupine @stance @MindControlBoxer -HammerKoopaa

Back on this. Reduced the scale to make it manageable. -Punp ●

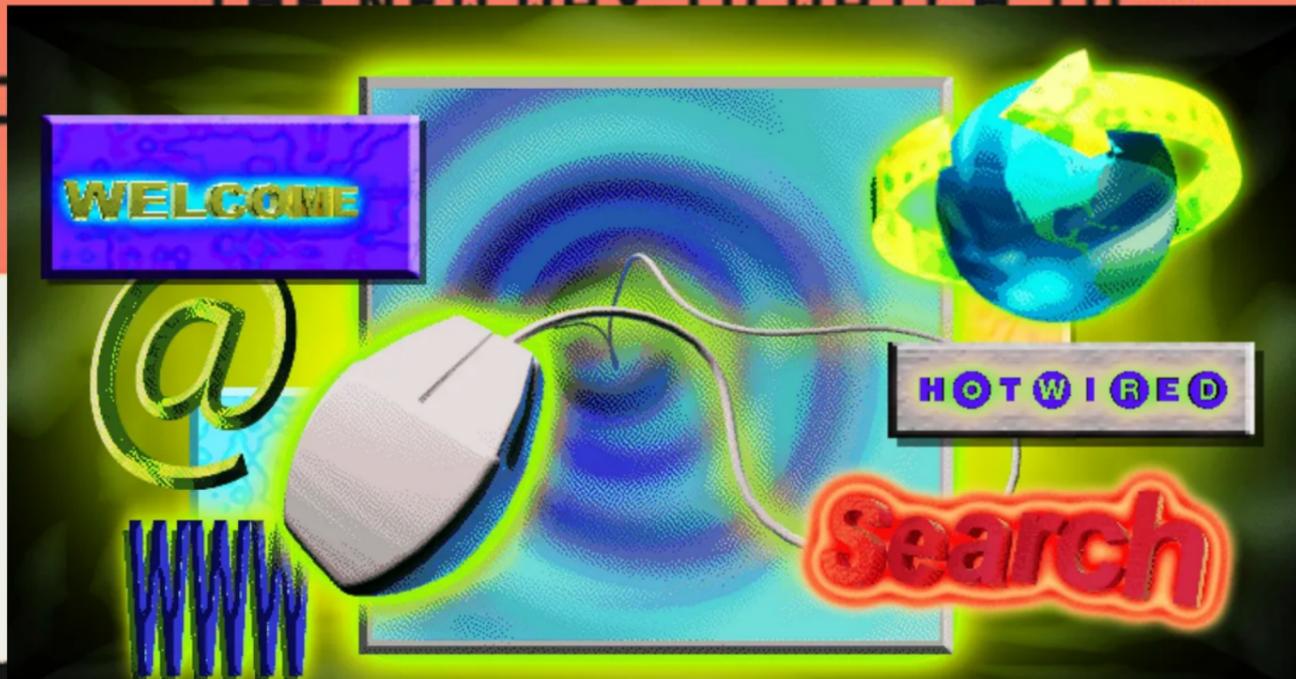
/\* [https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-gikopoi-meetup-hangout.6941/post-131\(-\)452](https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-road-gikopoi-meetup-hangout.6941/post-131(-)452)

THE NEW WAY TO WATCH TV

THE CO

TIME! p.128

p.152



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</www> | sep.2010

Wired Magazine 04.09 1996 September : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

**Carry**  
Going mobile these days often means heading out with lightly powered equipment. Zybernaut's Mobile Assistant is a wearable computer with the power and flexibility of any desktop PC. Assistant packs a 50-MHz 486 CPU in a belt-mounted box, with PC card slots for adding GPS and wireless LAN capabilities. The included ports allow you to plug into external printers and CD-ROM drives. And the head-mounted display lets you work and compute in that stylish cyber look that's soon to be the talk of the town. Mobile Assistant: US\$8,788. Zybernaut Corp.: +1 (703) 637-6925, on the Web at www.zybernaut.com.

**Byte**  
Little fingers have a way of getting into things, including your Pentium PC. Keep your kids computing on their own terms with Team Concepts' ComQuest Plus. This bite-sized portable does wordprocessing and has a calendar, address book, as well as word strategy and math games. The optional PC Link lets the ComQuest interface with a regular computer, so your kids can save or print their work under your expert supervision. ComQuest Plus: US\$149.99. PC Link: \$28.99. Team Concepts: +1 (415) 684-4920, on the Web at www.tchh.com.

**Go**  
Snowboarders are an independent lot, only truly happy when flying down slopes at high speed, plissing off the more refined skiers or disappearing over the edge of some near-vertical drop to land in virgin powder. Now they can tick off skiers even more by never having to queue for lifts - if they have a Powerboard. When gravity can't help you out, this little baby will get you to even more inaccessible places at a tidy 37 mph. Powerboard: US\$2,385. Crist Collection: +44 (1847) 433591.

**Snap**  
With its Advanced Photo System wizardry, Canon's Elph camera is going to change the way you shoot your pictures. APS, a joint effort of some major photo companies, is a compact film cartridge designed to minimize the risks of simple mistakes and provide consumers with a more enjoyable photo-taking experience. The Elph also has built-in masks for three print aspect ratios: classic, wide angle, and panoramic. With its sleek, stainless-steel body, built-in flash, and fully automatic operation, the Elph with APS is the future of consumer photography - today. Elph: US\$420. Canon USA: (800) 652-2666, +1 (516) 488-6700, on the Web at www.usa.canon.com.

**FETISH**

Edited by Tim Barkow

WIRED SEPTEMBER 1996

introducing the new NEC Versa® 6000. With its sophisticated arrangement of powerful, state-of-the-art features, it'll allow you to ascend the corporate ladder in a way that may seem radical to some.

SEE, HEAR AND FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

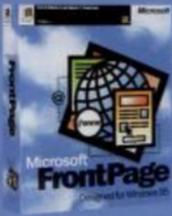
25

NEC

Future Wasn't

That's...

# NOTHING EVER CHANGED



**Introducing Microsoft FrontPage. The easy and fast way to create and manage your Web site.**

If you can click, drag, and drop, you can do it.

Creating your Web site used to be difficult and time-consuming, but that's a thing of the past. Now FrontPage™ takes the mystery out of Web site management. With easy-to-use templates and frames as stand-ins for content, FrontPage makes it so familiar that you can be up and online in less than an hour.

**Create exciting content.**

Microsoft FrontPage™ provides a variety of templates, you can edit content online easily. And you can perform full-text searches, and more.

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Web sites are dynamic and constantly changing. FrontPage Explorer gives you a visual view of the site. The Outline view to see a hierarchy of pages. Backlink to easily update your site. And you can even just doesn't get any easier.

And finally, with the FrontPage Web Service running on the Microsoft Windows operating system of UNIX®. New Microsoft FrontPage without programming.

New Microsoft FrontPage is now available for \$149\* ERP. Call (800) 426-9400 for the name of a reseller near you. Or visit [www.microsoft.com/frontpage/](http://www.microsoft.com/frontpage/)

REALITY CHECK Edited by David Pescovitz

## The Future of the PC

Remember the RadioShack TRS-80? How about the Atari 800 or Texas Instruments TI-99/4A? Those old workhorses from the 1980s PC revolution can easily be found at thrift stores and flea markets for US\$520 or less. While today's microprocessors are certainly much faster, the PC paradigm hasn't changed significantly since the first home computers sold for only a few hundred dollars. Manufacturers are resting on their laurels while R&D has slowed to a walk. The result? Technological stagnation. Wired asked five experts about the future of personal computers.

Cringley Nagel  
Negraponte  
Raskin  
Weiser  
Bottom Line

**The End of the WIMP Interface**  
2025 unlikely  
2020 unlikely  
2002 unlikely  
2013 unlikely  
2017

**The Death of Apple Computer**  
2000 unlikely  
2005 unlikely  
1985 unlikely  
1998 unlikely

**Personal Computers Get Small**  
2010  
2005  
2005  
1999  
1970

**Brain-Computer Interface**  
2300 unlikely  
1999  
2015  
now  
2122

Popularized by Apple and copied by Microsoft, the WIMP computer interface (windows, pointers)

Apple made history by bringing personal computers into American homes, but many fear that the company will

According to Dataquest, 16 percent of the mobile computers sold worldwide in 1995 were notebook size or smaller.

Even though researchers have made advances in the area of brain/computer interfaces - like a thought-controlled cur-

The government is trying to reform the way people think. But the way you think is like a big mess of documents. It's impractical to try and change it according to a master plan.

Wired Magazine 04.07 1996 July

The government has been breaking the same laws we have. All we get are their leftovers. If they don't give a damn, why should we be scared?

2/95 1/96 2/96 3/96 4/96

Future wasn't that

Point, click, ship, track, confirm rates, prepare export documents, check sales in Europe, manage accounts receivable, reorder inventory, program customer orders, etc...etc...etc...



Now, manage your business as well as your shipments with the touch of a button.

THESE DAYS, IT TAKES A LOT MORE MEMORY TO BE YOUR BEST.

Remember the freedom you felt the first time you got Internet?

Archaic... Rest in Piss...

If it seems like more information than you've ever asked from your shipping department, well that's exactly the point. Introducing UPS OnLine™. Powerful software to help you manage not only your shipments, but your business as well.

MOVING at the SPEED of BUSINESS™

The pen may be mightier than the sword, but the Scanner blows them both away.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0

Now you can find out what freedom really means.

/\* archive.org/details/wired-magazine-04.07-1996-july/page/n105/mode/2up

This site no longer exist, but funny how there is Slovak "copy" of it...

ebsurfcentral.com

YOU'VE GOT TO SEE IT IN EPSON COLOR!

Wired Magazine 04.07 1996 July : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive - Kingston, WSC, EPSON

Article continue on next Page



# MOTION FOR AGORA ROAD TO ADOPT INTERNET.BEAT TIME.

[/\\* https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/motion-for-agora-road-to-adopt-internet-beat-time.6950/](https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/motion-for-agora-road-to-adopt-internet-beat-time.6950/)

**Hello Agora, beats be with you.**

*If this is your first time learning of .beats, we welcome you to a new perspective on Time, and would like to catch you up TL;DR:*

**Swatch** Internet Time, or Beat Time, was introduced by Swatch in 1998 as a novel way to standardize time globally. Unlike traditional time zones, which divide the world into regional areas,

**Beat Time (BT) divides the day into 1,000 "beats" each beat lasting 86.4 seconds. With BT, a single, unified time standard can be used worldwide, making it easier for people across different regions to coordinate w/o needing to convert time zones. BT flows linearly from @000.beats to @999.beats.**

*Travelers of the road have created code, clocks, plugins, and shrines in tribute to our glorious .beatChan.*

*Beat Time can be found in use across several recurring **Agora activities** that generate participation across multiple timezones and locales. You will find it referenced with an @ symbol followed by 3 numbers such as @042 or @309.*

*We encourage you to discover what your 'Beat Range' is and how it may overlay your current understanding of Time. For example, my typical waking hours are @583-@250 (What I consider 6AM-10PM local time to me) so I know I could possibly make Movie Night as it happens @041.*

**A few highlights of the thread as of Oct '24: BeatTime Code Wars (who can write the most autistic code):**  
 Ashman / vulonkaaz | shrapnelnet / vulonkaaz | 1, 2, 3 || vulonkaaz on optimizing code | lillillill / vulonkaaz | Ashman / shrapnelnet | lillillill / Punp | lillillill / vulonkaaz / Punp

**Beat Time Artifacts:**

It's @416 Swatch Beats - GOOD MOORNING!! | Sonic Beat Watch | Captain Beat | Watch | BeatWatch Lore || Hail to our Glorious BeatChan | beatChan DeskPet Teaser created by @HammerKoop | Sexy beatChan created by @Punp || BeatChan NeoCities Shrine || Travelers denouncing and subsequently embracing beat time. | Live View: UTC-Factory Floor

**Additional Artifacts and Images:**

*If I missed something please let me know and I will update this OP!*  
 I encourage you to read our original motion argument below, browse the thread, and enjoy exploring this tangential path into Beat Time on the Agora Road!  
 Yours in Time,  
**-- waffle**

(Edited Oct 6, '24 to consolidate lore and add tl;dr. Fixed formatting. Code contributors table. BeatChan Images)  
 (Edited Oct 23, '24 to update lore, update code contributors table, BeatChan Images) (Edited Nov 5, '24 - updated HoQ beat time, update ● code contributors table)

**Agora Activities - Beat Time:**

- [Unreal Tournament UT99 Frag Nights Friday @083](#)
- [Waffles House of Quake: Sunday Service - @709 and @042](#)
- [EUTZ Movie Nights: Sat @792](#)
- [N-American MNs: Sun @042 -- on hold](#)
- [Gikopoi Hangouts @Various Times](#)
- (< p. 23)

**Code Contributors:**

- [Code Monkey: Code | Github | Other]
- @vulonkaaz: C - Code | SchizoClock Github | DWM bar | beat support
  - @Captain: beatTime Converter Site and API | .Beat Github | Chrome Extension
  - @shrapnelnet: C - Code | Beat Github | BeatAPI - ShrapnelNet
  - @Punp: Javascript | Userscript BeatTime for Gikopoi
  - @HammerKoop: GoDotScript
  - @Andy Kaufman: Bash Script
  - @lillillill: C for statusbar
  - @Fauxx: Python | Waybar widget
  - @Vaporweeb: Rainmeter Skin
  - @Ashman: Elisp
  - @garret 427738: PHP Bomb drop
  - @waffle: Javascript
- Other Contributions: MacOS StatusBar Beat Time

**Purveyors, Disciples, and Early Believers in Beat Time:**

[Mirchicom](#), [Pluto](#), [Vince](#), [No56](#), [WKYK](#), [Pangolin](#), [HammerKoop](#), [2bias](#), [sungen](#), [Gadg8eer](#), [vulonkaaz](#), [Akenshi](#), [Captain](#), [MindControlBoxer](#), [MindControlBoxer Affirms Faith](#), [Punp](#), [TrollKing](#), [Andy Kaufman](#), [Ashman](#), [Fauxx](#), [not my friend Eris](#), [DarkAgent](#), [Waninem](#), [Vaporweeb](#), [Rising Thumb](#), [Some\\_porcupine](#)

/\* <https://beats.wiki>  
 /\* <https://beatchan.neocities.org/>

Current .beat time! | [BeatChan Time Coordinator](#)





の天気 **BY** 天気予報  
(OR/AKA)  
**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
**BY**  
**WEATHER FORECAST**  
**-BY YABBA**

Two days ago I put on ぎょうの天気 by 天気予報 or Today's Weather by Weather Forecast, while I was on a long drive. (<https://asutenki.band-camp.com>)

It was very relaxing, and I guess it fit the theme of old Japanese weather forecasts (I haven't really watched any) but, I think songs 2 and 3 were a bit longer than I think they should have been.

Overall it's pretty good. [You can find it here:]

<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/review-the-last-album-you-listened-to.6261/#post-99009>

**Listen \*here\*** / [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcMG\(-\)5QKQ\(-\)NmM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcMG(-)5QKQ(-)NmM)

As always, when it comes to finding the best crap on Spotify, this album simply uses the cassette cover to represent how fucking lit it is. The album as a whole consists of .3gp style compression of the early 00s phones to completely mimic a blown out speaker, listen to this at a moderate volume if you wish to keep your ears to old age.

- ~~efretorno del gamer~~ is a banger of an intro that will NOT make you ready for the next track at all.
- <sup>2005</sup> (total 90 bliss remix) the start of the track makes you feel like you're back in the body of a child bopping to unintelligible voices and Hanna-Barbera sound effects. Despite the speed, your body WILL DANCE to it.
- ♡◇◇ SSSSELVANEGRA!! ◇◇◇ consists of vocals from Sean Kingston's Beautiful Girls with a backing track that will make you think your speakers are blown out. Among the purchases in Bandcamp it seems to be a favourite for everyone. [it's] a vibe track that sounds a lot like an oldschool ringtone with hardstyle percussions and flow horns.
- ♡◇◇ uses only the English segments of Snuggle Bunny to give a trance-like experience along with it's compressed percussion.
- (♡◇ MeCa-Aldea-Ascenso ◇♡) as it suggests with it's title, the track attempts to give the listener the impression that they are being lifted into space as the sounds intensify with tension and distortion.
- ♡★ StillGhostz!! (HyperCard TechnoPayPal Remixxx) ★♡ you'd probably believe me if I told you that I spaced out while listening to this. I have no damned idea what the girl is singing. I just know I have heard it before O\_O
- ♡ this track uses the vocals from Belinda Clarise's Heaven Is A Place On Earth
- ~2☆much~ (GameShark Transphonic Re-Mix) please tell me what those lyrics are from TT\_TT

**THIS ALBUM IS MORE**  
**VW THAN YOU THINK!**  
**CLASSIC PROJECT 2000 BY**  
**TEAM MEKANO**  
**-BY ANANA SUPREME**

Last year I had a very revealing LSD trip that not only stabilized my mental health and gave me understanding about myself, it gave me the sickest album I have ever heard in my life. I have mentioned before that being born a Puertorrican of late Millennial origins is something that heavily influences the content I have created over the past few years. Not many in the community resonated with the fact I have spilled about nostalgia being relative, this specific production completely encompasses that which I have been trying to explain to no avail in many forum discussions and I hope you would be kind to give it a listen.

As Vaporwave moves on with the times its BEEN only a matter of time until the y2k influences took a hold of the movement even if it makes people upset [V2k]. The artist group, Team Mekano, has not tagged this as a Vaporwave album... I refuse to not call it one.

For me this is a production that grabbed many iconic and unthought-of things from my childhood in order to create a production that despite it's horrific compression, harks back to a time where the world was forbidden to me and only the media surrounding me could fill the blank caused by the abuse I endured in those tender years. I personally remember many of the things sampled in this album, but thanks to the life I had there was no way for me to know the names of these things which only now I have begun to actively search, if anything sounds familiar please comment it below.

*If you wish to take a journey which expresses the Zillennial experience in Latin America, please give it a listen.*

- portions 4 foxes (frank lampard remix) idk, the whole time I am picturing a kid that just won't eat all xD
- xXx\_plz\_bb\_xXx (TempleOS ♡ CyberAngel 2.5 ReMIX) if you are a fan of emo music and Tokyo Ghetto Pussy, you're gonna have a good time.
- homero simp yes, Homer is in this track. Yes... I love it. Harken back to Harmless and its stabs.
- RE:SLEEP no, this is not a lullaby. Yes, you can jump-style to it.
- ★#Koresh Seal#★ (Celestial Retrovision Remix) YEAH! WOOH! YEAH! WOOH! YEAH! WOOH! YEAH! WOOH! YEAH! WOOH! PEWPEWPEWPEW
- ♡♡◇ (All-Star ReCoded MiX!) the teenage angst spills all over with this one, it doesn't not make me love it anyway.
- ♡◇◇ is one track that makes me feel like I know who the announcer is but for the life of me I cannot single out exactly who it was. I speed down the fucking highway on this one. On repeat NON-STOP.●

album: <https://dismissyourself.bandcamp.com/album/000-deluxe-edition>

thread: <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/this-album-is-more-vaporwave-than-you-think-classic-project-2000-by-team-mekano.4254/>

# ALBUM REVIEW OF "YOU (RC95 EDIT)" BY RUNNERS CLUB 95 -BY ANGIETORII

/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/album-review-of-you-rc95-edit-by-runners-club-95.3425/>

After a short holiday in Rome in order to see my boyfriend I'm finally back with my album reviews :D

I have decided to change the style of how I write my reviews in order to make it a little bit more of a whole text instead of just a list of songs with my opinions near them!

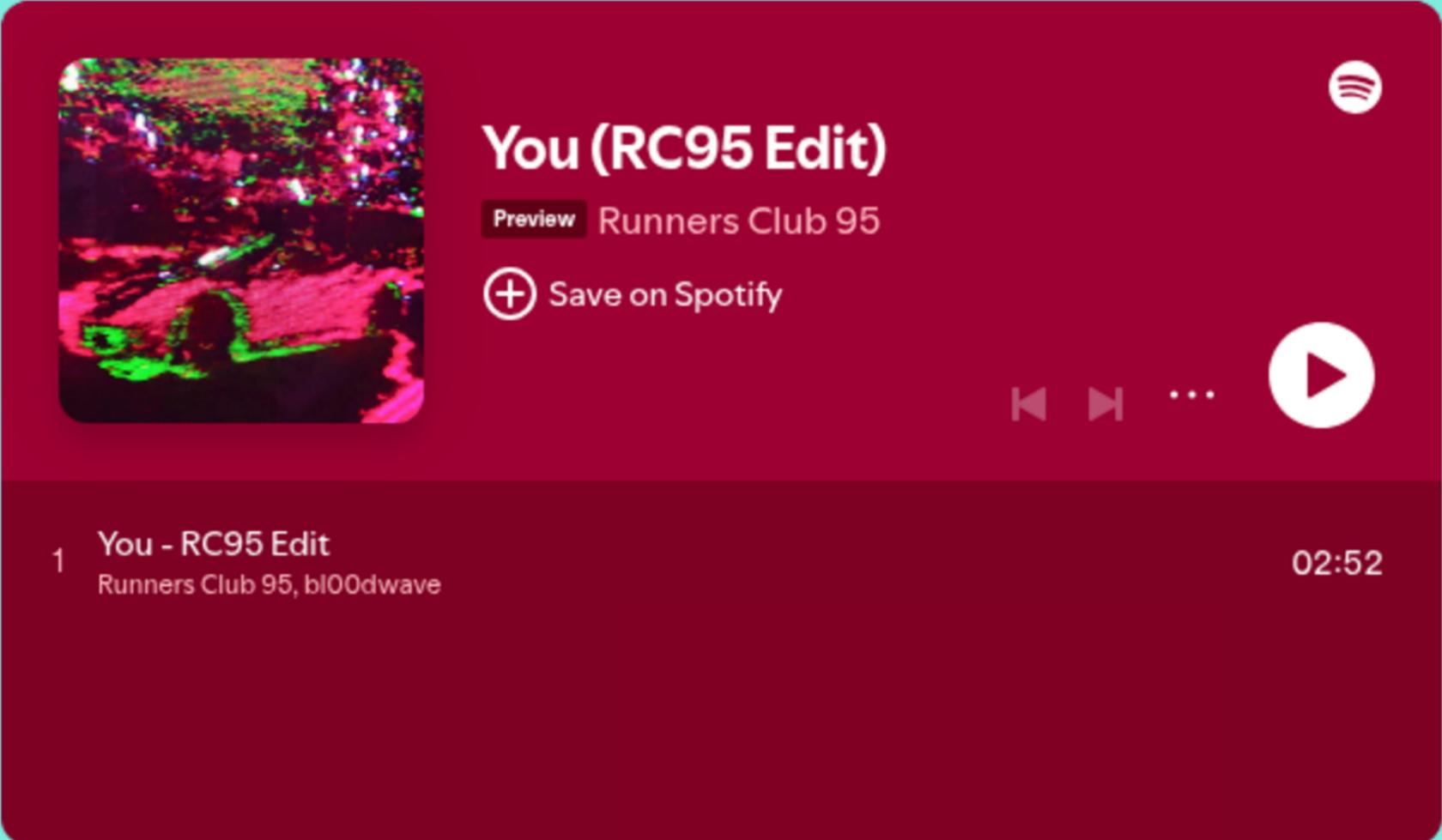
Okay so, Runners Club 95 is a duo from Sweden who has been making and publishing vaporwave music together since 2017. Today I will focus on their last single that came out on June 26, 2021.

It's a song performed by bl00dwave and, of course, Runners Club 95. The starting is characterized by some synths chords, and then the song starts. The voice is of course edited pretty much to get that deep tone, and it is overall a summer-nostalgic mood, which is actually perfect. The lyrics say "You're the reason I belong here" which makes the song even a romantic piece with vaporwave as its main genre but, then there's also a kinda techno feel and a moderate rhythm, the base has got some "typical summer" instruments.

Overall it makes me feel emotional and nostalgic of the good times I just spent in the capital, but, in general it's a great fusion of what vaporwave, a love song, and a summer hit would be, it's the perfect fusion!

### LINK TO THE SONG:

View: [https://open.spotify.com/album/4fdj\(-\)79Ej\(-\)db2XX\(-\)kt5th\(-\)vXy9](https://open.spotify.com/album/4fdj(-)79Ej(-)db2XX(-)kt5th(-)vXy9)



**You (RC95 Edit)**  
Preview Runners Club 95  
+ Save on Spotify

1 You - RC95 Edit  
Runners Club 95, bl00dwave 02:52

*More reviews can be found [here](https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/vaporwave-music-reviews.47/).* (<https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/vaporwave-music-reviews.47/>)

*Have a great listen!*

klaudi\_rimka Stuffed gingerbread cookies in chocolate

# STUFFED GINGERBREAD IN CHOCO.

Ingredients for classic gingerbread

- ◆ 500 g of plain flour special 00
- ◆ 200 g of powdered sugar
- ◆ 1 large teaspoon of ground cinnamon
- ◆ approx. 15-20 cloves crushed in a mortar - if you have already bought crushed ones, then 1/2 teaspoon
- ◆ 100 g of butter or Hera
- ◆ 3 eggs + 1 for spreading
- ◆ 2 tablespoons of honey
- ◆ 1 heaping teaspoon of baking soda

Procedure

1. Mix baking soda and honey in a glass and let it stand on the kitchen counter for 12 to 24 hours.
2. The next day, we mix all the other necessary ingredients and finally add baking soda with honey.
3. We make the dough and wrap it in food foil. We leave it in the refrigerator until the next day (and it will last even longer there).
4. The next day, roll out the dough on a board to a thickness of about 5 mm. We don't make the dough too thin, so that you don't bake it afterwards and it won't be soft.
5. Cut out various shapes with any mold.
6. Place them on a baking sheet with baking paper a little apart.
7. Bake at a temperature of 180°C for approximately 8-10 minutes (you need to watch until they are brown - give a smaller batch for the first time and monitor your oven).
8. Brush with beaten egg immediately after removing from the oven.
9. Decorate as desired.

Tip: Store in a dry, cooler place in a well-closed tin container.

The number depends on the size of the cut-out shapes, but from this batch, approx. 60-70 pcs 🍪

Filled to 10 pcs

- ◆ thick jam - plum, strawberry..
- ◆ 170 g of dark chocolate
- ◆ 1 tbsp of oil
- ◆ Ivo fruit

[Facebook Xmas Recipe](#)

[Recipe 2 on Second page](#)

# PASTRIES -BY ANDY K.

Yesterday GF and me made pastries and they're so easy to make and so delicious I wanna share our recipe we cobbled together:

## Things you will need:



- a muffin pan
- muffin paper cups
- a big drinking glass, ideally with a diameter slightly larger than the recesses in the muffin pan. We chose these IKEA POKAL glasses, I think many people have them:



## Ingredients:

- **-Puff pastry!** You can make your own but this recipe goes from hard to very easy if you get the store bought one. Usually you can buy these **sheets**:
- *Since the sheets probably vary in size depending on the brand you buy, it's hard to give recommendations on the amount. For us 3 sheets worked for 24 pastries.*
- -for **the filling** you can use basically everything you want. **meats, veggies, chocolate, scrambled eggs.**
- This is where **you can get really creative** but I will show you what we used and intent to use in the future.



## Omnivore variant:

- 300g of **minced meat**
- 100g of **peas** (I got them from a can)
- 1 **carrot**
- 1 **onion**
- 1 **clove of garlic**
- 1 **egg**
- **mashed potatoes** (you can choose the ratio to the **meat**, I think 50/50 works best)
- **Spices and seasoning** of your choice



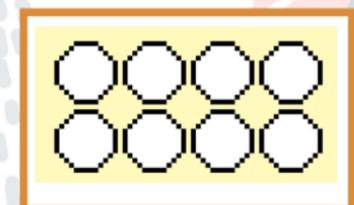
- **Just mix everything together in a bowl and stir it for a minute or two.**

## Vegan variant:

- 1 can of **kidney beans**
- 1 can of **baked beans**
- mashed **potatoes**
- **Spices and seasoning** of your choice

## How to prepare:

- Unroll your dough and prepare the paper cups.
- Cut out circles of dough with your drinking glass and place a circle inside the cup.
- Add your filling with a spoon.
- Cut out another circle you use as a lid and close it off.
- When you run out of dough to easily cut, you can Frankenstein together lids from the remaining dough:
- Or just try to knead it back together and reroll it for another flat sheet.



## Baking:

The **vegan** variant was done after **20 minutes on 200°C**

The **meat** variant needed **35 minutes on 200°C** to ensure the meat was all the way done.

*These can be full meals but also just make great snacks to take on the go since they're easy to eat without cutlery. ●*

*Here is how mine turned out with the Frankenstein lids:*

*/\* [https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-cooks.6183/page-2#post-137\(-\)431](https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/agora-cooks.6183/page-2#post-137(-)431)  
[remove “(-)” ]*



# ESOTERIC DIGITAL AESTHETICS BY SOMASPACE

/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/esoteric-digital-aesthetics.6780/>

AESTHETIC GALLERIES Section

**You guys ever heard of the metalheart aesthetic?**  
**It's a pretty cool Y2K visual style. I was wondering**  
**if you guys wanted to share images of the sort**  
**or of other esoteric digital aesthetics. Maybe**  
**we could have a digital art inspiration thread.**



## CODE LAYERS

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VM\\_JNqFCvyo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VM_JNqFCvyo&feature=youtu.be)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWkNkQoQY\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWkNkQoQY_8)

2Advanced Studios v3 flash website in 2001



Watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVWdyGDzvIw&feature=youtu.be>

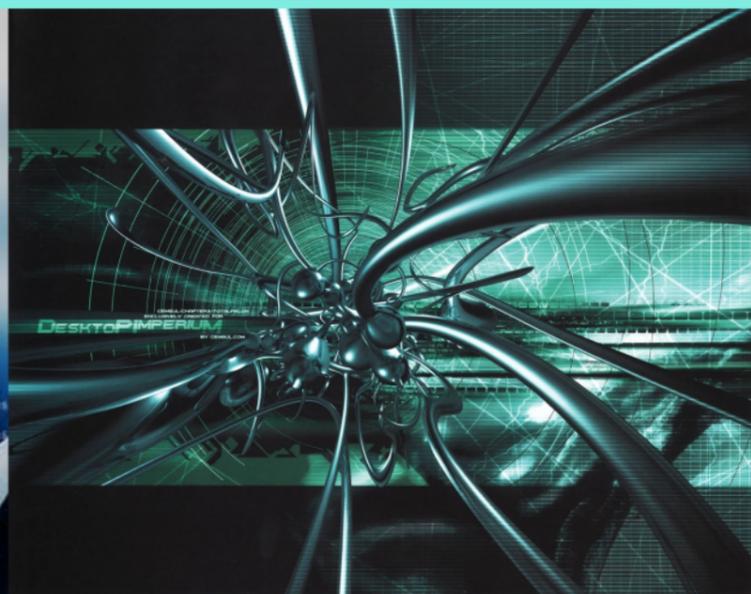
2Advanced Studios v4 flash website in 2003

The pages of the chapter that you're reading right now contain a collection of my surrealist environments. They represent my love for ambience out of our earthly nature. Each day, I get a few e-mail messages that ask about particular techniques for creating the light effects that appear frequently in these pieces, and what software I use. In fact, most of the tools I use for my creations come from Adobe. If we look at the process of creating the image on this page, for example, it went from my head, to Discreet's 3ds max, to Photoshop, to Illustrator for the line work, and finally back to Photoshop again.

Using 3ds max provides me with the ability to create things that can't be caught on camera. However, the final stage always takes place in Photoshop, where I compose and retouch my renders, producing a look that's quite different from making everything with a 3D package. Layering your objects manually, using the transform tools for perspective and so on, adds errors to the natural view of the composition – but they're positive errors. The 'camera' in 3D software imitates the real world, as though you're looking through a viewfinder, but I prefer it when things diverge from reality, or the imagined reality, into a deformed rendition of one's final idea.

Photoshop is definitely the only image-editing tool that I would use. Yes, there are programs that might be better for one particular task, but I see Photoshop as the most stable, powerful, and extensive tool that I can use for both Web and print – especially when working with the rest of Adobe's products, since they are all compatible. Being able to have 180 layers active and still feel comfortable with the performance is something I don't think any other program can offer me.

63



### HOW TO MAKE METALHEART IN BLENDER BY @NUPHORY

1. make an amongus



2. apply modifiers



3. copy, paste, move, adjust



4. do the rest



TUTORIAL BY @NUPHORY

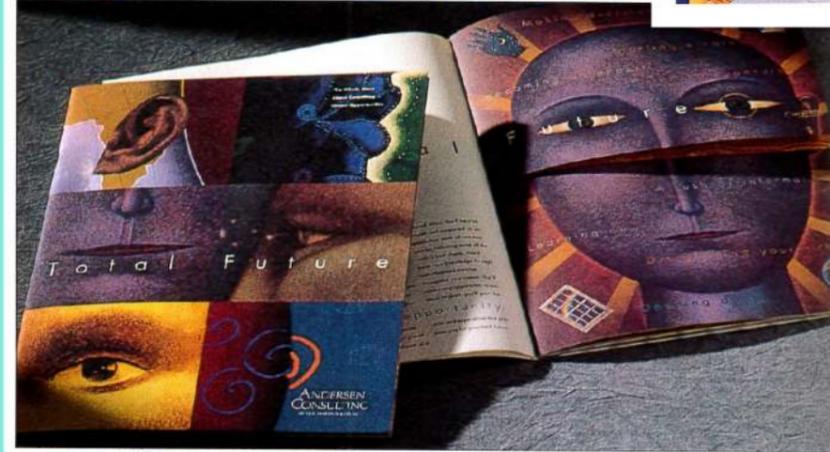
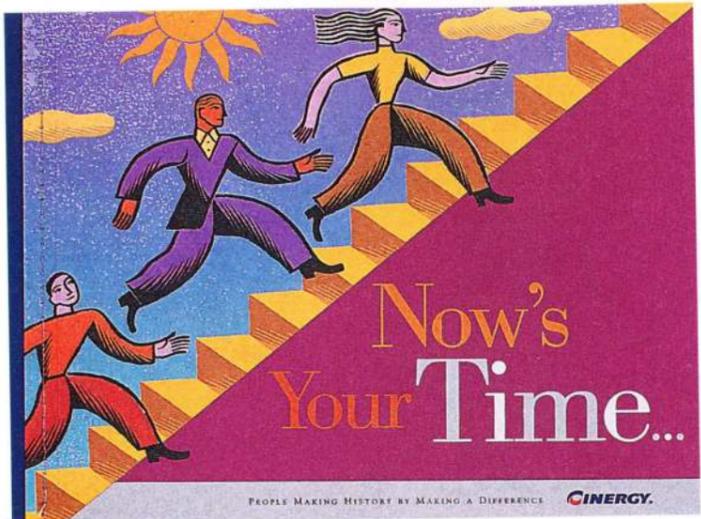
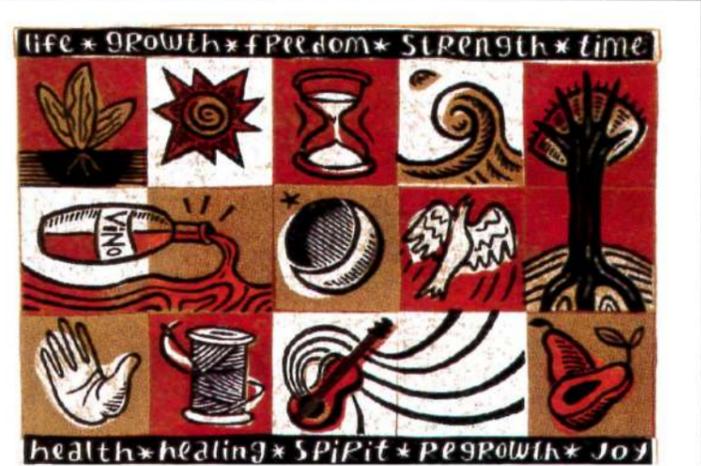
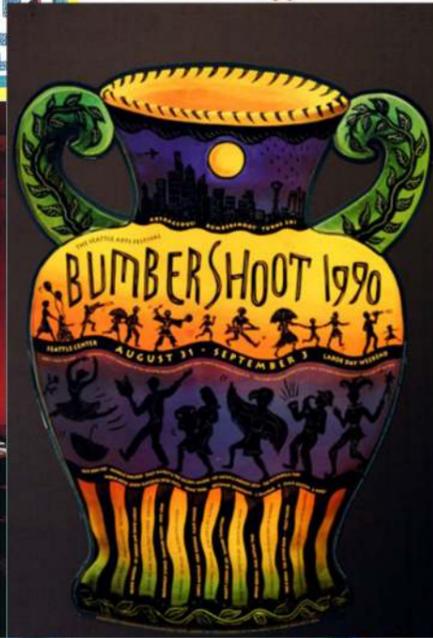
**Videos**  
**(and text ) by tcp**  
**(more also there)**

*This is what the web use to be*

*Even though it probably would have taken a full 8 minutes to download, we could never build something like this today. It's become a lost technology, just like Roman concrete.*

^ /\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/esoteric-digital-aesthetics.6780/#post-112470>

# GLOBAL VILLAGE COFFEEHOUSE - AESTHETIC HIGHLIGHT #1 - BY EMMY FITZ



Good evening. I got an idea. I'm going to start **weekly threads** based on specific aesthetics from long ago, and we can discuss the style, have memories, and share examples of this retro aesthetic. Let me know what you all think of this idea.

This week's Aesthetic Highlight:  
**Global Village Coffeehouse** (c. late 1980s - late 1990s)

/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?tags/aesthetic-highlight/>

**What memories do you have with seeing this aesthetic when you were younger?**

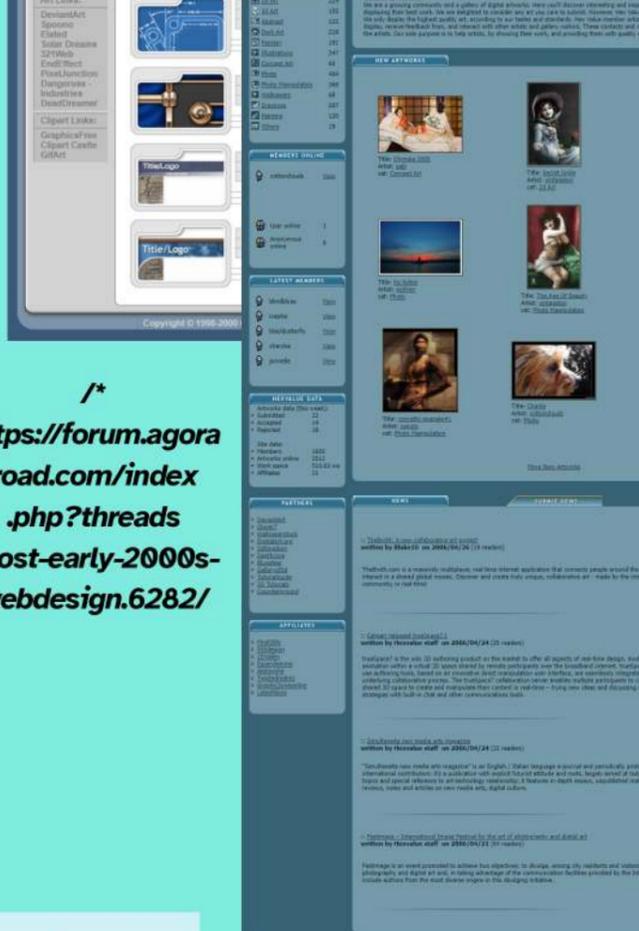
Personally, GVC reminds me of visiting Disneyland in the early 2000s. Not so much the park, but the resort around it, aspects of original Cali. Adventure and esp. Downtown Disney. There were also some specific board games, books, and other stuff that my grandma had around the house at the time. ●

/\* <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/global-village-coffeehouse-aesthetic-highlight-1.3258/>

# EARLY 2000S WEB DESIGN - BY ILLUMINATIPIRATE



This thread is for Early 2000s web design. Post 'em below



https://forum.agora.road.com/index.php?threads/post-early-2000s-webdesign.6282/

# XPIRITUALISM: THE AESTH. OF NET SURFING -POST BY HOLY



A lot of the actual images are definitely y2k zoomer tiktok-core feeling but one picture in this post feels very authentic. ●

Oh man, do I miss this sort of stuff. The fading effects, the custom PS brushes used to add texture, that obligatory quote that nowadays would be referred to as "edgy" since people aren't allowed to be sincere anymore somewhere on it.

< PhotoShop

These sorts of pictures elicit a response from me personally. From the dreamlike editing to the quote, which sort of serves the purpose of setting the mood for the IE itself. Yet it still maintains an authentic amateur feel to it. You can tell it's someone who, as the OP post puts it, wants to express their genuine love for something. Be it a character, a show, etc.

< image edit

I do agree with most of the words in the OP post here even if I think a lot of youngins have no idea what stuff back then looked like. In my XP most graphics back then were very pixelated and jagged. You'd see 2D sprites in them often from retro video games, too.

< experience

Though there were some that went for more dreamlike faded visuals, the quality still wasn't so hilariously low as a lot of the pictures here are. Which gives away that it's a posthumous creation and not something endemic to the times, look at the first picture and the fifth picture esp. for examples of this.

[...] < Text continues in previous Section (page 14)



\*/ <https://forum.agoraroad.com/index.php?threads/xpiritualism-the-aesthetic-of-internet-surfing.6429/#post-137808>

## ~~~ Preface

*These poems were part of an idea I had in high school to create a series of poems that paint a technological, dystopic future.*

*I have selected the three best of the collection and heavily revised them.*

## ~~~ Sonnet of The World

By the bytes of input and sims  
are the worlds pieces analyzed,  
by Computer Algorithms,  
to play efficiently and wise.  
Such is the tale of those who woke  
the Wise Machine of Silicon Valley  
Few suspect behind the cloak,  
the king's a businessman from Cali.  
Ninety percent on streets outcasted,  
Nine in boxes, working, fearing;  
The one are nowhere to be accounted,  
Above them sits the shadow king.  
We all see that it all falls before us;  
Nothing will be as it ever was once.

~~~ Sonnet of A Day  
In The System

Six AM, she wakes up to alarm clock,
Repeat Monday mornings affirmation,
Unwrap breakfast, and by eight o'clock
Check emails at the workstation.
After seven PM's gone by,
Open a bag of welfare green,
Smoke a bowl and watch shows high
Until the day dissolves in a dream
In her eyelids, she doth sees
Pasture greens and roses red,
And she knows that she believes
That life can be some more than dread
Tuesday, laying 'round, she knew she felt
wrong,
but by eight o'clock, her dream had already
gone.

~~~ Song of Forgotten People

... we believe during this downturn, there was a practice among the destitute to [protest], an occasion where a mass of people march together in an urban area to express their collective attitudes or beliefs. According to media of the time, these were generally violent and unpopular...

... while they were often passed down by word of mouth, some chants were recorded on paper; we have managed to restore two verses using various records. It is not clear if these were part of longer works or are complete in of themselves...

... through these works we hope to understand the socioeconomic conditions of the lower classes of this historic dark age more intimately, and understand the factors of the global civilization's downfall better...

Here we are, the last free men,
Of the glorious West!
Until the New World's murder tools
Clean up all the rest;
And as we all ascend together
Say "T'was for the best!"
And from the clouds we all will watch
Mankinds final test.

They'll strip you down and point a gun
directly to your head!
They'll break your knees and tear apart your
God-given spirit!
Who cares about a broken body,
You're in heaven when it's dead,
When they ask for final words into their
face you spit!

Poems continue on next Page

I light my torch and hold the flame
above the ocean sea.
The wind suggests it all will end,
whimpering softly.
The Road has wound around and round the
hillocks of the land,
and ends alike a rivers mouth upon the
beaches sand.

I have travelled for so long, my soles have
turned to bricks,
Coarse and heavy, treading on the rocks
and prod with sticks
That I cannot feel the sand that squirms
inbetween my toes --
The wetted sand upon the edge of places
no one even knows.

It's cold underneath the deep dark
enwalled dome;
The torch in my hand makes me forget I'm
all alone.
I'm warmed ever slightly by its gentle little
flame,
That I'll carry home, through the thunder
and the rain.

But I don't even know where my home will
be anymore.
And what if I can't find one?

And I don't even know if I can bring the
flame to it.
So what will I do if I don't?

The land which I came from will soon be
razed and fallen.
What if I never remake it?

I would be completely alone.

Tomorrow brings the worried questions
their answer,
And today does not, so it won't be my
concern,
I will worry first of the stepping of my
tattered old boots,
Step by step, moving to new land to make
new roots.

RANDOM QUOTES FROM TENET

"Parallel worlds theory
We can't know the relationship between
consciousness and multiple realities"

"Collapse of Soviet Union
Most insecure moment in the history of
nuclear weapons"

"A protagonist"

"What's happened has happened, an
expression of faith in the mechanics of the
world, not an excuse to do nothing"

"The bomb that didn't go off, the one that
no one knew was real. That's the one with
the real power to change the world"

—Dream Journal—

*[I dreamt a woman to my right passes gas,
I say, "no worries".
It was bright, perhaps we were outside.
I was hunched over.
I don't know if I was working for her
or if I was with her or if I knew her,
but it didn't bother me.*

- July 13, 2023]

Deep in the midnight hour

Long
Ago
deep in the
Midnight hour
I held a flaming torch to the darkness,

I
Lay there
In the dark
hoping to see
That thing which I fear will not be harmless

Waiting deep down in the midnight hour
I beginning to drown in the midnight hour

A COLLECTION OF TETRACTYS
POEMS

A tetr
Space
Here
Or There,
yet between.
Space, hard to touch;
a mere sensation of what isn't scene

Tension
Rest,
soon lost.
Unbridled.
Soiled trousers.
Warm inklings but a broken countenance

**mirroring: or how I learned to stop
worrying and resolve conflicts**
it
seems like
you really
don't have a lot
of joy at the moment and I'm sorry.

Girls/ nemoW
Boy.
Desire.
Mistaken.
Quench the fire.
Start over so you can begin again.

Stalker
When
I came,
I didn't
Think that she would
Be here, but I was still so mistaken

Collective memory
We
Have cut
Every
Thing in the world
Into parts, and say it is built of them

*After I began to see what there is
Deep in the dark
waiting for
you and
Me*

*I realized there's no need to be so scared
because with you
here with me
I'll just
keep*

*Waiting deep down in the midnight hour
I'll be longing
for another time
another chance
Hoping you'll still be with me*

*In the midnight hour
Deep in the midnight hour ●*



RizzottoLuke_RuminatingWithAView
Luke Rizzotto



RizzottoLuke_SomeFarOffLocale
Luke Rizzotto



RizzottoLuke_SomeTimeAway Luke
Rizzotto

Mr. Santovich's Terrible Journal

by ghermann

I first met Mr. Santovich in the spring of '45. We were both attending a college conference concerning an issue I no longer remember, nor do I care about anymore. He had an air of intelligence and aloofness that wasn't common amongst his colleagues, who preferred to talk without saying much of anything at all. I was drawn to him after our first brief conversation concerning the scientific possibility of teleportation, even though we would've been laughed at and called madmen by our peers.

To him, everything was a possibility.

After the conference, he invited me to his studio to discuss matters further. This began sort of symbiotic relationship, with him assisting me with my studies, and I with his. It was only 3 years into this friendship that I realized that he was reaching something great and perhaps dangerous, but at the time I was too blinded by the possibilities of this new area of science to realize that humanity was not meant to go this far, that we are too soft and too malleable to fully understand the great sea of unspeakable knowledge that we are floating on top of.

Because of my curiosity, I began to visit him more frequently and sometimes stayed the entire day, listening to him.

"I will change the world forever," He used to say, pacing around his small study.

His notes were disorganized but understandable once you began to fully go over them, and I began to devote almost all of my waking hours helping him calculate, running errands for him, or bringing him coffee that he drank almost religiously and at all hours. The question of implementing his theory into reality began to come further into light, and we both agreed that using my engineering degree to make a prototype, whatever it may be, would be the best course of action. At this time, I had left my job at the college to assist him full time, and for most days I only ate a meal of cheese and stale bread because of our mutual lack of fiat.

Looking back now, we'd both gone insane. As for the reasons why, I still don't know. We'd become wrapped up in a thread that seemed to go nowhere. After 5 years of constant work, I'd finished my prototype. We were both reduced to asking for money from our relatives, promising them each time that in a few years we would return our debts with more. I'd lost so much weight that all of my clothes were beginning to sag. Mr. Santovich, however, bearded and gray now, had more color and energy to him than when I met him, so long ago.

The machine was ugly. It sat like a monolith in that small studio, taking up most of the room, wires coming out at all angles, like veins resting on the floor. An unholy organism. We hadn't known the full weight of our creation. We didn't think of the consequences.

At this time, I hadn't known that Mr. Santovich had a personal journal. I'd known of his notes, that he kept in unorganized piles around the room, but he never spoke of his personal life or of his thoughts. We didn't talk about anything but the project. I'd only known about the journal after I found it, lying in the old rubble of the building, as if it'd been there forever.

The days leading up to Mr. Santovich's departure from this world were full of celebration. I still had the key to my old office building in the college, and I knew that my old supervisor had a bottle of champagne in a cabinet near his desk. In the dark of night, I helped myself to this bottle and brought it back to the studio. I hadn't had alcohol in 4 years. I deserved it. We deserved it, after our hard work for the progression of humanity's reach into oblivion.

My last conversation with Mr. Santovich, although I didn't know it would be, was this:

"To our progress," Mr. Santovich said, raising his coffee cup of champagne.

"To our progress." I said, reaching up to touch my glass to his. My hand was shaking. *It's alright, I thought, I've done everything I needed to do.*

We sat in silence for a while, drinking our champagne. A window was open and the warm summer's night air was drifting in. Mr. Santovich had his bag with his materials sitting under his chair. He was wearing his dress clothes, the cleanest he'd been in years. The weak light from the light bulb hanging from the ceiling was casting a sickly air onto us, but I'd grown used to it. The machine sat in the corner, waiting. We were rewiring electricity from nearby buildings just to keep it on, and I was sure we would hear a knock on the door, asking us what was going on. But we were so close.

"When I come back," Mr. Santovich said, setting his cup down, "We'll publish our studies to the world. First, however, it needs to be tested. We don't know what lay beyond, but today we will discover what does."

He took a moment to think, rubbing his beard.

"After this, we won't have to worry about money. The world will praise us for our discovery. We are... we are bringing humanity back into the light." He said.

"Yes," I said, not quite knowing what else to say.

"Yes, yes," He said, taking another sip of the champagne, "We will open their eyes to this horizon – We will show them that no corner of existence cannot be conquered by the Will of Man."

Another lull in the conversation. This time, the distance between us felt unending. He stared at the machine, like it was some holy artifice.

"I suppose," He said, getting up slowly, "I suppose that it's time to go."

He looked at me, waiting.

"Yes, I suppose that it is."

We both walked over to the machine, which was producing a low hum. The closer we got to it, the louder and more violent it got. The hum seemed to seep into your bones, almost calling to you. Mr. Santovich was holding his bag over his shoulder, looking forward without saying anything. I finished putting in the commands, and an unearthly sound quickly filled the room.

It was unlike anything I've ever seen.

The light in front of the machine shifted, swirling slowly at first, and then began to circle around so fast that it looked like it was simply expanding without moving at all. Inside the circle, a sound began to emerge like an inhuman choir, tones harmonizing in such a way that has never been heard, like an unearthly siren's call. It was pure light, pure white light, and it was so luminous that I had to cover my eyes with my hand. This didn't help at all, because it was so bright that I could see the bones in my hands shine through my flesh. In terror, I turned my back to the portal.

I heard a step on the old wooden floor. A terrible silence filled the room. A second later, the walls and the earth caved in.

THE COLD BED

When I woke up in the infirmary, I was completely alone. The morning light filtered through the curtains of the room, and it filled me with terror. I closed my eyes again. After an imperceptible amount of time, I heard footsteps coming towards my bed, and in a bout of bravery I began to open my eyes.

"Mr. Korac," A loud voice said, "Mr. Korac."

In front of me was a nurse. *I must be alive, then, if she's talking to me*, I thought. My throat was dry to the point of pain.

"Yes," I whispered.

"You've gone through quite an ordeal, Mr. Korac. Your mother is here to talk to you. You're lucky you're only bruised – it could've been much worse," The nurse smiled at me with a shy smile, and opened the curtain to my bed a little wider. My old mother was standing there. Her eyes were sad and I couldn't look at her.

"I'll leave you two to it, then," The nurse said, before walking away.

We both sat in silence until she put a paper cup of water to my lips, wetting my mouth but not sating my thirst.

"You're coming back home." She said, her voice strong but her body frail. She stared at my hand, and I noticed that my fingernails were charred black. I began to talk, but -

"No! Don't say anything to me! You've almost killed me; you've run off with those ideas in your head and came back like this! I have not seen you for years! You haven't wrote me a letter in months!" She closed her eyes and looked away and I suddenly felt like a little boy again.

"No more running away." She said.

THE DISCOVERY

I've been living in my mother's house ever since. I have not heard from Mr. Santovich in the flesh



RizzottoLuke_Elsewhere Luke Rizzotto



RizzottoLuke_LoungingWaiting Luke Rizzotto

since that night, which brings me to the main topic: Mr. Santovich's journal. In the spring, many years after the incident, I had the sudden inclination to travel back to that old, small studio. I hadn't visited or even been near it since Mr. Santovich's departure. The reason for my travel still eludes me.

I took my mother's car and traveled back into the city, back into the cramped streets where the studio used to be. As I traveled down the road, I was stopped by a concrete barrier. The banner across it said "CONSTRUCTION – NO ENTRY" in faded black letters on a background that had been weathered down to a murky yellow. Not heeding this warning, I climbed over the barrier, and felt dread the moment my shoes touched the old asphalt of the road beyond.

The former building had been swallowed by the ground. I could see some pieces of rubble laying around, sticking out of the dirt. *Did they really pull me out of this?* I thought. I took a step closer, examining the earth for something vaguely resembling the structure that once stood there. My attention was pulled to the middle of the hole, where the machine used to be. I couldn't see anything so I took a step forward, and then I saw it.

A leather-bound journal, sticking out of the rubble.

I jumped down, into the hole, and carefully picked it up from the debris. The paper was clean and it seemed like it hadn't been touched by the weather.

I've read the journal a thousand times now. I've had it for ten years, since that day in the hole where Mr. Santovich's studio used to be, and I will read it a thousand times more.

I've transcribed the journal as follows.

THE JOURNAL

1

Met an S. Korac at a conference today. He is an engineering professor at Everest College – young man – far younger than me. He has interests in physics and mathematics, although he has no degrees in either of those subjects. When I brought up the topic of teleportation, he had a somewhat lively curiosity towards the idea. We've decided to meet at a future date to discuss more.

So far, my studies have been purely in theory. Nothing is set in stone, and having someone else, even if it is a young, stupid engineering professor could be possibly beneficial. My current position at my university has grown dull and boring. The students don't care. The other professors think I'm insane. The funds I receive are the only thing keeping me there. Soon. Soon.

2

The young man has been visiting me more often. I've helped him, mostly with problems that could be easily solved if he took the time to think about them, and he's helped me. I don't know why I let him visit. I'm getting old and no one visits me anymore. I've read the books in my studio a thousand times, written about the same things a thousand times, and have seen the same things a thousand times. There is no sense of possibility anymore. We've gotten too comfortable with ourselves.

I've been studying the theories and papers of the old masters, and I think I've found something.

Although the rules of time and space have been studied for hundreds of years now, it is still all a theory, albeit a concrete one. Even the strongest of concretes have cracks in them.

3

A breakthrough!

I believe I've found a crack. A mistake in the long held belief involving the properties of space, a little mistake, but it's implications are immeasurable to me. I've been having dreams of floating through space-time – being able to go back into history, traveling billions of miles into parts of the universe never thought of before... Humanity will be no longer stumbling in the dark towards an unknown destination. We will have something to strive towards – conquering every aspect of our environment, including the very reality we live in. I still am not sure of whether to tell my recent acquaintance about this discovery, because he might have a loose tongue and ruin everything, but I need another pair of hands if I'm to fully put this idea into motion. I haven't found anyone worthwhile who believes me.

4

Months and months of work, and yet I'm nowhere near a conclusion. Every path I've gone down leads to nothing. But still, I must continue. I've gotten a letter from my brother in the mail, asking me to lend him money to fund his venture into the computing business. I haven't spoken to him years, and this is only a reminder of why. I don't respect beggars.

5

The young man, Korac, has begun to visit me more frequently and for longer periods of time. He's very enthusiastic about this new area of science, but he knows nothing about it. He's almost become an unpaid assistant, fetching me drinks and writing down my notes. I've put on the image of the wise elder, and he seems to be attaching himself to me. From what I can tell from our conversations, his father died when he was a young boy, and his mother lives in some dusty town in the southeast.

I pity him in a way. Maybe by the end of this, he'll forget about his past – but enough of that.

I'm getting closer. I can feel it.

6

It's cold here in the studio. The snow is beginning to creep through the old roof, and the space heaters are shorting out from the moisture. Korac quit his job at his college, and he's working for me now. I'm not giving him any money for his work, but he still agrees to work, maybe out of passion or something else. I'm also on "academic suspension" for the next six months, and my pay has been cut to more than half.

Idiots! They don't even know what they're standing on. I could've given them fame and riches, but the dean has a personal vendetta against me for humiliating him with my intelligence.

7

I've left my position at the College. I will work on this project fully, now. I know there's no turning back. I'm not afraid.

8

This page was torn out, crumpled, and then folded back into the journal. I believe Mister Santovich was drunk – as he often was, at the end. -K

I've been having dreams, now. When I close my eyes at night, I'm surrounded by a complete luminescence, flashing colors – I feel like I'm swimming in something I've never experienced before. I remember, when I was a ~~young~~ young child, my brother and I went to go swimming in the lake near our townhouse. When we were drying off on the deck, my brother pushed me into the cooling water. In that moment I saw a pure light shimmering behind my eyelids... a great power... pure... and I could hear the voice of something calling out to me...

9

In the dead of the night,
it calls to me
like a distant siren's song.

10

The day has come. I've finally built the device that will change humanity's trajectory into a new age. I've waited forever. Korac (is that his name?) has told me we will have some champagne for dinner – we don't have any food left, and I've run out of the money my brother lent to me, but that is no matter of importance now. I've gathered supplies for my trip, and tonight I will see the thing I have been dreaming of for so long. So very long.

DAY 1

I've crossed the threshold.

The place in which I stand now is almost overwhelming. There is no up or down, no forwards and backwards, and direction seems to be more of a suggestion than anything set in reality. The space seems to change as I move, changing colors and morphing into shapes I have never seen before. I have no idea where the air with which I breathe comes from – perhaps some escaped into here when I stepped in – but I'm not concerned with that right now. I've brought food and water that'll last me for a week, but the young man should be able to open another portal sooner than that. I will begin to document the strange environment which I now live in.

DAY 2

A sound, like singing or perhaps a hum, has begun to permeate this strange space I now inhabit. I cannot tell where it come from, and putting my hands over my ears does not mute the noise at all. The cardinal directions have no meaning here. Although I move forward, I feel no floor beneath my feet. No matter how far I walk, there are no landmarks or any discernible way to measure how far I've traveled. I will continue to study this, maybe after I've slept...

DAY 3

Earlier, when I put my pack of rations down and walked forward, I noticed that the ration seemed to move above me as I walked further away. Maybe a trick of light? Or is space changing as I move around? The noise I mentioned is starting to eat at my resolve. Even my dreams aren't shielded from that tone which seems to encompass every inch of this place. My sleeping patterns seem to have changed, too, although I have no way of measuring how long I sleep or when. I should have brought a chronometer, but I sold it to a former colleague of mine. I will make do with my senses, for now.

DAY 4

I have no idea how long it's been since I landed in this foreign place. There are no day or night cycles, and the constantly changing environment doesn't have any indication of passing time. The only way I have of measuring time is this journal. The soft paper of the pages is a great comfort to me. Where is he?

DAY 5

It's begun to change even more. It's moving, all the time now. My food is gone, but I don't remember eating it, and the only thing I have now is this journal. Another observation – I cannot tell if I've just woken up or if I've been awake the entire time. Sometimes, I believe I hear something – like words, but I know that I am alone, but I hear the same sounds repeatedly, endlessly. The only thing I can remember is standing and looking into the light, walking into the light. It is brighter than the sun and yet I can look into without any fear.

No fear.

DAY

I can see through my skin. My skin is itchy and peeling and I must get it off. No

DAY

The pages past this page seem to have been wet with some kind of red liquid. When held up to light, it seems to shimmer. -K

my flesh is stretching extending no space for me any more.

my arms

my legs

my fingers

my skull... my eyelids

like ants going around in a circle in a circle it is whole and alive

DAY

THE SUN.

A

GOR

A.

This final word – AGORA – means “market” in Greek. I cannot fathom why he would write such a word if not for some circumstance unknown to me. -K

THE GREAT SILENCE

My mother passed away shortly after I found the journal, from old age. I quit my job not long after. I couldn't sleep without seeing that monolithic machine, sitting like some unholy artifact dug up from a thousand years ago, sitting in front of me, asking me without words. I venture outside only at night, to pick up old meat from the local butcher. He must pity me. I haven't looked in the mirror in years.

The questions never answered plague me every day. I don't know if anyone else is truly aware of what happened, and I don't know if I'm only still alive on account of my ignorance. My mother thought I was insane and I see now that she was right. My memories... what is real and what isn't?

We will change the world forever.

Have we changed the world? In what way? How? What have we done, other than crawl around in the dark, as we have since our species' conception?

I can't shake the feeling that I am waiting for something. Waiting to see that flash of light again and see his face, whatever that may look like, looking back at me. At night, through the wooden planks nailed across my bedroom window, the light of a street lamp buzzes, singing to me its terrible song. ●





AGGOR-

AN

PSYCHO

WKKYK

SHORT STORIES Section

SHORT STORIES Section

The date is August 8th, 2023. As of today, my reaction score nearly, but not quite, triples my number of messages posted, which is a great ratio. I am level three, which is not bad for a self-respecting user, and my number of awards is 50. I have 102 GangTags, a great number for only being a member for about six months. I am WKYK. I am a poster on Agora Road's Macintosh Cafe.

I start my day at 7:00AM sharp. I first check my alerts to see the activity I have missed during my time asleep; if I received any quotes or replies I attend to them as needed, while maintaining my high quality of posting as well as my 2:1 (almost 3:1) reaction to message ratio. At 7:15AM I check the "What's New" section and look for any threads that interest me. Despite its reputation as a "vaporwave forum", in order to maximize engagement topics like AI, the state and impact of the internet, politics related to freedoms, as well as general philosophical and technological questions seem to fare far better than posts about music and aesthetics. At least, this used to be the case, until the "Current Events" board became blacklisted from the "What's New" page. The posting meta has now become seemingly random, with the "What's New" page essentially becoming a second way to view the "General Discussion" board; I blame this as the reason my reaction/post ratio is stuck below 3:1.

Once I finish tending to my notifications, I update myself on the community members. I skip through the webring, take a look at profile posts, and finally hop into chat for a while. It's important to know the active users of the forum, and to stay up to date on any developments that occur when you're not online. As I am scrolling through the Agora /lit/ forum, some members begin to enter the containment chat. Max_Chill, MySpaceTom, and Jackal are discussing their days, so I decide to join the conversation. I do my best to emulate the activities of a normal user, saying how school has been challenging and I have been listening to all sorts of new music. Of course, these are lies, told simply for the sake of conversation, but they do the trick and I am treated normally by the other users.

After some time, Jackal exits the chat, leaving only me, Max_Chill, and MySpaceTom. I decide to bring up my profile, which I had just remade to maximize enjoyment from other users on the site.

WKYK: New Profile, what do you think?

MySpaceTom: Woah, very nice. Look at that.

WKYK: Finished designing it yesterday

Max_Chill: Nice background picture

WKYK: That's MDE. And the links on my profile spell out "KYS"

Max_Chill: That's very cool WKYK, but that's nothing. Look at this.

It's at this point that Max_Chill links his profile to chat. I open the link and the page hits my eyes. It's amazing, far superior to mine. The lain gangtag combined with the anime computer background, it meshes so well it makes my profile look like a middle schooler's Instagram page. I have never been this humiliated in my life.

MySpaceTom: That is really nice.

Max_Chill: 3D gif profile pic, along with a gif background image. What do you think?

All air has left my chest. I am a deflated sack of skin, barely able to type a reply, yet I force myself to keep the conversation going.

WKYK: Nice.

MySpaceTom: Jesus, that is really super. How'd a nitwit like you get so tasteful?

I can't believe that MySpaceTom prefers Max_Chills profile to mine.

MySpaceTom: But wait. You ain't seen nothin yet.

He posts the profile in chat, and I cannot believe my eyes.

MySpaceTom: Glowing green lettering. Gold membership status. Retro MySpace background image

<https://forum.agoraroad.com/>

Story continues on next Page

53

COLLECTION OF COLLECTED VAPORWAVE SUBGENRES /// CROSSWORD

in: *Music, Subgenres, Vaporwave, Browse* (<https://vaporwave.fandom.com/wiki/Subgenres>)

Subgenres

Home category enumerating used genres-categories can be found (here) under [Category:Subgenres](#). This page is inspired by "vaporwave.wiki: [Category:Releases Sorted by Style](#)" and similar resources,

[...](there, on web)

Not Vaporwave BUT Nearby Microgenres

Microgenres

- RYM Ultimate Box Set > [Hypnagogic Pop](#) (<https://rateyourmusic.com/list/TheScientist/rym-ultimate-box-set-hypnagogic-pop/>)
- RYM Ultimate Box Set > [Chillwave](#) (<https://rateyourmusic.com/list/TheScientist/rym-ultimate-box-set-chillwave-1/>)
- RYM Ultimate Box Set > [Seapunk](#) (<https://rateyourmusic.com/list/TheScientist/rym-ultimate-box-set-seapunk/>)
- RYM Ultimate Box Set > [New Age Revival](#) (<https://rateyourmusic.com/list/dreamfortress/rym-ultimate-box-set-new-age-revival-2008-2022/>)
- RYM Ultimate Box Set > [Oceangrunge](#) (<https://rateyourmusic.com/list/TheScientist/rym-ultimate-box-set-oceangrunge/>)
- RYM Ultimate Box Set > [Dr/Am Cassette Era \(Blogspot Scene\)](#) (https://rateyourmusic.com/list/TheScientist/rym-ultimate-box-set-dr_am-cassette-era-blogspot-scene/)

Sources

- "Category:Releases Sorted by Style - vaporwave.wiki"
- <https://forum.agoroad.com/index.php?media/categories/vaporwave-essentials.19/>
- "A Beginner's Guide to Vaporwave - Rate Your Music" (<https://rateyourmusic.com/list/AlexMelisz/a-beginners-guide-to-vaporwave/>)
- RYM Ultimate Box Set > [Vapor - Rate Your Music](#) (<https://rateyourmusic.com/list/TheScientist/rym-ultimate-box-set-vapor/>)
- "Vaporwave Subgenres - Rate Your Music" (https://rateyourmusic.com/list/Harley_Magoo/vaporwave-subgenres/1/)
- [lucidarchive.com db \(Google Sheets\)](#) [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IQQpRjLBF_9rtDXgvON7-V-ow0szcd5OyVoRjUpPOS0/edit?gid=265214971#gid=265214971&range=Y:Y]* · <https://lucidarchive.com/#/a/>

Read more:

- [All Vaporwave subgenres explained : lxMarcel : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](https://archive.org/details/all-vaporwave-subgenres-explained) (<https://archive.org/details/all-vaporwave-subgenres-explained>)
- [lucidarchive.com db \(Google Sheets\)*](#) · lucidarchive.com
- [Vaporwave Expansion lucidarchive.xlsx - \(Google Sheets\)](#) (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-4guOFw0v9OFnggr_1wRPfUkDh9fKhF/edit?gid=2007708049#gid=2007708049)

Footer:

- ↑ https://rateyourmusic.com/list/TheScientist/rym-ultimate-box-set-vapor/#img_k_49529961

notes (clues) to crossword: black field - empty | purple - skip | _ - has character | ~ - empty space (see next clue) | _/_ - multi-option |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| (d) | | (a) | | ◀ [ltr] initials of 2 VW fans' (users) initials (one has number) (d) / ▼ satellites (set) used for locating | ▼ initials of one of two chat fem-boys; stronger one (big_...07) | | ▼ last (2011, '17) track of Lisa Frank420 [hapburn] / ▶ "copyright" initials | | |
| ▲▶ greek P; circle's circumference ÷ diameter; post scriptum (b) | ▼ zine 4 was brought to you by (initials) / ▼ (describ. / personal) pronoun (a) | | ▼ ancient greek marketplace / ▶ UK w/o Ireland | | | ▼ DE-founded internat. discount retailer chains ▶ (voluntary) "also" | | | |
| (b) | | ▶ company, logo inspo: Turing, Newton; Punp, colloqually... | | | | | | | |
| ▶ new obsession of agora, started by Punp / ▼ ...forums, "father" of AR | | | | | ▶ initials of forum founder | | skip | | |
| | ▶ "traveler" webring proponent who is missing (first part of name (+ -(Andrew))) | | | ▼ bussiness casual label is inspired by (singular); microsoft ... | | skip | ~/skip | | |
| | | ◀ [rtl] short for "already used" / ▶ way to connect point(s) A to, with B / ▼ vapor... | | | | | ▼ famous vw. dolphin / ▶ Agora Road initials | | |
| | ▶ .beat(s) @time; Quake; Giko disciple | | | | | | | ~/_ | ▲ [from top, down]: ...-wave, aka "70s VW" |
| | ▶ funny furry 80s sitcom alien | | | | ▼ (agora) bureaucratic user in sunglasses and cylinder | | | ▲ [f. top to down] (w/o middle name) 猫 シ Corp., name-reversed / ▼ long black hair, bangs, baggy eyes, big-sad | ▼ online service to judge/"ratio" music tracks |
| | ▶ Agoracraft proponent who is missing ("B" / > V, ends in/w. E) | | skip | | | skip | | | |
| | ▶ VW critiques, among other subjects, Alien ('87)-esque... | | skip | | | | | | |
| | | | ▶ atomic no. of Barium (e_%) | | | ▶ "MySpace killer" | | | |

At this point my vision has tunneled so much I can hardly see the screen in front of me. Drenched in sweat, all I can hear is the drumming of my heart beating out of my chest. His profile is nearly perfect. Along with the MySpace background image, Tom also links to the MySpace website, a classy touch. I am clearly far out of my league in this chat. I choke out a reply and try to calm myself down.

WKYK: Impressive. Very nice.

The embarrassment I feel is immeasurable. All the work I had put in to fit in, to be an active member, has been flushed down the drain by this single interaction. I can already see the screencaps getting posted in an “Agora Cringe” thread. Yet before I exit the chat to commit ritual suicide, my curiosity gets the better of me.

WKYK: Let’s see Jackal’s profile.

The chat goes silent for a few minutes before MySpaceTom drops the link to Jackal’s profile. Look at that subtle, off-white profile pic. The tasteful simplicity of it. Oh my God, he has over 24,000 reactions.

My arm trembles as I close the top of my laptop, logging off for the rest of the day.

...

It’s two days later I can finally muster the courage to face Agora again. Despite the horrific event that occurred in chat, I am able to log on again because I remembered that I was nearing my 100th message on the site, and a milestone like that is sure to garner a positive reaction from other users.

I have the post planned to perfection. The faux positivity. The animated emojis at the end. The word length, not too long, not too short. It’s perfect. I see no way that I get any less than five reactions, no, seven. I type it all out, re-read it a few dozen times, and then press “Post”.

Now we wait.

WKYK · Aug 18, 2025

Hit 100 messages! Feels like just yesterday I was a newfag here, thanks everyone for being so chill, can't wait for 100 more 🙌🏻

As expected, the reactions begin rolling in. A “Coffee”, a “Love”, even a few “Good Vibes” begin to fill up my alerts inbox, and I’m beginning to forget the painful experience in chat the other day. Just when I think things couldn’t get any better, I see yet another red notification mark on the alert inbox, so I click to open it up.

Story continues on next Page

“Jackal replied to a post on your profile”

All at once, I begin to feel all sorts of feelings.

Excitement. Fear. Euphoria. Dread.

After taking a moment, I click the notification to view the message.



知乎 Меченый Яков

You are still a newfag, but congrats for the 100 messages

Aug 10, 2023

Report

Delete

You are still a newfag,

newfag

My life is over. Jackal has dubbed me the label that I detest the most. A newfag, a user who is ignorant to the ways of the forum. A user who will shit up threads, start flame wars, and abandon the site after a few days. A newfag.

After all the threads I've started.

I'm still a newfag.

After all the hours spent in chat.

I'm still a newfag.

After all the vaporwave I've studied.

I'm still a newfag.

After staring long and hard at that word for minutes on end, I once again shut my laptop screen.

A newfag has no place in Agora.

Story continues on next Page

56

The date is February 19th, 2024. My reaction/post ratio is still hovering just over 2:1. Day in and day out I have continued to contribute to the site. An anti-technocrat thread that sputtered out over time. A Ted Kaczynski thread that never even got a single reply. I have been reduced to a ghost, a poster who is known no more than a lurker. As a last ditch effort to exist as an entity on this forum, to leave a mark greater than failed threads, I have decided to write a short story for the Fourth Edition of the Agora Road E-Zine. Despite the other responsibilities in my life, despite the fact that this will go unseen by most, I still find myself typing out a story for this internet forum. Yet even after admitting this, there is no catharsis. My punishment continues to elude me and I gain no deeper knowledge of myself. No new knowledge can be extracted from my telling. This confession has meant nothing.

Live in **Costanzastan Meadows**

*"the Best
Kept Secret
off the Internet"*



DOUGLAS DIMMADOME DIMMAHOMES & CONDOMINIUMS

-Doug Dimmadome



GOODBYE BOOGIE DANCE. *

This is (not) the (smug) End of Zine No. 4!

WHAAAAAT?!?! You're here already? On the LAST PAGE? Dang, time flies when you're vibin', huh?

Hope you loved your stay (and if not, well... we'll pretend you did). Remember: we're not shackled by the ancient, dusty laws of print media! Anything goes here—mind-blowing, weird, or just plain Quality.

Now, lemme (Porcy) step up and say this, straight from the heart:

*GOODBYE (for now),
GOOD LUCK (you'll need it),
AND EVERYTHING ELSE (you deserve it).*

But like... SERIOUSLY?!?

You thought this was it? Like, "Oh, Porcy's just gonna slap a big ol' THE END on here and peace out?" Nah fam. You really thought I'd leave this page a barren wasteland of <pixels>? WASTED SPACE?!? Pffft. Who do you think I am?

So, what now?

What do YOU want to see on these pages? (Spoiler: the weirder, the better.)

Got stories, doodles, or straight-up chaos to share? Bring it on! Slide into Agora Road's Tales inbox and slap us with your finest creations for Zine #5—whenever it drops. (2025?! Probably?! Who knows!)

Until then...

Stay rad. Stay weird. And stay awesome.

See ya soon,

<3 Porcy ●

*///Now plays: **

Miss Macross - MACROSS 82-99 - CHAM!



/ link to YT:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVbzZ-azMMo> (del. the spaces)

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