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THE BANDIT FREE

an alternative media source

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contents

Undefined 4
BY francis hooks

Complacency, The Silent Killer: Part I 6
BY jean t. rouspeteur

Advertising 10
BY lucius seneca



America's New War on Smoking 13
BY james dean

Bleeding America 16
BY gertrude villafane

Bicycle Awareness 20
BY pocket ninja

Newest Diabolical Plot 22
BY hephaestus

Who the Fuck is You 24
BY quinn

It's a Knock Out: Part II 27
BY [portions+]

Book Review: Farenheit 451 30
BY pocket ninja

UNDEFINED

francis hooks



When I first came out as bisexual to my best friends who are card-carrying HRC* members, they reacted as if they weren't surprised, and as if it weren't a big deal. Looking back on it now, the reason why it didn't matter to them is because I still acted, dressed and dated like a stereotypical heterosexual (feminine) female. In other words, I still wore clothes from Charlotte Russe, rocked long hair, exclusively dated males and hid my attractions to females. Once I became immersed in the LGBT

community, I became much more comfortable in my own skin and realized that I was never content with my gender expression; I was simply playing the feminine role to fit in.

Let's begin with purses. For me, purses are an annoying burden. First off, dragging around a purse is like having a child—you have to keep track of it at all times to make sure it doesn't end up in the hands of another (like a pedophile). This is especially annoying at a bar or club, because wearing bags on your shoulders while dancing is absolutely obnoxious! You have no idea how many people I've hit with my purse while in the middle of getting rowdy during La Roux's most recent hit. Secondly, purses eventually become a messy pit of receipts, loose tobacco, coins and condom wrappers that you can't find shit in. After a series of losing purses, not being able to find my keys after five minutes of searching, and realizing how impractical (and

*Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

arguably oppressive) this symbol of femininity is—I decided to exchange my purse for a chain wallet. And let me tell you: I will never go back. Of course I get a ton of shit for it, but I honestly don't care because it has been a liberating experience for me.

Now, let's discuss bras. Bras are awesome in the fact that they support my large lady lumps, but I used to wear the bad kind—Victoria's Secret. Not only is this corporation (The Limited) responsible for numerous human rights violations, the bras are also overly expensive and make your boobs look like chin pillows, because they're so disgustingly padded. Now, like most others, I'm a fan of nice breasts but after years of wearing padded bras, I've decided that this type of bras present false advertisements (because boobs are rarely naturally perky and squish together like that) and hurt my back because they offer little to no support for big-breasted ladies like myself. Inevitably, I switched to sports bras because honestly, comfort is more important to me than having chin pillows. Essentially, I've picked these examples to illustrate my metamorphosis into discovering my gender identity, and how it's not directly correlated to my sexuality. Meaning, the LGBT community offered, or rather inspired, the opportunity to bend my designated gender role as a female. But it's not because I'm bisexual that I wear a chain wallet or sports bras. These are outdated, untrue, and ridiculous essentialist ideas we hold about the LGBT community and ourselves; which is inevitably destructive.

This metamorphosis or change confused my friends. They barraged me with several questions and comments, such as, "Oh, I see you've gone butch. What's the deal with that?" or, "God, I see you've really come out of the closet." You see I'm not the type of person who conflates gender expression with sexual orientation. Just because I'm queer doesn't mean I'm going to go out and buy a pair of Birkenstocks. I don't identify as butch or femme, masculine or feminine...I'm neither top nor bottom. Sometimes, I'm immensely aggressive and competitive (especially when I'm playing video games) and other times, I enjoy gossiping over fruity martinis. I like rocking tight pants with a wallet chain and other times, I like to wear professional

dresses. I've decided that I don't need to fit into these ridiculous labels—and this is my plea for all—straight or queer, to think outside of them.

Honestly, I'm getting fed up with dudes being threatened by my non-passive demeanor and being turned down by gay girls who don't think I'm "femme" enough for them. I'm sick of being told that I'm butch by my straight friends and told that I can't make up my mind by my LGBT friends. I'm sorry, but there's nothing revolutionary about emulating straight relationships— we are recycling the same socially constructed ideas about gender and the notion that all intimate relationships, whether straight or queer, involve the man (butch/top/active) and woman (femme/bottom/passive). I hate this arbitrary binary—because it basically implies that there is there is a.) Natural inequality present with dominator and dominated, b.) Values masculinity over femininity, and c.) Does not allow any room for people, like me, who don't fit neatly into pre-determined boxes. So, I say fuck it! Be who you are! For me, that involves wearing a chain wallet complimented by tight pants, and being one of the nicest, yet most blunt people you'll ever meet. I'm not defined by gender—and neither are you.



COMPLACENCY THE SILENT KILLER: PART I

jean t. rouspeteur

Conversations from The Corner Planet: Musings on Activism, Environmentalism, & Social Justice

J What do you think the word justice means to you, thinking about all these different things?

S I tend to agree with the general attitude or the IWW statement – the International Industrial Workers of the World statement – an injury to one is an injury to all, or Gandhi's notion that no one is free when others are oppressed. So, again, I think it's sort of a systemic notion of [what] justice is: it isn't so much a principle as it is a process, I think. To achieve sustainable stability, without just means being applied, is very difficult. But, that also means there's going to be conflict, and people hate conflict [laughs], at least people in this country; it's been my experience that unlike in – I spent a lot of time in Latin America – but people here are just, they somehow think that conflict is either wrong, or it's a bad idea, and I don't think that either has to be the case. I think it's a necessary thing – it just all depends on how you approach it.

J Why do you think that is, this cultural difference?

S Well, I don't think it's so much of a cultural as much as it is a class thing, although culture's probably a part of it, but – because I think our own history, that people weren't afraid of it, I think it's only a more recent phenomenon, a phenomenon of the last thirty, forty years. Because certainly our own sort of labor history is ripe with tense conflicts, brutal conflicts, but it's

something we're not familiar with, so maybe [we] assume that, you know, the workday has always been the workday, or whatever. Because I think we have more civic freedoms, civic rights, and in other countries, the distance between the oppressed and the oppressors is much shorter, there's not much gray, there's not much grayness. Whereas I think here [there's] much more grayness that exists, so if you want to have a demonstration, fine – [but] there's still all this process that people follow here. It's like, [if] we're gonna march against the war or something, or whatever, we're told that we have to get a permit, which you have to pay for, and there's a protocol you follow, you never impede the rights of motorists, and all these sort of things that are – you never use any kind of harsh language, or all that kind of stuff. Whereas my experience in places like Guatemala is [that] they would laugh at the idea of getting a permit for a protest – they just do it. They just shut down the streets, they don't ask for permission, they just do it. It's not that the motorists are happy about it, but they're kinda use to it, because it happens all the time. They solve the problem by articulating their anger and their frustrations and their dreams, and so that is not this kind of really privileged U.S. notion of pacifism where nobody gets offended – I don't think it's not the kind of pacifism that Gandhi or King advocated for. It was definitely about provocation, and sometimes that means you're gonna piss people off. I guess that doesn't mean that it justifies the use of violence, but that doesn't mean that you're always polite and nice. So, I think that's a big difference. I think there's also that, as a process, that's also one of the things about the environmental movements where it's at – even though it's not at its origins, I think that if I have criticisms of it, [it's] two things: one is that there's this kind of resistance to more direct confrontation, or tactics that might seem confrontational. And the other big issue which is problematic is that, think of the bigger national organizations, like the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Sierra Club and whatnot. They're much more interested in brokering deals in Washington, as opposed to organizing at a grassroots level, in mass movements to challenge policies about the environment. And I think that's just always a recipe for failure, because I don't think you know what the public really wants. Secondly, you're always gonna compromise the integrity of anything when you choose to negotiate with corporate lobbyists, [but] you might not have been seen.

J How do you think that change occurred, though? Obviously they didn't all start as gigantic national organizations.

S Well, I think with a lot of social movements – in the sixties and seventies, since that's when the environmental movement, the modern environmental movement kinda began – I think that people in power realized the danger of these popular movements, and were always trying to figure out ways to co-opt them. And I think what happened with them is like a lot of other movements at the time, you had foundations which are by and large creations of wealthy sectors to both put their money in tax free accounts [laughs], but also it's a way of trying to undermine social movements by saying – by wanting these groups to do X, Y, and Z, but they determine the parameters of what's being done, [so] you don't determine that. And I think what happened is that instead of people organized environmental issues because they're passionate about saving forests or water systems or watersheds or whatever, it became more of well, why don't you professionalize your group, make it a 503C, and have a board of directors, and we'll provide the funding for you to make it more professional, more legitimate – so this starts to become people's jobs. And with limitations, because with 503C status, there are limitations [as] to what you can do, what you can say, politically and otherwise. And you're beholden to a corporate structure, a corporate board of directors is called the same thing, and you have to always follow the money, the grant money, which is more often than not is designed to keep you from addressing systemic issues, and more focused on very safe, kind of business-friendly projects, that don't really threaten what these entities do.



TO BE CONTINUED

ADVERTISING

lucius seneca

A man's as miserable as he thinks he is.

Be mindful of your surroundings. Right now. Go ahead, listen, observe. Are you being exposed to advertising right now? Is there a billboard or magazine cover? A television running in the background (or foreground)? Radio? How about clothing: is anyone wearing a logo? Do you have a jingle running through your head? We are inundated with advertising, and if you've lived in our culture for any length of time, I'm sure this isn't news to you.

But advertising is a social problem; it is like a malevolent attache, following you throughout your day reminding you of how you could be better, or how things could be easier. How you should just spend some money and things will get better, you will be better. And it's not true.

I recently stopped wearing deodorant. Have you given any thought to deodorant? A product that is first mixed in a chemical mixer, then gelled into a plastic container, then sold with a brand and logo on a store shelf, a shelf that is paid for by advertising which proclaims that in order to get the girl and not offend the co-workers I should make sure to send my money to their company. I'm not interested in being part of that world. Instead, I dust under



my arms with baking soda once a day. No logo, branding, or masculine-affirming packaging, just baking soda. And it works really well, better than deodorant, actually. And it is amazingly inexpensive. And I don't feel left out of the club by not having a 'Brand New, Improved Formula X Deodorant Stick For Men Which Means If You're A Guy and You Use This Then You Are Officially A Guy' on my bathroom counter.

People complain about a failing education system. Education reform is important, but formal education is by far a drop in the bucket compared to advertising in terms of shaping our thoughts and actions. Estimates for the number of advertisements range from 300-3000 per day, but regardless the precise number, the comparative cognitive availability of advertising versus lessons from school clearly supports the premise that advertising has much more power over us than schooling does. For instance, I hold the view that children should not care about the brand and model of their shoes. Shoes serve the function of protecting the feet so children can explore their world. And yet, children create social pressure by establishing (in first and second grade) a hierarchy of status based on shoes. Having this year's model EX-03 makes you somehow 'better' than the kid next to you with an EX-01. I reject the notion that children would naturally generate this hierarchy based on shoe styles; rather, I contend that advertising-- either through direct exposure or mediated through parents' advertising-learned-foolishness-- enables the creation of a shoetocracy in 1st grade. I'm sure this seems fundamentally wrong to you too, right?

I'm not a skilled economist or political philosopher, so I can't propose an alternate system where people in our society can make a living and yet where advertising does not exist. I can, however, share with you some ideas for protecting yourself from advertising.

- Don't consume media whose business model revolves around showing you advertising.
- Don't click on advertisements on websites, or respond to unsolicited advertisements in the mail.
- Don't wear logos or emblems in your clothing, because doing so makes

you a billboard and helps expose others to advertising (surely your shirt won't fall apart if you remove the logo? add a patch if you have to?).

- Buy store no-name brands, which aren't as expensive because the cost of advertising doesn't need to be recouped at the price point.

You don't have to do any of these things of course. You could change nothing, and in doing so continue to be exposed to an unrelenting stream of reminders of how you can just buy this thing and finally be happy. Of course, from past experience you already know that this one thing won't make you happy, since the last one didn't, or the one before that, but you can keep trying. Or, you can stop letting advertising be the model for how you think. You can say no thank you and shift your attention (the most precious resource you have) to things that will benefit you and others.

AMERICA'S NEW WAR ON SMOKING

james dean

Without a doubt, America is the fattest nation in the world. Our gluttonous love for all things corn syrupy and greasy now kills more Americans than any other single cause of death. Obesity, heart disease, cerebrovascular diseases, and diabetes are just a few of the favorite ways that Americans choose to kick the bucket. This, among other reasons, greatly contributes to our vastly overpriced and ineffective health care system. Even our loyal and unbiased friends at the Associated Press have determined that obesity is far more dangerous in their aptly titled "Obesity greater health risk than smoking". Yet the food industry barely receives any of the political blame for our unhealthiness. What does, then? The glorious, pale-painted cancer stick.



All of our favorite films include a leather-jacket-wearing badass, leaning against some building smoking a long stallion of a cancer-inducing cowboy killer. But since America began its war on smoking, this trend is on its way out. Michigan has been the latest state to sign in a smoking ban, the 'Dr. Ron Davis Smoke Free Air Law.' Now, I can understand not wanting to go to work and deal with breathing in toxins, but I personally feel like I'm getting

black lung disease just by breathing the air outside in Grand Rapids. Secondhand smoke can be uncomfortable and arguably unhealthy.

However, like many (if not all) of the laws in this country, there are exceptions, loopholes, and rules that just don't make any sense. Smoking is hereby banned in all public places, including workplaces, restaurants, bars, and even the outdoor patios of restaurants – but not Detroit's three casinos, cigar bars, specialty tobacco stores, and home offices. The law goes as far as to explicitly state that cigar bars can only have cigar smoking on their premise - clearly cigarette smoke is far too dangerous. Another business that is getting assaulted by this bill is hookah bars. The law denies any these establishments the ability to serve food. Hookah bars are now forced to consider themselves a tobacco shop, cutting out a reasonable size of their business.



A Grand Rapids propaganda establishment (i.e. a local TV station) went on an 'investigative journalism' sting with a pack of cigarettes and a hidden camera. The news report showed smoking violations at local bars, with one resembling the Meanwhile's back patio, only 12 hours after the bill was in effect. With these videos in hand, the loyal watchdogs reported these local businesses to the Kent County Health Department. I wish I could say that seeing this prominent misinformation station ratting out successful and respectable businesses surprised me, but unfortunately news stations have been in the pocket of our omniscient big brother of a government for quite some time now.

Michigan Department of Community Health Director Janet Olszweski is

quoted as saying, "The Legislature passed a strong bill that outright bans smoking in public places. That decision shows that the health of Michigan citizens is a top priority." Yes, Janet, this does show that health is a top priority. Now I can no longer smoke on the patio furniture of McCapitalism while slurping down my McGrease Burger and McChemical fries. I can no longer puff my pipe while chugging a deliciously golden pitcher of PBR. Furthermore, I can no longer light up a cigar after ordering six servings of chili-cheese fries. Luckily for all of us, Michigan's legislators have our health in mind.

It's summer now, so many of us don't have too much of a problem crowding around metal buckets on the sidewalks surrounding our favorite local businesses, but only time will tell what the winter will bring. Will the amount of non-smokers outweigh the cold-deterred smokers? Does anyone think that the money earned from violations will help us climb out of our impending debt-induced doom? Or will this ridiculous new law just make us feel better about ignoring how absolutely disgusting we and our daily pie-holing habits truly are?

BLEEDING AMERICA: menstrual product culture and better alternatives

gertrude villafane

Periods: a very common part of life for many people since the beginning of humankind. But American corporations have manipulated insecurities about this often-taboo subject into products that “contain” and “control” menstruation through disposable and wasteful means, particularly pads and tampons. These companies use euphemistic and “fun” advertising to draw people into their products, allowing those who were born women to interact with their own bodies as little as possible, all while paying corporations billions of dollars spent on their wares.

HURTING THE ENVIRONMENT IS WAY GROSSER

Think throwing used pads in the washing machine, then washing your hands, is gross? And you couldn't of dispensing with your preferred, convenient, less gross pad or tampon? Let's seriously consider that for a moment.

Let's say you put your used pads in the garbage can, and flush your tampons down the toilet. The pads will be taken (in Grand Rapids, anyway) to the Waste-to-Energy plant, where they will be burned. Gases from your used and now burning menstrual products will be released into the G.R. air. The ash left over will be buried in a landfill.

But we're lucky-- many places would put them straight into the landfill without shrinking the size of the materials. Your flushed tampons will have to be siphoned out of the water supply, and ultimately sent to the landfill, too.



As of 2007, over 14 billion tampons, applicators, and pads were sent to landfills that year alone! Every year, more and more of the Earth is being clogged with used menstrual products.

And that's just the afterlife of your latest tampon/pad. The environmental damage incurred before the products even get to you isn't very awesome, either. Kimberly-Clark, the corporation behind Kotex, was linked to logging in ancient Boreal forests, and was accused of using more than 3 million tons of tree pulp as of 2005. The other major corporations aren't much better, either.

NOW WITH MORE HEALTH RISKS!

Packaged, disposable pads are bleached white with chemicals that really shouldn't touch any of your skin, much less your sensitive genitals. The unbreathable nature of many disposable pads makes you more susceptible to yeast infections and urinary tract infections-- and, at the very least, unnecessary irritation from all the trapped moisture and unpleasant textures.

Tampons are bleached to ensure “purification.” However, this only means that they're now white-- not actually sterile, germ-free, and certainly not chemical-free! Tampons, worn internally, cause your body to more easily absorb these chemicals. Tampons are also linked to Toxic Shock Syndrome, or TSS, which is caused by a bacteria on your skin that can enter the bloodstream more easily through small scrapes/ulcerations caused by the scratchy material of tampons, and cause blood poisoning because of old tampons sitting inside the body. Procter & Gamble (the creator of Tampax, one of the major brands of menstrual products), is associated with the largest recorded incidence of TSS for their Rely super-absorbency tampons

in the 1980s. TSS can be fatal within hours. Smaller tampons are safer because you keep them in for less time-- but not safe. On a milder (and more common) note, tampons can also trigger worse cramps for some, besides generally irritate the lining of the vagina, which can increase your risk for many kinds of infections, and can lead to less vaginal moisture during sexual activities.

ALTERNATIVES: SAVING GREEN FOR YOUR POCKET AND YOUR PLANET

There are plenty of alternatives that are very functionally close to the main-stream-marketed products, although with some important differences.

- Sea sponges (they can be inserted like a tampon, then removed, rinsed, and re-inserted, or even boiled to keep it extra clean; can last up to a year)
- Menstrual cups (a small cup usually made of silicone, inserted and used to catch menstrual blood; taken out, rinsed or boiled, and re-inserted, and is said to last a lifetime)
- Cloth reusable pads (they usually have wings with snaps to keep them on underwear; these can be soaked to prevent stains, and then hand- or machine- washed, and often have a guarantee of 5 years or more)

Sea sponges (unbleached), cups, and organic menstrual pads don't have the same chemical problems, or as many irritation problems. This is especially true for reusable pads, since the soft fabric is breathable, rather than retaining moisture, sticking, or scraping. Reusable pads are still your safest bet, as any menstrual product inserted internally could still have a chance of infection or TSS, though less of a risk than tampons.

You also needn't worry about any of it being somehow less clean than disposable products-- remember, boiling the sponges or cups sterilizes them far better than any packaged tampon, and pads after a warm or hot wash are safe and satisfactory.

If these medical good vibes haven't convinced you yet, then perhaps your bank account can persuade you instead. The average woman with a regu-

lar, medium period flow is believed to use at least 16,800 pads/tampons in her period's lifetime. If a box of 20 pads or tampons is approximately \$5, that's at minimum \$4,200 spent on menstrual products in one's lifetime! And watch out if you're an irregular or heavy bleeder-- the number's only going to go up.

Since reusable pads can last for at least 5 years with good care, and menstrual cups an entire lifetime, you're saving a bundle of mullah. Let's say you have 1 cup (about \$25), and 2 reusable pads (about \$10 each) every 5 years, and your period lasts from age 13 to age 50 (37 years). That's \$173 your entire period's lifetime. The difference, economically as well as environmentally, is clear.

THE FINAL WORD

If you're someone who menstruates, and you absolutely cannot give up mass-manufactured menstrual supplies, you can at the very least cut down on your expense: take a risk by buying one or two reusable cloth pads, and then supplement them with free samples from the internet through sites like Free Snatcher and Free Sample Forager. This way you're getting their brand names, without them getting your money. Better yet, try supplementing a few reusable products with organic and biodegradable (though still disposable) pads or tampons, such as Natracare.

Check out websites like GladRags and Lunapads for all sorts of gear. Search for unbleached sea sponge tampons on the internet, or even search for "cloth menstrual pads" at craft sites like Etsy for unique, handmade versions of reusable pads.

Whatever you decide, it's time to take back your body from the corporations. By making any one of these choices, your next period will be just a little less painful to bear.



Bicycle Awareness

Pocket Ninja

As a person who bikes to work every day, I have tried to come up with solutions for getting honked at, hit or run over, and not running into people. I can honestly say, unless others become more aware of their surroundings and vehicle road rules, there is no easy way to safely ride your bicycle around town.

The technical road rule of bicycles: These are considered vehicles and, in turn, have the right to use the roads just like automobiles.

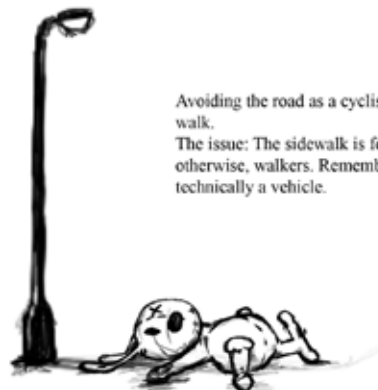
The issue: Cars honk because of my lack of speed and the plain truth, they don't realize I am supposed to be in the road. I am not in their way on a two lane+ or passing road.



- Often times people won't step aside for me even with much forewarning. I either have to stop and get off my bike or go around them which usually puts me in a tight spot where this, more often than not, leads me to a near crash into a pole, car, or building.
- Sometimes people are loading there vehicles in loading zones and they take up the whole sidewalk, not their fault, it's their job.
- Some road work signs even put the walkers in the street for a minute, they're big.
- The biggest issue with being on a bike on the sidewalk, though, is that at every turn/intersection and I have the full right to go (road rule: 'through traffic has the right of way') no one ever seems to be watching the sidewalks so I am either forced to stop (on a hill, losing something we call 'momentum' sucks) or get hit/honked at/run over/screamed at/the bird/etc.

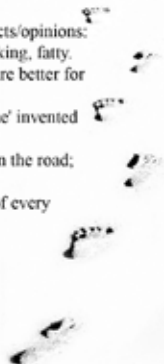
Bike lanes would be most welcome for everyone involved whether they realize this or not.

- I would also like to accompany this article with some fun facts/opinions:
- >More often than not, the people in cars are fat. Do some biking, fatty.
 - >Not only are cyclists saving a crap load of money, but we are better for the environment, fuckers.
 - >Bicycles were originally adapted from the 'walking machine' invented by Baron von Drais in 1817.
 - >Quite a bit of people do not know they can ride their bike in the road; spread the word!
 - >Monthly bike ride: 'Critical Mass' Held on the last Friday of every month.



Avoiding the road as a cyclist: This means the sidewalk.

The issue: The sidewalk is for 'pedestrians' only or otherwise, walkers. Remember that the bicycle is technically a vehicle.



NEWEST DIABOLICAL PLOT

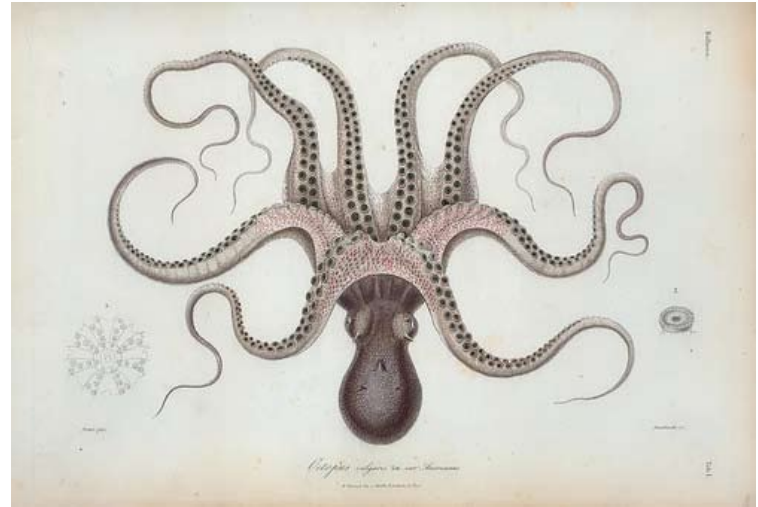
hephaestus

Follow me into the depths of reason and show me love on your door step. Show me a sense of tomorrow and the reality of today in the essence of hope. Bleed into me the life of the world and show discretion with sensitivity of tomorrow.

Life is blossoming and flourishing. It's continuous and envious of a better future than it. It showers us in happiness because it has the unique ability to adapt and yes, it is unique, in regards to every living being able to change to its surroundings, well...except for maybe rocks? Life is interesting to observe because you'll never know the course it takes. What will survive and what will plummet into darkness, what will become stronger than the other and what will be crushed by chance. It's a cool cats club checking out the scene and waiting for something tragic to happen. Tragic that we always find ourselves spilling into others attempting to pick up our innards from falling outwards into another faucet of hope. Countless moments stuck in time swishing to and fro waiting for an exact time to appear and feast upon its environs. The course is set and it's time to consider what path to follow, the path to destruction and the path of construction. Break down the mold that forms you and open your mouth to the downpour.



strive to make them brilliantly pink and yellow. I will wear them around my ankles, hugging them to my skin. Plant into me a form of feeling, nothing superficial here dearies, only the sound of rain dripping off of my skin. Contemplate your heart and ask it if it really cares about what happens tomorrow, what kind of story does it tell you? Enigma, mystery me worrying about the next line to follow, ticking like a time bomb waiting to shower shards of metal through your skin. This touch is the touch of loving devotion, not that of hateful stinging. Only care and only love can bring forth the static of a glance, the force is there gentle tugging and pulling me towards unity. Unify the world and share your sense of glee, contemplate the why and when of who and what we do. Shatter the remains and speak for the remnants of what could be.



Construct into me the foundation of life, sew me a new pair of socks and

WHO THE FUCK IS YOU

quinny

Know thy self.

"I still have my flame burning bright I just don't know the direction to travel with it through the darkness. I'm young with a lot of ambition, but I just feel old because of the shit I've have been through already." I had a look of surprise on my face when my newly turned 18-year uncle said those words to me. So insightful and knowledge about himself as a person, I was shocked because I know many people who are so unaware of who they truly are as an individual.

It got me thinking how do one go about truly find out who they are and why do they do the things they do. Logically, you can't find out who you truly are just from one source, its more to it as it takes a lot of time and searching. However, for me I know good starting point is through psychological preferences questionnaire, or in others word personality tests.

If someone were to ask me a year ago, what my thoughts were on personality tests and why people take them. I would have simply said that I thought of them as neurotic, created by and for arrogant Joe Blows and vain Mary Sues. How can a test tell you who you are as an individual?

Now I am a little more than convinced that not how it works after taking the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. This I realize is not just another one of those boredom tests, but something else completely different. That truly gives you good results if you answer truthfully and not base on how you want yourself to be.



Wikipedia provided me with a good introductory. "(MBTI) assessment is a psychometric questionnaire designed to measure psychological preferences in how people perceive the world and make decisions. These preferences were extrapolated from the typological theories originated by Carl Gustav Jung, as published in his 1921 book *Psychological Types* (English edition, 1923). The original developers of the personality inventory were Katharine Cook Briggs and her daughter, Isabel Briggs Myers."

People can be either Extroverts or Introverts, depending on the direction of their activity; Thinking, Feeling, Sensing, Intuitive, according to their own information pathways; Judging or Perceiving, depending on the method in which they process received information.

I now know I am not shy or anti-social just introverted as I get to recharge my energy when by myself and need time away from people to reflect and collect my thoughts. Intuitive meaning I'm good with people and I say that shit proudly, no matter how much I moan about hating them sometimes. Sensitive with my feelings and judging, which can sometimes get me into pickles when I assume before I think.

It is interesting branch of psychology that most don't give much thought to. I knew the test didn't actually pinpoint every aspect about my personality, but it did at least bring out the honesty in me. It didn't take long for me to dig a little deeper into the field of typing after discovering my results.

What I discovered was a field, packed full of theories and categories and typing that branch off the MBTI four letter results. Subdivisions, that takes the 16 different personality types given in the results of the test and breaks them down to identify my cognitive processes.

If someone were to ask me a year ago, what my thoughts were on personality tests and why people take them. I would have simply said that I thought of them as neurotic, created by and for arrogant Joe Blows and vain Mary Sues. How can a test tell you who you are as an individual?

Now I am a little more than convinced that not how it works after taking the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. This I realize is not just another one of those boredom personality tests that you find on face book, MySpace, or any different social sites, but something else completely different.

I don't know what it is about human nature that irks and intrigues me but trying to figure out why people do the shit they do is best kinds of entertainment sometimes. And I can't wait to look deeper into personality typing to discover more about not only myself but the people around me as well.

For anyone interested in taking the MBTI test its URL is <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp>
More on cognitive processes
<http://www.cognitiveprocesses.com/16types.html>



IT'S A KNOCK OUT: Part II [portions+]

He fucking bit my ear.

Bear in mind that even more than last time, I'm providing more of guidelines than a straightforward guide to bringing these assholes to TKO. Later in the game the AI gets a little more random and though the opponents you face will fall into patterns, they won't always fall into the same pattern each time you fight them. With that in mind . . .

Mr. Sandman

For about the first 50s, dodge and counter his rolling jabs with jabs of your own. Should be about 11 of these. Around 50s of Round1, throw a jab, and Sandman will dodge and counter with a hook using the same hand. This is the start of something called the "Nightmare Pattern":

Throw a Jab the Enemy Dodges

Dodge the Counter Hook

Jab to Stun him

Throw a Body Blow

Important Part: PAUSE before throwing another Body Blow

Repeat this pattern until Sandman falls just before, or after, 1:30 in Round1.

If he fell before [sometimes] 1:28, or sooner-

You can repeat the previous pattern before Sandman starts using the Dreamland Express. When he uses this signature move dodge three times, jab him in the face, then proceed to use about 15-19 body blows. After that, revert to the Nightmare Pattern for a while to get your Round1 TKO.

If he fell at 1:28 [sometimes], or afterwards-

Rinse and repeat the Nightmare Pattern for a couple more knockdowns to eventually TKO him.

Super Macho Man

The best way to beat SMM is to learn and master what is known as the

“CS” (Clock Stop) Glitch. SMM has two moves that this can be applied to, the Spin Punch, and Super Spin Punch. For the Spin Punch, dodge his punch, then throw two jabs quickly... and delay before throwing a third strike that should net a star and stop the clock. For the Super Spin Punch, do the same except only with one jab before the delay. After you get the star with either of these, use only Late Punches, or Gutters (no rapid stikes) and the clock will remain at the same position.

On with it: Let Macho make the first move, and toss him a body blow (forcing him to block). If things go well, he'll then use four uppercuts, all of which you should interrupt with body blows, causing him to block like before. A little more luck here, but if Macho uses the Spin Punch next, dodge the attack, and let loose with the CS Glitch. From there in uses Late Punches and Gutters to keep the clock stopped until Macho hits the mat. From here, cross your fingers hoping that Macho uses the Super Spin Punch soon to keep your time down, and use the CS Glitch and follow-ups listed above to slowly get him down a second, and then a third time to get a TKO.



“Iron” Mike Tyson - The Dream Fight

Still pretty intimidating after all these years, Iron Mike was to my knowledge probably the only boss that had the potential to “kill you” with a single regular attack at that time. It’s a shame they didn’t make his replacement in later editions even half as threatening (Mr. Universe = wimpy -looking). Don’t expect a straightforward fight here, he is going to frustrate you probably the first

twenty-five times you fight him. These are more of guidelines, and they can net you a Round1 TKO, but only with a good deal of practice. Here we go- For the first ninety seconds, Mike will use only his Dynamite Punches, starting first with a left, right, left pattern. If later he uses two lefts, expect him to follow-up with two rights, and then a left, right, left. Quick Dodge these punches, coming back in with a Jab, then a late punch to maximize your damage potential at this point. He should hopefully go down before 1:30, when he switches to using Blinking Hooks (exactly like it sounds). With practice, the best strategy for these is to use a Late Punch on each of these (he usually uses three Rights, then one Left), but only a single punch, which you’ll see causes quite a large amount of damage. If you’re going for a Round1 TKO, after knocking him down from this, attempt to do the same against his Blinking Hooks and hope to get a third knockdown before the round is up. The first two are the hardest.

Another strategy is to try and get his stamina down to about zero when round1 ends, never knocking him down. Doing so may allow you to get three full knockdowns in round2 and win the match. In Round2, Mike will always start with five sets of two jabs, which you can dodge or block to mitigate the damage. For the rest of Round2, if Mike throws a right hand uppercut, he’ll follow with a left after. For this, block the first uppercut, then Jab his face four times and it should halt his attack. At 1:30 and 2:30 of Round2 Mike will use a couple hooks, which you should dodge and then Jab at him using Proper Punches for maximum damage.


Go get ‘em Mac.

Fahrenheit 451
written by Ray Bradbury

If you have not read this book by now, be ashamed, be very ashamed. I lost count of the times I have read it. I just figured, why not cover, essentially the reason to read books, for the fourth issue of this badass zine?

Unless you stock piled romance novels upon a campfire, I think it would be hard for me to watch a book burn [451*]. In the period setting of the book, firemen have actually become a novel's worst enemy.

451* - The temperature at which books burn.



had placed a seed of curiosity between the smoke and routine of Montag's daily life.

While on a raid in an old woman's house, completely filled with books, the firemen were ready set things ablaze. The woman refused their attempts to get her out before the burning. She went up with all of her books except the single Montag managed to conceal from the others.

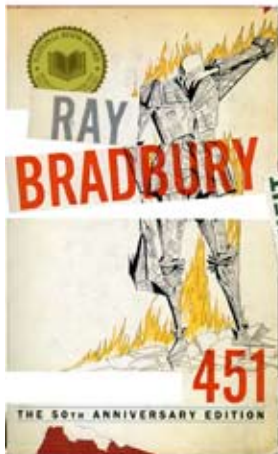
Perpetual ignorance could never last and Montag left everything he knew for the simple realization of unhappiness. He began to question 'Why?' instead of 'How?'.

.Pocket Ninja.

In a world where books are incinerated instead of read, Guy Montag is doing the burning [along with his fellow firemen]. Not all books are burned, mind you, most 'illegal books' are historical and more famous works of literature.

Everyone lives in ignorant bliss as they let control go by the wayside.

Occasionally, on his way home from work, Montag will speak to his neighbor [who has the strangest things to speak of]. Unbeknownst to him, Clarisse [neighbor]





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shout out.

our friends at radio show. check them out on facebook and listen to their show on mondays at 6pm on 95.3 FM.

note.

hey hippies, when you are done reading our zine, please pass it along to a friend or use it for party confetti.