

ISSUES

WE'RE BUILDING A TOWER

FRANCINE KARG

REVISITED



#112: 9/01/26

WARLOCK LUMPEN BY ELLA SOLIS

JOURNAL
OF THE
FIFTH
FOUNDATION

OCI

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO EARN SELF LOVE

BY ELLA SOLIS

Give yourself grace / like a smack to the face, / The people the places / in all different spaces, / Spark up a conversation with a stranger. ///

Ask them what do / they hold onto /// with anger. Urge them let go / and stop being alone / In due time they'll learn that that consumptive stone, / It takes it away and it only burns you, ///

The embers are crimson with effervescent hue, / Let go dearest friend before that fate turns true, ///

You can't change the past / and the present won't last, / So just love yourself because the futures too fast. ///

Some people never learn / that they don't have to earn /self love. ///

That's really sad too, dear god I miss my dad so, / But we must trudge forward /

Through hell and through borders /

Girl, don't take no orders / from nobody ///

You're the only one who's driving the ship. / I purse my lip / as I bite at the skin. / it's never a sin / to love yourself. /// Be patient too, some days you won't love life, But what's important is you love the skin / you're in. ///

No one's coming to save / you, Just like no one came to save / me, But three things I wanna say ///

before I go, When you're yourself and your thoughts / that's two different people. Some thoughts / that you have might be a little evil, Maybe a lot but that's not. /// who you are unless you invite them in, / Remember that it's not the skin / you're in /// that's the problem.

The enemy is metaphysical / and it appears in the media both digital /// and otherwise, / If you absorb it with your eyes, / You internalize ///

and feel like that shit is reality, But it really isn't and it's never been. / Without access to friendship and camaraderie within oneself, You cannot ever fix your health again. ///

One final message before I beat it in my head, / Even if your friends are dead ///

and even if you're feeling it, You are still beautiful / and you deserve the life you choose so, / Change it or you'll lose an awful /// lot of time and energy, ///

But nothing's ever permanent. /// but you must work to exterminate self hate, / You deserve so much more, take / a trip down to the store and talk to a stranger today. ///



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ALAM

ISSUES FEATURED

CONVERSATION

Francine: Hello!
Ryan: Hello! How are you?
F: I'm doing great, Ryan. How are you?
R: I'm doing pretty great too.
F: Congratulations on your move.
R: Thank you so much. I'm very much ready for it to be done.
F: I bet ha ha. Hey but at least you're playing some shows on the way.
R: Exactly. I have to. I can't just not when I have the opportunity.
F: Yeah, for sure.
R: So, what's life been like in Birmingham for you?
F: It's been good. It's been busy. Work's been kicking my ass, but things are looking up. Doing a September tour. What else? I'll be married in November. That's the good news.
R: Oh, my goodness.
F: Getting married in November.
R: Getting married.
F: Yeah. I'm excited.
R: Good for you.
F: All my partners are like my bride's maids.
R: Hahaha.
F: Super nice poly affirming marriage.
R: That's wonderful. Where are you going to do it?
F: There's a little spot in Birmingham called Avenue D events.
R: I see.
F: They gave us a significant discount because we're

doing it on Friday the 13th.
R: Oh, nice.
F: Yeah.
R: Friday the 13th in September?
F: November.
R: November.
F: September I'm going on tour with good old Indifference from Nashville.
R: And you're going to be Domesticatrix?
F: The Replicants. It will be the full band. Domesticatrix and the Replicants. The Oi! Deathrock, Industrial punk thing version of Domesticatrix.
R: Ah hah.
F: I actually still play a decent amount of solo shows but not nearly as much as I was.
R: I guess when you have a full band to do things with you might as well.
F: Yeah! It's about 2/3rds full band 1/2nd solo. Solo shows I either do them tour style where I play the kind of set I'd play to people out of town that I'd never seen before, or I've been doing a decent amount of dungeon synth sets, a decent amount of gabber sets. I've been playing a lot of furry raves recently.
R: Ha ha.
F: So that's been fun. Got to play with Tony Hawk's transgender kid a while back.
R: What?
F: Yeah.

R: That's amazing!
F: Yeah she

makes music under Guppy.
R: I bet he's a really good dad about that.
F: I've heard he really is. We just played Yugioh the whole fucking time they were in town.
R: Ah haha.
F: Which is funny because I just picked up a revised wheel of fortune for \$200 bucks.
R: Oh, you're doing Yugioh?
F: No, Magic.
R: Magic I've been doing too but I just played with proxies.
F: Yeah, I traded in a bunch of ads. I buy eBay cards. I take a loop to them. Check to make sure they are legit. Fakes have gotten so good nowadays, you'll get fakes that can pass the dot test on the back.
R: Oh yeah if you get a nice enough printer you can do anything.
F: And they are doing it! The cardstock, the core, everything. I buy up eBay lots and then part them out to buy cards I want.
R: Ok.
F: I had Wheel of Fortune on the mind this week because I made a really cool Wheel of Fortune proxy using the Nakatamun Lorespinner spinner from the more recent Strixhaven set. It has Wheel of Fortune as an activated ability, so I just crossed the marker out for everything but that.
R: Hahaha.
F: Tarot wheel of fortune illustration, white on black.
R: That's great.
F: Yeah. I said I want to do something artistic and I'd been using Posca markers lately.

R: Hell yeah. What have you been doing with those?
F: Mostly magic proxies.
R: Cool.
F: That and just graffiti.
R: So, where are you going on your tour?
F: On my tour coming up, we are going to the Midwest. We're starting out with Cincinnati of all places. We are hanging out with Daisy and playing a show up at The Comet. I'm really excited about that. Then I'm going over to Minneapolis.
R: Yeah.
F: Then we're going to Chicago. We're finishing out the tournament and there are other dates there too. We're finishing out in Memphis.
R: Yeah. Cool.
F: The venue we are playing in Memphis is the Hi-Tone***. It will be fun. I really like the Green Room. You can smoke cigarettes inside.
R: Nice.
F: Yeah. Any venue you can smoke cigarettes inside, I'm pro.
R: You'd love Las Vegas.
F: I love Las Vegas. I usually stay at Harrah's when I'm out there. You can get a room at Harrah's

R: Yeah I got a room at the Cowboy Hotel for like \$59.
F: Nice.
R: I went to the floor at 2 am and there were Grandmothers chain smoking at the-
F: It's such a vibe. It's so funny. I recently built this studio this past year. It's really great it's out in Birmingham called Arthouse Studio. I designed it after Las Vegas game rooms. I wanted there to be no clocks, no light. I wanted it to be a complete time hole where-
R: Hell yeah.
F: I can Phil Spector the hell out of some musicians, in the best way possible.
R: Exactly.
F: I've been listening to a lot of Death of a Ladies' Man.
R: Mmm.
F: The mix on the drums of that record is crazy.
R: Who is that by?
F: That's by Leonard Cohen.
R: Ok, cool.
F: From like '78.
R: So, who is going on the tour with you?
What are the names of the people going with you?
F: Totally. So, there is on saxophone, Courtney. On bass there is Jamie. On guitar there is Lorelei and on Drums is Jess who is originally from South Carolina.

R: Oh ok.
F: She moved here two years ago. We knew each other online. It's real nice having her play in my band. Everyone except for like 1 person is in my polycule. It's Birmingham's only polycule band.
R: How extensive is Birmingham's only polycule?
F: It's like a like 32 people including metamours. It's not huge but it's one of the bigger ones in the area.
R: I mean that's pretty big.
F: Very much. It's like a constellation if you map it out.
R: Obviously I assume that not everyone is interested in everyone else in the polycule. There's a complex set of relationships like a slime mold.
F: It's a complex set of relationships. Half the people are ace. It's just a nice chill vibe. I've got 7 partners plus a rogues gallery. It works out pretty well and everyone gets along.
R: I like it when people are really positively polyamorous. It takes all the best parts of Mormonism and throws the rest of them away.
F: Hahahha. No, we just need to take the best of Scientology

CONTINUED



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FRANCINE KARG CONTINUED

F: and the black arts of Jack Parsons and throw them in there.
R: Exactly we need to have more Galvanic Electricity Devices use while having conversations.
F: Haha.
R: Haha.
F: It's true. You've got to get those Thetans out. You've got to summon the Scarlet woman in the Pyramids out in the desert.
R: That's crazy that shit happened in the 1940s.
F: It is. You know what's funny? I started dating Corinna Cybele in Subhymnal las November. It's really funny. Other than me getting really into Coil all of a sudden, it's nice dating someone who has such similar magickal practices. I used to be a Thelemite.
R: Yeah.
F: Having such similar background there. We have a little project called Perfect X Blue that we play together. Play bass and she plays acoustic guitar. I'm always in standard and she's always in so many fucked up tunings. It's really fun. It forces you to play not just what the other person is doing but what sounds good in the song. So, you end up coming up with a lot of cool stuff

because you can't just hammer on root notes.
R: You have no choice. You have to make it find a different way to connect.
F: Exactly. Exactly.
R: It kind of makes me think of Psychic TV.
F: I got a little Psychic cross exactly 2 months ago.
R: Hell yeah.
F: It's been really interesting. I haven't been into TOPY for a long time. Just seeing all the connections around their old movement that were brought on by that scene and that way of thinking. Almost like anti-cult behavior but at the same time almost like this horseshoe theory.
R: Hmm.
F: Where it's so individualistic that it starts to wrap around. Freedom is a two edged sword.
R: Absolutely.
F: Absolutely. After I'm done with my- I started this ISSUES VISIONS project. Me trying to review every single record by a given artist.
R: Cool.
F: I started with Sun Ra. I'm on my tenth album now.
F: Nice. Birmingham represent.
R: Yeah, perfect. It's still real.
F: The Arkestra still plays around here all the time.
R: Oh, I'm sure.
F: The Arkestra plays local dives like once every 2 months. It's crazy. They're all very nice.
R: They're all incredibly nice and mostly geriatric.

F: Haha. They're all like 100. But they rock that.

R: It's so inspiring as a DIY musician, to see a guy that's 102 year old still doing it.
F: Oh yeah, it just speaks to how much they

believe in the work they were doing.
R: Keeping forward momentum at all times.
F: Yeah, man. That's how they keep moving.
R: Keeps you wanting to live.
F: Yeah.
R: So, what about, have you done any recordings in the last year?
F: I've been in a big creative block the last year. I wrote an entire gabber record on my Polyend tracker. I played an entire tour around it with Tricky Youth last November. I had a great time. Tricky genuinely cured my misandry.
R: Heh heh.
F: Tricky convinced me that dudes truly have the ability to rock.
R: Haha.
F: Two weeks of touring felt like two days.
R: Oh, that's awesome.
F: It was a really great tour. I did that right after I did the full band tour, which was good, but it was also a lot of stress. The first full band tour was super stressful because Subhymnal partially imploded on that tour.
R: Yeah.
F: We wound up having to go ahead. We had the whole backing band for the Replicants become the new Subhymnal backing band.
R: Ok.
F: That's how it stayed to this day. I play keyboard in Subhymnal these days. It works out really well. I have my KORG minologue. I got a lot of really low frequency stuff. It works out really well.
R: Echo used to have one of those.
F: Matchi is getting back together.
R: Hell Yeah. All the good Birmingham bands.
F: It's nice that it is starting to feel like our own Threshold house. You get to have this very incestuous scene in a wholesome way where everyone's trying to make each other's art come

through.
R: That's amazing.
F: Yeah.
R: That's literally what I'm going to try to do once I'm in Wyoming. Try to import people.
F: Yeah. Literally. It's going really well. We recently put together our website for Pulse Theory Combat.

Getting everyone on there is a really big project. All the stuff that Corinna's done. All the stuff that Matchi's done over the years. Getting that stuff back into physical circulation. We started doing this. I own this big CD burner.
R: Nice.
F: We just started burning. I think we burned 120 CDs last week.

R: Oh, wow.
F: CDR's and selling them for 5 bucks a pop at shows. Putting stuff in circulation.
R: That's really good.
F: It's going really well.

R: That's really good.
F: Yeah man.
R: I was considering maybe running off some CDs again.
F: You should. There's so many good records you've done over the years. CDs are cheap to produce. They are inexpensive as far as how much you can sell them for. Most cars have a CD player. As much as I love tapes. I've never stopped making tapes. The number of guys with cars with cassette players is starting to dwindle.
R: Yeah. The cassettes and the vinyl are prestige items in their own way.

F: Yeah. I did one run of vinyl, and it took me about 6 months to sell out.
R: Mmmhmm.
F: I was really glad I did it. Then I was like I don't have a hankering to spend that money again.
R: No. I'll never do it again. For sure. Unless somehow a miracle comes and I'm tapped on my shoulder by somebody.

F: Exactly.
R: I'll never spend my own money on it again.
F: Yeah. I spent 3k of my own money on it doing 100 vinyl. My buddies band, BORN. I did a split with them and rereleased it on vinyl 7", which looked awesome.

R: Poster?
F: Say that again?
R: Is that the poster that you put out?
F: So, I had a poster that was a promo poster for that record that says Born and Domesticatrix with me standing.

R: Yeah, I have that poster.
F: Yeah that's the promo poster for that split. The other promo poster that I did. I've only done 3 promo posters. Some of them are photos of a crayon drawing that my friend, Sunny did.
R: Ok.

F: He did it in Crayon then I did all kinds of half tone dithering on it to make it look cool. I use FedEx for that because it costs 5 bucks to do a 24" by 36".

R: Hell yeah.
F: Yeah.
R: My secret is I just go on eBay, and I buy 100 pack rolls of forever stamps and I don't question how they got there.

F: Nice. That's honestly great. I recently found out about nonmachinable stamps. You can find stamps for things that are odd sizes.

They are called nonmachinable stamps. If you have a letter that's a weird size, if you think it's going to go in the machine and rip it up, you just pay a little extra for a non-machinable stamp. It works the same.

R: Nice. That's great.
F: People don't think enough about how zip machines back in the 70s gave people psychosis super easy because of the speed of information needed.

R: Mmm. All that focus got that DMT flowing through their brain.

F: They're called zip machines. You had to put in someone's address in 0.7 seconds or else it would jam.

R: Oh my gosh.
F: It was high stress, super precise. That's where the term going postal came from, all those folks used zip machines.
R: That makes sense.

F: It took a lot of coordination.
R: That makes sense because that's a really extreme version of being on a factory line.
F: Oh yeah. The idea of industrial automation taken to their extremes.

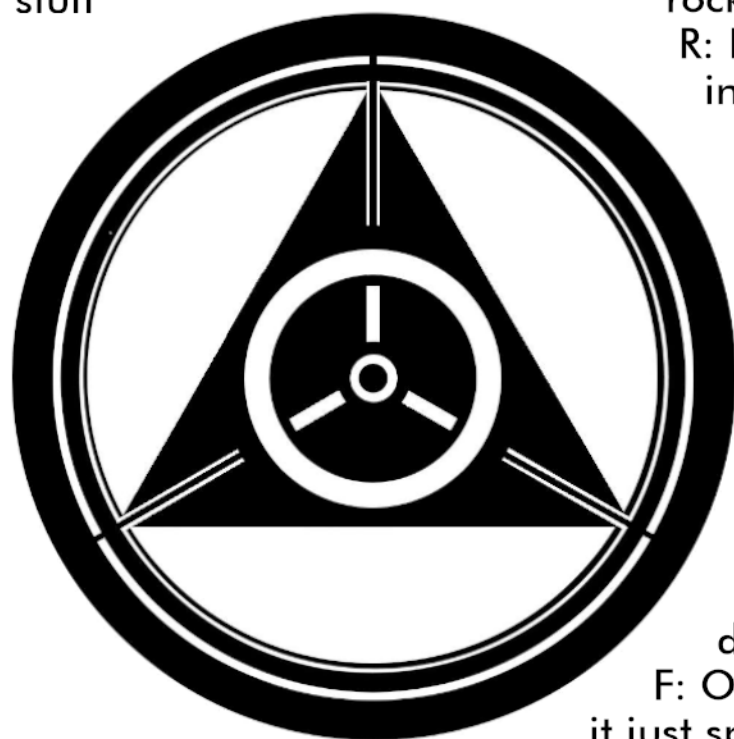
R: But before there was digital automation that could offload all that.

F: Yeah. Even then I wouldn't say it's completely offloading it because of all the support it needs. As someone who's been in that industry for a while, there's so much backend work that goes into modern cloud infrastructure. Keeping things good and happy and healthy more often than not it is stuck together with toothpicks and glue.

R: That's encouraging.
F: Yeah. It is. AI isn't the solution.

R: Haha.
F: It's the answer to some things. I'm one of those weird people who has nuanced opinions on the way in which LOM models have affected the world.

R: Ok.



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FRANCINE KARG POSTER

CONTINUED ON 12



FRANCINE KARG

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ANSWERS WITHOUT QUESTION CARL KRUGER WITH AI

1. Clinquant (glittering or showily ornate).

a. A government promises that new restrictions will make everyone safer. At first, the measures seem temporary and reasonable, especially when presented as protection from a frightening threat. But once people surrender a freedom, restoring it can become far more difficult than giving it away.
b. The moonlit garden seemed strangely quiet after midnight.

2. Myrmecology (the scientific study of ants).

a. Security often grows through small compromises rather than one dramatic act. A new surveillance program, an expanded database, or a narrower definition of acceptable speech may each appear insignificant on its own. Over time, however, these measures can transform the relationship between citizens and the state.
b. He continued talking about subjects he barely understood.

3. Groke (to stare at someone while they are eating, hoping they will offer food).

a. The promise of safety can make people willing to accept limits they would normally reject.

Fear encourages us to value immediate protection more highly than distant principles. The danger is that extraordinary powers introduced during an emergency may eventually become ordinary powers used during normal times.
b. She enjoyed the gentle warmth of the winter sun through the window.

4. Sialoquent (speaking with excessive salivation).

a. Rights are often most vulnerable when people are told that only certain groups will be affected. Restrictions may initially target suspected criminals, political extremists, foreigners, or other unpopular minorities. Once the precedent is established, the boundaries can gradually expand until protections that were supposedly universal become conditional.
b. The professor wandered through the countryside without telling anyone where he was going.

5. Wamble (to feel nauseated or have an uneasy stomach).

a. Surveillance is

frequently defended with the argument that innocent people have nothing to fear. Yet privacy is not merely a shield for wrongdoing; it is also the space in which people think, associate, dissent, and develop unpopular ideas. A society that constantly watches its citizens can gradually discourage behavior without ever formally banning it.
b. A strange cry echoed across the valley as the storm approached.

6. Foudroyant (strikingly brilliant or dazzling).

a. The language of safety can also obscure questions about who receives the new power and who controls it. A law may be introduced with noble intentions while creating tools that a less benevolent administration could later exploit. The character of the current government therefore cannot be the only measure of whether a power is safe to grant.
b. The emerald necklace seemed to glow beneath the candlelight.

7. Panglossian (excessively optimistic, especially in an unrealistic way).

a. There is a particular irony in sacrificing liberty to preserve social stability. People may become safer from one specific threat while becoming more vulnerable to arbitrary authority. Physical security matters, but security without meaningful rights can eventually become another form of insecurity.
b. Her smooth, musical voice made even the dulllest story sound enchanting.

8. Xenodochy (the reception or treatment of strangers or foreigners).

a. Temporary restrictions can also acquire a momentum of their own. Once institutions are built, budgets are allocated, and officials become accustomed to expanded authority, ending those powers may be portrayed as irresponsible or dangerous. The emergency that justified them can disappear while the machinery created in response remains.
b. After three nights of poor sleep, Marcus struggled to get out of bed.

9. Agathokakological

(composed of both good and evil).

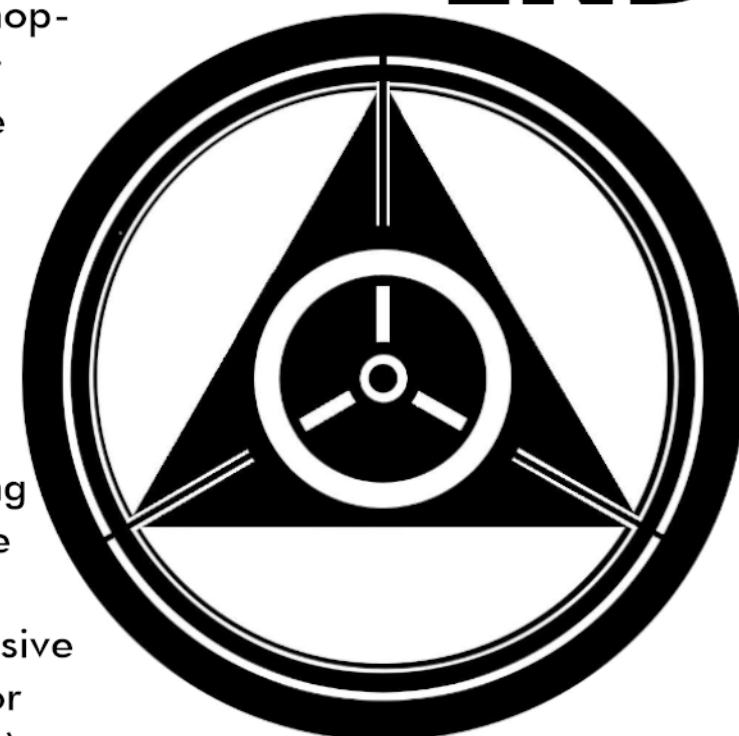
a. A free society does not have to choose between safety and liberty as though only one can exist. It can pursue legitimate security measures while demanding evidence, judicial oversight, transparency, narrow limits, and clear expiration dates. The essential question is not whether a policy promises safety, but whether its costs to freedom are necessary, proportion and reversible.

b. The little dog stared hopefully at us while we ate dinner.

10. Crapulent (suffering from the effects of excessive eating or drinking).

a. Rights are easiest to appreciate when they are not being threatened. When fear arrives, however, principles can suddenly seem like luxuries that can be postponed until the danger passes. History repeatedly suggests that the strongest defense of freedom is recognizing its value before the promise of safety persuades us to surrender it.
b. The abandoned theater was simultaneously beautiful and unsettling.

-END-



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IMPRESSIONS OF

THREADS OF ANOTHER LIFE by MAN MOUNTAIN

Man Mountain is a post rock outfit from Detroit, MI. They released an album called, "Threads of Another Life," on July 24, 2026.

You can check it out here:

manmountain.bandcamp.com/album/threads-of-another-life

My Impressions:

Vast, organic planes of sound growing like rootless flowers, petals opening, piercing eye of green sprouting from the ground.

Triumphant, mystifying, optimistic, geysers of nootropic light spewing forth from a volcano to crest and fall like rain upon an undernourished world.

LOST LEAVES TIME by SPENT DRIVING

Time Spent Driving is a post hardcore group from Santa Cruz, California. Thirty Something Records released their album, "Lost Leaves," on August 21, 2026.

You can listen to it here:

timespentdriving.bandcamp.com/album/lost-leaves

My Impressions:

Intricate, pulse accelerating, gently brutal, foggy, nostalgic, sentimental power pop rock music that plays games with harmony, thrusts forward with an energetic send off, and plays with subtle arpeggios of distorted electric guitar.

Using the power of advanced dynamics, building and relaxing, adding layers of instrumentation and taking away, the band creates a powerful sense of forward momentum.

The vocalist hits the mark singing

expansive modalities which add emotional emphasis to the overall construction of the music.



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MAPS by RUFIO

Rufio is a pop punk group from Southern California. Double Helix Records released their single called, "Maps," in 2026.

It can be heard here:

open.spotify.com/track/4WcNuxH2ELDT30oqFA7d7w?si=543352abf75943d2

My Impressions:

Bright, bold, technical, tuneful pop punk as intense as it is insouciant, and as right-on-the spot as it is slackercore. The tuneful precision of the lightly distorted guitars matches the passion in the voice of the distinct melodic vocals.

PRETTY THINGS DON'T LAST by NOIRADDICTION

NoirAddiction is an industrial rock group from Italy. Soulpunx Records released their album called, "Pretty Things Don't Last," on July 16, 2026.

You can listen to it here:

noiraddiction.bandcamp.com/album/pretty-things-dont-last

My Impressions:

Throbbing, pounding melodic industrial rock composed of distorted guitars, vast percussion, in the pocket electric bass and melodic vocals.

The song is forward leaning and moves with energy and mass.

LOVES HARMONY by DARRYL JENIFER

Darryl Jenifer is a smooth jazz artist from Woodstock, NY. Org Music released his double single called, "Loves Harmony," in 2026.

You can check it out here:

open.spotify.com/album/514UDyYyEfs6BaapcAkE9u?si=LEuYrjG4QEuXrdkpuTW_ma

My Impressions:

Creamy, silky melodic bass guitar plucks the foundation of a soft-grooving romantic elevation.

The instruments are pressed in just the right way to build tension, massage the ear with rhythm. This is the sound of sitting down with the one you love, infatuated and taken away by the moods of life.

HAPPY ENDINGS AT THE MOVIES by ZEBRAHEAD

Zebrahead is a pop punk artist from California. They released a single called, "Happy Endings At The Movies," in 2026.

You can listen to it here:

open.spotify.com/track/6clbsmaqUNDrpFn6N7udKn?si=7b540e08114d4997

My Impressions:

Gentle yet persistent, this punchy, pounding single moves gracefully across the speakers in time.

The vocalist is clear as day and pitch precise even as they put shades of affect on their voice.

It's high energy, melodic power pop.

ON A SECOND THOUGHT by CHRISTIAN FIESEL

Christian Fiesel is an ambient electronic artist from Tritttau, Germany. Cyclical Dreams released their album called, "On A Second Thought," on July 17, 2026.

It can be heard here:

cyclicaldreams.bandcamp.com/album/on-a-second-thought-cyd-0162

My Impressions:

Shimmering waves of effervescent light, arpeggiating melodies with live adjusted, cut, and the broad ambient appeal of beautiful, snapping synth sounds.

There is an environment of darkness and puzzlement welded to an organic quality. The sin waves are almost like futurist bird calls chirping as the pieces unfold.

JOLLYSAD by MUSTH

Musth is a progressive metal group from Norway. They released an EP called, "Jollysad," in 2026.

You can listen to it here:

open.spotify.com/album/4UTG0t4VNq40IEq8Von6iE?si=pzAhJBSgS3KiaLqKZqL4QA

My Impressions:

A kind of madness overtakes the listener as he is infected with the harmony of a distorted harlequin nightmare. The music is tuneful but dark and psychotic, sometimes zany and sometimes maniacally unhinged.

I can truly say that this is an original take on the metal genre as it broadens, shrinks, blasts, hammers and finally shatters my mind.

IMPRESSIONS BY RYAN O'DOUD

IMPRESSIONS OF

DIVINER by GALE FORCES

Gale Forces is a pop metal group from Los Angeles, California. They released a single called, "Diviner," in 2026.

You can check it out here:
open.spotify.com/album/0LrfmC3SxKNW9HgW6Q6WrJ?si=AHnRxOCVRMqvMZcN1_IMaQ

My impressions:

Thrumming, dissonant electric guitars like walls proceed in gradual, thundering riffs. The bass and kick thwack percussively, giving the beat some gravity. The vocalist sings in tight meter with the instrumental, kicking up energy just in time for the ascendent hook.

CORBACS IN BLACK by HECKEL AND JECKEL

Heckel and Jeckel are a melodic hardcore group from France. They released an album called, "Corbacs in Black," on July 28, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
heckelandjeckel.bandcamp.com/album/corbacs-in-black

My Impressions:

A stroll down the road of rock sensibility, drawing from the darkness and the light, funky, ear splitting, punk, grunge and more. The album has a development, never staying in one place. It is consistently catchy, grooving, hard and approachable.

ATOMS, DON'T DIE by GUDEWIFE

Gudewife is a post hardcore group from the UK. Ripcord Records released their album called, "Atoms, Don't Die," on July 24, 2026.

You can listen to it at:
gudewife.bandcamp.com/album/atoms-dont-die

My Impressions:

Intricate, rolling guitar arpeggiations cartwheel mathematically in sequence with the pointalistic percussion and throaty foundational bass guitar. The vocals tunefully thread themselves into and above the tapestry of sound. The effect is emotionally poignant and dizzying at once.

IMPRESSIONS BY RYAN O'DOUD

THE RETURNING CIRCLE by ADAM FILIP

Adam Filip is an electronica project from Berlin, Germany. Cyclical Dreams released their album called, "The Returning Circle," on July 3, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
cyclicaldreams.bandcamp.com/album/the-returning-circle-cyd-0161

My Impressions:

This album unfolds in undulating patterns of light echoing out across the expanse. Dunes of red rising up in sandstorms under the pale moon light which smiles a coy grin as a veil of silken tulle casts across the darkside of her face.

DANCING WITH THE DEVIL by SMALL SOUKI & THE BIG TROUBLE BAND

Small Souki & The Big Trouble Band are a psychedelic group from Vienna, Austria. They released an album called, "Dancing With The Devil," on June 13, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
smallsouki-tbtb.bandcamp.com/album/dancing-with-the-devil

My Impressions:

Psychedelic grunge noise with insidious melodies and hypnotic drive. This album has extremely compelling layered vocal textures throughout. The electric violin takes the lead and gives an interesting flavor of their sound. I think David Lynch would have enjoyed the Masturbation Song. Enchanting! I loved it! I wish I could see them live.

HULDRA by NEPHILA

Nephila is a progressive pop metal group from Sweden. Majestic Mountain Records released their single called, "Huldra," on June 26, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
nephilamusic.bandcamp.com/track/huldra

My Impressions:

A swaggering, swinging floor drum maneuver alternates with a restrained rock drum quality to act as the spine herein. The guitars and organ play right in the pocket, as does the synth. The bass keeps it moving. The vocals are mildly operatic and highly melodic. The metal goes down easy on this one.

TOO, SO LIKE NOTHING by ELDRITCH PRIEST

Eldritch Priest is an avant jazz artist from Vancouver, BC, Canada. They released an album called, "Too, So Like Nothing," on August 21, 2026.

It can be heard:
eldritchpriest.bandcamp.com/album/too-so-like-nothing

My Impressions:

This collection of solo piano compositions is like an off kilter still life in abstract oil paints. The paired down composition with the singular voice of the piano has an intimacy about it. It's like I'm sitting on the bench beside the vocalist while I listen.

OUR ONLY FAULT IS EXISTING by FEVERDREAMT

Feverdreamt is an avant rock group from Berlin, Germany. Blackjack Illuminist Records released this album, "Our Only Fault is Existing," on July 3, 2026.

You can hear it:
blackjackilluministrecords.bandcamp.com/album/our-only-fault-is-existing

My Impressions:

Moody melodies reverberating melancholy tomes by moonlight. The ghost of a lost longing haunts you through the halls at night.

It feels like the comfortable arms of a well worn hoodie.

Drift along with this album and you will be led through labyrinths of intrigue into warm somber hollows.

IMPRESSIONS BY LEXX SAINT LEONARD



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IMPRESSIONS OF

BAD BLOOD by CRIMINAL KIDS

Criminal Kids is a punk act from Chicago, IL. They released, "Bad Blood," on July 21st, 2025.

You can listen to it here:
[Open.spotify.com/track/5VazNAKWSAq1tOj0NCfr7i?nd=1&dlsi=94e6e85d51d64048&flow_ctx=71404963-49a5-41a6-afdf-c4d2a373544c%3A1787001603&autoplay_ok=1](https://open.spotify.com/track/5VazNAKWSAq1tOj0NCfr7i?nd=1&dlsi=94e6e85d51d64048&flow_ctx=71404963-49a5-41a6-afdf-c4d2a373544c%3A1787001603&autoplay_ok=1)

My Impressions:

This record has rock 'n' roll instrumentation with a higher register style screamed vocal. The record is fun-loving while still staying true to that punk rock attitude that the genre is iconic for. The guitar is jangly yet still has quite a bit of structure. The vocalist and drummer carry the rhythm of the track, leading to a perfect mix of attitude and fun.

I ANSWERED B/W NORTH AMERICA: 1991 by GRADUATION SPEECH

Graduation Speech is an indie rock act from New Jersey. They released, "I Answered B/W North America: 1991," on August 3rd, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
graduationspeech.bandcamp.com/album/i-answered-b-w-north-america-1991

My Impressions:

Graduation Speech released a damn good dual single.

I love the vocalist's unique voice and the guitars chorusy reverberation.

The vocalist's singing style reminds me of the unique *Tiny Little Houses*. The lyricism is nothing short of beautiful and teeters between striving for perfection and being just lofi enough to bring out the vocalists unique style.

IMPRESSIONS BY ELLA SOLIS



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BEAUTIFUL THINGS by DONNIE VIE

Donnie Vie is a rock act from Blue Island, IL. They released, "Beautiful Things," on July 31st, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
open.spotify.com/album/2PUnfFaRyStlK9sYY7tp2s?nd=1&dlsi=4790b82335454ea7

My Impressions:

This record is fun-loving and free much like rock's humble origins. With more introspective, alternative-style lyrics, this one is a great in-between of Pearl Jam and Led Zeppelin. The record fills a niche not often explored nowadays, leading to an explosion of tight riffage and expressive lyricism/vocals.

MOUTH FULLA FIRE by BAD MARY

Bad Mary is a punk act from Long Island, NY. They released, "Mouth Fulla Fire," on August 4th, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
open.spotify.com/album/0DHW5FkGpN8dzSBWtcDMYI?nd=1&dlsi=56826130bb374e60

My Impressions:

Mouth Fulla Fire is structured excellently with a loud, aggressive, and tight instrumentation. The vocalist has a beautiful tone of voice while they sing, sitting perfectly in the mix. The bass is the main driver here, and it pays dividends for this act as the drums capitalize off of the bass expressions and solos.

EDGAR ALAN POE LP by MC LARS

MC Lars is a rap act from LA, CA. They will release, "Edgar Alan Poe," on October 16th, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
open.spotify.com/album/4AHV5mV5G0qjg9FsA7IALB

My Impressions:

This record is so incredibly fun and inspiring. The production is really good and the 808 kick combo puts in heavy work on driving the vibe. I love that the rapper references a ton of pop culture over a classical beat. It's so unique and unlike anything anyone else is really doing. I highly recommend this record if you enjoy clean production and fun, light-spirited, rap.

FRAGMENTS FROM THE WANING WORLD by ALMOST RANDOM

Almost Random is an ambient act from Buenos Aires, Argentina. They released, "Fragments From the Waning World," on July 31st, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
cyclicaldreams.bandcamp.com/album/fragments-from-the-waning-world-cyd-0163

My Impressions:

This record is full of character. Lots of warbles, synth pads, and rising/falling energy. This soundscape is nothing short of beautiful as it expresses itself with an effervescent, ever-changing synth pad leading the charge. It offers a unique listening experience that is perfect for deep, reflective meditations.

ELLEN C. by LET ME DOWNS

Let Me Downs are a punk act from Tacoma, WA. They released, "Ellen C.," on August 5th, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
open.spotify.com/album/4Sm7oPiCysSdsJMc8Cv7bh?nd=1&dlsi=0e721349803440ef

My Impressions:

Let Me Down provides a pop-punk style structure with a punk style vocalist. I would say this combo is one of my favorites for this style of music. With great production and vocals on top of the bulletproof bassline, Ellen C is best listened to by fans of smaller pop-punk acts. Upon checking their other music, other songs are a bit more attitudinal.

TREACHERY EP by TATV GRAL

TATV GRAL s an industrial act from Chicago, IL. They released "Treachery EP" on July 6, 2026.

You can listen to it here:
tatvgral.bandcamp.com/album/treachery-ep

My Impressions:

This EP is four remixes of the same Chicago goth industrial track. Each iteration on the original paints a new atmosphere. My favorite of the batch was the DSTR remix, but I could see how each song could fit well in different DJ sets.

IMPRESSION BY LEXX SAINT LEONARD

MICROTAKES

ONE SENTENCE RIFFS BY EACH OF OUR ARTISTS BASED ON ANY ALBUM FROM ANY TIME:

BY ELLA SOLIS

I WILL BE PRETTY WHEN I DIE by I WILL BE PRETTY WHEN I DIE on INDEPENDENT

This self titled displays pure desperation in a screamed vocal form with heavier and softer songs included.

CITY OF DOVES by SICKBOYARI on GOTHMONEYRECORDS

Cloud rap excellence wrapped in a tight package of production perfection tied with a bow of unique and pleasant rapped vocals.

I HATE SEX by CIRCLE THINKING on INDEPENDENT

I Hate Sex features deep lyricism rooted in mistrust, with beautiful screamed vocals filling the mix perfectly.

2023 DEMO by ISPENTSIXHOURSWATCHING-SHOCKVIDEOSYESTERDAY on INDEPENDENT

This record features bitcrushed everything and the vocals SLICE through the mix with a surgical precision to firmly cement it as one of the best emo records of all time.

BY LEXX ST. LEO

SCRATCH ACID by SCRATCH ACID on RABID CAT

A hypnotizing noise rock classic that's been with me since skipping school to hot box my friend's car in the cemetery in 12th grade.

REPO by BLACK DICE on PAW TRACKS

With a palette composed of radio samples, Black Dice grooves through hypnagogic beats.

ATARAXIA by MORT GARSON on RCA RECORDS

Really strange early synth explorations of the occult by the master who brought the world Plantasia.

CENTIPEDE HZ by ANIMAL COLLECTIVE on DOMINO RECORDS

Driving psychedelic art pop to keep you up all night with synaesthesiac ear worms.

BY CARL KRUGER

CONSUMING IMPULSE by PESTILENCE on ROADRUNNER

Tortured vocals rarely achieve this depravity; perfect classic era death metal gem, full stop.

RED SILT by CORNEA on PLEASUREDOME TAPES

An EXQUISITELY bad headache of Michigan basement skronk stretched an album's length; highest recommendation.

PIANO MUSIC SINCE 1983 by MILTON BABBITT on COMPOSERS RECORDINGS, INC.

Serialist Babbitt's later output carried the full weight of his life's legacy.

BARBARIAN ART by CHEFKIRK on DOLLFULLOFRIVETS

Pre-doomscrolling brain rot of a higher calibre; pure sound US MERZ energy worship worthy of the comparison.

BY RYAN O'DOUD

ANTHEM OF THE SUN by THE GRATEFUL DEAD on WARNER BROTHERS

Broad and psychedelic, reaching stunning lows and shimmering highs with pieces that take flight in an assiduous, aimless climacticism.

COMBAT ROCK by THE CLASH on SONY MUSIC

Anthemic, hard grooving, socially conscious material that blends punk rage with funk, dance, and brilliant eclecticism.

POWER by Q AND NOT U on DISCHORD RECORDS

Adamantine fun, frolic dance pop bred baby of post hardcore eclectic post disco which absolutely keeps you moving so much you'll almost miss the genius subtlety of the work.

JUJU MUSIC by KING SUNNY ADE on ISLAND RECORDS

Soulful, melodious spirit music sung like an angel through each instrument as the gentle and beautiful escalating compositions bring a watery peace to my nerves.

FRANCINE KARG CONTINUED

F: That's because I have to use them every day for work.

R: What are your nuanced opinions?

F: It's a tool. There are certain things that it is very good at. There's certain things it is very bad at. It's not good for intellectual property or the environment or the way it is being pushed down. But in a contained environment, and a sustained environment, let's say you're running a small LLM on that you've done your own training on, so you know it is ethical. In that scenario. On a Raspberry Pi or whatever. It's good at spellchecking or looking through your stuff so you can get documentation.

R: Ok.

F: As far as what the sum of human art and expression is, through taking a large amount of data and saying what happens when you put nothing into this? What do you find in the margins?

R: Hmm.

F: I think there's some really interesting stuff there. I fucking hate it when I see some obvious AI show flyers. It's like, you didn't even try to make something cool or interesting or new. I see someone advertising and it's obviously AI copy. Once you know how to look for those things, as far as the way in which it writes things if you aren't being hyper specific in how you write it, it is the lowest common denominator.

R: Right, that's my opposition to it. The environmental side is obviously a real thing that has to be dealt with.

F: Huge.

R: That's more a relation to how our

country produces energy than anything else.

F: Hugely. If we did more nuclear power in a sustainable way, if we did more solar and wind in a sustainable way, sure. But everything is so highly subsidized by the coal lobby that it is difficult to get the sort of cooling needs you need for these data centers that they are pushing because of how expensive memory is. That's the reason we're getting all these data centers because people, we're no longer in a situation where people can just buy the memory. Their third party it out and because people see that opportunity to make money by saying hey we'll rent you some computers, that's why all this stuff- it's a miniature gold rush but they're not even having any gold. It's all artificial. It's all fiat currency.

R: The problem that really does bother me; it's just the last of creativity and imagination that people are putting into it. In theory you can use it as a tool to create a brand new type of art.

F: Oh, easily.

R: But people are just finding the shittiest way to create this flyer and then using that style repeatedly.

F: That's what I admire about the early Midjourney style art where people are taking 8 to 10 paragraphs worth of parameters as far as what they want to conjure out of the Aether and making something new and fucked up about it.

R: exactly. That's a good use of it.

F: Yeah.

R: It's done a lot of good things. It's just the lack of imagination. Again, that's a more general problem in society: a lack of imagination.

F: Yeah. You could say that it's interesting because you think about that, you think about how nostalgia is a tool of fascism. Nostalgia is a tool of fascism that really comes down to a lack of imagination. It's seeking the past through a lens that maybe never existed. It's the same reason you see so many remakes and sequels these days.

R: It's selling you the delusional hallucinations you've made about when the past was great. Then it just packages it as an aesthetic.

F: Exactly. Exactly. A lot of the work that people do with AI is the same. If you look at the styles that people try to emulate, a lot of them are almost that midcentury advertising taken in this weird direction. It's odd because in 15 or 20 years, it's funny- I'm already feeling nostalgic for corporate Memphis style. In 15 or 20 years we're going to see folks nostalgic for AI slop.

R: Absolutely. It might even be a revival in 15 or 20 years.

F: That's crazy.

R: That's the Brian Eno principle: the thing that makes something ugly is the thing that makes it memorable.

F: I love that Brian Eno quote. I also love his DX7 patches. Yeah I've been good. Same old same old. I've been in a bit of a creative block this year. I worked on a bunch of records. I haven't put any of them out yet. I've got half a record sitting on my computer. I've got a couple live albums I've been sitting on. Mostly I've just been writing with the full band and producing records for other people. I produced 2 records for this local straight edge band called Zeroed. Xeroed. My buddy Aesop from No Cure plays guitar on it. It's a nice fun straight edge band. I'm not straight edge but it's sort of like furies where I respect them for their principles even though I don't share them. I respect them for being willing to get out there and be themselves even if it's not popular.

R: True. Now what do you consider to be the principles of being a furry?



F: Hahaha. Well, I would think, it's interesting. There's a couple of different ways. Sort of like how you see militant straight edge versus more centrist or liberal straight edge. You have these strains in the furry fandom. It's almost like when it overlaps with the mascot subculture.

R: Haha.

F: The mascot subculture and the furry sub culture really don't get along on basic principles even though they share a lot aesthetically. Even sexually sometimes. But like with the furry subculture you definitely have like Therians. You definitely have people more into the spiritual

aspects. But it's very much like straight edge where it gives people an avenue to express themselves it's a way to put cultural context and fantasy onto experiences and be able to express those with real people who also speak that same language.

R: Ok I could see that.

F: I'm also not a furry, so, but a lot of people are. That's my take on it.

R: I've had people close to me who are furies.

F: I didn't watch Robin Hood at a young age.

R: I mean yeah there's nothing sexually exciting about that for me at all. And also, I've never been into wearing an

outfit. That kind of outfit.

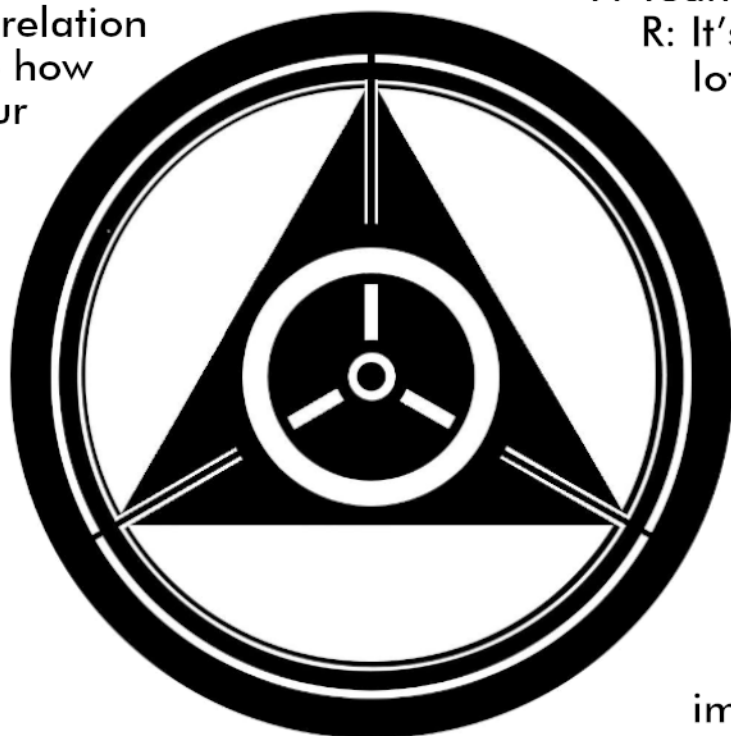
F: I like wearing an outfit. Don't even ask me how many Star Trek uniforms I own and how many odd stains are on them.

R: Ok I may like an outfit, but I like an outfit that hangs on me not an outfit that I step inside of.

F: Haha. I get it as someone into the latex subculture and into the heavy rubber subculture. I get the mask element. The whole physical transformation doesn't do it for me because I get it from latex.

R: I can't watch movies

CONTINUED



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FRANCINE KARG CONCLUDED

R: anymore because I have so much trouble suspending disbelief. On fiction.

F: Haha.

R: I'll be watching a marvel movie and I'm like what the fuck is this. In my head I can't stop what do you mean he has a magic power what does that mean?

F: I haven't enjoyed a marvel movie since Captain America The Winter Soldier.

R: But the furry is even more, like, you're not an animal. I'm not an animal. I can't do it. I can't suspend the disbelief.

F: I don't know, for me it's not even suspending disbelief thing. It's almost a magickal practice.

R: Ok.

F: Think about how Coil wore their shamanistic outfits during their 2003 tour. The big furry one with the big in the middle that was based on Tibetan and North or West African Shaming practices. It's almost like you believing in something and you being able to put yourself in that different headspace is enough.

R: Oh, I can definitely get it from that point of view then.

F: Haha.

R: Because I wear the Chasuble when I'm on stage and stuff.

F: Yeah.

R: And I wear the hat. I used to make up my face a lot. I definitely get the idea of it as a totem it does make sense.

F: I really think that fursuits are shamanic totems.

R: Alright. I can see it. I guess when you said principles I was thinking about values. And I don't know what the value system of the furry is.

F: The value system of the furry? Being attracted to the idea of being anthropomorphic and the blurring between what is animal and what is human in a spiritual way that comes from seeing Disney's Robin Hood at an impressionable way.

R: Ok. Like a skin walker?

F: Honestly, I sort of like the belief in the Wendigo. It's a very similar sort of thing.

R: OK I get it as a magickal practice. I can get it as a magickal practice. This I understand. I've never really gotten it until this conversation. That's speaking my language. That I understand.

F: Yeah. You can look at anything like that. That human brain looks at experience through an innately mystical lens if you let it.

R: Mmhmm.

F: Almost anything can be seen as ritual if you think about it hard enough.

R: Wearing a Basel cap can be that for people.

F: For real. Think about it. I don't really get the people who wear sports jerseys and baseball caps in order to symbolize their favorite team.

R: Yeah.

F: For them it must be like harnessing the power of belief that people have in this team.

R: Yeah.

F: If I wear something that is associated to them I can have a part of that power.

R: I draw down that power from the above realm. And like any other religion it also unites me in community with others who have the same aesthetic.

F: Yeah. I would honestly say sports are modern American religion, not that that's a new idea or anything.

R: It's one of them, that's for sure.

F: For sure. One of my neighbors is a sports caster and I talk to her about that stuff all the time.

R: Nice.

F: Yeah, she's cool. She has a nice little doggy, Champ short for Champion.

R: I like that. The thing is everyone either chooses their local team or the best one.

F: I don't know. I'm the opposite. The only sports teams I care about are the Pittsburgh Steelers just because I think that yellow and black are cool.

R: It's true.

F: and the Washington Wizards because they're never going to be good.

R: The Pittsburgh Steelers are cool.

F: I'm never betting on the best team because it is the Wizards. They are never going to be good. It's like betting on the Washington Generals.

R: Always bet on the Washington Generals.

F: Haha.

R: You just put a dollar down every time and then when you finally win it'll be like 10,000,000. That would be the most famous thrown game of all time The Washington Generals won so they could win a bet. The owner of the Globetrotters.

F: Put it on rain bet.

R: You've got to join the Globetrotters staff somehow and then bet on the Generals when they win.

F: You know what's funny? I've known folks that were involved in the Globetrotters.

R: Really?

F: Oh yeah. It is so interesting how choreographed really is. It's no different than professional wrestling that way. They are athletes but it is choreographed.

R: That makes sense for that team. My father believes that's true of all sports teams. He's kind of a crazy guy.

F: It's kind of like that King of The Hill episode. They have the baseball version of the Harlem Globe Trotters.

R: Haha.

F: Oh yeah.

I've been good. Playing a lot of Korg Minilogue. Mixing and producing a whole lot. Trying to pull creativity out of the ether and trying to find things I enjoy with it. For a while I was getting really burnt out on using a DAW and having a structured approach. A couple weeks ago I wrote a Christmas song in the middle of July for a buddy of mine that passed away last year. His name was Jason Hamerick. I got reached out to by a local record store.

They said hey we're doing a memorial album for him, would Domesticatrix like to do a song?

R: Haha.

F: So, I wasn't sure. I procrastinated and procrastinated. Day it was due I sat in front of my Minilogue and wrote the saddest synth pop song I could. It's called Make it Enough. I'll probably put it out. I've been thinking about it a while. I did

Stop last year which was a collection of all my demos from 2021-2024. I realized when I was thinking about it a couple months ago, there was some songs that didn't make it on there. Stuff that was for charity comps or stuff where I did a one off for a

buddy. You know, random bits and bops.

I was like let's take all of those and put them on a record so they're available.

R: Hell yeah.

F: There's some cool stuff on there. Some covers. A bunch of covers, covers of local bands' songs that I did for fun whenever I played with them. I pulled the bit where I play before them and then I play their song. When you're playing their own song. It's the ultimate power move.

R: It is.

F: To play a bands song before you play with them on the show. It was always cool. It was always fun. It was sort of this thing like, I'm going to do the funniest thing possible. Especially if you do D Beat and crust punk. Playing with three chord songs. I get the drummer to play something in the MIDI drum kit in exchange for a beer. Then I have the MIDI for it.

Yeah. Dungeon Synth is still a big passion of mine. I've been listening to it a lot lately. I mostly like Dino synth and lots of this one project called Sierra Online of all things.

R: Yeah?

F: They make old PC adventure game dungeon synth.

That's what it'd like to make. Really cool stuff. I'm really excited for the tour in September. It will be really from. It's with Indifferent and Muzzle Flash.

Muzzle Flash is a straight edge band from out your way. They are from North Carolina.

R: I'm not familiar.

F: They're cool. It'll be an interesting tour because we're an industrial punk band with saxophonists and no wave vibes.

R: Mmhmm.

F: Then it is a metal core band and a modern straight edge band. It's going to be a really interesting, mix bag of shows in a way. Like, we're going to see who shows up for what. I don't know if the kids who show up for metalcore are really going to enjoy what we're doing but we're going to do it anyway.

R: You'll be exposing them to the truth.

F: I hope so. Or I hope not, depending on the context.

R: Haha. Yeah. I didn't mean it that way.

F: Old Lyn-Z Way.

R: That was a pretty great conversation, I'd say.

F: I'd say so.

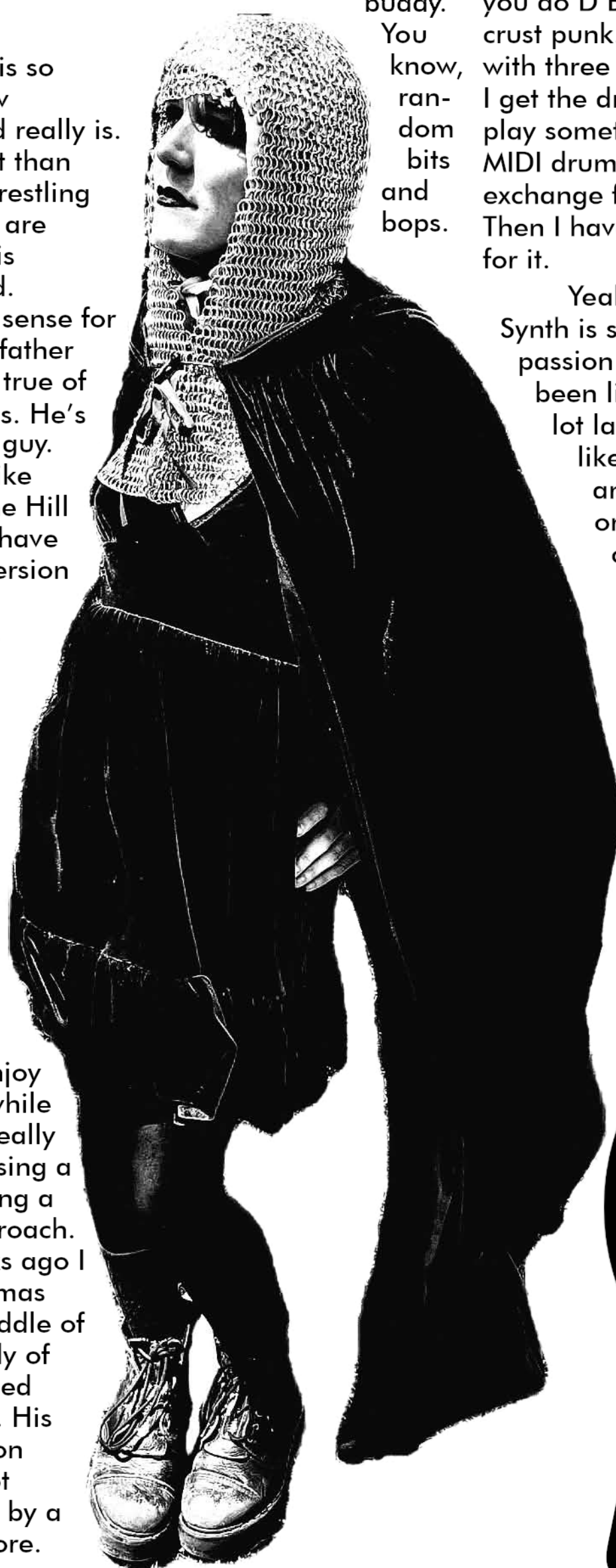
R: And it'll be in September 1 edition.

F: Perfect. R: The audio will be there after that later in the month. Gimme some pictures so I could get them up.

-END-



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ISSUES MAGAZINE INTERVIEW WARLOCK LUMPEN AKA EVILWIZARDDISTRO INTERVIEW BY ELLA SOLIS

E: What is your name and where are you based out of?

W: Hello, my name is Warlock Lumpen, I am based right now out of the piedmont triad of North Carolina.

E: Piedmont Triad!

Alright! What do you get into around that area?

W: Anything and everything.

E: Anything and everything!

W: Whatever I feel like doing at any given moment I just do it. I don't really give a fuck about nothing like that. But right now, at the, kinda, the title post public issues I'm doing a lot of anarchic activity right now because this area has needed it for a long time.

E: I completely agree with you- I used to live out in that area. When did you start **evilwizarddistro**?

W: I started it 2 years ago in 2024, I noticed there was a profound lack of any kind of counterinformation, <inaudible>, or people propagandizing for the anarchist movement so I decided to fill that niche out here and I've been doing that ever since. All I'm able to say is that I do a lot of 'zine distro and it's only gotten bigger over time, over the

two years and this project has—my own activity has not just resulted in more consciousness out here but also brand new contributions to the body of Neurocore and imagination which can be found in anarchy.

E: Yeah, it's complete freedom— I've always been a huge proponent (sic) of anarchy, I used to do a little folk punk but— what bolstered your spirit to continue on with **evilwizarddistro** I know social media can be daunting and hard for a lot of people?

W: Well, it's not just a social media based project. Obviously there is social media maintained and those that follow and are associated with the project will know how insane the social media presence is of myself and the project, but when it comes to social media hindering my own drive to act— it doesn't really do that for me. Because social media is not an active portrayal of how people act in real life, nor is social media I guess productive to making any kind of that could be revolutionary or radical, because social media keeps you trapped in it. It's like a

mind virus, social media doesn't really feel all that daunting for me but that's because I've consciously tuned it out. But it is hard sometimes, but I feel like the best solution for hopelessness, if that's what you're referring to, is being able to find a way

to move forward without hope. And that is entirely possible. You can keep going if you don't think things will get any better and that things are going to change.

E: Yeah, social media has a special way the algorithms do that show you the worst things you'd never want to see. How has it been an effective tool in promoting your magazine (sic, 'zines)?

W: Well, I don't publish a serialized magazine, but, it is an incredibly useful tool for carrying information in regard to theory and other activities locally and internationally. You can have a wide reach, unfortunately, a lot of the times with social media a lot of the times has a habit of shadow banning or straight up banning a lot of anarchists. A lot of my friends who are based elsewhere in the world like Greece or the pacific northwest have gotten their accounts banned for sharing information that social media doesn't want people to see. Overall, it provides a really good avenue to reach a lot of people, but you need to be careful not to get sucked into it.

E: I see, I see, I view it in a very similar way, for me social media's been a bit of a tool in inspiring me to create new things. But I wanted to ask more about the 'zines you distribute, where can people find them at?

W: Anywhere and everywhere. So, what I do is nothing new to the anarchist (inaudible), 'zine distro has been around since the 90s or so. Led by the anarchists, and today they're just all over the place. To the people who are reading they might even have a 'zine distro in their neighborhood. But even if you don't there's probably a few in your state or your county. To international readers there's probably some in your country.

Even if you don't know where to look there's websites where 'zine distros will host their publications and publications they agree with. You can even look on Reddit— People talk about zine distro on the anarchy subreddit. It's really quite easy to access some of the publications if you know where to look.

E: That is really cool! I really appreciate the tip about scouring reddit for it— that's something that didn't occur to me!

W: You're not going to find anything too spicy on reddit and obviously I'm not saying where to find spicy stuff cause you could find links to 'zine distros like Crimetline, warzone distro on reddit, these are household names for the zine distro projects so to speak. You can find that stuff on reddit, yea?

E: Awesome, awesome. So, you said you've been doing the distro for 2 years, what does the scale look like if that's okay with me asking?

W: What do you mean scale, which could mean a lot of things?

E: Well like do you distribute to libraries, basically, how are you getting the word out there?

W: So, I've been to a lot of places, I don't have any deals with libraries— I don't think they like me very much, but I do leave publications in libraries. I do think if you're going to libraries to read you might as well leave stuff there, but then the libraries won't want you. I do table a variety of places, I leave stuff around everywhere, most people know me as someone that tables DIY music show but that is merely a fraction of the reach that I try to move towards. I table DIY shows, like I said, I table pride events, I table free markets which are like

markets which are like gift— gift economy markets which has been really cool. I table out sitting on the sidewalk sometimes. I mean it's— I think when you are doing anything like this it's important to try to get a footing anywhere you can because you are very likely at some point to encounter an unlikely accomplice or ally in a place you wouldn't even expect. I mean a lot of people have a stereotype of where anarchists hang out in North America. While it is true that in North America anarchists hang out at punk shows— or at like vegan bakeries or something— they're everywhere. We are everywhere. So, you could find an ally in a place you wouldn't expect if you table the right place.

E: Right, where there's a will there's a way. I love that you leave little pieces of yourself everywhere you go that is really quite beautiful— W: Yeah, because I don't tie myself to the contract of love. I could easily one day decide I'm bored with this and stop doing it and that wouldn't mean I stopped being an anarchist. Which wouldn't mean I stop believing in the vision of it all. So individually I think there are a lot of benefits of leaving stuff around, and if it interests the readers or listeners of this, I encourage you, if you resonate with it, to leave pieces of your spirit like you said, wherever you can.

E: Yeah, yeah, I mean— Time is a finite resource and using it productively to uplift and promote people whose voices might not be heard, underrepresented

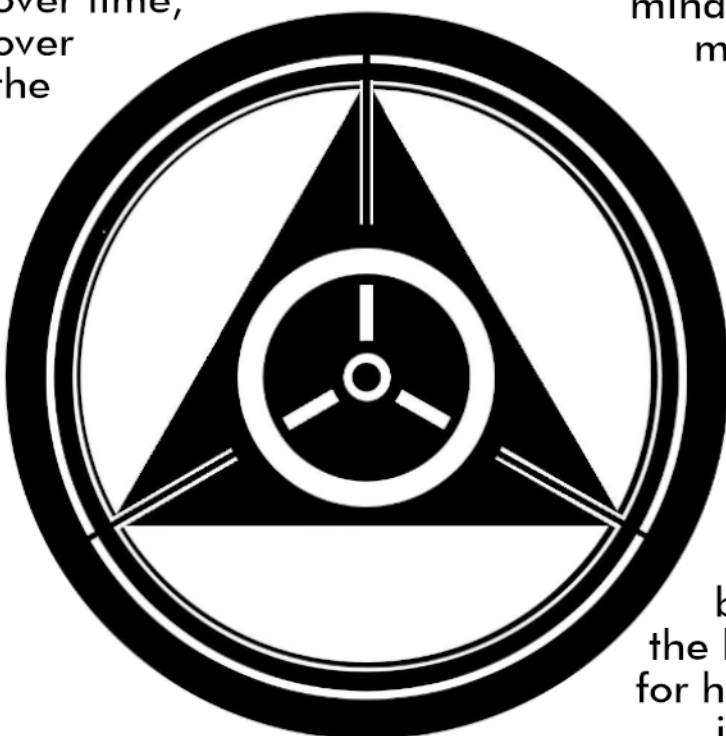
people, just anything is really quite beautiful and I'm very excited you're doing this and if you did grow tired of it that would be completely fine.

W: Yeah, I think a lot of people, when it comes to organizing or doing anything radical, they end up I guess hurting themselves in the projects they're a part of and I think it's incredibly important to the people involved in organizing to understand that you have overall so much potential to do amazing things. When you put too much into the same project, organization, anything like that.

You end up not serving the values which you hold but you end up serving whatever project that you've started or whatever project you're a part of. It becomes, to use a chaos magick term, it becomes an egregore of sorts, where it becomes an entity all on its own— possessing you. There's a really good zine about this called A Protectional Life by Wolfe Land Streicher. If there's anyone feeling intrigued by what I just said— I would recommend you read that because it goes into a lot more detail really beautifully I'd say, and I— that kind of thinking develops making your life into a revolutionary project instead of devoting yourself to an external one, alone.

E: A Protectional Life by Wolfe Land

CONTINUED



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WARLOCK LUMPEN

BY ELLA SOLIS CONCLUDED

E: Streicher. That sounds very beautiful. I can't wait to read it. I have a couple more questions, when did you first encounter a 'zine, like what got you hooked on em?

W: So, it was a few years ago, when I say that I mean like when I was a teenager, which feels so strange, feels like it was so long ago but so little time. I found a 'zine that was published by a distro called the Gravel Distro, if you guys like the tree of life and hedonism—it's a 'zine about herbal medicine making and I read it and it introduced some ideas to me that I hadn't thought about at the time because at the time I was kind of a baby anarchist, communist, whatever I didn't really have the right terms. But that 'zine was so specific that I started looking more into that distro. I saw they had published zines on a variety of topics such as; an introduction to anarchy, day guides, theory about anarchism, and at the time, like I said, I hadn't even known that these ideas existed. So, when I thought— I was like, damn! This is—different. This is a different kind of world I've just entered. At that point it was just like, the floodgates had opened and I started finding all these different zine distros out there like warzone, who I am good friends with to this day, like CrimethInc., other places like that where these counter informational sphere propagated this almost devilish theory really. It was obviously very impactful. Outside of anarchist 'zines I hadn't really encountered punk 'zines, so after that, because I hadn't gotten into the punk scene, but the punk 'zines were really important too, I have a copy of crust war and that was pretty tight. A lot of the punk 'zine aesthetic was collage art and it's really impactful to the things I publish—artistically, visually. And that's what a lot of anarchist 'zines lack is the collage art style but know I like to do the punk collages and use them in my 'zines I think they look really cool. Anyways that's how I

encountered my first 'zine.

E: That is really cool, I think my story is very similar, I encountered 'zines at a punk show and I started reading. I haven't distributed much besides ISSUES, I did want to ask another couple questions, what are your favorite 3 'zines ever?

W: Ever? Oh that's— That is a loaded question because there's a lot. To start, one of my favorite zines ever because of how influential it was overall to both punk and anarchy was the zine: "Inside Front." just the whole magazine. Inside Front was a hardcore punk magazine from the 80s and 90s and it's actually how CrimethInc. and what we know of today as contemporary North American anarchy came into fruition at least somewhat. Being interested in the history of hardcore punk and how North American anarchists scene tended to be I would definitely recommend checking out Inside Front, definitely worth the read, legendary punk scene, legendary anarchist 'zine.

Second favorite of all time is the zine Against The Logic of Submission by Wolfe Landstreicher, the writer I mentioned earlier. It is a mainstay when I do 'zine distro. I think it's an incredibly important read for anarchists in the 21st century, no matter where you are, for a number of reasons but mainly because it approaches the modern era in a way that a lot of other tendencies don't. Because it's really easy for people to view space or power structures as these monolithic entities, but that's not quite how they operate. They are not singular entities that are isolated. They are the objects of revolutionary struggle. The world we see today is a network of domination and power that permeates all aspects of life. Those familiar with the situations in France in the mid 20th century know that they kinda laid the ground work for this kind of analysis but publications like Against The Logic of Submission took it one step further and applied it to the modern day— and

PROMPT

CARL KRUGER WITH AI

1. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Mark Twain.

Total Information Awareness is a marvelous invention, for it promises to know everything about a man except whether he has any business being watched. The government assures us that such knowledge will make us safer, which is precisely the sort of comforting sentence that makes a sensible citizen reach for the door. Give a bureaucracy the power to know everything, and sooner or later it will discover that ignorance was the one liberty it ought to have preserved.

2. Compose a three sentence critique of

as to how we might approach revolution in the 21st century. That'd be another one I'd recommend. It's a really easy one to find. The third one, the third zine I recommend out of my all-time favorites, I would say that would be: I'd say it'd be Goblin Mode by the Anarchy Rizzler. I remember— That was one my distro published, I remember I got sent that one and read it and was like holy shit what the fuck did I just read cause this kid was talking about ski bidi toilet and fanum taxing the feds. I thought it was a crazy ass read, but I never thought that he would have the impact he did. I won't go into too much detail about that but right now that's one of my favorite books. That— I don't think the Rizzler knew what he was getting himself into when he wrote that. E: (laughing) I can't wait to read it, I can't wait to read it. Um, do you happen to have any other closing thoughts you wanted to leave the audience with?

W: Do what you want—don't let anyone tell you how to live your life, your life is your own, it's your one life, don't waste it. Do whatever you want, take chances, take risks, don't Fear death.

-END-

total information awareness in the style of George Carlin.

Total Information Awareness is what happens when the government decides privacy is just a suspicious-looking form of freedom. They tell you, "Don't worry, we're collecting everything to keep you safe," because apparently the safest place for your entire life is inside a database controlled by people you never invited into it. And if you object, congratulations—you've just provided the system with another piece of information.

3. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Tim Heidecker.

Total Information Awareness is this really great idea where the government knows everything about you, which is good because apparently you weren't doing a very good job being yourself. And they say it's all about safety, which is a very reassuring thing to hear right before someone builds a giant machine that remembers what you did in 2007.

Honestly, if you have nothing to hide, you should be thrilled that somewhere in Virginia there's a computer that knows you bought batteries and watched a video about raccoons.

4. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Emo Phillips.

Total Information Awareness like a babysitter who says, "Don't worry, I'm watching everything you do," and then quietly locks the door. They say it's for our safety, which is wonderful, because I've always felt safest when strangers keep detailed records of my private life. Personally, I'd rather have my government know less about me, but apparently ignorance is no longer considered a constitutional right.

5. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Eddie Murphy.

Total Information Awareness is basically the government saying, "We love freedom so much, we're gonna keep a file on every

damn thing you do!" They tell you, "Don't worry, it's only there to protect you," and I'm thinking, "From who—the people who already know where I live, what I buy, who I call, and what I'm watching?" And if watching everybody makes us safer, then hell, why stop there—put a camera in my refrigerator and let Uncle Sam know I'm out of milk!

6. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Penn & Teller.

Total Information Awareness is a spectacular trick: convince the audience that collecting everyone's private information is the same thing as protecting everyone from danger. The government waves the word safety around like a magician waving a handkerchief, hoping nobody notices what the other hand is taking. The real illusion is making surveillance look like freedom simply because the people being watched are told it's for their own good.

7. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Bill Hicks.

Total Information Awareness is the beautiful idea that freedom works best when someone is standing behind you with a clipboard, recording every thought, purchase, conversation, and movement. They call it "security," because apparently if you put a warm enough word on a surveillance state, people will forget to ask who's holding the camera. And the great joke is that we're told this machinery exists to protect us from tyranny while quietly building the exact machinery tyranny would love to inherit.

8. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Don Rickles.

Total Information Awareness is a beautiful idea: let the government know everything about you, because apparently your privacy was taking up too much space.

They say it's for your safety, sweetheart, which is adorable coming from the people building a file on your phone calls, purchases, and late-night searches. Don't worry, citizen—they're not spying on you, they're just paying an incredible amount of attention to your boring little life.

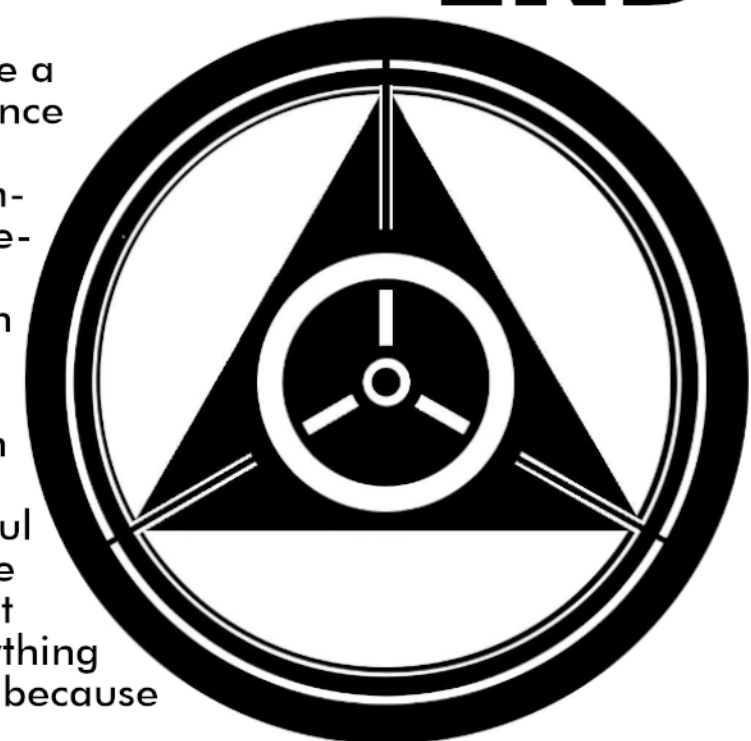
9. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Rudy Ray Moore.

Total Information Awareness is some mighty foolish business, telling you they need to know everything about you just so they can keep you safe from everything they don't know. They want your calls, your purchases, your movements, your business—man, pretty soon they'll want to know what you dreamed about last Tuesday night. And when somebody wants that much information about you, you'd better ask who's watching the watchers, because that's where the real trouble starts.

10. Compose a three sentence critique of total information awareness in the style of Mel Brooks.

Total Information Awareness is the government's brilliant new plan to protect you by knowing absolutely everything about you, because apparently nothing says "freedom" like a bureaucrat checking your lunch order. "Relax, citizen!" they cry, while building a gigantic machine capable of remembering every phone call you made since breakfast. It's all perfectly harmless, of course—right up until the guy running the machine decides he'd like to know what you were thinking.

-END-



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GUIDED MEDITATION

BY LEXX SAINT LEONARD

Today we're going to do a guided meditation. We're going to embark on a scrying ritual together.

Scrying is a form of meditative contemplation, a crosscultural, ancient form of divination using a reflective surface to discern visions. It's like reading tea leaves or gleaning insight from your dreams. For this mediation you will need to sit in front of a mirror by candle light. We will form an intention and seek an answer in the patterns

we interpret from the mirror. Let's breathe deep together, and then we'll begin. The first step to any ritual is cleansing the space. This will clear out any malicious energy that has been lingering and create an intentional place for going deeper together. You should make sure to wipe down the mirror you're using before delving into this practice. Imagine an expanse of shining bright light. Breathe now. We're going to set our intention. Listen to your body and

get in touch with your soul's true desire. Where are you holding tension and what does that tension tell you? Where are you noticing confusion or stagnation? Is there something your heart is seeking or calling out for? What kind of energy would you like to invite into your life? In the answer to these questions you will find your intention for this ritual. Breathe deeply with me, feel your body, observe the messages that are coming up from your subconscious. Do you have a question you would like to ask

yourself? Do you have an affirmation you would like to instill in your heart? Let's set our intentions together in our deep breath. As we sit with our bodies let the intention permeate you, move it through you and reverberate with it. If you can't select an intention you can use this process to peer into yourself, to listen to that voice in the center of yourself that knows yourself fully. To induce trance it's important to focus on your breathing. Make sure you're breathing in through your diaphragm and letting your belly fill up with air. Then, when you exhale, it's

important that you breathe out slowly, ever slower, trying to lengthen your exhale each time you breathe. Gaze into the mirror and notice the patterns. Relax your gaze, let your vision fall out of focus, breathe with it. Do not try to assign meaning or draw conclusions too soon. Unfocus your eyes and observe the patterns as a whole. At first it will appear like nonsense, don't try to make sense of it now, just notice. Contemplate. Look into the mirror like you're interpreting clouds on a sunny day. Now let your eyes begin to focus on what you see. Do you

notice any images in the patterns that arise? Don't pass judgement quite yet, observe the images like you're walking in a dream. Breathe deeply and zero in. Imagery may be personal and subjective, it may connect to memories or cultural symbols. What do you see and what does it mean for you? Take some time to jot down some drawings or words about the forms you saw while it's fresh in your mind. This will help you remember in the future when you're reflecting on this wisdom offered up from the heart of the universe.

-END-

ASTROBOT 3000 ASTROLOGY

Aries-

You may feel especially motivated to take the lead and turn a long-standing idea into action. Trust your instincts, but remember that patience and cooperation can

bring even better results.

Taurus-

This is a good time to slow down and focus on what genuinely makes you feel secure and fulfilled. Steady choices in relationships and finances will serve you better than impulsive decisions.

Gemini-

Your curiosity is heightened, making this an excellent time for conversations, learning, and meeting interesting people. Just be careful not to spread. Yourself too thin by saying yes to everything that catches your attention.

Cancer-

Your emotions may be stronger than usual, helping you recognize what you truly need from the people around you. Make time for home, family, and the relationships that allow you to feel comfortable being yourself.

Leo-

You are likely to attract attention naturally, so use your confidence to inspire others rather than simply seeking recognition. An opportunity to showcase your creativity or leadership could appear when you least expect it.

Virgo-

You may be tempted to fix everything at once,

but choosing one priority will help you make meaningful progress.

Give yourself permission to enjoy some spontaneity instead of expecting everything to go perfectly.

Libra-

A decision you've been postponing may become easier once you stop worrying about pleasing everyone involved.

Honest communication can help bring greater balance to both your relationships and your personal life.

Scorpio-

Your intuition is especially strong, and you may sense that something important is changing beneath the

surface. Rather than forcing an answer, allow circumstances to reveal what you need to know.

Sagittarius-

A desire for adventure may push you toward a new experience, project, or change of scenery. Follow the excitement, but pair your enthusiasm with a realistic plan.

Capricorn-

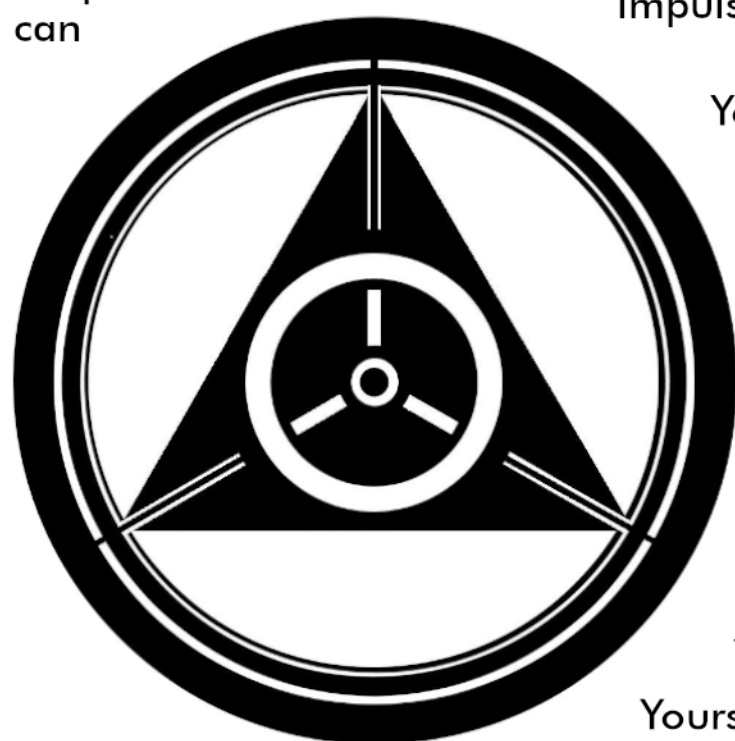
Your determination is helping you make progress, even if the results are arriving more slowly than you hoped. Remember that success isn't only about productivity, so make time for rest and meaningful connections.

Aquarius-

An unusual idea could turn into something surprisingly useful if you give it enough attention. Surround yourself with people who encourage your originality rather than asking you to fit into expectations.

Pisces:-

Your imagination is especially vivid today, making it an excellent time for creativity, reflection, and heartfelt conversations. Trust what your intuition is telling you, while giving yourself enough space to separate genuine insight from temporary emotion.



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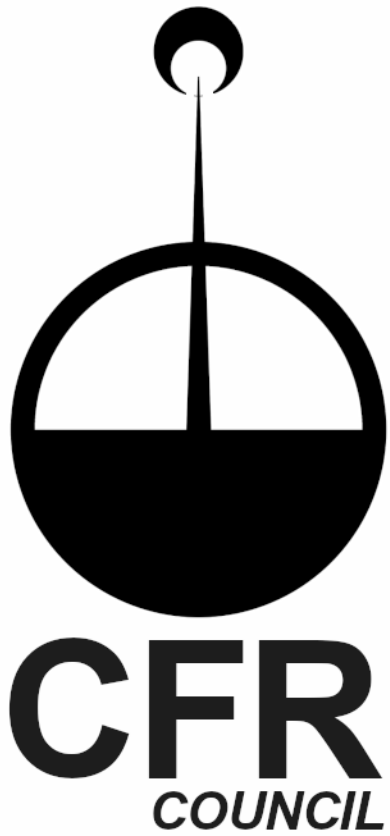
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