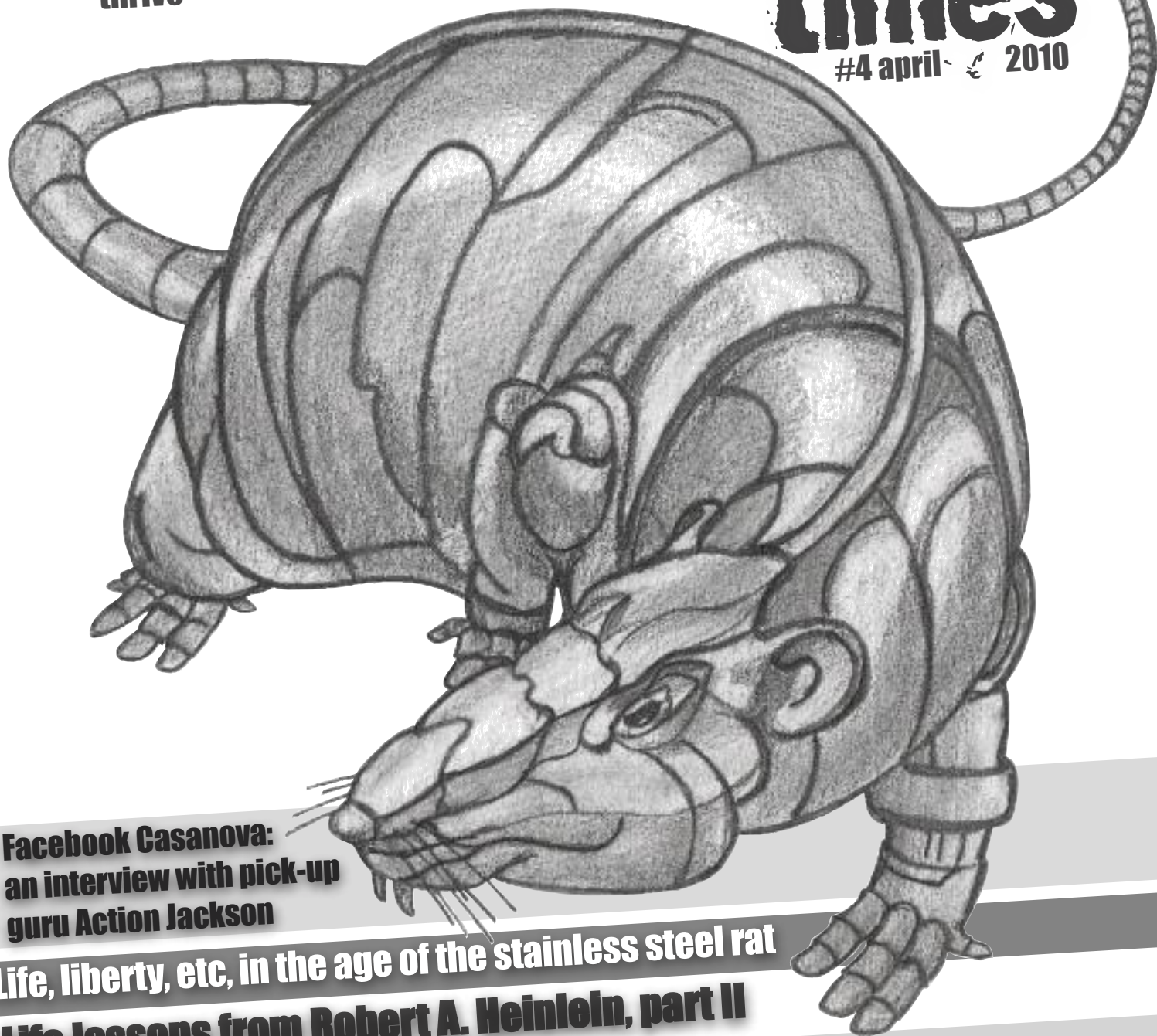


interesting

survive and
thrive

times

#4 april 2010



Facebook Casanova:
an interview with pick-up
guru Action Jackson

Life, liberty, etc, in the age of the stainless steel rat

Life lessons from Robert A. Heinlein, part II

Cyberpunk Tribes: From networks to phyles

Cybergeddon: thoughts on the coming Sino-Anglo showdown

CHAOTIC NEUTRAL: AHA'S LIFE, LIBERTY, ETC. IN THE AGE

Twenty-ten, fuckers!

We are now officially living in the science-fiction future. And it scares the shit out of me, and makes me cream my pants at the same time. Polish my nuts and serve me a milkshake, for we are in for one wild ride!



These days I am thinking about this whole movement we are creating, geared around surviving and thriving in the modern world. It's not really a movement yet though, mostly a loose collection of weird Internet misfits. But it's getting there. I am reminded of Harry Harrison's classic of fine literature, *The Stainless Steel Rat*, in which the protagonist, James "Slippery Jim" diGriz, expounds:

"...We must be as stealthy as rats in the wainscoting of their society. It was easier in the old days, of course, and society had more rats when the rules were looser, just as old wooden buildings have more rats than concrete buildings. But there are rats in the building now as well. Now that society is all ferrocrete and stainless steel there are fewer gaps in the joints. It takes a very smart rat indeed to find these openings. Only a stainless steel rat can be at home in this environment..."

Now, this is supposedly like 30 000 years into the future, not to mention a work of fiction, but I feel that these words ring pretty damn true today. I can sympathise with the guy: he's a smart and capable individual in a boring society with no real options left for his kind. He doesn't drop out of society because it's too hard or whatever, like a garden-variety slacker: no, he does it because he's slowly dying of boredom and finds himself discarded by an aimless society mostly interested in paperpushing and hamsterwheeling. He becomes a gentleman thief and roams the galaxy in search of adventure.

MONTHLY(I SH) EDITORIAL

OF THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT

Me, I ram down cheap vodka and watch American Pie 7 for the 20th time. But it's the same escapist sentiment basically.

Become a rat?, you ask. Sure, I'd rather be a lion too, but that's a sure-fire way to get yourself made extinct. Or put in a zoo cage and prodded by snotty brats. If rats we must be, then let's stop whining and fucking do it. Let's become like Slippery Jim: always eluding the powers that be, slipping through the cracks, existing on the fringes of the gray market, enjoying life, and doing it all with impeccable style.

What this boils down to, and what we try to provide here at Interesting Times:

1. Survive. Everything from self defense to gardening to fortification.

2. Thrive. Learning how to tap into the vast resources out there by learning entrepreneurship, social engineering, lifestyle design, marketing, networking, etc.

3. Resistance. Let's face it, the powers that be are trying to crush us and we need to do something about it. Fighting back requires a knowledge of the enemy's modus operandi as well as a grasp of tactics, strategy, history, geopolitics, cyberwar, memetics, etc.

4. Camaraderie/community. How to win friends and influence people, in a nutshell.

5. Epic shit. I think we should all try to cram in as much quality hedonism as possible. Survivalism is good but if your life is about as fun as a Swedish social realist movie then you have a problem.

6. The big picture. Finding your purpose/drive/motivation/mojo/whatever through personal growth.

7. Hawt babes. Why not, eh? They smell

good and make you happy. They're also the reason you are here to read this in the first place. I think people who call me shallow haven't really thought things through. Of course, there's also a far more sinister reason these sleazebags called pick-up artists fascinate me so. Those who have seen the true face of the modern houllebecqian sexual market, know that it is a ticking tac-nuke. Witness the shock of impact that the arrival of the topic of Game caused in the political blogosphere in the late 00's. If you are unblinded by feminist dogma and corporate niceism/liespretendism, then you know that the zeitgeist of today is Sodini. Yes, on the level of superficial trappings, the whole PU community is absolutely ridiculous. But then again, the Catholic Church gets away with funny hats and nerdy/arcane lingo...

Apparently, this isn't a clear enough picture, and people get hung up on certain details instead of seeing the grand vision. Which means we've been getting all kinds of people calling us a macho men's mag. Fine. Whatever. I'm down with that. Only, forget about Ferraris and pictures of Megan Fox's breaststesses. We're the ones teaching you how to GET Megan Fox. And we're gonna give you POWER ARMOR with fuckin' JET PACKS. See if that doesn't cure your mid-life crisis.

Now is the time to get in on the action! Right now you are only a few e-mails away from joining our organization. That is likely to change very soon. Right now we're just a bunch of low-level scam-

mers offering people the world and then some, but soon it'll actually come true, I tell ya! We're going to have people with rum & cokes running around in power armor doing our greasy deeds dirt cheap. Monthly luxury cruises on our own fleet of fully-equipped decadent warships (hey, another cult pulled it off...) Editorial meetings where we slam cheap vodka and do body-herring off of Elisha Cuthbert. Underground EMP-weapons factories, financed by questionable passive income from the Internet. An arnoldesque throne room with me giving sage advice, much eurodisco music, and Swedish college chicks pouring liquor and love into your mouth. Ninjas who know how to twirl. And fuckin' furrienauts in space and fembots in your bedroom. All this and more, if you order now!!!

So yeah, we live in a pretty damn scary time, and we're pretty much headed for deep impact. Express elevator to hell. You have three choices here: either you take the blue pill and keep vegging out, or you go batshit insane. Or... and this is the interesting option... you decide to make a stand and inject some pattonesque gusto into the struggle. Irrational confidence is pretty much par for the course here. Optimism conquers, pessimism is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Cheer the hell up and grow a boner for whatever you hold dear. Apathy is not an option. As they say: Illegitimi non carborundum.

Don't let the bastards grind you down.

We're the ones teaching you how to GET Megan Fox. And we're gonna give you POWER ARMOR with fuckin' JET PACKS. See if that doesn't cure your mid-life crisis.

info

Interesting Times is a self-help magazine for extreme people, helping you survive and thrive in the cyberpunk future of today. Headquartered in Sweden, the magazine provides a unique perspective on the current age of possibility, where every new happening holds the potential for both disaster and groundbreaking success.

The magazine aims to implement total world domination using a shock & awe toolbox of positive thinking, power armor and pornstar girlfriends, edifying the reader with an eclectic mix of interesting subjects including lifestyle design, preparations for the post-apocalypse, and the pursuit of superhuman fitness through batmanesque bodyhacking.

Building better bad-asses is our main objective and we aim to please.

The suck stops here!

Interesting Times, in the trenches at all your base since 2009!

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index

- 6** Adventure dad
- 7** Life lessons from the far-flung future: What science fiction has taught me about life in the modern world
- 8** Life lessons from Robert A. Heinlein, part II
- 10** Review: The Art of Shen Ku: The Ultimate Traveler's Guide of this Planet AKA The First Intergalactic Artform of the Entire Universe
- 12** Cyberpunk tribes: from networks to phyles
- 16** Id theft Opsec: "The most important question for 2010 is not IF but WHEN!"
- 18** The new arms race: Staying ahead of the curve in the pick up community
- 22** Fat gripz: a review
- 23** Wanted
- 24** Cybergeddon: thoughts on the coming Sino-Anglo showdown
- 26** White boy warfare or the "military horizon"
- 30** Master of facebook: an interview with pick-up guru Action Jackson
- 36** Counter-insurgency lessons for the modern first world citizen
- 42** Food Production Systems for a Backyard or Small Farm
- 44** Medical Tradecraft: What you need to know to make it – or fake it

adventure dad

text RONALD EAGLIN

One of the greatest challenges I find in my life is the balancing act of work, play, dad, husband, and adventurer. My main hobby of adventure racing is a hugely time consuming hobby, requiring a large time commitment to training and also learning – including re-certification of skills necessary to race. If you plan to follow this path, then you really are going to also make a commitment to time management. Also you'll need to learn to juggle doing multiple tasks at once – so here are some things that work for me.

1. combine transportation with workouts

For me this means biking to work. If I do not have meetings in any particular day that require a car – I am going to ride my bike the 10 miles to work, regardless of weather (barring extreme weather). For me this is riding to the gym about 1/2 mile from my office, working out, showering, and making it in fresh and ready to go.



2. get involved in your kids sports

My kids (girls aged 11 and 12) play soccer, football, run cross country, and are basically fully involved in sports. When they play – I play. I coach the soccer team, which is a solid workout in and of itself. Since workouts are the most time consuming part of maintaining an adventure regimen, these two will help.

3. get rid of tv

You can still watch some shows, but the average American wastes 4-5 hours of their life A DAY watching TV. These are usually the same folks who complain to me that there is never enough time. Go figure.

4. involve the family

Much of the adventure life style involves going to out of the way places, these are always great places to involve the wife and kids. They may not partake of the extreme part of the adventure, but there are almost always other things to do.

5. let family choose for themselves

The family will usually choose to do things with you, but let them off the hook on the most extreme activities. At some point they will be ready, but let them choose. Practical examples are not to push you kids to do black diamond ski slopes, let a qualified ski instructor take them when they are ready. I've found that my kids have progressed through a lot of fear and now go extreme mountain biking with me and are starting to like climbing. They are picking up other activities as they get older.

I'm still learning a lot as a dad, and I've learned a lot from other fathers who share the spirit of adventure. There will be times when you will sacrifice what you want to do, but there will be rewards that will far outweigh these small sacrifices.

Ronald Eaglin has previously written about Adventure Racing and 2010 predictions in issue 3 of Interesting Times. His blog can be found at eaglinar.blogspot.com

Life lessons from the far-fung future:

text XENOVALENT

What science fiction has taught me about life in the modern world

I read a lot of science fiction – some people might say that I was obsessed with these fictional futures. But I am not interested in the Utopian societies seen in Star Trek. I'm more interested in the dirty, gritty pseudo-realities found in cyberpunk, and universes in which the aliens are as likely to shoot first and ask questions as the bad guys in a spaghetti western.

So to follow up on the two pieces we've had about what you can learn from reading Robert Heinlein's works, I thought I'd pull some of my favorite quotes from other science fiction sources. I hope you'll find them as insightful as I do, and go seek out the original source. (The science in the sources may be dated, but the stories are about people, not about the science.)

You'll notice that several authors are repeated throughout this article – that's because they're the ones I find most insightful. I'm not going to add any commentary to these – hopefully they all speak for themselves.

"Anything you don't understand is dangerous until you do understand it."

Larry Niven, Flatlander

"You can't get any movement larger than five people without including at least one fucking idiot."

Kim Stanley Robinson, Green Mars

"A beginning is the time for taking the most delicate care that the balances are correct."

Frank Herbert, Dune

"'Nell' the Constable continued, indicating, through his tone of voice that the lesson was concluding, 'the difference between stupid and intelligent people – and this is true whether or not they are well-educated – is that intelligent people can handle subtlety. They are not baffled by ambiguous or even contradictory situations – in fact, they expect them and are apt to become suspicious when things seem overly straightforward.'"

Neal Stephenson, The Diamond Age

"Never underestimate the determination of a kid who is time rich and cash poor."

Cory Doctorow, Little Brother

"Half of wisdom is learning what to unlearn."

Larry Niven, The Ringworld Throne

(Yes, I know not one but two similar quotes are in the Heinlein article. It's important.)

"Shared pain is lessened; shared joy, increased – thus do we refute entropy."

Spider Robinson, Callahan and Company

"Ask the next question, and the one that follows that, and the one that follows that."

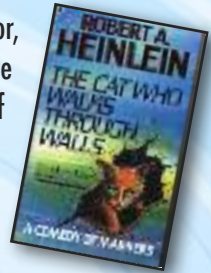
Theodore Sturgeon, in an interview

"You have many years to live – do things you will be proud to remember when you're old."

John Brunner, Stand on Zanzibar

Life lessons from Robert A.

text XENOVALENT



Included in *Interesting Times* issue 2 was an article titled "Life Lessons from Robert A. Heinlein". The author, Dusty, quoted a number of things that demonstrated Heinlein's philosophy and attitudes toward life quite well. Anybody who is a fan of Heinlein is a decent person in my book, and no doubt the IT editorial staff gave him a limit on how long the article should be, so as much as I would like to I can't find fault with

Dusty for leaving out a number of things that I felt should have been included.

AHA mentioned that he'd like a "part II" article written, I jumped at the chance — being a Heinlein fan,

I think that any excuse to re-read the master's works is a good one, and I was two-thirds of the way through *The Puppet Masters* at the time anyway. Now I will no doubt fall even further behind on the other reading I've been meaning to do while I get this project completed.

Dusty starts off with a quote that he felt "might be at least part of the foundation of the rest of the stuff I'll quote later builds upon." I'll also begin with a similar quote that I believe acts as a foundation stone for the quotes I'll provide:

"How can I possibly put a new idea into your heads, if I do not first remove your delusion?"

Life-Line (1939)

Let's see that a second time, reworded in one of Heinlein's later works:

"The hardest part about gaining any new idea is sweeping out the false idea occupying that niche. As long as that niche is occupied, evidence and proof and logical demonstration get nowhere. But once the niche is emptied of the wrong idea that has been filling it — once you can honestly say, 'I don't know', then it becomes possible to get at the truth."

The Cat Who Walks Through Walls (1985)

In some cases it is quite literally impossible for someone to accept a fact — even as it stares them in the face — because it does not

fit into their mental model of how the universe works (or rather, is supposed to work). It is therefore necessary to alter or remove their current mental model in order for them to accept the facts and move on. People who are unable to make this kind of shift — and there are many of them out there — inevitably become barriers to progress in any organization or society. Avoid them if possible. If you can't avoid them, detour around them where possible. If it's not possible to get things done around them — get out of that organization, put it behind you and don't worry about it. The world will change around them and they will be made obsolete — much like print newspapers and major recording labels in today's world.

"I used to think I was serving humanity... and I pleased in the thought. Then I discovered that humanity does not want to be served; on the contrary it resents any attempt to serve it."

Stranger in a Strange Land (1961)

People don't want their ideas on how the world works shaken up. It's an emotional disaster on the scale of an earthquake that registers 8.7 on the Richter scale; or the death of a loved one. Well, actually, it isn't, most peo-

ple just fight it like it would be. If you can change their minds — and that's a big *if* — then maybe you can get people to see the world as it is, rather than as they think it is. And once they have a clearer view of the world, they often find that the adjustment was easy and their lives are better afterwards.

"Progress doesn't come from early risers — progress is made by lazy men looking for easier ways to do things."

Time Enough For Love (1973)

Getting out of bed early — while some may, foolishly, enjoy it — may be necessary to accomplish certain things; but doing so does not guarantee that you will accomplish anything. Most of the platitudes that come from the business world are enough to make you want to take an ice pick to the brain of whoever quotes them at you (or possibly your own brain, if you've heard them enough times), but this is actually a better restatement of one: "Don't work *harder*, work *smarter*."

"Never let an oaf cause you to lose your judgement."

Job: A Comedy of Justice (1984)

Heinlein, part II

"So be the rugged individualist who builds log cabins in the woods, or lives alone in a 5000 square foot mansion, or whatever it is that *you* want to do"

Basically Heinlein's way of saying "Don't lose your cool." It's a lot easier to make mistakes — sometimes very bad ones — when you're hot-headed. Take your time, play it cool. Do things quickly if necessary; but never do something that you haven't considered the implications of. And keep in mind that appearing to "blow your top" may be the right course of action. Some days, being the angry customer shouting at the clerk gets you removed by security, other days it gets you prompt service. And blowing your top at a time that will get your ass kicked is exactly how *not* to be a bad ass.

"Do not confuse duty with what other people expect of you; they are utterly different. Duty is a debt you owe to yourself to fulfill obligations you have assumed voluntarily. Paying that debt can entail anything from years of patient work to instant willingness to die. Difficult it may be, but the reward is self-respect."

Time Enough For Love (1973)

If you're a bad ass — and if you're reading this article, you're probably well on your way — then you don't do anything unless you want to anyway. So why do anything that will diminish your self-respect? Usually because someone expects something of you — and the reasons you

don't want to do what other people expect is that those actions do nothing to further your personal goals. So be the rugged individualist who builds log cabins in the woods, or lives alone in a 5000 square foot mansion, or whatever it is that *you* want to do, only being concerned about how you see yourself, not how society sees you.

"In the course of a long life, a wise man will be prepared to abandon his baggage several times."

How to be a Survivor (1945)

Heinlein attributed this as an "old Chinese adage." I'm not so sure of the origin. (Of course, the title of this magazine could also be considered a reference to a Chinese curse of equal dubiousness.) But it's still good advice, and it doesn't apply only to literal, physical baggage.

Sometimes it is necessary to leave things (or people or relationships) behind because it is simply impossible, or too big of a risk, to go back and get them (or to drag them along a path that other people are not ready to go down); or perhaps because you're in too big of a hurry to haul things with you. This doesn't mean that you should abandon baggage — or projects — at the first sign of trouble. But look at the risks versus the advantages, and make your decisions logically rather than emotionally.

"There ain't no such thing as a free lunch."

The moon Is a Harsh Mistress (1966)

Often shortened to TANSTAAFL in Heinlein's



works. Anything "free" comes with a catch. Sometimes it is merely that the "free" pen contains advertising for the organization giving it away.

Sometimes, the "free" item or service is only available if you purchase another item or service — always at inflated cost. And damn near everything has at least one unrecoverable cost — your time. Don't let others misuse your time.

"Rub her feet."

Time Enough For Love (1973)

Heinlein's second-best piece of advice, ever; and probably the best piece of relationship advice he ever gave. Heinlein was married three times — the third marriage lasted until his death, a total of forty years. Apparently, he figured out how to make it work the third time around. I suspect this is part of his secret.

"Place your clothes and weapons where you can find them in the dark."

Time Enough For Love (1973)

Heinlein's best piece of advice, ever. After all, it's hard to rub her feet if one (or both) of you is dead.

review: **the art of shen ku:** text SHANE MITROVIC

Not every WOG* can bankroll all the kit and books they want, and as such, we learn to find deals. Surplus shops are great for getting pouches, ponchos and packs, but not so great for books.

The typical used book store is often a good start, but picked over. A store that is becoming more common is the warehouse discount book store. When new books are no longer new, and stores like Barnes and Noble or Chapters need to make shelf space, the books are typically returned to distributors. The distributors then sell bulk loads of books to warehouse discount book stores. It was in one of these warehouse book stores that I found "The Art of Shen Ku".



The Art of Shen Ku is a densely packed tome of tips, tricks and philosophy. The cover art along with the interior art leans more to the comic book or even cartoon style, often a detractor for many potential buyers. The entire book is printed in black and white.

So how does a book of herbal remedies, recipes, martial arts throws and basic sailing come to be printed all under one cover? To understand what the book is, we can skim the section about the author. The author, under the pen name of "Zeek" lost sight in one eye and damaged the other eye at a relatively young age of 15. From then on he was told by doctors to live a sedentary (see also boring) life. The author being a young stubborn British man, took working passage to Australia. From there he worked until he could buy a small boat. He sailed in an attempt to go around the world, but did not make it. He spent an undisclosed number of years working and sailing and now lives on a boat in the tropics.

I don't know about you, but the author sounds

like a grab life by the balls, hard as nails WOG to me. This is no manual or compendium written at arms length. Every recipe, every tip and every hard lesson in the book was lived by one man and here he is, passing it on to you, like a creepy grandfather you wish you had.

Down to brass tacks as they say. The main text of the book is collected into four main chapters. The Traveller, the Physician, the Sailor and the Martial Artist. While the titles help to loosely collect similar data and give you an idea of what's in them, the chapters are still very eclectic. Below I will give a capsule review of the chapters, but remember the information is packed in pretty tight and I cannot reference every topic covered in a chapter, only the larger multi-page topics.

the traveler

This chapter is about surviving the rigors of travel. The chapter starts with diagrams of suggested clothing modifications and then launches into a series of home remedies to help traveling ailments. Also included are

Published: 1999 **ISBN:** 0-399-52752-7

Author: Zeek **Pages:** 336

lists for basic survival kits and illustrated survival techniques (shelters, making fish hooks, collecting water). Not just focused on physical survival, the chapter gives some social survival skills with what I would call basic entertainment (jokes, magic tricks, quick games) and what I would call basic parlour tricks (palm reading, numerology, writing analysis).

the physician

I will start my capsule review of this chapter with a disclaimer. There is a lot of general information in this chapter, please know that this is not a be all and end all of medical advice, so before self medicating, please seek professional opinions. The medical advice contained in this chapter has a very oriental flavor to it. This can be seen in the extensive acupressure diagrams and descriptions. Other items included in this chapter are quick reference guides detailing vitamins (defi-

The Ultimate Traveler's Guide of this Planet AKA The First Intergalactic Artform of the Entire Universe

ciency symptoms and what they aid), natural cures and a quick reference for herbs. There is a few short sections on food and diet to control physical issues along with something called salt therapy, again natural type cures.

the sailor

At first glance, this chapter looks like it would be of the least value to the average WOG. The way this chapter is organized however, there is something in this chapter for everyone. Information ranges from knots and line repair, pest control, food storage (including plans for a DIY dehydrator) and some simple recipes (on a boat you don't have a full pantry).

In addition there are some more home remedies and basic first aid. As the name of this chapter implies, there is basic information on ship rigging, basic sailing, navigation

and anchoring your vessel. The majority of the sailing instruction has very useful diagrams.

the martial artist

Again another disclaimer. Life is not like a movie directed by Run Run Shaw. Expertise in a martial art cannot be gleaned from a text in a cool montage, so please keep that in mind for this chapter. The author takes a very basic approach to his chapters. The chapter gives you information on basic exercises, basic fighting tactics along with basic martial arts maneuvers. The chapter rounds out with more Asian health tips and macrobiotic diet tips.

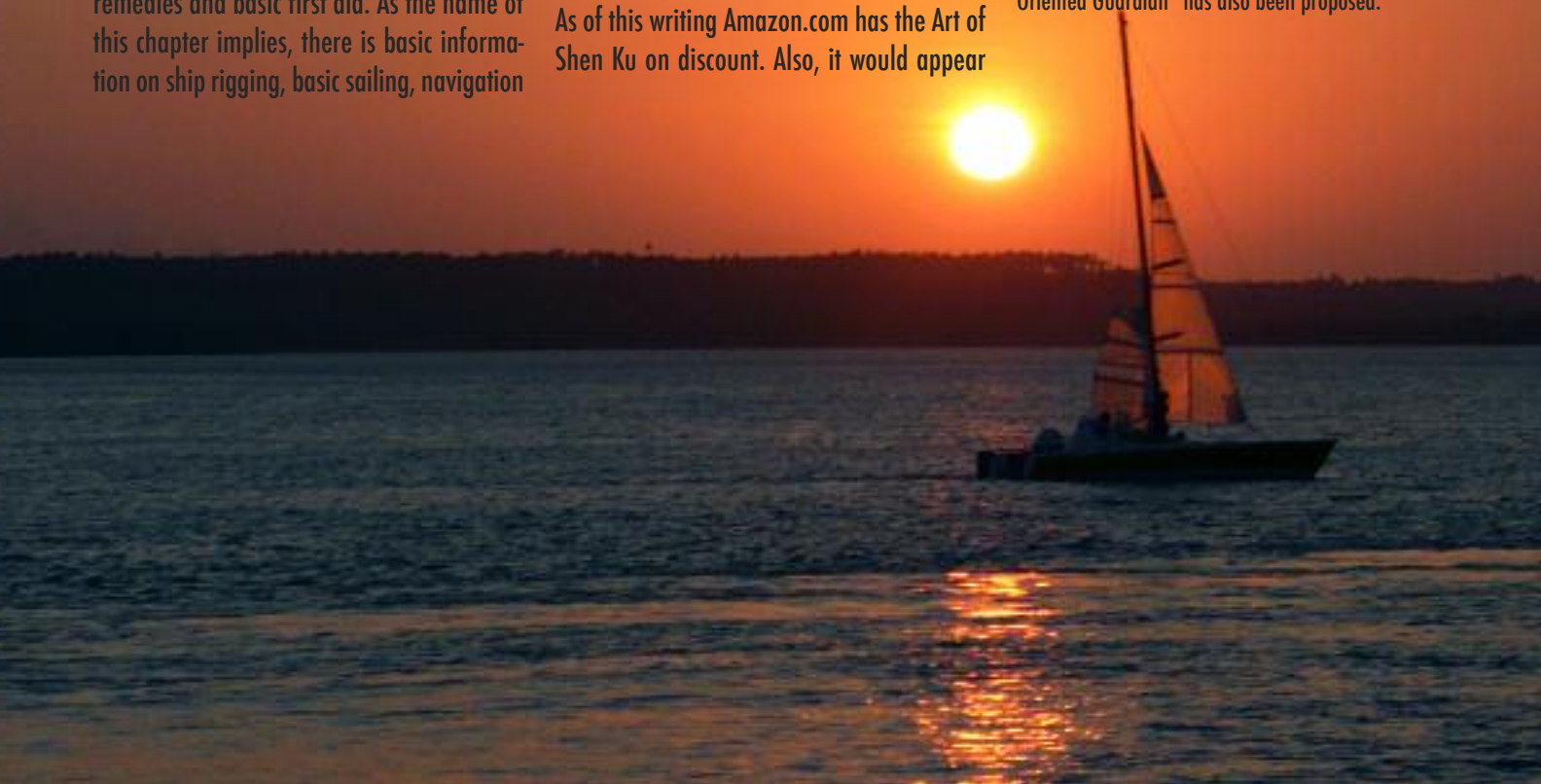
what's it all mean?

As of this writing Amazon.com has the Art of Shen Ku on discount. Also, it would appear

that the author himself has been working to put the book online (very slowly) at www.shenku.com. I am sure the more industrious WOGs could obtain electronic copies of the book.

As stated, the text is very dense. There is a lot to be learned from this book, and even on multiple reads, you may find a small tidbit you missed the first time. I would recommend that any WOG put this on their bookshelf, not as a standalone reference, but as a very solid foundation to guide future research on the topics contained in its pages.

* The term Sean Kennedy of Rantmedia (interview in issue 2 of Interesting Times) uses for his followers. It is theorized that he got it from the Scientologists, who use it as their term for non-members. "Wisdom Oriented Guardian" has also been proposed.



cyberpunk

text DAVID de UGARTE

The Internet is the great steroid jar of this century. Take the ethics of the lonesome Ivy League hackers of the 80's and set them loose on the web: in 15 years you will get Linux, Firefox, free music, the Public Domain movement and the end of the old culture industry. Take the old BBS, fanzines and fan conventions, move them to the Internet, and you will get the greatest conversational community boom since the Babel Tower.

When conversations take place in languages such as French, Spanish, or Arabic, they become transnational with great ease. Only 2 out of every 5 people who write in French on the Internet live in France. More than half the readers of any Madrid website with more than 1000 visitors per day are in Latin America. Arabic in the Western islamic world has gone, in ten years, from being a religious language superimposed onto regional, almost mutually unintelligible varieties (Moroccan, Algerian, etc.), to having a standard that is gradually reunifying the local dialects: Al Jazeera Arabic.

Virtual communities arise in new spaces, the spaces of the various globalisations associated with the great transnational languages. The main players in these communities belong to two generations that have grown up with Himanen's hacker ethic: the network logic of abundance and the work ethic of free software are the glue that binds the blogosphere. The result: conversational communities, identitarian, transnational non-hierarchical *tribes*, based on the powerful incentive that is recognition. Let us place

these communities in the midst of the whirlwind that is a world where national states are sinking and the globalisation of the economy is eroding all the good old institutions that used to make people feel secure. Many of these communities will wish to have their own economy, community companies and common funds.

Spanish cyberpunks went from cyberactivism and literature to constituting a group of cooperative enterprises straddling South America and Madrid. Their new banners: economic democracy, resilience, and transnationality. They changed names: now they are known as "Indianos", the Spanish word for the emigrant who would return to his home village after making his fortune in the Americas. Only that the Indianos' America has been the Internet, and their business has spread from consultancy to sustainable production or local development.

In these very same years, the Murides, the old pacifist Sufis from Senegal, went from

having a nationalist discourse and growing peanuts to constituting a community trade network with two million members that spreads from South Africa to Italy. Its transformation isn't over yet, but the young Murides have turned the *dairas*, the old Koranic schools, into urban communes that are also business cells.

At first blush, nothing could be farther apart than cyberpunks and the Murides. But the parallelism is significant: they are not companies linked to a community, but transnational communities that have acquired enterprises in order to gain continuity in time and robustness. They are **phyles**.

Phyles may function democratically and be co-operative-based, as in the case of the Indianos, or else they may have a small-business structure and even a religiously inspired ideology, as in the case of the Murides. But they share two key elements: they possess a transnational identity, and they subordinate their companies to personal and community needs.

Phyles are "order attractors" in a domain which states cannot

"The Internet is the great steroid jar of this century."

tribes:

from networks to phyles

reach conceptually and in areas that states increasingly leave in the dark: phyles invest in social cohesion, sometimes even creating infrastructures, providing grants and training, and having their own NGOs. Transnational thinking allows them to access the new globalised business before anyone else. A phyle's investment portfolio may range from renewable energies to PMCs, from free software initiatives to credit cooperatives. Their bet is based on two ideas. First: transnational is more powerful than international. Second: in a global market the community is more resilient than the "classic" capitalist company.

Winning a bet in the cyberpunk and post-modern world we live in nowadays amounts to nothing but resisting and thriving. In order to do so, one must truly belong in this world, truly love its frontiers. Phyles are the children of its explorers: of free software, virtual communities, cyberactivism, and the globalisation of the small. Maybe because of this, they are indubitably winning their bet.

DIY in 12 steps

1. Do you have a real community?

Communities emerge, they are not artificially made. That means interaction and identity. Taking part in someone's blog or having common interests doesn't automatically provide that. So first step is to ask yourself if you really have a community or a contact list. Size doesn't matter: a community of three persons can grow, a thousand persons spamming each other with Facebook or Twitter status updates are useless even as a starting point.

2. Build a private conversation space

Deliberation is what really matters in community building, so open a mailing list, a private newsgroup or a closed web forum. Start discussing and learning together.

3. A blog for each member

Private talking will transform personal blogs: they will be the origin of new proposals for the mailing list and the places where the conclusions will confront the *external world*. Having personal windows for contrasting with the world what you cook within your network is the best vaccine against narrow thinking or sectarian leaders.

4. Meet together

Community building is trust building. Meeting all together used to be difficult – especially if there are members on different continents – but meeting with some other members has to be on everyone's task list. Having a beer or lunch will make it easier to discuss virtually later.

5. A blog aggregator for all

Build an aggregator for all of the community's blogs, show the conversations to the world, expose your community to criticism as well as new ideas and influences. Accept that others talk about your network as "you". Identity emerges not only as an endogenous process but also as a kind of external recognition.

6. Write periodically a paper with the consensus you reach

Almost once a year, write a paper with your common approach to reality and your visions of the future. The important thing is not the ideas or proposals themselves but the exercise of consensus reaching.

7. Take your time

Time is on your side. Time is necessary for maturing, will make it easier for the less interested to leave, will develop connections between closer members, and will allow clusters to form inside the community. Time will let you learn the two key lessons of deliberative communities:

- **Not everyone goes in the same direction.** Plurarchy is the cement of deliberative communities. Not everyone has to agree about everything always. It's not always necessary to achieve consensus, as it's even worse to artificially produce scarcity by voting on differences. Learning to live with plurarchy is the key experience necessary to becoming a phyle. It's not about extreme individualism: on the opposite, it's about sharing and developing a common identity from the everyday practice of complete personal independence.

- **The goal is not to remain together but to learn more.** The nation-state has taught us that a group is more important the more members it has. At the end of the day it produces the thinking of a proselytist sect: easy to become a member, emotional chantage if you want to exit. Be just the opposite! To separate, to go out, to stop being part, or to come back to membership doesn't have to be explained, it has to be as easy as possible. Members' state of mind is not the community's business. You are a conversational, deliberative community: there is no cost for the remaining members when someone leaves, so don't impose costs on the members who want to separate

from the group for a while or forever. Becoming a new member on the other hand, has to be approved by the consensus of actual members. Expel proselytism from your mind.

8. Identity becomes defined by conversation and learning

Independently of group origins you will discover that the important thing about your community is the knowledge and ideas you have discovered together. So even if your community was born as a study group on Swedish stamps of the fifties, you will feel that it's open to Uzbeks who share the same passion and ideas. Real identity is always transnational. Anyway, with time you will discover language as something important too. Fresh chatting, cooperation and real equality in the community's life is limited to speakers of the same language or very closely related languages (such as the Nordic ones) who have no problem of understanding your language even they if speak in his/her native one (which has to be understandable by you too)

9. Encouraging particular initiatives and sharing narratives

Living in plurarchy teaches you to encourage the emerging of clusters without suspicion. These clusters will have their own projects and particular interests. They are not in contradiction with the community, in fact they reinforce it because a stronger kind of trust and connection will be born between cluster members. From the point of view of commu-

nity building, the important question is to share experiences and conversations between the clusters and the whole group.

10. The great leap

The great leap's time will come when, inside the conversational community, one cluster constitutes a commercial firm acting according to the common identity, principles and ideas. The key question now will be understanding this initiative as part of the community, but also as something new destined by itself to build a community of a different kind. The emerging of democratic firms inside the community means that some clusters inside feel mature enough to go further than fraternity and are capable of testing equality. Equality in managing of organizations means that everyone is indifferent on which other member will assume command of any task, as everyone trusts everyone equally.

11. A different way of thinking and building community

Then arrives the most difficult phase in the whole phyle birth process. The cluster that founded the firm has to become the center of a community empowered with firms inside the wider environment of the original conversational community. In the experience of *las Indias* the keys to success in this phase were:

- Organizing the firm under an economic democracy basis, becoming a labour cooperative. Cooperative form is coherent with equality among members, and what is even more important, makes leaving easy and relatively

"Phyles are "order attractors" in a domain which states cannot reach conceptually and in areas that states increasingly leave in the dark: phyles invest in social cohesion, sometimes even creating infrastructures, providing grants and training,"

cheap for all. Being a labour-coop made it easier for us to organize as *plurispecialists* (everybody has responsibility in everything, anyone can perform any task) and to declare a "*right of secession*" which governs the process of leaving the community, ensuring minimum cuts to dissidents' incomes.

- Closing the formal organization of our mother community, an association called **Ciberpunk**, when the majority of its members assumed that a new stage was reached when the firm became more and more solid.

- *Establishing a Council* that has evolved and grown in order to maintain the original deliberative network connected to the firm, but from an *external* position. Now, this council advises the main community in its strategies, NGO initiatives and external investments.

- Learning that the newcomers have to reap-

propriate the evolution and discussions of the group. We established an integration process that includes theoretical discussion and practice in the firm with all kinds of tasks. This process carries on for almost three years and its goal is to accept the apprentice as an equal partner in the cooperative society.

12. Being Phyle

After this long trip we will have the heart of a neo-Venetian, democratic phyle working: a transnational community proud of its own history and empowered with its own economic metabolism. Doesn't matter if you have *only* some few members. Doesn't matter whether you reach sooner or later a certain income level. Your community will have an economy to base its life style on. The life style that makes everything worth it to its members. Anyway, welcome to the world of

phyles! Now is the time to look farther, to make plans for the future... It's just the beginning, so meet some phyles out there, all over the world, and test new ways of banking, collaboration, international sales, etc.

More on phyles in English:

"Phyles: Economic Democracy in XXIst Century": <http://deugarte.com/gomi/phyles.pdf>

John Robb on "The central question of 21st century governance": <http://globalguerrillas.typepad.com/globalguerrillas/2010/01/journal-central-question-of-21st-century-governance.html>

Origin of the word, which is ancient Greek for "tribe" or "clan": <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyle>

Usage in the post-cyberpunk novel "The Diamond Age": http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Diamond_Age#Phyles

Ask questions to a real phyle (Spanish preferred, English allowed): info@lasindias.com

Id theft Opsec:

text CHRIS "loganWHD" HADNAGY

10 million people affected.... over a 10% increase in one year. "Affected?", you ask. Yes, affected. Over 10 million people a year have their identities stolen and that is just in the USA. The Internal Revenue Service of the USA has stated that ID Theft grew 644% in the last four years.

As we speak... errr... type, a friend just pm'ed me and told me his ATM card was compromised. No joke. The question we need to ask ourselves is what we will do WHEN (notice not IF) we get hacked in 2010.

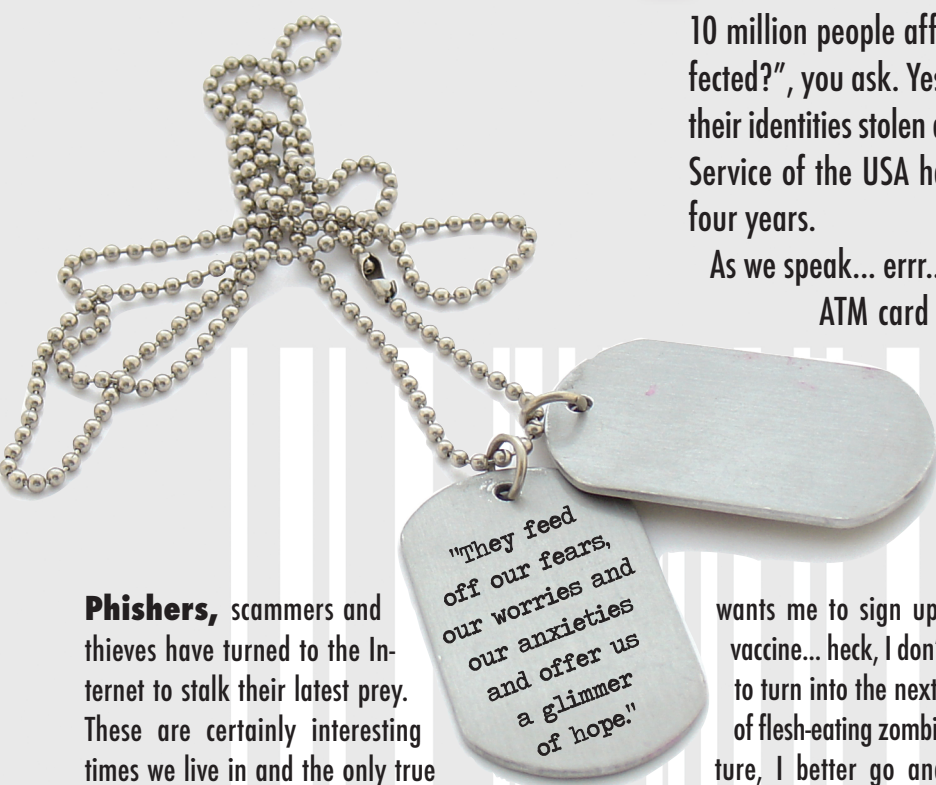
Phishers, scammers and thieves have turned to the Internet to stalk their latest prey. These are certainly interesting times we live in and the only true way to make it is to be educated and prepared. Take a look at one of the most successful attack vectors in 2009:

"You have received this e-mail because of the launching of State Vaccination H1N1 Program.

You need to create your personal H1N1 (swine flu) Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov website. The Vaccination is not obligatory, but every person that has reached the age of 18 has to have his personal Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov site. This profile has to be created both for the vaccinated people and the not-vaccinated ones. This profile is used for the registering system of vaccinated and not-vaccinated people.

Create your Personal H1N1 Vaccination Profile using the link:"

Heck, none of us want H1N1 and the CDC



"They feed
off our fears,
our worries and
our anxieties
and offer us
a glimmer
of hope."

wants me to sign up for a vaccine... heck, I don't want to turn into the next strain of flesh-eating zombie creature, I better go and sign up... click... PWND!

How it works

Phishing, hacking, heck, theft in general hasn't changed much since the beginning. Sometimes we are so wrapped up in technology that we think they have changed their methods. The same simple principles are applied. They feed off our fears, our worries and our anxieties and offer us a glimmer of hope. All we need to obtain this amazing hope is [CLICK HERE](#).

We just lost our job. We just saw the news story the media is sensationalizing about the five year old that died from swine flu. We just saw the clip of the arrest on dateline of the latest 40 year old showing up to help a 14 year old girl with her "homework" bringing balloons and flowers.

It scares us. Heck, I have a family and want to protect them. Then along comes an email promising the cure, the vaccine, the best security plan or latest tip to stay protected and all I need to do is click.

More often than not when we do click, the poor suckers that do, are presented not with the information or cure they hoped for but a virus, trojan or worse yet a root kit or some other tunnel back to the malicious hacker.

Information,

Information Everywhere

Sometimes despite all the warnings the stupidity of some people just amazes us. Sure all your friends visit you on Facebook and they laugh at your pictures, they rejoice in your latest news.... but also the dark side of the Internet trolls these pages. One notable story of 2009 was the woman who posted about her upcoming and much needed vacation on her favorite social networking site. She enjoyed her vacation but so did the thieves that



"The most important question for 2010 is not IF but WHEN!"

checked her posts too. The day after she left they broke into her home and took their sweet ol' time coming back to systematically move everything out of her house.

These things are real, they happen. Despite the amazing amount of stories about the dangers, people still put their whole lives on public web space open to the world. It is like leaving your front door open and hoping that the bad guys just don't notice.... heck, forget the bad guys, it just takes people who are down and out and see an opportunity.

So what can I do?

We come back to the most important question of 2010. What will you do **WHEN** you get hacked? We can't go through life with the attitude that it will not happen to me. **1 in every 10** U.S. consumers has already been victimized by identity theft (Javelin Strategy and Research, 2009). **1 in friggin 10!!!**

Look around you... count the next 10 people... one of you will be or has been a victim of id theft. We have to plan for what we will do when it happens.

Here is a very simplistic plan of attack **WHEN** you get hacked

- Notify your credit bureaus for your country and local area – this can go a long way to

protect the damage that may occur if you are breached. Monitor your credit reports.

- Notify the Law Enforcement – as mundane as that may sound and as little as they may do to comfort you, it can build a case if many people have reported the same kind of attacks.

- Notify existing credit accounts and vendors so only you may authorize purchases.

- Notify your bank, freeze checking accounts, savings, ATM Cards and credit cards.

- This may seem extreme but you may need to apply for a new driver's id number or state id number if it has been compromised and used for fraud.

- Keep good records – write and record everything. You may need it.

- Never, ever pay a bill or a portion of a bill that is a result of fraud. Do not file bankruptcy.

- Cooperation with your local law enforcement or vendors is essential but do not give in.

- Remove your name from call lists whenever you can.

- Quickly call any phone, cell phone or

other service that might have been used in the fraud or breached.

I am sure there are more steps you may think of, but having a clear path of action when this happens can save you lots of money, time and stress.

We are not trying to be bleak in this article but it is time for 2010 to be a slap in our collective faces and a time for a wakeup call. I truly hope this never happens to you, but there are 9 other people in my room right now and none of us have been hacked... yet.

Till next time stay safe.

Chris is on the development team and the lead social engineer for www.social-engineer.org. social-engineer.org is a website that was developed to house the world's first Social Engineering Framework. It is complete with tools, tips, trick and how-to's on social engineering. The endeavor is to educate companies and people to the risks so they can protect against the increasing number of social engineering, phishing and deception attacks being used today.

"Heck, none of us want H1N1 and the CDC wants me to sign up for a vaccine... heck, I don't want to turn into the next strain of flesh-eating zombie creature, I better go and sign up... click... PWND!"

The new arms race:



text SteviePUA

The more you know how to do something, the better you tend to do it. This applies to repairing a car, learning a language or cooking your favorite dish. It also applies to meeting girls. The paradox comes, though, when others are learning to do it better too, resulting in increased competition and techniques becoming too widely known, thus losing their efficacy. You'll still do better than the newbie who has little or no specialist knowledge but a point of diminishing returns often sets in, raising the question of how to stay ahead of the curve to maximize effectiveness.

Staying ahead of the curve in the pick up community

Internet growth has expedited the exchange of information between niche groups. The pick up artist (PUA) community, for instance, used to be underground but today benefits from information flow in a way that was never previously possible. Men interested in meeting girls can now easily discuss what does and doesn't work. The problem arises when many thousands of guys all use the same techniques, the same approaches and the same lines with the same girls. One night on my way home from giving a PUA training workshop in Copenhagen, I happened to overhear a guy on a train using the same script I myself had posted online only weeks previously. Add to this the media focus upon PUAs ("The Game" movie is due out in 2010) and you have a situation where men are not the only ones aware of this new knowledge but also girls have a raised awareness of PUA activities. For some guys, this results in getting 'blown out', i.e. the girl has heard the approach before and the techniques don't work on her.

There are two dynamics operating here. One is between the PUA and the girl he is interested in (his target). Then there is the competitive dynamic between males for the girls. Think of these as an arms race. The arms race happens when one side of the equation has something the other side wants. In order to take what he wants, the PUA uses his knowledge and techniques to show the girl the qualities she is looking for. But as more and more men learn to exploit these loopholes in her code, the girl raises her defenses. In the competition between PUAs, the more guys out there running the same scripts

and using the same approaches, the more diluted is the effectiveness of what they are doing. I've personally seen PUA trainees opening a group of girls only to be told "we've just heard that one!" I've also seen clubs in which it used to be easy to do well, filling up with huge, slick guys – machines on a mission to ram it home that very night. It never used to be that competitive.

So how does one deal with these situations and stay ahead of the curve? **Innovate.**

Firstly, understand the difference between principles and techniques. A technique could be a line you use but a principle is what drives that choice i.e. why are you using that particular technique at that particular moment in your interaction? By asking yourself what the principle behind the technique is you can begin to step outside of the confines of the arms race, dodge those pesky weapons inspectors and stay ahead of the curve. HB Hans Blix or AMOG Mohamed Al-Baradei simply won't recognize your weapons of mass

insemination because they are not on the radar.

You might say, for example:

"You know, you remind me of someone. You look so familiar, you're not famous are you?... it's the eyes... I think it's my brother... you have his eyes! (pause) But, if you have his eyes, you're gonna have to return them right away, kiddo, because he's gonna need them for what I've got planned for us later"

That's the surface technique but driving it is a series of underlying principles.

Firstly, we need to draw her into the interaction, so we use a neutral entertaining opener that is easy for her to buy into and creates some intrigue. We know most chicks focus on their appearance (it's where they get a lot of their power) and on celebrities, so we open with the assertion that she might look like a famous person. That peaks her curiosity. It is a speaker-centered opener to let her relax – we are not going to set off autopilot responses by using a generic ques-

"When everyone is running around repeating the same lines and the same techniques, they get stale. This is when you become a social robot operating on someone else's programming. It's far better to be an autonomous operator using your own material."

tion-based rapport opener that she hears so often when a man is interested in her e.g. "Hi, how are you? So what do you do? Are you having a good time?" etc. Most AFCs use openers that seek rapport before displaying an iota of value to her first. Why would a desirable girl just open up to a stranger who clearly is only interested in her physically because that is all he has experienced of her thus far? She might like his looks if he is fortunate, but it's not solid PUA technique.

Saying "you're not famous, are you?" is ambiguous — are we asking if she is famous or are we confirming she is no one special? Both. It's therefore harder to resist or counter in its efficacy. The next step in the above opener uses a neg hit to lower her view of herself (use this for hot girls who are used to being put on a pedestal). We use the principle of relative value to generate the com

parison with "my brother" — downplaying her femininity and causing her to question her attractiveness. Then, once the neg hit has gone in and we have lowered her view of herself (thus increasing our relative value to her because we are not fazed by her beauty and are also using an implicit challenge principle) we fractionate back into humor.

Using humor here gives her a get-out clause from the neg hit and lets us lead the interaction in a fun way again. That's fractionation — we change and mix up the pace and focus of the frames we are setting. We finish by developing intrigue about what I have planned for "my brother" (or is it what is planned for me and the girl? — "what I've got planned for us," — is ambiguous in its scope, so she doesn't resist it, but puts the suggestion into her mind that we might be together later). This sets up a continuation of the interaction and gets her investing in the story — finding out what I plan on doing later. From here we can link into a new routine or pattern.

The above uses the principles of:

1. **Drawing her in**
2. **Curiosity**
3. **Neg hit**
4. **Ambiguity**
5. **Fractionation into humor**
6. **Curiosity & Investment**

We can generate other techniques using the same principles e.g:

"(1) It's not the first time I've been in here in Club X but it is the first time I've met someone who I totally connect with. And the thing is, (2) I don't know if I'll ever see her again. Like, (3) I'm sure you are a nice person and all that, but have you ever met someone who was totally on your wavelength, who immediately made a powerful impact on you...(4) this person made you think and wonder because they are so intriguingly different? Me, (5) well I might not be a Club X virgin but there is more to life than what we expect, (6) but that is a different story, I can tell you! Maybe not now though, I don't know if you can handle it."

This uses broadly the same principles, adds some pattern language — i.e. confusion, ambiguity and vagueness and finishes with a challenge.

The point here is to understand what powers your techniques and not to just spout the same lines as everyone else. By understanding the principles you can begin to generate your own material.

This brings us to another way of staying ahead of the curve — using your own life experiences to generate content. When everyone is running around repeating the same lines and the same techniques, they get stale. This is when you become a social robot operating on someone else's programming. It's far better to be an autonomous operator using your own material. There are several advantages to using your own material in the field.

Firstly, using someone else's material poten-



tially gets you into a competition with other guys. There is the risk of your target having heard it before. Then there is the wider problem of congruency. It's not always easy to make your delivery sound natural if it is a learned line. Most chicks can spot incongruency a mile away. There is a term in PUA circles called "leakage", this is where your words, voice tone, body language and facial expressions don't go in the same direction or contradict each other. Moreover, you have the challenge of remembering what to say. There's nothing much worse than being over-dependant on someone else's material and forgetting it or having it run out while you are mid-sarge. This happens when you are unable to generate your own ideas that work. Mostly this can be avoided if you understand the principles that underpin the techniques being taught in the PUA community. Start thinking about not only what a tool does but why it works as it does, then you can use it outside that particular setting.

Developing this awareness gives flexibility, keeping you ahead of the curve. Work on generating your own material based on what has happened in your life. Use your life experiences to deliver stories, quote what people said, and describe how people acted around you and the actions you took.

These experiences become vehicles to display value and to elicit the states of mind in her which fit the principles needed for your pick up to be powerful. Go for a "show, not tell," approach whenever you can.

Anyone can say what a big man they are but if you can have your target come to the conclusion herself that you are a cool guy based on how people react around you (or how you *say* people reacted around you) then that is hugely more effective. Telling a story about how you kicked a girl out of your life for breaking your rules will be more effective than telling your target that you have

"I've also seen clubs in which it used to be easy to do well, filling up with huge, slick guys – machines on a mission to ram it home that very night. It never used to be that competitive."

high standards when it comes to girls.

Doing well means calibrating her response and using that knowledge to decide what kind of mental/emotional state you want her to move towards.

Dip into your life experiences and try to think of situations where people gave you value, admired you and connected with you. It doesn't have to be 100% true, but should have a basis in truth. It's fine to embellish the story but if it is a complete fabrication you might have problems with congruency when recounting it.

True, you can tell a completely made up story so many times that you come to believe it yourself but that is much harder to implement successfully than using material with a basis in reality.

Don't just follow what others are teaching, try techniques out for yourself. Be original when you can. Remember the difference between surface and underlying structure. Girls will recognize the outward form but will almost never identify the deeper structure. They might sniff a pick up line a mile away but never once clue in to the fact that you are lowering her value and boosting yours by way of utilization of social proof.

This is similar to the way comedians use the same comedic devices many times even though the location/people/punch line in the joke are completely different.

If you can't come up with your own original material, take pieces from other people and tailor it to make it your own. I rarely use full pattern scripts any more so it is difficult for someone to recognize a pattern of mine based on having seen it or heard it before. What I do is use fragments of patterns in much of my speech.

I personalize those fragments, making them my own so they have become part of how I naturally communicate. When you can do that, you don't need to worry about keeping ahead of the curve because you begin to own the material, merging it with your personality to the point where it becomes how you normally communicate.

Done successfully, there comes a point where you can't tell if you have morphed the material to fit your personality or whether your personality has been shaped towards the material. Either way, it's ideal for keeping an edge.

Society usually mandates that people hook up in the evening, in bars and club. Try to see past this and avoid only going out to meet people in the prescribed locations and times. Give yourself permission to talk to people all day as you go about your business. By using the outlined principles in all of your communication, all the time, you can begin to integrate material with your personality and vice versa. This breaks the community hold and fosters autonomy, both vital for keeping you ahead of the curve.

FAT GRIPZ

text LEIF ERIKSSON

A review



A rather common question I get from people of all walks of life on the quest to improve their physiques is: *How do I improve my forearms?*

The forearms is one of the most popular muscle groups to improve upon for very simple reasons. First of all, they are often one of the few parts of your physique that's showing in your everyday wear (like greasy Metallica t-shirts). Secondly, they are often miserably underdeveloped.

How does one even go about getting forearms like these?

There is of course no simple answer, unless you feel like making it simple. A lot of people who train in commercial gyms aren't even allowed to use chalk for their deadlifts, hence they use straps instead until their forearms resemble twigs rather than the preferred tree trunk. Building forearms is often a matter of managing to build some grip strength. There are loads of assorted work out products to this end.

Getting a good strong grip was important to me personally, since I wanted to be able to clean big weights on an Apollon's Axle. Let's face it, if you can clean the axle like Koklyae, your forearms rule! The Axle is actually about as thick as a regular barbell with *Fat Gripz* on them. They are these thick, blue, rubber handles that fit perfectly on a barbell or dumbbell handle. This is a cheap alternative to buying a fat bar.

My first thought as I tried these out was: *"Are they going to stay in the same place on the bar? Will they rotate on their own around the bar?"* The answer was both yes and no. With

a barbell in mint condition and a double overhand grip they will be kept in place quite firmly. With a reverse grip on a worn out barbell, they'll tend to rotate along the surface of the bar. I haven't really had any serious problems with this though, and I do appreciate the fact that they are made from rubber which is friendly to your hands and grip.

Doing high pulls, it was clear that this was way more difficult than high pulls on an Axle, due to the ball bearings on the barbell. Ending with a double overhand deadlift hold, my forearms and hands got an excellent work out.

I would furthermore recommend attempting to do as many of your regular exercises as possible using the *Fat Gripz*. There is a reason world renowned strength coaches like DeFranco and Tate recommend fat bars as often as possible.

They will make your arms grow, and *Fat Gripz* will make your arms grow at an affordable price.



Bench pressing is one of the exercises well suited for *Fat Gripz*!

In my opinion, there are definitely a worth a try and 40 bucks for anyone looking to sculpt those massive, Julianesque forearms. *Fat Gripz* are available for online purchase at www.fatgripz.com.

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Cybergeddon:

text PARIAN

thoughts on the coming Sino-Anglo showdown

and so here we are on the verge of the first declared cyber-world-war. the chinks have pwned the goog, and now big G have thrown their toys out of the pram with talk of ceasing ops in .cn[1]. hillary's on the case[2] and the gloves are about to come off.

and when they do, well then we'll show them. surely the console warriors of the most powerful nation in the world will pull the plug on China's obviously well tuned cyberoffensive units before they can turn off our lights and heat and leave us shivering in the dark with no TV to watch and no microwaves to heat up our trays of edible food-like substance[3].

or will we? i never thought i would be a patriot. as a teenager, when the other guys were drinking beer, playing football and raping cheerleaders, i was dropping acid and ringing long distance BBSs using bruted calling cards or borrowed Tymnet portals. in university, LSD was entwined with MDMA and other extraordinary artifacts of bovine[4] and feline[5] pharmacology to really push the edge of my psychoemotionalspiritual envelope. Tech 12's and Trumpet Winsock meant i could spin rekkids and hack ip networks without leaving the house. the end of the world was always nigh, but my profound nihilism and the banging trance, breaks and jungle were grand preparation for the apocalypse.

at uni my skillz on the console did not go unnoticed, and when in graduation year fate flipped the coin of indictment or employment, lady luck called the latter. four years in

the trenches at 'the firm' blew by like an eight ball on a friday night and the jet setting, hard living scene of the raging party kid slash professional penetration tester was clearly my calling.

hacking in those days was dead simple. fuzzing was in its infancy. vulnerable services were everywhere. memory corruption vulnerabilities aplenty. smashing the stack for fun AND profit. patches only came when redmond released service packs, and in the unlikely event that the infrastructure was actually properly configured and hardened, then there was always rain forest puppy and his radically simple idea of 'sql injection'.

back then... i did it for money. and if a mate needed a favor, i did it for friendship. and if i got properly loaded, maybe i did it for glory. but i never thought i'd do it for country.

"i never thought i would be a patriot. as a teenager, when the other guys were drinking beer, playing football and raping cheerleaders, i was dropping acid and ringing long distance BBSs using bruted calling cards or borrowed Tymnet portals."

but then, something changed. it wasn't sitting in Kowloon watching the twin towers fall in NYC in 2001. it wasn't the carpet bombing and the oil wars and the gross incompetence of the American commander in chief and his minions and masters. it wasn't the blind ig-

norance on the part of the average American that what is really pissing off the Islamics is the billions of dollars in aid we have sent to Tel Aviv since 1973[6]. and it wasn't the systematic disassembly of the privacy, independence and self reliance that have been the core values and defining characteristics of the United States since its inception.

no, what changed, was me. somewhere along the line i got sober enough to get drunk on oxycontin and find my soul mate. squeezing out the crotch fruit was undoubtedly the tipping point. bringing those little souls into the world suddenly made me want to care. but not care about the things that we'd been taught to hold sacred. no, my wee ones would be masters of their own universes, keen to thrive and survive and not let anybody push them around. while other dads read bedtime stories about Elmo and his

friends, to my son i speak of ancient ninja rites and the virtues of running unsigned code on his game console[7].

and so, now i stand atop my ivory tower of acumen built on the rugged foundation of a score of experience and a life without boundaries. i

"while i'm planning for the worst,
i'm hoping for the best. i'm not sure that cyber-
vigilantism is going to solve anything, but i
do think that by uniting folks interested in cyber-
punk, hacking, martial arts and survivalism
we may be on to something"

see before me the hungry, ambitious, intelligent masses of the populous developing countries. i feel their billions of eyes looking lustily upon the broken empire over which we still preside. and i understand that the conventional tactics which have served to keep us in power for the good run we've had will be woefully inadequate in the cybergeddon to come.

for some time now the Pentagon has been publically and privately trying to recruit[8] the young minds that will lead the next generation of American cyber warriors to face down our axis of evil foes on the playing field of cyberspace, where everyone agrees the next world war will be fought.

but unfortunately, their mindset is all wrong. security clearances are a catch-22 of which Yossarian[9] himself would be proud. you

"while other dads read bedtime stories about Elmo and his friends, to my son i speak of **ancient ninja rites** and the virtues of running unsigned code on his game console"

can't get one until you need one, and if you need one you can't get one. the clean cut, boy scout recruits that actually can be vetted lack the grayscale sense of right and wrong that most elite hackers share. how can these kids, who never once thought to draw outside

the lines, be expected to think deviously enough to defeat their adversaries who have been groomed from day one to be malicious, cunning, and unstoppable?

the Brits have been hiring hackers for longer than they admit. there is now an official "bad boy club"[10] operational in the UK, but unfortunately when setting this up GCHQ may have overlooked all of the truly talented security pros and settled for the geeky Asians they could vet.

and as for the US of A? well, fear not my friends. for at long last we finally have our cyber czar. after Melissa Hathaway's underwhelming 60 day review, which basically said (without saying) that we are indeed all totally fucked, we now have a former Microsoft CISO at the helm[11] who's going to make everything all right.

so, the bad guys are laughing at us. they've successfully diverted our attention (and resources) with yet another far fetched "underwear bomber" threat to commercial

airliners, while their real masterminds are watching the cleartext intel streams from our own UAV's[12], and figuring out how to really fuck us over. we've got bureaucrats buried up to their necks in useless FISMA[13] compliance paperwork while our biggest cor-

porations, cloud operators, gov't agencies, and defence contractors are getting pwned eight ways from Sunday by the Chinese and their zero day client side exploits[14]. and don't even get me started about the banks.

sounds hopeless... but, while i'm planning for the worst, i'm hoping for the best. i'm not sure that cyber-vigilantism[15] is going to solve anything, but i do think that by uniting folks interested in cyberpunk, hacking, martial arts and survivalism we may be on to something.

till next time...

pariah is a security consultant by day, and a ninja by night. he can be reached at pariah@technowarfare.com

1 <http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2010/01/new-approach-to-china.html>

2 <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/01/135105.htm>

3 <http://community.nextfitness.com/?p=47>

4 <http://www.erowid.org/chemicals/ghb/ghb.shtml>

5 <http://www.erowid.org/chemicals/ketamine/ketamine.shtml>

6 <http://www.ifamericansknew.org/stats/usaid.html>

7 <http://team-xecuter.com/>

8 http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/07/22/federal_cybersecurity_shortage/

9 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yossarian>

10 http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/09/24/hacker_cyberdefence_hire_nonsense/

11 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Cyber_Security_Center

12 <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2009/12/not-just-drones-militants-can-snoop-on-most-us-warplanes/>

13 http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9087338/Critics_question_value_of_federal_IT_security_report_card

14 See the "Social Networks" article in IT02, Nov 2009

15 http://www.familysecuritymatters.org/publications/id.5265/pub_detail.asp

White boy warfare or the

text SGT. SKULL

A subject that Western military historians and theorists love to yak about amongst themselves is the so-called "Military Horizon." You have probably never heard of it because it never seeps through into discussions of military matters in the civilian press.

Briefly, the "Military Horizon" concerns the transition from fighting between two disorganized mobs into the "modern" stage of fighting using rank and file formations. This transition occurred sometime during the transition from stone age hunter/gatherer economic patterns to settled agricultural patterns.

The short video below is of a typical New Guinea spear fight. Not much happens and that's pretty much the point. This is how we white boys fought in Europe when we were free, that is before the invention of agriculture and our eternal enslavement to the almighty state.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWFEWh2GBbk&feature=related>

When populations became more numerous due to agriculture and thus there were more guys on the battlefield a great change took place. All over globe the concept of fighting in ranks and files was independently (we shall assume) discovered over and over again until the mob version of warfare disappeared completely except in backwaters like New Guinea.

Some smart dude would tell his buddies, "Look here, no more shooting ar-

rows at a distance or individual combat with clubs and swords or throwing your spears. We won't throw our spears. We'll stay in a compact group all together and charge straight ahead and stab the other guys to death with spear thrusts. Anybody who breaks ranks, either charging ahead or falling behind, will be executed."

And so the "military horizon" was crossed and "real warfare" (in the eyes of Western military historians) was invented. The old mob style fighting is scoffed at by Western military historians at because it was "indecisive" in that annihilation of the enemy was seldom achieved and "voluntary" in that a great of the decisions were left to the individual warrior. With the new concept classic military discipline was

invented in that you followed orders - you stayed in you predetermined place or you lost your head.

It is the general consensus among Western military historians that the crossing of the military horizon and the development of "real war" made the modern, all-powerful state possible. That is to say that the iron discipline of the new fighting style pre-dated the new and all-powerful state and not the other way around. My guess is that they are correct. In general primitive societies are not ruled by despots who may strike off the heads of their subjects as they please and according to their whim of the moment. That's because in primitive (think free) societies every adult male is a warrior and combat is generally voluntary. If a despot in such a society were to decide that he wanted to strike off the head of one of his warriors he'd have to do it himself, and the warrior - being a true warrior and not a modern soldier slave - would defend himself.



”military horizon”

And now I must explain why Western military historians absolutely drool over the crossing of their ”military horizon.” It’s because they are (with rare exceptions) fascists. And please note that I do not mean fascists in the contemporary model of Adolf Hitler, but fascists in the classic Roman tradition, which is their ideal. Almost all Western military historians were born into the oligarchy or were talented commoners inducted into its ranks via education (think indoctrination) at prestigious universities. They absolutely adore the all-powerful state ruling over the cringing mass of citizen slaves and wish out of professional pride that its whelping be credited to their chosen profession.

With the new system it was winner take all. The formation that got pushed backwards (the new system was basically a huge shoving contest) broke ranks and was scattered and the victors could lay siege to the enemy city while destroying their farms’ crops and anything else they couldn’t carry inside the city walls. As for weapons the held spear initially won out over the club or axe or sword in Europe.

This type of fighting in ranks with held spears was perfected by the Greeks during centuries of fighting each other and any damn fool foreigners who thought they could overwhelm them with mere numbers.

The father of Alexander the Great carried this system to the extreme when he stripped his infantry of most of their body armor so they could carry longer and heavier spears. He had the first rank carry short spears (and some armor), with the next rank (about) three feet back carrying spears that were three feet longer (and less armor) and so on and so forth until each enemy grunt wound up facing a ”spear wall” of 4-6 spear points all at once.

This was the winning combo until the Romans stopped using the spear wall and switched to swords. The Romans came to understand that the spear phalanx had weaknesses that could be exploited. The spear phalanx worked best on perfectly flat terrain against an enemy that had less than the iron courage required to face a spear wall and it only worked well in straight ahead fighting because a spear

phalanx was more difficult to maneuver than sword fighters. The Romans (it is said) would ”fix” the spear wall formation in place with basically a suicide group of sword fighters and then assault the phalanx in the flank or rear with sword formations or cavalry.

Up until the later days of the Roman Empire the Roman sword phalanx was king of the battlefield. It was sort of like a wheat harvesting machine that cut down everything in its path. As Roman military discipline went to hell along with the rest of Roman society they substituted hired barbarian horsemen as their main fighting force. Even then these horsemen did not adopt the bow as their primary weapon but retained the spear which they renamed the lance. The Asians, not being white boys and thus not subject to white boy mania for close up combat, saw that the composite bow was the logical choice as the primary weapon for mounted warriors and achieved excellent results.

Now we get to the part about why I call this ”white boy” warfare. If there is one thing

”Clearly, no rational persons would think global devastation a reasonable price to pay for the three rewards offered above. Then again, human history can be fairly described as a vast landfill of toxic human folly.”





that has struck me over and over again in my reading about Western warfare, it's an absolute mania for mano a mano, head-on fighting to the death right here and now and screw anything and everything else. I'm not sure if this Western mania came about because European terrain and economics and favored mass, head on clashes of opposing infantry or if the mania dictated the fighting style.

North Africa and Persia and the steppe of Southern Asia were all horse country and the horse-mounted warrior was king. Mounted warfare does not lend itself to suicide charges. Generals who could maneuver their formations like chess players always seemed to get the upper hand. Because of this fact, retreat became a pragmatic tactic in horse country as opposed to a sure-fire way to get defeated as in European infantry warfare where it was therefore despised as cowardice.

One big problem Pericles had was persuading his fellow Athenians not to march out and fight the invading Spartans. Refusing combat in ancient Greece was almost unheard of

because it was seen as an admission of cowardice and an admission that you would be defeated if such a confrontation took place.

This mania seems to have permeated Western popular culture as instanced by our own esteem of the high noon shootout with six shooters. Never mind that most actual deaths in Deadwood or wherever were back shootings, it's the thought that counts. We don't esteem sneaky, black clad ninja assassins like the Japanese do. We give top honors to, say, "high noon" cowboys or the mounted knights of the Middle ages who just charged each other head on and got it over with. Even on the verge of WWI when navy ships had guns that could fire huge shells miles away,

the Western navies were still building ships with reinforced bows suitable for ramming. Consider dueling as we did in colonial times when, for instance, Alexander Hamilton was killed and Andrew Jackson was almost killed. 10 paces, turn and fire. Everything is stripped away except balls and an instant and decisive result.

Even von Clausewitz, the most esteemed military writer of our era, was infected with this mania for one big head-to-head decisive battle. Sun Tzu, the famous Chinese military theorist wrote a book that was basically a big bag of "sneaky" political and psychological tricks that a general could use to get the best of his enemy. You seldom see such things emphasized in Western military manuals which focus on weapons and "tactics."

Look at the photos of WWI soldiers going "over the top" to charge across no-mans land only to be mowed down by machineguns like so many arcade ducks. They got fixed bayonets in every damn picture. I remember the bayonet range in the army. When we marched around it we had to yell "KILL!" every time our left foot hit the ground and we had to run at the bayonet dummy straight-on at full speed screaming "ARRRRRRHHHH" and stick him dead square in the chest and them "butt stroke" him with

"We don't esteem sneaky, black clad ninja assassins like the Japanese do. We give top honors to, say, "high noon" cowboys or the mounted knights of the Middle ages who just charged each other head on and got it over with."

the rifle butt while yelling "KILL! KILL! KILL!" exactly like cavemen. Using a fully automatic weapon as a spear and club... duh, OK.

They may as well have been training us for the service in the Spartan army. When I was in training in the U.S. we didn't get one single second of ambush or counter ambush training but we got plenty of time at the bayonet range learning how to use fully automatic weapons that can kill a guy a mile away as if they were spears and we were getting ready to fight the Persians at Thermopylae 2,500 years ago. Duh.

Take the movie Dr. Strangelove.

Major Kong rides the bomb to sure death waving his hat. He was using a nuke as a club - face-to-face and an unambiguous, instant decision.

If we look for an explanation for Custer's actions at the Little Bighorn or of Lee's charge at Gettysburg or the utter insanity of repeated WWI charges into machinegun hell they can't hold up to rational examination, but you can understand them if you think "military horizon" and "white boy" warfare.

In our time classic war (except as theater to distract the peasants) has been abolished by the introduction of nuclear weapons and equally horrid exotica such as HAARP machines. Previously, even the most devastating war held the prospect of material and social gain at least for some faction of the elites. Today, full nuclear and/or HAARP war between major powers would mean reversion to stone age conditions for generations for most of the globe. Still, such war does NOT violate the sacred themes of white boy warfare.

1: Brevity of action

2: An unambiguous or "all or nothing outcome"

3: The continuation and reinforcement of the oligarchic system that initiated the new style of war in the first place to achieve a life and death power over their citizen slaves.

Clearly, no rational persons would think global devastation a reasonable price to pay for the three rewards offered above. Then again, human history can be fairly described as a vast landfill of toxic human folly.

I will offer only one possible outcome that does not involve major global warfare. Currently, the London Banking Cartel - led by the UK and it's junior partner America - is attempting to bully the Shanghai Cooperation Organization - led by Russia and China - into submission by military encirclement and internal subversion. This effort is almost cer-

tain to fail because Russia and China are in the ascendant while America is suffering from self-inflicted internal rot of every sort. The powers-that-be in London and Wall Street may offer up their own populations up as slaves leased to the Russians and Chinese in return for continued abundance for themselves. If such an arrangement is concluded probably the first major manifestation will be massive grain sales to China. That, of course, will mean a 3,000 mile long Yugoslav-style civil war here in starving America, but I suppose that's better than nukes being thrown like snowballs.

May the Cyclops eat you next to last.

Tom Chittum (AKA Sgt. Skull)

Web site:

<http://www.buyagong.com>

PS Any shapely Swedish lady on vacation is invited to visit me in semi-beautiful Frederick, Maryland. My email is tomchittum@gmail.com.



master of

an interview with pick—

text AHA

AJ ("Action Jackson") is the creator of Matchbook Method and the owner of Action Attraction, a company that supplies textbooks, workshops, seminars, and instructional CDs and DVDs for single men to help them improve their social skills and interpersonal communication with women on social networking sites, such as Facebook and MySpace.

Clinically diagnosed with Social Anxiety in 2005, AJ found refuge in online social networking sites. Through messaging thousands of women and making every mistake possible he developed the Matchbook Method: A step-by-step, copy-and-paste messaging system for meeting and attracting high-value women on Facebook and MySpace. AJ has used his own system to date a massage therapist, flight attendant, NFL cheerleader, 2nd grade teacher, exotic dancer, and multiple models.

In addition to his proven copy-and-paste messaging guides, AJ is known for his high-quality interactive coaching videos and content/presentation creativity. On July 1, Action Attraction will launch the Matchbook Method 2.0 Home Study Course. AJ has a B.S. from the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business and currently resides in Hollywood, CA with his bulldog Frank "The Tank".



What is your view on PU/
seduction in general?
Your worldview basically.

I'm all for it. Let's face it, the shit works. The problem is on the business side of it. One issue is the self-proclaimed gurus and keyboard jockeys who spend 6 months learning pickup and think they're qualified to release a product and give advice. There are dozens of little guys like this popping up all over the Internet. The other issue is there are a couple big time guys who are expert internet marketers but terrible pickup artists. You'd never know it unless you saw them picking up women in person and realized they suck. I won't name names but they know who they are.

fakebook

up guru Action Jackson

Ah, interesting. What are some good solid names in the industry that you trust to give out good info? What pickup guys should we be reading, other than yourself?

I hate to start naming names because I know I'm going to leave someone out, but off the top of my head: Carlos Xuma, El Topo, DJ Fuji, John Alanis, and Christian Hudson are great guys and have great content. They all offer a different unique angle to becoming successful with women.

Tell us something about online game in general? How does it compare to meat-space game? Why is it better/worse? What are some pitfalls?

Sure, I'll give you a list of PROs and CONs:

PROs:

- It's 100% Free.
- There's no approach anxiety.
- You don't need a wing man.
- No dealing with bitch shields, cock blocks, loud music, etc.
- You never have to worry about freezing up and not knowing what to say next.
- You never have deal with the embarrassment of getting blown out or rejected.
- My system is based on copy-and-paste messages so I've practically done all the work for you.

-Online pickup acts as a virtual training ground that will carry over into real world pickup. Guys who master online pickup automatically see better results in their "meat-space game".

CONs:

- We can't make eye contact.
- Confident body language has to be conveyed through photos.
- We can't do any playful touching or physical escalation until the meet up.
- Confidence, enthusiasm, emotion have to be conveyed through our messages.
- Laughing and facial expressions are limited to smiley faces, winks, "lol", "haha", etc.

However, I teach specific strategies to fill these vacancies.

You seem to have done most of your fieldwork on Facebook and Myspace? How do they compare?

Sure, I'll give you a breakdown of the PROs and CONs of each.

MySpace PROs:

- It's one giant network. You can browse and message everyone!
- You can view her profile unless she sets it to private.

- Sending messages & friend requests to strangers is MORE socially accepted.
- You can easily see whether she's read and replied to your message.
- You can send out unlimited number of opening messages at a time without being flagged as a spammer.

MySpace CONs:

- It has more perverts and creeps, which can make women guarded.
- It has more fake profiles.
- It's becoming more and more tainted.
- It's becoming less popular.

Facebook PROs:

- It's safer and more secure, which means higher value women.
- There are nearly no fake profiles.
- It's becoming more and more popular... over 350 million users!

Facebook CONs

- You can only browse people inside/connected to your networks.
- You cannot view her profile unless you are Facebook friends.
- Sending messages & friend requests to strangers is LESS socially accepted.
- You cannot see whether she's read and replied to your message.
- You cannot send more than 15-20 new open-

ing messages at a time or you will be flagged as a spammer and your account will be suspended.

What would you say to the critics of PU?

I don't bother with them. The critics are usually two types of people: naive naturals and insecure egotists. The naturals have always been able to approach and get women so their naive response to pickup is, "That's stupid... why don't you just walk up to her and say 'hi'?" The insecure egotists are the guys who really need to learn pickup and get better with women but refuse to admit it. In my experience, it's very hard to change someone's opinion on something if they are naive or an egotist.

Why is Facebook better for sarging than Myspace? Better quality women? More choice?

Facebook isn't necessarily better, it's just different. If I want to go out with a stripper or a "model" I'll use MySpace. (I put "model" in quotations because most of them are wannabe models, but they're hot nonetheless.) These types of women love to hang out on MySpace because they can design their profile to show themselves off. Whereas on Facebook, everyone's profile is the same, which is a real problem for these types of girls because they are super insecure and

need to feel like they are higher value than everyone else. Recently a lot of my customers have been begging for a Facebook pickup guide because they've hooked up with the hot MySpace girls and realized they're fun to mess around with, but they wouldn't make great girlfriends.

So if you want to meet a more down to earth girl then Facebook is better. You can also be more genuine on Facebook, whereas on MySpace you have to use hardcore pickup techniques.

What is the future of online game?

I still love MySpace, but Facebook is definitely the future of online pickup. Everyone is on it! Also, you have the ability to pickup all types of different women. You can use Facebook to find and score dates with girls you've never met, girls who went to your old school, girls in your college, girls you already know in real life, girls who are Facebook friends with one of your friends, etc. The possibilities are endless.

Some words of advice for people who want to start a business in the pick-up industry? How to differentiate oneself?

Seriously reconsider, unless you're willing to put in 60 hours per week for the next two years. I made the mistake of reading Tim Fer-

riss' book *The Four-Hour Work Week* and thought it would be easy... bullshit! More like the four-hour sleep week! Also, the pickup niche is becoming more and more saturated. I lucked out because my online pickup business is in a sub-niche that is virtually untapped. But if you're thinking about starting a business on inner game, confidence, nightclub pickup, daytime pickup, etc., forget about it.

Haha, we are pretty much Tim Ferriss loyalists over here! But OK, what are some good books/resources in this field?

If you have an entrepreneurial mentality like me I would definitely recommend picking up a book called *The Top 10 Distinctions Between Millionaires and the Middle Class* by Keith Cameron Smith. I would also recommend *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill, and *How To Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie.

How can guys avoid becoming social robots with women as their sole hobby in life? How can men really find themselves and become solid people?

It's a double-edged sword. Women are attracted to men who have their own thing going for them. Guys who spend all their time trying to get women are usually the ones striking out. That being said, finding the right woman is a numbers game. You have to

"I made the mistake of reading Tim Ferriss' book *The Four-Hour Work Week* and thought it would be easy... bullshit! More like the four-hour sleep week!"



meet and date a lot of women to figure out what you like. Here's an easy way to tell if your life is balanced. Log into your Facebook or MySpace and look at all of your pictures. If you have a nice eclectic mix of you playing sports, traveling, hanging with family, guy friends, female friends, etc., then you're doing fine. If your photos are lopsided in one direction or another then you'll know which areas of your life need improvement.

On online dating sites it seems to me that men are almost always the ones taking the first initiative. How can one create a profile that draws female attention to oneself so that they are the ones to make first contact?

When creating/editing your profile, focus on these 3 things:

1) Create an attraction building profile that subtly raises your value as much as possible.

If your profile doesn't create attraction, her motivation to invest in the conversation will diminish. The goal is to do it subtly so you don't come off as a braggart and try-hard. If

your profile sounds like you're trying to impress the reader then rewrite it. So forget about listing your accomplishments or explaining why you're worthy of dating beautiful women.

2) Avoid the profile information pitfalls that will lower your value.

Even if your profile has attractive photos and a confident About Me section you can still ruin your chances if you don't pay attention to the straightforward parts like Basic Info. Try to select answers that are honest but at the same time won't disqualify you. If the selection that fits you best could potentially turn the girl off before she has the chance to get to know you then selecting No Answer is the best option. Choosing No Answer means the topic won't be displayed in your profile.

3) Keep things simple and don't overdo it.

Here's a good rule of thumb: if it doesn't boost your attraction leave it out. Cluttering your profile with unneeded text or layers of media will distract the reader from the attraction-building pieces of your profile. Also,

have you ever seen a MySpace profile that takes forever to load because there are 3 different slide shows running while a video plays and animated stars shoot across the screen in the background? Not only is this annoying, it also looks like the person spent hours on it. You don't want to be one of these people; you're a busy guy... you don't have time to sit in front of your computer for hours. Your profile should come off as if you spent maybe 15-20 minutes on it.

How can one balance online and IRL game to make sure one does not become a keyboard jockey who spends all his time talking to women online and never goes out to sarge in meatspace?

Great question! I joke with my members and tell them I should have called my system Pick Up Beautiful Women in Your Underwear While Watching Sitcom Reruns On a Friday Night... because you feel the urge to do just that when you start getting results and realize this shit works. However, for a few months I let online pickup dominate my dating life and began to hurt my results. Don't make the same mistake I did. Going out to public venues and societal gatherings will help keep

your social skills in tune. I tell all my customers/members that meeting women online should be used as a supplement to your regular dating life, not a substitute.

What are some really easy 80/20 type fixes that guys can do to hook up more. I mean the small things that yield big results?

Get your profile in shape! Let me paint a picture for you...

It's Saturday night and you've just pulled up to the hottest nightclub famous for its plethora of beautiful women. Now the next step is your decision... are you getting out of a stretched limousine and walking in dressed to impress with a hot girl on each arm? Or are you flying solo in a station wagon wearing clothes even the Salvation Army wouldn't take? Apply this analogy to MySpace and Facebook and the importance of a high-value profile becomes clear.

Here's the reality. If your opening message does its job and piques her interest she's going to check out your profile. The quality of your profile will directly affect your success because 1) It acts as the main attraction builder, and 2) It will either lower or raise your value.

Cool. What are some more sneaky methods if one were inclined toward the Dark Side? For instance, I have heard of guys creating fake chick profiles contacting them, in order to boost their social proof.

"The other issue is there are a couple big time guys who are expert internet marketers but terrible pickup artists. You'd never know it unless you saw them picking up women in person and realized they suck. I won't name names but they know who they are."

Yeah, some might call it immoral, but if you have to "fake it till you make it" then do it. For example, having social proof photos of you with attractive women is the most important part of your profile. The problem is some guys don't have pictures with women, so I give them "fake it till you make it" photo-taking routines where they can literally walk up to any hot girl on the street and easily get a sexy picture with them. One such routine is called "Photo Scavenger Hunt" where you and a buddy go pretend you're on a scavenger hunt for your friend's bachelor party and you have to get various types of photos with girls. I even have guys print out a sheet of paper with different photo poses.

What angle/approach have you found works best for contacting women via MySpace and Facebook?

Just straight up send them an opening message that sets you apart from the rest of the guys. Matchbook Method openers and pre-

written messages are based on scientifically proven attraction techniques that are designed to immediately hook the girl and create instant attraction. I've put together a nearly flawless message formula that combines playful nicknames, false disqualifiers, push/pull techniques, and calls to action.

What if you can't meet up soon? Let's say you want to sarge someone in a foreign country, like, say, Sweden. Any tips for international sarging? Is it even a good idea?

It's a good idea if you're going to be traveling there in the near future. For example, one of my advanced techniques is called Travel Destination Meet Ups where I show guys how to sarge women ahead of time in places where they will be traveling to. That way they have women waiting to hang out with them when they get there.

For the guys that might have jumped off the MySpace bandwagon - what

changes have they made that make it easier or productive for meeting women?

I'll admit, it used to be A LOT easier to meet women off MySpace. What's changed? The competition has grown and girls have become jaded. You can't get away with just being a chill, down to earth guy and expect to grab a hot MySpace girl's attention anymore. But that's why there's the Matchbook Method.

The one thing that has gotten easier is getting the girl to actually meet you in person. Over the years Internet dating has become more and more socially acceptable. However, there will always be those girls who are a little nervous or paranoid, but the Matchbook Method has a solution for that too. What we do is flip the "stalker" frame on the girl and accuse HER of being the potential "creepy internet stalker". It works like magic!

What have you found the best way to transition from emails to actually meeting? texts? IM? phone calls?

I have a very different approach than most guys. Most online pickup "gurus" tell you it's

all about getting her number. Well I don't know about you but in my opinion "phone game" is hard! So why put yourself through that pressure? Instead, I seed and arrange the meet up over MySpace and then get her number just in case I have to tell her I'm running late. Surprisingly most girls don't need to transition to the phone before agreeing to meet up. In fact, not once have I ever had a girl say to me "We can't meet up, we haven't talked on the phone yet."

What makes your system so effective for getting women to respond to you?

We just follow some very simple attraction rules that most guys are clueless about. For example, I teach my guys to make sure they don't qualify themselves until the girl qualifies herself first. If a girl realizes she's won you over without having to work for it she'll lose interest immediately. You need to make her earn it. YOU are the prize to be won. The #1 mistake I see guys make is they reveal their interest in the girl too quickly. You see this all the time on MySpace. Even a handsome, chiseled dude can blow himself out with a "Hey sexy!" comment. But that's why MySpace is so great. It allows regular joes like us to steal beautiful women from un-

derneath guys sporting six-packs and sports cars.

Ah, but what if guys don't remain clueless on matters of attraction? SteviePUA has predicted (see "Predictions for 2010" in the previous issue and "The new arms race: Staying ahead of the curve in the pick up community" in the current one) that this will happen in 2010 due to the release of the movie "The Game". Will there be a new arms race as pick-up technologies become every man's possession? How will we stay cutting-edge if that happens?

People also said it would happen when the VH1 show "The Pickup Artist" came out, yet I still use old school routines out in field that were "exposed" on the show and I've never been called out by a girl.

But let's say it DID happen. The most important part of attracting women is self-confidence, and that's something girls cannot call you out on.

You can learn the best pickup techniques and technologies but if you don't deliver them with confidence girls are going to see right through you. I believe the pickup industry is headed more towards teaching lifestyle attraction and self confidence rather than specific pickup lines and routines.

"What we do is flip the 'stalker' frame on the girl and accuse HER of being the potential 'creepy internet stalker'. It works like magic!"

text BRETT STEVENS

Counter-insurgency lessons for the modern first world citizen

We gain experience in life, and at some point, find ourselves in a modern time — a dying time. This time is the product of a series of revolutions across the world which deposed kings, threw out the myth of God, and replaced them with the individual as a mini-king.

The main rule of this time is that the individual can do whatever he or she wants so long as it does not immediately infringe upon another individual. The collective health of society, nature and truth don't even come in a distant second; they are forgotten, except as a justification for whatever the individual wants to do.

Because of this underlying assumption to the modern world, we live in an age where appearance is the rule enforcing natural selection. Like a cancer made out of politeness, this disease starts with the individual and the individual's choice to avoid unpleasant ideas and replace them with comfortable half-truths.

This makes modern society difficult to overthrow, because it is a lowest common denominator which panders to the insecurity, self-doubt and narcissism of the individual. Counter-revolutionaries, or those who oppose the modern world, face a hard path in that we must convince our fellow citizens to give up ease and comfort for a heady dose of reality.

Fortunately, all of this putting the individual first has manifested itself in an obvious pattern: humanity expands recklessly and wherever it goes, "someone" ruins what is and replaces it with decay. Whether mo-

ronic movies, bad fast food, pollution or the real killer of our environment, habitat loss, humans destroy what they touch, and this creates a pervasive doubt you can exploit.

If you want to help replace this modern time with a more realistic one, you must have two things:

1. **A strategy,** or plan for conquering the mental space of your citizens.
2. **Tactics,** or ways in which this can occur practically

Strategy requires connecting to the psychological hooks through which people view our world. I suggest basing it around a simple meme: because we are so busy ensuring that we as individuals can do whatever we want, we have made ourselves dependent on this notion, and in doing so, have become oblivious to reality. Explain that as the root of all problems and you avoid getting into hot-button issues that make people shut you down,

and because you have taken the highest path of abstraction, you will find that few can argue against it without looking like crass materialists.

Tactics are more difficult. The prevailing logic in the counter-revolutionary underground appears to be that **(a)** a counter-revolutionary underground is a good idea, **(b)** we should form small isolated communities and activity teams, **(c)** we should hit people with our most controversial surface issues and finally, **(d)** we can form an identity as "separate from" the mainstream culture which is the product of these revolutions.

Not to disparage my esteemed colleagues, but to my mind, this is unadulterated horse-shit. History is not changed by those who drop out, but by those who engage, and do so with a clear public statement of what they want to fix and how they'll do it. All revolutions occur when 2-5% of the population agrees on a set of values and decides to implement them.

Since up to 85% of most populations are politically inert and follow whatever trend seems popular, the effectiveness of these small groups is disproportionate to their size. However, first they need to get that magic 2-5% of the population to agree on what is desired, or these people who are very proud of their big brains will each come up with a values system of their own, usually converging on the lowest common denomi-

THEY'RE BRAINWASHING YOU

nator of "what sounds cool to my peers."

After some years of experience with media, I have found that all successful society-changers have several things in common. On the strategic level, they create a cult-like meme, which is a type of psychological justification that puts the user at ease. On the tactical level, they organize themselves like modern corporate marketers in that they create a virtual community around their idea, but they do it through mainstream channels, so that people are members of both the mainstream and yet identify as being of a variant associated with the product.

When I worked with CORRUPT, a civilization watchdog think tank, we identified five stages to a successful counter-revolutionary strategy:

1. Gain power in local community
2. Unite the 2-5% of people who can lead and act
3. Point them toward favored candidates
4. Deceive the clueless masses and disenfranchise them
5. Implement policy directly

Zooming in for a moment on the second point, we can see the need for the following:

- A mainstream meme.

- Subversion of existing symbols and activities.

In addition, we need to recognize that this strategy has a founding meme, or mind-virus that both makes sense as explaining external reality, and makes the individual feel "at home" with their own relationship to it:

- "Because we are so busy ensuring that we as individuals can do whatever we want, we have made ourselves dependent on this notion, and in doing so, have become oblivious to reality." (Modern people are so spaced out that you may need to follow this up with the notion that being unresponsive to reality means that reality does bad things to you. It's in vogue now, for the last four centuries, to think we each live in a personal reality: "what does it mean to you? What is this like in your world?" Sometimes people need reminding that their world exists only in their heads, and that reality acts in consistent patterns we can discover through science.)

These are the elements of strategy — psychological programming — that make for success. They systematically create an effective, mobile political action cadre at the center of our society, and push them toward domination from within. If you look at most successful revolutions, acting from within is an imperative — the best training, resources, media power and political connections come from within the system already in place.

The means to this end should not be, as my esteemed colleagues suggest, a breakaway group. In my view, it should be a social identity which operates in conjunction with other social identities, exists within mainstream political and economic and social concerns, and addresses real-world solutions to actual problems in a way that both benefits the individual directly and benefits the individual by making a more stable society.

Your target audience are not clueless teenagers looking for an identity; those people are useless. While they have disposable income and disposable time, they are self-centered and have nothing at stake, so the only activities in which they participate will be self-aggrandizing and self-amusing. That directly conflicts with the idea of doing anything effective, as such acts resemble "work" which teenagers are certain is the opposite of "fun."

You are looking for people who are effective and intellectually alert. Do not try to recruit the urban market, the food service workers, or the hipsters. These people are not intelligent except in the very narrowest of senses, meaning that they can handle reasonably complex tasks within a narrow field of specialization. That narrow field means that they will always work for someone else and be told what to do, excepting unimportant details.

Instead, target the official and unofficial leaders of society. A partial list is as follows:

- The local guru (computers, politics, literature, gardening) in a range of topics.
- A business leader or team leader at a business.
- Clergy and academia.
- Police, firefighters, and volunteers.
- Writers, artists and journalists.
- The first person on a suburban street that people call in an emergency.

The general population imitates these people in the same way that children imitate their older siblings and peers. They find someone who has succeeded in being popular or being effective, and imitate that person from the outside-in, meaning that they start with mannerisms and work up to understanding ideas. People work by imitating archetypes. You see this with musicians, who start with clumsy imitations of their heroes; writers who ape their influences; actors who adopt the styles of their forebears; and even in business, where young MBAs clone successful CEOs of the past. All of these people are on their way to creating their own style, but they start by imitating a working

model, and then adjust it and keep the adjustments that don't fail.

As mentioned above, you're going to shape these people into a society within a society, a culture within a culture, united upon the basic meme. To do this, you need to create a group identity that resembles a cult, and so we'll use the basic parts of a cult to define it. Successful examples of modern cults: Ayn Rand, heavy metal, Apple computers, Scientology, Buddhism and Science of Mind. People who belong to these cults participate in life just like normal people, but they inject their ideas fanatically as underlying assumptions to all that they do, spreading those ideas like a disease.

The elements of a good cult:

- **A creation story:** why the cult came about and what it improves upon. For example, Buddhism has the classic prodigal son story: a young man matures and finds that the religion he was raised in has gone off-track, so he starts his own group to clarify the teachings. In doing so, he spends seven days under a banyan tree meditating, and discovers The Absolute Truth. Then, because he's a fat jolly sweetheart, he brings it to the rest of us so we can enjoy it and prosper.

- **A belief system:** why the cult is right, what it's right about, and what to avoid. This is best not phrased as a "the world is wrong and I am right" but instead, a sense of "here is where to find power in the world." Everyone seeks the same thing, but you're giving your members a powerful tool. In doing this, you want to bind them to collective survival and point out that while your ideas benefit the individual, the biggest benefit comes from a healthier or smarter society.

- **An icon and verbal tag:** you need a visual symbol as well as a tag word, a cool name for the group. People go nuts for this stuff. Your icon should be simple and forceful so that someone with a marker can draw it in a second; your tag should be a word or number that in the right context people can spot as what it is. The best example of the icon is a symbol like the Anarchy circled A, or the Star of David that radical Zionists draw to mark territory.

For pervasive verbal tags, think of groups like Freethinkers, Progressives, and the brilliant branding of "Hope" and "Change" that allowed people to drop those words in conversation and have a meta-subtext be understood.

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EVERYBODY BE COOL THIS IS A DEMOCRACY



• **A ritual:** when people know the pattern of activity, they can join in. Rush Limbaugh does this better than any human being alive. He introduces a concept for dissection, talks about how it succeeds or fails, then mentions where it succeeds it touches on his principles, and finally, concludes with a statement of how it would be better if it followed his way. He uses similar language, speech patterns, and the same rhythm of progress between these stages in his five-minute radio screeds. People like predictable. They know what's coming next, like singing the words to a song, and it binds them to the ritual.

• **An in-group/out-group strategy:** you want a name for people who "get it," and a name for those who don't and a reason why they don't. Ann Coulter is the master of this style, in that she makes her fans feel like "real conservatives" while talking about how stupid "liberals" are because they're narcissistic nitwits. Sociologists call this an in-group/out-group strategy, because by emphasizing who is and isn't in the club,

it gives people an identity and a reason to feel superior to others, which in turn makes them work harder on spreading the idea around so others recognize their new social status.

• **A secret language:** this language isn't secret as much as it is exclusive to your group. Name things you hate with a pejorative term; name things you like with positive terms. Apple computer does this effectively by insinuating that its users are artists and hip young people, and its opposition are dowdy nerds. When you have a special name for things, you have power over them, because the meaning of that name shapes the consciousness of the speaker each time they say it.

• **Hierarchy.** You want to be able to take those who "get it" and raise them above others, and the best way to do this is to claim they are ascending in their learning and ability. When your good buddy Jim makes it to being a Fourth Level Druid in D&D, you work that much harder to do the same. That bonds you even more with the cult.

• **A messianic leader:** even more appropriately, an invisible messianic leader. Scientology has L. Ron Hubbard and Buddhism has the Buddha. Their adherents pass along their wisdom, but the leader is never there to be debated, debunked, or photographed taking out the trash. Your leader should be an inviolable symbol. Dead people are best.

In addition, learn to market your idea as a brand without a center, meaning that while it is identifiable, it is not controlled by anyone — it is the property of those who use it, and so they work to pass it on and are more effective than any single person, corporation or government can be:

• **Make your idea a space,** not discrete, so people can feel empowered by creating within it, like they use found objects in collages. The best products in the world are imperfect ones because an industry rises up around them to make them better. How is it that Microsoft Windows dominates the market? It smells of opportunity and offers no

NOW GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND BARK LIKE A DOG



barriers to letting others create within it.

- **Let people project themselves** into the idea and develop it for you. Be cryptic, gnostic and nuanced; let their imaginations fill in the rest. People want a vision more than a reality, and since that vision is personal, you want to give them tokens they can play with in their mind but ultimately use in their own fantasies of what their lives are about.

- **Suggest your idea** is an enhancement to what exists, not a counter-idea. Be positive. If you're infiltrating the Republican party, you don't want to be anti-Republican, you want to be super-Republican, and you do this by implying that "new learning" suggests a "new way" of being more Republican than ever before, because it's more effective.

- **Cultivate your critics** and people who want to write about you. They develop your idea as much as your supporters. If someone tells you they think what you're doing is crazy, treat them like a friend. This will baffle them and draw them to you, usually because those who go looking for something to critique are hoping to raise their own social status by seeming wise in negating the negative. Agree with them halfway; if they say you're recruiting people to destroy the world, tell them they're right, you're recruiting people — but to remake the world. Then drop some nuance and talk about how the world could be improved. This gives them something to talk about and create drama about, drawing attention to you.

- **Don't be evil.** Always reward indi-

viduals and your community so they feel empowered by you.

- **Reward those** who use your idea to involve other people and create a status system so those who do well are recognized by the community. Make the absence of good behavior conspicuous. If you want people to involve others, identify each person by name and number of people they involved. If that number is zero, it looks bad and they will work to avoid that. Keep a constant flood of information about those who are succeeding.

- **Make it easy** to socialize using your community. All of your events should be social events first, and activism second, or you'll only attract people for whom life has failed so hard that they need to consider themselves "activists" who are sacrificing

themselves for the common good. You don't want those social dropout nutcases; you want winners.

- **Make your idea** a win/win proposition. Based on the writings of Stephen Covey, whose "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" still dominates the self-help section, you need to suggest to others that when your idea wins, they also win. There are no losers, except of course the aforementioned out-group.

While my esteemed colleagues suggest that you run off to the hills with the weirdos and failures of civilization and try to whip them into a counter-insurgency, I have the exact opposite advice: do not secede from reality. What exists now does so because it is succeeding. Join up with something that is already succeeding and then meet the people who are most influential in it. Try to bend their ears to your ideas, and then invite them into your group as founding members. They will do your work for you.

Groups worth targeting: conservative political groups, community groups like

tree planters or book clubs, churches, personality cults like Toastmasters or 2600, local city governments and PTAs, activities and classes at your local community college.

Find winners in real life and groups that serve a real life function. They already have the power; you just want to redirect that power to your ideas, which is the path of least resistance and thus the one most likely to succeed.

In my years in the underground, I've found that about one in four people are in it because they believe it's a good idea. The rest are there for an identity, and they've chosen the underground because they've failed at life and need a reason to justify that. They dream up a conspiracy to support that notion, and blame Big Corporations, The Jews, The Masons, Government, The Rich or The White for their failings. These people are useless to you because everything they do is for themselves and they cannot succeed in society, so all they do is gather other do-nothing know-nothing losers around them.

The above hitlists do not provide an easy path. Obviously, it's easier to set up a myspace group or blog and hope that these people with lots of time on their hands — and I wonder why they have so much undedicated time? — will somehow come together, and awaken the citizens, and just like in a Hollywood movie you'll have a huge crowd at the end demanding justice. That's not reality. Reality is finding the normal, but strong and effective people, and drawing them to your ideas as part of the path they're already on.

Following the above can unite the 2-5% needed for a successful civilization transition. If you recall our list above, that's the first step toward building a political audience. Later you can find people who hold your ideas and get them elected, which is the least-unstable strategy for taking power away from a mobocracy and the most likely to succeed. But first, you need to build this audience, and this article has given you the basics.

"In my years in the underground, I've found that about one in four people are in it because they believe it's a good idea. The rest are there for an identity, and they've chosen the underground because they've failed at life and need a reason to justify that."

food production systems for a backyard or small farm

text DOUGLAS BARNES

I've just had the chance to review the DVD *Food Production Systems for a Backyard or Small Farm* by Rooster Crows Productions. The 110-minute long DVD aims to help people with access to some land in temperate climates work towards producing all of their own food.

The DVD is divided into 10 sections, which include an overview and acknowledgments. The meat-and-potatoes of the DVD are the sections on water, gardening, rabbits, home butchering, poultry, dogs, perennial plants, and other essential information relating to small-scale food production. The systems and techniques shown take place on the presenter's small farm where they have about 30 acres in polyculture production. They are able to feed 2 adults and 2 children with 2 to 4 hours per day of input on their farm.

So what did I think? Taking into account the challenges and limitations of such a production, I think it is very well done. The scope is very ambitious. Covering backyard food production is no mean feat. There are a lot of possibilities and a lot of ground to cover. What they have done successfully, I think, is to tell their own story, which is a tale of growing food in Central Texas. This necessarily limits the scope of the project, making the video relevant just to people in temperate climates. And those in cold climates such as my own will face a few challenges not covered in the video. Those in the tropics and arid regions might not get much out of the video, considering their unique situations. I don't intend to be critical here. Ideally, there would be a book and video to cover the situations faced in every bioregion and every watershed in every climate. One DVD could never possibly hope to do all that. What is covered, however, is usu-

ally covered with rigour.

The section on water looks at the sources available and the benefits and drawbacks of rainwater versus pond water versus mains water, for example. It outlines the water requirements of trees and gardens in different soil conditions. Rainwater harvesting is addressed with good information on tanks and rainwater catchment off rooftops. It should be noted, however, that the cost-to-storage ratio of tanks is much higher than that of dams and ponds, something not mentioned.


Also, in very cold climates, tanks need to be submerged in the ground to prevent them from freezing solid and risking rupture. I was waiting through the whole section to see earthworks such as swales (water-harvesting ditches on contour) covered, but swales were only mentioned in passing in Section 8 of the DVD in relation to support systems for perennial plants.

There is good information on garden placement in the Gardening section. They mention a few mistakes they made over the years, which is a great way to help others avoid some of the common problems faced by gardeners. They recommend double-digging, which involves digging all the dirt out of a trench then filling it in again with some amendments added. I would have to agree here with my teacher, Bill Mollison, that you should only do this if you want the exercise. I have always had success just by adding amendments and mulch, perhaps very delicately loosening the soil with a pitch fork. Disturbing the soil means killing beneficial mycorrhizal fungi and disrupting bacteria, worms and other soil life. The DVD's advice on avoiding soil compaction should definitely be heeded, though.

There is some information on integrating other systems with the garden as well. For instance, enhancing fertility with rabbit manure or putting chickens on pest patrol.

They avoided interplanting companion plants for fear of scaring off the novice, but I think they could have included some basics without adding any confusion to the presentation. I also would have liked to see something on chop & drop mulching whereby sacrificial plants are chopped and placed around crops. There was, however, brief mention of mulching trees with weeds in a later section; but no active strategy of chop & drop.

One method of pest control covered was the



approach of eating the pests. There is a photo of *inago* (a Japanese garnish consisting of seasoned grasshoppers) being prepared, but I get the impression from the credits that they are not the ones doing this. During my years in Japan, I had the opportunity to try *inago* and I can say it's not for the faint of heart. The taste is fine, but the yuck factor is pretty high. My Japanese wife wouldn't touch the stuff.

The sections on rabbits and poultry were covered rather well. Again, they let us see the flaws of their system so that the viewers could design to avoid the problems they had. Breeding and handling of rabbits was demonstrated and the feeding and production of food for rabbits and poultry were covered. There was mention of chicken tractors in the poultry section, but for those unfamiliar with them, I suspect confusion will ensue. The operation of the tractors was not demonstrated. They delve into the issue of predator protection for their birds, but make no mention of electric netting for some reason. Electrified enclosures are a very effective way of protecting livestock and are reasonably priced.

What to say about the section on butchering? The first thing that comes to mind is the "Pets or Meat?" scene from Michael Moore's *Roger & Me*. The presenter takes us through an entire butchering of a rabbit, starting with a live rabbit and ending with a quartered rabbit going in a bag and the hide being tanned. The whole scene takes up over 13 minutes.

The killing and butchering is not for the squeamish. I must say, however, that the whole thing, particularly the kill, was a sacred moment. The presenter obviously respects her animals and the taking of life. Up to this point she had shown to be an extremely articulate and well-educated person. And when the time came for compassion, she demonstrated it admirably, stroking the rabbit, singing to it to sooth it, and making an offering of tobacco. It was a very emotional scene and it really stirred my feelings. Were the meat we get from the market only butchered with such reverence.

The section on dogs runs through the basic guidelines for farm dogs as well as their uses. They use theirs for livestock protection, clearing meat scraps and, ingeniously, to haul carts.

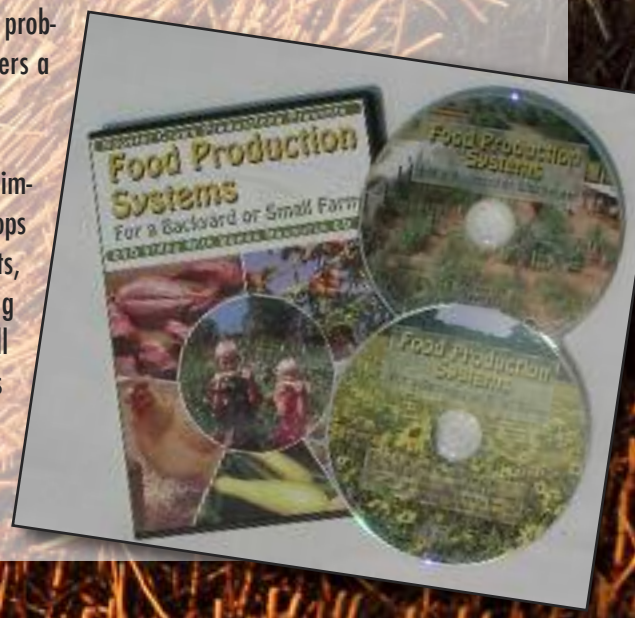
The section on perennials offers some good basic information for establishing food forests and orchards. The information is broad, but vital. And again, they share problems they have had, giving the viewers a head's up to potential problems.

The last educational section addresses important loose ends such as selecting crops based on nourishment requirements, food preservation, first aid, testing mulch to see if it has herbicide that will kill garden crops, marking contours with a bunyip level (water level), dealing with ants, rocket stoves and more!

Now, I've just covered the DVD here. I have not yet mentioned the 35 MB of pdf files on the supplementary CD ROM. A lot of the information that I mentioned the DVD did not cover is covered in the CD ROM. There is even a transcription of Bill Mollison's 1981 permaculture design course given in Wilton, New Hampshire. All told, there are 64 files on a broad number of topics to help you on your way to producing your own food.

So here is the question: Is it worth handing over \$24.95 USD for the DVD? Is it worth less than a case of beer for information that could save you tens of thousands of dollars over your lifetime? Just go to backyardfoodproduction.com and buy it already!

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Medical Tradecraft- What you need

text [R3CVR5!<3]

A man in an olive drab uniform walks up to you and speaks rapidly in a vaguely slavic language. Only a basic vocabulary, a lab coat, and an overpriced souvenir passport from the "Conch Republic" stand in the way of your ass being riddled with holes and stomped into the mud by a dozen copies of the very boots that you're now following down the hallway.

In a life or death situation, this is where social engineering meets survivalism. Are you ready?
As the saying goes, "it's not what you know, but who you know."

This could not be less true. It's nice to have friends, but if you lack the basic skills of a given profession, you lack credibility. You have to approach any task you set forth on as if your life depended on it. Not to wax philosophical, but every step you take in life leads to the next, and if you fail to complete a step that you intend to, then you stumble into a sometimes profoundly different life than you would have had you not stumbled.

Believe me, I've stumbled quite a bit. Sometimes it's not a bad thing, either. On occasion I've even chatted in the wee hours of the morning with my coffee cup sitting on things secret enough that mentioning them here could have the proverbial wolves upon my flock. I'm neither a con-man, nor a spy, mind you, but my skill set overlaps sufficiently that you can assume I'm a vague hybrid somewhere between MacGuyver, Gregory House, Jason Bourne, and any one of Ocean's Eleven. Or Twelve.

This article, however, is not about me, it's about getting you down that hall.

The shiny leather of his boots squeaks no-

ticeably louder than the hard rubber soles against the worn tile floor, your italian loafers tacitly keeping time with the clack-squee, clack-squee, until you reach a doorway obscured by a gossamer film of plastic, bracketed in stark contrast to the pair of robust guards now eyeing your passport and credentials.

There's a few lessons to be had here, so let's begin your fieldcraft training, since it's more important, and more widely applicable than anything else you can learn. My cellphone has private numbers for a variety of powerful, intelligent, capable individuals. Quite a few are incredibly hot and single.

Most of them are women.

Unfortunately, none of these people are standing in the corridor with you. Even if they were, only a rarified few have tactical training and an arsenal to go with it, but MY cellphone doesn't help YOU with those guards, does it?

This is where fieldcraft comes in. You need

to know things before you can know people. You can ride your bike, or your girlfriend, but your bike doesn't need flowers and a night out on the town before you can touch the handle bars.

So about those guards – You have to read your mark very carefully, especially while traveling overseas, since nuances of local custom may turn a pun into a jail term. You need a friend in this situation, someone with access and that can throw some shade on you from the legitimacy tree. After all, your objective is to get down the hall, and out of the building without those boots clack-squee-ing after you.

Here's the read: The guard ahead of you is either fresh meat, or just got new boots. Since you're in an eastern bloc nation, the boots aren't going to be a top item, certainly not squeaky leather boots. Your run of the mill grunt is either going to wind up with his own synthetic cheapo boots, or something issued by the organization they work for (the local flavor of the army/navy/coast guard/air force, etc.) so he's likely fresh meat. The

to know to make it. Or fake it



other two guards have noticeable wear marks on their boots – creases in the leather panels and scuff marks on the polymer, so they’ve walked these halls for a while. They’re the ones that you DON’T want chasing you. The weapons they hold are likely going to be some AK-47 variant, chambered in 7.62 by 39, something like a shorter .308, but with just as much stopping power. A phone book held over your head won’t even slow it down, and you’re sure as hell not going to outrun it in this lifetime. The key is their posture. Relaxed? Tense? How likely is your odd behavior going to be in setting these guys off. Why are they tense/relaxed? If their focus is elsewhere, say on a sporting event, or an impending attack by the “bad guys” – then you’re pretty well set and can assume that you can operate with some liberty in gaining your freedom. If they’re tense because of YOU, then you’re pretty much screwed.

So, damned if you do, damned if you don’t, you might as well see where this rabbit hole goes.

“Fresh meat?” you ask, tilting your head towards Private First Class Squeaky McBoots.

The decidedly scruffier looking guard nods, “Da.”

You reach into your shirt pocket, noticing the guards tightening their grip on their

weapons. Luckily for all of you, you produce a pack of moderately high quality european cigarettes and a lighter. Grins all around. The first one goes to the noob, “Welcome to the [Army], eh?”

You’ve just made your first friends this side of the barbed wire.

At this point it doesn’t matter what’s on the other side of the plastic. It’s either a guillotine, in which case you probably wouldn’t be walking under your own power, or some sort of crazy third-world sick bay with scads of slowly reanimating corpses that need “treatment”.

You need skills now, not just in dealing with people, but in dealing with SICK people. You can’t just charm a guy’s leg back into contact with the rest of his body – blood vessels and connective tissue don’t care how shiny your satin tie is, or how “cocky funny” you are.

So let’s begin your education with a laundry list. Look at the nearest, cheapest

school you can find, and take all the basic biology and anatomy oriented classes you can. Basically pick up a pre-med degree description and follow the biology aspect of the course work as closely as possible. Skip things like botany, but organic and analytical chemistry are a MUST. Screw literature, but if you scored less than 700 on your SAT (the max score for that test in the US is 800. I got a 710 in 8th grade) then you need to take some composition classes. Think about a fiction writing class or even medical terminology. Build those language skills. DEFINITELY take a medical terminology class, and take it on campus, in person, not online or just out of a book. You get alot more out of it if you hear someone actually say the words and use them constructively in a sentence. You also hear plenty of war stories that you can steal from and build on for your own repertoire.

Next, take some sort of formal medical training. You have to have SOME experience before you can call yourself a practitioner of any sort.

Once you have at least some internship at a clinic on your resumé, even if it’s just been clerical work, you should sign up for cell biology, and take your first cadaver-based anatomy and physiology lab. If you can take a course that includes pathophysiology, do so. That means you learn about diseases named after dead people like Alzheimer, Cushing, and Hashimoto.

"You can't just charm a guy's leg back into contact with the rest of his body – blood vessels and connective tissue don't care how shiny your satin tie is, or how 'cocky funny' you are."

It doesn't hurt at all to take a physics class or two, but you definitely want to self-study as much as possible. Get as far as you can through fluid dynamics and thermodynamics – usually a third semester engineering course for the former, and a third semester physics class for the latter. They have their own books, unlike the introductory classes that use the same book or books for the first and second semester work. When one semester takes its own 1000 page book, you know you're in for some math, so if you don't at least have integrals and derivatives under your belt, get help NOW. Seriously. It helps to be able to run derivatives in your head when your commandeered car is careening towards a cliff and you need to accurately estimate the coefficient of friction between the rubber of the tire and the gravel you're sliding on.

While you're doing all this book work, which should take someone with an IQ of 120 or so 18-20 months while working a full time job, you should get a suture kit. Learn how to sew some basic stitches in fabric, then transition to an inexpensive skin simulant. You can get them on eBay for 20-50 U.S. dollars. I'm guessing that by the time you read this article that we'll be using dollars as firestarters, so expect to pay somewhere around 30-40 euros. Skin simulants are reusable, self-healing silicone models of an incision through various layers of skin and fascia, with a muscle-like backing material.

You can expect to get a few hundred stitches through the material before it becomes less than ideal, but don't think you can just screw around with it. Learn the

stitches in fabric first, then transition to the simulator. Pork and lamb are remarkably like human flesh, so if you're really expecting to have to do some sutures, you might consider paying a visit to your local butcher and seeing if you can snag some intact skin and fascia. You might have to go back in the supply chain as far as a packing or rendering plant, but even raw chicken isn't half bad to practice on a few times. If you use something like dental floss or undyed linen or cotton thread, there's no reason you can't make a few slices in your chicken and stitch some garlic cloves under the skin.

Just remember to cut the sutures out before you serve it.

By this point you should be able to diagnose most battlefield type injuries, and if you payed attention during your cardiovascular system studies, you'll be able to clamp off that severed artery long before your patient bleeds out. You should also be able to diagnose broken bones, dislocations, and various other forms of blunt and sharp trauma. Gunshot wounds may or may not be what you might call treatable, and all you're pretending to be is a general practitioner, or an EMT. You should actually be an EMT or paramedic by the time you pretend to be anything else, and you should remember that at some point, the gig will be up and you won't be able to fake neurosurgery.

The lab coat might get you through a door, but on the other side of that door might be a scared, bleeding, 12 year old girl that is depending on the man in the lab coat to save her life.

Do you want to let her down?

Fresh meat looks a bit sheepish at this point, and pulls back the plastic ahead of you, handing you a plastic box of surgical masks and latex gloves.

Your eyes are drawn to the commotion on the left side of the room, where a crimson fountain intermittently punctuates the din of several orderlies apparently trying to clamp off a bleeder. The instrumentation scattered around the ward is obviously late-60's era soviet-bloc surplus, running on a stout mix of vacuum tubes and vodka-scented duct tape. Moving closer, you assess the immediate area around the patient. The blow-out kits next to the rusty examination table used to be clearly marked in Cyrillic, but with the dust and water stains it might as well be Greek.

If you don't have it in your bag, you just might have to do without.

So here's your loadout:

Get a bugout bag. Forums abound, and situations differ, so read up and put one together that fits your skill set and situation. Then start packing a second kit. You need a brightly colored, durable, cheap duffle bag – bright red is great. Yellow or International Orange come in a close second. Try and stay pretty standard to your local EMS folks, or your typical military EMS gear. Get some red cross patches to put on it, but don't do it until you've at least completed basic first aid training – CPR and all that jazz.



Get a basic medical kit with the usual gauzes and antibiotic ointments – toss it in the bag and forget it's there.

Get a PDR – Physician's Desk Reference. Hang out at a local university or trade school that offers a Nursing program, or just go to a hospital cafeteria and look for nursing students. Spend some time around a medical school and learn to like coffee at odd hours of the night. If you see a short lab coat walking by, pay attention to what's in the pocket. Don't be afraid to ask what "all those books" are. Write down the title and get a copy at the book store. There are countless cheat sheets that medical students and residents use all the time to make sure they get the name of a condition right, as well as the proper course of treatment and possible side effects.

Not a bad conversation starter if you're single, so have fun with it. Grab all those books and start reading them. The more you know, the better, and if you're the operator that you need to be, you should have a girlfriend that's a nursing student by now, so when you get stumped, you'll have someone to go to. You'll be able to figure out fairly quickly what books and cheat sheets you'll need with you in your bag, and which ones are best left at home.

It's not a horrible idea to get a PDA and load a few memory cards with text versions of the books or scanned images of charts. That whole suture technique thing you learned a few months ago? Download some videos and tuck them away on a card too.

To this library you can then add the actual tools of the trade. Everyone's probably thinking suture kits and tracheotomy tubes. Not quite yet, soldier.

First on the list is a stethoscope. Learn how to use it. I don't just mean push it up to someone's chest and listen, you need to learn what heart sounds mean what.

http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/Littmann/stethoscope/education/heart-lung-sounds/

Lung sounds are next.

<http://www.med.umich.edu/lrc/psb/heart-sounds/index.htm>

You will need a thermometer.

Make it two. Batteries die, readings are wrong, two is one, one is none, just have at least two with you. Besides, whatever THAT guy has might not be so easily rinsed off. He can keep it. Liquid crystal forehead thermometers are AWESOME when you want to keep a mask on someone, or if their mouth is inoperable. Seriously dehydrated folks do NOT want to have you sticking a cold, hard, plastic rod into their mouth. They will kill you with their mind.

GET A BLOOD PRESSURE CUFF.

The wrist electronic deals are nice, but, again, batteries die, so have a real one or two available. Two sizes of cuffs if you can get 'em. Normal adult ones can usually be adjusted DOWN for kids, but not UP for big guys. It's nice to have options, too, since you never know what part of an arm might be broken or bleeding, so the wrist/leg/arm option is nice to have. It's not a bad idea to learn how to do a femoral blood pressure either.

A full field surgical kit to include blunt dissection gear – picks and probes – you'll see most of them during your cadaver lab. Disposable suture and staple kits as your budget allows. Get several gauges in absorbing and non-absorbing sutures. A good wound wash solution is invaluable. Kelly clamps/haemostats galore. At least half a dozen sets of stainless steel. Get at least two pair of clamps about 6" long that are NOT made in China or Taiwan, and if you can, get the gold plated versions. Nothing stays quite as visible in a wound bed like the glisten of gold, and magnetic stainless is always nice since you can get cheap sharps organizer trays with magnets in the bottom so you can keep your tools handy and out of the mud while your patient thrashes around.

A couple of old fashioned magnets are a good idea to have around as well in case you lose a needle or clamp. Epi pens are invaluable, as is benadryl – injectable or otherwise. Topical creams and sprays are particularly good for local anaesthesia on open wounds,

but I didn't tell you that. Really. Contra-indicated uses are not fun to mess around with, but if it's a matter of saving someone's life, then do what you must.

The young soldier follows you over to the bleeding patient, and begins to translate for what appears to be the scared-shitless doctor on duty. Apparently he's lost a clamp in this girl's entrails, and can't find it, and the other three sterile clamps are already holding onto three other bleeders.

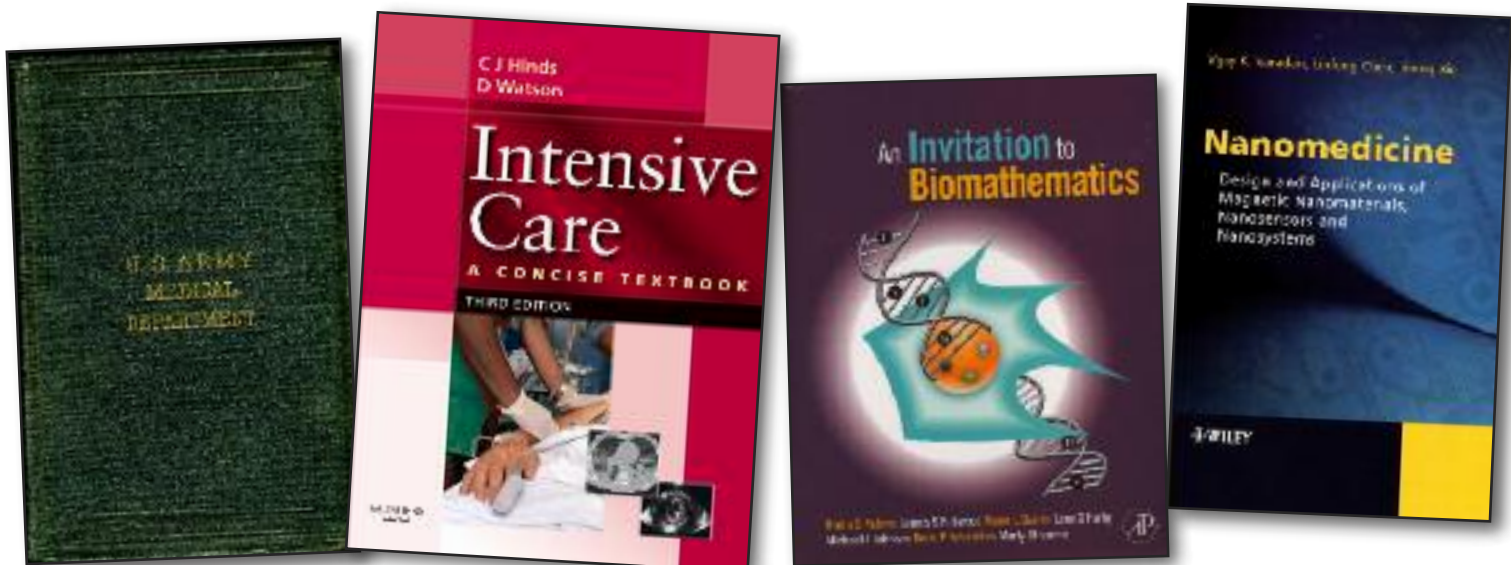
Reaching into your bag, you come up with a pair of round neodymium magnets. Dropping them in a rubber glove, you step forward and massage the glove into the wound, and feel the slightest click. As you tug the glove back out of the wound, the clamp appears, and your gold-plated hemostats close the bleeder just behind the astounded doctor's fingers.

No more blood flowing, no more scared medical "professionals", and you just earned more street cred than you can shake a stick at.

"I'm neither a con-man, nor a spy, mind you, but my skill set overlaps sufficiently that you can assume I'm a vague hybrid somewhere between MacGuyver, Gregory House, Jason Bourne, and any one of Ocean's Eleven. Or Twelve."

But street cred alone will not save her, will it?

In the US, nursing courses last about 6-8 months, and you can be an RN in 18 months if you have a degree of any kind whatsoever. If you go the extra step and become a nurse practitioner, you can prescribe most of the



"It helps to be able to run derivatives in your head when your commandeered car is careening towards a cliff and you need to accurately estimate the coefficient of friction between the rubber of the tire and the gravel you're sliding on."

things you might need in your kit, to include the aforementioned injectable benadryl. From experience I can tell you that over 90% of the things that get done in a hospital are done by nurses. I can also tell you that some of the best clinicians I have ever known have been nurse practitioners.

The worst clinicians I know are absolute morons who made it through medical school cheating off their lab partner and happened to be able to take standardized tests really well. They walked out of their board examinations and became general practitioners and never looked back. The field is always evolving, and if you don't stay on top of things, you will kill someone.

Three hours later, you wipe the last of the girl's blood from your face with a towel soaked in almost-warm water.

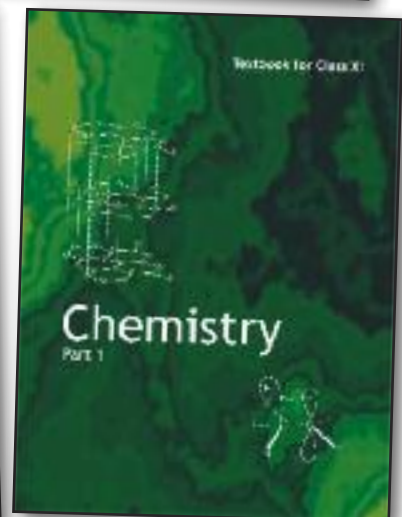
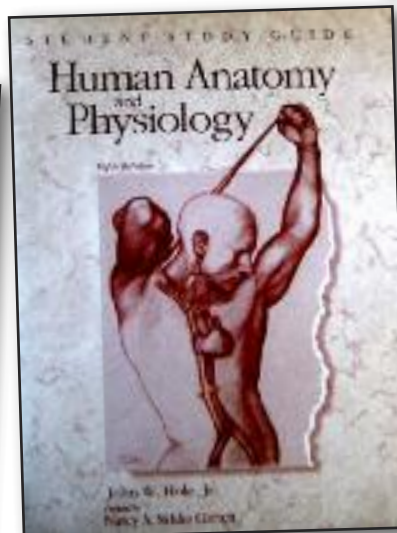
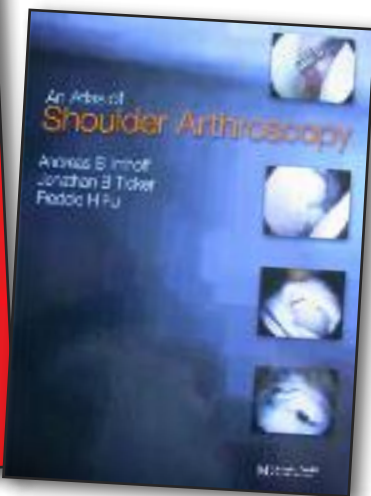
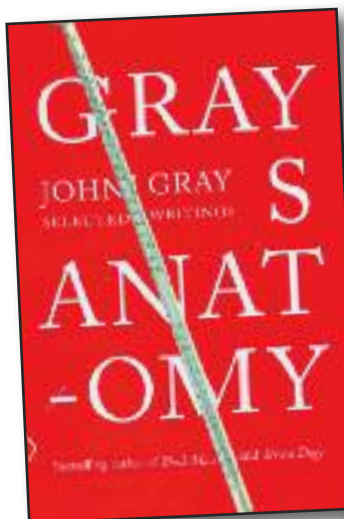
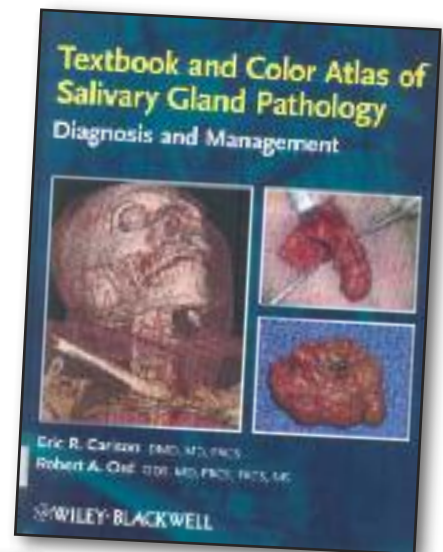
She'll make it. 200 stitches from five suture kits and your bright red bag sits limp on the table, its contents spilled, scattered, and bloodied all around you. You're shaking now, filled with joy at your performance, at her recovery, and scared shitless about all the things you didn't study that you just had to fake your way through.

Overloaded yet?

Good. This is just a sit down with someone who knows how important all the information is. Put yourself in front of someone bleeding out from what seems to be an invisible wound, losing a pint of blood a minute, and you might get an idea of how absolutely crazy it is for you to think you can pretend to be a doctor. You can't fake it.

You have to make it.

[R3CVR5!<3] specializes in the application of database tools and computer models to real world health and human services issues. A long time network security enthusiast his resumé overflows with experience in fields from automotive and electrical engineering to botany and medicine. Apparently, after a few pints of Hefeweizen, he also thinks of himself as quite the author.





Oh, happy day!

It has now been forever since issue 3 was out.
I know, and I apologize for that.
My computer dumped me and the time ran away.
It won't happen again, I promise.
And I promise to make issue 5 like there has
never been made a magazine before.
Like there's no tomorrow.

Peace, and love to Dusty

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