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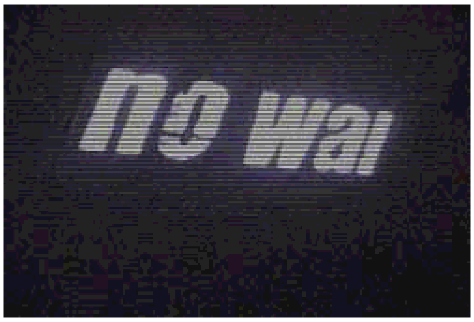
CARBON DEFENSE LEAGUE

Member of the HACTIVIST Tactical Media Network

Tactical Media Arts and Engi

Project	Description
FlashPoint FlashPoint Website February 2003 Troy, NY	Modification of a disposable camera to produce small projectors (or tazer The website showcases two methods to recycle disposable cameras. One requires no additional parts and another requires only simple soldering sk to produce an automatically deployable flash camera. Using transparency stencil, or a marker, the camera can become a miniature projector. Be car when reproducing this project - it is high current.

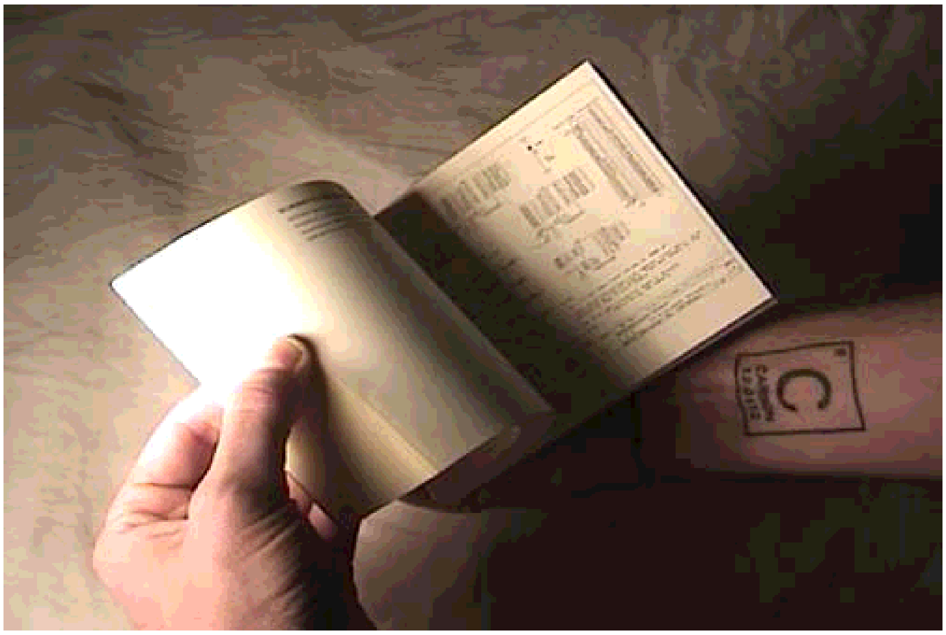


Download a PDF of the frontside of a flyer for FlashPoint
Download a PDF of the backside of a flyer for FlashPoint

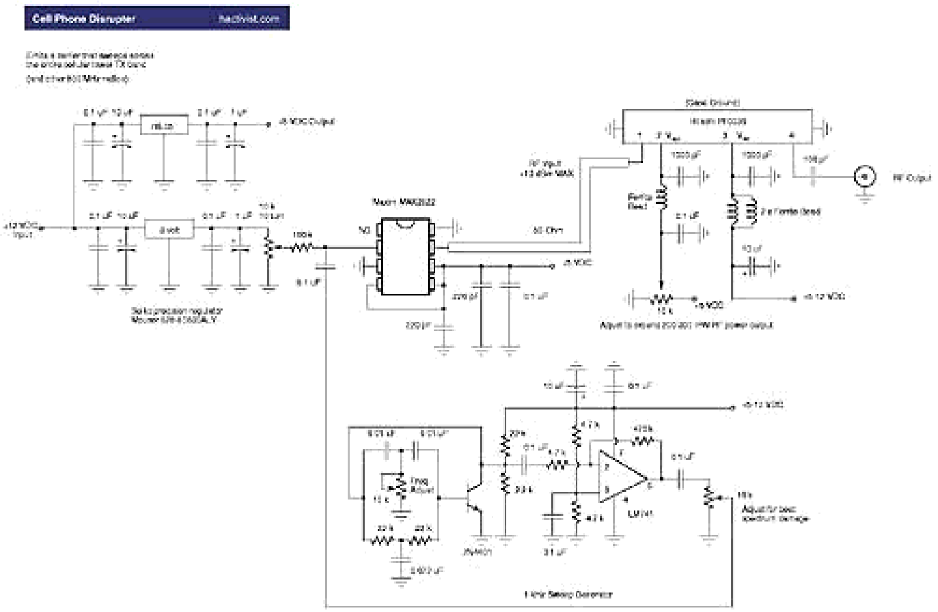
Child As Audience
1999
Pittsburgh, PA
San Francisco, CA

The Carbon Defense League?s first child audience/participant device was constructed throught the reverse engineering of the Nintendo GameBoy. T is the top selling video game console of all time. Being that we are the fir generation to be able to attach relevant historical data to what game we w playing at any given time; it is known that video games are a power playe the socialization process. Nintendo is the focus also because of it?s own d to maintain control and attack all instances of reverse engineering. We ha unearthed the technologies to rewire a cartridge with a programmable RO chip (an EPROM). This allows us to upload our own game onto the syste The first game developed was called Super Kid Fighter. An essay about tl project was written with Critical Art Ensemble who also aided in the conceptual development of the project. In 2001 the project was released a development kit featuring book and CDROM and translated from English German, Dutch, and French.



View a video about this project

Cellular Disruption 1999 Pittsburgh, PA	The CDL was working on the development of a tool to allow the sending messages and/or feedback to all cellphones within a small vicinity. By cy through frequencies we hoped to disrupt the normal information flow and subject the subject to the activists’ misdemeanor(s). This project was start over 3 years ago and rapidly advancing technologies has forced it to close This schematic comes from gbppr.org. It is for a traditional jammer.



Download a schematic for the Cellphone Jammer

Toilet Trained	first occurence: September 23, 2002 Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute (RP Troy, NY

2003

Troy, NY

You too can create bathroom reassignment, just print these stickers on ful sheets, cut, and paste:
8.5" x 11" Stickers

A project conducted by UNITED GYANDROMORPH - associates of the Carbon Defense League.

"Bathrooms are a reflection of cultural attitudes and differences." --Arlen Matthews, bathroom psychology specialist for the American Standard company, from "Beyond the Basic Bathroom," The Salt Lake Tribune, Sunday, April 28, 2002
http://www.sltrib.com/2002/apr/04282002/sunday/sunday.htm

CONCEPT:

For many gender variant, transgender, and transsexual people the simple a going to the bathroom presents enormous anxiety. Because our bathroom segregated into "men" or "women" spaces, transgender people, who opera outside the culturally constructed institution of gender*, confront many obstacles when partaking in necessary daily activity.

People who don’t fit easily into the categories "men" and "women" or wh gender identity is often confusing are many times misunderstood by other people in bathrooms. Many have encountered harassment, violence and embarrassment because others perceive them to be in the "wrong" bathroo (Sylvia Rivera Legal Resource Program http://www.makezine.org/rants.h
TOILET TRAINED re-conceptualizes what bathroom, as public space, ha come to mean. It examines the conditioned behavior of the public bathroo goers to identify themselves within a binary gender system and to perforn gender appropriate to our biological sex. TOILET TRAINED will explor signifiers and codes of gendered territory within a public space where "appropriate" gender performance is integral not only to participation, bu some cases, to survival.

This project is an attempt to create an awareness of a public space and the constraints it possesses but are not always made visible. The restroom is a private area inside a public environment. There are few legal restrictions t force a binary division between male and female in these public spaces, y binary gender is validated by public participation and and at times, enforcement.

Through the process of reassigning the bathrooms on the campus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, we hope to disrupt what ha become a very formal action/reaction to sex divided bathrooms. Reassign is done in the form of a stickering campaing. Pre-existing signage is alter a friendly manner with black and yellow (gender neutral) removable stick advertising the definition in biological terms of both a Gyandromorph fly a Crepidula snail. The specialty of these creatures is that both possess the ability to genetically change their sex. They are intersex being by definiti

The concept and proven existence of the Gyandromorph heightens the ch to eliminate the binary definitions of male and female. There is along and blurring circle on the spectrums of both sex and gender. The Gyandromo the call to arms.

PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION:

We slowly eased our way around the campus of RPI; stealthily layering o new intersex signs over the binary male and female restroom signs. We p approximately 30 signs around the campus in as many building as we cou early Monday morning.

Back in our lair, we had engineered an answering machine to serve as the home base for the action. On each sticker we included a campus phone number to solicit responses from the audience for this performance. In ca the number, the participant was greeted by a small statement spoken in computer voice saying: "You have reached the offices of Gyandromorph Crepidula, please leave a message."

By 11:00 AM, we had 15 phone calls, 13 of which were hang-ups. We di have one legitimate call from Campus Public Safety (AKA Campus Polic They informed us that they had removed a set of signs from a campus bui and expect a return call immediately. We of course did not call them back With our lack of response, the police were quick to show up at the door o lair noting their knowledge of the misdeed. The response by the member our group present was one of recognition of knowledge of the event but n direct participation in the rule violation. The officer was insistent on purs the solving of this "crime." We learned then that the effect of the project not one that we had planned. Rather than responding to the issues of a bin bathroom system, the participants in the experiment assumed that the bathrooms had been infected by some type of bacteria and were afraid to enter. People were lined up outside of the bathrooms fearing that capitula snails were mounding in the bathrooms and intersexing it up preventing anyone from going to the bathroom. In calling our number they were "sca by our "evil sounding" message on the gutter engineered answering mach

After meeting with another professor alongside the Campus Safety office had yet to meet at a resolution. The officer wants to teach a lesson to the perpetrators and he did not come short of threatening expulsion for the infraction. There has yet to be a resolution for this event. It is in fact still ongoing project. We have several options we are looking at pursuing to redirect the project towards its initial goals.

OPTIONS:

What comes next. In order to realign the project we need to decide exactl what steps to take. One possible action is to threaten the school that we ar fact Gyandromorphs. This threat would include the requirement to make a restrooms accessible to Gyandromorphs and other intersexed and gender variant beings. This might be too confrontational and may not entirely wc for us. One other option is to issue an anonymous statement on behalf of t group stating our original goals and attempt to get that open letter publish the campus newspaper and released as well by the Campus Police as an information bulletin.

We have since changed the answering machine message to instead inform "after careful inspection, no Gyandromorphs or Crepidula snails were fou any of the campus bathrooms".

ANALYSIS:

It is a strange metaphor that has been accidentally created by this project. While it was not our intention to do so, the reaction of the participants to t signs is one worthy of study. Their reaction may be similar to a feeling th might have if an intersex or transgender person entered their bathroom. T fear and concern that is usually displayed in such situations might be alarmingly similar to the fear they felt when assuming a virus or bacteria infected their private bathroom space. It might be that the associations wi Haz-Mat sign were too dominant, and drowned our subject entirely. It mi be that instead it exemplifies the hazard that many believe the material of genitialia or sexual mislabeling can pose to them.

The labeling and reassignment did cause a significant reaction. Where tha reaction will lead us is still unclear as we are working on defining our nex steps currently. If we go down, we go down fighting - even if it's just for small yellow sticker.

REFERENCES:

FEDERAL CASES RECOGNIZING THAT DISCRIMINATION ON TH BASIS OF GENDER NON-CONFORMITY AND/OR TRANSGENDER STATUS IS A FORM OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX http://www.nclrights.org/publications/nonconform.htm

CASES RECOGNIZING PROTECTION FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPL UNDER STATE SEX AND DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS http://www.nclrights.org/publications/transprotect.htm

Citizens to Protect	first occurence: September 14, 2002 Crossgates Mall Albany, NY USA

Democracy
October
2002

Troy, NY

Watch the video from that event

You too can create a cell of the CPD. Here is all you need:
CPD Survey
CPD Handout

CONCEPT:

In a state of panic - such as many Americans have been conditioned to pla themselves in after the events of 9/11 - people are more willing to contrib to a data collection agency than they might be in a "secure" time. These agencies may/do exist to a certain extent as surveillance techniques for insurance companies, banks, employers, schools, governments, etc. Data collection has led to the creation of our expanding Data Bodies that in sor regards (legal) are more real than our physical selves. This information ar data regulates our behavior, determines our social standing, and tells man who or what we are.

Without much effort, we believe we will be able to establish a pseudo-organization, with the goal of an improved security system by increased data monitoring, henceforth known as the Citizens' to Protect Democracy (CPD). By interacting with the public in what has become a known form of communication and study, we will solicit data and feedba based on the presumption of our patriotic views.

The CPD is based on the newly developed Operation TIPS program in the United States. A controlling force is dependent on the willingness of their workers to forfeit their rights to supposed inalienable rights in exchange f heightened sense of security. The CPD will perform a mockery of these institutions in an attempt to present the atrociousness of such self-surveill practices.

Dressed as businesspersons, the CPD has infiltrated its first corporate spa the Crossgates Mall in Albany, New York on September 14, 2002. The ac occurred just three days after the one year anniversary of the events of 9/1 NYC.

PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION:

Two members of the CPD emerged from their vehicle to enter the parking of the Crossgates Mall in Albany, NY Saturday evening. Both members o CPD were wired with microphones and surveillance cameras to record the trickster behaviors. They were armed with information sheets explaining of personal data surveillance and monitoring being conducted by medicin business and government. Their goal was to proposition the mall consume fill out a short survey. In exchange for filling out such a survey, the participators were given the six page information sheet to further extend t perceived notion of the paranoia of a group such as the CPD. The survey asked several confusing True and False questions (i.e. Do you consider political protest to be terrorist activity), as well as a set of data of the user name, birth date, social security number, occupation. Character types of e CPD performer changed repeatedly during the performance to address the need of each specific interaction and scenario.

After over an hour of parking lot wandering, surveillance captured audio video had been collected by both CPD members and nearly 50 handouts h been distributed. Approximately 25 surveys were filled out by participant the program. Crowd reaction was diverse and unexpected at many times.

ANALYSIS:

The project produced unexpected results. Some were positive and some w very unintentional and unwanted. The CPD was accepted as a legitimate organization without much question. Because of the CPD's lack of concentration on a single characterization for the group members, analysi became difficult when the veil of the charade was dropped several times during audience participation.

It may be necessary to shift the political focus of the CPD away from data privacy issues. The CPD learned that the public is aware of surveillance a spy behavior but either does not care or sees it as a necessary evil. The CI should not be so focused on a set of knowledge but more on allowing the participant to focus on his/her own behaviors in relation to such surveillar This could be accomplished through a more absurd behavior and strategy. Perhaps being so focused on one set of issues such as data privacy is not t correct way to create such an organization.

The CPD was also mixed on its support of paranoid behavior. One extrem

effect of surveillance technologies is a paranoid behavior modification. W
we support knowledge and understanding of such systems, modifying our
behaviors in response is reactionary and should be watched carefully. Wa
CPD encouraging paranoid behavior? If so, was it done in a mocking fash
or was it a serious educational aside. The CPD wants to clarify these issue
before another performance is attempted.

The responses to the survey were not what the CPD had expected. Most individuals refused to fill in any piece of personal information. These individuals most likely had recently made purchases inside the mall on a (soaked credit card but chose to restrict dispersing such information in the parking lot outside the temple of consumption. The CPD sometimes made too simple for participants to ignore filling out such private information o surveys, by allowing only the answering of the questions as an alternative path.

The project helped the CPD to understand its target audience, and gain a s of comfort in the interaction with that group. In future events, the CPD hc to have a more absurd approach to their patriotic organization in these hig secure times. It might be possible to alter the CPD into a vigilant grass ro youth organization seeking extreme paranoid reactionary behaviors such a personal tracking devices, retinal scanners/transmitters, etc.

What the CPD did was interact in a non traditional guerilla manner. It wa unimportant to our participants nor to us wether this was an art project or legitimate organization. The discourse that took place in the parking lot w invaluable in our assessment of who the public in this area might be. With information, the CPD can re access our tactics, and step forward yet agair the light of the parking lot to exchange words with the people of Albany, or wherever a parking lot might need protection.

AUTONOMY BY WHATEVER MEANS