



*“What a misunderstanding!”*

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*The Source - Issue 10*

*Cory Arcangel*

***What a misunderstanding!***

☯️💻;-) 2018

Arcangel Surfware

[www.arcangelsurfware.biz](http://www.arcangelsurfware.biz)



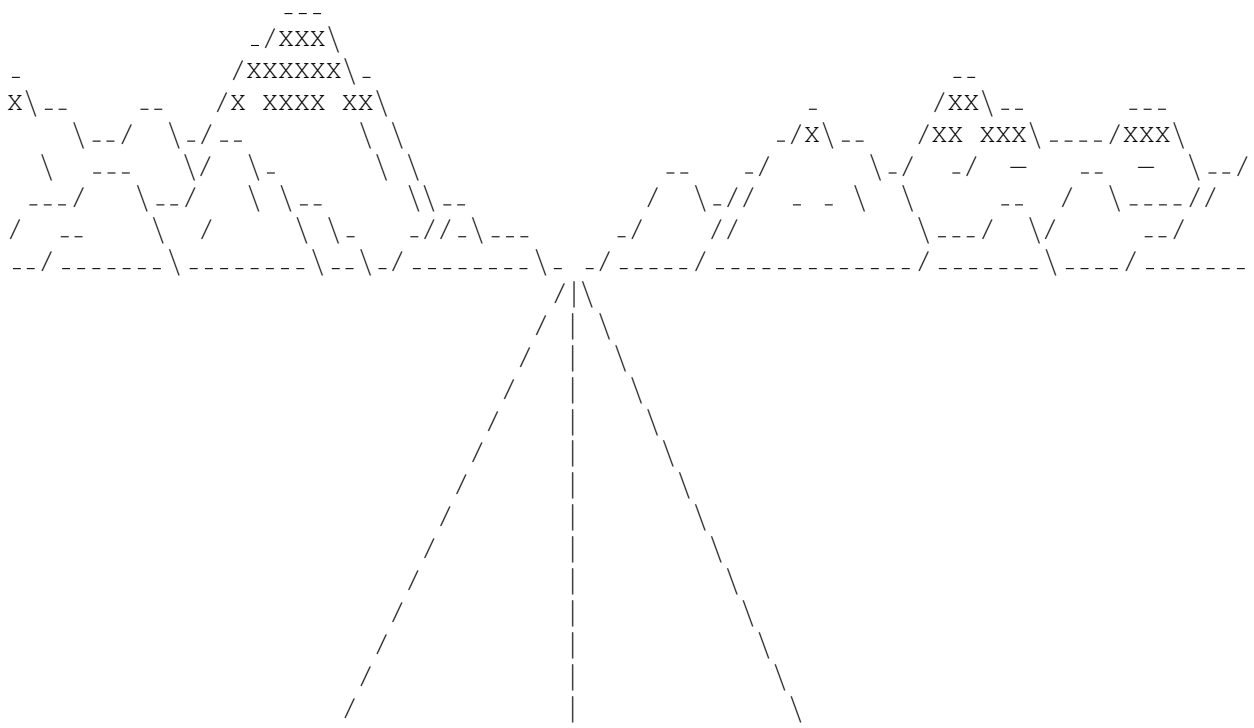
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What a misunderstanding!

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Cory Arcangel, 2009–2011

<http://www.coryarcangel.com/>

56

A perl file which will grab the New Yorker caption this cartoon image every week and post it to a new tumblr blog with the caption "What a misunderstanding!". Originally performed at <http://www.what-a-misunderstanding.com>.

"I'm big on thinking" – Shaq

```

BEGIN {
2   my $homedir = ( getpwuid($>) )[7];
   my @user_include;
   foreach my $path (@INC) {
       if ( -d $homedir . '/perl' . $path ) {
           push @user_include, $homedir . '/perl' . $path;
7       }
   }
   unshift @INC, @user_include;
}

12 use WWW::Tumblr;
   use Time::localtime;
   use Image::Grab qw(grab);
   use File::Compare;
   use Data::Dumper;
17 use LWP::Simple;

#Grab image from New Yorker Site, and save it to disk with the file name as current
   date / time.

   $date_today = sprintf("%02d%02d%02d%02d%02d", (localtime->year+1900) % 100, localtime->
       mon+1, localtime->mday, localtime->hour, localtime->min);
22
   my $url = 'http://contest.newyorker.com/CaptionContest.aspx';
   $content = get $url;

#find mysterious image
27 $content =~ m/img src(.*?)ContestSubmit1_ContestImage/i;
   $urlbit = $1;
   print "\n";

#find img out of that text
32 $urlbit =~ m/=\"(.*?)\.jpg/i;
   $urlbit2 = $1;

#find real URL
   $imgurl = $urlbit2 . ".jpg";
37 print "\n" . $imgurl . "\n";

#grab image
   $pic = new Image::Grab;
   $pic->url($imgurl);
42 $pic->grab;

   open(IMAGE, ">$date_today.jpg") || die"image.jpg: $!";
   binmode IMAGE; # for MSDOS derivations.
   print IMAGE $pic->image;
47 close IMAGE;

#Now that we have downloaded the image from the New Yorker site, we need to check and
   see if this is a double issue (aka have we downloaded this before?).

#If this is not the same file, update last lastdownload.txt and upload to tumblr, else
   delete the duplicate file.
52
   if (compare("@last_down_load_filename [0].jpg", "$date_today.jpg") != 0)
   {
       #update lastdownload.txt

```

```
57  open (MYFILE, '>lastdownload.txt ');
    print MYFILE "$date_today";
    close (MYFILE);

62  #Upload the new yorker image to tumblr with the caption "What a misunderstanding!".

    my $t = WWW::Tumblr->new;

    # The email and pwd you use to log in to Tumblr
67  $t->email('XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX');
    $t->password('XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX');

    $t->write(
72      type => 'photo',
        data => "$date_today.jpg",
        caption => 'What a misunderstanding!',
    );

77  # $t->write(
    #     type => 'regular',
    #     body => "UPDATE: UNDER CONSTRUCTION",
    # );

82  print $t->authenticate or die $t->errstr;

    }

    #delete duplicate file.
87  else
    {
        system("rm $date_today.jpg");
    }

92  #Debugging
    print "Cron newyorker.pl run, but the New Yorker is currently on a double issue,
        therefore we did not upload to blog.";
    } 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
```



1 *What a misunderstanding!*



2 *What a misunderstanding!*



3 *What a misunderstanding!*



4 *What a misunderstanding!*



5 *What a misunderstanding!*



5 *What a misunderstanding!*

<sup>7</sup> Arcangel, Cory. Consumer Reports. Originally appeared at Artnews.com, 2015.

*One September week with Arcangel is spent in Stavanger, Norway, where the artist engages in more than a little bit of Skrillex-related consumption. Arcangel Surfwear work gets accomplished, tweets get fav'd, and an impressive work by Takeshi Murata gets hung inside of the artists home. And, taking things back to Skrillex, if you ever wanted to learn the secret to contemporary drum and bass music production, please keep reading! John Chiaverina*

## MONDAY

**8:22 a.m.** Gmail. Decide its a personal day thus I wont look at any art / business / admin related emails. Got two emails from Jacob Ciocci. Jacob has been my primary net trash dealer for almost twenty years (yes, twenty). His links are always of the highest quality. He sends me two videos. One is a link to Katy Perry falling off her Segway at Burning Man (<http://jezebel.com/i-can-t-stop-watching-this-video-of-katy-perry-at-burni-1729058001>) and the other is a mash-up of a high-school professor entering class (<https://youtu.be/X3elVe9Mlh8>). The Katy Perry video reminds me that I have a half-nished code somewhere for a single serving website which only shows videos of people falling off stages. Check Nytimes. I notice from the article titled On Beyonces Birthday, a Bey Day Celebration Fit for a Queen, it was / is (?) Beyonces birthday. I wonder if the Nytimes will mention the truther movement about Beyonces age. I start scrolling through the article looking for a mention. I google Beyonce real age. Am immediately horri ed to see a high ranking!search result which implies Solange is Beyonces daughter. Uu-uugh. Am reminded that the only truther movement I ever got really into was the American Pickers truther scene. More Nytimes. I cant resist clicking on an article titled How the Co-op Crumbles. (<http://nyti.ms/1Ur6Zk7>) Its something about co-ops and condos. I didnt even know there was a difference. All the talk of real estate and lawsuits makes me miss New York. Scroll through Twitter. Am OCD about my timeline and reading every message I missed since last time I was on Twitter. I fav a ton of tweets ([https://twitter.com/cory\\_arcangel/likes](https://twitter.com/cory_arcangel/likes)). Reply to a Dragan Espenschied tweet (<https://twitter.com/despens/status/640806955397828608>) regarding the the formal salutation Master, e-commerce airline HTML dialogue boxes, and old school hip-hop. He replies, with a link to the Wikipedia entry for Master ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master\\_\(form\\_of\\_address\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_(form_of_address))). Vaguely remember I had an idea years ago to make a Wikipedia entry for actual celtic frost; Frost\_(Celtic).

**10:12 a.m.** I leave the apartment without my phone. This is a new trick. Its a life saver. Highly recommended.

**2:00 p.m.** Back home. Skype my friend Olia Lialina about a show we are cooking up for the Western Front in Vancouver.

**2:30 p.m.** My wife and I hired an art installer to help us hang some work in our APT. We hang a bonkers Takeshi Murata (<https://www.salon94.com/artists/detail/takeshi-murata/2194>). I think about his recent survey show at Kunsthall Stavanger (<https://kunsthallstavanger.no/en/>). For my money, his body of work exhibits the perfect combination of consistency and forward momentum. Humbled to be able to live with such a masterpiece. Send myself an email that I need to make him something in return (it was a trade).

**9:37 p.m.** Call my family. My mom tells me to check out her new stuff on Etsy (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/State-mentMArcangel>). One of her pillows was recently featured in HGTV magazine, and her shop has been on re ever since. Note Im very impressed with Etsy. Its kinda like eBay, mixed with an SEO ponzi scheme. I email myself a note that we need to make her brand a website. Reminds me that I also need to update my own website (its been a year).

**9:46 p.m.** Continue watching Spy, the Melissa McCarthy movie, from the previous night. Make it through about another twenty minutes. Fall asleep.

## TUESDAY

**9:12 a.m.** Continue reading The Cuckoos Calling (<http://robert-galbraith.com/us/books/the-cuckoos-calling/>) by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling) on my Kindle. Somehow the font size has expanded considerably since the last time I touched the device. Its now set to like 70 words a page. I struggle with re-sizing it. I touch several times the magnifying glass, which to my disappointment is for searches, not re-sizing. Remember I still need to read the Nytimes article about the toxic office culture at Amazon. Amuse myself for a second with the idea that Jeff Bezos being such a terror has somehow led to my current font issues.

**10:23 a.m.** Arrive at my desk-share. Gmail. My gmail is divided between personal emails and art / business / admin emails. Depending on the day and time, I hide one or the other section. Put on my head phones, and google for a recent Ed DMX article about aughts acid jams (<http://www.beatsandbeyond.com/featured/talking-acid-dmx-krew.html>). Start listening in preparation for the shock and stress of un-hiding 4 days of art / business / admin emails.

**11:55 a.m.** An email concerning the future of Arcangel Surfware (<http://www.arcangelsurfware.biz/>) the non-aspirational lifestyle, merchandise, and publishing imprint I am currently CEO of contains a link to Skrillex's 2008 Myspace project Twipz (<https://myspace.com/twipz/music/songs>). Make mental note that the only picture of Sonny Moore on the Myspace page was taken with a fisheye lens. Try to remember what happened to my fisheye lens. Brie y wonder if Bruce Nauman ever made any fisheye videos. Try to think of fisheye ideas for my art game; cant think of anything. Make a mental note to watch the recent Skrillex & Diplo Charlie Rose interview (<https://youtu.be/Eb85hwOotts>). Tweet a link to the Twipz Myspace.

**12:32 a.m.** Reward myself for inbox zero by listening to Selena Gomez & The Scenes Love You Like A Love Song ([https://youtu.be/EgT\\_us6AsDg](https://youtu.be/EgT_us6AsDg)) several times in a row on YouTube. Each time, I have to click through the same exact pre-roll ad.

**1:22 p.m.** Spend an hour editing various to-do lists. After editing, I go through items one by one (production & creative stuff, logistics, blah, blah, blah).

**2:58 p.m.** Listen to Kate NV Rewind on SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/apr-music/rewind>). Curious after seeing her play on Saturday night at the Perkapella festival. Find her on SoundCloud, follow her, and listen to her feed. See a suggested link to Lelf (<https://soundcloud.com/l31f-1>) and follow as well. Only recently realized SoundCloud is a social network.

**7:23 p.m.** Troubleshoot the LAN and wireless at Kunsthall Stavanger (<https://kunsthallstavanger.no/>), where I am currently the volunteer A/V tech and systems admin. I recently set it up, and of course it broke. Think the error was a combination of conflicting DHCP address ranges between two routers, bad Internet service, and a misplaced wire. Fix it (I think).

**9:43 p.m.** Skype my friend Tony Conrad (<http://thequietus.com/articles/18457-tony-conrad-interviewed>) to discuss something we are cooking up.

**10:32 p.m.** Scroll through Twitter on my phone. Send myself links to a Nytimes article on Frank Stellas upcoming Whitney show (<http://nyti.ms/1UCcdUV>), top twenty tracks on the Planet Mu (<http://www.dummymag.com/lists/planet-mu-20th-anniversary-best-tracks-according-to-mike-paradinas?linkId=16886005>) record label, as well as links to new records by Janet Jackson, JK Flesh (<https://soundcloud.com/jk-esh/sets/nothing-is-free-ep?linkId=16886266>), Airbird and Napolian (<http://www.factmag.com/2015/09/08/joel-ford-debut-lp-airbird-napolian/>), and Siren (<http://www.comolasgrecas.com/en/siren-with-mr-reed-away-ep-compost-records-2015/>).

## WEDNESDAY

**9:11 a.m.** More Twitter on my phone. Send myself a link to recent show of prints by Woody Vasulka (<https://www.facebook.com/axlecontemporary/posts/1016492965056953>). Make a mental note to try to get one.

**10:00 a.m.** At the gym. Its called Fresh. I love going to this gym because of the music they pipe in over the PA. The best part is prolly cause of some intense music licensing laws in Norway (?) the tracks seem to be all covers. Not cover versions, but instead, pitch perfect re-creations of the original tracks. So good, in fact, it took me a few weeks to even notice. Heard a cover of Jeremih Feat. YG Dont Tell Em (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ycBvqm-9LFQ>). Note they forgot the keys on the upbeats in the pre-chorus. Get lost in an internal dialogue about intangibles in pop- music. My intuition tells me that the tiny differences in these tracks are important, as they represent the difference between a hit track and otherwise. Not so sure though. Think about an article by Duncan Watts about pop hits and 6 degrees of separation ([https://www.princeton.edu/~mjs3/salganik\\_dodds\\_watts06\\_full.pdf](https://www.princeton.edu/~mjs3/salganik_dodds_watts06_full.pdf)).

**1:30 p.m.** At my desk share. Gmail. Load up in tabs all the stuff I sent myself from Twitter. Start smashing through my to-do lists while clicking one-by-one through 20 years of Planet Mu tracks on YouTube.



**1:47 p.m.** All the tabs start to make me nervous, so I close them all, though I do sneak a peak at the Frank Stella article. I notice he compares Jeff Koons one of my favs to the Franklin Mint. Kind of an amazing comment, and the best summary of Koons work I have ever read. It seems its a beef though, but it really depends on your reading of Koons work.

**8:17 p.m.** Walk by a BMW blasting music from some serious bass bins. Make a mental note that the sound I most associate with such vehicles is rattling plastic. Wonder how I can make that work for my art game; cant think of anything.

**9:00 p.m.** Skype with Arcangel Surfware HQ in Brooklyn. To-do list talk about our upcoming New York Art Book Fair booth & exhibition veers to a conversation about Zac Efrons new EDM movie. Also learn that Wynne Greenwood is having a show at the New Museum. Tweet about her show ([https://twitter.com/cory\\_arcangel/status/6416-97881863405569](https://twitter.com/cory_arcangel/status/6416-97881863405569)).

**10:19 p.m.** Scroll through Twitter, but Im too tired to take it seriously so I stop. Finally get around to the Skrillex / Diplo Charlie Rose interview. After the Charlie Rose interview, YouTube auto- plays a Skrillex and Diplo interview on Hot 97 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnahnEF9WbQ>). Stop watching when Diplo mentions a track he produced with Tiesto and Busta Rhymes. Find it. Its gold (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6SSTMPiRFI>). Back to the Hot 97 interview in anticipation of hearing what they say about Paris Hilton DJing (which the title promises). Skrillex lets slip some insane production knowledge the key to post-jungle drum and bass drum sounds is stacking 909 samples. I had no idea 909s were involved in that era of music. Fall asleep.

## THURSDAY

**8:45 a.m.** Twitter. Fav a bunch of tweets. Bbornaa sums up my life (<https://twitter.com/bbornaa/status/641807407388168192>). Am reminded that Jayson Musson (<https://twitter.com/therealhennessy>) is one of the best comedy writers I follow and hes an artist! Get lost in Katie Notopoulos Buzzfeed land (<https://www.buzzfeed.com/katienotopoulos>). Check out a video to some kinda cryptic LA (<https://twitter.com/axlrose/status/641738128412307456>) re stuff Axl Rose tweets. Watch Jacob Cioccis trailer (<http://www.artnews.com/2015-09/09/here-is-the-trailer-for-jacob-cioccis-upcoming-show-at-interstate-projects/>) for his upcoming show at Interstate Projects. Note that he is really going for it!

**10:12 a.m.** Fresh again. This time I hear a cover version of Avicii The Nights (<https://youtu.be/UtF6Jej8yb4>). Think about how this is the second or third EDM song going around lately which mentions fatherhood. So weird. Hear some very off-brand drum and bass remake of Kanye Wests Bound 2 (<https://youtu.be/BBAAtAM7vtgc>), which aside from a wrong note in the piano intro incredibly has stacked 909s as drum sounds. Feel blessed my surf session with Skrillex last night is already changing the way I experience the world.

**12:12 p.m.** Desk share again. Gmail. More to-do list shuffling. Accidentally budgeted about half the time I needed to do everything and am in a cold-sweat panic. No tabs, etc, etc.

**5:16 p.m.** Get to DHL 16 minutes after it closed. Uuuugh.

**6:23 p.m.** Hanne, my wife, emails me this gif ([https://33.media.tumblr.com/ecd763a93b1eeceb0d6d4a3c0fef8158/-tumblr\\_ntpn7v3jvT1smqfiko1\\_400.gif](https://33.media.tumblr.com/ecd763a93b1eeceb0d6d4a3c0fef8158/-tumblr_ntpn7v3jvT1smqfiko1_400.gif)) (via Antoine Catala). Am reminded that in the mid-aughts she had the best trash internet delicious feed: [kick\\_out\\_the\\_internet\\_jams](http://kick_out_the_internet_jams).

**7:52 p.m.** Given that I had both a to-do list and logistical meltdown, I give up on the day and waste a ton of time on my computer. Twitter. Notice Nick DeMarco posted images from his Yuppie Dystopia (<https://twitter.com/nickdemarco/status/642028425687998464>) series. Check the are.na Yuppie Dystopia (<https://www.are.na/nick-demarco/yuppie-dystopia>) page for additional updates I might have missed. Spend the rest of the evening screwing with the CSS on <http://arcangelsurfware.biz/>. Get distracted and somehow make it over to a Pitchfork review (<http://pitchfork.com/reviews/albums/21001-repentless/>) of Slayers new record. Am slightly amused by the combination of these two brands. End up at this picture ([http://i.kinja-img.com/gawker-media/image/upload/s-JzN7QsME-/c\\_fit,fl\\_progressive,q-80,w\\_636/18846911c6jbcjpg.jpg](http://i.kinja-img.com/gawker-media/image/upload/s-JzN7QsME-/c_fit,fl_progressive,q-80,w_636/18846911c6jbcjpg.jpg)). Fall asleep.

**FRIDAY**

**10:21 a.m.** Twitter. Notice Skrillex beefing (<https://twitter.com/Skrillex/status/642203069728452608>) with emailing. Feel guilty I spend so much time on email. Briefly consider what an outsized presence he has been in my life this week. Get lost in Key and Peele think-piece land (<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/so-long-lcarpetron-its-been-real-key-peeel>). Watched the first episode of the 7th season of *On Cinema* at the Cinema (<http://www.adultswim.com/videos/on-cinema/>).

**4:00 p.m.** On the bus. With phone, but with data turned off. That's my other new trick. It's also a life saver. Bonnie Tyler's *I Need a Hero* (<https://youtu.be/OBwS66EBUcY>) comes on the radio, but because of bad reception keeps cutting out to pure digital silence. The effect on an otherwise quiet electric bus is rattling.

**4:45 p.m.** Barely get to DHL in time. Send some of these documents to Arcangel Surfware HQ in Brooklyn. I could have scheduled a pick-up but I wanted to visit because the DHL in Stavanger is in the Forus industrial park. Forus is massive and hosts hundreds of just-in-time petroleum industry manufacturing companies (Stavanger is the oil capital of Norway). Spend some time wandering around daydreaming about how I could go about convincing some of these companies to make stuff for me. Walk by a massive glass building titled *Metall Produksjon*. Feel like a kid staring in the window of a candy shop.

**5:15 p.m.** Take another bus on the way home. Hear Maroon 5 on the radio. Spend a considerable amount of time conceptualizing Maroon 5's musical & cultural position—arrive somewhere between the Bee Gees, fedoras, and Instagram ab culture.

**7:12 p.m.** Remember I want to get into *Second Life* this fall. Send myself an email about it. More Twitter. Retweet about Petra Cortright's show (<https://twitter.com/petcortright/status/641673911663366145>). It looks so sick.

**8:51 p.m.** Watch a reality TV show about a Norwegian hair metal band from the late 80s that I have never heard of, but everyone in Norway seems to know. Am intrigued that every country has their own hair metal bands. Think about the term knowledge gap and wonder if it applies here. Random Surf's so exhausted don't make it far in any direction. Watch *Little Britain* for the first time. Check out the new remix (<https://youtu.be/q37fZSZyRSs>) of *Wet* (<http://www.thefader.com/2015/08/28/wet-cory-arcangel-surfware-merch>). Spend five minutes with *The Cuckoos Calling*. Large font; low battery. Fall asleep.

<sup>8</sup>Arcangel, Cory. *What a misunderstanding*. Originally appeared in *Intersubjectivity Vol. 1: Language and Misunderstanding*, Sternberg Press, 2016.

The first German computer freak I had the pleasure of meeting was an exchange student who spent a few days hanging in one of the computer labs at my college. I spent a great deal of time in my school's computer labs. It was in these dark and terminal-lined spaces that I acquired both programming skills and a feel for other aspects of computer culture—Mountain Dew, trench coats, lack of vitamin D, etc., etc. And as anyone who has hung around LINUX and command line culture will tell you, knowledge in these environments often comes in indirect ways. Most of my learning was done through half conversations and overheard tutorials. During one of these computer lab sessions I struck up a conversation with said German exchange student, who was at the terminal next to me. I'd love to give you his name, but I never got it. But what I did get was that he was an IRC fanatic. And one afternoon, he casually explained to me not only the concept of IRC, but more importantly the concept of IRC bot wars.

In the United States in the 1980s, computer culture was pretty widely dispersed among several competing brands of computers. But for whatever reason, in most of Europe, there was one and only one computer—the Commodore 64. This common denominator—the highest-selling single model of home computer of all time—fostered a robust computer culture. I didn't know anyone growing up who had an Apple II GS, the computer my family had. Meanwhile, in Europe, kids my age were joining Commodore 64 (intro) gangs, and having massive hockey-arena-style computer programming parties. Sigh.

IRC stands for Internet Relay Chat. It's a protocol for transferring TXT from computer to computer. In other words, chatting. Anyone can download an IRC client and start chatting in any of millions of IRC chat rooms.

Sounds simple. It is. The first person to establish a chat is an [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IRC\\_channel\\_operator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IRC_channel_operator) IRC channel operator,

aka the boss. If he disappears, the next person in line moves up and becomes the channel operator. So, this exchange student proceeded to casually explain to me while never taking his eyes off his terminal that a popular pastime at the time on IRC was DDoS (distributed denial of service) channel takeovers. Something like this: Via a custom programmed bot, Nerd A would establish a chat room and become operator; his/her friend, let's call them Nerd B, would then find a way to DDoS Nerd A's bot off the channel it just established and gain control of the chat room via their own bot; Nerd A would then find a way to DDoS Nerd B's bot; and on and on and on. At the time, I had never even conceived that so much energy could be funneled towards the virtual. I was still listening to 4-track indie rock! And here I was being told that bored computer freaks around the world were playing ball-busting bot wars carried out through network pipes and data transfer protocols. WTF!

It took me around seven to eight years to get around to it, but in the mid aughts, I started programming my own bots. By then, I was living in New York, and had started to identify as a ne artistkinda. My bots were Tinguely-ish, minimal, and aimed at a broad online audience. My first bot was an America Online Instant Messenger bot called Slim Thug Status Bot, 2005 (CA-2005-007), which allowed a user to ask a virtual Slim Thug if his album *Already Platinum* had gone platinum yet. His only reply was no. The bot only ran for one day, and because it was so poorly programmed it crashed the server it was running on. In my defense in terms of both concept and execution it was an early work.

The code you see published here was my second bot, a Tumblr bot titled *What a Misunderstanding!*, 200914 (CA-2009-046). It ran once a week at the Tumblr <http://what-a-misunderstanding.com> from 2009 until 2014 (barring downtime). When run, it would scrape the *New Yorker* *Cartoon Caption Contest* webpage, copy the cartoon image, automatically caption it with the phrase *What a misunderstanding!* and post the resulting combination. The project came out of an earlier collaboration with Dexter Sinister. That same year, I submitted a *Cartoon Caption Contest* in which I ran a blank cartoon with the caption, *What a misunderstanding!* in an edition of their 2009 *First / Last* newspaper project. This bot also continued the informal crowdsourcing tradition of universal *New Yorker* captions. The first was Charles Lavoies 2006 masterpiece, *Christ, what a asshole!* More recently, Frank Chimero continued the concept with his 2015, *Hi, I'd like to add you to my professional network on LinkedIn.* It's a family of creative content that I could not be more pleased to be in.

I'm not sure if people use Tumblr anymore, but when I first programmed *What a Misunderstanding!*, Tumblr was a BIG FUCKING DEAL. In 2013, Tumblr hysteria reached a peak. David Karp, Tumblr's then twenty-six-year-old founder was on the cover of *Forbes* magazine. The magazine hyped up his recent young Internet tycoon rite of passage: the purchase of a proper swank pad. In his case, a 1,700-square-foot, \$1.6 million loft, which he's currently remodeling ... in the world's hipster capital, Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Soon thereafter, Yahoo purchased Tumblr for 1.1 billion dollars. I like to think *What a Misunderstanding!* contributed in small part to both Tumblr's value and, by extension, Karp's swank pad. Though, with that said, an inspection of the *What a Misunderstanding!* archives would reveal that the bot spent most of 2013 in a state of disrepair. In 2012 Twitter updated an API the bot ran on, which had the effect of breaking the bot, and it seems I didn't get around to updating the code till a few weeks shy of 2013. My bad. \_()\_/\_

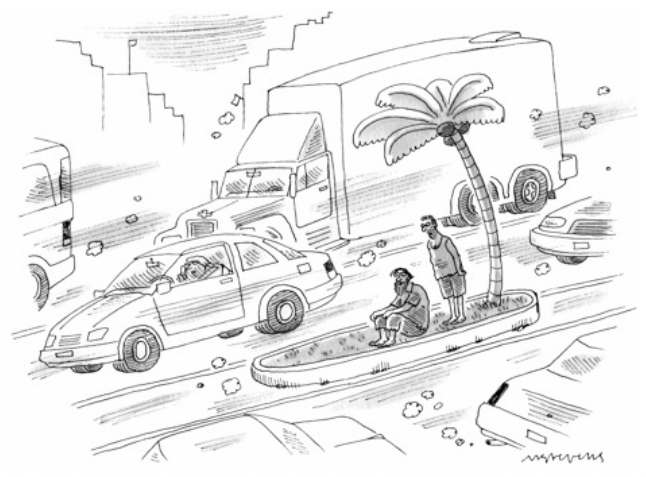
I had a few more brain-bending run-ins with German computer nerds around the turn of the century. In 2001 alone, I saw Wolfgang Staehle's masterpiece webcam paintings (?) at Postmasters Gallery and a performance by the legendary home computer folk band *Bodenständig 2000* in Munich at Lothringer13. These experiences were both formative. In a way, it could just have easily been Finnish, Swedish, or French computer nerds who warped my life, but for whatever reason, my dice kept coming up German. So much so that, even though one would expect given that I am both a NY artist and that my work borrows so heavily from the city's recent contemporary art history, my loyalty would lie with my home town, the romance and nostalgia that usually is focused on New York of the 70s and 80s for me is focused on the other side of the globe. If I had to choose between seeing some no-wave band at ABC No Rio in 1987 or chilling with some German Commodore 64 computer nerds in some faceless Bavarian suburb the same year, TBH, I'd have to go with the nerds.

*What a misunderstanding!*



9

*What a misunderstanding!*



10

*What a misunderstanding!*



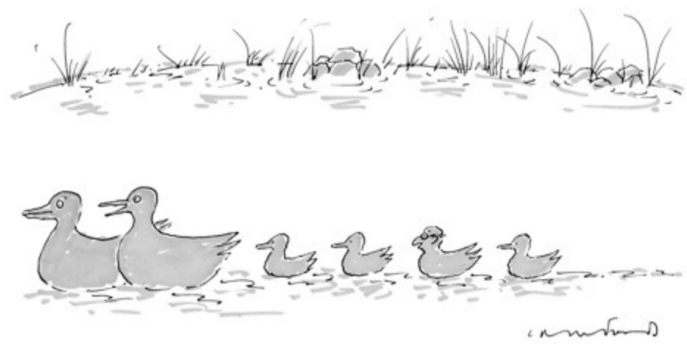
11

*"What a misunderstanding!"*



12

*What a misunderstanding!*



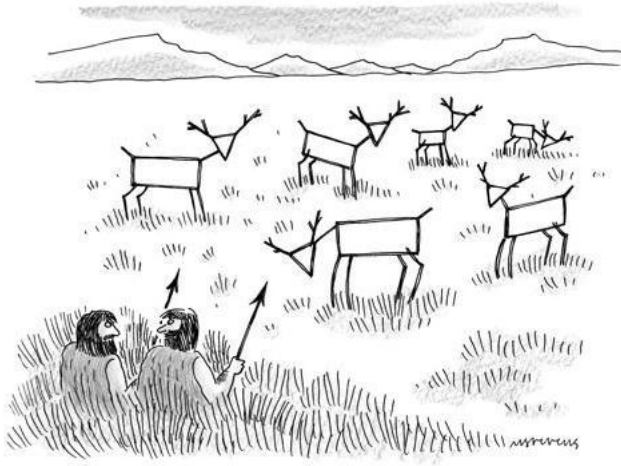
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*What a misunderstanding!*



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*What a misunderstanding!*



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*"What a misunderstanding!"*



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*"What a misunderstanding!"*



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*"What a misunderstanding!"*



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*"What a misunderstanding!"*



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*"What a misunderstanding!"*



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*"What a misunderstanding!"*

Cory Arcangel  
 THE SOURCE  
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## Creative Capital

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