

From: Matt DiMona On The Internet
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Matt DiMona On The Internet #003 - august thoughts

8/20/21

hi guys!

couple things to share today...

congrats to my friend tyler abravanel aka **van e!**

his new album "**lockwood**" is out now. it's a joy and an honor to work on music with your friends.
thanks, T, for letting me be a small part of your musical adventures.

go check it out!

(fav song rn: "the real thing")

[https://open.spotify.com/album/5xtSc7JLyRvwDpKDXxO4kx?
si=fRkvH5SZSf2VRpJqtK6GVg&dl_branch=1](https://open.spotify.com/album/5xtSc7JLyRvwDpKDXxO4kx?si=fRkvH5SZSf2VRpJqtK6GVg&dl_branch=1)

on another note!

i spent the last week devouring shoshana zuboff's book "**the age of surveillance capitalism.**"

if you use the internet, computers, and/or a smartphone, you should read this book!

i know, i know. who wants to read a 500-page tome about the dystopian technology companies governing our every interaction, secretly extracting unprecedented wealth and power from every user's data, and fraying the fabric of society by algorithmically eroding social trust between human beings?

the overall vibes are pretty bad out there. between the climate crisis, global pandemic, democracy clinging to a thread, technology rewriting the rules of civilization, intense polarization, hatred, racism, sexism, general Abuse of Everything, you name it... it all adds up to a pretty grim picture.

that's the thing though - it's all one picture!

each of these items is a **holon**: something that is simultaneously a whole in and of itself, as well as part of a larger whole.

treating any of these problems like an isolated issue while ignoring the others around it doesn't

seem to work. it's like slapping a band-aid on a wound... treating symptoms, and not the illness.
oftentimes the solutions we implement cause even thornier problems.

[for example: read about our addiction to horrible herbicides described in this recent article on **superweeds** in nytmag <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/18/magazine/superweeds-monsanto.html>, or the dubious geo-engineering efforts portrayed in elizabeth kolbert's **under a white sky**. these strategies attempt to mitigate environmental catastrophes in a way that ignores underlying structural issues (like using mirrors in the atmosphere to reflect sunlight and cool the earth, instead of changing the way society consumes fuels that produce the greenhouse gases in the first place).]

instead, we can try approaching things holistically. we'll need to confront whole systems that aren't working, and be willing to change society.

these are monumental tasks, and it will be impossible to accomplish any of our goals if we don't have **firm ground to stand on together**.

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hence, zuboff writes:

"what we lack is our bearings... our experience of 'things technological' confounds 'our vision, our expectations, and our capacity to make intelligent judgments. categories, arguments, conclusions, and choices that would have been entirely obvious in earlier times are obvious no longer."

"... how quickly we lose our bearings as institutionalization first establishes a sense of normalcy and social acceptance and then gradually produces the numbness that accompanies habituation..."

*"in order to reestablish our bearings, **i have asked for a rebirth of astonishment and outrage.**"*

— — —

i'm hoping that reading these books will help reestablish my bearings. (in a harmonious way, reading helps slow down my brain and, relatedly, keeps me off the internet.)

let's be real. i don't have any answers, but these writers give me a sense of direction.

if we can shake ourselves out of numbness, if we can rediscover astonishment in the world around us (it's out there!), if we can get good and outraged, if we can establish our bearings together...

... THEN WE STAND A CHANCE!

<3 <3 <3

here are a few other great books i read this summer. some have inspired me to try making personal adjustments, sacrifices and changes in my life that more accurately reflect the future of the world i would like to will into existence. some are just good books!

the one straw revolution - masanobu fukuoka

this is your mind on plants - michael pollan

we are what we eat - alice waters

diet for a small planet - frances moore lappé
(she lived in hastings-on-hudson! shout out to my 914s)

a sand county almanac - aldo leopold

the elements of style - william strunk jr. and e.b. white
(advice 4 writers: OMIT NEEDLESS WORDS)

project hail mary - andy weir

— — —

what else? hmm.

i just started reading frank herbert's **dune**. (*fear is the mind-killer.....*)

exploring my new internet life on firefox, duckduckgo and r/degoogle...

brief spot of cool weather in LA reminding me me how much i love and am excited for fall...

thats it! sending love to everybody on the listserv!!!! thanks for reading. have a gr8 rest of ur
summer.

best,

matt

PS. i am archiving these newsletters on www.mattdimona.com - so if you just joined and are wondering what the hell i'm ranting on about... feel free to go back and check out the archive! or, you know... unsubscribe if you think i'm an idiot (it's ok.)

there's no plan for these newsletters, no monetization strategy (i pay to send), no real idea here other than human connection over the internet (if that's even possible.) i wrote this newsletter last night at 2am in a blurry burst of activity and tried my best to edit it before work this morning haha. hope i baked it long enough.... see y'all next time.

Internet Tunes, P.O. Box 26882, Los Angeles, CA, 90026, United States

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