

SCURRY

by

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There has been a shift in the politics in America with many voters moving into a post-truth society. Where debates, laws and policies are framed by appealing to emotions, rather than facts. This political movement, also known as the alt-right slowly emerged within the '90s but then exploded into the mainstream in 2017 with a deadly rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Using the fictional animal, the critter, and while assuming the role of an anthropologist in the North Carolina region of the U.S., I am examining the birth and resulting consequences of this highly tribal political ideology.

SCURRY

A Thesis

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by

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DEDICATION

This paper is dedicated to my mom, Tina Christopher Haynes, who pushed me to speak when I was a child, and who has since, begged for me to shut up.

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INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2017, I was first introduced to the animal commonly known as the critter (*P. nyph*). (figure 1). My colleague, Heather McLelland, who first informed me to the animal, did so because of my interest in the regions in which the critter calls home. The critter being a very adaptive, and a very intelligent animal can be found almost everywhere in the globe, (figure 2) it can survive in extreme temperatures with very little water if need be. And it can survive climates of intense heat and intense humidity. In fact, the only thing that seems to be a deterrent for the critter to form a natural habitat is the remoteness of the area.



figure 1.

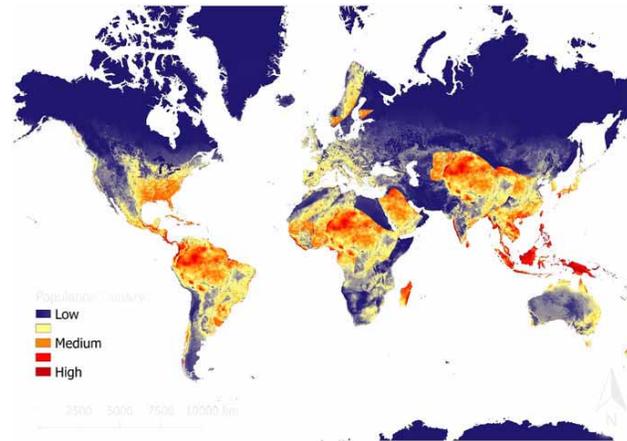


figure 2.

The critters that I have observed over the past year reside in eastern North Carolina, a tribe of fifty or so critters. This population is not too far out of the norm.

Critters are an animal of extreme interest to me because critters do one thing that no other species do. Critters adapt completely to the culture of the humans around them. If a town next to a tribe of critters were to suddenly start wearing silly hats, the tribe would begin to construct their own silly hats out of straw, weeds, or from stolen goods. If a town were to suddenly start walking backwards, so too, would the critters.

However, my reason for wanting to observe the critters is far the jovial example given. No, instead I wish to observe them because the human population near the observed tribe is moving dramatically to the political right.

A historical example of this can be seen in 2014, after the election of Narendra Modi of India. Observations of critters becoming violent became widespread. With the human counterpart of the equation, violence toward minorities groups grew with internal unrest, and India began a campaign of several small wars with its neighbors. All the while the national pride was ever growing despite failings of the government to create a job market and start economic growth.

Anthropologist William J Porterfield observed the critter population following suit. They began a collective ritual of marching up and down their tribe's center in a celebration with no other observable purpose than to simply celebrate the self. After the celebration and the critters all caught in a collective frenzy, they began to look outward of their tribe to assault whatever poor creature they could stumble across. In this hunt, the critters stumbled upon a Bengal Monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*.) After cornering the lizard, a pack of critters attacked and killed it.

One of the most unusual behavior observed with critters was in July 1518 in Strausbourg, Alsace. An unusual outbreak occurred now more commonly known as the dancing plague. Those affected by it (some accounts say up to 400 people) just started dancing uncontrollably for days without rest. Some of those who were wrapped up in the frenzy would eventually succumb to heart attacks, stroke and even death. Some reports state that up to fifteen people a day would die from the physical toil. "On one thing contemporary and modern writers have agreed: those who danced did so involuntarily. They writhed in pain, screamed for help, and begged for mercy."¹ Some written articles have even stated that they saw the

¹ Waler, J. "The art of medicine, A forgotten plague: making sense of dancing mania." *The Lancet*. Feb 21, 2009. [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)60386-X.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(09)60386-X.pdf)

same thing happening to a local critter tribe. Reports say that just like their human counterpart the critters would also scream out in pain. A common theory is that the rye supply was contaminated by ergot, a type of mold that can cause hallucinations, and tremors but ergot contamination was not uncommon in medieval Europe. If it was the result of a common issue, why is it not prevalent? And were the critters simply mimicking the humans or were they too affected by some external issue? The answers are still unknown. Critters are known for having a similar diet to the society next to them, often going through people's garbage cans, so it is not unlikely that the critters could have digested any ergot molded bread. But in the same token, they may have just been mimicking what they were seeing. It seems that the tribe of the critter is completely reliant on a human host culture.

TAXONOMY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CRITTER

The critter is the largest of the Procyonimth family. They can have a body length up to 99.4 cm or 39 inches and a body weight of 5 to 10 kg (11 to 22 lbs). The skin coloration ranges from reddish tan to brown and sometimes almost white. In youth, their skin color is a cream yellow. Both adult and adolescent critters have various skin patterns that range from green to almost red to further aid their camouflage. Its most distinctive features are its extremely dexterous front and back paws which exactly resemble human hands and feet. (figure 3) To prevent sun burn, critters are known for rubbing an assortment of things onto their limbs such as mud or even coal dust. These creatures are quadrupeds, but they can walk upright for a short amount of time. Their torsos are oddly bovine shaped. This shape, critters use to their advantage. Critters have been observed tying harnesses onto themselves to then pull various stolen or adapted tools around so that they can carry their young. Captive critters have been known to live up to twenty years, but in the wild their life expectancy is eight to twelve years. In many areas roadside accidents are the most common cause of death.



figure 3.

Critters are rarely hunted for their meat. In many cultures it is a taboo, the eating of critter meat is equated to cannibalism. This is due to mirrored behavior and even the similar appearances they have with humans.

The social structure of the critters within the tribe is very similar to most social species. There is generally a family unit and outside of it the critters engage in gender specific social behavior. Each family unit consists of an adult male critter, and adult female critter, and one or two offspring whom generally live within this family until the younger critter reaches adulthood around age 4. Within the tribe, the critters have a complex system of social norms and taboos. They, in many ways, act exactly as humans do. Critters even exhibit some preferences for rituals. This is a trait that sets the critter apart from any other species in the animal kingdom, except for humans. All of this has been noted in what is still the leading authority of critter behavior in the 1958 thesis "Almost Man," by Doctor Tina C Haynes. Critter Behavior has also been noted in popular literature.

This unique trait was first exemplified by novelist Timothy Ricket in his 1928 short story "Cecil's Mugjug." A charming story of a critter who learned how to chew tobacco and then begun to harvest the plant to continue his new-found hobby.

What is especially interesting about the critter however is its ability of adaptation. The critter, generally lives near a human population that it begins to mimic. This is particularly interesting to me. The human population next to the critter population I plan to observe has gone into a post-truth society. This will affect the critters behavior in unusual ways. This wave rose with the popularity of the current President, Donald Trump. This cultural phenomenon would undoubtedly affect the critter which has not yet been observed in detail by anthropologists.

THE HOST CULTURE

Tribalism

As previously mentioned, the population I will be observing will be in eastern North Carolina. I will keep the exact location of the tribe a secret, to protect it from those who would wish to do their own amateur anthropology, and whom would by accident or malice disrupt the social structure of their tribe. I, admittedly, am very eager to begin my observations, but first I will need to observe the human population that surrounds the critter tribe. To understand the context in which the critter's lives are surrounded. I need to dive head first into the politics of the area.

The area in question, North Carolina, still has a relatively high approval rating for President Trump.

(figure 4)

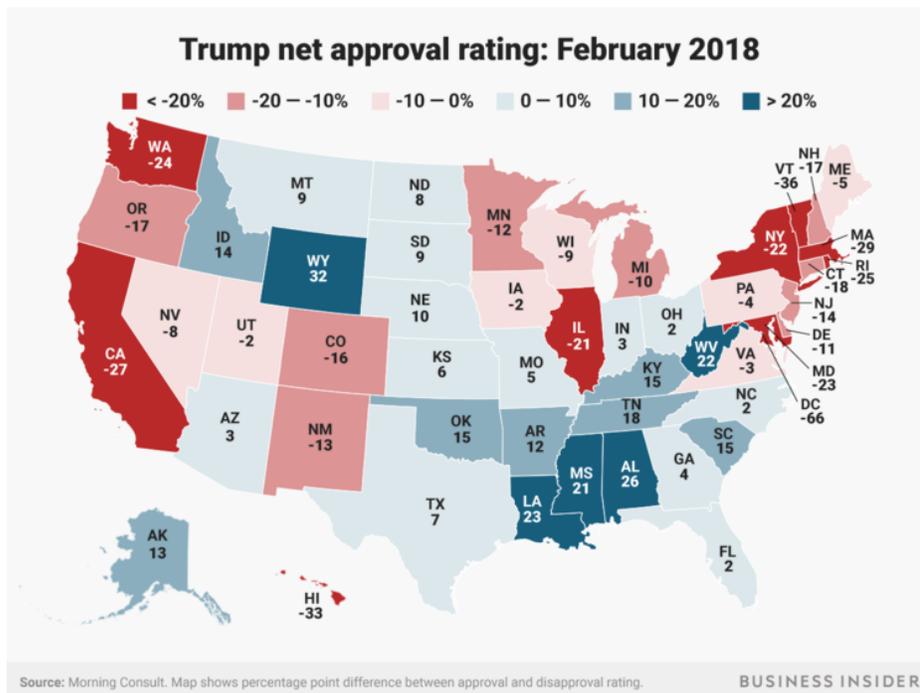


figure 4.²

² Kiersz, Andy. "Here's how Trump's approval ratings in each US state have changed after a year in office." Business Insider. Mar 10, 2018. <http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-approval-ratings-in-each-us-state-map-2018-3>.

A particular interest to note is the amount of tribalistic beliefs that exist not only in areas that are still largely favor Trump, but one that seems to be taking over the world.

The groups we belong to. Be they political or religious, based on location or birth, is considered a tribe. One's fierce loyalty to their tribe, and the strict rituals that one adheres to stay apart of the tribe is called tribalism. The human population nearest the critters are not only loyal Trump supporters but they also identify themselves as the alt-right.

The alt-right often operate on conspiracy rather than fact or logic. Individuals who prescribe to this group are known for believing:

- "[T]hat Barack Obama is a Muslim born in Kenya whose goal is to impose sharia law within the United States.
- That within the government there exist a Deep State or New World Order (NWO) organization to derail conservative laws and regulations for some often-unknown reason.
- The government engineers false flag hoaxes such as The Oklahoma City Bombing, 9/11, the Sandy Hook massacre and the school shooting in Parkland Florida to distract from other events or to help the NWO cover up loose ends.
- Global Warming is a Chinese hoax, created to force Americans out of jobs.
- That government elites want to destroy the second Amendments and confiscate all guns within America, and that this has been attempted since before the Revolutionary War.
- That the current American government is illegal and unconstitutional entity that came into power during the 1930s and that it has corrupted the Federal Reserve Bank to control the nation's currency.
- Prejudices against white, heterosexual, Christians is a great threat to the world and are the primary targets for oppression.

- Political Correctness was created to help shame white heterosexual Christians and to prevent them from objecting to minorities.
- That minorities especially blacks and Latinos are stealing the wealth and resources of the middle class and veterans through welfare programs.
- That illegal immigrants, especially Latinos have teamed up with liberals and Democrats to replace the white man as the majority." ³
- That there is either going to be a race war or new civil war and it is just weeks, months, or a few years away.
- Liberals leaders will meet in secret with unknown elites, (generally referred to as Wal-Street lobbyist, Goldman Sach members, and/or Jews) "to plot the destruction of US sovereignty in order to enrich these global financial powers."⁴ This particular belief has its origins long before the tribe's existence. Scholars have been able to trace this belief system to the Frankfurt School of philosophy and to cultural Bolshevism.⁵

The conspiracies do not stop there but those are the main ones. This tribal belief wains, flows, adapts often comes back into light with every conservative backlash.

This group felt justified when now current president Donald Trump acknowledge several of their talking points such as Obama being Muslim and from Kenya. He fanned the flames of the tribe when he accused the media of trying to rig the election. He has said several times that when running for president his opponent, a democrat, Hillary Clinton was personally meeting with the unknown global powers to destroy

³ Neiwert, David. 2017 "Alt America." New York. Verso. pg 17.

⁴ Edger, David. The Guardian. "Alt-America and English Uprising review – Trump, Brexit and the far right." <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/nov/23/alt-america-english-uprising-review>. Nov 23, 2017.

⁵ Wendling, Mike. Apr 2018. "Alt-Right From 4chan to the White House." Pluto Press. pg 81.

America. Trump has said in several speeches' that illegal immigrants are overtaking America⁶ and he again tilted his hat toward their beliefs when again he stated the existence of a group within the government (the Deep State) was preventing him from passing any relevant legislation and from hiring proper government employees.

Despite following the veins of this alternative reality, people within this group all share a set of personality traits that help distinguish them from people who are outside of the group and who are less prone to join them. But still they operate and act within the same world as everyone else. This is because their ideas are just parallel to reality. This is how they can still function within the macro social world, outside of just their micro tribe.

Critters have been noticed to also fall into micro tribes and still soundly follow the macro tribes' traditions. To help them identify they may place certain flowers only on certain limbs. If the option is available to them, they may pick red mud to cover their limbs instead of the common brown. Critter have also been noted that they do this as a way to help them distinguish that they are also more hostile toward female critters, are less willing to fall into the social hierarchy that is common amongst critters. Critters with similar flowers and similar color of mud then group up but still function within the tribe as a whole. Political scientist Eric Oliver from the University of Chicago argues that those who believe in conspiracy theories are simply following "another form of magical thinking." People who "engage in conspiracy theories [do so to] cope with different emotions. Usually this emotion is triggered by an inexplicable or unusual event." People are just simply misidentifying patterns.

⁶ Phillips, Amber. "Here are 12 other times Donald Trump vilified illegal immigrants." Washington Post. Jul 1, 2015 https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/07/01/here-are-12-other-times-donald-trump-vilified-illegal-immigrants-in-no-uncertain-terms/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c5e6b8757744.

Legal scholars, Adam Vermeule and Cass Sunstein stated that the spread and pervasiveness of conspiracism is understood by examining how we acquire information. "There is an [...] real world challenge for all of us and how we [identify real world information] and what is delusional. Most people have little issue with this, but with the event of high-speed communication and instant technology the task can become haphazard." If one fails to sort out the delusional from the real, and if that information is reinforced by the tribe we belong to, it becomes a prescribed fact. Once these facts are accepted, it is very difficult to rewrite, or forget.

Scientist, Robin Carter created a perfect test to show off how critters are also prone to fall into the effects of the back-fire effect and conspiracy. In his experiment he constructed a clear box, inside of which rested a pellet of food. He showed the critters the pellet of food and allowed them to try and solve the puzzle on their own. They were not able to until he showed them how. The first step he showed the critters was they must do a simple dance, pick up a stick and then use the stick to push a button to cause the box to drop the food pallet. The critters then repeated his actions perfectly and received their own food pallet. Carter then showed the critters that they were able to get the same treat even if they skipped the initial dance, and just simply used the stick. No matter how many times they were shown, the critters ignored the newer information and continued to dance before using the stick.

It makes sense however that we humans have such a strong sense of tribal unity. We are after all very social animals, critters are too. That without the extreme social component, humans will find themselves very far from the top of the food chain, and no longer among nature's top predators. The strong demand for unity on the tribe is not only with humans but with all primates and other more intelligent mammals such as whales, dolphins, and wolves. One can even find it within the insect kingdom with bees and ants. All of those species need their social structures to survive, we need that social structure to survive too. Critters also need their social structure to survive. It is irrelevant if you call it you're your tribe, your family, your clan, or your church, we, as living social creatures need it. And all of us belong to some

version of it. Not only do the social structures keep us safe, they allow us to be happy. And no matter what version of a tribe we adhere to, they all require loyalty.

Without loyalty the tribe becomes weakened and acceptable to outside threats. Our ancestors might have been more concerned about this in much more physical ways. Even though now *most of us* are a far cry from being clubbed to death over natural resources and or hunting grounds (emphasis on most of us) we still hold tightly onto that loyalty. It is what helps establish the boundaries of the group. It's what helps us distinguish *us from them*. This helps form the group identity and how the group presents itself and with what the group holds itself accountable for. When the tribe's loyalty however is threatened from the inside. The individual must be punished. Critters also have social boundaries within their tribes. One critter tribe may not get along with its neighbor tribe.

Often the main source of punishment is shunning or ostracizing the individual from the group and their family. In this tribalistic world the term RINO (Republican in name only) is used to signal that the person is no longer a part of the group but instead has been removed. To reenter the group the individual must often publicly apologize in some way to the group. Or they might have to undergo some sort of ritual or trial, and sometimes the person may not ever be allowed back. Breaking from tribe loyalty is an extreme taboo in all social situations. Critters also share this taboo. To help set up the boundaries of the group loyalty propaganda is created.

Propaganda

Every so often there is a new wave of nationalism. It is brought on by conservatism taking on an offensive role or by a new political movement, there is a new wave of propaganda. One new form has arrived from technological advances. That new art form is the meme, and the tribe has taken up its potential with gusto. A meme is an extension of pop art in that it captures an activity, concept, catchphrase or piece of media that is easy to understand, easy to reference and it does it through

commentary, imitation, parody or by incorporating news accounts about itself. This new form of propaganda seems to give no credit to the creator, it often pays little to no heed to various logical fallacies (sometimes it even revels in them) and for the most part seem to dissolve into various pictures of cats. But for all the pictures of cats, memes have helped push forward propaganda in ways that no other art form has.

Critter themselves have adapted propaganda for themselves. The first found examples of which were simply drawn into the soil with sticks. Exactly how much information the critters gather from the propaganda and exactly how much of their attitudes and activities are just copied from the humans giving them the propaganda however is entirely up to debate.

Propaganda works in three ways. It creates and reinforces a belief (creates a norm) and it acts as a call to arms for those it is directed toward. It addresses those outside of the group. Propaganda does not have to describe the person it is directed toward. Those who already agree with it need no change, but instead it attacks the other. In that attack, the goals of the group are given a duality. Those that agree to the propaganda is portrayed as good, all other is bad. When one breaks away from the notions created by the propaganda, it is more than just rebellion, it quickly makes you, the other, the enemy.

Directly before the raise of the meme. Fox news was the right leaning cable news outlet that became the prominent voice for the conservative movement during the years of the Bush presidency. During the time of the Bush administration, there was just simply put, little tolerance for 9/11 conspiracism which placed them at odds with the right-wing fringe movement that would become the tribe in observation. It was at this time that the notion of the liberal as the enemy began. Rush Limbaugh started this liberal slander crusade with quotes like "I tell people don't kill all the liberals. Leave enough so we can have two on every campus- living fossils-so we never forget what they stand for⁷." Similar rhetoric spread by Bill

⁷ The Economist. "The Blame Game" Jun 13, 2011. <https://www.economist.com/node/17902699/comments>.

O'Riley on his cable television show 'The O'Riley Factor.' However instead of calling for the deaths of liberals he commonly referred to them as hating the country and once stated:

"You must know the difference between dissent from the Iraq war and the war on terror and undermining it. And any American that undermines that war, with our soldiers in the field, or undermines the war on terror, with 3,000 dead on 9/11, is a traitor. Everybody got it? Dissent, fine; undermining, you're a traitor. Got it? So, all those clowns over at the liberal radio network, we could incarcerate them immediately. Will you have that done, please? Send over the FBI and just put them in chains, because they, you know, they're undermining everything, and they don't care, couldn't care less."⁸

Since then, memes have become an odd phenomenon, and it would not be complete unless the surprisingly technologically savvy tribe its own little piece of it. Thus, begins the infamous icon of the once innocent character, 'Pepe The Frog' (figure 5).



figure 5.⁹

Pepe The Frog was created by Matt Furie and was a character in the online comic "Boy's Life" in 2005. His image would eventually be posted on January 2009 on an open online forum known as 4chan. Once on 4chan its users adopted it.¹⁸ With his adoption by 4chan anti-Semitic text would be included alongside the image.

⁸ O'Riley on NY Times Kristof: "How Nuts Is This Guy." Media Matters. Dec 20, 2005.

⁹ Roy, Jessica. "How Pepe The Frog Went From Harmless to Hate Symbol. Oct 11, 2016."

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-pepe-the-frog-hate-symbol-20161011-snap-htmstory.html>.

"In August, Hillary Clinton gave her now-infamous speech denouncing some of Donald Trump's supporters, as a "basket of deplorables." A couple weeks later, Trump's son Donald Trump Jr. posted a photo on Instagram that depicted him and other supporters as "The Deplorables" -- a play on the poster from the movie "The Expendables." In the lineup? Pepe."¹⁰

Since then, conspiracy theorist like Alex Jones has continued to incorporate him in his merchandise which has led to a lawsuit from the original artist Matt Furer. In a lawsuit filed March 5th, 2018. "In the lawsuit [...], Furie alleges copyright infringement stemming from a stylized poster sold on the Info Wars website. The [...] poster features a depiction of Pepe alongside other MAGA "heroes" drawn by artist Jon Allen, including Donald Trump, Roger Stone, Milo Yiannopoulos, Ann Coulter and Jones himself."¹¹ ("¹² Roger Stone, Milo Yiannopoulos, Ann Coulter all prominent voices and authors in the Art-right community.)

Alex Jones rose to prominence and is one of the earliest mouth pieces of this tribalistic mentality movement in 1995. Then he was one of the first voice to scream that the Oklahoma City bombing was a government false flag operation. In 2001 he become one of the of the leading, if not loudest, voices to decry 9/11 as also being a false flag operation. Since then, he has also called numerous partially deadly school shooting as also false flag operations. Who is behind them? The New World Order (NWO). Typically, one would expect such a brazen voice to quickly lose the public interest as men like him are prone to do. But new life was breathed into him when in December of 2015, Donald Trump gave Alex Jones a visit and has since then adapted several of the conspiracies perpetrated by Jones,¹³ and his audience.

¹⁰ “

¹¹ Willingham, AJ. "The creator of Pepe the Frog is suing Infowars." CNN. Jul 2, 2018
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/07/us/pepe-frog-infowars-lawsuit-matt-furie-trnd/index.html>.

¹² “

¹³ Hananoki Eric. Media Matters for America. "A Guide To Donald Trump's Relationship With Alex Jones." May 3, 2017. <https://www.mediamatters.org/research/2017/05/03/guide-donald-trump-s-relationship-alex-jones/216263>.

Another call to arms that is common in conservative propaganda is the protection of the constitution from hyperbolic patriotism. When former President Obama was elected, the call to arms to protect the constitution came into full swing, with the news pendent Glen Beck at the reins. In an interview, with Bill O' Riley, Beck tried his best to paint his dystopian fears. He did so by painting the constitution as being endangered and by painting the other, the liberal as a different kin fog human being.

"This is total outrage, Bill. There is a disconnect in America. We are at the place where the constitution hangs in the balance, and I think we are at a cross roads here, we are about here, where the roads are just going to split, but pretty soon, this side and this side are not gonna understand each other at all, because we're living in different universes."¹⁴

To those who prescribe to the fringe beliefs as Glen Beck, Rush Limbaugh and Alex Jones the terms, liberal, socialist, communist, Marxist, environmentalist, multiculturalist and fascist can all be interchanged, all of which is pushed by Jews, or liberal intellectuals. The propaganda art that follows suit does the same. This is a borderline sincere form of extreme patriotism and walks hand in hand with paranoia, but what is propaganda if not paranoid.

When addressing those outside of the group, propaganda usually turns the outsider into a caricature and this tribe's propaganda is not an exception. This method of creating xenophobia dates back for centuries. Dr. Charles W. Carnell, professor of Medieval studies at Cornell University has broken down the various ways in which propaganda caricatures outsiders. The most common outsiders or foreigner are: *Foreign and Foreigner*, (both from someplace other and someone who looks different) *The Heretic as Foreigner*, (the deformation of others as having little to no morals.) *The Saracen as Foreigner*, (someone whom is Muslim.) *The Jew as Foreigner and, Death and the Ultimate Confrontation of God as the Foreign*, (based on the belief that God would be radically different "dwelling in 'light inaccessible,' eluding our senses

¹⁴ Glen Beck. "What is the Government Hiding in Imprisoned Border Patrol Case? Survivor of Home Invasion Discusses Connecticut Tragedy; TSA warns of Terrorist Dry Runs." CNN, Jul 25, 2007.

and our understanding alike.”¹⁵) These patterns while existing before the middle ages where nothing new, but due to the constant political turmoil of the time, was able to flourish. The conditions for their growth in many ways, have returned.

Regarding the *Foreign and Foreigner*, the stranger usually takes on a monstrous shape. Blemmyes³ are one such example from the middle ages. Blemmyes are headless men whom carry their facial features on their chest. They lived in what is now known as Africa, and after the middle ages, this creature migrated to live in what is now known as India. Another monster was the cynocephali, which is a tall standing man whom has dog like features for a face and communicates by barking. This creature was used to describe the Norse. A foreigner that is foreign, does not necessarily have to be a stranger from a strange land, they can be from the same location. If they are from the same location, they must be from such a dramatically different economic status from the everyday person that while they are in the same proximity, they appear and act as if they are far away. Their customs and norms must be as if it is from a place far away.

A perfect example of this are those apart of the one percent and those who cater to the one percent, such as a Wall Street executive. For those in most situations and regardless of political alliances, Wall Street executives are seen with disdain, however for the Republican party, their memes like to picture Wall Street executives as swamp men, pleading with Donald Trump to not drain their swamp which lies in the middle of D.C. The swamp being a euphemism for a distrustful political environment in which career politicians are able to short change the American public for their own benefit.

For the *Heretic as Foreigner*,-depicted as pseudo intellectuals, overweight and living in their parent's basement. this type of atheist is depicted as being short tempered and easily fooled. Even the ones that

¹⁵ Charles W. Connel "Foreigners and Fear in the Middle Age". Jun 7, 2017
<http://aclassen.faculty.arizona.edu/sites/aclassen.faculty.arizona.edu/file/Foreigners%20and%20Fear%20in%20the%20Middle%20Ages.pdf>.

may have similar cultural values are pushed into the idea of a foreigner. Conservative propaganda depicts atheist as completely abandoning both their god and the American dream.

The Sacrum as Foreigner is one of the most common ones used today by the tribe. Studies have shown that the fear of Muslims is one of the most influential concerns of all of Trump's supporters.¹⁶ This has unfortunately caused Muslims to face a lot of violent opposition. This fear was always present in many but due to the events of September 11th and later events such as the Boston Marathon Bombing, and the Orlando Shooting it has grown. Because of this meme, the Sacrum as Foreigner often depicts all Muslims as being bloodthirsty. They give reasons to support a Muslim ban in the United States, or they will depict tragic incidences as an alternative reality that faces all of us, if we do not create a Muslim ban.

The Jew as a Foreigner, plays along the same line as the Sacrum as a foreigner. Using the same stereotypes that they used in 1930s Germany and even before that, Jewish men are depicted as being money hungry, thieves. Their physical appears also follow common stereotypes such as an elongated nose, large eyes and a body covered in hair. While the Muslim is depicted as explosively violent, The Jew is depicted stealthily so, or as the cause for violence. Their ability to corrupt politicians, or Hollywood to create a perceived sympathy is misconstrued as being at the top of their game. They are a crafty foreigner to those who wish to persecute them, and they have their heels dug into the dirt. The Jew, in regard to the tribe in observation, has been changed to being Goldman Sachs members.

While many in this tribe will argue passionately that they are not anti-Semitic, it is a hard thing to sell when the person who literally founded the tribe was Richard Spencer. Richard Spencer is a self-declared white supremacist "whose goal is the establishment of a white ethno-state in North America. His writings

¹⁶Shepard, Steven, Politico. "Study: Views on immigration, Muslims drove white voters to Trump." Jun 13, 2017. <https://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/13/trump-white-voters-immigration-muslims-239446>.

and speeches portray this as a reasonable defense of Caucasians and Eurocentric culture.¹⁷ He is the leader of the NPI, National Policy Institute. Whose mission goals are to ““to elevate the consciousness of whites, ensure our biological and cultural continuity, and protect our civil rights. The institute ... will study the consequences of the ongoing influx that non-Western populations pose to our national identity.” He is also the editor of the website, [AltRight.com]. Throughout the 2016 presidential campaign. Richard Spencer was a vocal supporter of Donald Trump and during the toast at an NPI sponsored dinner Richard raised his glass “Hail Trump, hail our people, hail victory!” he cried out to the nearly 200 attendees. In return most of the two hundred attendees gave a Nazi salute.

Richard Spencer first got his foot in the world of politics through Paul Gottfried, who started a political club during the Obama administration called, the H.L. Mencken Club. This club helped bring paleo conservatism to light and would be the foundation for the tribe's war with other mainstream conservatives.¹⁸ Paleo conservatism, is a play-off of neo conservatism, they dislike immigration, multiculturalism, and globalization. Unlike neo conservatism though, they are skeptical about free trade and foreign military endeavors. They are strict traditionalist in regard to gender, gender roles, and race. From the start, paleo conservatism was ready to fight with the established Republicans. Gottfried stated in one of the club's meeting that the establishment wouldn't have them, that

"It has treated [them] in contrast to such worthless as black nationalist, radical feminist, and open border advocates as being unfit for admittance into the political conversation, [that they] were not viewed as honorable dissenters but depicted as subhuman infidels or ignored in the same way as one would ignore a senile uncle [...]"¹⁹

¹⁷ Southern Poverty Law Center. n.d. “Richard Bertrand Spincer.” <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/richard-bertrand-spencer-0>.

¹⁸ Wendling, Mike "Alt-Right, From 4chan to the White House." Pluto Press pg 17.

¹⁹ " pg 19.

Death and the Ultimate Confrontation of God as the Foreign is the final version of a foreigner. This is addressed in two ways. God as a foreigner who was once known, and God as a foreigner who was never known.

In regard to the deity that was never known, typical right-wing propaganda memes prefer to express god as the typical angry deity, the one that was best described by Johnathan Edward's sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." In these memes, god is ruthless, mercilessness, and angry. He is casting out those who fail to meet his standard. This depiction of the deity is also common in Evangelical propaganda. In one of the discovered Critter Tracts, one of the critters that acts as a lead character often quotes Edward's sermon. An example of this is found in the critter tract "Soul Survivor."

The standard of The Foreign was establish in midlevel times, since then a new one that has emerged and has taken root in the United States in particular. The Foreigner as Hispanic. Between 1999 and 2000 the number of undocumented immigrants, most from Mexico, doubled within the U.S. A lot of these immigrants found themselves with a questionable legal status from ether crossing the border legally and then having the visas expire or by crossing the border illegally. Most of this deluge was from the result of NAFTA (the North America Free Trade Agreement), which was intended to create a fiscal boom between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico but unfortunately, it did not work out that way. The act moved all Mexico's corn exports to America where it could be produced more cheaply leaving millions unemployed. In trade the auto industry was supposed to move to Mexico but before it did, they changed plans and moved to China and other Asian countries. This left a huge employment gap between the two countries. Furthermore, America was in the middle of a job boom. Which needed the unskilled labor that American employees would not provide.¹⁰ This would eventually lead the memes that portray Hispanics with a Schrodinger's cat like quality. Some memes posted them leaching off the system. Others posted them stealing the jobs from hard working Americas. Over the course of a year the Hispanic became both too lazy to work and employment thieves.

Right before the rise of the memes there was another popular propaganda that was skilled at always crafting the foreigner as something to be feared. It is from the longest lasting propaganda publishing companies in America, the Chick Tracts (figure 6). Chick Tracts have been in business for over 50 years and has produced over 800 million tracts. It has over 200 titles, translated in over 60 languages and over 100 of them are still in publication.²⁰ Today it is registered as an active hate publishing group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.²¹ Chick Tracts are distributed by Evangelical believers giving them away or by the followers leaving them behind in places where they are likely to be discovered, such as libraries, grocery stores, park benches, or even the Cupola on ECU campus.

The adaptation of the Chick Tract seems to be the more popular way to spread propaganda to the critters. (see figure six and seven.) These adaptations showcase much of the same themes, and same characters as the typical Chick Tract but instead of showcasing humans, there are critters in their place.



figure 6.²²



figure 7.

Chick tracks first gained their infamy in the 1970s as they helped kick start the, “Satanic Panic” and was also largely responsible for connecting role playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons to Wicca and Satanism.²³ In the titles "Dark Dungeon" and "Bewitched?" (both originally released in the ‘70s) they use

²⁰ Check Publication. n.d. <http://www.chick.com/information/general/chickinfo.asp#publish>.

²¹ Southern Poverty Law Center. "Active Hate Groups." n.d. <https://www.splcenter.org/node/105/activegroups>.

²² Chick Tracts, The Beast. "Read Chick Tracts Online." n.d. <http://chicktractsonline.blogspot.com/>.

²³ Romano, Aja. "The History of Satanic Panic in the US — and why it's not over yet." Nov 30, 2016." Vox. <https://www.vox.com/2016/10/30/13413864/satanic-panic-ritual-abuse-history-explained>.

the tactics of God as the Foreigner and the Heretic as the Foreigner. However, despite help paving the way for the “Satanic Panic,” these Chick Tracts made a slight divergence from the Jew as the Foreigner. Typically, Chick Tracts are known for using stereotypical and anti-semitic descriptions to depict the Devil. In the titles "Dark Dungeon" and "Bewitched?" The Devil takes on a slicked back look or is not depicted at all.

There has even been adapted chick tracts disseminated amongst various critter tribes. In them, the protagonist, and most of all the other characters are critters themselves. One that is very similar to the chick tract “The Beast”, is a popular one found amongst critters. It follows the same tactic as the Chick Tract of the same name is that portrays the foreigner as something evil (figure 7).

Fissures within the group

Within every tribe there are subgroups, in other words for every macro culture there is a micro culture. This tribe is no exception, it is within the micro cultures that some details and contradictions start to develop. Yes, the tribe is predominantly white supremacist but not all of the micro cultures are. Some accept individuals from multiple races. The tribe is predominantly anti-Muslim but there are several Muslims within the organization. The tribe is also predominantly anti-Hispanic yet there are Hispanics who align themselves with the tribe by finding a micro culture to belong to. The four most predominate micro cultures within the tribe are the: militant subdivision, the terrorist subdivision, the fraternal subdivision, and the online subdivision.

Within the militant subdivision there are several different organizations that make up the bulk of the whole but in general there are three major ones. There is the Three Percenters, the Oath Keepers (both of whom can be found within the host culture of the critters in observation). and the Traditionalist Workers Party or simply the TWP. The TWP has now mostly been absorbed by the other two.

These groups with the exception of the TWP are not racist at first glance. Both the Oath Keepers and the Three Percenters accepted recruits of various races into their groups but often support racist ideology. All three groups are anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant. Both the Oath Keepers and Three Percenters goal is to protect the second amendment which they believe is under constant attack. Their reasoning is that through securing the second amendment are they able to protect the first amendment. Both of these groups were present at the Unite the Right rally, various alt-right groups were present at the Bundy standoff and both typically show up at protest for the removal of confederate statues. Of the two groups, the Oath Keepers, are a lot more centralized and organized. They are mostly made up of ex-military and police personnel, both groups do routine screening of their members so that the group can be controlled and so that the group cannot be painted with an unfair image by the media. Both groups also distance themselves from any member who are arrested from non-protest related crimes.

When the Bundy Standoff occurred, there was a call to arms throughout the entire militant branch of the tribe. They sincerely expected thousands to appear from both the Oath Keepers and the Three Percenters. In reality less than 300 in total showed up. A different incident in 2015 in Montana between a miner and the BLM, Bureau of Land Management, seven hundred Oath Keepers and Three Percenters responded.

Within the terrorist segment of the tribe, there is Adomwaffen and the Ku Klux Klan.

The KKK is the grandfather of all tribe's organizations. Formed in 1862, the KKK is still the picture of what right-wing groups conjures up. Originally created by democrats after Lincoln ended slavery, the KKK has gone through many transformations and many rebirths. The organization temporarily reached a low point in the early 1900s and was revived in 1915 with the launch of the movie "Birth of A Nation.

Now membership is estimated to be around 10,000, individuals, primarily in the southern U.S.²⁴

Segments of the KKK are also within the host culture of the critter population in observation.

Adomwaffen, German for atomic weapons, is tribe's terrorist segment of the alt-right. They are often labeled as extremists, even within the tribe. They are neo-Nazi fascist organization that is anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, and white supremacist. There are numerous murders and bombing plots associated with them. They actively engage in Hitler worship. They cite the pre WW1 avant guard art movement, Futurism manifesto as their own, and praise it for what they claim is its realization that war is the only hygiene of the earth. They actively call for the murder of minorities and the those dubbed, the frail white, or Caucasians who will not aid them in genocide.²⁵

The Proud Boys get their name from a song from the Disney musical Aladdin. They are not affiliated with white supremacy and even accept Jewish and homosexual members, but they are anti-Muslim and anti-feminist. They are often called alt-light due to their less extreme rhetoric. They were a part of the Unite the Right rally and have taken positions beside other right-wing tribal groups in numerous protests. They claim to be the protectors of Western values.²⁶

Critters have been observed dividing themselves up into various almost militant groups as well. In a handful of observe instances they have even been known to steal hoods and robes from Klansmen and don them themselves. Groups of critters using aggression to find mates echo actions of those within the Proud Boys, and equally so, often fail to find a mating partner.²⁷

²⁴ History.com. "Ku Klux Klan." n.d. <https://www.history.com/topics/ku-klux-klan>.

²⁵ Southern Poverty Law Center. "Adomwaffen" n.d. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/atomwaffen-division>.

²⁶ Southern Poverty Law Center. "Proud Boys". n.d. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/proud-boys>.

²⁷ Montgomery, Mimi. Washingtonian. "Why It's Hard for Conservatives to Date in DC Right Now." Mar 5, 2018. <https://www.washingtonian.com/2018/03/05/why-its-hard-for-conservatives-to-date-in-dc-right-now/>.

The on-line segment of the alt-right is without a doubt it's largest. Using webhosts such as 4chan, 8chan, Reddit, and Gab they have found themselves a place in many "free-speech forums." It was on 4chan this tribe first gained traction, followed by 8chan. It is on Reddit that the tribe tries to gain more mainstream acceptance on the subreddit, r/The_Donald but it has been met with pushback with most of the other subreddit actively calling for its end. Other have called for all subreddits to boycott purchasing gold until they are removed from Reddit. Gold is an arbitrary tag attached to a person's post to merit it as being of high quality. The gold emblem must be purchased with real money and acts as financial revenue for the website so that it can avoid typical advertising. It is on Reddit that the tongue in cheek nickname of god-emperor was given to President Trump. Gab is the typical website that is used by the tribe for its anything goes mentality and is hailed as the hallmark of "free speech" environment in which they thrive.

The first signs of collapse

To say that the KKK or any of the other right-wing organizations are unified with each other, or even within their own group would be completely false. In most accounts, each on these groups operate with a different belief in mind and with different goals. The KKK group of Pitt county North Carolina may not agree with many of the tactics and rhetoric of the KKK groups of Martin County, which is just next door. The same can be said of all the groups, and while the groups are able to come together for some events such as the *Unite the Right Rally* of 2015, it is rare for them to get along with each other, even in the heat of a defensive moment.

One of the downfalls of the Bundy Standoff of 2014 was fallout of the various alt-right groups. In the encampment of the organizing members of both the Oath Keepers and the Three Percenters were constantly at each other's throats and accusing each other of having federal officers disguised as each other's ranks. The arguing got to a point where each group started to occupy different parts of the encampment so that in the event of a gun fight, they would not have to rely on each other. Each group claiming that reliance on the other organization would lead to the needless deaths of their own. Both

organizations even argued with the original Bundy gang that started the standoff. These arguments eventually caused a splintering within the group. The Oath Keepers then claimed to have come across intel that then President Obama had planned on sending a drone to bomb the encampment. The group then fled, leaving the Bundy's rag tag army alone. The attack never happened. No evidence suggest that it was ever planned. Leaving the Bundy gang to mock the Oath Keepers as cowards.²⁸

At the Unite the Right rally, different tribal groups did not get along, instead they often chose to stick with their own group instead of venturing out so they could guarantee protection in the event of a fight. After the events, which lead to the death of Heather Heyer, a counter protester. Each group was quick to point the finger at each other's for breaking the law and for being in part responsible for the death. The Oath Keepers in their attempt to separate themselves from white supremacist groups have attempted to prevent other tribal right-wing groups from attending protest that they have already rallied behind. On June 10th, 2017, the Oath Keepers protested the removal of a Houston statue depicting former Texas President Sam Houston. They actively told other right-wing groups not attend the protest but they ignored the Oath Keeper's request and those affiliated with the Daily Stormer attended anyways. When people associated with the Daily Stormer arrived a fight broke out between the two groups which lead one man screaming "What about the memes?" until he was placed in a chokehold by an Oath Keeper.

The Oath Keepers and the Three Percenters have also fought with Identity Evropa, a neo-nazi organization that started in 2016, which lead to Stewart Rhodes, the founder and president of the Oath Keepers to release the official statement.

²⁸ Sothern Poverty Law Center. "Oath Keepers." n.d. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/oath-keepers>.

“We’re not white nationalists. We’re not racists of any kind. And if they show up [at our rally], I am going to personally, physically remove them. Because they are trying to co-opt what we’re trying to do.”²⁹

Since then the group has gone even further to remove themselves from other right-wing tribal groups. In retaliation, the tribal movement has started to call the Oath Keepers, OathCuckers, again falling back to the insult of cuck.

Matthew Heimbach a once prominent voice of the tribe has been arrested after a trailer park brawl which came about when Heimbach tried to have sex with his Mother in Law. Her Husband, Heimbach’s father in law was Matt Parrott. The two of them formed another group of the Traditionalist Worker Party.³⁰ Since both of the founders are now arrested the group has dissolved, the former members are also ridiculed by members of the other groups.

Richard Spencer, the man whose ideas were essential in the tribe's early formation is now often ridiculed after Spencer dropped a lawsuit against Kent State University and canceled his speaking tour due to fear of confronting ANTIFA. Now there is a feud between Spencer and Patrick Casey the executive director of a white supremacist group called Identity Evropa because Spencer believes that Casey specifically weeded out members who supported Spencer’s agenda. Since then many of Casey’s followers have pointed out Spencer’s tendency to date Asian woman as evidence that he is not dedicated to the white supremacism cause.

²⁹ Burley, Shane. Political Research Associates, “Disunite the Right: The Growing Divides in the Pepe Coalition.” Sept 10, 2017. <https://www.politicalresearch.org/2017/09/19/disunite-the-right-the-growing-divides-in-the-pepe-coalition/>.

³⁰ Eltagpuri, Marwa, Selk, Avi. “How a white nationalist’s family came to blows over a trailer tryst” Mar 13, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/03/13/white-nationalist-leader-matthew-heimbach-arrested-for-domestic-battery/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.8d77e2f2299d.

On top of all of this there is also a huge divide between the activist on-line and those who deal in real-world activism. Andrew Anglin, the founder of the website the Dailey Stormer a neo-Nazi extremist website puts all the negative press of the tribe onto the shoulders of the real-world protesters. This has created a rift between the tribe's on-line community and the off-line community. One of the things real-world protesters likes to point out is their willingness to put their lives on the line and that to do otherwise is only half dedication or cowardice. Anglin is currently on the run from federal authorities and claims to be in Cambodia.

Chris Cantwell, the white supremacist who was subject of the Vice documentary on the Unite the Right rally and who was a prominent contributor to the Dailey Stormer and was an important voice during one of the tribe's pivotal movements, has completely fallen out of grace with the tribe after he posted a video of himself crying once he discovered that he was going to be arrested for the illegal use of tear gas. Since his arrest it has been discovered that Cantwell was a government informant who shared personal information including names to Philadelphia's ARA, Anti-Racist Action Group.³¹

Gab, the social media site is currently being eaten from the inside out due to infighting. The company bills itself as an "free speech" alternative to Twitter and Facebook but it's anything goes mentality has been questioned as of late. After having to ban several members for threatening the lives of Sanduja, the chief operating officer of the site. The threats began when the members of the site started to believe that the site was Jewish, something that they found they could not tolerate. The reason they believed this was because its URL, Gab.ai loosely looks like a Jewish word which means an assistant in a synagogue. The website denied the claim. After the threats became too much however the site decided to ban several members and then report them to local authorities, which the ones remaining on the site believed was against the site's free speech creed.

³¹ Weill, Kelly. Dailey Beast. Less Than a Year After Charlottesville, the Alt-Right Is Self-Destructing." Feb 29, 2018. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/less-than-a-year-after-charlottesville-the-alt-right-is-self-destructing>

Since then Sanduja, and Andrew Torba, the site's founder, has accused a left leaning site Shareblue of implanting fake neo-Nazi into the group to damage the site reputation. Exactly why one would need to implant fake neo-Nazis into a site that already actively caters to real neo-Nazis is a bit confusing, especially when one of the larger groups of members belong to Atomwaffen who openly engage in Hitler-worshipping. When reporters from the Dailey Beast questioned, Chief Operations Officer Will Lippincott about Gab's claim, he simply stated "We've never heard of Gab, and so I don't have anything to add here." When the same reporters then asked Gab if they had any evidence to prove their claim, they stated "I'm not going to say to you that I have proof, I'm not going to say to you that this is a factual statement point-blank."³²

There are massive signs of fragment between online activist and real-life activist within the tribe. Those who only are active on-line are often deemed cowards or sometimes as LARPFags or Live Action Role Playing-fag.

Milo Yiannopoulos was once the tribe's internet superstar and by some standard a journalist for Breitbart news. He too, has fallen out of the Alt-Right's favor, this has brought with him yet another division between Alt-Rightl members. His downfall was created when he publicly "defend[ed] relationships between older men and younger boys."³³

Alex Jones, the host of the web series "Info Wars", one of the first media sources to support Trump and to successfully inject the myth of the deep state, the New World Order, and 9/11 truthism, has also suffered

³² Weill, Kelly. The Dailey Beast. "Conspiracy Theories Are Eating This Alt Right-Friendly Site From the Inside." Jun 1, 2018. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/conspiracy-theories-are-eating-this-alt-right-friendly-site-from-the-inside>.

³³ Lynskey, Dorian. The Guardian. "The rise and fall of Milo Yiannopoulos – how a shallow actor played the bad guy for money." Feb 21, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/21/milo-yiannopoulos-rise-and-fall-shallow-actor-bad-guy-hate-speech>.

a great divide. In April 2018, Alex Jones turned his media franchise against Trump after the air strikes against Syria. The strikes were in response to the Syrian government using chemical weapons against its own citizens. Alex Jones and his media created the narrative that the chemical attacks never happened and was just a false flag operation created by the New World Order. On his show, he stated while crying,

“I haven’t had Trump call me in six months, [...] I will tell Trump that you really betrayed your family and your name, and everything you stood for with this horse manure. They have broken Trump [...] if you ever call me again, I’m going to tell you I’m ashamed of you. [...] I just feel like I just had my best girlfriend break up with me. The left will make jokes, but this ain’t funny, man. “We made so many sacrifices, and now he’s crapping all over us. It makes me sick.”

After a few minutes of crying he finally concluded with “Fuck Trump.”³⁴

Alex Jones has also been barred from many different websites such as YouTube, Facebook, Spotify, and Vimeo. He is also constantly being removed from Twitter for continually breaking with the website’s posting regulations.³⁵

To further complicate matters for Alex Jones, He is currently also being sued by the families of Sandy Hook. The place of a school shooting in which Jones called a False Flag operation and the dead children, crisis actors. This conspiracy theory pushed by Jones has led to the families receiving death threats and also subjected to various forms of discrimination. The family's lawyers are declaring that Jones’s organization has tampered with evidence by deleting it which was pivotal to the lawsuit. If found guilty Jones will face jail time.³⁶

³⁴ Ohlheiser, Abby. The Washington Post. ““They have broken Trump’: Alex Jones and the Trump Internet’s fractured response to the Syria strikes. Apr 15, 2018.” https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2018/04/14/they-have-broken-trump-alex-jones-and-the-trump-internets-furious-response-to-the-syria-strikes/?utm_term=.d4f0c3f5d4bb.

³⁵ Palma, Bethra. Snopes. Alex Jones’s InfoWars Conspiracy Website Is Down. Aug 14, 2018. <https://www.snopes.com/news/2018/08/14/alex-joness-infowars-conspiracy-website/>.

³⁶ James, Mike. USA Today. “Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones destroyed evidence, court motion claims.” Aug 7, 2018. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/08/17/conspiracy-theorist-alex-jones-destroyed-evidence-court-motion-claims/1023068002/>.

Steve Bannon, was the ideological power house of the tribe. He was the man that was responsible for bringing the tribal ideology to Donald Trump's feet. He has also been cast out by the tribe after it was revealed that Steve Bannon told the author Michael Wolff for his book "Fire and Fury" that the meeting between Russia and Don Jr. was "treasonous." After it was revealed that Bannon was acting in a sense, as an informant to the left, many in the tribe started to regard Bannon as "too chummy with media kikes," a Jewish slur.³⁷

One of the biggest evidences however that the alt-right is already-collapsing from the inside out is the outcome of the Unite the Rally 2. The Unite the Right Rally 2 was supposed to be the second-year anniversary of the Unite the Right rally that took place in Charlottesville, VA, which led to the death of one counter protester. The second one promised all the strength and all the vigor of the first. It promised upwards of 400 of alt-right members to show up, ready to fight, and ready to prove that they were a force to be reckoned with. It was scheduled to be held in DC a city large enough to show off the true might of the alt-right. However, come the day of the protest, only 20-30 members showed up. The counter protesters numbered in thousands.³⁸

Furthermore, the tribe has not established itself as a counter culture, but when looked at closely, one can see that this rings hollow for one simple fact. The tribe has not established itself a culture. Yes, they have the meme machine of 4chan and their online chat groups, but the short life span of any topic on the sites, at most one day, is so finite that the culture and even the temperament of these sites change as frequently as the weather. The goth culture has developed its own fashion, along with the biker culture. The hippy

³⁷ Owen, Tess. Vice News. "The alt-right is turning its back on Steve Bannon. Jan 4, 2018."
https://news.vice.com/en_ca/article/j5vjp4/the-alt-right-is-turning-its-back-on-steve-bannon.

³⁸ Joe Heim, Reis Thebault, Peter Jamison & Marissa Lang, Washington Post. "Anti-hate protesters far outnumber white supremacists as groups rally near White House." Aug 12, 2018.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/washington-readies-for-todays-planned-white-supremacist-rally-near-white-house/2018/08/12/551720c4-9c28-11e8-8d5e-c6c594024954_story.html?utm_term=.1e2a0746c8e6.

culture developed countless festivals that have merged with the mainstream public, so too has the raver counter culture. Drag culture has developed its own television shows. Punk culture its own genre of music, so too as the neo-Nazi counter culture (not to be confused as alt-right culture). The gamer culture has developed its own sports as did the skater culture. Otaku culture has conventions. Both the survivalist and the cryptozoologist counter culture have produced countless books. The tribe has, for as long as it has existed, not developed any kind of soft power that will allow normies (the 4chan term for non-members) to enter or transition in on their own.

Also, the already established groups in their effort to maintain themselves will immediately go on the offensive and do all it can to shut out the fringe group's voice. So, not only do fringe groups have to handle infighting as members struggle for dominance within the group and attacks from other fringe groups, but they need to be able to survive the established group's control. This is difficult and this is made all the more difficult when the group's core identify which is simply, I am afraid of the changing world. When boiled down, that is what the tribe is, afraid of the changing world.

The different tribes within the critter's groups have also become more and more hostile with each other as these micro groups dissolve, leaving the individual critters feeling both vulnerable and threatened but never looking to the self as the cause of the fallout. This creates an uroboros effect, a snake consuming its own tail, a struggle without end.

The alt-right's ending

The alt-right members feel disenfranchised, disrespected, lost and forgotten. This harbors resentment, this harbors hatred. Globalization is a force that, at this point cannot be stopped. The world can no longer afford to be small or apart. All the information of the world is at our finger tips. Anyone can see cruel injustices within seconds, so now, most of the world is calling out for it to end. It is impossible to attack others just because they are Jewish, homosexual, or just simply foreign, which for hundreds of years have

been the scapegoats of complex problems. The world can no longer use atrocities as solutions to massive issues.

The rise of a militant movement is far from new. The actions, the recruitment of young angry men, the ever-growing hatred slowly over taking the minds of people is just an old story. Ask anyone who has lived in a poor black neighborhood if this feels like anything new. Ask anyone who has ever lived in a poor Hispanic neighborhood, or even poor rural white neighborhood.

Black neighborhoods have long been plagued by hatred in the guise of protection. They go by the names of the Crips, or the Bloods and so many others. In Hispanic neighborhoods, they go by the names of MS13 or the Sinaloa Cartel or the Sureños X3. In rural poor white neighborhoods that hatred is known as the KKK. The only difference between the tribe and the Bloods or MS13 is the appeal to the middle class. The KKK has not had a real claim to the middle class since the 1940s and the rest of the gangs that exist have never been able to penetrate the class boundaries. But, the tribe and its many branches, the Oath Keepers, the Three Percenters, The Proud Boys, the Adomwaffen, have.

Many of them wear Fred Perry polo shirts as uniform. They are able to travel and take time off to go to rallies. Polo shirts are not the common or preferred attire of the working-class poor. Traveling to go to protest and rallies is time that the poor do not have to offer.

The tribe is merely a gang that has found its way into the middle class. It is merely a gang that has gotten a handful of politicians, (albeit some powerful ones) to look at them favorably but like all gangs and all fringe groups they are destined to fall apart, and they will do so from internal strife.

It will not end with the tribe though. This is a situation that will raise again and again. We are the first generation of monkey to have infinite knowledge, infinite interpretations of that knowledge but a very

finite way to utilize it. We are given a platform to deliver our interpretations and we are culturally expected to be heard. Artist and scientist are exactly alike the tribe and all other fringe groups expect the world to see us as something special or as something ahead of the curve. Time, however, shows us that this is never true.

The tribe utilizes the meme as a way to quickly grant information. A friend of mine, once said to me that a "millennial, walking around like they rent the place would be the ultimate meme" of our lifetimes all the while our "tweets have become the new haiku. The entire narrative of the human experience dismissively summarized into 140 characters and it's an industry." Sometimes his's wisdom scares me not because it is bleak but because it's true. It is so easy to see how we can feel disenfranchised, lost and forgotten. It would be easy to allow myself to harbor resentment, to harbor hatred. But I don't. I guess that is where many artists, and scientist differ from many in the tribe, be it human or critter. Many of us still see a way.

THE SITE

When I first got to the site of the critter tribe, I had to first consider that by the critters observing me, I would be risking changing their behavior. I had to approach them slowly, first to let them know that I was not a danger to them, and so that they would not become too interested in me, and my behavior. Even in those early observations though, I was able to start putting together something of their daily behavior patterns. I spent most of my early observations watching from afar, through my binoculars. Looking back, I am not at all surprised that it took me so long to approach the tribe without influencing them; looking back I am not at all surprised by what I discovered. Not being surprised does not mean that I was not frightened and depressed by observations.

The critter tribe, is composed of over forty critters, (the average number for the area of their territory.) Of them, there was one elder critter, noticeable by the white markings on its stomach, and about fifteen adolescents and juveniles.

After several months I began to identify several different critters as individuals. The first one that I noticed was the elderly critter, whom I named Noah (plates 1, 2). He had an unusual influence within the tribe and was one of the first critters to approach me, not wide eyed and influencing but simply as a bystander, no more of interest than a bare bush in the distance, or a puddle, that no longer held water. His general apathy toward me, allowed the other critters to feel the same way, except for a few of the youngest critters, who would not allow anything to be of interest (plates 3, 4).



Plate 1.

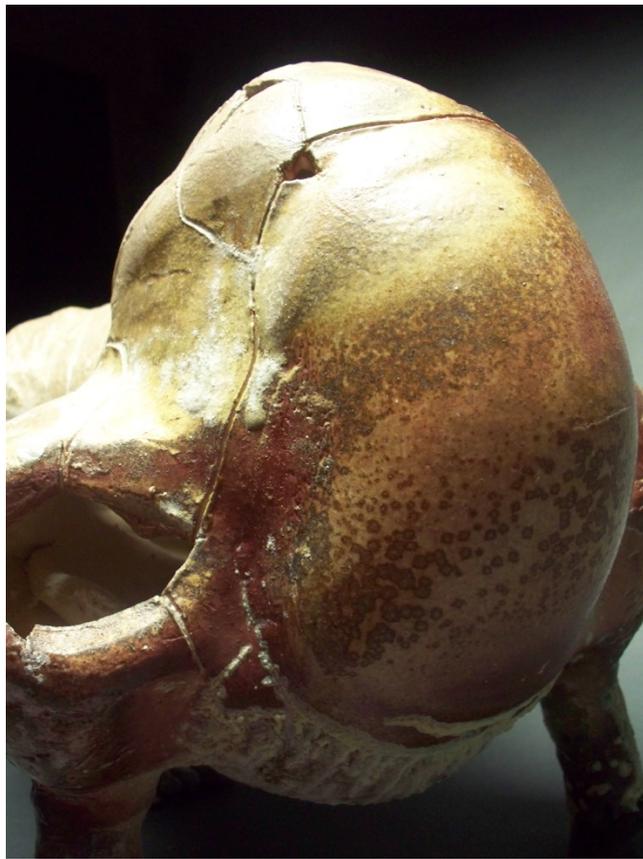


Plate 2.



Plate 3.



Plate 4.

Once I tried to offer him an apple that had already fallen from a tree to see if the reason, he was ignoring me was more to do with his age, and diminished senses than temperament, but the elder critter took the apple, and walked away from me with the same gratitude he would have had for a low hanging tree limb.

Gradually with Noah's apathy towards my existence, the other critters ignored my presence and I could slowly move closer to the tribe, without risk of augmenting their behavior.

I identified another critter, whom I started calling Tory (plate 5). More than any other critter, he seemed to be the most enthused about garbage, and would often scavenging in garbage bags left outside. More than once I observed him, returning from one of his day long scavenges, a garbage bag full of cloth, and cans in tow. Upon reentering the tribe, the smell of the garbage would cover the critter, making him unrecognizable to the others in the tribe. He would then be chased off by one critter or another, until the next day, when the smell of garbage had faded, and Tory would have time to rub more flowers upon himself, bringing back a familiar scent.

There was a third critter name Duke (plate 6) that left one of the more lasting impressions on me. When Duke was not trying to bully the other critters, or to lure female critters to mate with him, he was challenging Noah as the head of the tribe. Often Duke would charge at Noah who would be undaunted by the aggressive display.

I identified a forth critter, whom seemed to be just as bewildered with her kind as I have found many of my collages to be with our own. I named this critter Lacey (plate 7).



Plate 5.



Plate 6.



Plate 7.

Each critter within the tribe, has its own unique call which they can use to communicate across long distances. If a critter hears another calling from across their territory, they will all know exactly who is calling out. Each critter must then decide, to remain silent or to return the call, to remain where they are, or move to join the clamoring group. This gives a fluid nature to the critter's tribe, where the inhabitants constantly make decisions, travel alone, or with others, leave the tribe for a bit and go scavenging, or stay behind and look for some fruit in the area to eat. Lacey, I observed often chose to be alone and eat apples.

Because critters are constantly leaving and returning, separating and reuniting, an observer can quickly pick the location or region of the critter tribe with no other context. In the area that I am observing, when the critters return from scavenging, they are greeted with a lot of handshakes, and occasionally high fives and fist bumps. In Japan, when a critter returns, they would be greeted with the critters bending their front

two legs in a bowing motion. In Argentina, the critters may air kiss the left side of the returning critter's cheek.

As I was starting to intergrade into the critter tribe, the human world that I was temporarily leaving behind was becoming incased in turmoil. The Unite the Right rally had just ended in Charlottesville VA. In May 13th, 2017, white supremacist and rally organizer Richard Spencer lead a much smaller rally of 30-40 Klan's members to the Emancipation Park. There their words would be droned away by the chants and horn blowing of over 1000 counter protesters.³⁹ This incident brought back the images of the Unite the Right Rally, held two months before, ~~hand~~ back into the public discussion. It was the next day that the scavenging critter, Tory brought back to the tribe a Klan's hood he had found during his night adventure. On the brim of the Klan's hood, printed in red, "Make America Great Again." Trump's logo.

There it would lie, undisturbed in his garbage pile for the next few weeks until the critter, Duke, would take the found object from the rubbish and bring it back to where he was sleeping on a pile of broken branches covered in leaves.

As I continued my observations, I found pamphlets of conservative propaganda littered among the critters and their treasure. With titles like "The Beast" (plate 8,) these pamphlets warned the critters of falling prey to an ever-present outsider, that would either take the form of a monster or beast that would consume them whole. One monster that was a common character in these pamphlets was the dubbed "The Beast."

In both the chick tract and the critter tract "The Beast" follows a very straight forward narrative with the purpose of informing the viewer. In it, the hero is the reader, the villain is lingering everywhere with the sole purpose of tearing apart the critter society. All that the reader needs to do to protect him/her self and

³⁹ Lord, Richard "Clergy stand up to Charlottesville KKK rally." UM News. Retrieved Feb 1, 2018. <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/clergy-stand-up-to-charlottesville-kkk-rally>.

their community is to be ever diligent and be ready to take up arms and protect themselves from the outsider.

There was a different pamphlet also being distributed amongst the critter population. It's title "The Trap" and "Soul Survivor" argue against the normal pamphlets that are distributed among the critter population (plates 9, 10.)

In "The Trap" the reader is informed that maybe the villain is from the inside of the tribe, not the outside and it tells the reader that, the things that they have been seeing, have grown accustomed to, may not in fact be normal, and is the real danger that is lurking within their lives.

In "Soul Survivor" the reader is told to start questioning long held beliefs that they and their neighbors may hold. It suggests that the devils-they are facing may not be some super natural creature lurking in depths unfathomable, but may be the evil in one own's unwillingness to question the world in which they live.

The critter, Lacey can often be observed handing out the latter two pamphlets to other critters in her tribe. Some accept them without looking at them and carry them off to their nest, while others reject them angrily.

The Beast

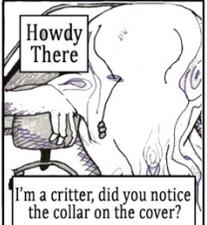


Where we distil lightning into liquid and we are thought the fine craft of swinging a mottock and digging up potatoes. But this paradise, it has its enemies.

He is a Devil from parts unknown.



Howdy There
I'm a critter, did you notice the collar on the cover?



You didnt?
Well go get a look see



He appears from thin air



and leaves
misery



He is not one of us. He is a threat!



Now that collar will help you figure out what piece this critter track goes to by match'in it up with the dot on that there floor. It will help explain things, tell yas whats-what.

Where storys would skip off tounges
So go on now, get yourself a treckin



The Beast



REFUND NOW
To our morals



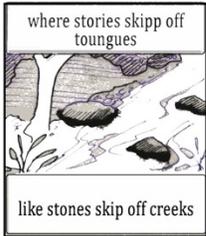
our saftey



We grew up in a pagen nitch of the bible belt



where storys skipp off tounges
like stones skip off creeks



He kills our livestock



attacks our women



But you can stand up



And Fight!



Plate 8 (part 1.)



I MADE
THIS.

Please check the boxes below.

I want to miss hell.

I want to go to hell..

Traffic is hell.

There probably isn't
a hell.



—
THERE ARE BETTER THINGS TO READ
PUBLICATIONS
—
Ronson Shultz

Compliments of:



9 87654 32109 8

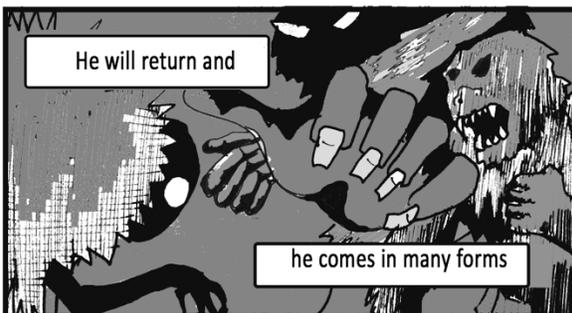


Plate 8 (part 2.)

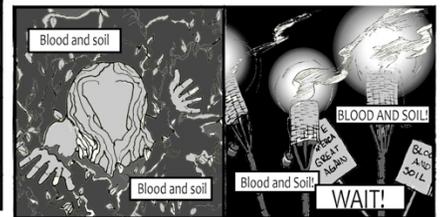
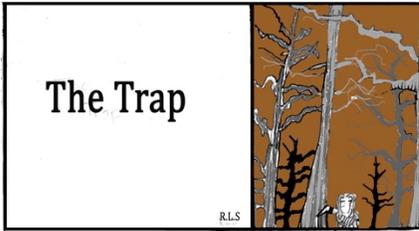
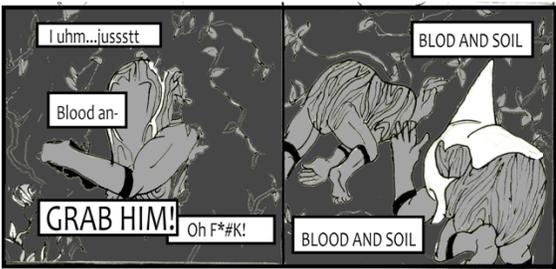


Plate 9 (part 1.)



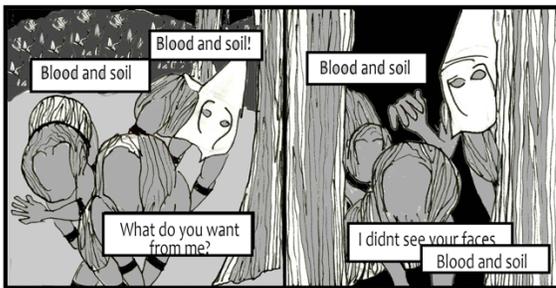
I MADE THIS.

Please check the boxes below.

I want to miss hell.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I want to go to hell..	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic is hell.	<input type="checkbox"/>
There probably isn't a hell.	<input type="checkbox"/>



- If you trust me as your new guide in life (and you shouldn't) Then you have just begun a wonderful new life with ME. Now:
1. Don't go around telling people I talk to you. I don't want them to think we are friends.
 2. Read more Critter Tracts as soon as they are made available!
 3. If you can not wait pay me lots of money to see them earlier. If you have to ask how much money then you cant afford it.
1. Be on the look out for my final show coming in Spring semester 2018



THERE ARE BETTER THINGS TO READ PUBLICATIONS

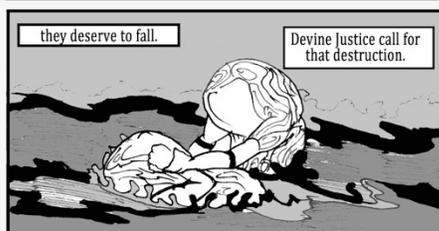
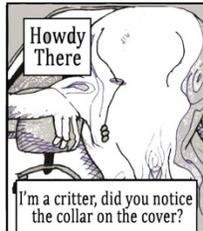
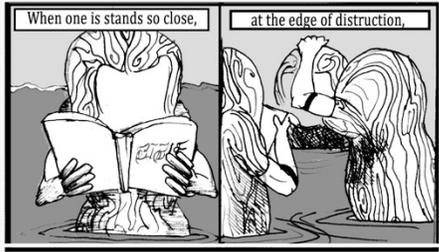
Ronson Shultz

Compliments of:

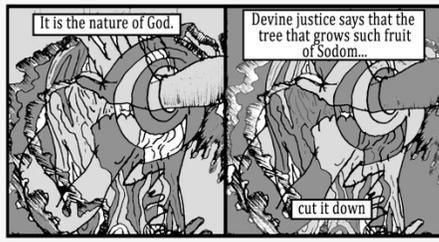
9 187654132109 18

Plate 9 (part 2.)

Soul Survivor

Now that collar will help you figure out what piece this critter track goes to by match'in it up with the dot on that there floor. It will help explain things, tell yas whats-what.



But how can you live with such indifference?
To live is not just to endure.
Imagine yourself as nature:
without purpose,
without consideration,
without pity,
without justice.

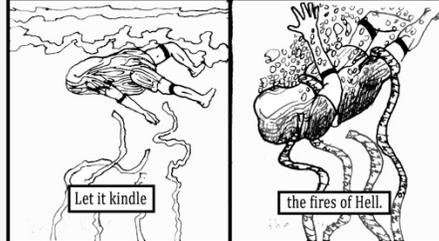


Plate 10 (part 1.)



What are you doing here?

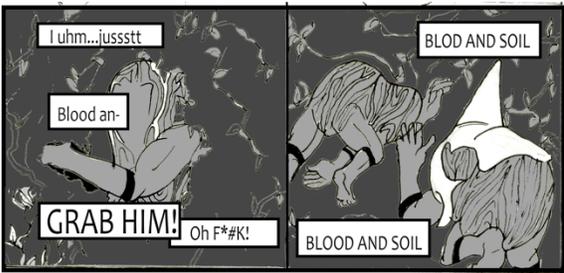


Blood and soil

Blood and soil

AHHHHHH!

Blood and soil



I uhm...jusstt

BLOOD AND SOIL

Blood an-

GRAB HIM!

Oh F*#K!

BLOOD AND SOIL

I MADE THIS.

Please check the boxes below.

I want to miss hell.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I want to go to hell..	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic is hell.	<input type="checkbox"/>
There probably isn't a hell.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Blood and soil

Blood and soil!

Blood and soil

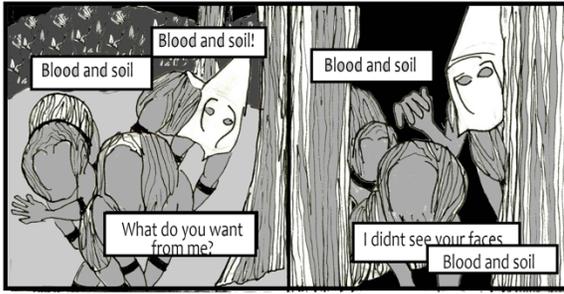
Blood and soil

If you trust me as your new guide in life (and you shouldn't) Then you have just begun a wonderful new life with ME. Now:

1. Don't go around telling people I talk to you. I don't want them to think we are friends.
2. Read more Critter Tracts as soon as they are made available!
3. If you can not wait pay me lots of money to see them earlier. If you have to ask how much money then you cant afford it.



1. Be on the look out for my final show coming in Spring semester 2018



Blood and soil

Blood and soil!

Blood and soil

What do you want from me?

I didnt see your faces

Blood and soil

THERE ARE BETTER THINGS TO READ PUBLICATIONS

Ronson Shultz

Compliments of:

9 187654 32109 118

Plate 10 (part 2.)

Adult critters can be very territorial. There is some debate amongst anthropologists if the territorial behavior is simply mirrored from humans, almost all of which are also territorial, or if critters by themselves are territorial. Adult critters can sometimes be capable of the utmost cruelty towards those outside of their tribe. As previously mentioned, critters have been observed teaming up and killing an intruder to their territory, as in the beforementioned case of the Bengal Lizard. Sometimes, their aggression can be directed towards neighboring critters. Aggression toward young critter offspring however is almost never seen in critters within the same tribe as the adult. This shows that this aggressive intercommunity behavior serves the purpose of protecting a critter's territory and the available resources for their own young. Generally, the only critters that can roam freely between tribes are females that are too young to give birth. Patrolling males will often try to recruit these females into their own tribe. This is the main mechanism within critter behavior to help prevent in-breeding.

However, many of the critters now found within the U.S have become increasingly aggressive. So much so that many game wardens have increased their patrols around forested areas where they know critters nest. In 20 of the 50 states within the U.S. several game wardens have had to team up with forest rangers to relocate aggressive critters further away from neighboring humans. This behavior has not been a problem within the U.S since the '60s, when humans were also increasing violent in their protest against the American civil rights movement.

In the tribe observed, most of the aggression has been orchestrated by the critter named Duke. In his conquest of several rivals within his tribe, Duke has even started to pick up a following of two other critters, name Biggs and Wedge. Together, these three have assaulted many of the critters within their own tribe and have been observed fighting over the most miniscule of reasons. Their tolerance of other critters within the tribe seems to be near null. Since the three have emerged as the fighters in their tribe, they have also been observed rubbing a slightly different flower mixture onto themselves to help them locate each other in a crowd, in case the fighting becomes too hectic (plates 11, 12, 13.)



Plate 11.



Plate 12.



Plate 13.

My observation of the surrounding human population lasted from May to December, the Bulk of my observations of the tribe was between January 1st and July 31st 2018, and was during the summer. The beginnings of my observation were from afar but by late May I was slowly working my way into the tribe itself. This was during the summer, where many humans within the neighbor town were celebrating and when yard sales were on almost every road. This granted many of the scavenging critters, most notable, Tory, an opportunity to steal baskets of laundry, and for the critters to watch the common gender role act of hanging up one's laundry to dry to which the critters responded in kind (plates 14, 15). It may have been in one of these stolen baskets, that Tory first came across the Klan's hood.



Plate 14.



Plate 15.

One of the traditions within the neighboring human communities was the painting of the John Henry. John Henry is an African American folk hero in one of America's earliest Man vs. Machine tale. In it, John Henry is given the challenge of hammering a steel drill into stone to make holes for explosives to be placed and then exploded to blast the rocks in the construction of a railroad tunnel. In the legend, John Henry's prowess is measured in a race against a steam-powered rock drilling machine. This race will end with the success of John Henry only to see him die in victory from exhaustion.

In the tradition, the participants will gather and paint and cover the statue of a famous black hero, white. This act is undeniably racist. However, many of the participants who indulge within the act today, do not do so because they are racist, at least outwardly. Many of them are even ignorant to the fact that John Henry is an African American. When asked about their motives about why they are acting in such a way. Their simple answer is that it is tradition. They do it because their fathers did it, and their fathers did it because their fathers did it. This by no means suggest that the act is no longer racist but instead it shows just how ingrown the racist acts can become. It shows how completely racist acts can become such a part of everyday life that is lived, without many giving it any thought to it. Since my personal observations of the statue's paintings, and my observations of the critter population, the statue has been moved to an area that is much harder for groups to get to.

The critters have seen this behavior too and they have responded in kind (plates 16, 17).

It is during these types of events that the critter named Lacey becomes the most upset. Sometimes she will give a false charge at the critters engaging in the mimicked racist behavior, or sometimes she will just pester the critters with continuous calls, that will in turn make the other critters leave for the simple sake of a quieter afternoon.



Plate 16.



Plate 17.

At this point of my observations, several months had past, July was quickly approaching. Many of the people in the surrounding towns were proudly displaying their American flags. Firework displays were set out in the front of store windows along with signs, all boasting to have the loudest, and the most colorful of explosions. The town was beginning to work itself into a frenzy, all in preparations for the town's Fourth of July parade to begin. The critters, in their constant observance and constant mimicry also fell into a frenzy, all gathering together anything with stripes, and anything with stars. Tory stole a broken metal car from someone's garden, and it was then in turn taken by another critter who had other plans for it. Duke even calmed down from his bullying of the other critters to help in the frenzy to gather materials. He was observed stealing several tiki torches from a backyard.

With that I could not help but foresee something grim. Duke, the critter had already stolen a klan members hood, and now he engaged in gathering tiki torches, which until last year was a very innocent lawn decoration used to keep mosquitos at bay. However, the torch had been adopted by the marches at the Unite the Right rally in 2017, and they were used at the small rally lead by Richard Spencer a few months after the initial rally. Their image was again pasted on the television screens, as an attempted to schedule a second Unite the Right rally was under way. This time organized solely by Jason Kessler, a white supremacist and far right political activist who also helped organized the original rally.⁴⁰ This rally would ultimately end in humiliation for the alt-right.

The Fourth of July parade was an annual event of the town. It had occurred for decades, and it had its own colorful history. In the '90s, it was not uncommon to see Klan members marching in the parade, in full hood and robe. Now however, the parade consisted mostly of children riding in wagons or the back of pickup trucks, throwing candy at children who would scream while their parent squinted in the distance.

⁴⁰ Yager, Jordy. The New Yorker. "Living Next Door to a White Supremacist." Aug 1,2018.
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/living-next-door-to-a-white-supremacist>.

They would count the number of lawnmowers and trucks left coursing down the road at three mph. After the last one, they could all leave and proudly say, they continued the tradition.

The xenophobia was also rampant within the critters at this time. They had already been aggressive towards various birds that would land and peck at the ground in their territory, they attempted not once but twice to chase off a skunk that ended in a predictable fashion. However, the hilarity of watching the critters chase off things they had no real ability to handle came to an end in mid-June. On June 14th a local school child had the idea to dress up as the critter's fabled Beast and then tried to run through the critter's territory. This ended terribly for the child. The critters surrounded the boy and assaulted him, causing several physical injuries to his person. One critter jumped onto his chest. Another tried to secure his legs and one critter even attempted to crush the boy's skull with a large river stone that it had picked up. Luckily for the boy, age 13, was rescued by his friends who were watching from afar (plates 18, 19.)



Plate 18.



Plate 19.

The critters owned no lawnmowers, nor did they have any trucks, The only car they had was more rust than metal, more broken, than useful but they had leaves to throw, they had their own tradition of mimicry to follow, and just like the humans, they too would wait for it to end and then push the entire day from their minds. This parade however has more instore for the celebratory critters. Hostility was rampant, so many people and critter alike were walking on a thin line of tolerance while grinding their teeth. The air was thick with the imagined fumes of gasoline. all that was needed was a spark to send everything to flame.

The Fourth of July arrived, the morning was typical for both the humans and the critters alike. The critters observed the humans prepare everything and then set off; in the background the television showed repeated scenes of the horrors of the first Unite the Right rally and discussed the tension in America. Many in the alt-right claim that a new civil war is brewing; many on the left are claiming that the veil on institutional racism is starting to be lifted. The Alt-right marched down the streets screaming, they will

not apologize for being white, the counter protestors, deafened their chants with their own cheers, no racist, no KKK, no fascist USA. The critters took it all in, and then left to prepare their own ceremony.

Just as the humans had begun to gather and organize, so too did the critters, they put together a sign, that would be the introduction to the parade, so that bystanders would know what was happening, as if somehow the day, tradition and proceedings was not enough. They gathered their leaves together for tossing, and they began to walk in a loose format. Very few critters watched from the side, for most were in the parade together, leaving no one to run after the leaves that were being tossed, so the critters would toss the leaves and then chase after them. Afterwards returning to their line, each time, making the line, less and less organized. If they took note of this, then they didn't care (plates 20, 21, 22). The parade continued down their territory without a hitch but somewhere down the line, a spark flew. The fuel in the air was ignited and chaos fell upon the critters.

Some ran left, others ran right, a few started to attack each other in the confusion. Two critters attempted to block the sight from everyone so that their tradition could continue without a hitch. Duke however disrupted this plan. As the critter donned the Klan hood he rushed through the barricade and attacked another critter. It screamed out, the normally low sound purr of the critter, rose in octaves and filled the air, adding more panic to the situation. Duke's two henchmen, dropped the tiki torches they were carrying and continued the attack, Biggs and Wedge, ran after and grabbed the nearest critter and started to smack and punch them. It was not until the alpha male of the critters, Noah, launched forward after Duke, that the assault stopped. By then, several critters suffered superficial wounds, and it further emboldened Duke, Biggs, and Wedge (plates 23, 24, 25, 26).



Plate 20.



Plate 21.



Plate 22.



Plate 23.



Plate 24.



Plate 25.



Plate 26.

Typically, when critters fight especially with other critters of their own tribe, the attacks are largely for intimidation. Actual threatening injuries are rare, most, if any, battle wounds are superficial. The fight witness at the parade did not fit the typical assault, nor did the rally in Charlottesville follow a typical assault that one could expect at such an event. What broke out was nothing short of a riot. The critter's riot was much smaller than the human riot they were mimicking but the number of critters involved was also smaller.

What happened in Charlottesville was everything the alt-right had been hoping for. Prior to the rally several attendees shared post of cars driving into protestors. This would be used to show the murder of Heather Heyer at the rally was partially premeditated⁴¹. Resulting in James Alex Fields, Jr. being found guilty of second-degree murder. The action, the stage, the attention was fuel on the fire that could've been the alt-right's maiden voyage into the world's stage. But what the world saw was anger, fear, and sorrow. Contorted, screaming faces of the boy next door, lit by the light of the tiki torches, the Nazi flags waving high into the air, and the death of Heather Heyer. These were the scenes that encapsulated what the alt-right was. It is what millions across the world observed. It is what the critters imitated. It is what I observed. It is what many in this world now know we must fight against, and to protect ourselves from becoming. The critter tracts did have a truth to them. There is a beast, and it can be us.

⁴¹ McGirl, Siobhan. "Judge allows prosecutors to submit Fields' social media messages as evidence during trial." Nov 30, 2018. <https://www.wdbj7.com/content/news/Judge-allows-evidence-from-Fields-instagram-showing-a-picture-of-a-car-plowing-into-a-crowd-of-protesters--501649871.html>

THE GALLERY

The gallery is set up in such a way to look and feel like a small museum. All the pedestals were built specifically for the show. The pedestals have a 1.5-inch boarder around the top to allow dirt to be placed on top of each pedestal and not risk spilling onto the floor. The dirt is used to help pull the critters from a gallery setting and into a pseudo environment, typical in most anthropological museums.

Attached to each pedestal is also an extra addition to adhere signage onto the pedestal to further explain the nature, and behavior of the critters, which I have presented as a common but often overlooked species. The signage also helps the audience be reminded of historical reinvents or culturally specific activities that I am referencing (plates 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

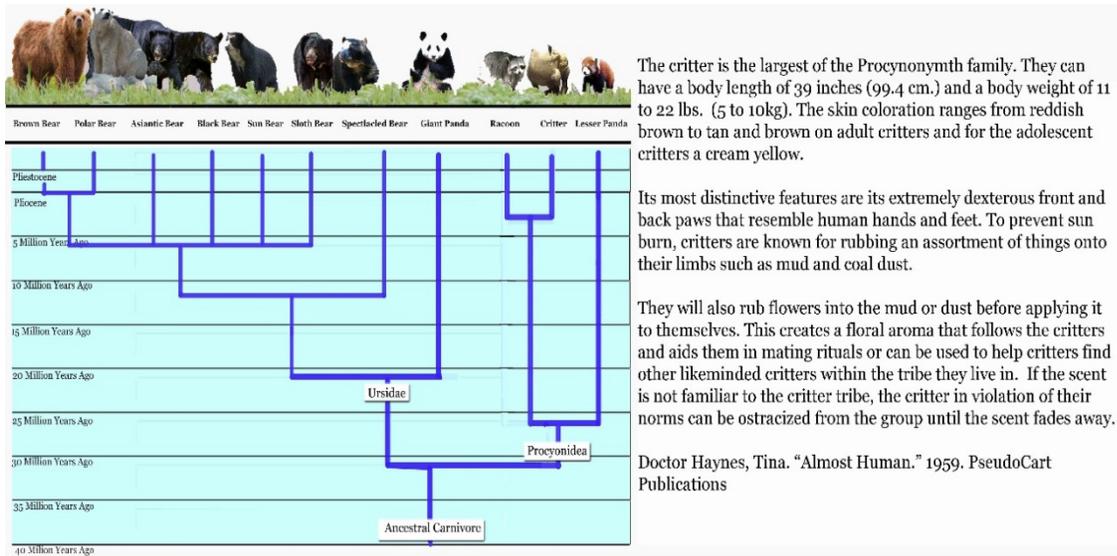


Plate 27.

The critter is an adaptive, and an intelligent species. It can be found almost everywhere in the world. It can survive in extreme heat with very little water and it can survive in climates of intense heat and humidity.

The critters showcased in this display were observed over the past two years in eastern North Carolina. The Tribe can consist of up to fifty members.

Critters are unique in that they can do one thing that few others can do. They can completely mimic the human culture around them.

Coinciding with the election of Donald Trump, political parties have become increasingly polarized. This change is also reflected in critters populations. The critter population that is subjected of this study is nested near another group that has moved far right politically. As a result, both the critter and the human population have become more xenophobic.

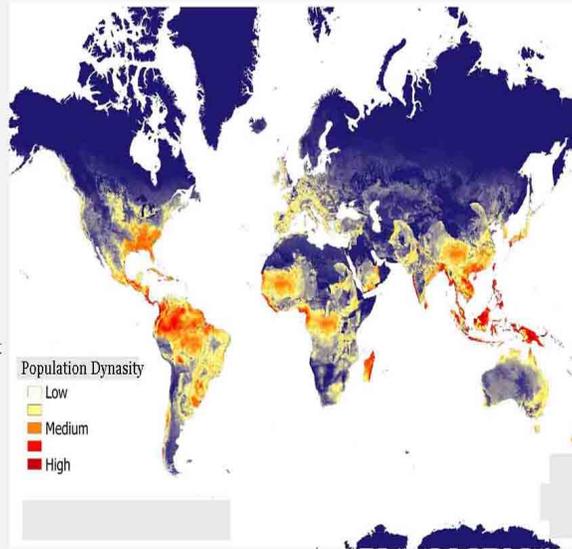


Plate 28.



A group of critters is called a tribe. Within each tribe are several family units. Each family unit is generally made up of two adult critters and one or two offspring. The offspring usually lives within the family unit until it reaches adult at 4 years of age.

Each critter tribe is different, but the difference is simple cultured which the critters mimic from the nearest human population. That is the most unique trait about the critter species, their ability to mimic humans. If the human society nearest the critter tribe were to all start wearing silly hats, then the critters would construct their own out of found objects and leaves and make their own to wear. If the human society nearest the critter tribe were to put a lot of emphasis on gender roles, so too would the critter population.

Plate 29.



Samuel Corum/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

The critter lives near a human population that it begins to mimic. The human population next to the critter population outlined here, has gone into a post-truth society which affects the critter's behavior in unusual ways. The emergence of the post truth society rose to prominence with the election of Donald Trump.

On your left you can see an image taken in Charlottesville VA, at the Unite The Right Rally on August 11-12, 2017. In the backdrop of rally was controversy generated by the removal of a confederate statue, which as in response to the Charleston Church Shooting in 2015.

Among other racist statements, rally goers chanted "The Jews Will Not Replace US." On the last day of the rally, Heather Heyer a counter protestor, (Pictured Right) was murdered by rally attendee James Alex Fields Jr. This drew swift condemnation from politicians from all parties, except for Donald Trump who simply stated "[There was] blame on both sides."

Heather Heyer's last post on the social media website, Facebook simply stated: "If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention."

1/Stephen Rembold, Trump rallies end at 9:45, left to Charlottesville, says the people on both sides' Archived August 15, 2017, at the Wayback Machine, ABC News (Retrieved August 15, 2017)

2/Spencer, Steven; Perez-Pelaez, Richard (December 14, 2017). "Murder Charge Increases in Charlottesville Protest Death". The New York Times.



Courtesy of Justin Marks, Retrieved from NPR.org

Plate 30.

'Vampire' Charges Woman

BLADENBORO, Jan. 5—A large marauding cat that has killed and sucked the blood of at least seven dogs charged a woman here tonight, but turned and fled back into a swamp when she screamed and her husband rushed onto the scene.

Police Chief Roy Forbes said the animal charged into the yard of Mrs. C. E. Kinlaw when she went out onto her front porch to investigate whimpering dogs in the street.

After the incident occurred, the armed posse that went out tonight to track down and kill the "vampire" swelled to some 500 people and scores of dogs.

Mrs. Kinlaw, who lives in the mill village near Bladenboro Mills on Highway 211 one mile west of

here, said she heard the dogs whimpering early tonight and went to investigate.

Near the dogs, she said, was what looked like "a big mountain lion." It raced from three doors down the dirt street in front of her house to a few feet from her porch, then turned back when she screamed and her husband rushed out of the house, she said. A neighbor also came to her aid.

Chief Fores said tracks in the dirt road in front of the Kinlaw home were "bigger than a silver dollar."

A search party from Wilmington which tracked the animal last night as it moved in a three-mile circle along the edges of swampy areas found tracks which revealed claws

See 'VAMPIRE,' Page Six.

In societies with increased xenophobia, there is often an enemy of the people. The enemy gives the participants, something to rally against. It helps set up an oversimplified other that the group can define themselves with by simply stating, "we are everything that, that thing is not." One such monster from the Beast Of Bladenboro" were a large black cat stalked white women and attacked white children. This fictional animal would go to made front page headlines in The Raleigh News and Observer, (pictured left and right.)

This large black cat was doing the same things that African American men were falsely accused of doing.

In the back drop of these accusations and the prowling of the Beast of Bladenboro was during the beginning of the civil rights movement in 1954. This was three years after the Supreme Court ruled school segregation unconstitutional in Brown v. Board of Education and two years after the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott.

The concept of the other or the foreigner is not lost to the critters who also have grown fearful of the "Beast of Bladenboro." In the critter tract, "The Beast" (pictured right), critters are warned about the creature that they fear is always lurking just out of sight, and while the form of the foreigner is currently known, he will return soon as something other.



Plate 31.

In preparations to the show I made 100 critter tracts and left them around the ECU campus. At the show's reception, I left two hundred more in the gallery/museum for the audience to take home.

INSPIRATIONS

By inventing the critters, by masquerading as an anthropologist and by creating a fictitious past of the critters complete with fake footnotes throughout the document, one can easily argue that I am creating *fake news*. It is true. I am creating fake news, but I do not have any qualms with this.

Fact checking has been a tool of liberalism for many decades. It was attempted in Germany in the 20s and 30s, and until the Nazi party took control over the press. It is done now, and just as before it is unheeded. This is partially because we define fake news as something different. Those on the left define it as news that is factually not true. Those on the right, see it as something different. Forty-two percent of republicans believe any news, factual or not is still fake news if it is negative towards Trump¹To add fire to the flame seventy seven percent of Americans think various media outlets purposely post fake news.² The media is no longer trusted by most Americans. So, truth is hard to reveal.

There is a social phenomenon at work here. It is called the *Reverse Cargo Cult*. The *Reverse Cargo Cult*, is originally a Russian term, first used in 2010, by Ekaterina Schulmann, a Russian political scientist. A reverse cargo cult described by her goes like this- "Russia is a country of catch-up development and of a largely mimicked culture [...] Almost all our forms of social organization and public governance were borrowed and implanted with various degrees of coercion during repeated waves of westernization. That's why a lot of these forms are often simply decorative, as we call it in Russian *pokazuha*, or "just for show". In turn, that's why there's a feeling that it is so everywhere."⁴²

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, this cynicism was rampant. In the typical mythos of a cargo cult. You have people who see an airstrip, and they see the cargo drop onto it. They want to be able to repeat

⁴² Schulmann, Ekaterina. Live Journal, Jan 22, 2010. <https://users.livejournal.com/-niece/126963.html>.

this outcome, so they build their own airstrip out of what materials they have, straw, stone, and manure. They don't understand the difference between the airstrip they just made and the real one. In a reverse cargo cult, the original observation is the same, and they build it just the same, out of straw, stone and manure, but there is a twist. When they build the straw airship, it is not because they are expecting the same outcome, they know the difference between a real one and their own. They know it will not yield any cargo drops. Instead the pseudo airstrip serves another purpose. The ones who made the pseudo airstrip do not lie to their peers and claim that it will work, they use it as an example of how no airstrips yield cargo. If theirs do not work, why would any other, so the whole idea of cargo is a fable, and anyone who disagrees or tries to show you differently, is lying or they are a fool. The 1980 Soviets knew that their government was lying to them about their country. The Communist Party was unable to hide the dysfunction, the starvation, and the unemployment problems ravaging their country. However, they continued with their media claiming that what the average citizen was experiencing was not real and they claimed that the media in the US and the rest of Europe was the same. It was saying in a round-about way was, things are bad here, but they are just as bad everywhere else. The only difference is you, the soviet citizen is not foolish enough to fall for the lie, unlike the Americans.

Conservative news viewers are in the same situation as the soviets in the 80s. Yes, their media is corrupt and lies are rampant but that is all media, across the political spectrum. Some conservatives are just clever because they figured it out, all news is fake.

In Germany during the 30s, the media was also highly disrespected. To go around this and get the message across. German born artist John Heartfield used photomontage as a political weapon. His work pushed fake news to get real news to the people. My work does the same.

The critters are fake. I am not an anthropologist, however all the historical events and all the cultural events that I have on the signage and on the walls are factual. The critters are just a vehicle to deliver the message.

Mark Dion is another artist referenced in the work. In several pieces he sets up the gallery spaces to make himself appear as a scientist or archeologist. He does this to grant himself a level of authority on a subject which in turn grants him the attention of those passing by. I have passed myself off as an anthropologist to give myself the perceived authority to give the political information to an audience that would otherwise not listen. The fact that it is coming at the audience in an unusual format may be what it takes to drive the message home.

CONCLUSION

This was a naive approach by an optimist. The work accomplished everything I had hoped. It sparked the discussions that I wanted to have with the audience. The challenge of the show however is the location. I accomplished making the gallery space look like a small museum but it is still in a gallery, and even if it wasn't, it was still in a museum. In both instances I was preaching to the choir. The audience was already at the same place I was. The audience was already in agreement.

If the audience I need to talk to cannot or will not come to the art, then I will need to take the art to the people. I understand that what I am hoping for is nothing short of impossible. So many of us, so rarely change our minds. I am including myself within this as well. There is hope though, I feel it, and there is a quote from Kurt Vonnegut that helps me. In his book "Slaughter House Five", he meets another man who asks if he is working on the anti-war book, Vonnegut answers yes, he is. The other man responds with "[d]o you know what I say to people when I hear they're writing anti-war books? [...] I say, "Why don't you write an anti-glacier book instead?"³ At the time it meant that there would always be war just like there would always be glaciers. That was then though, and this is now, and the glaciers are all disappearing. Small but extraordinary things have to happen every single day for us to get here. I believe small but extraordinary things can happen often, but we must make the effort.

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