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i don't do satire

Bamboo, river clay, cedar, cherry, eucalyptus, LED tape, light mesh, copper wire, recycled electronics, street signs, acrylic, copper etching, paper, tree bark, weeds, palm roots, currency, steel cable, paracord, spray paint, liquid plastic, plaster, chain, copper sheet, TVs, tarlatan, cinnamon, wood chips.

Throughout my life I have had an obsession with innovation and invention. I walk by any object or structure and my mind demands to know how it was made. My existence consists of questioning the world around me. Wanting to know who, what, where, when, and why; and when those are answered, more questions seem to appear. While this project consisted of some research, I feel that its basis was formed primarily through trial and error of my many beloved mediums. In researching the symbolism of dwellings and home making, I explored the commonalities between humans and birds both taking and borrowing from the world around them. This idea is inevitably anti-capitalist and challenges the belief of property and belonging. All people and creatures have a right to a home and the means to get by; capitalism merely dictates who has access to resources—which often casts out many people, people viewed as disposable by the system they did not put in place.

Our Common Nature Leading to Our Ultimate Fate



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There are so many articles on the internet talking about the result of overproduction and overpopulation; however many do not go into why these problems exist in the first place. This paper will address our collective habits of overconsumption and overproduction, as well as going a bit into human nature. Understanding these issues is crucial to combat their repercussions in the future. The question that I used to guide my research was: What traits do all humans share in the developed world that lead to the tendency to over consume and overproduce?

I grew up on the internet. My childhood was formed by shapes and colors moving on a screen. I loitered on the website "One More Story," which read me picture books, at the age of five and six. This helped me wind down from a long day of elementary school. Years went by, and my interests shifted from stories to YouTube to social media, possibly the greatest influence of our time. Social media has brought so many people closer, yet it also brings unrealistic standards to living. It's an amazing way to share news, media, and other random videos. For example, I can share with one click that Kyle Rittenhouse has been offered internships with congresspeople, days after being on trial for murder, or I could share a video of a person trying to fix a ceiling fan, only for it to fall directly onto them. Social media is informed, but it is also packed full of bias.

During the course of pondering the web and social media, I came across infographics about how dire our climate situation truly is and made me interested in further research. This led me to read about the knee-jerk reactions from corporations and the "greenwashing" of America -- how Poland Spring reduces its cap size by 20% in an effort to get points, and how these performative actions do nothing in the grand scheme of things.

I recently became a legal adult, but what exactly can I do with this adulthood? I can vote, but from a pre-selected group of people. There's not really free will when it comes to the people who represent me. I can educate myself on what I can do, I can protest, but since I'm still in high

school, we're often not allowed to go to protests. I can help spread awareness, but people are often blinded by their own bias to listen to new ideas. Often I find myself frustrated with how I cannot express myself and ideas using words or language. This is where I turned to art or making things. Starting around the age of five, I'd make wooden houses for my stuffed animals out of wood my dad would buy for me at the hardware store and let me hammer together. At the time it was crappy five-year old art, but this has evolved into somewhat less crappy eighteen year old art. Art has been a major factor in my life, it is how I put things into perspective. For this final project, I am using art to process my to put my emotions and feelings into the world. I feel that this essay does not do my topic justice because it is so vague and large. This will discuss a mere glimpse of what we are. We are a greedy population and we take more than we use, and we use more than we have.

In the world overall, between 2000 and 2019, life expectancy has gone up by more than six years. According to BioMed Central, "Since 1840, life expectancy of the best performing country in each year has been increasing almost linearly by 2.5 years per decade," and today the highest life expectancy is 85 years if you live in Hong Kong. In 1800 the global life expectancy average was around 30 years old, and now it's around 73 years old. The world's population in that same time period has increased from 1 billion people to 7.9 billion people. This increase has several effects: our resources are strained, we need more food and necessities, and over time the needs for those necessities have changed. When my parents grew up, they each had two corded phones in the house for 5 family members. Now, my family of three has three land lines and three cell phones. As technology improves, we create problems that wouldn't ordinarily exist, and conveniences turn into necessities, as with the case of smartphones, it is basically a mandatory object to have. Jobs now require people to have these phones.

Since there are so many people on this earth, resources are limited, and we often take more than we actually need. For someone who was born and raised in a wealthy part of the United States, most of the following character traits explored are based on observations and personal experience.

What traits do we all share as humans? First off, there is an ingrained desire to have power in our society. We are taught from a very young age that we can be leaders, that we have to be in charge, that we can be anything we want to be. Humanity, through history, has turned to religion for guidance. The Christian bible encourages people to preach. This gives them agency to lead others through religion.

These mass produced leaders eventually turn into CEOs of companies who ultimately control our jobs, our politics and eventually our world, even though it's an unfair system that only a select few can be in these high-powered roles. These CEOs have such a strong influence on our government that they can have laws adjusted for them, prevent political candidates from running, and even change the views of candidates. Another example of these upper class people displaying greed is via the vast wealth disparity in the United states. According to CNBC, "The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimates that CEO compensation has grown 1,322% since 1978, while typical worker compensation has risen just 18%. In 2020, CEOs of the top 350 firms in the U.S. made \$24.2 million, on average — 351 times more than a typical worker." This mere quotation demonstrates how corrupt our capitalist system is and why it is so hard for working class people to work their way up the system. This connects to my idea that greed is a basic human desire, as well as using other people to your advantage, and treating them as expendable to reach your ultimate goal.

This greed from the top trickles down to the people below and can often change into anger over consumption. In our industrialized culture, we have massive shopping centers where products

are displayed so that we are subconsciously influenced to buy. In these centers, products are often inexpensive and mass produced. We buy these items because we see advertisements, our friends and family have them so we want them, or our society has evolved to make everyone need one in their day to day lives. [talk about the cheap mass production of goods so that even people who don't make a lot of money can consume] In addition we also use advertisements as a form of propaganda for products and capitalist ideation. One example of these capitalist giants is Walmart. As Jane Collins states in her paper, "Wal-Mart, American consumer citizenship, and the 2008 recession," "through its emphasis on low prices, Wal-Mart has arguably elevated the importance of the consumer citizen. The firm's retailing strategy and advertising campaigns suggest that market consumption is the most important way that a citizen can pursue his or her economic interests." These companies almost take on a government-like role, telling people what they want and supplying their needs, sometimes very cheaply. As stated above, jealousy is a common feeling among humans. Jealousy drives desire and needs. We often long for what we do not have but others do. Companies often use this, like other human emotions, to their advantage. There are ads showing other people with desired products. The voice overs sometimes play into the jealousy quite obviously. They might even say something along the lines of, "Do you ever wish you could go out and have those fancy meals like your friends, but think to yourself, it's so expensive.... Now you can, with the new McDonalds" I feel like the point is there. Jealousy can be a major resource for marketing. Another example that connects this to social media, is using influencers to promote products. Often young people who are very intertwined in influencer culture can be easily persuaded by one of them saying a product is trendy.

Like jealousy, impulsivity often wraps around the neck of humanity. We feel that as soon as we see something we need it. Technology has been a major platform to support this, and even

deliberately has created accommodations to help people become more impulsive. An example of this is the devilish button that we all know as the Amazon “Buy Now” button. This button harnesses our impulsivity and helps Amazon capitalize with it. In addition to this, credit cards have fed our collective impulses. Credit cards take the entire tangibility aspect away from money, meaning the amounts that are spent are entirely abstract and do not translate into physical bills.

All of the points made above all play into what makes us human. In short, humanity is the desire to become dominant and take over, using others to achieve your goal, to make your life easier at the expense of others, and lastly becoming influenced by our surroundings.

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