

# SLOPPY

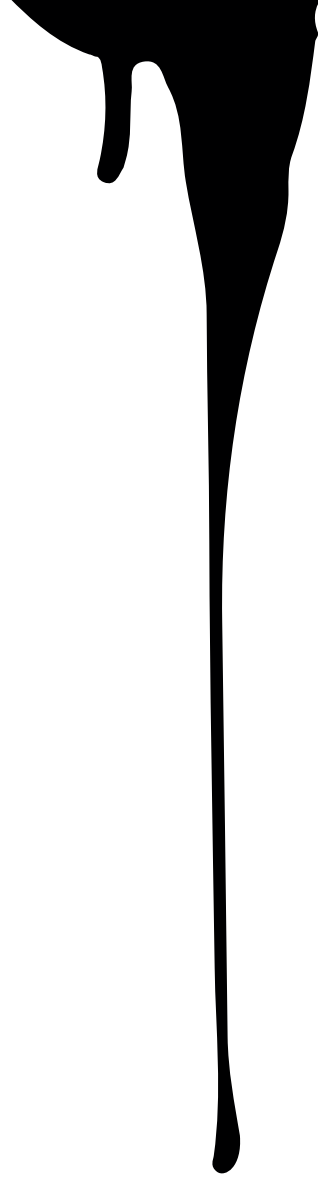


How boys broke the world

Invites you to the internet, algorithms, elites, AI, memes,  
conspiracy theories and teenage boys.

A preview of new work by **THERESE RITCHIE**





*Sloppy How boys broke the world • Therese Ritchie*  
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# SLOPPY

How boys broke the world



# 1. *Child Pornography*

In 2003, Christopher Poole, a 15 year-old boy from New York going by the name of Moot, downloaded the software for Japan's 2channel (an anonymous imageboard website) and launched it in America as 4channel (4chan).

Being able to post text and images anonymously was novel for its time and 4chan's original users, being mostly boys aged between 10–14 years, quickly filled it up with jokes, Internet memes and adolescent ideas. Internet memes are usually combined text/images/videos that transmit culture by blending different cultural references or contexts.

4chan's format bumped the most entertaining posts with the most replies to the top, leaving all others to die. The challenge for 4chan users was to keep posting in order for their meme to survive. This instantly created a lot of content and kept users hooked (the prelude to what has become social media's rudderless scroll today).

The users of 4chan were growing up 'online' creating their own language, memes and inside jokes that people offline would never understand. For instance: the letters 'CP' became code for child pornography. Any meme that started with 'CP' such as, Cheese Pizza, or Captain Picard, were 4chan memes about child pornography. It's important to jump ahead here and point out that riding on the momentum of 4chan's inside jokes

about CP (child pornography) these same 4chan meme-makers propagated the 2017 conspiracy theory under QAnon—the far-right American political conspiracy theory and movement based on the false claims made by an anonymous individual known as 'Q', who asserted that President Trump was engaged in a secret war against Satanic paedophiles in the Democratic Party and Hollywood. Contextually, the slogan 'Save the Children', was worn by many Donald Trump supporters who stormed the US Capitol in 2021.

If memes were the product of 4chan users, trolling was their methodology. People who post deliberately offensive or provocative messages online are trolls. From stupid to cruel, the troll's endgame is to provoke an emotional response.

The success of trolling is in its dehumanisation of the target. In the early to mid-2000's, when Oprah Winfrey read her viewers the Anonymous post from 4chan—and it goes something like this: "He doesn't forgive. He doesn't forget. His group has over 9,000 penises, and they're all raping children", she was being trolled, live, on air. It did not matter to 4chan users that Oprah had been talking about paedophilia on her show the week before. All that mattered was that she had become a 'lolcow', milked for their amusement.





## 2. *“It’s about ethics not misogyny you feminist bitch whore”*

In the 2000s, incel communities—the online subculture of involuntary celibates comprising of mostly white, heterosexual men and boys who cannot find a romantic or sexual partner, resulting in them accusing, objectifying and hurting women and girls—became more extremist as they adopted behaviours common on forums like 4chan and Reddit.

In 2013, when game developer Zoe Quinn released her video game about depression—*Depression Quest*—her dissatisfied ex-boyfriend published a blog about Zoe having a relationship with a games journalist. Gamers saw the blog as evidence of a conspiracy that women and gender minorities were ruining the video game industry.

Between 2014–15, 4chan users posted memes such as: “It’s about ethics not misogyny you feminist bitch whore”; videos of women being run over with cars; women with guns forced into their mouths; and women being hit with

swords; as well as directly targeting Zoe Quinn with death, rape and bomb threats. They called their retribution Gamergate.

Steve Bannon—soon to be Trump’s chief strategist—a former investment banker and then executive chairman of Breitbart News (a site for conservatives, populists, white supremacists and anti-Semites) took Gamergate very seriously, with posts by Mio Yiannopolous such as: “Feminist bullies tearing gaming industry apart” and “Does Feminism make women ugly”.

By 2016, catchphrases such as ‘male privilege’, ‘rape culture’, and ‘men’s rights’ began to dominate the now battered realm of gender politics. At this point a group of anonymous men withdrew to *The Red Pill*—the Internet incel anti-feminist movement on Reddit. Misogynist real world terrorism, such as the Isla Vista killings (2014) and the Toronto Van Attack (2018), were products of the incel and manosphere communities.



### 3. *The Great Meme War*

By 2010 the political landscape in America had changed. President Barack Obama (in office from 2009–17) had promised hope, an end to wars and a change to the financial system.

In 2008, the global financial crisis, originating in the United States, became a major worldwide economic crisis. It was the US banks' predatory lending, the consequential US housing bubble and excessive risk-taking by global financial institutions that began the crisis, but it was the American taxpayers who saved the banks with a \$7.7 trillion bailout.

Stocks jumped 15% on the news of the bailout. The collapse did not occur, the system was preserved and the opportunity to reform was lost. The stock market went down sharply and then it rose and wealthy people who were in the stock market kept their jobs (and bonuses) and made more money through stock appreciation and dividends. The banks made a \$13 million profit on the bailout.

Democracy is susceptible to elites and oligarchs who use their money to buy political power and influence. By allowing Wall Street bankers to take over policy, Obama failed to deliver and the American people's hope began to sour. Disillusionment bred despair, and support for vigilante justice such as 4chan's Anonymous campaign 'We are the 99%' and 'Occupy Wall Street' (2011) gained traction.

But by 2016 the feeling of powerlessness that launched 'Occupy Wall Street' had begun to sink into a new kind of morbidity

where young men, experiencing intense mass alienation were coping with it through extreme humour and sexual and violent imagery.

Steve Bannon was very intrigued with the 4chan community. He described 4chan members as "Rootless white males, with monster power", saying, "You can activate that army. They come in through Gamergate or whatever, and then get turned onto politics and Trump." And that's what he did. He turned them into a political force, infiltrating mainstream US politics with alt-right ideas via memes and conspiracy theories.

4chan (and the newly created 8chan) spread disinformation through old 4chan school memes that bled into the mainstream narrative via social media. For the six months leading into the election, the Internet battled between supporters of Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Gary 'Aleppo' Johnson, and Jill Stein.

Attacks via memes included heavy shitposting, spam, copypastas (lengthy rants), and dank memes (stale, decomposing memes). This period of time is known as 'The Great Meme War'.

These radicalised boys and young men were poisoning the well. Trump had promised: "I will never let you be the forgotten people again" and when he was elected in 2016, 4chan posted: "We just memed Trump into the White House."



#### *4. Ah men, The New Apostolic Reformation*

When Donald Trump lost the election to Jo Biden in 2020 he cited voter fraud as the reason, claiming that he had actually won the election. Within two weeks, on Jan 6, 2021, a mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol in an attempted self-coup.

Entire flights to Washington DC were packed with 'March for Trump' protesters. The mob were a mix—people who loved Christ; people who loved Trump; conservatives; conspiracy theorists, all surfing their own wave of disillusionment, resentment and rage, but united in the radical acceptance that Trump really had won the election.

The widespread acceptance of such a delusion could probably only happen in America, given the country's culture of evangelical, apocalyptic, conspiracy and persecution stories.

Yes, evangelicalism has been a significant force in American politics since the nineteenth century, but its potency truly soared after they grafted themselves onto Trump. The New Apostolic Reformation—a far-right Christian supremacist theology championing an end to the separation of church and state through spiritual warfare and Christian dominion

over society—has risen to prominence and power since the 2016 election of Trump as US president.

Trump's choice of Defence Secretary, Pete Hegseth, (since January 2025) is a Christian fundamentalist anti-LGBT misogynist, and has stated openly that women should be subordinate to men and homosexuals should be executed.

When speaking about the failed assassination attempt of Trump (July 13, 2024), Reverend Franklin Graham, one of America's popular evangelists said: "The bullet that went through his ear missed his brain by a millimetre, and his head turned just at the last second when the gun was fired," he says. "I believe that God turned his head and saved his life." Trump had become a saviour, obliterating questions about his character—including accusations of sexual misconduct, affairs, bribery and criminal convictions.

One of the most flagrant themes of Trump's recent election campaign was that he had been chosen by God: "Many people have told me that God spared my life for a reason, and that reason was to save our country and to restore America to greatness."



## 5. *The Event*

Trump's 2016 promise: "We're going to drain the swamp of Washington, we're gonna have fun doing it and we are all doing it together" fed into the Trump 'mega-fan' belief that once he was in the White House, he would have some kind of plan to bring ungodly people to justice. But Trump did not have a plan and the promise of radical change never happened.

That is when 'Q' (QAnon) first posted on 4chan (October 2017) and later making its home on 8chan. 'Q' claimed to be a high-level government official with 'Q clearance' and access to classified information about the White House. 'Q's often cryptic posts, (known as 'drops'), were collected by aggregator apps, websites and relayed by influencers.

QAnon became a viral phenomenon beyond the Internet, becoming a political movement. 'Q' 'drops' were believable because they appeared predictive. 'Q' always seemed to post

what Donald Trump posted, but beforehand. Ultimately it was revealed that 'Q' was not real. 'Q' was simply a bunch of 4 and 8chan users, rehashing old-school 4chan memes about child pornography conspiracy theories and simply changing the time stamp on the posts to sync up with Trump's posts. QAnon had trolled the American people and achieved a cult-like status—so much so—that when the truth about the fraudulent time stamping came out, people refused to believe it.

QAnon's core belief—that Donald Trump is secretly leading the fight against a ring of Satanic, cannibalistic child molesters, who, in league with the deep state, are operating a global child sex trafficking ring, became a fixation with QAnon followers who believed that the first presidency of Donald Trump would see arrests and executions of thousands of members of the group on a day known as 'the Storm' or 'the Event'.





## 6. *Shrimp Jesus*

Shrimp Jesus is an AI-generated ‘engagement hack’ flooding Facebook, spawning the meme Jesus Christ fused with sea creatures such as crabs and shrimp.

In 2022 Facebook (Meta) pushed AI-generated images onto unaware users via Facebook’s recommendation engine ‘Suggested for You’. Meta’s CEO Mark Zuckerberg was confident that the change would “encourage meaningful interactions between people”, but it had the opposite effect. Fleets of bots began commenting on eerie images created by AI, inspiring the ‘Dead Internet Theory’—a conspiracy theory that asserts all activity on the Internet is bot-related.

Facebook quickly filled up with AI-generated slop (low-quality media such as writing and images that require no creativity or effort)

posted by spam accounts to maximise engagement, algorithmic reach and credibility by buying masses of bot followers. The aim was to insert the AI-generated slop onto the timelines of as many real Facebook users as possible, in turn, redirecting them to content farms and other low-quality sites.

Given Facebook’s origin was due to his inability to make friends, Zuckerberg’s latest reflection on ‘friendship’ and suggestion that it is probably better for people to seek out AI, instead of human friendships or therapists, can only mean his broadening influence, through the acquisition of Instagram and WhatsApp; his system-theft of copyrighted material to train AI models; his \$270 million apocalypse bunker; and, being worth \$200 billion dollars, simply does not make him any more likeable.



## 7. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

### *What's in a name?*

Whether it's the dark side of emojis, or boys and men drumming up their victim narrative with incels (involuntary celibates), men's rights activists (MRAs), pick-up artists (PUAs), men going their own way (MGTOW), Redpillling (their unhappiness and lack of sexual success being the fault of women and feminists), Bluepillling (men who don't accept that reality); the *One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act 2025* (OBBBA); Trump always chickens out (TACO), or simply, old words with new meanings, like a cloud not being a cloud; flux not being diarrhoea; and a spinster not being a woman who spins, we are in the grip of rapid, disruptive shifts in meaning and truth, with little capacity to track, or hold accountable, the drivers of its chaotic narrative.

This is how the intentional misspelling of the word DOG—DOGE—has become President Donald Trump and Elon Musk's extremely disruptive Department of Government Efficiency. Department of Government Efficiency is simply a backronym, taken from the 2013 Internet meme of a Shiba Inu, and the cryptocurrency DOGEcoin, created as a joke in the same year.

Elon Musk floated the idea of a Government Efficiency Commission to Donald Trump in 2024 and when an X user suggested it would be clever to call it Department of Government Efficiency, Musk posted, "I am willing to serve". (The word DOGE also means 'spiritual leader' or 'military commander'—derived from the Latin *dux*).

And so, on January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump established, by executive order, the US Department of Government Efficiency, led by the world's richest man, Elon Musk.

With a budget of \$40 million, Musk began his 130 day tenure, aimed at cutting US government jobs and wasteful spending. His initial focus was on cancelling DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) programs; consulting contracts; lease terminations for federal buildings; axing USAID, America's main foreign aid organisation, funding projects in dozens of countries (described as wasteful); offering a buyout to two million government employees; and laying off 100,000 federal employees.

DOGE staffers and Musk allies have also gained access to sensitive government data, as well as been placed in key positions at major government agencies.

Clearly we are in the era of rapid semantic change and it is difficult or perhaps too soon to gauge the impact of Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, but it's new meaning was not lost on the Australian people during the 2025 federal election as demonstrated by their rejection of the then Leader of the Opposition, Peter Dutton, after announcing that the Coalition would be establishing its own new platform, called Government Efficiency, with Jacinta Price as its head.

Still in Australia (this time in the Northern Territory, May 2025), and still on the subject of making stuff up, we now have people missing the point entirely, or intentionally confusing and complicating the truth. In his parliamentary speech in response to Independent Member for Mulka, Yingiya Mark Guyula's motion to establish an anti-racist framework for the Northern Territory (the only Australian jurisdiction without one), the Country Liberal Party Minister

for Multicultural Affairs, Jinson Charles, quoted Hitler's Joseph Goebbels "tell a lie often enough and it becomes the truth" (in reference to healing historic racism which he inferred might be untrue), whilst invoking the rhetoric, 'survival of the fittest', claiming racism is scientific (I've seen you Jinsen, and you wouldn't last 5 minutes out bush during the build-up). Because of the CLPs huge majority, Guyula's motion was defeated.

Musk's latest antics on social media, such as changing his display name on X to Kekius Maximus ('greatest' or 'largest' in Latin) and updating his profile picture to a Pepe the frog meme holding a video game joystick, is Musk playing with himself, and ensuring we all know how smart he is about secret, sacred, Internet, subculture, boy's business. Kekius may be a Latinised 'kek', a word equated to 'laugh out loud' used by gamers but now associated with the alt-right, white nationalist trolls, especially when combined with Pepe the frog. Referencing 'Kek' is a way of signalling that it's author endorses chaos and destruction—all central to alt-right thinking.

During Trump's 2016 campaign, memes combining Trump, Pepe the frog and the word 'Kek' poured out of 4chan and reddit, heralding the coming of a god of mayhem and darkness with the head of a frog.

But no one likes a smart arse. Musk's fascist salute during a rally celebrating Trump's second inauguration as US president; his rapturous DOGE purges; the fact that he has received \$38 billion in government funding over the years through contracts, loans, subsidies, and tax credits; his takeover of Twitter, transforming the social media platform into a nursery for white nationalism, disinformation, conspiracy theories and hate, while systematically undermining the credibility of established media outlets; his arrogant breeding regime; or, his unfortunate personality, have seen his popularity take a staggering hit, inspiring violent demonstrations outside his Tesla dealerships throughout the US and the world, and companies, such as Tscherning, to return entire corporate fleets of Tesla vehicles.

By June 2025, the bromance between Trump and Musk had spiralled into another global, self-adulating haze. Playing out on social media

platforms such as X (Musk) and Truth Social (Trump), Musk was disgusted that the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act 2025* (OBBBA), would increase US debt, (there was no mention that the US military, for instance, the US B-2 stealth bomber—yes the ones that land at Darwin RAAF base and responsible for bombing Iran within two weeks of his post—was costing American taxpayers \$3 million a month to maintain). Trump concluded that Musk must have caught Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS). Like an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFS) event, they just keep on giving.

But, as entertaining as UFS might be, we need to ask ourselves, firstly, what credibility would these spoilt, neurotic men have if they were women? And, what is really beyond this narcissistic haze? Is it a way of distracting people from Trump's (and Musk's) failings? Is it because Trump, obsessed with nationalistic masculinity, had every intention of invading his own country by activating the National Guard and Marines in Los Angeles, as citizens protested against the actions of the US Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE)? Have you noticed how, the more we attempt to dissect the behaviour, the more our attention is hijacked?

If this feels like a Zuckerberg thing, "Move fast and break things," then we'd better be prepared for the worst. When asked about America's involvement in Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Peace through Strength (PTS) attacks on Iran, Trump's indifference, "I may do it. I may not do it. I mean, nobody knows what I'm going to do," was the response of an egomaniac and a fascist. As was his June 22, 'Midnight Hammer' military strikes on Iran, and declaration that those strikes were, "a spectacular military success", especially after his \$45 million birthday and military parade flop.

Netanyahu, still wet from slaughtering Gaza, has been lusting after Trump's 'big swinging dick' (BSD), the US's bunker busting bomb (BBB) or Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) for some time. Get your own party Elon, with the threat of deportation in the air, surely you knew it was just a fling. The "awesome and righteous might" of Netanyahu's orgasmic love language for Trump is now the new bromance. Move over Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un, Putin. Trump rules the world and we don't know what will happen next.



## 8. *The Recommender Algorithm*

Algorithms are used as specifications for performing calculations and data processing. In 2011, YouTube (owned by Google) introduced 'The Recommender Algorithm' which rewarded content, based on the highest click and viewing time. Algorithms don't know the difference between good or bad, they just go for what is the most frequented.

Humans are predisposed to negativity bias, amplifying their emotional responses to negative events or posts. In turn these negative posts get the most hits, keeping eyes on the content for the advertisements. 'The Recommender Algorithm' made it so that content creators became afraid of breaking their momentum, in turn the algorithm began to define content.

In 2011, YouTube had over 3 billion views per day and an annual revenue of over \$41.5 billion. The Internet was no longer a reflection of society, it was changing it.

In 2025, more than half the population of the world (over 4.6 billion people) use social media platforms such as YouTube, Tik Tok, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or X.

Influencers (people with the ability to influence potential buyers of a service or product through their online recommendations) are in a never-ending dopaminine-quest-loop for validation, likes, views and interactions.

Continuously feeding the algorithm to stay relevant has led to creator anxiety, a lack of authenticity, anaemic desperation, body image issues, burnout, mental health issues and in some cases, suicide.

For the influencer, time off, or changing course, is a form self-annihilation. Algorithms, never sleeping and needing to be fed, simply take the influencer's simulated community elsewhere, leaving them to wonder: How long before people lose interest? What happens when it all stops?





## 9. *Chewing*

Web scraping—the act of feeding a large language model with mined data from the web is sometimes called ‘chewing’.

In 2017, Jeremy Howard, an Australian data scientist working out of San Francisco began experimenting with a technology that would lead to ChatGPT. Machine learning AI systems were already becoming practised at recognising particular objects in images and Howard wondered if the same approach would work with text. He downloaded all of Wikipedia—3 billion words—and began training a large language model (LLM) to predict every single word of Wikipedia, based on the previous few sentences. He was hoping it would understand the relationship between words. In his experiment he had the AI read an entire movie review and then asked if it was a positive or a negative review. And it picked the right answer—positive. Howard, who believed in an open-source or public approach to software development, published his research online.

Sam Altman’s OpenAI (also open-source) picked up the idea a few months later, in 2022, OpenAI released its own large language model—an early version of ChatGPT.

Lured by money and a desire to be the first man to create artificial intelligence, Sam Altman joined Microsoft, transforming OpenAI into a closed-source (unpublished and for-profit) branch of one the largest technology companies in the world.

Although Howard has been credited with making an important contribution to AI’s development he never imagined the AI technology would fall under the control of a few elite men and their companies.

It’s not a stretch, but I imagine he never anticipated how AI would also accelerate the already existing crisis of misogyny.

We exist within a misogynistic ecosystem.

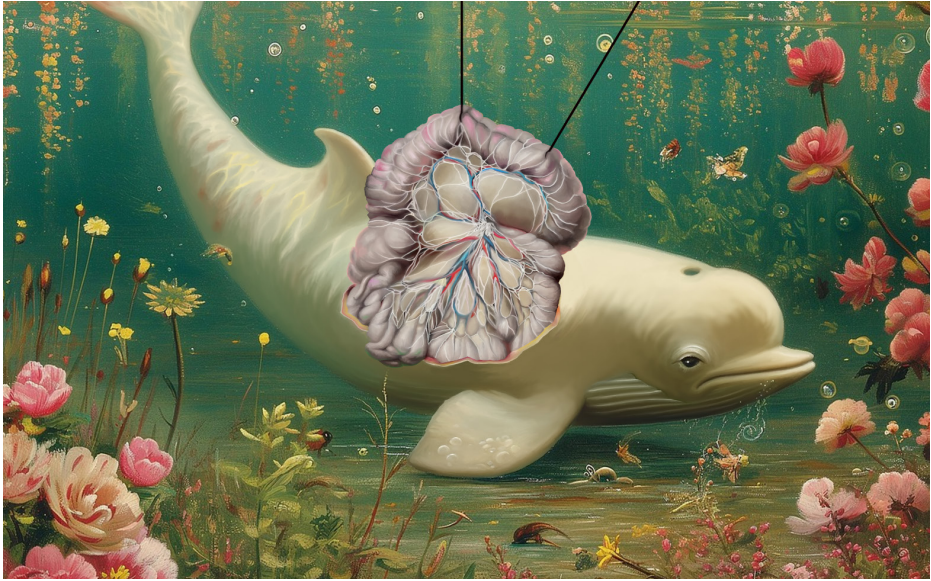
Any AI training that uses that ecosystem as its platform will also be misogynistic. It’s not so much about information as it is about what people do with that information and the thing about the Internet is that it swells, amplifies and accelerates; algorithms do not judge, social media platforms do not regulate or care, and users can hide behind anonymity—thus the tsunamis of hate.

As AI becomes the new ‘gold rush’, women and girls, again, are soft targets. Applications of this new technology allow users to access online brothels full of teenage girls, role-play violent acts, enter worlds where feminism never existed, engage passive AI sex dolls or companions with changeable breast sizes and personalities.

As well as real world violence, millions of women and girls have been, and are being subjected to online abuse such as death, rape and bomb threats, stalking, cyber bullying or harassment, racism and doxing (revealing personal information online).

Is it any wonder when society rewards—and AI and the Internet turbo-charges—the motives and behaviour of privileged men such as Mark Zuckerberg who created a website called FaceMash (allowing users to rank the appeal of his fellow female students), or Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim who began an online dating service ‘Tune In, Hook Up’, which became YouTube, we find ourselves in the age of ‘misogyny on steroids’?

Misogyny is happening now, and through the retreat of many professional women (due to online abuse), the rupturing of values and the degradation of women and girls’ mental health, misogyny is infiltrating our future.



## 10. Harvest

AI has scraped the original, copyrighted life-works of both living and deceased writers, poets, animators, graphic artists, film-makers, designers, photographers, illustrators, painters, musicians—all artists of all disciplines throughout the entire world—and used them in datasets to train profit-based generative digital programs.

We live in a time where very rich men—not laws—have captured governments and are rewriting history. President Donald Trump (a legally defined sexual predator), claims Afrikaners are the victims of a ‘genocide’ in South Africa (white people represent 7% of the population in South Africa, but still own three-quarters of its privately held land) and is offering them asylum in the US; he was also gifted a grovelling portrait of himself from Putin; has accepted a \$400 million luxury jet from the petrostate QATAR (the only hopeful thing about this transaction is that he says he gets to keep it when he leaves office—the takeaway being not just corruption, but the fact that he *will* leave office); just one day after Shira Perlmutter, Register of Copyrights in the US Copyright Office, refused to green-light Elon Musk’s efforts to mine copyrighted works to train AI models, President Trump fired her; and, Trump’s recently passed *One Big Beautiful Bill Act 2025*, actually steals from the poor and gives to the rich.

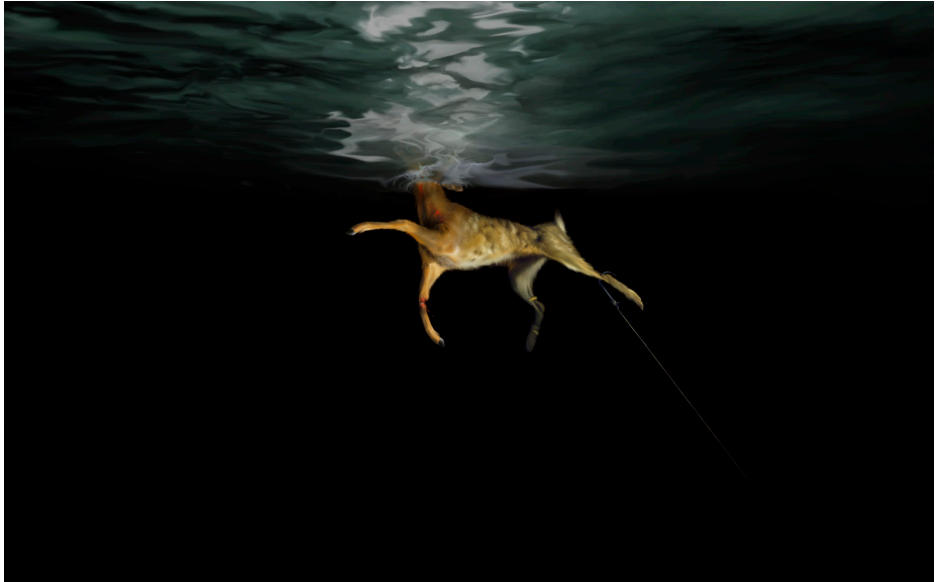
Any way you look at it—whether it’s running data centres day and night to steal work from the world’s creators, or renting out Venice for your wedding, we live in the age of ‘The Grotesque’.

The wealthiest 10%—flying in their private jets (90 private jets flew into Venice for Amazon Executive Chair, Jeff Bezo’s \$56 million wedding); sailing their super yachts; buying islands; building mega-bunkers or data centres—are responsible for two-thirds of global warming.

While AI programs are being ‘trained’ and fed large amounts of stolen data over several months, data processors and data centres run 24/7.

Our digital lives, and global reliance on cloud services has increased our demand for energy and water exponentially (millions of litres of water are pumped through data centres to keep them cool). As well as putting a strain on existing electricity grids, capturing rights to water over farmers and communities, and increasing green house emissions, the heavy metals in data centre e-waste is dumped in landfills throughout the world.

The company-owned data centres of Amazon, Google, Microsoft (OpenAI), Meta and Apple all plan on expanding their data centres, with Google and Microsoft investing \$100 billion over the next 5 years.



## 11. Free speech

Hiding behind the veil of ‘free speech’, big tech CEO’s have resisted regulation simply because it kills profit. Misinformation and toxicity keep people engaged, driving up conversation and revenue. The global pandemic and the rising unpopularity of content regulation in the US, especially as seen by Republican senators, who claim regulation censors the ‘conservative voice’ and poses the single greatest threat to free speech in America, have become the perfect storm for online radicalisation and real world violence.

Free speech is not absolute and carries the weight of certain responsibilities, such as protecting the rights and reputations of others, national security, public order, health and morals.

Once upon a time, Twitter used to boost the posts of journalists and media outlets, now, Musk’s X, boosts the posts of anyone who pays and has algorithms that actively promote mis and disinformation; Mark Zuckerberg announced that Facebook and Instagram were cutting ties with independent fact-checkers and automatic content filters and he was working closely with President Trump to push back on governments around the world that were ‘going after’ American tech companies, or calling for them to censor harmful or discriminatory content.

In March 2024, when Julie Inman Grant, the Australian eSafety Commissioner used her powers under the *Online Safety Act 2021*, to issue Meta, YouTube and X notices to remove what she deemed gratuitous or offensive

violence with a high degree of impact or detail—in this instance, the 2024 online streaming of the stabbing of Christ the Good Shepherd Church’s Bishop Emmanuel, by an online radicalised teenager—Meta and YouTube obliged, but Elon Musk’s X did not. Although Musk was taken to court, the Australian government eventually dropped their case.

Musk mocked Grant (who was already receiving death threats from his followers) calling her a ‘censorship commissar’, claiming that if any country could censor content for all countries, then what was to stop a country from controlling the entire Internet? The irony being that a handful of American billionaires, like the big tech bosses, Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Mark Zuckerberg (Meta, Instagram WhatsApp), Sundar Pichai (Google) and Elon Musk (X, Starlink, and SpaceX) who enjoyed front row seats at Trump’s second inauguration, were already controlling content on the Internet.

In 2003, Moot (Christopher Poole) founded 4chan for himself and the people who loved Japanese anime and Internet fun. By 2016, 4chan had descended into a rape train of Nazi salutes and incels.

In 2025 the Internet has become the public space of the 21st century where free speech means digital violence, disinformation, hatred and discrimination.

When Moot left 4chan his parting words were something like, “You really shouldn’t be on the Internet so much. Go out and live your life. There’s no meme for it—Touch Grass”.

