

# Media Week (What? No pun?)

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this is part of my  
Broken Stories Unfinished Dreams  
series

It's just a diary of the media I consumed for a week back in 2010 with a small bit of commentary. And not even good commentary. I mean, I don't list a single bit of porn and from the record, it seems like it might have been a lot. I wonder if I was, um, on my own at the time, if you know what I mean...

Feel free to enjoy it for what it is or turn the page at your own discretion.

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Because if you can't copyright a record of your porn consumption habits, what can you copyright?

Being a Week Long Study of the Media (written literature) that I consume.

## MONDAY

The Atlantic: Fiction 2010 (Supplement to the Atlantic) -- a grouping of short fiction. It is of interest that the only piece I read in the magazine was a short blurb on the art of writing which extolled the virtues of consuming literature... as apposed to reading how to books (or essays). Say la vie. Oh, I also read a Q&A from an author and the intro blurbs to the stories. In my defense, I must insist that the intro blurbs are closer to the stories I wish to write these days (certainly read) than the long version. I point to this current project as a case in point. No doubt the supplement would have taken a lot longer to get through if it was entirely composed of shorter -- more dense -- articles. But perhaps more importantly, it would have taken far longer still to edit and compose. So who is the lazy one? Oh, well. Say la vie. Hi-ho. And, cherrie-o.

Game Informer, November 2008: a computer game magazine focusing on console platforms, but pretty much covers the field. Went through a stack yesterday, pulling off pictures for a proposed deck of homemade tarot cards featuring gaming art. If the past is any indication, most of the articles will be skipped.

Game Informer, December 2008. Oh, wait. I almost skipped writing an entry for this magazine, having picked it up when I put down the last without missing a beat. But, eh. No worries. Not like I'm planning on reading anything in this one either. Bunch of nice pictures, though. Hope I get a deck out of it when I'm done.

PC Create It: The Premier Magazine for Computer and Photo Crafting -- quite the claim since its Vol.1 No. 1. But, oh well. If you don't know what cpu means or that to make a photo craft project on your PC the first step is to "open... graphic design program," then this just be the magazine for you. In my defense, I get these mags for free from the library. Time wasted: 5 min.

Higher, Creed -- music video. It is perhaps telling that I paused the vid to write this blurb... or that the video is about girls in tight fitting clothing. Both me and the artist, perhaps, wanted more.

Fast Company, June 2010 -- cyber business magazine. Managed to destroy it ripping out a few pictures. Most notably insight gained in the ten minutes spent, Lady Gaga just might know what she's doing. After all, hers was the first picture I ripped.

Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms, Cliff Notes, c 1961 -- a list of words. Originally thought I'd use it as a study for Transparency. But it's looking like a stand-alone for Worthless Books; the first entry, in fact.

Tahiti: Official Directory & Guide Book, by Pan Am -- just like it sounds. Used it as a cut and paste study for half page tarot. Might

have been worth something as a collectable... but then, no. Not a chance.

Being a Palauan, by H.G. Barnett -- being a case study in cultural anthropology. Read every word in this book -- and that's saying something for me -- over the past week. Interesting stuff: male & female money (glass beads, turtle shell dishes); a chief's duty and obligation to speak for and on behalf of his kinsmen in this world and the next (in return for a hefty profit [not to mention a vast simplification]); and the Palauan willingness to belittle themselves in the face of obvious Western cultural supremacy (with perhaps the unspoken assumption on both sides that this humbling is to be expected). Good book. Might just make it into the library.

In Praise of the Stepmother, Mario Vargas Llosa (translated from the Spanish by Farrar Straus Giroux) -- being psuedo-intellectual garbage (i.e. high-minded concept oriented literature). It was supposed to be erotic, or so I gathered, but basically stupid. Sort of like an X-rated fuck flick done in PG-13, so as to be tasteful; and thus, destroying the entire effect. More important than the words was the presentation. The volume was a book: complete with imprint on the cloth bound hardback cover, plates of the classical art that inspired the tale (I told you it was high-minded concept art, but no, once I said erotic, you thought I was joking), and a man who takes a dump for three and a half pages damn near cuming all over himself as he does... so maybe a high/low/middlebrow mix of dubious distinction. Worth the fifteen minutes, but not a minute more. After all, had to dig for that "one last push, discrete and soundless, just in case." Ah, to be a celebrated author. You can write shit (or about shit) and the populace (and/or publishers) will eat it up.

In Bloom, Nirvana... Eight Miles, the Bryds... Batman gets Pawn'd a You Tube... Sum 41 Fat Lip... and I think that's a night.

## TUESDAY

Semi Charmed Kind of Life, Third Eye Blind (music video). Is this really the first bit of media today? I surfed the Internet -- Model Mayhem & Geometry Wars -- but that doesn't count, as I'm not planning on tracking it. I guess it is... mostly dribs and drabs today, remnants of tourist books, but no real reading. Huh! Imagine that!

Groove Shark brought on:  
Radio, Alkaline Trio  
Creep, Radio Head  
Institutional, Suicidal Tendencies  
Loose Yourself, Eminem

## WEDNESDAY

Fat Lip, Sum 41  
Sweet Child o' Mine, Guns 'n Roses  
Smells Like Teen Spirit, Nirvana  
Girlfriend, Avril Lavigne  
Ended up humming Fat Lip most of the day.

Understanding Media, Marshall McLuhan -- the medium is the message, meaning context of delivery trumps content. Don't actually know why I picked this book up. I think I read it before. McLuhan's thesis is pretty one-dimensional and doesn't hold up well under examination, except if one is willing to reinterpret his thesis as man is trapped by his culture/society/environment. No doubt, he still has his supporters. But in defense of my argument that his theory is dead, I shall simply state that he proposed that the electronic media was more passive than the print based book culture that preceded it. This might have been true in 1964, but the advent of the Internet has sort of changed the dynamic. His downfall was perhaps the assumption that any electronic media

must necessarily take the form of the one we had and that the culture which made TV possible also proscribed its intrinsic nature. Oh, and the book doesn't port well; it is very hard to read. Pick up *The Medium is the Message* if you're truly interested in his writing. It's a picture book (more of a work of graphic art really), and quite the pleasure to page through.

*Star Mother's Youngest Child*, Louise Moeri, Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman -- being a Christmas Carol. What is the best present one can receive at Christmas? Happy memories, my friend. Happy memories. At 25 picture filled pages, they stretched the idea out for all it was worth. Nice pictures, though.

Oh, almost forgot. Watched *Enchanted April* last night and hopefully tonight as well. Seen it a dozen times, but worth seeing again. But before that:

Hey Ya, Outkast

Butterfly, Crazy Town

In the End, Linkin Park

Bleed it Out, Linkin Park

Two unfunny parodies (Linkin Park, and the Shakira... for the looks, but too stupid to watch. Good news, they've got canned laughter on You Tube. Wonder what TV show it came from? But not enough to find out.

I'm not even going to mention the writing book (Cliff Notes) that I've been reading a few pages a day. Probably get to that at the end... or leave it said that I've been nibbling at that one, a bite here, a bite there.

THURSDAY

Whole lotta porn, and then...

Radio, Alkaline Trio

Before an aborted trip to Kona  
Got home and paged through a few magazines while eating Fire  
Dragon Soup.

Money, May 2010

Money, June 2010

Forbes, Dec 14, 2009

Wasted two hours on the lot. Most memorable bit was an article on Roth IRA conversions. The author started by saying how'd he done a similar article two months ago: then he was pushing the conversion, now he was advising against it. Upshot, he needed the money and the magazine needed the filler. One good article would have been preferable... or simply a checklist. No worries. Must resist urge to pick up these mags from the free pile. Back they go.

What Every Man Needs to Know, Robert Pasick: being a list of 365 ideas, thoughts, and observations... of the most inane sort. Play with your children. Find a sacred place. Eat more vegetables. The one I liked the best: You fear some men, others fear you; find out why. 365 ideas in all, I wonder what % of people who obtain the book read every last one. Not I, my friend. Not I.

FRIDAY

Not doing very good at this. Here it is Sunday and I'm trying to figure out what I did Friday: quick day at work, must have looked at some porn, started a book on Zen, but mostly listened to music in Lowes. I was there for 2.5 hours, just standing, waiting, and listening to the ambient soundtrack. I don't really mind; and it was 80s, so that's like my favorite period for music (or the one I recognize best). But like, I said I'd keep track of the media I consumed, and the music I heard in the store surpassed by far the music we listened to on the way home or anything other source of media I can remember about the day... except for perhaps the book on Zen.

## SATURDAY

Zen Action, Zen Person, T.P. Kasulis -- a zen primer. A hard sort of book to read, but good food for thought. Zen is now. Everything beyond is refinement on that one statement. If now takes on a different character, that's simply because one sees it clearer... through the haze, etc..

Buddhism: Plain and Simple, Steve Hagen -- stupid, almost unreadable. He's a Zen priest, you know. Which to me is a sort of nonsensical statement. As is the notion of Dharmic Transmission. Like I care if someone else thinks you're capable of teaching the Now. Didn't know that was a credentialed career path.

People, May 11, 2009 -- the most beautiful people double issue. Was hoping to look at some hot girls... guess it doesn't compare to porn (downloading as we speak). Other than that, Christina Applegate was much hotter as a 13 year old slut, than she is as a thirty year old mother.

Almost forgot these. I pretty much started the day by ripping up three more issues of Game Informer to make my tarot deck. Of course, right now I'm just ripping out pictures, but the idea gives the task some purpose.

## SUNDAY

Downloading Porn. Various You Tube. Don't know that I'll list them all (porn is porn), but as to You Tube, planning on watching The Guild series.

The Guild Sells Out

First two Episodes of Chad Vader, Day Time Manager Season 2

And then, I'm done with this project.

Finito.

*5-11-14*

*Brett Paufler*

*I'm happy to say that I didn't spend nearly as much time downloading porn this week as it would appear that I spent four years ago. Huh, maybe I've just gotten more efficient at it. Technology is great, isn't it?*