

Sirius,R.U.: TheCyberpunkFakebook

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and Bart Nagel (C)1995 Ken Goffman and Jude MilhonThis file contains the first three and half chapters.From Michael>>I changed a few spaces here and there to make it look better onscreen,

>>let me know if you have any suggestions, corrections, additions, etc.From Judeorright, michael: i played with the formatting. it's HELL to make things look

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good in ASCII, but it looks bettah.okay, michael, stand back... here it comes....i'm sending cybpunk fakebook as a MIME-encoded attachment

AND a paste-in...look out.... it's terribly silly....Dear Michael Hart and Project Gutenberg:This text comes over a little odd in ASCII. Like MONDO2000--

the zine we made infamous-- this book relies on its wacked layout and bizarre illustrations for much of its meaning, not to say charm.And it was difficult to figure what should be considered the first chapter, for obvious reasons. I think the first chapter really includes Section II,

but never mind. Here it is, the beginning of...***** THE***** REAL***** CYBERPUNK***** FAKEBOOK***** By St. Jude, R.U.Sirius, and Bart Nagel Dedication:

For all our parents and lovers and housemates and children and friends, for the Cypherpunks, for Kevin Crow, Nesta Stubbs, The Omega, Phiber, and hackers everywhere.| INTRODUCTION to The Real Cyberpunk Fakebook |
| by Bruce Sterling, |

| A Renowned Cyberpunk Writer |I like this book so much that I'm thinking of changing my name to St.Erling. You couldn't ask for better guides to faking cyberpunk than these two utterly accomplished Bay Area fraudsters. These two characters are such consummate boho hustlers that they make Aleister Crowley look like Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.I don't believe in smart drugs, and I've never believed in smart drugs, but I do believe the following. It's genuinely useful to society to have some small, contained fraction of reckless fools who are willing to consume untested and unknown devices and substances. Sure, most of them will have their hearts explode or break out into great purple bleeding thalidomide warts. But who knows, maybe someday one of these jaspers will be eating handfuls of psychoactive crap out of some hippie pharmacy and he or she will suddenly learn to read Japanese in the original in six days. That's not at all likely, but it could happen-- grant me the possibility. The only drawback to this decentralized, libertarian, free-market regime of biomedical research is that you have to be ruthlessly prepared to sacrifice certain people-- just write 'em off, basically, like a cageful of control hamsters down at the NIMH. And if I ever met a man uniquely suited to this particular cutting-edge role in life, it is R.U. Sirius. R. U. Sirius basically resembles Gomez Addams in a purple fedora with an Andy Warhol badge pinned to the brim. The moment I met R.U., I felt a strong need to pith him and examine his viscera. I'm sure there are many other freelance biomedical researchers who will feel the same intellectual impulse. Read this book and you'll see what I mean.Then there's this saint person. Never draw to an inside straight. Never eat at a place called Mom's. And never eat a bag of ephedrine and a pumpkin pie ("the *whip* of vegetables!") from a California blonde who doesn't even have a real name. This female personage is so appallingly cagey that even her main squeeze delights in cryptographically baffling the NSA. If Pat Buchanan ever gets his not-so-secret wish and sets up a domestic American gulag for

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counterculture thought-criminals, the Judester's gonna be way, *way* up on the list-- maybe even number two, right after Bob Dobbs.

Her trial's likely to prove rather interesting, however, as she only commits "crimes" in areas of social activity that haven't even been defined yet, much less successfully criminalized. A serious legal study of this woman's spectrum of activities would be like a CAT-scan of the American unconscious. There's also Bart Nagel, who is too nice a guy to be in the company of these people. Almost everything in this swell book is completely true.

Except for everything about me. And my closest co-conspirators. We actual cyberpunks-- by this I mean *science fiction writers*, dammit, the people for whom the c-word was invented, the people who were professionally ahead of our time and were cyberpunks *twelve years ago*-- we never sneer and we never dress like, God forbid, Tom Wolfe. We just laugh at inappropriate times (like when testifying in Congress) and we dress and act just like industrial design professors. I hope this brief intro clears up any confusion. If you have any trouble at all with this book, take full advantage of your online d00dship and send email. Don't be afraid to ask "stupid" questions-- that's what the Internet is for! Ask nice, big, broad, open-ended questions. Stuff like "I'm doing a term paper so please tell me everything you know about cyberspace" or "I'm cyberpunk fan from Bulgaria and English not too good, but please say more what is about Virtual Reality?" Just don't send the email to me, of course. Send email to them. After this book, they deserve it! I feel sure that you'll get prompt answers that will surprise you. | The |

| Authors |

| Explain: || A Technical Guide To This Technical Guide |WORDS IN BOLDFACE (enclosed in double for the ASCII version)These are terms that are defined in *Building Your Cyber Word Power*. Check there for anything that baffles you. Sometimes there's a double-anglebrace-enclosed term in the text that refers to a chapter subheading, and then you must practice your in order to find it.

If all else fails, you could ask Bruce Sterling at his secret email address-- bruces@well.com. He will know.THE SHURIKEN AWARDS We may sometimes succumb to the temptation to rate things the way snotty critics do, by awarding stars. However, we will award them as *shuriken*, a cyber kinda star: v v v A shuriken is a throwing star-- a shiny-steel, sharp-edged,

sharp-pointed weapon from Japan (which is cyberpunk's original home in certain misty urban legends). The shuriken itself as an assault weapon would rate one-half shuriken on a scale of four. A hydrogen bomb would rate five shuriken.

You get the idea.Occasionally we may add Propeller Beanies to the Shuriken: _|_ _|_ _|_ /_____\ /_____\ /_____\ This indicates nerdly interest over and above a cyberpunk rating. Propeller head is an ancient term for .

The real name for that key on the Macintosh is not COMMAND, but PROPELLER, and this is why. _____ || _/_ O ||
|| (C O / \ O ||

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 - Amusing Potted Plants, Stickers, Posters and Logos
- + What to Put on Top of Your Computer Monitor and Why
- + Nerd Comic Strips
- + Haqr Basic Diet, Stunt Foods & Intimidating Soft Drinks
- + Music That Doesn't Suck
- + Squeaky/Cuddly Toys With Really Good Rationalizations
- + Rubik's Hypercubes or Rubik's Dodecahedrons or Rubik's Other Strange Shapes and Hi-Tech Intellectual Adult Transformers In the Shape of Interlocked Rings, Chains, Blocks, Helices, and Platonic Solids That Shapeshift into Other Configurations of Rings, Chains, Etc Etc But Only If You Do Them Exactly Right, Which Is Very Difficult Or Impossible, but Which Gather Dust, Take Up Lots of Room On Your Monitor, and Taunt and Sneer at You Every Time You Look at Them. ***** SECTION V: CYBERPUNK... THE INNER SCENE *****Chapter 17/ CYBERPUNK SECRETS REVEALED!
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 - /Making It or Faking It/A Cyberpunk Review to Prepare you, and then*****THE FINAL

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EXAM *****

It's Not True/False, We Don't Grade on the Curve,

Stop

Sniveling.***** THE OFFICIAL CYBERPUNK HIPNESS CHECKLIST *****

You Won't Like This Either But It's for Your Own Good,

Punk.....-..That Is All..-.....APPENDIX A: Cyberpunk Valorized:

Careers Under DeconstructionThe Semiosis of Black Leather, Chrome, Mirrorshades

and ModemsAPPENDIX B: ASCII ChartsNow, Welcome to.the Text.....***** THE*****

REAL***** CYBERPUNK***** FAKEBOOK***** By St. Jude, R.U.Sirius, and Bart Nagel+ SECTION I:

+

+ CYBERPUNK...WHY?? +

+ Okay... HOW??? +Chapter 1:

CYBERPUNK: A CHALLENGING POSTMODERN LIFESTYLE CHOICE

Why Bother? Big Wins! (and Unexpected Smallstuff)Cyberpunk is extremely hip. Being extremely hip is the last

hope for people with no money and no power. Being hip gets

you big wins in the status game. Hipness can crush your

enemies and attract the apposite sex. Best of all, cyberpunk

is the next big thing AFTER the next big thing. You can hop

on the cyberpunk bandwagon and coast for a long, long time.

Think of the money you'll save on wardrobe updates! The

worry you'll save on lifestyle decisions! Cyberpunk has not yet been co-opted. In fact, this handbook

is the very first exploitation of this hip new underground

trend. This is the ground floor. Get in on it! Chapter 2: ACHIEVING CYBERPUNK

Being It or Faking ItWhat is there to know about being a cyberpunk? Leather

jacket, mirrorshades-- that just about does it, right? This

kind of patronizing shirt must farking DIE.**Since we can't afford to offend any parental units who might

*purchase this book for their family circle, all chancy verbs

*and nouns have been cleverly encyphered. This is in the

*spirit of true cyberpunkhood, see .You think cyberpunk is just a leather jacket, some chrome

studs, and fully reflective sunglasses? You think that's all

there is? Hah! You can find those on Kansas City bikers and

the whole California Highway Patrol. The true cyberpunk

might tuck a *cellular-modem laptop* under a spiked leather

arm, and a *laser pointer* in the upper zip pocket. Or, a true cyberpunk may

look just like YOU. But sHe** who knows

doesn't tell, and **hirm who tells doesn't know. **Pronoun disclaimer:

**All pronouns in this book started life as intact males--

**he, his, and him. If anything bad happened to them

**afterwards, blame it on the Riot Grrrls Bobbitt Squad.The lifestyle and goals of the true cyberpunk are

carefully

guarded secrets in a life *totally devoted* to coolness and

secrecy. We will PIERCE THE VEIL, and REVEAL those SECRETS.

We will display for you the INNER CYBERPUNK. We will give

you everything you need to know about embarking on this

challenging lifestyle. When you have read to the end of this

EASY handbook, if you DON'T pass the hipness quiz... well,

just read it again. But turn your TV up louder.Chapter 3: A STYLE GUIDE TO THE CYBERTYPES

Recognizing Them and Fitting In While a cyberpunk is commonly a middleclass white male with way too many

electrons, there are varieties of cyberpunk. Underlying all the types and

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genres is Basic Cyber Style, which breaks down to physical gear and mental attitude:--->Basic Cyberpunk Gear

is simple. Black leather jacket. Boots. Mirrorshades. Laser pointer. (We don't know why all cyberpunks need a laser pointer, but it's mandatory.)

We'll give you a more elaborate guide to basic cyberpunk gear. Later. --->The Basic Cyberpunk Attitude is quiet assurance. Subdued swashbuckling. Maybe a little menace. With these cyberpunk basics you can navigate through all the sub-genres. But

if you want to pass as a native in a particular cyber sub-scene without getting jeered at or beaten up, you gotta accessorize, and pay close attention to detail. >>>>Motorpsycho Maniacs

Cyberbikers pack the mystique of both worlds-- high tech, and big greasy loud engines. Standard cyberpunk costume is ideal for riding motorcycles, and a mirrorshades helmet is a big plus for the cyber look-- mega robotic coolness.

Motorcycles are dangerous and can kill you. This is also cool.>>>>Goths, Deathcore, and Vampire-Wannabes

Ideally, for this sub-scene, you should know about The Cure, which is a band. To fit in, grow your hair big and dye it

blueblack. Spray it with to make it stick

out, medusa-like. Go to a kidshop and buy plastic fangs.

(The kind that glow in the dark are funny. Funny is NOT the object here.) All sexes should wear a Victorian shirt--

blouse-- white or black only--- that gapes to show flesh. You

must practice looking tormented, tall and thin. The ideal is

chalk-white face makeup with blueblack eyesockets. Blueblack

makeup with white eyesockets is untested, but might work very well, if you avoid a minstrel look. At all times think

intensity and torment. Torment...and ironic bitterness. No

giggling or snickering, no kidding.>>>>Riot Grrrls!

These are fierce girls who like tech. This is a sexist

category, but there we are: girls only. A grrrl can be

called "d00d" and "guy" at all times, but a non-female guy

is not a grrrl. This is just the way things are.

If you're a grrrl, you can wear anything you want to,

because you're there to defend it. This is true for anybody,

really-- look as tough as you wanta be, and be ready to back

it up. Fierce is good. Grrrls with tech expertise are

irresistible. NOTHING is more attractive than a fierce,

blazing, ninja-type grrrl right now, and if she knows UNIX

or phone-freeking, the world is hers. Hrrrs. >>>>Technopagans/Ravers/Neohippies

Don't worry about this one. This scene is free, loving,

nonconforming, spontaneous. You can dress any old way

and fit right in...

Unless you don't look cool. Maybe you should stick to basic cyberpunk. Dancing in

leather is hot as h*ck, but sweating is better than not

looking cool. Non-cyber ravers favor floppy hats, five

kinds of plaid 'n' paisley, and multiple organ piercings.

They sometimes take raver drugs. These drugs make you fonder

of other people than you really want to be. (The morning-

after Revulsion hangovers can be nasty.) In this scene,

pretending to be on raver drugs is recommended, and easy,

too. Unfocus your eyes and smile lovingly. In black leather

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you won't have to worry so much about getting hugged.>>>>Academic Cyber-Wannabes
Students, teachers, whatever, dress down. Like you're always
en route to a garage sale...maybe to donate what you're
wearing. Casual. Jeans, black leather jacket, laser
pointer. No tweed, notice, and no Birkenstocken. If you
flash paperbacks by Arthur Kroker, Paul Virilio and Jean
Baudrillard, it means you're serious. Paperbacks by Mark
Leyner and Kathy Acker means you're *way past* serious. >>>>Cybercowboys/grrrls
Some of these people come from Texas or Oklahoma. In this crew, to yr
cyberbasics you add a cowboy hat, cowboy boots, and grow any hair you've got
really LONG. Males should try to get hair somewhere on their faces.>>>>Science Fiction Writers
Full-steam straight-ahead hard edge, with a permanent sneer. Just to twist
heads, some males writers go for the Tom Wolfe effete look-- blue blazer and
wing-tips. Still they sneer. >>>>Web Crawlers and Other Bourgeois Types
You don't really care about this one, do you? You do? Subscribe to WIRED.

Next.>>>>Deep Geek:

Supernerds, Hackers, Wizards, Phone Phreakers
Things get difficult here. Deep geekware is unstandard.
Very heavy Wizards can look like accountants, or like
streetpeople. Facial hair and Goodwill Casual happen a lot.
Chubby happens too, since these guys don't do enough
dancing in leather pants. To get along in this scene, you
really need to be very smart, very funny, or very sexy. To
work yourself up to smart at least, learn UNIX. Or carry
the 2600 zine in your back pocket and read that. Practice
being technical. But until you get good, wear your
cyberbasics and never leave home without your laser pointer.
This will draw the admiration of people who don't know any
better, which has its own rewards. Leading us inevitably to
the final category...>>>>Phonies, Poseurs and Pretenders:

Taking the Easy Way In

Don't think: scheme! Forget about reading books, buy no
computers or widgets. Don't do or buy anything. Save all
your money for clothes and art materials. Make your
girl/boyfriend help you assemble your hi-tek models-- you're
gonna need mockups of a laptop computer, a personal
communicator, a beeper, maybe even a fake stun-gun. Realism
is key. Then wear them all with *attitude*. You're better
than real. Strut. Sneer. Remember the 3 disses: distrust,
disrespect, distroy. Wait, that's not right, is it?We know there are going to be mutterings about this category.
Grumblings that being a poseur is not as easy as we think.
A poseur has a lot of overhead-- in worry, just for starts--
what if you're exposed as ? And staying locked
to the HOTWIRED Website to catch what you should be
imitating? Dang. ___ ___ [Photo of Billy Idol

Goes Here] |___ ___|+ SECTION II: +

+ CYBERPUNK... ++ KNOWING ABOUT IT! +Chapter 4: Building Your Cyber Word PowerPart 1:

A Dictionary of Terminally Hip Jargon and

Useful Expressions

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: A word made from the initials of a name or phrase. Such as

Sirius,R.U.: TheCyberpunkFakebook

TLA. Three-Letter Acronym. Right.: As far as I know. An , in .: Artificial Intelligence. The next best thing to real.: Also known as. An acronym coined by the FBI in its popular Most Wanted lists.: Among , a former AT&T trademark which refers to teleconferencing systems.: Somebody who feels that governments are an unreasonable restraint on free humans' being.: An anarchist who hopes to bring down the established order by persuading everybody to their email. : There's no handle like NO handle. Being completely unknown means you can't be traced. Maybe. You can be anonymous online by bouncing your email or postings through . Who are you? Only penet.fi knows for sure.: This is the most intense hairspray on the planet, for that BIG hair. Since you're being so attentive, here's a bonus goth haiku: Sun! Hide white skin, run--
Burning, cloaked, I run... day sky!...
Must... find... Aquanet: An for... well, nobody remembers what it's an acronym for, but it means just plain keyboard characters, like your is made of. This is a portrait of R.U. Sirius rendered in ascii art: # _____ #
/=\$==) #
//-OO-\| #
>>(_)>>\| /