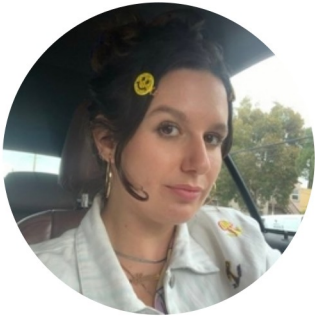




Alana Levinson

✓ VERIFIED

📁 Features Editor, [WIRED Magazine](#)

📍 Los Angeles

🔗 [Technology](#)

As seen in: [WIRED Magazine](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Medium](#), [Yahoo Life](#), [MSN](#), [The Guardian](#), [Aol](#), [Gizmodo](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [NPR](#), [Rolling Stone](#) and [more](#)

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Articles by Alana Levinson

Taylor Lorenz's Screen Time Is Almost 17 Hours a Day

4 days ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Tech News Tube](#)

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Taylor Lorenz's Screen Time Is Almost 17 Hours a Day. 17!!!

4 days ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [WIRED Magazine](#) ✓

Taylor Lorenz doesn't want to touch grass. The technology and culture journalist wrote the bestselling book *Extremely Online: The Untold Story of Fame, Influence, and Power on the Internet*, and she has the screen time to prove it. Previously a reporter for mainstream media outlets, Lorenz built such a rabid following (and a legion of haters) that she decided to go independent in 2024.



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What It's Like to Live in a Pop Culture Landmark

9 months ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. Despite sitting on a quiet, residential street in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Joanne Quintana's home sees around 300 cars a day. Used as a shooting location for the hit drama *Breaking Bad* starting in 2008, the four-bedroom ranch-style dwelling still attracts rabid fans, some of whom try to re-create an iconic scene where the chemistry teacher turned meth dealer throws a pizza on the roof.



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'Survivor'

9 months ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Bustle](#) ✓

Parvati Shallow strolls into The Ripped Bodice looking like she could be any LA girl on a casual post-farmer's market jaunt to Los Angeles' only romance bookstore. Wearing relaxed jeans, a white tank top, and delicate gold necklaces, the reality TV star and soon-to-be-published memoirist greets me with a hug and her trademark Valley Girl accent, like I'm any old friend, in one of our cozy homes and not at a smut palace buzzing with strangers.

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What We're Watching Burn ORIGINAL

a year ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

View 3 Photos As the L.A. wildfires rage on, the destruction of 12,000 structures and counting reveals how individual tragedies add up to profound communal loss. View 3 Photos When it first dawned on me that parts of the city I live in were being devoured by flames, the shot of cortisol running through my veins quickly clarified priorities. First, I considered the safety of humans and other living creatures—myself, my kin, but also the strangers I feel bound to by proximity.

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Nickelodeon's "Luxury" Resort Courts Millennials With Nostalgia. Is It Working? ORIGINAL

a year ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

View 6 Photos At its all-inclusive Punta Cana property, the fading TV network attempts to cultivate its own version of the Disney Adult with appeals to those who came of age during its heyday. But what happens when design meets slime? View 6 Photos Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. My husband and I have traveled 10 hours, but I guess it was worth it to end up in an alternate universe.

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The Death of the Bar Cart ORIGINAL

a year ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

View 3 Photos As "sober-curiosity" becomes more popular, has the ultimate signifier of midcentury modern chic lost its luster? View 3 Photos Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. When I first got sober five years ago, I had to accept many tiny deaths. Some were easier than others—saying goodbye to the inevitability of ending any given night in a seedy nightclub, for instance, was a piece of cake.

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What We Unearthed at Alcova, the Messy, Fascinating Emerging Designer Fair ORIGINAL

a year ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Sema Topaloglu](#) | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓



associated art week happenings: openings, dance parties, "activations," and of course, more incredible fairs.

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11 Home Scents That Will Transform Your Space

a year ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

View 12 Photos Pro tip: you don't need to live in a French chateau to make your place smell like one. View 12 Photos More than any other sense, scent has the ability to instantly trigger memories, but it's also great at transporting us to places we've never been—except in our imagination. When it comes to the home, it seems to be the most overlooked way to not just set a tone, but transport your guests somewhere entirely new, yet familiar.

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The Rock Stars Of Spiritual Wellness

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [NYLON](#) ✓

When I first moved to Los Angeles from New York seven years ago, nothing about my lifestyle was healthy. I thought working out was pointless, considered rosé a legitimate hydration source, and wrote off the supernatural as super lame. But it didn't take long for the woo-woo fumes of LA to start intoxicating me. Most of the friends I made here were into some kind of "witch stuff," from charging crystals in full moonlight to collecting their period blood in a jar for future spells.

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Forget Erewhon, this local grocery chain has the best water selection in L.A.

ORIGINAL

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Los Angeles Times](#) ✓

I've just discovered a secret oasis in the sparkling water aisle at a local grocery store in Little Armenia. I've driven past this location many times but never paid it any notice. By my side is Martin Riese, a certified water sommelier. He's pointing to bottles from international brands I've never heard of.

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Can this trendy ingredient in French-style drinks really boost your mood?



It's not enough for a drink just to taste good anymore. Most specialty grocery or liquor stores now offer colorful cans and bottles that advertise so-called adaptogens, ingredients that beverage companies claim can help you manage stress, enhance creativity and sharpen focus. With packaging printed with bright colors and trendy fonts, these drinks are designed to pop on the shelves and on your social media feed — a subtle health flex for the aesthetically conscious and sober-inclined.

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The Designers Using the “The Sims” as Architectural Software

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

The hugely popular franchise has long been a gateway into the field, but for some professionals, it's more than a hobby—it's a helpful tool. Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. When Kayla Sims, 24, embarked on renovating her first home she was, of course, going to use the life simulation game The Sims to do it—and not just because of her last name.

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How To Survive Becoming A 'Coachella Elder'

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Vogue](#) ✓

When I went to Coachella for the first time in 2022, I was only 34, but I felt ancient. The average attendee is 25 years old, which is glaringly apparent when you meander through a sea of 125,000 drunk people and see multiple thongs worn as outerwear.

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The People Obsessed With Using Obsolete, Y2K Technology-as Decor ORIGINAL

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

In 1990, Tay's father gifted the family a computer. She thought she'd get to play computer games all day, but instead her dad insisted she use it to learn how to type. Tay spent hours typing "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" over and over again, using a mouse like the one she saw at the flea market. Though she hated it at the time, she says she's grateful because it's how she learned how to use the now essential device.

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I'll Never Be Ashamed of My Everything Chair

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

As someone with OCD, I understand the desire for tidiness, but storing the crap that would go on the chair defeats the purpose. The whole point is easy, unfettered access. You have to be able to throw things on it at night and casually pick them up in the morning. Perhaps I'm biased from lifelong use, but as long as it's not out of control, I've even come to enjoy the aesthetic.

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I'll Never Be Ashamed of My Everything Chair



tads in the age of doomscrolling. When I first moved in with my now-husband, we were blessed to have nearly identical taste. There was no heated conversation about the couch. We somehow had complimentary Le Creuset colors. The mutual passion for tchotchkes was almost uncanny.

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“Puttering” Might Be Doing Nothing, But That’s Something ORIGINAL

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Also referred to as “piddling,” carrying out low-stakes house chores allows us to reimagine spaces we’ve become sick of. Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. “What do you want to do when I get there?,” my mom has inquired every time she’s set to come visit for the past 15 years. I’m not sure why she still asks, as we both know what we’re going to spend at least one day doing.

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5 of LA’s Weirdest & Wildest Museums to Visit

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [NewsBreak](#)

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5 of Los Angeles' Strangest Museums You Need to Visit

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Cole Novak](#) ✓ | [San Diego Magazine](#) ✓

The preternaturally good weather; the vapid, plastic veneer of Hollywood; the über-rich, fedora-clad vegans hustling juice cleanses on the West Side—they have everyone distracted. Most people think Los Angeles is the most basic place on earth. But the 500-plus-square-mile city is actually very weird. Folks call it the City of Dreams but fail to point out that most of those dreams end up broken.

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Why We Can’t Leave Britney Spears Alone ORIGINAL

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [GQ](#) ✓

When teen Spears is questioned by Daly about her sexy schoolgirl outfits (wholesome, when you consider how routinely other interviewers asked her about her tits), she sounds like any normal teen whose parents don't want them to leave the house wearing eyeliner. “All I did was tie up my shirt!” she says. “I’m wearing a sports bra under it. Sure, I’m wearing thigh-highs, but kids wear those—it’s the style.

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The Magic of the DesignMyRoom SubReddit

2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. Sometimes, it feels like the internet exists to remind you what you don’t have. Social media is awash with endless highlight



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2 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Vogue](#) ✓

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Remember the Tuscan Kitchen? Millennials Want It Back

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. Every real estate show, whether it follows potential buyers in Beverly Hills or Mobile, Alabama, reveals a sick obsession with "The Kitchen." The house could be perfect in most ways, but some newlywed couple living with their in-laws to save money will not be able to get past some (relatively) inconsequential problem with the cooking area, whether it's the color of the cabinets or ugly backsplash.

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Remember the Tuscan Kitchen? Millennials Want It Back

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [MSN](#) ✓

It was only a matter of time before people started pining for the Olive Garden aesthetics of their pre-housing crisis childhoods—right down to the ceramic roosters. Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling.

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Remember the Tuscan Kitchen? Millennials Want It Back

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The Y2K Craze Comes for Interiors

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. You can't go anywhere online without bumping into Y2K nostalgia. For the past couple of years, my TikTok algorithm has been littered with Gen Z kids who are obsessed with the aesthetics of my childhood. At this point, I'm jaded by the early aughts revival in fashion, with the comeback of micro-skirts, skinny eyebrows and iPod shuffles fashioned into hair clips.

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Alcohol-Free in Sin City: Sober Things to Do in Las Vegas

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [San Diego Magazine](#) ✓



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The TikTok Girlies Reclaiming Being a "Bed Person"

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

At a young age, I was taught that eating in bed is gross and slovenly, but the discourse around the practice is about so much more than crumbs. claim it encourages overeating, increases your chances of choking, and attracts bugs. As technology has made working some jobs from bed possible, it's been framed as less professional at best, and potentially harmful at worst.

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The TikTok Girlies Reclaiming Being a "Bed Person"

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Yahoo Life](#) ✓

A new online identity wants to destigmatize doing everything horizontal. Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. I've spent my whole life being embarrassed by my preference for doing everything from bed, but that was before I discovered I wasn't alone. On TikTok these days, women with my same compulsion proudly claim their identity as a "bed person," and connect over how misunderstood they've felt their entire lives.

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Swimply, and the Public/Private Pool Divide

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

It was 2016, and Bunim Laskin was stuck inside his family home in Lakewood, New Jersey, recovering from surgery, when it came to him. Through one of the windows, he noticed his neighbor's pool was sitting unused; she had built it for her grandchildren, but they rarely visited. As the eldest of 12 children, Laskin was always on the lookout for ways to entertain his siblings, and traveling anywhere was a logistical nightmare. He wondered if his neighbor would let them swim in exchange for a fee.

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Tidycore Makes a Real Mess

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Organizing influencers link to Amazon storefronts full of colored jars and tubs and boxes that take organizing from a functional practice to an aesthetic one. It's not enough that a space is organized, it also needs to look organized. It has to be Tidycore. Watch too many of these videos in a row and you'll be convinced that if cereal stays in the box it came in, someone will die.

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The Ethical Quandaries of Estate Sales

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

This response has everything to do with how Americans are conditioned to see death as a finite and solemn



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To Paint or Not to Paint: The Furniture Flipping Fight

3 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Wakefield disagrees that this is subjective, especially when it comes to antique or vintage pieces that were made with higher quality material than we have access to now: "We are never going to have access to things like old growth teak or Brazilian Rosewood ever again on a large scale. The trees are gone forever. And painting wood pieces like this with chalk paint is an insult to the beautiful materials," he says.

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The New Design Critics Next Door

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

When Covid hit, Herman Wakefield's industry was turned upside down. Prices for midcentury antiques skyrocketed because of the home improvement frenzy, and uneducated new dealers were everywhere, ruining furniture and hawking fakes. You could make more money, but you'd have to work harder, improvise, and deal with a lot of idiots along the way.

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Why Are Garden Gnomes So Polarizing?

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Architectural Digest](#) ✓

All products featured on Architectural Digest are independently selected by our editors. However, when you buy something through our retail links, we may earn an affiliate commission. When I moved back into a house for the first time since childhood, I had my priorities straight. Living in a Los Angeles bungalow meant I'd have enough room for a place to eat that wasn't my couch, but a kitchen table could wait.

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The Jewish Episode with Jason Diamond by Free Validation With Dave Schilling and Alana Hope Levinson

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Anchor.fm](#)

Shalom! This week, Dave and Alana are joined by fellow tribesman and writer for GQ, Jason Diamond to discuss all thing Jewish on the West Coast. We discuss the best delis in Los Angeles, Elliott Gould's chest hair, and why Curb Your Enthusiasm explains everything you need to know about Jewish culture in LA.

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The Jewish Episode with Jason Diamond on Apple Podcasts

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The Opulence Episode with Rachel Tashjian on Apple Podcasts

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Apple Podcasts](#)

We're classing up the joint this week, with a visit from Harper's Bazaar Fashion News Director and the genius behind the Opulent Tips newsletter, Rachel Tashjian. Rachel regales Dave and Alana with tales from her days working the Vanity Fair Oscars party, gives us tips for how to throw the perfect dinner party, and reveals her favorite mall of all time.

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Flipping the Switch on Fast Furniture

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. Scrolling through TikTok, it can sometimes feel like the algorithm is a capitalist machine pushing you to buy things you never knew you needed but suddenly desperately crave.

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The Plastic Surgery Episode with Allie Rowbottom on Apple Podcasts

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Apple Podcasts](#)

This week, Dave and Alana are joined by the fabulous writer Allie Rowbottom, author of *Jell-O Girls: A Family History* and the upcoming novel *Aesthetica*. We dig into the thorny topic of self-improvement, both physical and emotional. Why does LA love plastic surgery, injectables, and other body modifications? Marvel at Dave trying to understand what a "unit" of Botox means!

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Gorgeous Gorgeous Girls Love Nursery Chic

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

"We've seen SO much of this trend that I kind of wish I could see it fading into the background a bit, because I'm ready for something new," says Anna Buckman, a writer for The Zoe Report who is on the forefront of every lifestyle trend, in an email. "But to be honest, I think it's only going to evolve into other things that remain just as popular. Blobs will become splats, pastels will get brighter, etc.

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The Cult of Pharmaceutical Decor

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Welcome to The Trend Times, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. During the pandemic, being quarantined inside our homes meant Interior Design Tok was the closest we'd get to an escape from ours. Videos of strangers living spaces provided the euphoric rush of visiting a friend's house in the before times and hesitantly asking if it's okay to touch an exciting new tchotchke on the coffee table.

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Free Validation With Dave Schilling and Alana Hope Levinson

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Anchor.fm](#)

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Holly Madison's Playboy Aesthetic is Trending Again

4 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [The Cut](#) ✓

Photo: Michael Bezjian/WireImage In the past couple of years, being a millennial woman has meant living in a state of perpetual vindication. I'm not talking about the "cancellation" of bad men but about our unfairly maligned pop-culture idols from childhood finally getting a chance to rewrite their stories and take control of their legacies.

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Cody Rigsby's Raunchy Ride to Stardom

5 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [GQ](#) ✓

And there's no one who has nailed being "relatable" better than Rigsby. In addition to endlessly entertaining his fans (who he calls "boos") with fun topics, he's opened up about his mother Cindy, a recovering drug addict, and how he was homeless and on welfare as a kid. His vulnerability has inspired not just viral social media posts but the creation of #BooCrew groups on social media that have collectively grown to 90,000 members and sell merchandise.

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Top Down | Revue

5 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [getrevue.co](#)

It's my newsletter and I'll write if I want to.

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The Agony and the Ecstasy of Bennifer

5 years ago | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [GQ](#) ✓

You can tell a lot about a person based on which celebrity news prompts all of their friends to text them links along with something like, "omg, did you see this?!?!?" Unfortunately for me, when it comes to Benjamin Géza Affleck-Boldt, the answer is always going to be two-fold: 1) of course I did and 2) it's insulting for you to even ask.

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Flipping the Switch on Fast Furniture



through TikTok, it can sometimes feel like the algorithm is a capitalist machine pushing you to buy things you never knew you needed but suddenly desperately crave.

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The Plastic Surgery Episode with Allie Rowbottom on Apple Podcasts

Aug 05, 2022 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Apple Podcasts](#)

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Gorgeous Gorgeous Girls Love Nursery Chic

Jul 14, 2022 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

"We've seen SO much of this trend that I kind of wish I could see it fading into the background a bit, because I'm ready for something new," says Anna Buckman, a writer for *The Zoe Report* who is on the forefront of every lifestyle trend, in an email. "But to be honest, I think it's only going to evolve into other things that remain just as popular. Blobs will become splats, pastels will get brighter, etc."

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The Cult of Pharmaceutical Decor

May 19, 2022 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Dwell Magazine](#) ✓

Welcome to *The Trend Times*, a column that explores design fads in the age of doomscrolling. During the pandemic, being quarantined inside our homes meant *Interior Design Tok* was the closest we'd get to an escape from ours. Videos of strangers living spaces provided the euphoric rush of visiting a friend's house in the before times and hesitantly asking if it's okay to touch an exciting new tchotchke on the coffee table.

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The First Episode by Free Validation With Dave Schilling and Alana Hope Levinson

May 13, 2022 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Anchor.fm](#)

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Free Validation With Dave Schilling and Alana Hope Levinson

May 13, 2022 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Anchor.fm](#)

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Holly Madison's Playboy Aesthetic is Trending Again

Mar 01, 2022 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [The Cut](#) ✓



their legacies.

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Cody Rigsby's Raunchy Ride to Stardom

Jul 26, 2021 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [GQ](#) ✓

And there's no one who has nailed being "relatable" better than Rigsby. In addition to endlessly entertaining his fans (who he calls "boos") with fun topics, he's opened up about his mother Cindy, a recovering drug addict, and how he was homeless and on welfare as a kid. His vulnerability has inspired not just viral social media posts but the creation of #BooCrew groups on social media that have collectively grown to 90,000 members and sell merchandise.

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Top Down | Revue

Jul 13, 2021 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [getrevue.co](#)

It's my newsletter and I'll write if I want to.

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The Agony and the Ecstasy of Bennifer

May 11, 2021 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [GQ](#) ✓

You can tell a lot about a person based on which celebrity news prompts all of their friends to text them links along with something like, "omg, did you see this?!?!?" Unfortunately for me, when it comes to Benjamin Géza Affleck-Boldt, the answer is always going to be two-fold: 1) of course I did and 2) it's insulting for you to even ask.

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2020 Was a Banner Year for New Kinds of Guys

Dec 22, 2020 | By [Miles Klee](#) ✓, [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

How many kinds of guys are there? It's an unanswerable (if not imponderable) question. But, should you start naming types of guys, you won't run out. There are pizza guys, cable guys, wife guys and reply guys. Guys who still cape for the movie Avatar, guys who love stuffed animals and guys who want to break the world record for edging to orgasm. There's a guy who beat LeBron James in a game of H-O-R-S-E. What about that guy who's a real guy's guy?

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F*ck Santa Claus-It's All About The Elves

Dec 20, 2020 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

I don't remember ever believing in Santa. By age 5, I was already determined to catch my mom in the central lie of Christmas because it seemed much easier than catching her in the other more pertinent ones of my childhood — chiefly "where dad went." So on Christmas Eve 1993, I camped out all night by the tree in my



Your Baby Boomer Mom's Use of Technology Is Incredible, Not Embarrassing

Dec 11, 2020 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

My 65-year-old mother, Sue, is a "cool" mom. She lives in a condo in San Francisco. She wears skinny jeans and leather jackets. She watches all the hit prestige television shows in real time and goes to the occasional music festival with her friends where she gets drunk on two glasses of "chard." Most importantly: She loves the internet.

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A Rabbi on How to Atone for Our Digital Sins This Yom Kippur

Sep 28, 2020 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

About a year ago, I made friends with a tech-savvy Hasidic rabbi named Mordechai Lightstone on Twitter. Every so often, he would slide into my DMs to invite me to Shabbat dinners in Brooklyn, which I unfortunately was never able to attend.

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Alana Hope Levinson

Jun 12, 2020 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Recent Who Are the Women of the Manosphere? Groups like incels, men's rights and MGTOW appear to be dominated by white men. But there's a surprising number of women among them — people whose lives and beliefs we know very little about. This is our weeklong investigation into their world February 10, 2020

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Who's Actually Horny on Main When Everyone's Horny on Main?

Apr 16, 2020 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

It's hard to imagine, but there was once a time when I worried that my tweets about eating ass would get me fired. The fear for me — and presumably other brave pioneers of Horny Twitter — wouldn't be a milkshake duck, but that I'd make a dirty joke online and get called into the corner office one Monday morning to find a disappointed CEO throwing down a print out of my post, demanding to know why I wanted to fuck a breakfast mascot.

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The Eternal Comeback of Ben Affleck

Mar 06, 2020 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Miles Klee](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

It's hard to say which came first: our friendship or the obsession we share. We cannot decide if the fixation has been intensified by our bond, or if it was the other way around, but it doesn't really matter. What's important is that we both know we owe everything — our mental landscapes, sexual identities, hell, even our alcoholism — to one man. And we've never even met him! He's a far-removed star of screen and magazines: Mr. Benjamin Géza Affleck-Boldt.



Who Are the Women of the Manosphere?

Feb 10, 2020 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Groups like incels, men's rights and MGTOW appear to be dominated by white men. But there's a surprising number of women among them — people whose lives and beliefs we know very little about. This is our weeklong investigation into their world. Over the past decade, we've seen the explosion of the "manosphere," a collection of online spaces that have been effective in radicalizing men. Against what, you ask?

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Brand-backed media gets another look

Dec 23, 2019 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Nieman Lab](#) ✓

Brand-backed media gets another look "I wouldn't call brand-backed journalism a 'lifeboat.' It's more of a floating door from the sinking ship that can save at least one person. At this point, that's good enough for me.

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'Snow Hunters': A Beautiful Debut Novel Grounded In History

Sep 21, 2019 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [NPR](#) ✓

Snow Hunters by Paul Yoon On the second page of his debut novel Snow Hunters, Paul Yoon vividly depicts the last moments before his protagonist Yohan is liberated from a prisoner of war camp on the Korean peninsula, "where there was always a wind that carried the smell of soil and sickness" from the animals at a nearby farm.

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'Middle America' Porn Is on the Rise in Our Capitalist Hell

Jul 08, 2019 | By [Isabelle Kohn](#) ✓, [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

In a recently uploaded Pornhub video entitled "Walmart Worker Helps Customer Then Fucks Her Brains Out," a blonde woman in a matching gray beanie and sweatsuit slides up to a tub of milk-chocolate M&M packages that retail for the low price of \$2.84. She looks bashful and excited in the store's fluorescent lighting, but you can barely hear her voice as she starts to speak over the clamor of a big box store at what appears to be peak hours.

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Why Women Hate Your Tightly-Whities So Much

Jul 05, 2019 | By [Desi Jedeikin](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Last year, I was asked to pitch my scariest ghost story. I was game, but the truth of the matter was that I don't believe in ghosts. In fact, I'm basically one of those Eeyore-type naysayers who doesn't have fun even pretending a house is haunted. To me, every ghost might as well be Charlie Brown under a sheet. Who cares? Then it hit me: There was one ghost costume that actually did frighten me, and that was my dad's really old, tattered white underwear, barely concealing his dick.



Everything

Jul 05, 2019 | By [Isabelle Kohn](#) ✓, [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Every morning for the past two years, 35-year-old Mark (not his real name) has woken up at 6 a.m., reached into his well-stocked vitamin cabinet and measured out exactly 2.5 grams of a drug he says makes him the smartest, funniest and most energetic person in the room.

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Men Still Can't Stop Injuring Themselves on the Fourth of July

Jul 04, 2019 | By [Magdalene Taylor](#) ✓, [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

The human body and fireworks: inspiring scientific works of art? Or a combustible sack of dangerous chemicals? Either way, there's still a lot we're learning about how the two interact — especially around the Fourth of July. Here are the most interesting things we learned about fireworks and corporeal forms over the last few months... You Will Actually Shoot Your Eye Out You'd think as time went on, fewer people would be injured by fireworks. But we're all complete idiots.

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Guys, It's Time to Cool It With the Jackrabbit Sex

Jul 03, 2019 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Madeleine Holden](#) | [melmagazine.com](#)

For Marie, a 26-year-old administrator based in Auckland, New Zealand, jackrabbit sex is the bane of her existence. "It's the absolute worst thing in the world if you have endometriosis, which I do," she tells me. "You might as well just stab me in the fucking gut." She says that since she had surgery to treat the condition and sex has become less painful, she understands the vaguely uncomfortable, amused or bored facial expressions of female porn performers while they're being jackhammered.

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Why South Asian Men Are So Obsessed With Drake

Jul 02, 2019 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Hussein Kesvani](#) | [melmagazine.com](#)

Sasha Ahmed, a 23-year-old law student living in London, has noticed something about the Desi (South Asian) guys she dates. "It's really weird!" she laughs, as she describes their short, faded haircuts and closely trimmed black beards. Some turn up to dates wearing athleisure, gold chains and Air Force Ones. "They think it's subtle," she says with a deep sigh. But it's obvious: "They're trying to look like Drake." It's not just the aesthetic that's a giveaway.

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Andrew Yang Fizzled in First Dem Debate, but His #YangGang Holds Steady

Jul 01, 2019 | By [Eddie Kim](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

On the eve of the first Democratic debate of 2019, Charlotte, a 23-year-old in Connecticut, mulled over the odds of a big performance from presidential candidate Andrew Yang. Yang had not grown his presence in national polls much over the past few months, but the debate stage looked like the natural setting for the entrepreneur-turned-presidential hopeful, whose campaign agenda overflows with policy ideas.



The 'July Effect': Is This Month the Worst Time to Get Sick?

Jul 01, 2019 | By [Isabelle Kohn](#) ✓, [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

It's July 1st, 2019, and all across the country, a fresh batch of recently graduated medical students are gearing up for their first day of internships and new residency programs. But as they don their starched white coats and scrub their hands for their first day on the job, many of them ask themselves the same question researchers have been wondering about them for decades: Will I hurt anyone today? It's a valid question, given what month it is.

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An Overstuffed Cultural History of the All-You-Can-Eat/-Drink Resort

Jul 01, 2019 | By [Tierney Finster](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Any iPhone owner wields the tools necessary to book a vacation on the other side of the globe. Between TripAdvisor, Lonely Planet, Yelp and the other countless crowdsourced travel advice platforms online, assistance from a travel agent is no longer needed to embark on the vacation of your dreams.

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The Unlikely, Gritty Origins of John Shaft

Jun 29, 2019 | By [Keith Phipps](#) ✓, [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Who's the black private dick that's a sex machine to all the chicks? The answer, of course, is Shaft. John Shaft. But who is he really? The answer to that question is a little more complicated than you might think. In the 2019 film Shaft (the third to bear that title), John Shaft Jr. (Jessie Usher) says of his father John Shaft II (Samuel L.

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Do Nips - Mini Alcohol Bottles - Really Deserve Their Seedy Reputation?

Jun 28, 2019 | By [Magdalene Taylor](#) ✓, [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

These days, I don't get on a plane without a few nips on me. Before I head to the airport, I pop into my local liquor store, dig my hand into a plastic tub and pick out a couple fruity, neon-accented mini-bottles of vodka. A blue Smirnoff Sours Berry Lemon, a pink Ruby Red Deep Eddy — it barely matters. When nips are a dollar each, the stakes are low. If you're not from New England, the word "nip" is the regional slang for a tiny bottle of booze, usually 50 ml in size.

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Inside One of the Last Wet T-Shirt Contests in America

Jun 27, 2019 | By [C. Brian Smith](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

I've been named runner-up in a hula hoop competition at Willie's Tavern, a roadside biker bar in Southern Oregon, which combined with above-average finishes in both the "nut hunt" and "shake your money maker" competitions — retrieving a pecan from a plateful of whipped cream using only my mouth and dislodging tissues from a box a Kleenex strapped to my ass — has earned me a spot on a panel of three male judges in Willie's 4th-Annual Wet T-shirt Contest.



You And Your Partner Have Different 'Travel Styles.' Are You Doomed?

Jun 27, 2019 | By [Isabelle Kohn](#) ✓, [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Thirty-year-old grad student Natasha and her boyfriend, Marcus, had been together for just over a year when they boarded a 1,500-room Princess Cruise ship slated to set sail from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Cozumel, Mexico. It was the couple's first summer vacay, the cherry on top of a new relationship that had, so far, been going great.

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Dear Teen Dream, You Can Find Meaning Without Monogamy

Jun 26, 2019 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [BRIGHT Magazine](#) ✓

Don't listen to your favorite high school teacher. Even though she wears power suits and smells of mus oil and cigarettes, even though she is prone to graceful, literary gesticulations, she isn't always right. Illustration by Alessandra De Cristofaro "Women who keep their legs closed have all the power," she'll say one day in class, drawing a lesson from some novel you are studying. You'll have just lost your virginity, so of course you'll think she is talking specifically about you.

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The Importance of Devon Sawa's Peen Scene in 'Now and Then'

Jun 26, 2019 | By [Quinn Myers](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

I don't remember much from growing up with four sisters, but I do have one very clear memory: It's 1997, I'm 9 years old, and my sisters and their friends from middle school are crowded around the dusty TV in my parents' basement. They are shrieking, rewinding the VCR player, and shrieking again. I idle closer as they hammer the play/pause button in an attempt to manually go frame-by-frame. But for what? I peer through the crowd to see a kid in a towel bend over to pick up his clothes.

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What's Keeping the Weed Tour From Becoming the New Wine Tour?

Jun 26, 2019 | By [Tierney Finster](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

The Solar Living Institute is the initial stop on the daylong Mendocino Experience Cannabis Tour, which begins with a chartered ride out of foggy San Francisco into the warmer summer weather of Mendocino County, one-third of the famed cannabis growing region of Northern California that's better known as the



Hi, I'm Miserable

May 29, 2019 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [hellogiggles.com](#)

A poem by Elaine Benes I've "yada yada'd" sex. Perhaps one day when the pigmen roam free it will be stopped. Until then — off with their heads. I make up stories to get ahead in line at bakeries. I once broke up with someone for not offering me pie. I just couldn't decide if he was really sponge-worthy. Sometimes when I think you're the shallowest man I've ever met you somehow manage to drain a little more out of the pool. Boys are sick. I hate men, but im not a lesbian.

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Why Men Should Embrace Shorts

Jan 08, 2019 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

I fucking love a man in shorts. I consider a hairy stick leg poking out of a freshly cut jort pornographic, a muscular thigh wrapped in linen a kind of erotica. This isn't a preference; it's a passion. My dedication to the cause has only increased since I came to realize that America has a rich history of hating on shorts. In the past, some towns even upped the puritanical ante by passing legislation against them.

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Family Plans Forever

Dec 04, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Jeremy turned 15 a week after 9/11, the event that inspired his mom to buy him a Samsung. The same was true for Katie, who was in middle school when the Twin Towers were hit and received a red Nokia from her parents shortly thereafter. It was on a cell phone that passengers on the hijacked planes were able to call loved ones and the authorities, and how in the chaotic aftermath, many Manhattan residents tried to reach one another.

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'Trashfire Daddy' and Other Names You've Been Given in Your Exes' Phones

Nov 15, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

For a while, my friend was dating a man whose name I can't remember. But she, and by extension I, called him Trashfire Daddy. During the salad days, his nickname was Snapchat Daddy, as the app was the main way they communicated. But after he blew off a date only to show up drunk at her door in athleisure at 3 a.m for the tenth time, she'd finally had enough. And so, he was downgraded to burning garbaggio.

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We Talked to Experts About Why Most 'Male Allies' Are Full of Shit

Oct 16, 2018 | By [C. Brian Smith](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Here are four things you can do to avoid being yet another useless cuck online When I spoke with author and cultural theorist Jackson Katz last year about his new book on presidential masculinity, he lamented the silence among men about abuse against women and told me we needed more men to break that silence. And yet, if men are to now be "accountable," which women should we be accountable to and what form



Millennials Aren't Killing Titties, We're Just Changing the Way We Spell the Word

Aug 22, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

From 2012 to 2016, the number of Hooters dropped 7 percent. Could the breastaurant simply be going the way of pretty much every other fast casual chain? Of course not! This is about boobs, goddamnit. More specifically, how millennials don't like them, unless, of course, they're metaphorically sucking off their mother's teat well into their 30s.

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Saying Goodbye to the Fathers Who Carry Cash

Aug 01, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

When they found my uncle, his body was purple and puckered floating facedown in Clear Lake, 120 miles north of San Francisco. Decaying bills poked out of his swim trunks and the black handle of a pistol rested at his hip. There were no exit wounds, just as they expected — only a featureless gaze and lungs full of water. No one in my family was surprised. They'd never find out what happened to him, but they could guess.

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Saying Goodbye to the Fathers Who Carry Cash – MEL Magazine

Jun 14, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

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Surviving the Secret Childhood Trauma of a Parent's Drug Addiction

May 25, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Pacific Standard](#)

The elephant in the room. (Illustration: Caitlin Ng) By the time that I was six and my brother was five, we were used to waiting—and waiting—for our father to show up. On one particular afternoon, we sat in a pool of sunlight that poured through our living room's bay windows. In the Noe Valley neighborhood of San Francisco, the fog usually burns off by midday, and we were baking in our little jackets. Would he be late?



Why Does Creepy Uncle Joe Biden Get A Pass From Liberals?

May 24, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Talking Points Memo](#) ✓

A swearing-in featuring Joe Biden is gaffe-porn, when both the Vice President's best and worst are on full display. It's when Biden is in his truest form—"unleashed," as they say—and the chamber is his stage. But are these really just "aw, shucks, dad" moments, another blunder we have come to expect from Uncle Joe? Or is it...kinda creepy? And why does he get a pass from progressives? I was a 20-year-old-liberal during the 2008 election—you know, the one about Hope and Change.

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The Best Time I Met Captain Jack Sparrow in Brazil

Jan 16, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [thehairpin.com](#)

There's a tiny island town in Brazil called Morro do Sao Paolo where the idea of "the honeymoon" was born. It takes a winding cab ride through the jungle and two boat rides to get there, but once you do, you're hit by sweeping ocean views and the smell of passion fruit that mysteriously wafts through the air at all times. This is a place where cars aren't allowed. Where beautiful Argentinean girls with tan legs and ankle bracelets invite you to parties on the beach.

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The Object Clues in Your Lover's Bedroom

Jan 03, 2018 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Pacific Standard](#)

Should the discovery of a handgun, a noose, or Nazi dolls be a deal breaker? Strange bedroom artifacts reveal character and background, but they might also spur flawed interpretations. Should the discovery of a handgun, a noose, or Nazi dolls be a deal breaker? Strange bedroom artifacts reveal character and background, but they might also spur flawed interpretations. I remember exactly how I felt when I visited his apartment for the first time.

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The State of the Gender Divide

Dec 28, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

I was sitting in my office chair when I got a rare Twitter DM from a male journalist alerting me to the existence of "Shitty Media Men." He wouldn't reveal his source, but apparently an anonymous document was circulating in which women across the media industry were attempting to warn other female colleagues of dangerous men in their field.

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The State of the Gender Divide – MEL Magazine

Dec 27, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

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F*ck Santa Claus—It's All About The Elves – MEL Magazine

Dec 19, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

I don't remember ever believing in Santa. By age 5, I was already determined to catch my mom in the central lie of Christmas because it seemed much easier than catching her in the other more pertinent ones of my childhood — chiefly "where dad went." So on Christmas Eve 1993, I camped out all night by the tree in my living room, keeping one eye open for her tired ass, which at 5 a.m. rolled in dragging a black trash bag full of presents.

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What It's Like When Your Tinder Date Lives Across the U.S.-Mexico Border

Dec 18, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Splinter](#) ✓

You can tell a lot about a place just by swiping through Tinder. In the Mexican border town of Tijuana, you'll quickly cycle past profiles in both English and Spanish, potentially matching with someone who lives in a different country even though they are just in San Diego, 20 miles away.

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A Conversation With Jax Taylor, Reality TV's Most Notorious Bad Boy

Nov 30, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Jax Taylor once ripped off his cream-colored shawl neck sweater in a Vegas parking lot and ran shirtless after his ex's new boyfriend in an attempt to beat his ass, screaming multiple variations of "You wanna go?" and "You're a pussy!" The Vanderpump Rules star?—arguably reality TV's most notorious bad boy?—also fucked his best friend's girlfriend twice, once even in their apartment while he was sleeping in the other room.

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Can Women Build A Better Tinder? | Backchannel

Nov 06, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [WIRED Magazine](#) ✓

When a 34-year-old biologist is asked what she is looking for in a man, she doesn't respond with a height requirement or a hair color. She pauses for a moment, reflecting on a divorce and the French man who came after. He needs to be there for her; she has to be sure of him. But the most important thing, she says, as she points to her head: "It's all up here." We are in a cold, glass conference room at the WeWork offices in downtown Manhattan.

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What happens when your tweet goes viral

Nov 01, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Splinter](#) ✓

Before I had my first truly viral tweet a couple weeks ago, I thought I'd had one before. But like looking back on your first love a decade later, I would eventually learn just how naive I'd been. Nothing could



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A Rabbi on How to Atone for Our Digital Sins This Yom Kippur

Sep 28, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

About a year ago, I made friends with a tech-savvy Hasidic rabbi named Mordechai Lightstone on Twitter. Every so often, he would slide into my DMs to invite me to Shabbat dinners in Brooklyn, which I unfortunately was never able to attend.

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Dear Teen Dream, You Can Find Meaning Without Monogamy

Aug 16, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [brightreads.com](#)

Don't listen to your favorite high school teacher. Even though she wears power suits and smells of musk oil and cigarettes, even though she is prone to graceful, literary gesticulations, she isn't always right. "Women who keep their legs closed have all the power," she'll say one day in class, drawing a lesson from some novel you are studying. You'll have just lost your virginity, so of course you'll think she is talking specifically about you.

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On the 'I'm Not Like Other Boys' Phenomenon – MEL Magazine

Aug 07, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

In Trump's America, it's increasingly rare for the entire internet to unite against a common enemy. But last Friday, Robbie Tripp was able to pull it off, a beautiful sight to behold when you consider that Twitter can't even agree on hot dogs or corncobs.

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Family Plans Forever – MEL Magazine

Jul 03, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Jeremy turned 15 a week after 9/11, the event that inspired his mom to buy him a Samsung. The same was true for Katie, who was in middle school when the Twin Towers were hit and received a red Nokia from her parents shortly thereafter. It was on a cell phone that passengers on the hijacked planes were able to call loved ones and the authorities, and how in the chaotic aftermath, many Manhattan residents tried to reach one another.

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More Women Are Getting Off to Porn GIFs, Thanks to Tumblr

Jun 29, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Glamour](#) ✓

Caroline* started watching porn by accident. The 26-year-old didn't grow up seeking it out and until five years ago hadn't seen any without the nudge of a male partner. Even if she found a mainstream video she liked at first, something would usually end up going wrong, like fake-sounding breathing, cheesy music, or a "Miami Vice narrative" that felt awkward and moment-killing.



The Arizona Politician Who Wants You To Know About His Unconventional Sex Life and Financial Woes

May 23, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

"I appreciate you doing your job," Anthony Weiner told the press on Friday in front of his Manhattan apartment, the one he used to share with wife and political powerhouse Huma Abedin. News had recently broken that Abedin, vice chair of the Hillary Clinton campaign, had filed for divorce from her husband after Weiner pleaded guilty to sexting with a 15-year-old girl.

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Your Baby Boomer Mom's Use of Technology Is Incredible, Not Embarrassing

May 10, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

My 65-year-old mother, Sue, is a "cool" mom. She lives in a condo in San Francisco. She wears skinny jeans and leather jackets. She watches all the hit prestige television shows in real time and goes to the occasional music festival with her friends where she gets drunk on two glasses of "chard." Most importantly: She loves the internet. She has Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, which she essentially uses as intended by documenting her rad (post-retirement) life.

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I Did My Makeup Using ONLY Sephora and Bloomingdales Free Testers For a Week

Apr 20, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Beth Garrabrant](#) | [Allure](#) ✓

Thursday nights, Sephora is a sea of women mooching makeup. I know because I'm one of them. You can tell by the furiousness with which we grab free sponges and dab our cheeks with blush, passive-aggressively fight over mirrors (smile, nod, say nothing). And no one — not even the superserious, black-clad Sephora employees — gives a shit. See, we tester moochers are buoyed by power in numbers. Many of us wear the same hopeful, pre-Tinder-date glow (to be honest, that could also just be bronzer).

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Re: Kibbles 'n Bits looking for Twittr Consult. – Alana Hope Levinson – Medium

Apr 18, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

I would be out on this hot summer's day, except the important work I do with trends requires me to stay indoors at all times so that I do not miss any crucial happenings from the on line. I realize you may have previously heard that on line did not have a space between the "on" and "line" but that is merely what the unschooled of us have.

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A Good Republican Is Hard to Find

Apr 17, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Mateo Hoke](#) ✓ | [Mission Local](#) ✓

A Good Republican Is Hard to Find It's no secret that San Francisco leans left. In the Mission District, only 4 percent of all registered voters are Republican. This weekend, in anticipation of election day, we took to



2012 Election: Live Coverage of First Presidential Debate

Apr 17, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Chelsi Moy](#), [Erik Neumann](#) ✓, [Rigoberto Hernandez](#) | [Mission Local](#) ✓

2012 Election: Live Coverage of First Presidential Debate Graphic by Molly Roy You may also like: Comments are closed. Full name required to post. For full details, read

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The Real Life Bachelor – Alana Hope Levinson – Medium

Apr 17, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Mike, 35, grew up in an affluent family in Westchester, NY. Although his family was rich in money, they were modest in love. Their lack of affection helped him become an intimacy-avoidant man who is working hard to make his career dreams come true. He is confident that after the show airs, he'll win Dancing with the Stars and maybe guest host a local morning talk show.

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Fogless City – Alana Hope Levinson – Medium

Apr 17, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

The weekend before I was to leave yet again, back to the city that never sleeps, I relished the idea of one last burrito in a sun-soaked Dolores Park, washed down by a cold Pacifico. Or a fogless visit to Sutro, where the rays that bounce off the murky baths create a kind of dreamlike haze. Or a drive to Billy Goat Hill, with KMEL blasting out the radio, for one last swing on the rope.

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Surviving the Secret Childhood Trauma of a Parent's Drug Addiction

Apr 17, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Pacific Standard](#)

As a young girl, Alana Levinson struggled with the shame of her father's substance abuse. But when she looked more deeply into the research on children of drug-addicted parents, she realized society's "conspiracy of silence" was keeping her?—?and possibly millions of others?—?from adequately dealing with the experience. By the time that I was six and my brother was five, we were used to waiting?—?and waiting?—?for our father to show up.

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STEVIE ZINE - Medium

Apr 17, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

First, there was fire. Then, there was ice. Then, eventually, there was the microwave.

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The Full Range Of Human Emotions In Social Media Prompts



GTFOYesWowUnbelievableAwww< 3BeautifulIncredibleInsaneNoOMG! can'tDeadICYMI

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URL POETRY - STEVIE ZINE - Medium

Apr 17, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Have you noticed it? It's called the "Social URL." Using BuzzFeed as a model, Lucia Moses outlined some of the different kinds she's seen: But aside from being entertaining, why are content creators doing this? BuzzFeed, for example, gets 75 percent of its traffic from social media, so it's not overly concerned with being a top google search result. A funny URL, on the other hand, will do more to up the chances of something going viral.

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The Object Clues in Your Lover's Bedroom – Pacific Standard

Apr 17, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Pacific Standard](#)

Should the discovery of a handgun, a noose, or Nazi dolls be a deal breaker? Strange bedroom artifacts reveal character and background, but they might also spur flawed interpretations. I remember exactly how I felt when I visited his apartment for the first time. Upon entering his room, I quickly noticed a pair of women's jeans casually discarded on the bedroom floor, as if still warm. Then there was the Dave Matthew's Band poster on the inside of the closet, hiding in plain sight.

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The Ex-Boyfriend Shirt – MEL Magazine

Apr 12, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

My favorite T-shirt doesn't really belong to me. All I know about the original owner is that he was the college roommate of a man I dated last summer, who stole the shirt on the last day of his freshman year at Penn State. Though I have zero attachment to the Nittany Lions, I immediately fell in love with the raggedy, soft green garment that prominently features the silhouetted profile of their mountain lion mascot. I've worn it weekly ever since.

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Can Women Build A Better Tinder?

Mar 29, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [backchannel.com](#)

Why the best dating apps are founded by people who aren't dicks When a 34-year-old biologist is asked what she is looking for in a man, she doesn't respond with a height requirement or a hair color. She pauses for a moment, reflecting on a divorce and the French man who came after. He needs to be there for her; she has to be sure of him.

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Have You Encountered the Cuckboi? – MEL Magazine

Apr 10, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)



while he tucks you, his favorite being “Bernie would’ve won.” The cuckboi is a card-carrying member of the Democratic Socialists. He accidentally grabs the card instead of his AmEx when you’re going Dutch on your first date.

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Where Have All the Dick Flaps Gone? – MEL Magazine

Mar 02, 2017 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

Jonathan Shokrian, the founder and chairman of underwear subscription service MeUndies, isn’t afraid to say it: “Real men don’t need pee holes.” Shokrian is referring to the “fly” or “dick flap” —as I crassly call it— on the front of men’s underwear. You know, that practical opening in the fabric that makes it easy to whip out your cock at a moment’s notice, without undoing a belt (or braving your ass to the elements, if you were alive during the time of outhouses).

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The Trouble With #RelationshipGoals

Feb 14, 2017 | By [Erin Taj](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

The first night we met he took a picture of me. We stayed out until 2 a.m., our stomachs full of beer and cheap whiskey shots. It was summer 2012. The dance floor had a strobe above it that let off rainbow beams of light, which looked like tiny fireworks when captured by his iPhone. In the photo, my silhouette was dark, my face obscured, and the strobe’s yellow star bursts somehow contained within my body’s outline.

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Men, Please Stop Manthreading

Dec 13, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Gizmodo](#) ✓

There is this thing that people (mostly men) love to do on Twitter, something other than harass women and send DMs of their half chubs. It’s called threading, and it’s one of the many things ruining my Twitter experience. This Giant Company Owns Almost Every Dating App Threading happens when someone has a lot of thoughts or feelings on a particular topic, so many that they can’t fit them all into 140 characters.

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How to build a more civil internet

Nov 15, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

Over the course of the election, we saw online discourse reach a new low. “Trolls are no longer just a 17-year-old sitting in their mom’s basement hacking away,” said reporter Kristen Brown while introducing a panel about online civility at the Real Future Fair in Oakland.

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The cruelty of Facebook’s algorithmic newsfeed

Nov 09, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

If this election brought out the worst in us as a nation, our newsfeeds contain all the evidence. There have



chamber of political rancor. At best, social media has been a helluva echo chamber.

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Meet the 'meme scientists' who tracked this election's crazy viral phenomenon

Nov 08, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Elena Scotti](#) | [fusion.net](#)

The meme business is booming. And so the editors of Know Your Meme—a website that uses Wikipedia-esque software to track memes and viral phenomenon—don't have time to fuck around. When I visited the site's tiny office in Williamsburg, Brooklyn in October, a month out from the election, the small staff was already busier than ever. If 2008 was the "Facebook Election," defined by people congregating around their political views on the social network; and 2012 was the "Twitter Election,"

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In Black Mirror's San Junipero, heaven is a queer, feminine place on earth

Nov 01, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [David Dettmann](#) | [fusion.net](#)

People on the internet are obsessed with "happy endings." Not celebrating their existence, of course, but poking holes in them. The goal after consuming media in 2016 is often two-fold. First, to identify the ways in which a particular plot line is really devastating and terrible. And second, to expose what it reveals about the future, whether that's tomorrow or the year 2156.

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In Black Mirror's San Junipero, heaven is a queer, feminine place on earth

Nov 01, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Splinter](#) ✓

People on the internet are obsessed with "happy endings." Not celebrating their existence, of course, but poking holes in them. The goal after consuming media in 2016 is often two-fold. First, to identify the ways in which a particular plot line is really devastating and terrible. And second, to expose what it reveals about the future, whether that's tomorrow or the year 2156.

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Vine is shutting down, here are the ones we love

Oct 27, 2016 | By [Ethan Chiel](#), [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Elena Scotti](#) | [fusion.net](#)

Vine is dying. The social media platform for six-second (or shorter) looping video clips, which Twitter bought in 2012 before it even launched, announced it'll be discontinuing its mobile app in the next few months, effectively killing the service.

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When your Tinder date lives across the border

Oct 13, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Elena Scotti](#) | [fusion.net](#)

You can tell a lot about a place just by swiping through Tinder. In the Mexican border town of Tijuana, you'll quickly cycle past profiles in both English and Spanish, potentially matching with someone who lives in a



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What it's like when your Tinder date lives across the U.S.-Mexico border

Oct 13, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

You can tell a lot about a place just by swiping through Tinder. In the Mexican border town of Tijuana, you'll quickly cycle past profiles in both English and Spanish, potentially matching with someone who lives in a different country even though they are just in San Diego, 20 miles away. Miguel the 28-year-old “amateur, ingeniero profesional” is followed by Warren, 25, who just moved back to San Diego from NorCal and loves “surfing, playing bass, and you?”

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Why college students are sending racist Snapchats

Sep 30, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Michael Rosen](#), via [Snapchat](#) | [fusion.net](#)

If you are a living, breathing human that consumes media online, you’ve seen it. Someone casually posts something racist online that incites outrage and goes viral. We watch this stranger lose his job or get expelled from her school. Their Google search results turn toxic. They say sorry but it doesn’t redeem them. And we internalize the reality that nothing we post on social media is ever really private.

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What happens when your tweet goes viral

Sep 23, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

Before I had my first truly viral tweet a couple weeks ago, I thought I’d had one before. But like looking back on your first love a decade later, I would eventually learn just how naive I’d been. Nothing could brace me for the birth of this baby, and all of the notifications that would follow: It’s my job to write on the internet but that didn’t really prepare me for what it’s like when over 100,000 people interact with a thought you rattled off in five seconds.

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Why the ‘Tinder for threesomes’ is much more than it seems

Sep 08, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

Zoe* was heartbroken. She’d been brutally dumped by her fiancé. As is typical in 2016, her friends had one consistent piece of advice: Get on some dating apps. But Zoe didn’t want to date, at least not exactly. All she wanted was a distraction, ideally of the sexual kind. “I didn’t feel totally comfortable with some of the regular dating apps,” she said. “I wasn’t looking for a relationship.” So, one hungover Saturday morning, Zoe downloaded an app she’d heard about from a friend.

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How to turn off Twitter read receipts

Sep 08, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)



the addition of read receipts to both private and group direct messages. You will now know for sure when someone is avoiding that dank meme you sent them.

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People don't trust drones to deliver pizza

Sep 01, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

A week ago, Domino's successfully delivered a pizza via drone in Auckland, New Zealand. The company, working with Flirtey, says it wants to be the first to offer regular drone delivery globally and aims to roll out flying pizza-copters, if the countries where it operates are willing to make it legal. VIDEO Pizza-loving New Zealand was one of the first countries to give commercial drone delivery the green light last year.

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How to trick your Facebook friends into reading your political opinions

Aug 29, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

No one wants to be That Person on Facebook. You met That Person once at a college house party ten years ago but you'll be stuck with their Bernie Sanders content for the rest of your life. That Person is always going on and on about politics and "cultural issues." That Person doesn't seem to have a job but is qualified to speak with authority on pretty much every single topic, from the state of healthcare in the U.S. to Donald Trump's dick.

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Drake knew he'd get curved by Rihanna at the VMAs

Aug 29, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

Last night at the VMAs, Drake and Rihanna gave us the moment we've all been waiting for. The years-long are-they-or-aren't-they came to a climax when Drake presented Rih-Rih with the Video Vanguard moon man. "She's someone I've been in love with since I was 22 years old," he gushed, to elated applause. "She's one of my best friends in the world."

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'Digital cutting' in the age of Snapchat

Aug 23, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Elena Scotti](#) | [fusion.net](#)

At 15, I had a friend who'd take the sharp end of a paper clip to her wrist whenever a boy broke her heart. I tried this once, but it didn't really do it for me. I preferred a digital form of cutting: watching my ex get over me online. I kept visiting my first love's MySpace page because I craved the pain of learning another girl had replaced me in his "Top 8."

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Why Snapchat is hell for the brokenhearted

Aug 23, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [kinja.com](#)



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The Day-to-Night Outfit Is Over. What We Really Need Is a Night-to-Day Outfit.

Aug 19, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [racked.com](#)

When I was 12, the day-to-night outfit meant one thing: sex. I'd read about it — in Cosmo, Elle, etc — and pine for the day when I'd be old enough to wear cute business casual garb to my amazing, high-paying job at a magazine. More specifically, I'd fantasize about the clock hitting five, that magic hour when I'd have the opportunity to transform my Ann Taylor Loft Look into something more fitting of Brass Plum. And I'd wear something sexy from Victoria's Secret underneath, naturally.

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This new Chrome extension helps you find black-owned businesses

Aug 09, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

When Angie Coleman goes to Sephora, she always runs into the same problem: "Everything is made by white people for white people." As a black woman, struggling to find foundation that is the right color for her skin is just one of many issues Coleman confronts every time she shops. "So many black people feel insecure," she says of the shopping experience.

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The future of sexting is a return to the past

Aug 04, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

Type "a/s/l" to anyone who came of age in the 90s and they will think that some freaky shit is about to go down. In the good ol' days of AOL chat rooms, "age, sex, location" were the three things you needed to know before cybering, which meant having internet sex. It was an introduction, and also a way to tie usernames—which were rarely, if ever, one's real identity—to an actual human being. (Ironically, people rarely gave their true a/s/l, because messaging was largely used to mess around).

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Why Men Should Embrace Shorts – MEL Magazine

Jul 29, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [melmagazine.com](#)

I fucking love a man in shorts. I consider a hairy stick leg poking out of a freshly cut jort pornographic; a muscular thigh wrapped in linen a kind of erotica. This isn't a preference; it's a passion. My dedication to the cause has only increased since I came to realize that America has a rich history of hating on shorts. In the past, some towns even upped the puritanical ante by passing legislation against them.

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Why Men Should Embrace Shorts

Jul 29, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [features.wearemel.com](#)



cause has only increased since I came to realize that America has a rich history of hating on smokers. In the past, some towns even upped the puritanical ante by passing legislation against them.

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Justin's new male fans aren't 'Sorry'—or are they?

Jul 26, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [fusion.net](#)

The boys are up in the nosebleeds when Gabe gets a phone call. He gestures to Sam and Will, and the three men start to mobilize as if they are summoned by God. Something about getting into a suite. Apparently, Girls of Interest are there. Ja Rule is allegedly also present. Most importantly: Justin Bieber will be closer. The show is about to start at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, but they decide to risk it. Suddenly, they are running, and I'm behind them.

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Death on Live-Stream: How Social Media Changed the Way We Mourn

Jul 08, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Rolling Stone](#) ✓

You wake up and reach for your phone, check Twitter, and that's when you first see the name. You'll read it hundreds of times over the next couple of weeks – in hashtags, articles, protest signs, eventually even on T-shirts. If you're lucky, it's the name of a stranger, but you know that for someone it's not. And without even scrolling any further down your feed, you already know what happened. Starting the day with news of death delivered digitally has become America's new morning ritual.

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Why Does Society Hate Men in Flip-Flops?

Jul 06, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [features.wearemel.com](#)

Every year, style sites trot out their Summer Content, which almost always includes a post exploring the issue of men slipping their hairy, crusty feet into thonged sandals. The Cut has debated Men in Flip Flops. Racked has said no to the entire "mandal" trend. Even noted tastemaker Fox News couldn't help but ask, "Do real men wear flip-flops?" The news peg was DMX dissing Jay Z's footwear choices, claiming "hugs don't do flip-flops," a hypothesis recently proven correct by Drake.

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Fifty Shades of Daddy

Jun 14, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [features.wearemel.com](#)

One of the great joys of the internet is that when the pope tweets, teens respond by telling him they want to fuck. "If the Pope wanted to fuck me and he would cleanse my soul for it, 100 percent I am down to fuck him," a 22-year-old Catholic named Jennifer told Broadly. "There is literally no other human being I could fuck that would be as close to fucking God as the Pope." "Fuck me daddy" seems to have replaced "I love you" as the most passionate confession of admiration and respect.

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never get hurt, ya never get hurt, ya always have fun, and if you ever get lonely, just go to twitter.com and visit your friends.

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Are You a Sh*tty Sexter?

May 05, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Esquire](#) ✓

"I'm just bad at texting" is the modern dating equivalent of an airline blaming "winds over Michigan" for a 10-hour delay. It's a stupid excuse. But when your actions (or lack thereof) cause another human being to anxiously check their phone dozens of times in a single day, you have to say something to shirk yourself of responsibility. I've done it myself. Unfortunately, being a "Bad Texter" no longer sparks a compelling game of hard-to-get.

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How to save media

Apr 26, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

How to save mediaActually, I'm not going to tell you but if you want to give me a million dollars I will show you.

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When Is a Bar More than Just a Bar?: On Sharlene's

Mar 16, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Brooklyn Magazine](#) ✓

Sharlene's is a place where people fall in love. Not because it's special or romantic or impressive in any way—it's none of those things. Not quite a dive, but definitely not fancy—Sharlene's is one of those bars that's just a bar. There's none of the pretense that comes with either grit or class. It's just one big darkly lighted room with medium priced beers, basic cocktails and hot pretzels for \$3. People go there to chill, or to catch up, or to read.

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An Open Letter To Susan Levinson

Feb 23, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Hey mom, I miss you too. Responding to your text messages here, hope that's alright (I'm such a millennial lol!!!!) In order of importance: Yes, I'm doing okay, thanks for asking. Yes, that's so cool that Virgin American is having a sale on tickets to Fort Lauderdale. I'm down to go if you want to sponsor me (I'm such a millennial lol!!!!) Yes, I made it to the dentist last week. Yes, I can bring dessert. Yes, New York is super cold, it sucks. Okay, gotta go. Hope you have a good pilates class later.

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The Winter Weird – Matter – Medium

Jan 06, 2016 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)



presented. No reported features, no personal essays, no takes. We want memes, gifs, videos, visual poetry, a choose-your-own-adventure story.

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I Call This Look: Holiday Party

Dec 23, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [racked.com](#)

Everyone knows that the holidays are a time for near-constant eating, excessive drinking, and futile attempts at merriment. But this holiday season, I propose an additional activity, one that is actually good for you: call your look. This summer, I launched "I Call This Look," a series on Medium where I came up with satirical identities for my outfits. It was an exploration of fashion, performance, and personality, one that inspired many people to post looks of their own.

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2015: The one where I became a "writer"

Dec 23, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

In early 2015, I wrote a tweet. Well, I wrote a ton of tweets. It was actually my job to do so. I spent a lot of my time as an engagement editor at a media company consumed with anxiety over doing something that would End My Career. Maybe I'd have a psychotic break and tell Amnesty International to "suck it." Or perhaps I'd just accidentally share a picture of a chocolate butt plug. Strangely, I never really considered the opposing possibility—that a tweet might actually make my career.

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2015: The one where I became a "writer"

Dec 23, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

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Be My Sext Buddy? – Matter – Medium

Dec 10, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

writer/editor of things on the internet.

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Can Women Build A Better Tinder? – Backchannel – Medium

Nov 19, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Why the best dating apps are founded by people who aren't dicks When a 34-year-old biologist is asked

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Dear Teen Dream, You Can Find Meaning Without Monogamy

Nov 05, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Don't listen to your favorite high school teacher. Even though she wears power suits and smells of musk oil and cigarettes, even though she is prone to graceful, literary gesticulations, she isn't always right. "Women who keep their legs closed have all the power," she'll say one day in class, drawing a lesson from some novel you are studying. You'll have just lost your virginity, so of course you'll think she is talking specifically about you.

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Love in the Time of LOLera

Oct 21, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

How to make your flirting go viral A seminar by Alana Levinson* *This content was originally presented live on stage in Powerpoint form at Drunk Ted Talks, an amazing series by Eric Thurm in which writers get wasted and pontificate on a topic of their choice. I'm going to start out with a question, because I'm told that is how you engage an audience. And it's going to be on everyone's favorite topic: the soul-crushing reality that we all die alone.

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The key to success no one is talking about

Oct 20, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

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a vacation, in perfume

Oct 16, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

I. Dark Amber & Ginger Lily Cologne, Jo Malone Her name is "Laure." No "l" or "n" at the end — just Laure. The cab takes me to Rue de Albert instead of Rue de Paul Albert so I'm nervous and late. When I finally arrive, she opens the big bright red front door with an excitement I'm sure she's manufactured dozens of times for dozens of tourists. But she seems genuine, and I welcome the hug that's accompanied by a smell I've convinced is new to my nose, and French, and not made for women like me.

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fave me baby - Medium

Oct 16, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

i'm gonna pull out my phone navigate over to your profile page scroll thru ever so gently again and again till your tweets are practically screaming for it then i'm gonna fave you so hard not once, not twice but 5 times in one sitting fave after fave after fave until you can't take it anymore till you are so exhausted by the faving you'll beg me to stop i'm gonna make you think i'm realllllllly into your content like actually irl picking up



The Rat Has A Hunger â€” The Message â€” Medium

Sep 24, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) | [Medium](#)

The crowd at Josh â€œthe Fat Jewishâ€ Ostrovskyâ€™s New York Fashion Week show is heavy on the bro. There are some of the traditional industry people there, dressed without irony in black, but they are drowned out by louder sartorial choices like flat brims and chains. Guys in sunglasses stand outside in the sun on a Standard Hotel patio and grab PBRs out of a red and white cooler. They slip them into coozies that say â€œ#1 Dad Fatherhood: A Lifestyle,â€

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The first time I took a selfie it didn't have a name.

Sep 23, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) | [Medium](#)

The first time I took a selfie it didn't have a name. It was 2004 and I had just been unceremoniously dumped by a boy who made a pact with the rest of the baseball team to let their girlfriends go right before they went away to college. I was sobbing in my twin bed, hiding under cloud print covers, and I remember thinking: "This is the worst you will ever feel. Remember this.

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On Stealing From Sephora (Kinda)

Sep 09, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) | [Medium](#)

I am a rabid beast hungry for cosmetics. Saliva drips from my mouth as I wrestle open the heavy glass door; my eyes widen as my face is hit with a familiar cool air that smells of slutty angels and chemicals. A calm comes over me when I fully process that I have successfully entered Sephora, the great jungle of female consumerism, and I'm ready to do what all women should: raid the motherfucking place.

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Here Comes the Brand

Sep 08, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) | [Medium](#)

The problem with the #CornStew hashtag is it's not unique. Even worse, it's littered with pictures of corn stew, quite possibly the most unromantic dish on earth. So when Stewi Downer and Andy Corno were brainstorming wedding hashtags, they decided to add "2014" to the end. Scroll through #CornStew2014 on Instagram for 169 posts that chronicle the entire event's lifecycle, from the bridal suite to the post-wedding "bus ride bubbly" (and even a male guest straddling a cannon!).

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- @l@n@ @z@n@ - Medium

Aug 28, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) | [Medium](#)

Champagne Papi's Most Beautiful Sub-Papi Personas

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In response to Why I'm Leaving New York

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COOL HAT READING SERIES

Aug 24, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Hosted by: Marian Bull is a freelance writer. She has also been a food editor (Saveur, Food52) and IT consultant (Accenture, the first corporate sponsor to drop Tiger Woods!!!!). Her favorite hat is baseball-style and a sort of reddish coral color that has been bleached by the sun. Alana Levinson is a staff writer/editor at Medium and wannabe internet artist. She likes the memes, perfume and all kinds of attention.

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My 63-year-old Mother Tried Tinder. – Alana Hope Levinson – Medium

Aug 18, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

It was New Years Eve, and she'd just matched with him. Without exchanging words, he sent her a picture of his junk. She kept her account for awhile so she could show friends and laugh about it, but ultimately was creeped out and deleted her account. But let's go back. Why was she on Tinder to begin with? Why not a more "age-appropriate" site like eHarmony? "All the guys on there looked like they belonged in an old folks home or a coffin." Plus: "Who wants to read through all that bullshit?"

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"The Tinder Generation

Aug 17, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

is real." Of all the hyperbolic claims made by Tinder during their recent defensive tweetstorm, this line stuck out. Millennials have been called the Recession Generation, the 9/11 Generation, even the Self(ie) Generation, to name a few. But the idea that an app—one that is commonly known for getting people laid—could define an entire generation is quite a charge.

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I Call This Look It Me

Jul 17, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Some words on Medium's first meme A trunk filled with treasures. My mom's 80s throwaways. A couple of tutus. Lipstick. High heels that were too big for me. Hats and pearls and beads and baubles. I don't remember how I amassed the collection, only that it was ever growing, and of all my childhood "toys," it took the longest to outgrow. Playing dress up was my favorite game. I'd consult the trunk both alone and when my friends would come over.

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The Pink Ghetto of Social Media

Jul 16, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)



Chairman Reince Priebus called for a boycott of the network and the president of MSNBC had to issue a formal apology.

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I call this look...

Jul 13, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Mitzi is looking for date. My friend, Estelle, told me everyone is using social media to meet guys. She's been married twice, lived with Tony for 5 years before he left her for Jeff, and can read your aura with her eyes open so I feel she is a good indicator of the present social scene. I then signed up for my first tinder date. I don't know if I swiped left or swiped right (very touchy screen) but ended up with a text from Howie.

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I Call This Look...

Jul 02, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Sandra is in her early 30s but she is a "lifer," having gone to camp every summer since she was a child (she comes from a family of recreational clowns). Sandra works as a receptionist most of the year, but clowning is her true passion—something none of her coworkers know. They think she goes on an annual cruise to the Caribbean. Sandra believes whole-heartedly that "it's never too late to have a happy childhood" —one of the camp's mottos.

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I Call This Look...

Jun 30, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Jamie first heard of the Misfits when her mom asked her older brother's best friend Dan about their new punk band tentatively called The Grundles (they'd go through five name changes by the end of high school). It was a Saturday morning and they were all in the kitchen. The boys were high and searching for snacks like ravenous monkeys, fueling up for their practice later that afternoon with Matt and Chubbs (real name Dale, but no one has called him that since he got fat in 5th grade).

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I CALL THIS LOOK... – @1@n@z@i@n@e

Jun 29, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Welcome. This series is an exploration of fashion, performance and personality, brought to your inbox every morning for two weeks. You'll see my outfits, but more importantly, hear the stories of the women I'm channeling. First up on this beautiful Monday: Miranda, the barista with delusions of grandeur. Miranda moved to New York from Pasadena two years ago to go to NYU, but quit because it was "holding her back" from doing what she really wants to do: act.

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[@1@n@z@i@n@e](#) - [Medium](#)



journalistic collaboration between Alana Zine, Medium, Propublica, The Center For Investigative Reporting, The Investigative Reporting Project and Reader's Digest.

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Why I muted you on Twitter

Jun 22, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

You are very passionate about #DeflateGate and/or have balls. You are prone to tweet storms (with numbered tweets!) about historical topics no one cares about. You are #TCOT, or just an Average Conservative On Twitter. Your takes are simply too hot. You snubbed me at a party and I thought we were friends. You think you can hit me, quit me, and still have have me as an audience for your stupid jokes. You are friends with the above asshole and a casualty in this war.

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An Ode to Jorts - Medium

Jun 17, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

The weather has just hit the mid 70s, and my butt crack is thirsting for some fresh cut denim. This marks the start of The Summer Ritual, the only one that really matters: JORTS. I head to a thrift store and get myself a pair of high-wasted, boot-cut mom jeans from the 90s (probably by Gap or Levi's). They cost around 5 bucks, a small price to pay for an entire summer of violent, passionate wear and tear. These jean shorts will become my second-skin.

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An Ode to Jorts - @alana_zine - Medium

Jun 17, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

On the extreme, exhilarating freedom of jean shorts The weather has just hit the mid 70s, and my butt crack is thirsting for some fresh cut denim. This marks the start of The Summer Ritual, the only one that really matters: JORTS. I head to a thrift store and get myself a pair of high-wasted, boot-cut mom jeans from the 90s (probably by Gap or Levi's). They cost around 5 bucks, a small price to pay for an entire summer of violent, passionate wear and tear.

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My first real experience with online harassment came after I wrote a piece called "Why Does Creepy..."

May 21, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

My first real experience with online harassment came after I wrote a piece called "Why Does Creepy Uncle Joe Biden Get A Pass From Liberals?" on Talking Points Memo. It criticized the way the VP interacts with women on a public stage. The idea has since been written about by the media at large (Bloomberg, Time, Gawker, etc) but when it came out, I (a woman!) was the first to call bullshit on the funny Joe Biden memes. And unsurprisingly, it was not received well by the TPM audience.

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Brands targeting young love of course isn't new — think of a classic Coca-Cola advertising situation, where two young lovers with 1950s hairdos and sweaters share cokes: They're obviously taking an old-school advertising strategy and applying it to newer brands and platforms. But I think making a gordita cute is harder to pull off. There isn't much that's romantic about oily cheese tendrils and old meat pebbles. Just take a look at this beast: Then again, I'm a millennial old; what do I know?

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My Phones, Ranked - Medium

May 11, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

Change the story's title and subtitle as neededAlana Hope Levinson1 min read

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My love affair with the internet started in the 90s, when I was in fifth grade. In those early days...

May 08, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

My love affair with the internet started in the 90s, when I was in fifth grade. In those early days, it wasn't about looking stuff up or sending emails or downloading music illegally (although all of that was great). It was really all about The Chat. Every night, I'd fight with my mom and brother over staying off the phone, so I could log on and chat with my friends.

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This Week On Matter

May 02, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

A trans story is a ghost story. When we are heartbroken, why do we turn to the music we loved as teens? Nick Santos brings paper to life. The difference between living in New York and San Francisco. Great moments in peaceful protest history. The media industry prefers penis. Why can't we read anymore? What it's like to have the social network of a celebrity. How Carlos Reyes created the "Latin Pitchfork" using dial-up and free wifi. The power of reverse image searches.

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Girl, Send Me a Frext

Apr 30, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) ✓, [Sven Carlsson](#) ✓ | [Medium](#)

The first time I saw my best friend half-naked was late one night on the small lit up screen of my iPhone. "Do you like??" she texted, and attached a picture of herself in some new lingerie: a lacy bra, some knee-high stockings, a garter belt. Sexting is supposed to be serious and, well, sexual. But getting this pic from just-a-friend was humorous and, well, platonic. It reminded me of how I felt when I was a young girl and would see grown women undress in the locker room.

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urge to pull his Volvo Sedan over onto the side of the road. There, he proceeded to listen to “Iris” by the Goo Goo Dolls on repeat until he felt a little better. That summer, he’d spend time driving through the rural countryside with his windows down, singing songs like “Hands Down” by Dashboard Confessional at the top of his lungs.

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Q & GIF: Catherine Frazier, AnimatedText – STEVIE ZINE – Medium

Apr 27, 2015 | By [Alana Levinson](#) | [Medium](#)

Catherine Frazier is the woman behind AnimatedText, a Tumblr comprised of gifs she makes using Xara 3D Maker. Inspired by 3D text gifs from old Geocities sites, her creations don’t quite look like something a 23-year-old graphic designer living in Oakland would make. But she’s cultivated a devoted following, receiving over 100 requests from fans a day for custom gifs. The lucky few who get chosen are placed into different categories like “glitter,” “sex,” “jesus,” “sad” and “pizza,” to name a few.

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