

#1 Nosleep

Contributor: Chris Fuchs

Item Title: Reddit Nosleep

Item Category: Venue for legends / Legends Genre

Semester/year: Fall, 2014

Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description: Nosleep is a sub-reddit of Reddit.com. This is essentially a forum where people post, read, and comment on scary stories. All of these stories are original, being told for the first time. The rules of this sub-reddit (a type of community for people interested in a similar topic, presented similarly to a forum) are enforced. These rules are posted on the side of the website, as the following:

- Only post your own work. Stories must be nonfiction or realistic fiction.
- Do not comment out of character on your story.
- Graphic content must be marked with a Trigger Warning (NSFW).
- Tags are not allowed in titles except to indicate that the post is a part of a series.
- You may post once every 24 hours. Stories must be posted in as few parts as possible.
- Readers are to act as though everything is true and treat it as such in the comments.
- No debunking, disbelief, or criticism.
- Do not ask for proof.
- Be respectful to one another.
- Comments must contribute to the discussion.
- Report all comments that violate these rules

It's interesting to note that participants of this sub-reddit are folk-like, in the idea that they come together over a similar topic, and share creative stories to each other. The enforcement of the rules is uncharacteristic of a folk group, as the participants are not necessarily the one enforcing the rules, but the creator of the sub-Reddit is.

The interaction between the sub-Reddit, and Reddit as a whole is what intrigued me the most. The most popular creations of this community often become so popular, the story reaches the main page of Reddit, where millions of people read it, not just those interested in the sub-Reddit community. Out of this interaction appears to be the development of some legends on the

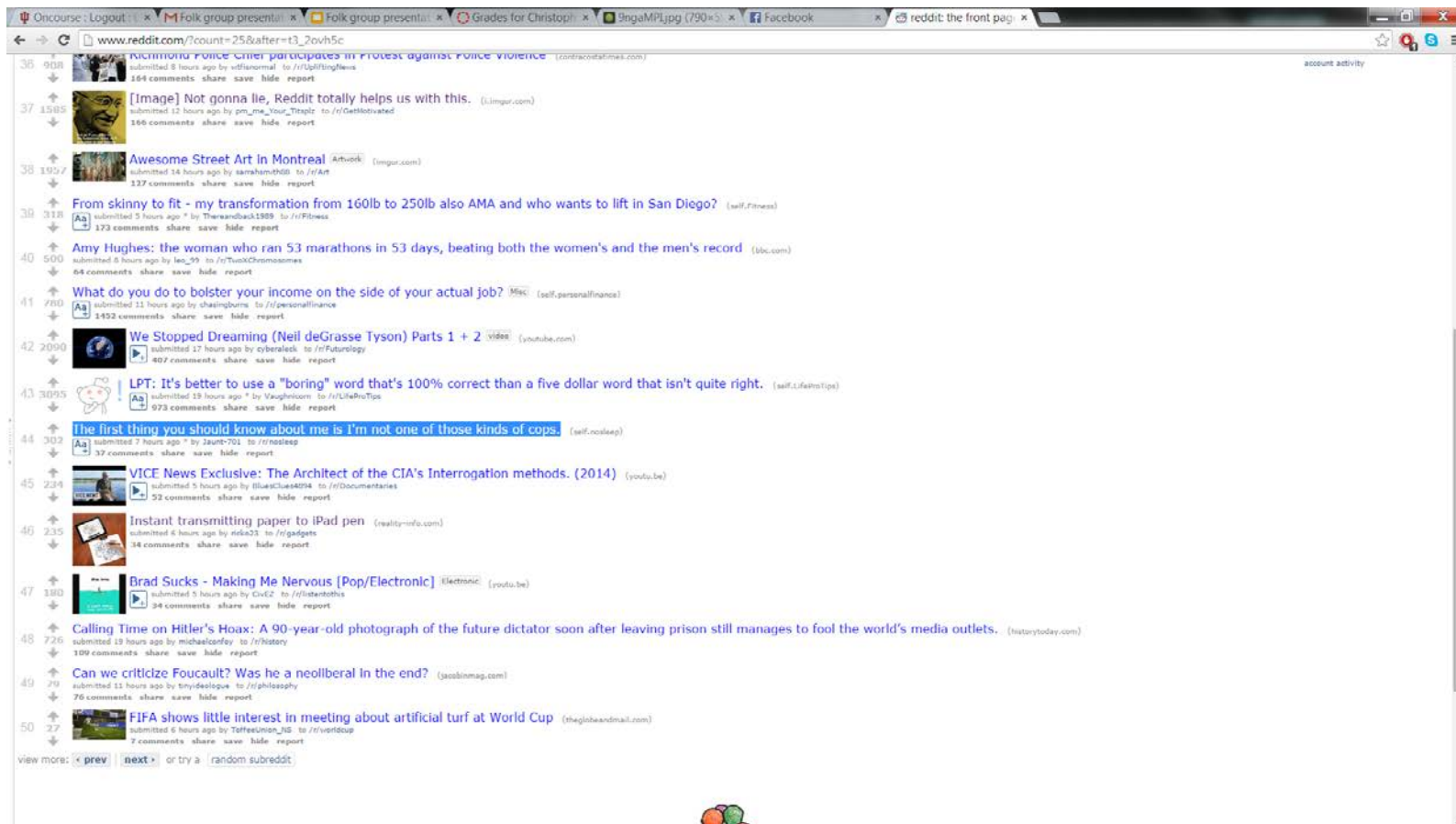
internet, which is why I categorized this item as a venue, it's a place where legends are created and shared.

Points of Interest: The main point of interest is the development of legends from original scary stories. Almost all of the stories posted on Nosleep are memorates, stories from the personal experience of the tellers. People in the Nosleep community are well aware that most of these memorates are likely to be fiction.

When a story becomes popular enough to not only be displayed on the Nosleep sub-Reddit, but the front page of Reddit, the millions of people who read the story are not aware with the rules of Nosleep. These stories are told so realistically, often with picture and video documentation as proof, that millions of people misinterpret the scary story as being real. People then share these stories with their friends, telling them as you would a legend. Eventually, the story becomes from a "friend of a friend" who told the story, and it takes on the form of a legend.

Links:

- <http://www.reddit.com/r/nosleep/>



- The highlighted segment of the picture is a link to a Nosleep story, from the main page of Reddit. This means that the story became so popular that it is now on the front page of Reddit, where millions of people might read and share it.
- http://www.reddit.com/r/nosleep/comments/29kd1x/my_dead_girlfriend_keeps_messaging_me_on_facebook
- The above link is an example of a story posted on Nosleep.
- <http://www.tickld.com/x/this-guys-facebook-inbox-has-everybody-terrified>
- This link is an example of the same story being posted on a different website, presented similarly as a legend would.

Additional Information: The story I gave as an example of the transformation of a Nosleep story to a legend was discovered by me from the front page of Reddit. It introduced me to Nosleep. Basically, the story is of a college aged kid who lost his girlfriend in a car crash. His dead girlfriend later messages him on Facebook. He tries to come up with explanations, such as her account being hacked, but as he begins to dig further, nothing adds up.

#2 Names

Contributor: Chris Fuchs

Item Title: YouTube Channel Names

Item Category: Nickname Genre

Semester/year: Fall, 2014

Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description: Like many websites and social media, creating a username is a necessary step in creating your account on YouTube. It defines who you are and what your account is about.

Some name their account as they would a business they own, while others name their account to embody a single persona. OwnagePranks is an example of a username. The name signifies that the channel is about pranks. The creator of that username isn't using the name to call himself that, as some usernames do.

Tyler Ward Music is another example of a channel name on YouTube. This name represents who the person actually is, while also reflecting what the channel is.

Points of Interest: On the internet, these usernames are Nicknames. Key differences that make them unique to cyberlore is that they are given to oneself, instead of given by another. They allow the person to have the

benefits of a Nickname, such as a story or meaning attached, but the choice to be called that. In real-life, nicknames given by others may stick whether or not you want them to. In cyberlore nicknames, you can choose whether or not everyone you know call's you Assquatch because of your rather large behind. You can choose something that reflects something good about you. Something you actually want to be called.

The purpose of Nicknames in cyberlore is to embody a persona or avatar. On YouTube, this is important because people might not come across a channel if the name doesn't represent what the person is looking for.

Links:

- <https://www.youtube.com/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxOGHW-aqciBe5Wjq8ltzOg>
 - Link to OwnagePranks page
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4vT3qTr8fwVS7lsPgqaGCQ>
 - Link to Tyler Ward Music page

#3 Grumpy Cat

Contributor: Chris Fuchs

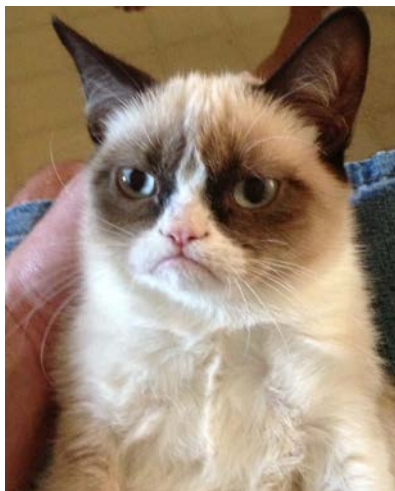
Item Title: Grumpy Cat

Item Category: Humor genre / meme's & ritualistic behavior

Semester/year: Fall, 2014

Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description: Grumpy cat is name given to a cat that was uploaded to the internet. Her real name is Tardar Sauce, but the cat evolved from something more than a mere cat, it evolved into a meme.



The picture of the cat grew so popular, that it was adapted into the online phenomenon known as meme's.



The Grumpy Cat meme went viral; it started getting recreated in ways other than a meme.



Grumpy cat began showing up in joke pictures. This is a parody of the famous picture, Starry Night.

Eventually, Grumpy Cat made it to the big screen.



Grumpy Cat became the main character for the Movie, Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever.

Points of Interest: Grumpy Cat represents how the internet has the ability to make something huge. This is known as going viral. It started on comedy websites that share memes, but the ritualistic behavior of people on these websites essentially copied and pasted the idea so many times, following the same behavior and unwritten rules, that the cat grew from being a cat, to an image; a fictional character. The cat's personality was created by the people sharing and creating these memes. Part of the personality of the folk culture participating in creating these memes live on in the personality of the character they helped create, Grumpy Cat.

Links:

- <http://www.danoah.com/my-35-favorite-grumpy-cat-memes>
 - Grumpy Cat memes
- <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3801438/>
 - Grumpy Cat's imdb movie page



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrSPuBYm-Cw>
 - Link to Grumpy Cat movie trailer.

Additional Information: Grumpy Cat has seven million likes on Facebook, and more than a quarter of a million followers on Twitter.

Discussion:

The internet is embedded in the culture of student life. It serves as a means to gather and share information, as well as a distraction. Many students use social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter and browse websites such as reddit for entertainment and news. Their exposure to meme's are very likely, and many if not all college students have been exposed to YouTube in one way or another. I know nearly all my classes have used YouTube as a tool at least once to distribute information.

The sub-Reddit Nosleep is a starting point for the creation of legends on the internet. The legends are created by people sharing and retelling the stories to friends. Among my group of friends at IU, we pass and retell stories we have read on Nosleep. We have even planned legend tripping events in order to induce an

experience worthy of submitting to Nosleep. Nosleep is a platform in which scary experiences that happen on campus can be written into a story and turned into a legend.

The YouTube naming relates to student folklore because many of the groups on Campus also have created a persona or channel on YouTube. I am part of the IU paintball club and they have a channel called IUPaintball. Again, this represents who and what the channel is about. Indiana University has its own channel in which people interesting in IU can subscribe to, showing videos of welcome week and other events. Other YouTube channels with names relating to the student folklore at IU are 'IUAthletics', 'Kappa Kappa Gamma, Indiana University', 'IUEnrollmentMgt', 'Indiana University Rugby', 'IUCinema', 'Indiana University Marching Hundred', and many, many more.

Grumpy Cat was an example of how something on the internet can blow up to be huge. Memes are unique to the internet in the humor genre of folklore. IU has many memes created about events and situations and places around the area of Bloomington. These memes are created by adding text about something of the student folk, with an image that became popular on the internet, such as the grumpy cat. All these images came from someone who posted it, and another who reposted it to be funny, and it caught on. Here is a reference to The Grumpy Cat persona involving IU:

Uncourse - My Work... Folk group presentat... Folk group presentat... Grades for Christop... Facebook... Bon Iver - Holoc... Electro-Harmonix C... IU Alumni Assoc. on...
Twitter, Inc. (US) https://twitter.com/IUAA/status/527612125712486400

Search Twitter Have an account? Log in

IU Alumni Assoc. @IUAA Follow

IU's Grumpy Cat! RT @drudzins: I learned not to bother my cat when he's watching @OurIndiana sports. #NationalCatDay

4% 12 5 11



RETWEET 1 FAVORITES 2

5:05 PM - 29 Oct 2014