

net info

von Peter Sabaini

Theorie & neue Lebensformen

Einer der lesenswerteren Sachen, die in und ums Netz passieren ist „Netz und Frauen“ Was eine der Ikonen der Netzkultur (wenn es so etwas gibt) zum Thema „Mädchen und Modems“ in einem Interview mit Rosie X. zu sagen hatte...

[Wicked St.Jude]

[Interviewed by rosiex@geekgirl.com.au]

I'm disappointed, they are making Tank Girl into a film and haven't cast Jude Milhon, St.Jude as the title role. Geesh, won't they ever learn! This girrrl don't like to be messed with, but her raunchy facade hides a genuine concern for other women on-line. I caught up with St.Jude (Saint of Hopeless Causes) on the net while busily working on her book „Mutate“ co-authored with R.U.Sirius. St.Jude has a lot to talk about X-Unix programmer and X-Cyberprank editor for Mondo (big yawn) 2000, Jude is pranking, morphing and blasting her way to an electronic hall of fame, or is that flame?

Rosie X: Do you think the issues of feminism and technology are stagnant?

St.Jude : No. No no, I think tech will solve all our problems, personal AND scientific. Girls NEED modems.

RX: Do you think that women-only electronic salons which allow women to 'gag' dweebs, dorks, cyber bores are important? Or do you think the hoary old chestnut of free speech gets in the way of controlling some of the more abusive attacks people get away with that are directed at women, poofs and dykes, and people of different cultures?

SJ: Hanging out with nice people is nice. But I don't want to sit around in the Politeness Ghetto all the time. Hanging out with nasty-ass bigoted male teenagers is also good, if they have stuff I can learn from. I may pretend I'm a snotty male teener myself, and why not? Particularly if I can turn somebody around with my expressed deviant opinion. (I'm a GAY snotty male teener, now that I mention it.) Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words on a screen get at me only as much as I allow them to.

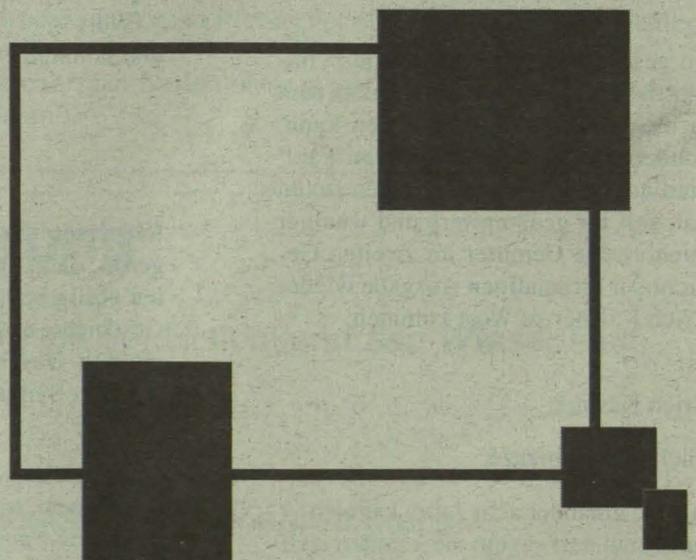
RX: We accuse patriarchy of constructing the spaces and language we use and occupy. Are American female academics GHETTOIZING these spaces, entrenching their CLASS INTERESTS and setting themselves up as Beverly Hills Patrol Cops? Always on the beat for a bit of information, and overseeing

what is said, who to, and how they should say it?

SJ: Like a backhanded censorship? John Gilmore of the Electronic Frontier Foundation has said what may be the quote of the year: „the Internet treats censorship just like any other glitch: it routes around it.“ To use the language of the academics, „the discourse is propelled by desire,“ and love laughs at locksmiths. So we'll talk about what we love to the people who can hear us and if people keep on bullying us, after a while we'll find another trysting spot, and leave the cops to themselves. We always have to another trysting spot, and leave the cops to themselves. We always have to drive the so-called InfoBahn defensively. Whether we're set upon by [Image] zealots or bigots or abusively correct politicos, we have to learn to defend ourselves. Any kind of attack online calls for martial arts _ Aikido may be best: to use the enemy's strength against them harmlessly, but martial all your arts. So: learn to fight! Cyberspace is better than an acre of warm tapioca for a tussle. (I see no bruises here.) This is the best training ground for women; we may start ten down in a physical fight, OK, but the keyboard is the great equaliser _ BETTAH than the Glock .45. And combat on the Net is like Basic Training. The lonesome 14-yr-old girl that I used to be could have managed her life a lot better if she'd been through this kind of Boot Camp.

RX: Is the Internet safe for women; Is virtual rape possible? What would women do to these virtual rapists if they caught them, what would be a suitable punishment in data space?

SJ: Keep in mind, in cyberspace EVERYONE can hear you scream. There was a woman crying virtual rape on LambdaMOO. It's a game, lady. You lost. You could have teleported. Or changed into an Iron Maiden (the spiky kind) and crimped off his dick. But by playing it this way, you've REALLY lost Because the MOO's also a social space, where you can meet people with REAL cultural differences like Klansmen and make them respect you as a



woman, as a dyke, as whatever. Toe-to-toe, you maybe change their prejudices forever. My gay buddy says he's battled people this way for years... he's an online warrior for civilisation, yes. Ignoring people until they go away changes nobody's behaviour, and it certainly doesn't change their opinions. Cries for niceness don't make it. Toughen up! You're dealing with people here, and primates act better when you stand up to them and give them a reason to respect you. I hate this Waaaah I'm a poor sensitive weak woman protect me shit. This kind of stuff generates MORE contempt for women. So...Fuck Niceness!

RX: Apparently the women conference areas on the Internet are being taken over by men. A lot of people feel this is men trying to become more feminine, and understand the female psyche. Do you think this is true?

SJ: How do you know they're men? I'm no lady, darlin'. How do you know I'm not a man? How are you going to let only genuine gyno-type double-X, Barr-body bearing, real virtual women into your virtual salon?? As those adventure games put it, „I see no genitals here.“ If they say they're women, I say they're women, and should be treated just like the rest of us _ badly. Anyway, I think it's touching that men should become transsexual moles, to try to understand women this way. It may be that this is the only way the alien sexes can honestly converse _ when they're bodiless, nothing at stake, behind the masks of their pseudonyms. Online you can learn to be fearless, you can afford to be bold. I've found myself saying things on the telephone that I wouldn't say face2face, and the Net subtracts even the human voice. When you got nothing, you got nothing to lose. I can play amazing pranks, or I can do something even more outrageous: I can be honest. Say stuff so personal and real that my mind boggles to think about it now. This could be a breakthrough for humans learning about humans, not just men and women learning about each other. Sounds OK to me.

RX: If you had a word to describe what you do when using this electronic medium what would it be?

SJ: I'm a future-hacker; I'm trying to get root access to the future. I want to raid its system of thought. Grr.

RX: If you could design a machine what would it feel, look and act like, how much grunt would you give it, and would you let it wear your black leather jacket??

SJ: Machines disappoint me. I just can't love any of these warez, hard or soft. I'm nostalgic for the future. We need ultrahigh-res! Give us bandwidth or kill us!! Let's see the ultraviolet polkadot flowers that hummingbirds see, and smell 'em like the bees do.

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Mehr dazu bei <http://www.next.com.au:80/spyfood/geekgirl/001stick/jude/jude.html> oder <http://osiris.oeh.uni-linz.ac.at/~lisa/>

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