

Comments about the ALL CITIZENS MUST handbill after the 2ND posting on reddit.com

April 14, 2011

KaNineteen

I'm probably alone on this, but I'm kind of sick of people complaining about this phenomenon. If you are on your phone instead of talking to your children, yeah that's not good. But "observe the poetry of life"? I'm on the effing bus. In a bad part of town. For the twelfth time this week.

I put my phone down when I travel through mountains or along the coast line. I put my phone down when a pretty girl or cute dog go by. Poetry? No. I use my phone to block out the monotony of my life. So please just let me play Angry Birds without your judgment.

MrGreencastle

Exactly. Fuck this guy for telling me where I should find my own happiness. The poetry of life for me is the interaction between people I know and care about. This piece of technology helps me accomplish that.

ColumW

You do have to admit, though, that there are numerous amounts of people who miss out on beautiful parts of life because they are tethered to their cell phone. It is quite possible that this picture doesn't apply to you, but it's relevant to many, and I'd be confident to guess it's relevant to you and me on occasion too.

MrGreencastle

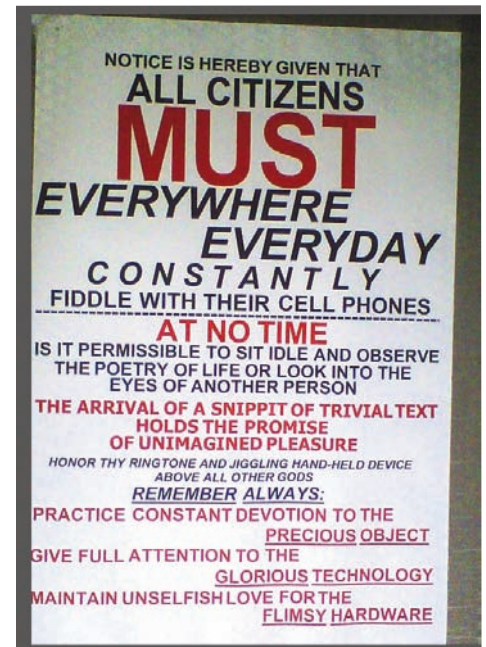
I agree, but I think it could be worded without the aggressive sarcasm - it's abrasive, and insulting.

ColumW

I think you are taking it to personally. Are you afraid they are right?

Iudovico_treatment

Just turn off the fucking audio (or have it on your ear plugs) and we're alright by me. But once you get a serenade of two "blirp zeet ding-dong bimboli-bom" game audios in bus you really do want to start stabbing people.



It was actually this poor counterfeit version that was posted. But someone later put up a link to the original handbill at burningbooks.org at which time we started getting a lot of emails asking for copies of the original poster.

Gorgak

I take public transportation for 2 hours a day 5 days a week for the past 5 years and I've never yet heard someone leave the sound on any portal game ever.

KaNineteen

Agreed. It's bad enough hearing those stupid fucking pigs laughing at you on your own phone.

maleboks

Sometimes there's so much beauty in the world I feel like I can't take it, like my heart's going to cave in.

takes out 8mm, films plastic bag floating in wind

KaNineteen

Haha, "Do you have any idea how complex the human circulatory system is??"

serialthriller

yeah and if im fiddling with my phone while you are talking to me, its probably because I don't give a fuck about what you have to say. Would you rather me humor you while fiddling with my phone or be honest and tell you to fuck off.

PositiveReinforcer

You ever try staring into the eyes of a stranger on the subway? That's a good way to get stabbed.

civVII

probably actually not though. betimes i like asking newby questions pretending i'm a newby. not necessarily on the subway maybe a bus. fishing for a convo / interview i guess. it's so weird to sit in abject silence beside commuters, obviously bored and killing time, stuck in traffic...

Zackismet

Sorry, in reality (at least, as it exists here in Chicago) you get a "What tha fuck you lookin' at, bitch?" for even spacing out on the train while you just happen to be facing the direction of someone else.

haveaniceday25

Sometimes when I'm bored sitting on the subway, I kinda wish some random person began to ask me about my day.

fancy-chips

I always hope nobody says a word to me.

haveaniceday25

So how would you react if some old lady next to you said "Hey, how are you doing on this lovely day?"

mtranda

I'd tell her I'm in the process of breaking up from a five year old relationship with the woman I was hoping I'd be spending the rest of my life with and for whom I moved 300 miles away from home. I'd tell I'm still living with her for the next two and a half weeks as I need to get the next paycheck before going back home and I have to watch the past five years of my life unravel before my eyes as she becomes a stranger to me. I'd tell her that I have to go back home and take all the crap I've brought over during these five years and that once relocated I need to find a new job. But hey, it's a lovely day, isn't it? Now piss off.

Eazeu

maybe shes got a hot granddaughter she could hook you up with dude

GargamelCuntSnarf

cryingcryingcryingcryingcryingcrying
Grow the fuck up?

mtranda

Crying I'm not. But I sure as fuck don't feel like being asked about my day.

DreamcastFanboy

Fine then. Say "Sorry, I don't feel like talking." She was just being friendly, no need for you to be a massive knob about it.

[name deleted]

Hell yeah. Have a beer and chat with a mate, chat with a stranger about things like that? NO.

Cookie

You are supposed to phrase this as "Ah well, mustn't grumble."

IronFarm

THIS. IS. BRITAIN.

joedude

god forbid someone might sympathize and brighten up your day.

barsoap

"It must". Which is the ever-so-polite-and-subtle German way to say "get off my worries".

LMoE

I was taking a black politics course that my college required, but I wasn't really interested in it. I had the textbook in my hand while on the train going to class. Naturally, some stranger saw the book and started talking to me about Obama (this was just before the 2008 election) and how he is not really a "black" candidate and would make a bad president. I really wasn't interested in the conversation and all I did was nod and not say a word. At the end, the man said "nice talking to you." I pokerfaced until my stop.

ZeekySantos

I take out my phone and pretend to be busy for this exact reason. People are scary.

burf

I've never had a random stranger talk to me on transit and had it not be somewhat awkward, and thus mildly unpleasant for me. It's probably my fault, but I'm just saying.

swearis

Also, poetry of life on a subway?

[deleted]

Slightly less violent... but try staring at the bras and underwear next to the changing room while your wife is shopping.

Fiddling with my phone is much less awkward, especially when I glance over and see another guy on the opposite bench doing the same thing.

Stargate_Munky

so if we all got our dicks out and started fiddling with them that would be a good social habit?

wristcontrol

Funny enough, only in certain societies. One of the first things that struck me when I moved to London was exactly this. You can't make eye contact with anyone on the tube without implicitly asking for a fight.

Skaln

As great anon once said. "Around blacks, never relax".

ShaneMcDeath

Wouldn't worry about it. We'll be wearing augmented reality glasses in no time. We won't have to look down at all then.

CTHarry

Bitch, the next time you pull out your cell phone to check your texts...
WHILE I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A FUCKING SENTENCE...
I will most righteously shit on your -- Hold on. My phone's blowin' up.

Freedom

Posted from my iPhone

APiousCultist

Hey, I think I sense a bit of fucking passive aggression in that notice.

offat9

Passive...?

APiousCultist

Yes, are you starting with me?!

maleboks

I'm going to hazard a guess here and say that you're from New York City, or nearby.
amirite or what?

APiousCultist

Suburban England actually =p

maleboks

Wow, I thought that was a distinctly New York phrase.

APiousCultist

I assure you it is not. We English can be equally as aggressive if our football soccer team loses or if we are deprived of tea.

maleboks

Oh, I know. I've seen Green Street Hooligans.
You people are crazy.

Mozzy

What do you think passive-aggression means? Telling people directly to stop doing something? Because that's not passive-aggression.

dpjames

-directly-

There's nothing direct about the poster.

"STOP FUCKING WITH YOUR CELL PHONE" would've been direct.

Mozzy

I suppose you're right. I recant my statement.

wulululululuu

If I didn't fiddle with my cell phone, I'd fiddle with something else and people would be a lot more unhappy.

benchmark

I agree, plus the thing is... hold on, checks his phone
...anyway what was I saying?

HeavyhandedHinter

Hint: This guy is talking about his penis.

RedundantManMan

You didn't even let me guess.

HeavyhandedHinter

Hint: Look at my username, dummy.

Deli1181

I don't get it, do lots of people do that?

CallMeSpaghetti

Grandpa?

gilti1

[link to original MUST photo on reddit from 5 months earlier]
Unfortunately it's original site was taken down :(

Zohmbi

Thank you Big Brother.

Obamas_Kryptonite

In that case life should compete a little harder for my attention, then maybe I'll put down this phone and watch the road.

angrymonkey

Man, being connected to other people is *awful*. And I *hate* having all of human knowledge available at my fingertips.
guys why are we even doing technology, let's just stop okay?

StochasticOoze

Enh. I think there's something to be said about being disconnected sometimes. Having a phone with you at all times leads to people complaining when you won't answer it any time.

Bradbury once wrote a story (in the 70s or 80s) about a guy who was sick of constantly being surrounded by human noise, so he shut off his cellphone and broke his radio (which in this world apparently never shuts off) and so on, and his wife, fearing for his sanity, gets him committed.

I kinda feel like that sometimes.

thundirbird

do you, perchance, happen to know the title of said story?

StochasticOoze

Not offhand, sorry. I think it may have been in an anthology called "Science Fiction of the 50s", though. I can check when I get home.

ICantDoThisALone

I shall obey.

sagef0ur

I....feel so called out

gaintrust

The technology is glorious, if you have never stopped to think about the sum of human knowledge that went into that magnificent device then you are the one missing out on the poetry of life.

bunk0

I sat down and read this on Reddit and felt good about myself.
"At least I'm not one of those people."

bigbaddaboom

I feel sad reading this. I walk to school everyday and try to get smiles out of people by smiling at them. But it seems that most people are content to ignore and just walk on by.

Mecha-Shiva

I still don't have a smartphone and it's starting to feel like I'm escaping some human/computer integration period. I look around campus while waiting for class and I see everyone on their phone. EVERYONE. Not that I wouldn't be if I had a smartphone, but it is pretty weird as an outsider who doesn't. I like to imagine that this is all just an elaborate plan concocted by The Matrix robots and this is how they suck us in, and I've managed to avoid it by chance alone. But then I just take my pills and watch American Idol.

Tyler_Durdens_ID

Don't get a smartphone; there's no going back and it'll drain your humanity day by day until you're looking through the other side of the looking-glass - back towards a better, cleaner time when people were people and not gears in a corporate, ad-driven machine.

Anandfulness

I searched for "it'll drain your humanity day by day until you're looking through the other side of the looking-glass - back towards a better, cleaner time when people were people and not gears in a corporate, ad-driven machine." in google and it gave me fight club quotes. Nicely done sir.

Anandfulness

You think you're an outsider? I don't have a smartphone, don't have Facebook or any social media-thing, never chat on msn or AIM and I never watch tv. It's all about time-management with me. I just don't make time for these things, I have so much other stuff to do. I spend maybe an hour on the internet surfing reddit and other news sites but that's it for entertainment. Sometimes this is frustrating because I can't talk to certain people. They start a conversation with me about new TV-shows or facebook related news and then all I can do is shrug. Some people even think it's asocial of me not to watch TV or go on Facebook! Well, if I have to spend hours behind computer and tv-screens to be called a 'social person', then I just don't think it's worth the (non-)effort.

HeavyWave

I have a smartphone but I just call people and occasionally check my email. I still don't know where people find time to do anything else with it.

antdude

I don't even own a cellular/cell phone. I still use landlines, but rarely. I do use dial-up sometimes when my cable Internet goes down. :)

Aihwa

Praise the Omnisiah!

six_faces

I haven't owned a cell phone for about a year now. It was difficult at first, but now I quite enjoy being slightly difficult to contact.

r3x

My phone has been broke for 2 weeks, I have the money to buy another one but I'm kinda liking not having one.

slowfox
OOKAY! :)

clive_bixby
Does anyone know where I can download a picture/document of this in its original format? I'm posting these everywhere!

kondron
Fuck this shit. Do you realize that the piece of technology that most people hold in their hands didn't even fit in a room 40 years ago? You can pay bills, check e-mail, schedule appointments, and do all sorts of useful shit on your phone, rather than just staring at some stranger or pretending you're appreciating the beauty of life (which let's be honest, there is none on a subway).

Shadowsnipe
Im reading this on my cellphone.
[deleted]
Fuck you. I enjoy looking at my phone when I'm bored. You stare at the sunset, I'll browse reddit. Shut the fuck up.

havermyer
Living in airports makes things a bit rough... need something to kill the time.

Joe_12265
I'd generally rather scroll through emails than complain about the line I'm in with frustrated fat housewives.

Anandfulness
What about that cute looking girl?

jackthecoiner
So true.
-jackthecoiner (sent from my mobile)

ZandyCandy
North Korea?

Comms
Does the guy who wrote that know that when you text someone you're not talking to the phone but to another person, right? Like, phones are neat and all but they're just a method for social interaction.

You, whoever you are, go stare at poetry or whatever, I'm going to go finish having a conversation.

AJarOfAlmonds

Source, and free 8.5" x 11" handouts. [link to BB poster page]

sm0k3

I knew this would be here somewhere. [Here's a PDF knockoff](#), [link to counterfeit handbill!] created by redditor thugnificint

prefan

<http://i.imgur.com/6HnUQ.jpg> [link to original photo of handbill] This is the original, FYI. Much more typographically impressive in my opinion.

njjc

Guilty :(I set this as my iphone background :(

xCruJonesx

I read "Fish Love" First.

whargarblr

Has there ever been a time when it was socially appropriate to stare into a stranger's eyes? I'm not that old but I was brought up in the 90s and it didn't seem like something people did before the big technology boom.

maleboks

It wasn't. Eye contact in NC in the 70's and 80's would get you stabbed just as fast back then.

barbapappa

Flimsy hardware? Must be talking about an android-phone!!!
Amiright??

versii

no

rhblog

Yeah, the average person spent a significant period of time observing the poetry of life before cell phones managed to mess it all up.

nofatebutwhatwemake

I comply.

huberus

"WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH."
-George Orwell

amesandyuki

I'm happy that people enjoy their cell phones, but this post isn't anti-phone. It's anti-addiction. I live in NYC and even 3 or so years ago, I remember going out and seeing people mainly talking to each other. Now the majority of people are on their phones during any given moment. At certain events, every single person around me is on their phone. That is not normal, people. Sure, you are texting or tweeting or emailing but real-life communication is so much richer and simply different. (I'm not being pretentious and don't pretend to be immune. I am simply stating my observations.) It's good to be able to turn your phone off or forget it and not feel like you are missing a piece of yourself.

Anandfulness

I remember starting a conversation on the train with a girl. Afterwards, my friend said that I looked like a wierdo for just starting a random conversation. He said that the girl looked like she was uncomfortable. The next day I saw her again and we shared phone numbers.. She told me that she didn't feel uncomfortable at all, just surprised that I started talking out of the blue. People are actually forgetting what it's like to start a random conversation. I mean really, I'm going to keep doing this until the day that I die. I love this. I love hearing the stories or sharing my new findings with some stranger. And if nobody wants to talk, I love just looking outside the window or contemplating/meditating life itself. Even if life isn't beautiful, it's still there. I'm not going to ignore it willingly... That said, sometimes I have no choice and I need to work on my laptop. But I always try to say hello or something. Just to create some connection or openness.

amesandyuki

Yeah, I mean, personally I don't like it when people talk to me on the train but I do think if people go to a social function to meet people, they should do so and not just thumb about on their phones.

Leopardbluff

If this is a new religion, sign me up!

goneroguebrb

American Gods, anyone?

maleboks

Awesome book.

GORE_mania

I lol'd so hard I almost dropped my iPhone.

maleboks

HEY EVERYBODY, THIS GUY HAS AN IPHONE!

thecommentisbelow

Wow, leave it to reddit to get a piece of useful advice (it really is useful advice, I wouldn't believe you if you told me you never pretended to send a text when avoiding eye contact with someone.) and attack the poster because taking the advice would take a little effort or your part to interact with other humans.

superdupertroll

Notice is hereby given that no citizens are allowed to mind their own fucking business. At no time is it permissible to sit idle and respect the privacy of another person or withhold criticism of behavior that does not affect you personally.

Remember always:

- * you're qualified to always assume a random stranger's text message is trivial;
- * convenient access to communication and media diminishes poetry of life;
- * if your poster is ironic enough, you can make the world go back to gazing vacantly at each other on the bus.

Anandfulness

gazes at username
Still downvote.

maleboks

Pretty sure not trolling.

aesthesin

I wonder where I have seen this before? Oh, right. [link to #2 fake handbill]

quantumpych
sounds British... read it and wrote this on me phone.

LeGrandArmee

Do all your socializing on reddit instead.

Makkyo

And this is all we do on our cell phones? Loose our humanity as we become add-consuming drones? Give me a fucking break. I'm talking to my friends on my phone. I'm communicating with my family like never before. I don't just "fiddle" with my phone. I'm connecting with people. The fact that it occurs on a different medium doesn't automatically relegate my actions as "trivial."

MontegoBarbados

This same attitude was applied to every generation of technology. The phonograph, the radio, silent movies, "talkie" movies, television, cable TV; they all had their doom-sayers claiming that society is rotting away because of them.

bitcheslovereptar

And the proof they were all wrong is.....?

MontegoBarbados

I guess it's all a matter of opinion. The way I see it, social interactions have not died or dwindled because of any of these entertainment devices.

Similarly, I don't think kids were corrupted by the "Devil music" of early blues masters, Elvis, Alice Cooper, or Marilyn Manson, or the violence in films from the the 60's through today.

Basically, doom-sayers since time immemorial are chronic pessimists looking for things to blame for the decline of civilization, or the impending end of the world. These scapegoats are always popular forms of entertainment because, for many, entertainment is a guilty pleasure that therefore must surely be bad for the world.

For me, there is no form of entertainment that can ruin humanity. But religion, now that's a different matter.

bitcheslovereptar

Excellent point - but consider, the Roman Empire at one point 'ended'. There were years of turmoil and various signs preceding this. And when it ended, it didn't really end as such - the world didn't explode; the civilization that once was Rome changed character and structure irrevocably, and somewhere else became the new centre of things. Can a society not decline in degrees? Of course the world won't end, and nor will America or 'the West' even just end - but they'll reach a point where they are meaningless, powerless, or disband in some way. I just think that if things seem progressively shittier, it might be because they are. And when they get bad enough (as much due to real and economic factors as 'cultural decline') it's the end. People have been trained to accept worse and worse standards. Look at what we eat, how we live, how we work. Life has become an idiotic parody of itself.

MontegoBarbados

True, civilizations and whole cultures can and do reach their ends. I just don't think it's because of my iPod.

bitcheslovereptar

No, probably more from massive economic collapse combined with social apathy and greed. And fucking kids with their damn fixed gears and the iPads and the music today... Disney channel! grumblegrumble girls in their damn short skirts and the Ke\$ha neon makeup...

HenkPoley

You should watch They Live (also).

tometajamin

i remember being a pariah playing my first gen gameboy on the bus to school. fuck all of you.

dopeasballs

the real poetry of life, in haiku:
I am on reddit
sphincter signals dumpage soon
must wipe tenderly

[name deleted?]

Someone tried to tell me this years ago.

dmorl

I am a luddite as well. But I still use the internet. So it goes.

homertone

We have a 13 yo girl who is addicted to the cellphone. We had a night of family peo-
ples who were watching all these amazing funny clips that reddit/others have pre-
sented. Everyone was following along and enjoying the clips except for this 13 year
old girl.. She was furiously texting nonsense like "hey"... Is there any way to cure this?

maleboks

A brick.

dirtymoney

"poetry of life" That's rich! I'd rather fiddle with my phone than watch a homeless
man piss on the sidewalk.

Sorry, but "life" is far from poetry. Its more akin to a tragic play.

mwanafalsafa

my iphone isn't flimsy!

relevant: http://www.amazon.com/Walden-Other-Writings-Modern-Library/dp/0679600043/ref=sr_1_10?ie=UTF8&qid=1302874130&sr=8-10

easygenius

I've seen this before and it pisses me off every time. How about you mind your own fucking business, you wanna be Luddites? And you blow at graphic design.

blew_nitro

I made a better quality img if anyone wants it Pic [link to THIRD fake handbill]

xmod2

Wahhhh some people live their life differently from how I expect!

redharvest

On the subway today, a man came up to me to start a conversation. He made small talk, a lonely man talking about the weather and other things. I tried to be pleasant and accommodating, but my head began to hurt from his banality. I almost didn't notice it had happened, but I suddenly threw up all over him. He was not pleased, and I couldn't stop laughing.

Boogiddy

NOTICE TO ALL PRETENTIOUS ROMANTICS: The world hates you and nobody wants to look into your eyes. Look at your phone to avoid challenging any alphas for pack dominance while in public transport.

Life is short, don't make it shorter by making eye contact with a psychopath.

REMEMBER: The poetry of Jodie Foster's actions as a young actress in Taxi Driver got Ronald Reagan shot. People are fucking crazy. Remove yourself from them as much as possible.

Just kidding, it's all good do whatever the hell you want. If that's looking at your phone because you'd rather be with someone you can only communicate through that with then awesome. If that's trying to strike up a conversation with a stranger to learn about someone else's life: cool. Whatever you choose to do though, don't think your choice is superior to someone else's simply because it's yours. You don't know them and you don't know what they're going through.

Life is about growing personally and contributing to the growth and evolution of society. However people determine they need to live to achieve that goal for themselves while still being happy is up to them. Don't presume to know how to live their lives better than them you pretentious twat.

burningbooks

Don't waste your time on bad counterfeit versions. Get the ORIGINAL poster here: <http://www.burningbooks.org/posters-by-burning-books/category/6.html>

FunshineBear

I'm sorry Angry Birds is more entertaining than your face.