

Being homeless at the end of his high school senior year had him prioritizing his grades a lot more closely than he ever did in previous years. He turned in his assignments earlier, made up as much work as he was allowed to, and took as much time as he could to study for classes he knew he needed help in. Although he was sleeping in parks at the time, he felt assured to know he had a chance to make it out of his situation with the opportunities he had in school, the staff that was there to support him, and everyone else that had the patience to shelter him.

Whether it was programming fruit to act as a musical instrument to impress his creative technology teacher or trading sci-fi authors like baseball cards with his English teachers, there was somewhat of an outlet for him and his interests. Most of which he couldn't find anywhere else growing up in Oakland, California.

Right before his high school graduation, he used to carry around a duffel bag full of clothes and hygiene supplies around campus along with his other backpack already full of textbooks. Worried about what others might think, he would try to convince his classmates and teachers that he was 'just trying out for sports' —even if it was the end of the year and he didn't sign up for a single sports team. Other classmates would point it out and joke, 'The quiet kid's had enough.' as if he wasn't there.

Some teachers knew or at least had an idea of the fact that he wasn't staying with his family. Especially after staff intervened in a physical altercation on campus that had his parents escorted into a separate room for his safety. Most trusted his word when he said that 'everything was fine'. Regardless of what was going on in the background, he never let it get in the way of pursuing an education in computer science.

With what he learned from creative technology classes and a summer gig coding for an app initially called For The Win (later changed to Clutch) during his junior year in high school, he decided to work full-time for multiple virtual reality startups across San Francisco in order to support himself throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

At 18 years old, he was rescued by a hardworking family after being kidnapped by a homeless man named Patrick Reddic, which led him to begin working full-time for a leading virtual reality startup called The Void VR while part-timing for a virtual reality workout gym called BlackBox VR. Not only did it cover tuition, it was enough to be able to move into an apartment right outside of Lake Merritt on Crescent Street.

It was everything he thought he'd never have growing up. That is until the non-disclosure agreements and investment pools began showing the market for what it really was.

As The Void developed proprietary assets that investors considered 'cutting-edge' technology, competing companies made an effort to reverse engineer those assets and trade secrets by any means necessary. He'll never forget being told by management to watch out for potential

competitors purchasing tickets as a way to see what kind of technology The Void had behind the scenes. Especially the ones taking notes while pretending to look for a bathroom.

Nevertheless, he always assured the investors that The Void and their experiences were in fact the best in the market. Many who were lucky enough to see it during its opening still believe that it had some of the greatest experiences that virtual reality could offer.

In November of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down The Void and all its locations after transferring their IP to a holding company called VR Exit LLC. It gave him the opportunity to move back to his parents place and find work as a brand ambassador for Oculus VR under a contract by Facebook and BDS Marketing to develop what would later become the Meta Store, which led to taking another offer at the competitor to his first virtual reality job, Sandbox VR, preferring to take a risk with a startup than to stay complacent for a corporation.

Sandbox VR managed to keep afloat throughout the pandemic as they offered hours at minimum wage and catered especially to workers from their former competitors as they had the capacity to handle heavier tasks while carrying computer equipment.

Swapping his position from Sandbox VR with Carlos Dueñas, a former coworker from BlackBox VR, he took an offer from a company called B8ta to open and close two e-commerce stores in Hayes Valley and Mission Bay after they reopened their stores during the pandemic.

Six months later, B8ta shut down their operations across all its stores at a moment's notice. All without a warning to its management or bottom line workers.

To everyone's surprise, Vibhu Norby (B8ta's CEO), personally extended an apology at a farewell-party hosted at 25 Lusk, a private venue in San Francisco. All while offering a very accommodating severance plan to everyone affected by the shutdown.

It was there that he asked about breaking into venture capital with only tech experience, and what he should do about the mistakes he's made within the virtual reality industry.

"This early on, you can make as many mistakes as you need. Start your own company as early as possible and don't worry about what others think. I regret not doing any of this sooner, especially at your age."

Vibhu offers him a drink and asks him "Also, how old are you?"

As the bartender hands over their drinks, he accidentally mutters, "20", then "21", and finally "20" in the same second...

"20?" Vibhu asks while receiving a full cockeye from a bartender demanding an answer.

“Yeah, I’m 20.” He admits reluctantly as the bartender keeps the drink.

“Dude. You shouldn’t worry about it too much. You’re gonna be fine. It’s good to make all the mistakes now while you still can. I’ll meet you back here a little later, alright?”

Oh yeah, that’s my brother over there by the way. Anand.

Have you met him yet?”

As of today, B8ta continues to thrive across the Japanese retail market, looking even better than it did in mid-2020’s San Francisco.

Asking for help, Carlos mentions being promoted to general manager in Sandbox VR’s San Mateo location during the time he worked at B8ta. Carlos sent him the onboarding paperwork through private messaging on Instagram and hired him in less than a week. Carlos then described the place as a “fast-fire, fast-hire environment,” but to not worry since he ensured he’d be “looked out for.”

His first paystub read “\$0.00” as Carlos described a “glitch” in the payroll software as they switched from one payment system called Deputy to another called Paychex during his onboarding. Nonetheless, he was assured by his manager that he’d be “looked out for.”

It later had him witnessing a lot of calculated layoffs based on the decisions he and his manager made together as they reasoned and negotiated layoff plans for coworkers under his management. It was the first time he witnessed a high turnover rate used to reduce expenses associated with long-term employee benefits.

Those expenses included healthcare and retirement plans for employees that work roles with limited durations and minimal training.

This especially affected the cycle of minimum wage workers across all 40 locations of the franchise.

He claimed that faster turnover rates at the company allowed managers to test different approaches and experiment with untested technologies on paying and unknowing customers without the risk of slowing down operations or unionizing within the company.

These claims were substantiated after he accidentally delivered, distributed, and opened physical paychecks with his co-workers. It revealed a pay gap between new hires and old hires, with new hires being paid more than the old hires.

On June 30th 2022, Carlos fired him the first day he moved into his apartment he had told his coworkers about months prior. Carlos' final words being, "You should go back to Meta."

Reducing another set of long term expenses for the company, Carlos was promoted from General Manager to IT Deployment Technician shortly after his departure.

Attempting to move his items back into his parents house while failing to convince them of cancelling the lease, he applied to any job he could while facing claims of squatting in the house. Bargaining with his mother to stay with her parents who were visiting from Mexico for the holidays, he was allowed to stay on the condition that he finds another place to stay before his grandparents return.

His apartment unit was left empty, without a tenant to break the lease.

On July 14th, 2022, he was offered his first 1099 contract for a startup developing AR cloud software called Enklū. He claims that if he had known of the requisitions the company implemented for their employees, he would've used his right to void the contract along with his NDAs.

Initially he thought he would've been fired by Nick Wallingford, his new general manager, after Nick confronts him about side-hugging a sobbing coworker that is later revealed to be Nick's girlfriend.

"I know Ray. I can put you in a lot of places. I can also defer you from them. Remember that Maile is my girlfriend and there shouldn't be any issues.

Got it?"

Nick was great at consulting.

Especially wearing a notch lapel.

Unfortunately, it was done for him by Ray Kallmeyer, the CEO himself, before the contract expired.

After being told, "Stop being a pussy! Stop being a pussy! You need to speak louder!" by another clearly upset coworker, he was informed by Ray that it's not okay to be upsetting the team at such a volume, and to prepare his things to leave.

Ray's final words of advice behind the closed doors of The San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts being,

“College is just a place where teenagers use their parents' money to go on vacation after high school. I was flipping pizzas when I was your age and learned a lot through watching YouTube videos and Googling everything. I’d recommend you do the same.”

Throwing that recommendation out the window had him immediately enrolling in a spring semester at Laney College in pursuit of a degree in Business Administration and courses in Artificial Intelligence.

It wasn’t long until he was later on-boarded by another VR startup in Ghirardelli Square called Gameday VR, a movie theater concept with a business owner as present and assuring as the one before, Andrew Won.

His first day there, Andrew mentioned having met his uncle, Felipe Tellitud, during their time working for a package delivery company called Golden State Overnight, the first job listed on his resume. Andrew asked if he still had any contact with his uncle Felipe or any family at all, to which he answered, “None.”

That same day, he was reunited with an old coworker from Sandbox VR. A tall kid who spoke French while preferring to be called Max over his longer name.

They both finally had another chance to work at a startup with more opportunities than most.

Max was let go within the same hour they reunited.

Max’s first day was only a few days before his.

A few days into working at Gameday VR, he was reached out by an individual named John Iverson.

He first met John over the phone after applying to a VR Arcade Owner position on Indeed that was described to be ‘specifically looking for a candidate that is interested in owning and operating a location.’ for a franchise called VR Arcade USA.

John offered to sell him the franchise at \$25,000 in a proposal packet that he had prepared for him. The packet included a listing titled ‘9. Startup Expenses’ which included:

A \$20,000 franchise fee paid in cash or via money order.

A \$5,000 price tag for “Hardware.”

A TBD price for leasing and insurance.

In the same packet, a listing for '6. Hardware', was left empty.

He declined the proposal and passed on John's information and the packet to Ray Kallmeyer.

John never heard from him again.

A month later, Andrew took him home in an empty semi-truck after a day of unloading authentic Russian space equipment onto Beach Street. On the way there, Andrew would gleam at the fact that he also knew Ray, Enklu's CEO, while Andrew described also having gone to school with Ray together, which only bolstered more of his concerns regarding the standards and precedents set for CEOs that operate within San Francisco's VR industry, as well as its reinforcement on regulatory capture within the United States' tech industry.

It wasn't too long until a review was posted online by a journalist from SF Gate named Grant Marek, deferring its shareholders from moving Gameday VR into Ghirardelli Plaza with a headline titled, "I went to SF's new virtual Yosemite. It was a dump."

He claims that in hindsight, he would've definitely voided that first contract at Enklu.

It would've kept Max at that theater.

He finally began the spring semester at Laney College and accidentally began working on his first IP called, 'veganwater.org', a college homework assignment and practical joke that was unfortunately contacted on LinkedIn by a representative from Tetra Pak after creating a page for its domain.

The representative did not receive a serious reply.

He was later blocked by the representative.

However, he faced many claims from his parents and sister that he was never working and wasn't attending school at all. Convinced that he was photoshopping his class schedule and student ID to avoid paying rent to his parents, his father asked his brother Muteado to contact Tiny Grey-Garcia, the president of a non-profit organization called Poor Magazine, to personally verify them herself. Confirming their authenticity, he was able to continue studying at home while attempting to transfer to UC Berkeley.

In mid-August, he was told by his mother to move out on August 30th, 2024 after she realized he had taught his brother how to write his own income statements and to update his debits and credits in order to account for earnings he made while performing mariachi shows at his parents church.

“You have to move out because you’re poisoning our son’s brain. You have until the end of the month to find somewhere else to live.”

As a result of calling his parents’ bishop from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), and scheduling a family meeting that upcoming Sunday, his father threw his items into the street weeks before the start of his fall semester.

Calling his uncle for help, Muteado insisted that, “This is what happens when someone doesn’t appreciate what someone has at home. It’s best to learn from the consequences of their actions.”

After moving his things back into the overdue apartment unit, he was introduced to the organization, Poor Magazine.

Over at Poor Magazine, he helped with assisting in weekly food drives while his uncle paid him \$20 a week to edit and broadcast shows for their radio broadcasting.

The ordeal ended when his uncle Muteado claimed that he “owed money to the organization as a result of being paid too much.” Muteado later began to defer him from others he attempted to find work with as his uncle claimed that he was too unreliable and irresponsible to work anywhere else.

Tiny always offered him a spot to live, and even provided dinners when his grandmother and uncle didn’t give him permission to eat or stay there overnight. On days that his grandmother did let him eat in her house, he was met with insults and often ridiculed for his physical attributes and financial situation.

One night while finishing dinner at his grandmother’s house, she told him the names of his father’s two older brothers, Israel and Jaime Soberanis, claiming they were murdered in the 80s as a result of drug trafficking in southern Mexico.

Asking who killed them did not prompt an immediate response from his grandmother.

She only told him that he “Should’ve ended up the same way.”

Tiny insisted that all he needed to do was sign a contract that had him working, taking classes, and living there indefinitely for two years as part of a program if he wanted to move in with the rest of the organization, who were more than understanding of the situation with his biological family.

He insisted that with enough time, he’d find a job and get a pell grant at the community college that can cover the overdue rent and possibly get a car just in case he’s evicted. He also told them

not to worry if someone else moves into the space they're offering, as he claimed that it's better suited for other families who need it instead of just relatives to his biological parents.

All that he really needed was someone to sign a dependency override form after his parents refused to provide their tax information for his FAFSA registration, preventing him from being able to enroll into future classes.

After receiving Tiny's signature and finding work designing a website for a former Desert Storm operative turned Wiccan named Angel Heart, he eventually found his way back to Laney College in time for their debut Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning courses for the fall semester.

In September of 2023, he got a school-issued Chromebook to run Linux programs needed to complete his AI homework, although his AI professor strongly advised against it.

It later helped him in locating DeepLearning.AI's CEO, Andrew Ng, during a livestream hosted at UC Berkeley's Alumni House after his professor sent an invite to the class, without a place to meet.

A semester later, The Peralta Community College District stopped issuing student Chromebooks for permanent or at-home use.

That same September is when he interviewed for a treasurer position within the Associated Students of Laney College after consulting with former members of DeAuth Network and The 4337 Mafia at an office within the International Technical University in San Jose.

After successfully joining ASLC 2023-24 as a student senator, he climbed his way to student treasurer and eventually interviewed for student vice president after the removal of student body president, Camila Yurivilca.

Despite constant advice not to, he purchased an unregistered and uninsured project car without owning a drivers license;

A run down and dirty 1986 Chevrolet Corvette.

Evicted on his birthday, he had officers from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office cooperate in assisting to carry his belongings from the apartment and into the vehicle. He later cut ties and burned all his bridges with anyone who ever supported him while at Laney College and within the ASLC.

The car was stranded in Monterey's Carmel Plaza and towed to Javier's Auto Services as a result of a blown coolant line, warped gasket, fallen exhaust, missing battery tray, and an exposed relay after a failed route to the DeadCenter Film Festival in Oklahoma. After a one-week standby for



support, and an impound fee covered by his uncle Muteado, he was successfully transported to the festival in a van purchased and driven by an indie film director and another indie film producer he met at Poor Magazine while making a film based on the play, "Crushing Wheelchairs." written by Tiny and Muteado.

Returning from Oklahoma, a AAA agent was dispatched by a church pastor and former US Army soldier from the Monterey United Methodist Church after being transported from Javier Auto Services. The car was finally handed off to a mechanic and former Marine that continues to reside within the neighborhoods of Eastmont.

Recommended to apply for a barista position by an employee he would ask for leftover food from at a Starbucks on Lake Park Avenue, he donated all of his clothing to Poor Magazine and redistributed all of his materials across Laney College. He later began to donate plasma at an Octapharma Plasma clinic in Eastmont as a means to allocate funds for food and laundry.

Unfit to donate as his weight dropped and blood samples continued to lower in protein, he resorted to registering for focus groups and research studies as a means to find immediate employment.

Frequently visiting the LDS church's Oakland 6th Ward, he later met with Robert Browning, a stake president and volleyball coach for the College of Saint Mary that provided a sleeping bag and offered nights to stay at his house in Orinda whenever the home was vacant.

With a span of multilingual jokes for an improved stand-up routine on the sidewalk, he received \$100 in cash from a fellow he met in a bar on Grand Avenue called The Alley, to where he later drove him back to an enclosure he slept in at Lake Merritt, asking him to use the money on whatever he felt he might need.

He later loses the cash on a BART train getting off from MacArthur Station on his way to purchase an electric guitar from Oakland Guitars. Aggressively explaining his situation to Johnny Morales, shop owner of Oakland Guitars, Johnny lent him an all black Squire Stratocaster.

Johnny then refers him to resources and work provided by non-profit organizations such as Oakland Punks With Lunch and Rogers & Rosewater.

Waiting for a reply from the manager at Starbucks, the Stratocaster was stolen after he slept on a park bench at Laney College. He later traded in an acoustic Aria guitar that he found on Jackson Street for a cherry red Epiphone SG. After trading in the Epiphone for an Ibanez miKro, he began to develop a tour for an IP titled, 'Homeless Propaganda', a response to those removed from San Francisco City's streets upon XiXing Ping's arrival and for those removed from People's Park following UC Berkeley's decision to develop student housing.

The name 'Homeless Propaganda' was specifically used as a means to identify parsing technologies that detect, regulate, and censor certain keywords, phrases, and usernames across domains, search engines, social media platforms, and VR spaces.

After recording an unreleased EP within the music rooms of Laney College without having registered for a music class, Homeless Propaganda performed across four open-mics in a four-day span; Melo Melo Kava Bar, The Starry Plough, Lumen Labs and Dezi's Lounge hosted by Dope Era.

Leaving Dezi's Lounge, he's later introduced to record producer Lawrence Clark Jr. (aka Pimp Style Da Producer.) by an artist that goes by the name 'Spartacus Life', a resident of the Wood Street Commons, an extended family to Poor Magazine.

Homeless Propaganda held their final performance a week later within The Starry Plough, closing the song with the lyrics, "Fuck the CCP." following an electric guitar solo.

Shortly after participating in a TMS-EEG research experiment conducted by Stanford Medical Research, he received a job offer and an orientation date from Starbucks.

While working at Starbucks, he began to frequent Melo Melo Kava Bar to download all NDA protected materials, correspondences, and contacts he received within the VR industry into a USB as a means to collect documents that corroborate claims associated with regulatory capture within 4IR-dependent infrastructures; monitoring and mitigating precedents set by CEOs or elected officials collaborating in the early-stages of development for new critical infrastructures within the US tech, medical, financial, and education industry.

One month after his onboarding, Starbucks was met with a ransomware attack that rendered their payment and scheduling softwares inoperable.