PORTFOLIO

Janna Ahrndt
2021
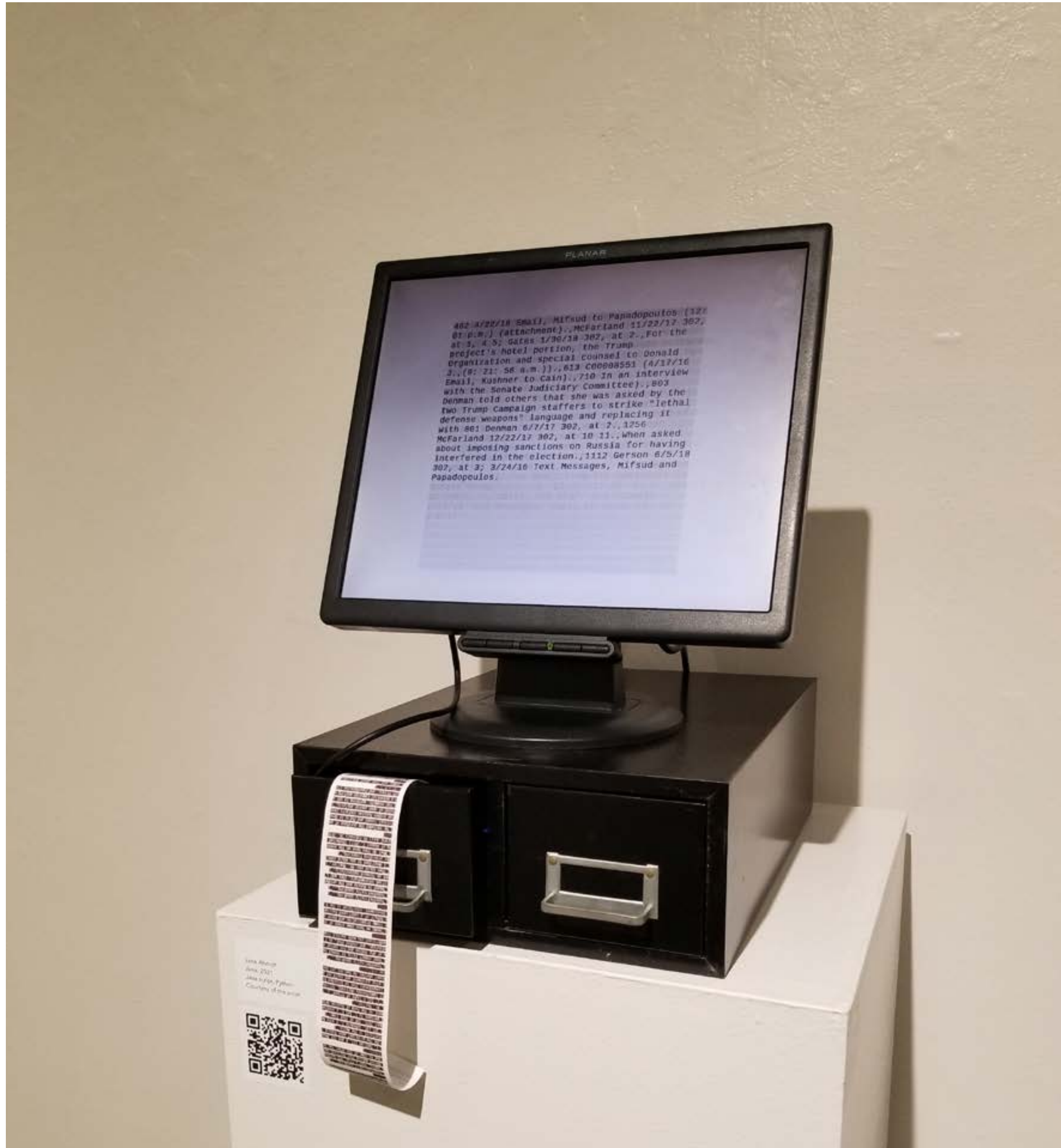
Hypothetically Speaking

Using a mrakovchian generative text algorithm and vraious redacted government texts, Hypothetically speaking continuously generates text on the screen. Theoretically by doing so, one could assume that **eventually** some of the redacted portions of the text would be generated by the algorithm. The thermal printer then prints out a sentence the computer percieves as important once a day. These sentences are then archived in the drawers of the piece for future research. The current piece is generaating text based on the Mueller Report, but other itterations have focused on the recent UFO document dump in 2020.

Could we expose some state secrets on accident? Probably not, but interesting to try!?

See the current net art iteration of the project at:
speakinghypothetically.com

Would you agree, sir, that the sharing of private campaign information, correct?,requested the meeting to deliver in person a peace plan for Ukraine.,Implantation of Malware on DCCC and DNC Networks a.,Manafort briefed Kilimnik on the state of the Trump Campaign.,Your report laid out multiple offers of Russian help to the Trump campaign, despite acknowledging dossier allegations as being salacious and unverified.,Now, Trump, Jr.,Senate Judiciary Committee, 115th Cong.,Within the Executive Branch, these investigatory efforts ultimately led to the now infamous June 9, 2016, the Obama Administration also expelled 35 Russian government officials and possible financing partners.

Manafort, for his part, told the Office that, after WikiLeaks's release of the stolen documents to WikiLeaks through online archives set up by the GRU.,Gates stated that Manafort directed him to send polling data to Kilimnik during the campaign.,Yeah, I think that it seems like a betrayal of the values underpinning our democracy.," (Redacted-Grand Jury) Goldstone 2/8/18 302, at 11.,"), and the Senate Judiciary Committee).,947 Manafort 9/11/18 302, at 5; Hoskins 9/14/17 302, at 1.,1237 McFarland 12/22/17 302, at 6; Flynn 1/11/18 302, at 2.

M F G A

MAKE FLOORS GREAT AGAIN

ABSTRACT:

Using an applet created with the IFTTT platform, The Resistance Roomba reacts to Donald Trump's twitter feed. Each time Trump tweets, the Roomba begins a cleaning cycle.

INTRODUCTION:

MFGA (Make Floors Great Again) is a robotic performance piece. Using an applet created with the IFTTT platform, The Resistance Roomba reacts to Donald Trump's twitter feed. Each time Trump tweets, the Roomba begins a cleaning cycle. I believe this subversion can be used to provoke action as a part of a participatory/critical art practice. Technology is so undeniably embedded in our daily lives in the form of house appliances, media platforms, electronic gadgets, we can become almost blind to it. By hijacking everyday technologies or even making our own, we can jolt ourselves into questioning the ways in which they are created, marketed, and used. Using these pervasive technological systems in ways they were not intended produces an opportunity for guerrilla art tactics.

INTERNET OF THINGS AS PERFORMANCE:

Technology is so undeniably embedded in our daily lives in the form of house appliances, media platforms, electronic gadgets, we can become almost blind to it. By hijacking everyday technologies or even making our own, we can jolt ourselves into questioning the ways in which they are created, marketed, and used. Using these pervasive technological systems in ways they were not intended produces an opportunity for guerrilla art tactics. In At the Edge of Art, Joline Blais and Jon Ippolito compare digital art to antibodies, stating "digital art perverts codes, arrests normal operations, recalls latent information or meaning, executes instructions, triggers mechanisms to recognize its activity and preservers in memory [1]."

MFGA (Make Floors Great Again) is a robotic performance piece Currently taking place on http://makefloorsgreatagain.online/. Using an applet created with the IFTTT plat-form, The Resistance Roomba reacts to Donald Trump's twitter feed. Each time Trump tweets, the Roomba begins a cleaning cycle and sends him a thank you tweet. The more the US President tweets the cleaner the floors be-come. With the passing of the impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives and the upcoming election, I expect the floors will be cleaner than ever. The Roomba, lovingly named Rupert Murdock, is gilded in faux gold leaf giving it a kitsch aesthetic worthy of Trump Tower.

Platforms such as IFTTT, designed to increase usefulness of IOT technologies, can be a way for tactical media artists to create tools in the form of applets that push the critical potential of this interconnectedness outside and beyond the systems and corporations that created them.

CONCLUSION:

This project seeks to subvert the power of the rich via the connectivity of the Internet and exploring how we as artists can combine these interconnected technologies to create a new medium for art. I cannot help but be satisfied knowing a man that has never cleaned a floor in his life unknowingly cleans mine multiple times in a day.

We are coming to terms with the consequences of largely unregulated optimism about all of this interconnectivity. Rita Raley stated in her book Tactical Media, "Tactical media is performance for which a consumable product is not the primary endgame; it foregrounds the experiential over the physical [2]." As we enter the second decade of the twenty-first century, we sit upon a huge stockpile of con-sumer convenience technologies all connected to the inter-net of things. There has been a rich history of instruction art as a form of critical media that I am interested in exploring through tactical connectivity. By strategically exploiting the ability for anyone to make connections be-tween these technologies, we can combine them to have a more democratic discussion not only about these consumer technologies, but also the systems that drive them.

REFERENCES:

Books
[1] Blais, Joline, and Jon Ippolito. At the Edge of Art. London: Thames & Hudson, 2006.
[2] Raley, Rita. Tactical Media. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009.

BIOGRAPHY:

Janna Ahrndt received her MFA in Electronic and Time Based Art from Purdue University and is currently the Visiting Assistant Professor of Digital art at Indiana University. She is a part of a wave of new media artists rejecting the notion that craft and technology are direct-ly opposed. Her work explores how deconstructing everyday technologies can be used to question larger oppressive systems and create a space for participatory political action. Her activist and social art practice seeks to blur the lines between the materiality of craft and the digital realm of new media technologies to create socio-political interventions. She has presented research on the use of DIY electronics as a medium for participatory political art at ISEA 2019 in Gwangju South Korea and facilitated work-shops in collaboration with the Science Gallery in Melbourne Australia, the Science Gallery in Dublin Ireland and the NEoN Re@ct festival.
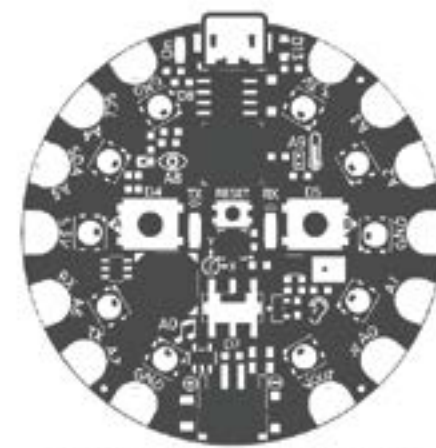
CONTACT: jahrndt@iu.edu

P@tch

Can We Use DIY Techno-Craftivism to End Armchair Activism?
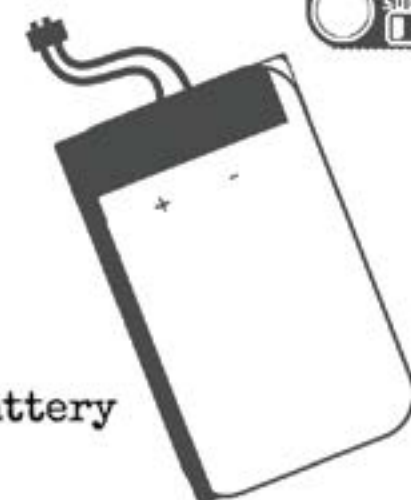
Supply list:

- SPG30 Gas Sensor
- canvas/scrap fabric
- Adafruit Circuit Playground
  (or other micro-controller)
- Embroidery floss
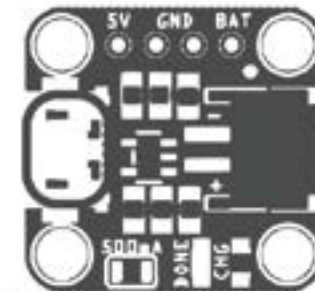

Gas Sensor

Microcontroller

Battery

P@tch

Like a Fitbit for your ethical performance, P@tch is a hand-embroidered patch that allows the user to track their progress as an advocate for an ethical stance. This project utilizes the ethos of Punk, DIY/Lo-fi, and digital opensource movements by posting all sources material, and instructions online for anyone to access. By posting all of these resources on my website I hope to foster a more inclusive space for voices that are often unheard in new media art and tech fields in general.

The main components of P@tch are an RGB color mixing LED light, a small sewable microcontroller, a Bluetooth module, and a button switch. This wearable is made with soft circuit electronics allowing participants to sew the circuits directly into the fabric of their patch.

The Bluetooth module connects to the Adafruit Bluefruit app on their phone which then sends self-reported data to a feed on an open source platform. It then triggers another online application created using IFTTT to transmit data from their feed to their twitter account.

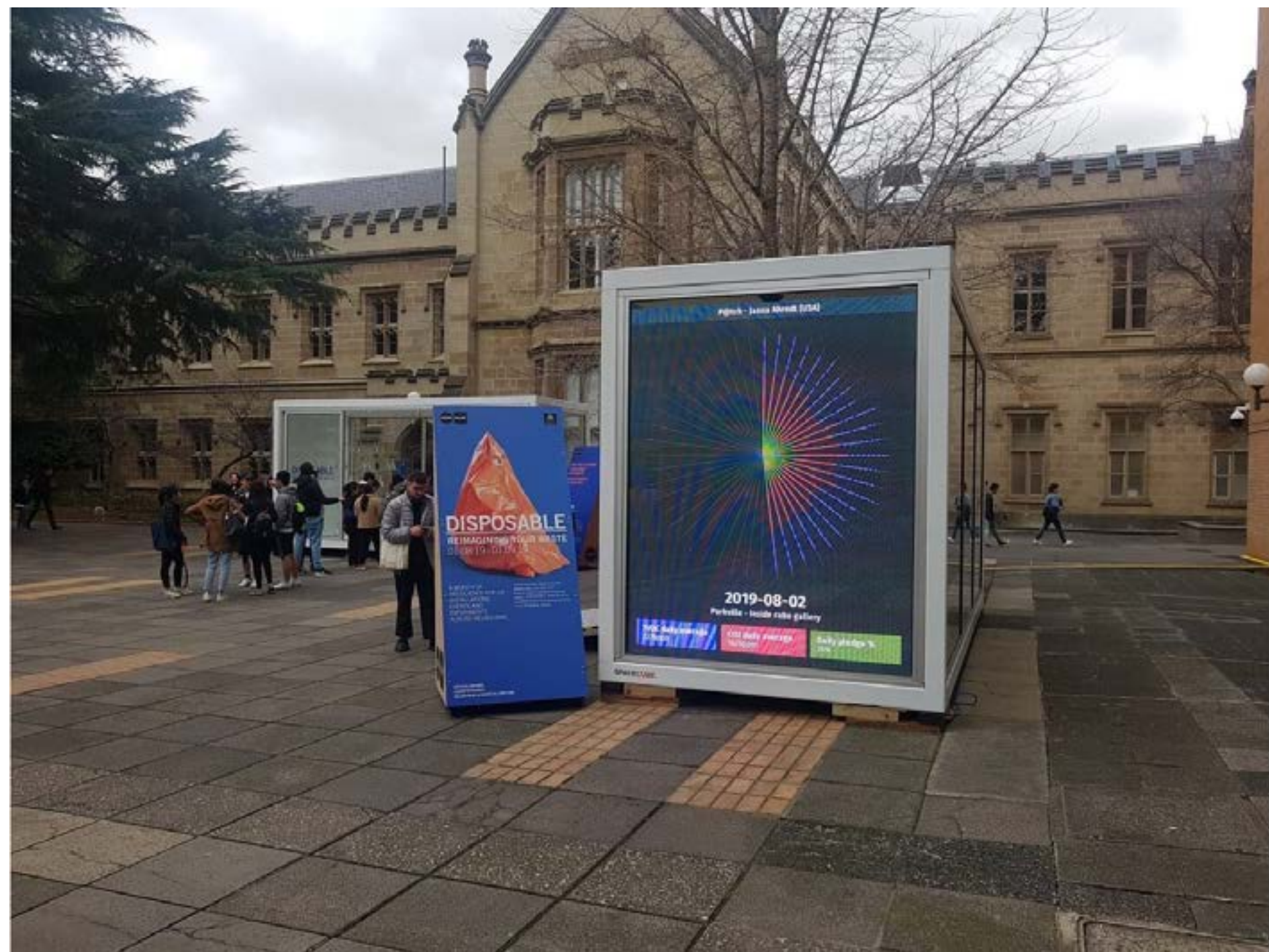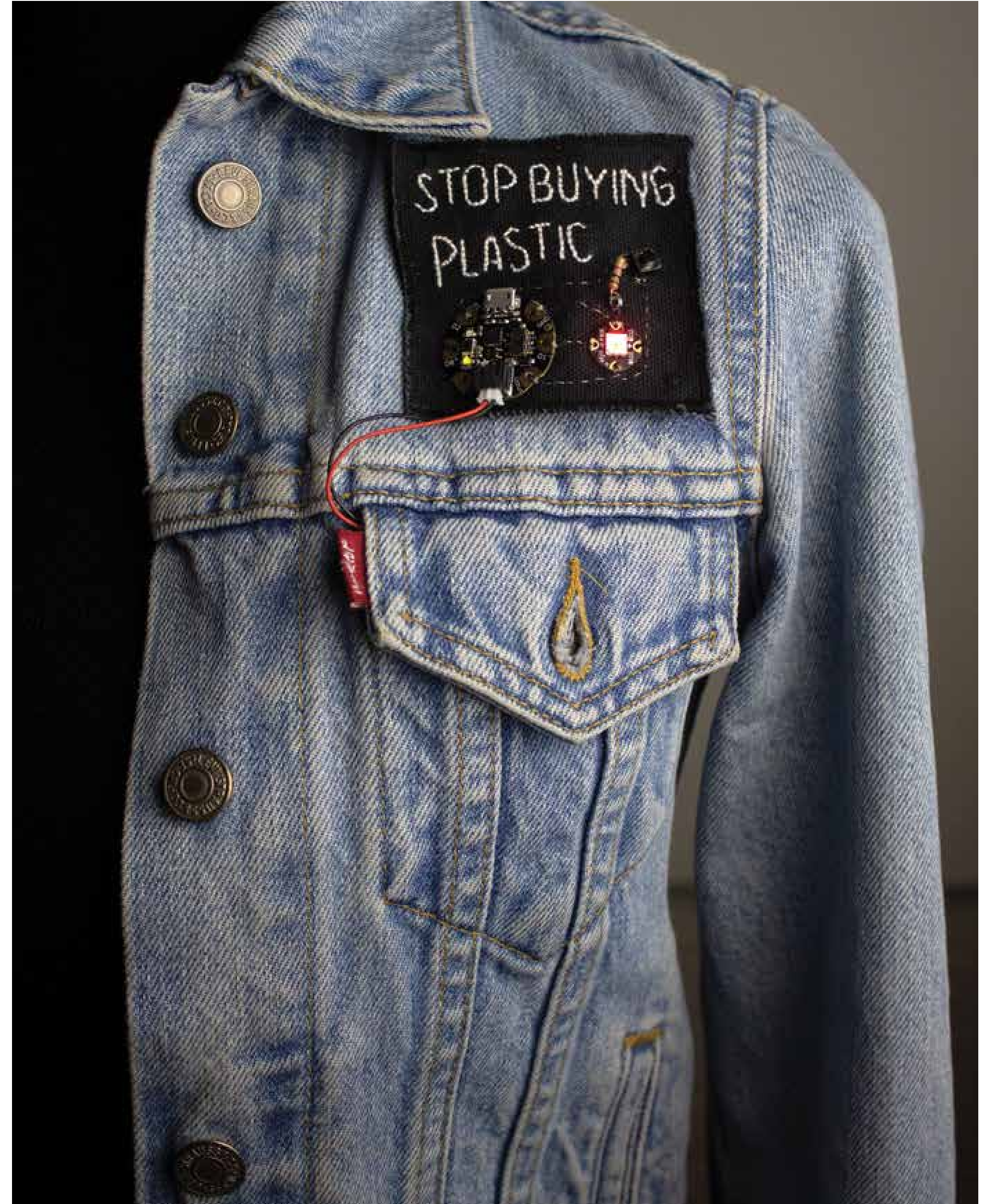Video Playlist of instructional videos

P@tch Materials Science Gallery Dublin Ireland

Science Gallery Melbourne Australia

University Of Melbourne Digital CO2 Display for P@tch

Timely Warning

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires all universities and colleges that receive federal financial aid to keep campus crime statistics and security information and make them available to the public. While I believe this statute to have a positive impact on the transparency and prevalence of instances of rape and sexual assault, the way Purdue University shares this information is not helpful and obscures the intent. Is it to draw attention to the crimes? Is it to tell students to avoid the areas where these crimes occurred? Often these emails are delivered nearly 24 hours after the assault happened as victims do not typically go to the police immediately.

The most egregious aspect of these emails is the prevention tips that come at the bottom of every email. These tips often were specific to victims of these crimes, and many of them make absolutely no sense. A tip such as, "define your sexual limits and practice being assertive about your boundaries," as if the perpetrator of these kinds of crimes cares about your boundaries as if there was merely some misunderstanding between the predator and the victim. This is gross. Since when are rapists willing to listen to your limits? That is exactly what makes them rapists. These emails do nothing to help stop the toxic culture that created this problem in the first place and rely on the same old tired argument that if only victims were more vigilant, they would not have been targeted.

Video Documentation of Walking Performance at assault locations alone at night.

TIMELY WARNING: CSA REPORT

purduealert@purdue.edu
Fri 8/17/2018 2:50 PM

Aug. 17, 2018

At 1:49 pm today the Purdue Univ[ersity] [Po]lice dep[artm]ent [re]ceived a Campus Security Authority (CSA) report statin[g a ma]le st[ude]nt reported being the victim of an attempted rape, battery an[d ...] in the 200 block of N. Martin Jischke Drive in the early morning [hours] today (Friday). Victim and suspect were acquaintances.
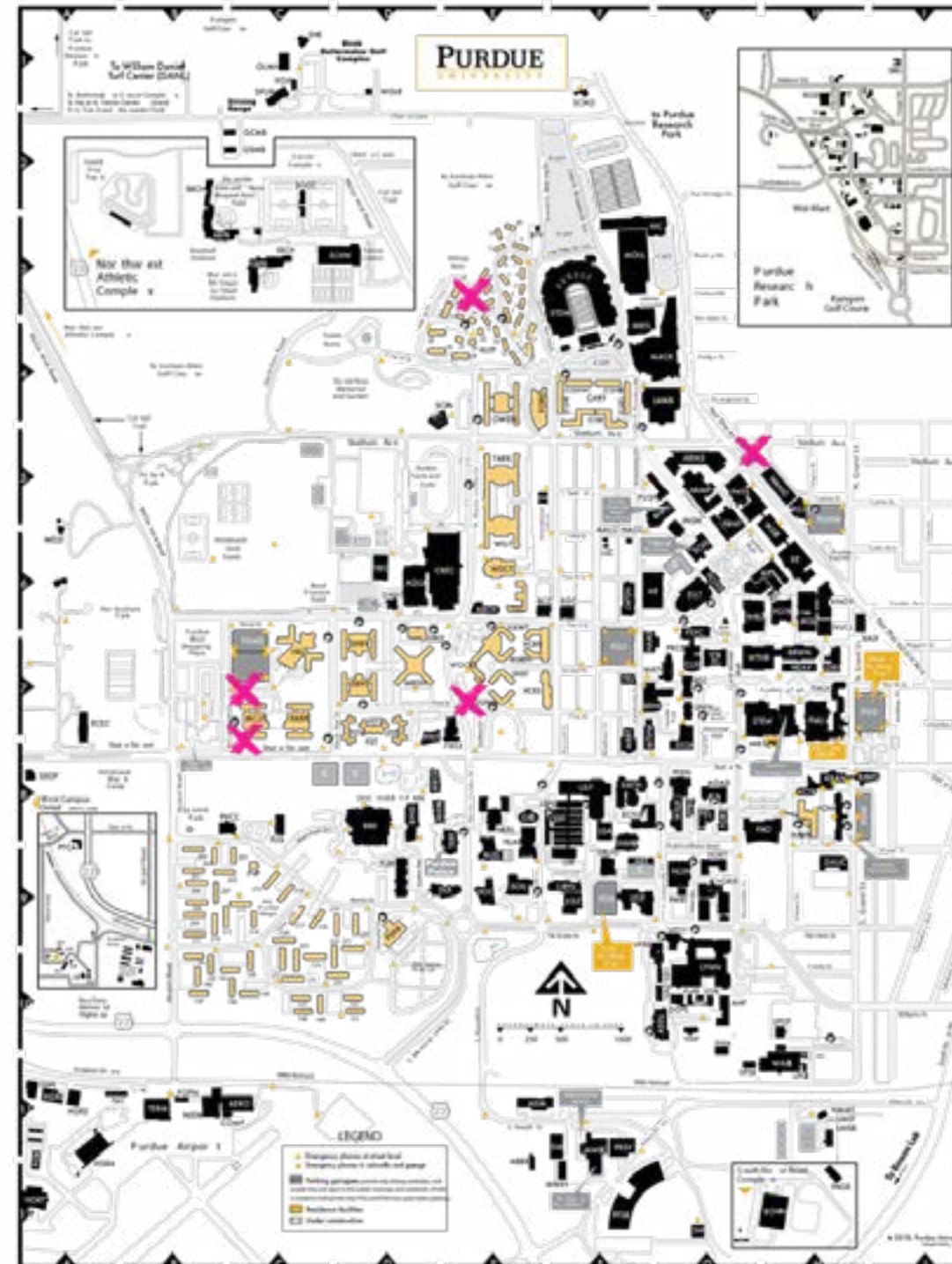
SEXUAL ASSAULT CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe, get to a safe place and call for help.
Define your sexual limits and practice (being assertive) about your boundaries
If you feel uneasy about a situation, trust your instincts and attempt to interrupt the chain of events. Create a distraction and involve others.
Always get verbal consent from your partner
Don't assume you know what the other person wants
Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe, get to a safe place and call for help.

[handwritten: This can be tricky as often rejection can lead to violence. also someone who is going to listen to your limits probably isn't a rapist right?]

DEAR PURDUE,

IT IS CLEAR YOU ARE TRYING! THAT IS GREAT! IT HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED! HOWEVER, THOSE THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF THESE CRIMES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TIPS SINCE GRADE SCHOOL ON HOW TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING TO THEM. IT CLEARLY IS NOT STOPPING ASSAULT OR RAPE.

NO AMOUNT OF KEYS IN MY KNUCKLES OR STREETLIGHTS IS GOING TO END THIS TYPE OF HATE CRIME.
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS START ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES BY ENDING THE CULTURE THAT MAKES PERPETRATORS FEEL LIKE THEY ARE ENTITLED TO SEX OR CAN OBTAIN POWER OR SOCIAL PROWESS OVER OTHERS THROUGH FORCED SEX.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY REPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULT EMAILS

✕ HILL TOP APARTMENTS
OCTOBER 5, 2016
LATITUDE:
40.434208
LONGITUDE:
-86.921957

✕ 200 N MARTIN JISCHKE DRIVE
AUG. 17, 2018
LATITUDE:
40.426316
LONGITUDE:
-86.922140

✕ 400 MCCUTCHEON DRIVE
SEP. 24, 2018
LATITUDE:
40.425055
LONGITUDE:
-86.920841

PURDUE CAMPUS?
NOVEMBER 14, 2018
LATITUDE:
N/A
LONGITUDE:
N/A

✕ 700 NORTHWESTERN AVE.
OCTOBER 5, 2016
LATITUDE:
40.431610
LONGITUDE:
-86.913847

PURDUE CAMPUS?
OCTOBER 27, 2017
LATITUDE:
N/A
LONGITUDE:
N/A

✕ 400 MCCUTCHEON DRIVE
NOVEMBER 3, 2018
LATITUDE:
40.431610
LONGITUDE:
-86.913847

TIMELY WARNING: CSA REPORT

purduealert@purdue.edu
Mon 9/24/2018

On Sept. 24, 2018 at [appr]oxim[ately] [10 a.m] PUP[D] received a CSA report of a sexual assault that a[lle]gedly occur[red i]n the 400 b[l]ock of McCutcheon Drive around 2:00 a.m. [on] Sept. 27 [The] victim met the suspect at a function earlier in the e[vening].

PREVENTION INFORMATION:

Crime prevention and awareness, as well as consistent reporting, may be the strongest (defenses) against becoming the victim of an assault.
While becoming a victim of crime is never the fault of the victim, the following list of practices may help safeguard individuals from becoming victims of assault:
Please report all suspicious activity and utilize the SAFE Walk program for (walking escorts.)
Be mindful of ETS locations on campus and choose well lit walking paths through campus.
Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe, get to a safe place and call for help.
Use the buddy system and watch out for each other.

Perpetrators are responsible for sexual assaults. Perpetrators take advantage of vulnerability and seek opportunities to commit sexual assaults.

[handwritten: Needs Improvement]
[handwritten: Seems to me the best prevention would be a culture that respects women and marginalized groups. Lets try our hand at an offensive strategy.]
[handwritten: Glad this exists but I'm a grown-ass adultand shouldn't need a chaperone like to to 1857...]
[handwritten: True, but I can't spend my life inside watching NETFLIX to prevent assault tho I'd love to.]
[handwritten: How about "use the buddy system & make sure your friend isn't a creep?"]

MAY I OFFER SOME MORE HELPFUL SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION TIPS?

IF SOMEONE IS WALKING ALONE AT NIGHT
- DON'T ASSAULT THEM.
IF SOMEONE TELLS YOU TO LEAVE THEM ALONE
- RESPECT THEM.
IF YOUR CREEPY FRIEND IS DOING OR SAYING SOMETHING CREEPY
- STOP THEM.

LETS FOCUS ON THE PERPETRATORS AND THOSE THAT KNOW THEM.

XOXO

Janna Ahrndt, Timely Warning Sep. 24, 2018
11 x 8.5, Digital Graphic Guerrilla Poster , 2016 - Until the Asaults Stop

PeepingTom 2.0

Site Specific Installation at a historically all male Engineering Camp in the Women's Bathroom. When walking into the space it is illuminated only by red light. You navigate the dark underground bathroom using provided flashlights and your mobile device. This work explores nostalgia of teen comedies depicting peeping Tom's. Often viewed as harmless fun – the viewer is placed as both voyeur and subject as they walk through the space. The embroidered undergarments act as image targets that activate an Augmented Reality Application playing looped and edited video. It was my goal of this piece to explore the feelings of puberty and navigating public and private spaces in a culture where this was viewed as both comedic and taboo behavior.

[Installation Videos](#)

Janna Ahrndt, Peeping Tom 2.0,
Site Specific Augmented Reality Installation, App created for iPad, 2017

SoapBox Karaoke

SoapBox Karaoke is an interactive installation. The self-contained socially powered Karaoke machine is equipped with a landline telephone and private number. Participants are asked to choose tracks from various CD's dial up their senator or representative and sing along into the phone. This piece was motivated by my work in activist groups who often met up to make calls. The environment made it feel less intimidating. Each track is backed by Muzak from various archives reminiscent of being on hold.

SoapBox Karaoke Video Documentation

For More Information

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