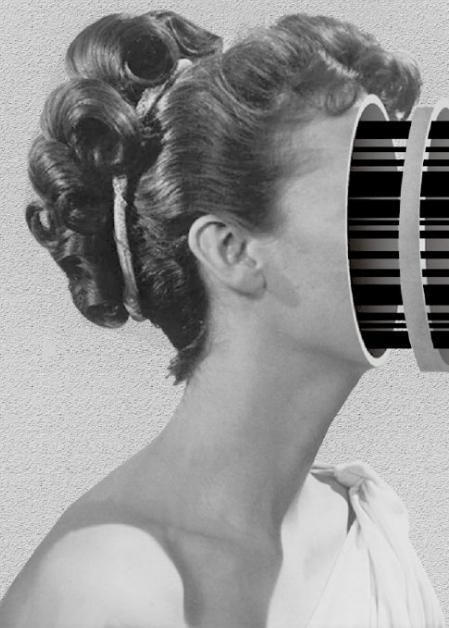
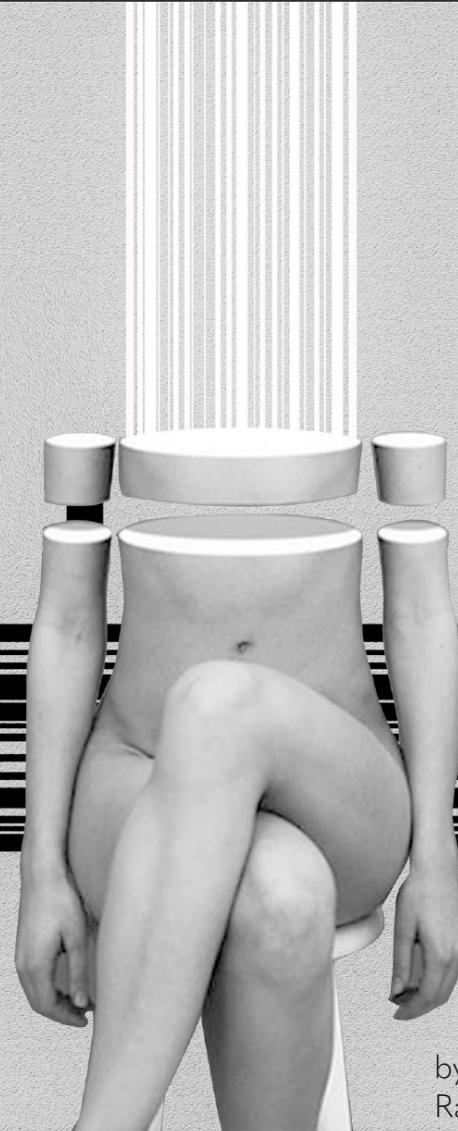


MONOPOLY MAN

A SERIES OF DEPICTIONS FOR MODERN DAY CONSUMERISM MONOPOLIZATION. THE DARK TRUTHS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND THAT ATTEMPT TO OPEN YOUR EYES AND WAKE YOU UP.



WE ARE WHAT WE BUY



by
Rachel Smith



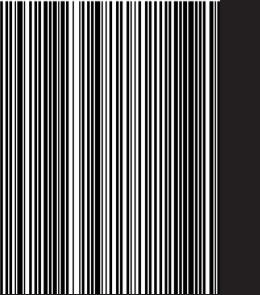
MO·NOP·O·LY

NOUN

1.

the exclusive possession or control of the supply of or trade in a commodity or service.

"his likely motive was to protect his regional monopoly on furs"



WE ARE WHAT WE BUY

WHO ARE YOU?

I urge you to translate these depictions on your inner self. Re-evaluate the way you think, live, and buy. Will you make changes to your lifestyle, or will you promote the monopolization of broad band corporations?

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ISSUE PUBLISHED ON 10/14/2020

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"Competition is always a good thing. It forces us to do our best. A monopoly renders people complacent and satisfied with mediocrity."
-Nancy Pearcey

AMAZON WORLD

A HYPER-REALISTIC VIEW ON THE EVOLUTION OF CONSUMER SHOPPING AND PRODUCTION ORIGINS THROUGH PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE TIME FRAMES.



WHAT IS AMERICA BUYING ON
amazon?





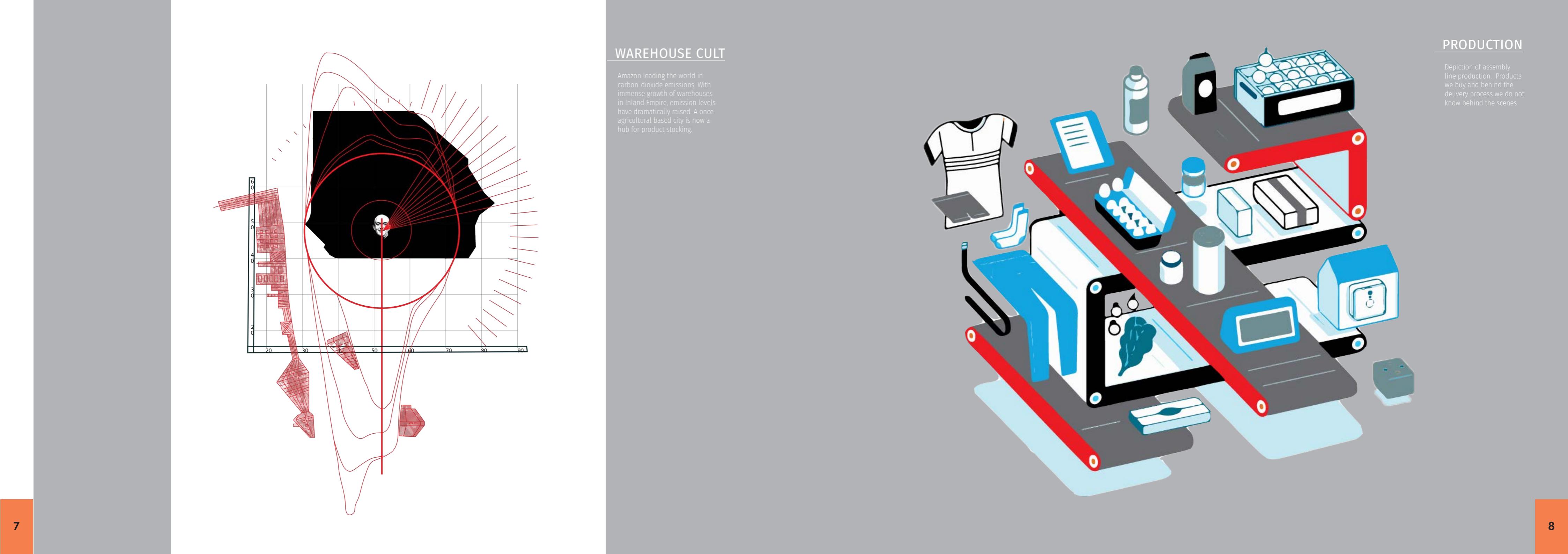
HEADQUARTERS

Amazon's main corporate buildings located across the United States. Seattle, Washington remains as Amazon's top corporate building, including coffee shops, Amazon University, tours, and restaurants.



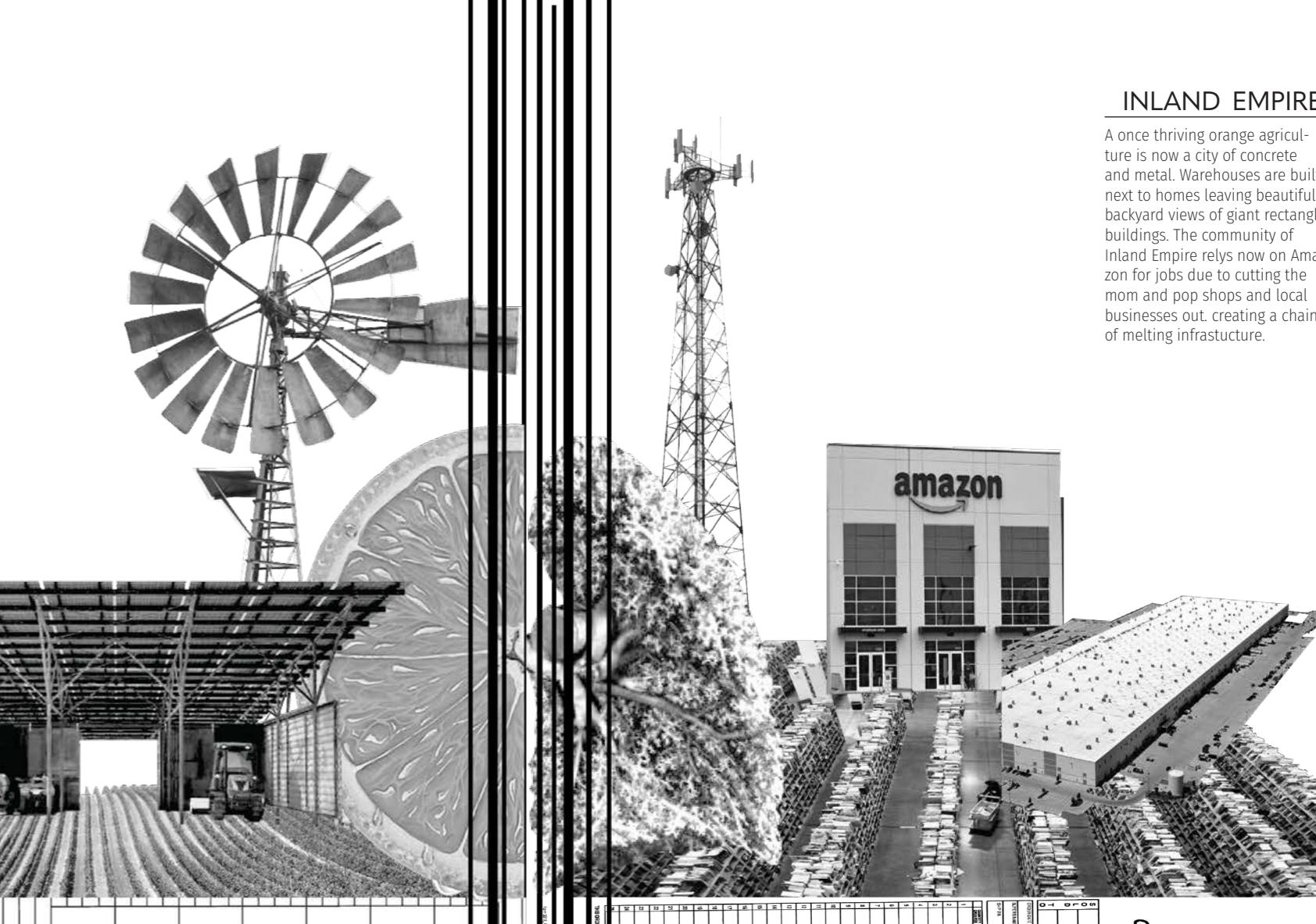
AMAZON WORLD

where will we go next? As Amazon continues to rule the nation as the leading supplier of goods, what will be next for C.E.O, Jeff Bezos to claim?



APP CONSUMING PROCESS

With 5 clicks, we can get anything at our fingertips. We do not know where they come from, how they are made, or how they get there, but we still crave to buy more. That simple sequence makes it easier for consumers to buy without thinking of the effects. We buy without knowing the harsh Amazon working environment. We buy without knowing the oranges we killed for more warehouse square footage.

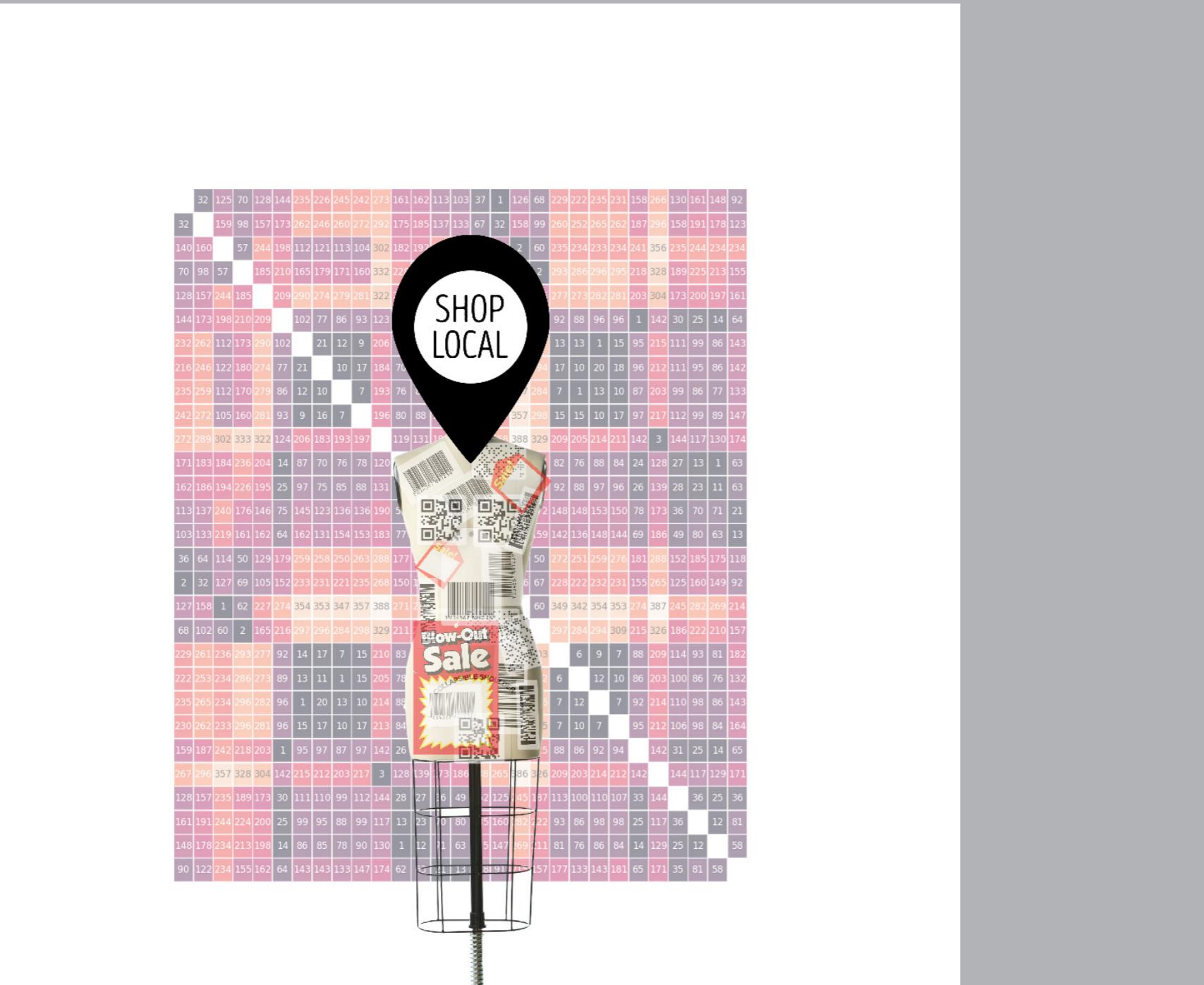


INLAND EMPIRE
A once thriving orange agriculture is now a city of concrete and metal. Warehouses are built next to homes leaving beautiful backyard views of giant rectangle buildings. The community of Inland Empire relies now on Amazon for jobs due to cutting the mom and pop shops and local businesses out, creating a chain of melting infrastructure.

C O N S U M E R A W A R E N E S S

GO BACK

In the past, America exsted from the backbone of local businesses. We bought local because we knew who we were buying from, we knew where our goods came from, we supported our local economy. Where has our local pride gone?



WE MURDERD MOM AND POP
our E-commerce buying trend has squashed our neighbors down the street. Local businesses cannot keep up with the montly bills and stock enough to stay a float. Our lack of support has killed our local economy, the people we used to know. Evaluate your buying habits.

SHIT YOU DON'T NEED

A SELF-HELP RECEIPT



DATE: 10/13/20
TIME: 11:18 AM
SALES AST:AMZ
NO: 3176220

PRODUCT NAME: QTY COLOR:	DESCRIPTION: SIZE PRICE:	AMOUNTNT:
259613905221 1/SHIT SNGLS.	SHIT SNGLS. 5.99	\$5.99
259613905221 1/SHIT SNGLS.	SHIT SNGLS. 53.99	\$53.99
259613905221 1/SHIT SNGLS.	SHIT SNGLS. 23.37	\$23.37
259613905221 1/SHIT SNGLS.	SHIT SNGLS. 3.32	\$3.32
TOTAL:		<hr/> <u>\$86.67</u>
INCLUDES TAX OF: 3%		
AMOUNTS TENDERED:		\$86.67
CASH:		\$90.00
TOTAL TENDERED:		\$90.00
PAYMENT ROUNDING:		\$0.01
TOTAL PAYED:		\$86.67
CHANGE DUE:		\$3.33

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: FREE USELESS ITEMS LIKE PLASTIC PENS AND TOILETRIES YOU CAN GET WHEN BUYING A MEGA-SIZE BULK BOX OF A WASTE OF STORAGE, TIME, ENVIRONMENT. WE WANT YOU TO BUY MORE THINGS JUST TO BUY MORE SHIT. WE ARE NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN YOUR SHOPPING EXPERIENCE, JUST THE DISTRACTION YOU GET FROM WALKING AROUND AND PICKING UP USELESS ITEMS YOU DON'T NEED, AND PUTTING IT IN YOUR BUGGIE. WE DON'T CARE ABOUT THE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS RELEASED FROM SHIPPING GOODS ALL AROUND THE WORLD THAT ARE COVERED IN PLASTIC AND NON-Biodegradable PACKAGING. WE JUST WANT YOU TO BUY, BUY, BUY, AND FILL THE VOID IN YOURSELF WITH ITEMS YOU DON'T NEED. DON'T THINK, JUST BUY. DON'T LOOK BACK.

ON A PERSONAL LEVEL: HAVING IMMENSE AMOUNTS OF SHIT YOU DON'T NEED SEEMS PRETTY DAMN USELESS. YOU ARE FEEDING THE SHIT YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO RECOGNIZE BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD TO SPEND YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY. IT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU DESERVE A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR DOING WHAT YOU ARE ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO DO. WHY DO YOU FEEL SO GOOD ABOUT SPENDING MONEY ON USELESS SHIT? WHERE ARE YOU EVEN GOING TO PUT THESE THINGS? WHO IS GOING TO WASH THAT MESS YOU JUST HAD TO GET BECAUSE IT HAD A CUDGY CAT ON IT? WHO IS GOING TO SWEEP UP THE TRAIL OF GLITTER LEFT BEHIND FROM THAT BATH BIOMASS YOU THOUGHT MIGHT BE FUN FOR WHEN YOU WANT SOME ME TIME? WHO IS GOING TO EAT THOSE DISGUSTING NO LOVE BAKED COOKIES YOU BOUGHT JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE FESTIVE? WAKE UP, WAKE UP, WAKE UP, THIS IS NOT A DREAM.

VISIT US AT ANY SITE ABOUT CONSUMERISM:
CONSUMERIST.COM
THANK YOU!

WHO ARE YOU BUYING FROM

A SELF-HELP RECEIPT



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TOTAL PAYED:		\$86.67
CHANGE DUE:		\$3.33

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT AMAZON WHERE WE LOVE WHEN YOU ADD THINGS TO YOUR CART BECAUSE WE CAN ADD MORE WAREHOUSES AND EMPLOYEES THAT ENDURE HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS. PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DEEP DARK SECRETS OF AMAZON MAKE US WHO WE ARE. WE RELY ON YOU SO WE CAN UNDERPAY WORKERS AND BUY UP THEIR LAND TO FUEL OUR BOOMING CORPORATION. AT AMAZON WE STRIVE TO BUY OUT SMALL CITIES AND TURN THEM INTO SHIPPING WAREHOUSE HUBS. WE WANT TO MAKE ONCE FERTILE AGRICULTURAL LAND INTO CONCRETE AND METAL PANELS, NOT BECAUSE IT LOOKS GOOD, BUT BECAUSE IT MAKES MY POCKET FEEL GOOD. WE LOVE HOW YOU CAN'T HELP YOURSELF BUT BROWSE ON OUR APP BECAUSE WE KNOW EVENTUALLY YOU ADD A LITTLE SOMETHING TO YOUR CART. SOMETIMES WE EVEN GET YOU TO SUBSCRIBE AND WOW, WHAT A GREAT FEELING IT IS TO HAVE YOU WRAPPED AROUND OUR FINGER.

ON A PERSONAL LEVEL: I JEFF BEZOS WANT YOU TO LIVE THE LIFE I LIVE OF WEALTH. NOT EVERYBODY CAN, ESPECIALLY MY EMPLOYEES, BUT AT SOME POINT THEY HAVE TO WORK FOR ME BECAUSE THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE. I TRAP POPULATIONS OF CITIES BY MAKING AMAZON THE LEADING PROVIDER OF JOBS IN THEIR HOME TOWN. I PUT ALL OF THE MOM AND POP MINI MARTS OUT OF BUSINESS, LEAVING ME, THE ONLY RELIABLE PLACE TO MAKE A LIVING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. YOU'LL BE TRAPPED WORKING FOR ME BECAUSE AGAIN, YOU WILL HAVE NO CHOICE, BUT YOU WILL GROW ACUSTOM TO HARSH WORKING ENVIRONMENTS AND HOPEFULLY YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM CAN HANDLE IT. WAKE UP, WAKE UP, WAKE UP, THIS IS NOT A DREAM.

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THANK YOU!

WHY DON'T YOU BUY LOCAL

A SELF-HELP RECEIPT



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SALES AST:AMZ
NO: 3176220

PRODUCT NAME: QTY COLOR:	DESCRIPTION: SIZE PRICE:	AMOUNTNT:
000000000000 NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	\$0.00
000000000000 NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	\$0.00
000000000000 NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	\$0.00
000000000000 NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	\$0.00

TOTAL: \$0.00
INCLUDES TAX OF: 3%

AMOUNTS TENDERED: \$0.00
CASH: \$0.00
TOTAL TENDERED: \$0.00
PAYMENT ROUNDING: \$0.00
TOTAL PAYED: \$0.00
CHANGE DUE: \$0.00

REMEMBER US? IT'S YOUR LOCAL MOM AND POP BUSINESS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER FROM YOUR HOUSE. WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE, BUT JUST A REMINDER WE ARE STILL HERE. MOST DAYS WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF CUSTOMERS, SO WE HAVE CUT BACK ON A LOT OF OUR STOCK, BUT I KNOW WE STILL HAVE YOUR FAVORITES. DON'T FORGET, OUR HOURS HAVE CHANGED, WE ARE NO LONGER OPEN EARLY OR LATE, 9-4. WE HAD TO CUT BACK ON OUR HOURS BECAUSE IT WAS GETTING TOO EXPENSIVE TO RUN THE SHOP. I UNDERSTAND IT IS AN INCONVENIENCE, WE ARE JUST TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET, AND IF WE ARE LUCKY, COME OUT EVEN. I KNOW IT'S BOthersome TO HAVE TO LEAVE THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME, SOMETIMES EVEN YOUR BED TO GET SOMETHING. I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE FANCY TWO DAY SHIPPING OR DELIVERY, BUT WE WILL TRY TO GET YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT. JUST COME BY, IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.

ON A PERSONAL LEVEL: YOU ARE RUNNING YOUR COMMUNITIES ECONOMY INTO THE GROUND. I KNOW YOU THINK IT DOESN'T EFFECT YOU, BUT SOME DAY IT WILL. YOU ARE GOING TO REALIZE MY TOWN NEEDED SMALL BUSINESS TO RUN, AND EVENTUALLY YOU WILL LEAVE BECAUSE WE CAN'T PROVIDE THE THINGS YOU WANT ANYMORE. THAT IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T SHOP LOCAL. YOU RUIN OUR CHANCE OF EVEN MAKING IT. YOU RUIN YOUR CITIES ECONOMY AND DRIVE THE PRICE OF GOODS UP SO HIGH THAT OF COURSE YOU HAVE TO ORDER FROM AMAZON TO EVEN GET ANYTHING. YOU ARE LAZY, GET OUT, SEE PEOPLE, SUPPORT US, SHOW THAT YOUR CARE AND YOU KNOW WE ARE HERE. WAKE UP, WAKE UP, WAKE UP, THIS IS NOT A DREAM.

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HERE'S HOW TO GET RID OF IT

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000000000000 NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	\$0.00
000000000000 NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	NOTHING SNGLS. 0.00	\$0.00

TOTAL: \$0.00
INCLUDES TAX OF: 3%

AMOUNTS TENDERED: \$0.00
CASH: \$0.00
TOTAL TENDERED: \$0.00
PAYMENT ROUNDING: \$0.00
TOTAL PAYED: \$0.00
CHANGE DUE: \$0.00

OPEN YOUR EYES. YOUR PRODUCTS COME FROM CHINA AND SIT IN WAREHOUSES WAITING FOR YOU TO ADD THEM INTO YOUR CART. THESE PRODUCTS ARE THE PRODUCT OF CHILD LABOR, HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS, UNSANITARY ENVIRONMENTS, MINIMUM WAGE, POLLUTION. OPEN YOUR EYES. WHEN YOU GET OUT OF YOUR OWN DENIAL THAT BUYING ONLINE AND BUYING USELESS SHIT IS NOT OKAY, MAYBE THEN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTS OF WHAT YOU ARE FEEDING. YOU ARE FEEDING THE BEAST OF MONOPOLIZATION. THIS BEAST DOESN'T SLEEP, IT JUST EATS YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY AND SPITS SHIT PRODUCTS OUT AT YOU. YOU ARE GOING TO SEE THIS, MAYBE NOT TODAY, OR TOMMOROW, BUT ONE DAY YOU WILL SEE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND HOPE IT IS NOT TOO LATE. ON A PERSONAL LEVEL: YOU ARE SINKING THE ECONOMICAL SHIP. WHEN YOU BUY, BUY WISELY. WHEN YOU BUY, UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU ARE BUYING FROM AND BUY LOCAL. WHEN YOU BUY, LOOK AT WHO MAKES IT. WHEN YOU BUY, LOOK AT THE MATERIALS BECAUSE THEY ARE OFTEN RECORDED FROM INHUMANE WAYS. WHEN YOU BUY, ASK YOURSELF 5 WAYS YOU ARE GOING TO USE IT, AND THEY BETTER BE GOOD. WHEN YOU BUY, LOOK AROUND AND SEE IF THAT SAME PRODUCT CAN BE BOUGHT SOMEWHERE ELSE WHERE YOU CAN SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES, OR FAIR TRADE, OR ORGANICALLY MADE, OR JUST WORKING ENVIRONMENTS. LOOK AROUND TODAY IN YOUR HOUSE AND TAKE A MINUTE TO ASSESS THE ITEMS. ARE THEY BEING USED? ARE THEY SITTING IN A DARK, DUSTY CLOSET? HAVE YOU EVEN TOUCHED THESE ITEMS? DO THEY DO ANYTHING FOR YOU? DO YOU EVEN LIKE THESE THINGS? WERE YOU FILLING A VOID, DO THEY FILL THAT VOID FOR YOU THE SAME WAY THEY DID NOW? WAKE UP, WAKE UP, WAKE UP.

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THANK YOU!

SUMMARY

As consumers, we are going to consume no matter what. My objective is not to abolish Amazon, but to bring awareness to what we buy. It has become too easy in today's World to obtain whatever we want at the drop of a pen. We want everything fast-tracked no matter the consequences, and we want it now. It is time to step back and evaluate the way we are living and consuming without knowledge. The most powerful tool is education itself, and we are in denial about consumerism. The way we are buying is not sustainable. The way we demand is not practical. The way we consume is lackadaisical. It is time to open our eyes to the Amazon monopolization and how it has ruined communities, employees, the environment, and the economy. We need to start supporting our local businesses and understand where our goods are coming from. It is time to wake up.

SOURCES

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WE ARE WHAT WE BUY



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