



Spring 2011

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Recommended Citation

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“I Don’t Even Know Why They Love Me Ranting About This Shit”:
An Analysis and Annotated Videography of the “Hitler Reacts” Videos

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Senior Thesis, Spring 2011
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Abstract:

Adolf Hitler has been called many things since his rise to power in 1933 – cruel, maniacal, crazy, evil, just to name a few. Today’s youth, however, know him as “funny.” They associate him not with the Holocaust or World War II, but rather, with the *Der Untergang* YouTube parody videos in which he stars. It is these videos, along with a handful of other humorous Hitler facsimiles that represent contemporary society’s shift in their stance on the dictator. Though these videos were created to incite laughter, they have provided a glimpse into the way that many people deal with a tragic situation from which they are far removed: humor. The purpose of this Thesis explores and analyzes the social implications of the popularity of these videos.

The scene opens with a shot of a map marked with the Allied advance in Berlin. Hitler sits in silence, listening to his top men as they choke out the bad news to him: Kanye West interrupted Taylor Swift's acceptance speech at the MTV Video Music Awards. Hitler, hand shaking, asks all of those who haven't been to the Live American Idol tour to leave the room, and poses a question to those who remain, "Why does Kanye West always have to douche up the VMAs?"¹ As Hitler erupts with anger, viewers around the world react with laughter. There are at least seventy-five more versions of this video circulating on the Internet, and each depicts Hitler as he deals with outlandish pop culture dilemmas.

These videos parody a critical scene from the German film *Der Untergang* (released in America as *Downfall*), released by Constantin Films in September 2004.² Directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel and based in part on the memoirs of Traudl Junge, one of Hitler's secretaries, *Downfall* centers on Hitler's final ten days in his Berlin bunker in April 1945. The film opened to mixed critical reception worldwide. Though the film was lauded with a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, its critics appeared torn over whether or not the film depicted Hitler appropriately. Many, including David Denby of *The New Yorker*, found that actor Bruno Ganz depicted Hitler in a light that made him "a plausible human being" who "insis[ted] that the monster was not invariably monstrous." His overarching issue with the film was that it did not provide

¹ "Hitler reacts to the Kanye West Incident at the MTV VMAs 2009," YouTube, accessed 18 Mar 2011, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McsAFBqQgio>.

² Roel Van de Winkel, "Hitler's *Downfall*, a film from Germany (*Der Untergang*, 2004)." In *Perspectives on European Film and History*, ed. by Leen Engelen and et al. (Gent: Academia Press, 2007), 183-185.

“a sufficient response to what Hitler actually did.”³ Denby was not alone in his inability to arrive at a definitive opinion in regards to the performance. Famed film critic Roger Ebert offered another perspective on the film when he directly addressed Denby’s review within his own: “I do not feel the film provides ‘a sufficient response to what Hitler actually did’ because I feel no film can, and no response would be sufficient.”⁴ In other words, to criticize this film alongside other rejoinders of World War II aftermath would be to miss the point.

Regardless of whether the film appropriately depicts Hitler and his regime, historians and film critics agree that Ganz’s performance portrays the dictator with an eerie level of legitimacy. According to Sir Ian Kershaw, author of *The ‘Hitler Myth’: Image and Reality in the Third Reich*, Ganz’s performance depicts Hitler with “chilling authentic[ity].”⁵ Kershaw wrote a review for *The Guardian* in which he observed, “Of all the screen depictions of the Führer, [...] this is the only one which to me is compelling. Part of this is the voice. Ganz has Hitler’s voice to near perfection.”⁶ It is this realism that has allowed *Der Untergang* to become the target of multiple parodies worldwide.

The success of the videos is thus due largely in part to Ganz’s impeccable performance. As Denby said, Ganz is able to humanize Hitler. This personalization removes Hitler from the pedestal upon which he has been placed. No longer the “author of the Holocaust,” but rather “a salty dog who, though all is lost, doesn’t stop piercing

³ David Denby, “Back in the Bunker.” *The New Yorker*, February 14, 2005, accessed March 11, 2005, http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2005/02/14/050214crici_cinema.

⁴ Robert Ebert, “Downfall.” *Rogerebert.com*. Last modified March 11, 2005. Accessed February 20, 2011, <http://rogerebert.suntimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050310/REVIEWS/50222002/1023>.

⁵ Ian Kershaw, “The human Hitler,” September 17, 2004, accessed February 20, 2011, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2004/sep/17/germany>.

⁶ *Ibid.*

pretense and speaking in slangy, heartfelt language, expressing the most deeply felt needs of the human id,” Hitler is no longer, well, scary.⁷ Without the sense of fear, audiences see through the pristine uniform to a seemingly melodramatic man. This leaves Ganz’s character as a prime candidate for satire.

To understand the popularity of the parodies, commonly known as the “Hitler Reacts” or “Hitler Finds Out” videos, one must first understand the concept of “viral video,” as well as its implications. In the simplest of terms, a video becomes viral when it is widespread on the Internet. The Hitler videos are a subset of memes, or “self-replicating packets of information” that transmit “ideas and information [that] may replicate themselves in the same way viruses spread.”⁸ Since the advent of the video-sharing website YouTube in 2005, it has become possible for video clips have spread like wildfire. Viewers watch over two billion per day on YouTube alone. Factor in other video hosting websites such as FunnyOrDie and CollegeHumor, and the numbers are astronomical. The content scope of these videos is incredible. Just a quick search will give you everything from people videotaping their drunken friends to adorable animal antics, and millions of odd things in-between. Social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace, when coupled with e-mail, have made sharing these videos extremely simple. If one person sees a humorous clip, it’s a safe bet that within hours, nearly all of his or her friends (and those people’s friends and so on) will have seen it as well.

There is no formula to predict which videos will become viral and which will lurk obscurely in the annals of the Internet for eternity. The clips run the gamut from adorable

⁷ Virginia Heffernan, “The Hitler Meme,” *New York Times*, October 24, 2008, accessed March 1, 2011, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/26/magazine/26wwln-medium-t.html>.

⁸ Karl Hodge, “It’s all in the Memes,” *The Guardian*, August 10, 2000, accessed March 1, 2011, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2000/aug/10/technology>.

animals to indescribably nauseating sexual acts. But, on a YouTube where “inanity, banality and peculiarity may flourish,” is there room for cultural substance?⁹ Millions agree that indeed there is. This invites several questions: where do the Hitler parodies fit? What cultural purpose, if any, do they serve? To explore these questions, one must first understand the scope, purpose, and efficacy of Hitler jokes, viral video, and their intersection.

Depictions of Hitler as a comedic figure are far from a recent development. Comedians such as the Three Stooges catalyzed the theme in an early American Hitler parody, *You Natzy Spy* (1940). Charlie Chaplin’s *The Great Dictator*, also released in 1940, has become a hallmark of the Hitler parody genre. Even animated films, such as Walt Disney’s *Der Fuehrer’s Face* (1943) poked fun at the dictator during his lifetime.¹⁰ Following Hitler’s death, as Nazi atrocities from World War II became known, his position as an image of amusement became muddled. Despite protests from those who felt that there was nothing funny to be found in a man responsible for such barbarism, parodies continued.

Hitler’s likeness has made cameo appearances in many books, songs, movies, and novels since his death in 1945. The nature of his depiction has ranged from historical and serious, such as Georg Wilhelm Pabst’s 1955 film *Der letzte Akt*, to outlandish, as in Mel Brook’s 1968 play within a film *The Producers*. Brooks’s film portrays a Broadway producer is looking for the worst possible idea for a new production, and of course, he

⁹ Hermione Hoby and Tom Lamont. “How YouTube made superstars out of everyday people,” *The Guardian*, April 11, 2010, accessed March 30, 2011, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2010/apr/11/youtube-web-video-stars>.

¹⁰ “Der Fuehrer’s Face,” *The Encyclopedia of Disney Animated Shorts*, accessed March 18, 2011, <http://www.disneyshorts.org/years/1943/derfuehrersface.html>.

jumps at the proposed manuscript of *Springtime for Hitler*. Comedy ensues as he meets the writer, a Hitler fanatic, and the two create an inadvertent hit. In a 2001 *U.S. News and World Report* interview, Brooks explained some of his motivation behind the film when he said, “I was never crazy about Hitler...If you stand on a soapbox and trade rhetoric with a dictator you never win...That's what they do so well: they seduce people. But if you ridicule them, bring them down with laughter, they can't win. You show how crazy they are.”¹¹ Just as Brooks hoped to strip away the power of the dictator, Hirschbiegel sought to “kick these terrible people off the throne that made them demons” in *Der Untergang*.¹² The Hitler parodies combine the humor of Brooks with the intentions of Hirschbiegel and accomplish, to the degree possible, the combined desires of the two directors.

Although the trend of Hitler as a comedic figure never disappeared, it has proliferated the culture of the 2000's in ways that were unthinkable just a decade ago. In contemporary media, the Hitler meme can be seen nearly everywhere. The animated television shows *South Park* and *Family Guy* have both depicted or referenced the dictator numerous times. He is a popular villain in comic books such as *Superman* and *Captain America*. The newly created web comic *Hipster Hitler* depicts Hitler as a twenty-something Bohemian who emphasizes counter-culture, much to the dismay of Joseph Goebbels.¹³ The “Hitler Reacts” videos aside, his image pervades YouTube from pun-

¹¹ Nancy Shute, “20 Mel Brooks: His humor brings down Hitler, and the house,” *US News and World Report*, August 12, 2001, accessed April 14, 2011, http://www.usnews.com/usnews/culture/articles/010820/archive_038235.htm.

¹² Katey Rich, “Downfall Director Thinks The Hitler Meme is Hilarious,” *Cinemablend.com*, January 15, 2010, accessed March 15, 2011, <http://www.cinemablend.com/new/Downfall-Director-Thinks-The-Hitler-Meme-Is-Hilarious-16592.html>.

¹³ JC and APK, *Hipster Hitler*, accessed March 18, 2011, <http://hipsterhitler.com/archive/>.

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filled songs by the improvisational sketch comedy troupe “The Whitest Kids You Know” to mash-ups that incorporate actual footage of his speeches. We are confronted by images of the dictator *ad nauseum*.

Hitler has preoccupied contemporary American culture to the point that social “rules” have been created to explain the obsession. Lawyer turned author Michael Godwin was prompted to create his Godwin’s Law of Nazi Analogies, which states, “As an online discussion continues, the probability of a reference or comparison to Hitler or to Nazis approaches 1.”¹⁴ In other words, eventually, nearly all Internet conversations will result in the mention of some aspect of the Third Reich (Hitler, the Gestapo, the SS, etcetera). Another cultural rule, “*reductio ad Hitlerum*” (also known as “playing the Nazi card”) results when you judge something (or someone) as “guilty by association.” The political philosopher Leo Strauss coined the phrase in his text *Natural Right and History*: “Unfortunately, it does not go without saying that in our examination we must avoid the fallacy that in the last decades has frequently been used as a substitute for the *reductio ad absurdum*: the *reductio ad Hitlerum*. A view is not refuted by the fact that it happens to have been shared by Hitler.”¹⁵ Such “rules” evince the extent to which the image of Hitler has saturated contemporary culture.

On a similar note, there is a growing trend in American popular culture whereby it has become the norm to compare authority figures to Nazis. In the popular ABC television series *Grey’s Anatomy*, one of stricter doctors is “lovingly” referred to as “The Nazi.” One of the most well-known episodes of *Seinfeld* depicts the “Soup Nazi,” a soup

¹⁴ Michael Godwin, “I Seem To Be A Verb: 18 Years of Godwin’s Law,” *Jewcy*, April 30, 2008, accessed March 20, 2011.

http://www.jewcy.com/arts-and-culture/i_seem_be_verb_18_years_godwins_law.

¹⁵ Strauss, Leo. *Natural Right and History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006).

stand operator who refuses to serve food to those who do not follow proper procedure at his counter.¹⁶ In contemporary slang, people who uphold the rules of language are known as “Grammar Nazis.”¹⁷ If one types “Hitler pop culture reference” into a Google search, 970,000 results are returned within 0.20 seconds. This inundation acts as a makeshift form of exposure therapy to the twenty-first century. It is cyclical in nature: the more Hitler pervades our society, the more comfortable we become with him, which in turn, allows us to conjure his image with increasing frequency. The taboo is slowly disappearing. Familiarity breeds comfort, and, as a result, humorous Third Reich memes are possible.

The slew of memes known collectively as “The Hitler Reacts” clips began in August 2006 when the first video was posted to YouTube. Titled “Sim Heil: Der untersim,” the Spanish subtitles depicted Hitler’s anger over the computer game *Flight Simulator X*. Registered YouTube user DReaperF4 uploaded an English subtitled version a few weeks later, and the Hitler parodies were born.¹⁸ Today, approximately one hundred anachronistic, outlandish videos exist. One can watch Hitler exploding in rage over the real estate crisis in the United States, Sarah Palin’s failed political attempts, his futile attempts to plan the Burning Man festival, problems with the Windows operating system Vista, and many others.

The videos are formulaic, and in the grand scheme, exactly the same. They all use the same clip from *Der Untergang* of Hitler’s meltdown in the bunker over the Allied

¹⁶ “Soup Nazi,” *Urban Dictionary*, accessed March 24, 2011,

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=soup%20nazi>.

¹⁷ “Grammar Nazi.” *Encyclopedia Dramatica*, accessed March 24, 2011,

http://encyclopediadramatica.com/Grammar_Nazi.

¹⁸ “Downfall/Hitler Reacts,” *Know Your Meme*. Last modified April 21, 2011, accessed April 1, 2011, <http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/downfall-hitler-meme>.

advance. In the film, a few of Hitler's generals (Wilhelm Keitel, Alfred Jodl, Wilhelm Burgdorf and Hans Krebs) remain in Hitler's makeshift conference room to inform the dictator of General Felix Steiner's failure to rally the requested troops to protect Berlin from the Russians. As a result, Berlin will fall to the Allies and Germany will lose the war. All of the videos use this same clip: one of Hitler's men delivers bad news, Hitler fumes, and those that remain in the bunker make futile attempts to comfort him. Therein lies the success of the clips. The simple methodology employed by the creators of the spoofs ensures that each and every one will be met with the same reception: laughter. Without pressing "play" viewers know exactly what they will see over the following four minutes. How then, one must ask, have the videos survived for the past six years? Why has the novelty not worn off, allowing the true banality to show through?

The answers to these questions are not free from complications. There still remains a strong divide between those who find Hitler jokes acceptable and those who find them offensive. Constantin Films received numerous complaints in the wake of the video postings. Martin Moszkowicz, head of film production for the company, reported, "Sometimes we have been asked to take certain ones [videos] down -- by companies whose products have been ridiculed or from Jewish associations who were offended."¹⁹ According to Moszkowicz, rather than make the cease and desist requests politically motivated, the company claimed copyright infringement, stating "[...] we don't want to be the judge of what's good or bad taste. We just see this as a simple case of unauthorized use of our copyright-protected material."²⁰

¹⁹ Scott Roxborough, "Film company explains Hitler meme," *The Hollywood Reporter*, October 14, 2010, accessed March 30, 2011, <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/film-company-explains-hitler-meme-22843>.

²⁰ Ibid.

In a German language interview, Moszkowicz expressed a surprising level of empathy toward the makers and audience of the video. He told *Stern.de*, “Aber ich glaube auch, dass die Leute anders reagieren. Wenn sie wissen, um was es in dieser Szene geht. Vielen ist gar nicht klar, dass zu dem Zeitpunkt, als Hitler mitgeteilt bekommt, dass er den Krieg verloren hat, in Europa viele Millionen Menschen gestorben sind.”²¹ (“I also believe, however, that people react differently if they know the implications of the scene. Many don’t know that at this point in time [in the film], Hitler has found out that he lost the war, and many millions of Europeans have died”). In other words, Moszkowicz operates under the assumption that these videos are so well received based on the fact that they obscure the history that surrounds them. Few viewers realize that the Holocaust and the war itself have already taken their toll, and thus, they find no issue with the clips. Despite going as far as calling some of the feedback that Constantin has received from certain groups “hate mail,” Moszkowicz insisted the removal of the clips was from a purely intellectual property standpoint as they were only trying to protect their film: “Es geht uns nicht um die Moral, sondern darum, unsere Filme zu schützen.”²² (“It has nothing to do with morality, but rather, with protecting our films.”)

Even more surprising, however, is the reaction from director Oliver Hirschbiegel, an adamant proponent of the parodies. Hirschbiegel believes that, “The point of the film was to kick these terrible people off the throne that made them demons, making them real and their actions into reality. I think it's only fair if now it's taken as part of our history,

²¹ Sophie Albers, “Wir verstehen die Aufregung nicht so ganz,” *Stern.de*, April 21, 2010, accessed April 1, 2011, <http://www.stern.de/kultur/film/constantin-gegen-hitler-parodien-wir-verstehen-die-aufregung-nicht-so-ganz-1560343.html>.

²² *Ibid.*

and used for whatever purposes people like.”²³ Hirschbiegel’s film is strictly mimetic. His film shows, rather than tells, the story of the bunker. With *Der Untergang*, Hirschbiegel set out to portray Hitler not as strictly a genocidal maniac, but as an emotionally charged, multi-dimensional man. In succeeding, Hirschbiegel created a character who is susceptible to ridicule. As Brooks mentioned, once the powers of seduction and intimidation are stripped from a figure, the field is leveled. Hirschbiegel removes Hitler from his pedestal of terror and places him among the masses, rendering him helpless against criticism.

Around April 20th, 2010 (which is coincidentally Hitler’s birthday), YouTube acquiesced to Constantin’s demands and began to remove the videos.²⁴ But, since good memes never really die, Hitler took his reactions elsewhere. Another popular video hosting site, FunnyorDie.com, is home to the “Hitler Finds Out the Hitler *Downfall* Parody Videos are Being Taken Down” clip. “Imagine the news,” he yells, “Hitler gives up on YouTube and decides to upload to FoD!!! [...] I’m so desperate for a YouTube account right now I may be forced to go out and make a god damned fake G-Mail account!”²⁵ Though not the stuff of comedic genius, this video serves a much bigger purpose than purely humor. It represents the level of virality that the video has reached. Viewers are so consumed by the meme that their only reaction to its removal was to

²³ Jacqui Cheng, “Attack on Hitler parodies now newest front in copyright wars,” *Ars Technica*, April 21, 2010, accessed March 10, 2011. <http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/news/2010/04/attack-on-hitler-parodies-now-newest-front-in-copyright-wars.ars>.

²⁴ Sarah Jacobsson, “Hitler Parodies Booted off YouTube: Death of a Web Meme?” *PC World*, April 21, 2011, accessed March 10, 2011, http://www.pcworld.com/article/194649/hitler_parodies_booted_off_youtube_death_of_a_web_meme.html

²⁵ “Hitler Finds Out the Hitler *Downfall* Parody Videos are Being Taken Down,” *Funny or Die*, accessed March 31, 2011, <http://www.funnyordie.com/videos/60bc7be2b1/hitler-finds-out-the-hitler-downfall-parody-videos-are-being-taken-down>.

propagate it further. Despite YouTube's efforts, many of the videos have remained on the site, and on other video hosting sites on the Internet.

Though it is not hard to understand why some find the videos offensive, other motives fuel the meme's fans. Humor and the Holocaust (and Hitler) have a hugely complicated story that dates back to the concentration camps. Humor that arises out of stressful situations is known collectively as "gallows humor." It "originates and functions among people who literally face death at any moment." and acts as a "psychological escape [...] psychological compensation."²⁶ Many survivors often tell tales of how comedy was the only thing that helped them to survive the horrors through which they lived. Today, however, the number of survivors is dwindling fast. Over sixty years separate Hitler's atrocities from our present. In twenty years, few if any survivors will remain. Hitler will exist only in the past, no more connected to the living populous than the Mughal Empire or the Civil War. Once there are no physical attachments to the Third Reich, how (or why) will the youth connect to the Hitler and the Holocaust?

One possible route is for them to establish a connection to the event through exposure to artifacts, documents, and recorded eyewitness testimonies. Museum curators and educators worldwide hope their efforts will suffice and that the tragedy will remain more than just a chapter in history textbooks. In an effort to pique the attention of adolescents, proponents of Holocaust remembrance have started to modernize their presentation methods. One such example, according to an article from German international news broadcaster, *Deutsche Welle*, is a "CD-ROM featuring profiles of 20 prisoners at the camp and their lives before, during and after their imprisonment" sold by

²⁶ Antonin J Obrdlik, "Gallows Humor – A Sociological Phenomenon," *The American Journal of Sociology* 47 (1942): 709-716.

Sachsenhausen concentration camp.²⁷ When one visits a Holocaust museum or concentration camp memorial, there is almost always a gift shop filled with post cards, knick-knacks, and (mostly) relevant literature. Interactive exhibits, filled with graphic imagery, films, and experiences such as spending the night by the camp are just a few examples of the seemingly last-ditch efforts of Holocaust education proponents worldwide to engage a largely disconnected youth. The commodity fetishism displayed by the memorial groups may serve to obscure the history of the event through kitsch, but it simultaneously provides the level of tangible interaction that a generation of desensitized adolescents requires to feel engaged with the past.

The connection these groups attempt to instill in the youth must be postmemorial, due to the fact that the event is sixty years removed. Postmemory, a phenomenon formulated by Marianne Hirsch, “describes the relationship of the second generation to powerful, often traumatic experiences that preceded their births but were nevertheless transmitted to them so deeply as to seem to constitute memories in their own right.”²⁸ In her article “The Generation of Postmemory,” Hirsch explores which “aesthetic and institutional structures, what tropes, best mediate the psychology of postmemory, the connections and discontinuities between generations, the gaps in knowledge that define the aftermath of trauma.”²⁹ She concludes, based on her own experiences, that photography often instills the greatest sense of connection to an event. She states, “Photography’s promise to offer an access to the event itself, and its easy assumption of iconic symbolic power, makes it a uniquely powerful medium for the transmission of

²⁷ Andreas Tzortis, “Keeping the Holocaust Relevant,” *Deutsche Welle*, January 26, 2005, accessed March 25, 2011, <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,1468811,00.html>.

²⁸ Marianne Hirsch, “The Generation of Postmemory,” *Poetics Today* 29 (2008): 103-128.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

events that remain unimaginable.”³⁰ Though a still frame photograph serves as a powerful medium to transport the youth back to a time of which they would otherwise be unaware of, video is becoming increasingly more effective for the youth of today.

The Hitler videos tell a different side to the postmemory story. Like the photographs Hirsch described, these videos also serve to immortalize the past. While, concentration camp photographs, for example, may preserve a moment of horror forever, the Hitler videos memorialize the dictator as one of the last examples of true evil. Without the “Axis of Evil” to serve as a reference point, the line in the good versus evil paradigm is constantly being blurred. Evil no longer manifests itself just in public figures, but is instead omnipresent. Hannah Arendt explored this psychological phenomenon in her 1963 text *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*” in which she recounts German SS-Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann’s trial for crimes against humanity. Arendt introduces the hypothesis that historical atrocities are committed not by sociopaths, but rather, by ordinary men.³¹ Christopher Browning develops Arendt’s claims further in his 1992 work *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution*, where he explores the possibility that the men in this unit were just working class men following orders, not Nazi fanatics.³² Yet, this idea that good men can do bad things, however true, does not seem to alter the consensus of Hitler as the ultimate example of evil.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (New York: Penguin Books, 1963).

³² Chris Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, (New York: HarperCollins, 1992).

Today, society struggles to personify wickedness. We have become desensitized to the term “evil” because it is applied to so many different things. CEOs of tobacco companies are “evil,” teachers who hand out detentions are “evil”; it even lurks in our food, disguised as high fructose corn syrup and trans fat. We no longer have any single paragon of evil to fear. Our enemies are sleeper cells, suicide bombers, anonymous packages laced with anthrax. As a mechanism for coping with this omnipresent fear, we displace these anxieties through the perpetuation of the familiar faces of evil. And of course, the most infamous and “uncontestably evil,” figure is Adolf Hitler.

Hitler continues, sixty years later, to serve as “Due South” on the moral compass of society. His infamous legacy provides us with a standard by which to compare our own actions, as well as the actions of others. Though the youth of today may have a strong disconnect from Hitler, he still provides a function in their lives: he epitomizes evil. Though the videos immortalize the dictator, they do so in a manner with which we as a society are comfortable. As Hitler reacts, he appears to be a bumbling, ridiculous idiot. The audience is spared from his atrocities, his evilness. He is remembered not as a man of stature and power, but rather, just a man.

Annotated Videography

To better illustrate the success of the memes have had stripping Hitler of his power of intimidation, an annotated videography of the Hitler parodies follows. Each of the video titles is accompanied by a brief plot summation. They are arranged topically. Though by no means comprehensive, this videography aims to demonstrate the incredible breadth covered by the videos.

Family

Hitler Finds Out His Daughter is Pregnant

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqq2Px58ZdU&NR=1>

Although Hitler never had a daughter, she is apparently very eager to talk to him. As it turns out, she is pregnant out of wedlock by someone on the staff. Everyone who has slept with his daughter is asked to leave the room, and the number present dwindles from approximately twenty to four. He offers Belgium and Poland to anyone who will inform on the father. Hitler is “trying to win a war” and his staff isn’t just “sleeping on the job,” but rather “sleeping with his daughter.” He threatens whoever the man may be. Hitler demands the men in the room take paternity and polygraph tests. When he calms down, he quietly orders French champagne, because his “baby is having a baby.”

Hitler Reacts to his Mother’s Impending Visit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7Gjo1u0Sgg&NR=1>

The generals have discovered that Hitler’s mother is planning a surprise visit within the hour. She’s already driven straight past the Gestapo. Hitler wants only those who dislike their mothers to remain. Hitler is furious that his guards disobeyed the order to shoot any “hippos” driving “Volkswagens.” From Hitler’s reaction, it appears that he and his mother have a very poor relationship and he cites the childhood grudges he holds against her over twenty years later. He knows he has to “face the bitch like a man,” and allows the men to invite her to the bunker.

Hitler Reacts to Impregnating a Girl

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mqjjz7K_s

When a thirteen-year-old girl claims on camera that Hitler is the father of her unborn baby, the dictator goes ballistic. It wasn’t his fault, he claims, that the condom ripped. After many genitalia comments, Hitler laments that he will be remembered as a child molester. He fears being sent to prison, where he is sure to be raped by an “inmate named Tyrone.” He babbles about the slippery nature of prison bar soap. Hitler claims that misleading Trojan condom commercials led him down this path of failure.

Music

Hitler Reacts to the Oasis Split

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6lyGAvbOs4>

Hitler won tickets from a radio show for his favorite band, Oasis. Unfortunately, Noel and Liam have officially split up and will no longer be playing in Berlin. This is especially distressing for Hitler, as he not only had his first LSD trip with Oasis in the background, but also lost his virginity to their music. He laments over the fact that he was growing his hair out for the concert's mosh pit, that he and girlfriend Eva Braun listen to the albums while cleaning the bunker, and that he now has no Friday night plans. The video closes with the futile recommendation of the part of one of the generals that he listen to the band Kasabian.

Hitler Reacts to Michael Jackson's Death

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xiHHkmweWM>

Michael Jackson is dead and Hitler once again finds himself with useless concert tickets. Hitler had planned to use the concert as a "pick me up" following his loss in the war. As his generals suggest alternative entertainment plants, which include the rock band Spandau Ballet's concert, Hitler defends Michael Jackson, his music, and his reputation as a pedophile. Hitler alludes to Jackson's infamous Hotel Adalon scene when he threatens to dangle anyone who doesn't appreciate Jackson's music out a window. Hitler's misery cannot be mollified, and he thus joins Michael Jackson in his "moon walk to heaven."

Comment [CMI]: Adlon

Hitler Reacts to Susan Boyle's Loss in *Britain's Got Talent*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8r064TQfBMQ>

This clip takes us out of the bunker's conference room and into Hitler's office. Here, he learns that singer Susan Boyle was voted runner-up to Diversity in the reality show *Britain's Got Talent*. Although his generals agree that Diversity delivered an amazing performance, Hitler is not swayed. After thirty seconds of ranting over Boyle's talent, he simply resigns himself to never attempt to predict anything again.

Hitler Reacts to the Kanye West Incident at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McsAFBqQgio>

Here, the audience sees Hitler's reaction to one of 2009's most watched videos: Rapper Kanye West's reaction to pop-singer Taylor Swift's award at the Video Music Awards ("VMA"s). Upon hearing that West interrupted Swift's speech to announce his preference for Beyoncé, Hitler fumes. Kanye, in his opinion, always has to "douche up the VMAs." Taylor Swift, he believes, is infallible. He defends her to the end, as she has probably "never seen a real black person before." In Hitler's opinion, Kanye's criticism should have been a Twitter post, not an outburst. The dictator demands that his men remove all of West's music from their iPods, and that his song "Golddigger" be removed from his MySpace page. Hitler's generals are now tasked with sending her a card that encourages her to ignore the haters.

Hitler Reacts to Finding Out That Justin Bieber Has More YouTube Views Than Himself

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ri3aph0AbA4&NR=1>

Hitler's generals are displeased to inform him that teen idol Justin Bieber's YouTube videos are being watched by millions of fans each day, while his own numbers remain stagnant. Hitler kicks out all of Justin Bieber's fans (nearly everyone in the room) and threatens to kick Justin Bieber down a well (a nod to the Spartan war movie *300*). The dictator doesn't believe that a man's voice can naturally be so high pitched. Hitler is so angry that he decides to send all of the Jews to Auschwitz and "dedicate a fucking gas chamber to Justin Bieber himself" (which he'll video tape and post on YouTube to see how many hits it receives). He plans to kill the YouTube staff in order to prevent any content blockage as well. Hitler wants Bieber to be a normal sixteen-year old and do drugs and have sex instead of record pop videos to compete with his own YouTube fame. Hitler decides the only logical way to combat Bieber's fame is to record his own music videos in, of course, his own studio.

Hitler Reacts To Miley Cyrus Pole Dancing

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UZW3csUCxU&NR=1>

The bunker erupts when Hitler finds out that innocent pop star Miley Cyrus was seen pole dancing at the Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Awards. Hitler is very fearful that she is ruining her promising career and becoming a "little whore." Hitler feels that all of the time and effort he spent being her fan has been wasted now. The dictator is still in shock after finding out that Miley Cyrus and her television alter ego, Hannah Montana are different people. Hitler eventually resigns to the fact that she's a slut.

Hitler Reacts to the Success of Rebecca Black's "Friday" Music Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24yUUHYIJEI>

Rebecca Black, singer of the saccharine sweet ear worm "Friday," is a meme all on her own. When Hitler hears her that she has joined Justin Bieber in the ranks of making popular "crappy music," he is appalled. He rants about the song's mediocrity ("For fuck's sake, we all know that Saturday comes after Friday and Sunday after that!"). Hitler, too, wants to have fun on Friday, but he can't if he keeps "hearing that song every fucking Friday." Hitler predicts that the Allies will use the song against them, and instead of "kickin' it in the back seat," they'll be "kickin' it all over our graves instead."

Hitler Reacts to Planning a Trip to the Burning Man Music Festival

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CV4i7dWeu0c>

As Hitler attempts to coordinate a trip to Burning Man in Reno, Nevada with his friends, it is brought to his attention that only five people will go with him. Hitler doesn't understand how anyone can pass up going to the greatest party of all time. He runs through a list of friends, but each has provided what he deems an inadequate excuse (one

friend has a new girlfriend, another is traveling to Europe, etcetera). He hopes aloud that they'll change their minds and accompany him.

Hitler Reacts to Finding out that Ellen DeGeneres is Going to be a Judge on American Idol

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoBa7gxnA8M>

After Paula Abdul failed to reach an agreement on a contract extension with the FOX broadcasting network, comedian Ellen DeGeneres was selected to take her place. Hitler is not taking the news lightly, as he has wanted to be a judge for a very long time. He claims FOX only picked her to appeal to soccer moms, which is nowhere near the entertainment he could have brought. Hitler claims he's level-headed and ironically claims that he has never let his "own ideals get in the way." He had never predicted that a "happy dancing lesbian could destroy" all of his hard work and reputation.

Politics

Hitler Reacts to Gay Marriage

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPPUrZOmnUE>

Hitler's nephew is getting married, and some Americans are invited. When Hitler finds out six American states have passed legislation allowing gay marriage, he makes all of the supporters leave. He proceeds on a rant that equates homosexuality to incest and bestiality, which is littered with anti-homosexual remarks and stereotypes. Hitler admits he was, in the past, gay, but has since converted himself, and everyone else is capable of the same. During his rant, Hitler realizes he hasn't been able to suppress his sexuality as well as he thought, and still has homosexual desires. He decides that his nephew's American friends are welcome at the wedding after all... "especially the handsome one."

Hitler Reacts to Barack Obama Winning the Nobel Peace Prize

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zNf6_ivPk4

Hitler's generals are frantically searching the map to find where Barack Obama performed an act that would warrant the Nobel Peace Prize. Hitler isn't concerned about his win until he realizes that he wasn't awarded one of his own. The ensuing meltdown involves Hitler arguing that he killed more people in the name of peace than Obama did, and thus is more deserving of the prize. He orders more attacks in an effort to win the prize for himself.

Hitler Reacts To His Inability To Find Osama Bin Laden

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yue1qW-am34&NR=1>

Hitler's generals can't find Osama Bin Laden in any of the caves in Afghanistan. His men try to tell him it's impossible, since even the Americans couldn't find him, but Hitler isn't so sure. His incredulity grows, however, once he has searched every cave on Google Maps to no avail. Himmler thought he had found him, but it turned out to be an innocent man. Hitler sent his best German Shepherds to Afghanistan, but it was a futile

effort. He is baffled over the failed search. Eventually, Hitler calls off the search because it has made him look like a “dumbass.” He chalks it up just another one of life’s failures.

Hitler Reacts to Sarah Palin’s Resignation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IzNPEGWNos&NR=1>

As Hitler and his men discuss the upcoming Republican fundraiser, it is not only brought to his attention that Sarah Palin won’t attend, but also that she has resigned from her gubernatorial position. Hitler is at a loss over what to tell those who do attend. In a moment of anger, he suggests, “I regret to inform you that the GOP has lost its balls and now has lost its ovaries as well.” He feels cheated and cannot believe he fell for her feminine charms. The dictator realizes that with the 400,000 Euros he donated her, he could have purchased Neverland Ranch. He concludes on the somber note that Mitt Romney is now the party’s only hope.

Hitler Reacts to John McCain’s Vice Presidential Choice

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzRZreAXbJY>

Following McCain’s decision to campaign with Sarah Palin, Hitler is in disbelief. “You can’t be talking about that MILF from Alaska,” he asks his men. In this video, Hitler is apparently a staunch Democrat, as he fears Palin’s “ass of a goddess” will hinder Barack Obama’s political success. As he lists the reasons she is unqualified, which include the fact that her state has fewer than a million inhabitants and she named her son Trig, he realizes the United States economy is in danger if she is elected. Hitler thinks the Republican Party just slapped him in the face.

Technology/Internet

Hitler Reacts to the 2 Girls 1 Cup Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIEyfiKXW9k&NR=1>

Hitler is shown the infamous scatological video “2 Girls 1 Cup” (a worldwide meme itself), which he was shown as a joke to lighten him up. He is appalled by what he saw, despite his admittance to an affinity for lesbians. As he struggles to wrap his head around the proper audience for this video, he quips that Stalin would enjoy the video. In a reference to past “Hitler Reacts” videos, he acknowledges that he often overreacts to things, but he is allowed to this time. At the end of the video, he surrenders and asks for his gun to commit suicide because the video caused him to die on the inside.

Hitler Reacts to Learning Farmville Isn’t Real

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=La_o1ud5ZTQ&NR=1

As Hitler’s general explains his plans for his Farmville crops to Hitler, it becomes apparent that the dictator doesn’t realize Farmville is only a game. Hitler is in shock. He has acquired far too many valuable lessons and coins for Farmville for it to be fictitious. He laments the time and effort he has placed on planning his farm until he decides that it

has to be real, because no one could ever spend that much time on something fake. With trepidation, he rhetorically asks if the other Facebook games he has played are "fake" as well. Hitler decides to try MySpace, since those pages are verified.

Hitler Reacts to his Facebook Account Getting Deleted

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ntq3hd-WQc&NR=1>

Hitler is concerned that people aren't adding him to Facebook anymore. He suggests he invite them himself, but he is unable to, as his account has been permanently deleted. Hitler had just added Megan Fox and Lindsay Lohan to his friends list, and now, he can't contact them any longer. He can't chat with Stalin or play Farmville, much to his dismay. Now, he is relegated to Twitter and MySpace because his "jackass" generals allowed him to get a managed fan page on Facebook instead of a normal account.

Hitler Reacts to Getting Banned from Xbox Live

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfkDxF2kn1I>

Hitler's generals have grave news: Microsoft found his modified Xbox console and his live account was terminated as a result. This is troubling news, indeed, as the dictator has over 2000 Microsoft Points and a Call of Duty theme pack. When someone suggests a Nintendo Wii, Hitler explodes. He resigns himself to playing his antiquated Nintendo 64, but contemplates purchasing a - God forbid - PlayStation 3 out of desperation. He fears his gaming career may be over forever.

Hitler Reacts to Being Caught Using LimeWire

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hpd8P6dRiI>

The CIA knows that Hitler used the filesharing program LimeWire to download the blockbuster film *The Dark Knight* and now they're coming to the bunker to arrest him. Hitler is furious that no one informed him that the movie was anything more than an independent film. Now, he must worry about surviving prison life with "all those queers looking at you in the shower." Hitler wagers that this is just one more thing on the list of ways that everyone in the world is out to get him. His last ditch effort is to reformat his hard drive in hopes that it will hide the evidence.

Hitler Reacts to Getting Banned from Yahoo! Answers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLBACofOFz4>

Hitler's account on the question and answer forum Yahoo! Answers has been suspended indefinitely. Hitler is incredulous. How could they suspend someone who followed the terms and conditions, he wonders. He is careful when he responds to questions, making sure they are polite and cite references. At one extremely ironic point

in the video, he calls the staff of Yahoo! Answers “Report Nazis” and criticizes them for their sensitivity. As retribution, he’s going to sign up for an account on Answerbag.com.

Hitler Reacts to Getting Banned from Runescape

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX-JHz7NToE>

Runescape, a massive multi-player online role-playing game, swept the Internet in 2001 after its release. Hitler, a big fan, has not been playing by the rules and thus, his account has been banned from the game. Hitler doesn’t know what to do with his free time now. He can’t go back to painting because he “sucks at it,” and he doesn’t want to focus on the war, either. He’ll end up watching pornography on the Internet without a Runescape account! Hitler can’t handle the stress and delegates the task of deleting any information about Runescape off of his computer. He hangs his head in defeat at the close of the video.

Hitler Reacts to His Runescape Girlfriend Leaving Him

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KjwHW3VsTI>

Hitler’s men have gotten word that his girlfriend on the game Runescape has left him for another player. When one of the generals argues that the real war is more important than his love life, he tells the “nooblet” to, in not so many words, cease and desist with the useless advice. Though his girlfriend may only be twelve, she is the love of his life. Hitler is confident he can find a new girl as he is the dictionary definition of “gangster.” He fears, however, that he can’t find another woman who will be so adept at masking his homosexuality.

Hitler Reacts to Getting Banned from Halo 3

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFBnDjXeKtY>

Bungie Studios, developer of the video game Halo 3, has banned Hitler from playing the game. Apparently he has been making offensive Jewish jokes and thus, they have terminated his account. Hitler deduces that the people in charge at Bungie must be Jews, or else this never would have happened. When his general attempts to calm him, he tells him to shut his “nooby mouth” (which is a video game term for someone who isn’t skilled at the game). Hitler resolves nothing at the end of the video, but rather, remains in disbelief.

Hitler Reacts to Getting the Red Ring of Death

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQN4-SSMw14&feature=fvst>

The dreaded “red ring of death” occurs when the green power light on an Xbox 360 turns red, signifying a grave error. When Hitler’s generals sheepishly admit that they were using this console when the red light appeared, he is not a happy dictator. Although

they remind him that the PS3, another console, has a Blu-Ray player, it is not enough to calm him down. After all, PS3 has horrible games! He fears that Microsoft has conspired against him, and sold the console with a “‘Fuck Hitler up the ass’ chip planted in it.” Hitler finally decides to lower himself and buy a Nintendo Wii.

Hitler Reacts to Getting Scammed on eBay

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDtoZzIOTw>

Hitler sold a phone on eBay, but the website that was supposed to be responsible for his payment has magically disappeared. Despite the fact that he paid for faster shipping and insurance, Hitler is the victim of an eBay scam. “If you can’t trust the goddamn prince of Nigeria, who the fuck can you trust?” he wonders. Since he’s been wronged, Hitler vows to never use eBay again. He’s going back to dealing by paper.

Sports

Hitler Reacts to Brett Favre Coming Out of Retirement...Again

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sk7IFGuW7_s

Brett Favre is returning to the National Football League, but no one is exactly sure which team he will go to. One thing is for certain – Green Bay does not want him back on the team. Hitler is furious that Favre is taking up so much time on Sportscenter by his failure to commit to a team. Besides, Favre is just “too fucking old” in Hitler’s opinion. Hitler just wants a decision so he can watch “The Girls Next Door” instead of ESPN constantly. Hitler thinks that if Favre is so desperate for attention, he ought to just appear on “Dancing with the Stars.”

Hitler Reacts to the Brett Favre Signing with the Minnesota Vikings

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VfHnCwLp14>

Hitler’s new condo near the Metrodome in Minnesota is in the perfect location for tailgating at Vikings games. Hitler expresses how much he is looking forward to seeing how quarterback Tavaris Jackson’s will play out when one of his men informs him that Jackson won’t be playing because Brett Favre has been signed to the team. Hitler is furious that he’s on the team, and is sure that the season is over before it even started. Hitler decides that he will be a Chicago Bears fan from this point forward, and the rest of his men will follow. His new motto is, “Bear Down, Chicago Bears!”

Hitler Reacts to LeBron James Leaving the Cleveland Cavaliers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1DjJtp2wF4>

It’s the eve of NBA star LeBron James’s decision to decide to remain or leave his team, the Cleveland Cavaliers. Hitler is sure he’ll remain with his adoring fans, but is informed he wants to join fellow superstars Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh on the Miami Heat. Hitler is incredulous that James can leave Cleveland after seven years, as he feels the team can do nothing without him. When it is suggested he become a Heat fan, he has

a meltdown over the star power trifecta the team will have. Eventually, he acquiesces, and decides to buy jerseys and season tickets to the Heat for himself and Goebbels.

Hitler Reacts To Usain Bolt Breaking 100m World Record

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xUS30-RFf0>

Hitler is told that the German national team performed well in a track competition. After he quips that he is glad a black man didn't humiliate them again (in reference to Jesse Owens in the 1936 Berlin Olympics), Hitler is told that Usain Bolt of Jamaica broke the 100m. All of the fans of *Cool Runnings*, a film about the 1998 Jamaican bobsled team, are told by Hitler to leave. He interrogates those who remain about Bolt's steroid use. When he finds out that the Germans didn't make it into the final race at all, he proceeds to make racist comments pertaining to Jamaican culture and the success of blacks in the media and athletics. He wishes Bolt the worst for the next race, going as far to say he hopes he is "pissed on Red Stripe" for the next race.

Hitler Reacts to the Vuvuzela at the 2010 World Cup

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-Ln_rqPpPk

Hitler looks forward to the Brazilian entertainment planned for the 2010 World Cup when he finds out that the singing and cowbells he had been looking forward to were banned, but the vuvuzela remains. Having just spent a lot of money on a surround sound system, he fears his home will sound like a bee swarm. When it is suggested he adjust the television, he explodes. He feels that banning the instrument once every four years is acceptable. He threatens to stop supporting the German national team and take up golf instead. He surrenders in the end, not to end the war, but to get rid of his now useless sound system.

Films/Television/Theatre

Hitler Reacts to Not Being Able to Get *Billy Elliot* Tickets

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HbO-E_NZIw

Hitler is headed to New York City and he cannot wait to see the Broadway show *Billy Elliot*. Unfortunately, the show has been sold out. Hitler assumes one of the "New York Jews" bought every one out of spite. When someone suggests he see *Phantom of the Opera* instead, Hitler says he'd rather "punch himself in the balls for three hours" because it would be "less painful." Hitler turns the moment into a lamentation over being sexually abused as a child what and his current struggle with homosexuality.

Hitler Reacts to the Half Blood Prince Movie Delay

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXnt8_okeRA

Warner Brothers has delayed the release of the film *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. Hitler is distraught because it's been over a year since the last movie. His men suggest he go see the new *Twilight* film in the interim, but that doesn't go over well. Hitler recounts the stress he has had while watching the teasers, because it just isn't

enough to satiate his love of *Harry Potter*. Hitler is furious with Warner Brothers avaricious nature. First, “they took advantage of Heath Ledger’s death with *The Dark Knight*, and now by pushing back the movie, they are sure to make even more money. He dejectedly bans his staff from affiliating themselves with anything Warner Brothers related.

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Hitler Reacts to Not Being Dazzled by Breaking Dawn

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP6Hk5AvbSM>

Hitler is headed to the release of Stephanie Meyer’s latest installment in the *Twilight* series, *Breaking Dawn*. Before his departure, he remarks that he is happy the manuscript left on his desk was a fake, because he didn’t enjoy it. The bunker becomes tense when Hitler is told that the manuscript was in fact the real book. Hitler launches into a tirade about all of the inconsistencies and ridiculous notions Meyer has written in her book. He admits should have read *Harry Potter* like his doctor suggested. As for now, he “hate[s] life and wants to die.”

Hitler Reacts to Jay Leno Moving Back to Late Night Television

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOQvsuJ5wIA>

When Hitler realizes that Jay Leno is replacing Conan O’Brien on *The Tonight Show*, he is furious. He believes it is a huge mistake on the part of NBC, mostly because Conan isn’t funny at all. Hitler would rather watch Stalin perform stand up comedy than Conan. In a shockingly funny moment, Hitler suggests that NBC give “Kevin Eubanks a show because he’s funny as a dick rash, too.”

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Hitler Reacts to Finding out there is a Dragonball Z Live Action Film

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYltu4usfXk>

Hitler is very excited at the prospect of a live action *Dragon Ball Z* film, but -is shocked to hear that directors aren’t sticking true to the manga comic. The changes that have been made to the film will ruin the “naivety and pureness of the character” Goku, and they are leaving out the major character Krillen. Hitler is worried that the same fate will befall his other anime favorite, *Cowboy Bebop*. He predicts they would cast Keanu Reeves (“someone stupid”) as the character Spike and put him in high school, too. Hitler’s love of anime is being ruined by horrible film productions.

Hitler Reacts to Being Rejected From Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qM5f_gZT06c

Hitler is very excited to hear all about the fictional witchcraft school from the *Harry Potter* series Hogwarts. He is regretfully informed, however, that he was rejected from the school and cannot become a wizard. He’s been waiting years to become a wizard and study unicorns. He was even excited about the uniform, since he would look better than Justin Bieber in it. He had plans to hang out with Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, Ron Weasley (the protagonists of the novels), but now, none of that will ever

happen. Hitler is so upset that he has decided to start watching the teen film *Twilight* movie instead of *Harry Potter*.

Hitler Reacts to Learning that Indiana Jones Gets to the Lost Ark First

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buu9toisPZg>

Hitler is designing his trophy room, but his plans are foiled when he learns that Indiana Jones found has gotten to the Lost Ark before him. He tells most of the people in the bunker to “go do other Nazi stuff” and proceeds to berate his top men about their assassination methods. Apparently the snake pit and boulder were flawed choices. Hitler pointed out that he suggested they shoot Jones in the face and be done with it. The dictator feels the need to mention that this outburst is not because his syphilis has flared up, but rather because he has already told people, including Benito Mussolini, that he already has the Lost Ark. As a result, he’s going to have all of his men killed.

Hitler Reacts to Pokémon Not Being Real

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ljur6v7-yoc>

Hitler plans his attack against the Allies using his Pokémon, as he is the Pokémaster. When he is told that they are only a television show, he is stunned. He is appalled when one of his men admits to preferring Digimon. He’s appalled that he will never train Pikachu. He identifies with children around the world who are going to be just as upset over the finding.

Hitler Reacts To Finding Out the Star Trek Experience Has Closed

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ld1sxTjqmY&NR=1>

Hitler is going to Las Vegas and wants to spend some time at his favorite ride, The Star Trek Experience. When he finds out it is no longer in operation, trouble ensues. Clearly, this is the “shittiest business decision ever made.” Everyone involved in the situation, including the fans, are totally “fucked” by this move. As he laments all of the experiences he can no longer have, he realizes he should have known it was closed since there were items from the park on sale on the internet auction website, eBay. After *Star Trek* grossed far less than *Transformers* at the box office, he can’t take any more.

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Miscellaneous

Hitler Reacts to Finding Out That Pluto Isn’t A Planet Anymore

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yt_t0_wVYG8

The verdict is in, and Pluto is no longer a planet. Even Steiner has agreed with the conclusion. Hitler’s life long illusion of Pluto as a planet has been shattered. Now the only thing with the Pluto namesake is the “stupid Disney dog.” Clearly Stalin is behind this ploy. It’s always been discriminated against, he argues, having been called the “dwarf planet.” Hitler plans on doing whatever it takes to reinstate Pluto, but he fears that his friends will “wimp out,” like always.

Hitler Reacts that Northeastern Students Like the 5-Year Program

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Af24eNcwqWY>

Hitler is planning to overhaul Northeastern University's 5-year program into a 4-year program when he is alerted that the students not only like the program as it stands, but are banding together on Facebook and Twitter against his changes. After Hitler orders someone to get him a panini from Wolly's (the campus convenience store), he unleashes his hatred for all things Northeastern: their Husky mascot, dining dollars, the dissolution of the College of the Criminal Justice department, just to name a few. After he threatens to turn Northeastern into Boston University, the secretaries discuss transferring to a new school.

Hitler Reacts to an Indian Customer Service Representative

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOZKLtIIUZE>

The Internet is down in the bunker, and Hitler's Internet Service Provider thinks the problem is on his end. Hitler has tried rebooting the router, and is sure that his computer has no virus. It's the fault of the Indian call center, he believes, as they're like talking to a "fucking wall." Though someone suggests he call again later, Hitler abandons the mission and returns to his office.

Hitler Reacts to Finding out Santa Claus Isn't Real

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdIhNqKgMdg>

The German army has been sent to the North Pole, and cannot find Santa. Although Hitler is positive he exists, as he has seen Santa in shopping malls, his men make it clear that those are merely imposters. All believers are sent out of the room and melts down. He points to all the evidence: mall Santas, the Microsoft Xbox he received, Christmas carols, the cookies and milk that are eaten every Christmas Eve. Hitler rhetorically wonders what else people will try to convince him of: perhaps that he will lose the war, or even worse, that the Easter Bunny isn't real, either. Hitler is most embarrassed that he told Stalin about his belief in Santa. Though Hitler is "really pissed" about the truth, he is grateful to all of those who kept up the illusion for him. Unable to maintain an appreciative tone for long, he requests that the mall Santas are sent to the gas chambers.

Hitler Reacts to his Marijuana Being Stolen

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uycWURTNhs&NR=1>

Winston Churchill has stolen Hitler's stash of weed, from his Afghan Kush to his White Widow Grass. Hitler maintains his composure until he finds out that his Russian stash was bombed and the workers are now high from the fumes. Hitler is enraged at Churchill's failure to find his own dealer. He demands a joint or a bong to relax, but his General informs him they are all gone. The clip ends after Hitler demands that a dealer be called to rectify the problem.

Hitler Reacts to Getting Rejected from College

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w3YJdXZBM&NR=1>

Despite hoping for “large envelopes” from all of the schools to which he applied, Hitler was accepted only to his safety school—a community college. Hitler is in disbelief. He applied to twelve schools, after all! He is furious over the amount of work he put into the essays, and he assumes that he was rejected because he threatened to bomb all of the schools if he wasn’t accepted. After making a dig at Cornell for being the worst Ivy League, he truly breaks down. He went above and beyond preparing for his SATs and his applications. Hitler decides that if he hasn’t killed himself yet, he’ll reapply to college next year. Unfortunately for the dictator, he already told his mother he was accepted to Harvard and MIT.

Hitler Reacts to Going to McDonald’s

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbr-rDEICJ0&NR=1>

This Hitler meltdown is brought to you by a horrible fast food restaurant experience. Hitler’s McDonald’s lunch at McDonald’s ran afoul, resulting in his termination from his job. Hitler explains the situation to his subordinates during his rant: First, his order was messed up, so naturally, he threw the burger at the workers. Then, his car was hotwired in the parking lot. Late for a meeting, Hitler started to run, but of course, had a heart attack on the way. An hour late for his meeting, Hitler’s boss fired him for his irresponsibility. Depressed and disgruntled, he asks to eat his Big Mac in peace.

Hitler Reacts To His Pizza Arriving Late

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSD0Mjt64LQ&NR=1>

Domino’s has let der Führer down: the pizza delivery guy is stuck in traffic due to Soviet artillery and Hitler’s Veggie Lover’s pizza is going to be ten minutes late. Hitler demands that his general get the pizza to arrive quickly, regardless of whether or not the Russians are bombing. He believes it should be airlifted, if necessary. The pizza guy arrives and offers an insincere apology and is met with snarky commentary from Hitler’s men.

Hitler Reacts To His Inability To Find Waldo

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scIj3WSoHho>

Hitler’s men are becoming frustrated at how long it is taking him to find Waldo, but the dictator refuses to surrender. The argument continues and Hitler starts to beat himself up over his ineptitude – after all, it’s a children’s book! His bunker mates watch as he loses it over his incredulity. He fears that if the world of his issues with the book, his reputation will be tarnished. Hitler doesn’t believe that anyone else has any problems finding Waldo, and it must be a personal issue. He acknowledges his failure, but is disappointed with his realization.

Hitler Reacts to His Car Being Stolen

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8dl4faCpJE>

There is no sugarcoating the news: Hitler's car has been stolen and dismantled. Hitler's men spend the majority of the video suggesting new cars he could buy. The Mustang has too much plastic in the interior, and the SP2000 has less torque than his lawnmower. As he begins to lean towards a BMW, he decides they aren't up to his aesthetic standards. Hitler grows increasingly frustrated and realizes, much to his own chagrin, he will be forced to decide between an "unreliable domestic or a riced out import," as there "aren't any good cars left." In the end, he decides on a new Volkswagen Beetle.

Hitler Reacts to His Art "Sucking"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUDJ-vJJfkc>

As his men feign praise for his artwork, the truth comes out— Hitler's artistic ability is actually rather lacking. The dictator is taken aback, because for years, his men had been so supportive of his hobby. They told him he was the next Michelangelo, and the only artist who would ever paint them nude. Hitler is disheartened by their honesty and in a fit of rage, tells them to eat the crayons he had previously used as a medium. Clearly, they don't know good art.

Hitler Reacts to Americans Calling Each Other Nazis

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4lJ9vsZjMU>

As the men tell Hitler about his worldwide reputation of being the worst dictator in history, he remains unfazed. It isn't until he finds out that, "people in America call everybody they disagree with 'Hitler' to the point that it is trite and meaningless," that he becomes angry. The dictator, who has worked very hard to earn this evil reputation, as "Prince of Darkness" is furious that his work is now something comedic. When he is told that his trademark mustache has become a symbol of humor, Hitler loses control. His image has been turned into a cartoon, "like fucking Lex Luther," he cries. Hitler is furious that he could have "had a normal mustache all along – like Stalin!"

Hitler Learns He Can't Trick or Treat This Halloween

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngANS-IOaB8>

Berlin has passed an ordinance that no one over the age of twelve may trick or treat this year, and Hitler is very distraught. Clearly, this is a fascist ploy against him. The dictator was very excited to wear his handmade costume: Max from the children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*. All Hitler wanted was to get out of his "ridiculous uniform" and acquire some free candy. Hitler refuses to engage in any alternatives, such as bobbing for apples. He sees the silver lining, however, and decides to lay in wait for the "hoodlums" who toilet papered his house a few years back.

Hitler Reacts to Finding Out His Date to the School Dance Has Been Stolen

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7lx0UpWC-Y>

When Hitler finds out that his date, Mary, has decided to go to the dance with Bobby instead, all hell breaks loose in the bunker. Hitler had told his men to ask Mary to the dance for him, but Bobby asked her last week in algebra class! Hitler was hoping to win her over at the dance – he even learned how to do the Robot dance! Bobby “can’t even do the ‘Hokey Pokey’”! Hitler fears that if he doesn’t find a date, he’ll be “the laughing stock of the school.”

Hitler Reacts to Turning Fifty

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TTkYnAN9FI>

Hitler is turning fifty and his men want to take him to dinner and *Toy Story 3* in IMAX in Frankfurt. The dictator, however, already has hookers in Las Vegas purchased for him and his friends. When they inform him that it isn’t possible this year, Hitler becomes passive aggressive and decides to stay home on his birthday and watch the MTV show *The Hills*, except he banned the show from the country. When he factors in the fact that he got a paper cut and his elbow really itches, the dictator’s day is just going downhill fast. He dismisses the group of men and decides to find his bootlegged copy of *The Hills*.

Hitler Reacts to the Super Wal-Mart Invasion

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uau_v2R3isM

Steiner has once again failed Hitler. Although he was tasked with preventing the creation of five new Super Wal-Marts in Germany, they are all on course to open in the coming week. To make matters even worse, Steiner has “accepted a job as a cart collector” in hopes he will become a manager. After all the effort he spent training his men, they are leaving him for an American company. Hitler wishes they had at least decided to work at the Berlin department store KaDeWe. Hitler’s next course of action is to picket in front of their stores in protest.

Hitler Reacts to the Balloon Boy Hoax

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zdxwoho9v7w>

The Balloon Box Hoax occurred on October 15, 2009 when Richard Heene allowed a hot air balloon to float into the atmosphere, and claimed his son Falcon was in it, which he was not.³³ When Hitler hears about a hoax, he is embarrassed because “he swallowed it hook, line, and sinker.” He’s been wasting his tweets and status updates over the matter and hopes he doesn’t appear to be a gullible fool. Hitler claims that he hasn’t seen a disaster that bad since the Hindenburg.

Hitler Reacts to Becoming a Parody

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqxxRPZdfvs>

³³ “6-year-old Colorado Boy found alive in attic after balloon lands.” *CNN*. October 15, 2009. Accessed April 14, 2011. http://articles.cnn.com/2009-10-15/us/colorado.boy.balloon_1_richard-heene-falcon-heene-balloon?_s=PM:US.

It is in this video that Hitler is told that the parodies exist. He doesn't appreciate others making fun of him, and demands YouTube removes the videos. His generals inform him that YouTube refuses to acquiesce, and Hitler erupts. He makes an astute observation when he exclaims, "I don't even know why they love me ranting about this shit." Hitler believes the parodies, as was intended by the creators of the original film *Der Untergang*, have "ruined him." This parody is particularly interesting, as Hitler asks the very question that prompted this project. Why do people love watching him "rant[...] about shit"? Because it historicizes Hitler in a way that we are most comfortable: as a bumbling, melodramatic fool.

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