The Gamer is a Lie

#GamerGate and the Loss of Gamer Identity

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This presentation contains explicit nudity, sexual themes, and violence, including sexual assault.
The Year in Pictures 1982
Life, January 1983

• Margaret Thatcher, Falkland
• Dujail Massacre, Iraq
• Prince William
• ET
• Vietnam Memorial
FROM CENTRAL AMERICA TO SOUTHWEST ASIA IT WAS THE MAJOR STORY OF THE YEAR

WAR

They sought from guerrilla strife to full-scale battles at sea. All told, 18 nations were at war in 1982, and by rough estimates, 125,000 men, women and children lost their lives. In Nicaragua, the election last spring of57 number of President Daniel Ortega" seemed to encourage a three-year reign of terror. Since 1979 at least 30,000 citizens have died, most at the hands of death squads comprised of soldiers and police. At least 60,000 others have been arrested and tortured by the Sandinistas. In Guatemala, where government security forces have killed more than 6,100 Indians, half since a coup last March.
Video Game V.I.Ps
Life, January 1983
Video Game V.I.Ps
Life, January 1983
STATED GOAL
reframe Gamer Gate through a rhetorical analysis on media used to sell games and on those who resist interpellations of the young, white, heterosexual male
Constructed Gamer

**HARDCORE & CORE**
- competitive
- young
- involved in gaming community
- white
- early-adoption behavior
- heterosexual
- buys latest hardware
- male

**CASUAL**
- plays less
- plays for enjoyment
- prefers simple, fast games

@ToskaKoshka
She’s got blonde hair, blue eyes and the best body her money can buy. So what!? There’s no time for distractions when you’re deep in Sega Saturn. Besides, check out those screen shots. Ba dah boom, ba dah bing, know what I mean? You want curves, try Sega Rally. Want a thrill? Panzer Dragon II Zwei. Want a real knockout? Check out Virtua Fighter II. And lots of other incredibly cool games you can play on Saturn. But don’t be fooled. Sega Saturn games offer more than just great looks. Like three 32-bit processes (that’s two more than Playstation, if you’re scoring at home – or even if you’re alone). Saturn’s triple processing power means better gameplay and better graphics. So if you’re looking for some real action, head for Saturn.
#GamerGate
How #GamerGate Started

- Aug. 16 14: Eron Gjoni publishes the “Zoe Post”
- Aug. 17 14: Post is shared on 4chan
- Aug. 27 14: Adam Baldwin tags a post #GamerGate
A Hashtag is Born

@ToskaKoshka
... a consumer revolt against unethical practices in video game journalism and entertainment media, including (but not limited to) corruption and conflicts of interest, collusion, and the censorship of ideas and discussion.

Source: #GamerGate Wiki, “What is GamerGate?”
Brianna Wu doxed
10/10/14

The police just came by. Husband and I are going somewhere safe.

Remember, #gamergate isn’t about attacking women.

5:57 PM - Oct 10, 2014
... dig up the papers that were written by these DiGRA feminist academics. This would include words we know from their lexicon (i.e. sexist, misogynist, female empowerment, etc.)

Source: #GamerGate Wiki, “DiggingDiGRA”
de Castell, Jenson, & Taylor:
*Her Own Boss: Gender and the Pursuit of Incompetent Play*
*Girls and Gaming: Gender Research, Progress, and the Death of Interpretation*
*Gender in Play: Mapping a Girl’s Gaming Club*
*Digital Games for Education: When Meanings Play*

Taylor:
*Where the Women Are(n’t): Gender and a North American Pro-gaming Name*

Source: #GamerGate Wiki, “DiggingDiGRA”

@ToskaKoshka
Anita Sarkeesian harassed
10/14/14

@Feminist Frequency
@femfreq

Multiple specific threats made stating intent to kill me & feminists at USU. For the record one threat did claim affiliation with #gamergate

7:51 PM - Oct 14, 2014

859 Retweets 1,999 people are talking about this
I feel like I would probably fuck Zoe. But not out of a loving sense of sexual attraction. More of that hate fuck sense where you just want to assert your dominance as a male on her, a primale savagery.

The average game player is 31 years old.

**Age of Game Players**
- 29% under 18 years
- 32% 18-35 years
- 39% 36+ years

**Gender of Game Players**
- 52% male
- 48% female

Women age 18 or older represent a significantly greater portion of the game-playing population (36%) than boys age 18 or younger (17%).
Thank you.