IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD

But it sure feels that way

A quarantine zine/quarazine
by Cameron Tepper
It feels like the whole world just flipped upside down.

It just feels so oh I don’t even know.

It’s very weird to even try to pretend like anything is normal right now.

I already know the first thing I’m gonna do when this is all over. Go to a show & be surrounded and dance.

I know it’s very cliche to say but this, too shall pass. But, it should pass sooner rather than later.

This zine is an ASG (see next page) as a way to do something other than talking on the phone or watching Tiger King, or dancing in front of my mirror to pop songs.

I hope you enjoy it.
Everybody needs an ASG
an Arbitrary stupid goal

A goal that isn't too important makes you live in the moment, and still gives you a driving force.

This driving force is a way to get around the fact that we will all die and there is no real point to life.

But with ASG there is a point. It is not such an important point that you postpone joy to achieve it.

It is just a decoy point that keeps you bobbing along allowing you to find ecstasy in the small things, the unexpected, and the everyday.

What happens when you reach that goal?

Then what?

You just find a new ASG!
-Tamara Shopsin
Putting the "I" in isolation
a Quarantine playlist

Side A: Living room dance party for 1
/I want to dance with somebody - Whitney Houston
/I wanna be your lover - Prince
/I got ants in my pants - James Brown
/I like it - Cardi B
/I can change - LCD Soundsystem
/I really like you - Carly Rae Jepsen
/I got the moves - Habibi
/I miss that feeling - Tennis
/I think we're alone now - Tiffany
/I just wanted to see you so bad - Lucinda Williams

Side B: In my feelings of existential dread
/I feel like the mother of the world - Smog
/I'd like to walk around in your mind - Vashti Bunyan

/I don't wanna be funny anymore - Lucy Dacus
/I admit that I'm scared - Gabby's World
/I fall to pieces - Patsy Cline
/I'm lonely - Darondo
/I gotta find peace of mind - Ms. Lauryn Hill
/I'll be here in the morning - Townes Van Zandt
/I have considered the lilies - Connie Converse
(where did you go, Connie?)
I've been working from home for a month now. Here are my immediate pros/cons:

Pros:
* Can listen to more podcasts and music at work. Shout out to KEXP, KUTX, and KOOP
* Don't have to fight over the coffee in the morning.
* Get to pace around the apartment on the phone.

Cons:
* Can't get candy from Claudia's office.
* Can't walk into Kyle's office 44 times a day.
* Can't talk music with Roel.
* Spreadsheets. Constant spreadsheets.
* Small talk in the morning with coworkers.

I never thought that I would say this but I miss going to work.
Love in the time of Coronavirus (or virtual swiping on Bumble during a pandemic).

First of all, I’m definitely not a dating expert but your first line on Bumble shouldn’t be “How are you holding up?” or “How is your quarantine going?” or “How is the end of the world going for you. But, what else are you going to say when your normal life is gone?”

Second, once you make it past this point and develop a connection...then what? You can’t meet up, so you just keep talking and texting.

Third, you get to the point where you try and make a move like a zoom date. I had one this week and the person was cool, but zoom is an inherently awkward medium. You can’t both make eye contact, you can’t read body language. The only thing is the person in front of you.

6 ft but feels like miles away

The one upside in all of this is getting ghosted isn’t so bad. I got ghosted from someone I went on a couple of dates at the beginning of the shelter-in-place. And hey, I get it. If you don’t want to text me when the world ends, when will you?
We lived alone, My house & I
a message for Connie

Where did you go, Connie Converse, in 1974 after your 50th birthday, when you left messages saying you needed a fresh start and drove away in your Volkswagon Beetle?

Your music is hauntingly beautiful, only your voice and your guitar. You were ahead of your time, a singer-songwriter before that was even a term.

You said you always found it difficult to make yourself known, and I wish more knew of you. Your music speaks an emotional truth. It must have been hard, to make this folk music that no one took to. You must have such a burden, forging a path that wasn't there.

Especially in the time of social distancing, your songs of solitude, loneliness, and frustration bring a comfort. I'm not alone. "Don't see why they call it lonesome, I'm never lonesome there." We share a birthday, you know. Wherever you went, I hope you were happy and found what you were looking for.

"How sad, how lovely, how short, how sweet, to see the sunset at the end of the street."
I don't know
I may not be much
Be a mess!
Personality no good
All surface no inner strength
Poetry not any good
I might die an old man
Scribbler of trash
Forgotten paper-scratcher
But I'll tell you this
I really love to lay around my ass
Totally watching television
Poem by Ron Padgett
Excerpt from an interview with Nardwuar with A$AP Rocky:

N: Who are you?
A: Man, I be that pretty motherfucker man
N: A$AP?
A: Yessir
N: Rocky?
A: Yessir
N: Welcome to Austin, TX!
R: Thank you sir!

a list of some of my favorite bumper stickers:

* Honk if you don't exist
* Honk if you're boring
* Less Honkin' More Tonkin'
* I'd rather be crying to Enya
* I'd rather be here now
* Lower your expectations
* I brake for wildflowers
* Honk if you are just trying to be a good person
* Honk if you are lonely tonight.

And of course: the Coexist sticker. Can you imagine the confidence you must have to put that on your car in 2020? It is something to behold.
Who is allowed to be a cowboy? Mitski commanded us with no instruction and Mac DeMarco said someone comes one with no description. But Orville Peck gave us permission from behind a fringed Lone Ranger mask with a single, deep #Yee-Haw" to not only be the cowboy, but we what ever cowboy we wanted.

If a Queer, Canadian, ex-punk can be the cowboy then, we all can.

The Cowboy Ethos
*Innate Solitude
*lives on the outskirts
*a reluctant hero

In an interview with KEXP, he talked about the power of masks to remove the self and become something larger than life. The mask gives him the permission to be his truest self, and still be accessible.
I've been spending my time going on long walks talking on the phone.

I told my mom that I made a lentil soup and she said "I know you are trying to save money but why are you torturing yourself?"

As if I wasn't eating lentil soup before the pandemic. While I'm here shoutout to lentil. Calorically dense, nutrient rich, shelf stable and vegan? The lentil gots it all and some!
Hey there,

Hope you enjoyed it

Feedback? lemme know what you think.

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