

1. Collective Intelligence

The idea of selling oneself is something I've been surrounded by for the last six months, and I'm sure it won't let up now that I've got my portfolio class in front of me for next quarter. While I can certainly understand the author's acknowledgment of the shift toward an information-based economy, but he seems to be giving the manufacturing industry a death knoll. While it's certainly shifted, and the modern worker will have to adapt to that, the manufacturing process has been changing since Ford's time, and workers have always managed to move forward with it.

2. The Virtual Barrio @ the Other Frontier (or the Chicago Inertia)

Holy shit, I love the opening quote in this article. I'm a big fan of crazy and stupid people, and the idea of holding a racist stereotype as some sort of Magic Negro enlightened figure is hysterical to me. I like the honesty in the second part of the article. It seemed to present the idea of "This is how the world looks at us, here's where it's true, here's where it's not, now decide how you want to respond to these ideas."

3. A Disappearance of Community

This is another article that reads strangely simply because it is so out-of-date. The idea of virtualization leading to a lack of connectivity is an idea becoming more and more obsolete as technology continues to focus on communication and community-building. Although, interestingly, this community-building does help his argument by creating an isolation of groups rather than individuals. Within different online communities it's not uncommon at all to see almost immediate prejudice for outside groups build up within a matter of weeks, and even within those, tightly-held groups tend to create hostile cliques.

1. In the future, will labor positions require workers who are better specialized, or ones who have more varied skills?
2. When ethnic stereotypes are perpetuated by the media, how likely are they to be absorbed by the ethnicities in question?
3. Does a sense of anonymity online cause social networks to develop more or less quickly than real life?