

The Internet Is a Toxic Hellscape—But We Can Fix It | WIRED

By Whitney Phillips

February 3, 2020

This is an argument against nihilism.

It begins with me lying on the floor of my office before class. I've brought in an old yoga mat and two one-pound packages of rice, which I've wrapped in a canvas Trader Joe's bag and placed on my chest. I'm taking slow breaths, preparing myself under my makeshift weighted blanket to have yet another overwhelming conversation with students about this unit's topic, "Information Disorder, or, the Mess We're In."

"Mess" is an understatement. We're barely a month into 2020, and there have already been too many contenders for its most dear-god moment. The White House tweeting a "first snow of the year!" picture on an unseasonably, unnervingly warm winter's day. Facebook banning misleading manipulated media except in cases of satire, parody, or when a video is edited to omit or change the order of words: a policy best described as a slice of Swiss cheese that's mostly holes. Donald Trump's defense lawyers showcasing a bizarre-o world curio cabinet of alternative impeachment facts.

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