

# Useless Technology

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Entertainment

## Midnight Facts for Insomniacs

Podcast Transcript

(Note: transcript consists of  
episode outline)

So most of you know by now that Duncan and I have been moving all week, we are back to being roommates, we've essentially regressed to a state of irresponsible bachelorhood. The studio is now a sound-dampened section of our new place, so if you've noticed any difference in the audio, that is why. Feel free to send feedback and let us know if it's good or bad. Still a work in progress but I'm happy with the quality so far.

Also before we get started, just a reminder that Patreon has been acting wonky lately, they've had some sitewide issues so if you're having any problems with your Patreon account, or if you're not sure whether it's still active, you might want to log in and check to make sure everything is working correctly. If you got booted out because of the Patreon weirdness and you still wanna be a member,

we'd love to have you back.

And of course, a quick reminder that our next livestream episode will be the mailbag episode, and that will take place on October 9, you can ask us any questions you'd like to have answered in real time, and we're going to open that one up to Discord members just this once, discord is free to join and we'll post a link there just a couple minutes before the livestream. And speaking of mailbags and feedback, we're going to start responding to some of the Spotify messages we've been getting. As many of you know, you can now leave a comment on each episode in Spotify, we've been getting a bunch and we're going to try to be more proactive about addressing those on the show. So stay tuned for that at the end of this episode.

Now on to today's topic. this one feels like a throwback to some of our fun early episodes, we're talking today about useless technology.

## **Radio Newspaper**

This first piece of useless technology is a failure trifecta of sorts, in that it involved three defunct or rapidly declining pieces of tech and media. Combine a fax machine with a radio with a

newspaper and what do you get? No one cares, because that sounds terrible, and it was, and no one did care which is why "Radio Newspaper" never gained any traction. This was actually an extremely advanced piece of tech for its time; debuting in 1938 the Radio Newspaper was basically a wireless fax machine, but instead of transmitting corporate or legal documents or very low-resolution dick pics if you were a pioneering depression-era pervert, the radio newspaper involved transmitting entire newspapers—all the text plus black and white photos—over radio waves so that consumers could theoretically print out their day's newspaper while sleeping. In fact, the Federal Communication Commission had reserved a slice of the radio spectrum to be used for such transmissions during the hours of midnight and 6am. The idea was that Joe and Jane American would purchase a printer with a built-in radio, and of course ink cartridges, plus endless reams of paper, and combine all of those items before bed, and then wake up to a warm, freshly printed New York Times next to their warm, freshly brewed ovaltine. Or Postum...those are both horrific drinks from the early 1900s. If that seems like a lot of work for something that you could buy for pocket change on any street corner, you may be on to

something. The failure of this product is not a giant mystery. Here's a specific, technical explanation of the process: "The photo or other piece of copy, such as news bulletins, is placed in the scanner at the transmitter. At the rate of 100 lines per inch the picture to be transmitted is scanned, and the transmitter sends out periodic impulses which vary in strength with the degree of light or shade on the picture. When these signals are received, by wire or radio, they are passed into a recording stylus. This stylus moves back and forth over a piece of chemically dry processed paper... a line, wide or narrow as the case may be, is traced on the paper. A facsimile such as that shown in one of the accompanying pictures is obtained, and it thus becomes an easy matter to reproduce printed matter, drawings and photos, etc." As far as I can tell, the whole point of the radio newspaper was to stick it to newspaper boys...for decades there has been an entire middle-school economy based on delivering and selling newspapers, with kids on bicycles often tossing the paper directly on your doorstep at some ungodly hour of the morning, but apparently the RCA company along with the inventor of the fax machine--W.G. H. Finch—super hated young boys, or at least hated their ability to buy gum and baseball cards—because they

wanted to cut the kids out of the newspaper equation. I guess they were counting on the laziness of Americans, figuring people would pay any price for a machine that would allow them to avoid having to step out on their own porches at 7AM. And now that I say it out loud I'm sort of surprised it didn't work... we Americans ARE effing lazy. But we're also cheap, we like our technology to be inexpensive and simple, and most of us fear that which we do not understand. The radio printer was not cheap, and it was complicated AF—it required ink and paper and presumably had an even worse track record of chewing up pages than modern printers do—I can't imagine printers in the 1930s were better than the ones today—and I shudder to imagine living with printers that are actually WORSE. I have wanted to go full Office Space on many an Epson or Xerox. Oh and bw this thing was also super loud, I'm sure it was fun to wake up at 4AM to the chugging, wheezing, churning sounds of a primitive fax machine from the 1930s belching out low-res text and images at the rate of one page per 15 minutes. Advertisements for the product touted that it could produce a full newspaper in just a few hours...so while the technology at the heart of this device—a radio—provided news in realtime, the radio *newspaper* gave you access to all of the most

urgent news stories of the day right around the time the news was no longer relevant. Imagine reading along as it types out "A tsunami is... heading...for....." glug glug. Also, keep in mind that newspapers include ads...imagine the frustration of waiting 15 minutes for the device you purchased to use the ink and paper you purchased to produce a full-page ad for some product or service you don't want to purchase. Must have been infuriating. And finally, these devices were huge... the one depicted on the cover of Radio Craft magazine in 1934 is roughly the size of a small refrigerator. Or maybe a jukebox. This thing ate up a significant chunk of your home.

The product was a flop, but as mentioned WGH Finch would go on to debut the color fax machine in 1946, and wow...I had no idea fax machines have been annoying people for the better part of a century. The fax machine wouldn't be eclipsed in sheer obnoxiousness and consumer unfriendliness until the debut of the dial-up internet modem in the 1980s.

## Xybernaut Poma

This next disaster is one of my favorite pieces of ridiculous technology ever: allow me to introduce the wearable personal

computer from 2002 known as the Xybernaut Poma. The name alone is perfection, it was doomed from the beginning, no serious piece of technology targeted at anyone over age 12 could be marketed as the Xybernaut Poma. But this was not marketed to children or even teens, this was an expensive piece of very serious adult technology..supposedly. Imagine if you took a standard PC and sliced it up into its component parts and then superglued those parts to your body, now you're picturing something like the Xybernaut Poma. Poma stood for personal media appliance, but it's spelled POMA so I don't know where the O came from. But whatever. The name was very low on the list of this thing's problems. I'll do my best to describe the poma: so a full-sized keyboard was strapped to the wearer's forearm, the screen was a single chunk of glass covering one eye in the style of a cybernetic pirate, the large processor clipped to the user's belt, and the giant clunky power supply could presumably fit in a very large pocket or maybe you could stuff it down your pants to impress the ladies. The appearance of a Poma-wearer has been compared to the Borg from Star Trek, but I'd say that's only accurate if the Borg from Star Trek had been outfitted by RadioShack. It looks like a 10 year

old kid tried to make a robot costume from stuff he found in a junkyard.

The origins of the company reach back to 1990, when businessman Edward G Newman founded it as "computer products and services Inc." And i'm completely reevaluating the name of this product... I take it all back, xybernaut is growing on me because nothing could be worse or more bland than "computer products and services Inc." if I were trying to found a shady Internet porn company and evade detection by the authorities I would definitely call it "computer products and services Inc." What does your company do? We offer various products and services. Computers are involved. That's literally every company in the known universe.

"Xybernaut POMA is a personal optical mobile assistant that delivers instant access to email, internet, music, games and more. POMA is armed with a 10.9 oz CPU (including battery), a 2.8 oz 640X480 SVGA Full-Color Liquid Crystal Head Mount Display, and a 1.8 oz Optical Pointing Device and is priced at a mere \$1,499 applicable in the U.S and Canada only. Xybernaut is accepting initial orders at the company's Web site" they



actually said a "mere \$1499". That is some chutzpah.

Keep in mind that this was a time before widespread Wi-Fi or cell service, so this product didn't allow you to access your email or the Internet on the go, it was basically a disassembled laptop with a keyboard on your wrist that you had to hunt and peck on with a single finger from the office at hand. Or maybe you could get really good at one hand typing, no one cared about this product enough to master it.

I checked out the Xybernaut website on the wayback machine at the Internet archive to try to understand the original vision for the device.

"Xybernaut has entered into the consumer market with **poma™**, a personal optical mobile assistant. **Poma** is a featherweight **CPU** with an advanced head mount display that delivers instant access to email, internet, music, games and more.

**Poma** is comprised of three discrete components: the Main Unit or CPU, the VGA\*\* Liquid Crystal Head Mount Display and the Optical Pointing Device. There will be a number of accessories available, including a metal carrying case, rechargeable battery packs, a

holster and a 1 GB external microdrive.

The Poma featured a whopping 32 MB of RAM, enough to run a game of one-eyed Pac-Man and maybe open a WordPerfect file on your blazing fast Windows CE operating system. It did offer expanded storage via a micro Drive, up to 1 GB.

"Its cool new form factor, anywhere interaction and powerful functionality lead to new levels of capability, productivity and fun. Poma will have the world watching you—as you watch the world in a whole new way." The world but will be watching you all right. people complain about *Google glass* making them look stupid, imagine walking down the street with this Frankenstein dismembered computer on any day that isn't Halloween.

The Xybernaut website also helpfully advised, "**Prices and Parts subject to change without notice.**" Yeah. Both prices and availability would change, but luckily no one would notice, because no one bought this stupid thing.

The president of the company btw was Edward's brother Steven A Newman, it was a family business,

run by a family of idiots. Under Steven's diligent leadership, the company posted 33 consecutive quarterly losses. These days honestly profitability is irrelevant, because this is the era of Elon Musk and fortunes built on absolutely nothing, you can be unprofitable for years as long as you have the word "computer" or internet or AI in your company description. People will just keep throwing money at you—see Twitter, but this was a time when investors kind of frowned on hemorrhaging money for a solid decade. The Newmans, however, continually insisted that profitability was right around the corner, despite public statements by their accounting firm, Price Waterhouse Coopers, that could best be summed up as "nuh-uh." The accounting firm warned that the company was on shaky financial ground, and I could probably have come to that conclusion with a lot less accounting. "So just to be clear, you have lost money consistently for a decade, and your flagship product looks like someone rolled around in a computer scrapyard? I have concerns."

The securities exchange commission subpoenaed the Newman brothers in 2005, and "An internal company audit described improper conduct by the brothers including charging the company for personal expenses, hiring family

members without SEC notification, failing to inform the company's board about large transactions and interfering with internal audits." I love that one of the things that was discovered during the internal audit was interference with internal audits. "we couldn't help noticing that the Newman brothers frequently tackled us as we tried to enter the building, poured water on our laptops and threatened the lives of our children." Edward G Newman would be convicted and barred for life from serving as officer of any company. I think his sentence should have been that he was forced to wear a poma for life and use it as his only computer. That's way more traumatic than prison.

## **Kerastase Hair Coach**

You've heard of baseball coaches and life coaches and sex coaches, well here's a new one: the Karastase hair coach is not—as I had hoped—a flamboyantly gay hair-whisperer who inspires your locks to maximize their luxurious potential, but instead is yet another misguided attempt to shoehorn smart-technology into products that were meant to be dumb. Silicon Valley isn't going to reinvent haircare...I don't need a scrunchie that requires a password or a comb that might short circuit. There are objects in this world that don't need to be iterated and/or

made unnecessarily complicated, and the humble hairbrush is one, but here we are.

The Kerastase hair coach—full name “Kerastase hair coach powered by Withings” because this product was a collaboration, which makes sense...one company alone could not suck this badly, it took two companies to eff up at this scale, one of which (Withings) is part of Nokia, because who else would you trust with your selfcare routine than a purveyor of failed flip-phones—anyway, the hair coach was marketed as costing around \$200, so for the price of a high-end microwave you could get a regular-ass hairbrush stuffed with cheap silicon and also a microphone. From a CNET article which manages to convey some side-eye skepticism: “ bullet point 1: Microphone: A built-in microphone supposedly listens as you brush to identify your hair type: dry, frizzy, split ends and so on.

Bullet point 2: 3-axis load cells: If you're using too much force to brush your hair, this advanced tech should know.

Bullet point 3: Accelerometer and gyroscope: The Hair Coach can apparently count brush strokes and use haptic feedback to alert you if you're brushing too forcefully.

Bullet point 4: Conductivity sensors: Sensors distinguish between wet and dry hair to ensure

correct readings."

I love all of these qualifiers.

"supposedly listens" and "Can apparently count brush strokes."

The skepticism is palpable. The article continues:

"The Hair Coach is supposed to send the information it gathers to the related app over Bluetooth or Wi-Fi. The app should then factor in environmental conditions, such as the temperature, humidity, UV index and more to give you a hair quality score, details on how well you're brushing your hair and tips on how to improve."

Sincerely, Kerastase, go fuck yourself. I am not spending two hundred dollars to be scolded by a hairbrush. Are you seriously expecting me to buy a product that assigns a star-based score to my hairbrushing technique? \$200 to get dunked on by a brush. This is amazing. It seems like there people in the world whose entire job is to find ways to make products annoying. Don't they have bosses who could pump the brakes? Because none of this stuff is necessary, no one is asking for this. The public is not demanding smarter hair accessories. I've never looked at some styling gel and been like, "needs Wi-Fi."

CNET continues: "The app is also supposed to give you product suggestions -- Kerastase-brand-specific, of course."

Because if there's anything that was missing from the classic hairbrush, it's ads. I want every household appliance to market to me. "I see you enjoy soft and shiny hair, would you also like some boner pills?" I get constant Viagra ads, I've mentioned this. The algorithm thinks I'm flaccid. I'm doing just fine, google and facebook and everywhere else. Bunch of weird haters who think I can't get it up. I'll have sex with you right now, google. Watch. Don't tempt me.

So there were a slew of articles about this product when it was announced in 2017, not all of them flattering, and the negative attention may have spooked the company because six years after the announcement there is no mention of the hair coach anywhere on the Kerastase website and I couldn't find any of them online available for purchase. RIP hair coach.

## Umbrella drone

This next useless invention is actually a cool idea that unfortunately is nowhere near ready for prime time. Would you like to be sheltered from the rain without having to lug around a cumbersome umbrella? Would you like to stay dry and comfortable in a downpour while simultaneously looking like some type of futuristic wizard, with a floating umbrella shielding your

head from the rain? Would you like to be accosted by a swarm of soggy bees? If the answer to all of these questions is yes, you may be a candidate for the dronebrella otherwise known as the free parasol, manufactured by the Japanese Asahi power service corporation. It's honestly kind of a brilliant concept, the idea is that the umbrella levitates above your head and follows as you stroll through a storm, keeping you dry and leaving you unencumbered to handle productive activities like texting or picking your nose or flipping off your fellow pedestrians or whatever you need two hands for while you're walking. Oh and did I mention that it also emits a cacophonous din that sounds like the insectoid apocalypse? Here's a sample. And you might want to turn your volume down a bit. I'll give you like three seconds.

## **UmbrellaDrone**

Audio Recording · 3 MB



I feel that the coolness factor of cruising around with a floating umbrella above your head is slightly undermined by the blaring, eardrum shredding swarm-shriek of four screeching propellers.



The product is not just a terrible implementation of what could have been a decent idea, it's also outright theft. The demo video that you just heard consists of a DJI mavic pro drone— a popular mainstream consumer drone—with an umbrella strapped to its back.

The company debuted the product in 2018 with an estimated 2019 launch date, at which point it would supposedly be able to use AI to track your head movements and stay in lockstep, although in the video the demonstrator is using what appears to be a giant Xbox controller to guide it around.

There are a couple other slight obstacles that kept this product from reaching its potential or even reaching store shelves: first, regulations in densely populated Tokyo prohibit drones from flying one foot above a pedestrian's head; I guess regulators feared that consumers might actually be inconsiderate enough to buy a product that annoyed the shit out of everyone around them with hideous beehive-screeching. And they might not have been wrong, thankfully we'll never know. Plus it occurs to me that if the user were short, one foot above their head would still be head-height to other people so the drone would potentially be like a floating ginsu,

slicing the necks and faces of passersby. And the final teensy tiny hurdle faced by the free parasol, and definitely my favorite part of the article: "a waterproof component [is] planned for the future." So the final minor problem with this device was that it didn't work. It was like a hideous shrieking swarm of mechanical bees carrying a sieve. The projected cost was \$275, but as you might've guessed, the company still has not brought this monstrosity to market.

While we're on the topic of umbrellas, it would be frankly irresponsible of me not to also mentioned the air umbrella. This is a stick with a fan attached to the end that emits a high-powered jet of air to redirect the rain...basically it's a weapon that blows frigid water all over anyone in your vicinity. This invention would make sense if they marketed it as a method for maintaining social distance. Ain't no one getting near you while you're wielding an air umbrella. You can check out the 2016 Kickstarter for the air umbrella, it raised over \$100,000 on a \$10,000 goal. And you can also check out the apology blog in which the Chinese company behind the invention claims that it is doing its best to refund as much money as possible for this ridiculous farce of a product. "Now we have returned a portion of fund

these days. Because of shortage of money, we cannot make a deal about financing before Chinese New Year, and we cannot get money from share. Honestly to say sorry to supporters because of waiting for such a long time. We feel really sorry." I honestly think the problem is that they marketed this product incorrectly, it's a people repeller and a sidewalk clearer, it's a brilliant idea for keeping pedestrians out of your space and out of your way. we'll add a link to this product in the transcript in case you want to help them out and maybe revive their kickstarter campaign. I kind of love it.

## Vacuum cleaner shoes

Another Japanese entry into the uselessness Hall of Fame: the Denso auto company introduced a product at CES 2017 designed to accomplish a task that humanity mastered over a century ago, except with the added benefit of making the accomplishing of that task tremendously less efficient and exponentially more embarrassing. Vacuum cleaner shoes didn't have any justification for being made other than the fact that no one could stop Denso from making them. These were the *some men just like to watch the world burn* creations of 2017. The idea of vacuuming your floor by walking in

circles might sound appealing, or might not, but regardless, to say the implementation was inept would be an understatement. first off, the shoes look like checkered clogs. They are extremely chunky, which makes sense because you're essentially walking on two vacuum cleaners. Tiny, useless vacuum cleaners, with debris containers the size of a TicTac box. You'd better have a very small floor. what is this a floor for ants?

The concept was born from an idea that's almost as terrible as the product itself: the Denso auto company held a semi-annual competition every other year among its employees to "Foster their innovative design concepts." maybe this car company should rein in some of that employee innovation, or redirect it to, you know, cars. The fact that someone came up with this idea and proposed it in a serious manner and was not immediately fired should tell you everything you need to know about the Denso corporation, I would avoid their vehicles.

The way the vacuum shoes worked was that there was a pedal embedded in the heel and as you walked your heel pressed the pedal which was connected to gears that turned a motor and generated a brief instance of suction to Hoover up a couple flecks of dirt at which

point the TicTac boxes would be full and you'd suction-walk your awkward ass over to the garbage presumably making weird whooshing noises with each step, empty out the TicTac boxes, and now you had officially cleaned 2 square inches of your living room rug. Repeat. From a CNET article titled "Vacuum cleaner shoes show up at CES because why not"

"since you have to keep pumping your heel up and down to turn the vacuum on, you won't be able to pick up much dirt as you walk.

Instead, you'll need to repeatedly step in one place and deliberately aim at the debris. In the end, it's less "vacuum shoes" and more "very weak vacuum hose with an inconvenient design."

The shoes were officially called "ecology shoes," which somehow seems to imply that you're going to be walking around picking up litter or something, I guess maybe you could get one piece of chewing gum if the chewing gun was really small and not even remotely stuck to the ground. I'm mystified by the concept here. Honestly I have no idea how these things were green-lit, but in retrospect I'm kind of thrilled that they were. It gives me hope for my dust buster underwear. You roll around on the floor and capture debris with your crotch and butt cheeks.

## iSmell

Now a smelly shark fin might not sound like a multimillion dollar idea, but that's because you are a reasonable human and not inventors Joel Lloyd Bellenson and Dexter Smith, nor presumably are you any of the clearly intoxicated investors who sunk over \$20 million into the iSmell, a fin shaped device with tiny nozzles that could eject puffs of scent via aromatic oil-filled smell-cartridges. Those scents would combine to create a multitude of olfactory delights which could be triggered by scent-recipes embedded in email, web links, etc. Joel and Dexter envisioned a world in which websites could send wafts of odor directly into your living room, finally answering the eternal question, what could be more annoying than a pop-up ad? Who doesn't want Facebook manifesting every poop emoji into a sensory experience? Of course the smells wouldn't just come from web designers and marketers, your friends would be able to email you interesting and unique or meaningful scents, perhaps reminding you of that time you vomited in their backseat, or urinated behind a dumpster. (This might be saying more about my drinking history than this invention, but still, you get the point.) I don't

know what *your* friends are like, but I wouldn't let my friends within a mile of this thing, it seems incredibly dangerous.

Apparently the inventors were inspired to develop the iSmell after a Miami vacation, because they wanted to re-create the smell of the ocean, and OK, but I can tell you I've lived directly across the street from the ocean for the last few years up until our move, and sometimes the ocean stinks. I have woken up to the intoxicating scent of rotting seaweed and beached globsters (dead sea creatures)...I'm just saying there are great aspects to the ocean but it is also both a toilet and cemetery for sea life. Just keep that in mind when people start waxing poetic about the beach.

Even though the iSmell might seem very technical and impressive, ultimately it's similar to those primitive smell or vision theater systems we discussed in an episode about failed inventions. Subjecting people to out of context scents—the smell of cut grass or fresh bread or whatever—has long been the go to Hail Mary for inventors trying to come up with a new method to appeal to consumers whose eyes and ears are already oversaturated, but the novelty of random smells quickly wears off, and it's also difficult to get the exact chemical components to work correctly...

promising to deliver fresh bread and instead filling a room with burnt toast can be a turn off. The roadmap for the iSmell was supposed to eventually include video games; the developers imagined jacking up a game's sensory experience by delivering the acrid scent of gunpowder and burning tire rubber etc. was anyone really asking for this? Are those the immersive elements that we want to experience? I kind of think the benefit of playing a video game is that you can engage in fantasy action role-play without marinating in the scent of blood and charred flesh. Strip clubs in Grandtheft auto are pretty fun, but I don't need to smell the stripper's vodka breath. The product was defunct by 2001, as it "never generated substantial sales." I guess it turns out people don't want to be ambushed by smelly websites, who would've guessed. Slap the idea of olfactory spam or viruses is terrifying...I don't want to know what Anonymous or some Nigerian Prince wants me to smell.

## Amazon Astro

This last product is one that you can still buy, although God knows why you would. If your invention has been described as an Amazon Alexa mounted on a suctionless Roomba, you might not have a hit on your



hands, but such is the case with the Astro, Amazon's insanely overpriced and under performing household robot. To me it looks more like an iPad on wheels. With a \$1600 price tag, a top speed of 2 miles per hour, and a head scratching use case scenario, Astro is the ultimate example of a solution in search of a problem. It's hard to figure out who might need the Astro, and if we just go ahead and acknowledge that no one *needs* it, it's still hard to figure out who would *want* one. Even if money were no object I'm not sure I could justify the square foot of space this thing would take up in my house. It's not big, but it's hugely pointless. I watched a video review YouTube and 90% of the runtime consisted of Youtubers setting up obstacle courses for Astro to navigate. For the record, it's pretty good at weaving its way through cones. Not \$1600 good, but hey at least it won't bang into your walls I guess. The screen features two sketched circles or occasionally half moons that function as eyes for conveying emotion, and the Astro can make dog noises, or even mimic the sound of other animals, but i'm mystified as to how that is an appealing feature. Oh look, this bloodless wheeled iPad can remind me of something I actually want, thus highlighting its own inadequacies and limitations. If I

can't pet it, I don't want it to bark. Although marketed as a robot what Astro really seems to be at its core is a mobile camera that you can operate remotely, to check in on your house and maybe keep an eye on your pets. Of course, you better not have a house with more than one floor, because this thing ain't going downstairs without some involuntary gymnastics. So i guess if you're a rich family with a single story house I understand how a mobile rolling camera is an appealing concept, but again, \$1,600 appealing? You could just mount a few cameras around your house instead of mucking around with a rolling, barking iPad. Astro also features a cargo slot above its wheels, and Amazon suggest you might use it deliver items from one room to another. For the rich, lazy family that also hates each other and doesn't want to interact face-to-face. Astro's max carrying weight is around 10 pounds, so I guess you could have Astro follow you around with a few beers if you're a very lazy and dedicated alcoholic, but it's not like it can fetch a brew on its own... i'm trying to get creative here to figure out who might want one of these. Wealthy alcoholics who like to walk around their house but not to the refrigerator. You can also charge your phone with Astro; it comes with a USB port, but of course

charging another device deplete the charge of the Astro...I'm sincerely baffled by this device. Astro is capable of docking itself in its charger like a Roomba when it gets low, so that's cool I guess, you're charging your phone and then it takes off right when you need to answer a call. Amazon also suggest that you use Astro's screen for video phone calls, so you can stare down at a robot that is on the floor of your room and all of your friends on zoom can get a detailed view of your nostrils and nasal cavity. Did I mention you can still buy this thing? Inexplicably, you can. I'll spare you a link in the show notes, though, because the midnight masses are not falling for this. And let's be honest, none of them have this kind of money. We do not cater to the Astro demographic. Whatever that demographic might be.

So I promised we would address a couple of the comments we've been getting on Spotify, and we'll work our way through more of them in the future as well.

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Shane



## Latest responses



• 2 days ago

i love this podcast! im pretty sure ive seen every episode. i relistened to episodes with my boyfriend the other day, and he loves it, too! keep up the great work! -allister/buffoonery from discord

Publish ...



MoonFlower • 3 days ago

I love this show, Albert was a gem EXCEPT I lost his audio at times and couldn't hear him 💔

Publish ...



Ampary • 5 days ago

My step mom hates princess bride. Mines the old tmnt movies. Also like always plz make a over simplified ww1 episode

Publish ...

So yes, we were having some issues with Alberts audio, the connection wasn't great, but you may have noticed also that there were some issues with overall levels in the last quarter of the episode, that was a weird audio glitch, I think glitches are the theme for today, but I was able to fix it and if you re-download that episode, it's all resolved. You would have to delete the current version you have on your phone, which can be a little tough because

Apple podcast doesn't like to do that, you may have to actually find a way to delete it off your phone, but if you want to hear the uninterrupted episode with pristine audio, you do have that option because the version that is online right now is fixed.

And as I mentioned, will be getting to more of these on future episodes.

We have a new minion!

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