



# Virtual Scandals and Sacrilege: Who's grieFing Now?

**Heitor Alvelos** *Professor* University of Porto, Portugal

**Jeff Ferrell** *Professor/writer* University of Kent, UK

**Phil Harvey** *Editor* Light Reading, USA

**Peter Ludlow** *Professor* University of Toronto, Canada

**Hector Postigo** *Professor* University of Utah, USA

**March 10, 2008**

**5-6 pm**

# TRANSGRESSION

actions in digital environments  
that have been considered culturally

**INAPPROPRIATE**

**ABUSIVE**

**CRIMINAL**

**OBSCENE**

**SACRILEGIOUS**

**WRONG**

# **ACTIONS:**

**PIRACY**

**TROLLING**

**COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

**CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE**

**THEFT**

**GRIEFING**

**FAKE AUTHENTICITY**

**MALICIOUS RUMORS**

**.... the list goes on and on.**

# WHO TRANSGRESSES?

INDIVIDUALS

CASUAL GROUPS

ORGANIZED GROUPS

INSTITUTIONS

COMPANIES

i.e.

**EVERYONE.**

# **REASONS FOR TRANSGRESSION**

**SELF-GRATIFICATION**

**ALTERNATIVE SOCIAL, ETHICAL OR  
MORAL STANDPOINTS**

**PROFIT: MONETARY, SYMBOLIC**

# **FOCUS:**

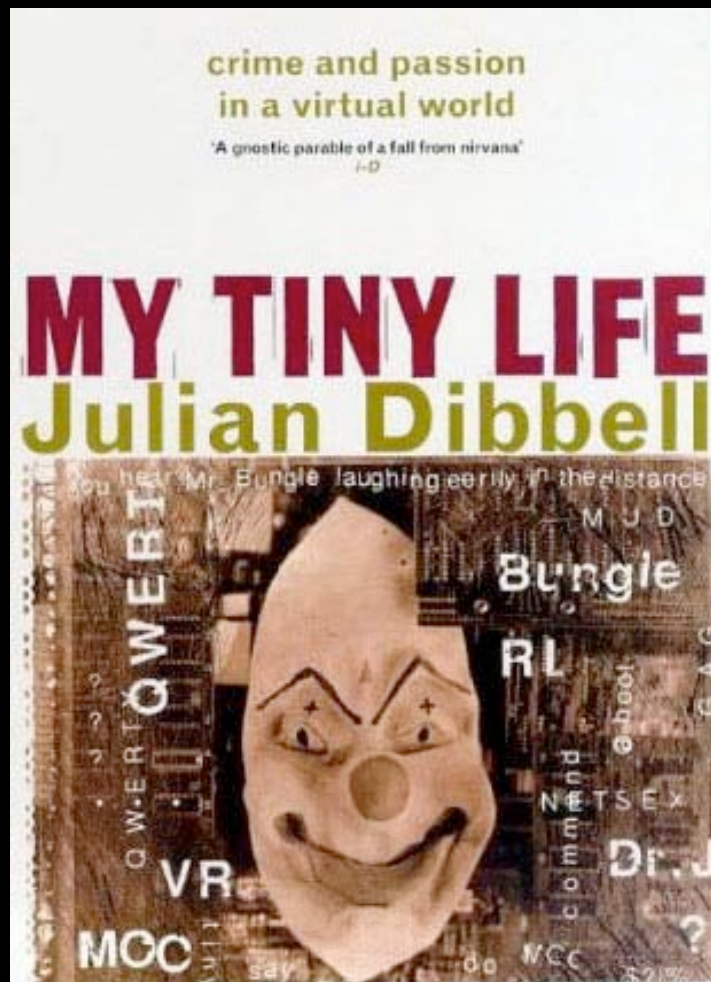
Transgressive acts that have generated

**PUBLIC DEBATE**

**RETALIATIONS/RESPONSES**

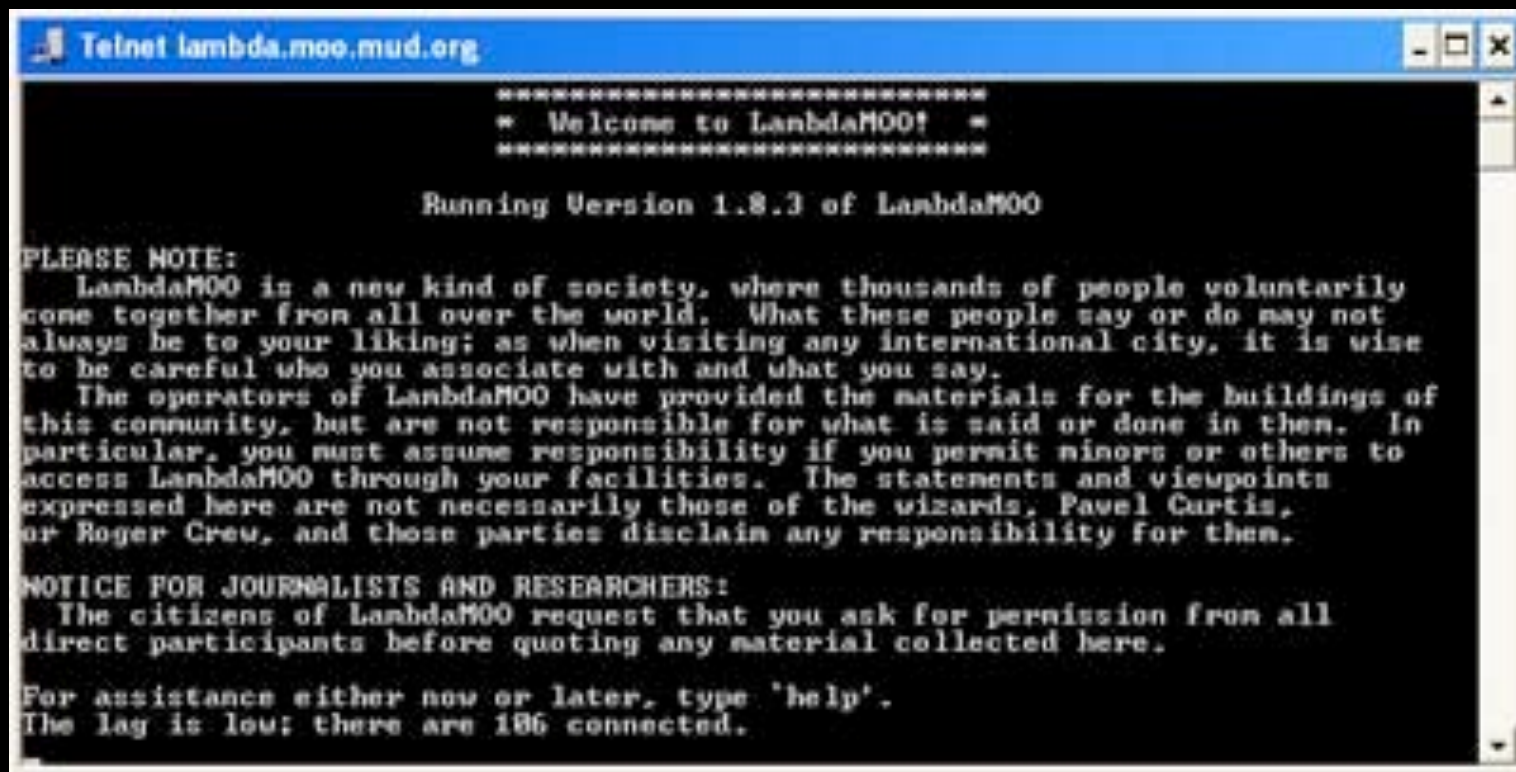
**CHANGES INTO LAW**

**VIRAL CONSEQUENCES**



**Julian Dibbell:  
account of virtual rape  
at MUD's LambdaMOO  
(1993)**

”Post-traumatic tears were streaming down [the virtual rape victim’s] face”.

A screenshot of a Telnet window titled "Telnet lambda.moo.mud.org". The window displays a welcome message for LambdaMOO. The text is as follows:

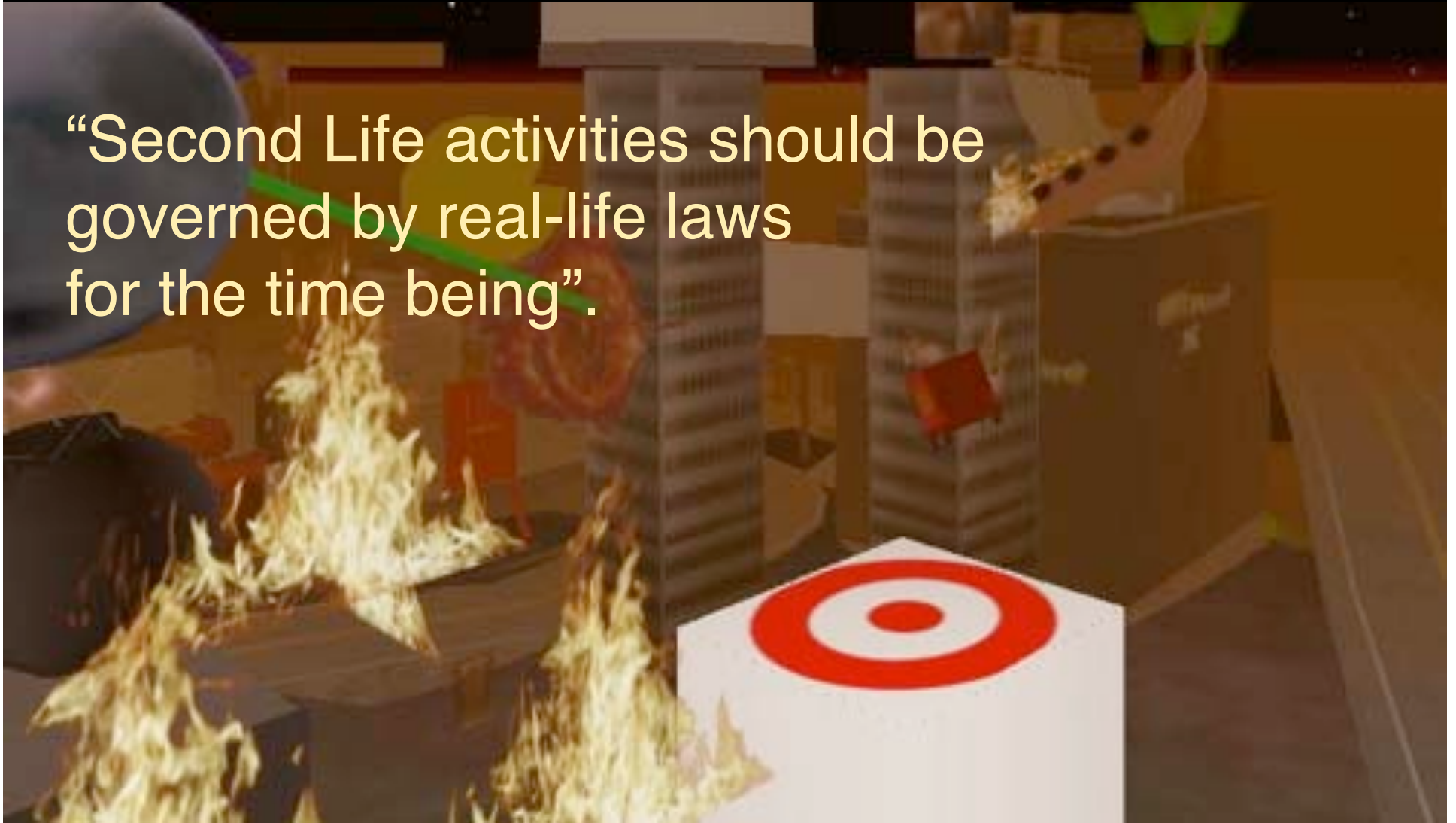
```
*****  
* Welcome to LambdaMOO! *  
*****  
  
Running Version 1.8.3 of LambdaMOO  
  
PLEASE NOTE:  
LambdaMOO is a new kind of society, where thousands of people voluntarily  
come together from all over the world. What these people say or do may not  
always be to your liking; as when visiting any international city, it is wise  
to be careful who you associate with and what you say.  
The operators of LambdaMOO have provided the materials for the buildings of  
this community, but are not responsible for what is said or done in them. In  
particular, you must assume responsibility if you permit minors or others to  
access LambdaMOO through your facilities. The statements and viewpoints  
expressed here are not necessarily those of the wizards, Pavel Curtis,  
or Roger Crew, and these parties disclaim any responsibility for them.  
  
NOTICE FOR JOURNALISTS AND RESEARCHERS:  
The citizens of LambdaMOO request that you ask for permission from all  
direct participants before quoting any material collected here.  
  
For assistance either now or later, type 'help'.  
The lag is low; there are 186 connected.
```



# Philip Rosedale

founder and chief executive of Linden Labs:

“Second Life activities should be governed by real-life laws for the time being”.



# The Church of England vs. Videogaming

Picked up 19 Bullseye rounds  
Recovered 25 health

**June 2007:**

Manchester Cathedral is used as a central location for *Resistance: Fall of Man* (Playstation).

Church of England condemns the violence of the game, demands apology and threatens with lawsuit.



# The Church of England vs. Videogaming

## October 2007:

Rev. Rogers Govender (CoE) acknowledges number of visitors to Manchester Cathedral has risen after the *Resistance* controversy:  
collection boxes might benefit as a result.

## October 2007:

*Hellgate London* is released. St.Paul's Cathedral is the site of a rift into Hell.

