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Philosophy vs. Demosaic in Postmodern Dichotomy

By [William Peter Benedict](#) | January 18, 2008



During the first of many [Lime happy hours](#) to come this year in NYC, we all journeyed north to a place few New Yorkers dare to tread: ~~McDonald's~~ [Times Square](#). Amidst the Applebees, H's, and M's is the juvenile-Vegas establishment of [Dave & Buster's](#). The walls are lined with [halves of racing cars](#), [caged skeeball](#), and [colorful firearms](#). Open bar, bottomless video games: In short, an evening for exploration.

Many an academic periodical could emerge from studies of this wonderland (indeed, there is already an in-house LimeEconomic study being undertaken comparing the relative [cost-effectiveness](#) of playing [Colorama](#) to win tickets to trade for prizes (tentatively titled *That Huge Scooby Cost Us \$74.44: Also, a Fake Fish Tank*)), but for this blog entry, my first at Lime, I would like to focus on the eminence of a truly self-projecting curiosity: [The Fotomorph Gene Machine](#).

Inside the booth, the premise is simple: Using realtime imaging of whoever is in the Fotomorph booth, the Gene Machine (GMAC) displays a portrait of the expected offspring using a proprietary algorithm for

calculation. In today's fast paced world of [designer genes](#) and [prenatal Hendrix](#), the market potential for this kind of software is on par with crack. What algorithms are being employed for [facial recognition](#) and combination? Are there any active [open source](#) alternatives in a position to compete with this existing, entrenched solution? My discourse in the determination of whether GMAC is ready for prime time is an odyssey in answering the question on the lips of every awkwardly dating preteen couple: "Oh man, is that what our kid would look like? *Later*. [sic]"

At first glance, GMAC seems to pull results from the ether (note that the ruddy expanse across the mane of the offspring shown is not, in fact, [blunt force trauma](#) or a [fashion choice](#), but software glitch for which [a bug has been filed](#)).



There is clearly no resemblance. Color, tone, and [facial symmetry](#) are far outside of any percent error that can be considered reasonable. There *is* the possibility that the single genetic parent (presumably due to the magic of science) is skewing results by way of mutation. This seems unlikely, however. Similarities can be drawn with the lumberjack flannels, but any relationship is pure conjecture at this point.

The solidarity of this conclusion is further diluted by the fact that we don't even know this dude. He just wandered in while the rest of us were [racing cars](#). Maybe there are traits within a parent that cannot be accurately detected by the human eye, and are thus lost to us without the buttress of evidence elicited through casual social interaction. As brevity is the soul of wit, I will be blunt¹: Effectively, this example cannot be held to court, and is, due to lack of supporting evidence, a wash. It is included here mainly as a reminder of how permeable any "conclusion" can be, regardless of the lofty measure of certainty with which it has been posited. Also, more words [FTW](#).

Now, that having been said, a question is raised: To what depth can GMAC really *see*? Any digital photographer is familiar with the merits and pitfalls of the full-color capturing [Foveon X3](#) sensor as compared to the average [Bayer filter](#) with the same pixel count. Is it possible that such imaging technology has made its way into the fiberboard confines of Fotomorph in attempt to squeeze that last ounce of dynamic range out of luminance? I put forth another example, in the hopes of peeling back another layer of complexity for a closer look at the composition of our study.



Again we see a crystal disparity. What individual or combination of [Punnett Squares](#) could have followed course to this outcome? The only similarities that can be drawn are that of the disproportionate ears and relatively Satanic billygoat beard of the offspring, almost paying homage to the surreptitious visage of [Count Vigo](#) (as portrayed in the Reitman classic² *Ghostbusters II*). After this initial volley of discouragement, however, we are greeted with the opportunity for a disconcerting realization. Having extensive knowledge of one of the parents³, I can incorporate data from a previous study, and bring it to bear on our current conundrum in the form of a childhood photo:



We exalt upon the primary exhibit of GMAC's indefatigable depth: Ignoring the immediate visual cues of the subject in favor of hereditary probabilities. The resulting bowl haircut is now unmistakable on both parent and offspring. It is the closest thing we have to DNA evidence without possessing cell tissue from both subjects. Secondary (and infinitely more debatable) support can be correlated between the existence of a gold "Playa" necklace and evident history of alcohol abuse to the misguided smoking jacket worn by the offspring (NB: Corona, almost exclusively). No follow up research is planned along this path, I merely put it forth as an interesting piece of conjecture.

As we dig deeper, GMAC continually astounds. I present another deceptively dissimilar result:



To what level has artificial intelligence been elevated? Even the mythic triumphs of IBM's Deep Blue pale in comparison to the unperturbed inner recognition of GMAC when being faced. Clearly, if presented with these head shots, most adults would instantly recognize the pure evil residing behind the eyes of both father and daughter, but to have these truths paralleled by a machine comes close to undermining the definition of machine, and, yes, of humanity itself. Never before has this been illustrated in academia with such sparkle. It is a [truly unsettling development](#) in technology.

Most of the splices being produced by GMAC fall somewhere inside simple visual recognition and the cognitive third eye, though oftentimes the distinction is not as pedestrian as one would expect. For instance, this kid looks like George W Bush:



Right? Taken a step further, we can see that, based on theories derived from [Project Rainbow](#), cross-referenced with [Aleister Crowley's Thelema](#), just look at this kid:



All in all, whether programmatic, algorithmic, or driven off of a semi-artificial intelligence with the capacity to understand Faith, all missions for which GMAC is tasked are accomplished. GMAC accurately fuses cultural, visual, and hereditary cues, giving birth to facial and follicular cinescapes for the world to inspect, on tastefully striped photo paper. Every now and again, the uncanny results steal the breath of even the most skeptical with their indomitable evolution, like a 4th down game winning flea flicker touchdown. Watch out future, we're coming.



¹ [Chaucer](#). Read a book (I'm kidding, it's [Shakespeare](#)).

² You love it.

³ He is I and I am him, [slim with a tilted brim](#).

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Being on the front-end of LimeWire, which has basically been LimeHire at the rate we're going, I often meet people who love our product but are astounded that we are what we are. And what are we, and more importantly, who are we? Well, we are a hearty group of 43 (and growing) unique individuals [...]

[New Year, New Stuff \(4 Comments\)](#)

By [George Searle](#) | January 11, 2008 - Posted in [News](#), [Office](#)

Another year past, a new year ahead and a great time to reflect on each.

When I joined Lime Wire eight months ago, I found a company with a great product, one of the largest and most engaged user bases in the world, and an incredible team determined to do much more. We've already accomplished much since then.

We [...]

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By [E.J. Wolborsky](#) | January 9, 2008 - Posted in [Office](#), [Interviews](#), [Internship](#), [Careers](#)

LimeWire vs. Lime Wire. The one word is the fastest file sharing program on the planet, the two words is the name of the company that backs that and other projects.

One year ago, this fair company was home to a mere 23 humble servants. Today, as we at Lime Wire charge ahead full-speed into anno [...]

[Bloomin' Filter \(No Comments\)](#)

By [Zootella](#) | December 21, 2007 - Posted in [Coding](#)

Can LimeWire pack an unlimited amount of data into a finite size? Probably not. Does it do something sort of like that, in a way that lets me write a catchy opening line for a blog entry? Yes. And it does it with something computer science calls a Bloom Filter.

In 1970, Burton H. Bloom invented [...]

[WTF Do You Store Your Bits? \(No Comments\)](#)

By [jpelzer](#) | December 14, 2007 - Posted in [Coding](#), [Backups](#)

As I write this entry, I feel well-protected from the threat of physical attack from behind me. Not because of some high-backed chair but because I have a wall of hard drive boxes stacked up behind me, with terabytes of pristine audio data destined for the LimeWire Store. It's my fortress of storage. Just as [...]

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