

Feeling 'Cooped up?'

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OPINION EDITOR

There is a plague facing today's youth. It's an inescapable evil that affects all of us regardless of creed, shoe size, or favorite flavor of ice cream: boredom. There is a valiant group fighting the good fight. Nitrome is a game developer out of London who got its start with innovative and cheeky flash games on the web.

To continue fighting the good fight, Nitrome releases the highest quality free apps and games I have seen. I don't mean free as in

you can play for 30 seconds and then have to wait eight hours. I don't mean free as in you exist so that the players with money can beat you up. These games are completely free and playable without debilitating ads or unfair game mechanics. One of their newer releases, "Cooped Up," has eradicated my boredom for several weeks.

You are a beautiful chubby chicken-esque bird recently admitted to an exotic bird sanctuary. You're feeling a bit peckish and ready for a snack, but watch out for the other birds. They've been cooped up for a little too long. Jump your way to safety and be sure to

keep an eye out for that special golden bug.

In "Cooped Up," you must slingshot your way from platform to platform and avoid the diseased neighbors of your new avian residence. The gameplay is as simple as tapping and dragging from your little bird body to slingshot yourself to the next level.

Feeling reminiscent of a cross between "Angry Birds" and "Doodle Jump," "Cooped Up" is the most perfect blend of fling, fling, die, repeat gameplay you could ask for.

The style is a bit unnerving at first. While the form of the cartoon graphics is simple and clean, the content of these red, feather-

less, mad birds seeking to destroy you are a bit strange without a story behind it.

Boasting a whopping 4.1 stars, "Cooped Up" may not be the highest rated game on the Play Store. Some of the negative reviews will lament that if you touch the other birds you die, or that losing makes the reviewer sad.

If you can keep your cool while playing a mobile game, you'll be in for a good time with this one in particular. "Cooped Up" is fun, odd, and polished just like every game you can expect from the hands of Nitrome's designers.

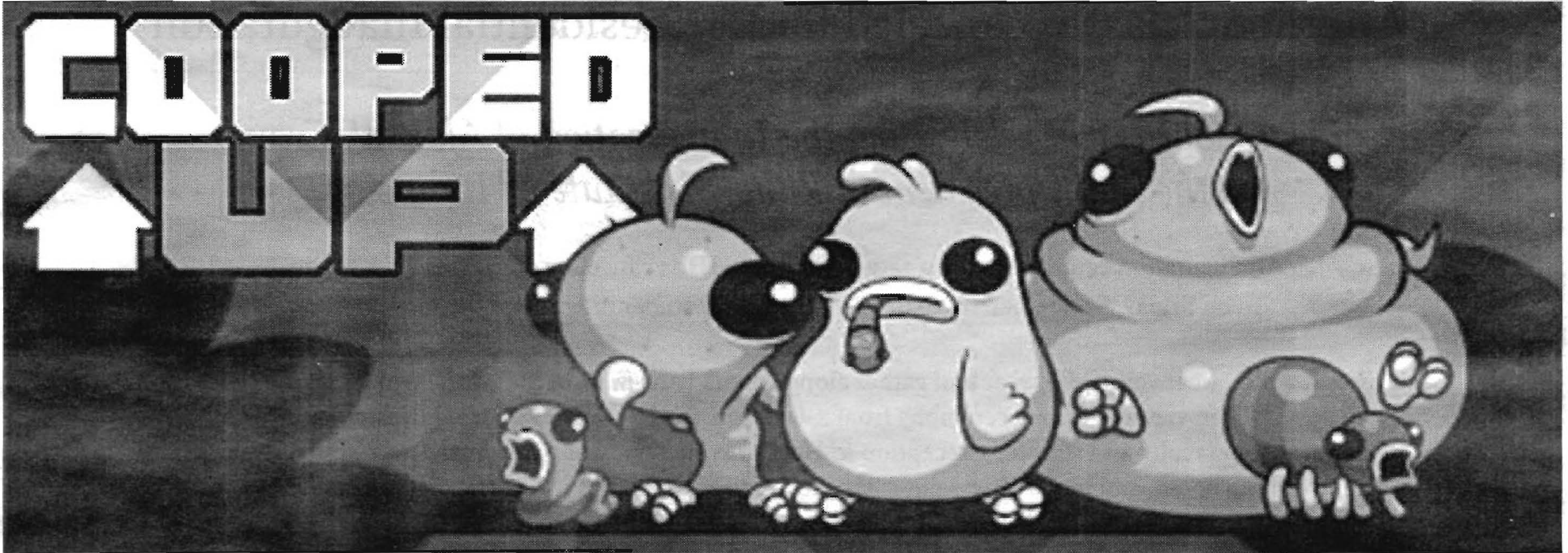


Image courtesy of nitrome.com

Bonnaroo Music Festival full of good vibes, unique performances

Soren Spicknall
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Early in the morning, you're woken slowly and unwillingly as the rising Tennessee heat outside your tent is magnified by its interior confines, steadily turning what used to be a respite from rain into a cloth sauna and signaling the start of another long day without access to functioning bathrooms, adequate cell signal, or even so much as a spare breeze to cool you down.

It's Saturday, and you can't remember showering since Wednesday morning. The last time you had access to air conditioning seems like centuries ago. And yet, you will leave this place on Monday declaring the past weekend to have been the greatest you've ever had. It's day three of the Bonnaroo Music Festival, and despite the fact that you've consistently only managed three and a half hours of sleep since Thursday, you're ready to head to the center of the festival grounds and spend another day in the most positive community in the world, experiencing performances that will become legendary.

Every year for an extended sun-soaked weekend in June, the rural town of Manchester, Tennessee briefly becomes one of the state's largest cities as 100,000 music fanatics converge on 780 acres off of I-24 for the massive spectacle of Bonnaroo, the happiest of America's premier music festivals. Campers from all 50 states and countless countries get to know each other as neighbors Wednesday night and Thursday morning while setting up their sites, sharing with each other their supplies, labor, and tips to survive the coming days.

For 2015's festival, IIT's campus radio station, WIIT, sent their music director, Soren Spicknall, and their Publicity Director, Brendan Kelly, to the festival to chronicle the life of a Bonnarooer. Though many music festivals claim to create a community within their grounds, there is simply no sense of unity equal to that of The Farm during Bonnaroo. This year, a single Bonnarooer broke the

world record for largest number of high fives in an hour; another made it their personal mission to carry an umbrella around for the sole purpose of giving extra shade to people who needed a break. One of Bonnaroo's chief

danna to be worn all weekend and despite the dirt that coated everybody's camping gear and vehicles by day two, the complete unbridled happiness of The Farm was infectious, and once inside, it became tough to find any reason



mottos is "radiate positivity," and the environment in Centeroo and in the campgrounds was nothing but positive from Wednesday night until Monday morning.

Despite the heat that required a ban-

to leave. That eager and charitable atmosphere is what makes Bonnaroo so special. That, and the music.

Bonnaroo is one of the only festivals in the world where you can have the privilege

of experiencing such seemingly disparate acts as Billy Joel, Kendrick Lamar, Alabama Shakes, Deadmau5, and Sylvan Esso all at the top of their game. It's considered truly to be a "musician's festival" because artists love to go there to perform, see some of their own favorite acts as an audience member, and even engage in truly legendary collaborations. This year, for example, Mumford & Sons brought members of My Morning Jacket, Dawes, Hozier, and The War on Drugs on stage for a group Beatles cover to end their set Saturday night, along with actor Ed Helms.

At the annual collaborative 'Roo tradition of the "Superjam," Chance the Rapper curated a stage occupied simultaneously by Pretty Lights, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels of Run DMC, Rob Trujillo of Metallica, and Jack Antanoff of Bleachers, among many others, jamming out all at once.

Some of the best moments of the festival, though, came not from collaborations, but from phenomenal individual shows. Robert Plant brought out old Led Zeppelin material with a full band for the first time in years. Tyler Joseph of Twenty One Pilots scaled a four-story lighting tower in front of the main stage, despite explicit orders from festival organizers not to climb anything, wishing to sing directly to fans in the back of the crowd. Electronic duo Cherub screamed through a late-night DJ set all the way to nearly 7 a.m. Sunday morning, waking campers in confusion about how the party could still possibly be going. For historic performances and life-changing musical experiences, there's no place like Bonnaroo. And really, there's no place like Bonnaroo in general. There is no other festival, musical or otherwise, that matches 'Roo for sheer fun, and despite the heat, the drawbacks of camping, and everything else that might keep somebody from considering a ticket, every gripe is forgotten as soon as you enter Centeroo and the music begins.

This was WIIT's first time sending exec board members to Bonnaroo, but it definitely won't be the last.

Photo by Soren Spicknall