



Freelance Writhe

by Mike Finley

I thought it would be a slam-dunk to link to some of my vids 'n stuff on **Reddit.com**, the hip place people go to read what's cool on the tubes.

Surely, I would be greeted as a breath of fresh analog air in a digital universe.

800,000 daily readers -- they would be easy pickins' for this wily serpent.

Alas, I did not reckon on the strictness of the 800,000.

In a four day period, I posted about 20 links, sat back, and expected the counters to spin off the display and burst into flame.

My 20 links got a total of 16 hits.

And, to poke the stick a little deeper into the carcass, people left comments. My favorite was from a person named **deadtime**, who summed up my story about getting clocked on the head by a falling tailpipe in these words:

"This isn't very funny."

I watched the vid again, and I could see that the humor was sort of rueful or wistful -- not SNL funny. **deadtime** had a point. "You had to have

been there" is a thin excuse in any setting.

The worst thing though, is that Reddit punishes you when your links don't get hits. Here you have hung your limp body out to dry, and the Reddit Robot counts up your handful of hits and says to you:

"You've submitted several links recently that haven't been doing very well. You'll have to wait a while before you can submit again, or write to the moderators and ask for an exemption."

So then you have to go, hat in hand, to the moderator, and say:

"I've been putting up links, but they haven't been getting a whole lot of hits..." pause to, tremblingly, rotate hat in hand ... *"and I was just sorta wondering if you help out a fellow American down on his luck."*

But it doesn't matter, cuz you're basically out of it, Internet-humor-wise, and even if you were really good in a really unique, 800,000 people are not about to alter their needs for rapid exhalation just because you showed up at the door.

Either you are funny, or you are not. And if you are not, kindly die behind that rock by the side of the road, and not in front of it, where people passing by have to see you ... writhing ... spasmodically ... twisting your pale coils in the noonday sun.

To see Mike's awful vids go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/mfinley98>

