This Gaming Life
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Nobody leads a life of quiet desperation nowadays. The mass of men was quietly desperate a million years ago because the infernal computers inside their skulls were incapable of restraint or idleness; were forever demanding more challenging problems which life could not provide.

► KURT VONNEGUT, Galápagos, 1985

My friend Trevor is over at my house with his nephew Donny. We’re playing WarioWare on the GameCube, but Donny’s not really interested. When it came time to make a man jump on a banana, he pronounced it “gay” and put the controller down. So now it’s down to me as a dancing cat and Trevor as some kind of alien in sunglasses and a cape. Donny’s reading the manual for Manhunt. He’s pretty psyched that you can kill someone with a plastic bag.

► TOM CHICK, “Saving Private Donny,” 2004