



WOOZY
seventeen
"words not deeds"

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woozy seventeen.**

the political issue.

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**northern hemisphere copies were
printed at 121 and knust.**

**thankyou to pete, erica, jan dirk, joyce,
laura, knust, mark, 121, sylvia, vur de
vlame and anyone else who helped, let us
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squatters and gentrification

there is an argument that has enjoyed some lasting popularity that rather than alleviating homelessness and fighting property developers squatting communities actually add to the process of gentrification in poorer communities. the reasoning behind this is something like this- squatters move into run down areas, take over disused property and in doing so create a white middle class enclave within depressed inner city areas. the squatters attract and create hip businesses such as cafe's, galleries and the like and demonstrate that it is possible to live in the neighbourhood. soon after other young middleclass types such as artists and students move in in search of cheap rents. in doing so they form a vanguard for other, more wealthy folks to follow on who are attracted by the "cosmopolitan" feel the squatters and others have created. the original low income residents are pushed out of the areas they have lived in for decades.

whilst this argument has some validity when applied to certain situations it is also so full of holes that i am surprised it has persisted for so long. firstly we should recognise that the process of gentrification is a little more complicated than the way it is outlined above. gentrification occurs for numerous reasons- sometimes hip young things help make an area attractive for investors by moving into houses already vacated by people who have moved "up" and on to the suburbs (eg- fitzroy, australia). sometimes they help push people out in the way described above by making the area hip. sometimes crime and social problems force the majority of residents out and after the houses have laid idle developers buy them up to follow a long term plan for redevelopment (eg- south central, l.a.). sometimes the developers are merely following international trends and choose to buy up inner city properties on speculation. sometimes an outside event such as the olympics can mean an area's values rapidly increase and owners evict tenants and remove "undesirables" with the aid of the police (eg-barcelona and atlanta). sometimes wider geopolitical and national events can lead to an area attracting special business investment after being left alone for decades (eg- kreuzberg, berlin after the fall of the wall). sometimes gentrification can be part of a long term government strategy to disperse and neutralise communities it believes pose it a threat (eg- lower east side new york, watts). sometimes gentrification spills over from neighbouring areas that have already been transformed (eg- redfern, sydney). sometimes gentrification can be the product of local government trying to increase its wealth and prestige through programs attracting increased yuppie investment (eg-brixton). usually gentrification takes place due to a mixture of these factors and always in the context of wider geopolitical changes (eg-deliberate urban decay leading to corporate profits) that neither squatters or other residents have much control over.

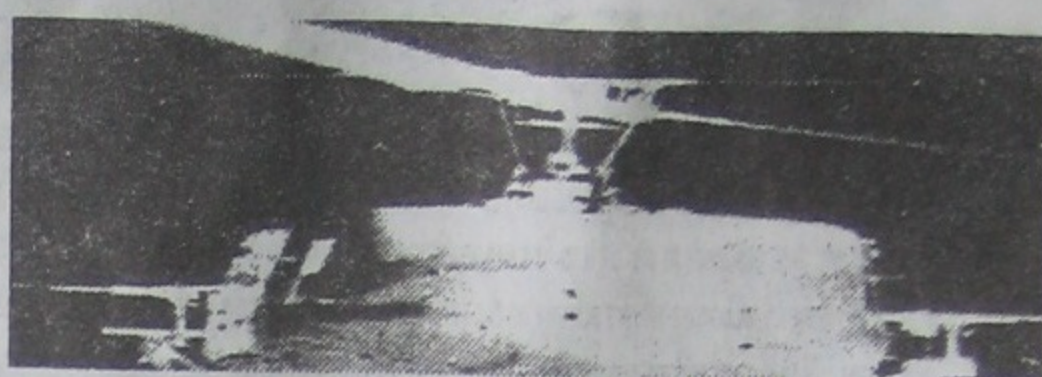
in all of the situations outlined above the presence of squatters can encourage or deter gentrification. it all depends on the particular situation and the type of squatters living in the area and what they are doing. the argument that squatting equals gentrification presupposes that all squatters are young white middle class punks and artists with lots of disposable income (the perfect fodder for hip capitalists). whilst this may be a popular media image of squatters it is certainly not the whole picture. squatters are primarily

low to no income folks of diverse age, ethnicity and gender who are taking what they can to survive. others who are squatting for primarily ideological reasons (and who may nominally fit the cliché) are unlikely to attract the kind of businesses that bring investor interest. people who are using squatting primarily to advance their career through setting up art studios, galleries, cafes and other hip businesses in tandem with others may indeed do so. infoshops and punk venues do not tend to attract yuppies and large numbers of wealthy folks, a political hip cafe's do.

other than the fact that squatters are a diverse bunch with differing economic status and market favourability they may also deter or encourage gentrification by their very presence. squatters in areas such as redfern, hackney and brixton have deterred investment as most property investors do not want to have to deal with evicting them and most middle class home buyers do not want to live next door to them or risk having their nest egg occupied by them. the presence of open squat centers and support services can encourage this by helping homeless and other people to take back empty properties as well. where squatters and others have resisted evictions and gone on the offensive against developers and government they have certainly made their area a less attractive investment and helped slow the physical removal of low income residents. in these cases local and central government have put considerable effort into removing the squatters and in creating extra incentives for investors to move in. squatters can also aid in slowing or halting gentrification and destruction by taking over properties that are about to become major developments. the case of the glebe squatters in sydney in the 1970s and aboriginal occupiers of the perth brewery site in the 1990s show how by squatting properties the overall destruction of the riverside and heritage sites for tourism was significantly disrupted. similarly by lowering the amount of readily available property squatters stand in the way of "progress"- one more squatter is one less yuppie. in other cases squatters have linked up or led the struggle to improve areas whilst fighting for low income housing (eg- lower east side, new york) and against encroaching development. squatters often generate and protect low income housing through forcing the authorities to negotiate to allow them to stay or create low rent tenancies (eg- housing coop movement in the uk). similarly by providing, defending or fighting for facilities and services for low income people squatters can also help prevent the flood of people out of depressed areas. the presence of squatters therefore in itself largely deters investment and the presence of squatters who are willing to fight their evictions and work with other locals does so to an even greater degree.

therefore whether squatters encourage or deter gentrification depends on the specific situation and on who the squatters are and what their aims are. those who identify and fight along side the community or whom are so fucked up as to be totally undesirable neighbours will help prevent development. those who are merely using squatting as a tool to improve their artistic status or as a cheap way to establish a hip business and who happily go along with the plans of developers encourage it. as in any case people should judge each situation on its own merits before making blanket accusations.





New World Order?

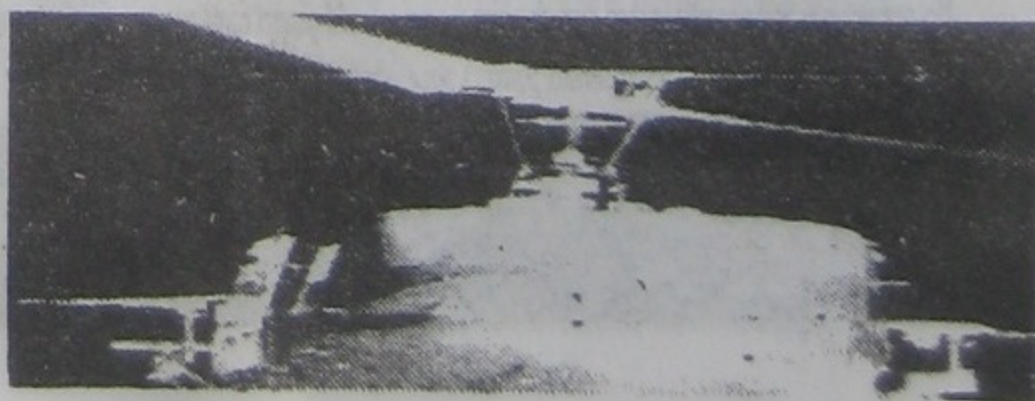
Some thoughts on conspiracy theories by way of a review.

Black Helicopters Over America- Strikeforce for the New World Order, Jim Keith, 1994, Illuminet Press.

Weird things have been going on in rural America for some time as mass sightings of unmarked black helicopters, cattle mutilations and secret government operations would suggest. Having read Jim Keith's work on conspiracy theories and suppressed information in journals such as *Steamshovel Press*, *Science Fiction Eye* and *Paranoia I* I was looking forward to see how he tackled questions around these sightings and linked them to the suspension of sections of the US constitution. Unfortunately I was to discover that whilst Keith does some good work gathering together raw data his conclusions fall into the predictable, fantastic area of right wing conspiracy theories. Clearly it is stupid in the light of the Iran-Contra trials, Watergate, Shell's activities in Nigeria and COINTELPRO to ridicule all conspiracy theories, but none the less it is true that some theories are better at explaining situations than others. In the case of the "New World Order equals a UN inspired communist conspiracy to disarm Americans and usher in one world government" theory it seems to me that Keith and other right wing theorists are either very confused people or wilfully distorting the truth for their own ends. Since these theories are becoming increasingly popular amongst sections of the populace I think it's important to analyse and refute such them and Keith's book (on the otherwise generally good Illuminet Press) makes a good starting point.

To begin with we should examine the sections of the book in which Keith outlines evidence of various sinister government operations. In chronological order from the early 1970s up to today Keith lists numerous reports of dark unmarked choppers buzzing ranches and hovering around missile and cattle mutilation sites. Whilst unsourced the earlier reports have a certain plausibility to them if only due to the fact that they are drawn largely from police records. Where some of the sightings get a little more dodgy is in the late 1980s and early 1990s when Keith starts pulling information primarily from *Spotlight* and other pro militia publications, some of which appear quite extreme in light of the earlier reports. Whilst this could reflect increasing activity it could also reflect increasing paranoia and exaggeration in the interest of propaganda.

The research section of the book gets most interesting when Keith begins to explore the expansion of police control within the US and the existence of National Emergency legislation allowing the President draconian powers. Much of the evidence cited suffers from a lack of substantiation or hails from dodgy sources, but for the most part Keith convincingly illustrates an increase in state power and the militarisation of traditional police roles. Examples of this include numerous joint police-military operations (often on the basis of drugs searches) as well as military operations based on urban combat in American towns with or without the aid of foreign troops. Keith also details the creation of special heavily armed military forces designed to take over counter revolutionary operations if the police and National Guard fail in a situation of widespread unrest. In the area of state preparations for rounding up citizens into holding camps Keith offers evidence citing Congressional papers and specific examples of legislation aimed at shutting away dissidents. Most importantly he illustrates how the US has been kept in a state of National Emergency since WW2 via a variety of Executive Orders that allow the President at any time to seize control of all communications media, transport, fuel, food and electrical sources, to form work brigades of citizens, to relocate populations and to authorise the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to take over the running of the country. Interestingly whilst citing examples of Federal authorities invoking draconian powers against Japanese Americans during WW2 and black rioters in the 1970s his focus in the 1990s is not on the widespread attacks on minority communities under the auspices of the War on Drugs or on continuing state anti immigrant deportations, but instead on the occasional harassment of right wing citizens armouies. Similarly he makes no mention of the use of US troops against Haitian and Mexican refugees and the widespread roundups and deportations during the LA riots and similar uprisings around the US in 1992. Why such crucial evidence is overlooked in favour of unsubstantiated reports of UN and Russian troops wandering the countryside becomes clear in the sections in which Keith attempts to tie the black helicopters, emergency powers and the UN all together into one great New World Order conspiracy.



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Keith's theory like most of its kind takes up very real evidence of government-repression and secret activities and then proceeds to distort it to fit a nationalistic paranoid world view. By Keith and many in the Patriot movements reckoning all this activity on the part of the state adds up to a push by the Fabian Socialist dominated UN to disarm and withdraw other rights of American citizens before amalgamating the US into a centralised world government where Americans will be minions of socialist and or other shadowy (dare we say Jewish?) interests. Keith even goes so far as to state that the collapse of Soviet power was probably just a ruse on the part of those sneaky commie one worlders! The evidence Keith primarily serves up in favour of these implausible theories comes in the form of a few Presidential orders to do with efficiency in UN military matters matched with unseen and unsourced "secret" UN documents and conversations overheard by militia members in which Soviet spies spill all the beans. Somehow I think he requires something a little more substantial than that.

Unfortunately Keith and his right wing friends have not only distorted the situation through their red, white and blue tinted glasses, but have also led other confused anglo-americans down a very wrong path. For those who have long suffered under any and all US dominated world orders the fact that the government is repressive, sneaky and dictatorial is hardly news. By ignoring numerous historical occurrences and embracing this kind of right wing world view Keith misses out on the fact that the US state has always attempted to destroy dissident citizens and that recent repressive legislation has continued to be aimed at the poor and minorities not at good old boy gun owners.

Nearly all the legislation Keith cites as allowing the President and FEMA emergency powers over US citizenry can be seen as responding to historical challenges from the left. Post war emergency edicts were part of the Cold War program of militarising American society and destroying any remnants of the radical labour movement and Communist Party that had not been already eliminated during similar "emergencies" during WW1 and 2. Nixon's emergency powers (which Keith shows still remain intact) were part of both official and secret operations against Black, Brown, Native American and other radical groupings as well as Nixon's liberal enemies in the Democrats and White House. Similarly the emergency legislation of Reagan's time and the preparations by FEMA to gather up trouble makers was clearly aimed at suppressing possible uprisings in the face of a proposed invasion of Nicaragua, a fact admitted to by former FEMA executive member Oliver North during sessions of the Iran Contra hearings. During the Reagan/Bush era emergency legislation and planning was primarily used to round up immigrants into holding camps, to place the homeless in easily controlled shelters and to put down the 1992 LA uprising. No real use of emergency powers has been aimed at rightwing white gun owners and police operations have only occurred when certain groups were deemed to have gotten out of control as in the case of Waco. Legislation passed in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing by Clinton (who Keith labels a Fabian Socialist!) virtually ignored internal right wing terrorism in favour of further limiting immigrant rights and increasing the US government's ability to harass its few remaining enemies abroad.

In view of the incineration of MOVE, the massacres of Black Panther and AIM members, the mass imprisonment of black youth (45% of black males under 25 are in prison) and the disarmament of radical groups and minorities via already existing gun and drugs laws the fears of paranoid gun owners seem misplaced indeed. As long as they continue in their traditional role as unofficial enforcers of the status quo they will be left alone. Indeed Keith's racist fantasies of Bloods and Crips being drafted up as government cannon fodder in the disarming of the citizenry are hilarious given that it has always been right wing white vigilantes who have been drafted in to repress struggles by slaves, black radicals and strikers and not the other way around. Indeed the actions of militias and the Wise Use movement in attacking environmentalist and Government ecologists reflect an ongoing use of right wing thugs against progressive sections of the government and populace. * Many traditional rural white middle and working class supporters of the Government are now feeling the economic squeeze of a globalised capitalist economy and are unfortunately as in the past turning to fascism, nationalism and fantastic conspiracy theories rather than linking up with those who have felt the squeeze all along. Keith's theories are ample proof enough of this tendency.

Keith's analysis of the role of the UN in this supposed crack down is also pretty wacko- this time we get the tail wagging the dog. Many right wingers lend the UN an agenda and powers way beyond its control. The UN was set up as post war talking shop through which the major world powers could pursue their interests with a humanitarian face whilst also giving smaller powers a place to harmlessly blow off steam. Whilst it is true

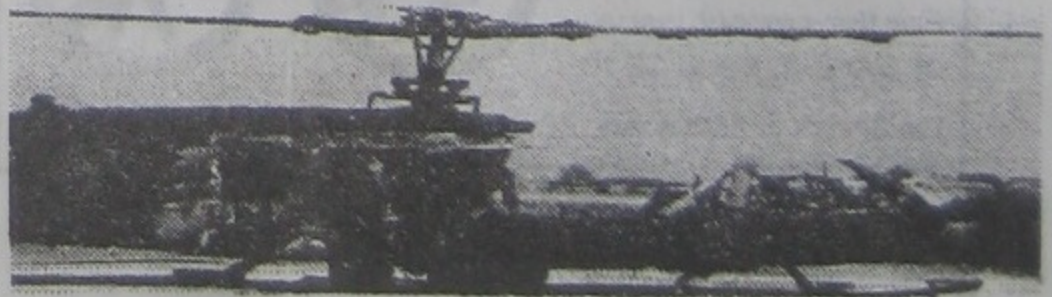


that the UN is increasingly taking on the administrative role of organising US backed military operations against third world nations just a few years ago the US government was ready to withdraw from it on the basis that they weren't getting enough positive results. With the collapse of communism and western powers riding high in the world the US has decided the UN does have some uses after all- primarily masquerading US actions as those of the "world community". Case in point is the Gulf War (in which incidentally Bush used FEMA to draw up plans to incarcerate protesters if things got out of hand) in which a US military operation was thinly disguised as an international UN controlled one. The US used its financial leverage within the UN by finally paying up its outstanding dues to win over any dissenting officials and also used UN facilities to conveniently bribe and bully virtually every nation in the world to stand behind the war effort. UN troop deployments in Africa and former Yugoslavia only take place when US or European corporate interests are threatened and are largely bankrolled by such interests whilst genocide and civil wars within countries such as East Timor are left alone. This is not to say that the UN is merely a smokescreen for US activity, its role is too complex for that, but rather that like most liberal democratic institutions those who have the most power and resources it and when expedient dispense with its use. This can be clearly seen in those cases where international support could not be garnered (such as Somalia, Panama and Grenada) as the US showed no delay in overriding UN orders and deploying its own forces under its own control to restore the balance of power it desired. Such invasions however seem more legitimate with a few other token countries involved and a few blue hats so no doubt the UN will continue to be around for some time yet.

So since the fall of communism and the reintegration of the Soviet Bloc into the capitalist market we have seen a globalisation of military operations often under the auspices of the UN, but none of this activity can be shown to be aimed at bringing about one world government. Instead its goal is maintaining and extending business as usual. The training and exercising of foreign military forces within US borders fits in easily with this state of affairs. The US has always trained and armed South American death squads and dictators as well as other allies both within and without its borders (eg- the Contras in Nicaragua and Filipino "liquidation" squads). It's just that with the collapse of the Soviets it can extend and broaden such operations with little fear of any other superpower complaining and interfering. As the US government more openly crowns its role as global policeman it can also more openly train those forces subservient and allied to it- who of any consequence is going to complain? The black helicopters and weapons testing also fit the standard practice of the US military and intelligence forces as since the 1930s eugenics, germ warfare, LSD and nuclear weapons have been tested on US citizens and primarily on those with the least power in society as the drugging of prisoners, conscripts and the mentally ill and the bombing of indigenous populations in the Pacific clearly shows. The shock that Keith and others express in discovering what is basically standard practice for the military industrial complex can be easily explained by their own naivete born of privilege. As American corporations move their operations into markets more easily exploited whilst pushing down the rights and value of labour and agriculture at home Keith and his compatriots are finally coming to see the real face of America, but rather than face that they are no longer useful in the eyes of capital and admit they have been mistaken all along they choose to believe some sinister new plot is recreating the world anew. Many of the people being taken in by this crap are not fascists, but ordinary people confused by the changing world around them. Hopefully it is still possible to turn their anger against the class interests that fuck us all over rather than see them continue to scapegoat immigrants and non-existent shadowy conspiracies.

-IMC

*Note- Unlike Keith and many leftists I do not view the state and government as a monolithic entity. Whilst for the most part liberal democratic governments serve corporate interests their legitimacy is drawn from the fact that these interests and power blocs do compete and have different strategies for dealing with challenges from below. In the case of the environment some sections of the ruling class have chosen to push green consumerism and the creation of a few environmental parks and controls as a cover for continuing destruction whilst others have manipulated right wing groups via disinformation and funding to wipe out even these few concessions





clementine hall on the thirteenth floor elevators 1967 bust...

"the first time we were busted was at tommy's house and included roky, stacy, john, ike, tommy and i. the arresting officer was well known to us for having a reputation for beating up his prisoners for "resisting arrest" on the way to jail. i asked to be arrested, but the police said they didn't want to arrest me. i knew tommy would be beaten if i didn't go. i then demanded to be arrested whereupon i was taken with the rest of the guys... judge thurmond was the presiding judge and he had a hardline reputation for putting drug offenders into jail; not just for twenty years, but at hard labour! it turned out that when we appeared in court that judge thurmond was sick. even then we might have been sentenced to prison except that the alternate judge made a mistake. the marijuana confiscated was a substantial amount, but the drug test analysis was worded that a "small amount was tested" which he misconstrued as a small amount. consequently, my case was dismissed and the rest of the band recieved a years probation. the downside of our good fortune was that the incident turned john ike's family against the band whereupon he quit just before easter everywhere was made." excerpts from psychedelic psounds, 1995.

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—Jacques Ellul, *Propaganda*

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Soviet soldiers ride through the green plains of their beloved land singing joyfully. All is peaceful, and the people work happily for the future of their homeland.

Band 3—POEM OF THE UKRAINE

(Music—A. V. Alexandrov; Words—O. Kolychev)

Soloist—A. SERGEYEV

In 1942 all Ukraine was under German occupation. Ancient Kiev and the Dnieper River were cut off from the rest of the country. Then the Soviet Army attacked, driving off the enemy, and liberating Ukrainian towns and villages, hailed and welcomed with joy by the population.

HIV as myth?

whilst most fringe and alternative press articles and books have dealt with hiv/aids as the product of a conspiracy against queers and people of colour an increasing body of thought is now pointing towards the whole hiv=aids=death equation as being false in itself. i first came across the idea of aids as the product of an immune system decimated by environmental conditions, amy nitrate, chemicals, stress and other factors whilst reading the forth horseman (picador) a book that traces the social history, causes and impacts of plagues on human kind. since then i have come across a wealth of information in both the mainstream and fringe media that indicate that hiv and the industry servicing it are built on a complete sham.

professor peter duesburg is one of america's premier virologists and one of the people who first originated the idea of retroviruses, a concept central to the hiv myth. he is also one of the main proponents of the hiv as harmless virus hypothesis, a role that has cost his career much over the past few years. in his recent book inventing the aids virus duesburg traces the history of virology and explains how virology has come to dominate health research. this dominance and the creation of a virus orthodoxy means that whenever a new health problem emerges it will automatically be linked to some sort of virus despite evidence to the contrary. duesburg provides numerous examples of epidemics eventually linked to environmental and chemical causes that were catastrophically blamed on viruses. he also traces the billion dollar attempts to link cancer to a viral source and how in attempting to do so scientists have built a scientific house of cards with one dodgy theory built on the premises of another.

like any orthodoxy virologists believe only what their particular school of thought lets them believe and so screen out any information to the contrary. duesburg illustrates how this orthodoxy combined with a desire for fame and fortune lead virologists to push a theory of hiv=aids onto a frightened public and how the pharmaceutical companies exploited this concept to foist toxic drugs onto desperate patients. he shows clearly how the idea of a retrovirus (a virus that lays in the body for a long time before attacking it) contradicts the basic concepts of virology and how as a concept it was created to mask holes in the search for a cancer causing virus. by the basic rules of virology aids has not been shown to be the result of a virus since amongst other reasons it is too selective in who it affects and since it's spread cannot be replicated in experiments. duesburg also convincingly demonstrates that hiv is one of many harmless viruses present in the body and that the aids syndrome is the result of poverty, toxic chemicals, poor health practices and other social factors. professor gallo one of the main discoverers of hiv is shown to be a power seeking con man whose research has been widely discredited, but whom was successful via his press conferences in conning the media and public in the early 80s. he also points to the fact that drugs such as azt which are administered to those with hiv are actually destroying those peoples's immune systems and thus giving them the aids syndrome.

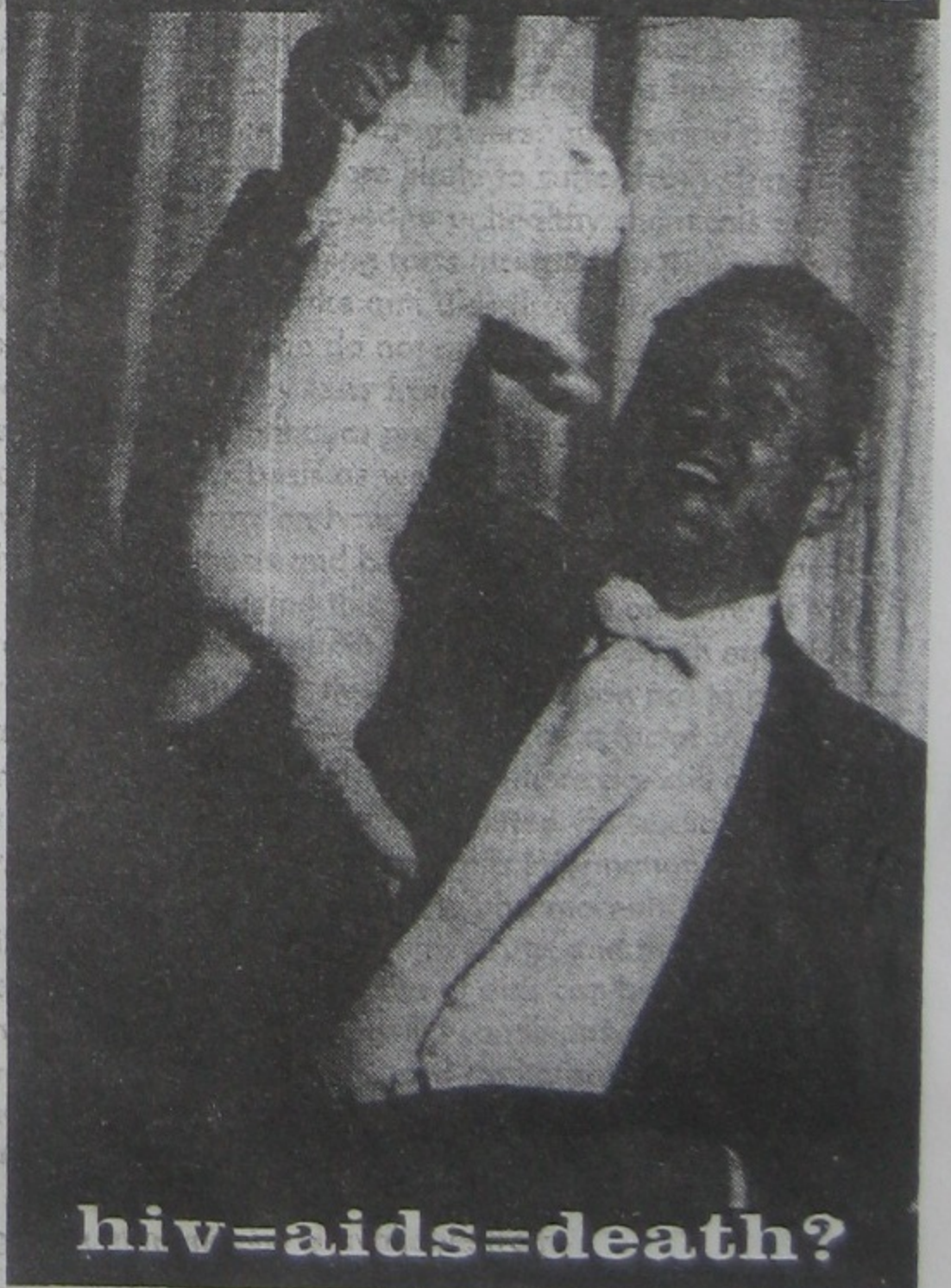
another invaluable source of information is a british magazine called continuum which was started in 1992 by a number of hiv sufferers and medical researchers who aim to save lives by persuading people to avoid taking dangerous "anti-hiv" drugs, by researching the real causes of immune deficiency and by disseminating information on how naturopathy and other alternative healing techniques can repair the immune system. they disagree with dues-

burg and others on the existence of the hiv virus (they believe what scientists are labelling hiv is actually something else), but agree that the causes of aids are not viral and that aids need not be a death sentence. amongst the interesting information i found here was evidence that whilst tens of millions of africans have hiv only around 250,000 suffer from aids and that this number is not significantly increasing. aids remains primarily a health problem for the underclass, drug users, queers and third world people- people more likely to suffer from stress and poverty and to be exposed to unhealthy chemicals and conditions. other damning facts include that those who test positive for hiv and take anti aids drugs are far more likely to die than those who do not and that the test for hiv is like many pathology tests fraught with problems leading to false positives. continuum provides much needed information on a regular basis as well as interesting testimonies from aids sufferers on how they learnt to reject the hiv=aids hypothesis and began to turn their life around.

in concluding this brief round up on some of the literature available refuting the hiv=aids= death equation i want to point out that this is still no reason not to practice safe sex. unprotected anal sex may be a factor in lowering immunity to disease and of course there are still numerous other diseases that can be transmitted via sexual activity. what is important to take from this information is that hiv is not a death sentence, that the pharmaceutical industry is killing people via their anti aids drugs and that like most health problems the existence of aids can be traced to the shitty social and environmental conditions most of us exist under thanks to patriarchy and capitalism. fighting aids means getting properly educated, but it also means radically changing the world we live in.

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believing is seeing



hiv=aids=death?

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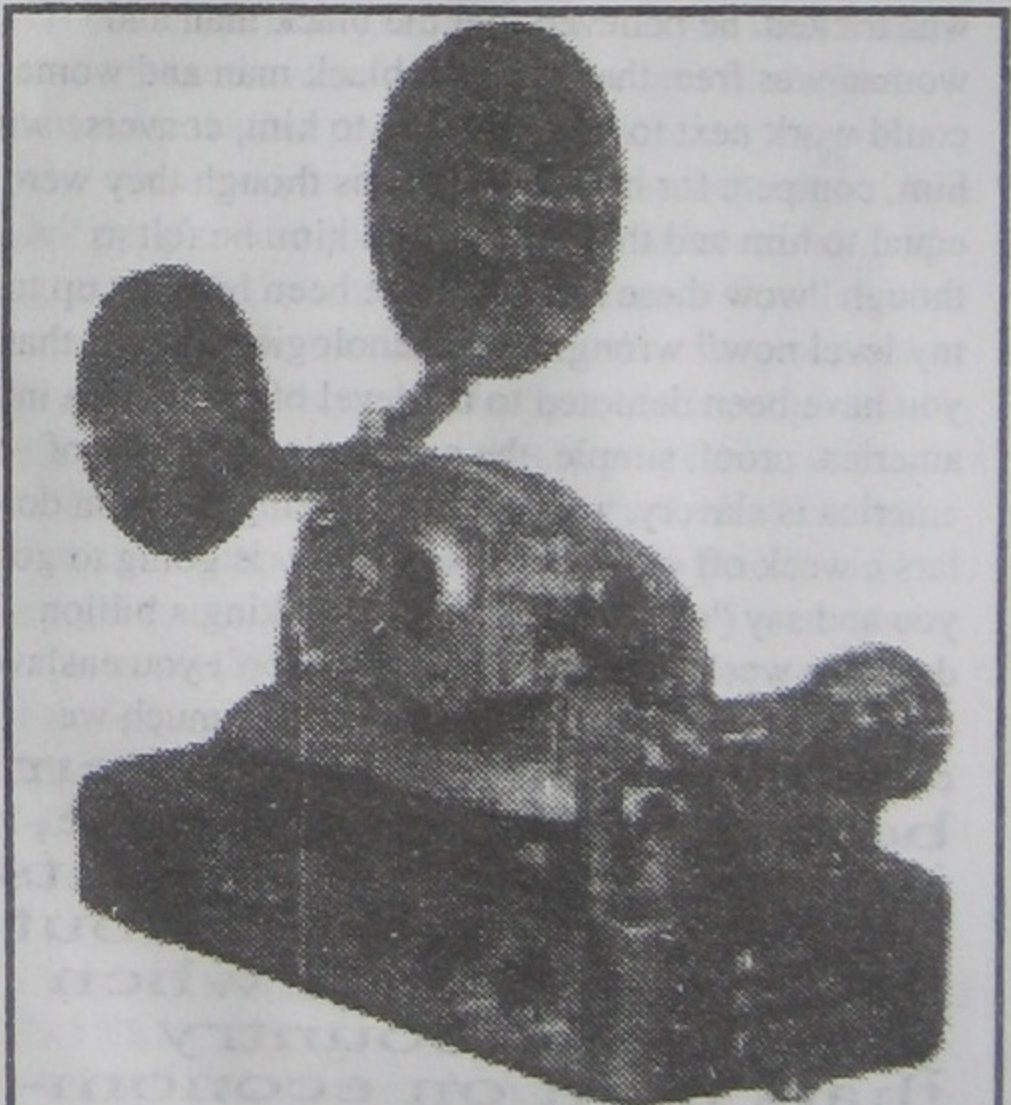
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K R on S-1

race and capitalism

“you must understand this point...africa was not robbed for racial reasons. africa was not robbed because people were black. thats stupidity. thats what the government wants you to believe. africa was robbed because it is and was the richest continent on the planet. when you're a thief you're looking to steal gold, silver and oil. when you're a thief you're looking to steal the commodities of the land... **so africans were robbed for economic reasons. of course the masses of white people were tricked into thinking it was for racial reasons by this book (holds up the bible).** this book here says slavery is cool and that black people are cursed. ham is the cursed son of noah and that was the justification for slavery... now going back to lincoln and the proclamation of emancipation. this is where the whole psychological ploy was played on the white man. the white man was also tricked by this concept. here's how he was tricked. he believed that the black man and woman was free. therefore the black man and woman could work next to him, eat next to him, converse with him, compete for his job. he felt as though they were equal to him and that intimidated him. he felt as though “wow these africans have been brought up to my level now.” wrong. the psychological ploy is that you have been demoted to the level of the african in america. proof, simple. the economic backbone of america is slavery. when you're making a billion dollars a week off of africans, somebody is going to go to you and say “mr president you're making a billion dollars a week of the africans, why don't you enslave the white people too. do you know how much we could then get?” **because remember, its not about race, its not about colour, its about money, its about economics. and when you have a country thats built on economics anyone can be a slave...** proof of the system. the system is called capitalism. capitalism is a nice way of saying we're all slaves. capitalism is a backward system. not saying that socialism is any better. no system will work until the masses of people consciously change it... **capitalism is a “pimp” and “hoe”**

system. you're either selling or being sold. the system is so great that we all have the opportunity to become pimps. that should make you feel real good. you usually start out as a hoe and work your way up. pimps and hoes. you are either selling or being sold. in a system like that all are slaves. the white man got tricked here. white people actually have it worse here in america than black people. why? because as a black man i know the government is trying to kill me (laughter). there's no great mystery in that. white people for some reason think that they're down with this country... nope sorry it doesn't work like that. as a matter of fact white people, i'd like you to try this exercise. next time you see a black woman or man being mistreated, the next time you see an injustice being done to a black man or woman stand up and say “i don't like what you're doing to that black man or woman”. guaranteed you'll be crushed right along with the black man or woman. this is not a system of white supremacy... **white people got tricked because not all white people are considered human either. there is a difference here. its the economic system. you become human when you get money.** the poor white man is classified down among the african, the woman. until the white man gets a little money, a little stability, a little credit and then of course he's classified human, not before, not during... this is a system that tricks white people into thinking that they should fight black people. and tricks black people into thinking they should fight white people. when in fact it is humanity self destructing as a whole. the government knows that. let white people fight black people all day long while they get to do what they want. neither of us are focussed. neither of us are unified. all of us are blind. they keep us fighting. keep us fighting whilst they get to do what they want, when they want to do it. this is revolution. this is the real revolution... **the real revolution unites the masses of people. the phony revolution is running down the street and killing the first person that you think is your enemy.”** excerpted from a speech made at temple university, north philadelphia in 1991 that appeared in the book, nation concious rap, pc international press.

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Beardo asks: "Are there Political Contradictions in Rage Against the Machines' relationship with the Sony Entertainment Corporation?"



Panel 1: You read in many magazines lately that the Machine is today's most fiercely radical and revolutionary band.

Panel 2: But can a band with a revolutionary message also be a corporate commodity and remain revolutionary? Or are they part of a greater false consciousness? I put this very question to the rock critic Baboon Dooley.

Panel 3: This is some seriously righteous radical shit man. It's nothing less than hammer blows against the corrupt patriarchal system that oppresses us all!

Panel 4: But you realize their releases are marketed and sold by a multinational corporation for profit?

Panel 5: Of course! They're using the system to destroy it!

Panel 6: Oh, so the fact that Sony Music stands to gain in excess of 25 million in profits worldwide doesn't bother you?

Panel 7: There you go again, Beardo. Missing the fucking point!

Panel 8: So what's the point? They're radical, man! They want to overthrow the system! They rock out and people listen to what they say! They could start a revolution right here in America!

Panel 9: Um, ok. I guess sending all those U.S. dollars to Sony Corporate in Tokyo could trigger a revolution producing depression or something.

Panel 10: You're a cynic, aren't you?

Panel 11: I just think it's rather ironic that the corporate system can create these problems, and then profit from the resulting discontent by selling the victims some prepackaged protest that leads nowhere.

Panel 12: You know Baboon, I've always admired your post-modern approach to the issues. Really? Wow!

Panel 1: LATE OF OBLIVION. ENTER STEGFRIED + FRITZ. STEGFRIED IS ANGRY + CUTS UP FRITZ.

Panel 2: MUCH LATER... HAMLET OF MT ISA SCARES CHILDREN AND CHICKENS. 1986.

Panel 3: A ROCK BAND - THE EMBRYOES - IS FORMED. LITTLE HAPPENS. THAT'S ROCK N ROLL KID.

Panel 4: NOW I WANT SOME LETTERS.



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brian wilson on cs gas and pepper spray...

"hey kids, what with law enforcement agencies around the world tooling up with cs gas and pepper sprays in an attempt to paralyse their opposition i thought it was high time to give y'all some tips on surviving an attack from these vicious weapons. cs gas is mainly aimed at making your eyes and skin burn whilst you throw up and pepper spray (also known as capsicum gas) has a paralysing effect which can be possibly fatal for asthmatics. the best thing of course is to avoid an attack in general by being sneaky and always hitting the enemy when they're least prepared, but of course sometimes you cannot avoid a run in and may have a cannister or spray of these noxious gases come your way.

now if you're at a demo and you fully expect the police to attack you then come prepared. don't just mask up and bring your bike helmet, but smear your face with vaseline, zinc or some other non porous cream to stop gases entering the skin, carry or wear one of those small bike masks/filters that keep out pollutants (or at worst wear a scarf) and wear tight fitting goggles and clothes. glasses may keep a direct spray out of the way, but can also trap the gases. after being sprayed retreat or push forward into an area where you can get some fresh air and as soon as you can wipe the cream off your face. don't forget to target the cops shooting the cannisters. with a long stick you can also send the cannister back in their direction.

if you are in a situation where you are gassed unexpectedly or have recieved a bad hit at a demo then wash your face with cool water (preferably containing lemon juice or mixed with boric acid at 1:3 parts water) as quickly as you can. do not use hot water as this will open the pores in your skin and let in more gas, the cold water will do the opposite. carrying a water bottle at demos may be a good idea for this as well as other reasons. scrub the skin as much as you can with a cloth, using your hands will only transfer it to other parts of your skin. when you get home soak in a cold bath (remember- no hot water) preferably mixed with boric acid and scrub your skin all over. after bathing spread rubbing alcohol on your skin to sooth it and dissipate any remaining residue.

now whilst the forces of darkness seem to be arming themselves with these sprays internationally they are also in a number of countries (such as britain and australia) banning the public's use of such weapons. are they worried people might want to get some of their own back? anyway if you want to defend yourself from attack generally by using something that will disable your enemy you too can make up a gas or spray. a number of household cleaning products such as ammonia will disable someone when sprayed in their eyes, but due to the fact that you could blind someone with this shit i would recommend carrying cayene pepper or making up a strong water based spray with it (organic and vegan!). a direct hit in the eyes with cayene pepper or some similar extremely hot spice will disable your attacker giving you time to get away. the powder obviously requires you getting closer to the attacker, but its presence in your pocket is easier to explain away.

well thats all from me kids, gotta get back to the sand-pit. have fun and stay out of trouble!

please note that brian's rave is for entertainment purposes only. we wouldn't want you to any of this stuff. we'd rather see you writhing in pain or getting bashed.

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*† A private Performance, for five Guineas, on a short Notice.

emo shit i have been listening to

bob tilton- debut lp (subjugation)

bob tilton are one of my favourite bands in my currently favourite genre- emo hardcore. like the best emo bands they combine an indie rock experimental type guitar base with the cheesy sincerity and punch of hardcore. like, they have their soft side and melodies, but man they really mean what they say too. unfortunately i initially found this debut long-player to be a huge disappointment. too many songs that sound the same and lack their trademark dynamics. repeated listenings however have seen the album grow on me, there are some really interesting guitar parts reminiscent of albini and slint and the songs hook you in after a while. the lyrics are also as obtuse as ever and remind me of some gay masochist poetry i once read. very painful in more ways than one.

palatka/end of the century party split 7"

fucking killer split single from two fine bands crossing over the chaos and speed of noise core with the melody of emo stuff. palatka come out on top here with a track interweaving a variety of songs that lurch from mellow guitar one moment to tortured screaming the next. end of the century party aren't necessarily any slouch either with a similar mix of sounds spread out over 4 seperate fast tracks.

iconoclast/abyss split double 7 inch (old glory)

the last release for two fine bands who also combine melody with a heavier, screamed approach, but in a much more restrained way than say palatka. iconoclast hailed from the u.s. and the three tracks here show them keeping up to form until the end with intelligent lyrics and great tunes. abyss were from germany and whilst working similar ground to iconoclast they show a tendency to almost sixties style jangle in their quiet riffing. two bands who should spawn some interesting offspring.

hose got cable- lp (od glory)

a band showing the experimental direction in which many in this genre are heading towards. one side of the album is one long soundscape which was pretty interesting and had more in common with baseball or shinjuku thief than any hardcore band. the other side has more straightforward songs in the mould of no means no or the ex although with plenty of its own damage to distinguish it. reminiscent of some of holland's many funky hardcore copyists although miles ahead and nowhere near as poor.

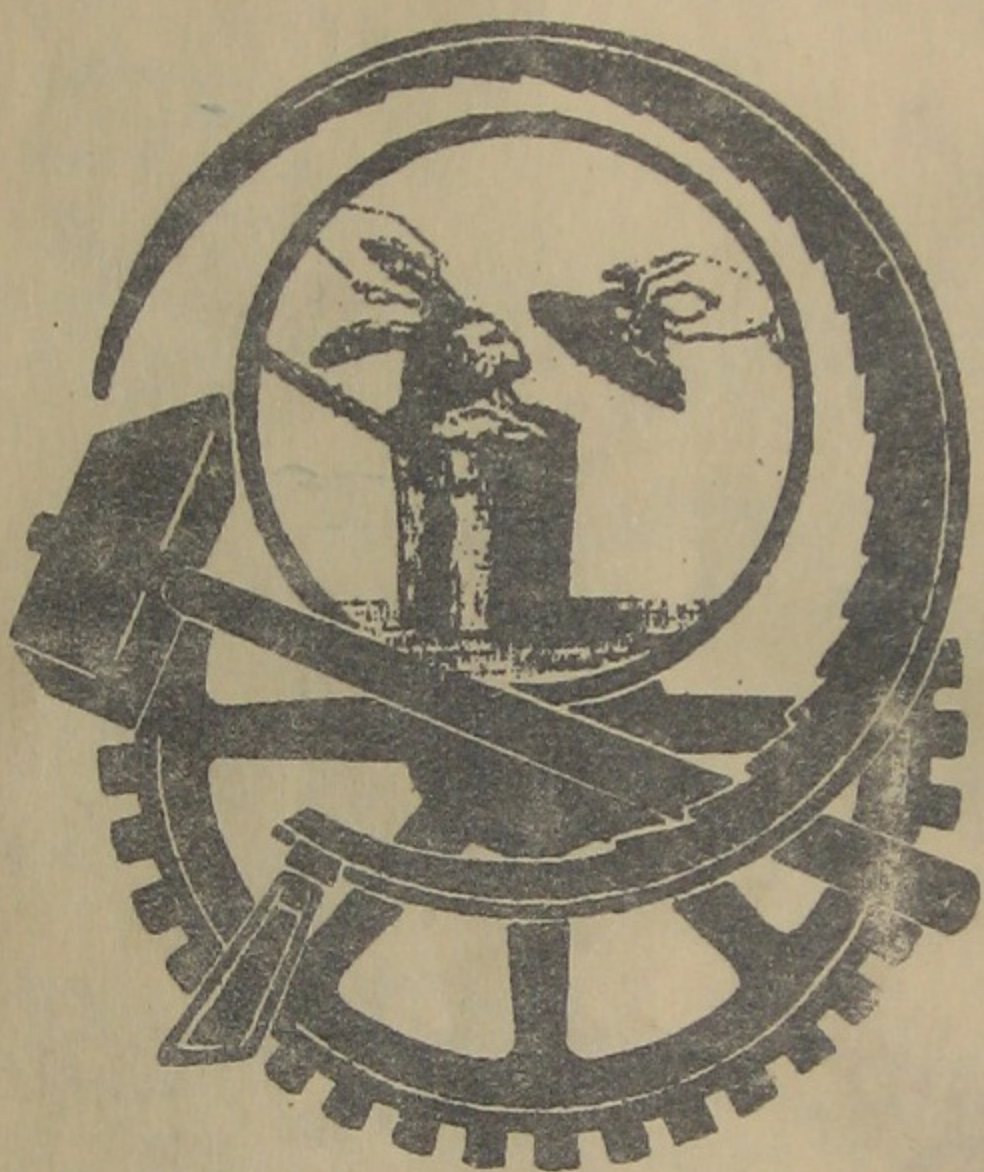
colton- debut tape (colton)

standard emo from these british kids although it shows the odd individual flourish here and there. emo as a genre like most is pretty standardised and full of copyists, but this struck me as a pretty embryonic take on a new band. i consider most tape releases on a par with other formats, but this has a definite demo feel to it.

p.s.- note that all the releases listed above were diy released and that other than colton were fucking masterfully packaged with loads of sleeve notes and beautiful, chaotic artwork. almost worth buying as pieces of art in themselves.



texas is the reason pic taken from sculpture zine- topaas 1, 5231 kl's- hertogenbosch, the netherlands.



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peoples party produktion