



THEY COME EXPECTING FREE COFFEE AT MY WORK. THE SAME ONES WHO DETAIN AND SEARCH MY FRIENDS; THE SAME ONES WHO BEAT THAT GIRL BACK IN THE SPRING; THE SAME ONES WHO THREATEN US WITH PRISON ONE DAY FOR SMOKING WEED AND WHO WILL ANOTHER DAY SPEED PAST US WITH BECAUSE THEY DON'T WISH TO WAIT FOR THE LIGHT. THEY DRESS IN OUR ATTIRE AT A PARTY, LISTENING FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION; THEY WAG THEIR FINGER OR THEIR NIGHTSTICK WHEN WE GET OUT OF HAND; THEY HELP OLD LADIES CROSS THE STREET; THEY SHOOT DEAD SOMEONE WHO MOUTHED OFF TO THEM—WHO CONVENIENTLY HAD SOMETHING SHINY IN HIS HAND. THEY PAVE THE CONCRETE WORLD IN VIDEO CAMERAS; THEY SPEAK TO ME LIKE THEY ARE MY FRIEND, THEY GIVE ME DIRECTIONS, AND THEY DISCIPLINE ME ANYTIME I STRAY FROM THEIR DIRECTIONS. THEY ARE *OUR ENEMY, THE POLICE.*

police do

They say there would be no *need* for police if there weren't crime. The opposite is closer to the truth. Nobody had to watch *The Wire* to learn that the police don't exist to put things in order; they exist to manage disorder. The police are an organized force dedicated to this purpose.

With and without uniform, they establish beachheads and work tirelessly to minimize the fallout of this collapsing society. They are reinforced by photos and interviews in the local media portraying their "victories" against crime. A drug bust here, a local graffiti head nabbed there, a courageous show down with a mentally ill person, a Latino relations center. And when the police "get out of hand," and there is an article about how they shot an unarmed black man, or how they used excessive force on the protesters of this or that cause, the most ambitious hater of the police thinks, "This is good, their legitimacy is being called into question." However, this operation by the media never challenges the legitimacy of the police; it solidifies it.

Sociologists might write scathing critiques in *The Nation*, but social critique is not opposition. Like all modern political parties, the police have their tendencies who brandish their arms openly, and their tendencies that wear ties. The media, all of it, is of the latter. The police are the protagonists of this culture and

all publicity is good publicity. When they get in trouble, lose their jobs, or even find themselves in minimum security prison because of their actions, they in effect realize their role in the managing disorder, and this in turn justifies their own excess. It's tautological: policing decides the law. Nothing exists that cannot be included into the care and watch of the police. Nothing exists above their authority.

When I say "the police are an absolute enemy," I do not mean only when their function is the authority of deadly force. Whereas anytime someone is murdered by police, we should experience this as an attack on us; the normal function of the police is far more subtle and banal, but it is also as detrimental. The sneaking suspicion that the camera on the corner somehow finds itself linked to your coworker, your school mate or your room mate and finally the trigger finger of DeeJay Steel, rookie cop is not a paranoia. It's the reality of a society saturated by police.

At the center of the police is a "job that entitles one to the use of deadly force to uphold the law." This means that in any given city there are thousands of people who are given the legal right to murder, and there are millions who are legally sanctified potential murder victims. This means that the only thing separating us from death is *the decision* of the police. But *a police is only as good as his informants*. In a terrible paradox this also means

that anyone who accesses the police by accessing their technologies (calling 911, or snitching for example) implicates himself as linked to the technologies of law-enforcement, and is just as guilty as the police officer who pulls the trigger. Which, in our society, is the same as saying "innocent." Because of this it is important to understand the police are not only located at their headquarters. They run along the fabric of this society, appearing when necessary, and doing their job. If they didn't also appear as snitches and good citizens, they would never be as effective. The police generate an environment of policing. This is what it means when they speak of "protect and serve" they protect the interests of the ruling class, and they serve the dead notion of *society*.

A simple formula for how to fuck the police.

- 1 The police are everywhere present because they are everywhere disguised.
- 2 If the police function to manage disorder and are present everywhere, then so to is disorder.
- 3 In order to expose the police when they are disguised, disorder can be maximized. Those who respond attempting to put things back in their place are the police.
- 4 When the police are in the open, but disorder is disguised, disorder has the upper hand.
- 5 In order to implicate myself as a force in opposition to the police, I side with disorder, and I elaborate the political techniques of scamming, fraud, theft, property destruction, violence, laziness, and anonymity.

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