

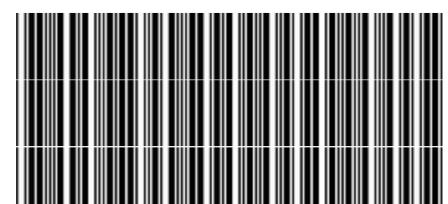
a TANA MATROSE ART STUDIO production
designed in CAPE TOWN, printed on recycled paper
PSEUDOCILIVIAN RECORDS

jupiterbyrd

NEW SINGLE

never do internet
banking while in the
OFFICE

Money: we love to
have it, we hate to talk
about it.



South Africa R37.99
Other Southern Africa R107.99
Global North R0.99 (payable by
empty posturing platitudes)

“ *Money: we love to have it, we hate to talk about it.* ”

Editor’s Note

This song, “ never do internet banking in the OFFICE”, explores the contemporary relationship we have with money, especially here in the global periphery. It explores and attempts to describe just how massively important money is. We are often reluctant to characterise money as quite so important. I feel that a major reason is that, due to the instability of our economies, the literal value of our money is always declining.

The pursuit of money, therefore, is treated as deeply superficial (“there’s more to life” they say). Additionally, due to particular translations of biblical texts convenient to colonialism, this pursuit is characterised as deeply evil. The truth is that, if we do look at money as charitably as we can will ourselves, money is both a symbol and an actual tool to live a better life. It’s a symbol in that we engage with it in increasingly abstract ways (“internet banking”, manifestations, conspicuous consumption), but also in a very actual sense. We need money to live. We are alienated from the chains of production of most things we need to live (“food doesn’t grow on trees”) and so we literally need money to acquire those things.

Something particularly true for us in the global periphery is that as the world is said to be relying more and more on tertiary and quaternary sector economic processes, value is placed on things more symbolic, implicit and intangible. Status, ‘intellect’ and things of that nature are not understood to be native to our societies for many historical reasons and so, we can only import these things that are growing ‘more important’. And to import, it costs MONEY. If it means studying abroad, or working for local branches of international conglomerates or opening up and orienting your city towards mass tourism, it all comes at a cost paid in money.

Additionally, this song discusses the realities of acquiring money. It speaks about how having a job is crucial in this life. Not a particularly transgressive thought, no. But in the way employment inherits its cruciality from money and how it’s where we spend all our time, it is still treated as inappropriate in that space to even talk about money.

The speaker comes to meet this realisation with a resigned understanding. Many of us feel it necessary for fundamental things to change. Leftism is progressive and in our minds we imagine anyone subject to this reality would be inclined to unionise, to increase the number and effectiveness of social safety nets, alter the state’s relationship to capital, etc.. The truth is, though, that that’s difficult. And the speaker in this poem is hesitant, but, ultimately, does empathise with the allure of just “getting by”. They see those of us who may feel too tired and too immobilised to want to change things. The song concludes by offering that, despite this, what can and should be agreed upon, is that simply surviving is not living.

Yours,

Jupiterbyrd.

I want
prettier
thoughts
over cheap
wine.

Currency, Cold Cash

*Focal Length 4.25 mm
Exposure time 1/60
F Number f/1.8*

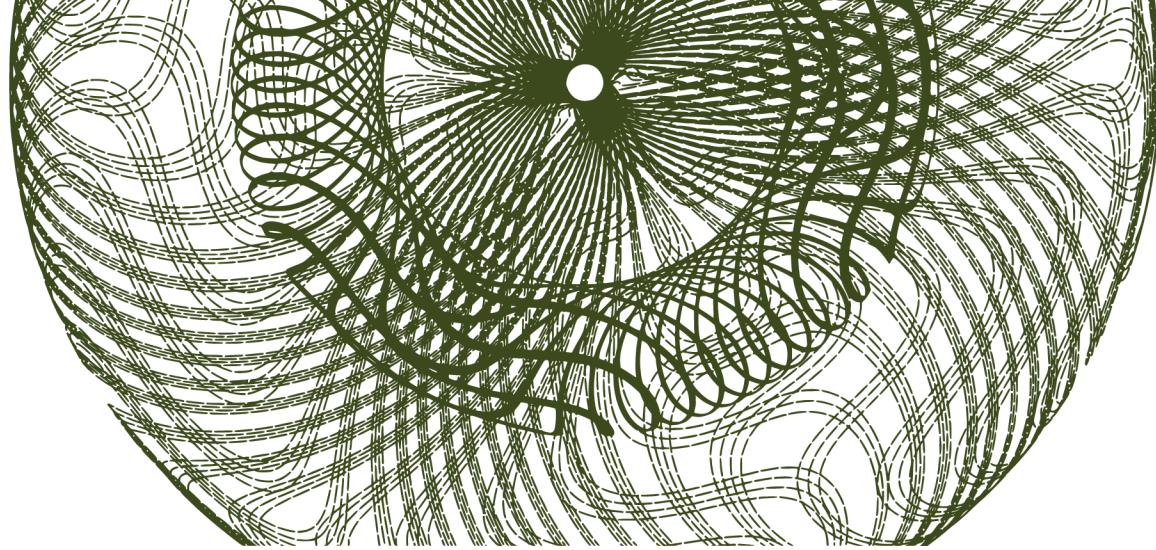
(this is pseudocivilians act 3 scene 1, take 2, action)

drive out to the city
wander around and
hope someone has pity
and spares you a job

why are you pouting at me?

I wasn't the one who had
you cast for this scene

but food we're watching
doesn't budget movies and
grow on we're watching
trees people die



never do Internet banking
while In the OFFICE

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