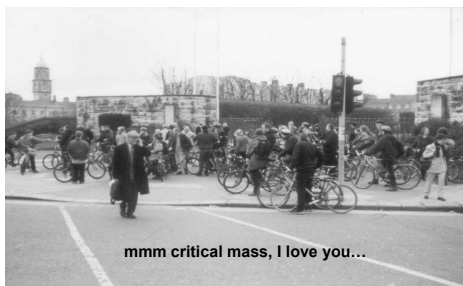


advertisements (200 frames per second) across the VDU • viewing is compulsory • the flickering screen results in hundreds of new cases of epilepsy every year • this is cured with drugs placed in the affected peoples lunchtime offal • there are two major hyper global mega corporate network corporations in existence in the world competing against each other • employees of either corporation are ‘encouraged’ to compete as aggressively as possible against the other • stress causes thousands of heart attacks across Dublin every week • the corporations are secretly owned by the same people • competition is manufactured to ensure obedience and productivity are kept high • the state (there is only one state all over the world) is allied with this one corporation and uses police brutality to keep the public in check • no type of protest is permitted • there is no such thing as free speech any more • anyone suspected of subversion is taken away for ‘re-education’ in specially modified prisons • nobody in the ‘first’ world hears about what happens in the ‘third’ world • all of the babies



grown in laboratories are kept “genetically pure” • any attempts at pirate communicating with people from other ‘trade zones’ (no such thing as countries any more) is a punishable offence • there is darkness nine months a year from the pollution in Dublin • cynicism is the only form of politics • all different product brands on the shelves are only made by the two global corporations (which is of course, just the one) • there is no such thing as love at

all any more • the concept of it was deemed outdated and pathetic by mainstream cynicism • every year the M50 grows by another lane in width • there are nine West Link bridges spanning the Liffey Valley • all shopping centres are joined together and form walled cities • FM104 plays the same nine records over and over again, 24/7/365 (not much change there then) • whatever spare money people have is spent on robotic surgery implants to make themselves look more attractive • the newest robotic body part add-on among women is extendable steel metallic nails • the oldest robotic body part add-on among men, yet still the most popular, predictably is the ‘texan colt’ • the moon has been colonised now into a shopping centre, complete with shuttle shuttle to and from the car park on earth • the mall on the moon is visible from earth • sellafield erupts nuclear discharge into the Irish Sea every hour as regular as clockwork • robot animals are kept in zoos for people to look at • all other animals are kept in battery farms • pets are illegal • a highly effective informant system is operated by the state in order to keep an eye on possible trouble makers who are somehow not detected by CCTV or their in-house two way VDUs • you too could win a new car by informing on your friends • a television is compulsory in every room of a house • the TVs cannot be switched off • the only television station is also run by FM104 • programmes include: • traffic news • updates on how the two global corporations are running neck and neck and if either company just gives that little extra push they could beat the other • ‘celebrity’ news • all music sold in shops is from the FM104 radio playlist and nothing else • every year a new format is brought out which is incompatible with previous formats (but promising “even better sound than before” every time) • alcohol is illegal • it has been replaced by a chemical substitute which makes people happy and hungry for salty meat, but kills their sexual urge and also there is no hangover, ensuring full attendance in work • eight different inoculations are compulsory every winter in work • these combat: flu, meningitis, lust, boredom, individuality, inattentiveness, free speech, free thought • the worlds biggest pastime is the service industry • a rainforest the size of Ireland is cut down every day to make

paper for report printouts in offices • all refugees to Ireland are turned away at gunpoint • the few that do make it in are hunted down and killed • walking around requires a permit • anyone walking around generally acquires lung cancer from the toxins in the atmosphere • there are garda everywhere • all books are called ‘the dummies guide to...’ • the suicide rate is at an all time high • the road death rate is at an all time high • making your own music without an FM104 authorised permit is an offence with a long jail sentence • everyone wears black all the time • the concept of ‘teen’ no longer exists (hmm, not all bad then) • children are educated in strap-in chairs • their mouths are gagged for 8 hours a day apart from the 15 mins when offal by-product meat is force fed to them • all schools are sponsored by chemical companies • there is no currency any more after the January 2002 Euro Riots • all transactions are made by traceable credit card • there is a free voluntary euthanasia scheme for those of age 75 in hospitals • 75 is the lowest retirement age • the euthanasia scheme is made sexy and stylish to encourage more people to end their lives once they no longer work • yes you too can experience the afterlife for free • don’t be a burden to your family and friends • thank you for your contribution but its time to go now • human contact is actively discouraged • other people only get on your nerves • it rains continuously • the rain chips away at the few old stone buildings but the reinforced steel work zones are not damaged • a car crash happens every three minutes • the port tunnel is still being built • mountjoy is now a suburb of Dublin • all houses in the direct vicinity were compulsorily bought up and all residents evicted (who

later died of exposure on the streets) • the prison razed the houses and expanded the prison • inmates are forced into ‘re-education’ • their mouths are gagged for 8 hours a day apart from the 15 mins when offal by-product meat is force fed to them • for another 8 hours of the day they process forms in specially designed cubicle cells • the prison ‘lotto’ takes place every morning to determine who is executed that day • the only newspaper is the



[photo by shanahap in peats parnell street summer 2001...]

sun • it carries articles on celebrities and traffic news • every field is tarmac’d over • the Dublin suburbs don’t end until the Atlantic • everyone commutes for hours • your children call you by your first name from their first word • breast feeding is illegal • Africa is designated an AIDS zone and anyone with the disease is dumped there • the continent is guarded by military planes all the time to make sure there are no escapees • all races of people are kept segregated • everyone is a racist • daisy cutters are dropped in parts of Africa which are deemed to be a security threat • everyone must carry an ID badge with them at all times • at birth in the laboratory everyone is coded with a pentium 37 processor in the back of their neck which contains information on who they are • this is also linked to your future credit card number • every road has a CCTV camera every 200 metres • an in-car radio system tells you to slow down or speed up • the end of history happened a long time ago • the people are continually warned of increased security measures for their own protection after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks • history is written by the winners • no matter who you vote for the government always gets in • there are two political parties • the right wing cynicists and the left wing cynicists • both disagree fundamentally on what exactly to be cynical about • apart from that they rule the country in harmony together • both parties of course are just mouthpieces of the one corporation • people ‘disappear’ every year without trace • ‘foreign’ wars are invented to keep racial hatred active • the police are armed with various weapons • all of which have varying degrees of fatality from a simple dead-in-your-tracks stop to total instant vapourisation

• depending on the mood of the police officer • every day is the same as the next • there is nothing to differentiate one from another • the days of the week were abolished in 2006 and were replaced with 'the efficiency calendar' • this is a fluctuating record depending on productivity • people who do not consume enough are named and shamed on the M50 billboards • and randomly executed • everything you own is made by machines • except for your clothes and runners which are made in prisons and factories in AIDS zones • all real news is kept quiet • all mistakes are airbrushed out • all reality is hidden • everything is fake • meaningless • manufactured • beneath the paving stones is just more concrete • you will obey or you will be punished • I used to enjoy sex • what's the point in rebelling against anything anyway? • they've already won • people think about what it was like when they had a soul, but only for a fleeting moment • there's work to be done • the other corporation are getting ahead • just two more hours of overtime and then I'll go home • the roads are heavy though so I might stay a bit later • I see that this movie star and that movie star are thinking of breaking up but they aren't sure • that's really interesting, I wish my life was like that • if only I was famous • I wish I had more money, if I did then things would be so much better • next month I can buy myself a new car but I won't have much money for anything else • but at least it's new • there's some really good stuff on the TV on a Friday night • what's the point in going out? • I wonder what was there before the suburban work zones • the wall VDU is telling me to go to bed now so I better go • must remember to take my q-113 sleeping pill • there goes the police helicopter overhead enforcing the curfew • sometimes I feel so empty • I used to think I knew it all but now I'm not so sure • quiet now or they'll hear me thinking...

**[it • doesn't • have • to • be • like • this]**  
**are you out of your fucking mind. don't be blind. the future isn't set in stone. you shouldn't feel alone. there is still time to atone. don't just sit back and moan. one person does make a change. don't be cynical. there is still time. we can make our future. we will be free. the revolution is going to happen bud, i can feel it. don't sit on the fence. destroy urban isolation. create something beautiful. resist attacks on your civil liberty. subvert mainstream monotonous culture. a vision of the future need not be living hell. talk. listen. learn. educate. share. indulge. experience joy now. never forget: we are winning. we are all human beings. the future is bright. lets make the moment ours.**  
**the [path] cultural tong: respect the hex askatasun. laborantza. egia. atsegin.**  
**<http://www.thumped.com/thepath>**  
**[archive. contains: path. photo. video.]**  
**positive communication only: [path@lab.org](mailto:path@lab.org)**

# the [expiable] path

## [future imperfect: the misery of everyday life]

times are bleak • on new years day 2030 the masses, grouchy with lack of serotonin and sleep, wake up to yet another day of compulsory labour • their state alarm clocks go off and the morning wall VDU (compulsory instalment in all rooms) tells them to hurry up • they are given their daily dose of fluoride and prozac via their bathroom taps • they reach for fresh disposable razors, which now have a life span of two days • the morning wall VDU observes their movements, informs them of building traffic congestion in every suburb, urging them to get to work earlier • children are herded off to school in specially constructed Luas carriages with no windows • by 6am the M50 is jammed up • people don their anti smog face protection masks as they open the front doors of their houses and get into their cars, where they can take them off again • they say their good morning wishes to their loved ones via text message • the strawberry alarm clock blares from the car radios as FM104 is the only radio station (it takes up the entire FM and AM bands) • the daily death count on the roads begins • the walls of the motorways are covered in billboards • the advertisements are all for chemical companies • they are offering a better version of you • for only nineteen ninety-nine you too can look as good as this • every roadway is eight lanes wide • barely-decayed cans and crisp bags litter the hard shoulder • whatever few weeds appear in the cracks are choked with carbon monoxide • people stare vacantly ahead as they reach the suburban 'work zones' • there are no pedestrians or cyclists • every work zone is windowless • lit internally by fluorescent bulbs which give off a barely audible low humming noise all day • every clock in and clock out is sent to a centralised state computer which works out the payroll • the times are sold to advertising companies • consume or die • those who do not consumer enough are taken away by the advertising police • they can predict when you get home and make sure an advert is displayed on the hall VDU that they think they can sell you • if you are one minute late you are docked a days pay • if you leave one minute early you are docked a days pay • if you do not work overtime you are docked a days pay • all the work zones are service industries • offices are divided into individual cubicles with six foot high partitions • the work is designated by email • the work zones car parks are all underground • the different sections of work zones are linked by underground tunnels • fresh air is deemed bad for workers morale • the air pumped into ventilation systems is manufactured in laboratories • work canteens serve microwaved offal by-products • these are brought directly to peoples cubicles • the bringing of your own food is forbidden • the webcam perched on top of the work VDU monitors the attentiveness of the worker • permitted conversations at the water coolers are posted up next to the water coolers • topics include the traffic that morning, what advertisements were on the walls of the M50, and what the traffic will be like on the way home • approaching anyone of the opposite sex in work without proper managerial approval is a dismissable offence • all external email is filtered through various screens • all incoming mail is scanned for a variety of words • external web access is forbidden • people may view the company intranet however, which contains information on the company results, and the latest traffic news • no phone conversations are permitted • work holidays are 52 days per year (including weekends), although this is negotiable depending on length of service • all sex is forbidden • all children are grown in state controlled laboratories which regulate the number of births every year • lunch time at the office desk is 15 minutes • during this time advertising companies play 3000