

pete edler

america@play

remember the Eloi  
in H G Wells' *The Time Machine*  
where during Dark Nights  
the Morlocks venture forth  
from their chthonian halls  
to harvest Eloi  
who spend the days in endless  
babble, feasting, games  
in return for which  
the Morlocks toiling below  
to sustain them  
collect Eloi bodies  
a story of the century just past ...

... and oh so true in this, the twenty-first  
but who are they today  
these Eloi  
they must have morphed  
from Wells' abysmal Britain's upper class  
lounging on the backs of proles  
to USA the Privileged  
forcing the world to sustain

its endless babble, feasting, games  
*androids* is what they are of course  
and their great weakness is  
that they don't know it  
like beautiful Rachael  
the biomimic android in 'Bladerunner'  
yes like the magnificently ambivalent  
the achingly alluring Sean Young

likewise in Bushamerica today  
Eloi endlessly at play  
while Morlocks harvest bodies  
out in the world  
by the tens of thousands  
you may recall in 'Bladerunner' of yore  
the designers of androids  
already were at work  
on a new model to replace Rachael  
one that would be more human than humans  
so that whenever human inspectors  
tested for android qualities  
in humans suspected of being androids  
they'd look for *excessive* empathy  
*too much* love, a *surplus* of compassion  
thus to identify perfected android qualities  
profoundly dangerous to humans  
even if by such criteria  
the Dalai Lama himself might be

the most subversive android on earth  
Americans however falling far short  
of android designation  
all clearly human  
blissfully unaware  
all babbling, feasting, playing  
and killing to their human hearts content

the puppet-masters who design  
and program the USA  
of course are more sophisticated  
than were the makers of Rachael  
they understood quite long ago  
that building machines  
that feel, think, act like humans  
is much too complicated  
expensive and time-consuming  
compared with programming  
already existing humans  
no, all they had to do  
was make folks forget  
or simply ignore  
the qualities that make them human

this they accomplish through the media  
through TV saturation  
a seamless pictorial debauch  
a never-ending spree

of babble, feasting, playing  
US lifestyle commercials that kill  
people in far-off places  
while also serving as curtain  
to hide the killing from view

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