"Punk Rock: The Uncivil Rights Movement"
by Kamal Symonette-Dixon

Sid Vicious of The Sex Pistols said, "I use the enemy! I use anarchy!" I think this line epitomizes, to the extent the people involved aren't sellouts, the multi-racial unity behind the Black Lives Matter movement. A white man beats down a Black man because the Black man is a white supremacist. That's the multi-racial use of anarchy. A Black teacher teaches a white child at a white school in a white neighborhood how to be anti-white. That's the multi-racial use of anarchy. The way things are going, maybe somebody should give Antifa an NAACP award. The award should be in the category of punk rock, because those dudes are making all of America feel like a mosh pit nowadays.

And so is the big chain store Target. It's very punk rock for a man to wear a skirt, very rebellious. It's also very punk rock for a man to wear pants so tight they cut off the circulation of his penis. Rainbow-colored outfits aside, have you noticed even the pants at Walmart are getting skinnier?

People frequently talk about how punk rock is loud; people frequently talk about how punk rock is violent; people frequently talk about how punk rock is full of social rejects. And they should. Punk rock is all those things. But people don't frequently talk about how punk rock promoted a civil rights movement, a civil rights movement that wasn't so civil and that was primarily for and by rebellious white kids. And that is what punk rock did. Punk rock is against the status quo of socially-empowered white people mistreating those who are not; The Civil Rights Movement was against the status quo of socially-empowered white people mistreating those who are not. No wonder punk rock came about right after The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's/1970's. By the 1980's, even white skateboarders were like, "I want to stick it to 'the man' too."

Punk rock culture is traditionally an underground culture, underground in ways the world had never seen before. Punk rockers had body piercings; punk rockers wore mohawks; punk rockers dyed their hair blue, red, green, you name the color; and, yes, punk rockers wore extremely tight, ripped-up clothing right down to the ankles. If you were to ask a punk rocker, they would just say they were merely dressing more unique than any other underground person before them. But that's not the case, for it is not that simple. Punk rockers were the first people, who weren't mainstream trendsetters and who weren't dropping out of modern society like The Amish, not to follow the status quo of everyone dressing the same. Technically, the punk rock scene was never even an underground scene if by underground scene one is talking about an underground scene that followed the status quo of everyone dressing the same. Based on the long tradition of the underground scene following the status quo of everyone dressing the same, the punk rock scene was an illegitimate underground scene.

Saying punk rockers dressed more unique than any other underground person before them implies either underground people before punk rockers did not follow the status quo of everyone dressing the same or punk rockers followed the status quo of everyone dressing the same, for saying punk rockers dressed more unique than any other underground person before them implies punk rockers and people considered underground before punk rockers are underground based on the same standard for being underground. Punk rockers did not follow the status quo of everyone dressing the same, but underground people before punk rockers followed the status quo of everyone dressing the same and did not offer the option of being underground while not following the status quo of everyone dressing the same. Therefore, it is incorrect to say punk rockers dressed more unique than any other underground person before them.

Pick a decade before the 1980's/1990's, and you will not find a time when the earthier/artsier/more-activist-inclined Americans dressed much different than the average, "square" American who was around the same age and who had no interest in "raging against the machine" so to speak. In the 1950's, jazz musicians on heroine wore the same suits bankers on Wall Street wore. In the 1960's, even the milkman looked like a hippie. In the 1970's, everybody dressed like they were auditioning for the movie "Saturday Night Fever".

But by the 1980's, a new style of music called punk rock made it fashionable to dress in ways extremely different than the average American citizen when you thought in ways different than the average American citizen or, at the very least, when you wanted to act like you did. By the 1990's, clothes started being made baggier for the average American but not for the average American, anti-mainstream hipster who in many cases was a punk rocker all grown up and who in all cases believed the punk-rock rewrite of history, a rewrite that incorrectly said America has a long history of having a culture where some Americans dressed drastically different than most Americans.

Like how hipsters wore tight clothes without bell bottoms from the 1980's onward, punk rockers wore tight clothes without bell bottoms from the 1980's onward. That's because a hipster is essentially a form of punk rocker, a form of punk rocker that gentrifies neighborhoods. Skinny-jean, latte drinkers before there was ever a Starbucks started making an American city like New York seem like a bootleg version of Europe you can buy in Chinatown for a lower price. (That didn't stop the rents from going up.) And what was the result of this punk-inspired, metrosexual rebellion? The marginalization of the avante garde based on clothing alone, the avante garde essentially being made to have a uniform that is never supposed to be changed out of for some other kind of clothing, avante-garde frauds who by dressing the part despite being frauds being fraudulently considered avante garde, and a much easier job for undercover agents trying to figure out which one of these things is doing its own thing. No thank you. I now dress like the fat people who shop at Costco.

Keep in mind. Fat people shopping at Costco are now starting to wear skinny jeans like the punk rockers first did. Trying-to-dress-weird-in-a-way-that-is-out-of-step-with-the-historical-norms-of-America game over, underground hacks. Everybody is going back to dressing the same again. Your clothing style is no longer unique. Roll with it, used-to-be fashion freaks. It's the American way. It's the way of any nation.

Everybody is dressing like some form of a punk rocker. And that is not a coincidence. Long gone are the Brady-Bunch days when America was supposedly great by alienating anyone who wasn't a "perfect" white person. Yes, everybody is dressing the same again by wearing punk-rock outfits that symbolize as problematically disruptive as it might be, the status quo of catering to status quo white people needs to change by any means necessary.