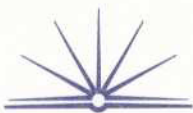


"I want god, I want poetry, I want real danger,
I want goodness, I want freedom, I want sin"
"In fact" said Mustapha Mond, "you're claiming the
right to be unhappy"
"Alright then," said the savage defiantly, "I'm
claiming the right to be unhappy."

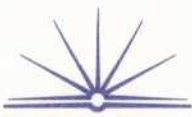
Brave New World, ^(BNW) by Aldous Huxley, &
Blade Runner ^(BR) (directors cut) by Ridley Scott,
both explore the tension between humanity & the
natural world. The quote above, from BNW,
reflects the ~~message~~ ^{irony} of both texts, that in the
search for progress, concepts that define
man's humanity are lost.

BOTH texts explore dystopic predictions of
the future, where man is a commodity,
& human worth is measured quantitatively.
In these worlds, consumerism is the
religion, & man emulates god. The
nature of humanity has been eradicated,



is a spiritual & emotional dimension lost. In these worlds, humanity & the natural world have been compromised. Both the author of the novel, & the director of the film clearly question the ethics of the advancements of technology & science.

Although of the science fiction genre, both texts discuss issues relevant to their time of production. Brave New World, written in 1932, reflects the context of the 1930s - the threat of another war, brutal dictatorships, & mass persecution. It was a time where technology defined man's brutality. At the time, two utopias were being presents; the USSR's communists & Europe's Fascists. The ~~Book~~ novel questioned such utopias, & presented a chillingly bleak view of the future. Similarly, the film reflects its context, & that of its inspiration. The film was based on the



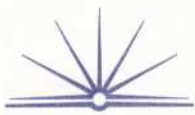
1968 book "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sleep?"
The novel displayed the depressing view of the
1960's - the Vietnam & Cold War, the threat
of nuclear conflict, a ~~the~~ huge scientific
advancements. Ridley Scott, in the film BL,
combined such elements with those present in
the 1980's - to look issues such as urban
development & genetic engineering to
their next logical step.

Both texts offer similar views. BNW concerns
a world of conditioning, caste systems, lack
of choice & individuality. It is a world
in which the inhabitants are conditioned to
late nature, as it has no profit. War &
disease are eradicated, but at a terrible
cost; - aspects of humanity; love, birth,
family; are non-existent. Consumerism is
worshipped, & a drug, Soma, is available
to allow one to escape reality. It is
a world of production; people are considered

commodities are produced on the production line. Similarly, in BR, the natural world is non-existent. The world is artificially created, as are the people. Humanity is lost, with the artificial humans displaying qualities that are "more human than human." Children are noticeably absent, impossibly huge buildings dominate & it is a world of perpetual rain & urban squalor.

Thus the two texts are essentially similar, however, it is the techniques of the mediums used to convey the message that provide the difference.

The tension between humanity & the natural world is created in BNW through such techniques ~~are~~ as comparing the sterile man-made environment to natural things. "The propeller struck



from lornet to wasp. wasp to mosquito."

Religion is replaced with a symbol of American globalisation & consumerism -

Henry Ford is worshipped as God. "Ford is in his flower & all's right with the world". Reference & association is used

to make the audience aware of the real possibilities of this world

eventuating. Famous London landmarks,

such as Westminster Abbey Cathedral becomes Westminster Abbey Cabaret, to

indicate a world where freedom is replaced with promiscuity. ~~Albus~~ ^{character, to Marx.} Albus

Auxley used colloquialisms of 1932

England, such as "Hullabaloo" &

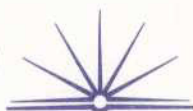
"darming boys" ^{to character names, eg. Marx, Lenin, Hoover} to illustrate ~~effects~~

to his audience that this is their world in the future! ~~the to not effects~~ ^{used character names, to Marx, Lenin,}

^{It is not the} advancement of science as such - it is the advancement of science as it affects human individuals." (Albus

Huxley). It is a world of "Community, density, stability"

The film BL uses techniques of its genre to illustrate the tension between humanity & the natural world. ~~Learn~~ Consumerism is the religion. "Commerce is our goal", "I'm not in the business, I am the business". The film is film noir, & thus the gloomy feel is carried over visually. It is an example of post-modern text, meaning that it concerns humanity challenged by technology. It does reference & association, by way of post modern art, to make the connection between today & tomorrow. This is a world in which it is undesirable & untenable to live, & those who leave do. Ridley Scott intended to scare the audience by making them realise that this is their world in the future. According to Ed Lawrenson, of Sight &



Sound magazine, "Blade runner was always a film very much about now. It shows a future that can be recognised by people because it uses things that can already be seen." The film ~~is~~ was mise en scene, & is ironically set in LA, the "city of angels" or in this case, fallen angels.

Both texts, Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, & Ridley Scott's Bladerunner explore the tension between humanity & the natural world. Through their individual techniques, both show a dystopic prediction of our own world. In this way, it is clear why Bertrand Russell made the infamous statement "It is all too likely to come true!"