



1. Uncontrollable Urge
2. (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction
3. Praying Hands
4. Space Junk
5. Mongoloid
6. Jocko Homo
7. Too Much Paranoia's
8. Gut Feeling/Slap Your Mammy
9. Come Back Jonee
10. Sloppy (I Saw My Baby Gettin')
11. Shriveling-Up



But, who are DEVO?

Coming out of Kent State University back in the late 70's, DEVO was weird and experimental then, and even still holds up now. Their name comes from the idea of De-evolution, that mankind has past his prime and is now sinking back into savagery and devolving. This is further backed up by their first studio album, and the subject of this review;

“Q: Are we not men? A: We are DEVO!”



Uncontrollable Urge.

The first track, and arguably one of the more traditional rock tracks on the album. the euphemisms that can be made from “Uncontrollable urge” are numerous, from the classic: Sex drugs, and rock&roll, to more obscure and esoteric vices. .



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As for the track itself; It wears quickly and is easily overshadowed by the other songs on the album, but such as can only be expected from the opening track.

Behind the name, PT.2

The story behind the name DEVO comes that previously stated view of de-evolution comes from the idea that man had peaked in the past, and is now in a biological and cultural freefall, such a claim about the bands philosophy loses its arrant sound once you listen into the lyrics of songs like: Uncontrollable Urge, Mongoloid, Praying Hands, Jocko-Homo, and many other songs on the album.

Safe to say, it takes no scholar to look outside and realize how correct DEVO were about our modern society.



Praying Hands.

One would hardly be at fault for forgetting about the song Praying hands, it's not particularly catchy, nor is it of any real popularity amongst the album; all that being said, it takes priority over Satisfaction as it's an actual DEVO song, and not a stones cover. Whilst the track is an interesting read for the lyrics.



Mark Mothersbaugh

The Musicians.

The actual musicians behind DEVO are a solid lineup, having one Mark Mothersbaugh on vocals and keyboard, Gerald Casale on bass, Bob Mothersbaugh on vocals and lead guitar, Bob Casael on rhythm guitar, and Alan Myers on drums. Coming from

Space Junk.

Being the 3rd song on the Album, Space Junk is about the narrator losing his girlfriend to a piece of rogue space debris; it's an interesting idea for a rather boring song, however that is not the case for the song that follows Space Junk on the album.



Space Junk's Single Cover.

Mongoloid.

Undoubtedly Mongoloid is one of the more early DEVO songs, that has been covered and redone by both other band's and DEVO in of themselves. Of course the term “Mongoloid” has fallen so far out of date in the modern age, few know it as an old slang term for one with Downsyndrom.

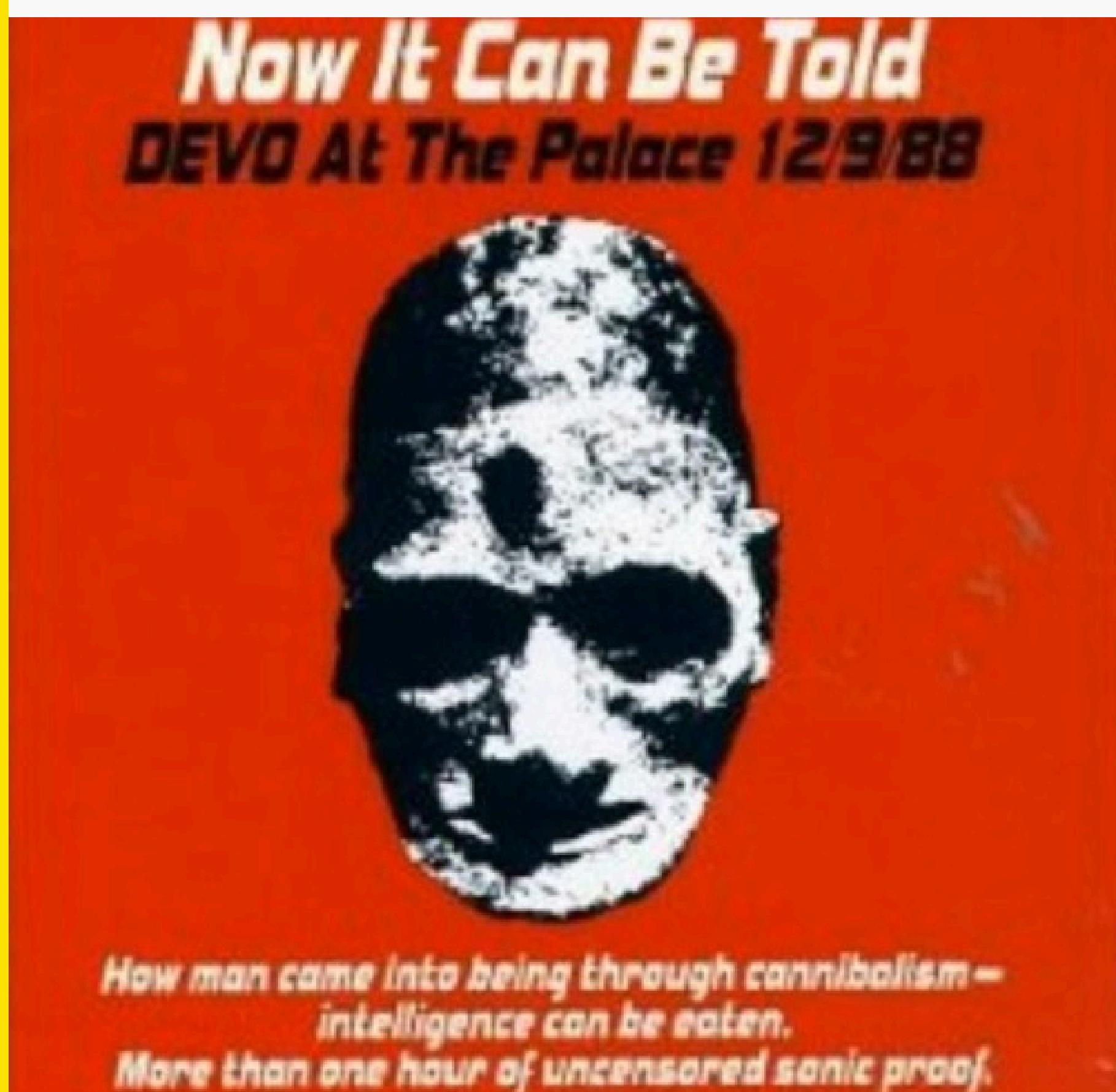


A 1980 single cover for “Mongoloid”

Overall the song is catchy, arguably one of the best on the album. If one where to try and find the sound of early DEVO, this would be a top pick.

Jocko Homo.

Where the album takes its name from is this song, with the line “Are we not? We are DEVO!” being the line chanted in the chorus. Such a line is a nod to HG Well’s 1896 novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau* having the quote “Not to go on all-Fours; that is the Law. Are we not Men?”

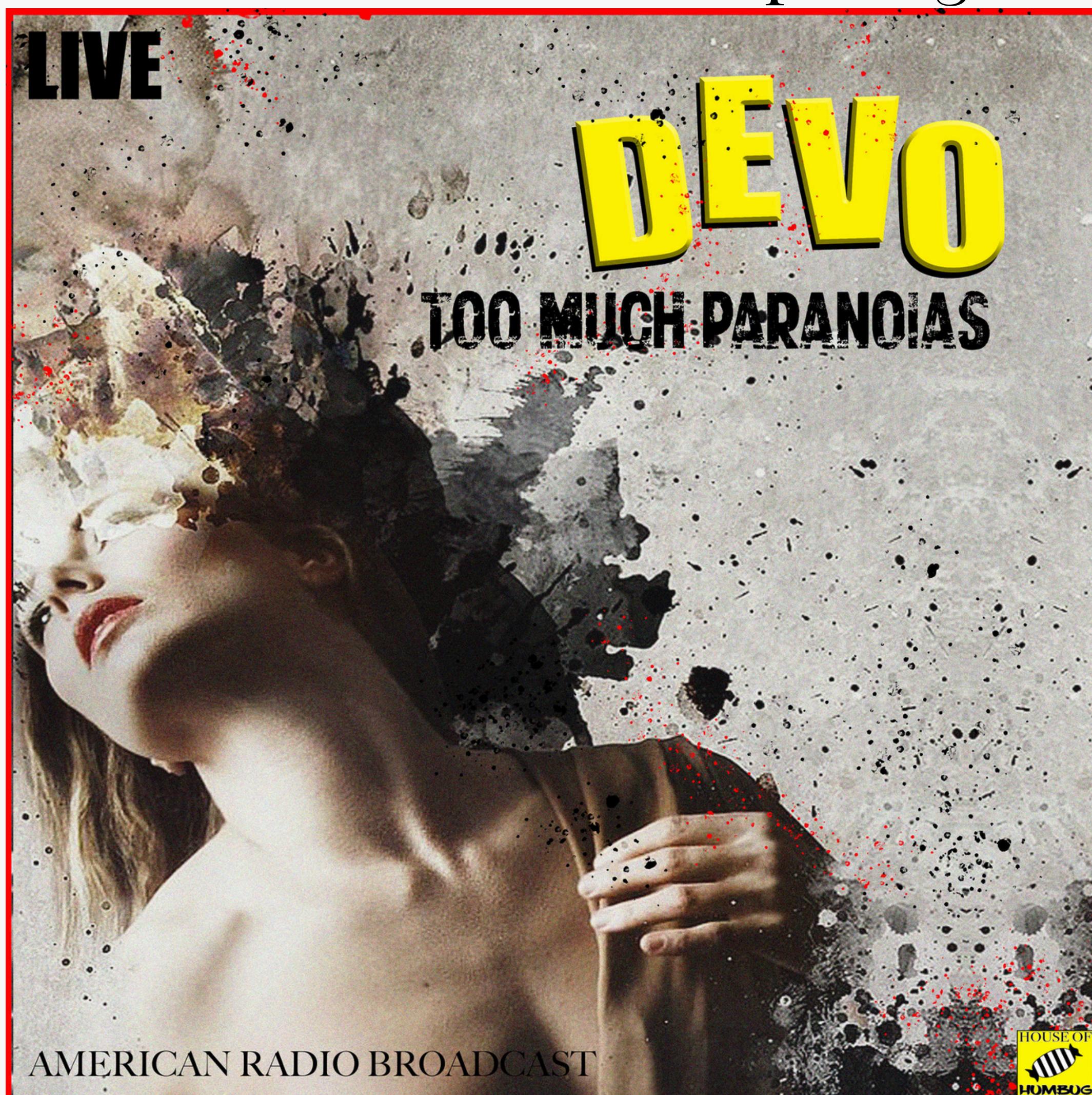


A 1988 Concert poster.

The song itself is nothing to write home about, as it gets old quick and doesn’t sound half as good as it reads.

Too Much Paranoias

Looking at the lyrics of Too Much Paranoias, it's very much so a nonesense song, but that doesn't take away how nice it is to listen to a simpler composed song after sitting through Jocko Homo. If nothing else DEVO are masters of album pacing.



Citations.

]<https://www.discogs.com/artist/12834-Devo?>

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