

It was November 9<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup> for you) when I watched from my office computer the trajectory of the nation take a sharp turn. Music helped me, as I'm sure it did you, to soften the blow of what I'm calling the tragic events of 11/9. And maybe some nice loud sonic art is going to be something that changes a few minds in the weeks and months and years to follow. The Reagan years, you'll recall, gave punk it's second wind and is arguably responsible for the American hardcore movement. Maybe it was almost worth having gone through eight years of Reagan to get that. Or not.

Anyway, thanks for reading and I'm looking forward to an unsolicited message or two from anyone who wants to have a chin wag with an exiled musician and English prof. You and I probably pop up as "mutual friends" as it is.

Cheers from Kobe,

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George