



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER PRETTY IN PUNK...

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- At least stuck in jail we didn't have to watch the Spice Girls at the Olympics...

CUNNING STUNT AS PUSSY RIOT FLASH MOB HITS BRIGHTON

Support for imprisoned punk trio Pussy Riot has gone beyond tokenistic internet clicktivism, and has hit the streets around the world.

Brighton was host to a particularly impressive flash mob on Thursday evening (16th). It had been organised by the Brighton Feminist Collective on the eve of the Pussy Riot trial verdict. Just after 7pm, over a hundred people turned up to show their pro-Pussy Riot solidarity. Choosing Brighton's Cathedral of Consumerism instead of a Russian Orthodox one, Brighton Feminists played the two minute song that got Pussy Riot arrested outside Churchill Square Mall to a crowd of neon clothes and balaclavas.

As one of the Collective said "We just plugged in our amp, turned it up and went for it. Obviously we're totally against what's happening to the group. We know that we're a long way away from russia but every little helps. It was great, we even had messages of support from Russia as it happened.

"The event had been heavily promoted on Facebook, but we didnt think it'd be all that big. As it happened over 100 took part, and more were supportive but even though they didn't dance. We only played the song for 2 minutes, but it was the song that Pussy Riot played when they were arrested in the cathedral. Lots of people felt strongly about what's been happening in Russia but didn't feel like they had any way of expressing their feelings- at the flashmob people could be there and show support. People turned up dressed in neon and wearing neon balaclavas, everyone in Churchill square just stopped what they were doing to look at us- i'd never seen so many camera phones out in one place."

There was a bare minimum of police at the event, just two coppers. The group didn't want it to be confrontational, they wanted to do something fun, something that could draw in people who don't normally demonstrate. As one of the participants put it, "It was tongue in cheek, just as like Pussy Riot are."

The Brighton Feminist Collective have been pretty damn active this year. The fundamentalist (emphasis on the mental-ist) Christians spurred them into action with their pro-life 'Forty Days for Life'

campaign of harrassment against BPAC (British Pregnancy Advisory Service) staff and service users. The feminists countered that with "Forty Days of Treats"- showering staff with presents to remind them that the vast majority of people support and value the work that they do.

Even though the pro-lifers' demos have dropped off, Brighton Feminists have continued to give BPAC staff cupcakes, brownies, flowers and cards. Staff have found it emotionally difficult dealing with so much hostility from religious maniacs, and the feminists' gift-giving actions have been a welcome relief to hard-worked frontline health workers.

Brighton Feminist Collective are planning to organise a 'Reclaim the Night' march for November. Watch this space.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For overstepping the boundary...

A man visiting Calais Migrant Solidarity had been in France for just half an hour when he was arrested for... starting a game of cricket! He had arrived at food distribution where some hawk-eyed Afghans spotted the cricket bat in his bike trailer. Before you could say "howzat" the innings opened.

The only thing missing was the wicket which was quickly provided courtesy of a marker pen in our cricket enthusiast's pocket. A well placed drive saw the ball race between across the out field and over the road for four. Unfortunately, having retrieved it, he was apprehended by some evidently unimpressed PAF (police aux frontieres) and whisked off to Coquelles police station to explain the finer points of the Duckworth-Lewis method. Jeux sans frontieres indeed and definitely not cricket.

NUN-CLEAR REACTION

Three anti-nuclear activists have been charged by US authorities after breaking into top US nuclear storage facility.

The three broke into Oak Ridge nuclear reservation in Tennessee in the early hours of Saturday 28th July. They managed to carry out what US authorities call the biggest security breach in the history of the nation's atomic complex. Signs outside the nuclear facility state "Deadly force is authorised" and "Halt!" Using only torches and bolt cutters, the trio overcame barbed wire, slipped past armed guards, video cameras and motion sensors. After gaining entry to the inner compound they splashed blood on the highly enriched uranium materials facility (a new windowless, half-billion-dollar plant encircled by enormous guard towers) and hung banners on the outside of it. They were arrested around 4:30am.

On Thursday (9th of August) they were charged with a misdemeanour and two felonies. Sister Megan Rice, 82, Michael R. Walli, 63 and Gregory I. Boertje-Obed, 57 have been charged by federal prosecutors in Knoxville. The misdemeanour charge for trespassing on government property carries a small penalty if found guilty. However the two felonies for destruction and depredation are considered as serious crimes and carry greater penalties. The charges can result to 16 years in prison and fines of up to

\$600,000 (£382,482). All three have pleaded not guilty. William C. Killian, a United States attorney, told reporters outside the Knoxville courtroom "This is a matter of national security".

The station is used to stockpile nuclear bomb parts and fuel. It is the proud keeper of the US's main store of highly enriched uranium- enough uranium to make thousands of nuclear weapons. The three unlikely masterminds who managed to break into a high-security area at the Y-12 National Security Complex have made nuclear theft seem not much harder than tying your shoelaces together.

The activists wanted to draw attention to the plant's nuclear work. Megan Rice, one of the defendants, said: "It's the criminality of this 70-year industry," she said. "We spend more on nuclear arms than on the departments of education, health, transportation, disaster relief and a number of other government agencies that I can't remember." After the action, they released an "indictment" accusing the United States of crimes against humanity.

A trial is set for the 10th of October in Federal District Court in Knoxville. In the event the three defendants are found guilty they may be allowed to serve the sentences for the three charges concurrently; this would drop their prison time from 16 years to 5. In the case of Megan Rice and her 82 years on this planet it is highly likely that a 16 year sentence would mean she would die in prison.

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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Published in Brighton since 1994

GOLDEN SHOWER

AS MIGRANTS ATTACKED BY FASCISTS & THE STATE IN GREECE

An Iraqi immigrant was killed in Athens on Sunday (12th), the prime suspects for the attack are members of Golden Dawn – Greece's fascist gang who now hold seats in the Greek Parliament. The incident occurred at 4.30am on Anaxagora street. Witnesses reported the attackers were 5 males on 4 motorbikes who had already attempted to attack two migrant men (one from Romania and one from Morocco) unsuccessfully. The attack on the Iraqi person was racist and fatal.

Anarchists retorted. The Golden Boys HQ in Pangrati, central Athens was set on fire on Monday (13th) with a little help from two petrol tanks. The arson attack caused extensive damage to the building, unfortunately no fascists were nesting in there at the time so there were no victims. The needle sized brained golden bigots have been condoning violence against almost everyone different to themselves- migrants, homosexuals, leftists and anarchists. The murder of the unidentified Iraqi is unfortunately one of many such attacks that have occurred at the hands of the neo-Nazi boot boys.

In recent months over 500 migrants have been relocated to hospital premises due to attacks with clubs, knuckledusters and knives. Unsurprisingly, given the Greek police dislike of migrants and fondness for fascists (around 50% of them voted for Golden Dawn) the perpetrators of the attacks are rarely apprehended.

And it's not just Golden Dawn - repression has been perpetrated on an even bigger scale by the Greek Government.

Between Thursday(2nd) and Friday(3rd) Greek police apprehended 1,500 immigrants in Central Athens. Detainment figures sky rocketed by Saturday, when they hit an all time record of 4,900 people locked up. This disturbing evidence of the rise in right wing values in Greece took place in Athens and in Evros, near the Turkish border.

Some of the detainees were released but a stag-

gering 1,630 people are still in custody arrested and face forcible deportation. Ironically the operation has been code-named "Zeus Xenios" - after the ancient god of travellers and hospitality. Xenia is the Greek word for the concept of hospitality, or generosity and courtesy shown to those who are far from home. The Greek state have increased the presence of guards at the border with Turkey as the state of Syria continues to deteriorate. There are worries of Syrian refugees entering Greek turf as the slaughter there continues.

As this racist undertaking hit day 4 on Sunday(5th) it concentrated in areas of Central Athens, such as Omonoia Square, Monastiraki, Mars Fields and Vathis Square. On the same day eighty-eight migrants were sent back to Pakistan. The Occupied London site gives reports of police constantly stopping, searching and detaining all migrants whether they are carrying documents or not.

Public Order Minister, Nikos Dendias, defended the bigoted crackdown saying "Greece's economic plight meant it could not afford an invasion of immigrants. The immigration issue is a bomb at the foundations of the society and of the state". As the country hits an ultimate low in terms of recession the far-right vultures are swooping in. They are calling for harder measures on immigration arguing the country bears an excessive influx of people gaining entry compared to the rest of the EU.

Members of the far-right Golden Dawn party, who recently won enough votes to enter parliament, last week were standing outside it giving free food to the impoverished populace of Greece. With one stipulation, they had to prove they were Greek citizens through personal documentation including their blood type according to the newspaper Kathimerini (a conservative broadsheet). Amnesty International has condemned the Greek State for treating asylum seekers the same as criminals, under abominable conditions and holding them in detention centres without due cause.

AMAZON GRACE

A rare victory was achieved last Tuesday for the indigenous cause, with a high-level court ruling the suspension of the construction of the Belo Monte dam on the Amazon's Xingu River. (see SchNEWS 811).

Any attempt by Norte Energia and the state company Electrobras to outsmart the ruling will be punished with a fine of R\$500,000 for each day of non-compliance. All in all, the ruling will see new consultations with the affected populations dependent on the Xingu River.

Such achievement was only possible due to the persistence of indigenous resistance together with the work of international NGOs. In June, parallel to the United Nations' Rio+20 Conference, indigenous leaders launched a 21-day occupation of the dam site; more recently, three Norte Energia engineers were detained by tribal authorities following a make-believe consultation about the mitigation measures on the dam's negative impacts; and last month a lawsuit was filed on the widespread non-compliance with environmental requirements.

An appeal by Norte Energia is expected to follow, however the ruling comes from national courts of the highest level, which might prove to be a difficult one to dodge. Maira Irigaray, a lawyer with Amazon Watch, believes that "the government and Norte Energia, will use all their legal power to fight this at the Supreme Court. In any case, it's more evident that judges have systematically concluded that Belo Monte was not consulted with communities and it lacks comprehensive environmental impact assessments. Thus the government will have to make serious adjustments if they want to continue with [the dam]."

...and finally...

WikiLeaked excerpt from article prepared by UK government spin doctors in case of decision to use 'Plan E' solution to the Julian Assange situation. Was intended to be offered to Daily Mail / Telegraph / Times / Hello / Top Gear Magazine.

Today we are releasing a damning dossier making the case for supporting immediate regime change in that axis-of-dangerously-successful-democratic-socialism countries, Ecuador.

This has nothing at all to do with the recent decision by wicked President Rafael Correa to grant Wikileaker Julian Assange political asylum. (The clever bastards. Boy are the Americans annoyed. Better not put these bits in) Or that actually they do happen to have oil. Oh no, not this time. It's because his government are corrupt dictators, crushing all dissent from a perfectly innocent rich elite, secretly genetically modifying the Amazon jungle so that all the oxygen produced is harvestable, planning to hold the world to ransom in years to come. Oh yeah and all his corrupt government cronies are getting fat eating Ecuadorian babies. And now secret intelligence suggest they might be thinking of secretly importing babies from neighbouring countries, grinding them up to feed the poor and weakening other countries until Ecuador rules the entire American continent. Apparently Ecuadorian Airways planes could be in the air within 45 minutes on their horrific evil baby snatching missions.

Something must be done. We stand arse to fist (is this right?) with our international friends who are determined to liberate the enslaved happy Correa-voting Ecuadorians and give them IMF rule and send US corporates in to suck them dry like everyone else freedom.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS reassures all readers, we've covered the Pussy Riot saga since their arrest and we won't give up until they're freed (or at least until we run out of puns based on their name anyway). Honest.

HUNTS HOUNDED

It's a double-whammy for our camouflage clad, land rover loving, comrades in arms, the hunt sabs.

Firstly there was the news that the West Tickham Hunt in Kent are disbanding. Although they weren't a particularly noteworthy hunt - (One long time Kent hunt sab confided in SchNEWS "They were just your average bunch of occasionally violent inbreds, dull,dull,dull"). The hunt claimed they were folding for financial reasons but farcically tried to claim the bankruptcy as a 'excellent progress'.

Secondly two members of the prestigious Meynell and South Staffordshire Hunt were found guilty of breaching the 2004 Hunting Act, based on evidence gathered by the local Derby hunt sabs. Right Honourable John Edward "Johnny" Greenall, recently resigned huntmaster and major patron of the hunt was fined £3515 and Glen Morris, steward and assistant terrier-man copped fines and costs totalling £515.

This is the first time that evidence gathered by sabs of the practice of cubhunting has resulted in convictions. Cubhunting is where young hounds are introduced to the practice of hunting. A wood or copse is surrounded by members of the hunt and the hounds enter it. The hunt make

a noise to terrify the young fox-cubs back into the wood to be torn apart by the hounds. It's a crucial ingredient in maintaining a pack of fox-hounds as the dogs do not naturally chase and attack other carnivores. There is no way it can be mistaken for trail-hunting.

Lee Moon, spokesperson for the Hunt Saboteurs Association, said: "It is a great credit to these saboteurs that, despite the flaws in the Hunting act, they were able to gather concrete proof of illegal hunting. Cub hunting is one of the guilty secrets of the hunting community and we hope this evidence that it is still being practised by such a prestigious hunt will force the police to enforce the Act more rigorously. This is proof that, over seven years after the Hunting Act became law, hunts are still training their hounds to illegally chase and kill wildlife."

Meanwhile the RSPCA have thrown their considerable financial muscle behind a campaign against the Heythrop Hunt, who hunt in David Cameron's constituency. They've prepared 52 separate charges against four senior members of the hunt and in a first will attempt to prosecute the hunt as a corporate entity....watch this space.

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