

AJZ Bielefeld vs. Feine Sahne Fischilet

from Indymedia linksunten (27.09.2013)

What all domestic secret service agents of Mecklemburg-Vorpommern failed to achieve in years has now been more or less accomplished by the Autonomous Youth Center „AJZ Bielefeld“: A stage ban for the punk band “Feine Sahne Fischilet” from Rostock ...!

At their show in Belefeld on 20th of September they had only played two songs when a drunk and shouting person entered the the stage and pushed the singer away from the mic. She yobbishly yelled at the crowd saying the concert was finished now, because a band member was “naked”. The crowd was amused about what they expected to be a joke, but more and more people from the AJZ entered the stage and pressured the band members. The following announcements clarified that the concert break-off was serious. Reason: the drummer had played topless, but naked male torsos are forbidden in the “AJZ”. The band left stage following a rinsing unrest in the crowd and the increasingly threatening behavior by 10-15 “AJZ” crew members. One of the AJZ people told the crowd that the show was definitely over.

The follow-up showed that the drunk yobbish person was indeed a responsible person from the “AJZ” and that there had in fact been a decision by their plenary that prohibits musicians to take off any of their cloths. If the band had been told so in advance was unproven, but said to be “self explanatory”, after all, the “AJZ” was “anti-sexist”. Visitors who come to “AJZ” regularly stated: things like this happen “here from time to time”.

Faced with the imbecility and the ongoing aggressive behavior of the “AJZ” people we left and made our way home (120km after all). We heard later that the band had been allowed to continue their show after more than an hour and had played a few more songs for the small number of visitor that had stayed. If the band had been forced to wear burkas, we could not find out...

We don't know what's up there in Bielefeld, but the connection between anti-sexist policies and the banning of naked torsos remains unclear to us, even after contemplating it for a while.

After this night's events we find it hard to believe that there has ever been a reflection about sexism, machismo and patriarchal behavior in the AJZ. The aggressive and rough appearance of the group that apparently was responsible for the AJZ (“I'm the janitor here, so shut up”) and them being predominantly young males in 80s-antifa-style-outfits speaks against that. Even before their interference you could take the security guards for a lost group of Nazis.

If this occurrence in "AJZ Bielefeld" was indeed planned and implemented as an anti-sexist action, 300 allies of sexist perpetrators made a narrow escape at the concert... Whoever wants to zip a beer at the catholic hostel can regard the AJZ as a real alternative. But whoever prefers autonomous politics and culture and a decent humane company should avoid going to that place.

Still we are interested in how every-day life works in that house?

Comment on the post: No new discussion

JD 27.09.2013 - 03:31

The discussion on nude male torsos in leftist spaces ain't new. Still one should be aware in which direction one argues. In our society women face more problems than men when walking around topless. But this is a social problem that won't be solved by prohibiting everyone from being topless. The reason for that lies way deeper. Naked torsos or not - what counts is a persons behavior. Someone feeling hot because of playing the drums ain't about sexism, whereas someone wanting to prove their masculinity and harassing women is dafionitely unacceptable. But it wouldn't be acceptable either if he wore a whole body suit and a face mask. I go to the sauna regularly. In my opinion that's the best example for a different possibility. Naked men and women sit next to each other sweating and there is neither harassment, nor any assault and the like (of course idiots too can stray into a sauna). My point is: the objective should be that everyone can feel comfortable and won't have to worry about assault, harassment and so on, whatever they wear. It can't seriously be the solution to veil everyone who enters leftist spaces. I see myself as a leftist and an anti-sexist person, I like to be naked in the sauna and to swim naked in the ocean (it's simply more comfortable) and I walk around topless all summer. By the way, I'm a drummer too, and I have never played a concert with a shirt on (it would be entirely soaked after a single song, eww!)

Conclusion: sexist behavior NO, showing skin YES!!!

Why it is an act of solidarity to just keep your shirt on.

by [Viruletta](#), Mädchenmannschaft blog (30.03.2013)

Probably some of you have stumbled across a link in your time-line, that contained a pathetic text about the break-off of a concert by the punk band Feine Sahne Fischfilet in the AJZ Bielefeld.

Presumably this text was garnished with outraged comments about how the poor poor band members had been made victims of a pointless or prudish or repressive event policy. For the concert had been put to an end because the drummer had taken off his t-shirt on stage.

At least I experienced that, I was even several times confronted with that link and those comments. What I caught my eye: none of the guys – and it was all guys – who found it terribly unfair and unacceptable that the drummer should keep wearing his shirt in spite of his sweaty activity on stage had ever bothered that this rule applies to everyone who is affected by sexism – always and everywhere.

The authors (male/female/*?) of the article highlighted that they didn't understand the link between anti-sexist policies and the banning of naked torsos remained unclear to them “even after contemplating it for a while”. And because we women's libbers can be quite nice if we're not fully occupied with setting up a feminist reign of terror™ I'm going to play the walking encyclopedia here.

We live in a society that gives privileges to guys. One is to be able to undress nearly wherever and whenever they want. Female ascribed persons don't even have the legal right to do that; law dictates that at least their nipples have to be covered. But even in spaces that don't insist on state legislation it isn't easy for women and trans* persons to take their shirts off. Their bodies are primarily regarded as common property. In nearly all contexts, whether while in a supermarket, in a seminar, in an employees meeting or at a party, total strangers claim the right to comment on their body and judge it. Topless women and trans* persons don't just break a law but a social taboo as well. Reprehensions usually follow instantly by means of looks, comments or physical harassment. This again differs depending on how that body fits common conceptions of beauty and gender. So the privilege to undress for whatever reason is not accessible to people that are affected by sexism – even if a group decides to “also allow women” to take off their shirts in their space. And precisely because of these reasons it is a showing-off of sexist privilege when guys take off their t-shirt in public, pretty anywhere and for pretty any reason. And yes, to stand down from a privilege, that not everyone can access is an act of solidarity – and in this case of anti-sexism. Similar reasons account for not

performing heterosexually.

Especially the topless-debate is anything but new, so it is astonishing that neither the band Feine Sahne Fischfilet, who sees itself as critical of society, nor the authors of the text, who pose as experts for machismo, seem to have ever heard of it. A special treat is the sentence that the authors find it hard to believe “that there has ever been a reflection about sexism, machismo and patriarchal behavior in the AJZ”. You see, that must have been the work of real experts.

Instead of writing an outraged article, the authors could have simply asked, if their main objective had been to understand why the keep-your-shirt-on policy is anti-sexist. But several parts of the text reveal, that it was rather about articulating their own anger and to strike a blow against the AJZ. That's why the persons who made the demand, and thus the issue itself were delegitimized before even understanding the point of the demand. The authors thus present a classic approach: the argument of tone and manner. The person who enforced the supposed AJZ agreement that night had been drunk and yelling, says the text. She is described as “macho”, as “yobbish” (ahoy classism!) and as “imbecile” (hello, ableism!). Furthermore they use a strange – and quite weary – nazi analogy. And that's not yet enough, they have to reach out deep into the box of sexist and racist clichés: a burka analogy! Sure, if anyone asks anyone else to put on cloths, that's prudish and what could be more prudish than a burka, and hey, weren't we talking about repression and subjugation anyways? You see, if you haven't yet read this so called article you should better spare your nerves and go without it. In the comment section – but that's (not only) common at indymedia – it gets even worse. By now the band has released a statement via facebook, in which they criticize the account in the article on indymedia – but it contains no trace of self-criticism. Alternatively you can read the analysis of the shitstorm against the AJZ they posted on their blog by now.

In the end I have one more question for the authors of the article, because they seem to like contemplating deeply: have you ever considered that the person who interfered was drunk because she was off-duty that night. That she nonetheless was the first/only person feeling responsible to implement the anti-sexist consensus of the AJZ, because for people affected by bullshit, there is no off-duty, no finishing time from sexist normalcy?

There is a word for that, I mentioned it already; it's privilege.