

NOVEMBER 2003

(next issue ready
march 2004
probably)

RIOT GRRRL WORLD

#1

A newsletter for and by riot grrrls and queer punks from all over the world
- please copy and spread -

Dear readers,

This is the first issue of a hopefully long project. In a discussion on the Riot Grrrl Europe mailing list about nine distros (in Europe), the idea to make a "Riot Grrrl World Newsletter" or a "Riot Grrrl Chapter zine" was brought up by Jenni (of Emancypunk) and Hilde (of Lady!Die/Riot Grrrl Europe). We continued brainstorming about the possibility of the project and how we would do it and because the reactions on the mailing list were positive, we decided to give it a go. This newsletter is supposed to be published every 3-4 months and will be spread all over the world to reach as many people as possible and create a real Riot Grrrl network. Help is always welcome. We'd like to keep the newsletter small, but nevertheless we're always looking for news/info/contributions from everywhere on the earth. If you want to contribute, get in touch with your nearest riot grrrl chapter or contact person or let me know. The idea is that every issue will be created/collected by a different person or group (and not always by me), but that everyone can always write for the newsletter. If you want to help or if you have questions, contact me.

Keep rioting!

China (this issue's editor)



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<http://www.geocities.com/riotgrrrlworld>

OUR GOAL:

- What we'd like to achieve with the Riot Grrrl World newsletter:
- More networking between the various riot grrrl chapters and collectives
- Spreading/sharing info from all over the world
- Creating a flyer everyone can hand out.
- Inspiring people to participate, get active/creative and start a grrrl riot!

NEWS

Unfortunately, RTL, an all-girl HC band from Brazil, doesn't exist. The three girls from Brasilia (the capital from Brazil) leave us with two great demo-tapes, and they still have copies of the second one, called "Variações de um mesmo tema" (Variations on the theme). If you want a copy, write to Mariana Maverick - SQN 316 Bl. D Ap. 117 - CEP 70775-040 - Bsb/DF - Brazil (rtl.maverick@hotmail.com) (by Danielle Sales)

**MUSIC ZINES UNDERGROUND FEMINISM EQUALITY
ART ACTIVISM DIY YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN YEAH**



<http://grrrlzines.net>



WHAT IS RIOT GRRRL?

"Riot Grrrl is a feminist underground movement that has created a feminist form of musical expression. It started in the late 1980s and reached the peak of media attention in 1992. Because of the mostly sexist articles the movement has drawn back from the media and now exists as an international feminist subculture network."

- Karo

"Riot Grrrl is feminism expressed through creative ways - being in bands, making websites, writing zines, creating art."

- Soph

"Riot Grrrl is an underground feminist movement that arose from the American punk scene in the early 90s. One of the things I like about it is that it combines DIY art and activism. Riot grrrl is not excluding boys, it includes girls."

- Nina

WOMEN ON WAVES IN POLAND (by Bordowa)

hello dear grrrls!

i would like to write you about current fucked-up situation in poland. our fucking country has very restrictful laws in case of abortion. it is totally illegal, and if you have one you can go to prison for even 3 years. also all people who are accused of helping you with it may go to prison.

polish law says that in very difficult situations, like after rape or when the woman's life is in danger, a woman can have an abortion, but it's only written down. in fact doctors usually make it harder or longer, so that after some time it's too late and women have to give birth.

illegal abortions take place here about 80 000 - 200 000 times per year. they are dangerous, descreet, illegal, made in awful conditions and for big money (about 3000 zł which is 1000 EUR). some women just can't afford it, so they have to give birth against their own will.

poland is a catholic country, almost 90% declare themselves as catholics, also almost all left and right politics are on the church's side. the church's opinion here is even stronger than the president's (who is left, used to be very liberal, but now after the church has supported polish access to the EU he will lick their ass!) also there are a few almost "fundamental" groups, parties like LPR (ligue of polish families) or MW (all-polish youth). they are totally fascist, church-loving jerks. they declare that they will defend polish unborn children.

yesterday the ship belonging to "women on waves" was to get into the polish port in wladyslawowo. unfortunately, the weather was bad and they couldn't manage it. someone offered them to get into the port in gdynia, but when they did, the people from LPR and MW attacked them from the shore, by throwing objects on them. they went back to the sea.

polish federation for women and family planning, which organized "women on waves" coming here has been harrased from several weeks by different church and right-wing groups. they informed the public prosecutor's office and the police about the crime that "may take place" on the ship. they even tried to make the police to confiscate the pills ru 486. they make an atmosphere of fear, harrasement and danger. those people can do anything to save those "unborn children", and women are really afraid to get help from "women on waves". the action would go around polish law, but they are eager to do everything not to let this happen. i know a few women who wanted to go to the WOW ship in wladyslawow, but they resigned, they are afraid of police, LPR and MW, who may really hurt them...

other danger is that boatswains of polish ports may do everything not to let the ship get into ANY polish port!!! not only because of the storm on the sea but also - again! fuck! - to save the zygotes!

this is a total scandal but as polish media is also dominated by church propaganda no one will write about it that way. we want to show the world the hypocrisy of polish government, who calls themselves democratic, but can not keep up the most important human rights, and also agree and even support the danger that can harm every woman.

the ship hasn't swam into the port yet. we don't know when will it happen. we even don't know IF it will happen. we want to make this situation seen all over the world. we want to make a political scandal of it. please send this mail to all of your friends, let as many people know about it as possible. if you can, send it also to tv, magazines, newspapers in your country, region. if they want to get in contact with polish organizers, this are the addresses

<http://www.federa.org.pl>

<http://www.womenonwaves.org>

please, help us get our fundamental rights back!!!!!!!!!!!!

RIOT GIRL LONDON MANIFESTO (by Soph: scarlet@antisocial.co.uk)

Riot Grrrl is a network of women & men who want to change society through active & creative means - writing zines, being in bands, creating websites, making art... The law grudgingly gives women equality, but people's attitudes towards us are still disrespectful, oppressive and belittling.

Riot Grrrl & feminism are still needed for a myriad of reasons - because women are accused of "asking for it" when they're raped, because beauty is valued over intellect, because female musicians are dismissed as worthless, because enjoying sex makes you a slut, because because because... The list is endless.

Riot Grrrl has now evolved into more than just a branch of the punk scene - we come from all sorts of backgrounds, like all sorts of music, dress in all sorts of styles... Riot Grrrl is open to everyone. Riot Grrrl is inspiring, empowering and most of all fun, so why not join our group or start your own and help infiltrate society with REAL grrrl power. Forget the media lies - this is about equality, not superiority. Man-hate does not figure in our beliefs - the deconstruction of gender roles will benefit everyone.

AGENDA: RIOT GRRRL EVENTS:

LADYFEST

Since 2000 dozens of Ladyfests have taken place all over the world. If you want to know if there is a Ladyfest taken place near you soon, check: <http://www.ladyfest.org>. For the European Ladyfests, check: <http://www.ladyfesteurope.org>.

EXPO IN THE VILLA

DIY/activist/alternative expo: Paintings, film, spoken word, comics, music, recycloart, nonsense, sculptures, poetry, photography, ...
+ other activities
21-22-23 November 2003
in Villa Skwattus Del
Schapenstraat 29, Leuven, Belgium
<http://squatexpo.tk>

BARAWA FEST

grrrl punk festival in warsaw/poland
"fabryka" squat
13 december probably
entrance: very cheap :)))
(first plans:)
CONCERTS
-fuck finger (all grrrls crustpunk-blais podlaska/poland)
-centrala rybna (scream emo a'capella-warsaw/poland)
-masskotki (electrogrrrlz -warsaw/poland)
-babybutchers (pro-choice punk -poland)
-zero buntu (grrrl punk youth crew from zambow)
(and some more not confirmed yet - but we are still waiting for submissions!!!)
WORKSHOPS
-about zine making
-about creating international anti sexist networks

also
films (powerpuffgrrrls all night long:))
performances (girls in action-biaystok/poland)
theaters
visuualisations
exhibitions (witches by wiedzma, grrrlz in comix and others)
yummy food
distros

and many many more!
for more details, if you want to come/ take part in (yeah!!!) write to:
chaosgrrrlz@o2.pl
boardi@o2.pl

those are first plans, SOME THINGS MIGHT CHANGE!!

Christ. The Expo - Crass Art and Other Pre Post-modernist Monsters

(by Dominique Van Cappellen vancap@agentdouble.tv)

Such was the title of the exhibition by Gee Vaucher which closed its doors mid-October at CC De Luchtbal in Antwerp. If you are in your late thirties, you may remember seeing punks with the Crass logo written in Typ-ex on their leather jackets. But Crass was more than just punk band. They were an anarcho-pacifist, anarcho-feminist, vegetarian collective and their idea of anarchy had nothing to do with the anarchy of the Sex Pistols. From 1977 to 1984, they gave the Thatcher government a hard time with their numerous actions of resistance. They managed to breathe life back into the peace movement and set up a huge underground network of do-it-yourself activism. Gee Vaucher played an important part in Crass. She designed leaflets, record sleeves, posters and films. But she was already very active in the sixties, mixing techniques such as photography and collage. Around 1977, she collaborated with several american publications, illustrating articles for New York Magazine and Rolling Stone. Personally I found that her most disturbing work was in reaction to the Falklands war. One shivers at the sight of the inside poster for the Crass single *How Does It Feel to Be The Mother of a Thousand Dead*, depicting a soldier with one half of his face deformed, greeted by his laughing wife and child. A similar thought-provoking effect is achieved with a collage from 1983 subtitled *Still Life with Nude*, showing a dead soldier with the picture of a naked woman straight out of a porn magazine.

When Crass disbanded in 1984, Gee Vaucher pursued her artistic career. She is still as involved today, only Blair and Bush have replaced Thatcher and Reagan in her artwork, which also includes various techniques such as photography with oilpaint, acrylic with crayon and pastel, all of them equally well mastered.

If you would like to find out more about Gee Vaucher's work, take a look at the following website: www.southern.net/southern/band/crass/biog/book.html

If you go to: www.southern.com/southern/label/crc you can read about the Crass history and their imaginative protest actions, as well as about current events involving former Crass members.

ACTIVE RIOT GRRRL CHAPTERS, COLLECTIVES AND CONTACT PERSONS WORLDWIDE:

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA
PINK PUNKIES:
pinkpunkies@hotmail.com

BRAZIL

Danielle, Caixa Postal 4768 - São Paulo/SP - 01061.970 - Brazil
E-mails: danielle_sales@ig.com.br
danielle_sales@translate.com.br

EUROPE

RIOT GRRRL EUROPE
Karo: karoriots@chello.at
<http://riotgrrrleurope.net>
<http://grrrlbandsring.net>

UK

RIOT GIRL LONDON:
Website: www.geocities.com/rg_london
Email: riotgrrrl@protest.co.uk
6 Melrose Ave
Mitcham
Surrey CR4 2EG
UK

POLAND

EMANCYPUNK
emancypunkrecords@go2.pl
www.Emancypunk.prv.pl
Po box 145, 02-792 Warszawa 78, Poland

BELGIUM/NETHERLANDS/LUXEMBOURG

Riot Grrrl Benelux:
www.geocities.com/riotgrrrlbenelux
nina@riotgrrrlbelgium.cjb.net or
flapper_grrrl@yahoo.co.uk
St. Corneliusstraat 52
3500 Hasselt
Belgium

NORTH AMERICA

USA
Chicago:
<http://www.rebelgrrrl.org>

REBEL GRRRL IS... first and foremost a feminist distro. We are anti-sexist, anti-racist, pro queer/trans/etc. We are political, liberal, and anti-authoritarian. We are pro-choice. We are environmentalists. We believe in challenging learned behavior, especially -isms (racism, abism, classism and so forth). We are (safe) sex-positive. We are anti-copyright. We believe in change through creativity, community, and the exchange of information.
Rgchicago@rebelgrrrl.org (Chicago's feminist happenings listserve) for protest/meeting/happening posts

USA

LOS ANGELES
riotgrrrla@yahogroups.com
<http://www.geocities.com/riotgrrrla/>

Are you part of a Riot Grrrl Chapter or Collective that isn't listed here? Do you want to be a contact person? Please let me know!