

AND NOW WE TURN TO VIENNA,

[OTS: AUSTRIA, A STAR MARKING VIENNA]

A CITY THAT LIKES ITS SAUSAGES SHORT AND ITS ELECTIONS UNCOMFORTABLY, DISGUSTINGLY LONG.

AUSTRIANS CAST THEIR BALLOT FOR PRESIDENT 7 MONTHS AGO. HOWEVER, DUE TO A SERIES OF SETBACKS, THEY'RE STILL WAITING FOR FINAL RESULTS. WHICH MEANS THE AUSTRIAN ELECTION, LIKE THE FAST & THE FURIOUS FRANCHISE, IS SOMEHOW *STILL* HAPPENING.

[OTS: POSTER FOR FAST & FURIOUS 8]

LAST APRIL, THE ELECTION CAME DOWN TO A RUNOFF BETWEEN THE GREEN PARTY'S ALEXANDER VAN DER BELLEN

[OTS: VAN DER BELLEN SITTING IN A LIBRARY <http://bit.ly/2ivGspj>]

A CANDIDATE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AND THE CHARM OF AN ECONOMICS PROFESSOR

[OTS: VAN DER BELLEN DRINKING SMALL GLASS OF WATER <http://bit.ly/2ivGspj>]

AND THIS GUY

[OTS: NORBERT HOFER]

NORBERT HOFER: A MAN WHO NOT ONLY LOOKS LIKE HE JUST MADE LOVE TO YOUR WIFE, BUT ALSO REPRESENTS AUSTRIA'S FREEDOM PARTY.

AND WHILE "AUSTRIA'S FREEDOM PARTY" SOUNDS LIKE A PAN-SEXUAL DANCE SHOW ON MTV EUROPE...

[OTS: SEXY EUROPEAN RAVERS <http://bit.ly/2jjOjDz>]

...IT'S ACTUALLY A FAR-RIGHT ANTI-IMMIGRANT PARTY FOUNDED IN 1956 BY FORMER MEMBERS OF THE NAZI SECRET POLICE.

[OTS: FREEDOM PARTY SUPPORTERS WAVING BANNERS]

THANKFULLY, THIS SILVER-HAIRED OCEAN'S ELEVEN VILLAIN WAS DEFEATED IN THE RUN-OFF ELECTION.

[OTS-PQ: The Guardian, 5/23/16: <http://bit.ly/2k0KfLC>: "AUSTRIA ELECTS GREEN CANDIDATE AS PRESIDENT IN NARROW DEFEAT FOR FAR RIGHT"]

HOW CLOSE WAS THE RACE?

[VT-SOT: CNNi, 5/23/16: <http://bit.ly/2jSr8PW>: Anchor: "JUST OVER HALF A PERCENT OF THE VOTE PREVENTED HOFER FROM BECOMING EU'S FIRST FAR RIGHT HEAD OF STATE"]

HOFER ONLY LOST BY .6%!! THIS UNDERLINES THE ALARMING RISE OF ANTI-IMMIGRANT POPULISM IN EUROPE. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE BAD WITH NUMBERS, THINK OF IT THIS WAY: .6% is THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOTICING, "HEY, THERE'S A GUY JERKING OFF IN THIS MOVIE THEATER"

[OTS - MOCKUP: A COUPLE SITS IN A MOVIE THEATER. A MAN IN A TRENCHCOAT SITS A FEW ROWS BEHIND THEM]

AND DISCOVERING "OH MY GOD 49.6% OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS MOVIE THEATER ARE JERKING OFF. THIS IS NOT THE PLACE I THOUGHT IT WAS!

[OTS - MOCKUP: SAME COUPLE. NOW, THE THEATER IS HALF-FILLED WITH MEN IN TRENCHCOATS.]

JUST AS SOME AUSTRIANS BEGAN TO CELEBRATE THE DEFEAT OF THE FAR RIGHT, THEY RECEIVED THIS LITTLE UPDATE

[VT-SOT: GUARDIAN, 7/1/16: <http://bit.ly/2jqxCsu>: Gerhart Holzinger (subtitled): "THE DECISION I'M ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE DOESN'T MAKE ANYONE A LOSER OR A WINNER"]

OH MY GOD, ARE WE BREAKING UP?

[VT-SOT: GUARDIAN, 7/1/16: <http://bit.ly/2jqxCsu>: Gerhart Holzinger (Subtitled): "...THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 22 MAY 2016 IS DECLARED NULL AND VOID...IN LAYMAN'S TERMS THIS MEANS THE RUN-OFF MUST BE REPEATED IN THE WHOLE OF AUSTRIA"]

IF YOU DIDN'T CATCH THOSE SUBTITLES, THIS ALL TRANSLATES TO THE ENGLISH PHRASE: PSYKE!

BECAUSE SOME ELECTION OFFICIALS OPENED BALLOTS EARLY - IT'S OK ELSA, I'M NOT NAMING NAMES-

[OTS - MOCKUP: A GUILTY-LOOKING SECRETARY HOLDS AN ENVELOPE]

THE WHOLE RUNOFF WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE ALL OVER AGAIN. AND AS WE ALL KNOW, THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN EXTENDING SOMETHING THAT HAD A PERFECTLY GOOD ENDING THE FIRST TIME.

[OTS-VT: FINAL SEQUENCE OF FAST & FURIOUS 7. PAUL WALKER AND VIN DIESEL EXCHANGE MEANINGFUL NODS. THEY DRIVE OFF INTO THE SUNSET IN SEPARATE DIRECTIONS]

YOU GUYS, HE'S GONE. HE LITERALLY WENT TOO FAST. AND IF ANYTHING, MAYBE HIS LOSS SHOULD BE A LESSON TO US ALL THAT IT'S OK TO MOVE ON. UNLESS OF COURSE, YOU'RE AUSTRIA AND YOUR ELECTION IS OFFICIALLY DECLARED: A PRACTICE ROUND.

LET'S JUST HOPE THE COUNTRY'S RE-RUN OF THE RUN-OFF RUNS SMOOTHLY.

[VT-SOT: BBC, 9/11/16: <http://bit.ly/2j2Tk2k> Anchor: "A RERUN OF AUSTRIA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN OCTOBER LOOKS LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF FAULTY GLUE ON POSTAL VOTES"]

YOU'VE GOTTA BE SHNITZELING ME? I KNOW THE US ELECTION FEELS LIKE A REALITY SHOW. BUT WITH THIS MANY ENDLESS OBSTACLES, IT APPEARS AUSTRIA'S ELECTION HAS TURNED INTO A SITCOM

[MOCKUP: A SITCOM POSTER: "WHO'S THE BOSS? SERIOUSLY WE DON'T KNOW. GOOD LORD, I HOPE IT'S NOT THAT NAZI."]

THE ONLY REDEEMING PART OF THIS DEBACLE IS THAT IT INSPIRED NORBERT HOFER TO GIVE HIS FELLOW CITIZENS THIS INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH ABOUT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

[VT-SOT: BBC, 9/11/16: Hofer: "I ADDRESS THOSE WHO COMBAT ME... SEVERAL JOURNALISTS, ARTISTS, AND SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO LIVE WELL FROM THE SYSTEM IN AUSTRIA. THE MORE YOU COMBAT ME, THE STRONGER I GET."]

IF YOU'RE WONDERING HOW TO SPOT A FAR-RIGHT EUROPEAN POLITICIAN, HE'S USUALLY THE ONE THREATENING ARTISTS AND JOURNALISTS, AND REMINDING HIS ENEMIES THAT HE WILL DRINK THEIR STRENGTH!

I FULLY EXPECTED HOFER TO FINISH HIS SPEECH BY CACKLING, "AND WHERE IS YOUR PRECIOUS SUPERMAN NOW? I HAVE KILLED HIM. I HAVE KILLED THE MAN OF STEEL!"

[MOCKUP: HOFER RIDING ABOVE REPORTERS ON SOME SORT OF GREEN GOBLIN HOVERBOARD]

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE PRESENT: WITH ALL OF AUSTRIA WAITING THROUGH A PAINFUL CASE OF GLUEBALLS, WONDERING IF THEY'RE ABOUT TO ELECT THE FIRST FAR RIGHT EUROPEAN LEADER SINCE WWII.

I KNOW THAT TITLE SOUNDS PRESTIGIOUS, BUT IT'S ONE THOSE TITLES THAT MEANS TERRIBLE THINGS ARE TO COME - LIKE "THE NEW CELEBRITY APPRENTICE" OR "THE NEW MRS. OJ SIMPSON."

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF DECEMBER'S ELECTION, THE UNEXPECTED SUPPORT FOR AUSTRIA'S FREEDOM PARTY IS SYMBOLIC OF A LARGER WAVE OF ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENT SWEEPING THE EUROPEAN UNION. THIS RICKETY FORM OF FEAR MONGERING IS BEST DISPLAYED IN THIS VIDEO GREETING THAT THE FREEDOM PARTY'S ARMIN SIPPEL RECORDED FOR REFUGEES ARRIVING IN AUSTRIA:

[VT-SOT: EXPRESS.CO.UK 6/7/16: <http://bit.ly/2jikSgk>: Sippel (subtitled): "DEAR ASYLUM SEEKERS, THE SWIMMING POOL SEASON HAS BEGUN, AND...AFTER HAVING HEARD SOME UMPLEASANT THINGS, HERE ARE SOME RULES ON HOW TO BEHAVE. WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED IS TO PROVOCATIVELY LOOK AT WOMEN, TO WHISTLE OR TO HARASS THEM IN ANY KIND OF WAY TO MAKE MAKE THEM FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE. WHAT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT ACCEPTABLE IS TO HARASS THEM IN A CLUB OR TOUCH THEM ON THEIR BUT OR THEIR BREASTS.]

WHAT I WOULD GIVE TO HEAR THE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY ON THIS: (IN AN AUSTRIAN ACCENT) 'WE ASKED OURSELVES, WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO ENCOURAGE RESPECT FOR WOMEN? LET'S HAVE A COMMERCIAL WHERE A WOMAN NEVER APPEARS ON SCREEN. INSTEAD, WE'LL JUST SHOVE ONE OF MY COUSIN'S MANNEQUINS INTO THE PICTURE, I'LL FEEL IT UP, AND THE TERRIFIED MEN OF AUSTRIA WILL HAVE TO WONDER: WHAT IF THAT WAS MY 1997 FASHION MANNEQUIN?

LOOK, SEXUAL ASSAULT MUST ALWAYS BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. BUT PRETENDING AS IF GROSS MEN IS A PROBLEM THAT COMES SOLELY FROM THE VERY PEOPLE WHO ARE BEGGING YOU FOR ASYLUM FROM DEATH AND PERSECUTION IS A NARRATIVE THAT IS ABOUT AS FALSE AS WELL...THAT MANNEQUIN YOU ARE GENTLY SPANKING.

I'M GOING TO GO OUT ON A LIMB AND SAY THAT THE PEOPLE CLUB-GOING AUSTRIAN WOMEN SHOULD FEAR PROBABLY LOOK LESS LIKE THIS

[OTS: A SYRIAN FAMILY IN A BOAT]

AND MORE LIKE THIS...

[OTS: <http://bit.ly/2iB1Nc7> FREEZE FRAMES OF ARMIN SIPPEL GRABBING THE MANNEQUIN'S BREAST]

YEP. PRETTY SURE THAT'S THE UNIFORM.

AND IF THAT GENERALIZATION FEELS UNFOUNDED AND TOO BROAD, IT'S A GOOD THING I'M NOT USING TO DENY YOU ASYLUM.

THIS YEAR, NORBERT HOFER IS NOT GOING TO BE THE LAST POLITICIAN TRYING TO RIDE XENOPHOBIA ALL THE WAY TO THE PRESIDENCY. IT IS UP TO THE REST OF US TO REMIND OUR FELLOW CITIZENS THAT, WHILE FEAR IS EXCITING

[OTS: DONALD TRUMP]

AND STRANGELY....SEDUCTIVE

[OTS: NORBERT HOFER SEDUCTIVELY LOUNGING ON A COUCH <http://bit.ly/2jltnwc>]

DEMOCRACY AND RESPECT FOR HUMANITY ISN'T ELITIST

[OTS: HILLARY CLINTON]

OR BORING.

[OTS: VAN DER BELLEN BACK IN HIS LIBRARY]

WE MUST SHOW THAT EXPERIENCE AND HUMAN DECENCY IS - IN ITS OWN WAY - PRETTY FUCKING SEXY.

AND NOW THIS...

THE SEXIER SIDE OF ECONOMIST AND CURRENT AUSTRIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ALEXANDER VAN DER BELLEN.

We see mundane shots of Van Der Bellen set to very smoky sexy music.

VAN DER BELLEN SMILES ON A BENCH <http://bit.ly/2iyWf6L>

VAN DER BELLEN PLAYS A TROMBONE <http://bit.ly/2ju4ocu>

VAN DER BELLEN LOUNGES IN THE GRASS AND SMOKES A CIGARETTE <http://bit.ly/2ju4ocu>

VAN DER BELLEN DISPLAYS A LOAF OF BREAD <http://bit.ly/2j6FV9v>