

309 Taiwan No Nuclear Protests --Over 200,000 Taiwanese Stand Up



by Eating Chu 朱蕙婷



On March 9, over 200,000 people joined anti-nuclear protests in Taiwan. They were held in four main cities and one off-shore island, including Taipei, Taichung, Kaohsiung, Taitung and Penghu by over 150 civil organizations. The number of participators also broke the record in the anti-nuclear protests' history.

It was near the second anniversary of the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, so this tragic event made Taiwanese' s collective consciousness much stronger than before. However, the Taiwanese government failed to learn a lesson and still resumed using the nuclear power plants.

According to organizers, the demonstrations sought to make five statements: stop funding for the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant, stop installing fuel rods at the plant, stop the operation of all three nuclear power plants, remove all nuclear waste from Orchid Island, and requested the government to implement restrictions on power use.

There were also many celebrities who attended this demonstration in Taipei, such as film directors Ko I-cheng (柯一正), Leon Dai(戴立忍), playwright Hsiao Yeh (小野), music band Wang Fu (旺福), and actor Ethan Ruan(阮經天). This biggest protest showed the Taiwanese' s will "We don' t need a nuclear power, we want a secure homeland."



2013 Mega Port Festival

by Ann Wang 王宇安

Before all those petit stories occurred, I had been looking forward to them since Chinese new year's eve, the night I took out two thousand dollars from my red envelopes so that I could save a bit money for the gig. And after the two days filled with indie rock songs, peoples and scenes, never did I know that I would discover all these red spots on my nose and cheek the next morning when I thought everything was over but it was not.

March 3, on our second day to Mega Port Music Festival at Kaohsiung Port, the weather got better than yesterday. The sun was still not coming out, yet at least it was not the other rainy day. We had this gloomy sky almost all day long. But it could not kill the gig.

In afternoon my boyfriend, Patrick, and I were watching a great show of Aphasia, my long time post-rock accompanist since 2009. Now I finally got to see them live. Yet onstage there was a person new. This guy looked quite young, holding a red and white post-rocker-beloved electric guitar, Telecaster, quietly standing on the right side of the stage and playing along with this perhaps one of the earliest Taiwanese post-rock lineup. He was 25 as Patrick told me—only 4 years older than me.

After the Aphasia gig, we stayed tuned to that stage (there were five in total), and together we watched another show performed by 88 Balaz. Quite different from the former band, 88 Balaz was more punk than post-rock. The lead singer was playing his jazz guitar while doing old-fashion Japanese-style-like dances at the same time.

The songs were almost like dancing songs; therefore, Patrick and I went crazy hopping and dancing along with the music after some sippings of beer. (We were not the only nuts downstage!) Suddenly we noticed that the young guitar player from Aphasia was standing right beside us!

I looked at him. Our eyes met. Then we cheered with beers that came in handy. And I remember I gave him a very, very, very friendly smile from the heart. Sooner or later, the beer in my hand was empty, and I told Patrick about this sad news. Then, the golden moments of the whole Mega Port Festival hours started now! Winnie, the young guitar player, handed me the can of beer of his! So Patrick and I finished up Winnie's can of beer. Winnie's can of beer!

That was not over. After awhile, he went backstage and carried out three more cans of beer: one for his friend, one for him and one for us! At this moment (we should not forget the players on the stage) the bass player of 88 Balaz just put down her bass guitar and came downstage to join her crazy audience: No sooner was she carried up into air by her audience. People were going bananas for her coming down. (But, seriously, didn't anyone care we had no bass player on the spot?)

What an amazing show. Together I went through that sunset to night with 88 Balaz and other fans. Here in the presence of my eyes was the indie rock scene of Taiwan. It was so fun and loving. In the festival, rock players were not just everyday rock players onstage or on Facebook. They seemed like my familiar stranger friends. They were playing onstage, walking and talking to their friends among the passersby or standing right beside me.

The three cans of beer perhaps inspired my allergic gene, so I got the red spots on my face. Or maybe they were sunburns from a gloomy day for I neglected the importance of applying sunscreen. Or perhaps my red nose and cheek came from both allergy and sunburn.

I remember I was screaming to the mirror when I saw them the next morning. I was going too crazy for Mega Port; however, to be all frank, I had so much fun and saw some amazing shows: Grizzly Bear, 8mm Sky and 88 Balaz. Were there more stories about me and other rock players? Of course!

Last but not least, my classmates Sherry, Phoebe and Charity have their stories too. (Ha ha, I sell you guys.) Nevertheless, I believe everyone being part of the gig is able to tell their own, different stories. In short, Mega Port Festival was wonderful.





G R E A T F R E S C O E S O F T H E A R T I S T M I C H E L A N G E L O

by Mei 李佳穎

Michelangelo is an artist who's especially famous for his sculptures. I happened to have the chance to pay a visit to the Michelangelo exhibition and was attracted by his paintings, or precisely, his frescoes.

There was one painting of God that impressed me the most. The colors were vivid; the sky he painted was so blue that it seemed to be shining, for he used the color that was made from a kind of precious rock called "Lapis lazuli", which made the color seemingly glittering. God, who's surrounded by the shining blue, was portrayed as majestic and absolute.

Unfortunately it's not a famous work, but the lapis lazuli blue can be seen on another well-known work The Last Judgment.



On another famous fresco Genesis, which can be seen in Sistine Chapel, each decorative nude figure around God had a face of his own, and nobody had the same pose. That was indeed a masterpiece, for it was both delicate and complicated.

Besides the serious God, there are also some other works that made me feel warm. I saw two boys show their care toward each other, and the color of that was not that raging as the one portraying God. I think that this is because Michelangelo's work reflected his feelings, and the works could be done in a heart-capturing way. Most of the figures looked beautiful, so I enjoyed his frescoes so much.

Eggtart Workhouse Variegates Your Life in Pingtung

by By Han-sheng, Li 李翰昇

Eggtart Workhouse, which specializes in making Portuguese custard tart, opened four new branch stores in Pingtung. Eggtart Workhouse is famous for its custard tarts in just two flavors- original and ice cream. The custard tart in the original flavor has crispy scarfskin and soft stuff; the ice-cream flavor also has a crispy skin and ice cream. Both of them are so tasty that you may be eager to eat one more just after eating the first one. Its selling strategies deserve to be mentioned.



You cannot buy at only one box of custard tarts. For the original flavor, there may be eight small custard tarts or six big custard tarts in a box; on the other hand, you can only buy the ice cream custard tarts in a box of six.

Furthermore, if you want to buy them in a large amount, you can buy a set of coupons. There would be eleven coupons in a set and each coupon could be equal to a whole box of egg tarts. If you pay for ten boxes, you can get eleven boxes of egg tarts. The coupons are suitable for gifts to substitute cash. If you were not sure whether you should buy a box of custard tarts, you could just visit the store and you can get two custard tarts of each flavor for free and then decide which one you like. Eggtart Workhouse may be a great choice if you really love to eat these treats.

8 days VOLUNTEERING at FO GUANG SHAN (佛光山)

by Johnny Chang 張仲羽

As school was starting soon, several classmates of mine and I decided to catch the tail of winter vacation — we were volunteers in Fo Guang Shan. Fo Guang Shan is a mountain located in Kaohsiung County and it is known for its spectacular Buddhist temples and buildings.



According to the Chinese lunar calendar, a five-day carnival parade takes place there and normally starts from the first day to the fifth day of the first month. The parade usually begins at 9.30 a.m. and lasts until 8.30 p.m.

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This year, I was assigned to play a huge doll that is officially known as mascot of Fo Guang Shang. My job was simply to carry the doll and follow the parade around Fo Guang Shang. Even though it was winter, the weather was rather warm and that made the doll feel heavier with every step. I have to admit, it was never an easy task but as long as you could make it to the end, there would be splendid fireworks waiting for you.

After five days of volunteering, I was extremely exhausted but undeniably, I did experience a lot. I learned much about interacting with people and showing respect to a job. Most importantly, I felt the passion and energy in everyone. This was truly an unforgettable experience and I would definitely go back to Fo Guang Shan again.



● By the way, I was in the green one.

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