

“The Wrath of Barney, the Big Purple Dinosaur”

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When the rebellion first started, everyone took it for a hoax. A really funny hoax too. Even though their transmission managed to interrupt every channel on TV- no one was seriously concerned. No one took it as a warning. We should have. The people responsible were too smart and well funded to be kidding.

Would you take it seriously if Barney the big purple dinosaur came on television wearing a military uniform? Would you think it was the first move in a plan that would bring America to its knees?

Well, neither did we.

But I am here, writing this in a hole deep underneath the earth. I'm cold and I think I have a viral infection from the last time they dropped chemical gas down here. I was too slow with my mask. There are a few hundred fighters remaining. I'm trying to get this down on paper so maybe the truth of history won't be lost to the Purple Dinosaur and his ruthless armies.

After the broadcast, the only interested party was the FCC. They weren't at all happy about people hacking into the broadcasting system. Unfortunately, whoever broke into the system did so without leaving a trace, and the FCC investigation turned up no solid leads. No one lifted a finger to investigate what was almost universally seen as a big-time version of MTV's Punked, not the police, Congress, the CIA, or the Office of Homeland Security. This was at least partially due to the fact that a large number of their members were among the brainwashed.

I was watching a re-run of the Simpsons when Barney took over the airwaves for the first time. He was six feet tall and purple, standing in front of a drab black curtain. Usually Barney is naked, but for his first national address, he wore a formal military uniform covered in medals. Propped up on his big purple head was a General's cap- the universal headgear of the military dictator.

He was, as always, gesticulating wildly.

When he spoke, it was in that familiar falsetto that cut through the nerves of a generation of parents. Sort of like Goofy on helium. His message was short and to the point, over nearly as quickly as it began.

“Now, my children, the time has come. You all know what to do. Think back to when you were children, everything you need to know is in those memories. Now sing along with me.”

Music began playing from somewhere off camera. Barney minced around a bit as the intro played, and then he broke into his familiar, and maddening, theme song,

“I love you, you love me...” but he changed the second part from “We're a happy family, to “kill your en-tire-er faaam-ily.” Then Barney flashed what appeared to be some kind of gang-sign with his purple paw, and the screen went blank. There was a series of flashes, and two seconds later the brief message played again.

The Barney broadcast played a third time before, as quickly as it appeared, the interruption ended. Everything returned to its normal broadcasting schedule.

The entire event, from beginning to end, was exactly 30 seconds.

Nobody knew it, but in those 30 seconds a 20 year old plot was brought to fruition. Every aspect of the event was managed and carefully chosen, from how the brainwashing was accomplished, to the exact day and time of Barney's interruption.

Even though the pirate transmission was played on every television station in prime time on a Thursday night, the number of people who saw the initial broadcast was fairly small. Maybe 30% of the target audience had their deeply buried programming activated. This was quite a large number, but nowhere near the amount of people needed for a successful mission. However, never underestimate the media's ability to overplay a story to the point of nausea.

In this, the media unknowingly fell directly into the planner's trap.

The interruption became a national media obsession. The 30 second clip was played over and over again on the news, on the internet, and even on the radio. Within three weeks the punk metal band "The Evildrome Boozorama" recorded a version of Barney's "Kill your entire family" that rocketed to the top of the pop charts and was still number one when the revolution came.

When an enterprising and curious filmmaker examined a raw tape of the Barney broadcast, he discovered the odd flashing between the repeated segments was actually a simple subliminal message.

"The Eagle has landed."

The discovery of the subliminal message only increased the public's interest in the segment, and in the course of the three weeks the Barney Broadcast (as it was dubbed by CNN) was a saturation level story, there was scarcely a person in America who didn't see it and form an opinion of it one way or the other.

The academicians called it, "The most agile deconstruction of the pseudo fascistic tendencies of neo-Spockian childhood aesthetics since Barbara Manalope burned the Elmo doll on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial."

Fox news called it, "A childish, un-American act of terrorism."

The Village Voice declared, "That was a hoot!"

The Barney Broadcast was one of those things everyone was able to have feelings about one way or another. Not just regular feelings, but passionate, committed feelings that made no sense and had no relationship whatsoever to logic- like arguing over favorite football teams or which Olsen twin is hotter.

A few web sites popped up trying to warn people the entire thing wasn't *necessarily* a prank, but they were summarily ignored- or in a tragic slice of irony- treated as a prank. I've heard a rumor that the entire plan, from soup to nuts, was on the internet for 2 weeks before people affiliated with the revolution took it down.

When I heard the story, I took it to be a joke.

Only it wasn't.

The "movement," as the Barnarians came to call their takeover of America, happened so quickly, and with such ferocious speed, barely anyone even lifted a finger to stop them.

This is what we know for sure:

Barney was initially invented by a teacher in 1987.

The subliminal audio technique used to brainwash the children was developed at MIT in the mid 80's for the Pentagon under the program name EARSCREW.

At some point in 1989 the Fathers rented a video of the still un-syndicated Barney show and the plot was born.

With seed money and contacts from the Fathers, Barney first aired in April 1992. Due in large part to the subliminal messages placed within the show, Barney the Dinosaur exploded, reaching a level of popularity on par with Cabbage Patch Dolls and Pokemon.

In those early days the Fathers were based in Littleton, Colorado.

For over 20 years the Fathers waited patiently for their brainwashed legion of children to grow up, go to college, join the military, and begin to find their places in the American corridors of power. They waited for the proper economic and social factors to be in place. They knew, even back in the 80's, how much unrest would be caused by the Baby Boomer retirement wave that didn't start until 2010. They bode their time, and picked their moment.

Six months after the initial broadcast of the message, at exactly 2AM Eastern Standard Time, 73% of the military, 65% of the country's police force, and almost the entire Secret Service, turned on the very people they were meant to be protecting.

Within a month of the Barney Broadcast, the Fathers had complete control of almost every person between the age of 23 and 28, and a smaller, but still significant number of the people 22 and younger. Over the next five months this massive population of people found their way to one of thousands of pre-set locations where they received individualized instructions on their role in "the movement." No one had any memory of going to these meetings.

The President, every member of Congress, all nine of the Supreme Court Justices, and 45 of the 50 governors of the US were dead by 2:10. Their executions were playing on the Barney controlled media by 5 that morning.

All over America, people who performed key tasks in the community were being murdered by their children or neighbors. Mayors, electricians, anyone who had technical skills, all killed. Some estimates say as many as one hundred thousand people were killed that first night.

We went to bed in a democracy, and we woke up in a dictatorship ruled by a purple dinosaur. The UN, led by the Europeans, moved to fight for the liberation of America. There was even talk of a Normandy style invasion of Boston. Then the Fathers preemptively nuked the Middle East (where there was no Barney) into the stone age. Europe backed down and the US was left to its own devices. A resistance began in America, but it wasn't particularly widespread in the beginning. No one had any way to tell how many people died because the Barney Hour didn't broadcast any numbers. There are small, underground papers, but they only come out sporadically and it's hard to know what's true and what isn't.

We still know very little about these men and what motivated them to do what they've done.

Once they had effective control of the government, the Barnarians (as the brainwashed called themselves) received daily instructions and brainwashing reinforcement during the Barney Hour, which used to play on every station at 7PM until the counter-revolutionaries started planning all of their movements for between 7 and 8. From then on the Barney hour was on 24 hours a day on every station.

The local Barnarians form every night into squads who search and destroy those the Barney ruling elite deem to be “without love for the uber-father.” No one ever knows how or why they’re on the list. They just wake up with muzzles in their faces, if they ever get a chance to wake up at all.

I think everyone was shocked when the Teletubby Liberation Army suddenly became active, commanded by the equally purple, but according to Pat Robertson, gay; Tinky-Winky.

Now, as a member of the “elders,” as almost everyone over the age of 29 has come to be known, I fight against both the Teletubbians and the Barnarians. But I fear it is only a matter of days before we down here are dead and what shall become of America then, I just don’t know.