WEDNESDAY: IF I HAD A HEART

> *Crushed and filled with all I found*
> *Underneath and inside*
> *Just to come around*
> *More, give me more, give me more*
>
> – excerpt, If I Had a Heart by Fever Ray

Today's featured single is from Fever Ray's eponymous debut album 'Fever Ray', the stage name for Swedish singer, songwriter and record producer Karin Elisabeth Dreijer Andersson. If her work sounds familiar, it may be that she and her brother Olof Dreijer also performed as The Knife. Karin's work is reminiscent of Lykke Li's and Bjork's electronic/ambient works, redolent with dark rhythms and layers of deep and high-pitched vocals – very Nordic feminine.

Fever Ray has been very popular with television programmers; the cut featured here is the theme song for History Channel's Vikings series. It's also been used in AMC's Breaking Bad and WB's The Following. Other songs by Karin as Fever Ray including Keep the Streets Empty for Me have been used by CBS' Person of Interest and Canadian TV's Heartbeats as well as a number of films. I'm looking forward to her next work, wondering if it will be just as popular TV and film industry.

Fossil feud

- TransCanada approval hearing delayed due to protests (Reuters) – Not just U.S. and Native Americans protesting oil pipelines right now; Canada's National Energy Board deferred this week's hearings due to

security concerns (they say). The board is scheduled to meet again in early October about the planned pipeline from Alberta to Canada's east coast. There may be more than security concerns holding up these hearings, though…

- Big projects losing favor with Big Oil (WaPo-Bloomberg) – The ROI on big projects may be negative in some cases, which doesn't service massive debt Big Oil companies have incurred. They're looking at faster turnaround projects like shale oil projects – except that these quick-hit projects have poorly assessed externalities which will come back and bite Big Oil over the long run, not to mention the little problem of fracking's break-even point at $65/barrel.
- Big Insurance wants G20 to stop funding Big Fossil Fuel (Guardian) – Deadline the biggest insurers set is 2020; by then, Big Insurance wants the G20 nations to stop subsidizing and financing fossil fuels including Big Oil because subsidies and preferential

financing skew the true cost of fossil fuels (hello, externalities).

- Standing Rock Sioux continue their protest against the North Dakota Access Pipeline (Guardian) – Video of the protest at that link. Calls to the White House supporting the Sioux against the DAPL are solicited. Wonder if anybody's pointing out fracked shale oil is a losing proposition?

Zika-de-doo-dah

- Adult mosquitoes can transmit Zika to their offspring (American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene) – Study looked at infected *Aedes aegypti* and *albopictus* mosquitoes and found the virus in subsequent larva. My only beef with this study is that *Culex* species were not also studied; they aren't efficient carriers of Zika, but they do carry other flavivirus well and there are too many cases with unexplained transmission which could have been caused by infected *Culex*. Clearly need to do more about pre-hatch mosquito control

regardless of species.

- Three drugs show promise in halting Zika damage in humans (Johns Hopkins Univerity Hub) – Important to note some of the same researchers who demonstrated Zika caused damage in mice brain models earlier this year have now rapidly screened existing drugs to test against mice brain models. The drugs include an anti-liver damage medication (emricasan), an anti-parasitic (niclosamide), and an experimental antivirus drug. The limitation of this research is that it can't tell how the drugs act across placenta to fetus and whether they will work as well and safely once through the placenta on fetuses. More research (and funding!) is needed.
- Contraception no big deal, says stupid old white male GOP senator's staffer (Rewire) – Right. If only McConnell and his staff could experience the panic of being poor and at risk of Zika. Not everybody in Puerto Rico has ready access to the "limited number of public health departments,

> hospitals, and Medicaid Managed Care clinics," let alone other states like Texas which has such awful women's reproductive care in terms of access and funding the maternal mortality rate has doubled in two years, up 27%. Pro-life, my ass. By the way, this lack of access to contraception affects men, too, who may unknowingly be infected with Zika and tranmit it to their sexual partners.

Longread Must-read: Super court

If you haven't already done so, you need to read this investigative report by Chris Hamby at BuzzFeed. While it answers a lot of questions about the lack of perp walks, it spawns many more.

Hasta luego, compadres!