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Listings

Events & Shout-outs local cool stuff & when/where it is happening. Got an event, meeting or demo? Let us know!

Solidarity Vigil with Military Resister Michael Lyons
3pm-5pm August 6th @ Military Corrective Training Centre, Berechurch Hall Rd (Stoneacre Road entrance)

Navy Medic Michael Lyons is serving 7 months imprisonment for refusing rifle training and to deploy to Afghanistan. Come along to support his right to be a conscientious objector. Featuring talks from activists and veterans. See www.couragetoresist.org/ for more

Earth First! Summer Gathering
August 10th-15th, Somewhere in East Anglia! (contact EF for details)

Workshops, skill-sharing and planning action, plus low-impact living without leaders. Meet people, learn skills, take action. Anarchist Teapot will provide vegan food for £5 a day. £20-30 to cover costs. See www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk for more



Transition Town Colchester
2:00 – 5:00pm August 21st @ Slack Space

Transition Colchester ask "with a sustainable future in our hands, what difference can we make?". All welcome to come share opinions, views and questions. Email: ttcolchester@googlemail.com for more info.

Spectre Review Meeting - 15th of each month
Come get involved with the paper and let us know what you think! Email us for details and location.

Camp Constant – Save Dale Farm!
August 27th till the bailiffs give in, Dale Farm, Basildon

Camp Constant will be helping Dale Farm residents defend their homes. Your help is urgently needed. Spend the night at Dale Farm, help prepare defences or act as a legal observer. See dalefarm.wordpress.com for more on how to help.



Colchester Against The Cuts Stall
Saturday 12:00 – 2:00pm Eld Lane

Come get the latest news from your local anti-cuts campaign & learn what's happening to our vital services.



Colchester Food Not Bombs

Food Not Bombs Colchester is looking to re-launch this Summer! FNB saves food from going to waste and uses it to feed the hungry and spread a message of Radical Social Change. See

www.foodnotbombs.net/ for more or email colchestercoop@gmail.com for more local info.

Red n Black Drinks Club!
Last Sunday of the Month @ a Pub in Colchester

Have a drink and talk radical politics in a relaxed, slightly boozy atmosphere. Pubs will rotate until we find a cosy regular. Email rednblack@gmx.co.uk for details and meeting place.

Culture Zone

There's a boy in the corner,
Tapping his feet,
Looks like he's waiting for someone.
Crowds upon crowds,
are passing him by,
I know he's waiting for no one.
Looks at his shoes,
Ruffles his hair,
Now he's starting to cry.
His uniform tattered,
A bruise on his cheek,
And nobody wants to know why.
Scared to go home,
Now sat in the dirt,
He wishes he could go away.
Away from his father,

Away from his corner,
Somewhere he'd run, laugh and play.
I can't help but watch,
As he pulls himself up,
And limps away down the stairs.
The boy from the corner,
Goes home to abuse,
And no one who saw him cares.
So he'll go on like his,
Being beaten and cursed,
For all of his father's mistakes.
His mother does nothing,
She's living in fear,
When she looks at her boy her heart breaks .

Tom Hughes

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The Spectre will return next month!
Send submissions to: TheSpectre@hush.com

And check out network23.org/thespectre for more more!



THE SPECTRE

ALTERNATIVE INDEPENDENT RADICAL NEWS

Issue 3 August 2011

Free/Donation

Pie in the B SkyB!

From The Editors...

If this is the first time that you've seen a copy of The Spectre, then welcome to Colchester's radical independent paper! Inside, you'll find articles on some of this month's top stories and perhaps one or two you won't have seen elsewhere. We aim to give a different set of opinions to those you'll find in your average paper. This month we bring you our view on Rupert Murdoch and the News of The World fiasco, some thoughts on the recent tragedy in Norway and a round-up of the court case against peaceful protesters arrested back in March. Make sure you check out the back page, where each month we bring you our events listings of local groups, meetings, protests and other interesting stuff. We also have a blog (network23.org/thespectre) with more updates and news, plus updates from one of our bloggers who is offering insights into life in Palestine during his time with the International Solidarity Movement. We're always on the look-out for new writing or updates from local campaign groups (or just feedback), so don't hesitate to get in touch (email address at the bottom of this page). And if you have seen a copy of The Spectre before, then welcome back!

Inside:

p. 2: The White Terrorist – thoughts on the Norway attacks.
Welcome to Though Crime -Met police criminalising political views.
p. 3: Fortnum Mason 145 update
All right for Some – what does an imprisoned peer make these days?
Back-page: Radical events & shout outs + poetry from Tom Hughes

Murdoch In The Dock?

Rupert Murdoch was never going to face any real justice at the hands of the Parliamentary Committee that called him in on July 19th, but he did come close to feeling a tiny piece of the rage and disgust people feel towards him when UK Uncut activist Johnny Marbles got him in the face with a shaving foam pie.

Some people might say that trying to slap an 80 year old man in the face just isn't right, but lets not forget who this particular old man is: since 1968, Rupert Murdoch has been responsible for buying up the British press piece by piece and turning it into a media empire that has

blamed the victims of the Hillsborough disaster, abused it's workers in Wapping, supported wars in the Falklands and Iraq, consistently printed homophobic and sexist rubbish and – most recently- hacked the phones of dead soldiers and school girls to get at their voice-mail messages all the while reporting half-truths and one sided stories. Rupert himself has spent the time getting cosy with the political big cheeses of the UK, having private meetings with both Blair and Cameron where they've discussed policy decision (very democratic, eh?), attacking



Eating Humble Pie? Not Likely!

independent media (which to him means anything he doesn't own yet) and getting very, very rich. So don't feel sorry for him, the line of people furious at him is a long one – a pie in his face would be getting off very lightly!

The News of The World phone hacking scandal is of course what's been keeping Rupert up at night lately (that's assuming he does actually sleep) and the reason he was dragged in front of the Parliamentary Committee with his equally slimy offspring James. Of course, there

was nothing this Committee could do – in recent weeks it's started to look like everyone with a hand running the country has been tied up with the dirty goings on at Murdoch's News International, from the top coppers who've admitted to taking bribes and sitting on evidence to the PM, (cont. on page 2)

"it's started to look like everyone with a hand running the country has been tied up with the goings on at News International"

Get involved! TheSpectre@hush.com



Dale Farm residents prepare to resist forced eviction at the hands of Basildon Council at the end of the month. See back page for info.

(cont. from page 1) who's been both great mates and employer to the former NOTW editor responsible for the hacking, Andy Coulson. With so many big players involved how could a lowly committee reprimand the man without any fear of a backlash against them? Plus, after the pie incident, Murdoch played the 'helpless old man in shock' card so well that some have speculated that Mr. Marbles' pie was planted to get the attention off of Rupert make him look sympathetic (if that's possible) and the questioning became noticeably less harsh.

Whether the pie stunt has backfired and taken the heat off Murdoch or not, his recent vow that they will be "be no place to hide" for those responsible looks creepily ominous as one whistle-blower, former NOTW journalist Sean Hoare, has turned up dead. Whatever the case might be, the scandal is still rumbling on – the FBI are now looking into whether or not reporters in his American venture (the so-sensationalist-it's-funny Fox News) hacked the phones of 9/11 victims too. Could this spell the end for a giant that has plagued mass media for decades? Only time will tell...

The white terrorist – Disbelief and denial

In the beginning hours and days of the terrorist attacks in Norway, the media were buzzing with speculations about Islamic and eastern terror groups being responsible. Pretty much every outlet of the mainstream media left in to declare it the work of Islamic extremists – even after details of the shooting came out, making it look a lot less like a typical 'Al-Qaeda' attack, most of them stuck with this assumption. The Sun even ran a headline calling the events 'Norway's 9/11' and even name checked Al-Qaeda on their front page (but they put it in quote marks, so they can't be accused of jumping to conclusions...) just to drive home the fact that a Muslim *must* have done this.

“ It looked like the papers and the TV news wanted it to be linked to Islam badly “

Things started to get ridiculous after the facts emerged that the attacker was in fact a blonde Norwegian man with 'piercing

All right For Some...

A quick update on the story of Paul White (aka Baron Hanningfield) that appeared on the blog last month – despite being sent to prison last month for stealing nearly £14,000 in expenses claims during his stint as a Peer in the House of Lords, White is *still* receiving his £11,000 allowance as councillor for Essex. Not that he actually went to London to represent his constituents when he was free, but now he physically can't. Like we said before, there aren't many jobs where you can not turn up and still get paid... That really is cushy!

blue eyes' (that every paper seems to have been obsessed with), at which point the 'experts' began to suggest he must be a zealous convert to Islam. It looked like the papers and the TV news *wanted* it to be linked to Islam *so badly* that they'd clutch at any straws they could get. When it emerged the person responsible was actually a right-wing anti-Muslim Christian, all mention of religion disappeared from the analysis; words like 'insane' started flying around instead.

Suddenly the headlines no longer used the word terrorist, but described the deeds done by Breivik as the acts of a psychotic individual with no links to any organisations, a lone wolf and the product of his own twisted mind. One might ask what difference this makes, since most of the liberal and mainstream western media, considers all terrorists to be brainwashed nutcases.

The difference however lies in the fact that a terrorist is considered a person committing a wilful act of destruction with a cause and with the goal of sending a message, whereas a person with mental problems cannot be held responsible for his or her actions.

Looking at the evidence that has so far emerged and considering the enormous amount of planning and work Breivik put into his actions and 1500 page manuscript, it is clear that the western media is desperately trying to cover up the fact, that although Breivik may have been alone in his actions, the ideas that they stem from are far from unknown or the isolated thoughts of a psychotic person.

“ the western media is desperately trying to cover up the fact that his ideas that are far from the isolated thoughts of a psychotic person “

They were the logical actions of nationalistic policies, inspired by people like Timothy McVeigh and right-wing literature such as the Turner Diaries. Further fuelled by the new wave of right-wing movements popping up throughout Europe.

Since the incidents at Utyøa, most right-wing movements and nationalist parties in Scandinavia, have been quick to denounce Breivik as a man action alone without ties to the right.

What they don't write however are the facebook updates praising his attacks on the Norwegian youth party or the fact that his manuscript is heavily influenced by the thoughts of the English Defence League's anti Muslim statements and speeches. Last but not least, Breivik applauds the racist policies of the Danish Peoples' Party and the implementation of racist policies in Denmark. Including the detention of asylum seekers in camps or status as second grade citizens without equal rights, as well as the deportations of hundreds of individuals to

war zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although a direct line from the new right policies to Breivik cannot be made, it is however abundantly clear the these ideas have been a big part of the thoughts which inspired Breivik to embark on his way to terror.

This time we have the chance to catch fascism in its early stages, let not the children of Norway have died in vain.

Morten Lodberg

See the blog for more comment and analysis on this story.

Fortnum & Mason's 145



Supporters show their solidarity with the Fortnum Mason 145. With funny faces.

On the 26th of March 2011 145 peaceful protesters were arrested inside Fortnum and Mason department store in London during the TUC march after being given assurances by the police that they would be allowed to leave as soon as they left the store. The police's lies were in fact caught on camera and it is clear that they misinformed the people present in the store in order to facilitate their arrest. People participating in the sit-in (hardly a violent dangerous event...) were protesting against the tax-dodging of Fortnum and Mason owners Whittington Investments. In videos the protesters can be observed calmly talking and holding banners, no violence whatsoever is occurred and none was intended by the organisers. The logic behind the arrest of this large group of people has been said to be 'intelligence gathering' on behalf of the police, although what 'intelligence' they think can be gathered from grabbing random handfuls of activists remains to be seen. Some have likened the tactic to a 'fishing trip' – casting the net out and hoping they get something useful. 115 cases have now been dropped, but 30 people, who the police claim are the 'ring-leaders' will taken to court in the near future, some of them on the 13th of November. These people will be on trial and charged with aggravated trespass for the simple fact of voicing their opinions, owning and distributing leaflets and flags, and being present in a store that caters to the super-rich.

Welcome to Thought Crime

I doubt many people have heard of Project Griffin. It is a joint initiative between the City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police, set up in 2004 and based at the City Police's HQ, which has spread its network to police forces around the country and seeks to "advise and familiarise managers, security officers and employees of large public and private sector organisations across the capital on security, counter-terrorism and crime prevention issues".

Every week, Chief Inspector Nick Smith and his team at the 'Westminster Counter Terrorism Focus Desk', one of the Project Griffin projects, send out a briefing to businesses and this week's edition (<http://communitysafe.gov.uk/articles/5962-griffin-weekly-briefing-sheet-attached/attachments/801/download.pdf>) includes the extraordinary advice above. Leaving aside the rather limited definition of 'anarchism', the suggestion that "any information relating to anarchists should be reported to your local Police" is another example of the attempted criminalisation of ideas.

For the time being, holding anarchist sympathies is not a crime - although presumably any gossip, however dubious and ill-informed, will be passed on by borough-level SO15 Counter Terrorism Liaison Officers to the feverish data collectors at the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit. Are the Metropolitan Police simply starting to run low on 'Islamists' to keep tabs or are we seeing a shift towards the creation of a new amorphous, imaginary bogeyman? **Randon Blowe**

Homepage: <http://www.blowe.org.uk/>



Anarchism is a political philosophy which considers the state undesirable, unnecessary, and harmful, and instead promotes a stateless society, or anarchy. Any information relating to anarchists should be reported to your local Police.

Image from the latest 'Project Griffin' report. Is having the wrong opinion now against the law?