



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

### Against The EDL!

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11am, Whitechapel High Street**

Despite having most of their plans ruined (there's no march, they're not actually meeting in Whitechapel and several pubs have barred them), the EDL are still threatening to head down to East London. Join locals and other anti-fascists in opposing them, wherever they end up.

**Solidarity Vigil with Military Resister Michael Lyons 3pm-5pm September 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 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 support his right to be a conscientious objector. With talks from activists and veterans. See [www.couragetoresist.org/](http://www.couragetoresist.org/) for more

### Dale Farm Demonstration,

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1pm, Wickford Station**

Stop Basildon Council Tories and the Home Office Wasting Millions Bulldozing Dale Farm. The demonstration will go from Wickford Station to Dale Farm. Help spread the word on Facebook (search 'the dale farm demo'). See [dalefarm.wordpress.com](http://dalefarm.wordpress.com) for more

### Disarm DSEi!

**September 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, ExCel Centre, London**

Protest against the arms dealers selling their wares in London's Docklands. Representatives from various despotic regimes and armies will be there to buy weapons and torture equipment with the blessing of the British government. See inside story for more or visit [www.dsei.org](http://www.dsei.org)

## The Spectre Needs You!

We're always looking for new people to get involved with the paper, so if you've just read this issue and liked it, or even if you didn't and think you could make it better then **email us!** Articles should be between 300-500 words long (longer stuff might be edited or posted online) and about something topical. Obviously anything oppressive, offensive or just plain rubbish will be binned, but we're open to pretty much anything else. Also send us your questions, event listings, rants, poems, political cartoons etc. This paper is your paper!

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**The Spectre will return next month!**  
Send submissions to: [TheSpectre@hush.com](mailto:TheSpectre@hush.com)

And check out [network23.org/thespectre](http://network23.org/thespectre) for more more!

### Spectre Review Meeting - 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

Come get involved with the paper and let us know what you think! Email us for details and location.



### Colchester Against The Cuts Stall

**Saturday 12:00 – 2:00pm Eld Lane**

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

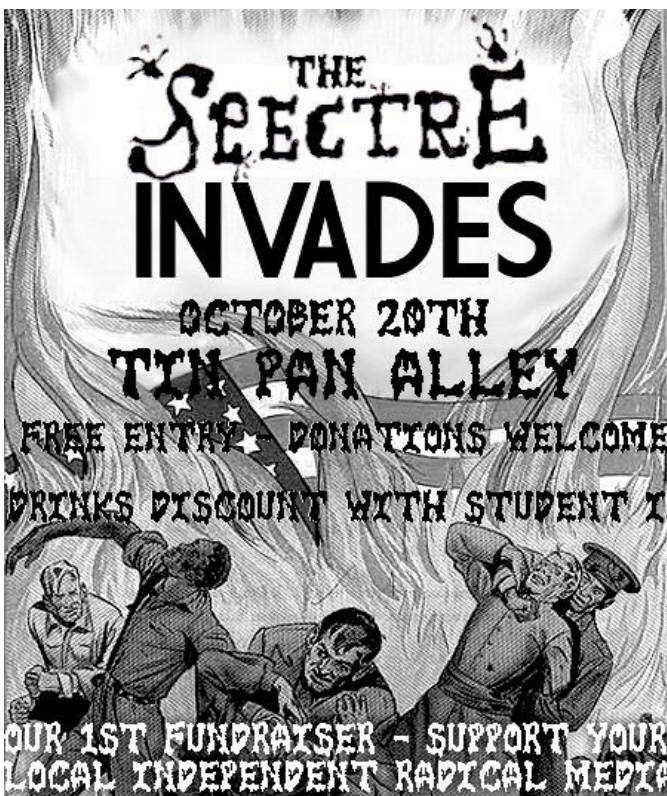


### Colchester Food Not Bombs

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/](http://www.foodnotbombs.net/) for more or email [colchestercoop@gmail.com](mailto:colchestercoop@gmail.com) for more local info.

**Special thanks to Vietnam Invades & Tin Pan Alley who's student nights begin September 8<sup>th</sup>. Cheers for helping us set up our first fund-raiser on October 20<sup>th</sup>1 (see our rip off of their poster below)**



# THE SPECTRE

ALTERNATIVE INDEPENDENT RADICAL NEWS

Issue 4 September 2011

Free/Donation

## Last Days for Dale Farm?

### From The Editors...

August was an eventful month if nothing else – we saw the riots in London (followed by the media backlash and crackdown on anyone and everyone linked to unrest - apart from the police and politicians who caused it in the first place of course) sparked off by another police murder in broad daylight (see page 2 for more on what the coppers get away with), Dale Farm residents were placed in siege conditions after their case was rejected in the High Court (see our main story), the EDL were made to look like a bunch of muppets (again) when all their plans to march in East London were spoiled (see our blog for more on that) and further afield, rebels in Libya chased the 'socialist' Gadhafi, who'd been living in grand palaces (very egalitarian, eh?) out of power.

Closer to home, The Spectre is organising its first benefit gig! Keep October 20<sup>th</sup> free, and head down to Tin Pan Alley to show your support for your local alternative press! It's free to get in and we guarantee a good night!\* Of course, you can always show your support by contributing articles for the next paper or hitting up the blog – we're open to all contributions and need people to write all the time. Whatever you feel like writing, send it in! (\*not actual guarantee)

#### Inside:

**p. 2:** The State & Double Standards Independent Media Under Attack!

**p. 3:** What a Waste...

If Ya Go Down to Docklands + cartoons from Kiz!

**Back-page:** Radical events & shout outs

### Abusing Human Rights- Burma, China... Basildon?

Over the past few months, we've been reporting on the situation at Dale Farm, Europe's largest traveller site. Having been systematically denied planning permission for part of the site (which the travellers actually legally purchased years ago), 90 families have been told their homes are illegal, that they 'encroach on green belt land' and will be bulldozed. The eviction notice has come into effect (as of midnight August 31<sup>st</sup>) which means that any day now families including elderly people and children could be forcibly cleared from the area by

Constant & Co. Bailiffs (a company with a reputation for brutality and destruction when it comes to travellers sites). Imagine if this was happening to *any other* minority group in this country – this kind of racism doesn't usually stand, but being anti-traveller seems to be the acceptable face of bigotry these days.

On the eve of the eviction notice coming into force, travellers took their case to the High Court, asking for the eviction to be delayed until Basildon Council could provide alternative space for them to live (and that doesn't include flats – these people want to keep their culture and way of life, not submit to the way the council wants to make them live). The High Court

*"any day now families including elderly people and children could be forcibly cleared by bailiffs"*

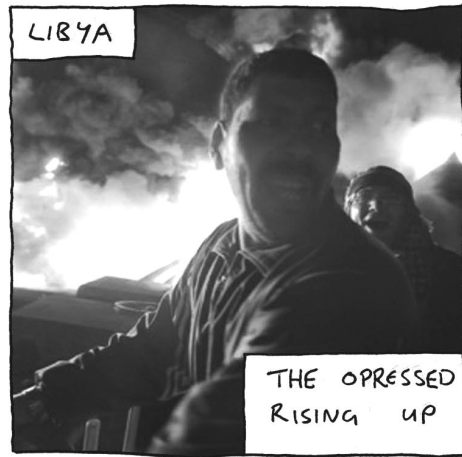
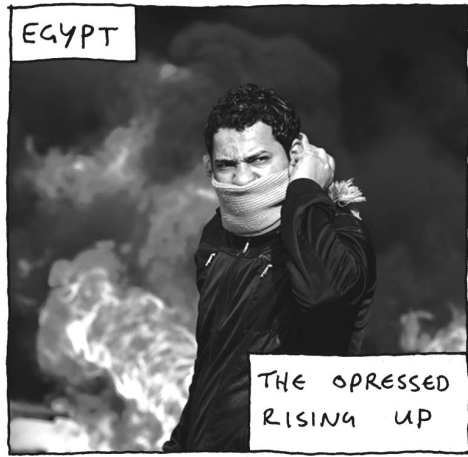


### *Resisting Ethnic Cleansing!*

rejected this claim and eviction is ready to roll any time. Amnesty International, the Human Rights organisation (usually known for supporting political prisoners and condemning dictatorships guilty of torture) have stepped in, suggesting that what Basildon Council is doing actually goes against the travellers' Human Rights, and even the UN is now criticising the UK government for letting this go ahead – according to the UN committee on the elimination of racial discrimination, "...Travellers and Gypsies already face considerable discrimination and hostility in wider society and... this could be worsened by actions taken by authorities in the current situation and by some media reporting on the issues." But it looks like those in charge are still prepared to go ahead with the £18million eviction. To show your support, head down to Camp Constant and help resist the eviction!

*"Amnesty International & the UN have criticised the UK government"*

## Get involved! [TheSpectre@hush.com](mailto:TheSpectre@hush.com)



### Double Standards & The State

1413. That's the number of deaths at the hands of the police since 1990, just 21 years. Of this number 106 were shot by the police and 620 died in pursuit. Not one single police officer has been convicted for the 330 deaths in police custody that have occurred since 1998. All of these numbers of course exclude cases where police have beaten protesters into a coma or seriously injured people at other occasions, often without provocation. This is again a clear example of double standards so inherent in the institutions of the state. Violence is authorized and portrayed as legitimate, as long as it is sanctioned by the state, which depends on violence for its very existence. Whether or not one agrees with what took place during the recent riots, the spark was another death at the hands of the police, and the refusal of the police to engage with people demanding answers. The complete lack of accountability stands in stark contrast with those who are not

*" In 21 years, police have shot 106 people dead and 330 have died in custody since 1998"*

'lucky' enough to form part of the police force or the established institutions of the state. A person steals a bottle of water and goes to prison for six months. An MP steals £8,865 from the population for a television and gets away with it. A policeman murders a civilian and never sees the inside of a prison cell. Were any member of the public to beat a peaceful protester in the head with a truncheon, causing brain injury, they would be lucky to ever walk outside again. These double standards are yet again emphasized with the recent riots in London. Did Mr Cameron, who recently condemned the riots as "sickening", not smash up restaurants as a member of the notorious exclusive Bullingdon Club in 1987? His good friend Boris Johnson naturally was also a member of the elite dining club. Of course, violence and destruction are ok so long as they are perpetrated by groups of privileged white upper class young men. Violence is ok when civilians in Iraq are killed and injured every day, violence is acceptable when the UK government and

*" violence is ok so long as it's perpetrated by groups of privileged white upper class men"*

### Independent Media Under Attack!

Over in Bristol last month, police took the heavy handed approach to censoring alternative media when they kicked in the door of one of the editors of The Autonomist in an attempt to link them to recent disorder and "domestic extremism" (that's the cop's misspelling, not ours). The police warrant authorised seizure of white paint and rocks believed to have been used in riots and also such dangerous items as 'clothing' and 'literature'. The Spectre urges readers to inform the police of any individuals with such dangerous items as clothes, books, a rockery or paint (it's only a matter of time before those thugs at Homebase get what's coming to 'em!). All of this, despite the lack of any actual evidence having come to light - why one might even think the police had some sort of ulterior motive here...

The Autonomist is a radical, independent monthly paper, much like the one you hold in your hands right now, written mostly by homeless members Bristol's activist community - never something that's going to be popular with the establishment - and it seems that lately they've just been saying the wrong thing about the recent riots (that is to say they refused to label everyone involved 'scum'). Being outside the official channels of corporate media, the Autonomist clearly proved too difficult to censor, so the police tried to do the job by intimidating members of it's collective and nicking their computers. As collective member Lucy Parsons says "The seizure of phones, computers, and paperwork relating to the production of the Autonomist just as we start to compile the September edition is a clear, worrying, and damaging attack on journalistic independence. The demonisation of those who report the news as "domestic extremists", and the willingness to use violence to silence them, does not fill us with confidence in the police or the future of liberty in this country. Regardless, we will continue to produce the Autonomist, using computers at the library if we have to, and you can expect the September issue at the turn of the month." Well good on you, and here's hoping we at The Spectre can avoid the same treatment...



### What a Waste...

Not many people take a pay cut and then see their earnings go up, but somehow Essex County Council chief exec Joanna Killian has managed it. Despite agreeing to take a five per cent salary cut last year, her actual pay package increased by £4,000, thanks to a £6,900 bonus she generously awarded herself - perhaps for doing such a good job administering cuts to public services.

It seems a little funny that the council can't afford to keep youth services running, hospital staff employed, school buses going or libraries open but it can find enough to pay their head honcho £147,000 pounds more than the PM (who isn't exactly having to scrape the pennies together), not to mention something in the region of £18million in Basildon to support an eviction that goes against the UN charter of Human Rights... Perhaps it's time for people to show them what their priorities should be?

BAE Systems can reap profit from it. Violence is justified when governments send soldiers to the other side of the earth to torture and murder people they have never even met, in the interests of a state that pretends to exist in order to protect us. This is not to mention the violence imposed on society that we have seen with the cuts on public services, which will hit the poor the hardest. This violence is of course justified because it is backed by the state.

### If Ya Go Down to Docklands Today...

Remember way back when the powers that be were busy searching Iraq for Weapons of Mass Destruction? Well if you head down to London's Docklands between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September, you can succeed where they all failed!

The ExCel centre will once again be playing host to DSEi (that's the Defence & Security Expo international), where arms dealers gather every other year to show off all their shiny new ways to slaughter people to representatives of foreign governments and repressive regimes. All subsidised with Tax payers' money of course! In fact, there will be more WMDs there for sale than anywhere else in the world - DSEi is one of the world's largest arms fairs, supplying everything from live ammo to war heads to tanks and more to whoever has the money to pay. And it seems that if you can pay, then nothing else matters; in previous years, generals and government officials who have admitted to using the items they buy for torture or for illegal wars, occupations and human rights abuses have been welcomed with open arms - in fact, buyers from Burma, China and Saudi Arabia are all regulars and when the arms dealers last came to town in 2009, Bahrain, Egypt and Libya - each of whom have turned weapons on democracy protesters in 2011 - were all present and correct.

You might ask why the British government continues to host an event where nations they end up fighting against or condemning for using weapons on their own people can come and get their hands on the best guns going - you might even ask why the government continues to support the arms trade as a whole when they claim to be for peace and democracy and the arms trade helps to make sure neither of those things exist - but the answer is simple: it's all about the cash! Of

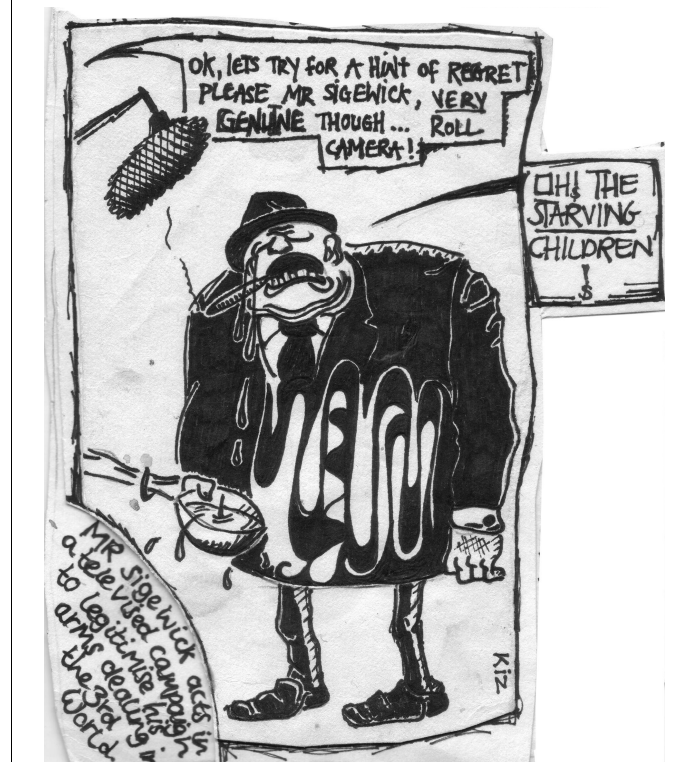
*" DSEi is one of the world's largest arms fairs"*

course no one wants to admit this, so there's a heavy smokescreen around the facts. The government (and the dealers) have all sorts of arguments to convince you what they're doing is a-okay and totally necessary - first they'll tell you it's a case of national security, that encouraging healthy arms exports ensures that the UK Armed Forces will have a good supply of arms. This of course assumes that the people we sell guns to are going to somehow pay us back with more guns and that the only way to ensure national security is through weapons and blowing people up (which doesn't sound very secure when you think about it).

*" The Arms Trade employs less than 0.2% of the UK population"*

Then they'll tell you that they support the arms trade because it's good for the economy and it provides so many jobs - in reality, less than 0.2% of people in the UK work in the arms trade and arms exports are worth less than 1.5% of all UK exports. So it's hardly doing a huge amount for the economy as far as

anyone who's not got shares in weapons manufacturing is concerned. Sometimes, they'll even wheel out the twisted idea that selling arms is somehow good for third world nations because it stimulates the economy even though they governments of these countries buy the weapons at the expense of schools, hospitals etc. etc. The truth is that war is big business. War makes states look big and strong, distracts people from problems closer to home and gets big bucks flowing in. If you think this is unethical, that it needs to stop or just that we can't afford to spend £200,000 on bringing murders together and another £4million on police to protect them, then get involved in the action against the arms fair. Visit <http://www.dsei.org/>, <http://www.caat.org.uk> or email [rednblack@gmx.co.uk](mailto:rednblack@gmx.co.uk) to help organise in Colchester.



### Until Next Time...

keep checking the blog and get writing! We want your takes on the news, comments and your creative writing  
Deadline for next issue is September 30th