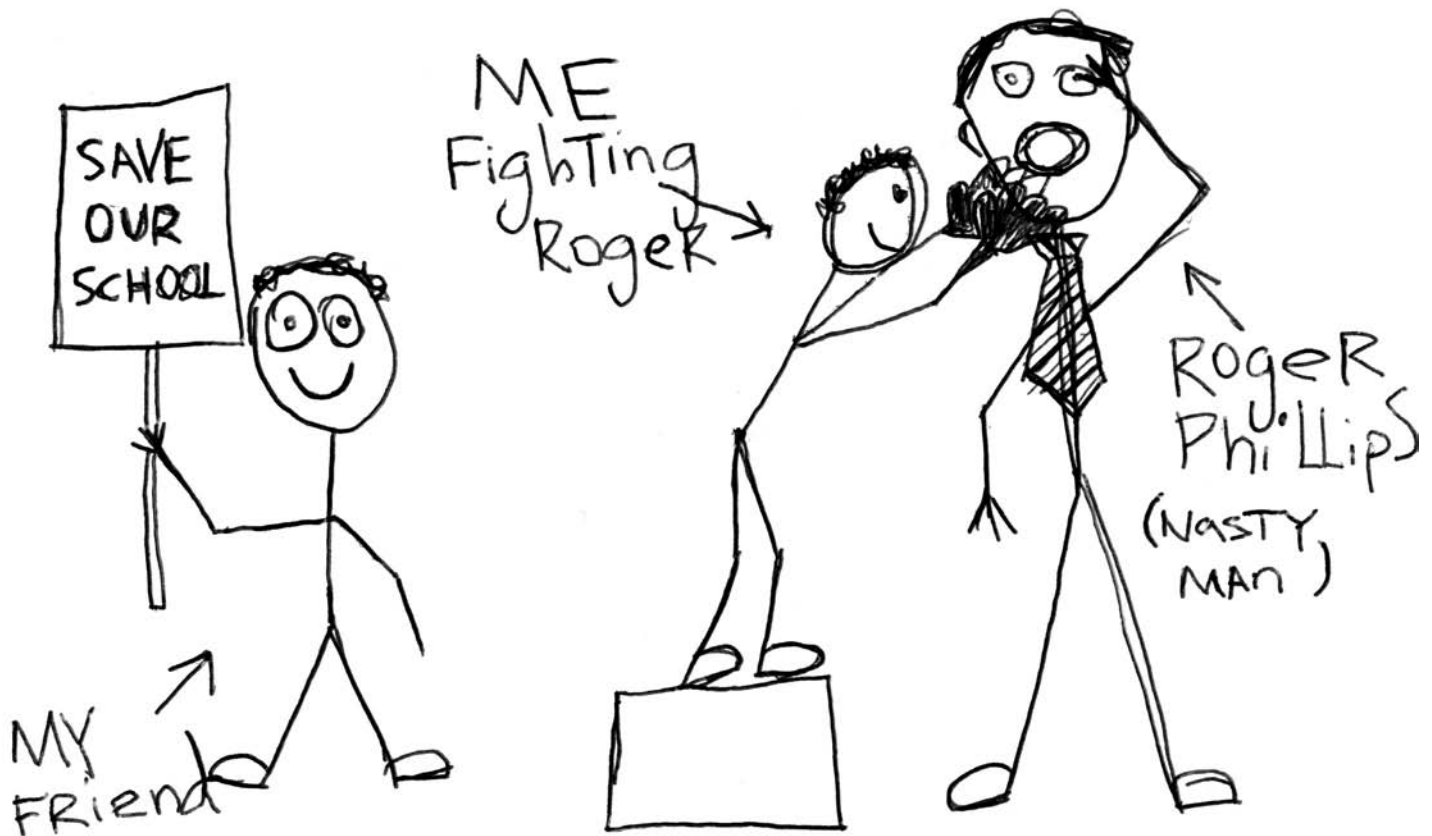


Hereford Heckler



The bulletin of Hereford Solidarity League
Anti-fascist • Anti-racist
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Free/Donation



NO SCHOOL CLOSURES!

Marches and protest meetings are continuing across the county in an attempt to halt the school closures recently proposed by Herefordshire Council.

Proposals had been made for the closure or merger of 37 county schools in mid-January, many of them vital community assets for villages and towns. But just a week later, due to the strength of feeling from parents and teachers, Herefordshire Council suspended its plan until September.

Anti-closure campaigns have quickly swung into action across the county with a march through Bromyard, protest meetings in Canon Pyon, Kington and many others. Meanwhile, a mass rally has been called during half term for 13th February in Hereford.

One campaigner told *Hereford Heckler*: "the council said they wanted to close 37 school, then a week later

they backed down. This is all a stunt so as when they announce that only half the originally proposed number will be closed they will do so with false statements like 'we have done our best to save x amount of schools but unfortunately, x still have to be closed'. The campaign won't have won until *all* schools are saved from closure."

Community groups are calling for petitions to the government and letters to politicians. Yet these groups are failing to recognise that it's politicians that made these decisions in the first place. We mustn't forget that the sale of school land to private developers is worth millions of pounds. No one is going to walk away from deals like that unless you give them a very good reason. Remember: they are damaging your child's education and happiness for financial gain.

- Fight tough. Mount an all out occupation of your school building, entering at closing time and staying there overnight. This could be turned into a regular activity.
- If you think your councillor isn't doing enough, then visit them at home, at council meetings, during lunch breaks. Be a menace.
- If your anti-closure campaign group is planning a protest, make it inconvenient. Don't march from A to B or stand in a pedestrianised area, block off a busy road with a sit-down protest; bring pots and pans or whistles and make a racket.
- Most importantly, don't let politicians (of any shade), church leaders or headteachers dictate your campaign. This is your struggle, for your school and for your child's education (or for your jobs): the fight should be in your hands! No school closures!

Fashwatch

- We'll start this month's column with news of another new business venture from Lamburtus Nieuwhof, local fascist and convicted terrorist exposed by the local and national press last year.

Nieuwhof was part of a plot to blow up a school that had just ended racial segregation in South Africa in 1992. Still a racist but now a British National Party activist and living in Peterchurch, he has set up a computer support company. He is available for 24-hour callout; give him a call—01891 5a50888 or 07970 874633.

- Moving away from home now to the Czech Republic and the murder of Jan Kucera by neo-nazis in the town of Pribram. Eighteen-year-old Jan was stabbed twice in the groin and the back on 18th January, just a day before over a 1,000 people were to gather to remember the Czech victims of nazi terror in the second world war. Little did they know that another victim of fascist violence was fighting for his life in hospital at the very same time.

Jan had been a staunch anti-fascist and was never afraid to express his opinions. Despite professional medical help, he died two days after his attack.

- This comes only two months after the death of another anti-fascist, this time in Madrid, Spain.

Anti-fascists had been demonstrating against a protest by neo-nazi thugs in the city. Whilst on their way to the demonstration, 16-year-old anti-fascist Carlos and friend Alex were attacked. Carlos bled to death on an underground platform after being stabbed through the heart with a hunting knife by a fascist. Alex was also stabbed but recovered in hospital.

Anti-fascists gathered in London at the end of November to honour the memory of Carlos.

- Back to home, Hereford Solidarity League would like to hear from anyone with information on the local group of the fascist BNP. Are they active in your area? Do they meet in your pub? Get in touch: kay.bulstreet@hotmail.co.uk

BIG BROTHER COMING TO HEREFORD ... AND EVERYWHERE

The government is pushing ahead with plans to make identity cards compulsory for all. Identity cards are not simply a new piece of plastic to add to your wallet, but a biometric identification system that will be backed up with a huge database, which will intrude on every part of our lives. The database will include information on: your previous addresses, national insurance numbers, NHS records, iris scan, DNA and fingerprints. Some of this information is used by you to prove your identity when applying for a loan, for example; some you would only currently be expected to provide once you have committed a crime.

So how useful would this information be in the wrong hands? Far from protecting your identity from theft, which the scheme claims, it gathers your identity on to one database in the ownership of the state. Do you trust the government, their civil servants and the computer systems that will hold your identity from it being misused, stolen or even shared around the public and private organisations that it's intended for? How many incidents of lost data have there been in the last few months? HM Revenue & Customs lost 25 million people's records including millions of unencrypted bank account details,

personal details held by the DVLA. The government claims ID cards will counter terrorism, but anyone who is in the UK for less than three months will not need to register. Most of the 9/11 and 7/7 attackers used their own or other genuine identities. Government and the media sound bites about identity theft and terrorism are designed make us fearful of other people.



The state is intent on taking away any privacy we have left, tracking every part of our lives, and selling our details to private companies. The creation of the ID card system stands to make companies a lot of money—£5.8 billion of tax payer's money to set the system up (Home Office estimate).

ID cards were not in Labour's manifesto. A fine example how false our democracy is in the UK and the ineffectiveness of voting for change. The only way to stop the National Identity Register now is to refuse to sign up to the system. The poll tax was defeated by mass disobedience. ID cards are simply a way of increasing state control on individuals and a huge invasion of our privacy and personal security.

ID cards and the National Identity Register are being resisted by thousands of people across the country. Get in touch with kay.bulstreet@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

RACIST SCUM ATTACK VAN DRIVER

An Asian van driver has been the victim of a vicious racist attack whilst waiting at the traffic lights in St Owen Street, Hereford.

The incident happened back on 21st December when four dickheads began to write messages on the back of the vehicle. This group of scum then opened the van door, cut the man's finger and shouted racial abuse before they ran off towards St James. In 2008—as in 1908, as in 1808 ... as in always—racism cannot be tolerated. The colour of somebody's skin is just that: a colour. We are all human beings and we are all the

same. We all experience the same feelings: love and hatred, happiness and sadness. We all find it difficult to make ends meet (unless you're a rich bastard). People that discriminate against fellow human beings simply because of the country they were born in are clearly missing a brain cell or two.

Police are appealing for information on this unprovoked attack. If you know who any of these simpletons are please don't bother the Filth; just make damn sure that these vicious racists experience a bit of their own medicine.

Snatched from homes in the middle of the night. Not in Kenya. Not in Pakistan ... in the UK!

Britain is famed for welcoming people from other countries with open arms. And most of us consider ourselves to be good samaritans, always ready to help others if we can. But not everyone shares this view. Some people would like you to think that this beautiful country is being 'swamped' with immigrants who are terrorising 'native' citizens, bringing in new and incurable diseases and placing a huge burden on the NHS.

And it is this view, which is infecting the media, crushing any debate on the issue and instilling fear into the minds of readers of everything from The Sun to The Times. But the readers are not the only scared ones.

Immigrants who have escaped from the most brutal forms of torture, are also living in a constant state of fear. As politicians tighten up their campaign against people who are in need of refuge, asylum seekers are constantly under siege from immigration officials across the country who carry out dawn raids in the homes of these law-abiding citizens.

Brigitte Kamtcheu and her daughter Lizzie Kamtcheu who were forced to flee their native country Cameroon, for being a member of a human rights organisation. She was subsequently arrested and detained by police, dur-

ing which time she was repeatedly beaten and raped.

After being released from prison with the help of a warder she travelled to the UK. Since her arrival to Bristol in January 2007, she has become well integrated and well known within her local community, and also learned to speak English.

On January 21st 2008 Brigitte, her husband Bernard Kamtcheu and her daughter were woken by a group of 10 immigration officers who forcibly entered her bedroom and took her and her family to separate detention centres where her deportation to Cameroon was arranged.

Sadly, Brigitte's is not an isolated case. In a manner that is reminiscent of the German Nazi's, asylum seekers with a perfectly legitimate reason for wanting to stay in the UK are suddenly snatched from their homes in the middle of the night. Often people argue that there is not enough resources for 'over-population'. So perhaps it is the system itself that is to blame. And instead of questioning the conditions that force people to leave their homes, as a result of war caused by a power-struggle over money and resources, we instead question the victims of those wars. Victims like Brigitte Kamtcheu and her family.

DUMB AND DUMBER

What's the difference between Jesse Norman and Sarah Carr?

- Both can be seen smiling inanely from the pages of the local press, hoping to convince the public that they care about you and your city.

- Both represent political parties that (along with Neo-Labour) look after the rich and powerful while exploiting working people.

- And both would have as little impact locally as the sleazy drunk that they hope to replace.

So we can all look forward to another utterly pointless general election where we get to choose between dumb and dumber.

Our guess is that, like every other election, the government will win!



Jesse Norman ... simple

THIS MONTH: Top 5 things to be scared of

1. **Islam**—Don't worry about mass-murdering Bush and Blair regime ('God told me to invade Iraq') spreading violence around the world under the protective belief of Christianity and Capitalism ... Or the Jewish Israeli state and their 40 year occupation of neighbouring Palestine, turning Gaza into the biggest open air prison in the world. Nope, it's definitely the muslims that are really dangerous.
2. **Strangers**—They're everywhere, be scared. They're potential rapists and muggers, as well as potential friends and lovers.
3. **Bird flu**—So what if AIDS and cancer are killing millions each year; celebrate and share an invention of modern factory farming.
4. **Young people**—You probably know one, but be careful, their bloody bored, and probably drunk.
5. **NHS hospitals**—They're filthy and rat infested! Or are they? As long as we believe they are then the government can privatise the NHS and make money out of sick people.

ANTHONY THE BIGOT



Congratulations to the Right Reverend Anthony Priddis on picking up another title to add to his self-important name: Bigot Of The Year 2007.

The Bishop of Hereford picked up the award from Stonewall, the gay rights organisation, after submitting youth worker John Reaney to a humiliating two-hour

interview on the subject of his sexuality. An employment tribunal in Cardiff decided Mr Reaney had been a victim of unfair dismissal and awarded damages against the Church of England.

At the time of going to press, Bigot Priddis was unable to comment, having to deal with more pressing matters of beating his wife back into the kitchen to make his dinner. Anthony, you are a true representative of the Christian faith: a proper bigot.

Sport

'The only foreigners ruining the game are the ones in the boardroom'

When the England national football team crashed out of the Euro 2008 qualifiers, the national press once again went on a witch hunt to find 'the culprits who are ruining our national sport'. With predictable ease the blame landed at the door of Johnny Foreigner. Apparently there are too many foreign players in English football and that's the reason why the national team are 'rubbish'.

But surely English football as a whole has benefited from foreign players. The successful Liverpool team of the 80s hardly had an Englishman in the side. Arsenal arguably plays some of the most attractive football around, could they do that without foreign players? Surely players such as John Charles, Paul Parry, Tamika Mkandawire, Guy Ipoua and Toumani Diagouraga have improved the football at Edgar Street?

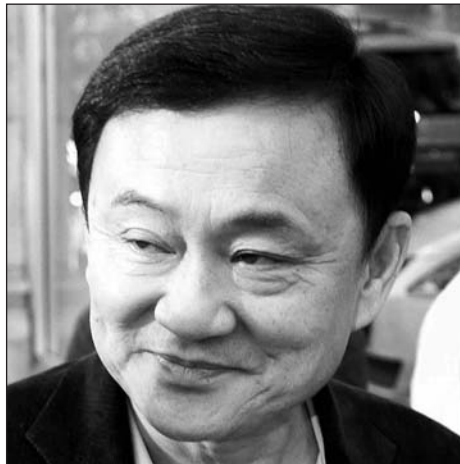
If there *are* any foreigners ruining the English game then it's the ones in the boardroom who are here to make some fast cash. But then there are plenty of Englishmen doing exactly the same.

One such foreign investor is Thaksin Shinawatra at Man City. This is a man who, as Prime Minister of Thailand, launched a shoot to kill policy that saw almost 3,000 people murdered. Unfortunately the FA was more concerned about the amount of money he had and welcomed him in with open arms.

Surely money is at the heart of the problem. The FA has done nothing to control spiraling players wages and transfer fees. This bad management has led to the situation where only four teams are now able to win the Premier League, and we used to laugh at the similar situation in Scotland.

To blame foreign players is to cloud the real issue. The FA is making a huge amount of money and very little of this has been invested in the future of the national team. It's taken them years to approve the National Football Centre in Burton and how long will that now take to open?

But at least we can all look forward to another couple of years of underachievement by our national team, but don't worry we can blame the manager, and guess what? He's foreign!



Thaksin Shinawatra, above, taking a break from the murdering

Racist gets eight match ban

Congratulations to the Scottish Football Association for coming down hard on East Fife's Kevin Fotheringham. The SFA found the Fifers midfielder guilty of racially abusing Stranraer's Gregory Tade and banned Fotheringham for eight matches. East Fife FC is appealing the decision but it sends out the right message that racism is as unacceptable on the pitch as it is on the terraces.



Glory at Wyeseide

What with all the goings on down at Edgar Street it would be easy to forget what a great season Hereford Rugby Football Club are having. The boys at Wyeseide are second in Midlands 2 West and, as we go to print, were unlucky not to get a result at home to top of the table Malvern. It's great to see that some players still play for the love of the game and not for an inflated wage packet.

GLORY AT EDGAR STREET

What a season we're having down at Edgar Street. Graham Turner (the manager) has again put a squad together on a shoestring and it looks like they might push for promotion. On top of that we've had the early exploits in the League cup surpassed by a great run in the FA cup. After beating that small team

from Yorkshire it was a shame to go out of the cup to 'our great friends'



over the border! At least it was a good game and, apart from a few drunken numpties in the Meadow End, most people kept their heads and had a memorable day out. Graham Turner (the chairman) may be open for criticism at times but Graham Turner (the manager) has to be respected for the job he's doing.

