

# CEASE FIRE

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Official Newsletter of The Nottingham Student Peace Movement. Issue 1. October 24<sup>th</sup> 2003

## Greetings from El Presidente

by Richard Hindes

So I've been asked to say a few words in my capacity of President of the Peace Movement. While it is tempting simply to gloat ("I'm the king of the castle..." etc.) it would perhaps be more constructive to present some thoughts about why the Peace Movement and the wider movement in opposition to the war remain relevant in the current political context.

With the Iraq war over and Afghanistan long consigned to the dustbin of history you might ask yourselves whether there is any point to the continuing existence of the Peace Movement, but I would contend that in the present context it is as important as ever and as the death toll in Iraq continues to rise, it has the potential to grow to and possibly exceed its former heights.

While it is now almost six months since George W. Bush declared the war in Iraq over, the country is far from stable. There are as many as twenty-five attacks on US forces every single day and the death rate among the Iraqi population as a result of US attacks and/or retaliation is unknown, indeed widely regarded as unimportant. Such violence was not unforeseen and indeed given the history of the region was, in my opinion, horrifically inevitable. That the dogmatic idealism of the neo-conservatives in the US Administration prevented them from seeing this, simply highlights their disconnection from reality and the threat they pose not just to those living in potential targets, but to their own people and to us in the UK.

The violence in Iraq continues. Recruitment for Al-Qaeda is on the rise. No one feels any safer than they did prior to the war. The North Koreans see Iraq's defeat as proof of the need to acquire nuclear weapons. The US doctrine of "pre-emptive war" (in fact a technically inaccurate term) now has a precedent, which may be followed by others, with all that will lead to. In short references to hell and a handbasket might not seem inappropriate. Our leaders have failed us, the people of Iraq and the wider world. It's time we did something about it. Please get involved. The world needs you.

## EDITORIAL

By Hish Yezza

Welcome to the first issue of CeaseFire the most ambitious and relevant society newsletter on campus (we would say that wouldn't we?). The newsletter's aim is two-fold: First keep you informed about the latest endeavours of the Student Peace Movement. Secondly to provide you with forum to voice your opinion regarding any issues relevant to promoting peace in our world today. You will probably be reading this during our first event: The Peace Vigil 2003 in the Portland Building. It would hopefully be a most exciting event to kick start our year with (free food, free music, free politics) and would provide all those attending with a sense of what we as a peace movement are all about. As Rich, our glorious El Presidente, has pointed out, the upcoming visit in November by Mr George 'Cowboy' Bush to the UK (generously and passively paid for by Mr and Mrs Taxpayer) is going to be the focal point for a whole range of anti-war/anti-occupation activities. Please do your best to make sure the events are a success by attending as many as you can and letting Tony B know that his contempt for the opinions of his countrymen and women has not been forgotten. Peace.

**JOIN THE PEACE MOVEMENT  
TODAY: Send an email with your  
details to: [sunspm@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sunspm@nottingham.ac.uk)**



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## Election of a New Committee for the NSPM 2003/4

As you probably already know, a new committee has been elected at the start of this academic year to lead the peace movement to new heights of political awareness and (peaceful) activism. Feel free to contact any of them through the society's email address: [sunspm@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sunspm@nottingham.ac.uk)

The members of the committee are:

President - Richard Hindes

Vice-President - Rohit Sinma

Treasurer - Daniel Robertson

General Secretary - Laura Teague

CeaseFire Editor - Hicham Yezza

Publicity Officers - Theresa Dahm & Danielle Moore

Membership Officer - Tina Patel

Not just when cows fly  
Give peace a chance  
Join us in the Portland  
Building  
on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm  
for a Peace Vigil