

rare. It is the question of vision developing a solution to global warming will indeed require input from experts in a range of fields. That said we already have a good idea about many of the steps needed to deal with global warming: increasing energy efficiency, reducing car usage, expanding sustainable energy production etc. Having developed a vision of what needs to be done, we then turn to implementing those proposals. Doing this raises questions about what tactics we employ. This is probably likely to be the source of the greatest controversy amongst those campaigning on an issue. I speak from experience on how heated such debates can become. In the context of global warming there are a wealth of targets for action including legislators, corporate executives and the general public. We should seek both to achieve major victories (changes in the laws regarding fuel efficiency, getting companies to invest in renewables etc.) and personal lifestyle changes (encouraging individuals to use public transport more etc.). The latter is probably less important, but if we can encourage enough people to make changes it will begin to have a major effect.

In campaigning on global warming, we must be aware of the powerful vested interests lined up against us. Oil companies and car manufacturers concerned about their profit margins, for instance. These groups have powerful contacts, extensive political influence, massive amounts of money and will fight tooth and nail to prevent changes which will have a detrimental effect on them. One

only need to look at the Kyoto Protocol for evidence of the power of these groups. Not only did they ensure that the agreement entailed only a fraction of the cuts in greenhouse emission necessary (we need cuts of 60-80% if we are serious about having an impact on the problem, Kyoto sought only cuts in the order of 5-10%), but also that both the US and Russia withdrew from the agreement entirely, thus making it almost pointless. This is not an argument that we should do nothing, rather that we should be aware of what we are up against. The fight will be long and hard, but the consequences if we fail are grim.

The Rivers Below

To all the Iraqi victims of their own "liberation"
By Hisham Yezza

In the darkness
Of the evening mist
We sit Waiting
For the birds of fire
With wings of steel

We listen
The faint noises
Of distant heat
The tearful anger
A mother's weep

The rivers below
Blind with sadness
Wait with us
For the wrathful skies
To unleash their demons

And in the morning light
Over our steamy heaps
They come in silence
To dry the river
And leave

Come hear **MILAN RAI** speak
Anti-War Activism: Present and future
TUES 5th Oct 7PM ECL Portland Building

CEASE FIRE

Newsletter of the Nottingham Student Peace Movement
Email: sunspm@nottingham.ac.uk Website su.nottingham.ac.uk/~nspm

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EDITORIAL

Hisham Yezza

Congratulations! Picking up this newsletter is probably the shrewdest move you're likely to make today (After joining the NSPM membership naturally).

So here we are at the start of another academic year and since you've picked up this copy of Ceasefire, chances are you are someone who cares about what goes on in this funny old world of ours and, more importantly, someone who is on the lookout for a way to help change things for the better, and for everyone. In case you're still wondering what the peace movement is about and what relevance does it still have more than 18 months after the start of the Iraq occupation, the answer is: The Peace Movement is about raising awareness AND about taking action. We aim to promote a mature balanced approach towards global political and social issues. We do not believe in sonorous empty slogans and hope you will find within the peace movement a stimulating forum where informed intelligent debates and opinions result in concrete purposeful actions.

Over the past few years, we have helped Nottingham students attend marches and political rallies, participate in stimulating talks about various topical subjects, as well as cultural and social fundraisers.

So make the most of your time at University, join the Peace movement and get ready to be part of something big, meaningful and fun. Read through this newsletter. Share it with your friends and check out our website for our upcoming events. So Feel, Think, Act!
Peace.

What is the NSPM all about?

Dan Robertson

It is a virtue of internet communication that organisations like our own may now be discovered by interested parties from far flung corners of the globe. This was the case for myself recently when I was sent an email by Tapio Litmanen, a senior lecturer in sociology from Finland, asking me whether I could answer some questions about the British peace movement. I agreed, thinking that it would be a good opportunity to specify my own views about NSPM, and my own role within it. I've always thought that if you believe in something you should talk about it, to spread positive ideas.

"So what exactly is your organisation all about?" the interview commenced. It's a tricky situation being faced with a question about something that you are a part of but not used to representing. My answer was an attempt to represent not just my own views but that of the group as well. Well, what is NSPM all about? I would (and did) say that we are a group of people who have decided to act together in both protest against aggressive military and political actions, and in an attempt to lay the foundations of a better future based on universal justice. We are most obviously anti-war, opposed to the use of military force as a coercive tool.

This has been a major part of our focus on recent events in Iraq and elsewhere since the declaration of the so-called 'War on Terror'. But I think that we are all agreed that opposing war in itself cannot be the sole objective of a genuine peace movement.

Real peace is not achieved through a temporary ceasefire: it is achieved by removing the circumstances that lead to war. It is my belief that the inequalities and lack of justice for the majority of people on this planet are a major source of conflict, as is the greed of the developed world in appropriating more and more resources for the lowest price possible. That is why NSPM have been involved in the promotion of fair trade, environmental and developmental issues, anti-racism, and religious tolerance. It is hard, and indeed foolish, to attempt to tease apart these interdependent issues into separate categories. Peace will only be achieved by giving all people the right to live without fear or need.

"So why do you do what you do?". This was easier - I could represent myself and myself alone. I suppose that peace is not such an uncommon thing to wish for. It's a basic goal of all of the religions I know of, and of humanist and other philosophical traditions. The alleviation of suffering is a basic tenet of most people's morality. Most people can agree that war causes immense suffering, especially to vulnerable civilians. But conventional warfare is only the most extreme example of conflict and aggression that we find in the world. Immense suffering can be caused by terrorist warfare, by the imposition of unfair international agreements leading to starvation, through torture and intimidation, through racist attacks occurring in Nottingham. All aggressive acts that result in suffering have to be the targets of the peace movement.

It is an immense task and seems far beyond the scope of any individual, but by coming together in an organised peace movement we can get a little closer to achieving these aims. Making national and even international connections (for example with peace movement researchers from Finland) makes the world a smaller and slightly more manageable place to make better.

I'd gone on a bit but Dr. Litmanen seemed to have got what he wanted. We exchanged smiling handshakes and went our separate ways, hopefully both knowing a little more than when we'd started.

Sounds on the Downs (not just for hippies)

Farouk Azam

The wind howled more fiercely than Hurricane Ivan, lightning bolts ripped through the purple sky, the trees swayed like dancing children and the lake shone like a distant star! It was a perfect Indian summers evening.

OK OK. That's not my surroundings when I thought of the alternative to the Summer Party. But it was close ok.

The truth is Nottingham University needed an alternative to the Summer Party. A place where all could come and good music from around the world, artists so diverse if you closed your eyes you could be in any one of those countries.

A place where people from all backgrounds, races, colours could enjoy the diversity on campus, enjoy each others differences.

That is what the Sounds on the Downs festival is all about.

Its been staged twice now. I remember the first year, the pain, the sleepless nights we had to put it on. But it was worth it. From Hip Hop acts, through to Bhangra, classical Indian Dance and to much more. You can find it all at the event.

On Yer Bike!

Richard Hindes, NSPM President

It seems to me, that there are, broadly speaking, three pillars to activism: Information, vision and action. These are rather like the three factors of the fire triangle which must be present in order for there to be a fire. Social change requires that you have all three pillars. Take one pillar away and the whole enterprise comes crashing down. Of course the mere presence of the three factors of the fire triangle does not guarantee a fire, they are merely prerequisites. The same is true of the three pillars. Just because they are all there doesn't guarantee change. (Apologies for the confused metaphors, hopefully the ideas don't get lost in the mess.)

The information pillar deals with both individual and collective knowledge. It is vital that activist (whatever they're campaigning on) understand the issues/problems/science/background etc. In the context of global warming this means understanding, on at least some level, the science behind the problem, what's causing it and the likely consequences. Possessing this information, however, is only the first step. We should also seek to raise awareness of the problem in wider society. This can be achieved through a variety of methods (leaflets, talks, discussions with friends/colleagues, blogging etc.) and diversity is key to reaching as many people as possible.

Having developed an understanding of the problems we turn next to the question of a vision of how to surmount them. There may be cases where vision precedes information (for instance, if you conceive of a utopian society you could argue its flaws flowed from its differences to your imagined society), but this is likely to be

It also is a place for the conscious minds to come and meet. We have stalls from Amnesty, People and Planet. Also there are stall from cultural societies, bringing their colours to the festival.

And because there are different peoples at the event, we decided that the event should not have the usual 'beer' tent as it would discourage people from some backgrounds to come. This has not affected the event, its still a great event

The event can only expand as more people hear about it. We had around 500 attend it each year, maybe more. But it has to grow.

That will depend on the commitment of the NSPM, and all you are reading this now.

The NSPM needs your help. Its one way where we can spread the message of one world and one human race in a positive and fun way. We need to form a large team of people. Maybe you have contacts in the music world, or own a PA/lighting company. Or just wanna help steward the event on the day. Whatever you can do, however 'little' it may seem, it all helps.

If you want more details about the event please contact NSMP Social sec Libby Powell at: dvs999@hotmail.com

or you are welcome to contact me if you cant get through to Libby.

faroukazam@yahoo.co.uk

It is so important that this event becomes established. I remember when I first told people about my idea of a 'mini Glastonbury'. They all laughed. I hope you people can help with my dream, which I hope will become everyone's dream. A dream to have an event which promotes Peace, attended by all, and not just hippies.

hope you all have a great time at Nottingham Uni, and with the Peace Movement

Peace and respect.