

ASIAN LEADER

COMMENT

Our subject is looting. The worst offenders being the banking community who are currently looting £ tens of billions from the British taxpayer to cover losses they made in an orgy of greed, mis-selling and £ multi million bonus snatching.

Was their punishment four years in jail? No, when the high representatives of the eight most powerful world economies met it was decided nothing could be done about the bankers. Instead a programme of cuts and austerity was drawn up and unleashed against the very victims of the bankers looting spree – you and me.

Under parliamentary democracy the behaviour bankers is supposed to be supervised by MPs. In Britain there was a total failure to meet this responsibility. Precisely at the time the bankers were doing a Titanic on the economic system most MPs were engrossed in finding more and more creative ways of claiming expenses they did not deserve. This illegal extra cash, amounting to over £50,000 a year in some cases, was on top of their generous salaries and gold plated pensions.

And what about the free press? With some notable exceptions everyone in the mass selling tabloids from top executives to street level hacks were engaged in a criminal practice of gathering lurid title tattle on celebrities and football players that by no stretch of the imagination could be seen as in the public interest. They were engaged in this felonious activity in order to earn huge salaries, multiples of millions in the case of individuals like Rebecca Brookes, the flame haired go-fer for sinister tycoon, Rupert Murdoch.

Now we come to the looters who have been denounced as 'criminal rats' by Prime Minister Cameron and most of the British establishment. Yes they looted – TVs, trainers, booze and fags and yet, despite all the flames, they did nothing like the damage the establishment looters have done to civilisation. This anarchic uprising was not overtly political but can any rational person imagine that these individuals, left behind by the capitalist economy, from homes broken by poverty, from families preyed upon by drug networks, left to a street life with no hope of escape, were not aware of the example the big looters had already provided – just help yourself? And that's exactly what they did.

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Yorkshire Post



Voice from the Community!



LEADER Columnist

Embracing modern technology

Firstly, I hope everyone is having a prosperous and joyous Eid. Ramadhan has come and gone really fast this year that it almost feels like it only just began yesterday. Like many, I feel a close friend has gone by for another year.

I recently went to Manchester for a meeting. On my way down, I was in the train and it was fascinating to see how everyone were on their phones! I went into the quiet zone for some peace and quiet, but even in there, there was no escaping from the mobile phones which have now become such a big part of society.

When I arrived at the meeting, we were first told to switch our mobile phones off. However, within a few minutes my friends' mobile phone went off (Arrghh).

How embarrassing! After a cou-

ple of seconds, my phone was doing the same! I could feel the phone vibrating in my pocket and I thought no! When we paused for a break, suddenly the mobiles came out and all I could see was everyone talking and texting away.

After the meeting, I visited the local faith centre to pray. I thought that would be the best place to go for some peace and quiet from the outside world. However, even there, whilst the imam was conducting prayers, I could hear a mobile going off. I like everyone else out there has a mobile phone.

Nowadays we have become so attached to it. In some cases it could actually be a partner or even a best friend. Even my little cousin who is 10 years old has a mobile phone! Sometimes I wonder how everyone has become

so addicted to mobile phones.

Even my grandparents now have top of the range mobile phone, even though they are clueless! They can just about answer a phone call!

A few weeks back I went for a little break. I didn't take my mobile phone and it was absolutely brilliant and beautiful! So quiet and stress free without a mobile phone. It was just brilliant.

I knew I didn't have my phone and so I didn't have the temptation to keep checking my phone to see if I got a call or a text message! Instead, I used the good old fashioned land line phone to communicate with my loved ones.

Now when I think back on the impact of mobile phones, I have come to the conclusion that the mobile phones are in some way dictating our lives. Yes it does have its benefits and me

like everyone else love them. However, we have to be careful that we do not become addictive and that we do not let these gadgets take over our lives. If I could, I would get rid of my phone but I can't do it! I have this new contract where I have unlimited text messages, unlimited minutes and unlimited Internet and the worse thing is, I now send a text frequently to all my friends and they know who they are and I am sure they will be thinking why I keep sending text messages all the time! Well anyway it's become a part of my life and that is scary!

As the mobile phones become more updated day by day, there are many other things that we can do with them besides talking and texting.

Before, phones were just used as a form of talking however as i-phones and Blackberries have

evolved as the newest form of technology in the mobile phone business, applications such as Facebook and Twitter are continuously ruling and becoming a part of our everyday lives and tasks. There are so many applications on mobile phones nowadays that everyone will agree that whether you have Facebook or Twitter it is used on a daily basis as a form of communication.

So, not only are we using the phone for communication but also the applications that come with it are now mostly used as an other alternative.

I have had loads of requests from very close friends to write something on social networking sites and the revolutions which have spread across the Arab world so my next article will be based on social networking whether we hate it or we love it!

Dear Editor

It is somewhat reassuring that the EDL is always opposed by local community activists, trade unionists and anti-racist campaigners defending their communities.

We know the lie in the EDL's claim to be non-racist while they try to whip up racism. Wherever the EDL surfaces there is a vile racist atmosphere, including anti-Islamic chanting and Nazi salutes.

Currently the far right EDL and the now less powerful BNP try to exploit the devastating economic crisis to promote racist ideas but they have no solutions to

the misery caused by this crisis, and the EDL specifically target East European and Muslim communities.

Right now our politicians are competing over who can carry out the most savage cuts in public services, already cut to the bone, so it's not a real surprise that some support for parties like Labour has collapsed and this has allowed the EDL and other right wing emerging groups to promote their hatred.

We also know that some 'voices of reason' try to discourage any opposition to the EDL and their activity rather than speak out against

them. They seem to see opposition to the EDL as 'firing up' the problem and work on the principle that silence will stifle the EDL, but in fact history shows that 'by silence is consent'. So we must ensure that they see they are making a mistake because the divisive aims of EDL pose a threat to the much needed unity of ordinary working class people of all communities.

Experience elsewhere has shown that if there is an opportunity, the EDL will try to march, and some people argue that it is better to boycott and ignore the EDL. Some other local and national politicians from

the main political parties are silent on the EDL's appearance, probably because these parties have no alternative to offer while at the same time they seem more concerned about bailing out rich bankers.

Hardline fascists are, fortunately, a tiny minority, and all of us need to unite to build a movement strong enough to convince those who have been conned by the EDL and the BNP that community cohesion is the real future. We must not allow the EDL a victory of creating division and defensiveness.

Stephen Brookes
MBE.

Dear Editor

I must write to ask about our present government's double standard's policy on black /Asian people.

All of a sudden we see our prime minister crawling around a black American president, and yet he and his party policy is against black /Asian people, and multiculturalism. Why this double policy? Why do British PMs have to become poodles' of American administrations, even a black president who is failing in his leadership.

This very black president does not know the etiquette or conventions of British Royal family or how to conduct himself in the presence of a British head of state, when he chooses to disregard the national anthem and continue to speak.

Has not been trained well yet, or is he choosing to be arrogant and rude?

Yours sincerely
Anonymous

EDITORIAL

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