

RAP NEWS 13 - A News Hope

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*EPISODE XIII
A NEWS HOPE*

*It is a time of corporate war.
Without a reliable media, the people of
Planet Earth are kept misinformed and
in perpetual conflict....*

Greetings and welcome to our latest transmission sent direct from the beating heart of this internet, the one remaining open channel where information can travel free from filters and barriers.

Today's story: As a shadowy specter hangs over our ability to access and assess the facts, is an honest media The Force that can free, and restore balance and peace in this far reach of the Galaxy?

The battle has shifted at light speed to cyberspace, where rebel journalists have made the jump to hyperspace, challenging the Establishment's grip on information and are now being pursued by its sinister agents.

To learn more of what's happening, we're set to bring in figures on opposite ends of the spectrum. Thus, we welcome our first journalist at hand, WikiLeaks founder, rebel publisher, Julian Assange.

Mr Assange, good to have you back on the show
- Robert, it's good to be hack. I mean *back*, Hello.
- Tell us, what's happened since last we spoke?
- Well, WikiLeaks has continued to deliver master strokes

For speaking more truth to power than all papers combined
We've been ostracised and greatly maligned,
By the lamestream media where balls are sadly lacking,
and seen the State's haranguing of alleged whistleblower Bradley Manning

I've been under mansion arrest, tagged by Serco,
then the bastards imposed an extrajudicial embargo
Cutting off our PayPal donors and credit card flow

- Why? Have you broken any laws or been charged? - No!

But a secret Grand Jury has issued a sealed indictment saying I'm 'aiding the enemy', they're seeking to extradite me
- I'm confused.... who *is* 'the enemy'? - Clearly, since WikiLeaks aids Democracy, the enemy is the people: you and me.

-Ok, to compare to this, we turn to another Australian journalist; his Media Empire spans the equator influencing every one of us in the world: it's The Emperor of NewsCorp, Rupert Murdoch

- Hello, Robert - Tell us your take on journalism.
- It's like playing monopoly [sic] against the world and winning you buy up all the real Fourth Estate: The Times the Sun, SKY, and many Stars are all mine.

I expanded my News of the World Order patiently
Now my Death STAR stations are fully operational
- You've changed the face of the news, with tabloids, pay-TV...
- I foresaw that, by putting titties on Page 3

amidst a chronicle of crime, sports and inanity,
scandalous spam which the proles soak up avidly,
my empire would expand globally, spreading the fear
giving me the power to make or crush political careers!

- Both of you have transformed journalism's focus
by exposing secret dealings; or by keeping truths enclosed, so
can you explain why one of you is a rich media mogul
while the other is hunted like a criminal interloper?

- In '03 the media were feeding us lies about WMD;
WikiLeaks is here to ensure history won't repeat.
We publish truth instead of lies. That's certainly why
we're being persecuted: we're doing journalism right.

- You will pay the price for your lack of tele-vision.
You're headed straight for an American prison.
Journalists, take a good look at this rebel fool:
what's happening to him, soon could happen to you

- If you strike me down the movement you're attacking

will become more powerful than you can possibly imagine
This generation is burning the mass-media to its foundations
Truth is a virus, and Courage is contagious

- mwhahaha you can't knock me out the Fox!
But I see that you are still capable of hacks:
the Strafor leak shows that we *are* alike.
Julian, my son, come over to the Dark Side

- I'm sorry to interrupt this riveting debate
But to learn more of the alleged leaker and his fate,
We cross to the Pentagon, to learn what's happening
at the court martial of Private Bradley Manning

- Ahh... Lord Baxter! - My Lordoch! - How's the whistleblower?
- His resistance to the mind probe is considerable
We've threatened 'Princess Leaker' but she's telling lies.
You transmitted secret plans to Rebel Spies!

- I'm not a traitor, if anything, I was doing my duty and it's
the war on whistleblowers that's unconstitutional
- I've not sensed such a disturbance in the Force estate
since Daniel Ellsberg leaked the 'Pentagon Papers'

- Bradley Manning is on the side of the law
Your overconfidence is your major flaw
- and your faith in your friends is yours - Aaah, shit!
- Silence! There's a transmission from an Imperial Starship

Admiral Gillard. are you dealing with the Wikileaks obstacle
- Yes, Lord Baxter, I said they're 'grossly irresponsible'.
And their 'foundation stone is illegal' - And, is it?
- Yeah... No. They're within legal limits

But we could invent *new* laws to get'em!
- Not if I can help it; I'm running for the Senate!
- What?! is this permitted? - Well, I guess it... (*Choking*)
- You have failed me for the last time Admiral Gillard

Enough of this! Send in the Swede Troopers!
- Hello ladies - take him to the prosecutor
- We have a warrant for your arrest - Don't fight it
- What's going on? - Assange is being 'sex-tradited'

- Ha ha ha! He'll make a good bride in prison!
- Hey, this reminds me of my time in Sweden.
- The rebels are crushed! We've accomplished our mission!
- The world is asking, what will this mean for journalism?

we now cut live to a surprise guest to let us know...

Wh... Is that... Julian Assange? - No

- It's Kristinn Hrafnsson! - Hello.

- A Wikileaks spokesperson! welcome to the show.

- Thank you Robert. - So, can you tell us further, how recent events have affected wikileaks purpose?

- Recent events won't deter us or stop us.

Wikileaks will continue to publish

and encourage the disclosing of truth, in spite of the tricks they've chosen to use.

- Hey, Obi Wan, you're screwed: we'll charge you with fraud

- No problem at all: do you take mastercard?

- My my, Wikileaks, I'm impressed!

Do you have an infinite supply of geeks to invest?

Tall guys with fruity speakin' accents

deep voiced, white haired freaks? - Yes.

- Ok, thank you all for debating and providing opinions.

though it might at times have seemed a bit like science fiction,

where it's always much easier to espy the division,

between good and evil, and who is on which side of the schism.

But can't a touch of fantasy also help us perceive that our own story has indeed often been about challenging the monopolies and dynasties which have shaped our view of reality for centuries?

and so are the fate of Socrates, drinking hemlock and perishing, the trials of Bruno, Galileo, book burnings, the inquisition...

all recurring in the current war on journalism,

where speakers of truth are censored and imprisoned?

Key chapters are being written in this epic saga which will set precedents for centuries hereafter:

Join us for more reports as this story continues
Goodnight and goodluck - and may these Thoughts be with you.