

HACKING EVIDENCE IS 'CONTRADICTION'

Ni chief denies claims he saw damning email

By KEVIN SCHOFIELD
Political Correspondent

NEWS International boss James Murdoch blasted claims yesterday he knew phone-hacking was more widespread at the News of the World.

Mr Murdoch hit out after the paper's former editor Colin Myler and ex-legal chief Tom Crone said they told him about a damning email in 2008.

He insisted his own recollection of what they had discussed was "absolutely clear and consistent".

News International, owners of The Sun, said last night the



Claims... Myler and Crone at committee yesterday

evidence of Mr Myler and Mr Crone was "unclear and contradictory".

The claims by Mr Myler and Mr Crone to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee contradicted evidence Mr Murdoch

gave to MPs in July. But yesterday he said: "I stand by my testimony, which is an accurate account of events."

Mr Crone said he was "certain" he had told Mr Murdoch about the email, involving the

hacking of soccer union boss Gordon Taylor's phone, during a 15-minute meeting shortly after he received it.

The document was marked "for Neville", widely assumed to be Neville Thurlbeck, the paper's former chief reporter.

He said it proved phone-hacking extended beyond Clive Goodman, the NoW's ex-royal editor, who had been jailed the year before with private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

But Mr Murdoch said:

"I was told by Mr Crone and Mr Myler the civil litigation related to the interception of Mr Taylor's voicemails to which Mulcaire had pleaded guilty the previous year."

I was informed, for the first time, that there was evidence that Mulcaire had carried out

this interception on behalf of the News of the World.

It was for this reason alone that Mr Crone and Mr Myler recommended settlement.

They did not show me the email, nor did they refer to Neville Thurlbeck. Neither Mr Myler nor Mr Crone told me wrongdoing extended beyond Mr Goodman or Mr Mulcaire.

As I said in my testimony, there was nothing discussed in the meeting that led me to believe that a further investigation was necessary.

DAVID Cameron said yesterday MPs should not be "gleeful" about the scandal. The PM told the Commons Liaison Committee it should not be used as "revenge" for the coverage of MPs' expenses.

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Hug of joy... chimps

Chimps free after 30 years

FOOTAGE has emerged of a group of chimpanzees seeing daylight for the first time - after being locked up for medical testing for 30 years.

The apes hugged and appeared to laugh in delight as they peaked outside their enclosure then took their first steps outside.

The animals had been taken from their mums after birth and brought to an Austrian research facility where they were given viruses such as HIV and hepatitis.

But their ordeal ended when the pharmaceutical firm behind the research was sold. The apes were moved to a farm where keepers tried to introduce them to outside life.

But the process was difficult. The confused chimps would throw away patches of grass given to them to help with their rehabilitation.

Finally their freedom came. Keeper Renate Foidl said: "The chimps are incredibly happy. I've been waiting for this moment for so long."

See the footage at www.thesun.co.uk

Net fake alerts pal

A FAKE Facebook entry about bungee jumping raised suspicions over a young mum's alleged murder, a court heard.

Police officer Hollie Carter - a lifelong pal of mum-of-two Marie Stewart - told Bradford Crown Court: "It just did not seem like something she would say."

Miss Carter warned her bosses and a search of the family home revealed the body of Marie, 30.

Teacher Andrew Lindo, 29, is alleged to have stabbed and beaten Marie to death and hidden her body in a bag in Holmfirth, West Yorks.

Lindo admits manslaughter but denies murder. The case continues.

Gales for ten days

HEAVY rain and high winds will continue for at least another ten days, forecasters have warned - ending hopes of a late summer.

Winds of up to 60mph that battered parts of Britain yesterday are set to stay - with showers and even gales in the North West next week.

It brings to an end the worst summer since 1993. Met Office forecaster Dan Williams said: "It is certainly feeling autumnal."

OAP MURDER RAP

Graeme Jarman, 47, of Consett, Co Durham, has been charged with murdering Judith Richardson, 77, in nearby Hexham.



Pictures: ARTHUR EDWARDS

Guerilla Camilla

By BEN JACKSON, Environment Editor

CAMILLA yesterday joined a "guerilla gardener" movement that is secretly making neglected public spaces greener. The Duchess of Cornwall toured South London on a red bus to see where the activists have planted vegetables and flowers around trees, on traffic islands and by the sides of roads.

At a stop-off near Waterloo station she harvested lavender flowers from a roundabout using a pair of shears.

The Duchess, who like the Prince of Wales is a keen gardener, joked with journalists: "Anyone need a haircut?"

Activist Richard Reynolds, one of the leading members of the gardening movement, also showed Camilla other green improvement around the borough of Southwark.

Although it began without official consent, most guerilla gardeners' efforts are now accepted by public bodies. And Royals, it seems.



Laugh... Camilla on gardener tour



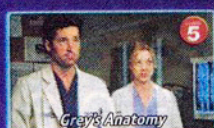
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