

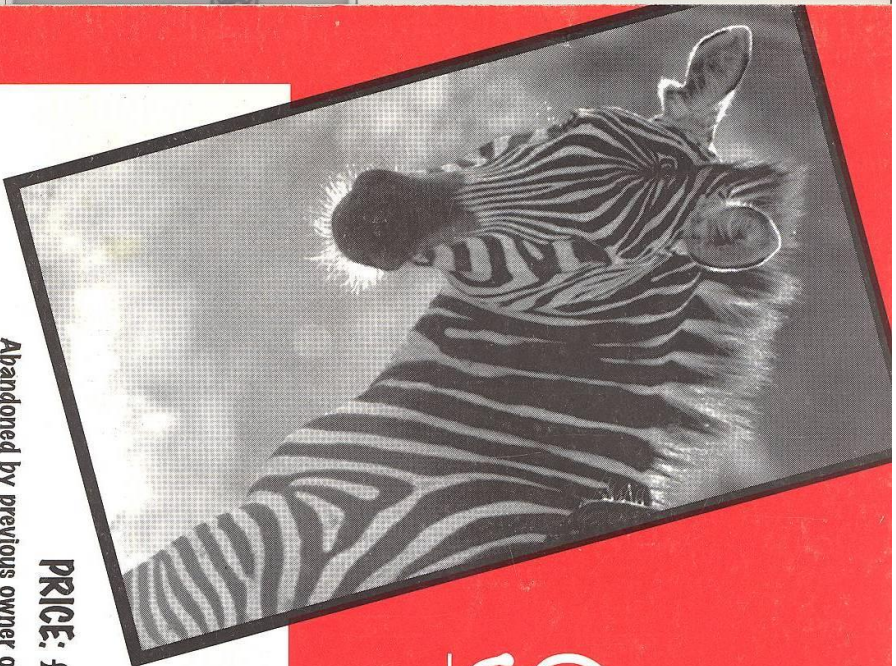
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COVER STORY

DAVID BECKHAM, UNITED'S WONDERKID AND 'CLASSIC' GOAL
SPECIALIST CELEBRATES ANOTHER WONDER STRIKE AGAINST SPURS. BECKS HAS MANAGED TO
REPLACE RYAN GIGGS AS THE 'TEEN IDOL' HEARTTHROB AT UNITED. YUK!

(ORIGINAL WRITTEN BY THE YOUNG MALE AND JENKINS EDITOR - AYOUB GIBBY)

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD

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RED ATTITUDE

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EDITORIAL

As United's date with destiny in the European Cup quarter final draws near, the season is taking shape on the Premiership front. After the steadily improving run since the middle of November we now find ourselves back in pole position. Ironically it was the home game against Juventus where although beaten, we were able to exorcise the gremlins that had affected our play in weeks previous. Being able to cut the mustard with the top team in Europe and (according to them) in the world as well, does do something for your self belief. Unbeaten in the league since October is the kind of consistency that managers dream of, even though the performance hasn't always matched the result.

Going out of the FA Cup to Wimbledon means we won't be making our annual trip to the Twin Towers for one of the domestic cup finals. A fitting protest against the decision to spend all that Lottery money on Wembley as opposed to Manchester's national stadium bid no doubt. S'pose we'll have to keep coming down and filling it for them after the rebuild as well!

One of the dangers of chasing glory on all fronts is that sometimes you end up with nothing. In that respect I'd concede the FA Cup and focus on the big two. For a number of years we've conceded the Coca Cola cup and under the circumstances the FA Cup is viewed in the same light by the Old Trafford strategists. With 13 games to go we are now on the championship run-in. This years race is going to be the most open for years with six or seven runners coming into the final bend. I suspect the safest place to be is where we are now, out in front, clear of all the pushing and shoving in the chasing pack.

Of the main contenders, Arsenal have shown good form all season in spite of this being a transitional season for them. Liverpool went top before Christmas with games in hand but

a fortunate dip in form along with a Mark Hughes-inspired cup exit has put them back a peg or two. Newcastle continue to play as if Kevin Kracker's is still in charge and hopefully it won't be long before you-know-who starts feeling the strain. Villa and Chelsea are just off the pace but will both take points off the top teams in the run-in. Wimbledon know they are good enough to qualify for Europe and have three routes open from any title ambitions for this year anyway.

Meanwhile we have the little matter of Porto to deal with in March. In simplistic terms it will come down to scoring more at home than we concede away. The lessons of the Champions league should bear us in good stead for this one. With away victories in Turkey and Austria along with a spirited home performance against Juve prove that we have the ability to complete the task both home and away. It's when we worry about what the opposition might do to us rather than trying to impose ourselves on them, that holds all the danger for United. Fenerbahce highlighted this point quite concisely. And if losing our unbeaten home record was the price we paid to progress further in Europe then so be it. It seems our old friend Kanchevskis has also progressed in Europe with a move to Italy. Andrei's agent has earned himself another wedge and pulled the same stunt he pulled at Old Trafford. Andrei went lame at Goodison just as he did at O.T. Mind you at least he wasn't actually on the pitch when he was refusing to play for us!

On a more positive note, the Labour party have been talking about the possible return of football terraces. Now this may well be political opportunism but anything that raises the issue and puts the debate on the agenda is to be welcomed. Apparently many clubs who have spent money on seating the terraces would be against it. If they

had built new stands with a different gradient for seating, then fair enough. However if all they've done is put seats in the terraces then the cost of removing them can be offset by increased revenue from additional attendances.

Finally we come to Kevin Keegan's demise. What pleases me with his departure is that we won't have to put up with all the other hypocritical bullshit that came with Kevin Keegan PLC. Keegan publicly endorsed both Labour and Tory leaders, whose respective parties have decimated jobs and industry in his beloved Tyne-side as well as the rest of Britain. Many working class people look to the success of their local team as an expression of their own hopes and aspirations. Millionaire Keegan is in good company with his chums Blair and Major when it comes to broken promises and failing to deliver for working class people. Ho'way Messiah to you golf course!

Until the next one, have a good one, and if we beat Porto, have a large one.

'Five Bellies' in pub fight

PAUL Gascoigne's pal Jimmy 'Five Bellies' Gardner threw a punch in a pub brawl sparked by heard yesterday. A court Gardner, 31, and Gazza's mate Charlie Miller, 20, anti-Catholic taunts after Bystander John McKee asked them to stop and was later punched in the face by Gardner. Paisley Sheriff Court was told Miller and a third man then struck Mr McKee with stools, it was said. They and Gardner deny assault and breach of the peace. The case continues.

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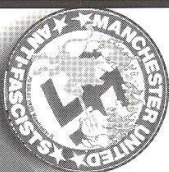
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RED ATTITUDE

RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD

Time for the Hissing to Stop

Notes Forest fans mocking the death of Matthew Harding and Aberdeen supporters mocking the Brox disaster of 1966 have made the headlines recently. Manchester United fans having suffered the loss of one of our finest teams in the Munich air disaster are no strangers to the emotions these events still invoke in the memory. Even moroso when they are used by rival fans to taunt and bait each other. The glee with which some supporters sang and chanted about 'Munich 58' and 'Who's that lying on the runway' you'd be forgiven for thinking they were celebrating a weekend spent at a bier-fest rather than mourning a plane crash. I recall being at Everton in the late seventies when some fans' saw fit to unfurl a Munich 58 banner.

It has been noticed that the Hillsborough disaster has caused Liverpool fans to drop the Munich song from their repertoire. Not quite as funny in the post Heyssel/Hillsborough era. Would it be callous to suggest that a good belt from the hand of fate may help Leeds fans come to the same conclusion?

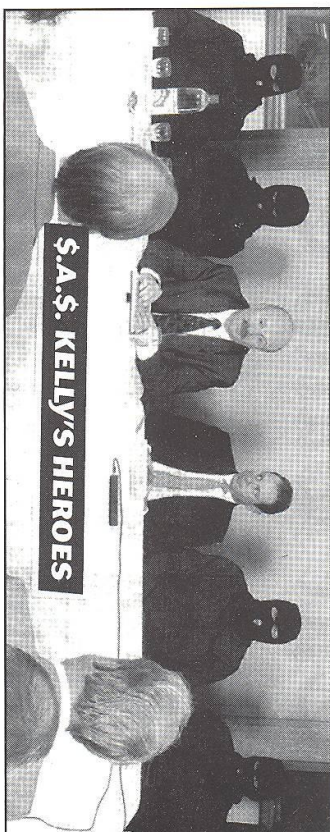
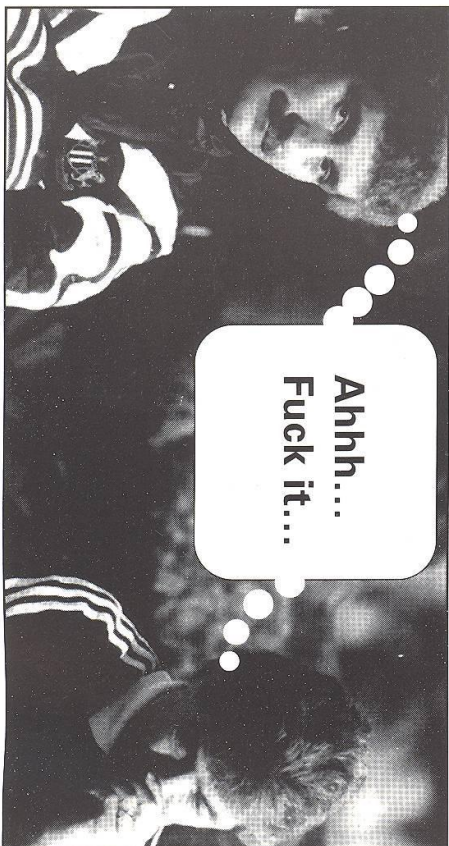
The one thing all of these tragedies have in common is that they were unforeseen, unplanned and, Heyssel apart, were tragic accidents.

One thing that wasn't an accident was the Holocaust. At concentration camps like Belsen and Auschwitz, spread across Germany and occupied countries, six million people, mainly Jews, were gassed to death. This was part of the Nazi plan to deal with all the people they classed as inferior by exterminating them.

So what has this got to do with football. Sadly there are those who believe that 'hissing' or simulating the noise of gas escaping is somehow funny, acceptable or within the remit of terrace banter whenever United play Spurs. Some United fans at White Hart Lane started the 'hissing', ironically just before Spurs equalised. There are those who know the significance of the gesture and do it regardless, and also those who don't but do it on the misunderstanding that they are saying "Shhh.....", implying that the home fans have gone quiet.

The logic behind the 'hissing' is that as Spurs are reputed to have a large Jewish following and are known colloquially as the Yids, then the Holocaust and the Nazi death camps can be invoked in order to taunt Spurs fans. United fans quite rightly gave Boshich some stick at OT over his inappropriate salute at Spurs. However where there may have been doubts as to his intentions or meaning, there can be no doubt as to the meaning of the "hissing".

It's time for the hissing to stop.



Following trouble with the Sunderland banner and Spurs in K stand, Ned Kelly, United's chief of security staff, introduces tough new security measures for Old Trafford.

The new-style steward's headgear in team colours will be available in the Megastore for the Porto game. Buy one, and make sure you do your bit to scare the shit out of the Portuguese.

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No of Issues.....

Home and Away without the Neighbours

TOTTENHAM AWAY PREMIER, 12TH JAN

United's first game in the post-Kevin era, what would we all make of it? The travelling fans, always eager to console the Toot army on their latest 'crying opportunity', gave a joyous rendition of 'Cheer up Kevin, Keegan, and Keegan's fucked off home'. It's a pity the police on horseback outside didn't do likewise. Their attempts to coerce people into the ground, in spite of a delayed kick-off were uncalled for. Bad losers, that's what I say, stand up if you're in the cup.

United lined up with an unfamiliar five at the back, Fergie resolving his defensive problems by opting to play all three of his injured centre-halves, along with Giggsy playing wing half with as much assurance as a nervous virgin. After the previous days' Premiership results, this was a game worth taking and despite the usual problems with unfamiliar systems, it was the Reds that took the lead. Superb interplay and a lethal finish from the Assassin not long after Spurs had managed to locate the crossbar, should have set United up for a comfortable afternoon. Giggsy, ill at ease as a wing-back, showed he was even more ill at ease as a striker when he fluffed the chance of the game. This allowed the 'ugly sisters' of London football to push, shove and kick their way back into the game.

Roy Keane, booed so consistently by the home fans that the ref booked him just to shut them up, was yet again awesome in the middle of the park and my choice for man of the match. The winner came from the gifted (and now highly lucrative) boot of Becks. A blinding strike and early candidate for goal of 1997. Yes Alex, "What a fucking goal!" Indeed! Having suffered the thrughish attentions of Colin Calderwood for the second time in a week, it's great to see Becks giving Spurs their second nuster by way of reply. And for the benefit of Trevor Francis and the Sky T.V. commentary team, the technique used by Calderwood to floor Beckham is most commonly known as a head

butt. Can I feel an F.A. enquiry coming on? Hardly. Wrong colour shirt!

All in all we've had an easy 3rd round cup tie, six Premiership points, three Soliskaar goals, and two Beckham wonder strikes out of Spurs this season so I'm not complaining.

WIMBLEDON, HOME FA CUP, 25TH JAN

One of the strangest games I've been to for a long time. The two managers, the BBC, Sky sports, and the papers all thought this was a great advert for football and the FA cup. This maybe true for the neutral point of view, but for United supporters it was very poor. There was no cohesion for 80 minutes. No real effort being made to win the match. No FA cup fight. The main reason was the Coca Cola style line up we put out. Casper and Clegg were drafted into a makeshift United defence. Fergie, worried by the aerial threat posed by the Wimbledon attack at set pieces, pulled Keano out of midfield to play as third centre-back. This shored up the defence but made the midfield sadly lightweight. United lost the momentum in the middle of the park and Joe Kinnear was rightly disappointed his team didn't beat us at the first attempt. McClair and Scholes were overrun despite their best efforts. Ten minutes from the end, United switch to a flat back four, move Keano into the middle and suddenly it seems we're up for winning this one. Scholes scores and hey presto, with a minute to go we're out of fail. Fifth round here we come. In spite of our poor performance, Wembley in May, usual seat etc. One minute later Robbie Earle heads home and we've got the worst result possible, a replay at Selhurst park. The least the Dons deserved.

WIMBLEDON, HOME PREMIER, 29TH JAN

We could look forward to this game with more promise as Pallister and Irwin returned to the defence and Beckham alongside Keano back in midfield. Four days earlier we looked wary of the Dons, now we were to set about in the style

of the Lisbon Lions in 1967. From the first minute we poured down on Wimbledon like rain on our fair city. Giggs was interested, Cantona had a look of well Cantona of old and with the midfield in total control, the main man to benefit was Ole Gunnar Soliskaar. How this man didn't get at least a hat-trick is beyond me. The bar twice, a header inches wide, a diving stretching effort, this is just the first half. Ole was plain unlucky, his attempts in the main on target with the keeper beaten. Other chances fell to more experienced players who failed to capitalise on them. Giggs missed a sitter, Pallister had a couple of headers and Eric had a couple of half chances. People scoffed, especially our kid, at my discomfort that despite about 20 chances first half we went in at 0-0.

My fears were borne out as Perry gave the visitors an undeserved lead. It was now time to show people we were up for another title challenge. 1-0 down at home to Wimbledon. Many have failed from that position. Remember this is a quality outfit who can play the ball around when the situation suits but still shove it up yer when you're not concentrating.

Cantona's effort that dented Sullivan's bar early in the second half brought back memories of Arsenal last year, but this would have been better had it gone in. More chances before and after Perry's strike, was it going to be one of those nights? 'Throw on the Cole' was the shout and Fergie duly obliged.

His work rate in the front line was a major influence on the space King Eric had last season. But it must be said that two great chances went abeggin'. An unmarked header he just missed and a snatch shot which hit nearer his knee than his foot. Still 1-0 down remember. Beckham's free kick is cleared for a corner from which Giggs heads home the equaliser. Kinnear branded it a fluke, but it was a bigger fluke that his team weren't 5-0 down by half-time. Another great shot from Ole on the volley was stopped by Sullivan and in pounced Andy Cole to poke home the winner from all of 7 yards. A great response from the players after the FA Cup draw, but they were well backed by a lively performance from the supporters too. More of the same will do nicely.

WIMBLEDON, AWAY FA CUP REPLAY, 4TH FEB

What was once regarded as the easiest away fixture to get tickets for, is now taking on comparable odds to the national lottery. Wimbledon's good run this year has seen their average attendance hit 15,000, which puts them above Southampton in the scheme of things. I'm told that United only took 4,000 tickets for the replay, with the rest of the tickets being sold to United fans by Ticketmaster. Anyone who spent two days unsuccessfully trying to get through, only to be told they were sold out knows what I'm on about.

Enough of this all too familiar moaning about ticket allocations. The only solution is to play all United's London games at Wembley. This would also give the London teams the rare opportunity to use the 'national stadium'.

Third time in ten days against the Dons and any suspicions that having got the three points last time out, they might not be giving it their all were fully justified. This was no more than a glorified training session for United, and when Fergie says after losing the game that 'later in the season this may prove to be a blessing in disguise, need I say more?' I don't mind the FA cup talking on the importance of the Coca Cola cup, as long as its place in the trophy room is taken up by the European cup. Again, with all the main contenders for the league out of the FA cup as well, it won't do us any harm to be playing the same amount of games as our rivals.

However and with all due consideration to the tactical benefits of what for us is a premature departure from the FA cup, the performance of Ryan Giggs should not pass without comment. If upwards of 13,000 United fans can make the effort to get their arses down to a cold, wet and windy Selhurst Park rather than watching it on Sky in the boozier, then the least we expect is that the matches that effort on the pitch, instead he behaved like he'd been got at in the tunnel before the game by the likes of Vrniny Jones and Mick Harford. Teams like Wimbledon will always turn you over if they suspect you're not quite up for it. That aside, the rest of the team played with a degree of organisation if not flair and should be commended for coming through injury-free. Seems as though open season has been declared on Eric again as far as the bookings are concerned. No doubt the race is on to be the first to send him off this year.

RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD

RED ATTITUDE

Our Friends in the North

What a terrible blow to United fans, were my first thoughts after hearing of Kevin's sudden departure. First thoughts that is after the hysteria had subsided. This past 16 months we've had excellent sport with Kevin and even sang a special song just to cheer him up.

After Dalglish cracked and jacked at Walker Steel, leaving behind him a team ready to terrorise Europe and beyond, until Harford got hold of it, or so he would now have you believe; there was great concern as to who would carry the fight to United on behalf of the rest of the country. Cometh the hour, cometh the man, and up pops KayKay, number one geordie son from Doncaster, ever keen to carry the hopes and prejudices of more than Tyneside alone. Keegan took on the role vacated by Dalglish as the media appointed people's champion whose job it was to topple United as England's top club. Prior to this, Keegan had quite rightly earned a good deal of respect for his achievements in turning the fortunes of Newcastle around. In his first season he avoided relegation into the old third division and with some astute dealing and modest spending compared to later, he gained promotion to the Premier the following season. Their return to the Premier in 93/94 was marked with enterprising football, finishing third in the table and qualification for Europe. The acquisition of players such as Lee, Cole, Venison and Beardley served to enhance Keegan's growing reputation as a shrewd operator both tactically and in the transfer market. Looking back it's fair to say that these were the glory years for the Keegan era. Achievement far exceeded expectation. From here on in achievement consistently failed to meet expectation.

The following season Newcastle failed to sustain the growth rate they'd set themselves and by New Year 1995, an impatient Keegan decided it was time to make changes. First major export was Andy Cole to United for £7 million. Rumour has it that Keegan had George Weah lined up as his replacement for £4 million. Weah settled for Milan and Keegan settled for Kitson. It is useful to recall that when Keegan's sale of Cole was questioned by some Newcastle fans, the suspicion was floated by the media that Cole was damaged goods and that an astute Kevin Keegan had off-loaded at the right time. The

media have kept this going, arguing that the comparative lack of goals for United bears out this theory. The reality is somewhat different. The flaws in the Newcastle team were there to be seen. Albert and Peacock moved in and the reliable Venison was spending more time in the Sky commentary box rather than the Newcastle box. Andy Cole's goals helped gloss over the deficiencies elsewhere in the team. When his output dropped Keegan sold him without having a replacement. Since selling Cole, Keegan has spent £30 million in trying to replace him. (Kitson £3m, Ferdinand £6m, Asprilla £7m, Shearer £15m). Cole went on to make a valuable contribution to the winning of the Double with United, whereas Keegan had nothing to show for his smart moves!

With the departure of players like Cole, Venison, Sellers, and Fox, the pattern of the Keegan management style was becoming ever more unstable. Players were replaced almost instantly by ever more expensive imports who in turn were replaced or discarded if they did not produce the goods. There was no transitional periods or time to bed in. The fees paid demanded instant returns, and the expectation rose accordingly. Keegan was no longer a talented coach, he was now a fantasy football manager.

The arrival of Barton, Ginola, Hislup and Ferdinand at the start of the 1996/97 season were heralded as the final pieces of a very expensive jig-saw. Keegan's biggest mistake however was self inflicted, and that was to take on the job of topping United on behalf of the media and the rest of the country as well as Tyneside.

Having won the league comfortably by Christmas, he then had to go out and play a tougher second half to the season. Ferguson publicly conceded the race was over whilst privately set about demolishing their almost unassailable lead. As the lead began to whittle away, Keegan resorted to more comfort shopping with the arrival of Batty and Asprilla. Asprilla's arrival is oft highlighted as being the turning point to when the season went sour, but it is probably safer to say that Newcastle's capitulation at O.T over Christmas was more revealing as to what lay in store for Keegan's men. Under pressure, away from home and having to produce a result led to failure every

time. Fergie sussed it, and from conceding at Christmas he had turned to baiting his opponents by Easter with a telling effect on Keegan's mental stamina for the run in. Keegan's outburst on TV must have been music to the ears of Alex Ferguson. True to form media man had lost it in front of the cameras. A suspect defence and a suspect goalkeeper rather than a lack of firepower were plan for all but Keegan to see, and attempts by the media to point him in the right direction went unheeded. This was the finish of Keegan and why he was left to stagger on like a punch drunk boxer for the next eight months is a bit of a mystery. Perhaps John Hall was getting his own back on a man who threatened to quit six times in six years and after spending over £60 million of his money, all he had to show for it was one five nil win over United at St. James Park. There's more than Keegan that needs cheering up in geordie-land! Keegan the snowman had finally melted, and John Hall went hard and fast for Bobby Robson, not Dalglish interestingly, who sat back waiting to be approached when Robson proved unavailable. However Hall's determination to get Robson panicked Dalglish who tipped off his media friends to canvass on his behalf. Henry Winter, Dalglish's biographer ran a full page article in the Daily Telegraph rewriting the Dalglish walkouts and promoting him for the Newcastle job. Alan Hansen was also called up

to back the bid for Dalglish almost to the point of claiming he had magical powers when it came to winning trophies. Dalglish's record is suspect and John Hall knows it. At the press conference to announce his arrival, Dalglish hardly shut up. He was rambling like a man who had been drinking from Noel Gallagher's teapot, and spoke more in twenty minutes than I've heard him speak in the last twenty years. Clearly with the Newcastle flotation looming up, Dalglish was under orders from Hall to drop his unco-operative manner when dealing with the press. A source of future conflict!

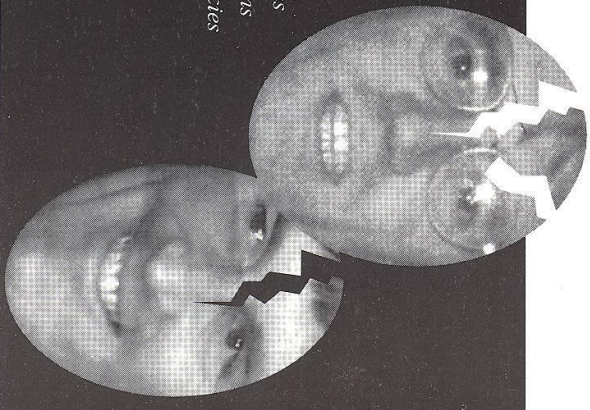
Dalglish's departure from Liverpool and Blackburn have been airbrushed out of the collective memory by the press, and instead we are treated to King Kenny's incredible success as both player and manager. No inquest has been held into the performance of his Blackburn team during his reign as director of football, both domestically and more appallingly in Europe. Kenny though can't resist a no lose bet; if he wins the Premier, then it will be down to him, and if he doesn't win, it will be down to Keegan. As one Newcastle fan asked when Kenny was appointed, "What if he does a Keegan and walks out?" Well don't worry Keegan was only doing a Dalglish!

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RED MOLE Uncovers...



The News of the World ran a front page 'exclusive' on Ian Wright's off the field activities on 12th of January 1997. This comes weeks after the News of the World interview with Ian over the racial abuse allegations against Peter Schmeichel. From reading the article on Ian's affair, it is apparent that it happened about twelve months ago and his wife knew all about it. What is of interest to United fans though is this. Before Ian Wright's interview with the News of the Screws, the FA had nowhere to go with regard to the Schmeichel case as no-one, and in particular Ian Wright, had complained. Based on what Ian Wright allegedly said in his interview with the paper, the FA were able to take the matter further by writing to the players for their comments on the 'incident'.

It would be fair to say that the News of the World had poor old Wrighty by the short and curries, if Ian didn't want the press to do the dirty on him, then he had to supply the ammunition for them to do the dirty on someone else. As Ian and the rest of us have since found out, they printed anyway.

SOMETHING COOKING

In issue 10 of Red Attitude we covered Mark Bosnich and his fascist salute at Spurs. We drew the conclusion that he was a clown rather than a fascist and that people should look elsewhere to find the real villains. We highlighted the Tory MP for Knutsford who is at the centre of the cash for questions scandal and has a sordid past with links to many extreme right wing groups, as a more likely candidate. Well someone

high up at Channel 4 must have been reading as they've just done a 'Dispatches' documentary on him.

Apart from plenty of additional material to show he was on the take across the board, one other very interesting story came to light. The Cooke Report, on learning that the influence and favours of MPs and ministers could be bought for cash by hiring a political lobby group called Ian Greer Associates set about investigating. Fat Rodger and his boys set up a bogus company and recorded meetings with Greer Associates, where they were told that Neil Hamilton MP and Minister, amongst others was on the books and available at a price. Strangely, this programme was never transmitted, and the makers, Central TV claimed that no-one would be interested in 'cash for questions'. When you think that Roger Cooke has chased car thieves across three continents, isn't it strange that when he stumbles into a massive government corruption scandal he walks away from it. Can you imagine Cooke knocking on 10 Downing Street confronting Mr. Big about government corruption with a camera team in tow.

KING 'BITTER' BEE RECORDS.

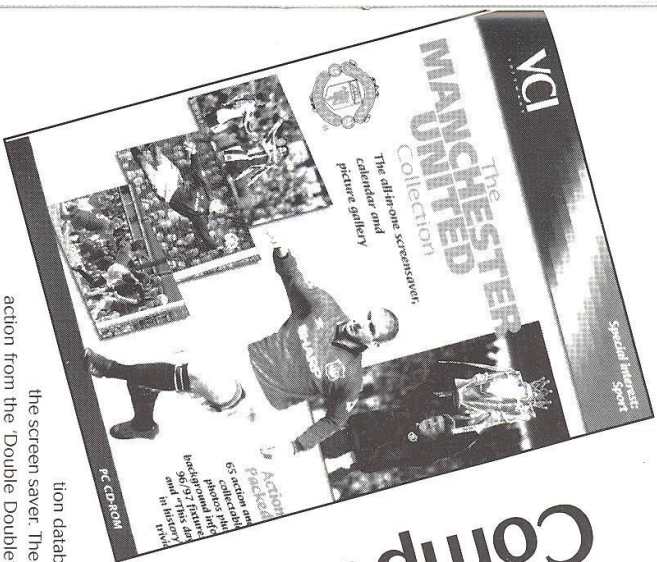
On hearing that KingBee Records in Chorlton were stockists of football fanzines, our erstwhile Manchester sales co-ordinator John Priest popped in to see if they were interested in stocking Red Attitude. Upon asking the question, he was told in no uncertain terms that they only sell City fanzines. 'But this is a record shop,' our man replied in vain. 'I'm not interested' was the swift reply, John paused, cast his eye around the merchandise and asked dryly before leaving, 'Does this mean you only sell records to City fans aswell?' It does from now on, John!

FOULING THE FOOTIE PATH

Guess who has committed the most fouls in Premiership over the past six weeks? Jones, Dicks, Ruddock? No, none of the usual reprobates. Would you believe it's Goody-Two-Boots himself, Alan Shearer, who according to computer analysis by the Opta Index has totalled 25, five more than the other half of the former SAS, Chris Sutton. Odd, though that Shearer does not figure in the top ten of the card crime-count, headed by Coventry's Dion Dublin. Are referees reluctant to bring the England captain to book because of who he is? Dispelling the myth that the foreign imports don't like to mix it with the best of British, is Emerson, of Middlesbrough, who as well as being the top collector of Air Miles is also the most successful tackler in the Premiership with 74 per cent won out of 94 made. More in character, Shearer is the most effective striker, with a 83 per cent shots to goals ratio (21 shots, 7 goals), but Scholes is Manchester United's the most accurate marksman with 75 per cent of his shots on target. The Opta Index Player of the Week is Chelsea's Dennis Wise.

THOMAS TILKES

RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD



Competition

WIN A COPY OF THE
MANCHESTER
UNITED SCREEN-
SAVER LAUNCHED
BY VCI
SOFTWARE.
TWO SETS OF PC
BASED SOFTWARE ON
CD-ROM ARE UP
FOR GRABS.

This package entitled 'The Manchester United Collection' comprises an information database, calendar and picture gallery as well as action from the 'Double Double' season and earlier matches plus shots of players past and present.

As well as reminding the user of important business appointments, the program also gives details of Manchester United's 1996-97 Premiership fixtures. There is also a 'This Day In History' trivia section in which the calendar releases fascinating facts about Man U on various days throughout the year so that the more the calendar is used, the more the viewer learns about their favourite team!

Study the photograph below of the recent West Ham pitch invasion and using your skill and judgement decide which of the following incidents sparked the invasion. Was it

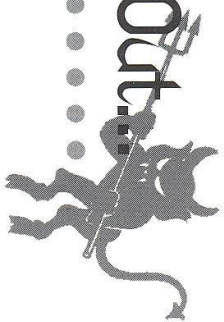
- 1) the equaliser against United or
- 2) the home defeat by lowly Wrexham.



In the event of a tie, please answer the tie-breaker question. How many pitch invasions do you need to qualify for an FA enquiry?

RED ATTITUDE

The Devils Ride Out...



Peter Schweichel

Exposed too often of late, despite not being under any long periods of pressure. The defence need his organisational skills now more than ever. His own form is good with clean sheets becoming fairly standard.

8/10

Gary Neville

Still not producing his best form but is improving with the team. Has looked more comfortable at the centre-back position, but doubts over his aerial power suggest full back is the job to focus on.

7/10

Arsenal game and we'll need him. Has been steady at the back, sound in the tackle.

8/10

Ronnie Johnson

Another centre back with recurring injuries. He is quality but shouldn't have been thrown in at Selhurst Park, it upset the apple cart at the back!

7/10

Chris Casper

Looked good against the Dons at home and also away at Spurs when coming on as sub. Doesn't get dragged out of position and given our problems at the back, he should be getting 20 minute runouts every game to get him up to pace.

Denis Irwin

Again a case of full back not quite living up to previously set high standards, however two

sterling performances against Wimbledon and Southampton at home. Denis is on the move.

7/10

David May

Sick boy should be back for the



RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD

Roy Keane

Quality. What else needs to be said.

9/10

Brian McClair

He's here, he's there...and no doubt we'll be saying it for a lot longer than we may like. Any sign of the coaching job yet?

6/10 (includes 3 from last issue)

David Beckham

Been quieter of late, but lucky for him has produced a few flukes to help pay his way. Still ranks as the contender for player of the year. Don't tell Keano!

10/10

Nicky Butt

Not played since Christmas, and we've missed his dogged tackling but not his dodgy passing.

Ryan Giggs

Giggs isn't having a bad season, but the odd goal isn't a good enough return from the chances he's had. If we're to stay top then his contribution, especially away from OT needs upping. Keep it up Ryan and I don't mean in the Barton.

8/10

Karel Poborsky

Has looked better for getting a few starts under his belt. The fans should stay off his back and give him the time to develop as it may not happen for Karel this season. Keep going with the head down Karel.

7/10 for effort

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

This little fella continues to score and make people sit up and take notice of him. All plaudits richly deserved.

9/10

Paul Scholes

Paul's had to mix and match to get into the team this year but his play anywhere style and knack of pulling a goal out of nowhere every now and again should at least guarantee a spot on the bench.

8/10

Eric Cantona

Still struggling to break off the shackles this term. Great goal against Sunderland, and the winner against Soton. Long live the King!

7/10

Andy Cole

Relax man! Keep working the forward line like last season and the goal return isn't the only thing the fans are looking at. You score for fun when the confidence is there. It will come when the work rate is 'til the end of the season and it's Coley for England.

I think he looks good with Olé up front and Eric between midfield and attack.

7/10

Michael Palin



from the RA Choccy archives



Fanzine Reviews

Forest Forever. Issue 34.

Forest Forever are keen believers in not wasting any space. Virtually every page is packed to the



rafters with the goings on down by the Trent. They have a list of contributors which is longer than all United's fanzines put together, and boy do they kick up some output.

Such are the problems, they have plenty to talk about. Although since this one was printed, Forest have lost Mr Clark to our would-be local rivals Man City, many of the Forestfans were of the opinion that Frank Clark had reached his sell-by date anyway. The money from the sale of Collymore was badly spent by Frank Clark. This belies the old rich club poor club argument which is wheeled out every time a club screws up. Having squandered the money, a la West Ham, they plead poverty as being the reason for a lack of success. Forest can take heart in losing Mr. Clark and having Stuart Pearce step into the breach. I just hope their FA cup victory over Newcastle cheered their supporters up as much as it did the readers of Red Attitude! All in all a reasonable fanzine for no great reason other than it does it's job.

Villa Fans Against Loyatism and Fascism.

Now here's an interesting cookie and judging by the title, it should be of interest to Red

Attitude readers. The group started up in response to the advent of Aston Villa C18, with whom they have had one or two successful run-ins. Taking a leaf out of the Celtic anti-fascists and Man United anti-fascists book, they have now gone into print. As with all first attempts, the style and quality is a bit ropey, however if it's free you can't complain, and it can only get better! What I did find interesting was the Villa fans opposition to loyalism alongside their opposition to fascism.

C18 have a big problem when they try to run under their own colours at many clubs. To run on an anti-Black or anti-foreigner ticket would not cut much ice with supporters who have seen the beneficial contribution these groups have made to their clubs. The wearing of Ruud Gullit style wigs by Chelsea fans is not a Headhunter/C18 initiative. Likewise even at Leeds, organised fascist groups who once sold their propaganda openly at Elland Rd, have found it difficult to generate race-hate with the likes of Yelboah, Wallace, Radebe, Deane and Palmer involved on the playing side.

C18's answer to this is to promote an issue which they feel is easy to defend. Namely, 'No surrender to the IRA'. This is the new rallying cry from the fascist recruiter's at football. The old ones like "There ain't no black in the union jack" have been mothballed for now. The beauty of the position for C18 is that anyone who opposes their stance can be labelled as an apologist for the IRA. However even the loyalist groups are uneasy at the publicity their links with C18 and fascism have gained, especially as they are allegedly involved in peace talks. More apologists? I think not.

Villa fans have taken the bull by the horns on this one in not only challenging the fascists but also making a stand against the anti Irish racism that these groups are whipping up. Further information on this initiative can be obtained from VFALF, PO Box 3311, Birmingham B13 0RZ.

SEE YOU SOON!

ASTON VILLA C18

SKY

presents

a

masterpiece

and

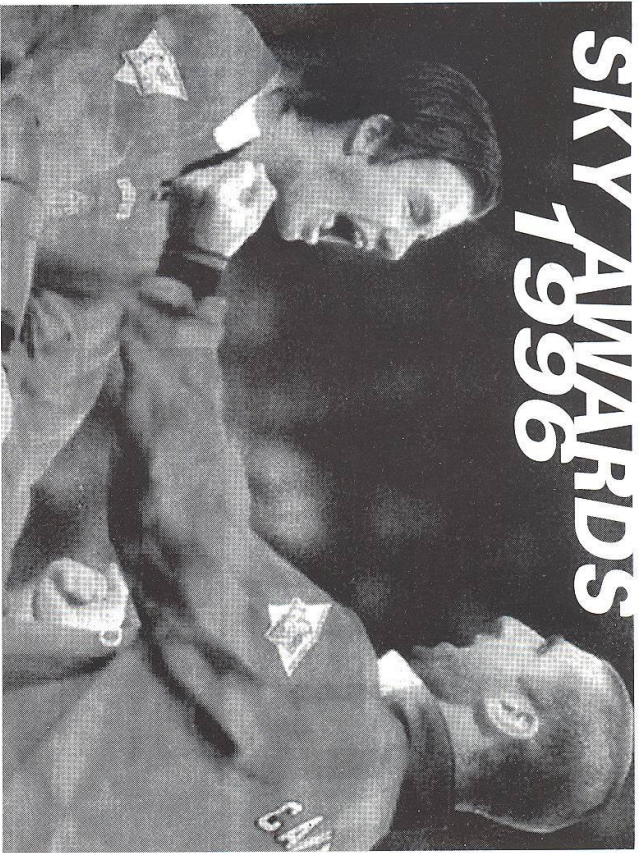
a

wanker

Michelangelo's David

Sheryl's Beater

SKY AWARDS 1996



best young player:

David Beckham.

No problem with this one although Nicky Butt should have made the final list along with Phil Neville if he'd carried on from where he left off in the summer.

fans player of the year:

David Beckham.

Pleasantly surprised at this award. Just goes to show that real football class will prevail over media hype, if the rest of the country voted for Beckham ahead of Shearer.

best overseas player:

Eric Cantona

Can't grumble with this one, but it should have gone to Peter Schmeichel and Player of the Year to Eric given his singular contribution to the Double.

best player:

Alan Shearer

Absolute bollocks I'm afraid. What did Shearer do last year over and above what his fat salary barely justifies? Oh, that's right, he moved from Blackburn to Newcastle for £15 million. That means he's the best player by about £7 million. How this award can go to Shearer, whose goals won diddly-squat last year, as opposed to Eric's goals which landed the silverware, is beyond me.

best manager:

Joe Kinnear.

Undoubtedly one of the best managers in the Premiership and I don't begrudge him his reward and recognition one iota. However, it does demonstrate a very interesting voting pattern from the league managers. Having lost the first three games of the season, Joe's award is based on Wimbledon's

REVIEWED AND REVISED...

run since mid-September, which no matter what spin you put on lack of resources, there just isn't enough there to warrant manager of the year. Moreso when you weigh up the achievements of Fergie and his homespun outfit, having won the double Double, qualified for the later stages of the European Cup and moved ominously closer to top spot in the league again. The question is, had Keegan won the league, would Joe have got manager of the year? Of course not but this time round it was the only avenue open to the anti-United elements.

goal of the season

Matt Le Tissier Soton v Man Utd

Yet again the obvious choice for this category didn't win. Le Tissier's goal was barely goal of the match let alone goal of the season. Even Mr. Kinkladze can feel justifiably aggrieved on this one, but not as much as the rest of us who thought Beckham's wonder strike at Wimbledon was the goal of the season.

non-football sports

personality of the year:

Naseem Hamed

Ian Dowie would have been an obvious one for the non-footballing award, but it went to a very good boxer who has a fondness for wearing Newcastle United shirts. He should take note from the experiences of that other well known 'geordie' boxer, Nigel Benn whose career seems to have nose-dived about as spectacularly as a Newcastle United title challenge!

best song:

Cheer Up Kevin Keegan

A clear winner in this category, and the only argument is between United, Middlesbrough and Sunderland fans over who gives the best rendition. Kevin, apparently is haunted by this song, so he should be pleased to hear that the Monkees have reformed and will hopefully re-release the original version.

reformed and will hopefully re-release the original version.

biggest tantum:
Newcastle United Fans

Another clear winner for the geordies, this time for their celebrations in their own town centre after losing the Premiership to the super Reds.



biggest loser:

Kevin Keegan

Not only has he managed to lose sixty million pounds, and a fourteen point lead in the title race, but now he has gone and lost his marbles. It's a good job his balls are in a bag!

tackiest sports awards ceremony:

Sky 1996 Awards.

If you saw it, then you'll know what I mean; if you didn't then you're lucky. Good to see Eric not gracing the event with his presence, so all those sad tossers in the audience who saw fit to boo his award will feel suitably short-changed by his non-appearance.

Strong words, softly spoken...? The Noonan Interview

Red Attitude sent along two of its roving reporters to catch up with Dessy Noonan and record the long awaited 'Noonan Interview'. Proving elusive over the Christmas period, Red Attitude finally found their man on the morning of the Cup clash with Spurs.

Dessy Noonan, long-time United fan, and well known 'fice' on the Manchester scene is perhaps less well known for his opposition to racism and fascism during the 1980's and early 1990's in Manchester. Here for the first time in print, Dessy gives his views on supporting United and also on his days fighting fascism.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST RECOLLECTIONS OF GOING TO OLD TRAFORD.

A. I first started going to Old Trafford when I was about fifteen. It was the early seventies and Best had just done one again, Gordon Hill, Steve Coppell and Buchan at the back, these are the names that spring to mind. Hang on there's someone at the back door. Hey! don't put this in the magazine will you? Come in Sid, I'm just doing an interview!

Q. NAME YOUR FAVOURITE UNITED ELEVEN FROM THE PLAYERS YOU HAVE SEEN.

A. Schmeichel, G. Neville, Irwin, Bruce, Buchan, Robson, Keane, Kanchevskis, Cantona, Giggs, Hughes.

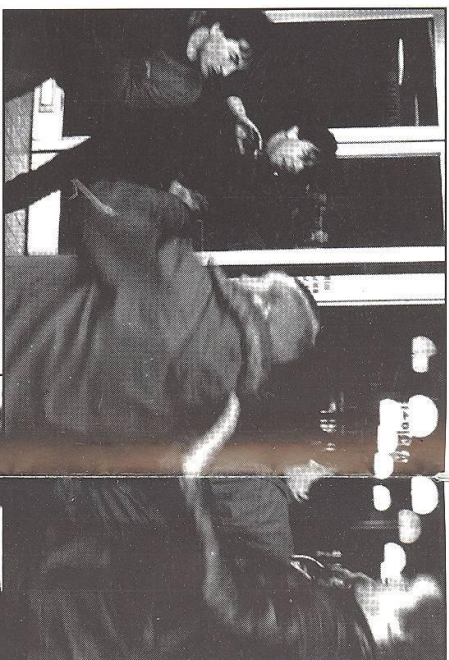
Q. DURING THE EARLY EIGHTIES, REDS AGAINST THE NAZIS LEAFLETED AT OLD TRAFORD REGULARLY. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THIS INITIATIVE.

A. Yes, I remember meeting some of the lads who were involved with this at the time. They are United fans to the core and over the years they have certainly put their money where their mouth is on this issue.

Q. DURING THE EIGHTIES, CITY HAD A GROUP OF NF MEMBERS OPERATING AT MAINE RD. WHAT WAS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS.

A. They were involved with the NF in Manchester and had attacked political meetings and demonstrations. They also turned out with the

NF when they used to sell NF news outside what was Chelsea girl (now Virgin records) on the corner of Piccadilly. Their paper selling soon came to a halt when the boys went down there week after week and knocked fuck out of them. In one attack, a German soldier, over here on NATO



NF paper sale, Piccadilly Manchester, circa 1981, goes horribly wrong...

manoeuvres, got stabbed after he went out selling with them.

Q. THIS MUST HAVE LED TO SOME INTERESTING SITUATIONS GIVEN THE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. QUITE APART FROM THE FOOTBALL DIFFERENCES, ON DERBY DAY.

A. Yes, one very interesting 'clash' occurred in 1987 at the Maine Rd derby. Seven of us were on a pub crawl through Rusholme on our way to Maine Rd like you do on derby day. We breezed into the Clarence which was full of Blues. I'd say upwards of fifty in the pub and more outside. At the time, the word was that City's firm hung out here on matchdays. Some of the AFA

lads with us recognised City's main NF boys were also in the pub. You could have cut the atmosphere with a knife as everyone knew we were Reds as soon as we walked in. At first there was almost a look of glee on their faces, no doubt inspired by their own numbers, but the smiles soon went as none of their lot was prepared to make the obvious, next move against the 'uninvited guests'. City's NF supporters bolted it and that put the rest of the Blues off as well. One of City's firm, who wasn't a fascist actually came over to us in the pub and said that the NF didn't want to know! That was a big humiliation for them in front of their own people in their own pub on Derby day by seven United fans well known for their anti-NF views.

The next derby after that was at Old Trafford. We arranged to meet up in the Whalley in Whalley Range. On the Friday before, some Blues were mouthing off about our exploits in the Clarence and were looking to return the compliment. I told them we'd be in the Whalley if City wanted to



...they've not been back since!

come and have a drink with us before the game, and thought no more about it. We were in the Whalley, again no more than seven or eight of us, but no show from our Blue friends by the time we left. After the game we heard reports that a mob of City 200 strong had attacked United fans in the Whalley on the way to Old Trafford. The few Reds in the pub and the locals actually fought off the attack. This was City's fascist inspired response to being fronted in their own pub.

City's fascists played up the football rivalries between us and them to hide the political differences, whilst we highlighted that their support for fascism meant they were getting it anyway and if City fans wanted to back them and plead ignorance on the politics, then so be it.

Q. WHY IS IT THAT THE FASCISTS WERE IDENTIFIED WITH CITY AND THE ANTI FASCISTS WITH UNITED.

A. Anti-fascist United fans have been involved at United for a long time and it has proved difficult for the fascists to get established. At City the fascists were there almost from day one. They were part of City's mob but were organised and active politically for the

NF separate from football. However once they'd been identified politically as being fascists it was game on so to speak. This also brought them into conflict with City's local black supporters. Its worth mentioning that a lot of city supporters were totally opposed to them. A lot of the information that we acted on came direct from anti-fascist City fans. Their contribution has not been given the credit that it deserves.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH AFA.

A. For legal reasons obviously there's a lot that wouldn't look good in print, however what I will say is that it is an activist organisation that is run by the people who

are prepared to go out and do the business against the fascists. In other words a 'hands on' type of outfit. For my part I've enjoyed every time I've been out drinking with them, and I've enjoyed telling people what they're doing politically is wrong and above all I've enjoyed hunting their organisations and I will continue to if they carry on, as they are a disease and they need to be picked out.

Q HOW HAS AFA BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT ORGANISED FASCIST GROUPS FROM OPERATING IN MANCHESTER.

A Quite simply because year after year we have out-rioted them. If they can't operate politically without being attacked then they will struggle to attract anything more than losers and punchbags. In 1993 the BNP started a branch in Manchester, within weeks their organiser was sat drinking in a pub in Moss Side discussing his surrender terms with us. They have a branch in Salford run by a Mr Payne, but he's such a useless twat that his better for us if he's left alone to carry on fucking his own outfit up.

The reason AFA's been strong in Manchester is that everyone's stuck together. We've had London firms down and lads from all over to help us. We've stood strong in situations, we've never backed down, and I don't think we will back down at the end of the day. I believe if you stand together in solidarity you'll get rid of whatever you want.

Q HOW DO YOU SEE THINGS OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS WITH THE PROBABLE ELECTION OF A LABOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE BNP LOOKING TO FIELD FIFTY CANDIDATES AT

THE ELECTION.

A I've got my suspicions that if Labour get in then the BNP will do well out of it. Labour don't do anything about racism, or they do just enough to get the votes, but they're not bothered. They're just like the Tories, they don't give a shit. When they get in they will be just as quick as the Tories to blame the immigrants anyway.

Let's face it, working people are going to vote Labour expecting a change for the better after the Tories. Tony Blair's new Labour already claim to be the party of business and that's their words, so working class people are going to get well and truly ripped. The BNP are sat there using the election to stand on an anti-Labour ticket, hoping to cash in on working people's despair and disillusion twelve months down the line when Labour have shafted them.

Q WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ANTI FASCISTS IN THE FRONTLINE OF TODAY'S STRUGGLE.

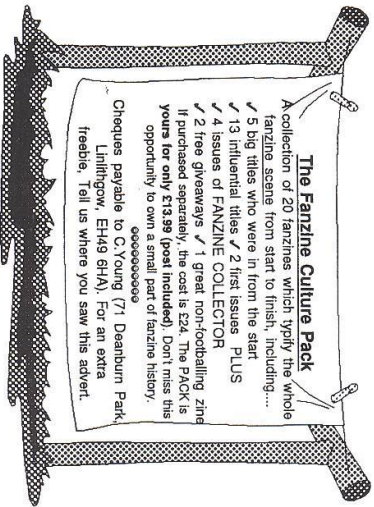
A By all means oppose the fascists at the election, but don't regard it as a victory if the BNP don't fare too well, they don't expect to. The real fight starts six to twelve months after Labour get in. The election is like half time. People have to be fit to play the full 90 minutes and extra time if necessary. My advice to AFA supporters is to carry on with what you're doing. I know it's a struggle, maybe one day it'll come together but it won't be easy. If it's important then you fight for it.

Q WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ALEX FERGUSON FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON.

A Just keep plodding along. I still think we'll win the League and I'm certain we'll come close to winning the European Cup as well. Either way with the players and management we've got, we're going to be up amongst it for the next five years at least. Don't forget United are still a developing club and hopefully the finished article is yet to be seen.

Q ARE YOU HEADING OVER TO PORTO FOR THE QUARTER FINALS

A You bet your life I am. I wasn't available for the previous rounds due to Home Office regulations, but with the Bosman ruling and the parole system I'm available for the knock-out stages!



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RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD



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Geoff Bant



Roger Byrne
Captain



Eddie Colman



Duncan Edwards



Mark Jones



David Pagan



Tommy Taylor



Bill Whelan

Red Attitude Remembers... Murnich
6th February 1958

UNITED WILL GO ON...

On 6th February 1958 an aircraft returning from Belgrade crashed at Munich Airport. Of the twenty-one passengers who died twelve were players and officials of the Manchester United Football Club. Many others still lie injured.

It is the sad duty of we who serve United to offer the bereaved our heartfelt sympathy and condolences. Here is a tragedy which will sadden us for years to come, but in this we are not alone. An unprecedented blow to British football has touched the hearts of millions and we express our deep gratitude to the many who have sent messages of sympathy and floral tributes. Wherever football is played United is mourned, but we rejoice that many of our party have been spared and wish them a speedy and complete recovery. Words are inadequate to describe our thanks and appreciation of the truly magnificent work of the surgeons and nurses of the Rechts der Isar Hospital at Munich. But for their superb skill and deep compassion our casualties must have been greater. To Georg Mauer, Chief Surgeon, we offer our eternal gratitude.

Although we mourn our dead and grieve for our wounded we believe that great days are not done for us. The sympathy our supporters will forty and inspire us. The road back may be long and hard but with the memory of those who died at Munich, of their stirring achievements and wonderful sportsmanship ever with us, Manchester United will rise again.

H. P. HARDMAN, CHAIRMAN

RED ATTITUDE

United Review,
22nd February 1958

A Letter From Eric...

RISLEY: 11.1.97.

I suspect that next week's porridge will seem greyer than usual in the likes of Walton, Durham, Winton Green and the London locals, where the majority of the incarcerated, legions of our main title rivals reside. None of the top eight won today, couple that with the very respectable haul of points the lads pulled in over Xmas and I think the message will be ringing clear: the mighty O.T. tide's getting into full flow. Looking forward immensely to tomorrow's game at White Hart Lane. We get the second half of the Sunday games on TV. Us Reds are outnumbered about ten to one on this wing and it's excellent sport, with the very-united anti-United mob baying for our blood. I love it.

A lot of it's in good humour though - the stick that fans take and give to each other - even when there's a phone-card (which represents about a third of the average wage here) at stake. But there's definitely an edge of malice about the flak that's directed our way. Some of 'em are really bitter about our winning ways, it never ceases to surprise me. I remember talking to an old pal of mine, in Wandsworth, top-drawer villain he was, he had plenty of money and a good rich life out of the game, cultured and intelligent in every respect. He was an Arsenal fan, for his sins (but it's no good blaming the supporters for all the boring teams the Gunners have produced. They can't switch their allegiance any more than we can), and on this day he let his true feelings for us overcome his natural polish, "I fucking hate Man U, I fucking despise them, I really do." I was taken aback. "Why should you feel like that?" I asked. "You're a mature sophisticated man; you support a big club, that's had massive success." "That's just it," he replied, "we are a big club, with a great history of success and tradition, the marble halls and all that, but you're bigger, even here in London you're bigger; it's Man United this and Man United that, I tell you mate. I just despise you." So there you are, if that was the response from the man of the world I've described, what can we Reds expect from the somewhat less cosmopolitan residents of this suburban slammer?

Mind you, the interest in football, gambling and sport in general inside, isn't what it used to be. A lot of the residents seem to be more interested in heavy duty dramas, such as Neighbours or Home and Away. I glance into the T.V. rooms and I genuinely fear for the future of the criminal classes.

Where's the next generation of petemen, blaggers, fraudsters, etc going to come from? Certainly the crap films that are shown draw bigger gates than the football.

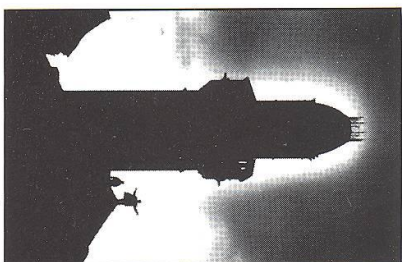
They've got T.V.s in cells in Strangeways now, you know. The cops pay to rent them out of earnings, so you've got to be working to get one. (And we are talking, in the main, about unconvicted prisoners, by the way. So don't get carried away with the holiday camp image.) There's been a strong rumour that Michael Howard intends to do away with them. If that's right, then they need to be careful how they go about taking them away. It seems to this observer that they'd have more chance of taking the food away without any fuss! What a fool that Howard is. The riots in 1990 cost the state hundreds of millions of pounds: the one sure-fire way of guaranteeing a compliant prison population, is to install T.V.s in every cell. The chaps would be far too concerned about the goings-on in Coronation Street, Eastenders, et al to even consider taking to the rooftops.

I've been following the debate about the current lack of atmosphere at O.T. (except on special occasions) with great interest. A couple of years ago, I was on the train to London, when I saw that Roland Smith (chairman of the P.L.C.) pulled him about a few things, including the spitting up of the chorts, down to the redevelopment. It was very handy because he couldn't really get away from me. I was suited and booted, and in first class (I think everyone should travel first class); for all he knew I could have had an executive box at O.T., so he couldn't tell me to piss off and leave him alone. In fairness though, he's obviously a very shrewd businessman, he didn't come across as a pompous man; but he made a remark that showed the chasm that exists between those of his ilk and the fan, the blood, sweat and tears of any football club. I'd made a particular point about a lot of passion leaving O.T., along with the Stratford End. He said (and these were his exact words): "There's no room for passion in football!" Can you believe that? We were talking about the club, which probably more than any club in the world, owes its entire raison d'être (as the biggest club in the world) to passion. Difference was, I was talking about a football club, he was talking about a business. All power to the I.M.U.S.A.

Regards
Eric the Red.

Editor's note: For those amongst us who are too young to know any better, a peteman is a safeblower.

P.S. There's a letter from a firm of solicitors on page 35 which should be of interest to your good self Eric!



STRANGeways 1990 Part 3 A SERIOUS DISTURBANCE

Red Attitude's serialisation of this book, co-written by United fan Eric Allison, has prompted the solicitors acting for one of the Strangeways screws to send us a threatening letter. (See letters page.) Apparently they don't want us to print further extracts. Well if a story's worth telling.....

A larger than usual crowd had gathered and there was an air of expectancy. Around 10.30am we could see the remaining lads on A wing roof. Shortly afterwards, a screw's head appeared through a hole at the end of A wing, then another. The lads retreated towards the chapel. Then we saw more screws; it was clear they had recaptured the whole of the nick, bar the small roof area that the lads still held. The screws stuck up a notice to the effect that they were back in charge and there were to be "No visits". (And those words were seriously intended as a wind-up. Whenever there is any sort of problem in goal! the first thing they do is cancel visits. Never mind that people may have travelled hundreds of miles; there's "no visits". And often for the flimsiest of "reasons". - Eric Allison)

Darren Jones was snatched by riot screws at 10.20am on 25 April 1990, the final day of the protest. Aged 17, he had been remanded in custody for joy-riding. Interviewed a month later, Darren said the prisoners 'wanted it to be a peaceful protest but the prison authority didn't want that...they wanted to use violence...one lad had a snooker ball thrown at him when he was negotiating...He was cut above the eye...People were scared to come down.'

For most of the day enormous quantities of water were sprayed onto the roof. The prisoners remained defiant but were soaked time and again. Preparations were made to spray the roof with detergent so that all but a tiny area would be too slippery to walk on.

Paul Taylor sums up the defiance of the

protest: 'We did not surrender! We simply made a decision collectively, having worked together in preventing for as long as possible the prison being taken back into the control of the prison authority.'

At 6.20pm the final five prisoners - Paul Taylor, Mark Williams, Glyn Williams, Martin Brian and John Murray - made a spectacular departure from the prison in the bucket of a 'cherry-picker' hydraulic platform, fists clenched, acknowledging the press and public as they went. It was like a curtain call at the end of a magnificent piece of theatre. And down below hundreds and hundreds of people watched and clapped and cheered and cried. Darren Jones' mother, Shreen, remembers how 'All the prison officers were on the roof and I saw the looks on people's faces...I saw people crying in that crowd...'

The revolt at Strangeways gave courage and strength to prisoners around the country. Between 1 and 25 April 1990 there were protests at over 20 jails. Such an uprising shook the whole prison system to its core.

By 1 May 1990 Manchester police had interviewed 900 of the 1,650 prisoners who were at Strangeways on 1 April and taken statements from most prison officers present during the 25 days. Copious statements continued to be taken over the next five months. Under the procedures of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act the interviews were tape-recorded which no doubt prevented some of the worst types of physical intimidation; it did not, however, prevent tricky and coercion being used by the police. The following is an extract from an interview conducted at Stalybridge police station on 27 April 1990. DC Elder and DC Styrring of

Manchester Serious Crime Squad are asking Mark Petrie, aged 19, about what happened in the chapel:

DC S Was Spencer first up with a stick in either hand, hoptstepping over the benches?

Petrie: Yeah.

DC S: Don't be frightened to tell us these things because these are things we know already. They're well documented.

DC S: We just want you to tell us your version of events.

DC S: And I'll tell you why; you know full well now that you were suspected, as I've told you, you're suspected of assaulting.

Petrie: I HAVEN'T DONE NOWT TO NO ONE. I'VE TOLD YOU THAT.

DC S: Right, we're asking you now for the full picture. Don't be frightened of talking about other people because everyone is talking about everybody, pointing the finger at somebody or other. Somebody's pointing the finger at you. Now you may well be involved, you may not be involved, that's what we're here to try to sort out. If you're not involved, tell us what's gone on, divorce yourself from what's gone on and then we can, we can sort it out, we can verify it. It's like a bloody big jigsaw puzzle to us this and eventually we'll know whether or not you've told us the truth.'

Mark Petrie was interviewed for two solid days in this vein; under immense pressure he named three prisoners and described others in detail but each time the police thought he was cooperating fully, he announced he had been lying. Although threatened with charges of assault and wounding, even attempted murder, he stated categorically that he would not give evidence against anyone in court.

Some of those who later stood trial remained entirely silent when questioned; others carefully replied to questions about their own actions. But a number of prisoners did incriminate their fellow inmates, some trying to 'box clever' by setting up additional meetings, feeding the police false evidence and promising to be

witnesses for the prosecution in return for either immunity or lighter sentences, apparently hoping that at a later date they would be able to switch sides again and prove police corruption. Obviously the police encouraged such 'assistance', particularly when it concerned evidence about prisoners against whom they, the local force, held their own grudges. One prisoner maintains that the police, working together with screws, were prepared to trade false evidence against a Category A prisoner for a passage to Ford open prison. These 'informants' subsequently retracted their statements and stood trial, but by then it was too late to undo some of the damage caused.

Not one of the men who had taken part in the uprising in any significant way whatsoever had an easy ride in the period that followed it; today, most of them are still marked men.

On 10 June 1990, the day before the official inquiry into the uprising opened, Alan Lord acutely embarrassed both the Prison Service and Manchester police by escaping from custody. He walked calmly out of 'high-security' Astley Bridge police station while the officers on duty watched the World Cup on TV. Sadly he was recaptured five days later and imprisoned in Wakefield prison's infamous F wing segregation unit.

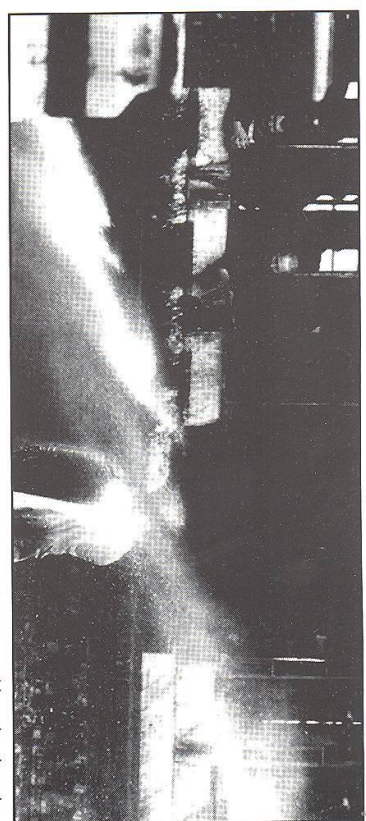
Alan Lord is still being victimised for his part

He walked calmly out of 'high-security' Astley Bridge police station while the officers on duty watched the World Cup on TV.



Darren Jones photographed after capture - Blood all over his face

RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD



in the Strangeways uprising. A life-sentence prisoner who had served ten years in 1990 and could have reasonably expected to be walking free in 1995-6, he is currently serving 11 1/2 years concurrent with his life sentence, and has little chance of release this century. The life sentence is a wonderful weapon for the system which can literally expand and contract it as it sees fit. Life for Privates Train and Clegg, British soldiers found guilty of murder in the north of Ireland, meant three-four years' imprisonment; for Alan Lord, it could mean life.

Even more horrific is the fate of young prisoner, Iain McKinlay. After his surrender at Strangeways, Iain was transferred to Hindley remand centre near Wigan and held in solitary confinement. He was 18. Prison officers at Hindley knew exactly who he was and went out of their way to victimise him. On 24 June, after 49 days of brutality, Iain wrote a note to his parents and girlfriend and hanged himself.

The inquest into his death heard evidence from former Hindley prisoners, who described how Iain had been subjected to a hate campaign by prison officers who spread rumours he was a 'nonce' and even put a razor blade in his food. Tim Owen, the barrister representing the family, accused Alfred Jennings, Hindley's governor, of 'appalling neglect' and suggested he would not treat a dog in the way Iain had been treated.

While these events were unfolding, public talk was all about 'reform' of the prison system. Eric

... a hate campaign by prison officers who spread 'nonce' and even put a razor blade in his food...

attended the Manchester and London hearings of the Woolf Inquiry:

'The inquiry team consisted of Lord Woolf, three "lay assessors" and a clerk. Then there were the barristers, eight in all, and plenty of solicitors - representing the inquiry, the Prison Service, the Prison Governors' Association, Prison Officers' Association, and the Crown Prosecution Service. Counsel to spare, in fact, for all of the vested interest groups except one, the one in the most trouble: the prisoners. Where was the counsel for the prisoners, I was to ask and ask again, only to be told that David Latham QC, counsel for the inquiry, was there for the prisoners, because it was his job to establish the truth. But how could he? He wasn't briefed. They were, all the others' armies of people passing notes, conferring, briefing their briefs. And not a soul to brief Latham on behalf of the prisoners.'

Noel Proctor, prison chaplain, was the first to give evidence about the riot. I expected the worst. Proctor had been at Strangeways since 1979; before that Wandsworth and Dartmoor; all well known "screws' nicks" and Proctor was a screws' chaplain, who has never spoken out against conditions or the actions of the screws. He must have seen hundreds of inmates who have been beaten it's part of his job to go down to the block, where he will have seen men beaten black and blue, men cowering naked in a corner of a strip cell, men in obscene body-belts, lying stinking in their own urine and excreta. But

RED ATTITUDE

Proctor only speaks about god and the screws and how good they both are. He did not change his tune for the Woolf Inquiry.

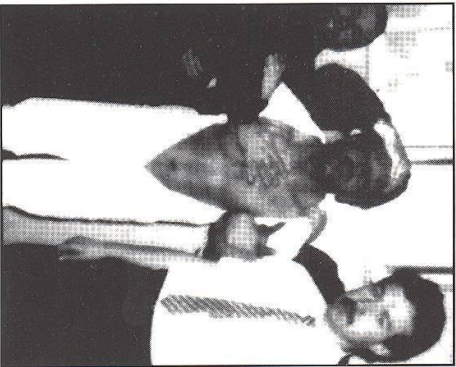
"There were no problems on D1," he said, "there were no complaints." I couldn't believe my ears. The block in Strangeways was a mass of problems and complaints a huge festering sore, a prison within a prison where men could be abused and the perpetrators be confident their crimes would not come to light. But, of course, none of the learned barristers representing all the vested interests bar one, challenged this blatant lie.

After Proctor, the screws started telling their tales. And I gradually became convinced something was going on that the Inquiry was failing to pick up, namely, either by incredible negligence or something more sinister, some screws at Manchester had actually helped the disturbance take place.

My first shock came on hearing of the extraordinary amount of warning of trouble that the staff had: grasses from all over the nick were telling screws it was going to go off in the chapel on 1 April. One screw told the Inquiry that "a lot of inmates" had told him they wouldn't be going to chapel on Sunday because of the impending action.

Nobody told the governors. The screws would normally have written out a Security Information Report but not one did. Indeed they did nothing they would normally have done. The order to "evacuate the prison" was given at the very moment when the inmates were starting to barricade themselves inside the chapel, with no possible thought of taking over the whole gaoil. No words were spoken between any senior staff about the possibility of containing the disturbance within the chapel.

I was in no doubt: the staff, or some of them, had "allowed" the disturbance to take place. There had always been friction between staff and management and in the weeks leading up to the riot, there had been disputes and threats of industrial action. It would have suited the POA to have a "quiet riot", one they could contain, then say to their masters and the public: "Look at the behaviour of these animals. We need more staff, more money." But they didn't bargain for the level of hatred that their years of tyranny and oppression had built up among the prisoners. Nor did they reckon on their own cowardice when the chips were down.



Alan Lord photographed after capture

The Inquiry was not without its lighter moments: a governor named Frost gave evidence, a huge man weighing about 20 stone; at the time of the riot, he was in charge of the kitchens and his main grievance was the loss of his book of "classical menus". There was an amusing exchange on the subject of "stew": in their culinary ignorance prisoners complained they were given too much "stew"; they thought that the turgid mess of spuds and veg with the odd wisp of meat which was served up several times a week was "stew". They didn't know that on Monday it was a "fricasse", Tuesdays a "ragout", Wednesdays a "goulash", they all thought it was "stew".

Then there was the screw Rutson who went off duty on the Friday before the riot, passing a few remarks with the deputy governor on his way out about a rooftop protest a few days earlier: "Oh what a pair of nuts they were. No support from the other cons. Eh, its going to be a nice quiet weekend."

TO BE CONTINUED

Strangeways 1990: a serious disturbance by Nicki Jameson and Eric Allison costs £7.95 and is available by post from Letkin Publications, BCM Box 5909, London, WC1N 3XX.

IMUSA

INDEPENDENT MANCHESTER UNITED SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 69 • STRETFORD • MANCHESTER • M32 0UZ

After the success of the Flag Day for the Juve fixture, there will be a repeat event – hopefully minus Keith Fane – for the quarter-final tie against Porto. It's good excuse to give them a good airing before the away leg...

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (Members Only)
February 20th – Jimmy Wagg and Andy Buckley (GMRL)
March (Dates to be confirmed) Roy Keane and Nicky Butt
Please contact IMUSA for details
Venue: O'Briens, Arncliffe Centre, Stretford, KO 8.00pm

Reclaiming the Stretford End

Last March IMUSA spearheaded a response to Martin Edwards' surprise announcement in United Review that the club would consider introducing a so called 'Singing End' if there proved to be sufficient numbers in favour of the idea. Not entirely out of character, United dropped the idea during the summer.

This year, we will be pressing the club to ask the question, 'Do you want to sit in such a 'singing end?' to a wider audience than simply those who happened to buy a programme on one particular match day. The question should be put to ALL – within for example the renewal letters for next season.

We are keen to begin demonstrating the level

of support to the club at the earliest possible opportunity. We are also keen to see the club take genuine steps to gauge the true level of support amongst United fans.

Meanwhile you can play your part. Fill out and send us the form below – giving us a much information as you feel necessary (we are confident there will be no 'reprisals' from United). Should friends of yours who are not members wish to lend their support, then simply attach their details on separate sheets of paper. Perhaps you could suggest to those who are always telling you to sit down to fill one in to get you out of their sight!

Please return to IMUSA, PO Box 69, Manchester M32 0UZ

Dear Mr. Edwards

I wish to express my support for the introduction of a so-called 'Singing End', along the lines suggested by IMUSA. I believe the introduction of such an area can only be to the benefit to the team.

Name

Address

Membership No.

I am/am not a Season Ticket holder

Tribute to a Friend



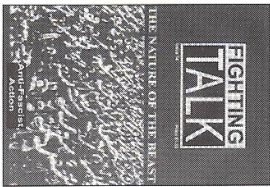
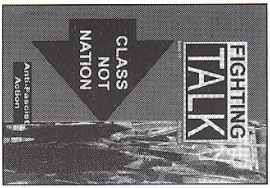
In last months Red Attitude we reported the sudden death of Andy Dignam. Andy was a member of the Red Attitude team and also a member of Manchester AFA. Andy's funeral took place on the 19th December 1996, and as a tribute to Andy we print the speech read out at his funeral.

'In spite of being born with a major heart defect and after surgery at nine months old, Andrew had a happy childhood and still has the friends he made at school. After a major operation in 1984, his surgeon Professor Yacoub spoke to Andrew. He said, 'I've operated on you to let you live not just to keep you alive.' He took him at his word and lived life to the full. It's a tribute to his courage and personality that his many friends did not realise the seriousness of his heart condition.

Andrew was very involved in the struggles of people less fortunate than himself, and went on public demonstrations in spite of the danger to himself. He had friends all over the country and in Ireland and Germany.

Andrew was a keen Manchester United fan. He ended up in hospital after he collapsed at a match. He reckoned the shock of Pheolan scoring a goal did it. He always had a great sense of humour. His other interests were reading, music and having a good time with his friends. His parents thought his life was too hectic at times. He'd say, 'don't worry, just go with the flow.' He will be greatly missed by everyone he knew, but still they'll just have to go with the flow.

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ANTI-FASCIST ACTION

BM 1734, LONDON WC1N 3XX

AFA NATIONAL PHONE NUMBER 0161 - 232 - 0813

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the BNP. Despite this, the book sold well, as the media and the middle-classes fell over themselves to devour anything supposedly authentic about football.

Brought by their success, these two brothers have produced yet another book about football exploits, 'England, My England'. Two books in a year! Pretty impressive output for two fellas who make such a big point about not being professional journalists.

This second book follows much the same format as the first. Basically, it purports to be a series of authentic anecdotes and stories from England/English hooligans, mainly dealing with the national team. Some are pro-England, some are pro-local team, some are fascist, some are anti-fascist. All are nonsense.

Let's get this out the way: The book is complete shit. Absolute nonsense. The views of two dickheads, supposed hooligans from Watford rattling on about the game and what is to be done, interspersed with the most obviously self-penned letters this side of Razzle ('Then the door bell rang... I couldn't believe it. It was her twin sister' etc). Unconvincing, boring war stories.

You want proof they've invented them? Well, reading them makes it obvious enough, there is no evidence of regional variation in any of the slang, in any of the styles. Plus I know for a fact that the piece supposedly written by AFA was invented by these clowns. They approached London AFA about doing an interview, London AFA told them they weren't interested after the first book had allowed the BNP free speech, and didn't want anything to do with it. So what do the Mitchell brothers do - make it up. As far as I can tell, the piece about the BNP is also fabricated - too many inaccuracies. And why BNP, not C18. Combat 18 were all over the press in the run up to Euro '96, you couldn't open the News of the World without finding another 'Nazi hooligans Riot Plan' scoop with some

Doug and Eddie Brimson first came to prominence last year with their book, 'Everywhere We Go'. This book came under fire for a few reasons. The first was self-explanatory - it was a book about Watford hooligans. Secondly, it was pretty boring stuff, loads of beery football yams. Thirdly, and most importantly, it gave a free, unchallenged platform to the Nazi politics of

plumber from Harlow. Yet there is little or even no reference to this. Why? Makes you wonder if the Brimson brothers have been swapping beery tales with C18, but have had to keep them anonymous. If that is the case, then remember the old saying: if you lay down with dogs, you get up with fleas...

Couple of short anecdotes to illustrate my next point: First, early 80s, Fulham Palace Rd, London. A group of militant anti-fascists have attacked some Nazi boys in a gig. The bonheads are coming a poor second, one of them has been sparked out with a lump hammer. In the middle of all this one big bonhead, wearing an SS shirt, spent the last hour or so Sieg Heiling at the band, pipes up with, "Why do you lot always have to bring politics into it?"

Second, Summer '96, Trafalgar Square, London. Some of the chaps from the Celtic Soccer Crew are milling around, fresh from an encounter with a contingent of Chelsea/Oxford C18 in Camden - the Soccer Crew are staunch supporters of Celtic Fans Against Fascism. They bump into some of Rangers ICF, with whom an uneasy truce has been made for the day, some threats are made to and fro. Comments are made regarding the fact that the ICF are pretty much C18 to a man. The response, "You lot always have to bring politics into things!"

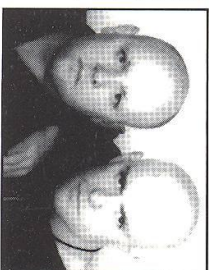
And so it goes in the last chapter of this book, England My England. Politics should be kept out of sport, out of football.

The point is this, what is always meant by this is 'progressive politics must be kept out of sport, out of working class culture'; progressive politics is accused of getting in the way, that racism, bigotry, definite politics in themselves, are not in fact political, just parts of 'working class' culture, and that any attempt to challenge this with anything progressive is interfering. Complete bollocks. The book is cynical, dishonest and moralistic. It vainly portrays itself as the voice of hooliganism addressing both the footballing establishment and the wider world. Actually it's just two muppets trying to cash in on the present middle-class obsession with all things 'ladish'. Defeat their plans to make

money off the backs of real fans real lives and antics. Don't buy this book - it is toilet.

BOOK REVIEW

Deeply Divvy...
The Brimson Bros



RED ATTITUDE



Charlie Sargent
C18 "Retired"?

Anti-Fascist Action received an unusual New Year's gift this year - a letter bomb. It was one of 10 sent to left-wing targets in Britain by a Danish nazi terror group which has links with the British nazi group C18. The media covered the story but replaced the identity of the real targets - anti-fascists - with high-profile personalities.

There is speculation as to who set up C18 and why, but despite that, the organisation has operated since 1992. In the early 1990s the British National Party (BNP) launched a high profile campaign in London's East End around the slogan 'Rights For Whites', and AFA soon noticed the emergence of an organised group of fascist stewards. AFA responded to the challenge of the BNP forcefully, and the fascists were seen off on several occasions. This new fascist outfit was soon to become the 'dreaded' C18 - Combat Adolf Hitler.

At first C18 had a working relationship with the BNP. They believed that a racist attack was worth far more than a racist leaflet, especially when it was publicly claimed by C18 to create the impression of organisation and planning. They hoped to provoke random retaliation on whites from the victims of the attacks, which in turn would start a 'race war'.

It is possible that C18 was set up by British Intelligence as a 'honeypot' - to attract and identify the potentially most violent fascists and monitor their links with similar nazi 'terror' groups around the world. Whatever the reason by the end of 1992 C18 was producing its own propaganda, including magazines with 'hit lists' of their opponents. They did attack a few soft targets, a couple of left wing bookshops and community centres, and were fond of leaving threatening messages on people's answerphones but from the very outset they were promising more than they could deliver.

By 1993 the BNP had withdrawn from the 'public arena' due to physical pressure from AFA, but the new standard bearers of street-level fascism were proving almost as elusive. Probably the first possibility of contact between AFA and C18 came at the massive (but pointless) Unity Demo in October 93. C18 were located in a pub waiting for people to disperse from the march, but when approached by AFA they wouldn't leave the pub until the police arrived. This all seemed very familiar - rather than some new 'terror' group.

In January 1994 they made their most ambitious move to date, trying to put on an Ian Stuart Memorial gig in London. Remembering what happened at the Battle of Waterloo less than 2 years previously this was obviously meant to be a show of strength. Unfortunately for them it all went horribly wrong; they lost their original venue in Becontree, got attacked in a pub in Bow by AFA, finally got some of their people to another pub in Waterloo where they were sniped by AFA, battered by the old ball, and ended up rowing with their German 'comrades' who couldn't believe how bad it all was. And the gig never happened.

The next time C18 hit the headlines was after the trouble at the Ireland v England game in Dublin, February 1995. The media built up C18 into an overnight international conspiracy, giving them publicity worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. To claim that an organisation with the dismal track record outlined above was capable of staging a major disturbance to wreck the 'Peace Process' was complete dishonesty and obviously part of a different agenda.

Shortly after Dublin, C18 organised 100 stewards for a UVF march through Central London, and despite AFA's credible record of dealing with the fascists, Searchlight magazine decided that 'because of the danger of serious violence Searchlight did not inform anti-fascist groups of the march.' The following year, this time with the necessary information in place, AFA was able to successfully confront the Loyals and their C18 supporters as they assembled for their march. The damage done to C18's credibility at their failure to protect the London UVF march came just two weeks after another C18-backed UVF march in Bolton went badly wrong. With C18 getting turned over in Wigan a couple of months earlier, once again AFA, the front line of anti-fascist resistance, had completely exposed their media-created reputation.

C18 have actively built links with the Ulster Loyals, collecting money for their prisoners and putting on a couple of Blood and Honour gigs in the north of Ireland. Their support has obviously met with some approval, for example a letter last year in the C18-controlled Blood and Honour magazine states, 'We the Loyals prisoners on East Belts IDA wing H-Block 2, are dedicated to keeping Ulster British and white ... Halal the UVF & C18'.

On the football front C18 played a lot of emphasis on recruiting from the football firms. 'Getting all the football fans, or firms, mobs, whatever and getting them all behind a Nationalist cause as one, that's when we start to progress' was C18's publicly stated aim. In reality, once again, they have achieved very little.

C18...

Who are ya?

Obviously encouraged by all the glowing tributes after the Dublin trouble, Euro 96 was being forecast as one long hot summer of fascist violence. Despite the media's build up, either C18 lack ambition or ability, because they failed to organise any political activity off the back of the European Championship. Because C18 actually do very little they have to keep their supporters onside by inventing incidents. United supporters will be interested to hear that according to C18 when United played Chelsea in October 95 "two neighbouring public houses were packed to the roof with neo-nazi Chelsea supporters ... in view of the promise of Man Utd's lefty rabble showing up. Who true to form didn't." Absolute nonsense! So if it's not the media or the State building them up then C18 have a nice little line in fantasy journalism to keep the myth going.

Probably the key area of their work, and it would seem their downfall, has been the successful takeover of the nazi music organisation Blood and Honour. The B&H founder Ian Stuart died in a car crash in September 93 and almost immediately C18 took control. The music fanzines connected to B&H were brought under their political control and most importantly the finances were taken over. It is now claimed that C18 father Charlie Sargent nicked \$80,000 and his right hand man Will Browning pocketed \$40,000. Whatever the exact figure there is no doubt that the opportunity to nick large sums of money was high on the agenda for a number of leading figures in C18.

Once B&H had been brought under control, the National Socialist Alliance was created in 1994 to unite a number of small, openly nazi groups like the KKK, British Movement, B&H, etc. all under C18's guiding hand. At the same time international links were established with like minded groups in Europe and North America, and a virtual C18 monopoly existed in the nazi music scene. For a short period their political influence and income was considerable, but inevitably their stranglehold didn't last long, and by 1996 the discontent they had created by ripping people off and attacking fellow fascists could no longer be kept under control and erupted into open rebellion.

C18 are in serious disarray having lost control of the nazi music scene, massive corruption exposed, and with Sargent and Browning facing a serious Old Bailey court case in the Spring (cunningly delayed for 2 years).

Never one to miss a trick, Nick Griffin, a former NF leader and previous opponent of Yndall, is now gaining influence in the BNP and openly arguing that the C18 elements should be readmitted. 'Woe betide the nationalist movement that imagines it can do without the street activists'. Seeing as how the BNP are embarking on the biggest fascist electoral campaign since the 1970s it would seem logical that they would want protecting on the streets.

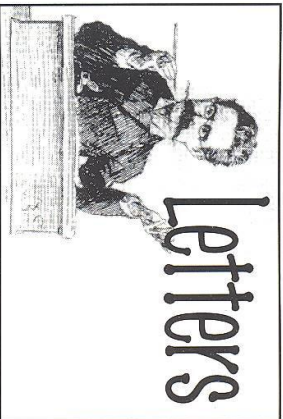
The future of C18 remains uncertain. Some might rejoin the BNP but having said that there has always been a physical force element on the extreme-right, whatever it calls itself, and sometimes it is diplomatic or tactical to separate the different 'wings' of the movement. Another option is that a more political element might take control of C18 now that the corruption of its leaders has been exposed. So were the New Year letter bombs a sign of things to come or another failed attempt to restore some credibility to the name of C18?

... after the Dublin trouble, Euro '96 was being forecast as one long hot summer of fascist violence...

One thing is certain, those who deliberately exaggerate the threat posed by C18 are hostile to the anti-fascist movement. The media portray C18 as larger than life characters, to be feared, unstoppable, and when they do mention the anti-fascist opposition it is only as victims. As the C18 slogan goes 'Let them hate as long as they fear'. No mention of AFA's successes against C18. And while the middle classes may find these stories shocking, there are disillusioned working class people, abandoned by Labour, who may be impressed. Certainly the fascists appreciate the stories because they report them word for word in their magazines as evidence of their growing influence. As an AFA spokesperson said after the second World in Action C18 spectacular, "Black propaganda that can be exploited by its targets is of dubious value, and 9 times out of 10 counter-productive."

Behind all the publicity lies the real purpose of promoting C18, and that is the call for more police and M15 powers to deal with the problem. The successes of militant anti-fascists must be written out of history, the fascist threat must be exaggerated, and then the only thing that stands between us and a fully blown 'race war' are the suitably strengthened forces of law and order. And once the State, which is moving rapidly to the Right itself, increases repression against the Extreme Right, how long before that attention is then transferred onto groups on the Left?

THE CORRESPONDENT



34 Ely Place Holborn Circus,
London EC1N 6TD

Dear Sirs

We act on behalf of Frederick Wright who is currently engaged in Court proceedings against BPC Wheateons Limited. In the proceedings our client seeks damages and an injunction in relation to a book entitled "Strangeways 1990 - a serious disturbance". The book contains allegations which are totally untrue, and are obviously highly defamatory of our client. They impute to him serious criminal offences which, if true, would render him liable to imprisonment as well as dismissal from the Prison Service. Publication of the book has caused our client great embarrassment and distress and his reputation has been gravely injured. The fact that these proceedings are being taken is obviously well known to you as they are mentioned on page 23 of Issue No. 10 of your magazine entitled Red Attitude. That edition contains an extract from the book and indicates you intend to continue serialising the book in future editions. For reasons which are obvious our client is extremely disturbed that you should be considering publishing the contents of this book when Court proceedings are still ongoing. We must therefore request that you immediately confirm that you will not publish further extracts from the book. We await to hear from you.

Yours faithfully
LEES LLOYD WHITLEY

Red Attitude reply.

It would appear that your client's intention

is nothing less than an attempt to place a legal ban on a published work which is on sale to the general public. Having gained the consent of the authors of the book to do so, we have printed serialised extracts in issues 10, 11, and 12 of Red Attitude. We have not reprinted any allegations, which you and your client dispute, in the serialised extracts that have been used in Red Attitude. Whilst we would agree with you that your client is extremely disturbed, we do not feel that this in itself is sufficient reason not to publish further extracts from the book.

Indeed prior to United winning the League in 1992, the Strangeways riot was one of the highlights of Manchester's recent social history. The book is a serious attempt to tell the story of what happened through the eyes of those who were involved and also the recriminations that took place afterwards.

The efforts of Fred Wright and his legal team in trying to get the book banned, is to try and continue the conspiracy of silence over the way the prisons are run and more specifically the brutal regimes that operate within. Already a bookshop in Manchester has been forced to take the book off its shelves or face legal action. Red Attitude will not be intimidated by what has to be seen as little more than a blatant attempt at legal censorship, and our message to Fred Wright is simple. Go fuck yourself!

Dear Red Attitude

I am writing to complain about the blatant censorship attempt by Fred Wright in this month's issue of Red Attitude. Don't ask me how this letter got in so quick, as I'm just as surprised as you are. What the fuck is it with prison officers. They are the same the world over. It doesn't matter what country you go to, nor what period in history you look at, and regardless of the politics of the regime, the good old prison officer is there doing his or her bit to make sure they go unchallenged as the dregs of humanity. Recently a number of prison officers were carpentered for keeping a dying cancer victim in chains until three hours before he died in spite of the strongest protests from the medical personnel present.

Also it has just come to light after the collapsed trial of five IRA escapees from Whitemoor prison, that they couldn't have done it on their own. Who cut the perimeter wire for them and what's happened to the prison officer who went missing just after the breakout?

Throughout history the prison officer has excelled in his unstinting service and unquestioning loyalty to the brutality of the state. From the guards who ran the concentration camps, like at Treblinka where they complained of headaches from listening to the screams of people being gassed to death, to oppressive regimes the world over where the prison officer is also responsible for torturing and 'disappearing' people. In Chile and Argentina, thousands of people disappeared under the rule of the military. Where were they last seen? Being carted off to prison. Of course nothing like this would happen in Fred Wright's nick now would it. But if it did he'd hardly want you to find out would he?

Ex Prisoner
Manchester

RIGHT SAID FRED

As a member of the Right Said Fred fan club, I am deeply concerned over the apparent confusion between what Fred Wright said and Right Said Fred. I must insist that Fred Wright change his name forthwith in order to avoid any further confusion. Failure to do so may result in a visit from the Mitchell brothers, who are related to Right Said Fred. So are Chas and Dave but that's hardly the point is it. Come on you Hammers.

East London slow learner.
Ded Bright Ted

APPEAL

I write on behalf of the Fred Wright wheelchair appeal. We have been raising money for two years on this project. After numerous charity events including car boot sales, raffles, sponsored walks etc, we have finally reached our target. Last week the Fred Wright wheelchair was purchased and all we need

now is for some kind soul to cripple the bastard!

Mr. BOF.
Prestwich area.

Red Attitude. Now that's what I call bad taste. Why can't you get him a chair that you can plug in?

Dear Red Attitude

I am a United fan who stays in Glasgow or did I mean, I am probably one of a few who stays there and doesn't support Celtic or Rangers. Well I like football and I support a team who have always played the game well but I don't agree with religion in the game and that's why I follow United. I've been in prison for six years for murdering a man of 30. I was 16 at the time and am now 22. I've been trying to get this fanzine for quite a while. I've read my first copy which I got a loan of and I was impressed. I didn't get to fill the questionnaire in it because it wasn't mine, but the fanzine is really good. I've seen the Rangers one 'Follow Follow' which is really a bigot mag than anything to do with football, so you're miles ahead there.

I'd like to help you sell it outside Old Trafford but it would be hard, so maybe someday. Now writing articles for Red Attitude, that's more in my league. I'd be only too happy if you'd give me the honour. Just say the word. I think the fanzine should have a column where fans can write and associate through it, as you know we've got fans all over the country.

What did strike me as impressive was the bit about Strangeways. It's a first for me seeing these things in a fanzine but it was good all the same. It took me years to get this fanzine which is a space of time to get an address. Anyway it's a 100% spot on. I've seen many Reds in prison, but some fanzine's don't see prison as a good thing for the fanzine. But it's a different outlook Red Attitude has and it's a winner.

I was hoping you could help me in getting useful addresses for say getting hold of terrace chant tapes. I have one 'United we

sing No.2, which I got off Pete Boyle, but it's an old one, well not up to date with the players we have. Now I'd be grateful for any help. I can only give you my thoughts as a contribution but hopefully I've put at least one valid point across and that's that Red Attitude is Red Hot and well worth waiting for!

Forever Red

Stuart Maenab, 12778 C Hall, HMP Glenochill, King O' Muir Rd, Tullibody Clacks, Scotland.

Red Attitude reply:

Well we know what Pete Boyle does with his old stock now! If anyone can help out with some merchandise they no longer need, then make the effort to send it on to someone who will appreciate it. There's some back issues of Red Attitude on their way as well.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Who will be the contenders for United's player of the year for 1996/97 season. David Beckham, Ryan Giggs and Roy Keane are the players who I think have been the most outstanding so far this season.

David Beckham, for his world class free kicks, not to mention his other brilliant goals and all round passing. His record to date is twelve goals in forty eight league games for United.

Roy Keane for the way he fights for the ball in midfield, from where he is dynamite. Who can ever forget his display in the Champions League in Vienna? Roy has made eighty-four appearances for United with thirteen league goals to his credit.

Ryan Giggs, back at last to his best. Best in fact since 1992 with his pace and ball skills. Ryan has scored forty goals in one hundred and eighty one United league games.

In the end it could well be between Beckham, Giggs and Keane.

Robert B. Plymouth.

Hello Red Attitude,

My name is Boban and I am a United fan from Stockholm. I would like to order your fanzine from you.

What can stop United to win the double again? I guess nothing, and on top of all, we win the Champions League. I hope to meet you lads when I come to Manchester.

All the best,
Boban.

Hello Red Attitude

We bought your fanzine when we were in London for Christmas 96. We are French and fans of Paris S.G. We

also follow on T.V. the results of Celtic F.C. and we are anti-fascist. P.S.G. has a reputation of fascist fans, but not all of us. We make a fanzine about P.S.G. and European fans and music. If you're interested tell us. We would like to correspond with anti-fascist fans and would like to order the latest fanzine.

That's all for now,
Louis-Francois, Paris.



RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD

Jörg Haider A Typical Austrian Story?

Vienna Rob, Red Attitudes Austrian reporter follows up last month's report on United's greatest night on Austrian soil, with a more serious look at the developing political situation in Austria. Many people are comparing the threat from the right that exist in France and Austria now, which has given rise to Front National and the Freedom Party, to the conditions that will exist in Britain if Labour come to power.

One of the founding chairmen of the FPÖ (Austrian Freedom Party) was Anton Reinthaller, a leading national socialist and general of the infamous SS. The FPÖ was founded to form an alternative to the Socialist Party (SPÖ) and the Conservative Party ÖVP. Under Haider's predecessor Norbert Steger many old NAZIS left the party. But under Jörg Haider they all came back. Steger's course was a "liberal course", defined to get votes from voters between SPÖ and ÖVP. There must not be another alternative on the right explained Haider in 1990. Three years later he was even more precise. The FPÖ should move "further to the right", to a point where nobody before had the guts to move to. He started with his inhuman politics at the FPÖ party congress in 1986, when he defeated Norbert Steger and became the chairman of the party. The new party leader showed his real face immediately, when more than 30 officials had to leave the party. Anyone with a different view or opinion was put under pressure and had to leave. The innerparty



Jörg Haider, happy in the company of Waffen-SS veterans

ordinance depot was found in a flat of Vienna. The flat was used as a meeting place for a 20 men neo-nazi paramilitary group called WEHRSPORTGRUPPE TRENCK. One of the members declared that they were going to use the arms in case of a civil war, which would take place if foreigners who have been living longer than 5 years in Austria could legally vote. The main witness in this case

opposition around Heide Schmidt was labelled as a dissident group and later also left Haider's FPÖ to form their own party, the Liberal Forum. The jubilation from the right-wing extremists was loud and clear. Haider's goals and words were the same as theirs. The terms used by Haider were often taken from the national socialist era. His cynical statements created an atmosphere of violence. Fire attacks to refugee shelters were common. A Jewish cemetery in Eisenstadt (Burgenland) was violated. Many graves had "Heil Haider" and "SS" signs sprayed on them. One of the two men found guilty was a member of the Freedom Party. In 1992, an

RED ATTITUDE

died mysteriously in a car crash. The case was dropped in 1994. Haider's inflammatory campaign against foreigners doesn't fail to cause reactions. Early in 1993 he staged his anti-foreigner referendum (ANTI-AUSLANDER-VOLKSBEGEREN), at the end of that year Austria was hit by a series of letter bombs from a formerly unknown group called "BAYARIAN LIBERATION ARMY".

3.12.93 Two letter bombs - one addressed to the refugee information centre in Harberg (Styria) and one addressed to the presenter of a minority TV programme. Three people were seriously injured.

5.12.93 Vienna's mayor Helmut Zilk lost three fingers of his left hand after a letter bomb exploded in his hand.

6.12.93 Bomb number four - the secretary of the Islamic foreigner organisation was injured. Six other letter bombs, addressed to foreigner friendly politicians and organisations failed to explode.

24.8.94 A policeman lost his two forearms after a tube bomb exploded in front of a bilingual school in Carinthia.

4.10.94 Two letter bombs failed to explode.
4.02.95 The most cruel politically motivated attack in Austria after the Second World War. Four Romas died in an explosion when they tried to remove a sign saying "Gypsies back to India".

6.02.95 A parcel bomb exploded in a container. One seriously injured casualty. Two letter bombs exploded. One was addressed to a black TV presenter. A secretary was injured.
9.06.95 A letter bomb exploded in Lubbeck (Germany). It was addressed to the vice-mayor Dietrich who criticised a too mild verdict after arson at a synagogue in Lubbeck.

This series continued until last December with many injured casualties. The last bomb was sent to Home Secretary Casper. Einem's stepmother. The police disarmed the bomb, but also destroyed an important piece of

evidence. That was not the only case of a police mishap. The investigations of the police concerning bombs and letter bombs are a mere farce. Evidence is left unnoticed, disappears, reappears partially. Nobody wants to hear important witnesses who report to the police. Decisive information is withheld from the Home Secretary by his highest officials. On the other hand, internal investigation results are played into the hands of politicians of the "Freedom Party".

After more than three years, the state police constantly promises to be about solving the series of bomb attempts. We are still waiting for it to happen. The "brown spots (shirts?)" among the police are a tradition. The late director of the state police's office, Gustav Hochenbichler, had a picture of Hitler hanging on the wall of his living-room. During several social gatherings, in which he took part, the Horst-Wessel-song was sung. When Hochenbichler's way of administering and thinking threatened to become a public nuisance, the Home Ministry put him out of range by transferring him to another post. The incriminated top official became head of the aliens office. The rush from right-wing extremists towards Haider's Freedom Party and his foreigner policy has dramatically changed the ideological position of this formerly liberal party. This new racism, expressed in the foreigner referendum (1993) and in all of his election campaigns, is the engine of a new radicalism on the right. In a study the British historian and specialist for Austria, Robert Knight made about the Freedom Party and right wing extremism, he found out that in this party a separation of right, right wing and neo-nazism is not possible. Still after all this, people vote for Haider. Not because of his neo-nazism policy, but in spite of it, not because many right-wingers found a new home, but in spite of that, not because the relation of the FPÖ to the atrocities of the past are some how still open and undigested, but in spite of that. But victories in elections can bring people to the point where they turn protest votes into an ideology. There lies the danger.

Vienna Rob

Man Utd Anti-Fascists

Red Attitude is written, produced and distributed by Manchester United supporters who are opposed to the spread of racism and fascism in football and elsewhere. Red Attitude is endorsed by Anti Fascist Action, a national organisation who promote the ideological and physical confrontation of fascist groups like the BNP and C18. Manchester United Anti-Fascists are determined to ensure that Old Trafford remains a fascist free zone.

Historically, the fascists have seen the football terraces as a way of reaching disaffected white, working class people. In the seventies and eighties, the NF and the British Movement made inroads at a number of clubs, most notably Leeds and Chelsea, along with many other lower division teams like Millwall and Rochdale. Manchester City also had a clique of supporters who were highly active in National Front politics in the early eighties.

The British National Party and, more recently their splinter group Combat 18, have continued this trend of trying to recruit football firms to support Nazi politics. The role they envisage for football supporters is as foot soldiers, recruited to do their fighting for them, and eventually discarded when the dirty work is done. Fascist leaders promote racial hatred and incite violence. Guess who they've chosen to put their ideas into action, ie to carry out the race attacks and arson attacks, do the time and also take the flak from the opposition? That's right, the football recruit.

Left unchallenged, the fascists will seek to impose their political agenda on those around them. The fascists of the BNP have a political programme which goes beyond racism, and leads to misery for all working class people regardless of colour or nationality.

Manchester has a long and proud tradition of total opposition to fascism and its promoters. Over the last three decades, United supporters have made a telling contribution to this proud anti-fascist tradition, with initiatives like Reds against the Nazis. Red Attitude is a development of this tradition by those United supporters committed to opposing racism and fascism.

Join MUAFS

Membership of MUAFS is now free and is open to all United fans who want to have an input into the work of Red Attitude and MUAFS. If you want to get involved with this work then simply write to Red Attitude, PO Box 83, SWDO, Old Trafford, Manchester M15 5NL.

Anti Fascist Action

Anyone who wants to get involved in the fight against fascism can do so by contacting their nearest AFA group. If you have any information on fascists in your area, then AFA would be very interested to hear about it. Any information can be sent either to Red Attitude or direct to AFA.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cardiff AFA
c/o Wolverhampton AFA | Liverpool AFA
PO Box 110, Liverpool L69 8DP | Bristol AFA
PO Box 1076, Bristol BS99 1 WF |
| Birmingham AFA
PO Box 3311, 25 Howard Road
East, Birmingham B13 0RZ | Manchester AFA
PO Box 83, South West PDO,
Manchester M15 5NL | Colchester AFA
c/o PO Box 87, Ipswich IP4 4JQ |
| Leicester AFA
PO Box 320, Leicester LE1 5WS | Teasdale AFA
PO Box 174, Newcastle NE99 1TA | Exeter AFA
c/o The Flying Post, PO Box 185,
Exeter EX4 4EW |
| Nottingham AFA
PO Box 192, Nottingham NG1 1FU | Sheffield AFA
c/o Black Star, PO Box 446
Sheffield | Kent AFA
PO Box 87, Ipswich IP4 4JQ |
| Wolverhampton AFA
c/o PO Box 3311, 25 Howard
Road East, Birmingham B13 0RZ | Type & Wear AFA
4, The Cloth Market,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1EA | Oxford AFA
PO Box 854 Oxford OX1 3US |
| Huddersfield AFA
PO Box 310, Huddersfield HD1 3YL | Edinburgh AFA
PO Box 421, Edinburgh EH11 1OD | York AFA
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