

FIGHTING TALK

Issue 5

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ONE LAW FOR THEM



The magazine of Anti-Fascist Action

FRONT COVER PHOTO

Neil Parrish (front right) arrested for the Buntingford attack (see centre pages) pictured here with other keen bird-watchers.

AFA STATEMENT

The June issue of Searchlight Magazine (Searchlight 216) carried on the back of it, an article headed "Security Alert". Four names appear in this article that is supposedly uncovering infiltrators within the movement. Alongside others the name of Malcolm Astells appears. Anti Fascist Action repudiates the accusations made against this person, they are without substance, and they are to be ignored.

We welcomed the gesture by people associated with Searchlight, who at the recent Unity Carnival in Newcastle, refused to sell issue 216, in the spirit of Anti-Fascist Solidarity. There is definitely a role for an anti-fascist intelligence magazine, but harassing genuine militants, certainly isn't it.

Join AFA

In the fight against fascism in Britain, Anti-Fascist Action has a record that is second to none. Our unique combination of physical confrontation and ideological struggle has produced results time and again.

We say no platform for the fascists - no meetings, no marches, no paper sales, no leafleting - and we mean it, as the fascists know only too well. Our aim is to cause the maximum disruption to fascist activities.

But that doesn't mean that AFA only needs street-fighters. Far from it. Everyone has a role to play in AFA, whether they feel confident in physical confrontations or not.

None of our successes in physically confronting the fascists would have been possible without the contribution of non-combatants. From legal observers to scouts, from leafleters to people who can write articles or speak at meetings, AFA needs people with a whole range of skills if it is to continue to succeed.

There's a lot to do, so don't wait around. Join today.

Contact your local group for affiliation rates and activities.

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c/o Manchester AFA

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PO Box 797, Glasgow, G1 5JF

Herts AFA

PO Box 245, St. Albans, Herts

Kent AFA Committee

PO Box 88, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1AU

Leeds AFA

Box 151, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS1 6DT

Leicester AFA

c/o Leicesterser TC, Secular Hall, Humberstone Gate, Leicester

Liverpool AFA

PO Box 110, Liverpool, L69 8DP

London AFA

BM 1734, London WC1N 3XX

Manchester AFA

PO Box 83, South West PDO, Manchester, M15 5NJ

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PO Box 39, Mansfield GPO, Notts

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Hemel Nitrate

Following the rout of the National Front election meeting in Hemel Hempstead in April 1991, several anti-fascists were arrested. Their names were published in the local press. Shortly after, a vicious and indiscriminate telephone campaign of intimidation was started against the families of two of the men concerned. The campaign persisted for many months.

In one case, one of the arrested men was followed as he took his 9 year old daughter to a dancing class. The little girl was later told over the phone that she would never go dancing again, and that they were "going to shoot your daddy's legs off."

Many of those active in the recent campaign against the NF candidate in the local elections know these families. They, and other anti-fascists, are determined that the campaign of terror launched by the Hemel Hempstead NF will backfire.

On Saturday 24th April, a tawdry collection of 45 individuals participated in a march by the neo-nazi National Front from Hemel Hempstead station to the local Mountbatten School. The march was

organised in an effort to support the three NF candidates in the County Council elections of 6th May.

An Anti-Nazi League presence of around 100 demonstrated at the station. Knowing that anti-fascists at the station would be boxed off by the heavy police presence, Anti-Fascist Action organised independently.

As the fascist march crossed the "magic roundabout" in Hemel, anti-fascists attempted a forcible infiltration. Regrettably, the riot police and dog handlers just managed to head off the manoeuvre.

Re-grouping, the 80-strong AFA contingent headed towards the election meeting. In a re-run of an incident at the NF's election meeting in Hemel two years ago, the ANL greeted the AFA group with cries of "Nazi Scum" as the police parted to let them into the meeting.

Front leader Ian Anderson looked on in horror as anti-fascists filed in one by one into the hall. Ten, twenty, thirty... uh oh! In his agitation Anderson began caressing himself with his free hand through his trouser pocket. Perhaps it was just a nervous tick. Asked by an AFA member

going about his own business and had no connection with any of the marches in the town centre that day."

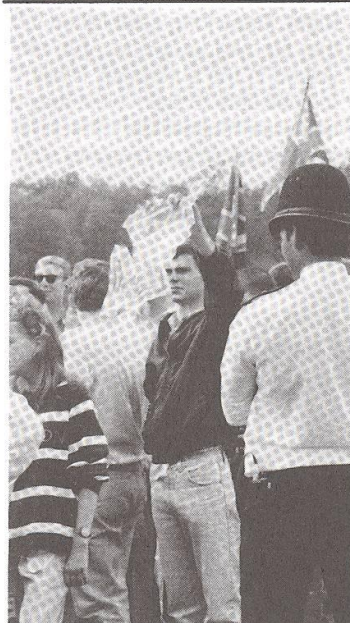
The victim said: "The police say the assault was because of my shirt and that the people who did this thought I was some sort of racist, but I make a point of not getting involved in politics and certainly not extreme politics like that."

Although the 'victim' was not named in this report, in several other local papers he was identified as Glyn Jones from South Oxhey. While it would be wrong for us to speculate on the motives behind the attack, it has been suggested to us that this could possibly be the same Glyn Jones who is in South Oxhey BNP and that he might not have been in Hemel "on a shopping trip." Who knows?

to explain himself, Anderson whipped his hand out like a scorpion had stung it. After the shortest speech of his life, Anderson attempted to rouse his edgy troops in a chorus of the National Anthem. It was cut short by a volley of chairs from the back of the hall as scuffles broke out. The meeting was routed. The presence of the riot police alone prevented any encounter of a more serious nature.

Pushed out by the police, the anti-fascists covered both exits from the school. Almost two hours passed. Was this to be another Waco, with a mass suicide from the Fronters? As Chief Inspector Dumpleton said in the local paper: "As soon as there was the incident inside the school I closed the meeting down. We then had to decide how to get the National Front away from the building without coming into contact with the demonstrators. Although it was not part of our original plan to take them out of the hall in police vans, it was agreed that it would be the best way to resolve the situation." And so the fascists, huddled inside, were driven away to safety.

Two anti-fascists were arrested in the meeting. Donations towards their legal costs should be sent to Herts AFA.



The snivelling Michael Stoneman a fascist who was also arrested at Hemel, pictured here on a BNP counter demo in Bermondsey August '91. Is that a poster he's got or just something to cry into?

Getting Shirty?

An interesting item appeared in the Watford Observer after the NF march in Hemel on 24th April. We quote: "A 26-year old man from South Oxhey was viciously attacked while on a shopping trip for being in the wrong place with the wrong shirt."

Police claim the man was attacked by anti-racist protesters who were in the town centre to demonstrate against a National Front rally there. They think the man was assaulted because he was wearing a Springboks rugby shirt, and may have appeared to support the South African regime of apartheid. A police spokesman said: "From the information to hand this gentleman was

Fascism and the Media

The fascists, relatively overlooked during the mid to late eighties, have been the focus of much greater media attention as race attacks rise, and the Far Right across Europe makes its presence felt. In this issue of *Fighting Talk*, Sid Martell discusses UK coverage of the fascists, and asks whether it's media ineptitude, rather than the fascist threat, that's actually being exposed.

'Tonight World in Action exposes the sinister world of Combat 18'. The opening lines of a documentary, screened earlier this year, on the fascist "paramilitary" group formed to inflict physical and psychological damage on the enemies of the Far Right. Many long established faces, that are well known to AFA, are involved in the enterprise. While C18 may be able to claim what they perceive as "successes", the level of hype in the programme was such as to make their own over-inflated arrogance look like modesty.

Terror Squad

Combat Group Adolf Hitler, to give it its full title, was being "exposed" as "THE TERROR SQUAD".

You'll squeal, as a hotel owner get's left a nasty message.

You'll gibber, as the Morning Star get's spray painted.

And you'll openly shit your pants, as Charlie "the knife merchant" Sergeant, gets more than 20 yards down the road without feeding his fat greasy face.

Half-hour knicker wetting exercises like that programme, do more for the fascists than they ever will for the

middle class liberals that create them. Of course people need to be informed of C18's existence, and attention like this will alert the state and may cause these characters some bother.

But what fails to come across, is that far from being a group of maverick nutters, C18 is a pure expression of fascist ideology. There's a fascist motto which they use in their propaganda, "let them hate so long as they fear" , and it means exactly that. If you scare the shit out of the opposition, you gain respect. Once Fascism is respectable, not to the middle class, but to the working class, the tactics can then be changed to accommodate those who would rather not be associated with street-thugs and terrorists. They'll help the fascists gain power and they'll have the army and police force instead.

The programme, though unintentionally on the part of it's makers, could almost be seen as fascist propaganda. The potential recruits of C18 certainly won't be put off by the over-hype, it will rather be a source of great interest and amusement. To some of the opponents of Fascism, it will cause fear, and could potentially put some people off of open opposition to them.

And where were we?, their opposition. The only reason that the hapless Anti-Nazi League were mentioned was because they got battered. We, of course, weren't mentioned at all. Surely the scenario depicted by this programme, one of evil street thugs running riot unopposed, apart from being a nonsense, only damages us not them.

The programme reflects the liberal middle-class line of appealing to the state for intervention, basically asking the Police to act against Fascism, for legislation. Locking up C18 certainly wouldn't do any harm, but it wouldn't do that much good either. Fascism, will only be beaten when it's been beaten politically, ie: when the working class rejects it. The only really effective opposition to Fascism, is by working class people, on the street and in the political arena. The only people that can hide behind the state are those that are protected by it. The working class, by any stretch of the imagination, are not among those people.

The back page of the May Issue of Searchlight goes on about '...the successes of the last year culminating in 7.5 million viewers seeing the World in Action investigation into C18...'. There have been anti-fascist successes over the past year, but to say that this was one, never mind the culmination, is rather naive. The recent petrol-bombing of the Freedom Press building, after the last attack was covered in the "exposé", is indicative of C18's attitude.

Shock Horror

This article is not saying that information on the fascists is not useful or desirable, "know your enemy" is one of the first rules of combat. But the context of this programme and indeed much media coverage, is all wrong. "Shock Horror" should not be the order of the day. **People should feel angry and disgusted by the activities of the fascists, not be scared of them.**

The flip side of media coverage is just as bad, a glaring example being an article by Duncan Campbell on the British National Party in an issue of the Guardian Newspaper (Feb 20th 1993). Above the main heading of "We are 100 per cent racist, Yes" (a quote from the BNPs "National Activities Organiser" Richard Edmonds) a banner strip reads "As race attacks reach an unprecedented level, Duncan Campbell talks to the BNP". Great stuff, people are getting harassed, burnt out, stabbed, and Mr Campbell, the great investigative journalist, pops along to the BNP bookshop in Welling, and takes tea and biscuits with a man

that not only reveals in it, but actively provokes it!

Campbell, who describes Edmonds as a "Mussolini meets Basil Fawlty" (how charming), asks a series of cunningly penetrating questions; "Are you Racist?" - "Yes"; "Don't you like the word Nazi" - "I didn't say I didn't like the word Nazi" - an astounding intellectual trap indeed. Anybody who bothered to research the attitude of the far right over the past few years would realise that the majority of fascists are now, openly, fascist. They've dropped the "we're only being patriotic" of the seventies National Front. Now they simply deny the Holocaust etc altogether, and claim that the Nazis have just been historically maligned by the "Jewish Conspiracy". All this article did was "expose" what the fascists are saying publicly, they might as well have given over those column inches to the BNP, it would have saved them Campbell's fee anyway.

Arena

Another visitor to Edmonds's little bookshop-come-tea parlour, was Arena magazine's Marik Kohn. He really goes to town on Edmonds; "At 50, Edmonds is yet to display the *bratwurst* padding himself, but he has the enthusiasm and gleam of health so conspicuously lacking in most of the BNP...". Well, stand back Jeremy Paxman, this really is the cutting edge of journalism. It seems that "exposé" took on a whole new meaning during this interview. A few paragraphs later and the gloves are off! : "Most of what Edmonds has to say about National Decline, or Law and Order, would strike a chord with large numbers of Britons nostalgic for the days of unlocked doors and British Motorbikes...". Hmmm, ground control to Mr Kohn, you're breaking up...

Investigative Journalism

It's the naivety displayed in these examples of "investigative journalism" that really makes you sick. It's like the editors think that because they have a middle class graduate

type readership, a conversation piece with a fascist will be enough for their "discerning readers" to be able to draw their own conclusions. Since when did class position or a degree signify intelligence. Look at Edmonds, he went to university, and he reads the Guardian.

The media cannot be relied upon, look at the coverage of racist murders and attacks. The murder itself will get a couple of minutes on the local news, and there'll be a vague reference to the influence of the fascists, and how the police have the

"The media isn't the friend of the working-class, neither is it the enemy of fascism... ..the british media defends the interests of it's paymasters and itself and no-one else"

matter under investigation. However, if local people react, if they get angry and start demanding justice and protection, and especially if they take direct action vis a vis the attack on the BNP bookshop in Welling during a recent demo, all the media does is negatively highlight the violence. It's all put across as coming down to their level, behaving no better than them.

At the time of writing, the Turkish Community in Germany is fighting back against attacks on it by the fascists. As might be expected, demonstrations organised in defence of the community are coming under attack by the police (the great protectors). And what are we shown on the television? How Turks and Anarchists and Left wing Agitators are fighting with the police, disgraceful behaviour, terrible mob violence. Bollocks.

Hit Harder

For years all we've heard about from Germany are long lists of racist atrocities carried out by "vicious skin-head thugs", what do people expect? It's not a question of "if" the police are prepared to react, they're not going to, and they were never going to. The only way for working class people to defend themselves is hit them first and hit them harder.

The media isn't the friend of the working-class, neither is it the enemy of fascism (despite the public attitudes of Tyndall and Edmonds, they love the attention). The British media defends the interests of its paymasters and itself and no-one else. They'll always attack us much more virulently than they'll ever attack the fascists (Miner's Strike, Poll Tax Campaign, Wapping etc.. etc..). They can however be used.

Militant Anti-Fascists have led the way in this, the production of the AFA Fighting Talk video is something that people can genuinely be proud of. Promotion of our ideas, of positive and effective ways of fighting fascism, is the key to success, the less attention the scum are given the better. The use of the

music industry by bands like the Blaggers, to get the positive and militant message across, follow the same logic. It's time that people stopped bemoaning the fate of themselves and others, and time that people took effective action.

Confrontation

The fact that many who insist that they are part of the anti-fascist movement, shy away from direct confrontation with the fascists, only strengthens the argument of those of us who do the business. Let them go their own weird and wonderful way, lollipops and police protection were never our thing. We represent the militant movement against fascism. We are aware of our strengths and we are aware of their weaknesses, and whatever else C18, and the BNP, and rest of the scum reckon, they want to reckon on that. Remember, he who lives by the bal-clava may also die by it.

German football fans fight back

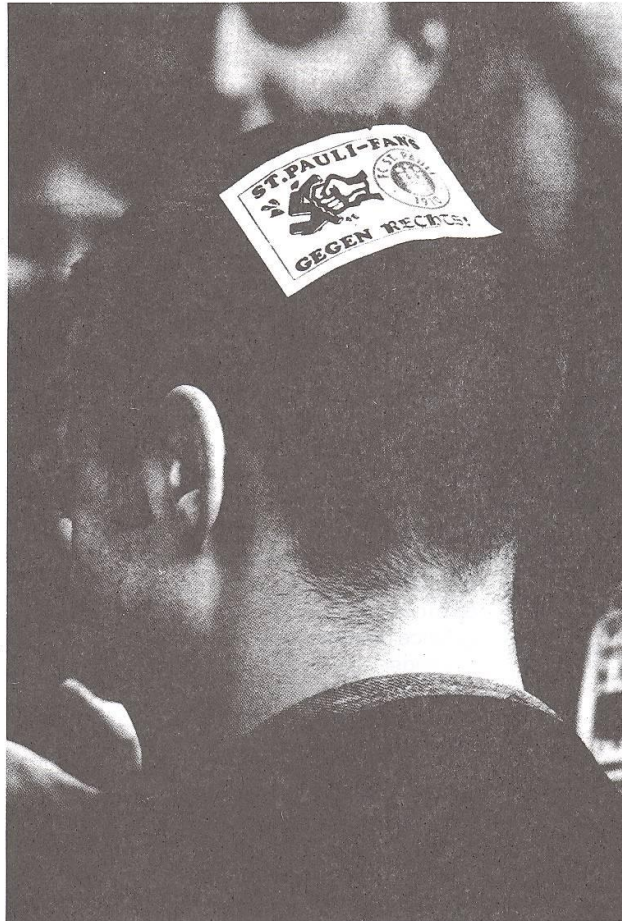
A member of Glasgow AFA recently visited Germany as a guest of the anti-fascist football fans of F.C. St. Pauli of Hamburg. He also visited Berlin, Rostok, Hanover and Homburg. He gave Fighting Talk a personal view of Anti-fascism in Germany.

German football fans have seen the writing on the wall for a long time due to the increasing fascist presence at games. It is on the terraces that many of the battles against racism and fascism are being fought. Many football fans across Germany have now adopted the St. Pauli fan's "Gegen Rechts" slogan. Stickers and patches bearing this declaration were evident in every town I visited. This has made the St. Pauli fans a major target for the nazis and some of their away matches in the east have come under attack.

In Berlin, the Anti-Fascist Football Initiative (AFFI) co-ordinates much of the work between football supporters in the city who are opposed to fascism. Elsewhere the militant opposition to the neo-nazis is based on small groups of autonomous anarchists and communist groups who have been in the forefront of the street battles with the fascists.

The autonomous movement in Germany is very different from it's trendy impersonators in Britain. The

squatter movements in cities such as Hamburg and Berlin have been fairly successful in establishing an alternative working class culture to nationalism and fascism. The "Autonomes" had to physically win



street battles with the police. The experience of fights in areas like Hamburg's Haffenstrasse and Berlin's Kreuzburg have been of benefit to those who are now facing the fascist threat. It is the people of these areas who are first to react to fascist activity and who form the backbone of physical anti-fascism.

However, in the east there is a huge ideological vacuum since the re-unification of Germany, the fascist "alternative" appears to be firmly in the ascendancy. It's peak so far was the firebombing of the refugee hostel in Rostok last year. The response to the fascist threat in cities like Rostok has been liberal rather than militant.

For example, the most recent F.C. St. Pauli versus Rostok, 2nd Division match was attended by fascists from all over Germany hellbent on confrontation with the Hamburg anti-fascists. Before, during and after the game the St. Pauli fans were involved in running

battles with fascists. Later that night, during a gig in Rostok's anarchist youth club, news reached them that the fascists were gathering in a nearby pub and that an attack on the club was likely. About 200 St. Pauli fans had stayed for the gig and they decided to pre-empt the fascist attack with a strike of their own. The fascists were attacked and run out of the area, the pub was severely damaged, and the gig went ahead without any further hassle. **The disturbing element in this anti-fascist victory is that, according to the St. Pauli supporters, the 200 strong outfit which attacked the nazis did not include anybody from Rostok. There were no local volunteers. The feeling that you get from most West German anti-fascists is that the east is all but lost.**

Meanwhile the fascist terror campaign across the country continues. On Friday 28th May, while we were still in Hamburg, came the news that three Turkish women and two children had been murdered in a nazi firebomb attack upon a house in Solingen. Spontaneous protests



took place all over Germany with the most militant demonstrations taking place in Solingen itself.

In St. Pauli, several thousand people demonstrated and the mood in the area was tense with extra units of paramilitary police being drafted into the area in anticipation of "trouble". Barricades were erected in the street outside an Irish concert that night. At the gig itself an AFA speaker expressed solidarity with the anti-fascists in Germany and a minutes silence for the victims of the Solingen Bombing was observed. An AFA speaker also addressed the

passive role in the struggle, and has been involved in a series of clashes with the fascists and the police.

St. Pauli's final away game of the season at Homburg was heavily policed as a result of a previous encounter when a fascist "hooli" pub was trashed by

demonstration. Militant activity against this atrocity, and the authorities attitude to plight of the Turkish community have continued. The Turkish community in particular, appears to be no longer willing to take a

some concerned citizens. In their efforts to keep the St. Pauli fans and the fascists apart, the police forced us to take the long route to the train station and straight into a German military display, complete with tanks and aircraft. The police, the army and the nice middle class people enjoying their day out didn't know what was happening as hundreds of football supporters invaded the military's exhibits chanting "German Money, German Weapons - Blood on German Hands!" It would have been easier to let us at the fash!



Pamphlet review:

"Germany Calling: A Short History of British Fascism"

by Ross Bradshaw. Available from Mushroom Bookshop, 10-12 Heathcote St., Nottingham NG1 3AA. Price 1.00

The idea behind this pamphlet is a good one - to provide a short, readable, cheap(ish) introduction to fascism in Britain.

It briefly explains what fascist ideology is - a totally reactionary, anti-democratic, anti-working class dictatorship - pointing out that fascism must be seen as a wider problem than just racism.

The pamphlet then traces the birth of fascism in this country with the British Fascisti (1923), through to Mosley's British Union of Fascists (1932), the post-war Union Movement, the National Front (1967) and up to the present day.

The final chapter on the present day situation could do with a bit more detail. There is too much emphasis on fascist violence (although no mention of their Ulster Defence Association/Ulster Volunteer Force links) and not enough on the British National Party's policies. Some mention should have been made of the BNP's recent 20 per cent vote in the October 1992 council election on the Isle of Dogs in East London, to show their potential support in white working class areas.

One other criticism relates to the declining support from the British Establishment for the British Union of Fascists in the mid-1930s. It is

suggested in the pamphlet that this was due to "anti-semitism ... brutality ... and snuggling close to Hitler ..."

In Joe Jacob's book "Out of the Ghetto" (which is recommended at the back of the pamphlet) he argues the case that "powerful elements" were looking to Mosley's BUF to smash the Left, and that it was their failure to do this, particularly at Cable Street, that determined the Establishment's continued support for the traditional Right.

Not a bad introduction, though, and a useful pamphlet to have on an anti-fascist bookstall.



Unity Carnival

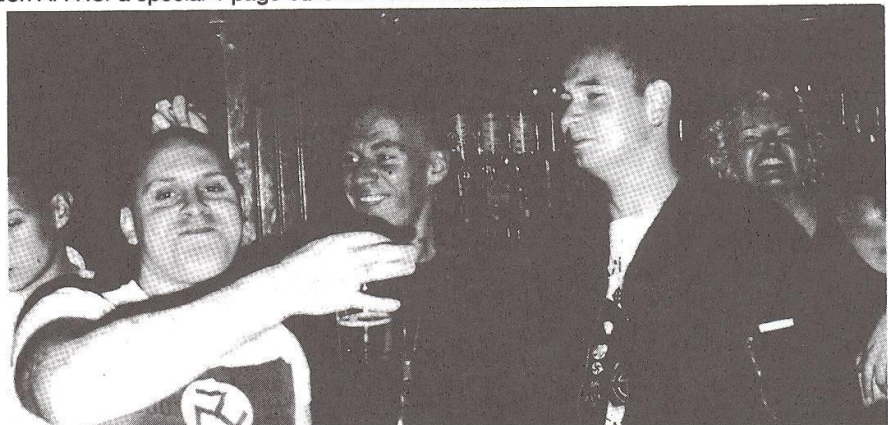
For the third year running AFA's Unity Carnival provided an enjoyable introduction to the anti-fascist movement. Despite the wind and rain 10,000 people came to Nuns Moor in Newcastle to hear the sound of the Shamen, Blaggers ITA, Fun-da-mental, 25th of May, Credit to the Nation, and AOS3.

The Carnival was well organised, well stewarded, and the fascists stayed well away. AFA showed, once again, it's ability to fight fascism on every level.

'Badge Sales' Under Pressure

AFA's campaign against the sale of fascist merchandise at Badge Sales (83 Berwick Street, London W1) is gathering momentum. All the shops in the street were recently leafleted, explaining the nature of the campaign, and the only hostile response came from a nearby dirty book shop (Dream On, 79 Berwick St.) This just highlights the sort of low-life attracted to fascism. A number of local organisations and councillors are backing the campaign and AFA is confident of stopping this flow of Blood Money into the fascists coffers. For further information on the campaign, write to London AFA for a special 4-page bulletin. Please send a S.A.E.

Andrea (far right) who works in Badge Sales, pictured drinking with her friends in Blood and Honour.



Clashes in Edinburgh

The Independent Orange Order, kicked out of the Orange Order for their open support of loyalist death squads of the UVF/UFF, met with determined resistance when they marched in Edinburgh on June 19th. The links between the BNP and the loyalists resulted in an AFA counter demonstration. Many of the anti-fascists were penned in by the police which prompted the Loyalists to unleash a volley of 'siege heils' as they passed.

However not all the anti-fascists were penned in and a militant contingent were able to "join" the march at one point, which resulted in the march being held up for 40 minutes, the police having a hard time restoring (Orange) order. Several anti-fascists were arrested, further details of the defence campaign available from Edinburgh AFA.

A Right Result

We have devoted a relatively large amount of space in this issue of Fighting Talk, to the following account of the trial of a group of fascists, after a race attack in the village of Buntingford, Herts. The article highlights just how much the state is prepared to let the fascists get away with, and poses important questions to those who feel that reliance on the police, rather than militant action, is the key to success.

After a series of inexplicable delays and postponements, four members of the neo-nazi British National Party finally stood trial at St. Albans Crown Court during the week Monday 14th June - Friday 18th June. They were charged in connection with an armed assault on five Bengali restaurant workers in Buntingford, Herts. The attack took place late at night during November 1991. The court heard that during the incident, two of the workers were knocked unconscious, and one of them made the subject of a kidnap attempt. After the initial attack, the BNP van drove away - but then returned, this time attempting to run over the Bengalis as they stood on the pavement. They literally had to jump for their lives. The van's occupants jumped out once more, and handed out a second beating. As he jumped from the van, one of the attackers yelled, "Yeah, this is our lucky day!"

At the preliminary committal hearing in April 1992, eight of the van's thirteen occupants were found to have a prima facie case against them in respect of a charge of violent disorder. Remarkably, four of them were bound over to keep the peace at a hearing at St. Alban's Crown Court on 12 July 1992. They were Neil Parrish of Milton Keynes; James Spencer Liggett of Loughborough; Stephen Clifford Jones of Coalville, Leicestershire; and Anthony Raymond Johnson of Dunstable, Bedfordshire. That really was their lucky day.

Neil Parrish is number two in the neo-nazi music organisation, "Blood and Honour" and was featured on Sky TV on 11 September 1992 to promote a planned appearance by the nazi "Screwdriver" band. Neil Parrish has also featured in an uncritical front page photo article in the Milton Keynes press, along with fel-

low members of the BNP, as the leader of a vigilante group whose proclaimed objective was to establish "Law and Order" in the town. In the same year, racist attacks in Milton Keynes, according to notoriously under-reported police figures, went up from 46 (1991) to 66 (1992) - a 50% increase in a year. The "vigilantes" seem to have been busy.

English Rose

Jones and Liggett are members of the racist band "English Rose", which is well known on the fascist circuit. Van occupant and prosecution witness Shaun Graham Hill (also of Coalville, Leics), according to testimony is also a member of "English Rose", along with a certain David Blake (also in the van but not charged). Hill testified that the van and its occupants were returning from a "Blood and Honour" gig held at the Buffalo Hall, Baldock and that English Rose were one of the bands playing that night. Hill, facing no charge, claimed to have been scared and to have put his head between his knees and his arms over his head throughout the first attack, and to have slept through the second attack, two minutes later.

In fact, Hill, at the time of the attack, was the only occupant of the van to wear his hair long. All the others were skinheads. A number of witnesses stated that one of the attackers stood out from the rest due to having long hair. Clearly, Hill's decision to do a deal with the police and act as a prosecution witness against his former partners in arms, was motivated by the need to save his own skin. In his court appearance, he identified Barker as the driver, which will no doubt cause a few inquiries to be made by his erstwhile friends on the fascist music circuit.

They may indeed already have been made. Hill was chalk white and in a funk sweat throughout his testimony. Afterwards, he sat outside the court with his head in his hands whining to his friend, "It was a nightmare, a nightmare...". Later he complained to court officials that he had been "threatened" by someone within the court, and was afraid to leave. Hill and his mate made one attempt to leave through the revolving doors of the court, and apparently believing they were being followed, did a 360 circle straight back in! The visibly quivering pair sat tight for some 30 minutes, refusing to move until the police had been called and escorted them to their car. The performer of the classic single, "Smash Red Action" will never cut the same figure on stage again.

Others in the van at the time of the attack were: Anthony James Morgan, Sally Ann Barnes, and Toni Asquith (the girlfriend of N.J. Marsh - details below). Although arrested, they were never charged with any offense. Conspiracy would normally have looked a likely contender in most circumstances of this kind, especially since the evidence established that there were 10-11 people involved in the attacks at the same time. Perhaps it was their lucky day too.

Violent Disorder

Three defendants pleaded guilty to violent disorder at the hearing in July 1992: Paul Donald Parrish (brother of Neil) of Milton Keynes; and a man possessing an extensive string of convictions for crimes of violence, Nicholas James Marsh also of Milton Keynes; as well as Paul Raymond Lincoln of Newbury, Buckinghamshire.

The last defendant, 18 stone skin-head Kirk Barker from Basingstoke, pleaded not guilty on charges of violent disorder and reckless driving. Barker has the swastika-like symbol of the South African white supremacist organisation, the AWB, tattooed on his forehead. He failed to turn up to the hearing on 17 July 1992. He was finally arrested at Waterloo Bridge railway station, during the "Battle of Waterloo" while attempting to make his way to the "Screwdriver" concert. He was convicted at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court (14th September 1992) of the possession of a firearm, namely a can of CS gas. He received the remarkably lenient sentence of one day in jail.



Neil Parrish, deep under cover, on his way to St. Albans Crown Court

Evidence was heard from the Bengali victims of the assault, as well as from two residents of the road in which the attack took place. Statements were originally taken from seven residents, who were notified that they would be required to give evidence in court. In fact, the remaining five witnesses were not called, without being given any reason why their evidence was not to be heard. The real reason may have been that they were able to provide identification evidence that the police did not want to use, since this would have involved multiple charges against a number of those in the van.

The court was told that when the van was stopped shortly after the attack, police officers found a number of items inside. These included; what the police termed "vast amounts" of racist and homophobic BNP literature; "Blood and Honour" magazines with a large swastika on the

cover; "White Skin" and "British Oi" magazines; racist tapes and albums; a poster of Hitler; a 6" x 4" swastika flag; and an assortment of weapons were made exhibits in the trial: two rubber coshes, a truncheon, a baseball bat, and a pickaxe handle.

which also belonged to him. He was found not to have a driving licence, or insurance. He was not charged with these offenses. The charge of "reckless driving" was only added at the insistence of the magistrate at the committal stage. The police, apparently, did not think that deliberately driving a van at speed towards

Weapons

In another remarkable decision, the judge ruled that the other items found in this assortment of weaponry were "inadmissible evidence", and therefore could not be made known to the jury. The list of weapons found in the van, but concealed from the jury was as follows: an axe; a machete, two heavy metal chisels, two items which the judge described as "fearsome looking knives with long blades", a stiletto knife, a silver knuckleduster, a "black widow" catapult with ball bearing ammunition, and a canister of CS gas (see above). The judge referred to these items as "a veritable arsenal". In the judge's own words, he might be "erring on the side of over-fairness to the defendant", but he would not allow the jury to know that these weapons, including the CS gas, had been in the van.

Barker also admitted that he was the sole driver of the van, a white transit,

a group of people, in a manner causing them literally to leap for their lives, was sufficient grounds for such a charge, or indeed, a charge of attempted murder.

The statements also contain Barker's admission that he is a member of the BNP. Questioned about the swastika flag, Barker stated: that "there is no way the BNP use the swastika publicly" although it remained a "white man's symbol used by us". This, he stated, was due to the fact that, "too many lies had been told about the people who used it before us". His counsel, Mr Ross, acting for Southampton Solicitors Peach and Gray (curious, in that none of the van's occupants were from Southampton), argued at some length that "Blood and Honour" was not a racist publication, and that possession of a nazi flag did not necessarily indicate that the owner held racist views.

Despite all these manoeuvres, the evidence against Barker (including

his own admissions) was so overwhelming that there was little doubt of the eventual verdicts: guilty on both counts. He and the three defendants who pleaded guilty were sentenced on July 2. Incidentally, no-one turned up to support Barker during the entire five day hearing. He got nicked, and the BNP dumped him.

The case obviously exhibits a number of curious features: even though the defence counsel himself admitted that "lots of people" (ie: at least 10) were involved in the attack, of the eleven originally arrested, only eight were charged. Of these eight, four in effect had their charges dismissed by the judge, ie: were "bound over". The evidence was so strong that the "leniency" of the prosecution in offering the bind overs became even more baffling. Then again, of all the charges that would appear to be appropriate, conspiracy, assault, GBH, possession of offensive weapons, attempted murder etc., only the blanket charge of violent disorder was invoked. Moreover, despite the van occupant's original pleas of "not guilty" all round, these were changed by three of the four defendants to "guilty" in July 1992. Why the sudden change of heart? Was there a deal, so that at the eventual trial the impression would be given of a single fanatic acting alone, rather than of an organised racial attack by members of a neo-nazi organisation?

It is another uncomfortable fact that the legal process was allowed to drag on for almost two years before the final appearance at court. Witnesses were told repeatedly that the case was to be heard on a certain date, only to have it postponed - without explanation. The passage of time could of course, only weaken the prosecution case. memories would fail; key witnesses might become unavailable. Several independent witnesses who had made statements and had been told that they would be called, were later told that their evidence would not be called after all, again without explanation. At the heart of these murky circumstances, was the inexplicable decision of the judge to rule that the weapons cache was to be kept se-

cret from the jury. Despite constituting a serious criminal offence in itself, and despite constituting the clearest evidence of intent and identity (why carry CS gas, a catapult or a knuckleduster around in your van, unless you intend to attack, or have attacked someone?) no mention of the van's armoury could be made. In essence, the weapons were the damning evidence of premeditated, organised criminal intent, and it was deliberately hushed up, for the very reason that it was too incriminating!

The Verdict

On Friday 2nd July the 4 defendants were brought back for sentencing. Once again, AFA mounted a picket of the court. Although Barker was left to his own devices throughout the week long trial, a mob of BNP minders were expected to attend the sentencing. Surely Neil Parrish

"he had joined the BNP solely because of his interests in Renaissance History. He was also a keen member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and therefore should not go to jail!"

would show up to support his own brother? He didn't. A small team of 3 BNP boneheads sat in on the morning session, greeted enthusiastically by their friends in the dock, but refused to leave the building when the hearing was adjourned for lunch. They eventually left through the back door, escorted by the police, without waiting for the court to resume. The consternation on the faces of Barker, Parrish and Co. when they failed to reappear during the second half was a treat.

In mitigation, Barker's brief frankly found nothing to say. Speaking for Marsh, his lawyer announced that he wanted to apologise, not only to the victims of the attack, but to the whole asian community. The best was yet to come.

For Paul Lincoln, who looked the village idiot of the group, his brief explained to the court that he had joined the BNP solely because of his interests in Renaissance History. He was also a keen member of the Royal Society for the Protection of

Birds, and therefore should not go to jail! Presumably Lincoln's brief knew a lost cause when he saw one, and decided to play it for laughs which he certainly got.

All had previous: Paul Parrish for attacking an Indian Restaurant and together with Marsh, giving someone a hiding at a bus stop (another race attack?). He had several other convictions for violent offenses including affray. Parrish, Lincoln and Marsh all received the remarkably (but not surprisingly) lenient sentence of 21 months : with 6 months added for Parrish who was serving a 6 month suspended anyway. Marsh, who had looked close to tears before hearing the sentence, gave his girlfriend a 2 fist thumbs up as he left the dock. Barker got 3 years. With time already served and remission, all will be out within a year.

The police frequently complain that racist events cannot be prosecuted, because there is no evidence that they are linked to the commission of violent offenses. Well, here is a case of a racist gig immediately followed by a savage racist attack by those who attended it, organised it, and even played at it! The circumstances of the attack indicate that it was clumsily executed. It's carelessness wasn't typical of BNP ventures of this type: plainly, the participants were hyped up by the gig. Further, the gig brought the participants together in circumstances where an attack was likely to ensue, should the opportunity arise. To that extent, the gig caused the attack. Yet there has never been a whisper than "Blood and Honour" events should be banned.

Key Lessons

Through the judicial murk, the lessons of the case remain clear. The BNP (and other neo-nazi organisations like the National Front) claim in their public announcements, to operate within the law. They claim not to encourage race attacks. Of course, anyone familiar with BNP activities knows very well that the opportunity for inciting and commit-

ting race attacks (or attacks on "reds" or homosexuals) is the only point of joining. But for anyone in doubt, the Buntingford attack provides the strongest possible refutation of these claims to be "normal" political parties.

A group of self-confessed BNP members attend a gig organised by a neo-nazi music organisation, whose supporters are themselves drawn almost exclusively from the BNP. They leave a racially inflammatory concert in a vehicle containing BNP literature alongside openly nazi publications and paraphernalia such as a 6" x 4" swastika flag, together with a collection of weapons that a judge describes as a "veritable arsenal"! These are used to attack a group of people with no provocation over than the fact that they are Bengali. The equation of BNP = Nazis = Race attacks could hardly be illustrated with greater force.

AFA believes that the case has highlighted a further important feature of the fight against fascism and the racial attacks that it breeds. Some anti-fascist elements, such as the ANL or ARA, believe that the police and the judiciary should be called

upon to take stronger action against the race hate organisations. The Buntingford case shows the futility of such a strategy. If incidents such as the Buntingford attack were to receive the publicity and attention appropriate to the seriousness of the offenses committed and the problem they represent, the police and judicial system would be obliged to devote far greater resources to race attacks than they currently do. This is the last thing that they want.

Setting the Agenda

The police and judiciary do not consider racial incidents to be their responsibility. It is highly questionable whether either system, despite occasional public protestations, actually regards racism as a crime. For them, it is a "natural" or "inevitable" product of a multi-racial society and out of their proper jurisdiction. Their personnel frequently share the same perceptions of ethnic minorities as the race attackers themselves. On top of this, right wing politicians regard the fascists as an essential lubricant for their own racist policies. The fascists create a racist agenda on which the "decent" parties of "order" then capitalise.

There is a consistent pattern. As in Germany, racist atrocities are followed by a decent outpouring of public outrage and then by legislation directed against the members of the minorities being attacked! As in Germany, those caught red-handed in race attacks will be treated with the upmost leniency by the legal system. The clear implication is that the very presence of racial minorities "provokes" the attackers, and that racial offenses therefore, by definition, are always attended by mitigating circumstances. A genuine effort to eliminate organised racism is against the state's own interests and the state will consequently not make those efforts. The only circumstances in which the state would act against fascist organisations, would be as part of an offensive against certain groups on the left, for which prosecution of the fascists would act as cover. By calling for tougher police action, the left is making a rod for its own back. Only the independent, direct and committed action of working class militants will effectively destroy the racists and the organisations behind them.



Drummond Street 4. - Attacked, Arrested, Acquitted.

Last summer, a group of Bengali lads were arrested in the Drummond Street area of Camden in London, and charged with Violent Disorder and Grievous Bodily Harm. It was the culmination of a series of racial incidents, initiated by a group of racist goons operating from a car.

The Bengalis had come out on to the street, after the police had failed (for a full 45 minutes) to appear after calls had been made. The racists, armed with iron bars and knuckle dusters, were speedily turned over by a mob of similarly equipped concerned local citizens.

Despite the fact that the mob in the car had been the instigators of the violence (among other things threatening to kill a local shopkeeper), and were tooled up, Violent

Disorder charges against them were dropped last November. Meanwhile, the charges against those who had taken action in defence of their community, stuck (surprise, surprise).

The good news is that, finally, in June this year, all the local Bengalis were either acquitted at trial, or had their charges dropped. The bad news is that fascists are still operational in the area. A few days after the acquittals, the Suma Centre, a local community centre run by the Bengali Workers Action Group, was the target of an attempted arson attack.

Obviously work still needs to be done in the area, and AFA activists in Camden are seeking information on local Fascists, and on any initia-

tives regarding resistance to them in the area. Please contact London AFA.

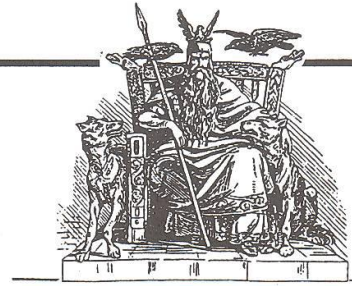
Finally, even though they should never have been arrested, we'd like to extend our congratulations to the Drummond Street 4 and their families on their acquittal.

Trade Unions

Affiliate to Anti-Fascist Action and join the struggle against the far right.

Affiliation rates: £20.00 per branch. Send cheques payable to your local AFA branch (see list for addresses).

A VIEW FROM VALHALLA



After his regular excursion into the land of the winged helmets and Wagner, *Fighting Talk's* Dan Woinsaiker reports back on Ian Stuart's sporting interests, and reveals how Hitler, while he may not have liked people, was in fact very fond of bunny-wunnies...

Things seem to be in a great deal of turmoil within the Blood and Honour (B&H) scene, seemingly due to the keen interest being taken in them by the forces of law and order.

In February this year, Roy and Kevin Johnson were sentenced to six months imprisonment for inciting racial hatred. The charges came about because they were distributing racist records and songbooks through the B&H mail order service. B&H head honcho, Ian Stuart, along with girlfriend, Diane Calladine, are facing assault charges after an incident in the Blackpool area. The band English Rose along with others have been involved in the Buntingford Trial (covered in this issue of *Fighting Talk*). Someone else who has recently been raided by the Boys in Blue is Chris Simpkin, editor of *British Oil*, who is also a very active BNP member.

Of the "skinzines" I have received lately, there have been no copies of either *British Oil* or *Blood and Honour*, presumably due to legal problems. I have however obtained a copy of *Last Chance* (issue 14), which for the fourth issue running has an interview with Ian Stuart who still persists to whimper on about Nicky Crane and Waterloo. Ian is probed about his sporting interests: on the issue of boxing he replies "Alan Minter was good, I liked him till he got beat by Marvin Hagglar, and then I went off him". He is also asked what he envisages himself doing in 5 to 10 years: "Probably being in

prison. They are bringing in so many new laws in this country. Or dead..". After a straw poll within AFA, the decision went for the 2nd option.

We are told to look out for Ian's biography later in the year. As yet, AFA has not been approached to contribute some of our anecdotes about Ian, which is a shame, as it would make it a more enjoyable read.

A new magazine which has been brought to my attention is *Final Conflict*, which is produced by supporters of the International Third Position (ITP). The two copies I have seen have a very anti-gay and anti-semitic tone. They also carry articles on animal rights, and in issue 2 there is a piece urging people to join the Animal Liberation Front (ALF).

One of their arguments for this is "In fact, both Hitler and Hess were vegetarians, and had ALF been around in their day, they would no doubt have supported it". In issue 3 there is a report from an ITP supporter who was held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, at the Castlereigh holding centre in Belfast, in connection with the planting of incendiary devices and the post-

ing of letter bombs on behalf of the ALF.

Issue 2 also carries a tribute to three members of the Welsh band, Violent Storm, who died in a car crash while travelling to a fascist festival. At one point in the tribute we are informed, "they are now in God's hands", which should piss them right off, as they expected to end up in Valhalla.

Talking of Valhalla, Skullhead's tack rag *The Raven* has folded due to a lack of public interest in Odinsim. I doubt if that will come as any great shock to anyone. In place of *The Raven*, a new zine has appeared (or should that be risen from the ashes) titled *Onward*, the first issue containing much the same rantings about "Reds" and "Race-mixers" as its predecessor. Also included is an interview with newly reformed fascist favourites Brutal Attack. Ken must be strapped for cash again, as this is the fourth or fifth comeback to date.

I would be interested in receiving any fascist music related stuff that readers of *FT* may come across. Any useful material or information should be sent to me via the London AFA BM Box Number.

Issue 1 £1.00

ONWARD!

VICTORY OR VALHALLA!

FINAL CONFLICT
ISSUE 2

AGAINST CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM £1

"OUR PLACE IS IN THE FRESH AIR, UNDER THE BRIGHT NIGHT, GUN IN HAND BENEATH THE STARS. LET THE OTHERS CONTINUE WITH THEIR BANQUETS AND THEIR GAMES. WE, OUTSIDE, IN A TENSE FERVOUR AND VIGILANT, CAN ALREADY FEEL THE DAWN IN THE HAPPINESS OF OUR HEARTS."

José Antonio Primo de Rivera
líder de la Falange

Due to the immense popularity of the Ian Stuart interviews serialised in the last three issues of *Last Chance*, and also due to the fact that there was still a lot more questions to be asked, we decided to meet up with him again after the original interview... imagine!

NO SELL-OUT - BLAGGERS I.T.A.

"The whole point of the band is the politics. That's why we exist really, we are a political band, we are anti-fascist and that's just what we are about, which is far more important than the music. But I hope the music which we are doing is becoming more commercially viable. I don't know if that's the right phrase. It gives us the chance to get our politics across to a wider cross-section of people. There's no chance of the band watering down our message to sell more records. No chance whatever. There would be no reason for the Blaggers to exist then." (Matty Blag May 1993)

Blaggers I.T.A. are probably the most committed anti-fascist band playing today, and yet despite this, out there in the political twilight zone there are some people ready to accuse the band of "selling out". Here we put the record straight.

The Blaggers were formed in 1988, and the remaining three original members, who form the backbone of the band (Matty, Serious and Vinyl) were all active in AFA long before the band were ever a twinkle in anybody's eye. The band have never tried to use the anti-fascist movement to further their career, but have always used any opportunity presented to them as a band to further the cause of anti-fascism.

"We want to show people a cause and a unifying force to fight the real enemies, and show people what a false creed fascism is. People have to realise that it grows from situations like Britain today. Fascism doesn't start with concentration camps - that's where it ends." (The Blaggers in New Musical Express January 1993)

From the very outset the band were prepared to put their money where their mouth is, playing benefits for many progressive causes, not just

anti-fascism. The first ever Blaggers gig at the LMS in Hendon (oh yes, we remember the football tops and skateboards!) was in fact an AFA benefit.

Since then over 40 per cent of their gigs have been benefits; apart from AFA they have played for the Anti-Nazi League and Youth Against Racism in Europe, for the homeless and squatting groups, animal rights and Hunt Sabs, and several strike benefits.

Like AFA, the Blaggers are internationalists and have done two anti-fascist tours of Germany and played to 5000 people at an anti-fascist festival in Rome in 1991

In February 1993, after nearly five years hard slog, the Blaggers signed to EMI, or more accurately to Parlophone, an EMI subsidiary. Shortly after this the band played at the Dome in North London, arriving at the venue to find the area covered in (anonymous) posters accusing the band of "selling out". The argument being that signing to a 'major' record label was a betrayal of what they stood for and motivated by greed. It is significant that the people behind these attacks on the Blaggers have never had the bottle to actually discuss this issue with the band themselves, a band that has never hidden behind dressing room doors.

EMI are a large multinational company who previously attracted criticism for being involved in the international arms trade. Before the band signed they took the trouble to check with the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, who told them they believed EMI's links with the arms trade ended in the 1970s.

The idea that a small 'independent' label is somehow 'better' than a

major is wrong. Firstly, most of the 'independent' labels, certainly the most successful ones, have been bought up by the majors. For example, Blur would appear to be on an 'independent' label, Food, except that Food is actually owned by EMI.

There are some small labels who are genuinely independent, and unfortunately bands on them suffer from their lack of resources. This directly leads to a band playing and selling records to a limited (and converted?) audience. So for a band with 'a message' it is self-defeating not to try and reach the widest possible audience. If the backing of EMI allows the Blaggers to get on mainstream Radio 1 (which it has) and Top of the Pops (hopefully) then they have a chance of getting their message across to millions of people.

Since the Blaggers signed to EMI they have received considerable media coverage, in the papers, on TV, and the radio, and they have used these opportunities to push militant anti-fascism in a very positive way.

The first major interview they did in the music press appeared in Melody Maker in January 1993 (just before they signed to EMI, but EMI's interest, since November 1992, had alerted the press to the band). Just in case there was any doubt that the Blaggers might be intimidated by their new found fame (and possible fortune?) Matty plainly stated: "EMI have already spent money on us, but if they want us to drop any of our views they can fuck right off" (Melody Maker 30.1.93) At the end of the interview they insisted on including a piece about AFA which resulted in nearly 100 people writing in for more information on how to get involved in the fight against fascism.

Another outrageous example of the Blaggers "selling out" was when they spent the money EMI gave them for a signing party on full page adverts for AFA in the NME and Melody Maker. Again, this resulted in AFA getting sackloads of mail.

The point about EMI, while remembering that all major companies have 'dodgy' investments, is that

they provide extensive resources for a band, and if the band used these resources to reach a wider audience, without being compromised, then the band and its message are the winners. Undoubtedly, EMI wouldn't sign a band if they didn't think they would make money out of them, but no record label, major or independent, would sign a band if they didn't think they would make money. And there's no moral or political benefit in making money for a small firm rather than a large one. It makes about as much difference to the system of greed and exploitation as having green hair.

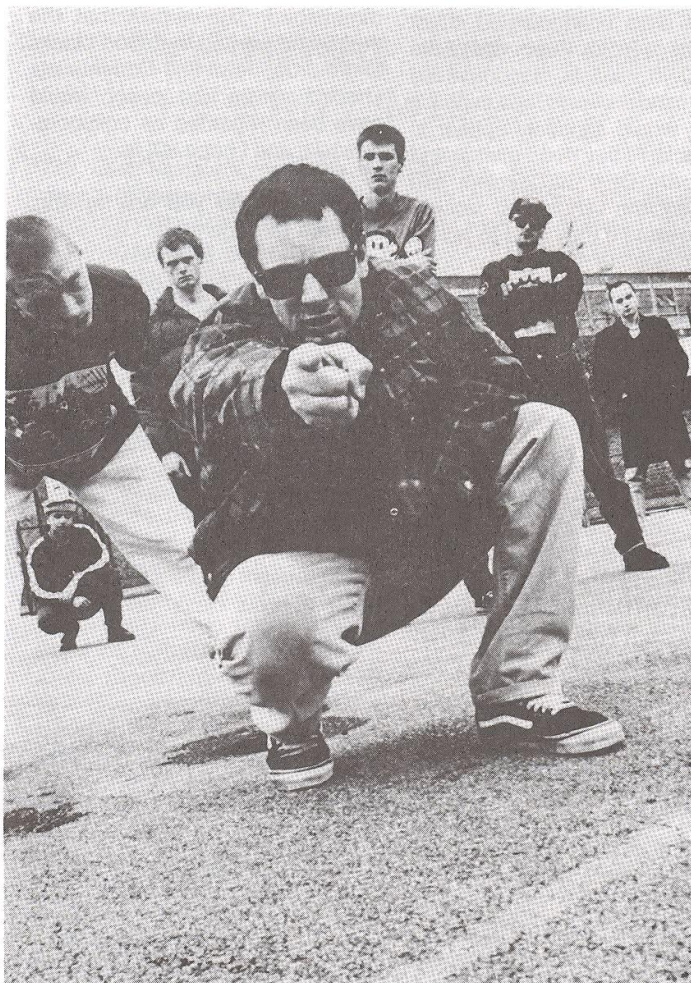
If the Beggars have 'sold out' by working for EMI, then presumably the same is true of all the labourers who work for McAlpines or the men

and women on the assembly lines for Nissan. They are all multinational companies. If rebellion has come down to 'lifestyle' politics (ie token gestures) we might as well all give up; luckily, the Beggars, and AFA have a more realistic attitude to effective political change.

Not long ago the Beggars were playing a Hunt Saboteurs benefit, the stage being a piece of wood on two pool tables, with a shit P.A., when some creature from the black lagoon jumps on stage, grabs the mike, and slags off the band for signing to EMI. A few weeks later the same bloke turns up at another Beggars gig in Derby, obviously disgusted by their capitulation to Big Business, demanding to get in on the guest list. The band recognised him and challenged him about his previous 'guest appearance' and

why they shouldn't sign for EMI. He was totally unable to argue his case! Exactly! (And he didn't get in for free).

If the day comes when pressure from EMI leads to the Beggars changing their opinions to suit their employers wishes, then they will be open to criticism. That situation has not arisen, and perhaps the final word should go to the band: "For the music press and the record companies, politics may be something to flirt with for a while - other bands will pay lip service, but we're prepared to go out and literally throw punches - we're committed to this cause for life, and it's about time people stopped sitting around and joined the struggle." (Beggars in NME May 1993).



BLAGGERS I★T★A

Recently there has been a trend for bands and music press alike to launch into verbal assaults against the growth of fascism. This is highly commendable but the danger remains that this will be only a trend.

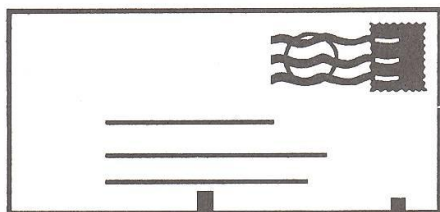
Fascism is gaining ground.

The problem never really disappeared. It was not beaten in the late 70s but was largely ignored and left to fester.

Ignorance breeds confidence.
Confidence breeds strength.

Racist attacks are on the increase as are racial murders.
Paying lip service is not good enough on its own.

Let's take the fight to the fascists.



Letters

AN OPEN LETTER TO AFA FROM AN EX-62 GROUP ACTIVIST

Back in the 1960's the active and organised anti-fascists in East London were largely a loose amalgam of left-wingers, Communist Party members, Black immigrants, and young Jews.

What is important to stress is the political background of the time, less than 20 years had elapsed since the defeat of European Fascism, large areas of East London were still bomb damaged. The memory of European Fascism and what it had done was still fresh in the minds of working-class Londoners.

Hackney, Clapton, Stamford Hill, and Stoke Newington had a large Jewish community, many of which had lost their relatives in the Nazi camps. The new immigrants from the Caribbean/"Commonwealth" had come from the sharp end of imperialism and as such needed no convincing of the need to defeat fascism and racism. The British State was well aware of this dangerous amalgam forming in the cities and encouraged the activities of the few fascist groups.

Everyone know how you got rid of fascists, young British men and women had returned victorious from Europe having conducted a vicious war of total attrition against the Nazis and their allies. The notion that you encourage people to sign petitions complaining about nazis and sent them to your MP, or held peaceful marches, would have been laughed out of court.

The 62 group came out of the interest group already referred to, mainly in response to organised attacks on Jews in the Stamford Hill area, and black immigrants generally. In

Hackney and Stoke Newington, for instance, it was at one stage a common occurrence for black shop keepers to have their premises painted up at night with cheerful slogans like "KBW" (Keep Britain White), "Niggers Out", "Niggers Spread Disease". Until a little intelligence work revealed the addresses of the slogan painters, who then received the attention of the Group.

Mosley's Union Movement started holding snap unannounced street meetings in Ridley Road. Out of the blue 30-40 fascists, accompanied by heir minders from Dalston police station, would suddenly appear in multi-racial Ridley Road market and hold forth. One the fascists had "captured" the venue, anti_fascists were arrested if they tried to hold a counter-meeting. With the co-operation of Ridley Road stall holders and shop owners acting as informants, a fast call-out scheme was organised, so that within 30-45 minutes 80-100 young men (almost exclusively men as I remember) arrived, prepared to remove the nazis from the streets by any means, which with few exceptions they did. Tactics varied from (1) quietly infiltrating the fascists supporters until we had enough there - then do them, to (2) meet 1/4 mile away until we had sufficient numbers, then a running wedge straight in, and do them.

The state became alarmed at these developments and on one occasion in Ridley Rd. we were ambushed by Special/Branch/MI5. As we infiltrated the fascist ringed by their police minders, a large number of plain-clothed police also infiltrated the crowd, the resulting three way punch up was something to behold. There were at least two incidents of policemen arresting policemen.

A similar pattern followed most fascist street meetings. On one occasion the BNP (there have been 4 organisations using that name since the war) were caught as they gathered before a street meeting and before their minders had arrived from Dalston police station. The predictable carnage meant that the broken and bleeding fascists had to seek the assistance of the Metropolitan Hospital Casualty Department. To their horror an outrage the duty doctor turned out to be black and naturally they refused treatment, carried their injured onto the street where they were further encouraged (by us) to leave the neighbourhood (never to return).

The result of many such clashes on street level and otherwise meant the fascists and their supporters could not and would not hold public and street meetings in East and North East London. Consequently attacks on Jews and Blacks dwindled and diminished. The notion that the thugs who wanted to deport blacks and murder Jews and Communists should be given "free speech" would have been regarded as collaborators talk, and I hope still is.

Remember who you are fighting, they are the agents of Capitalism, Thatcher's boys, Essex Man, the nation's potential prison camp guards and torturers, the have no philosophy other than greed, hate and exploitation.

Your generation is facing an unprecedented situation, fascism ins on the rise throughout Europe. If we do not do for them they will certainly do for us.

You represent our best hope for the future and our class - all power to your arm.

H.A.

Letters should be sent to:

The Editor
c/o BM 1734
London, WC1M 3XX



Above: Fascists in Bethnal Green in the 60's

TURNING THE TIDE IN EAST MIDLANDS

The East Midlands, over the last couple of years, has been a growth area for the fascists. The counties of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire being dotted with industrial towns and villages, many of which have now all but lost their industries. These areas, with high unemployment and predominantly white populations, have become fertile ground for the Far Right.

You name it and it has been seen in this region, from burning crosses and hooded loonies, to the Blood and Honour "White Christmas" gig. Every faction of British Fascism is represented here, the British National Party, International Third Position, Blood and Honour, the Ku Klux Klan and the British National Socialist Movement. All are holding events and distributing propaganda, although their membership is very intertwined.

Since the start of 1993, in answer to the growing fascist threat, militant anti-fascist activity has become more co-ordinated. An anti-fascist gig was organised a month after

Blood and Honour's "White Christmas" effort. The gig went well and was well attended. Prior to the event, the News of the World had printed threats by the fascists to "smash the gig". However, at the sight of the stewarding team AFA put on the door, those fascists who actually took this threat seriously and showed their faces, promptly resigned their subscription to Valhalla and ran.

Since then, anti-fascists have organised a series of well stewarded leaflettings and stalls, which has helped to build local confidence and intimidate the fascists. This has been an important turnaround, as before the beginning of this year, fascists, seemingly extremely well informed of activities organised by the Anti-Nazi League, had been turning out to video and intimidate anti-fascists.

Following the support given to local ANL activists in the Mansfield area, the ANL split, with those not in the SWP deciding to come under the AFA banner. This was a repeat of a similar situation in Chesterfield.

Despite the ease with which anti-fascists have subsequently been able to secure their activities, the balance of forces is still well matched. This was shown at a local election rally put on by the BNP in May. Although their redirection point had been removed, resulting in many of them (including BNP leader John Tyndall) wandering the Derbyshire countryside, the fascists still managed to secure their meeting place.

It was interesting later, to see just how much of an effect the Local AFA branch and its allies has been having on the fascists. Despite the ANL having twice as many on the street as our own people, the BNP preferred to dispatch a squad to attack them, rather than take on an outfit which would actually give them a row. This wasn't the first time that the fascists took the easy option. A month earlier, after an AFA event in Mansfield, the BNP's answer had been to attack the SWP! There is still much work to be done by anti-fascists in the area, as the fascists obviously seem to regard it as a priority. However, recent events have taught them that they have a serious and effective opposition in the area, and soon they'll be realising that luck, in the end, runs out.

Battle of Ball Grove

The British National Party suffered a humiliating defeat in their election campaign in the Pendle area on May 1st, when Anti-Fascist Action prevented them from holding a pre-election rally in the Ball Grove Recreation Hall on the outskirts of Colne.

Shaun Crambie (AKA Shaun Daltry), the BNP candidate, had targeted Colne as "the last white town in Lancashire", and had drafted in reinforcements from as far afield as Chesterfield and Mansfield to bolster his campaign. Unfortunately for Mr Crambie, concerned locals had tipped off Manchester AFA about the BNP's intended plans, and we mobilised to prevent the rally.

The BNP had a redirection point at the Hare & Hounds pub in Todmorden, with an agreement with the police to be escorted in a convoy to Colne for the rally at 2pm.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Nazi League had called a static leafleting session in the centre of Colne, a decision that would ensure that no contact would be made with the BNP.

This decision did however allow AFA to move freely around the area without arousing the suspicion of the local police. This enabled AFA to avoid police lines and occupy the hall, which by 1.50pm was surrounded by anti-fascists. Early arrivals for the meeting were given a stern talking to, and sent packing.

The local police were non-plussed. They were convinced we were the BNP, but were confused by the presence of Blacks and Asians amongst our ranks. In their confusion they decided to move us away from the hall, but towards the main body of BNP members who had just entered the park.

The BNP scattered as the 80-strong AFA contingent charged. Only the swift intervention of police dog-handlers saved the BNP. The BNP regrouped safely behind police lines, and furiously demanded that they should be allowed to use the hall. It was a demand that the police were incapable of carrying out.

Eventually the police moved the BNP into the corner of the park where they attempted to hold their rally surrounded by watchful police and chanting anti-fascists. After several minutes, a car-load of fascists were spotted behind the anti-fascists lines. They were set upon with glee, while the fascists in the park were forced to watch their mates take a pasting. Eventually, the BNP took police advice and were escorted out of town.

Meanwhile, the ANL had made a half-hearted attempt to march from the town centre to Ball Grove, but had been stopped by the police. It is our belief that not only were they happy to be stopped, but had counted on it. One ANL spokesman told a local reporter that "we have the same aims as AFA, but don't necessarily approve of their more direct methods."

So there you have it straight from the horse's mouth: the ANL agree with "no platform" for the fascists, but will not try to implement it. It might be worthwhile asking one of the fascists present in Colne on May 1st which he considered the most effective method of fighting fascism, AFA's or the ANL's?

Three anti-fascists face serious charges after the events in Colne. Donations to their defence campaign should be sent to Manchester AFA.

Not now Cato!

Word has it that leading nazi John Cato has had to pack his bags and sneak away from his Gravesend home after local anti-fascists launched a campaign against him.

Kent Anti-Fascist Action Committee (KAFAC) and the local Anti-Nazi League distributed over 2,000 leaflets highlighting Cato's activities, which include producing C18's rag, Redwatch, which publishes the names and addresses of anti-fascists and leftwingers, encouraging violence against them.

There has been a spate of racist and fascist activity in the area of late, including a vicious attack on a 60 year old Sikh man and a wave of graffiti from C18, the Ku Klux Klan and a group calling itself the British Defence League. KAFAC has received nazi hate mail, including a copy of "Nazi News" threatening local anti-fascists.

The local police acted true to form - threatening to arrest a local anti-fascist and providing Cato's home with a security camera and panic button in case of attack.

All to no avail. Cato whined to the local press that he had been "shunned by neighbours and work colleagues". Shame! Let's hope he receives the same warm welcome next time he shows his face.

No platform for AFA?

The NF in Devon, as elsewhere, is virtually finished with members leaving to join the BNP and the Tory Party. Despite that they stood in Exeter in the recent local elections, polling a "massive" 60 votes. After the election they embarked on a letter writing campaign in the local press denying they are nazis. What is interesting is that a number of anti-NF letters were printed in reply - but the local papers wouldn't print anything from AFA.

We would be interested to hear from other AFA groups who have faced this sort of censorship, as there is a definite tendency to promote liberal anti-fascists (eg. ANL, ARA etc..) at the expense of AFA's militant and effective approach.

ANTI-FASCIST ACTION

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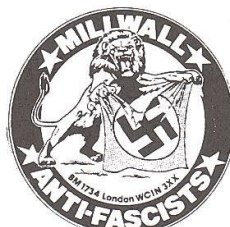
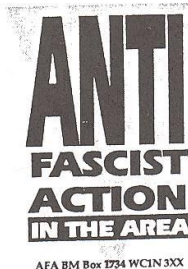
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