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RED ATTITUDE

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INDEPENDENT MANCHESTER UNITED FANZINE

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The Archivist

sky's takeover bid has been a defining moment for United fans, and with no fence to sit on, supporters are having to decide which side of the fence they are on. IMUSA has articulated the position of the 90% of Reds who oppose the deal, whilst those whose support for it was based on vague promises in the Sun newspaper of Gold Trafford, Ronaldo and £623 million to spend, have either seen the sight of day, or are now busily constructing their annual begging letters to Mr S. Claus in Lapland.

No mandate exists for the takeover to go ahead from the supporters nor from the shareholders, yet the board continues to advocate it. They are acting solely in their own and BskyB's best interests. Manchester United's welcome referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has created a window of opportunity for those who want change. United fans now have to put their money where their mouths are and buy shares in the club. To effect change, we must first empower ourselves, then we can set about democratising United. The referral holds no guarantees, and may prove to be a false dawn, but a significant supporter shareholding will in a worst case scenario, act as a bulwark against total subversion into BskyB.

IMUSA and SUAM (Shareholders United Against Munich) have conducted a superb unaggravated action against the takeover, moving swiftly on a number of fronts, countering PLC/Sky propaganda, and galvanising seemingly everyone but the PLC/Sky and Zoe Ball, into opposing the deal.

More importantly, these groups have demonstrated that something can be done. They have earned your respect, now give them your support.

As for the City institutions who haven't backed the deal, perhaps they have realised that whilst the Stock Market was dropping 20%, United increased in value by about 40%. In unstable times United have outperformed the market, and are almost recession proof.

Why would any investment fund manager worth his salt vote to sell an investment vehicle of United's calibre to BskyB just before the megabucks bonanza of pay TV kicks in? I doubt such corporate egotism exists.

Meanwhile back in the football department things are going swimmingly. The big 'if only's of Barca home and Bayern away may yet prove unnecessary after some good work in Brondby and a tidy result in Bayern the same night. The latest batch of new recruits have bedded down with remarkable ease, but Wes Brown's emergence does take the biscuit. Dwight Yorke has brought an added dimension up front that has been somewhat lacking in the post Hughes and Cantona era. Even Jordi is putting it together with a couple of goals to his name in recent weeks.

The proposed redevelopment is welcome news, but one could have been forgiven for thinking it was part of the Sky deal, such was the proximity of the announcements. What it does show is the incredible forward planning that goes into United. In 1970 we had a ground that held 63,000, dropping down to 44,000, before moving back to 55,000 and by the year 2001, some 30 years later we will see a not gain of 4,000 seats. No doubt someone in planning has got a strong bunch that there's another 12,000 Reds out there to fill these extra seats.

Should we qualify for the later stages in Europe and things remain ticketbox in the Premiership, then next March could prove to be a very interesting month, especially with the MMC due to deliberate on the takeover. Game on to speak. United for United.

Danny

When news of Murdoch's mugging broke one Sunday morning in September, it was met with disbelief, and the hope that this was merely the financial equivalent of transfer speculation during a 'helping England' fortnight break in the fixture list.

Days later an increased bid from BskyB to close down the boardroom dissenters and the deal was done. Five months of undercover work by the PLC was put to bed in three days flat once exposed, to present the fans with a fait accompli, or so they thought.

The Mirror went ballistic, invoking a crusade of Maxwellian proportions against the deal. Centre page protest posters were duly printed in readiness for the next home game. Spurring the fans to the very point of insurrection, the sheer volume of fan disapproval alone would not doubt force the deal to crumble like a pack of cards midway through the second half. If Murdoch was a scouser, his gameplan might have had some resonance and more impact.

A campaign based on raw emotion and anti-Murdoch paranoia, designed to peak at the outset would be guaranteed to fail.

IMUSA's mandate came from the 90% of Reds opposed to the takeover. Any takeover that involved United losing their independence only to become a strategic pawn in a global TV power game would attract the wholesale opposition of United fans. Murdoch just happens to be the most virulent and malignant strain of the cancer that is eating the peoples game.

Following the massive public meeting at the Bridgewater Hotel, the campaign along with the shareholders group, SUAM, swung into action. The overriding sense of time has been to convince fellow Reds, many of whom were saying 'there's nothing we can do', at the outset, that the situation can be turned around.

There have been three clear victories for the campaign. Firstly the extension of time for consideration by the Office of Fair Trading. Followed by the subsequent referral by Mandelson to the MMC, and finally, the meagre 34% of shareholders (including Edwards 16% but excluding BskyB's recently acquired 11%) who accepted BskyB's share offer. None of these will prove to be knockout blows, but when death is administrable by a thousand cuts, the first three are as vital as the last three, and IMUSA/SUAM have certainly drawn blood.

At the outset the balance of forces could roughly be categorised as follows: the PLC had 80% of the equity and 15% of supporters in favour, whilst IMUSA/SUAM had 20% of the equity and about 85% of supporters against the deal. When asked to produce, the PLC could only show 45% of shareholders in favour of the deal. Opposition to the deal has hit 96%, and almost rendered further polls pointless. If President Clinton had that level of support he could have had sex in front of the Senate and come away with a standing ovation.

There are those who will say that that's as far as you go. You've had your 15 minutes of fame, the powers-that-be have gone through the motions, but that's it. Mandelson enclave Murdoch's support to back Labour for Office. Blair gets elected. Mandelson needs private finance for the Millennium Dome and Sky hand over £12 million. Mandelson will be seen to go by the book, and following a full and proper investigation, the deal will get the nod. Nowhere else for the campaign to go. No appeals and no MUPC.
Sure that could happen, if the situation were left unchallenged and Sky were given a free hand. The raison d'être of the campaign is to influence and change events sufficiently to ensure that this scenario doesn't become an apathy-fuelled self-fulfilling prophesy.

Just look at how the city analysts and financial experts have got it (deliberately) wrong to date. They are about as convincing as a TV soccer pundit. "I just can't see where a goal is going to come from... oh, what a goal, the big sell's been threatening to do that all afternoon" Cue Aitken and Keegan equivalents pontificating on the bid. "It's down to the shareholders not the supporters. The big institutions hold 60%, the PLC board 17% and BskyB 11% which adds up to 88%. The OTT has received a poor response in terms of submissions from those opposed to the bid. There is no real basis in competition law for Mandelson to refer the bid to the MMC. BskyB's share price remains buoyant as the City believes Mandelson will okay the deal. Most big investors don't accept the first offer in a takeover bid. On the second bid, the major shareholders will accept and the small shareholders will fall in line."

This is no more than subtle propaganda from the financial pundits who want to be seen to be in the know. Perhaps if they spent a week or two on the ground in Manchester and got a taste of what the opposition are about, they may see it differently. Their opinions are about as valid as someone who has been shown only the home team score, and thinks this tells him the result. As in Brandsby 2. Can't see United scoring three away from home in Europe. Home win - put your house on it. Waste of time United even getting changed!

Consider this. So successful have IMUSA and SUAM been in setting the agenda in the public relations department, that the chief architects of the deal, Booth and Edwards have been unable to counter with any conviction.

Sky have been obliged to exercise their right to silence following Mark Booth's poor show in the left back department. Edwards has offered the possibility of concessions for the ordinary fan sometime in the future or pie in the sky more likely. The inspiration for his concessions coming from IMUSA's Redprint document which has been lying on his desk for the best part of three years.

The spin for PLC/Sky should have run along the lines of yes of course there was initial opposition to the deal, but this has evaporated as people have got used to the idea and seen the benefits it will bring.

Edwards was quoted as saying he was prepared to 'argue the toss with anyone', but it seems the word anyone should not be misconstrued to mean IMUSA, SUAM or any Reds opposed to the deal. As they see it, they don't need to listen to us, let alone talk to us, but they are getting twitchy and are scared to talk to us. This bit of business should have been wrapped up in September. It now runs until next March at the earliest. That's a full year spent making a pig's ear of selling United. Edwards nerve may not hold, especially against concerted and effective opposition.

For the campaign to have come this far in less than two months from a standing start is incredible. Just think where we could be next March when all the wheels are on the wagon. SSERee the idea of March, Martin, we're on the move.

---

**Ondigital's equivalent of Mark Booth: Stephen Grabner**

On ringing Sky, and making them aware of my reasons for cancelling, I was put through to a special section where my request was further discussed. The operator took a very neutral and disarming stance in her attempts to counter my arguments.

"But isn't a pop star now trying to buy them", referring to the Hucksall/CNN fantasy bid. "No, there's only one bid on Edwards desk that's being processed", I assured her. "But people like Fergie McCann and Elton John have bought football clubs, what's the difference?" For a blindingly obvious start, McCann and John can legitimately call themselves supporters of their respective clubs and their motivation could be construed as being football orientated. "It's the Premier League. We pay £30 million a year. "What on earth does that mean? Have you got your pages mixed up, you've answered something I've not asked you," I said as both eyebrows raised simultaneously.

"Your bosses must be concerned about losing customers over the deal if they have got dedicated handlers on line such as yourself?" I asked, trying to turn the tables, "No, not really, you're only the third angry I've had on this matter." She politely informed me, as if somehow trying to conjure up a picture of the dusty, cobwebbed, almost forgotten room in the Carlingbof office that turns out to be the customer complaints department. More likely a who's division of Sky operators, trained to the hill in customer service speak, have been deployed to dissuade Reds and ABUS alike, from unsubscribing. And so it went on for about twenty minutes, until she conceded defeat and told me I have to give 30 days notice. I felt like I'd just done the first fifteen on the phone.

Now cancelling is fine, but to some, whose only way of seeing United, especially away, is on Sky, doing so smacks of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. Let's face it you can't take a dog's dinner away from him and tell him he can't eat it as a 'matter of principle' can you? He will naturally enough bite your hand off the minute you go near the plate.

What is to be done I asked myself, now that I'm £22 a month better off but I've fell out with my dealer. When I first got hooked I was only paying £7 a month, others tell me they started on £3 a month, and there are some, in the early days who were even given it free just to get the taste off it.

So off in search I went and headed first for the bright lights of digital TV, the new wonder drug for TV addicts, which has the added advantage that you don't need to use needles, sorry, I mean satellite dishes to get it. Here's the low-down...
see even greater dangers.

The exclusive product that Murdoch is chasing is European football, or more precisely the European Super League. Having United and Sky leave him high and dry, Murdoch is trying to buy a piece of the action, and the picture becomes clearer still. (Oh my, not the Anglo-Italian Cup again?) Presently European football is free to air and Premier League football is bought on subscription. These positions could change dramatically if Murdoch gets his way. As he no longer has exclusive distribution of Sky sports (i.e. access can be gained through ONdigital) Murdoch may not wish to pay as much for it as he has previously preferred instead of cornering the market in European football through ESL. With the likelihood that no-one else could match the premium price he has paid to date for Premier League football, it could leave the door open for him to pick up the TV rights for a lot less than he’s paying now as well. European games will be satellite exclusive on a pay-per-view basis, probably cheap at first but rising dramatically as in the case of Premier League.

I make no apology for singling out Murdoch because of his reach into the satellite town. Murdoch is the new football king. Sky are hoping to upgrade onto Sky digi-digital packages. If we assume there are 10 million non-satellite households, then the size of potential market open to ONdigital is about three times the size. People are unlikely to go live with satellite when they can go direct route through ONdigital. Add to this the percentage of satellite subscribers such as myself who will switch to ONdigital for the advantages outlined previously, and you begin to see Murdoch’s dilemma. He has heavily invested in a niche market, which is coming to an end under severe commercial pressure from his rivals. Murdoch needs a product that is exclusive to satellite TV, and this is where United come into the picture in a big way. Most of us have looked at his attempted acquisition through football eyes and seen the dangers. Look through digital eyes and you
Due to the limited availability and astronomical prices of flights to Copenhagen, we had decided on a coach trip for this one, along with about 25 other Reds, including some who’d met on the train to Monaco. There should have been three more, only they’d not been able to get the earlier departure time. Instead of being at Charlton Street for 4 o’clock, they were just round the corner, taking advantage of the happy hour in Kicks. However much they had, I doubt it send them the £175 it cost them for the taxi to meet us at Thurrock.

We were ‘entertained’ on the way to Dover by two badly chosen videos: the best of Match of the Seventies which rapped a wink to Bob’s Red Army and spent the rest of the time lauding Liverpool’s European achievements - I wonder if the millions equivalent would mention the figure of 26,000? The second was the ‘Tigercats’ despite the obvious phases (various bits of Kevin Keegan, Leonardo Di Caprio dying) it was timed so that the film finished just before we were boarding the ferry. At least there weren’t any icebergs in the Channel - as far as I know. The only disaster on our boat was that all the drafty beer was warm.

Of all the things the Low Countries are famed for, one of them is not scenery on road journeys, especially in the dark. As the duty free shop is toll, sleep arrived in half hour stretches, punctuated only by crump, plus stops, the delicate sound of churning, and the asshole drivers finding the bumpiest bits of the autobahn possible. As morning broke we realised that almost everyone had assumed we’d be getting a ferry direct to Denmark, and once we, had no French Belgian German currency. At breakfast time, no money equalling fear for those who fondly recalled memories of Super Bock for breakfast, only this time it was Grolsch.

We reached the Danish border by mid-afternoon, and were boarded by a customs official actually looking for weapons. Charlie knew how he impressed the two drivers who were possibly the biggest weapons (we met) but claiming she was looking for alcohol. Well, she didn’t look very hard - almost everyone had one open, six or seven left, and the bus reeked of stale beer amongst other things.

Soon we were on our way over the longest bridge in the world, and didn’t have time to stop - right on both counts. We arrived at Hotel Cosmopolite at roughly eightish, after a cramped journey of about 30 hours which proved that the saying ‘it’s better to travel than to arrive’ can be a complete crock of shit. Unfortunately (er?) our hotel was situated on the corner of the long and Copenhagen’s red light district. The nearest two signs to
our hotel reception were ‘Maddin strip show’ and ‘Exciting Sex Shop’ - needless to say they might have found it prudent to install revolving doors. After taking time to freshen up (and shit, on the coach we were forbidden to shit in the toilet and asked only to piss in an emergency - exactly what constitutes an emergency I'm not sure) we headed out into the chilly, Copenhagen night. It is a beautiful city, especially around the main squares and central shopping districts, it all seems very stylish and cultured. Except for the hotdogs, that is, served with bread, just on street bag roll greaseproof paper with a dollop of sauce.

There was not any hint of the usual Red invasion, there was a reasonable presence, but it seemed quite low key. Perhaps everyone was holed up in the various bars, it was probably a bit cold to be bopping along on the streets. We found warmth, Reds and beer in the Dubliner, a tasteful Irish bar which was showing the Liverpool match, with almost as many of us watching there as at Anfield, the part-time scouse barmen. Drink did not come cheap, it was the equivalent of £3.35 for a pint of Tuborg (a basic but nice lager). I must point out that I've just this second been told that whilst writing this, I'm not sure if the week has just caught up with me or if it was the thought of paying that much for a pint.

After the game and a couple more, we headed off to find somewhere else, and ended up in Burger King followed by McDonalds, followed by bed. One a.m. seemed a little early considering most of the bars had a license till at least 2:00, but we had started drinking at half eight that morning, so we'd had a decent day's worth - and, of course, there was the promise of more to come on the Wednesday.

After such an early night, we managed to make breakfast at a change. We met up with a group of Reds off the coach and decided, for the time being, to take in a bit more of Copenhagen than just the city centre bars. Options were split between the Tivoli gardens, which were closed; the Little Mermaid, which was miles away and when it comes down to it, is just a statue of a mermaid; and Christiansen Park.

Not a lot of people know this (well I didn't!), but Christiana is an independent free state at one end of Copenhagen with its own laws, etc. Essentially, it's a hippy commune, but it sounded a good laugh so off we went, actually paying onto the bus, it's in the run down area of Copenhagen, surrounded by rubble, graffiti and shite. The actual entrance to the park is like one of those wild windy bits in a theme park, and it's only about the size of a couple of football pitches. Aside from the odd mangy dog wandering around, there's just a few shacks selling their 'merchandise'. We made our way to the Woodstock Cafe, and found the bar eventually, you couldn't see it for all the smoke, then sat near the windows at the back. To say it all smelt a bit funny was something of an understatement.

Having done a bit of cultural discovery, we went to the pub, this time the Chimney, near all the cinemas. There was quite a few United in there, more or less half of them spoke English, though, you wouldn't believe the amount of Danish Reds who had congregated in Copenhagen, singing songs in a bizarre mix of Schneichel's English and their own Danish. After this, we decided that still paying the best part of a fiver for a pint made no sense when we'd brought with us a bottle of vodka (70% ABV no less) that we'd got on the way back from Bols, which cost us four quid. Even when mixed heavily with coke, it was described variously as 'U-boat fuel' and 'fiendin' 'comrade' depending on who tried it. No one denied that the rest of the afternoon was a bit of a blur. I vaguely remember searching for souvenirs

The game was made way onto the Bromby fans, credit to them, they were still laughing and singing 'always look on the bright side of life'. Not really having a clue where to go, and having less than an hour to get back to the coach, we decided to follow everyone else, just hoping that they were heading towards the city centre. It was absolutely pissing down, I lost count of the number of times I did a Dr Gloucester. Turns out everyone was going to the nearest train station, and the staff were really helpful, directing us to the right platform and train, without enquiring visas or tickets. Maybe they couldn't imagine anyone not having one, maybe they just didn't give a shit; maybe they felt sorry for us considering what we looked like - wet, cold and bedraggled - but we were still buzzing off the whole thing. I'm glad we had another performance to be proud of, of Budweiser brilliance as opposed to the Shamleyesque stagnation in Morocco and Laos.

The bus journey back was more low key than a 6-2 miracle, maybe we just couldn't believe it, or perhaps everyone was more intent on drinking themselves into a stupor. A special mention here to the big lads at the back who got 40 bottles of Carlsberg and a crate of Fosters for the return.

**Red Attitude**

Before I realised that I'd lost my lucky badge we were two nil up. **Red Attitude**

**Christiana Park...**

To say it all smelt a bit funny was something of an understatement.
I was relieved to find they were only going to rifle through our bags. Doubly so, as at least one Red had bags full of sickly clothes in his...

journey and were onto everyone else’s beer before we were that far into France; they started caging double brandy and ports on the ferry as well, it might not be big or clever, but if you’re going to do something you might as well do it properly, and they did. My own personal highlight was a stop at a service station somewhere in Northern Germany. My German vocabulary only stretched as far as ‘danke’, ‘ja das ist richtig’ and ‘kuhenn’ - ‘thankes’, ‘yes, that’s right’, and ‘cows’. Fortunately all I wanted was a bit of cake so I was sorted, even if I felt like a twat buying it on Visa.

As we approached a cash and carry at Calais, the drivers repeatedly warned the entire coachload of us not to take any unusual souvenirs of Christians back into Britain - although they put it differently, the humourless bastards. Most Rods who had invested in such a manner got rid of theirs before boarding the ferry, with a definite proportion opting to eat theirs.

This decision, combined with the rough seas (it was rough that by the time we got to Dover we had to wait half an hour for a berth because no-one wanted to get on out there) led to some amusing scenes on the ferry crossing. Staggering from side to side and going glassy-eyed seemed to be the order of the day, but I reckon even the soberest, straightest, saltiest sea-dog passenger might have felt a bit dodgy. Especially when on take-off from Calais the boat spent five minutes shuddering in a manner more akin to a Challenger rocket, or one of the toys from the

Istegaade shops.

Stripping Off with Sarah

We all know that red, white and black are the traditional colours of our great club, but do Umbro?

The number of atrocious strips our players are forced to wear nowadays is beyond a joke. The current home keeper kit is a good example. Fluorescent green may look right at home at White Hart Lane, but it makes Schmeichel look like a right prick.

Has anyone bought one of these atrocities? Little kids may be but I’m yet to see an adult wearing a United keeper kit and who can blame them? "Umbro" they call it. It’s the kind of poncey colour you’d expect to see alongside the likes of ‘lazer blue’ at Maine Road, not at United. We are red, we are white, we are black. We are not "lime green", nor are we grey, yellow, green, blue or any of the other recent Umbro fashion disasters.

A few years ago they released the horrendous blue and white striped effort, marketing it as a ‘replica to the kit Newton Heath used to wear’. I, for one, have never seen pics of Newton Heath in this strip, but you can bet your life on it that if this did it would be free from advertising and criminally modified club logos. Like all early United shirts there was no advertising tarnishing the club’s colours. They were classic shirts, whether they were just a plain red tee or embroidered with an old style United logo. These were the classic United kits because, after all, we support United. We don’t support Umbro or Sharp, so why should we walk around advertising their products? We have had some good kits though, the Admiral one’s from the Doc era and some Adidas ones, like the early 90s home top and the victorious plain white Rotterdam ‘91 away kit. These were great kits worn in the days when the wearing of a United kit actually meant something and gave you an identity. The successor to Adidas, Umbro, have given us only a handful of decent kits like the white ‘98 effort, the all black ‘94 away kit, and the recent champions league home kit. But for every decent kit they give you half a dozen vomit-inducing fashion items! First example, drowntswimming shirts! They may well have coincided with our first title win in twenty odd years but they made our lads look like extras from an old school Robin Hood film. After this, the bad kits came thick and fast with the infamous grey kit the worst of the lot.

We’ve heard people say Sheringham isn’t a United player, well the grey kit wasn’t a United kit, it was absolutely hideous and I was embarrassed to see our lads wearing it. Umbro seem to have had their day at United and thankfully their deal with us runs out in a couple of years time.

The ideas they have introduced to hike up the replica kit prices (vapatach, anti-locking zips) have only succeeded in making our players look stupid. Lets see United return to the classic red shirt with the only marking being the proud logo of Manchester United Football Club (none of this Manchester United crap we have now). Lets have none of this Umbro and Sharp shit tarnishing our club’s proud colours and lets see a return to the United of old with quality United shirts worn by quality players showing the spirit of Manchester United Football Club, with no sign of money grabbers like Edwards and Murdoch out to sell and destroy our very soul.
A Letter From Eric...

Eric Allinson is a long-standing United supporter and co-writer of the book 'Strangeways 1990, a serious disturbance'. Eric is currently residing in HMP Sudbury.

Do you remember me telling you about that good pal of mine, the Londoner, the rabid Arsenal fan? Well, he finished a ten-stretch, just before the end of last season, when his mob were looking good for the double.

He'd been talking for a while, in letters, about how disillusioned he was by the way that Sky had taken over the national game. Talked about giving up on the Gunners and going back to football's grass roots, in his case, on Hackney marshes. Give him his due, as a man of principle, gave the glory a body-saw and hasn't set foot inside the Marble halls since his release.

Supports Fisher Athletic now, across the river. He'll feel at home there, mind; the manager, half the team and 90% of the fans, are all pals of his, from the exercise yards.

Anyway, the day after the Murdoch/United scary broke, I phoned this pal, knowing that he'll sympathise. We talk about the bollocks and come around to Edwards. My mate says that the chairman's behaviour, in letting Sky in, surprises him. It doesn't surprise me, I answer. 'The man would sell to the Devil, if the money was right.' That's just what he's done, Eric, the lad replied.

I tell you my heart is bleeding. Manchester United, the club that rose from the industrial streets of the city; supported, through thick and thin, by working people I've seen tens of thousands of them, still in their overall, at night matches, in the past), being taken over by the biggest enemy of the working class in my time.

The circulation of this bastard's publishing flagship, 'The Scum' was 370,247 at the last count. (August.) Virtually all going into working class homes. They say, the readers, who challenged, that they only take the rag, for the tits and the sport. It's the greatest act of infiltration the class war has ever known. The day of the Barca match, the leader column poured scorn and vitriol over the attempt by the TUC to increase the proposed minimum wage. Nearly 4 million workers bought the message.

This is the paper, which presumably we will be associated with, that spoke of the braver and dedication of the police, following Hillsborough. No mention of the incompetence, brutality, cowardice and sheer panic of South Yorkshire's finest.

No mention of the incompetence, brutality, cowardice and sheer panic of South Yorkshire's finest. This is the paper, which presumably we will be associated with, that spoke of the bravery and dedication of the police, following Hillsborough. No mention of the incompetence, brutality, cowardice and sheer panic of South Yorkshire's finest.

No mention of the incompetence, brutality, cowardice and sheer panic of South Yorkshire's finest.

We can go back, And, In so doing, Get our own back And change the future; We can remember Billy Meredith And play The Peoples' Game By forming our own Manchester Uniteds. With coats for goals and public land for a pitch And principles for politics; And when we pick our teams, One by one, We can leave the Murdochsites, Shivering, Right unto the end; And when they all look up, Expectantly, We can tell them all to just fuck off, Because It's our ball now.

Stroud Football Foot

MR MURDOCH AND BSKYB

Red Attitude
Pinochet... The General From Hell

General Pinochet's arrest at a London hospital recently came as a surprise to many, not least Pinochet himself, who had visited the country many times before without any problems. He is now wanted by the Spanish for the alleged murder and disappearance of Spanish citizens. Pinochet is the Chilean army general who, backed by the CIA and the Nixon administration, overthrew the democratically elected Communist government of Salvador Allende in 1973.

In the aftermath of the military coup, anti-Pinochet supporters along with trade unionists and opposition leaders were rounded up. They were held at the national stadium where many were tortured and executed.

In the years that followed all working class opposition was crushed by the use of such terror tactics and anyone brave enough to oppose Pinochet simply disappeared.

With all opposition eradicated, Chile became a perfect environment for the American backed junta to experiment with the economic theories of Milton Friedman, the right wing economic guru.

What happened in Chile was studied closely by Margaret Thatcher, who in later years followed the same monetarist policies here in Britain. Thatcher's ruthlessness in dealing with opposition from whatever quarter, was a political necessity she learned quickly from Pinochet. The image of the Iron Lady was cast in the mould of a brutal dictator. Brutal indeed, but for good reason. To stamp on the working classes, render them unable to organize to defend their rights, and thus allow big business to control wages, exploit labour and increase profits.

Small wonder then that Thatcher should be first out of the blocks to demand Pinochet's release claiming what a great friend he was to Britain during the Falklands war. No doubt he would have been an even greater friend if he had managed to convert the Anti Poll Tax movement into Wembley Stadium and let loose on them with machine guns. That's the Pinochet way.

But brutal as he was, Pinochet was only a puppet, following a well prepared American plan of destabilisation, military coup and eradication of opposition. All done with the help of weapons supplied by the British arms industry.

Pinochet should be brought to justice and held to account for his atrocious human rights record. But how do you punish a man of his years for past crimes? How about throwing him into the sea from a helicopter, but not before stuffing his stomach with open to ensure he sinks, and let him lie with his victims who met their deaths in this way.

Craig Wilson is editor of Australian Rugby League fanzine Loosehead Magazine; a rugby league fanzine that covers political and historical issues in rugby league from a supporters perspective. I'm originally from England, a member of both the Football Supporters Association, and the Rugby League Supporters Association. I've been involved in the Labour Party, moving the first ever Conference motion on soccer, and also in the fight against Paps clubs, back at the end of the eighties. I moved here with my Australian wife, and I go to watch South Sydney play in the Australian rugby league competition.

Souths are a bit like Manchester United, or at least like Manchester United were when they slipped into the Second Division. They've fallen on hard times, but they've won more Premierships than any other team, and you just know that they will be up there again. They are a team with a strong working class following from a strong working class area. This is reflected in their nickname, "The Rabbitohs" (a rabbit was a bloke paddling rabbits outside the football grounds). South Sydney is industrial, and traditionally has been the poorest area in the city. Because many migrant families settled there from all over Australia, from Europe and Asia, that is reflected in the players - from many backgrounds, but definitely proud of their South Sydney roots. Souths also have a strong relationship with the Aboriginal communities in the area - Redfern and La Perouse - and consequently the Rabbitohs have always had many fine Aboriginal players turning out for them.

They have one of the strongest junior networks in rugby league, breeding generation after generation of gifted young players, most of whom, in recent years, have moved on to more successful clubs and won Premierships. In short, without Souths, rugby league the world over would be a poorer and devalued game.

But Souths are not 'sexy' enough for people like News. We are too gritty, too Old Skool. Crowds are small due to moving to a new stadium some years ago, and the kind of people that go to Souths don't sit in the executive boxes and drink champagne. They don't come along for entertainment. They drink beer and sit on home made cushions, and they come because they have always come and because their parents and grandparents...
Since the last round of fanzines, IMUSA has continued to work full-time campaigning to stop the takeover of the club by BSkyB.

The fight took a group of supporters to the very heart of government: The trip to Westminster was a sure success as we outlined our case inside the Houses of Parliament to a group of MPs from all parties who themselves are doing everything to put pressure on Peter Mandelson to stop the takeover.

Irrespective of The Decision - whether or not the takeover is to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission - it is important to hold on to your shares. Whatever the outcome of this decision, the deal is far from done and dusted and every share counts.

To keep up to date on the campaign call the IMUSA office on 0161 839 9941 or better still log onto our new web-site at www.imusa.org (generously provided by local firm, XTM) and watch out for future campaign updates.

On a different note, can those supporters ejected from the home games against Coventry (North Stand) and Wimbledon (East Lower) please get in touch with IMUSA.

To join IMUSA and the fight against Murdoch, please send £5 (£10 overseas) to PO Box 69, Stretford, Manchester M32 0UZ for twelve months membership.

Donations to the campaign can be sent to the same address.

Next meeting: Thursday November 12th, O'Brien's, Stretford 8pm.
Why we oppose the takeover
Murdoch and United are a 'Marriage Made in Heaven'. Right?

Murdoch has gone on the record as saying sports is the "Battering Ram" with which he can sell his TV services. We will be nothing more than a convenient tool. Does Rupert Murdoch support United? Will he listen to the views of match-going supporters before making decisions? Will he be more concerned with the football or his business? Will decisions about the Club be taken in Manchester or a plane somewhere between London and New York? Murdoch has claimed the deal will be self-financing in only three years. Money goes out of the Club now - but at least we can voice our opinions to the board, in Manchester, at the AGM. Alex Ferguson already has one foot tied behind his back in the transfer market. Don't let the money men tighten their grip.

We would have the money to buy the best players in the world...

If only this were true! Murdoch owns almost 80 different businesses. To avoid paying tax, company funds are shuffled from tax havens to tax havens. United profits, your Sky subscriptions (like everybody else's) will end up not in Manchester, or even London, but being moved into offshore accounts in Mauritius, Fiji and Cuba. Has BSkyB told supporters what share of the profits will be kept by United? Don't be fooled by the extent of Murdoch's empire. Murdoch's business interests are, by the admission of his own executives, a complex web of financial transactions. Already there is an embargo on transfers over £1 million.

But with Murdoch's wealth backing us and United's support, the club can't lose, right?

We know that News Corporation, Murdoch's parent company, has as much as thirteen billion dollars in outstanding debt and other liabilities. We also know that Murdoch has taken out a line of credit to help pay for buying United, the interest on which runs to £47 million per year. In the last recession the company nearly went bust, this time around he's already scrapped plans to sell shares in Fox. United generate cash. Murdoch's other activities, such as top cable networks in China and the Far East use cash. Just put two and two together...

Surely Murdoch will want a successful United to sell his TV dishes and set top boxes?

That's what they also said in Los Angeles when he bought the Dodgers. He then promptly sold a star player to a team in Florida, whose owner also happened to run a TV station Murdoch was interested in. That's what they also said in Australia when Murdoch cashed in on the boom in Rugby League - by pulling the sport apart and driving supporters into the arms of Australian Rules Football. Vic Walcoting, Managing Director of Sky Sports, has already been quoted as saying it would not be good for one club to become too successful...

What if the deal is blocked?

Wont that damage United in the long run?

Manchester United ARE already the biggest sports attraction in the world. Do you think that he wouldn't be interested in showing United games because he was stopped from buying us? Do you think he would refuse to broadcast United games in a fit of anger? All he wants to do is expand his business and make money - he can and will still make money out of United, whether he owns us or not.

The message is clear...

Murdoch needs United. United Don't need Murdoch.

United fans who follow the team home and away will spend upwards of £2,000 a year for the privilege. A shareholder paying £2.40 for a share will have more say in how the club is run than theoyal supporter. Stopping this takeover isn't just about keeping Murdoch out, unwelcome though he is, but bringing the supporters in. Democratising United. Whilst Murdoch's bid presents the greatest threat to United's independence and existence as a football club, stopping him could present the greatest opportunity for supporters to change the way United operate.

The Club is up for sale, Edwards wants to sell out. The fans should have been given first refusal, not Murdoch. Instead we weren't even consulted.

If Barcelona can operate so successfully and attract the world class players who snub United plc, with a system of supporter democracy and boardroom accountability unheard of in this country, then we as supporters must raise our expectations off the pitch, to match our expectations on the pitch.

T-Shirts

The shirts will be on sale for £6 each from several different stalls or from IMUSA direct.

If anyone overseas is interested in ordering please contact through the IMUSA list: imusa@egroups.com.

Each stall selling the T-shirts will have a leaflet to display which will read:

IMUSA
SAVE OUR GAME
UNITED FOR UNITED

These T-shirts are being sold to help IMUSA's actions against the BSkyB bid to take over 'our' football club. Profits from the sale of every shirt will go towards the IMUSA 'fighting fund'. So please BUY THESE T-SHIRTS and help fund the fight.
United For United

For UK reds interested in taking a stake in their club.

United should be owned by its supporters - there are enough reds in the UK, let alone the world, to buy the club many times over - it's just a matter of coordinating our efforts and, quickly, if we can buy more time we could actually control our own club so that it's run the way supporters want it to be run - not pension funds or TV broadcasters. But we've got to act now.

We will save costs (more shares) and get more shares in friendly hands if we group together with reds we know in our local areas. What about your local branch? The current share price is still below the bid offer so you can still buy shares at a price lower than the offer on the table. This price will rise as we mop up more loose shares. Our strength is in numbers.

For those in the UK there are at least two simple options:

1. NatWest bank Instant Dealing
2. Wise Speke Stockbrokers Manchester

1. NatWest bank Instant Dealing details:

You can deal 'on the spot' at 280 NatWest Branches. This service is available from Monday to Friday, until 5 pm, and you do not need to bank with NatWest to use the service.

If you don't bank with NatWest, you need to take some form of identification, showing your signature and address with you when you want to deal.

A full UK driving licence is sufficient, or a current utility bill and something showing your signature such as a credit card.

Buying shares

If you are a NatWest customer, then the amount of your deal will be debited from your bank account on the appropriate settlement date. This is normally 5 working days after your deal.

If you don't bank with NatWest, you will have to pay for the shares you have bought by cheque, at the time of your deal.

Where to deal

You can find your nearest Instant Share Dealing Branch by calling 03452 204888, Monday to Friday 8 am - 8 pm, Saturdays 8 am - 6 pm.

Dealing charges

Normal fees consist of a basic commission of 1.5% with a minimum of £20, up to a transaction value of £10,000.

2. Wise Speke Stockbrokers Manchester:

You can also buy United shares through Wise Speke in Manchester.

You need to get an application form. If you have a fax machine you can fax one to you and you can fax it back. Call them on 0161 953 9700, or fax 0161 832 9092.

You then need to make payment before the deal goes through.

Save Our Game

sign the e-mail petition against the takeover

www.manchester.com/guest/guestadd.html

24 Red, Anti-Fascist & Proud

IT'S WHO YOU KNOW...

Paolo Di Canio's infamous push on a referee will go down in the annals of football history alongside Cantona's infamous kick at a spectator.

But hold on a minute, how come Batty's push on a referee towards the end of last season passed off without the usual inevitability. Nothing to do with the fact that the World Cup was almost upon us and the Batty one was, as we later found out, pivotal to England's chances of success. Without the benefit of Andy Gray's computer technology, the power and the speed of the shove seemed identical to the untrained eye. So the severity of the crime appears to rest solely on the dynamics of the Di Canio's victim fell to the floor reminescent of the style displayed by Neil Kiddock on the beach, which was made famous in the opening credits of "Spitting Image."

Di Canio's Lawyers

have asked us to point out that he was nowhere near the ball that day.

If you think showing refs is bad sport, how about head shots, as in Hartson's attempt to link Berko's head up with the Space Shuttle. Now the FA is a violent crime, captured on video, in front of witnesses, but no police charges. Essentially it was a domestic, as Harry Redknapp duly informed the FA, and quite often in these situations what you actually see with your own eyes isn't what happened at all. The FA were quick to agree. Why only last season they had a case where millions claimed they saw video evidence of Sharer kicking Lennon in the face by the touchline. But with a World Cup coming up, Martin O'Neill was promoted to TV purist and Leicester City's Lennon confirmed that no such incident took place.

So if Eric played for England it's a strong possibility that no-one would have seen his huge exuberant leg stretch or would they?

For Erik it would explain it like this, he's just crap, pushing refs is another no-brainer. But just pun a few fans? Don't you know that they're a protected species. Under no circumstances must you touch the paying customer regardless of what he does.

But if the bastard won't sit down, it's okay to bounce him out the door and confiscate his season ticket, and most assured the FA definitely won't see that.

Red Attitude 25
Match Reports

Arsenal 3 United 0

Humiliated away. So totally beaten that I am not physically able to describe the carnage without feeling sick. Beckham excused from all blame. Ferguson tactics straight from the school of shit tactics.

United 2 Liverpool 0

Winning the league is very cool. The European Cup? A pipe dream maybe, but I imagine that it would be like almost nothing else. The FA Cup is always a favourite, given the history and the day out of the occasion. But what is it I crave more than anything? Which single match really matters? Answer - home versus the scousers, followed closely by away versus the scousers.

I loath them. The originators of the glory hunting fan. Home of the thief. Adopted home of such twats as Steve Macmansman, John Barnes and Graham Souness. Only in Liverpool could David Speedie be accepted as a member of society.

We won two nil, and Scholes scored a magnificent goal. They bleated, they moaned, they cheated and they lost. Paul Ince got the big time charlie job he deserved, and I hope it made Ferguson smile.

Before the game, trouble outside Hannahs. The scousers decide to slash open a Salford face, and in return the culprit gets dealt with in a similar fashion within seconds. Here follows a true story. On my recent travels down under, I met a bloke in a bloke face. He said to me:

"I am a sailor in the New Zealand Navy. My parents live in the suburb of Seatoun and one of my sisters, who lives in Palmerston North, is married to a guy from Liverpool, England. My Father and Mother have recently been arrested for growing and selling marijuana and are currently dependent on my two sisters, who are prostitutes in Auckland.

I have two brothers, one who is currently serving a non-parole life sentence in Mt. Eden Prison, Auckland, for the rape & murder of a teenage boy in 1984, the other currently being held in the Wellington remand centre on charges of incest with his three children.

I have recently become engaged to marry a former Thai prostitute who lives in Christchurch and indeed is still a part time "working girl" in a Brothel.

Southampton 0 United 3

Twenty years without a victory, ten years without a woman, never had a kebab, Lord Lucan didn’t do it etc etc. No excuses this time - Southampton shitter than shit and bottom of the league, players and fans in tatters. United, £30 million’s worth of new talent on display. No contest in theory, and no contest in practice.

After about 10 seconds Howells managed, reversing all the laws of physics in one go, to miss a completely open net. Once Van der Waele got over that, an excellent performance from himself and most of the other 10 on the pitch. Talking of new talent, that lad Andy Cole looks like he could go a long way. A superb goal that only Michael Owen scores, sandwiched nicely by setting up Yorke and (in a roundabout way) Cruyff. Simply no complaints. Crap journey back, but after that performance, who cares?

Oh the mighty Dons, plucky south Londoners afraid of no-one. United due to be turned over by in-form Wimbledon at the silent Old Trafford.

Bullshit!

Best football I’ve seen in ages. Barca was a better game, but it has been a while since I’ve seen us really turn a team over in such style. Champagne football all the way - even the Holmes Chap lost staying until the end. A long overdue start by Andy Cole was rewarded with two superb strikes, and particularly importantly the first goal. I think my facts are correct in stating that Cole only scored first on five occasions last year, and this is why so many of the ‘Cole is shit’ rumours abide. First goals count, and your number 9 needs to provide.

United 5 Wimbledon 1

RED ATTITUDE
Funny

Isn’t it funny how Peter Mandelson, or Mandy to his friends, has been “outed” as a homosexual on the same day as he referred the Sky bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

As that decision didn’t get Rupert’s goat up, Mandy also came out with some choice words about General Pinochet travelling under diplomatic immunity as “gut wrenching”, a comment which the Labour Party were quick to distance themselves from.

Now this may seem like co-incidence, but the global destabilisers know how to counter-attack almost as good as the class of ’94. Hence they are unlikely to attack on the issue that concerns them, but on one which ultimately can be developed to bring down their target.

So in the space of a few weeks, he has managed to upset Pinochet’s cronies who include the CIA and the armaments lobby as well as a certain Mr Murdoch.

Suddenly there’s a puff in the cabinet.

There are some in the USA who believe that President Clinton’s current dilemma stems not from his wanderlust, but actually has its roots in Hilary Clinton’s attempts to reform the American healthcare system. The big bang of the Clinton administration was to have been the introduction of a National Health Service along the lines of the one that we take for granted. In America this hit the corporate panic buttons of both the medical insurance industry and the military establishment. They were firmly of the view that you pay insurance if you want healthcare and if you can’t afford it you die. Taxes were raised solely for the benefit of the defence industry to squander or protecting the population from invasion (and occasionally bombing Libya).

Clinton has seen more investigations than a gynaecologist (fingered), and is generally the straightest (and possibly the honest) President on record. The original investigation into the White Water land deal involving the Clintons, has undergone a politically motivated change of mind, thus allowing it to produce grounds for impeaching the President for extra marital activity. The healthcare reforms have gone out the window, Clinton is politically impotent, and the best he can hope for is to string out the impeachment process until his term in office expires. Job done for the destabilisers.

Look at what happened to our own John Stalker. He was sent to Northern Ireland to investigate allegations of a shoot to kill policy by the police and army. When he found evidence of shoot to kill and secret intelligence involvement, and was prepared to include it in his report, he was suspended by the Greater Manchester Police on trumped up charges. Stalker was too honest for his own good and paid the price, but more importantly what does it tell you about his accusers? Does anyone believe that Stalker was bent?

Cost your minds back to the Hillsborough disaster and the ongoing campaign for justice by the Hillsborough Survivors and Relatives group. Everyone remembers the stories, in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, of drunken scooters passing on the bodies and robbing the dead, this after drunken, ticketless fans had stormed through one of the gates at the Leppings Lane end to cause the tragedy in the first place.

These stories were carried by Murdoch’s Sun and led to a boycott of Murdoch titles on Merseyside. It later transpired that six senior police officers had formed a Liaison Unit to orchestrate a black propaganda campaign aimed at deflecting the blame for what happened on to anyone other than themselves.

The damage was done. The scooters (and terracing) were in the dock and the police were off the hook. The Home Secretary refused the relatives justifiable demands for a public enquiry into the disaster for fear of the truth coming out. Out of collusion between the police, the media, and possibly some people further up the food chain, to propagate the despicable lies that were told when 96 innocent people lost their lives.

Mandelson knows how the game is played at the top level, and the experience of Welsh supreme Ron Davies will be proof enough of how sudden the fall from grace can be. If the MMC ultimately flours the Sky bid, he can expect a whole host of kiss and tell stories in the News of the World from his ex-loverboys complete with spunk stained tracy bottoms. But he’ll still be a popular lad in Manchester.

The Kerry Recruit

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Red Attitude
Murdock and Munich

At the end of the testimonial, I felt as if I had been told off. The only words that came to mind were "Munich" and "Nigeria". Not that I was blaming the Munich massacre, but that was it. Eric was gone. The right or wrong, good or bad. There was a sense of emptiness, a feeling that something was missing. I walked away, not knowing what to say. Not knowing what to do.

And so it is that I find myself sitting in my room, trying to make sense of what happened. The Manchester United players, the fans, the world. All of it. Theories about what could have happened. Theories about what should have happened. Theories about what will happen. And all of it, it seems, is a reflection of the world we live in. A world where things don't always make sense, where things are not always black and white. Where even the most simple things can be complicated.

But I digress. Back to the Manchester United players. The team that I've grown to love. The team that I feel a part of. The team that I feel I've grown up with. The team that has given me so much, more than I could ever have asked for.

So, what's the point? Why am I writing this? I don't know. I just feel the need to put down my thoughts, to try and make sense of what happened. To try and understand.

But I'm not sure I'll ever understand. The world is too complicated, too full of contradictory ideas and beliefs. The world is too full of things that we can't control. The world is too full of things that we can't predict.

So, I'll just keep on writing, keep on thinking, and try to make sense of it all. Because that's all I can do. That's all I know how to do.
The Devils Ride Out!

Schmeichel
People have been questioning the big man's form this season. Obviously not at his best, and
been injured, but the only real bollock came in
the last minute in Germany, when I think even he
wasn't himself what he was doing.

Gary Neville
Superb start to the season. Has recently moved
to central defence and looked the complete
article. Against Liverpool was his best perform-
ance to date. Reads the game very well and has
helped bring Stam along.

Phil Neville
Descent run of form from Phil, but will come
under increasing pressure from a fit again Denis
Irwin and the emerging Wes Brown.

Denis Irwin
This man, now 33, has had a good innings for
United at full back but it doesn't look like he's
finished yet. Was eased back in as sub against
Everton, with one eye on Europe in midweek.

Wes Brown
Another hot youngster off the OT conveyor
belt that Fergie set up when he first arrived. He's
fast, can use both feet to some tune, makes
intelligent forward moves, can cross a ball and is
as strong as an ox. Performance in Denmark was
outstanding, and will be playing for England
before too long (who they?).

Ronnie Johnsen
For me Ronnie's injury was the main reason we
didn't beat Barca at home and Bayern away. He's
our most cultured centre half, and I can't wait till
he's fully fit. Only leaves the question of who to
put alongside him.

Jaap Stam
World's most expensive at £15.75m, leaving
Holland to play for his heroes, been labelled a
donkey following the World Cup and his early
games for United. Neither Stoor nor Palfiser
started like a house on fire either so no need to
worry. Came through his toughest test to date against
big Dunga at Everton, still in one
piece - just.

Roy Keane
Last year's silverware shortage has been put
down to Keane's injury lay-off. Initially he wasn't
missed, but when Butt and Scholes started to
struggle we were found wanting and leaderless
in the centre of the park. This season he's back
with a vengeance, Arsenal apart. He's popped up
with a couple of international goals whilst
dominating Croatia, and named in commanding
performances against Wimbledon and at
Everton.

Nicky Butt
Poor old Nick must have thought the world was
against him when he sacrificed himself against
Barca and was sent packing 4 days later at
Highbury - wrongly in my opinion. Not that this
has affected his fine form this term.

David Beckham
To say that
Beckham
bounced back
and showed the
Premiership
and Europe
what
he's
capable of, is something of an understate-
ment. He's been brilliant. Despite the heckles of
the Prem's mindless minorities, and the lack
of support from Hoddle and the England
camp, after kicking the diving Argie, he has
shown himself to be above them all.

Ryan Giggs
Another flying start from Ryan, despite playing
out of position on occasions. Worrying news that
he'll be out for a month with a broken bone in his
foot means he'll miss the crucial game in Spain,
where his new found aerial power will be
missed.

Dwight Yorke
Like many, I raised the proverbial eyebrow when
we broke our transfer record for the second time
this year to buy Dwight. Why didn't we get Salas
or someone else with proven European or world
credentials in a £12 million package? I don't
doubt Yorke's ability, but is he any better than
what we've already got?

Andy Cole
Well hands up if you like Dwight Yorke. Andy
Cole does. They've certainly hit it off somewhat.
Fourteen goals between them with barely a
quarter of the season gone. Andy has carried on
where he left off last season. The goals and
confidence are there, and he has a partner to
supply the ammunition. It sounds perfect and
looks bloody good so far.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer
And again, hands up if you like Dwight Yorke. Ole
is also hitting it off with the new boy. Ole was
unlucky to lose his place at Arsenal, and as to if
prove it combined well with Yorke to score with
his first touch against Brondby. Striking for once,
doesn't seem a problem, long may it continue.

Jesper Blomqvist
Jesper on the wing has a familiar ring to it. Has
started well and offers another dimension to our
play when both he and Giggs play, and provides
invaluable cover on the left when Giggs is injured
like now. Comfortable and confident in his own
ability - just the qualities you want to see on the
wing for United.

Paul Scholes
Performance against Everton was the best
from the rocket pocket for some time. Unlucky
not to score in the last minute of a game that he
and Keane had dominated. On the downside,
and at the risk of repeating myself, are
the silly bookings he keeps picking up which lead to time
out through suspens-

Henning Berg
Has had an indifferent start to the season,
maybe not helped by
Stam's uncertain start.
That said, he was
making noises,
following Stam's
arrival at not being
happy as a squad player.
Don't think he'll figure too
much when it matters during
this campaign.

Jordi Cruyff
Jordi has stated that he is not ready
to give up on his United career, and he's putting
in sufficient effort to make sure it is not ended for
him. Scored two from the bench, including a
point saver at Derby. He's got the talent but still
looks far too brittle for the rough and tumble of
the Premier.

Teddy Sheringham
Seems to have disappeared of late, after a fairly
competent display against Bayern. More likely to
be heard blowing about winning his England
place back than seen in the first team at the
minute. Should still be turning out for his night
clubs though.

The Best of the Rest
The game against Bury saw some more young
Reds making their debuts in front of a near full
house. Jonathan Greening was the pick of the
bunch for me with a tireless display, David Mey
moved closer to first team duty with a steady
game at the back, and Eric Nevland got his first
goal for United. Clegg, Curtis, Wilson and
Maturine remain names that will no doubt figure
more prominently on these pages in years to
come.
HARRY'S VIEW

Hail Hail
Well what a start to the season! Who would have predicted this proposed take-over by BSkyB or what the possible outcome will be? For Leeds the fans of football stay loyal to their clubs only to see their loyalty repaid by PLC's who only think of profit. Celtic are going through a similar turmoil, only our board are refusing to buy players. They received a 17 million in season ticket revenue alone and have not added to the squad since last November.

Fergie's midfielders, who were the key to our success last season, have scored 10 goals in 10 games so far. The team has won 7 of their 10 games, with only 2 losses. The team is in great form and is expected to continue this season. The players are happy with the new system and are performing well. The fans are also enjoying the games and are showing their support.

On the football front, I'm glad to see that Dwight Yorke can score on the field as well as in the bed. Some people have no sense of humour and the idiots from Scotland who object to Andrew Cole being the new St Andrew patron saint of Scotland are wankers. I for one welcome the idea and I think David Beckham should become the new patron saint of Wales. Well up here in Scotland the behind-the-scenes dispute at Celtic is sorely affecting the results on the park. The team lack spirit and leadership and this showed up prominently when we lost to Croatia Zagreb who are no more than a decent team. We are now in the UEFA cup, but we won't last long there either, as we have no striker because of the money grabbing antics of McCann. The only consolation is that we are still as well as we have spent £72 million. There is a strong rumour up here that BSkyB will be showing their games on Cartoon Network. Amanor says he spent a fortune on learning English only to find that nobody in the dressing room speaks any. It is even worse at supporters' functions he says, as they only speak 'sectarian bile and bigoted shit'. Luckily enough there seems to be a whispering campaign to remove the Italians from Boro because apparently they have too much dress sense and style and it's got nothing to do with the fact that they're all Catholics. Colin Hendry must be wondering why he signed for this mob as he has spent most of the time sitting on the bench, being kept out of the team by Australian superstar Craig Moore.

Hopefully something can be done to ensure that United stay free of BSkyB and remain a club for the fans. Murdoch has good friends in this government so I don't hold out much hope from Peter Mandelson who is reportedly very close to Murdoch's daughter.

Marc Vivien Foe, the Lens midfielder, whose broken leg appeared a £4 million move to OT, is on the mend. Fergie has let it be known he's watching Foe's recovery, and he could be brought in once fully fit. However Fergie's renewed interest may struggle to get past the BSkyB transfer embargo, even though the deal was technically agreed before BSkyB's involvement was known about (outside of Edwards office that is).

There's continuing media speculation surrounding Mark Bosnich's future at Aston Villa. Villa fans want him to stay, but it seems unlikely he will. Bosnich has made no secret of his annoyance when Bosnich was refused a work permit at United back in 1990, only to be snaffled up by big Reo for Villa a year or so later. Under the Bosman ruling he would cost United (or any interested Soria outfit) sweet FA, so it will come down to wages in the end.

Appropriately Marcello Salas is not a happy bunny at Lazio because players like Vieri are on more money, and he feels badly done to at United. He's had a good season scoring 22 goals in all competitions. You could have been on a lot less if you came to United. That is, if we had a chairman that didn't put pre-conditions on the deal like selling Cole to pay for it.

People loved when Fergie paid £1 million for Dion Dublin, but not me. He sold him to Coventry for twice that and people laughed at Coventry, but not me. Blackburn offered Coventry £575 million for Dion and the classy striker knocked them back. Now I'm laughing. Nice one Dion.

Terry Cooke has gone on loan to Wrexham.
November.

If the Manchester United affair is anything to go by, Mr Murdoch will try to avert the threat by taking over the club and persuading it to avoid the earth for another 32 years. The phone of some Martin merchant banker is probably ringing as we speak.

Independent 30.10.98

Media magnate Rupert Murdoch has described the Government's decision to refer BSkyB's bid for Manchester United to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as "politically motivated."

Mr Murdoch, whose News International group owns 40% of the broadcaster, said there were "no competition grounds" for the £623 million bid to be referred and the decision was penalising investors.

"It is very hard on the small shareholders of Sky that they should be punished for the fact that we supported the Government during the last election," Mr Murdoch said.

17.9.98

Manchester United were in London yesterday trying to persuade the Office of Fair Trading that Rupert Murdoch's planned

Dumb

I'm a Stratford born Red currently resident in London. After eight years of living here, watching and playing football I have to conclude that cockneys are by and large not suited to the game. Reading your last mag was like talking to myself and put a fantastic spring in my step.

In short good work.

I think really that Man Utd are in a sense chosen and different and will always suffer from prejudice and animosity. We have to accept this like the Jews and not bother reasoning with the unreasonable.

Football is about glamour, entertainment, fun and unusual things. True Reds admire this in whoever (almost). Remember Dungy's goal against us a couple of years back during a great battle with Pally. His superb and ridiculous celebration almost deafened the pain (well I thought so anyway).

Cockneys miss the point, especially the pseudo intellectuals of Highbury who sit silently through matches waiting eagerly for the chance to abuse their own. Trying to get Ian Wright arrested for showing some spirit was awful and are they completely unaware that football is a two way emotional exchange.

Here's a short selection of cockney crap that I have heard:

You can't go round kicking fans.

MUFc new away kit has got nothing to do with their history.

Cantona let United down.

Cantona left because he couldn't take the pressure.

MUFc are a money club (i.e. all other are charities).

PS. Wouldn't it be nice to have no Team England, no Europe for at least not every year and just concentrate on the pure joy of hitting on those who base their whole success/failure ethos on beating us.

Keep it moving
Via e-mail

The Hillsborough Survivors, Relatives and Supporters for Justice Campaign

This new group has a number of specific aims, the main one being to increase public awareness.

The 'Hillsborough Family Support Group' has for the last nine years gone down the legal road with what can be described as 'Quiet Dignity'. However, that 'Quiet Dignity' has not been without cost. Unfortunately that cost has been a serious decline in public awareness. The Survivors, Relatives and Supporters group intend to redress that situation. This time the public will be made aware of the real facts about the Hillsborough tragedy and not just the facts that the Establishment and the Media choose to tell them.

Secondly and equally important is that the public will also be made aware of the plight of the 'forgotten people', the survivors of Hillsborough. Those who were seriously injured, not just physically, but mentally as well. Those people, some who, during the course of the tragedy, were crushed and presumed dead, but survived to tell the truth about how those who were lost suffered terribly before they died, and didn't see the Establishment would have us believe, pass away 'as if they were going to sleep'.

Red Attitude
Dear Red Attitude,

As in previous seasons the FSA will be monitoring the treatment of the supporters of English clubs sides playing in Europe, so that if any problems occur we can make representations to the authorities on behalf of those fans affected, as well as offering assistance through our legal network of solicitors with experience of dealing with football-related matters. At the end of the season we will write a report to recommend how things could be improved in the future. It has fallen to me to co-ordinate this exercise on behalf of the FSA national committee, so if you could please put my address in your next issue so that fans can write to me if they think they have been badly treated on their travels or if they have been forced onto an expensive travel package in order to buy a match ticket, when independent travel would have been much cheaper.

Yours in sport,
Tim Whelan
FSA National Committee
Football Supporters Association
PO Box 11, Liverpool L26 1XF

Further, it is the intention of this group to encompass and welcome all those affected by the tragedy of Hillsborough. Not just Survivors and Relatives, but Supporters both of the Hillsborough cause and social injustice whenever it may occur.

All of these people are welcome to join us and they can do so by contacting our office at 134 Oakfield Road, Anfield, Liverpool L4 2UQ or by ringing 0151 260 5262 for details of how to become a member and assist us in achieving what we believe is our basic human right...

Justice...

We have searched for the truth about Hillsborough for nine years now, only to find that each time we get near to it, someone has been there before us and hidden it inside the legal framework. It is now time to shine a light into the murky corners of the legalities where that truth is hidden.

Manchester United 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 which 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 recruiting disaffected white, working class people. In the seventies and eighties, the NF and the British Movement were involved 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 fans to support their politics. The role they envisage for football supporters is as footsoldiers, recruited to do their fighting for them, and eventually discarded when their work is done. Fascist leaders promote racial hatred and incite violence. The idea of putting your heads into a football crowd and causing trouble is one that fascists will find appealing.

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 Red Against the Nazis. Red Attitude is a development of this tradition by those United supporters committed to opposing racism and fascism.

Join Red Attitude

Membership of MUAF is now free and is open to all United fans who want to have an input into the work of Red Attitude and MUAF. Red Attitude now meet regularly in Manchester to co-ordinate the work of Red Attitude and Manchester United Anti-Fascists. Anyone interested in getting involved can do so by writing to FSA National Office.

Anti-Fascist Action

Anyone who wants to get involved in the fight against fascism can do so by contacting AFA. 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.

Red Attitude Merchandise

T-shirts
Available in black and red, large/extra large size only £12 each, plus £1 postage.

Available from London AFA and Manchester AFA

Stickers
Design: A badge and red lettering on a black background, £1 each plus £1 postage.

Badges
Manchester United Anti Fascists badge available in black and red.

Available from London AFA and Manchester AFA

MUAF badge available in three colour designs: red, yellow and black.

Available from London AFA and Manchester AFA