UN NUOVO CAPITOLO SUL FENOMENO PIÛ POPOLARE E PIÛ PROLETARIO DEL PUNK: L'®ER IL PIÛ ACCUSATO MOVIMENTO GIOVANILE

# TELL US THE TRUTH DITECI LA VERITÀ

Nr. UNICO supplemento a "Kriminal Class" Nr 37

ESTATE 94



## "IL CASO OI! QUANDO LE PAROLE HANNO PIÛ PESO DEI FATTI"

Il movimento Skinhead e Oi! è sempre stato attaccato e criticato dalla destra, dalla sinistra dall'opinione pubblica. Tutte le sue bands non sono mai state capite, essendo state sempre al centro di polemiche e strumentalizzazioni. Ma gli uomini dell'affare Oi! hanno solamente detto quello che pensavano, senza nessuno sfondo politico, perchè in realtà l'Oi! non ha mai appoggiato nessun partito, perchè sono tutti nostri nemici, corrotti e bugiardi, mossi solamente da interessi personali e da quello che possono guadagnare.

Tutte le 0i!/Skin bands non parlano di politica o di collocazione politica. L'unica politica è la politica della vita, non la politica retorica dei

partiti.

Anche oggi dopo più di dieci anni dalla nascita dell'Oi! le polemiche non si sono ancora spente, anche da parte di gente che dice di appartenere a questo movimento. Confusione, luoghi comuni e ignoranza alimentano il chaos intorno al caso OI!

Prima i nazi, poi i comunisti, una cosa è certa non lasciano mai soli i ragazzi!

"TELL US THE TRUTH - DITECI LA VERITÅ" nasce per chiarire alcuni punti, in risposta a un articolo comparso sulla fanzine "Skinhead Invasion!" (Bolletino degli Skins Antirazzisti di Roma) N°1 dove lanciano accuse a Marco Balestrino cantante dei "KLASSE KRIMINALE", redattore della fanza "Kriminal Class" e responsabile dell'etichetta Oi! "Havin A'Laugh Records".

Gli Skinheads S.H.AR.P di Roma nella loro presentazione sul numero zero della loro fanzine "Skinhead Invasion!" dicono: "... Ovviamente, la S.H.A.R.P. accetterà nelle sue file chiunque sia antirazzista e antifascista, con un identità politica o no, che non ponga pregiudiziali anti

comuniste (No reds - no nazis, per intenderci), che sia Skin o meno...".

Tirando le somme, i ragazzi di Roma accettano solo chi è comunista nelle file del loro S.H.AR.P., costruito a loro misura. In più accettano anche chi non è Skinhead nella loro organizzazione, non capiamo, allora, perche non vi siete chiamati Antifascisti e Antirazzisti semplicemente, in modo da non avere limitazioni.

Nelle seguenti pagine troverete l'articolo apparso su "Skinhead Invasion", capitata per caso nelle mani di Marco, visto che i ragazzi di Roma non si erano degnati di recapitargliela, e la lettera, quindi, a loro spedita in risposta.

Abbiamo, inoltre, pensato di raccogliere, vecchi articoli e interviste a bands come Angelic Upstarts, 4-Skins, Oppressed, Cock Sparrer, ecc, per far luce ancora una volta su come era, è, deve essere l'Oi!.

Fate le vostre considerazioni, dite la vostra e se volete scriveteci quello che pensate, i vostri insulti, il vostro supporto, le vostre minacce, acettiamo ogni cosa. PER CONTATTI: MARCO BALESTRINO C.P. 426 (centrale) 17100 SAVONA ITALY.



GRAZIE A CHI HA CAPITO, HA TENUTO ACCESA LA BRACE DELL'O!!, CHI NON HA MOLLATO, CHI HA AVUTO LA TESTA PIÙ DURA DEL FERRO E NON HA MAI CAMBIATO DIREZIONE, CHI HA FATTO INFINITI KM IN TRENO IN MACCHINA CON OGNI MEZZO PER SEGUIRE IL SUO MOVIMENTO E LE SUE BANDS, CHI NON SI É MAI STANCATO DI SPIEGARE, CHI CI HA SUPPORTATO, SOPPORTATO E HA CREDUTO IN NOI, E CHI HA SOPPORTATO SPECIALMENTE MARCO!, CHI FA I CORI E POGA COME UN PAZZO AI CONCERTI, TUTTI GLI SKINHEADS, HERBERTS, BOOT BOYS, PUNKS, MOHICANI, RUDE BOYS, SCOOTER BOYS, IN OGNI POSTO DELL'UNIVERSO,CHI ORGANIZZA CONCERTI FESTE SERATE ECC, FUORI CONTROLLO, NICO AFRICA & ROUGH,LOS FASTIDIOS,IVAN,ANDREA DANNY & LE SIMPATICHE CANAGLIE VARESE OI!,REAZIONE, IMPOSSIBILI, BUSINESS, SPLASHERS, FRANKIE FLAME, PUNKREAS, RED ALERT, ALTEAU, CINZIA (SANTA), ALESSANDRO L'AVVOCATO DELL'OI!, TWINS RECORDS (MAI PUNTUALE- RIMANDATA A SETTEMBRE! OH NO!), ZABRINSKI STAFF, POLDO, PINHEAD GENERATION, TIZIANO W.C.K., ROBERTINO, GIORDANO, RICCARDO, MAURO ABARTH, JOSE, IENA, PIERO, CAVALLO COW PUNK, FREDIANO, DRUNKENNNNS, GESTA ALKOLICA, SAVONA CONNECTION, I RAGAZZI DEL FORTE S. GIACOMO, ASOCIALE, IVANO, IGOR, DEPLA, CAPTAIN OI!, DOJO, STEP 1, FRITZ, DANILO, GIORGIO, CRISTIAN, MARCHINO, BOMBA, ANTI HEROS, CHI VERRÀ A RIMINI IL 22 LUGLIO,BLIND JUSTICE, ON THE STREET, RICCARDO PADOVA, 007, GEORGE SKINHEAD TIMES, TUTTE LE FANZINE, GLI AZZURRI USA 94, OH QUELLO CHE NOI CHIAMIAMO MUSICA, LE MIGLIAIA DI PAZZI E DI LOBOTOMIZZATI CHE CI SCRIVONO, CHI È SINTONIZZATO SULLE NOSTRE ONDE ED ABBIAMO DIMENTICATO, ALLA MAMMA, NON STATE SEDUTI FATE QUALCOSA, DATECI UNA MOSSA!... L'OI! È NOSTRO E DEVE APPARTENERE A NOI E NON DEI FOTTUTI POLITICANTI!

## PRIMA I NAZI, POI I COMUNISTI... UNA COSA É CERTA NON LASCIANO MAI SOLI I RAGAZZI!

Nel nostro nuovo album "I RAGAZZI SONO INNOCENTI" il pezzo "PROPAGANDA" sembra aver suscitato polemiche e confusioni. Più che il contenuto della canzone, però, è stato il disegno che affiancava il testo a far nascere queste incomprensioni. Il suo disegnatore è ALTEAU uno Skinhead francese che lavora nel campo dei fumetti (ha collaborato anche con Frank Margerin per il personaggio MANU, ecc). Avendogli inviato tutti i testi delle canzoni che apparivano sull'album, Alteau nel suo tempo libero ci preparò 4 disegni da inserire nell'album: "I Ragazzi Sono Innocenti", "Birra Donne & Ciminiere", "Scritte Sopra I Muri" e "Propaganda". Per quest' ultima Alteau si ispirò anche al vecchio pezzo dei NABAT "Zombie Rock" (una delle sue bands preferite). Infatti il disegno ritrae due demoni che rappresentano gli opposti politici, uno chiaramente di "destra" con svastica in mano e sul cilindro la sigla del Klu Klux Klan, organizzazione americana razzista gemelleta con il partito nazista americano. L'altro di "sinistra" con falce martello, stella a cinque punte e la sigla SHARP sulla bombetta. Lo SHARP anti razzista era nato apolitico, ma succesivamente ha assunto una connotazione comunista travisando gli ideali apolitici di partenza. Ed è per questo motivo che la sigla SHARP appare sul demone di "sinistra".

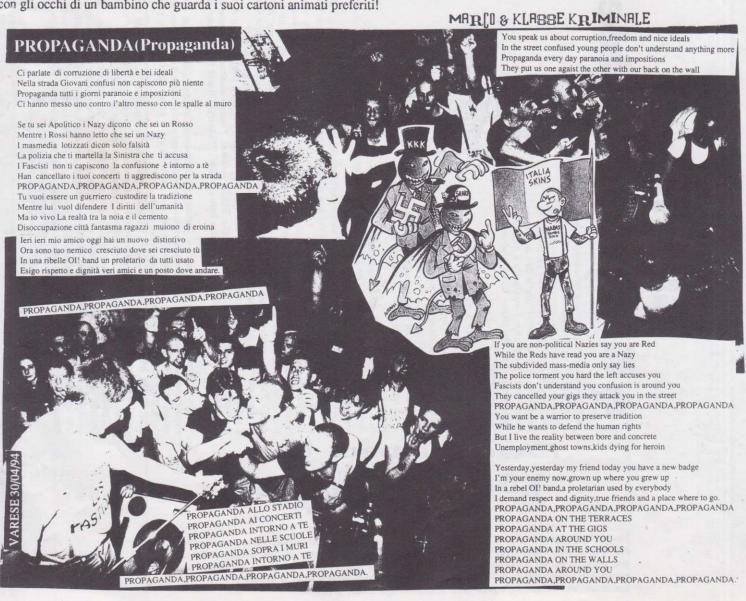
Ogni movimento politico ha cercato di reclutare ragazzi dal movimento Punk e Skinhead, creando, così, come conseguenze divisioni insanabili. Il disegno infatti raffigura i demoni (con le varie collocazioni e organizzazioni politiche) che cercano di indurre lo skinhead a passare nelle loro file politiche. Quest'ultimo con la bandiera "Italia Skins" e la T-shirt Nabat "Zombie Rock" (Un grande popolo di Skin e Punk vuole vivere in libertà...) manda a fanculo le due infernali figure, non accettando e non credendo alle loro promesse.

Per quanto riguarda il testo, nella prima strofa abbiamo voluto evidenziare come la propaganda politica sia tutta uguale, stesse promesse che creano nei giovani soltanto confusione mettendoli uno contro l'altro. Nella seconda strofa viene evidenziata la confusione esistente sul movimento Skinhead e i suoi stereotipi. Mentre per uno di sinistra come per uno di destra non facente parte del movimento, il vero Skinhead sarà solo nazista (d'altronde leggono solo i giornali!), gli Skinheads politicizzati invece snobbano chi ha deciso di vivere per il proprio movimento e la musica, tenendo al di fuori qualsiasi tipo di esasperazione politica.

La terza strofa sottolinea che l'Oi! è la realtà di tutti i giorni e che non ha bisogno di tante bandiere e grandi ideali; c'è da fare un gran lavoro giù nella strada del tuo quartiere!

La quarta strofa, infine, evidenzia come la propaganda può plagiare i ragazzi e cambiare il loro modo di pensare.

Non c'è nessuna trama oscura, è solo il racconto di quello che capita a molti ragazzi e alle loro bands! Leggete il testo, e guardate il disegno con gli occhi di un bambino che guarda i suoi cartoni animati preferiti!



# SKINHEADS ARE BACK!

# A CAVALLO TRA IL 25 APRILE ED IL PRIMO MAGGIO

iamo arrivati al numero uno della fanzine. Molti, tra conoscenti ed amici, hanno cominciato a chiedere di questo numero due giorni dopo aver acquistato il numero zero. Usciamo, in concomitanza al concerto Oi! che la SHARP fiorentina ha organizzato, tra il 25 aprile ed il primo maggio: due «feste» che ci riguardano molto da vicino.

«Noantri» siamo scesi in piazza a Roma per l'anniversario della Liberazione, nel corteo che da Porta S.Paolo (luogo cardine della Resistenza nella nostra città) è arrivato a P.zza Ss. Apostoli, accanto a P.zza Venezia. Un corteo grande 30/40mila persone - e variegato: persone di tutte le età, partigiani, lavoratori immigrati, studenti. A meno di un chilometro da dove la destra «post-fascista» teneva una messa per ricordare i morti della Repubblica Sociale, ovvero di quell'appendice latina della Germania nazista. Un corteo - il nostro - per affermare che chi ha combattuto per la libertà

può essere paragonato ai criminali che, se non hanno partecipato alle azioni, hanno difeso le SS mentre queste distruggevano le vite di milioni di esseri umani (ebrei, nomadi, omosessuali, comunisti e democratici vari) e centinaia di cittadine e borghi del nostro Paese; per non parlare dell'Europa e delle terre africane occupate dagli eserciti di Sua Maestà Imperiale e del Führer.

Il primo maggio, invece, diserteremo il concerto dei sindacati confederali. Non certo per estre-mismo: ci piace poter dire la nostra sulle nostre condizioni di vita, sulla disoccupazione giovanile (che ci riguarda, e Trauma ne sa qualcosa...), senza nessuno che ci «rappresenti» e ci offra contratti di formazione-lavoro o soluzioni interinali. Non vogliamo avere come «fratelli maggiori» chi propone la regionalizzazione del mercato della forza lavoro, ovvero di chi vuole dividere i lavoratori: se la "sinistra" rappresenta un modo diverso dello sfruttamento quotidiano,

degli italiani (e non solo) non questa non ci interessa. Siamo ragazzi di strada, le loro teorie economiche non ci coinvolgono: sappiamo solo che se i lavoratori (soprattutto i giovani disoccupati) si uniranno, potranno cambiare veramente le carte in tavola.

Non si preoccupi il signor Balestrino da Savona («leader della migliore Oi! band italiana»): questo non è un giornale politico, non è un organo di partito. E' ciò che siamo: è la rappresentazione delle nostre paure, delle nostre speranze, della nostra - eterna - rabbia.

Grandi saluti, baci ed abbracci, vanno agli SHARP skins di tutt'Italia che, siamo certi, hanno contribuito a «colorare» il corteo di Milano. Ai mods che erano sparsi tra Milano e Roma: stiamo uniti! Skins di Milano e leoncavallini: grazie per aver creato quella serata indimenticabile. Oi! Un ciao alla FISCA e agli scooteristi italiani.

P.S. Messaggio personale per Pepo: 'st'articolo ariva o se dove-

mo attaccà ar cazzo?!? P.P.S. A Nicole', te salutamo pure 'sta volta... nun rompere li cojoni,

Zombi Rock

Qui a sinistra c'è l'editoriale del N°1 di "Skinhead Invasion" - Sotto la copertina del Nº1 - l'articolo "Gli Infami E Il Mondo Reale" apparso sulla prima pagina di "Skinhead Invasiuon" Nº 1-e un altro richiamo ai "Klasse Kriminale" apparso stesso numero a





BOLLETTINO DEGLI SKINS ANTIRAZZISTI DI ROMA NUMERO UNO - APRILE/MAGGIO 1994 - £ 2000

falce-e-martello/SHARP. In un'intervista Balestrino front-man del gruppo) equipara i nazi alla SHARP e ai reds. Noi rispondiamo, senza inter subblicata su King (nº 74, aprile 94), riste sui media.

Nell'ultimo disco dei Klasse Kriminale (Oi! band Savona) c'è un disegno, in cui uno skin sfan nel

l Klasse Kriminale si permettono di infangare il nome dei Nabat, di sfanculare la SHARP, i comunisti e con loro gli anarchici. In un volantino, so come si viva a Savona, ma qui mondo reale le cose sono diverse. Non

Balestrino si meraviglia che un gruppo Oi! suoni in un centro sociale ma, forse, il ragazzo è rima-

Non sai, Marco, che i Nabat hanno dedicato il sto un po' indietro.

Il "kriminale" è anche convinto di essere l'ultimo portatore del vero spirito Oi!, ma non si chiede against racism", o perché un gruppetto come "the Oppressed" siano i fondatori della SHARP inglese e che, su ogni bolino dall'elmo troiano? O perché gli Angelic Upstarts, oltre ad aver suonato in un centro sociacompilazione skin 'n' punk della Oi! Records che producevano, faceva bella mostra di sé il simle romano insieme ai Blaggers, sul loro ultimo disco abbiano fatto una canzone chiamata "Red'til dead"? E il loro cantante (giudicato dal kriminale un eroe) sia tra i fondatori di un gruppo di stranei C.S.? Che come mai gruppi Oi! un po' più conosciuti del suo abbiano suonato per "Rock moltissime volte disco a Nelson Mandela? Che hanno suonato non sfancula i rossi, ma i bianchi e i neri? OLO

Come se non bastasse, mi chiedo perché in una sua compilazione (Oi! It's a world league) il savonese abbia salutato "Skintonic" (fanzine delle SHARP tedesca), "Tempo skinhead" (trasmissione radiofonica vicina alla SHARP), ecc... o abbia fatto suonare i "Zakarrak" (band SHARP basca), gli da chiamato "Skins against nazis" e che, con i suoi pittbull, vada a caccia di boneheads? Stab ecc... e poi ci equipara ai nazi

Il chiedi, dicevamo, o divino Balestrino, perché i Cock Sparrer abbiano suonato in un centro situato accanto alla famosa Piazza dei Gerani, che negli '80 era il punto di ritrovo dei punx e sociale: non sai che i centri sociali nascono con una componente skin, come il Forte Prenestino, degli SPQR Skins, che erano fra i creatori del centro.

kriminale, nell'intervista generosamente rilasciata, parla di divisioni tra i kids quando è lui a circuito skin italiano è sempre stato legato ai C.S.; vi hanno suonato i "Fun", i Sparrer, tutti gli skin comunisti, anarchici e libertari, che vivono e lottano per la classe operaia; picchiano 80 contro gli Angelic, i Nabat, i Cock (padrone schiavista, Mangia i ricchi! Claxon", i "Nabat", gli "Stab", ecc. ecc.: per non citare grandi gruppi punk e H.C.. piano degli Screwdriver, dei Peggior Amico, dei bastardi che uno (questo è il mondo reale, Balestrino), i vermi che votano Berlusconi nemico della nostra workin' class) è troppo. Quel troppo che ci fa incazzare. Insomma, mettere sullo stesso piano dei nazisti gli Oppressed, sullo stesso I crearle.

CON AFFETTO, RICAMBIAMO IL SALUTO

cula due pipistrelli-demoni: uno nazi/KKK ed

Non volendo controbattere l'entusiasmo del gruppo e delle recensioni stampate su riviste, musicali e non, come: Rumore, Rockerilla, King (le uniche a nostra disposizione); non volendo, inoltre, sprecare tempo e parole per il qualunquismo, ci è sembrato il caso di non esprimere alcun parere sull'ultimo album di Klasse Kriminale, dal titolo "I ragazzi sono innocenti". Insomma: una delusione, a parer nostro, rispetto agli album precedenti

#### OI! SKINHEAD INVASION (Bollettino Degli Skins antirazzisti Di Roma)

Grazie a un mio amico sono riuscito ad entrare in possesso dei numeri O, 1,2 della vostra fanza. Vi scrivo per l'articolo "Gli Infami E Il Mondo Reale" e le altre due citazioni che riguardano il sottoscritto nel numero 1 di "Skinhead Invasion". Ho 32 anni e come voi ben sapete sono nel giro Oi!/Skin dai primi anni 80, facendo la fanzine "Kriminal Class" dall' 1983, mantenendomi sempre al di fuori della politica.

Nell' 84 feci una cassetta super casalinga "O CON NOI O CONTRO DI NOI" (con la copertina che ritraeva i Boots che schiacciavano falce martello e svastica) con diverse bands tra cui FUN e Klaxon che conoscevo di persona, e che incontravo ogni qualvolta mi recavo a 100 Celle (In questo momento non mi ricordo il numero del bus che prendevo dalla stazione per arrivare in piazza dei Gerani ma mi ricordo che c'era un pezzo Reggae dei Fun con quel titolo avendolo infatti ascoltato alle loro prove).

Da sempre ho cercato di tenere la politica fuori dal movimento perchè la maggior parte delle volte essa fa perdere l'obbiettività alle persone e distrugge ogni cosa.

È questa la vera storia dell'OI! Gli SHAM 69 cantavano in "WHAT HAVE WE GOT?" ...I'd like to buy a shotgun, shoot them in the knees, Conservatives and Communists, They'll all the bleedin' same (sostituendo a volte i due termini con: Communist and National Front). E da qui che nacquero successivamente diverse polemiche all'interno del "Rock Agaist The Racism" che aveva ed ha una forte matrice Marxista all'interno della direzione.

Per quanto riguarda i NABAT io li ho visti e seguiti molto da vicino dato che il loro mananger Tiziano W.C.K. è di Savona e vi assicuro che inizialmente anche loro cantavano ..Rossi E Neri siete tutti uguali... in "Zombi Rock" che inizialmente era intitolato "NO POLITICA" e il cui titolo fu cambiato per la compilazione "Quelli Che Urlano Ancora" anche perchè i ROUGH di Torino presentarono un pezzo con lo stesso titolo. Una prova che il testo dei NABAT era diverso da quello registrato sulla compilazione si ha sul Numero Zero della fanzine BANZAI di Bologna curata da Keith, Captain Kirk e Steno.

Non voglio fare il maestro di Oi!, o il presuntuoso, che vi piaccia o no ho vissuto in prima persona quei giorni, quelle prese di posizioni e quei problemi. L'unica cosa avvilente e che la gente non impara niente dalla storia e che tutto si ripete immancabilmente, prima le accuse infondate dei nazy che mi consideravano un comunista e sostenevano sulle loro fanzine che i Klasse Kriminale suonavano ai Festival Dell'Unità, ora altre cazzate .

Il fatto da voi sostenuto che tutti i gruppi OI! abbiano sempre suonato nei Centri Sociali non è del tutto vero.

Mi ricordo quando i RAF Punk anarchici di Bologna strappavano i volantini dei concerti dei Nabat nonostante che Steno cantasse Skin+Punk=TNT e i Punk politicizzati che erano tutti nei centri sociali condannavano l'OI! come musica razzista (questo infatti succedeva in tutte le maggiori città italiane). La maggior parte dei concerti OI! e Skin è stata fatta in locali normali e circoli ARCI (anche il famoso Victor Charlie di Pisa era tale). La stessa intolleranza non si è fermata a quei giorni ma gli episodi che sempre si sono susseguiti ne dimostrano la viva esistenza. E pur vero che vi sono stati dei notevoli passi avanti. Una dimostrazione di ciò infatti si è avuta nel concerto dei Cock Sparer al Leoncavallo. Non si può negare che la cosa abbia stupito molti ragazzi, compreso il sottoscritto il quale su"STREET CONNECTION" N°1 (bollettino d'informazione, quello da voi chiamato volantino) scriveva semplicemente "...il 5 MARZO suoneranno in ITALIA "i Cock Sparrer" unica data al "Leoncavallo" non chiedeteci come hanno fatto a finire a suonare proprio in un posto dove l'OI! è considerato come musica nazi,ecc.."

Non mi sembra in tal modo di aver offeso qualcuno. Io non ce l'ho con i Centri Sociali lo dimostra il fatto che a Savona è stato occupato un fortino e io ho contribuito a dar loro il mio aiuto.

Lo SHARP in Italia è esploso ultimamente, prima le uniche alternative erano i Nazy e l'OI! apolitico, molti che oggi mi stanno criticando per le mie posizioni ambigue e i vari pipistrelli-demoni convivevano tranquillamente con le mie idee. Non sono convinto e non ho mai detto e scritto di essere l'ultimo portavoce del vero spirito OI!, penso di credere nell'OI! e di far parte di un movimento. Il gruppetto chisamato "OPPRESSED" lo conosco molto bene, ho conosciuto di persona Roddy Moreno e sono stato anche a Cardif a un concerto organizzato da lui ai tempi della OI! Records e in casa sua. Roddy non era comunista e neppure nazy come sostiene nelle note scritte di suo pugno sulla ristampa in CD del loro album "OI! OI! MUSIC" per la Captain OI! uscito neanche un anno fa. Gli Oppressed accettarono di suonare a Cardiff nell'83 un Benefit per i bambini bisognosi insieme ai RED SKINS soltanto allo scopo di raccogliere i fondi da destinare ai bambini. In un'intervista che gli feci Roddy sottolineava come la propaganda di sinistra fosse cattiva quanto quella di destra.

Per essere precisi, sulle compilazioni "SKINS'N'PUNKS" della OI! RECORDS il simbolo dello SHARP compare solo sul Volume 5. È vero che Roddy Moreno importò lo SHARP dagli U.S.A. in Inghilterra e in Europa ma doveva essere solo un movimento anti razzista senza matrice politica di sinistra.

Come fate a sapere che gli Angelic sono i miei eroi? Mensi lo capisco ma non lo condivido pienamente per certe scelte. Lo preferivo quando nelle interviste rilasciate su fanzine, e vari giornali come Sound, cercava di far capire che molti Skinheads del British Moviment fondamentalmente erano ragazzi di strada confusi e che se gli parlavi ti rendevi conto che erano uguali a te e indirizzabili verso la giusta via. Anche Mensi con "England", fu attaccato da tutti i Mass Media e si trovò al centro di numerose polemiche come tutte le altre bands O!!. La gang apolitica "Odiati & Fieri" dimostra il fatto che anch'io mi sia adoperato per fermare l'avanzata dei nazy a Genova i quali si stavano organizzando e costituendo "Liguria Fronte Skin". Possono confermare il tutto coloro che sono passati nelle vostre file.

A Savona dove si vive lontano dal mondo reale, nazi Skin non ne sono mai esistiti. SKINTONIC, ha dedicato una copertina ai Klasse Kriminale nonostante che nella domanda sullo SHARP io rispondevo le stesse cose che rispondevo su King. Qualche anno prima nacque comunque una polemica con SKINTONIC che scrisse che i KLASSE KRIMINALE suonarono a Verona a un Rock Contro Il Comunismo. La cosa simpatica è che la notizia gli perveniva da Roma (Banda Bassotti)! Sono amato giù nella capitale, anche i fascisti di Roma (ex Intolleranza) che mi considerano SHARP mi hanno mandato a dire che la prossima volta che mi incontrano mi fanno la pelle (sembra che ora vivano a Londra). La mia dedica a "Tempo,Skinhead" era giustificata dal fatto che il programma radio stava facendo sforzi e lavori per inserire la musica Ol! e rompere pregiudizi nell'ala dei centri sociali.

Gli Zakkarak, gli Stab come gli infami (veri) Bulldog Skin e tutte le altre bands OI! che hanno lavorato con me hanno sempre saputo che la mia presa di posizione era "NO POLITICA - AMA LA MUSICA ODIA LE ESASPERAZIONI". Non riesco a capire che divisioni ho creato, ho sempre cercato di mettere pace fin dai primi anni 80 a tal punto che molti mi hanno persino considerato un pacifista. Leggendo l'intervista a Pauline Black dei Selecter sul numero 2 della vostra "Skinhead Invasion!" sono d'accordo con quello da lei sostenuto; che il dialogo e dare una chance a volte rafforza e chiarisce ogni cosa.

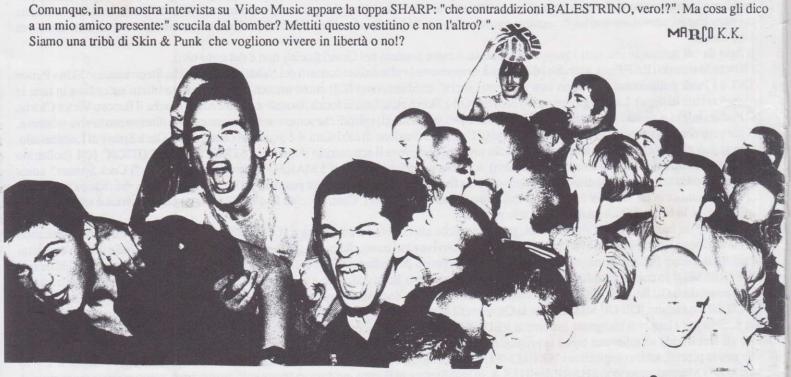
Non ho mai messo sullo stesso piano i Nazi e gli Oppressed o Angelic o Nabat e tantomeno i Cock Sparrer che sono sempre stati fuori dalla politica lo dimostrano canzoni come "WATCH YOUR BACK". L'Ol! è il più grande movimento proletario, io credo nella classe operaia non faccio solo musichetta, credo in quello che faccio. Negli anni bui dove gli Skrewdriver e i nazy erano la maggioranza e sono nate in Italia bands come i Peggior Amico e i V.B.R. una volta intervistati ho preso le distanze da tutto e ho rifiutato le loro proposte per concerti ecc. Ho fatto poi "OI! SIAMO ANCORA QUI" per fare capire che la politica non centra un cazzo con certe cose.

Lo sò, come è il mondo reale! Vuoi venire con me a Vicenza o dai tuoi amici al Meeting Point su a Londra? o anche solo a Savona dove non c'è neanche una discoteca ,una birreria e l'unica alternativa per i ragazzi è l'eroina. Voi almeno avete il Forte Prenestino e mille altre cose, Savona è grande come 100 Celle.

Non voto Berlusconi anzi produrrò presto una compilazione intitolata "OI! AGAINST SILVIO", non per arrufianarmi i RedSkins e i comunisti vari. Ho sempre detto quello che pensavo! Oi! Fatti una risata e di la tua!!! Ma prima di dare dell'infame a uno ho toccato personalmente con mano. L'OI! non è mai stato di sinistra, come non è mai stato di destra, l'OI! è solo dei Ragazzi. Nel 1969 gli Skins erano anche razzisti , maschilisti, bigotti, ignoranti anche se ascoltavano musica giamaicana e insieme agli Skin neri picchiavano gay, hippy e pakistani. Solo l'Oi! e il Punk aprirono quella mentalità.

Sotto ai palchi dei Klasse Kriminale hanno ballato Skinheads neri, Punk, Skinheads SHARP, RedSkins, Skinheads nazy, ecc; tutti sono venuti solo per la musica e a tutti ho sempre detto che la politica è una cosa sporca.

Ho dato chance e spiegazioni, mi sono informato ho cercato di ingrandire la mia conoscenza sul mio movimento, ho avuto delusioni, ma anche tanti amici e soddisfazioni per il lavoro che impegna la maggior parte del mio tempo libero. Voi mi date dell'infame ma oggi avete costruito il vostro movimento SHARP anche sugli sforzi di tutte le band apolitiche che hanno mantenuta viva quella alternativa contro il fascismo. Ma la vita e la lotta non si fa solo caluniando, avendo i paraocchi e scrivendo 100 volte Antifascismo. Se mi mandavate un intervista vi rispondevo, come ho sempre fatto, ma avete preferito mandarmi affanculo senza neanche inviarmi una copia della fanza in modo che non mi potessi neppure difendere. Balestrino giudicato, da che giuria? Ricordatevi a volte è necessario fare luce sul nostro movimento; perchè quindi non usare anche i mass media se ti danno questa opportunità? Non è stato facile, comunque, fare capire che gli Skinheads sono Skinhead e non nazisti!



# MARCO... DICCI LA VERITÀ!!

Il primo concerto dei "Klasse Kriminale" risale all'autunno 1985, a Genova in P.za Martinez, un benefit contro imperialismo, ecc, con altri gruppi musicali di vario genere. Il giorno prima il bassista ci lasciò e vi potete immaginare che debutto caotico. Gli Skiheads di Genova si aggiravano per la piazza; in quei giorni l'inolleranza di certi ambienti di sinistra e gli Skinheads e viceversa, era alle stelle. Il risultato, dopo il nostro concerto, e che molti di loro dissero che eravamo amici dei negri!

Più avanti riprovammo a suonare a un concerto organizzato dalle stesse persone. Primo Marzo 86 Teatro Verdi Bolzaneto con "Karazof Brothers", "Coscienze Al Bando", "F.A.R.", "Ragni", "W.N." per gli spazi sociali autogestiti. Il tecnico del suono non amava l'Oi! e le chitarre distorte e continuava a dire a un amico "Quando se ne vanno questi qua," (La prova mi è stata data riascoltando una cassetta del nostro concerto registrata con un registratore appoggiato vicino al mixer).

Troppa politica, troppa diversità culturale tra i gruppi, poca amicizia, poca maturità da parte nostra, non potevamo sostenere chi ascoltava l'Oi! e portare la nostra musica in certi ambienti pieni di pregiudizi e non potevamo competere con le altre bands già inserite da tempo in quel sistema. L'Oi! e gli Skinheads erano proletari troppo lontani da quegli ambienti pieni di teorie politiche, paraocchi, sermoni e assemblee.

Per anni abbiamo continuato a suonare concerti chiusi in noi stessi e nell'ambiente Skinhead.

Susseguirono vari casini come al festival Oi! del 86 con "Dirty Joy", "U-Boat", "Herberts" sempre a Genova alla "sala Chiamata del porto" dove inizialmente avrebbero dovuto suonare anche i Business. Tre anni dopo il raduno' fiasco' di Certaldo, la gente non era più abituata a stare insieme, troppe diffidenze alimentate da pettegolezzi e leggende non sempre vere, sfociarono in una rissa generale tra più di 500 Skinheads. Noi eravamo l'ultima band a suonare; saliti

Nell'92, dopo che l'Antonella lasciò la band, con una nuova formazione facemmo il nostro ritordo con un concerto a Savona che riscosse un grande sucesso. Nell'estate, avremmo dovuto suonare a Spotorno (SV) nel campo sportivo con 15000 Watts, ma, per disposizione del sindaco, poche ore prima fu annullato. I giornali, il giorno seguente, scrissero di una rivolta di fascisti e Skinheads!! Come se non bastasse ad alcuni dei ragazzi presenti quella sera fu recapitata a casa una multa di mezzo milione a cranio, per non aver commesso niente. "...La rivolta non c'è stata. Oi! fatti una risata!...".

Nell'autunno suonammo per la prima volta in Germania due concerti. A Redsburg il 4 Settembre all' "OI! Meeting", il primo raduno Skinhead contro il razzismo, dove non era acettata ogni tipo di infiltrazione politica e alcune settimane dopo i fatti di Rostock, e a pochi chilometri di distanza dalla città che fece parlare tutti i giornali del mondo dei nazi Skins.

Il sabato dopo avevamo appuntamento vicino a Francoforte per un concerto con i "Boots & Braces" il posto era ottimo con un impianto favoloso, tutto sembrava ok, ma i giornali avevano scritto che li quella sera ci sarebbe stato un raduno nazi. Nel pomeriggio iniziarono ad arrivare contingenti di polizia che innalzarono barricate e posti di blocco intorno al locale. Verso le 20 circa uscii a cercare un posto per mangiare qualcosa, mi trovai in una strada tra le case e i bar aperti che chiudevano le saracinesche in fretta mentre centinaia di autonomi con cappucci, fazzoletti sul volto e spranghe mi stavano venendo incontro e alle spalle avevo le barricate della polizia; un istante dopo iniziò a volare di tutto nell'aria. La cosa buffa e che 7 giorni prima avevamo suonato un concerto contro il razzismo. Molte fanzine scrissero che poteva essere la Southall dell'OI! tedesco.

A Ottobre dello stesso anno facemmo un concerto in diretta a "Radio Popolare Milano" nel programma di Francesco D'Abramo "Shock Produzioni", l'uomo che organizzo il primo Festival Punk italiano nel lontano autunno 77. Lui andò oltre certi pregiudizi, e non si preoccupò del pericolo di boicotaggio da parte dei nazi di Azione Skinhead.

Superammo anche questo, infatti neanche un anno dopo suonammo a Siziano (MI) il paese dopo Opera dove i nazi hanno tenuto tutti i loro concerti in questi ultimi anni.

Ma andiamo per ordine: a Marzo partecipammo al "Secondo Belgiam OI! Festival" con i famosi "Magnificent" e le Punk bands belghe "Funeral Dress" e "Mushrooms" e i tedeschi "Franz Flak". Anche qui il manifesto riportava le parole "..Questo è un concerto Non politico. Ai Nazi e altri agitatori politici sarà impedito di entrare.." e la scritta "Pride Without Prejudice". L'unico problema si ebbe con il cantante dei "Franz Flack" che aveva una falce e martello cucita sul bomber, quando salì sul palco i ragazzi iniziarono a urlare "..NO NAZY, NO RED..." alla fine salirono sul palco e lo assalirono.

All'inizio del 1994 ritornammo in Germania a Freburgo e a Monchengladbach, quest'ultimo concerto organizzato dal negozio "Nightmare", il cui proprietario aveva chiare simpatie di sinistra. Egli accettò le nostre idee apolitiche e le mie spiegazioni quando presentai "Propaganda" dal vivo.

I "Fuori Controllo" organizzarono un concerto insieme a noi a Torino. l'ennesimo concerto cancellato all'ultimo momento perchè qualcuno si era cagato addosso! Dopo più di un mese di pubblicità, il giorno prima i proprietari del locale "Zoom" senza avisare i "Fuori Controllo" mi telefonarono (non si sà come sono venutio in possesso del mio numero di telefono ?!?) dicendomi che il concerto non era più possibile, per lamentele del vicinato sul rumore. La denuncia dei vigili esisteva ma portava la data di sei mesi prima (?). Una cosa è certa, una band Oi! è solo sicura di suonare quando è già sul palco.

Al concerto dei "Cock Sparrer" conobbi gli Skinheads di Firenze, i quali mi chiesero se fossi stato disposto a suonare in un Centro Sociale nella loro città. Ci tenemmo in contatto telefonicamente, il 30 Aprile organizzarono un concerto al "C.S.A. Indiano". Inizialmente, avrebbero dovuto partecipare gli "Stab", i "Nia Punx", i "Fuori Controllo" e noi. Succesivamente, però, la nostra partecipazione al concerto fu compromessa sopratutto per tre principali motivi. Gli Skinheads S.H.A.R.P. (lo S.H.A.R.P. Italia era nato dopo una riunione sempre a Firenze qualche mese prima) se la presero per il disegno del nostro pezzo "Propaganda" sul nostro ultimo album. I ragazzi del centro sociale risollevarono i fatti successi anni prima al "C.S.A. Sobbalzo", infine, le femministe ci accusarono di sessismo per la frase "...E se c'è una donna toccale il sedere..." comparsa nel pezzo "Birra Donne & Ciminiere". Così noi ripiegammo per un concerto a Varese, anche per far capire alla gente che noi non siamo degli opportunisti.

A Maggio risuonammo in Germania un mini tour di spalla ai "Red Alert" e ai "Bull Shit"; nonostante il nome "Red Alert", che molti accostano a sinistra, sono una normale OI! band con nessuna esaperazione politica. Alla fine dell'ultimo concerto fecero per noi una loro versione di "IFTHE KIDS ARE UNITED" e ci chiamarono sul palco a cantare con loro: questo è il vero spirito!

Al secondo concerto a Gottingen, incontrai degli Skinheads,nel pomeriggio, vicino al centro giovanile dove la sera avremmo dovuto suonare. I ragazzi mi chiesero se io ero comunista, gli risposi NO!



fanzine di destra. Gli Skins erano quelli del pomeriggio, spiegai al

ragazzo, che se prima non erano nazi o avevano solo delle confuse

MAR [O K.K.

simpatie domani lo sarebbero diventati sicuramente.

..La storia continua....

# YESTERDAYS HERDES

Seguono, articoli presi da giornali e fanzine sulle bands Oi! e Real Punk, più discusse e più popolari

June 3, 1978 SOUNDS Page 33

# FTHE KIDS ARE United...

IMMY PURSEY'S very baggy grey flannels are held up by a brand new pair of white braces. His striped shirt is as clean as five consecutive nights on the road will allow. Which isn't clean enough for Jimmy. After a gig he never misses a bath. He likes to look understated but sharp. Touching the shirt he feels last night's still damp sweat and grime. "Will it do?" he worries. Then, with a shrug, he accepts that it will have to. There's no time now for sartorial indecision. Eight hundred fans, a record breaking crowd for Edinburgh's Clouds disco, are out front, near hysteria, yelling in their Scottish brogue "SHUM! SHUM! SHUM! SHUM!"

Sham 69 stumble onto the cramped stage and strike up their first number. Jimmy stoops towards the audience. A dozen swaying hands grab him. Shocked by the ferocity of the manual onslaught Jimmy struggles to keep his balance. His shirt doesn't stand a chance. Four bars on and it's in shreds. The punk piranha are stripping him to the bone. His braces are being fought over way out of reach, his tie is about to go, his shoe laces have gone. All that worries Jimmy Sham 69 stumble onto the cramped stage and shoe laces have gone. All that worries Jimmy now is whether he'll get through the rest of the night without losing his trousers.

SHAM 69 LURKERS THROBBING COUNT **BISHOPS** ANGEL PURSEY'S **PROGRESS**  WORDS

**PICTURES:** 

CAROLINE COON

SHAM's fans, street tough, average age nineteen, are committed to punk. Although most of them, 99% perhaps, never saw the Sex Pistols, they believed the myth. They saw it transmuted into the Clash (who they miss) and then filtered and diluted by the bands who followed. At last, in Sham 69, they've got a band who obviously cares about them, a new heroic entity running out to the front line, holding up the torch Johnny Rotten lit, bringing them the personal politics and all the guts, energy and excitement the new rock era promised.

Up and down the country Jimmy Pursey is defusing the jaded cynism recently emenating from London. His fans are lowe-drunk in a gleeful bout of Sham-mania. When Jimmy yells "We're not a New Wave band, we're not a Power Pop band — we're a PUNK band" they roar back their approval. They are not really interested in polite, safe versions of the punk genre. They want stark high tension and adrenalin to saturate the atmosphere at gigs and, long before Sham 69 hit the stage, they feel their hearts beating double-time.

Sham 69, pushing themselves to the edge of emotion, are seeped in a rranscendent romance which is about to become legendary. Aside from their catchy football chant songs and ever tighter 'live' sound, the band are thrusting to the top on the power of Jimmy's charismatic connection with audiences. SHAM's fans, street tough, average

off-stage Jimmy's personality is winsome enough. But, in the spotlight, it's as if the audience acts on him like a glant magnifying glass enlarging every twitch in his

**CONTINUES NEXT PAGE** 

#### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

pantheon of 3D poses. He cajoles, scowls, jokes, admonishes, inspires, levels, winks and grins . . . ever the fearless ham. His ability to suss audiences, spot trouble before it explodes, sense when to sock home a favourite number and draw everyone into the heat of the action is unique. It's a matural talent and a gift of leadership so strong that Jimmy himself is reeling.

leadership so strong that Jimmy himself is reeling.

He didn't realise quite what he had in him until the true extent of his conciliatory power and tact was tested when skinheads decided Sham 69 was THEIR BAND. And no one was more surprised than Jimmy (considering what HE thought he stood for) to find up to 300 cropped heads in his audience shouting "Sieg Heil"! and throwing Nazi salutes.

Heal! Sieg Heil"! and throwing Nazi salutes.

When you first see those skins you think, Mein Gott! They're unbelievable. Human hand grenades, running around in Doctor Martins, with their pins out. One of the Mile End Boys, Mad Matty, a solid fifteen stone, hare-lipped and crazy eyed. told me some weeks ago "we hate the National Front. They're not extreme enough. We belong to the British Movement." Then he pushed his British Movement badge in my face and began frothing at the mouth. Literally.

H's pal Eugene, uses words as ferociously as Matty uses his ample physique. You feel them both itching to smack their fat knuckles into flesh. Their mate, innocent looking Gel, is silent and intense. He's the one who prevents backstage

one who prevents backstage confrontations getting physically

fatal.
Watching Sham 69 cope with the skins is an education. And they do cope. But at a cost.
The Mile End Boys, and various other local factions, take over Sham 69's dressing rooms, get to the beer before anyone else, swarm over stages, hog mikes and, from start to finish of a gig, engage in a tireless, not to say tiresome, diatribe on the virtues of fascism. In the midst of these takeovers and political mêlee, Jimmy is The Patron Saint Of Patience. He talks. The skins argue back. Supported by the rest of the band, Jimmy sticks to his guns, giving the skin's beliefs an unequivocal thumbs down—without insulting them as people. This mutual respect plays its part. Because of the attention Jimmy has lavished on the Mile End Boys (he thinks nothing of talking in the dressing room for hours after a show, they have modified their behaviour. Jimmy introduced them to the idea of Freedom Of Speech, a Great British institution after all, and they listened. Of late, those closest to Sham 69 seem less inclined to mash-up their ideological opponents.

For the skins, rubbing shoulders with Rock Stars (which is how they see Sham 69 whatever Jimmy says to the contrary), is all bonus. For Jimmy too, the conflict is more rewarding than exhausting. True, he is an emotional wreck at the end of skin-infested gigs. He is taking risks and under considerable strain since bad trouble does erupt (eg: the skins' Kingston riot a few weeks ago). But ultimately, any Pultizer Peace Prize mesals flying around will land on his lapel. For the rest of the band however, the rewards aren't so obvious. Lead guitarist and songwriter David parsons in particular, is beginning to wonder how much longer the band should sacrifice musicianship for the sake of good community relations. But more of this anon.

WHEN I catch up with the band, they are into the first half of their first headline U.K. tour. From city to city it's all good news, sell-out gigs, watching themselves on 'Top Of The Pops' and 'Angels With Dirty Faces' rocketting up the chart. They still book into modest hotels and still drive themselves to gigs in a and still drive themselves to gigs in a



Bedford van. Their sudden success, rather than being tangible, seems more like an alarm clock which has gone off accidentally in another room. Their excitement is restrained. Only Jimmy looks ready to let rip with the occasional piercing scream. Travelling Northwards through the Welsh mountains he did have a minor flip-out.

Welsh mountains he did have a minor filp-out.
"The van was on it's last legs" he explains. "It was going so slow I just couldn't take it anymore. I undone shampoos and talcum powder and shaving cream and plastered the whole band with it. We were in the

midde of nowhere and I jumped out of the van. I wanted to go paddling in a stream. I just wanted to have a break fo five minutes because I couldn't take it anymore."

GLASGOW. Says nineteen year old Sham fan, Jed: "Glasgow is a place you go for a laugh and come out in stitches."

The band arrive by train and head straight for Satellite City, in the Apollo Centre for a sound check. Roadies Neil (Room 22) and Albert (I'm leaving on Friday), are cursing.

The equipment lift is broken and they are struggling to get the gear up nine flights of concrete stairs. Shaun (19) and Tony (22) pitch in. They're Sham fans from Sheffield — The Sheffield Boys — who have taken time off from a building site and fork-lift truck driving to travel with the band. For six days they help out in return for a floor and food. Shaun first heard of Sham 69 when he was doing ten months in Stokeheath Borstal for wounding and causing an affray. He says being on the raod is keeping him out of trouble.

Before the gig everyone is edgy, The equipment lift is broken and they

Before the gig everyone is edgy.



hour, smooths back his hair and chews on a match stick. SHUM! SHUM! SHUM! SHUM! SHUM! SHUM! HUM! "O.K." says Jimmy. The band leave the dressingroom dump, push past bouncers in black bow ties and out onto the stage. "ULSTER!" shouts Jimmy. The fans levitate as one. They surge. They crush. Mayhem! Bouncers lining the stage front wade in. Jimmy stops the show. He motions the bouncers aside. They move. The fans cheer. The show goes on. Trouble free. Faultless. Girls in front of me, hands pushing on the stage to give their pogo that extra lift.

on. Trouble free. Faultless. Girls in front of me, hands pushing on the stage to give their pogo that extra lift, smell of shampoo.

Jimmy bends like a hair pin, dipping his mike into the audience—
'The Glasgow Kids Are Innocent.'
The fans singalong. Jimmy doesn't have to work for adulation. He has it unconditionally. David pummells out the bass for 'Tell Us The Truth'. Dave lunges, slaming out guitar riffs then, motionless for a moment he stamps on his volume booster and lets loose searing lead lines, a fine textural contrast to cut above the uncluttered force of Sham's basic sound. Flash Doidie keeps the beat dense, smiling to himself.

To date, Jimmy has taken the lions' wack of credit for Sham 69's success. Now it's time to start listening to his band. They never know in what order Jimmy will call the set. He plays it by ear relying on them for alert follow-up — 'Borstal Breakout,' Strobes. Madness. 'They Don't Understand' — the dance floor (6,000 springs) gives like a trampoline. 'White Riot'. The climx. 'What Have I Got' — the lyrics recently changed to 'what have you got'.'

The Jimmy introduces a new song:

you got?. The Jimmy introduces a new song:
"IF THE KIDS ARE UNITED
THEN THEY'LL NEVER BE
DIVIDED", be enunciates carefully
The fans chant the words over and

DIVIDED", he enunciates carefully. The fans chant the words over and over. Jimmy, not the slightest bit embarrased by such ingenuous sentiment, smiles beatifically. (Come in Max Bygraves). The stage is awash with bodies. The bouncers gape. Encores? Three.

In Glasgow, Sham 69 give out far more than expected. They leave the stage assured of an audience twice the size next time round.

Jimmy's confident stage style is so conservative, immaculate and relaxed that one might guess, were it not for an occasional nod in Johnny Rotten's direction, he had experienced years at the Old Vic. Instinctively he uses every traditional theatrical ploy to sell his act and leave his fans with the feeling they've come off better in the deal. They see him dragging up every last ounce of energy in his system. And, most important of all, it's transparently obvious that his romantic regard for them is genuine. them is genuine

THE DRESSINGROOM after the gig is an open house free-for-all, fans everywhere. Jimmy disappears to the gents for a moment alone to catch his breath before coming back to philosophical discussions about stardom. Dave, stripped to the waist, his body glistening with sweat, sits by himself on the floor. David entertains a new band of punk hopefuls called The Cowards — their motif, a white flag. Doidle gives away his drumsticks then buries himself in a book about "cast staking over London and eating everybody." They all sign autographs until their hands ache and the last fan has drifted home. Then, promoter Mike Finch, cracks a bottle of whisky. He won't have many more friendly scenes like this to preside over. "When the Apollo closes" he says "all that'll be left for these kids is Strathclyde University or the streets."

Next Morning, the band, healthy but starving, are packed and ready to move by noon. Road manager Tony Newman, a paragon of unflappability, settles the hotel bill. Jed, still Jimmy's loyal shadow, The Sheffield Boys and a blond





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Glaswegian punkette make up the party. We all pile into the van. It's David's turn to drive. Suddenly Jimmy announces his intention to go with me to Edinburgh by train. Jed is crestfallen. He moves as if to follow us. Jimmy says nothing but his face say "no".

At the station Jimmy buys second class tickets, of course, but the train is so packed we end up sharing a first class carriage with a business man, a

is so packed we end up sharing a first class carriage with a business man, a gold fob watch across his waistcoat and a brief case on his knee. Under the guise of discretion and nonchalance the gentleman glues his eyes on Jimmy and strains to hear his every word.

Watching Jimmy myself this last month has led me to believe he is under more pressure than people realise.

realise.
"It's a pressure which never really shows" says Jimmy. "It never comes out full whack. It comes out in little out full whack. It comes out in little dribbles. Like, instead of blowing my nose I just keep sniffin'. That's why I've got to be with other people. I've got to be talking. I've got to be enjoying myself. Otherwise, as soon as I sit down and start to think, something in me says 'WHY?', 'Do you really want it?', 'Haven't you proved your point?', 'Do you need

all this?'''
He dreamed of making it but, like others before him, he was unprepared for the vituperative criticism which descended on him once he did. Already he reads in the press he's 'a fake', that he's 'sold

press he's 'a fake', that he's 'sold out'.

"I've stuck to my guns so much'' he says ''that I just don't understand how anybody can say that."

Punk rock stars set themselves very high standards. Loudly they denounced the vacuous consumer indulgence of BOE jet-set superstars. Not surprisingly however, trying Not surprisingly, however, trying to keep their own Men Of The People personas intact in the face of mounting good fortune is an uphill

battle.
"I know I'm a star now in some people's eyes," says Jimmy. "But I am trying to be a different kind of star. You can be a star and still be the same Jimmy Pursey you were when you worked in a Wimpy Bar washing-up cups. Stardom either changes you for the better or worse. I want all this to change me for the better. I want to do a lot more good than just act like a silly sod."

better. I want to do a lot more good than just act like a silly sod."
Jimmy's father is a plumber and his mother works in a betting shop. The family live in Hersham — or Mud Town as it was called when the natives lived in mud huts. No, Jimmy never lived in a mud hut (a change from tower blocks eh!?) but before his father climbed the ladder to mortgageville they lived in a caravan. The site still exists. Jimmy still lives with his parents. He has his own room, the size of a railway carriage,

but he isn't on the phone. If you

but he isn't on the phone. If you want to contact him you give his granny a ring. Since she lives only a few doors away she'?!! nip up the street to fetch him.

Do his parents get on?

"Just about. My father really slogged his guts out to get a house of his own. He used to cycle twenty miles a day. He doesn't smoke or drink but he doesn't really bring home enough money to pay for the home enough money to pay for the mortgage either. So there are

mortgage either. So there are arguments all the time. My mum feels she wants to have something nice before she dies, you know. There's tension all the time." His education was slight. "I don't remember anybody teaching me to read, and then I wa too embarrassed to tell anybody I couldn't. Nobody knew because I wasn't interested in hooks anyway. wasn't interested in books anyway. Then I got interested and so I had to

try to learn — but I find it hard."

Had he any idea what he wanted to

Had he any idea what he wanted to do after he was expelled from school when he was fifteen?

"Not really. Although I knew I could be somebody. People kept saying 'you should be on the stage' and when people keep saying that you know in yourself there's something there — and it should be used.

"When I left school I knew I could get any job and I just took the first

get any job and I just took the first thing that came along — working in a fabric shop selling curtains. I was there a year. I got £4.37 a week which I thought was a fortune. It was great After that the jobs just went. Anything.

Can he explain exactly what he means when he says he feels "chosen"?
"Well, it's like a force inside me saying that I have something to offer to other people. I'm not saying it's "God" or anything, but SOMETHING must have been getting me here.

getting me here.
"I feel this force inside me saying I can achieve something FOR people."

can achieve something FOR people."

Does he ever feel up against impossible odds?

"Yes. Exactly. But everybody who believes in something is always thinking to themselves that they are fighting the impossible. But they carry on because they believe in againg the impossible. But they carry on because I he believe in themselves. I carry on because I believe in myself. I'd never be here at all if I hadn't believed I was going to make it. If you believe in yourself you can do anything."

Does he know what else he wants to do?

to do?

"Yes and no. I'd love to achieve the situation where the kids are not looking to see what everybody else is doing but were just getting together to enjoy the music. That will be very hard, though. A dream, really. But if someone doesn't have it, who will?"

What did it feel like when the skinheads first started in yeading his

skinheads first started invading his

"Very weird! And then I thought it was incredible — great. I thought to myself 'now I can achieve something." He thought he could change their political views?

"I thought I could get them thinking the same way I was

"It hought I could get them thinking the same way I was thinking. When they started those Nazi salutes I thought I could bicker them down about it. They know EXACTLY what I'm about. In the early days the National Front sent someone to see whether we'd work for them and I said 'You must be fucking joking. NO WAY'. So when the skins start all thay I say 'What are you doing' You don't want to do that. Why come here and do that? You know I don't believe in it so why do it? I don't beat about the bush. I'm a figurehead and they know I'm I'm a figurehead and they know I'm having a go at them." So he considers himself to be a

leader?

leader?
"No, not really".
But he does tell pedple to behave one way and not another.
"Well, you have to do that.
Whether they take any notice is another thing. And I don't say DON'T do this, or DON'T do that.
You have to let people decide for themselves. All I do is let them know I think what they're doing is wrong.



Come era quando gli Skinheads hanno cominciato a invadere i vostri concerti? "Abbastanza strano! Ai tempi pensavo che fosse incredibile - grande. Dicevo a me stesso ora possiamo raggiungere qualcosa."

Pensava che poteva cambiare il loro indirizzo politico?

Pensavo di poterli fare pensare nella stessa maniera in cui io penso. Quando cominciarono con quei saluti nazi pensavo che potevo dirgli qualcosa circa quello. Conoscevano esattamente come ero io. Nei vecchi giorni il NF mandò qualcheduno a incontrarmi per vedere se potevo lavorare per loro e gli dissi 'State facendo un fottuto scherzo. Non c'è modo'. Così quando gli Skins cominciarono tutto questo io dissi 'Cosa state facendo? Non dovete fare questo. Perche venite qua e fate questo? Lo sapete non ci credo in tutta questa merda. Non sono stato a cercare belle parole ho detto direttamente quello che pensavo. Sono una figura rappresentativa e loro lo sanno che posso avere un influenza sui ragazzi.

Ti consideri un leader?

"No, realmente".

...Il livello della tolleranza politica ai concerti degli Sham 69 è veramente rimarcabile. Rock Against Racism Punks pogano assieme a Skins del British Moviment. Quando l'atmosfera comincia a diventare troppo calda o i Sieg Heil troppo minacciosi, Jimmy salta sulla breccia e dice "Tutta la politica è merda". Questa dichiarazione rammolisce tutte e due le parti e in circostanze di crisi è veramente una tattica per tenere la pace. ...Jimmy dice anche "Tutti i ragazzi odiano la politica. E tutti i politici sono dittatori"...

The Mile End Boys

"See, if you've got something in life and you're talented at it you should use it, not abuse it. And that's what, I'm trying to do. Once I found out that I could use my mouth I said (Right, c'mon, look at the things you can do. Look at the things you can do. Look at the things you can achieve."

I know exactly how the skins feel. I went through all that. But look at me now!"

Perhaps he is more talented than most?

"They're all talented too, if they could just find where it is. It's there somewhere."

Maybe, But what has he got to say to people who aren't us talented as he is, people who will never achieve as much as he had?

"I can speak for them as well. I'm their voice box. I'm a mirror for them. Anything they want to say, I'll say for them. They're looking at me and I'm looking at them. And I am and I'm looking at them. And I'm and I'm looking at them. And I'm and I'm looking at them. And I'm looking

Apparently Sham 69's road circus is travelling on well tested wheels of friendship. Certainly David and Doidie are enjoying themselves. Dave Parsons is naturally ealm and when he is happy his muted intensity is a sensual knock-out. At present he witch spells danger. He may be simply lonely or pining for a girlfriend. Or he may be about to break under the strain of having to preform endless gigs in conditions which never allow his talent free rein. Nineteen-year-old Dave is an ambitious musician and an important pillar in the Sham arcade. He writes the music to Jimmy's lyries. He formed his first band 'Excalibur' while he was at Rydens Comprehensive (Jimmy and Doidie went there too), sent tapes to record companies and, even when he was marking time as an electronics apprentice at Plessy International, his mind was squarely locked into the vision of himself as one held of a lead quitarist.

Now he is in the band he helped to create the one which matches his early fantasies to a T. And athough he knows that in the early days, to establish a band's identity, the lead singer must absorb most limelight, it doesn't make playing stooge any more fun. He expected a higher return for his input.

'Jimmy will say to the audience 'you've all paid your money so enjoy yourselves' "explains Dave. 'And the skins and everybody are up on the stage bouncing about and really enjoying themselves. But then I'm not. So where do you draw the line. I can't get to my mike, I can't what I am playing... the cond are enjoying themselves. But then I'm not. So where do you draw the line. I can't get to my mike, I can't unove. People are standing in front of my speakers so I can't hear what I am playing... the cowd are enjoying themselves. But well?'' it has not a furnithe tour Dave and Jimmy (Lateri in the tour Dave and Jimmy Ulateri in the tour Dave and Jimmy

CLOUDS. Before Sham 69 even begin their soundcheck the queue outside is long. Now the place is packed. The band bristles full-filt through their set gouging out a feerand response from the pogoing crush. The air is shimmering with sweat and blast furnace heat radiating from seething bodies. Albert lugs a fanting gri out of the audience then finds no room to stand her up let alone lie her down. Backstage it's chaos, crawling with fans — Jed, the Cowards, the Glaswegian punkette — and everyone edging closer to Jimmy on the stage. The Sheffield Boys struggle to keep the P. A. from falling.

Another fantastic Sham 69 event is in motion and spectators feel sick and yet crazed on adrenalin and fear watching it carrent precalously on. Because Sham 69 have grown bigger faster than anyone expected, the structure holding them together is at breaking poin. The band spins and dips and turns, closer to the edge. Unrestrained, Jimmy the ring master whips everyone further and further out. The spectators' blood is up. Tensions, expectations and lusts crackle in the air like sheet lightning. On a larger stage, with fewer people on it, the music is bound to expand into dimensions not yet explored. This will please Dave. Even so, just now, for sheet thrills, for the suspense of not knowing what will happen next, for absolute action, for courting disaster through triumph, Sham 69 are unbeatable.

ance at Sham 69 gigs is really remarkable. Rock Against Racism punks pogo alongside British Movement skins. When the sieg Heil's too menacing Jimmy jumps into the breach with a stern "all politics are bullshir". This away all politics are bullshir". This away all politics per bullshir "bull peace keeping tactic. On the other hand, by onderming politics generally isn't jumpy into the breach with a stern "all politics are bullshir". This away all politics are crediting the democratic system, the only system ordinary people can use to effect hange in society?

Jimmy doesn't think so. "All kids have power the politics. And all politicians are dictators" he says.

(No British politicians have power unless they were voted for by the Continues Jimmy. "I don't want to be a leader in that sense. I'm just trying to get people to think. They and ow hat they want. I'm not ge ing o stop them. Personally I think some comple.)

"The work of the supplement of the Anti-Nari League. And when you hand hen they'll work it out for themselves. I'm not telling people not to vote.

"Everyone knows I'm part of a movement. They knows I'm part of the Anti-Nari League. And when you hink about it, those skins could then they'll work it out for themselves. I'm not get sing to stop them. Personally I think some oliticans are full of bullshit. People will listen to what I'we done to them. They're my fans and there and it is the start of the Anti-Nari League. And when you hink about it, those skins could it is an age about politics so they're not just soing down the road and voting for the Mational Front or the Conservative Party because their arents do." He pauses. "And it's very hard, when you're out on stage, oput it across like that."

The train stops and the business gentleman opens our carriage door. He was behard" he says to Jimmy "but it's worth it — so keep on trying." EDINBURGH. The sun is shining,

EDINBURGH. The sun is shining, the pubs are open all day, Jimmy buys a tam o'shanter and begins to relish the novel sensation of being recognised in the street.

The three D's. Dave, David and Doide are back at the hotel. None of them drink much before a gig, but with a couple of hours to kill-before the sound check, we buzz room service for refreshment.

Jimmy has their boundless respect but they admit he is not the easiest person to work with. He demands.

Jimmy has their boundless respect but they admit he is not the easiest person to work with. He demands. Things go His Way. He is a fast decision maker, quick on the uptake and able to plot six moves ahead. So, from the first £5.00 gig at the Roxy, through a disillusioning signing with Step Forward, to supporting The Clash at the Rainbow and their current acchigh flush, the band have followed Jimmy. He led them upwards through the madness in fine style. They, in return, have quiety accomodated his ravenous ego. David: "Very occasionally I've thought 'I can't take much more of this'. Then all of a sudden there hasn't been much more. And now I'm not worried. Everything's happening and the relationships in the band get better all the time."



(Polydor and Sham 69's sane management are planning a new single 'IJ' The Kirld Are United They Will Never Be Divided'' — working title — for release soon, a tour of America in June and a second album before Christmas.)

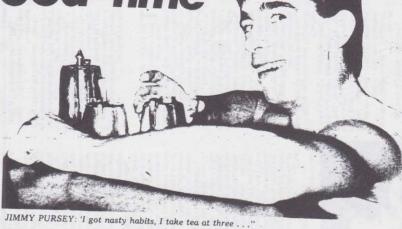


WHAT HAVE WE GOT? IAKA "SONG OF THE STREET") What have we got? Fuck all! They've taken every thing There'll soon be nothing left Soon we'll be walking the streets With nothing on our feet What have we got? Fuck all! I'd like to buy a shotgun Shoot them in the knees Conservatives and Communists They'll all the bleedin' same (Sometimes Communist and National Front) What have we got? Fuck all! I don't really care no more l don't care at all A black man's black and a white man's white We're all the bleedin' same MELODY MAKER, November 18, 1978-Page 31

The good-time

'It's not hip to be ordinary any more. I'm not an alternative to anything-I'm a continuation of good-time rock and roll that has something to say.' Jimmy Pursey has a problem: he wants to play Robin Hood, but people keep casting him as the villain. SIMON KINNERSLEY watched him at work in the West Country. Pix: Barry Plummer.

OVER the past 12 months, as Sham 69's popularity has grown the length and breadth of the country, so the reputa-tion of their fans, aptly named the Sham Army, has ascended with them. Under a front of great loyalty, they have revealed an alarming penchant for intimidation, with what has at



times seemed a genuine relish for violence.

Their behaviour is not based around what might be regarded as social norms, but essentially the rule of the fist. Their attitudes have been justified by their backgrounds of social deprivation and so on, but whether that can really warrant their hit-first-and-talk-later bigotry, or the open battleground of the Reading Festival, must stand very much open to question.

Their leader, Jimmy Pursey, has a stood beside them, and taken a great stood beside them, and taken a seem to be successful to the stood of the reports, where a cought of the stood of the seems of the seems

TAUNTON had braced itself for their arrival. The pubs around the hall had put up their shutters till after the show started, whilst the empty streets

suggest that the local residents read their papers and weren't taking any chances either.

The Odoon, far from being the local fleapit, seemed a positively foolbardy choice of venue. With its richly uphol-stered seats, wall-to-wall carpeting, and the composition of the compositi

ing a hard time dividing his disapproval between Siouxsie And The Banshees, who are bashing away or the TV, and me. It's patently obvious that my presence is far from welcome, and the atmosphere in the room, amongst the half-a-dozen fans that have congregated there, is distinctly unfriendly. The state of the state o

"THIS thing we're in is called rock and roll, and what it's done with mings. I've its making me worry about things. I've its making me worry about things. I've its making me worrying about not worrying about not worrying."

"The pressures are getting greater all the time. Rock Against, Racism, the kids, and yet trying to be myst, tidds, and yet trying to be myst, tidds, and yet trying to be myst, tidds, and yet trying to be myst, the same time, then people keep coming up to me and saying 'Don't worry, Jimmy."

"I'm not really-bothered about what the papers say. They built us up in the beginning, so that's their problem. The kids that follow us don't read papers anyway, it's mainly students, and we anyway, it's mainly students, and we allow there's Slouxies An earling out, yet and we're going around in a limo, and we're going around in a limo, and we're going around in a dirty old 'van."

continued overleaf

#### Jimmy Pursey from previous

page

create, and we're being knocked for that.

"People say I've got a big mouth...well, maybe I have, but we haven't changed, we're just like we were when we played the Roxy. That's why I admire people like The Clash and The Jam, and why I despise Siouxsie And The Banshees, 'cos she's now trying to say she was never a punk, when she upon the say she was never a punk, when she was never the say that a punk, when she well and the say that a punk, when she was never a punk, when she was never that a punk, when she was never that a punk, which was never that a punk, when she was never that the she was never the she

Yet in spite of this, and the fact that I spent some considerable amount of time with him earlier this year, his attitude remains defensive, that a wrong question would result in me making an early exit through the nearest window.

ONE of the more popular criticisms that's been levelled at them of late is their growing commerciality, and its attendant success. With the proviso that as long as it's not at the music's expense, this doesn't seem such a great offence. After all, what's the point of making records if they're not to be sold?

"We don't see what's wrong with

orience. After all, what's the point of the search of the presence of the pres

again, we wanted to do something different. Anyway, it's not really a concept, it's a story."

EARLIER this year he admitted on something different. Anyway, it's not really a concept, it's a story."

EARLIER this year he admitted on several occasions that he had considered throwing in the towel. Although he now instantly dismisses any such suggestions, saying that it's little more than tour fatigue, it's quite obvious he's at a pretty low ebb. The thing is, if I was to lack it in that would be the end of the band, because the others couldn', go on without me. He hastily adds that if any of the others quit, then the outcome would be the same, but the point is taken, and there's no doubt that all the other than the summary of the others quit, then the outcome would be the same, but the point is taken, and there's no doubt that all the other than the summary of the others quit, then the outcome would be the same, but the point is taken, and there's no doubt that all the other than the summary of the others and the summary of the

WHATEVER one's feelings towards Sham 69, one of the most disturb-ing features remains the aggressive nature of some of their supporters— and, in particular, the so-called Sham

Army,
Certainly their behaviour at the
Reading Festival gave great cause for
concern. The fights that took place at
the front as they waded through the
sess demonstrative fans to get on stage
was nothing short of terrifying.
This is the one point in our converation where Pursey becomes uncharterristically silent, and attempts to



duck out.

"We didn't believe any of the reports of what happened. We didn't see anything happening. It may have anything happening. It may have happened with a non-committal shrug of the shoulders.

"It was the same as The Stones and The Who in their early days, we've got the same reputation. It's no different now, from what it was then.

"The Sham Army is a free army, with a right-to free speech. They've got a reputation for being hard nuts, and hat's exactly the people we're trying is out there working for them. We want to try and get through to everybody."

OUR conversation is interrupted by the call that it's time for the gig, which — apart from the arrival of the projectionist at the end of the gig to tell Pursey that he's some kind of youthful Hitler — proves largely uneventful.

which — apart from the arrival the projectionist at the end of the gig to tell Pursey that he's some kind of youthful Hitler — proves largely uneventful and the state of the

there'll be a lot more yet."

In spite of the fact that they seemed well adapted to playing the larger halls, one can't help but feel that Sham of playing in a plush cinema is something of a paradox.

"We'd much sooner do small places," Pursey concedes in a more relaxed be locked out, and complain that they couldn't get in. And if we play a big evine everyone says we're selling out. What can we do?

"It's like people say we're selling out by doing Top Of The Pops. We do it so that people up and down the the country can see us for nothing, and so that the kids who are, like, 10 to 15 can see us as well. And we give them the same show as if we were doing it.

"I also do it to show that we were-doing it."

"I also do it to show that we were-doing it."

out of the way. We're still there in the firing line, and everyone knows we're here."

According to both Pursey and a number of other people in the entourage, the only trouble on the tour to date occurred at Leicester, and, needless to say, involved a local contingent of National Front supporters of National Front supporters of the first stage, which I did, in the end we quietened them down. But I want the NF, kids to come to our gigs so I can show them what it's about. I hope that what they see about. I hope that what they see about. I hope that what they see about I hope that what they see a firs been blown up by the press, and now it's a dying fad.

"You see, I'm not an alternative to anything. I'm a continuation of good-time rock and roll that has something to say. The main thing I believe in the element of it all, its if the kids of the control of the stop of the labels — the punks. Angels, teds, skinheads — and just be kids. Like people slag off disco music

well, it's more underground than punk. People can go along and drink, and have some fun, and get the week out of their system."

and have some fun, and get the week out of their system."

W HATEVER'S been going on around him, the fact remains that during the last six or nine months, with a succession of chart singles, and a Top 30 album, Pursey must have been coining money, so where's it all going?

Pecple say I drive a Rolls Royce. All the last state of the la

BRISTOL on Sunday evening should prove a very different proposition to Taunton.

During the past few months an alarmingly aggressive and belligerent element has appeared in the local audience, transforming it into something not unlike a lynching party. The most recent sufferers were Nico and Spizz Oil, both of whom made early exKs under a hail of spit, beer and abuse.

spizz Oil, both of whom made early exits under a hail of spit, beer and abuse.

Sham 69's appearance at the Colston Hall, one imagined, would precipitate an even more extreme form of reaction that conceivably could verge on all-out wafare.

An even more extreme form of reaction that conceivably could verge on all-out wafare.

Be security staff for an audience that 50 security staff for an audience than 50 security staff for an audience than 50 security staff for an audience than tould scarcely have been more than the staff of the security staff for an audience that could scarcely have been more than the staff of the scarcely have been more than the staff of th

Twas quite evidently the evening's flashpoint. "Right, now shut up, everybody, and listen," Pursey replied with much passion. "What's all this with different passion. "What's all this shift out of each other. I've had it, okay?
"Now when I say, 'The kids should be united,' I mean just that, not that we all start beating up other people. If you understand him. he'll understand you."

If you understand him, he'll understand you."

Loud cheers all round, and even the security men mustered a smile.

It was a scene which everyone who has criticised Pursey should have witnessed. In a matter of moments he had defused what could have been a very nasty spot of aggravation.

After the show he looks tired but undeniably pleased. "You see, I don't want to be a big superstar, I just want an easy ride But it's things like this evening that are making it harder all the time.
"But the whole thing stops when I say I'm going down the track with my dogs to be a trainer, and leave being Jimmy Pursey to someone else. Believe me, I'd love to find a bloke who could take over from me."

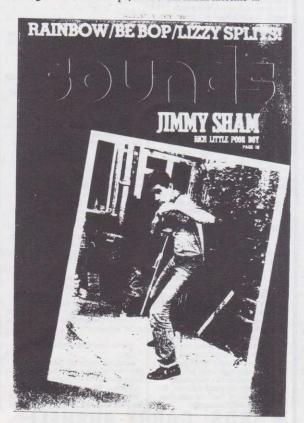


Da un intervista e articolo sugli SHAM 69 apparso su MELODY MARKER 18 Novembre 1978.

..."La pressione stava diventando più forte al tempo. Rock Against Racism, i ragazzi del pubblico e io che cercavo di rimanere me stesso, tutto insieme, poi la gente cominciava ad arrivare e dirti 'non ti preoccupare

...Daccordo sia con Pursey che con un vago numero di altre persone nel suo entourage, il solo casino in tutto il tour che è capitato è stato a Leicester, e naturalmente è stato provocato da un contingente locale di supporters del National Front.

"Io ho solo detto a loro che se salivano sul palco me ne andavo io, ed è stato quello che ho fatto. Verso la fine li abbiamo calmati. Ma voglio che i ragazzi del NF vengano ai nostri concerti così posso fargli vedere che cosa è la realtà. Spero che quello che vedono e sentono possa cambiare il loro modo di pensare. Il NF è solo un altra moda, in ogni caso. Che è stato ingrandita dalla stampa, e ora è una mania morente"...



llo mate y'alright?" Yeah, Jim Pursey's alright. 12 months ago he was washing up cups in a Wimpey Bar, now he's loved by hundreds of thousands of kids, hated by the rock 'intelligentsia' and about to get a Top Ten smash hit, but he's not changed, not yet anyway.

Sitting chain-smoking in his flat above the betting shop in the quiet Surrey village of Hersham where he grew up in his mum and dad's caravan, Jimmy's well happy with the way things are going. . .

I reckon 'The Kids' 'll get in the Top Ten without a shadow of a doubt, and I hope it gets to number one. I once said if we ever had a number one record I'd jack it in because I said, how on earth could I get on stage and sing 'Hey Little Rich Boy' then? First of all we're dropping that, but I thought wait a minute all them kids who've been minute all them kids who've been looking up to us are gonna go, 
'What a e\*\*, look at that, take the money and f\*\*eing run'. That's why I'm gonna get a number one record and say now they've got to take notice of us, and punk will have won because it would have done what exembed, wildn', want it to do.—be.

because it would have done what everybody didn't wan it to do — be top of the f\*\*\*ing pops.

"And its great to get on Top Of The Pops. I wouldn't go on 'Revolver'. I detest Mickie Most because he says he's doing something for the kids and the punk movement bands. He had a label called RAK records. How many bands did he bands. He had a label came NAK records. How many bands did he sign? One — the Vibrators. If he believed in all those bands he'd have formed a punk label. "There's Chris Hill right. Now if

"There's Chris Hill right. Now if you went to Chris Hill at a disco and asked him to put on so and so, he'd say 'Bollocks, disco boy, disco, piss off.' And its supposed to be for the kids — there's no one on it below 17. It's a big hype. The reason we do Top Of The Pops is young kids are watching it. Kids between 12 and 14. Of The Pops is young kids are watching it. Kids between 12 and 14 who can't get into gigs. It's a waste of time saying to a kid of 18, 19, don't do this, don't do that, but to the young kids I can say, I wouldn't like you to do this because I've done it and it's not worth doine.

worth doing.
"That's what 'Kids' is about, enjoying yourself without having to bottle so-and-so cos he's a hells angel, or a skinhead or a punk."

Why, of all the punk bands, are you getting the hits?

"The punk movement in the beginning, musically it was great, because it was f\*\*\*ing action-packed. But then came the manipulation, you got 'Seditionaries' and 'Boy', and eventually after a year it wasn't just going on stage and going 'Bollocks', it was all a f\*\*\*ing show, all robotised.
"What I was looking at and what I wanted to believe in was all going wrong for me, and it was like that for every other kid. Then Sham 69 comes 'The punk movement in the

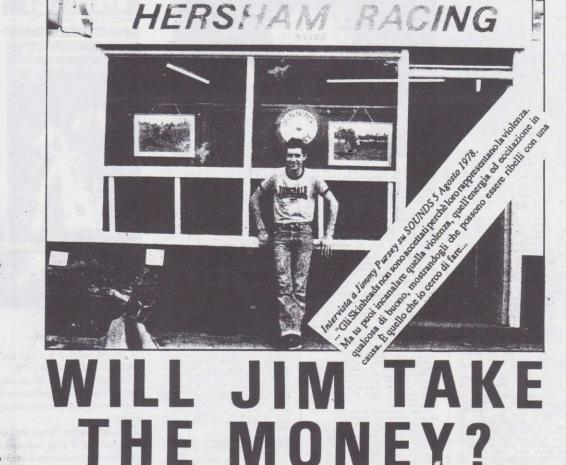
wrong for me, and it was like that for every other kid. Then Sham 69 comes along that's a band that's doing everything I thought those groups should have done, to say 'F\*\*\* you, you let me down, now I'm going to show you — everything you were trying to do I'm going to do!""

Which resulted in the skins and the rise of the 'Sham army'.

"A skinhead is not acceptable, but a punk became acceptable because punk to the parents was a joke. Half these (\*\*\*ing posers would walk around saying 'Anarchy' — if they saw the law running down the street with a (\*\*\*ing riot going on they'd be the first to run down the road

the first to run down the road.
"These skinheads who came from
the punks were the actual punks.
They were the ones who believed in everything that was going on, so when they saw everything was going wrong they thought 'F\*\*\* this, let's

wrong mey mought 'F\*\* this, let's do something that's not acceptable. "Skinheads aren't acceptable because they represent violence. But you can channel that violence, that energy and excitement into



Is he still one of the boys? Is he really making a concept album? When is a punk not a punk?

something good, showing you can be a rebel with a cause. That's what I'm trying to do.

"It's just not true that all skinheads are nazis, but I'd rather have an NF skinhead come to my gigs so I can turn round and say 'I'm an anti-nazi, what do you f\*\*\*ing think of that' than a robot."

And Jim is slowly getting across to the racist kids, which is why the adult British Movement are going round the East End chalking up 'Sham are red c\*\*\*s'.

"They're shitting a brick, because the nazis know that I've got more say, the kids'll take more notice of say, the Russ in take indice of me than they would of them. Cos every gig we do is a Rock Against Racism. That's why when Pete Silverton wrote that bit about 'Sham's British Movement 'Sham's British Movement following' I was going to f\*\*\*ing sue him. That one statement probably destroyed a lot of the things I'm trying to build up.

And now you're going to start making money, what next?

"There's so much I wanna do. I wanna produce new groups, I wanna buy a place where kids can go and see other groups. .

We've heard that before. .

"Yeah, but we're not like anyone else. We've done in 9 months what other people have been trying to do in 3 years. We gave away a single, 'What Have We Got', which was the equivalent of the Pistols giving away





'Anarchy'. You don't see me ligging at f\*\*\*ing parties every night. I go up 'The Hop', it's a disco here, and the kids don't think here's Jimmy Pursey the star, they think here's Old Jim, lets have a laugh."

OMEONE SOMETIME'S going to have to write up about Sham's early days at 'The Hop' when they mimed to Gary Glitter and the Rolling Stones and sung songs like 'Let's Rob A Bank' ('Let's rob a bank/Let's steal a car/then I will have some money/and you won't do no moaning anymore'), but we haven't got the space now. At the moment the future's more important.

Sham's new songs reflect their split personality — the serious side, and the all-lads-together-having-a-laugh side. On the serious side is 'That's Life' which lim reschools is a reflection. side. On the serious side is 'That's Life' which Jim reckons is one of his best ever songs: 'Kids are fighting kids and no one gives a damn/We're eating a clockwork orange but I'm spitting out the pips/They're saying that's life but I'm taking the blame'. That'll probably be the next single, that or a Sham version of Stevie Wonder's 'For Once In My Life'. Either way the 'B' side, 'Carry On Smoking The Grass' is a more humourous look at the recent cancelled US tour.

A new album is also well underway. Jim hopes to have it out

underway. Jim hopes to have it out by September. It's a concept album based on a day in one kid's life, and similar in approach to 'Family Life' on the first album. Jim's working from a skeleton sketch of the story 'cept he hasn't made up his mind yet whether the kid'll nick the fifty quid float from the shop he works in, or

carry on for £15 a week

And after the album comes a full scale British tour in October, the live dates where Sham really come into

"I get very emotional. I go on stage and there's these kids going 'JIMMY', and it nearly brings me to tears, 'cos all I've ever wanted is to have this feeling that I'm wanted. You know, John Travolta said in that film, 'Only twice in my life anybody's ever said I'm good at anything'? Well that's what it feels like feer. like for me.

But if the kids love Sham, the intelligentsia don't. The people who consider punk to be their own private property and hate the idea of the 'commoners' getting their grubby paws on it. . .

"All the intellectuals say 'he's very naive, he's very thick' because if I'm not a part of their intellectual scene, I'm a moron, I'm a c\*\*\*. Well I'd rather stay a c\*\*\*."

Jim, we wouldn't have you any other way.

"It worries me that kids think that to like Sham 69 you've gotta be a skinhead. Well to like Sham 69 you gotta be anybody. I've got nothing against the skinheads, I think it's great against the skinleads, I timik It's great to have a movement, you can get over to and destroy, because then I'd have won. If they take notice of me they'll do what they wanna do instead of just being that certain thing."

WORDS: GARRY BUSHELL PIX: PAUL SLATTERY



Intervista apparsa su un vecchio "SOUND"

o niente del genere, eppure c'erano 10 o 20 ragazzi del British Moviment o che perlomeno rivendicavano l'appartenenza a esso."... ... "Potrebbe essere una stranezza... Ma io ho alcuni amici nel British Moviment, e io non penso che essi siano realmente dei nazi. Sono traviati politicamente, ma non sono veri

..."Potrebbe essere una stranezza...Ma io ho alcuni amici nel British Moviment, e io non penso che essi siano reaimente dei nazi. Sono traviati pondeantente, in a riazi. Ti ricordi quei ragazzi che ti ho presentato?"

L'intervistatore ricorda un giovane ragazzo alto, tranquillo con pulover grigio con i capelli lunghi e i baffi.

Egli ha trascorso quasi un ora a discorrere e a bere in compagnia di un ragazzo pakietano il quale avava una caribila contenta "Dora cali apparente del prinche Moviment, e io non penso che essi siano reaimente dei nazi. Sono traviati pondeantente, in a ricordi quei ragazzi che ti ho presentato?" Egli ha trascorso quasi un ora a discorrere e a bere in compagnia di un ragazzo pakistano, il quale aveva una terribile cravatta. "Bene, egli appartiene al British Moviment ma quel ragazzo (pakistano) è uno dei suoi migliori amici". Mensi alza le spalle: "Che cosa ci vuoi fare?". "Io spero che con le nostre canzoni e i nostri testi possiamo fare pensare di più la gente. Non c'è una facile soluzione! Ma se noi possiamo fare pensare la gente su queste piccole cose, allora avremo fatto un buon lavoro". Thomas Mensforth, alla fine del giorno, si ritira nella sua piccola stanza con un grande letto e il poster del Sunderland.... Mensi va a dormire con la sensazione di aver fatto qualcosa di positivo. Non si sbaglia.

#### RESTARTS

# From previous page

errom previous page orchid — hangs uncertainly in its frame. The glass protecting it from the fumes of many Mariboros is splintered, having been the object of a minor tantrum on the part of Jimmy Pursey the previous day. Mensi is not amused, he is massively unimpressed with his former mentor these days. "If it'd been one of us dud that," he observes caustically, "we'd have had a bill for it, us. He's really got the shits up because The Jam are Polydor's number one bend now. He's always fucken moanin'. "Aw Mens'" he

number one band now. He's always fucken moanin'...'Aw, Mens',"— lapses into a fair replica of Pursey's lapses into a fair replica of Pursey's somewhat theatrical manner with a monologue —"'I carn' andle all this pressure, all them kids depending on me, aw Mens, wha' am I gonna do?' Wanker!"
Tony Gordon is out at lunch. Therefore, Mensi must contend with the guiddenne of Gordon's inner sanctum, an extremely no-nonsense seatron who is avidently in on more

sanctum, an extremely no-nonsense matron who is evidently in no mood for rough-hawn South Shields charm. "No, you can't have your twenty-five 'pund' until tomorrow," she snaps. "And if you want money for the tour, you'll have to let us knyow exactly how much and for what. We'r go joing away next week, so if you don't write it out now you'll have to do without!"
Jimpy Pursey's six-figure villa (with swimming pool) seems a million miles away.

N A PUB off Oxford Street, Mensi drinks a mixture of Guinness and cider and the conversation roams back and forth between past and back and forth between past and present, theory and practice. Thomas Mensforth Jr is 23, and The Angelic Upstarts — the group that he formed with his schoolfriend and neighbour Raymond 'Mond' Cowie — have been his life since he saw The Clash on the White Riot tour in '77. "I'd been right ints Gary Glitter an' Slade an' — I'm nae havin' you on — Glenn Miller. 'Pennsylvanie 65-001' Little Brown Jug' ... right ints that. Well tasty, him.' He begins to sing lengthy extracts

He begins to sing lengthy extracts from the Glen Miller songbook.

Trombone swoops, cymbal crashes, the lot. "An' Nat King Cole. 'Smiiiiilllle tho' your heart is breaseaking ...'
That's rest singin'. Reet singin' is Perry
Como, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra ...
half the wankers in the chart canna Como, Nat Ning vent.
half the wankers in the chart canna sing at all. I canna sing, but at least I've, got my good looks to sustain me."

Before The Clash — and an early Jam gig — most rock music had left

Before The Clash — and an early Jam gig — most rock music had left Mensi cold.

"I'd been to see Bad Company and a coupla groups like that, but it did fuck all for me. All it was was the dregs of society makin' millions out of wimps like us, and I could not relate to it at all. Then I saw The Jam an' I couldna believe the energy, and then the fucken Clash — I just thought "Wooosaarrggghh! Everybody was enjoyin' themselves so much and the band was enjoyin' themselves as much as the sudience. I just had to have me a piece of that."

So Mensi jacked in his job. Prior to his punk epiphany, he'd spent three



'Yer not familiar with Marcel Proust then, Charlie?'

years down the pits — Mond had put in an equivalent period in the shippyrds — working as a miner at the court of Old King Coal. "Me de was down there in worthy." years. Bed news, that. There's not a person slive who's spent ten years or more down the pits whose body is still the same as when they went down. If have a such a they went down. If have a as when they went down. If I have a cough or a cold and I fetch it up from deep in my chest, I fetch up coal dust. Still.

Still.

"The miners got fuck all for it, too, until the last Conservative government... the last Conservative government... the last Conservative government was no use at all, but they re both full of shit."

Mensi — a firm defender of the trade unions — is not unmindful of the fact that the NUM had to black out the country to got a fair was for its. country to get a fair wage for its

workers. "They thought I was a red when I first come down here 'cause I didn't hate niggers and I believe in Unions. 'Huh, Mensi, fuckin' Commie. Fuckin' nigger-lover, him'. There's no such thing as racism where I come trom—there's loads of Asian families but they're all just Geordies. Where I come from they they're all just Geordies. Where I come from they they they had they for they they had th

they're all just Geordies. Where I come from they think the NF is just some old newsagent who don't like niggers. I didn't even know what racism was 'til came down here.''

Mensi's drinking companion for the day is caught up short by this use of the pejorative and loaded term 'nigger.' In his world, it is an insult, a word used only as an insult and then as a deadly one. To Mensi, it is a neutral term, used in exactly the same way as the more 'acceptable' "black.' When — later in the conversation — Mensi describes the change in his attitude towards homosexuals over the last few years by saying, "Two years ago if a pouf had come on to me I'd'a smashed him," a similar feeling of dislocation sets in. Again, he has used the term in a manner not intended to be demeaning or insulting, but in the circles in which

the observer moves, an insult it most certainly would be.

the observer moves, an insult it most certainly would be.

ACK IN the management office, Tony Gordon is back from lunch. A roly-poly man in early middle-age, he certainly does not resemble the popular notion of a man-who would manage Sham, the Rejects and the Upstarts. With his expensive clothes and harassed, avuncular air, he gives the impression that if one were to jab him lightly with a pin, he would spout not blood, but port wine and thick beef gravy. He listens to his boisterious young charges' demands with weary, tolerant benevolence. Something will be worked out.

In Wood Green, a trickle of skinheads mooch through the door as the Upstarts commence soundchecking. Frank the landlord—a pleasant, shirtsleeved man in his late "30s—is simultaneously worried and elected. He tacks up a note by the door pleading for all patrons to keep the peace tonight.

Mensi has changed out of his tracksuit into faded Levis, black T-shirt and burnished brown Martens, and he points to the area of the pub on the far side of the second ber which divides the place in half: a main area where the bulk of the audience will stand, and a smaller, more out-of-the-way enclosure. "In there's any trouble," he advises, "just get behind there."

National Front and British Movement grafitti adorn—if that is the appropriate term—the toilet walls (At least that's the appropriate place. Ed. The pub packs out by the time the support group—a local punk combo called Infra-Riot, making their public debut—take the stage, using the Upstairs' amps and drums. There are maybe three or four punk-rockaseases present, a few regular drinkers, a kid covered in Stones badges and the rest is wall-to-wall skinheads. Frank mingles, chetting, reassuring, joking and fretting a lot.

Suddenly, a sibilant whisper of "Filth!" Three heavy-set men jostle throuh the crowd. They are slightly less obvious than a rhinoceros in the Ballet Rambert or a Telecaster in the

"I smell shit in here!" announces Mensi in a conversational tone that probably wouldn't have carried more than twenty yards. The bulky trio go into a huddle with Frank and then leave. Frank does rounds again, announcing that the three believed to be in the employ of the Metropolitan Police — will be back later to search everyone. The assembled gathering are almost obsessively polite. Nary an elbow collides with rib nor foot grazes against foot without a "Sorry, pel" to make amends. "I smell shit in here!" announces

against foot without a "Sorry, pal" to make amends.

The pub is thought of in some circles as a BM hangout, yet blacks and Asians mingle and circulate without inhibition or challenge. A couple of black skinheads laugh and jostle with their mates and move to the front. The atmosphere is three parts tension to seven parts high spirits.

parts tension to seven parts high spirits.

The Upstarts take the stage: Stix and Mond on-the-case and visually undemonstrative, Glyn leaping and grinning his way past his first-night nerves, Mensi larger than life, conscious that while his professional reputation ind to not he line the way it would be at a Proper Gig, something far more fundamental is at stake tonight. He'r backing his faith in the essential decency of the kids he performs for, he's backing his personal trust in the band. Ultimately, he's backing his own ability to see trouble coming and stop it cold.

He grabs the mike. "There was a rumour that the skinheads were coming tonight, but I guess it wasn't true."

He pauses just long enough for the audience to cheer and jeer and then

shouts, "YOU FUCKEN WANKERS!" as the band ram out their first slab of 120 mph white-hot slag. The police are back, but there's nothing for them to pounce on. The Upstarts play their set, axhorting the biggest cheers for 'Police Oppression—it's no secret in the pub that the police are massing outside. "Who

—it's no secret in the pub that the police are massing outside —'Who Killed Liddle Towers?' and their rictous theme song, the menacing slepstick 'I'm An Upstart'.

The stage is filled with kids for the choruses, Mensi cheerfully surrendering his mike for a mass chorale: 'I'm an upstart Oll Whatche gonne dol I'm an upstart LISSEN! Telkin' to you!"

gonna do l'm an upere.
Talkin' to you!"
They play half an hour, and at the end the place empties, slowly but end the place empties, slowly but a continue. end the place empties, slowly but peacefully. The carpet is littered with broken glass, but no-one got hurt, no-one got intimidated and not one single, solitary fascist catcall was neard. The trio had a word in Frank's ear about keeping to precise drinking-up times, and that was that

ENSI IS jubilant. "All the hooligans were there, all the baboys were there, all the bab boys were there and there was new fucken trouble! NAW FUCKEN. TROUBLE

"I didn't hear one fucken sieg heil or

"I didn't hear one fucken sieg heil or nuthin' from them, and there was ten or twelve lads there who I know are in the British Movement or who claim to be in the British Movement."

Much later, back home, Mensi folds himself into an armchair, relieved and still jubilant. All the jokes and catch-phrases come out, all the why was-l-born-sc-beautifuls and the you're-not-wrongs. Disaster has been faced and outfaced.

"See, it may sound strange but." I've got some close friends in the British Movement, and I really don't think they're Nazis. They're politically misguided, but they're not Nazis. You remember that guy l'introduced you to?"

remember that guy! Introduced you to?"

The observer remembers a tall, quiet youth in incongruous flares and grey pullover with long hair and a moustache. He had spent at least an hour in close and cordial conversation with a middle-aged Pakistani in one of the all-time terrible tiee, chatting and buying each other drinks. "Well, he's in the British Movement, but that gezer's one of his best friends," Mensi shrugs, implying "What can you do?"

"I hope that with our songs and our lyrics, we can make some people think. I don't have any easy solutions! But if we can make a few people think about a few things, then the job's worthwhile."

worthwhile."
And Thomas Mensforth, at the end of the day, retires to the little room with the big bed and the Sunderland poster. There's still the tour to worry about, and the record "soaring up from 65 to 81" and the problems with the record company, but tonight is enough for tonight.

Mensi goes to sleep feeling he's

Mensi goes to sleep feeling he's done something positive, He's not



"MA C'È DEL BUONO E DEL CATTIVO IN OGNUNO NO?"

MENSI: Si lo sò ma potrebbero fare molto di più per loro stessi che R.A.R. ...
"GLI SKINHEADS DEL NF HANNO CERCATO DI INFLUENZARTI?" MENSI: Ci hanno provato ma io non ci ho trovato niente di interessante.

> band have ridden the bumpy road in search of stardom. Line up changes, naughty goings on in the North East and violence at their gigs has not quenched Wensi's thirst to Hopefully the past misfortumes will not rear their ugly head again. The band, Mensi, Mond, Glynn and Decca have never minced words. This interview is no exception. THE ANVELIC UPSTARTS were formed in South Shields after the initial punk explosion had hit London. Their first single "The Murder of Liddle Towers" was released via Rough Trade/Small Wonder and it still remains a classic punk single. Since then the create a band that inspires others to achieve goals of their own. band have ridden the bumpy road in search of stardom.

"THE SINGLE LAST NIGHT ANOTHER SOLDIER", WAS THIS ALUED AT THE BRITISH ARM! IN IRELAND OR AT THE ARMY AS A WHOLE?"

MENSI: Ma sai, significa suonare a Alexandra Palace difronte a 4000 persone di cui 3900 sono bianche. Un altra cosa i negri sono più razzisti di quanto usualmente lo siano

MENSI: The Army as a mhole, but both really, it's about soldiers dying.

"DO YOU THINK THE ARMY SHOULD FULL OUT OF NURTHERN IRELAND?"

MENSI: I haven't got the answer, I'm not intelligent to say whether they should pull out, but someone should do something instead of pissing about and arguing amongst themselves, cos kids are still getting killed. Send Tony Gordon (Sham Rejects, Upstarts manager) over there, he'd sort 'em out, put them on a weekly wage that they couldn't sums. Or send Jimmy Pursey over to talk them to sleep, and Garry Bushell, he'd scare em with his spots, I've never seen anybody with so many spots as Bushell, Acne Bracket, With £25 per week they wouldn't have enough money to buy bombs or afford to live on.

Acne Brackst Eushell. "DO YOU LIKE HIM?"

MENSI: No, not really (long pause) he's too spotty, he's really ugly. Do you know why he slags me off all the time, 'cos he's jealous of my good looks. Like when Charlie Harper compared our bands in your last issue he forgot to mention that I'm the prettiest man in punk rock. "YOU TALK LIKE ALI"

WENSI: That's right, I'm the Wohanmed Ali of punk, 'cept I'm white. TOUCH WITH HIM. OI! OI!")
"AFFER WRITING THE SOME 'ENGLAND' WHAT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE ENGLISH?"

MENSI: What makes a Scotsman proud to be Scottish, what makes an Irishman proud to be The trouble is there's not enough people in this country who are proud to be Irish.

Put it this way, you could have been born a Greek or an Iranian and that should MOND:

make you proud to be English.
NENSI: You're a racist! Tou're a racist! This band has been infiltrated with Nagis.
No seriously, there is no-one in this band who is colour prejudiced. It's just we hate The Anti-Wazi League thing is a load of toss. "TOU WOULDN'T DO RAR AGAIN?"

some NE/BM people but some of their mates are darkies. of them aren't Masis. The pub where we drink has MENSI: Yeah, it's just a fashion, the best part

country, if you're proud to be English and white you're branded as a Nazi, and it's time I'm sure they do, they had a march in London, one of these "troops out" things. Getting the troops out isn't the But the way things are in this W: You can't wear a Union Jack badge without people thinking you're a racist. PERHAPS THE SWP, IN A WAY, CAUSE MORE TROUBLE BETWEEN FACTIONS." I went down just to clock the situation. It's the same faces all the time, students with long hair, glasses and shoulder bags. Getting the troops out were born white, we should all have been born niggers. I've got another thing the SWP put over, it's as if it's our fault we You shouldn't be ashamed to be English and white which is People are entitled to their own wiews, whether I think nothing against niggers but I'm proud to be white. merson interest and another and another thing, miggers are more reacts than white thing, miggers are more reacts than white thing, miggers are more reacts than white has evenly splits. I seah I know but they could do a has evenly split audiences that's when a lifeturence for themselves and RAR. When RAR is incoming the seathing across:

INFLUENCE TOU?

INFLUENCE TOU.

things that I'll tell you who I thought was a really good politician who got slagged down, and that was Enoch Powell. I don't think he was a racialist at all, he just predicted things th DID happen. He was probably the most under-estimated politician of all time, until he was exiled in some remote Iriah constituency. The papers branded HIM as a racist. If the NME get hold of this fanzine and read this interview they'll brand ME as a racist.

to ask me leading questions. ("I DECIDE TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT TO AVOID ASKING He just writes about the things around No, but it happens 'cos everyone seems "DO TOU THINK POLITICS AND MUSIC SHOULD MIX?" "PROM WHERE DO YOU GET MOST OF THE IDEAS POR From the poxy newspapers. I can't write love songs. "Sticks can" - tell LEADING QUESTIONS latest single. there you are: CAN." FOUR SONGS?" Liverpool. MENSI: "STICKS MENSI: KENSI: GLYNN: KENSI: GLYNN: MENSI: much, I

It said in his diary that he was going can't live without her" and all that crap. money so he Ht reading out the words "oh my God I love her so It's about his girl friend Karen who lives in the We found Stick's diary and Mond was could see her smile. But we sold his drum "Stick's Diary" is the B side of to sell his drum kit and give her the That was a leading question, can" - tell 'em about Sticks. and we smiled.

right, we'

Charlie Harper

get

# THE TRUTH ABOUT STICK'S ID DRUM KIT, WHICH WAS WORTH \$500 TO THE DRUM BE OF INFA-RIOT STICK'S ("THE BAND SOLD

MENSI: Sono sicuro che lo fanno, hanno avuto una marcia in Londra una di quelle cose"troops out". Sono andato giusto per dare uno sguardo alla situazione. Sono sempre le stesse faccie, questi studenti smidollati con capelli lunghi, occhiali e zainetto. Mandare via le truppe non è necessariamente la soluzione del problema.

Ti voglio dire quello che io penso fosse veramente un buon politico che è stato buttato nella spazzatura e questo era Enoch Powell. Non penso che fosse un razzista tout court, predicava solo cose che sono poi realmente avvenute prob bilmente è stato il più sotto-stimato politico di tutti i tempi fino a che è stato esigliato in qualche remoto collegio elettorale irlandese. I giornali lo hanno marchiato come un razzista e se il NME viene in possesso di questa fanzine e legge questa intervista loro marchieranno me come un razzista, penso che avrebbe dovuto essere primo ministro. hard and the Rejects were hard, that extent he had said all this we found his diary and it says "I love you so much, I can't spend enother minute without you" and I thought what the fucking hells goods on like. So instead of telling the truth that we wouldn't let his girl friend like in our house, he told all these lies. That IS the real reason he left the hand on him, we didn't mind But Sticks started mouthing off to the papers that were too polite and soft and how he wanted to hard and the Rejects were hard. The after he had said all this we found his diar MENSI: It was all over his girl Triend, we didn't gang up him joining the Rejects, we're not all gangsters you know. BECAUSE IN MENSI'S GWW MORDES 'HE'S A GOOD KID'.") "WHY DID STICKS LEAVE?"

marchiato come nazi, ed è tempo di fermare tutto questo.

Working We had this rule, by all means bring a lass down, she could stay for and in the house living weekend or a week and then fuck off. together.

from Laverpool for a weekend, she had six cases understand this, she stayed for 6 months.

MENSI: Every time I same to the house abe was there, you must I personally couldn's live with my pan girl friend naver mind li But when Karen came dawy GLYNN:

spera che la gente abbia il proprio punto di vista, non importa che io pensi che sia giusto o sbagliato. È un paese libero

"COSI IL SWP, IN UNA CERTA MANIERA, CAUSA MAGGIOR CASINO TRA LE VARIE FAZIONI"

GLYNN:Non puoi metterti una badge dell'Union Jack senza che la gente pensa che tu sia un razzista.

Mou in. I wanna play with myself while watching our blue films and I can't do that naver mind living with someone we're down smeah the house up STWARS against him but you must remember who. I want have seed and amany the else's. I bear no personel to work .... it's me and again. MOND:

the house, but she left after a whill personally the more of bloke who tack everything very my Sarl friend at the house, but she left a and got a flating Tomorad out with here while someone's lass to in the rooms WAS in a mood. The thing Jes

was one of the best 'm leaving the band wouldn't get a job, When he did leave the house he said "By the way, I'm ects" the man, I'm fact, it dead adds anyway. things that has ever herpened to the band "wHO ACTUALLY WHO'DE SETCH+S DEARY FOR (") GLYNN START TO THE DOWN GOTTHS SECURIES") Which whe fear

the Rejects"

he'd go off

GLYNN:

we played it and he gave us the credit for it, the Releate am merte lying but we showed them the we'll show him he wanted MOND AND GLYNW LAUGHY) The person who actually \* PREARRASSED LOOKS ALL ROHND AS MOND AND Miss. they were his life, his lass cams second. We before he packed the band in he was diary was, Gmanths ago it said tries to tell us me me gone soft, MENSI: Come of the track. to pack the band in and Upstarts were everything was telling nothing were GLYNN: If he had said a which was good of him-diary. We kept in 1986; who's soft.

TO GET BACK AT AUTHORITY into it, "the group befored to the unitable for that lad. I thought he was really MOND: No. we has. Eirl' he told me. He wess a liar.

Williols AND 'POLICE OPPRESSION' TO GET BACK AT AUTHORST STORE AT A COME by, we knew MOND: No, we just played

ng sarlier, maybe we could have helped him.

prison men, Sucking discol. It's a "DID THE SCREWS LET THE PRISONERS ESSNESS." When do you think it is, a Yukaing dis

sheepskin coat don't believe you ask and world who haven't had the pleasure of my body.

GITHN: I'd just like to go abroad because it's different, it would be a m.
"MENSI, IF YOU EVER HAD TO GIVE UP MUSIC WOULD YOU GO BACK DOWN THE MINES?" 's the only thing I know. noc MENSI: I hate it when you go down The Marquee and kids come up to buy them a drink and when you tell them you aint got no money they d on the dole. It's not much, you get it Friday, it's gone by Sunday. COMPANY? the kids are most probably getting more thing I really miss is the money, well put it thi four suits and a 1600 GT Capri, but I used to wor "DO YOU GET A SET WAGE RACH WEEK FROM THE MECORD Teah, I suppose so, it's good money, it' Sometimes I get very cynical with the kids

it would be a nice holiday

to realise that there are so many girls in this

dirty, I've got this good

MENSI: I wish we could, you'll have to see Tony Gordon about that.

The girls over there are really

Iou've got

MENSI: Teah! The gi

tutti essere nati neri. Non ho niente contro i neri ma sono orgoglioso di essere bianco. Ma le cose in questo paese sono che se tu sei orgoglioso di essere inglese e bianco, sei

No. Pursey's into what he's into. I hope he does well it's great when you're unemployed like Jim is to have

though, have you heard his new album

DRUMMER

PROSPECTIVE NEW

THE UPSTARTS INTERVIEW

DOT

WENSI Si solo non under the beat of the be

We like to the Edds, THEER OVERHEADS ARE HIGH, AS THEY HAVE TO LIVE DOWN HERE, MENSI ALSO "THE UPSTARTS ARE HARD UP, MOND STILL USES THE SAME AMPS AND CABS HE STARTED WITH LAST TOUR cheating amount to record with. ON THEIR recording and good records pe progressing and we'd CLYNN ADDS THAT THE WHOLE BACK LING IS PALLING TO PIECES. COULD DO IT CHEAPER AND SAVE A BIT FOR YOURSELF." The company (E.M.I.) give us a certain studios available to make a good record but we wouldn't be NEEDS PETROL FOR HIS GRANADA." LOST £2000. the best MENSI: MENSI. Si, è solo una moda, la maggior parte di essi non sono realmente nazi. Il pub dove noi beviamo ha certa gente del NF e BM ma qualcuno dei loro amici sono neri. Si Non dovresti vergognarti di essere inglese e bianco, che è un altra cosa che il Socialist Work Party cerca di dirti. È come se la tua colpa sia di essere nato bianco, avremmo potuto

GLYNN:

KENSI: GLTNIN: BUT MOND IS RIGHT INTERVIEW FINISHED WITH MENSI IMPERSONATING JIMMY PURSEY, IT FOR THE KIDS." HAVE DONE "THE PHEY



Da un intervista apparsa su "CABLE STREET BEAT REVIEW" il notiziario di "CABLE STREET BEAT" oganizzazione inglese contro il fascismo. L'intervista risale all'89/ 90 circa, dopo i fatti del "Main Event 88" concerto in cui i nazi attaccarono gli Angelic e dopo che parteciparono alla marcia , pichetto e concerto organizzato appunto da "Cable Street Beat" cotro il fascismo e la sua penetrazione negli ambienti musicali.

CSB. Pensi che la ragione per cui gli Skinheads sono considerati come Fascisti e Razzisti è perché la sinistra li ha lasciati soli avendo un orientamento di middle class (piccola media borghesia, studenti), mentre l'ala di destra, il National Front, gli Skrewdriver, ecc, si sono a loro rivolti?

MENSI.Tu hai già detto qualcosa nella domanda, se tu guardi la mia situazione, bene, io non mi sono considerato mai un comunista sebbene i fascisti lo pensano, sono stato

rinnegato dall'ala di destra, gioventù bianca, non è vero?

io non ero d'accordo con tutto ciò che essi dicevano, se tu guardi alla trendy left (sinistra fichetta), non puoi incolparmi per il mio passato. Io vengo dai colletti blu, ho delle radici

Così io ero odiato da entrambe le fazioni. Ti spiego, Io avevo buone ragioni per essere odiato da un campo, ma sono sicuro che queste non erano delle giuste ragioni... Perchè proletarie. Non c'è nessuno scheletro nella mio armadio universario io ho lasciato la scuola a 15 anni senza aver dato neanche un esame, livello 0, affanculo tutto.

Honour come out with all that stuff about Race and I've had a bad experience, I've had to leave pubs because they're in the pub and I know I'm gonna be beaten up 'cos of what I think. So I think, jus CSB. You know how Skrewdriver and Blood and Class, what do you think White kids stand to gain Nation, and say they're for the White Working by opposing Fascism? get into the cunts.

of mind? I'll tell you what one of the gains is, is to be able to walk round the streets and live in this so mirror to look into, OI was the result tattooed onto MENSI. Do you mean by material gains or peace called democracy and being able to say what you IO (this refers to one bright member of the Master by a load of fucking loons with shaved heads and Race who tried tattoo OI onto his forehead using think. Without getting the shit kicked out of you their foreheads. That's one fucking thing.

What he wants to be, he wants to be a star ya know couldn't make it on the Skinhead alone bandwagor He's got the backing of the fasc' but I'm sure if he basically, if you look into Ian I'm sure you'll find Blacks and Gays" but they don't tell you what'Il happen once they get rid of the Blacks and Gays. the supreme capitalist at heart, not just a fascist. MENSI. Well, let's get Ian into perspective. push their politics. They push "Were against He couldn't make it on the Punk bandwagon,

CSB. Well, with Skrewdriver, they don't really

CBS. Do you think that the reason Skinheads are driver tec. has appealed to them, the Left has just left them alone, 'cos it's middle class orientated? portrayed as Fascists and Racists is because the Left, whereas the Right Wing the N>F> SkrewMENSI. You just something there, if you look at me, right, I've never considered myself as a Comrrendy left, you can't fault my background. I came left school when I was 15 with no exams, O Levels, owned by the Right Wing, white youth, wasn't I? had good reason to be hated by one camp, but I'm from pure blue collar, Working Class background. There's no skeletons in my University cupboards, munist, although, the fasc' think I am, I was disagree with everything they said if you look at the So I was like, hated from both camps. I mean, I sure I didn't have any reason ... because I didn't

thing against Fascism? them, always, all the time as far as I can remember always been there, in small numbers . I hasten to add, always in small numbers. But the audience Then they seemed to die away a bit but they've Have you had much trouble before that? B There's always been run ins with

bullshit ya know. whole thing and when it came to it was, like, locals downhill? the fighting, fighting against them and no one came them, there was me and this roadie, basically doing selves and there's instances at Blackpool, Oldham, which is like Skrewdrivers homegrown Blackpool, back, basically. I mean there's instances at the 100 know, well not attack them but fight back, that was steam a couple of kids and everybody shits themversus outsiders and things, not down to politics. when we were verbally attacked. I mean it must have it must have been 99% of the audience on to our aid. The same at Oldham happened when Spain or Germany, and fucking attack them, ya our side but when it came to physically fighting there was very few of them but the spoiled the never seem to join up like they do abroad, like club I remember where there's 4 or 5 of them the wrong word attack them, but fight

A Why do you think fascists follow The Upstarts. Do you think it's because of the music and they Strange, the whole situation.

stood by the press, and at one point even described as fascist, they have remained firmly committed to

Upstart" and "Teenage Warning" and have proreggae.Lyrically,their songs are very strong, and

gressed into a variety of styles such as

than most other bands around today. They have

street-level socialism which is far more sussed produced many classic songs such as "I'm an

ing bands from punks early days. Often misunder-

The Angelic Upstarts are one of the best surviv-

SOUTH AFRICAN PUNK BAND VEWS, REVIEWS AND MORE!

know. I mean I dislike Newcastle, but I couldn't go to watch them because I dislike them, ya know, it's 'ucking weird, I can't explain it, I don't know why upsets them, they certainly listen to the lyrics. It's A Do you know why they single out The Upstarts cnow what we're about. I mean I couldn't go to 'ucking hate Mensi". I find it strange when they B They listen to the lyrics because that's what something I've never been able to explain you know.Like if you ask them what think of The Jpstarts, they say "We like the music, but we Sunderland if I fucking hated them ya they come. Maybe they come for the hope of beating someone up, which they like to do. don't listen to the lyrics? watch

London gigs, the Upstarts will soon be playing for

sincerity. Following trouble at their two previous

are made up of faith, hope, anger, love and

hatred, but above all, a great deal of

stopped for performing a by a bunch of dickheads Cable Street Beat, where they will soon be playing

for Cable Street Beat, where they will not be

specially with the police thing. I had a lot of run ins

B Well, mainly it was from personal experience,

A How did The Upstarts first get started?

claiming to be the master race.

with the police and the police thing also led to the

political things, there is really strong links be-

tween the police and the severe right - wing

following, vast security, mebbe that's it, I don't' .. I don't see any of his lyrics of the sort' I mean Bragg, why do they single you out.

of 'em, they're out and out. They supported things like Greenpeace, they always had a Nazi following Madness fans were Nazis, that's what you got to get over. They're still just a minority. But that doesn't mean that all

CSB. What about all the trendy lefties and those

trendies baffle you with their words, ya know what them and I've been physically fighting them since The fucking MENSI. Well that's bullshit, cos I actually fought ever, doesn't mean 'cos they've read Das Kapital we fucking started. That's shit, they wanna get fucking happens. I've got as little time for them I mean, 'cos they can quote Karl Marx or whatoff their fucking arses and come and see what and gone into the economics of how it ... it's cunts as I have for the fasc' ya know.

CSB. What do you think about Oi, now it's gone

famous one is bands who say "You shouldn't bring politics into music" but it's alright to Sieg Hiel and MENSI. Downhill???, that's a fucking soft word Arthur Scargill's good they say "Look, you fucker, you shouldn't bring your politics into music" As long as you agree with their politics it's alright to say what you like but anything they canna underbe a fucking Nazi and hate Niggers, hate Queers to describe it, I think it's totally polluted, it was infiltrated in the early days. Oi had a chance of being a really big youth movement and it was but that's not political you see. Anything like that's not political, but if you stand up and say infiltrated by the right, or people who say, the stand, you're fucked.

I'm sure ya know. But we don't want to give him

that could be a threat to us, or has been.

actually became famous he'd soon leave that behind and have his villa in Marbella and whatever too much credibility but he could start something

> broad scope innit, fascism. I mean we can't go and a threat to them they're gonna fucking kick the shit violence whatsoever but sometimes violence is the gonna come and kick the shit out of you, it doesn't matter if you don't oppose them and if you're not thought if everybody ... well, basically it's such a for the audience against them because they're not there should be is some sort of protection at gigs CBS. Why do you think people should oppose MENSI. I had me views on it years ago and I bash Rupert Murdoch can we but I think what in big numbers. It's difficult, I don't condone only way to deal with them fuckers. They're fascisn. - and how should they do it?

out of you 'cos of what you say or what you think what was dragged up in The Sun "cos I know some who, like, were out and out and says, never mind down to us, you look at a band like ' Madness,

mission impossible talking to them fuckers. So

know. Well, it's not hard, it's impossible, it's

things went off and they just sort of said to us,

'here we are'' ya know.

CABLE STREET

people who reckon the Upstarts never said any-

for attack. Rather than the Style Council or Billy

really know. Billy Bragg, but then he's not really a but this latest fucking stuff and that, prancing about B I ain't got a clue, mebbe the bands you mentioned, Paul Weller and that, have got such a vast he makes comments and I like some of his songs with Ginger it's a bit fucking off ya know. I still don't know. But then again it's not just

play then they've achieved their objective haven't

during the situation but its a bit fucking hard you

they>? I did try and talk to them at one point

knew what was going to happen, ya know, but the B I suppose, depending on which way you look at

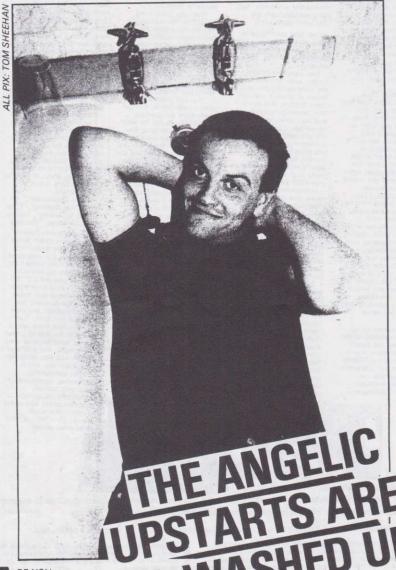
it, I brought it on myself. I mean I ... / t of half

other way is if you don't turn up, or you don't

A Going on to the right wing groups, what hap-

groups.

pened at the Astoria?



RE YOU a pop group . . . The Hotel Virago peers down an aristoctatic Concorde of a conk at the five young men in front of her like we're a six inch run in a brand new pair of silk stockings. "Because if you are," she continues in a voice not so much a touch pound note as straight out of a Sotheby's sales room, "you can't stay here. We've had a bit of, erhm, trouble with pop groups before.

I don't particularly fancy kipping on a Dundee street and a momentary panic grips me cerebrals. Mensi nowever doesn't bat an eye. 'Us, miss? No miss! I can "Us, miss? No miss! I cal honestly say we're not a pop group." A colossal 'butter wouldn't melt between my legs' smile spreads over his kisser. "That's one thing we're

not."
Bodicea's soon swayed Bodicea's soon swayed by his stable boy charm (Mensi writes in my note book) and room keys are distributed, but the good spirits engendered by a hazardous car ride from Dumfries and this latest coup soon take a dive when Mensi bells Warners for the

week's chart placing for the Upstarts seven-parts-superb second album 'We've Gotta Get Out Of This Place'.

second album "We've Gotta Get Out of This Place". Following in the feeble footsteps of the single of the same name, the album's dropped a not-so-sweet 16 placings down to number 70, after realising a high of 54. Not exactly the stuff maroon Corniche convertibles are made of. Mensi goes spare. "They promised us big displays, big promotion, everything," he snarls, "and what did we get? Fuck all. Warners gave up on us after "Im An Upstart", every time we've had a single chart after that they've been surprised. We put a single out, right, and the fans buy it into the charts and then nothing. the fans buy it into the charts and then nothing. There's no push when it's needed. Look at the way EMI have got behind the Rejects. Well you can print this: WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW COMPANY..." he softens up slightly. "Warners don't believe us." Other things conspire to suggest that Warner and his brother and the other.

brother and the other powers-that-be in the Angelic Upstarts universe have given up on the band.First there was my comedy of errors journey to Dumfries with the world's only sane snapper, Tom Sheehan. We arrived in Glasgow on schedule at six only to find the next train to only to find the next train to Dumfries went at ten past ten and arrived several pints after closing time. If trusty Tom hadn't shelled out 45 quid for a cab we'd have got to the gig as the cleaners were leaving.

OT THAT the gig itself was organised that much better than the Yanks' rescue raid on Iran. The Stagecoach venue is in the middle of nowhere, the Upstarts were playing its first ever Monday night gig and weren't due on till 11.30. In other words as long as you didn't have work or school in the long as you didn't have work or school in the morning and had a car or cab money or bottle enough to hitchhike home it was hunky dory. 25 spikeys made it and savoured every sweaty second, but for a band who can generate enough power on stage to light up the Blackpool Golden Mile for the summer season it just didn't seem

OH YEAH? SEZ GARRY BUSHELL To top the lot through lack of suss, or managerial pressure, or even through pure spite, the tour sees the pure spite, the tour sees the band playing kharzies and bus stops throughout the week and nowhere Fridays and Saturdays. Sensible, huh?

Some pop performers, y'know ones that give the impression they don't go to bed at nights, they just nail bed at nights, they just nail themselves up on a cross, would have used the string of misfortunes surrounding the Angelics since last summer to turn this feature into a moan-a-minute guide to modern day punk martyrdom. Thankfully Mensi is too much of a fighter and a joker for that. Throughout the

Throughout the Stagecoach gig he was cracking funnies like 'Sunderland la-la-la' and 'Sunderland la-la-la' and
'Stand back and let the girls
see me, fucking hell, I'm
good looking'. I didn't know
whether to ring up Hughie
Green or Hammer Horror
films.
Honestly he's got a face
like a sack of potatoes. A
Marplan survey I
compriseinged at the far

commissioned at the far better attended Dundee gig

CONTINUES **NEXT PAGE** 

## **UPSTARTS**

revealed that 20 per cent of the audience thought he was 'ugly', 25 per cent 'very ugly', 15 per cent didn't know, and 38 per cent thought he was 'a muppet' (of the two per cent who found him 'okay' two were relatives and one was holding a white stick). No wonder he was reduced to squeezing drummer Stix's knyber and remarking "I'm only here for the queer."

Yet this blight on the name of humanity has got the nerve to claim that yours truly is the paper bag job! Minutes after me and Tom arrived at the Stagecoach, Mensforth was reciting lyrics from a song he claims will he the hand's

SOUNDS Page 21

1980

Stagecoach, Mensforth was reciting lyrics from a song he claims will be the band's next b-side, "The Man Who Came in From The Beano'—"Look at Plug's face, it's comic strip/It can't be true look at that lip/Oh no, oh no, it's that man from Sounds' Garry Bushell, the working man's clown'. And this about a man who, if the MME is to be-believed, has made this band what they are today. Bah.

stuffed full of references to an alleged resemblance allegar resemblance between me and the legendary cartoon character and was taken up mostly with a battle of wits between my good self and the obviously insane Mensforth who, you may not know, was actually the inspiration for Desmond Morris's best seller 'The Naked Ape'.

Tuesday morning, six of us squeeze into the sardine tin comfort of a hired Leyland Princess. Mond takes the wheel as if he's driving a Formula One at Le Mans for a chaotic journey to Dundee, pausing only for a walk-about in Edinburgh so Mensi can search between me and the

to Dundee, pausing only for a walk-about in Edinburgh so Mensi can search unsuccessfully for a Scotland soccer strip to wear at the gig tonight, which me and him eventually locate in Dundee after the hotel debacle. Clutching the ghastly garb like a villain grabs a bag of swag, the finally placated Mensi is easily persuaded to settle down in a near-by nosherie for a natter. Tommy Mensforth is 23. A big powerful man with manic eyes and a quick-fire grin. He wears his hair

sports boots, jeans and a denim jacket over a Lonsdale sweat shirt. All Lonsdale sweat shirt. All this conspires with his Desperate Dan chin stubble to suggest he's the sort of shithead who'd smack you in the mouth soon as look at you.

in the mouth soon as look at you.

The impression belies the constant quip on his lip and his own deep and genuine humanity, a real sense of right and wrong that fuels his committed championship of youth and working people — so many worlds away from the play-time rebellion' of the McCullough/Wough Twade axis. He still coughs up coal dust from the three years he spent down the pit following in father's footsteps. footsteps.

On stage Mensi is transformed into an avenging fury, all passionate protest and rightful wrath. At times his face twists into expressions that'd guarantee his enemies sleepless nights for years. Mensi's lyrics, charisma, and, yeah sod it, message combined with Mond's sledgehammer guitar make the Upstarts one of the hardest, realest and rockingest groups transformed into an and rockingest groups going. As far as I'm concerned them and the Rejects personify punk rock

Rejects personify punk rock in every way I ever understood it. Every time I hear Billy Idol singing 'Wild Youth' I crease up, y'know. That's why I've been so perplexed about their recent track record, never more so than with the single, 'Never 'Ad Nothin', that had everything going for it, power, choon, punching hooks, and heartfelt lyrics which to me summed up the which to me summed up the mood of the late Seventies/Eighties generation of kids raised for the dole queues and dead end jobs and desperately searching for a way out. And yet it wasn't the monster hit that it deserved to be and that would have elevated the band's status overnight to something approaching the importance of what they could and should still become. mood of the late

> CONTINUES PAGE 50



oddnug mettere ordine

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con

Bell

per

Maggio

canzone

# **UPSTARTS**

OTS OF THINGS onspired to ruin things. A virtual airplay ban caused by the 'controversy' of the lyrics. The difficulty in getting gigs their reputation had seen to. The indifference of a mainly visibility learn modifier. middle class media mainlining on masturbatory mind-games. The lack of push, planning and foresight from the people supposedly engaged in 'breaking' the band. All this and more set the band into a downward spiral that's still dogging their every step and that recently enabled one out-toiddle class media recently enabled one out-to lunch IPC hack to paint lunch IPC hack to paint them as manipulated bit-players in a rapidly failing farce. Anyone else would have jacked it all in. Not Mensi. "Awl, I do get depressed," he confides aptly munching on a fairy cake, "but there's gotta be a light at the end of the tunnel. I believe we are a

a light at the end of the tunnel. I believe we are a band who stands for something worthwhile. For punk rock, which is a form of working class rebellion, a way of making kids think a bit more, the way the Sex Pistols made me think. "And there's still plenty to rebel about. We've just written a brilliant song, 'Last Night Another Soldier', about Northern Ireland and

about Northern Ireland and the pointlessness and waste of young working class kids getting killed over there. We've still got something to

say.
"And they say punk's

can it be when there's new blood all the time? Even last m kids really d it. I dunno why I enjoyed it. I dunno wny i get depressed, that's what it's all about. And I think it's realer now than ever. The Pistols turned out to be a bunch of wankers and so many of the others were posers. Now you've got us, and the Rejects are up there

fuel to the fire

in the limelight adding more

fuel to the fire ..."
But what about the people who reckon you aren't getting any message over? That you and the kids are just being duped by Sounds to sell papers? "Listen, we must be getting across because we're getting asked on a programme in Newcastle called Friday Live next month to talk about police violence and to play. For us month to talk about police violence and to play. For us to play in Newcastle is practically unheard of. We're also doing a programme called Airight Now in June, and Something Else later on, talking about violence so we must be getting through to somebody. Sounds were just the only ones who recognised us as ones who recognised us a a real punk band, and me being unbelievably good-looking."

CRINGE AND consider the trouble with the filth that's followed the Upstarts since their pig's head beginnings, the band's championship of the Liddle Towers case, their constant tracing with the run-ins with the Northumbrian police, and their greatest triumph

playing to a grateful crowd

playing to a grateful crowl of convicts inside Ackrington Prison. We share a bitter laugh about the recent Liddle Towers repeat with the Jimmy Kelly verdict — the poffee claimed that Kelly's ribs were broken while the were trying to revive him and the croust believed and the court believed them. I wonder if the band have had less trouble with the rozzers since moving down to Wood Green la year

You're joking, Now "You're joking. Now
listen, I'm no angel, I've got
a record as long as your
arm" — for nicking close or
50 cars in '73 and GBH on
an Iranian student who

an Iranian student who pulled a knife on him in '76 — 'but every time I've done a crime and I've got caught I admit it and take the rap. But the other night in Wood Green I got nicked because of me accent.' Mensi is outraged. 'The sight before Sunderland har because of me accent."
Mensi is outraged. "The
night before Sunderland had
played Chelsea and some
Sunderland lads had
smashed the window of this
Kebab place. I was walking
d'own the road talking with
some lads and the cops
heard me accent and said I
was the bloke who did it.
said leave it out and went to
walk on and this copper hit
me in the face and kicked
into the car. I've been into the car. I've been clipped and slapped by the polis before but never punched.

The case comes up on May 1. I'm reminded of the last court case the band were involved with, the 'Shooters In South Shields' kerfuffle that led to Mensi's brother-in-law and the band's former manager Keith Bell both getting sent nd's former manage

Bell was a self-confessed 'former gangster' whose reputation was enough to maintain order at the band's early chaotic gigs in South Shields and surrounds. But Bell's relations with the band were never really

happy. One time he locked them all in a room and tol them to write a song supporting the IRA. They

refused.
Last year they drifted further apart and eventually the band sacked him in favour of Sham's manager Tony Gordon. Bell didn't take redundancy lightly. He and his cronies engaged in a campaign of terror against Mensi's family, including threatening his mother, smashing her windows, and burning down Mensi's sister's stable containing a horse and equipment worth horse and equipment worth over 4,000 quid.

over 4,000 quid.
In response Mensi's brotherin-law and others paid Belly a midnight visit with a sawn-off shotgun in the course of which one of Bell's henchmen got shot in the legs. The story is immortalised in 'Shotgun Solution', and Keith Bell is seeing four-and-a-half years' worth of porridge in Durham Jail.

Says Mensi: "I wish I'd

Durham Jail.
Says Mensi: "I wish I'd
never seen his face now. All
that crap about him keeping
the peace at our gigs. He
used to start half the
trouble, him. The only time
I ever felt threatened was at
Wolverhampton" (when NF
supporters smashed up an
Upstarts gig last June) "and
then he got smashed to upstarts gig last Juner "and then he got smashed to fuck. Outside his own territory he couldn't live off his reputation and that's what he's found in Durham. He hurt a lot of people,

following of some of his hardcore skin following by aligning himself with RAR, although like me, he now finds himself totally disillusioned with not only RAR but the left-wing parties in deneral. es in general

parties in general.

"The only good thing about Ska," he reckons, "is that it's done what the Anti-Nazi League couldn't, but I dunno. It's getting really hard for me to distinguish between Labour and Tories now — they all grind you down. And the SWP are a fuckin' joke, they never talk about real issues.

fuckin' joke, they never talk about real issues.

"But half these BM kids aren't really Nazis. A lot of them have got grudges against blacks but for most of them it's just gang war, with skin-colour instead of areas, except the blacks are a lot more together, and the BM kids are looking for an identity. They're being used by peofle who aren't working class and who are against the working class."

The gig at Dundee Marryat Hall is a perfect conclusion to my sojurn

Marryat Hall is a perfect conclusion to my sojurn with the band. There are ten times as many punters here tonight as the night before, and all of them make like they've got electric eels up their backsides for the duration and have to be held back from the stage by a row of from the stage by a row of linked-arms.

Mensi, the wild-eyed boy from South Shields, feeds from South Shields, feeds off their frenzy and roars out his pain and his protests, seemingly growing bigger and wilder before our eyes and eliciting huge cheers from the crowd when he puts down Thatcher or the BM.

To his left stands Mond, stock-still and statuesque dealing out heavy layers of

dealing out heavy layers of

helped put 'em inside, and now he's been done over twice and they've had to put him on Rule 43."

IKE SHAM, last year Mensi tried to argue against the fascist inclinations and/or fashion-fast, furious, frenetic guitar while little Stix keeps the beat, hidden at the back, and new boy Doncaster Glyn Warren, veteran of Decca Wade's post-Upstarts big-in-Yorkshire band the Kickstarts, looks just a shade nervous, though he's got less cause to worry here than he did at his debut at the Wood Green Lordship rubadub three weeks ago. Right now the band are playing better than they ever have before. They've elbowed all the dodos IKE SHAM, last year

elbowed all the dodos (except 'Can't Explain' ripoff newie 'Capital City' which ain't a lot of bottle) and hit just about as hard as

SOUND and hit just about as hard as good old King Arthur's Flying Pickets. 'Police Oppression', 'Never Had Nothing', 'Their Destiny Is Coming', 'Lonely Man', 'Upstarts,' 'Teenage Warning', 'Liddle Towers' and as many others again, testify to their power and importance. I've only seen one other band come near to tonight's gig this year and that was the C\*\*\*\*\* R\*\*\*\*\*\*. And once more I'm convinced that these two bands do stand for two bands do stand for something fresh and new and vital and alive. That they are Real Punk bands. Probably the first of a new kind of band because they aren't hype, and they aren't rendy, and they really do walk it like they talk it. They're exhilarating, frightening, aggressive, optimistic, spirited, optimistic, spirited, meaningful, dangerous, a right evil racket and above all pure rock and roll energy, pure 100 per cent proof rebel music.

scrivere gio 1980 - pro-reputazione era sufficente r loro di disse a circondario. stanza e la cui r una nel gangster Shieldse 5 loro rifiutarono.. tutti Upstarts uscuo su che una volta era un rinchiuse South E. Una volta band dire della Angelic Inutile ammette felici. concerti realmente IT.R.A. Bell caotici mananger supportasse erano primi H non . 2

Articolo intervista sui 4-SKINS apparso SOUNDS 4 Giugno 1983

Roi (Pearce ex Last Resort) "Ma Tom ha ragione, nessuno ha dato una chance all'Oi! dopo Southall." Perchè insistete sempre su questo punto "Perchè noi?" domanda Tom. "Noi sapevamo di non essere in errore. No non eravamo politicizzati e non lo saremo mai. Ogni bands che si allinea con ogni partito politico sarà usata e abusata, questo vale tanto per i Redskins quanto per gli Skrewdriver."

IS A STATE

."Noi non faremo mai parte di cose come R.A.R. perchè la gente intorno a esso è Trotskysta e non vogliamo avere niente a che fare con i politicanti..

'In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is King' - H. G. Wells

OU'VE READ in history's pages of heroes of great fame, the deeds they've done, the battles won, and how they made their names. But have you ever paused to consider the crucial contributions of one-eyed men to the chronicles of civilisation?

Men with two good eyes have always conspired to play down e importance of these cyclopic dare-devils, but the facts speak

the importance of base cycles.
Think of Nalson, King Herold at Hastings, Moshe Deyan, and Talcy Malcy eat yer heart out) any self-respecting pirate you could name, not to mention Van Gogh Ia deviationist), retired 4be2 Jimmy Lydon, and that bloke with the eye-patch in Doctor

Objective experts have no doubt of the historical significance of

Objective experts have no doubt of the historical significance of these uni-visionaries, which is why many social scientists welcome the growing cult following of Roi 'The Boi 'Pearce, the new one-eyed singer with the 4-Skins.

Already Roi's been joined by the equally monocular roadie Ade which has fuelled speculation that the 4-Skins could become a rallying point for every one-eyed man in Britain, like Flann O'Brien's one-legged tee-leaf in The Third Policeman.

Noted commentator Robbi Millar has already seconded the Nelson comparison, adding, unkindly, that the best place for Roi would be atop a twenty foot pillar surrounded by pigeons. Beefy bassist Hoxton Tom McCourt agrees, claiming the band only recruited Roi because he's 'the upliest geezer we know.'' 'You can talk, you've got a face like a beg of harmners,'' Roi retorts, 'We call Tom Herman Munster,' he informs me, ''and did you know he's obsessed with queer pubs? Ring pieces are his speciality.''

speciality."

Hoxton's hitherto-unknown Halfinesque interests are disclosed in a (non-gay) Shoreditch boozer just round the corner from the new line-up's rehearsal rooms. An ear-bashing hour of their raw and rowdy rumblings was enough to convince me of the accuracy of Jerry Harris's recent live review of the band. The 4-Skins now are the hottest they've been for years. Roi's voice, once likened to the growd of a grizzly gargling sulphuric acid, is like an even nastier version of the legendary Hodges holler.

17 year old guitarist Paul 'George' Swain supplies suitably punchy rhythm chords while 16 year old lan Branson hits the sticks with a dexterity that belies his tender years, and the bass, as Roi says, is "as fat as 'Oxton."

Tom is convinced of their future prospects as the ugliest band in the world. Certainly punters in Nottingham, Wanchester and Birmingham (where black skins mixed with white skins, punks and herberts, just like at the band's early Hackney gips) seem to have appreciated their provess, even though stories of a romance between Roi and Bucks Fizz's Cheryl when they stayed at the same Manchester hotel are, surprisingly, without foundation. According to one source hotel waitresses didn't know whether to serve the younger band members or give 'em ten pee. Hoxton's hitherto-unknown Halfinesque interests are disclosed

Back in Shoreditch, the gigs seem to have recharged the band's self-confidence which has taken some severe knocks over the past two years. Yeah, I'm talking about the unavoidable stigme of Southall which has seen every music biz door slammed shut in their faces.

My views on the subject are well enough aired already. But to me, the fact that the 4-Skins are still going, and still maintaining a political neutrality while all around them extremes of skinhead opinion become ever more pronounced and polarised, backs up their belief that they were stitched up.

"We were treated very shabbily by the media," says Tom who's nobody's fool.
"The only papers who geve us anything like a fair hearing were

"We were treated very shabbily by the media," says Tom who's nobody's fool.

"The only papers who gave us anything like a fair hearing were The Times and The Guardian. The gutter press coverage was just farcical. You get all these great left-wingers like at the Punk Debate slagging down the media but they all believed the media about us because in fitted their stereotype ideas." It's like bands like Conflict slag down fascism but when it comes to fighting fascists like with the Falklands suddenly it was 'Thatcher's War'. Well, it weren't, it was us fighting fascist aggression." "It's like if we'd disarmed before the Second World War, we wouldn't have been able to have stopped Hitler," opines Roi. "But Tom's right, no one gave Di a chance after Southall." Why didn't you give up? "Why should we?" demands Tom. "We knew we weren't in the wrong. We weren't political then and we never will be. Anyone in a band who aligns themselves with any political party is being used and abused, that goes for the Redskins as well as Skrewdriver."

OLITICALLY, THE 4-Skins aren't the most left-wing of the Oi bands which isn't to say they're right-wing. In contrast to Mensi or Gal Johnson's socialism, Tom proffers a bardened cynicism which saw him praised by the Apostles after the punk debate as "the sanest street punk spokesman since Mark Perry".

At the election he's voting Liberal. When he says thirty years of Labour councils in Hackney haven't done the people there much good, I haven't got an answer. Labour in power have pissed on the people, but I still think they're the lesser of three evils. .

Tom's only wider 'social' involvement, aside from the highly commedable Campaign For More Meet, are the gigs he organised for the Prisoners Rights Organisation, PROP.

"Jeot pissed off with people singing about it and not doing anything," he explains, "like the Clash and 'Bankrobber'. If you feel that strongly about something you should get off yer arse and back it up. I knew the geezers running PROP were straight. "We never did anything like RAR cos the people running that were Trotskyists and we won't get involved with politics. We wouldn't do CND either because I believe the bomb has stopped world war three. Indo-China, Suez, the Middle East all these might have escalated into something bigger if it wasn't for the bomb. I know it's unfashionable to say that but I ain't gonna change my views just to be trendy."

Unkindly dubbed 'Tommy Tonsils' cos of his awesome gift of

the gab, Tom is actually the opposite of the media image of the thick skinhaad. He's highly articulate with more O levels than me, a passion for sixties soul and a real affection for skin/suedehead

OF-

sartorial elegance.
He's also the only survivor of the band that played the Hamborough Tavern back in July '81. Since then the band have had more changes than the quards at Bluck House, with John 'tealeal' Jacobs, 'Rad Rockabilly' Steve Pear, Panther, Pete Abbot and Gary 'Hair Loss' Hodges Talling by the veyside, the latter for the dubious delights of following the Hammers full-time. Roi of course first found infamy with the Last Resort, while the spotty "young' uns" played in a Hatfield band called Criminal Damage, though sadly not at the Hilltop.
Both the 4-Skins and the Resort albums were let-downs, strong on good ideas but poorly produced. The new band reckon they've learnt from these mistakes. Now split from the infamous Scrooge-like Secret Records, they're planning on setting up their own label and taking total control of the production process. Their music still stands as a rowdy street punk alternative to thrash, consisting of powerful but melodic singalongs delivered at canter rather then a gallop with choruses you can latch on to. Bravely their current set is mostly all new numbers ("City Boy' and "Betrayed" being particularly strong) — no relying on former glories. "Wall you can 'the in the next' "says Tom "we're a new." He's also the only survivor of the band that played the

glories.
"Well you can't live in the past," says Tom, "we're a new band now and we've gotta get that over to people. We've got new songs coming all the time, there's no problem writing — twost problem's getting gigs."
"You know your 'Punk Is Dead' article," chirps up lan, "wel

"You know your 'Punk Is Dead' article," chirps up lan, "well, I think it was right. Bands like us have got no chance to play, the music's being killed off. We get banned but bands like the Anti-Nowhere League posing around in their leathers get all the gigs. "People care more about what people look like than the music they play. Think of bands like Black Flag, they've got some of the bast punk songs but they don't look 'right' so no one goes to see 'em. It's pathetic."

"We need another article like 'The New Breed' in Sounds," says 'Tom' 'That nave everything a kick up the arse before and

says Tom, "that gave everything a kick up the arse before and that's what's needed now, cos punk ain't about posing."

NEVITABLY AN air of nostalgia pervades the conversation with Roi and Tom bernoaning the passing of great punk a la Sex Pistols learly Clash, and Tom waxing eloquent about the good old Bridge House which put on the likes of the Rejects and 4-Skins with nary a punch-up to besmirch the atmosphere. "Still," says Roi, "at least on the tour we had punks and skins together with no trouble, that's what it's gotte be all about. I think the band's sounding really fresh, we've got loads of good new ideas. If only we could get a chance. ...! reckon we'd come through with the songs."

"If Ugly Rock ever takes off we're mede," says Tom returning to his favourite theme. And who am I, the world's most good-looking Charlton supporter, to argue with that? All I'll say is the new 4-Skins are definitely worth keeping an eye out for. Sorry, Roil

PAUL CASTLES goes down the pub (where else) to meet Tom Hoxton and his boys

Articolo e intervista sui 4 SKINS apparso sul mensile PUNK LIVE 1983. ... Che cosa dici sull'infiltrazione del National Front o British Moviment ai vostri concerti, che danno volantini e ogni tipo di altre cose. Tom: "Non vogliamo problemi con il NF, non vogliamo nessun Sieg Heil. Se c'è nè qualcuno noi sempre proviamo a fermarli. Ugualmente non vogliamo nessuno di sinistra che sventola i suoi libri rossi."... ...Quanto sono politicizzati i 4-Skins? Tom: "Noi siamo la politica della strada" parla con molto orgoglio. "Noi cantiamo sui ragazzi e le cose di tutti i giorni. Noi tutti pensiamo che dovresti essere capace di fare ciò che vuoi... ...Ian si inserisce: "Bands come i Crass e Conflict sono mischiate con la politica. Che cosa centra la politica con la musica?...

COLOUR PIC OF 4-SKINS

SOUNDS

1983

December 10,

1! WHATEVER happened to punk?' boasted the motif on Cock Sparrer's come-back gig posters. It's a riddle they return to on 'Where Are They Now', one of the tastiest tracks from their recently released debut album 'Shock Troops'

Neither question takes much answering. Rotten's a fat fraud. The Clash have long since sacrificed their fire and ire in the mire of Americana. Weller lost his bite. Poly Styrene lost her marbles. And the Dimmed stopped being funny long before Sensible was making silly money acting the prat on TOTPs.

Send no flowers — just suggestion cards that the survivors consider early retirement. that the survivors consider early retirement. There's only one thing more disgusting than rich geriatric has-been heroes and that's poor geriatric never-have-been zeros going through the motions. What's the odds James T. Pursey ends up topping the bill of the Butlins Festival of Punk, circa 1997?

circa 1997?
Punk and Oi should be left to rest in peace, as immaculate memories, beautiful failures. If you're good you'll make it on your merits—you don't need the herd or any secondhand word from the mount as crutches! You can't put your arms around a memory, so why try?
The shallow, reactionary magpie march that passes for punk in 1983 is all the proof you need. The 'punks' and that rotting fossil anthropologists call the Melody Maker deserve each other! It's just strange that Cock Sparrer should choose now to confuse the issue.

Sparrer should choose now to confuse the issue . . . . . And confuse it they do because 'Shock Troops' is a storming debut seriously out of time. In contrast to '83 punk' siglue-gunge metal they proffer tough tunes. They've got that '76 attitude, that insolence, instead of the '83 platitude of 'what can we do about it' defeatism. For them being working class means being quick and questioning — not thick and failed. Mobile not servile! It's the sort of record that stands the test of time, loaded with rock 'n' rolling gems made extra-special by Colin McFaull's immaculate modern day Marriott vocals. If it had come out in '76 it would have been rightly rated as a classic. In '79 it would have sold 60,000 UK copies. But in '83 this sort of record doesn't sell, this sort of record doesn't get airplay, this sort of band don't exist. Do they?

UCH PROFUNDITY strains my brain as I lurch towards a new and naughty nosherie called Bedside Manners that stands beneath that perpetual monument to property speculation, London's Centre Point. As. Jaws jackals will be aware, the Sparrer are wont to fritter their dinner hours away at this risque restaurant under the

watchful eye of nubile 'nurses' who double as

waitresses.

Although their banter might be more at home in a Carry On film than Angels, these scantily attired sirens are actually highly trained in medical skills. Scotch, vodka, gin whatever your affliction, these suspender-flashing samaritans can supply the medicati as well as liberal lashings of health checks, exercises, stiff remedies and, ahem, nurishments. punishments

By Norman and Fowler! 'Tis enough to

By Norman and Fowler! Tis enough to harden the resolve of any ace reporter.

Despite my well-known aversion to the slightest suspicion of foul sexism, I'd agreed to meet Sparrer at this den of infirmity to celebrate Razzle, sorry, Razor Records' final release of the aforementioned LP.

I find the infamous five pleased as punch with the platter but pissed off with the prats who'd polluted their recent Fulham Greyhound gig...

The 400 strong audience were already

The 400 strong audience were already dragging their sweaty Fred Perrys through the exit doors when it happened. A shabby, seedy and above all small jackal pack of bone-headed mugs who'd been skulking round the fringes of the gig all night invaded the empty stage to holler their fascist fifth over the mikes. A PA consequent the right to a Navos his garafform. geezer who tried to salvage his gear from pollution was hospitalised.

pollution was hospitalised.
It's hard to emphasise exactly how easily
Sparrer could deal with such dolts, how simple
it doe for them to get hardened Poplar and
WHUFC stalwarts to steward their gigs.
But then as burly Col says, "Who needs all
that hassle? Who wants a bloodbath when
they go out to enjoy themselves for an
evening? Y'know we never had any trouble at
our gigs in '77."
Like the way they trashed Sham account.

our gigs in '77."
Like the way they trashed Sham, scuppered Skurx and harassed the Specials, the nazis shave ruined it for kids who just wanted to go to Sparrer's shows for a laugh. The Hun-loving scum have done for skinheads what Profumo did for Conservative respectability. "Now Sparrer will NEVER play London again," Colin says slowly. "Let's hope they're satisfied."

again, Loins says slowly. "Let's hope they're satisfied."

And all the while I'm thinking: could this be more proof that Sparrer are out of time?

"So this is how we got these ideas for the pictures," demon drummer Steve 'Spider' Bruce shrugs as the nurses wrap his limbs in bandages. "Alright — you win! Sparrer surrender — no more London gigs."

Despite their obvious disappointment, being Sparrer there's no way depression can discolour our conflab for long.

"I sin't saying we're running away from trouble," Spider grins, "but what's the fastest thing on ten legs' Cock Sparrer!"

"What's your ambittion?" cracks Col. "To get through a London gig!"

"Fave car?" Spider chuckles. "A chieftain tank!"

Ah, the old spirit-of-the-Blitz humour that's carried our heroes through the unluckiest punk story of them all.
In '76, Sparrer were one of the most exciting

betwee Pursey did.
When they reformed last year, their combeck single, the great singalong soupcon of patriotic populism 'England Belongs To Me', instantly got them labelled "fascist".
Despite all evidence to the contrary the wittless liberal middle class powers-that-be (the likes of whom were so wonderfully summed up by Gilbert & Sullivan in those Mikado lines: 'The idiot who praises with enthusiastic tone/All centures but this, every country but his own') made two and two equa entry but his own ) made two and two equal a 1,000 year Reich.

They re just an Oi band whose intentions are good, oh Lord, please don't let them be misunderstood . . .

of punk's rising roll-call. But dubious contracts

and a soon regretted management deal (which followed their rejection of McLaren's patronage) messed up their first shots at fame and they broke up in April '78 just a year before the second wave of the Ruts, Skids, Subs and Upstarts had cracked TOTPs and just months

ere Pursey did.

AZZLE RECORDS supremo Robin
Gaisechs buries his head in his hands as
the tipple bill sores into triple figures.
Sparrer drink like there's a danger of
dehydration setting in. Whereas Mitchellite
sophisticates drink fine wine, Sparrer insist on
works by the bottle. tha by the bottle.

wodka by the bottle.

As they greedily guzzle the buckshee booze, we're joined by nurse Clair, a cross between Florence Nightingale and Fiona Richmond, who plonks herself on Spider's lap observing that he's "far to genteel to play in a punk band" before enquiring whether quiet axeman Chris Skepis is also a member.

"He's Brazilian," explains Spider, "he knows no better."

Skeps is also a member.

"He's Brazilian," explains Spider, "he knows no better."

In fact he's from San Paulo, a veteran of Brazil nuts Fickle Pickle (no jest).

Even funnier, his equally new guitar pardner Shug (Colin: "Real name Shirley") O'Neill previously strummed six strings for Glaswegian band the Casualties.

As Spider says, "You can't fight fate."

This line-up came together in July this year. Chris was recruited from an ad he'd placed in the guitar emporium of Herbert hero and band spiritual guide King Chap. He played on the album alongside veteran axe grinder Micky Beaufoy who's since departed due to pressures of wife and work.

An ad was slipped into Sounds and spikey Scot Shugs was signed up just twe weeks afore the relaunched Sparrer's first gig. Acceeding to Spider he thought he was joining Jock Sparrer.

"It's their lyrics that persuaded me to join," reveals Shugs, who's a shade more intense than the chipper Cockney chaps. "Especially Working', which is so true to life, and 'Watch Your Back', which although it seems like it's just anti-nazi is anti-Communist as well. It could apply to WRP as well as the BM ..."

In case you hadn't guessed, whereas chief lyricist Steve Burgess is a common sense Continues page 21

Continues page 21

From page 18

socialist, Shugs adhers to the Conflict-style

"left equals right' theory...

Amiable bassist Burgess unveils two hot
new sets of lyrics which are being recorded for
the next single even as you read this — a well
justified jibe at The Sun in The Sun Says' and
'Prisoners Of Conscience' — "Which," says
Steve. "is about Amnesty International which
is really worth supporting. Here you can go on
a CND march and no-one gives a toss.

Amnesty International deal with people in
countries who protest and get put inside..."

"The music got to me as well," says Shugs,
who's doing such a good PR job I'll just take a
back seat. "Most punk nowadays is really
boring and depressing with everyone just
trying to play as fast as possible. This album's
what punk should be like — It's alive."

But out of time?

"No way," Spider's certain, "we love it, this
is the sort of music I love playing — fast, loud
and tuneful. I done a wrong 'un being in a r&b
band for a while but I've learned my lesson."

"dunno about being too late," says Steve,
"maybe we're too early."

And there's a point — how long till the next
guts rock explosion?

"Punk has deteriorated — like the charts,"
Steve continues. "There's nothing about any
more for blokes like us, but how can we get
people to hear what we're dong? Everything
that gets played on Radio One now could be
played on Radio Two — and it is. Boy George,
buran Duran, it's music for your grannies,
there's nothing for the kids. In the seventies
there was Alice Cooper and Slade — but now
the music scene's really tame."

AYBE IT'D help if they were on a major — well clear of the indieworld's corrupt charts and less than spiffing distribution. Carrere, their original label, normally go through RCA distribution but RCA refused to touch Sparrer. (Steve: "The bloke there thought new wave was Haysi Fantayzee, obviously he was a complete idiot and he just couldn't handle anything like us"). Now they go through Razor and IDS.

and IDS.
Steve: "The Carrere/Razor situation is a bit like the US/UK alliance — no-one knows what the other side is up to."
I wondered if they thought 'England Belongs To Me' was, in retrospect, a ricket.
"Of course it wasn't a mistake," Spider's adamant, adding reasonably, "why shouldn't

we be proud of our own country?"

we be proud of our own country?"
"It's about time we got our flag back from these naz i bastards who are trying to drag it into the dirt," says Steve. "It's the flag of the British people, not a few hundred nazi idiots."
"It's a bit embarrassing for me," Shugs allows, "but then again I've got a mate who's called Trotsky 'cos he's so left-wing and it's like he was saying it's OK for the Irish, Welsh and Scots to be patriotic but if an Englishman's patriotic he's immediately accused of being a fascist."
"Originally the song was called 'Beissin'."

and Scots to be particite but if an Engissman a fascist."

"Originally the song was called 'Britain Belongs to Me'," Burgess reveals, "but the words didn't sound right.

"The thing about any nazi kids who came to see us," he continues," our attitude was it's better to try and change them from the inside than the outside. Maybe they'd buy the album and think about the lyrics — because we had a real fight to get those printed!"

"That's a much better attitude than the Specials and 'Racist Friend' which just said blank racists," opines Shugs. "What good's that? You've got to win the argument, not make bigger divisions."

Who would you cite as influences?

Steve: "It sounds so trite but it's gotta be the Clash. I've got the privilege of knowing Joe Strummer and I know he means what he says."

"How can he when he runs in the London marathon with a Sun t-shirt?" demands Shugs, who admits his past as a Creas fan even if he now finds them naive and out of touch with reality — unlike Conflict who he still has a lot of time for.

"We're the biggest anarchist band in the world mate," announces Spider.

"No I'm serious," says Shugs, "I'm doing more than Crass 'cos I'm up there playing in front of people they wouldn't have at their gigs."

"Anyone or any movement stick form all."

front of people they wouldn't have at their gigs."
"Anyone or any movement that's genuinely working class is gonna get stick from all sides," opines Steve, "you know that Gal, you've had your share. It's really easy being a left-wing rebel when you're Viscount Wedgewood-Benn or the NME because they ve got nothing to do with real people. They never get any comeback."
In my opinion Sparrer are the real thing. But to survive they'll have to break all links with gumbie punk, wintage '83, and go it alone. Ditch the camouflage and go for the terraces which is where they're from.

As rock'n roll bands go, they're one of the best.

Articolo e intervista ai COCK SPARRER su SOUNDS 10 Dicembre 1983. ."Naturalmente, non fu un errore", aggiunge Spider con parole dure, "Perchè non dovremmo essere fieri del nostro paese?"

"È da tempo che vogliamo riprenderci la nostra bandiera da questi bastardi nazi che stanno cercando di infangarla", dice Steve. "È la bandiera del popolo

brittanico, non quella di poche centinaia di nazi idioti". "È una cosa imbarazzante per me", Shugs spiega, "Ma poi, ho un amico chiamato Trotsky, è di sinistra e afferma che è giusto essere nazionalisti per un iraldese, un gallese e uno scozzese ma se un inglese è patriottico è immediatamente accusato di essere

"Originariamente la canzone era intitolata 'Britain Belongs To Me' ", rivela Burgess, " Ma le parole non suonavano bene". "per quanto riguarda i kids nazi che venivano a vederci", continua quest'ultimo,



comprato l'album e riflettuto sui testi - perchè noi facciamo una vera battaglia con i testi!".

'Questa è una migliore attitudine di quella degli Specials in 'Racist Friend' sul razzismo intollerante e cieco", dice Shugs; "Cosa ha di buono ciò? Tu puoi vincere parlandone, non facendo divisioni più grosse."... 1

"Sono i loro testi che mi hanno convinto ad andare a suonare con loro" ci rivela Shugs...

..."Soprattutto Working', che è sulla vita reale, e Watch Your Back' che è antinazi e anti -communista. Si rivolge al WRP quanto al BM"...



Peroni Lager (la più economica). Alberto 'skin' Gorrani. Tiziano di Working Class Kids. Wabat. Opressed (we won't show the white flag too). Giovanni 'Oi Oi Il Fotografo'. Garry Johnson. Rough Skin Graft. lusiness. Stefano'oi Last Re ttila the Stoe EDITO OFU Toise tti Eutu 0.00 of my an: is i i kion

C 68 60 cient berts di In rs.Bruce Tutti .Violat boni.Ju ter & Lee . Pse way ). Sub ors. Andr Coso (she est Tub People Julture. Off. a compra ologna

Tub Party li skins e lichele) peter and i i grupp rough rip off. sted. Jary

uisa Engle abh Horne. Arth duno Oi di E ai concerti

rebbe andata in onda. OI! DALLE CANTINE ARRIVERENO! banzai :

Bologna la fanzine "BANZAI" dalle ceneri di "IN FOR A RIOT". "Banzai" sarebbe dovuta diventare l'organo principale d'informazione del movimento Skinhead italiano, o perlomeno era quello che si voleva raggiungere. La fanza era scritta e compilata da Keith, Captain Kirk e Steno, e nel secondo numero vi collaborò anche Tiziano W.C.K., e naturalmente tenevano i contatti con le altre Skin'zine e bands italiane. Sul N° 2, penso mai uscito, doveva apparire anche un articolo di Marco K.K.

Sul numero Zero uscì il testo originale della canzone dei Nabat "NO POLITICA", e nel numero 1, una poesia di Riccardo, bassista degli stessi

2.0 es. Ale .Te

c. lanno eascosi' E' STATO E COSI' SEMPRE SARA' me manno ancora dell'MA QUANDO SEI ESCLUSO ED OPPRESSO ai concerti
ai concerti
tusiasmo e na vuralmente agli INFA-BIOT. Capta DEVI COMBATTERE LE TUE BATTAGLIE tusiasmo e ne vuralmente agli intra fanzine no DALLA PIU! PICGOLA ALLA PIU! IMPORTANTE :



NON VOGILIAMO UN ALTRO TRUCCO POLITICO ORMAI KE ABBIANO VISTI TROPPO

keith (0584/733013) eaptain kirk (051/359677

s t e n o ( stefano cimato via st'in 40 127 - bologna ).

NO POLITICA

Un grande popolo di skin e vuole vivere in liberta non capite la nostra vita

e con voi la faremo finita Zombie NO POLITICA Zombie a nin pos pio

Combie NO POLITICA Zombie a nin pos pio

Rossi e neri siete tutti uguali DEFICIENTI

volete solo il nostro voto

Non capite la nostra meta

volete comandare

PERCHE' NON AVEVANO UN'IDENTITA NOI SKINS SAPPIAMO COME SIALO, E SAPPIAMO COME SIETE SAPPIAMO CHE CIO' CHE CI TIENE UNITI SBATTENDO LA TESTA CONTRO IL LORO EURO NA DOBBIAMO RESTARE CIO' CHE SIAMO SALVARE IL NOSTRO NODO DI ESSERE AD OGNI COSTO PERCHE' NON VOGLIAMO PIU' ESSERE CALPESTATI
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NON VOGLIAMO PIU' ESSERE CALPESTATI E MESSI DA PARTE
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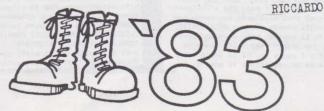
Non ho bisogno delle vostre idee CREDANO PURE DI ESSERE NEL GIUSTO

MA NOI SAPPIANO LA VERITA' - SONO SOLO DEI BUFFONI!!!

Per sapere cosa fare

Non ho bisogno del vostro dio per sapere dove andare

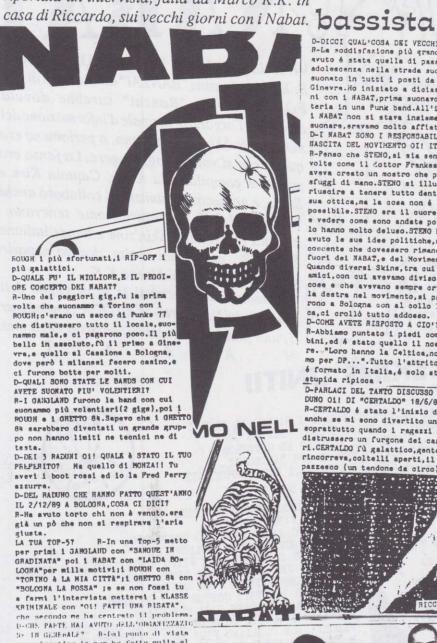
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Su "Kriminal Class" Nº 17 uscita nell'89/90 dopo riportata un intervista, fatta da Marco K.K. in

# gli entusiasmi del quarto raduno Ol!, viene Intervista con RICCARDO, dei NABAT



D-DICCI QUAL'COSA DEI VECCHI TEMPI? R-La soddisfazione più granda che ho avuto é stata quella di passare la mia adolescenza nella strada suonando, ho suonato in tutti i posti da Roma, a Ginevra. Ho iniziato a diciassette anni con i NABAT, prima suonavo la bat-teria in una Punk band. All'inizio con i NABAT non si stava insieme solo per suonare, eravamo molto affiatati. D-I NABAT SONO I RESPONSABILI DELLA NASCITA DEL MOVIMENTO OI! ITALIANO? R-Penso che STENO, si sia sentito a volte come il dottor Frankestein che aveva creato un mostro che poi gli sfuggi di mano.STENO si illudeva di riuscire a tenere tutto dentro alla sua ottica,ma la cosa non é stata possibile.STENO era il cuore dei NABAT e vedere come sono andate poi le cose lo hanno molto deluso.STEMO ha sempre avuto le sus idee politiche, ma era concente che dovessero rimanere al di fuori dei NABAT, e del Movimento OII. Quendo diversi Skins, tra cui vecchi amici, con cui avevamo diviso molte cose e che avevano sempre criticato la destra nel movimento, si presenta rono a Bologna con al collo la Celticrollò tutto addosso. D-COME AVETE RISPOSTO A CIO'? R-Abbiamo puntato i piedi some i bame bini, ed & stato quello il nostro erros "Loro hanno la Celtica, noi suoniamo per DP...". Tutto l'attrito che si

é formato in Italia, é solo stato una stupida ripicca . D-PARLACI DEL TANTO DISCUSSO 3º RA-DUNO 01! DI "CERTALDO" 18/6/83? R-CERTALDO & stato l'inisio della fine anche se mi sono divertito un casino soprattutto quando i ragazzi di Roma distrussero un furgone dei carabinieri.CERTALDO fù galattico,gente che si
rincorreva,coltelli aperti,il posto
pazzesco (un tendone da circo),e gente:

che tentavgoo di buttare un flipper in una piscina; terrorizzammo un paesino. Quando suonarono i GANGLAND, scoppiò la rissa; ROZZI dei RIP-OFF si presentò con un cappio in mano, dicendo che era per tutti i Punks e gli hippy alla



no di suonare per i troppi Sieg-Hail.
Noi suonarme per i troppi Sieg-Hail.
Noi suonarme per ultimi per cercare di malvare la situazione;a STEMO arrivò un rasoio aperto sul palco, me la gente si calmò. D-DICCI QUAL'COSA SULLE OI! BANDS DI QUEGLI ANNI" R-In generale il livel QUEGLI ANNIº R-In generale il livel lo tecnico di allora, era abbastanza mediocre.Noi iniziammo a suonare be-ne da "LAIDA BOLOGNA" in poi.Se i KLASSE KRIMINALE avessero suonato allora, sarebbero apparsi come un gruppo di un altro pianeta.I GANG-LAND per me furono i migliori.i

RICCARDO AL PRIMO PESTIVAL OLI di

Se IN GENERALE? Relat punto di vista erzanizzativo lo non he fatto nulla, al mento ero annebbiato dall'alcol!Fro 11 bambino del gruppo ed anche se UI UI era più giovane di me era più maturo. STENO mi ha sopportato a lungo e mi na fatto da padre.Non abbiamo suonato Yugoslavia perché io non ho fatto il passaporto .....STEMO è stato un punto di riferimento per mè,e si tempi totti i regazzi di Bologna avrebbero voluic essere come lui. Un altra persons che mi ha molto influenzato, è stato TIZIANO WCK anche con i suoi tiramenti di culo per mè fu un poszo di cultura sil'epoca. Se non di fosse stato lui i NABAT non sarebbero arrivati dove sono arrivati. Oltre che scrivere sulla zine riusci ad arrivare anche a "Rockerilla". Anche
"ALL OUT ATTACK" fu un riferimento per molti di noi, Bellini fu un caro amico e preferisco ricordarmelo per quello che era e non per le scelte che ha

D-DUE CHITARRISTI DUE MOMENTI DIVERSI? R-STIV e RED erano due chitarristi mol-to diversi.STIV era meno tecnico da più preciso, del vivo non sbagliava mai, era una macchina. RED aveva due palle incredibili per mê è uno dei migliori in Italia.Con RED sono etato bene,con STIV erano gli albori e sono più affezionato a quei ricordi. Quando suonavamo STIV sulla strada o'erano molti SKIMS; 1'84 fu il periodo bulo ersvamo pochi a Bologna.Adesso sono molto contento perchè d'è gente che ha la testa sulle spalle;se un ragazzo di 15 anni fa le

fatto oggi.

mie scelte vuol dire che tutto questo a qualcosa è servito. Quando RED se ne andò provammo un nuovo chitarrista s cambiammo completamente tipo di suono, fu meglio ametteria.E' meglio che le gente di ricordi per quello che atamo stat1

-CHE EFFETTO TI FA SAPERE CHE I NABAT SONO ANCORA AMATI? R-E' una belle soddisfazione.L'ultimo discorso che feci con Steno, si diese che lui avrebba coluto provare sul serio fino ad una certa età. Noi volevamo fare un gruppo professionista, ma RED fu il nostro freno ,pe · esemplo non suonammo in PRANCIA perchè lui doveva lavorare. D-DICCI DUE PAROLE SULLA COMPILAZIONE "QUELLI CHE UPLAMO ANCORA"? R-Mi è dispisciuto da matti che non ci

fossero i GaMGLAND ma il master era

pi.STENO ha messo in moto un movimento D-COSA PENSI CUANDO SENTI DIRE CRE I NABAT ERANO UHA BAND NAZY E POI SONO DIVENTATI COMUNISTI? R-6 una coma che non merita commenti. ogni altra cosa mi sento uno SKINHEAD R-Prima di essere

troppo rovinato.Adesso à facile

care STENO per le sue scelte ma

disco ha il suo valore. D-DA CHI ERA COMPOSTO IL COMITATO OI!

tempi era STEMO ad organizzare i raduni Oil e il resto.Il comitato Oil Italiano era STEMO e la gente dei grup

cosa più triste del mondo è vedere che c'è gente che sa politica vestita da SKIN. Riguardo alla scena mi importa solo di Bologna e di quelli che la mè. Adesso spero che riusciremo a rimettere le cose a posto.

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HA DATO VITA ALLA OI!RECO:

RDS, E SKA RECORDS .....

1)D.SEI ORGOGLIOSO DI AVER APERTO LA OTIASKA EECORDS,E DI AVER PRODOTTO BANDS COME "CORDEMEND 84", "VICTOUS RUMDURS" SEE BANDS AMERICARE.C'É STATO UN MOMENTO IN CUI TI SEI PERFIS-TO.E AVRESTI VOLDTO ARBANDONARE TUT-

TO.E AVESTI VOLUME CONTROL OF AVESTI VOLUME CONTROL OF A CONTROL OF A

TO IL PIU' VENDUTO, E QUALE TI HE DA-TO FIU' SODDISFABIONE?
R.Il preferito in assoluto a grande distanse, é la compilazione: "FRIS-IS OI"; ma non é il mio preferito. Si pub fare un confronto tra il dismo degli "OI TPOILOI", e quello dei "VIOT" OUS RUMOURS; il loro stile é total-mente differente, ma io orade che em-trambe le bands abbiano dato qualco-ma.

TRANCE 16 bands abbiano dato qualcoSS.

3D\_ALGUNE SKIN'ZINE, ACCUSANO LA OL'
RECORDS DI PRODURRE NOE SOLO SKIN
RANDS.e DI SSERE UNA LAREL COMUNISTA, TUOI SPIEGARE A QUESTI RAGAZZI
CHE COS'é FER TE L'OI MUSIC, E QUAL'
E' LA TUA LINER POLITICA?
R.L' "OI MUSIC", non é la "Masion
Skinhead'.E' la Russion della "CLESSE
CHERALE", e non si limita alla lunghesea dei capelli. "OI"-UNA FROTESSA
MELLA CLASSE CHERALA"; Le uniche persono i fascisti, non me ne frega un
casso di quello che pensano carti
chifces ITA mis politica, 6"RESSUS'
ROSSE, MESSUR RAZZISTA".
4D.R' VENO CHE I RED LONDON HON S'
STAMPARONO IL NUOVO EF FER LA OLI
RECORDS, FREGRE' LA CONSIDERAVARO UNA
LABEL POCO POLITICIZZAPAT.
R.I RED LONDON, sono politicizzata
quanto gli SKREVENIVER; e io non averei mai contattato ne uno, ne l'altaFO.
5D.CRA I TUOI IFFERESSI SONO INDI-

Te. on tuoi ifferessi sono indi-5]D. ora i tuoi ifferessi sono indi-BIRSTATI MAGGIORMENTE ALLO SKA, VUOI DIROT IL FERCHS!? E.Perché la maios akm, é l'originale musica Sichheed, lo ho ascoltato SKA per vent'anni, ed é stata una coes assolutamente naturale, aprire una

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I/RECORDS DISCOGRAPHY

Bricks, Blood N' Guts (Complete Control) We Won't Change (Section 5)

Battle Scarred (Condemned 84) This Is Oi! (Various Artists) Anytime, Day Or Night (Vicious Rumours)

The Age That Didn't Care (Barhed

Skins N' Punks Vol. I (Society's Rejects/Last Rough Cause) Skins N' Punks V Vol. 2 (Betrayed Oi! Polloi) Skins N' Punks Vol. 3 (The Glory/The Magnificent)
Skins N' Punks Vol.

Abnormal/Barbed Wire) Unite And Win (Oi! Polloi)



On Yer Toez (The Blaggers) Street Punk USA (Last Stand) Skins N' Punks Vol. 5 (The Press/The Radicts) Brewing Since 1983 (Winston & The Churchills)

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Dead And Buried (The Oppressed)

OLD SKINS WERE GREAT, THEY WALTED TO ENJOY LIFE. MOST OF THE NOW SKINS RACIST COWARDS.

(D) NOTHING

CARDIFF CITY A-F-C (THE BLUE BIRDS

CANABIS, MARITUANA, GANTA, HERB(NATURES G

1969/70 (18) BACK IN THE OLD DAYS IWAS ON 13 YEARS OUD AND TO YOUNG FOR BUT HE PLAYED IN CARDIFF 240ARS WAS FANTASTICO. HE IS COMING BACK IN OCTOBER AND WILL BE PLAYING MY SIXTIES SKA COLLECTION.

SEPERATE SHEET. (9) SEE

(20) TO CONTINUE WITH MY LABELS AND TO MY NOW BAND "THE RUDE BOYS" RECORD PLAY ONLY OLD TYPE SKA' BLUEBOAT.

WONLY TO " FIGHT FAGISM RUCK RACISM"

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Label SKA Label SKA.

6)D.PERCHE' LA SKA& OI!RECORDS, NOB.
PANNO UNA COMPILAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DI SKA & OI! SENZA PROBLEMI DI LINGUA?

R.Quae: tutti i miei dischi,sono fa...

R. Quast tutti i mied dischi, sono fa-tti per la gente che parla ingless, ed essa non comprerebbero mai quello che non capiscomo\_in pit; to non sis-chierei mai le sis labels=(01/RECOR-DS per le bands 01/, SEA RECORDS per le bands SEA). 7)D. GLI "OPPRESSED" SONO VERAMENTE MORTI E SEPOLTI? R.Moi siamo definitivamente "DEAD +BURIED". 8)D.PERCHE' GLI OPPRESSED SI DIVISE-

8)D\_PERCHE' GLI OPPRESSED SI DIVISE-

R.C1 fermamme mentre ci stavamo dives H\_D1 fermanme mentre of stavame diver-trendo, pensando che se avessaiso con-tinuato non avremmo avuto più futuro 9]D\_QUAL'E' STATO IL VOSTRO MIGLIORE GIOS, FUOI DIRMI QUALI BANDS HANNO 3UOMATO CON VOI? E.11 miglior gig fu con 1 PETER AND THE TEST TUHE RABIES a Carviff, altri

THE TEST TURE MABIES a Cardiff, altribuoni concerti furono com i BUSINESS ed. 1 SHE SEIBS (bastardi comministi).

10)D.FUGI SPIEDARE AI FANS TRALLAMI IL PERIODO DEI CONCERTI E SE CI SONO STATI DEI PROBLEMI?

R.Nei prini giorni 1981/82/83, si fearor delle buone risate, ci divertime no insieme ma dopo il 1983/84, ininimarono i gual; risase ad ogni concerto e noi sempre ubriachissimi...

11)D.FUGI DIRCI QUADTA COME RIGUARDO AL PERIODO DELLA QUARTA COMPILAZIORE OI: "OJIOJI THAT YER LOTI", DOVE GLI OPPRESSED APPARVERO CON LA CANZORE

OPPRESSED APPARVERO CON LA CANZONE
"WHITE FLAG": I RAPPORTI CON GARRY

OPPRISSED APPANYERO CON LA CARACHE "WHITE FLAG": I RAPPORTI CON CARRY BUSHRILT?

R. Kra il periodo in cui Brennam canatava, ed io suonavo la chitarra; la compilazione non era il massimo come d'altronde GARRY BUSHRLL, egli era un macco di merda.

12 D.G.I. OPPRESEND SUONARONO NELL'81

CON I RED SKINS, COSA FENSI DI BANES DI QUESTO TIPOT.

E. Noi suonamme con i RED SKINS perché era un concerto di beneficenza per i bambini poveri, a noi non importava quindi con chi suonavamo, di importava di più il motivo per cui suonavamo. Il openso che la propaganda di sinistra é cattiva, come la propaganda di de stra.

13)D.PUOL DIRCI QUAL'COSA SUL PERIODO
IN CUI USCIVA "TARD AS NAILS", e sulla
compilazione "GI: THE TIGHTENS UP",
che non vide sai la luce?
R."H.AS.N." era una bucna idea, ma poi
iniziò ad allontanarei; non so darti
notizie riquardo "GI! THE TIGHTENS UP"
14)D.A CARDIFP GI SONO SEMPRE STATI
MOLTI SKINS, PREPERISCI QUELLI DI IEBI
O QUELLI DI OGGI?
R.D vecchi SKINS erano grandi, cercævano di vivere divertendosi. La maggiaor parte dei muovi SKINS, sono dei com
dardi rassisti.

15 )D\_CHE COSA CI DICP DELLA LINE? R.Niente.

R.Niente.
16)D.QUAL'E' LA TUR SQUADRA DI CALCTO
DEL CUORE?
R.CARDIFF CITY A.F.C. (THE BLUE BIRDS)
17)D.LA BIRRA PREFERITAT
R.Canabis, Marijuana, Ganja, Herb (natures gift).

res gift).

AND, QUANDO HAI VISTO PER LA PRIMA VOLTA UN CONCETTO DI DESMOND DEKKER?

R. Indietro, nei lontani giorni del 69
/10, io evero solo 13 anni ed ero giovane per un concerto. Comunque egli muonò a Cardiff due anni fa, e fu fantastico. Rgli Titormura mecor ad CT-TORRE e io marò il D.J., e porterò la mia collesione SETTES-SEA.



19 D. QUALL SOME I TUDE PLANE FUTURE?

R. Continuare can la mia Label, e registrare un disco com la mia mova band: "THE RUDE BOYS", no! succinano solo
il vecchio tipo di SEA BUJE HEST.

20 D. CHE COSA DICI AGLI SKINS FIRELI-

ANTO
R. "COMBATTETE IL PASCISMO, DISTRUGGETE
IL RAZZISMO, LAVORATE UNITI"!!!!!
"FEAR NOT THE BACIST FOR THE RACISM"

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BECAUSE

SHARP's biggest strength was that is was non-political. It's only aim was to let the world know that all skinheads weren't racist. In fact the pride shown in being American by a lot of SHARP skinheads, many of whom serve in the armed forces, has caused some trouble with a number of left-wing anti-racist organisations, who see anti-racism as just one of many causes worth shouting about.

"No true skinheads are Without racist. culture, Jamaican would not skinheads It was their exist. with culture mixed British working class made that culture skinhead what it is."

Moreno, Roddy founder of SHARP in the UK.

using the slogan, PRIDE WITHOUT PREJUDICE and the stars and stripes on their logo,

SHARP regularly skins were accused of waving a racist flag and thereby supporting the genocide of native Red Indians! In fact one of the top skinheads in the Santa Cruz SHARP chapter is an Apache, but there's no pleasing some folk.

Others were disappointed to find that the anti-racist skinheads didn't denounce violence. In fact, many boasted of battles with Nazi skins and other gangs, and a number were involved in attacks on gays and hippies in what was regarded as traditional skinhead fashion. Not that it bothered most SHARP chapters. They didn't want to go down in history as the good guys. just skinheads without a racist chip on their shoulder.

The idea of SHARP was imported into Europe and beyond by Roddy Moreno, who was once the lead singer with Welsh Oi! band, The Oppressed. On a visit to see

American bands for his Oi! Records label, he picked up a SHARP leaflet and decided to bring the idea home with him. Although the right always claimed he was a communist, the truth was that Roddy had no time for anybody's politics (his record label's slogan was NEITHER RED OR RACIST) and simply wanted to combat the media focus on Blood And Honour which had every skinhead down as a Nazi thug.

A number of SHARP chapters did take off in the U.K., and large numbers of individual skins supported its aims, but it never

level of success it had reached the in America. One problem was that it was seen as political, and that was

IRISH DIVISION

an instant turn off for large numbers of skins who'd seen the cult ripped apart by wannabe politicians from Sham onwards. the name, anybody who agreed with Another was the fac: that despite

SHARP could join. So you had hippies, punks, normals and others claiming to be SHARP members in what appeared to be a massive case If they of missing the point. opposed racism, then there were plenty of other organisations they could join without turning some SHARP divisions into a laughing stock. One boasted half a dozen members, and of them only two were skins.

so, the SHARP ideal, particularly in its American form, was far closer to the traditions of the original skinheads than Blood

d in fac fashion

Riportiamo un volantino di presentazione sullo S.H.A.R.P., le notizie sull'organizzazione apparse sul libro "SPIRIT OF 69" e una foto con 2 Skinheads S.H.A.R.P. di cui uno indossa una T-Shirt con su stampato "SMASH COMMUNISM" (Schiaccia il comunismo). Tutte queste cose confermano che l'organizzazione era nata fuori dalla politica, doveva essere solo un organizzazione contro le discriminazioni razziali, e un modo come un altro per far capire alla pubblica opinione e ai mass-media che il movimento Skinhead non era come i giornali e la gente pensa.

Purtroppo in tutto il mondo l'dea iniziale apolitica falli, e oggi 1994 nasce anche in Italia, con qualche anno di ritardo, ma ripetendo gli stessi errori.

'Spirit Of 69" mette in evidenza anche che lo S.H.A.R.P. americano avendo inserito sullo sfondo le stelle e strisce della loro bandiere fu attaccato per la bandiera razzista ecc. Atriti con Hippy e Gay sono nella tradizione Skinhead e l'organizzazione ha aperto le porte a molti Skins Gay?????

Nello S.H.AR.P. sono entrati anche hippies, punks, ragazzi 'normali' una cosa contro senso visto che il nome dell'organizzazione significa "Skin Heads Contro I Pregiudizi Raziali". Non vogliamo condannare l'idea iniziale dello S.H.A.R.P. vogliamo solo far notare che le cose come al solito vengono travisate.



behavior of most

to keep a ways. The not original biased an skinkEad that it is been the skinkEad that it is skinkEa sight have cause skins to

state no more Oppressed no longer thing the 01: S. H. A. R. P. album"Dead and is interested i been politica.ly Of Britain. More and 10 who s belong. The turn and are starting brought in the ಡ who they in more all or which always shadows where man the last year "White Prejudice. )from the over here publicity from Cardiff, have lyrics like: "Work S.H.A.R.P. in B Roddy is also t of t.e N.M.E. a trend ove national no E. t..e



### LETTERE APERTE - OI! FATTI UNA RISATA E DI LA TUA!

Rieccoci qui!

Purtroppo siamo alle solite. Ennesime camionate di merda riversate sul movimento Skinhead. Tra l'altro, questa volta, da gente che si autodefinisce Skin.....
Premetto che la fantomatica fanzine non l'ho mai avuta tra le mani (e non ne conosco gli autori), ma un amico me l'ha letta per filo e per segno al telefono: ci sono rimasto veramente male.

Sconvolto ed amareggiato!

Gente che si riempie la bocca con nomi come Nabat, Angelic Upstarts, Oppressed solo per calunniarli e che chiama "infame" un ragazzo che neppure conosce e che è da una vita sulla strada, mentre loro......Mah!

Dite che i Nabat erano di sinistra???

A me non importa cosa vi ha raccontato l'altro ieri il vostro vicino nel bar sotto casa, sono più interessato a quello che i Nabat dichiaravano nelle interviste dieci anni fa: "... Nessuna organizzazione politica può rappresentarci, neppure le più piccole. Ci pare che il nostro pezzo "Zombi Rock" parli chiaro!...". Chiaro per tutti, ma non per voi, a quanto pare. A proposito di questo pezzo: non è il caso di esaltarsi solo perchè, insieme a "bianchi e neri" non c'è anche "rossi", perchè se non sbaglio, anche la sinistra è politica ed il grido inciso tra quei solchi "NO POLITICA!!! NON NE POSSO PIÛ!" è ben chiaro (anche se "non ne posso più!" è detto in dialetto bolognese!).

Credete veramente che Roddy Moreno degli Oppressed sia un rosso?

In un intervista, parlando della band "The Red Skins" li definisce "Comunisti bastardi"...

Voi fate notare che sull'ultimo LP degli Angelic Upstarts compare un pezzo dal titolo "Red Till dead". Verissimo! Ma lo sapete che il pezzo "Lonely Man Of Spandau", presente sul loro secondo LP, è dedicato a Rudolph Hess?

Un cambiamento di bandiera? No!!! Una presa per il culo? Ma nemmeno per sogno!!! QUESTO È L'OI!

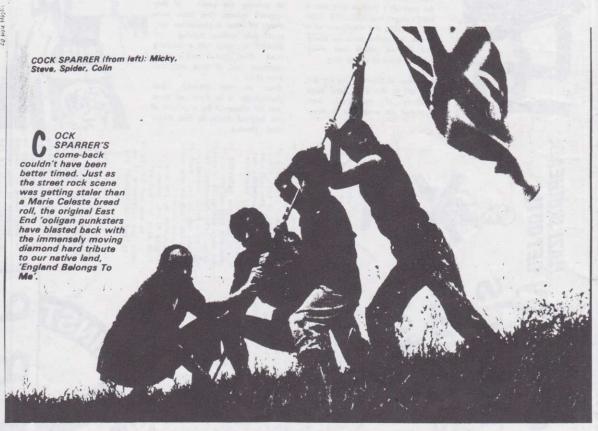
Troppo difficile da capire? Non sforzatevi.....lasciate perdere!

Anche io, come molta altra gente, non credeva che i Cock Sparrer avrebbero suonato al "Leoncavallo" fino a quando non li ho visti sul palco. Io non so se voi c'eravate, ma ho visto i vostri "compagni" divertirsi mentre gli Sparrer mandavano a fare in culo destra e sinistra con pezzi tipo "Watch Your Back"! Anni fa, oltre agli Skins tradizionali, c'erano solo i nazi; da qualche tempo siete spuntati anche voi. Siete sicuri di non esserci voi tra quelli che dividono? Voi odiate tanto quella faccenda del revisionismo storico portata avanti da quelli di destra? Bene! Sappiate che anche voi, su quelle pagine, avete fatto del revisionismo! Avete infangato la storia dell'Oi! e dell'intero movimento Skinhead!!!!!

Un'ultima cosa. Ma con che criterio vi ritenete gli unici che vivono nel mondo reale? Guardate che si muore d'eroina anche a Ponte Lambro, non solo nella "capitale"!!!

Non siamo più negli anni 80? Beh, mi sembra chiaro; ma lasciatemi almeno dire che è un vero peccato, perchè fino a qualche anno fa, anche nella vostra città, c'era gente veramente in gamba! Il nostro passato va difeso con orgoglio!!!!

# Strictly for the birds as Strictly for the birds are cock sparse fly the flag once more



Lettera aperta "Vivere Skinhead"

Mi chiamo Fabrizio Barile, da oltre 10 anni seguo il movimento Skinhead, e ho documentato fotograficamente quello che a mio parere è lo spirito veritiero della cultura Oi!

Le mie foto sono comparse sulle molte fanzine e libri di vario genere, ma non ho mai guadagnato una sola lira vendendo le mie immagini. Nella mia città rispetto e sono rispettato da tutti gli Skins (giovani e vecchi), perchè con loro ho sempre avuto un dialogo che è andato ben oltre le ideologie politiche. Sia ben chiaro che ognuno di noi può avere un proprio credo politico, ma penso che non debba essere fronte di alcuna divisione. Ogni volta che i giornalisti hanno scritto delle idiozie sugli Skins, conglobandoli schedandoli unicamente come nazisti, ho inviato lettere alle redazioni, spiegando che la situazione di estremismo politico, ha poco a che condividere con le radici Oi! e Skin.

Io reputo fondamentalmente che vengano spiegati con precisione e in maniera corretta alcuni periodi scorsi, che si stanno attualmente ripetendo. Per questo motivo, dopo aver letto l'articolo "Gli Infami E Il Mondo Reale" ho deciso di rispondervi perchè nel vostro messaggio, esistono molte imprecisioni, che vanno chiarite (in particolare per tutti quei ragazzi che si trovano in assoluta confusione). Ovviamente non entro nel merito dei vostri problemi con Marco Balestrino, che saprà come rispondervi. La vignetta che vi ha offeso, come ogni messaggio immediato, deve raccontare un pensiero, ma con essa non può certo venire risolto tutto un discorso. Per questo motivo il disegnatore ha riassunto i principali estremismi politici dai quali occorre stare alla larga. L'accostamento tra falce martello e svastica, non significa che le due storie politiche vengano poste sullo stesso piano, e che si confondano i comunisti con i fascisti. Ognuno ha avuto le sue storie, che non sono importanti per chi decide di vivere Skinhead.

Non mi risulta che siano stati sfanculati i Nabat, il cui nome è scritto sulla maglietta dello Skinhead che come tale imbraccia una sola bandiera apolitica. I Nabat hanno deciso di dedicare l'LP "Un Altro Giorno Di Gloria" anche a Nelson Mandela. Questa dedica, che personalmente potevo condividere, è stata fraintesa dagli Skinheads di allora, che hanno boicottato la distribuzione, e non hanno comprato questo disco. QUESTA È STATA LA REALTÅ e non potete immaginare il mio dispiacere quando ho restituito a Steno tutte le copie invendute del disco che distribuivo in Liguria.

Steno non si è però pentito della dedica e ha ribadito che per il gruppo era importante salutare Mandela.

Venendo poi al discorso S.H.A.R.P., devo dirvi che in origine, Roddy Moreno, ha progettato di creare un movimento apolitico e antirazzista che si frapponesse con un dilagante fenomeno di Skinheads nazisti e brucia negri. Non vi era la minima intenzione di creare un movimento comunista. Il passo breve tra le basi dello S.H.A.R.P., e l'inserimento di frange politizzate ha comportato un inversione del progamma iniziale e la conseguente estremizzazione.

Vi è anche una notevole lacuna discografica nella vostra cultura. Vi informo che la "Oi! Records" ha stampato 5 volumi dal titolo "Skins'N'Punks", dove hanno suonato dei validi gruppi. Solo sul volume 5 è comparso un elmo troiano, mentre sugli altri non esiste nessun simbolo simile. La velocità con la quale avete guardato le copertine, non vi ha permesso di leggere la scritta "Oi! = A WORKING CLASS PROTEST (NOTHING MORE - NOTHING LESS)" che rappresenta lo spirito con il quale Roddy Moreno ha lavorato duramente.

I Cock Sparrer hanno suonato in un Centro Sociale, non ci trovo nulla di anormale, è una loro scelta. Di certo esistono le interviste rilasciate dai membri del gruppo, dove confessano che i Cock Sparrer non apprezzano il fanatismo di sinistra o di destra. Molti dei testi delle loro canzoni sono risposte di vita, a chi

deve necessariamente alzare una bandiera per creare amicizie o inimicizie.

Non penso comunque che suonare in un Centro Sociale possa creare il minimo problema ai "Klasse Kriminale"; anzi in più occasioni la loro partecipazione a concerti non è stata acettata per stupidi motivi. Una volta dava fastidio il pezzo "Costruito In Italia", l'altra volta le femministe si sono opposte perchè in un brano esiste la frase "...E se c'è una donna toccale il sedere..." E potrei continuare con questi esempi fino a farvi vomitare. Tutte queste cose a mio parere denotano da un lato una buona attività dei centri sociali e dall'altra una immensa cieca ottusità.

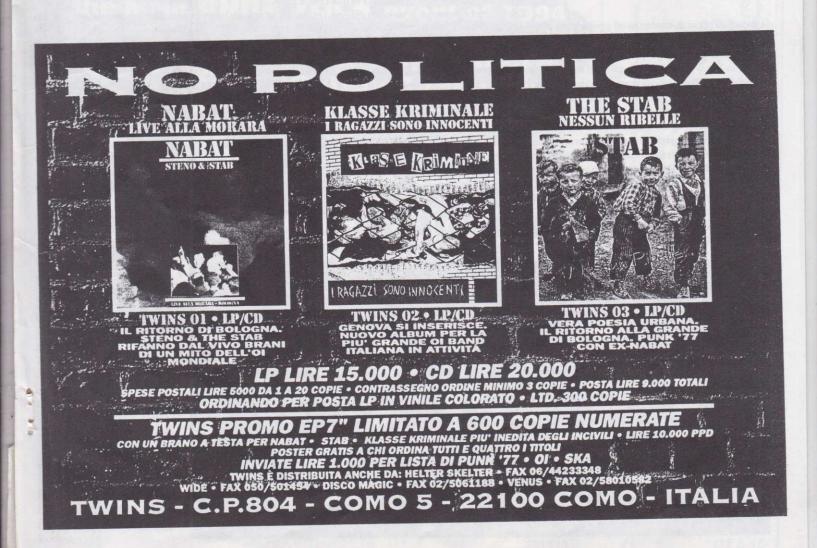
Ho letto articoli come il vostro che vengono scritti dai così detti Nazi Skins e questo mi conforta perchè significa che si è dalla parte giusta. Io penso che non si debba chiudere la porta in faccia a nessuno, purchè si lasci fuori dalla stessa porta l'ipocrisia politica.

Ogni altro progamma per il futuro può essere discusso e chiarito.

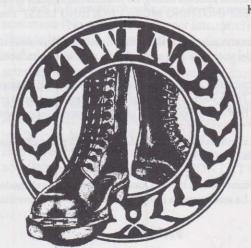
Da molti mesi si è programmato con Marco la creazione di un disco "Oi! Contro Silvio" con la partecipazione di varie bands. Questo potrebbe essere un modo evidente e chiaro per riunire gruppi (anche di estrazione politica differente) che vogliono dire la propria. La storia passata insegna che si stanno ripercorrendo le stesse strade che hanno portato a inutili divisioni. Non penso che questo sia nei vostri progammi.

Saluto tutti gli Skinheads animati da veri sentimenti apolitici e che appartengono al mondo reale.

FRITZ



Personalmente vedo con estremo favore la presenza di un organizzazione come lo S.H.A.R.P. Skin Heads Against Racial Prejudice - Skinheads contro ogni pregiudizio razziale. Un organizzazione che crea collegamento tra diverse realtà che lottano espressamente contro il pregiudizio razziale rappresenta una forte presa di coscienza da parte di una cultura giovanile votata altrimenti alla scomparsa o all'autodistruzione, contro la violenza, l'intolleranza, il fanatismo, la legge del "dieci contro uno". PUNK e SKIN non è mai stato essere infami. Magari violenti e incazzati, ma con testa, e uso della violenza solo costretti dalle circostanze. La nascita dello S.H.A.R.P. ha rappresentato un segnale fondamentale, una volontà di ribellione anche all'immagine violenta, di destra e razzista dello Skinhead proposta dalla stampa o dai media, puntuali a segnalare gli aspetti più spettacolari ma anche deleteri e negativi di una presenza giovanile inquietante ed in crescita, tanto da diventare un problema preoccupante grazie anche agli articoli sulla violenza, sulle risse, sulle rivolte e sui concerti. E nuove generazioni con la cultura del quotidiano e della TV sotto agli occhi, affascinate dall'alone di timore e paura creati attorno alla violenta fama dei PUNX e soprattutto degli SKINHEADS, si veste come loro, forma bande con lo scopo di fare più casino degli altri e per apparire come i più violenti e incazzati della terra. È lì la fine, la morte di una cultura spontanea così vera soprattutto in alcuni dei suoi aspetti più oscuri e meno noti, come per quei primi Skinheads degli inizi; forse la cultura di strada più alla portata di ogni tipo di clase sociale. Con l'ideale della forza e della prepotenza non si arriva da nessuna parte, sono altre le cose che rimangono e fanno sopravvivere una cultura e la fanno entrare nel futuro e prendere come esempio dalle generazioni a venire. Sicuramente la nascita dello S.H.A.R.P. è stata utile per l'ambiente Skinhead; una testimonianza, utile sopratutto per gli osservatori esterni, della presenza di una frangia diversa, che rivendicava la propria matrice Skinhead prendendo una posizione netta, anche di scontro e separazione dall'immagine SKIN comunemente riconosciuta e che altrimenti sarebbe passata alla storia come unica. Quello che non piace a diversi SKINS e PUNX che pure condividono appieno le tematiche antirazziste dello S.H.A.R.P., è il vedere che l'essere e il definirsi S.H.A.R.P. in certi paesi, tra cui anche l'Italia, pare debba automaticamente abbinarsi all'essere anche di sinistra, e chi condivide le idee ma non si schiera viene comunque guardato con diffidenza e ostilità. Così come nel caso dei KLASSE



KRIMINALE o di chi non si definisce politicamente, preferendo le idee e i fatti agli slogan e ai simboli. Lo S.H.A.R.P. NON È un'organizzazione di sinistra; è un movimento apolitico antirazzista, sicuramente contrario a ideologie di destra come contro le discriminazioni presenti anche nella storia e nella pratica delle dottrine comuniste. Preferisco chi si definisce RED SKIN prima che S.H.A.R.P., credendo veramente alle ideologie all'interno di una realtà come il centro sociale, compagno in tutto e per tutto, mezzo spesso unico inoltre per poter avere una qualche voce in capitolo, per ottenere spazio in una realtà che regge il propio essere sulla lotta politica prima di ogni altra cosa, concedendo spazio solo o quasi a realtà, persone o gruppi politicamente ben schierati. Posti dove purtroppo ti concedono spazio e voce solo se ti fai vedere mentre canti l'Internazionale. Non essendoci alternative valide, considero comunque, con tutti i difetti di questo mondo, di fondamentale importanza il circuito dei centri sociali, in fondo è tutto quello che abbiamo, ed è giusto frequentarli e difenderli anche per abituare chi li gestisce a considerare a mente aperta chi li frequenta e magari trarne delle semplici ma geniali considerazioni.

Probabilmente quello dei centri sociali è l'unico circuito dove poter vedere verificarsi grandi eventi PUNK/O!! senza incidenti, come è stato per il concerto stupendo dei COCK SPARRER o dei 999 senza che intervengano rompicoglioni in nero a rovinare la serata, e questo paradossalmente grazie alla fama di estrema sinistra di un posto come il Leoncavallo. Tutto ciò non ci disturba minimamente, finchè le persone sia che lavorino in quella realtà, sia che intervengano pur condividendo o meno idee o metodi gestionali del centro, si rispettino le una con le altre.

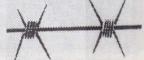
Credo che la presenza di tre o più diverse fazioni all'interno del movimento Skinhead anche qui in Italia sia indice di presa di coscenza ed evoluzione, e stia a dimostrare la possibilità che siano le stesse persone a tenere in vita uno stile e delle idee formidabili. E allora perchè dividersi tra persone che in fondo la pensano allo stesso modo. Mi riesce difficile concepirlo, così come non accetto però che si cambi il passato a propia discrezione o a proprio uso e consumo, o che per propagandare l'immagine S.H.A.R.P. = SINISTRA SKIN, si voglia far passare per compagni anche chi non lo è mai stato. Ad esempio, nel caso dei NABAT, ora eletti a band guida come veri compagni, vera Working Class Band di sinistra, è bene andare a ricordare: io all'epoca ero presente, e ricordo che i NABAT a Bologna, per definirsi SKIN APOLITICI e Nichilisti (lo S.H.A.R.P. sarebbe arrivato più di 10 anni dopo) avevano i loro bei problemi, e un giorno no e due sì dovevano fare i conti con accuse di fascismo o di essere di destra. Se ascoltate LAIDA BOLOGNA, loro secondo EP, in "TROIA", uno dei quattro brani presenti sul disco, prevengono le critiche ad un pezzo con un titolo del genere dicendo "MI DIRAI: FASCISTA PENSA AI CAZZI TUOI". Questo era quello a cui erano preparati i NABAT e quello che dovevano subire anche all'interno del circuito PUNK e dei centri sociali (che all'inizio erano eclusivamente posti di PUNKS creati dai PUNKS per i PUNKS e senza politica). Solo per avere la testa rasata e perchè dall'Inghilterra l'unica immagine dello Skin che trovava pubblicità anche qui da noi era quella precedente descritta. E Steno viveva già in una casa occupata con i suoi ed era già un vero concentrato di Working Class. I ronzii e le accuse spariranno solo quando i NABAT dedicheranno il loro album a BENJAMIN MOLOISE e a NELSON MANDELA. Quindi facciamo autocritica e lasciamo da parte gli estremismi chiusi, sorretti da prove e cultura tramandati per sentito dire o interpretati grossolanamente a propio uso e consumo.

E anche il gesto di MARCO, che immaginava benissimo a quali critiche sarebbe andato incontro (ne discutemmo prima di mandare in stampa il disco) pubblicando all'interno del nuovo album dei KLASSE KRIMINALE accanto al pupazzetto con la svastica quello con la falce e martello con la scritta S.H.A.R.P. sulla bombetta (voluto e disegnato da ALTEAU, un ex S.H.A.R.P. SKIN francese disgustato poi dallo S.H.A.R.P. politichese) interpretatelo come



deve essere interpretato; un gesto di polemica analisi. Lo S.H.A.R.P. è per tutti. Troppo facile farsi belli con lo S.H.A.R.P. quando poi siragionanello stesso modo gretto e ambiguo di certa gente che popola e governa i centri sociali. Pensieri incatenati a quella politica che ha sbagliato, che ha diviso, che ha ucciso.

STIV TWINS REJIRDS





- CURA INTENSIVA - CURA INTENSIVA - CURA INTENSIVA - CURA INTENSIVA - FEE CONCERT PROGRAMMO RADIO FANTONE CON TIPO DE RICIATIVA SCRIVOTO ALLO VOSTRO RADIO MANTENETO VIVA LA SERMA

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NEAL US THE TURING

DIVECT LA VERIUE

Comunque mi sto dilungando troppo, bisogna concludere!

Ora spero di aver chiarito che cosa dovrebbe essere uno Skinhead (apolitico) e che sia chiaro, non lo dice Balestrino Marco, ma lo dicono i fatti e le decine di bands e uomini che hanno lavorato per il movimento Skinhead e Oil.

Libertà, orgoglio proletario, ribellione, onestà, andare oltre a certi limiti. Quindi chi odia certi luoghi, ha pregiudizi, non capisce il significato di "If The Kids Are United" (che vuole unire tutti i ragazzi dalla stessa attitudine e non dalla stessa longhezza di capelli), chi non capisce che è giusto difendere certi spazi o perlomeno arrivare ad un dialogo e non odiare senza conoscere, chi ha dei limiti può tranquillamente farsi le valigie e andare tra le file dei Nazi. Per chi invece lo Skinhead apolitico non gli sembra troppo allineato, troppo impegnato, troppo

alla moda può mettersi una stella rossa sul bomber, e chi ha visto negli Skins apolitici un rifugio per frustrati e personaggi che per comodità non vogliono prendere posizioni e sottostare a delle elementari regole di gruppo può farsi crescere i capelli.

Ma io sono dell'idea che i Cock Sparrer, i Business, e i K.K. suonando in un Centro Sociale hanno fatto più politica ed hanno fatto molto di più per i ragazzi della strada di tante altre bands stra-allineate.

Noi abbiamo seguito una strada molti anni fa, bisogna buttare i paraocchi, le esasperazioni, i luoghi comuni, bisogna lottare per i propri diritti e non bisogna stancarsi di spiegare, perchè il nostro movimento è il più discusso, il più confuso e incasinato fra tutti.

Dubitate sempre di chi vuole usare ed esaltare la vostra forza ed energia; il movimento è nostro e deve appartenere a noi e non a dei fottuti partiti politici (l'ho scritto nel 1983 sul primo numero di "Kriminal Class")...

.. "Skinheads, non fatevi fottere dalla politica nel esere un guerriero della strada, siete il più grande movimento proletario di tutti i tempi"... (lo ha detto Gary Bushell, anni dopo il suo ritiro). ...

... "Il Punk era ed è onestà, rompere barriere non crearne" (Lo dice oggi Dave chitarra degli Sham 69)... Con questo non voglio dire che uno Skinhead apolitico è un idiota che va con tutti, basta che siano vestiti da Skins.

Uno Skinhead apolitico ha il dovere di difendere il proprio culto visto che Nazi & Comunisti hanno la loro politica prima del movimento.

Apolitici non vuol dire che noi non siamo impegnati; è stato detto che i "Klasse Kriminale" non possono fare una T-shirt con su scritto "Figlio Della Classe Operaia...Orgoglioso & Ribelle" e perchè no!?!

Forse perchè il proletariato è un esclusiva della sinistra?

Sono quasi dieci anni che lavoro nel Porto di Savona, come ha fatto mio padre, in una città con giunte di sinistra fino a ieri, medaglia per la lotta Anti-Fascista, blah, blah... Ma la gente non è meglio di quella con giunta di destra.

Ho combattuto battaglie per i miei diritti e per quelli dei più deboli, arrivando alla parola "odio", battaglie già perse con sindacati deboli e servili, che si erano già venduto tutto prima di iniziare. Ma ho creduto sempre nelle mie lotte, questo è la cosa più importante, altrimenti sei come loro.È ora di finirla con i luoghi comuni, tanto per fare la politica e la propangandina dello "stupido".

C'è chi condanna i Klasse Kriminale per aver suonato al "Leoncavallo" ma forse non si sono accorti che prima di suonare al Leo i Klasse hanno suonato in altri 100 posti Occupati, in giro per l'Europa con le stesse connotazioni politiche!?!

È anche vero che i posti come il "Leoncavallo" hanno sbagliato molte volte con gli Skins, criminalizzandoli tutti allo stesso modo e ragionando non come dei ribelli al margine della società ma come il lettore N°1 di "Famiglia Cristiana". Però vi assicuro che gli Skinheads hanno sbagliato in egual modo.

Vi faccio un esempio tanto per farmi capire:Ho visto e mi sono incazzato, nei lontani giorni, degli Skins entrare al Leoncavallo per vedere i D.O.A., (vi parlo del 1985) e picchiare impunemente un Punk sotto al palco, a tal punto che i D.O.A. smisero di suonare; purtroppo di queste infamate (chiamiamole con il loro vero nome) noi Skins ne abbiamo fatte a miglia-ia. Di intolleranza e razzismo ne abbiamo ricevuti a bizzeffe anche dai libertari C.S.O.; Sembra un circolo vizioso per lobotomizzati!!! Ma è tutto vero! A volte penso che sia assurdo tutto ciò e che molti non vogliano proprio pensare con la propria testa.

MA OI! NON ERA PENSA CON IL TUO CERVELLO!?!

Ho conosciuto decine di ragazzi che avevano idee anarcoidi, forse solo perchè fa ribelle,!?! vai a sapere!. Tutti consideravano gli Skins dei nazi, li convinsi che non erano come dicevano i giornali; si avvicinarono così al culto e come da copione iniziarono a comportarsi da Skin da telenovela, odiando addirittura chi fino all'anno prima frequentavano, e vomitando un'attitudine da strumtruppen!!!

Sono storie strane, ma preoccupanti e poco edificanti, non credete?

Credo che bisogna superare gli errori fatti e bisogna comunicare, chiarirsi con posti come i Centri Sociali, se poi manca il rispetto e l'onestà da una parte è assurdo continuare, ma io sono dell'idea che certi spazi vadano difesi. L'anno 1994/95 è stato molto positivo per il movimento Skinhead e Oil, ricco di concerti, iniziative, etc. Business, Lurkers, Skatalites, Selecter in Italia, Nabat riformati, la compilazione "Oil Against Silvio" e le decine di bands uscite dal nulla, l'apertura da parte dei Centri Sociali Occupati verso gli Skins e viceversa.

Però insieme ai successi ci sono stati anche dei problemi e delle incrinazioni nel nostro movimento, e se non vogliamo che muoia tutto come è già successo 10 anni fa è giunto il momento di fermarsi qualche minuto a meditare, e che ognuno decida con la propria testa che cazzo vuole fare.

C'è chi vorrebbe il movimento con un solo colore, chi per forza fare di testa sua e chi per opportunismo e per paraculismo preferisce stare nella confusione. Purtroppo c'è ancora poca conoscenza e confusione, ma cerchiamo di fare un pò di ordine, visto che l'argomento non è il più facile da affrontare Il movimento Skins, che vi piaccia o no si può dividere in 3 grandi filoni:

1-Nazi con le loro esasperazioni, legate al loro credo, i loro odi verso diversi, immigrati, Punk... con le loro bands di Rock bianco, lontane ormai anni luce dal suono Punk/Oil.

**2-**Red Skins con la loro ideologia, che racchiudono nelle loro file anche molti S.H.A.R.P., Anti Razzisti, Anti Nazi, anche perchè per chi odia razzismo, etc non è difficile aggregarsi con chi ha idee di sinistra.

**3-**Skinheads Apolitici condannati da entrambe le parti per non aver preso posizioni, etc. Anche loro hanno degli S.H.A.R.P. tra le loro file.

Vogliamo chiarire una volta per tutte le posizioni che sono state prese e come sono state prese!

Gli Skinheads Apolitici odiano le esasperazioni e i loro confini di tolleranza sono molto più ampi di quelli di Red e Nazi.

Per una volta siamo sinceri e onesti con noi stessi...

Gli Sham 69, Garry Bushell, tutte le bands Oil e 2 Tone, i Poeti Oil hanno sempre voluto un movimento pulito, onesto, positivo. Un movimento formato da ragazzi con una certa attitudine, che avrebbe dovuto andare oltre a certi schemi e luoghi comuni, un movimento che avrebbe dovuto abbattere barriere e non porsi limiti, un movimento senza pregiudizi, gelosie, invidie. Skinheads apolitici vuol dire tutto questo, vuol dire aver rispetto per se stessi e per gli altri in ugual modo e pretendere lo stesso dagli altri. Questo è stato il messaggio degli Sham 69, degli Angelic Upstarts, dei Last Resort, degli Specials...

Gli Skinheads apolitici hanno preso la loro posizione molto tempo fa e gli Adolf-Skins con le loro accuse e minacce non ci hanno fatto certo cambiare idea, la loro codardia e le loro debolezze e frustrazioni, le loro paure verso tutto ciò che è diverso non possono trovare posto in uno dei più orgogliosi movimenti giovanili. I Comunisti poi dicono che noi siamo nella confusione, che noi facciamo la musichetta ma loro purtroppo seguendo un'ideologia, hanno perso sfumature di un movimento troppo ricco di piccole cose caratterizzanti la cultura Skinhead e si permettono di giudicare un uomo dalla bandiera che sventola, o che non sventola e non per quello che vale.