

Searchlight Magazine

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Tony Greenstein

6 Tilbury Place

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Dear Mr Greenstein,

You will find attached to this letter an invoice for the copies of Searchlight that you have removed each month from Brighton University Students Union and not paid for. We expect payment within 14 days for the full amount otherwise I will summons you for what is owing. The Students Union have paid for the four copies a month they were left with after you removed the other eight of the dozen we were sending them each month.

Once and for all I am going to deal with the matter of our evidence to the Class War enquiry conducted by AFA in the eighties. Graeme Atkinson came to London and spent two weeks putting together a file for the enquiry, which was handed to Unmesh Desai to take to the meeting. I also went personally to the N.M.P. and handed in some additional material, which I photocopied on their machine. Why the evidence never surfaced at the enquiry remains a mystery to both Graeme Atkinson and myself. Still, as Class War has divorced itself from the likes of Tim Scargill, aka Wright, and Scargill has climbed into political bed with the nazi errand boy Larry O'Hara, it has come as no surprise to us at Searchlight.

Watch it, Tony. O'Hara, whom you are so keen to defend, not only attacks Searchlight but also Red Action and AFA in his booklet A Lie Too Far, as well as spreading his bile to a number of respected well known anti-fascists and investigative journalists, like Ray Hill, Andy Bell, everybody at TWAF and more recently Denis Campbell of Time Out. The fact that this man, without any foundation, writes that Ray has a conviction for arson and another for fraud shows the extent of his lunacy, but it also shows that there are people urging him on. A range of far-right groups and individuals we have given a hard time to over the years are playing him like a puppet. Maybe you feel inclined to accept the rantings of Steve Brady or people in Western Goals, who he claims have offered him money in case we sue him. You really have picked the wrong horse this time.

After a series of near disasters outside London AFA did have a successful day out in Bury recently. Could it be because it was the one event in recent months where your other new-found chum, Mr Astells, was not present?

Searchlight, as you well know, has no secret agenda and we have no group or party axe to grind. The staff and volunteers, Jewish and non-Jewish, object to being ranted at by a self-hating Jew who was more happy in Damascus, where they kill and torture socialists and trades unionists, than around people in the forefront of the battle against the nazis and racists here.

We are certainly not snuggling up to the ANL, or any other group come to that, but are calling for the widest possible unity on the streets now. That includes ARA if they could get rid of the small group of people who are happier sharing studios with nazis than doing real work against racism.

As to the January Troops Out march, well we were thanked by the organisers for providing the service we provide every year: that of keeping them up to date with nazi intentions on the day.

If anyone should be trying to set an example to the movement, you are the least likely candidate with your track record of criminal damage to community property and stealing from your fellow students.

A representative of the band The Levellers, which played a gig to raise money for the anti-fascist movement, came on to us some months ago very upset that they had received neither thanks nor any other communication for their donation, which they put at over £2,000. I now hear a figure of £1,600 being talked about. As it appears you were dealing with this, maybe the movement can be told what the true figure was and how much of it has been paid over to national AFA and how much you have hung on to?

Please do not use Maurice Ludmer's name, how dare you? He detested you for the turncoat that you are, for your dishonesty and for the damage you did to the anti-fascist movement in Brighton when you arrived there years ago.

As to your accusation that we are involved in some machiavellian state plot to wreck AFA (shades of O'Hara), this is a real libel upon Searchlight. Just look at our track record from day one. When AFA was launched we spoke at the first meeting, fought on the streets alongside AFA comrades, promoted AFA in Searchlight free of charge, gave AFA loads of photos, provided help for AFA members arrested in preparing their defences, helped organise rooms at the House of Commons for press conferences and invited AFA speakers to share platforms with us at international events. It does not really sound like a wrecking job. One of the reasons that AFA has failed to grow is because it has been too tolerant of rubbish like you in their ranks. Their toleration of the likes of you, O'Hara, Astells and Scargill shows time and time again that AFA's judgement has been based on might and not right.

I think they may have learned this costly lesson now and will be taking steps to rectify the position. We shall go on publicising AFA events and box numbers, both national and local.

In the meantime cough up or we will see you in court.

Yours sincerely



Gerry Gable
Editor Searchlight

cc National AFA
Northern Network