

# CONNEXIONS WORKERS SACKING IS A BLOODY SCANDLE.

In October 2010 as part of its spending review the Council Cabinet took the ridiculous decision to make 17 workers at the Connexions Service in Huddersfield redundant.

Despite saying that they were not going to cut front line services the Council were sacking the very workers who are at the forefront of working with young people from troubled backgrounds and dealing with the complex issues of addiction, teenage pregnancies and crime.

At the Councils Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel on 15<sup>th</sup> November the plot thickened.

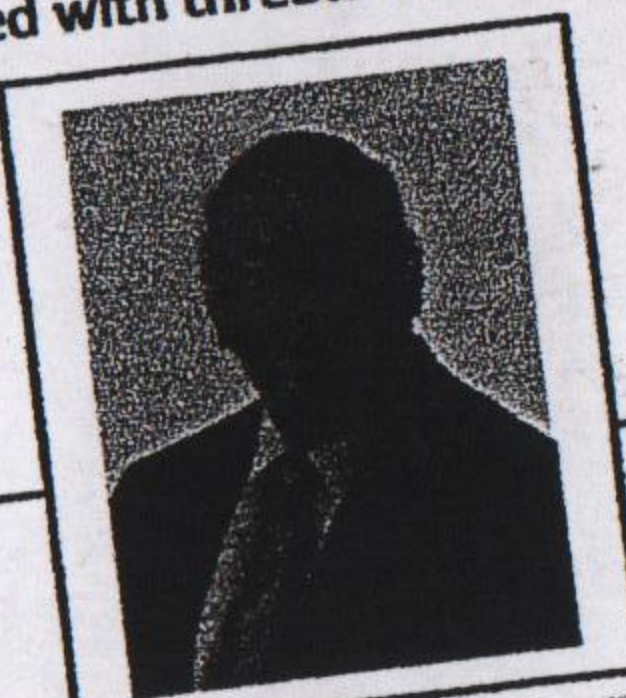
Independent Councillor Terry Lyons exposed the catalogue of bullying and racism that the staff had suffered at the hands of management for some time and it appeared nothing had been done about it. Leader of the Council Mehboob Khan told a full time UNISON official that he knew nothing about this even though UNISON has e-mails to Khan complaining of the issue. Why was nothing done?

Why did Khan and other Cabinet members who made the decision to sack workers not attend the Scrutiny meeting to justify their actions and why were no other options in cutting the budget put to Cabinet other than job losses?

One could be forgiven for thinking that management and the Council wanted to use the cuts as a way of getting rid of staff to stop them exposing bullying and racism that happens in other Council departments.

### KEN SMITH A CHURLISH ROUGUE

Labour Councillor and Cabinet member Ken Smith has never been known for his tact and diplomacy and when approached by UNISON Chief Steward Mike Foster recently about the question of an Academy at Fartown he retorted in a very blunt fashion. No sooner had Mike got the words out "Can I have a word" Ken literally told him to "fuck off". This is the two faced arrogance which Labour politicians extend to Trade Unionists, but its also a sign that we have got them rattled with threats of strike action.



### EDITORIAL

Rearguard has returned in experimental A4 format at the cost of 60p. Unlike previous issues done under the counter by covert operatives in government departments we have been forced to print this edition commercially hence the price hike. Your money is well received and if we make on it as ever the profit will be used to fund subversive causes. A4/A5 wot size, wot do you think.

## ROYAL WEDDING, WE CAN'T AFFORD IT.

Typical, the country is in crisis there is chaos and dissent everywhere so what do the authorities do? Organise a bloody royal wedding to take our minds of it. Well at least one could be forgiven for thinking it has been deliberately timed so.

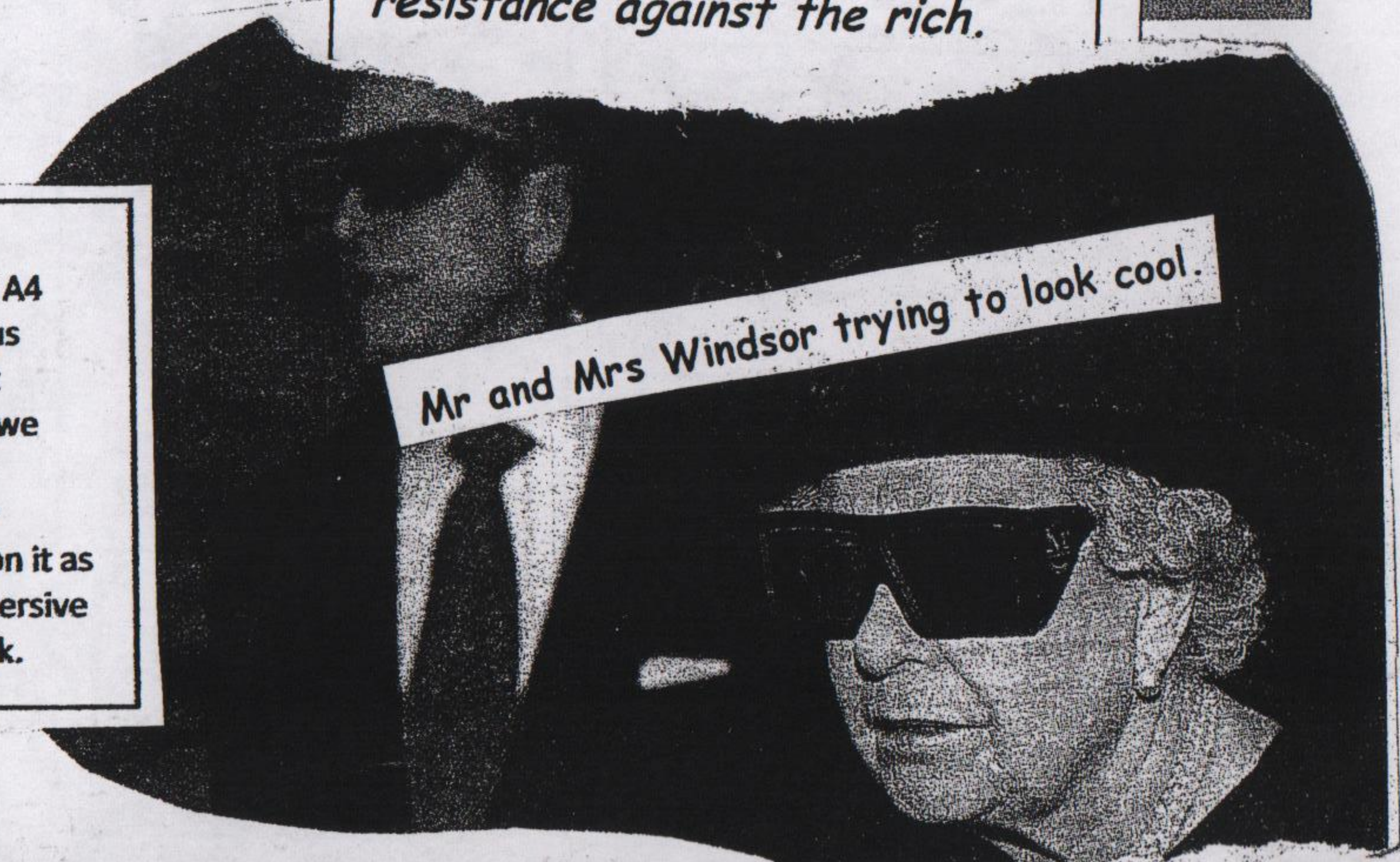
But it's OK because in recognition of the country's economic crisis and everyone tightening their belts the family Windsor are paying for the jamboree themselves. We, the tax payer are only shelling out the £20 Million, that's right, £20 million for security. When we can't afford to keep people in work and run decent services then how come the tax payer is footing the bill for two toffs to get wed?

Now it may come as a surprise to hear that we have got no gripe with the family Windsor, but considering the fact that they own land, businesses and property to the tune of millions of £s why on earth are they still claiming benefits. If I owned half of Cornwall I am pretty sure my Jobseekers Allowance would stop pretty quickly.

Every year the government pays Charlie Windsor £600,000 rent for the land on which Dartmoor Prison is located and the MOD fork out a similar amount for the land they use to practise been solders on. So why are the Royals still getting handouts from the tax payer?

At least us prolts get a bank holiday to turn into festival of resistance against the rich.

Mr and Mrs Windsor trying to look cool.



# Rearguard IS BACK Action

Inside:-  
Spending cuts.  
Owen Vincent Ford.  
Light from the Pit.  
Taking it up the arse.



The return of Revolutionary Surrealism. Mid winter 2010

## ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?

Some of you will have been waiting for this moment for ages, the time when you get your mits on yet another edition of Rearguard Action. You have been clamouring, ney demanding, "when is the next issue out" you will have been unnerved and shaking with the withdrawal from the acidic humour, hope and sheer insanity of a mag which combines serious political shit with, art and poetry, in a weave of dark humour, reality and life affirming beauty which grabs you by the collars and shouts "live you bastards, live".

If you haven't bought this mag before prepare to be bemused and shocked by revelations and blasphemy, smut and anarchy that you never before saw before in print. If you hate the establishment and all its pious hypocritical shit then read on, but if you are easily shocked then we advise that you put this abomination of a publication in a rubbish bin and run before it explodes; or even better donate it to a passing tramp.

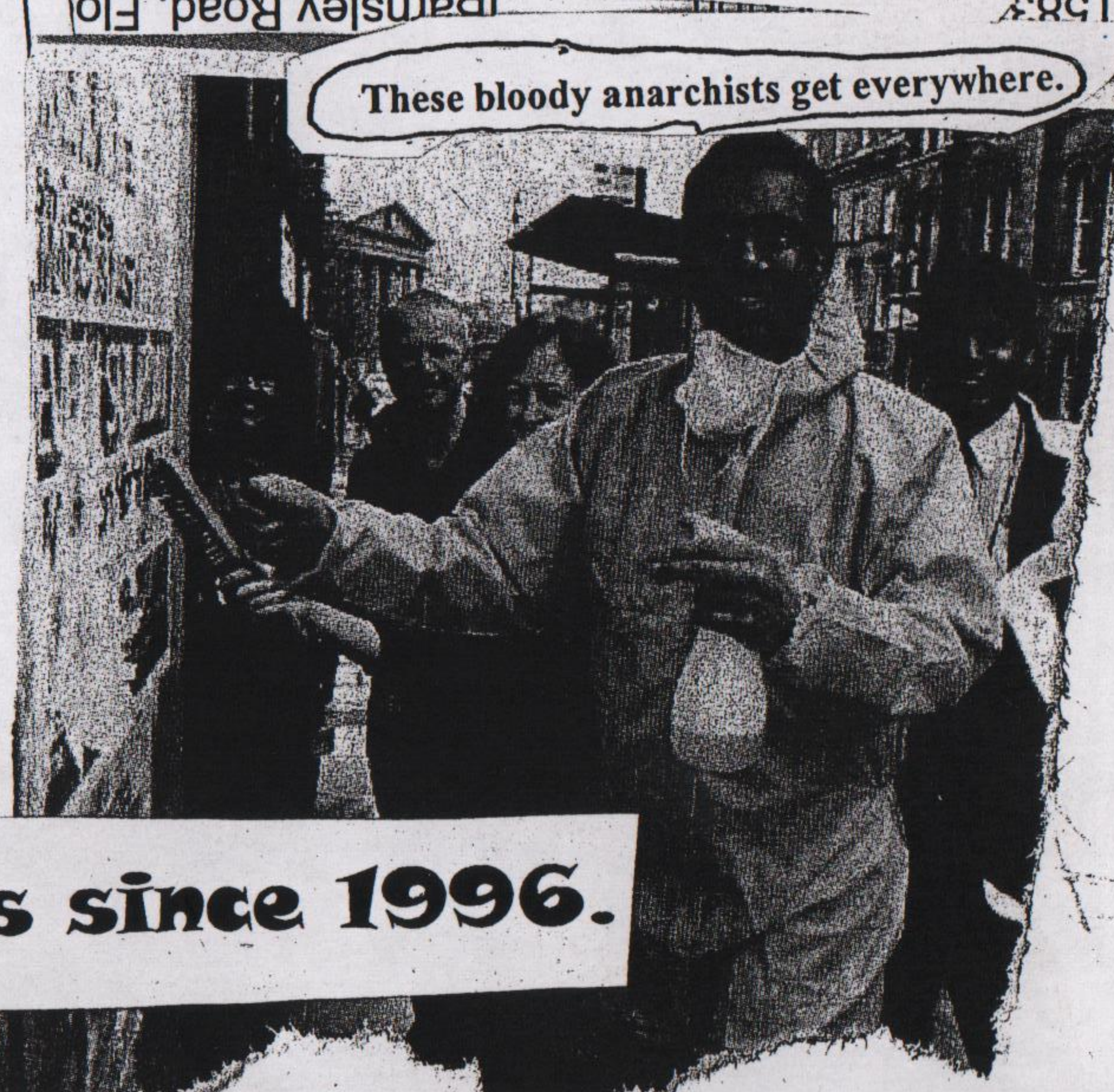
As the country goes to the dogs and the shit hits the fan Rearguard is back to bring you even more scandals, news and piss takes and mobilise resistance to the tossers who rule us. We are been lied to, ripped off and sacked but we won't take it and neither should you. They are destroying the lives and futures of millions of ordinary people and we will destroy their illusions, power and corporate property.

This is a call to arms and a call to joy.

#53 Taking the piss since 1996.



Leader of Kirklees Council Mehboob Khan n Doing some real work for a change.



THE PAPER OF PSYCHEDELIC SOCIALISM  
2010  
£12



# Rearguard Action is BACK

Since 1996 Rearguard has brought the people of Huddersfield and beyond resistance and righteousness, rampant idiosyncrasy, sex and blasphemy, sanity in an insane world. We created, fought and prophesied, loved and laughed in the face of oppression and tumbled the rich and powerful from their lofty pedestals, we demonstrated rioted and struck.

Photocopied secretly in dark offices after work in 2006 the free printing dried up and we were banished to even lower nether regions than we inhabited before.

But now when we are being stitched up, robbed, lied to when the bodies are piling up in Palestine and Afghanistan we thought shit, now we have to do something direct and arse kicking the cuts will savage our communities and we will make sure that it is the rich who have to pay.

We have a badass recession, wars and authoritarian government- sounds familiar ain't this the same old shit that kicked off the Luddite rebellion that lost kings and tsars their heads. You bet it was.

A whole heap of shit is coming our way so we may as well be ready for it.  
Rita

A local magazine for local people (and foreigners)



Message to Rearguard from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Dear comrades,

Thank you for your support and solidarity. We urge you to publish statements and articles of the PFLP and the Palestinian resistance and to help amplify this issue and spread the word in your area. It is very important to build solidarity for Palestine, and there has been tremendous work emerging from England recently. Thank you again.

In solidarity

Information Dept - PFLP

Yes they have given me a smaller truncheon for demonstrations.

You will have budget cuts too.

### Lobby Jason McCartney MP

on tuition fees. 8th Jan: Golcar Details will be confirmed.

## STUDENTS ARISE (the fight continues)

On 10<sup>th</sup> November the whole nature of the battle against the cuts changed with the student invasion of the Tory HQ at Millbank Towers. Led by 30 or so anarchists but involving some two thousand students the attack showed that we will not take the destruction of our future lying down. Indeed apart from the unfortunate fire extinguisher incident such action was the only way that the demo of 50,000 students could be guaranteed the press coverage it deserved. If they destroy our future it is understandable that some people will wreck their corporate property.

On 24<sup>th</sup> November students walked out all over the country. In Manchester 3000 attempted to storm the town hall, as did students in Sheffield where police batons were used. In Bury 1,500 took to the streets and in Leeds 3000 supported the ongoing occupation at Leeds Uni. School Students walked out of Birkdale High in Batley, as well as Calder High and North Halifax Grammar School.

A demonstration of 60 students marched on Huddersfield Uni Campus, but cops were bussed into town and we were prevented from marching into Market Cross by the cops who were jittery to say the least. The organiser of the demo in Huddersfield was visited by the cops in the first case of coppers harassing activists since the late 1990s.

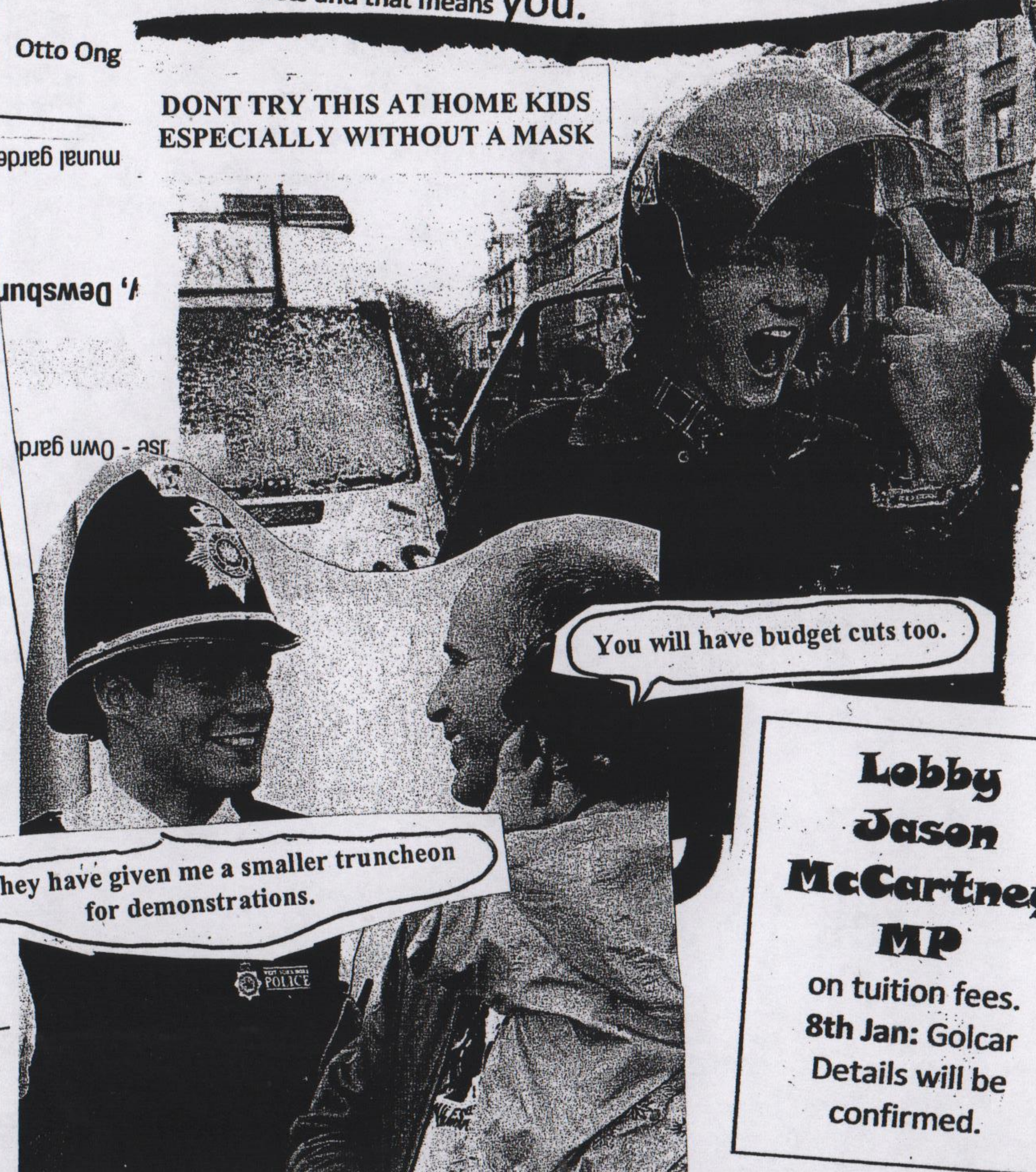
After the riot in Whitehall on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov the Tory press were crying over one lone police van in which got trashed, ironic really considering the damage that is been done to the police force by Tory budget cuts.

Even though the fees were passed in parliament on 9<sup>th</sup> of December with only a majority of 21 the splits and resignations of MPs have thrown the government into disarray, parliament has been besieged and police couldn't prevent the direct action even against Charlie Windsor's posh car. This is only the first reading in parliament and we need to prepare for more action in the New Year when the bill has its second reading in the Commons and victory is in our grasp.

With all the cuts, wage cuts and job losses that people have to face we will have to get used to going to London and besieging parliament. This is total war to preserve all we have gained over the past 150 years, we need everybody on the streets and that means YOU.

Otto Ong

DONT TRY THIS AT HOME KIDS ESPECIALLY WITHOUT A MASK



McBoycott pleads....."LOCK ME UP-NOW. POR FAVOR!"

No, I haven't gone mad...yet, so I'll fill you in on the story.

For the last few days I have been praying feverously, communicating with God by Knee mail and its hard work sometimes, what with all that hidden guilt lingering in my subconscious. Understand, there is guilt,.... and GUILT. It was that disgraceful news that Osama's ex-driver gets 66 months in prison, of which he has already spent 60 in Guantanamo, God help him. And then I consider my sordid past, and find the ugliest of scenarios in my CV--"What's this? Catering Manager for Margaret Bloody Thatcher, Her Majesty the Baked Bean, and general purveyor of good service to the landed, lucky and corrupt.....for at least 15 years. Yes, he served war criminals of all denominations, races and buttock dimensions. AND.....NOT served one day in clinky....LOCK HIM UP!"

So, you see my dichotomy, go quietly or give myself in, admit all and pay the price.

Naturally my ex-abandoned dog, Mora, has offered to take my place in case I have to go to Cuba, (she loves Cuban 'Son' music and bites me when I change it), and I tell her she won't get a lot of grub there and to stop complaining. She tells me she is fed up of toasted croissant (probably made with pig fat) with orange marmalade on it followed by Greek style yoghurt with chopped banana...that's just breakfast. For lunch, Empanada de Atun, and then dog biscuits with some tinned disaster for tea. After a few stale morsels of bread, an ex oil barrel to live in and a steel chain to cuddle up to, she has got pure luxury now...even gets a chance to advertise her cheap fleas for sale in the 'free' (unless you live in the Amazon rainforest) papers.

I suppose the best option is for us to both "Do time" and share a cell together, and with luck she will have to chew through the bars so that we can escape, as even she will be fed up of porridge by then.

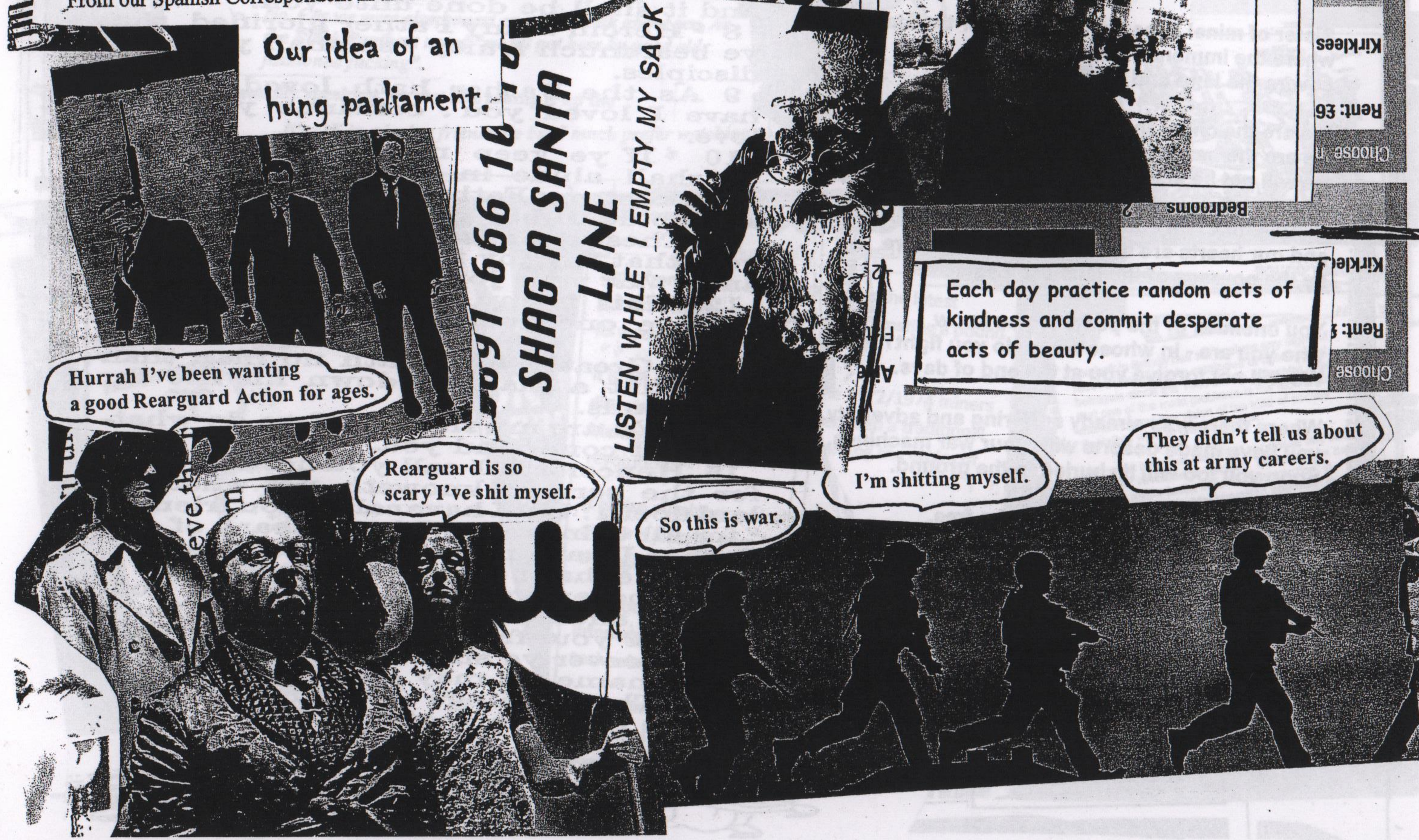
In a local supermarket here in town, where the average person's height is quite low, probably cos there used to be coal mining here, there is a sign asking you to "care for the environment, your plastic bag can be recycled...etc. etc." and the sign is at each checkout, stuck lazily about 8 feet above the check out so that you need binoculars to see it let alone read it....lets face it this human race is doomed although I think there will be survivors.

Despite the naivety of the gullible ill educated townies who carry their shoddy goods home in those teaspoons of gelated petroleum, the average, paysano/campesino is quite Zen in their lives...imagine spending hours slowly swinging a guadaña (scythe) back and forth at the brambles and bracken, whilst grasping a goatskin full of gut rotting vino de mesa--that's quite Buddhist, except for the goatskin.

RIGHT, LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ALL IN CUBA.

LOTS OF LOVE McMORo.... N

From our Spanish Correspondent in the mountains of Asturias.



Our idea of an hung parliament.

666 18 18 SHAG A SANTA LINE LISTEN WHILE I EMPTY MY SACK

Hurrah I've been wanting a good Rearguard Action for ages.

Rearguard is so scary I've shit myself.

So this is war.

I'm shitting myself.

They didn't tell us about this at army careers.

Each day practice random acts of kindness and commit desperate acts of beauty.

### Dedicated to the memory of Owen Vincent Ford

1951-2010

It was with shock and sadness that supporters of Rearguard learned of the death of Owen Vincent Ford at his Linfit home on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

Born in Edinburgh and brought up in Lockwood he was a talented musician who is known as the man who brought punk rock to Huddersfield. Indeed he fronted the local punk band Killermeters which headlined in the late 70s with such bands as X Ray Specs and Tom Robinson.

However it was his talent as a nurse which was called upon on Christmas day 1977, when at the last Sex Pistols gig in Britain, held at Ivanhoe's Club on Manchester Road, he attended to Nancy Spungeon who had twisted her ankle falling off the stage.

He worked as a nurse at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary as well as privately, caring for such luminaries as Stephen Hawkins and John Le Mesurier of Dads Army fame.

He played mandolin, guitar and violin proficiently and was one of the few registered mandolin teachers in the area.

He will be remembered as someone who could talk with passion and authority on subjects as wide ranging as the Beatles and Beethoven, literature and situationist politics or art.

Despite his problems he lived life to the full and his original dress sense reflected his flamboyant intellect; his sharp wit and sense of mischief will be missed and his passing has left a gaping hole in the creative fabric of the town.

In his honour we plan to release the DVD 'From the Sublime to the Ridiculous' in the next month.

Rita.



A vertical column on the far right edge of the page containing various small text fragments and repetitive words like 'Rent:', 'Choose', and 'Kirlee'.

Mark Murphy

POETRY



Mark Murphy has never been a poet to shy away from social commentary even if it did get him into trouble with the Albert Poets. Here are pieces from his latest web site Poets Against War.

These poems are cries not just against war but also against contrived poetical forms that are imposed on poets through tradition and the conformity of the age in which we live.

Mark indeed was one of the original Albert Poets and ran with the Militant Posse in the 1980s

The Struggle

Sister of mine! Dream with me under the stars where the immense ceiling of night covers the land and all our fears.

We are the children of the struggle, we are the beautiful and proud ones - we will not be silenced by violence.

All this time, we stare loss in the face and our hearts are strengthened once more by the courage of the landless dead.

You enemies of the people - you know who you are - in whose name do you fight? We will not forgive you at the end of days.

Where there was already suffering and adversity, you have made deserts with your war machines. Soon you too will lie buried in the ground.

And in time even this land will be free. And the young will frown with indignation. And they will ask, 'what was it all for?'



Seven Day Eternity

Always, there is some inexpressible grief unfolding in the world that our bodies cannot wholly escape, beyond the apple orchard down the lane where a boy falls and breaks his arm stealing apples from the orchard's greedy owner, beyond the 'grand final' live and the greedy advertising on billboards, beyond the latest headlines and the 'war on terror', there is a list of dead insurgents, a list of dead GI's, and always, somewhere, there are those that will cry out: 'God, save us.' And then, 'God, revenge us.'

for Suheir Hammad



APRIL - JULY 2008

pagans for peace

... The office of the Holy Ghost, and of the apostles.

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Otto Rant interviews Rita about the genesis of Rearguard Action and taking it up the arse.



So Rita, Rearguard Action has been going since 1996. What influenced its creation?

It was a strange time and Rearguard was the expression of a mix of degenerating left wing politics, the Job centre, Wilhelm Reich, White Cider and the Fat Yids flat which was a bohemian centre of degeneracy at that time.



Is the title about taking it up the arse.

No not at all. Rearguard was conceived when a load of us disgruntled ex trots were marching at the back of a demo and Papa Sqwark said "here we go again the Rearguard of the working class". That's it. We were the Rearguard. All the Little trot groups who sold papers proclaiming themselves to be the Vanguard of the working class were talking shite. How could they be the vanguard when the vanguard is an attacking force and we had been in retreat and getting battered by the Tories since the miner's strike of 1985.



So you were defeated?

Yes that's why we were all depressed and got pissed lots but we were honest about it and carried on fighting the bastards.



How?

We pulled stunts and took the piss. We vomited in the Job Centre, we put their windows through and nicked their wine, we wrote poetry and didn't give a fuck. We made politicians and middle class academic wankers bloody uncomfortable. We didn't have to win, the fact we were resisting was winning, it was life affirming and was ace.



So in a way politically speaking you had been taking it up the arse for years.

Supposed so. But it was only later we realised the sexual connotations of the name REARguard.

Was that a problem?

No. Cos we were also honest enough to talk about sex. As the Black Panthers noted "we all got here by good old fashioned fucking".

So personally speaking, do you like taking it up the arse.

It's OK in a loving friendship but I much prefer watching tennis.

Advertisement for 'LIGHT FROM THE PIT' by Alan O'Dale. The ad features a drawing of a lantern and text describing the book as a reed good read, set during the 1972/1974 miners' disputes, and a discussion between a traditional Marxist and an anarchist regarding the ethics of revolution. It also mentions the author's journey from traditional lefty to libertarian socialist and that the book is of great interest to anyone interested in philosophy or put haulage technology. The price is listed as £1.

FREE SPEECH on the left.

Sometime ago a debate ensued via e-mail in the Radical Action Network, we thought the comments here from Alan O'Dale were deserving of comment as an indication of non authoritarian practice.

Dear All,

the term 'agreed rules' sent a shiver down my spine.

- 1. We want less rules more rule by common sense.
2. free speech and dissemination of ideas is a fundamental principle - there is always the delete button on emails.
3. emails give people like myself who can't get to meetings a chance to follow what is going on and contribute if necessary. Such as in this instance.

I see the free expression of ideas as the basis of our new political concept. It is the only way we will escape the deadening hand of dogma. There must be no party line, only agreement on basic unifying principles around which every individual has not only the right, but the duty, to express her or his own views of how those principles should be achieved.

If some are already thinking that the 'personal' and the 'individual' should be subordinated to some group concept then we are on the slippery slope back to the sink of the old left.

The more an organisation needs rules and regulations to hold it together the less it is worth holding together.

No discipline but self-discipline.

Unity but not uniformity.

Feel free to reply that this is a load of bollox,

best wishes,

Alan



The Left in Britain has still to show any signs of recovery following its catalogue of defeats and betrayals since the 1980's. This pamphlet argues that one of the main problems is the lack of any moral code or any vision of the kind of society Socialists wish to create.

Orthodox Marxism has failed to provide any ethical basis for revolutionary action. Its amorality has been a major factor in its own destruction, in that the avowedly Machiavellian approach to the class war which was established as the norm of behaviour by the dominant Bolshevik tradition has inevitably been turned inwards onto the Left itself.

The Left has suffered enough from the tragic and the absurd. A form of organisation based on non-alienating practice and rooted in authentic relationships between people is proposed as the only path towards true human liberation.

A Rearguard Action PUBLICATION

We are ruled by a set of wankers.....managers and politicians who get to the top by arse licking. They say they are consulting with us when they lie, they talk about democracy yet run rough shod over the wishes of ordinary people.....they try to baffle us with bullshit and management speak. They have taken us into war and sold off health and public services to vultures.

They make the shit routine of 9 to 5 WORK worse with their overcrowded over priced trains congested roads and the stupid petty rules of management tosses.

House prices and rents are sky high and the City bosses rake in bonuses of millions whilst we get peanuts.

We live in a world run from the Whitehouse and the unelected World Trade Organisation, a society that offers us 24 hour TV, casino's, gadgets and designer labels to keep us asleep. "Work your bollocks off to HAVE the latest designer trinkets" Yet you can never be up to date, cos today's 'must haves' are tomorrows 'have been's' a consumerist merry go round always leaving us wanting more.

They terrify us by our own bodies; over weight, facial hair too black, too pale not sexy enough. We can never be like the computerised celebrities in the mags cos they don't exist.

They scare us with bomb plots, girls in veils and refugees to stop us speaking out. Moslem, Christian; scared of each other, scared to think and talk and act. The powers that be are scared of us talking to each other.

Fuck them and their bullshit, the resistance is here and it is everywhere. Men and women who like you are pissed off and doing something.

We are the clerks and the commuters the jobless and the posties, the ones who speak out, the ones who care, the ones who love..... And they are scared of us and scared of you. So you want to do something about it? You want to join the resistance? If you have read this leaflet and agree, you already have. Now pass it on.

Photocopy this at work, wipe the sleep from your eyes. Say hello to strangers, vandalise corporate property, TAKE YOUR DREAMS FOR REALITY

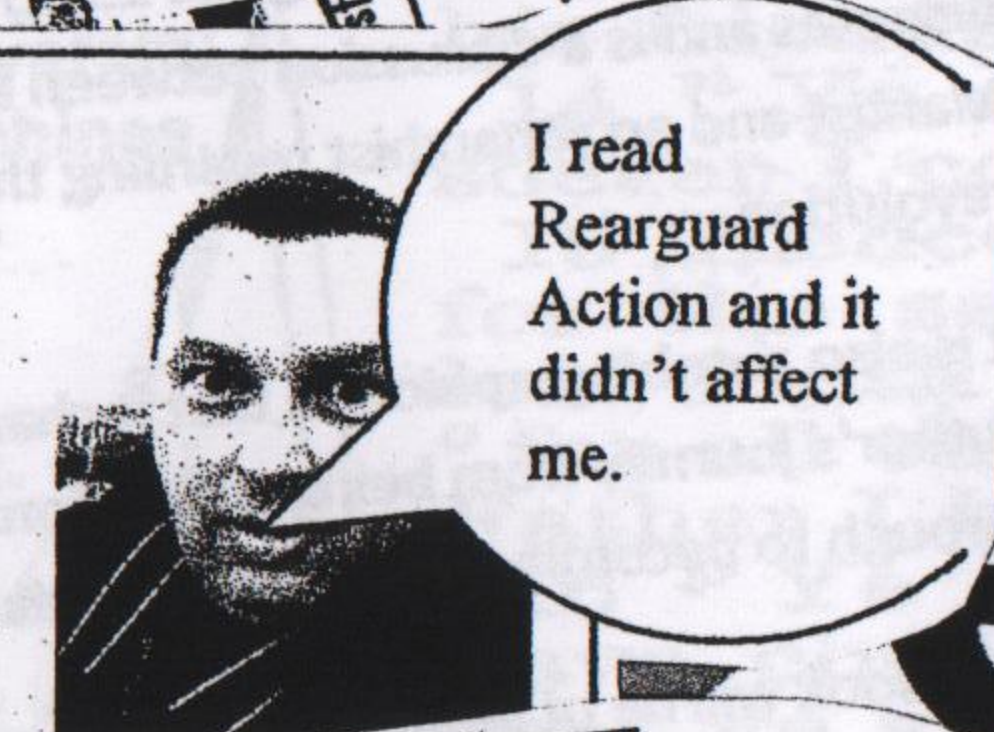
## IS BACK

### A case of the wrong trousers!

POLICE were called to a bizarre confrontation outside a Batley post office when two men threatened to cut a customer's trousers off. Mubin Lahar, 37, was approached by the men brandishing scissors while collecting his benefits from Batley Carr post office on Town Street on Friday. Mubin, of Batley, said it was not the first time the pair had tried to attack his clothing. He said similar incidents had happened before but he had no idea why the pair wanted to damage his trousers. He said: "Every week I go down to the post office, and every week they come at me. I don't know what it is, I thought they were joking at first. It was pretty frightening, they were coming at me with the scissors and I fell down but managed to get away and my trousers are okay. Police officers have spoken to all parties concerned and no crime was recorded."



Stanley, intrepid explorer moustache breeder and all round bastard, sporting a funny hat.



I read Rearguard Action and it didn't affect me.



Ruff

## CORRUPTION IN KIRKLEES HOUSING AND KIRKLEES COLLEGE

It is not just in the private sector or the Council where we see over paid fat cats protecting their position at the expense of their staff. It appears that despite cutting thirty teaching jobs at Kirklees College the principle Chris Sadler has not only had a new Executive Suit built to serve the differing layers of management he has appointed but he has had the affrontery to award himself a two percent salary increase. Once again wage restraint and job cuts for us whilst the management are frivolous with public money.

Also it appears that Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing the arms length company that manages the Councils housing stock are also in the process of taking on seven new heads of service at great expense recruited from already within the organisation, which sounds like jobs for the boys to me.

Meanwhile again front line staff are expected to do more for less as KNH both fritter away money on a bloated beurocracy and also ignore Council procedures on recruitment to which they are supposed to adhere. It's about time we had some accountability from both these arbitrary organisations that are intent on feathering the pockets of the elite rather than developing the services they are supposed to provide.

## Housing benefit cap hits poorest

A squeeze on housing benefit will force many of the poorest into smaller and more crowded accommodation. Housing benefit will be capped at £280 per week for two bed properties and £400 a week for four bed houses.

This is less than the rent for the average working class home in parts of London and some other cities.

Unemployed people face a 10 percent cut in housing benefit after 12 months from April 2013 under plans hidden away in the budget report.

## Fight the Spending Cuts.

On black Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 250 trade unionists, students and socialists gathered at market Cross to protest against the Coalitions spending cuts that were being announced in parliament. This was a good sized demo even though the much hoped for walk out by council staff at the Civic Centre's failed to materialise.

The spending cuts mean a 25% cut across the board in Council finances on top of what was demanded by the previous Labour government, locally this means the loss of 1000 jobs at Kirklees Council, continued wage restraints (which linked to price increases means a wage cut) the loss of Connexions Service for young people and the cutting of transport grants leading to a 30% plus hike in bus and train fares.

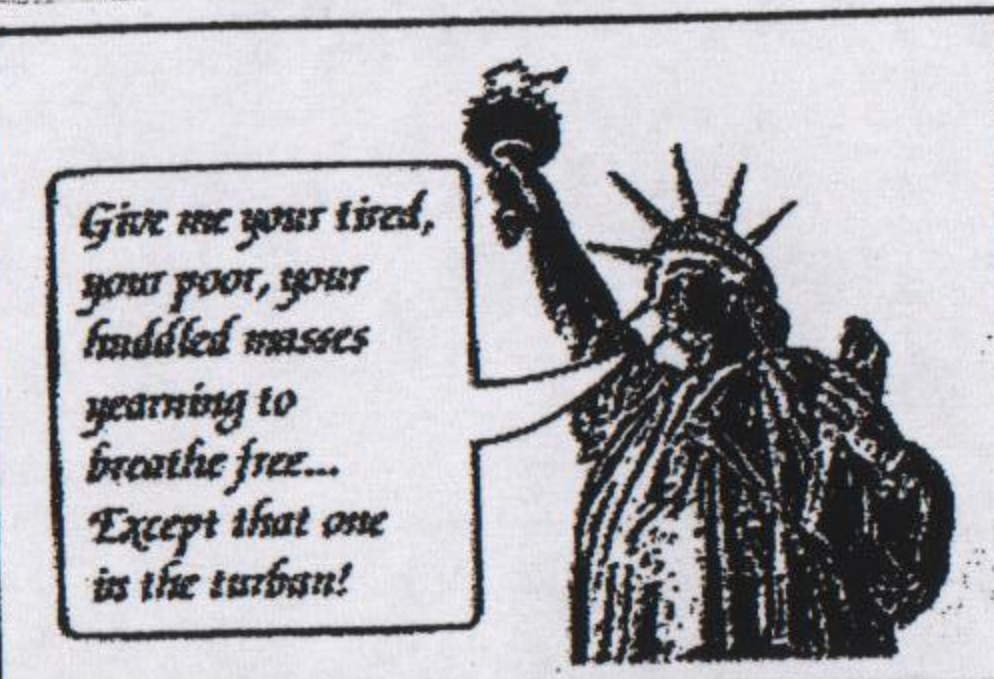
Whilst the Labour Leadership of Kirklees bleats about how awful this is they are accomplices in this crime. If the Labour Party wanted to do something to resist the cuts then each Labour controlled local council would refuse to implement the cuts, the TUC would call a 48 hour general strike and bus people to besiege parliament until this matter is settled. But the truth of the matter is that Labour politicians have their noses in the trough the same as the Lib/Cons and are not to be trusted.

If these cuts are to be fought then the British people need to awake from their slumbers of twenty years of consumerism and rise up like the people of France who know how to defend their livelihoods by direct action.

Kirklees UNISON have agreed to continue their ballot for strike action and are determined not to suspend it until all their demands are agreed to by management in cast iron.

Whenever the Council makes decisions that are to the detriment of the people of the borough then we need to turn up in our hundreds to those meetings to force them to climb down.

We need to use wildcat action by closing the entire council down for 1 and 2 hour protests which would mean people leaving their work place in mass all at the same time in legal action and we need a mass campaign of all communities to cast aside the anti-trade union legislation that has kept the people of this country in bondage for so long.



## Save Our Services

Huddersfield DEMO Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January. (see next issue for details)



## Kirklees UNISON Fighting to Save Jobs and Services

Kirklees Council has already announced cuts of £400m and its intention to shed 2,000 jobs. This was based on an assumption of 20% cuts, but now the government has announced cuts of 35-40%. These will be the worst cuts in living memory and will impact on everyone! Here a few examples of what these cuts will mean for you.

- Fewer gritting wagons and less salt to keep roads safe in the winter. Much fewer potholes repaired and broken street lights left unrepaired.
- Home Care and Day Care reduced. Already private companies doing the council's work have failed to provide staff over two weekends, leaving people in dire circumstances.
- Fewer refuse collectors, or farming them out to private companies that have already failed in other areas.
- More school closures, on top of the 7 already earmarked, or once again put out to the private sector like the academies or so-called 'independent' schools.
- More library closures hot on the heels of the cash office closures.

This is not scare-mongering, this is what councils are being advised to consider. To push through these measures, the council is pressing its staff into leaving or to take pay cuts. They are proposing to impose job cuts, slash people's hours, as well as reduce redundancy pay. This is a council gearing up for an all-out assault on its workforce and public services in general.

The public services we have today have been built up by the struggles of previous generations. The welfare state was put in place to overcome the poverty endured in the 'hungry' 30's. We are in danger of returning to those days again. Yet this council is still cash rich:

- It pays 8 of its chief officers more than £1million
- It underspent in the last 2 years by £20million

We are in this mess because the government bankrupt the country bailing out the banks, and they want us to pay.

## Wots Going on.

### UNISON STRIKE ACTION

As we go to press UNISON are still balloting their members for 5 day strike action in January. We urge any UNISON members to vote YES in this ballot since Kirklees Council Budget is been cut by 35-40% which means 1,700 Job losses including:-

- 300 compulsory redundancies.
- The reduction of the maximum salary considered in redundancy payoffs meaning people on lower grades are been ripped off.
- Cutting by half the time when people can find jobs on redeployment.

Meanwhile top directors have been paid off with big hand outs of over £140,000. One Assistant Director on leaving the Council was not only offered a payout based on his full wage but also the help of a consultancy firm costing the tax payer £2000 to help him find another job; or re-employ him as a consultant whilst we are treat like shit.

