

THE MOLE

Brighton June 5 1969

6d

some
kids are
doing very



nicely



some
aren't

TRADES COUNCIL NEWS

1 THE BRIGHTON RENTS PROJECT is being invited to send a speaker to the June meeting of the local Trades Council. The point has been made several times at public meetings that the need exists to involve trade unionists in the housing battle. Discussion at the Trades Council may be the first step towards this.

2 The Liaison Committee in Defence of Free Trade Unions is planning a big demonstration in Brighton, to coincide with the opening of the Labour Party Conference in September.

3 Rumour has it that the furniture in Trades Council meeting rooms is shortly to be replaced by the Labour Club. However, one link may be broken by this move — on the backs of the chairs are still to be seen the words 'Council of Action' — dating from 1926 when the Trades Council transformed itself into the workers executive organ during the General Strike.



Councillor Cohen

TWO YEARS AGO, the public baths in Cobden Road were closed by the Council. A certain Councillor Cohen thereby acquired the lease to the baths, adding this to some 40 other properties in Brighton. Subsequently he converted the baths into a warehouse for his wife's cosmetic firm, as well as a postal address and office for his student travel agency (the latter, you may recall, hit the headlines by leaving a party of students stranded abroad without the necessary return tickets last year).

However, not satisfied with these achievements, he decided to use the baths for yet more income. He daubed white paint on the walls, acquired a few beds, bits of furniture etc., had the place wired up and let out the rooms above his warehouse to students at approximately £3.10s a week. Initially the rooms were rather damp and the stone floors of the old baths hardly made for comfortable living. However, a few improvements have since been made; hot water has been installed, in addition to one cold tap in a girl's bedroom.

Despite these concessions to the residents, the following facts are clear: — Public Baths were closed and then utilized for Cohen's personal interests. The premises have subsequently been exploited to the hilt by a Brighton Councillor. Of course, this case (as usual), is an exception.....

MONEY



ACCORDING to the Sunday Times Business News (May 25 1969) the shop stewards and workers of Rootes' Midland plant like piece working because 'they are addicted to the big pay packets and constant opportunities for negotiation this system has allowed.'

Nobody of course would ever suggest that the directors of Rootes are addicted to their salaries, expense accounts and other tax-free perks, or to the constant opportunities for rises provided by their 'wage system



HARRY BRANT, one of the youths arrested outside the Earl Grey in Folkstone (see the last copy of the Mole) is coming up for trial on Friday 6 June.

The next issue of the Mole will contain a detailed account of the events leading up to the first incidents in Folkstone and the possibilities of further developments.....

one wonders

THE TRIAL of the Brighton Rents Project 'protesters' was typical of the kind of justice dished out by Brighton's magistrates. A preceding case set the tone. A Pakistani citizen was tried for overstaying his visit. As his legal representative pointed out: 'He doesn't understand a word of English. He has not committed any offence, but has been in Lewes on remand for a week (in the company of hardened criminals.) He has been punished many times before he has come to court.'

Ken Walpole pleaded guilty to the charge of obstructing the police during the Rents Petition. Magistrate: 'you are fined ten pounds.' Walpole: 'Cant't pay.' Magistrate: 'How long do you want?' Walpole: 'Six months.' Magistrate: 'Fourteen days to pay, Mr Walpole.'

SWORE

Having tried the first two cases separately, it suddenly dawned on the court that, since a policeman affirmed that the offences were the same in each case, the remaining five could be tried en masse. All were fined £10, with fourteen days to pay. Jane Howard was found guilty of 'violent behaviour in the police station.' Having gone there to find out about the prisoners she was told to leave. She didn't want to. She was duly thrown out. 'I swore — the policeman said: 'Right, obscene language,' and dragged me back in.' To which the magistrate said: 'For a demure young lady to behave like that, one wonders where we are going.'

HYSTERIA

One wonders indeed. £10 fines for being obstructed by the police are excessive — for anyone to claim that the Council meeting was 'broken up' is sheer Tory hysteria. Brighton magistrates are renowned for their reactionary and authoritarian attitudes, but the reason for these fines seems political — somebody is worried.....

FROM THE COUNCIL.

There are 2,050 families awaiting rehousing
Housing waiting list: 862
Cases approved for rehousing: 996
Families in property subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders: 90
New Housing applications registered: 102

139 Families have been rehoused:
Housing applicants: 52
Corporation tenants rehoused: 69
Families subject to Compulsory Purchase order: 18

Not a record to be proud of Mr. Theobald! (Figures from the Housing Committee's annual progress report presented April 2nd 1969.)

THAT MAN SHAWCROSS

EDUCATED AT Public School Dulwich College, he gained fame as a Judge at the International Court of Arbitration at the Hague, and as a Chief Prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Trials. He was also

Labour M.P. for St. Helens from 1945 to 1958. But it seems that the pressure of public work was too great, for in 1958 he resigned from the Labour Party.

He is now a director of Shell, Decca, EMI, AEI, the Morgan Guaranty Trust New York, Rank Hovis, and is Chairman of Thames Television. He is also Chancellor of Sussex University, and is on the Board of Trustees of the American University in Beirut. This great ex-liberal is then a director of firms who between them are responsible for the starvation in Biafra, for the helicopter guidance systems without which the American Army could not fight at night in Vietnam, and which form the heart of the American industrial-military complex. And as Chancellor of Sussex University he ensures that work is done for the American military.

INFLUENCE?

Shawcross is also chairman of the City takeover panel, and the Mole notes in passing that he would not now be chairman of Thames TV if EMI, of which he is a director, had not itself taken over APBC, which controlled Thames through a subsidiary, TTH Ltd. The fact that he is a director of the Times newspaper of course made him an obvious choice for the chairmanship of the 1961 Royal Commission on the Press. He is obviously not the man to misuse his influence: rumours that he persuaded Aitken of the Sunday Express and Rothermere of the Sunday Mirror to suppress a story about his son are reputed to be quite false!

This then is the modern corporate man, at once the product and the manifestation of monopoly capital, a good, healthy (wealthy) liberal who has found his place at last.

MOLE = UNDERGROUND
UNDERGROUND = GROUPS
GROUPS = RECORDS
RECORDS = US

FINE RECORDS BRIGHTON SQ

the mole has anal problemsand is proud of them

ACCORDING to Dr. Terry Morris, one of the LSE's leading criminologists, militant students are regressing to an anal stage of behaviour, hence their troublesomeness. The Mole can authoritatively report that Dr. Morris is not mad. He is, as they say, a product of his environment.. ..

There's no need to wade through the figures showing that, for example, the percentage of working class students at university hasn't changed since 1912, or that the concentration of wealth is actually increasing. Just look around. Take a peep inside Sussex Heights. Compare it not just with Brighton's worst housing, but with the new council flats. Its very simple: we live in a class society.

Anyone who rejects this system is labelled as mad. Thus it is not the system that is wrong, it is him. The trick is no less blatant because it is (usually) unconscious - after all, no-one really expects to persuade the chairman of the Confederation of British Industries of the iniquity of the profit motive. The theme of the revolutionary as Dangerous Lunatic goes back at least to Cato; the same approach exists in Edmund

Burke as in Edward Short, although the quality of the rhetoric seems to have declined. Soon the Mole will be labelled as



THE MOLE IS EVERYWHERE!

mad by the powers that be in Brighton. If it isn't it won't be doing its duty. For us the system stinks, and it is about time it was changed totally. And that means working class revolution, for no ruling class in history has voluntarily abdicated its power. You may laugh.....decide we're utopian. Yet a year ago in France there was the biggest General Strike in World history: Europe's showpiece regime nearly collapsed. Britain has just had this year two national and openly political strikes (those of Feb 27th and May 1st against the trade union 'reform' legislation) - the first since 1926. That old mole is grubbing away again.

Mole is run by socialists of different types, and is open to all types. What unites us is more important than what divides us, but our disagreements should be openly discussed. Mole is a forum, a service for the Brighton Left. We intend to uncover some muck in this town, because there is a strong smell of it in the air and we think we know some of the sources. We also intend to have a ball.....socialism is not masochism. Come and join us. But be warned. Dr. Morris will think you have anal problems. We have.....we're proud of them.

LETTER TO STUDENTS

If the government has its way, trade unions as we know them to-day will soon cease to exist. In their place will be found State-controlled organisations, slotting into the corporate structure of society, whose sole function would be to operate as industrial discipline committees. To combat this the Labour Movement must not only muster all the forces at its command, but also attract as many new recruits as possible.

In the middle of this month the Brighton May Day Manifesto group, in co-operation with several other Socialist groups - intends to initiate a trade union recruitment campaign. Many of you who, during the vacation, will be taking a job in unorganised sectors of local industry (hotels are typical examples) can play a vital role in this campaign. As soon as you start work: JOIN THE APPROPRIATE UNION. By doing so you will (a) safeguard your own interests as far as terms and conditions are concerned, (b) give unions a very important foothold in firms where there is little or no organisation, and (c) help to bring about a student/worker relationship which could prove of untold value in the future.

Please contact me at 6a Vernon Terrace, for further details of the recruitment campaign and information on the appropriate union for the industry in which you are to work. Patric O'Reilly

'We recognise, our old friends, our old mole, who knows so well how to work underground, suddenly to appear: the revolution.'

THE MOLE is not, to put it mildly, run for profit. Mole needs Molemen and Molewomen urgently. Sellers, reporters, designers etc. Staff meetings every Monday 8pm. at 83/85 St. Aubyns, Hove. Come. (We're looking for a real office - cheap and central - as from October - any offers?)

THE MOLE is fortnightly every Thursday - depending on finances we may be coming out over the summer holidays. You can buy it every Thursday at all Brighton Colleges, on Fridays outside the schools, on Saturdays from your friendly Mole street-seller in town, and any time from Sleeves, Unicorn Bookshop, but not from W.H. Smith's.....

Contact us if you have any muck/news you think we'd like. Buy 5-10 copies and sell them to your friends. Read it. Wrap your fish and chips in it, ask your newsagent why he doesn't stock it yet, Spread the word: well grubbed old mole.....

fair rents for whom?

Enoch Powell: 'Shortage and squalor in housing are due to the two great evils: rent control and subsidy.' Times 29.11.68

One of the favourite myths of the unfree press is that council housing is an unwarranted subsidy to the British working class. Since everyone knows that all British workers are (a) stinking rich and (b) lazy this subsidy should be stopped and 'economic rents' arranged.....For the more ridiculous aspects of this see the recent howls at affluent council tenants in the Times correspondence columns, emanating from such well-known centres of British thrift and hard work as 'The Manor House, Chipping Norton.'

Our ruling class has an amazing ability not only to fool us but itself as well. The idiots really believe that rubbish. The average subsidy to a council tenant is 10/- per week. But there is an income tax rebate

for buying a house on a mortgage. On Standard rate of income tax the subsidy on a £4,000 house (roughly the cost of a council house) is 25/- per week - TWO AND A HALF TIMES THAT PAID TO THE COUNCIL TENANT. Needless to say, the larger the income, the larger proportionately as well as absolutely is the subsidy.

With council rent rebates richer workers subsidize poorer workers: while the middle classes get their subsidies as usual. But exactly how many of the affluent tenants are there? Recently in London Brent council decided there would be no rebates (except for old age pensioners) on its new Chalkhill estate. Result: over 90% of the families on the waiting list will not be able to move in because they just don't have the cash. And they tell us the class war is dead.....

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LA LUTTE CONTINUE

'The elections are a farce. The working class never has come to power through the system of bourgeois legality, but only through revolution.'

Alain Krivine, the candidate of the Trotskyist Ligue Communiste for the Presidency of France polled only rather more than 1% of the vote. Yet his campaign is a breakthrough for revolutionary socialism in Europe.

Krivine stood because the elections are an unparalleled opportunity for propaganda to expose the role of the French Communist party, which prevented a working class revolution last year, and to reiterate the point that elections have never got the working class anywhere compared to struggle on the streets and the shop floor. Thus how many votes he got he considered from the beginning to be irrelevant.

The bourgeois press both in France and England has tried to write him off as irrelevant, and 'out of date'. Not so. IN meetings in the big cities of France he drew big crowds - the meeting at the Paris Palais des Sports drew 14,000 - 1,000 less than Duclos, the candidate of the communists.

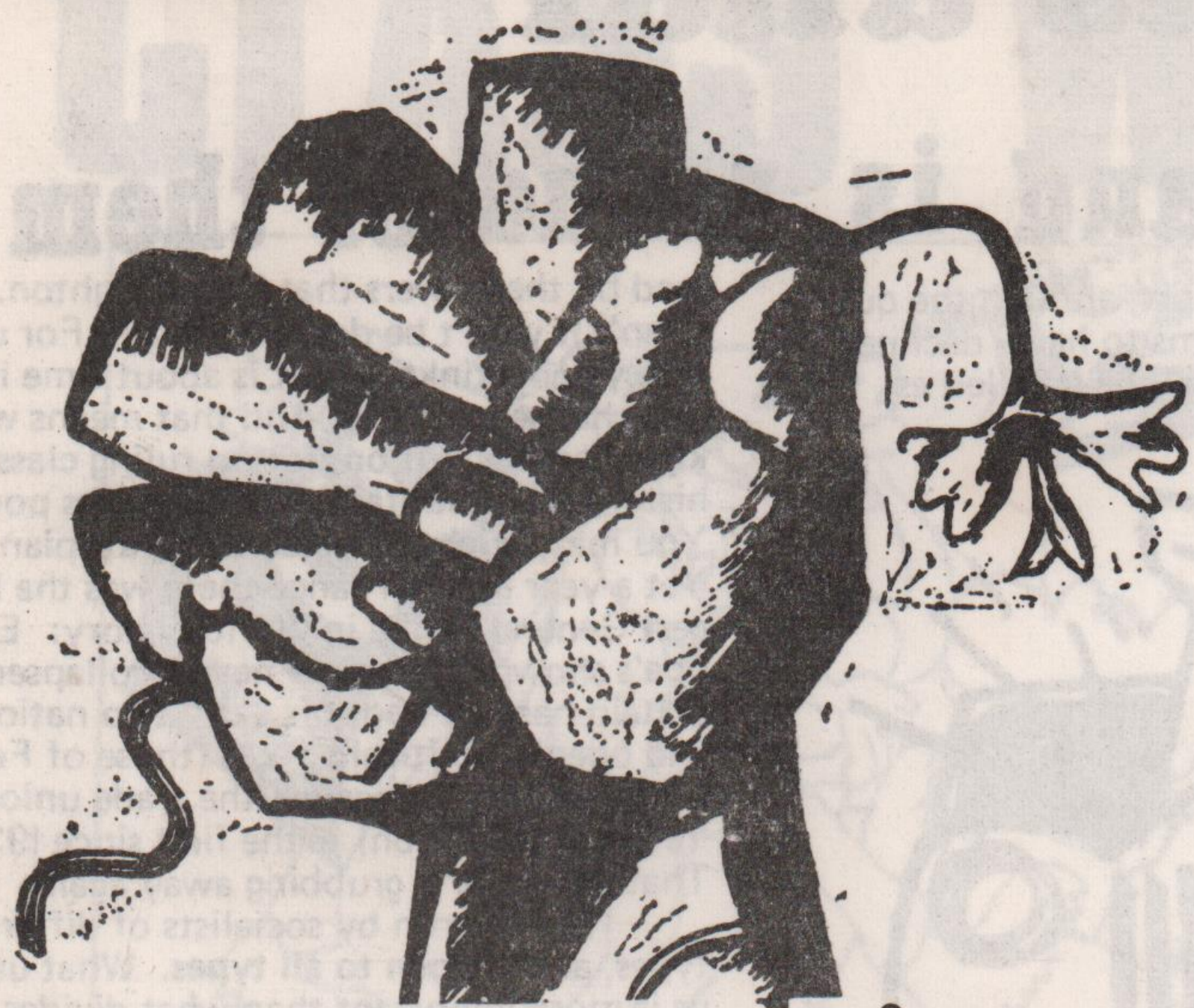
The only difference was that whereas Duclos had tricolours, Krivine had red flags. For the first time a Trotskyist has been able to speak outside the factory gates. The campaign's first meeting was outside Renault-Flins and was nearly broken up by Communist militants. But when the Communists tried to break up the last meeting of the campaign at the Normandy Renault plant the workers themselves chased them away. In towns where there have been no revolutionary militants Krivine drew crowds of up to 5,000.



Krivine was conscripted into the army to try and keep him quiet after the May events. That has misfired. The army has been forced to release him for his candidature, the government to allow him to talk revolution on television. The campaign has been unique in that it has been international - the revolution spans the artificial barriers of the nation state. He has spoken in London, Brussels and West Germany, and foreign militants have been active in his support. Apparently the French Government takes the threat more seriously than it pretends - Tariq Ali and a member of International Socialism were expelled from France where they had been working for Krivine.

The hold of the reformist Communist Party over the French working class is being seriously challenged, and from the Left. The best traditions of proletarian internationalism are being revived. All the other candidates ended their TV appearances with 'Vive la France'; Krivine ended with 'Vive la Revolution.'

the smack of



editorship

Recently a magazine called 'The Priapic' was produced by art college students in place of the temporarily defunct 'Bacchus'.

The content ranged from poems by Apollinaire, Brian Patten and students, to a critique of art education and the structure of the college administration. Their aim was serious; the method was a mix of satire, poetry and serious criticism. A choice item was a page of drawings which as one of the contributors remarked, 'You can see on any public lavatory wall'. A publication to set Mary Whitehouse a letter-writing and others to thinking about college - the principle intention.

Soon after its publication, Leonard Beaumont Esq., a Brighton insurance broker, picked up a copy in a local pub frequented by staff and students. He took great exception to, in particular, 'drawings in the magazine which attacked members of staff and poems referring to Christ.'

One of the poems went like this:

'Jesus was a black man dressed like you and me,
He always brushed his teeth and he had a wooden knee,
He'd been a railway porter, and a navigator too
He was good at guiding people too
especially you and me.

But Beaumont was not the man to let the matter rest with a tirade to an Argus reporter; he sent his copy to W'G' Stone, Brighton's Director of Education. Mr. Stone was incensed at this violation of public morals and is on record as saying: 'Personally, I regard much of the contents as deplorable and indefensible.' The question of action to be taken against the students concerned would be taken up by the College Governors and the Education Committee.

In the fray entered art college principal Mr R.T. Cohen with a letter to David Booth suggesting the union executive 'examine its own position regarding the publication in question' and stressing the harm that might be done to public relations in a situation where 'the student body of this college became associated in the public mind with various forms of sickness and infantilism.'

'Infantilism?.....Sickness?' Consider the points made in the article on art education by people Mr Beaumont feels should be sought out and sent home.' The article sets out the problems of a fragmented and a hierarchical educational system designed at fulfilling the contradictory goals of training designers for industry, aesthetes for the 'art' of the galleries, and 'designers of the social environment, aware of the wider aspects of their work, receptive to the creative challenge presented by changing materials and techniques.'

Stress was laid on the need for flexibility and integration between departments - which the Complementary Studies fiasco has shown to be completely lacking. The article echoes the desire of the Bauhaus to produce 'neither the geniuses of bourgeois myth, nor the idiot craftsman, but creative and responsible artists.'

Exactly the sort of material to fire the ripest anger and civic pride of the ratepayers of Brighton, into demanding that these students 'be sent down'. How long should this attitude go unchallenged?

MARCH THAT WAS

May 28 1968 was the day the occupation of Hornsey College of Art began. Guildford CoA occupied their college a week later. Both occupations showed how unrealistic the present system of art 'education' is. The LEA's ignored every constructive proposal put forward during the occupations. They closed down Hornsey till November 1968, and sacked staff and 'Ringleaders', at both colleges.

In Brighton on May 28 1969 after a handful of students had marched in an anniversary protest to the local DES, Trevor Fisk (N'U'S' PRESIDENT) uttered a few words of feeble encouragement to a minute audience at a CoA film.

Nothing. People forget Hornsey. Penguin are trying to cash in. The authorities sit back. Art 'education' is the same. Last year saw a new critical consciousness; it must not be repressed.

EDUCA

ROEDEAN!

In last weeks issue of Winepress - Sussex University's own Daily Women's Mirror - there appeared a centre page on Roedean School, complete with dynamic photographs, and the authors particular brand of obsequious reverence. The article, by defining Roedean in exactly the terms its headmistress would choose, made its significance about as as remote as 'the school on the hill' itself appears to be.

But Roedean in itself, as well as being the effect of the barbaric inequalities of our class society, is significant. Not for its 'peculiarly human atmosphere' or for the size of its sixth formers breasts; it is important because it is a bastion of privilege, and as such, must be defined socially within the broader context of education in Brighton and nationally.

'The school was founded in 1885...and moved to its present site in 1898.'

'Each of the four houses has its own furnished common room with sofas and easy chairs.' Other old established schools in Brighton include: Queens Park (1889); Elm Grove (1893); Moulscot (1930); and Whitehawk (1933). The difference between these schools and Roedean is merely that they do not stand in their own acres of Halycean Fields but are screwed into congested areas of the town that many of their classrooms are as much as two hundred square feet below the ordered size, that their libraries, their equipment, their toilets and the general conditions of school life are still Victorian.

'You've noticed that there aren't any red carpets, we are not that well off, you know.'

On top of the fees paid to Roedean by tax evading parents, the school - this charity organisation for the deprived children of the British ruling class - receives a 50% rate rebate from Brighton Corporation. And yet the interests of this school, as the interests of all private schools are working in opposition to the interests of State Education, and to the interests of the British working class. Roedean can afford to maintain a staff-pupil ratio of one to six while Brighton Council after subsidising it can afford only a one to twenty five ratio in its own schools. (The National average is much higher, and of course the problem of training more teachers is a national one. But while public schools exist and can afford to offer higher rates of pay, this imbalance will continue to exist.) Again, while schools like Roedean, are able, because of the subsidised benefits that they offer, to retain the same staff over a period of many years, Brighton LEA manages to lose 10% of its teachers every year, thus denying children in these schools of any stable relationship with their teachers. They leave because in many of the schools serving working class kids conditions are bad, wages are low and any attempt to improve matters seems futile.

Brighton can boast of only two nursery schools. The waiting lists often span a period of over three years. How many years do you have to wait to get into Roedean? Of the forty sites allocated in 1944 twenty remain.

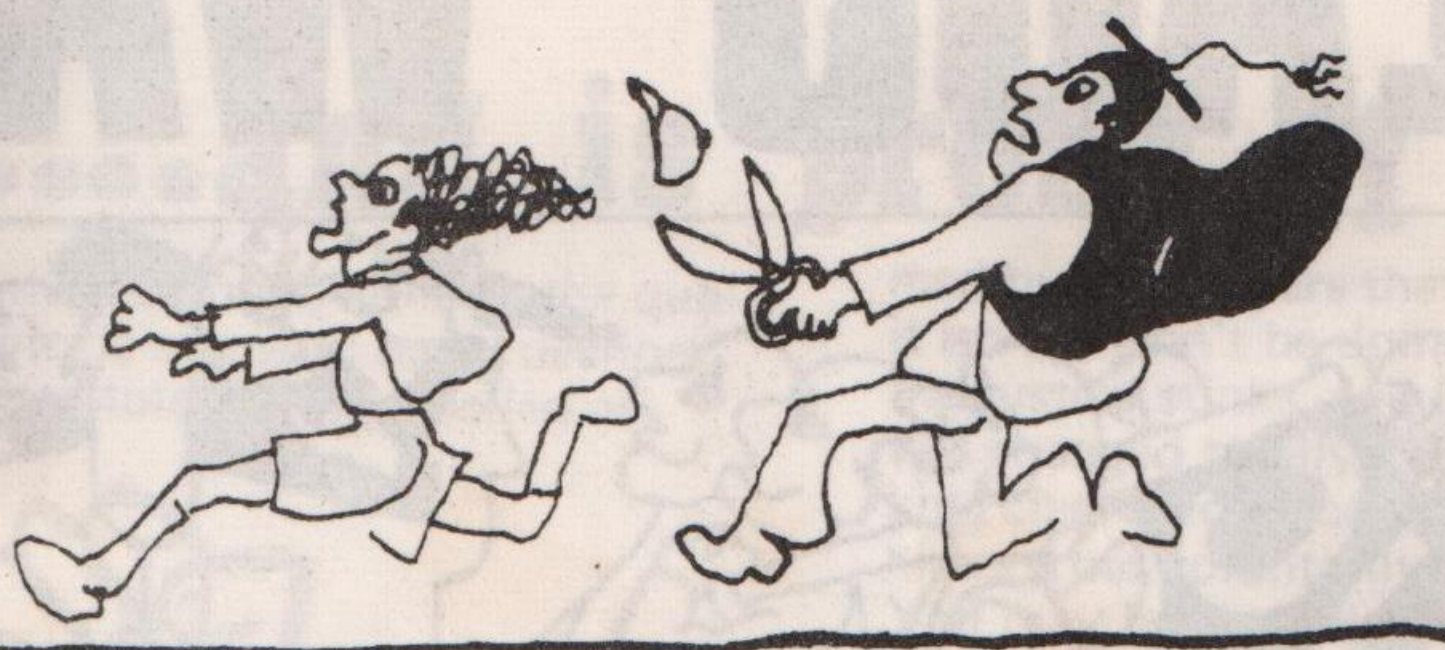
None of the sites developed house nursery schools. And yet the Brighton Council can afford to subsidise Roedean to the tune of a 50% rate relief. Nedd we ask where the interests of this Tory Council lie. Public schools provide 71% of the Directors of Britain's largest firms, and provided 91% of the last Tory Cabinet. This is the same Tory Council that has adamantly held out against comprehensive education over a number of years and will probably continue to do so until the return of its own Govt.

'This school is full of normal middleclass girls, were the same class as Sussex students.'

Sussex University takes 55% of its undergraduates from private schools. Such schools provide a lavish education for only 2½% of the nation's children, and yet secure for them 35% of university entrances every academic year. This obviously reflects income and not intelligence or ability to distribution. The odds against a working class girl going to university is 600 to 1.

CONT. NEXT PAGE BUT 1!

ATION?



INSIDE FILE

THE WAY the principals keep control is based on tactics of indiscriminate punishment. There is no appeal in any school against punishment. The principal, teacher or prefect acts as policeman, judge, and jury; and in the case of the when giving corporal punishment, execution. The instigator of this system is the principal. He is in complete authority, and is only subject to the education committee, who are all his friends anyway.

The principal forces the pupils to conform to his ideas of dress and appearance. Girls and boys have to obey orders to tidy or to cut their hair. The principal also enforces strict conformity to the regulation uniform. These regulations include: the colour of one's socks, the style of shoes, the length of a skirt, and compulsory wearing of school caps. Articles of dress banned in schools include: jewelry, for male and female, umbrellas for junior boys, non-regulation raincoats, ie army surplus clothes, hats for boys (even when raining), and in one school no girl over fourteen is allowed to wear white knee length socks.

The principal also controls your appearance or behaviour out of school. The main way is to tell boys to get their hair cut. This affects their personal appearance out of school. No person is allowed to smoke, or in one case to eat sweets in school uniform. The principal can expel you even if the offence is

committed out of school hours. There is little attempt to reform pupils who smash up things, only to expel them, and pass them on to another school, upsetting their lives so that they end up in juvenile court. The principals do not understand. They have been brought up and educated in a protected middle-class environment. One can appeal against expulsion through the education committee, but they and the head are all good friends. If this was not so, then the principal would not be there. The object is always to reserve the school's reputation.

These ideas of conformity are purely the responsibility of the principal, the senior masters and the board of governors. They believe that the traditional ways of education are the best. (At one school in Brighton there is still compulsory military training for boys, unless their parents are pacifists.) The authorities believe in traditional ways because they are scared of new methods which they cannot understand.

There are some rules which have been made by the State. The main one is compulsory religion. This was instituted by the 1944 Education Act and has been responsible for the mass atheism of young people today. The only way to opt out of religious activity in school is to be a Catholic or a Jew. To be an atheist is very difficult.

Thus schools in Brighton are centres of repression and discontent, and it is the responsibility of the pupils, like myself to change their own lot.

Free School

CAMPAIGN

In Brighton there are at least eighteen secondary schools at the mercy of the new Tory dominated council dedicated to the exclusion of comprehensives. In addition there is a proliferation of the most nauseating private schools culminating in the fortress of Roedean.

It is essential to expose the backwardness of educational thinking in Brighton and draw the mass of pupils in the State schools into direct action against humbug 'authority'.

This the Brighton Free School Campaign will fail to do. They have been in operation since March, and yet have only two or three firm contacts. Furthermore these are in grammar schools. Their demands rest too heavily upon attacking the Edwardian fabric and ornament of grammar school life, like the CCF, like the uniforms and the prefects and the Boards of Governors. More particularly they attract mainly sixth form pupils such as I was, who are already embedded in the prestigious rat-race for 'higher

education'. Nobody should deny their importance, but they are so few.

Even within the grammar schools this campaign stands little chance of achieving whatever it may hope to achieve without a political standpoint, without any ideology. At present, the organisers are shying away from what they describe as 'anarchist and communist types'. This is not to accuse them on their political views, which are too well concealed to support any reasonable criticism. Their aim is to keep politics out of it, as headmasters and things tend to 'jump on you'.

They claim this approach is the most 'practical'. Let us examine it.

Firstly, they cannot hope to achieve an organisational base sufficient for expansion into the whole educational system and not merely for a few sixth forms.

Compare the example of the French lycées, where a strong political consciousness has been developed by stressing the overtly political nature of the authority that teaches children to bow before an irrational and unpleasant set of restrictions upon their liberty.

Secondly, the exclusion of politics from the campaign restricts the sphere of issues to the more trivial ones. To give an example, a campaign for more tolerance in schools of shorter skirts and longer hair would get a lot of support. But what kind of support is it? No-one can effectively encourage an unselfish political attitude by pandering to what must be admitted are selfish desires. Furthermore, to cut the puritanical line, these two topics are one issue campaigns. It is impossible to relate them to anything else. One could quite well get half the demands listed in the manifesto and still leave school pupils as much a passive piece of clay for the gigantic feet of the god Capital as before. It is important to mention here that the group intended on Sunday to omit one of the few vital demands: that full maintenance grants should be paid to all in education after the minimum leaving age. This is a social necessity, and it is a political issue.

Lastly, the weakness I suggested in the first two criticisms combine to reducing the emphasis that should be placed on the content of education.

tech students immature

Or so thinks Mr. Merryfield, Student Welfare Officer at Brighton Tech.

Mr. Merryfield is very solicitous of his students welfare. He is the staff editor of the Students Union. Officially this means he just checks the budget: in practice he vetoes anything he doesn't like.

Recently Mr. Merryfield has been having a ball. Some students wanted to form a Socialist Society. Panic. He interviews one of the 'ringleaders'. At first, sweet reason: 'you won't have enough time to do your work as well'. The ringleader says that's not true. So, out with the big stick: Merryfield threatens to ensure her grant is withdrawn. No change, so more reasonableness: 'You know, if you keep quiet, there's a good chance you'll go straight....'. Now for the moment the matter rests there, alth-

ough no doubt the authorities will soon take up some reason for victimisation - in all ways academic of course.

It turns out that Mr. Merryfield doesn't think there should be a Socialist Society in the Tech, whoever performs it. Samples of the Thought of Jim Merryfield include: 'Tech students are too young, so it would be dangerous;.... They should go out into the world with an open mind;.... Anyway they are immature;....'. In other words Mr. Merryfield decides what they should think. University students are allowed to palay at politics for a bit - for their jobs some degree of critical thought is needed. Not so in the Tech machine: discipline is authoritarian, no questions allowed. But the cogs in the machine seem to be waking up. Watch out Mr. Merryfield.



CLASS WAR!



Bosses and workers are not two equal sides of industry - the bosses own the factories - the workers dont. The bosses can sack workers - workers cant sack bosses. Working class rights to organize have been WON not given.

The values of society are the values of the ruling class. 5% of the population owns 75% of all the wealth. Strike is a dirty word - profit isnt.

Public opinion can be influenced. Five men now control all the national newspapers - they are not members of the working class.

It is not surprising that the attempt to shackle the working class' right to organize is known as 'reform' in commerce, that the attempt to strengthen class rule is called 'In Place Of Strife'. Nor is it surprising that this is actually popular.

'In Place Of Strife' proposed :

- 1.... A ballot before national strikes - if ordered by the Govt. This would be in the bosses' interests - the delay would expose the workers to all the hysteria of the 'neutral' press (remember Wislon on TV during the seaman's strike with his 'Reds under the carpet' rantings .
- 2.... The setting of a Commission on Industrial relations - some of whose recommendations would be enforceable by law. The Govt. would have the power to interfere in the running of Trade Unions, and would hardly do so to make them more efficient at winning wage rises.
- 3.... A 28 day 'cooling off' period. If a strike was threatened the Govt, could order a return to the status quo for more negotiations. - this would have made the recent post office workers strike illegal. This again only benefits the bosses because a delay can weaken the workers bargaining position and morale. If made law these proposals do not, by themselves, dramatically limit the power of the Unions. The danger is that they make it respectable to blame the working class for the

'economic crisis', to bash the Unions. The present anti-Union hysteria stems from two sources. Firstly the nature of the British situation. The economy is in a minor crisis, chiefly because its key structures need remodernisation. The investment

funds to do this are to come from higher profits. Thus wages are kept down and welfare services cut back, while share prices continue to rise. To keep wages down there must be fewer strikes. Since 95% of all strikes are unofficial - they are the targets.

Secondly, the overall international tendency of capitalism is towards the corporate state .. ie a system where all organizations are integrated into the State machinery. As the economy becomes more interdependant, there is both less room for marginal reforms and a greater danger that a few men on strike can disrupt large areas of industry. Everybody has to be tightly controlled.

Anti-strike legislation is only one side of the coin. The other is the turning of all organizations that used to represent the working class into organs of the State against it. There is even a demand to train shop-stewards - the only democratic representatives - into business experts.

Today the TUC now meets in special conference to discuss its own counter proposals. Its report challenges none of the basic assumptions if the Govts White Paper. It accepts the general line of the Donovan Report on Trade Unions....that workers must be more disciplined. The Trade Union bureaucrats are in a didgy position. Although many of them are not elected - on many Union executives over half the members are appointed - they cannot totally ignore the rising militancy against the new laws. So they will make militant noises, object to fines on workers and unions as proposed by the Govt.; and otherwise respectfully beg to be allowed to police the working class themselves. This must be opposed :

The first slogan is :
'HANDS OFF THE UNIONS' . BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH ' THE ONLY REAL SOLUTION IS WORKERS' CONTROL.

ROEDEAN ——— continued

Here then are some of the facts that Winepress neglected. We have tried to put Roedean in a broader and more meaningful perspective. The Mole, unlike the so-called 'respectable' journals about town and country, will not crawl to the interests of the british ruling class, and refuses to treat issues like this as simply clever items of journalistic potential. We take a definite stand on all aspects of education.

We demand :

- 1..abolish all private forms of education and throw open their resources to the needs of working class people.
- 2..introduce complete comprehensive-isation at all levels of education.
- 3..full maintenance grants for school children over 15.
- 4..better pay for teachers.
- 5..a wholesale reallocation of the budget on the side of education and welfare rather than defence.

Today the TUC Special Congress meets at Croydon. Brighton Trades Council are sending a delegation, and member Denis Hill writes on the local situation.

It is fairly obvious that employers would like to see the bargaining strength of their workers hamstrung by legal restrictions. This primitive desire is now partially reinforced by the slick arguments of the 'neutral' economist and the inherent totalitarianism of Labour bureaucracy. Add to this the calculations of unprincipled politicians who are looking for a vote catcher and the result is the Wislon-Castle package.

In the Brighton Area reaction has been short and immediate. Kemptown Labour Party issued a Press statement slamming the White Paper, and, more important, the Trades Council issued a public statement expressing outright opposition and calling for the trades unions to take all measures, to defeat the proposals.

ACTION

The Trades Council itself has no power over the individual Union branches, but it has tried to translate words into action. Mayday was decreed an anti-legislation rally, thousands of leaflets were distributed in local factories. Posters were produced along with several giant anti-legislation banners and 700 'Hands off the Unions' balloons. Large quantities of literature were also distributed on the Lev1. After the stagnation of recent years it was pleasing to see a considerable number of tradesunionists responding and taking part in these events. On the First of June a TUC representative was sent to a national conference in Birmingham to coordinate opposition to legislation. At this moment the Trades Council is considering forming a local action conference to step up the campaign.

DANGER

Although the protest movement is gathering strength, witness the token strikes on the first of may, the situation is still very serious. For years the public have been brainwashed by the mass media and now many people are genuinely convinced that the Unions are 'responsible' for Britain's economic 'crisis'. What is often overlooked is that 9 million Trades Unionists are also part of this brainwashed public. The majority of TU members read the Mirror or the Express. It would be foolish to ignore the effect of this. Many workers are prepared to be militants in their own sectional interests but they dont want to know even when wider issues are involved. To get them moving requires constant agitation and explanation. Over the years committed socialists have neglected work in the Trades Unions as 'dull and boring'. This has been very dangerous and has led to the present weaknesses.

GOVERNMENT'S TRAP

The real question must be faced. Are the unions falling into a trap ? ..into which Govt. strategy has led them ? It is not a bad technique to open negotiations by threatening outrageously drastic measures. This will probably (and has) produced

counter proposals which effectively give the Govt. what it wants anyway : a docile trades union movement 'policed' by top Union bureaucrats. Battle is therefore joined over false alternatives. It looks as though the movement will be obliged to fight under the banner of the TUC proposals. If so, it is clear that not only must the Govt. be forced to withdraw the Bill, but this must be accompanied by huge pressure to make the TUC bureaucracy respond to the feelings of the rank and file militants.



THE BLACK PAPER OR

ALL REACTIONARIES ARE NOT PAPER TIGERS, SOME ARE JUST WINDBAGS!

This Black Paper, prepared at no expense to the tax-payer, concerns matters of great national urgency. We believe it merits the official attention of parliament.

The Black Paper is a bloated assortment of prejudice, ideology, malice, stupidity and culpable ignorance without even a genuflection in the direction of fact gathering or systematic analysis. It reflects the impotent isolation from educational policy—making of the group whose product it is—traditional academia.

These men have been left behind by the dynamic of educational policy making. The whole area is now in the hands of the technocrats. Education serves the economy and consumer demand, not the 'values' of the traditional academic. The interests of most institutions and academics are inextricably involved in the nexus of educational expansion—expansion is the defining characteristic and condition of their power and prestige.

If an institution cannot expand without massive student unrest and structural dislocation, it will loose funds and prestige to those who have so far been able to do so. Some institutions, subjects etc. are able to defend their investment risks and payoff better than others. They tend to be the institutions diametrically opposed to the "Values" the Black Paper tries pathetically to defend; values, which despite their reactionary and elitist formulation do represent academic and scientific freedom to criticise existing institutions and to seek knowledge without being bound, by contract, to a payoff.

"The New Polytechnics: the Peoples Universities" by Eric Robinson, is a text ten times more dangerous than the Black Paper. Technocratic institutions serve the state and industry directly; they contribute useful labour and knowledge to the great cause of 'productivity'. No elitist worries about 'Culture' here: so what if they know nothing about Tiberius Gracchus MR Conquest, anybody who

can pass their exams, who is willing to rise in the world by serving bureaucrats and capitalists with no questions asked (and none need be since these young people are in the front line of Britain's struggle for existence in the great world capitalist jungle), is welcome to come to Enfield.

Dyson and co. have burnt themselves on the "white heat of the technological miracle" and rightly they don't like it. Their rejection of its absolute indifference to all human ends which cannot be quantified or spelt out in cost-effective terms is justified. But as children of an earlier

stage in the advancement of capital as men in no way opposed to a society defined by inequality in all spheres of life, they do not

seek the causes of their own discomforts (silly technocrats, prying governments, revolting students who will not stay in their place) in the nature of capitalist civilisation as a whole. Their vaunted 'culture', bought at the expense of the toiling masses was an ornament and a validation of that exploit-

ation—the proof that 'civilisation' under capitalism did not merely mean drains (for some). The 'civilisation' Amis, Conquest etc. want to protect is nothing other than a debtor's bond—the price the bourgeoisie payed for its bad conscience at the bar of history.

"Culture" and "civilisation" cannot be left to the Cox and Dyson's, the Amis's and Conquests to defend against the Robinsons of this world. The Robinsons have no guilty conscience—for them material products are self-validating. The windbags of the Black Paper are already defeated survivals of capitalist history; men being overrun by the very master they have served so faithfully. Our problem is to give what they have betrayed, and what they so inadequately and ideologically plead for, a genuine and liberating meaning.

IN VIEW OF "THE TRIP"

IN THE EARLY SIXTIES ACID hit the States—Leary, Alpert, Watts were deified; psychedelia in all its forms flourished; LSD-25 became the road to Nirvana. and Roger Corman made a movie.

A couple of years later acid hit England and in 1969 Corman's movie, made in 1967, reached these shores and was instantly banned. In addition his film about the Los Angeles Hell's Angels, ("Wild Angels, 1965) followed Kenneth Anger's "Scorpio Rising" and Laslo Benedek's "The Wild One" into the Censor's office and not out again,

Why is everyone so scared of Roger Corman? The man who directed "The fall of the House of Usher", "The Pit and the Pendulum", "The Tomb of the Pendulum", "The Tomb of Legeia", "The Masque of the Red Death" has taken on the horrific proportions of one of his Vincent Price characters. When he turned his attention to contemporary Gothic the horror the horror was getting too close to life for the censors.

The two turgid monologues at the beginning and the end of "The Trip" may be ignored, superimposed as they were to protect the innocent. The whole atmosphere of "The Trip" is one of precisely Gothic horror (the dream sequences of Peter Fonda's torture, death & burial—complete with swirling mists). Only this time the fatal house is inside the hero's head. As such its sexual interpretation is obvious; made moreso by the explicit nature of Fonda's sexual hang-up (the blonde and brunette women who are the dark horsemen).

The horror scenes form the central core of the film—they begin and end

with Fonda's trip. Parenthesizing the trip itself are two remarkably similar images—one is the very first shot of an advertising scene (a man and a girl in water) and the other is the closing sequence on a balcony:

(Fonda replies to the girl's warning that he may not be alright tomorrow with the words "I'll think about that tomorrow", the picture stops and that still image of Fonda cracks). Each sequence evokes the same atmosphere of cleanliness, goodness, blue skies and sunshine; each is an advert for the American way of life and—as is made clear during the trip—each is false. Indeed the whole trip as shot is, as Corman must be aware, the typical bourgeois conception of a trip. The psychoanalysis of Fonda is as phoney as it appears (a woman in the launderette mockingly asserts her problems arise out of her parents' sexual hang-ups).

More important is Fonda's social position—the image of America, or at least, the image which it likes to present to the world. Similarly his only contact with the outside world is through a camera (but that too falsifies reality as when he photographs his 'dead' trip guide).

Fonda is America, America on a trip, America passionately chasing self-awareness and finally mystifying itself, finding war, death and the fuzz everywhere Seeking love and finding sex. Ultimately deceiving itself, not being able to tell reality from fantasy and denying any responsibility ("What have I done wrong?") for its actions.

This aspect of "The Trip" is what provoked the censor, since the film does raise the whole complete issue of contemporary illusions and deliberate falsifications, as much by its own weakness as by deliberate design.

FOREIGN AID

There's a green eyed yellow idol
to the north of Katmandoo.
Or should I say there was?
The yanks have pulled it down
to build a motorway

they say
it's progress, but I must confess
there's something missing somewhere.
Is it that no cars go by,
or the starving, rotting present has no shoes?
And is heaped like piles of dung beside
their brand new asphalt symbol of democracy.

lullaby

BANG THE BLEEDING GONG
BANG THE BLEEDING DRUM
BASH THE FUCKING BOURGEOISIE
FROM HERE TO KINGDOM COME

RECORDS

NICO "The Marble Index" (EKS 74029)

"Midnight winds . . . at the end of time"
Nico used to sing with the Velvet Underground: she appeared on their first album, but her contribution was less than impressive. The VU have now softened their style. Nico has grown even colder. But even the sun is burning out.

On her first album out for Elektra Nico has produced an extraordinary and frightening album, which defies comparison with anything ever heard before: putting her with Judy Collins, Joni Mitchell and the rest is valueless. The strange neo-classical backing, the frozen vocals, establish a path into the void unique to herself, altho' in some way parallel to the rule chosen by the Pink Floyd, the late lamented USA, the Velvet Underground and other adventurers. This is computer music, for man dehumanised by his own technology, for those lost to themselves.

"The Marble Index" is a brilliantly unpleasant album, so cool it will turn you to ice, beautifully arranged and executed. Nico treads "close to the frozen borderline" This is the music of tomorrow. The question is; can you face it?

VELVET UNDERGROUND / Velvet Underground MGM SE 4616

THIS THIRD album by the Velvet Underground, the second minus Nico, is a surprise after the hard-driving nihilism of the previous albums. The once-prominent connection with Warhol is now ruptured. Now the music is a compound of intricate acoustic harmonies and vocal lyricism—notably in the inspired "Candy" track. What makes the album exceptional throughout is the combination of Lou Reed's shifting vocals, sometimes deeply yearning, sometimes directly evil, with the pattern of closely interrelated sounds set up by two guitars, bass, percussion, and on some tracks, organ.

"Candy", the opening track, mixes the former contempt of Reed for people and the world with a new sympathy, encased in delicate harmonies and poetry, that is well representative of the album as a whole. Candy has begun "to hate her body" This saga of the uninitiated transcends the mundane and merely trite by its lyrics, while acoustic guitars and subdued percussion furnish an evocative instrumental backdrop.

In place of the extended virtuoso instrumental performances of most British albums, the Velvet Underground demonstrate a wide range of musical ability through harmonic togetherness, which most comes to the fore in "What goes on" and "I'm beginning to see the light". In the first a restrained organ by John Cole coalesces with two driving guitars, and in the second, the melodic tone is set by the leaping bass line.

The peak moments of the album lie in the pure lyricism of 'Jesus' and 'I am set free', both supremely beautiful, emotive, pieces of music.

The VU show that they can combine harmony and emotion without dropping instrumental inventiveness and free ranging vocal work—the authentic match that makes the record outstanding

