

# BRIGHTON VOICE

NO. 6

4p



## DEPORTATION - THE REALITY

Moira Simbi has a lot of things against her: She is unmarried, she has a child, and she hasn't much money. But above all, she is BLACK. And that means a whole new dimension of trouble for her in this England of 1973.

It means, for instance, that she can be thrown out of the country with no notice and no cash. And that is what nearly happened to her this month. With baby Martin, Moira was just sitting down to Sunday lunch when three policemen and a policewoman marched in and ordered

her to pack immediately. The belongings gathered during four years of residence in Sussex were bundled in suitcases and cardboard boxes and thrown in the back of a police-van. Large items like play-cots and tricycles just had to be left behind.

The police ignored her boyfriend and she was not even permitted to make a telephone call, but because she is wearily used to being pushed around, she could have let matters take their

TURN TO PAGE THREE -

STOP PRESS:  
 Moira is now safe - being British by marriage.  
 Chivalry is not dead!

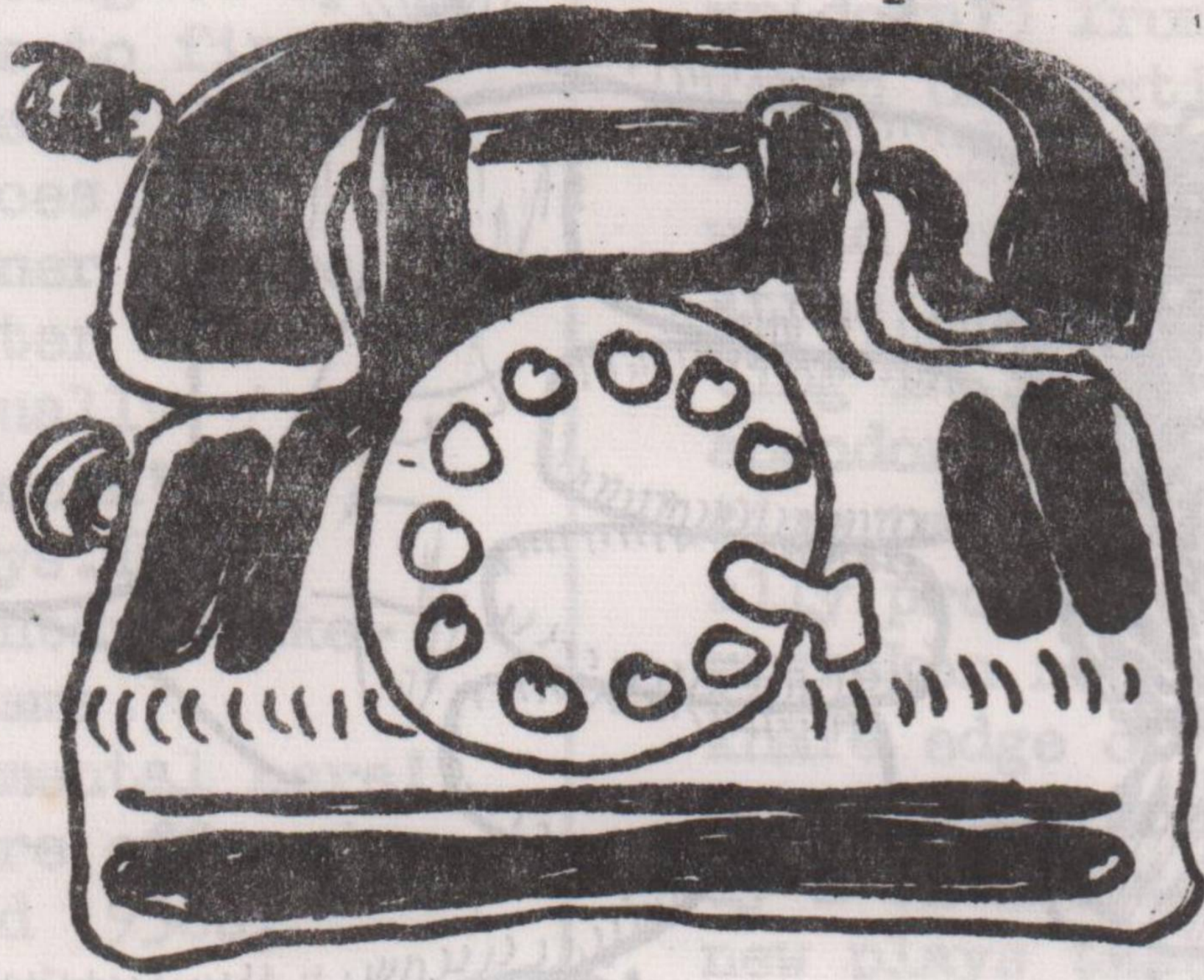


One of the most interesting developments in Brighton recently has been the beginning of an attempt to make the law serve the people a little more. The Line, a telephone legal help service, has been going for two months, and is handling about a dozen calls a week. Not surprisingly, at the moment a third of these are concerned with housing - which is what other neighbourhood law groups have found to be the usual response. The whole operation is run by a collective of the volunteers who man one woman the phone each night from 6p.m. and all 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday (The number is 64243).

On this argument anyone who demands the protections built into the law - few as they are - is an anti-social agitator, an inadequate. In other words the police know best (They do the investigation, they know the science, and when they put the finger on someone - he's the one. Anyone who questions this is merely being destructive)

Fighting this attitude is one thing the Line can do. And unlike the NCCL, and other citizens rights organisations, it can do something for you immediately you are arrested. It can organise defence for the next morning, it can press for bail overnight, it can make you feel less isolated. It can also provide advice on the lines of the Citizen's Advice Bureau - but with less middle class hassles...

64243



# THE LINE

Unfortunately, despite informing the Police and using the services of local solicitors, the John Street boys in blue have clearly decided to try to screw up the project. They have confiscated (from one of the helpers) some of the information pocket-cards on the grounds that they are obscene. They have deliberately misled the volunteers or what actions they were taking on arrest. And they have also refused to allow the number to be called by an arrestee from the station.

This attitude by the police is not an isolated event, or a matter of 'a few bad eggs in the basket'. It is officially recognised and semi-officially encouraged. The Police Review, a journal of the Metropolitan Police, wrote

"The possession of 'these are your rights' cards or pamphlets by loiterers in general is suspicious, but with reservations. Obviously they will be carried by persons who consider it at least possible that they will break the law and be interrogated by the police. Thus they are sometimes carried by male homosexuals, by industrial and other agitators, by 'Angry Brigade' inadequates, and similar amateur criminals"

But there is a whole field which the present set up can barely touch, because it isn't equipped with enough people or time or money. This is the area of McKenzie lawyers and the £25 free legal advice. No one need face a court alone now. Even if you don't organise or can't afford a lawyer, you can always have a friend with you, taking notes and advising you. That's the sort of encouragement that counts for a lot when facing one or three up-tight middle class magistrates sitting four feet higher than you.

To get into this area, Brighton needs a proper neighbourhood law centre. A shop, with a full-time solicitor and clerk, with the means to write letters promptly, dispatch agents and make fast legal moves. Often speed in getting to the court and obtaining writs or injunctions saves a lot of hassles later. And it would be open to everyone at no charge.

To do this needs a lot of cash and a lot of dedication. And only by doing it will the heart of the problem be attacked. Because when people get used to using such a centre they will get to the idea that the law can be used by the working class almost as well as by those with power. And when that idea gets around, people will begin to fight back on their own. And the law will be only the first battle.



## DEPORTATION - cont'd.

3

course. Luckily for her, someone else in the house had some ideas on citizen's rights and decided to fight back at this oppression of a human being. She contacted the Line.

Moira was taken down to John Street Police Station and put in the cells. After an hour or two, Martin was taken from her and put into care. Moira was left alone with her cases in the cell and told to pack two suitcases which could go on the plane with her. She had no money - and wouldn't have been allowed to take more than £2 with her anyway. The rest would be confiscated to pay for her air-fare. Meanwhile the Line went into action, contacting Amnesty, African organizations, M.P.'s - and even members of the House of Lords. They also arranged a nationally known barrister for her, and alerted the media. Moira was visited as well and given some moral support and told what was happening.

But next day she could be offered more than encouraging words. With the pressure put on the Home Office over night and the work of the barrister and Joan Lester, M.P. during the following morning, results came fast. Moira was released by lunch time on the Monday, being returned by the same van and the same policemen - looking a little less smug this time - as took her less than 25 hours earlier. So the stay ended happily after all.

But did it? Firstly Moira was lucky in getting put in touch with the Line; the Line was lucky in interesting a lot of people in important places; the Home Office was unlucky in that the media took it up in a big way. But there still remains the appalling situation that a person can be ordered to pack and leave her life behind with no notice and with no provision for her re-settlement. And the police knew about three days before, yet still gave her so little time to pack. It is scandalous that they can't think beyond their own convenience in lifting a person smartly and smoothly from her home into the cells and on to a plane. Any concern for the state of mind of Moira, any attempt to prepare her for the shock, seems never to have crossed their minds.

At the last hearing of her appeal Sir Norman Costar blandly said that despite not having lived in Malawi since a baby, and not having any money, she was in no worse position than many other immigrants - and, anyway, there were organizations in Malawi to help her. On this kind of justification he was prepared to order her to a country where she knew no one, did not speak the language and having no means of support. This is how the Immigration Act works in practice. This shows how it is one of the most oppressive pieces of legislation ever passed in the UK. This shows what it is like to be black in this England of 1973.



On 6<sup>th</sup> August the Kempton Labour Party held a meeting in the library lecture hall on Southern Africa. There were speakers from SWAPO (the South West Africa Liberation Front) and the International section of the TGWU, and an audience of about 25. It is all very heartening that the political education of the local Labour Party looks beyond its usual parochialism, but it was very significant that the solid proposal from the audience of calling a local union delegate meeting to discuss action was neatly fielded by chairman Ian McGill and forgotten. Some real action to educate local workers and bring pressure is needed, not just brave words aimed to improve the images of Labour Councillors.



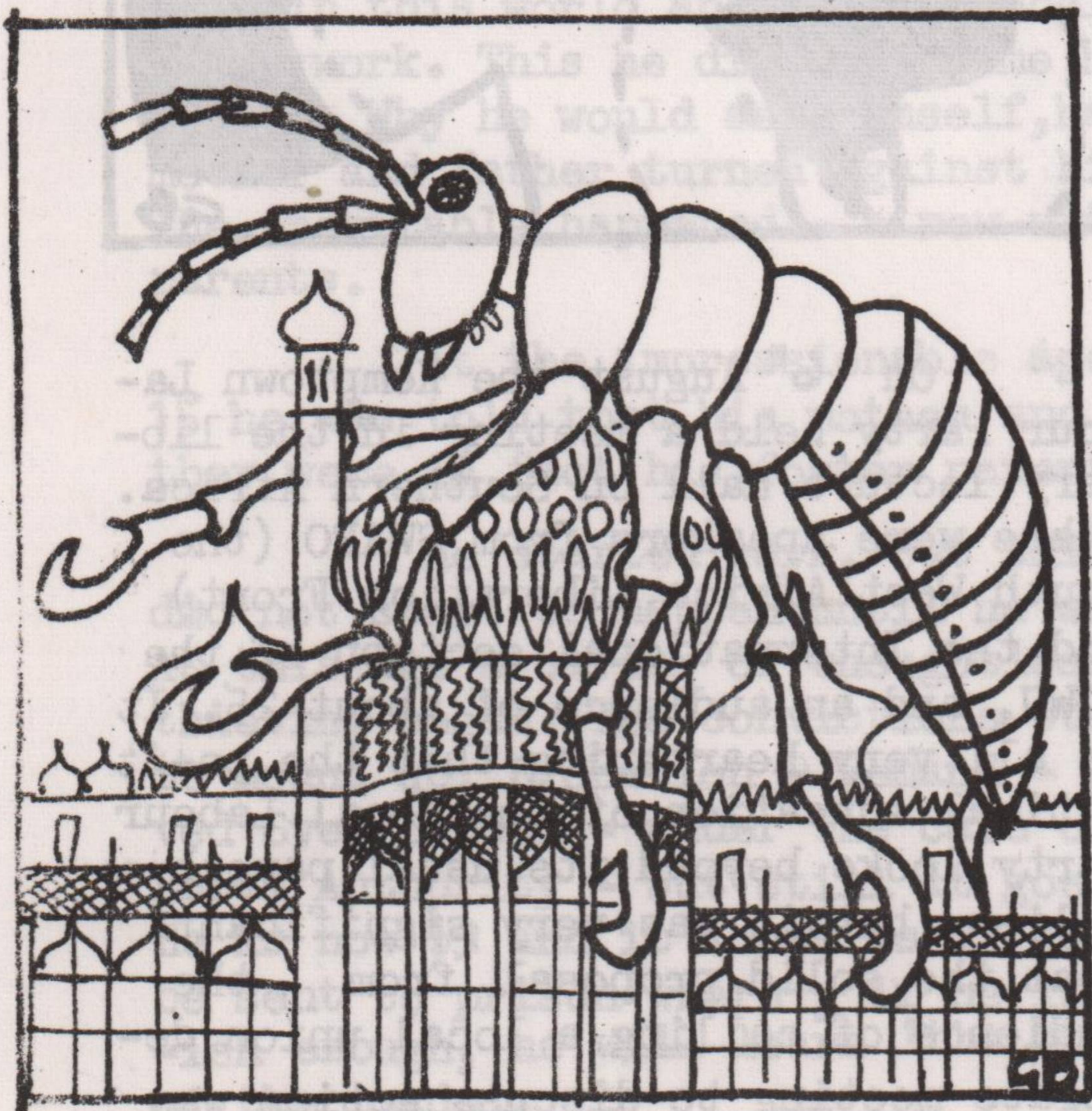
# super nits

by our roving  
reporter

This can happen to YOU. There's a knock at the door and you open it to find a lady standing there brandishing two tubes of medicated shampoo and a Sackers Hygenic metal comb. She says 'Your child was found to be infested with head lice at the school inspection today. May I come in...' It's the Nit Nurse. SUPERLOUSE now resistant to all the old chemicals, strikes again.

The head louse is a black wingless parasite which crawls with great speed about the scalp. It's favourite places are at the back of the neck or behind the ears where it lays small white eggs (nits). Twice a day it bites and sucks blood; the bites itch, and if scratched with dirty finger nails can become infected, leading to septic sores and general lowering of health. Throughout Britain the Local Authorities are alarmed at the enormous increase in cases of head-lice, an affliction usually associated with poverty and low standards of personal hygiene.

In Brighton too Superlouse is certainly



on the rampage - so much so that neither the School Clinic nor the Health Office would reveal the number of nit cases treated last year. The most recent statistics available are from the 1971 M.O.H. report, when 49 children under school age were found to be 'Verminous Cases' and 398 children were found to be infested during school checks. All were 'cleansed' at the school clinic. You'll see that there are no figures quoted for adult verminous cases and the Hollingdean Cleansing Centre were keeping quiet. Posh nits tend to be cleansed in the privacy of middle class homes so the true number of discovered cases is very much higher. IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE 1972 MOH REPORT IT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY \*974.

according to the M.O.H. office. When we got nits in our house we tried the self-help treatment, reluctant to become 'verminous case' statistics. We washed our hair with esoderm shampoo and spent hours combing each individual strand of hair with a very fine metal comb, scraping off the nits which are firmly cemented to the hair. The Nit Nurse tells you that 'The CLEANEST of people get them' - I wonder if the Queen ever does or whether a Nit Nurse carries out regular inspections at Eton - and nits of course are highly catching; consequently infested children have 7 days off school until certified free of vermin as nits are considered a notifiable complaint.

The second time Nit Nurse appeared at our house we admitted defeat and went to the Cleansing Centre - me, my husband, two children, and four freaky lodgers, lousey the lot of us. All aspects of cleansing such as rodent control, refuse and road sweeping are dealt with there. We all had our hair sprayed with a pungent chemical called Loraxin so that wherever we went for a week or so thereafter we gave off little tell-tale wafts of an anti nit stench. Friends would choke and splutter at the fumes and we all turned aggressively cool and said 'We're only on a disinfection trip man' acting like it's TRENDY to get nits - for God's sake - and anyhow hundreds of people are walking about crawling with head lice all the time but they just haven't noticed.





## and silly nits

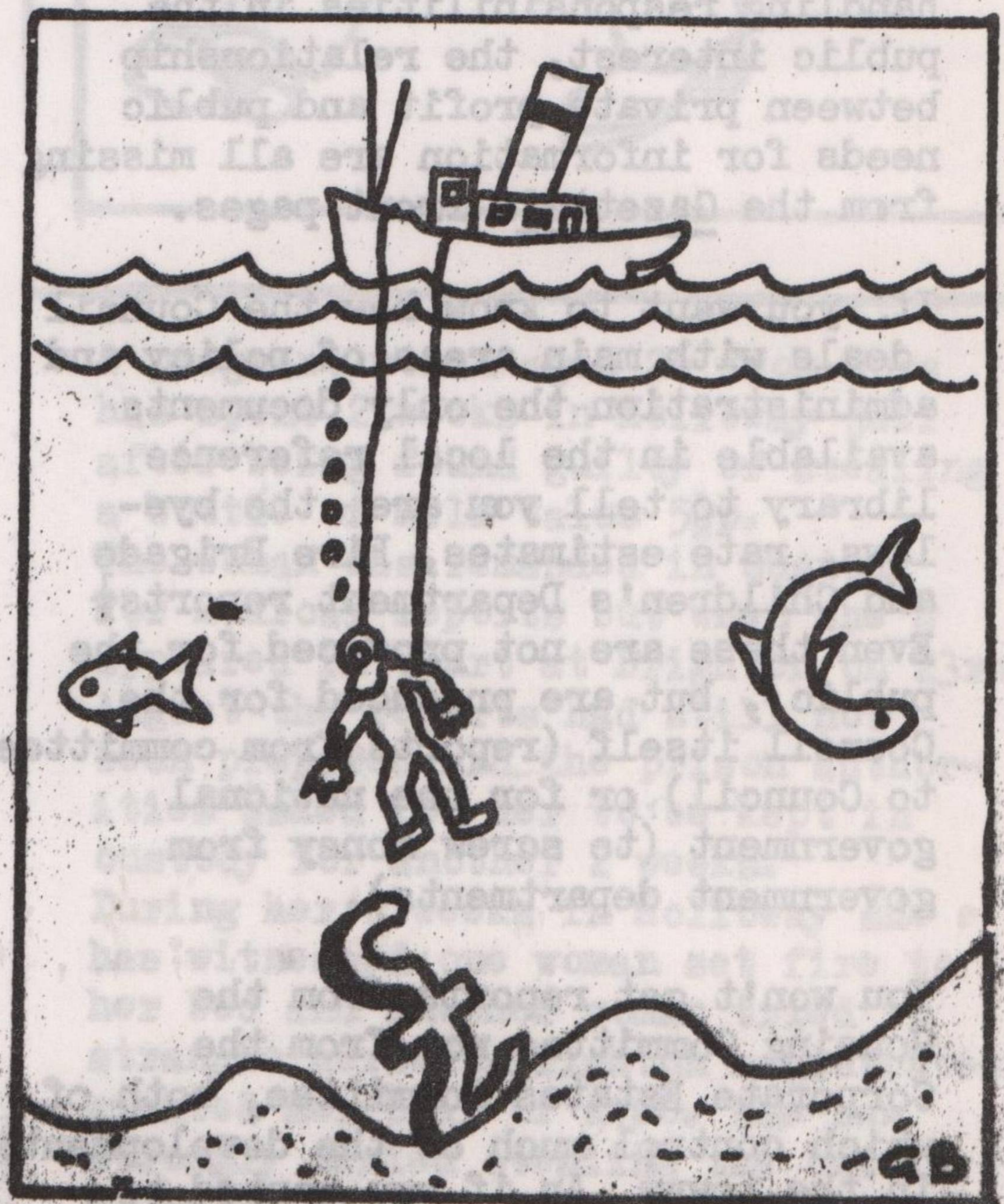
A meeting advertized as revealing the 'Plot to Ditch Britain' is guaranteed to attract the notice of the politicians in the town. But they had a rather unexpected evening the other week. The Australian main speaker was invited by the Brighton Anti-Common Market Group, and he was followed by a speaker who was a Trades Union member, pleading for support from the Labour Party at the next election. And the audience listening to him were either Powellites or members of the International Socialists, or similarly militant left-wing group. To cap it all we heard a shop steward at Edwards High Vacuum Ltd. talking about 'rotten liberalism always leading to dirty communism'. And on sale were 'Spearhead', (surreptitiously), the magazine of the National Front, and publications on Social Credit. There were even militant religious publications there. No wonder those who came to massacre the speaker (verbally at least) ended up in a pub rather confused by it all.

The meeting showed an interesting cluster of ideas, stemming from two bases, namely the classic European fascism - on the Italian more than the German model - and the one unique Canadian contribution to political theory - Social Credit. These two share a demand for the state to move in and take over the capitalists function, the former in the name of national morality and the latter in the name of cheap credit. Hence it

was no wonder that the main speaker claimed to be able to see the hand of international finance behind both the moral rot and the financial chaos and so had largely destroyed that rather 'strange' thing which he kept calling the 'British World'. And what links this character to Labour people is the dislike of the Common Market. And religion has always buttressed the status quo. Rarely can such strange bed-fellows have come together.

As to the talk itself, it was riddled with inconsistencies and questioner after questioner tried to make some concrete sense out of it all. The crunch point, put by one questioner, is that this fabled British World, which the speaker was so keen to save, was built by the exploitation of the working class. Yet he was asking this same working class to preserve the situation. It was only by destroying the entrenched network of privileges for which the old system stood that the working class both here and in the Third World countries had been able to improve their lot.

Fascism is a funny animal. It takes many guises. Brighton saw one of the more bizarre - but none the less dangerous - versions this evening. And it is particularly sad that people against the Common Market feel their powerlessness so much that they make common cause with groups like the British League of Rights and speakers like Eric Butler.







# VOICE

**BRIGHTON VOICE** calls itself a community paper. That is, it claims to reflect better than the mainstream press what people in Brighton and district are thinking and feeling. It tries to achieve this by opening its columns to a wide spectrum of people, and particularly to the underprivileged - which means nearly all of us. It isn't a vehicle for Councillors to get free publicity; it is a means whereby opinions and stories that won't find a place in the columns of the 'Argus' or 'Gazette' can be heard and read.

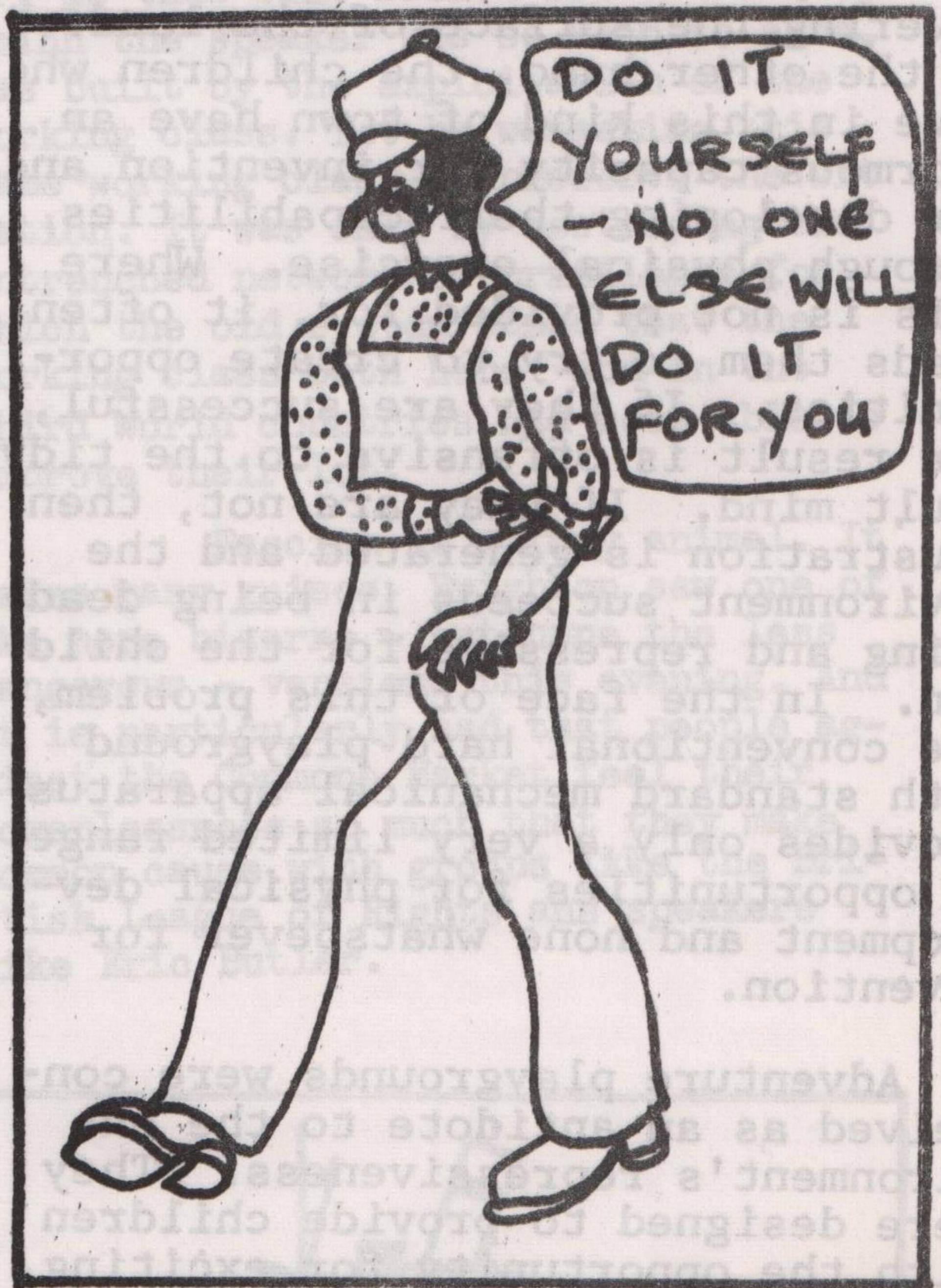
But this doesn't mean it is a populist paper, i.e. anything that anyone writes as an ordinary citizen of Brighton will get a spot within its pages. The 'Voice' aims to attack much of the way of life we presently put up with, and it is unlikely to print pieces which are not in some way critical of the present situation. We are particularly concerned with the outrageous property and housing situation, with the nepotism of the local 'government' and its inner group of Town Bosses, with the services which are really needed by the community and which are usually conspicuously absent or under-financed, and with any attempt to set up community-based actions of any sort.

But this doesn't mean that the 'Voice' has one political line to tread, and neither has the collective who produce it. However, we do believe in people struggling to take power to control their lives, and we hope the 'Voice' will increase awareness of and co-ordinate that basic struggle.

If these general aims strike sympathetic chords, then write articles for Brighton Voice, help edit and produce it. A

community paper is for the people. YOU are part of the people. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN BRIGHTON.

"Brighton Voice" is run by a collective. Why not join us and do a little to change Brighton? We need articles and production help. Please come along to meetings on Sunday evenings at 8 p.m. at 117 Hartington Road B91712. The next issue is concentrating on accommodation - but all other articles are welcome. Dead-line for copy is October 15th. NEXT MEETING SEPT 16th.



A pregnant woman aged 26 from Hove has spent 2 weeks in Holloway jail after being found guilty of stealing a bottle of milk value 5½p. The woman was remanded in custody for medical reports but when she appeared in court at Brighton on 23rd August the reports had still not been prepared and the prison authorities asked for her to be kept in custody for another 2 weeks. During her 2 weeks in Holloway she has witnessed one woman set fire to her bed and another woman tried to strangle herself. Brighton magistrates granted her bail of £100. She has strongly denied stealing the bottle of milk.



FOR ADVICE ON....

LEGAL, HOUSING & WELFARE

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES: Contact Richard Moseley at 2 Gloucester Street, or ring Brighton 65706.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU: at 17 Ditchling Rd., Brighton 61664. Phone for appointment. Operates legal aid scheme; much useful information. Also Hove 61746. Part of official welfare services.

OPEN INFORMATION: 24 hour take-away information & aid service at 27878, or consume it on the premises at 7 Victoria Road.

CLAIMANTS' UNION: At Open (see above) Mon. 8 p.m. Information & advice to those receiving Social Security.

RENT TRIBUNAL. Anston House, 137 Preston Road. Furnished tenants may achieve a rent reduction & security of tenure through the tribunal. Second opinions if dissatisfied provided by Furnished Tenants' Association & Open.

BRIGHTON FURNISHED TENANTS' ASSOC. Information & advice from David Grey, 6 Crescent Road, Brighton. Also at Off the Record on Wed. & Friday evenings & from Young Adults Centre, Queens Rd., Sat. 10-12 am.

SHELTER: Contact Jenny Blackwell at Brighton 594623. Helps the homeless. Needs help itself.

BRIGHTON HOSTEL: Free soup kitchen Tues. & Sun. afternoons. Nightly soup run to derries. Gives & needs clothing, food, help. 105 Islingwood Road, phone Brighton 686320.

PERSONAL PROBLEMS.

OFF THE RECORD: 6 Marlborough Place. Brighton 63080. Mon-Fri 8 pm to 10 pm. Helps with general problems, loneliness, etc. Youth Advisory Service.

YOUTH ADVISORY SERVICE: Queens Rd., next to Virgin Records. Sun. gatherings after 8 pm., talk and recreation.

PEOPLE-NOT-PSYCHIATRY: at Open (see above). An amorphous gathering of people, making contact wishing to talk.

BRIGHTON SAMARITANS: Brighton 733333. 24 hour telephone service.

BIRTH CONTROL:

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION: 37 Wilbury Rd., Hove. Ring Brighton 779322.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC: 18-19 Western Rd., Hove. Ring Brighton 734258.

B.P.A.S.: Winston's nursing home, 138 Dyke Rd., Brighton 509726. Free pregnancy testing. Abortions if wanted.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T NEED HELP, if you are willing and energetic, you may want to contact one or more of the projects listed. Most of them badly need workers. Don't be put off by lack of experience.

ORGANISATIONS:

BRIGHTON & HOVE WOMENS' LIBERATION. Contact Linda White (Secretary) Holland House, Holland Rd., Hove. Brighton 737317/8.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT: Brighton 688301. Meets Tuesday 8 pm. & disco on Friday at 8 pm. Both at Stanford Arms pub in Preston Circus.

SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEMES:

1) Fiveways - Balfour Rd. School. 30 July - 17 August. Contact Mrs. Richardson 504385.

2) Whitehawk School. 25 Aug-31 Aug. Contact Miss Barrow 683711.



SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEMES CONT

3) KEMPTOWN - Tower House. 20 Aug. - 31 Aug. Contact Ken Rawden at Brighton 29529.

4) Hove - St. Mary Magdalen School, 21 Aug. - 31 Aug. Contact Mrs. Richards 29529.

Further information - Mrs. Buckwell 683348.

BOOKSHOPS:

THE PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21 Little Preston Street. Brighton 28357. Radical & Freak books.

UNICORN BOOKSHOP: 50 Gloucester Rd., Brighton 682307. Radical & freak books.

WORKERS' BOOKSHOP: 37 Gloucester Rd., Marxist-Leninist Publications.

SHOPS:

ANANDA: 111 Gloucester Rd., Brighton 67772. Incense, crafts, pipes, posters, candles, Eastern cosmetics.

WRAGGLE TAGGLE WORKSHOP: 27 George St., Candles, clothes, posters, incense etc.

INFINITY FOODS: 54 Church St. Brighton 29386. Supplies all basic organic food.

CAFES:

THE GARDEN: Vegetarian, 22 Trafalgar St. Brighton.

OPEN: Vegetarian, 7 Victoria Rd., Brighton 27878. Also at Crypt at Sussex University.

EMERGENCY ACCOMODATION:

A crash pad service has been running for two years at OPEN & is used extensively by people passing through Brighton, those locked out, evicted etc. Normally help can only be given for one night, so come before the pubs close. Open's short list

of people offering space for crash pads could be increased if more people were willing to help in this way. YOU ONLY NEED TO OFFER FLOOR SPACE FOR ONE NIGHT a week with no other obligation, and you will always be asked before anyone arrives on your doorstep. Blankets can be provided.

FOR FREE LEGAL ADVICE:

Contact The Line, phone Brighton 64243 for free legal advice on drug arrests, police harrassment, accommodation, mental health, social security, and general arrests. Every night 6pm to 9am. and during the day at weekends. Another training session for volunteers at the end of August, so if you are interested in helping please contact The Line.

The Brighton Voice is gradually becoming established in Brighton and some newsagents are beginning to take it regularly - but not enough. If you like the Voice, why not pop into your local newsagent and suggest he takes it. Also we still need street and door to door sellers. It is a way of meeting interesting people, so contact us and we will give you some copies of Brighton Voice to sell.

Places where the Voice can be bought:-

A. Wheeler, Church Street.  
R. M. Wood, Trafalgar Street.  
M. Eccotts, Surrey Street.  
Infinity Foods, Church Street.  
Wraggle Taggle, George Street.  
Ananda, Gloucester Street.  
Public House Bookshop, Little Preston St.  
Unicorn Bookshop, Gloucester Street.

We've managed to extend our delivery service, so if you'd like the Voice delivered to your door (cost 1p. extra) every month, contact us. Also there are still a few copies of issue 1,2,3, & 4 left (soon to be rare collectors items).

If you would like to help with the actual writing, graphics, typing, pasting up or printing of the Voice, again contact us at 53 Hendon Street. Phone Brighton 689319.





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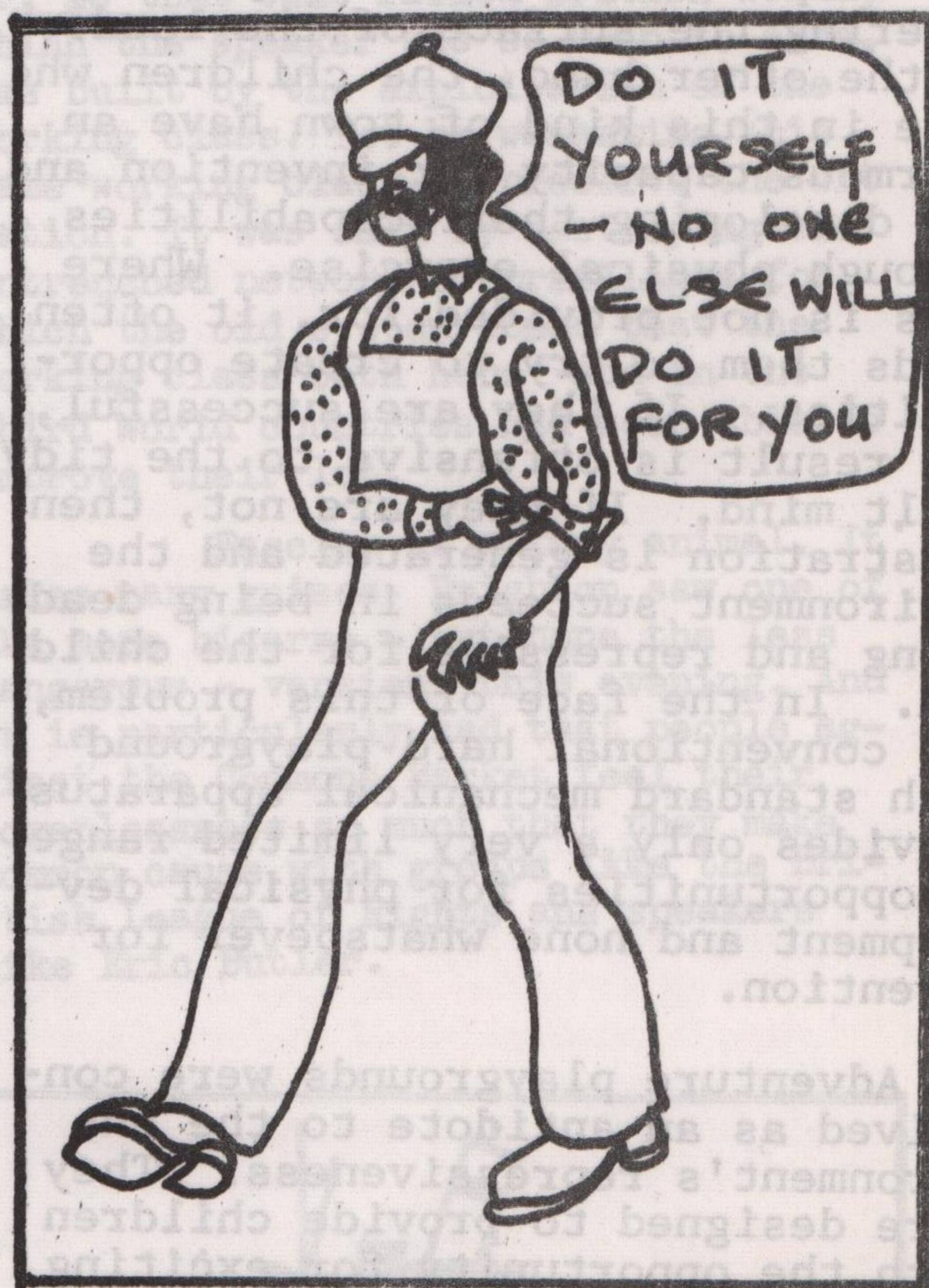
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# advent ure pl- aygrou nds

The modern town often consists of flats, streets, grass, schools, and shops - neatly and completely covering the surface of the land. On the other hand, the children who live in this kind of town have an enormous capacity for invention and for developing their capabilities through physical exercise. Where this is not provided for, it often leads them to try to create opportunities. If they are successful, the result is offensive to the tidy adult mind. If they are not, then frustration is generated and the environment succeeds in being deadening and repressive for the children. In the face of this problem, the conventional hard playground with standard mechanical apparatus provides only a very limited range of opportunities for physical development and none whatsoever for invention.

Adventure playgrounds were conceived as an antidote to the environment's repressiveness. They were designed to provide children with the opportunity for exciting physical experience, for taking calculated risks, for creativity, for freedom from authoritarian adult control. They were meant to be a complement to the tidiness and uncreative conformity expected of children in the adult world of clean flats, washed cars, and laundrettes. If the adult environment (with no escape from it) leads to frustration and perhaps delinquency, then the adventure playground leads to happier and mentally healthier children.

Frankly, a mess! The area, usually between a third and two and a half acres, is often fenced off; inside are piles of timber and other construction materials, from which shacks have been built by the children.

Fires are lit here and there, over which food can be cooked or water boiled. There is often a sizable hut for indoor pursuits in wet weather. Pets may be kept in one corner of the site. Some structures may go up quite high - for instance, climbing towers made from telegraph poles. Several old cars may be lying around, in various stages of disintegration. Holes are dug, and if water is on site there is a lot of mud.

The role of the playleader is not an authoritarian one, except insofar as he must insist on respect for other children's property, reasonable safety, and similar principles. He encourages as free and as permissive an atmosphere as possible, and does not direct operations though he may make suggestions where children seem to be at a loss for something to do. He must also see to the provision of tools and abundant construction materials. In short, children design, build and enjoy their own environment, and call on adult help only when they want it.

Whereas adventure playgrounds are best sited on wasteland because of the untidiness and noise, there are often sites available in public parks (and therefore subject to the park's bye-laws) on which adventure playgrounds cannot be built. Instead these sites are often turned into playparks, which fulfil a similar role to that of the adventure playgrounds though catering for fewer of the children's needs. The more untidy aspects of an adventure playground are missing, and instead the emphasis is on the provision of roughly built (but safe) structures which are exciting for children to run and climb on. If the site is not on a slope, an artificial ramp may be built for trolleys, carrying two or three children, to run down. Solid timber catwalks may go from tree to tree, so that children can try getting around the playpark off the ground. Climbing towers may be erected, and if there are trees it is easy to set up ropes, tied up high, for swinging on. A rope running from high up in one tree to a slightly lower point on another can carry children hanging underneath it from a bogey. These and other types of structure make the playpark a kind of outdoor gymnasium, which is not however built by the children themselves. Like an adventure playground, there are usually professional playleaders and a sizable hut.



In Brighton we have only one adventure playground, on the hill above Moulescoomb, and no playparks. The nearest similar playground is in Crawley.

The lack of provision may be more obvious when it is considered that an adventure playground is only of use to children living within about half a mile of it. Few children come from further afield, and they are rightly reluctant to cross busy main roads with poor crossing facilities in order to get from home to adventure playground, and back. Therefore the great majority of Brighton children - those living more than half a mile from Moulescoomb are completely without provision of adequate play facilities.

Their play facilities amount to four conventional playgrounds in Queen's Park, in Sussex Street, on the Level and in Madeira Drive.

If it is recognised that, in London, adventure playgrounds should be provided for children living in dense housing areas, we might ask what is being done for the children of Brighton who live in just such areas.

If we make a count of all the children in State primary schools within the area bounded by Southover Street, Queen's Park Road, the hospital, Whitehawk Hill Road, Paston Place, Marine Parade, Old Steine and Grand Parade, and add in Queen's Park Secondary, we arrive at a total, for 5-15 year old children, of 2144. This excludes many of the 11-15 year old children who live in the Queen's Park area, so it seems reasonable to estimate the number of 5-15 year old children living in the area as being 2,500.

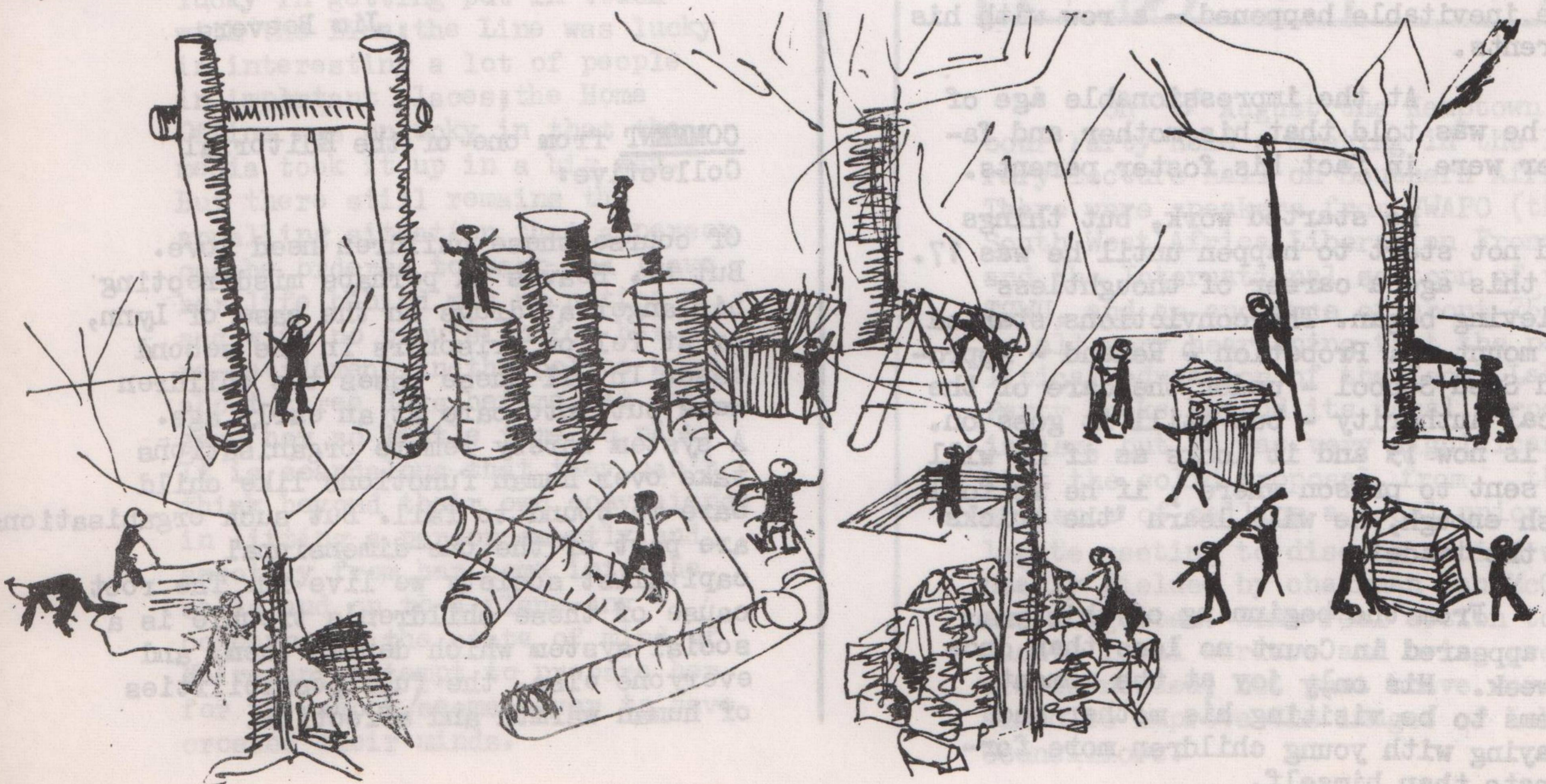
An adventure playground or playpark in Queen's Park or nearby could do much to supplement the present inadequate provision for our 2,500 children.

In Brighton during 1972, there were 800 accidents on the roads. The number of children up to the age of 15 who were injured was 192, and of these 33 were injured seriously. One child, aged 3, ran out into the road in Whitehawk; she was knocked down and died.

Among children under 5, there were 48 injuries (including the death). Most of these children were pedestrians. All the other injuries occurred to children 5 to 15 years old; again, most of them (95 out of 144) were pedestrians, not cyclists or passengers.

Need all these children have been walking or running on the roads at the time they were knocked down? It may be that some of them were there because there was nowhere else interesting enough for them to spend their spare time. If we do not provide attractive and extensive play facilities we must be responsible for having them play in places which are not safe for them. A supervised adventure playground or playpark is much safer than a busy road.

"Adventure Playgrounds" by Arvid Bengtsson, published in 1972 by Crosby Lockwood. Lots of photos. Brighton Public Library has a copy; classified under 790.068.





# LETTERS<sup>10</sup>

Dear Sir,

Criticism of the young are common in newspapers. I would to relate my own experiences. One is with a girl we shall call Lynn. Lynn is seventeen years old now, but was abandoned at the age of three weeks. She was brought up in a foster home - in many foster homes in fact.

She was a difficult child and still is. Although now she feels independent, she still quietly suffers.

At the age of 12 she was introduced to drugs after smoking cigarettes. As things usually seemed to go, she progresses to harder drugs and knows the 'ins and outs' of most 'hard drugs' including LSD. With the expense of her addiction she took to petty thieving. With many convictions, she has however settled, on the face of it, into an absorbing job with children more fortunate than herself and she has been off drugs for 3 months.

She is illiterate and cannot read or write - this is due to her erratic upbringing.

The second case is that of a young man now 19 years of age who, to date has amassed two score of convictions, ranging from petty thieving to assault.

His problems started when, at the age of 15, he was told by his parents that he would have to fend for himself in this world and leave school to start work. This he did with some hesitation. Why he would ask himself, had his mother and father turned against him? The inevitable happened - a row with his parents.

At the impressionable age of 15 he was told that his mother and father were in fact his foster parents.

He started work, but things did not start to happen until he was 17. At this age a career of thoughtless thieving began. The convictions started to mount up. Probation @ Remand - Approved Sved School - under the care of the Local Authority - but still it goes on. He is now 19 and it looks as if he will be sent to prison where, if he is foolish enough, he will learn 'the tricks of the trade'.

From the beginning of this year he appeared in Court no less than once a week. His only joy at the moment seems to be visiting his mother and playing with young children more fortunate than himself.

The case of another young man in his early teens, who at the age of one year was put into care and privately educated is odd, for it would seem that his parents could well afford to look after him.

At the end of the school term he would have to stay at the boarding school and when the parents of other boys visited their offspring at weekends and on special occasions he would hide himself away and cry.

When he reached the age of thirteen a telephone call came from a woman who said she was his mother!

Would he like to join her for a holiday - this he did, only to be confronted by another stranger - his 'stepfather'. It didn't work out and he has no wish to see them again.

He has been in and out of jobs since he left school and lives in a sort of fantasy world.

What does he need and what can be done? What do they all need and what should they all have had from the beginning? I believe that it can all be summed up in one four-letter word - LOVE. What are your conclusions - or don't you care?

I think I ought to add that I am not a 'qualified' social worker though I have been involved in social work for quite a while. I have also studied it academically and practically through the course of my main interest in life - PEOPLE.

Yours

Jim Beevers

COMMENT from one of the Editorial Collective:

Of course these children need love. But Mr. Beevers is perhaps misdirecting his anger at drugs in the case of Lynn, or at fellow prisoners in the second case. In all these cases the children were put into care at an early age. A system whereby remote organisations take over human functions like child care is bound to fail. But such organisations are part of the one-dimensional capitalist society we live in. The root cause of these children's trouble is a social system which denies them, and everyone else, the full possibilities of human warmth and affection.



Dear Sir,

I wonder if I may make a few comments on the Miss Brighton article in your fifth issue, and on the demonstration it described. Because I thought protests at beauty contests were out-of-date and because such events are of small consequence, I was saddened to see the Women's Lib demo. Whilst I agree with the argument that there is a need for more facilities in Brighton, a beauty contest is an unnecessary place to demonstrate for such things. This obsession by Womens Lib with unimportant things is reflected also in the letter of Cora Kaplan Lushington. The Miss Brighton article's side-sweeps at the girls and the compere of the show were also trivial. Your article was as patronising, in its way, as the Evening Argus Editorial and it contained a fair measure of intellectual snobbery. The problems you mentioned in the running of the show were mainly a result of the abysmal organisation by Brighton Lions, and it was only held together by the professionalism of Desmond Lynam. You should realise that beauty contests are a harmless form of fun and that, because of their asexuality, they are not a good symbol of society's attitudes to women. The reasons some girls go in for beauty contests are not primarily economic or social - they are more likely to be psychological. Have you ever wondered why certain attractive girls go in for such contests while others don't? Have you ever noticed that a fair proportion of the girl's come from one parent families?

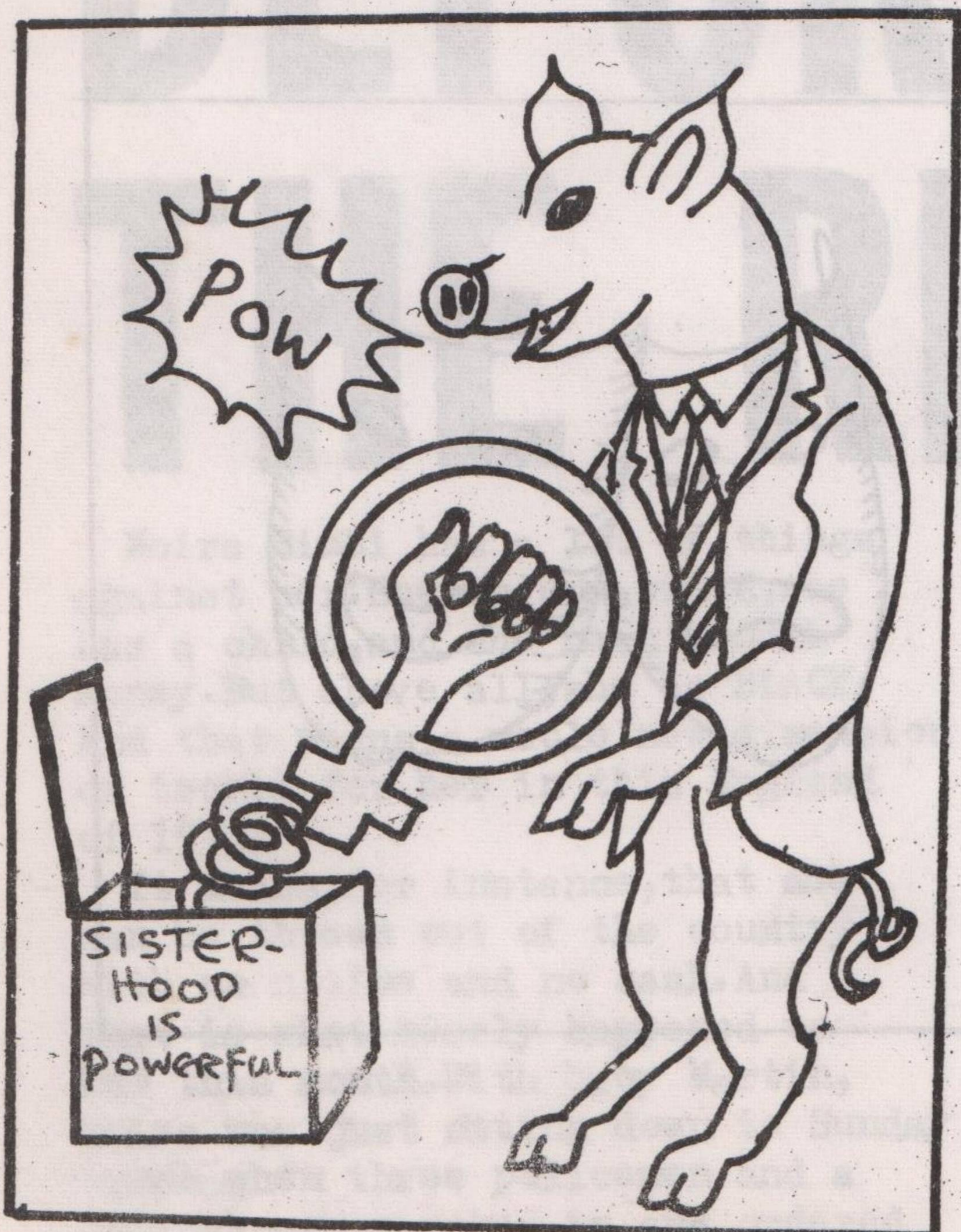
Or from families where the children are widely spaced apart? Have you ever noticed how many of their mothers see their girl's success as a reflection of their own looks? I feel that the pre-occupation with beauty contests is because they are an easy target. Why don't Womens Lib go after advertising or pornographic books and magazines?

Yours Faithfully  
J. Austin.

Comment from Linda White of the Brighton Womens Liberation Group.

WE INDEED DO MAKE protests against the abuse of women's minds and bodies in advertising and magazines and feel that it is exactly this abuse which is the foundation of a female contest, passing judgement and comments on a particular fashionable shape of the female body.

It is a whole spectrum of seemingly 'unimportant things' that make up the complex and all-pervasive exploitation and chauvinism that women are subjected to in this society. We are certainly most concerned about the psychological states of individual women and in our consciousness-raising groups we discuss just these. However it is also important to analyse and attack the economic and social structures which give rise to individual psychological problems. Thus our concern with questioning the small family unit and its 'failures' as a source of particular influence and stress; an education system which restricts the potential of individuals by imposing male/female roles; an employment situation which bars, restricts, underpays and mistreats women at all levels.



ADDENDA TO INFO SHEET.

FURNISHED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

Anyone interested in its revival should get in touch with Russ Moseley, c/o Brighton Voice.

WOMENS LIBERATION.

The contact address is now - Linda White, 24, Freshfield Place. A phone is being installed next week.

An addition is -

WORKING ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS.

contact Pam Smith, 62190 or 772649. The association works for more free time, holiday activities and reciprocal baby-sitting.



# GREY

Good theatres don't make good theatre, though with the right sort of policy they can do a lot to nourish it. Once there was a basement called the Brighton Combination which offered some of the most interesting modern theatre to a necessarily small audience. (It was small basement). Among its writers was Howard Brenton, whose work is now produced on a wide scale in England and the Continent. Now there is the Gardner Centre, not a small basement but a massive auditorium, designed by Sean Kenny without much eye to financial stringency. The Gardner Centre also plays to small audiences. What went wrong? Why is the Gardner Centre potentially prestigious (after all it was meant to be) but actually boring? Well, it certainly doesn't produce Howard Brenton plays. It is offering us a season of Pinter, Shakespeare and Tennessee Williams. Nothing very new or experimental here! Last year the Gardner Centre offered a bizarre season of revived 1930s, musicals. Brighton may be frivolous but you don't have to scrape up ephemera in the hope of appealing to art-deco antique dealers. The fact is that if you want kitsch you go to the Theatre Royal, and a nice job they make of it too. It is purely and simply a commercial shop window for shows going in, or coming out of town. It is almost without pretension. Gardner Centre can't compete on that scale. One might be forgiven for not having been aware that it is situated on a university campus, and granted the apathy and disinterest, if not real ignorance of most students about modern theatre, it is still peculiar that the programmes do not appear to have attempted to attract an audience of several thousand who pass its doors every day. There may be students who believe that Tennessee Williams is the hero of the avant garde, but it's a gamble. What the place needs is a policy, and a commitment. And arguably demolition and rebuilding more suited to the better kind of modern writing. This could be shelved but in the meantime the Centre could set about establishing itself as a place where the best new plays are performed, not necessarily world premieres. God knows, the status that attaches to those is pitiful enough. (Arts Council grants apart) but second and third and fourth productions of plays which deserve a wider

# THEATRE

exposure, which have possibly been performed only once in London and stand a severe chance of being consigned to a Calder and Boyars paperback if something isn't done to spread them.

To do this, and as a consequence, to earn a reputation as a theatre dedicated to new writings would involve a risk. The risk of losing the pitiful audience of bourgeoisie who motor up (down?) from town to see the millionth production of Pinter's Birthday Party. But the possible achievements would be enormous. There are few theatres seriously dedicated to new writing in London, the Royal Court having abandoned its role in favour of prestige productions. Students occasionally produce Edward Bond plays in the mistaken notion that he represents the knife edge of the avant garde. Why doesn't Gardner give them and everybody a chance to learn about exciting new plays that are being written but not sufficiently exposed? Why doesn't it start off with a season this winter of New Drama, and instead of giving a sop to the avant garde by playing host very rarely to a travelling company like 7.84 or Paradise Foundry, actually mount productions of its own? This might provide a little of the Prestige it was so obviously erected to attract

Howard Barker

