

info...

shops

THE PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP : 21 Little Preston St (28357) Alternative/Radical/Freak books, mags. and coffee too

SYMPOSIUM BOOKSHOP : 12 Market St. (28142) - books, mags...the radical stuff....

INFINITY FOODS : 25 North Road. Macrobiotic goodies: organically grown veg., nuts beans, better than rip-off "health shops".

OPEN : 7 Victoria Road. Cheap alternative cafe, and Bit-by-Bit Information Service

ANANDA : 111 Gloucester Rd. (67772) - odds-and-ends to make your life good.

UNCLE SAM'S HAMBURGER EXPRESS Montpelier Rd. - has everything-and-chips.

BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP : 37 Gloucester Rd. (684404) C.P.B.M.-L. - open Tu.,Th., Fri. 2-5pm.; Sat 9.30-6pm.

THE GARDEN : 22 Trafalgar St - Vegetarian cafe, and some meetings, poetry.

THREE ROOMS CAFE : 14 Blatchington Rd., Hove (779933). Vegetarian lunches Mon-Sat. 10-3pm. O.A.P. and students' 3-course lunch 25p. Take-away service available.


WRAGGLE TAGGLE WORKSHOP : 27 George St. - all sorts of things to brighten you up

You can buy your BRIGHTON VOICE at any of the above (except the Workers B'shop). You can also get it at :

KEMP TOWN BOOKS : St Georges Rd
ST JAMES' ST NEWSAGENTS BOOKS : 80b St James' St.
LUMLEYS : Edward St.
VERRALLS : Eastern Rd. by Rock Gardens.
SCHOPIELDS : Lewes Rd.

...and many others too...
ASK your local newsag ASK your local newsag for it; better still, place with him a REGULAR ORDER for BRIGHTON VOICE or get us to send you a copy each month for one year by sending us your subscription of £1

FOR IP EXTRA YOU CAN GET YOUR COPY OF BRIGHTON VOICE DELIVERED



groups/gatherings

FURNISHED TENANTS ASSOC. meets Tues. 8pm. at OPEN, 7 Victoria Road. Contact: Russell Moseley - 683348

CLAIMANTS UNION - meets Mon. 8pm. at OPEN, 7 Victoria Rd.

PEOPLE-NOT-PSYCHIATRY - group meets at OPEN: Wed. 8pm.

HOUSING ACTION GROUP : for details of future meetings 'phone: 24708 or 29376; or contact at OPEN, 7 Victoria Road every Tues after 8pm.

ANTI-RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN - any teachers or others who can help contact TOM: 684256

BRIGHTON MARINA: TEACHING KIT : teachers and research students preparing an Education Kit on the Marina as a local case-study for use in schools; anyone interested in joining the group contact: Brighton Voice, Box 2, 111 Gloucester Road, for details.

MARINA ACTION CAMPAIGN : Coordinated research and action against the latest plans of the Marina Company. Contact: Tessa Williams, Rear-Ground-Floor Flat, 6 Arundel Terr. (687792 after 5pm.)

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY : Roland Stringer, 27 Osbourne Villas, Hove (732550)

THE MARMION CENTRE : Community activities. Marmion Rd., Hove. (731724)

WORKING ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS : baby-sitting, creche, coffee mornings etc. Pam Smith, 5 Northsea Drive, Hove. (772649)

FREE VET : F.D.S.A. 16 Oxford St.(by the Open Market). (63606) Donations are welcomed.

SHELTER: Jenny Backwell (594623)

'SAVE OUR SCHOOLS' CAMPAIGN Against a botched-up plan to put infants from 3 schools into 1 of over 600 pupils. Contact Joe Taylor (67496)

PRE-SCHOOL HANDICAPPED KIDS AND THEIR MUMS : join the Opportunity Group Tues. 1.30-3.30pm. Contact: Mrs S. McCormick, 44 Inwood Cres. (509431)

BRIGHTON ENVIRONMENTAL COMM. - Melinda Mellish, 54 Queens Park Road.

BRIGHTON MARINA WATCH COMM. Contact Oscar Thompson, 20 Ridgeside Ave, Patcham SO2103

PRIOR HOUSE : Carlton Hill - Youth & Community Centre - lots of activities (681925)

BRIGHTON & HOVE WOMEN'S I.L.B. Contact Jen de Winter, 154 Harbour Way, Shoreham-by-Sea (87-61680)

"SAVE BRIGHTON STATION" : Contact: Henrietta Dombey, 46 Park Crescent (67035)

BRIGHTON SOCIETY : Active environmental group trying to stop bad planning, on both social and aesthetic grounds. Selma Montford, 10 Clermont Rd. (509209)

UPPER NORTH ST RESIDENTS : Against piecemeal traffic plans in the area: Robert Gregory, 97 Upper North St. (26749)

BRIGHTON, HOVE & DISTRICT PENSIONERS & TRADE UNION ACTION ASSOC. : John Strickland, 144 Hangleton Valley Drive, Hove (412265)

EAST BRIGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOC - recently split from their Action Committee. Concerned with the kind of redevelopment that should be carried out in Whitehawk. Contact: G. Andrews, 8 Twineham Rd. (687715)

WHITEHAWK ACTION COMMITTEE: Now an independent group for Whitehawk residents. See their 'Whitehawk Bulletin' -No.1 (2p). Contact: Brian Mitchell. Phone: 687732.

papers

A NEW LOCAL TEACHERS' MAGAZINE : for all teachers etc...on current local educational issues. Copy date for No. 1 is 10th. July. Phone 680258 or write: 42 Egramont Place, Brighton..

QUEENSPARK: Street newspaper of Queen's Park area; originally the paper of the SPA CAMPAIGN now into some wider issues: 14 Toronto Terr., 62 Bentham Road (688380)

NEWSWAVE : Free-radio mag. 63 Gleton Ave., Hove.

LIBRARIANS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE : Radical library paper. 67 Vere Rd

AARDVARK : New revolutionary comic book; radical/political. More researchers, graphics people needed. Contact: George Barratt (553607)

THE ORGANISER : through the Trades Council 63 Stamford Rd.

LITTLE DIGGER
Brighton Kids own paper 5p
Tel: 691712.

produced by primary schoolkids. Available 117 Hartington Rd 5p

politics

ANDREW BOWDEN : CONSERVATIVE M.P for Kemp Town...for whatever you may wish to contact him for. He will meet you at the TORY H.Q. (Kemp Town), 51 Preston Rd (67747).(Home no. 62855)

LABOUR PARTY : Kemp Town : 179 Lewes Rd. (62592)

LIBERAL PARTY : Pavilion. Contact Frances Hix, 143a Western Rd., B'ton (26560; office: 27960)

BRIGHTON PAVILION & KEMPTOWN LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS : Meets Tues. 8pm. 179 Lewes Rd. Contact John Balance, 64 Coleman Street.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN MARXIST LENINIST - Discussion groups etc. 684404 for details.

COMMUNIST PARTY : Secretary: Marjorie Chaplin, 83 Edburton Av

TRADES COUNCIL : Contact Dennis Hill, 65 Stamford Rd.

INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP : 20 Milnthorpe Rd., Hove

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS : The Secretary, 33 Ventnor Villas, Hove.

RANK AND FILE - I.S. based group of Teachers within the N.U.T. (735925)

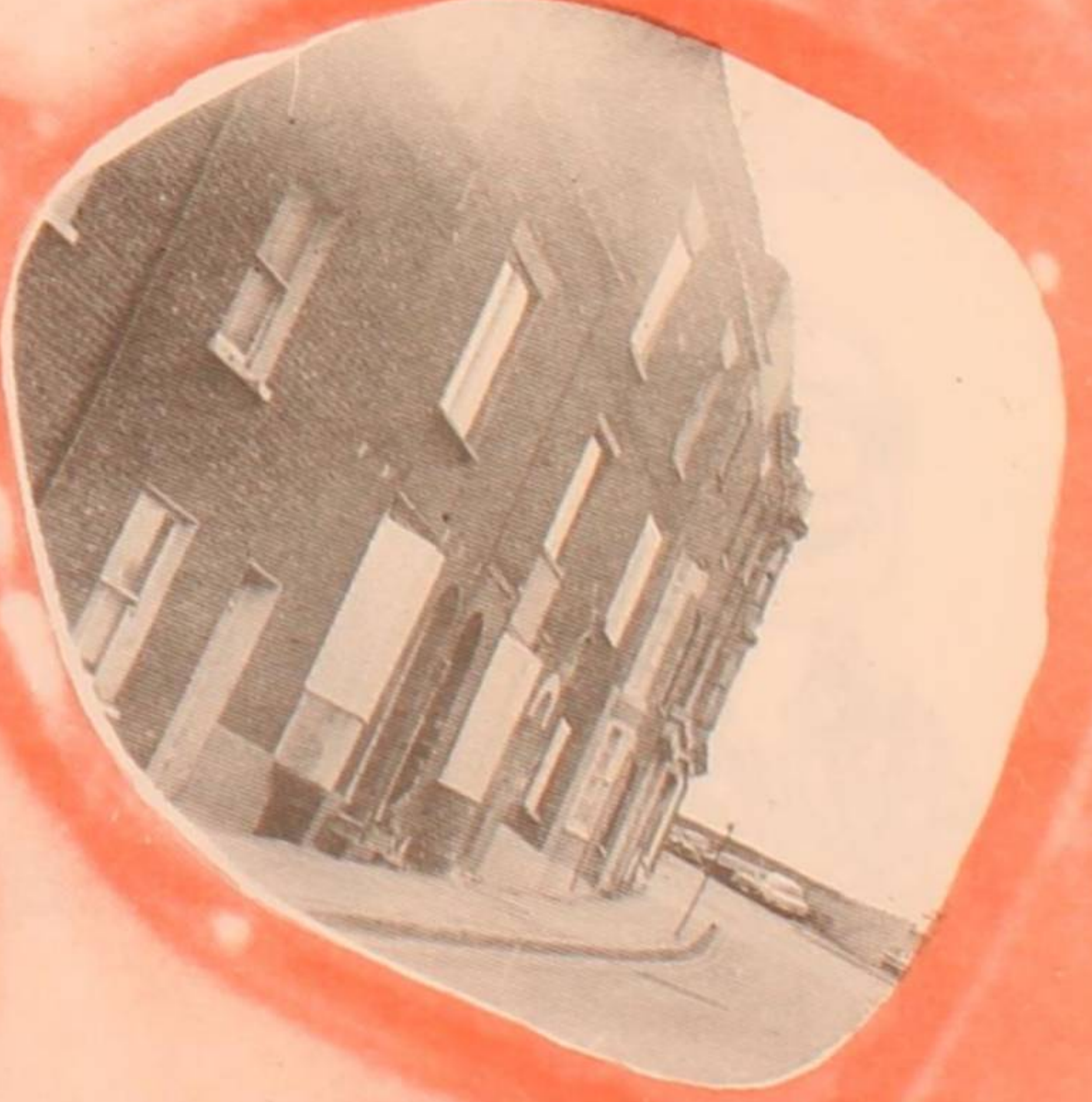
SOCIETY FOR ANGLIO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING : John Lloyd, 5 Belle Vue Gdns., Kemp Town (63705)

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT - local branch are organising public meeting soon; and transport to a demo in London on 13th. July - contact Keith: 684256 for details.

...and there are a few other political groups around but they seem to keep themselves to themselves....

BRIGHTON VOICE

5p



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brighton in season

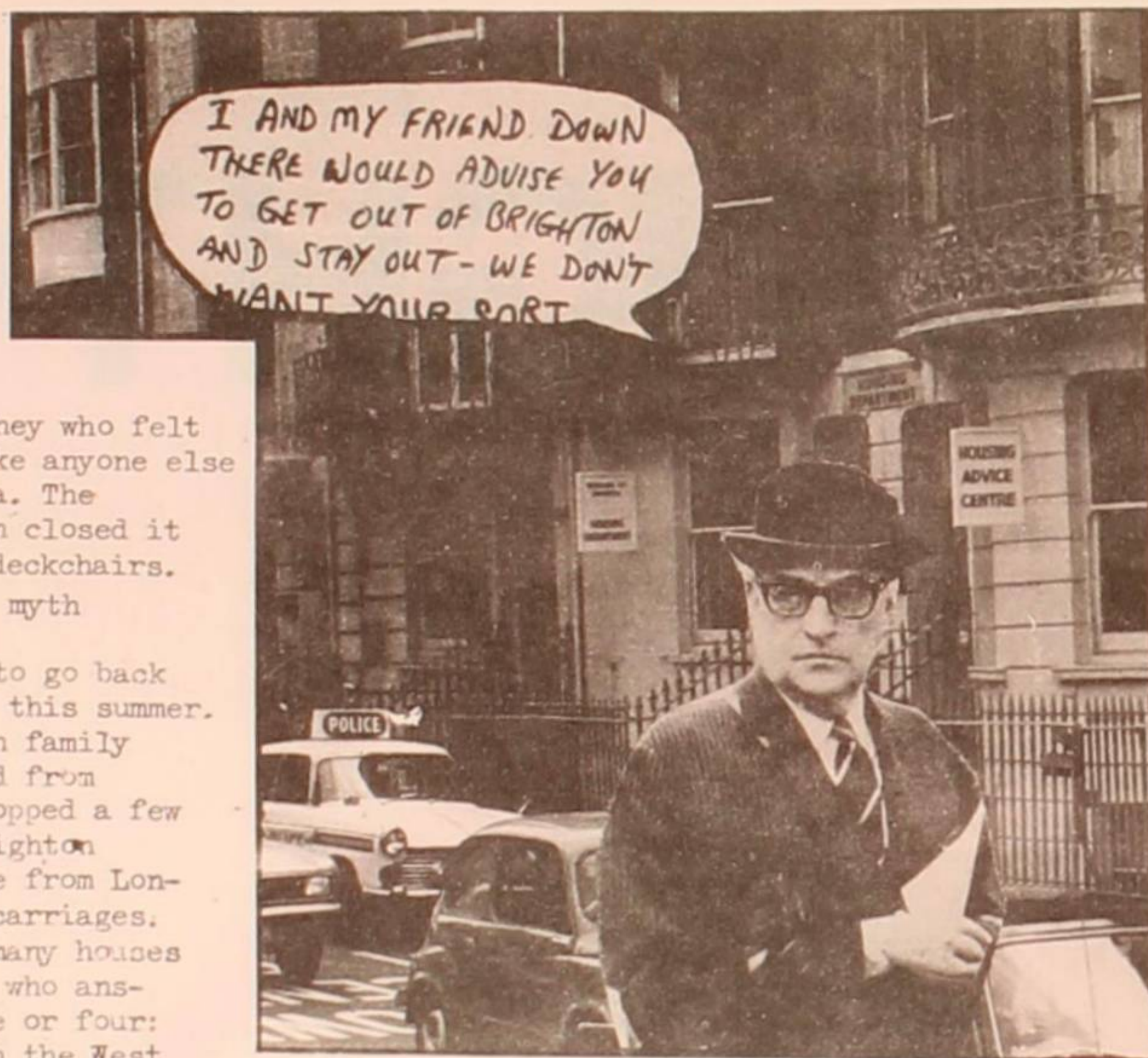
No 15
Inside:
behind the
seaside image

JOIN

In most ways Brighton 'in season' is the same as Brighton at any other time: the speculators and Tory councillors are still there; so too are the inequalities and discrimination which stem from their stranglehold over the town. But somehow in summer the old expectation that a day or a weekend by the sea will reveal the true Brighton, a place of pleasure and excitement, lives on. Myth has it that in every other basement there is a sleazy, sexy nightclub, that the boarding houses are run by conniving landladies who will never give you away and that there is treasure on the beach in the early mornings. If it's all true we were dead unlucky. We found club owners who bemoaned the passing of a lost age, landladies about as permissive as the Band of Hope and half the beach enclosed by the Marina. A few years ago an Archway on the front welcomed teenagers, drop-outs and

kids without any money who felt they had a right like anyone else to be beside the sea. The Brighton Corporation closed it and filled it with deckchairs. The reality not the myth

But you don't need to go back several years. Take this summer. On the day the Flynn family was forcibly evicted from Terminus Road we stopped a few people nearby at Brighton station who had come from London in First Class carriages and asked them how many houses they had got. Those who answered said two, three or four: one in London, one in the West Country, one for weekends in Brighton and an ocean-going yacht which the Marina will soon look after. There's a big welcome in Brighton for these people. But we're not knocking the whole scene in this issue. We're angry, very angry about the squat but we can still find bits of Brighton to enjoy. Where there are unpretentious people having a good time, local people as well as visitors, then count us in. Only watch out that we don't have to fight as hard for our pleasure as we do for our homes.



GO AHEAD ON WOMENS CENTRE

Today the Social Services Committee of East Sussex County Council agreed to allow the Women's movements in Brighton to use the old Maternity Hospital in Buckingham Road as a Women's Centre for one year. More details in next Voice.

BRIGHTON.

BRIGHTON VOICE HAS BEEN APPEARING FOR OVER A YEAR NOW, once every month. It is produced by a collective of about 40 people who live and work in Brighton, all doing different jobs but united in a common wish to produce a newspaper for ordinary people to put forward their views. Every month about 1500 copies are printed and sold (and that means over 4500 people actually read it). The paper doesn't make money - the price you pay just covers the costs of paper, printing and distribution; nor is it the intention to make money, which is where we differ fundamentally from the *Argus* and the *Gazette*.

BUT WHY IS BRIGHTON VOICE NECESSARY? Because everything that affects our lives seems to be run by groups or 'experts' acting mostly in their own interests. For instance, property speculators, aided and abetted by the council, estate agents, landlords and builders are ripping our town apart. And because in lots of other ways all the decisions about what kind of jobs should be available, or what kind of education our kids should get, or what kind of medical or legal advice is offered, or even what information in general we should be allowed, are made by such people. Don't forget that all the 'established' ways of getting to know what people think in this town are controlled by those same established interests. The *Argus*, *Gazette*, *Radio Brighton* and even the public library are run by people with an interest in keeping things much as they are. So how can anything be changed for the better if they control how we find out, and if, in consequence, there's no way of hitting back?

BRIGHTON VOICE is not subject to the demands of the advertiser nor the politics of the boss. It is written and produced so that we can all have more control over our lives.

BUY THE VOICE, WRITE AND DRAW FOR THE VOICE. IT'S YOUR PAPER.

And come and join the Collective which meets every Sunday evening at the Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Rd at 8 p.m. SEE YOU THERE.

LETTERS: SEND THEM TO 7 VICTORIA RD.



VOICE

LONDON BY...

For the millions of holiday-makers and day trippers who come to Brighton every year one of its main attractions is the beach and the stalls and restaurants of the lower promenade. Apart from council money for the upkeep of the parks & gardens, it is on the sea front itself that the council spends the most. It seems however to be faced with an insoluble problem.



After all the arguments last summer about the condition of the beaches the council has placed great emphasis on 'Clearing up'. Consequently the three or four beach pickers of last year, responsible for the whole length of the beach up to the west pier are now aided by a team of a dozen or so who work in the early evening, and by a small bulldozer. At the same time extra men are helping to sweep vacuum the front. Indeed the magnificent condition of the whole sea front, "clean enough to eat your breakfast off" is a credit to all.

On the other hand this is making life more difficult for the stallholders. There is still considerable variety between the fish bars the novelty shops, cafes, palmists, good humoured photographers, and even a potter, but their rents have gone up partly to pay for the extra-cleaning expenses with rises of 30-40% being quoted. Slowly but surely shops are being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. The end result of the squeezing out of the stallholder can be seen in resorts like Southend-on-Sea, where the 'golden mile' consists of an endless series of amusement arcades and chain restaurants.

Brighton Borough Council has a particularly heavy responsibility towards the day trippers as regards the sea front since this is largely what they come for, particularly in the area around Palace Pier. In some respects it does a good job but it should not undo with one hand what is being done by the other.



.. THE SEA

The A23 rolls on towards the South Downs - trees in full leaf and fields, shining in the morning sunlight, stretch out in front. We're off to Brighton, this gem of the south coast, this queen of seaside resorts. The road enters the town and still there is parkland and elegant buildings. What a gorgeous entrance to a town, you think. It makes you feel good to be alive. But you haven't lived in the town, mate.



As an example of the town's attitude, think about how it removes its less classy features, such as the fair ground on the race course and the day trippers, trying to replace them with high class marinas and conference centres. Think about how the town publicises non-events like the Eurovision Song Contest, which excluded local people.

Look at the loneliness in the town. Look at the one room flats and bed-sits, the 'homes' of both old people and young singles, forced to live like this because of the landlords greed for profits. Look at the *Argus* personal columns with the adverts from people crying out for companionship.

Think about the lanes, one of the main tourist features. There are many good pubs, restaurants and wine bars. But are you one of those who are put off visiting them by the kind of people you find there?

Look at the way certain parts are dominated by antique dealers, useless to society as a whole but it certainly gets the bread for the owners! Look at the once attractive Prince Albert Street, which is now a desert of antique shops, the only activity being the dealers loading, unloading, arguing, sunbathing and counting their money.

Look at the community groups, the most thriving are those engaged in preserving (sorry, conserving) the precious, elitist environment, not those trying to improve society.



If you have a good look at Brighton, you will see a lot wrong with it. It's a place where entrepreneurs can get away with basing a pub's decor on the misery of the American depression. In those days Brighton was worth visiting it was somewhere with a reputation, a place of characters. Now it's a commercial wasteland, a place of people trying hard to be characters.

Do come to sunny Brighton, the pseud and snob centre of the south.



Pubs and grub

Brighton is rich in pubs: not so long ago you could visit a different one every day of the year. Surrey St. had 19 of them lined up in one block; now there are only two. Pubs are a casual part of most people's way of life but they are a crucial centre of working class society. The 'locals' enrich that society because in their advice, cooperative help and all kind of information are exchanged, and they are the place for the demonstration of special skills that form an important part of working class pride, skills with the dart, the billiard cue or on the dancing floor. Brighton is also rich with such pubs, which offer far more than the half pint in a genteel atmosphere.

Darts is played everywhere, and pretty competitively too, but the prime skill locally is bar-billiards. So many pubs have tables that it is useless to list them. Look in the 'Argus' of a Friday and you will see them named in the 9 leagues which are organised in the town. Most of the 'billiards pubs' are small, out of the centre of the town and with a local flavour. Bar billiards devotees do not seem to take kindly to pop groups or trippers. You have to seek out such places as 'The Kensington' in the Gardens, or the 'Horse

and Groom' up St. James' St. or, further out, the 'Ladies Mile' in Patcham. If you want variety then 'The Bath Arms' in the Lanes has a table tennis table too. Music is available in lots of places. 'The Race Hill' in the Lewes Rd. and 'The Northern' in the London Rd. have jolly, noisy bands at weekends with a great atmosphere. Slightly more into the pop world are 'The Richmond', near St. Peter's, and 'The Norfolk', near the Art College, again only at weekends. Right into the Pop Scene is 'The Hungry Years' with lots of visiting big names (and big prices) whilst further along the front, half way to France, 'The Bathing Machine' is rumoured to offer a variety of music styles throughout the week. Discos are available at 'The Seven Stars' in Ship St. and 'The Ship' in the Lewes Rd. The prize for the loudest juke box goes to 'The Basket-Maker's Arms' in Gloucester Rd. Folk is to be had at 'The Springfield' on a Friday (reportedly rather middle class) and 'The Stanford Arms' on Sundays. Singing pubs seem curiously few; the only one actually heard is 'The Pavilion Hotel' in Castle Sq. where the rugby crowd tend to liven Friday nights with rugby songs in their usual obnoxious fashion. What about the bad pubs? Well,



there are those which are dull or gloomy, those that have customers whose accents put your teeth on edge and those that throw you out if you don't look up-tight, repressed and order spirits. The latter blots on the reputations of publicans are becoming marginally greater in number and notorious examples in Brighton are 'The Sussex' in East St., the 'Pier Hotel' on the front, 'Vasso's' in Brighton Sq. (a sad imitation of a French café-bar) and the Halberd Bar in 'The Gloucester' near St. Peter's. But there are so many others around that welcome everyone with the right spirit that you can happily ignore these inhospitable houses.

This month Roving Reporter asks: — WHAT'S HAPPENED TO CHINESE AND INDIAN TAKE-AWAY MEALS? Following up reports that those odoriferous curries, sneakily leaking their oily juices through the foil container have become momentos of our radical past and that a number of people in the Brighton Voice Collective have been observed sitting in Browns restaurant (Duke Street), no less, knocking back generous plate-loads of spaghetti and garlic bread (60p) — we decided to investigate.

Into Browns we went and one of us sat on a Browns trendy bentwood chair which collapsed with a loud clatter — the chair legs rolling across the polished pine leaving Roving Reporter sprawled ignominiously beneath the table amongst scattered salt pots. We all rushed out trying to look as if we were popping across the road for some fags.

HOWEVER — we felt it was unfair to judge Browns after one disastrous episode and our team returned the following week and ordered coffee. One of us spooned in 2 spoonfuls of light brown sugar which turned out to be parmesan cheese — it floated on top of the coffee in fatty globules. The waiters looked uptight. Once again we rushed out feigning popping out for some fags.

Friends say the food at Browns is excellent, the prices are reasonable and their garlic bread is beyond compare but we must confess that we felt more relaxed in the fat-spatterery atmosphere of UNCLE SAM'S HAMBURGER BAR — here, great chunky meaty hamburgers (wrapped in back-copies of the Evening Argus), smothered in chopped onion, a lettuce leaf and about 5 different Ketchups costs 35p and this includes a helping of the best crispy chips in Brighton and you can buy your BRIGHTON VOICE at the counter.



"No thanks, I've read that one."

clubs...

LABOUR

The only club for working people in Brighton is on Lewes Road, near the Level. The Labour Club, soon to be renamed the Trades and Labour Club, moved there from rooms near Preston Circus, where it was started in the 1920's by members of the Trades Council. Now, the club draws nearly 200 to its bingo nights on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. On other nights, members can dance to the swoony, croony sounds of bands with names like Touchwood playing the latest pick of the Pops. As the form of entertainment suggests, many of its active members are in their middle ages. They come along with their wife and older kids to the night bingo sessions. On Saturday mornings they come along to meet friends and buy their tickets in the weekly raffle run by Ben Williams.



Membership is naturally restricted to Labour Party and Trade Union men and women. Co-op Assoc. members are also included because of a long-standing arrangement about premises. Club is also open to others from affiliate working peoples clubs. Frequent trips run to and from Brighton. On the day we visited, a party of 30 lads on a seaside excursion had just arrived from the little club in Langley Village, Bucks.

Some of the veterans, like president Jim Barefoot, miss the past when Cribbage and dice took precedence over today's commercial pastimes. But the Labour Club still provides plenty of unpretentious entertainment for members and their families. And the drinking goes on a plenty, with the beer cheap at 12p a pint.



THE SCENE

We asked around the clubs if Brighton's still the place to go for the weekend. "Don't make me laugh Brighton's got nothing on Leeds or Scunthorpe. The scene's gone." When did it go? "With the theatre. That was the life of the town. They've closed them all: the Hippodrome last. No theatre shows, no good drag shows, no life." What about the Marina? "What about it? It's going to be self-contained the town won't know it's there apart from the rates bill." Who cares about the scene? "No one on the Council. It's all property and conferences. Oh yeah, people want to come and live in Brighton but they don't really live, they don't make the place go. You don't hear people laughing like they used to in the pubs. And where do you go at 10:30? It's all dead. Snobbery and property have killed it all. There's no simple downright vulgarity, Brighton style, anymore. It was vulgar but it was never common. It had a touch of class. Now it's like the flowers they put in the night before: it looks all right on the surface, but it's got no roots. There's nothing you can point to and say 'That's real Brighton'. It could be anywhere." WHAT DO YOU THINK? WRITE AND LET US KNOW.

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GAY

If you're gay, brother, you can go to the 42 Club on the front in King's Road. In the afternoon there are waiters and barmen from the rest of Brighton: in the evening the wealthy come in, about 70% from London and elsewhere. They used to stop at the end of the street and slink in with raincoats over their heads and there was a doorman who kept it respectable. No need for that now. There are 5,000 members who have paid £1 to join, then it's 50p a year. You get sexy lights, a good social mix, lots of theatre types, dancing in the evening (is it true that gays are still not allowed to touch each other when dancing?) and the only taboo subject is wives. It used to be said that Brighton was the gayest town in the country, but they don't come like they used to. What's the point really now it's legal anywhere? But the club still provides a list of gay boarding houses in Brighton, runs one or two trips abroad and has a guide to gay spots round the world. You have to be 21 to join and they don't like rent boys. And if you're here on 1 December you can go to their drag show at the Wagner Hall in West Street. Question. Why can't the council give them a drinking licence till 12 or after? You can get it in Bognor. But then in Brighton all good gays are in bed by midnight.



XX FILMS

Looking for a sexy uncensored film? You can go to the Vogue in the Lewes Road. (Sir it's a club, you have to be a member. That'll cost you £1.10 and half an hour wait, then 55p a show except on Thursdays when there's a live striptease between the films and that's an extra 11p. Half price to senior citizens, and there are a lot of those still up to it.) They don't have subtitles so you won't miss anything down there. About 1,000 a week come to the shows and the cinema is part of the Classic group so there's never a porn raid. After all they're not Blue films. Clientele is 90% men. Women ought to protest: if they're taken as guests they get in at half price. Pretty humiliating that is. But the rest is O.K. and obviously does a service. No class bias — jags and bus tickets are fairly mixed outside. It's friendly inside and the humorous films go down best they say. Well, see if you can make it with the rest of them one afternoon.

LOOK! what's happening to our entertainment

Brighton Film Theatre - Killed by Unconcern?

Brighton Film Theatre is one of the few democratic cinemas in Brighton. Other cinemas are concerned only with making large profits and are only prepared to show films which they can be sure of a profit being made - therefore Brighton residents have a limited range of films from which they can choose and regardless of what you or I want to see, we can only see what they let us see.

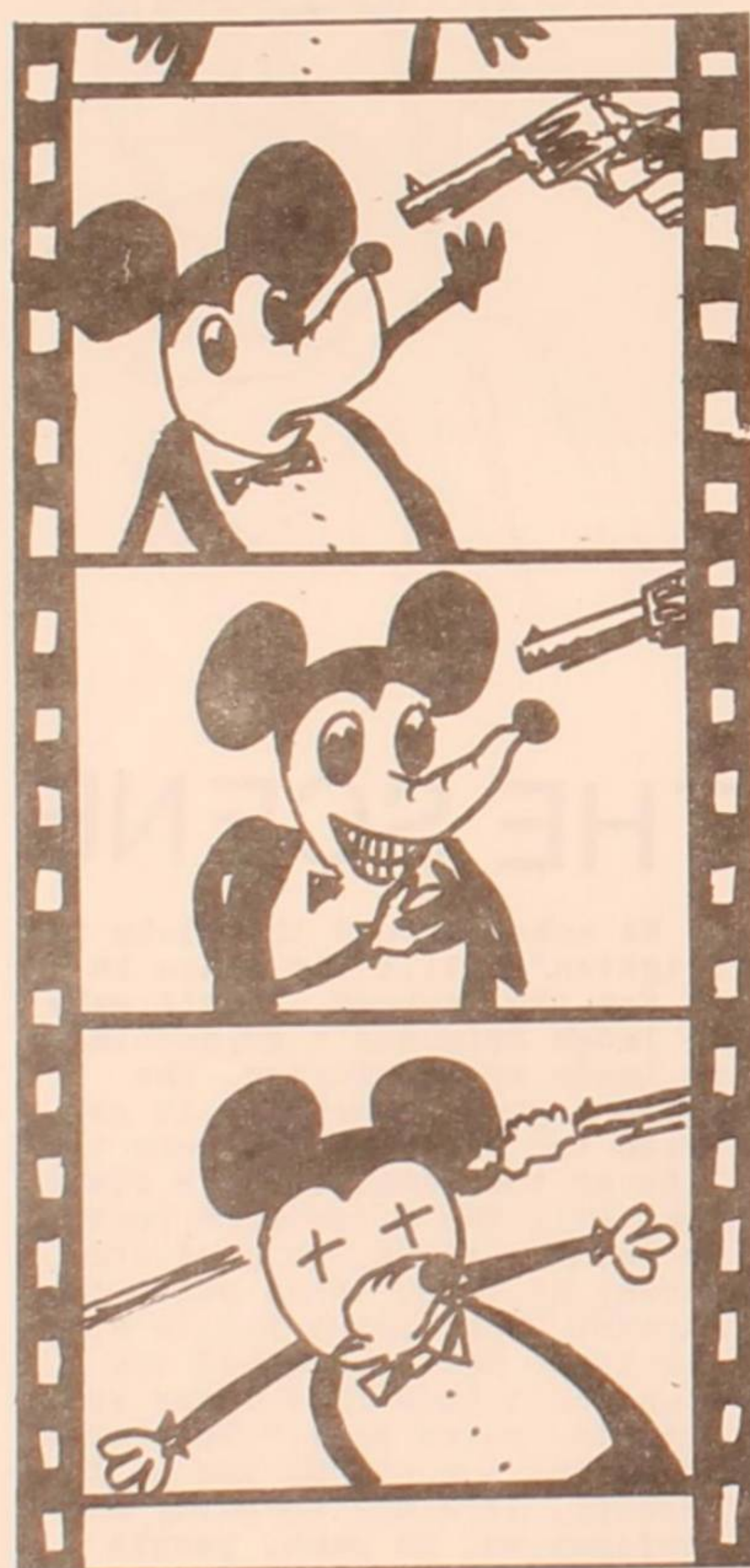
It puts on seasons of films (recently Garbo, Chaplin, Keaton, Pickford, Disney, Shakespeare, foreign directors) in order that people may get a good look at their favourite film star or type of film. The Brighton Film Theatre also shows films which would not be seen elsewhere such as very early classic films, films on opera and ballet, railways, archive material of Brighton, political, jazz, sport and pop films. These films each appeal to only a minority, but why shouldn't people with specialist interests enjoy themselves at the cinema? The Brighton Film Theatre also puts on special shows for groups such as Brighton Asian Circle.

In addition, personal appearances from stars, directors and special effects men take place.

Most importantly the BFT is democratic. Not only does it offer an all day reduced charge for O.A.P.s but also it is holding a meeting where members of the Film Theatre can discuss with the Theatre's manager the films and general policy of the Brighton Film Theatre. You can become a member by joining at the Film Theatre for 66p a year.

All this, of course, means that the Brighton Film Theatre is now short of money and threatened with closure unless it can raise £5,000 a year. This would need one big firm to make a regular gift of £5,000 a year to the BFT or 20 smaller businesses regularly giving £250 or 50 giving £100 or even 200 individuals giving £25. The Brighton Film Theatre has until September to show that it can raise the money. If you want to help yourself and have a say in what you see, to have a chance to see the unusual and interesting films and help keep open a cinema that cares about what the public think rather than just seeing the audience as a good way to make a lot of money you can:

1. Get your T.V. branch to support the BFT
2. Ask around your friends and neighbours and in the local shops to see if they are supporting the appeal.
3. See if any clubs to which you belong (Youth Club, ex-service-men, bingo club) can give any money to the appeal or perhaps put on a raffle or jumble sale.
4. If you cannot do any of these but would like to give some time to help the appeal, contact the Manager, Tony Needham at the BFT (29563). He's very friendly and would be very glad to have your help.



a kick in the head: the BFT

People looking at the battle for survival of the BFT might be tempted to shrug their shoulders - it's just another cinema closing. But this threat is part of a collapse of the cinema in Brighton and all over this part of Sussex. Brighton might still be the pearl of the south coast but one form of entertainment FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LIVE HERE is fast disappearing. In the 50's and 60's this decline resulted from the competition of television, but recent closures are part of the same thing which is ruining Brighton namely the failure of private enterprise to satisfy our needs.

Entertainments are being concentrated in Brighton. Over the past ten years cinemas have been shut down in Seaford, Newhaven, Hassocks, Uckfield, Hove, Shoreham, Worthing, Portslade, and Lewes - some eleven in all. More and more people have to come to Brighton, but here too the position is changing. The Essoldo and Regent are long gone, and the ABC in Hove and the Classic on their last legs - becoming respectively a Bingo Hall and a Casino. Now, this is not because they can't pay their way, but because it is more profitable if they are converted. I understand that a similar threat hangs over the Duke of York's.

BALLS UP!



For lots of holidaymakers a trip to Brighton wouldn't be the same without a visit to the fortune-tellers; even doggy fortunes are catered for. It's an amusement that some people take to heart and the clairvoyant must be discreet in wording messages.

Other Brighton residents are also involved in divinations and the occult. For some it is serious but many just look for an exciting way of spending an evening of a wet afternoon by playing and experimenting with the 'unknown'. For a group of people or a party probably the most popular of such 'games' is ouija. How many people in Brighton play is hard to say but in some areas it is common especially for younger people.

Messages are spelled out by a glass which people have placed a finger on. The glass is supposedly moved by some intelligence to letters arranged on a board or on cards on a table.

It can work. Do people push the glass, move it unconsciously or really contact some outside intelligence? Is it a game? Some pushing must go on but others find answers to questions or messages that are not so easily explained. The working of the subconscious, telepathy, precognition etc. have been suggested as well as cheating, chance or actual spirits, to explain the involved messages that sometimes come over. But it's no light-hearted game and people have

been caught out by disturbing or inaccurate messages. They may believe them and act on them where the more experienced medium might feel inclined to disregard a message or take it with a pinch of salt. It shouldn't really be treated as a casual entertainment at all.

Why don't the councils rescue the Brighton Film Theatre? Hove, which doesn't give a penny, and yet which will have only ONE cinema - the Embassy - and Brighton both argue that they want to save ratepayers' money. This is an odd claim. Neither council has fallen over itself recently trying to listen to the wishes of its voters and the £1000 grant from Brighton Council was made on the condition that the BFT should be run AT A LOSS. When it made its original grant, under pressure from the other cinema managers it insisted that 'money making films' should not be shown, and should be reserved for the cinema chains. The result has been the growing debts.

It would be ridiculous, in view of the widespread closures if these councils and the East Sussex Council did not come to the rescue of the BFT and if they did not prevent further conversions and closures.

A SPECIAL THREE PAGES ON THE

SQUAT!

THE BALLAD OF TERMINUS ROAD

"Our men have been covered with filth. It's possibly the worst case we've had. At the moment the squatters have flouted the course of justice." (County Court spokesman's comment after the battle of Terminus Road.)

Early one morning the bailiffs marched in To smash up the home of the Family Flynn Policemen all round them, their grim faces showed Their heartless intentions at Terminus Road.

But with no home to go to, the Flynn's were determined To keep empty houses for PEOPLE, not VERMIN Rats, spiders and councillors, all can be blown, It's the homeless who best deserve Terminus Road.

So with help from their friends and from strong barricades, And with flour, jam and water the siege plans were laid With banners and megaphones the bailiffs to goad The squatters were ready at Terminus Road.

Surprised by resistance, the bailiffs sent in A young council workman to tear down Fort Flynn But his heart wasn't in it, and flour they throwed He was all doubts and dirt at Terminus Road.

The bailiffs drew back to discuss their next move Determined the FALSE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY to prove Then sneaked round the back for the next episode Of the fight for possession of Terminus Road.

Now a villainous bailiff tries to tear down the place Thickset and dark, a cruel smirk on his face He hammered on coldly, eyes glazed like a toad Closing his mind off at Terminus Road.

Muck poured down upon him, the barricade's strong; Two women come close to him and tell him he's wrong They get in his way and his iron will corrode For he'd have to smash them to smash Terminus Road.

Retreating once more they returned to the front, It was Dave on the door who next bore the brunt The bailiff drew in, Dave's coat opened and showed He was chained to the door of Terminus Road!

And as squat supporters closed in all around The bailiffs no longer could stand to their ground The attempt at eviction had been overthrown They were forced to retreat along Terminus Road.



HAND-IN-GLOVE - COUNCIL

The recent affair in Terminus Road exposes the scandalous and devious ways of the local power set-up. The Tory Council, the so-called 'neutral' officers, the local press and the courts all worked hand-in-glove to distort the picture and whip up anti-squatter feelings.

THEY said the Flynns were 'outsiders' and 'newcomers'. This is a lie. The Flynn family had lived in Brighton for several years and was driven away for a year or so by local lack of employment.

THEY said the Flynns were jumping the queue. This is a lie. Everyone has the statutory right to 'proper accomodation'. The Flynns were only demanding that statutory right.

Too many people allow themselves to be pushed around by the Council, often unaware that the Council is acting illegally or bending the law to suit itself. For instance, they are not supposed to leave people in bed-and-breakfasts but some people have been in them for years - with 3 consequent suicide attempts in the last 2 months.

THEY said the houses in Terminus Road were needed for rehousing people. This is a near lie. Those houses have been empty for months and months and no move has been made to put families in them.

THEY said each house in Terminus Road needed £12,000 spent on it to make it habitable. This is a near lie. Anyone who has been in those houses would know that any builder who gives such an estimate is either a fool or a rogue. Builders who saw the premises said £1-2,000 would put them in a decent state.

Anyway - families are prepared to live in them as they are now - and pay rent. They don't leak. They are not dangerous. They are not vermin-infested. WHY AREN'T THEY USED ?

Council Money Scandal.

RATEPAYERS SUBSIDIZE SPECULATORS

If you pay rates, just pause a moment and think what your money has been doing lately. According to Morgan, the town's Chief Executive, over £700 was spent on turning the squatters out of Terminus Road. Seven hundred pounds to keep houses empty!

Why? Because only by stomping heavily on the squatters could the present rich pickings of the property situation in Brighton be maintained. Think what would happen if the 1400 families on the Housing Waiting List were to move into the over 3000 properties that are empty in Brighton! All the pressure on the market would disappear and prices would tumble. And even more important, the power which is now snugly in the hands of people like Councillor Dudley Baker (who just coincidentally happens to run Patchings, the builders) or Councillor Christofoli

(who works for another familiar property name - S.Tidy) would seep away into the hands of people like us. No wonder THEY brought all the pressures they could bear. But is it right that OUR money be used to buttress THEIR empires ?

Our seven hundred pounds, which could have been used to IMPROVE a house.

WAS IT REALLY A VICTORY ?

When the bailiffs and police retreated down Terminus Road after the battle of May 31st, it seemed like it was real victory. "FLOUR POWER", the Sun called it. But was it a victory? As the excitement wore off, the support drifted away. The bailiffs waited their time, spent a lot of money and then moved in. People became angry, banners were waved outside the Housing Department in protest, the police got heavy and half a dozen people were arrested. And a week after the 'victory' the Flynns were in bed-and-breakfast accomodation - at a cost to the Social Services of more than £100 per week.

Could things have been otherwise? How can a small band of squatters and supporters confront the Council, Courts and Police, conniving together from the comfort of their armchairs to ensure the downfall of Terminus Road. They met secretly to discuss tactics on the Monday and the Thursday before the Flynns were evicted - and a police Inspector who had shown sympathy for the squatters was purposely removed from duty before the final swoop. These meetings were under considerable pressure from two Brighton Councillors who own property to act tough.

Nobody can hope to confront and beat the powers that be on this ground. They have all the advantages, we have none. But what we can do is to expose their vested interests. It is only when those interests are shown to be outrageously self-seeking that most people begin to sit up and take notice. But it was a kind of victory, for at Terminus Road aggressive but non-violent resistance forced THEM to use violence against individuals to protect their property rights. And against the properties themselves to prevent their use by homeless people. WE MUST EXPOSE THE ULTIMATE DEPENDANCE OF THOSE IN POWER ON VIOLENCE TO MAINTAIN UNJUST AND IRRATIONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. HOW FAR ARE THEY PREPARED TO GO?

TO STOP US HAVING HOMES



PRESS - COURTS - POLICE

The best irony of the whole affair is that the man who master-minded the eviction of the Flynns was the Council's Harrassment Officer.

"The way to really change things in Brighton is to have a lot of families squatting, not one. They might bully one family out, but they won't muck around with a dozen." Old lady Vigilante at the 'battle'.

Newspaper Scandal

Why did the Argus so consistently misrepresent the situation to the point that one reporter is understood to have resigned? It is not just a question of an obtuse editor. The Argus has to live (say some), and it lives on its advertisements. Look at the Classified section - one quarter is from Estate Agents. You don't upset people who control your income to that degree. The Argus knows which side its bread is buttered.

Court Scandal

When the squatters went to court to fight the possession order they were given an exhibition of how the local Courts bend over backwards to help our Council. They were 'processed' in three or four minutes, their attempt to make a statement was squashed because it was 'political' and the question of 'homelessness' was called 'irrelevant'. Most objectionable of all, when it was revealed that the summons were illegal, not having been delivered seven days before, the Judge invited the prosecution to request that he waive this requirement; which he duly did. This is despite the fact that the Court of Appeals recently allowed an appeal on such grounds, saying that a Possession Order is a serious business involving heavy penalties for the people evicted, and owners must in consequence comply with the law to the letter. But to local courts everything must give way to the sanctity of property, particularly monied property.



FOR SALE
NEW LUXURY FLATS TO BE ERRECTED ON THE SITE OF THESE HUMBLE COUNCIL HOUSES. FROM £50,000
TIDY THEOBALD & CO COUNCILLORS & ESTATE AGENTS TOWN HALL BRIGHTON

A FEW QUESTIONS

- Why wasn't the squatters' offer to rent the houses taken up ?
 - Why were the views of the Social Services Dept, that the squatters be allowed to remain, ignored ?
 - Why was it found necessary to do £1,000 of damage to the houses ?
 - Why is it better for the houses to be occupied by mice than by squatters ?
- and, finally, ask the question the Flynns asked themselves -
- WHY ARE THERE TWICE AS MANY EMPTY HOUSES IN BRIGHTON AS THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE WAITING LIST ?

How they evicted them

They came at 5 a.m. They came with 2 vans and a 10 ton truck. They came with 20 policemen and 3 bailiffs

They came with 8 brave demolition workers from Sayers Demolition Ltd., who each received double time and a £25 bonus for throwing people on the street. They even stopped journalists from approaching the house. They threw the furniture out of the window into a tipper truck, causing extensive damage to it. They came with the Gas Board man to dig up the street and sever the gas line. They came with 34 men and £700 All to throw a homeless father, mother, and 4 children onto the street.

What a mighty pair of nut-crackers to crack a little nut! Was someone feeling worried ?

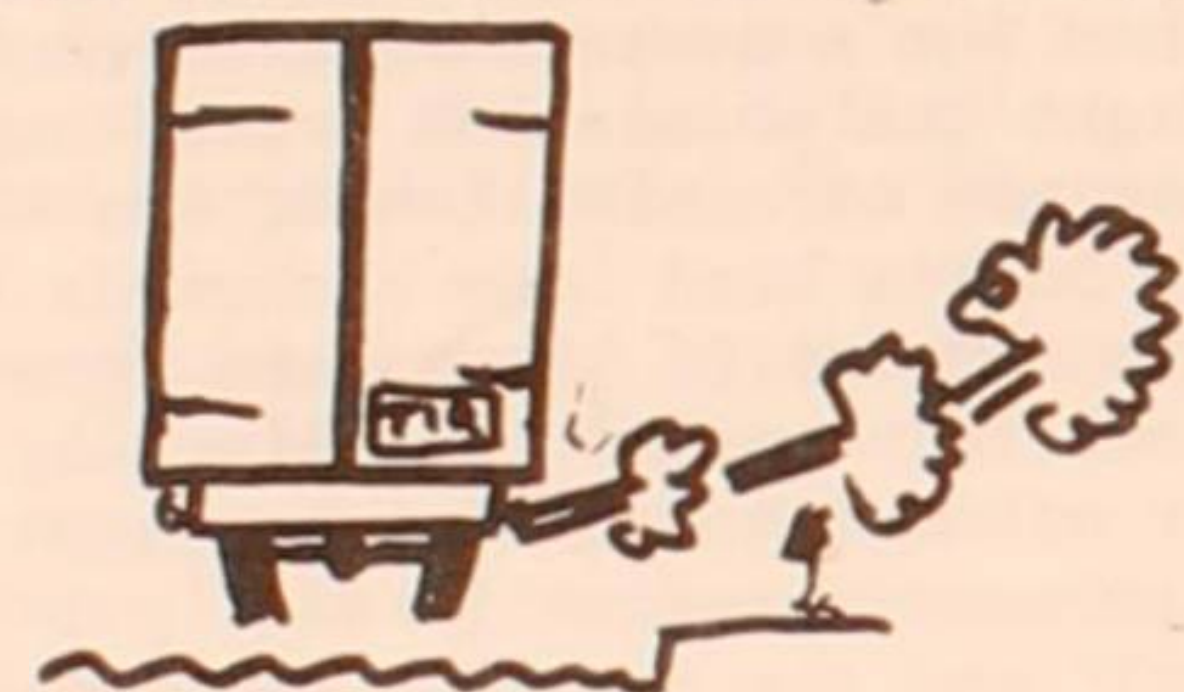
Why was all this done? 'Because they are there without our consent', said Mr. May, the housing manager who likes a glass of beer. 'Because they are squatters', said Councillor John Leach. 'Because we cannot tolerate squatters in Brighton' said County Councillor Stanley Theobald. 'Because the law must be upheld', said the Judge (As though it is justice to smash up empty homes). Are these good enough reasons? Are they ?



PRESTON CIRCUS

The recent decision by the dept. of environment to select an outer by-pass route for the new A27 and leave large scale inner road 'improvements' to the local authority, can be attributed to the success of community action in convincing officialdom that the social and environmental cost of major roadworks in Brighton itself is too high a price to pay for a mere road. In spite of the official intention to make as little public impact as possible, local people united in their hostility to the plans - hence the spectacle of startled D of E officials running for cover and refusing to meet Brighton residents at any level to discuss and defend their plans. We are now left with an outer route projected for some remote date, but also lingering blight along the inner routes, especially the long-suffering

Preston Circus area. The road threats have not weakened but strengthened local communities. New friendships and acquaintances have been made. People formerly reluctant to participate in joint action now agree that if vigorous, responsible and sustained, it can be effective and worthwhile. There is a growing local desire to cooperate in making the neighbourhood pleasant both to live in and look at. This is just



one among countless recent signs that people all over the country are beginning to want greater control over their own environment. And, in the absence of any perceptible change in government thinking, it looks as though strong local action will still be needed in the future to oppose planning which has personal rather than community gain as its motive and to oppose the prestige develop-

ments which are carried out at the expense of sorely needed homes, schools, hospitals and community centres. Communities too have to challenge the ingrained official conviction that because areas are old with terraced houses which are sound but humble, they must be slums to be torn down at all costs. Often local authorities deliberately accelerate urban decay by allowing planning blight to continue over a long period or by re-routing main road traffic through unsuitable residential streets. In this case the only effective solution is for communities to fight for their preservation with all the force and support they can muster. THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL for the old authoritarian decision-making process. The public has for too long been passive in official hands. Now it is finding its own voice in community action groups and it is a VOICE WHICH MUST BE HEARD.

Stop Press The Black Prince

Womens lib have been banned from using the PRINCE GEORGE pub in Trafalgar St. after two gay women were thrown out. W.L. have appealed to other left groups to black the Prince George for meetings.

action groups

The Terminus Road squat has sparked off wide reaction and discussion within Brighton about the appalling housing situation. Now, even the Argus, quick to

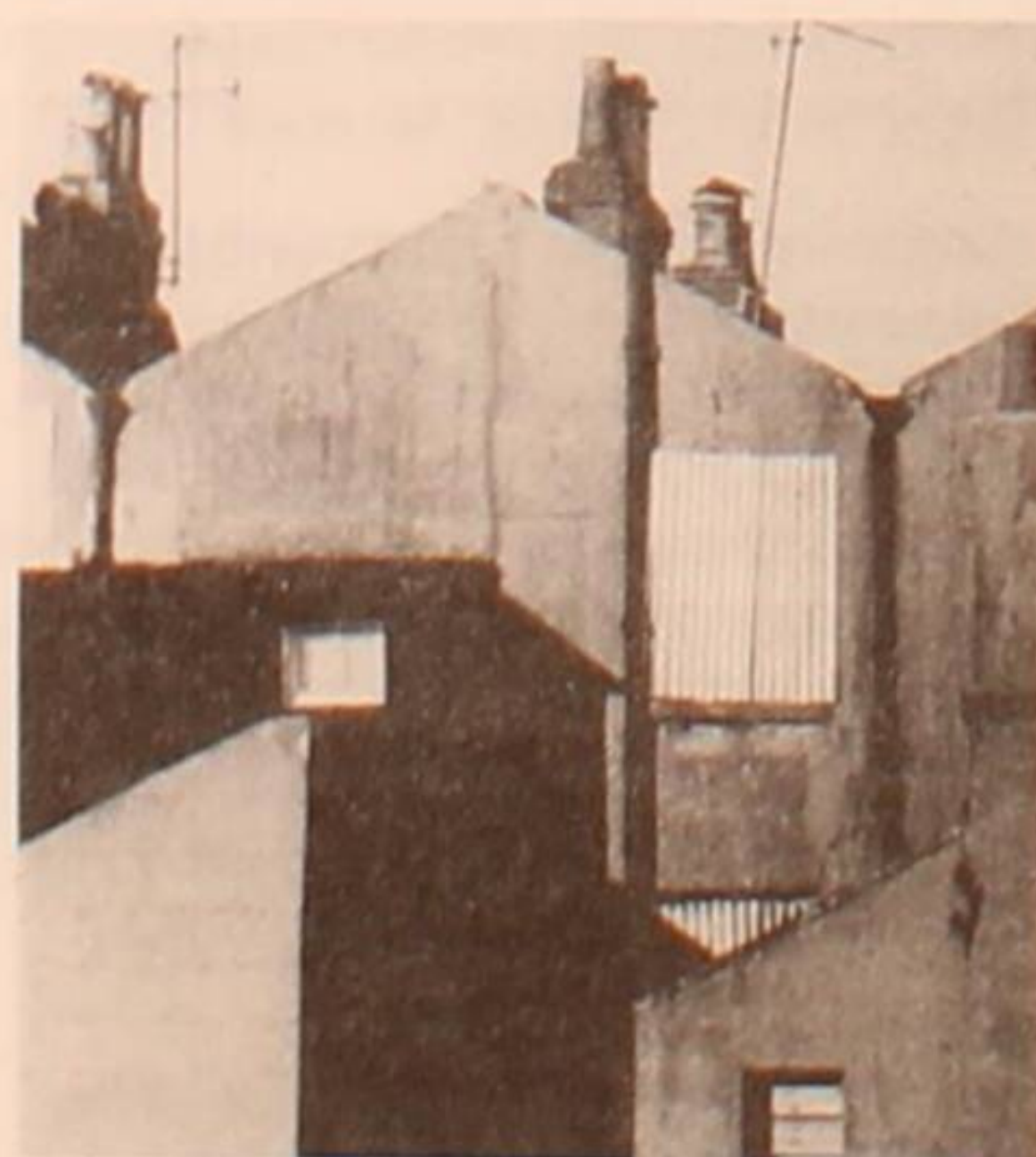
HOUSING

sense the mood of frustration and anger, has jumped on the bandwagon by asking its readers to write in with information about empty council houses in their area. It has been forced to do this because such wide support for the squat has come from all sections of the community. The loudest critics of the squat have been those who stand to gain from its repression: private landlords and estate agents (NINE BRIGHTON COUNCILLORS ARE ESTATE AGENTS) The Housing Action Group was formed during the squat to unite all those who want

immediate and long-term solutions to the housing problem. It held its first meeting on 6 June. At the meeting it was recognised that in the long run only national action could take the sort of drastic measures necessary, like the nationalisation of land and crash and building programmes. Three principal lines of immediate activity were proposed by different people: the lobbying of MPs; the investigation into the legality of the council's dealings with the homeless and thirdly pressure on the council, both through negotiations by the H.A.G. and through the Labour group regarding short-life accommodation. This could be intensified by picketing, further squatting, publicity and support from the unions. Finally a committee was elected to discuss the proposals.

Since then the forms of action that have been adopted are: 1) the distribution of leaflets advertising and explaining the situation; 2) a letter to the National Union of

Public Employees (the main corporation union) asking its members to black further evictions; 3) closer contact with the Trades Council; 4) a questionnaire to Brighton councillors. Finally a promising suggestion was that posters advertising the owners should be put up on empty houses showing the length of time they have been empty. THE ACTION GROUP IS FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO LIVE. For contact address see Info. page.



STOP PRESS: We have received the ultimate accolade - W.H. SMITH HAS REFUSED TO SELL THE VOICE. Apparently it wasn't all the frontal nudes we carry but that a correspondent called the Argus 'a capitalist rag'!

HI VOLKS!



VOLKS ELECTRIC RAILWAY

Volks Railway was the first Electric Railway in Great Britain. Started in 1883, it ran from the Palace Pier to Black Rock. The present Track is not quite as long, falling short at the pier end by about two hundred yards or so. For the technically minded, the power is supplied from Mercury arc rectifiers housed in the workshops at the foot of Dukes Mound, Madeira Drive. The voltage is 180V DC. The track is about half the width of British Rail's, if you look closely at the rails, you will see that they are fastened to the sleeper (sleeper being the wooden support) by dogsnails. Dogsnails have large heads that overlap the rail flange, not 'cast iron chairs' the rail fixing used by British Rail. Dogsnailing is a method popular with the railroads in the U.S.A.



The Cars (NOT TRAINS), have their original body, but most of the mechanics have been replaced or modified fairly recently. Unfairly, the Cars look slow and sleepy, this is a false impression given by the Safety precautions of the driver, speeds of the vehicles are kept to a minimum due to the short journeys and frequent crossing of pedestrians on the Track itself. Brighton Beach, or any Beach come to that, must be the worst site for Mr. Magnus Volk to choose to run his railway, as electrics and salt water are not very compatible. The Railway Engineers have an endless task of checking and repairing corrosion caused by the weather and salt air. If, for whatever the reason, the railway has to be moved elsewhere inland, running and maintenance could be far cheaper and less troublesome. Brightonians themselves, are divided in their opinion of what the fate of the Railway should be. Some think it is a nuisance and prevents direct access to the Beach, others say 'It is good value for money and unique to Brighton', 'A train actually running along the Beach'. What do you think about VOLKS ELECTRIC RAILWAY? WRITE TO BRIGHTON VOICE!

KIDS' VIEW DISCO

I go down the Top Rank suite Saturday mornings. It starts at 9.30. Children of all ages go. My little sister goes and she's only 3. It is 10p to get in but don't start paying for the little ones until they are 5 which I think is very good. Once you get inside you will find it quite big. There are different coloured lights all around. The dance hall is in the middle and there are table and chairs all round the outside. They have their own D.J. who does the records and he reads out the requests that the children take up. You can buy crisps which are 24p and coca cola which is 8p for a little cup which is very dear. It does not get crowded down there and the oldest that are down there are 15. If you go down there for the first time you get to know a lot of kids as they introduce you to their friends and so on. I have been going down there for 4 months. And already I have a boy friend down there I have been going out with him three weeks on Saturday. There are more 14 year old boys than 14 year old girls. Any body who wanted a boyfriend or girlfriend just go down there and they will get one. It finishes at 12 o'clock. There are loads of fights down there. There is one nearly every week.

Diane

BOWLING

Well bowling is a nice thing to do, as you can go down there and just pay and then go to your bowling alley. You can get four people on to a bowling alley. And if half way through you want a drink all you have to do is press a button and some lady or man comes up and asks you what you want. And all you have to do is tell him or her and they get it for you while you are still on the game. They have a pub down there as well as a coffee bar. So if your just tired of going to the place you always go just get a bus and go by King Alfred swimming baths. And you will see a little place beside the baths with bowling alley written on the top with big letters and just go down some stairs. And there is your bowling alley. If you want to you can just go down there and watch other people. That's if you don't want to pay for the slippers to play the game. Well don't forget that if you want to bowl just go and play and take your friends with you. Mind you, you will have to be over 14 year old to go through the bowling alleys.

Tina.

Transport 2000 is:

A National non-political organisation composed of many Societies including: Civic Trust, Conservation Society, C.P.R.E., Friends of the Earth, Railway Invigoration Society, The S.O.S. Campaign, Ramblers Association, Pedestrians Association, All Railway Unions, Etc.

ITS AIMS ARE:

- To press for a comprehensive long-term approach to transport by the Government and E.E.C.
- The retention and restoration of Bus and Rail services.
- To integrate public transport.
- To discourage destructive road construction and preserve countryside and fabric of towns and cities.
- To reduce road congestion, pollution and noise.
- To promote the transfer of goods from road to rail.
- To promote the modernisation of canals and waterways.

Some of its immediate aims are:
The development of the Coastway Rail Service from Southampton to Dover.
The re-opening of the Lewes-Uckfield Rail Link.
The development of the Freightliner/Rail Freight Service in the Newhaven/Brighton/Shoreham areas.
Re-opening the Wey and Arun Canal.
Opposition to the construction of the M27 Folkestone to Honiton Motorway.

You are invited to join this worthwhile campaign: SUBSCRIPTION: 25p ORDINARY MEMBERS. £1 FOR AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.

Please send subscription to:
Hon. Secretary, Transport 2000,
(Southern Central), 69 COKEHAM LANE, SOMPTING, SX.



EAR TO THE GROUND

with the aid of his metal rod, the Water Man listens to the good vibrations of the city

M-way cancer creeps closer

In view of the continuing progress of the Honiton-Folkestone motorway, the M 27, suspicions have been growing that the consultative document for the alternative proposals for the A 27 Trunk (!!) road was a confidence trick. We stated our preference for a road that no-one really wanted -- a road which we especially did not want in the centre of Brighton. We were

not asked to say whether we wanted the road AT ALL. Estimates of the traffic-flow which will be excluded from the Brighton conurbation put this as low as 8%. Could it be that because of likely local opposition to a down's motorway we were offered a choice of two evils in order that the preferred route of the motorway planners would be chosen?

feudal tenancies scandal

TIED HANDS



This article is a personal reaction to the appalling problem of homelessness which I confront daily as a social worker involved in the provision of temporary accommodation for families rendered homeless. I want particularly to spotlight that under publicised remnant of the feudal system, the tied cottage. In 1974 a man and his family can still be turned out onto the street because of a dispute with his employer. About half of our farm workers live in tied cottages in return for low wages, long hours and muted insecurity. In the Sussex/Surrey area the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers is currently dealing with fourteen eviction cases involving members. Other less stubborn workers, following the traditions of the land, depart in terror on receiving a solicitor's letter requesting them to quit. It is tiresomely inconvenient for farmers to have to sell out with sitting tenants. More lucrative for them to turn the contents of their properties onto the street. Court proceedings offer only limited security in certain cases, irrespective of whether the cottage will later be occupied. What do you say to a woman who is evicted because she slips a disc and

is temporarily unable to continue in the domestic services she has provided for eight years? Or when the wife of a Sussex MP turns out a family of eight, and claims £15 a week in mesne profits from them for the period of their occupation? In this case the employee, an experienced gardener, was not the first to fall foul of this particular employer. Can they all have been bad workers? This unfortunate man then became dependent on social security, having made vain efforts to secure alternative employment with accommodation. Once involved in the tied house system it becomes difficult to break out of it due to the chronic shortage of housing elsewhere. The Labour party Manifesto promised that a Labour government would introduce legislation in the first session of Parliament to provide the occupants of tied cottages with full security of tenure along the lines of the Rent Acts. There was no reference to the proposed legislation in the Queen's speech, however. The majority of these cottages are not essential for the proper functioning of the employers' businesses. Is it not time that people on the land can work without the fear that a word, or a disc, out of place can lead to homelessness?

REGORGANISATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BRIGHTON

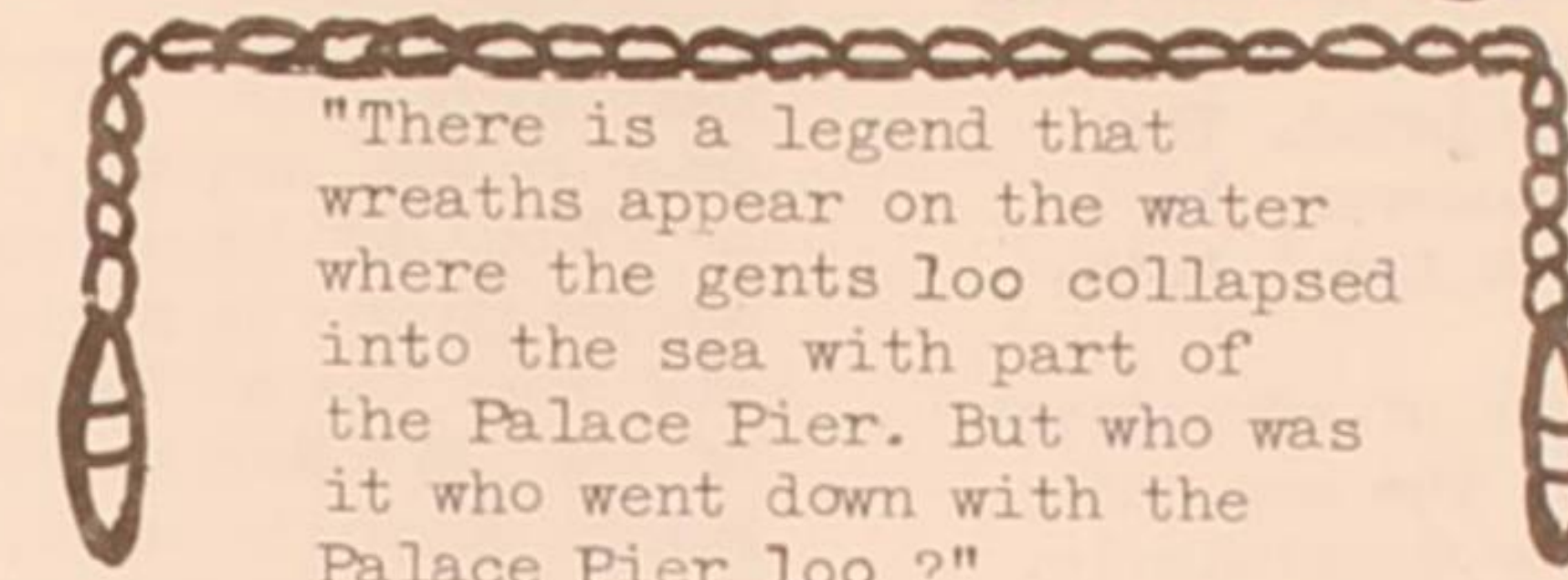
Palmer High School has been mentioned in previous editions as experiencing difficulties in this its first year. This is, of course, to be expected in a merger of any separate institutions but sadly, many of the problems occurring now will be repeated and worsened in future years as a result of the Education Committee's lack of commitment to comprehensive education.

This can be seen in the divisive policy of the 'bi-lateral' school where 'grammar' streams and 'other' streams are organized into separate classes for all their daily school activities. The amount of social mix in leisure periods of the day is hard to quantify, but it is clear that the working communities are quite distinct from one another.

Why are Westlain and Stanmer amalgamated causing great difficulties to staff and pupils alike, if the result is to perpetuate the old system under one roof instead of two? Which group or groups has benefited in any way by receiving an education better than they might have received before the merger? When children are 'banded' into streams from entry and expectations are placed on them according to their 'band number' no-one will be surprised when certain groups achieve high results in examinations and others vandalize the school and have high truancy rates.

This is not to say that all Palmer High's problems will disappear once a truly comprehensive system is implemented. The school is sited in a difficult catchment area and problems discipline problems are being experienced throughout the country for a variety of reasons. However, it is clear that changes must be made to unify the school community and to create a sense of identification and involvement with the school. This will not be done by the hierarchy trying to coerce conformity: through school uniforms, suspensions, canings etc, but rather by a genuine desire to set up a social community where individuals can learn to the best of their ability and not according to their label.

TROLLING THROUGH



"There is a legend that wreaths appear on the water where the gents loo collapsed into the sea with part of the Palace Pier. But who was it who went down with the Palace Pier loo?"

Like a decadent trollop Brighton has been propping up its superficial middle class image of respectability for years, but through the cracks libertarian blooms are pushing towards the light. Some feel that George IV sowed the seeds of 'Camp' which has since attracted gay people to the area, only to find that corruption in local government has produced an atmosphere of caution amongst those gay people who hope to make their home here.

So firstly the bad news. During the summer the police are much more active on the harassment front and usually make a score of arrests among unknowing holiday makers. Trolling or cruising must be a cautious activity. Along the sea front by the shelters in Hove the police often stop and question men taking the air so be prepared with a good excuse or a dog. In the



other direction towards Black Rock and the Marina the bushes (known as the Fairy Glades or Gobbler Mill) are popular in the early hours but plain clothes police sometimes pick people up there. The 'Cottage' at Duke's Mound is also dangerous for agent provocateurs and at times gangs of young queer bashers. But there's a more accepted gay scene which consists of bars, clubs and one sauna bath.

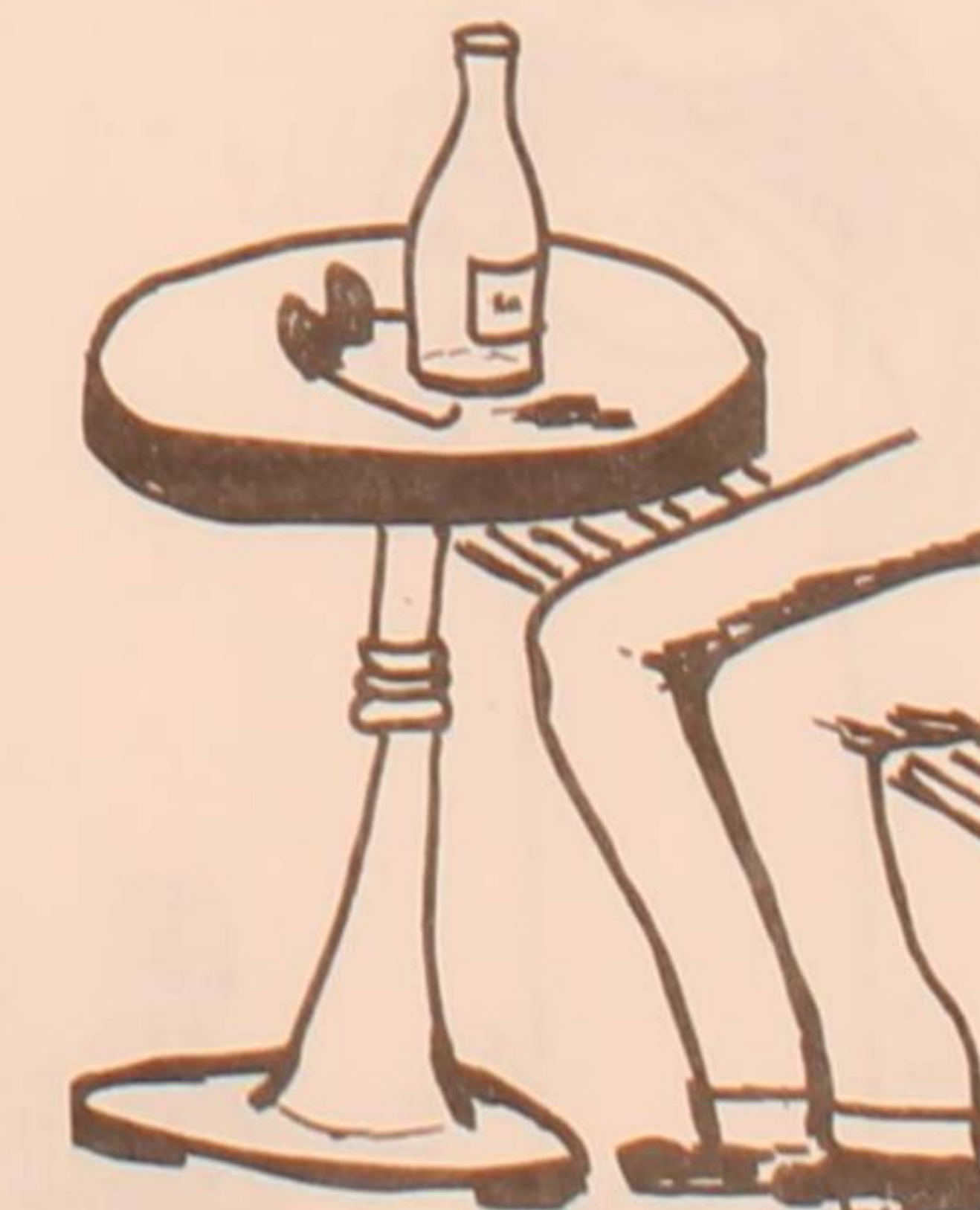
Firstly the bars. Moving through the Lanes, where anything could happen but never does, one comes across the 'Heart and Hand' affectionately renamed the 'Cock in Hand'. Two years ago this was probably the most popular gay bar in Brighton but time has caught up and now it is rather

seedy and crowded at weekends where the back bar has a look of a 1960 movie with bad lighting. It has been said most often that this is where one sees the 'same old faces'. At the end of the narrow passage you will find 'The Cricketers', the most beautiful pub in Brighton. This is a mixed bar - straight and gay - and it's the place to take your new affair for a quiet talk where you will be made welcome by the bar staff.

Trolling on through the Lanes we come to East St. You will find the 'Greyhound' on the corner opposite the ABC cinema. The gay bar is upstairs, though successive proprietors have tried to ignore the fact. The atmosphere is somewhat dry and closeted, reminding me of a comment I heard "Is there life after death?" - Yes dear in 'The Greyhound'.

From here but a short hop to the new Heart and Hand or what was 'Shorts'. This is probably the in-place at the moment and the proprietor, who also owns the original 'Heart and Hand' and 'Chain Pier Bar' has gradually accepted the resurgence of Sussex Gay Lib. He sells Gay News and displays posters for SGLF dances.

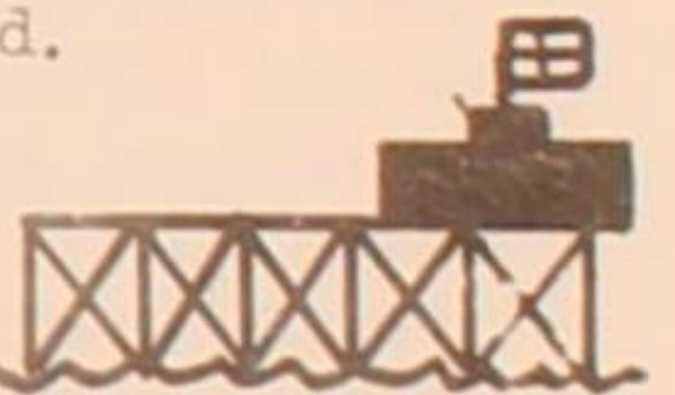
Of the gay clubs in Brighton probably the best known is the 'Curtain' below the Queen's Hotel. It becomes very crowded at weekends and is where the young queens gather to dance the newest bum swinging dance on a bed-sit size dance floor. The Proprietors are poker faced gay capitalists. One



feature of the staff was 'Baby Jane' What ever happened to...? On to the one and only gay sauna, Unit One in Rottingdean. It's very busy Saturday all day till 12 and, it's said, all night. Also Sunday afternoon. If you have been to Holland or America you will be very disappointed, but for a quick knock off O.K.

The alternative to most of this happy scene is Sussex Gay Lib, now holding regular meetings at the Marlborough Hotel, Old Steine on Tuesdays with discos every other Friday (see Gay News). Well, hope this was useful. See you trolling around.

Piers or Tears



The piers are the attraction of the holiday-makers in Brighton; they are also a major money-spinner for those companies 'lucky' enough to own them. During the season kids flock there with their parents or, more likely, grandparents, to spend a fortune in a few minutes. Each ride or 'go' costs 5p and two kids can easily use £1 in an hour and still be asking for more. Any kid would want to have a go at everything and nothing lasts longer than 5 minutes.

It's the most attractive speculation in town and the most ruinous for a parent.



You don't want to suffer this summer? What about all those oils which are meant to make you brown at the same time? All they do is protect you from the excesses of sunburn and it's much healthier to avoid peeling and sunburn simply by absorbing plenty of Vitamin A. The drug companies tart it up and call it Silversun, or whatever the latest promotion gimmick is, and charge you 50p. You can get the same happy results with carrots and tomatoes... and slim at the same time!

Apologies to authors of articles not included; they'll be in next time.



contributions to
BRIGHTON VOICE
111, GLOUCESTER ROAD

Dear Voice,

I was very pleased to see your information on Women's medical problems. Treatment on the N.H.S. seems to be pretty crude especially in the field of personal relationships and information, let alone drug therapy. As a member of the campaign for the recognition of alternative medicine I should like to point out that Homoeopathic medicine is available on the N.H.S. but there are few doctors with whom to register. A list can be obtained from the Royal Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London. The 'Royal' part is appropriate as the Queen has a homoeopathic doctor, A. Nelson & Co Ltd, 73 Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, London., being her 'Appointed' chemist. They are however an excellent company & remedies can be obtained from them at a very reasonable price compared with many orthodox products.

Alternative medical therapy includes such things as acupuncture, herbalism, massage therapy, nature cure, hypnosis, radionics. These systems work and should be available on the N.H.S. Relevant literature is on sale in the Public House Bookshop & Compendium in the lanes.

Your brother
J.L.P.

Dear Brighton Voice, I've just read Brighton Voice 14 with the supplement on contraception. I'd like to comment on two things arising from this very useful supplement. Firstly you say that "Your doctor can supply you free with the contraceptives you need." Unfortunately this just isn't so. The NHS and the doctors are still hagling over the price to be paid to GPs for all the extra work this will mean for them. It has been reported that GPs are demanding £5 per year for every patient they advise on contraception. Barbara Castle has been reported as saying that if the GPs persist in holding out for too high a fee they will not be included in the NHS Family Planning Service. Even if they are included, they say they will not waste their time prescribing

sheaths, which are used by 3 million people in Britain. So if anyone goes to their GP and asks for the great new free service he will be disappointed. The service is free, however, in clinics (FPA, Brook, Local Authority).

Secondly, the rates of effectiveness you give for the cap and sheath are far too pessimistic. The Which? supplement on contraceptives (1971) says that "if used very carefully" it would be expected that less than five women out of a hundred who use the cap + spermicide or sheath for a year would get pregnant, i.e. to use your terminology, these methods are 95% effective. But they must be used consistently, i.e. every time you make love. If used properly they are both very efficient and harmless methods of birth control. You say that

sheaths "may interfere with sexual pleasure". Equally they may add to it: putting the sheath on can become part of sexual foreplay and some, for instance Durex Black Shadow, definitely increase visual stimulation. And to quote from the Birth Control Handbook, "Men who insist that the condom interferes significantly with sexual sensation are usually refusing to accept responsibility for birth control."

J.M.

Hello People!!

We are French/German newspaper, and we are looking for good contacts with the new world! It's very important if you answer. We such a possibility for a diffusion of our paper, do you have this possibility?

If that's OK write back! Thanks!

Redaction 'Collectif Berlin.



The following letter was sent to the Argus but so far it has not been printed.

Dear Sir,
Over recent months the columns of "Postbox" have provided an opportunity for a vigorous debate over the merits and failings of the 1974 Marina Plan. With the Public Enquiry due in the autumn I welcome this debate. However, one fact strikes me as most interesting. By far the most articulate proponent of the Marina Plan is one Mr. John D. Potter of Hove whose letter of 11 April and his subsequent effort in May took the Marina Action Campaign to task for opposing this plan to put 1450 luxury flats in the sea at Black Rock.

Your stable mate, the Brighton Gazette have now unwittingly "blown the gaff" on Mr Potter. According to the Gazette of 8 June it appears that Mr Potter is no disinterested party. He is described as an "advertising executive" who is also the former chairman of the Padile Steamer Preservation Society. It was he, the Gazette says, who was "directly responsible" for bringing the paddle steamer Wingfield Castle (just purchased by the Marina Company) to the attention of Mr Henry Cohen, the Marina Company's executive director.

Indeed, it further appears from the Gazette article that he "travelled around looking for old pleasure paddle steamers" and had been in contact with the Marina Company ever since the idea of the Marina was first mooted. Now I have nothing against paddle steamers or Mr Potter but next time he writes to the Argus defending the Marina Plan may I suggest that he follow the example of MPs and councillors and "declare an interest"? May I also suggest that other Argus correspondents follow this practice? I will begin by declaring mine: my financial, moral and political interest stems from the fact that I am a member of British society and I am appalled that we are jointly responsible for squandering perhaps £100,000,000 of our nation's resources on a prestige project of use only to owners of luxury yachts. What a way to go.

Tom Forester,
1, Montreal Rd, Brighton.



info...

advice

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE at 73 Grand Parade.

RENT TRIBUNAL: Anston House, 437 Preston Rd. (506381) - they may give rent reductions, security of tenure; second opinions if dissatisfied given by Furnished Tenants' Assoc.

B.P.A.S. WISTONS: 138 Dyke Rd. (509726) - abortions, vasectomy, free pregnancy testing.

PIER WARD COUNCILLORS: Bill Adams and Len Williams will discuss personal/general problems with residents at their ADVICE CENTRE, 4 Mount Pleasant: Sun. 14th. July: from 10.30am. to 12 noon.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC: 18/19 Western Rd. Hove (734258); also a clinic c/o Health Centre, Sussex Univ.

CANCER PREVENTION: Morley St. (29804)

NITELINE: Lancaster House Sussex Univ. If you're sad etc...680888 or internal phone 8-160, 11pm.-7am. every night.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES: contact Richard Moseley, 2 Gloucester St. (64243)

OFF THE RECORD: Helps with general problems, sex, loneliness etc. Youth advisory service. (63080) Mon-Fri 8-10pm.

SAMARITANS: 24-hours 733333

YOUTH ADVISORY SERVICE: Sun. pm., Young Adults Centre. Queens Rd.

AGE CONCERN: 57 Ditchling Rd. (683275) - Old peoples welfare.

FRIEND: Phone 61664 on Mon. evenings; and 9am.-6pm. on Wed. by phoning 739729.... counselling for gays.

Brighton Council provides an Information Office for Tourists in Marlborough House, at 54 Old Steine.

etc.

Inter-City Electric

BRITISH RAIL a NEW all-night service between London and Brighton is now operating as follows:

Brighton-Victoria: 12.35am.
(departure times) 1.35am.
2.35am.
3.35am.
4.35am.
Victoria-Brighton 1.06am.
2.06am.
3.06am.
4.06am.
5.06am.

There is an additional train on Sun.night-Mon.morning, from Victoria to Brighton: 00.06am.

The cheap Day Return tickets can be used on this night service up to the 2.35am. from Brighton, and the 3.06am. from Victoria.

The journey takes 1½ hours and trains stop at East Croydon, Gatwick and Haywards Heath.

SUPPORT British Rail's new experiment

Close your eyes and you're almost there

BRIGHTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE CENTRE - includes FAMILY CASEWORK DEPT. and...CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU:

17 Ditchling Rise (61664); free advice - can be very helpful. Phone-in, or make a personal appointment.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU also at: 2 St. George's Place: 2.15-4.15pm. daily - no appointments necessary. Whitehawk Community Centre: Thurs. 2-4pm. - no appointments are necessary.

Many towns now have a Council-run general Information Centre where help is given to local people over a very wide range of subjects. In Brighton, if you are determined enough, you may get help if you make specific enquiries to the various Council Departments. But in Brighton, the question you raise must really be specific to the work of that Department. This assumes that you know how Councils and their Departments operate and that you can find your way round to the particular Department you require. Many, many people though do not know how to even start to find out what may be worrying them. If the Council could provide a General Information Centre for all sorts of questions in an office set out like a shop in a central shopping street in town...we would then feel that our local Council cares a little more for its local people.

OLD NEWSPAPERS WANTED: for new play-group in Elm Grove - will collect. Phone: 62284.

BRIGHTON HOSTEL: 105 Islingwood Rd. Gives out meals Sun. & Weds 2-5pm..tea toast and stew at other times if possible. Needs clothes, food AND help food and HELP especially for fund-raising.

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS to help with a playscheme for handicapped kids in August. Phone: Judy at 557554

THE FRIENDS CENTRE: Wide range of courses, some with creche provision. Contact: Alan Tuckett (27835) or call into Centre in Ship St. (closed during afternoon)

Brighton Film Theatre
NORTH ST. TEL: 29563

The full programme up to 31st. July is as follows:
Mon 24th.-Sat 29th. June: "Cesar and Rosalie" - directed by Sautet. AA

& "Cries and Whispers" - director: Bergman. X

Late show Sat. 29th. June: "Stranger is on a train". - Hitchcock. A

Sun. 30th. June: "The Red Desert" - director: Antonioni. X

Mon. 1st. July-Sat.6th. EXCEPT Wed. 3rd.: "Walkabout" - director: Nicholas Roeg. AA & "The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie" by Bunuel. AA

Wed. 3rd. July (one day): "The Mikado" -D'Oyly Carte Company. U

Late show Sat 6th. July: "Point Blank" starring Lee Marvin. X

Sun. 7th.: "Pigsty" by Pasolini. X

Mon. 8th.-Thur. 11th. July: "The Wild Bunch" starring William Holden etc. Directed by Sam Peckinpah. X

Fri. 12th., Sat. 13th.: "The Ballad of Cable Hogue" AA & "The Deadly Companions" A - by Sam Peckinpah.

Late show Sat. 13th. July: "Guns in the Afternoon" A

Sun. 14th.: "Major Dundee" starring Charlton Heston & William Harris - by Sam Peckinpah. A

Mon 15th.-Wed. 18th. July: "Cromwell" starring Alec Guinness, Richard Harris. U

Thur. 19th.-Wed. 24th. July: "England Made Me" starring Peter Finch AA & "The Virgin and the Gypsy" AA

Late show Sat. 20th.: "Hell in the Pacific" starring Lee Marvin. U

Thur. 25th.-31st. July: "O Lucky Man!" X

Late show Sat. 27th. July: "Leo the Last" X

LATE SHOWS START AT 11p.m.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FILM THEATRE...its financial position is shaky and it could close down if it doesn't get full support from us and the local authority.

Research

BRIGHTON VOICE research groups are examining the characteristics/problems/needs of the following areas: Montpelier Preston Circus Kemp Town Whitehawk

Anyone - Councillors, residents, workers, amenity/pressure groups in these areas - are invited to submit any comments/factual info & scandals to us. We plan to produce special features on these areas in future editions of the voice, on an on-going basis. YOUR HELP WILL MAKE OUR WORK BETTER