

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. (68404) O.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.

WHERE YOU CAN BUY THE VOICE.

KEMP TOWN. BOOKS: 80 St George's Rd. LUMLEY'S: Edward St. KEMP TOWN BOOKS: St George's Rd. VERRALL'S: Eastern Rd. by Rock Gardens.

CENTRAL BRIGHTON. ANANDA: see above. GARDEN CAFE: see above. ECCOTT'S: 52 Surrey St. INFINITY FOODS: see above. OPEN CAFE: see above. SYMPOSIUM BOOKS: see above. WILSON'S: 17 Prince Albert St. WOOD'S: 29 Trafalgar St.

WEST BRIGHTON AND HOVE. PUBLIC HOUSE: see above. UNCLE SAM'S: see above. THREE ROOMS CAFE: see above. JAMES': 17 George St. TOWN'S: 99 Church Rd. CORDELL'S: 99 Western Rd. MARNERS': 62 Preston St.

AND WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WE WILL BE STREET-SELLING.

See the next issue of The Voice for times and locations.

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 Northesse Drive, Hove. (772649)

FREE VET : P.D.S.A. 15 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 (67476)

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

Get your newsagent to stock the Voice. Or take out a year's subscription for £1.

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



BRIGHTON & HOVE WOMEN'S LIB. 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: 687792.

WASTE PAPER COLLECTION: for an alternative education shop in Brighton. Contact 38, Rugby Road for collection.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SHOP: group interested in alternative education planning to open shop in Brighton. Contact : 'Intermediate', 38 Rugby Road, Brighton.

TRADES COUNCIL : Contact Keith Orange, 22 Whippingham Rd.

CENTRE FOR INVESTIGATION OF PROPERTY SPECULATION : 691742

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 MARINA WATCH COMM. Contact Oscar Thompsett, 20 Ridgeside Ave, Patcham 502103

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

BANK HOLIDAY PROJECT Provides advice, shelter and a friendly atmosphere for people in Brighton for the Bank Holiday weekends. Help is needed to run an advice/left luggage/free food thing near the Clock Tower. Also to man the beach advice caravan. For further info contact: Arthur Bartram at 684616. or Marc at 591647.

IMPORTANT meeting to discuss the East Sussex Structure Plan with the Planners: July 30th at Wagner Hall, Regency Road at 7.30 p.m. Make YOUR voice heard.

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 MARKIST LENINIST - Discussion groups etc. 684404 for details.

COMMUNIST PARTY : Secretary: Marjorie Chaplin, 83 Edburton Av

INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP : 20 Milnthorpe Rd., Hove

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

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

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

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT - local branch are organising public meeting

Mon. 5th. Aug. at the LABOUR CLUB, Lewes Rd. 8pm. Guest speakers and local trade unionists.

contact Keith at 684256.

BRIGHTON LABOUR DISCUSSION GROUP : 2nd. Mon. every m'th 7.30pm. Railway Hotel, by Station. Go in thro' Saloon Bar. All welcome.

LABOUR PARTY : Pavilion: 90 Sedgewick Rd., (557944).



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BRIGHTON VOICE

No.16

Community Paper

5p



Blowing Up

The LAW

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# JOIN

In the last issue of the Voice a Brighton resident bemoaned the passing of Brighton's classy vulgarity and its replacement with vulgar class.

Glaring inequalities are indeed displayed with crude vulgarity in the housing situation. Money and violence keep 3000 homes empty at the same time as an acute accommodation shortage.

Fat profits are made and lucrative jobs for the boys wangled. Yet these go hand-in-hand with high profits and low wages. Our Employment Exchange doesn't bat an eyelid at offering adults full-time jobs for pay that is below the poverty line.

Yes, there is plenty of vulgarity left. It is called the Social Order. Many do alright out of it - and make laws to keep it that way. Other people get angry, depressed, frustrated - and end up hitting back at the social order which oppresses them by damaging or stealing THEIR

# BRIGHTON VOICE

BRIGHTON VOICE is produced monthly by a collective of about 40 people.

We call ourselves a collective because we share out and rotate the various jobs and we take all decisions collectively.

We aim to make no money, so we have to pander to no advertisers - unlike the Argus or the Gazette.

We want to take one means of communication out of the hands of 'experts' and the propertied class and give it over to the people of Brighton.

Especially those who have a lot to say about what life is like for the vast majority of us, and ideas on how it could change for the better.

WRITE AND DRAW FOR THE VOICE. BUY THE VOICE. JOIN THE COLLECTIVE. IT IS YOUR PAPER.

Meetings: Sundays at 8 p.m.  
Open Cafe,  
Victoria Road.

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THE NEXT ISSUE WILL CENTRE AROUND THE HEALTH SERVICE.

DEAD-LINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE - AUGUST 5th.

property. And since most of England's laws are about safeguarding property rather than protecting people, they end Up Against The Law.

To maintain the laws we have a police force and a judicial system. Now coppers have a difficult job to do (see our middle pages), and come in for a lot of abuse which should equally be levelled at the powerful interests whom they serve. It becomes especially difficult for them when they have to trump up charges and plant evidence. But although it is true they 'are only human' and have prejudices and temper like the rest of us, these foibles have a much greater effect when the police themselves are largely above the law they enforce. Until they are properly answerable to the local community there will always be a seamy side to the 'British Bobby'.

And it is not only by outlawing people that order is maintained. The judicial system takes great care to demonstrate the fairness of British Justice. In this issue we also show how it makes people believe they cannot decide for themselves what is right and that the law is some abstract entity

which is wholly divorced from material interests. What a lot of rubbish that all is.

The Tory law-and-order campaign concentrated on linking disobedience to the law with a breakdown of civilised society. So that when the Industrial Relations Act was introduced many loyal trade unionists were worried that they might have to 'disobey the law'. But belief in this Tory myth is slowly being shattered. The A.U.E.W. defied the Courts throughout the lifetime of the Act and the only thing that was shattered was Heath's government.

But we can't be complacent for they are hitting back. So Sir Robert Mark and Lord Hailsham try to get rid of juries, which have already been attacked by the introduction of the majority verdict. And the Criminal Law Revision Committee are trying to do away with the caution and make a defendants silence count against them.

We are told that we need Law and Order to combat crime; in fact it is their order backed up by their law - and that has got very little to do with justice in Brighton.

STOP PRESS \* STOP PRESS \* STOP PRESS \* STOP PRESS \* STOP PRESS

Watch out for the July meetings in Brighton Borough Council. The Tories are trying to push through a massive 75,000 sq. ft. extension of office space in the already agreed LOMBARD-NORTH-CENTRAL office development in Preston Road. If they succeed they are driving a coach and horses through the whole Urban Structure Plan concept - besides adding yet more totally unwanted office space in Brighton. It is a test case.

At its July meeting the Trades Council decided to set up a WORKERS ENQUIRY - and press for a general Public Investigation - into 'the whole ghastly planning failures over the past three decades and to determine whether the decisions which constantly held back progress were made in order to further the ends of certain councillors'.

We have just heard that GANAS, Brighton's most notorious landlord, is up to his tricks again. Because a tenant in St. Michael's Place 'slandered' him (!) he gave him notice to quit. The tenant responded by barricading himself in the flat, and now awaits Ganas' heavies.

A major ruckus is brewing in Brighton over the likely ditching of the scheme for reorganizing Brighton's schools on comprehensive lines. Although jobs have been advertised, interviews gone through and contracts signed, rumour has it that the East Sussex Education Committee are thinking of scrapping the whole thing to save money. Teachers and parents organisations are incensed.

Trouble also in the language school world? That sweet way of making a lot of money easily may be coming to an end. After a couple of minor scandals came to light recently in Brighton calls have been made for the Department of Education to step in an investigate. The Voice understands that though Labour councillors are to the fore in calling for such an investigation, some of them are dragging their feet in the matter because they own such schools!

# FORCE

# VICTORY FOR WOMEN

## THE BRIGHTON WOMEN'S CENTRE

East Sussex County Council has agreed to license property in Buckingham Road, Brighton, for use as a Women's Centre. The property is in need of repair, but we hope that it will be ready for use, and open by mid-September. The licence is to be a temporary one, for a year only; after that the council say they intend to turn the building into a residential home and school for mentally handicapped people. If and when the building is needed, the East Sussex council have provisionally agreed to attempt to find us alternative accommodation. So the burden of showing a widespread need for this kind of provision is clearly upon us.

The Women's Centre is supported by various women's groups, including Women's Liberation, the Working Association of Mothers, and W.I.L.P.F. the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The centre will have a variety of concerns but its basic aim will be to give help, advice and information to all women; and simply to put women into contact with each other in one central place. There will be a sitting room with an informal atmosphere, where women can come, drink coffee and simply chat. The centre will be run on a self-help principle, and will hope to encourage women to see their problems in collective, or social, rather than purely individual terms.

The Centre will also contain an information room, a creche, a play-group, and possibly a quiet room for reading. It will, we hope, offer a pregnancy testing service; and the National Childbirth Trust is taking a room in the house to advise women who have or are about to have children. The Centre will welcome women suffering from postnatal depression, sexual and marital problems and those who feel tempted to beat their children. In the evening we hope the centre will be used for meetings by women such as prisoners' wives or for English classes for Asian Women.

The Centre will keep in close touch with the Social Services Department but hopes to run basically on self-help lines. The group fully recognises that in undertaking these activities, we are supplementing Social Services which fail to identify, much

less cope with many of the issues and problems affecting women. For example we can discover no facilities in the County for single homeless women and we hope to demonstrate to the Council the necessity for permanent and fully comprehensive accommodation and help for such women. We hope generally to uncover and highlight a variety of difficulties and problems affecting women, and to 'encourage' the Council to provide a variety of new provisions when our licence runs out in a year's time.

Money and financing for the Centre is obviously a serious problem. The East Sussex Council has provided a grant of six thousand pounds, to be used for repairing the building, so that it conforms to fire and health regulations. This money is in no way intended to cover the day-to-day running costs of the building. So the group is left with a fund raising job. We are applying for a range of urban and community aid grants, and to trusts and business groups who might be sympathetic. Clearly we must invest a lot of energy into fund raising between now and September, and any suggestions of crafty schemes for raising large sums of money would be much appreciated. Also donations of money, furniture, bedding, books or general goodies would be appreciated.

More news nearer opening date.

All who want to help, contact  
PENNY TUCKETT  
FRIENDS' CENTRE  
(27 835 - afternoons only)



MARINE  
MARINI  
MARINO  
MARINA  
MARINAS  
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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Latest news on the Black Rock Marina: while the contractors continue to build, and while East Sussex and Brighton Councils negotiate about which group of ratepayers will pay for the approach roads, the Department of the Environment reveals the main terms of reference of the October Public Inquiry. . . .



These are to be:-

1. the visual impact of 8-storey slab blocks
2. the space proposed for selling things (shops etc.)
3. the proposed use of 'exhibition space'
4. the effects of planned shops on other shops in the area
5. the residential units
6. the traffic implications

The secretary of State has chosen to ignore other crucial points which the Marina Action Campaign has drawn attention to, viz.

7. the real costs and who pays
8. jobs and the Marina
9. other social consequences.

The Marina Action Campaign has published its own newspaper to let people know what is really happening, and has set up a network of local contact points throughout the town. Join the campaign by contacting Tessa Williams at Brighton 687792 after 5 pm, and work actively for the campaign by distributing the newspaper in your area, talking to people, and collecting for the Campaign's fighting fund.

# THE LAW AND THEIR ORDER.

## A SIX PAGE SECTION ON BRIGHTON'S SPECIAL BRAND OF JUSTICE

### THE MAGISTRATES

Justice is a word which is widely used in our society and it is something which people expect in the court rooms. British justice has a supposed international reputation for its fairness and impartiality, but have you ever stopped to think who actually administers legal justice in the courts?

The magistrates courts in England deal with over 98% of criminal cases as well as dealing with extremely important areas of civil jurisdiction (such as family disputes about maintenance, custody, adoption and so on.) and included in their powers is the right to jail persons for up to six months. Nearly 2 million cases a year are dealt with by the magistrates courts and about 50,000 jail or suspended sentences are meted out.

The power of the magistrates in these courts is obvious but how much power do we have over them? The answer is simple - none. The magistrates in Brighton, and most other towns are a self elected elite, the selection committee in Brighton consists entirely of magistrates under the chairmanship of the Lord Lieutenant of the county (The Duke of Norfolk KG PC GCVO, ex-major, ex parliamentary secretary, steward of the Jockey Club etc). Who the committee are and how they operate is a top secret, according to the clerk of the court: 'the advisory committee remains anonymous because if their names were well known they would get bothered by people who think they ought to be magistrates.' Not all areas take this view, and many areas actually advertise in the local papers but not Brighton: 'They advertise in London because there one doesn't know a soul. In Sussex the situation is entirely different; in more rural areas people exhibit their qualities of leadership.' !!

So who are these people who exhibit their qualities of leadership? The answer is no surprise, they are the people who make up the rest of the power structure in Brighton. The job of magistrate is usually given as a kind of reward for long service in exploiting others (sorry, showing qualities of leadership) so that some 25% of the 90 magistrates are former mayors of Brighton or Hove. The occupations of these and virtually all the rest of the magistrates can be described as professional, doctors, lawyers, estate agents, accountants as well as directors of, amongst others, Vokins (Father and daughter in law), Monnickerdam diamond merchants, Alliance Building Society, Phoenix Assurance,

rates, again the answer may be simply because the media are controlled by them, including the Argus (the chairman of its parent firm Southern Publishing Co) and the Brighton Herald (two directors) while a magistrate in Hove is a bigwig on Brighton radio. Or of course, it could be simply for fair unbiased reporting!'

The magistrates don't seem to like to live too near common people; two are near council estates but most prefer to live outside of Brighton (Saltdean, Rottingdean etc.) or gather together, (for safety?) in the posher areas of Brighton over 30 live within a mile of each other around Dyke Road Avenue.

They seem to like power 'cos most are also on school boards,



Legal & General, Forfars, Gilkes wallpaper shops, John King Films (chain of camera shops), Braybon Builders (the wife of a magistrate of Hove), Baker Builders, as well as several directors of unnamed builders, bakeries and decorating firm firms and an ex-director of South-down Motor Co. and B, H&D Omnibus Co.

Incidentally you may wonder why the local media never criticise magist-

hospital boards, college boards, charity boards and any other boards where they can wield power and influence for their own, either before or after becoming a magistrate.

So if you ever come up in a magistrate's court remember that those stony-faced beaks up on high are the same old bastards who try to grind you down in all other parts of your life, and are just as fair and just as Attila the Hun.

### EEH-HAW & ORDER

The law is an Ass - but not half so asinine as lawyers! Recently in London a judge told a woman solicitor who was wearing a trouser suit that she should not dress in such improper clothes in court' and called it 'a ridiculous garb'. At the time the

judge was wearing a horse-hair wig, had on a flowing black gown, two tag-ends of white linen were tied over his collar and tie and round his middle was swathed a wide band of scarlet material. Question: who was in the more ridiculous garb?



"A youth who has been allowed freedom in childhood has had experience of that light and that spirit that taketh away the occasion of all war." He is less prone to be violent or authoritarian. Such a childhood of freedom prepares a young person to decline military service and to work for peace, to oppose violence and ultimately as an adult to proclaim that the first duty of a revolutionary is to build a society geared to children."

(PAUL ADAMS)

As this edition of Brighton Voice is concerned with LAW AND ORDER it is important for us to consider how our children are ruled and ordered in their schools, without our consent, for seven hours each day from the age of 5 until the age of sixteen or later.

If we remember that elementary schools became compulsory in Victorian times so that children were kept off the streets and that even today some schools are still run like reformatories where children are ordered to sit in rows, to be quiet, to line up and put their hands on their heads all together like a lot of robots then we should be protesting at the power teachers have to police and discipline our children in such a way, ruling and regulating them until every scrap of their own originality and creativity can be destroyed.

All too often teachers are remote disciplinarians who demand respect and obedience. They shout at children and bully them into doing what the teacher wants and not what the child choses to do. HOW CAN ANYONE BE COMPLACENT AT THE THOUGHT OF ANY CHILD BEING ONE OF A GROUP OF 40 CHILDREN COMPULSORILY CRAMMED INTO A CLASSROOM DAY AFTER DAY? Law number 1. in school is 'THOU SHALT CONFORM' That's why school uniforms are so popular as they can powerfully reduce children to components of the school machine and discourage individuality. Look at this advertisement put out by LITTLEWOODS in the Sunday Times, June, 30th:-

### TOP MEN ARE MADE (NOT BORN)

In today's sophisticated business world, there's little room for the brilliant individualist. Every industry wants hard-working young men who are ready to be trained to acquire the skills of tomorrow's top jobs...

There's little room indeed for the brilliant individualist anywhere in our capitalist society and this attitude begins in our schools where all too often the child with an outstanding

personality and the child who refuses to sit down and act like a zombie usually spends much of his day standing outside the classroom door until s/he's prepared to SUBMIT to the teacher's will, sit down and shut her/his mouth.

Teachers can repress our children in many subtle ways. The worst punishment they can inflict is to make a child look a fool in front of her/his mates. 'Just look at him class 4, isn't he ridiculous' said in a sneery tone by a teacher can make a child cringe with humiliation. I recently witnessed a teacher yelling

## "CHILDREN ARE THE SEEDS OF FREEDOM"



at an 11-year old girl: 'YOU DIDN'T ASK IF YOU COULD GO TO THE TOILET, WHY DIDN'T YOU GET MY PERMISSION, YOU CAN'T JUST GO WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT?' The girl was blushing and humiliated and I was delighted to hear her friend call out 'YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF YOU HAD TO ASK EVERYTIME YOU WANT TO GO MISS' That kid had guts and she also had a very good argument! As parents we must teach our children to STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS AS INDIVIDUALS, they must not allow themselves to be repressed and stifled by authoritarian teachers and we must not be intimidated by puffed up headteachers who graciously allow us one five minute appointment each year if we have the audacity to criticise any aspect of the school's management of our children.

N.U.T.M.A.N.

The A.S. Neill Trust has been set up in memory of a great educationalist - to promote freedom for children, children's rights etc.

Write to: R. Hemmings A.S. Neill Trust, 7, Manor Road Extension, OADB Y, Leicestershire.



# McKENZIE LAW IS

# PEOPLE'S LAW

The Law is always with us - and it affects an awful lot of us. Last year about 1,200,000 had some sort of acquaintance with the Courts, with another 400,000 involved in various Tribunals.

And once in Court or Tribunal most found themselves bewildered and rather frightened. This is intentional. There is the intimidation deliberately introduced by having the Judge or Magistrate sitting six feet higher than you, and addressed in a most submissive fashion. There is the 'walled-in' dock to make you feel thoroughly isolated. There are the complicated procedural rules which everyone else seems to know and understand - and use to your disadvantage. And finally there is the ultimate indignity of having you and your life being airily discussed between 'learned' gentlemen earning 50-100 guineas a day without any opportunity for you to say what you think. You become just an object for their game.

Some parts of the game are really for your protection - if you could understand them, e.g. the rules of evidence and of questioning. But much of it is a product of the appalling self-protection racket operated by the legal profession. When it comes to narrow-minded defence of purely sectional interests then the most bloody-minded of Trades Unions simply isn't in the same league as the organisations of the Bar and the solicitors. They have systematically denied simple access to justice for the ordinary person whenever it came into conflict with their pockets. And this is not a recent phenomenon. It can be traced back in detail for 250 years. It is ingrained into the law. So any crack in this wall of privilege - any increase in the access to justice - is very significant. And one of the most important such cracks to appear lately is the 'McKenzie lawyer' or 'McKenzie man'.

The name comes from a divorce case which was started in 1965 and finished up in the Appeal Court in 1970. Leveine McKenzie, a Jamaican, and his wife Maizie were suing each other for divorce. Leveine had got a Legal Aid Certificate but by the time 1970 rolled around it had expired. His former solicitors nevertheless sent along a barrister to help him but not to speak for him, yet the Judge kicked him out of the Court. On Appeal it was held that, ever since Lord Chief Justice Tenterden first said it in 1831, 'any person may attend as a friend, may take notes, may quietly make suggestions and give advice', but not address the Court directly. (because the lawyers have got that sewn up). So, after 140 years, a new life was given to the old rule, and one now has 'McKenzie lawyers'.

As recognition of this important advance towards a Peoples Law we have two articles and a special note on McKenzies.



### SPECIAL NOTE

There is a group forming in Brighton at the present time to work towards providing a real service of 'advisors' for people who run into the Law, whether in criminal or civil actions. Since the essence of 'McKenzie-ing' is self-help through one's friends - and not just 'a free lawyer service' - the present plans are to create a group who will pool present knowledge and mutually study to increase that knowledge.

Both the McKenzie Group and the Voice would be interested to hear of any experiences of being 'advised' in Court or Tribunal.

If you are interested in such training and learning how to do it yourself, or you have a case hanging over you in which you would welcome some friendly advice -

PHONE 684256

THE McKENZIE NUMBER.

### EARLY McKENZIES

The precedent set recently in Brighton courts by the introduction of McKenzie advisors to help defendants should serve as a reminder to us all that lay people have always had many more rights at other hearings - such as tribunals.

Many Rent Tribunals, for instance, will allow an advisor to act virtually as a solicitor, and to cross-examine witnesses. And there is a long record of success in such affairs.

In the West London area during the worst days of Rachmanism many such advisors came to the Paddington and West London Rent Tribunals to help tenants. Some of them were from Tenant's Associations and others were from embryonic Neighbourhood Associations.

Not all their battles were successful, but their efforts always ensured that the tenants cases were brought out to the full advantage. It did something to stop the scandal of unrepresented tenants facing landlord's barristers or solicitors.

Arthur Farr represented many tenants at the Paddington Rent Tribunal in the early 1960s. He helped to expose some of the worst evils of Rachmanism many years before the word entered the English language.

Later Mrs. Rhaune Laslette and Jim O'Brien did much the same sort of work at the other West London Rent Tribunal.

NONE OF THEM WAS A LAWYER YET THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCAL HOUSING SITUATION MADE THEM VERY EFFECTIVE AS LAY ADVOCATES.

Sporadic attempts have been made to provide a similar service in Brighton. Perhaps the success of the McKenzie advisors in the criminal Courts will encourage the setting up of a more permanent group of people prepared to assist tenants at Rent Tribunals as well.



How to Choose Your Friend

ANYTHING WE SAY MAY BE TAKEN DOWN AND USED IN EVIDENCE AGAINST THE STATE

# GET YOURSELF A McKENZIE

In a recent Report Lord 'Big Wig' Widgery made a recommendation that criminal Legal Aid be restricted solely to those cases where a prison sentence was likely. This was a gift to all those in the Law business who think that poorer people get their just deserts anyway, whether they have a case to offer or not.

Where most people need Legal Aid is in the Magistrates Court, and one of the most powerful figures in any such Court is the Chief Clerk. This is because the Magistrates rely on his legal knowledge and long experience in the particular Courts. Where he is a strong character the personality of the Chief Clerk sets the whole tone of the local Courts and determines your chance of getting justice.

Brighton's Chief Clerk, A.E. Tritschler, has long been known to both the lawyers and defendants as singularly antagonistic in Court and particularly belligerent to poorer defendants. And he has run true to form again. 'Arch Enemy' Tritschler lost no time in interpreting this recommendation as gospel and, by being instrumental in denying Legal Aid in a number of cases recently, has assisted in landing several young people with criminal records because they could not afford to pay for representation and did not know how to defend themselves.

It is situations like this that have made some people determine

to defend themselves. If you find yourself in such a position one way to turn the tables in your favour is to defend yourself with the help of a friend. This friend can sit beside you in Court and advise but is not allowed to address the Court - you must do that for yourself. But that is a whole lot easier to do than you might think if you have an encouraging person at your elbow.

There are many advantages to this form of defence, whether you have been granted Legal Aid or not. In fact in many cases it might be advisable not to use a solicitor. A solicitor's respectability in Court rests upon co-operation with the Court and all its bourgeois ritual, since any really effective attack on police credibility or the Court's ability to be fair may well damage the system of conciliatory deals with the police, besides going against the 'public school' ethics which the law profession rigorously imposes.

Earlier this month three people made full use of McKenzie advisors for the first time in Brighton Magistrates court, and thus set a precedent that all can follow. Two of the defendants were arrested under bogus charges of obstruction during a small and peaceful demonstration over the recent squat, as were three others who foolishly accepted the charge and pleaded guilty because they did not think it was possible to defend yourself. As a result they got £15 and a first criminal conviction. One of

the two who decided to 'have a go', a young woman, was acquitted, whilst the other defendant was fined a mere £5. Police and prosecution costs were refused, thus pointing up the lack of police credibility.

In the third case, which was more serious, after a two day hearing the Court ruled that the words 'slimy sod' directed at a pig photographer for taking photographs of peoples faces were so insulting that it might have caused the twenty or so pigs present to riot and breach the peace. This cost the defendant £10 and £10 costs

As one of the defendants I know how valuable the McKenzie system is. It gives you confidence in Court and a satisfaction - that can never come from employing lawyers - that you have put your best case forward emphatically and clearly. It takes a lot of preparation, particularly if you are going to use much case-law. But with your friends rallying round and pooling ideas and knowledge it isn't so difficult.

And in Court itself it is really important to get over that initial dismay and launch yourself into the case - and a friend at your elbow is vital in doing this. It is an additional bonus if you can get your friends to pack the public gallery as a sympathetic audience.

What it amounts to is this - avoid facing the legal system alone - get yourself a defence committee of friends. It is the communality of the attack on the present system that makes it so effective.



### POLICE EXCEED POWERS

'In they rushed through the door, shouting to everyone to stand still It was just like prohibition all over again'. This description of the police raid recently at the Curtain Club, a local gay meeting place, graphically describes the atmosphere of police acting heavy.

The police took statements from everyone, noting them down on a prepared questionnaire sheet. One poor old man, who gave his birthdate as 1910, was bullied by an arrogant young copper who make no effort to hide his antagonism. He treated

the old man as though he were a bad smell' one of the Club visitors told the Voice.

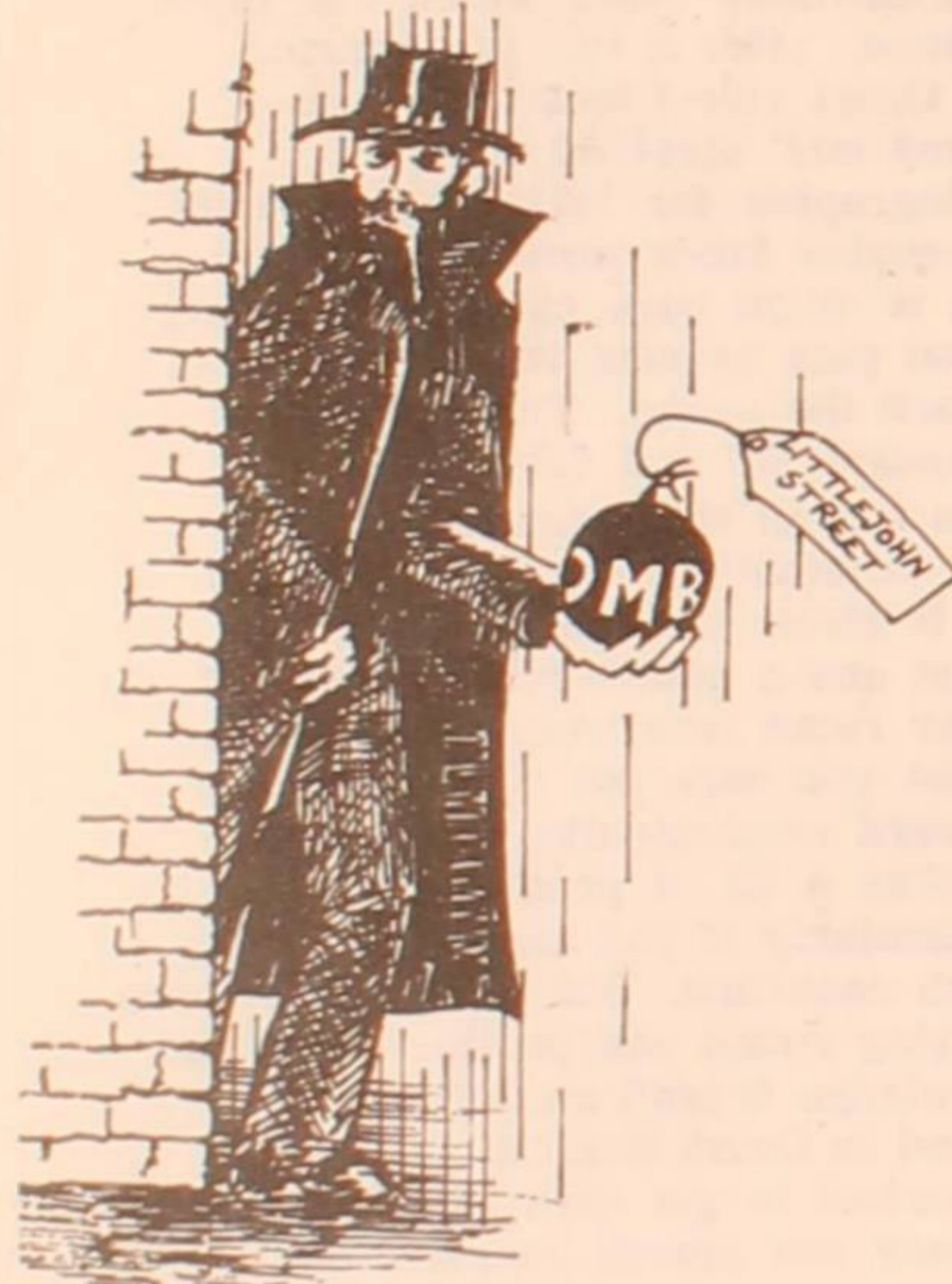
Despite this a few brave people argued about their rights and asked to be allowed to make a phone call. They were ignored. When one Sergeant was asked whether they had a right to force these statements from people he started to say 'I don't want to get stropky but you people make me sick'.

The whole object of this exercise was to bust the Curtain Club by

catching them serving drinks without meals. 'I felt this was a direct repression of my freedom and one more incident in the persecution of the gay minority' said one of the Club members. 'But perhaps the incident will awaken more gay people in Brighton to the need for a strong gay organization.'

Legal note: The police cannot oblige you to give information, not even your name and address unless you are actually being charged with having committed an offence.

SUSSEX POLICE share our theme of Law and Order. And there are more than 2,500 lads in Blue to do just that (plus 200 odd ladies). Plenty of Law for everyone, available any time any place, and with good connections in high places for that big job you may have in mind.



RHAPSODY IN BLUE

Our policemen are not wonderful - nor are they pigs. Rather they are a selection of somewhat over-size chaps in heavy serge uniforms leading a difficult and isolated life. Until he marries, the normal PC lives in Army-like conditions - 'bachelor' quarters in close vicinity to the station. During the day trundling round with discreetly concealed baton in baggy pants; Always glad to pop round the back of the local cafe for a quick cuppa. And hope to God the f... Inspector's got something else to do, than check up on my beat.

He has a duty to superior officers, as well as to the public. The same narrow, rigid structure of authority exists as in the military services. And often, more concealed authority exists - the handshake of the Freemason secret society - or the nod and wink network of corrupt officers, who put down any challenges to their cosy setups. But is Brighton like this? Well, since the last mob were sent down in 1971 (see later), there has been little trouble. Under the commandant, stern, moustachioed Eric Bourne (53), things have since apparently been running smoothly at John Street nick lately. Whilst Bourne has a very simplistic view of life (like most coppers), and talks a lot about 'duty' and 'effort', he does try to run 'a tight ship',

# LAW AND ORDER

in his own inimitable phrase, and his efforts to keep the graft within bounds seem to be pretty successful.

## YOUR LOCAL FUZZBOX

The Brighton Police HQ, at John St. is one of the main Sussex Police buildings. It houses an extraordinary variety of units - ranging from the Sussex Criminal Records Office (SUSCRO) and the local Special Branch - to 2 police horses and a motor workshop. Its main function is as a base for E (Brighton) division. Brighton, which is divided into two subdivisional territories roughly along Ditchling Rd, has the highest crime rate in Sussex, and thus the largest number of police. This division - some 380 strong - include the uniform police patrolling the Brighton area, plus the plainclothes CID. These are the regular fuzz, doing the bread and butter police work - beating the different areas, checking up on the many mundane crimes.

Another regular group is the Traffic Division. They are readily identifiable by their white caps and the flashy fast cars in which they speed around the country roads. (Which is why most of them joined). Although their basic concern is with road safety and traffic offences, one MGB with two unsavoury women



traffic cops is often found late on the Brighton bypass, breaking up loving scenes in quietly parked cars.

Another speciality is the fleet of six unmarked Vauxhall Venturas, which lie in wait for the unwary speedster. According to the police, however, the policy is to catch catch really serious offenders with these covert cars.

But more devious groups live here also. These include:- No. 6 Regional Crime Squad (South East), a Commando Unit, a photographic group and a TV group, the Drugs Squad and the Criminal Intelligence Unit. The function of this last group is to gather information on people considered undesirable, but who are unfortunately not criminals. Part

of a national organisation based in London, they gather information from 'collators' in every station. From little bits and pieces, 'profiles' are built up and dossiers compiled. Political attitudes, even sexual behaviour if known, will be included. Although currently there are no plans to put these files on the Police National Computer, no doubt the time will come.

The Commando Unit is a special 'go-anywhere' squad. There is no apparent reason for the name, but we understand that to date none of its officers have been trained in sabotage techniques. Superficially similar to London's controversial Special Patrol Group, they tend however to work in a CID role.

There are 2 or 3 Special Branch officers based in Brighton. Their main work is guarding visiting VIPs, for which they are armed, and attending political meetings. Another group is based round Gatwick airport.

Increasing use is being made of the TV and photographic units in filming incidents. In one case evidence recorded by police on a mobile TV unit has been used in a success-

# DISORDER

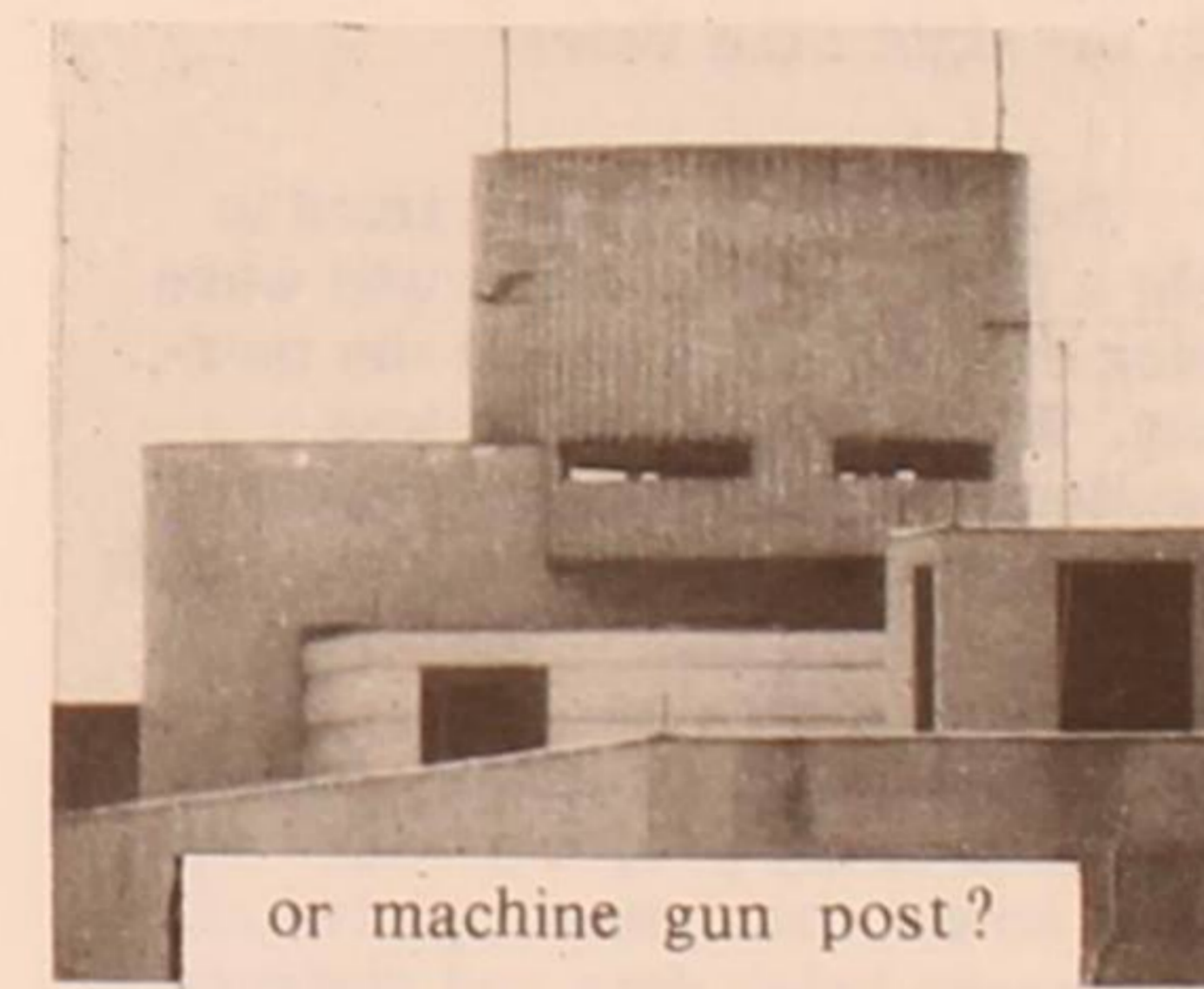
ful prosecution. And in a recent incident in Brighton, two police photographers were on duty taking mug shots of squatters - no doubt to go in the files of the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

When the plans for John St. were finalised many years ago, arrangements were made to provide underground accomodation for civil defence purposes. These plans were put through in accordance with Government orders, and the results are visible today. Behind the underground NCP car parks are the chambers for essential services - electricity, water, phones, - and the offices and dormitories for the burrowing bureaucrats. On top an observation tower has wide views over the surrounding town - and perhaps room for the odd machine gun to explain to the citizenry why no space can be made for them. Even little things testify to the care taken. The special white blinds cover the entire

building, and would in wartime protect the building and its occupants

from the searing nuclear flash. And in such times of war or insurrection, special circuits would link it to the hardened underground Regional Seat of Government, from which a Cabinet Minister will rule with complete dictatorial powers.

## OBSERVATION TOWER



## KEEPING THE QUEEN'S PIECE

There has been an increasing response in recent years to the possibility of civil disturbance. Some years ago, when the Mods and Rockers battles reached riot proportions, it was revealed that the police were holding stocks of CS gas, as used in Northern Ireland. It was never used, but there is no information of these stocks having been disposed off. They presumably lie dormant in some Home Office warehouse. Although there are no apparent reports of Sussex policemen attending CS gas courses in '73 or '74, many officers did in previous years. Equally last year, nearly 500 police undertook Crowd Control training. Much of the force has now been so trained - perhaps this is desirable in the light of the disastrous and brutal operation in Red Lion Square London.

Demonstrations, according to the Chief Constable, are ineffectual. His experience is that written complaints and local MPs would solve the problem better, faster, than demonstrations "which are rarely witnessed by decision takers". He is a Chief Constable with a great deal of power. Groups of people who campaign for real change have seldom if ever included Chief Constables.

Although Sussex has not yet seen any Heathrow-style Army/Police exercises, co-operation is present. The realistic 'unruly' crowds for the Crowd Control courses are provided by local Army Units. And a photograph in the latest annual report shows Army chief General McMeekin strutting from an Army helicopter at police headquarters.



## BURGLARS IN BLUE UNIFORMS

Although Sussex has not yet sunk to the depths of the Kent police force, where a young constable is being disciplined for daring to prosecute one of the Chief Constables law-breaking friends, all has not been well. In the days of the Brighton Borough Police a national scandal was created over the graft ring run by the Chief of Police. And more recently, in an astonishing month three years ago, two separate groups of five constables were sent down for their part in a shop-breaking ring. Odd others have been done for theft over the years - some 12 or 13 in all.

But at least they do not hesitate to prosecute their own - as was seen last year when the Assistant Chief Constable, Eric Tiplady, was done for a driving offence.

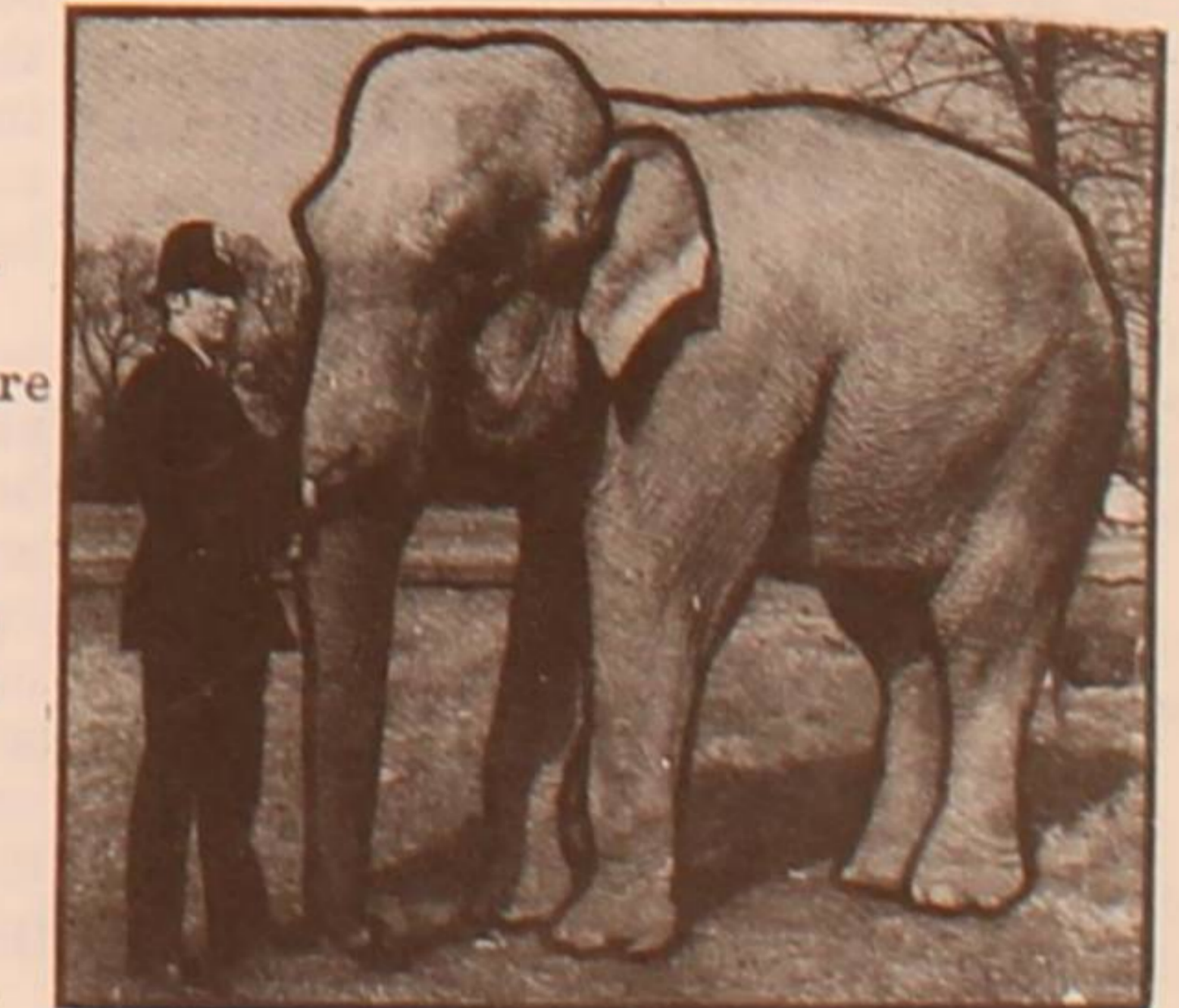
SO - MIND HOW YOU GO

EVENING ALL .....

A further two sections of this study of Brighton Police will be published in next month's Voice

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## COMPETITION



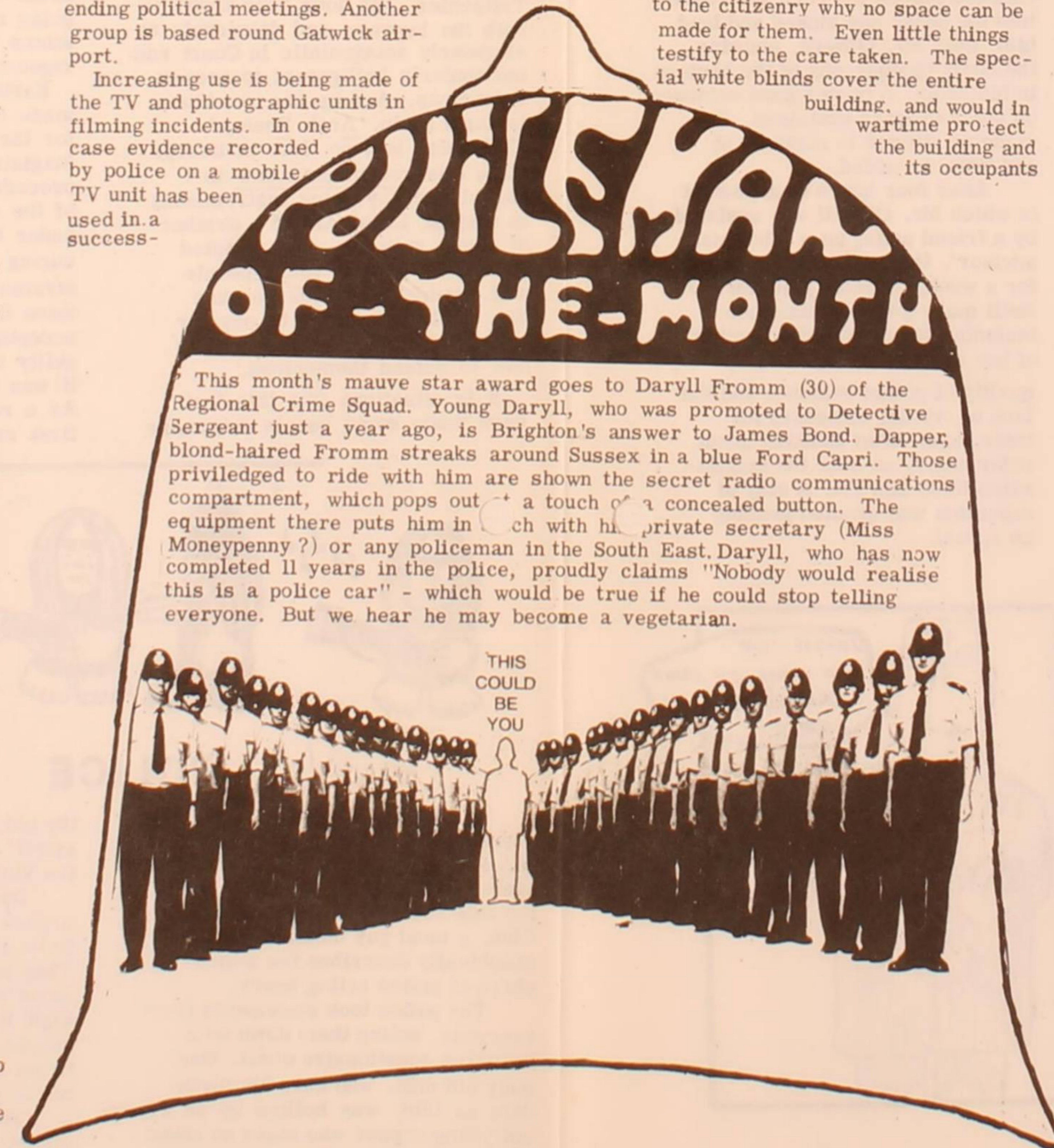
## WANTED

A FITTING SENTENCE.....

to complete the picture.

WINNERS TO RECEIVE A FINE.

THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.



This month's mauve star award goes to Daryll Fromm (30) of the Regional Crime Squad. Young Daryll, who was promoted to Detective Sergeant just a year ago, is Brighton's answer to James Bond. Dapper, blond-haired Fromm streaks around Sussex in a blue Ford Capri. Those privileged to ride with him are shown the secret radio communications compartment, which pops out a touch of a concealed button. The equipment there puts him in touch with his private secretary (Miss Moneypenny?) or any policeman in the South East. Daryll, who has now completed 11 years in the police, proudly claims "Nobody would realise this is a police car" - which would be true if he could stop telling everyone. But we hear he may become a vegetarian.

# SQUATTER'S TRIAL REPORT ARGUS v TRUTH

Every so often we are driven to attack the Argus, because it never prints the most important news for the town, and when it does print something useful, it slants it very heavily. Recently the 'Voice' was able to observe the Argus editorial hand in action, having been at a trial which the Argus reported, as well as seeing the original 3-page script submitted. So we thought you might like to see the sort of justice you will get in John Street, and the way the Argus 'gets the facts.'

In the lefthand corner : The Argus.

In the right : the Voice

Printer Keith O'Neill tried to cause trouble when a family of squatters were evicted early in the morning. He shouted abuse at workmen and photographers before he was arrested. Mr. Geoffrey Twelftree, prosecuting, told Brighton magistrates.

"He made it his business to cause as much trouble as possible" said Mr. Twelftree. "He seemed to want to get a fight going between the people watching the eviction and the people carrying it out."

O'Neill, 22, of Cambridge Road, Hove, denied using insulting words in Terminus Road on June 7 likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Mr. Twelftree said that at 5.15 a.m. a small crowd of people gathered outside 28 and 29 Terminus Road to watch the eviction.

O'Neill went striding through the crowd and appeared to take a leading role. He started shouting at the workmen: "You will all get into trouble with your union. You will all be blacked." Then he told them: "You are all scum and blacklegs."

O'Neill later abused photographers, calling them "slimy snivelling sods," said Mr. Twelftree.

"He went into one of the houses and when he came out he feigned pain and started screaming as if he had received a blow. He was arrested."

"Had he gone on in this vein he could have provoked a breach of the peace," Mr. Twelftree added.

O'Neill said, he had not caused trouble. He claimed he was kicked and punched before being carried gently along the road to a police van.

After more than four hours the case was adjourned until Friday.



Printer Keith O'Neill tried to help a family of squatters who were being evicted at 5 a.m. in the morning. Whilst doing this he was insulted by a police photographer who insisted on taking his photograph at close range. Mr. O'Neill told Brighton magistrates.

"I went there originally to collect some of my property which was in the house, but I was appalled at the damage being done and distressed at the way the family's furniture was being thrown from upstairs windows." "The family are suing the bailiffs for the damage caused" added Mr. O'Neill.

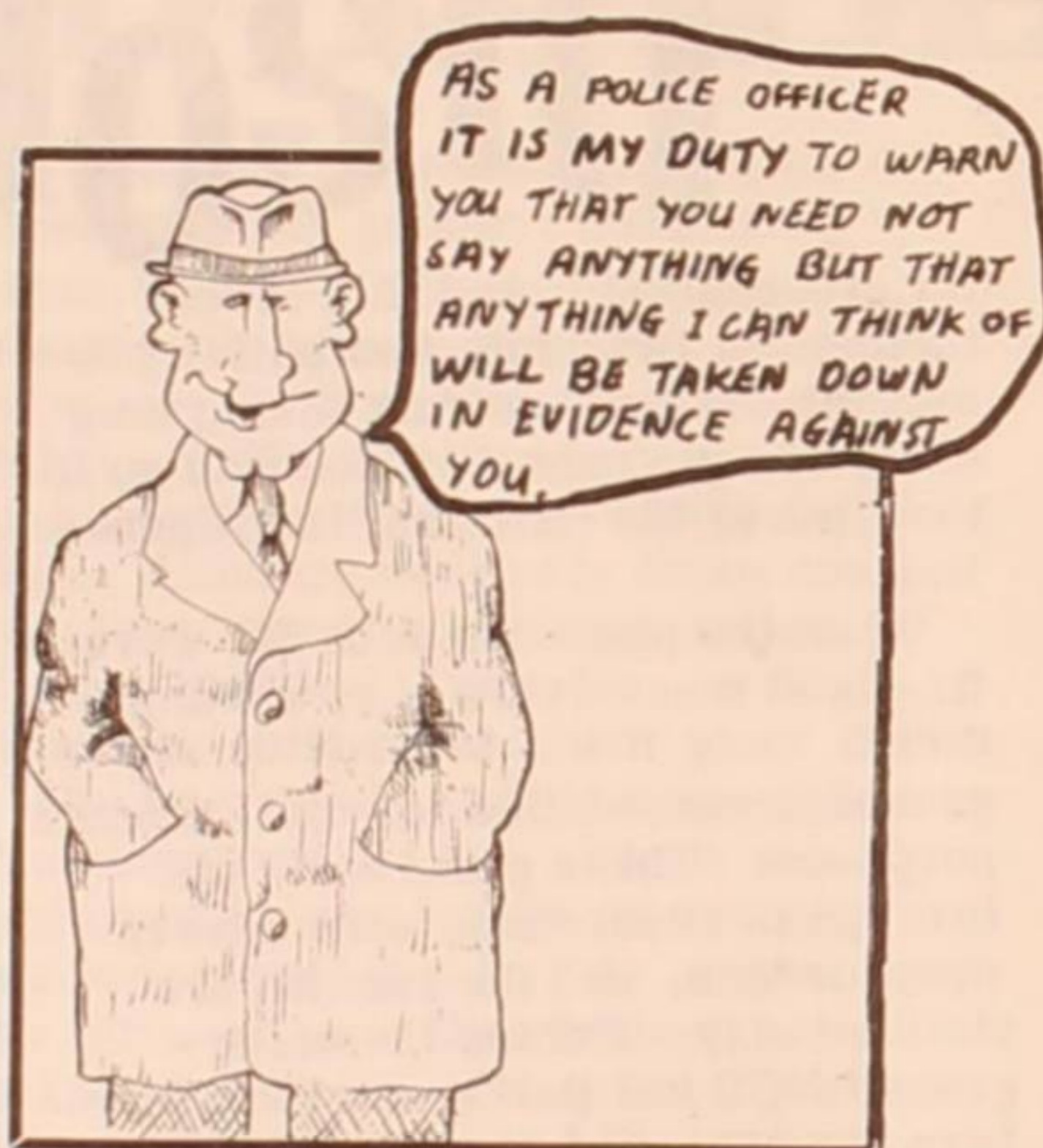
Twelftree, police prosecutor, tried to suggest that Mr. O'Neill had deliberately sought trouble, and even claimed he spoke threateningly to Council workmen, though none were produced to give evidence.

Mr. O'Neill said there were 20 police, a dozen bailiffs and Council employees and some highly-paid hands from Sayers Demolition carrying out the eviction in a very belligerent manner. In contrast, the house itself was quite empty as the squatters had agreed with a policeman named Jupp to leave the day before.

Jupp caused murmurs of astonishment in court by denying that such an agreement existed, though he could not deny that it had been announced in the local Press. Jupp caused further astonishment by claiming he was inside the house at the time of the arrest, but several witnesses saw and spoke to him outside in the street at that time they said.

One of the other policemen in the case was asked why, after the arrest of Mr. O'Neill, he persisted in kneeling on his stomach and abusing him, saying 'Animals should be treated like animals'.

"The trouble occurred because I was angered by the sneering behaviour of the photographer. I asked him why he was photographing me and what he was



going to do with the photos' said Mr. O'Neill. Receiving only further rudeness he called him a 'sod' he added.

Immediately five policeman charged across the road and rushed into the house and kicked and beat him, said Mr. O'Neill, showing the court photographs of the bruises in his groin. A doctor gave evidence on other injuries sustained. 'I made no attempt to struggle at any time' he added.

After four hours of argument in which Mr. O'Neill was assisted by a friend acting as a 'McKenzie advisor', the case was adjourned for a week, at which time Mr. O'Neill made a long submission including seven important points of law and remarking the poor

quality of police evidence and the lack of crucial witnesses for their case. After thinking about it for nearly an hour the magistrates fined him £10. A stay of execution was granted pending an appeal.



# FAIR RENTS - FOR LANDLORDS

### THE RENT BILL 1974 - NO CHANGE

The Rent Bill 1974 will become law in the near future.

Only a few formal grunts of disapproval have come from the landlords, the property owning class in general and the media which they control.

Is it surprising that a bill which is supposed to mean a reduction in landlord power - usually a rallying cry for the defenders of private property - should create such little disturbance? Not at all! What we have here is only a slight adjustment in the rules of the age old game of the exploitation of tenants by landlords and the defence of property at the expense of people's right to a home.

But while it is vitally important to notice, and learn from the contrast between what happens when Parliament (under the control of the property owning classes) moves feebly against landlords, and what happens when the tenants themselves make a concrete attack on homelessness (The Terminus Rd. squat - smashed by police, the Council and "lump" building workers) - while this is vital, it is necessary to make as much use of the room they allow us as possible.

The main points of the Bill are:-  
(1) The ceiling for tenancies included in the provisions goes up to £1,500 in London and £750 elsewhere.

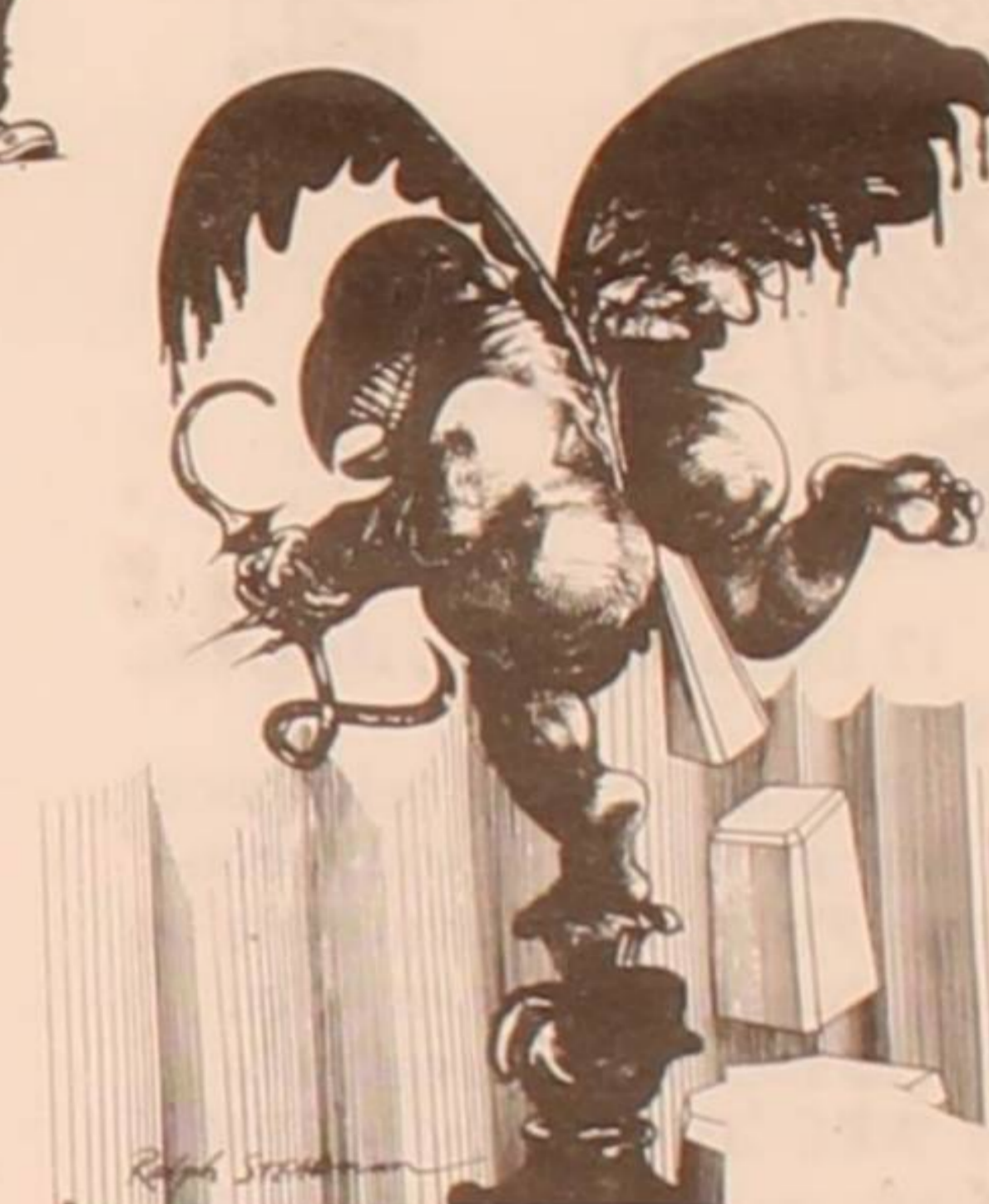
For tenants with landlords living on the premises:-

(1) Security for furnished tenants, whether self-contained or sharing "essential accommodation" with the landlord, is unchanged.

In the last issue of the Voice we said there were 9 estate agents on the Council. In fact there are SIX, and we apologise for the error.



Know how to tell an empty Council-owned house these days? Look for the corrugated iron at the windows and doors! They are really scared of squatters.



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- (2) New (i.e. taken on after the act) unfurnished or furnished tenants in self-contained flats are denied any extension of security. Only unfurnished tenants in self-contained flats already living in their landlord's residences will retain their security.
- (3) New tenants, unfurnished included, can go the Rent Tribunal and receive up to 12 months extension of security.

However the Rent Tribunal may put up rents at the first hearing without any plea of change of circumstance (improvements) from the landlord and the Rent Tribunal can put up the rent again at 3 yearly intervals.

For tenants NOT living in the same premises as their landlords

- (1) Furnished tenants now get the same security as their unfurnished neighbours.
- (2) Two types of tenancy are excluded from protection:
  - a. those granted by certain educational institutions to students.
  - b. tenancies granted for holiday purposes. This includes out-of-season lettings where the landlord gives proper cautionary notice at the outset of his intention of regaining possession.

Any tenant at present under a notice to quit or a possession order - fight back! The courts are empowered to reconsider all possession orders not put into effect by the bailiffs.

Furnished tenants living in the same premises as their landlord should immediately investigate whether their furniture is in fact worth

enough to them to make their property furnished. In a recent case in Brighton a "furnished" tenant proved that her furniture was worth much less than the statutory 15% - 20% of the annual rental and won her case against her landlord Councillor Shives. The exact percentage does not matter much. In a recent case in London the furniture of a tenant not only didn't constitute a substantial part of the rent but was ruled to be of no value whatsoever. Reason? The tenant's own furniture was in store because of the impossibility of finding an unfurnished flat.

This new bill doesn't touch the abuse of fixed period letting - say 6 months - renewable at the landlords pleasure. With the landlord-created shortage of flats (3,000 empty houses in Brighton) a tenant has no choice but to sign an agreement at the same time signing away his/her security.

Most worrying is the complete acceptance of market forces in the fixing of rents. Who wants to go to a Rent Tribunal that will put up rents? Talk of "fair rents" here means what the landlords can get! Talk of "rent rebates" means subsidising landlords with public money!

Now that he is being thrown to the wolf of the capitalist's crisis of inflation the tenant must begin to consider not only the organized and large-scale occupation of empty property but the unionization of all tenants council and private to fight back against present incredibly high rentals and the certainty of them going up every three years.

B. F. T. A. 10th July, 1974



CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
'BRIGHTON VOICE'  
7 VICTORIA ROAD.

17 Ditchling Rise, Brighton.

Dear Sirs,

Further to your telephone call of last evening, we would confirm that 'FRIEND' is available on 31664 on Monday evenings only. The 739729 number is available EVERY WEEKDAY 10AM - 6PM, and callers will be referred to us. Thank you for your interest. 'FRIEND'.

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Dear Voice,

Contraception is all very nice for ladies under 50 and gents, including pensioners who visit the Vogue cinema, but I would like something else for the likes of me. I would like to see a regular collection of wastepaper, empty bottles and jars. I carry my newspapers to the Brighton tape Recording club but I would rather see the proceeds going to socialism. I would also like to see old furniture collections -- things that people don't want any more, but which are too good to end up on the 'tip'. Then 'hard up' people could choose themselves something. I saw 2 old ladies trying to find a chair in a builders skip the other day. If people knew that you would collect in their area on a pre-arranged evening I'm sure it would be a good way of getting to know each other. I also wish you could press for a branch library in Kemptown area. The site of the college junior school would be ideal as there's a bit of garden there with trees where people could sit. I worry about what happened to all those old people who used to sit in the library. People need somewhere to sit on a windy day and a reason to go there even if they don't read much they can say they are going to the library - independent people who don't join clubs. Also hospital visitors don't have anywhere to go between am and pm visits - just somewhere quiet to relax. There are a lot of poor, thrifty people around here, who probably don't get as much help as they should because they hate asking for help. If you could collect newspaper from them, they might get to know about Rent and Rate Rebates through you.

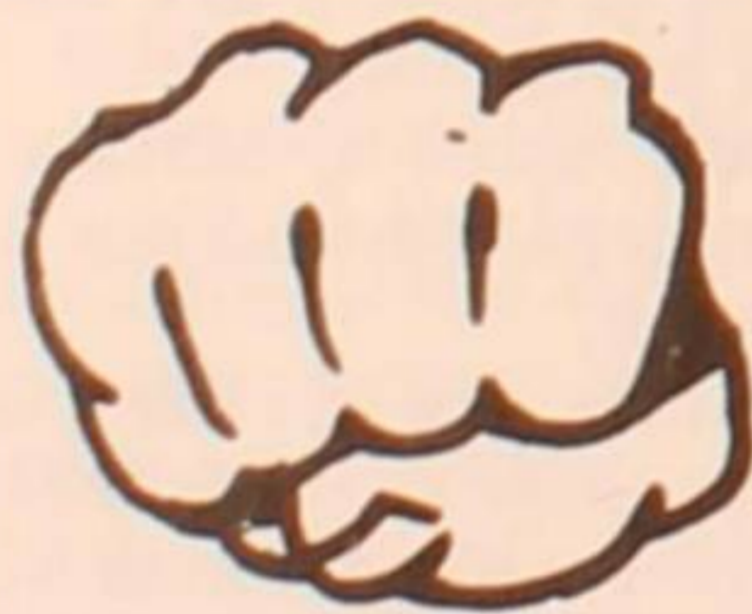
I think in Germany or Denmark, people put out their unwanted furniture on certain days, and anyone can take what they want, the rest is cleared by the Council.

Best Wishes.  
Anon.

Reply

Though we like the idea of the 'Voice' collective doing something other than producing a paper, after a long discussion we found ourselves already into so many other things in the town that it simply wouldn't be possible to gather the organizational effort required - though our need for money is great. However there has started recently a waste paper collection system (preferably newspapers) which intends to put its money into an Alternative Education Shop, aimed to show that there are other ways of learning than in schools. Advice to parents and to school-kids will be available, and alternative books and other media. If this idea attracts you, they would be glad to talk about collecting your papers and that of others near you - and, if possible, gaining your help too.

Contact: Intermediate'  
38, Rugby Road  
Brighton.



Dear Brighton Voice,

Nice of you to publish not just one but two introductions to the twilight world of the homosexual in your last issue. Your hundreds of gay readers now know all about Brighton's justly famous gay ghetto. No doubt they'll enjoy it.

And, it's true that men aren't allowed to touch each other. Witness the recent closure of a Manchester club where police found male couples (shock) dancing together, and the £25 fines on two middle-aged Londoners arrested for saying good night to each other with a (horror, amazement) kiss. Which makes a nonsense of your comment, "What's the point really now it's legal anywhere."

Lets get it straight legally: the one thing the 1967 act did not do was to legalize homosexuality. What it did do was to list a number of conditions within which a sexual act between men would no longer be a criminal offence. (like age, your occupation, your country, the company you are with and the place

you are at.) They are conditions which no heterosexual in his right mind would accept for one second, but which appear to cause your writer no concern whatever.

It may have escaped your notice, but not only men are gay. Women are too. Yet virtually every club or pub that you mention either prohibits women altogether or else succeeds in making women feel quite unwelcome.

And it seems also to have escaped your notice, that some gays are no longer content to accept their secluded place in the ghetto that heterosexuals have so kindly allowed us. You made no suggestion that when harassed by the police we should confront them with the truth rather than with "a good excuse or a dog." that one might take one's boyfriend to an ordinary hotel rather than to one of the 42 Club's discreetly gay guest-houses which can be relied upon not to spill the beans, not to disturb the delicate status quo.

And what was this about "a more accepted gay scene"? Accepted by whom? Us? By the police? By the club proprietors who charge £2 a year for the privilege of paying 24p for a pint of beer in the company of those chic theatre-goers?

Yes, there is life after death, after the death of your self-respect, the death of your anger, when you realize that you are the skeleton in the heterosexual's closet and you meekly join the conspiracy to keep you there. But can we not live our own lives?

Yours sincerely,  
Graham Phillips.



I would like to bring to your notice that 80 New Church Road has been empty for some time. Is a very good house going to ruin through lack of care. It could house 3 families at least. The door is open. I have passed it for a year and watched it deteriorate. Perhaps you could find out who the owner is and take charge.

Good luck.

J. A.

# letters



Dear BRIGHTON VOICE,

Recently, our landlord, Mr. Stylianou, put our meter up onto the quarterly rate so that we are paying for electricity even when not using it.

When we complained he threatened to turn it up even higher so that we would not be able to afford "any light at all".

ON the advice of the Furnished Tenants' Association and our solicitor, we then contacted the Harassment Officer, Mr. Clifford.

When he came he handed us a board leaflet about electricity charges, but refused to look at the meter and told us it was nothing to do with him.

When we then told him that our solicitor had told us to call him in, he replied: "You can tell your solicitor to get lost".

We think that the least Mr. Clifford could have done would have been to offer to have a word with Mr. Stylianou to warn him that he was on dangerous ground making threats to overcharge us for electricity to the point of plunging us into darkness. We did not expect him to act in the indifferent and insulting way that he did.

As an employee of Brighton Corporation the money for his wages comes out of our pockets. We do not expect to be treated by Public Servants in this way.

Yours faithfully,  
Q. Godbeer-Ashford  
R. A. Godbeer-Ashford.



Dear Sir,  
Obscurantism in Housing Committee Meetings

In the light of some of Redcliffe-Maud's misgivings about the integrity of local government, you would think that Brighton Council would be falling over themselves to lay bare their proceedings. In fact, every Housing Committee Meeting has an item 1 "To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration." One councillor even wanted the wording of this tightened up in today's meeting expressing concern over the press'

# CONTINUED...

prior knowledge of the officer's report. As it was, a whole section dealing with development was marked 'Confidential'. Why is this secrecy necessary?

Even the Committee itself appears ill-informed. It appears not to be within the Housing Officers brief to keep members informed of ongoing house acquisition. How can they therefore possibly make a considered judgement on the progress of expanding the Corporation's housing stock?

I might also add that a member of this group's request to address the Meeting over the Government circular on the important question of homelessness was ignored by Chairman Leach. An example of democracy at work?

Since most of the Committee's members are property owners, the impression is given that, while the latter may present their case the people of Brighton not in this category are either ignored or deterred from making their case by the considerable procedural difficulties.

Faithfully,  
Alan J. Warr



I was interested in your article on public participation in planning in issue 14. That article ended up 'Nice one, Labour Party. Why isn't it happening in Brighton?' In simple words, the reason why it isn't happening is because a majority of Brighton local Councillors belong to the Tory Party, an organization which is devoted to furthering the interests of the property owners and businessmen of the town. The only way of altering this position is to get a majority of Labour Councillors who, whatever their shortcomings, are democratically selected by the organization of the working class and can be (and have been) replaced if they do not work in the interests of that class. This is possibly a view to which many of your readers and active supporters pay lip service, but do not really support. For example, it is very good to fulminate about the Whitehawk Redevelopment scheme, and the East Brighton Residents Association is doing a good job. But six weeks ago there was a council bye-election in that Ward. I was up there and I didn't see hundreds of Brighton Voice supporters working to get the Labour Candidate in and

keep the Tory candidate out. - so we have another Tory on the Council and more support for redeveloping Whitehawk in the Tory way where it counts at the moment - in the Council Chamber.

What you are doing by merely attacking 'Brighton Council's' view on this or that question is propagating the tired old Tory myth that local politics has nothing to do with party politics, with the struggle between the capitalist class and the working class. Most people in Brighton have already seen through this as the derisory showings for 'Independent', or 'Ratepayer' candidates shown. As you say in your Editorial 'We can make the Council start to think about serving the people it's supposed to serve.' The people the Tory Group are supposed to serve are by-and-large the people they are serving, and doing quite a good job! Until you wake up to that fact you are actually hindering any possibility of changing things.

Yours  
Geoff Jones  
52 West Hill st.



BRIGHTON VOICE ANSWER

We argued in Issue 14 that public participation in physical and social planning was non-existent in Brighton; your reply, which says this is a result of Tory control of the Council, is more of an alibi than an explanation since the local Labour Party's policy group has just refused to allow even the principle of ordinary people having more control over their own lives. A crucial proposal to ensure real popular involvement in local decision-making (as in Clause 4) was crushed by that group.

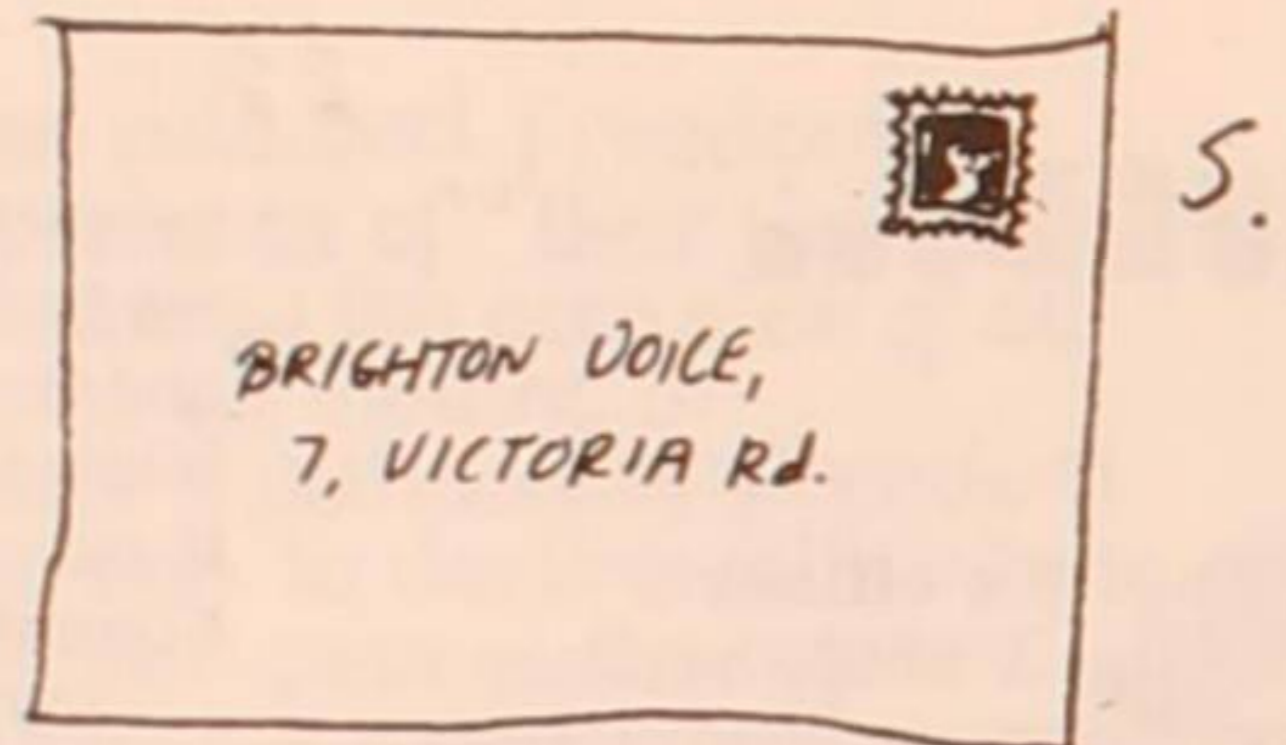
It seems that instead of encouraging real democratic control the local Labour Party stands for a version of politics which extends merely to our putting a cross on a piece of paper every few years; our version of politics is different, as you can see from the series of statements which have appeared on page 2 throughout the life of the Voice. Your magical carrot of a Labour majority, trapped in legalism and secretive committees of Council procedure, doesn't therefore answer the need at all.

And since you suggest that we can't recognise Tory power, we must remind you of what we wrote over a year ago, in Issue 4, after the Labour Group had supported the nomination of Stanley Theobald as chief of the new Council: "Tory representatives of capital accumulation, deeply committed to inequalities, cannot ever represent the homeless or people without fair basic wages". We hoped then, as we hope now, that the Labour Group could represent them; but we thought then that the representatives of the working class had some bizarre notions of where their loyalties lay, and that thought persists as, for instance, we see Len Williams rallying round Marina sharks.

You write of tired old Tory myths, but we see very little in your letter, or in the behaviour of many local Labour Councillors, or in the record of the Labour government, to take us beyond Labour's own myths on to the streets of Whitehawk. We remain anxiously demanding a Labour Party which is both truly democratic and profoundly committed to real socialist policies. We remain anxiously hoping that the organisation of the working class will democratically select people who are not time-servers. And we are unwilling to accept myths and alibis even from our friends.

This letter raises a very large issue about which more needs to be said. The Voice hopes to provide a fuller answer by using one of the Autumn issues for a study of the local Labour Party and Trade Union scene. Contributions welcomed.

And more...



In the last issue of the Voice we printed a letter from Mr. Tom Forester pointing out that the many letters of a Mr. J.D. Potter to the Argus applauding the Marina were not those of a disinterested party, since he was instrumental in arranging the sale of a paddle-steamer to the Marina Company. After a deluge of fascinating letters from Mr. Potter we are now wholly convinced that whilst the facts are true, they are not quite as sinister as was implied. We still feel Mr. Potter is badly misguided in his enthusiasm for the present expensive flat building that is proposed for the Marina, but on the topic of the paddle-steamer we bow to his enthusiasm. He has kindly agreed to condense his several thousand words of correspondence into the following letter:

Dear Voice,  
Mr. Tom Forester's letter doesn't seem particularly concerned with essential aspects of the Marina controversy, but rather to suggest that I have some pecuniary interest in having urged one of the Marina chiefs to buy for Brighton the penultimate English paddle-steamer still sailing. When and if Mr. Forester sees me swabbing the decks of P.S. Brighton, or in a chef's hat in the galley, he will have hit the bulls-eye.

Until then he will not know, and neither will I, whether these great material benefits will shower upon my head from a £1 million Company overwhelmed with gratitude that a local paddle-steamer enthusiast should have contributed towards giving this nautical venture some possibly favourable publicity.

If and when I get my golden handshake, I will not only tell Mr. Forester - I will also donate it to Brighton Voice, provided adequate space is given to explain the case in favour of the Marina!

John D. Potter.



As a nursing auxiliary I am more than pleased to find that nurses are trying to ban private patients. Why should people who have money receive priority medical attention or get a bed in hospital for this reason? What have we now, a Means test for medical attention as well as for supplementary benefit? Class distinction is bad enough but when it puts people's lives in danger then I cry out SHAME!

What kind of doctors or health service have we got? I say let those people who think they have a right to receive medical attention because they have money take their place like the poorer person has to in the queue and wait their turn. So doctors, stop thinking of your pockets and think more of the patient. How disgustingly true the article I read in a Sunday paper called "Waiting to die" and may I add a piece onto this "Waiting to die, BECAUSE WE ARE POOR."

Freda Ayres  
1, Mount Pleasant.

### Troops Out Now!

Since 1945 the British Army has taken part in 35 'little wars'. Usually the media call such troops 'peace-keeping forces', but the casualty figures make nonsense of the conception.

During the Kenyan 'Emergency' for example, white deaths were 100 whilst the British security forces killed over 11,500 African 'terrorists'.

We say that the actions of the British Army are carried out in the name of the British people. Hence it is time we took a stand against their presence in Ireland.

The Troops Out Movement is an organisation of workers, students and ex-soldiers. T.O.M. is determined to secure the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

Brighton T.O.M. need help to raise the Irish question in all walks of life in the town, to participate in anti-recruitment drives in schools, to create displays and exhibitions and in the 'blacking' of Army supplies etc.

Contact Brighton 684256 for details.

### 'A history of Brighton Trades Council and Labour Movement'

We have received another review of the Trades Council pamphlet from a person who knows the Council and its attitudes intimately.

Whilst this booklet contains much useful information that deserves wider recognition it is seriously marred by slovenly presentation and over 124 errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling. This goes far to undoing 84 years of a tradition by the Trades Council of producing literature of a high standard. It makes the Trades Council appear like a bunch of illiterates

Few people have any real knowledge of the very rich tradition of struggle in the area, and in a booklet of this length a great deal of selection is necessary. But it is here that there are the most serious shortcomings. The principles of Trades Council action are misinterpreted and important facts are ignored.

The Trades Council has always sought to destroy the myth, sedulously fostered by the Tories, that the local economy is tourist-based. If one accepts this, then the interests of the hoteliers and visitors are regarded as paramount and the local workers are seen as less 'enlightened' and militant than elsewhere. And this acceptance then acts to create a self-induced paralysis amongst them, encouraging the right-wing and opportunist trade union leaders who disfigure the local labour scene. In fact only 10% of local workers are in the hotel industry, whilst 50% are in manufacturing and transport.

This basic premise of Trades Council thinking is not only ignored, it is actually denied in the opening paragraph of the booklet. And significant facts are omitted, facts such as the formation of a Co-op 16 years before that of Rochdale, the impact of the Railway Works, the background to the founding of the Labour Club in 1916 and the Communist Party in 1920, the Vigilante movements of 1919 and 1946 and the great anti-fascist battles of the '30s. More recently, it is amazing that the bitter CBR strike in 1967 is barely mentioned. This list of omissions is almost endless. It didn't even mention Peter Kropotkin's involvement in the Trades Council!

Despite these mistakes and omissions this booklet fulfils a long-felt need and will go some way toward meeting it. It still contains much that is useful and will form a good starting point for the full history of the Brighton Labour movement that we must hope will one day be written.

## info...

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

## advice

CANCER PREVENTION : Morley St. (29801)

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.

BRITISH HUSBANDS' COUNCIL : Provides skilled help and advice. 40 Grand Parade 684245.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE at 73 Grand Parade.

RENT TRIBUNAL : Anston House, 137 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.

BRIGHTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE CENTRE : INCLUDES FAMILY CASEWORK DEPT. and.... CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU : 17 Ditchling Rise (61664); free, helpful advice. Phone-in or make a personal appointment.

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

## e.t.c.

Brighton Council Offices on Information Office for Brighton in Hartington Road.

## Inter-City Electric

Table with train routes and times between Brighton and Victoria.

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 1 1/2 hours and trains stop at East Croydon, Gatwick and Haysards Heath.

SUPPORT British Rail's new experiment

OPEN cafe is OPEN Mon-Thur. 12-8 PM. FRI. & SAT. 12-11 PM.

DISABLED GRADUATE : seeks someone to relieve his helper for weekends from now to end Sept. Contact : John Williams, Lancaster Ho' University of Sussex (66474) (or 67247).

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

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

## papers

A NEW LOCAL TEACHERS' MAGAZINE : for all teachers etc...on current local educational issues. First issue out at end of August at 15p. Phone 680258 or write: 42 Egremont Place, Brighton.

QUEENSPARK: Street newspaper Queen's Park area; originally the paper of the SPA CAMPAIGN now into some wider issues: 14 Toronto Terr., 62 Bentham Road (682380)

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

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

BRIGHT TIMES - First issue Sept. with literary features, artwork, articles on Liberation, music, environment etc. by amateurs and professionals in Brighton. All contributions and help in producing the mag welcome. Contact John Noyce, 67 Vere Rd



Produced by Primary School-kids. Get it at 117, Hartington Rd. 5p.

WHITE-HAWK-EYE - paper put together by kids at Whitehawk Secondary School. 5p from 42 Egremont Place.

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

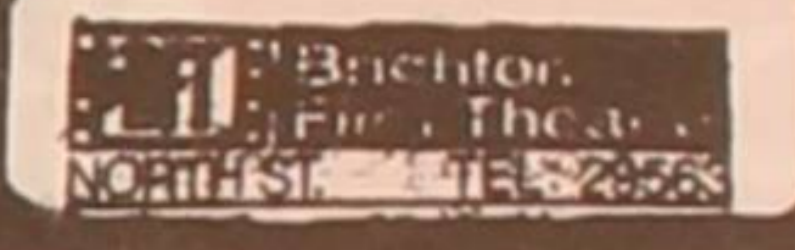
THE ORGANISER : through the TRADES COUNCIL, 65 Stamford Rd.

'DISCUSSION' - digest of world news and views, edited by Ernie Trory, 57 Tivoli Cres.

"HOW TO FIGHT FOR BETTER HOUSING CONDITIONS" 9p. from Community Action, 7a Frederick Mews, Kinveston St., London SW1

BRIGHTON HOSTEL: 105 Islingwood Rd. 63ives out meals Sun. and Wed. 7-9 p.m. Tea, coast and stew at other times as possible. Needs clothes, food and help for fundraising.

MOULSCOMB ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND: 10 a.m. - 8.30 p.m. Offers of help to Dave Smith 686834.



The full programme up to 14th. August is as follows: 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

Thur. 1st.-Thur. 8th. Aug.: "Dougal and the Blue Cat" U (afternoons only at 2.30pm.)

Thur. 1st. - Wed. 7th. Aug.: "The Go-Between" - directed by Joseph Losey. With Julie Christie, Alan Bates, Dominic Guard. British. 1970. AA (6pm. and at 1.15pm.)

Late show Sat. 3rd. Aug.: "Billy Liar" A (unconfirmed)

Thur. 8th. August : "The Life of Mozart" U (at 2.5,8pm)

Fri. 9th. and Sat. 10th. Aug: "Finian's Rainbow" U (2.5,8pm)

Late show Sat. 10th. Aug.: "Johnny Cash, The Man, The World, His Music" U (unconf.)

Sun. 11th. and Mon. 12th. Aug: "Woodstock"...not just a film's concert, but a lively and sympathetic exploration of America's dropped-out sub-culture. Directed by Mike Wadleigh. With Richie Havens, The Who, Jimi Hendrix. USA. 1970. X. (at 3pm. and 7pm.)

Tues. 13th. and Wed. 14th. : "Carmen Jones" USA. 1954. A

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

Close your eyes and you're almost there