

info...

groups/gatherings

shops

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

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

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

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

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

BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP: 37 Gloucester Rd. (68404) C.P.B.M.-L. - open only on Sat. 9.30-6pm.

THE GARDEN: 22 Trafalgar St - Veget. cafe open Mon-Thur. 10-8pm; Fri,Sat 10am-11pm.

THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blat-chington Rd., Hove(779933). Veget. lunches Mon-Sat 10-3pm. OAP & students' 3course lunch 25p. Also take-away.

FURNISHED TENANTS ASSOC. meets Tu.8pm.at OPEN (not Aug.)-Contact Russ Moseley (683348)

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

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

HOUSING ACTION GROUP: meets Tu.8pm. at OPEN, or phone: 24708 or 29376.

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

BRIGHTON MARINA:TEACHINGKIT - teachers/researchers are preparing an Education Kit as a local case-study for use in schools. Contact: Brighton Voice Box 2, OPEN, 7 Victoria Road, Brighton.

MARINA ACTION CAMPAIGN: Coordinated research and action against latest plans of the Marina Company. Have you signed the protest form yet? Help the Campaign prepare for the Public Enquiry in October. Contact: Tessa Williams, Rear-Ground-Floor Flat, 6 Arundel Terr. (687792)

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

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

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

FREE ROOM FOR COMMUNITY USE - for meetings, useable day or evening (+ typewriter photocopier etc. useable in the daytime); and community info. Contact: Chris Miller, Social Services Dept., 15 Princes St. (29801 ext. 674, or write to him).

BANK HOLIDAY PROJECT: Provides advice, shelter and a friendly atmosphere for people in B'ton for Bank Holiday weekends. Help is needed to run the sleep-ins, and an advice/left luggage/free food thing at Union Hall, Air St. (by Clock Tower)...also to man the advice caravan on the beach. Contact: Arthur Bartram (684616), or Marc (591647)

BRIGHTON & HOVE WOMEN'S LIB: Jen de Winter, 154 Harbour Way, Shoreham (87-61680)

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

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

UPPER NORTH ST RESIDENTS: Against piecemeal traffic plans in the area: Robert Gregory, 97 Upp. N'th St (26749)

B'TON,HOVE & DIST. PENSIONERS & TRADE UNION ACTION ASSOC.: John Strickland, 144 Hangleton Valley Dr.,Hove(412265)

EAST B'TON RESIDENTS' ASSOC. - Recently split from their Action Comm. Concerned with the kind of redevelopment that should be carried out in Whitehawk...G. Andrews, 8 Twineham Road (687715)

WHITEHAWK ACTION COMMITTEE: Now an independent group for Whitehawk residents: Brian Mitchell, (687792)

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION: group planning to open shop in Brighton. Contact: 'Intermediate', 38 Rugby Rd., B'ton.

TRADES COUNCIL: Keith Orange 22 Whippingham Road.

CENTRE FOR INVESTIGATION OF PROPERTY SPECULATION(691712)

PRE-SCHOOL HANDICAPPED KIDS & MUMS: join opportunity Group Tu. 1.30-3.30pm. Mrs. S. McCormick,44 Inwood Cres. (509431)

BRIGHTON MARINA WATCH COMM. Oscar Thompsett, 20 Ridge-side Ave., Patcham (502103)

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

LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN: Group meets Thur.8pm. to explore political, personal and social aspects of sexual love between women.(Ring: 68363 and ask for NICKY.

FREE VET: P.D.S.A. - 16, Oxford St (by Open Market) (63606). Donations welcomed.

SHELTER: Jenny Backwell (594623)

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN - against botched-up plan to create 600+ pupils in 1 school for infants. Contact: Joe Taylor (67496).

BRIGHTON ENVIRONMENTAL COMM. -Mel. Mellish, 54 Queens Pk Rd

politics

ANDREW BOWDEN: TORY 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); Pavilion: 90 Sedgewick Rd.(557944).

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

BRIGHTON PAVILION & KEMP T'N LAB. PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: Meets Tu.8pm.179 Lewes Rd. Contact John Balance,54 Cole-man Street. (23996)

COMMUNIST PARTY: Secretary: Marjorie Chaplin,33 Edburton Avenue, Brighton.

INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP: 20 Milnthorpe Road, Hove

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

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

RANK & FILE: I.S. based group of teachers within the N.U.T. (735925)

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT -contact Keith (684256).

Public discussion on **PLANNING** Every Sunday on Fishmarket Hard, and on The Level.

ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP: Adrian King,60b Trafalgar Rd., Portslade.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN MARXIST LENINIST - discussion groups 1st.Friday each month at 8pm. 684404 for details.

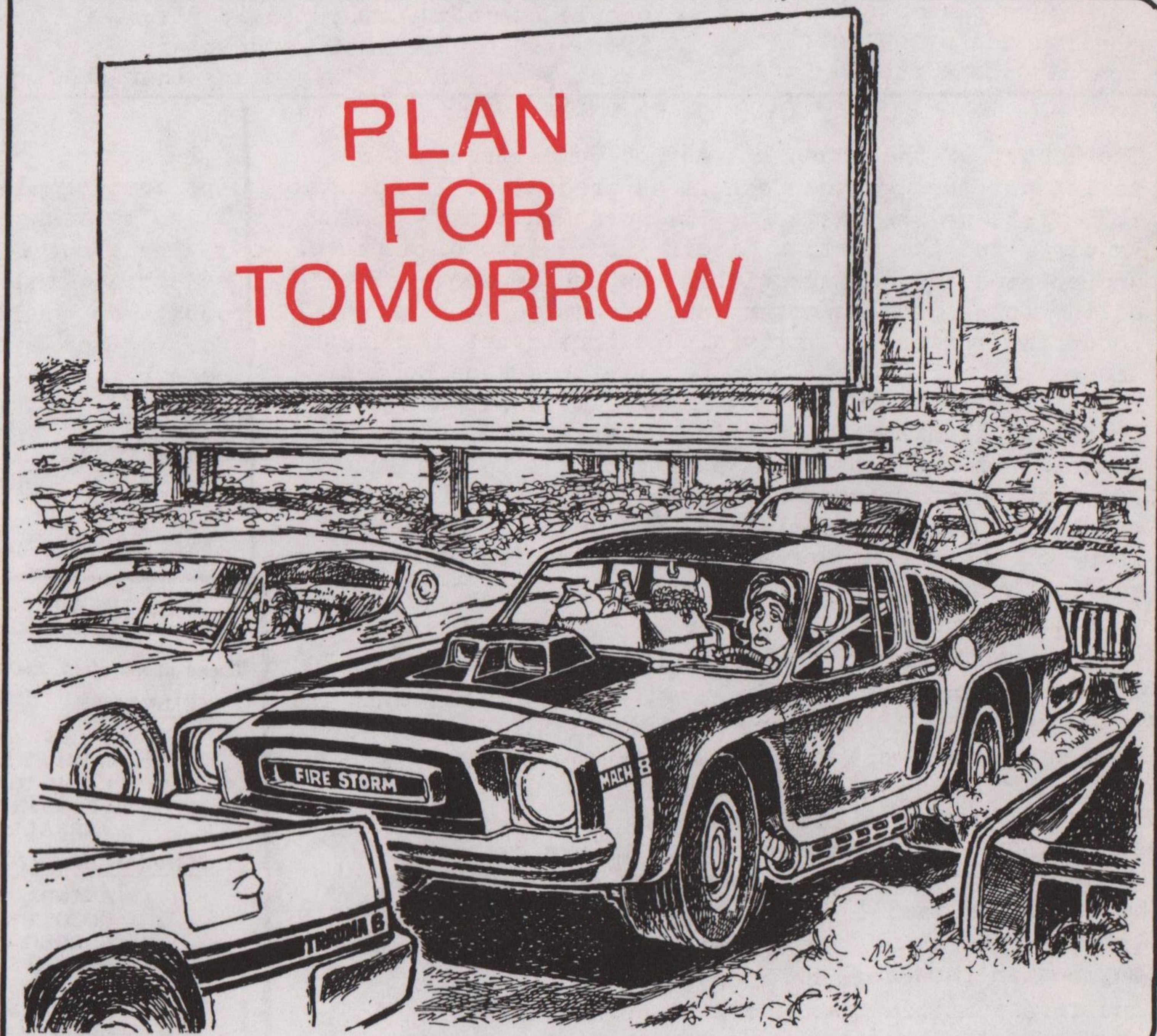
BRIGHTON VOICE

No 17

Community Paper

5p

**SPECIAL
THREE
PAGES
ON
PLANNING
POWER**



OTHER FEATURES

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cheap food at 7 Victoria Rd. BRIGHTON

EDITORIAL

The diverse topics covered in this issue of the Voice have one thing in common. They all show the increasing remoteness of officialdom, which is growing especially now that so many of the decisions that affect our lives are taken in Lewes,.

In the realm of Structure Planning this remoteness is especially disturbing. The recently published Brighton Urban Structure plan has been shelved and a new poorly consulted one rushed through.

STOP PRESS * STOP PRESS * STOP PRESS

The Report of the Council's Ad Hoc Committee on the Marina got through the Council as predicted. It accepts 1450 flats as the basis for its position at the coming Enquiry. But the meeting itself turned into high farce. Unpredicted squabbles within the Labour Group switched the focus from important and unanswered questions about the Marina onto trivial and irrelevant disputes amongst Labour Councillors. Dennis-the-Menace Hobden thought that the debate was not really about the most important planning application ever to come before the Council but about the credibility of the Labour Group. After his performance (which included a brief mention of his spiritualist activities and yet another catalogue of the virtues of Lewis Cohen) we regret he's right. There was no probing opposition comment on who will pay or who will profit or on the social consequences. Len Williams obviously thought these topics unimportant because, in his view, with 1450 flats in the Marina there would be spare land available in Roedean Crescent for Council Houses! And anyway the Marina Company was owned by Trade Union funds! The Tories really didn't have much to say after this performance. But Baker and Lee waxed lyrical about the Marina being 'a dream' of 'sons and daughters of Brighton that crop the land'! Councillor Blackman told the meeting that the rewards of the Marina are 'staggering to the imagination'(how does he know).

Thus in a suitable atmosphere of hokum the Marina Company got its due - the tame support of Brighton Council.

Public participation is still alive in Brighton. Recently the local Planning Department has been polling residents in the Queens Park area for their reactions to the idea of getting 'Article 4' powers to stop the savaging of charming and coherent Victorian houses, turning them into nec-Georgian monstrosities. First results indicate a favourable reaction. This is a good illustration of the difference between Planning Departments which believe in public participation and those that just go through the motions (see pages 8-10).

The Brighton Police have been at it again. Recently they 'invited' a girl to the Police Station (by bundling her into a car and taking her there) to answer questions about money missing from an electricity meter. Once in John St. she was refused any telephone calls, stripped and searched and told she would be kept incommunicado 'for as long as it took her to confess'. The cops claimed they had one guy there for four days. Needless to say she made a statement. It cannot be emphasised too much that one should never make statements under such conditions, and the Police cannot keep you incommunicado for more than 24 hours, or 48 hours at a weekend.

A post-script to the County Planning saga (see inside). It appears that Thorburn's office (County Planning) was expected to have much more work than it actually has, so a lot of staff are sitting around twiddling their thumbs. It is understood that several are already leaving - and not solely because of lack of work.

We billed this issue as one mainly on the N.H.S. however due to the urgency of the planning question we have had to hold over a large part of this material for a future issue.

WHO WE ARE

Brighton Voice is produced monthly by a collective of people living and working in Brighton. We all do different jobs and have different viewpoints but are united in the common purpose of producing a newspaper in which ordinary people can put forward their views. Every month about 1500 copies are printed and sold. This means that about

4500 people actually read it. We don't make money, the price you pay barely covers the cost of printing and distribution. Not aiming to make money we are free from the demands of the advertisers who tie the hands of the Argus and Gazette.

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

Buy the Voice, sell the Voice, write and draw for the Voice, ITS YOUR PAPER. Come and join the collective which meets every Sunday at Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Rd. Brighton. See you there.

THE VOICE NEEDS £50 FAST!!

The cost of paper and materials is constantly rising. In spite of having a very reasonable printer we are losing about £10. on each issue, a loss which cannot be carried indefinitely. The printer needs to be paid soon. We need £ 50 now to put the paper on a sound footing and enable us to expand our services and reinsert.

How you can help :- Take out a years sub (£1) and/or send a donation NOW to Brighton Voice, 7 Victoria Road, Brighton. Please make cheques/po's payable to 'Brighton Voice (Pendarm Ltd)'. Please send all you can afford and DO IT NOW.

WHERE YOU CAN BUY THE VOICE.

These shops stock the Voice. Support your friendly newsagent.

KEMP TOWN.

- BOOKS: 80b St James's Street.
- LUMLEY'S: 146 Edward Street.
- KEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91 St George's Road
- ST. JAMES'S NEWSAGENTS: 91 St James's Street.
- VERRALL'S: 105 Edward Street.

CENTRAL BRIGHTON.

- ANANDA: 111 Gloucester Road.
- ECCOTT'S: 52 Surrey Street.
- GARDEN CAFE: 22 Trafalgar Street.
- GARUDA'S: 17 Kensington Gardens.
- INFINITY FOODS: 25 North Road.
- MARNER'S: Churchill Square, beside the lifts.
- OPEN CAFE: 7 Victoria Road.
- ROBINSON'S BOOKSHOP: 50 Meeting House Lane.
- SCHOFIELD'S: 44 Lewes Road.
- SYMPOSIUM BOOKS: 12 Market Street.
- TOBIAS'S STORES: 167 Elm Grove.
- WILSON'S: 17 Prince Albert Street.
- WOOD'S: 29 Trafalgar Street.

WEST BRIGHTON AND HOVE.

- CORDELL'S: 99 Western Road, Hove.
- JAMES'S: 17 George Street, Hove.
- MARNER'S: 62 Preston Street.
- PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21 Little Preston Street.
- UNCLE SAM'S HAMBURGER EXPRESS: 4a Montpelier Road.
- THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Road, Hove.
- TOWNS OF HOVE: 99 Church Road, Hove.

The Voice is also being sold on the streets now. You should find a seller - who will sell you a copy and listen to your comments - at or near the following points, moving clockwise round the town centre, on

SATURDAYS BETWEEN 11 A.M. AND 3 P.M.

(and possibly on Fridays too between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.)

- PUBLIC LIBRARY ENTRANCE.
- SEEBOARD OFFICES AT CASTLE SQUARE.
- BRIGHTON SQUARE.
- NEW ROAD AND NORTH STREET CORNER.
- WEST STREET AND DUKE STREET CORNER.
- CHURCHILL SQUARE BY W.H.SMITH'S.
- WESTERN ROAD AT REGENT HILL CORNER.
- UPPER GARDNER STREET.
- BOND STREET AND NORTH ROAD CORNER.
- SYDNEY STREET AND GLOUCESTER ROAD CORNER.
- OPEN MARKET AT LONDON ROAD END (Fridays only).

Our distribution system is expanding all the time but.....if you have problems getting the Voice -

- ask your local newsagent to stock it (and preferably tell us that you have done so too).
- or take out a year's subscription (12 issues) for £1, delivered to your door.

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



FOOD CO-OP

Since the collapse of the first Food Co-Op 18 months ago in a mess of unpaid debts, no premises and rotting vegetables, people have been pondering on the idea of starting it up again and avoiding the previous mistakes of casualness, credit and non-organisation, and now people and ideas have come together to resurrect it.

This time the idea is that it should be run in conjunction with a recycling centre. The idea of combining the recycling centre with the food co-op is that the rent of the garage (£5 per month) will be paid out of recycled paper sales (hopefully at least a ton per month worth £12), the surplus money being used to finance other activities (like a community workshop/craft centre). On paper the scheme looks fine, only it needs a hard core of dedicated people, willing to give a few hours a week to see the food co-op runs well. So.....

Come to a meeting at 'Open', 7 Victoria Road, Brighton, on Thursday September 19th at 8 pm. Please come we want to get it off the ground.

Claimants Union NEWS

There are new supplementary benefits rates from last month. The most important figures are :-

- For a married couple £13.65 } plus
- For a single person } rent
- £ 8.40 }
- For people not paying rent and aged 18 or over £6.70
- " 16 - 17 - £5.15
- For dependent children
- aged 13 - 15 - £4.35
- " 11 - 12 - £3.55
- " 5 - 10 - £2.90
- " under 5 yrs £2.40

SQUATTING WORKS!

THE HOUSES IN TERMINUS ROAD ARE NOW BEING DONE UP BY THE COUNCIL.

THIS IS A VICTORY.

IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKLEY THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN TOUCHED IF THEY HAD NOT FIRST BEEN SQUATTED.

AND FOR THE SQUATTERS?.....

Well, squatting does pay, despite all the protests and threats from Housing Manager May and the Council. The Flynns, who squatted in Buller Road and Terminus Road two months ago, have been given a house in Gloucester Road as Part III accommodation. Instead of having to wait 2 years in bed and breakfast, as they were told, they only waited a month.

It is important to realize that they are entitled to this accommodation - as is everyone. They have not jumped any queue - as the Council sedulously tried to imply. Every Council is charged with the task of providing such housing, which is everyone's right under the law. Bed and breakfast does not qualify as such.

There are 3,000 empty houses in Brighton - twice the housing waiting list. It is only the dilatoriness and unwillingness of May and the Housing Committee to

pursue a vigorous policy in this matter that prevents its solution in this town. It is their ineffectualness that forces people to squat to obtain a simple right. And, after a lot of hassle, squatting works.



Plus, if you've been claiming for more than two years, long term additions, and higher rates for people over 80. If you're in board and lodging, then if the SS think the rates are reasonable, they'll pay these rates plus £2.70 for personal expenses. In addition, if you need money for exceptional expenses like heating, special

diet, domestic help, you can apply for these, and occasional needs like decorating, furniture and clothes can be claimed for by an exceptional needs payment. And don't forget that everybody on SS is entitled to free prescriptions, dental and optical treatment.

Claimants' Union meets every Monday at 8 pm at Open*. It's open to all claimants and ex-claimants, and we'd really be glad if claimants would use it as a real union. Don't wait till you have problems to come along other people have problems right now and could use your help and company and you might just learn something to your advantage.

The S.S. can stay on top by keeping claimants apart. If we back each other up, and fight our common problems together, then we can do things to improve our situation. If you've ever taken someone else into the offices with you, and seen how much more helpful and polite the officials can be, then you'll know what this is about! Just try talking to the next person when you're in the S.S. office....see if you can get together....know your rights....tell other people....and join the Claimants Union.

*See Info page.





“My own education, by happy chance, positively encouraged (albeit childish) eccentricities; applied discipline was unknown, and a civilised atmosphere prevailed.

Therefore I regarded primary education for my two children with considerable alarm; I found it totally restrictive and inhibiting and entirely non-productive socially. The most unpleasant aspect was the strictly female hierarchy on the school staff, and its unrelenting enforcement of narrow principles of learning and behaviour, on every individual child - I stress individual.

My daughter adapted, I cannot claim happily, and as yet I cannot estimate at what personal sacrifice of her true potential, but she is gregarious and responds to routine.

My son, now seven, started school looking forward with enthusiasm to new

Following N.U.T.MAN's condemnation of our stifling education programme a local mother sends us this account of her decision to take her son out of school altogether and teach him herself - fantastic guts Mrs Cloran.

N.U.T.MAN.

experience and learning, but was disappointed in a few weeks; the rejection was mutual. He became 'difficult' and 'naughty'.



We removed him from school after one year, and he has learned at home during this time. At home, removed from stress, he has developed rapidly socially and academically, he has learned to know himself and is coming to terms with himself.

We now know 'officially' that he has an I.Q. of 140 plus, a reading age of 10.7, and is an emotionally secure well-balanced child who 'relates' well.

→ COMMENT ON I.Q. TESTS PAGE 6 ←

While it is obviously gratifying to feel that we took the right decision, above all we hope that this will encourage any and all parents to look well, think deeply about school, and question, question, question it.”

BETT CLORAN

The Language School

Recently references to the Language School racket have cropped up on Southern TV in the New Statesman, and reports of demands for a probe have appeared in the Argus. This attention is unusual. The press will report sensationalist events in language schools but neither local nor national papers are interested in exposing the kind of racket one would imagine they would jump on.

In fact the British press cares less about foreign students and the people who teach them here being ripped off by these organisations than it does about the damage to the tourist trade and the British capitalists who benefit from it, which 'insight' treatment might incur.

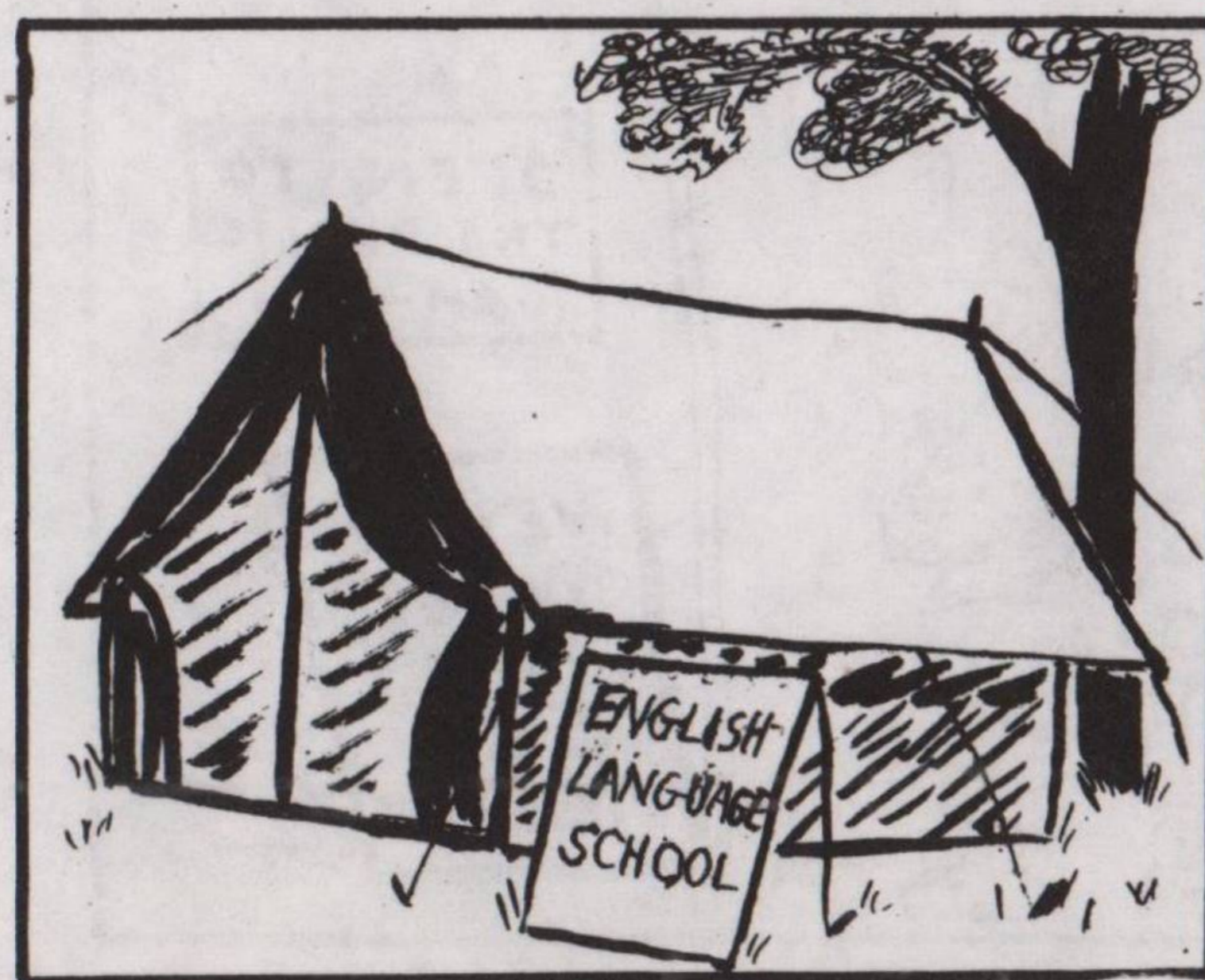
Temporary English language schools can charge what they like with no guarantees. Many are based abroad putting them out of reach of normal controls. Foreign students are lucky if their own press takes up the matter - as Norwegian and Swedish dailies have been doing since the appearance of the article about Brighton language schools in the New Statesman.

Following on from this article, Ian McGill, local Labour Councillor, has been pressing for a national inquiry into private language schools. What are the chances of an Inquiry? ARELS, Association of Recognised English Language Schools (meaning the full-time ones recognised by the DES) has been demanding one for years into the

activities of its competitors, the temporary schools. With the former Labour candidate for Brighton Pavilion, Francis Tonks, a director of a temporary language school, is it likely that the Labour Party will throw its weight behind such an Inquiry?

Where do the teachers stand? They are in the temporary schools because English teaching is a congenial part-time job which provides necessary extra income for defraying rent during the summer, and paying for holidays. But how many horror stories about their experiences have you heard? When I taught last year, I arrived at the 'school' - in the upstairs of a pub - to find a class three times the size I had expected with a range of ages and abilities crushed into a cloakroom, without any text books. I had to keep them happy somehow, let alone teach them, for three hours. And I have heard worse.

If teachers have a conscience, and some do take it upon themselves to work out a programme and duplicate material in their



spare time, it is often quickly squashed. Organisers feel no compunction about moving teachers from class to class without warning, insisting that they take unpaid part in excursions and evening entertainments, and requiring them to travel unimpaired between schools. How can anyone maintain a sense of commitment in the face of this sort of treatment?

Taking a stand against the managers of a school usually leads to the sack, in a structure fostering individualism. Wage rates can vary so much in any particular school that concerted action among teachers is virtually impossible. A 'lecturer' getting £2. for an hour's lecture which may take only half an hour to prepare, is unlikely to feel a common interest with a 'driller' slogging through four hours of dictations and grammar exercises at 75p an hour. Individual approaches to the press or TV produce nothing more concrete than a few moments of vindictive pleasure, given the attitude of the press.

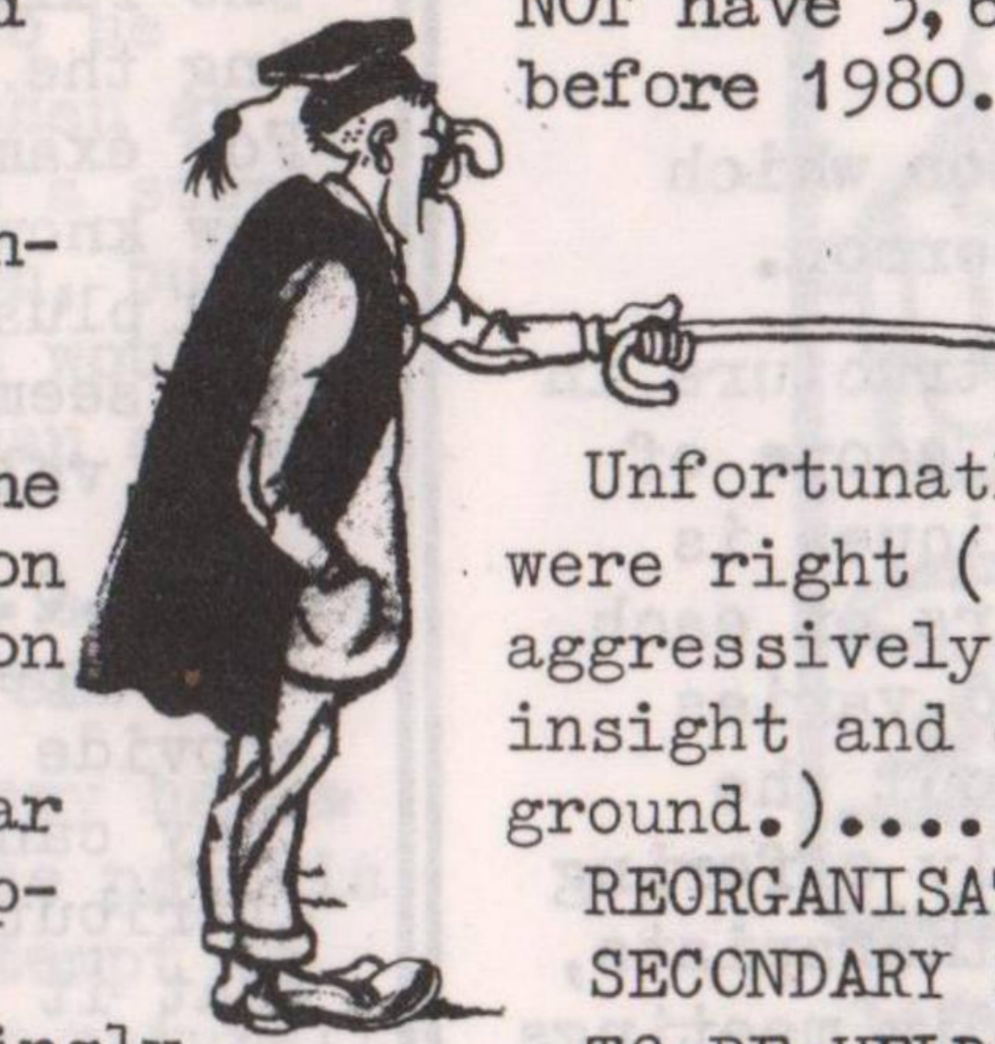
But over the last year teachers have started to get together in particular schools, to demand fundamental facilities like blackboards and textbooks, and better teaching conditions - smaller classes, the right to refuse to be pushed around, better pay.

In this context a union has been formed. Starting in permanent language schools and gradually moving out into the temporary ones where the real swindles occur, MATSA, Managerial

→ P5

GOING COMPREHENSIVE..WHEN.?

We hate to say, "we told you so" but over a year ago (June '73) the VOICE dared to suggest that although Brighton Council had submitted plans to the Government for Comprehensive Schools in the town, just maybe 1974 would NOT be the last year in which Brighton kids had to sit a selection test AND that perhaps Secondary Modern v. Grammar Schooling would not disappear in Sept. '75. We also suggested that the appallingly inadequate Secondary Tech., Queen's Park and Whitehawk Secondary Modern (modern?) Schools would not be phased out with the building of the new Stanley Deason High School in Wilson Avenue...because we could believe in the Stanley



Deason School only when we saw it. And maybe, Brighton will NOT have 3, 6th Form Colleges before 1980.

Unfortunately it looks as if we were right (we may be cynical, and aggressively vitriolic, but we have insight and our ear is always to the ground.)....

REORGANISATION OF BRIGHTON'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS IS LIKELY TO BE HELD UP.

The new East Sussex C.C. which now controls Brighton's education CLAIMS it doesn't have the money to carry through Brighton's scheme. It blames Government cuts in education -al spending. We wonder just how much the anti-comprehensive lobby from Brighton which is powerful on the East Sussex C.C. and which only grudgingly accepted reorganisation for Brighton, is using the money issue as an excuse for keeping selective schooling.

Under Government cuts, the only new building allowed is replacement of schools classified as overcrowded...there are plenty of them in Brighton but OFFICIALLY there is only one: the Secondary Tech.



Anyone teaching in an English language school can join MATSA. Contact ILTB, MATSA, 154 Brent Street, London, NW4 2DP for a newsletter and details about joining, or phone Brighton 692250 for more information.

ACCOMMODATION

Not only in the classrooms do many foreign students get a raw deal. Some particularly rapacious schools (ARELS members not excluded) in their desire to squeeze every last foreigner into Brighton and Hove, and hence every last Mark, Franc, Krone, etc. into their already bulging pockets, pay little attention to the quality of accommodation provided. Students, who had been led to believe that they would be living with a family, often find themselves in a room and board situation with several others, having little opportunity to practice their English. (If any foreign students have experiences, good or bad, to relate, the Voice would be interested to hear from them).

Parents may also be concerned that Brighton was also to have had 3 6th Form Colleges but now the C.C. is saying that until Hove produces a reorganisation plan in order to save and share cost and space, Brighton can neither afford nor fill 3 Colleges. If one College is to be cut out of the plan, will this be the new building on the Falmer High Campus? If so, we may observe that West Brighton would still have its Grammar Schools. No prizes for guessing which half of town the most vociferous anti-Comprehensive Conservative opponents live in.

For teachers, parents and pupils there is real cause for concern about this uncertainty. It is disgusting that the C.C. and its officials have been so devious about this.

Headmasters of Brighton Secondary Schools were told by early June that the scheme might be in danger but were told to say nothing yet to their staff, parents or pupils. As late as July 15th. (the last week of the school year) Antcliff, Burton & Co. Were firm in denying rumours in the 'Argus' that the plan was in trouble.

It really looks as though the Authorities were hoping the news would not break until the school holidays had started when it would be difficult for teachers and parents teachers and parents organisations to mount an effective campaign against the hold up.

Luckily, the Headmasters of Longhill, Dorothy Stringer and Whitehawk Secondary decided 2 weeks before the end of term that this news had to be passed on to their staffs. In those Schools, Staff Associations and Unions began the protest to the C.C., and urged Prentice to give immediate Government approval to the Scheme.

The local N.U.T. was alerted and as a result of their prompt action other schools have now joined in the protest. The mood of teachers is such that we may see the start of a real fight in the schools if teachers are going to be messed around in this way yet again. The N.U.T. has been meeting to discuss its policy and there is talk of the Union instructing its members in Middle Schools (where the N.U.T. is very strong) to play no part in any kind of selection procedure next year if reorganisation is held up. Since the N.U.T. is the largest union of teachers, this form of direct action could be extremely effective.

The Authorities' cover-up plan has failed this time. It will need all-out pressure from teachers.. together with parents too (and pupils) to make sure comprehensive education STARTS in Brighton by September 1975.

PEOPLE NOT PSYCHIATRY

One of the most controversial parts of our health system is, without doubt, psychiatric care. This is partly due to the fear surrounding mental illness and, at least in popular belief, low chance of recovery from it, partly to somewhat frightful techniques used by psychiatrists. The vast majority of mental patients already disturbed, frightened and incapable of coping (these, after all, are the symptoms of 'mental illness') are bundled into wards, given the minimum of personal space and subjected to commands and orders of psychiatrists and/or nurses. Due to lack of money, space and trained psychoanalysts, the majority of treatments consist of sedative drugs and electric shocks. Although these techniques can, and often do, bring relief from the immediate symptoms of the illness, they do nothing to tackle the basic problems which have caused the breakdown. Used over a long period of time they often cause dependency not only on specific drugs, but even more typically on institutional care as such. There is a considerable lack of half-way houses in which people can get accustomed to living with society again.

"People not Psychiatrists" is a loose confederation of groups which mushroomed all around the country a few years ago. Within these groups people can talk about their problems, not with a superior authoritative figure represented by the power-wielding psychiatrist, but with other people with whom they can relate on an immediate human level. Often the knowledge that other people suffer from the same insecurities and inner struggles as oneself can diminish the terrible isolation and

feelings of alienation which plague a disturbed person.

There is no formal structure in these groups and the scope of activities and techniques is decided by the members of each individual group, and varies considerably throughout the country. Though rarely offering the help of trained therapists, these informal friendly meetings go a long way in trying to break the barriers surrounding people in mental illness and help them to recover the ability to relate to both themselves and to other people.



YOU ARE LUCKY MRS. PRINDLEBY, MOST SHOPLIFTERS AREN'T RICH ENOUGH TO BE KLEPTOMANIACS.

TENANT'S CORNER

Those of you who read last month's Voice will know that the new Rent Bill does little to improve the lot of the tenant - in fact some new unfurnished tenants will find themselves worse off as a result. The distinction between furnished and unfurnished tenancies still remains important, particularly for those furnished tenants whose landlord lives on the premises. (One London borough estimates that 80% of tenants in its area fall into this category).

If you are already a furnished tenant with your landlord living on the premises then you may still be able to obtain greater security than that offered by the new Rent Bill, since your tenancy may in fact be unfurnished. Basically, if the value of the landlord's furniture is less than 15 - 20% of the

I. Q. ??? (A comment on the N.U.T.MAN piece on page four.)

Betty Cloran's article raises important points about the state educational system. Unfortunately she falls into the trap of accepting the standards of that system. For example she says that, "We now know that he has an I.Q. of 140 plus (and) a reading age of 10.7" She seems to accept the I.Q. test as a valid measure of intelligence.

The I.Q. test is an instrument developed by psychologists to provide some standard against which they can measure other personality attributes. Most of them now admit that it cannot be used as an absolute measure of intelligence because the test performance varies according to cultural influences, previous experience and the test environment. We should remember that people (including some so-called scientists) use the I.Q. test to say that some groups of people are INFERIOR to others. This desire to label others as inferior or superior is one of the ideological cornerstones of capitalism. Betty Cloran seems to accept it.

CYPRUS IN BRIGHTON

At the little restaurants in West St. or Preston St, you might find it difficult to tell that anything has happened. But the chances are you are in a Greek Cypriot restaurant, and though Cyprus seems a long way away there have been local tragedies. A waiter has heard his village has been taken by the Turks, a manager that his home is destroyed. Though they admit to a sense of betrayal by Britain, they continue to feel at home in Brighton, happy to earn a living here and have a drink with the locals.

annual rent then the tenancy is not furnished. There are some exceptions of course. If "board" (i.e. provision of a meal) is part of your agreement then you cannot apply for re-classification as an unfurnished tenant. Similarly if certain services are provided, a practice known as "attendance", re-classification is impossible. If you think you would qualify for re-classification then get an estimate of the value of your furniture (excluding anything fixed (such as cupboards, baths, immersions, cookers, etc) but including electric fires, fridges, carpets etc. If the total is less than 20% of your yearly rent then you should apply for re-classification. For further details contact the Furnished Tenants' Association (see the back of the Voice). Remember - it's your fight.



On The BUSES



The bus service in Brighton is fast becoming a sour joke. The Argus and the Council have both sounded off about the state of affairs - but not half so bitterly as the poor passengers. A recent check on the 46 service (B.H.&D.) showed that instead of passing at 6 - 9 minute intervals, as the timetable indicates they should, the intervals actually were 17, 0, 20, 6, 12, 1, 16, 10, 6, 3 and 22 minutes. In a couple of hours four out of the 16 buses never showed up. And the service has been cut even further since. What is the reason?

Well, partly that bus crews are poorly paid for what is hard work and shift work. A straight driver gets about £30 a week net, a driver-conductor about £40 a week net, with all the shift allowances, urban bonuses and two overtime 'terms'. Thus in 96 hours it works out at a little over 50 p an hour. And he will likely get only 45 minutes rest in 8 hours of driving - which little is eaten into if he doesn't keep on time - and have a 5 a.m. start one morning out of two. At the moment many of them are working 16 hours on the trot, and the sickness rate is very high. So it is little wonder the Coleman Street depot of B.H.&D. Transport is 120 drivers short on a complement of 300.

Partly, also, it is a problem of other traffic. Buses get slowed down in the many snarl-ups - yet the time-tables haven't basically changed in 18 years. And the companies make much of the statistic that 1.1 m.p.h. as average speed is worth £240,000 per annum to them, far more than their losses until this year. Hence the pressure for bus lanes.

Partly, too, it is a product of Brighton's peculiar arrangements, with a Transport Agreement that gives the Corporation only 27% of the cash and routes, and requires seven years notice of termination. This means that most of the town's transport is in the hands of a company, B.H.&D.-Southdown, whose real concern is profit, not services, and this difference of purpose creates tensions between the companies. For instance, the Corporation is publicly committed to run all timetabled buses on their routes,

whereas it is painfully clear the B.H.&D. feel they have no such commitment. Again, the B.H.&D. are pressing hard for a fare-rise to levels which are dictated to them solely by their accountants, whereas the Corporation is struggling to provide a service which takes account of wider considerations - like people's needs. and these company tensions spill over to their employees. B.H.&D. are notorious for ineffective and petty management practices which create a bad atmosphere and which do not encourage their men to consider obligations to the



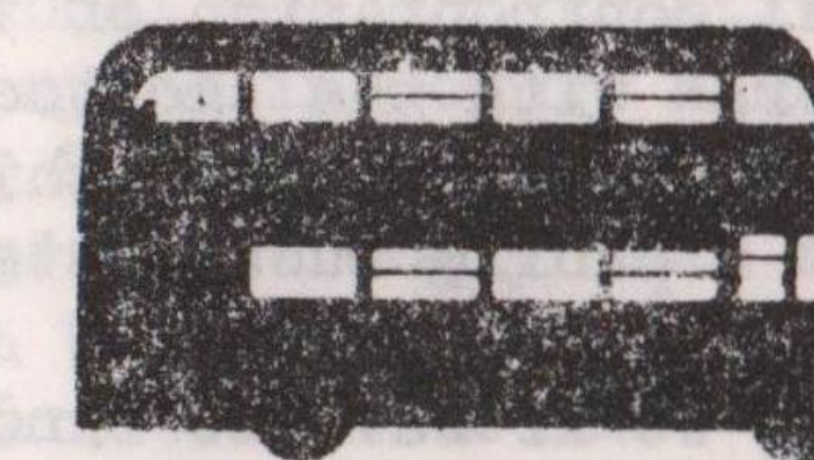
public very highly. In consequence they are often regarded by Corporation men as 'cowboys' who spend a lot of time 'clipping' timetables to create bus 'convoys' - to the further exasperation of passengers. A quick check substantiated this in that the services particularly subject to 'convoying' are B.H.&D. routes. These differences are reflected in the Unions too - the more militant T.G.W.U. at B.H.&D. against the 'moderate' G.M.W.U. in the Corporation.

But apart from low wages, crowded roads and a restrictive Agreement, a further reason that isn't much talked of is that it is in the company's short-term interests to keep fewer buses running. Why? Because the drop-off of passengers is slower than the drop-off of services, and they are now down

to the hard-core of people who have no option but to bus. Less than half of the families in Brighton have access to a car.

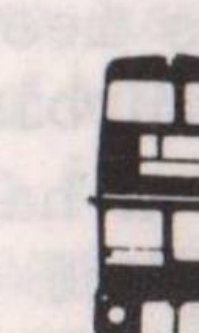
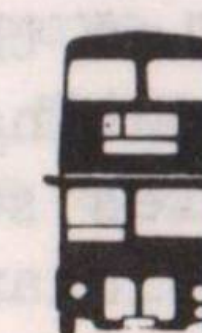
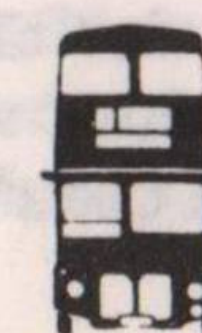
With a ready-made excuse ('the employment situation') to avoid any mud being slung at them, the company can happily keep half their buses off the road, thus halving wages bills and fuel bills - and more than halving their present losses (which are largely book-keeping losses anyway). No wonder they are not particularly vigorous in advertising for bus-men, nor do they make a serious effort to improve the non-monetary conditions of employment to attract men. A crazy way to run a bus-service? Of course. The company knows, and everyone knows, that it cannot go on for long, but our bus managements don't choose to think ahead that far. For the present moment, they are alright, Jack.

The only long-term solution - and the only hope of a rational public transport system - is for the whole lot to be taken over by the Council and the buses run to the needs of the townspeople and not for the profitability of the company. Right now, these two objectives are wide apart, and rapidly diverging. The Council will take a lot of the internal 'aggro' out of the situation by treating the men better and giving them their immediate demands as embodied in their 'Busmen's Charter'. But it will be up to us to put pressure on the Council to make sure that the further step, of a satisfactory and useful bus service for Brighton is eventually achieved.



The Voice will be saying more about buses in a month or two, when a bus-man writes about his work and we take a closer look at the Unions.

THE REASON YOU ARE FEELING DEPRESSED MRS. JONES IS THAT YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM A DEPRESSION.



THREE
SPECIAL
PAGES ON
AS IT IS

Who is this man?
He is Michael Klust.
He is a Doctor of Music and an Opera singer.
He is a part-time drummer-up of business for architectural practices.
He is Conservative County Councillor for Peacehaven.
He is Chairman of the County Planning Committee.
HE IS ALSO DANGEROUS.



Why?
Because he has a lot of power over the way we live our lives. And he uses it deliberately and determinedly.
Yet he covers it up with a show of allowing the public to 'participate'. Proof?
Look at his dismal performance at the meeting on the County Structure Plan in Brighton recently.

- Without any request or consent of the meeting he arrogated the Chair to himself, making a fruitful meeting almost impossible.
- His opening remark was, 'I'm going to wrap this meeting up at 9.15', which piece of dictatorial behaviour produced strong reactions from the audience.
- His closing remark was, 'We'll come back in December and tell you what we have decided'. And that is just how he sees it.
- From the beginning he sought to decide which questions were 'proper' or 'relevant' and to rule the others out of order. But this was too much for the long-suffering towns-people present and after protests he subsided.
- He said, 'People at our other meetings haven't tried to create confrontation'. But what is public participation for if it isn't critical confrontation of the 'Officers' with the shortcomings of their ideas? Do they think it is just a public rubber-stamping of their work?
- He said, 'We'll have to find some better way of involving the public'. And you can bet your life that the 'better way' will not involve the ordinary people of Brighton, but will be some sort of polite consultations with interested parties'.
- He said, 'We have learnt nothing from this meeting'. This is the most disturbing of all his booboos. If a hall-full of Brighton people spend two hours telling him in all manner of different ways that they have said their piece for better or for worse in

the B.U.S.P. Plan, and they see no point in having all the arguments and options rehearsed again unless they are shown that significant new problems exist, and at the end of it all he says he has learnt nothing, then one is entitled to assume he never came there to learn anything. It was all a public relations exercise,

And it was not just Klust who was at fault. The whole bunch of smiling, plump gentlemen lined up on the platform were hopelessly unused to answering questions frankly. They left a thoroughly distasteful impression of oiliness and unwillingness to be frank. They pretended their minds were much more open than in fact they were. This is pure dishonesty.

In fact the Voice knows that the real decisions had already been taken!

We would like to ask certain questions of the Planning people at County Hall about this exercise in participation.

- Why was the meeting so poorly advertised and held at such short notice?
- Why was the exhibition, poor thing though it was, located in a gloomy corner of the Town Hall where it was impossible to find, when anyone could have suggested half a dozen better sites?
- Why was the arrangement of the room altered just before the meeting from a simple circle of chairs and tables to a 'platform and audience' arrangement?
- What exactly are the limitations on the annual revisions to the Plan, which are so woollily referred to when County Hall is pressed?

And the 64-dollar question:

- Why did the whole exercise not take greater cognizance of the experience of the B.U.S.P. public participation methods.

THESE QUESTIONS DEMAND AN ANSWER.

PLANNING POWER

AS IT SHOULD BE

THE VOICE SAYS:

- o you can't have meaningful participation in three months.
 - o you can't have meaningful participation until the public is convinced you are willing to alter your ideas.
 - o you can't have meaningful participation in unequal situations - it has to be 'one-to-one', it has to be talking with people not at them.
 - o you can't have meaningful participation without adequate information - and this is a two-way process of question and answer.
 - o you can't have meaningful participation where it is confined to short 'one-off' exercises, it has to be continuing participation.
 - o you can't have meaningful participation as long as there is a 'we' and 'they' mentality at County Hall.
- Moreover
- o you can't have meaningful participation unless it is the public who decide when we need a Structure Plan, and when it needs revision.
 - o you can't have meaningful participation when we are excluded entirely from consultation on major specific projects, such as the Marina.

THE VOICE BELIEVES THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF ORDINARY PEOPLE IN THE PLANNING OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT IS ESSENTIAL, AND THAT WE ALL HAVE A RIGHT TO BE PROPERLY INFORMED AND CONSULTED.

WHY IS THERE SUCH A RUSH TO PRODUCE A STRUCTURE PLAN?

Why are we given 3 months for an exercise in the whole County that took a full four years in Brighton?

Why is Sussex, alone of all the County Councils throughout Britain, pressing a Structure Plan on us in this way?

The excuse given by the officials is that it is needed to reduce 'planning blight'. But no evidence whatever has been offered that this is uniquely bad in Sussex.

And if the revision process they talk about is to be at all meaningful there will still be some uncertainty, and so some blight.

So what is the reason?

Careers and Prestige!

Careers and prestige for Messrs. Thorburn and Klust.

Thorburn stands to gain enormously in the professional planning world as the one man in Britain who could master-mind a County Structure Plan through to acceptance in one year. It would make him; for his £9,000 per annum and large country house in Kingston (with recently planning permitted double garage) do not satisfy his ambition. Moreover, through contacts in the Department of the Environment he knew the Government were going to suggest that Structure Plans should be speeded up - so he knew he would be creating a good impression in Whitehall as well.

Klust stands to gain equally. He is even more ambitious than Thorburn. He has fantasies of a political career on a wider stage than Lewes provides - and he would have a solid 'achievement' to show in that he handled the public deftly, coning them into believing they were participating whilst they were actually being manipulated. In many circles such 'abilities' are regarded as the hallmark of the effective politician.

Meanwhile WE HAVE THE PLAN RAMMED DOWN OUR THROATS.

Andrew Thorburn, County Planning Officer, says the Government is spending £50,000 on a study of public participation, but the Voice says we do not need to wait for that piece of academic trivia before introducing improvements into the present way of doing things. Common-sense and excellent local examples should have made it obvious to everyone in their plush offices in Lewes that their way of doing it was wrong in almost every respect.

The first thing that they should know is that the public needs time, the very item they are being denied at present. It simply isn't possible to squeeze up the process of participation. That totally destroys it. One reason for this is that ordinary people do not spend all day every day thinking about planning, so they need time to properly absorb the information provided, to be sure that they have all the facts they need and to think around all aspects of a problem before feeling able to pronounce upon it.

But it is quite insufficient to get round this with the usual trick of presenting people with worked-out alternatives, because these subtly embody a lot of decisions on objectives. Such a method merely increases dependence upon the expertise of planners. Indeed, the crucial function of the public lies in this very act of setting the hierarchy of objectives. Experience has shown all too often that the ordinary voter and his elected representatives differ widely and disastrously on what should be the proper aims of a plan.

Time is involved as well in another crucial factor, namely information. The quality of the information given out can make or mar the whole exercise of participation, and it needs to be given out at the right rate. One indigestible lump (like 'Which Direction') is useless, but so too is a thin string of sparse 'facts'. Information needs to come in the right-sized chunks (such as the 6 page B.U.S.P. reports) and at a rate which keeps the discussion gently bubbling.

And it must be remembered that no information is neutral - which is why no 'Council Officer' is neutral. The most successful ways of reducing inbuilt bias are the provision of a reverse procedure for questioning the Council Officers and ensuring that there is a surfeit of information available so that people can pick what they want for their argument.

And since figures can lie, the 'raw' data should be accessible as well as the 'processed' data. The origins of information are often crucial to interpreting and understanding it.

A third reason for time is that there are simply a multitude of people to be consulted if the process is to be called a success. And for there to be a lot of people to listen to it is necessary to have a slow building up of confidence.

One way of achieving this is by participation and consultation being seen as a continuing exercise, not a nine-day wonder that is fast forgotten.

Another way is illustrated by the local experience with B.U.S.P. When Ken Fines started out on his Plan most people thought, 'Here they go again. Another nominal attempt at participation - some icing to shut people up - but they will make the Plan and we'll have to fight to keep our homes and our town.' Yet slowly, over the four years of B.U.S.P., the Brighton public came to believe Fines, came to believe he really wanted to hear our views and would act on them.

This is the absolutely fundamental requirement - a clearly observed preparedness within the County Council and its officers to alter ideas, even cherished ideas, (and one's political ambitions, Dr Klust), if the public say 'No'. Thorbungle & Co. haven't even made a start on trying to create that confidence.

Participation is intended to transfer power back to the people, where it rightly belongs, not increase the power of planners and councillors.

The public are not fools, and do not enjoy being treated like fools. They are quite as capable of coming to rational and constructive decisions as anyone in County Hall - and a long history of local government suggests strongly that they come to much better decisions. If County Hall does not believe that through and through they shouldn't play around with 'public participation' simply because it is a legal requirement.

At the end of the public meeting Thorburn said that Brighton is well-known for having the most aware people on planning law in the country. If that is so, it is because the bunch of rogues we have had running the Planning Committee in this town have forced us to it. But Thorbungle's efforts so far suggest we are going to have to study and fight even more - and he had better believe we will.

WHICH WHOSE DIRECTION ?

Which Direction?

But what is Structure Planning?. The concept was first introduced by the Town & Country Planning Act 1968 and differs from the old 'Development Plans'. Those were intended to be achieved by a certain date whereas a Structure Plan is a development through time, and is not a blue-print for a future deadline.

A Structure Plan is designed to produce an overall planning strategy for an area. Its emphasis should be on the social and economic forces operating over a wide area, especially in relation to population, housing, employment and transportation. It is not a detailed land-use map; nor is it solely concerned with land usage.

How does it come into being? And how does it get approved? The ideas of the Planners, possibly modified by the comments of the public, form a Draft Structure. This will be first published in December of this year when the public have a further chance to comment before it is approved by the County Council. It then has to be submitted to the Department of the Environment, together with a statement of how the whole public participation exercise was conducted. Next there is an 'Examination in Public' of the proposed Plan; this is the final public participatory exercise before it goes for D.of E. approval - or rejection. For such approval the Minister has to be satisfied about the degree of public participation. This is a legal requirement.

The District Councils then prepare their 'local plans', which concentrate on the physical use of land. These must be in accordance with the County-wide Structure Plan.

The essential feature of this two-tier system, introduced in 1968, is public participation, and this implies a transfer of some power from local councils to electors - namely you! It is power which is the crucial issue, not in any sinister sense, but simply in terms of who is to decide local issues. There should be a three-cornered struggle, between County Council, District Councils and the public. To take advantage of this right, as members of the public we must not sit back thinking that the Structure Plan does not concern us, that it is too vague for useful comment (even though it is!), or too far into the future to bother about. For when we come to object to specific points during 'local plan' preparation, we will be told "Hard luck, this is in keeping with the Structure Plan policies."

Hence it is important that we take over the meetings, criticize the exhibitions, fill in the questionnaires etc. with which the Planners are supposed to be gauging public opinion and presenting alternatives for our consideration. Only thus will our views be taken into account, as prescribed by law, when the final Draft is decided.

MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN - WRITE THEM TO
Andrew Thorburn
County Planning Officer
182, High Street
Lewes.

Whose Direction?

East Sussex planners have called their document "Which Direction?", and the 'meat' of this is a list of problems which Andrew Thorburn, the County Planning Chief, considers East Sussex to be facing. There is a reply-paid form for people to express their views, and though the document costs 50p., which many will feel to be exorbitant - being a kind of tax on participation, it is available in libraries and Town Halls throughout the County. So far it sounds not unreasonable... but don't be fooled.

The main problem is that the whole structure planning exercise is being rushed through in about a year, and hence the opportunity for people to really participate is very limited - only 3 months have been set aside for public comment on the Draft Structure Plan; there is no questionnaire survey as there was in the Brighton Structure Plan, and only a small number of badly advertised public meetings.

But that isn't all. Whilst piously asking for your letters and comments and 'participation', the County had actually already produced a 'confidential' document in July which laid out those options which it sees as really open to it, and it is only these options which will go into the draft Structure Plan at the end of the year.

Whose direction are we moving in? The message is clear - planning is much too important to be left to the planners. WE MUST ALL PARTICIPATE ALL OF THE TIME.

It might interest those on Brighton's Housing List to know that in the 'confidential' document Thorburn & Co. admit that the "physical capacity of Brighton's present housing is more than adequate to accommodate the predicted 1981 population", something the Voice has been saying a long time. So it is official now - it is not lack of houses that is the problem but the number deliberately and cynically kept empty.

One of the plump, smiling gentlemen on the platform at the public meeting was D.B.Charnock, the County Engineer. His replies on the subject of traffic and roads must have sent cold shivers up most people's spines. He is truly a man of the 1950's, thinking in terms of bigger roads and more interchanges for more cars. It was this man who forced through the major road scheme at Falmer, which will effectively destroy the village. The C.P.O.s for that are going out now, though the County Planners felt that alternative and less destructive schemes were superior. The Voice questions the appointment of such a man of limited vision and capability to such a senior post.

B.U.S.P.
B.U.S.P. stands for Brighton Urban Structure Plan. The Team started work in April 1970. Since that time it has:
Published 12 reports on housing, education, transportation etc. The summaries of these reports were FREE. (1970-71).
Published the possible Objectives of the Plan.(1971).
Invited public comment, via surveys, exhibitions, radio programmes, mobile exhibition caravans, school talks, community group discussions, Public Library information stands, college publicity and 5,000 questionnaires on the Objectives.(1971).
Published data on possible Strategies. (1971).
Invited further public comment on the Strategies. (1972).
Published Draft Structure Plan based on the preferred strategy. (1973).
Invited further public comment on the Plan. (1973).
The Team was broken up by Local Government reorganization in April 1974.
THAT WAS SOMETHING LIKE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

N.H.S. represses Gays Lavender Group

When homosexuals came to be regarded as sick rather than as criminals, it was perhaps a step forward for public opinion, but a step backwards for us. We would prefer to be in prison than a mental hospital.

For if homosexuality is a disease, say the doctors, then it can be cured. And for a while every barbarous technique known to the psychiatrists was used in the attempt to 'cure' us of being what we naturally are.

Aversion therapy, electric shock treatment, drugs, hormones and 'chemical castration' have all been used and are still being used against homosexuals in British mental hospitals. Far from producing a batch of happy heterosexuals, these techniques have created any number of asexual psychotics and gay cabbages.

'Prevention is better than cure,' said one biochemist, and recommended that every male embryo should be injected with a dose of testosterone a few weeks after birth in order, he said, 'to stamp out homosexuality.'

Other more liberal psychiatrists have argued that it is society's rejection of us that makes us



neurotic, and recommend analysis to help us to 'adjust'. None have suggested tolerance suggested that intolerance might be fought against rather than adjusted to.

The American Institute of Psychiatry decided earlier this year that homosexuality should no longer be treated as a mental disorder. How long will it be before that notion crosses the Atlantic as far as the NHS? And how long will it be before they realise that it is the intolerance, the rejection of us by heterosexuals, that is the real neurosis?

Law and Order Disorder.....



The following sections conclude last month's article on the Sussex police in Brighton. We have had a little reaction. One police Sergeant took time to explain why their tower couldn't be a machine gun post. We were kidding about machine guns - but he was serious.

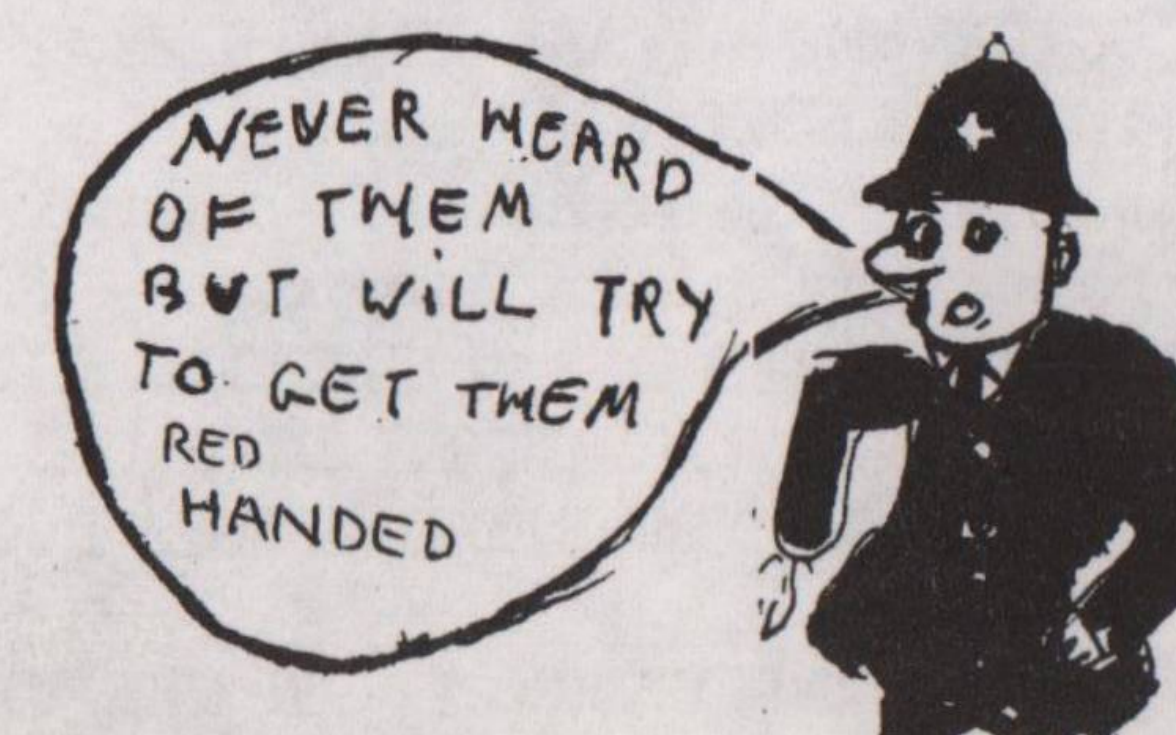
From the offices of the local rag, the Argus, we received (anonymously) a three page article on a typical day at SUSXPOLIZIE. It began - "It was an overcast morning when Kommandant Bourne of the Brighton Reichspolice ascended the steep ladder to the observation nest and machine gun post perched high on the roof or the notorious John Street Headquarters" and drivelled on for three pages in like style. We think this may be satire but await confirmation.

The last issue was well read at John St, and the officers are now eagerly competing for the Policeman of the Month award. However this month's award goes to an unpleasant fellow from Lewes. (See page 12)

THE SILENT SNOB SERVICE.

We wanted to get some comments from the police to the article in last month's issue,

and discuss the points raised. But we came up against their Press Officer a Mr Michael Edmonds who has never been a policeman. He "only deals with the national media" and had "never heard of Brighton Voice". Since he felt that "it isn't the type of thing we'd be associated with", he refused to explain the police point of view on the matters raised at all. This snob has "been in the media a long time". Good for him. Fortunately, some of the real policemen who get out and do the work instead of poncing about at headquarters were ready to give a little time to explain some points. Thank you.



COMMUNICATION AND CONTROL

From an Operations Room at headquarters in Lewes police are controlled over the whole of Sussex. Two separate communications networks exist, which link every policeman together. From Radio stations in deserted sites high on the Downs, messages go out on VHF radio to all vehicles wherever they are. Radio beams sweep across the countryside connecting these sites together, and to the headquarters for the police as well as serving ambulance and fire services. Although every station has radio equipment, special direct telephone circuits interconnect them and headquarters.

The other system operates on UHF and connects each policeman via a Personal Radio which he always carries to a central transmitter in a nearby town centre. In Brighton broadcasts occur from a high block of council flats. Through this system a PC can be instantly redirected or can inquire about criminal records or other information. This comes from SUSCRO who can carry out a search on their card index files and report back over the radio



within thirty seconds. By the end of this year, both SUSCRO at Brighton, and the Operations Room at Lewes will be directly linked through protected teleprinter circuits to the Police National Computer at Hendon. This in turn has access to all vehicle records on the Licensing Office computer at Swansea, and no doubt eventually many other Government computers. When this new system is operational all enquiries will be answered within a few seconds on a television screen.

The radio network is not administered by the police, but by the Home Office. It thus forms part of the Government's emergency system of control, and incorporated in it is the top secret 'Red Flash' network which allows the Home Office to talk directly to any policeman in the country.

* The Sussex Criminal Records Office.

EAR TO THE GROUND

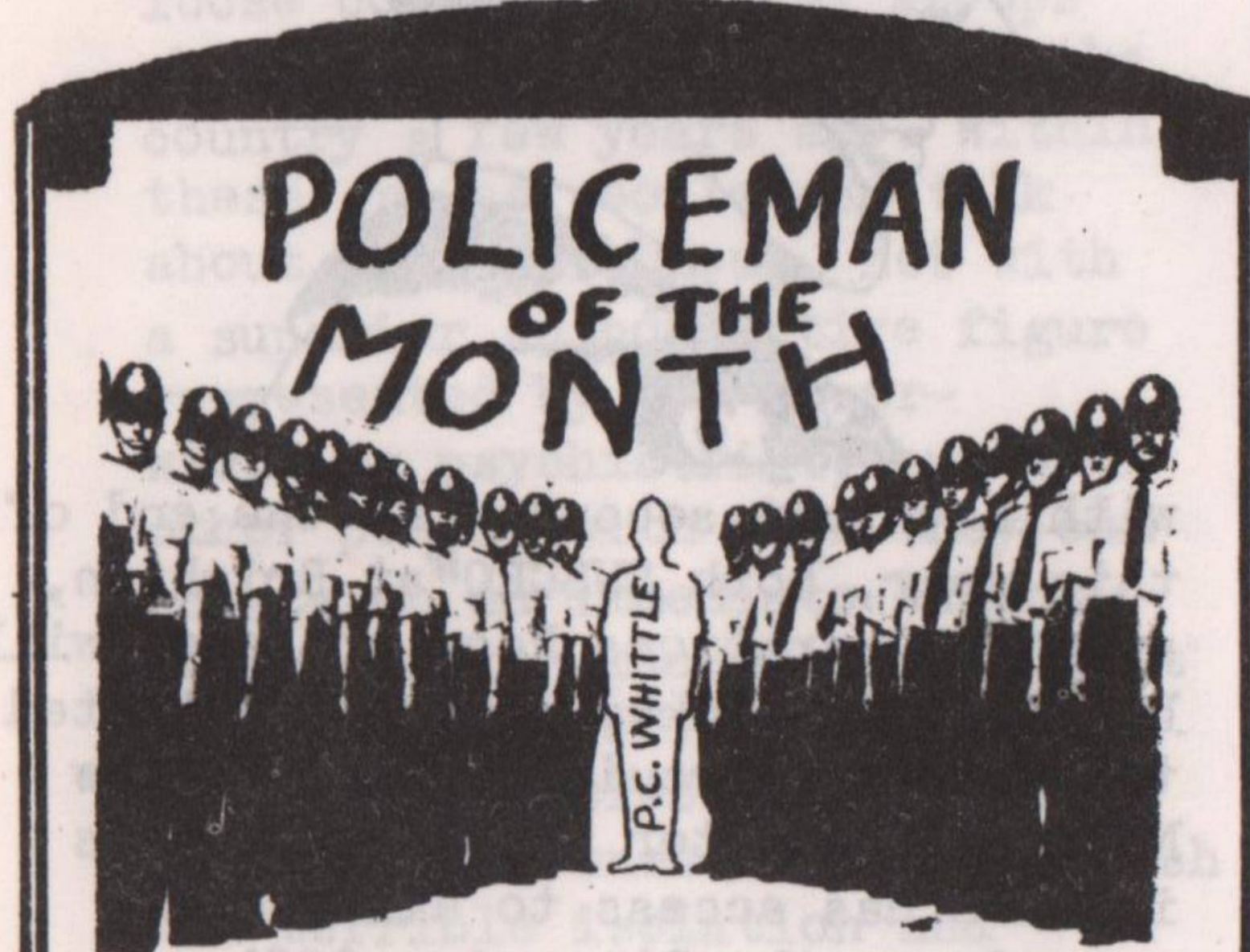
FUNNY
(and true)
STORY

(ESPECIALLY FOR HOVE RATEPAYERS)

One day four years ago Hove Corporation decided to give £3,000 to a landlord to turn a house in Wilbury Road into self-contained flats. The work was done, the flats created - but they stayed empty for one year..two years...three years. Then Hove Corporation decided to give the landlord permission to demolish the house (same house, same flats). As this might seem a curious decision to simple-minded people we enquired at the new £6 million Town Hall in Hove where an official very kindly put us in the picture. 'Madam, there is one department which deals with Improvement Grants, but it is quite another department which deals with demolitions'!

Note: If you do not believe this tale, the house is number 29, and we are sure the Planning Department at Hove Town Hall would be delighted to explain to you too the reasonableness of these decisions.

Moreover you can ask at the same time about the seven other flats nearby owned by the same landlord and which have been empty for several years also.

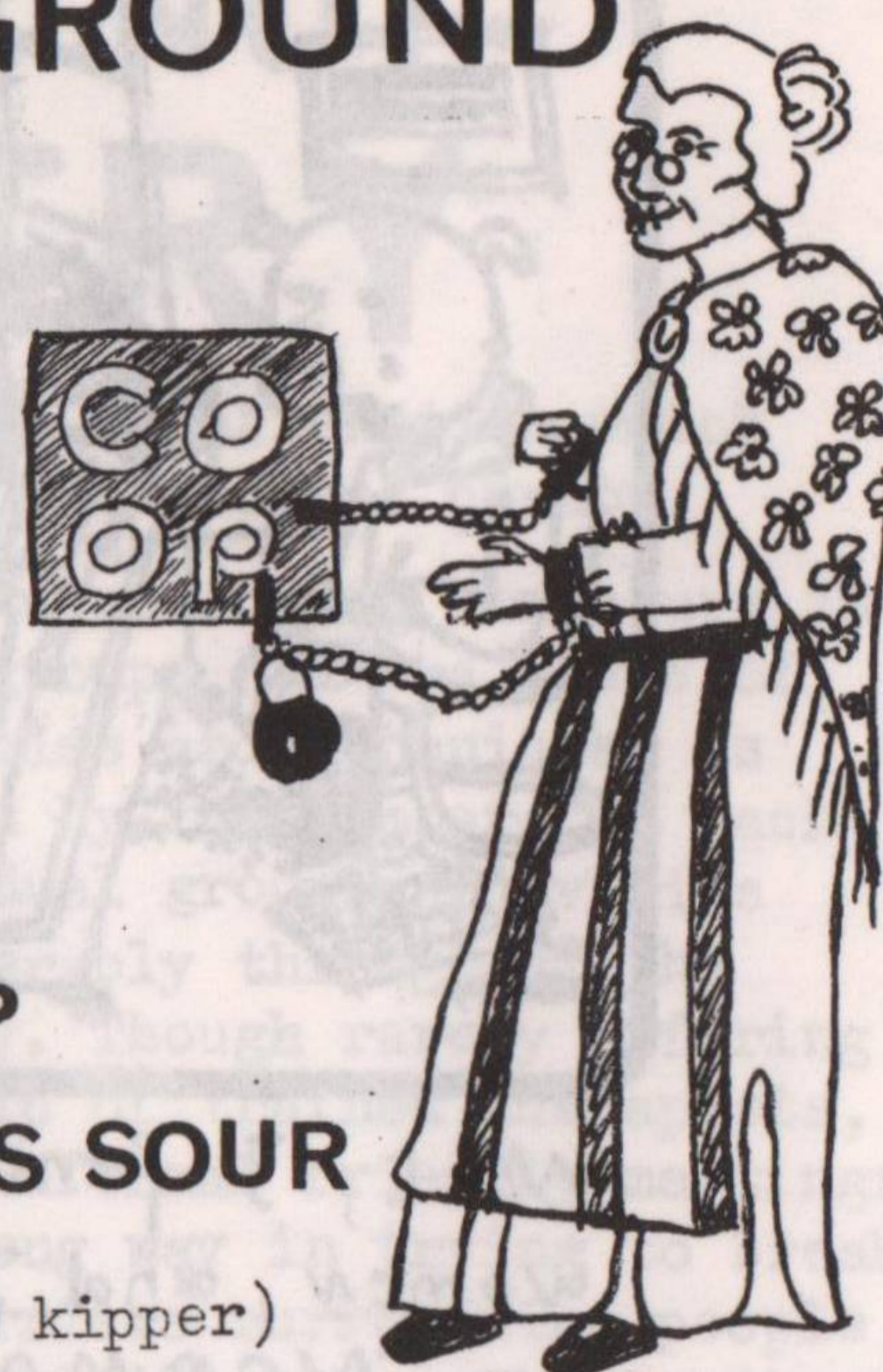


POLICEMAN OF THE MONTH

P.C. WHITTLE, for the last few years stationed at Lewes, is a pig of the 'cuff the kids round the head and kick in the bike wheels' school. Since some kids and parents made a complaint about one incident in which he was involved, we hear he has been converted to the 'now we don't want to make a complaint about a little harmless fun' model. Right on, Lewes kids: make him sweat! But for Gawdsake don't get him transferred to Brighton!

COOP TURNS SOUR

(the £40 kipper)



Brighton Co-op is a big business. It has a turnover of £15 million every year. It was originally dedicated to the idea of co-operatively helping the small customer fight back against the 'big boys' of marketing.

BUT Brighton Co-op isn't any different really to the other big ones. It works the same way. Not long ago it wanted to knock down most of our Open Market for expansion. And among its other less attractive characteristics is that it employs a very nasty London agency who supply 'shop detectives' paid by results.

So it is no wonder that Brighton Co-op recently prosecuted a 65-year-old woman for having in her bag two packets of kippers, costing 17p. each, when she had only paid for one. The circumstances of the case and the character of the woman made it highly unlikely that this was anything other than a matter of two packages sticking together. Yet the Co-op, and the agency, hauled her into Lewes Court, where the magistrates showed the quality of their justice by fining her £40!

If you are a shareholder of the Co-op the Voice suggests you write to the President (Mrs Gladys Bunn) or the Vice-President (R.E.Fitch) of the Management Committee at the Co-op, 94, London Road, Brighton, and tell them what you think of prosecuting a 65-year-old over 17p. and getting her fined £40.

A ROOM FOR ALL

Chris Miller, Community Social worker in Brighton, has asked the Voice to publicise the fact that a room at the Social Services Dept. (15 Princes Street, below the Registry Office) is open to be used for meetings or as a work room by Community Groups. It is available both day time and evening and there is no charge for it.

For those groups who are short of secretarial back up there is some equipment which can be used too, but during the day only. At the moment this consists of:-

- a typewriter (manual Imperial)
- a duplicator (Rcneo)
- a photo-copying machine (leave items to be copied and collect 24 hours later)
- a useful collection of information on community resources, welfare rights, housing law etc.

The list of items available is expanding, and it is hoped to include video equipment and a van in the near future to create a general community resource centre.

There is also a possibility of some financial help for any group which is foundering for want of a small sum of money. But getting all this will depend on groups actually using the facilities as at present and making their voices heard for expanding the range of services available.

HOVE EVICTION

Tracy Hogan is about to be evicted. The law says she must be re-housed. But Hove Corporation refuse to do this, claiming she is not eligible as she is in arrears of rent. But the fact is that these arrears were waived by the landlord years ago. The Voice would like to know just what F.W. Turner, Hove Housing Manager, has got against Tracy. Why is he refusing her her rights?

Tracy has lived Hove since 1965, and back in 1969 she was accepted on to the Housing List. So she sat back with an easy mind to await her turn to come up. But in 1972 she was given notice to quit by her then landlord for rent arrears, and a Court order was made against her. The arrears in question were a result of Tracy having her second child after her husband had left her, and the Social Security payments of £12 were insufficient for the baby's needs, her needs and the rent.

But the landlord was quite frank with Tracy, he was not interested in the money, but in getting her out. So she went to the Hove Housing Department, showed them the Order and asked for accommodation to be provided. Turner's response to this was, without warning, to strike her off the Housing List! Apparently because Hove has many unwritten rules about who may be on the Housing List, and one of them is that anyone in rent arrears is promptly struck off.

Tracy, having moved to another flat by her own efforts, eventually received the letter from Turner telling her she was off the Housing List. She promptly got in touch with a local Councillor, who pressured the Housing Department in 1973 to review her application for reinstatement. At an interview she was told she must produce receipts for the money in arrears. But her original landlord, Mr Starogulsky, had moved away from Brighton, and in the County Court records it is clear he waived the alleged debts - as indeed he said he would if she got out. So she can't produce receipts, since there are no debts acknowledged.

Faced with this, Turner remained adamant - no receipts, no reinstatement. Now Tracy is being evicted a second time, this time because the house she lives in is being pulled down to make way for a block of luxury flats. She has been to the Rent Tribunal and got one stay of execution, but it seems that Tuesday, 27th August, is the day she and her two children will be pitched out onto the street. Despite this development Turner is still adamant.

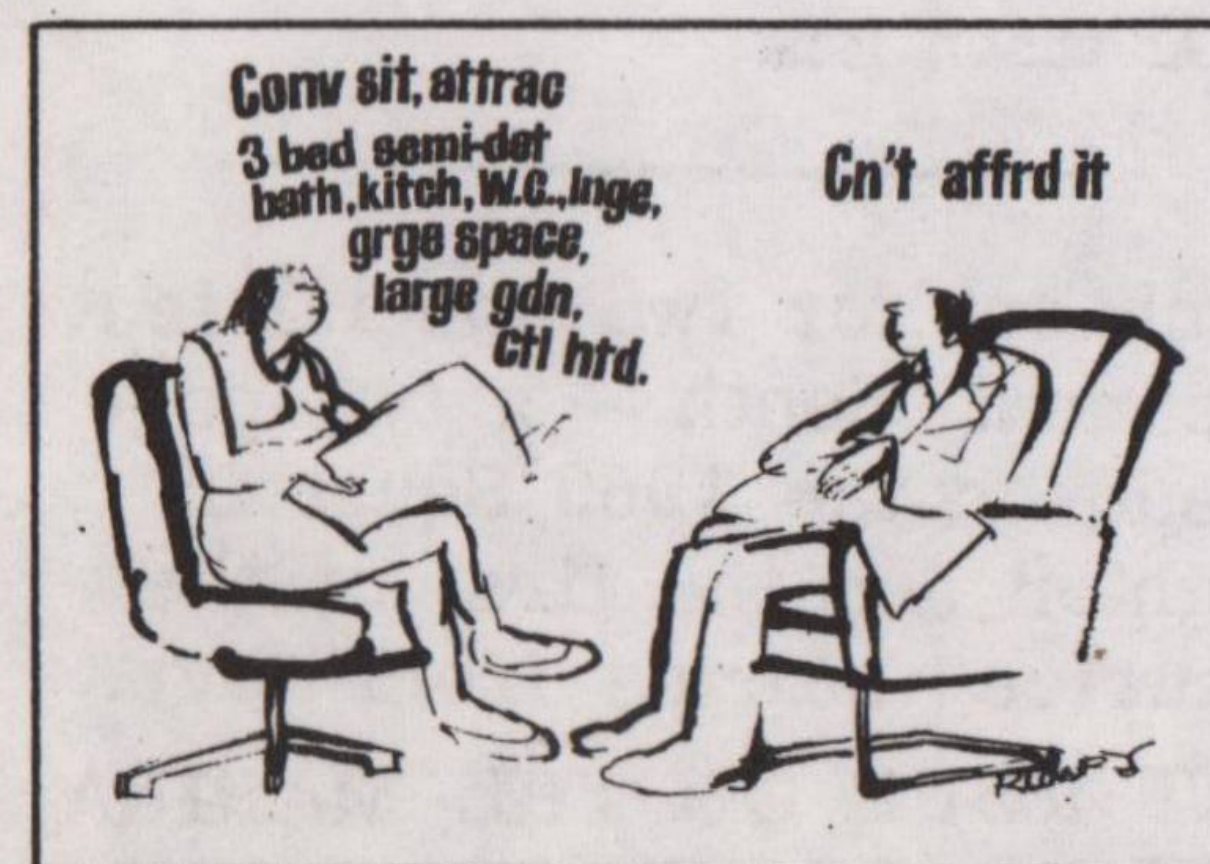
A member of the F.T.A. went to see him since the case raised a number of disturbing issues, but on hearing of the purpose of the visit he flatly refused to discuss the matter. One possible reason for his antipathy is that Tracy is quite outspoken about the housing situation in Hove and those who prosper at the expense of others. She has pointed out to Turner that his office is more spacious than her home. His reply to this was 'I work for it'! But no amount of candour, is sufficient cause for Turner to crush Tracy's chances of a decent home.

So one is left wondering. Why does the Housing Department persist in shirking its responsibility to re-house? Why is the Housing Manager personally responsible for blocking an application of such obvious and urgent need? Under what conditions can a person be removed from a Local Authority Housing List? And why are there unwritten rules at all? These questions demand answers.

The way things are at the moment this ban on Tracy could go on indefinitely, and on the surface it seems a clear case of discrimination; and the Housing Manager's refusal to discuss the matter reinforces this view. Even more important, the Housing Committee's rules should be subject to public scrutiny, and the fairness of the manner in which they are applied should be reviewed.

In the past we have had rich cause to write scathingly of Brighton's Housing Department, but it now seems we have failed to notice an even more unpleasant smell in Hove.

The immediate concern is for Tracy. If you want to help her at the eviction, or express your views to Hove Corporation or its Housing Department, ring 692988 for further details.



HARASSMENT

The Voice is continually hearing of cases of tenant harassment in Brighton, and even more in Hove. We recently noted that Hoogstraten was using his bail time to repeat his old tactics on tenants in Bear Road and that Ganas was up to his tricks in St. Michael's Place again. But these are only the tip of the iceberg. It is clear that harassment is still big business in Brighton and could get bigger now furnished tenants have security under the new Rent Act.

To combat this calculated bullying we all have that doughty defender of tenants' rights, Clifford the Harassment Officer. The trouble



is that this ex-policeman seems to have got it into his head he was appointed to stop the harassment of landlords by irate tenants. We printed a letter in the last Voice from two tenants which remarked how useless he is in actual cases of landlord stropiness. About the only effective thing we have heard of him doing for some months now was to organize the belligerent eviction of the Flymns from Terminus Road. Curious work for a Harassment Officer indeed!

The Voice would like to hear from any tenant who is suffering harassment, no matter how mild. We can't do much to help you directly, like sending a gang of 'helpers' to 'assist' you, but your info could help towards putting a stop to this scandal in Brighton for everyone.

And we would especially like to hear from you if you have gone and complained to Clifford, whether you are satisfied with his reaction or not. In conjunction with the F.T.A. we are compiling a dossier on the man and his (non) achievement with a view to taking legal action if warranted. This town needs an active Harassment Officer, one who will interpret his 'duties' broadly, and the Voice will campaign to see we get one.

WARNING! WARNING! WARNING!

If you work for the East Sussex County Council you'll soon be receiving a sinister document 'to be compiled by a candidate before employment', Health Statement. This document instructs 'Do not put a line through any question'. These questions include:

- 2(b). Give name and address of any doctor who has attended you during the past five years from whom information regarding your health may be obtained.
 8. What operations have you undergone? Give dates.
 11. Have any of your family suffered from mental illness? Give Particulars.
- And finally:

'I declare that all statements declared in the above are true. I CONSENT TO THE COUNTY'S MEDICAL OFFICER SEEKING MEDICAL INFORMATION FROM ANY DOCTOR WHO AT ANY TIME HAS ATTENDED ME AND I AUTHORISE THE GIVING OF SUCH INFORMATION.'

It threatens also that if you make a false statement you will be terminated. In plain language - fired.

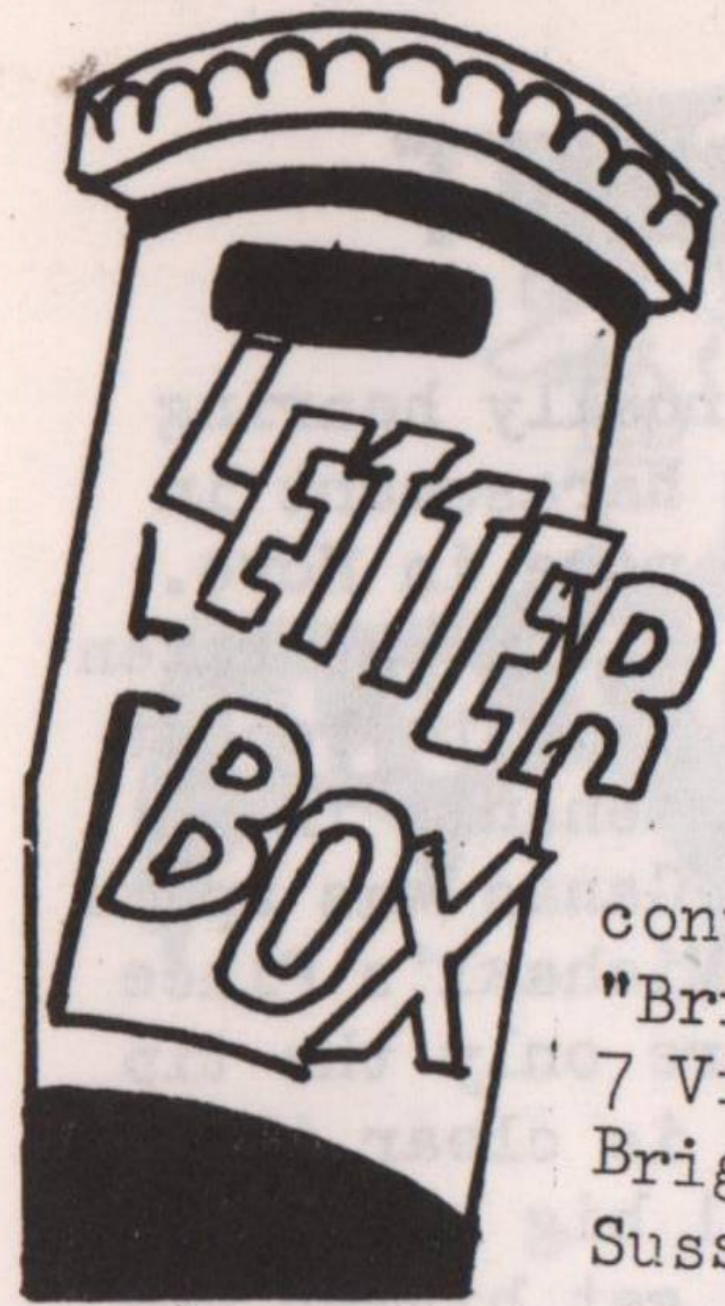
BE WARNED - THIS IS AN ILLEGAL INFRINGEMENT ON YOUR RIGHTS.

IT CANNOT BE ENFORCED BY LAW.

IF YOU RECEIVE THE DOCUMENT- CONTACT THE N.C.C.L.

(186, Kings Cross Rd.)

AND CHUCK IT IN THE WASTE-PAPER BASKET.



contributions to :-
"Brighton Voice"
7 Victoria Road,
Brighton,
Sussex.

Magistrates

Dear Sir,
Your article on local magistrates gives the impression that justice is dispensed by only the rich, powerful and privileged. This is far from correct. The magistrates chairman is a Trade Union convenor, and his predecessor was also a trade union official. The other magistrates include trade unionists, at least one Labour councillor, a retired railwayman, housewives and the wife of a former leader of the Labour group on Brighton Council.

I can remember many announcements being made at meetings of the local Trades Council, begging working men to volunteer as magistrates. The fact that many more do not volunteer may have something to do with it being a purely voluntary service to the community, and one that does not bring time and a half for overtime (although there are frequent tea-breaks).

You are also incorrect in stating that two Brighton magistrates are directors of the Brighton Herald newspaper. One J.P. is a retired director, and the Herald has not existed as a separate paper since 1971....in case you hadn't noticed.

And just a word of advice for a any of your readers who may find themselves in the dock: the present or ex-trade unionists on the Bench are known for cracking down very hard on anyone guilty of anti-social behaviour like getting drunk or bashing policemen.

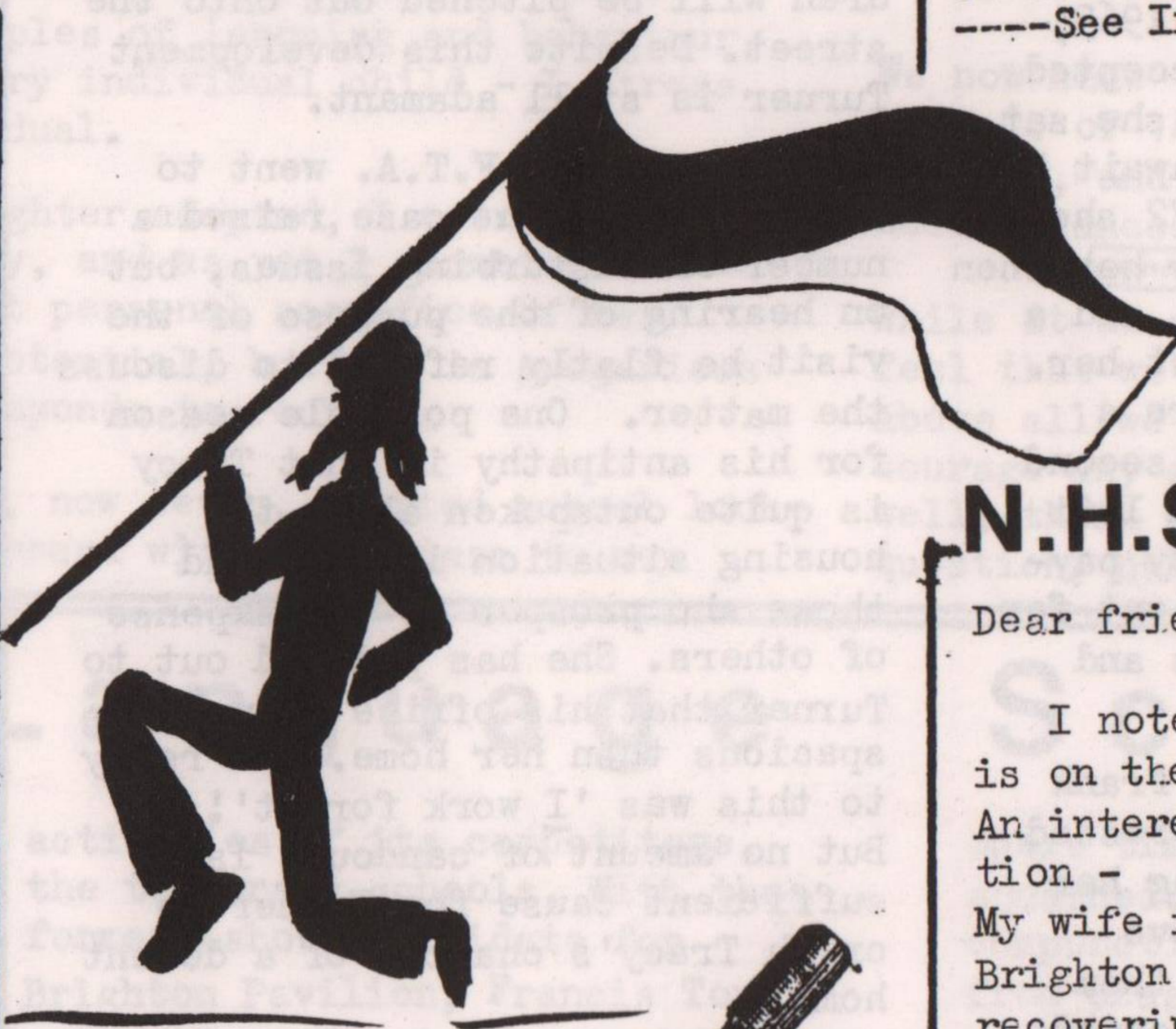
John Connor.

VOICE reply

Sorry for the editing slip over the Herald, Mr Connor, but we agree with your last point. It is well-known to us that the worst magistrates from the point of view of savage sentencing, bail refusal and a generally martinet-like approach to life are those strange 'representatives of the working class', the Trade Union magistrates. Moreover their idea of what is anti-social is much wider than what you indicate. As the original article pointed out, the local Bench is not very representative of the community

at large, but in its selection of working class men it is even more unrepresentative. The system simply picks out the 'Uncle Toms' amongst the workers, those who have acquired the worst aspects of the middle-class mind and none of its virtues. And we believe there are many more reasons than you appear to think for the reluctance of working men to act as magistrates.

The Voice will be publishing an article on working class magistrates in a couple of months.



Action

Brighton Voice,
I would like to know why the councils of Brighton and Hove-Portslade, are sitting back while there are so many empty houses and homeless families in the area. Don't they care about the people of this town..

Is it because of pressure from Landlords? Who, with a shortage of flats etc, can ask such high prices for the property they do let out. They know people will pay the price rather than let their families live on the streets.

The elected council in this town is doing a bad job, and every step should be taken to ensure they don't do it much longer. The real people of Brighton are coming alive to the fact that the poorer people are being stamped on, so as the rich can get richer.

We have some good Community papers Brighton Voice etc., and through these papers and various action groups we must organize and fight back against Capitalist Hoods that control employment, housing etc.

Plenty of help, and organization should be put into squat action committee, and start to take over empty buildings, giving the homeless families a place to live, they should also defend when the pigs and bailiffs come in. Food co-ops, for poor families, bust funds, entertainment, alternative schooling etc.

Lets make Brighton a Community in the real sense of the word.

I would welcome letters from any body who wants support or needs help to get something together.

Action speaks louder than words!

Yours

Ian Maclean

179, Church Rd.
Hove.

Better still why not get in touch with the Housing Action Group, or one of the other Action Groups. ---See Info Page.

N.H.S.

Dear friends,

I note that your next edition is on the 'National Health Service' An interesting piece of information -

My wife is at this moment in Brighton General Hospital recovering from a hysterectomy. On the day of her operation, 30th July, there were 5 patients in all for this operation. Three of them in the normal way through the national health service, but the remaining two had come from private consultations with a well renowned Mrs B. (who has now 'retired' from the NHS and practises 'privately' only.)

'Well renowned' because when a NHS consultant was getting a hysterectomy, from her was like getting orange juice out of a stone. Within a matter of days Mrs. B. had got them into a NHS bed. I don't know how typical a case this is --- It is not public knowledge I'm sure. That as well as the Private patients who so many people are rightly indignant about, there must be a considerable number of 'NHS patients' who are really 'jumping the queue' by paying for private consultations with consultants who are then able to push 'their' patients into the all too few NHS beds.

Regards

Bob Potter

98, Addison Rd.

Watch out for two special features next month - a two-page spread on the 1969 Squat in Brighton and the first of the "Maurice" stories from Hove.

NEXT ISSUE ON THE MARINA.
COPY DEADLINE: SEPT. 8TH.

info... advice

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE: at 73 Grand Parade.

RENT TRIBUNAL: Anston House, 137 Preston Rd (506381) -may give rent reductions, security of tenure; 2nd. opinions if dissatisfied given by the Furnished Tenants' Assoc.

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

BRIGHTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE CENTRE: INC. FAMILY CASE-WORK DEPT. & CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU: 17 Ditchling Rise (61664); free, helpful advice. Phone-in or appoint.

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

SAMARITANS: 24-hrs.(733333)

Libertarian Discussion Group Sunday afternoons, contact: Roy 500698.

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

CANCER PREVENTION: Morley St. (29801)

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES: Richard Moseley, 2 Gloucester St.(684256)

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

AGE CONCERN: 57 Ditchling Rd.(683275)-Old people's welfare.

INFORMATION OFFICE: provided by BRIGHTON COUNCIL for the TOURISTS in Marlborough Ho., 54 Old Steine (29801)

FRIEND: Mon evenings:61664; Wed.9am-6pm:739729 advice for gays.



Inter-City Electric

BRITISH RAIL NEW 11-night services 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 1 1/2 hours and trains stop at East Croydon, Gatwick and Haywards Heath.

SUPPORT British Rail's new experiment



papers

B.F.T. BRIGHTON FILM THEATRE TEL 29563

QUEENSPARK: Street newspaper QueensPark area; originally the paper of the Spa Campaign now into some wider issues: 14 Toronto Terr., 62 Bentham Rd. (688380)

AARDVARK: New radical 'political comic book. Reseachers and graphics people still needed. George Barratt(553607) ON SALE NOW

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

THE ORGANISER: thro' TRADES COUNCIL, 65 Stamford Road.

NEWSWAVE: free radio mag. 63 Gleton Rd., Hove.

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

BRIGHTON FOR KIDS
A KIDS GUIDE TO BRIGHTON - WRITTEN FOR KIDS - BY KIDS - 15p from Public House Bookshop (Little Digger publication)

The full programme up to Sat. 7th. Sept. is as follows :

Thur.15th.-Wed.21st.Aug: "An acre of seats in a garden of dreams" A & "Godspell" U (2.30 & 7.30)

Late show Sat.17th.Aug: "Lambert & Co." U & "Don't Look Back" X

Thur.22nd.-Sun.25th.Aug.: "The Music Lovers" X (2,5,8 pm)

Sat.24th.Aug.:Late Show: "French Dressing" A

Mon.26th.-Wed.28th.Aug.: TheBoyfriend" U(2,5,8pm.)

Thur.29th.-Sat.31st.Aug.: "Amelia and the Angel" U & "Savage Messiah" X (2,5,8)

Late Show: Sat.31st.Aug.: "Billion Dollar Brain" A

Sun.1st.-Sat.7th.Sept.: "Canvas in the Sky" U & "Mahler" AA (2,5,8pm.but only 2 and 8pm. on Sun 1st.)

Late Show: Sat. 7th. Sept.: "Secret Ceremony" 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.

BRIGHTON FILM THEATRE
BENEFIT NIGHT
UNION HALL AYR STREET
SEPT.7th. 8 TO LATE
JOHN ST.FIELD
EVERYMAN
EXPLCDDING EYE THEATRE
Sounds-Lights-Food.

EDUCAT

a NEW local teachers' magazine: for all teachers, parents, etc...on current local educational issues. First issue out at end of Aug at 15p.(20p.by post) from 42 Egremont Place (680258)

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

MOULSECQMB ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND: 10-8.30pm.Offers of help to Dave Smith (686834)

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 playgroup in Elm Grove -will collect.(62284)

BRIGHTON HOSTEL: 105 Islington Rd. Gives out meals on Sun & Weds.2-5pm.Tea,toast & stew at other times if possible.Needs clothes,food and HELP for fundraising.

FOOTBALL IN HOLLINGDEAN: Boys f'ball club plays at Brentwood Rd. 80 boys, 30 train Weds 7-9pm. & 4 teams play Sats.Help needed. Contact: Peter Carver(500232 or Brian Webb (680522).

Little Digger
Brighton Kids own paper 5p
Tel: 61112

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

Research

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