

WHOLE EARTH GROUP.
7 Victoria Rd., (27878)
Wednesdays 8pm.
Sec, Alastair Nisbet,
54 Queens Park Rd.

WOMEN'S CENTRE.
79 Buckingham Rd., (27612)
Open daily. Come for
company, help, playgroup,
pregnancy testing, creche
facilities and coffee bar.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION.
Jen de Winter,
154 Harbour Way,
Shoreham (87-61680).

WORKING ASSOCIATION OF
MOTHERS
Linda Kirsella (55134),
baby sitting, creche,
coffee mornings.

politics

BRIGHTON PAVILION & KEMP TOWN
LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS
John Balance,
54 Coleman St., (23996).
Meets Tuesdays 8pm at 179
Lewes Rd.

COMMUNIST PARTY.
Sec, M. Chaplin,
83 Edburton Ave.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN
(MARXIST-LENINIST).
Meets 37 Gloucester Rd.
1st Friday each month.
(661104).

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS.
Sec: 33 Ventnor Villas, Hove.

LABOUR PARTY.
Kemp Town.
179 Lewes Rd., (62592)
Evilion:
90 Sedgewick Rd., (557944).

LIBERAL PARTY.
Pavilion.
Francis Hix,
143a, Western Rd., (26560)

shops

ANANDA.
111 Gloucester Rd., (67772)
Odds and ends to make your
life good

BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP.
37 Gloucester Rd., (664404).
CPB(M-L), Sats 9.30-6pm.

FROLICS.
27 Sydney St.,
Beautiful Victorian - 40's
clothes.

THE GARDEN
22 Trafalgar St.
Vegetarian cafe. Mon-hurs
10-8pm. Fri-Sat 10-11pm.

GARUDAS.
17 Kensington Gdns. (662983)
Crafts, coffee, pictures.

INFINITY FOODS.
25 North Rd.
Macrobiotic and organic
foods and vegetables.

OPEN CAFE.
7 Victoria Rd., (27878).
Sun-Thurs 12-8pm.
Fri-Sat 12-11pm. Cheap
vegetarian food.

PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP.
21 Little Preston St.,
(28357). Alternative,
radical books & mags. Lots
more. Coffe.

RAM.
81 Preston St.
Leather goods, hand made
items.

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

THREE ROOMS CAFE.
14 Blatchington Rd., Hove.
(779933). Vegetarian Cafe.
Lunches Mon-Sat 10-3pm.
3 course meal 45p.

UNCLE SAM'S HAMBURGER EXPRESS.
Montpelier Rd.
Everything and chips.

A COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR THE HANOVER AREA

Residents of the 26 streets in the four Hanover
General Improvement Areas recently voted overwhelm-
ingly for a community centre in the area. It is
hoped that £16,000 will be available in the first
year of the G.I.A.3 scheme to develop 33 Southover
Rd. and Cobden Rd. baths for this purpose. The
baths are in a bad condition and though people have
offer ed to help repair them we must get a speedy
decision from the Council - with whom we are neg-
ociating - before the baths are too bad to use.

At the Centre, teenagers in the Hanover Assoc-
iation will organise activities, other groups are
working on ways to co-ordinate many other activit-
ies and also investigating the buildings on the
two sites.

Since the Council is already spending heavily
on improving the area, the Hanover Association
aims to see that these improvements reinforce
the community spirit throughout the Hanover Area.

Josephine Melis
(for Hanover Association)

late info

ANANDA.
Moving to:
19 Bond St., 9th Maron.

JUMBLE SALE.
Coming soon. Organised
by Public House Bookshop
and Whole Earth Group.
All donations to Public
House (address above).

OFF-SET LITHO EQUIPMENT.
We have a quantity of
odds and soles for litho
printing and lots of inks
(primarily intended for
Multi-Lith 1250.)
Available to individuals
or groups - perhaps we
can arrange some
barter. If interested
contact Public House
Bookshop.

JUMBLE SALE.
All Saint's Hall
Corpton Avenue
Sat 22nd March, 2pm.
Proceeds to FTA & Open.
Bring jumble for sale to
7 Victoria Rd.

BRIGHTON RIGHTS CENTRE.
2 Prince Albert St.
Advice on legal and
welfare problems.
Tues & Thurs 5-7pm.
(202492)

FIVEWAYS PLAYGROUP.
Florence Rd., Field.
(near No.10)

MEN AGAINST SEXISM
National Conference
Palmer House U.O.Sussex.
March 22-23.
Contact: Norman Rofer,
151 Hollingdean Terrace,
Brighton.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQU-
IRED.

EASTER PLAYScheme FOR
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.
7th -11th April, 9.30 -
3.30pm. Downsview School
Coldean Lane, Brighton.
Contact: Mrs. Turner,
19 College Rd.,
Brighton.
684155.

BRIGHTON VOICE

No22 6p

BUSES PUBLIC ENQUIRY



AN ENQUIRY into Brighton Public
Transport will be held on March 14th
at the Town Hall. It is frankly
ludicrous that such an important
event should be held on just one day.
Cuts of up to 25% in Southdown buses
are thought to be proposals by the
Company but there's a good chance
they won't get away with it. They are
opposed by the Bus Users' Committee
and the Corporation.

As we've said before, let the Corp-
oration take over all the buses. It
is the first step towards a better
service rather than an even more
reduced one.

At the Enquiry busmen will give
evidence of drivers being told they
aren't wanted for overtime, of buses
being deliberately left unlicensed
(road tax). They will also tell how
the shortage of busmen has eased.

It is only one day but get down
there if you can to make your own
complaints about our Bus Service
and the proposals. (SEE PAGE 9)

She's having a great time.
Have a look at page 6
and see what you think.

AQUARIUS SQUAT

The Aquarius hotel, in Upper Rock
Gardens, has come back to life, after
being empty for years. Squatters
have moved in and fixed the place
up. But how long will they be able
to stay? (Full story page three.)

E. SUSSEX STRUC TURE PLAN

The long awaited Structure Plan
for East Sussex has just been re-
leased. As always, the Voice is
very interested in planning issues
and we have carefully analysed the
East Sussex Planner's contribution.
Sadly, it is seriously at fault in
several ways.

A Structure Plan is concerned with
general proposals for development
and land-use over a large area,
rather than with the details of
particular developments. As such
it is a very important document,
for it provides a framework for
the detailed investment decisions -
housing, roads, jobs, schools, shops
- which affect every one of us. The
East Sussex Plan has chapters on all
the main areas of the County, and
it is surprisingly short - only
65 pages are needed for the Planners
to set out the policies which will
influence the lives and livelihood
of everybody in the County for the
next 20 years.

(Continued p.4)

COOKING WITH THE BOOKS

Following up the reports of
funny goings on at Brighton
Technical College your Voice
reporter decided to poke around a
bit to see if he could unearth a
bit more of what goes on there.
Quite a few interesting things
came to light. We managed to
acquire a copy of the accounts for
the year ended 31st August 1974
which makes curious reading.

Apart from the much publicised
civic dinner which cost £506.37
the union spent £164.75 on 'general
entertaining'. We would like to
know if this is just a euphemism
for officer's booze.

Who received £174.56p in

'Honoraria & Gratuities'?

The union officers spent £202.71
on travelling expenses and £224.61
on other expenses, a total (with
the presidents personal allowance
of £40.00) of over £450.00 paid to
officers for running the union.
The officers appear to be living it
up at the expense of their fellow
students and Brighton Ratepayers.
If these expenses were justified
the students and people of Brighton
deserve a full account of where this
money went.

One item in these same accounts
is however even more strange.

(Continued p.7)

WHERE YOU CAN BUY THE VOICE.

CENTRAL BRIGHTON

ANANDA: 19 Bond St.
ECCOTT'S: 52 Surrey St.
GARDEN CAFE: 22 Trafalgar St.
GARUDA'S: 17 Kensington Gdns.
INFINITY FOODS: 25 North Rd.
OPEN CAFE: 7 Victoria Rd.
SUNSET NEWS-STAND: N.E. corner
Churchill Square.
SYMPOSIUM BOOKS: 12 Market St.
THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington St. MARKET.

WEST BRIGHTON & HOVE

CORBELL'S: 99 Western Rd., Hove.
PUBLIC HOUSE: 21 Little Preston St.
THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Rd.

NORTH BRIGHTON

FRANKLIN'S: 93 Preston Drive.
GRIGG'S: 4 Clyde Rd.
SCHOFIELD'S: 44 Lewes Rd.
TOBIAS'S STORES: 167 Elm Grove.

KEMP TOWN

BOOKS: 80b St. James's St.
LIMLEY'S: 146 Edward St.
KEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91 St. George's Rd.
ST. JAMES'S NEWSAGENTS: 91 St. James's St.

UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP: Main counter.

Anyone/everyone invited to
submit material
WRITE TO BRIGHTON
VOICE 7 VICTORIA RD.
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Brighton.

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.

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- Adult Literacy
- 3. Aquarius Squat
- 4. E.Sussex Structure Plan
- 5. Battered Wife Speaks
Veto by Housing Manager
- 6. Ear to the Ground
- 7. Goings on at the Tech
- 8-9 Piers, Papers & Buses,

all that
and 7 more
pages

2 THANKS

We would like to thank the anonymous donor of the large denomination postal order which arrived at the beginning of the year. Such contributions make all the difference between breaking even and paying bills one issue in arrears.

Moulsecocomb Playground

Moulsecocomb Adventure Playground is controlled by East Sussex Education Committee, who, being a predominantly rural authority before reorganisation, don't understand the problems of large towns like Brighton. It is obvious to many of us that children in Council Estates like Moulsecocomb and Whitehawk need adventure playgrounds; it is by no means obvious to County Hall. Moulsecocomb is now officially designated a 'socially deprived area' and an Educational Priority Area: the only difference this makes is that the slightly larger salary offered to teachers and youth workers is outweighed by the stigma of this labelling. Who wants to live in a socially deprived area? Who wants to teach in an Educational Priority Area? Moulsecocomb Adventure Playground has been in existence for six years. A great deal of pressure was put on Brighton to take it over before reorganisation in April 1974, with the result that East Sussex had the playground foisted on them with no estimate from Brighton for it. The playground saw its eighth hut carted off on the back of a lorry (in little bits) in August of last year, leaving the playground deficient in every requirement laid down by the National Playing Fields Association. The Playground at present consists of a desolate windswept 2½ acre area of scrubland on top of the hill overlooking Moulsecocomb and the Lewes Road dual carriageway race track.

The County pay the salaries of two playleaders; this is the extent of their financial involvement, although when the hut is built it will hopefully be maintained by East Sussex, as it will be an LEA owned and controlled building.

The grotty concrete hut (small because of lack of funds, ugly because it's a functional building that's got to take the knocks) will be built by the playleaders and the people of Moulsecocomb, using materials and money raised by the playleaders and the people of Moulsecocomb to be used by the children of Moulsecocomb....IF East Sussex let them.

However, the lack of financial help is perhaps a good thing in that the community involvement is great and will be greater. The building

project is a real community project for Moulsecocomb. Had the County got an architect to design a play hut and a contractor to build it, it would not be seen as our playground by the children of Moulsecocomb, but 'their playground' - like 'their school'. The peculiar position of M.A.P. means fund raising is difficult: how can an LEA venture be a registered charity? But the playleaders have a unique opportunity to become deeply involved in the community in building the hut, fencing the playground, and raising the £5000 to do it. If you feel you can help in any way with time (labouring on the site, playing with the children), money or materials get in touch. Also, if you feel that play provision in your area is deficient (where isn't it?) and would like to see something done, then why not join the Brighton & Hove branch of the Fair Play for Children campaign who are attempting to set up a Brighton Play Council with the aim of improving play provision generally.

The playleaders are Dave Smith and Arthur Battram. Or contact Chris Miller in Social Services for further info on the Fair Play campaign. Addresses on the info pages.



Moulsecocomb Adventure Playground

RECLAIMING VAT

Voluntary Organisations providing services for people rather than sales for profit may be able to reclaim VAT on purchases; for example, playground equipment or petrol costs for clients. Each organisation that applies will be considered on its merit individually. Write to: HM Customs & Excise, Customs & Excise VAT Office, The Old Cottage, South Road, Preston Village, Brighton.

HELP!!
We need more
WORKERS

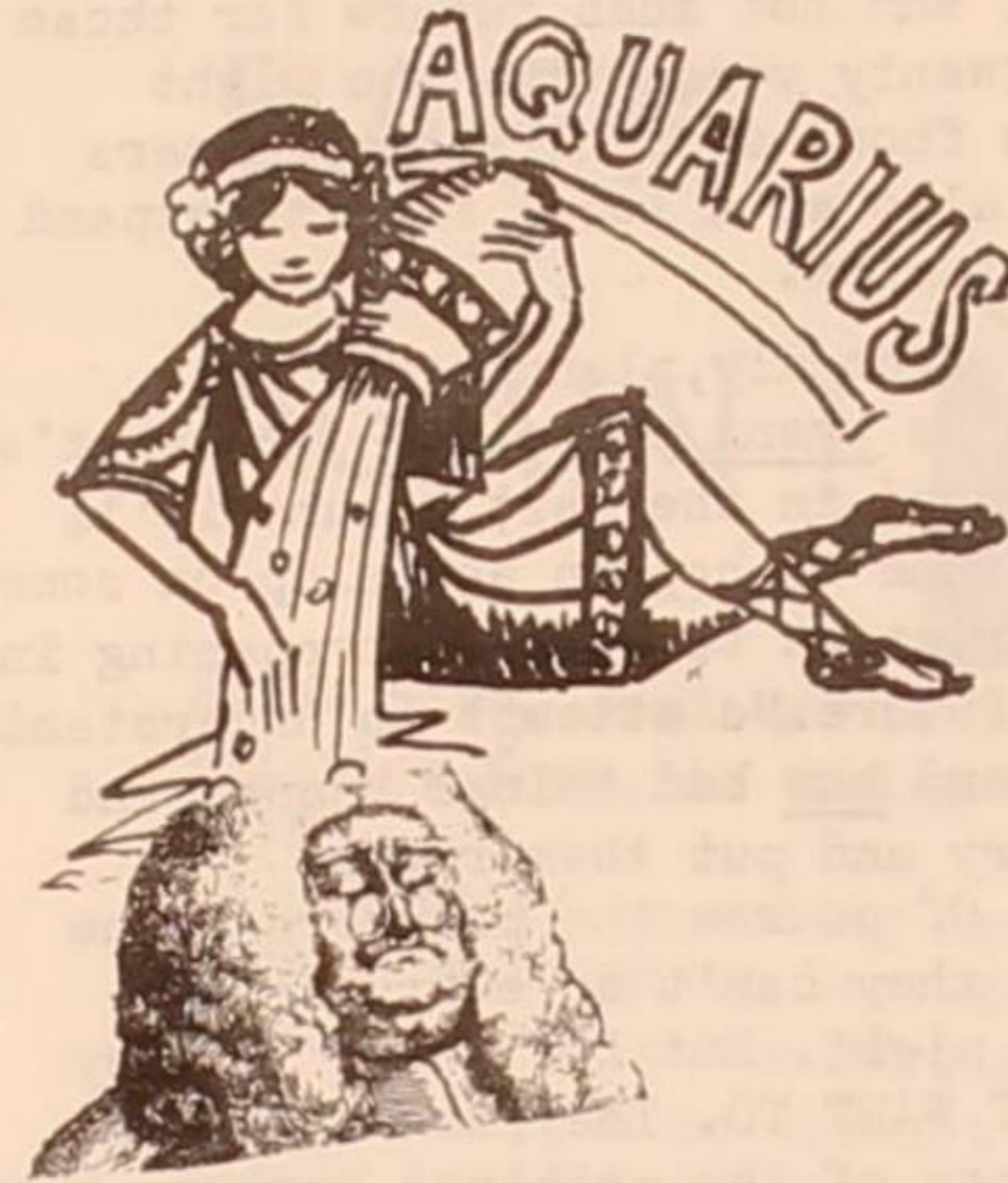
The Right to READ.

This week a Brighton teenager, a student in the Friends Centre Literacy Project, was beaten up by his friends because he can't read. When the project co-ordinator saw a doctor (not her own) he said of her job "Oh, you teach the dim ones how to claim Social Security, do you?" Well, yes, we do. And so we should - with Family Income Supplement forms needing a reading age of sixteen, and an initial take-up rate of 50% or so, there's much we can do. But those two anecdotes reveal one major reason why it is so difficult for non-readers to declare themselves to the ignorance and ridicule of the rest of society.

Every full bus will have two or three non-readers aboard. You probably met one today; someone quite competent, perhaps brighter than you, but without the skill to read (or write or spell) as well as he or she wants to.

The Literacy Project tries first to reach them and suggest they come to the Friends Centre to talk to one of the organisers. We arrange for them to meet a tutor once a week at their home or the tutor's. This attracts people who'd never consider a class. They can work from newspapers, the Highway Code - whatever interests them. The tutors are volunteers who commit themselves to a training scheme and a minimum availability of six months. Forty-three students are now regularly meeting tutors, and the fourth tutor training scheme is now underway. The LEA has, for the moment, increased its help by paying for twenty hours of organisation time.

Yet with all its energy the Project is only scratching the surface of the problem. When the BBC programmes for non-readers begin in the autumn we expect far more of the estimated 7000 illiterates in Brighton to ask for help. We need volunteer tutors, money, materials suitable for adults, help in contacting students, and most of all in fighting the attitude that sees illiteracy as something to laugh about. The television programmes will help a little in this. You could help too.



Every year Brighton students, in common with thousands of other students, embark on the great accommodation hunt; a rat race already being run by the homeless in Brighton.



This situation is not helped by a ridiculously inadequate Council housing scheme which leaves many people open to exploitation by profiteering landlords.

A group of us, resident in a small private hotel, were appalled by the conditions in which we were expected to live. We made many fruitless attempts to find alternative accommodation. Student status, unfortunately does nothing to enhance one's chances of securing accommodation. In view of the circumstances, squatting appeared to us a logical alternative. There was certainly no lack of suitable property.

A house committee, consisting of potential squatters, selected an appropriate building and commenced to organise the re-provision of normal domestic supplies. This involved the installation of an electricity meter (by the Electricity Board) and the piecing together of a plumbing system (the original having been largely destroyed, probably by people stripping the place for the copper).

We dealt with the individual problems as they arose - these largely being police/bailiff confrontations. (It should be mentioned that apart from two plainclothes policemen using drugs as an excuse to search the house, generally there have been no hassles with the police. Herr Roberts hasn't been around.)

Because we needed to study, entry was restricted to students at first so that there might be no clashes of requirements in such a close community.

SQUAT

However, recently we have admitted a number of homeless people from the town, most of them young people with very little income facing problems similar to our own. Since opening the squat has provided temporary accommodation for some thirty people. Thirty people who would otherwise have been in a very desperate predicament.

The court case came up on Feb 13th. In court, defending our rights of occupation, we explained to the judge just how ludicrous the whole situation was. It was in this context that the judge made his press censored comment, "It may be mad, but it's the law."

Our description of the state and location of the squat warranted another censored comment from the judge, "It's too nice for squatters." Because of a technical error in the plaintiff's affidavit, we succeeded in having the case dismissed. This effectively gives us a few more weeks in the squat, i.e. until another summons has been prepared by the company. Unfortunately, we can expect no error next time, but surely this must be a morale booster for other squatters.

On Friday 14th February, after the court case, a bailiff did call round. He put his foot in the door and said he had as much right to be in the premises as we had. However, he was booted off the doorstep and the door bolted on him. He called round a policeman who commented that the place bore similarities to Fort Knox. A bailiff has to take reasonable steps to identify the squatters in order to obtain a court order and a refusal to give him any names is counted as having taken these steps. The bailiff was told there was no-one in and that I didn't know the names. The policeman was allowed in to verify that no-one was in but the bailiff was left on the doorstep. In the end the bailiff and the policeman went away. But we await another court hearing before very long.

The Judge himself, "Justice" Grant, seemed more eager to get rid of us than the prosecution counsel. He told us he had no sympathy for people who occupied other people's property and he tried to persuade us to leave voluntarily.

At the beginning of squatting there was quite a bit of protection in the courts against eviction by use of common - i.e. unwritten - law dating back to the 1381 Forcible Entry Act. It used to be impossible to evict squatters without having all their names. Bit by bit, reactionary high court judges have eroded what they call 'loopholes' in the law. In other words, when a law didn't suit the class the judges belonged to, they changed it. Compare this with the loopholes by which the rich avoid paying taxes, through expenses and the like. There's no Lord Denning around to close these loopholes; after all, judges also fiddle their taxes.

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P. Hayward & A. Greenstein.

CLIFFORD AMERINO: The sick story of a tenants' harassment officer who did harass the tenants.

In late November, the harassment officer, Mr. Clifford, was visiting the people in the basement flat at 4 Dorset Gardens. I was also a tenant of sorts, so I asked him to see me. Mr. Clifford simply insisted that we keep away from the landlord until our court case on December 17. Our landlords, as it appeared, were the Amerina family.

My solicitor swore me out an affidavit asking the court for a month's adjournment as the eviction orders had come from out of the blue and gave us no time to work out how to fight the case. The adjournment was granted.

During that month, Mr. C. was always hanging about with the landlord or sitting in his car at the end of the road - on council time.

On the day of the case the 'tenants'' harassment officer stood in the box and spoke for the landlord, therefore helping in the eviction of the young couple in the basement who have been there for three years and are expecting a baby in five weeks. In these three years they have taken the landlords to court for harassment six times and won. Now they have lost and, harshly, were given two months to leave.

I was less fortunate, he had it in for me and I was given one month. Yet again with Clifford thrown in on the morning of my eviction, this time he played at being a bailiff.

I have been told recently by a health visitor that this is not his job. He is supposed to be a tenants' harassment officer and it is time his unofficial activities were exposed.

B. Frankel.

THE BIG CON EAST SX. STRUCTURE PLAN

(CONTD FROM FRONT PAGE)

WHAT HAS THE PLAN GOT TO SAY ABOUT BRIGHTON?

In Chapter 5 (all 7½ pages of it) Brighton's problems are condensed down to one sentence: 'How can the employment, housing and transport problems of the area be reconciled with the conservation of the Downs and the maintenance of the urban fabric?' Strangely worded, but a miracle of brevity. The planners have the answer, folks, and it's contained in three main policies:

Employment. Basically a 'no growth allowed' policy, with a restriction on office, manufacturing and tourism development.

Housing. A promise to build more cheap housing and to prevent the building of expensive flats.

Transport. A call for traffic management, better public transport, a by-pass to the north and link roads with Shoreham and Newhaven harbours.

ARE THESE POLICIES GOOD ONES?

The Transport policy for the Brighton area seems fairly sensible if it is ever put into effect. If past lessons are anything to go by it's very unlikely that traffic management and better public transport will ever be taken seriously in our town. Brighton borough council has recently shelved the excellent plan to close East St and parts of Middle St to traffic on the grounds that it was 'too expensive', most of the cost we note being caused by the need to pave the streets to make them look nice and provide trendy pseudo-antique street lamps.



Most Brighton people would probably have quite willingly given up these luxuries and been content with having traffic-free streets to shop in. And anyway the expense was just an excuse. The real reason why this pedestrian precinct was rejected was pressure on the council from the powerful traders who own the shops in the streets affected. It looks as if East Sussex is going to have a hard job making Brighton borough council toe the line on its traffic policy.

The Housing policy is spineless and inadequate because it doesn't say anything. Sure, we all want more cheap houses built for local people but we also want to know when and how? The Structure Plan tells us (we already knew) that the housing situation is appalling - over 50,000 households in Brighton, Hove and Lewes are either on waiting lists or in overcrowded or unfit housing, and yet by April 1974 enough land was set aside for only 17,000 new homes. Where is the Structure plan policy which will close this gap? Basically the County planners don't seem to understand the realities of our situation here in Brighton - 13,000 dwellings vacant (yes, Vacant) in 1971 and a Borough Council which will not build council houses despite the fact that the land is available, for example on the Station and Jubilee Street sites. The County Planning Officer's platitudes about encouraging 'low-cost housing' are inadequate; worse, they are offensive to those who daily have to suffer the misery and insecurity of inadequate accommodation.

As for the Employment Policy, do we need to restrict new jobs so drastically? At present about 19,000 new jobs are planned to become available in the area by 1990. (The planners only make it 16,000 but they've got their sums wrong.) These new jobs should allow redundant workers from declining industries in the town to find alternative employment. But if expansion is so severely limited after that what will happen to Brighton's future unemployed? It's true we don't want a mass influx of new workers into the area making the housing problem even worse, but neither do we want a static industrial scene creating visions of long dole queues in the 1990's. Our kids will hardly thank us for that.

what we think

First of all it benefits those who are already fairly well off because it perpetuates the status quo. No employment growth, in order to ease the pressure on housing and the environment, keeping the conservationists happy, but no help for those in poor housing

now, and not much future for those in twenty years time who might have found a job if the planners had allowed a local firm to expand a bit more.

Secondly, planning of this type is trend planning - see what's happened in the past, assume it'll continue to happen and slap on some restriction to stop it happening in the future. No attempt to understand why and how bad things happen and to try and put them right.

Of course the planners argue that they can't do everything over night. But the point is they DON'T WANT TO. They don't see the urgency of the problems because they are detached from the misery and discomfort of those thousands who are suffering from the previous plans and will continue to go on doing so. And even if they knew more about the victims of our social planning they are too identified with the ruling classes to do anything really radical about them. But that doesn't stop us telling them the facts and we can all do that right now. Send your comments on the Structure Plan to the County Planning Officer in the next few weeks. Tell him we want a Transport policy which will really mean a massive expansion of free, or cheap, public transport in Brighton and roads free of polluting congestion. And no spaghetti junctions from Denis the Menace Charnock. Tell him that we want the take-over of all empty houses by those who need them and a huge programme of public housing. TELL HIM WHAT YOU WANT.

what to do

- Read the Structure Plan - it's in the libraries - and fill in a questionnaire expressing your views about the Plan. These questionnaires are available, with a free leaflet, from: Brighton District Planning Office, 30 King's Rd or Lewes District Planning Office, School Hill, Lewes. Send these questionnaires to County Planning Officer, 182 High St Lewes.
- Phone in your comments to Lewes 5400 extension 400.
- Attend one of the public meetings which are being held as follows:

Hove, Town Hall	18 March
Eastbourne, Town Hall	26 March
Brighton Pavilion	1 April
Hastings, Town Hall	2 April
Bexhill, De La Warr Pavilion	3 April
Lewes, Priory Middle School	4 April
Hailsham Summerheath Hall	8 April
Crowborough Beacon School	11 April

- Write to your councillors. You can get their names and addresses from your town hall.

THE STRUCTURE PLAN IS A PLATITUDE DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT

A SAFE PLACE TO GO

My reasons for coming to Womens' Aid are that I could not tolerate living with an animal any longer. I will not give my children's or my name, just call me Margaret Russell. I had one child and was expecting another from a previous marriage when I met my present husband. When I first knew him he had the most beautiful manners. This impressed me very much, and it did not take long for me to fall in love with him. I lived with him before we were able to marry, he even knocked the children and myself about before we were married. I stuck with him, and married him, as I felt he would change, and also that I loved him. I considered myself also very lucky that a man would take me on with two children.

It did not take me long to realize that he was very possessive. We had rows and scenes at home and in the street if anyone I knew spoke to me. If a man spoke I was accused of having an affair, if a woman spoke I was called a lesbian.

It would need a book to tell all that I allowed my children and myself to suffer through me loving this man. I felt ill for years, and just carried on in a rut, living from day to day hoping and praying that he would be in a good mood. He had the most violent temper, the children were scared stiff of him. He used to pick on the children over silly little things, and if I interfered when he was knocking the children about he hit them even harder, and put his hands round my throat and stopped me from breathing. I ended up with a stomach ulcer which needed surgery. I nearly forgot, I bore him two children. Although he ill-treated his own children also he favoured them to my other two. The day I left him he gave my eldest boy a terrible beating. The night before he kept me awake nearly all night rowing - when I answered him back, as he called it, he threatened to kill me.

I tried to get my three youngest children put in care, I just could not stand living with that animal any longer. He had made us all a bag

of nerves, and I was fed up of being given orders as if I were a robot. Social Services gave me the address of Womens' Aid as I was really heart-broken with the idea of having my children put in care. I have never known so much kindness and understanding that the girls have shown me who run this centre. Without this help I do not know how I would of got over this. There are eight of us women here with our children. We have our own bedrooms and share the two kitchens and three bathrooms and sitting room. Two Co-ordinators come in each day to see if any of us need help and sometimes advice. Actually us battered wives run this house, there are no rules and regulations that we have to stick to. We try to lead as normal a life as possible. The only drawback that I can think of is that Social Security is rather awkward at times. They do not always get our money to us on our payday. I have known women to have this money as late as three or four days. How they expect a woman to feed her children I do not know.

If you are in a similar situation to Margaret's and need help and support, contact the Womens' Centre, 79 Buckingham Rd., Bt'n 2/612.

A petty bureaucrat speaks:

NO!

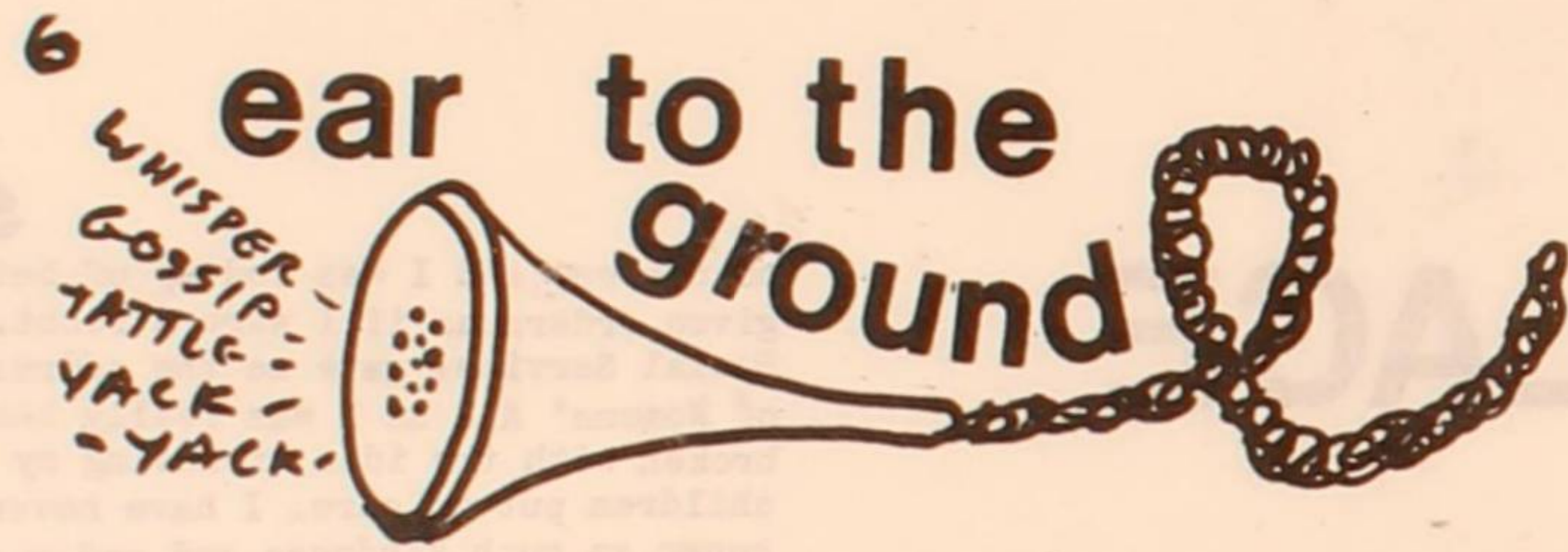


When the representative of SHELTER (The National housing pressure group/charity) arrived in Brighton last month to look into the problems of council tenants on the Moulsecoomb estate (see Voice No 21) she expected a few difficulties from the local housing authorities in Brighton (Shelter is often given a hostile reception simply because it rightly believes that there is no excuse for so many homeless and badly housed people all over the country. It is trying to get people's priorities right, which means making the right to a decent home a top priority). What she didn't expect was a piece of total obstruction by the housing manager for Brighton, Mr May.

On going to see Mr May she was

given a pretty formal interview but when she came to see the housing officer for Moulsecoomb itself out on the estate she found that May had ordered him not to speak to her. She asked May why not? He replied that she had seen HIM, the lord high housing manager, and therefore she had no need to talk to a subordinate. How about that for arrogance, complacency and bureaucratic bloody-mindedness? The housing officer (Moulsecoomb) has a good reputation among tenants and he is said to have spoken out at the occasional meeting in favour of better management. Was May afraid that he would give away a few secrets of how Brighton keeps its housing list so scandalously long? Or afraid that his 'subordinate' would have a few ideas of his own?

Anyway the SHELTER representative was dumbstruck. How will Brighton look when the report comes out in the national papers and it is disclosed that the housing manager prevented access to information which might have been in the interests of the tenants and the community? This man is answerable to the people of Brighton but he acts like some petty tin-god, making decisions like that against the people. He's also answerable to the Housing Committee, whose chairman is Tory Councillor Leach. And there's the centre of the whole plot against Brighton people, council tenants, homeless and badly housed - the local Tory magnates. In the end May sees himself as answerable to them. (And note that Councillor Leach wouldn't see the SHELTER representative either.)



Old Town Scheme NOBBLED

It now seems that we may not get the "Old Town" plan, to create a pedestrian extension to the Lanes, after all. It appears that the permits to close the roads have not come through, and that by the time they do, costs will have risen so much that we won't be able to afford it anyway. This is just a feeble excuse on the part of the Council (have they been 'got at' by the local traders? - Who's that we hear saying, "Yes."), they don't need to spend that much money. All that is really necessary is to close off the streets to traffic as soon as the permits come through. The fancy paving, seats etc can come later. Or why not let the cafes and pubs which abound in the area pave parts of it themselves and supply tables, seats etc. They could use the ground rent free for a few years to recoup the costs; provided, of course, that they agree to permit people to sit down without necessarily buying anything.

I.T.T.'s paranoia

I.T.T. Creed, a local offshoot of that well known giant corporation, is planning to build a security barrier, consisting of a wall topped by a steel fence, the whole towering to a giddy height of SIX FEET, around their Brighton factory. This, the management states, is because they fear that they could be a target for 'terrorists'. What are they doing at Creed that they think might interest the terrorists of darkest Brighton? Perhaps they have been to one of those courses on 'security' that the management of large companies are running these days.

For example that other giant, IBM, ran a course the other day in which they revealed some of the fears that keep them awake at night. They see the threat as coming from "Small radical anarchist 'tight collectives'" which are "Face to face groups of intensely involved individuals working in and among similar groups" and "since they are difficult to penetrate and ephemeral, changing from

NOBBY FOR MAYOR

We note with interest that a Labour councillor is to become Brighton's new Mayor. Isn't that descending to an all time low. O.K., so it's Nobby Clarke, that indomitable fighter of Toryism. How can the Labour party expect the working people of Brighton to accept them as their true representatives when they are so hand in glove with the Tory financial cowboys who constantly rip off this town.



THIS made her jump

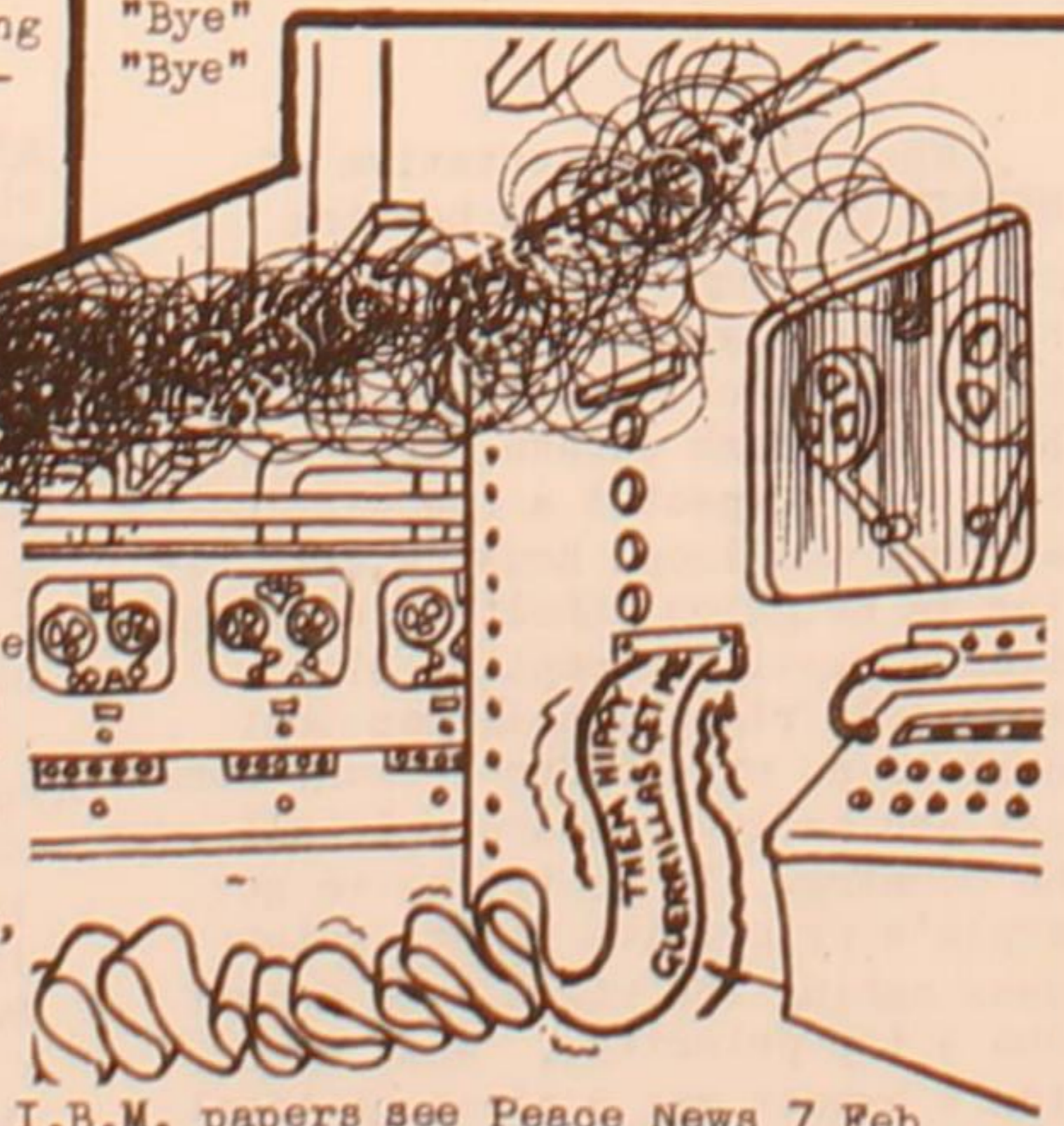
It was Friday 24th January when the RAF turned out to defend the West Pier from demolition. They were armed with a device they referred to as "BLOODHOUND" which they eagerly pointed towards London, telling us that it was a homing surface-to-air missile "which has been defending RAF bases at home and abroad for a number of years," - much to the glee of one little girl who kept leaping in the air.

one group into another as the fantasies of their members change" they threaten and render ineffective the first priority of any corporate response i.e. "an effective intelligence system on the plans and acts of extremists and terrorists". So now we know what really scares them, it isn't the tightly structured revolutionary party; it's the unfettered will of the people that really strikes terror.



OVERHEARD ON A PALMER TO BRIGHTON TRAIN

One student to another "Where have you left the car?" "I let Sally have it to go to Pete's wedding." "Oh god I forgot all about it. What did you give them?" "I can't remember, something silly like a pea-shooter. I found it in the Lanes. It was Victorian. Something for them to play about in bed with, I thought." "My god, Pete's fantastic in bed" "Did you think so? Pretty ordinary I thought" "Oh no. There was that super time after we'd been to Glyndebourne last summer." "You must be joking. That was Martin you idiot." "Oh my god was it. How do you know?" "Because I was with Pete, stupid" "But how did you know it was Martin?" "Sally told me." "Oh yes. God she and Martin went out for ages". "I don't blame him. She's terrific and a wow in bed." "My god, do you think so." "I should know. She was living on top of me all that week after the dance that first time at Martin's place." "I'd forgotten that." "I haven't. If it hadn't been for Pete she'd be there still. Not that I wanted her." "Martin said you did. So did Sarah And she should know." "Know what?" "About Martin and Pete." "Well everybody knows about them." "Who's he marrying anyway?" "Sarah of course." "Good god. He can't be serious. She's terrible." "Oh come on, she wasn't that bad. Better than Felicity." "I don't think Pete would agree. You should have seen them afterwards." "Oh god, here's the station. I must fly." "Bye" "Bye"



Addison Road V. B.A.T. MAN

The tenants of Addison Road are feeling pleased with themselves. A few weeks ago their quiet residential street was threatened with being turned into a semi-major road carrying a large amount of sea-front traffic and possibly 5 bus routes. The street decided to fight and for 6 weeks waged a massive campaign causing the planners to withdraw their proposals before they reached County Hall.

The plan, known as BATMAN (see Brighton Voice No.21) was launched in December 1974. As soon as we had read it we objected for several reasons:

1. Addison Rd was to suffer more than any other road. Nobody denied that.
2. The questionnaire calling for public comments made no allowance for any expression of opinion about Addison Rd. Whichever 'option' gained approval Addison Rd would suffer.
3. None of the planners had actually visited Addison Rd and seen its narrowness and the steep railway cutting behind the houses.
4. Each 'expert' had his own personal version. Some said there would be buses, others said there wouldn't.

WE DECIDED TO CALL A STREET MEETING AND SCRIBBLED OUT A PROTEST PETITION. More than 200 residents signed the petition and more than a 100 came to the meeting in a front room in the street on 19 Jan.

The meeting condemned the BATMAN proposals and called for action to inform every county councillor of our feelings. 30 residents then wrote personal letters to the councillors asking them to come along and see for themselves how intolerable it would be to have buses right outside the front windows as well as trains right outside the back.

Three local councillors had

attended the first meeting and were in full support. A further 4 visited the road after the meeting and all expressed horror at what they saw. Eventually another 6 attended the second meeting. The main person who wouldn't come was the Chairman of the Highways and Transportation Committee Geoffrey THEOBALD. He said that he didn't come to private meetings. Alone among county councillors Geoffrey Theobald (obviously one of Brighton's most hated men) keeps his address secret and his telephone number ex-directory. Fellow councillors were literally frightened to

give us his address and even a friendly contact in the police told us it was 'too dangerous' for him to tell us where Theobald lived. We felt very strongly against this man holding a key position while hiding himself from the public he is supposed to represent. So if anyone else wishes to contact him here is his address: 3, Brownleaf Rd, Woodingdean. Telephone Brighton 33279.

Our second meeting brought together 82 residents, 6 county councillors and the assistant to Charnock the County Engineer, Robin Russell who had been the guiding light behind BATMAN. Within minutes of arriving Russell told us that due to the overwhelming opposition to Batman in Hove the Engineer was dropping the plans and not recommending them to County Hall. WE HAD WON A TOTAL VICTORY.

The lessons of our campaign: there are a number of councillors who genuinely concern themselves with our problems and try to help; there are an equal number who are in local politics for prestige and personal gain. This latter type often holds the key position. If ordinary people themselves are prepared to get together in a body and fight they can win.

Bob Potter.



SCANDAL at the TECH

(contd. from p.1)

There is listed a loan from the Union to a local school. Some time during the academic year 1973/4 the sum of £200 was loaned to the Downs County First School. One could be forgiven for thinking this rather odd, however there are two other facts which might help to explain it.

1. The Staff Treasurer of the Union, (student welfare officer Mr H.J. Merryfield,) was nominated a manager of the school a couple of months ago after the loan was made. Has he any further connection with the school?

We ask ourselves how a student's union could get into such a mess. Surely student's unions are democratic institutions run by and for all their members. Surely the control of funds rests ultimately in the hands of the membership. Surely the executive remains accountable to the student body. Not in this union.

One major cause of the trouble is that the constitution is so badly drafted that the student body has little or no control over the executive. For example, there is no provision for any general meeting other than the A.G.M. and no way in which anyone other than the executive can call one. It gives the executive extraordinary powers including the one to pass policy resolutions. One such executive decision was to disaffiliate from the N.U.S. which was made last year without proper consultation with the student body as a whole.

Why has this situation been allowed to develop? It has been this way for a number of years despite new executives being elected annually. Surely they aren't all a load of Machiavellian conspirators? It looks much more as though they are nice, ordinary, non-political people who are being manipulated by someone behind the scenes.

WHO MIGHT THIS BE? The union has only one permanent officer, the Staff Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Merryfield.

Over the past few months, the students have organised an Independent Students Committee which, working within the constitution, is trying to establish true democratic control within the union. So far, they have managed to get a general meeting of students called which has demanded the resignation of the executive and the election of new officers. Other demands made were for changes in the constitution and for broad overall control of the accounts by the student body.

In spite of the overwhelming vote at the meeting, the executive has still not resigned or called elections. We await developments with interest.

Whether it's the Pier —

The Argus, those apologists and whitewashers for rip-off artists and legal exploitation (affectionately known as 'free enterprise'), have been got at. How else can you explain the grotesquely heavy-handed bit of propaganda that appeared under the guise of a leader article. We reprint it for your edification - just take a look. It says it's exposing 'Left-wing' 'largely false assertions'. Whose assertions are you talking about Argus? Are you trying to smear the Save the Pier Campaign? Perhaps you're pool-pooching our articles about the Pier? -- Or what?

Anyway, there seems to be an acute case of narcissism somewhere; the facts the Argus so indignantly rounds on, the only facts that it mentions, are those lifted straight from the Argus. Perhaps the Argus feels that it must censor views it doesn't like so much that it can only criticise specifically what it writes itself.

Though the Argus reads the Voice it doesn't mention the main point of our article: **AVP CAN BE LEGALLY MADE TO PAY FOR THE PIER.** The facts it says we 'seize' on constitute little more than a footnote to show that AVP aren't about to call in the receivers. No group has suggested that one year's profits would pay for the Pier as the Argus implies, nor did anyone forget about those poor, dear shareholders etc.

And this 'Left-wing' bogeyman is getting a bit too boring - even for the Argus. Who are you kidding, journalistic chums? The Save the Pier Campaign hardly ever takes orders from the Kremlin - perhaps, Argus, you should tell your readers that this eminently respectable mob is adorned with true-blues amongst its leading luminaries. Left wing groups in the town generally would rather see the Pier go if the Council would use the money for houses, hospitals etc as it promises - 'at chance of that'. By the way, Argus, you 'forgot' to mention that the council also 'poured scorn' on AVP's great gesture.

But, and how we blush to admit it, our assertion that a fuss about the Pier served to distract attention away from the Marina was, indeed, a 'largely false' one. Some Marina Company directors, their tongues loosened by alcohol, were overheard in a bar to say that the Pier must go because it would attract custom from the Marina - they daren't risk having any competition, just no way baby.

We've assumed that this leader does refer to the Voice as well as the

4—EVENING ARGUS, Tuesday, January 28, 1975

OPINION The truth about profits

ONE of the more disturbing aspects of Left-wing propaganda is the fact that its largely false assertions are believed by many people simply because they do not understand the true position.

Consider, for example, AVP Industries Ltd, which owns Brighton's crumbling West Pier. The Left-wingers have ridiculed the company's offer to sell the pier for £1 to anyone with the money to restore it to its former glory.

They have also poured scorn on the company's offer to pay £250,000 towards the cost of the repairs over a period of five years.

As usual, the Left-wing tack is to seize on the profits made by AVP Industries and to ask why it does not use this money to repair and maintain the pier.

The fact that a company's profits are not all they seem at first sight is conveniently forgotten. AVP Industries may have boosted its half-time turnover by £2m. But in common with all other companies it immediately loses a staggering 52 per cent of its half-year £1.8m. profit in corporation tax.

Of the remainder, that money which is paid out in dividends to the company's shareholders is taxed at 33 per cent. This means that for every £100 profit made by the company and distributed to shareholders, at least 268 is consumed in taxes. Many shareholders will pay much more than the standard tax rate.

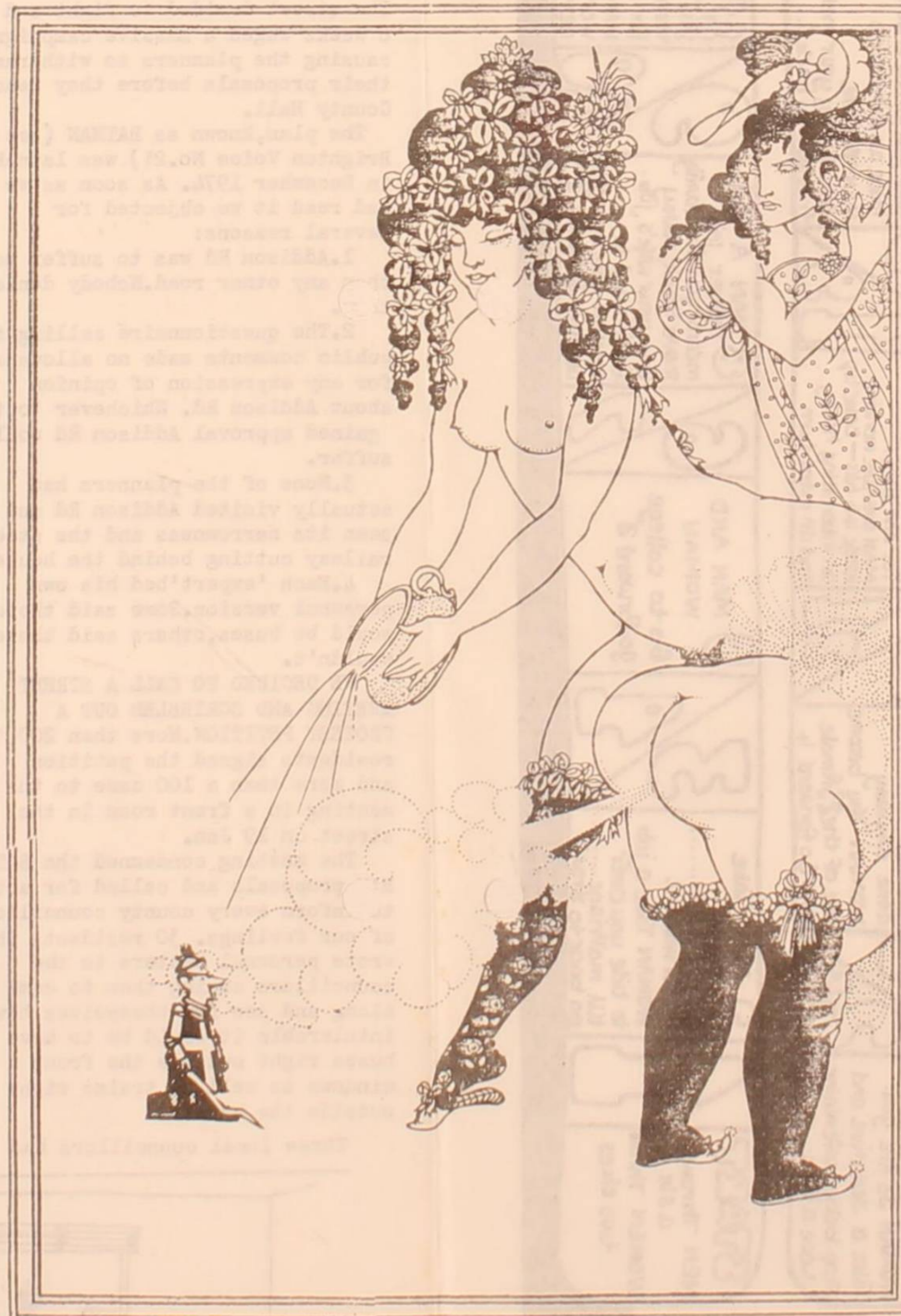
These are facts which the general public should bear in mind when they are next brow-beaten on the subject of profits by Left-wing propaganda.

Save the Pier Campaign. If so why doesn't it print our definitely true assertions? Anyway, we saw an Argus reporter buying the Voice only two spits from the Argus offices the day before the leader appeared. By not giving any names the Argus obstructs its readers from checking the sources of the material attacked for themselves.

The whole leader was just another example of diversionary waffle, its arguments irrelevant attempts to lead debate away from crucial facts.

Come on, Argus, let's have some of that 'true position' you talk about. Drop this role you play in the unacceptable farce of capitalism. You know, really report news and views, and let your readers judge for themselves whose 'largely false assertions' these 'largely false assertions' really are.

PAIN IN THE ARGUS



or the Buses—

The following statement by the Brighton, Hove and District Trades Council as submitted to the Evening Argus, on Tuesday 11th February, in reply to many articles recently on Public Transport and to publicise a drive for signatures to a petition.

* * *

Steadily, year by year, the public of Brighton, Hove and District is being deprived of the means of travel from the outlying estates to its places of work, its shopping centres and the town's social life.

Any member of the public will know the present problems of travel at all times of the day. Cuts can only make these worse. So, the latest announcement of bus cuts (quoted at 9% but suspected to be much nearer 25%), together with the threat of increased fares, cannot go unchallenged.

The whole town's transport strategy is based on private transport and, as can be seen at Old Steine and other major road crossings, the pedestrian takes a back seat. The BATman proposals are aimed at furthering the speedy advance of the private car, certainly not, as is claimed, at helping the shopper or public transport.

The Brighton, Hove & District Trades Council's Sub Committee, together with Transport 2000, the Bus Consumers Action Group, the Brighton Conservationists, the Labour Group's Shadow Chairman on Transport and supported by the

Bus Crews, members of the Transport and General Workers Union, are determined to see that the whole town's transport system from Peacehaven to Shoreham shall be overhauled, with emphasis given to the needs of pedestrians and public transport.

To this end we are demanding a full and thorough Public Enquiry into the transport system and are preparing plans that we think can provide:

- 1, The Bus Crews with a decent standard of living and a far better set of driving conditions.
- 2, A frequent, fast and free (or relatively cheap) service from the outlying estates into the main shopping centres.
- 3, Traffic free shopping in quiet, pedestrian precincts with only buses and taxis allowed into these precincts (as in Nottingham and Oxford).

For this we need the support of you, the public, the shopper, the bus user, and to enlist your support a special drive is being made. To obtain signatures to a petition for the public enquiry. Leaflets and petitions will be available in the three main shopping areas between 10a.m. & 4p.m. on Thursday 13th February.

FOOTNOTE

At about the same time as the above was sent in, the Argus carried an editorial pleading for freedom of the press and claiming that the editor had no political attachments and was strictly impartial.

In this instance the Brighton, Hove & District T.C. are fighting for the public and bus crews alike and would have thought that some encouragement would have been supplied by the only daily local paper available.

We can only wonder what particular interest is being challenged that no coverage was given to this statement prior to the drive.

—The Argus remains blind to it all.

Womanopoly

rules

A GAME FOR WOMAN V MAN IN A SOCIETY WHERE THE CARDS ARE STACKED AGAINST WOMEN. MEN SHOULD TRY PLAYING TO THE WOMAN'S PART TO SEE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE

REMEMBER — ITS ONLY A GAME

THROW THE DICE: gain — or lose — a turn

MAN: gains
As a man you feel you have the right to dominate women 1

You divorce your wife of 30 years for a sweet young thing 2

You are handsome and charming and women fall madly in love with you 3

MAN: losses
Your wife of 20 years gets uppity and goes back to school 4

You hire a woman to work for you because of her talents, not her looks 5

You are persuaded to share housework with working wife 6

WOMAN: gains
You finally get the nerve to tell your boss to stop picking you 1

You are a strikingly beautiful woman and men let you get away with murder 2

Campaign to abolish male/female distinctions in situations vacant ads. is successful 3

WOMAN: losses
You play dumb in an exam so as not to beat your boyfriend 4

Having got your PhD you marry and drop career plans 5

You drop women's rights because husband says they are bitch and ageing makes 6

51 According to a recent study many psychologists regard the healthy adult as having the characteristics of the healthy man. Women who fall short of this ideal, miss a turn.

52 MAN You have a very high IQ go forward 2
WOMAN So have you. How embarrassing! Lose a turn for arguing

53 MAN You are elected an M.P. You are one of many — but well done anyway
WOMAN You become one of the 2 female M.P.s. Go forward 4

54 MAN Take up an apprenticeship... go forward 2
WOMAN Take a job to tide you over till marriage... go back to start

55 MAN AND WOMAN Go to college go forward 3

56 MAN A new, better job means you and family move house away from your wife's job. Go forward 4.
WOMAN Give up work at onset of family. Back

57 MAN You become a doctor or demist Forward 2
WOMAN You become a nurse and help him

58 MAN You encourage your son to sow his wild oats. Both miss a turn and talk about it.
WOMAN Bonus for looking pretty Forward 1
MAN Bonus for working hard Forward 2

59 MAN: you bring up your daughter to 'leave herself' for marriage.
MAN: you encourage your son to sow his wild oats. Both miss a turn and talk about it.

60 MAN: you are confident — go forward 2
WOMAN: You are pressed over for a better position by a man less qualified than you are. Lose a turn

61 MAN You are in line for promotion — but will men work under you? Miss a turn and worry about it.
MAN no doubt about you — take an extra turn

62 MAN Husband wants you at home. Lose a turn as punishment for working hard.
MAN wife stops working at your demand. Forward 5

63 MAN Your husband agrees to share all housework since you go out to work. Take an extra turn
MAN You are ridiculed by your men friends. Go back 2.

64 MAN A new, better job means you and family move house away from your wife's job. Go forward 4.
WOMAN Give up work at onset of family. Back

65 MAN The average housewife works 99 hours per week. Take a rest for one turn.
MAN average working week 46 hrs — catch up on interesting hobby and an extra turn

66 MAN AND WOMAN Go to college go forward 3

67 MAN You feel guilty leaving kids while you work Back 2
MAN Its not your problem

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We would like to thank the Loughborough Women's Rights Association for permission to print Womanopoly.

MEN AGAINST SEXISM

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MEN AGAINST SEXISM.
U. of Sussex, March 22 & 23.

In the past few years men have been forced to re-evaluate traditional views about themselves, women, homosexuality and their relationship to society through the growing strength of the women's movement.

Changing yourself to live without sexism isn't easy. It helps to get together and discuss what we are trying to do and the ways to go about it. By becoming aware of the ways in which the patriarchal society has oppressed women and gays - and men too - we can help each other to overcome them and find out the best ways of organising with the Gay and Women's movements.

To aid this the Third National Conference of Men Against Sexism has been organised by the Brighton and Hove Men's Groups. It will be held on March 22 & 23 in Falmer House at the University of Sussex and will be attended by groups from all over the country. The conference has been structured to include large meetings and small discussion groups. This is to avoid the formlessness which plagued the previous two conferences. However, this structure is flexible and will be used, altered or discarded according to the wishes of those present. Topics for discussion will be in the areas of examples of sexism in society, the fight by men against sexism and the relationship between the Men's, Women's and Gay Movements.

Food, accommodation and creche facilities are available.

Registration at the Conference will be £1 and the numbers are limited to 400. If you wish to participate, or if you have a prepared topic which could be used to start of a discussion group, contact:-

Norman Rofer,
151 Hollingdean Terrace,
Brighton.

Tel: 508446



UNITY AGAINST FASCISM

On 31st January, the National Front held a meeting in Hastings, with their chairman, Kingsley Reid, speaking. A group of anti-fascists from Brighton as well as the Hastings Labour Party and the Eastbourne Young Liberals decided to picket it. At this meeting nine protesters, both trade unionists and students, were arrested for allegedly assaulting the police. Of these nine people, five came from Brighton itself.

All over the country the Labour movement has been picketing NF meetings. Why is this? The reason is that the NF is not just another Parliamentary Party whose politics we happen to disagree with; they are, in fact, as Martin Webster, their vice-chairman, has said, "Busy constructing a well-oiled Nazi machine in this country."

Like Hitler, they are willing to attribute the causes of this country's present crisis to black people, Jews, Trade Unionists, gay people and moves towards the liberation of women. One of their members, Tindall, has already spent eighteen months in jail for bombing synagogues.

Fascism is not an immediate threat but as things worsen the fascist state could be allowed to become the solution to capitalism's crisis. That is why we must stop them organising NOW, before they gain real strength. In Germany in the 1930's, the Labour Movement chose to ignore them; to fight them would be to "give them publicity". We all know what happened there...

Whilst the powers-that-be do not, at present, overtly support the fascists, their growing bias is shown in their treatment of anti-fascists. At Horsham recently an executive member of the Crawley Trades Council was openly beaten about the head with a hammer. He needed seven stitches. The fascist responsible was not arrested, although there were plenty of witnesses about - including the police.

At Hastings, whilst we did not offer any violence, several of us were smashed in the face and punched in the stomach by the NF while police stood by, "I never saw nothing." Some actually admitted that they had orders not to touch any of the NF. Instead they concentrated on arresting us, seemingly picking out people at random, who were then roughly handled. Confronted by a policeman they had never seen, they were then charged with assaulting him. Murmurs of protest were met with, "Shut up or we'll stick ABH (actual bodily harm) on you)."

They come up for trial on 27th Feb. It is not inconceivable that some will receive prison sentences. A defence fund has been set up to help the defendants. If you want to make a donation, or wish to help the campaign contact Sussex University Students Union tel: 680380. We have to use this address because of previous known cases of harassment and violence when a private address has been given.

BRUNSWICK.

BRUNSWICK GROUP

The Brunswick area stretches along the seafront from Montpelier to Holland Rd., and inland to the North of Western Rd. Over six thousand people live in this half a square mile, sandwiched between Brighton and Hove, and the Brunswick Group has been set up in an attempt to deal with the problems these people face.

What are these problems? Perhaps the worst is housing. Despite the elegant facade presented by Brunswick Square, the fact is that large parts of the area are amongst the worst in the country in terms of housing stress with many people forced to rent rooms in houses which are hopelessly run-down and badly maintained.

A survey in June 1974 showed that of the 186 houses in Hove that had been served with closing orders because they were unfit for people to live in, 107 were in the Brunswick area. Landlords can be pressurized into renovating these houses, but when they do the work the house is often sold off as flats, or rented as offices - not much use for those who want a cheap place to rent. There are large numbers of elderly people, who often live alone in a small bed-sitting room, and a large proportion of people who live there for a short time before moving on. Social facilities and play facilities for children are few and far between.

What does the Brunswick Group hope to do to solve these difficulties? As a general philosophy, the Group believes that the people in the area need to organise themselves so that they can deal with the problem themselves.

Three particular projects have been suggested so far. Firstly, a care group could provide help for the elderly people in the area by visiting, helping with the shopping and so on. A care group tried this in 1971, but folded because of lack of support - now there is a new initiative and new interest, so the group is going to start up again. The Group is also interested in providing play facilities, such as extra playschemes. A second project is a Welfare Rights Information Service, which would give information and advice on Planning, health, Social Security, Social Services and legal matters. Information like this is vital if the mystique which surrounds the way in which local government and the law operate is to be done away with, and if the people are to organise to help themselves.

Thirdly, the Brunswick Group is talking in terms of a community paper so that the people in the area can voice their opinions and get publicity for their activities as they push for a better deal for their neighbourhood.

There are many other activities which the Group could start up - if they get the support. The basic aim is to get local people to participate in the activities of the community and to make demands for better facilities. Experience in other areas of Brighton has shown that these attempts do work; Whitehawk has a community centre; there's a Rights Centre opening shortly in the centre of Brighton. Brunswick can press for its rights too, but only if the Brunswick Group is well supported.

So far, this support has been forthcoming. About 60 people came to the Public Meeting held at Somerhill School on 12th February, and the general feeling there was that people wanted to do something for themselves....they weren't content to leave it to the 'authorities', or to other voluntary groups which are already working in Hove. A working group is now looking for some premises which the Group can use as a base for its attack on the problem of the area.

So there it is....an area with problems, an active group of people determined to do something to help themselves. Why not join in? You can find out more about the Brunswick Group from Monica Fletcher, 721821 ext. 53, or 683863.

BRUNSWICK'S DECLINE..CAPITALISM GONE SOUR?

One of the most socially damaging tactics adopted by landlords faced with a 'need' to make a swift profit is to sell off the houses they own to property companies. Tenants having been 'removed', these Companies can convert the house, and speculate in flats and offices for fat profits. This process has been going on in Brunswick, as in many other parts of Brighton and Hove, for several years. Mostly it goes un-noticed, except by the people directly affected, but occasionally something completely outrageous surfaces. The Brunswick Square "empty flats" scandal of last summer was a case in point. Sussex County Freehold, a London based property company, were found to own a 100 yard square block of seafront buildings along Brunswick Terrace: there were only 20 or so

BUGVILLE BLUES



tenants left in this block which, according to Hove Council, could have provided homes for 100 families. Most of the flats were empty, and buildings were being allowed to decay. Why? Because it was 'not profitable' for Sussex County Freehold either to repair the buildings or let them to tenants. The Company were holding out until they could get planning permission for offices. But it's likely that the Brunswick Terrace scandal was only the tip of the iceberg. Sussex County Freehold is now owned by Twentieth Century Banking Corporation, which is in turn a subsidiary of Bovis, the nationally famous building firm on the board of which sits that well-known social conscience of the Tory Party, Sir Keith Joseph. Twentieth Century and Sussex County bought up lots more property in Brighton--- 5, Sudeley St., 12 and 63 Pavilion St., 10 and 11 Pavilion Parade, 33 Waterloo St.---the list goes on and on---mainly using money borrowed from the Westminster Bank. Big banks only lend money if they see a profit on the horizon--- hence the pressure on Sussex County Freehold to keep flats empty, and thus keep their profit-making options open at the expense of the homeless and poorly housed.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

When big firms like Bovis are involved, there may seem to be little which local people can do. But the big firms can only move in when the landlords sell out. And neither landlord nor property company can do much whilst tenants are still in the houses. So that's one struggle that local people can affect. The Brunswick group described elsewhere on this page sees as one of its jobs the protection of tenants who are hassled by landlords. Only by grouping together to fight this type of exploitation can we hope to defeat the powerful and remote threat from the property speculator.

BACK AGAIN!



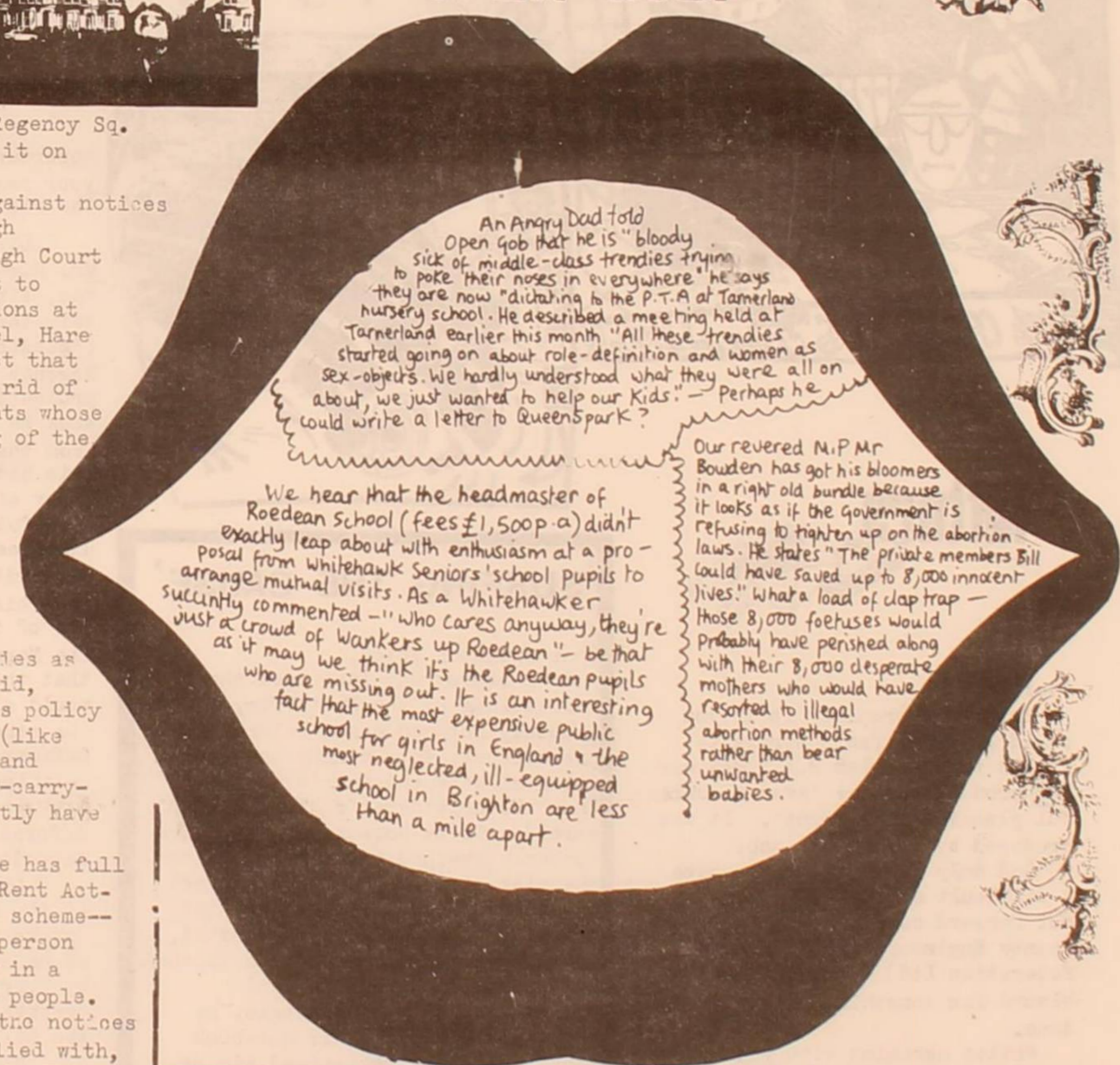
Brian Hare, landlord of Regency Sq. eviction fame, is trying it on again. As plaintiff appealing against notices served by Brighton Borough Council at Brighton Borough Court last month, in an attempt to remedy insanitary conditions at the infamous Mermaid Hotel, Hare made no secret of the fact that he could not wait to get rid of the three remaining tenants whose presence made the serving of the notices necessary.

"I see the present tenancies as fairly short term," he said, presumably hoping that his policy of continuing harassment (like refusing to accept rent, and employing a drunken, oosh-carrying caretaker) would shortly have the required effect. If the tenants leave, Hare has full use of the house for his Rent Act-evading Bed and Breakfast scheme-- under which any homeless person can live for £2 per night in a room with up to six other people. The court found that all the notices except one should be complied with, and dismissed Hare's appeal. Which means that the tenants will now have a fridge, a cooker, a proper sink and mains water in their rooms (Yes, you have to go to court to get drinking water in your home in 1975!) They will also have exclusive use of a toilet and bath which last year they shared- if that's the word- with over 50 other people in the same house. "We were never actually full up," says B.H. So the tenants can now look forward to improved standards, after the inevitable harassments of getting the work done à la Hare. Thanks to the public health dept., and legal dept of the Town Hall for doing their job and special congratulations to Judge W. Granville Wingate Q.C. who succeeded in remaining both awake and socially aware throughout. "You see, you've got to look at it from the point of view of someone whose home is in the house," he said. Right on, Granville.

remember?



OPEN GOB.



An Angry Dad told Open Gob that he is "bloody sick of middle-class trendies trying to poke their noses in everywhere" he says they are now "disturbing the P.T.A. at Tamerland nursery school. He described a meeting held at Tamerland earlier this month "All these trendies started going on about role-definition and women as sex-objects. We hardly understood what they were all on about, we just wanted to help our kids." Perhaps he could write a letter to Queenspark?

We hear that the headmaster of Roedean School (fees £1,500 p.a) didn't exactly leap about with enthusiasm at a proposal from Whitehawk Seniors' school pupils to arrange mutual visits. As a Whitehawker succinctly commented - "who cares anyway, they're just a crowd of wankers up Roedean" - be that as it may we think it's the Roedean pupils who are missing out. It is an interesting fact that the most expensive public school for girls in England & the most neglected, ill-equipped school in Brighton are less than a mile apart.

Our revered M.P. Mr Bouden has got his bloomers in a right old bundle because it looks as if the government is refusing to tighten up on the abortion laws. He states "The private members Bill could have saved up to 8,000 innocent lives." What a load of clap trap - those 8,000 foetuses would probably have perished along with their 8,000 desperate mothers who would have resorted to illegal abortion methods rather than bear unwanted babies.

LANDLADIES I have known

She lived in a flat downstairs with her sister. I had a room on the first floor. (Everytime she saw you she said, "Cheque" or, "Ooh aah", as if she'd seen a ghost.) There were notices pinned up everywhere around the place:-

PLEASE SEE THAT THE DOOR IS SECURELY FASTENED.

ALL LIGHTS TO BE TURNED OUT AT 10 O'CLOCK

PLEASE LEAVE THE BATHROOM CLEAN FOR OTHER GUESTS

Sleeveless tops horrified her. I don't think she'd ever seen bare arms before. "We like your fat arms," she told me. I couldn't think what she was talking about.

To see your pants hanging on the clothes' horse "Ooh" - What the people walking in the street could see!!! - "Ooh, Aah".

It was either the people in the street or my visitors. I asked a friend what she thought; she said it was O.K. if they were clean - so, I left them.

'Do not put out more than one milk bottle at a time' - 'You left the light on in the hall last night' - 'Do not put water down the basin after 11 o'clock at night' - quickly followed by, 'Do not put water down the basin after 10 o'clock. It gurgles in the pipes and disturbs other guests'.

There were notes to say that the dustmen were coming on different days. There was one to say they'd already been. You just couldn't win. On one occasion the rubbish went out on the wrong day. It was like an invasion from outer space: she shot in and past so quickly I nearly missed her. She slammed the box of rubbish onto the floor. CRASH! BANG! CRASH! She was so hysterical that her mouth just opened and shut like a goldfish that has lost its oxygen.

"Are you really ill or just mentally ill?" she demanded, "I feel sorry for you. As a matter of fact I'm praying for you."

(don't miss next month's instalment)



This is it!
(See page 12)



letters



Dear Sir,
I would appreciate it if you could get your facts straight. The trash called B.A.T.MAN was NOT produced by the "ever resourceful planning department". It was produced by Charnock's mob. God only knows, planners have a difficult enough job trying to put forward correct views to the County Engineers (British Roads Federation Ltd) Dept. without being blamed for something they have not done. Whilst agreeing with your views (and most PLANNERS at County DO agree with you) I must defend the Traffic Engineers in pointing out that they have not spent anything like "half-a-million on survey". That half-a-million is being wasted on the Brighton transportation study which will no doubt come up with the same old tired traffic engineers solutions.
Yours
Planner.

Dear Brighton Voice,
In your last issue you take me to task - once again - for suggesting that not all of your articles are entirely unbiased! Since the remarks concerned were in the context of a discussion on the aims of Community Action, I would very much like to take this opportunity of making the Liberal position clear. Liberal Community Action springs from the conviction that ordinary people should have a far greater say in the decisions affecting their own lives. Although our approach often brings us into conflict with 'the system' (as in the Terminus Rd. squat) our primary aim is not to overthrow it but to improve it and make it responsive to the needs of society.

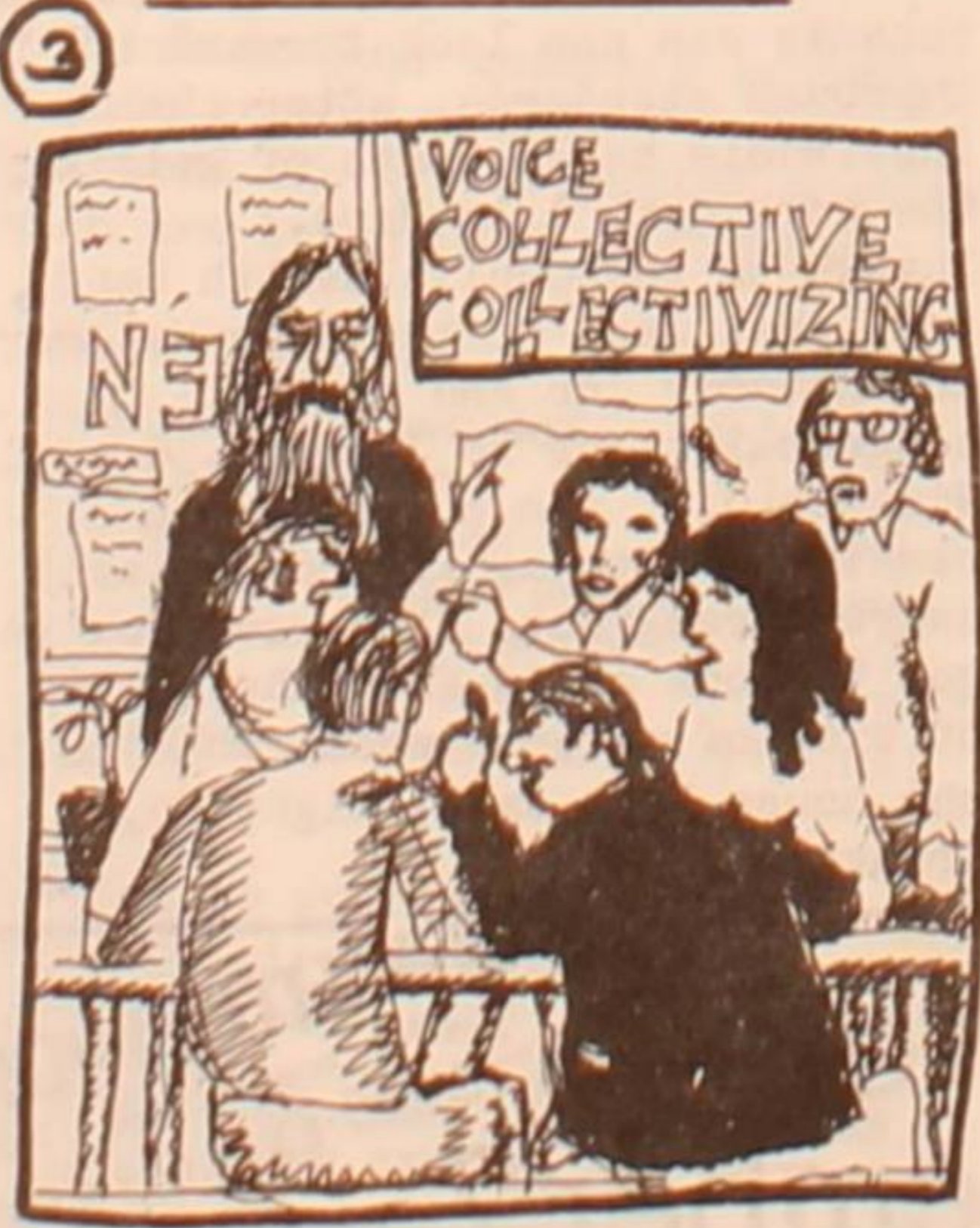
'SURFING THE CAUSE'

Dear Brighton Voice,
On a stormy day last week when I was walking by the West Pier, I suddenly noticed a man balancing precariously in a dinghy and examining closely the Pier's piles (not the aristocrat's haemorrhoids sort!). To my horror, a heavy wave suddenly smashed the dinghy against the pier structure and the man was washed overboard, struggling, into the sea. When finally, exhausted, he flung himself bearded and clothed in a soggy donkey jacket and wellingtons onto the shingle, he was still clutching his notebook and I instantly recognised him as one of the Brighton Voice Collective. He looked positively Neptunesque with strands of seaweed slapped across his cheeks and I felt I must write to you straight away and say that this kind of heroic dedication and commitment to a cause - in this instance the Save the Pier Campaign - deserves a very special commendation. I name no name but bobble hats off to the fellow.
Yours etc,
Mavis, Roundhill Crescent.

We do not wish to 'accentuate class conflict' in order to hasten 'The Revolution', as you apparently do; we wish to reduce class conflict and all other forms of inequality to produce a fairer society for us all. One last word; you might like to know that the mammoth Shelter carol singing venture, 'busted' by the police, which you reported in the same issue as your disparaging words about Liberals, and which has raised several hundred pounds in each of the last five years, was in fact organised by my husband and myself.
Yours Sincerely,
Delia Venables

25 Linden Mansions
Hornsey Lane,
Highgate,
London, N.6.

Dear Voice,
I would be grateful for this opportunity to further entertain your readers with the antics of the ridiculous Brian Hare.
Last October, you may recall, Mr. Hare, 5'6" in his ankle length mac, single handedly and unexpectedly threw out 20 paying tenants ('guests') from a derry (hotel) in Regency Square while 30 police protected the peace. Well, this week he was in court on a summons from the Health Authorities. This had nothing to do with the other affair which, while being unlawful, proved to be curiously unprosecutable. The Health Authorities now require him to give his 3 remaining tenants sole use of two of the three toilets in the Mermaid hotel. This means that the 20 to 50 hotel guests would all have to take a leak in the other one. As the Health Officer pointed out, the laws relating to 'hotel' accommodation are sparse and normally the informal standards of a Landlords' Association are all that apply. Little Brian, who lectures at the Poly, went slow on the uptake either, folks. Oh no. As he said to the judge, he wants by every legal means to move his tenants out, and this, in fact, was his counter proposal. No tenants - No health problem. Four guests, four beds and a paraffin heater in a dirty dark room. Suddenly became healthy. Likewise, the two guests and their 30 year-old son in a single room paying 30 quid a week and being legally unhealthy either. Simple in't it?
Dave Williams



and more to come...

info...

- AGE-CONCERN. 57 Ditchling Rd., (683275). Old people's welfare.
- BIT-BY-BIT. 7 Victoria Rd., (27878). Information service.
- BPAS. Wistons, 138 Dyke Rd., (509726). Pregnancy testing, abortions, vasectomy.
- CANCER PREVENTION. (29801).
- CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU. 17 Ditchling Rise, (61664). 2 St. George's Place, 2.15 - 4.15 daily. Whitehawk Community Centre. Thursdays 2-4pm, no appointment necessary. Free, helpful advice.
- FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC. 18-19 Western Rd. (734258). Also c/o Health Centre, University of Sussex. Lewes Clinic, (Lewes 4403)
- FRIEND. Monday evenings (61664) Weekdays, 10-6, (739729)
- HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE. 73 Grand Parade.
- MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL. 46 Grand Parade, (681919).
- NGCL. Richard Moseley, 2 Gloucester St., (684256).
- OFF THE RECORD. (63080). Monday-Friday, 8-10pm. Youth Service. Help with sex problems, loneliness etc.
- RENT TRIBUNAL. Anston House, 137 Preston Rd. (506384). Rent disputes, security of tenure etc.
- SAMARITANS. (733333), 24 hours a day.
- VOLUNTARY SERVICE CENTRE. 17 Ditchling Rise (61664)
- PLEASE.

Please don't send mail for us to Gloucester St. as it will probably be undelivered. If you have info for us, or if you want changes made to your ad please send them in to us. We are now at 7 Victoria Rd. The Voice needs more people to join the collective. Why not help to produce the paper as well as reading it.

STOP PRESS INFO: YOUTH ORGANIZED BY AUTHORITIES

papers

- EDUCAT. 42 Egremont Place, (680258). Teacher and education mag. No.2, out now, 15p (20p post)
- BRIGHT TIMES. 7 Victoria Rd., (27878). Literary and news. Alternative community paper.
- LITTLE DIGGER & BRIGHTON FOR KIDS. 117 Hartington Rd. and Public House, 15p. Magazine and guide for and by kids.
- POVERTY HARDSHIP BUT HAPPINESS. First of a series in which Brighton working people tell their own stories. 25p.
- QUEENSPARK. 14 Toronto Terrace. 62 Bentham Rd., (688380). Local newspaper.
- WHOLE EARTH PAPER. 7 Victoria Rd. Out now, 10p.

groups/gatherings

- ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP. Adrian King, 60 Tragalgar Rd., Portslade.
- ANTI-RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN. Tom, (684256).
- A.S.NEILL TRUST. (691712). Local branch for alternative education projects.
- BFT. Support your local (non-profitmaking) Film Theatre.
- BRIGHTON HOSTEL. 105 Islingwood Rd., Meals Sun & Wed 2-5pm. Tea, toast and stew at other times if possible. Needs clothes, food & HELP.
- BRIGHTON SOCIETY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP. Selma Montford, 10 Clermont Rd., (509209). Against bad planning on social and aesthetic grounds.
- BRIGHTON TENANTS ASSOC. 7 Victoria Rd., (27878). Meetings Tuesdays 8pm. Or contact Russ Moseley, (683348).
- BRITAIN/GDR SOCIETY (686259). Facts and info on East Germany.
- BRITISH SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. (62794).

- BUILDING CO-OP. People interested in getting one together contact Ray & Stephan, 692766.
- CENTRE FOR INVESTIGATION OF PROPERTY SPECULATION. (691712).
- C.H.E. (CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY). Marlborough Hotel (First Floor Hall, Princes St, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month, 8.30pm. Contact Graham Wilkinson, 3a Montpelier Villas, or Brian Hart, (28356).
- CLAIMANT'S UNION. 7 Victoria Rd., (27878). Meetings Mondays 8pm.
- CLAP (COMMUNITY LEVY FOR ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS). Details in CLAP catalogue. Send your CLAP TAX to: BIT, 146 Great Western Rd. London, W.11.
- EAST BRIGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION. G.Andrews. 8 Twineham Rd., (687715). Concerned with redevelopment in Whitehawk.
- FOOD CO-OP. 7 Victoria Rd., (27878). Meets Thursdays 8pm. Bring orders and money.
- FOOTBALL CLUB in Hollingdean, 80 boys, 30 train Wednesdays 7-9pm. 4 teams play Saturdays. Help needed. Contact Peter Carver (500232) or Brian Webb (680522)
- FREE ROOM FOR COMMUNITY USE. Day or evening. For community info a typewriter and photocopier will be available during the day. Chris Miller. Social Services Dept., 15 Prince's St., (29801 ext. 674)
- FREE VET: P.D.S.A. 6 Oxford St., (63606). Donations welcomed.
- FRIENDS CENTRE. Snip St., (27835). Wide range of classes including planning. Tuesdays 7.30.
- HOUSING ACTION GROUP. Patrick Cohen, 29 Addison Rd. Hove. Meets at 7 Victoria Rd., Tuesdays 8pm.
- HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION P.O.Box 130, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey. Produces HOWL magazine.
- LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN. Group forming. Exploring all aspects of love between women. Contact Women's Centre.

- MOTHER & TODDLER AFTERNOON. Westdene Library. Tuesdays 2.30-3.15 (term time). Coffee, toys, picture books - meet other mums.
- MOULESCOOMB ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND. Needs money, material and help to rebuild the playground. Arthur & Dave, c/o 67 Centre, off Hodshrove Rd., Moulescoomb (682428).
- NATIONAL UNION OF SCHOOL STUDENTS. Ben, 13 Prince Edward's Rd., Lewes, (2731). Power to the classroom.
- OLD NEWSPAPERS wanted for playgroup in Elm Grove, will collect, (62284).
- PENSIONERS AND TRADE UNION ASSOCIATION. Keith Orange, 22 Whippingham Rd.
- PRE-SCHOOL HANDICAPPED KIDS & MUMS OPPORTUNITY GROUP. TUESDAYS 1.30-3.30. Mrs. S. McCormick, 44 Inwood Cres., (509431).
- PRIOR HOUSE. Carlton Hill, (681925). Youth & Community Centre. Many activities including: Old People's lunch, Tuesdays 12.30-2.00, 20p. Open Creche, Thursdays 9.30-12.00, 10p.
- RANK & FILE. (735925). Group of teachers in N.U.T.
- The RIGHT TO READ. Classes at Connaught FE Centre, Connaught Rd., Hove. Evenings. Help for adults who can't read or write. Phone 720406 - evenings - if you need help or know anyone who can't read this. All queries in strict privacy.
- SAVE THE PIER CAMPAIGN. Enquiries to: John Lloyd Forum Gallery, 16 Market St., (26578).
- SUSSEX GAY LIBERATION FRONT. Marlborough Hotel (Atmosic Room) Prince's St., Brighton 1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month 8.30. 5th Tuesdays Alternate CHE & SGLF. Saloon Bar, prior to meeting
- TRADES COUNCIL. Keith Orange, 22 Whippingham Rd.
- TRANSPORT 2000. Kevin McNulty, 75 Upper Lewes Rd.
- UPPER NORTH STREET RESIDENTS. Robert Gregory, 97 Upper North St. (26749)

PAVILION LAWNS: NOT LIMITED TO THINGS TO CONTRIBUTE - CONTACT BRENDAN McLAUGHLIN Tel. 510W 686412