

PAPERS

BRIGHT TIMES
7, Victoria Rd (27878)
Literary and news. Alternative community paper.

EDUCAT
42, Egremont Place (680258)
Teacher and education mag.

LITTLE DIGGER AND BRIGHTON FOR KIDS
117, Hartington Rd and Public House, 15p.
Magazine and guide for and by kids.

QUEENSPARK
14, Toronto Terrace
62, Bentham Rd. (688380)
Paper for the Queens Park area.

WHOLE EARTH
Available from Open
7, Victoria Rd.

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 GREAT BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)
Meets 37 Gloucester Rd
1st Friday each month (684404)

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
Sec. 33 Ventnor Villas
Hove

LABOUR PARTY
Kemp Town
179 Lewes Rd (62592)
Pavilion
90 Sedgewick Rd (557944)

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

YOUR FAVOURITE TORY M.P.
Andrew Bowden
Home phone number 689942

SHOPS

All these shops sell the VOICE

ANANDA
Now at 19 Bond St
Odds and ends to make your life good.

BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP
37 Gloucester Rd. (684404)
Sats 9.30-6.00

FROLICS
27 Sydney St (692882)
Victorian---'40s clothes.

THE GARDEN
has regrettably closed.
Good food is still available at the Open.

GARUDAS
17 Kensington Gdns
(682983) 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.
21 Little Preston St.
(28357). Alternative radical books & mags.
Lots more, coffee.

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.

WIND HORSE BOOKSHOP.
19 George St.
Buddhist literature & information. Incense, posters, cards etc.

ANTIQU MARKET
UNION HALL, Ayr St.
Mondays and Wednesdays
8.00 am to 5.00 pm
Teas by OPEN.
Voice on sale.

SEMINAR
One Day Seminar in Oriental Medicine - including acupuncture, oriental massage, diet.
Held in Brighton on August 16th. Cost: £3.00
Anyone interested please contact College of Natural Therapeutics, 16 West Parade, Norwich.

PAPERS
"Libertarian Struggle", paper of the Anarchist Workers Association.
Available from Symposium, Public House and local AWA - see POLITICS.

POLITICS
Anarchist Workers Assoc.
Lorraine Robinson
Rear 261 Preston Rd.
Brighton.

Buddhist Open Retreat.
August 29th - Sep 28th.
For new-comers and those more familiar with Buddhism too. Programme includes meditation, Hatha Yoga, taped lectures, communication exercises, puja.
£2.25 per person per day. Details and application forms from Buddhist Centre, 18-19 George St.

Place to live needed
Urgently !!!

Mary and Maria and baby Rebecca desperately need a place to live. They would consider anything but ideally would like a share in a large communal household. They are prepared to help out with housework, baby-sitting etc, as well as paying rent.
If anyone has got space for two women and a baby could they please ring Brighton 688388 and ask for Frances.



Anyone/everyone invited to submit material
WRITE TO BRIGHTON VOICE 7 VICTORIA RD.
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Printed and Published by
Pendkarn Ltd., 7 Victoria Rd,
Brighton.

BRIGHTON VOICE

No 25

Community Paper

6p

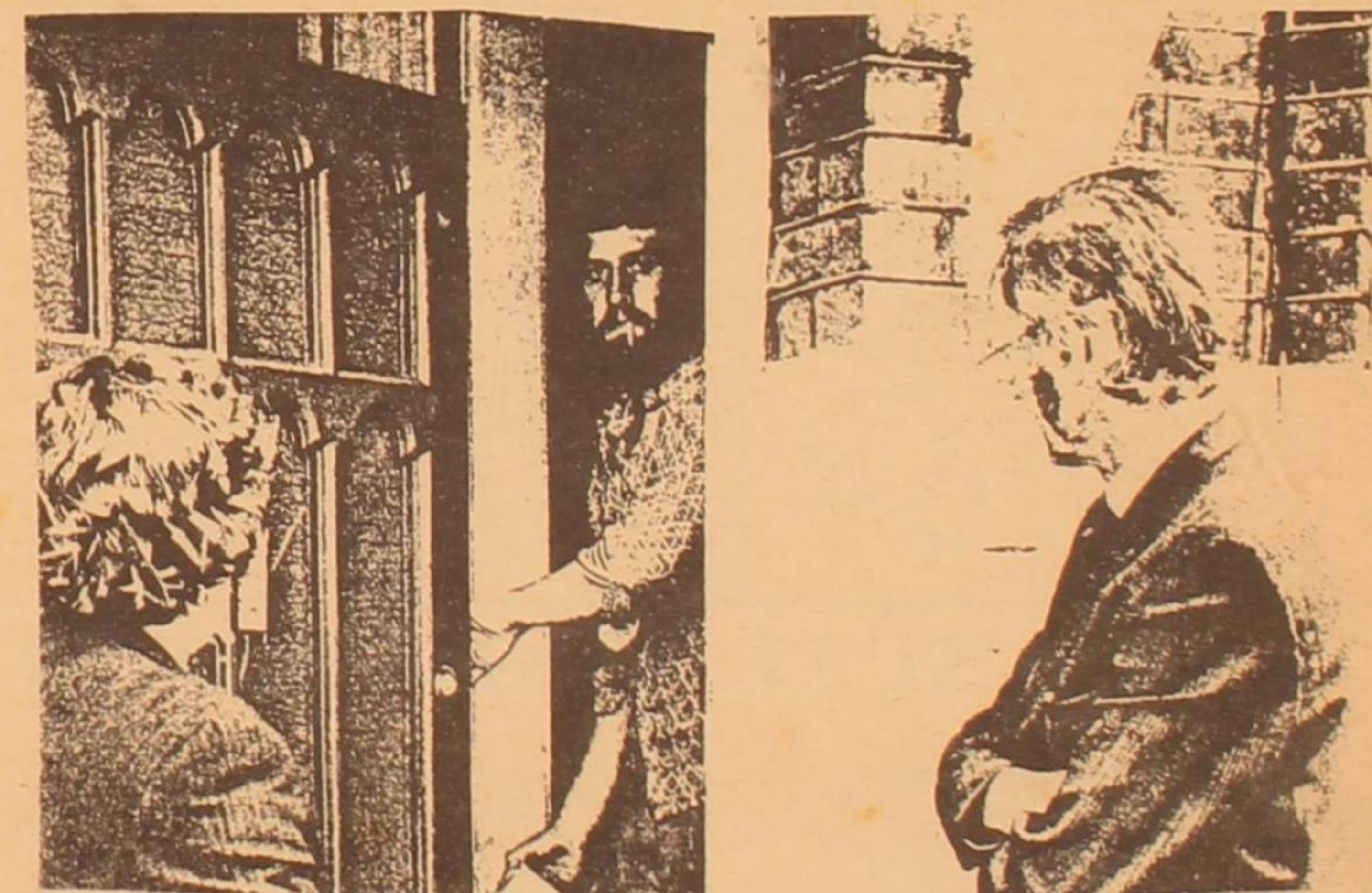
SQUATTERS UNDER ATTACK

All over Britain in the last month, the squatting movement has been under attack. Not from the armed bailiffs of five years ago but from the worthless articulate hacks of many newspapers. The Sunday People recently carried out a four week grope-probe into the London Squatters, during which reporters infiltrated squats and then wrote stories portraying them as the next cell of the revolution.

But the most virulent attack we've seen to date has come from our favourite kicking-stool, the Evening Argus. In a worthless articulate editorial on July 15th the Argus lashes out for "Throwing out Squatters". And to deal with this imagined threat to all things sacred, ageing editor-in-chief Gorringer writes that breaking the law to deal with squatters must be condoned. He advocates the formation of thug squads, armed with legal expertise amongst other things, and "indemnified against possible court action". In other words paid to commit offences of assault, grievous bodily harm, illegal eviction, and criminal damage - providing they only attacked young squatters and their children. Such a suggestion would not have disgraced Nazi Germany.

"Owners would no doubt gratefully underwrite court action", the tirade continued. This remark was certainly genuinely felt. For what they had not told readers who buy their grubby sheets each day was that, next morning, the Argus was applying to the Brighton County Court for an eviction order against squatters at No 20 Granville Road. The house belonged to the Southern Publishing Company and had been empty since some reporters had lived there months before.

The Argus got its eviction order - easily, peacefully and legally. But there was more up their sleeve. Gorringer had written: "It is a wonder that an expert group has not been formed to throw out squatters." It appears that the Argus has been instrumental, behind the scenes, in starting just such a group. Its not very big at the moment - but it may grow.



MOULSECOOMB REPORT

4 page pull out.

FUZZ FINED and bound to keep the peace: pg 3

The 'group' is Mr James Michael Boswell, of 20 Preston Street Brighton, whose occupation is described as 'private enquiry agent'. Boswell is a superficially mild-mannered 50 year old, who has been hanging around at least three new squats in Brighton. His face is just visible in the picture on this page (right). He has worked to date, through firms of solicitors, such as Howlett and Clarke of Ship Street. He is an accomplished liar and will usually pretend that he is a solicitor, or can negotiate for a lease. In fact he is trying to find out names, information, anything to get squatters out. But he has not yet descended to the Argus ideal of a band of thugs taking direct action.

Continued on Page 2 Col 1

Solicitor Threatens "Democracy & Rule of Law."

Some of the people best placed to help the homeless, the Brighton, Hove and District Landlord's Association, were recently informed by a certain Mr. Barling that, "There are firms - and I know of at least one in Brighton - who will, for a reasonable amount of money, go along to a property with some rather large gentlemen and chase the squatters out."

Continued on Page 2 Col 2

Squatters (cont)

Boswell's sudden appearance on the scene dates from about one week after squatters moved into Argus property. It seems likely that his involvement has been encouraged by the worthless articulate scroungers of that newspaper.

It has been informative to watch their hypocritical changes of opinion. Just two months before, editorials said that squatters had become 'respectable'. Now things have changed—when there's trouble in the Argus back yard. But the Argus will learn a little when they don't find a "wanton trail of destruction" but only a deserted temporary home. Alas for young people, mothers and children.

References in this edition of the Voice to 'worthless articulate scroungers' are borrowed from the phrase of the same name, used by the chairman of the GLC Housing Committee in a recent speech about squatters. With a shortage of some 200,000 dwellings in London alone, there may be doubt as to the worth of this articulate scrounger earning £8,000 a year.

Empty Houses Anyone

For two months, Open Cafe at 7, Victoria Rd (just two minutes walk from the Clock Tower) has been a clearing house for lists of squats and empty property available in Brighton and Hove. If you know of any empty property near you which could provide temporary accommodation, please send or take details to the Open Cafe. If possible, say how long it's been empty, what the condition inside is, how big, and who owns it. Ta!

Solicitor Threatens (cont.)

What we would like to know is - has Mr Barling, a solicitor, told the police the name of this firm breaking the law? Who are these 'respectable' thugs? Are the police investigating this 'private army', as Barling called it? Why are the ARGUS giving such prominent publicity to such worthless and articulate scroungers?

"If we are to preserve democracy

and the rule of law in England, we must guard against those who frustrate it" - in other words, take the law into your own hands.

The meeting took place at the Longford's Hotel. Both the hotel and the landlords have a long-standing and profitable interest in preserving homelessness. One of the assertions made was that the squatters could be contacted through a cafe run by anarchists. This is obviously supposed to refer to the OPEN CAFE where the Brighton Hove and District Tenants' and Squatters' Assoc meet every Tuesday.

This accusation angered the people at Open. They emphasised that the Cafe isn't associated with any political stance but that it is a charitable organisation benefiting the whole community. The authorities have often used Open's 'crash pad' service for the homeless for whom landlords do nothing. Open says it would love to send these homeless people to Longford's, Barling & Co.

N.U.J. - SURE CROSS ABOUT SHAWCROSS.

When the Right Honourable Lord Shawcross of Friston, G.B.E., P.C., Q.C. was elected chairman of the Press Council a year ago he did the sort of damn honourable thing a fellow would expect.

He resigned from his post as an independent national director of The Times newspapers group.

When his Lordship took charge of a Press Council complaints committee hearing a month ago he did the sort of damn dishonourable thing a fellow would expect only from a bounder.

He failed to inform the meeting that he knew one of the parties involved in the dispute - Victor P. Gorringe, editor-in-chief of the Evening Argus.

Not surprising that they should have met. Shawcross lives in the Argus circulation area. He is Chancellor of Sussex University. He was president for thirteen years of the Society of Sussex Downmen. For twenty seven years he was a Sussex JP.

Gorringe has edited the Argus for more than twenty years - longer than anyone wishes to recall with accuracy.

Of course these eminent gentlemen have nodded and nattered at functions over the years.

Yet when Gorringe confronted members of the Brighton and Mid-Sussex Branch of the National Union of Journalists at the hearing Lord Shawcross was happy to take the impartial chair.

That fact alone would raise doubts about the validity of the proceedings. What occurred at that hearing raises doubts about the very validity of

the Press Council itself.

For the first half hour of the meeting the two NUJ members - Eric Tyson, Branch chairman, and Roy Greenslade - respectfully answered respectful questions about their case against Gorringe.

(Readers may recall that the NUJ Branch reported Gorringe to the Press Council because he refused to publish two letters in reply to one of his leading articles - on Press freedom).

After thirty minutes the Newspaper Publisher's Association's boardroom door was opened to admit the 73 year old Shawcross.

He apologised for being late. He'd just got off the plane from Iran - as an adviser to American bankers Morgan Guaranty he often pops over to see the Shah.

Then the man who won a knighthood for his masterly indictment of the fallen Germans at Nuremberg used his courtroom cross-examination technique on Tyson and Greenslade.

Carson was softer on Wilde. Even Perry Mason smiled. Shawcross treated the affair as a personal crusade.

He found reasons for Gorringe not printing the NUJ's letters that even Gorringe hadn't dreamed up.

The complaints committee woke up and nodded agreement as legal bars struck home.

One could almost detect a blush on the magenta complexion of Gorringe at this astonishing advocacy for a case he had come to defend alone.

A week or so after the hearing Gorringe was awarded the O.B.E. for his services to journalism. Argus reporters quickly renamed the order - Other Buggers' Efforts.

Although the ruling will not be made public for some time the NUJ considers their complaint will be rejected.

This case illustrates the Press Council's bias towards the status quo, its leanings towards the establishment and unequivocal support for the monopoly capitalist Press.

It makes a laughing stock of the Council's proclaimed objectives: to preserve the freedom of the Press; to review developments likely to restrict the supply of information; to report of deals that might lead to greater monopoly ownership of newspapers; and to consider complaints about Press conduct.

Since the Council's inauguration twenty two years ago it has watched while the Press has been taken into fewer and fewer hands, thereby eroding freedom and restricting the diverse flow of information.

In Brighton the Argus has a monopoly after wiping out all opposition.

The Press Council's power to deal with this situation is questionable and it tends to boast instead of its complaints procedure.

But editors shudder more at the thought of libel, worry more over militant journalists, quake more at proprietorial interference than they do over Press Council rulings.

Now we know why.

Police Fined

The Peoples Free Fair



During the Free Fair on June 14th, Brighton police broke up a free performance of street theatre in Churchill Square and arrested the four performers whose show was being warmly applauded by passers-by. All were members of the Natural Theatre Company, part of the Bath Arts Workshop, a group sponsored by the Arts Council. Their performance, in mime, was a mimic "follow my leader", and included the use of a yacht flare, and used no other props. They were wearing black evening dress and white masks. According to members of the audience, who later spoke to the Free Fair organisers, they were "thoroughly enjoying" the show when four police cars arrived. Without warning, the police stopped the performance and attempted to arrest the four players. All resisted by immediately sitting down, but were dragged off by the police - to satirical applause and jeers from the crowd. Bath Arts Workshop director, Brian Popay, had the lit flare struck from his hand by one policeman and was unable to douse it safely. The police officers later canvassed a number of department stores in the vicinity, including the expensive Habitat shop, trying to get complaints against the performers.

This is just the latest in a series of foolish and unpleasant acts by Brighton Police. In 1973, a children's party in St Michaels Place was roughly broken up. National notoriety was achieved by policemen who carried off jellies as "evidence".

National publicity was also given to the "Battle of Terminus Road" in 1974, in which a group of squatters successfully defended a families' house against 40 police and bailiffs using flour, water, snot and human barricades across the door. Later, in November, the same force participated in an unlawful eviction of more than twenty bed and breakfast tenants in the town's elegant Regency Square - as reported in Voice 19.

The arrest of the theatre group was not the only event which marred the fun of the first Peoples Free Fair, an amalgamation of the ecological and alternative 'Envirofair' and a Kiddies Carnival, both held separately last year.

Veteran festival organiser, Sid Rawle, one of the editors of the new IT and Maya Free Nation News, arrived early on the Saturday morning with a stall to sell the recently printed IT. As soon as selling had begun, solicitors for the Windsor Action Group, who had reputedly travelled covertly to the Fair in anticipation, served him with a writ for contempt of court. The group had obtained a High Court injunction against the promotion of this year's Windsor Festival. At a High Court appearance later that week, Sid Rawle was jailed for contempt, and may apparently be held until the planned Festival is finished.

The theatre group, who were due to perform later at the Free Fair site, Sussex University's Falmer campus, were then held for three hours following their arrest at about 10.20. They were bailed after being charged with ten offences.

Charges, which were later described by some of the Fair organisers as "absurd", included obstruction and threatening behaviour under section 5 of the public order act, against all four. One was further charged under the Litter Act for "discharging confetti in a public place" and under the Explosives Act for "discharging a firework in a public place".

All four - Brian Popay, Ralph Oswick, Mick Martin & Andrew Hulme - appeared at Brighton magistrates court on July 15th.

A controversial point has been a letter written by the police Superintendent a month before the Fair which clearly stated that there would be "no obstruction" provided there was no annoyance, inconvenience or obstruction to members of the public. "The more conservative sensibilities should not be affronted", the letter continued. Police claimed that this letter, which was tacitly admitted to have allowed the performance was countermanded by a further letter to the organisers from Brighton Council. No such letter was received, directly or indirectly, by the organisers of the Peoples Free Fair. The arrests have been called "malicious and unnecessary", since no attempt was made to warn the organisers or the performers before they were dragged off by the police.

Brighton, 15th July. The case of threatening behaviour and other charges brought against the Bath Natural Theatre Company, was today dropped entirely. All charges were withdrawn without reservation by the police, who accepted that the whole episode was 'unnecessary'. The theatre group had been arrested at the Free Fair show in Churchill Square.

However the police were unwilling to endure the public disgrace of an order of defendants costs against them. In order to avoid embarrassment, before the case started, the police agreed to pay £50 under the counter to defence solicitor Brigid McQue - to cover her firms costs, and those of the company for travelling to Brighton.

A rather sneaky tactic adopted by the police to get off their fine was denounced outside the court. "Brighton Police have been dealt with leniently here", said a spokesman for the people of Brighton, "but in future they must be of good behaviour. The people cannot tolerate a recurrence of such events."

METHODISTS LASH OUT

Although the giant, toothless and impotent Evening Argus finds it impossible to criticise the establishment in its pages, it is rewarding to see that a little church magazine can actually speak up for the community.

In the latest edition of the "London Roadrunner", the magazine of the London Road Methodist Church, Brighton Police are denounced for their childish behavior in Churchill Square, and for breaking up carol singing at Christmas. "Hey Jesus, don't come to Brighton - or you'll be nicked for making people happy", is how the Methodists put their view. And they've written to the "Blue Meanies" of John Street, just to make sure that the message gets through.

There does seem to be a campaign organised by, among others, the council's chief officers, against any fun or festivity in the town that isn't cosily middle class and sponsored by such as Goodyear Tyres. We hope the latest fine of £50 for Brighton Police will keep them down a bit.

Private Hotels Make Fortunes Out Of Homeless

With the current reductions in local government spending, it is not surprising that unnecessary frivolities such as CD 1 (the mayor's Rolls) are coming in for criticism again, but how about this for a lucrative racket on the rates, supported by the Corporation?

Under the 1948 National Assistance Act, the Local Authority is supposed to provide temporary housing for homeless families. Most councils keep a certain number of houses and flats free for this purpose, usually substandard--or run hostels. In Brighton, things are different; apart from the very few "welfare" houses, homeless families are placed in bed and breakfast hotels, often for months at a time. This normally means being jammed in one room with all the kids and maybe half your furniture as well--storage space is expensive and hard to come by.

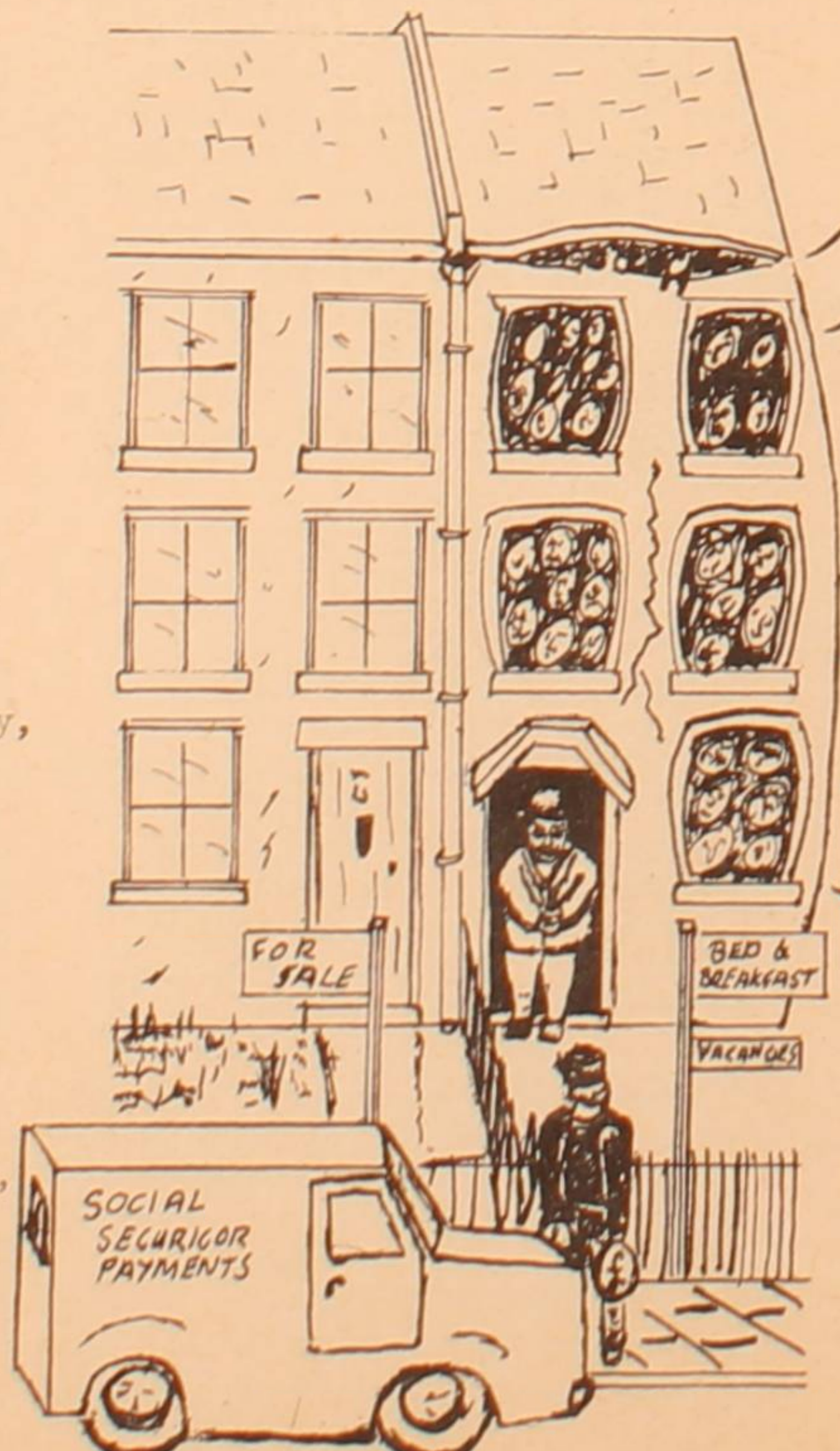
Meanwhile, the owners of these hotels, some of whom concentrate entirely on homeless families placed there by the Social Services Dept., are making over £100 a week in some cases, largely paid for out of the rates.

There are three ways around this that could be adopted without undue difficulty--firstly, the Housing Dept. could make a reasonable number of houses available; secondly, they or the Social Services Dept. could buy up some of these hotels and convert them into hostels and thirdly, compulsory purchase orders could be slapped on some of the empty properties we see all around the town and they could then be used to house the homeless.

A case can be made out for not using existing council accommodation, but with the sort of money being paid out every week to hotel owners for providing minimal services (not forgetting that hotels charge per person and not per room) any outlay would soon be made up, with a considerable saving in the long run. As for compulsory purchase orders, you will not be surprised to learn that the Tory majority on Brighton

Council--among whom estate agents and property owners loom large--is opposed to them on principle. Danny Sheldon, our last mayor, believes they are an interference with the free market and that they, along with all council housing, "sap the initiative of the people." "If people can't afford housing down here, they ought to get out," he said recently.

In the meanwhile we get poorer, the hotel owners get richer and the homeless get a rotten deal--guess who's getting the Social Services.



HERE LANDLORD £60,000 AND THERE'LL BE £80,000 MORE NEXT YEAR

persecution of gays continues

The Evening Argus of June 12th reported Supt. Kenneth Hutchinson as saying, during a licensing application, that "it is a recipe for bother when young people congregate with the intention of listening to canned music in a place where drink is available along with a bit of food."

It is a fact that since this man was put in charge of Pubs, Clubs and Restaurant licensing, some of the longest established clubs, especially Gay clubs, have been raided and savage penalties handed out. In the case of the "Curtain" Club raid, he actually admitted, under persistent cross-examination by an expensive London Queen's Counsel that there was nothing really wrong with the club, but he simply disliked homosexuals (the "Curtain" is almost exclusively Gay). When this was prised out of him the club's licence was saved as the barrister simply threw up his hands and looked at the judge!!!



Just who does this man think he is? He acts like a feudal baron telling the peasants how to live, but he is a paid public servant who, in spite of his rather bizarre appearance (a near mohican haircut) is paid to observe and enforce the law, not inflict, even subconsciously, his own mode of living.

There is little enough entertainment for young people in this ripped-off, conference dominated town so go back where you came from Supt. Hutchinson and leave Brighton's youngsters (and Gays) to follow their lives in peace.

National Report Slams Brighton's Decaying Estates

The deplorable state of council housing in Brighton hits the headlines. A report by Shelter with the title "Homes Fit For Heroes", reveals that one estate in Brighton has become a "dump estate" in which old council houses are in a terrible state of decay, where the tenants despair of ever getting things done and where the neglect by Brighton housing authorities is in danger of making them into "2nd class citizens".

The report pulls no punches. It is a full attack on the complacency and prejudice of those who determine housing policy in this town and country. It also contains recommendations which could revolutionise the scene of council housing in Brighton and elsewhere.

But will the Brighton authorities do anything?
SURELY THIS TIME THEY MUST.

The estate in question is Moulsecoomb, or rather North and East Moulsecoomb where modernisation has been promised for years and years without result, and has now been postponed yet again. The story of decay and despair is the story of this Report.

And what a story! Damp walls everywhere, rotting door frames, outside walls peeling and decaying, tenants who have petitioned the Council for improvements without any effect at all, others who just have to stay there, and most common of all a feeling that certain streets have been allowed to run down and become ghetto-like areas where there's hopelessness and despair.

The Report is not just suggesting that the Government and the local authorities should show more concern. It goes much further.

This is what it says:

**Money should be made immediately available to modernise these decaying estates.

**All council tenants should be given the same security of tenure as tenants in the private sector of housing.



THIS IS RINGMER ROAD IN NORTH MOULSECOOMB, WHERE 'MODERNISATION HAS BEEN PROMISED FOR YEARS AND YEARS'... BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE.

**Housing visitors should not be allowed to report on what kind of house they think the tenants are fit for. In other words, they should not go round judging tenants as good or bad. They should be looking at a family's needs.

**The tenants' right to repairs - and how to get them done - should be written inside every rent book. Tenants should know their rights.

**Tenants should be allowed and encouraged to form tenant co-operatives to run the estates themselves.

THESE ARE BIG REFORMS.

BUT HOW WILL THEY GET DONE?

Shelter has no power to enforce them.

It can only hope to persuade the authorities by the strength of its case. In the end this won't be enough. The tenants themselves must take action and keep up the pressure. That's why the Report ends by saying to all council tenants, "This is what you can do now":

**Organise petitions for repairs and modernisations to councillors, the Housing Manager, and the Ministry of Housing.

**Talk to other tenants about the kinds of changes you want to see on your estate and get your local councillor to hear your ideas.

**Start organising a local co-operative for every two or three streets, with a committee and regular meetings.

THE REPORT

THE SHELTER REPORT PULLS NO PUNCHES. BELOW WE PRINT EXTRACTS RELEVANT TO MOULSECOOMB. NOTE THAT IN THE REPORT, MOULSECOOMB IS DUBBED "FAIRFIELDS".

Nearly one third of British households are now council tenants. Higher house prices are holding back the increase in owner occupation. The private rented sector is shrinking and councils are buying up tenanted property and empty private houses. The country is moving toward a situation in which almost half the population will be housed by councils.

It is often assumed that a council tenancy is always a good deal and that we can stop being concerned about people once they have a council house. Yet council tenants have fewer rights than any other group of householders. They have no security of tenure, and can only hand their tenancy on to their children at the council's discretion. They often have no choice as to where they are rehoused and can very rarely transfer to another house unless they can get another tenant to exchange with them. They frequently have to suffer a very inadequate repair system and are not informed of their legal rights to get repairs done, through the courts. Usually they have no say in the external decoration of their houses or the layout of the gardens, and have to ask permission to do any internal alterations.

NO SAY

Most London boroughs now have some form of participation or consultation scheme for tenants but in the vast majority of towns outside London, tenants have no say at all unless they form an aggressive tenants' association that forces the housing department and the council to listen to it.

DERELICTION WILL SOON BE UPON THIS HOUSE IN CHALEY ROAD



Attitudes of housing managers constantly remind tenants of their subordinate status, while the general public expects them to be grateful for having a house subsidised by public money.

Councils have the right to prevent tenants from taking in lodgers, and they exercise this right even when a house is seriously underoccupied... Tenants who want to transfer to another property find it impossible to do so in most towns now, unless they have urgent medical reasons or are overcrowded: even then it is far from easy... Council tenants who want to move to another town often find themselves in a hopeless position, since they have to find a family willing to exchange with them.

DISAGREEABLE "AGREEMENTS"

Tenancy agreements between councils and tenants are very one-sided agreements. The terms are laid down by the council and the tenant has to accept them if he wishes to live in a council house. The agreement often includes a clause saying that the council reserves the right to add to or vary conditions without any consultation with the tenants.

Housing departments are notoriously inflexible in their interpretation of rules. The housing department is a bureaucracy and a bureaucracy is a system "structured to deal with large numbers of identical cases". A social work aide said that at the housing department, "they run services for their own benefit, not that of the public", and that they invoke the phrase "administrative convenience" to justify their behaviour.

Housing departments' attitude to damp is a typical example of this. The stock answer to complaints of damp is that the cause is condensation and that the only solution is constant heating and ventilation in all rooms in the house. This is far too expensive for most tenants. The real reason for condensation is the cheap materials used in building and the real solution is to insulate all the houses but most councils will not consider this because of the cost.

"WE WERE DESPERATE"

The dependant situation of a council tenant begins long before he becomes a tenant. These days most council tenants have spent years on the waiting lists, often in desperate housing need, overcrowded with relatives or in grossly inadequate accommodation. Obtaining a council tenancy is

PADLOCKS, GRILLES AND PROHIBITIONS.

Are these the stuff of which a community centre is made?



ITS WINDOWS GRILLED TO BEAT VANDALS, ITS PAINTWORK PEELING, THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN MOULSECOOMB PRESENTS AN EXTERIOR AS BLEAK AS ITS INSIDE IS GRIM. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE HALL IS LITTLE USED. YET, INSTEAD OF JUST HOUSING BINGO SESSIONS, IT COULD SERVE AS FOCUS FOR THIS PART OF THE ESTATE.

their only hope of being rehoused in decent accommodation.

A North Fairfields tenant put it like this: "We took the first choice of housing the council offered us, as we were desperate".

Thus tenants' attitudes to the department are formed before they ever get onto an estate: they are grateful to get a house and feel they would be penalised if they bother the department's officials for information or about repairs.

One very angry but demoralised tenant, disillusioned after years of battling with the department about her rubbish problem, said:

"We just can't win. They won't listen. It's like talking to the wall".

It is intolerable that the system of providing accommodation for the majority of lower income people carries a stigma of inferiority. We believe that steps must be taken to change the status of council tenants; our proposals for doing this follow in a later section.

Here's how a social worker described the atmosphere of North and East Fairfields: "THERE'S NO HOPE, NO COLOUR, NO CARE, NO INCENTIVE"

THE FACTS ABOUT MOULSECOOMB: CONTINUED FROM THIS PAGE, COLUMN 3.

he said was the worst on the estate. This illustrates the frustration and powerlessness of Council tenants trying to achieve anything.

A tenant from North Fairfields estate told us that the Council never got as far as North Fairfields to do improvements; South Fairfields was always done first and the money always runs out before they get to North Fairfields. This is borne out by the fact that the modernisation/redevelopment plans for North Fairfields have now been put back because of the reduction in money available for improvements. Because of the uncertainty about the plans tenants are reluctant to carry out any major internal decorating, which adds to the feeling of deterioration and depression. The Housing Manager told me that North Fairfields would have to be modernised or rebuilt in five to 10 years so that every inclination was to keep maintenance to a minimum.

The Facts About Moulsecoomb

("Fairfields" = Moulsecoomb)

Fairfields was built between 1920 and 1924 with 478 three-bedroomed houses and 48 two-bedroomed flats, as a garden estate. Rents were too high for ordinary working class people and Brighton Corporation had to advertise in London to get skilled labourers to come and live there. Many of its houses have now been bought by tenants, and the council properties are in the process of being modernised to a high standard.

North Fairfields was built between 1926 and 1930, with 390 three-bedroomed houses. In 1969 these houses were in danger of falling down due to defective wall ties. The Chairman of Housing told the Evening Argus that the reason for this was that the houses were built very cheaply and that the wall ties were not galvanised so that they had rusted. East Fairfields was built between 1936 and 1940 for slum clearance and contains one of Brighton's most infamous roads. It gained its reputation in the 1930s for rehousing slum clearance families and has never lost it since.

In a town like Brighton with its small stock of council housing and all the large units in pre-war estates, the Lettings Officer has very little choice as to where to house families with a lot of children. The vast majority of three and four-bedroomed houses are in the Fairfield estate and there are some in the other large pre-war estate. The modern estates consist of small units and the tower blocks in the centre of the town are not used for children. Being encircled by the sea and the Downs, Brighton has always had a problem with land for housing. All its early council schemes were built on land bought outside the Borough, on the Downs surrounding the town.

The Housing Manager admitted he would not like to live out on the Fairfields estate; its situation is "so remote and raw".

DEPRESSING ENVIRONMENT

The situation of the estate and the lack of facilities for children and old people were the major problems that tenants talked about. A local social worker thought that the way the estate was planned made for a depressing environment on which some people blamed all their problems. It is very enclosed, being cut off by a railway line, the roads are very narrow and schools have been unwilling to let the children use the playing fields in the holidays.

A North Fairfields councillor who lives on the estate said maintenance and repairs to roads and pavements are worse than on a modern estate.

"They started scraping the walls to paint the outside of the houses two years ago, and stopped because of the lack of money."

The councillor told the housing committee in August 1974:

"The way we have let these houses crumble away without doing anything about it is unbelievable. I charge the Corporation with wilful neglect in North Fairfields."

Discontent goes back for years and years in many estates. When the Housing Manager was taken around the North Farringdon estate by a councillor in 1961, only six houses had no repairs outstanding.

The Brighton & Hove Gazette reported in April 1967 that some tenants had formed an association because "They are fed up with being unable to get positive results from the local authority". A spokesman said:

"For individuals to complain to the Council is like a voice in the wilderness and just about as effective. Our cries for help and action have been drowned by the 'couldn't care less, do it yourself' attitude of the authorities".

FRUSTRATION

One man we spoke to had been on rent strike three times, once for 13 weeks, to try to get the Council to repair the front of his house, which

CONTINUED THIS PAGE, COL. 1



What Should Be Done?

IMPROVE OLDER ESTATES

To prevent estates from developing into dumping grounds, it is essential that the difference in standard between old and new estates should be reduced: this will only be possible if the Government makes available money to be spent on modernising old estates.

If the Government is truly committed to creating a more just society, it should cut subsidies to the better off owner-occupied sector, instead of taking the money from the council house sector, where tenants are very restricted in the repairs and improvements they are allowed to do to their houses, even if they can afford it.

GIVE SECURITY OF TENURE

Council tenants could very easily be given security of tenure since all that is needed is to add them to the classes of tenants protected by the 1968 Rent Act. The Government promised in its election manifesto to introduce security for council tenants, but has announced no plans to fulfil this promise. This should be done without delay.

NOTIFY TENANTS OF THEIR RIGHT TO REPAIRS

It should be made mandatory for councils to notify tenants, on their rent cards, of the council's obligations as a landlord to do repairs and of the action a tenant can take if the repairs are not done. Tenants should be informed of their rights under Sections 91, 92, and 99 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and under Section 32 of the Housing Act, 1961.

HAND OVER CONTROL TO THE TENANTS

Shelter believes that the most effective way to reduce the frustrations that council tenants face and to give them some power over the way their housing is managed, is to give tenants the option of controlling the management of their estates. We do not believe that 'tenant participation' gives tenants enough say in management.

Control by a tenants' co-operative would have the following advantages:

1. Management would be in much smaller units, and problems would be infinitely reduced by members all knowing each other and having far more of a personal stake in the scheme than they do in council estates now.
2. Frustration about repairs not getting done would be reduced by tenants controlling the repairs system and being able to use skilled labour available on their estates.
3. Tenant control over lettings should enable much more continuity between generations and allow a far greater sense of community to build up. Local authorities could reserve the right to a set percentage of nominations, and to lay down criteria of housing need that applicants would have to fulfil.
4. Tenants would themselves be able to decide on regulations in force on their estates. They would be much more likely to be obeyed than rules imposed from outside.
5. Tenants would no longer be subject to arbitrary decisions and paternalistic or punitive attitudes of some housing department staff. Housing staff would be needed to give advice to tenants' co-operatives and could be employed by them to carry out day-to-day management functions.
6. Tenants would have a far greater sense of their home being their own than they have on many estates at the moment.

for advice contact:
Shelter Community Action Team
159 Cleveland Street
London, W1

Send for the guide: How to fight for better housing conditions, prepared by the Public Health Inspectors London Action Group, available from PO Box 665, London SW1X 8DZ, @9p.

Send for the full version of this report: Homes Fit for Heroes, from Shelter, 86 the Strand, London WC2 (75p per copy)

A Better Place by the Holloway Tenants' Co-Op, available from Shelter at 35p, shows what tenants can achieve by their own efforts.

This 4-page supplement on the Shelter report "Homes Fit For Heroes" has been prepared and distributed by the community paper BRIGHTON VOICE as part of issue no. 25.

Drama at the Palais



Partly, perhaps, because the shows start daily at 10.30 am, and partly because admission is free, few people take advantage of one of the most expensive of Brighton's theatres, the Palais de Justice.

Some of the acts are worth special mention—even if just to show the range of the extensive and well-paid cast (guest performers are not usually paid); the Ushers' Dance (fine classical shuffling and bumbling), Mime Magistrate (reminiscent at times of the finest Marceau blankness), Clowns in Blue (making fools of everyone and themselves), and the guests—the Scapegoats (usually impromptu, and with the important task of carrying the whole of Brighton's guilt, shame and hypocrisy). These shows are not to be missed—any one of us might suddenly be called upon to be a guest artiste.



"All be upstanding for Lord Chief Justice Parsons and Bertie."

After a couple of shows, one quickly learns how some parts have been well-rehearsed and some of the cast have little information about their roles, their rights.

We have some capable volunteers (we need more) for an unobtrusive court-watch (on a different day of each week, not taking up more than 2½ hours). The aim is to produce an informative and constructive critical resume of these tragicomic melodramatic pantomimes.

After all, the cast should perform better, and better enjoy performing, when they know that someone is actually watching.

SOCIAL SECURITY Less & Less

The grey gremlins of the DHSS have been mugging up on their massive books of rules for idiots. With all the people claiming Social Security these days they have come up with lots of claims from people in shared flats and houses and it made their brains hurt. This is because they are only used to people in single or family accommodation. In other words:— if you were a separate tenant (e.g. in a boarding house or bedsit) or if a family were claiming it was O.K. but if three people (say) shared a place as equal tenants — then their brains started 'urtin'. All the assessing officers made different decisions on how much money to give — or not to give. So, they got their painful brains together and read the obscure rules.

Now a general directive has gone round saying that everyone sharing a house or flat gets non-householder scale rate of £7.65 i.e. £2 less than the full rate which is only applicable for one person per household — the legal tenant.

You can't get round it by getting the legal tenant to give you a rent book cos that's subletting and means — you guessed it — non-householder rate.

The landlord must let to each tenant if they want to get full rate.

THIS IS THE RULE AND THE SS OFFICIALS MUST ADHERE TO IT NOW. People up and down the country are appealing against this disgusting rule. So, if you're told to exist on £7.65 pw under this rule, appeal and try to get it changed..

P.S. Students living in shared accommodation where rent includes gas and electricity could end up with just £4 per week...Cor!

COMTEK

The Comtek festival is being held again this year, jointly with the Bath Festival organised by the Bath Arts Workshop. The Bath Festival, which resurrects the "Last Festival" of 1974, will again be held on the Walcott site near the centre of Bath. This year too, Comtek, which was previously at some distance from the roving main festival, will be on the Walcott site.

The main festival will include the circus attraction, inflatables, performances for children and some of the regular fair-type candy-floss stalls. Comtek is the festival of community technology and will be the second such forum for 'AT' (alternative technology) freaks from all over Britain and elsewhere. Last year's festival was dominated by several impressive windmills and an amazing 'Solar Concerto Machine' of quite vast proportions brought by a Belgian group. This astonishing machine let off something between a fart and a bassoon whenever the sun shone through. But most of the participants concentrated on such things as solar heaters, craftwork, methane digesters, alternative media...

The Bath festival and Comtek take place together from Saturday, 2nd August til Sunday 10th August. Good things are happening all the time. If you want to find out more, or wish to arrange a display or event, contact Jennie Hiles, 13 Bedford St Bath(63717) Jennie also sells (for 25p) copies of Comtek 74, a really useful report on last year's Comtek, containing 600 contact addresses.

What you can do

**Get organised into tenants' associations and write to the Minister of Housing to demand the introduction of Security of Tenure.

**Get organised over repairs. When tenants' associations tell housing departments they are keeping duplicates of letters reporting complaints, and follow them up, the efficiency of the system often improves.

If this is not sufficient, take action under the Public Health or Housing Act legislation,

**Get organised to fight the cuts in money for maintenance, repairs and improvements. Collect information about the repairs situation on your estate, and the condition of old houses and flats, and submit it to local councillors and to the Minister of Housing, to prove that the cuts

in money will have a disastrous effect on your estate.

**Begin discussing what kind of changes you would like to see in the way the estate is managed. Local authorities now have the power to hand over control of estates to tenants' co-operatives with the agreement of the Secretary of State.

Discussions are going on as to ways in which this can be done. A Circular will be issued about this to local authorities, by the Ministry of Housing, and you will be in a stronger position if you have your own ideas about what changes you want. Read Tenants Take Over by Colin Ward (Architectural Press, London, £3.95), which talks about places where tenants have taken control, and gives ideas about how it could be done in Britain.

Paralysed woman denied hospital bed.

An old lady, living permanently in a guest house, was out one day when she suffered from a sudden stroke. The police arrived and, for some reason best known to themselves, took her back home instead of to hospital; this was rather strange, as the lady was now completely paralysed down one side of her body.

When she had been put to bed, her landlady was in a quandry; the old lady obviously needed nursing care that she could not provide. So she decided to phone the lady's social worker and ask for his advice; he tried unsuccessfully to contact her doctor - he was not due back until late afternoon. So the social worker called an ambulance - which refused to take the old lady to hospital, as it had not been called by a doctor.

Eventually the doctor visited; the landlady explained the position and added that the old lady kept falling out of bed on to the floor.

"Just leave her there and I'll see how she is tomorrow" said the doctor, and left.

The landlady was at her wits' end and rang the social worker again; he was out, but another one spent some time trying to contact the Medical Officer of Health to discuss the matter. He was also out but his secretary, after consultation, informed the social worker that it was not possible either to order the doctor to do anything or to take action without him; all that could be done was to send round a District Nurse.

The nurse came and went; the landlady was getting more and more worried. Finally she phoned the police who (at her expense) traced the old lady's only known relative, a son who lived several hundred miles away. He agreed, as an emergency measure, to pay the fees for a private Nursing Home, and the old lady was transferred there immediately.

So, in this age of the "Welfare State", someone can be refused admission to a hospital bed they obviously need without anyone being able to do anything about it - neither the Social Services Department nor the Medical Officer of Health. And a son with a family to support has to pay upwards of £35.00 a week to a profit-making enterprise as a result.

Does this sound like it might be your doctor? Write to us (with a stamped, addressed envelope) and we'll tell you if it is.....

PRIOR HOUSE

Prior House Community Centre is booming. Things are really happening there. There's a creche, all kinds of kids' activities, evening classes, old folks get-togethers, food in the canteen, and a lot of things planned. Still more it has rapidly produced a sense of community in the local area. (You don't know where it is? Go up Carlton Hill by the Art College and it's half way up on the left.) For example it has given a lead and encouragement to a Tenants Association in the Milner and Kingswood flats which formed after a distasteful article in the Evening Argus had attacked them. They went on a protest march to the Argus and now there is great solidarity among them. The Chairman and treasurer live at 2 Milner flats (Mr and Mrs Morden).

As for the Centre itself why not go and have a look. Better still go and work there. There's plenty to do. A full article on all that's happening there will appear in our next issue.

Brian Hare, lecturer and landlord, has landed himself in the shit again. "Little Brian" or "The Man in the Long Dirty Mac," as he is known locally is due to appear at Brighton Magistrates Court at 10.30a.m. on September 4th. to answer charges amounting to contempt of court. Why not go along for a laugh?

Another name to watch out for is that of Alan Page, the "unskilled heavy" employed by Hare at the Regency Square eviction. He has now been promoted to Hovel Manager at the Mermaid doss-house and is busy doing Hare's dirty work there - for a percentage of the profits, of course.



SPECULATORS

new links discovered

New links between property firms operating in Brighton have been thrown up as a result of a recent squat in property in First Avenue, Hove. The squatters there were taken to court on the same day as others from the Argus squat in Granville Rd, Hove.

The property, at 17 First Avenue, is owned by Cityland Hotels Ltd, of Mayfair. Their firm is part of a large network of property companies in Britain run by the now notorious Kirch brothers. The principal, Peter Kirch, has now retired to enjoy his profits in the tax haven of La Rosiere, Jersey.

Cityland Hotels have not been encountered in Brighton before. But a subsidiary is well-known, Roderick Properties (esher) Ltd, the firm responsible for the gentrification of St Michaels Place, near Victoria Rd. Over a period of years, tenants have been 'winkled' from the once lively St Michaels Place (a street party was held there in 1973). Winkling involves disposing of tenants by harassment, threats and promises. Now over half the entire street has been taken over by this company which operates from an office at No 21. The 'local manager', David Head, lives at 78, Old Fort Rd, Shoreham Beach, an enormous seaside house.

Roderick Properties hit the news recently when a squat began at 36 Brunswick Square. They sent in build builders to demolish the house-with the squatters still in it! However, they were stopped and eventually took the squatters to court. The building was vacated without a struggle but they had shown their unpleasant outlook-an outlook which landed two of their employees in prison after students were thrown from a window of a flat in St Michaels Place.

Other connections were apparent from the case at 17 First Avenue. Twentieth Century Banking Corporation, a so-called 'fringe' bank based in Brighton, reportedly supplied the mortgage to Cityland Hotels. The Bank are known to have at least £4 million of their £30 million capital invested in the Brighton area alone. But there is evidence that they have taken (occasionally) a sensible attitude of enlightened self-interest when dealing with squatters in their numerous properties.

info...

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

BIT-BY-BIT
7 Victoria Rd (27878).
Info/Help Service.

BRIGHTON PREGNANCY ADVISORY SERVICE
Wiston's, 138 Dyke Rd
(509726) Pregnancy testing, abortions, vasectomy

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

CANCER PREVENTION (29801)
CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU
17, Ditchling Rise, (61664)
2 St George's Place, 2.15-4.15 daily

Whitehawk Community Centre on Thursdays 2-4pm
No appointment necessary.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC
18-19 Western Rd, (734258)
Also c/o Health Centre, University of Sussex.
Lewes Clinic (Lewes 4403)

FRIEND
Gay people's info
Monday evenings (61664)
Weekdays, 10-6 (739729)

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Info and Advice (27878)
Wednesdays, Fridays
and Saturdays 8pm-12pm
Meet Wednesdays at
7, Victoria Rd, 8pm

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
73 Grand Parade (681919)

OFF THE RECORD (63080)
Mon-Fri, 8-10pm
Youth Service. Help
with sex problems,
loneliness etc...

RENT TRIBUNAL
Anston House, 137 Preston Rd. (506381).
Rent disputes, security of tenure, etc.
SAMARITANS
(733333), 24 hours/day

VOLUNTARY SERVICE CENTRE
17, Ditchling Rise (61664)

♂

GROUPS

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

ANTI-RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN
Tom, (684256)

A.S. NEILL TRUST
(691712)
Local branch for alternative education projects

BRIGHTON FILM THEATRE
North Street
Support your local (non-profit making) Film Theatre

BRIGHTON HOSTEL
105 Islingwood Road
Meals Sunday 12-2
Tea at other times if possible. Soup 9:30 - 10 pm under the arches.
Needs clothes, food, HELP

BRIGHTON SOCIETY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP
Selma Montford
10 Glermont Road
Against bad planning on social and aesthetic grounds

BRIGHTON AND DISTRICT TENANTS AND SQUATTERS ASSOCIATION
7, Victoria Rd (27878)
Meetings Tuesdays 8pm.

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 and Stephan (692766)

CENTRE FOR INVESTIGATION OF PROPERTY SPECULATION
(691712)

CHE (CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY)
Marlborough Hotel (First Floor Hall) - Princes St
2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month - 8:30 pm
Graham Wilkinson 3a Montpelier Villas or Brian Hart 111 Church Street 683710

CLAIMANT'S UNION
7 Victoria Rd (27878)
Meetings Mondays 8pm

ETC

CLAP (COMMUNITY LEVY FOR ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS)
Details in CLAP catalogue
Send your CLAP TAX to
BIT 146 Great Western Rd
London W1

EAST BRIGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
G Andrews 8 Twineham Rd
(687715) Concerned with

FIVEWAYS PLAYGROUP
Florence Rd Field
(near No 10)

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 Princes St (29801 ext 674)

FREE VET - PDSA
6 Oxford St (63606)
Donations welcome

FRIENDS CENTRE
Ship St (27835)
Wide range of classes including planning.
Tuesdays 7:30

HOUSING ACTION GROUP
see Brighton and District Tenants & Squatters Assn.
notice on this page.

MOTHER & TODDLER AFTERNOON
Westdene Library. Tues 2.30-3.15 (term time).
Coffee, toys, picture books and a chance to meet other mums.

MOULESCOOMB ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND. Needs money, material and help to rebuild the playground.
Arthur and 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.

PENSIONERS AND TRADE UNION ASSOCIATION
Keith Orange
22 Whippingham Rd.

PRE-SCHOOL HANDICAPPED KIDS & MUMS OPPORTUNITY GROUP
Tues 1.30-3.30 Mrs S McCormick 44 Inwood Cres. (509431).

PRIOR HOUSE
Carlito Hill (681925)
Youth and Community Centre
Many activities including Old People's Lunch, Tues 12.30-2.00, 20pence.
Open Creche, Thurs 9.30-12.00, 10pence.

RANK & FILE (735925)
Group of teachers in N.U.T.

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. (28578).

SUSSEX GAY LIBERATION FRONT
Marlborough Hotel (attic room) Prince's St B'ton.
1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month 8.30 Saloon Bar prior to meeting.

TRADES COUNCIL
Keith Orange 22 Whippingham Rd.

TRANSPORT 2000
Kevin McNulty
75 Upper Lewes Rd.

UPPER NORTH ST RESIDENTS
Robert Gregory
97 Upper North St.

WHOLE EARTH GROUP
Sec. Alistair 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 Kinsella (55134)
Baby sitting, creche coffee mornings

