

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

BIT-BY-BIT 7 Victoria Rd 27878 Info/Help service

BRIGHTON PREGNANCY ADVISORY SERVICE Wistons 138 Dyke Rd 509726 Pregnancy testing, counselling, abortions vasectories.

BRIGHTON RIGHTS CENTRE 2 Prince Albert St Advice on legal and welfare problems. Free and confidential service by the Centre's workers and solic- Meets 37 Gloucester Rd itors. Thursdays 5.30-7.30

CANCER PREVENTION Brighton 29801

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU 17 Ditchling Rise 61664 2 St Georges Pl. 2.15-4.15 daily. At Whitehawk Community Centre on Thursdays 2-4pr.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC 18-19 Western Rd 734258 Lewes Clinic Lewes 4403 Also University Health Centre.

FRIEND Gay People's info Monday evenings 61664 Weekdays 10-6 739729

GAY SWITCHBOARD Info and advice 27878 Wed, Thur, Fri & Sat 8-10pr. Meets Weds 8pm.

HCUSING ADVICE CENTRE 73 Grand Parade 681919

OFF THE RECORD Mon-Fri 8-10pm 63080 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 661919.

POLITICS

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOC. Lorraine Robinson Rear 261 Preston Rd Brighton

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST) First Friday of each month Brighton 684404

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ENGLAND (MARXIST-LENINIST) Temporary contact address: 29, Queens Park Rd

COMMUNIST PARTY(CPGB) M Chaplin 83 Edburton Av

And in case of the second seco

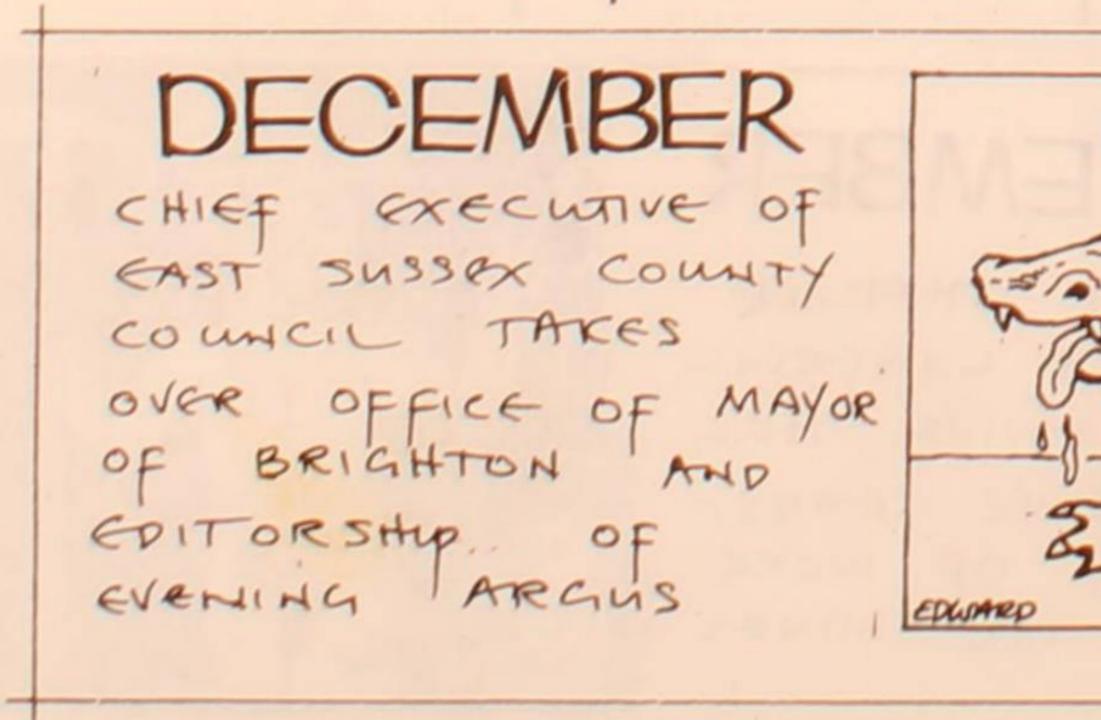
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS Sec. 33 Ventnor Villas Hove

BRIGHTON PAVILION & KEMP TOWN LABCUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS John Balance 54 Coleman St Brighton 23996 Meets Tues 8pr at 179 Lewes Rd

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

And and and the subscription of the subscripti

LIBERAL PARTY Pavilion Francis Hix 143a Western Rd(2656C)



SHOPS

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

ANTIQUE MARKET "Union Hall Ayr St Mons & Weds 8-5 Teas by OPEN VOICE on sale(sometimes)

BRIGHTON WOPKERS BOOKSHO 37 Gloucester Rd(684404) Sats 9:30-6.00

INFINITY BULK BUYING 3 Westbourne Grove Hove Thur, Fri, Sat, 10-1, 2-5

INFINITY FOODS 25 North Rd Macrobiotic and organic foods and vegetables

OFEN CAFE 7 Victoria Rd(27878) Sun-Thur 12-8, Fri-Sat 12-11. Cheap vegetarian food

PUBLIC HOUSE BOCKSHOP 21 Little Prestor St More than just another bookshop-books, mags, coffee. 28357

SIMPLE SUPPLIES 11 George St Whole Earth Group co-cperative work project. Focds, crafts, utensils, gear, publications.

SYMPOSIUM BOCKSHOP 12 Market **B**t(28142) Bocks, mags-the radical stuff.

summer that has not see but an asso PHOENIX BOCKS Nr.St.Peter's Weekdays (not Weds) 11-5 Secondhand.Low prices.



THREE ROOMS CAFE 14 Blatchington Rd Hove 779933 Vegetarian Cafe Mon-Sat 10-3.

WIND HORSE BOCKSHOP 19 George St Buddhist literature & Info. Incense, posters, cards, etc.



BRIGHTON FIGHTS BACK Communist Party of Britain(Marxist-Leninist) pamphlet on the cuts in Social Services, housing, education, etc. 37 Gloucester Rd 684404. EDUCAT 42 Egremont Place

680258. Teacher and education magazine.

LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE Paper of the Anarchist Workers Association. From Symposium, Public House and local AWA.

QUEENSPARK Paper for the Queens Park Area. 14 Toronto Terr. & 62 Bentham Rd.

SQUATTERS HANDBOCK The new edition is now available from 2 St. Pauls Rd. London N1 It costs 10p plus postage.

UP AGAINST THE LAW George Davis special Public House and Symposium bookshops. Subscription £2.50 for 12 issues.

WHOLE EARTH Available from good bookshops or from 54 Qeeens Park Rd, 16p plus postage.

SPIKE MILLIGAN & Harry Strutters Hot Rhythm Orchestra uill be in concert at HOVE TOWN HALL TUESDAY FEB 3rd All proceeds to the We Want The West Pier

Campaign. Tickets (50p-11.50) from Hove Town Hall or Forum Gallery Market St.

FEB76

(P3

what's this ?

Have you got a copy of Aardvark? There may be one inside this issue. George Barratt and Lesley Marrion are giving away 700 free copies of their revolutionary comic via the Voice. Not enough for every issue but you may be one of the lucky ones

Issue No 28

Page

- 2. Rights Centre Affair
- 3. Stories of homelessness
- 4. Ear to the Ground. What's
- going on in Brighton.
- 5. Ear to the Ground (contd)

contents

6.-7. All about the Cuts 8. Peoples Open Studios 9. Lavender Gay and Anti-Apartheid. 10. Letters. The Cuts:who is responsible? Further round in Argus and the N.U.J. 11.-12 INFO

RIGHTS CENTRE AFFAIR

called Swindell. His name is the latest to emerge from all the Tory muck surrounding the Rights Centre Affair. On page 2 we give the latest revelat- | District Trades Council. See p.6. ions about this affair, which we . exposed in our last issue and which has since been taken up by the Argus, (who took the story entirely from us) by the Labour Opposition who intend to probe it to the very depths and by Morgan and Beechey themselves. Even as we go to press, Beechey, the chief executive of East Sussex, is saying that he has no idea how Morgan's defamatory letter actually reached the Sub-Committee. He'd be advised to find out soon and issue a public apology. As for Swindell, read all about it on page 2. And one word to old readers: we're afraid we couldn't keep our old friend Stanley Theobald out of it. If you're a new reader and don't know who Theobald is (there may be one or two left) then still turn to PAGE TWO

old voice

14405 Bi

No28



Workers and Students march together

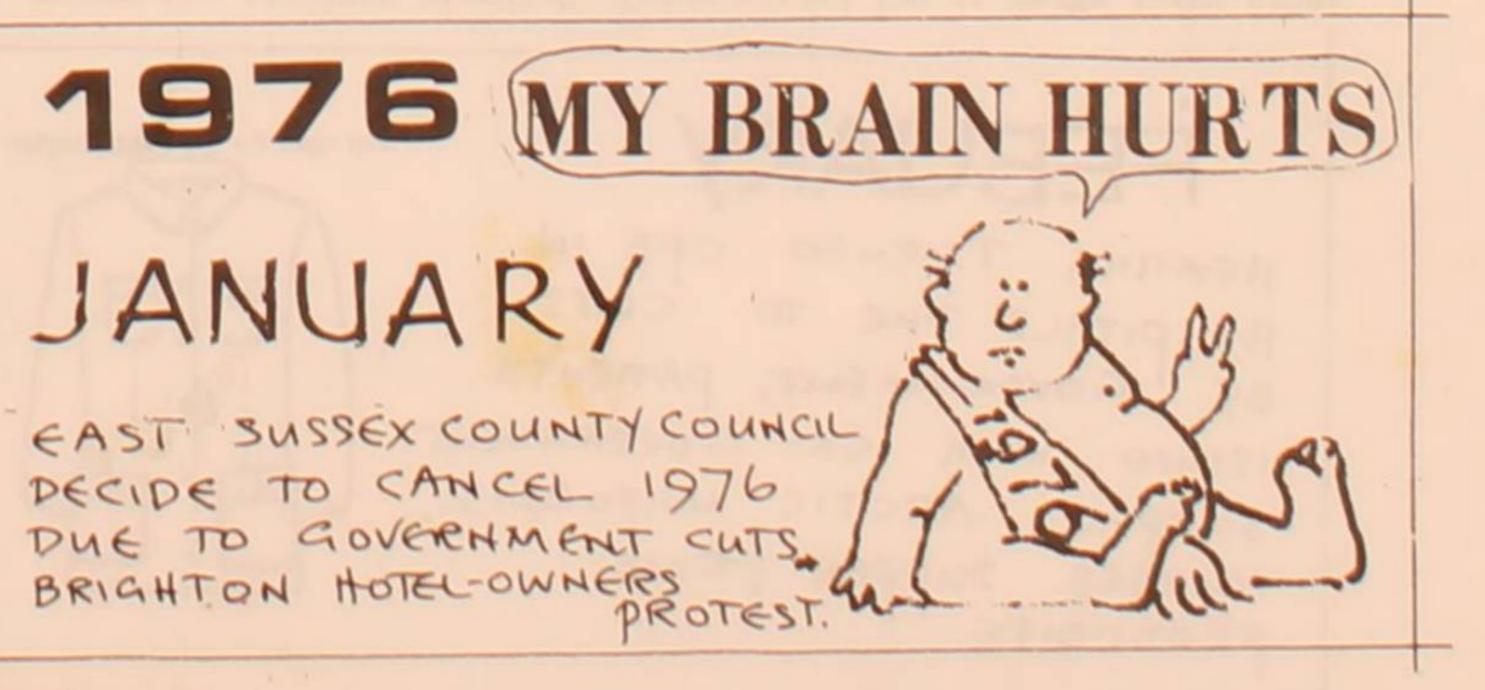
The campaign against the government cuts in welfare services and housing reaches a local climax on 31 January with a march from the West Pier to the Level. Details on pages 6-7.

The demo is organised jointly Meet a County Council official by the University of Sussex Students Union and the Brighton Action Comittee against the Cuts (Bacac). It has the support of the Brighton and Hove

It is good to see students on the march again and joining forces with the working people of Brighton. The Voice fully supports their action and says EVERYBODY OUT !

Nearly **3yrs old**

Brighton Voice is nearing its Third Anniversary and the next issue will celebrate this fact. We are delighted at the way that news and articles are coming from people all over the Brighton area. More and more people are saying 'That's a good story for the Voice' and that's what we want. It's your paper: write for it, draw for it, come to its open meetings on Sunday nights at 8 p.m. at 7 Vica manac toria Rd. The paper just covers its costs, makes no profits and carries no paid advertisements.



FXPOSED

(The rights centre affair)

The last issue of the Voice carried a long story headed 'Town Clerk stabs Right Centre in Back' in which the prejudicial and snide remarks of Reg Morgan against the Rights Centre were fully exposed. In particular we published the letter which he had written and which was used in an underhand way at the sub-committee on Voluntary Agencies. It was as a direct result of that letter that the sub-committee refused to give the Rights Centre any money, and since then notice has been served on the Centre to quit its premises in Albert St. on 31 January.

Our story was picked up by the Argus, direct from our pages without any acknowledgement, and their local government reporter Peter Gavan gave it the usual pussy-focting Argus treatment. Then just before Christmas the Labour opposition put Morgan on the mat at the Policy and Resources Committee. His self-justification was amazing. He went on and on about the brown paper in the windows of the Rights Centre but dismissed in half a sentence the matter of his defamatory and vicious statement about the Centre and squatting, the very accusations which had done all the damage. The length, the detail and the irrelevancy of his written defence were positively Nixonian. And during the discussion -when he sat shamefacedly and embarrassed - he even looked like Nixon about to explain the gaps in his tape recordings.

At least our 'Richard Milhcuse' Morgan is likely to be a little more careful in the future about writing scurrilous letters as a favour to his old friend Theobald.

ENTER SWINDELL

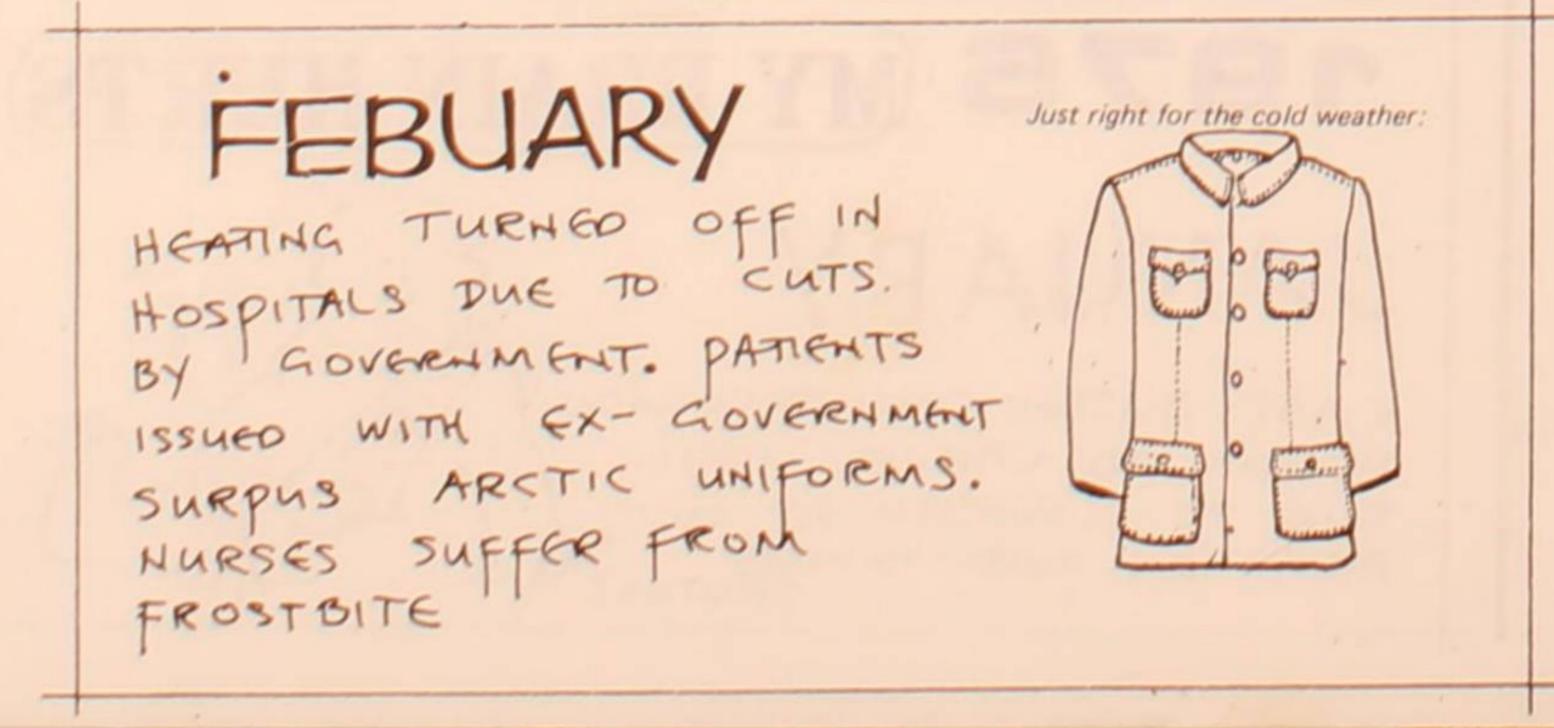
But Morgan's letter was not the only piece of interference by supposedly 'neutral' officers. Even more damaging to the Centre's case as we said last time was the use of the letter. We can now be more specific. The sentence from the letter which undermined the Centre's hopes of a grant was read out by a member of the County Secretary's Office named SWINDELL. His freely-expressed political views are far right-wing so it is not entirely enexpected that he should have wanted to use Morgan's hostile remarks, and that he should was so infamously used ? read the one sentence which contained the most irresponsible and unwarrant- behaviour of Swindell is the question ed accusation against the Centre. And this man Swindell read it in an absol- question Swindell on these points at utely venemous tone of voice. 'That's made up my mind for me' said Councillor Theobald, forgetting that he had entered the Committee saying that he would never agree to any public money

going to the Rights Centre. (How can able)

What is really at issue -as Morgan let slip in his letter that Theobald, Clarke, Morgan and the other Tories do not like having near the Town Hall an organisation whose very existence reminds them of the poverty of their policies, of the poverty of sections of this town and of the existence of deprived people. That is what started them on this Watergate trail of writing scurrilous letters and lying to cover up their real reasons. The centre of Brighton that man be so stupid ? It's unbelievhas to show unqualified prosperity, gentlemanly professional offices and QUESTIONS quality shops. It must beguile the visitor - not to mention the sensitive councillor on his way to the Town Serious questions are raised by this incident. The Voice wants to know Hall. This was the initial motive, and it all toc faithfully reflects the and the public has a right to know: double standards, the shining exterior WHO AUTHORISED the reading of Morgover the rotten core, the half-believed an's letter ? lies in the politics and life of this WAS MCRGAN CONSULTED about having town.

ed it to be read out)

And equally important as the WHY DID NONE of the Councillors the time ? Why did they not ask who authorised the allegations to be made ? Was it Beechey? Preddy? Lillicrap? Morgan ? Thecbald? Swindell himself? WHO RIGGED IT ALL?



his letter read ? (He has publicly denied that he was, or that he intend-

WHO SELECTED the one sentence that

The real problem in this affair is the amount of double talk that is going on. The Conservatives are lying in their teeth about the reasons for the decision. In the Policy and Resources Committee we have mentioned, no other than Thecbald got up and praised the Centre and its workers! He then said that the refusal of a grant was simply due to a lack of money. He knows, we all know, that there was still £10,000 in the kitty after that sub-committee meeting. He knows, we all know, that every other voluntary organisation whose case came up at that meeting got a grant. Even now with only ter weeks of the financial year to go, the kitty STILL HAS OVER £2,500 IN IT. The Centre was asking for £1,000. It is a simple lie to say there was, or is even now, no money. STUPID MAN -STUPID LIES.

LIES

Readers..

There is a pleasant row of cot-

tages behind Queen's Road. Some years

ago Parker, as M.O.H., condemned them

pite objections from townspeople. In

consequence many were sold for knock

down prices, often around £1,500. Then

and boor companion Parker. Theobald's

As soon as this happened all

influence managed to swing the Coun-

the houses naturally boomed in price,

whom were thought to be not entirely

put their houses on the market. And,

sale through that reputable firm,

George White & Co. is -no prizes-

George White & Co. The owner of

Stanley Theobald.

unacquainted with Councillor Theobald

curiously, almost all of them were for

and most of the new owners, some of

Stanley Theobald stepped forward to

defend the properties, taking on a

bitter struggle with his old ally

cil round and the cottages were

saved. Parker retired, muttering.

and they were due for demolition des-

HOWARD'S END

Some of our readers may have noticed in the Argus recently a very discreet report about an eviction case in which the University Catholic Chaplaincy was involved. The story behind it is actually a piece of outragelos paternalism covering a peculiarly cynical commercial operation.

The University of Sussex Catholic Chaplaincy Association has a sub-organisation called the Howard House Trust, which has as one of several aims the provision - of housing for Catholic students a Brighton. The trustees are the Very Rev. Canon John, the Rev. Gerald Coates and Philip John Strudwick.

Hiding behind this stated aim, pleading that their terms of reference do not cover non-students, they are effectively claiming that other considerations -- such as common humanity -- do not apply. They have invoked a verbal agreement made by a father who disappeared 12 years ago that crucially affects a slightly retarded daughter. And using this they are evicting her -- which in strict law they are entitled to do -- from her home of twemty years standing, having given her notice to quit one week after the death of her mother. And they do this with only the bland assurance --- and who is more and than a Catholic father? --that 'we have been in touch with Social Services and something will be found.'

As if that action were not questionable enough, what they are up to in fact is trying to squeeze the people out of a row of four charming fishermen's octtages behind the Chaplaincy in Richmond Place. They want the houses not just to accomodate students but, much more important, to rent out to summer visitors at fat £40 per week rents. The other residents are so incensed by the oreeping actions of the Chaplaincy that they are taking steps to ensure that it never acquires their houses.

The Chaplaincy excuses itself by saying that the daughter is 'aeteriorating' living by herself.

The Voice says that this sort of paternalistic exploitation is out of place in the twentieth century. The Chaplaincy should explain its actions publicly.

A VICTORIAN STORY

The scandalcus housing situation in Brighton claims two more victips. Mr and Mrs Watts, bott about 60, have been living in one room as tenants of a schoolmaster, whose house in The Cliff Roedean looks sound enough from the outside. But in contrast to its 'desirable' exterior and the wealthy road in which it is situated, the attic room in which the Watts couple lived and for which they paid £7 a week, was nothing short of a slum. Damp was everywhere, running down the walls and off the window sills. The bed was permanently wet and clothes left in the drawers quickly became covered in mould. In May of last year the room was inspected by an official from the Health and Environment Department and he suggested that it should be abandoned at once due to its appalling condition. The wife of Tory MP Bowden visited the couple and offered then her help and she was equally shocked by the room.

and estate agents happy. unfeeling The story of Mr and Mrs Watts is just one more which condemns the totally inadequate housing policy in this rich and uncaring town. But it also reveals other evils. The Registrar who gave them only four weeks at Christmas to get out was not in the least interested in the fact that they had nowhere to go or that Social Service and Housing Departments would be closed or overworked for most In the words of someone present he was The Housing Department didn't 'a real bastard, totally unfeeling'. all over the town, tried to prevent Mr Watts from claiming further Legal Aid by saying that he was inclined to drink too much and become argumentative. Barling is a well-known servant of the . property magnates in Brighton, was the solicitor for the Marina Company at the enquiry and is currently a Tory homeless queue candidate for Hove Council.

But where could the couple go? They looked for alternative rented accorrodation but could find nothing within their price range. Finally the landlord decided the room should be repaired and applied for a court order to get Mr and Mrs Watts out. The order was readily given and the date set for four weeks later, 30th December. What a Christmas they had to look forward to! Luckily there was the Rights Centre to help then with all the legal issues, and Local Aid in the person of Gerry Howard, has been very sympathetic. But when the Voice visited them just before and after Christmas they were just as far of the week before the eviction date. fron finding anything as ever. want to know. As far as they are con- Secondly, the landlord's solicitor, cerned the Watts couple have no family David Barling, who acts for landlords and therefore have no priority. They just go to the bottom of the list which stretches over 1700 other horeless cases, homeless and helpless in this vicious society.

No wonder the Tories and their orcnies want to close down the So Mrs Watts, with a bad cough and Rights Centre. It was, in the words of a bad back made infinitely worse by Mr Watts, the 'only legal body we could the damp in their rented room, and turn to who would give us the advice Mr Watts, drawing little more than sub- and help we needed.' Up against the sistence for his work as a carriage Housing Department, landlords, David cleaner at Brighton Station, join Barling and the Law itself, Mr and Mrs the homeless queue which grows longer Watts are typical of thousands in every month and which keeps the price Brighton with the same need.

MARCH AS A RESULT OF

The year was 1975 and..

of property up and the speculators

ROYAL SUBSER COUNTY 5 HOSPITAL CLOSED POWN GOVERNMENT HEALTH CUTS CONSULTANTS OFFER TO TURN BUILDING INTO PRIVATE NURSING HOME- "FEE PAYING PATIENTS ONLY."

Police IQ

Someone recently rang Hove Police to report that he had been threatened with being stabbed and with having his house burnt down. The sergeant at the other end of the phone took down the details and was then asked what would be done. "Well", he said, "these things are always difficult you know -- but if you can get him to write it down, then we're laughing."

Cuts all round?

Did you have a good time at Christmas? The County Councillors did. The East Sussex County Council . spent over £850 on food and drink for a party for Councillors and Officers. The Labour Party refused to go, but the others drank their share up happily.

A smaller but even boozier party later in the same week cost another hundred or two when the Press was given its pay-off for being so unaccountably blind to the shortcomings of the County Council and its Councillors.

Council raise rent

Very quietly Brighton Council has started a policy that looks like causing trouble for many of the char-

ities and social agencies in the town. They have decided to ask 'economic' rents on all their properties, so that many groups who work from Councilowned premises are finding their rents four times as high this year. This may well lead to further closures of welfare bodies. What astonishing cynicism it is to argue that hard times make it necessary to squeeze the very agencies which the Council uses to paste over the pain and dislocation caused by those hard times!

EAR TO

A Useful **ip**

The Argus dutifully and uncritically picked up all his press releases which implied that a gigantic sav-Want to know how to get ahead in the business world ? Allen Fitchett ings in cost were being made by our public-spirited police force, most of has the answer. Fitchett used to be which seemed to be gained by massacat Meads, the well-known rip-off ring the Cadet Scheme. They were even auctioneers, but a year ago he decided to set up on his own. His auction rooms, solemnly congratulated by the Police in Gloucester Street, specialise in Authority, who should have known better. in Gloucester Street, specialise in Sadly, if you were taken in and bankrupt stock, and some remarkably think that the copper in your pocket good buys can be made there. is going to cost less next year, a Fitchett has had a good year.And to : hock is in store for you. Lock at the celebrate he sent a little Christmas new rate demands. The Voice offers a gift to his friends and helpers at pound to a penny that the poundage the Police Station in John Street. figure for policing will be HIGHER £144 of crated liquor ! All neatly than ever. labelled with the names and ranks No one has been allowed to of the officers and clerks concerned. see the detailed figures. They're And a specially large present for still being 'finalised' -but all they Superintendent H. who happens to be have really done is to cut back on in charge of bankruptcy work. the amount of the increase, not red-"They have been very good to me uced the basic amount at all. A nice this year" said the happy Mr.Fitchett book-keeping 'saving'. And a nice piece by way of explanation. And no doubt of media management, Mr Angel. they will continue to be in the

warm after-glow of their gifts.



Pc con

1 2 4

One of the smartest pieces of Public Relations recently was the long saga put out over a period of 3 weeks by Keir Angel the Police P.R. hack.

Gross profits

Gross Cash Register is a large employer on the Hollingbury Trading Estate which has a reputation for its belligerent labour policies. Recently they pleaded a bad economic situation, BRIGHTON | falling sales, need for cut-backs etc. to persuade their workers that there was just no money around to give any wage rises.

Purely by coincidence, the Chairman's salary was recently raised o £10,380 p.a., and the directorate is a whole take home the best part of £100,000. But that money, of course is absolutely essential to the wellbeing of the firm.



Phillips mussels in

In the centre of Brighton is a small guest house where a Mr. Phillips is charging Hove Social Services £76 per week to accomodate one couple and two children. For this princely sum they get a bed, breakfast (cereal or cocked, not both) and an evening meal. The cocking is often done by a teryear-old who is paid 50p an hour.

There are several others in the house whose rent is paid by the cial Services.

So well has Mr. Phillips done out of this sort of business that he has been able to purchase the block facing Brighton Station, to re-open the cafe there and open a specialist sea-food place around the corner in Surrey Street.

The Voice says it is time the Social Services stopped paying such sums to these merchants, who are living fatly off others' homelessness.

SAVE LITTLE GEORGE ST. ! AN OPEN LETTER TO BRIGHTON COUNCIL

We are Council tenants who have Jeen living in temporary accommodation for some fourteen months now. When we moved in, we had rented accommodation on one side and a privately owned house on the other, but these houses are now vacant and beyond habitation in their present condition.

This leaves us as the only people in the street, which is not even considered by potential squatters. The property owners put paid to them by boarding-up, tearing down ceilings, smashing windows and pulling up floorboards as soon as they were empty. The Council own numbers 2 and 6, and Green Elms Investments owns the rest.

At present, we don't know if the area will be used for a new Town Hall or for a car park - or if the houses will be restored, but we do know a local builder who will undertake restoration for £3000 apeice. Similar property a few hundred yards away have already been done by the Council for twice this amount. From "the people at No. 6".

So, after 18 months of negotiation, argument and false starts, the Old Town Scheme finally bites the dustfor the next three years at least. Councillor Jermy, that lovable old Tory backwoodsman, with crocodile tears in his eyes and a note of truly heart-breaking sadness in his voice, said 'we can't afford it'. 'It is all due to the country's firancial problems, etc., etc. So, to a great wringing of hands the Tories threw out the idea of a pedestrian precinct in East Street and . neighbouring area. Of course the main people to blame are the East Street Traders but they've probably committed economic suicide. Similar pecincts have boosted the shops in Worthing and Eastbourne. But part of the blame must rest with the Planning Department. As the Voice has said before, if the Planners hadn't had such grand and expensive ideas this wouldn't have happened. If they hadn't let Hausego-Woolgar loose (with a surname like that perhaps grand ideas are inevitable) it might all have been done with two lorry loads of sand the day after the Traffic Crders came through. As it is, H-W can still drive his smart, white £7,000 sports car through Market Street, to his own pleasure if not that of harassed pedestrians.

Centre pong

We have heard from no less than four distinct sources that there is a nasty smell surrounding the contract for the Conference Centre. It seems to be the old story of a contractor offering to do a job at a ridiculously low price and then, after the contract has been awarded and work begun, suddenly discovering 'Extras'. Nothing very unusual here, except that with so many of our councillors in the construction and property business, are they really so thick?

MAY MARINA COMPANY ABANDONS PROJECT - WELL - KNOWN ESTATE AGENT COMMITS SUICIDE

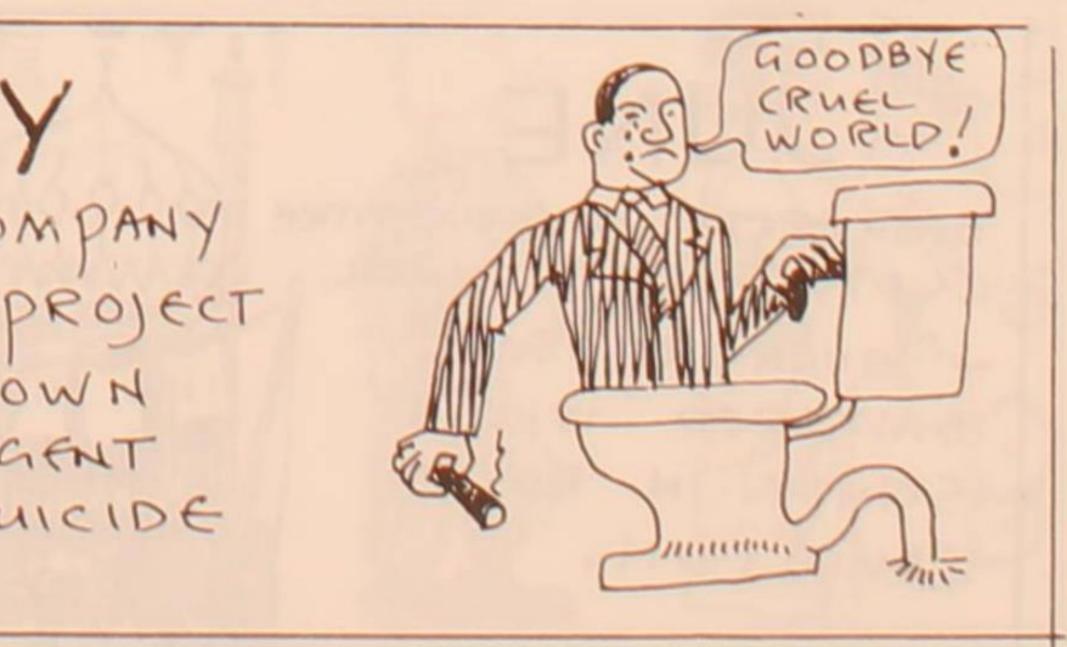
Bogged Down

Marina in deep water

The storms which flattened Britain the other weekend fortunately left Brighton largely undamaged. However, one apparent victim of the heavy seas was our old friend the Marina. The Voice understands that the serious damage to some of the caissons caused by storms over a year ago(see Voice 18) was aggravated by the recent: bad weather and that new cracks in the structure have also appeared.

But that is only one of the crumbling Marina Company's many problems. They are desparately short of money, a fact which explains their latest amazing attempt to raise capital. Bostowners stupid encugh to want to keep their bosts in the Marina as it sinks into the sea are being asked to lend the Marina Company money (between £6,000 and £24,000) for the dubious privilege of having a twenty year lease on a berth. This unorthodox business practice is, as admitted by the Gazette, 'primarily a money-raising exercise.' The idea is to raise '£4 millior to help complete the harbour for opening next year.' In other words, if they can't find encugh sailors willing to be suckered then they won't have enough money to complete the harbour, let alone build the flats.

And the flats are another problem. The Company, which at the recent Enquiry appeared confident that people would be queuing up to buy their ridioulous 'luxury' flats, has now suddenly realised that they haven't the faintest idea who is going to buy these £30,000 white elephants. Together with top pecple's estate agents Kright, Frank & Rutley they are now desperately rushing around the country trying to identify the sort of idiots who might be expected to part with their money for one of these altogether undesirable residences.



UNIONS VOTE FOR DEMO AGAINST THE CUTS

'I want a rally' said George Cooper, chairman of the Brighton Trades Council, 'and by rally I mean a real rally. It's time this Trades Council got off its backside and started doing something.' Fighting words. And the response was enthusiastic. The delegates to the Trades Council in its meeting on 17 December voted overwhelmingly to make 31 January a big day of protest in Brighton. Protest against government cuts in social services, education and housing, protest against the astronomic wremployment figures which have doubled in the last twelve months and protest against Reg Morgan and his cronies who have tried to crush the Brighton Rights Centre.

The meeting discussed all these issues, and delegates were angry and outspoken about all of them.

jobless

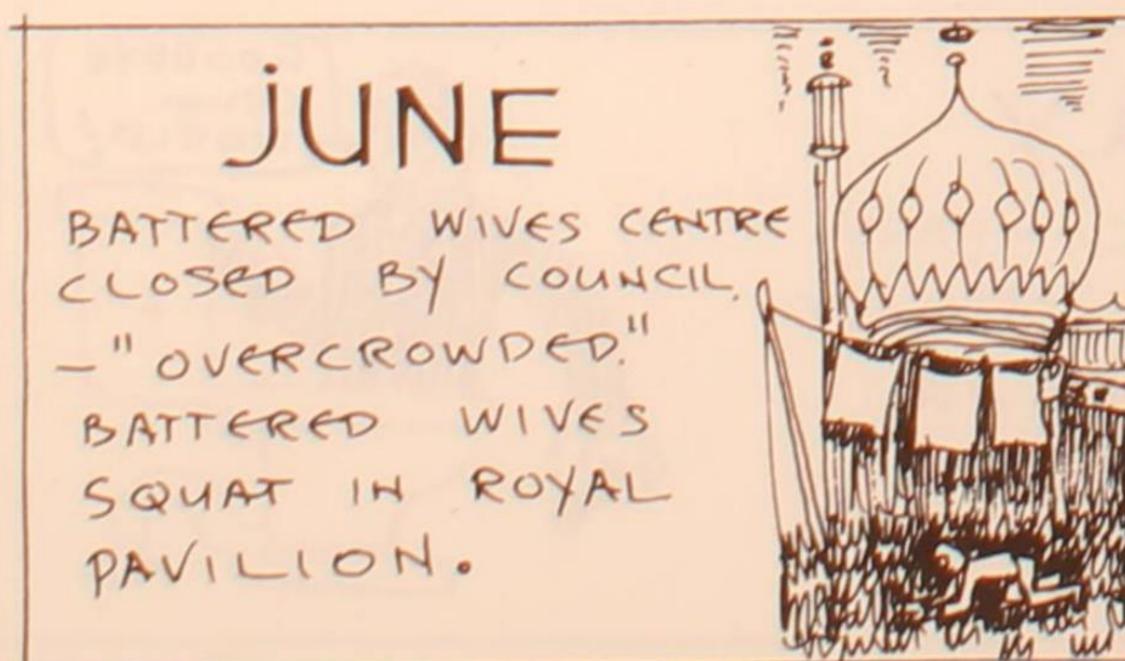
Although Brighton is still below the national average in its percentage of unemployed, there are over 5,000 registered at the moment and that does not include married women and school leavers who tend not to register. The figures are mounting daily and the Trades Council agreed to protest to the TUC about schemes to produce public works which would cost millions of pounds but would not ensure either permanent jobs or any sort of job training. These schemes, suggested by the Manpower Commission and backed by the Government and the TUC were ridiculed by several delegates

in speeches which showed that there is a working people's voice in Brighton, a determined and angry voice.

Over the Rights Centre and Reg Morgan's underhand letter(see our last issue No 27) the Trades Council were equally militant, applauding a report from one of the Centre's workers and supporting the call from the chairman to protest to every councillor against the attempts to close such an excellent venture. There was no doubt about it, the Trades Council, through its officers and through its ordinary members was right behind the centre in everything it was trying to do.

cuts

With even more fire, the meeting responded to the campaign against the current government economies in all the vital services. It agreed to affiliate to the Brighton Action Committee which has been set up to fight . the cuts and it ended with a full show of hands in support of the morning of protest on 31 January. During the meeting one delegate said that the Tories in the town hardly knew that Brighton had any Trade Unionists. It is the opinion of BRIGHTON VOICE that after a meeting like this one the Tories will be forced into a new sense of realities. IT IS UP TO THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN OF BRIGHTON TO COME OUT ON 31 JANUARY AND MAKE SURE THAT THIS HAPPENS.



rights centre

AL

On Saturday 22 November the Brighton and Hove Trades Council held a one-day conference on the Cuts, with speakers from NALGO, NUT, ASTMS and POEU. Contributions from the floor, as well as telling of cuts in their own area of work, repeatedly spoke of the need for a campaign in Brighton to fight the cuts and unemployment.

On 28 November the Brighton Action Committee against the Cuts (Bacac) was formed. Its aims are :-

* Opposition to all cuts in a lal expension ure, whether by national or local government.

* Oppostion to unemployment, whether by government or private industry. * Defence of the Trade Union movement from attacks caused by the cuts and unemployment.

Bacac is open to affiliation from any groups of people affected by the cuts and unemployment and already 17 Unions and organisations have joined including the Trades Council itself. HOW CAN YOU HELP ?

By raising the issues of cuts and unemployment at your place of

work.

By getting your Union to affiliate By asking Bacac to send a speaker to your meetings By writing for and distributing ACTION, Basas's Bulletin. BY SUPPORTING THE DEMO AGAINST THE CUTS ON 31 January

BRIGHTON DEMO AGAINST CUTS SATURDAY JANUARY 31 st

> Assemble WEST PIER 11 a.m.

March to THE LEVEL Rally at 1pm with National and local speakers.

education

Education cuts mean that the new system of First, Middle and High schools in Brighton will not be properly established. Phase Two of the new Stanley Deason High School on Wilson Avenue has now been postponed indefinitely. This highlights a general picture of stagnation. Meanwhile teacher training at the College of Education is to be cut by half, and there are many teachers out of work while classes of nearly 40 continue in some Brighton schools.

Brighton and Hove C.E.A. (Council for Educational Advance) has been set up to fight the cuts locally. It represents parents, teachers, workers and students, who can join either as 1 individuals or as members of an organisation. (see Info pages) C.E.A. sees education cuts as part and parcel of the cut in the social wage as a whole so it has delegates on the Brighton Action Committee against the Cuts (Bacac). It also gives full support to the demo on 31 January.

you to know it is noticed and appreciated."

Queens Park Spa

People who live in the Queens Park area of East Brighton will remember how the spa campaign began more than three years ago, with the fight for the derelict spa in the park to become a nursery school rather than a casino, how local unity forced the council to shelve the casino plans, and eventually grant the nursery, how the council's delays meant that the building tenders came in too late so that the nursery school missed being built by eight days because of Local Government re organisation, and how the new East Sussex councillors, from Hastings to Crowborough, have ignored previous promises and axed the Spa under the excuse of Local Government cuts.

In common with many others the QueenSpark Spa campaign cannot accept that they should tighten their belts when it is others who are profiting. Out of the millions spent by Brighton Council every year it seems wrong that the necessary £30,000 cannot be found to provide a nursery school (when there is a list of 400 for Tarnerland, the only one in the area) a place for children to play football on their own, a cafe and park centre for all. We may not need these before food and clothing, but we need them before the things on which our Council spend our money: the Marina roads(£5million), a massive bureauoracy(some of whom seem to be there to hinder not help) or a suspect contract on the Conference Centre.

ITT-CREED THREATEN TO CLOSE BRIGHTON FACTORY \$ TRANSFER OPERATION TO CHILE - WORKERS MORE (O-OPERATIVE"

turn again Preddy

Reactions from disbelief to nausea were noted among East Sussex social workers at the Christmas Message From Our Chairman.

In it, he thanked them for "the high standards you set yourselves and the commitment which you put into your work throughout the year I want

This is somewhat at variance with Preddy's previous statements on the subject, as quoted in the Argus on October 15th. These followed a letter from social workers to the Argus, pointing out that services were already inadequate, and the likely effect of further cuts in expenditure.

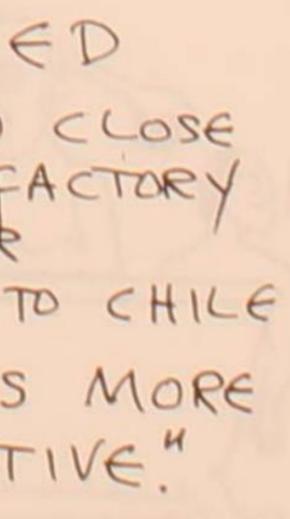
- He then said that he "questioned the loyalty of people who could make statements like that" and added that "the quality of our service is directly related to the quality of the work performed by our staff." In other words, that the social workers are all incompetent and shortage of money has nothing to do with the deteriorating service now on offer.

It looks like reaction to this outrageous nonsense both inside and outside the Department has forced him to change his tune. Who knows, one day he might actually object to presiding over the disintegration of a service designed to help those who, unlike him, can't buy their way out of problems

The Spa is now being wasted. East Sussex have granted £13,000 to have the back pulled down and make the front safe. Then that will be that. No plans for making the area around into a place where the children could play safely and cleanly. No. plans for a small cafe for a cup of tea, nor for a hut for a parents and toddlers club. No initiative. Only delay, and a wilful waste of public resources.

The Campaign refuses to accept this and insists that rates are spent on people's real needs.

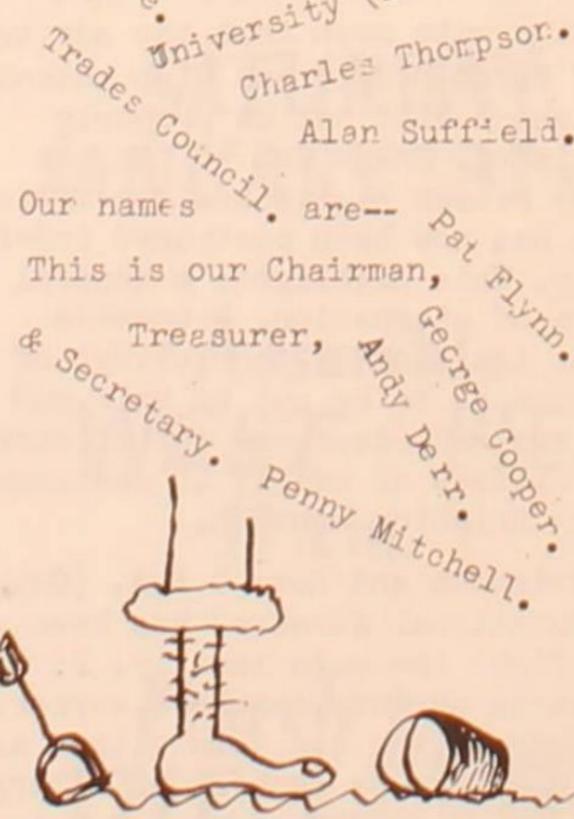
Even if the cuts go ahead the Campaign is demanding access to the ground around the Spa as soon as the building is made safe so that they can get on with providing the facilities (such as an adventure playground) which can be built by the people and do not need money from the rates.





The absense of popular art from modern times is more disquieting and grievous to bear for this reason than any other, that it betokens that fatal division of men into cultivated and degraded classes, which competative commerce has bred and fosters. Forular art has no chance of a healthy life at all until we are on the way to fill this terrible gulf between rich and poor. WILLIAM MORRIS 1834 - 1896 Brighton Arts Fair. SOME, SOMEWHERE, SOME ONE Me have (SOME HAVE 'EM SOME DON'T) have WE KNOW THERE'S ONE SOME WHERE. Brighton Workers Art Club. Pecples Drawing Exhibition. Occupational Therapy Project. We need a building for THIS. A. Studio Work CTCC B. Outings. Brighton Arts Fair. 5 Arts Info Centre. THE FIRST BRIGHTON ARTS FAIR. C. Exhibitions. POS Weekly Publication. Tr of October '75 was well recieved by Six boxes, environmental Sculpture, E Studio Space. visitors from the 'own. Schools & Factories Project. Retail Materials Store. This years will take place in Brighton Focd Fair, home Cooking. Exhibition Space. m 2 and it is expected that there will be Your Daily Bread, exhibition. Office. much more of a show. 2 ~ 4 Conveniences. Eggs Make Fragile Legs Go To work on Feet Community Projects Area. But Pont over boil them. Meetings Lounge. Lending Library. Bocks, Paintings. Lord Mayors.& Dogs. Dark Rocm. Sound Room. C E. THE Store Room. Giveum PETERRENT a Coenail and they take a knee cap EOPLES Workers Art Club. THE WORKER'S ART CLUE, has had it's first meeting (Successful) and will run every Monday at 7.15 PEN Ra Prior House. 100 All those that took part on the 5th displayed distinct signs of enjoyment. but just in case their enthusiastic TUDIOS babblings fall short of your ear Charles Thompson. FOR SALE TWO FRONT TEETH (Providing the space between your Alan Suffield. F (CHRISTMAS WAS NEVER ears contain artistic tendencies) Our names 2. are--LIKE THIS) By young got any better idean why dont you fill in the more by Ring 2787878510PIT YOUR ACTING LIKE A BUNCH Drop into our next meeting. This is our Chairman, Treasurer, y OF AUGUST 6 SEVERE WATER w SHORTAGE HITS BRIGHTON & F COUNCIL URGES R ECONOMY MEASURES. P.O.S. are urgently in need OFFSHORE OIL of ex-commercial accomodation. FOUND AT ENTRANCE W If sighted please inform us. TO BRIGHTON MARINA. . This would be of great help and development to this creative outlet.





Calling Gays

The Lavender Gay Switchboard started in April 1975. It is a voluntary organisation whose aim is to give advice and information to homosexual people; those who through circumstances or situation may feel isolated and abnormal in a straight society and also those who may want to know where in Brighton and the surrounding area they can meet other gays.

Initially operating on only two nights a week, the service was idly responded to despite the fact that the only sources of advertising at first were "Gay News" (National Homosexual newspaper published fortnightly), "Brighton Voice" and a few posters put up mainly in local gay pubs and clubs. The biggest breakthrough came however when after a considerable exchange of letters and telephone calls, the "Evening Argus" finally agreed to accept advertisements for publication in the personal column. In June when advertising first started in the "Argus" the Switchboard by now more commonly referred to as "Brighton Gay Switchboard", had already expanded its hours of operation to three nights a week. In September this was increased to four nights and from December the Switchboard will be open every right from 8pm -10pm with the

eption of Sundays and Mondays. Brighton Gay Switchboard is one of the six regional Gay Switchboards operating in the U.K. The others being London (the largest and the national co-ordinator), Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

counselling

In common with other Gay Switchboards, the Brighton Switchboard acts as a point of contact to the local gay community, offering callers information on groups, gay women, gay men, transsexuals, transvestites, pubs, clubs, accommodation, special events etc. In addition some counselling is undertaken, but for more specific problems, referral is made to organisations specialising in counselling. In this connection.

Brighton Icebreakers Group has recently been formed as a counselling agency to help lonely gays in Sussex. Brighton 202930 operating each Saturday evening 7.30 - 10.pl.

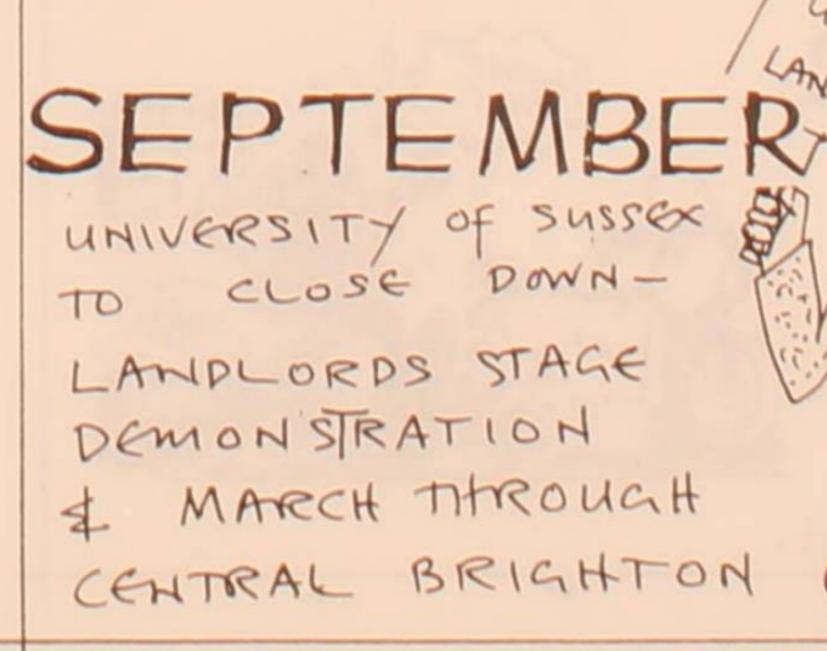
Significantly it has been found that whenever the Switchboard is advertised or mentioned in the

straight media ie "Evening Argus" "Brighton & Hove Gazette""Radio Brighton" etc, large numbers of calls are received from isolated homosexual women and men for whom the Switchboard provides their first contact with the gay community. At this point the Switchboard feel they have only touched the tip of the iceberg and a lot more publicity and promotion will be needed before they fully realise their ambitions. In order to achieve this, more money is needed and most important more women and men to carry out telephone duties and other work. Interested persons are invited to contact the Switchboard during operating hours on Brighton (0273) 27878.





During the past six months, the Mid-Sussex Anti-Apartheid Group has been functioning under considerable difficulties, the chief of these being the lack of response from the general populace to app-





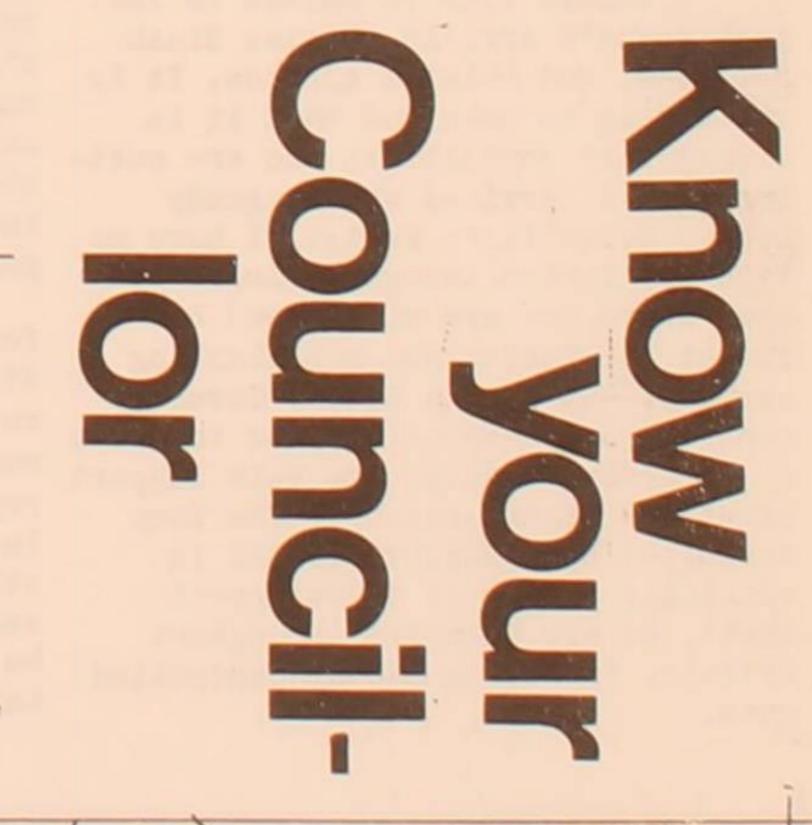
eals for support.

We feel we cannot shelve the problems of Southern Africa just because they have become more complicated and the issues more blurred. There are still hundreds of political prisoners in jail for their beliefs and many other Africans living below the poverty line, deprived of adequate food, clothing, accomodation and education.

A few members continue to raise money to provide clothes and bocks for Rhodesian prisoners and their families. The Group has provided speakers to keep the public aware of conditions in Apartheid Africa. The Home Office and Ministry of Overseas Development have been approached regarding the further education of Rhodesian Africans who are having to drop out because their families cannot afford school fees. Two of the prisoners that we support have passed their degree and Internediate Law exam respectively.

Recently an afternoon tea was held in the foyer of the Martlets Hall at Burgess Hill when information about conditions in Rhodesia was available and money was raised to send cards to prisoners at Christmas.

For further information about the Group, contact Mike Dennis, 6 Islingward Rd, Brighton or ring Haywards Heath 3821 or Burgess Hill 41614.



CAN YOU

SPARE A

FIVER?

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on exposing the proposed slashing cuts of Social Services by the overwhelming Tory majority on the County Council.

We are, indeed, faced with all the 'cuts' you recite and indeed, unless the Committee agree to recommend 6.59% growth as advised by the Director, it could involve more grievous aspects to the almost deruding of the domicilliary services.

There are, at present, all sorts of unknown quantities such as the County Council allocation of the Social Services share of the cake and the financial responsibily for homelessness.

The Labour group, of whom I am Shadow Chairman, is pressing for nothing less than 'status quo' about 12-7% - and we are prepared to mount a public campaign to retain, as a minimum the existing services even at the cost, publicly explained, of a 1p rate.

We shall need all the help we can get and I am sure we can rely on Brighton Voice to collaborate with us if necessary. I have already alerted Radio Brighton to launch a series, including all interested parties, to assess public reaction. Harry George

Dear Brighton Voice,

I should like to object to the last issue's article 'Tories Slash Services' and related cartoon. It is misleading to make out that it is wicked Tory councillors who are cutting social services whilst goody Labour councillors resist. I have no love for Tories (though at least you know where you are with them) but it is not the Tories who are slashing services -- it is the Labour Government who are responsible for the cuts by severely reducing the Rate Support Grant and other measures. The Tory dominated East Sussex Council is willingly acting as a Government agent, as are councils throughout Britain, including Labour controlled ones.

The stance of local Labour councillors over the cuts is hypocritical and unprogressive. Their'resistance' to the cuts ordered by their own government is that rates should be increased to preserve the existing service. The battle cry of 'increase the rates' is a diversion. It conveniently forgets that our money already paid in general taxation is being witheld by cutting the Rate Support Grant. The Labour councillors would have us pay twice.

However, the article rightly pointed out the viciousness of the proposed cuts.

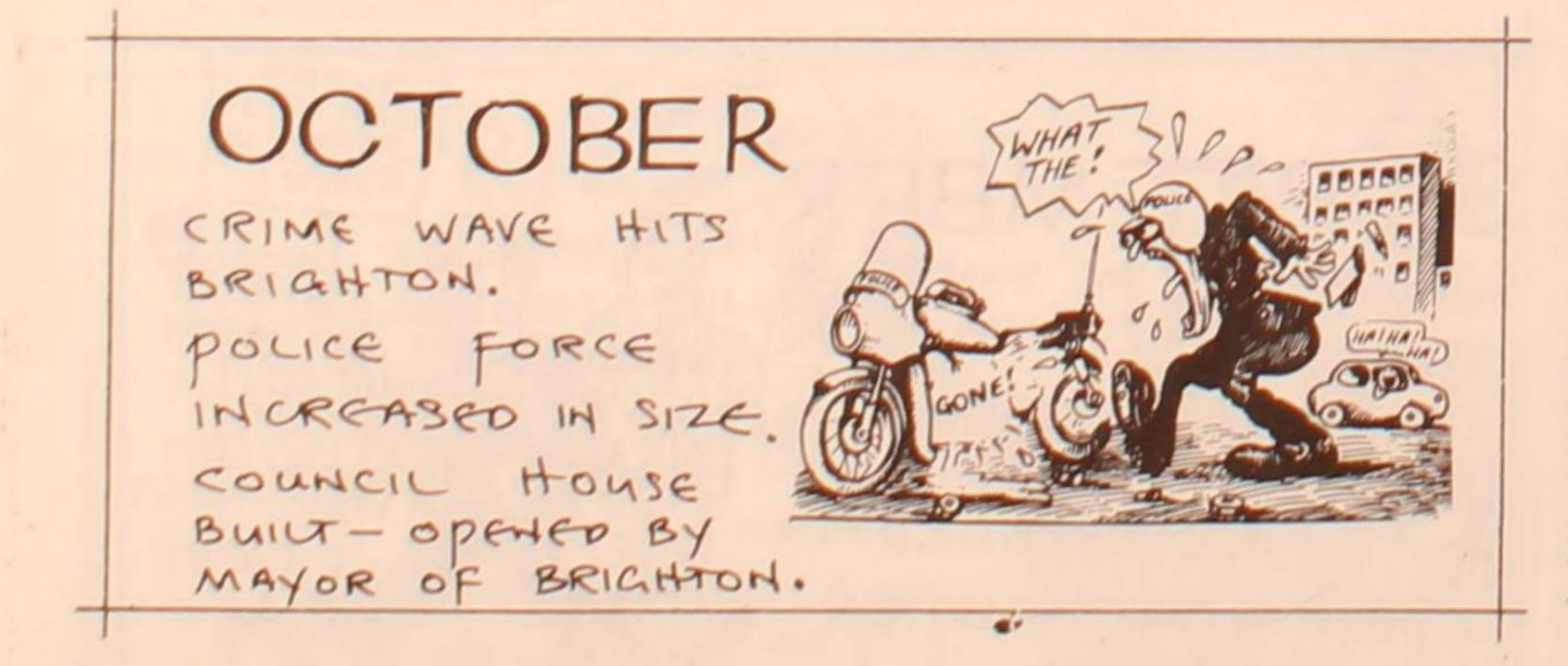
As for the cartoon, it was equally misleading. The only difference between Labour and Tory governments is that the former is proving more successful at attacking workers's standards of living and trade union organisation. Adrian Briggs.

Dear Sirs,

As chairman of the Brighton and Mid-Sussex branch of the National Union of Journalists, I am writing to tell you that my members were extremely disappointed, one might almost say incredulous, at the Press Council's rejection of my branch's complaint to them against the Evening Argus.

The Press Council has rejected our complaint because, even though Mr. Gorringe refused to print either of the letters he received in reply to his leading article, he later intimated "his willingness to publish letters answering the specific criticisms made." In fact he indicated his willingness to publish a reply " stating where the Brighton and Mid-Sussex Branch of the NUJ stand in this controversy." That, in our view, was simply not good enough.

It was surely quite intolerable for Mr. Gorringe to attempt to dictate the terms under which he would be prepared to publish a eply, to deny us the right to reply in the way we chose and to insist that we reply along lines stipulated by him. In effect, he was saying that the game must not only be played on his pitch with his ball, according to rules laid down



LETTERS *****

by him, but that he insisted on the right to appoint himself as referee and to dictate the type of game played by his opponents, who were permitted to attack only those areas of the field stipulated by him, and who were not allowed to take advantage of the weak spots in his defence.

No wonder newspaper proprietors and editors like Mr Gorringe are so hysterically opposing the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill on the grounds that it might place in jeopardy the freedom of the Press. The freedom is theirs; nobody else's.

My branch would argue that, after naming the NUJ and criticising it in his leading article, there was certainly a moral obligation on Mr Gorringe to publish either or both of the original replies- replies making the points we wished (as to make rather than the points he wished us to make.

The Evening Argus, in common with most provincial evening and weekly papers, claims to be an uncommitted newspaper serving the interests of all sections of the community in which it circulates. Such a newspaper, in the opinion of my branch, should reflect the views of all sections of that community in a fair, impartial and unbiased way, even if those views differ from those of the editor.

This, in the view of my branch, the Evening Argus manifestly failed to do on this occasion. It is surprising that the Press Council does not share our view.

Eric Tyson

Dear Sirs,

The attention of the Press Council has been called to a recent article published in the BRIGHTON VOICE headed "NUJ - sure cross about Shawcross. It was stated in the article that when Lord Shawcross, Chairman of the Press Council, presided over a meeting of the Complaints Committee of the Council when it was investigating a complaint by the Brighton Branch of the NUJ against the EVENING ARGUS 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."

I shall be obliged if you will allow me to make it clear that this statement is totally untrue. Lord Shawcross had never met Mr. Gorringe nor had he any knowledge of who he was. Before the complaint was made to the Press Council Lord Shawcross did not know the name of the Editor-in-Chief of the EVENING ARGUS.

Noël.S.Paul. (Sec.Press Council)



ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP c/o Mike Dennis 6 Islingword Rd

A.S. NEILL TRUST 691712 For alternative education projects.

BRIGHTON & HOVE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL ADVANCE N. Osmond 8 Tower Rd 683544

BRIGHTON FILM THEATRE Support your local non-profitmaking cinema.

BRIGHTON LESBIAN GRCUP 1st, 3rd, & 5th. Weds at Flat 1 9 St Michaels Pl. For info contact lee at above address.

BRIGHTON HOSTEL 105 Islingwood Rd Meals Sunday 12-2 Tea at other times if possible. Soup 9.30-1Cpm under the arches Needs clothes, food Help!

BRIGHTON SOCIETY Environmental group Selma Montford 10 Clermont Rd.

BRIGHTON, HOVE & DISTRICT TENANT'S ASSOCIATION & SQUATTERS UNION 7, Victoria Rd 27878 Tuesdays 8pm.

BRITAIN/GDR SOCIETY 686259 Facts & info on East Germany.

BRITISH SOVIET FRIEND-SHIP SOCIETY 62794

BUILDING CO-OP People interested in getting one together contact ray & Stephan 692766.

GROUPS

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMESEXUAL EQUALITY Marlborough Hotel, Top lounge. Every Tues 8.30pm. Graham Wilkinson 3 Adelaide Cres. Hove Brian Hart 111 Church St. 683710.

CHE WOMEN'S GROUP 4th Tuesday of every month at Marlborough Hotel, Princes St. Upstairs lounge. Su Spurway WG/LAMBDA PO Box 449 Brighton.

CLAIMANT'S UNION 7, Victoria Rd 27878 Meetings Mons 8pr.

CLAP (CCMMUNITY LEVY FOR ALTERNATIVE PRCJECTS) c/o BIT 146 Gt Western Rd London W1

THE R. P. LEWIS CO., LANSING MICH. & LANSING MICH.

EAST BRIGHTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION G Andrews 8 Twineham Rd 687715

FREE VET-PDSA 6 Oxford St 63606 Donations Welcome

FREE ROCM FOR COMMUNITY USE Day or evening. Typewriter and photocopier available during the day. Chris Miller, Social Services Dept 15 Princes St 29801 Ex 671

FRIENDS CENTRE Ship St. 27835 New term begins Jan 12th.

GAY WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP Diana, 688301.

Anyone/everyone invited to submit material WRITE TO BRIGHTON VOICE

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DOWN

GATHERINGS ETC

MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Bringing psychiatric patients into the community. Details: Link-up 687838, Open 27878.

MCTHER & TODDLER AFTERNOCN Westdene Library Tues 2.30-3.15 in term time. Coffee, toys, picture book and a chance to meet other mums.

MOULESCOOMB ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND Needs money, material and help. Arthur & Dave c/o 67 Centre, off Hodshrove Rd Moulescoomb 682428.

NATIONAL UNION OF SCHOOL STUDENTS Ber, 13 Prince Edward's Rd Lewes 2731.

PENSIONERS AND TRADE UNION ASSOCIATION Keith Orange 22 Whippingham Rd.

PECPLE'S OPEN STUDIOS Pat Flynn c/o Prior House.

POETRY AT OPEN 7 Victoria Rd Tuesdays 8pm.

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

Carlton Hill 681925 Youth and Community Centre Many activities including Old people's lunch Tues 12.30-2.00 20 pence. Open Creche, Thurs 9.30-12.0C, 10pence.

increased on the second s

RANK & FILE Organisation of classroom teachers within NUT. 689113 after 6pm.

RIGHT TO READ Mrs Prior 29801



SAVE THE PIER CAMPAIGN Enquiries to John Lloyd Forum Gallery 16 Market St 28578

SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING Danielle Fura 12 Berkely Row Lewes.

TRADES COUNCIL Keith Orange 22 Whippingham Rd.

TRANSPORT 2000 Kevin McNulty 75 Upper Lewes Rd.

WHOLE EARTH GROUP Sec: Alistair Nisbet 54 Queens Park Rd. Meetings Weds 8pm at 7 Victoria Rd.

WOMEN'S AID A refuge for battered wives. Contact Women's Centre 27612.

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

WOMEN'S LIBERATION Jen de Wynter 154 Harbour Way Shoreham 87-61680.

WORKING ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS Linda Kinsella 55134 Baby sitting, creche, coffee mornings.

NOVEMBER

MARGARET THATCHER SUGGESTS LOWERING SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE TWELVE YEARS -" PLENTY OF WORK MINES. THE

