

info...

ADVICE

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
505726 Pregnancy testing,
counselling, abortions
vasectomies.

BRIGHTON RIGHTS CENTRE
2 Prince Albert St
Advice on legal
problems. Free and
confidential service by the
Centre's workers and solic-
itors. Thursdays

12.30-2.00 & 5.30-7.30

CANCER PREVENTION
Brighton. 29801

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU
17 Ditchling Rise, 61664.
Mon-Fri 10.00-4.00, Tue
6-8.

2 St Georges Place (nr St
Peters Church).
Mon-Fri 10.00-12.00.

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
8-10pm. Meets Weds 8pm.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
73 Grand Parade 681919

**WOMENS RIGHTS ACTION
GROUP (WRAG)**
5.00 - 9.30 pm every
Thursday at the Womens
Centre, 79 Buckingham Rd.
Tel. B'ton 27612.

**BEWARE THE
POTALYSER.
SEE PG 19**

OFF THE RECORD
Help & information for
young people. Free & con-
fidential, call in or phone:
: Tues-Thurs 8p.m.-10 p.m.
6, Marlborough Place 63080

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
681919.

POLITICS

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOC.
Lorraine Robinson.
Rear 261 Preston Rd
Brighton

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN
(MARKIST-LENINIST)**
Meets 37 Gloucester Rd
First Friday of each month
Brighton 684404

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

COMMUNIST PARTY (CPGB)
M Chaplin 83 Edburton Av

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
Sec. 33 Ventnor Villas
Hove

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

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

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

**CACTL (CAMPAIGN AGAINST
THE CRIMINAL TRESPASS
LAW)** Joint meetings with
squatters at
7, Victoria Rd., Tues 8pm
Newly formed Sussex
branch. Propaganda and
lectures on the effects
of such a law, literature
and direct action on
bringing home the
possible effects of this
law to people.

SHOPS

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

ANTIQU MARKET
Union Hall Ayr St
Mons & Weds 8-5
Teas by OPKN
VOICE on sale (sometimes)

BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP
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

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

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

SIMPLE SUPPLIES
11 George St
Whole Earth Group
co-operative work
project. Foods, crafts,
utensils, gear, public-
ations.

SURVIVAL
10 Station Rd., Lewes.
Basic foods - grains,
beans etc. Mon-Sat,
10-1; 2.15-5.30.
Closed Weds afternoon.

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

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

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

PAPERS

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 HANDBOOK
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
Queens Park Rd, 16p
plus postage.

WRAG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
available from the Women's
Centre, 79 Buckingham Rd.
50p for 2 issues.

Union Out of Training.

The University Students' Union recently decided to organise support for a 'demo' in London in favour of abortion. Remembering that 45% of the university was female, they confidently booked a four-coach train to take the demonstrators up to town.

Sadly, support turned out to be somewhat less than expected, so they took three coaches instead. But, on the day, there at Falmer Station, blocking the Lewes line and causing consternation to the station staff, was a nice four-coach train with no passengers.

The Union had simply forgot to cancel it, and has a £600 bill to pay for their 'memory lapse'.

BRIGHTON VOICE June 76

No.30

8p

WOMEN'S
CENTRE
CLOSES



Preddy
Censors
Lewes Expo

Over the last 18 months the Women's Centre has helped over 1,500 women with problems relating to housing, divorce and custody, play-groups, social security, abortion, and endless other things that affect men.

The council has let us use the premises at 79 Buckingham Road but they are now redeveloping the building as a home for the mentally handicapped. We have been asked to leave by the end of May. They have known for the last six months that the Women's Centre would soon be homeless, but have done almost nothing to find us new premises.

What will this mean to women in Brighton? In the last 12 months alone 237 women have used our free pregnancy testing service. The centre has been used as a focus for political activity round women's liberation e.g. the National Abortion Campaign, the Women's Rights Action Group, Women's Aid (the refuge for battered women) and Lesbian action. Dozens of women have used the centre's playgroup. Many more have been given practical help with the everyday problems that affect them. And perhaps most important of all, the centre has been a place where women can overcome the isolation of family life and discuss with other women their ideas and aims.

What can be done to make the council come up with something? There is a petition (available at the

Women's Centre and Open Cafe) supporting what the centre does and urging the council to give us alternative premises. We must let them know there is local support. In the meantime we are continuing negotiations with council officers.

You can help by letting us know of any other suitable premises that are available. The information service needs a minimum of two rooms plus telephone, and our registered playgroup needs two large rooms with toilet facilities. Both must be fairly central.

Phone Brighton 27612 URGENT

LOCAL AID KILLED BY BOWDEN AND ARGUS

"LOCAL AID CEASED TO FUNCTION ON 8 MAY".....That's how the official press release from the Brighton-based Charity begins. But Gerry Howard, the director of Local Aid is not giving the release to the Argus. Why not? Because the Argus and its Editor-in-chief Victor Gorrings have launched a consistent campaign of insinuation and criticism against the charity simply because it has not made it onto the sherry and cocktail circuit of the local establishment. Bowden has been its chief opponent in Brighton, accusing it of being badly run and badly financed and poisoning people's minds against it. Most of his accusations have been easily refuted but he hasn't given up, and gradually he and Gorrings have made it impossible for Local Aid to continue. Nobody dares to be associated with it just because it has been black-balled by arrogant snobs who resent a charity which operates on its own according to its own values.

CONT'D on page 4.

In March, the Lewes Shelter Group mounted a housing exhibition in the Lewes Information Centre. Its central theme was the extreme difficulty faced by a low income couple trying to find somewhere decent to live; their progression up the waiting list, final housing via eviction and bed and breakfast as a homeless family.

The source of their problem - high house prices, low council house building achievements to date, vanishing private rented sector and many empty private properties - was briefly detailed along with a comparison between subsidies given to the public and private housing sectors.

After the exhibition was mounted we noticed that some of the exhibits and information cards were removed. To discover why we had to push against a firm bureaucratic wall and then were told that the missing exhibits were "highly political" and not fit for Lewes Information Centre!

CONT'D. Pg 7.

YOUR RIGHTS

If you are searched

Now that every Chief Constable in the land is rushing around shouting "law and order" (a phrase, incidentally, much loved by one Richard Nixon) it is clear that the police are doing their best to increase their power. Thus it is doubly important that we are aware of what our legal rights are when dealing with them.

This is the second part of our series of edited versions of NCCL Fact Sheets on your legal rights. This time we look at what to do if the police try to search you in the street or at the police station--in the next issue we will outline police powers to search premises and to seize property.

IF....

Normally the police have no power to stop you, detain you or ask questions without first arresting you. They have no right to search you or anything you are carrying without your consent or until you have been arrested on a specific charge.

On the street.....

Under a few special acts the police can stop you if they are looking for drugs, firearms or stolen goods but they must have reasonable grounds for suspecting that you have what they are looking for. The police should not regard length of hair or style of dress as reasonable grounds.

Before consenting to be searched...

*Ask if you are being arrested
*Ask what the police are looking for and under what authority they want to search you.

*If they give no reasonable grounds you need not allow the search and can use reasonable force to protect yourself.

If you are arrested.....

The police can only search you..
*for your own protection, for the protection of those responsible for your safe custody or as a safeguard against damage or injury to person or property.

*to obtain or preserve evidence in connection with the crime for which you have been arrested.

IF IN DOUBT ALWAYS ASK WHY YOU ARE BEING SEARCHED

At the police station.....

If you have been arrested it is police practice to search:-

*every prisoner to be placed in the cells

*anyone on whom evidence of the charge might be found

Remember.....

The police cannot search premises without your consent or a warrant or written authority from a magistrate or Superintendent.

Women must only be searched by female police officers.

Children(under 17) must only be interviewed and searched in the presence of a parent or guardian or of someone who is not a police officer and is of the same sex.

Your belongings.....

By law the police are allowed to seize only evidence of the offence for which you have been arrested or that would implicate you in some other offence or items which could do harm to yourself or others. In practice they take everything!

Remember.....

*the police should package and seal in your presence anything taken from you

*make sure the property is listed and properly described

*check the list is correct

*sign beneath the last item on the list in such a way as to prevent additions to the list

*never sign for anything you dispute was taken from you

*you can refuse to sign any list

*ask for a receipt and keep it

N.

C.

**A complete set of NCCL Fact Sheets is available for 18p post free from NCCL, 186 Kings Cross Rd WC1X 9DE

C.

L.

On leaving the police station....

The police must return all your belongings(except anything retained to be used as evidence)

If you are granted bail or released

*the police can keep property which is to be used in evidence

*they must return all other personal belongings

*check all items in the presence of a police officer against a receipt

Examinations by the police.....

*a right to search does not require you to submit to a physical or mental examination

*there is no provision under the Misuse of Drugs Act to demand urine samples. If you do consent to provide such a sample you can be convicted upon positive analysis.



The Rights Centre

now has a LUNCH-HOUR SERVICE too.

New cases are started on THURSDAY

12.30 - 2.00 & 5.30 - 7.30.

Recently we have helped people with problems like:

Unfair Dismissal
Exceptional Needs Payments
Illegal Eviction
Redundancy Payments
Work Permits
Eviction Threats
Flat Maintenance Charges
Public Health Notices
Flat Disrepair
Planning Objections
Nuisance Injunctions
Closing Orders
Sub-tenancy Security
Police Complaints
Small Accident Claims

and many others.

If you have an IMMIGRATION, TENANCY, EMPLOYMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, PLANNING, etc. hassle, try contacting the Rights Centre at
2 PRINCE ALBERT STREET,
near the Town Hall.

LENTILS WITH EVERYTHING

By the time this issue of the Voice appears on the streets the Whole Earth workers co-operative shop and centre should be alive and well and living at 11 George Street, Kemptown.

The building has no electricity - the cable was cut off in the road and will cost £55 to re-connect plus over £100 for wiring inside. There are no toilets nor any water - hot or cold. When we first went there were some smashed windows and we had to clear rubbish and human shit from the rooms.

It's a short life property and the 12 checkouts of a giant supermarket are planned for the spot No. 11 now fills. We hope it still has quite a long "short life" yet and so are taking a gamble by sinking a few hundred quid into doing the place up. The rent is £600 pa + rates.

The shop, called "Simple Supplies" is selling a range of basic whole foods supplied by the Infinity bulk store at Hove and weighed and packed by us, ie dried fruit, nuts, pulses, wholewheat flour, grains and cereals. We have been selling these at Sussex markets for the past six months and supplying the students' co-op at the university. We have also been baking bread and cakes and making jam and other preserves for sale. We have also been running a glass recycling system - our customers have gradually come to accept the idea of buying their peanut butter in 38oz-large-coffee-jar size. We will be recycling bottles for other things too and are collecting paper bags, egg boxes and jumble (to sell for our building fund).

Later we hope the shop will do organically grown veg and herbs and free range eggs. Another Infinity Foods? No, not quite. Our range isn't intended to be as wide or exotic as theirs. Food is just one aspect of our set-up - though we feel there's more than enough room for a second whole food outlet in Brighton.

Gradually we'll embrace a range of tools, seeds, utensils and publications for self-sufficiency. Plans include such things as real old-fashioned clay flower pots, garden tools, cast iron cooking stuff, functional pottery (eg pitchers and urns), hand operated grain mills, bread making tins and so on.

The rooms above the shop will be used as an ecology centre. Besides housing the Whole Earth Group and their magazine other eco/environmental groups like Transport 2000 and the local branch of Friends of the Earth will be able to share this area.

We are also interested in co-ordinating local recycling schemes and in pressing for more allotments - as well as serving as a contact and exchange point for allotment diggers.

We are a co-operative. There are four full timers (each getting a maximum £14 pw) and lots of casual



helpers. But we are still learning, growing and overcoming problems in what is almost unexplored territory.

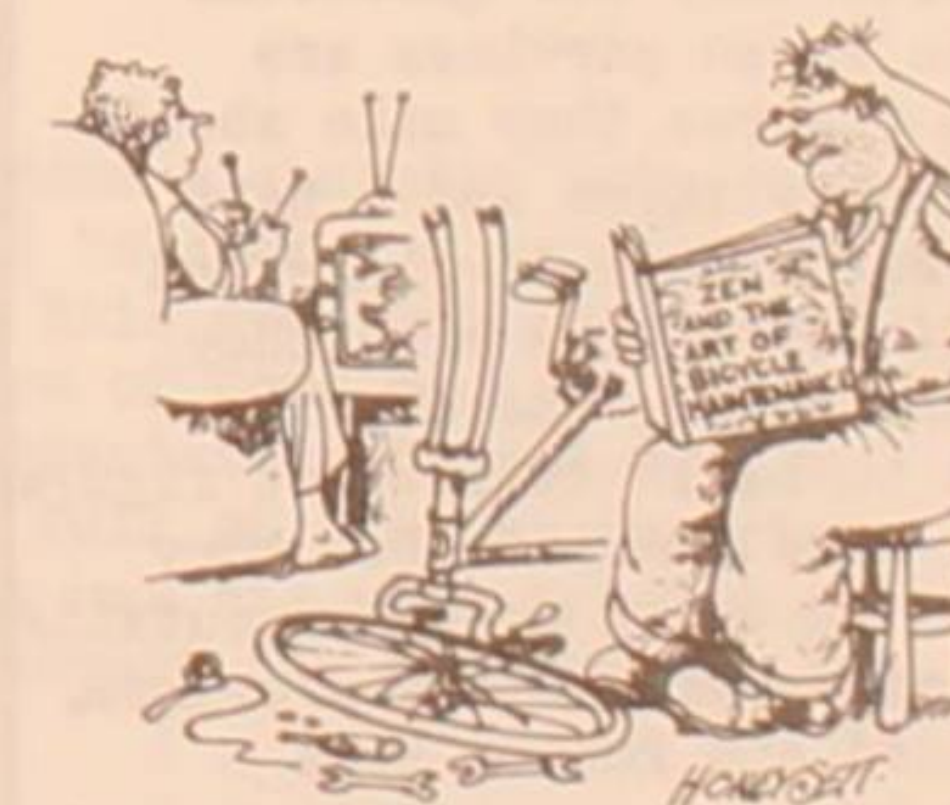
We see business policy as being decided at weekly meetings of the entire workforce - and the pay guideline as being a fixed hourly rate for everyone. The social aims of the co-operative are:-

- to create socially useful employment which is also ecologically non-destructive and under the democratic control of the workforce.
- to use any accumulated funds for the spreading of such co-operatives.
- to use resources for the benefit of community projects and publications.

It all sounds very grand: but now our little group is just getting off the ground and needs all the help it can get.

Our present position is:- stock £400, a ten year old van, building materials fund £38 (£20 from CLAP and £18 from a jumble sale), a £150 loan for the first quarter's rent. (Thanks to radical solicitor B.M. for waiving fees).

We still need further cash loans.



Hopefully the centre will act as a springboard for lots of related projects. Our ideas include a bakery, a bicycle rehabilitation workshop, a crafts workshop and a we'll-do-anything agency. Our van is operating for Community Transport and is doing a commercial removals business with profits to the cause (co-op and community uses at running costs only).

So please support us whether by giving jumble, furniture, old tins of paint, lending tools or buying at the store.

We are open from 9am to 6pm.



LOCAL AID BITES THE DUST

Cont'd from p.1.

Several issues ago we carried out our own investigation of Local Aid, and although we could not sort out some of its odd internal relations we met nothing but praise and gratitude for it from anyone who had been on the receiving end. We know that it has helped hundreds of people with free transport, free furniture and even money handouts with very few questions asked. When these services are added into figures they make about £20-30,000 over three and a half years. If Bowden and Gorrings had spent even half of the time they devoted to slanging the charity on efforts to build it up that figure could have been trebled. But they can't stand anything going on outside their own miserable little province.

Howard and Bowden have quarrelled in open court. In a recent court case in Brighton Howard called Bowden a 'crooked M.P.' and justified this by quoting an agreement which he had made with Bowden but which the Tory M.P. totally failed to honour. Now Howard knows that Bowden has got what he wanted and relations are more bitter than ever. Victor Gorrings, for his part, has not only initiated the harmful propaganda against Local Aid, but he has made no effort to contact local people and get their opinion. That's the kind of authoritarian editor he is. Had he even bothered to go to one of the Local Aid shops and talk to the shoppers there who found masses of bargains every day for a few pence, he would have seen how hopelessly out of touch he is with the society he scandalously claims to represent. But his arrogance is unlimited and he is now too old to do anything but get worse. Perhaps we should not expect too much of him. Bowden is another matter. At least the people of Brighton can learn from the way he misrepresents their interests and get rid of him.

As for Local Aid there is little chance of anything surviving. The Corporation bailiffs will be after the stock to pay off rate arrears and Gerry Howard will be left with enormous debts. The shops will close down and the helpers will lose their jobs. One of them, Dee Harris, was close to tears - and tears of

anger - when we spoke to her. 'Gerry Howard' she said 'is too good for this town. He could never bring himself to say no to anyone who was in need, but he never got into the drinking set with the nobs, and that was his downfall. Local Aid' she continued, 'has shown me that there are two societies in Brighton, the have-nots and the haves. We did everything we could to help the have-nots whereas the haves did everything they could to close us down. It's a wicked shame, and I feel very, very upset. The town has lost a good man and a good charity!'

Final comment from a Local Aid helper: 'We have only used a few of the sixty rooms in this hotel. To keep them empty is outrageous. What this place needs is squatting.'

"Best housing idea in years."

'One of the best ideas in Brighton for years'. That was how the proposals of the Short Life Housing Association were described recently by an official of Shelter, the national housing charity. And people from all walks of life in Brighton are beginning to agree with him. They can see the sense in these suggestions for using the vast amount of empty property in the town for short tenancies, with an agreement to move out when development is started or a sale is completed.

The original idea came from the Squatters Union early this year. And since squatting is a word that drives all Councillors - of whatever political hue - into frightened rages, their ideas have been hitting a blank wall ever since. But now conservation organisations, alarmed at the spreading areas of devastation in the town, are showing interest. Housing groups are realizing that this is one genuine way of reducing homelessness. And the Squatters Union themselves are settling down to a long war of attrition to force the Council to change its mind.

There are well over 300 empty houses in Brighton owned by the Council which, if used, could make a sizeable dent in the housing list. And there are ten times as many in private hands. The scheme is cheap - it involves minimal outlay because it incorporates proposals for self-help repairs to property - and is infinitesimal in cost when compared to the grotesque sums laid out to put homeless people in bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

Another Preddy Fuck-up.

This month sees the resignation of all three Community Workers in Brighton & Hove. Two years after the first one was appointed, the area is again without one. And it is very questionable whether the jobs will ever be filled again.

What is behind this alarming development? Simply, that all three Workers found it impossible to operate effectively. Any move they made in the direction of helping community organisations was squashed by the Social Services Committee - witness the Womens' Centre, the Rights Centre and the Resource Centre. If the Workers did anything other than gently assist the blind, the halt and the lame, then there was trouble.

Even Peter Atkins, the local boss of Social Services, has written, 'We (social workers) have a right to ask the Committee what they mean by their actions' and 'Are we only to support bodies that are defined as harmless by the Social Services Committee?'

A major cause of this latest mess in Social Services is the weakness of Preddy, the chairman. The Voice will cover this story more next issue.

Why then does fat, slippery Leach, Chairman of Housing, say there is no future in it? Because he aims to protect the shortage that keeps the property market buoyant. And why does Wally May, Housing Manager, say the properties are not really suitable? Because he hides behind statistics which are designed to buttress the embarrassing obtusenesses of the Housing Committee. No he is looking for a new job.

It is so easy to produce figures of housing turnover, to emphasise the existence of Closing Orders and say that property doesn't meet the legal standard. There are always such arguments to fall back on. But the simple truth is that other Councils have found ways round these problems - in so far as they really exist - and Brighton could do the same. Where there is a will there is a way - but the will just isn't there. So this month sees the start of a campaign to spread the word, to promote a solution to the local housing crisis and to change the Council's mind.

If you want more information on the Short Life Housing Association, write to the Squatters Union, o/o Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Road, Brighton.

A COMMENT ON THE CURRENT HOUSING situation by a Brighton guest-house proprietor: 'Four years ago when I took over the place I might get 3 or 4 homeless people from Social Security or Housing in a whole month. Now I am getting 3 or 4 a day - and having to turn them away.'

RESNER - THE NAME BEHIND THE SCANDAL

A few weeks ago the Argus reported a County Court case where a couple were awarded £425 damages against their landlords, Lynwood Investment Co Ltd. The court was told how the failure of the landlords to repair or replace the gas hot water heater meant that the couple went without hot water for 4½ years, how they were unable to heat their room and how the toilet cistern didn't work. Then the judge was sufficiently moved to comment on the landlords' "extreme disregard" for the convenience and health of their tenants.

Such incidents are not, of course, new. But what the Voice wants to know is when the courts (and the Argus) are going to stop such unscrupulous exploiters as the people who run Lynwood from shielding behind the anonymity of a company name. This company does not have thousands of shareholders - it is just two local people who decided to form a rip-off organisation. They can well afford to pay £425, the embarrassment of having their names in the Argus would be an altogether different story.

Unlike the Argus, the Voice, fearless as always, names the guilty people. These modern-day Rachmans (or Raschpersons?) are Gertrude Resner, described in the company's file as a married woman and Sally Resner described as a diamond merchant! Both live at 4 Grand Ave, Hove. In addition to the property which the court case was concerned with, 39 Compton Ave, these two also own three other houses. These are 93 and 95 Lorna Rd and 100 Hannover Terrace. So if you get offered a flat in one of those--beware!!

P.S. If your landlord is not providing a service which was agreed at the time you moved in, e.g. if the electricity, water or gas doesn't work, he could be acting in breach of the 1961 Housing Act and you could be entitled to compensation

5 Lawbreakers Thwarted

United efforts by Brighton social workers seem to have scotched a plan to break the law by removing telephones from old and disabled people who have qualified for them under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

The Act--passed in 1970--imposed a duty on local authorities to provide phones for people who would otherwise be dangerously isolated. The criteria for installation have always been strict, and it is now intended to make them so difficult to obtain that almost nobody will qualify. Though this is totally opposed to the intentions of the Act, social workers have expected it for some time; what was not expected was an order to reassess 180 people who already have phones, with a view to removing at least forty of them. The reassessment--presumably to see whether anyone has got younger or less disabled--was opposed by all social work teams, who objected to being used to justify this illegal retrospective action. Their anger was increased on being told that even if everyone met the new criteria, forty phones would still have to go.

The decision to refuse to do the Council's dirty work was unanimous and the matter has now been referred back for further consideration.

KIDS KARNIVAL AND FREE FAIR



It was a great Carnival last year and there's going to be another one on 12 June. Same place--University of Sussex--and same organisers, the University Link-Up group. There will be entertainments and demonstrations and the aim is for everyone to have a glimpse of the alternative ways in which society can live. The emphasis is more on entertaining and informing the community than on selling goods (don't worry-you can still buy some of Open's

famous food, renowned across the South).

What will there be to attract you? Present plans include street theatre, craft stalls and demonstrations, folk music, films, morris dancing, bands, arts and crafts, plays, magicians, a puppet show, ponies, inflatables, fancy dress, cartoons, competitions, poetry and story reading, enviro-exhibits and alternative technology.

Basic accommodation can be provided if you bring a sleeping bag, but camping isn't on. If you want to put up a stall it should be completely self-contained (own generating plant, closed circuit tele, adding machines, etc.) If you mainly want to sell things there is a cover charge of £1. Otherwise all gifts, info, people, music, kids, grass, ARE FREE. And the date, we'll spell it again, is Saturday 12 June. Time, 12 till 6.

DON'T MISS THE INFLATABLE MORRIS DANCERS.

CYNICAL FARCE OF EQUAL PAY

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT WOMEN EARN FAR LESS THAN MEN, AND IT IS A COMMON ASSUMPTION THAT THE EQUAL PAY ACT IS GOING TO CHANGE ALL THIS. SO FAR 3 CASES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL IN BRIGHTON - ALL THREE HAVE BEEN LOST. WHY IS THIS? THE ANSWER LIES IN THE EQUAL PAY PROCEDURE.

A woman, or group of women, might first approach their Union to get advice on how to make a claim. Snag number 1 - most women still aren't unionised. Not that it would necessarily help if they were. Recently an AUEW official at Shoreham was approached and was quoted as saying 'I'm not upsetting 300 men for 5 women' when a group of women union members had asked for his help in an equal pay claim. Certainly it seems that women cannot bank on getting support from the trade union movement.

The women might then see a solicitor. Snag number 2 - only if their income is extremely low will they qualify for full legal aid under the advice scheme. Even then, legal aid only covers the consultation. You cannot be represented on the tribunal on legal aid. This is because tribunals are supposed to be informal places where both sides meet and discuss the case - solicitors are not strictly necessary. Of course, employers are always represented by solicitors, while the women may not be able to afford a solicitor at all.

After the consultation with the solicitor, the women will have decided what section of the Equal Pay Act their claim falls under. They have one of two choices - they can either argue that they are doing 'like work' or that they do 'work rated as equivalent'. Now we get onto Snag number 3 - to argue that the women are doing 'work rated as equivalent' it is necessary to carry out a job evaluation (without this the case cannot be brought). BUT only the firm can carry this out and there is no legal obligation for them to do this at all! However, supposing the firm does decide to evaluate the jobs it also decides who does the evaluation and what things are assessed (e.g. responsibilities, conditions of work, facilities etc.) If the firm chooses to stress e.g. physical strength as being very crucial, there is nothing to stop them doing so. This evaluation problem has meant that most claims are made under the 'like work' heading, which narrows the scope of the Act considerably.

Having registered their claim, the women are visited by conciliation officers who attempt to settle the case out of court. 60% of all cases are dropped before this stage, but there is little doubt that women are intimidated all the way along the line, even at the 'conciliation stage'.

Then on to the Tribunal. What does it consist of? On the bench are firstly a barrister, secondly someone who supposedly knows the situation (e.g. a local businessman or trade union official!) and thirdly a 'lay' person. Normally they are all men. There are two stages to the case. The women must first prove that they are doing 'like work' to their male counterparts, and if this is proved then the firm must try to show that there is still a 'material difference' between the jobs. The women can lose the case at either stage. For instance in a recent case which involved male

and female cleaners, the men spent all their time cleaning lavatories whereas the women cleaned lavatories half the time and offices the other half. Also the men occasionally moved rubbish. The tribunal considered this sufficient to show that the men and women were not doing like work. The women lost their case. Another case involved a woman 'wall-paper stock controller' and a man 'paint stock controller' where the woman was paid £200 less than the man. The company argued that the man had more responsibilities because occasionally he had to deal with outside clients and again the tribunal decided they were not doing 'like work'. The woman lost.

However, even if 'like work' is shown to exist, the women can still lose. The firm can plead that there is a 'material difference' between the jobs and this can include such things as length of service, level of output, existing levels of pay (!!) qualifications held (however irrelevant), increments etc. etc. Take for example the case of the 8 women at Hellermann Deutsch in East Grinstead. At the tribunal the firm never even disputed that the women were doing the same work for less money. But the firm managed to prove a 'material difference' on the grounds that the men traditionally had staff status and were paid a salary, whereas the women were paid by the hour. These women lost their case on this alone.

SO MUCH FOR EQUAL PAY!

Women's Rights Action Group
5.00 - 9.30 Brighton 27612 every Thursday. 79 Buckingham Road.

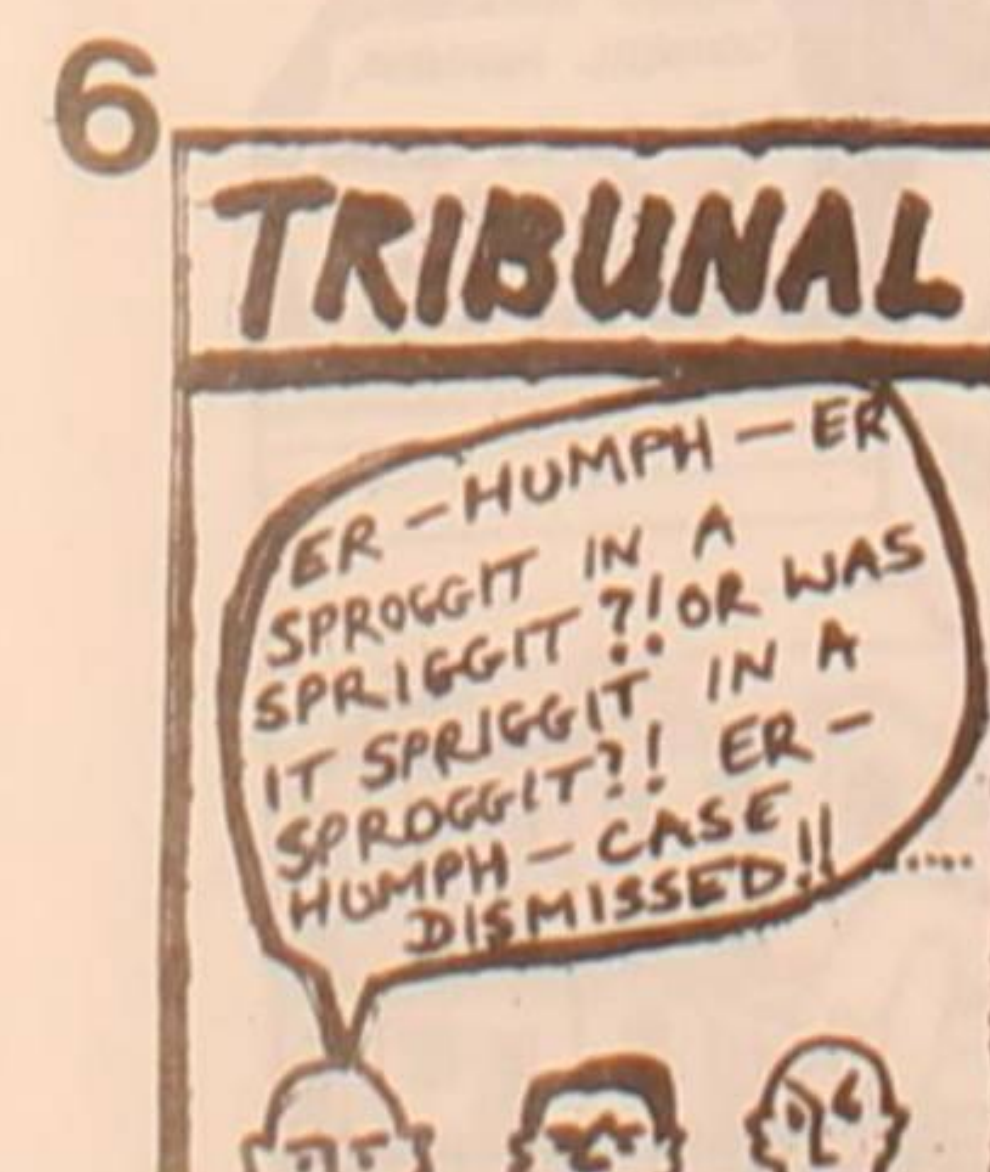
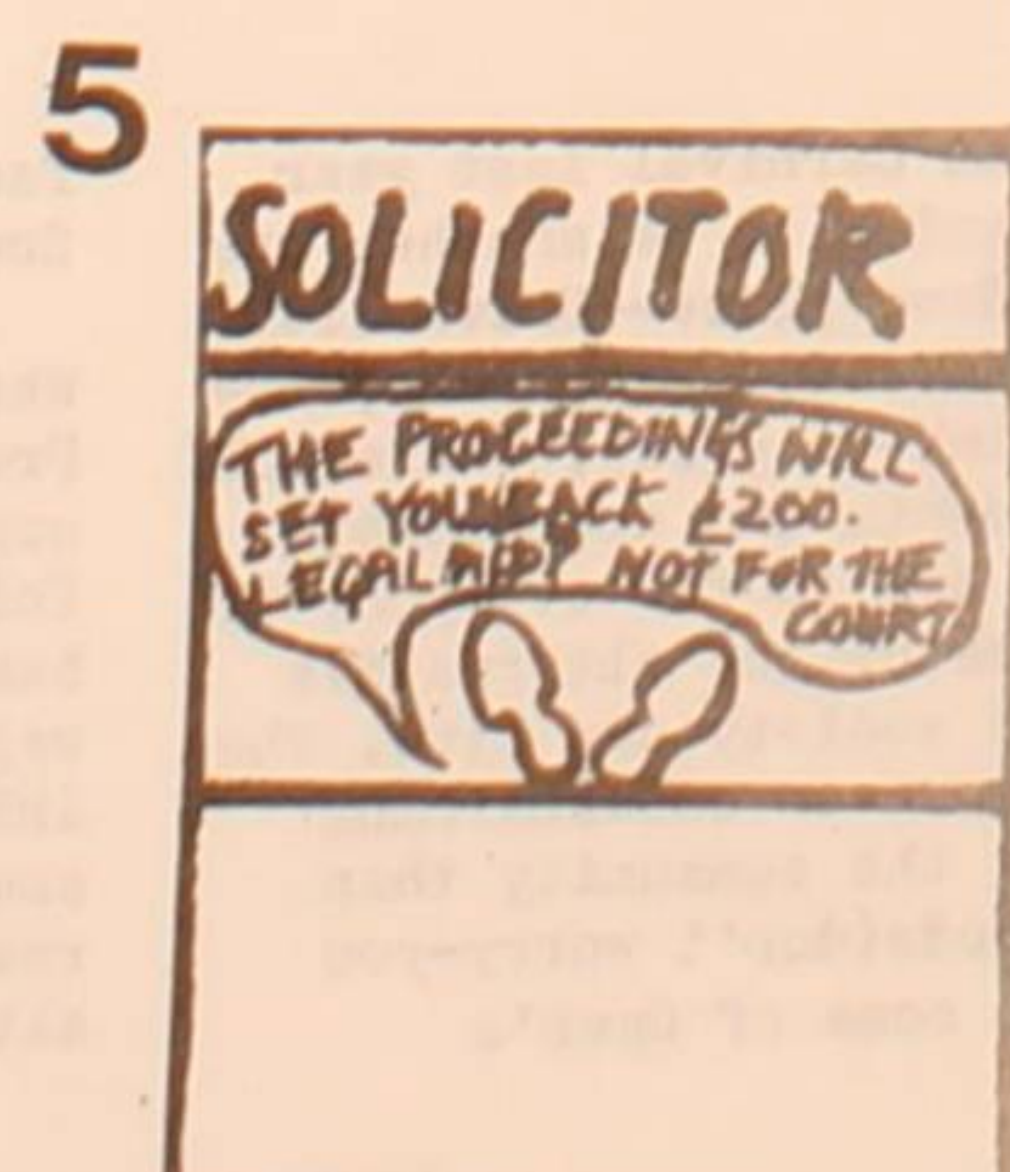
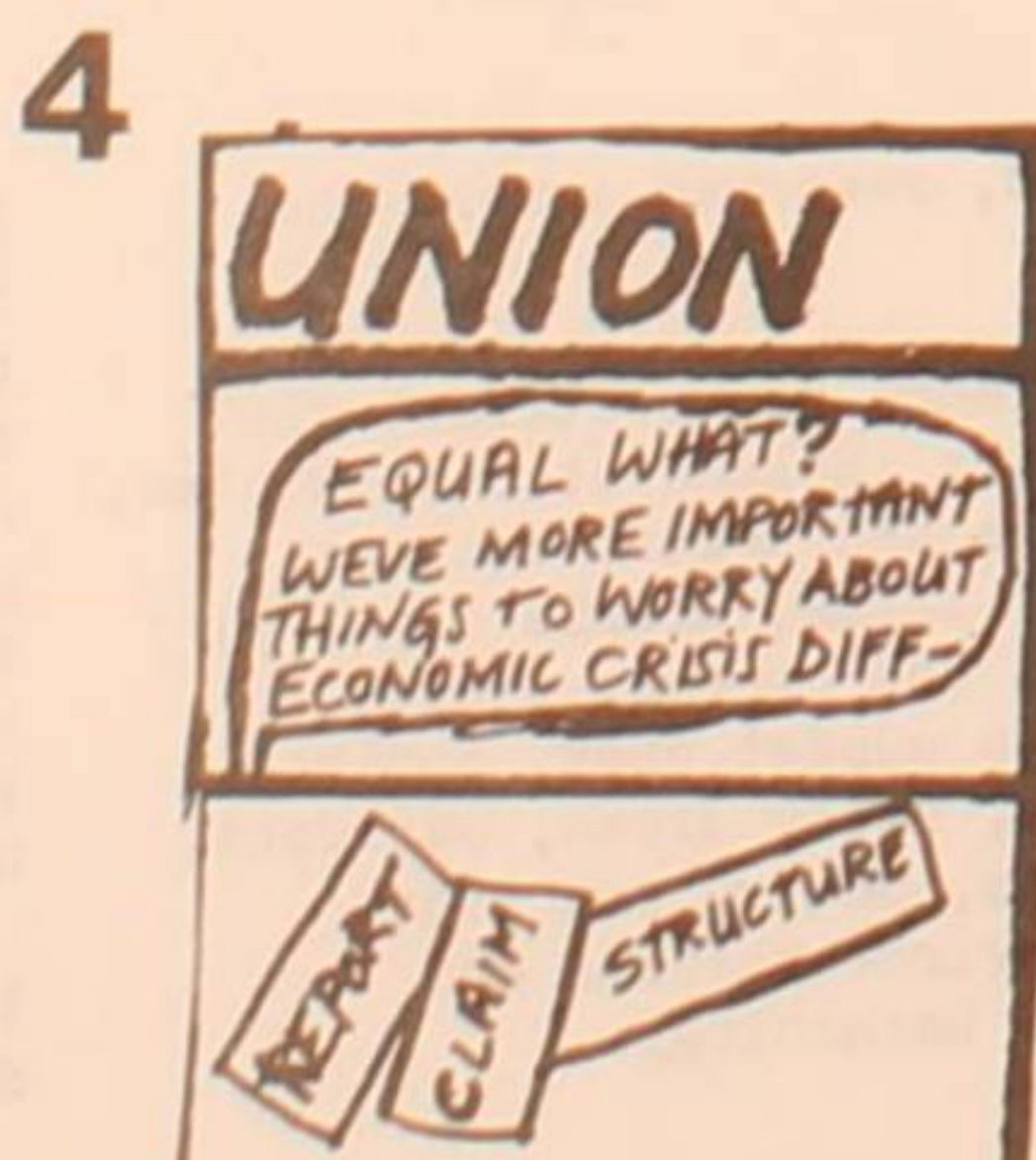
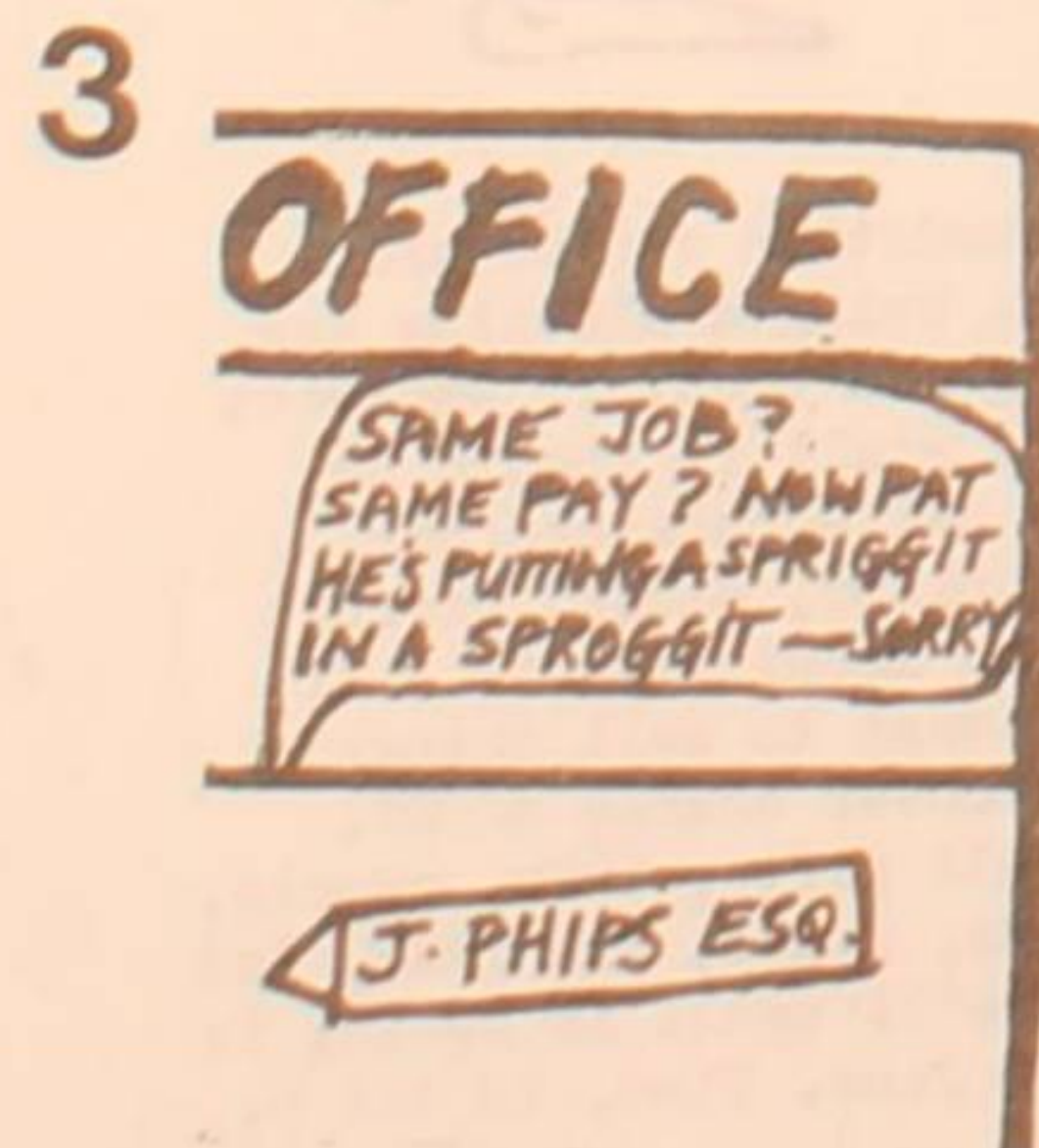
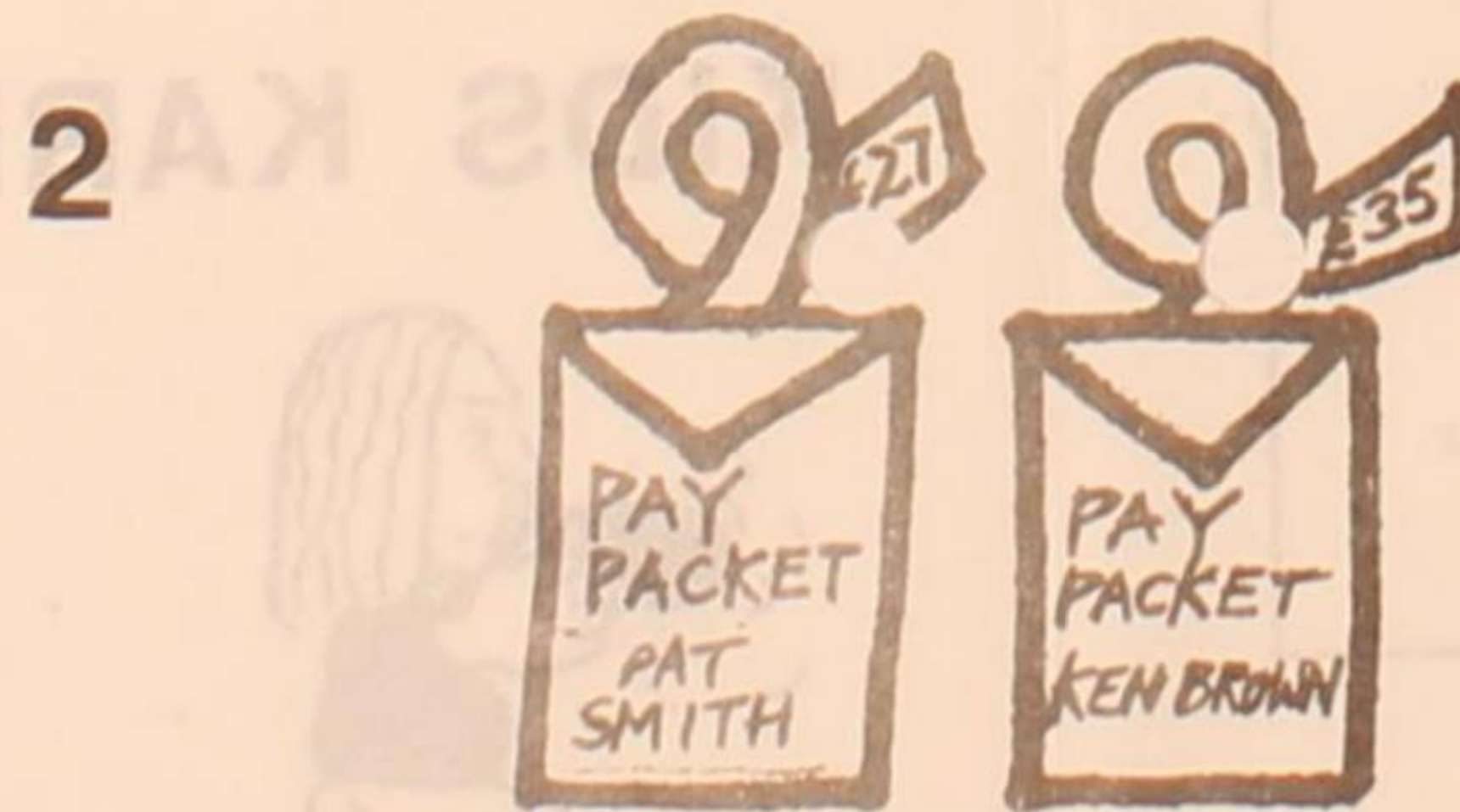
Preddy v. Public

CONTD. FROM P.1.

The missing exhibits told that Shelter found over 100 empty houses and flats in Lewes in Nov 1975 and said they were empty because owners put profits before people; that Lewes District Council provided only 180 new homes last year when the target was 343, and that on balance owner/occupiers are more heavily subsidised by public money than council tenants.

There was no formal explanation for the removal of these bits of information and it was not until the exhibition was over that we discovered who was behind it all - Councillor Preddy, chairman of the IDC policy committee. We have protested to Mr Preddy at his high handed action but he merely passed the buck. He referred it to the General Purposes Committee who run the Centre. And they don't meet until June, after the local elections when the membership could well have changed.

Powerful councillors like Preddy should not be able to escape full accountability for their actions, nor to produce unchallenged their own definition of what is "political" and acceptable.



QueenSpark Books

Community journalism is very much alive in Brighton. So too is community publishing. QueenSpark have just issued two more books written by two citizens of Brighton, Katherine Browne and Daisy Noakes, and we are sure that people will find them just as interesting and colourful as the first in the series written by Albert Paul.

Katherine Browne has lived in Belize, Jamaica, Liverpool, London, and since 1958 at no.8 Toronto Terrace, Brighton. She has played a part in QueenSpark's campaigns (on the spa, the Marina etc.) and written for the paper over the past 3 years. Her book consists of poems (written at various dates since the 1920's), and prose reminiscences of the Belize hurricane of 1931, of her work as a Billeting Officer in Liverpool in World War II and of other episodes in her life. It also contains statements of her beliefs as a Spiritualist, and of her visions of the ways we ought to live.

Daisy Noakes has lived in Brighton most of her life. She now lives at 231 Seafield Drive, but the book is about her childhood and working days in service in different parts of the town. Her family lived in Prince's Road and Vere Road. Her grandfather helped to plant the Elms on the Level and her brother put the cross on the top of St. Bartholomew's Church. It is a vivid story which takes us through the first third of this century, and gives us a rare insight into the life of women brought up in working Brighton.

More than 30 people were involved in the production of these two books, all working without payment, but the great thing about QueenSpark books is not so much voluntary labour but the confident assertion that writing and publishing is something everyone can do, not just a privileged elite. A lot of people think to themselves that their own memories, experiences and passions are every bit as interesting original or funny as the stuff that's churned out by commercial publishers or shown on T.V. but they never imagine that they could actually write it down in book form. With people all working together and sharing their different skills this becomes possible. The message that comes over from Albert Paul, Daisy Noakes

and Katherine Browne is that YOU can write too. What's more, it's far better that YOU should write about your own childhood and what Brighton was like in the old days. If you don't, it's left to some professional historian to write what he thinks happened, and the real stuff of history gets lost in the process.

If you think you could be No. 4, 5 or 55 in the QueenSpark series of books written BY the people and FOR the people, why don't you contact them at 14 Toronto Terrace, Brighton (Tel. 652855 or 668380)

The books are:
Katherine Browne Out of the Blue and Blues 30p
Daisy Noakes The Town Beehive A young girl's lot Brighton 1910-34 30p

Both available from the address above.

Brighton's Alternative Press Dies.

The University Students' Union have closed the Black Wedge Press which they took over last summer, refused to pay the outstanding leasing charges to the owner and fired the two workers. An enquiry has been set up into the whole affair, and especially to look into just where the £8,000 said to have been lost has gone.

Thus a community resource built up over three years is destroyed by the Union in six short months. Cheap, radical printing is no longer available in Brighton.

The enquiry is already turning up some curious facts, such as that crucial documents are 'missing'. What was also missing was adequate information for the members of the Union. The jobs of some people, including the Administrator, may be in jeopardy as a result.

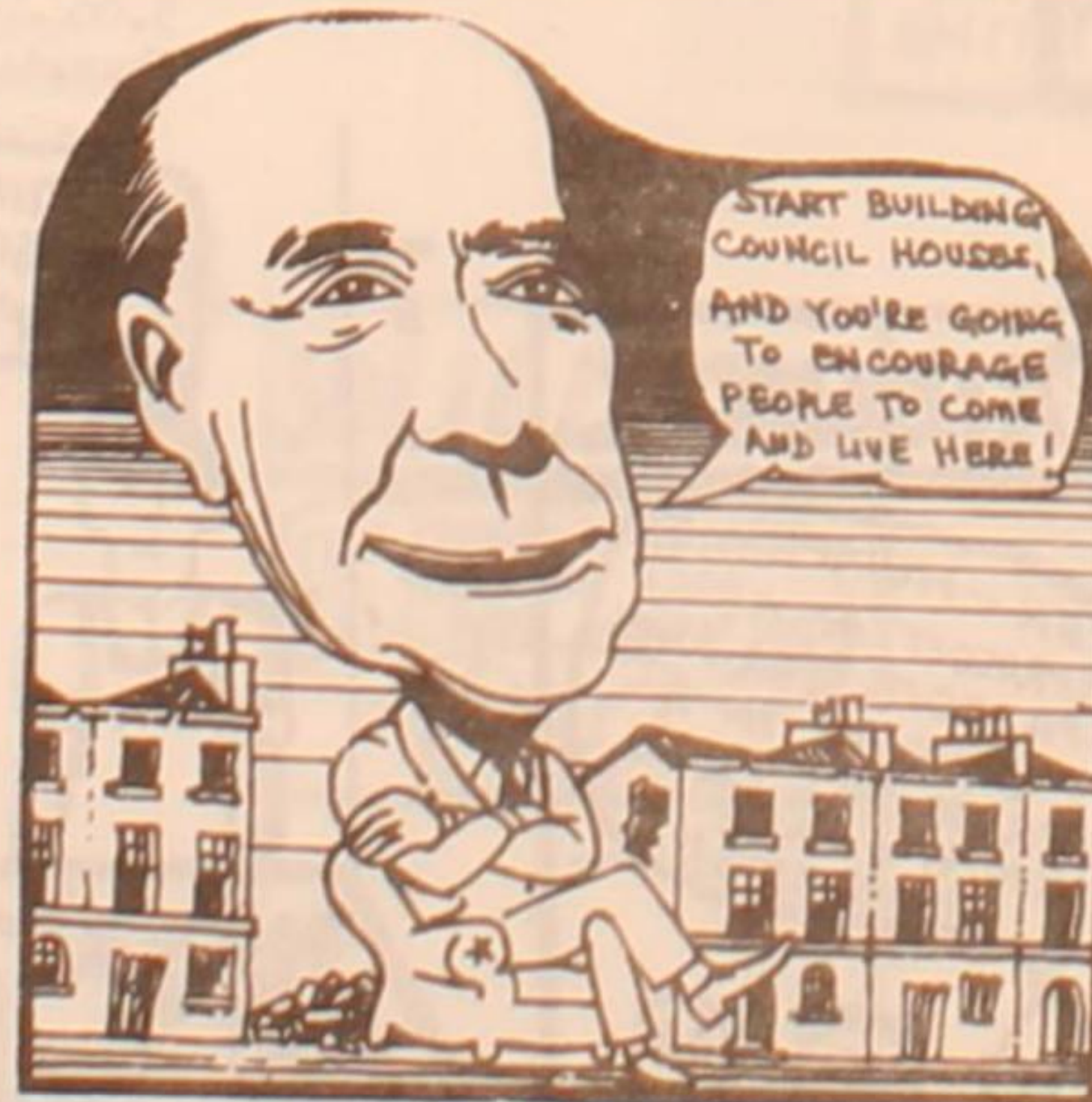
Brighton LABOUR FAIR Saturday 19 June 1976 Eastern Lawns, Royal Pavilion 1.30-5

Opened at 2.30 by Sir Harold Wilson. Lucky Programme Admission 10p (Corr. Exchange if Wet)

Attractions:- Model Steam Engine
Roundabouts
Hangleton Band
Cakes, Plants, Games

Many Stalls
Kids' Fancy Dress
Uncle Jack
and lots more.

DID YOU MISS OUR 4-PAGE PULL-OUT ON HOUSING IN THE LAST ISSUE? IF SO WE STILL HAVE SOME TO SPARE. CONTACT US AT 7 VICTORIA RD. COPIES FREE.



dope tests

Big changes could be on the way in the laws on drugs as the result of the discovery of a method to detect dope (cannabis) in the blood. This means police will be able to test suspects the same way they can for drivers suspected of having high levels of alcohol in the blood.

This means the old cry "quick eat it the pigs are coming" will become a thing of the past. Until now there has been no way anyone could be scientifically proved to have taken dope - which is why there is no law against having taken it, only possessing or supplying etc.

Innocently, the scientists who developed the test say, "the cannabis test is likely to be of special social significance". The test can detect levels of one part in a thousand million.

The test isn't generally available yet. But once it gets going the biochemists of Surrey University will be able to handle a hundred cases a day and the test will be done for hospitals through the National Health.

Naturally the test isn't just for dope; Heroin, morphine and also drugs used for cancer and epilepsy can be tested too - drugs where dosage levels are critical.

Obviously, the test is valuable in itself. Drivers with high levels of dope in them are just as much a menace on the roads as those with bloodstreams of neat alcohol. And the University intends to study the long term effects, if any, of dope and other drugs.

But the legal concatenations aren't so clear yet. Will the test be available to the police as well as hospitals? And if so will we now have laws against taking dope (just as the possibility of it becoming legal emerges)?

Will the police be making raids and taking everyone off for blood tests? Perhaps the present stop and search procedures for people suspected of carrying dope will get this new dimension.

A driver could get done for having smoked or eaten less than the cannabis equivalent of half of shandy.

For the record:-

The scientists say they are hopeful of determining whether long term effects are such as to render dope more dangerous than the socially acceptable drugs such as alcohol and cigarettes.

As usual the answer may depend on who can bring the most pressure: the black market traffickers, the distillers and brewers or the tobacco firms which have already taken out brand names under which they will market the stuff if and when it becomes legal.



Dome Bans Voice

Ever since the complexion of the Voice collective changed to include people who think there is more to music than the Bay City Rollers, it has occasionally been possible for concertgoers to purchase a copy of this esteemed publication from members of the collective standing at entrances to the Dome on concert days. Alas, the culture vultures of Brighton will in future have to buy their Voices elsewhere. We have been banned from standing inside the entrances to the Dome and to stand outside would be to risk arrest (and a beating up?) from those ever vigilant guardians of law and order and the local by-laws, the Brighton Constabulary.

One sunny Sunday afternoon in April as the fur coat brigade streamed into the Dome for the last concert of Brighton Philharmonic Society's 1975/76 season, a lonely Voice vendor could be seen standing just inside the Church St entrance, trying, without conspicuous success, to persuade some of the more affluent ones to part with 10pence of their hard inherited money. Unfortunately for our hero he was soon spotted by one of the Dome's attendants who, emboldened by his faded Corporation uniform, suggested in no uncertain terms that our hero should get lost.

Having stood in the same place on many previous occasions without incurring official wrath this brave collective member remained undaunted. He had just succeeded in selling a copy of the Voice when the uniform returned, accompanied by a man in a suit who claimed to be the Dome's assistant manager.

After some discussion both retreated to seek out a higher authority. This eventually appeared in the form of Dome manager and part-time organist Douglas Reeve, a man so full of his own importance that he has his name printed on every advert for an event at the Dome.

Quickly deducing that the Voice's politics were far removed from his own, a peeved Mr Reeve moved into the attack. "You must have a ticket to come in here," he said. On being shown our hero's ticket he remained unabashed, "even so, you're not selling that here." On being asked why not Mr Reeve replied with a phrase much loved by successive generations of petty authoritarians: "because I say so" he shouted and disappeared leaving the uniformed minion to ensure that his orders were carried out.

Why?

No obstruction was being caused by the person selling the Voice, nor was anyone objecting to being confronted with this dangerously radical publication. There was absolutely no reason for Mr Reeve to forbid its sale other than the fact that it no doubt gave him, like other petty bureaucrats, great pleasure to dictatorially throw his weight around. Just one more example, in fact, of 'them' telling 'us' what to do. But beware, Mr Reeve, the Voice is watching you.



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



false accusation?

Dear Brighton Voice,

Your piece entitled "Howard's End" was dangerously misleading. You could very easily have discovered that the Catholic Chaplaincy long ago gave an undertaking that the woman against whom they hold an Eviction Order will not be put out of her present accommodation until an alternative entirely acceptable to her is found. You should know better than most people that legal procedures are often the only way of getting a Local Authority to act. You could also have found out that that the property concerned is in a thoroughly unsatisfactory condition and urgently requires renovation and improvement. It is also rather large for a single person living alone. What you denounce as "outrageous paternalism" may well be more in the interest of the person concerned than allowing the present situation to continue while the property deteriorates.

As to the Catholic Chaplaincy carrying on "a peculiarly cynical commercial operation", I think it is only fair to point out that the Chaplaincy has a very substantial deficit, and that Howard House is regarded by many of us as one of the best student centres in the area. Your accusation of profiteering is quite false. If you feel that no property in Brighton should be used for student accommodation you are entitled to your opinion, but not everyone will agree with you.

Yours Sincerely,
Duncan Forrester
University Chaplain.

A.W.A.

Dear Voice,

We noticed in the last Voice that the article written by the Squatters' Union contained a bit of criticism of us, which we felt did need answering. The criticism was that as anarchists, and particularly as an anarchist organisation which constantly supports squatting in our paper, we don't seem to be very active in the squatting movement in Brighton. We have offered to help out the Squatters' Union as much as we can and we will put any duplicating, typing or other facilities at the disposal of the squatters' movement, as well as helping out with leafletting or raising motions in union branches where we have members.

The Anarchist Workers' Association was the only sizable political group which came out in force on the C.A.C.T.L. demo, other groups presumably considering squatting as a secondary issue. Many London AWA members are squatters and, in fact, "Libertarian Struggle" is typeset in a squat. But the main criticism was that AWA members down here aren't themselves squatting or regular attenders at Squatters' Union meetings. This does need some explaining.

All of our Brighton members have flats at the moment. We think it would be silly for one of us to suddenly go off and squat. The point of squatting is to get empty accommodation in use and to get homeless people housed. There are enough homeless people in Brighton without political militants making themselves homeless as well. And if they did, two things would happen. Firstly, the Argus would have a field day ranting on about squatters being a bunch of left-wing hooligans. Squatters have a bad enough name already without the AWA making things worse. Secondly, political militants tend to be very active in trying to stop private landlords exploiting people. If they all started abandoning their houses, the landlords would be able to raise the rents for the next lot of tenants who might not be as prepared or as well sorted-out to fight for their rights. It would be a net loss for the fight for decent housing.

Since none of us are squatting at the moment, we don't feel confident to go along to Squatters' Union meetings and argue the toss. We believe very firmly that if you don't play the game you don't try to make the rules. We don't see ourselves

as the vanguard with all the answers, whose sacred duty is to go along to everything that's going on in Brighton and stuff our line down people's throats. We've got too much faith in people to ever think of doing that. On the other hand, as soon as one of our members has to squat, or when a squatter joins our group, they will be fully active in the Squatters' Union. And we repeat our offer of other kinds of help.

Yours fraternally,
A.W.A.

Dear Voice,

Since time began ruling classes have opposed attempts to improve the lot of common man, but when, resulting from mass rank and file pressures (or the threat of more violent action!), concessions and reforms have followed the spokesmen for the ruling class (ie the 'politicians') claim the credit for 'winning' those reforms.

Their most recent and blatant confidence trick appears in the Tory election leaflet asking support for their three candidates in Goldsmid Ward, on 6th May.

We are referred to the excellent fighting record (!) of the three councillors seeking re-election, men "who have successfully opposed schemes which would have harmed the local neighbourhood...the BATMAN traffic proposals which would have turned some roads in Goldsmid into one-way race tracks".

The facts!

The three councillors indeed attended the resident's meeting in Addison Road launching the BATMAN protest campaign.

And their advice to us:
"Your protests will achieve nothing. If Lewes has decided on BATMAN, BATMAN it will be!"

The meeting chose to ignore this advice, and instead mounted a tremendous campaign, culminating in threats to invade County Hall. An anxious Highways Committee dropped the proposals.

That local Tory councillors now claim the campaign as "their" victory only shows the contempt they have for the intelligence of the electorate they claim to represent.

Bob Potter.

From the Namibia Support Committee
Dear Voice,

I was delighted to read your newspaper when I came to Brighton recently and I was impressed with your attempts to expose the racist South African regime and its allies in Brighton. As the Executive Secretary I wish to offer my support to you and your comrades in your struggle against the Imperialist and Capitalist forces in Britain at large and then on a parochial scale in Brighton.

George H Johannes.

info...

ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP
contact Hugh Bayley
c/o Nalgo 104 Queens 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.
64 North St. 29563

BRIGHTON LESBIAN GROUP
1st, 3rd, & 5th. Weeds
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-
10pm 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 GATHERINGS ETC

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

CHS 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 8pm.

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

EAST BRIGHTON RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
G Andrews 8 Twineham Rd
687715

FREE VET-PDSA
6 Oxford St 63606
Donations Welcome

FREE ROOM FOR COMMUNITY
USE Day or evening.
Typewriter and photocopier
available during the day.
Social Services Dept.
15 Princes St.
29801 ext. 674

FRIENDS CENTRE
Ship St. 27835
Wide range of classes
(including planning
Tuesdays 7.30)

GAY WOMEN'S DISCUSSION
GROUP
Diana, 688301.

GINGERBREAD
Self-Help and pressure
group for one parent
families. New B'ton & Hove
branch just formed. For
details ring 23197
or 774087.

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

MOTHER & TODDLER
AFTERNOON
Westdene Library Tues
2.30-3.15 in term time.
Coffee, toys, picture books
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
Ben, 13 Prince Edward's Rd
Lewes 2731.

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

POETRY AT OPEN
7 Victoria Rd
Tuesdays 8pm.

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

PRIOR HOUSE
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-
12.00, 10pence.

RANK & FILE
Organisation of class-
room 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 ANGLIO-
CHINESE UNDERSTANDING
Danielle Fura
12 Berkely Row Lewes.

TRADES COUNCIL
Keith Orange
Brighton 688777

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.

Election cock-up

In at least two wards the voters last week were the victims of an election cock-up. When they went to vote they got the wrong ballot papers, and so were disqualified.

In Montpelier, 9 voters were given Regency ward papers. Moulescombe had a similar mess. It is about time Reggie got his organisation sorted out.



Anyone/everyone invited to submit
material

WRITE TO BRIGHTON VOICE
7, VICTORIA RD
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