

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
509726 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 solicitors. 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
8.00pm-10.00pm every night

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.

Politics (contd)

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

OFF THE RECORD
Help & information for young people. Free & confidential, 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 (MARXIST-LENINIST)
Meets 37 Gloucester Rd
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

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
Sec. 33 Ventnor Villas
Hove

BRIGHTON LABOUR PARTY
179 Lewes Rd. 62592 or
557704.

LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SO'S.
(Pavilion & Kemptown)
Meets Tues. 8pm at 179
Lewes Rd. Contact Pat
Byrne, 64 Coleman St or
61559. For Hove contact
Bill North, 53 Blatching
ton Rd.

KEMP TOWN LIBERAL ASSOC. Secretary
Alan Horner
3, Lustrell's Vale, Salt-
dean. Tel. 38532

WHO SELLS the VOICE?

CENTRAL BRIGHTON
ANANDA: 19 Bond St.
ANTIQU MARKET: Union Hall,
Air St. (Mondays)
ECCOTT'S: 52 Surrey St.
INFINITY: 25 North Rd.
OPEN CAFE: 7 Victoria Rd.
PHOENIX BOOKS: Grand Parade
CHURCHILL SQ.: News Stand
SYMPOSIUM BOOKS: 12 Market St.
LONDON RD.: News stand (Sainsbury's)

WEST BRIGHTON & HOVE
CORDELL'S: 99 Western Rd., Hove
PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21 Little Preston St.
THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Rd., Hove

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 OPEN
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 and from
Open Cafe. 10p + 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.

NORTH BRIGHTON
FALLONE'S: 40 New England Rd.
FRANKLIN'S: 93 Preston Drove
SCHOFIELD'S: 44 Lewes Rd.
TOELAS' STORES: 167 Elm Grove
TILLSON'S: 68 Preston Rd.

KEMPTOWN
BOOKS: 80B St. James' St.
BUDDHIST MEDITATION CENTRE:
18-19 George St.
LUMLEY'S: 146 Edward St.
KEMPTOWN BOOKS: 91 St. George's Rd.
SIMPLE SUPPLIES: 11 George St.

UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP: Main Counter
HILL'S NEWSAGENTS
WHOLE EARTH BOOKSTALL

LEWES
SURVIVAL: 10 Station St.

BRIGHTON VOICE

No. 31 | July 76 8p

BLACKBOARD REVOLT



During the last few weeks, thousands of student teachers all over the country have been protesting about the education cuts that will mean only a derisory number of jobs will be available for the 40,000 qualified teachers due to leave Colleges of Education this summer. The cuts will mark not only a disastrous setback to the educational facilities of the country but will also throw many of our best and most enthusiastic teachers on the scrapheap of unemployment and waste the millions of pounds used to train them. The situation is likely to be particularly bad in this area, as many ex-students of Brighton College of Education have traditionally stayed on after the end of their courses. This year, no new teachers are expected to be taken on and twenty already employed have been ordered to move from schools with "too many" teachers to other schools with fewer. Local action has already included demos at County Hall and in Brighton, and it is now planned to extend the campaign into schools, where teachers will be asked to take action on behalf of unemployed colleagues. (Contd. on p.2)

BARRICADES IN MONTPELIER CRES.

At Brighton County Court on June 7th Judge Wingate granted possession orders on 3 Brighton squats. Squatters have moved from two of them but the occupants of 22 Montpelier Cres. intend to mount the barricades and ask for support on 30th June when the bailiffs are due. They intend to cover the front of the building with slogans and to invite neighbours to assist in their defence. Local press and radio will be in attendance.

In Court, an application for an adjournment was refused, but the Judge expressed dissatisfaction with the way the appellants, Anglo-Canadian Properties, had handled the case and said he would not grant possession unless no action was taken for three weeks. This was therefore agreed.

THE SQUATTERS SAY

We won't move because:
(1) Property Companies should not be allowed to leave houses empty when people need homes.
(2) We believe that the Council should take over all empty houses and flats for the use of the homeless and the rest of the community.
(3) We want an end to capitalist exploitation of a basic right and valuable social resource.
We invite all of the 1,700 families on the Council waiting-list and those in Bed and Breakfast accommodation to come and squat in the 3,000 empty properties owned by the Corporation, private landlords and property speculators. We call on all Housing Activists to unite behind the campaign for housing as a right.



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PEACE FAST

ACTION FOR PEACE -the Brighton-based Pacifist group - is holding a 48 hour fast at the end of June in protest against the Government's Arms Exhibition at Aldershot. This exhibition is top secret -even M.P.s can't find out who is coming or what is up for sale - but it is certain that the buyers will include Chile, South Africa, the Arab States and Israel. Officially 420 representatives from 80 countries have been invited and the Ministry of Defence say that all these countries are 'friendly', e.g. fascist Chile and racist South Africa.

At least £700,000,000 worth of weapons will be sold by the British government during the coming year, mostly to dictators of repressive regimes. The Brighton pacifists are determined to make their fast the first of several protest actions, joining with groups all over the country linked in the movement called CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE. This is not yet as big as CND used to be but it could grow in that way. If you want to know more about it contact Malie Roth at 16 Melville Road, Hove just off the Seven Dials.

For the local record: the group has had extreme difficulty in finding a public place in which to hold their fast so as to attain maximum publicity. The Council refused them Churchill Square, even though the police said it would be O.K. and other central areas have been ruled out for all kinds of 'public' reasons.



Blackboard Revolt

Contd. from p.1

What arguments do the Government and the Local Education Authority use to justify the education cuts? Firstly, the falling birthrate: There is at the moment a slight drop in the number of children at primary school in East Sussex, indeed for 1976/77 there will be one thousand less children. However, rather than use the fall in the birthrate as an excuse for cutting the numbers of teachers, it should be used as an opportunity to improve staff/student ratios and to bring down class sizes. There are approximately 125 primary schools in East Sussex, which means that if the drop in numbers is one thousand children then there will be about eight children less per school—hardly a sound reason for employing fewer teachers.

Secondly, the argument is that there is no money. If it costs £7,000 to train each teacher and at least 15,000 of this year's leavers are unable to find teaching jobs, then the Government has already squandered £105mn. Yet the difference between employing the 15,000 and having them on the dole is only £8.6mn—and when the Government has recently ordered 375 multi-role combat air-

craft at £3mn a time, for the cost of 2½ of these aircraft they could have employed the teachers who are so desperately needed. Indeed, this question of money can be further developed for the Government receives no tax from teachers on the dole while it does from those who have jobs. Not only is the £8.6mn a small amount of money, but it could be argued that the Government is losing large sums of money through its inability to collect taxes from people on the dole.

The cuts in education are being fought not only by student teachers but by qualified teachers and by an increasingly large section of the general public. After all, education affects everyone. The 'brain drain' of the 1960s will be irrelevant soon, for the future generations of working adults in this country will be lacking in basic education—reading and writing—unless we, the public, can force the Government to change its policy over education.

instant response

At the Labour Party Fair we put our ageing typewriter on the Voice stall and invited people to write articles for us. Among the gibberish, the swear words and the efforts of kids who had never seen a typewriter before, appeared this instant piece of reporting :-

Why weren't you at the Fair, my dear? - the Labour Party Fair on a wet Saturday afternoon in the Corn Exchange. Everyone was there—mothers in straw hats and glasses, overloaded with shopping bags, fathers in brown raincoats and checked summer shirts, children busily playing and eating home-made goodies while watching the magician; socialists were there, and feminists, and homosexuals, even Harold Wilson.

It was everything a fair should be. We skipped to the band past the geniuses, the costume jewellery, the shortbread and butterfly cakes, the International Socialist Party's bookstall, the feminist bookstall, the bingo and the coloured balloons.

We drank pepsi-cola and cups of tea and ate sandwiches in the refreshment stand upstairs. We listened to the choir gaily singing old favourites and watched Mr Wilson and his wife just nearby as they sat with officials drinking tea from china cups and delicately eating buns.

We walked amongst the people—politically motivated men and women in jeans and long flowery skirts and knitted vests, talking animatedly and smoking roll-your-own cigarettes, lesbians with self-confident faces and wary eyes, French tourists with their well-groomed outfits and faintly amused smiles, as they surveyed the sprawl of an English afternoon, and its screaming kids and harassed parents and grandmothers peering through racks of old clothes or simply resting exhausted on a red seat as the band played on and the chatter and smoke rose to the ceiling.

That was the fair -
And you should have been there.

Mary Nolan.



INFINITY FOODS

AN ALTERNATIVE VENTURE
TACKLES THE PROBLEMS OF SUCCESS.



Infinity Foods, the whole food shop in North Road, Brighton, has become extremely popular of late. They started about five years ago in a very small way. Now, with the great rise in popularity of whole foods Infinity are so busy that you can hardly move in the shop on a Saturday and they are turning over more than £1600 a week. This is proving something of a problem to them. They do not want to become a large impersonal organisation but, "People just keep on and on coming in and wanting to buy things".

If they were simply a straight capitalist venture with 'freak' trimmings this popularity would be no problem. Infinity would expand, either by opening more branches or by expanding into the shop next door and installing supermarket check-outs complete with bored, exploited women to operate the cash registers. But this is not what Infinity Foods are about. Their purpose is just as much about building a system in which people can live free happy and healthy lives as many a more overtly political group, and they have more effect than many.

Rather than expand in a normal capitalist manner Infinity are coping with the problems of success by assisting other ventures to start up independently. They are doing this through their bulk buying centre in Hove. It is a source of rock bottom priced whole foods sold by the sackful. Infinity go as far back down the chain of supply as they can. Wherever possible they buy direct from the Farmer or importer. This depot has enabled several new shops, Simple Supplies in Kemp Town, Survival in Lewes and Manna in Portsmouth being the first three, to get started. The bulk prices also encourage their own regular customers to buy by the sackful. The new shops have only been going a short time but already Infinity in North Road is less crowded than it was. Infinity themselves are planning to open a bakery, hopefully in the shop next door in North Road. If this comes off it might be open in three or four months. This will run independently of the food shop.



One idea for the future is for the shop to financially support an alternative health centre where people can go for advice about how to live healthily as an alternative to the "patch 'em up and kick 'em out", of conventional medicine. The aim is to put people in touch with alternative systems of medicine, like acupuncture and homeopathy, which are either not available at all in the area or only in expensive private clinics.



Inevitably any 'alternative' venture which turns out to be a commercial success is bound to come under scrutiny for 'profiteering'. With the obvious busy-ness of Infinity many people were becoming concerned lest they should become so corrupted. Because of this concern the VOICE decided to investigate.

Infinity turn over a lot of money, around £1600 -£1700 a week. This gives a gross profit of £400-£450. Out of that they have to pay nine full time people (including the three partners) £30 a week each, pay rent and rates, run a large delivery van, pay out for a multitude of equipment, materials, phone, heat and light etc

etc. Also they have to finance an ever increasing stock. With ventures such as the bakery this leaves no room for profiteering. Indeed voluntary help is always appreciated and will be needed to help finance future community orientated projects such as a health centre. They feel that it is more their role to work in this way, building for something specific, rather than dissipating their resources by giving small sums to other ventures such as the Womens Centre or Rights Centre.

The ownership structure of Infinity Foods is at present a simple partnership amongst the three founders, but it actually runs along the lines of a collective involving those who have been there a year, or more according to the length of time worked. Shop policy is worked out at shop meetings. Everyone gets the same wage, regardless of their function in the shop. They are working on a legally based system of collective ownership.

Infinity foods are very much into health and freedom. They aim to provide good whole foods at reasonable prices while living a free and minimally exploitative lifestyle. By developing an expanding alternative supply system they are enabling and encouraging others to do likewise.

Infinity always welcome constructive comments and suggestions for things that could be done better, but don't knock them just because they are successful. It bodes ill for the future if we attack, as many so-called revolutionaries are wont to do, any alternative venture as soon as it gets beyond the shoe-string stage and its members lift themselves above the poverty line.



ABORTION - what to do if..

Free abortion on demand is one of the most basic of women's rights, as without it a woman cannot choose for herself whether or not to bear a child. There is no contraceptive that is completely safe, and anyway thousands of women have serious difficulties using the most effective ones like the pill and the I.U.D.. For many women, to have a baby would be simply out of the question, especially at the moment with the high rate of unemployment, appalling housing conditions, and the threat of even further massive cuts in the social services. So while politicians, doctors, clergymen, and other assorted moralists continue their endless debate about the rights of the foetus, threatening to limit even further our access to abortion, let's take a look at what you can do right now if you want an abortion.

To check that you actually are pregnant, you can get a free pregnancy test done at the following places:

Women's Centre, 79 Buckingham Road, Brighton. Tel 27612

Wistons Nursing Home, 138 Dyke Road, Brighton. Tel 566263

Any branch of the Family Planning Association

Your own doctor.

It is always worth phoning first to check the times they are open and how long it will take for you to get the result. (Your own doctor is likely to take the longest, as he/she may have to send off for the result.) There is little point in going for a test if you are only a few days late, as these tests are only reliable 2 weeks or more after the first day of your first missed period. If the test shows that you are pregnant and you decide you want an abortion then you should act fast. Any delay can reduce your chances of getting one.

There are two ways of getting an abortion - on the National Health and through a private clinic. Very few women actually get NHS abortions (compared to the number that want them) and Brighton has a

worse than average record for this, largely because there is a private clinic in the town and so doctors feel less of a responsibility to give women NHS abortions. But obviously it is worth trying the NHS first, as it is free.

To get an abortion on the National Health, you have to go and ask your own doctor. He/she will take into account such things as your physical state (e.g. whether or not childbirth would damage your life or health), your financial position, your housing conditions, how many other children you have, your 'mental stability' etc.. In practice doctors vary tremendously - some will grant abortions instantly and others (e.g. catholic doctors) will not grant them at all. There's no way of telling in advance (and for this reason it's worth trying finding out your doctor's attitude to abortion when you first register)

If your doctor says yes, he/she will refer you to a gynaecologist, who will make a decision on similar grounds. If your doctor doesn't agree to you having an abortion you can do one of two things; you have a right to demand that he/she refer you to a gynaecologist anyway, but in practice not all doctors will do this, or you can change doctors. This takes time, and there is no guarantee that the next doctor will agree either. So it is vital that you do all you can to get your own doctor to agree. Stress how difficult your particular circumstances are - financial worries, personal problems,

and so on. It may well be worth breaking down and crying in front of the doctor, humiliating though this is, as he/she will then consider you less capable of coping with a child. Unfortunately it doesn't seem as though women doctors are any more likely to grant abortions than men doctors.

If your doctor does agree to the operation, and so does the gynaecologist, then you get sent to the psychiatrist, who is supposed to ascertain that you really do want an abortion, and that it won't do you any permanent mental damage.

This process of going from one doctor to the next can take weeks, appointments have to be made etc. It is not uncommon for them to keep you waiting so long that you go over the 12 week limit, after which it is incredibly hard to get an NHS abortion on any grounds at all. So don't let them take any longer than they have to making all these decisions.

If you cannot make your doctor agree to an abortion, or if for any reason you don't want your family doctor to know you are pregnant, or if you find the whole idea of going through this ridiculous procedure insulting and degrading, and.... if you can lay your hands on £66 at a few weeks notice, then you can get an abortion privately at Wistons. Wistons is run by the British Pregnancy Advice Service, which is a registered charity, and it functions just like a private hospital. You pay £10 for a preliminary interview with a doctor

men
"It's the rich
wot gets the pleasure,

women
and the poor
wot gets the blame"

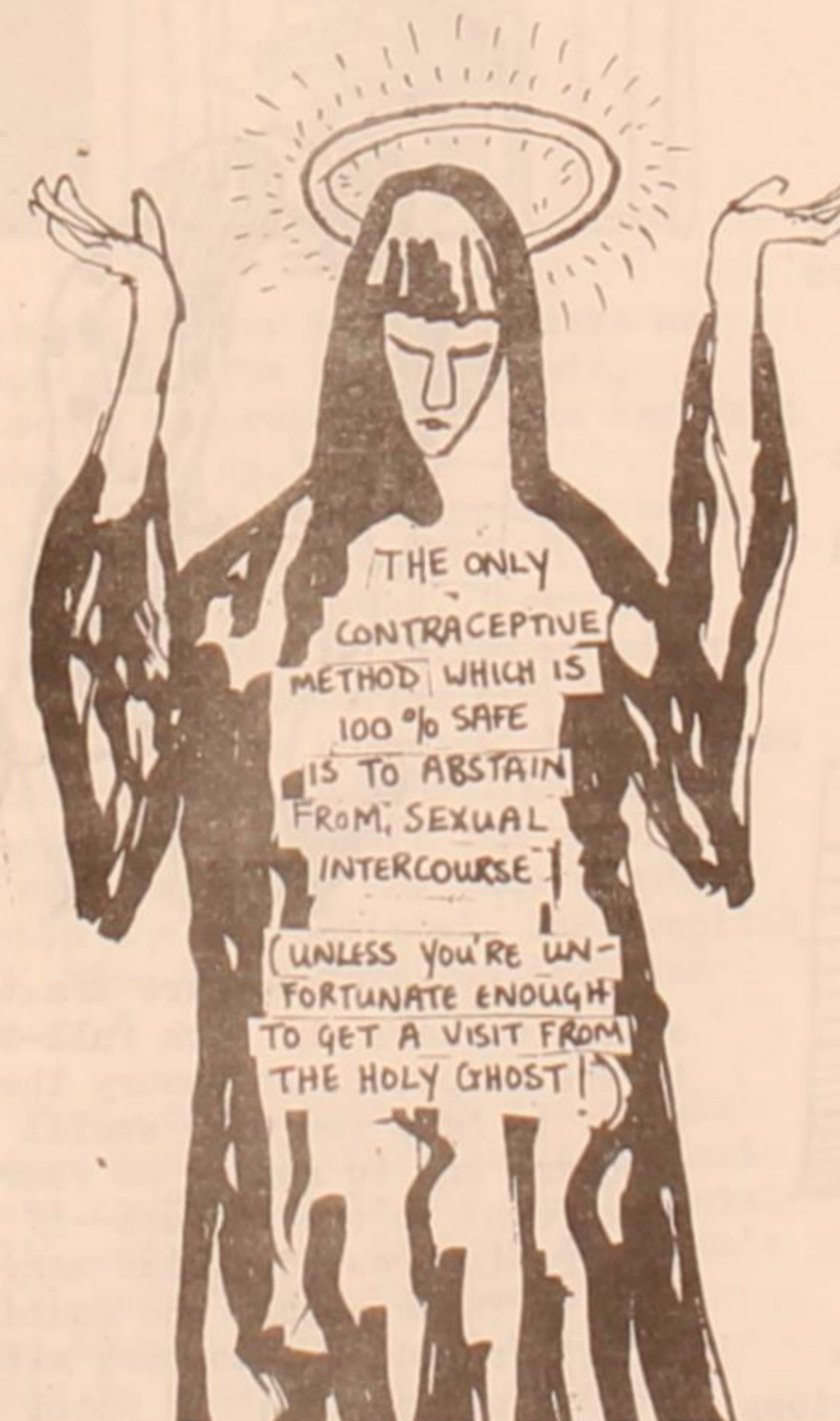
..you need one.

and are then given a date to go in for the operation. You must take the rest of the money with you then (£56). (If you are over 16 weeks pregnant it will cost over £100, as they have to do a different kind of abortion). Usually you must stay in over night, although recently they have started doing one day abortions.

of who have applied for a loan, (most of whom were in absolutely desperate need of an advance), NOT ONE has been lent any money, and seems as if this 'fund' is a complete myth.

Beware of organisations such as 'Life' which advertises regularly in the Argus as a pregnancy advice service. Life is an anti-abortion agency associated with SPUC (the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child), and it is largely the efforts of them and their associates that stop us having abortion on demand. Life will try to persuade you to opt for adoption, and the long term effects on you of adoption are far far more serious than those of abortion could ever be. To have a child which is then adopted can cause life-long guilt and pain. Also, adoption is a racket, rather like a beauty contest. Coloured kids and those with any kind of malformation are ignored in favour of all-white all-right babies, so there is no guarantee that your child actually will be adopted at all.

It would be of immense help to women in the future if there was a blacklist and a whitelist of doctors so that women could register only with those who are sympathetic to the need for abortion. If you know that your doctor has strong sympathies either way, then send or phone his/her name to the Women's Centre (27612) or to the Voice (27878) if the women's centre has shut down by then.



Wistons is an extremely good hospital - friendly, capable, and efficient. The actual abortion takes only ten minutes, but they will also check for cysts, cancer, etc., and will inform you of any abnormality. There is immediate family planning afterwards, if you require it, and they will not tell your family doctor unless you ask them to. Also, they will not force you to have a sterilisation or hysterectomy, whereas the National Health often makes this one of the conditions on which they give you an abortion.

Wistons say that they have a fund out of which they loan money to those who cannot raise the cash in time. They decide whether or not you qualify for a loan. This might be worth trying for if all else fails, but out of all the women that the Women's Centre know

Cor! Wot a Wopper! Copper.



In issue 29 of the Voice we printed this picture of a plain clothes policeman together with his camera which was taken at the B.A.C.A.C. demo at the beginning of the year. In a recent letter to the Sussex NCCL Group the Brighton police had the following to say about this camera. It was they said, "standard photographic equipment and was certainly not of a telephoto nature, although I accept that this would not be readily apparent to a casual observer."

The Voice has consulted a number of experienced cameramen and it is very apparent to all of them that the camera shown above is fitted with a telephoto lens. The fact that the police have chosen to lie to the NCCL on this issue must raise considerable doubts about the truthfulness of their claim that all the photographs taken at the rally have now been destroyed. We have only their word that this has in fact happened and why should we believe them after such obvious lies?

News from the Women's Centre

As reported in the last Voice issue, the Women's Centre is to close - that is, they must vacate their premises at 79 Buckingham Road. The final date for leaving is July 3rd, and they still have nowhere to go. The petition has been handed in ... endless consultations have been made with endless important(!) people ... and the council have, as yet, offered no alternative building. Will they, won't they, will they, won't they.... the expectations change from day to day. If you want last minute news on the state of progress, phone the Women's Centre and see if anyone answers!

BRIGHTON MENTAL HEALTH SCANDAL

THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BRIGHTON AREA ARE A SCANDAL - BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE A DAILY SCANDAL AND BECAUSE THOSE MOST AFFECTED ARE JUDGED BY SOCIETY TO BE UNIMPORTANT THERE IS NO PUBLICITY. NOTHING IS COVERED UP, BUT NOTHING IS REPORTED EITHER.

We believe that the time has come to reveal a few facts and ask a few questions, time that the true situation was brought to light.

Ten per cent of the population suffers from a mental illness at some time in their lives. In the Brighton area, in-patient treatment usually means H Block, the psychiatric unit at Brighton Gen-



erol Hospital, or St. Francis Hospital in Haywards Heath.

For those unfamiliar with BGH, it was originally built as a workhouse, and looks like it. A drab, depressing collection of buildings at the top of Elm Grove, its facilities are poor and paint has been known to flake off the walls and ceilings of operating theatres during operations. The effect on mentally ill patients can be imagined; some people steer clear of what help there is available because they simply cannot stand the place.

Once admitted, the patient's life is boring, boring, boring, with the occasional flurry of activity when a doctor arrives. By this time, he will already have come across the irritating and totally unnecessary insistence on everyone wearing nightclothes. While no practical reason can be supplied for this, it does show the patient who is boss and that he has got to do what he's told. Like prisons, most hospitals prefer residents to leave their individuality at the gate.

On the ward there is nothing for you to do, and you wander about aimlessly or stare out of the win-

dow between meals and pills. Treatment, in the majority of cases, is pills and more pills - with heavy doses of drugs such as Largactil a common feature. These are administered on the principle of 'if you can't cure them, you can at least keep them quiet'; they damp down symptoms (and everything else at the same time).

If your stay in hospital is going to be for more than a few days, you will usually be transferred to St. Francis, on the outskirts of Haywards Heath. Here you will be similarly treated (and bored) but in a rural setting, and here some of the more disturbing features of 'treatment' may be displayed, such as Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT), which slowly destroys your brain.

A less dangerous, but still disturbing occurrence is the 'ward round', in which confused and upset patients are expected to put on a one-man show for the ringmaster and audience.



What happens is this: the psychiatrist, his junior doctors, various medical students, social workers, nurses, etc sit in a big circle, with one spare seat. You are called in when the time comes by a nurse, who may or may not have told you what is about to happen. Quite often the assembled masses are drinking tea and eating biscuits; they don't offer you any, needless to say.

The consultant then fires various questions at you and you are expected to provide instant, lucid answers; failure to do so is taken as a sign of your illness. A lively discussion ensues in front of you as if you weren't there, about how schizophrenic/ depressed/ deluded you are, with the consultant cross-examining his students and juniors. At the end of this process you are led out in a totally confused and humiliated state often without even being told what plans for your future have been agreed.

By the time you have been there a few weeks, they are thinking of discharging you in order to vacate beds for those returning for a 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th time. This is

known as the 'revolving door' policy and absolves hospitals from having to worry about actually helping patients; discharging them is what is important and nobody counts the number of times they come back.



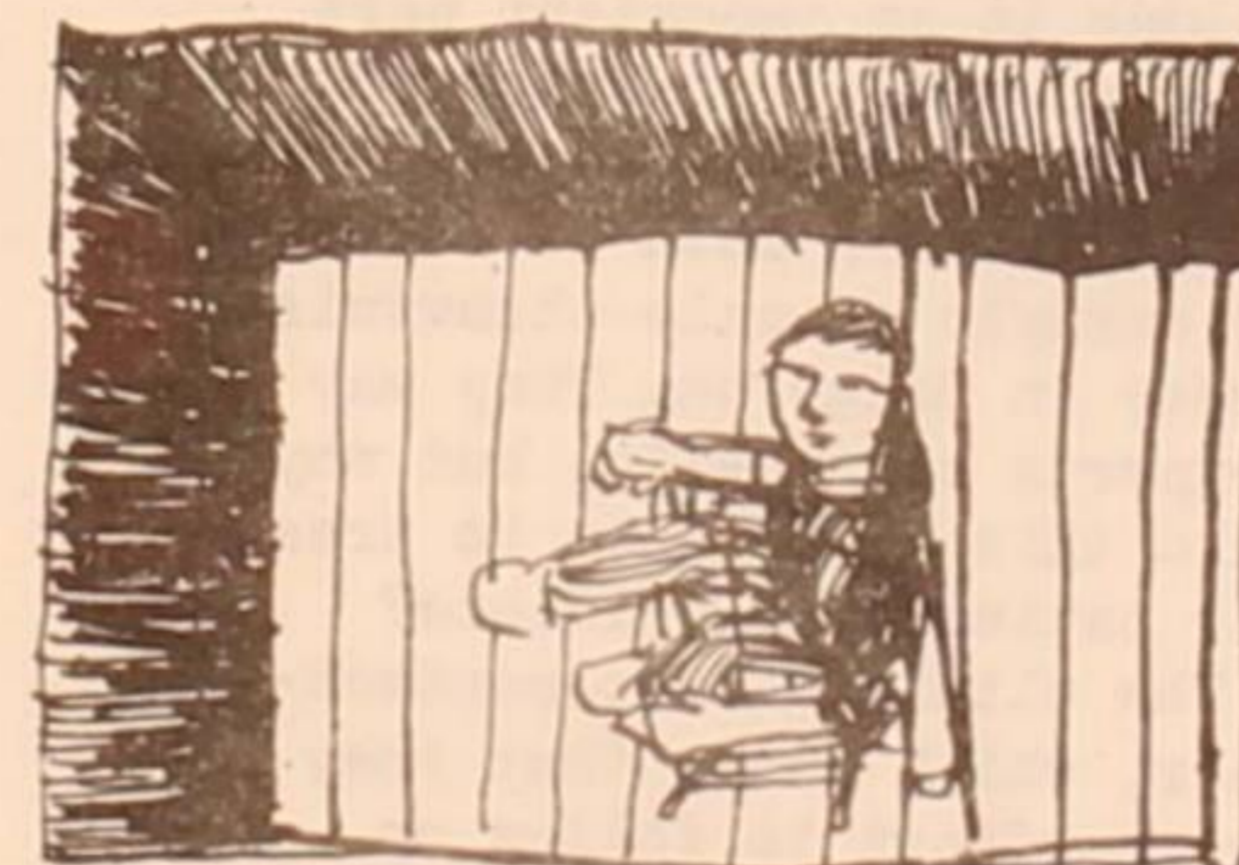
Partly to blame here are the social workers who work full-time in the hospital. In theory they are there to help you with social problems and to report on your background to the doctors--if they're interested, which many aren't. These people who could and should provide the doctors with a broader non-psychiatric point of view are in fact seen as junior doctors. They rarely argue with the consultant. They know (or ought to) that much mental illness is caused by the appalling strain of social conditions but they rarely visit homes or even speak to local social workers. They work with the doctors to get patients back to the very conditions that created their problems, and when a patient returns to hospital as so many do, everyone agrees that he is a 'chronic case', i.e. it's his fault and nobody else need be concerned.

Beyond these general things that effect all patients, there are particularly disturbing cases. Such as JANET, an intelligent but depressed girl, discharged against the advice of her social worker and GP; she drowned accidentally after taking an overdose. The hospital said, "It's not our fault."

Or TRACEY, a young alcoholic, who says of the St Francis alcoholic unit; "It's a drinkers paradise- there's no supervisor and every-

one goes off to the pub or brings drink into the hospital." The hospital said, "A chronic case, there's nothing we can do for her."

Or PAT, a highly confused and deluded woman, placed on probation with a condition of residence at St Francis, who was accidentally



discharged after only two weeks and disappeared. The hospital said, "We would be prepared to take her back if she turns up."

Or ANGELIA, an unsupported mother of two, who has been in and out 4 times in the last year. There have been no attempts to follow-up after three of her discharges and for much of her period in hospital she received no treatment of any sort. On each occasion when she left the hospital she was displaying the same symptoms as when she was admitted. The hospital said, "You can always get in touch with us."

What conclusions are the public to draw from all this? Do these facts create confidence in the local mental health service--or do they say "don't be ill here."? Are the hospitals there to help people get well or merely to keep the staff and well- id consultants employed?

The VOICE believes that the tip of an iceberg has been discovered, that H Block and St Francis are an insult to the people of Brighton. We invite replies and comments from patients, ex-patients, doctors and anyone else with first-hand knowledge or experience; we will print them in subsequent issues. It's time for the skeletons to come out of the cupboard to be explained away--if they can be.



~ and an alternative

The idea behind this wordy programme is that mental disturbance is a product not of some extraneous mental 'virus' but is directly produced by the social stresses - particularly the interpersonal relationships - of modern society. This means that as patients and staff interact in the communities, individual problems will become apparent. Moreover, individuals can experiment in the community with new forms of interaction, knowing they are not going to be condemned as 'odd'.

For example, at a ward meeting, Mary says that some money has been stolen from her bedside table. In the ensuing discussion, patients and staff work together towards a communal view of the theft, and how they themselves could be protected. At another meeting evening entertainment is discussed and the patients organise to go to two films in Eastbourne. The emphasis is on participation and communication, and on learning how to relate to the community in general.

Not surprisingly, this ambitious experiment is complicated by existing conditions -

- Opposition from the reactionary administrators and consultant psychiatrists (who view any attempts to see patients as human with horror).

- Institutionalisation still remains in the form of daily medications and deadly 'Industrial Training', (which consists of giving patients incredibly boring work to do in order to lull them back into the tedium of their 'normal' lives).

- The inability of some patients and staff to adjust to a situation of communicating as equals. Too many years in a mental hospital can drive you mad.

But IF the administrators and their cronies can be prevented from stifling such projects, and if therapeutic communities are not reduced to impersonality then a radical change can be achieved in psychiatric thinking. At least, by improving general hospital surroundings and staff patient relationships; at most, by creating a community equipped to help the individual and which realises that bottles of Largactil and a free bus ticket back to Moulscot is no answer at all.

Traditional psychiatry has long viewed mental disturbances as being caused by mental 'illness'. This idea has led to two unfortunate trends in mental hospitals;

1. That it is the 'illness' not the patient which is being dealt with, so that the patient's own views on his position are irrelevant.

2. By presenting their diagnoses and views in clinical and medical terms, the psychiatric staff have been able to hide their real feelings (that the mentally damaged are a bunch of loonies who should be locked away and kept as isolated as possible) from public view.

These trends have meant that mental hospitals have increasingly become one of the great creators, not curers, of mental disturbance. Combined with the 'revolving door' policy this means that once they've got you, they aren't ever going to leave your head.

Berwick ward, in Hellingly Hospital has recently been trying a new approach known as Therapeutic Community Treatment. Gone are staff uniforms, authoritarian regulations, and - most important- the idea that the patients are somehow 'mad' or euphemistically, 'ill'. In their place is a ward where staff and patients are treated as a communal whole (and are usually indistinguishable from each other due to the lack of formalised authority and any type of uniform), and where ward policy and organisation are decided at daily joint ward meetings. In an internal hospital document, the ward defines its policy as "devised at a multi-disciplinary level to improve the quality of life of the residents, hoping that ultimately some could be returned to the community and that those remaining in hospital will function at a more desirable level."

CLAP TRAP

Should you be punished for having a sexually transmitted disease?

You are in Brighton.

Nowadays, Venereal Disease is something that people are more willing to talk about than, say, 15 years ago. Thank goodness, because the chances are that most people will go to a clinic at least once in their lives. This may be because they have a venereal disease (either gonorrhoea, syphilis or chancroid), but more likely, because they have some other sexually transmitted disease or another related problem. They may just be going for a check-up (in much the same way as for a routine chest X-ray) and they may turn out to have nothing at all. So we are wrong to talk about a V.D. clinic (because it covers so much more) and would do better to call them S.T.D. clinics (for sexually transmitted diseases). Of those attending, only 20% actually have V.D.. An S.T.D. clinic is supposed to be simply another department of a hospital, where we can go for a check-up if we're worried and, if tests show that something is wrong, we can go back for treatment, remembering that it is just another disease.

So.....

How come the Brighton S.T.D. clinic is not just another department of the Royal Sussex Hospital but a grotty hut round the back of another building?

How come some people who simply go for a check-up are told they are wasting medical facilities?

How come some people who attend the Brighton clinic are treated in such a de-grading, de-humanising, de-moralising, and de-anything-else-you-wish sort of way when they may (or more likely may not) have, what is, after all, just another disease?

Male and female clinics are at different times, so that husband and wife, girlfriend and boyfriend, are prevented from attending together. The look of the place is just about enough to send anyone running in the opposite direction. Separate from the main hospital building, it is drab and dismal, though in the last couple of years it has been treated to a coat of paint outside. But the long narrow corridor which leads to the waiting room hasn't changed, nor has any attempt been made to make it look any less intimidating. The waiting-room consists of 4 rows of wooden chairs and there you sit, pretending to read the 1973 copy of Women's Realm. If you are female, and come wearing trousers, you are ordered to remove them and wrap yourself up in a flimsy paper towel (which invariably splits) so as not to waste the doctor's time a second more than is necessary. When your number is bellowed from the other end of the corridor, you make your way to the doctor's room, clutching your paper towel around you, in as dignified a manner as is possible under the circumstances. Not exactly the atmosphere to put you at ease.

Untreated gonorrhoea can permanently damage the fallopian tubes, causing sterility, and most women in the early stages of the disease have no symptoms whatever. Yet some women without symptoms who have gone for a check-up have been accused of wasting medical facilities. Is sterility part of the punishment too?

Woe betide the person who wants to ask a question - you may be told "Oh, we are inquisitive aren't we?". Nor is too much information divulged to

the patient either - perhaps they think it's not good for us to know what's going on? Someone's visit once ended with the doctor shouting very loudly that if she did not keep quiet he would refuse to treat her! One almost feels an imposition on the doctor's time, and yet, to quote from the Family Doctor booklet, "If you are found to be free from infection there is no fear of your being accused of wasting the doctor's time. Specialists in this field consider it an important part of their work to reassure people that no disease is present"!!

The doctors must be about the best example of male-chauvinist-piggery in Brighton. They may be experts clinically, but why should this allow them to treat their patients like idiots?

The clinic has no contact-tracer, which means that they make no effort to follow up possible carriers of potentially dangerous diseases. In other clinics, contact-tracing is considered a vital part of the fight against S.T.D., but at the Brighton clinic they are not even mildly interested in other possible contacts.

Maybe some of these criticisms would cost money to put right, but doctor's attitudes can, and must, be altered, for free. Doctor's voices travel a long way, especially when they are asking fairly personal questions. But when the partitions between cubicles are just curtains and when the doctor is playing at being a sergeant-major giving orders to deaf troops, things can get a little frightening. The nurses, one must admit, are probably doing their best to make one feel fairly cheerful. They smile and try to jolly things along, but they are completely at the mercy of the doctors.

How then in this sort of atmosphere, are Brighton people to feel at ease? How can they be encouraged to view S.T.D. as anything other than a stigmatised disease, when the treatment includes a fair degree of punishment? And how can the clinic be helping to lower the incidence of S.T.D. when people may be put off returning for check-ups? Other clinics are not without fault, but many are a paradise compared to Brighton. They seem to make an effort to treat normally those attending, and take a more positive attitude. The Brighton doctors seem incapable of a little thought and sensitivity, things which could do a lot to change the image of the clinic and in turn make people more happy about going there. How many people could be saved a lot of worry and trouble if only the doctors would stop and think for two minutes about the nature of the problem they themselves are helping to create?

Survival

Most people work for a third of their lives to provide for their essential needs - food, clothes and shelter. Because we work for money to buy existence, instead of doing something interesting, work becomes a source of alienation from ourselves. In the exchange of money for food the farmer produces for the manufacturer, no longer caring that he is ruining the land, spraying crops for larger yields in order to make more money. The manufacturer, having no contact with his customers, creates a variety of products to be consumed, regardless of their nutritional value. These pre-packaged products, standardised into similar shapes, sizes, and brand names for unthinking recognition, are delivered to the supermarket or corner shop, whose aim is also to make money.

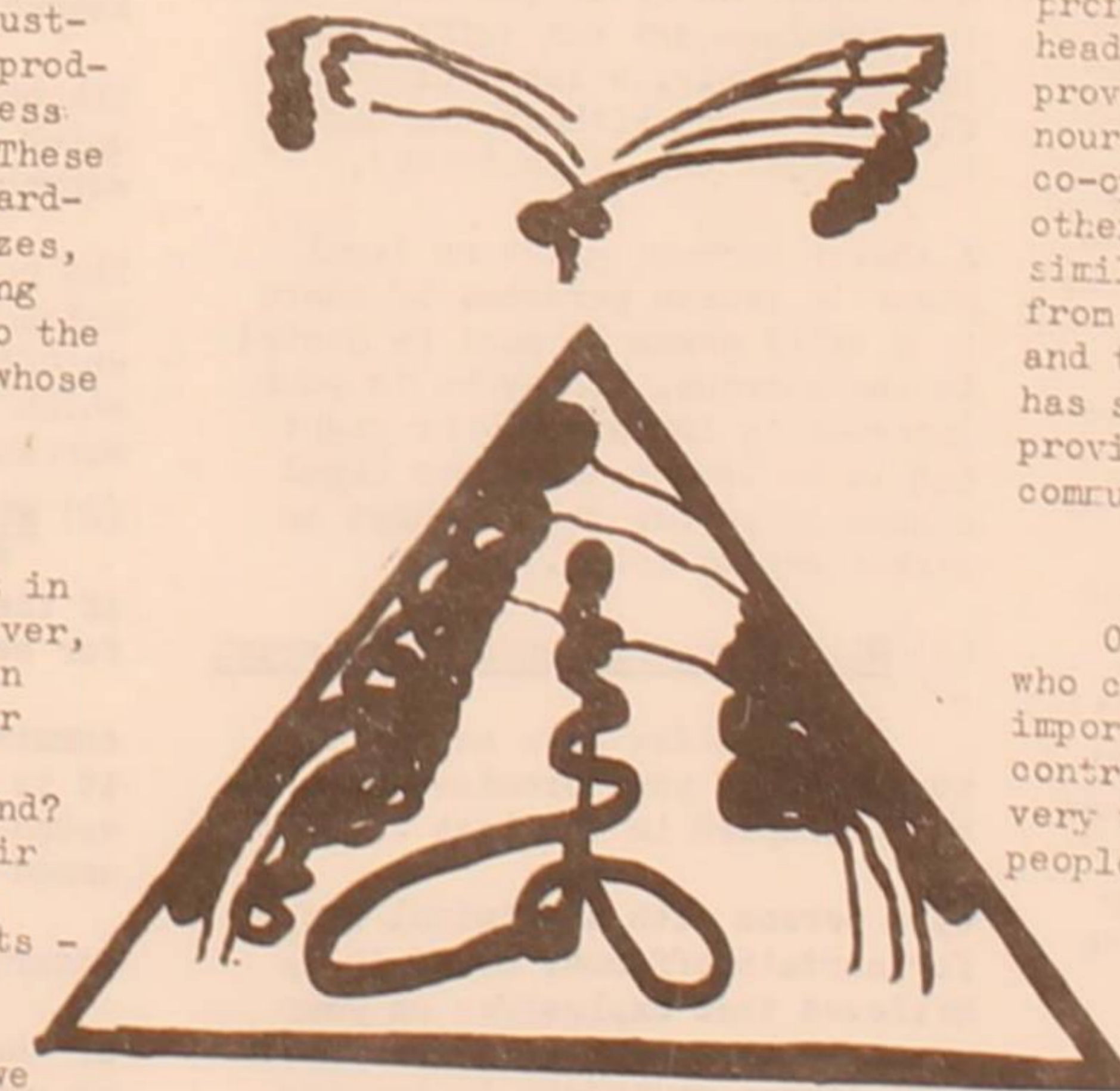
Are all those hours spent in the office, factory, or whatever, (working not only for ones own living but creating profit for someone else) exchanged for valuable goods? Or are we blind? As a compensation for an unfair exchange, psychological free gifts are wrapped into products - fulfillment in the pursuit of happiness, funk, or security. We go on believing that what we are getting is what we really want because our work involves us in this unhappy relationship with the world, although we feel that we are only cogs in a syndrome which is beyond our control.

Is there anything we can do to change our relationship with a world where our abilities are only valued socially in terms of the amount of money we can make? If no-one cares about the intrinsic value of what we do, how can we care about it ourselves?

In order to find out if we

could change our own attitudes to work we did most of the alterations to our shop ourselves. We painted the outside, with friends, trying to create our own environment. The shelves we put up are all made from recycled wood, some of it coming from the West Pier, Brighton. The feeling we wanted to create was of a large public living room where our friends could come to buy their supplies. We have left

a lot of space unoccupied, as a symbol of our unplanned future, giving us the opportunity to grow into whatever happens. Our appearance is rather unprofessional compared to other shops, but we believe in what we are doing and therefore resist the social pressures to conform.



are a compromise. For instance we have found that domestic baking is uneconomical because of the cost of electricity, but we continue to sell it anyway. The rent, rates, and heating to keep the shop going all accrue profit for someone else and add to the price of food. But we are not trying to compete in the sense most businesses are, to make a profit which is used to enlarge the range of goods offered for sale, making even more money; our profit is used to pay the overheads and labour. Our aim is to provide the cheapest possible nourishing foods, and thus to co-operate with our customers and other businesses whose aims are similar to ours. We buy our stock from Infinity Foods bulk store; and the interest in their own venture has stimulated in this area has provided us with many links in the community.

Our belief is that the people who come to the shop are an important part of our success. Their contribution to our growth is very valuable to us. Already local people make our bread, supply us

with surplus vegetables they have grown, and bring in herbs and plants to sell. Honey and cheese are promised. This involvement will probably be a slow process, for we are all conditioned in our needs, and it takes a lot of effort to decide for ourselves how we want to live.

We hope that what we learn from what we achieve in the shop will provide a basis for other people, whatever their work, who want to try out their beliefs.

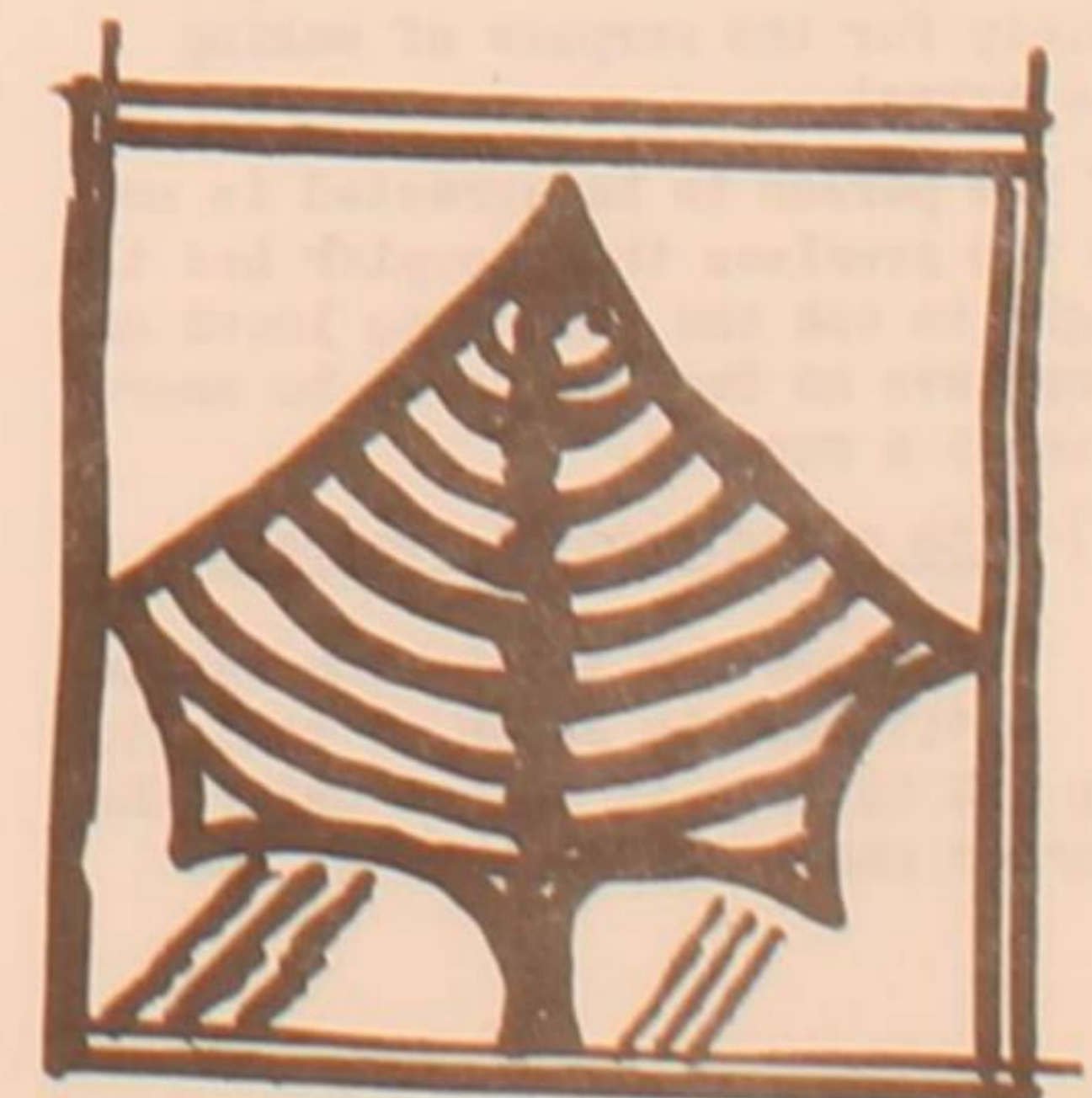
Some of the food we stock comes from people who care about its production. The wholemeal flour comes from Pimhill Farm, and the muesli ingredients - oat, wheat, and barley flakes - are also grown organically, and all produced in this country. Why import from abroad? The sacks of flour etc. are bagged up in brown paper bags, and they are their own advertisement - whole, nourishing, and as cheap as possible.

The economics of Survival

SURVIVAL

10 STATION ST.

LEWES



LEGAL RIGHTS

In the third part of our series of edited versions of NCCL Fact Sheets on your legal rights** we examine police powers to enter, search and take property from your home.

The extent of legal police powers in this field is far from clear. The law is confused and contradictory. Below we give the NCCL view of the laws of search of premises and describe current police practice.

Your remedy against police misuse of power cannot always be obtained at the time of the search. It is important for you to know your rights so you can pursue a remedy later if necessary. Even if you do not get justice in your own case it will help others.

The police may enter private premises:-

- *if they are allowed to enter by the occupier
- *to stop or prevent a breach of the peace
- *to execute a warrant for arrest

*to execute a search warrant
*if they suspect the presence of a person whom they suspect to have committed, is committing, or is about to commit an offence with a maximum sentence of at least five years.

*to arrest a recently convicted person whom they have reason to believe is in possession of firearms and acting illegally.

In any of these circumstances police may use force to effect a legal entry provided that they announce who they are, demand entry and are unreasonably refused. A right of entry does not mean that they can carry out a search.

POWERS OF SEARCH

(1) To effect an arrest

*they may search the premises for the person to be arrested, but solely for the purpose of making the arrest.

If the person to be arrested is not on the premises the occupier has the right to ask the police to leave and they have no further power to search without a warrant.

(2) With a magistrate's warrant

*always ask to see the warrant
*it must be shown to you. You can ask to have it pushed under the door or shown to you through the

window. The police need only produce it once, so read the warrant carefully. Take note of any limitations of time and items to be searched for.

*ask to see the warrant card of the officer in charge of the search because it will help you to check that the callers are genuine and it will be useful should you need to make a complaint.

*check to see the address of the premises to be searched as you can refuse entry if you think that the premises are not sufficiently identified (e.g. a large block of flats is named without the number of any flat being specified).

A search warrant gives no legal power to search persons. If there is a valid power it must be stated in the warrant. It may be in your interest to insist on your right not to be searched without legal authority rather than attempt to seek a remedy later.

(3) With a superintendent's warrant

*the police have authority to search if your premises have been occupied in the last 12 months

by a person with a criminal record for certain offences or if it is believed that explosives on your property are about to cause immediate damage or injury to persons.

Whenever your premises are to be searched:-

*if the police have no legal authority to enter you can refuse them entry.

*if the premises are going to be searched someone needs to watch all areas of the search in order to check on what the police actually take away.

*if they have no legal authority to remain you have a right to insist on their leaving

*if they refuse you have the legal right to use "reasonable force" to remove them. Unfortunately "reasonable force" is not adequately

N C

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

C L

defined in law so you might find yourself charged with assault.

SEIZURE

(1) With a warrant or after an arrest

*the police may seize any goods found in the possession of the person arrested or the occupier of the premises named in the warrant if the goods are evidence of the offence for which he/she was arrested or for which the search warrant was issued.

if the goods implicate the person arrested or the occupier of the premises named in the warrant in some other offence.

The police MAY NOT seize goods which implicate a third person in an offence other than that for which the arrest was made or the warrant issued.

(2) Without a warrant

*the police may seize articles if they have reasonable grounds for believing:-

a serious offence has been committed of such a nature that it is of great importance to catch the offenders, e.g. murder, armed robbery, etc. and

the goods in question are material evidence of the crime, and the person in possession of them is implicated in the offence or refuses quite unreasonably to hand them over

(3) Whenever the police seize articles

*they must not detain goods longer than is reasonably necessary

*the lawfulness of what they do must be judged at the time they do it, not in the light of later events

*you have the right to know why the police are seizing any

particular article and in what offences they think the articles implicate you

*you can insist that the police provide signed receipts for everything they take.

If you believe the police have acted unlawfully in entering, searching or seizing your property it is advisable to take legal advice as soon as you can. However, evidence obtained illegally can be used at a trial, a fact which gives 'rewards' for improper police activities.

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. 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-
10pm under the arches
Needs clothes, food help!

BRIGHTON SOCIETY
Environmental group
Selma Montford
10 Clermont Rd.

BRIGHTON & HOVE
SQUATTERS UNION AND
TENANTS' ASSOC.
7, Victoria Rd.
Tuesdays 8.30 pm

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.

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

2nd PEOPLE'S PICNIC - DEVIL'S DYKE - AUGUST 8th
Bring your food, your games, and your heads.
We hope to have children's games this time
so bring your kids too! START 1.00p.m.

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.

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 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

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6 Oxford St 63606
Donations Welcome

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

W.I.L.P.F. WOMEN'S
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE -
survivor of 2 world
wars - meets monthly
to learn, discuss and
act on issues of world
concern. Women of all
ages welcome. Ring
Brighton 684604.

PEOPLE'S OPEN STUDIOS
IS NOW FORMALLY
COMMUNITY ARTS WORK-
SHOP. c/o Secretary
Penny Mitchell
17 Margaret St.
Tel. 689507

ICEBREAKERS. Gay
counselling. 202930 Fri,
Sat, 7.30-10.00.

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 commu-
nity. Details: Link-up
687838, Open 27878.

MOTHER & TODDLER
AFTERNOON
Westdene Library Tues
2.30-3.45 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
see bottom column 2.

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 ANGL-
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.

WOMEN'S AID
A refuge for battered
women. 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.

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