

Dear Brighton Voice,

An article appeared in a recent copy of the Evening Argus (11 Aug, '78) which in my opinion could be relied upon to reinforce any anti-immigrant feelings in the readers.

The article was headed - 'Leper Wins Deportation Reprieve' and stated in the first paragraph: "An Asian leprosy victim takes on the Home Office next week in his fight to stay in Britain". It was not until NINE paragraphs later that the truth was revealed: "The leprosy is not active now and Mr Miah is no longer in a dangerous or infectious condition". Between the first and ninth paragraphs we had been told that the man concerned was part owner of a restaurant. Surely the Evening Argus is aware of the social stigma attached to leprosy and could anticipate the effect which an article about 'immigrant lepers in restaurants' would have on the general public.

How much more responsible it would have been to stick to the relevant facts i.e. that two Appeal Court judges had seen fit to reprieve a man who might otherwise have been deported.

I wrote a letter of complaint to the Argus. It was not printed, but I received a reply stating that the person responsible for the article had been informed of my criticism, that they recognised my right to object, but did not agree with the points I had made. 'A courteous reply', one might think. But is a courteous reply enough when a newspaper persists in printing biased reports?

Geraldine Pedroza, 53 Ryde Road.

Brighton Voice is an alternative paper produced by people living and working in the Brighton area. It aims to cover news which the commercial press, because of its political and social bias, ignores or distorts.

There is no editor - we are all involved in all parts of the production process. The paper is not produced for profit: we publish it because we hope you will find it interesting and useful. It is not aligned with, or funded by, any political party or grouping.

We support individuals and groups of people trying to take control over their own lives, and try to report things from their point of view. We hope readers draw their own conclusions and that the news will be helpful to others in the same circumstances.

Brighton Voice depends entirely on support from its readers. If you have some spare time and would like to help in writing/production/distribution, we would like to hear from you. We meet every Sunday at 8.30 pm at 7 Victoria Road (side entrance), or phone Brighton 27878 at the same time.

The Voice & Sexism

Dear Brighton Voice,

I am writing to express the views of myself and many of my friends concerning your apparent arbitary attitude towards sexism in your paper. As an alternative paper we think you have a responsibility to condemn sexism, just as you condemn racism, in all its forms, and particularly, a responsibilty not to give your paper space to sexists to expound their views, however 'nice' and amusing these people may otherwise

In issue No. 47 you had an article condemning the Fabulous Poodles gig at the Rock against Racism concert in Brighton as being sexist and offensive to women. In issue No. 48 you have an interview with the Piranhas in which they said that they did not think the Poodles were being sexist at all. OK they are entitled to their views, but would you allow anyone to say in print in your paper that the National Front leaflets, for example, were not racist?

As you seem to impose a 'No platform for fascists', isn't it about time that you enforced a 'No platform for sexists' if we are to take your anti-sexism stand seriously?

Yours sincerely, D. Rose

See 'Collective Voice' page 3.



Brighton Voice No. 49 SEPT 78

Len Coombes, gen. sec. of **Brighton & Hove Trades Council** speaks out before the T.U.C.

We in Brighton (inspite of the retired businessmen's image) have been active over the year fighting low pay in a low pay area. Arising from an excellent speech by Chris Pond of the National Low Pay Committee at the March meeting, we set up our local Low Pay Committee. This will be an ongoing fight in an area with a large female workforce who are still very much in the low pay area in spite of legislation. Perhaps the hotel where you are staying is low on its wages and high on its antiunion feeling, find out and tell us. Also make sure you do not book there next time.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR TRADE UNION ORGANISATION. OUR ADVICE TO THE LOW PAID WORKERS IN BRIGHTON IS - GET ORGANISED AND GET FIGHTING - WE CAN ONLY HELP THOSE WHO WILL TRY AND HELP THEM-SELVES.

In the field of anti-apartheid we have been active. On the 22nd March we held a public meeting in conjunction with the local and national Anti-Apartheid Committees. BARCLAYS BANK IS ON OUR LIST OF COMPANIES TO BOYCOTT. IF YOU HAVE AN ACCOUNT THERE THINK OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND DO YOUR BIT. REMEMBER EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS AS THE WORKER SAID WHEN HE/SHE SPENT HIS/HER 5%.

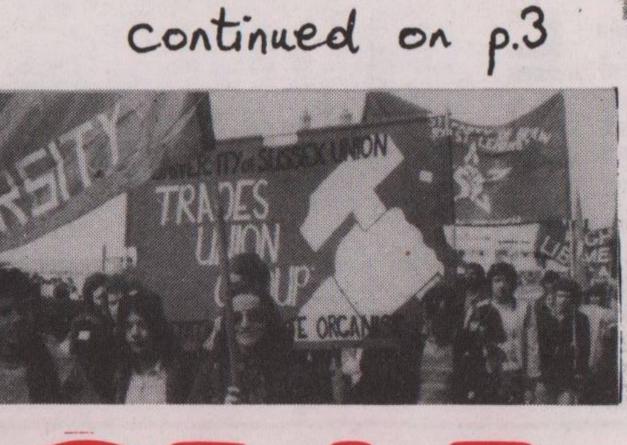
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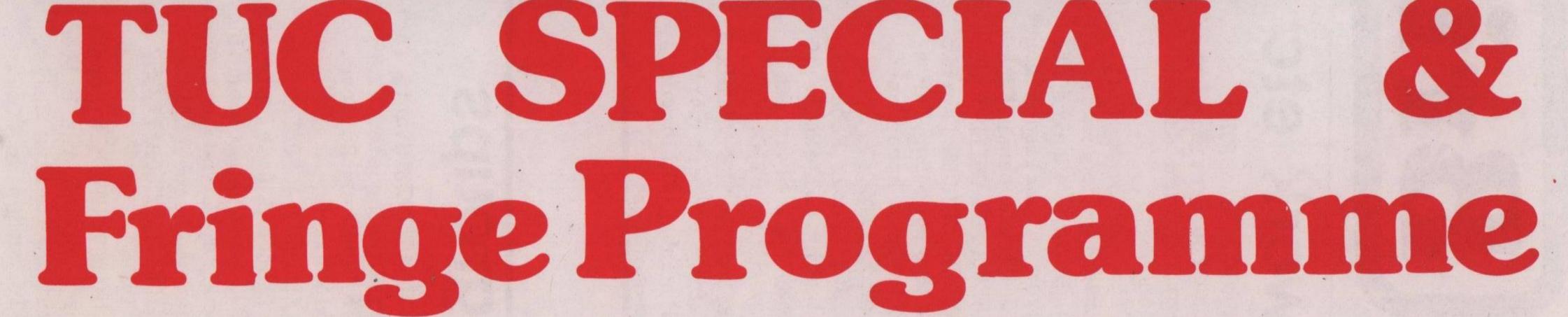
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Collective Voice

We take very seriously the letter from D. Rose on the back page and it has provoked a lengthy discussion on the political role of THE VOICE.

We thought it important in the Piranhas article to show where the Piranhas stand politically. As with many of the articles that appear in THE VOICE, the collective disagrees with many of the things they say but we think it important that we find out where others stand politically and that a fairly wide discussion of ideas appear in THE VOICE.

Having said that, we would not allow racist remarks in the paper and we should not have allowed a sexist comment by one of the members of the band (to the effect that the Fabulous Poodles' song 'Tits' was not sexist), to have appeared without a VOICE comment on the fact that we disagreed entirely with them and that we think the Poodles were disgustingly sexist.

This has made us aware of the difficulty of not only recognising sexism but giving the fight against it the prominence we give to the struggle against racism and exploitation, in the pages of THE VOICE.

NATIONALISM

We also think that the front page article of our last issue, about Kensett producing "Spearhead" was dangerously worded in that it tended to echo one of the worst trends in the anti-fascist organisations. Fighting fascism is not a case of removing a few fascists from our political life. It is a matter of challenging the factors that produce fascism.

AE COLLECTIVE

The VOICE collective is open to anyone who wants to become involved. Anyone is welcome to help in the production of the VOICE and/or write articles. We do however reserve the right to (collectively) comment on, refer back, or, occasionally, reject articles; particularly if they contain sexist or racist inferences.

Len speaks out ~ cont. from p1

Transport has been in the forefront of our policy both locally and nationally. The longest and most heated debate so We are proud of the local bus union and far this year has been on pay policy

of its courageous efforts to stop the erosion of the service to the public. WE DEMAND FREE TRAVEL IN OFF PEAK PERIODS FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS. THEY GAVE A LITETIME FOR US, IT IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR THEM.

We are proud to be affiliated to our local anti-fascist committee. This very active body is fighting the evils of the National Front with all the courage and determination we all know is necessary. THIS PART OF SUSSEX IS WHERE THE REAL EVIL OF THE NAZI FRONT MEET IN LARGE HOUSES BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. WE MUST NOT LET THIS FRIGHTEN US AND WE MUST FIGHT IT EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY.

Cuts in the Health Service, Education of Service and other vital services have H been debated at various meetings. We will give our full support to Trade Unions fighting these cuts. Remember the 1974 Labour Party Manifesto -"Pay Special Attention to the Manpower Services of all public services now approaching breakdown, particularly in our urban areas. Our cities desperately need and must get better services which are properly manned, and the

which are properly manned, and the resources to make this available (page 12, section 14). FOUR YEARS IS A LIFETIME IN POLITICS:

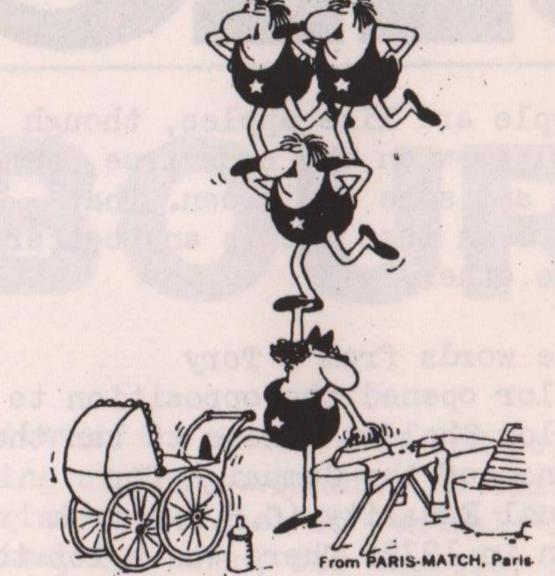
The longest and most heated debate so far this year has been on pay policy (a dress rehearsal for the TUC?). This was the resolution eventually passed ; 21 people for, 15 against, 5 abstentions:-

It is true that we must recognise our weakness as well as our strength. We have sold some copies of Des Warren's pamphlet called "Shrewsbury". This talks of our weaknesses. We could also have wished for a better end to Grunwick. However, from these issues there is a

However, from these issues there is a
THE MESSAGE TO THE TUC AND THE GOVERN- story of courage. A story of solidarity.
MENT IS CLEAR.....WAGES ARE NOT THE
CAUSE OF OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
WORKING PEOPLE ARE IN NO WAY TO BLAME
FOR THE CRISIS OF A CAPITALIST SYSTEM.
FOR THE CRISIS OF A CAPITALIST SYSTEM.
Particular, who were punched and kicked
WE DID NOT EAT THE MEAL AND WE ARE FED
UP WITH DOING THE WASHING UP.
NO MORE WAGE RESTRAINT.
However, from these issues there is a
However, from these issues there is a
story of courage. A story of solidarity.
It is a rank and file story that nobody
can take away from us. A special page
must go to the young students, women in
particular, who were punched and kicked
by the specially trained police ,
because trade unionists were not on
the Grunwick picket line in sufficient
force to prevent this violence from
happening.

Last but not least at our

Emma Goldman said it all 40 years ago at our July meeting we but she might have said it today : called for the following action by the Post office Workers (Brighton Branch) "The British bourgoisie has good "That this Trade Union Council, as a reason to fear the spread of discontent step towards a single publicly owned and political liberties are the best communications network, calls upon the government to press for : A res- security against it. English statesmen tructuring of the telecommunications are shrewd....they have always seen to manufacturing industry, under it that the political reins should not public control, with a substantial be pulled too tightly. The average Britisher loves to think he is free; measure of involvement by the Post Office Telecommunications business. it helps him to forget his misery." The test will always come when the shit The nationalisation of the Private hits the fan - we cannot afford any Relay Companies coupled with the extension of a Post Office controll- more Shrewsbury's or any more Grunwicks. ed Wide Band Cable Network." We must fight to win and win we must.



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WORKERS WHEN WE SPEAK WE ARE SO OFTEN RIGHT ... IF ONLY WE COULD LACE OUR VOICE WITH A LIBERAL DOSE OF MIGHT. (Unknown poet hidden somewhere in the TUC.)



"People are like apples, though they all grow on the same tree, some are red and some are green. That doesn't mean that one is any better than the other."

These words from a Tory councillor opened the opposition to Councillor Sheldon's move to ban the. conference of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (C.H.E.) from Brighton in 1979. There was a lot to oppose in Coun. Sheldon's speech. According to him, many homosexuals were 'intellectual' and often competent artists, writers, musicians etc, they had a depressing tendency to hanker after little boys and hang around public toilets. The prime aims of C.H.E. were to criticise the police and reduce the age of consent to 16.

DEPRAVED!!

He himself had received a welter of letters from prayer groups, Baptist and evangelical churches warning him of the wave of depravity about to overcome the town. Being an avid Bible reader, the Councillor was convinced that homosexuality was profoundly unchristian. This wave of religious fervour was topped by a cry for higher moral standards and the waving in the air of Tom Driberg's autobiography.

SOCIALIST DEPRAVITY

This - Mr. Sheldon was convinced - epitomised the filth and depravity of homosexuality, but then one should not be surprised, he was after all a socialist (Mr. Sheldon is a Tory independent).

One after another, councillors from both sides of the chamber rose to defend not only the conference, but also to defend gays from the slur cast on their name by a speech which had little to do with either reason,

tolerance or fact. They replied to Sheldon's specific charges. When he said that supporting C.H.E. implied a criticism of police behaviour in regard to gays, one councillor suggested that the police were less than sympathetic. When he claimed a danger to youth, another councillor pointed out that most offences seem to come from heterosexuals. When he quoted support from certain evangelical christian groups, councillors said they were being less than christian. Coun. Sheldon had challenged councillors to take their views to the public and each one who spoke stated that s/he certainly would.

bigotry loses out

The ill-conceived motion was overwhelmingly defeated - 57 votes to 9. What was most surprising to myself and other gays in the public gallery was not that the motion was defeated. but that those who spoke showed an increased awareness both of the oppression of gays and the fallacies which bolster prejudice. In this case bigotry lost out. Councillor Sheldon had little to say and simply re-iterated his original statement. The good guys won.

Certainly this is not just a one. off issue for Coun. Sheldon, he seems more interested than most in the concerns of homosexuals. Recently he attacked the Resource Centre for being used for a lesbian meeting and said he would oppose their grant application. The Resource Centre is open to use by a whole range of minority and community organisations but, again, it was the gay issue which roused Cllr. Sheldon. His position appears to be one of "defender of public morality", but fails to take account of the fact that the gay community is part of the public. His opinions tend to divide the community, emphasising our differences (indeed exagerating them) rather than our similarities. Setting different sections of the community against one another is hardly admirable and inevitably leads to a feeling of exclusion. When more people feel outside of the community than inside, then that society becomes dangerously weak.

An anti-semitic leaflet has been distributed around pubs in Brighton and Portslade with a strange twist to it. Stamped over the leaflet is a phone contact number for a supposedly 'Gays against Israel' group. In fact there is no such

group and the number is that of a member of the Anti-Fascist Committee who is neither anti-semitic nor gay. Members of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality suspect t at the leaf-'let is a poor attempt to cause a

division between gays and jews within the anti-fascist movement. It won't work. Gays and jews died together in the gas-chambers and are both persecuted minorities here and in other parts of the world. We have every reason to defend each other's rights to choose our own way of life. Everyone is different in some way and we ought to respect those differences, not expect everyone to be. the same.

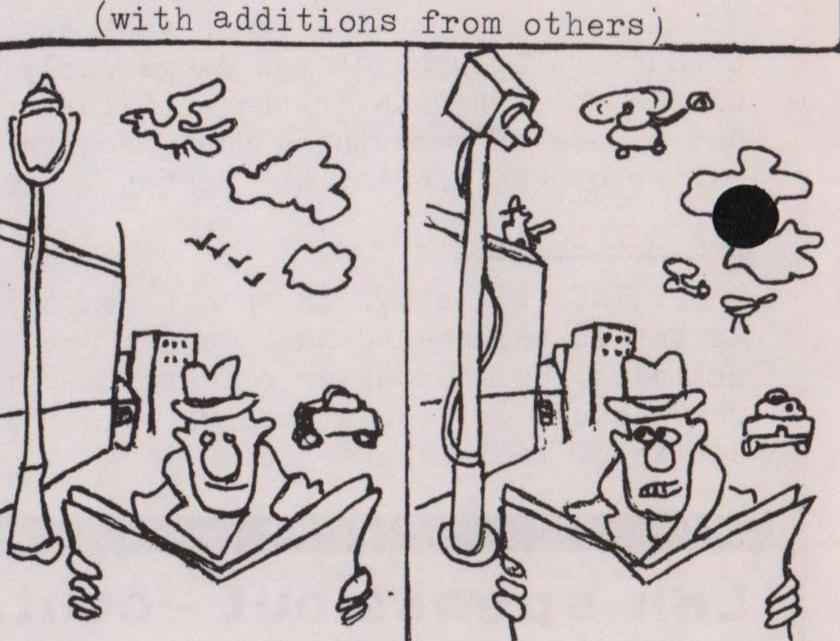
Gays against Israel' Hoax

PUBLIC HUMANE

As a gay person, I am bemused by the hostility shown by a few people towards gays and wonder what grave crime I have committed to bring on such wrath. Fortunately, I believe this is a sad and sorry attitude of very few people and from my own experience Cllr. Sheldon does not speak for the public. They are more aware, more tolerant, more human than he suggests and want little to do with his ideas.

Finally, it seems Cllr. Sheldon has agreed to meet with C.H.E. to discuss the conference. What a pity he didn't do that before proposing his ill-fated motion.

Brian Kennedy,



seven (or seventy) mistakes have been deliberet dy introduced into the right hand drawing. How many can you spot ? what can we do doout them ?



Got the Paranoia Blues? Well cheve on this one. A friend in the local telephone exchange has informed us of the recent arrival of 60 extra engineers. Supposedly they are there to deal with a large breakdown, but our friend could not trace any sign of it. Worried? Well another friend phoned up somebody at one of the ABC contact addresses, and without the phone ringing at all, could hear everything in the house within earshot of the phone. Maybe I'll cancel that extension for the kitchen!

What a good lead-in for a plug for the ABC meeting. In case you've forgotten, ABC are Crispin Aubrey, John Berry, and Duncan Campbell, (local boy makes good), arrested in February 1977 for offences under the Official Secrets Act.

ABC meeting: Sunday September 3rd at 7.00 p.m. at The Stanford Arms, Preston Circus. Speakers: Duncan Campbell, Dennis McShane, (President of the NUJ). In the chair Andy Durr (President of the Brighton Trades Council).

35 HOURS NOW!



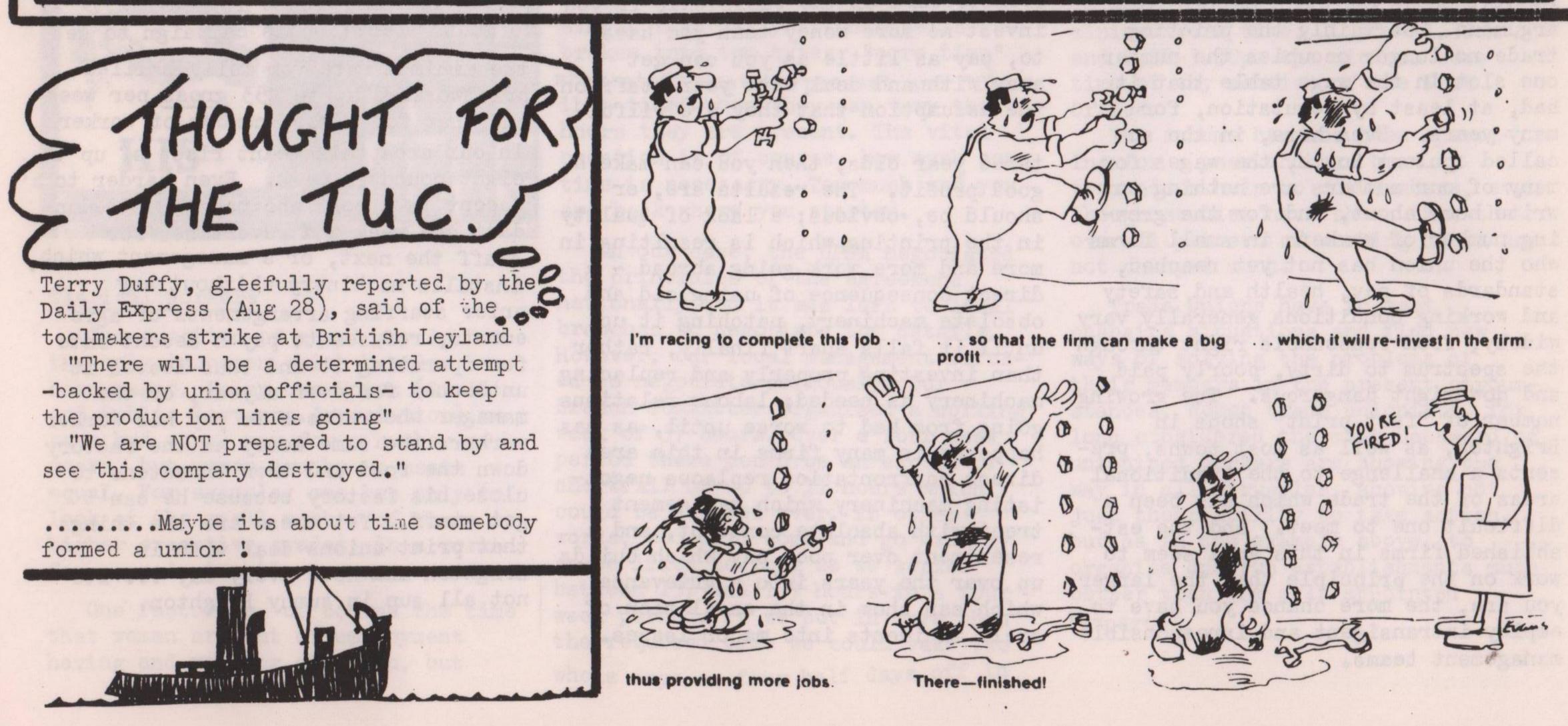
The Post Office Engineering Union is in dispute with the Post Office Atter its claim for a shorter working Week. It is engaged, at the present time, in industrial action in order to support the claim. The Brighton Branch of the POEU would like to take this opportunity to explain cur case for a 35 hour week and answer our opponents.

Our claim for a 35 hour working week has been union policy since the mid-sixties, and has been pursued by the union with the Post Office since 1970. In all this time negotiations have failed to secure any meaningful commitment from the PO to agree to a reduction in working hours. The union has accepted ever increasing changes in technology in the Telecommunications business. By bargaining with the Post Office on a productivity basis, an estimated 70 000 jobs have been saved. As a result of our co-operation the financial savings for the PO have been astronomical. Last year the Post Office made profits of some £367m while prices have remained static since October 1975. We feel that now is the time to press for a shorter working week. New technology is eliminating jobs at an ever increasing rate, and in the Post Office telecommunications industry, the rate of introduction of new technology is more rapid than in almost any other industry.

The CBI claims that a 35 hour week would increase the rate of inflation and cause the loss of jobs. Such claims are to be expected from the CBI but when analysed are found to be without foundation. The introduction of modern technology is in fact reducing labour costs in relation to output - hence the escalating profits of recent years. The CBI conveniently ignores the cost of unemployment, which costs the country for every unemployed person, £6 OCO ayear in benefits, lost tax and lost production. The present level of unemployment is costing the nation £9 000 million a year - more than the total government bill for education, more than the cost for health, and twice as much as the bill for housing. As was to be expected, the CBI can only see modern technology as a means of reducing labour costs and increasing profits. Such organisations will do all they can to deny working people

the benefits modern technology is

tince this article was written, Lord McCarthy's report has offered a 372 hour week. However, on going to press, it is by no means certain that the rank and file will accept less than a 35 hour week, although industrial action has been called off.



capable of giving them. Since 1975 a 35 hour working week has been the policy of the TUC. This policy was adopted so as to preserve and create jobs, and also to ensure that working people would gain socially from modern technology. In April 1977 the European TUC adopted the 35 hour policy to improve social and working conditions and to fight unemployment.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which is used as a reasonably accurate barometer, forecasts unemployment reaching as high as 5 million by the end of the next decade, and reaching up to 8 million by the turn of the century. Other reliable economic institutions also make similar predictions. A 35 hour week would create approximately 750 COO jobs, which would halve the present official level of unemployment. As far as the POEU is directly concerned, a 35 hour week is required to preserve jobs and to ensure a social return o on new technology. If we fail to win a 35 hour week in the Post Office, then the prospects for other people in other industries will be bleak indeed. But more seriously, it will condemn more of our young people to permanent unemployment and in this sense the social cost of failure could not be estimated. Therefore, our battle is not ours alone, it is the battle of every responsible citizen in the British Isles, and is why we ask you for your support. Ian Nichells, Post Office Engineering Union.



As we hope many TUC delgates will read this issue of Brighton Voice we thought it a good idea to explain a bit of background to our local Bus Service.

Previous to the Brighton Area Transport Service Agreement (BATS) the three companies worked as separate bodies, the Brighton, Hove and District as part of the Thomas Tilling Group being the biggest operator as far as the town service was concerned. Since the BATS agreement (1st January 1961), the three companies have worked together with a common timetable and agreed fares. With the formation of the National Bus Company

in January 1958 the Brighton Hove and District came under the management of Southdown Motor Services but the BATS agreement is still in operation. So Brighton Corporation runs 20% and 79% is run by Southdown.

The bus industry in Brighton

Corporation busmen belong to the GMWU and the Southdown busmen belong to the TGWU. There is close liason within the TGWU branches but very little liason between the GMWU branch of local busmen and the TGWU branch, an obvious weak link which prevents an absolute united approach. However, they are all buspersons and they all face similar problems. This is becoming obvious to a number of rank and file buspersons as conditions become more difficult.

This leads us nicely into an introduction to the Save Our Services Committee. This is a committee separate from the branch committee but working within 1/402 and other branches to improve the bus services and fight against cuts.

Both the SOS Committee and the local Southdown union branch are looking closely at One Person Bus Operation. They are particularly concerned about the possible effects one the health of one person operators. They know there is an increase in minor accidents, but the effect on health is a bit more difficult to prove. However, try watching the driver, and the tension involved and it will not leave much to the imagination. How many wi will get their deserved rest at 65?



Of all the trades represented on Trades Council, few have the reputation that printing has; good money, good holidays etc. How deserved that reputation is can be a matter for argument. Certainly the printing trade no longer occupies the number one slot in the wage table that it had, at least by reputation, for many years. Even here, in the socalled opulent South, the wages for many of our members are nothing to write home about, and for the growing number of workers in small firms who the union has not yet reached, standards of pay, health and safety and working conditions generally vary widely, from reasonable right through. the spectrum to dirty, poorly paid and downright dangerous. The growing number of "fast print" shops in Brighton, as well as most towns, presents a challenge to the traditional areas of the trade which has been a difficult one to meet. And the established firms in this area seem to work on the principle that the larger. you are, the more chance you have to employ intransigent and irresponsible management teams.

Far from setting an example of good productivity, progressive labour relations, and realistic wages, many of Brightons bigger printing firms seem to work on the basis that if you invest no more money than you have to, pay as little as you can get away with and deal with your staff on the assumption that they are wilful

It is hard to accept, perhaps, that the National Graphical Association recently found it necessary to mount a full scale campaign to get the minimum rate for fully skilled printworkers up to £53 gross per week and that for a good number of workers in our area this meant rises of up to three year olds, then you can make a eight pounds a week. Even harder to a' good profit. The results are, or accept is a boss who makes men redunshould be, obvious; a lack of quality dant one week and advertises for in the printing which is resulting in staff the next, or a management which more and more work going abroad - a installs machinery whithout any direct consequence of using old and prior staffing arrangements or agreobsolete machinery, patching it up ements, refuses to pay a decent rate until it falls apart finally, rather for operating it and thus leaves it than investing properly and replacing untouched for over a year, or the machinery as needed; labour relations manager who refuses to pay his worker going from bad to worse until, as has workers the same money as the factory happened in many firms in this area down the road and then threatens to direct confrontation replaces negotclose his factory because he can't iating machinery which management get staff. Yet these are the things treat with absolute contempt, and a that print unions deal with in resentment over poor pay which builds Brighton and Hove every day ... its up over the years into a grievance not all sun in sunny Brighton. which can show in the escalation of small incidents into major issues.

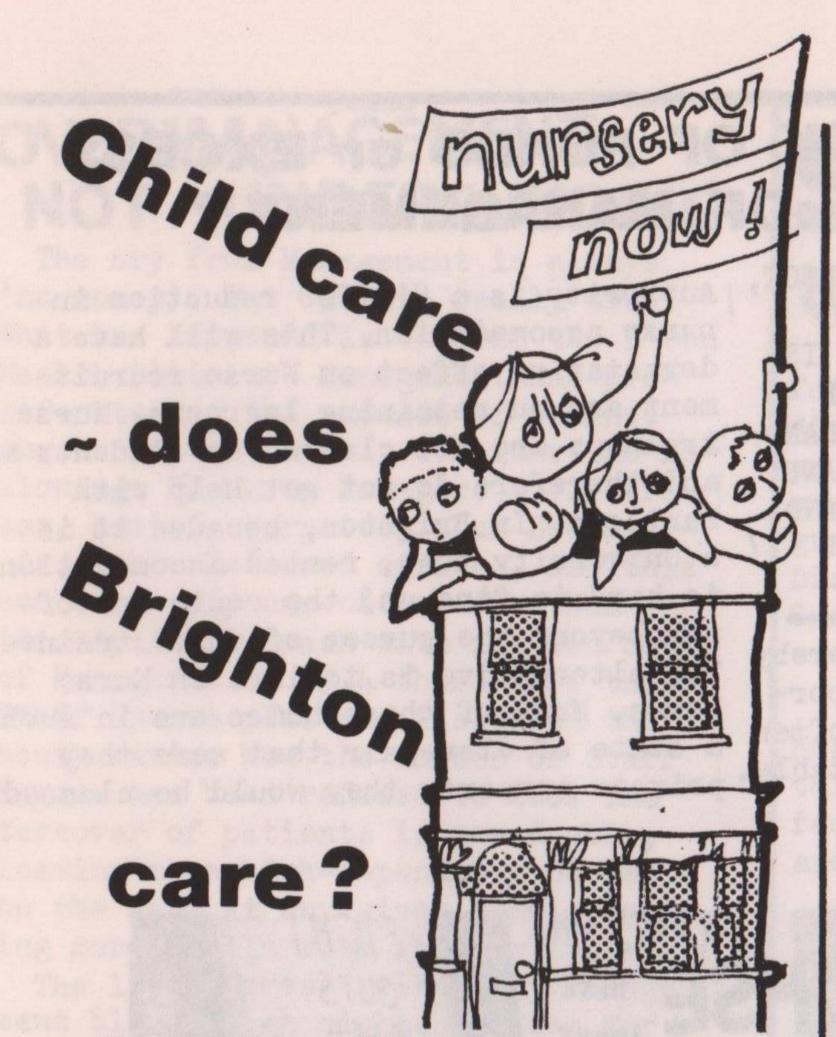
As regards traffic conditions, so much has been said. The Evening Argus agrees something must be done. to improve conditions. Bus Management agrees. The TGWU and GMWJ agrees. Councillors of all colours say they agree. With all this agreement (busmen have been arguing the case for the last 20 years) when is something substantial going to be done to ease the traffic problem? Certainly unrestricted One Person Bus Operation is not the answer. In fact it could be argued that it could make a bad situation bloody unbearable. The busmen are correct to make a stand on this issue; it could literally mean a matter of life or death in the long run.

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Free Travel Now!

In a short article it is impossible to go into all the economic arguments as to whether we can afford to give to our Senior Citizens in East and West Sussex. Our elderly folk are not all retired businessmen Many of our senior citizens have given a lifetime of hard work to the County and the Country. We treat our old folk very badly, and all of us will grow old one day. We say to the East and West Sussex County Councils -FREE TRAVEL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS NOW OR THE SHAME OF MAKING THEM PAY.

We hope you have read our article and that you will support us in our fight for a better bus service.



The Brighton TUC has long been concerned over childcare provision in this area. A long succession of ory Councils at County and Town level has led to a situation which leaves many parents woefully short of care and educational facilities for their young children. This has been complicated further by the education cuts which East Sussex have attempted to use an excuse for massive reductions in an already grossly unsatisfactory system.

Therefore Brighton TUC has recently been pleased to see and to adopt the report of the TUC Under Fives Working Party. With proposals for a comprehen- Nationally the figure runs into sive, unified childcare system under a simple responsible authority, this document could be most significant in an area where care and education of the majority of under fives is either non-existent or left in the hands of individuals with little or no facilities and even less training.

With thousands of under fives in righton, and a growing need for both perents to work; with hundreds of single parent families unable, because of lack of facilities to support themselves; with many hundred of skilled women workers unable to return to jobs, Brighton Council should have wide ranging facilities for childcare in each area of the town. Instead a handful of schools run classes for the under fives. Pitifully few day nurseries exist, and even these have an uncertain future should further cuts be implemented.

Trades Council demands that the Council we elect should face up to its responsibilities to the people of Brighton and Hove and supply facilities for our children which would benefit both the children's education and welfare, and the community as a whole. In a town which spends millions on marinas and conference centres we have a right to expect a decent education and care system for our kids.



the Trade Union movement?

Are many young people organized in The second is low pay - even if you are lucky enough to get a job with reasonable prospects (as I was after months of washing up in a cafe) the millions, locally into quite a few pay may well be very low. In my thousand. This is the first reason why industry for example, clerical staff the Trades Union Council is relevant are paid according to the archaic Civil service increment system. to young people. Our job is to represent and safeguard the interests There are two scales, junior and main and it can take someone eight years to of these young people. An indication reach maximum. This severely discrimthat this job is being tackled is the inates against young people in terms fact that perhaps 40% of TUC delegates of pay. It means that young people can are under 25. A couple of years ago be employed on the cheap, rather than young people only made up a small properly trained staff. This happens minority. in private industry, of course. There This change has occurred partly because of the need over the past few are plenty of stories of young people being taken on as 'trainees'on a pittyears to fight against cuts in living ance because they are 'learning'. Having finished their training they steadily increasing rate of unemployare sacked and new 'learners'employed This sort of thing can only be stopped by strong Trade Unions and a closed shop so that the Union can have control over who is hired and who is fired.

standards, public services and the ment. In any struggle young people always make the most determined fighters. Consequently young people have seen the need to become active in their Unions and in the TUC and have the energy and enthusiasm to do the jobs needed.

Two obvious problems face young We must never forget that the youth people. is the future of the Trade Union move-The first is unemployment - almost ment. The knowledge and experience half the registered unemployed are that young trade unionists can gain under 26. Job opportunities in this from the TUC will stand them in good area are decreasing, especially for stead for the struggles that undoubtapprenticeships to become skilled. For edly lie before them, to solve the many young people the only alternative problems facing working class people. to indefinite unemployment is unskilled badly paid work in one of the non-Clive Walder. union sweatshops, or work for a (CPSA Brighton pittance in the catering or tourist Telephone Area) trade. To help people in this trap the unionization of such places must be a Iboyo Importi or anto hor priority for the TJC.

YOUTH AND THE UNIONS

THERE IS A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED NURSES IN THE BRIGHTON HEALTH DISTRICT, AND JUNIOR NURSES ARE BEING DRIVEN AWAY. THE WASTAGE THIS YEAR IS HIGH AND PROODS ILL FOR THE HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA IN THE YEARS TO COME. WHAT IS BEING EXPERIENCED NOW, AND WHAT IS REFLECTED IN THE FALLING STANDARDS OF PATIENTS' CARE, IS BUT THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT MAN-AGEMENT HAS PROLIFERATED AT THE EXPENSE OF TRAINED NURSES AT WARD LEVEL, AND THAT THIS MANAGEMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED THOUGHTLESS SCHEMES, BAD PLANNING, AND HAS FAILED TO DEAL WITH BASIC PROBLEMS WHICH ARE BLATANTLY OBVIOUS TO ALL WHO WORK AT GROUND LEVEL.

TRAINING CUTS

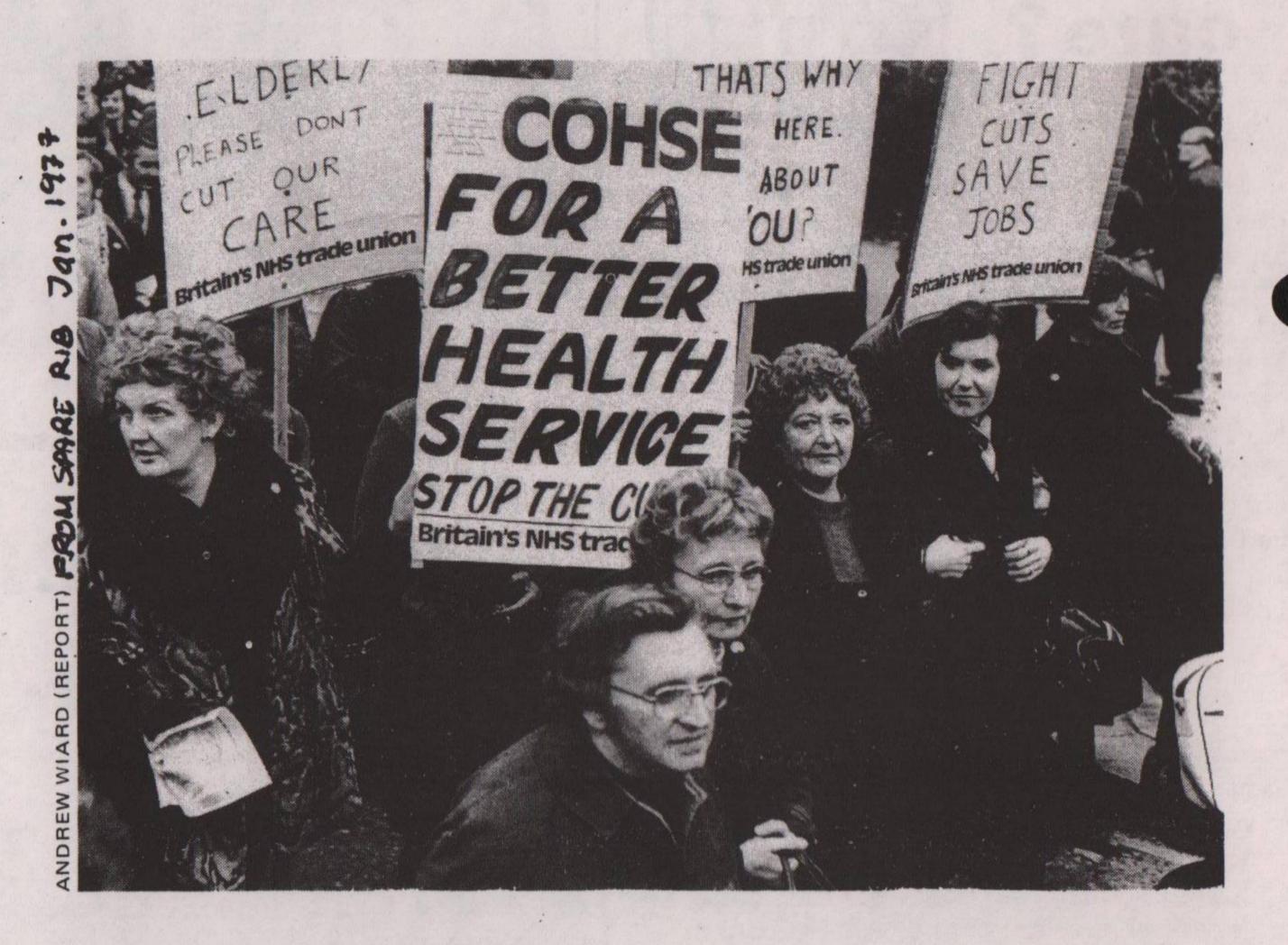
For example, three years ago two training intakes were cancelled at the Brighton School of Nursing, ostensibly because of lack of funds. The true facts were that management had failed to monitor Learner intake and wastage rate, and the number of trainee nurses in the District had risen to 437, exceeding the limit of 350 set by the General Nursing Council. To correct their error Man-

agement took the easiest way out, cancelled the two schools and approx. 60 trainee nurses, with the following January intake reduced in number. At the time of the cancellations, the Trade Unions representing Nurses warned management that the effect of the cuts would be felt most strongly in -1977/8. The warning has now become a reality but management refuses to ack nowledge it.

NEW SCHEME FLOPS

At the same time a new training scheme was introduced in the Brighton Health District. Nurse representatives argued that the scheme was impractical but it was the 'baby' of management, and it was implemented as it stood with complete disregard of the valid points put forward for its modification. The outcome in March this year, acute Medical and Surgical wards were being staffed by Learners direct from the Janu ary introductory course, betrained nurses. Why was this? Because the Senior Nurse trainees that would have been availiable from the two can- achieved by establishing a 'waiting celled schools were missing, or they list'. Potential nurse trainees would were withdrawn from the wards to fit in with the new training scheme. In July the problem was even worse. Management had promised to cover training wards with trained nurses at a meeting in March, and to employ Agency Nurses if necessary, but this promise was not kept. Their excuse was that there were no Agency nurses availiable, but enquiries brought to light an appalling situation. There were and are trained Nurses availiable. but some Nurses are 'blacklisted' by certain Nurse Managers. Some of these nurses were trained in the Brighton Health District and are known to some nurse reps. as good all-round nurses, yet not only are these Nurses being refused Agency work within the hospitals but they are also being refused full-time employment. Management of course deny this, but the nurses speak for themselves and register as unemployed!

Authority is a £10,000 reduction in nurse accomodation. This will have a devastating effect on Nurse recruitment and on retaining learners. Nurse trainees are not classed as students a and therefore do not get help with rent, etc. In Brighton, because it is a University town, rented accomodation is hard to find and the rents are of ten beyond the purses of nurse trainees. The outcome of the situation whereby The alternative is to live in Nurse very junior nurses are left unsupporhomes. Many of these homes are in such ted by senior staff in a new and often a state of disrepair that were they frightening environment, is inevitable. private property they would be classed They will and are leaving.



'PRESTIGE SYMBOL' as unfit for human habitation, and recent incidents include Cockroach in-In 1975 yet another scheme was dreamt festation, ceilings falling down ... up by the then Director of Nurse Educa The Trade Unions were able to get one tion, and if it was not so sad it would section condemned last year and a ing supervised by a skeleton staff of be laughable. The idea was to create a constantly urging Management to re-'prestige symbol' for the Brighton pair other Residences. School of Nursing and this was to be **OUT OF TOUCH** be told that places at the School were in great demand and that they There are many nurses in the Brighton would have to wait one to two years Health District who would love to rebefore commencing their training. turn to nursing, and indeed many of Nurse reps argued that the scheme-would them do so. The problem is keeping 'backfire', and it did. Young people them once they return. It is the easinowadays are not prepared to wait for est thing in the world for a trained anything they want badly, and those nurse to become 'out of touch'. New that were told to wait promptly applied technology, new proceedures, new equipand were accepted at other training ment make the hospital ward a frightschools. Now the word has got round ening place for a nurse who may not that there is a waiting list for entry. have been inside a hospital for severto training to Brighton and applicants al years. They may be promised a 'reare not coming forward as they should. orientation course', but this materia-

lises only after a few months by **NURSES HOMELESS** which time the nurse has 'updated herself' or has resigned. Management fail Trainee nurses are also leaving beto acknowledge the need for 'updating' cause of the difficulty they experience or they attempt to carry out 'upin obtaining accomodation. In past years dating' from their own ranks, which it was accepted that trainee nurses can have devastating results, as so lived in accomodation provided by the many of our Nurse Managers are out of hospital. One of the most recent cuts touch, not only with nursing practice, accepted by the East Sussex Area Health but with reality itself. CONTINVED

⁸NURSE SHORTAGE; LACK OF FUNDS or EXCESS **OF MANAGEMENT ?**

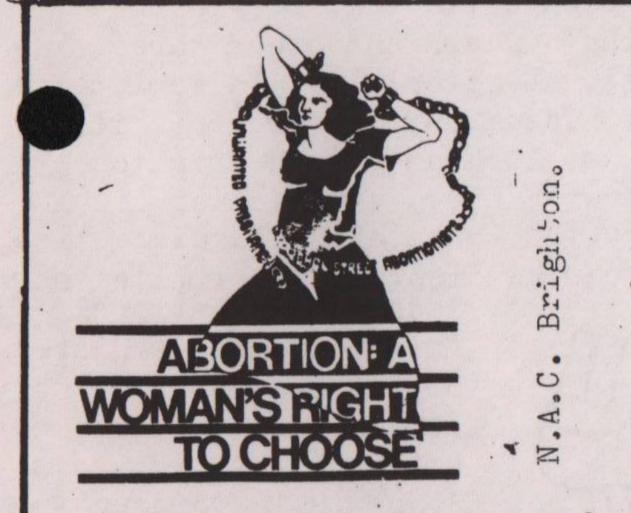
OVERMANAGEMENT UNDERFUNDING NOT

The cry from Management is always 'no money'. But is this really true? What has happened is that in the B'ton Health District Management has proliferated at the expense of trained nurses at ward level. Consider the following. 72 Nurse Managers = 72 offices, heated, carpeted, plus Secretar-

ies, who also need offices, and this concerns only one out of five NHS 'disciplines', each with its own bevy of Managers. In 1974 there were three Staff Nurses plus one Sister on the acute wards. Now the number of Staff Nurses has been reduced to two. The turnover of patients is now double, leaving more high-dependency patients on the ward at any given time, requiring more skills from the nursing staff.

The latest press release by Management blames high sickness rates for the shortage of nurses, but this is nonsense. Nurses are off sick, yes, but a very high number of these nurses submitted a medical certificate which reads 'suffering from Nervous exhaustion', brought about by the aprallingly heavy work loads and responsibilities that should have been anticipated by management long ago, for surely one of the supposed functions of Management in any sphere is to anticipate work loads and manpower requirements. This, management has failed dismally to do.

The Sussex Movement Against Cuts in. the Health Service (SMACHS) has recently started a petition calling for more funds for the Brighton Health District. The people of Brighton must be sure that any money forthcoming will be spent for the improvement of . Health Services and not on creating and/or maintaining more Managerial posts.



Far from taking a summer break, the National Abortion Campaign (NAC) is now concentrating its efforts to ·develop closer links with the labour movement. The Brighton branch of NAC is appealing to trades unionists in Sussex for support for a trades union delegate conference on "Abortion and the Unions". This is to be held in London at Caxton Hall on November 25th. The theme for the conference is to be the recent TUC and Labour Party resolutions on abortion, and delegates will be asked to discuss how to develop the campaign to implement these policies.

Already major trades unions are officially sponsering the conference



In every area of the country the full effects of cuts in public spending are now being felt. Two years ago few people took these cuts seriously, but now a new awareness is growing. In the Brighton Health District, along with East and West Sussex, these cuts are now affecting every part of our Health Service.

Cuts take many forms. In the Health Service they mean that hospitals, nursing homes and community facilities are shut, staffing levels are reduced, equipment not replaced



and waiting lists lengthened. The experience of many health workers and the users of the N.H.S. is that the burden of these cuts can no longer be tolerated. Staff cannot treat patients properly and their own health and working conditions suffer. Patients cannot get the standard of treatment needed. And it is often the poorly financed community services and women at home who must carry the burden of caring for the sick because of inadequate services.

at a national level. Brighton NAC is hoping for an equally good response locally. The conference is to be chaired by Marie Patterson.

In Brighton the campaign has already been strengthened by support it has received from local labour movement organisations - including the Brighton and Hove District Trades Union Council - in its call for NHS day-care abortion facilities in the Brighton area. It is now hoped that local trades union branches will support the conference in November and send delegates to it.

As a representative of the Bright ton branch of NAC put it: "We think this is a very important question for trades unionists. It's not just for women, although it affects them more directly. But without the active supprt of the trades union movement for our campaign - both locally, for NHS day-care abortion facilities - and nationally, to counter further attacks on the existing legislation on abortion our campaign would be severely weakened."

SUSSEX MOVEMENT AGAINST CUTS IN THE HEALD'H SERVICE

Over the past two years there has been a swell of resistance among health service workers and community groups to these cuts. It was out of this resistance that S.M.A.C.H.S. (Sussex Movement Against Cuts in the Health Service) was formed. However, many struggles against cuts are isolated and even within an area one campaign may win at the expense of cutbacks elsewhere. People facing cuts have often little experience of organizing, and we need to pool our energy and resources in order to strengthen the struggles.

AIMS

1) To provide practical help through bringing health workers, trade unionists and :others willing to fight the cuts together. To encourage speakers to publisize their case, and to document and analyse the effects of the cuts.

2) To provide a forum through our meetings and bulletins to develop our experience and understanding of struggles to counteract our fear and isolation; and to develop a broadbased resistance to cuts. We campaign through the Trade Union and Labour movement and the rest of the community for active and united. opposition to all cuts. 3) The Health Service must be extend extended, not merely defended. We fight for better health care, preventive medicine, Health and Safety at Work and women's health care. We want to discuss the kind of Health Service we need, with plans for how it should be democratically controlled by those who use it and by those who work in it. 4) To be initially concerned with

fighting cuts in the Health Service, but to develop and broaden the knowledge of all cuts, and to understand the economic interrelations of all cuts.

POLICY

The policy of S.M.A.C.H.S. is determined by our fortnightly meetings. We are especially seeking to involve those active against the cuts, and Trade Union organizations, Trades Councils, community associations and women's groups who wish to oppose the cuts.

AFFILIATION

Affiliation fee is £1 pa. We have affiliations from Brighton Trades Council and Ouse Valley Trades Council. We would welcome many more affiliations. Donations also gratefully received.

Contact address: 132 Ladysmith Ra Brighton. Tel: 602900

BRIGHTON'S GRUNWICK

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On walls and derelict buildings in Brighton you can still see huge painted slogans, "C.B.R. - 30th". for trade unionisation of a tiny sweatshop in Brighton which deserved to be ranked with todays struggles of the Grunwick and Garners workers.

In 1967 CBR Jersey Mills was a small Knitwear firm, owned and managed by one Clive Roffe and his mother, with all the sophistication that one expects from small-scale print enterprise. An example: one school-leaver who had done O-level art was told, "We've got just the job for an artistic person". It turned out to be mixing paint! A compulsory six day, 72 hour week was worked with wages of 30p an hour (half the national rate in a notoriously badly paid industry).

In the spring of 1967, eighteen of the workers joined the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers. For this they were immediately sacked (this was before such sacking was made illegal).

The workers asked for support from the local Trades Council, the Labour Party and the Student body. They got a mixed response. On the one hand the University Students

On the other hand, the Union based in Leicester was prepared to try to negotiate with the Roffes, but was very dilatory in trying to get. support from other factories for the locked-out workers and in getting supplies to the factory blacked.

The picketing and action continued These slogans commemorate a struggle for nine months, with meetings, rallies and marches to the factory. The "30th" slogan was part of the publicity campaign for one such rally with the aim (as at Grunwicks) of blocking off the entrance to the factory to stop scab workers getting in. In the event the leadership of the rally (from the Trades Council) decided that such a "direct confrontation" would have led to a clash with the police, which they thought would be a bad idea. Violence on the picket lines was common and there is no doubt that that the police carried out a considerable surveillance programme on those involved in organ- material such as minute books, account ising the campaign.

> Finally, after nine months of day and contains items from 70 picketing, when it was obvious that different organisations of the Labour the strike would not spread, nor could supplies be cut off, the Union material is lodged in the Brighton negotiated a "face saving" agreement Reference Library, whose help in with management. The Union found this project has been invaluable. The jobs for the remaining locked out Brighton Polytechnic History Workshop workers and gave them a cash payment has scrted Roffe stated that he would not in and arranged future sack anyone who had the temthe material erity to join a union. The then and in conleaders of the Trades Council claimjunction with ed this as a partial victory. In the Trades fact no union was ever established Council will in CBR. in the new

> year be This was not a big dispute. The publishing a source list of the demonstrations organised never topped contents of the collection, plus 200 or so people, mostly students. photographs of Brighton Trade Union banners and other items which have also been collected. It was hoped The vast majority of that the banners and other three the local union movedimensional material would go into ment did not really local museum but, at present, it get involved, although does not look as though Brighton active members of trade will ever achieve a Museum of Local union branches did their History. So that this valuable colle-



best to guarantee that the picket line was always manned throughout the worst winter for years.

Union and the Trades Council gave immediate support, with trade unionists, Labour Party members, Young Socialists and students manning the picket line outside the factory every day, six days a week and collecting cash for the strike fund. Brighton Council to release them a At Sussex University the Conservative Club chairman was unceremoniously dumped in the moat for opposing support for the strikers.

But it demonstrated the basic lessons that still apply to Grunwicks and all other attempts to unionise sweatshops. Without the active backing of the Trade Union Movement both locally and at Head Office, the workers are fighting a losing battle.

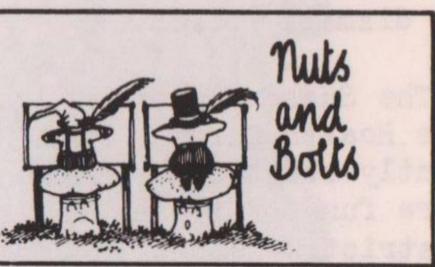
During the early 70s, CBR appeared to have recovered from the losses they made during the period of the strike. They even persuaded piece of land off Hartington Road which had been earmarked for housing and for a workshop for the disabled. But although a large notice-

board on the site describes the glories of the new 'Europa House' to be built there, CBR went bankrupt in 1976. Shareholders of limited liability companies are not responsible for the debts of those companies (a fact used every year by business men to avoid paying telephone bills etc.). So the collapse of CBR did not mean that the Roffe family were reduced to the standard of living of their workers. But the firm's demise brought a wry smile to those who had spent nine months on the picket line outside.

Ray Apps (TC delegate, 1970-75)

Labour History Project.

Since 1973 the Brighton Trade Inion Council has been collecting books, etc. Material so far collected dates back to 1850 up to the prese. Movement in Brighton and Sussex. This



ction can be displayed it will go on J. 17-44

loan to the National Museum of Labour History at Lime House, London and leave Brighton !

Since 1911, various histories have been written covering many different aspects of the Labour Movement in Brighton. These as well as material published by Crabtree Press and Queens Park Books are

invaluable sources to anyone interested in Brighton's Labour history. FOR FURTHER INFO ABOUT THE LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT AND THE LABOUR HIST-ORY PRESS, CONTACT ANDY DURR C/O 235 Ditchling Rd. Bton.

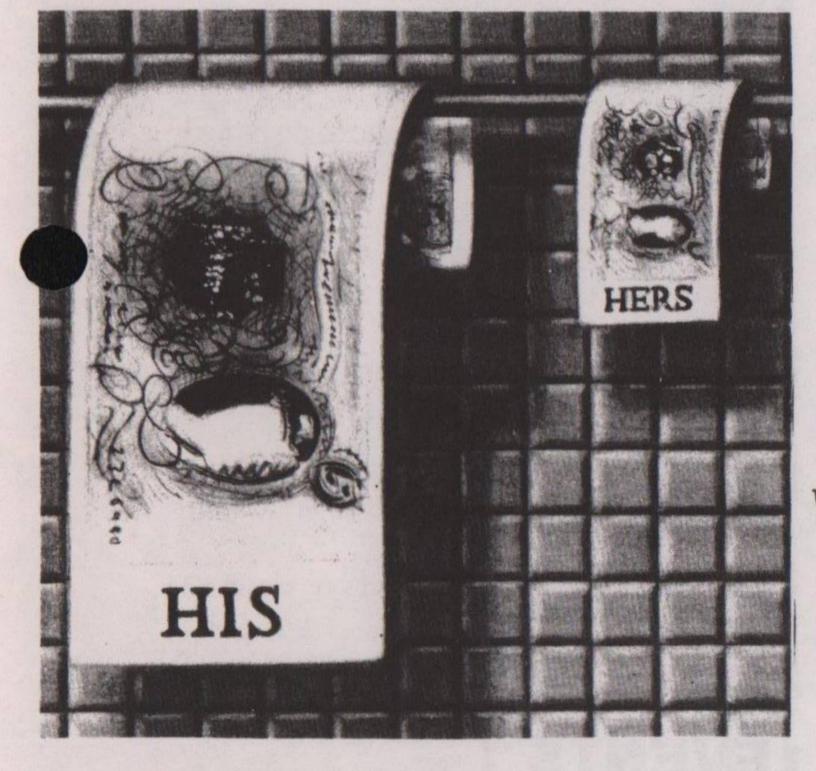
WOMEN TRADES UNIONISTS: The struggle for better working conditions.

Women form the largest section of low paid workers in the country. Most of the jobs that women do at present are extensions of the role of wife and mother such as nursing, social work, cooking, cleaning, teaching, and, of course, secretarial and clerical work. 71% of canteen staff are women; 62% of office and clerical staff are women; on the other hand 5% of skilled production workers and 1% of skilled maintenance workers are women.

The Equal Opportunities Commission has pointed out the areas of life where women are discriminated against: in education, apprenticeships, social security, taxation, in the lack of pre-school and nursery facilities to enable a mother to take a job.

Women and Trade Unions

Most of the difficulties mentioned above cannot simply be changed by legislation. An example is the Equal Pay legislation passed in 1974. The law gave women workers the right to gual pay for work of equal value at not the money! Just as with all other rights gained by working people, it was necessary to take action to get the law enforced. For many reasons, women have tended to be far less prepared to join Trade Unions and take industrial action than have men. In the last few years the situation has changed remarkably with women flooding into Trade Union Unions (100 000 last year) and being prepared to strike if necessary to achieve decent rates of pay and decent working conditions. This change is, in my opinion, by far the most important example of "women's liberation" in the past decade.



Clerical Workers

The question of equal pay is not the only issue on which battles have been waged. In my own Union (Civil and Public Servants Association) we have had equal pay for a number of years, but women are by no means equal. For example, one has only to look at the small number of women in higher executive grades, in a workforce predominantly women.

One factor is, of course the time that women are out of employment having and raising children, but

this is not the only one. Many married women still see their job as secondary to their main job of homemaking, but even those who don't still find massive social pressure telling them that they have the responsibility for seeing that the cooking, cleaning etc. gets done, even where husbands help. A major problem (also just as acute for any single parent or single person) is

the rigid hours of work. These make it impossible to get children safely to school and get to work on time. A working day of 8-4.30 or 8.30-5 is bound to produce a race of 'latchkey kids' with all the worry this means. It is no good 'moralists' trying to drive women back in the home. In the present economic climate the choice tends to be: mother home too late to cook tea or mother home all day with no money to buy tea! A few community based nurseries cater for working families but they are few and hit by cuts in public expenditure.

Flexitime

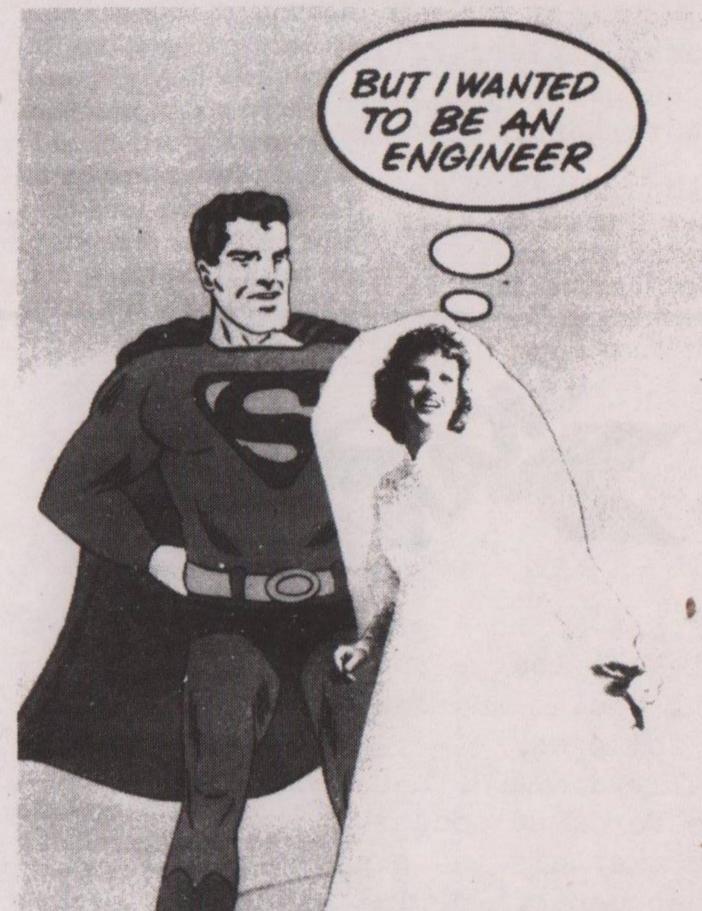
My Union has ameliorated this particular problem by bargaining for more flexible working hours and then taking industrial action to enforce them. The concept of flexitime is simply that daily attendance is broken into two types: "core time" when staff must be present and "flexible time" when they can vary the hours they are present. The vital question is, of course, how much core time is necessary. Too much and you are back where you started.

In our case, the UPSA negotiated the principles of the agreement nationally and it was left to local branches to negotiate the details. However, our local management refused to negotiate seriously. Our Branch Committee organised a working week of 37 hours. Cver a four week period there could be an excess or shortfall of up to 11 hours which could be carried over. In other words, we could come and go exactly as we liked so long as we worked between 137 and 159 hours in a four week period. If we put in more than the required time we could take two whole days or four half days off in

the period (over and above agreed leave).

All the tedious problems of being at home to receive a delivery, see an electrician could be solved. Shopping could be done at the most convenient time. If the sun was shining it was possible to take an extra hour on the beach! There was a great extra feeling of freedom.

The Union successfully ran the scheme for three months. We did not have a closed shop at that time and



non-members were not allowed to take part. Management finally decided to negotiate (they might have started to worry that if the Union could run the flexitime scheme so well, union members might start considering running the rest of the undertaking without 'benefit' of management). After negotiating our members agreed to accept the management scheme with minimal core time, 10.30 - 11.30am and 2.30-3.30pm the minimum core time of any section of the Post Office.

The scheme has now been operating for a year and has been tremendous help to our members, even though studies have shown that the overall pattern of working hours has not changed much.

Trade Unions have to meet changing situations and find new ways of solving the problems of their members in the present circumstances. Women trade unionists, for long considered the most backward of unionised workers are showing the way in all struggles, showing not just their ability to take action, but as in the example above, to organise and run establishments much better than the self appointed 'experts'.

The Brighton Anti-Nukes Group is taking a minibus up to Heysham, Lancashire, on September 15-17 for a demonstration against the proposed AGR (Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor). We have 4-5 spare places and welcome people who would like to come along. The cost will be about £7 and you'll probably need a tent.

About Heysham: there is already one AGR awaiting completion, and work on a second is due to start in 1980. The demo is organised by Half-Life, a local anti-nukes group, and will consist of a picnic on Morecambe pier, followed by a march to the site, culminating in a series of workshops.

About us: we are a small group of people who got together after the Torness occupation in May. We are



S.K.A.N. is a group within the Anti-Nazi League and was set up to fight racism and fascism in schools and colleges.

Locally S.K.A.N. has been in existence for five months and was started with the help and support of Univers ity students. Initially there was an active nucleus of about twenty people, including schoolchildren, students and the young unemployed.

Firstly, a broadsheet was written and printed, explaining our aims and this was distributed outside local schools. This had to be done



with the help of students since any political activity is banned in schools. When several members wanted to hold a meeting at school they were threatened with expulsion. We can do little within the school but individuals have sold badges and stickers and stirred up as much activity as possible, without being "found out".

Outside school S.K.A.N. is more active. We have regular meetings and have produced various leaflets and posters. Discos in the Vault, below the Resources Centre, have also been organized on a regular basis and we have also shown a film there. The Disco is not political, we just play reggae and new wave music, and as there is nowhere else for people in the 13-18 year age group in Brighton it could fill an important gap in facilities here.

As a group, we have discussed topics such as sexism, racism, politics and other issues which are seldom talked about at school. Organization within S.K.A.N. is nonexistent. There are no elected representatives and our approach is very informal. However, this does not appear to be a drawback yet, although the last disco might have been better if we had managed to get the proper equipment together! We exist on very small funds, so we have to organise activities which do not require money.

In the future, we hope to have further discussions, and to run the disco - with more support than nowand perhaps to have local groups playing. We are also going to contact other SKAN groups in London, to share our ideas with them. We want to do something more positive about promoting race relations and fighting prejudices against minority groups such as homosexuals etc.

SKAN should continue as a group long after the elections, perhaps under a different name, because we are not only fighting neo-Nazism, but against the society which encourages the growth of such organisations. In a country where there are 1.5 million unemployed - and those who do work have boring, uncreative jobs - and where millions live in slums, fascism can breed strongly, using coloured people as scapegoats.

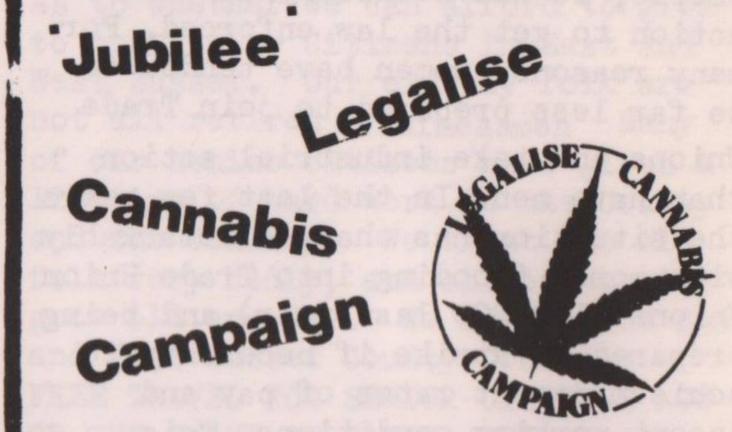
If you would like to join SKAN, membership is 20p, payable to the



all more or less committed to nonviolent direct action against nuclear power, and since May we have been discussing the issues around opposition to nuclear power and practicing some forms of nonviolent action. We have also been up to the 'Stop URENCO' demo at Capenhurst, near Chester. We see a two-fold purpose to the group - to give each other support at demos and occupations, and to campaign in Brighton against nukes.

We now feel we would like to expand the group from its present 6 members to about 10, and hope that people wanting to join the group will come with us to Heysham (this doesn't mean you have to come to Heysham to join the group).

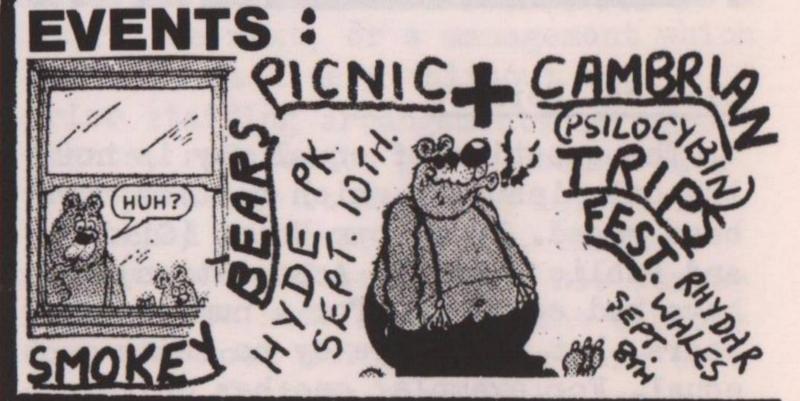
If you would like to come to Heysham or join the group, we're meetin meeting on Tuesday, Sept 5,7.00pm at 8 Windlesham Road. If you can't make that, contact: Richard Hull, 66 Compton Road.



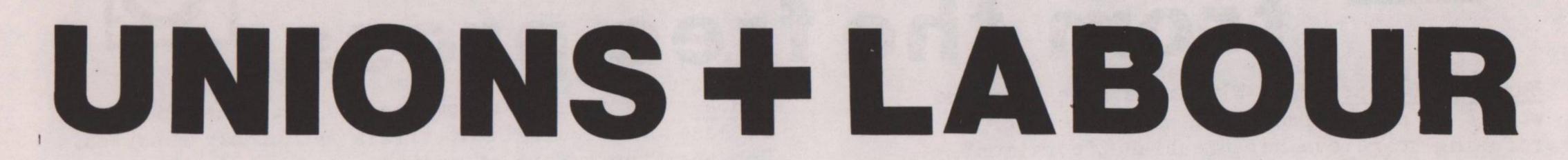
The Legalise Cannabis Campaign is celebrating'the Golden Jubilee of cannabis prohibition with the publication of a new pamphlet: "The Cannabis Cover-up". The Campaign also plans a series of benefit concerts and a special jubilee badge to 'commemorate' this event. A press conference will be held on the 27th. September with leading sponsers of the Campaign available for interview and comment. Review copies of the pamphlet will be available from the address below from the 21st. September.

Legalise Cannabis Campaign. 29 Old Bond St. London W1X 3AB

for further information contact Megan Doolittle, Anne Stanesby, Andy Cornwell. on 289-3881, 388-6065, 485-3952.



Brighton Anti-Nazi League. This also gives you full membership of the ANL. If you have any offers of help or advice to give us, please write to: SKAN, c/o Resources Centre, North Rd, Brighton. (Enclose a SAE, because we have not got stamps) This article from Geoff Jones, the TUC delegate to Brighton Council Labour Group, is a call for unity between trades unionists and the Labour Party. We are printing it as a contribution to the debate on whether the Labour Party (or indeed the present TUC leadership) represents the best interests of trade unionists fighting at grass roots. We have also been asked to point out that it does not represent Brighton Trades Union Council policy.



Nationally and historically there are the closest links between the Trades Unions and the Labour Party. Trades Unionists have always seen the Labour Party as the political wing of the working class movement, even if some right wing labour politicians have tried to deny that fact. The recent formation of the Trade Union Committee for a Labour Victory in the next General Election is the stest example; the screams of Tory bliticians demonstrate their fear of the strength of the united Labour movement. From the highest level to the lowest it is obvious to any Trade Unionist that the election of Maggy Thatcher would be a disaster. However much we believe that the policies of the Labour Government are completely wrong, the leaders of such a government and its policies are ultimately answerable to the Trade Union movement and the 7 million members affiliated to the Labour Party.

What does this mean to our local Trades Union Council and Labour Party? In the past there have been many delegates (not by any means all from the right of the political spectrum) who have maintained that the Trades Council should be 'above' politics, and that the interests of Trade Unionists in the area could be

tter served by standing aloof from political struggle and working with the powers that be, in Brighton almost always Tory. In the past these Brothers can point to some successes from this approach. The major problem facing us in the Brighton Area is, and has been for 40 years, the providing of industry and jobs. In the '50s a bipartisan effort with the TUC, local industrialists and politicians did bring some industry to the area. But what is the situation today? To start with, we have seen the Tory-dominated East Sussex County Council quite consciously plan for no further industrial development in this area. They think it would be 'nicer' for Brighton to become a tourist and retirement area! And, of course from the point of view of the landed gentry, small businessmen, property developers, and estate agents who comprise the local Tory leadership, that perspective is by far the best. No crocodile tears from local Tory MPs will change that brute economic fact. The fight for new industry locally must be a fight against the

Tories, which must mean the effort to oust them and replace them with Labour Party Councillors and MPs who should represent the views of Trade Unionists and can be replaced if they do not.

But things are not even that simple. We can call for new factories in Brighton to alleviate our unemployment problem; we can demand better housing and health facilities. We know they are all needed. But a visiting Brother or Sister from Sunderland, Glasgow or Ebbw Vale might well be forgiven for thinking we were in paradise compared with the prospect that faces them. The problems are national, if not international, and can only be solved by national action. To coin a phrase, our average branch member may not be interested in politics but politics is certainly interested in them.



What consequences does this have for our Trades Union Council? Probably a majority of TUC delegates are Labour Party members; of the remainder, the large majority see the importance of close links

between the industrial and political wing of the movement. At times of crisis, not just at General Election time, but when, for example, a factory or hospital is threatened with closure, the two wings should (and usually do) work together in harmony. But such harmony only comes from continuous liason in times of relative peace. At the present time unlike at some periods in the past, we have such liason. The TUC not only has an official delegate involved in the discussion of policy by the Labour Group on Brighton Council, but also has several prominent Trade Unionists as Labour councillors. Historically the official link between the wings of the movement was the Council of Labour. In the '60s it acted in a united way on such issues as the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia and the strike at CBR Jersey Mills. It fell apart as a result of personal rancour and crude cold-war witchhunting. Fortunately it has now been set up once again, only in a small way to start with, but hopefully to become a real forum for the industrial and political wings of the working class.

Finally, Trade Unions will always have their role and the TUC will always have its role as the independent voice of working people, dealing with the day to day problems that confront us. But, especially in a period of economic crises such as we are living through, political action is necessary. That political action cannot come via some 'pure' organisation set up by a few individuals in a back room. It can only come via the body set up and financed by working people to do the job - the Labour Party. If the Party is not doing the job you want, don't stand about moaning; get stuck in and make sure it does!



Burnley, Lancs: Mary Winter is a lesbian who worked as a busdriver; she was sacked for refusing to remove her "Lesbian Liberation" badge. Her TGWU branch moved from advising her to "take off the badge and don't risk your job" to the secretary saying:" we mustn't offend the public" and "well it is an obscene word" (?). An appeal is in progress, but help and publicity is required. Any offers, etc. to 23, Mason Street, Colne, Lancs. (Big Flame).

14

Coventry: A black bus driver was attacked by four whites while operating a late-night service. The police duly arrived and arrested the driver! He was kept in custody overnight and then released without being charged. His union branch called a one-day strike but no explanation or apology has been received. (Big Flame)

U.K.: Arms exports have risen from £128 million in 1965-6 to well over £1000 million in 1977, making Britain the fourth largest arms exporter in the world - after the USA, USSR and France. British weapons are sold to 30 Third World and 10 industrial countries. (Leeds Other Paper)

Manchester: John Illet expected to be Tory candidate in a Council by-election last Nov., but when someone else was chosen he revealed his true colours by backing the National Front. When selections were made for the following election he was adopted as a Tory - and the NF withdrew their candidate. (Manchester City Enquirer)

OD D

About 900,000 people fail to claim the Supplementary Benefits which they are entitled to; a total of over £300 million is lost every year according to the DHSS, which estimates that 600,000 pensioners, 130,000 unemployed and 40,000 one-parent families are losing out.

A recent Gallup Poll found that 53% of English people wanted to withdraw the troops from Northern Ireland. Strangely enough, this was totally ignored by the British Press, TV etc ..

Vegetarianism may be morally right, but can it make money? Lord Vestey owns 1,600 Dewhurst butcher shops, cattle farms, 4,500 acres in Gloucestershire, etc. etc. He also runs two polo teams (estimated cost £50,000 per year) and has a bank balance of £50 million: think again carnivores!

This Christmas will see a super-duper laser light show in London's West End - the annual effort to part us with our money. However this show will cost a quarter of a million pounds: what an obscenity in a supposedly caring society where some are without even the basic necessities.





U.S.A.: The veto of a computer sale to the USSR, because of the dissident trials was widely reported. However, the export of another computer, to be used to increase the efficiency of the Brazilian police - not notable for their interest in human rights - is to go through, on the grounds that this will "improve the dialogue with Brasilia".

Aberdeen: An enquiry into the death of a crane operator on an offshore rig found that the crane had collapsed because it was grossly overloaded lifting three times its maximum approved weight. The company involved (Santa Fe International Services) said that a largercrane was out of action due to 'normal wear and tear', but that this too was found to be suffering from consistent overloading. The total indifference of the employers about their workers' safety was shown by -vidence that an overload warning bell did not sound because its control wire had been cut. (Big Print)

Neath, S. Wales: David Smith runs a nice little printing works and is doing very well thank you. The Company is about to change its name to Newco, which will enable Mr. Smith to negotiate a new salary for himself: £20,000 instead of £14,000 at present. Two weeks later, the name will change back to David S. Smith Ltd., which will enable Smith to increase the dividend on his 1,400,000 shares about 30p, bringing in a few more bob - £415,700, to be precise. The firms 350 workers average £58 a week and got almost no increase last year. Who said private enterprise was dead? (Socialist Worker)

State



Research

State Research Bulletin contains detailed, factual research on the state. It covers the fields of: the police, Special Branch, the law, the military, internal security and espionage. The Bulletin also covers links with big business, the Right (eg. NAFF), developments in Western Europe (eg. repression in West Germany), and the activities of the CIA in the Third World.

State Research Bulletin is written by an independent, radical group of researchers and journalists, who have been working in this area for several years.

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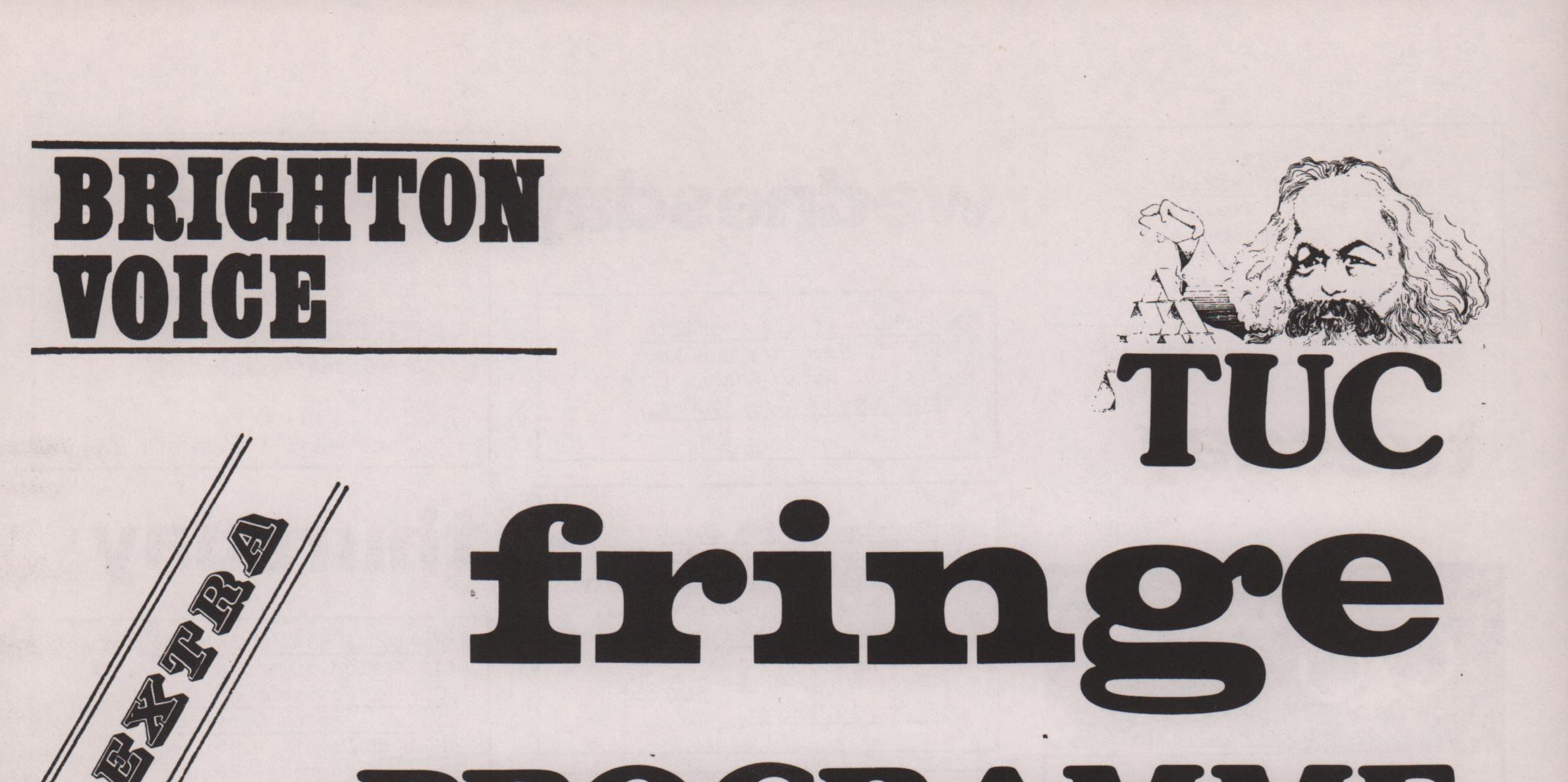
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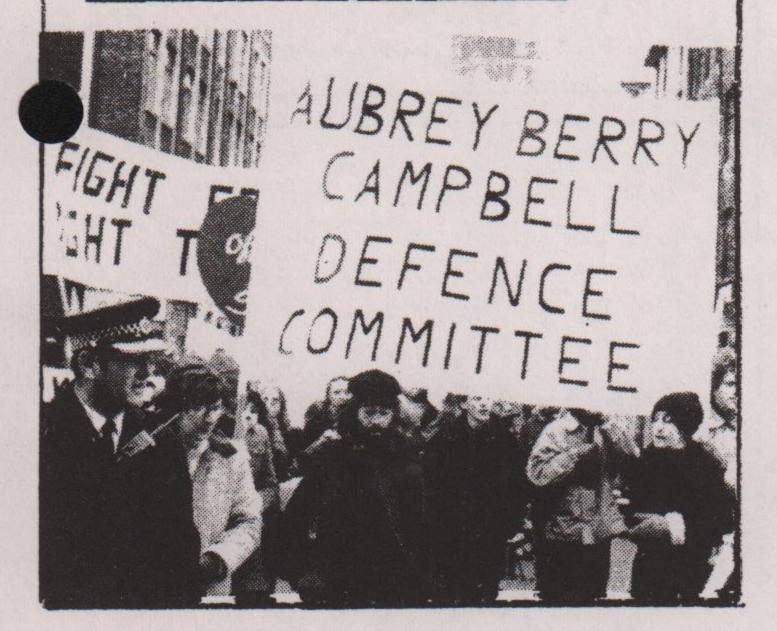




PROGRANNE

sunday

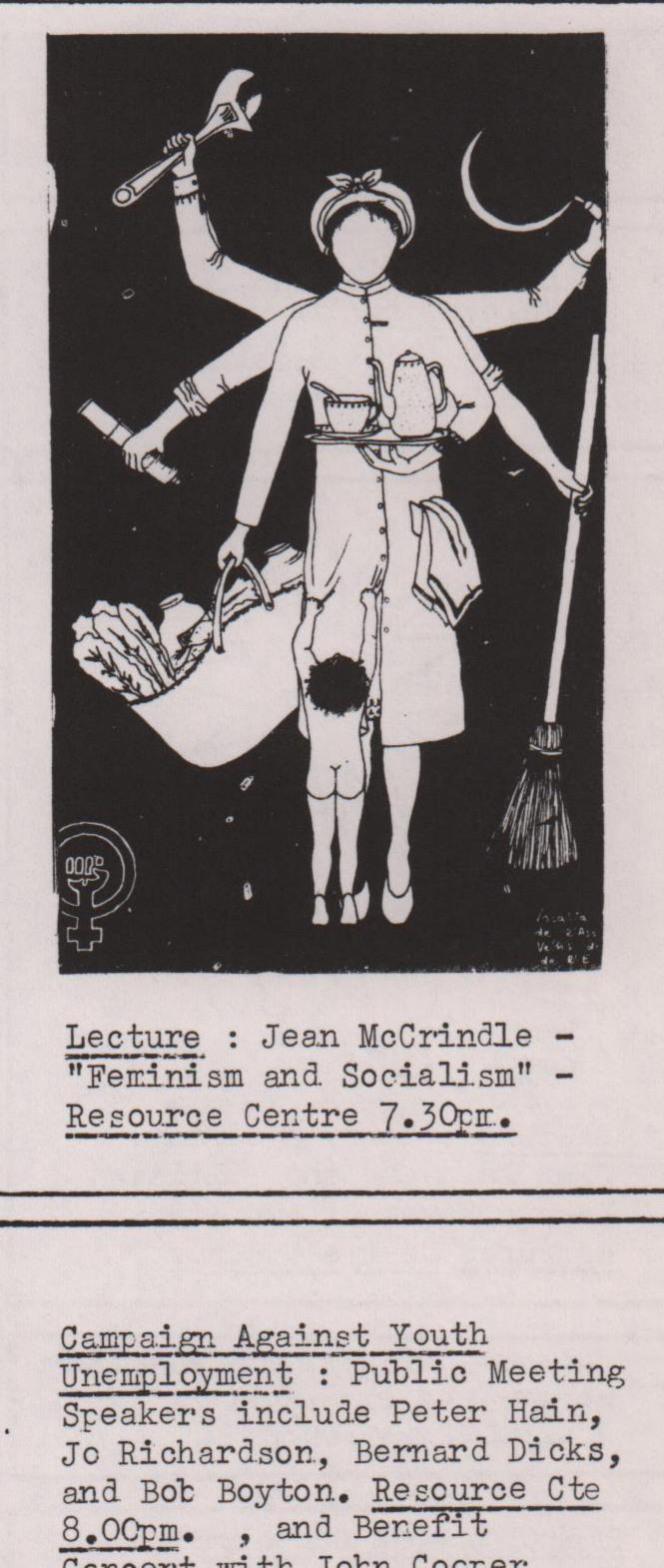
A.B.C. Defence Committee Public Meeting : Speakers include Crispin Aubrey, Duncan Campbell, and Dennis McShane (President NUJ). Chaired by Cllr Andy Durr Stanford Arms : 7.00 p.m.



British Pensioners Trade Union Action Group Meeting at Brighton Station 2.15 then MARCH to Fishmarket Hard. Rally (after march) on beach if fine, in the Corn Exchange if wet. Speakers include

Jack Jones, Sid Bidwell, and Fred Baker.

monday



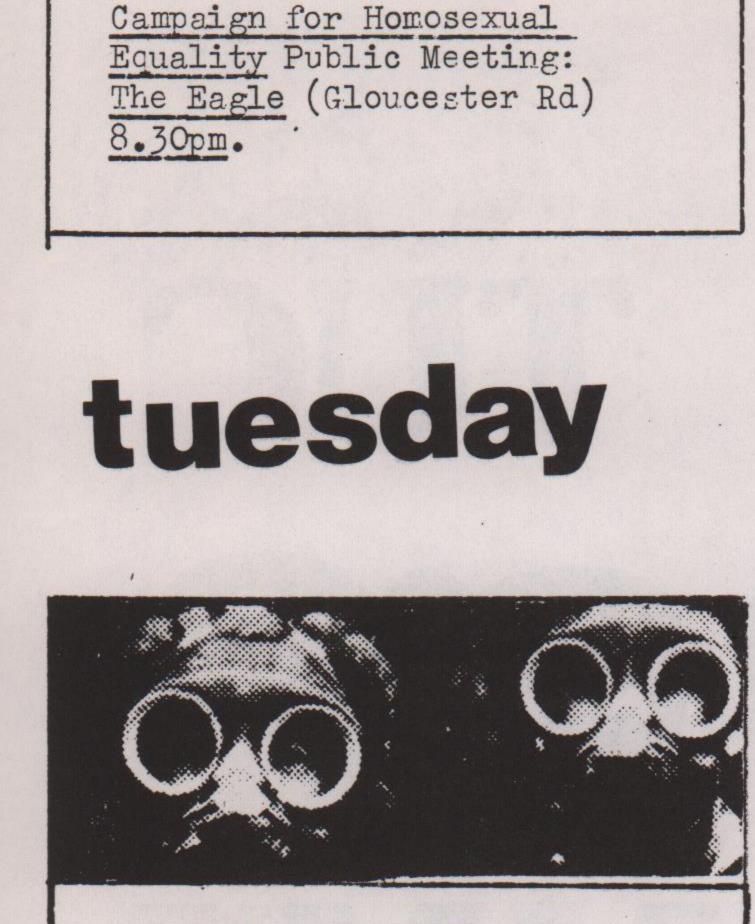
Anti-Nazi League Rally : Level 2.00 p.m. Benefit Concert: Bands include Piranhas, Nicky & The Dots, and Plantation. Resources Centre : 8 p.m.



Exhibitions: At the Resource Centre. Open all week. There will be two arranged to coincide with the exhibitions. FASCISM Both put on WCMEN AT WCRK) by the National Museum of Labour History.

Socialist Environment Resources Association : Public Meeting. Speakers include Arthur Scargill (NUM), and David Elliott (Open University) . Conference Room 2, Royal. Pavilion. 6.30pm.

Concert with John Cocper Clarke in the Crypt (at the University) 8.00pm (not confirmed.



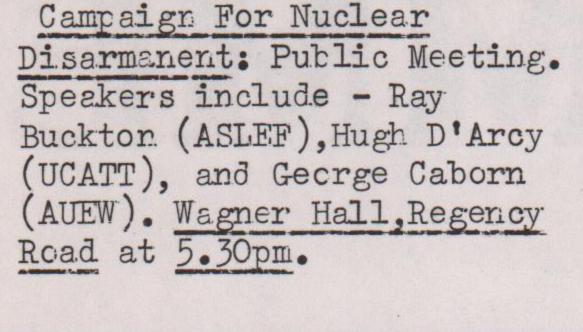
wednesday

Garners Strike Committee Public Meeting: speakers include Habib Rahman (Cmn.) Resource Centre 3.00pm.

Campaign Against Youth Unemployment - Foctball Tournament: 'Kicking Against the Dole' and other sports. All morning. Preston Park. Film (provisional) 'The Harder They Come' 2.00pm. Resource Centre. ANTI-FASCIST FESTIVAL Sussex University 6th Sept. 7.30 -12.00 Many events, including Grunwick Film, Punk rock, Woodcraft Folk, Food, Drinks. Brighton and Hove Committee Against Fascism. Tickets £1.00 (Pensioners & students 50p)

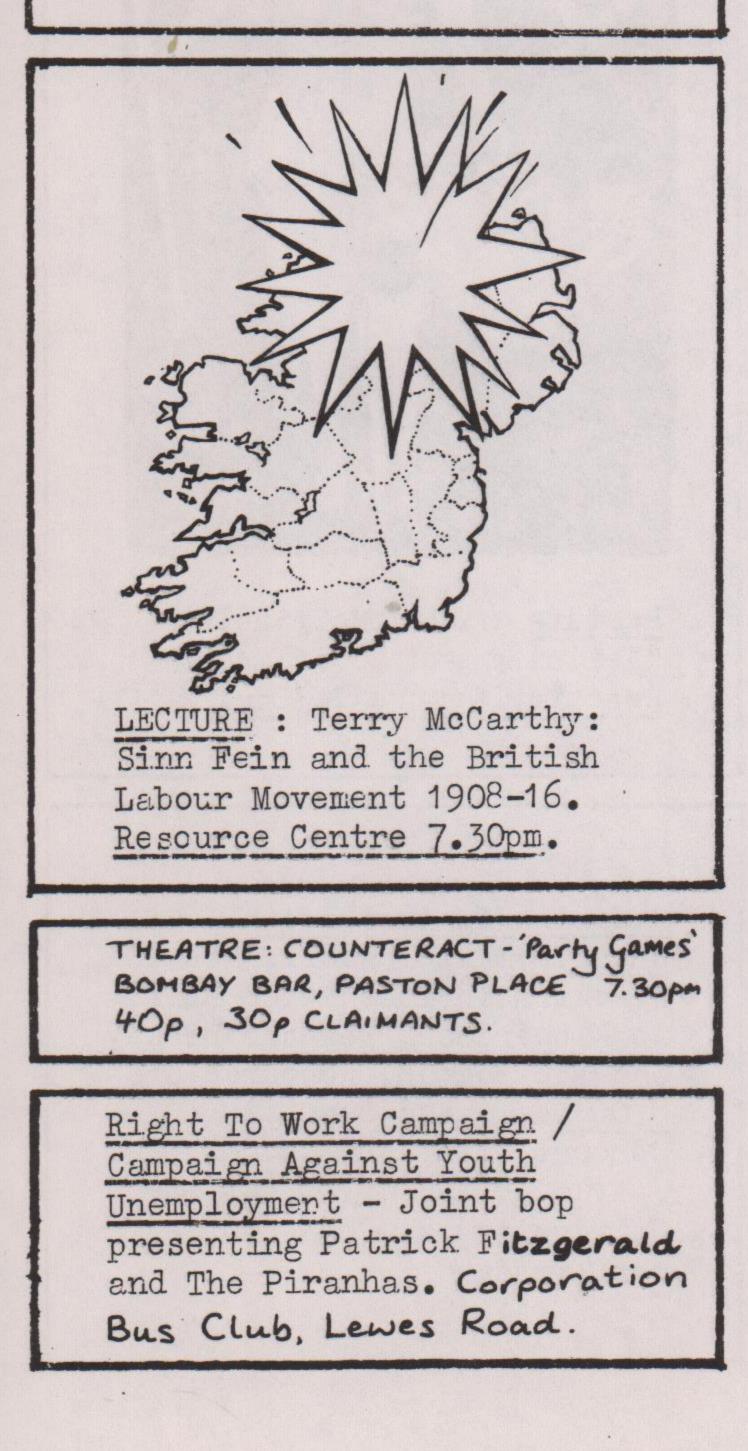


National Health Service Day of Action organised by <u>Sussex Movement Against Cuts</u> in the Health Service <u>SMACHS</u> Public Meeting <u>8.00</u> p.m. Resources Centre Speakers: Fiona Lamont, (Assistant Regional Secretary) Jocelyn Colover of SMACHS & National FIGHTBACK Speaker

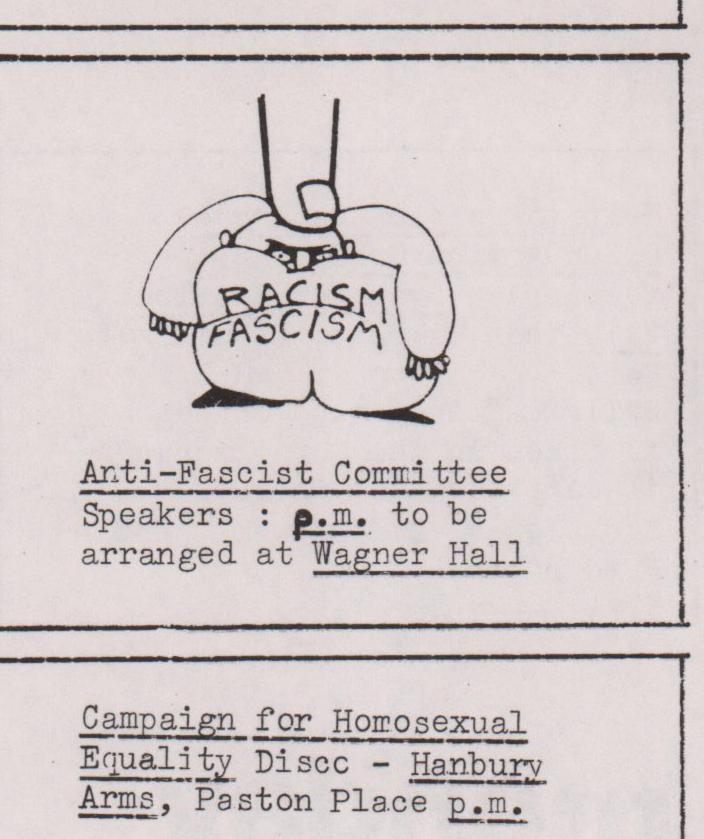


Right to Work Campaign. March arrives from London. Rally in afternoon .

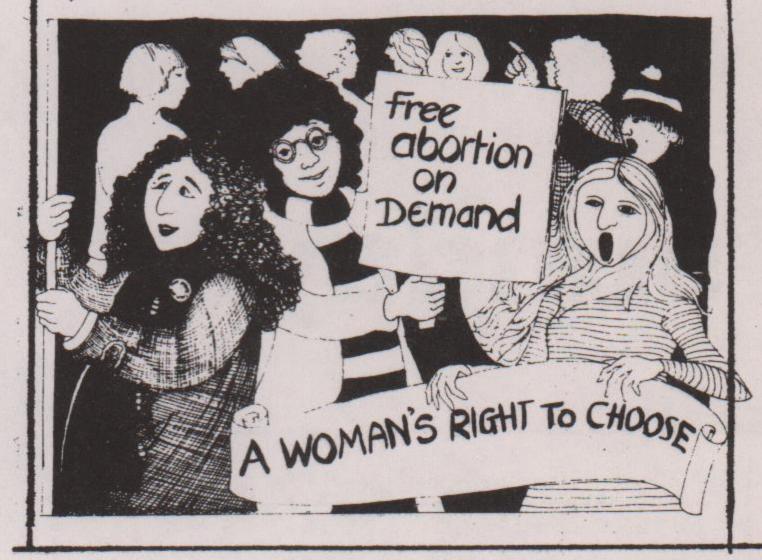
Campaign Against Youth Unemployment. Discussion on SUSS laws. 2.00pm Resource Centre.



Half Moon Photographic Workshop Photography at the Resources Centre at 7.00 p.m.



Rock against Racism Concert



BOP: Resources Centre Benefit: p.m. Price 60p Claimants 40p. Piranhas, Nicki & The Dots, Devils Dykes Dodgems. Bus Club, Lewes Road.

BRIGHTON HOVE AND DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL: LOW PAY COMMITTEE.

Public Meeting at venue uncertain p.m. Pavilion Conferance Loom 2 Thursday 7th Sept. 8.00pm Local and National speakers Campaign against Youth Unemployment gig. Smartees, Executives & Disco at The For further information or Buccaneer p.m. late news phone Steve or Jay c/o The Resources Centre. WEA Autumn courses: 'Women and Women's Liberation' **REST OF THE MONTH** 10 wks, Weds, Resource Centre. Babysitters provided. 'English Politics & Poetry in Women V. Fascism and Racism: the Age of the French Revo-Public Meeting - "How should lution', 20 wks, Mon, Friends we develop, what should our Centre. activities be ?". 11th Sept. + meetings on courses & adult (monday) 7.30pm : Resource education, starting Sept 29 -Centre. Upstairs room see INFO poster for details.