



WHAT'S ON

Music

NICKY AND THE DOTS gigs.
Thursdays Nov. 2nd., 9th., 16th., 23rd., and 30th.

at the Richmond, Grande Parade.
Fridays Nov. 10th., and 17th.,
at the Alhambra.

Sunday 26th. Laker's Hotel, Redhill.
Tuesday 28th. The John Peel, Gosport.
Wed. 29th. The Rock Garden, London.

ALHAMBRA, seafront. November gigs.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Bel-air | 16 Iceberg |
| 2 Cornflakes | 17 Nicky & the dots |
| 3 Molesters | 18 High Flying Clive |
| 4 T.T. Transmission | 19 Pirahnas |
| 5 Pirahnas | 20 Ganges |
| 6 Airport | 21 Smak |
| 7 Smak | 22 The Cats |
| 8 Glass | 23 Fan Club |
| 9 Fan Club | 24 Executives |
| 10 Nicky & the Dots | 25 Ptarmigan |
| 11 Alligator | 26 Pirahna |
| 12 Pirahnas | 27 Airport |
| 13 Night Rider | 28 Dandys |
| 14 Cornflakes | 29 Executives |
| 15 Executives | 30 Bel-air |

CONCORDE RESTAURANT, nr Palace Pier

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Tuesdays | Nurses Dance |
| Fridays | Afro Club |
| Saturdays | Old Time |
| HANBURY ARMS, Paston Place | |
| Mondays | Student disco |
| Wednesdays | Gay disco |
| Thursdays | Modern jazz |
| Saturdays | Disco |
| RICHMOND, Grand Parade. | |
| Mondays | |
| Tuesdays | Two groups upstairs |
| Wednesdays | Rocky Billy Disco |
| Thursdays | Groups upstairs |
| Fridays | Over 30's dancing |

NORTHERN HOTEL, York Place
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays:
Woodbine 8.30

NEW REGENT, West St.
Mon, Tue, Wed: Disco
Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun: Disco
& live bands

KING & QUEEN
Nov 17 Disco in aid of West
Pier Society. 8.00

THE DOME
Nov 21 The Jam & The Dickies
& Patrick Fitzgerald. 8.00

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY, Mandela Hall
Nov 8 John Martin & Keith Christmas
in concert, + disco etc.

Dec 8 The Rezzillos + support
PIP'S WINE BAR
Thursdays Jubilee Jazz Band

Meetings

Nov 16 SILICON CHIPS. Speakers
include Tim Webb ASTMS &
Ian Benson, TASS
Sponsored by Brighton ASTMS
& TASS.
King William IV Room, Royal
Pavilion.

Nov 25 Trade Union Abortion Conf.
Caxton Hall, London
Contact: NAC, 30 Camden Rd
London NW1

Nov 25 Housing Action Convention
Follow-up Conference,
London. Contact:
Self help housing resource
library, LaBroke House,
Highbury Grove. London N5

Nov 25 Action for the 35-hour week
Regional Industrial Conf.
London; buses from Brighton
Contact Kate Packham,
c/o 179 Lewes Rd B'ton

Nov 26 Work of the local govt.
ombudsman: conference
Brighton: contact
Brighton Co-op party,
85, London Rd.

Dec 9 Disarmament & unemployment
conference, Brighton
Brighton Peace Forum, 22,
Harrington Rd, Brighton

A.N.L. local meets.
Wed. 22nd. A.N.L. general meeting on
sexism.
Saturday Nov. 25th. **FESTIVAL** at
Lewes Road Poly featuring MISTY plus
feminist reggae band.

EXHIBITIONS

Brighton West Pier Society display
about the West Pier...old photos.,
prints, souvenirs etc. on until
30th. Nov. at Local History Room,
Hove Public Library. Free.

Pictures by contemporary Brighton
artist Rosemary Wood. Exhibited
at Christy's, 87, Gloucester Rd.
from Nov 1 to Nov 22

folk

SPRINGFIELD

- | | |
|--|--|
| Friday Folk Club | |
| Nov 3 Terry Masterson | |
| 10 Bob Cann | |
| 17 Come all ye | |
| 24 Anne & Marie Loughran
& Jenn Pirie | |
| Sunday Folk Club | |
| Nov 5 Come all ye | |
| 12 Byrne Packie
& Bonnie Shaljean | |
| 19 Graham Davey | |
| 26 Jake Walton | |

Both clubs at Springfield
Hotel, near London Rd. Station

MARLBOROUGH, Princes St.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Monday Folk Club | |
| Nov 6 Pub swap with Eastbourne | |
| 13 Alan White | |
| 20 Telham Tinkers | |
| 27 Singers Night | |

Local singers every Saturday with
guest Claire Clayton on Nov 11

EAGLE, Gloucester Rd.

Sunday Folk Club
Nov 5 Come all ye

12 Dennis Parrot

FOLK CLUB at the Basement, Grand
Parade (part of the Art College),
every Thursday.

FOLK DANCE

Nov 11, at Knoyle Hall, Knoyle Rd.
with Bob Cann

RESOURCE CENTRE EVENTS.

- November:
- | |
|---|
| Wed. 1st. 8pm. S.M.A.C.H.S. |
| Sat. 1st. 11am. - all day - |
| Resource Centre OPEN DAY.
(creche, exhibits, stalls....) |
| 8.30pm. "Brighton Show" |
| " Resource Centre Bi-
annual General Meeting |
| S.K.A.N. Bop. |
| Tues. 7th. 7.30pm. Two Piers Housing
Co-op. |
| Wed. 8th. 6.30pm. Womens Self Defence.
7.30pm. W.E.A. Womens Studies |
| Thur. 9th. 8pm. Eastern European
Solidarity Campaign. |
| Fri. 10th. 6pm. Socialist Feminists. |
| Sat. 11th. 9am. B'ton. Child Book Group
Jumble Sale. |
| ...then.. Labour Party Jumble
Sale. |
| 12am. through to Sunday 12th
Gay Activists Alliance
Conference. |
| Wed. 15th. 6.30pm. Womens Self Def.
7.30pm. W.E.A. Womens Studs. |
| " Teachers Against
Nazis. |
| Sat. 18th. 9am. North Lanes Commu-
nity Assoc. Jumble Sale. |
| Mon. 20th. 8pm. Womens Liberation Meet. |
| Tues. 21st. 8pm. N.A.C. |
| Wed. 22nd. 6.30pm. Womens Self Def.
7.30pm. W.E.A. Womens Studs. |
| Fri. 24th. 6pm. Socialist Feminists. |
| Sat. 25th. 11.30am. Boys Brig. Jumble
Sale. |
| Wed. 29th. 6.30pm. Womens Self Def.
7.30pm. W.E.A. Womens Studs. |
| Every Sunday 7.30pm. Alcoholics Anon. |

NEXT ISSUE

Let us know your bookings for groups
pubs, clubs, meetings, exhibitions etc.
by NOVEMBER 26th. for inclusion
c/o 7 Victoria Rd. Bton.

Brighton Voice 15p

No. 51 Nov 78 Plus Trades Council Bulletin No. 1

PROFITS BEFORE PATIENTS -

Scandalous Conditions in Private Nursing Homes

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM TWO
NURSING HOME WORKERS

The recent fire at Hazelville
Nursing Home in Hove tragically
raised the whole issue of health
and safety in private nursing homes.

The Argus 'investigated' the
issue and succeeded in allaying the
owners' concern, not so much over
the safety of the patients, but ra-
ther over the size of their bank
accounts. Mr. Pink, a 'typical'
owner, claimed that the cost of
installing standard fire precau-
tions was "not easy". He profes-
sed, "I don't make a bomb here,
and my overdraft is running at
around £2,000." - very bad
management, considering he looks
after 22 patients paying "up to
£95 a week". The Argus report
condones - even encourages - the
practice of corner-cutting as a
necessary feature of private
care (even though the same paper
quite justifiably lashes out
at the cutbacks in public nurs-
ing). Just how much hard pro-
fit is being made out of the old
in such homes, and to what
expense?

Understaffed

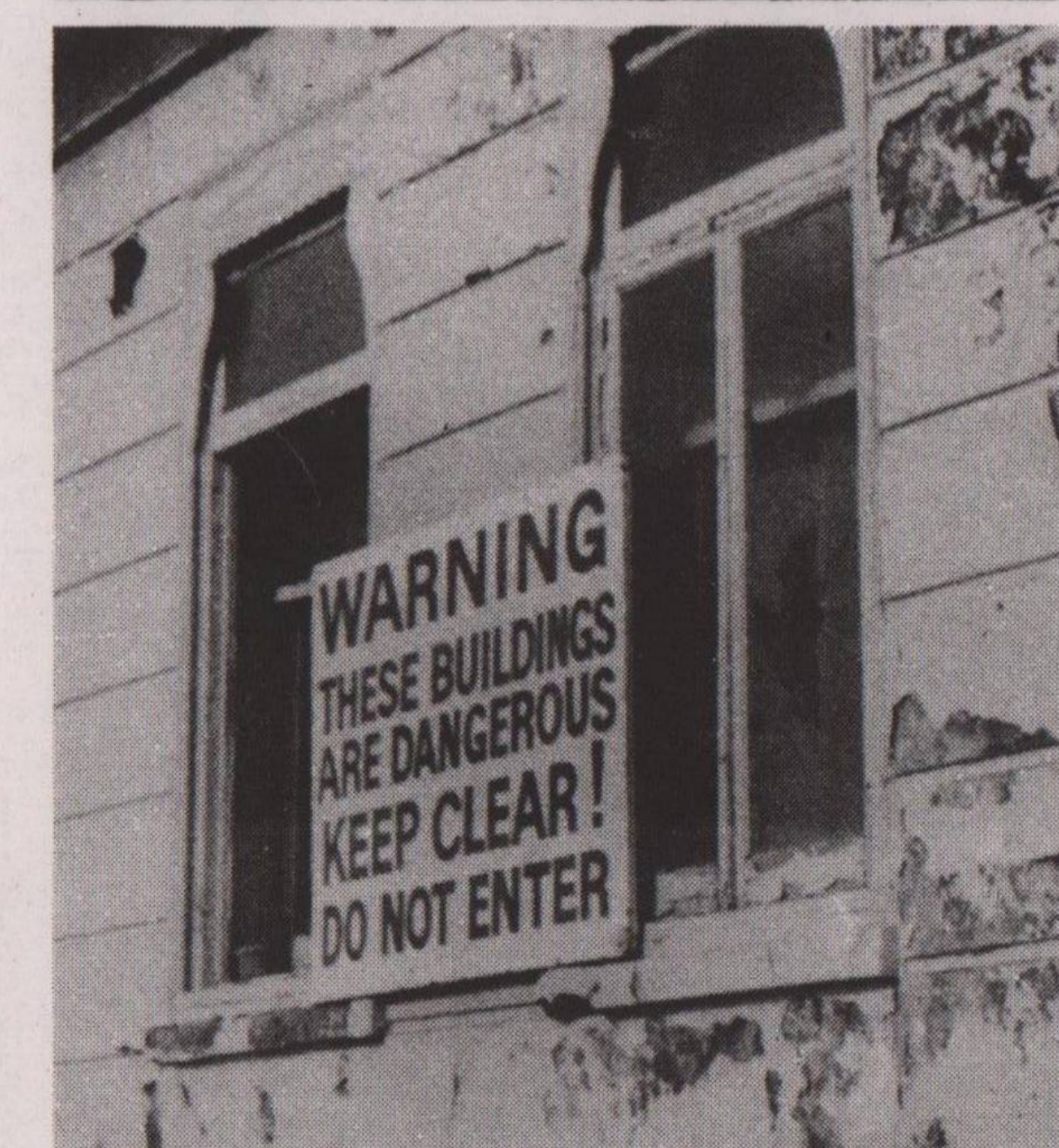
Having had experience of work-
ing in a number of private nurs-
ing homes, we felt the need to
express concern over the appall-
ing conditions that exist in many
of these institutions, resulting
chiefly from the exploitation of
both staff and patients.

contents

- p3 Social workers on strike ?
- p4-5 Interview with Nicky & Dots
- p6 Brighton's army in Ireland.
- p7 NEW, HILARIOUS FLOP FILE
- p10 The homeless, looking, looking..
- p11 News from free press
- p12 Brighton's Free School
- p13 Letters. p14 Nursing Homes

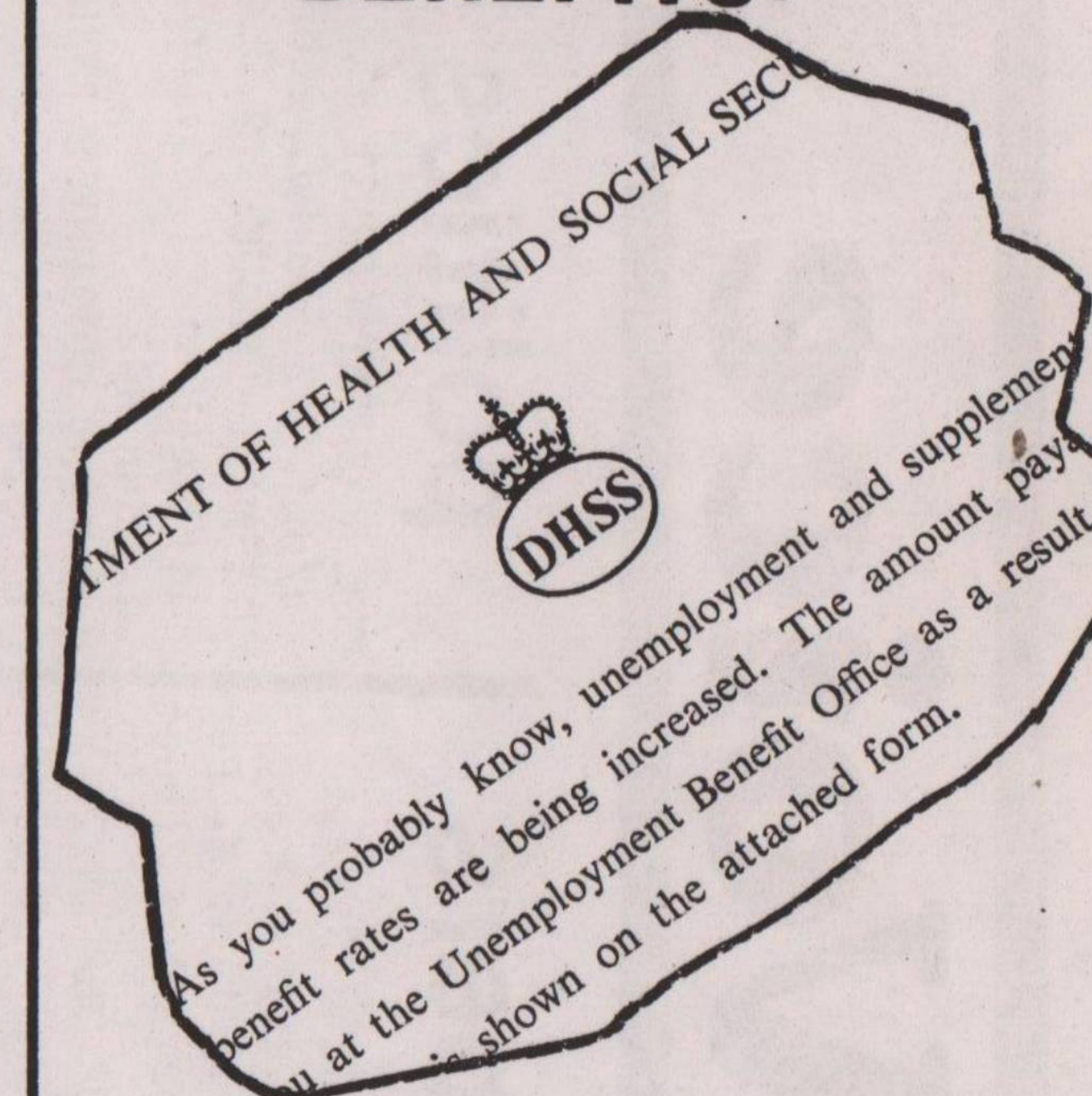
Sleepy Hove is the ideal envi-
ronment for such privately-run
residential homes, for it contains
enough potential customers, and
plenty of those large Edwardian
homes in which to fill them. Fair-
light Nursing Home, in Pembroke
Crescent, is typical of such insti-
tutions. Nearly 30 patients are
crammed into 2 semi-detached houses.
There is a great distinction bet-
ween those who can afford a large,
single room, and those who have to
put up with sharing a smaller bed-
room. There is no communal room,
and therefore no communica-
tion between patients. At
times, as few as one member of
staff is expected to look after
all the patients. This appalling
understaffing, and poor hygiene,
is indicative of the owner's lack
of concern in this, as with the
owners of most private homes, for
standards of care. And Fairlight
is certainly not the worst home in
the area.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



GOOD HOUSES ALLOWED TO FALL DOWN
BY COUNCIL AND OTHER RACKETEERS
BOTH WAITING FOR MORE MONEY. PHOTOS
WHICH TELL THE BRIGHTON STORY pp8-9.

SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS:



and now for the bad news...

People who are unemployed are
going to get far less in the
future. If you depend on sup-
plementary benefits your rights
may soon be reduced. This
threat is clearly contained in
a review of the Supplementary
Benefits Scheme which surfaced
in July of this year. The Re-
view, commissioned by David
Ennals in September 1976, ost-
ensibly seeks ways of improving
and clarifying the present
system. In fact, it merely ex-
plores ways in which the state
can withdraw even further from
responsibility for its victims.

As our outline of the pro-
posed changes shows (see page
12), the Review makes distur-
bing reading for both claimants
and those workers who operate
the system.

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groups - contd.

ANIMAL ACTIVISTS: anti fact-ory farming etc. V. Smith 386 Portland Rd, Hove. 411484.

ANOREXIC AID: 1st Monday of month. Noreen 682054 or Penny 735362.

BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION: Brighton & Lewes Division of Sussex Beekeepers, Lynn Hawkers, 14 The Lees, Peacehaven. Peace. 4522

BING CROSEY CLUB: 737357 (am only)

BRIGHTON HOSTEL: 18 Dorset Gardens. Soup run bottom West St 10-11pm daily. Help needed, 682089.

BRIGHTON SOCIETY: Environmental group. S. Montford 10 Clermont Road.

BUS USERS ACTION GROUP: R. Spriggs, 7 Tivoli Road, 562172.

CAMPAIN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY: 202930 8-11pm daily.

CAMPAIN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: 28633

COMMUNITY ARTS WORKSHOP: Dance, drama, mime, music. B. Bennett, 32564.

ENTERTAINMENTS every Thursday, Queens Head Stein St, 8.30pm.

CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST ECONOMISTS: K. Smith, 10 Warleigh Road.

FEDERATION OF TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS (BTON): 72 Swanborough Place.

FRIENDS CENTRE: Meeting Place with F.E. classes, 16 Ship Street, 27835.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH: Margaret McIlroy, 32 Over St, 696425.

FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN

papers

BRIGHTON CHARTER: Rank & File Engineering Group monthly bulletin; M. Perkins, 1 Normanton Street

CARE: PAPER OF THE ANTI-RACIST ANTI-FASCIST CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE: A campaigning paper, excellent nationwide, from Public House Bkshp. or Flat 3, 5 Huntley St, London.

Bulk orders/donations LESLIE NEWSLETTER (Bton.) 3 issues/yr. News, reviews letters, poetry, stories - 60p. or 35p. to Newsletter, Flat 1, 9 St. Michaels Place Btn.

LIVE WIRE: Local womens paper, Dorothy 44 Queens Park Rd, Btn.

MOVING TARGET: Btms. film mag, from good bkshps. & B.F.T.c/o 84 Brading Rd. QUEENSPARK: Paper for the Queens Park area; 18 Windmill St. Btn.

WAVEHILL: Newsheet of T&GWU 1/402 Btn. & Hove District Busmen, from Conway St. Depot, Hove

WHOLE EARTH: Alternative technology, organic living local environmental action

11. George St, 691318.

WOMENS LIBERATION: Meet Resource Centre every 3rd Monday. For info: 605911.

WOMENS VOICE GROUP: based on Womens Voice paper. Sue, 21C60

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOC: Stirling Sdth, 211 Queens Park Road, 680654.

WORKERS MUSIC ASSOCIATION: Basement, 28 Livingstone Hove.

WORK HAZARDS GROUP: Info and

politics

ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE: c/o 179 Lewes Rd. Bton.

ANTI NAZI LEAGUE: 12 Little Newport St. London

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSN 693829

BIG FLAME - 68 Compton Road or phone Btn. 721283 for details of meetings etc.

COMMUNIST PARTY G.B. Sec: F. Coffin, 95a St George's Rd. (687336)

MEETINGS: 1st. Tues of month at 125 Gloucs. Rd 7.45pm. phone for details

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (ML): 37 Gloucs. Rd. 684404

COOPERATIVE PARTY, Bton: 86 London Rd, 683076.

Hove: J. Cattell, 29 Forewood Drive, Portslade

FABIAN SOCIETY: G. Forbes, 66 Meadow Way, Burgess Hill. Tel. 963.43723

LABOUR PARTY: Bton: 179 Lewes Rd. 6C2592. Sec M. Hill 22 Fort Hall Pl, 557704

Hove: 40 Cowper st. Sec J. Cattell 29 Forewood Dr. Portslade.

Lewes: 3, North St. Lewes 4312.

LIBERAL PARTY: Bton Pavilion

F. Hix Gordon House 14a Shipst. 680733 Mon-Sat 11.30-5. Also Fri & Sat. 7.15-11. Bring own wine.

SOLSTICE BOOKSHOP: 28 Trafalgar St. Btn. alternative books & mags basement reading room. Tel. 692880

SAMPLE SUPPLIES: Whole food, recycling, publications etc, environmental centre. 11 George St. Btn. 691318 Mon-Sat. 9.30-5.30. Closed Thur., Fri to 6.30.

SURPRISE RESTAURANT: 16

shops

ANANDA: 19 Bond St. 0cads & ends. Indian crafts, incense etc.

BRIGHTON HOSTEL SHOP: Charities shop, 105 Islington Rd

Open 10-4. Articles wanted

GREENS: Vegetarian Restaurant, 7 Victoria Rd, 27878. Open 6-11pm. Not in mornings. Shut Tuesdays.

INFINITI: 25 North Rd, 6C3563

FOOD: Macrobiotic/wholefood supplies. 9.30-5, closed Wed.

BAKERY & PIE SHOP: 9-5, Wed 9-1, 30.

BULK STORE: Bulk supplies. Tue-Sat 9.30-1, 2-5.

KEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91 St Georges Rd. Radical lit. and new & secondhand books.

PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21 Little Preston St, 28357. Books, mags, records and coffee. Basement events. Bi-monthly newsletter. New musical catalogue out now

PULSE: Sussex Univ. wholefood cafe. SGR Falmer House. Feminist collective. Mor-Fri 12-2.

SAXONS VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT: 48 George St. Btn. 680733 Mon-Sat 11.30-5. Also Fri & Sat. 7.15-11.

SOLSTICE BOOKSHOP: 28 Trafalgar St. Btn. alternative books & mags basement reading room. Tel. 692880

SAMPLE SUPPLIES: Whole food, recycling, publications etc, environmental centre. 11 George St. Btn. 691318 Mon-Sat. 9.30-5.30. Closed Thur., Fri to 6.30.

advice

AGE CONCERN: Old people's welfare. Mon-Fri 10-12.30 & 2-4pm. 57 Ditchling Rd B'ton 683275

BIT BY BIT: Help & info (voluntary social work unit) 24hrs. 27878. Visits by app't only. Volunteers wanted.

CANCER PREVENTION: (Area Health Authority) 23344

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU B'ton: 17 Ditchling Rise 601664, Mon-Fri 10-4pm & Tues 6-8pm; 2 St Georges Place, Mon-Fri 10-lpm & 2-4pm.

Hove: Town Hall (Tisbury Rd) 734811, Mon, Wed, Fri 10-12.30 & 12.15-4pm, Tues, Thur 10-4pm.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC: 18/19 Western Rd 734255. Lewes, Newhaven & University Health Centre - B'ton 23344

GAY SWITCHBOARD: Info & advice 202930. 8-10pm every night.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE: (council) 73 Grand Pde 29801. Mon-Fri 9-4.30

LABOUR WEEKLY ADVICE CENTRE: 179 Lewes Rd. 10.30-11.30, Quinton Barry & Dave Hill, prospective parliamentary candidates for Kemp Town & Pavillion.

LEGAL & WELFARE INFO DESK: Union Hall, Air St. Saturdays 10-4pm

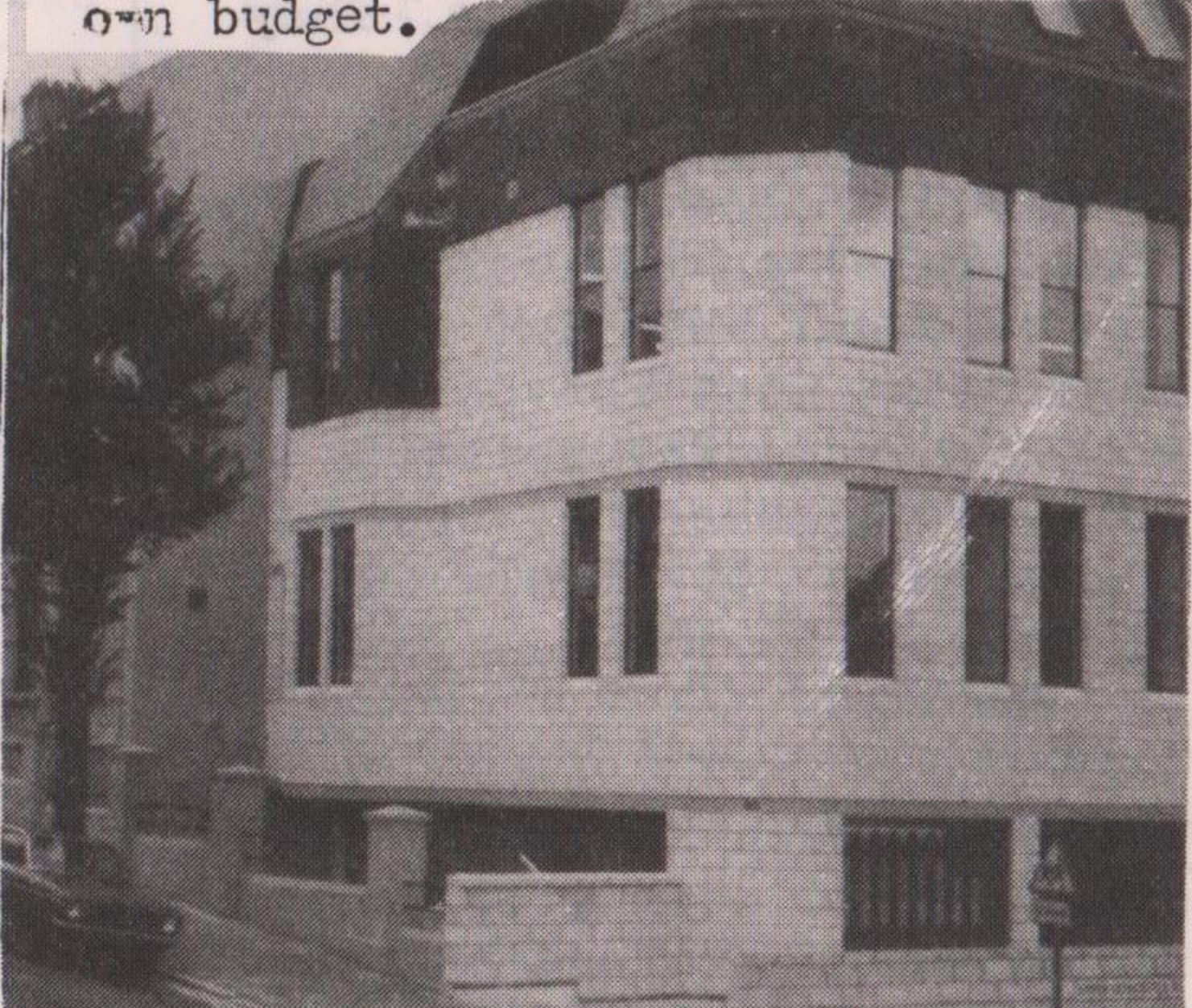
LIBRARIES: do not offer advice but have books which will inform you of your rights. Community info also available.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES (SUSSEX): 689385

V.I.P. FEAST ON HANDICAPPED'S BUDGET

With cuts in Social Services provisions having been commonplace for so long it is good to see that the hostel and day centre for the Mentally Handicapped in Buckingham Road is now open. What was far from good however was the needless official opening ceremony that took place on the 10th of October. Apart from the higher echelons of the Social Services being present, local V.I.P.'s headed by Councillor John Freddy and the Tory press were invited. Once there they were plied with food and drink, which were served by members of staff who were not actually invited to the function itself but, after being employed to care for the residents, were instructed to skivvy for the visitors. Every one was of course out to impress everyone else, but just in case in the midst of the wining and dining someone should forget what the hostel and centre were for some hostel residents were prevented from going about their normal activities and kept behind their "benefactors".

Although we are constantly being told that the social services department must be careful in spending its limited resources,



It is doubtful if many of the V.I.P.'s at the opening ceremony will ever set foot in the hostel or day centre again, but you can be certain that some of them will be party to sanctioning further cuts in Social Services spending. Perhaps so as to give the staff at Buckingham Road a chance of providing the "new approach to the treatment of the mentally handicapped" that Chairman Freddy referred to in his opening speech, they will stop at just making sure that such totally unnecessary functions cease.

At a well attended meeting, angry social workers voted unanimously to ballot for industrial action. Union members from all over the county instructed NALGO officials to hold a ballot as soon as possible to decide on the type and location: members will be asked to choose between a series of one day strikes with picket lines and demonstrations and the banning of certain types of work.

The intention is to force the Council to discuss their claim for regrading, via. local negotiations. At present, the national starts a social worker - with an often overall workload of kids at risk, DHSS problems, the mentally ill and the elderly - at well below the average wage for manual workers. It is the employers' blunt

refusal even to open negotiations that has led a normally compliant group of workers to this stage.

Tied to the social workers' claim is a strong feeling that other groups within the social services dept. are even more exploited - particularly those who work in the childrens and old peoples homes - and victory for one will undoubtedly be followed by upgrading for the other. There is a widespread feeling that the council has taken advantage of social services workers consciences for too long and that the time has now come for a stand up fight if necessary. As in all public service action, if the public eventually has to suffer to some extent, it is the employers who will be to blame.

LATE NEWS SQUATTING TEST CASE

Three of Brighton's homeless, Ruth Reeves, Teresa Reid and Paul Weatherill, have just been charged under section 7 of the Criminal Law Act, accused of refusing to leave a squat in an empty house in Ditchling Rd. This is the first time in this country that the infamous Section 7 has been put into action. The Brighton police are trying to make history.

In defence of the squatters, Bit By Bit of 7 Victoria Rd has set up a defence committee.

JOIN THE DEFENCE OF 'THE BRIGHTON 3' AND PICKET THE BTON MAGISTRATES CT ON 27 NOVEMBER.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAW STILL LIVES!

The first Brighton meeting of the E.E.S.C. will take place on Thursday November 9th. 8.00 p.m. The Resource Centre, North Road.

(unfortunately we got the date of this meeting wrong in the last issue of B.V. apologies to all those who turned up on Nov. 1st. !)

SOCIAL WORKERS PLAN TO STRIKE



The EASTERN EUROPE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN was formed earlier this year by socialists and trade union activists concerned about repression in Eastern Europe and by the prevalence of double standards in the British labour movement. All too often, actions and events which are (rightly) loudly condemned when they occur in Iran, Chile and South Africa are ignored or even excused when the repressive state in question claims to be socialist. The purpose of the E.E.S.C. is to counter exploitation of the lack of political freedom and democratic freedom in East Europe by right wing forces in this country and to promote solidarity with those people working for democratic and trade union rights in East Europe. Many such people explicitly seek the support of West European labour movements, the E.E.S.C. is trying to maximise that support within the British labour movement.

⁴ Continuing the series of interviews

The Voice interviewed Chris from Nicky and the Dots....

VOICE How did Nicky and the Dots get set up?

CHRIS Nick and I first met at Brighton Art College. I knew our drummer then too. I moved back into Brighton in August 77 and Nick was playing with Joby and the Hooligans. We had written two or three songs a year before, but thought them too odd to do anything with at the time. We heard some other bands and thought our stuff wouldn't sound too out of place, so we started Nicky and the Dots. Dave, our bass player, arrived via an N.M.E. advert, strangely enough. The latest member, Paul, had his eye on us, and as we needed keyboards, he left Attrix and joined us.



NICK DWYER, main vocals, from Bristol, fascinated by interiors

VOICE Don't you think your name makes Nick sound a lot more important than the rest of you? How did you choose it?

CHRIS At the time a lot of groups had an 'S' on the end, like The Boxes or The Shoes. We thought it would give us more scope to make Nick the centrepiece. For the rest of the name we wanted something simple and flat, not something that we might be fed up with later, like Vibrators. At one time we thought of the Exporters, but the Executives beat us to that. We used Nicky as a sort of stage name for Nick, and his wife thought up the Dots. It's

NICKY

and the



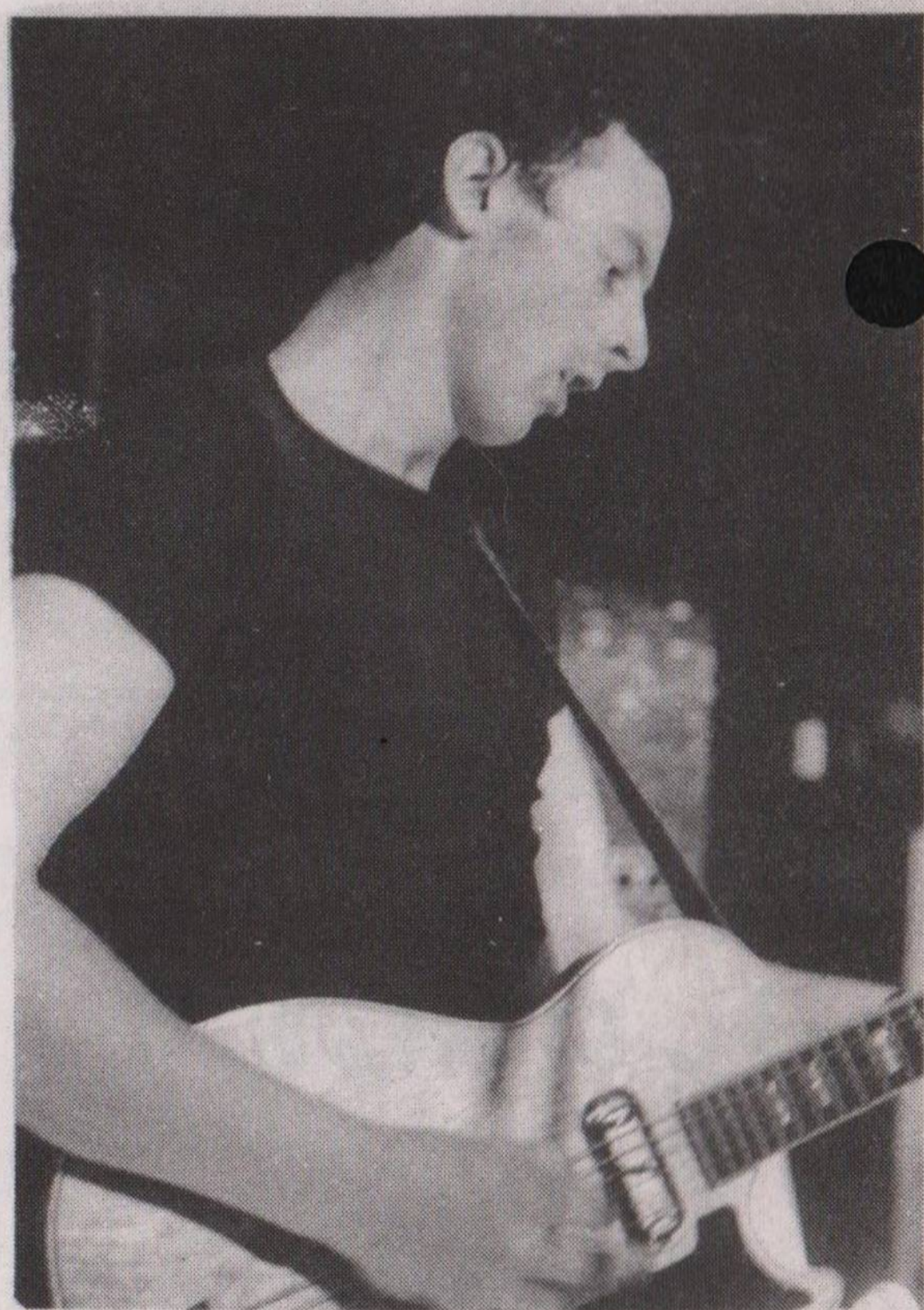
simple and minimal. As for Nick being more important, as he is the main singer, and he acts about, he does get most of the limelight. It seems natural as he's our manager as well, so it pays to get him known alot. If we had a separate manager he would probably be redundant as he does a lot of waiting around while the rest of us get the music worked out. He is the figurehead, there's not a lot we can do about it now!

VOICE Any anecdotes of eventful, dangerous or funny gigs you've done?

CHRIS One odd gig was during the Queens Park Festival. We were playing to about two dozen kids-young children that is. They loved it, and so did we until we were told to stop because we were too loud, indeed. At one gig we put 'Dots Rule' on the wall above stage for a laugh, and just as we reached the lowest spot in the set, it fell on our heads! The spitting gig was fun too, I hope that crowd from Bognor have got it all out of their system.

VOICE How much has your style changed- you seem a lot more together and professional now..

CHRIS We started off trying to be minimal in approach. We wanted to put forward our ideas in simple terms, but we're learning that it isn't so easy. I think the sound we're after is quite light and rhythmic, but it may change as we find new material. We all have some sort of idea in our heads what we should sound like, and we keep chasing it. It's got something to do with being direct, uncluttered, and coming to the point (I hope!). There is an element of naivety in what we do which I think we should try not to lose.



CHRISTOPHER D'OUSELEY, guitar and vocals, from Glasgow.

WOMEN

VOICE Women Against Racism and Facism thought that the Sept 3rd Benefit Concert (ANL at the Resource Centre) was sexist in atmosphere- do you try to prevent this or do you disagree with this evaluation entirely?

CHRIS Yes, I agree there is a pervading macho feel to some gigs. It depends on the bands, if they have a heavy hand they go on stage thinking "Let's knock 'em dead." and I guess that atmosphere is created. I think you just intimidate an audience if you do that too much. We try not to, we also try and be as dynamic as we can though. I don't think it's the music so much as the lyrics, that's where the sexism can creep in. A band may not think their words are one sided, especially if they play a lot of gigs where the audience get off on heavy material. The best way to balance it up is for more women's bands to startup.

with local bands.

DOTS



VOICE How do the songs get written- words first, then music?

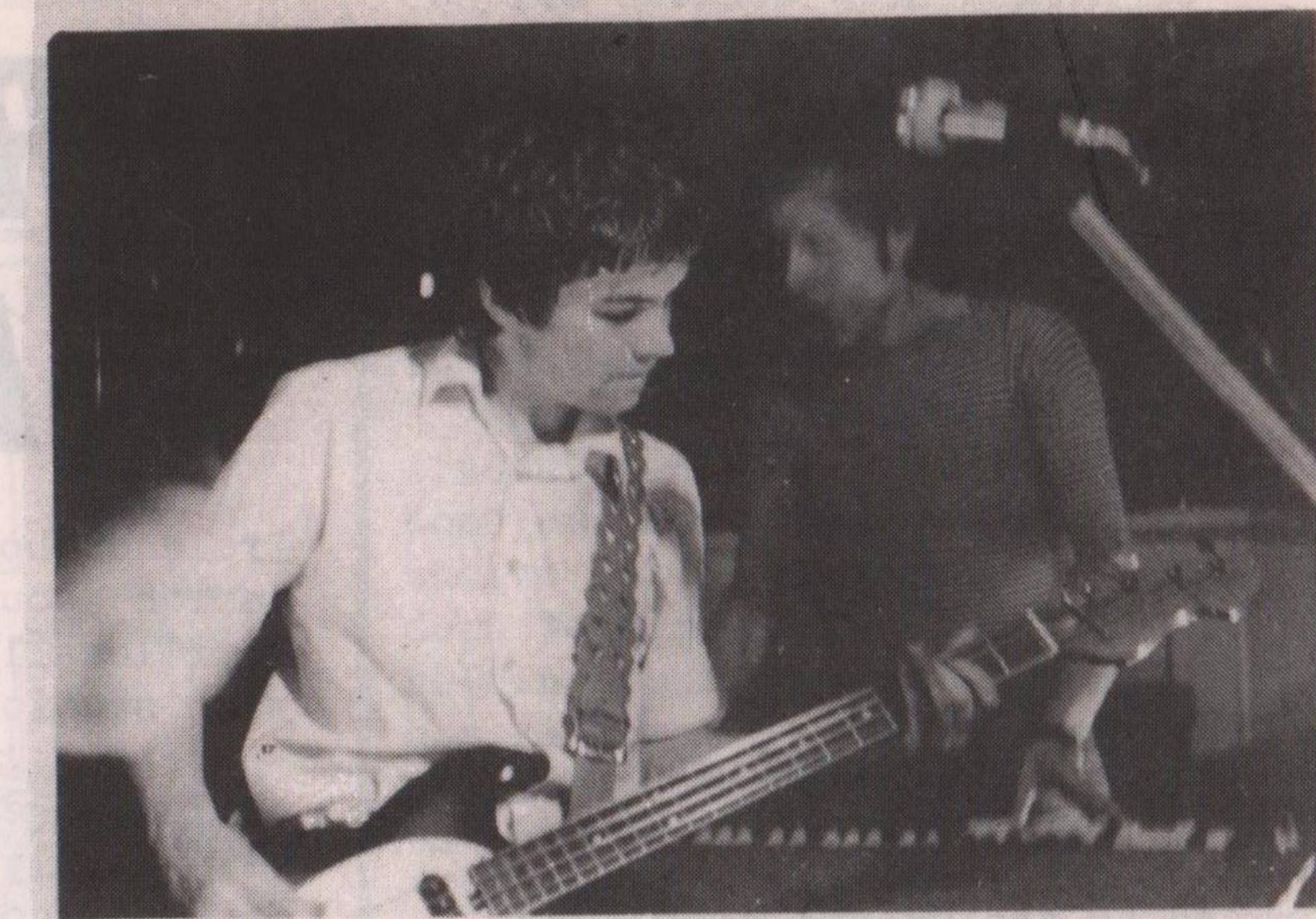
CHRIS All of our material is our own except for two numbers. At the moment, Nick and I do most of the "coming up with numbers" and then the whole band has their say. The words and music usually happen at the same time, although the music sometimes takes longer to get into shape. Most of our songs describe strange problems or odd situations. Nick tends to invent characters, and I usually write as if I'm the one in the predicament. Sometimes its true. We like to express ideas. I feel very concious of the future. I think sometimes people become depressed when they think about their own future, especially if they can't do much to change it. We would like to infect people with the sense that they can.

VOICE The Talking Heads number you do suggests one influence- are there any groups etc that have made an impression on you?

CHRIS The 'Talking Heads' number that we do was something we used to jam on, we never thought of using it in the set until recently. I quite like Talking Heads, and I think they are a bit of an influence. It's difficult to say where our influences come from. Nick used to like Beefheart, and Paul on the organ keeps saying something about West Side Story. When you hear something you like, you may think it's good, but you don't conciously copyit. It may just give you a stronger feeling of what you want to do yourself.

VOICE How would you feel about playing in a "concert hall" situation, when the audience sat in rows and didn't react?

CHRIS Well probably Nick would go down into the audience with the mike and start going through their pockets or taking off their shoes or something.



DAVE WILLIAMS, bass and vocals, from Sussex.

and a ghostly

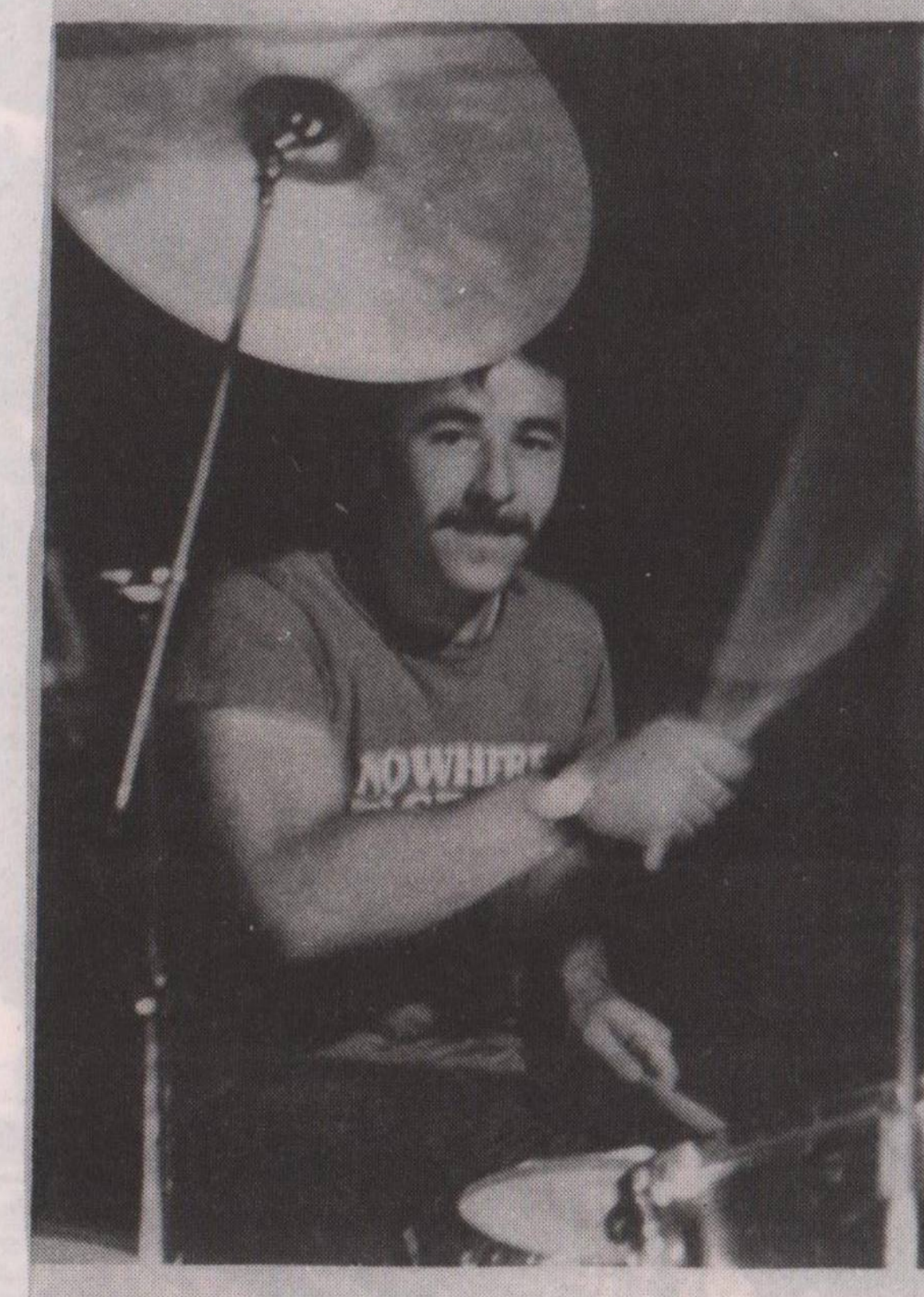
PAUL CLARK, V.J.S.M. Operative (Organ) from South London.

ROCK AGAINST GOLF CLUBS

VOICE Are there any benefits or gigs you wouldn't play?
CHRIS We try not to refuse a gig, but I guess there are probably things we wouldn't do, like war veterans or the Estate Agents Ball, and definately not the Golf Club. NO GOLF CLUBS.

VOICE Do you think ANL/RAR will win any converts through the gigs they organise? Does a band need to sloganise it's music to get the message across?
CHRIS Just getting the kids to come along is good, but a percentage don't care about the benefit. Perhaps they just want to listen to the music and not get involved in the other thing. If a band feels strongly against racism, they should go ahead and write songs about it, that might help RAR, I don't know. We do RAR gigs and we don't feel we're letting them down by not sloganising. It's a good cause, we don't mind playing.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?
CHRIS We are contributing two tracks to a compilation album of Brighton Bands - called "Vaultage '78". It should be out nearer the end of this year. We are planning to do more gigs out of Brighton, now that we play regularly every Thursday night at the Richmond. You're still calling it Punk Nite in the Voice.
(Voice... Sorry!)



KEN HOGG, drums, from Jedburgh, Scotland, the nasty wee man.

SEE THE WHAT'S ON PAGE for details of Nicky and the Dots future bookings.



THE QUEEN'S
REGIMENT

The Brighton Voice collective has recently decided to support an exciting new initiative put forward by the United Troops Out Movement (UTOM). The idea is that local radical/community newspapers such as Brighton Voice would be 'twinning' with organisations/community groups in Northern

BRIGHTON'S ARMY IN IRELAND

Ireland who would supply information about the activities of 'our' locally raised Army units when stationed in the 6 counties.

The pages of Brighton Voice very rarely carry any news or opinions concerning the presence of British troops in Ireland—normally because it is thought that it has little relevance to what happens in Brighton. However, the 3rd Battalion of the Queen's Regiment, recruited locally from the Brighton area like all army units is expected to fulfill its oppressive commitment in the 6 counties. The idea of the twinning project is to report directly, exactly what sort of role a school-kid from Brighton will have to play after she/he steps into the army recruitment office or is seduced by those "nice men who gave a talk at our school".

Moreover, the British Army in N.I. are fast developing methods, tactics and technology in controlling civil disturbance, industrial strife and popular mass movements—methods that one day are going to be used against US. (see last VOICE on Home Defence.)



WHO'S NEXT IN THE LINE OF FIRE?

With the unprecedented (in recent years) censorship and self-censorship of media coverage of events and politics in Ireland it is essential that we bypass established 'news' channels and go direct to groups in Ireland who like ourselves are immediately involved in the everyday lives of working people.

TROOPS OUT... SELF DETERMINATION
FOR ALL.



THE GRIM REALITY IN IRELAND.



THE CLEAN-CUT ADVENTURE IMAGE

THE FLOP FILE



TRADING

STANDARDS

DROOPING

The latest supposedly unbiased Sussex official to jump on the establishment bandwagon is E. Sussex trading standards officer Paul Allen. In his recently released annual report Mr. Allen warns against the risk of having more consumer protection laws. Mr. Allen thinks that any more protection for the public would be a bad thing. Traders would become confused, he bleats, the poor things would be unable to keep up with all the new laws. And that's not everything. When I think of all the other superfluous laws protecting people in this country my blood boils. There's the law against mugging which shamefully denies the individual his right to indulge in physical exercise. There's the law against sex discrimination which cruelly prevents decent, hard-working male chauvinist bosses refusing women jobs. And now, heavens above, there are too many laws to prevent traders exercising their capitalist profit rights by ripping off the public. And what's more, this same ungrateful public have frequently had the gall to complain. It's a bloody disgrace the way the ordinary people of this country are trying to stifle private enterprise.

ARGUS LEOPARD
CHANGES SPOT.

The Argus has had a change of editor. Their recent heading said with the Argus's usual lack of originality: "new man at the

Argus helm". I can only hope that new man Williams can maintain a straighter course than his predecessor 'Outspan Gorringe'. Under his helmship the Argus frequently capsized owing to its habit of listing so far over to the right.

Unfortunately the Williams photograph did not look too encouraging. His hair, which bore a passing resemblance to the roof of a badly thatched cottage, looked as if it had been cut by a demented monk wielding a pair of garden shears and a pudding basin. The Williams chest was surrounded by a blinding light caused by the new brightness of his regular establishment white shirt. (A strange colour choice for the Argus) All he needed to complete his kit of "reactionary man was a picture of Queen Victoria in his wallet. I don't claim to be a prophet but I fear the worst.

ARMY

SEDUCES

GRADUATES

The army is advertizing again. Their latest appeal to capture the countries graduates reads: University teaches you how to put up bridges. We'll teach you to knock them down". To be part of their intellectually sophisticated army, in wartime graduates have to be able to "blow up airfields, roads, power supplies and water installations" And in peacetime "in any emergency be it snow in Kent or a hurricane in the Caribbean the Royal Engineers are often the first on the scene". Where no doubt they'll blow up snow in Kent and set fire to hurricanes in the Caribbean. However, to obtain such a socially useful career I should warn you that "your degree alone won't get you a job in the army. You have to pass a three day interview and tests with the Army Officer Selection Board. The board is clearly wooden, is surrounded by a thick protective frame, and consists of a series of holes of uniform size into which the graduate has to fit his ideas. The three days are to give him time to disregard any ideas that won't fit into the holes. If at the end of the three days the graduate still has some ideas

not holed he is considered unfit and rightfully rejected. He should then place the responsibility for his failure firmly in the lap of his university for persisting in teaching him the wrong subjects. These university lecturers simply don't live in the real world. After all, what did Gladstone know about blowing up airfields? Or Shakespeare about sabotaging power supplies? And as for Einstein, he knew absolutely sod all about shovelling snow. But now thanks to the Army you realise what an ignorant lot of wankers they all were.

TORY STUNT
ON
SEA-FRONT

There have been rumours that the Tories were in Brighton recently. I can vouch for this because I saw a couple of them myself. They were walking along North St. ostentatiously wearing their conference badges with their names written on them. This was to ensure that if they got lost and were taken to a police station by a kind passer-by the police would know who they were.

Unfortunately none were known to have met this awful fate although there were one or two splashes and plopping sounds heard off the West Pier. These turned out to have been caused by an intrepid member of the public kissing Tory leader Thatcher. This brave man, who surely must be in line for the O.B.E., admitted that until that moment he had been a virgin. He had never kissed a Tory. But we had no need to worry for Thatcher was quite safe. Her old friend Auntie Argus herself was primly chaperoning the whole affair. Gleeefully reporting the event Auntie said that Thatcher passed off the kiss with a 'jovial laugh'. Her scriptwriters appear to have been excelling themselves thinking up the latest in vote catching stunts. Soliciting on the sea-front.



BLACKMAN STREET.

DEADEND ROW



Houses The Brighton Tories

Don't Talk About!



DYKE ROAD.



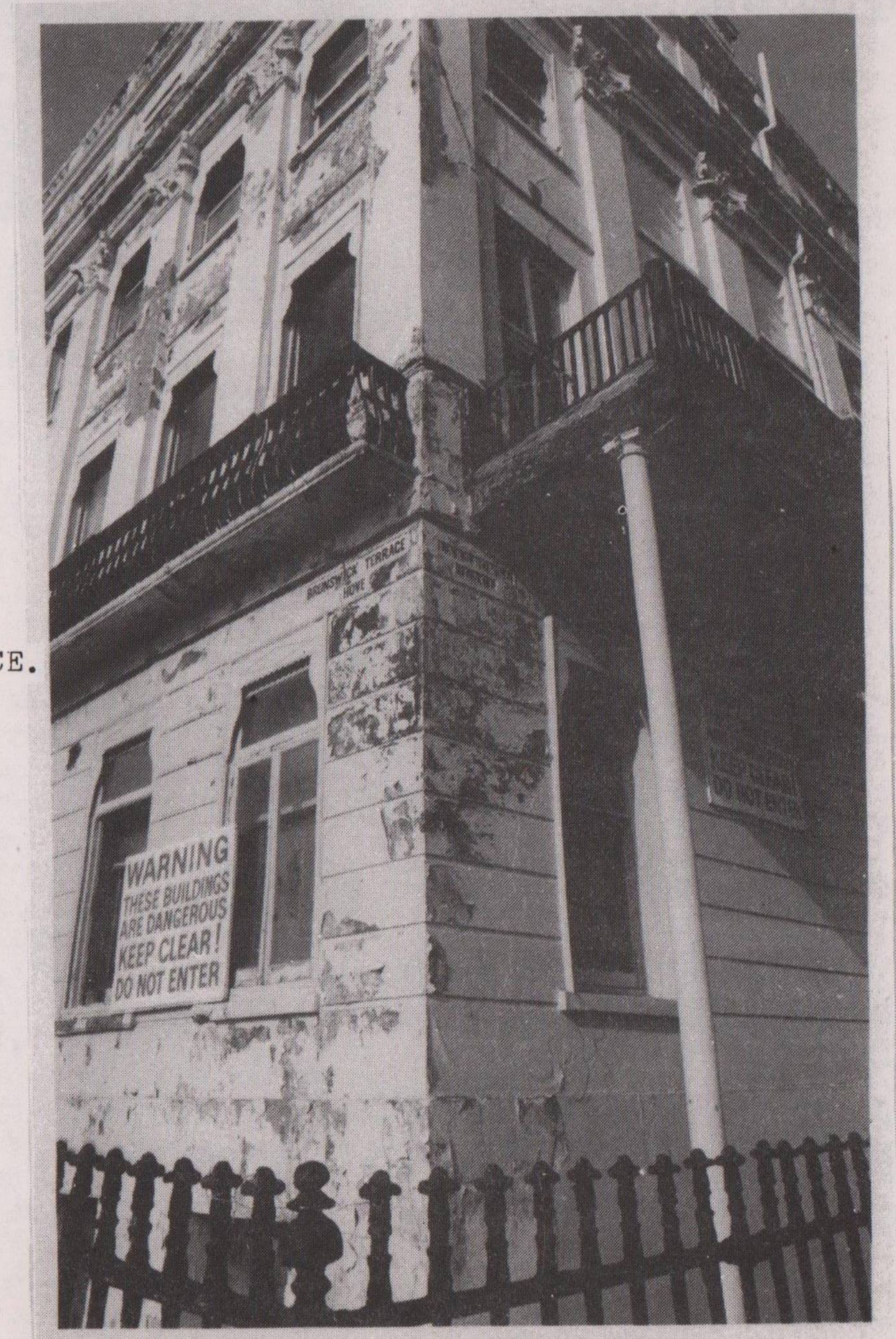
WINDSOR STREET.



NORTH ROAD.



BRUNSWICK TERRACE.



HOMES FOR ALL!

House Hunting In Brighton

It seems as if the 'Argus' has finally discovered homeless people. In a recent report they state;

"A group of Brighton Poly-students have to commute from London every day because they cannot get accommodation in the town.

50 other Poly. students are still looking for a place to live in Brighton. Thousands more ordinary people are equally homeless or living in bad, over-crowded conditions.

Brighton is an abnormal town in as much as Council Housing makes up only 17% of the housing stock. (nat. av. 33%) Owner Occupation is low at 44% (nat. av. 52%) On the other hand, private rented accommodation composes 39% of the towns houses, (nat. av. less than 10%) These figures reflect the Private Property consciousness in the town, and have produced a, nationally, rare breed of social parasite; -the private landlord and its lapdog, the Accommodation Agency.

a dynamic duo

A landlord tends to have one aim in life-to make money. Housing is, generally, a good way to do this, in more ways than one. The owner of 9 Dorset Gardens can't afford to have the electric meters calibrated for the new rate, he says. A tenant has to pay a lump sum every quarter, to the landlord, to make up the total. Such a practice is obviously open to abuse.

Occasionally landlords can be contacted through newspaper columns, but more usually the only way to get a rented house is by going to one of the housing agencies that skulk in the many back streets off Western Rd. They specialize in finding tenants to

suit available property (ie., they operate in the sole interest of the landlord) In doing so they make profit for themselves; supply the landlord with suitable tenants; and contribute to the growing number of homeless by excluding certain social groups as unsuitable-Blacks, the unemployed, non-family groups, etc. In many ways these agencies are as seedy, inhuman and repulsive as a back street abortionist.

People talk of the 'Dole Queue Generation'. Walking up and down Western Rd. every day

profitable prestidigitation

Talking of cost, it really makes you cry when you hear a heart rending speech by Mr. Morris of Morris and Co. (20 Upper Mkt. St.) who, unconvincingly, complains that house prices have spiralled upwards somewhat terribly. He is so sorry the newly married couple and their child can only afford up to £30 p. w., but nowhere has he or anyone else got a place for such a price. Mr. Morris never did say why house rents had suddenly shot up. He leaves it as though



crawling into dingy offices, only to be told repeatedly, 'sorry, nowhere suitable', is equally, if not more soul destroying. If you fit into one of the 'unsuitable' groups then you are almost certain to hear the above phrase time and time again. Claridges Bureau, (8 Brunswick Place) is typical in of other agencies, in their attitude of not dealing with the unemployed. (Don't they realize that people on the dole automatically get their rent paid by the s.s.) In many cases the only way to get a house is to lie, sometimes greatly.

An interesting experiment is to let an Agency believe you're a student, without actually corroborating their belief. At Ralph and Ralphs (31 Queens Rd.) the usual reaction is, 'sorry, etc.' Then announce that you actually work, in a professional job. A list will materialize before your eyes... '...er, well, we just might have something...' The houses do exist, but obviously the better accommodation would never do for students or mere manual workers, would it now? Better to keep it for people who will look after it...

it is some magical process. One minute a 20 year old house is worth £30--Abracadabra (puff of blue smoke)--suddenly it's worth £50. Sounds very strange to me-but then, we don't all believe in fairies.... House rental prices wouldn't have anything to do with your profit margins, would they Mr. Morris? We thought the age of the evil 19th century capitalist had gone. It seems not.

This article makes no apology for remaining at an individual level. The whole question of private property and capitalist ideology and the basic human RIGHT to shelter is, of course, where it's really all at, but requires more space than is available here. But on a human level, after searching for months to find a home, the US



Housing - Cont.

v. THEM polarization becomes only too clear; like the landlady who in one breath denounces the unemployed by saying she wants no one who is on the dole, and in the next breath is tax dodging by saying she wants half the rent in cash, half by cheque, because she can't be doing paying all that tax. (We didn't like the better side of Queens Rd. anyway)

alternative future

What is the alternative to the disgusting situation of being homeless in a society rich enough to house everyone? Immediately the back street agencies could be discontinued. Information relating to rented housing could be centralized, collated and allocated through a local or national government agency, operating on a non-profit making system, much like the Job



Centres operate with regard to employment. Obviously this would not be sufficient, and in the long term only the abolition of the principle of a property owning landlord elite would suffice - an act that could not be achieved in isolation.

However, for those 50 Poly. students and other social groups homeless now, you have little choice but to continue your trek down Western Rd; but don't expect to find your dream house. Mr. Morris has referred to the signing of a 6 monthly tenancy agreement between landlord and tenant as 'signing your rights away'. 39% of the houses in Brighton contain people who have had to do this as their last hope of having a place to live in. A hell of a lot more people have never had the chance to do even that.

See Also, Photo. Supplement - Centre Pages.



News



from the free press

YORK. (1) A new by law supposedly aimed at buskers, seems designed to stop the sale of various left wing papers in the city centre. It will now be illegal to sell papers, give out leaflets or play musical instruments; one complaint is all the police need to make an arrest. (York Free Press)

(2) Tenants on the Bell Farm estate have had their houses badly affected by a black mould since modernisation took place recently. A council report found that the structural changes carried out were the cause, but they still told the local press that it was all due to "domestic practices". The Tory majority was, however, unable to explain how the modernisation had changed tenants lifestyles, as there had been no trouble before. The housing dept. is now looking for the easiest way of escaping it's responsibilities..... (Y.F.P.)

Nottingham. Ex-Labour councillor Michael Cowan thought he had been libelled by his local community paper, Nottingham Voice, but instead of writing to the publishers to complain - or even threatening to sue them - he tried to close them down by getting at newsagents selling the paper. (B.V. note: Does this sound familiar?) Several have now stopped selling, under threat of legal action by Cowan, and the local trades council has taken the matter up, with support from Michael English, Labour M.P. for West. Notts. Nigel Lee of N.V. says, "Our sales have been hit. It is an implied threat to any newspaper, especially poor, small ones. You can just imagine the reaction if someone went into a newsagents and told them not to sell the Daily Mirror because it had libelled them". Michael English says; Cowan is behaving like a rather small boy" (Peoples News Service)

Oxford. A Law student who tried to explain the legal position to a motorist stopped by the police has been given a Conditional Discharge and made to pay £20 costs for "obstructing the course of justice". (P.N.S.)

LINK UP - an apology

In last months Special Report on Home Defence we erroneously credited the Sussex University Student Community Action group, LINK UP with a donation of funds for the production of the report. What we should have credited them with was the Library resources which they made available to us. Link-Up have no financial connection with Brighton Voice and in no way did they finance this venture. We apologise to the Link Up officers for the embarrassment this mistake must have caused.

Brighton Voice Collective.



MAURICE & CO.
ESTATE AGENTS
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED
HOUSES & FLATS FOR SALE
OR TO LET
RENTS COLLECTED
BRIGHTON 777202

free school for brighton

THE NEW BRIGHTON/HOVE "FREE" SCHOOL (official name pending) begins at 9.00am on Monday Oct 30 th.

We are planning an alternative to a state school which we hope will provide a happy learning atmosphere for children of five years and older, (and for the adults involved as well)

We provisionally have premises, some children, volunteers and ideas, but we are very short of resources, funds, materials etc.

If you can help begin, and continue this excellent project, please contact :-

Stephanie Mondi on B'ton 733261 for details and date of our next meeting.



SUPP. BENEFITS REVIEW (from p.1)

The Review was produced by a team of top civil servants, including a Treasury Department official, who worked on it for over eighteen months. The resulting 'discussion document' recommends:

1) That the rules for Social Security are simplified and given precise definition. This will undoubtedly be used as a justification for reducing claimants' rights of appeal and subjecting former areas of dispute to a 'Code of Practice'; a more rigid version of the secret 'A' Code which currently restricts discretion and interpretation.

2) Under the proposed changes, school-leavers would not qualify for benefit until the autumn term. This would falsely reduce published unemployment levels, punitively encourage job hunting and perpetuate dependence on the family.

3) Pandering to the most mindless race prejudice, the Review considers that "...special attention should be given to restricting the payment of benefit to overseas visitors and sponsored relatives" - a blatant contradiction of the principles of the Supplementary Benefits Act, which provides that: "every person in Great Britain...whose resources are insufficient to meet his require-

ments should be entitled to benefit."

4) A two-tier system of benefits is proposed, with (a) a short-term scheme of lower, simpler rates, an 'average' rent allowance with no extras or special expenses.

(b) After 6, 8, or 13 weeks (they haven't made up their minds), the long-term scheme would come into effect. A more detailed claim would then be necessary and admission correspondingly more difficult.

5) The Review recommends the elimination of Exceptional Needs Payments, except for fire or flood victims. An annual lump sum payment of fixed amount would be substituted (based on an uprating of the current average ENP of £26.19). Other weekly additions, such as Exceptional Circumstances Addition, would be phased out. The principle follows on present policy that exceptional payments should not be made for things covered in the scale rates. The Supplementary Benefits Commission was worried by the cost of ENP appeals. The new payments would be outside the scope of the appeal system and subject to the Code of Practice and would therefore cost far less.

6) The present insidious practice of part rent payment would be reinforced and formalised under the proposals. The new scheme would provide for an average fixed rent allowance and nothing above this. As a result claimants will be forced into the cheapest possible accommodation - a further victimisation.

7) Lastly a new job for the Department 400 'sex-role investigators'.

2½ Million Die For Higher Profits.

The British Eggs Authority plans to massacre 2,500,000 battery hens in an effort to push up prices. Despite the promise that the inhuman battery system would keep egg prices down, cost have risen to such an extent that losses are now being made in some cases; in a society that values profit over need or humanity, this is the result.

Other countries (eg, Denmark, where battery farming is now illegal) have already begun a planned rundown of the system, but there is no sign of this happening in Britain. Peter Roberts, one of the organisers of Livestock Lib. says, "95% of eggs in the U.K. are produced from hens which have only four spare inches of cage width each. Compare this with their wing span of 30 inches and you will see just how cruel the system is."

Free range eggs are available at Simple Supplies and some health food shops in Brighton -- but beware rip offs and ambiguous signs ("Fresh Farm Eggs"). You can fight capitalism and monopoly producers while you do your shopping.

Livestock Lib can be contacted at Petersfield 4.208.

They would have to decide which person in a couple should be called the breadwinner! How absurd can you get. Why can't they treat all claimants individually as they are under the 1975 Pensions Act?

All these changes are designed to save the state money. All of them pander to the campaign mounted by Tories and other reactionaries who talk about 'scroungers on the SS'. In fact the review points out in one of its positive sections that this kind of talk is nonsense. But instead of having the confidence to give people what they really need, the DHSS is determined to save money. This is all the more sinister because the sufferers are going to be people on the dole. Calculating that unemployment in huge numbers is here to stay the state is determined to REDUCE THEIR BENEFITS AND THUS SAVE MILLIONS OF POUNDS. In such ways the capitalist system keeps its reserve army of labour barely above subsistence level.

Letters

Argus Postbag
Evening Argus
Brighton

Dear Sir,

I really must protest as strongly as possible at your continually giving space to the outright lies, distortions, and slander peddled by the National Front, however "respectable" an image they may be trying to preserve in Brighton.

The Nazi reality behind their cynical facade of "patriotism and heritage" has been demonstrated repeatedly. It took a World War before the people of Germany realised what Hitler meant by such fine language. Today I refer your readers to the recent Granada programme, to the arrival of uniformed thugs at a recent Brighton by-election count, to the vicious physical attacks perpetrated all over the country by members of the National Front, to the daubings on walls, intimidation smashing of windows, etc... The list is endless, the evidence plain. How the Editor of the Argus remains blind to this I cannot understand.

The National Front organisation in Brighton is tiny, their standing in local elections derisory. It is a scandal that the letters page of the Argus, serving as it does as an important medium of communication in the community, should be dominated repeatedly by the proclamations of a fascist group whose only claim to serious consideration is their violence.

The Anti-Nazi League is an association of individuals and organisations unified in their complete aversion to Nazism and in their determination to expose the gangsterism of the National Front.

Yes, it includes Communists, it also includes Liberal, Labour and Tory party members as well as Church leaders.

It is easy to coned by the National Front's clever language. If you are at all involved in the politics of the local community you will run into the grim reality. Intimidation beatings. Normal political action is being made difficult. If readers are sceptical, I would remind them that the name at the bottom of the letter is genuine, as is the address.

I await with interest the opportunity to read in the columns of the Argus of an attack upon myself and the offices of my organisation.

Yours Faithfully
Terry Miles,
V.P. University S.U.

A Letter to the Argus won't Print!

Dear Voice,

I have just bought and read the Sept. issue, (I see your 50% price rise includes a welcome expansion in size). Included in the very good (eg. Ian Nicholls) and not so good (the child care article would have been of some use and interest if it had contained some figures of the children receiving and needing nursery education, compared to elsewhere and what would be acceptable) articles were several anecdotes that were either wrong or annoying.

On page 14 in Odds & Sods, you said the Gallup poll on N. Ireland was totally ignored by the Media. I enclose articles from pages 1&2 of the Times dated 20th Sept. concerning the poll, and discussing that particular poll and others, a leader from the same day. I did not read any other paper or watch T.V. that day, so I do not know of any other coverage. Just as important as the 55% wanting withdrawal, incidentally, is the reason 55% of those people gave for favouring withdrawal. Namely because of the number of soldiers killed and wounded.

Does your Thought for the T.U.C. on page 5 mean that the Voice views the purpose of unions to destroy companies (nationalised or private) rather than improve them for the benefit of the workers?

Also the controversy of the publishing of sexism in the Voice. Would it not be more useful to publish the statements and add comments on why these comments are bad. This is surely the only way to get rid of sexism at the roots, by showing what is wrong and why it is offensive to many people, rather than just removing the symptoms, which helps no one.

Richard Lerner.

Unions & Labour [Round 3]

Dear Comrades,

No doubt most of your readers will be uninterested in Bros. Hill's splenetic outburst in the last 'Voice'. However, one or two factual correctments should be made for the record.

The article in the TUC special on the CER dispute did have some inaccuracies. The main reason was

that an acknowledged expert on the dispute had been asked by the editors for an article and agreed to write one. 48 hours the deadline he admitted that he had not written it, leaving the editors with the task of getting someone to lash together an article overnight. The expert - Bros. Hill.

In fact Bros. Hill's 'corrections' are deficient. I clearly recall one of the T.C. officers hailing the settlement as a 'partial victory'. As to demonstrations, Bros. Hill claims that decisions were taken not by "T.C. leaders" but by the "Labour dominated E.C." - I always assumed that the E.C. of the Trades Council constituted its leadership.

Similarly the rest of Bros. Hill's "history" does not bear detached examination. To give one example, he recalls that the T.C. "took the initiative in pressing for an immediate protest demonstration on Czechoslovakia... the Labour Party would have taken 6 weeks". His recollection is wrong. In fact the call came instantaneously in the T.C. and Labour Party GMC's. I know because I was the Labour Party speaker at that demonstration.

Bros. Hill's remarks have the scent of a past period in T.C. history, a period when personal animosities often formed a motive force for action. At that time a favoured practice of a certain section of T.C. delegates was to attack Labour Party members, especially those on the Marxist wing of the Party, by smear innuendo and anonymous letter. Fortunately such days are now long gone.

New blood in the Council has meant that a full and democratic debate now takes place over the relationship of the industrial and political wings of the labour movement at a local and national level. I believe my article was a contribution to such a discussion. Bros. Hill's certainly was not.

Geoff Jones
(T.C. Delegate
E.C. Member)

PROFITS IN N'HOMES CONTD FROM FRONT PAGE

Despite the local fire officer's concern over fire-safety precautions in nursing homes, we believe that this is a minor problem; more general standards of safety were found to be seriously lacking. For example, it is common practice to leave infirm people unattended at the top of the building - possibly one of the main causes for the high turnover of patients is through stairfalls.

Mental and physical deterioration due to neglect is, however, another major factor. Because there are not enough staff, many patients are left all day strapped into chairs, and as a result of this lack of attention, they often become rapidly senile and, basically, incapable of living.

Sinister form of neglect

But there is another more sinister form of neglect. Standards of care are more often than not related to how much the patient can afford. It is not unusual for old people to be moved into smaller, colder and more shabby rooms once they cannot afford the higher fees; and in one home an old man literally starved to death because he could only pay about £4.5 a week. This case is not rare: such homes are run on the ethic that the patients are there as a source of income rather than as cases to be treated.

There are no fixed rates for private nursing care: owners can charge what they like. We know of one woman who paid the owner with blank cheques because he told her the fees varied from week to week. The average fee is £70 a week - in sharp contrast to this, the average weekly wage for the staff is as little as £30.

Only 15

It is obvious that the lack of attention stems from a shortage of staff. From our own experience, and from discussion with staff from other homes, we found that on average as few as 2 or 3 helpers were expected to look after as many as twenty patients. One employee told of how, when she was 15, she ran a nursing home single-handed over the week-

ends. What is the solution to the callous treatment which the aged must expect from nursing care, both public and private? It is useless to blame the family, to accuse them of dumping their burdens on other people, for over the past 20 or so years society has more and more rigidly defined the limits of what has become known as the 'nuclear family'.

In the early '60s Parliament advised that more emphasis should be placed on domiciliary care - i.e. the involvement of the community - in dealing with the 'problem' of the aged. Proposals included the greater use of day-care centres, which would reduce the chances of permanent admissions, and the setting up of 'sheltered housing', through which old people can maintain a degree of independence within a small and closely protected community. Needless to say, the cutbacks of the '70s have destroyed any chance of these measures being fully implemented. Thus the local authorities have shifted some of their responsibility for the aged onto private care.

No check

The registering of a private nursing home is at the discretion of the representative of the Secretary of State, who decides whether the home "adequately" fulfills the standards of repair, accommodation, staffing and equipment. (Nursing Homes Act 1975, 4.(b))

The Nursing Homes Act 1975 states that a home will not be registered if "there is not, or will not be, a proper proportion of qualified nurses among the persons having the superintendence of, or employed in the nursing of the patients in, the home." (4.(d)ii.) In most homes, the only qualified nurse is the matron, and often understaffing is so serious that the cleaner is expected to perform nursing duties. As a result, many patients die of illnesses that have been unrecognised or misdiagnosed.

Among the National Assistance (Conduct of Homes) Regulations 1962, is a reference to "suitable arrangements for the safekeeping and handling of drugs" (4.(n)); yet there is no check on the disposal of prescribed drugs on patients - and with

Proposals

too few overworked staff, it is all too easy to keep the patients dosed up on tranquilisers. It is also all too easy for local authorities to overlook contraventions of regulations (and besides, fines are minimal: "not exceeding £20" for first and subsequent offences); for the closure of private homes would shift the burden of the aged back onto the already crumbling institution of the NHS.

The exploitation of patients runs hand-in-hand with the overwork and appalling pay of the staff - virtually all women - who work in these homes. The vast majority of employees in private care are housewives who want a job that is 'morally rewarding' and, as such their situation can easily be exploited; particularly so, as none of the staff in private homes is unionised. Employers rely on - and get - the charitable good-will which these women have been conditioned to believe is part of their function in life.

GMWU

It is through the recognition of their exploitation that staff can bring about tighter controls in the running of homes. If they believe that the patients, or themselves, are suffering maltreatment in any way (for example, if they are expected to lift a patient by themselves), they should be able to override the management and bring these problems to the scrutiny of the local government officer responsible. Although it is questionable as to what effect appeal to local government would have, the recently instituted Health and Safety at Work Act should empower staff to stop work if they consider conditions are not safe enough to work in. The only effective way that staff can co-ordinate their actions on a local basis is by joining the relevant union, GMWU. If this was carried out, authorities would be compelled to tighten regulations, if only to keep the burden of the old on someone else's shoulders.

THIS IS FOR YOU —

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION !!

The Voice offers a year's free subscription (worth £2.50) to the best entry on the theme of 'BRIGHTON 2000'. Stories, collage, photomontage, drawings etc. Entries by 15 Dec. 7 Victoria Rd.

FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN BUDDHIST ORDER: Yoga, lectures etc. Beginners meditation Mon 7.15. 19 George Street, 693571.

GAY CHRISTIANS: Martin, 680686.

GAY RURAL AID & INFO NETWORK (GRAIN): Clyde Oliver, 69 North St, Lewes 733638.

GEORGE STREET AREA SOCIETY: (Save George St Campaign) Howard Allaway, 7 Steine Gardens, 693763.

GINGERBREAD: Self help pressure group for one parent families. Basement, 6 Marlborough Place, 774087.

HANOVER COMMUNITY ASSOC: Southover St, self-build community centre, 688380.

TWO FLEERS HOUSING CO-OP: collective ownership and control of housing for young, single people. Contact Brenda, Lewes 2029, Ray 776577, Bob 73 76 77.

HUNT SABBOTEURS ASSOCIATION: Vince Smith, 386 Portland Rd, Hove, 411484.

KINGSCLIFFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY: Ms N. Marlow, 18 Bedford Street.

LESBIAN GROUP: Jill, 31 Franklin Road, 696298.

LINK UP: Sussex University Student Community Action 680380

MUSICIANS COLLECTIVE: John, Public House Bookshop, Little Preston Street.

MUSIC FOR SOCIALISM: contact as above.

NATIONAL AGRICULTION CAMPAIGN: contact Women's Centre. N.C.C.L.: see 'Advice' PROJECT ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND (Hove): 737357, 738712 or 411565.

RESOURCE CENTRE: Top North Rd, 607141. Basic resources for the community: meeting space, duplicating, screen printing, Community Press, playgroup, directory of meeting space and much more.

WOMEN'S CENTRE: at back of Resource Centre. Open: Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat: 11-2 & Tue, Wed 6.30-8.00. Pregnancy tests, rights etc. 605911.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM: 66460 684604 and Lewes 4161.

alternatieve medicine

ACUPUNCTURIST: J.P. Scott, ALEXANDRA TECHNIQUE: S.J. Scott, 33 Surrenden Cr., B'ton. 559379. Appt. only.

MASSAGE: introductory courses & SHIATSU contact P.H. Bookshop 28357 (no wankers please)

NATUROPATH: A.G. Sparkes 19 Wilbury Rd. Hove. Appt. only 737357 (am.)

SHIATSU: Reflexology, Swedish Massage, Bach flower remedies, Marek Urbanowicz, The Palmeria Clinic, 6 Paleria Sq., Hove. Btn. 34465 Apts.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF NATURAL HEALTH: Alternative medicine, self health care, Jenny Deadyman, Infinity Foods, North Rd., Btn. 603563

work etc

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT: Resource Centre 15 seat minibus/van & driver Bton 607141

MERLIN: The Lewes Work Coll Gardening, decorating, Tutoring, Mechanics etc. (over 40 skills) 5 Mount Pl. Lewes. Lewes 5294

MOUSECOOME CHILDRENS DANCING TROUPE: Morris dancing etc for OAP's children's homes etc Bton 691713

JEFF JOY: Whole Foods Catering Collective; 19 Hammy Way, Shoreham by Sea. S'ham 62301

VALENTINE WITH THE VENTURAS: Charity concert party, OAP clubs, childrens homes, etc Bton 737357

SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY 19 Elm Grove, Bton. 687848

YOUNG COMMUNISTS (YTON) C. Murray, c/o 16 Watling St. Hove. Bton 738388

YOUNG LIBERALS: c/o Cl'llr D. Rogers, 8 Guilford st. Bton. 26041

YOUNG SOCIALISTS (L.P.) Bton P. Byrne, 64 Coleman St. or 604559. Hove: B. North, 53, Blatchington Rd. Lewes: A. Bryant, 16 Willow Walk, Newhaven 6299



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SUNRISE RESTURANT: 16 North Rd. Btn. Whole food, vegetarian. Run by Friends of the Western Buddhist Order. Mon-Thur 12-5. Fri & Sat 12-6 & 7-10pm.

THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Rd, Hove. Vegetarian cafe. Mon-Sat. 10-3. Tel. 779933

WINDHORSE BOOKSHOP: 19 George St. Btn. Buddhism, books, Indian clothes, gifts, candles, incense, cards. 10-5 daily.

WORKERS BOOKSHOP (Bton.) Marxist-Leninist classics & working class history. Sat. only 9-5. 37 Glouce. Rd. Btn. 684404.

A.I.D. CHARITY SHOP: 38 North St. Open 9.30-5.30 Articles wanted.

LIBERTIES (SUSSEX) 689385 or c/o Public House Bookshop (see 'SHOPS')

PREGNANCY ADVISORY SERVICE (B'TON) Pregnancy testing, counselling, abortions, vasectomies. Wistons, 138 Dyke Rd. 509726

RENT TRIBUNAL: rent disputes, security of tenure etc. 137 Preston Rd. Btn. 506581

RIGHTS CENTRE (Bton): Advice on legal problems. Central Free Church Queens Sq. Btn. 2492 Tue 5.30-7.30. Thur 12.30-2.5. 30-7.30. COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL. Advice on problems/difs. with the N.H.S. Btn. 33824, Hove 71186

SAMARITANS: For those in despair. Btn. 77277 (24hr) Hove 102 Clarendon Rd.

SUATERS AND TENANTS ADVISORY SERVICE: Advice to homeless & those with housing problems. c/o Resources Centre. North Rd. WOMENS AID: Refuge for battered women-506325

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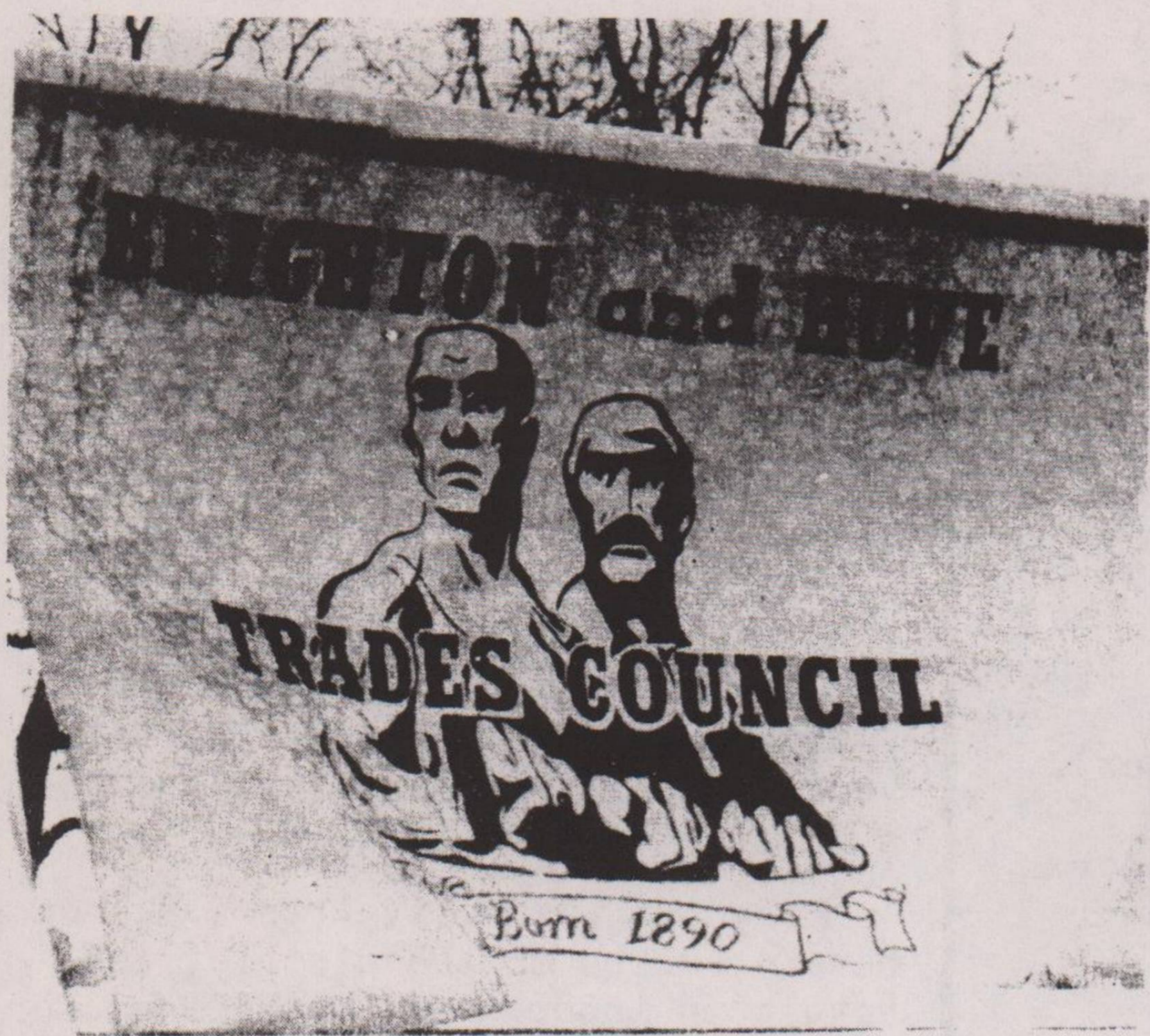
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Brighton Voice is an alternative paper produced by people living and working in the Brighton area. It aims to cover news which the commercial press, because of its political and social bias distorts. There is no editor - we are all involved in all 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 the news will be helpful to others in the same circumstances. The 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 8.30pm at 7 Victoria Road (side entrance), or phone 27878 at the same time.

ALL MATERIAL FOR NEXT ISSUE BY 20 NOV. IDEAS, STORIES, NEWS, INFO, OPINION ETC. WELCOME. N.B. THE VOICE IS READ BY WELL OVER 4,000 PEOPLE.

TRADES COUNCIL BULLETIN

No.1 Nov 78



SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Trades Union Council has delegates and representatives in a wide range of organisations in the region. Some of these concern essential bread and butter issues like pay, leave, hours and conditions of work, and many delegates to the Trades Council become experts in these particular fields. We are very involved in the Industrial Tribunals, Supplementary Benefits Tribunal, the Mayor's Liaison Committee, the Education and Industry Committee, the County Association of Trades Councils and the Southern Region of the Trades Union Congress. We also have our own Low Pay Committee.

We are also concerned in the many wider aspects of life that affect working people outside their immediate working environment and so we have delegates on committees that seem, at first sight, to lie outside our sphere. I'm thinking in particular of campaigns like the one against cuts in the Health Service, the Abortion Rights Committee, the Pensioners' Trade Union Action group, the Community Arts Workshop, the Anti-Fascist Committee, to name but a few.

Some of these organisations came into being from sub-committees originally set up by the Trades Council itself.

From time to time the Council receives reports from the delegates and occasionally provides financial and other aid. This mostly consists in publicising events or pamphlets, or just giving information on their behalf to our affiliated unions. We also try to keep delegates informed, and most meetings include speakers from local or national organisations.

The October meeting received a speaker from the Connolly Association who explained to delegates the history of the association which had been set up by Irish people living in England in 1938 to get support for Irish self-determination.

One of the more recent main aims of this association was to get the Prevention of Terrorism Act repealed and they had so far won support from 35 MPs.

The Council agreed to support the aims of the association and also to contact the Belfast and Liverpool Trades Councils to get their views of the situation in Ireland, especially since members of the Transport and General Workers Union have been arrested recently under this Act while

travelling to a training course in Liverpool.

There was a second speaker at the meeting from the Labour Party Young Socialists. Carl Wiper of NALGO explained why the Young Socialists were again raising the issue of Youth Unemployment and were tying this to a demand for a 35 hour week.

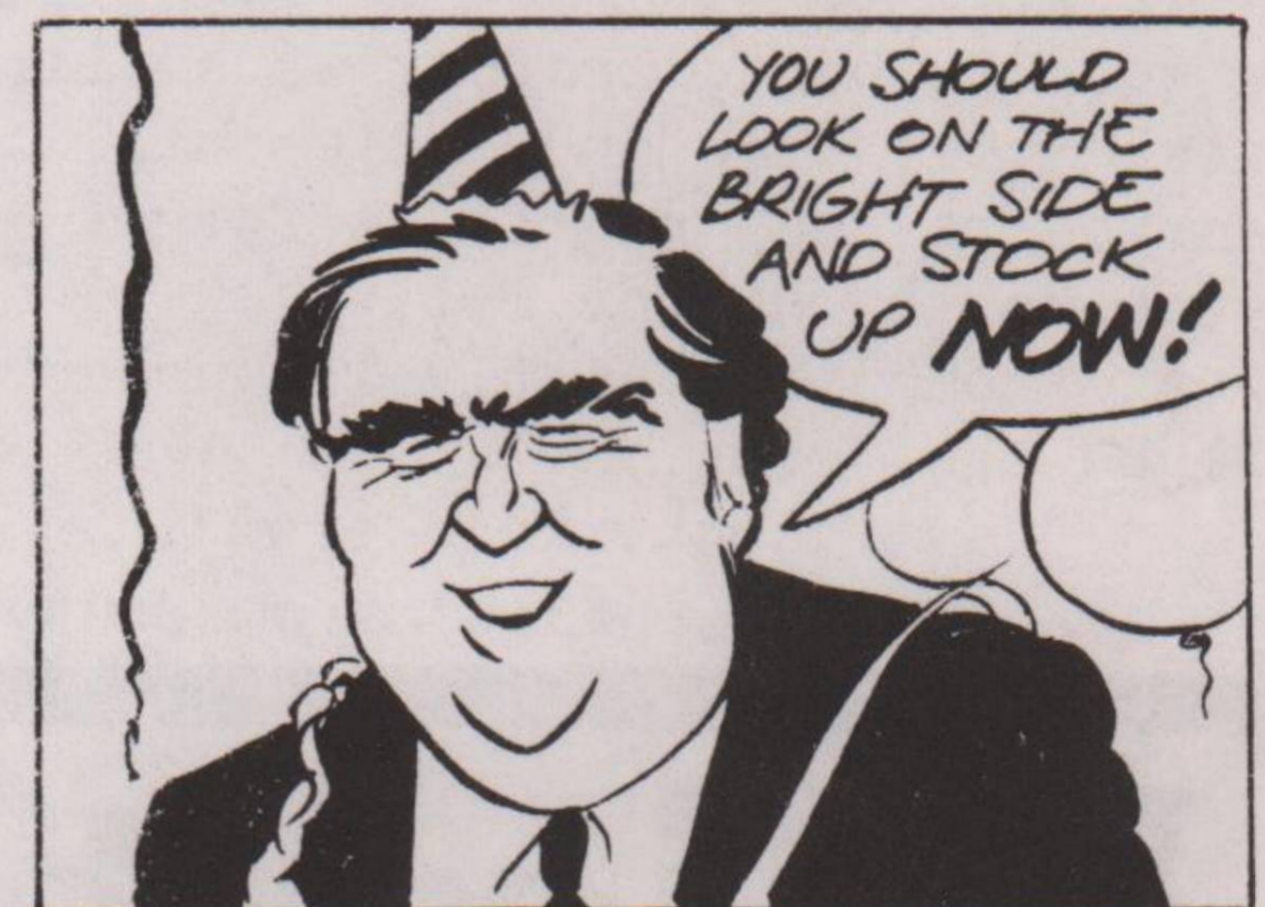
The Trades Council agreed to sponsor the meeting on the 35 hour week with the President, Andy Durr, speaking on behalf of the Council. It also agreed to support the regional conference being held in London on 25 November.

Trades Council heard that preparations for May Day 1979 are well in hand and the President reminded delegates that if May Day was to be a success then branches must plan their events now and ensure all their banners would be on show. Now that May Day is a bank holiday, trade unionists should take the opportunity of having a real family day out in the best tradition of working people.

Next month's meeting on 15.11.78 will include a local speaker from the National Abortion Campaign and also a full discussion on the Home Defence Report from the October issue of Brighton Voice.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS !

These two pages have been bought by the Brighton & Hove Trades Council for you to have a platform to express your views. This is for a trial period of four issues, so to make it a success I would like you to use these pages and send to me any material that you wish. For example, if there is industrial trouble in your place of work let us hear the shop floor side. Also send your Letters, Stories, Articles, Opinions, Photos and cartoons etc. to Bro. J. Cockerill, 3 Lee Bank, Grove Hill, Brighton BN2 2NH. Tel. Brighton 695192. YOUR SUPPORT AND VIEWS ARE NEEDED.



This bulletin is written and edited by the Trades Council. It is typed, set and printed by Brighton Voice (Pendkern Ltd.), 7 Victoria Rd, Brighton. The advert overleaf for Brighton Voice appears by arrangement with the Trades Council.

Will all branch secretaries and delegates please note that there has been a change of secretary for the Trades Council and address all correspondence to -

Mrs Ann Jones,
252 Freshfield Rd,
BRIGHTON
BN2 2YG

UNEMPLOYMENT

a social disease

"It can't happen to me" and "My job is safe" are often heard cries, but unfortunately it can happen to you and all too frequently does. Let me give you an example.

Two years ago (1976) the 300 employees of an old well-established Brighton pharmaceutical firm A.H.Cox & Co. Lewes Rd. thought and made the same statements. But now as we approach 1979 the stark reality of the fact is that they will be facing the bleak possibility of being UNEMPLOYED and joining the ever increasing DOLE QUEUE (except for the favoured few). So what? you may say, it's happening all the time. That's right it is happening all the time but that fact does not make the 'pill' any easier to swallow, and it does not make it any easier to adapt to an even lower living standard in this notorious low-paid area.

The Employers' excuses, such as 'we must expand to meet growing competition' and 'We would like to stay local, but the government grant requires us to move' are not always readily believed by the employee whose future is not as well laid out as his employer's, and who is facing (probably for the first time) all the embarrassment and form-filling that goes with being on the dole and being treated like a scrounger.

I frequently get asked the question "Who is doing what on the subject of UNEMPLOYMENT?" Well, we are told that the TUC is well aware of the problem and are taking some action to decrease the queue by demanding a 35 hour week etc., the Government is always talking and, we are assured, even thinking about it and have put forward training schemes etc., and the opposition balmes the Government and the TUC.

BUT TO THE 1.5 MILLION IN THE QUEUE NOBODY APPEARS TO BE DOING ANYTHING AT ALL.

So I would like to think that a greater demand for action against UNEMPLOYMENT will come from the shop floor, and would like to see any TUC approved motion getting full support from the Rank and File, for bear in mind UNEMPLOYMENT can strike at us all.

J.H.C.

If you work and do your best
you'll get the sack like all the rest,
If you laze and muck about
you'll live to see the job right out,
The work is hard, the pay is small,
So take your time and sod'em all,
When you're dead you'll be forgot - don't
try to do the bloody lot,
or on a tombstone neatly lacquered,
will be the words,

"Just bloody knackered".

Reproduced from Southern News.



Brighton Voice

Brighton Voice is the only community newspaper covering the Brighton area. It is the only news source which does not fit the selective versions of the established press. It has three main roles;

To expose the things that Brighton's decision makers do behind the backs of the people.

To act as a contact point between diverse social, economic and political groups.

To provide a platform for debate between various viewpoints at local level.

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THE CLARENDON

GARDENS PROJECT

The lack of open spaces for public use in Kemp Town and the Council's policy of building ghettos for the elderly population has been a sore point with a number of people in the area for some time. This was linked with the concern about the wasteland in Clarendon Place which has been empty for six years and has been nothing more than a dogs toilet and rubbish dump.

Brighton Community Arts Workshop have premises in the district and have been interested in the land for some time. They called a meeting to make some good use of the land. There were 30 plus people there, including 2 Borough Councillors and 1 County Cllr.

Three important decisions were taken:

- 1) to inform the Borough Council's Amenities Committee of our ideas and ask for permission to set up a 'Meanwhile Garden' pending any decision for its future use,
- 2) to form a committee to co-ordinate work and ideas,
- 3) to start work on the next Sunday to clear the site and to continue this every Sunday. Volunteers have worked each weekend and what was an eyesore is now more ordered and tidy. We have also put up a notice-board.

The committee meets regularly and plans to submit a scheme to the Council showing how we envisage the plot would look when completed. The organisation is called 'The Clarendon Gardens Action Group'. Its chief task is to create a place in Kemp Town for children to play, for elderly people to sit. The Gardens will be something for the residents of the area to be proud of, especially as they will have been produced by them. Of course this involves a lot of work and we welcome any help - both in terms of manual work and ideas.

So, with the help of the Community Arts Workshop, St Annes Church and the local residents, Clarendon Gardens has temporarily come into being. At least let us have some place to show the Council when they come to debate the future use of the land. We can prove to them that a garden is better than a concrete jungle and that the existing trees (which have preservation orders on them) will be seen better in a proper setting and not surrounded by flats.

We want to see a community of all ages making their own use of the area rather than see the old segregated from the young. Please come along and help if you can.