

Don't Be Fooled Read...

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

MUSIC

in the PUBS



ROCK
JAZZ
FOLK

ALHAMBRA: Seafront, April Gigs.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2. Peter and the Test Tube Babies | 18. FISCHER-Z (who have just released an Album on United Artists) plus Chicone. |
| 3. Fan Club. | 19. Vandells. |
| 4. Chichane. | 20. Executives. |
| 5. Vandells. | 21. Spitting Image. |
| 6. Executives. | 22. Piranhas. |
| 7. Rockerbox. | 23. Numbers. |
| 8. Piranhas. | 24. Better Looking. |
| 9. Dirty Weekend. | 25. Little Jimmies. |
| 10. Fan Club. | 26. Chicane. |
| 11. John Thomas. | 27. Executives. |
| 12. Sharafia. | 28. Fan Club. |
| 13. Executives. | 29. Piranhas. |
| 14. Tear. | 30. Dodgems. |
| 15. Piranhas. | |
| 16. Dodgems. | |
| 17. Fan Club. | |

- SPRINGFEILD, Springfeild Rd. (Side Entrance.)
Fri. Folk.
6 John Morgan.
13. Terry Masterson.
20. Come All Ye.
27. Tony Rose.

- Sundays Folk
1. Debby McClatchy (USA)
8. Strawhead.
15. Come All Ye.
22. Jeremy Taylor.
29. Jerry Jordan.

Sat: Modern Jazz.

- SHAKESPEARS HEAD, Spring St.
Thurs: Joe and Paul (Folk).
Suns: Nick Burbridge and Tim O'Leary. (Irish Trad.)

CONCORDE: Madeira Drive

- Tues. Afro Club.
Fri. Jazz (April bands to include Bob Wallis, Al Ellsden, Bob Potter Stompers)
Sat. Old Time music.

HANBURY ARMS: Paston Place

- Mon/Sat/Weds: Disco.
Thurs. Modern Jazz (Bar till 12)
Fri: Disco and Bands (Bar till 12)
6. Devils Dykes and Woody and the Splinters.
13. Parrots and Woody and the Splinters.
20. Parrots and Devils Dykes
27. To be arranged.

RICHMOND: Grande Parade.

- Mon. Divorced and Separated Club.
Tues. Punk/Rock Bands.
Weds. Rock 'n' Roll.
Fri. Over 30s Dance.

NEW REGENT: West Street.

- Sun/Mon/Tues/Weds Disco. Free.
Thurs/Fri/Sat: Cruisers plus (Open 2am) Disco £1.00

BUCANNEER: Marine Parade.

- Tues. Taverners.
11. Legroom Group.
29. Laid plus Disco.

MARLBOROUGH, Princes St.

4. Malcolm and Julia Donaldson.
11. Sean Cannon.
18. John Vickers Band.
25. Come All Ye.
2(May) Tim O'Leary and Nick Barbridge.
Every Sat. 'Singaround' plus occasional guest.

KING ALFRED RESTAURANT, KINGSWAY.

- Thurs. Brighton Country Music Club.
5. Mike Scott-Tracy Band.
12. Barbary Coast
July Thornborough.
19. Mustang
Gordye West (from Canada)
26. Poacher.

BRIGHTON CENTRE

- 24st. Niel Sedaka

DOME

4. Nana Mouskouri
11 Stephan Grapelli
12 Dusty Springfield
20 Diane Soloman
26 Spinners

KINGS WEST

- 6 Manu Dibangu.
17 Players Association
24 Inner Circle

BRIGHTON SOUL SOCIETY
Sat. Royal Albion Hotel
10pm-2pm.
Weds. Salisbury Hotel.
9pm-2pm.

MEETINGS



THE RESOURCE CENTRE: North Rd. (Side Entrance.)
Regular Meetings:
Sun. Alcoholics Anonymous. 7.30
Mon. Work Hazards Group (every other week). 8.00.
Womens Liberation (every 3rd Monday of the month).
Weds. Womens Self Defence 6-7pm
Womens Studies Course 8.00.
Thurs. S.E.R.A./W.E.A. Course. 8.00.
Other Meetings
Tue 3. Two Piers Housing Co-op 7.30
Sun 29. Friends of the Earth 6-8pm.

S.W.P. Open Meeting on the I.W.W. (International Workers of the World) Wed 4th EAGLE 8pm.



Don't Forget May Day
See Page 14

CHILDRENS BOOKSHOW
19-21 Corn Exchange 2am-6pm.

Public House Bookshop
Little Preston Street.

CONTINUOUS SESSIONS/COURSES:
Mondays 7.00pm Kundalini Yoga.
Tuesdays 7.15pm Dynamic Meditation.

- MUSIC:
17. Andrea Centazzo (percussion from Italy), Davey Williams (guitar) and La Donna Smith (violin/viola) from Alabama USA. Trio Improvisations 8pm, 75p.
19. John Russel (guitar) Solo Improvisations. 8pm. 75p.
27. Marrienne Roleink (Dance) Hufh Metcalfe (Guitar), Phil Wacksmann (electric violin). 8pm. £1.00
Performances outside the shop throughout the day.

Brighton Voice

No 55
Apr 79. 15p

TOWN CENTRE DESTRUCTION CONTINUES

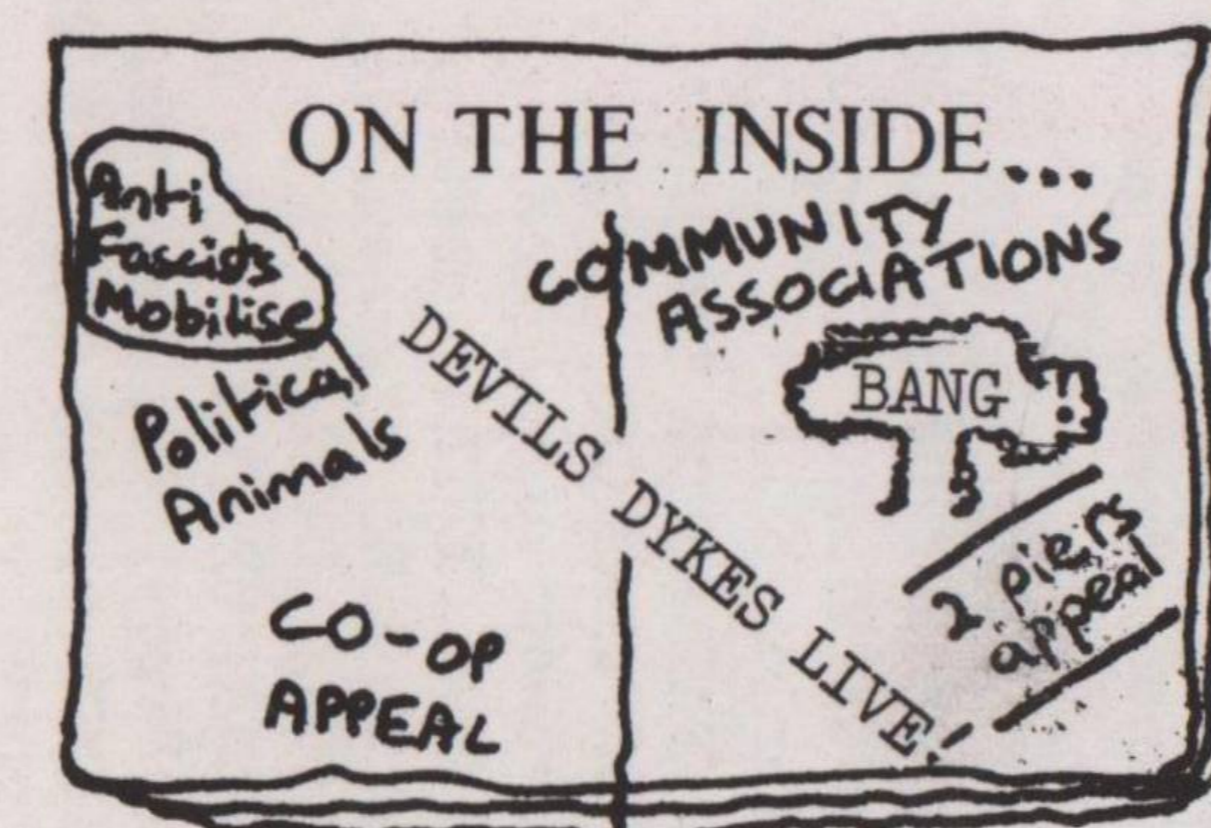
The Brighton Plan

The Council Planning Office's "public consultation" on its Central Area Plan is a soft sell for a bluer-than-blue print for the town's Tory future. Its bland and soporific phrases will lull many into thinking it is "generally acceptable" and really faces up to the town's problems. After all, conservation and improvement will be the rule, office building will be restrained, 1000 new dwellings will be built, with plenty of modernization and renovation, cars will be regulated and pedestrians given priority.

In fact loopholes the size of the Marina will allow office space to increase by at least a half, new housing will fall far short of houses needed and as many beds will be created in Hotels as for residents, "Traffic regulation" means computer controlled traffic lights, which speed up cars and slow down buses, and "traffic management schemes" like the Severn Dials and Preston Circus death traps.

Three years ago, a draft of the plan was presented for public consultation - many groups wrote in, but only a few insignificant changes have appeared between the summaries of the draft and the final version. As if to prove its contempt, the Estate Agents & Hoteliers Group on the Planning Committee are at this moment preparing to give permission for the multi-storey car park in Bond Street/King St. which is also in the plan.

More of Brighton's Blue Future on Page 3...



Britannia Hse.+1

You remember Britannia House?.. the venue for the highly successful jubilee squat? (See Voice 38) Well, despite the fact that it was sold many months ago it is still empty. And you may have noticed a large hole in the ground next to it, complete with a sign reading, 'Offices shortly to be erected on this site' with more car parking space.

For over 6 years we have been condemning this appalling destruction of the town centre. The Gazette has finally acknowledged that we have been right all along (see Gazette 23 March). Let them help us then to get rid of the planners and the Tory speculators behind them. BELOW. Britannia House and new office site in Queens Road.



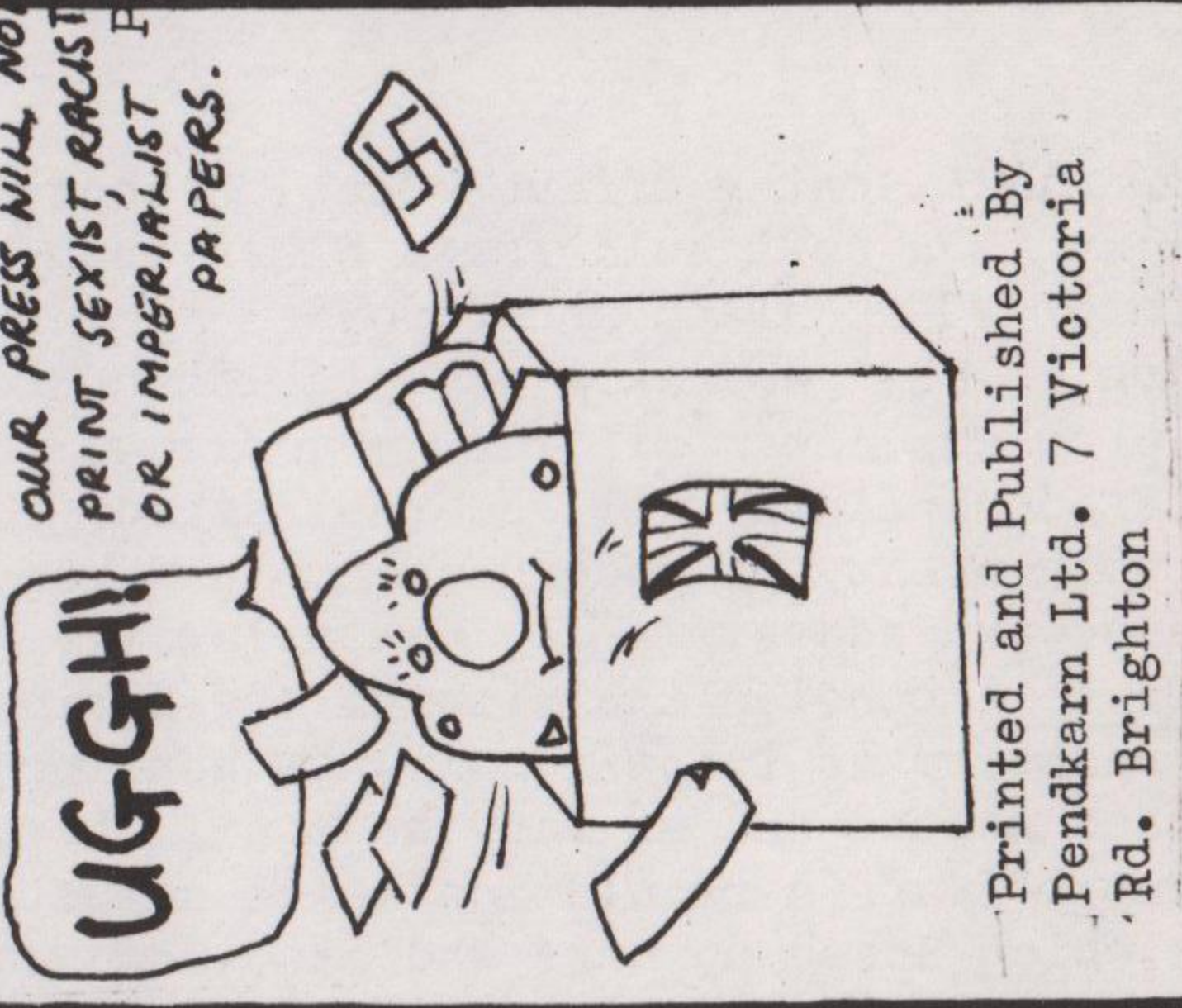
GROUPS, CO-OPS, ETC.

ANIMAL ACTIVISTS: anti factory farming etc. V. Smith 366, Portland Rd. Hove 411484.
ANOREXIC AID: 1st Monday of month. Noreen 682054 or Penny 735362
BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION: Brighton & Lewes Division of Sussex Beekeepers. Lyn Hawkins, 14 The Lees, Peasehaven 4522
BLIND CROSBY CLUB: 737357 (am)
BRIGHTON HOSTEL: 18 Dorset Gdns Soup run bottom West St 10 - 11 pm daily. Help needed 682089
BRIGHTON SOCIETY: Environmental group. S. Montford 10, Clermont Road.
BUS USERS ACTION GROUP: R. Spriggs, 7, Tivoli Rd., 562172
CAMPAIN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY: 202930 8 - 10 pm daily.
CAMPAIN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: 28633
COMMUNITY ARTS WORKSHOP: Dance, drama, mime, music. St. Anne's Hall, St. Georges Rd. Kemtown. 697493 for dtls
CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST ECONOMISTS: K. Smith, 10 Warleigh Rd.
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 BUDDHIST ORDER: Yoga, lectures etc. Beginners meditation Mon 7.15 19, George St. 693971
GAY CHRISTIANS: Martin 680868
GAY RURAL AID & INFO NETWORK

SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING: D. Furoi, 12, Berkeley Row, Lewes. 2414.
SUSSEX COUNTY SKATEBOARD ASSOC. 737357.
TRADES COUNCIL: Coordinating group of local trades unions affiliated to the TUC. Andy Durr, 235, Ditchling Rd. 505314.
LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT & LABOUR HISTORY PRESS: as above.
TRADES & LABOUR CLUB: Meeting place for trades unionists. 16, Lewes Rd. 601101.
TRANSPORT 2000: Wilf Martin, 49, Benfield Rd., Portslade. 416105. Meetings second Tues. of month, B'n. Station. 7pm.
UNITED NAUTONS ASSOCIATION: Nancy Dore, 157 Surrenden Rd. 501370.
WEST FLEET SOCIETY: John Lloyd, 5, Belle Vue Gardens. 603705.
WEST HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 21359.
WILDOWS CLUB: 47, Tivoli Crescent, Dyke Rd. Meet 8pm, fourth Wednesday each month. Unitarian Hall, New Road.
WOMEN AGAINST FASCISM AND RACISM: contact c/o Resource Centre.
WOMEN FIGURE RAPE GROUP: Contact Women's Centre.
WOMENS CENTRE: at back of Resource Centre. Open: Tue, Wed, Thur, Sat: 11 - 2 & Tue, Wed: 6.30 - 8 pm. Pregnancy tests, rights, etc. 605911.
WOMENS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM: 684604 and Lewes 4161.
WOMENS LIBERATION: Meet Resource Centre every third Monday. For info: 605911.

PAPERS

CARF: Paper of the ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-FASCIST CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE: Acampaigning paper excellent, nationwide, from Public House Bookshop, or File 3, 5, Huntley Street, London. Bulk orders / Donations.
MOVING TARGET: Brighton's film magazine, from good bkshops.
QUEENSPARK: Paper for the Queens Park area; 18, Windmill street Brighton.
MAYBILL: Newsheet of T&GWU, 1/402 Brighton & Hove District Busmen, from Conway Street Depot, Hove
WHOLE EARTH: Alternative technology, organic living, local environmental action. 11, George St. 691318.

UGGHI!

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POLITICS

ANTI FASCIST COMMITTEE: c/o 179, Lewes Road, Bton.
ANTI NAZI LEAGUE: 12, Little Newnort Street, London W2.

SHOPS

ANANDA: 19, Bond Street. Odds & ends, Indian crafts, incense, etc.
BRIGHTON HOSTEL SHOP: Charity shop, 105, Islington Road. Open 10 - 4. Articles wanted.
GREENS: Vegetarian Restaurant, 7, Victoria Road, 27878.
 Open 10 - 11pm (meals from 6pm)
Closed Tuesdays... Takeaway too
INFINITY: 25, North Road, 603563.
FOOD: Macrobiotic/wholefood supplies. Open 9.30 - 5.00 Closed all day Wednesday.
BAKERY & FLE SHOP: Open 9 - 5, except Wednesday, 9 - 5.30.
ULK STORE: Bulk supplies. Open Tues. - Sat.; 9.30 - 1 & 2 - 5.
TEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91, St. George's Road; Radical literature: new and second-hand books.

PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21 Little Preston St. 28357. Member of the Federation of Alternative Booksellers. Real books and mags, records and cassettes of ethnic and improvised music. Basement is open for continuous sessions & courses. See Whats On PULSE: Sussex Univ. Wholefood cafe SCR Palmer House. Feminist collective. Mon-Fri. 12-2.
SAXONS VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT: 48 George St. B'n. 680733 Mon-Sat. 11.30-5. Also Fri & Sat. 7.15-11. Bring own wine.
SOLSTICE BOOKSHOP: 28 Trafalgar St. B'n. alternative books & mags. Basement reading room. Tel. 692880.
SIMPLE SUPPLIES: Wholefood, veg. & g. publications etc. environmental centre. 11 George St. B'n. 691318. Mon-Sat. 9.30-5.30. Closed Thurs.

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

ACUPUNCTURIST: Peter Deadman B.A.C Brighton & Lewes Lewes 77996
ACUPUNCTURIST: J.P. Scott, ALEXANDRA TECHNIQUE: S.J. Scott 32, Surrenden Crescent, Brighton 559379, Appt. only
HOMEOPATH: Robert Withers, Brighton 699212, Appt. only.
MASSAGE: Introductory courses & SHLATSU; Contact Public House Bookshop, 28357, (No wankers, please).
SECOND SUN HEALING: Through direct action & increased understanding. 7, Terminus Road, Brighton 29248.
SHIATSU: Reflexology, Swedish massage, Bach flower remedies Marek Urbanowicz, The Palmeira Clinic; 6, Palmeira Square, Hove. Brighton 734465. Appts.

Subscriptions £2-50 for 12

BACK ISSUES & "Region Six", Special Report available from 7, Victoria Road, Brighton 27878.

ADVICE

FACE 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 appt only. Volunteers wanted.
DANGER PREVENTION: (Area Health Authority) 23344

WHOSE PLAN? WHOSE PROFIT?

"THE PROSPERITY OF THE TOWN NEEDS TO BE SAFEGUARDED"

Yes - this battle cry comes from the lips of Brighton planners in their latest public relations manifesto, which lays down proposed land uses in the town centre. The low paid, the unemployed and the

gotten a few square feet here and there, because they also propose - 100,000 square feet for government offices 100,000 square feet for the Post Office 75,000 square feet for a New Town Hall - a total of 275,000 square feet. And this is on top of the 185,000 square feet of empty office space in new buildings and 130,000 in old buildings.



Site for Multi-Story car park.

homeless don't seem to have seen much of this 'prosperity' and we are a bit worried about whose interests are going to be 'safeguarded'.

The Council's new Central Area Plan (CAP) deals with questions that concern all working people in Brighton - but their answers don't seem to serve our interests...

SHOPPING

Figures in the plan show that shopping floorspace has increased by 30% from 1961 - 1977 but the number of shops has declined. The large chain stores have prospered in the main centres of Western Rd., London Rd., and St. James St.

The planners are happy to see this trend continuing. They want to expand the 'frenzied temples of consumption' and allow local neighbourhood shops to decline. They ignore the services that these provide to the local population and the fact that more traffic is attracted to the town centre. But then bigger shops are more profitable.

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

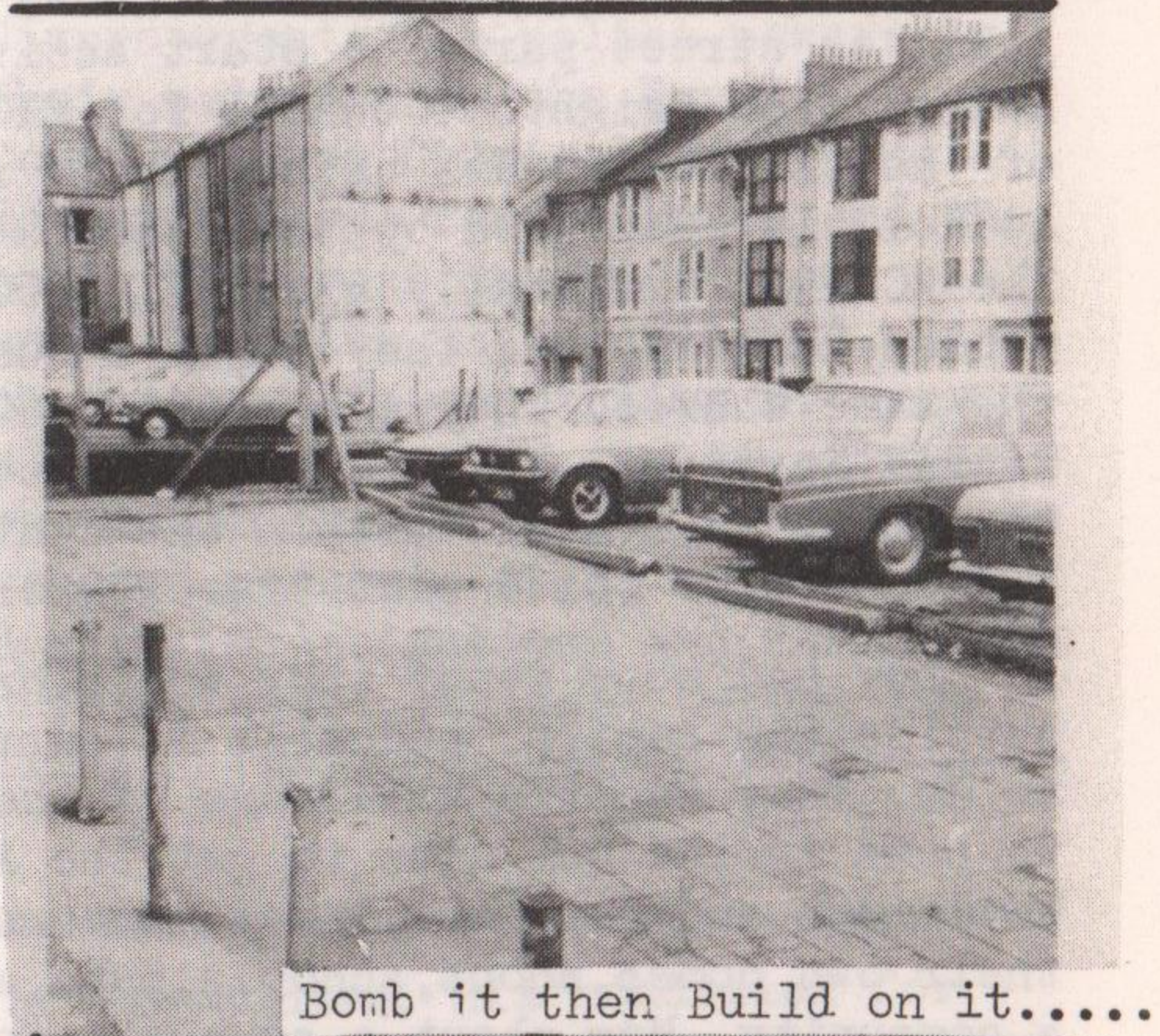
There are over 6½ thousand unemployed people in the town. The Trades Council (and belatedly the Department of Employment) have proved that Brighton is a low pay area. But neither of these glaring features of the town is mentioned in the Plan - they are not important. The Commerce & Industry section isn't about providing jobs at decent rates of pay but (you guessed it?) building empty office blocks.

At first sight this criticism seems a bit harsh. But closer inspection of the figures shows that the planners seem to have for-

of the town. (When in doubt repeat this hollow formula).

The Council's own survey showed that the majority of visitors come to the town by public transport and the majority of people still shop on foot.

The Plan comes down firmly on the side of centralisation, building car parks, traffic regulation and a more efficient road network. We support the WEA group's alternative proposals for: pedestrian priority,



Bomb it then Build on it....

LEISURE & RECREATION

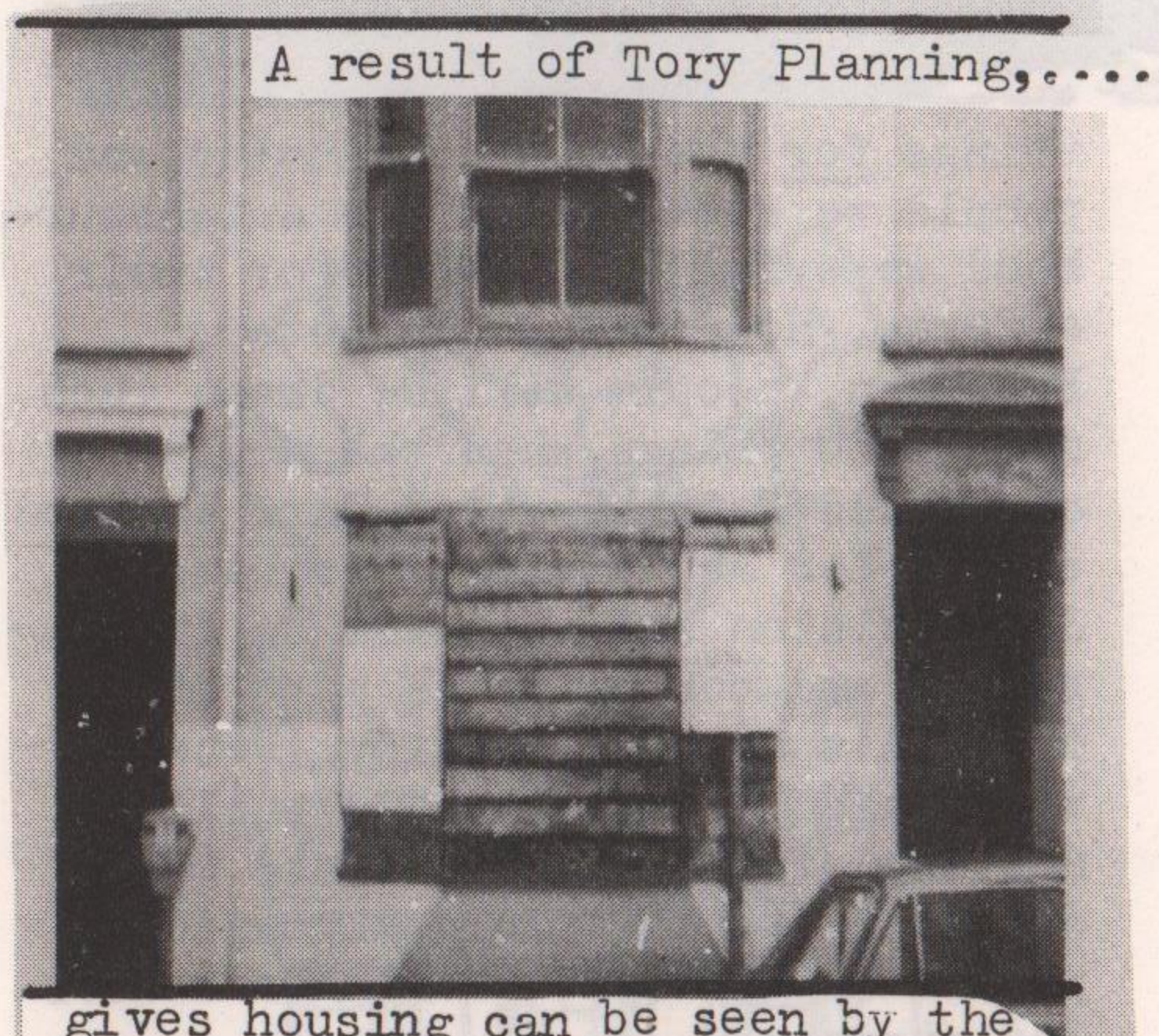
The Plan's proposal to create new hotels is to meet the demands of "increased affluence and mobility". It ignores the poverty and immobility of Brighton working people who toil behind the facades of these non-unionised sweatshops.

The Plan argues that the development of recreational facilities will benefit visitor and resident alike (if we can afford them). Yet it sees the benefit to residents as a secondary side effect. It does not consider developing local leisure facilities. The whole policy is geared towards creating a south coast bauble to serve "spenders and consumers".

TRANSPORTATION

The Plan recognizes that "land uses are one of the main causes of traffic generation" and proposes to "regulate" private motor cars. It also aims to promote public transport and is concerned about cyclists and pedestrians. It sounds too good to be true.

It is. The policy of centralizing leisure and recreation, shopping and public services force more journeys to the centre. The Plan's pious declarations and actual policies once again fail to match up. As a WEA study group on 'Transport & Society' pointed out - the main purpose of travel is access. This can only be improved by developing neighbourhood facilities and better public transport. (cont. P. 5)



A result of Tory Planning...

from taking sides in party politics. All the local parties could join the HCA as constituent bodies if they wanted and get cheap-rate hire of the centre for social gatherings etc. The Labour party has already done so. Only the NF would be excluded since the constitution forbids any form of racism.

In fact, although there was a good deal of argument about the first



Above. Bert Patching, one of the volunteers who have rebuilt the centre.

Left. The opening street party 1977

political booking at the Centre, the Association was, and is, far more split about the question of a bar. After two close votes, one against and one for, it's known that a bar for the centre would mean a register of members. This would go against the present policy of an open membership for anyone living in the area. It would make the centre more into a club and perhaps threaten its plans for a more active local participation. On the other hand people point out that a social centre without a glass of beer will always have a limited appeal, in the evenings especially.

In the day time however, the Centre has no problem about people dropping in. A grant from Help the Aged will allow them to provide comfortable chairs for senior citizens on their way up or down the steep hill, and a regular 25 or so come to an old people's lunch on Thursdays. Open from 10-3 every day the Hanover Centre aims to be a universal resource for anyone who wants it. It still needs building volunteers but 'self-build' means more than just bricks and mortar. It's building a living Community that counts. The HCA are determined to do just that.

FOR ALL INFORMATION, INCLUDING REGULAR NEWSLETTERS, CONTACT HANOVER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, 33 SOUTHOVER ST, BRIGHTON. TEL. BRIGHTON 694873 BETWEEN 10 a.m. AND 3 p.m.



Robert Relf rots O.K ?

Robert Relf - ex-British Movement bodyguard to Colin Jordan - first found the sort of grubby publicity he so desperately needed for both his race-hate campaign and his personal gratification in early 1976 when he placed two signs outside his Leamington home. One read 'For Sale To an English Family Only,' the other, 'Viewing: to avoid animosity all round, positively no coloureds.' Extreme right-wing elements have since attempted to portray this creature as a harmless eccentric and patriot persecuted for his beliefs. What they choose to ignore is Relf's lifelong commitment to racist violence and Nazism.

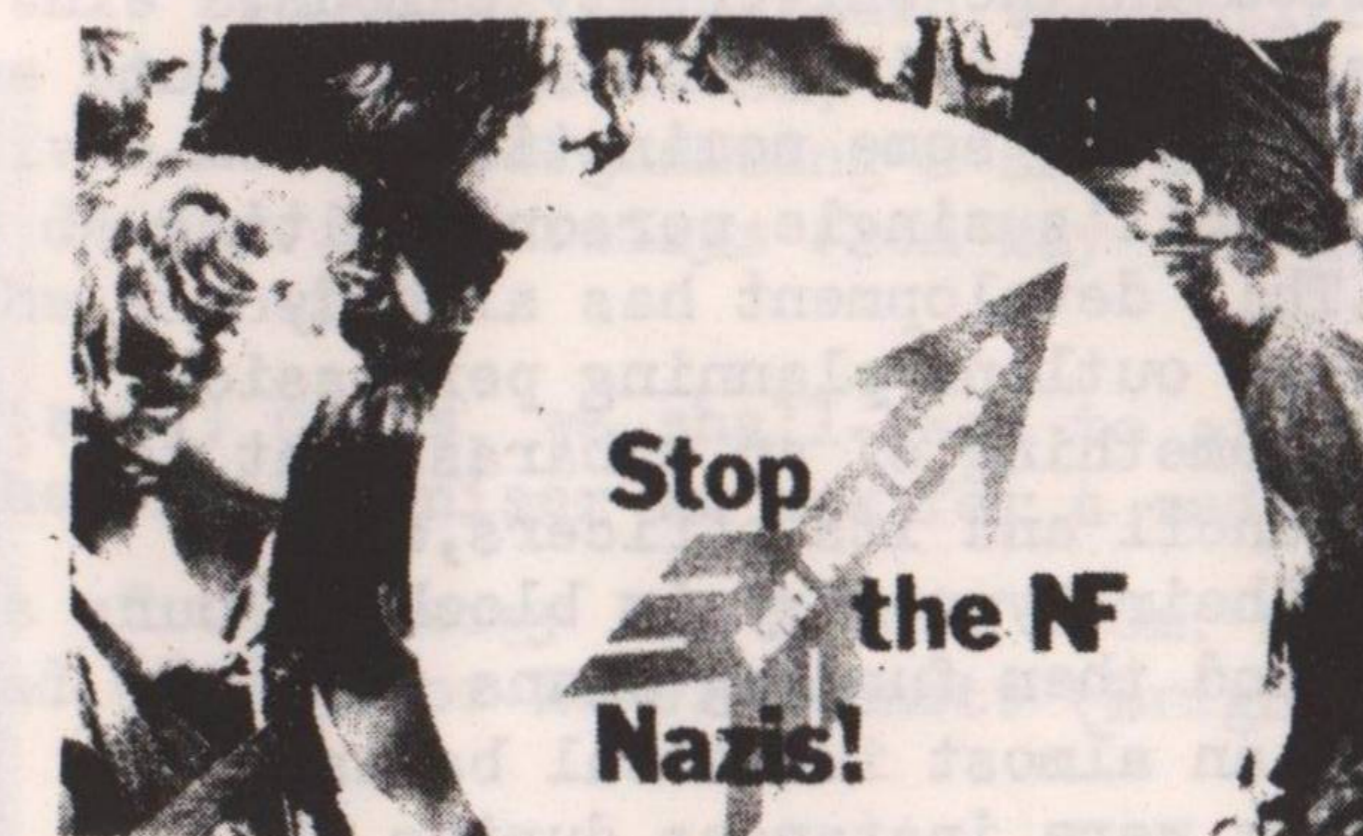
In 1964 Relf joined the National Socialist Movement, the British Nazi party. He attempted to start a branch of the Klu Klux Klan and took part in the cross-burning ceremony near Rugby. In 1968 he threw bricks through an Indian shopkeepers windows and scattered pro-nazi leaflets. He has been jailed six times for race related offences and has been in and out of fascist organisations such as the British Movement and the National Front. In July 1976 the Sunday Times received a letter from Relf. Its vitriol was directed at a clouted invalid. If Relf had his way he would favour "putting a rope round your fat slimy neck and stringing you up to the nearest lamp post.... The time is near when you all will be herded into cattle boats and shipped back to the disease ridding (sic) contries from whence you came." The letter is complete with swastikas and post script. It read "COME BACK HITLER IS FORGIVEN."

It was to support such a foetid individual as Relf that members of the obnoxious National Front flocked to Winchester on Saturday March 10th. in the hope of demonstrating solidarity outside the prison where Relf is currently on hunger strike serving 15 months (reduced recently to 9) for producing inflammatory pamphlets including one called "Nigger Muggers Unite." And it was to oppose such an insulting assembly that 100 anti fascists from Brighton Anti Nazi League, Anti Fascist Committee and University joined over 1,500 other ANL supporters from all over the country in a demo which culminated in an occupation of the road outside the jail, thus gaining the ground so politically valuable to the NF. Admittedly, public order notices were slapped on both the NF and the Anti-fascists

and the marches were manipulated by a massive police mobilisation of 4,000 coppers implementing Home Office strategy and Police tactics. However it was still a successful venture in so far as the NF, on what was supposed to be their first major campaign of the year were left to slope around a deserted city centre pelted with smoke canisters, bottles, rubbish and abuse from a body of 300 consisting of local people, and SWP and ANL militants who had gone there earlier in the day.

There were problems in the ANL camp. An undeniable frustration at being unable to stop the fascists marching and a fear that if we moved from outside the prison the police would then allow the NF their turn to stand there, produced criticism of the ANL leadership, though in the end the fears were unfounded.

On Sunday 18 March it was a different story. Overnight, a dozen or so young NF held a torchlight vigil outside the prison gates. NF supporters were to arrive throughout the afternoon and hold a rally at 3 o'clock. The nauseous Lady Birdwood was in attendance. The local Winchester ANL branch called a local mobilisation in opposition to the racials and at extremely short notice Brighton town and university branches sent a contingent of 25 to bolster a gathering of forces from Southampton Portsmouth, Leamington and Essex. From the outset we were determined to correct the organisational failings of the previous week and



know what we were doing at all times. A stewarding arrangement was devised which could accommodate both communication with the group as a whole and any eventuality of split action in which one group taking the lead from the Socialist Workers' Party would take advantage of any situation whereby they could disrupt the Front's rally, while the remainder would maintain a non-violent counter demonstration.

In the circumstances, however,

the police again had the concentration of forces required to avoid a confrontation. What we did manage to achieve, however, was to march within 50 yards of the fascists and infuriate the gaggle of NF with our multi-racial, carnival spirit. Our songs and chants drowned the fascist slogans and although the police pushed us back down the road we had established the fact that Fascism will NEVER BE UNOPPOSED.

(From a longer article by Dave Arthur of the SWP)

WHOSE PLAN

continued...

CAP does next to nothing for the unemployed, the homeless, and those on low incomes. Whose interests is it serving? It is full of qualifications about the "availability of financial resources", particularly in the public sector. The cost to Brighton ratepayers could be a 6p rise in the £ in the rates (car parks will be the single greatest cost). There seems to be some doubt about finance for housing development. However, the authors point out "The commercial parts of the Plan are not inconsiderable and are in the main likely to prove viable". (For 'not inconsiderable' read 'massive' and for 'viable' read 'profitable'.)

Could it be that we are in for another round of massive private property development, while the public sector remains held in check? Or more likely still, will the people of Brighton get the odd crumb from some dubious corporate planning deal Brighton Council is so good at pulling off? The Central Area Plan marks the beginning of this process.

If the planners were really serious about consulting us about their true blue new world, they would give us a real choice between different options, together with the real facts - not a public relations job. In future issues of the Voice we would like to present some of your ideas for the next 15 years. Write to Brighton Voice, c/o 7 Victoria Rd., Brighton.

Don't take these criticisms of the Plan at face value - take a look at the flash exhibition at the Planning Office at 83 North Street. The Plan itself costs £2. There is a free summary available with a form on which to make objections. These must be returned to the Borough Secretary by 4 June 1979.

HANOVER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



It used to be a school, then it was a furniture store. Now it's the Hanover Community Centre, and its address is 33 Southover Street. Inside there's a big hall with an elegant wooden balcony, a well-equipped kitchen, office space, modernised lavatories and good heating and lighting throughout. They call it the 'self-build community centre' and all this renovation has been done by volunteer labour, typical of the spirit of adventure and commitment which you'll find in the Hanover area. It's a good place to live in.

Hanover Community Association (HCA) used the opportunity of a jubilee street party to start activities in its centre, which is leased from Brighton Council for £10 a year. They also have the lease of the old Cobden St. baths. Their relationship with the local council is described by the Association's chairperson as 'excellent'. The HCA was originally given £15,000 by Brighton, mostly for the Cobden Rd. roof, and they enjoy a running grant of £3,200 p.a. from the same source. They also get £3,600 p.a. from the East Sussex Social Services. This just allows them to run a large range of community activities within the centre, to continue the building work and to employ three part time workers who only get £1.20 an hour.

If they had more money they would branch out into the community outside the centre, and this is currently what they would most like to do. They see the challenge of the HCA not just to get the locals to come inside but also to get the Association to move out of its buildings and into the lives, concerns and needs of the people in their own homes, shops, schools, pubs, and everything else which makes a community. How about a soup-run, for example, they say, or a minibus for outings, or regular shopping help for pensioners, or a community voice in keeping the school buildings open in the holidays?



Inside the centre, one of the part-time workers admits that not all the activities are as collectively based as she would like. The exception to this is the Creche Cooperative on Friday mornings 10-12 followed by lunch. This is run on fully collective lines, with rotating responsibility for everything. The HCA chairperson, Peter Boardman, would like to see this kind of set-up as the norm for all the centre's activities, including the youth club and disco. 'If the kids want to make it successful,' he said 'then they must take a full part in running it. If they want to ruin it then they must see it as their own responsibility.'

It's not easy, though, as Lorraine Robinson, one of the part-time workers pointed out. People too easily accept that things should be done for them. And, of course they often are. The centre has been marvellous at arranging

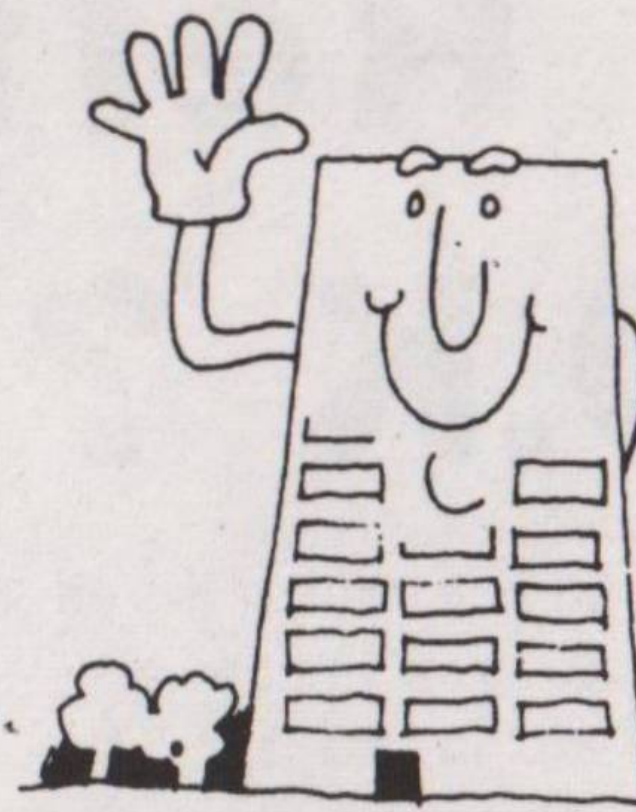
things for the local community, and people we spoke to in the neighbourhood were full of praise for their efforts. Hopefully, says Peter Boardman, people will be drawn much more into things when the newly-appointed Neighbourhood Care Worker starts her activities. Her name's Jane Stinton and she will be linking centre and community as part of the HCA's outgoing policy. Peter would also like to hold a public meeting of Hanover residents to discuss matters of urgent concern, particularly improvements to houses and streets.

Politics?

While we were at the Centre, Stan Fitch, one of the three local Labour councillors, arrived to discuss these ongoing issues with Peter Boardman. We asked them what was the relationship of the HCA to politics? The constitution, we were told, keeps the Association

CO-OP HOUSING APPEAL

what happened?



An article in December's 'Voice' described how Two Piers Housing Co-op was set up and how the Council effectively stopped its progress by refusing planning permission on the first three houses.

The Co-op members decided to fight this decision by appealing against the Council's ruling. We embarked on a Planning Appeal, which is first heard locally by an Inspector, with witnesses from both sides, and then, at our special request, goes to the Secretary of State for the Environment for the final decision. We thought the case was very important, and had implications nationally for other co-operatives, and in Brighton, for all privately rented houses whose occupants choose to share a kitchen etc. The local inquiry was held in the Council Chambers.

Our first witness was John Hands, Director of the Co-operative Housing Agency (Government funded body), who gave a history of the development of housing co-operatives both in this country since the '60s, and before that in Scandinavia.

Then Brenda Boardman outlined the reasons for setting up Two Piers, and how it would work in practice. She pointed out that 26 Local Authorities elsewhere in the country have given planning permission to similar schemes.

David Ormandy, a radical environmental health officer who used to work for Shelter, argued the public health case. We thought David was a very important witness, as he put a different slant on the Council's alarmist views that we would all catch typhoid if we shared a kitchen! He argued that the co-op presented no greater health risk than a family situation.

Selwyn Ward, who has lived in both Sandford and Deptford Housing Co-ops, (and is still alive), spoke briefly about his experiences, and finally, Fred Grey from the Centre for Continuing Education gave an account of Brighton's housing situation, and of the scarcity of suitable accommodation for single people in the town.

A resident of Russell Square, Mrs. Bowes, had taken the trouble to come along independently, and expressed her support, and that of her neighbour, for the Co-op. (Interestingly, the Inspector had assumed that all residents would be opposed to the scheme.) A lifelong Labour Party supporter, Mrs. Bowes said that she wanted to see

housing made a right rather than a market commodity. She added that the Russell Square properties had been empty for 6 years, and that the Co-op plans for these two derelict houses should have been welcomed by the Council. Well said, Mrs. B.!

For the Council, Ken Fines, chief Planning Officer opened the batting. He was in an uncomfortable position as he personally had recommended that the Council accept the plans put forward by the Housing Co-op. So he was obliged to preface his evidence with, 'The Council thinks...' and so on. His argument was that a housing co-op was out of place in a Conservation area; that Atlingworth St. should remain in use as a boarding house; and that the scheme would exacerbate parking problems (!)

Mr. Eardley, Brighton's Environmental Health Officer, put the view explained below, i.e. that the houses should be converted into up to 12 bedsitters with cooking facilities in each bedroom, and no communal room. He thought this arrangement less dangerous health-wise than one large communal kitchen in the basement. He insinuated that we had been unreasonable for not accepting this kind of arrangement--a warren of bedsitters.

Both Council officials were questioned about the Kelsey Housing scheme. This is a proposed development with shared kitchens for single people, funded by Brighton Council and situated on the University campus. The scheme is mainly for students, but there will be some nominations from the Council's single persons waiting list. This development has already received outline planning permission. It is something of an embarrassment to the Council and its officers, as it shows their hypocrisy in blocking our plans, and then funding plans of their own on an almost identical basis!

There were instances during the Inquiry when the Council's barrister was definitely floundering--for instance, he was reduced to asking about the possibility of dogs, cats and (wait for it) budgerigars in the co-op!

We thought the Inquiry went well for us, and that Tony Allen, our solicitor presented our case very thoroughly. Incidentally, only one councillor showed up throughout the 1½ days hearing--Keith Best, who has supported Two Piers since its formation....

Contact phone numbers for Two Piers Housing Co-op plus dates of meetings are on the 'Voice' info. page.

Regarding the legal question, it centres around the distinction between 'multiple occupation' and shared household. Unfortunately, neither of these is clearly defined, and certainly are not intended to cover any 'alternative' lifestyle.

The purpose of the Acts is laudable; the setting down of standards to which everyone has certain legal rights. To be forced to share unsanitary conditions with people to whom there is no commitment is an intrusion on both the individual's health and privacy.

But from experience, one knows many groups of people who are interested in living in a different condition than that of solitude of the nuclear family. It is this area to which the Council is totally unresponsive.

While the proposed action by the Council is going to be to the advantage of people in poor rented accommodation, it is apparently going to prevent any form of community living, unless you want to have a warden.

the implications

Essentially, what Two Piers is saying is that the big difference is how people choose to live, and in Two Piers' case this will be backed up by a constitution accepted by the Registrar of Friendly Societies and the Industrial and Provident Society!

The lack of legal definition is presumably necessary to allow for the evolution of new lifestyles, but this present case seems to be an attempt to use this vagueness to force and regiment people into relationships which the Council can control.

CONT ON PAGE 14



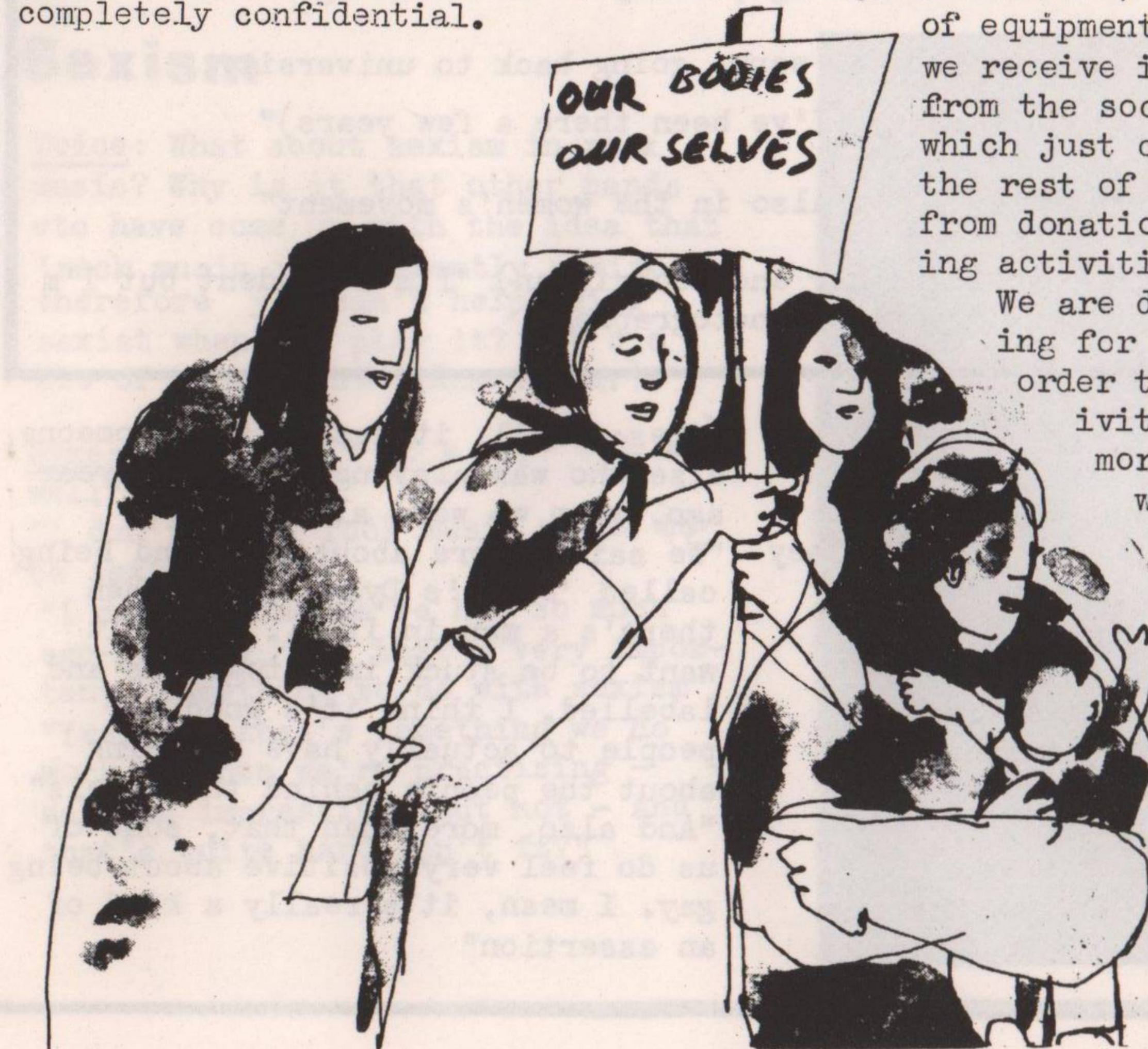
THE HOUSES IN RUSSELL SQUARE THAT BRIGHTON COUNCIL HAVE ALLOWED TO ROT - RATHER THAN LETTING THE CO-OP RENOVATE THEM TO HELP HOUSE THE HOMELESS.

A WOMAN'S PLACE

Brighton Women's Centre is situated at the Resource Centre, North Rd. and is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 11am-2pm, and in the evenings from 6.30pm-8.30pm on Tuesday & Wednesday.

Although since the move from the Buckingham Rd. premises our activities have been restricted because of inadequate facilities, the women's centre is still alive and functioning. It is still run by a collective of 20 - 25 women--all of us doing a three hour rota session per week, and we have 3-weekly collective meetings to discuss issues which arise, fund-raising, policies etc.

One of the main functions of the Centre is the free pregnancy-testing service we provide. Unfortunately we can only afford one advertisement per week in the personal column of the Argus (fri. nights), so this service is not as widely known about as we would like. All any woman wanting a pregnancy needs to do is to bring an early morning urine sample in a clean bottle (wash the top as well!), and her period should be at least 2 weeks overdue. The equipment we use is the same as that which doctors and hospitals use and is much more reliable than the kits which can be bought at chemists (for the extortionate price of £4). Apart from that, the atmosphere in the Womens Centre is much more relaxing than a doctor's surgery, and women can sit and talk and have access to all the health information at the Centre, and although we keep a record of the tests done, everything is completely confidential.



We have several fact sheets about pregnancy and abortion, and we have a list of doctors in Brighton who are pro-abortion or who are very good for pregnancy care. Not many women know that they can change their doctor for the duration of a pregnancy if their own is unsympathetic. We have a list of doctors who are willing to recommend women for abortions if the woman wants one, and we can also tell women how to go about getting an N.H.S. abortion or to make an appointment for them at Wistons, the B.P.A.S. clinic. We also have information sheets on contraception and about the F.P.A. clinic in Brighton, the menopause, and various other aspects of women's health.

Although perhaps the majority of women come to the centre for information about health and doctors, a lot of women come who want information about such things as legal and welfare rights. We have an up to date set of D.H.S.S. leaflets about various welfare rights, and general legal leaflets on Equal Pay and the Sex Discrimination Act. As well as leaflets to take away we have several books on women's rights and women's health, and badges and posters for sale.

The other main function of the Centre at present is as a contact point for various women's groups and activities both nationally and locally, such as: National Abortion Campaign, Women's Aid, the Women's Health Group, Women Against Fascism And Racism, Women's Photography Group, and women's centres all over Britain. Ideally, all these local groups could use the Centre as their base and there wouldn't be such a break between our activities as a collective and those of other groups. Unfortunately, because of the lack of space and lack of funds this is restricted.

At the moment we have only 2 very small rooms, and the minimum of equipment. The only money we receive is a £260 pa grant from the social services which just covers our rent - the rest of the money comes from donations and fund raising activities.

We are desperately looking for new premises in order to expand our activities and to be more accessible to women. To help with this we have just completed an application for a grant from a Trust Fund.

Despite the shortcomings, the Womens Centre provides a very important service for women, as the number of women using the Centre proves.

OCCUPATIONS

Sussex University and Brighton polytechnic have recently been in occupation over attacks on overseas students. These attacks - quotas, differential rents etc. - are part of national govt. policy as manifested in immigration laws and education cuts.

The police were used recently to try and break GMWU and NUPE action at Sheepcote. This time, the students, taking there only possible form of direct action, are under attack. These attacks are another example of the racist nature of the British state. Racism is being used in this case to try to introduce further cuts in govt. public expenditure.



IMMIGRATION LAWS.

"I THINK THAT WHEN SHE (a black west Indian student) HAS COMPLETED HER COURSE, SHE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY SEEK TO REMAIN IN THE U.K. AND, IF SHE IS NOT GIVEN PERMISSION TO DO SO, WILL REMAIN ILLEGALLY. SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THOUSANDS OF OTHER YOUNG WEST INDIANS WHO CAN BE FOUND IN LONDON, AND THE CHANCES OF HER BEING FOUND ARE MINIMAL".

The above is a quotation from an immigration official stating his reasons for rejecting an appeal by an o/s student for an extension of her visa so as to complete her course. It is not enough, under immigration laws for an o/s student to produce objective proof that s/he has a place on a course and adequate financial support: s/he must also satisfy immigration officials that s/he is a genuine student who intends to leave the UK on completion of her/his studies. Since someone's subjective intention cannot be objectively established, this requirement becomes a wide ranging discretionary power in the hands of immigration officials.

Voice: Can you tell us how/when/why the band got together, and how Pete came to be in a previously all-women band?

Devil's Dykes: "Well, We started off thinking it would be really nice if all women could just play music together. But then we started getting a bit better, and we wanted to do something for the LP (Vaultage)" "The thing is, we had no bass player at all, and Pete played bass, so he sort of came round to help us out. So originally it was temporary, and it was because we all got on so well that we decided, well, it seems stupid to change just because...." "Well, and also, we developed quite a lot of loyalty" "Yeah" "And also, none of us are separatists so it seemed like a good idea to integrate in our music what we do in our lives really"

Politics

Voice: Do you think that the views of the band as a whole have changed since you started and then decided to keep Pete?

Dykes: "Yes" "I think we're more consciously political now, actually, than we were at first" "I think we're a more political statement as well, in a way, because you get a band with the word 'dykes' in it, and there's a man in it" "And also it shows that if a man is involved in something he doesn't need to be dominant, that Pete has equal status to everyone else in the band."

Voice: So why would you say that the band's politics have developed since Pete joined?

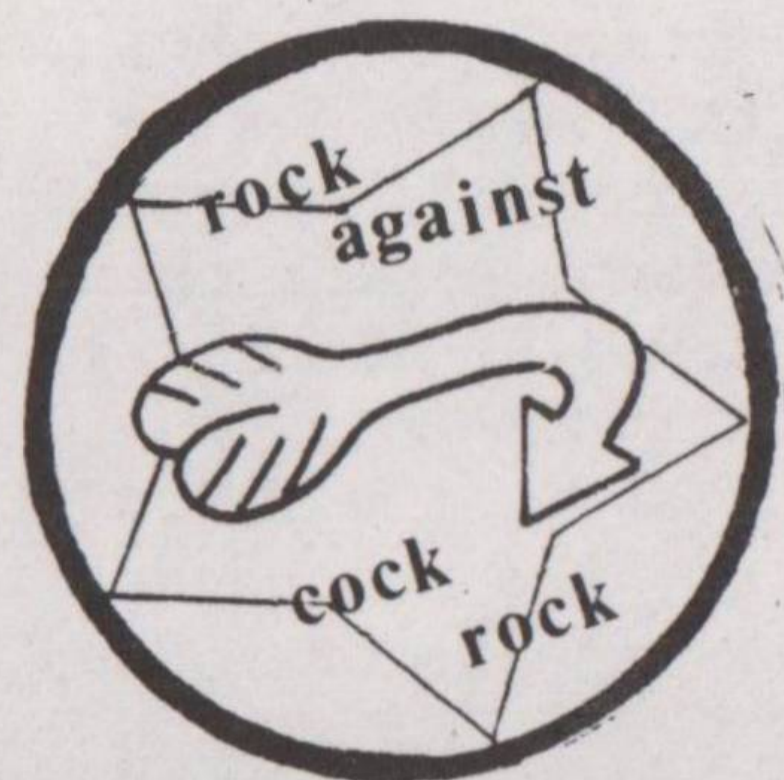
Dykes: Well, before, you know, we would have been more suitable - an all-women line-up - to play just at women's parties etc, play in an environment that's accepting our politics, and less challenging therefore. And now, since we couldn't play at all-women things, we've had to play at just the ordinary venues, and therefore reach other people"

"That's more political I think. To reach women who you aren't going to otherwise"

"And to make men think a bit more. I mean, I think we want to be accepted for the music, which we weren't to begin with because it wasn't very good, but hopefully we're getting a bit better now"

"We're more political now because we're conscious of exactly how we'd have to phrase songs to get through to young teenage girls who aren't going to get any contact with the women's liberation movement at all, apart from through the 'gutter press'. So we're trying to work out exactly

We met in the vault at the Resource Centre over cans of beer, before the band got down to playing. All the band except Pete, that is. We'd changed the date of our meeting so many times, he couldn't be there. Thanks to the rest of the band for a really nice interview ... well, 'interview' isn't quite right really; it was a relaxed chat, we really enjoyed it. So now ... read on.



DEVILS DYKES



ROSE PETE JEN HEATHER BRIGID STELLA

Stella 'Organ' Morgan - "an engineer who also teaches self-defence"

Rose - "I work in the Post Office during the day; I've got two lives, several lives ... this is just one"

Heather - "I'm at technical college, meant to be teaching"

Pete - has just given up social work, going back to university.

Jen - "I'm still at university (I've been there a few years)"

Brigid - "I'm a secretary. I'm also in the women's movement"

Diane - (The band's photographer and technician) "I'm a student but I'm going to be a freelance photographer"

what everything means, and how to phrase it - things like 'being a housewife' etc. Most of these kids will respect rock music, whereas they won't respect anything else" "Quite often if you're a group of women you think 'oh well that's enough, it's political in itself, we don't bother to go further than that'. And because we haven't got that basis ..."

Voice: Why did you choose the name Devil's Dykes?

Dykes: "Well, it was in fact someone else who was playing with us a year ago, when we were all women" "We said before about the band being called 'Devil's Dykes', and then there's a man in it ... We don't want to be stuck in categories and labelled. I think it's good for people to actually have to think about the people behind the labels" "And also, more than that, some of us do feel very positive about being gay. I mean, it's really a kind of an assertion"

Music

Voice: What are you trying to bring over through your music, and why do you choose music as opposed to anything else?

Dykes: "I think the reason we're doing it through music is because we like music. I really enjoy it - I'm really into things that the other bands are doing"

Voice: Are any of you active in the women's movement, and other politics outside the band?

Dykes: "Well, yes ... women's movement" "Women's movement, self-defence and so on..." "I haven't had much time recently. The band takes up a lot of time"

Voice: In your songs do you mostly write about issues relevant to women or do you touch on more general politics as well?

Dykes: "Our new song's about a secretary replaced by silicone chips!" "I think that in most of the songs, most of the protagonists are women, a woman's consciousness most of the time. And that's quite important"

Voice: In what way is the band different from male-dominated, male-influenced bands? E.g. structure, content, style attitude ... your music ...

Dykes: "We don't really want to put over this kind of almost aggressive perfect performance, you know, which is kind of thrust out at the audience - you chat into the microphone (supposed to be in a relaxed way, but really it's a total professional, a total 'Us and Them' situation); we want to try and break that down"

Sexism

Voice: What about sexism in rock music? Why is it that other bands etc have come up with the idea that 'rock music is inherently sexist', therefore you can't help being sexist when you play it? (It's a bit of an elitist thing to say).

Dykes: "It's a bit of a cop-out as well"

"I don't think rock music needs to be sexist"

"I don't think we've had so much ego-pushing, and that's very important, something to do with sexism"

"Yes, and that's something we do work on when we're practising - make an impression, but not - and that's quite hard isn't it?"

Voice: How do you feel about playing to the men in the audience?

Dykes: "I don't feel I'm playing to them actually. I feel I'm playing to the women in the audience" "Your friends, that you can see at the front"

Voice: Because men have been critical?

Dykes: "Well, I think it's also - I mean like when we play down the Alhambra, supporting the Piranhas, a lot of the men there just aren't into the support band anyway - and I think because it's us, they're going to be more wary. Whereas there's also going to be women in the audience that you know - they really support us. And the other women are also interested"

"We have heard men's comments like 'Oh, they're not bad for a bunch of women'"

"And that's another thing - we don't want people to think because we're women we should be judged on a different level. We want to improve musically"

Voice: I can imagine some men being prejudiced against your music, just because you're women.

Dykes: "People have said that it is difficult to judge our music, because you can't just slot it into a category, you know"

"Perhaps it's threatening. I mean, it must be very funny seeing women up there instead of men"

"I think people do judge it differently. I mean, they're always saying that they can't hear the words, and yet there are so many bands that you can't hear the words of"

Voice: Because people expect you to have an explicit message.

In the Gazette interview, they seemed to be taking Pete as the leader. Is this usually the case - Pete being seen as the leader, and the women not being taken seriously at all?

Dykes: "No" "We'd get absolutely furious at that attitude"

"I think that at one point, when we were setting up, people in the other band would go up to Pete and say 'where do you want this' and so on. I think that now we're trying to be more experienced about setting up and that"

"Yeah, that is something we've worked on quite a lot"

"And Pete's very aware of it as well, really"

Voice: Do you think you've actually reached other women who haven't had any contact before with feminism?

Dykes: "We've had quite a few people come up to us in the street and say 'hello', and they say things like 'I've heard the record, it's really sad, isn't it?' - 'Plastic Flowers' and that sort of thing - and you say 'yes, but at least she knows what she's doing' "

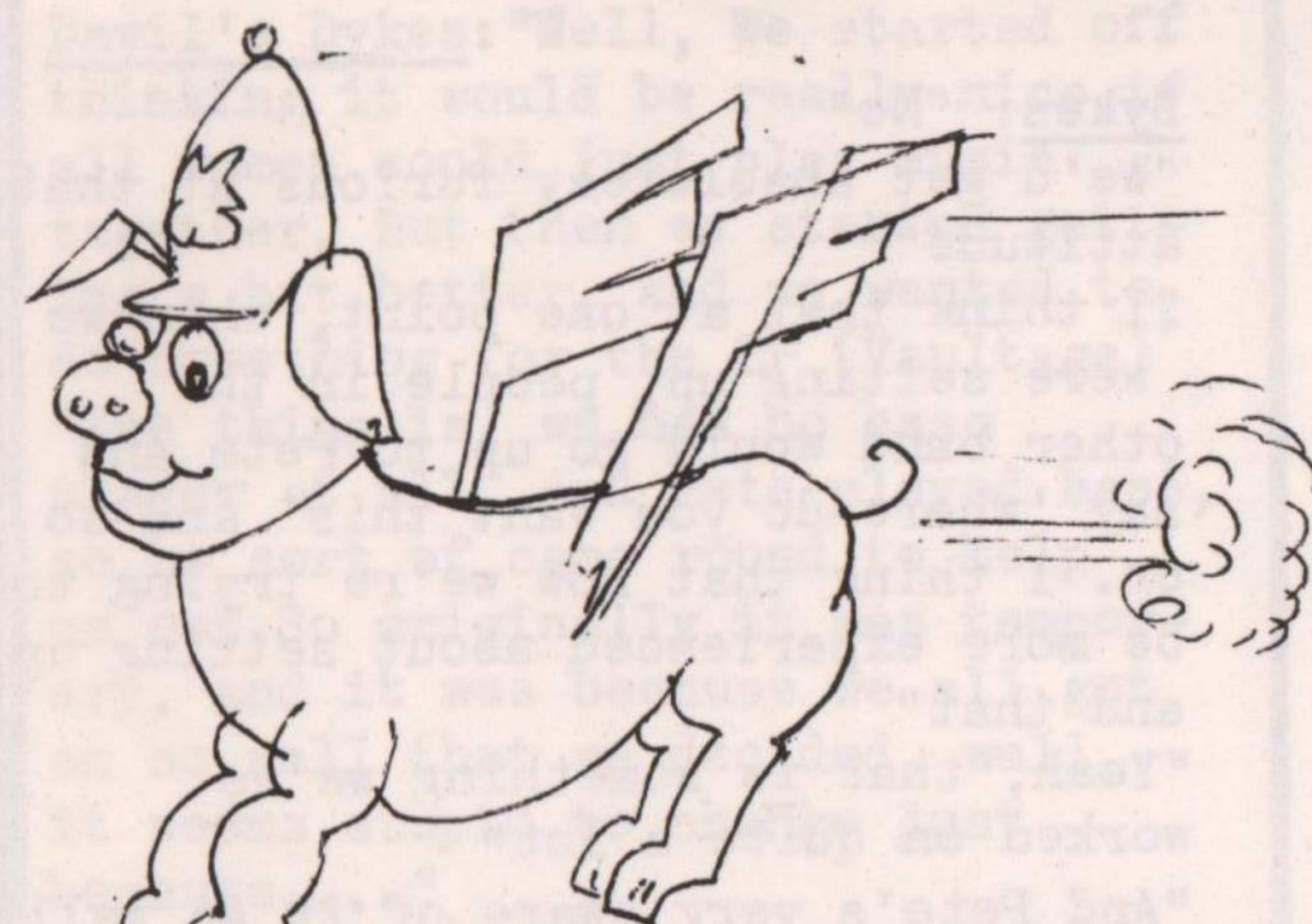
"That sort of thing's really great" "And all our put-downs are so good! You know, - people talk about this very rocky, unprofessional feminist band, but at least they always get in the fact that it is trying to be feminist"

Voice: Plans for the future?

Dykes: "We've got the Hanbury gigs. Two Fridays out of three, late bar till 12 ... plug, plug, plug.." "That's really important" "Yeah, the local following is really nice I think, if we could get that.."



Put Animals Into Politics



their policy and say what policy is. Therefore, each party was asked to comment on six main areas of concern, these are: Factory Farming, Experiments on Living Animals; Treatment of Horses; Export of Live Farm Animals; Dogs in the Community; Bloodsports.

2) "The establishment of a Standing Royal Commission on Animal Protection".

The replies from the parties have been encouraging, but only the Labour Party have made the abolition of bloodsports party policy. The policy statement also covers animal experiments, export of live food animals, factory farming, dogs and pets, zoos, wildlife parks and circuses.

A large number of Animal Welfare and Protection Societies have come together to form the General Election Co-ordinating Committee for Animal Protection for the one purpose of 'Putting Animals into Politics'.

Cruelty to animals is not a private matter. Parliament has legislated about animal welfare for over a century. In recent years, however, with mounting pressure of 'government' business on Parliamentary time, there has been a tendency for successive Governments to regard further measures on animal welfare to be "suitable for the Private Members' Bill procedure". This amounts to legislation by lottery and frustration of changes in the law by obstruction or lack of time, or both.

This state of affairs is no longer tolerable and action must be taken quickly to remedy the situation.

Last May, GECCAP wrote to 5 political parties which have sitting Members, asking them to accept two basic principles:

1) "Animal welfare is a responsibility of government and should not be consigned to the hazard of the Private Members' Bill Procedure."

It follows that political parties regard animal welfare as part of



Plaid Cymru have still to make a statement and the Scottish National Party is tabling several resolutions at its conference in May. Their main proposals are much the same as Labour's, but with the exclusion of banning bloodsports.

All those who are concerned with Animal Rights should contact their standing MP and make him/her aware of your views.

Also candidates put forward by other parties should be contacted and their views obtained. If they are anti-Animal Protection, pressure should be put on the local party and reminded of their party commitments. Also, a recent National Opinion Poll showed that a considerable amount of people would vote for the party that made a stand on Animal Protection, even if they had to change the party they traditionally voted for. In fact, a swing of 9% is anticipated, which is more than enough to secure marginal seats.

Anyone wishing to help the campaign locally, should contact:

Vince Smith 386 Portland Road, Hove or Andy Harman tel: Bton 688614.

FREE leaflets, posters, carstickers, can be obtained from GECCAP 10, Queensferry St, Edinburgh.



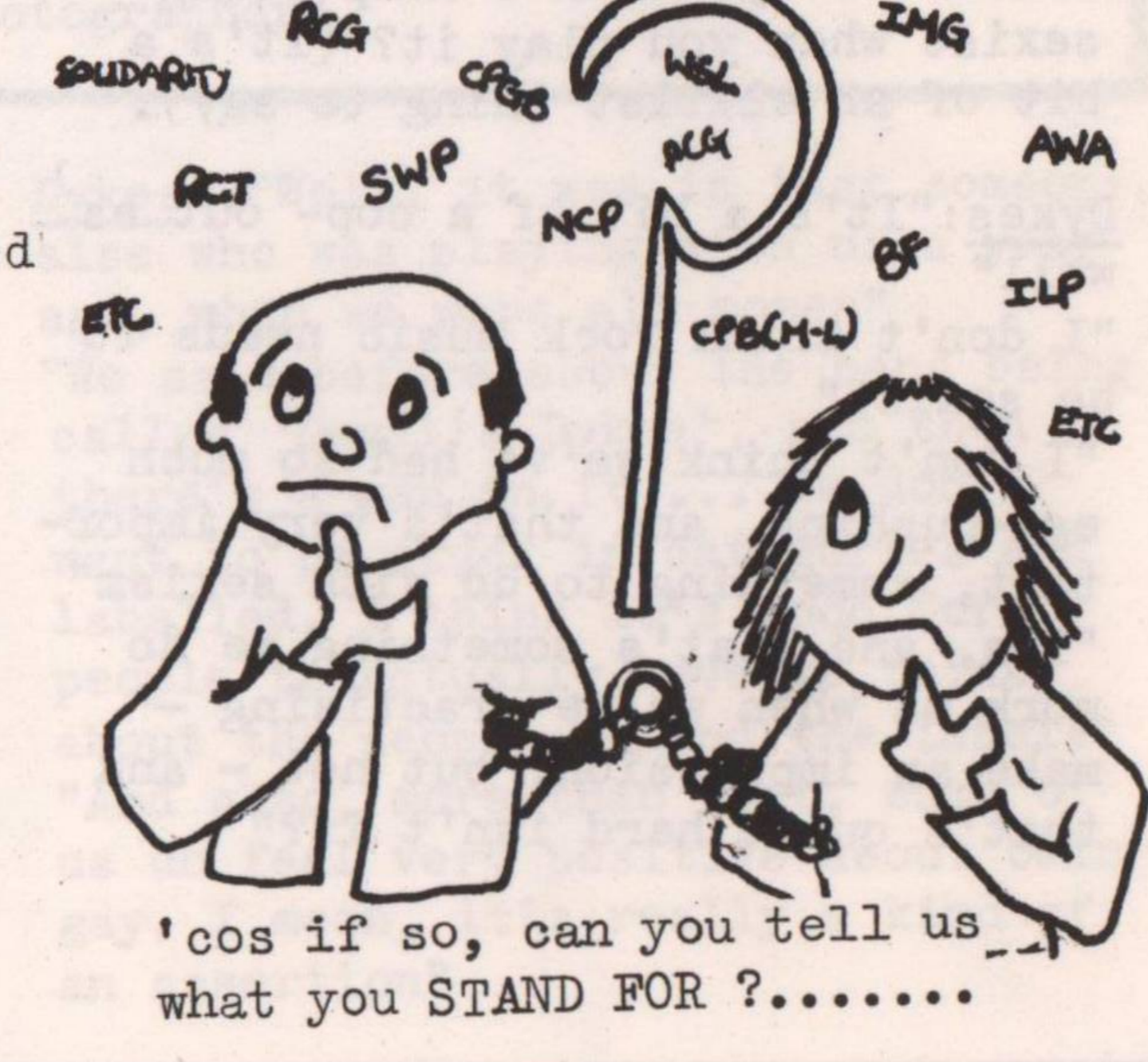
The Conservatives have made vague promises about animal experiments. Their attitude to bloodsports is that the don't want to interfere with the hunters' civil liberties.

The Liberals have accepted the two resolutions previously mentioned. Their policy documents also urge action on vivisection, factory farming and pollution. Unfortunately, the only Liberal MPs to put their words into action have been Alan Beith and Cyril Smith. The others don't want to upset their constituents, as they hold mainly rural seats and fear reprisals from the farming community.

party papers cannot adequately supply us with local day to day information. Until such time as the party weeklies become people's dailies such information has to be gained in different ways - leaflets, flyposting, meetings, music etc.

From this, working people get involved in activity to take control over their own lives. Unfortunately, many left groups appear mysterious and remote to working people. And as one worker on the dustmen's picket line said recently: "it's difficult to get involved in something you know very little about". There is a gap between national left weeklies and local struggles, so the Voice intends to run an article in each issue from a group explaining who they are and what they do.

ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ... a member of:



REVOLUTIONARY BRIGHTON ?

The past few months in Brighton have seen a series of disputes involving bakers, journalists, students, dustmen, ambulance drivers and other low-paid workers. One thing all these groups have in common is the type of prejudiced treatment and distortion they've had to put up with from the right-wing press, both locally and nationally in reporting their struggles.

It has only been the left-wing press which has supported the worker's actions. Sadly, there are only two left-wing daily papers published in Britain. The weekly

THE BIG B.A.N.G. THEORY



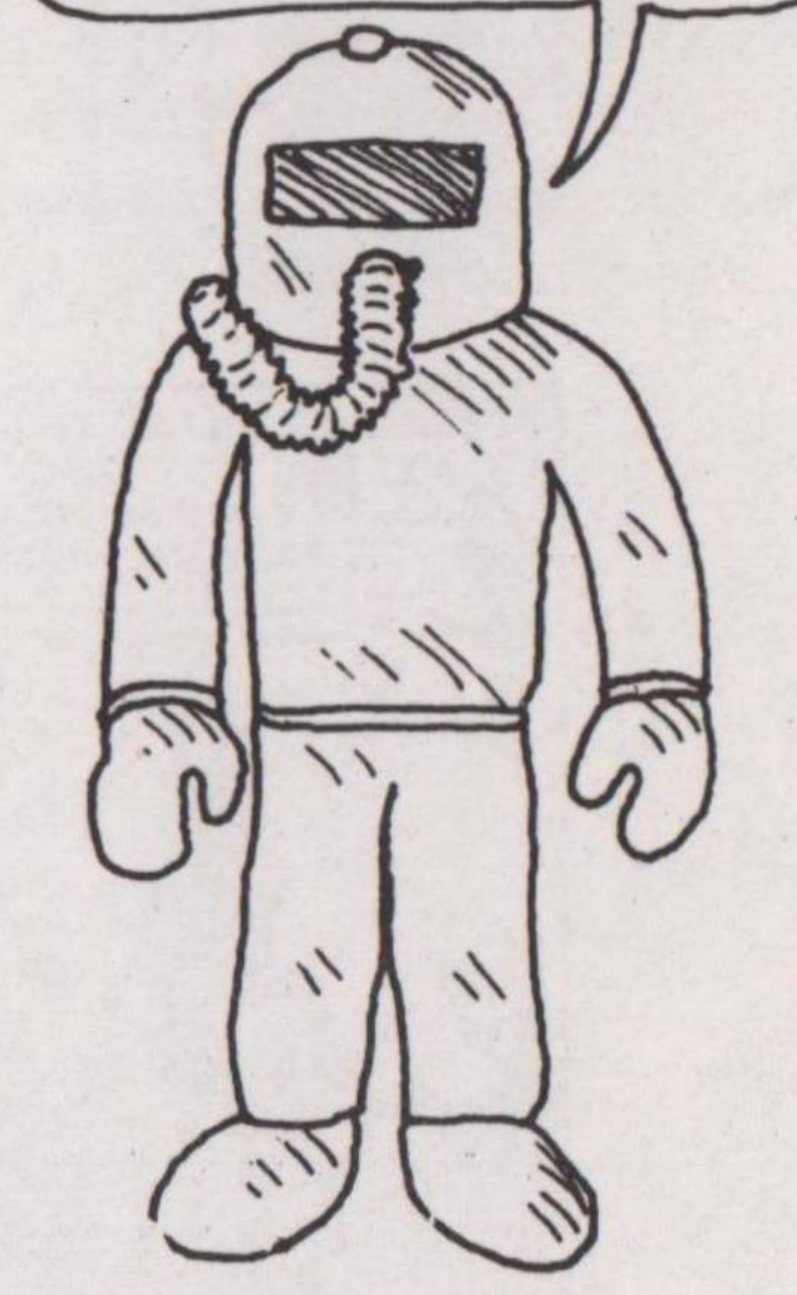
NUKES NEWS

ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVITY IS HOTTING UP. BE SURE YOU DON'T MISS THE ACTION.

BIG BANG FESTIVAL APRIL 23rd - 28th

- Monday 23: Film - 'Sam Lovejoy's Nuclear War', Sussex University Students Union Debating Chamber, 7pm.
- Tuesday 24: Sam Lovejoy's Nuclear War, Resources Centre North Road, 7pm. 3 short films, Sussex Univ SU Debating Chamber, 7pm.
- Wednesday 25: 3 short films, Resources Centre, 7pm. Film - Sentenced for Success, Sussex Univ SU Debating Chamber, 7pm.
- Thursday 26: Sentenced for Success, Resource Centre, 7pm. Talk and discussion on Nuclear Power & Alternative Energy given by Mike Prior of SERA (Socialist Environment and Resources Association) Sussex Univ SU Debating Chamber, 7pm.
- Friday 27: Play - Muck and Brass by Counteract, Resources Centre, 7pm.
- Saturday 28: All day Free Festival - stalls, street theatre, fun, games, exhibitions. 12.00 onwards at Sussex University. Benefit Concert in aid of the Torness Alliance with Here & Now, Steve Hillage (to be confirmed) and Jonathan Richman (to be confirmed). Bar and Disco - over 18's only.

We must stress that there is no chance at all of a radioactive leak...



There will be separate admission charges for each event. A season ticket may be bought for £2, and entry to the Benefit concert is only by 'season ticket'. Tickets and further information from Rob Rosenthal, Sussex University Students Union.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION DAY SCHOOL ON ENERGY SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1.30 - 5pm, FRIENDS CENTRE, SHIP STREET



"Depositing litter in the countryside, eh!"

The tutor for this day school is Martin Goldschmidt, who used to work as the trade union organiser for the Australian anti-nuclear movement - the Movement Against Uranium Mining. He is now an organiser for SANE (Students Against Nuclear Energy). This Saturday school is organised in conjunction with BANG (Brighton Anti Nuclear Group), who will provide posters, a bookstall etc.

The aim of this school is to explain the options in energy policy, with a particular emphasis on the social implications; energy affects jobs, transport, housing, health - most areas of our lives. We are organising a short WEA course in the Summer to go into the issues of energy more deeply. 6 Thursdays from May 3rd at the Resources Centre. More details will be available at the school.

FEE: To cover (some) costs, we shall have to ask for a fee of 50p. If you cannot afford that, contact the WEA organiser to ask for a reduction.

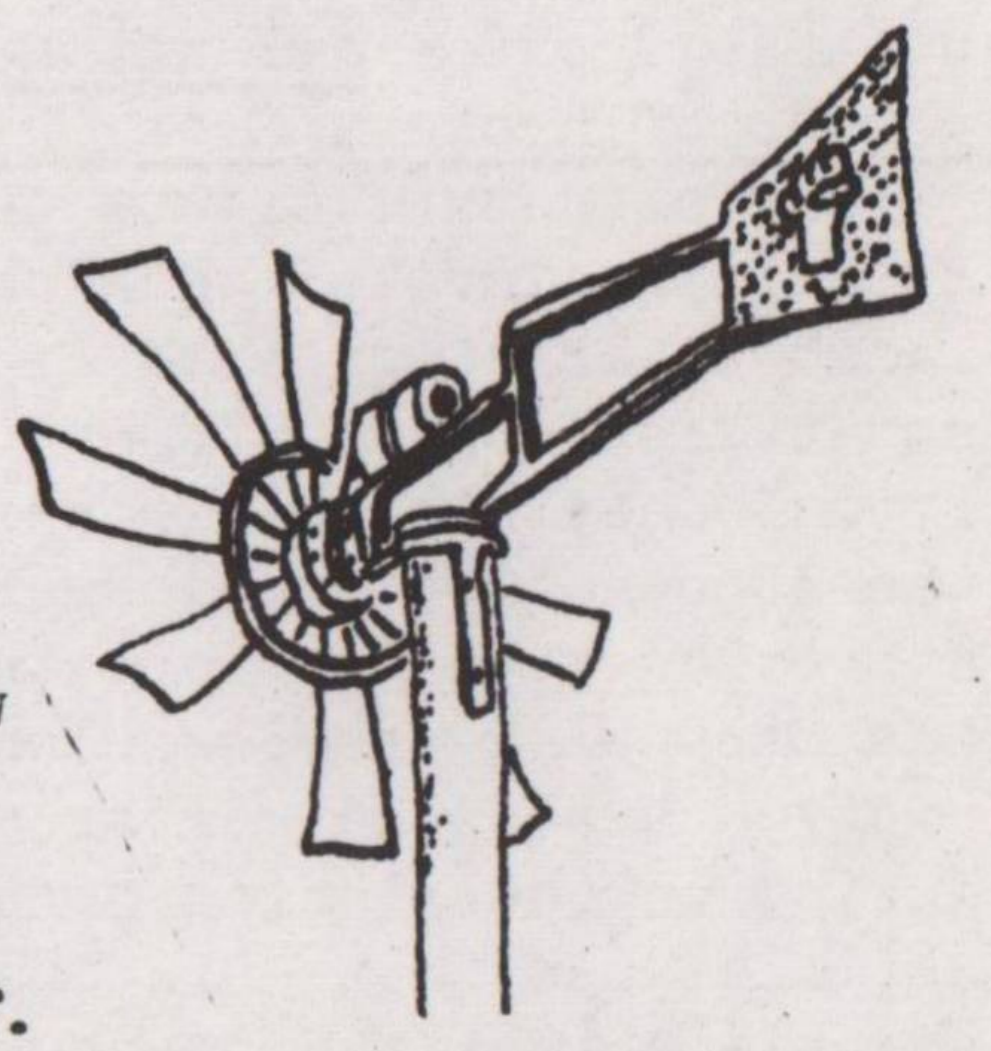
Further details of the Energy Day School from: Stirling Smith (WEA Tutor-Organiser) 211, Queens Park Road, 680654; or Roger Bennett (Brighton Anti Nuclear Group) 53 Montpelier Road, 737079.

TORNES ANTI-NUCLEAR FESTIVAL, MAY 4th - 7th, TORNES NR. DUNBAR, SCOTLAND

Torness is the site of Scotland's, as yet unbuilt, newest nuclear power station. There will be a festival of opposition to nukes and a demonstration of the various forms of alternative energy. There will also be street theatre, stalls, music, fun, games, food, workshops. This will be followed by Nonviolent Direct Action.

Various groups in Brighton are taking a number of mini-buses up to Torness, and we are now selling tickets for these. The cost will be about £16-£17, including food at Torness. (You may be able to buy just a transport ticket, cost £12-£13, but we'd rather you didn't as this would push up the price of food for the rest). All tickets must be bought in advance with a deposit of at least £5 (non-refundable). You'll need a tent, sleeping bag and things to eat off.

We could also do with some help, either materials or energy. Further details: Roger Bennett, 53 Montpelier Road, 737079.



NORTH LAINE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Cutting Through The Bullshit"

We couldn't help but be mildly amused by the whitewash image given of the NLCA in your interview with Ray Curnow (former chairperson) in last month's Voice. It did, in fact, cast grave doubts on the value of your running series on community associations when the information poorly reflects either a balanced view of their work or misrepresents the major problems of people living in the area. Such people may not be involved with NCLA at all. In fact, far from there being '200-300 activists' most open CA meetings can only boast 20 regular attenders - mainly street reps and executive.

The headings that follow are issues we take up from the original Voice interview.



The North Laine Runner

Something should be said about access to the Association's newsletter. It was originally called The North Road Runner and had its name changed to 'Laine' to conform to the priorities of the Council's planning department (whose cosmetic approach to the problems of the area have often dominated the Association's approach as we shall see below).

In early 1977, Coun. Gee wrote that the area had been used as a dumping ground by the Council. Two years later, with pressure from increasingly gentrified residents, this is no longer the case - council tenants are farmed out to estates and council houses have been sold off - all without a murmur of protest from the NCLA!

The signature clause on the Runner was invoked when an unsigned article appeared from squatters in Kemp St. The outcry from 'conservative' members that the Association could be seen to be approving such precipitate action (as occupying premises long left empty) caused the editor(s) to insist on the signing of all articles (so that NCLA could disassociate itself from squatting if necessary).

*je participe
tu participes
il participe
nous participons
vous participez
ils profitent*

Lack of Activiam

It is not true, as Ray Curnow says, that people in the area are not politically active - but the Association has not been an encouragement... The action centred around Pelham Square in 1977 when the Council were considering selling off some prime property in the south corner. Curnow was mandated by a CA meeting to survey the residents for their views about rubbing shoulders with Council tenants (ugh!). The survey was never done, although it was implied that the notorious Stanley Theobald had done such research and that the answer was a resounding: No! Stanley later admitted he had only spoken to one or two people! In the meantime, the Council tenant who'd been living there for 14 years was told he had a week to get out! This was not taken up by NLCA and he's now in Moulsecombe.

The 'desireable' properties were finally sold off, as Voice readers will remember, at an auction vociferously protested by the Squatters Union.

Accommodation for single mothers in Gloucester Street also met a hostile reception at meetings initially. Some even expressed fear

A letter from 2 North Laine residents in reply to our article, last month on North Laine Community Association.

fears of a red light area being set up! A valid objection, however, was that it would merely create a ghetto of women who were discriminated against by the housing and welfare systems and that the issue should be fought on these terms. The Association did not take this up.

'Power Through the N.L.C.A'

Curnow's notion that the NLCA has a lot of elbow with the Council is another lie - it has become just another bureaucracy to fight through...

One resident in Foundry Street, who was not a regular attender of meetings, turned up with a well-worked-out scheme for re-routing the G.P.O. traffic in his street. After sitting through the boredom of discussions about constitutions and finance he was told it wasn't the place to discuss it! Before the Association would provide even verbal support, they wanted his scheme to be thrown out first by the GPO, then by the Council. After that series of defeats, he could present it to an Environment Working Group!

Conservation and General Improvement Areas

Despite one or two notable dissenters, there was riotous approval of Ken Fines' (chief planning officer for Brighton) announcement in 1976 that the area was to be 'conserved' - picked would be more the right word! Two years later people realised how little this meant in terms of cash or promises. A conservation area does nothing to increase the basic housing stock. It is merely a cosmetic treatment to gentrify the area by insisting on sash windows for improvements and placing property out of the reach of low income private renters. Brighton's Tory council will also not lose the opportunity this provides to sell off more council

Cont. Page 13



News



from the free press

BRITAIN: The NUJ guidelines designed to protect blacks from prejudiced reporting are now being used in a new and sinister way: to justify omitting the racial dimension when it should be there. How many people know that the 200 prisoners who

rioted at Gartree Prison in October 1978 were supporting black prisoner Michael Blake? PROP organized a press conference with Michael's father, Pastor Blake, but there was virtually no publicity for this. Likewise, when Michael Ferreira was murdered in December, the Hackney Gazette never mentioned that he was a West Indian and that it had been a racial attack. The Campaign Against Racism and Fascism would like to hear of any further examples (182 Upper St. London N1) (CARF)

AN EMPTY SPACE!

North Laines

CONTINUED.

houses! Again, not a murmur from the Association, where Council tenants have no visible representation (they've all been moved out to Moulsecombe or Whitehawk over the past 3-4 years).

Walls and trees are still being pulled down in Upper Gardener St (even in a 'conservation area', the Council can give itself permission to demolish!). The ultimate irony is that houses in Tichbourne St have recently been demolished in line with the Council's blight policy - decant, board up, pour concrete in the loos until a car park owner comes along... No-one at the Association's last meeting (march 21) knew about Tichbourne St.

'Gee... the Co-operative Councillor'

Of the 3 borough councillors - George Bolton, Stanley Theobald and David Gee, the latter is said to be the most involved. Despite this, he has told Kelvin MacDonald (a former Secretary of NLCA) that the proposed King St car park had been on the books since 1932 and there wasn't anything anyone could do about it (least of all Gee himself). Many of the houses in King St are owned by the Council.

YORK: An elderly couple, returning home after visiting friends found that the door lock on their council flat was frozen; when they tried to turn the key, it snapped off. After an hour of trying to get in, they rang the Housing Dept. emergency service, to be told that someone would come and break a window for them ... for £11. They said that they couldn't afford it, but were told it was the standard charge. Eventually a neighbour broke in (free of charge); the £11 fee was introduced in 1977 by the Tory Council as part of local government cut-backs. (PNS/York Free Press)

USA: Unemployed workers in St. Mary's Louisiana are to be required to carry a South African-type pass book, containing photo, fingerprints, recent address and description in an attempt to "reduce crime" in the area. The police will have access to all

of this information and although there are no sanctions for not carrying a pass, employers will be subject to a £100 fine for taking on someone without one. The American Civil Liberties Union is to fight the ordinance in the courts. (PNS).

SUSSEX: The Sussex Police Federation have suggested the following "improvements" in police powers in their evidence to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure: Identity Cards for everyone and the power to arrest anyone without one until identity is established, compulsory fingerprinting of every adult, lowering the age of criminal responsibility to eight, removing an accused person's right to silence during investigations and making the defence state its case before the trial. (Hastings Poison Pen).

'Community Offices in North Rd'

It is nice to see that NLCA may finally be getting premises. We can only hope that its relations with the Resource Centre will thereby flourish. This venture however, is not free from gremlins. Ray Curnow nominated three guarantors for the premises. One of these was himself - which creates problems as he has now left town permanently. The 2nd



was Michael Dawes who runs an international antique dealers in Upper Gardener St with a turnover of £millions per year. Mick has been a kindly soul in the past, coughing up his own cash for street parties and the like and acting as Master

of Ceremonies. His condition for being guarantor, however, was that he be made an honorary member with full voting rights - and he doesn't even live in the area! The Assoc. is obligingly trying to write a new clause in the constitution to allow this! We can only hope that the AGM doesn't satisfy this undemocratic, not to say corrupt, proposal...

'Conclusions'

We would like to say that in this critique we are not trying to be destructive of the Association. In fact, the authors were founder members of the Upper Gardener St Residents Association, which spawned the North Rd Community Assoc. They were active in the 'Laines' for years as street reps and then as community activists. We feel, however, that NLCA, while succeeding in many ventures like parties, outings, efficient running, smart newsletter etc, has failed to come to grips with more pressing issues like: shortage of low rent and Council housing, adequate children's playspace, and traffic destruction. This can only come from a more confrontational attitude and co-operation with the Resource Centre, Rights Centre etc. Neither do we wish to throw a poor light on past and present officers of the Association, some of whom have been (and are) first rate.

Two North Laine residents
Name & address supplied.

LETTERS

A Bicycle made for 320

The London to Brighton Bike Ride is an event aimed at the cycling "fringe" - that is to say the people who use a bike to ride to work of for the occasional ride at the weekend, those who are taking up a sport to keep fit and people interested in the bike as a means of alternative transport. The first ride in 1976 attracted 34 riders, the next year just over 100 and last year over 320 cyclists were counted in at Brighton.

This year we are hoping to attract the more 'gen' cyclists - clubpeople and CTC cyclists. We feel that the 'fringe' which is generally a more leisurely bunch, is now large enough not to be dismayed at the sight of stripped down lightweights disappearing at great speed over Westminster Bridge.

The ride is not about selling bikes, nor is it a demonstration of the power of the bike versus car etc. I think the sight of hundreds and hundreds of cyclists on the road together (1 000 cyclists is over 1 mile long) does present a very strong image and must set people thinking. It is more a day out to the sea on your bike; it is a fun event for any and everybody. It is a chance to meet people on bikes to exchange ideas and hopefully improve the picture of cycling. People too often think of cycling as an exclusive preserve of keen sporty males - how many women are there on a club run?

Hopefully some of the people on this event will get more organised, join clubs, the C.T.C. and carry with them a more open view of what cycling can be all about and so encourage the growth of the support.

Brighton
We, the Brighton organisers, are hoping to have an accommodation bank so that weary cyclists may stay overnight and return to their four corners of Britain the following day.

The University Cycling Club is helping stage the Brighton reception in the evening. There will be showers, a vegetarian meal in the

'Pulse' restaurant at the University. To be followed by theatre events, a film and finally, the 'Bicycle Bop' - live group and disco.

For information and offers of overnight floor/bed space please contact:

Roger Bennett 53, Montpelier Rd, Bton 737079.

Richard Johnson 'Afras' u/g p/h University.

Patrick Radley 87 Sackville Rd, Hove 71334.

Another Peace of News

Dear Brighton Voice,

At a recent meeting of the Brighton Peace Forum, Members expressed their deep concern over the attacks that have been made on shops selling Brighton Voice. We wish to offer Brighton Voice and all who support it our sincere encouragement. We believe that the newspaper provides a very valuable service in Brighton.

We hope that you will find room for the enclosed resolution which has been sent to the Gazette and Argus and to Brighton and Hove MPs.

Resolution March 13, 1979

This meeting of individual members to the Brighton Peace Forum, representing a wide spectrum of religious and political opinion, expresses its deep concern and alarm about the continuing conflict between China and Vietnam believing that this presents a serious danger to World Peace.

We hold the view that in these circumstances, Britain should not supply Harrier Jump Jets or any other arms to China.

We ask H.M. Government to use its good offices to bring about peace in the Far East.

Yours sincerely,
Barry Pointon (sec.)

SUBSCRIBE!

all at the co-op

MUSIC HALL: Sunday May 6. 7.30 pm at the Co-op Hall, London Rd. Admission 60p

MARCH: Monday May 7. Assembles 1.45 outside the Fruit Market, Circus St. The March takes a circular route around the centre of town for a

RALLY: at the Co-op Hall, London Rd., including

Steel Band of Caldecott Junior School.

Community Arts Workshop, with extracts from the Ragged Trousered Philanthropist.

Speakers: including Sam Maddox of the Baker's Union (BFAWU).

MAY DAY DANCE: Monday May 7 Co-op Hall, London Rd. 8pm - midnight. Band courtesy of the Musician's Union. Tickets from: Trades Union Council, Labour Party, 179, Lewes Rd. or Co-operative Party, 85, London Rd.

MAY DAY EVENTS

Housing Co-op Appeal Continued. (from page 6)

The case raises several important issues, most of which the members of the co-op were ignorant before the Appeal started. All of these arise out of the position of virtually unassailable power which the Council officers hold, and in particular the attitude taken by the Environmental Health officer, Mr. Eardley. It is his responsibility to instruct the Council committees on the legal position any plans put forward to them. It is his opinion - not seemingly shared by the health officers in 26 other areas where similar schemes were approved - that shared kitchens are a health hazard and we would all be better off cooking in our bedrooms.

To this end, the Council seems to have taken the decision to not only reject any plans which include shared kitchens, but to start a 10 year plan to force landlords to close shared kitchens and to put cookers in people's rooms.

If that's what you want, all well and good; but if it's not, then you will have to go through the same highly costly procedure as Two Piers. In other words, you can't choose yourself what you want, even if the Housing Corporation and the policies of all major political parties have agreed it would solve many problems. And who says you can't? Mr. Eardley, Environmental Health Officer, speaking through the Borough Council.

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

GAY TEACHERS: David or Bob 733838.

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

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

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

TWO PIERS HOUSING CO-OP: Collective ownership and control of housing for young single people. Contact Brenda Lewes 2029, Ray 776577, or Bob 737677.

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

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LESBIAN GROUP: Jill, 31, Franklin Rd. 696298.

LINK UP: Sussex University Community Action. 680380.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN: Contact Women's Centre. N.C.C.L. See 'Advice'.

PROJECT ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND: Hove. 737357, 738712 or 411565.

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

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN: 19, Elm Grove. 687848.

S.M.A.C.H.S.: 132, Lady Smith Rd 602900.

SOCIALIST ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATION (SERA): Socialist solutions for a just and sustainable society. K. Beuret, 301, E. Slope, Sussex University.

WOMENS VOICE GROUP: based on Womens Voice paper. Sue 210660

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION Stirling Smith, 211, Queen's Park Road. 680654.

WORKERS MUSIC ASSOCIATION: Basement, 28, Livingstone Rd. Hove.

WORK HAZARDS GROUP: Info and resources on health and safety at work. Meets every other Monday at the Resource centre. Write to 68 Compton Road or phone 812962

Road. 686302.

WORKING ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS: Linda Kinsella, 551341. Baby sitting, social events, crèche etc.

WORKING WEEKENDS ON ORGANIC FARMS: Don Pynches, 56, High Street, Lewes. 6286.

YOUNG UNEMPLOYED'S CLUB: Weds, 11.30 - 2. Institute, Queens Square.

WORKERS VOICE BUREAU: B'ton: 17 Ditchling Rise 601664, Mon-Fri 10-4pm & Tues 6-8pm; 2 St Georges Place Mon-Fri 10-1pm & 2-4pm Hove: Town Hall (Tisbury Rd) 734811, Mon/Wed/Fri 10-12.30 & 12.15-4pm; Tue/Thu 10-4pm

COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL Advice on problems/diffs. with the NHS: Btn 33824, Hove 71106

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC: 18/19 Western Rd 734258 Lewes, Newhaven & University Health Centre - Btn 23344

GAY SWITCHBOARD: Info & Advice 202930, 8-10pm every night

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

LABOUR WEEKLY ADVICE CENTRE: 179 Lewes Rd, 10.30-11.30; Quinton Barry & Dave Hill, prospective parl. candidates for Kemp Town & Pavilion LEGAL & WELFARE INFO DESK: Union Hall, Air St. Sats. 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

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES (Sussex): 689385 or c/o Public House Bookshop (see 'SHOPS')

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

RENT TRIBUNAL: rent disputes, security of tenure etc, 137 Preston Rd, 506381

RIGHTS CENTRE (B'n): Advice on legal problems. Central Free Church, Queens Sq, The 5.30-7.30; Thu 12.30-2, 5.30-7.30 Phone 202492

SAMARITANS: For those in despair Btn 772277(24hr); Hove 102 Clarendon Rd

SQUATTERS & TENANTS ADVISORY SERVICE: Advice to the homeless & those with housing problems C/O Resource Centre, North Rd

WOMENS AID: Refuge for battered women, 506325

SUNRISE RESTAURANT: 16 North Rd. B'tn. Whole food, vegetarian. Run by friends of the Western Budding Order. Mon-Thur 12-5, Fri & Sat 12-6 & 7-10pm.

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

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

WORKERS BOOKSHOP (B'n.): Marxist-Leninist classics & working class history. 37 Glouce Rd. Tel. 684404. Sat. only 9-5

THIS POSTER IS PUBLISHED AS PART OF BRIGHTON VOICE Please check your entry. If we have left you out, made mistakes or the info. is no longer up to date, please let us know. This service is absolutely free, so why not use it.....?

BRIGHTON VOICE INFORMATION 7 VICTORIA RD. BRIGHTON.

BRIGHTON VOICE is an alternative paper produced by people living and working in the 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.

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 meet every Sunday at 8.30 pm at 7 Victoria Rd. (side entrance or phone 27878 at the same time)

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 will draw their own conclusions and the news will be helpful to others in the same circumstances

NEWPORT STREET, LONDON W2.

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION: Brighton 693829.

BIG FLAME: 68, Compton Road, or phone Brighton 721283, for details of meetings etc.

BRIGHTON ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP: Nick at 18, Bloomsbury Place, Kemp Town.

COMMUNIST PARTY G.B.: Contact Sec: P. Giffin, 95a, St. George's Rd. (887335) meetings 1st. Wed of month at the Stanford Arms. 7.45pm phone for details

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (M.): 37 Glouce. Rd. 684404

COOPERATIVE PARTY, B'ton: 86 London Rd. 689076. Hove: J. Cattell, 29, Foredown Drive. Portslade

FABIAN SOCIETY: G. Forbes, 66 Meadow Way, Burgess Hill. Tel. 965-43723

LABOUR PARTY: B'ton: 179 Lewes Rd. 602922. Sec M. Hill 22 Port Hill Pl., 257704; Hove 40 Cowper St. Sec J. Gattell 29 Foredown Dr. Portslade. Lewes: 3, North St. Lewes. 4312

LIBERAL PARTY: Brighton Pavilion P. Hix, Gordon House, 14a, Ship Street. Contact: 25315 (day) 26560 (evening).

Brighton, Kemp Town. A. Frampton, 32, Bromleaf Rd., 36817. Hove & Portslade: J. McCormack, 11, Wellington Avenue, Hove, Phone 738462.

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YOUNG SOCIALISTS (I.P.): Contact Brighton-P. Byrne, 64, Coleman Street or 601559

Hove-53, Blatchington Road. Lewes-A. Bryant, 16, Willow Walk. Newhaven 6299.

WORK etc

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT: Resource Centre high-top transit and driver. Brighton 607141.

MERLIN: Lewes Work Collective. Gardening, decorating, tutoring, mechanics etc. (Over forty skills). 5, Mount Place, Lewes. 5234.

MOUTSECOOMBE CHILDRENS DANCE TROUPE: Morris dancing etc. for OAP's, children's homes, etc. B'ton 691713.

PURE JOY: Whole Foods Catering Collective. 19, Hammy Way, Shoreham by Sea. S'ham 62501.

VARIETY WITH THE VENTURAS: Charity concert party, OAF clubs, children's homes, etc. B'ton 737357

MATERIAL FOR NEXT ISSUE: DEADLINE FOR LONG ARTICLES IS 20th APRIL AND FOR SHORT ARTICLES IS 27th APRIL.

GROUPS, CO-OPS, Etc.

ANIMAL ACTIVISTS: anti factory 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. Lyn Hawkins, 14 The Lees, Peacehaven 4522

BING CROSBY CLUB: 737357 (am)

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

BRIGHTON SOCIETY: Environmental group. S. Montford 10, Cleremont Road.

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

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY: 202930 8 - 10 pm daily.

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: 28633

COMMUNITY ARTS WORKSHOP: Dance, drama, mime, music. St. Anne's Hall, St. Georges Rd. Kempdown. 697493 for dtls

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

FEDERATION OF TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS (BTION): 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 BUDDHIST ORDER: Yoga, lectures etc. Beginners meditation Mon 7.15 - 19, George St. 693971

GAY CHRISTIANS: Martin 680868

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

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SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING: D. Furci, 12, Berkeley Row, Lewes. 2414.

SUSSEX COUNTY SKATEBOARD ASSOC: 737357.

TRADES COUNCIL: Coordinating group of local trades unions affiliated to the TUC. Andy Durr, 235, Ditchling Rd. 505314.

LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT & LABOUR HISTORY PRESS: as above.

TRADES & LABOUR CLUB: Meeting place for trades unionists. 16, Lewes Rd. 601101.

TRANSPORT 2000: Wilf Martin, 49, Benfield Rd., Portslade 416105. Meetings second Tues. of month, Btn. Station. 7pm.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION: Nancy Dore, 157 Surrenden Rd. 501370.

WEST PIER SOCIETY: John Lloyd, 5, Belle Vue Gardens. 603705.

WEST HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: 21359.

WIDOWS CLUB: 47, Tivoli Crescent, Dyke Rd. Meet 8pm, fourth Wednesday each month. Unitarian Hall, New Road.

WOMEN AGAINST FASCISM AND RACISM: contact c/o Resource Centre.

WOMEN FIGHT RAPE GROUP: Contact Women's Centre.

WOMENS CENTRE: at back of Resource Centre. Open: Tue, Wed, Thur, Sat: 11 - 2 & Tue, Wed: 6.30 - 8 pm. Pregnancy tests, rights, etc. 605911.

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM: 684604 and Lewes 4161.

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

WOMENS VOICE GROUP: based on Womens Voice paper. Sue 21060

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Stirling Smith, 211, Queen's Park Road. 680654.

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PAPERS

CARF: Paper of the ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-FASCIST CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE: Acampaigning paper, excellent, nationwide, from Public House Bookshop, or Flat 3,5, Huntley Street, London. Bulk orders / Donations.

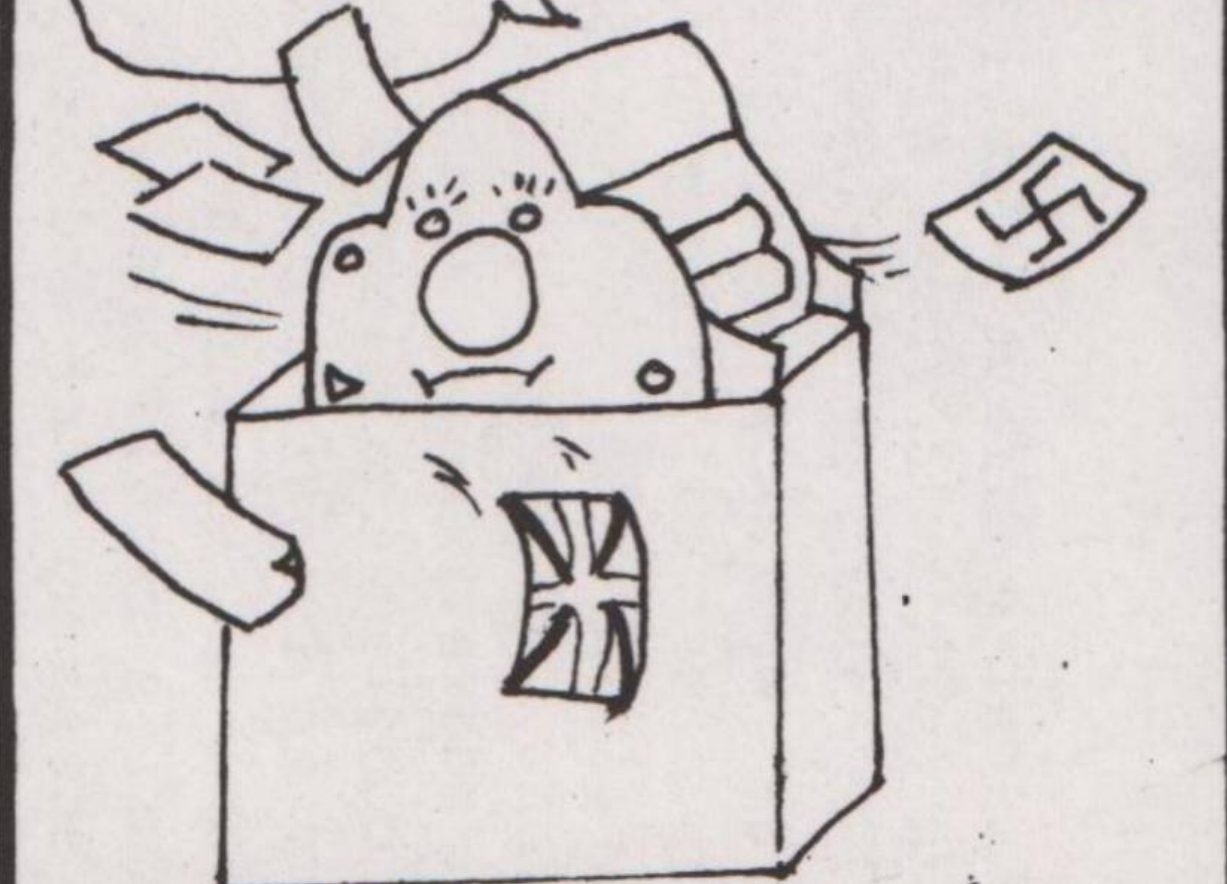
MOVING TARGET: Brighton's film magazine, from good bkshops..

QUEENSPARK: Paper for the Queens Park area; 18, Windmill street Brighton.

WAYBILL: Newsheet of T&GWU, 1/402 Brighton & Hove District Busmen, from Conway Street Depot, Hove

WHOLE EARTH: Alternative technology, organic living, local environmental action. 11, George St. 691318.

OUR PRESS WILL NOT PRINT SEXIST RACIST OR IMPERIALIST PAPERS.



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POLITICS

ANTI FASCIST COMMITTEE: c/o 179, Lewes Road, Bton.

ANTI NAZI LEAGUE: 12, Little Newport Street, London WC2.

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YOUNG SOCIALISTS (L.P.): Contact Brighton-P. Byrne, 64, Coleman Street or 601559.

Hove-53, Blatchington Road. Lewes-A. Bryant, 16, Willow Walk. Newhaven 6299.

SHOPS

ANANDA: 19, Bond Street. Odds & ends, Indian crafts, incense, etc.

BRIGHTON HOSTEL SHOP: Charity shop, 105, Islingwood Road. Open 10 - 4. Articles wanted.

GREENS: Vegetarian Restaurant, 7, Victoria Road, 27878. Open 10 - 11pm (meals from 6pm) Closed Tuesdays...Takeaway too

INFINITY: 25, North Road, 603563.

FOOD: Macrobiotic/wholefood supplies. Open 9.30 - 5.00 Closed all day Wednesday.

BAKERY & PIE SHOP: Open 9 - 5, except Wednesday, 9 - 5.30.

BULK STORE: Bulk supplies. Open Tues. - Sat.; 9.30 - 1 & 2 - 5.

KEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91, St. George's Road,; Radical literature: new and second-hand books.

PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21 Little Preston St. 28357. Member of the Federation of Alternative Booksellers. Real books and mags, records and cassettes of ethnic and improvised music. Basement is open for continuous sessions & courses. See Whats On

PULSE: Sussex Univ. wholefood cafe SCR Falmer House. Feminist collective. Mon-Fri. 12-2.

SAXONS VEGETARIAN RESTUARANT: 48 George St. Btn. 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.

SIMPLE SUPPLIES: Wholefood, recycling, publications etc. environmental centre. 11 George St. Btn. 691318. Mon-Sat. 9.30 - 5.30. Closed Thurs.

SUNRISE RESTUARANT: 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. 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 (Btn.): Marxist-Leninist classics & working class history. 37 Glouce. Rd. Tel. 684404. Sat. only 9-5

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BRIGHTON VOICE INFORMATION: 7 VICTORIA RD. BRIGHTON.

BRIGHTON VOICE is an alternative paper produced by people living and working in the area. It aims to cover news which the commerce 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.

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 meet every Sunday at 8.30 pm at 7 Victoria Rd. (side entrance) or phone 27878 at the same time

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 will draw their own conclusions and the news will be helpful to others in the same circumstances

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

ACUPUNCTURIST: Peter Deadman B.Ac Brighton & Lewes; Lewes 77996

ACUPUNCTURIST: J.P. Scott, ALEXANDRA TECHNIQUE: S.J. Scott 33, Surrenden Crescent, Brighton 559379, Appt. only

HOMOEOPATH: Robert Withers, Brighton 699212, Appt. only. 79, Mill Street Falmer.

MASSAGE: Introductory courses & SHIATSU; Contact Public House Bookshop, 28357, (No wankers, please).

SECOND SUN HEALING: Through direct action & increased understanding. 7, Terminus Road, Brighton 29248.

SHIATSU: Reflexology, Swedish massage, Bach flower remedies Marek Urbanowicz, The Palmeira Clinic; 6, Palmeira Square, Hove. Brighton 734465, Appts.

Subscriptions £2-50 for 12

BACK ISSUES & "Region Six", Special Report available from 7, Victoria Road, Brighton 27878.

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. Vists by app't only. Volunteers wanted.

CANCER PREVENTION: (Area Health Authority) 23344

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX: B'ton: 17 Ditchling Rise 601664, Mon-Fri 10-4pm & Tues 6-8pm; 2 St Georges Place Mon-Fri 10-1pm & 2-4pm

Hove: Town Hall (Tisbury Rd) 734811, Mon/Wed/Fri 10-12.30 & 12.15-4pm; Tue/Thu 10-4pm

COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL: Advice on problems/difs. with the NHS: Btn 33824, Hove 71186

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC: 18/19 Western Rd 734258 Lewes, Newhaven & University Health Centre - Btn 23344

GAY SWITCHBOARD: Info & Advice 202930, 8-10pm every night

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

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

LEGAL & WELFARE INFO DESK: Union Hall, Air St. Sats. 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 LIBERTIE

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES (Sussex): 689385 or c/o Public House Bookshop (see 'SHOPS')

PREGNANCY ADVISORY SERVICE (Bton): Pregnancy testing, counselling abortions, vasectomies: Wistons, 138 Dyke Rd, 509726

RENT TRIBUNAL: rent disputes, security of tenure etc, 137 Preston Rd, 506381

RIGHTS CENTRE (Bton): Advice on legal problems. Central Free Church, Queens Sq, Tue 5.30-7.30; Thu 12.30-2, 5.30-7.30 Phone 202492

SAMARITANS: For those in despair Btn 772277(24hr); Hove 102 Clarendon Rd

SQUATTERS & TENANTS ADVISORY SERVICE: Advice to the homeless & those with housing problems C/O Resource Centre, North Rd

WOMENS AID: Refuge for battered women, 506325

ON THE LINE

ISSUE
NO.1

BRIGHTON HOUSING TRUST'S PAPER ON HOMELESSNESS

NOT JUST ANOTHER APPEAL

Legally the borough council is responsible for housing the homeless under Act of Parliament. Unfortunately it has in the past been far too easy for local authorities to evade their responsibilities. It has too often been left to charities to cope with a problem which shows no sign of going away of its own accord. It's a problem we in Brighton face together as a community and it is something that can only be solved by joint action in providing the sort of accommodation the homeless need. It's no good to rely any longer on the state to provide ... it has failed to do so up to now and there's no reason to suppose it will start doing so overnight. What we need is the backing and money of local people to provide a solution. The needs of individuals who are homeless are great but shared by us, the town, the burden on each of us will not be great. And before you discard this as "just another appeal" just stop and think for a minute before you go to bed tonight: ask yourself what you would do if you had no home.

BROKE IN BRIGHTON

DAVE, who's 21, came to Brighton in January from Bristol in the hope of finding something more than he had there: "I'd made enemies with the police for squatting when I couldn't find anywhere to live. I decided it was time to make a new start and as some friends were coming to Brighton I decided to give it a go."

"The first few nights I stayed in an overcrowded room with a friend. I had no money so I went to the reception centre in Elm Grove.

"The first night I was given a lecture by the manager on me being a social parasite.

"This was in spite of having no money or job - and they're supposed to be a 'Reception and Resettlement Centre.' Luckily the next day I got a place at a B & B which is a bit more human at least.

"I've worked a few times at the Metropole Hotel doing washing up and that kind of stuff, but the wages are pretty lousy and it's difficult to save anything. The wages in town are low if you haven't got a trade, and accommodation's expensive if you can find it.

"If you're homeless the Social Security treat you in a dogmatic and overbearing manner. They treat you as a scrounger instead of someone trying to get what they're entitled to.

"I'm hoping to save up enough money to rent a small place and try to get a steady job."

NEWS IN BRIEF

SENTENCE PASSED

Samuel John Rankin, a homeless man, was jailed at Lewes for the manslaughter of colleague Eddie Williams. The coroner said that Rankin was suffering from organic damage to the brain from drinking.

JOKERS CORNER

Arnie the beggar stops a rich man and asks him for 10p. 'I', says the rich man, 'don't give out money on the street.' 'What should I do?', says Arnie, 'open an office?'

LETTERS

This is the first edition of 'On The Line'. We want to know what you think of it. Do you agree with the conclusions reached? Are we supporting people who don't want or need help? Are we too mild in our criticism of the factors that cause homelessness? WRITE to us and have your say.

ADVERT

Oddments of wool needed for knitting woolly hats for people sleeping out. Old woolen (not acrylic) pullovers for unraveling and re-knitting WANTED.

FESTIVAL OF FAMILY FUN

One and a half miles of entertainment for all the family - May 5th, Madeira Drive, Brighton. Look out for our stall.....

ROCK AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

NICKY & THE DOTS
DEVILS' DYKES
PARROTS

Where? The Richmond, Grand Parade
When? May 22nd.
Why? Benefit for BHT

BRIGHTON'S UNDERBELLY

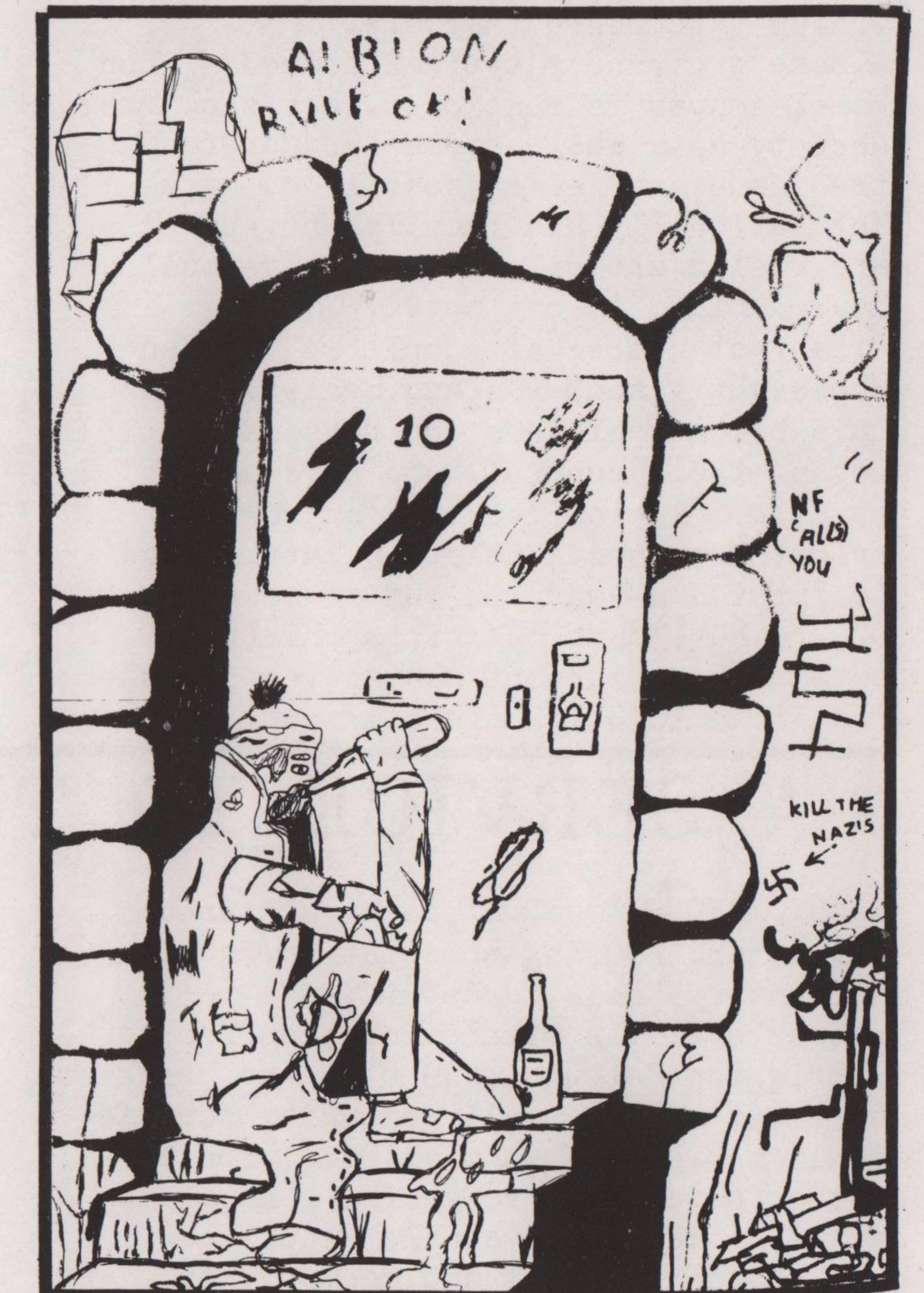
The problem of homelessness in Brighton is something the town would rather forget about. Old men and women sleeping in toilets and beach huts in mid-winter, doesn't really fit in with the image of a bright and breezy holiday resort. But it is a reality behind the facade.

Every night through the year the homeless are forced to make do with the best they can find: if they're not sleeping in the open air, or a derelict building, some make use of Bed&Breakfast accommodation on a more or less permanent basis.

The number of homeless people there are in the Brighton area isn't easy to estimate. Probably the most accurate figures came out of a survey covering May last year, when volunteers found 273 people without a home. The figures, though, aren't the important thing - what is crucial is the realisation that the homeless are here with us in Brighton every day.

Just like any other group of people, they don't neatly fit into a category. They're all ages, from 16 to 70, and they're all homeless for reasons peculiar to themselves. Many, however, do have a common background of deprivation: broken homes, prison, drugs or alcohol problems. Some things are known... four out of five are men; more than a third are aged between 25 and 44; nearly half are in the 'unskilled' social classes.

The one thing they do have in common is a desperate need for help; help to establish themselves in permanent homes and help to give them a chance to build a better future.



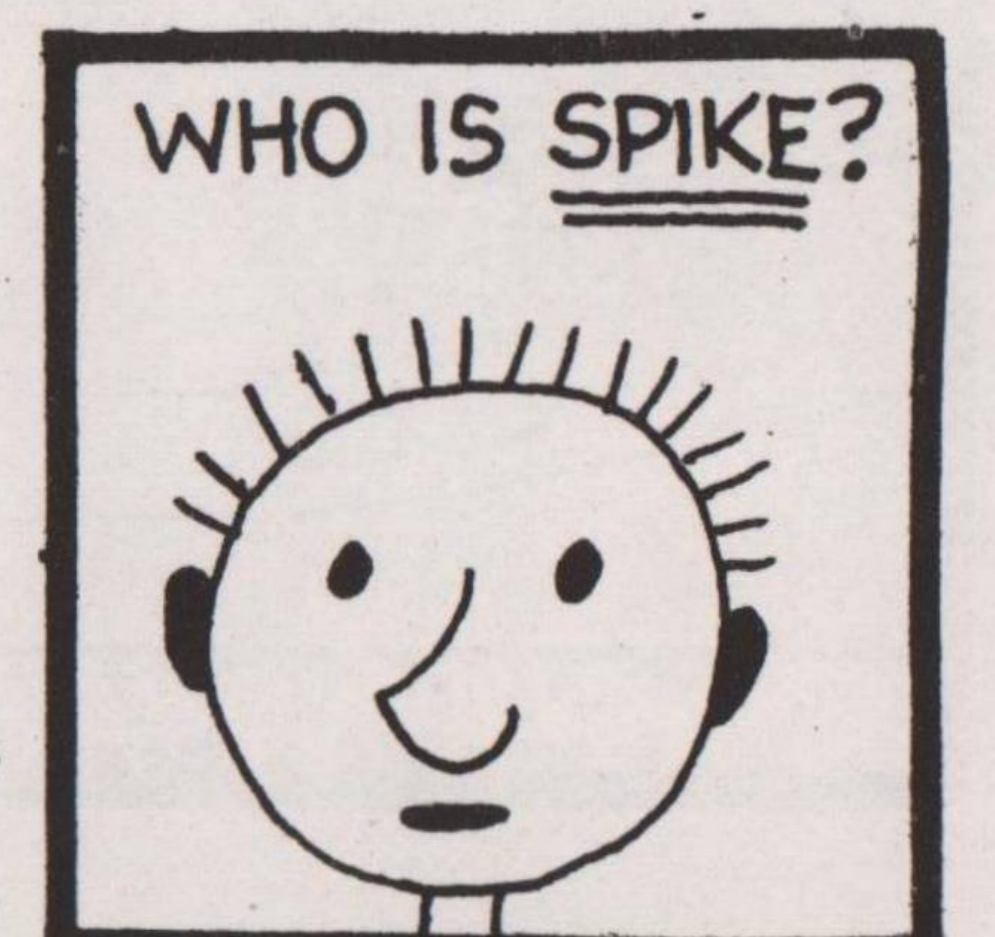
WHAT'S not ON

No you can't visit the cinema and see 'Superman'.

No you can't watch an evening of GIBERT & SULLIVAN opera.

You can't enjoy a large meal at one of Brighton's plush eating houses.

How would you like it if YOU went for a job interview and you could not give the employer your address? What would he think. You know the answer. But if you have no money and no address, and you are new to the town, what is Brighton like? Some describe it as a living hell. In the future, this column will highlight some of the inadequacies of a town like Brighton for the homeless - and indeed anyone without money.



SUBSCRIPTION .. SUBSCRIPTION .. SUBSCRIPTION .. SUBSCRIPTION .. SUBSCRIPTION ..

There are two sorts of subscriber to 'On the Line': A General subscriber pays £2.00 and receives a year's subscription to the paper; A Fighting subscriber pays £5.00 and, in addition to the paper, receives BHT publications and reports. The paper is designed to raise funds for the soup run - so your subscriptions go towards helping pay for the work the Trust does, not just for the newsletter.

'On the Line' will have six editions a year.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please send me a year's subscription to 'On the Line'. I would like to be a General/Fighting * subscriber.

I enclose £2.00 / £5.00* 1456

Name:.....Address:.....

I heard about 'On the Line' through(e.g. newspaper etc.)

Please send cheque or P.O. to 18, Dorset Gardens, Brighton, made payable to the Brighton Housing Trust. * delete as applicable.

COMMENT

"It must be terrible to sleep out in winter." "Of course a lot of dossers choose to live as they do." "Homelessness is a terrible thing, but what can you do?" "If they wanted to work they wouldn't be where they are."

These are pretty typical comments when homelessness is mentioned. They show that society as a whole doesn't understand the issue and relies heavily on myths. Yet nationally and locally the numbers are rising steadily. Can so many really have decided to opt out?

The vast number of people we meet on the nightly soup-run and meal-session have become homeless for reasons way beyond their control. Some have simply come to Brighton looking for work— Brighton presents itself as attractive to outsiders—and run out of money. Others have come out of psychiatric care with no support whatsoever for the 'real' world. Some have come out of

prison with the sincere hope of building a new life but find the competitive society outside difficult to master. Yet more have had a family break-up or have become dependent on drugs or alcohol. The effects are often catastrophic.

Of course it could be argued that if these people made the effort to live 'decent' lives these problems wouldn't arise. Yet despite the advances made in the twentieth century major problems in our society remain. Hidden suffering is commonplace.

Brighton's problem is only part of the national housing crisis but even so at a conservative estimate there are 200 homeless people. We are working with the tip of the iceberg. In future issues of 'On the Line' we will be examining aspects of the local problem in more depth.

Order 'On the Line' - we need YOUR support.

A SERVICE TO THE HOMELESS

BRIGHTON HOUSING TRUST is a registered charity and housing association, and, on a voluntary basis, is dedicated to the interests of the single homeless people in Brighton. Set up in 1968 as the Brighton Hostel, it runs a small community home for single men, all of whom at some time or another have slept rough. The general aim of the hostel is to enable people to develop the personal and social skills and abilities the lack of which in the past may have contributed to their homelessness.

From the inception of the project, one of the priorities has been the nightly soup-run, which operates every night of the year. Through this service, we are in a position

to to make contact with people who are either literally homeless or who are staying in some of the large number of sub-standard guest houses and lodging houses existing in Brighton. We are the only body in the town having contact with single homeless people, which is non-official in its attitude and in the service it provides. Yet the service we provide to the large number of people we meet, can be no more than conciliatory. We have only one property with another being ready in October. The problem is greater than any one body can tackle. BUT we are essential to the people we meet, and need all the help we can get.

THE DEATH OF 'DES'

Desmond Barker died in custody in Brighton police station on March 1st. As the Evening Argus reported he was awaiting his 194th appearance for drinking offences. What they didn't report was the history of Des during his last few years in Brighton.

He was known to us through the nightly soup run .. although he was never around for very long. He had been constantly in and out of prison and had never had the chance to settle down, even had he been able to.

Alcoholism is a critical social problem in Britain today with an estimated 300,000 people suffering from a severe drink problem. The effects are far worse if you're poor without roots and a family to support you.

Isn't it amazing and depressing to think this man was able to stand in the same courtroom, often no doubt before the same magistrates, time after time charged with the same offences? Yet despite the fact that prison was proving worse than useless as a 'cure' no one came up with a better solution. Even had someone arrived at the obvious conclusion that Des needed something a little more than periods of enforced drying out in the cells the options for treatment in Brighton would have given little cause for optimism.

There is some sort of choice: either the emergency drying out facilities at the Brighton General, or the psychiatric unit at St. Francis hospital, Haywards Heath. Neither of these provides an adequate long term solution to the problems of alcoholism. Clearly what is needed is a nationwide network of detoxification units (the government recently closed an experimental one in S.E. London). And for the worst cases there should be a 'safety net' to make sure they don't fall through gaps in the system.

It could be argued that a homeless chronic alcoholic is beyond help - that they have chosen a way of life and are not the victims of an illness. But if there was a comprehensive system for treatment and prevention many of the tragic sufferers we have with us may have had help.... At least they could have been given the opportunity to try and help themselves.

Whatever end of the social spectrum an alcoholic happens to come from the toll on mind and body is disastrous. In Des's case alcohol killed him. It seems we haven't yet woken up to the social and personal cost of alcohol.

HELPING OUT

As a volunteer with Brighton Housing Trust, I see my role mainly in a social context. I visit the residents of the Hostel, with whom I am quite familiar and generally get along with very well.

I help on the soup-run on a regular weekly basis. The nightly soup-run, I feel, plays three major roles. Firstly the soup provides warmth and nourishment for the cold and underfed. Secondly, it provides an important point of contact between the volunteers (who might be seen as conventional members of society) and the homeless, who have deviated from the norm. Thirdly, the soup-run gathering often acts as an advisory service, in particular to new arrivals who might want to know the possibilities of housing and employment in the town, for example.

The Sunday meal-session serves a similar purpose. Sometimes I feel the soup-run is merely a token act... when considering the vast problems of homelessness. Yet with the limited resources of the Trust, I feel that the problem of homelessness is tackled in the best possible way. I believe that in this society as it is at present, the only way we can increase aid to the homeless is to increase the available funds and to encourage public interest, help, and understanding.

