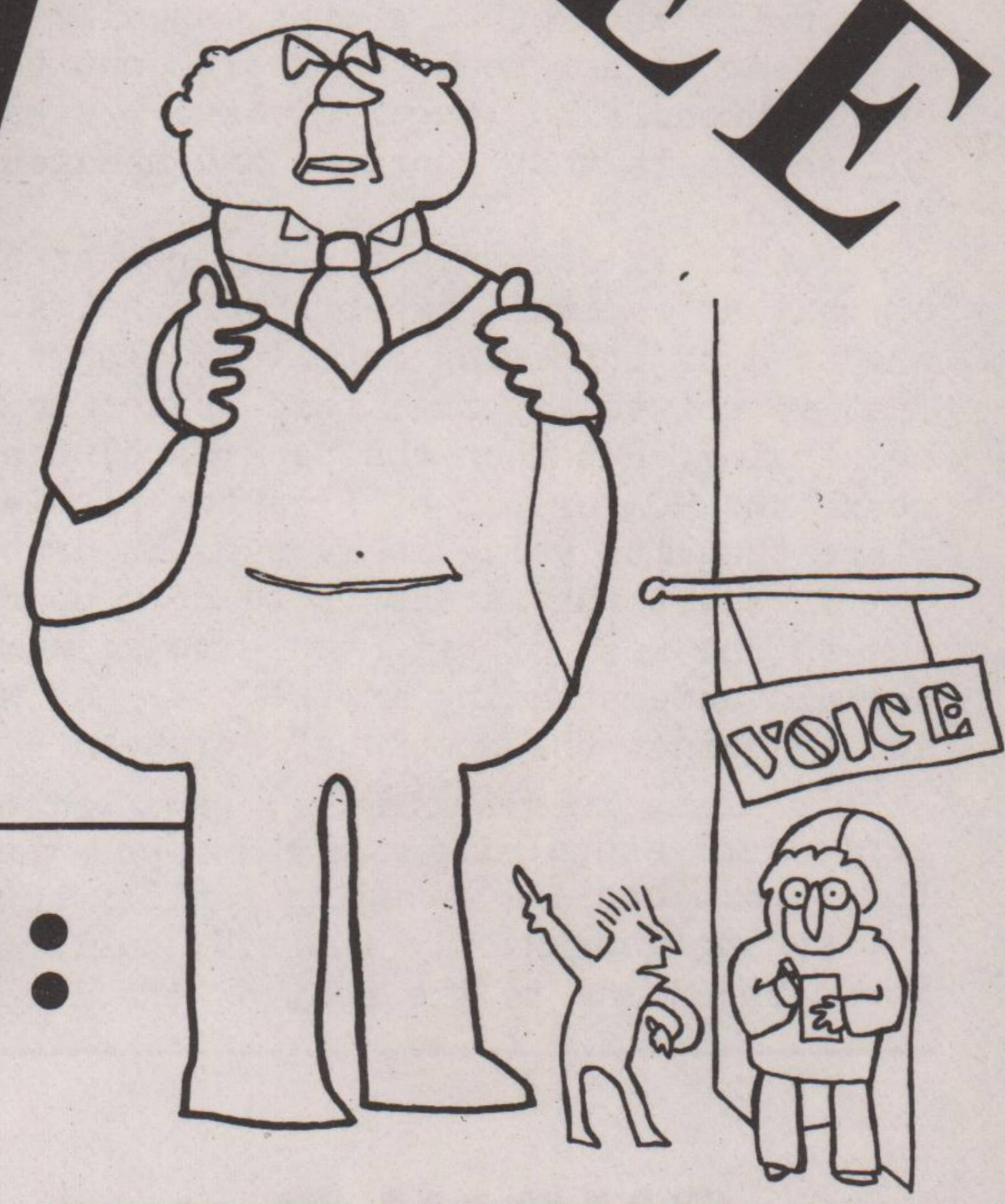


Brighton Voice

May 80

EREFEE

A NEW START



The Last Issue: What Really Happened?

The Brighton Voice collective wishes to take full responsibility for the appalling front page which appeared in Voice No. 66. The story covered the NF march through Brighton on March 29th. It has been heavily criticised by many people, and by the collective, and the collective would like to explain the situation which has led up to this criticism.

The details contained in the report were one person's view of the march, and though some criticism has been aimed at these details, we would like to concentrate on the production of the paper, and the reasons why this story was printed in the first place, rather than trying to 'alter' the story itself.

The Voice collective over the past 6 months has been dwindling. Articles are written, but there has been no time, no enthusiasm, to discuss these stories prior to printing; the role of the Voice, its readership and its production are confused, unresolved problems. Number 66 was rushed out with very little prior consideration. It was rushed because there was a small collective, with no time to think about content, and who were not helped by the many other people who were disillusioned with the Voice and stayed away. That front page with its terrible headline was merely a symptom of the problems that the Voice has had for many months.

We apologise particularly to sympathetic skinheads, to the black photographer we called 'coloured' and to the many people who totally disagreed with what are called "the facts" of March 29th.

We hope to put the record straight as soon as possible.

public meeting

WE ARE HOLDING A PUBLIC MEETING IN THE MARLBOROUGH ON TUESDAY 20th MAY AT 8pm.

THIS MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN ANY WAY IN A BRIGHTON SOCIALIST AND LIBERTARIAN COMMUNITY PAPER.

WHAT WILL EMERGE IS UP TO THE MEETING ITSELF; WE HOPE IT WILL:

1. PRODUCE A POSITIVE CRITIQUE OF BRIGHTON VOICE.
2. TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE. DO WE WANT A PAPER? IF SO WHAT KIND OF PAPER? AIMED AT WHAT KIND OF READERSHIP? ETC.ETC.
3. BRING TOGETHER PEOPLE WHO ARE KEEN TO HELP PRODUCE A LEFT NEWSPAPER.

IDEALLY THIS MEETING WILL BE AS BROADLY BASED AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID THE SAME WEARY ARGUMENTS FROM THE SAME GROUP OF PEOPLE.

COME ALONG. TELL PEOPLE ABOUT IT. ANY NEWSPAPER IN BRIGHTON IS NOT OURS, IT'S YOURS.



our address

FOR ALL LETTERS

OPEN COLLECTIVE MEETINGS, SUNDAYS at 8PM

40 COWPER ST. HOVE

WHY DO WE DO IT ?

After reading the Voice for 4 years and working on the collective on and off for 2 years; it seems to me that it is no longer the paper it used to be. Over the last six months it seems to have become a paper which merely puts into print what other groups, usually campaign groups, get together for it.

It no longer seems to search out the nitty-gritty on the working people of Brighton. It no longer gives a breakdown of how capital works in Brighton and who it is that controls and manages the people living and working in Brighton.

But it is not only the paper that has changed but I suppose my own view of what a 'radical' paper should be. At its best Brighton Voice has been produced by left wing intellectuals more or less for left wing intellectuals. That is not to say that this is not an important sector of the population to be serving. But when the paper produces for this sector while not trying to reach the 90% or so, of Brighton people oppressed in the home or the workplace then its value in my eyes is drastically reduced.

It seems that attempts to open up Brighton Voices channels of communication to the rest of Brighton - to be what a "revolutionary" newspaper should be and aid understanding in the home and workplace about how capital in Brighton works against the people of Brighton - would be a more useful occupation.

This means re-thinking how news articles are got together, how they are presented and especially how and where they are distributed. But conditions are changing rapidly now and to continue Brighton Voice without asking who exactly the B.V. collective are serving, apart from themselves is an injustice to the rest of the people of Brighton.

SHOULD THE VOICE CONTINUE ?

Nobody owns Brighton Voice, not even the Collective which produces and distributes it. Members of that collective come and go; people like it or hate it, think its good or terrible, and so on. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT IT IS THERE as a regular alternative voice in Brighton, and nobody has the right to decide that it should stop. The only way it can stop is if people stop writing for it, producing it and distributing it. It then dies as naturally as it was born.

Why IS it there? Because over seven years a vast variety of people have wanted it to be there: they have used it to report events and realities which would otherwise have been suppressed; they have given a voice to people who would otherwise have been silenced.

Should it continue? That's the wrong question. WILL it continue? That's the right question. Of course it will if people write for it, produce it and distribute.

And there's the real point. The Voice is as good as people make it. It can always be better, more relevant, more forceful. We must make it so. If we don't think it digs deep enough we must put more work into it: the Voice changes and

develops as we work on it - it won't change just because people say it should. It's not like a commercial paper. There are no owners, no editors on Brighton Voice: just workers. But it's bigger than all of us, for over these seven years it has come to belong to the community as a whole, not like a piece of property but as an outlet, a right, a voice. If we decide to stop it we stop other people from speaking.

BRIGHTON NEEDS ITS VOICE.

women and voice

While we're criticising the Voice (essential) and trying to improve it (hooray) I want to say something about women on the collective, or rather the shortage of us.

For a long time now there have been only 2 or 3 women, and sometimes none at all, on a collective of sometimes 15 people. Although more women have been involved in the past, the Voice has been male dominated in numbers since its beginnings.

The men on the usual collective aren't particularly sexist. Yet when a new issue is being produced, I sometimes feel as if "the people of Brighton" - those who the Voice is supposed to be written by for and about - are male.

Articles/news about low pay and exploitation of women at work; abortion; contraception; childbirth; rape; violence against women etc. etc. - when anyone cares to write them - would be included in the Voice without much question. But I feel this is more because the Voice isn't/mustn't be sexist (anymore than it is racist, imperialist), than because the collective feels these issues are important and relevant to us all.

All This and NO MONEY TOO.

BRIGHTON VOICE IS IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE DUE TO PROBLEMS IN DISTRIBUTION IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. THIS HAS BEEN MADE WORSE BY MANY DISTRIBUTORS ON THE COLLECTIVE NOT BEING KEEN TO SELL THE LAST ISSUE DUE TO THE DISASTROUS FRONT PAGE.

WE URGENTLY NEED £100 TO COVER COMMITMENTS AND FINANCE THE NEXT ISSUE.

send money

may events

MARCH AGAINST THE TORY GOVERNMENT
WEDNESDAY 14 MAY. MEET AT THE LEVEL AT 11 a.m.
EVERYBODY OUT.

JOIN THE MOULSECOOMB MUMS CAMPAIGN ON THE T.U.C. MARCH, 14th. MAY AT THE LEVEL AT 11a.m., OR MEET THEM IN CHURCHILL SQUARE AROUND LUNCHTIME TO LEAFLET AND PETITION.

THE WAR GAME, FILM A.N.C. ART COLLEGE MAY 8th 8pm.

ANTI NUCLEAR DEMONSTRATION DUNGENESS MAY 24th. RALLY AT LYDD 1pm.

TRADES AND LABOUR PARADE / FAIR MAY 5th. RALLY AT FRUIT AND VEG. MKT. 11 pm
GENERAL STRIKE MAY 14th

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE MAY 16 - 18th. DETAILS FROM RESOURCE CENTRE.

IRELAND. TRADES AND LABOUR CLUB MAY 28th
CORRIE VICTORY PARTY & MEETING. 8pm
QUEENS TAVERN, QUEENS PARK RD. MAY 30th.

I think the Voice needs more involvement from women in all kinds of situation in terms of writing for it, suggesting articles, etc.

But there are reasons why women aren't on the collective. It is a difficult commitment if you're a woman with children. If you're active in feminist politics or any others, you probably put all your energy into that, and haven't got time - or don't want to - be involved in the voice as well. Some women have been put off by the male dominated collective. Others, although not consciously discouraged by this, may nevertheless feel intimidated at meetings. (It's difficult for newcomers in any situation, but it's usually worse for women, because we don't tend to push ourselves very easily)

There's no easy solution to this but if more women can get involved or just contribute their own feelings about the Voice, it's a start.