CO-OP GETS IN FIRST

The Co-Op have taken over the old Argos Shop site in St. James' Street and are going to turn it into a Supermarket. It is to be hoped, therefore, that serious attention will now be given to developing the site at the back of George Street for housing and small-scale shops and businesses. The original supermarket and carpark planned for the site presumably now look less attractive than ever.

sinking the lifeboats

As the inquiry into the Penlee lifeboat disaster continues, the Council's Licensing Subcommittee has made its own contribution to safety at sea. It has cut the local Flag Day of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution down to half a day, which will mean a loss of about £1500 for the RNLI. Brighton has had a lifeboat for over 150 years, and all the money raised on the Flag Day goes to local lifeboat services.

There is still time to get this decision reversed. Write to your local Councillor or to the Town Hall.



Group Captain Tom Sawyer of Shakespeare Rd, Worthing, who served in Bomber Command during the Second World War, said: "I'm 70, but I'm still fit. If this country was threatened I would be delighted to take a gun and shoot some swine trying to invade us..... If another war blew up it would be nice to have people around to augment the police and armed forces. They would be useful for look-

out duties, and in flushing out saboteurs." Evening Argus, March 10.

"We are very thoughtful for our tenants ..."

Company Secretary, Herbert Atkinson, (quoted Evening Argus 18.3.83).

Lyndale Development Company, Preston Park Avenue, Brighton had been ordered by Brighton Magistrates to remedy dampness and disrepair to the flats of two elderly women under the Public Health Act.

One of the women had been complaining to the Company about her housing conditions since 1971!





AMBULANCE

The controversy continues at Brighton ambulance station despite the dispute last month over the cancellation of essential overtime.

The latest attempts to cut costs could be potentially even more dangerous. There is a system of training which consists of two weeks basic training locally followed by six weeks residential training at national training schools. Ambulance personnel are not considered competent by the DHSS, to carry out a full range of duties until they have completed the residential course, and in fact are not paid the full rate until they have completed a full year of these duties.

photo, Deb Shorrocks

At Brighton, due to the fact that six men have left to work in Saudi Arabia, because of low pay and poor career prospects in the NHS, they have been replaced by staff who have as yet only completed their two weeks basic training.

The management has been trying to cut costs by using untrained personnel to cover emergencies.

There has been an agreement on the station for many years that as a last measure a crew with an untrained member will attend an emergency and do what it can until a fully trained crew arrives.

Unfortunately the control has taken advantage of this arrangement, claiming that there is no back up vehicle to send. This has created a dispute and the union has been subject to the usual delaying tactics through the negotiating procedures.

Recently a man was seriously injured in an industrial accident. A crew with an untrained member was sent, and fractures were suspected together with a back injury. Due to the complicated nature of the injuries and the special care needed to handle the patient, a fully trained crew was requested. After some discussion control agreed to send a crew when available. They finally arrived 10-12 minutes later.

continued on back page.

40 COWPER St. HOVE



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TOCOME

BIGGER SCHOOL CLASSES, LESS SUBJECTS BEING TAUGHT, LOW TEACHER MORALE AND A HEAVIER WORKLOAD FOR ALL ARE SOME OF THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHANGING EDUCATION POLICY IN EAST SUSSEX.

These are the conclusions of a group of headteachers who have met informally to discuss the worsening crisis as it affects their staff, pupils and schools. Their report, a copy of which has been made available to Brighton Voice, clearly indicates the level of concern shared by Heads from first and middle schools. They want their report to be used by the Chief Education Officer so he can show the County Council Education Committee that any more reduction in the education budget

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'will cause FURTHER harm to education in the county (our emphasis)

The report is a catalogue of disaster. The appallingly low level of maintenance in schools is 'now giving much cause for alarm ... The internal decoration makes a mockery of training children to respect their surroundings... there is now a greater incidence of vandalism and break-ins because adequate security measures had not been put in hand.'

The report also shows how the ourden of clerical work has increased to 'outlandish proportions'. All secretaries were taking work home, working through lunch hours and ancillaries were being asked to do more of this work 'to keep the welter of paperwork under control'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PAGE 2

EDITORIAL

LAST MONTH, THE VOICE DID NOT JUST REPORT THE NEWS BUT, IN A MINOR WAY, MADE NEWS ITSELF. AMONG THE REACTIONS TO OUR 10th BIRTHDAY IN THE LOCAL MEDIA, ONE DESERVES SPECIAL ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THE SLUR IT CASTS ON THE VOICE 'S REPORTING.

A regular column in the Brighton & Hove Gazette, entitled Robert Street's Diary, while praising the Voice for at last becoming a readable paper, said of our local news stories:

"A lot of them are still untrue."

Now, we admit that our proofreading isn't always all it could be and that this sometimes leads to errors. For instance, in the last issue we had to hand-correct an article in which the Policy Subcommittee had inadvertantly become a non-existent 'Police Subcommittee'. Readers were probably also amused to find that we had Brighton's No. 42 bus service diverted via London and not merely via London Road as originally intended.

But Robert Street - or rather whoever was writing the column - seems to be implying something more serious, that a lot of our stories are basically inaccurate. Sadly he or she gives no examples.

Which stories had you in mind Robert Street?

Was it Colin Avey's account of the Christmas Island nuclear tests? That seems to stand up very well in a full-page Guardian article on March 17.

Was it our report of the letter from Reg Morgan about how the Labour Group should run the Council if it wins the May elections? We quoted verbatim.

Did we get the East Sussex emergency war plans wrong? They are now being made public, partly thanks to us, so you can check.

Maybe it was the story about the local ambulance cuts. Ambulance Chief Grainger said in the Gazette that it was a "pack of lies". Well, we checked and double-checked with our sources on that one, and we firmly stand by what we said.

THE VOICE WOULD LIKE TO BE AS ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE, SO IF READERS SEE THINGS THAT ARE WRONG IN THE PAPER, PLEASE WRITE AND TELL US ABOUT IT. HOW ABOUT THE FIRST LETTER COMING FROM ROBERT STREET ?





RIGHTS

IF YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED NOW, BUT HAVE DONE SOME WORK SINCE LAST APRIL, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO A TAX REBATE

and

Since last July, when some benefits became taxable, everyone who signs on has to hand over their P45 tax form to the Unemployment Benefit Office. Instead of being able to claim monthly tax rebates, unemployed people now have to wait until April 5, when the tax year ends. Those who get a new job before that date will normally get a tax rebate from their new employers.

If you are unemployed you should oon receive a form P60 from your enefit office. This will include a statement of taxable benefit paid up to April 5. This taxable benefit is then added to any previous earnings, and any rebate due should be sent to you automatically soon after.

Your P60 is important. Check it carefully, because if it is not right, you have only 60 days in which to appeal. This must be done in writing. You should look after your P60, because it cannot be replaced, and you may need it to check a future tax bill. For more information, contact

the Unemployed Centre, 4 Coalbrook Road, Kemp Town. Phone: 600881, Mon-Wed, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Weekly Rates of Taxable Benefit (Unemployment Benefit or Supplementary Benefit)

Dapprementary Denerrey	
Before 22/11/82	Since 22/11/8
£36.40	£40.45
£22.50	£25.00
£14.30 £18.60	£15.80 £20.55
	Before 22/11/82 £36.40 £22.50 £14.30

If you receive less than this, after taking away your rent and any special allowances, then the figure is based on what you receive. Child benefits are not taxable.



DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

DEADLINESDEADLINESDEADLINES

THE DEADLINES FOR THE APRIL ISSUE ARE ARTICLES/PHOTOS DRAWINGS.... MON 18th APRIL WHAT ELSE IS ON/STOP PRESS (100 words) THURS 21st APRIL

Please stick to the deadlines it makes life easier.....

Readers & Producers HRRMPHI Meeting 11000

EACH MONTH BRIGHTON VOICE HOLDS A READERS AND PRODUCERS MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PREVIOUS ISSUE, CONSIDER GENERAL POLICY ISSUES AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE. AS ITS NAME SUGGESTS, THE MEETING IS OPEN TO EVERYONE WHO READS OR HELPS TO PRODUCE THE PAPER. SO IF YOU'VE GOT CRITICISMS, (OR EVEN PRAISE) OR WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED, WHY NOT COME ALONG TO THESE MEETINGS AND HELP BRIGHTON VOICE TO BECOME A BETTER PAPER. THE NEXT READERS AND PRODUCERS MEETING WILL BE ON SUNDAY 10th APRIL AT THE STANFORD ARMS, PRESTON CIRCUS AT 7.30pm...



Dear BV,

Dear Voice.

As you reported in your March issue, the Brighton, Hove and District Trades Council, like the rest of the Trades Union Movement, is going through a bad patch at present, largely because of Mrs. Thatcher and Co.'s policies.

We would like to point out that the Trades Council is not in dire straits, nor has its business been stalled.

It is going through a transition period because the past officers decided not to continue for differing reasons. The two temporary officers will either be ratified or replaced by elections to be held at the April meeting, but in the meantime, the Trades Council continues to function.

We look forward to a strong campaigning Trades Council fighting back against the Tories.

Temporarily yours,

Ed 'bad patch' Barker, Secretary and 'Dire' Dave Robinson, Treasurer.

THIS FI-TH MUST a let The A stored In

As someone who took part in the reorganisation and relaunch of the "new" BV last year, I was surprised by the editorial in issue 92. This suggested that the paper's success was due to the fact that "its aims have always been slightly vague."

It's true that BV has always included people of different political viewpoints. Yet at a public meeting last summer we did manage to agree on a number of concrete aims for the new paper. These were:-

- * To provide local news. * To provide accurately researched counter-information on local companies, the council, etc.
- * To provide an outlet for local groups and individuals whose views are excluded or distorted by the local commercial media.
- * To develop a wider readership for the radical press in Brighton. * To be democratically accountable to the readership, unlike the
- commercial press. * To fight against sexism, not only in content, but also in the organisation of the paper.

BV has come a long way in the past nine months - but it still has some way to go in realising these aims. Good luck for the second decade!

In solidarity,



You can subscribe to Brighton Voice whether you live in Brighton or elsewhere: At the moment we are running special short-term subscriptions. We will send you the paper on the day it comes out for the following rates (including postage). 3 issues £1.00 6 issues £2.00 Normal subscription rates for twelve issues Individuals £4.00 Institutions £6.00 Fill in the coupon below and send to Brighton Voice Distribution Group 40, Cowper Street, Hove. WHY MISS OUT? I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO BRIGHTON VOICE FOR-3 issues/ 6 issues/ 12 issues (delete as appropriate) I/WE ENCLOSE E NAME ADDRESS

NEWS



Brighton Council's decision to let private operators bid for licenses to operate the Sheepcote Valley camping and caravan site is yet another example of the Tories' urge to turn over as many municipal attractions as possible to the private sector.

The campsite is soon to be leased to a private proprietor, despite the substantial profits it has been making over the last few years. According to the Tories, about £208,000 needs to be spent on renovating the site in the light of the model standards for campsites recently issued by the DoE. In addition, following the closure of the Sheepcote Tip last year, the campsite could be extended, at further cost. The Tories feel it makes sense to lease the site and have the improvements paid for out of a private pocket. They are currently putting out feelers to assess the feasibility of this approach.

Magic

Obviously there is a belief in Tory circles that the private sector can work some sort of economic magic. According to a report given to Councillors, the money needed to extend the Valley site and bring it up to the new model standards, "would be a substantial drain on the Council's limited capital resources with little prospect of recovering the entire cost from charges for use of the site".

Unless it is accepted that Council operators are just naturally less efficient than private ones (or unless the figures in the report are wrong), it seems that the only way a going concern can be made of the site is either through providing fewer facilities than the standard specifications or through Council subsidies. Private operators would then be gaining at the expense of either the tourists who use the site, or local ratepayers.

Profits

However, the Labour group on the Parks Committee believe that the figure of £208,000 is grossly exaggerated, and object strongly to the tactics the Tories have used to push their policy through. Dave Lepper, spokesman for the group says " The site is not as bad as the Tories say. We have tried to amend the budget to channel £40,000 from surplus funds into renovating the site in the coming year".

"Both we and NALGO - the Union representing the campsite workers - feel that if only a small part of the annual profits (£16,415 in 1982/3 out of takings of £93,638) had been fed back into the site each year, it would now be one of the best in the country. We are opposed to the privatisation of any municipal venture, particularly one that works so well".



AT BRIGHTON RAILWAY STATION THERE ARE SOME CARRIAGE CLEANING SHEDS. THE ACID USED FOR CLEANING IS KNOWN AS "WONDERGUNGE".

The BR management know that the work isn't pleasant indeed working in the sheds has been used as a form of punishment. (You may remember the Argus story about the guard who refused to wear a cap because it irritated his skin - well one of the disciplinary me _es he was threatened with was 'the shed'.)

Workers have been known to pass out in the sheds because of the build up of fumes.

Under health & safety legislation it is the duty of the BR management to provide full information about the chemical risks to workers and their Safety Reps. It took one NUR Safety Rep ten weeks of effort to extract a vague promise from the Station Manager to 'get the health & safety info'.

No-one knows what effects Wondergunge has on people working with it, and until BR admits exactly what it is, the workers won't know either.



PRISON

CONT, VERSY CONTINUES OVER THE DEATH IN PENTONVILLE PRISON OF GARY ANGEL, AN UNEMPLOYED ANTIQUE DEALER, WHO HAD BEEN HELD ON REMAND IN CELLS IN HOVE POLICE STATION.

DEATH

Page 3

His cell-mate while on remand, Michael Hughes, of Newick Road, Brighton, has said that Angel was vomiting and saying he was going to die. There is concern that medical care in the cells was not adequate.



GARY ANGEL

A post mortem has now been carried out, and councillor Brennan Turner told Brighton Voice that he would be attending the inquest on Angel's death, to be held in London on May 17th. Michael Hughes will give evidence.

Councillor Turner stated, "I'm surprised that he was held in the cells. Angel was no danger to the public."



ROGER BIRCH IS THE NEW CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR SUSSEX. HE TAKES OVER FROM GEORGE TERRY WHO RETIRES IN MAY AFTER 20 YEARS OF KEEPING THE PEACE.

Terry, you will remember, is in favour of the death penalty and the use of CS gas and plastic bullets. He recently spent £62,000 to equip the Sussex police with anti-riot gear, including these horrific weapons. In his conclusion to the last meeting of the Sussex Area Police Authority, he said:

"I am pessimistic about society, which seems to continue its downhill trend."

Birch, however, is not so pessimistic. His last job was Chief Constable for the Warwickshire area - an area where, over the last 10 years, 16 people have died in the hands of the police (11 in custody and 5 in hospital) and where anti-fascist demonstrations have been brutally suppressed.



B-A-AD NEWS?



Delay

The Tories apparently delayed circulation of the report on the site, prepared in November 1982 by Chief Executive Reg Morgan until the Parks Committee meeting on 16 February, by which time all budgets had been finalised - without any consideration for the Sheepcote Campsite.

But what really incenses the three Labour Councillors on the Committee is that the report was presented during the private part of the meeting - when press and public were excluded - despite attempts by them to make the discussion public. Now that they have leaked the story to the press, the three - Pat Hawkes, Brennan Turner and Dave Lepper - have been threatened by Council Leader Bob Cristofoli that they will be expelled from the Committee if the Conservatives get a majority in the May elections.



EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO GIVE A GRANT OF £50 TO BRIGHTON GAY SWITCHBOARD.

So what? It is hardly a major expenditure item for the Council. But to Gay Switchboard it is important, not only because £50 is worth a lot to them, but also it is the first time a Conservative Council has approved a grant for a Gay organisation.

It was not an easy grant to get, for the full Council had to reverse a decision made by its Social Services Committee not to give BGS the money.

"We are delighted at the change of heart," says the Switchboard. "We specially want to thank Councillors who have consistently supported our application and the many people who wrote to them on our behalf."

Page 4

Education Cuts

more bad news,

continuea from Front Page

Pressure of work is also seen to dramatically affect the 'inadiquately staffed support agencies'. Thus, time waiting for appointments with the Educational Psychology Service is increasing, the Education Welfare Officer only visits on request and difficulties have been experienced in getting a visit from the school nurse; even with head lice in the school.

But probably the most serious consequence of successive cuts in education is the direct influence on pupils and teachers alike. The report rejects the idea that the staffing ratio is OK ... 'in nearly all cases the curriculum in schools is now being seriously affected ... class numbers were increasing as a result of the loss of staff. ' The main casualty was thought to be special classes ... 'a sad catalogue of special classes lost...cut ... and too large. This had led to some subjects being dropped altogether. French was particularly badly affected in middle schools and science, music, arts & crafts, home economics and swimming elsewh-

Due to the restrictions Heads were unable to maintain a flexibility of timetabling. The lack of opportunity and lost promotion prospects for staff, together with drastically reduced in-service training was contributing to low staff morale. Devoted teachers were no excption when it came to lower resistance to illness- 'Why should we bother when "they" don't care about us?' summed up the current staff attitude toward their employer. Some Heads with more than 30 years experience in the profession reported that they had never known morale to be so low! The report's findings are summed up succinctly by one of its contributors: 'There is no doubt, in my experience, and confirmed by staff, both teaching and ancillary, governors and parents that the 'cut backs' over the past few years

have been damaging to the structure and morale of the Education Service in this area.

conance?

Gardent

Builders.

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Decorat

Plumberss

some good news?

Parent Governors, the D.E.S., and the school transfer age

East Sussex County Council's devastating plans to transform first and middle school education in Brighton and Hove have recently received a severe set-back.

Parent governors (the only directly elected representatives to sit on school governing bodies) in the Local Education Authority area have made successful representations to the Department of Education & Science. As a result the Secretary of State for Education has promised to intervene in East Sussex's half-baked ideas.

The whole East Sussex 'public consultation' process of last year has been exposed as a sham, and now the DES want to assess for themselves whether the option of altering the age of transfer is viable or not.

Under this scheme children would transfer to their high schools at age 11 instead of 12. Generally welcomed by high schools but bitterly opposed by first and middle, the plans, if implemented would bring an overall loss of teachers in the earlier years and mean bigger classes with less specialist help at a crucial stage of child development. The reason for this is that by lowering the age of children in middle schools, fewer teachers are needed. Heads would find it more difficult to organise their schools to offer anything but the basic curriculum. It is also thought that high schools would receive their intake at a more immature level (and correspondingly so would middle schools from the first schools).

Following the successful application to the DES the parent governors have gone on to examine the possibility of forming a properly constituted body. They hope this will then involve parent governors from ALL levels of education locally and would discuss educational issues together with better training and preparation for governorship.

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cians?

TELEPHONE RINGMER 812962 BRIGHTON 508912

Merlin Work Collective Ltd. Registered Office: 208 Ditchling Road, Brighton, Sussex.



photo by Deb Shorrocks.

No Learning No Earning At Halfords

PARENTS WITH CHILDREN OF SCHOOL LEAVING AGE SHOULD BEWARE OF 'WORK EXPERIENCE' SCHEMES. THERE IS ONE POORLY ADVERTISED FACT ABOUT THESE SCHEMES, NAMELY THAT THE WORK THE YOUNG PEOPLE DO IS ENTIRELY WITHOUT RENUMERATION.

The scheme, arranged between various schools and local employers, sanctions a week's school-release for 15 16 year olds who are interested in the idea.

My son, having been allocated a 'position' at Halfords in Western Road, was furnished with a request to appear at the appointed hour in formal attire - a shirt and tie, and shoes not 'trainers' - this last necessitating the purchase of a pair of shoes to the tune of £15.

Decked out in this finery he arrived to find that most of his week was to be spent in the stock-room, the highlight of the day being the ritual sweeping of the shop floor after closing time.

Despite working for no wages, on Friday he found he was to be charged 50p for teas - at this point a kindly 'colleague' stepped in and paid for him.

So, who is doing who the favour? To my knowledge Halfords is not a voluntary organisation; the boys were working alongside people expecting around £50 for their week's work. As far as experience is concerned, what had they learned - how to sweep up, how to fill shelves? Do us a favour Halfords!

Any other Work Experiences?



Recent meetings of Brighton Planning Committee give the strong impression that neither the Councillors nor the Officers statutory plan for the area). have the smallest concern for the housing problem.

Consider the following examples

For the Tichborne Street site (See B.V. 92) the sheltered housing and new YMCA were not considered by the committee to be a "planning gain".

When 150/151 Kings Road was discussed it was explained to Councillors that if they granted a "change of use" from residential to hotel the residents would Planning Officer, described become homeless. The Chairman said, "I don't know what there is to be worried about, the exterior of the building would not be changed". All the Councillors except one Liberal voted for the change of use. The land north of the new Bri-

tish Telecom building in Preston Road is designated for housing in the Town MAP (the Councillors were not informed of this in the Officer's remarks on the proposal for thousands of square feet of speculative office space. It was merely said that, "this land is suitable for offices". There is an acute shortage of land for housing in Brighton because land is being taken for other uses, and this is a prime example of that practice.

In addition, at a public meeting the recently retired Borough the twenty or so houses in North Place - soon to be demolished as part of the Jubilee Street plan - as a "flea bite" of housing. All housing in Brighton could be described as a number (or a meal) of flea bites.



LAST MONTH THE RULING GROUP OF EAST SUSSEX TORIES NARROWLY AVOIDED AN EMBARRASSING DEFEAT FOR THEIR PROPOSALS TO CUT BRIGHTON AND HOVE'S FIRE COVER

NAWS

HALF CUTS

As a result of massive public opposition and a split in their "We don't know what he is talkin own ranks they had to dream up a face-saving compromise.

Last month's Public Protection Committee of the County Council in firecover". recommended that 4 jobs be cut instead. This was only forced through by Councillor Tunwell's casting vote from the Chair. The whole package came very close to being thrown out.

Wishful Thinking

Chief Fire Officer, Eric Whittaker, claimed that the new proposal would allow the 3 fire engines at Hove to be "manned at 80% of the time".

"I don't believe its possible", said Jon Allen, secretary of East Sussex Fire Brigade Union. "He certainly hasn't shown us

provide purpose-built housing

people, one-parent families and

shared units and self-contained

for about fifty young single

disabled people in a mix of

flats.

be done". Jon - who works at Hove - pointed out it is sometimes difficult to fully man the station now if you take sickness, annual holidays and training courses into account. Mr Whittaker had also stated that "with full co-operation from the workers this (80% cover) could They had originally proposed to be upped even further". What cut 8 jobs at Hove fire station. was Jon Allen's reaction to this

> about - he hasn't approached the Union formally. And, anyway, our position is that we don't co-operate with any reduction

Public Enquiry

The local FBU will not be deflected from its call for a public enquiry. When the Council's final decision is known the Union will submit its carefully researched technical case to the Home Office and mount a public campaign to force an enquiry.

As Jon Allen told Brighton Voice -

"We're no more satisfied than before. It dosen't matter whether its 4 jobs or 8 jobs, Brighton should not accept any reduction in firecover".



work for existing Co-op members, who would welcome involvement from any possible future tenants, who would like to join the Co-op NOW, and participate in organising their housing. For further information telephone either Btn 502168 or 553094.

2.0



SDP



old fashioned alliance

On 22nd March a special election meeting of the Brighton and Hove SDP discussed the Alliance draft policy for the May

Council elections. The Voice had some difficulty attending because Brighton & Hove Albion were playing Liverpool, but we hope their meeting was at least as fruitful as the Albion's.

Our guess is that it was also short, like the policy document In contrast to Labour's 18 page 'Stop the Rot' manifesto the Alliance draft runs to a thrifty one and a half sides of A4 typescript - double-spaced. any figures to show how it could Obviously in a document of this length some things have to be left out - like how the Alliance proposals are to be financed ...

Some of their proposals have,

surprisingly, already been carried out.... by the present Tory Council. For example, the ? Alliance wants Council house rents to be frozen for one year The tories voted for that last February in the face of opposition motions calling for a two year freeze.

But the document is not entirely devoid of new policies. Some of them are quite good, though the lack of detail is worrying. Councillors should not scheme in closed committees, they say. So do we. Traffic schemes should be set up which give a fairer deal to bikes and pedestrians and more priority to buses, they say. So do we! Co-operative groups and housing associations should be encouraged. Great. Southdown should be taken over by the Council. Hold on ... that's a bit strong. Do we have the right manifesto here? Oh. it's in the long term. Thats OK then.

GOOD OLD DAYS

owever, amidst all the wellintentioned things the Alliance wants us to believe it will do, there is one area where it is unique and innovative. "There are some old-fashioned things that Brighton Council should get back to" declares the document, namely "good manners commmon sense, hard work and honesty."

Well what can you say against that? Back to the good old days with the Alliance. The good old days.... now let me see, when were they exactly!



SDP candidates on May 5th inc. Tom Forester, ex-student militant and former Labour Party activist; Mike Neves, who only resigned from the Labour Party after his election as Labour Councillor for St. Peter's Ward; and possibly, Ron Czervenka, ex i Voice and former anarchist, whose Axis art gallery recently newsletters at reduced rates floundered in a welter of bad usually 6 colours of A4 debts. Is the new local SDP Secretary, ex-diplomat (Sir) Stephen Olver, fully conversant, with his new colleagues' previous lives??



On March 14th around 120 delegates attended a stormy Brighton Labour Party Annual General Meeting at St. Peters Church Hall to elect the officers and Executive Committee. Delegates were presented with two "slates", one from the Militant Tendency and the other from Brighton Labour Briefing (BLB).

A tense atmosphere prevailed following reports that Militant having shown little previous interest in Briefing throughout the year, had turned up to the BLB caucus a week earlier with the apparent intention of causing disruption.

Councillor Ian McGill fought off a challenge from Militant activist Ann Jones for the post of Chair by a five-vote majority. Nobby Clarke was re-elected as secretary by a large majority, having been challenged for the first time in years by a BLB candidate. Richard Stanton was unopposed for the job of Political Education Officer.

Due to lack of time the voting for the Youth Officer, the Trades Union Liaison Officer and the Kemp Town section of the Executive Committee was held over until the next General Committee meeting, with Militant Candidates appearing to have the edge in the first ballot.

The meeting took the decision to abolish the post of Press Officer - memories of Tom Forester's antics are still clear in many comrades' minds.

A Militant-backed resolution calling for all sub-committees to report to the Executive Committee, and for all their co-options to be from General Committee delegates only, was defeated. Democratic Centralism is not on the cards yet!

The tenseness of the meeting erupted in a brief scuffle as delegates filed out at the end.



PAGE 6

Advice Centre 4 From April 12 the Rights Centre will have a new home; a new name, new services and greater accessibility. As the Brighton Rights Advice Centre it will be able to give advice over the phone as well as at its normal advice sessions. There will be a short opening ceremony on

Brighton Rights

the morning of Saturday, April 23, when the 'red tape' will be cut. Since the Rights Centre was founded in 1975 it has given free advice to the public on

issues such as employment, housing, social security, immigration and general legal problems. It differs from agencies like the Citizens Advice Bureaux in that the Rights Centre can follow up problems in addition to simply providing information.

This can involve things like nelping people fill in forms, getting landlords to carry out repairs or representing people at appeals tribunals. Some kinds of problems such as homelessness, divorce or debt are better dealt with by more specialist agencies and in these cases the Centre can refer people to the appropriate place.

The Rights Centre exists primarily for people who cannot afford their own solicitors 21 years it has shared an ofnselves in advice giving, to develop the training and educ-



photo, Deb Shorrocks

The Centre, which does not charge for any of its services and depends entirely on voluntary labour, is funded solely by donations. The cost of the

lease and the first year's rent on the new address have been met by an anonymous donor, but with the cost of rent, rates, 'phone bills, reference books and stationary running at £ £2000 a year, more contribut-



MORE MONEY IS SPENT ON "ANTI-SCROUT HANG TO GET SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS BRIGHTON RIGHTS ADVICE CENTRE 102a North Rd. (Corner of North Road and Cheltenham Place.) TEL 600972 New opening times, (from Tuesday 12th April) Tuesday 10.30 - 12.30 Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30 Thursday 5.30 - 7.30 Saturday 10.30 - 12.30 NOISE POLLUTION Safety reps from the unions at the Noise is an obvious problem at airport managed to borrow a noise Gatwick Airport. Despite recent meter (there are none normally efforts to reduce aircraft noise, available) and took a few measurelevels recorded at the airport are ments. Noise levels in some parts still frighteningly high. Efforts of the airport were above 130 to protect the airport workers from decibels. At that level it would this appears to be utterly inadequate. take approximately one second for hearing damage to start. At Gatwick, extensive monitoring

does take place. Very sophisticated computer-controlled equipment measures the noise around the perimeter of the airport continuously, 24 hours per day. Unfortunately, this is only used to decide whether people living nearby qualify for double glazing in their homes. No attempt is made to use the information to improve conditions for people actually working at the airport. No measurements have been taken of the noise levels faced by workers spending 8 or 12 hours per day (or night) at the airport. partial deafness.

The British Airports Authority's safety policy contains many fine words about health and safety at airports, including a section about noise. This includes very useful ideas about reducing noise levels and promises "regular checks to monitor that effective protection is being maintained." Unfortunately, the Authority appears to be doing nothing whatsoever to turn these fine words into action. In the meantime, hundreds of BAA employees may be suffering the effects of

NEWS

KULTUR

FUN BOY THREE AT THE TOP RANK SUITE WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH. FUN BOY THREE IS 6 WOMEN -June, Annie, Nicky, Ingrid, Bethan & Caroline - on drums, trombone, keyboards, vocals, cello, bass guitar, percussion and 3 men -Lynval, Neville & Terry on vocals, lead guitar, drums. BV talked to 2 of the women in FB3 - Nicky Holland (keyboards) vocals & arranging) and Ingrid Schroeder (keyboards & vocals). BV: "What did you think of the gig in Brighton?" Ingrid: "I really enjoyed the gig Nicky: "Yes, a nicer audience than Portsmouth where they kept gobbing." BV: "Was it a definite policy to have women musicians in the band?" Nicky: "Well the backing-band for the album wasn't all female. But the band for the tour is all female. Someone said that FB3 is doing for women musicians what the Specials did for black musicians." Ingrid: "That's really

positive." Nicky: "There are lots and lots of backing bands who never get asked anything. Its because of the total reversal - 3 men in front singing and an all women backing-band - that people notice. If it was the same all-women band with 3 women in front, it wouldn't make so much difference.



... USIng

BV: "Do you resent people being interested in you because of the novelty of you being all women in the backing-band."

- Nicky: "Its the total opposite. Most people are surprised that the band is very tight and together - they just see that we're all musicians it doesn't matter if you're male or female."
- Ingrid: "But it is different having an all women backing band. And you always have to be different to get interest these days."

BV: "The music seems to be a mix of different sounds, mainly African and Classical. How do you mix them together?"







Nicky: "The basic structures are thought out, and then it just happens. We don't think the classical dilutes the African or the other way round. You just mix and see

what happens. But also everyone listens to different things in the music.

For instance, me suggesting a cello line and Neville humming a bass one, will be really different - but then there's also how the bass or cello plays it."

BV: "How equal do you think things are in the band?" Nicky: "Well everyone goes to see the boys in Fun Boy 3."

Ingrid: "You've got to expect that, because they started out as just the 3 of them. This tour will promote us as part of the band. They'll see there is more to the band than the just the 3 boys." Nicky: "We all wear what we

want in the band, decide our own images." Ingrid: "We've been in the

videos and things. But there are things which separate you, make you feel you're just part of the backing band - like the fact that we found out "Our lips are sealed" will be the next FB3 single by reading it in the

music press...and the boys do all the interviews..." Nicky: "Usually!"



Eight local people have combined to form the Brighton Unemployed Theatre Troupe (BUTT). The founder members are keen to attract other unemployed people and they particularly want more women to be involved from the start. At present the women in the group are outnumbered by men.

The group will meet every Thursday at 2.00 p.m. in St Anne's Hall, St George's Road. BUTT is currently organising publicity, planning projects and holding classes in voice and movement skills.

No previous experience is required and the troupe will need to recruit prop and scenery makers as well as performers.

Future BUTT projects could include major productions, childrens' theatre, street shows, alternative cabaret, old peoples' shows or work in schools. Immediate plans are for a satirical production on the theme of the apocryphal history of Kemp Town.

Alan Downie, one of the founders, explains: "We didn't feel we wanted to spend hours agonising to each other about unemployment, we already know about the shortage of money, the boredom, loneliness and depression. The group is interested in doing something constructive with its time rather than in being introspective. Naturally some of our performances would reflect and comment on our situation but it shouldn't be our sole obsession."

Anybody who's interested in joining BUTT should turn up on Thursdays or ring Brighton Community Arts Project on 697493 and leave a message.

Further details from Russ Howarth, Brighton Community Arts Project, St Anne's Hall, St George's Road, Kemp Town. Tel. Brighton 697493.

BLIND TO THE HERE AND NOW

We are shortsighted. We see the local butcher Being cheerful and friendly But we don't see as far As the factory farm. And we are longsighted. We know about osmosis And how flowers open But we don't know if we can

The leaves of a turnip Or the seeds of a marrow, Or whether we should sprout Sunflower or wheat, Or make bread out of dried Seaweed and horseradish leaf. We are blind to the here and now.

We can demonstrate and agitate

About wars on foreign borders And the brutality of the police,

Wage slavery in another town And someone else's rape and robbery,

And all the time not see That we are holding leads And speaking threateningly, And plugged in to the CEGB. We are blind to the here and now.

We can make plans and solutions.

Let's turn the blue American Express houses Into greenhouses

While we don't bother about Our own window-boxes. We are blind to the near and dear.

We can risk our lives And get in trouble with the police While we cannot offend Our best friends.

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Public support frees Prisoner

A TRADE UNION LEADER, SIEZED IN MASS ARRESTS THROUGHOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN 1975, WAS BEING HELD NAKED IN AN UNDER-GROUND CELL. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HEARD OF THE CASE AND ISS-UED A WORLDWIDE APPEAL ON HIS BEHALF. MEMBERS IN MANY COUNT-RIES SENT CHRISTMAS CARDS ADDRESSED TO HIM IN PRISON AND THE FOLLOWING JANUARY HE WAS RELEASED BY ORDER OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

Letters

PAGE 12

The prisoner, Julio de Pena Valdez, later recalled the effect of the hundreds of letters and cards he received. "When the first two hundred letters came the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next two hundred letters came and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming; three thousand of them. The President was informed. The letters still kept arriving and the President called the prison and told them to let me go."

Puzzled President

"After I was released the President called me to his office for a man to man talk. He said 'How is it that a trade union leader like you has so many friends all over the world?' He showed me an enormous box full of letters he had received, and when we parted he gave them to me. I still have them."

Among those working for Julio's release was a former refugee from Nazi Germany, Hannah Grunwald, now living in New York. She regularly phoned President Balaguer to protest against the treatment of her adopted prisoner.

Amnesty International

If you would like to phone presidents.or write some kind and comforting words to prisoners of conscience around the world, ring Gwen McAuley on 770766 or come along to the Brighton Amnesty Group at the Friends Centre every second Thursday at 7.30p.m.

FORLIFE





AND JUST POSSIBLY (3)





The Legalise Cannabis Campaign represents a large number of users and producers and is looking into socially neficial, ecologically sound methods of marketing nnabis. In order to win both our fight to end this mindless prohibition and the struggle to establish an honest legal market we need personal and financial support. LCC members receive a quarterly news magazine with the latest information on national and international cannabis law reform, and can participate directly in the Campaign's social and political activities, as well as have their say in our aims and policy. Help 'free up

> Full details? Avenue, London W.9. Tel:- OI 289 3883.

Join the Homegrown Revolution!

Youth training scheme con

YTS, to be introduced in September this year to replace the present Youth Opportunity Programme (YOP), is intended to offer a year's job training to 460,000 school leavers nationwide during the following year Under YOP, training was only available for some 250,000 youngsters, and only lasted for 6 months.

Reasonable Terms

The Labour Party Young Socialists (LPYS), which in the past has been instrumental in improving the conditions of the YOP scheme (see Voice no. 69) is already working hard to secure reasonable TLY NEEDED IN THE THIRD WORLD. terms for those young people who will be employed under YTS.

Massive Racket

"The Youth Training Scheme is a massive racket to institutional- employed by drug manufacturers ise school leavers as cheap labour for industry and to move companies. towards privatisation of the Further Education system" ... says Peter Wells-Thorpe, Chairman of the Labour Party Young Socialists. LPYS have issued a list of eight demands on behalf of the trainees, including the guarantee of a job at the end of ial cheap drugs are hard to training, pay and conditions agreed with the appropriate Trades Union, and free provision tonics are aggressively of safety clothing, footwear and equipment.

Meetings

They are also organising meetings with future trainees at their school or place of work to explain the problems they will be likely to face and to encourage them to join Trades Unions. In addition they are calling a conference, scheduled for June, of supervisors, teaching representatives and Trades Union officials to discuss the implications of the new scheme and to monitor the quality and content of particular projects. For further information, contact Peter Wells-Thorpe on 506493.





AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN BRIGHTON ON 10TH MARCH, LOCAL PEOPLE WERE URGED TO JOIN A CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE SUPPLIES OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES URGEN-

Speakers Dianna Melrose of OxfamsPublic Affairs Unit, andDr. James Burton (Medical Director of Echo) discussed the dangerous double standards including some British

Third World Hard Sell

In the Third World, essentobtain, while unnecessary and harmful drugs and useless promoted.

The meeting at the Cockcroft Hall, Brighton Polytecnic, was the first in a series of 21 meetingsheld throughout Britain, it is co-ordinated by Health Action International, (H.A.I.) and calls for all major drug producing countries to support rational drug policiesfor the Third World, insteadof encouraging short term commercial interests.

Bitter Pills

Dianna Melrose, author of the book Bitter Pills: Medicinesand the Third World Poor, said:

"In Britain we are activeley debating the need for generic prescribing, to cut costs and help preserve essential services. Leading manufacturers are fiercely opposed to generic prescribing. Whatever the result no one here will go without a lifesaving drug. But in the Third World opposition

to rational drug policies deprive the poor of essential medicines. Our campaign aims to make British people aware of this preventable. tragedy and show that the solution is at least partly in our hands."

Lobby

Those taking part were encouraged to lobby their M.P.'s organise petitions and set up local branches of H A I, to involve medical people, trade unionists, and others interested in the issue.





From its beginnings in 1973, Brighton Voice has tried to be alternative not only in the paper it produced but also in terms of its structure.

From the outset it has tried to work as an open collective, without hierarchy or centralised authority, which could be accountable to its readership and those who produce it. The creation of such structures, which can also be effective and reasonably efficient, remains a crucial problem in the theory and practice of the left. The practical problems faced by Brighton Voice in the past highlight this point.

having responsibility for overall policy are the Production and Editorial Collective and the Readers and Producers Meeting. Ideally, policy should be worked out by discussion within and between these two bodies. The entire structure is also open for anyone to join in at any point, either to help formulate policy or to make a limited contribution without having to get totally involved.

SKILLS



READERS & PRODUCERS MEETING

A Readers & Producers Meeting is held every month, usually The News Group, Skills Group, about a week after an issue of and Distribution Group are the paper has been produced. It responsible for servicing their is the main forum for discussion respective networks; seeking to The The about the direction of the pap- expand and develop them, and er and other general policy making sure that they operate decisions. It usually also makes efficiently. There is also a a detailed review of the Finance and Development Group previous issue and condiders which is looking into long possibilities for improvements term financial and organisatetc. It does not direct the ional expansion and what this policy of the paper but advises would involve. the Production and Editorial CONVENORS Collective and other parts of Each of the Groups and the the structure. Production & Editorial



ostensibly open, usually consisted of a relatively small group of people who shared all the tasks involved in producing the paper. In reality, few people joined the collective except at times of crisis when the paper faced closure. These crises were usually the result of the collective dwindling to a handful of people because of the amount of work involved. It had been the policy of the paper to avoid any division of labour but the practical outcome posed two problems. Firstly, openess was restricted you were either in the collective or you were not and many people could not give the 100% commitment required. Secondly, those who were involved tended to get burnt out, eventually dropping out and forcing another crisis.

In the summer of 1982, after a typical crisis, the paper was re-organised around a new structure which was intended to overcome these problems while still maintaining an open collective without hierarchy or centralised authority. The structure is shown in the diagram. There is no constitutional authority within this structure, but the two groups



THE PRODUCTION & EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

This group is formed from each Readers & Producers Meeting, although others can join it at any stage. It is responsible for producing the next issue of isation and production. The the paper. It deals with general administration, consid- who are willing to be contacted ers all material submitted, arranges editing, is responsible stories. The SKILLS NETWORK for the page plan and for getting the paper laid-out and pasted down. It should also ensure that the other groups are functioning properly so that there is no 'collapse' in mid-issue.

NEWS GROUP Outside GROUPS FOR

SUPPLEMENT

·----

THE NETWORKS

The three networks; news, skills and distribution are crucial innovations which allow individuals to make important contributions to the paper but without necessarily being closely involved in the overall organ-NEWS NETWORK consists of people each month for information or consists of people who are prepared to help with production, whether it is taking photographs, drawing cartoons, typing or helping with lay-out and paste-up. The DISTRIBUTION NETWORK consists of those shops centres and personal sellers who are prepared to sell the

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paper. Since this structure has been operating it has been widely felt that the paper has improved quite dramatically and it has sold many more copies. But it is easy to be complacent. Although the networks are working well they must be expanded. The Groups which service these networks have not attracted any new members in the last few months. Furthermore, the number of people involved in the Production & Editorial Collective has fallen since Christmas.

NEWS NETWORK

To put it bluntly: if the paper is to continue to expand and improve we need more people in all areas of the structure in the networks - in the groups and in the Production & Editorial Collective. If you would like to help in some way, drop a line to 40, Cowper Street, Hove telling us what you would like to do, or come to the Readers' and Producers Meeting on SUNDAY 10th APRIL at the Stanford Arms, Preston Circus. at 7.30pm

Contact

Brighton 508912

D.D.C

Building

Brighton

Collective

ROOFERS

BUILDERS

OF MENTION AND THE PLACE OF

CARPENTERS

PAINTERS

DECORATORS

ELECTRICIANS

REMOVALS

specialist areas

PLUMBERS

We offer a professional level of skills in these and other

Registered Office: Merlin Work Collective Ltd.

THE GROUPS

Collective has a convenor who is responsible for day to day administration in their area. It is essential that there is close liasion bewteen the Convenors of the P&E, the News Group and the Skills Group because of the need to link these areas together to ensure a smooth process of production. Because these are potentially powerful positions within the organisation of the paper the convenors jobs are rotated regularly and BV's policy of positive discriminat-208 Ditchling Road Brighton Sussex ion gives priority to women who

are prepared to take on these jobs





FRESHFILL 17.000EASTERN ROAD TOO MANY

"17,000 Too Many" is the writing on the wall outside the dole office in Upper North Street. Unfortunately for those 17,000 the popular prejudice of 'social security scroungers' is still whipped up by the popular press. The unemployed have become a scapegoat for the anxiety and economic insecurity of the 1980's.

The arrogance and ignorance of the "get on your bike" brigade (epitomised by the verbal vomitings of N. Tebbit) leave us little hope. The stereotype of the unemployed living the life of aristocratic ease bears little resemblance to the reality of poverty, boredom and the consequent erosion of aspiration.

Brighton has developed as a leisure centre. The largest yacht marina in Europe. A cluster of first class hotels on the sea front. The lanes are crammed with exclusive boutiques and exquisite antique shops. But facilities within the reach of the pockets of the unemployed are extremely scarce. Supplementary Benefit just won't cover many of the usual leisure pursuits such as the cinema, concerts, football etc. The promises of certain politicians to restore full employment are both vague and empty. Unemployment is here to stay as a part of a modern world pattern. What is needed is intelligent planning for mass unemployment and adequate facilities in Brighton.

MARCH ON APRIL 28th....

ASSEMBLE THE LEVEL 1pm MARCH 2pm OLD STEINE, SEA FRONT, PRESTON ST., WESTERN

WHY HAVE A NEW CENTRE ? The present centre is inadequate. It's too small (the largest room seats 20). Its not central. It's a health hazard. It's damp with no hot water and difficult to heat. Evetually it is going to be demolished. (If it doesn't fall down first)

WHY SHOULD THE COUNCIL PROVIDE NEW PREMISES

QUEENS

This kind of facility for the unemployed has already been established in nearly 200 places by Councils. Many of these centres have been given substantial grants by Councils.

WHY HAVE A CENTRE AT ALL ? It acts as a focus for unemployed people to organise with others to campaign for a better deal. The unemployed union has been successful in winning bus fare concessions and cheap access to Council facilities. It also provides a meeting place to help alleviate the inevitable feelings of boredom, alienation, sense of failure and hopelessness for the future.

Education. Successful classes have been organised in literacy, women and health etc. Welfare Advice. Helps people

with problems in dealings with the DHSS etc.

Groups. The unemployed union women's and youth groups all meet at the Centre. WHAT BUILDING?

The Council has empty properties and there are also masses of empty private properties. It must be big enough to function as a Centre for mass and continuing unemployment. It should have: cheap cafeteria large hall, (for music, meetings etc), creche, offices for interviews, class rooms,



FEATURE

BRIGHTON **UNEMPLOYED** WORKERS UNION

Since its opening in July 1981, the Centre has proved to be an essential asset to the unemployed. Support from trade unions, community groups student unions, churches and individuals have all keeped helped to keep the Centre running. Yet lack of a regular income has meant vital time has been spent on fund-raising at the expense of campaigning. For this reason we're hoping for more donations from people on a standing order basis. With this we should be able to plan events and activities in advance and not on a day-to-day basis.

The Council will debate our demands on April 28th and we want to see action rather than words. Thousands spent on railings for pretty squares in Brighton or the Mayor's car What about the unemployed? Our present building is an insult to the 17,000 who are

I have here the reasons why you can't claim your particular benefit ...



on the dole locally. Anybody who has seen it will surely agree.

It's about time the Council took the interests of the unemployed seriously. We hope you will support our march and urge your friends and group or organisations to attend and make the campaign a success.

THE UNEMPLOYED CENTRE OFFERS a place for organising and campaigning around free transport & facilities for unemployed people links with the trade union movement - creche for centre users advice on claiming benefits



The Brunswick Town area is in the Eastern part of Hove and is on the boundary of Brighton. Overall it is an area of contrasting poverty and affluence. High density housing in private rented multi-occupation creates problems associated with repairs and lack of amenities. The principal human problems are associated with a drifting population, which includes a large proportion of elderly people and families, many of these single-parent families.

In July 1981 during the Brunswick Community Association's Summer Project an advice service was offered at the Lansdowne Centre. There were two aims: firstly, to gauge the need for a centre providing free information and advice on legal rights in such areas as social security and housing and secondly, to gain a clearer perception of the needs and priorities of the Brunswick Town residents.

The response showed that many people in Brunswick were unaware of their rights and that such an advice centre filled a large gap. The emerging picture has been one of acute and often hidden poverty, not always immediately recognisable in Brunswick, an Outstanding Conservation Area of Regency buildings whose facades, painted by order every three years, belie decaying and neglected interiors.

Since 1981 continued help and support to people has been made possible by the commitment of a small team of volunteers. However, as they move on, new volunteers are needed. Training sessions in all aspects of welfare rights are held as necessary. Anyone interested in being a volunteer would be welcome - please contact Jane Dawson, Brighton 726705. The Advice Centre opens on Tuesdays, 1-7 p.m. in the Lansdowne Centre.



TRUE STORY.

Hey, you think THAT was stupid? Wait till you hear what I did back in August '71. I was down in Brighton tailing this German guy. A subversive. I was new on the job but they gave me this one 'cause the big boys had their hands full with all the political types flooding in from France.

He was booked in at the Globe in Manchester Street under the name of Williams. Nice place. Nothing fancy, but clean - like he was pretending to be. He was trying to make out like he was in town for his health and had put out a story about collapsing from overwork. I'll say this - the guy played the part like an old stager. Public baths every day, long walks in the afternoon, no night life, no broads. He spent lots of time up in his me. He just wrote letters, were going all over Europe.

SUSPICIOUS

It didn't look like he was there to meet any Frenchmen. That would have been too susnicious. But he spent a weekend talking plenty to two guys from out of town. I had them checked out. They showed on the files as well-known agitators. I knew I was onto something big.

For a time I thought he might be mixed up in the Edroom so I got the chambermaid wards case. Remember that one? to snoop around a little for | Crazy dame who got the brushoff from her doctor friend and she said, and the mail clerks decided to take it out on the backed her up. Those letters whole town. She sent out packs of chocolate with a special

Marathon Night Shift

The friends and relatives who They'd been talking before had earlier brought sleeping about how crazy they were. bags and fresh flasks of coffee Had to be, really - sitting had now gone home to bed and, all night outside Brighton with only the runners left, it sorting office in the hope was a lot quieter. Since the excitement of those post office vans crashing into each other half an hour before nothing much had been happening; even the police had stopped coming round to practise their community relations chat. There was time to think. Plenty of time.

What a way to spend Bonfire Night! The hills and buildings around North Road had meant they hadn't seen many fireworks. Probably weren't so many about this year, with the money needed for other things, even if you did have a job. Better to take the kids to Withdean or Lewes and let them see the display. Wonder who was taking these people's kids? If there were any, that is. They say the training outs down your sex drive.

they'd be allowed to run through London next April. And paying for it too! But they'd all agreed it was a damn sight saner than queueing all night for Barry Manilow tickets, and most of them had said their families didn't but all the same it had been mind them staying out tonight, good medicine, at least some didn't even mind the time they of the time. How many people had to put in on the roads and here had demons of their own the Downs.

why London with all the crowds, poor old Radio Brighton interthe ballyhoo and race directors viewer. But what can you tell who put adverts for their own from that? sportswear company in with the entry forms? Was it just that quick moment of glory as the camera catches your sweat? Was it that strange, suspiciously male thing, the challenge - proving you could do it? (Though there were women camped out here too.)



new flavour - strychnine. Turned out, though, she was all alone on that one. But it was making big headlines and I guess it made me a bit overeager.

SUBVERSIVE

Jeez, that Kraut was leading a boring life. Only consolation was he didn't go to church on Sundays. I got to listen in one time when he was bending the ear of another old guy in the baths. He was shooting his mouth off about how those Paris subversives were getting a raw deal at their trial. Seemed like his daughter had just been arrested in the South of France somewhere. I guess crime ran in the family. Couldn't make out a lot of what he said, though. How those hotel guys fell for that Williams alias beats me.



Well, yes, there was something in all of that. But there was more. On a good day, feeling you could run for ever, getting really high on it. And it had helped - God, how it had helped - during that miserable, drawn-out springtime when she was leaving. How was it Howard had put it? Running out the demons, he'd to run out? They'd all seemed jolly enough earlier on, play-Why do a marathon, though; and ing silly beggars with that

> * * *

Anyway, no point in digging too deep. The main thing now was to stay here till morning and make sure no-one slipped in ahead. Good job those

RUMBLED

PAGE 15

Anyway, I was tailing him out of the hotel one morning. It was a Thursday and it was raining like it had been all week. He turned the corner onto the sea-front and I speeded up so I wouldn't lose him. When I made that corner though, I had to pull up real quick. There the guy was, standing right out in the centre of the sidewalk, facing me, staring me out. Then he took out his monocle from his pocket and hoisted it up to his eye. I mean, it was ridiculous!

Well I don't scare easy and I knew he had no gun, but I was finished all the same. Somehow he'd rumbled me. I'd goofed up real bad and all I could do was scram as best I could. So I doffed my hat like I was a proper gent and hightailed it out, trying to keep hold of what little dignity I had left.

BIG, REAL BIG

They put me back on filing for six months after that. I guess I deserved it. They told me to put it down to experience and cut my pay so I wouldn't forget in a hurry. I didn't. That guy I was tailing was big, real big. He's dead now but it turns out that the stuff he was writing is behind half the agitation in Europe. Marx was his real name. Karl Marx. I sure wish I'd nailed him.

Sources: Marx-Engels Werke Vol.17, pp. 396-402 Vol.33, pp.67-72 pp.269-74 The Times, 21/8/1871 25/8/1871



people up front had thought of handing out queue numbers. . If everyone ran the race the way those officials in London were organising things nobody would ever reach Westminster Bridge. What time was it? Oh God, ages to go yet. Two forty-six and eighteen seconds precisely. Bloody digital watches. Why did they always have to be so exact? Still, a time like that in April wouldn't be bad at all, would it now?

