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# MOLE ISSUE



BUY....



Vol.2 No.3

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Articles, ideas, letters, suggestions to

ATTILA

c/o Bit-by-Bit

7 Victoria Road

Brighton.

Phone 27878 (Bit-by-Bit) or 29093



# MOLE MURDERING IN SUSSEX



I was wandering about in Eastbourne a short while ago, and by chance went into Boots the Chemists. An inspection of the horticultural department revealed a selection of small canisters ominously labelled "Mole Smoke Generator". Puzzled, I looked further. It transpired that the product in question was "Fumite" Mole Smoke Generator. According to the information given on the container, this produces clouds of sulphur dioxide and carbon disulphide gases when lighted, which, amongst other things, turns to sulphurous acid in the moles' lungs. In case you already feel sufficiently nauseated to protest against this barbaric practice, write to:

PAINS-WESSEX (FUMITE DIVISION),  
SALISBURY,  
WILTSHIRE;

or phone 072-273-282 extension 38.

Anyway, I rang the RSPCA at Brighton and asked them whether they thought that the practice of gassing moles by the above-mentioned process was particularly humane. They replied that all their inspectors were out on call, but immediately wanted to know where it was happening; I was tempted to reply "all over the country", but instead said that I was asking out of curiosity. Unable to comment on the matter, they said I'd better ring their Horsham headquarters.

I rang Horsham and asked the same question as I'd asked Brighton RSPCA. The man at the other end of the line said it was "perfectly terrible". "It's a process of choking," he continued, "we use chloroform ourselves which sends them to sleep first and causes no discomfort." "Aha!" I thought, "humane

mole-murdering."

I went on to explain that the culprits were Pains-Wessex Fumite division, and the RSPCA headquarters said that they'd probably need a Ministry of Agriculture permit for Class A poisons; if they hadn't got one, the whole operation was probably illegal.

The RSPCA bod was quite helpful, and went on to explain that there were very few methods of catching moles in order to kill them humanely. I replied that that wasn't the point—the smoke generators were designed to produce about 1000 cubic feet of gas, and were on sale to the general public, who were hardly likely to be infested with an uncontrollable plague of moles which necessitated such drastic treatment.

We both agreed that the sale of these smoke generators, even to small children, was a bit of a problem.

"A little bit of further investigation is required," the RSPCA man said; "we've brought it up on more than one occasion at our meetings - we're most unhappy about it."

He recommended that I phone Pains-Wessex Fumite Division to ask if they had a Class A poisons licence, and also to phone back the RSPCA with any further developments. We also agreed that the Ministry of Agriculture was behaving peculiarly in licensing the use of such chemicals.

A while later I phoned the Ministry of Agriculture and asked if it was necessary that CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> need be licensed in their use. After being referred to the Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme and the pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme, I finally got through to a Mr. Glasswell on 01-876-0494 ext. 214. I said I wanted to know whether there were any restrictions on the use of carbon disulphide and sulphur dioxide as produced by smoke generators (mentioning Fumite by name). He said ".....in connection with the fumigation of cereals?" "No," I said, "for murdering moles." "Ooh!" was the official reaction, "I'll have a look....."

I was informed that if a company wants a market a pesticide, it notifies this to the Min. Ag. All data prepared by the company on the substance is submitted for 'commercial clearing' to the Agriculture and Health Department.

"There are no restrictions on the sale of these chemicals," I was told; "we have a scheme negotiated with the industry in

which everything is thoroughly checked. No legislation exists to control pesticides."

I asked about the fact that Fumite Mole Smoke Generators were on sale at Boots the Chemists in Eastbourne. What if small children should lay hands on it? "Perfectly safe if you follow precautions on packet," retorted Mr. Glasswell, thus neatly dodging the question. Anyway, this didn't tell me much about the moles' point of view, so I said "thanks very much" and rang off.

My next conversation was with the manager at the Eastbourne branch of Boots. "I think you'd better ring our PRO at Nottingham," he said, quoting a Mr. Ridley-Thompson on 0602-561-11.

"We only stock it - we don't decide what goes on the shelves."

I rang Nottingham, but Mr. Ridley-Thompson was at lunch. The switchboard girl took notes and agreed that mole-gassing wasn't very nice. She said they'd ring back.

Two and a half hours later I phoned back, to be greeted by none other than the elusive Mr. Ridley-Thompson. His reply to my question about the inhumanity of Fumite was that they were expected to supply it to farmers and housewives, etc. Not that I'd ever noticed that Eastbourne was overloaded with farmers. Maybe old grannies, but that's about all, and they don't spend their last years gassing moles with furtive glee.

Mr. Ridley-Thompson also said "nobody moans about fly-killers" quite peevishly, and said that they'd find out if I was right about there being no control on pesticides. "If you're right and there is no control, I'm not sure that we can do anything," he said. He also told me that he was trying to find out the official standpoint on the matter, and that he'd ring me back; by the way, was I the press? "Half and half," I replied; "Underground magazine." "Oh, I see," (laughs uneasily) "I'll phone you back."

I was awakened from my reverie about building a Moles Rest Home by a phone call from one of the directors of Boots, who said he'd been in contact with one of their experts. He said he'd been told that the effect of Fumite was as an irritant - it drove off the moles before it killed them. In fact this is quite true - the moles don't die from the gas, but from blistered lungs caused by the gas.

The Boots man went on to say that local authorities used strychnine-dosed worms to kill moles, which wasn't exactly hu-

mane either. When I enquired about the sale of Fumite to small children, he said, quote: "If we get a lot of small children buying them, we'd ask them why they want them." Very effective it sounds too!!

He also told me, off the record, that Fumite was set up by the Government during the war; as they couldn't play at war any more, presumably they've resorted to attacking defenceless moles.

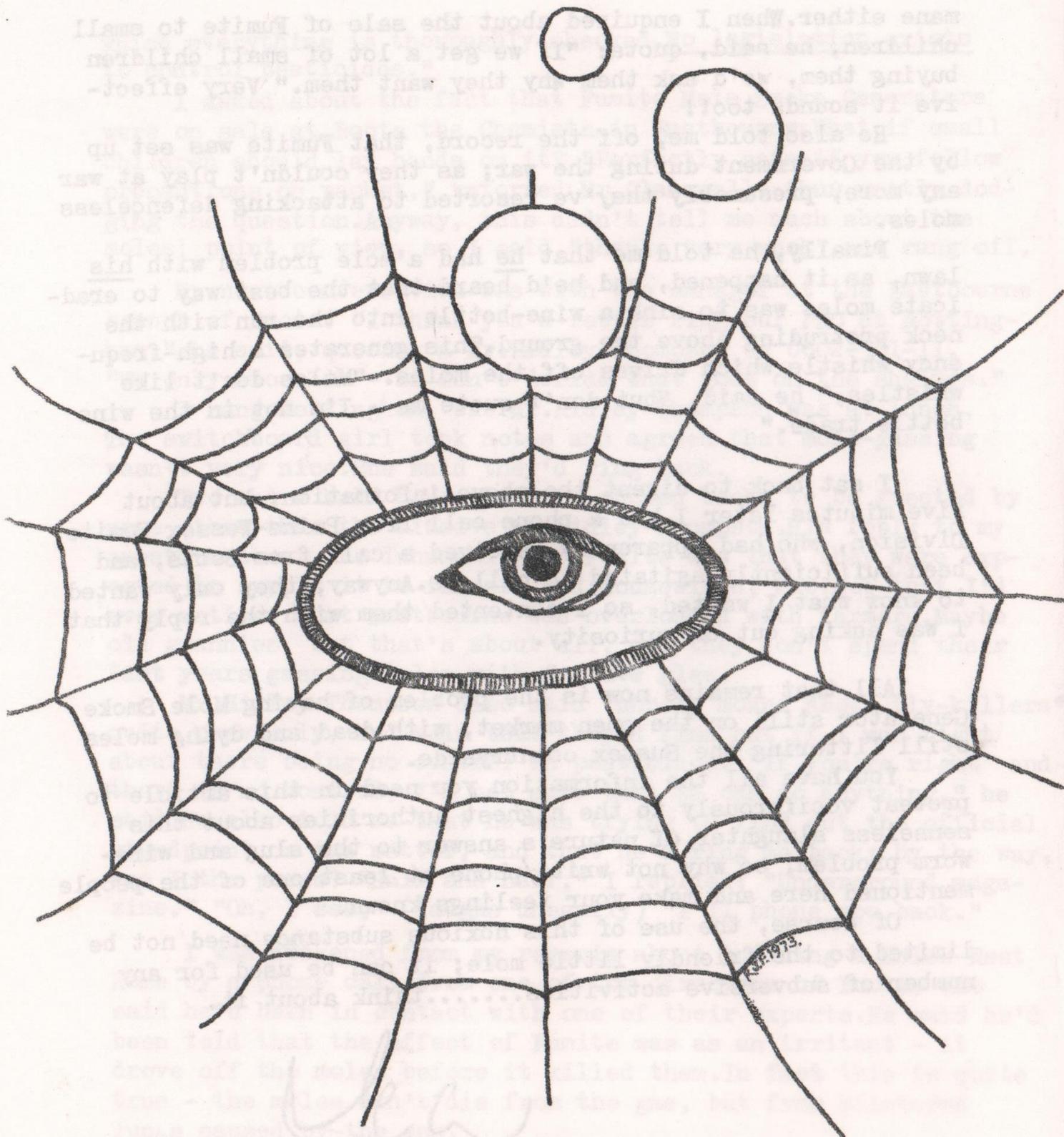
Finally, he told me that he had a mole problem with his lawn, as it happened, and he'd heard that the best way to eradicate moles was to sink a wine-bottle into the run with the neck protruding above the ground. This generates a high-frequency whistle which drives off the moles. "Moles don't like whistles," he said, "but don't quote me - I'm not in the wine bottle trade."

I sat back to digest the above information, but about five minutes later I had a phone call from Pains-Wessex Fumite Division, who had apparently received a call from Boots, and been sufficiently agitated to call me. Anyway, they only wanted to know what I wanted, so I contented them with the reply that I was asking out of curiosity.

All that remains now is the problem of having Mole Smoke Generator still on the open market, with dead and dying moles still littering the Sussex countryside.

You have all the information you need in this article to protest vociferously to the highest authorities about this senseless slaughter of nature's answer to the slug and wire-worm problem, so why not write/phone at least one of the people mentioned here and make your feelings known.

Of course, the use of this noxious substance need not be limited to the friendly little mole; it can be used for any number of subversive activities.....think about it.



## gay lib Clearing our heads

Gay liberation is about the way gay people feel. About themselves. About others. And about SEXUAL APARTHATE, the attitude of mind which decrees that only the heterosexual elect are acceptable and worthy. Above all, it is a self-liberation movement; the search among gay people for a new individual and collective purpose and identity and the rejection of all self-images created for us by an alien society.

Gay Liberation began in a riot: the spontaneous retaliation of gay people against police violence in New York. Two years later, in the summer of 1971, the Gay Liberation Front formed in London. "The Love", which in Wilde's time "dare not speak its name" was suddenly being shouted from the foot of Nelson's column! Groups of gay people, mostly young, came out onto the streets to confront those who have oppressed us. Policemen were kissed by boys in drag. Placards were flaunted: "Did you wait till you were twenty-one?"; "Sodomy is cool"; "Young, gay, beautiful"; "Gays are people"; "No gays in Scotland?"; and many other goodies. Gay days were held in London parks. The GLF street theatre satirised sexism and its male chauvinist exponents. Britain's first gay newspaper "Come Together" was published. Gay people reeled with joy. At last it had happened. A revolution! Gay people had begun to clear their heads. GAY LOVE! GAY PRIDE! GAY RESURRECTION! Two years later it may seem that little has changed. Sexual apartheid continues its dreary concourse. Gay people continue to be "rolled" or "queer-bashed", to be discriminated against by employers and work-mates, Gay teenagers to be disowned by uncomprehending parents and relatives. The lonely and repressed lives continue; gay people still too frightened to be themselves. And the law, which embodies and reflects the philosophy of sexual apart hate, remain the same. Still illegal to be gay in Scotland, if you are male, whatever your age. Still a criminal offence to be gay if you are a male and under twenty-one, or if you have a lover who is under that age. Still illegal to place a lonely hearts ad if you're gay. Still illegal if there are more than two of you. Still the verballing up and the harassment go on.

The revolution of 1971 has changed none of that. But it has provided an increasing number of gay people with a new and

dynamic self-vision.No longer need we be isolated.No longer need we accept as our inevitable lot the exploitative lot the exploitative world of the ghetto.No longer need we accept either the put-downs of those who openly hate us or the crumby sympathy of the liberal.No longer need we accept or be deeply affected by the bad trip others may have about us.For we have tumbled the transparency of the arguments which say that gay is bad/mad/sad/sick/unnatural/unChristian, etc. WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT GAY IS GOOD!

from BRIGHTON GLF.

.....

### EDITORIAL

Dear Freakz,

We apologise for the late appearance of this issue, but due to insurmountable technical difficulties we've had to operate our duplicator entirely by hand.Should you see a bunch of people walking about with right arms twice the size of their left ones, you'll know who they are.

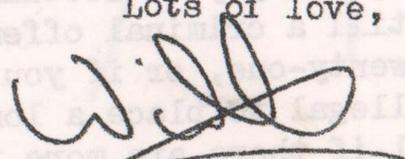
Anyway, the production's improved yet again, this time due to the introduction of carbon ribbons for the typing.This has given us a much greater clarity of type.

As from this issue, Attila will have a full-time editor, but how long this idyllic state of affairs will last depends on you, the reading public.In other words, we need to sell MORE COPIES! As it happens, a full-time editor will be very useful, as it should give us time to work on relevant local issues which we've been unable to investigate up till now.

Finally, we're still keeping our heads above water as far as money goes, but we need more to pay for repairs to the duplicator, etc.Never mind, money's a terrible hassle anyway; has anyone got a good idea for recycling Attilas into synthetic steaks? No? Ah, well, it wasn't a bad idea.....

Hope you like this issue - don't discard it, we're an information service.

Lots of love,



(Editor).

EAT MORE TOAST!

## SIMILAR MOONS

To Kathy

moon-glow,  
for the moment;  
a yellow warmth pervading.

precipitous  
to read you this but  
I would hasten such moments,

such time exists and must  
be taken; enlist what magic  
you can;

moons like this are magical,  
nights like this are frozen  
and yet -

I remember similar moons  
hanging low in yellow skies  
over which I tripped  
and fell lifeless.

Brian Moses,

E.C.E.

# What is Bahá'í?

Bahá'ís believe that religious truth is progressive, not absolute, and that as mankind develops spiritually, intellectually and materially, his religious laws need to change in accordance with his maturity.

Religious teachings have been revealed throughout the ages by Prophets, manifestations of God, who have all spoken of the same, never-changing spiritual truths, reminding men of their essential spiritual nature, and calling upon them to love one another, to strive for unity, harmony and justice.

The teachings of the Prophets differ only in their social "laws", and in the depth and emphasis of their spiritual teachings, all of which have been suited to the social conditions and powers of understanding of the people to whom they were revealed. For example, the teachings of Krishna and of Buddha lay emphasis on the Divine consciousness within, and on man's meditative faculty; those of Moses were designed for a tribe of illiterate slaves who needed to be tightly united for their great journey; those of Jesus Christ were a progression from the Mosaic teachings and a fulfilment of many Jewish prophecies; those of Muhammad were suited to the barbarous, warlike, dis-united tribes of Arabia which He formed into the greatest, most civilized nation on earth at that time.

God, the Source of Sources, the Unknowable Essence, the Animating power behind the universe, reveals Himself through these chosen prophets, who in their lives manifest the attributes of God: not God-Incarnate, but the "perfect mirrors", reflecting the light of the Sun of Truth. They are all One; they have One Divine Source, and one purpose: the education and enlightenment of mankind. Krishna said, "I am born from age to age".

A Bahá'í is a follower of Bahá'u'lláh ("The Glory of God"), who, in Persia, in 1863, declared Himself to be the Prophet for this New Age - the Age foretold by Buddha as the age of "Universal Fellowship", by Christ as the day of "One Fold and One Shepherd" and by Zoroaster as the day when "the earth will become secure from evil".

As soon as Bahá'u'lláh made this stupendous claim to be the "Promised one of all Ages", fulfilling the ancient prophe-

cies and bringing teachings which unite mankind, dispel the superstitions with which men have corrupted their religions, and bring about justice and equality among and within the nations, He was imprisoned, tortured and successively exiled by the governments of Persia and Turkey.

Merciless persecutions were heaped upon His followers for daring to proclaim the Oneness of religions, the Equality of men and women, and the need for a just administration, in a country where the corrupt and materialistic religious leaders had absolute power over the people, and at a time when women all over the world were treated as a lesser species.

Tens of thousands suffered martyrdom for their belief in the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and in His station as the Prophet for this Age. Bahá'u'lláh Himself spent the last part of His life in the Turkish prison city of Acca (now in Israel), from whence He proclaimed His message in letters to the major religious and political leaders of the world, warning such men as Napoleon III, Pope Pius IX, the Czar of Russia and the Kaiser of Germany that if they failed to show justice towards their people, and adhere to the laws of unity, their worldly dominion would be lost.

The teachings of Bahá'u'lláh are set down in over 100 volumes of His writings, the original manuscripts of which are still available, signed by his own hand. It is revealing that over 100 years ago, Bahá'u'lláh was speaking of the essential harmony between science and religion, the need for a world administration and the individual investigation of Truth. There is no clergy in the Bahá'í Faith, and children are brought up with a knowledge of all religions, so that they may choose for themselves whether to become Bahá'ís or not.

To adequately describe the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith is a mammoth task, and I have only mentioned a few very basic principles. Perhaps most relevant to those who wish to discover more, is the "individual investigation of the Truth". We regard ourselves, the Bahá'ís, as sources of information, and do not seek to "convert" people by argument or persuasion. Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we must strive in our daily lives to demonstrate what it means to be a Bahá'í. The "essence of Faith" He has written, "is fewness of words and abundance of deeds".

We welcome you to investigate the Bahá'í Faith, and to consider for yourselves the claim of Bahá'u'lláh.

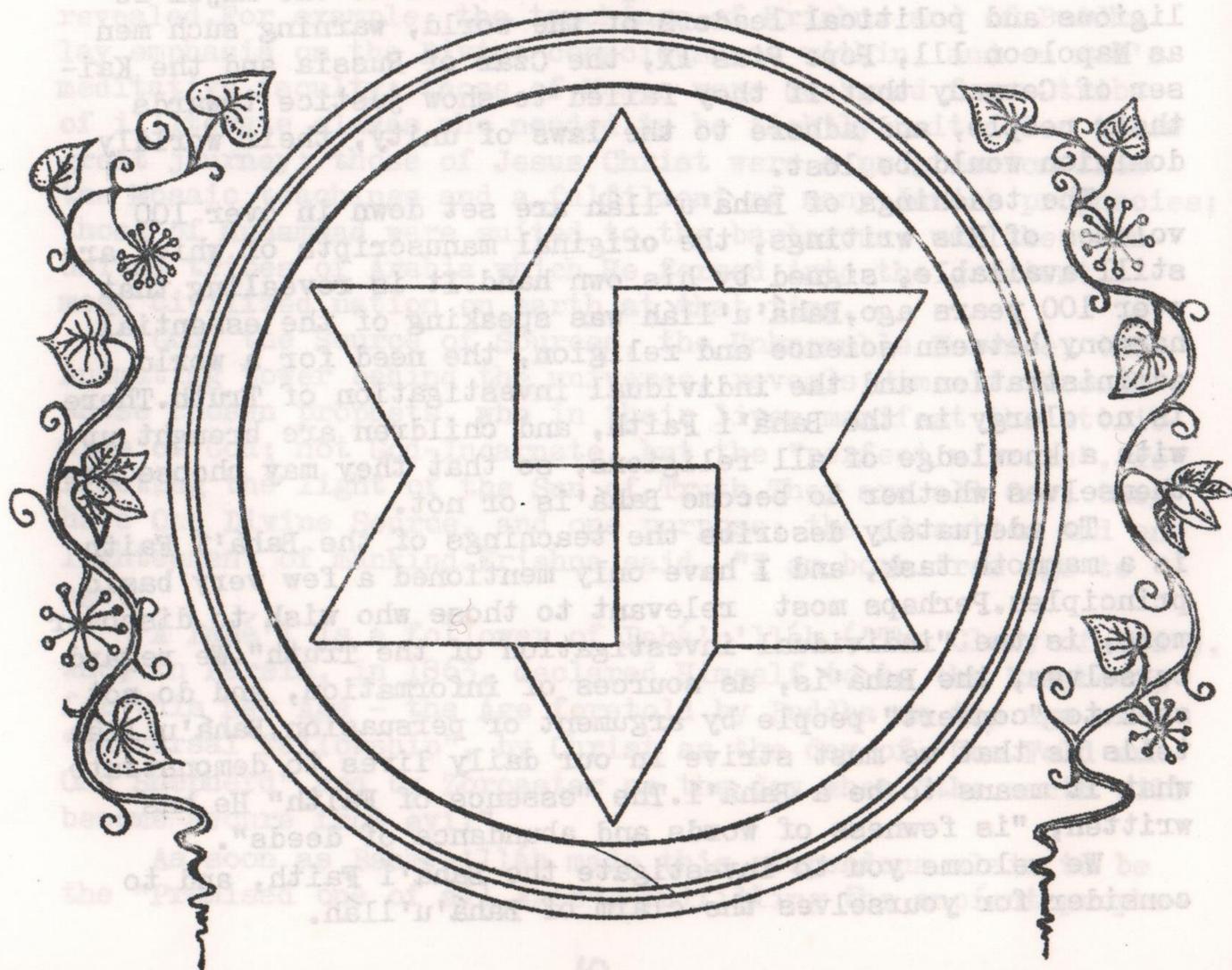
"Only when the lamp of search, of earnest striving, of longing desire, of passionate devotion, of fervid love, of rapture, and ecstasy is kindled within the seeker's heart, and the breeze of His loving-kindness is wafted upon his soul, will the darkness of error be dispelled, the mists of doubts and misgivings be dissipated, and the lights of knowledge and certitude envelop his being".

For information, phone Brighton 506743, or feel free to come along to a very informal discussion, at:

107, Stanford Avenue, Brighton  
Wednesdays, 8pm,

or

University of Sussex Meeting House  
Thursdays, 6 pm (during term).



## 'I'D RATHER EAT HODGES!'

On walks a winsomely freckled, fresh-faced little boy clad in pyjamas and with a self-conscious grin stands before the crudely drawn, deliberately misspelt slogan on the wall and recites a party piece about the day Mum was ill in bed and Dad did all the cooking. And to what soaring heights of gastronomic delights did he lead his chosen flock? Of course, for breakfast, dinner and tea this bronzed hero of the culinary revolution reached for his tin opener and with a deft flick or two of the wrist he gave them - BEANZ!!

Now through the miracle of Attila you too can experience this wonder - come blaze with us the astounding trail of the chillied bean! Certainly, in spite of their nauseating advertising Heinz do produce a baked bean of excellent flavour, containing no artificial additives, e.g. colouring and flavouring, and with the richest tomato sauce I've found anywhere.

OK - for two hungry people, open ready for action one 20 ounce tin. Chop up one large onion or two of medium size and place in a saucepan with half a cup of milk, two tablespoons of tomato puree, two or three cloves of garlic, pepper, salt and a teaspoonful of chilli sauce (the amount of chilli sauce you use is of course optional - you could also substitute here  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon of chilli powder or 3 to 5 fresh chillis, chopped small). Cover this mixture with a lid and let it simmer for about fifteen minutes. If you like your onions underdone and crunchy as opposed to tender, keep back half the chopped onions before simmering and add them at the end of this period of time.

Now add about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the tin of beans, which will include the "juicy bit" at the top of the tin (where the beans have settled in the tin) stir well in and heat through to simmering again. Chop small or grate about 3 oz of cheese - cheap cheddar will do - into the mixture and keep simmering and stirring until this has melted.

Finally, stir in the remainder of the beans quickly and return to simmering heat - serve on mounds of hot buttered toast (on dished dinner plates if you have them, because this is a fairly sloppy mixture). I recommend this dish for cold winter nights and good company. A drop of cheap white wine chilled well

beforehand goes very nicely with this, and it's best eaten really piping hot with as much chilli in as you can stand.

If you've never tried it before, try mint sauce on baked beans on toast sometime, and if you like your beans on toast straight, try enhancing the flavour with ketchup and cheese, not to mention garlic.

So far, in last month's issue with my white sauce recipe and in this column too, I've been writing about recipes I found by experimenting in the kitchen myself - both recipes and their derivants are to the best of my knowledge originals, and we'd like this cookery column to contain recipes and food ideas with a background of experimentation - new and interesting food ideas - so please write in c/o Attila (see contents page for address) with your recipes, and for that matter let's have your views, comments on Attila generally, because a mag like this needs feedback from you to survive.

Next month I shall be exposing the dark secret of "Ed pudding" and showing all you pudding freaks how easy it is to make one just like mum used to!

*KS Shunt*

Instant Letter; Dear Attila, last month "the <sup>Rise of</sup> ~~King~~ of Nastic Food", this month Beans...

I wonder if Heinz tomato sauce really is poisonless?

What about an introduction to pulses?

what's in them? how to cook them? soaking? sprouting?!!! with white sauce? What about wind?

CHEWWEHL! It would be

groovy to discover something about soy beans. Perhaps T. and other Open Cooks

could write to the people 'bout cooking beans? Perhaps someone, might tell us of the spirit and chemistry of pulses?



P.S. Tomatoes in season?

Norman Allan, editor

# BIT BY BIT INFO SHEET

## Useful info/addresses in the Brighton area

BIT BY BIT (info/help)

7 Victoria Road, Brighton. Phone: Btn 27878.

BRIGHTON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (Paper re-cycling, etc.)

45 Centurion Road, Brighton. Phone: Btn 23017.

BRIGHTON FREE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

c/o I. Birksted, 65 The Drive, Hove. Phone: Btn 738411.

Also Rhiannon Evans at Btn 721268.

BRIGHTON FURNISHED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

6 Crescent Road, Brighton.

BRIGHTON HOSTEL

105 Islingword Road, Brighton. Phone: Btn 686320.

THE CIRCUS (social centre)

50 Sillwood St. (off Little Preston St). Playgroups, OAPs, etc.

CLAIMANTS UNION

Every Monday at OPEN, 7 Victoria Rd. Brighton. Phone: 27878

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION (Brighton & Hove clinic)

18-19 Western Road, Hove. Phone: Btn 734258.

FREE STREETS ASSOCIATION

81 Hanover Terrace, Brighton. Phone: Btn 681133.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT (Sussex)

Graham/David, 24 Gladstone Place, Brighton. Phone: Btn 688301

Meets at Stanford Arms every Tues 8.30pm; disco Fri 8.30pm.

RENT TRIBUNAL

'Anston House', 137 Preston Road, Brighton.

SUSSEX CIVIL LIBERTIES COUNCIL (Branch of NCCL)  
c/o Richard Moseley, 2 Gloucester St., Brighton. Phone:  
Btn 65706.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION (Brighton & Hove group)  
Jen Murray, 47 Newtown Road, Hove. Phone: Btn 776529.

Shops

ANANDA

111 Gloucester Road, Brighton. (Incense, Eastern cosmetics,  
craftwork, pipes, posters, candles, etc.)

INFINITY FOODS

54 Church St., Brighton. Phone: Btn 29386.  
(Suppliers of all basic organic foods)

THE PUBLIC HOUSE (Bookshop)  
21 Little Preston St., Brighton.

UNICORN BOOKSHOP

50 Gloucester Road, Brighton. Phone: Btn 682307  
(Specialises in occult books)

WORKERS BOOKSHOP

37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.

WRAGGLE TAGGLE WORKSHOP

27 George St., Kemptown. (Incense, clothes, etc)

Cafes

THE GARDEN (vegetarian)  
22 Trafalgar Street, Brighton.

OPEN (vegetarian)

7 Victoria Rd., Brighton. Phone: Btn 27878 and also at the  
Crypt, Sussex University.

UNCLE SAM'S HAMBURGER BAR

Montpelier Rd., Brighton.

... not the Argus!

BRIGHTON VOICE

21 Clermont Terrace, Brighton. Phone: Btn 504263.  
(Brighton's alternative newspaper) Price 4p.

A WOMAN'S PLACE?

18b Brunswick Terrace, Hove.  
("Brighton & Hove Women's Paper" - produced by Women's Lib  
for all women.) Price 3p.

FREE MEDICAL ADVICE

A doctor will be available from 3pm to 7pm at OPEN, 7  
Victoria Rd, Brighton, for free medical consultations, on  
Wednesday 18th April and fortnightly afterwards. No appoint-  
ment is necessary.

BIT BY BIT - for free info or help phone 27878

BIT BY BIT is a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week free Informa-  
tion and Help service (the OPEN cafe is open from 12 noon  
to 8pm, except Sundays).

BIT BY BIT is open for use by anybody for almost any  
purpose, BUT the Bust Fund, from which financial help must  
come, is always bust. In the new year it has had only one  
sizable donation from persons outside OPEN, to wit, £1.00  
from an old Aquarian proletarian 'crash pad'...so if you

want to help BIT BY BIT, donations could be made as crossed postal orders made payable to the OPEN BUST FUND, and sent to: Open/Bit by Bit, 7 Victoria Rd., Brighton. Ta.

### BRIGHTON'SNOOZE

BRIGHTON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE are organizing an exhibition which will enable people to suggest what they would like to be done to improve or preserve the Brighton area. Ideas can be in the form of posters, pictures, models, plans, cartoons, essays, etc.

Enquiries and suggestions to Martin Large, Brighton Environmental Exhibition, 39a Chichester Place, Brighton, by 26th April. Handouts in Public Library with more details

INFINITY FOODS MEETING. Anyone interested in the role and development of this shop should go to Friends Meeting House, Ship St., on Wed. April 11th at 7.30pm.

Stephen Leonard of Pevensey, by his own efforts, has persuaded the Council to approve the building of a SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT instead of extending the shit pipe to Langney. These things happen if you push hard enough.

The WISHING WELL in Churchill Square is creating a storm of apathy and getting bunged up with fag packets.

There is an estimated 36 MILLION PLASTIC BOTTLES floating in the North Pacific.

"DOWN AMONG THE DOSSERS" by Robin Page is newly published and includes bits on Brighton 'tramps and hippies'. According to the Evening Anus, Page (a civil servant), disguised himself as a dropout and shared their lifestyle for a short time. He urges "tougher measures against the dropout" - watch it - the next character who stops you for a couple of bob may just be a dressed down pen pusher.

## Brighton Free School

A small group of interested parents, teachers and others began regular meetings in April 1972. We intended to start the school in the following September. By June we had found a reliable full-time teacher and by July had but possible premises.

In September we started, amid last-minute doubts and uncertainties, with three children and three full-time teachers. At half-time we had six children and by the end of the term, ten.

### AIMS AND IDEAS.

1) A broader concept of education to include all the processes by which we grow, not just sums or history, but the ways we learn to relate to each other as well and to control our own lives.

2) We want each child to learn at his own pace, doing what he chooses, provided that it does not interfere with anyone else. We also want to encourage the children to work with each other, not against each other, as is the case in most schools. We believe that a competitive system takes away a child's faith in his own abilities, that it can destroy his will to learn by making him feel inadequate, and that this feeling can be permanent.

3) We are against repression in all forms. While we believe that it is healthy for a child to give expression to his anger and aggression, we do feel that a child who is constantly angry or aggressive is unhappy and often emotionally deprived, and that he needs more understanding, not punishment.

4) We are for self-discipline and mutual co-operation and we try to involve the children where possible in the running of the school. We have meetings for the children in which they and the teachers can express their grievances and make suggestions about the school. Most of the school rules have arisen directly out of issues raised at the meetings. Hence children are learning that rules are not abstract ideas made up by other people but arise specifically from their own behaviour and their own need to get on with other people.

5) We want to encourage a creative approach to everything. Schools have often substituted specific subjects, like music

or painting, for genuine creativity or inventiveness. Consequently, those children who cannot express themselves in specific ways prescribed by adults often feel inadequate or uncreative. We would like to encourage the children at the school to the source of creativity in themselves.

6) We feel the curiosity of the young child is often killed or blunted by the forced learning of information. That is to say, we think learning which is to be of any value only occurs when related to experience and curiosity. We believe in self-motivated learning but we do believe that literacy and numeracy are essential and we would not, where possible, let a child leave the school who did not have these skills.

7) We can provide a fair range of subjects for examination at 'O' and 'A' level but we do not try to pressure children into taking these examinations until they are ready. We are trying to encourage the children to have as many first-hand experiences as possible. We are building up a list of contacts in the town and around who will teach the children particular skills, or help them to enlarge their experiences of what it is to live and work in a large town.

8) We hope that the children of the Free School will grow to make decisions for themselves, to take control of their own lives and to be able to resist some of the subtler pressures on them to see education as a process which ends on the day they leave school.

#### THE CHILDREN.

At the time of writing we have ten children aged from 5 to 14. There are six boys and four girls. All the children have previously been to state schools. Three had been truanting for long periods of time. One came to us as an alternative to being put into local authority care. One had been to a special school. All the other children had been unhappy, for different reasons, in their previous schools. Where they were often angry and aggressive on returning from these schools they are now more sociable, more co-operative and generally happier and free from anxiety.

#### TEACHERS.

There are three qualified full-time teachers who work four days a week each, and about ten part-time teachers. Some have teaching qualifications, others degrees in arts, sciences, etc.

#### Free School Exhibition

At the children's library in Brighton Central Library there is an exhibition showing some of the activities that All the teachers are unpaid (except for travelling expenses) and exist on other part-time jobs, savings or husband's earnings. The relationship between the teachers and children is basically one of friendly co-operation and we always welcome regular part-time or full-time teachers, either with specific skills or a general interest in children.

#### PREMISES.

This has been our major problem and still is. We have tried all the ways we can think of to get any premises, however old, battered and disused. So far we have not been able to, owing largely to the inflated prices of property in Brighton. We are now in two rooms rented from the Liberal Jewish Synagogue at 26 Farm Road, Hove. But due to the insuperable difficulties (which we foresaw) of having a Free School in this situation, with the attendant noise and disruption (for example, with no access to outside space the children are continually overflowing into the corridors and even the street) our lease has now expired, and we are looking for new premises after Easter. We desperately need premises with some outside space. Hence we are trying to lease short-life property in the town, which we could renovate with the help of volunteers.

#### THE FREE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY.

Though the children come from different parts of the town, they and the parents are beginning to feel part of an otherwise nebulous community. If the free school can continue to expand as we want, continuing to involve teachers, parents and children fully in the life of the school and the community then it will help to break down the barriers between school and the 'life' outside it. If we can get the kind of premises we need (with ample outside space) then we hope we can act as a catalyst to other kinds of community action.

#### WILL THE CHILDREN LEARN ANYTHING?

We believe that in the right environment a child will want to learn. If he has come from a school where he has been made to feel inadequate in e.g. reading, he may well react by not wanting to read for some time. But eventually in the right environment he will want to, especially when at the same time he is able to feel he is good at doing other things. This may give him the extra confidence he needs.



Sometimes I saw the moon shine down her face reflected  
the back of all her dreams a laughing stream

But workmen came in hire of order built a wall and walled  
her into channels that her great grand dame scored out  
between adventures

Between the lines her thoughts flew back to me  
and what we were behind the moon and dreams

And am I hard and wholesome straight as a lance and substance?

you know too I am stuff and nuisance jester poor and putty  
weeping lonesome spine less but the voice behind inside  
that says I am toooooo.....

I am too your kiss caressed

And are you soft and lithesome distaff? soft sweet child  
tumble-spill wedded to your life line lynx the past and  
future play and dreams and feeling just like you and me

I don't know where your fears should lie

I dare not feel sure enough to urge you to your madness  
but waters rise where love is cast  
and don't know where to run

Norman Allan

# Paper Recycling

Yes, folks, it's that old ecology bit again. You may have read it all before but it is important.

First a few facts:-

- (1) New paper is usually made from coniferous trees such as the spruce;
- (2) 500,000 spruce trees are cut down every year for paper manufacture (not to mention the other types);
- (3) Each tree takes 100 years or more to mature;
- (4) Each tree yields approximately one ton of paper;
- (5) 117 million tons of paper are produced in the world every year;
- (6) Waste paper is recycled but not to the extent that it ought to be (economic considerations, etc., etc.). It is generally made into only lower grades of paper.

The main point arising from the above verbiage is very simple - we're gonna run out of trees - soon -  
**UNLESS:** Manufacturers can be discouraged from using too much paper (among other things) in packaging.  
**UNLESS:** Different raw materials can be developed to provide a viable alternative to wood pulp.  
**UNLESS:** Paper recycling can be organised on a national and international scale.

&af@l% (?)

**MEANWHILE:** Here are a few things you can do to help stop this appalling waste of resources:-

- (1) Avoid buying overwrapped goods (20% of the household budget goes on paying for packaging).
- (2) If you must buy tissue bog rolls, kitchen towels, etc. buy white; coloured dyes pollute water.
- (3) Refuse extra paper bags in supermarkets and the like. Woolworths and W.H.Smith are major offenders in this area. "It's to prove you've paid for it" they say. Tell them a receipt is sufficient. Explain that each bag was once a living, growing twig. Or simply say "No thanks, I'll eat it now", whatever the item is. Create confusion and beat a bagless retreat.
- (4) Buy as much as possible from small greengrocers etc., and take your own paper bags for necessary wrapping. Re-use them as often as possible.

# On the 8.40

I could have asked  
 her name,  
 her destination -  
 why she travelled so far  
 on such a cold night;

I might have made her laugh  
 or told a Canterbury tale,

I caught her eye,  
 she turned away -  
 strange  
 this not speaking  
 on trains.

Later she smiled,  
 looked my way,  
 took out writing materials,  
 put pen to paper  
 and wrote a poem about me.

Brian Moses,  
 E.C.E.

(5) Save and re-use envelopes. Window envelopes can be used very many times.

(6) Try to get your waste paper and other re-usable items to an organisation that will recycle them (see below).

((0))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))

Of course, the problem is far wider than just paper wastage. Metals are wasted in vast quantities and waste plastics are a major pollutant.

£20 million is spent annually on rubbish clearance in the U.K.

But do not despair - things are beginning to happen.

Bitman 5 has an article on WHOLE EARTH ENTERPRISES, 44 Earls Court Road, London W8 6EJ, whose main concerns are recycling and organic farming and gardening. This is a decentralised group and the London address is only a clearing house for correspondence.

ECO ACTION, an offshoot of this, is a group into recycling almost anything. Anyone can set up a branch of ECO ACTION; Whole Earth Enterprises will give you all the gen. to help you make a start.

Whole Earth Enterprises are also starting a RECYCLING INFORMATION CENTRE for use by ecologists, authorities, industries and ordinary individuals.

Bitman 5 has a fuller account of all these goings on.

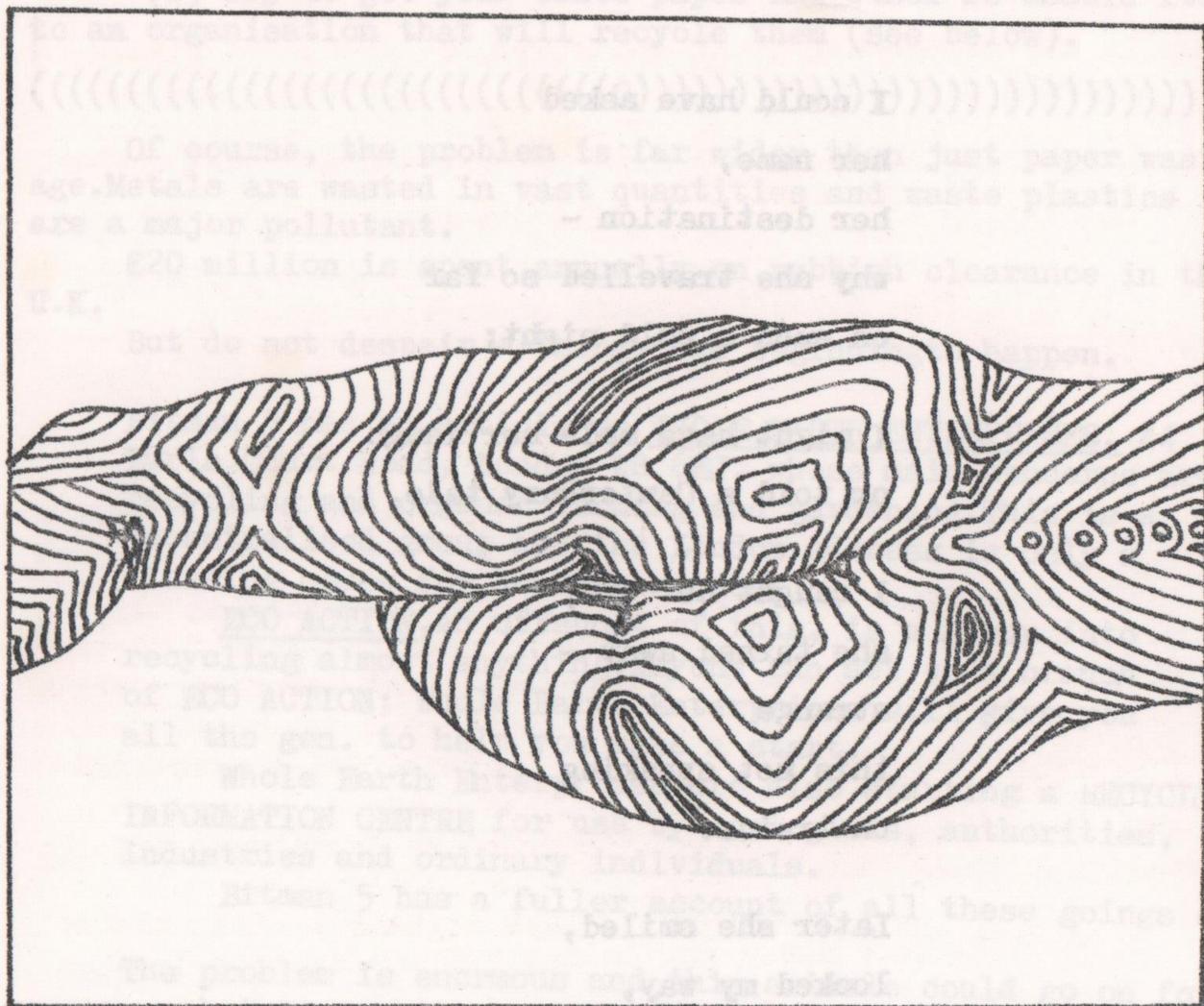
The problem is enormous and this article could go on for pages....but I'm wasting paper.

A final word from RIB free newsheet:-

"If you get lumbered with overwrapped goods in a supermarket unwrap them and leave the packages at the checkout point. If the manager complains that you are being a nuisance tell him that supplies of tin have 15 years to run, iron 93 years, aluminium 31 years, petroleum (from which plastics are made) 20 years and with policies like his which maximise wastage, he is being a bit of a nuisance himself."

N.B. Infinity Foods and Ananda can use any paper bags you do not want. Open collect silver foil, fag coupons and trading stamps.

Ed.



Norman Allan

## CHILLING TALES

Every paranoid freak and SF writer has contemplated the possibility of the polarisation of our society - the few versus the many. Well now, right out of a straight scientific mag (New Scientist 10 Aug '72. Vol 55, no. 808) comes this tale to make you break out into a cold sweat, and a bad case of the horrors!

Under the title of "The Robot Airforce is about to take off", the following quotations were lifted for your edification.

"A fancy model aeroplane flown by a pilot on the ground outmanoeuvred and 'shot down' the best US fighter plane. This aircraft was no toy; rather, it is the most spectacular success in a deadly earnest project to reduce the cost - in money and men - of modern air warfare."

That's just to whet your appetite; now read on... These "model" aeroplanes are known as remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs). "The Defense Department will ballyhoo RPVs to the public as a means of saving American lives, but its primary concern is for a cheaper, more efficient, weapons system. Much of today's high fighter costs - almost £1.6 million for the F4 Phantom - is spent on increasing the probability that the human crew returns alive!"

"The Pentagon envisions an RPV fighter costing about £100,000, armed with rockets, missiles, and even a laser ray gun."

"The remotely piloted fighters not only will cost less than, but also will outmanoeuvre, their manned counterparts. The small, lightweight RPVs will be designed for 12g (g = force of gravity), nearly double the force an experienced fighter pilot can tolerate for only brief periods of time, and will have a turning rate twice that of a manned aircraft. Even more startling are the Pentagon analyses which show that a remotely piloted fighter could turn and fly

down the tail of an opposing fighter in only 20 seconds after a head-on encounter, a manoeuvre that would take as much as 2 minutes for the £6 million F-15, the next generation fighter currently in development."

"According to Air Force magazine, the programme also includes techniques for making attacking bombers 'invisible' in an optical as well as electronic sense." That's quite something, eh kids; apparently it's done by absorbing all energy directed at it, from whatever source, either the sun or radar.

The Pentagon hopes RPVs will "basically change the nation's weapons system design and acquisition philosophy."

And at this juncture, enter the driving force of the programme for RPVs and similar level machines. Yes, your friend and mine, science's rapist - Big Business! The US Air Force candidly admits "the desire to return to mass production, the traditional point of US industry, is one of the driving forces behind the RPV program" !

This is because the RPVs are dirt cheap compared with traditional aircraft, so large numbers could be produced, hence keeping the war-biased economy of the US ticking over.

"Later, pilots will be put back in the planes, but the pilots will be computers, programmed to recognize a target and destroy it. This totally automated, totally dehumanized warfare will eventually result from the Pentagon-funded research in 'artificial intelligence'- the technology of robots."

"As governments pour more and more money into the development of remotely-controlled weapons, war will increasingly become a contest between machines - which do not bleed, die, get addicted to drugs, shoot their officers or refuse to fight."

In effect, what this new branch of technology will do is make war cheaper to wage, and with more profits at the end.

These are just a few thoughts on what's going on at the moment. All the paragraphs enclosed by inverted commas

are just as published; they are not out of context but re-present the main points of the article.

And to round it all off, "Taking the pilots out of the bombers will remove a serious obstacle to the Nixon administration's avowed intention to maintain American airpower in South East Asia. If the manned air war lasts until 1974, the un-manned air war may continue indefinitely"!!!

Think on that...

Dick Ormerod

## SADLER'S WELLS OPERA— ON TOUR

Ever since 1959, when the Arts Council asked Sadler's Wells Opera to take on the prime responsibility for touring opera in the United Kingdom, touring has formed a major part of the Company's activities; this tour represents the present policy of visiting the regions each spring, with the London company splitting into two for the purpose, and presenting twenty weeks of opera in fifteen of the country's major centres of population.

This doesn't cover Brighton, however, so all you opera freaks will have to truck along to Eastbourne, as that's where the nearest production is. They're well worth seeing, and reputedly the best in the country (over 125,000 people saw them on tour last season!). Anyway, the dates and performances are given below:

### EASTBOURNE: CONGRESS THEATRE.

Mon April 16	La Traviata
Tue April 17	Die Fledermaus
Wed April 18	La Bohème
Thu April 19	Così fan tutte
Fri April 20	La Traviata
Sat April 21	Die Fledermaus

