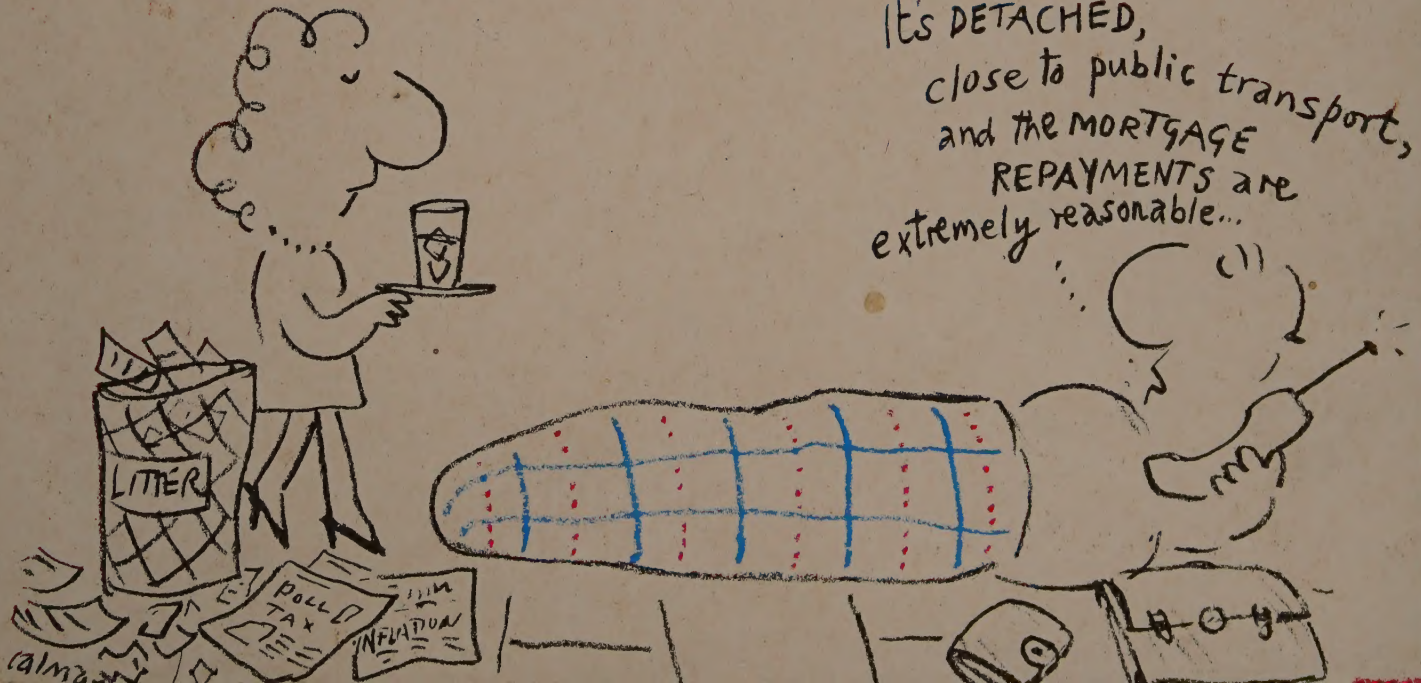


Merrie England plc. calman



It's DETACHED,
close to public transport,
and the MORTGAGE
REPAYMENTS are
extremely reasonable...

calman

MERRY ENGLAND plc

By the same author

My God

But Its My Turn To Leave You

How About A Little Quarrel Before Bed?

Its Only You That's Incompatible

Calman At The Movies

Merrie England plc
calman

A Mandarin Paperback

MERRIE ENGLAND PLC

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Introduction

We live in exciting times. Berlin knocked its wall down, Eastern Europe discovered Democracy and Merrie England plc. registered for Poll Tax. Some nights I can hardly restrain myself, so great is my need to throw my pencil at the blank sheet of paper. I drive to *The Times* with my head full of pungent words and images about the crazy world we live in.

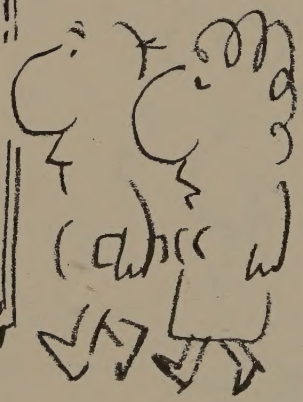
Then I slowly wend my way through the car park, tripping over some new built debris, saunter by the Back Bench, nodding graciously to the sub editors and get to my desk. The Art Director says hello, Peter Brookes always says, 'And what time do you call this?' and I begin the creative process.

This consists of putting off for as long as possible actually putting any thoughts on paper. I read various papers. I talk to the Deputy Editor about possible topics. I open any letters from readers – and remind myself to answer both of them one day, when I'm not so harrassed. At last I approach the blank sheet of paper. I do my cartoon. I show it to my superiors – who either like it or seem to have no sense of humour at all.

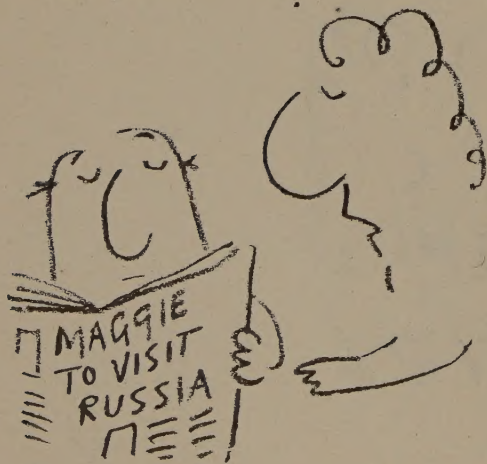
I go home – avoiding the desire to go back and do something different. And then the next morning I look at the printed cartoon and wish they hadn't placed it so close to the huge photograph of Mrs Thatcher.

Sounds like
they're selling
SHARES
in it..

NEW!!
THE 90's!!
WITH
ADDED
HOPE &
OPTIMISM!
Democracy
FOR
EVERYONE!!



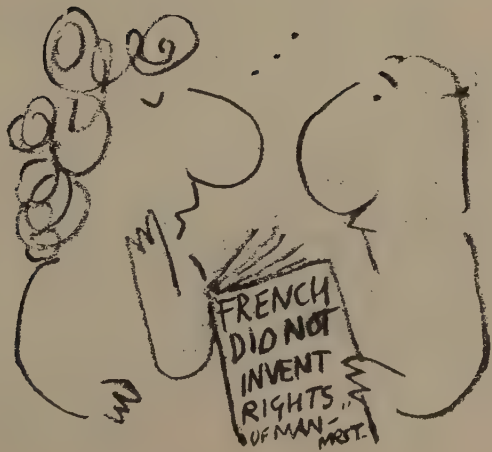
We must like
GORBY,
mustn't we?



Does the
other 'we'
know about
this?



I hear the FRENCH
are going to re-open
the BASTILLE just for
MRS T. ...



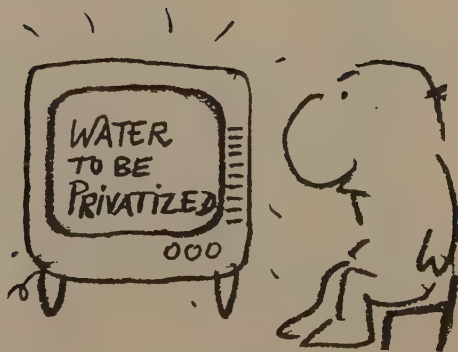
At least she
hasn't said she
wants to become
President ..



I expect she told
them to PRIVATIZE
it...

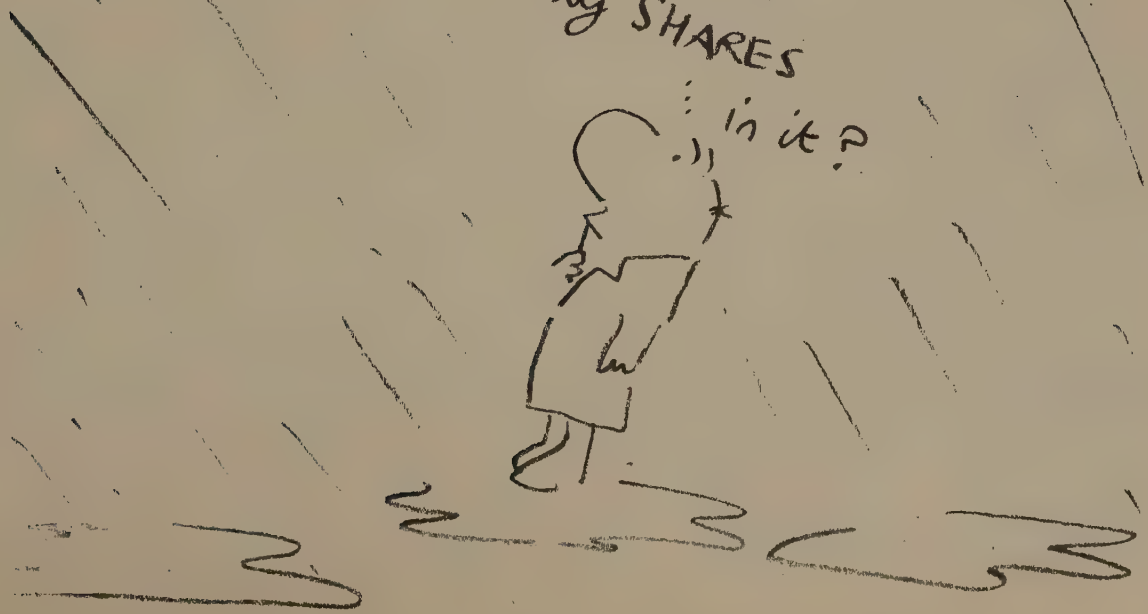


To be followed by
the MOON,
the STARS
and the
MILKY WAY...



Is this FREE
or do I have to
buy SHARES

... in it?



I suppose we'll
have to call this
sneau...

FRENCH
BUY
WATER

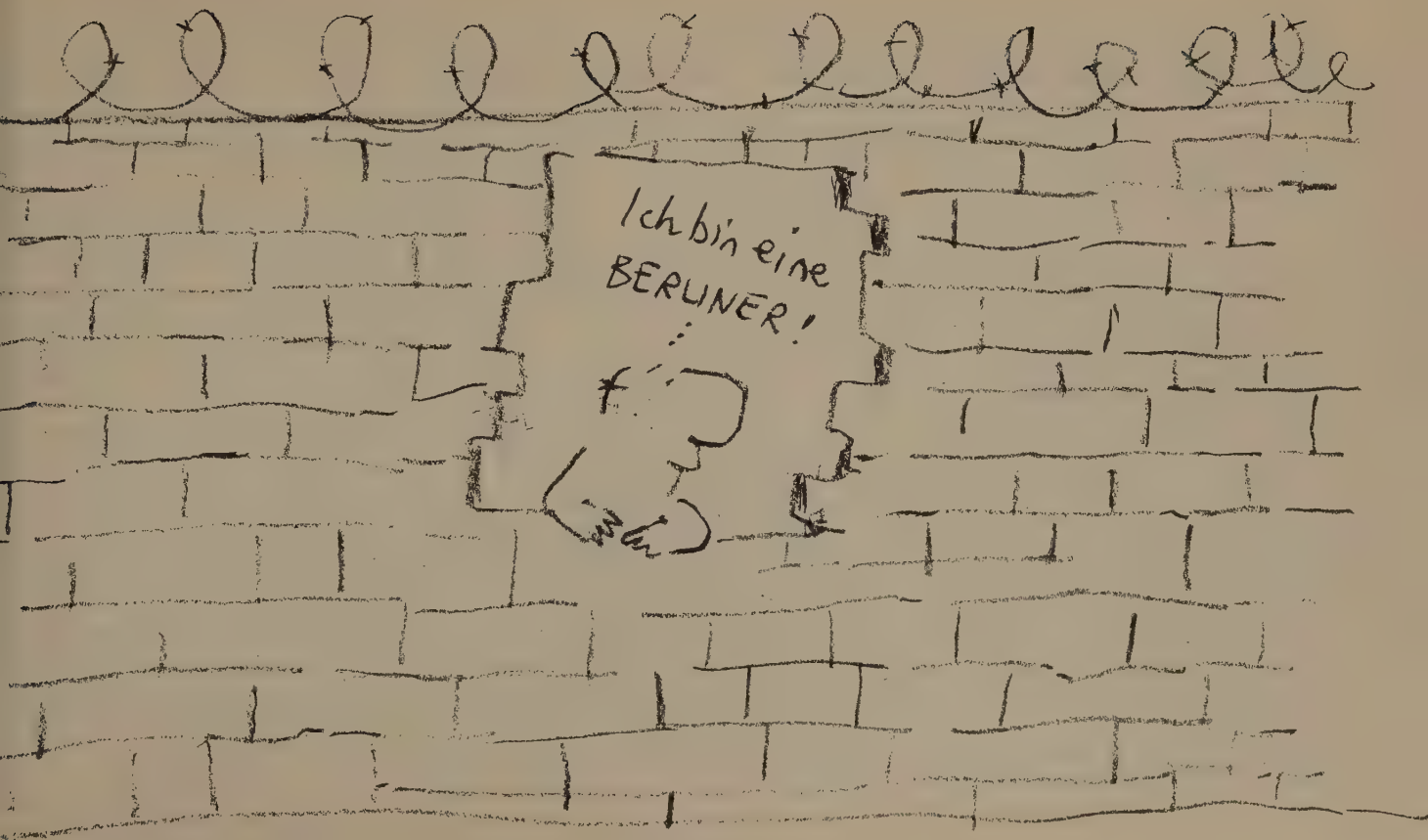




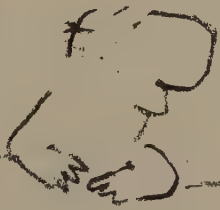


I don't know much
about ART- but
I know what
the QUEEN MOTHER
should
look like...



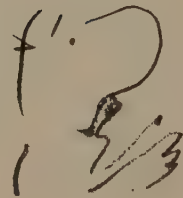


Ich bin eine
BERLINER!

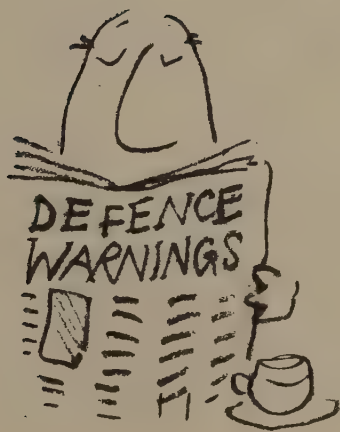




Run for
your lives-
we're being
liberated.



Don't they know
there's a PEACE
on?



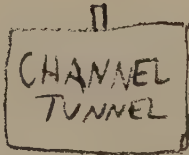
Are you saying
these STONES were
knocked down
BEFORE you
came here?



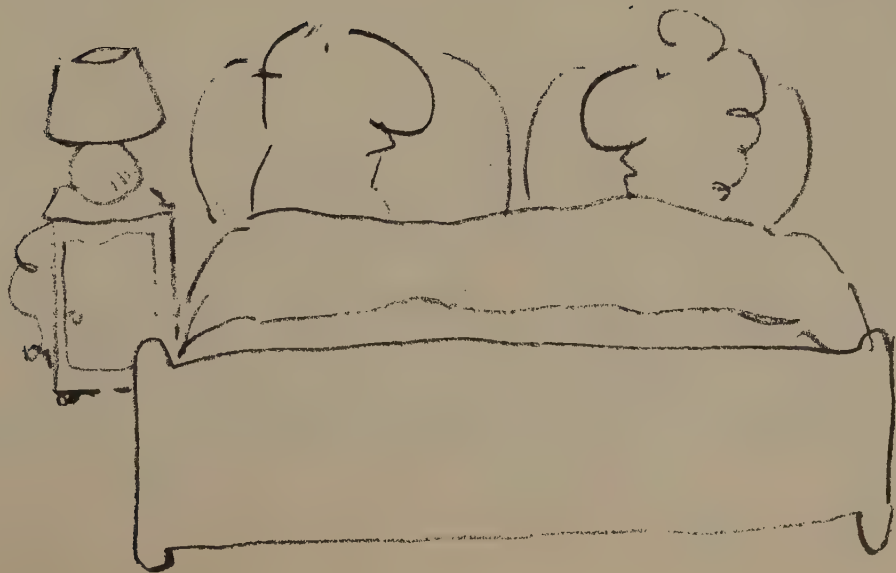
There goes your LAST EXCUSE
for putting it off...



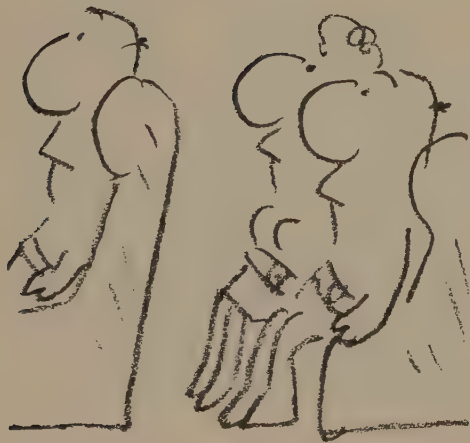
We seem to have
struck a large
shortage
of
MONEY...



When you turn off
the heating - is that
GREENNESS or
MEANNESS?



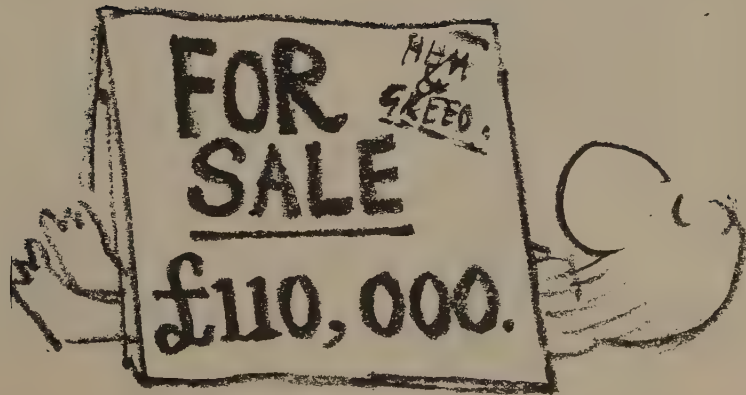
☰ This is the CAPTAIN -
has anyone got
any STICKY TAPE?



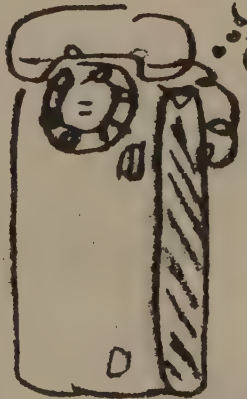
☰ We are approaching
London Heathrow -
please unbutton
your wallets...



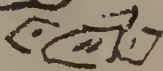
Lge. board -
ideal for
conversion to
Des. Res...



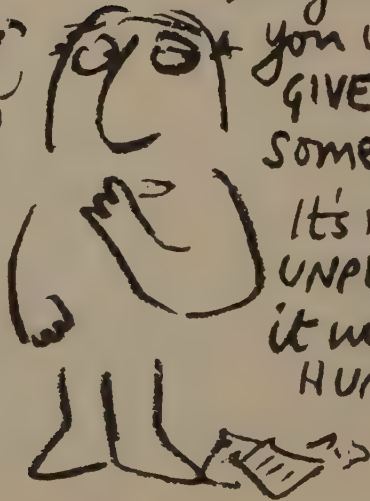
Now RELAX -
I'm NOT going VANDALIZE you -
all I want is to
TALK..



They all
say
that!



Nothing to be
NERVOUS about -
∴ I'll just PICK
you up -
GIVE you
some money..
It's not
UNPLEASANT..
it won't
HURT...



HELLO-hello!!
HELLO!

IT'S DEAD-

say something -
even if it's
only

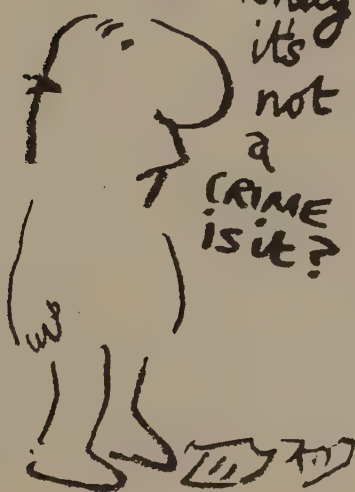
999
calls'



DAMN!

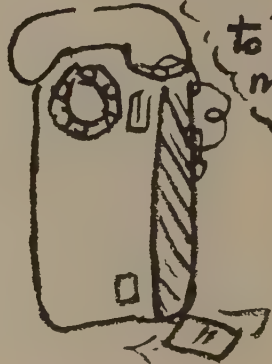
I only wanted to
TALK - just felt
a BIT lonely -
it's not
a

CRIME
IS IT?

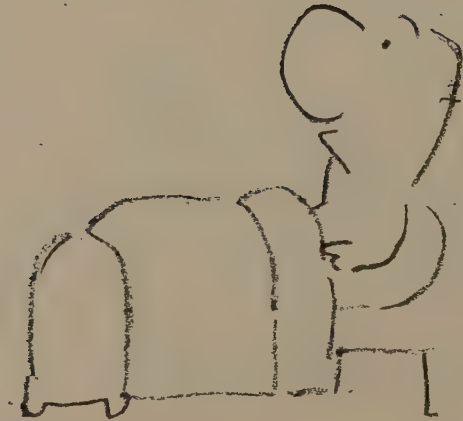


{ CHEEK! They're
all the SAME -
Let one do it
and they'll
all be
WANTING

to USE
me...



In the Spirit of
MORTGAGES
yet to come.

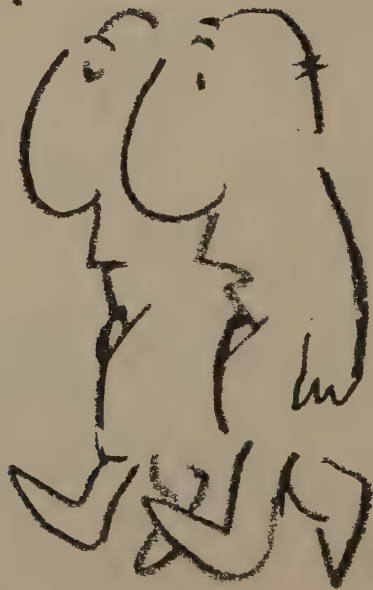


Can't you get
Someone
to LIBEL you?



Isn't that
carrying literary
criticism a
bit far?

AYATOLLAH
SAYS:
"KILL
RUSHDIE"



I must do better,
I must do better,
I must do
better,
I must
do...



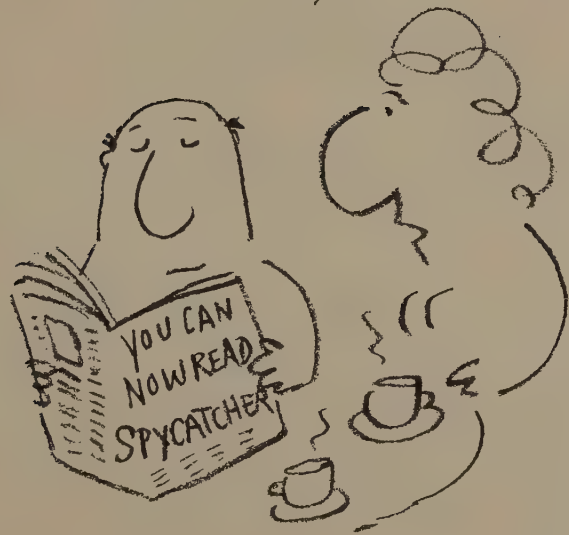
If it would help
your cause, Sir-
I'd be happy
to go on strike..



Do we have to do
6% more
homework now?



Do I have to?



England is winning
by 3 expletives..



One more day
and we could
have started
WORLD WAR 3...



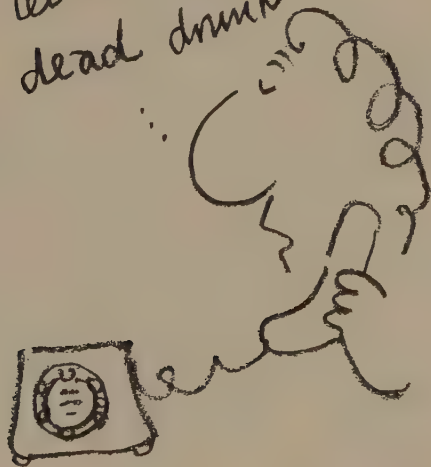
Shall we go to
the one that used to be
a WATNEYS or the
one that used
to be a BASS?



Pint of
STOCKBROKER'S
RUIN?

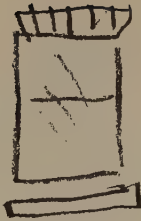


I don't need
technology to
tell me you're
dead drunk...

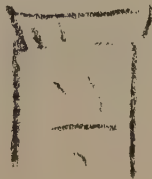
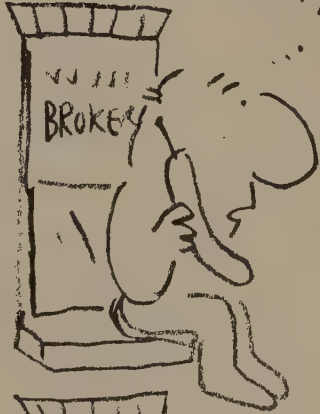


Are you using
the LEFT or the RIGHT
side of your
brain?





Can I come
back in now?



There's always
the LISTENING
DAD ...
⋮

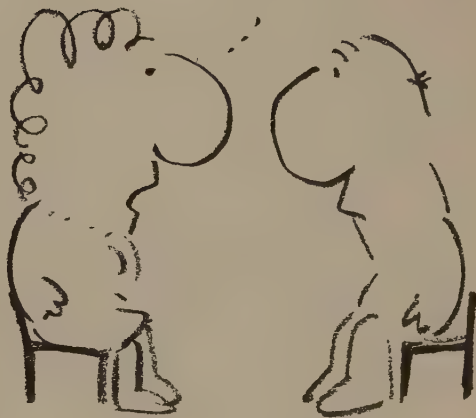
BANKS
WON'T
LEND
TO
STUDENTS



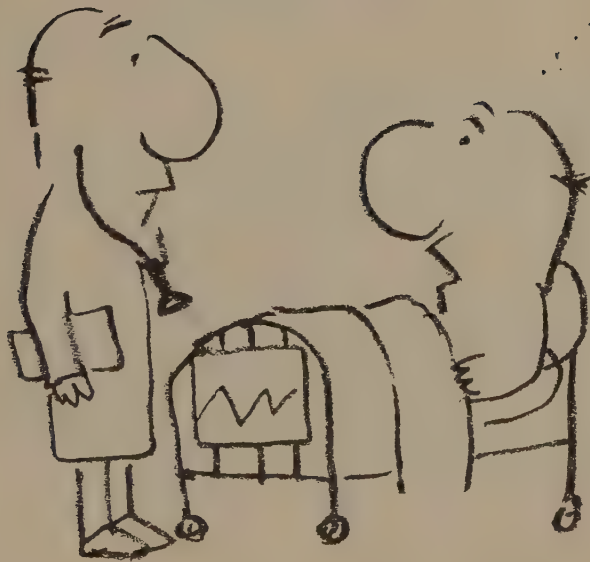
Lets' SAVE up
for a HEADACHE...



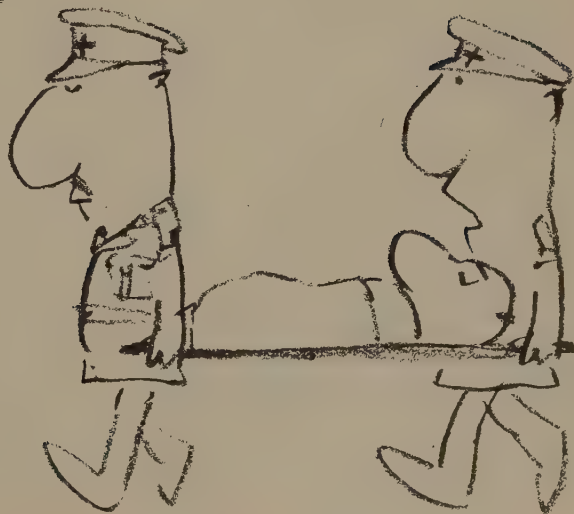
I said 'how about
a nice EYE test
for Christmas?'



If I don't like this
illness - can
I **PAY** for a
different one?



If we pretend
he's a letter,
we might get
more money...



Can I have
the illness
you advertised
on TV?



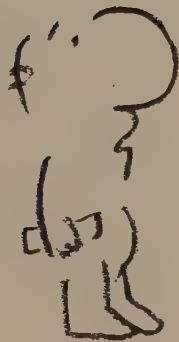
Is the BABY
COMING OUT
in sympathy?



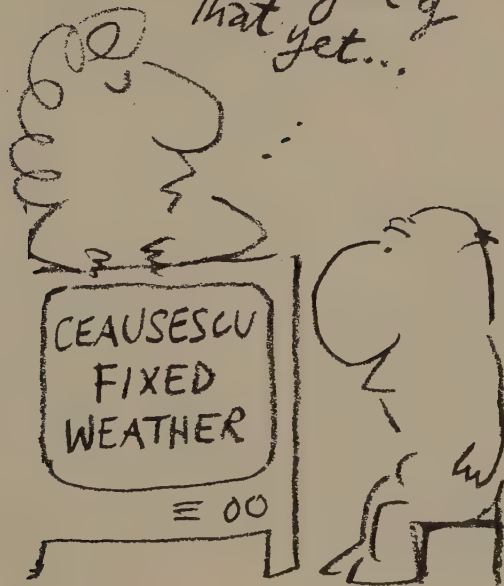
It's a rare example
of a vanished
civilization...



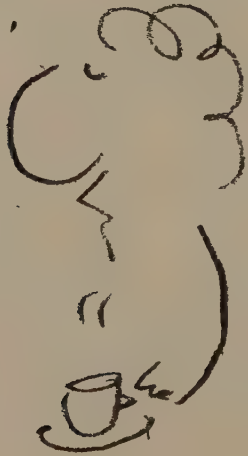
Excuse me -
Which way to the
CARNIVAL?



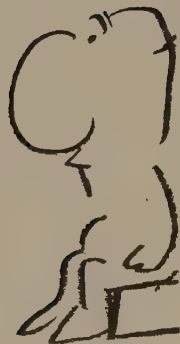
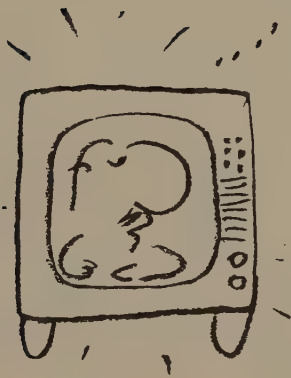
Even Maggie
hasn't thought of
that yet...

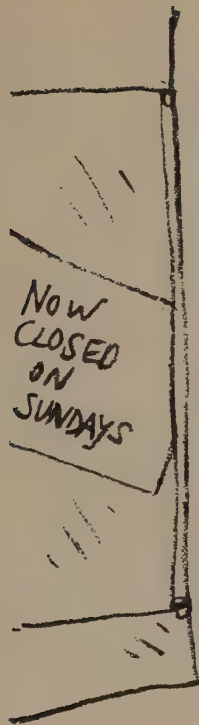


I can cope with
going everywhere
via PARIS...

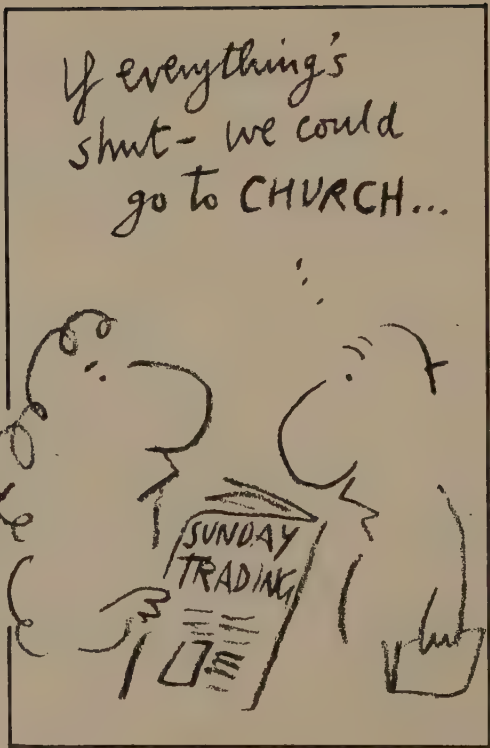
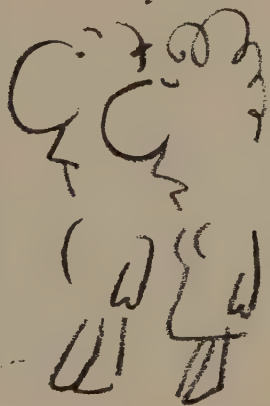


And if you haven't
PAID your LICENCE FEE -
please SWITCH
OFF!



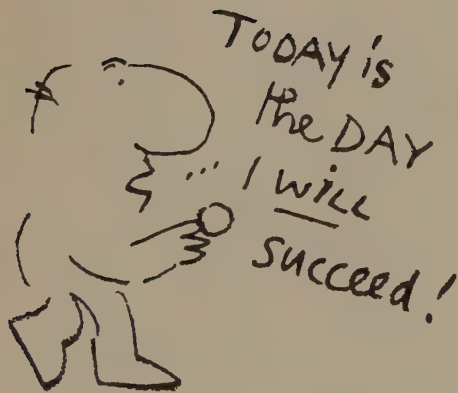


I shall now
have to spend
twice as much
on Saturdays..

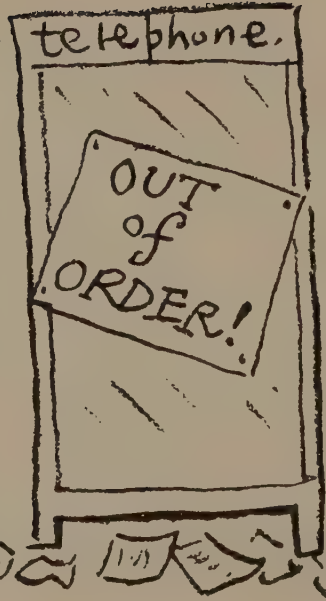


First the BIRTH,
now worrying about the NAME-
I'm getting less SLEEP than
the FATHER...





GRR!



I must buy
Some
CARRIER
PIGEONS..



SORRY-
999 CALLS
ONLY!



NO!

SORRY-
TOUGH
TITTY!!
OUT OF SERVICE.

SLAVE
GIRL

FUN
GAMES

SHIP
200

TV ETC

NO!



KINK
!!!

LARGE
CHEST

FRENCH
DRESSING

PUR
TIME

Excuse me-
do you have
a PAY PHONE?

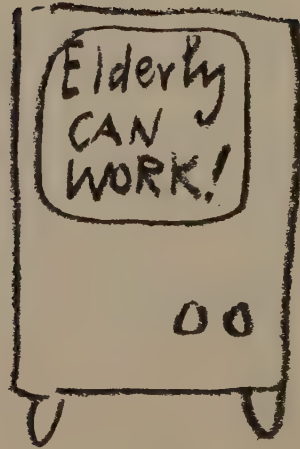


We did have one-
but everyone kept
using it - so we
took it
out...

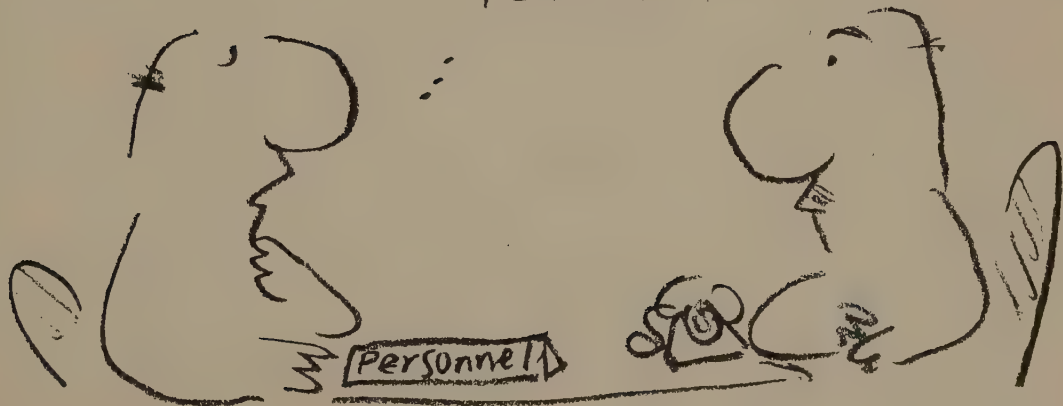
RECEPTION



We may NOT
want to!

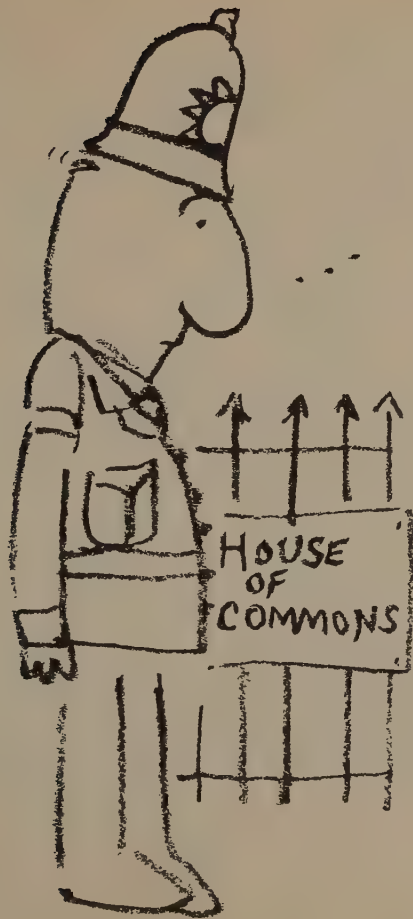


I'd like a COMPANY CAR -
so long as it can
run on UNLEADED
PETROL...



Would Sir like to
live dangerously
and try the
BRIE?

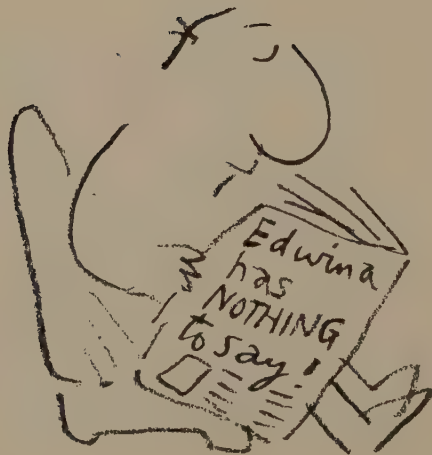


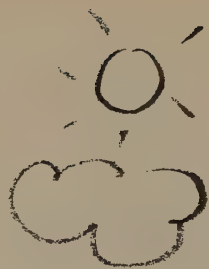


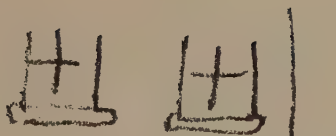
Another expert
witness?



That's not
like her...







& SON.

Mummy-
What is

CASH?



CREDIT
CARDS
Versus
CASH

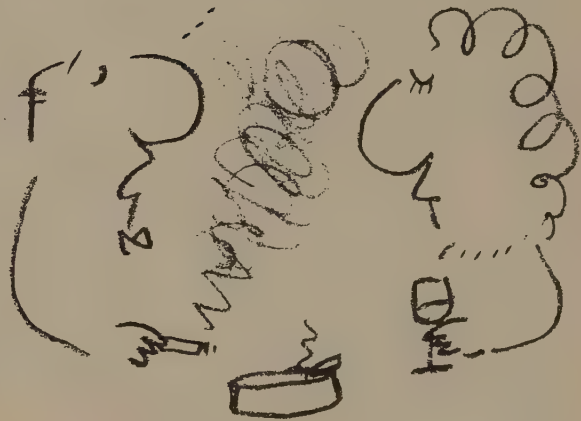


Do you want
your son
to study
DRIBBLING?



It's a (COUGH) great...
(COUGH) BUDGET..

(COUGH..COUGH..)



How are the
old BOWEL
MOVEMENTS
today?

Terific - I've just found this
wonderful lift in our
FLATS and it's BLISS-
there's nothing to
beat FITTED CARPET
for helping the
OLD
COLON...



I used to go out
but the streets are NOW
so full of RUBBISH and

LITTER-

I can't
FACE it!

I KNOW- HUMANS are so
DISGUSTING- I feel
quite CONSTIPATED
looking at them..



It's us who should
STRIKE for better
conditions...

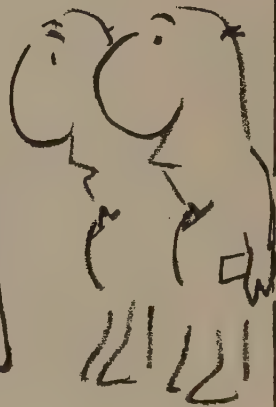




Ah - back to
NORMAL...

⋮

B.R.
REGRETS
CANCELLED
DELAYED
LOST, ETC.



Wouldn't it be
cheaper to BUY
a train?





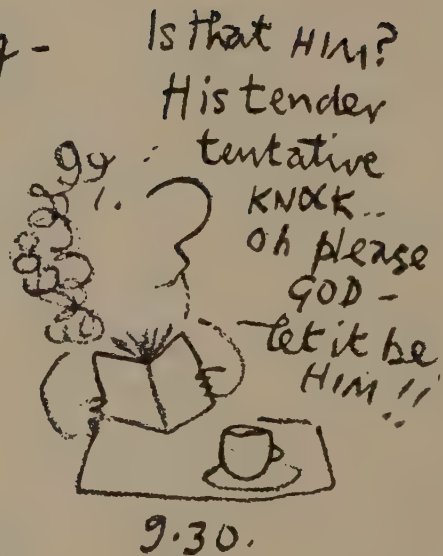
When I grow up
I want to be
POPE...



Write any worse
and you might
get into OXFORD...



WAITING
for that
SPECIAL PERSON.



I ought to WASH
my HAIR-
but I won't

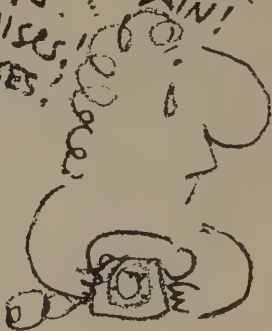
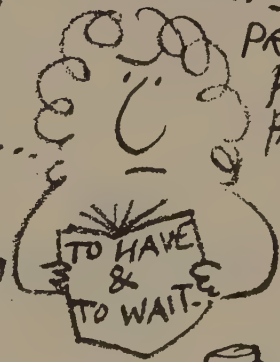
HEAR
the
door
bell

He seemed so KEEN...
so YOUNG... SO EAGER..

"I imagined his
FIRM BODY
in this
very ROOM.."

GOD! I HATE MEN!
LIARS!
CHEATS!!

PROMISES!
PROMISES!
PROMISES!
AGAIN!



NOON

4.30.

5.30.

it's reserved
for a MODERN
architect that
Prince Charles
likes...



You can't be much
of a fan - you're
SOBER!



He's the sort who
gives soccer
hooligans a bad
name...



TORY M.P.'s are
'REBELS' -
I'm just 'FED-UP'



Who was it said
the garden needed
a bit of
rain?



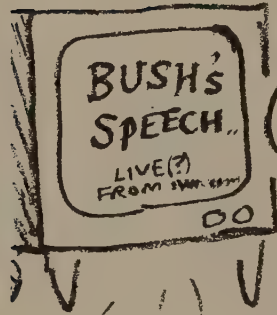
Only people
who UNDERSTAND it
will have
to PAY it ...



I wish I'd read it
now ...



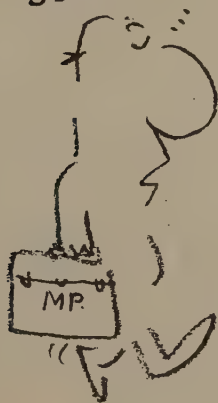
I never thought
I'd look back
with pleasure to
REAGAN'S
speeches...



HARRIS - it's the school
that can OPT OUT -
not the pupils!



What do
you think
of the
WHITE PAPER
on
SECRETS?



I'm NOT
allowed
to say...



I can't decide if
the clicking is
the POLICE, MI5,
or dear old
British
Telecom...



Why?



NEW
LOOK
FOR THE
LAW.

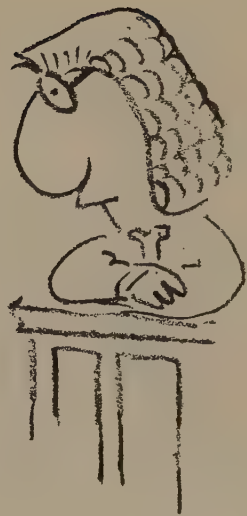
Psst -
want a
CUT-PRICE
trial?



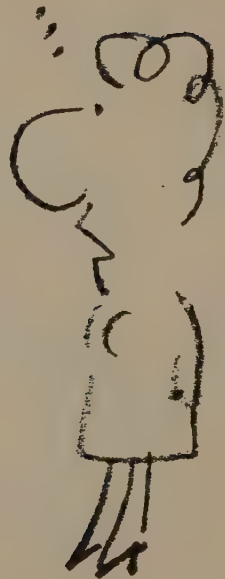
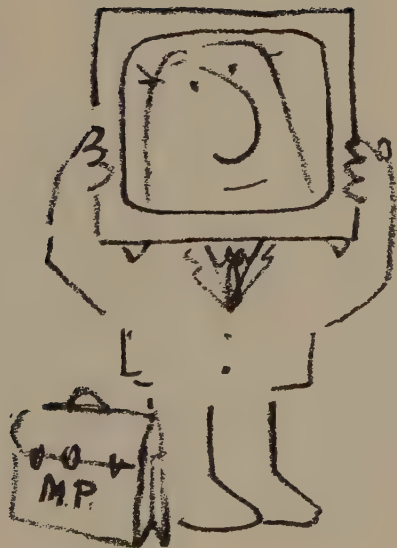
Tried any good TV
programmes
lately?



Before you sentence me,
your Honour -
I think I'm pregnant ...



Yes, dear-
it really suits
you..



I'd like to put
an ELECTRONIC TAG
on you next time
you go to the PUB...

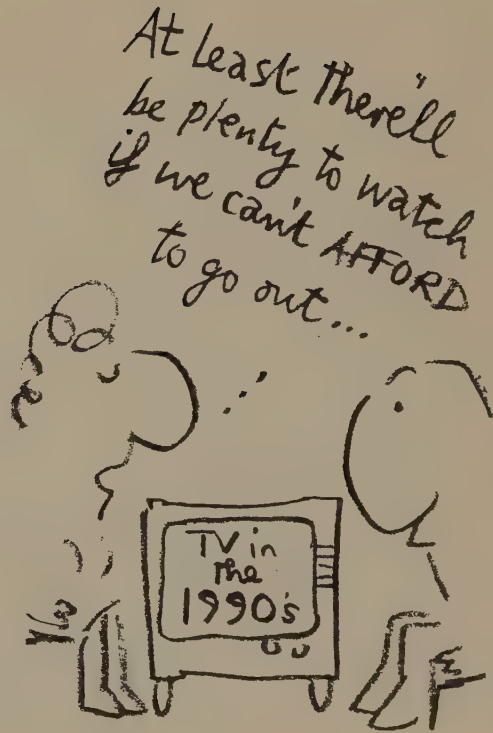
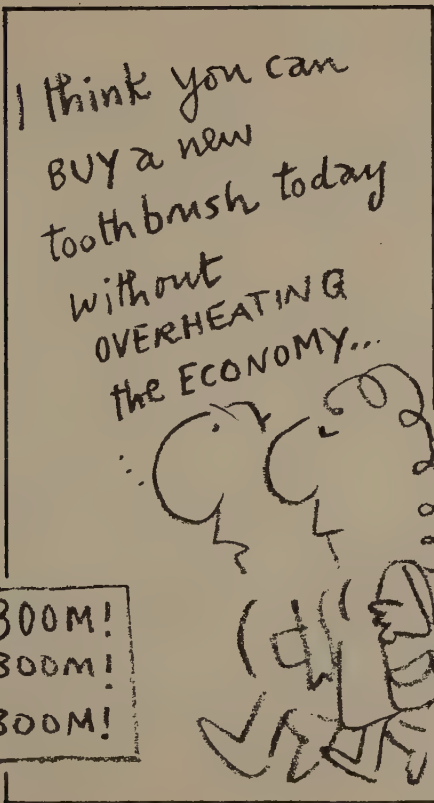


If I vote for you -
will you MARRY me?



If you got EQUAL
PAY - you could
support me...

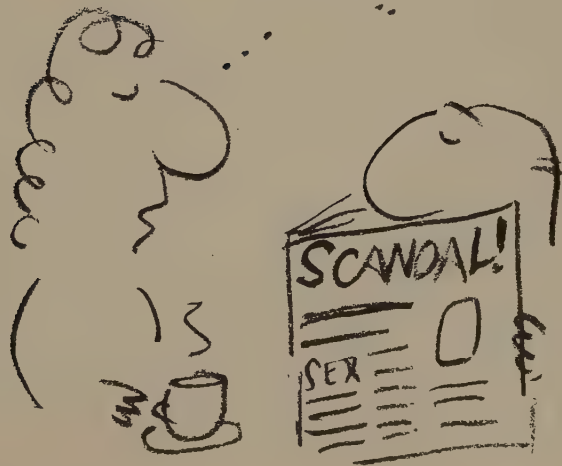




If you ask me,
it's MID-TERM
GREENS...



I blame this on
nostalgia for
the 60's..



Gift-wrapped
or in a
TISSUE OF LIES?





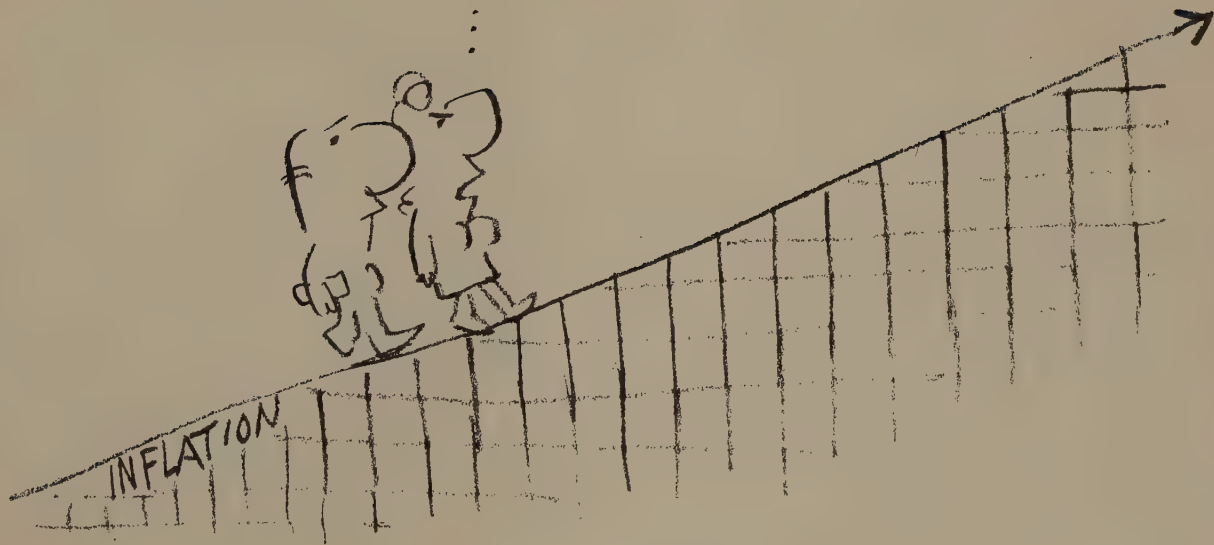
Can I have
an ESTIMATE,
Doctor?





It's very TIRING
being RIGHT
all the time..

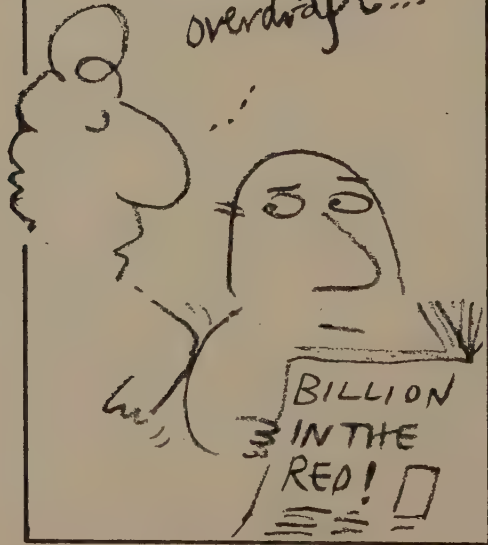
It's an awfully
long BLIP...



Sometimes I wish
I could RESIGN...



And you've been
panicking over
our £157
overdraft...

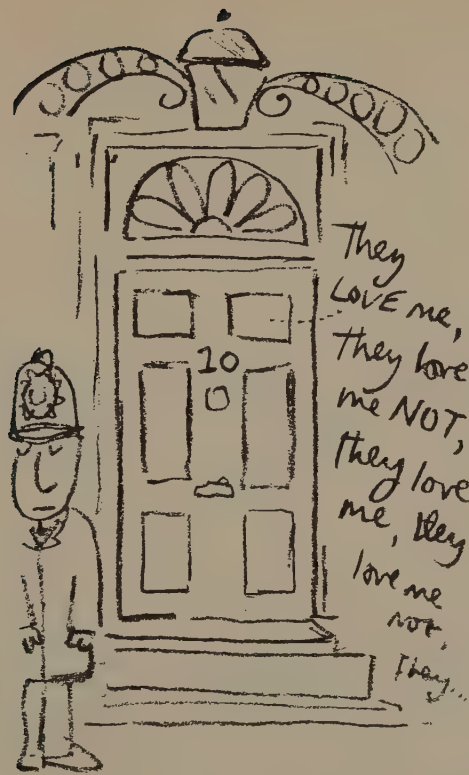


The government says
We're BETTER OFF-
pass it on...



Lets hope the PLANET
does as its' told..

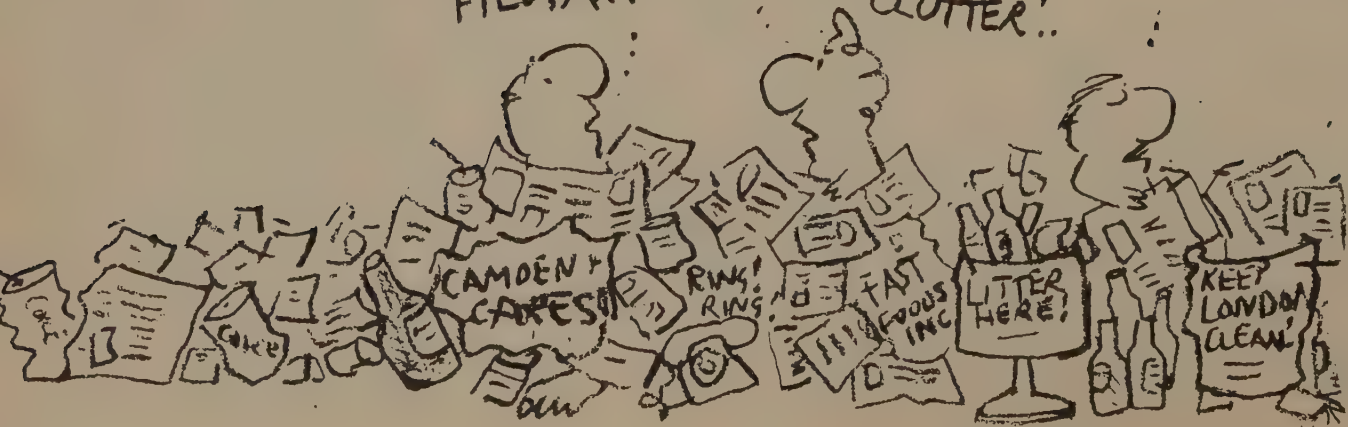




I'm writing a
piece for "TIME OUT"
on ALFRESCO
LIVING and
I wonder if...

Anyone
seen my
FILOFAX?

I think you
filed it under
'CLUTTER'..



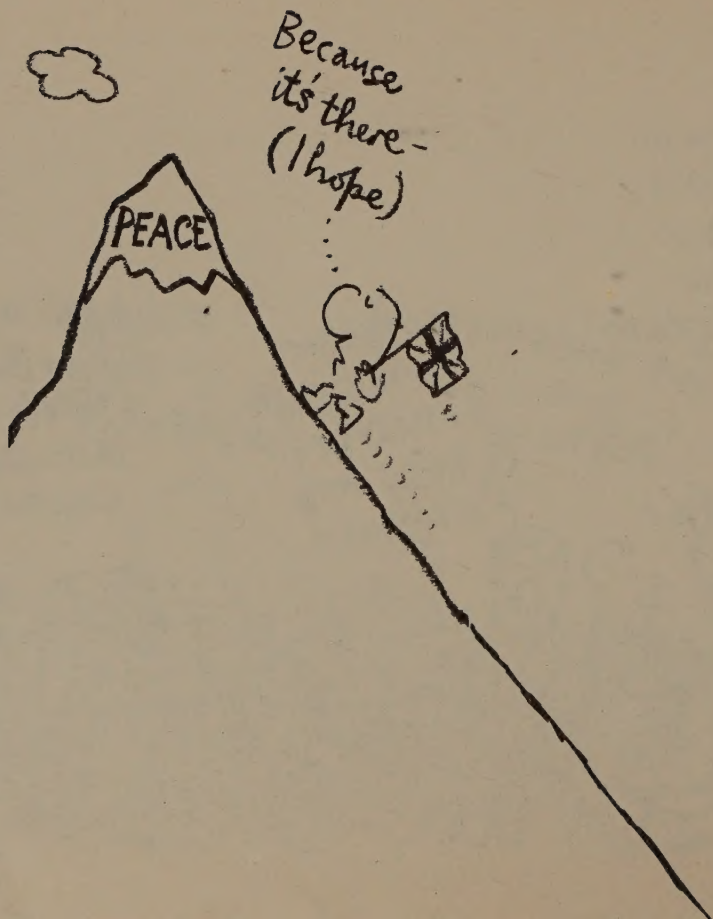
IS THAT
THE TIMES?

**** ORR!

No-1 prefer
THE TELEGRAPH
for SLEEPING on-
it helps my
INSOMNIA.

I've got a terrific deal
on this BOX - only £125
a week and that
includes AIR
CONDITIONING..





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