MPs told of damage to universities

As part of his efforts to draw wide attention to the damaging consequences of the Government's policy on overseas students' fees, the Vice-Chancellor wrote, on November 10, to the 14 local MPs who are members of the University Court and to other MPs having particular connections with this University.

Speaking of the Government's decision to remove from the universities' budget the alleged full economic costs associated with overseas students (11 per cent nationally and 16 per cent in our case), the Vice-Chancellor wrote:

"... This is a bad decision, a very bad and wrong decision, nationally as well as locally." ... "I am pro overseas students, for their epistemization of the openness of our great educational institutions, for the academic, social and cultural benefits that they bring to our own home students, for the massive contribution they make to the country's research, for the direct and indirect return that they bring us economically and in terms of influence and goodwill and, in certain cases, for the discharge they permit of our undoubted obligations to third world, particularly Commonwealth and ex-Commonwealth, countries." ... "The Government's present blunt weapon is far too draconian, unpredictable in its effect which may well, who knows?, be utterly devastating, and therefore downright unfair to students, including, I emphasize, home students, and universities alike." ... "I will not rehearse the arguments: Sir Alec Morrison, Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, has written to the Secretaries of State in the Department of Education & Science (on October 18) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (on October 29) and I should merely associate myself and this University wholeheartedly with his sentiments. But I do want you to understand, personally, the very real peril in which the universities of the UK now find themselves because of this action on overseas students, a peril that may not merely lead to the closure of units, departments and possibly whole universities but that endangers the very concept of a university. This is much too great a risk for far too little return."

The Vice-Chancellor's letter urges the establishment of a dialogue between Government and the universities, a dialogue that has not so far taken place either with the present Government or with its predecessors.

Responses to the Vice-Chancellor's letter are still coming in and have been encouraging: some ask for further information, most of them say that the matter will be drawn to the attention of the Secretary of State and a response is sought and one declares the intention of putting down a Parliamentary Question.

Some responses have asked that the matter be discussed at the meeting of the University Court on December 14; it will figure as an explicit agenda item.

EXHIBITION

"25 YEARS FROM BROWN TO BAKKE"

LIBRARY EXHIBITION ON BLACK AMERICAN HISTORY

produced by students in the School of English American Studies contextual course, Modern America: Black Americans.

IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 4 (approx.)

MEETING HOUSE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

OXFAM CAMBODIA APPEAL

This year - the International Year of the Child - we have been shocked to learn of one of the most horrifying tragedies in recent times. Two million people, many of them young children, have died in Kampuchea since 1975.

Many were exterminated in death camps, the rest died of starvation and disease.

Pictures of dying children on TV leave us feeling helpless before such appalling misery. But we can help to save lives, even at this late stage. OXFAM, already sending shipments of food, medical aid and clothes, has launched a joint appeal (Third World First are now making campus collections) for a massive programme of assistance - first target £1 million. Please give as generously as you can to this year's Meeting House Christmas Appeal. Donations, large or small, to Barbara Barber, Room 3, Meeting House (cheques should be made payable to the "University of Sussex").

Other things to do:

Support Hunger Lunches in the Meeting House every Friday at 12.30 pm, 4pm, and the Bring and Buy Stall at 12.30 pm on November 30.

Support the Carols by Candlelight service on December 9 at 8 pm and the Carol Sing-In on December 14 at 6.30 p.m. (Collections for the Appeal). Donate mince pies on December 7 for sale after Carols by Candlelight.
"Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat, 
Mince pies and Madeira and a silly paper hat."

The wines used in the production of Madeira were taken to the island from Crete by Prince Henry the Navigator in 1419. The island, which lies in the Atlantic from the coast of Morocco, is a port of call for west-bound shipping, so Madeira wine has developed a market in North America as well as in this country, where it seems to be coming back into fashion.

There are four main types of Madeira: Bual, Malmsey, Sercial and Verdelho. Malmsey is the most famous and has been imported into Britain since the late Middle Ages. The Duke of Clarence is supposed to have drowned in a butt of Malmsey, but I hope that it was of a cheaper kind than the really good Malmsey which is rather expensive nowadays.

Malmsey is the sweetest kind of Madeira, a dark amber in colour. Bual is also sweet but not so sweet as Malmsey, and it has a lighter colour. Verdelho is a fairly dry wine, but Sercial is really quite dry and both can be drunk on any occasion. All Madeira wines make excellent aperitifs.

It is as well to remember that the island of Madeira has an extinct volcano and the soil is enriched by the volcanic residues. The wines, therefore, get a bitter sweetness which is quite unique.

Madeira used to be extremely popular, although as I said, it is returning to fashion, and I remember, when I worked in restaurants, decanters of Madeira being more than commonplace.

People used to drink Madeira mid-morning during business calls, usually with a piece of cake. Sercial was served at dinner parties, after the port, often as a palate-cleanser.

I can only liken the decline in Madeira to the political system in Britain. People say there is no room for three strong political parties, and there seems to have been no room for three strong wines; port and sherry have taken precedence over Madeira.

Actually, Madeira does bridge a gap between port and sherry, but people forget that there are dry Madeiras as well as sweet and they tend not to drink it, thinking that all four varieties have the sweetness of Malmsey.

Madeira will live longer than any other wine and if the bottle is stopped properly, it should last forever. It improves in the bottle, in both flavour and bouquet, and hardly ever produces any sediment.

The Madeira trade is mostly British-owned; Cossart Gordon, Blandy Lea-cock and Rutherford and Miles are all long-established shippers whose wines are much respected.

Madeira is fortified in stages, some spirit being added, with a little gypsum, during the aging, more is added when fermentation is taking place and still more when the wine is in the cask, but after the lees (deposits of tartar) have been removed.

The spirit used is sugar cane spirit or rectified rum. Just before or after the last stage of fortification, the Madeira is clarified by the use of egg whites or ox blood (aphel Ed.) and the wine is then canned in pipes similar to but smaller than those used for port.

Madeira owes its characteristic caramel-like flavour to the estufado system. Newly made Madeira is put into hot chambers which reduces the harshness of the wine. The wine is kept at a temperature of 140°F. for 6 - 8 months (less for cheaper kinds) and this darkens the wine without impairing the flavour.

For some reason unknown to me, the Scandinavians are the largest buyers of Madeira, with Sweden, where they seem to have an absolute passion for it, taking 40% of the wine and Denmark taking 20%.

The Americans drink half a million gallons of Madeira a year and the Russians, well they've made an imitation Madeira, which rumour has it is rather good.

Madeira, preferably from a reputable shipper, is wonderful drunk with fruit mid-morning, mid-afternoon, or in the evening. Try Sercial with turtle soup.

John Smith
University Butler

NON-ACADEMIC VACANCIES

The Establishment Office has issued the following list of non-academic posts within the University which are to be filled. Job descriptions for all the posts listed are displayed on noticeboards. The list was compiled at November 20.

Assistant Accountant
Assistant Personnel Officer
Programmer
Clerk Typist
Secretaries

- (c) Education Area (1A) (Faculty)
- (c) Administration (1A) (Faculty)
- (c) Administration
- (a) Graduate School in Arts & Social Studies (1 or 2)
- (a) Graduate School in Arts & Social Studies (1 or 2)

- (l) School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences
  (1 or 2)
- (a) School of European Studies (1 or 2)
- (c) Estates Office (3)
- (c) Occupational Advisory Service (1A) (Faculty)
- (b) Library (part-time part-year - evenings &
  week-ends) (2 posts)
- (b) I.D.S.R. Library (2)
- (f) School of Biological Sciences (1 post 5, 1
  post 6)
- (j) MeV. Laboratory (3)
- (e) School Psychology Laboratory (3)
- (e) School of Engineering & Applied Sciences
- (j) School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences (4)
- (m) School of Molecular Sciences (4)
- (f) School of Biological Sciences (2B)
- (g) Estates
- (a) Education Area (part-time)
- (d) Refectory (full or part-time)
- (h) University Library (2 posts)
- (k) Coffee Bar (part-time evenings)
- (c) Sports Pavilion (part-time)
- (k) Refectory (part-time)
- (c) Central Stores

Information given after each post relates to the grade at which the vacancy will be filled. The code given between each post indicates the person to whom applications should be sent:

(a) Miss C.Pratt, Arts & Social Studies Office, Arts D.
(b) Librarian, I.D.S.
(c) Mr. C.R. Kelley, Establishment Office, Sussex House.
(d) Business Manager, Refectory.
(e) Laboratory Superintendent, School of Engineering & Applied Sciences.
(f) Laboratory Superintendent, School of Biological Sciences.
(g) Estates Manager, Estates Building.
(h) Librarian, Library.
(j) Laboratory Superintendent, School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences.
(k) Catering Manager, Refectory Building.
(l) Mr. N.D. Carr, Science Office, Sussex House.
(a) Laboratory Superintendent, School of Molecular Sciences.
INTERNATIONAL PAGE

The long vacation saw students of 14 different nationalities take part in language and literature courses organised by the University's Short Courses Programme Office.

In its first year, the SCP Office ran three main courses: a three-week literature and society course which particularly attracted American students; an English improvement course for overseas students, followed by a pre-university English and study methods course in September. Both these latter courses were run in conjunction with the University’s Language Centre.

Most of the participants lived in Park Village and involved themselves in a number of activities outside the strictly academic nature of their courses: a short courses newspaper, appropriately named "The Daily Rain"; two international cook-ins (one of the recipes is given on this page), where each student cooked a dish of his or her own country — the more exotic the better; and a pub-crawl of the local hostels under the guidance of an expert from the SCP Office.

More traditional activities were also included, such as excursions to the Houses of Parliament, Greenwich and Leeds Castle, and (for both students and organisers alike) keeping a watchful eye on the American who arrived from the airport without his suitcase (but with that of a total stranger), and who then found that he had left his return ticket on the plane ... and who continued the course in much the same vein.

Following this year's success, the SCP Office is planning an expanded programme for next summer of courses in:

- Basic Computing
- Basic Economics
- Britain & Europe: their literature, culture and history
- Linguistics & English Language
- English Language for Overseas Students
- Pre-University English Language
- Study Methods
- Safety Training (designed mainly for university & poly, safety officers)

Brochures for all these courses should be available by Christmas. For further details contact the SHORT COURSES PROGRAMME OFFICE, Sussex House (int. tel. 05-124).
ENERGY POLICY PROGRAMME

Energy has featured strongly in the University of Sussex Science Policy Research Unit's work over the last ten years. This Programme was given a further boost by the recent award of £184,000 over five years by the Social Science Research Council and designation as a national energy centre. This award complements a recent Science Research Council grant (for further research on nuclear power policy) and continuing support from a club of fuel sector sponsors.

At present, these sponsors include the Department of Energy, British Gas Corporation, BP, Central Electricity Generating Board, Electricity Council, National Coal Board, and the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority. In all, the recent awards total £314,000.

The underlying rationale of the Energy Policy Programme, which is under the overall direction of John Surrey, a former government Economic Advisor and Specialist Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, is the need to understand the economic, social, technical and political interactions which determine the pattern of energy use and supply, and which impinge upon decision-making, both nationally and internationally.

The other full-time members of the Programme include John Cheshire, an economist and member of the National Electricity Consumer's Council, Gordon Mackerron, economist, Mike Robson, physicist, and Steve Thomas, chemist and modelling specialist.

Two further appointments are to be made, and the main thrust of the research effort is complemented by postgraduate students, Visiting Fellows and, in future, by short-term secondments from the fuel industries and government.

Good working relationships have been established both with other units and individuals at the University, Lesley Cook and Norman Domby, Readers in Industrial Economics and Theoretical Physics respectively, are Associate Fellows.

The prime focus of the Programme is the evaluation of energy policy options, based upon analytical and empirical research. The major elements of the research strategy are as follows:

1. Long-Term Global Resource Issues
   Work in this area has included chapters in two SPRU books, Thinking About the Future (1973) and World Futures: The Great Debate (1976) and in The Energy Syndrome - Comparing National Responses to the Energy Crises (1977). Case studies of energy problems in Japan, China and the USSR have also been published.

2. Nuclear Power
   Recent research has included studies of the international experience of public opposition, the operating performance of all power reactors in non-communist countries, an evaluation of the world market and supply prospects for uranium, and the extent and causes of time and cost over-runs in building nuclear plants.

3. Power Station Plant and Fuel Demand
   Since publishing the book The World Market for Electric Power Equipment (1972), the group continues to update a computerised data bank covering all power stations in non-communist countries. This is used to analyse trade and dependence patterns, manufacturers' market shares, and technical change in generating plant and it will be used in new work to establish the scope for inter-fuel substitution in the important power station fuel market.

4. Energy Forecasting and Modelling
   Following its two recent publications on U.K. energy demand and supply patterns up to 2000, the group is analysing the sensitivity of government forecasts to changes in assumptions and identifying feasible long-term supply options.

5. Industrial Energy Demand
   Detailed work is currently being undertaken on energy use in U.K. industry, particularly industrial boilers which account for 25% of all U.K. energy consumption and form the major segment of the market open to short-run substitution. To permit economic and technical analysis, a computerised data bank covering 30,000 boilers has been compiled and is being used, together with interviews, to assess the scope for conservation, technical change and fuel substitution.

6. Energy Pricing
   A key objective must be to formulate a robust energy pricing policy which is compatible with the needs of efficient resource allocation, equity and other national considerations such as supply security. Following the book by Lesley Cook and John Surrey, Energy Policy: Strategies for Uncertainty (1977), a paper was prepared for the national Energy Committee. It concluded that pricing should be based on long-run marginal costs, be made an integral part of an overall energy strategy, and have 'smoothed' price transitions as a cardinal feature. The group continues to be involved in analysing the economic implications of the expected sharp increases in the price of oil.

7. Energy Research and Development
   (R. & D.)
   The group plans to examine priorities for R. & D. in the context of the national needs and resources of the industrialised countries and the problems that arise in the selection and management of collaborative ventures under the control of international agencies, such as the European Commission and the International Energy Agency.

Further information about the Energy Policy Programme can be obtained from either John Surrey, or John Cheshire, Science Policy Research Unit.

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ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

Notice to all students and staff of the University resident on the University site

Students and staff resident on campus are reminded that the Register of Electors is published in draft form tomorrow, November 28, and can be checked at (a) the Post Office in Sussex House, or (b) the University Library, or (c) the offices of Brighton Borough Council (Town Clerk's Department, Town Hall, Brighton) up to December 15, 1979.

Campus residents should have completed an Electoral Registration form distributed last month. (Full details were published in The Bulletin on October 16).

If you wish to vote in any elections during 1980, you are strongly urged to check the accuracy of the draft Register. After the period during which the Register is open to checking by any member of the public, the Electoral Registration Officer draws up the final Register and publishes it on February 16, 1980. This Register remains in force for twelve months from that date and cannot be altered during that period.
ANTIQUE COLLECTING

What sort of people collect antiques, and why do they do it? What is defined as an antique, and how has this changed over time? What is the broader social significance of collecting? These are some of the questions that Jennifer Platt, a Reader in Sociology, is trying to answer in her research.

She has already spent several years gathering material such as memoirs, books written for collectors, and dealers’ autobiographies, as well as modern press cuttings.

Although many books have been written on related subjects, she only knows of two other sociologists who have ever done any work in the field.

Collecting has been going on for centuries, but the concept “antique” in the modern sense probably only emerged at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The first “boom” in collecting by people who were neither aristocrats nor eccentrics started towards the end of the nineteenth century, and so Miss Platt has become especially concerned with this period.

One interesting group early in this period were the collectors of armour; there was an armour collectors’ club which held joust social meetings in homes and studios to compare and study acquisitions. A conspicuous group among its members were painters of the then fashionable historical pictures, who collected armour and other props to include in their paintings.

Another interesting collector of the time was Lady Dorothy Nevill, a leading society hostess who collected not only the more traditional objects such as Sévres china and also the less obvious ephemera such as ball invitations and political broadsheets.

Her collection of early Sussex ironwork was one of the first; many of her friends at the time thought it was just old rubbish, but it was welcomed by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

She wrote several volumes of memoirs, with many references to collecting, both her own and that of others. Was her collecting just a personal idiosyncracy, or did it reflect a general tendency in society circles?

Ownership of antiques which have been handed down from generation to generation cannot have the same significance, although some aristocrats have taken a collector’s interest in their inheritance. Does collecting promote upward mobility, confirm a high social position, prevent downward mobility by providing a claim to status not solely grounded on wealth?

When people who are not rich collect, they cannot afford the traditionally valuable objects, and this tends to direct interest to more everyday things. Dealers, of course, attempt to create and manipulate such trends to maintain and extend their markets.

Increasing demand pushes up prices, since the supply of genuine antiques is fixed; this naturally encourages the trade in fakes and reproductions (why should authenticity be seen as so important, when only a small expert can tell the genuine from the fake)?

Thus the market, and what is regarded as antique, changes over time.

Dealers play an important role, especially nowadays when the trade is increasingly international. But who are the dealers? What are their skills, and how are they recruited to the trade? How many started as collectors themselves and gradually ceased to be amateurs? These are questions which Miss Platt hopes to study in the future.

Although it has been little studied, the trade in antiques has been connected with many of the major social changes of the last 200 years, and reflects not only movements in taste, but also the rise and fall of social groups and national and international economic trends.

Statistics on international trade show that the trade in antiques has been of increasing importance as part of Britain’s exports.

Letter to the Editor

Alex Edelman, Chairperson of the Students’ Union Council has resigned. The Chairperson of the Council is an elected officer of the Students’ Union; amongst his/her duties, the Chairperson chairs Union General Meetings and would act as President of the Union should the President resign.

The Bulletin asked Alex why he had resigned; his letter to the Editor explains:

Having been Chairperson of Union Council since Easter, I have resigned, feeling that my position on the Students’ Union executive was untenable, and with contrasting pressures on me.

On one hand, my tutors believe and I agree with them, that I’m not doing enough academic work, because of time spent working for the Union, but on the other hand, I felt obliged to try to prevent some of the worse insanities of the Union being its only activity.

It is easy to say that there are hard line political activists who maliciously lead the Union into incidents such as occupations, riots, pickets and marches, and lay the blame for all the problems on them, but this is not a very constructive attitude, irrespective of the facts of an issue, or the University structure or even the Union structure. The result is that they are easily convinced by propaganda, twisted facts and attitudes and even downright lies.

Indeed the Students’ Union could be compared to a child; not very experienced, uniformed, naive and always wanting instant results. Again its easy to say, ‘Well, they are damn students” but one has to consider where the buck stops.

It is the job of the administration, the Vice-Chancellor in particular, to ensure the satisfactory running of the University, and it must be self-evident that recently this has not been achieved by their hiding behind an infinitely complex committee structure, which may not yet help reveal the whole picture.

How to overcome this problem I don’t know, but I’m convinced that more informal contact between the administration and faculty on one side and students on the other can do nothing but help, both by dispelling the widely held goodie-badie attitude, and relieving the issues naturally those who do not hold the “it would be a glorious war and all over by Christmas” attitude.

Alex Edelman

REFECTORY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A reminder that the Refectory Christmas Lunch takes place on Tuesday, December 11, between 12 noon and 2 p.m. in the Scramble. Roast Turkey and the usual festive trimmings for £1.30, Christmas pudding and rum sauce for 24p.

HELP!

The University Nursery Group desperately needs a record deck and speakers. Any offers of help please to Anna Metcalf, Nursery Group Supervisor (Int. tel. 03-130).

JONATHAN HARVEY - SPRING QUARTET

Friday, December 7 - 11.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. - Arts D107.

Jonathan Harvey will introduce and play his Spring Quartet and give a live performance of an electronic work.
GARDNER ARTS CENTRE

When this edition of The Bulletin appears, there will be only 24 shopping days to Christmas. This means there are only EIGHTEEN shopping days to the first night of WINNIE THE POOH.

This is our seventh Christmas show and marks a grand climax to what has already been a highly successful and record-breaking Tenth Anniversary season.

The wardrobe department are churning out owls, rabbits, kangaroos, bears, piglets and, of course, tiggers, and our worthy artists are in rehearsal.

The box office staff have already assumed their special Christmas faces - an uneasy mixture of elation and panic - and several performances are already sold out.

The telephone calls to disbelieving theatrical agents ("Would your client like to play Eeyore?") are over, and it's all-systems go for the most important event in the Gardner Centre year.

While I sit here biting my nails and praying for a mild winter, you, in your turn (hopefully as one of our respected patrons) ought to be telephoning the box office.

WINNIE THE POOH opens on December 18 and runs until January 12. Timothy Bateson makes a welcome first appearance here in the title role, Paul Seed directs, and Julian Slade has adapted the script and written additional songs.

The annual Ceramics and Textile exhibition opens in the Art Gallery on December 10, and is followed on the 24th by an exhibition of work by children from the local schools. Chris Lowe's stunning colour photographs remain in the foyer until December 5.

The last professional concert of this term is by CITY WAIRES and it takes place at 7.45 p.m. tomorrow (November 28). The group perform Early Music with a difference - sort of medieval Folk - and they are all experts on instruments of the period. The result is a show than a concert, having a strong visual and humorous impact.

The University Choir are performing in the Meeting House this term, and on November 29 they will be singing a selection of works under the general title of A VENETIAN CHRISTMAS. This means, of course, that the University Orchestra will have the Gardner to themselves on December 8, when Richard Bernas will conduct music by Debussy, Ravel, Satie, and Chausson.

Sussex University Drama Society are giving us two plays this term, DUSA, FISH, STAS & VI plays from November 29 to December 1, and Peter Barnes' THE RULING CLASS follows on December 4 for three nights.

Nigel Stannard
Administrative Director

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

The University of Sussex Chamber Choir, directed by John Birch, will give a concert this Friday, November 30, in the Meeting House, at 1.15 p.m.

They will perform Kodaly's Pange Lingua, and the Mass in F, K.192, by Mozart.

Admission free.

MESSIAH SING-IN

The annual Messiah Sing-In will be held on Wednesday, December 12, at 7 p.m. in the Meeting House.

Come along to sing or play (music will be provided).

Conductor: John Birch.

Books by Sussex authors continue to arrive, but this week we list some of the many titles in our stock which would make good seasonal gifts.

MRS. WEBER'S DIARY by Posy Simmonds - a must for all social historians. £3.95.

HOLLYWOOD: THE PIONEERS by Kevin Brownlow. The book of a Thames TV series due to start in the New Year. Profusely illustrated. £7.95.

MASQUERADE by Kit Williams - the fascinating book that may lead you to buried treasure for only £3.50.


THE LIFE OF BRIAN by Monty Python. Something completely different. £4.50.

A VICTORIAN FAMILY is an attractively boxed set of the autobiographical trilogy by Molly Hughes covering her life in London from the 1870's to the 1890's. £4.50.

Over 100 more titles are listed in the BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS catalogue distributed around the University. Come and see these books and many more on display, with Christmas cards, wrapping paper and diaries from November 26 onwards.

ALL BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP

GREAT CENTENARIES LECTURE SERIES

S T A L I N: the person & the cult

by Professor E.Goldstücker

Thursday, December 6, 6.30 p.m.

Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre. Admission free and open to the public.

HISTORY OF BRIGHTON RADIO PROGRAMMES

A reminder that the programmes recorded for BBC Radio Brighton by John and Sue Farrant on "Tudor Town to Regency Resort: Brighton from 1580 - 1830" can be heard on Mondays at 8.35 p.m.

Centre for Continuing Education