NALGO DISPUTE

A branch meeting of the National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO) on October 11 voted in favour of the following motion:

"That this Branch calls upon the Executive to organise

a) lightning strikes of selected sections for up to a week, after obtaining the full support of the members in the section involved;

b) the NALGO members support for all those members who will be affected by the action, including a financial levy on the following basis:

  Grade 1 50p
  Grade 2 75p
  Grade 3 £1.00
  Grade 4 £1.20;

c) a postal ballot of the whole membership to make a final decision on this issue in order that a reference can be made to the NALGO National Emergency Committee."

The District Organisation Officer was on campus yesterday to conduct the ballot, the result of which was not known at the time of going to press. Heads of Areas and Units will be informed if the NALGO motion is put into effect.

The suggested escalation of NALGO's action is partly in furtherance of their pay claim and partly in response to action taken by the University of Warwick and University College, Cardiff.

At Cardiff, the University tried to use agency staff to operate registration procedures and the NALGO members took immediate strike action which is believed to have lasted three days.

At Warwick, the University suspended NALGO members without pay when they refused to carry out registration and this resulted in strike action.

(The Warwick Students' Union then boycotted registration but demanded that the University should hand over grant cheques.

After the University had refused to give out grant cheques to non-registered students, two students sought a High Court injunction against the University.

The injunction was not granted on the grounds that the University acted as custodian of the cheques and that it was required as custodian to certify to the local education authorities that only registered students had received the grants. Costs were awarded against the students and they were refused leave to appeal.)

Accommodation

The Accommodation Office has now managed to provide alternative accommodation for more than half of the 41 students who had to be housed at St. Mary's, Rottingdean.

Transport to and from the University has been provided for the students but every effort is being made to find University accommodation for them as and when places become available.

At the same time requests are being made to the Accommodation Office to provide rooms on campus for second-year, third-year and postgraduate students.

Although the initial crisis has lessened somewhat, the Accommodation Office is still treating the cases of the remaining students at St. Mary's as being of the utmost urgency and priority is being given to them over the claims of other students.

Tutors and supervisors of other students are therefore asked to note that their requests for accommodation may not be dealt with until the first-year students have been accommodated.

BLOOD DONORS

Advance notice is given of a two-day visit to the campus by the Blood Transfusion Unit early in November.

At the Unit's last visit to the University 242 people donated blood. If you would like to help improve on this total, come along to one of the four sessions to be held in the Meeting House:

Tuesday, November 6
10.30 a.m. - 12 noon
2.00 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, November 7
9.30 a.m. - 12 noon
2.00 p.m. - 4 p.m.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is published fortnightly during term-time by the Information Office for the information of members and employees of the University.

Contributions to The Bulletin are welcomed. If you have any news items, feature articles, information or anything else you would like to see appear in The Bulletin, please contact Jennifer Payne or Janet Barrington, Room 104, Sussex House (int. tels. 05-123) or 05-254).

The next issue will be published on Tuesday, October 30, and copy for inclusion should reach the Information Office by noon on Tuesday, October 23.

Extracts from The Bulletin may not be published without the Information Office's permission.
WHISTLER PRIZE ESSAY

A prize of £50, to be offered annually for an original essay on Natural History or Archaeology, has been endowed by the Hon. Mrs. M.J. Whistler, in memory of her husband, Hugh Whistler.

Further details from the Director's Office.

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 October 10.

Senior Clerk
Accountant/Financial Adviser
Assistant Personnel Officer
Statistical Assistant
Secretaries

Library Assistants
Creche Supervisor
Technicians

Electronic Technician
Groundsman
Helper
Telephone Switchboard Operator
Assistant Domestic Manager
General Domestic Assistant
Dining Room Assistant
Cleaner/Teamaker
Library Porter/Attendant
Porter
Internal Mail Van Driver
General Catering Assistants

Kitchen Porters
Evening Cashier
Cleaner
Porter

Information given after each post relates to the grade at which the vacancy will be filled.

The code given before 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) Buildings Surveyor, Estates Building.
(h) Dr. C.J. Pursk, Director, I.M.S.
(i) Librarian, Library.
(j) Deputy Laboratory Superintendent, School of Biological Sciences.
(k) Mr. R.B. Bailey, Services Engineer, Estates Building.
(l) Catering Manager, Refectory Building.
(m) Mr. R.D. Buxton, Holland House, Brighton.
(n) Accommodation Manager, Refectory.
(o) Community & Estates Officer, Refectory.

JP, F.Z.S., who had a special interest in ornithology.

The prize is open to all students of the University of Sussex, including registered members of classes run by the Centre for Continuing Education. Essays, which should not normally exceed 5,000 words, should be submitted by the last day of January each year.

UNIVERSITY SPECIAL LECTURE
THE END OF WORK?
INFORMATICS AND THE PROTESTANT ETHIC
BY LORD AVEBURY M.P.
Eric Lubbock
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1
5.30 p.m. MOLECULAR SCIENCES
LECTURE THEATRE.
Admission Free. No tickets

THE MIDDLE YEARS OF CHILDHOOD

A Saturday School on THE MIDDLE YEARS OF CHILDHOOD will be held at the University on November 17.

Topics for consideration are:

'What is a child?', 'The child in the family', 'Parents and schools' and 'The flowering of the child's imagination through literature and drama'.

Tutors will be Nicholas Tucker, Dorothy Jerrome, Derek Bastide and Trevor Harvey. Fee: £2. Further details and application forms from the Centre for Continuing Education, Education Development Building.

LE MICRO-PROCEDEUR DE MA TANTE

A conference on post A-level French language teaching was held at Sussex September 17-19.

The conference was sponsored by the School of European Studies and the Language Centre, and organised by Carol Saunders. The conference was attended by seventy participants from thirty five universities and polytechnics, who discussed ways of taking French teaching into the 1980's.

The topics varied from the writing of programs for computer supported instruction in French, to the use of multimedia language and civilisation course produced by the French research team, CREID.

Innovations in syllabi and assessment that were presented included a complete language course for first-year students, and a final paper designed to test advanced oral comprehension and command of social variants of the foreign language.

HELP

Would the person who inadvertently picked up the wrong polythene carrier bag when alighting from a train at Palmer, please contact the owner, H.J. Rees, 38 Valley Drive, Seaford. Tel. 891344.
Vermouth is the Anglicisation of the French word vermouth which is the Frenchification of the German word Wermuth which in English is vermose. The wine itself is much simpler:

Perhaps because of the fairly recent prevalence of television advertising vermouth seems to be a newcomer on the drinks scene. In fact vermouth has been around since the sixteenth century.

Someone, somewhere in Germany, dropped some wormth flowers in a barrel of Rheinwein and the herb was left steeped in the wine until someone (presumably someone else) found the resultant flavour to be quite palatable.

The French subsequently adopted the flavoured wine and it was marketed commercially in the 1700's.

The method used was to store the wine, with herb, in casks and leave it in the sun. After a short period of time, the wine was fortified with about 15 per cent alcohol.

A system for maintaining quality has been developed over the years involving careful selection and blending of the wine used as the base but there is no hard and fast rule for the making of vermouth.

In general the herb is steeped in the wine for a period of between 15 days and a month after which it is drained and filtered. The wine is then weathered for two years and left to settle for another two.

Nowadays many different herbs are used, as well as wormwood, including cinchona bark, marjoram, linden tea, elderflower, gentian and coriander seed.

Each firm producing vermouth guards the secrets of its herbs and the proportions used very closely and the skill of the blender is of great importance in ensuring that the distinctive flavour and quality of a particular brand can be maintained from year to year.

Italian vermouth is always sweeter than the French because the French use drier wines. French law requires that 80 per cent of the wine used should be on its own as an aperitif with ice and lemon, perhaps with a splash of soda. Some people add lemonade but I wouldn't recommend that.

Most vermouth is made in the Marseilles area, using the wines of the Midi. However, the Italian brand names are best known in this country, Cinzano, Boccio and Martini being the most publicized.

Swiss vermouth is also worth watching for.

The best-known proprietary brands are actually the best in the case of vermouth: some of the cheaper "own-brand" versions are quite awful. I should also say that Campari is not a vermouth in the true sense as it uses a spirit rather than a wine base.

JOHN SMITH

UNIVERSITY BUTLER

BARLOW COLLECTION

The world-renowned collection of Chinese Ceramics, Jades and Bronzes bequeathed to the University by Sir Alan Barlow, will again be the subject of two luncheon lectures this term by the Collection's curator, Dr. John Sweetman.

His first lecture on November 20 is on "Ts'ang Stonewares", and the second on December 4 will deal with "Chinese Greenwares".

Both lectures will be held at 1:15 p.m. in the Barlow Gallery which is adjacent to the University Library entrance.

The Barlow Gallery is open for general viewing on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 to 4 p.m. during term-time.

The Collection contains more than four hundred items, with about a third on view at any one time, and extends widely over three thousand years.

BEST-SELLING WAR BOOKS OF 1929

A LIBRARY EXHIBITION

While a recent Punch cartoon remembers the war poets, the University Library's current exhibition commemorates some notable prose works based on the military experiences of the authors.

The year 1929 is memorable, among other things, for marking the first publication, and great popular success, of literary accounts of the Great War of 1914-1918 which are still, after 50 years, widely read. "Journey's End, All Quiet on the Western Front, Death of a Hero, A Farewell to Arms, Good-bye to All That - the titles which achieved or approached best-seller status in 1929 - are impressive and varied.

The exhibition in the University Library from October 16 to November 11 looks at the phenomenon of their success and attempts to account for it.
THE SEARCH FOR WAYS OF GROWING MORE AND CHEAPER FOOD

Sussex scientists are studying one of the fundamental processes of agriculture: nitrogen fixation.

With some ten per cent of the world's population undernourished, improvements in agricultural productivity are essential.

At the Agricultural Research Council's Unit of Nitrogen Fixation a team of chemists, biochemists, geneticists and microbiologists, led by Professor Joseph Chatt, is looking at the way atmospheric nitrogen is 'fixed' by certain bacteria and turned into the ammonia essential for plant growth.

All living things need nitrogen in order to make protein. But although four-fifths of the air we breathe is made of this gas, it can only be used once it has been converted by these lowly bacteria and has then entered the food chain.

Society in its present form would cease without the peculiar talent of these microorganisms, but there is a continual loss of nitrogen from cultivated soil, and the bugs just cannot keep pace with the demands of today's farmers.

We now depend heavily on fertilisers containing ammonia to grow enough crops to feed the world's ever increasing population, which is why, in 1963, the ARC set up the Unit of Nitrogen Fixation.

One of its purposes was to see if new, cheaper and more efficient ways of making ammonia could be found. Unfortunately, the industrial production of this chemical uses vast amounts of oil or natural gas, and as their cost rises so does the price of fertiliser.

Other ways of making ammonia must be found - not only to make sure that we can keep our larders well stocked in the years to come when fossil fuels run out.

"We are 'eating' our supplies of natural gas and oil", said Professor Chatt. "The calories we get out of our farms are now about equal to the fossil energy we put into them. Without artificial fertilisers crop yields would grow smaller, only able to support perhaps two-thirds of the present population."

The bacteria in the soil seemed to have the answer. They take nitrogen from the air and, using the sun's energy and hydrogen from water, produce ammonia.

"It looked so easy", said Professor Chatt. "So we set out to see how the bacteria did it."

Now the Unit's chemists are near to imitating the natural process, which is based on an enzyme called nitrogenase. This contains the metals molybdenum and iron, and it is believed one or both of these react with organic nitrogen.

The chemists have found a complex compound which resembles the all-important enzyme - and they have successfully produced ammonia by binding nitrogen to molybdenum and simply adding acid.

But the acid destroys the compound. So the team are looking for ways to make the process catalytic. If and when they find a suitable catalyst they will be on the road to producing ammonia on a large scale without the complexity and cost of the present industrial process.

Meanwhile, thanks to the rapid development of microbial genetics, research in other parts of the Unit has taken a new turn which has excited the world.

Using plasmids - genetic fragments which can transfer genetic characteristics from one bacterium to another, biologists have transferred the genes which enable some bacteria to fix nitrogen into others which normally do not have this ability.

Eventually, they may be able to transfer a comparable package of genetic information into plants - removing the need for nitrogen fertilisers.

"There is no theoretical reason why it cannot be done", said Professor Chatt. "And it is the ideal solution to our food problems. If we don't find an answer everywhere - not in my lifetime, nor probably in my children's, but my grandchildren may well have to suffer."

---

Students' Union

The Students' Union's financial difficulties have been reported in the local press and led to an Emergency General Meeting on October 4.

Although the Executive survived a motion of no confidence which failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority, the Union's debts seem likely to remain a serious problem.

The debts are made up of an overdraft of £17,000 and debts to the University of more than £40,000 for salaries, damages caused during last year's occupation and many other items. A significant proportion of those sums was carried forward from last year.

The Union's income is derived from the capitation fee of £38 which all students are obliged to pay and which in most cases is paid by local education authorities.

Income for 1979-80 will exceed the current debts by a considerable amount but in effect about one-third of that income has been pre-committed and expenditure will have to be reduced accordingly.

The Union Executive has responded to their financial situation by freezing all spending except for the contractual liabilities (for example, salaries) and welfare services. As a consequence they have refused to make payments to campaign funds (such as the rent strike) and that in turn resulted in the motion of no confidence.

In addition, the Union has not made the normal termly payment to club and society accounts and some of the Union's social activities may therefore be reduced if they cannot be made self-supporting through, for example, membership fees.

The Union has assured all creditors that they will be paid and given the anticipated balance of income over outstanding accounts there seems no reason why that should not be the case.
NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE LIBRARY

Adrian Peasgood has been appointed Deputy Librarian in the University Library, in succession to Arthur Pollard who retired at the end of September. He retains his overall responsibility for Acquisitions programmes and processes, and for liaisons with English and American Studies.

Christopher Ravilious, formerly Chief Cataloguer, becomes Sub-Librarian, Bibliographic & Readers’ Advisory Services. He takes on the principal responsibility for developments in services related to bibliographic data networks and systems, and in information services and information retrieval systems.

Peter Stone becomes Sub-Librarian, Head of Course Provision, from which position he will lead developments in the Library’s services related to undergraduate and graduate taught courses. These include the Short Loan and Reserve Collections, and CRYBELLIS (Course Reading Library Location & Information System) from which, among other planned benefits, came the new microfiche finding lists of heavily-used books so successfully introduced in the Library last session.

Bernard Chibnall, Director of the Media Service Unit, now looks after Library Reprographic & Photocopying Services, and the Audio Visual Materials Service in the Library, as well as all services provided by MSU in the Education Development Building.

CHAPLAINCY DINING CLUB

Mr. Peter Bunker, Chairman of the Church and Community Development Project, will speak on "The Community of Brighton - does it really matter?" at a meeting of the Chaplaincy Dining Club on October 31.

On November 29, the Earl of March will speak on "Today's World in the World Council of Churches". He is a member of the Central and Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, and Treasurer of the University.

Further details of both events are available from Barbara Barber in the Meeting House.

RECENT BOOKS

Some new publications by Sussex authors:

SYMMETRY IN PHYSICS by Professor J.P. Elliott and Dr. P.G. Dawber of the School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences is published in two volumes by Macmillan at £35 for the set. The volumes are also available separately: Vol. 1 Principles and Simple Applications at £12.50, and Vol. 2 Further Applications at £28.

MECHANICS OF ANIMAL LEARNING AND MOTIVATION is a memorial volume for Jerzy Konorski and has been edited by A. Dickinson of Cambridge University and Dr. R.A. Boakes, Lecturer in Experimental Psychology at Sussex. Lawrence Erlbaum, £18.25.

THE FUTURE WITH MICROELECTRONICS by Iann. Baron and B.C. Curnow with other members of the Science Policy Research Unit, which attracted a lot of attention on publication a few months ago, is now available in a paperback edition from Open University Educational Enterprises at £3.95.

THE WORLD AND THE BOOK by Gabriel Josipovici has also appeared as a second edition in paperback from Macmillan at £4.95.

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY by Professor Tom Bottomore appears in the Hutchinson University Library series. Cloth £6.95, paperback £2.95.

Some books announced last term before publication, which are now available:

KARL MARX, a collection of extracts from the writings of notable scholars, edited by Tom Bottomore, who also contributes a long introductory chapter. Published by Blackwell in cloth at £7.95, paperback £2.95.


THE SECOND COMING. POPULAR MILLENNARIANISM 1780-1850 by Professor J.P.C. Harrison. Routledge, £8.95.

RICHARD BAXTER AND THE MILLENIUM by Dr. W.M. Lamont. Croom Helm, £13.95.

THE FIRST FABIANS by Norman and Jeanne MacKenzie is at last available in a paperback edition published by Quartet at £2.95.

AVAILABLE FROM

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP
One of the events in last year's concert programme which caused the greatest surprise and delight, was the instantaneous success of the newly introduced Concerts for Children. This autumn, we are including two more, the first of which will be presented next Sunday (21st) at 3 p.m.

For an age group defined as 6 - 10 year olds, DOUGLAS COOMBES and HIS MUSIC SCENE is a light-hearted and informal afternoon which includes a concerto for soprano, piano, percussion and audience!

For slightly older children, the MICHAEL GARRICK TRIO will appear on November 18 with an informal jazz orientated programme for 8 - 12 year olds. The specified age groups are not arbitrary and patrons are advised and requested to conform to them.

Other unusual events coming up soon include a concert by the MIDNITE POLLYES ORCHESTRA on October 26 and a fascinating introduction to the musical traditions of Thailand on Sunday, November 4. The latter concert is by a group of professors and students who have got together to explore and preserve the ancient musical heritage of their country.

Theatre-wise, BEDROOM FARCE continues until the end of this week (October 20) and next Monday we present, after far too long an absence, the exciting 7.84 Theatre Company in a new musical by John McGrath called BITTER APPLES. As most of you will have read in the newspapers, this show has already upset the Lady Mayoress of Nottingham, where it was recently premiered at the Playhouse, but we prefer to take the view of the press who have described it as "Zestful, romping, tuneful, energetic" ...... "A tremendous success" ...... "Very entertaining and full of energy".

John McGrath is certainly a major creative talent and BITTER APPLES is expected to be one of the high spots of our autumn season. As a matter of interest, he also wrote the Gardner's opening production way back in 1969, so it is appropriate that his newest play should be here during our tenth anniversary season.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, still running triumphantly in London and now touring as well, comes to the Gardner Centre for a week on October 29. Booking is already substantial and there are only eight performances.

In the Gallery on October 17, we are presenting an exhibition of work by John Edwards. This exhibition of large abstract paintings, currently touring Britain, charts the painter's progress from 1974 to the present, as he develops a set of united compositional shapes with mounting excitement and sense of adventure.

The exhibition of Patrick Caulfield graphics, which was scheduled to open on November 14, has now been postponed so that necessary structural repairs can be carried out in the Gallery.

Nigel Stannard, Administrative Director