STUDENT DISRUPTION

Rather than carry a 'news' story on the current situation vis-a-vis the Students' Union, a story which would be out of date before it was printed, the Information Officer asked a number of University Officers for background information to the dispute because issues such as the Educational Sabbatical are more complex than can be catered for in Bulletin Specials.

Q. Students say the rejection of their demand for an education sabbatical is interference with the autonomy of the Students' Union. Is the Union autonomous?
A. No. The Union is part of the University, specified in the University's Charter and the Charter gives the University responsibility for prescribing the Union's Constitution.

Q. How is the Union financed?
A. From August 1981 the Union will be financed from the University's grant from Parliament and any money given to the Union could therefore have been allocated to other parts of the University.

Q. Can the Union use its grant as it wishes?
A. No. The Union is subject to the same Charter restrictions as the rest of the University and the degree of financial autonomy of the Union is a matter for determination by the Council of the University which is responsible to Parliament for the usage of University monies including the monies allocated to the Union.

Q. Can the Union have as many sabbatical officers as it wants?
A. No. The Senate controls the

UGC LETTER

The letter which follows was sent by the Chairman of the University Grants Committee to Vice-Chancellors on May 15.

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

The Future Pattern of Resources for Universities

1. Towards the end of June I hope to inform individual universities of their grant for the 1981-82 academic year and the provisional level of grant up to 1983-84, together with the student numbers in 1983-84 assumed for grant purposes. I am however anxious to give the earliest possible indication of the Committee's approach to resource planning, together with some comment on the implications.

2. The Secretary of State has now informed the Committee that it should plan on the basis of an eight and a half per cent volume cut in grant for home students in 1983-84. To this reduction must be added the loss of income from overseas students (not accurately predictable) which, in the Committee's present view, will result in a total loss of income by 1983-84 as compared with 1979-80 of at least 11 per cent and possibly significantly more.

3. It is not the Committee's intention to distribute the cut in resources equally between institutions and fields of study. We have decided that, in order to maintain the vitality and responsiveness of universities, resources must continue to be made

POSTGRADUATE GRANTS

Increases averaging seven per cent in grants for postgraduate students were announced by the Secretary of State for Education and Science last Thursday.

Students living away from home and attending an institution outside London will receive £2,245 (£2,090 this year); those living away from home and attending an establishment in London £2,770 (£2,570) and those living in the parental home £1,640 (£1,565).

These increases are in line with those announced on April 15 for undergraduate students.
available for necessary new developments, as well as for new appointments in fields of special importance. The Committee believes that this can and should be achieved without the closure of any whole university. Regrettably, however, savings of the order required must involve reducing the range of subjects taught at some universities, and this will involve recommendations for the closure or radical reduction of some departments with the likelihood of consequent redundancies of staff, both academic and non-academic. There will also be implications for the continued ability to conduct postgraduate teaching and research in some areas of study in some institutions.

4. The Committee intends to allot a set of student target numbers for each institution for 1983-84. The figures given will comprise full time home and EC undergraduates and postgraduate students and the full time equivalents of part-timers, with variation between these categories. It will be the institution's responsibility to consider its admission policies for 1981-82, and the two succeeding years in the light of these figures. It is appreciated that most firms and conditional offers of places for 1981-82 will already have been made; but universities are advised to wait for these target numbers before completing the admission process.

5. Grant will be related amongst other factors to the target student numbers, and will be based on the assumption that a university will receive a fee income appropriate to these numbers. Levels of activity in research and in continuing education will also be taken into account.

6. I cannot at this stage give a detailed indication of how the economies will fall, but I can say that the Committee has decided that particular attention must be paid to retaining capacity for research, and there have been consultations with the Research Councils to this end. Beyond this, the Committee will, with the assistance of its Sub-Committees, have regard to the viability and effectiveness of teaching and in particular some small-scale teaching operations, with a view to their concentration in a smaller number of units. At the same time it will seek to guard against contraction of the range of subjects available in the system as a whole.

7. One of the main concerns of the Committee has been the problem of financing the costs of redundancy which may be involved. Adequate provision has not so far been made in the allocation of resources to the universities for the costs of redundancy on any scale, and it will be important for each institution, when it has considered all the consequences of the grant and forecast of resources, to let the Committee know not later than the end of January 1982 the likely implications for redundancy year by year.

8. Some provision has however been made in 1981-82 for a start on expenditure for re-structuring the system, and £20m has been indicated within the recurrent grant for this purpose. It is the Committee's intention to use this sum both for positive encouragement (new developments and appointments) and for costs of reducing the size of the system insofar as they fall in 1981-82.

9. One of the purposes to which these resources can most usefully be put in the 1981-82 year will be the encouragement of early retirement consistent with plans for re-structuring. Institutions are invited to consider urgently the contribution which early retirement can make to the adjustment to lower levels of resource, and to apply to the Committee for a share of resources to finance early retirements in 1981-82.

10. It is the Committee's intention to monitor the changes taking place in the system, to try and ensure that the quality of teaching and the opportunities for research suffer as little as possible in this difficult period.

Yours sincerely,
Edward Parkes

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 these vacancies have been sent to staff representatives for display on noticeboards. The list was compiled at May 15.

Technician (Electronics) (a) School of Engineering & Applied Sciences (5)
Accounts Clerk (b) Chief Accountant's Office (1)
Bar Person in Charge (b) Sports Pavilion (a)
Bar Person (b) Sports Pavilion (part-time)

Information given after a 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) Laboratory Superintendent, School of Engineering & Applied Sciences
(b) Mr. C.R. Kelley, Establishment Office, Sussex House.

WEEKEND SCHOOLS

THE NEW TECHNOLOGY: Tutor: Geoff Walker, June 12/14 at The White House, Isle of Thorns, Chelwood Gate.

INGMAR BERGMAN: Tutor: Roger Manvell, June 12/14 at The White House.

MEDIeval SUSSEX: Tutor: John Lowerson, June 19/21 at The White House.

CHEKHOV: Tutor: Terry Hodgson, June 19/21 at The White House.

(Although the closing dates for the above weekend schools have expired, it is possible that places are still available at the time of printing. Please contact the Centre for Continuing Education for details.)

THE BEETHOVEN QUARTETS: Tutor: Michael Hall, July 17/19 at Bishop Otter College, Chichester. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: June 12.

UNIVERSITY SPECIAL LECTURE "APOCALYPTIC THOUGHT & THE MODERN" BY FRANK KERMODE (KING EDWARD VII PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE)
THURSDAY, MAY 28 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE MOLECULAR SCIENCES LECTURE THEATRE, SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR SCIENCES.

PROFESORIAL INAUGURAL LECTURE "DO PEOPLE THINK LOGICALLY?" BY PHILIP JOHNSON-LAIRD (PROFESSOR OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX)
TUESDAY, JUNE 2 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE MOLECULAR SCIENCES LECTURE THEATRE, SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR SCIENCES.

SPECIAL LECTURE "LAND, SEA AND AIR" (THE WORK OF A RESEARCH COUNCIL) BY SIR HERMANN BONDI (CHAIRMAN, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL)
THURSDAY, JUNE 11 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE LECTURE THEATRE, EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT BUILDING. Admission to the above lectures is free and open to the public.
Q. The dispute has been summarised as a simple one: "The Union wants an education sabbatical; the University refuses". Is it as simple as that?

A. No. Firstly, it is complicated by the fact that although the Council has always had, and used, powers over the Students' Union and the way in which it spends its money, from 1981 that money is coming from the University's grant at a time when that grant is going to be cut.

Secondly, although no other part of the University will escape the cuts in 1981-82 (vacancies are already frozen for example), the Council is being recommended to give the Students' Union level-funding for that year. As part of the bargain leading to that recommendation, the Council Group asked the Union to forego the increase in sabbatical officeships. The main recommendation of the Council Group was accepted by the Union but it now refuses to accept the one negative element and has resorted to disruptive action because it didn't get 100 per cent of what it wanted with the stated intention 'to force the University to concede'. That action was begun on May 12 even though the University had offered to institute the Quadrupartite Talks or re-open negotiations with the Council Group.

Thirdly, the campaign and the education sabbatical is being linked to the cuts. The Union wants to use University money to appoint a sabbatical to fight the cuts when the University is already reducing, through freezing vacancies, the number of staff it employs because it can't afford to pay them. At the same time the Union is positively seeking external publicity for a campaign of disruptive action precisely when external agencies are in the process of determining which universities should be cut most and which least. The decisions by the Department of Education and Science, the University Grants Committee etc will have major implications for the future of the University, its employees and its students (present and future) through the value of their degrees and through the number we can admit. The destruction of the University's good name must be regarded as irresponsible.

Q. Will the University use the disciplinary scheme?

A. That is a decision for the Senate Discipline Committee but a number of reports of alleged offences have been made. Individual students are not protected merely because they were ''mandated' by a Students' Union motion. There is also of course the possibility of criminal charges against anyone breaking the law.

BULLETIN SPECIALS will continue to be issued as necessary: 2,500 copies are distributed round campus but it is not possible to ensure that every person, staff or student, has a copy. Every attempt is made to ensure accuracy but in the rushed, adverse circumstances in which they are produced, discrepancies are bound to occur.

GRANT DETAILS

Parents will not have to contribute towards the student grant in the academic year 1981-82 if their residual income is less than £6,600, compared with £5,000 in 1980-81, the Department of Education and Science has just announced.

The minimum grant for undergraduates has been increased from £385 to £410. The main grants for undergraduates, giving an increase of about seven per cent, were announced on April 15 and published in The Bulletin on April 28.

Other changes include:

Maintenance while studying abroad

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1980/81</th>
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<td>(i) high cost countries</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>1,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ii) other countries</td>
<td>1,695</td>
<td>1,825</td>
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Supplementary grants

Grants for dependants

- Spouse or other adult (or first child): £885 to £965
- Children under 11: £135 to £140
- 11-16: £245 to £260
- 17 and over: £535 to £580

Mature students

Grants (age at beginning course):

- 26: £140 to £150
- 27: £275 to £295
- 28: £415 to £445
- 29 and over: £550 to £590

Grants for disabled students: £235 to £250

IN BRIEF

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Dave Hellens, a third year student in the School of English and American Studies, has been elected the new President of the Students' Union.

The new Vice-Presidents are: Dave Cryer (Finance), Kevin Flack (Communications), Alice Gray (Social Services) and Sue Ward (Sport).

KULUKUNDIS GROUP MEETING

The Group will hold its next open meeting on Wednesday, June 3, at 4.30 pm in Kulukundis House. Matters to be discussed include the kids Karnival, priorities for access on campus and fundraising. All welcome. Further details from Ann Eyles, 09-462.

"WHAT THE SCHOOLS SAY ABOUT THE CUTS"

(Report by the East Sussex Campaign for the Advancement of State Education)

This Report provides essential reading for anyone currently involved in trying to save educational standards, and is available from N. Tucker (Arts B), J. Collett (Biology) or the Bookshop - price 30p.

ISLE OF THORNS CLOSED JUNE 13/14

The Isle of Thorns and its facilities will be closed to all members of the University on the weekend of June 13 and 14. During that time it will be reserved for the exclusive use of members of the Isle of Thorns Trust.

UNIVERSITY/BBC RADIO BRIGHTON PROGRAMMES

Professor Geoffrey Best can be heard on Radio Brighton on Sunday at 14.45 in a repeat of Tuesday's programme "National Qualities: Are the British Different?". This is the penultimate programme in the "Britain in Europe" series presented by the University in collaboration with Radio Brighton.

The final programme of the series will be a "Listeners' Forum with questions answered by a panel of experts. This will be broadcast next Tuesday, June 2, at 18.20 and repeated on June 7 at 14.45.

Programmes are broadcast on 95.3 VHF and 1485 kHz/202m.

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As I write, the news is that students have decided to re-occupy the telephone exchange, but I can’t help wondering whether such occupations would be undertaken quite so readily, or for some even frivolously, if students involved had in any serious way to live with the consequences of their actions.

When industrial workers disrupt their place of work, for example, they often also have to take on the possibility that the whole thing may eventually come down, leaving them without a job. But students can occupy away with complete personal impurity: their teaching continues, there are no other penalties, and as for all the bills that must eventually be paid, the longer-term consequences of adverse publicity on the University - all that will on the whole fall on the shoulders of next year’s students, and generations after that.

In this sense, it is hardly surprising that occupied seems often to have become a first rather than a last resort; they must frequently be quite exciting and eventful for those involved, and the social togetherness they can give rise to must be very gratifying. But is there any way that permanent (at least, up to now) members of the University can get the real anxiety or anger they must often feel at this sort of disruption over to students more effectively in the future?

Any ideas on this would be welcome, as always, or else on the following addition to this term’s correspondence about cuts and the need to either save or else make more money.

Contributions for the next Worm’s Eye View should be sent to me in Arts 8810 no later than Tuesday, June 2.

Nicholas Tucker

I trust the silence in response to Banwell and others is an embarrassed one. You regret the silence. But there you go endorsing their explicit aim of saving jobs.

It seems to be assumed that saving jobs is in itself a noble aim; or, more implicitly, that saving jobs will somehow automatically contribute to the true ends of the University.

It was also clear from the proposals that jobs are to be saved for the people who at present hold them.

Your correspondents Patience, Sterry and Wright correctly see this, and it makes them feel cynical, they say; but all their cynicism, is to save their more tenuous jobs. For themselves. ‘What about us?’ they cry.

There is no suggestion anywhere that jobs might be saved for others who could do them more effectively but are denied employment commensurate with their qualifications and abilities.

No understanding that a job is a position: who fills it is another matter.

This exercise, which you seem to wish to continue, is an unluckily public exhibition of the comfortable and highly-paid bourgeoisie striving to maintain itself in the manner to which it has grown accustomed. As such, in your columns, it is of great vulgarity.

There are trade unions for this.

Carsanges, who is President of one union, writes that the protection of jobs should not be seen as a narrow and selfish union aim. His is a fine letter, of admirable spirit; but I fear his call to defy the government puts him in cloud-cuckoo land. He too of course wishes to save jobs for those who have them.

People who fear for their privileged jobs, who fear that their living standards might decline to those of a more typical member of this society (still very privileged on a world scale) should do the half-way decent thing, that is face the political implications of their privileges, then they should agonise over the shame of their self-interest in the middle of the night in the undeserved comfort of their homes.

One has to recognise, sadly, that no group in history has voluntarily given up its privileges. But we can be spared public manoeuvres of this kind.

To be sure, it is likely that the maintenance, and even improvement, of the educational and scholarly standards of this institution entails the saving of jobs, more or less. But there is not a one-to-one correspondence between the two. I believe, for instance, that the provision of library books has been cut: this preserves jobs but reduces standards.

The real point is that the arguments must be put in terms of the maintenance of standards rather than the preservation of jobs. Otherwise we have matters, very suspiciously, the wrong way round.

The further point is that saving jobs for their current occupants is transparently jobs for these bourgeois boys. The cheapness of the manoeuvres may be obscured from their agents by the invisibility and lack of organisation of those who could contribute more powerfully to the purposes of the University but are unlikely to get much chance to do so.

Two major categories of such persons come to mind: (i) the elite of the graduate generation in their twenties, who are far better than we are but have almost no jobs open to them; (ii) those of mature years who have delayed their careers for some reason and now find that, by ruthless financial arguments, they are too old, even if there were jobs going.

This latter group is, of course, mostly women who have raised children: but there are others.

Let us therefore have proposals for the maintenance and improvement of education and scholarship in the context of the financial cuts. If they entail fewer jobs, so be it. If they entail that some of those who hold jobs should relinquish them in favour of more deserving aspirants, so be it.

Let those who suffer from fear for their living standards hang their heads in decent privacy. Those who commit “the treason of the clerks” should at least maintain an embarrassed silence.

Neil Warren,
Reader in Social Psychology,
School of African & Asian Studies.

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TRADE UNION NEWS

There are about 500,000 non-industrial civil servants: they include workers just like us - typists, computer operators, scientists and technicians as well as bowler hatted air traffic controllers. They have been taking selective industrial action since March 9 to further their 15 per cent wage claim, with a £10 minimum increase per week to protect the lower paid.

To some this seems excessively greedy: aren't civil servants overpaid already, with massive pensions and little to do but write memos to each other? In fact two thirds of them are paid less than the national average wage. Their pay has traditionally been determined by the Pay Research Unit (responsible for the recent awards to ASMs and NALGO members on campus).

The Government found the Unit's latest report, with recommended increases of 18 - 19 per cent, politically unsuitable and suppressed it, and are pressing the civil servants to settle for seven per cent, which would mean a big cut in their living standards. Their pensions are index-linked, like many other people's, and they indirectly contribute about eight per cent of salary to fund it. A recent Government report rejected the notion that such schemes were unduly expensive.

This confrontation was manoeuvred by the Government in an attempt to retain face after "giving in" to the power workers, miners and others who have resisted their crude pay policy. They chose a group not noted for their militancy and expected an easy kill.

But they haven't got one yet. The nine trade unions involved have voted at their conferences to escalate their action, which is already biting hard at Treasury computers and Defence establishments. Their resolve is strengthened.

There are civil servants on campus in the Nitrogen Fixation Unit. Like their colleagues around the country they have already taken part in two half day strikes, and will participate in future action.

It is important to trade unionists that the civil servants do not lose this dispute.

Jeremy Mais
(on behalf of the TULC)

LIBRARY COMPUTER CONVERSION

During the weekend of June 27/28, the final steps will be taken in the conversion of most automated processes in the Library so that they will be operated on the Geac 8000 computer installed last September.

From Monday, June 29, the issue and return of books will take place at the new counter erected during the Spring Term, and during the Summer vacation, various other rearrangements of the Library ground floor will be completed.

Arrangements for the distribution of new borrower cards will be announced shortly, and users will greatly assist both themselves and the Library if they look out for this announce-

Several changes will be apparent sooner or later in Library procedures in respect of reservations and recalls, overdue reminders, fines payments, etc; some of these will assist most users, others will allow the Library to enforce its regulations more effectively. Details will be distributed with the new borrower cards.

RECENT BOOKS

Recent books by Sussex authors, include:

CAME'S "L'ETRANGER" AND "LA CHUTE" by Dr. Rosemarie Jones, Lecturer in French. In the Critical Guides to French Texts series published by Grant and Cutler. Paper, £1.80.

CAN EQUITY BE ORGANISED? by Dr. G.B. Lamb (Senior Advisor to the World Bank) and Professor Bernard Schaffer, both of the Institute of Development Studies. Published in association with UNESCO by Gower Publishing. Cloth, £8.75.

MONETARY INTEGRATION IN WESTERN EUROPE. EMU, EMS AND BEYOND by Douglas Kruse. The second title in the European Studies series edited by Professor François Duchêne, Director of the Sussex European Research Centre. The research for the book was done at Sussex. Butterworth. Cloth, £16.00.

TRAINING IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY by Dr. Michael Eruat and Dr. Eric Newton of the University of Sussex, with Brendan Connors of the Open University. Society for Research into Higher Education. £6.00.

DOING FEMINIST RESEARCH AND WOMEN, HEALTH AND REPRODUCTION are both edited by Helen Roberts, who studied at the University. Routledge. Paperbacks, £4.95 and £5.50 respectively.

Of local interest:

THE CUCKMERE by Edna and 'Mac' McCarthy is a detailed description of the entire course of the river and its historical associations, illustrated with photographs, line drawings and maps. Lindee Publishing. Paper, £2.50.

GEORGINA BRIGHTON 1740-1820 by Dr. Sue Farrant of the Brighton Polytechnic. One of the series of Occasional Papers published by the Centre for Continuing Education. £1.25.

Available at

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP
GARDNER ARTS CENTRE

It was mildly reassuring, during our recent visit from the Colombiono Brothers, to find that even in these days of jumbo jets and the EEC the English, as a race, still find foreigners incredibly funny.

Their performances, conducted almost entirely in Italian, reminded me of a group (enigmatically called The Low Mean Spectacular) which I was originally associated with at the Hampstead Theatre Club and which I subsequently brought to the Gardner. In this case an Anglo-American company presented a show (called El Coca Cola Grande) entirely in pigeon Spanish.

The effect on the audience was devastating, a state of near-hysteria developing as the performance progressed until at points some people were clearly in appreciable pain. I remember one man at Hampstead who finished up literally sitting on the floor, presumably in a vain effort to escape the comic onslaught.

Laughter, of course, is a great release and a pretty good antidote to unpleasant things like inflation and recessions; the provoking of it is, however, a very serious business as in mass performances, it is not the material which is so funny but the manner in which it is presented.

In my experience comic actors are usually terrible worriers off-stage and frequently quite morose. Unlike emotive tragedians they have to stand back from their material and play it at or around an audience in an often quite calculating way. One false move can ruin any gag, and ensemble acting of a very high order is required in the successful presentation of a farce.

Neil Simon, whose play THE GOOD DOCTOR is being presented by the Actors Company at the Gardner this week, is of course the American master of comic writing, equivalent, although their styles are very different, to our own Alan Ayckbourn.

This is the British premiere of THE GOOD DOCTOR, and, if the reaction elsewhere is anything to go by, this touring production is something not to be missed, especially as it provides the double pleasure of bringing the Actors Company back to Brighton.

The cast includes Michael Graham Cox (last here as the frustrated husband in Ayckbourn's 'Just Between Ourselves'), Paul Greenwood, Kenn Sabberton, Rosemary Williams, Michael Malnick and Christina Greatrex, who was in Harold Pinter's 'Old Times' when we presented it a couple of years ago. The direction is in the capable hands of John Moffatt (himself no mean farceur) and the designs are by Susie Caulcutt.

At the end of next week we shall be bringing back the talented MARIAN MONTGOMERY, who will be giving three performances on June 4, 5 and 6. This is Marian's third visit to the Gardner - her last being with Richard Rodney Bennett in their programme.

LUNCHTIME EVENTS

Meeting House Lunchtime Recitals
Fridays at 1.15 p.m. in the Meeting House Chapel. Admission free.

May 29 Hilary Jones (organ)
June 5 Emma Leeman (recorder)
June 6 Ruth Rolle (harpsichord)
John Gray (clarinet)

Gardner Centre Lunchtime Recitals
1.15 p.m. in the Gardner Centre Theatre. Admission free.

Thursday, Mixed recital by First May 28 Year music students.

Tuesday, Monique Copper - piano - will perform works by Ton de Leeuw, Theo Loevendie, Messiaen and Debussy.

The Sussex Trugs return to the Gardner Centre on May 29 to play mainstream/traditional jazz in the Group Music Practice Room. 1.00 p.m. Admission free.

SMALL ADS

FOR SALE

USTA - HAIRDRESSING ON CAMPUS
Every Wednesday, 12 noon - 6 pm. York House. Men and women: £2 cut, £4 cut and blow dry. Book your time on list on York House Notice Board.