Britain's Vice-Chancellors have attacked the Government's "blinkered view" of higher education in a report published by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCVP) last month.

The report, 'The Future of the Universities', has been labelled "an external case" by the Universities' Green Paper on 'The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s', which, the CVCVP says, fails completely to take account of the needs of the nation in the next 15 years.

In introducing the report, Chairman of the CVCVP, Mr. Macpherson, said: "When the Government embarked on its programme of cuts in 1981 we said that it was profoundly misguided, that it was a mistake to sacrifice those things which Britain is really good at and to prejudice our future supply of highly skilled and educated people. Five years later our view has not changed, but the gravity of our situation most certainly has."

And in a letter to Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, Mr. Shock wrote: "The time of reckoning has now arrived for the policies that have been pursued during the past five years, a disaffection among academics, an increasing emigration of the most able, the shadows of financial difficulty for a number of universities."

Vice-Chancellor, Sir Denys Wilkinson, told the Bulletin last week: "The CVCVP has recognised that the Government's deplorable and restrictive attitude towards the universities and their funding is not going to be changed by parti pris representations by the universities themselves direct to Government. The Government will be moved only by third party voices, industry, commerce, the public at large, calling for change."

"The Future of the Universities establishes an external case and its intention to influence the influential by displaying the universities' capacity, willingness and flexibility in response to societal needs. It is a nitty-gritty document, almost utilitarian, with nothing about external verities and responsibility for the guardianship of world culture (more the need for government to press straight to quantifiable needs and the universities' capacity for meeting them. It is about value for money; without the money we shall certainly not be able to give the value."

The 24-page CVCVP report sets out the case for a strong and forward-looking university system, and in many places is strongly critical of the Government's judgement on a wide range of issues. For example:

- **Student numbers.** The Government is too pessimistic in its projections of the future demand for full-time higher education. The UK already has a smaller proportion of its workforce with first degrees than do its major economic competitors. There is a shortage of graduates in some key areas of our economy: the economic and social recovery of the country should not be impeded by a lack of skilled graduates.

- **Student awards.** The Government has failed to address the problem of student support and should now face its responsibilities. A scheme is needed which will encourage students to enter higher education, will guarantee an adequate level of finance for their academic study and is simple and cheap to administer.

- **Research.** Universities carry out most of the country's fundamental research and are increasingly involved in its application. This research is of the greatest importance to the nation and the universities have pursued it over the years with distinction. However, the support for research activities is under severe strain. Britain is falling behind its competitors not just because they are richer, but because Britain is spending less of what it has. The funding of research in the universities is therefore a major test of the Government's resolve.

- **Staffing.** Academic staff have in recent years had such low salary settlements that the universities have fallen behind other callings, national and international, recruiting from the same sources: they are now in danger of lagging still further behind. There is a deep sense of grievance and distrust which cannot be ignored because its effects, by way of recruitment, retention and motivation, are likely to damage both the efficiency and effectiveness of the universities. In the interests of justice, staff morale and the academic health and standing of the universities, the Government must soon find the funds for a substantial rise in university salaries and also agree a rational and equitable arrangement for fixing and funding pay in the university system in future.
National data base on universities' research interests

A national data base is to be set up which will provide a comprehensive and up-to-date information service on the research interests, expertise, facilities and services available in universities and other higher education institutions.

The aim is to provide industry and commerce with a readily accessible means of finding out which universities have the expertise to deal with particular problems and the specific areas of research pursued by each university.

A consortium of Cartermill Publishing Ltd, the Longman Group, Electra Investment Trust and the Scottish Development Agency are organising the data base, the establishment of which was recommended in a joint Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development/Advisory Board for the Research Councils report 'Improving Research Links between Higher Education and Industry' published in 1983.

Better job prospects for graduates

Employment prospects for graduates continued to improve in 1985, the fourth successive year to show an increase in vacancies for graduates, according to figures published last month by three careers organisations.

Jobs are available in finance, where there has been a 15 per cent increase; prospects for civil and mechanical engineers have improved considerably and there is a continuing strong demand for graduates in electrical and electronic engineering. Many engineers, however, are attracted to the financial sector where pay and rapid promotion prospects can be good, according to the three organisations, the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, the Central Service Unit and the Standing Conference of Employers of Graduates.

Against this hopeful picture there has been a noticeable decline in graduate interest in teaching, especially in sciences and engineering, and applications for Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) places in England and Wales for 1986 were down by 28 per cent. This was not the case here at Sussex, however, where there is still great competition for PGCE places. (See "Praise for Sussex Education", page 4.)
Footballs in space?

A Sussex scientist has discovered by accident a previously unknown form of carbon which could open up completely new areas of chemical research.

The discovery - an unusual carbon molecule made up of 60 carbon atoms in the shape of a modern leather football - was made during attempts, at Rice University, Texas, to simulate the conditions existing in space between carbon-rich stars.

Professor Kroto, of the School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences (MOLS), had gone to Texas to test out his theories on the ways in which carbon in space forms linear molecules. He wanted to use the powerful new gas chromatography technique developed by Professor Rick Smalley at Rice University, which has been employed in the past to study the vapourisation of metals, to conduct experiments using carbon. In the experiments a disc of graphite was vapourised in a stream of helium with a 4-billionth of a second burst of laser energy, creating temperatures of 10,000 to 20,000 degrees centigrade at the surface of the disc. As the carbon vapour cooled down it formed clusters of carbon atoms in hexagons, joined together like chicken wire. The unattached edges of the hexagons, being highly reactive, appeared to have curled up to form the molecular footballs.

Professor Kroto, Professor Smalley and his colleagues at Rice University, Professor Bob Curl and research students Jim Heath and Sean O'Brien, were amazed at their discovery. Carbon atoms had been previously combined to form lines and flat rings, but the newly discovered molecule represented the next logical extension of organic chemistry into 3-dimensions.

The team believe that the molecule could be widely distributed in the universe, especially around unexploded stars of high carbon content and in interstellar dust.

The molecule has been named Buckminsterfullerene (the longest of the alternatives considered), after the late architect, R. Buckminster Fuller, who designed domes with the same geometric structure. The surface of the molecule is made up of 32 faces, 12 of them pentagons and 20 of them hexagons, providing a very stable and unreactive structure, with a hollow centre - a phenomenon which is unique in nature.

The next step in the research is to create and collect samples of Buckminsterfullerene which can then be studied to determine its physical and chemical properties. Once the substance is available it could open up whole new avenues of chemical research using the molecule's elaborate surface as a base to which further molecules and compounds could be added. In addition the team have evidence that atoms such as lanthanum and oxygen can be placed in the centre, giving a molecule which may exhibit unusual properties. The material may also have supercatalytic, adsorption or lubricating properties, as well as interesting electrical and magnetic behaviour at low temperatures.

Degree for former University Architect

Former Sussex University Architect and Engineer, Jim Thomas, was among the 200 students receiving their degrees at the University's Winter Graduation Ceremony in the Gardner Centre last Wednesday.

Jim Thomas, who was the University's Architect and Engineer until 1981, received a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in Mechanical and Structural Engineering for his research into energy resource conservation in buildings. Jim, who is now a senior lecturer in the School of Architecture at Brighton Polytechnic, designed many of the University's most recent buildings, including EAPS III, the MRC Laboratory, the Thermo-Fluid Mechanics Research Centre and Kulukundis House, while employed by the University. He has recently been employed by the University again, to design the Eurotherm Building, which is currently being built.

Those graduating also included four British Caledonian Scholars - three from Nigeria and one from Hong Kong (pictured on the front page) - who flew back to Sussex especially to receive their degrees.

Small ads

ASTHMA STUDY. If you suffer from asthma and would be willing to take part in a paid non-invasive (no needles) study into asthma, Mike Mussell in the Centre for Medical Research, Biomedical Engineering, EAPS Stage 3 (tel. 2835) would be pleased to hear from you.

HARMONICA tutor required, especially blues style. Jim Stone, E.P. (F/C 4.23 room), or 'phone Lewes 472288.

ACCOMMODATION ON CAMPUS. The Institute of Development Studies can occasionally offer comfortable bed and breakfast accommodation in single study bedrooms, or self-catering in either small or family flats. For brochure and enquiries ring ext. 8265 or 4091.

NO TIME to decorate? High-class painter & decorator for interior & exterior work. Please ring & ask for Mr. Kevin Saunders, Lewes 474677.

Dance world premiere

The Gardner Centre continues to enhance its reputation as a major national venue for dance when Mantis Dance Company premiere two new programmes between February 11 and 13. Mantis have developed a reputation for being aggressively contemporary but thoroughly accessible, with work which appeals to a wide audience but is particularly popular with young people. Top New York choreographer Risa Jaroslow will be at the Gardner to put the finishing touches to "Rates of Exchange" before flying back to America after the opening night. Jaroslow's new piece forms part of a double bill with "Breakneck Hotel", a cajole by the Gardner's Victorian Sally Brill. Her bright colours and surreal images are complemented by the original score written by David Cunningham, based on his work with the Flying Lizards. "Faust" is at the Gardner on Friday and Saturday, 14th and 15th February.

Dr. Joanna Sheldon

The untimely death of Dr. Joanna Sheldon on New Year's Eve deprived the University of a staunch supporter and an active professional colleague. It also deprived many of us of a dear friend and an inspiring model of caring and conscientious medical expertise.

Joanna Sheldon was a Consultant Physician at the Royal Sussex County and the Brighton and Hove General Hospitals for many years. She came of distinguished medical family, and was notable particularly for her work in the field of diabetes, where she had a high reputation both regionally and nationally. She was a tireless worker, who gave her services unstintingly both to her patients and to research. She combined her therapeutic activities with high office in diabetic and other medical societies, and was recently President of the local branch of the Medico-Chirurgical Society.

Joanna was a founder member of the Medical Consultative Group, a joint committee of Sussex University faculty and local consultants involved in medical research and education. The Group has over 20 years generated and sustained significant professional relationships and projects despite the absence of a medical school at this University. As a consequence of a recent appointment Joanna Sheldon was appointed a Visiting Fellow of the University more than a decade ago. She was also one of those instrumental in the development of the University's Centre for Medical Research, and was on its Management Committee until her death.

Joanna battled strenuously against cancer for two years. She continued to work until very near the end of her life with the same dedication and professionalism that had marked her whole career. A warm and generous person, she tried to shield her friends from distress by her radiant resignation during her terminal illness.

She was universally liked and admired. The University can ill-aford the loss of such an important and valued friend. There will be many on campus who will mourn her passing.

MR. KEN BROWN

Ken Brown, a research student with the Labour Studies Graduate Division, died on December 31 at the age of 39. Dr. Kevin McCormick, Lecturer in Sociology, writes:

Among fellow students, faculty and many friends he was warmly appreciated for the vision and experience which he had combined with enthusiasm and patient good humour.

Ken came to the University in 1973 after an industrial accident ended his career as a senior union official. Despite crippling injuries he completed the MA and made good progress on experimental studies of negotiating behaviour until he was overtaken by a heart attack.

Praise for Sussex Education

The University's Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) course must be among the most advanced and certainly the most fulfilling in the country, according to Daily Telegraph Education Correspondent, John Izbiicki.

Mr. Izbiicki's praise for the course came in an article written in The Daily Telegraph last December, following a visit he made to the University the previous month.

The Sussex PGCE, which is unique in this country, gives students the opportunity to spend three days each week in a local school with seminars and tutorials at the University on the remaining two days. This pattern contrasts greatly with the months of lectures and separate weeks of "teaching practice" offered by other teacher training institutions.

Mr. Izbiicki was impressed, too, by the teacher-tutors in local schools who are appointed by the University to supervise the students' lessons and teaching methods during their three days in the schools, and who visit the University to contribute to the seminars which take place in the Education Development Building (EDB).
Silver Jubilee Diary

February 11: University Special (public) Lecture: Dr. Paul Murdin (Royal Greenwich Observatory) on 'The New Observatory in the Canary Islands'. 5.30 p.m. Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre.

February 27: University Special (public) Lecture: Sir John Burgh (Director-General of the British Council) on 'Government from Inside and Outside: Reflections of a Public Servant'. 6.30 p.m. Terrace Room, Refectory.

Kipling

be held on the morning of Friday, May 16. In the afternoon there will be a private visit to Kipling's home at Bateman's, Burwash, and in the early evening a wine reception in the University Bookshop at which Viscount Macmillan will officially open the exhibition "Kipling in Print". The fee for the day, to include coffee, lunch, tea, admission and transport, is £18.50.

The following day, Saturday, May 17, there will be a day school at the University, organised by the Centre for Continuing Education, which will consider some of the intriguing questions and perplexities raised by Kipling's brilliant craftsmanship. The convenor will be Dr. Angus Ross, with Dr. Alun Howkins and Dr. Geoffery Heardstedt (both in Sussex) and Dr. Sandra Kemp (Glasgow). The fee for the day school is £7.50 (excluding lunch).

Two free exhibitions will also form part of the events. "Kipling in Print", an exhibition of works currently available, including books by Kipling, studies of his life and work, and illustrative materials, will be on view in the University Bookshop, Refectory Building.

In the University Library, "Rudyard Kipling, 1865-1939" will show manuscripts, photographs and books from the Kipling Papers. The Kipling Papers are deposited on loan from the National Trust. The paper came into the Trust's possession on the death in 1977 of Kipling's daughter Mrs. Elsie Barnbridge. She bequeathed her Cambridgeshire home, Wimpole Hall, and the major archive of her father's life and work which she had assembled there, to the National Trust.

Further details, and a booking form for the events on May 16 and 17, are available from John Burt in the Library.

As it is the University's Silver Jubilee Year, we thought it might be interesting to look back at some of the earliest Bulletins . . . .

In this month

BULLETIN No. 5 14th February, 1963

235 PRESTON ROAD

235 Preston Road, the first social and teaching centre of the University, is to be relaunched. The building is being used temporarily for the storage of books, and, since no other suitable purpose can be found for the house, the lease is not to be renewed.

UNION NEWS

Summer Dance

There was a discussion to decide whether to hold a fairly large dance in the summer, which would be made to pay for itself and to which representatives from other universities could be invited. It was agreed unanimously that such a dance should be held.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY PLACES

The process of assessing applications for admission to the University next year and interviewing candidates is now in full swing. Up to the moment, there have been 4,210 applications, 946 for the School of English and American Studies, 1,321 for the School of European Studies, 1,772 for the School of Social Studies and 670 for the School of Physical Sciences. Of the applicants, 1,289 have placed the University of Sussex as their first choice, 1,694 as second, 878 as third and 949 as fourth. Between a third and a half of the applicants have been interviewed. Many of the applicants have not arrived for interview but have expressed appreciation of the help the undergraduates have given them during their visit here.

HALLS OF RESIDENCE

Plans for the Men's Hall of Residence have now been announced. ..... On the ground floor, besides various service rooms, there will be a junior common room, quiet room, music room and dark room. The junior common room will be divided from the quiet room by a sliding screen which can be drawn aside to form a larger room for lectures or dances. ..... The two upper floors will provide study/bedrooms for 96 undergraduates and two graduate students as accommodation for a sub-warden. ..... Every room will have a fixed wardrobe and shelf-unit, together with a movable bed, desk and chairs. ..... Detailed plans of the Women's Hall of Residence have not yet been announced but the general principles will be the same as for the Men's Hall. Women will have, however, the added luxury of a wash-basin in their rooms.

UNIVERSITY SERMON

The Chaplain's Sermon delivered at the University Church Service on 21st October 1962 has now been printed and copies are available, price 1/-, obtainable from the Head Porter.

Schools of Studies reunion dinners

To mark the Silver Jubilee the University of Sussex Society (UoS5), the association for graduates of the University, is organising nine Reunion Dinners in conjunction with the nine undergraduate Schools.

The dinners, which are open to former students, and past and present members of faculty and staff, will take place on four evenings in April and May this year, as follows: April 19 - CCS, SocSci; May 23 - Biol; May 30 - Eaps, Maps, Mols; May 31 - EngAm, AfrAs, Euro.

Tickets for the evenings are £11.00 each; if you are interested further details are available from Andrew Penting, Sussex House, and also on the booking form, obtainable from School Offices.

A very attractive line-up of guest speakers has been arranged and the evening should prove to be very popular. They will all take place in the Refectory, with those reunions occurring on the same evening having common bar facilities, to provide plenty of opportunity for people to meet old friends.

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The Personnel Office has issued the following summary of posts to be filled. Advertisements for these vacancies have been placed in local and, where appropriate, national press as well as being circulated to the relevant Section Heads and union representatives for circulation to staff and noticeboards. Copies of these advertisements, and further particulars, if available, as well as application forms, are obtainable from the Personnel Office, Room 227, Sussex House. This list was compiled on January 24 and is subject to revision. All posts are full-time, full-year and not open to female applicants unless otherwise stated.

Faculty
Two Research Fellowships (SPRU)
Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship (MOLS)
Research Fellowship (Astronomy)

Non-Academic Faculty
Accountant, Students' Union

Technical
Electronics Technician, 3 or 4, Computing Centre
Electronic Engineer (EAPS)

 Clerical and Related
Clerk, Grade 3, Admissions Office
Accounts Clerk, 1/2, Business Finance Office
Accounts Clerk/Typist, 1/2, Estates Accounts Office
Control Assistant, 3, Administration Office
Data Processing Secretary, 1/2, MAPS
Accounts Clerk, 1/2, Financial Accounts Office
Clerk/Typist, 1/2, School of Engineering & Applied Sciences
Clerk/Typist, 1/2, The Registry
Secretary, 1/2, Admissions Office
Secretary, 1/2, School of Biological Sciences

Manual and Ancillary
Part-time Cleaner, Park Village
Groundsperson, Sports Pavilion
Porter
Assistant Chef, Catering
Electrician, Estates & Maintenance
Grounds Staff (2), Estates & Maintenance
Part-time Cleaner, Sportcentre

CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
Saturday Schools: February 8 at the University:
'Rural Life in 18th Century Sussex', Tutor Sue Farrant.
'Economics for the exasperated', Tutor Geoff Walker.

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851. The 1851 Research Fellowships in Science or Engineering are intended to give a few young scientists or engineers of exceptional promise the opportunity for conducting research for a further period of at least one year. Candidates should be in possession of, or completing, a DPhil and citizens of the British Commonwealth or of the Republics of Ireland, Pakistan or South Africa. The stipend will probably be £7,460 for the first year and £8,200 for the second year. Closing date for applications: May 1.

European Communities
* 20 grants for research into European integration will be awarded in July 1986; three of them reserved for historical research into the origins of European integration. The awards are for young university teaching staff. Closing date for applications: March 1.
* The European Communities have called for the submission of projects for:
  a) Technological Development in the Hydrocarbons Sector (closing date: April 3)
  b) Demonstration Projects and Industrial Pilot Projects in the Energy Field (closing date: April 29)
  c) Fifth Framework research programme on Technical Control of Nuisances and Pollution at the Place of Work and in the Environment of Iron and Steel Works (no closing date)

Further details of the above are available from the Research Grants Office, Room 201, Sussex House.

MRC Grants and Training Awards - intending applicants for project grants who wish to have their proposals considered by the summer are reminded to submit applications as soon as possible in 1986. The MRC hopes that all applications received before the end of March and at least some of those received in April will be assessed by August. Proposals received later than April will almost certainly have to be considered next autumn.

LUNCHTIME MUSIC
Chillingirian String Quartet: Thursday, February 6, 1 - 2 p.m. Lecture recital on Brahms Quartet in A minor Op.31, No.2, Friday, February 7, 2 p.m. Open rehearsal. Group Music Practice Room, Gardner Centre. Admission free. (Please enter and leave quietly.)

Meeting House Chapel - Tuesday recitals:
1.15 p.m. - today (Feb. 4) - John Birch (organ); February 11 - Sue Pogson (mezzo soprano), Stephanie Harper (soprano), Elizabeth Kaye (soprano); February 18 - Sue Ruleham (soprano), John Birch (accompanied by Ian Ruleham). Februay 25 - Bryan Almond (organ). Admission free.

The Sussex Trugs play mainstream/traditional jazz in the Playing Fields Pavilion, 1 - 2 p.m. on Fridays.

MUSIC TALK
The young British composer George Benjamin will be talking about his teacher, Olivier Messiaen, and about his own music, at 2.15 p.m. this Thursday, Feb.
uary 26. Location: Falmer House Recital Room 120. In 1980 George Benjamin became the youngest composer to have a piece performed at the BBC Promenade Concerts.