UNIVERSITY’S FINANCIAL POSITION WORSENS

The University’s financial position has taken a rapid turn for the worse, with Sussex facing a recurrent deficit of more than half a million pounds in 1988-89, and with reserves now used or fully committed.

Although the reductions in staff numbers which have so far been necessary under the University Plan have already been achieved for other groups, this has not been the case for academic faculty where the excess cost will amount to approximately £500,000 per annum in 1990 if no reductions are achieved.

In a letter sent to all teaching faculty on March 17, Vice-Chancellor Sir Leslie Fielding said that, as indicated at Senate and Council, unless the planned reduction in numbers was achieved by voluntary means and on the assumption that the University cannot be allowed to plunge into serious debt, then the June meetings of Senate and Council will have only two options open.

"Either they must consider other ways of staff reduction, or else they must decide to balance the budget through a freeze on all new academic faculty appointments, permanent and temporary. The former option, in addition to the normal due processes concerning satisfactory performance of duties, includes the matter of compulsory redundancy. Here, there has been no change of policy so far; but you should know that Council concluded, on March 11, that it could no longer guarantee that it would not in future be necessary to consider compulsory redundancies."

The Government has made available, through the University Grants Committee (UGC) additional funds for restructuring. It now offers full compensation to universities for the cost of cases of early retirement and voluntary severance which conform to an agreed academic plan and which take place on or before September 30, 1988.

In his letter to faculty, the Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the terms on offer will almost certainly be less generous for retirements after the deadline for maximum compensation set by the UGC, since the University does not have the monies to make good any reduction in the UGC’s level of compensation. He has asked for considered reactions from individual members of faculty by the end of April.

The University’s weakened financial position has been brought about by two main factors. There has been a shortfall in income from student fees involving a reduction of £350,000 this year, partly caused by a drop in home postgraduate numbers but mainly by a failure to reach the target numbers of overseas students. Although Sussex has one of the highest proportions of income from overseas students of any British university, the market is an increasingly competitive one.

The University has also suffered a reduction in its allocation of UGC grant. Compared with provisional figures given a year ago, the latest grant announcement shows reductions in the Sussex allocation of about £150,000 a year for the next two years, whereas the total of allocations for all universities remains unchanged. However, in a league table of gains and losses comparing the latest provisional grant for 1989-90 with the actual grant for 1988-87, Sussex still comes seventh.

The effect of these developments is that the University’s reserves have been run down faster than planned. As a short-term measure, allocations to Schools and other spending units have already been cut by a further one per cent on top of the reductions in the University Plan approved last year.

The Vice-Chancellor concludes his letter to faculty by expressing his regrets at the consequences of the deteriorating financial situation on particular members of faculty. "As far as individuals are concerned, I do not have to say how distasteful I find these harsh realities. At the same time, however, the University must not only live within its means but also redeploy its resources, so as to build on its strengths and its areas of particular promise and growth potential."

The Vice-Chancellor is arranging a meeting later this month to discuss the University’s financial situation and academic staffing with members of teaching faculty.

The full text of a letter from the Vice-Chancellor to the President of the local AUT about academic staffing is reproduced on page 3.
SENATE AND COUNCIL

From the March meetings of Senate and Council:

Senior Pro-Vice Chancellor

Professor Fred Bayley, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Thermo-Fluid Mechanics Research Centre, has been appointed Senior Pro-Vice Chancellor for the period of two years from 1 August 1988, in succession to Professor B.D. Graham.

Finance Officer

The early retirement of the Finance Officer, Mr. Ray Howard, from July 31, 1988, has been reluctantly accepted.

Deanships

Dr. R.D. Grillo has been appointed Dean of the School of African and Asian Studies for a period of three years from August 1, 1988.

Professor G.M.J. Gazdar has been appointed Dean of the School of Cognitive Sciences for a period of three years from August 1, 1988.

Dr. A.F. Stevens has been appointed Dean of the School of European Studies for a period of three years from September 1, 1988.

Dr. C. Brooks' appointment as Dean of the School of English and American Studies has been extended for two further years from July 1, 1989.

Professors Fellows

Dr. D.G. White of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) has been awarded the title of Professorial Fellow from 1 April 1988.

The titles of Professorial Fellow already conferred on Professors M. L. O. Faber and J. F. Toye will be held throughout their IDS appointments.

Thorn Ericsson

Council received a report on a proposal made by Thorn Ericsson Telecommunications Limited for the location of a building for the company within the University Park, on a site to the north of the Mantell Building and to the east of the East Slope residences. The Buildings Committee had approved in principle that the development might be sited as proposed by the company and that the company might now submit a formal planning application to Brighton Council.

The Council expressed its full support for the proposal and agreed that further discussions and negotiations should continue urgently to conclude details of the negotiated arrangements to enable the project to proceed.

IDS Librarian

Mr. N.W. Rosett took up his post as Librarian of the Institute of Development Studies on March 1. He was formerly Head of the Publications/Information/Library Unit of the Overseas Development Natural Resources Institute.

SIR PETER SIMPSON-OPRA, Chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC), answering questions from an audience of members of Senate, as part of a visit to the University last month. Sir Peter gave his views on a wide range of issues including the subject reviews currently being undertaken by the UGC, and the effects of the transition from the UGC to the new Universities Funding Council.

STUDENTS, COVENANTS AND THE PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

From next academic year, all students first entering higher education will have their grant assessed on a parental contribution scale which compensates for the ending of tax relief on covenant contributions. No new covenants for the benefit of students made on or after Budget Day will attract tax relief.

Where students would previously have received any mandatory maintenance grant under the existing scale, the reductio in parental contribution - and therefore the increase in net grant from the local education authority - will be 25 per cent.

Students already on full-time courses will have their grant next year assessed on the parental scale announced last December, whether or not their parents have covenant contributions in their favour. Separate contribution scales for 'old' and 'new' students will continue to operate side by side for the next four academic years.

Parents with one student child and a residual income of £10,000 will pay £48 under the new, reduced, scale or £64 under the existing scale. Those with a residual income of £20,000 will pay £1,496 on the new scale or £1,993 on the old scale.

VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE PALACE

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Leslie Fielding, was knighted by the Queen at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace on March 15.

Sir Leslie became a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (KCMG) in the New Year’s Honours List.
VICE-CHANCELLOR'S LETTER TO SUSSEX AUT PRESIDENT

The following is the text of a letter sent by the Vice-Chancellor to Dr. C.S. Yeo, the President of the University of Sussex AUT, on 22 March 1988:

Many thanks for your letter of 21 March about academic staffing.

Like you (and, as far as I can judge, like Council), I want to avoid compulsory redundancies.

As the Finance Officer and I explained to Old Planning Committee, to Senate and to Council earlier this month (at the first two meetings), when you were of course present and able to speak), the financial situation of the University has worsened, and we must therefore now proceed to shed remaining non-academic staff. The problem posed by the latter is not new: but the financial crisis is - hence the "new edge".

My own hope, as I made clear, is that we can use the full subsidy made available up to 30 September 1988 by the UGC to resolve the staff problem voluntarily, humanely and in the best interests of the University.

Meanwhile, Council has not changed the University's policy of avoiding compulsory redundancy; but it does not guarantee that it might not at some future point decide to do so. If the voluntary approach had failed and it then saw no valid alternative. How much warning ought at that as yet hypothetical future point to be given by the University before actually implementing any such change of policy is a question which could in my view be determined by Council in the light of the actual circumstances at that time and only after a full debate, with prior notice of the issue given to all its members.

MONEY COMES IN TO HELP THE TREES

The University's tree replanting programme continues apace, aided by a grant from East Sussex County Council of £10,800 - made up of £9,000 from the Council's Task Force Trees scheme and £1,800 from Operation Green Leaf, the Evening Argus appeal administered by the County Council, And around £3,000 has been raised by staff, students and others.

The University moved swiftly after the October hurricane to apply to ESCC for a grant under its last year's budget allocation and to ensure that the sum awarded was spent by the end of March. A further scheme is expected to be launched by ESCC in the Spring of 1989, continuing over several years, and the University will also be applying for assistance from this.

The campus replanting programme has been drawn up with specialist advice and in consultation with ESCC's Planning Department. The £10,800 grant was one of the two largest grants awarded by the County Council to applicants. It is for the replacement of fallen trees in the more formal, central parts of the campus and allows not only for the planting of new trees, but for stump, clearance and surgery to important standing trees. Work on the other, wilder, tree belts is also continuing, depending on available labour and funds.

Already around 50 indigenous trees have been planted out and a further 250 have been purchased and are in the nursery awaiting planting next autumn. They are made up of beech, elm, ash, oak, sycamore, pine - and one hornbeam. They will replace the 300 mature trees lost from the central part of campus during the storm.

As well as the grant from the County Council, more than £1,600 has been raised in collections in Schools, the Library, Mantell and Education buildings and by the Administration and members of Court and Council. In addition, the University's Community Development Fund has made a donation of £750. And, as reported last term, Radio Falmer's Leaf Relief raised more than £900. Contributions from groups and individuals are still coming in.

FIFTEEN HONORARY DEGREES TO BE AWARDED IN 1988

Musician and composer Paul McCartney, businesswoman Anita Roddick and former Prime Minister Lord Callaghan are among those to be awarded honorary degrees at a number of Graduation Ceremonies to be held throughout the year.

Fifteen honorary degrees are being awarded this year including for the first time the degree of Doctor of the University, which both Paul McCartney and Anita Roddick will receive, as well as the distinguished soprano Felicity Lott.

Five Doctorates of Laws are to be awarded to Lord Callaghan, Jacques Delors, President of the Commission of the European Communities, and three distinguished lawyers, Lord Hailsham, Lord Elwyn-Jones (both former Lord Chancellors) and Lord Nathan.

Professor Martin Trow, Director of the Graduate School of Public Policy at Berkeley is to be awarded a Doctorate of Letters, and two professors with close Sussex links, John Maynard Smith, founding Dean of Biological Sciences, and John West, founding Dean of Applied Sciences and now Vice-Chancellor of Bradford University, become Doctors of Science, along with Sir Trevor Holdsworth, Chairman of GKN plc and of the Brighton Festival Trust.

Also to be awarded are three Masters' degrees, to two former University employees, Mary Coppinger and Gerald Massé, and to Margaret Ford, a local social worker for the blind, at a special ceremony on 4 May (see elsewhere in this Bulletin).

Many of the honorary graduates have close links with the University or with the counties of East and West Sussex; for example, Paul McCartney is a resident of Peasmarsh near Rye; Anita Roddick opened the first branch of her Body Shop chain in Brighton; and Lord Callaghan has a farm at Ringmer.

Six of the honorary degrees will be awarded at the main Summer Graduation Ceremony to be held at the Brighton Centre on 12 July. Paul McCartney, Anita Roddick, Sir Trevor Holdsworth and Professors Trow, Maynard Smith and West will attend the ceremony, with the remaining degrees to be presented at special ceremonies later in the year.

Minister for Overseas Development Christopher Patten, MP, was on campus last Thursday for the topping-out ceremony for the Institute of Development Studies Library extension. He is pictured (right) with IDS Director Professor John Toye (left) and the Vice-Chancellor by the plaque marking the opening of the Library extension by the Minister.
Sussex must be adaptable and open to change in meeting the challenges of the future, the Vice-Chancellor told a packed meeting of the University Court on March 11.

"We have already given proof that we are capable of imagination and flexibility in meeting new demands. We must continue on that path. But we must also be radical, not in the factional sense of that term, but in our readiness where appropriate to abandon the conventional mould, and where necessary to think the unthinkable," Sir Leslie Fielding said.

Political and other pressures currently bearing on universities would undoubtedly bring about change, but in a sense they were secondary to other more fundamental and pervasive changes in the environment which were now beginning to emerge, and which were essentially non-political in character, the Vice-Chancellor said.

In the next few years, "a fundamental re-examination of what we teach, how we teach and who we teach it to," was likely to be provoked by the following developments:

* a decline of about 25 percent in the number of 18-year-old school leavers over the next ten years;
* changes in the school curriculum, including the shortage of science teachers and the consequent reduction in the number and quality of science applicants;
* the economics of student life which might lead to more students living at home and more students coming to university straight from school;
* rapid technological and industrial change which would overtake existing skills and qualifications;
* an increasing number of people wishing to take degree courses on a part-time or modular basis.

These developments represented a challenge which the University could meet only by adopting radical measures, Sir Leslie said. First and foremost, the University must review its policies on entry requirements. It had a well-establish ed record of accepting mature students and must build upon this, by taking more people with widely varying non-standard qualifications - or with none.

"We must open our doors to all those whose abilities and personal qualities suggest that they could benefit from a degree course at our University. We must be prepared to widen our recognition of access courses provided by other educational establishments. And we must co-operate with local institutions to develop pre-university foundation and preparatory courses, tailored to the demands which our degrees make on students," the Vice-Chancellor said.

The University had made a start on this, he said, and drew attention to the Foundation Programme for overseas students run in conjunction with Davies's College, the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences' link with local technical and sixth form colleges, and the introduction of four-year integrated degrees in Physics and Engineering for those who application qualifications fall short of current 'A' level expectations.

"Certainly, our degree programmes will have to become more flexible in other respects," he continued. "We must be willing to accept students by transfer into the second or third year of a degree, giving credit for work done in post-18 courses elsewhere. Credit transfer will have to operate in both directions. With increasing mobility, it may become common to fashion a degree out of a combination of courses taken at different institutions."

Sussex must also be prepared to accommodate students who wished to intersperse periods of study with work of other kinds. "Within limits, to some extent, should become a right, not a privilege. Part-time first degrees would no longer be the exclusive preserve of a few institutions. To make all this possible, Sussex must develop modular degrees in which each course was self-contained and examined for credit as soon as it was completed," the Vice-Chancellor said.

The University must look to greater cooperation and collaboration with other institutions. Locally and regionally there would be more joint degrees following the lead of the joint Master's degree with Brighton Polytechnic in Computer Technology in Manufacture and a second being developed in the Management of Technology. Nor was there any reason to restrict collaboration and student mobility to the UK.

"We should aim to attract a new clientele from the rest of Europe and beyond, through the development of new courses and new patterns for existing courses," Sir Leslie added. "We must build upon our links with the European University to allow for credit transfer and for split and joint degree schemes in which students will divide their time between two or more countries rather as they already do on our existing Junior Year Abroad and exchange schemes for American students."

The University, too, must seek to build up its links with industry and the world of work. "Students are increasingly aware of the importance of employment prospects, and our ability to attract them will depend on the attractiveness of our graduates to employers," he said.

"Our degrees must become more career-relevant. And in a rapidly changing technological world we can no longer assume that the sciences and engineering accepted in a university degree will remain valid throughout a 90 years of working life."

"Vocational and mid-career training will cease to be the poor relation alongside traditional degrees. Short and part-time courses to update those in professional and technical employment will be a major growth point in which we, following the lead already being set by the Continuing and Professional Education Area, must play a full part."

The Vice-Chancellor had begun his statement by describing to members of Court some of the work of the University which had impressed him since his arrival. He then spoke on the current pressures on the university system and said that these would be intensified by a number of policy developments at national level.

First, the Jarratt Report on efficient management in universities which made a wide range of detailed recommendations, and a separate investigation into "value for money" by the National Audit Office. Sussex had the advantage of an administrative structure which corresponded closely with the Jarratt prescription, but there was still room for improvement, the Vice-Chancellor said. The academic management structure was one aspect which he was reviewing with particular care.

Second, there was the perennial problem of finances. A return to the favourable financial circumstances of pre-1981 was highly unlikely, and things could get worse. Third, universities were obliged to take account of changes in the Government's approach to the general shape and function of the higher education system. Higher education had been seen by successive governments as offering a service to the nation, supported with a just entitlement to grants from the public purse. Today, a more market-oriented approach prevailed.

He referred to the ideas of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils for classifying universities. "The Chairman of Council has challenged the concept in the Lords, arguing that a university which only did teaching would not be a university, but a limited college with limited liabilities. I myself, like pretty well every Vice-Chancellor in the land, have also come out on the record against these ABRC notions."

The signs and auguries pointed to some kind of selectivity, and some form of 'big and beautiful' approach, as Sir Leslie said. Although there was a case for rationalising provision for very expensive (continued on next page)
SPECIAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

MAY 4, 1988

Two of the University’s longest-serving members of staff will be honoured at a Special Graduation Ceremony on May 4 when three honorary degrees will be conferred. Mary Coppinger, former administrator in the Arts Examinations Office, will receive the honorary degree of Master of Arts, and Gerald Massé, former Laboratory Superintendent in MAPS, will be awarded an Hon.MSC.

At the same ceremony, Mrs. Margaret Ford, a specialist social worker for the blind in West Sussex, will receive the new degree of Master of the University.

Mary Coppinger joined the University in its very earliest days - on October 1, 1961 - and retired in 1983. Gerald Massé’s memories, too, go back to Sussex’s first years - to 1962 when the Science Area began its life in an office at 233 Preston Road.

The Special Graduation Ceremony will be held at Meeting House. Members of staff who wish to attend may do so (subject to any operational constraints) and may obtain tickets from Ms. C.M. Broadway, Sussex House.

(continued from previous page)

scientific research, he questioned if small distinguished groups, such as the surface science group in Physics at Sussex composed of just two members of faculty, John Venables and Mike Hardiman, were to be deprived of funding in the future. He said that Sussex was too small to be seen as beautiful in all fields of research and the answer could be to develop closer collaboration with Brighton Polytechnic and Southampton, Surrey and Kent Universities.

The Vice-Chancellor also commented on the Great Education Reform Bill (GERBIL). As far as the universities were concerned, some of the GERBIL’s teeth seemed to have been drawn by the intended modifications to the higher education clauses which the Government had announced in the light of comments and criticisms from all quarters, he said. The Chairman of Council and he had attempted to point to the flaws and to urge prudential changes. So, too, had other members of Court.

The Vice-Chancellor concluded his review to the Court by expressing his conviction that the University of Sussex would survive and prosper: “We are intrinsically too good an institution not to do so.”

He was speaking at the first meeting of the Court since he took over as Vice-Chancellor. The Court meets annually to receive the audited accounts and Annual Report for the previous session and has around 200 members including Members of Parliament, Sussex constituencies, local government and trade union representatives, and others from many walks of life.

ALTERNATIVE WORK FAIR

Several hundred students attended the Alternative Work Fair (pictured above), organised by the Occupational Advisory Service (OAS) and the Students’ Union, last month to make contact with delegates from some 40 organisations.

The aim of the fair was to provide information and advice to students who may be considering careers in areas not normally covered by conventional careers directories and fairs such as co-operatives, charities and women’s organisations.

Advice was available on such subjects as how to set up a co-operative, what qualifications are needed for work with aid and development agencies, and the kinds of work experience students should gain in the vacations.

Among the delegates at the fair were representatives from organisations involved in counselling, alternative education, aid and development work, peaceful applications of technology, alternative approaches to finance (running ethical investment services), legal work and trades unions.

According to Occupational Advisor Carolyn Robb, the fair was a tremendous success. “We were very pleased with the attendance at the fair, and in particular the numbers of first and second year students, many of whom were using OAS’s services for the first time”.

“It is important for students to use these events as a way of making contact with organisations that do not produce glossy brochures, and are difficult to find out about”.

The delegates were also pleased with the way the fair went, and some unemployed graduates were reported to have travelled several hundred miles to attend the event.

BRIGHTON ROCK ‘88!

A summer school being organised by the Music Subject Group at Sussex in August will offer up to 100 young people interested in rock and pop the chance to improve their musical skills and learn more about the music business.

Brighton Rock ‘88 which is being run with the support of the Musicians’ Union, aims to help 16-20 year olds, who may well already play in a band, develop their musical skills and understand and communicate effectively with the music business and the media.

The students attending the course will work in small groups with resident tutors (many of whom are professional musicians), learning about playing in a band, rehearsal techniques and stagecraft. There will also be workshops on songwriting, arranging and improvisation, and each student will have the opportunity to work in the University’s recording studio and to hear about the experiences of professional musicians.

“The course offers the opportunity to learn and experience new and effective working practices and techniques that will be beneficial to every student’s musical dexterity - and it should be fun as well”, said organiser Norton York, a music postgraduate at Sussex.

The six-day course, to be held on the campus from 21-26 August, will also host a series of events, and more information on the course can be obtained from Elton John and Adrian York (keyboard player with Working Week and Helen Terry).

Among the musicians attending the summer school as resident or visiting tutors are members of the Musicians’ Union Rock Workshop Band and top session players such as Paul D’Oliveira (who has played trumpet for Terence Trent D’Arby, Wam, Marvin Gaye and many others), Dave Bitelli (a saxophonist with Elton John) and Adrian York (key-board player with Working Week and Helen Terry).

The summer school, the only one of its kind in the country, reflects the interests of the music group at Sussex in analysing popular music and its role in the media and contemporary culture. For more information on the course, contact Angie Oxley, music secretary on ext 2172.
APPRAISAL TRAINING FOR FACULTY

It is likely that an appraisal scheme for academic faculty will be introduced in the near future. Discussions are well advanced and although details of implementation remain to be clarified there is broad agreement between the University 'management' and the AUT concerning the principles.

Appraisal properly carried out can be a very rewarding activity although perceptions differ as to its main function. Individual faculty no doubt will value the opportunity to review their career development and presumably the University will use the process to audit their most valuable asset - human resources.

For appraisal to be worthwhile it has to be carried out efficiently and the procedures and ground rules need to be established, accepted and understood. Experience elsewhere strongly underlines the need for systematic and universal training for those taking part as appraisers. It is for this reason that a series of one-day training courses will be held at the University during the next month which anyone who is likely to act as an appraiser is invited to attend. They will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. on April 26, 27 and 28, and on May 10 and 11. Invitations to attend have been widely circulated but anyone who has not received one may contact Mrs. Barbara Bemell (Room 5A4, Physics Building, ext. 3045).

During each course, training in appraisal techniques will be given by experienced external consultants and there will be the opportunities to study, test and discuss the proposed Sussex scheme. It is hoped that every appraiser will be prepared to undergo training. Only in this way will the ground rules be firmly established, the procedures universally accepted as being fair, and the process become of maximum benefit to all.

It should be noted that the details of the scheme, including the timetable for implementation, is a matter for the University to decide, in consultation with the AUT. Queries about training may be referred to me (Room 447, Physics Building, ext. 8099).

Brian Smith
Teaching & Learning Coordinator

Sri Lankan government minister Gamini Dissanayake (second from left) with his son, Nalin, on a private visit to the University on March 7. Mr. Dissanayake is Minister of Lands and Land Development and Minister of Mahaweli Development (the Mahaweli is the biggest river in Sri Lanka). He is pictured with Professor John Murrell, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science) (left), Mr. Neil S. Cooke of the Maharaja Organisation (a major Sri Lankan company) and Dr. David Walton, Reader in Chemistry, who has built up close links with Sri Lanka.

SMALL ADS

THE INSTITUTE of Development Studies is sometimes able to offer comfortable accommodation for visitors to campus. 1 and 2-bedroom self-contained flats (incl. heating, linen and colour TV) available from the beginning of the Summer Term. For further particulars, please ring Valerie Stephens on ext. 2628 or Nan Tattershall on ext. 4091.

FOR SALE: Opus MM-211 monochrome monitor in excellent condition, £50. Contact Steve Carter, Sussex House, ext. 8203, for information.

TWO DIMPLEX electric wall heaters. £3 each. Tel. Sally Barnes 8213.

TO LET: July 25 - Sept.1, 18th century cottage, centrally situated, lovely garden. Non-smokers only. Tel. Seafield 899587 or contact Jenny Marshman, Library, ext. 8163.

WANTED: dedicated (under 8½ stone) crew for dinghy racing (National 12) at Portervenay Bay, Sundays. Please contact Patrick Keen (SocSci UoG), tel. 736617.

FULLY FURNISHED and equipped studio apartment at Arroyo de la Miel (Benalmadena) Costa del Sol. Sleeps 2/3 persons. Available for letting July/August/October/November. Terms for University staff £50 per week. Tel. Derek Croker 3742.

THE BOC UNDERGRADUATE CHALLENGE

The BOC Undergraduate Challenge is a business game open to undergraduate teams drawn from UK universities and polytechnics. Each member of the five-person winning team will receive a travelling fellowship worth £1,500 and the winning institution will receive a cheque for £5,000. In all, prizes to a total value of £237,750 are on offer.

The game will start in the Autumn Term with the 10 most successful teams taking part in the final in London on January 6-8, 1989.

In the last competition organised by BOC more than 70 teams took part, simulating the role of a board of a company striving for success in the competitive world of industrial gases. This year's competition will follow a similar format and will call on the teams to make a series of decisions - about defining the market, how best to meet its needs, how much product to manufacture, and how to maximise distribution in the most cost-effective manner.

Entry forms are available from: BOC Undergraduate Challenge, FREEPOST, P.O. Box 26, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5BR. Completed forms should be returned by no later than June 30, 1988.

REVISED VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE USA

The United States Embassy has issued the following notice in connection with revised visa application procedures for academic and student travel to the United States.

The application procedures for temporary visas (B1/B2, J1/J2, F1/F2 and H) for the United States has been altered. It is no longer possible to drop an application into the Embassy Non-Immigrant Visa Section and expect to collect it the same day. Interviews have been stopped except in exceptional cases - the object being to eliminate lengthy queues and crowded waiting rooms.

Applications may still be placed in a drop box located at the Upper Grosvenor Street entrance of the Embassy but it will be posted back to you. This means that at least two weeks must be allowed for turn round at peak periods. There is no collection the same day.

For applicants outside London visa applications should be posted in with a completed, separate visa application for each person travelling. Please make sure that you have completed your I-156 and I-20 forms, stamped by your host US institution well in advance of your travel. We can no longer deal with applications which arrive a few days before your departure date.

In addition to the visa application form (I-156) and the IAP-66 and I-20 forms, you will need a valid regular passport (a temporary visitor's passport does not meet this requirement), a recent photograph, plus a stamped addressed envelope.
LINEAR MAGNETIC MOTOR ATTRACTION ATTENTION

A new kind of linear magnetic motor designed by two Sussex engineers, with potentially hundreds of different applications, is in great demand by industry followed by interest in the trade press, and an appearance on the BBC's Tomorrow's World last month.

Dr Graham Williams and Dr Denis Edwards, working in conjunction with an engineering company, Williams Fairey Limited of Stockport, have developed a new form of conveyor system using a highly efficient and reliable motor driven by a travelling magnetic field.

Enquiries about the system have been received from all over the world, including Japan, China and the Soviet Union, and there has been coverage in more than 100 publications worldwide.

The conveyor system was originally designed for use in environments where hazardous materials such as toxic chemicals are transported, or where substances such as pharmaceuticals need to be kept free from contamination. It has the key advantage of being controlled from outside the containment area.

The linear motor developed at Sussex generates powerful magnetic waves which, under computer control, push a trolley along a tunnel or some other predetermined path. The trolley contains segments of magnetic material which are attracted to the moving magnetic wave, and as the wave is able to penetrate stainless steel walls of up to 5 mm thick, the trolley remains the only part of the system within the containment area.

The trolley (or other carrier vehicle) is the only moving part, which means that the system is highly reliable and needs little maintenance. The other main advantage of the system is its adaptability: it is able to climb inclines and travel at speeds much greater than conventional conveyor belt systems, for example.

Dr Williams and Dr Edwards received backing from Williams Fairey Limited and from the Science and Engineering Research Council in the early stages of the project, and are now involved in the detailed design of prototype systems for industrial clients.

Dr Williams told Bulletin, "The system is generating tremendous interest even in sectors of industry which we had not previously thought of approaching, and the Tomorrow's World programme has led to another rush of enquiries from companies'.

A working model of the linear magnetic motor system built in the engineering laboratories at Sussex, was transported in pieces to the BBC Television Centre in London for the live television broadcast on 17 March. It had to be re-assembled in the studio and then dismantled again for the return to Sussex. "It was a lot of effort for just three minutes on the television", said Dr Williams, although the audience of several million is some compensation.

Dr Williams and Dr Edwards are now working as consultants to Williams Fairey Limited, who have converted part of one of their factories to handle the building of prototype conveyor systems for industrial clients.

EUROPE, FESTIVAL AND ROMANCE

The Gardner Centre kicks off its summer programme in romantic mood with a premiere of Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson, Brief Encounter from today (April 19) until the 23rd.

In a stylish tour production featuring some of Coward's great love songs and incorporating waltzes and foxrots, the forbidden atmosphere of the 30s is recreated, to shout over the place of sex in society, of charged eroticism and reputations at risk.

Though it will inevitably remain forever associated with Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson, Brief Encounter was originally written by Noel Coward as one of a series of short plays conceived as "acting, singing and dancing vehicles" for Gertrude Lawrence and himself. The film, though loyal to the intention of the play, greatly expanded upon it. Coward wrote of his original text: "It is well written, economical and well constructed, the characters, I think, are real, and I can say now, reading it with detachment after so many years, that I am proud to have written it.'

A little known fact: May 3 is Europe Day, marking the anniversary of the setting up of the Council of Europe. To mark the occasion, the Gardner Centre is joining forces with East Sussex County Council to present Around Europe in 80 Minutes: a celebratory concert featuring songs and instrumental pieces from ten European countries interspersed with appropriate readings, mostly in a humorous vein on themes relating to the countries concerned, and on travel.

Distinguished actor Timothy West will narrate the evening's concert, introducing musicians and vocalists who will take us on a musical voyage around Europe in a celebration of classic works. The artists are: Melinda Armstrong, Yvette Howard, Martin Isopp and Anthony Marwood.

The next day (May 6) sees the opening of the Brighton Festival: three weeks of incessant artistic activity throughout Brighton, with the Gardner Centre as always, plays a major part. To whet your appetite, the first week sees the opening of our Brighton Festival exhibitions: Towards The Mountain - recent works by Daniel Maté, Entertained At Butlins - paintings by Peter McCarthy and a display of works by Martin Sharpe, who provides this year's festival poster image. Ismael Ivo also makes his long-awaited UK debut at the Gardner, having enthralled packed European audiences with his vibrant dance. Born in Brazil of African parentage, Ivo offers a story of the death, metamorphosis and rebirth of the mythical bird of the Phoenix, after which his performance is named (Ap60-8).

For other events at the Gardner, consult the Gardner's latest programme. Details of jazz band and mime workshops, craft workshops for adults and children together, and in silversmithing, pottery and life drawing, contact the Gardner Centre.

TERM DATES

This term ends on Friday, June 29. The Autumn Term runs from Monday, October 3 to Friday, December 9.

YOUNG SCIENCE WRITER AWARD

The Daily Telegraph, in conjunction with the British Association for the Advancement of Science, has launched a young science writer award to promote interest and awareness of science.

Researchers, aged 22-28, who can describe their own work in a vivid way, and students, aged 16-21, who want to write on any aspect of science are encouraged to participate. Articles, of 1,000 words maximum, should appeal to, inform and entertain both specialist and general readers.

The best articles will be printed and the winner of the older group will go to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in San Francisco and the winner of the younger group will spend a week in the USA as guest of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The closing date for entries is May 31, 1988. Further details are available for consultation in the Information Office, Level 2, Sussex House, or from Jane Scott, The Daily Telegraph Young Science Writer Awards 1988, Peterborough Court, South Quay, 181 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9SR.

UNIVERSITY CLOSURE DATES

The University will be closed for the Bank Holidays on Monday, May 2 and 30, and August 29. The Library will, however, be open on May 2 from 2.00 to 7.30 p.m.
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 papers, 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 April 8 and is subject to revision.

Faculty
Lectureship in English, School of English and American Studies (closing date 29.4.88) Lectureship in Experimental Psychology: a Cognitive/Clinical Psychologist for the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology (closing date 16.5.88) Lectureship in Psychology, School of Cognitive Sciences (closing date 29.4.88) Lectureship in Artificial Intelligence, School of Cognitive Sciences (closing date 29.4.88) Lectureship in Science Education (closing date 29.4.88)

Technical
Computing - Network Officer (closing date 29.4.88)

Secretarial, Clerical and Related
Secretary, Grade 1/2, Occupational Advisory Service Secretary, grade 1/2, School of Cultural and Community Studies Secretary or Clerk/Typist, grade 1/2, Estates and Maintenance Dept. Secretary/Clerk, grade 3, School of Engineering & Applied Sciences Secretariat, grade 2/3, Student Affairs Section of the Registry Chair/Cashier, grade 4, Financial Accounts Office Clerk/Typist, grade 2, School of European Studies Junior Nurse (temporary), University Creche

General
Grounds Staff, Estates and Maintenance Dept. Catering Supervisor (part-time), Playing Fields Pavilion Maintenance Staff, Residential Area

LUNCHTIME MUSIC
Meeting House Chapel
Tuesdays, 1.15 p.m.
April 26: Adrian Stark (organ)
May 3: John Birch (organ)
May 10: Eddie Maxwell (trumpet), Heather Sully (cello)

Sussex Trugs
Fridays, Playing Fields Pavilion, 1-2 p.m. Mainstream/traditional jazz.

CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
Day Schools
Saturday, May 14: Field Trip - Some West Sussex Churches. Tutor: John Lowerson.

Residential Weekend Schools
at the White House, Isle of Thorns, Chelwood Gates
June 3 - 4: Joseph Losey & Harold Pinter Film Weekend. Tutors: Teddy Hodgson, John Marks. 
June 3 - 5: Two Sussex Rivers: The Ouse and the Cuckmere. Tutors: Fred Gray and Erica Towner.

Open Lecture
Professorial Inaugural Lecture by Bernard Harrison, Professor of Philosophy: "Moral Relationship in a Utilitarians Society". April 28, 6.30 p.m. Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre. Admission free.

RECENT BOOKS
Recent books by Sussex authors include:
Widenacre by Philippa Gregory, who wrote this novel while completing her PhD in 18th century Romantic fiction. Penguin Paper, £3.95.


Ovid. Roman Influence in Literature and Art from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Edited by Charles Martindale. The contributors include Bruce Harbert, Nigel Llewellyn, Laurence Lerner, Stephen Medcalf, A.D. Nuttall and Norman Vancan. Routledge. £29.95.


All available from Sussex University Bookshop

THE GREAT BOOKSHOP SALE STARTS IN THE BOOKSHOP ON FRIDAY, APRIL 22, AND RUNS UNTIL APRIL 29, LOTS OF BARGAINS!

WHAT ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE CAN OFFER YOU
Endsleigh Insurance Services was founded by the National Union of Students nearly 20 years ago, and aims to concentrate on the specific insurance needs of academics, students and professional people. It can offer competitive rates for a variety of insurance needs - room/possessions insurance, sports/leisure, musical instrument or car insurance. It also provides travel insurance and a free advisory service for life assurance, mortgage and savings. The office in Falmer House is open Monday - Friday, 11.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Fulbright Colloquium 1989
As in previous years, the US-UK Fulbright Commission plans to support one Fulbright Colloquium to be awarded by open competition. The award is worth up to $5,000. The theme of the Colloquium must be of significance and importance to Anglo-American interests. Applications (to be received by the Fulbright Commission by August 31, 1988) should be made through the Vice-Chancellor's Office from where further details are available.

Tebbutt Research Fund
Applications are invited from individuals and groups, for grants towards research into the Wealden Iron Industry. Applicants should initially contact the Hon. Secretary of the Fund for details: Mrs. S.Broomfield, Tebbutt Research Fund, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9HD. This is the first year of the fund, established as a tribute to the life and work of the late C.F. Tebbutt. Applications should reach the Secretary by no later than May 31, 1988.

BULLETIN
The Bulletin will be published every three weeks this term. The next edition will appear on Tuesday, May 10. Copy must be received in the Information Office, Level 2, Sussex House (tel. 8208) by no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, April 29. Other publication dates are: May 31 (copy date Friday, May 20) and June 1 (copy date June 13).

Please remember to let us know about news events - we can only inform you, if you inform us.

The Bulletin is for the information of staff and students of the University of Sussex. Published by the Information Office. Photographs by the Photographic and Design Unit. Printed by the University of Sussex Printing Unit.