OPPOSITION TO EDUCATION BILL MOUNTS

As Mr Kenneth Baker's Education Reform Bill goes through its Committee stages in Parliament, the universities are mounting a major effort to secure the amendment of the sections relating to higher education.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVC&P) has launched a campaign attacking the Government for attempting to restrict the autonomy and independence of British universities by granting powers to the Secretary of State to intervene directly in their affairs.

The structure and funding of the new University Funding Council (UFC) and the question of safeguarding academic freedom are the two major points addressed by the CVC&P in a series of proposed amendments to the Bill. In a letter to Mr Baker, Sir Mark Richmond, the CVC&P Chairman, outlined the specific objectives of the amendments:

- to limit the Secretary of State's powers over the UFC;
- to ensure that the UFC has the responsibility to advise the Secretary of State on the needs of the universities;
- to make it clear that the UFC's powers to lay down conditions and require information are confined to the distribution of money from the DES;
- explicitly to protect academic freedom (defined as "freedom within the law for academic staff to question and to test received wisdom and to put forward new and controversial or unpopular opinions without placing individuals in jeopardy of losing their jobs").

In a speech in early January, Kenneth Baker challenged those who saw his reforms as centralist by asking if academics accepted an obligation to be properly accountable to their customers and the taxpayer.

Whilst the CVC&P reacted angrily against suggestions that the universities had shirked these responsibilities in the past, it is the legal framework set out in the Bill which gives the most cause for concern.

"Our objections to the Education Reform Bill are that, as drafted, it could seriously cramp our ability to respond to new opportunities, to find new sources of income, attract new customers and to do new things," said Sir Mark Richmond.

"That is what academic freedom is all about and that is what is threatened by this Bill."

The Government adopted a more defensive approach following this attack, and reports appeared in the national press predicting that amendments to the Bill guaranteeing the protection of academic freedom will be proposed.

GRADUATION DAY

The Vice Chancellor, Sir Leslie Fielding, attended his first Sussex graduation ceremony on Wednesday, 27 January to confer degrees on more than 500 graduates.

The Winter Graduation Ceremony was held in the Gardner Centre, with around 170 people graduating in person, most of them receiving the higher degrees of MA, MSc or DPhil.

Among those becoming Doctors of Philosony were three members of faculty at Sussex, Peter Abbs (Education), Ulrike Meinhof (Linguistics) and Carolyn Miller (Education).

In his address to the congregation, the Vice-Chancellor spoke of the sacrifices and special efforts made by graduates and their families in reaching the goals and went on to express the hope that graduates may return to Sussex in future years.

"Whatever else your experience at this University has taught you," said Sir Leslie, "I hope you have learnt that education does not cease with the attainment of a degree. Learning itself is a lifelong process."

He reminded graduates that they are now lifelong members of the University, and encouraged them to play an active role in the graduate body, the University of Sussex Society. Britain needs healthy and independent universities, he said, "and those of you who have benefitted should stand up for them in whatever walk of life you now pursue."

Welcoming families and friends of the graduates, Sir Leslie Fielding stressed the openness of the campus and the University. "We are as open intellectually to ideas and social needs as we are accessible to the pedestrian or the motorist. There are no ivory towers at Sussex. We live in - and for - the real world."

Last month's Graduation Ceremony was the first over which the Vice-Chancellor has presided.

UNIVERSITY DISCUSSION

- Wednesday, February 24

Following a request from the Sussex branch of the Association of University Teachers, a University Discussion will be held on Wednesday, 24 February at 2.15 pm in Mandela Hall.

The discussion will focus on Academic Freedom, the Education Reform Bill and Government Education Policies and will be chaired by Mr Tehm Framroze.

An introductory paper will be presented at the meeting by the AUT, and there will be invited speakers. Ideas concerning the form and content of the discussion should be sent to Dr Stephen Yeo (Arts E), President of Sussex AUT or Mr R I M Jamieson, (Sussex House), Senior Assistant Secretary.

Articles on this page and page 2 examine the progress of the Education Reform Bill and the opposition mounting to it.
THE GERBIL?

The Great Education Reform Bill faces mounting opposition from many people worried about its effects on the autonomy of the universities and those who work in them. Dr Stephen Yeo, Reader in history, surveys the voices being raised against the Bill and asks why it has inspired such a strong degree of opposition.

Ralf Dahrendorf was, in general, cool. But in a piece called "Hall-baked reform which will straight-jacket the universities" The Independent, December (1987) he wrote: The Bill must be regarded as threatening ... not least because it removes safeguards of freedom which exist in all other countries of the free world.

The Emeritus Professor of Public Law at the University of London in the Chemistry and in "Mr Baker's Brave New World" (The Observer, 17 January 1988) wrote: Such blatant interference with the freedom of individuals and their own interests used to be called totalitarianism. It is both silly and sinister.

Elie Kedourie asked poetically: Is it so sure that academics over whom hangs this perpetual sword of redundancy will be better teachers and scholars? Have the dangers of pressures on teachers to conform to scholarly or even political orthodoxies to which this change opens a door been weighed and considered? (Diamonds in Glass: The Government and the Universities, Centre for Policy Studies, 1988).

Max Beloff was magnificently threatening the government with a re-run of 1688. He wrote: The revolutionary character of the proposals for the universities ... No totalitarian regime could ask for more ... the total centralisation of control now proposed. (The Times, 2 December 1987).

The Emeritus Professor of Public Law at the University of London (Oohn Griffith), in "Mr Baker's Brave New World" (The Observer, 17 January 1988) wrote: Such blatant interference with the freedom of individuals to pursue their own interests used to be called totalitarianism. It is both silly and sinister.

What is all the fuss about? Put shortly: it is about the University Funding Council, its remit, composition, and its relationship both to government and its Polytechnic equivalent. It is about tenure and its abolition. In future "financial exigency" will be sufficient reason to dismiss an academic. It is about the endless power chosen to achieve the ends of the Bill, namely the Parliamentary Commissioners whose job it will be to nationalise each University's Charter and Statutes. It is about the "customer" posture the Government will put itself in with relation to research and training. Like Benetton, it will buy in what it wants and when it wants it from the cheapest supplier.

It is about the multiplication of Performance Indicators until money becomes the only recognised measure of value. And it is about the concentration of government-defined "excellence" in fewer, bigger centres, and the end of the idea that in order to be a university teacher you should also be engaged in research and writing. And it is about unconsultative arrogance of a kind which we have rebelled against many times in this country.

So far I have only quoted scholars of repute. Perhaps a journalist might be allowed in: What the universities need are a few passionate champions: men and women prepared to defend in exhilarating rather than whingeing language, the value of their calling. Let it not be said, if this Bill is passed intact, that it occurred because demoralised dons failed to notice they were in the last ditch. (Hugo Young, The Guardian, 10 December 1987).

EXPLOSION IN MOLS

Many readers will have seen and heard reports in the local media about a chemical leak at the University's Chemistry and Molecular Sciences building on 20 January.

The following brief details are set out to indicate that there were in fact no risks to anyone on campus.

A minor explosion occurred at 18.34 pm in a fume cupboard (an enclosed safe working area), causing a piece of apparatus containing a toxic liquid to break.

The building was evacuated as part of the normal safety procedure and the chemistry department retrieved the dangerous apparatus in order to take a sample of air in the laboratory, to check if any dangerous fumes were present. This sampling would normally be done by the University Rescue Team when on stand-by.

The measurements taken indicated that no harmful substances were present in the laboratories, any material that may have escaped would have evaporated and been diluted in the atmosphere.

No one was injured, but the two laboratory workers present at the time of the explosion were kept under observation in the Health Centre overnight, as a normal precaution.

COMPUTERS IN TEACHING

As part of the University Grants Committee's and Computer Board's joint initiative on Computers in University Teaching, the following conferences are to take place:

Information Technology in the Arts and Education. A one-day conference on evaluation will be held on May 20. It is intended for those involved in the design, management and teaching of degree courses that involve some elements of information technology, whether in universities or in polytechnics and colleges. Venue and fee not yet known, but further details from: Jill Grinstead, CNAA, 344-356 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1 8BP.

Computers in Medical Education. This conference will be held at Bath from September 19 to 21. It is for those working on the development of software and course materials for computer-mediated-instruction and computer-assisted-learning in medicine and related disciplines and for individuals contemplating using computers in their teaching activities. Further details from: Caroline Monpenny, Computer in Teaching Initiative Support Service, South West Universities Regional Computer Centre, University of Bath, Claverdon Down, Bath, BA2 7AY.
STUDENT ASSISTANTS AT OAS

A new scheme started by the Occupational Advisory Service (OAS) this year is helping Sussex students learn more about the world of work before applying for jobs themselves.

The Student Careers Assistant Scheme is the first project of its kind in this country and is based on schemes run in American universities. Students are used as receptionists and assistants to careers advisors, and also undertake research on job opportunities and markets.

The Scheme was initiated at Sussex by Kate Springford, one of the University's Occupational Advisors, following a trip to America. She was impressed by the projects being run in colleges such as George Mason University, where career planning is taken far more seriously than in Britain.

Students are recruited to the Sussex Scheme at the start of the Autumn Term, and a group has since been performing reception duties in the OAS and helping in the Information Room. This allows the Occupational Advisors to concentrate on working with individual students and developing other projects. "It also helps to make the OAS a more welcome and friendlier place," says Kate Springford.

The students involved in the Scheme are undertaking research projects on an area of the jobs market which interests them. This helps to give them an understanding of the type of companies that take graduates, and may give the opportunity to meet people involved in graduate recruitment. An example of this type of project undertaken is a survey on employment in the local media.

Both science students and those taking arts and social studies degrees are involved in the Scheme, and they range from first years to finalists who will be leaving the University in only a few months' time. Those involved feel that they have gained some experience of real work, which will benefit them when they start applying for jobs.

The student advisors have also had the benefit of taking a training course, giving them skills in counselling, researching job markets and operating computer programmes.

Kate Springford is very pleased with the success of the Scheme. "It has contributed greatly to our work," she says, "and the people who participate in it should get more out of the OAS themselves."

It is hoped that the Careers Assistance Scheme will be repeated and expanded next year. In the meantime, a group of Sussex students is now well prepared to tackle the job market and to seek out the type of jobs they really want, whilst helping others to do the same.

£500 RAISED FOR CAMPUS TREES

University Radio Falmer (URF), the campus radio station based in Norwich House, held a series of events last month with the aim of raising money for replanting trees on campus.

"Leaf Relief Weekend" ran from 7 pm on Friday, 15 January until 8 am on Monday, 18th, and the total amount of money raised from sponsorship and events is expected to top £300.

Among the highlights of the weekend were a Pub Quiz and Disco on the Saturday evening and a football match between URF and Southern Sound Radio (which the commercial station won 6-4).

One of the student presenters, Guy Richardson, shaved his beard off to raise money, and other students took part in sponsored events including a parachute jump.

"Leaf Relief Weekend" coincided with the linking up of Park Village to the broadcasting circuit on which URF can be heard throughout the accommodation area, and a survey of the popularity of the programmes broadcast on the station is now being undertaken.

WATCH OUT, THERE'S A BIKE ABOUT

Following injury to a pedestrian who was struck by a cyclist on the narrow pathway outside the Refectory Coffee Shop, the University will shortly be implementing a Safety Committee recommendation to provide a shared route for both cyclists and pedestrians.

The new route, marked by similar signs to those indicating the cycle/pedestrian route running alongside the A27, (a blue sign depicting a pedestrian and a cyclist) will run along the pathway from near Barclays Bank to the southern end of the Refectory Building. At this point cyclists will be directed onto the main road running past the Refectory and into the residential area.

This arrangement will ensure that cycling will be permitted only on the wide sections of the main pathway running through the centre of the campus. "No Cycling" signs will warn cyclists to keep off the narrow pathways extending northwards from the southern end of the Refectory.

The new route may be looked upon as an extension of Brighton Borough Council's route parallel to the A27. Similar routes are in operation on the campus at the University of York. "I hope that cyclists and pedestrians will take great care to use the route in a reasonable, responsible and safe manner," Safety Officer, Dr Peter Ballance, said last week.
The University of Sussex is participating in an experimental licensed copying scheme for printed copyright material. The scheme at Sussex is being coordinated by Sub librarian Chris Ravilious, who writes here on what is involved. Enquiries about the scheme should be made to him in the Library, tel. 3486.

Last year the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) reached agreement with the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) on an experimental licensed copying scheme for printed copyright material. The experiment runs from January 1 to December 31 1988 and applies to multiple copies made for teaching or other educational purposes. In return for the privilege of making such copies, which would otherwise be unlawful under the 1956 Copyright Act, each university agrees to pay to the CLA a licence fee of 2.5p (plus VAT) per page copied. It is in line with the LEA licence which has been operating for some years, the revenues from the scheme - less any overheads - will be distributed to organisations representing authors and publishers.

Sussex is one of some 25 universities participating in the experimental scheme, which apart from its immediate objective of facilitating the use of photocopied materials in teaching, has the further purpose of establishing present levels of demand for multiple copying. The scheme is a transactional one, i.e. it requires each instance of multiple copying to be individually recorded and paid for, but at the end of the experimental year the CLA and the CVCP hope to negotiate a permanent "blanket" licence for future use of multiple copies. This will be simpler to administer than the present transactional licence, and should have a proportionately smaller impact on School budgets.

Although the scheme is being coordinated by the Library, it is stressed that participation in the scheme is a University and not a Library initiative: the Library is involved only because of its experience in handling material and because the use of the copying carried out under the licence will be processed on Library photocopying machines.

HOW THE SCHEME WILL WORK

The multiple copies covered by the scheme must be made on designated photocopying machines. The status of these designated copiers is indicated by a green label; other machines carry a red "warning" label and must not be used for multiple copying. At present the only green label machines for general use are in the Library: The School of Biological Sciences has a green label machine for the use of its own teaching staff. Other campus units may wish to have machines designated for use under the scheme, and are invited to contact me to discuss what is involved.

Until such alternatives become available, members of faculty (other than those in Biology) who wish to have multiple copies of copyright material, and who believe it falls within the criteria established under the licence (see the section on Scope, below), should bring the material to the Loan Enquiries Counter in the Library, where details will be recorded on a standard form. An expenditure code, together with the nature of the work and an authorised officer of the School or unit, must also be provided on the form. The Library hopes to maintain a 24-hour turnaround for licensed copying, but cases of special urgency should be noted on the request form.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Multiple copying on the Library's designated copiers will be subject to a scale of charges related to the standard charge for operator-serviced copying. For two or five copies the price per page (normally a double-page opening) will be 7p for six copies and over the price will be 6p per page. To this basic charge must be added the licence fee of 2.88p (incl. VAT) per page payable to the CLA, and a small additional charge - initially 1.2p per page - set against the costs of administering the scheme. (It is already clear that these will be considerable, and that they will arise not only in relation to licensed copying in the Library, but also in consequence of the requirement that all multiple copying on campus should be monitored by the Licensing Co-ordinator.)

SCOPE

The CVCP/CLA licence does not cover all multiple copying. The following points should be noted in particular:

• For the present the licence applies only to books and periodicals published in the United Kingdom. Publishers like Academic Press, with offices in both New York and London, count as UK publishers, but overseas publishers whose titles are handled by a UK distributor do not. While this clause will impose severe restrictions on licensees, there are good prospects that US publishers will be included in the scheme in the near future, with the major European publishing nations not far behind. Further information on these developments will be published in the Bulletin in due course.

• The CVCP/CLA scheme allows for periodical articles to be copied in their entirety, but only five per cent of a book can be copied without infringing the terms of the licence. This means, for example, that in the case of a short text book of 120 pages no more than six pages can be copied. Short stories and poems can be copied in full provided that they do not exceed 10 pages in length.

EXCLUDED MATERIAL REQUIRING PERMISSION

Specific exclusions are listed on a sheet issued by the CLA in December 1987, copies of which are distributed (together with an explanatory leaflet issued jointly by the CVCP and the CLA) to all teaching faculty. It is important to check the list of exclusions before placing an order for multiple copying, as the Library is bound by the terms of the University's licence and will refuse any request incompatible with these terms. Members of faculty who wish to use multiple copies of items in any of the excluded categories must in general seek the permission of the publisher of the book or periodical concerned. Some publishers may be willing to grant such permissions, though most will require a fee.

EXCLUDED MATERIAL FREELY AVAILABLE

A considerable number of journal publishers have excluded themselves from the CLA scheme now because they wish to be free to negotiate individual contracts with the educational sector, but rather than because they are willing for their publications to be copied freely for educational purposes. The Library has a list of more than 100 journals which have taken up such a position, and will be happy to share the contents of this list with potential users. It is also suggested that members of faculty, particularly those who serve on the editorial boards of journals, should exert what influence they have in the direction of liberalising the policies of journal publishers toward educational use of their titles.

NOTE: The CVCP/CLA licence applies to "systematic single copying" as well as to straightforward multiple copying. Attempts to circumvent the scheme by instructing all the students taking a course to copy material for themselves without payment of the licence fee could result in internal disciplinary action and/or prosecution.

An indication of the costs likely to be sustained by users of multiple copies can be obtained from the following examples:

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<th>Copies</th>
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<td>20 standard pages (i.e. 10 exposures)</td>
<td>£3.50</td>
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<td>6p for 2-3 copies; 10 x 6 x 20</td>
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<th>Charge per exposure</th>
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<td>2.88p (inc. VAT) , i.e. 2.88p per page</td>
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<td>Overheads</td>
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The above pricing structure, like other aspects of the scheme, will be kept under review during the coming months and may be changed if its assumptions are shown to be incorrect.
CO-OPERATIVE PLANNING IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

The growing number of firms and organisations setting up offices and research centres on the Sussex campus includes Biotics Limited, an international biotechnology consultancy established in 1983. The firm is UK based, with offices at Guildford and in the School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences here.

Biotics specialises in identifying, promoting and coordinating biotechnology ventures between developing countries and organisations in both the private and government sectors.

Advances in biotechnology have given rise to an exciting range of new economic opportunities across the whole spectrum of industry. These new technologies have mostly benefitted developed nations where the necessary scientific and industrial infrastructure is well established. However, developing countries have much to gain from biotechnology, with potential for advancing key areas of health care, agriculture, energy, and the environment.

Biotics has, for example, worked on a feasibility study for a novel antibiotic fermentation process and on the development of a portable kit for testing the safety of drinking water in rural areas, with its associated market research.

Current projects include work on the identification of useful new chemical and medicinal derivatives from the indigenous plants of tropical regions. Supported by the European Community, this programme aims to bring together developing countries, established pharmaceutical companies and other relevant institutions in a series of international collaborative programmes.

The Managing Director of the company is Professor Robert Thomas, formerly founding director of the Biotechnology Unit at the University of Surrey. Technical Manager is Steen Jøsle, formerly with the Institute of Development Studies, who would be pleased to answer enquiries (tel. 3683). Biotics is based in Room 3R 514 in MOLs.

STAFF TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HOLIDAY DISCOUNTS

Many University staff are taking advantage of the holiday savings being offered by Pickfords, the Refectory-based travel shop reports. Since the beginning of term, holiday business has been brisk with staff booking their summer holidays or taking advantage of late ski-ing offers.

"Holiday business always picks up after Christmas but the generous discount schemes and the miserable January weather have boosted bookings," commented Lorraine Gualini of Pickfords.

The discounts apply whether your holiday is two weeks for the family in a hotel in Spain, a luxury Caribbean cruise, a week's touring in the UK, or just a charter flight abroad. The amount saved depends on the original booking value. This includes not only the basic holiday price, but also insurance, car hire, optional extras, and flight insurance supplements. Savings on a 14-night holiday for two adults and two children in Majorca could amount to £150.

UoSS AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the University of Sussex Society, the University's graduate association, was held on January 21 in the exclusive surroundings of the Athenaeum in London's Pall Mall, favouring the socialising of bishops, politicians and academics.

The AGM, which had been postponed from the day of the October storm (when trees down everywhere prevented travel to London), was accompanied by a drinks party at which graduates had the chance to renew old acquaintances and to meet the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Leslie Fielding.

Sir Leslie, attending his first University of Sussex Society event, thanked the Society for offering him Honorary Membership, and expressed the hope that graduates would continue to take an active interest in the affairs of the University.

TV BOOST FOR CAMPUS HOLIDAY BUSINESS

The University received more than 200 enquiries in ten days following a feature on the self catering flats in ITVV's 'Where Were You Here?' holiday programme.

The programme's professional travel writer, John Carter, scripted a feature on Brighton which concentrated on reasonably priced holidays in a typical English seaside resort.

He pointed out the excellent value of the self catering accommodation offered on campus during the summer vacation. The cost of the average family flat coupled with the availability of the University's sport and shopping facilities offered an attractive, value-for-money, package.

As a result of the feature, bookings are going well for 1988 and those who cannot be accommodated are expressing interest in 1989.

The majority of universities offer facilities for holidaymakers and anyone requiring details of other campuses should contact the Conference Office in the Refectory or the British Universities Accommodation Consortium, General Office, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RN (0602 504571).

AWARD FOR MOLs LECTURER

Dr Geoff Cloke, Lecturer in Chemistry and Molecular Sciences, has been awarded a prestigious fellowship by the Royal Society of Chemistry for his pioneering work in the field of metal vapour synthesis (reported in the last issue of Bulletin).

The fellowship covers a two-year period, and is awarded to researchers under the age of thirty-six. The Dean of the School of Chemistry and Molecular Science, Professor Tony McCaffery welcomed the award, which he described as "a well-deserved success".

JENNIFER PLATT

Jennifer Platt, Reader in Sociology, has been appointed one of the assessors to the Working Party of the University Grants Committee's Social Studies Sub-Committee which is carrying out a review of national provision in sociology.
WHAT'S ON AT THE GARDNER

This Thursday, February 11, see the opening of the 5th Farthing exhibition in the Gardener Centre Gallery. Best-known as a painter of interiors where objects take on a strange life of their own, Farthing is inventive, imaginative and humorous.

Meanwhile, in the Foyer there's a chance to catch the last few days of David Bailey's Black and White Memories (until February 13) capturing Michael Caine, David Frost, Mick Jagger, Jean Shrimpton and others as they were in the 'Swinging 60s'.

February 10 marks the culmination of a week's interaction between Welfare State International and the local community. Working with Same Sky and Mouleccoomb Drama Club, Welfare State present a contemporary comic legend using performance, magic, illusion, fire sculpture, fireworks, bands and dancing, both inside the Centre and outside among the demolished trees of Russell's Clump. An evening guaranteed to amaze.

Musically, February is a rich and varied month at the Gardener. February 13 features Peter Hammill in his first Bath performance since 1986, joined by Guy Evans, former drummer with Van Der Graaf Generator. In complete contrast Valentine's Day, February 14, sees a stage presentation by BBC Radio Sussex on their 20th birthday. Kate O'Mara and Marion Montgomery join in the celebrations.

The latest Contemporary Music Network concert to come to the Gardener features The Instant Composers Pool and saxophonist Evan Parker in a rare double bill on February 16. An evening which offers renderings of straightforward jazz standards to the furthest boundaries of free improvisation, but always combined with zany humour and wit.

February 18 sees Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, the Qawwali singer, at all time, give a rare British performance. A Qawwali is a form of religious music, Qawwali was used to achieve a state of ecstasy to all. Since taken up by the Bombay music industry, it has become hugely popular, aiming to bring a similar state of rapture to contemporary audiences.

Classical music enthusiasts need not be disappointed. The University Chamber Orchestra and the Chilingirian on February 23 present varied programmes featuring Bach and Bartok respectively.

Mid-month sees another new exhibition - A Room With A View - in the Foyer. This marks the record of a trip to Florence made by pupils and teachers from Cardinal Newman School and takes the form of drawings, notebooks, photographs and memorabilia. (Feb. 17 - Mar. 11)

An exciting series of dance and mime events are planned. With the aim of encouraging practical participation in movement, many of the events are linked to workshops, classes and talks open to the public. Details available from the Gardener Centre.

The performance side, the Gardener kicks off with Katie Duck, one of the most innovative and influential choreographers working in Britain today. Her work is full of energy, zany and fast, and combines live music theatre with dance. Her company - Group O - will be appearing at the Gardener Centre to perform Wild Card on February 17.

February 19 marks the culmination of Peta Lily's mime residency with something from Nothing, a work devised and performed by a core group of local mime artists who have been working with Peta over recent months. There will also be a demonstration of mime theatre techniques used in the residency.

Peta herself - outstanding international mime artist, actress and dancer - performs her own solo work Frightened Of Nothing on February 26. The piece has overtones in the style of Raymond Chandler and Hollywood film noir and is set to original music from ex-Pooler Nick Dyer.

Finally, back to theatre and The Normal Heart by Channel Theatre ends the month, with performances from February 24 to 27. The first play to treat seriously the awesome and bewildering subject of AIDS, Larry Kramer's play is a tough, gritty drama which demands to be seen. On whatever criteria you judge this play you cannot fail to recognise its power and commitment.

RADIATION WARNING SIGNS

In recent months there has been building and refurbishing work in several University buildings; this level of activity is likely to continue for the next few years.

As old pipework is replaced and as roofs are checked for moisture penetration, specialist equipment involving the use of ionizing radiation has been used for radiographic checking of welds and for determining water content of roofing materials. The continuing use of this equipment will necessitate excluding staff and students from areas where significant radiation dose rates may be encountered. These areas are marked off with tapes, barriers and warning signs. Since radiation is invisible and painless through and through, it is vital that these warning signs are obeyed.

Members of the University should also be aware of their duties, under Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, which require persons to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions.

Dr P E Balance
University Safety and Radiation Protection Adviser

MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDERETTE?

(Survey of the campus Launderette)

Ideas are being considered at present by the Accommodation Office to improve services in the campus Launderette. We need you, the users, to help us.

Between February 22 and March 4 we will be circulating a short questionnaire to areas of campus, including the residences, to find out your views on what is needed in the Launderette. Please look out for the questionnaire or pick one up from our offices - the more replies we have the better.

Ann Eyles
Accommodation Office

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF BECOMING A RESIDENTIAL ADVISER?

Residential Advisers (RA) are second and third year undergraduates and some postgraduates who live on campus to assist the new intake of students for their first year at Sussex.

This involves assisting about 10 to 20 new students at the beginning of the Autumn Term with practical help and information to enable them to settle into campus life. The busiest days of the year are just before term starts when many students arrive and RAs dash around directing traffic, driving mini-buses, carrying luggage, dispensing coffee and generally helping the students get into the area to feel at home and get to know each other.

RAs are available throughout the year to assist with, or refer on, individual student's problems and also help with the needs of overseas students. Responsibility for decisions affecting day-to-day living is held collectively by the RAs, within a framework laid down by the Accommodation Manager, and RAs act in an advisory capacity and, with USTA, provide liaison between individuals and the Accommodation Manager.

All prospective RAs are interviewed and selected, either during the Easter vacation or at the beginning of the Summer Term, by a panel made up of current RAs, Accommodation management, USTA and the Students' Union. Those selected attend a one-day training session, once a week for five weeks and during the year they attend regular small group meetings.

The advantage of being an RA is that RAs live on campus and are able to help to make it a more caring community. Also such a role on campus would count as useful experience when applying for further training or a job, and be a relevant addition to a c.v. Apart from that, it can actually be enjoyable!

The application period for the RA scheme is from February 11. The application forms are available from Ann Eyles, Accommodation Office, Refectory, or Reception, Welfare Office, Students' Union, Falmer House. A nominated application forms must be returned to the Accommodation Office by March 11 at the latest.

Family RAs, resident in the family flats on East Slope or Park Village, will also be required. More information will be available from Ann Eyles in the Accommodation Office, or Julian Pompfrey in the East Slope Social Centre.
RESEARCH GRANTS NEWS

British Academy Research Readships in the Humanities

Eight Readships are offered to serving academic staff. These comprise five British Academy Research Readships in the Humanities, the British Academy/MulfIELD Research Readship for one or more of the following fields: ancient world, classics, local history, onomastics, the British Academy/Wollson Research Readship in History, and the British Academy/Brith Gas Research Readship in Landscape Archaeology.

The award may be held for a period of up to two years, normally from October 1, 1989. No Readship is renewable. The awards are intended for scholars in mid-career, probably in their mid-30s to late 40s and probably, but not necessarily, already Readers. The closing date for the receipt of applications by the Academy is April 30, 1988. Further details are available from the Research Grants Office, Room 201, Sussex House.

Wyndham Deedes Memorial Trust Fund

Scholarships are available to graduates of British universities, who are normally resident in the UK, to enable them to visit Israel for a minimum of six weeks to undertake intensive study of some aspect of life there. The scholarship is worth up to £1,000 and is intended to cover travel to and from Israel and residence there. Further details are available from the Occupational Advisory Service, Falmer House.

Elizabeth Tuckermann Scholarship Foundation

This scholarship is available to graduates of colleges in the U.K. or U.S. who are normally resident in WALES to enable pursuit of postgraduate education in the United States. Further details and application forms are available from the Occupational Advisory Service, Falmer House.

Gerald Bailey Award

Quaker Peace and Service are administering the above award in memory of Gerald Bailey who worked for more than 40 years in the fields of peace work and international relations. The trustees hope to offer awards of between £50 and £150 to students, probably postgraduates, in the fields of peace and international relations. Application forms (to be returned by March 31, 1988) are available from The Secretary, Gerald Bailey Trust, Quaker Peace & Service, Friends House, Euston Road, London, NWI 2B3.

£280 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR I.T. RESEARCH

More than £280 million is to be made available for Information Technology research by the European Community and the Department of Trade and Industry to encourage universities to participate in jointly-funded research projects with industry.

Lord Young, in the recent DTI White Paper, announced a radical reshaping of government policy aimed at stimulating industry. Greater emphasis is to be placed on encouraging collaborative research programmes and the DTI will focus its support on longer-term research and technology transfer.

Two new programmes are planned. The DTI is to contribute £8 million over the next three years for research into superconductivity. It is also to provide £29 million over the next three years to support national initiatives in Information Technology, with £50 million over five years coming from the Science and Engineering Research Council.

A number of aid schemes are scrapped. Grant support for innovation grants for individual companies; micro-electronic industry support programmes; support for software products; and fibre optics and opto-electronics scheme. Hopes of a successor to the Alvey programme have been dashed.

The EEC has announced a fourth call for proposals under Esprit II, the European IT programme, for which £200 million is to be made available. In the absence of Alvey II, academic institutions will have to seek wider collaboration with industry and involvement in Esprit II to maintain support. Researchers interested in the latter are asked to inform Brussels by February 15 of their intention of applying for support.

Any application under the Esprit programme must indicate the significant and balanced participation of at least two independent industrial partners from two different member states and must involve pre-competitive research and development to be undertaken over a period of up to five years. Further information on the objectives of Esprit can be obtained from John Golds, the Industrial Liaison Officer, on ext. 3765.

Mr. Golds said last week: "Given the change of emphasis by the DTI to encourage firms to fund more of their own research and work with higher education institutions, Sussex must be ready to respond to opportunities as they arise." Information on future initiatives has been sought from the DTI.

SMALL AD

RESEARCH INTERVIEWERS. Interviewers are sought for a health care research project involving interviews with bereaved people, their doctors and nurses. Interviewing will begin in the Lewes area in April. Car ownership is essential; research interviewing experience is preferred, but other interviewing or counselling experience might suffice. For details please ring Clive Seale or Ann Cartwright on 01-794 7793.

LANGUAGE CENTRE COURSES FOR 'A' LEVEL CANDIDATES

The Language Centre will be running two-day intensive language courses for Vth-form 'A' level candidates during the Easter vacation.

Two courses - in French and German - will be held on March 28 and 29, offering five hours of tuition per day. The fee is £25.00. Each course aims to increase the student's listening comprehension and oral language skills by means of role play using video cameras, discussion groups and authentic video and audio materials.

The Language Centre will again be offering a modular three-month pre-university English language course during the summer vacation aimed at bringing overseas students to the required university standard in English by the end of the course.

Further details of the above courses are available from the Language Centre in Arts A.
VA CANT I ES

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 February 2 and is subject to revision. All posts are for male or female applicants.

Faculty
Lectureships in Computer Systems Engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science.
Lectureship in Economics, School of Social Sciences.
Lectureship in Music, School of Cultural and Community Studies.

Secretarial, Clerical and Related
Student Welfare Officer, Students' Union, grade 4.
Secretary to Research Team, SPRU, grade 3.
Secretary to Research Team, SPRU, grade 1/2.
Secretary, Personnel Office, grade 2.
Clerk/Typist, Estates, grade 2.
Secretary, part-time, CCE, grade 2.
Accounts Clerk, Estates, grade 2.
Secretary to Manager, Accommodation Bureau, grade 2.
Clerk/Typist, University Bookshop, grade 2.
Data Typist, full or part-time, Business Finance Office, grade 1/2.
Secretary, OAS, grade 2.
Clerk/Typist, Undergraduate Examinations Office, grade 1/2.

Craftsmen
Advanced Fitter/Plumber, Estates & Maintenance Dept.
Electrician, Estates & Maintenance Dept.

General
Tea Person, EDB.

LUNCHTIME MUSIC

Meeting House Chapel
Tuesdays, 1.15 p.m.
Today (February 9th) - J. Yestyn Henson (viola) (February 16th) - John Birch (organ)
February 23rd - Liz Kaye (soprano) and Katy Stredder (mezzo soprano, violin)
March 11th - Sue Pogson (mezzo soprano) and Rona Allan (soprano).

Music Subject Group
Thursdays, Falmer House Recital Room 2b, 1.15 p.m.
February 11th - Contemporary music by students of the Royal College of Music, Stockholm.
February 18th - Elena Davies (clarinet), Philip Atwell (violin) and Julian Broughton (piano) - Crowther and Gander.
February 25th - Elena Davies (clarinet), Jez Henson (viola) and John Human (piano) - Mannert and Schumann.

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

EDWARDIAN LANDOWNERSHIP

Following the completion of research sponsored by the Leverhulme Trust on Edwardian Landownerships, a report has been published, limited copies of which are available from Miss Short (B38) at £5.00. The title of the report is "Landownerships and Society in Edwardian England and Wales: the Finance (1909-10) Act 1910 Records", 125 pages, with maps and diagrams.

RECENT BOOKS

Recent books by Sussex authors include:
Capital, The State, and Regional Development by M.F. Dunford. Pion. £34.50.
All available from Sussex University Bookshop.
EDUCATION REFORM BILL

The Education Reform Bill is currently before Parliament. That part of it which is concerned with universities has not so far been debated in depth in the House of Commons, but is coming up for review very shortly in the House of Lords. This Bulletin Special is intended to help focus discussion within the University and to assist individuals who wish to make their own views known to MPs and members of the House of Lords.

Members of the University are also reminded that a University Discussion has been arranged for WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY at 2.15 p.m. in Mandela Hall to discuss the Bill and issues arising from it.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S VIEW

What worries me most about this Bill is the potential threat to the independence of the proposed Universities Funding Council, posed by the powers reserved to the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Clause 94 of the Bill enables the Secretary of State to impose on the Funding Council such additional functions as he sees fit; and to make his grants to the Funding Council subject to any conditions he may determine. In addition, the Council is required to comply with any directions given by it to the Secretary of State. My letter which appeared in The Times of 11 February on this point is set out elsewhere in this Bulletin Special, as is a summary of what the Bill says.

As I see things, the Government cannot have its cake and eat it. Either the universities are being given a statutory and genuinely independent and autonomous body to handle the block grants assigned to higher education by the Government; or we are being intentionally exposed to the prospect of eventual Whitehall rule on each and every campus in the land.

I am opposed to direct rule by Government, not only because it infringes the managerial and financial discretion which each British university has traditionally exercised, but also because it implies, sooner or later, under this or a successor government, a clear risk to academic freedom. And, for me, that means what the CVCP has defined as "the freedom within the law for academic staff to question and test received wisdom and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions without placing the individuals in jeopardy of losing their jobs".

There are other aspects of the Bill which are less than satisfactory. It is regrettable, for example, that the proposed Universities Funding Council, unlike the present University Grants Committee, is not entitled to give the Government advice on university matters. One can have doubts as to the proposed composition of the Funding Council. Of the proposed fifteen members, no fewer than six and not more than nine are supposed to have experience of higher education; the remainder are to include persons with experience of industrial, commercial or financial matters. Then there is the question of academic tenure. In so far as this represents a reduction in job security, you can make a case for it to be compensated by higher academic pay.

But, in my personal view, the key question, behind all these questions, is that of the reserve powers of the Secretary of State.

I have represented the foregoing and other views to the media and in informal discussion with Ministers, MPs and Members of the House of Lords. I have naturally also compared notes extensively with my fellow Vice-Chancellors. Not everyone will agree with me. Readers of this Bulletin may have other priorities and other views. But what matters is to raise our general level of consciousness in the University about the Education Reform Bill and for each of us who wishes to do so to exercise the democratic right to represent his or her views to the country's legislators.

WHAT THE BILL SAYS

The main elements of the Bill affecting universities are contained in clauses 92, 94 and 130-132, which are summarised below.

Universities Funding Council (Clause 92)
- A new corporate body, the Universities Funding Council (UFC) is to be established, to replace the University Grants Committee, consisting of fifteen members with no fewer than six and no more than nine members drawn from higher education and the remaining members drawn from business backgrounds.
- The UFC will be responsible for administering funds granted by the Secretary of State, and will have the power to attach any terms and conditions to the funds distributed to individual institutions.

The Powers of the Secretary of State (Clause 94)
- The Secretary of State may impose on the UFC such additional functions as he sees fit.
- The Secretary of State may make grants to the UFC of such amounts and subject to such conditions as he may determine.
- In exercising its functions, the UFC will comply with any directions given by the Secretary of State.
- The UFC may require the repayment of funds with interest if any conditions are not complied with.

Academic Tenure (Clauses 130-132)
- The Secretary of State will appoint four University Commissioners to change the statutes of individual institutions to allow dismissal of academic staff by reason of redundancy.
- The modification to statutes shall not apply to staff appointed before 20 November 1987, and procedures will be established for hearing appeals by staff who have been dismissed.
- The Commissioners will have regard to the need to enable institutions to provide education, promote learning and engage in research efficiently and economically, and to apply the principle of fairness and justice.
THE AUT VIEW

This is going to be a very boring article, very boring indeed. But it carries an Association of University Teachers (AUT) health warning. If you do not read it, and if you do not take any action following it, it may damage your prospects.

The tedium will come from quotation, from the Baker Bill: part iv, clause 131, p.122. The section is about the Duty of the Commissioners, who will be appointed to nationalise each university's Charter and Statutes. These Commissioners will be mandated to make sure that the statutes include provision enabling an appropriate body, or any delegate of such a body, to dismiss any member of academic staff by reason of redundancy, whether or not in pursuance of a scheme established for the purpose. If you want early retirement, or early early early retirement, and you want to be paid to take it, AUT advice is either get the Baker Bill amended or go for it now.

What is redundancy? Clause 131 para.3, sections a and b may be historic. They do not tell you whether the fact that the requirements of that activity for members of staff, or members of staff of a particular kind, to carry out work of a particular kind, or for members of staff, or members of staff of a particular kind, to carry out work of a particular kind in that place have ceased or are expected to cease or diminish, Academics who find themselves to be of a particular kind: beware!

Who are we talking about? Clause 131 para 2 reads: any reference in this section to academic staff includes a reference to persons whose terms of appointment or contracts of employment are in the opinion of the Commissioners so similar to those of academic staff as to justify their being treated as academic staff for the purposes of this section. Be careful not to resemble a member of academic staff too much - if you do, AUT advice is that you may be made redundant regardless of the length of contract you are on. Short-term contracts look as though they might turn you into the old casual day-work system which trade unions at the beginning of this century fought so hard against.

In case you are worried that the Commissioners may be hidebound in their work by constitutional nicety, historic precedent or anything old-fashioned like that, rest assured: the Commissioners' powers under this section include power to make such incidental, supplementary and transitional provisions as they consider necessary or expedient.

Reading this Bill (and I have only quoted tiny bits from two clauses) in the company of a constitutional lawyer the other day, I became convinced that - regardless of party politics - this is a very nasty piece of legislation indeed. Amendments on academic freedom alone cannot touch some of its nastiness. There is a copy of it in the Documents section of the Library. And there is still time - if we take it - to have it amended. But only just. And will the noble Lords listen?

Stephen Yeo, President, Sussex AUT

THE TIMES

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex
Sir, First you see it, then you don't! The firm dry clasp of Robert Jackson's right hand offers us (in a statutory and autonomous Universities Funding Council) what the sweaty palm of the Education Reform Bill's left hand could subsequently spirit away (by means of Government-imposed conditions, functions and directions).

Acts of collective insanity, or at least of corporate unwisdom, by the Funding Council no doubt need to be guarded against. But there are other reasons than direct rule by Whitehall, with the risks to academic freedom which such rule might imply under one of Mr Kenneth Baker's unknown successors.

The European Parliament can, on a vote of censure, require the members of the European Commission to resign. Could not the Secretary of State content himself with the power to require likewise of the council members, where he felt that parliamentary and public opinion would back him?

Yours faithfully, LESLIE FIELDING, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex.

THE CVCP VIEW

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) is continuing an intensive public and parliamentary campaign against some aspects of the Bill, notably the powers it gives to the Secretary of State and the lack of an explicit commitment to protecting academic freedom.

"We are arguing vehemently for three fundamental freedoms which we believe to be of lasting value to the country," said CVCP Chairman, Sir Mark Richmond in a speech last month. "They are: the freedom to research in subjects of as yet unrecognised wisdom; the freedom to question received wisdom; and the freedom to be protected from direct and narrow political interference by the Government of the day.

The CVCP has drafted a series of amendments which it hopes may be adopted as the Bill goes through the House of Lords. The amendments aim:

- to limit the Secretary of State's powers over the UFC to matters of a general nature,
- to ensure that the UFC has the responsibility to advise the Secretary of State on the needs of the universities,
- to ensure that the UFC's power should be only in respect of funds made available to it by the Secretary of State,
- to ensure the塑胶 academic freedom, particularly in view of the new powers proposed in the Bill for the UFC and Secretary of State.