TWO SUMMER GRADUATION CEREMONIES THIS YEAR

Two Summer Graduation Ceremonies will be held this year at the Brighton Centre instead of one, because more students are graduating.

The two ceremonies will both take place on Tuesday, 14 July — the first at 10.15 am and the second at 2.15 pm. The latter should be finished in time to allow graduates to return to the campus for School tea parties.

The new arrangements will mean shorter ceremonies — last year’s single ceremony lasted around three hours — and will allow each graduand to bring a greater number of guests.

Each ceremony will include a mix of undergraduates, postgraduates and honorary graduands. Graduands from SOC, EAM, BIOLS, CCS, ENGG and ICAPE will graduate at the morning ceremony; those from EURO, MAPS, COGS, AFRAS, MOLS and SPRU in the afternoon.

Six honorary degrees will be awarded on 14 July. Sir Terence English, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick, President of the Royal College of Physicians, will each be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. The Bishop of Lewes, the Rt. Rev. Peter Ball, CGA, will become a honorary Doctor of the University, while Baroness Perry, Director of South Bank Polytechnic, will become an honorary Doctor of Letters.

Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees will be awarded to Dr. Roger Dilleman, Professor of Law and Rector of the University of Leuven,

continued on page 3

UFC GRANT ‘A GOOD ONE FOR SUSSEX’

Funds allocated to British universities by the Universities Funding Council for the academic year 1992-93 were announced on 24 February.

This year some changes to the funding formula for research have been applied and universities have been allocated funding for the teaching of additional students on the strength of their success in recruiting home and European Community students over and above those fully funded by the UFC.

How Sussex fared

Ted Nahkle, the Planning Officer, comments:
The UFC grant settlement for 1992-93 is a good one for Sussex and provides a solid financial base on which the proposed further expansion of student numbers can take place. The University has again received an above average increase in funded student numbers (9.6 per cent compared with the GB average of 6.0 per cent and the average for English universities of 4.7 per cent) which has vindicated the general policy of increasing the numbers of fees-only students where it is possible to do so.

Since the UFC began to revise the UGC base-lines of funded numbers in 1990, Sussex has had the fifth largest percentage increase amongst English universities. The University has also done well when the grant is viewed as a whole, having received the fifth largest increase in resources for teaching and research.

There is, however, a note of caution. The transfer of an element of Research funds from the UFC to the Research Councils means that the University will need to maintain its historically high levels of research grants in order to secure that income.

In addition, the UFC has furthered the process of intensifying the selective application of resources for Research and the new Higher Education Funding Council (HEFC) which will determine grants for 1993-94 will carry on with this policy. The grant for 1993-94 will be heavily dependent on performance in the imminent Research Selectivity Exercise.

The general features of the grant settlement include:

- funding for an additional 18,000 student places, including 1,000 postgraduate research students;
- increases in the total amount available for teaching to be increased by 8.5 per cent and for research by 11.7 per cent;
- universities to receive £1,392 million compared with £1,275 million in basic grant in 1991-92. (Comparisons with 1991-92 need to allow for the £87 million to be transferred in 1992-93 to the Research Councils as a result of changes in the dual support boundary);
- increased selectiveness in the distribution of resources for research;
- protection of research in the humanities and related areas in that humanities subjects with no research council to reimburse them for indirect costs will not have their UFC allocation reduced.
Library acquires NEW STATESMAN archive

On 12 December 1991 Sotheby’s auctioned, on behalf of the New Statesman, its “known surviving archive”, comprising editorial and other papers dating from 1914 to 1988. Collectively, the six lots were accurately described in the sale catalogue as “a source of immense significance for literary, political and social historians of the present century.”

The largest lot was acquired by the University Library, supported by the Friends of the National Libraries and the Victoria and Albert Museum’s Purchase Grant Fund.

The origins of the New Statesman are to be found in Fabian circles in the period immediately before the First World War. Prominent Fabians like the Webbs and G. B. Shaw conceived the idea of a weekly magazine which, while not explicitly Fabian, would embody the principles from which Fabianism drew its strength. Under their guidance the New Statesman began its life in 1913 as a radical organ of the left, committed to the analysis of issues of public and international interest and to the promotion of rational values in society.

In the hands of its first editor, Clifford Sharp, the magazine rapidly established itself as an influential voice in weekly journalism; but it was during the editorships of Kingsley Martin, John Freeman and Paul Johnson that it achieved its greatest successes. At its peak in the mid-60s it had a circulation of over 90,000 and was indisputably the leading voice in political commentary, in Britain and arguably in the world. Thereafter its fortunes declined, a process which led in 1988 to its merger with New Society.

The material acquired for Sussex comprises editorial correspondence and in-house files from 1943 to 1988, and as such was the most attractive of the groups of documents on offer. The collection augments and supplements the established archive of Kingsley Martin papers which Sussex has held since 1969. Equally important, it complements significant collections of New Statesman material within the papers of Leonard Woolf and C. H. Rolph, also housed in the Library.

The acquisition of this notable archive will greatly enrich the University’s research resources in modern British politics and history and in media studies. Among correspondence files in the earlier part of the archive can be found E. M. Forster writing about the Warsaw Ghetto, Stephen Spender on Burgess and Maclean, and Harold Wilson on post-war Russia.

More recent correspondents include Graham Greene, W. H. Auden, Dennis Potter and E. P. Thompson. The collection, in short, features just about every name of significance in the fields of politics and culture for the last half century, as it does every significant socio-political cause, national and international.

For students of the history of journalism the archive represents an equally rich field. Every aspect of the New Statesman’s editorial policy is covered. At a more technical level matters of copyright, advertising and publicity, printing and distribution occupy many papers. While some of this material was used by Edward Hyams in his The New Statesman: the history of the first fifty years (1963), much of it still awaits the attention of scholars.

Bet Inglis and Chris Ravilious

☐ The work of sorting and listing the archive is in progress, though it will be some time before it can be opened to researchers. In the meantime, enquiries should be made to the Library’s Manuscripts Librarian, Mrs. E. Inglis, tel. 3499.

A look at the AFRAS China Programme

Economist David Wall is to visit Shanghai this month to work on the latest project in the AFRAS China Programme.

He began the development of a China Programme in the School of African and Asian Studies in 1987 and since then the School’s connections with Chinese academics and institutions has prospered.

The latest development involves a British Council link with the Department of World Economy at Fudan University in Shanghai, under which faculty exchanges will be used to support a research programme focused on the ambitious Pudong Project—a nationally-supported initiative to re-establish Shanghai as an international manufacturing and financial centre.

Dr. Wall will be visiting China to work on the agenda of a workshop, supported by the Ford Foundation, to be held in Shanghai in September to get the project off the ground.

A member of the project’s central secretariat spent last academic year in AFRAS and two faculty members from Fudan University are now here: Jiang Boke, who recently completed his DPhil, and Professor Ma Zhi Zhou. A British Council scholarship has been attached to the scheme.

The Fudan project is only part of a larger research programme which will study the development of China’s Coastal Development Strategy. Partners in this programme will include the Institute of Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (AFRAS’s partner in its first project), the Municipality of Tianjin and the Provincial Government of Hainan. David Wall will attend workshops in Tianjin and Hainan in April and May in connection with this programme. Visitors from Beijing and Tianjin will come to Sussex during the year to begin research here. The British Council, the Government of Hainan, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Ford Foundation are providing the seed money for the programme.

AFRAS began its China Programme with a research project on the development of Xiamen Special Economic Zone in Fujien Province. The scheme grew to include a doctoral research programme. Six students from various universities in mainland China are now here studying under the supervision of Dr. Wall.

This teaching programme has recently been expanded with sponsorship from China’s State Planning Commission under which three students are here to study the development of western economies with David Wall and a fourth has joined the MA programme in Development Economics. Finance is provided by the World Bank and is limited to students from the national planning network who compete for places in a nationwide examination. Sussex is one of four universities recognised for the scheme, the others being the LSE, the Australian National University and the University of Texas.
and to Sir Leslie Fielding who retires from the Vice-Chancellorship this summer.

At a special ceremony in May, Mr. J. R. Armstrong, founder of Singleton Museum, will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters.

**Court Graduation Ceremony**

This Friday, following the annual meeting of the University Court, three honorary degrees will be awarded. Mr. David Bowden, former Chief Executive of Brighton District Health Authority, will become an honorary Master of the University; Mr. Gavin Henderson, Artistic Director of the Brighton Festival of the Arts, will be awarded an honorary MA and Admiral Sir James Eberle, GCB, Rear Admiral of the United Kingdom since 1990 and Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs from 1984 to 1990, will be awarded an HonDlitt.

The Court Graduation Ceremony is a formal University occasion and all members of staff may attend, subject to any operational constraints. There will be no general faculty procession, but members of faculty who wish to attend and who also wish to wear academic dress may do so.

**Sabbatical Officers for Next Year**

The Students' Union has elected the following as sabbatical officers for the 1992-93 academic year. They will take over on 26 June.

**President:** Danny Rye (currently in his final year, majoring in Social Policy and Administration in CCS)

**Vice-President (Finance):** Stephanie Hazlehurst (currently in her second year, majoring in Mathematics and Statistics in MAPS)

**Vice-President (Communications):** Alix Courtney (currently in her second year, majoring in History in CCS)

**Vice-President (Education):** Leo Littman (currently in his second year, majoring in Developmental Psychology in COGS)

**Vice-President (Welfare):** Rachel Bland (currently in her second year, majoring in Social Anthropology in AFRAS)

**Vice-President (Sport):** Julie Glover (currently in her final year, majoring in Biology in BIOLS)

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**Taking the pressure off patients**

Every year the National Health Service spends millions of pounds on the prevention and treatment of bedsores. Yet, despite this huge drain on resources, patients continue to die as a result of infections.

Brighton surgeon Chris Strachan had become so frustrated by the problem that he turned to engineers at Sussex in the hope that they could develop a cheap and effective mechanical alternative to the current dependence on over-worked nursing staff turning bed-ridden patients every few hours. Although more familiar with the cooling systems of gas turbines, the Thermo-Fluid Mechanics Research Centre took on the challenge and came up with the idea of a "rippling" bed.

A prototype is now being developed by Bob Stark, a mechanical engineering undergraduate, with the help of technician Martin Rayner. The bed comprises 14 cushions positioned on cam shafts which move up and down alternately at set intervals, thereby changing the pressure points on a patient's body. As Bob explained, "It is based on the principle that it is better to have alternating high pressures on a person's body than constant low pressures."

Volunteers who have tested the bed say the movements are undetectable and Bob is hopeful that, once improvements have been made, it will prove effective. Ideally, he would like to apply the same theory to develop a "rippling" bed operated by water pumps as this would be quieter and cheaper to mass produce, but there are currently insufficient funds available to do this.

Although there are already beds available designed to prevent bedsores, these are enormously expensive and few NHS hospitals can afford to buy more than one or two. At the Royal Sussex County Hospital, where Mr. Strachan is a vascular surgeon, there is just one such bed and that is hired from the manufacturer at a cost of £70 a day. Bob believes the "rippling" bed could be produced much more cheaply. "The ultimate aim is to get these beds on to the market because people are dying out there," he said.

According to Mr. Strachan, the project demonstrates how the University and local medical community can work together. "Bedsores are a terrible problem, particularly here in Sussex," he said. "That is because the south coast has such a large elderly population and it is the elderly who are most prone to bedsores."

Bob became involved in the research as part of his final year project and has welcomed the opportunity to use his engineering training to do something he describes as "extremely rewarding". There are plans to enter the bed for the Institute of Mechanical Engineering's annual Biomedical Project Competition.

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Finally, if the pressure of your work or studies is getting too much and you feel in need of a nap, extra volunteers are now needed to test the bed. If you are under 5ft 8ins, slim, and want a rest, please contact Bob Stark, ENGG u/g ph.
Around the Schools

**BIOLS**

THE LAST SIX MONTHS have seen a number of significant changes around the School. Mike Wallis finished his three-year term as Dean, leaving the School's balance sheet comfortably in the black. Chris Darwin, our new Dean, has the unenviable task of maintaining that balance. As with other Schools, this is made all the more complex by the need to meet the teaching requirements of the increased numbers of students (the 1991 intake was 26 per cent larger across the School as a whole than the intake for 1990).

ON THE RESEARCH FRONT, one of the more noticeable changes is that the multi-million pound Interdisciplinary Research Centre (IRC) in Neuroscience, headed by Michael O’Shea, is well under way. Its work is concerned with the molecular mechanisms involved in the generation of behaviour, the processing of sensory information, the acquisition and storage of information, and the development of specific connections between neurons.

One of the more short-term practical applications will be the development of safer and more selective pesticides which affect the neurological structures of the targeted insects, whilst leaving other insects and wildlife unaffected. During the IRC’s first months new automated DNA and protein sequencing facilities have been commissioned. These will provide an important service for other molecular and cellular biologists around the School who will be able to take advantage of IRC facilities. Gone are the days of manually sequencing DNA.

**JULIAN BURKE**, one of the IRC team, achieved local prominence when he was branded “The test tube detective” by the Evening Argus (12 February). Aside from describing his research, the article went on, more interestingly for some, to describe his salary .... Julian and his colleagues are also involved in cancer research, and their research is based on the fact that each day, the DNA in each cell of our bodies makes around 200 mistakes.

These mistakes come about because of the acid conditions in the nucleus of the cell, which cause the building blocks of the DNA to reorder themselves. Unless these mistakes are recognised and repaired correctly, subsequent cell divisions (which involve replication of the DNA) cause the mistakes to be inherited by the daughter cells.

This naturally-occurring process is responsible for a number of mutations giving rise to inherited disorders such as haemophilia. It is possible that some people may be defective in the repair systems that would otherwise spot the mistakes in the DNA, and that this could give rise to higher rates of cancer.

THE CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN not only plays a prominent part in supporting the research activities of the School, it also supports social events such as the Spring Serenade fund-raising concert held in Bexhill on 16 February. Julian Burke was just one of the attendees at the concert, which raised over £5,000 for the Campaign. Following speeches by local MPs (who praised the University's role in Cancer Research), there followed three hours in which our test-tube detective proved he could also sing ....

ASIDE FROM international recognition for its IRC activities, the School has also received recognition for its organisation of an international conference on Gastrulation, seemingly obscure name given to the mysterious movement and folding of cell sheets during embryonic development. The problem here is that each cell in the embryo carries the same complement of genes, and yet somehow these cells become differentiated to form different cell sheets.

One explanation for this behaviour may lie in the precision with which RNA message production from particular genes (called transcription) is controlled in each cell. Changing the precision may cause the genes to manufacture different proteins, and so behave differently from their neighbours.

Sandy MacGillivray and Robert Whittle are organising the conference at which around 700 cell biologists, geneticists and developmental biologists (from as far afield as Moscow and Berkeley) will attend. A leading US researcher recently suggested that this was the conference for anyone who wants "to get [the work] out in front of the world fast .... All the movers and shakers ... will be there."

THE BIOCHEMISTRY GROUP continues to attract funding for its research into the regulation of cell growth. Jenny Pain, Simon Morley and John Kay are researching into the complex network of biochemical controls which govern the ability of cells to multiply in response to appropriate physiological signals, and, equally important, to cease growth when signals are switched off.

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY has also undergone recent changes. Chris Darwin, having moved to higher things, has been replaced as Subject Chairman by Al Parkin. One of Al's first tasks has been to cope with a 50 per cent larger student intake in 1991 compared with 1990. Stuart Sutherland, who founded the Laboratory in 1965, will retire at the end of September and the Lab expects to appoint a new professor to start in October.

Recent research in the Laboratory includes the finding that the maximum recommended dosage of aspirin can lead to a mild but measurable hearing loss. Specifically, understanding speech in noisy environments may be harder, due in part to a reduced ability to resolve the different frequencies in the signal.

But before anyone worries about that next headache, aspirin-induced hearing loss is reversible. The research is being carried out by Bob Carlyon with the co-operation of the University Health Centre.

Al Parkin will shortly be writing an article for the Bulletin on his work on age-related memory loss. Unless he forgets ....
MAPS

JOHN BARROW's Professorial Lecture on *Theories of Everything* took place on 11 February. The MOLS Lecture Theatre was packed with some 350 people including several school parties. Apart from two strings of zeros and ones at the beginning of the lecture to illustrate randomness and non-randomness, John explained, without using any mathematics, the current state of theories uniting all natural forces. It was a tour-de-force which held the audience enthralled for all 70 minutes.

*Research in Harmonic Analysis* continues to flourish. Tony Carbery will host the Second Fourier Analysis Workshop in August. He has also been recently awarded £60,000 by the SERC to support a research assistant to work on problems in harmonic analysis related to curvature. Tony's student Sarah Ziesler, following the successful defence of her DPhil thesis, has been awarded an SERC postdoctoral fellowship to continue her research at the University of Wisconsin, the first Sussex student to gain this prestigious award.

FELICITY MELLOR, a research fellow in Physics, had an article in the Education section of *The Guardian* on 25 February discussing the increasing strains on research fellows, postgraduates, undergraduates and faculty caused by underfunded expansion of universities.

SOC

KEITH MIDDLEMAS is to undertake a broad enquiry into the informal politics of the European Community over the last 20 years — that is, the interrelationship of Community politics, business, banking, and the labour market, together with a study of the institutions and elites involved. Although it will be based in the School of Social Sciences, this project is also going to have a link with the new graduate institute in EURO. It will be directed by Keith Middlemas with a team, it is hoped, from five member nations.

So far, grants have been awarded by the Nuffield Foundation for preliminary work and by the National Economic Development Council for the study of institutions. In addition, a major grant from the Leverhulme Foundation will pay for the British team member. Applications to French, German, Italian and Spanish sources are still outstanding.

JENNIFER PLATT has just had a British Council-funded visit from two leading Russian specialists in sociological research methods. She arranged for them to visit a number of other universities where there are special strengths in research method and it is hoped that these contacts may lead to joint methodological research. A particular concern, as interest in and opportunities for comparative research burgeon, is also to develop suitable concepts and categories which can deal with the differing social structures and intellectual traditions of the former USSR and the West.

Soviet sociology has historically had varying levels of acceptance, but when research has been possible the range of methods used has been very limited; it is hoped that contact with Britain will help to introduce a wider range of possibilities.

VIOLENCE AGAINST SOCIAL WORKERS ON THE INCREASE

A call for the problem of violence against social workers to be tackled as a matter of urgency is made in a report by Carol Kedward, Lecturer in Social Policy and Social Work. Violence against social workers is on the increase with many Social Services Departments taking little or no action to prevent it, she says.

The murder since 1978 of six social workers by clients and the serious injuries sustained by many more has prompted a growing awareness that violence is a regular part of a social worker's job.

Although the 1980s saw the publication of two government reports on the problem, as well as the establishment of working parties to examine the issue by some forward-thinking Social Services Departments, Carol Kedward says progress has been hampered by the "mistaken belief" that the battle has been won.

"Good policy and practice does exist," she says, "but it is certainly not the norm. Good policy may exist but not be implemented or in some cases be deliberately ignored or undermined. In many cases there is still no policy at all."

She believes that the unrelenting political necessity for financial restriction and budgetary cuts, together with the huge task of preparing for the implementation of major new legislation such as the 1989 Children's Act and the Service and Community Care Act 1990 has tended to push staff care a long way down the priority list for many managers.

Carol Kedward has drawn up a programme which she would like to see become standard policy in all Social Services Departments. Even apart from humanitarian considerations or questions of workers' rights, there are additional reasons why action needs to be taken promptly.

"There are increasing signs that the number of applicants to social work courses is falling," explained Ms. Kedward, "and while there are many possible explanations such as the financial hardship now suffered by some students, it is clearly not the moment to allow social work to be seen as a job where the stresses outweigh the satisfaction."

She will be bringing her report to the attention of Social Service directors and hopes they will act upon her suggestions. "We simply must take prevention seriously because the problem is getting worse," she said.

COMPUTER SUPPORT FOR COLLABORATIVE WRITING

Anyone who has ever tried to work collaboratively on a writing project will know that it is not the easiest of tasks. Differing ideas and resultant conflicts can disrupt what may initially seem the most harmonious of writing partnerships, particularly when the authors are working in different locations.

Now members of the Collaborative Writing Research Group in the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences (COGS) are attempting to study writers at work and to provide computer aid for those involved in collaboration.

As Dr. Mike Sharples explained, there has been little research on how people write together in pairs or in groups, yet it is a common practice in the production of academic papers, newspaper features, reports and technical articles. "Collaborative writing has all the complexities of single-person writing such as the problem of planning and meeting many different constraints but there are additional issues such as communicating ideas and dealing with conflict," he said. "We are looking at the ways in which computers can provide support in such situations."

Before such a computer support system can be successfully designed, however, the researchers - who include computer scientists, psychologists, and social scientists - need to have a thorough understanding of the cognitive and social process of collaborative writing. The first stage of the project has, therefore, concentrated on studying current practices in joint authorship.

This has involved looking at the dynamics of writing groups including group formation, allocation of roles and the maintenance of group cohesion. A survey has been carried out and studies made of groups writing together and at a distance.

A further area of investigation has been the methods used for written communication, particularly new technologies such as electronic mail, which is becoming increasingly popular for the circulation of draft documents among academics. "We are looking at how that can be extended to allow access to the same document, thereby facilitating synchronous editing," said Dr. Sharples.

Other projects by research students in the group include an investigation of the written plans and notes used by writers to set down and exchange ideas and a study of the social dynamics of writing groups.

The research into understanding collaborative writing has the financial backing of the Joint Research Council Initiative in Cognitive Science/HEI.

It builds on a recently completed project, funded by British Telecom, which involved COGS researchers in developing a prototype computer-based writing support system.

Unlike other writing tools, the Writer's Assistant assists the author throughout the whole writing process, from generation of ideas to production of prose. It can be used for a range of complex tasks, and can support writers with widely differing strategies of writing.
BRIGHTON UN EARTH CONFERENCE

A conference to be held later this month will give local residents and community groups a chance to register their views on the main issues to be discussed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil later this year.

The Brighton United Nations Earth Conference will take place at the Institute of Development Studies on 28 March. It is being organised by Oxfam in Sussex and the Brighton and Hove United Nations Association.

It is one of a number of regional conferences currently being held around the country. Contributors' views will be collated and produced in a final report which will be presented to the UK government and to the Brazil Earth Summit. Heads of government from all over the world will be at next June’s summit to discuss the eradication of poverty and protection of the environment.

There will be three guest speakers at the Brighton conference, including Alistair Townley, editor of the Green magazine, and nine structured workshops looking at poverty, global warming, aid, common security, biodiversity, trade, population, forestry and debt.

CAMBODIA WEEK AT DRUSILLAS

A week of events to raise funds for those maimed by mines in Cambodia will be held at Drusillas Zoo Park from 14 to 21 March. All proceeds raised will go to the Kean Klang amputee centre near Phnom Penh which is helping to provide artificial limbs for some of the estimated 100,000 amputees in Cambodia.

Events at Drusillas will include a free photo and print exhibition depicting scenes from present-day life in Cambodia. There will be Cambodian food, music and traditional dancing, craft work made by refugees, slide and video presentations. And local celebrities will be putting on concerts during the week. Admission to any event is £2.50 (concessions £2.00); combined ticket for all events £10.00. Tickets available at the door or ring 0323 33294 for advance bookings. For more information on the week, contact Aid for Cambodia, 0323 31794.

TAking WESTERN TECHNOLOGY EASTWARD

Dr Peter Lindon, Director of the Contract Education Office, and John Golds, Senior Assistant Finance Officer, recently paid a stamina-testing visit to Romania in connection with a European Community TEMPUS bid to assist local industry in the Iače region of Romania in its attempts to bring in a market economy. The key to the project is the establishment of a technology transfer centre with Iače Polytechnic.

No sooner had they arrived at their Bucharest hotel at 8.30 pm than Peter and John were off again — on the night sleeper to Iače, 600 kilometres away. The temperature was -10C, but inside the railway carriage the conductor was busy feeding a pile of coke into the carriage boiler to provide some modest heating.

On arrival at Iače at 5.00 am, Peter and John were taken for breakfast — dumpling soup and boiled chicken. This, their host explained, was needed because they would soon be ‘testing their manliness’ at a meeting with local business leaders — for which a two-litre bottle of Teachers Whisky was thoughtfully provided (and consumed). After a meeting with the Vice-Rector of Iače Polytechnic, their hosts took them to lunch at Ceausescu’s house in Iače, now a restaurant.

Successfully surviving their hosts’ hospitality, they returned by air to Bucharest ready for a series of meetings the following day — with the Secretary of State for Education, staff at the British Embassy and British Council, and at the offices of UNESCO and TEMPUS.

Peter and John returned home with high hopes that, with their European partners (in this country, Finland, Holland and Ireland), they will be able to help the Romanians update their technological training. “Our abiding memory is of their friendliness and hopes for the future,” John Golds said. “The transition to a market-driven economy will not be easy. Attitudes need to change and modernisation will bring unemployment and attendant problems. I hope we will be able to work together to overcome these difficulties.”

BUcharest: the frozen river with Ceausescu’s palace in the background

ROOK RESCued FROM TREE!

A rook in danger of suffering a slow painful death when its wing became trapped in a branch high up in a tree outside Kent House was saved by the combined efforts of the RSPCA and the Fire Brigade on 20 February.

A relieved Mrs. Valerie Anning of the Farm Shop offered grateful thanks to the RSPCA and the Fire Brigade. “They answered our distress call so promptly and efficiently and the bird is now making a full recovery,” she said.
NEWS FROM THE GARDNER CENTRE

Music and comedy round off the Spring Season at the Gardner Centre starting with the folk music of Maddy Prior on Saturday, 21 March. On her first solo tour for many years, Maddy Prior stops off at the Gardner Centre on the only South East date of her new 1992 tour. As well as being well-known for her work in traditional music since the early days of Steeleye Span, Maddy Prior has also built up a large following for her repertoire of self-penned songs, achieving many gold and silver albums. The performance starts at 7.45 pm and tickets are £7.25/£5.25 (conc. £1 off).

And to finish the season, the chance to see one of the most ‘miserable’ comedians on the circuit — an evening with Jack Dee on Saturday, 11 April. With his own TV series currently on Channel 4, Jack Dee (pictured here) is fast becoming one of Britain’s leading new comics, so don’t miss your chance to see the man who is at the deadest end of dead pan! “Seriously funny” (Evening Standard). Tickets are £6.00 (conc. £1 off).

Anne Burrill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bulletin Editor

Concern has been rightly expressed in your columns recently about the state of the campus: readers should be aware, however, that there are bigger matters at stake than problems of tidying-up.

It has become apparent (rather late in the day) that the University intends to undertake the ‘fast track’ (sic) construction of an extension to the Arts Building at the N-E corner of Arts A, beginning around Easter. The groundwork (unfortunately without elevations) has been posted on the Faculty Noticeboard near the European School Office. It is unclear whether planning permission has yet been received.

I feel that this development at least deserves proper debate — as a matter of urgency. Our campus may have its faults, but nonetheless it is an ensemble of some distinction, and we have a duty to look after it. The site of the intended extension, close to the bridge, is a visually-sensitive spot, at present an attractive area of grass, trees and daffodils. Random ‘filling’ or excrescences to existing buildings could ruin the integrity of the campus.

Robin Müller-Gulland

Dear Editor

We hope that the grouping together of salary-type matters in the Bulletin of 19 February under the heading From the Superannuation Office does not mislead members of the University’s own superannuation scheme, USPSAS, into thinking that the Superannuation Office is promoting private medical insurance but not reporting on the University’s superannuation scheme.

We know that in fact the Superannuation Office is about to issue helpful and reassuring information to members and potential members of the Scheme: that the Scheme is very healthy and in no danger of a Maxwell problem.

Meanwhile, we are sorry that the valuable publicity facility of the Bulletin is used to advertise private medical insurance. We are sure there are many people on campus like us who are opposed to private medicine on the grounds that: a) the NHS provides the training of the health care team; b) private medicine concentrates on profitable medicine and does not provide for chronically sick people, mentally handicapped or sick people, AIDS patients, accident and emergency provision or care for long-term elderly sick people.

Pauline Theorne and Sheila Massey

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The complete British Library General Catalogue of Printed Books to 1975 is now available in the Library in CD-Rom format. As a result, this great catalogue, hitherto available only in a single printed sequence, is now easily searched in many ways, for instance by keywords in titles. Searches combining two or more criteria are also easily made. The British Library General Catalogue on CD-Rom can be used on any of the networked computers in the Information Services area.

This CD-Rom service (partly funded by the Arts Schools) complements the access provided, using the Library Information Network, to the catalogues of other university libraries in the UK and overseas, and the information in UKOP, the United Kingdom Catalogue of Official Publications on CD-Rom. For further details, contact Information Services on (07) 8440.

‘No Smoking’ is to apply in future to the entrance foyer, the staircase to the central basement, and the corridor to the public toilets and snack bar.

FOOD SAFETY ACT 1990

Some people may be aware that a large hotel in Brighton has just been successfully prosecuted for breaches of the food hygiene regulations. In particular, the undercooking of eggs in an ice-cream recipe. Both the institution and the individual who prepared the food received large fines and costs.

I would like to warn again all caterers on campus of their responsibilities under the Food Safety Act 1990 and relevant regulations. A seminar with the Brighton Environmental Health Officer is being arranged to alert those individuals who may not yet be aware of this legislation or who may require further information. For further information or advice, contact Graham Curry, University Catering Administration Manager.

CAMPUS PARTY

Wednesday, 15 April at 12.45 pm in the Meeting House.

Food and drinks. A chance to meet fellow students who are here over the Easter vacation.

All welcome. Admission free.
Social Anthropologist Dr. Sue Wright describes below her year-long project at Cleveland County Council.

GOOD NEWS FROM CLEVELAND

I

turned recently from a 12-month attachment to Cleveland County Council to evaluate their corporate strategy. Faced with the highest unemployment in mainland UK in the mid-1980s, the Council tried to change the way it related to people so as to use its resources, policies and procedures to 'empower' residents and encourage local collective activity.

Four teams of community workers were to generate resident-led development. Issues raised by this work were to be taken up by a central team attached to the Chief Executive who would negotiate appropriate changes in policy and ensure that the authority supported rather than stifled local initiatives.

As one of the new strategies of the 1980s which emphasised development processes rather than just projects, the Council wanted me to devise a qualitative method of evaluation. The lessons from the first three years were to be incorporated in the next phase, an anti-poverty strategy.

I was interested in the project first because it opened up a new area in anthropology in Britain and raised two intellectual problems: how to evaluate empowerment; and how to use participant observation to analyse organisational change. Second, the project enabled me to explore ways of working as an academic outside the University. Unlike some other European countries, there seems to be no established way of doing this in Britain. Third, it was an opportunity to assess the possibilities of developing graduate work in anthropology on the increasingly important changes in public sector delivery of services, participation and empowerment.

The research was very successful. Seven papers are being published by the Council and a seminar in late April 1992 will be on the ideas and recommendations and their practical implementation. However, the research process was not uneventful and the problems I encountered are of relevance to others interested in developing new research relationships of the kind that now seem to be labelled 'enterprise'.

My first concern was to create a suitable location from which to do anthropological field-work in the organisation. That is, I wanted to be simultaneously an 'insider' and an 'outsider'. I did this in negotiating the contract. By arranging for the Council to pay for my replacement at the University, I did not become an employee of the Council or subject to their line management. I could maintain my 'outside' identity as a 'lecturer from Sussex University' yet I was attached to their research unit with full access to Council officers and procedures. This proved to be just the right combination of involvement and independence, although I had to negotiate continuously to sustain this position.

The research unit was keen for me to produce papers which would generate discussion in the authority. In the first one I pointed out the differences between pathological and structural approaches to poverty. Although this is an old idea, it seemed that aspects of both were in currency, and a Council might use its resources and evaluate the outcomes in different ways according to which approach is taken. Immediately, it became apparent that there is no space in an authority for this kind of discussion. Ideas are either promptly taken up and turned into policy, or they are perceived as a personal threat by an officer and 'killed'. The aggression is not just metaphorical. I was threatened with physical attack and in the course of the year received two threats of libel action. Consultants working on similar projects assured me this was not remarkable. Being an 'outsider' able to resort to the University and the AUT for support was very important. This experience raises issues about the ways to supervise and support graduate students doing this kind of work.

This enabled me to experience some of the pressures on those who had been trying to change the organisation. Cleveland had been a prime example of modernisation in the 1960s and 1970s. Some were clinging to those concepts and political practices. Those promoting the corporate strategy saw the closure of industry, the high unemployment and the disrupted communities as an outcome of those modernisation policies. Through alternative concepts and political practice they sought locally-led development supported by an empowering and enabling state. I analysed the history of the attempts to develop the concepts and new institutional forms for the strategy in the context of this contest.

The pressure implores upon community development workers and other 'front line' staff who are meant to be empowering residents whilst not empowered themselves by their hierarchy. The mechanisms by which the central team were meant to take up issues that they raised had not worked. They felt beleaguered and likely to be blamed by politicians for shortcomings in the strategy. It would have been a nice irony if the research process further disempowered them. Rather than the old model of evaluation by an 'objective' outside expert, it was important to develop a participatory method. This required a new language for writing about their work which got beneath the jargon of 'empowerment' and a method of jointly establishing what they were trying to do and in the light of this, assessing the effectiveness of both projects and processes as perceived by themselves and residents.

Since the colonial critique, anthropologists have been concerned about the politics of the production of knowledge. Put bluntly, does our research help people to understand and deal with the hierarchies that govern them; or does it help those in power to exert control more effectively? With the development of the anthropology of Britain it was important not to replicate the latter process. Public sector struggles to change their management systems so as to support and respond to staff at the bottom of hierarchies who are in contact with people provide an exciting coincidence of interests between anthropology and management.

In this research my analysis of the contests over the concepts and attempts to implement the strategy at the top of the hierarchy, were combined with the team's awareness of the support systems that they need. It recommended changes that are needed at a senior level for the authority to have an empowering and effective anti-poverty strategy.

The final lesson I learnt was to keep in contact with the senior politicians and to talk through with them the analysis, the results of the research, the most critical issues, and the recommendations well before they see them on paper. They do not like shocks; and if successful this exercise can turn the defence against criticism into 'ownership' of the recommendations. Evaluators are often only called in when the interests of sets of people in different positions in an organisation have got too disparate and communication between them is failing. It is a political juggling act and the test will be the seminar in April which brings together politicians and officers from all levels of the hierarchy hopefully to have a discussion in the authority on how to act on the recommendations.
NOTICEBOARD

☐ VACANCIES

The Personnel Office has issued the following summary of posts to be filled. Advertisements for these vacancies have been placed in local and national papers as appropriate, as well as circulated as relevant to Section Heads and union representatives for circulation to staff and noticeboards. Copies of these advertisements, together with further particulars if available, and application forms are obtainable from the Personnel Office, Room 277, Sussex House. This list was compiled on 2 March and is subject to revision.

Teaching Faculty
Lectureship in French
Lectureship in CSAI
Lectureship in Physical Geography
Lectureship in English
Lectureship in International Relations
Lectureship in Media Studies
Lectureship in Ecology

Clerical and Secretarial and Related
Clerk/Typist, Admissions, part-time (afternoons), grade 2
Technical Staff
Technical Supervisor, Grade F
Research Technicians (2 posts), Grade C

Applications for these three posts should be sent to the Laboratory Manager, BIOLS.

Manual and Ancillary Staff
Cleaners, Park Houses, p/t (mornings), Grade 1
Applications to Paul Knight, York House.

☐ STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Customer Care:
places available for June.

Telephone Techniques:
places available on 2 April (am) course.

Communication Skills (to include minute-taking and report writing, etc.), Time Management, Stress Management:
taking names of those interested, for courses later this year.

Dates and locations to be confirmed. Nominations (via Section Heads, please) to Alison Lyner, ext. 3806 (mornings).

☐ TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES

With effect from 1 January 1992, travel and subsistence allowances are:

Travel Allowances
No change; the rates remain at:
Casual Users 35.5p per mile
Essential Users

- Lump sum £725.00
- per mile 26.5p per mile

Motor cycle
13.5p per mile

To meet Inland Revenue requirements, the cubic capacity of car engines must be supplied.

Maximum Subsistence Allowances
Not involving overnight stays:
4 to 8 hours £7.40 (was £6.80)
8 to 12 hours £12.90 (£11.90)
12 to 16 hours £16.05 (£14.80)
over 16 hours £18.85 (£17.35)

Involving overnight stay:
London £56.00 (£52.00)
Elsewhere £50.00 (£46.00)

For travel overseas:
Europe* and Japan £132.00 (£100.00)
N. America £100.00 (£86.00)
Elsewhere £86.00 (£86.00)

*The Europe rate is calculated on costs in EC capitals. Rates in eastern Europe vary and heads of budgetary units may find it reasonable to set a lower maximum in some cases.

☐ IF YOU CALL THE AA ...

Please note that when the AA attends a breakdown on campus, IT ALWAYS ARRANGES FOR ITS PATROL TO MEET THE MEMBER OUTSIDE SUSSEX HOUSE (by the entrance facing the car park) irrespective of where the vehicle has broken down on campus.

☐ TERM DATES

This Summer Term:
Wednesday, 22 April — Friday, 26 June, 1992.

Next academic year:
Monday, 5 October — Friday, 11 December, 1992.
Monday, 4 January — Friday, 12 March, 1993.

☐ UNIVERSITY CLOSURES

The University will close for the Easter holiday on Thursday and Friday, 16 and 17 April, and Monday, 20 April.

It has been agreed that in 1992-93 the University will close on the following days:
Thursday and Friday, 24 and 25 December, 1992 and from Monday, 28 December, 1992 to Friday, 1 January, 1993
Thursday and Friday, 8 and 9 April, and Monday and Tuesday, 12 and 13 April, 1993
Monday, 3 and 31 May and 30 August, 1993.

☐ PARKING RESTRICTED

ADVANCE WARNING — Estates will be reserving a large portion of the Science Car Park on 29 April for some 30 coaches and other vehicles which will be bringing people on to campus for a big Admissions Open Day.

BULLETIN

This is the last Bulletin of term. The Information Office would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way this term. Copy for the first issue of the Summer Term (to be published on 29 April) must be received by Jenny Payne, Internal Communications Officer, Room 230, Sussex House, by no later than 1 pm on Tuesday, 14 April. If you have any news items or ideas for feature articles, she would be pleased to hear from you (ext. 8208).

Publication and copy dates for the rest of the Summer Term are:
20 May (copy date 8 May), 10 June (copy date 29 May) and 8 July (vacation issue) (copy date 26 June).

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University of Sussex, Sussex House, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RH.