REALISING OUR POTENTIAL?

Last week the first government science policy for over twenty years was launched by science minister, William Waldegrave. The White Paper, entitled "Realising our Potential", recognises the need to reverse decades of failure to exploit the discoveries of British scientists and aims to bring together industry, the universities and government to identify key areas for investment. Proposals encompass a major re-organisation of the research councils, the setting up of a Technology Foresight Programme, campaigns to heighten public awareness of science and changes in postgraduate education whereby the MSc will become the normal postgraduate degree in Science and Engineering.

The change in the science base will occur in the five research councils. The Science and Engineering Research Council, described as "too big to be manageable" will be divided into two: a Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council and an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The biotechnology directorate of the SERC will be transferred to the Agricultural and Food Research Council to make a new Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. The Advisory Board for the Research Councils is to be abolished and a new body called the Council for Science and Technology is to be created, chaired by William Waldegrave, with William Stewart, the chief scientist at the Office of Science and Technology as his deputy.

Although some sceptical commentators have likened the re-organisation to re-arranging the deckchairs on the Titanic, the changes, particularly the breaking up of the SERC, could have major implications for science funding. According to John Farrant, Director of Research Administration, "As far as Sussex is concerned, we depend heavily on grants from SERC which currently provides about a third of our project funding. But aside from the IRC in Neuroscience, we have been winning a diminishing proportion of SERC's total funds over recent years. This may be because we have not been competing successfully for the money going to support applicable science. The new configuration of Research Councils is bound to increase the proportion of funds going in that direction."

The importance of identifying technologies which will underpin economic growth is an overriding theme of the white paper, and it is widely recognised that William Waldegrave and William Stewart, have been heavily influenced in their thinking by a SPRU report published last year which argued for the need for a focussed long-term strategy for science and industry in line with our major economic competitors.

Ben Martin, author of that report welcomes the White Paper insofar as it "indicates at long last a recognition by government that science and technology are valuable national assets and there is now a real opportunity for government, universities and industry to work effectively together and develop, for the first time ever, a long term strategy for science." He is more cautious, however, about how radical the new arrangements can actually be whilst responsibility for research and development continues to be spread across government departments. "I do fear that there will be strong opposition from other departments; what we really need to do is move to a fully separate Ministry of Research and Technology such as they have in France and, most successfully, in Germany."

Continued on page 2
**What the papers say...**

Dr Richard Roberts (SOC) bemoans the demise of the National Westminster Bank Quarterly, the final edition of which was published on the 20 May 1993 after a run of 79 years (*Times* 21 May). Its disappearance marks the end of the informative British bank reviews which, according to Richard, were an important source "for undergraduate teaching, providing a unique combination of scholarly authority and up-to-date information in an accessible form".

The collapse of the genre appears to be due to a combination of factors including the recession which has forced banks to cut costs.

The preference of governments to fund wealth - creating applied research often at the expense of basic research assumes, to some extent, that it is possible to differentiate between the two. Yet the *THES* (21 May) points to research in Chemistry at Sussex which shows that no simple dichotomy necessarily exists between applied and basic research: "the work on the carbon 'football' Buckminsterfullerenes at Sussex, is a pre-eminent example of basic research which is feeding into a host of possible applications - from lubricants to superconductors."

Finally, Bet Gilroy has replaced Bette Davis in the pantheon of 'hot gay icons' according to the *Independent on Sunday* (23 May). Female stars of the country's soaps enjoy an enthusiastic following amongst gays and Andy Medhurst (CCS) remarks "Soaps are aimed at women and deal with what a lot of straight men deem trivial: life, death, love, divorce, betrayal, childbirth. Andy adds that a lot of soaps have also been written by gays including Tony Warren who invented *Coronation Street*. The paper found that Andy's answer phone underlines his research interests announcing: "Either I'm out or you've run during an important soap opera."

**SuperJANET Connection for Sussex**

The University of Sussex has been selected for inclusion in the SuperJANET Project, an advanced communications network for higher education and research in Great Britain announced by the Universities Funding Council in November 1992.

The budget for the new venture exceeds £20 million over four years, subject to a review of the initial phase in the autumn of 1993. The main contract has been won by British Telecom and the initial plan is for BT to provide communication connections of ten Mbits/sec to 45 of the present 200 JANET sites. The bandwidth of most JANET sites (including Sussex) is currently two Mbits/sec and the increased speed of the SuperJANET link will not only meet the steeply increasing demand for access to remote information services and supercomputing power but will open up new types of application such as document delivery, distance learning, and voice traffic.

On 11 March 1993 a pilot SuperJANET service went live which connected Cambridge, Edinburgh and Manchester Universities, Imperial College and University College London, and the SERC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. A number of demonstrations have already been successfully completed and the programme of installation is ahead of schedule.

The date by which BT is contracted to connect all the initial sites is 30 November 1993 but the indications are that Sussex will be linked by June or July, although the service at that stage will be strictly experimental. The protocols used will be pure IP (not "JANET IP Service"). There will be in due course an off-site gateway to JANET itself but many networked resources will become available directly and more conveniently on SuperJANET, such as databases (e.g. BIOP), national supercomputers, and access to the United States and to continental Europe. Twelve of the sites (bounded by London, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cardiff) will have connections running at 140 Mbits/sec or faster, partly to serve as trunk routes and partly to test new techniques and services. All sites, however, will have the same optical fibre connections and ultimate service levels will depend on the requirements of each site and on its ability to pay.

**Realising our Potential?**

Reactions to the paper are inevitably mixed. There are no proposals to form a Humanities Research Council nor is there any positive indication that the new Councils will have increased resources to enable them to respond to the challenges of their new missions.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the paper is to be welcomed inasmuch as it is an attempt to address the problem of providing sufficient funding of the right kind for science and technology. "However", he says "The test of the exercise is whether the re-organisations proposed will significantly improve the way funds are spent. By comparison with other industrialised countries, science and technology in Britain will remain underfunded. My general impression is that the paper addresses many of the problems in a realistic fashion. I am particularly pleased that it finally abandons the old linear model of transfer from science lab to industrial product. Technology innovation is a much more complex process and requires flexible, interactive arrangements — our new Innovation Centre, which I hope will be opened sometime next year, is intended to be designed on these lines. One regret is the failure to set up a Humanities Research Council. We are going to have to press hard the case for the importance of humanities in our society as it moves into the next century."

**Clash over Heineken Event**

A new performing version of Henry Purcell and John Dryden's opera *King Arthur* is the music faculty's annual production this year, at the Gardner Centre from 9-12 June. *King Arthur* has been rarely performed since its conception some 300 years ago and it is hoped that this revival may restore it to the permanent operatic repertoire. Preparations for the show have been dogged by a dispute concerning the siting of the Heineken Big Top Event in Stannar Park scheduled for 10-13 June. After a freak storm wrecked last year's event, the organisers are insisting that it must be sited at the southern end of Stanner Park this year rather than at the north end where the Carnival will be held this weekend.

Objections placed by David Osmond-Smith, Sub-Dean of EAM, concerning the effects that the noise will now have on the performances of *King Arthur*, as well as on Science students studying for exams the following week have led to urgent talks between the University, Brighton Council, and the organisers to find a solution. The Council are now seeking ways to reduce the impact of the noise on the University.
CHILDCARE

The University has just joined up as a full employer member of Childcare Links, a local resource organisation for childcare. It can provide, through a substantial database, information on, and contacts for, childminders, nannies, creche and nursery facilities etc., in the Brighton area. As members of the University, both staff and students will be able to approach the University's welfare services to request information from Childcare Links' database. Staff or students who want to make use of the service should contact Staff Welfare Officer, Richard Price in Arts B20, ext. 3598, or the Students' Union Welfare Office reception on the first floor, Falmer House, ext. 8149. The service is free of charge. Funds permitting, it is hoped in time that the University will develop its own on-line database within the workplace as well.

OPEN DAY

The last University Open Day of the year will be taking place on campus on Wednesday 16 June from 10am - 3.30pm in the Refectory. The Open Day is aimed at both sixth-formers and adults who are interested in discovering more about taking a degree at Sussex.

The main feature of the Open Day will be a Courses Exhibition with members of teaching staff on hand to answer questions about all the courses available at Sussex. Participants will also have the chance to meet current students and have campus tours. There will also be a special mature students' section with information on Local Access and A-level courses.

Robin Lee Poetry

We are pleased to publish this week one of the poems by Merryn Beere (last year's winner and one of this year's runners-up in the Robin Lee Poetry Competition.)

BURIAL GROUNDS

i. Daylight is hooded in downland, in talon-edged, chalk on stone.

Death's tenure is certain here where barrows bruise, baring bone.

Strange solace of sea-lapping, ash-scattering wind moan.

ii. The naked hills expose me to my winding sheet of rain; sheer fall of sun, moon, sky.

LetTERS

Although I sympathise with the sentiments in Pam Strange's letter (21 May) expressing concern about possible implications of car parking charges on campus for the lower waged, I must still support any move that discourages people from driving their cars on to campus.

Although public transport is never as convenient as a private car, the campus is served by excellent train and bus routes. The cost of private transport must be counted in more than mere financial terms. The car parks we have are unsightly and detrimental additions to what would otherwise be an extremely beautiful and peaceful campus. Furthermore, it is well known (but rarely acknowledged) that driving a car is one of the greatest causes of environmental damage.

We need to end our social addiction to the motor car, and, like ending any other addiction, the process will not be entirely painless.

Richard A. Fox, Meeting House

In deciding a policy regarding campus car parking I hope due consideration will be given to disabled drivers' car parking spaces. Currently it seems that many non-disabled people regard a disabled driver's parking space as 'fair game' for occupancy, particularly if difficulty is experienced in obtaining a legitimate space elsewhere. The existing two disabled drivers' parking spaces in North-South Road where I, as a disabled driver, attempt to park, are regularly occupied by cars not displaying the required disabled driver's orange badge.

Occasionally explanatory notes are left on their windscreen. How thought-ful to leave a note, how insulting for a non-disabled driver to occupy a disabled driver's car space and try to justify it.

Steve Dean, Postgraduate ENGG

Following the front page picture of our VC working out in the gym, I am pleased to report that in a recent tennis match the chemistry professors thrashed the university second team. Well, not quite all professors, nor a complete second team; nor even a thrashing, just a comfortable 5:4 win. Your correspondent is pleased to report that Kappa Cornforth, four times the age of the youngest player, is still showing them how to serve.

Professor John Murrell, (MOLS)

In brief

Research Opportunities

For information on any of the following call Louise Vincent, Research Office, ext. 3761 or Email: deeb@adm.

ESRC SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET PROGRAMME, 2nd phase. Applications for three new projects by 26 July.

CARBOHYDRATE SCIENCE. SERC is considering a co-ordinated research programme relating to the food, chemical and pharmaceutical sectors. The consultants advising on the project invite contact from interested parties.

STUDY IN AUSTRALIA: Northcote scholarships for postgraduate study at Australian universities (closed 10 May for this year) and for research visits by students registered at UK universities (closing 27.8.93.).

CIBA CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS 1994/95, for research by established academics in chemistry, biochemistry and biology at a continental European university, for 4 to 12 months, at the rate of £15k a year. Closing date 1 November 1993.

CIBA AWARDS FOR COLLABORATION IN EUROPE 1994-96, for short visits to stimulate new collaboration between research groups in chemistry, biochemistry and biology, £1,500 to £3,000 a year for two years. Closing date 1 November 1993.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD: MAFF Open Contracting Scheme and Competitive Tender Projects. List of research projects for which proposals are invited by 2 July 1993.

Public Lecture

Language in the Landscape: Place-naming and Language Change

The study of the landscape and the study of language meet in a number of interesting ways. Our ancestors' perception of the landscape led to the creation and borrowing of topographical terms and to the characteristic shape of many English place-names. Our perceptions are sometimes different. Place-names in their turn may reveal something of earlier linguistic geography and of the way the fortunes of languages and dialects have ebbed and flowed. The study of place-names may also contribute to the understanding of language change itself, as they may develop in ways not wholly predictable from widely accepted theoretical assumptions.

Richard Coates, Professor of Linguistics, will be exploring this topic at his Professorial Lecture, Language in the Landscape: Place-naming and Language Change, at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 8 June in MOLS Lecture Theatre. All welcome to attend.
Monday 7 June – Sunday 13 June

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

- **Monday 7 June**
  - 11.45am Maths Statistics Seminar: A sequential clinical trial for comparing three treatments. D Siegmund (Stanford), PB2A1, MAPS I.
  - 12.30pm Graduate History Seminar: From Revolution to Depression: The Impact of Popular Musics in American and European Society from the 1960s to the 1970s. S Mitchell, Arts C351.
  - 1.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Is There a Serotonergic Basis to the Anorectic Effect of Fluoxetine. M Lee, EP3.9, BIOLS.
  - 2.00pm Particle Physics Seminar: String Formation in the Laboratory and the Early Universe. D Austin, PB2A1, MAPS I.
  - 3.00pm Maths Analysis Seminar: Non-commutative Dirichlet Forms. J Lindsay (Nottingham), PB2A2, MAPS I.
  - 4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar Series: Artificial Insect Vision. D Cliff, EP3.9, BIOLS.
  - 6.00pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Into the 21st Century: Adult Learners, Voluntary Organisations and Social Change. A Tuckett (Director of National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education), Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, B'ton.

- **Tuesday 8 June**
  - 2.00pm Condensed State Physics Seminar: Quantum Physics at the Macroscopic Level. Dr A Rae (Birmingham), PB1A1, MAPS I.
  - 4.15pm Biochemistry, Genetics and Development Seminar: Signal Transduction by Ras During Sexual Differentiation in Fission Yeast. Dr D Hughes, (Cambridge), EP4.9 BIOLS.
  - 5.30pm Media and Cultural Studies Seminar: Racism and Ethnicity in a 'Postmodern' Frame. A Rattansi (City), Arts D630.
  - 6.00pm Professorial Lecture: Language in the Landscape: Place-Naming and Language Change. Prof R Coates, MOLS Lecture Theatre, MOLS I.

- **Wednesday 9 June**
  - 1.00pm IDS Seminar Series: Market Romanticism and the Institutional Challenge. Dr B Hariss (Oxford), Room 221, IDS.
  - 5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Pirates, Paedophiles and Possible Acts: Adolescent Problems in Richard Hughes' A High Wind in Jamaica'. J Croft, Arts D640. Video of film version of the novel in EDB Lecture Theatre, 3pm.

- **Thursday 10 June**
  - 12.30pm Inorganic Discussion Group: What's Going On at the 6th Position Of An Octahedrally co-ordinated Ru Centre? Dr R Schneider (NFL) followed by The Myth of Crown Thioether Chemistry, Dr M Durrant (NFL), MS1, MOLS III.
  - 4.30pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: SHT and Disorders of Cognition. C Preston (Glaxo Research Group), EP3.9, BIOLS.

- **Friday 11 June**
  - 3.00pm London-Sussex Topology Seminar: Led by M J Dunwoody (Southampton) at 3.00pm and B J Sanderson (Warwick) at 4.30pm.
  - 4.00pm Astronomy Seminar: Solar Prominences. Dr A Hood, PB1A7, MAPS I.
  - 4.30pm Philosophy Seminar: Philosophy reading party at the Isle of Thorns.

Centre for Continuing Education

- **Day Schools**
  - Sat 19 June. £23.50 reduced to £17/minimum £12.50 (inclusive of coach travel), Enrol with CCE.
  - Radio Broadcasting for Beginners. Learn interviewing and editing techniques, meet deadlines and make tough editorial decisions.
  - Sat 19 and Sun 20 June at CROW Studios, B'ton. Enrol with CROW Studios on 621856.

Gardner Centre

- King Arthur. A fast moving story of war and lost presented by the University Music Faculty.
  - Wed 9 June – Sat 12 June, 7.45pm. £6 / £5 (concs £1.50 off). Student preview Wed 9 June, £2.
  - Cavalleria Rusticana (by Mascagni) and I Pagliacci (by Leoncavallo). Passionate love of Italian verismo opera performed by the Wandering Minstrels.
  - Wed 16 June – Sat 19 June, 7.30pm. £6.50 / £5.50 (concs £1 off Wed and Thurs).
  - All tickets from the Box Office, ext. 5861.

Summer Science Exhibition

- New Frontiers in Science.
  - 18 exhibits demonstrating recent advances in scientific research. Wed 16 June (2.30pm - 4pm), Thurs 17 June (10am-4pm). Admission free.
  - Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y SAG. Details on 071-839-5661 ext. 293.

Apple Macs Visit Campus

- Demonstration of a variety of Apple Computers, software and other accessories by Apple Centre Waterloo. Competitive educational discounts. Exhibition trailer will be located at southern end of Refectory on Fri 14 June.

General Store Bargains

- The central stores offer staff and students very competitive prices on most stock items. Examples: Diskettes 3.5 DDS 3M formatted (10) £5.36.
  - Ever Ready Battery (HP2) each £0.49
  - Also some 230 obsolete products to clear. Examples: Wooden Cot and Mattress each £8.4
  - Candlewick Bedspreads single £5.50, double £7.
  - Contact Sharon on ext. 8143 (mornings) or call at stores counter in Estates Building 9am – 4pm.

Enterprise in Higher Education

- Supplemental Instruction. Enterprise meeting on how 2nd year students can facilitate 1st year self-help groups in difficult subjects with Jenni Wallace, UK Co-ordinator (Kingston University). 10.15am, Fri 11 June, Inner Lounge, Refectory, Level 1.

Miscellaneous

- FILM SCREENING. Two UNICEF films on the Philippines by postgraduate Horacio Severino: Children of War and Education in the Uplands. 3pm, Tues 8 June, EDB 100. Details on 542822.
- LAURETTA NGCOBO. South African political exile, novelist and ANC member, Lauretta Ngcobo will talk on Writing by South African Women Today at 2pm, Wed 9 June, Arts A5. All welcome.
- SELF DEFENCE. A self defence video for females (£10.99) is available from MLK Productions, PO Box 1120, North Rd, Bton, BN1 4HQ. The video supplements classes run at the University.
- BRIGHTON RACES. Special leaflets offering entry into Brighton Races at 2 for the price of 1 are available from "Tourist Information Centres."

LUNCHTIME RECITAL. John Birch (organ), 1.15pm Tues 25 May.

Small Ads

- HOUSE TO SHARE: Postgraduate or faculty to share house in Woodingdean with Prof Small from 1 June. £60p.w. single, £80p.w. double (inclusive of gas/electric bills). Contact 678303 (day) or 726846 (even).
- TO LET: Large 3 bedroom flat by The Level with all mod cons. Only £30p.w. per person from July to Sep. Contact 698576.
- WANTED: Aerobic step (preferably Reebok) also step videos. Willing to pay up to £30. Contact Marianne on ext. 4371.

Bulletin

Copy deadline for the What's on section of the 8 page Bulletin to be published on Friday 11 June is 1pm, Monday 7 June. We welcome news, details of events, letters, and small ads, etc. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209 or E-mail: Info.Office@uk.ac.sussex.admin.

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