Week of Action Against Grant Cuts

Hundreds of local students participated in a series of events in Brighton last week aimed at publicising the NUS Fair Grants Campaign. The Week of Action, co-ordinated by Sussex and Brighton Universities' Students' Unions started on Monday 31 October with stalls on campus offering information on grants and financial awareness. On Wednesday 2 November, students around town asked the local community to sign petitions against grant cuts, and on Thursday, a 'Dance for Grants' at the Warehouse in Brighton helped raise money for subsidised coaches to the NUS Fair Grants Demo in London on Wednesday 9 November. Bad weather affected the turnout for a local day of action on Saturday 5 November, but as Bulletin went to press, Sussex Students' Union President Karim Bouzidi was looking forward to Wednesday's NUS Demo and said the Week had been successful in "increasing community awareness of grant cuts and giving students an opportunity to express their anger at this vital issue."

Competition in the UK Domestic Gas Market

The Government is pledged to opening 5% of the domestic gas market to competition in 1996, 10% in 1997 and 100% in 1998. This market consists of nearly 18 million households; the great majority of people in Britain depend on gas. The proposed change from closely regulated monopoly to a form of managed competition is based on a belief that the advantages of competition are self-evident.

However, a new report by Mike Parker and John Sutton of the Science Policy Research Unit assesses the benefits, costs and risks of competition and concludes that the overall balance is unfavourable. Competition, they argue, is unlikely to result in significant reduction in the average domestic price of gas and under competition it will be difficult to maintain the present high level of gas supply security.

On the assumption that the government will press on with its announced policy, the report makes three main recommendations. Firstly, all gas suppliers should be required to meet requests for gas from domestic consumers in their licensed area at a published tariff price, to build up a representative mix of customers in the area, to offer a range of payment methods, to meet the same supply security and social obligations as British Gas at present and to have the adequacy of their contracted gas supplies checked regularly by Ofgas to reduce the risk of supply failure. Secondly, if competition is to be introduced, it should be with new legislation. Thirdly the report calls upon the government to clarify a range of key issues. These include the criteria and timescale which will be used for judging whether 'full competition' has been achieved; how the present high level of gas supply security can be maintained under competition, without significantly higher costs; how vigorous competition between gas, electricity and heating oil can be maintained in the domestic market if the major new gas suppliers are electricity distributors and oil companies, and how innovation in the gas industry can be maintained under competition.

The report "UK GAS POLICY: regulated monopoly or managed competition" was published last Friday and is available from SPRU price £14.00.
What the papers say...

Both the Guardian (13 October) and the Independent on Sunday (2 November) feature extracts from Professor John Barrow's (MAPS) latest book The Origin of the Universe (Orion £9.99) which appears this month in 24 different languages in 28 different countries. The Albanian translation is the first western book translated in Albania for more than 50 years. In this book, Professor Barrow provides a state-of-the-art account of our ideas about the beginning of the Universe. The evidence is examined in the cogent and non-technical style that has become the author's trademark.

Last week saw the launch by Penguin Books of the first electronic novel Host (Independent 31 October, Evening Argus 1 November). The novel, by Peter James, was sold as a conventional paperback and as a multi-media package on two floppy discs which were put together at the University's Centre for Advanced Software Applications. The action of the novel is set here on campus and the plot, in the words of the Independent, "revolves around an artificial intelligence expert, based at a thinly disguised Sussex University, who is forced to grapple with the usual problems that beset men in his position: psychopathic supercomputers, megalomaniac colleagues and of course brilliant, beautiful, hyper-sexed young women without respect for other people's marriage vows" (Who was it that said life in COGS was dull?).

RUSSIAN SURVIVES AT SUSSEX
New Lectureship Appointment

THE RUSSIAN AND EAST European Subject Group is this term celebrating its first new appointment to a permanent lectureship since 1965. In that year there were five posts in Russian in the University; since that time the number of permanent logistic posts had sunk to just one. Professor Robin Milner-Gulland, although the group has always included secondary allegiance faculty from History, International Relations and Economics and essential support from the Language Centre. During the last fifteen years Russian has been under threat throughout the country, with many departments closing down. Russian at Sussex has survived with support from EURO with its policy that 'Europe' should mean east as well as west Europe. The appointment of Dr Jonathan Aves marks a new stage of growth and reflects growing student interest in the new Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Dr Aves is an historian by training, with an interest in contemporary Russian and Caucasian Studies. He has made frequent study trips to Russia and the republics and will teach across a wide range of courses including language, history and contemporary politics.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Julian Saurin is right to draw attention to the difficulties of controlling the temperature in some of the University buildings (Bulletin 4 November). The University should be setting an example in energy conservation as in all other aspects of good environmental management.

Senate and Council last term approved an Environmental Policy that commits the University to the promotion of good environmental practice in all aspects of its academic, administrative, commercial and social activities. This implies the introduction of an environmental management system that will incorporate an audit of the kind that Dr Saurin is advocating. As the first step to achieving this goal the University is currently advertising for a full-time Environmental Adviser who will play a similar role in the University's environmental management as the University Safety & Radiation Protection Adviser does in safety matters.

On the question of energy use specifically, all our most recent buildings (the new residences and the Health Centre extension) have been designed to high energy standards and there has already been a major programme of re-lamping the campus with low energy bulbs. A few years ago the University looked carefully at the introduction of a combined heat and power system but at that time the economics of the project did not look viable. One of the first jobs of the new post will be to look again at this possibility in collaboration with our consultants and the faculty involved.

EHE Funding for Student Projects

The Enterprise in Higher Education (EHE) initiative has funding available for student-initiated projects, either course-related or extra-curricular. If you want to propose a project for funding and would like to know how to go about it, contact Tessa Gooderson, EHE, for a copy of the Guidelines for Student Proposals, tel: 67(8543).

Intelligent Techno

Since appearing on the front page of Bulletin last year, Cristian Vogel, a third-year studying 20th Century Music in CCS, has been hitting the headlines all around Europe. As well as playing his unique style of techno live to audiences in Edinburgh, Leeds, Berlin and most recently, Vienna, his very own record label, Mosquito Records was launched at The Reforming in Brighton last month. November sees his debut album, 'Beginning to Understand' released on Mille Plateaux Records and it is rumoured that Professor Jonathan Harvey from CCS is to remix one of the album tracks, for release on the Mosquito label in the near future.
A new Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) initiative that offers students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in developing countries is currently being promoted by workers in the field of international development.

FRAS students Dominic Miller and Ben Rosewarne are currently participating in the scheme, which involves spending a year abroad, dividing their time between a secondary school in Africa and a local health clinic. The scheme is designed to provide students with an understanding of the challenges faced by development workers and to help them develop skills that will be useful in their future careers.

Workers Aid for Bosnia

The Workers Aid for Bosnia project is currently being run by a group of workers in the field of international development. The project aims to provide aid to victims of war and conflict in Bosnia, and to help them to rebuild their lives.

The link between the School of Biological Sciences and the University of Sussex in the UK faculty with the Faculty of Arts and Science in the UK faculty is currently being facilitated by a group of workers in the field of international development. The project aims to provide aid to victims of war and conflict in Bosnia, and to help them to rebuild their lives.

EXPOZEE YOURSELF

The first issue of Expoz in the new magazine for college students, will be available early December. The magazine will be published every three months, and will include articles on all aspects of college life.

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

Lynne Truss is the first Writer in Residence at the University of Sussex. She is a renowned writer and editor, and has published several books, including "The Open Trunk."

In Brief

Three members of the FRAS committee are currently participating in the scheme, which involves spending a year abroad, dividing their time between a secondary school in Africa and a local health clinic. The scheme is designed to provide students with an understanding of the challenges faced by development workers and to help them develop skills that will be useful in their future careers.

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Monday 14 November – Sunday 20 November

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 14 November

12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Skills at Work in Rural Communities. S. Bishop, Refectory Level One, Room A.

1pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Dieting & Food Preferences. M. Yeomans, EP 3.9, BIOLS.

1pm IDS Work-in-Progress Seminar: Health Care Seeking in Rural Vietnam in the Context of Economic Reforms. G. Tipping & M. Segall, Room 127, IDS.

2pm Falmer Language Group: The Significance of Literature in Dialect. R. Coates, Arts D410.


4.15pm MOLS Colloquium Programme: Death of a Comet: The Shoemaker-Levy-9 Collision with Jupiter. Dr. S. Miller (ULC), MSLT, MOLS.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Psychopharmacology of Human Memory. J. Rusted, Biology Lecture Room.

5.30pm Politics Forum: Reinventing Human Rights. N. Stammers, Arts A71.

Tuesday 15 November


1.30pm Psychology @ COGS Research-in-Progress Seminar: Leadership and Political Culture in Pakistan. Z. Gilani, PB2A1, MAPS I.

3pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: East European Perspectives on European Enlargement. Dr. G. Kolanciewicz (Essex), Arts A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Activators and Repressors of Transcription in Haematopoietic Cells. Dr. G. Goodwin (Institute Cancer Research), Biology Lecture Theatre.

5pm German Research Colloquium: Heine and the 'Doppelganger'. Dr. A. Webber (Cambridge), Arts A71.

5pm American Studies Graduate Seminar: Sex and Sculpins in Cooper's Leatherstocking Novels. S. Edwards (Roehampton Institute), MSLT, MOLS.

Wednesday 16 November


2pm QUEROY Seminar: Perversion, Degeneration and the Death Drive. Prof. J. Dollimore, Arts D722.

4pm IDS Seminar: Gender Analysis & Human Development. D. Elson (Manchester), Room 221, IDS.


5pm English Graduate Colloquium: On Trust. Prof. G. Josipovic, Arts D630.


Thursday 17 November


12.30pm Inorganic Chemistry Group: Preparation and Rearrangement Reactions of 1,4-Diboro-

Substituted Heterocycles. J. Hauss, Rings and Cages Derived from Phopho-Alkynes, J. Durkin, MS1, MOLS.

12pm History and Gender Seminar Group: Their Proper Sphere: Louisa Twining and the Professionalisation of Women's Work. T. Dean, Arts D622.

1pm IDS RUPAG Seminar: The State Violence and Development: Notes on the Political Economy of War in Mozambique. M. Chingonomo (Refugee Studies Programme), Room 221, IDS.

2pm Statistics Seminar: Tracking and Estimation. B. Conolly (QM), PB2A2, MAPS I.

4.30pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Language Flexibility of Deaf Children. M. Marschark (NTI for the Deaf, NY), EP 3.9, BIOLS.


5pm Social and Political Thought Lecture: Teleademocracy. Prof. A. Lawson & P. Taggart, Arts D620.

5pm Geography Research Seminar: Computer Modelling of Freezing Ground. Dr. K. Fawcett (Brighton), EDB 302.

5.15pm Media Voices: Talk by Susanna Hailstone responsible for controversial but effective 'Hello Boys! Wonderbra campaign. Arts C133.

Friday 18 November


4pm Chemical Physics Research Seminar: Simulations of Clathrate Hydrates from Bulk to Interface. Dr. P. M. Rodger (Reading), MS3, MOLS.

4.30pm Philosophy Society: Truth-Conditional versus Verifiability in Modern, W. Stinton (Edinburgh), Arts A155.

CCE Saturday Schools - 26 Nov

Georgian Lewes - a historical look at Lewes.
Genes at Work - an introduction to genetics.
Microsoft Windows for the Initiated - more detailed aspects of this software for familiar users.
Mozart and the Viennese Piano - the piano's central role in his life. Venue: all at University.

For all the above reduced rates for students, half price for staff. Enrol with CCE on 678527.

CDU Career talks

Counselling and Psychotherapy
Thurs 1 December - 5.30pm in C.D.U.

Please book in advance (£5 retunable deposit). For further details on the above and other CDU events contact ext. 8429.

Miscellaneous

12 - 13 November

Son et Lumière - a 2-day conference on the changing audiences for art to be held at the Gardner Centre. Contact Karen Wraith on ext. 2257 for details.

Sportcentre

Massage treatment available every Tues 3.20pm-8pm and every Thurs 10am-4.40pm. Half hour rates: students £5.50, staff £6.50, public £9.00.

Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop will be open on Sat 12 November from 12-2pm for snacks and refreshments.

Lunchtime Recitals

Veronica Davies - Organ. Tues 15 Nov. 1.15pm in the Chapel.

Matt Hill & Fada Kincaid - Piano duet. Sussex University Music Faculty. Thurs 17 Nov, 1.15pm, Falmer House Recital Room, 120.

Small Ads


COMPUTER FOR SALE: Amstrad PCW 8256. Computer/word processor plus software (word processor, DTP, Spreadsheet, Database). £80. Contact 477019 or ext. 4322.

CAR FOR SALE: Vauxhall Astra. 1600 GL B reg. MOT until June £350. Contact Dean on 696442.

CAR FOR SALE: Ford Fiesta Popular. X reg but only 51,000 miles. Good condition & reliable. MOT until Feb 95, taxed for 6 mts. Maintenance history available. £500. Contact Penny on ext. 4099 or 606261.

ROOM TO LET: 1 bedroom house in B'ton's North Lane area. 1 April to 30 June 1995. Perfect for visiting academic - suit 1 or a couple. Contact Marie Dembour on 692859.

ROOM TO LET: In pleasant farm house and walking distance from campus. Would suit female non-smoker. Contact Mark on 676596.

ROOM TO LET: Single room in quiet residential area down Downs in Lewes. £41.50 inc. bills. Non-smoker preferred. Contact Douglas on ext. 3251 or 471747.

HOLIDAY LET: 300 year-old thatched cottage in S. Devon. Prices inc. heating. lighting & bed linen. We/E and week lets available. Contact D. Buckland on ext. 8300.

TUITION IN SCIENCES AND MATHS: by ex-research fellow (Sussex) BA (Oxford) and PhD (Nottingham). Contact 0323 805946.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday of term. Copy deadline for the four-page Bulletin is 1pm on the Friday preceding publication. Copy deadline for the next eight-page Bulletin on 25 November is 1pm, Wednesday 16th November. We welcome suggestions for news, details of events, letters, and small ads, etc. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.