Sussex Grant In Line with Expectations

The Higher Education Funding Council announced last week the distribution of £3,207 million in funding for the academic year 1995-96 to 144 higher education institutions and 74 further education colleges providing courses of higher education.

The funding, covering the period 12 August to 31 July 1996, includes £2,270 million in recurrent grant to support teaching and £636 million for research. A further £287 million is being distributed for other related activities.

The funding provides all institutions with an increase of at least 0.5 per cent in cash terms over this year with an overall cash increase of 2.1 per cent.

Sussex has been allocated £27 million which, according to Finance Officer Tony Sims, is broadly in line with expectations. “The year-on-year increase of 2.5% for Sussex compares favourably with the national increase. Funds allocated for teaching were subjected to an ‘efficiency gain’ otherwise known as a cut, of 1.1%, but because of the relative competitiveness of Sussex unit costs this was lower than the national average cut of 1.5%. Research funding allocated on research criteria showed a local increase (2.5%) higher than the average (1.8%) for those subjects represented at Sussex.”

The funding allocations have been made within the Government’s policy of consolidation. The Department for Education wishes to see the participation rate of young people in higher education maintained at just over 30 per cent until 1997-98.

According to Graeme Davies, Chief Executive of the HEFCE, “The Council’s main concern has been to promote stability in funding, while providing for modest growth in part-time student numbers and for some new initiatives.”

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS

Sussex students are currently taking part in voluntary schemes to help elderly and disabled people in and around Brighton. Co-ordinated by the Enterprise in Higher Education initiative at the University, students participating in the Social Service Placements Scheme volunteer to work at local day centres such as Hamilton House, a centre for adults with cerebral palsy in Hove.

“The Enterprise initiative at Sussex enables students to gain skills which are transferable from academic life to the world of work,” explains Enterprise Assistant Patricia Juarez. “The Social Service Placements are a good example of how the initiative works: student volunteers assist with community projects, and gain vital work experience at the same time.”

Madelaine Baines, a third year studying Psychology in CCS, decided to participate in the Scheme in order to gain experience in the field of social work. “I’m working with the 3D art group at the moment. It’s a small group with very mixed ability and I often have to work on a one to one basis, helping the students to co-ordinate their basic hand control,” she says. “It takes time to get to know the students and it can be a challenge to get them to do anything – you have to keep on talking to them, so they know where you are and what you’re doing with them. However, I’m really glad I’ve done it, and it really does make you open your eyes and see just how much needs to be done to help these people.”

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AGGIE BODEN has been appointed to the Home Office Animal Procedures Committee, the statutory committee which advises the Home Secretary on issues falling under the Act regulating the use and care of live animals for scientific experimentation. In November Maggie was profiled in the Times Higher.

SINCE HIS RECENT BRITISH Computer Society (BCS) award for his jazz improvisation program, Paul Hodgson has been invited to attend the Parliamentary Committee on Information Technology and the 1995 Parliamentary Conference on Multimedia, Paul and his saxophone have been a cover feature on the Society’s magazine, and he is likely to be playing at future social functions held by the BCS, the national association for the computing profession.

NICOLA Yuill and OTHERS gave a paper at the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Cognitive and Linguistic Bases of Reading, Writing, and Spelling held in Alvor, Portugal, in October.

HILARY Buxton has been awarded two new research grants: £155,621 from EPSRC for “Behavioural analysis for visual surveillance using Bayesian networks”, and a collaborative project funded by the European “Human Capital and Mobility” scheme on “Parallel modelling of neural operators for pattern recognition” for 144,000 ecu, of which 6,000 ecu will be coming to Sussex.

JULIE RUTKOWSKA has recently given talks to the Durham University Psychology Department, and at the International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Life, University of the Basque Country.

CAROLYN BROWN is working with Brighton Compact, an initiative for mentoring local school pupils.

LARRY TRASK gave a talk on language relationships to the Department of Biology at University College London in November.

THE EVOLUTIONARY ROBOTICS group continues in immense demand internationally. Dave Cliff alone in the last three months of 1994 gave talks at the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology, King’s College London, the University of Oxford, Manchester Metropolitan University, Brighton University, and the University of the Basque Country; made three radio and television appearances, and was interviewed by New Scientist. He has been Royal Institute of Great Britain science lecturer, 1994/95, and Royal Institute/British Association “Talking Science Plus” lecturer, 1994/95. From Animals to Animals, co-edited by Dave, Phil Husbands, and two others has now been published by MIT Press.

GEORGE BUTTERWORTH is now Chairman of the Scientific Affairs Board of the British Psychological Society. He gave a paper at the European Science Foundation meeting at Maratea (Italy) in October.

LYDIA PLOWMAN is now Commissioning Editor for “20:20”, a new magazine for media and photography education, funded by the British Film Industry and Arts Council. Lydia spoke to the DTI’s Computer-Supported Collaborative Work interest group, in London, in November; she and Yvonne Rogers both spoke at the annual conference on Computer-Supported Collaborative Work at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in October.

LUCA ACETO has been on leave as BRICS research fellow and visiting professor at the University of Aalborg since October.

GRAHAM DAVEY was interviewed on Science Now about the factors behind people’s dislike of creepy-crawlies and some other small animals. It used to be thought that our repugnance was innate, but it turns out to be an historical consequence of association with the plagues that have beset Western Europe over the last millennium. Asians rarely have problems about spiders!

STEPHANIE THORNTON has been awarded a £40,660 grant by the Department of Transport for research on “Becoming a responsible pedestrian”, which will study how children learn to understand and take responsibility for their own safety.

MURALI RAMACHANDRAN spoke at the Aristotelian Society, London, in December.

GEOFFREY SAMPSON’S NEW book English for the Computer has just been published by Clarendon Press (Oxford University Press). It represents a first attempt to taxonomize the English language formally as Linnaeus taxonomized botany in the 18th century; it is accompanied by an electronic database, the SUSANNE Corpus, which is already in heavy international demand via the Internet.

ANDY CLARK spoke at the Jacques Cartier Centre, Lyons, and at the University of the Basque Country, in December; the latter paper led to interviews in the Spanish press.
WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Call by Sir Frederick Lawton, a former Court of Appeal judge, for anonymity for defendants in rape cases as well as alleged victims was criticised by Professor Jennifer Temkin (CLS) and rejected by the Home Office (The Times 22 February). The call for anonymity which has gathered momentum following the acquittal of a police constable and more recently the acquittal of TV star Craig Charles, was rejected by Professor Temkin on the grounds that it would conflict with the principle of open justice. She said "No other defendants are granted anonymity, so why single out the alleged rapist for privileged treatment?"

She added that if anonymity were granted it would have to apply to all defendants, raising "the whole question of whether the public’s right for information, and the question of open justice, should take precedence over protecting the rights of defendants."

A £70m Government scheme to widen stretches of the A27 has been denounced as half-baked by environmental pressure groups and Dr Julian Saurin (Evening Argus 16 February). Protestors claim the scheme was approved before the costs of relocating businesses and the environmental impact were worked out. Dr Saurin said "It is scandalous to discover that this whole project is built on ignorance and guesswork. We’ve been asking the DoT how the road will effect the environment, the local economy and the health of local people. But we haven’t got any specific answers because the DoT doesn’t know."

The DoT claimed that sufficient work was undertaken before a decision to embark upon the project was undertaken but added, "we recognise that more information needs to be gathered as we are still in the early stages."

CAMPUS ECOLOGY

Now available all over campus, the February edition of the award-winning Campus Ecology contains articles on car parking, cycle lanes, the new Environmental Adviser and more. For further information, contact Andrew Jamieson 0273 777481, Toby Champion ext. 2634, or email: campusecology@central.

The MOle

Plagiarism is not a word of which the Mole is overly fond, and there is some concern at the extent to which ideas aired by the Mole have appeared elsewhere, authored by others, and unacknowledged. Just recently, for example, the Mole suggested that the University’s C21 task force, responsible for considering our academic progress into the next century, should look for inspiration beyond the confines of our own campus. The very next issue of The Bulletin contained a letter from Julian Burke (BIOLS) suggesting that the task force should look for inspiration beyond the confines etc. etc. The Mole’s informants firmly believe that Dr. Burke is an honourable person, and that the only possible explanation for this example of unashamed plagiarism is that he in fact came up with the idea independently, and did not realise that the Mole had expressed the same sentiment, in the same publication, just days before. The simplest explanation, however bizarre, is that JB does not actually read this column. And in order to test this hypothesis, the Mole asks all those who know him not to point out that a bottle of the Mole’s favourite awaits the Burke should he (a) read this column, and (b) find his way to the usual rendezvous point.

Someone else who has expressed equivalent sentiments to the Mole’s, but without the appropriate acknowledgement, is Professor Graeme Davies, chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (the HEFCE). Some time ago, the Mole suggested that the CVCP was fragmenting into groups and counter-groups each lobbying after their own interests. Just a few days ago, GD ("Graeme" to his friends) said "We do not want a Russell Group [the self-proclaimed premier league], a 94 Group [of which Sussex is a leading member] or any other small band of universities lobbying for their own individual causes." Should Graeme find his way to the usual office, a bottle awaits him also.

The Independent, which provided the above quote, also provided the following: "Stress, sleaze and macho management were once buzzwords exclusive to business. Now they form part of the central debate in higher education." The very next words are, as if to prove the point, "Vice-chancellors drive Jaguars..." Oops.

And "oops" is probably not what the three catholic priests said as they fell into the moat surrounding the Meeting House. But do we see temporary wooden fencing surrounding the offending moats? No. Instead, we see it protecting the partially sighted from falling into the Falmer House moats (as they inevitably would if they followed the bobbled paving stones up through the quad). First Aid kits for removing the equally inevitable splinters from the wooden fencing can be found at the relevant porter’s desk. And far more picturesque than the temporary fencing would be the displacement of the bobbies a safer distance from the moats.

Putting two and two together, the Mole suspects that the appearance of the bobbies coincided with a senior member of the University being associated with an investigation of access for the partially-sighted to various local institutions. Falmer House is hopefully being put forward as an example of how not to provide such access.

Congratulations now, to all concerned for ensuring that the University did so well in the HEFCE’s recent allocation of research stream funding. Despite previous uncertainty regarding whether Sussex did or did not figure in the research "top ten", the Department for Education has decided (according to The Times Higher Education Supplement) to peg increases in Oxbridge funding to a top ten of research universities, including Sussex.

Finally, the Mole is pleased to discover that the twin issues of car parking and staff development at Sussex have now assumed national importance, following an excerpt of the Mole’s column in the Times Higher. Uncharacteristically, the Mole does not want to know when Andrew Hood, the Staff Development Officer, will don a reflective jacket and start directing campus traffic. Instead, the Mole would like to know where all those parking fines go. To charity? To Staff Development? Either of these alternatives would appear to be entirely appropriate, if entirely unlikely. No doubt the letters, perhaps even from Julian Burke, will now pile in.
Multimedia at Sussex

The Multimedia Teaching Centre was set up in October 1992 with funding from the University’s Teaching and Learning Development Fund. It was created to demonstrate how multimedia can be used in teaching and learning, to support multimedia research and development projects across the University, and to support courses such as the Human Centred Computer Systems MSc which include multimedia work. It now also supports the Arts/Science course New Media & Society and a new Media Studies MA option Political Economy of the New Communications Media. COGS provided a room to house the equipment and helped with vital connections to computer networks and the internet.

On these pages, we bring together some of the people and projects involved with this exciting new technology at Sussex.

MULTIMEDIA: A DYNAMIC LOCAL INDUSTRY

Brighton looks set to become an important centre for multimedia in the 21st Century, and the University of Sussex is a key partner in planned developments. Through the recently established Multimedia Research Centre, set up within the Graduate Research Centre in Culture and Communication (CuCom), Sussex will help to meet the training needs of the new Industry through a new MA in Media Studies (Multimedia) for which provisional approval has been given to start in October 1995. The course and Centre will be advised by a group drawn from leading multimedia firms in the region, such as Epic Interactive and UCM in Brighton and First Information Group in Chichester. These, and many other smaller companies, have grown up in the Brighton area in the last few years, and their growth offers many opportunities for University involvement.

ALL IN A DAY’S WORK

Richard Inskip talks to Jonathan Cope about his role in the Multimedia Teaching Centre.

It’s hard to pick up a magazine nowadays without a mention of the M-word, but essentially multimedia means some combination of text, graphics, audio and video (not necessarily all of these) under the control of a computer.

My official job title is Multimedia Development Co-ordinator which means I have overall responsibility for the Multimedia Teaching Centre. Having set up the centre with Multimedia PC, Macintosh computers and multimedia authoring tools, I am now more involved in evaluating software, demonstrating the facilities and running workshops for interested groups and individuals. This work is monitored and evaluated by the Multimedia Advisory Team consisting of representatives from SOC, CCS, ENGG, MSU, COGS, EHE, Staff Development and the Computing Services.

When people visit the Multimedia Teaching Centre, I can show them a variety of multimedia packages — some that have been produced here at Sussex and some commercially produced multimedia CD-ROMs, and I also have a variety of TLTP (Teaching and Learning Technology Programme) computer-based learning materials which are just becoming available.

If someone wants to use multimedia learning materials in their course, we would usually start by discussing their requirements and ideas. It is important therefore for me to know what is being produced elsewhere. Multimedia is a very fast changing area and I keep up to date with latest developments by attending conferences and keeping in touch with other universities. Here at Sussex, we’re not trying to reinvent the wheel, but rather work on areas that may be unique to us, and which will fit in with the national picture. There are

ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING multimedia projects associated with Sussex is concealed behind the imposing façade of 13 Brunswick Square in Hove. Built in 1824, and now home to former Sussex student Nick Tyson, this Grade I Listed house is being restored to its original condition before officially opening to the public next year as ‘The Regency Town House’, a Regency heritage centre and museum.

Visitors will be able to experience urban housing and lifestyle at the time when Brighton was amongst the most fashionable resorts in Europe. But despite Tyson’s meticulous attention to period detail, the more inquisitive may wonder at the authenticity of computer hardware installed around the building.

This equipment will play host to A Regency Promenade, an interactive digital database of historic materials designed for the Museum with the help of postgraduates and staff in COGS. Tyson appealed to the University for assistance with the project in 1993, offering a chance for students to work in a ‘real world’ environment, and one of the first to become involved was former COGS student Paul Booth whose prototype Promenade software contributed towards his MSc thesis in Human Centred Computer Systems.

MEDIA WAVES

The University of Sussex is represented on the steering group for a major European new media festival, Media Waves, which will happen in the Dome and Corn Exchange complex in October 1995. This exciting event links together all electronically mediated arts, from digital painting to Interactive multimedia, where creative happenings will run alongside academic sessions. Media Waves is being organised by the Media Development Association, launched in May 1994 with the University of Sussex as a founder member. The MDA is also seeking to make multimedia the centre of a bid to the Millennium Fund. One idea, contributed by the University, is for a Media Dome as a showcase for the wide variety of multimedia activities in the Brighton area.

For further details of the MA in Media Studies (Multimedia) and the Media Waves festival, please contact Professor Alan Cawson, Arts E431, ext. 8633.
PETER DICKENS AND JOHN PARRY OF SOC have recently received £135,000 from the ESRC plus £30,000 from Sussex, for a Community-Based Action-Research Project to explore the potential benefits of multimedia technology in children's environmental education.

Pupils from schools in Lewes, London Docklands and the Leeds/Bradford conurbation will first complete a questionnaire, to establish their existing attitudes to local and global environmental courseware, audio-visual presentations (with greater flexibility than conventional presentations on video) and picture databases.

Not all multimedia work necessarily ends up on the computer screen. For instance we can attach a video recorder to the computer and recently the facilities were used to produce a short video to accompany the Mao Badges exhibition at the Brighton Museum.

For me, the next step is CD-ROM. It's a big growth area with over 9,500 CD-ROM titles available worldwide. We can cut our own CD-ROMs here, but which format, you might well ask. PC, HFS, Multi-volume, Multi session, Hybrid, Photo-CD or just plain old audio CD. Well ask me tomorrow - that's in my next day's work.

issues, before undertaking environmental studies field and class work with teachers and project team members in local urban wildlife habitats. Divided into groups, some children will be briefed with more conceptual information, and others with more anecdotal facts about their site to determine their responses to these different types of information.

One group will present their results in traditional ways (essays, wallcharts, etc.), but others will be shown a prototype multimedia demonstration program before manipulating their collected information into flow charts to be interpreted by the Project's software consultant Rob Tomlinson. By January 1997, this group's results will be cut on a CD-Rom which they will be asked to evaluate.

As Dickens and Parry explain, "We're exploring the implications of the multimedia revolution for teaching and learning about environmental issues, to find out whether or not this technology can help children make connections between 'local' and 'global' issues, and the conceptual or factual information with which they are provided. Children as young as 9 or 10 are extremely open-minded about the technology and by demonstrating its potential to them, we hope to discover how the novel methods of data manipulation used in multimedia applications influence the learning process, and the understanding of environmental issues on the ground."

### ORAL PRESENTATION SKILLS

**is a multimedia package developed by a team in COGS, in collaboration with the Multimedia Teaching Centre and the Enterprise initiative. Incorporating video, audio and textual information it is aimed at improving students' performance in seminars and presentations.**

The package is a self-study resource enabling students to view footage of previous students' presentations and evaluate them away from the context in which the material presented is important. Initial tests carried out in COGS showed that the software was enthusiastically received, and because the package is nonsubject-specific, tutors from all disciplines will soon be able to introduce it as a course requirement prior to requesting oral presentations from students.

The software runs on Apple Macintosh computers and is mouse-driven, combining on-screen 'buttons' and icons with voice and text instructions. Full motion colour video clips illustrate presentation techniques throughout, and the system is supported by a concise workbook for each individual user.

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**Promenade** is based around a fourteen-foot long panoramic print of the Brighton esplanade made in 1833 which was scanned into a computer in sections, and digitally stitched back together. Users are able to explore Regency Brighton by scrolling along the panorama and clicking on hotspots to hear period conversations and see historical data.

Promenade dispenses with traditional hierarchical data presentation in favour of a browsing system where information access is designed to be quick, easy and fun, a games-oriented characteristic that is proving popular with users who have little computer experience. Versions of Promenade have been designed to meet national curriculum keystones in history and these will soon be cut to CD-ROM for schools.

The Regency Town House will undoubtedly add to Brighton's many tourist attractions, but Tyson emphasises that the databases are there as much to aid academic research as they are to help visitors appreciate the early nineteenth century, and he hopes that Sussex history students will also soon be involved in developing the archives.

Although still unfinished, the Regency Town House is open for guided tours each Saturday and Sunday at 10am, 12pm and 2pm. Visits should be prebooked on 0273 206306 and cost £3.00 per person.

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**Introductory sessions for faculty are being held on Wednesday afternoons 2.00 - 4.30 pm in the Multimedia Teaching Centre.**

An Introduction to Multimedia – demonstrates the facilities in the MTC for scanning images and digitising audio and video, and the types of authoring packages available to produce multimedia materials for use in teaching and learning. Multimedia Presentations – demonstrates the use of packages such as Microsoft Powerpoint which can be used for simple slide-show type computer presentations.

Contact Richard Inskipp on 8579 to reserve a place.
From Sussex with Foresight

by Michael Kenward

A major government initiative is coming to a climax. And it owes a great deal to work done in the Science Policy Research Unit. The Technology Foresight exercise will soon deliver a series of reports that attempt to gaze 20 years or so into the future, and to see how science and technology could help us to get there.

Ben Martin has been a follower of ‘foresight’ for more than a decade. He has studied the use of foresight around the world and has produced two influential books and several reports on the subject.

Japan has run its own foresight programmes for a quarter of a century. The very business of asking questions about the future state of society, and where technology could go, is said to have shaped Japan’s R&D efforts, and, in turn, influences its industrial progress.

In 1983, in an earlier report on foresight, Martin tried to persuade the British government to undertake a similar exercise. But this was at the height of Mrs Thatcher’s regime and nothing happened. “The time was not right,” Martin says. He tried again in 1992, in a report commissioned by the Cabinet Office.

In this report Martin focused on experiences with foresight in Germany and the USA, reasoning that these might carry more weight in Britain. Even so, he did advocate the implementation of an extensive exercise along the lines followed in Japan, with a large ‘Delphi’ exercise. This involves sending out detailed questionnaires, asking people where they think the world is going on the technology front.

Martin’s persistence paid off. Foresight was an important component of the changes spelt out in 1993 in the government’s White Paper on science and technology Realising our Potential. “Technology foresight,” said the White Paper, “jointly conducted by industry and the science and engineering communities, will be used to inform Government’s decisions and priorities.”

The Office of Science and Technology set up the Technology Foresight Steering Group to oversee the whole exercise. Martin is an advisor to the steering group. Among other things, he says, “I helped to make sure that people were aware of different approaches to foresight.” In Japan they place great emphasis on the use of questionnaires to determine the consensus view. The UK’s foresight programme started off in that direction, but the panels gradually took on a larger role.

This is where another of the SPRU team played a part. Gordon McKerron was a member of the foresight panel that looked at the directions that energy technologies might take over the coming decades. McKerron says that he isn’t sure how he landed on the energy panel, among a glittering array of professors and department heads. “I sneaked in by some process that I don’t understand,” he says.

In reality, recruiting the ‘experts’ for the 15 specialist panels was a complex process involving personal nominations by others in the community. McKerron’s expertise as one of SPRU’s energy watchers meant that he could scrutinise opinions put forward by people in particular industries. The foresight process, with its panels of experts, makes it difficult for people with vested interests to push particular technological objectives, he says.

The foresight panels were drawn from industry and academia. Some academics have expressed fears that industrial participants would use their influence to hijack the R&D budget and persuade the government to spend it on projects that would benefit industry. This hasn’t happened in the energy panel, says McKerron. “The tone of the whole thing was not industry throwing its weight around.” If anything, he adds, when it came to the discussions “academics were dominant in relation to their numbers.”

McKerron and Martin both emphasise the importance of the foresight process as much as the results that it delivers. The White Paper that launched the process said: “The aim is to achieve a key cultural change: better communication, interaction and mutual understanding between the scientific community, industry and Government Departments.”

The social and psychological function is at least as important as the results, says McKerron. The process has created a community of people with common interests.

Martin makes a similar point. One of the problems in the UK, he says, is that there isn’t enough discussion of important issues between industry, academia, financial institutions and so on. Foresight, he believes, “has gone some way into building those bridges”. It was fascinating, says Martin, to see people from companies realising that they would not give away trade secrets by discussing long-term R&D issues with competitors.

Martin is particularly pleased by the role that the financial institutions have played in foresight. They are often criticised for being short-term in their thinking. “My attitude has always been that people in the City are not stupid,” he explains. “But they don’t have long-term information. Foresight is bringing in some of this.”

In the final analysis, he says, the purpose of foresight is “to get people thinking systematically about the longer term future and how science and technology might contribute to wealth creation and improving the quality of life.” While the final reports will be important, a key result is that “you have now got a number of people who have seen that there are some benefits in thinking about what the world could be like in 20 years’ time and how science and technology could contribute to that future.”

Client Interviewing Success

STEWARD McGIN AND MAGGIE WARD, second year Law students, represented the University at the finals of the National Client Interviewing Competition on 18 and 19 February at the University of Bristol. On the Saturday they had to conduct two interviews before two different panels of judges. As a result of this, Sussex was one of three teams chosen to go through to the Final on the Sunday where they were the runners up to the University of Westminster. The students are warmly congratulated for their achievement in doing so well in a competition in which 32 undergraduate and postgraduate teams had competed – and commiserated with for missing a trip to Florida by the merest whisker!

New Sabbaticals 1995/96

President: Sam Gurney
VP Finance: Dave Flatman
VP Communications: Dave Newton
VP Education: Carolyne Culver
VP Welfare: Elliott Roberts
VP Sport: Miriam West
LETTERS

Dear Editor,

M.A. Frieslaar (Bulletin 27 January) asks what readers think about his suggestion for the fusion of the Universities of Brighton and of Sussex, which would create a University, "formidable indeed." Obviously he fails to discriminate between quality and quantity, and forgets that each institution would inherit the defects of the other, and no doubt invent new ones in proportion to its greater size. But, even more important, he does not understand what has happened to the British higher education system during the last three years.

Whether intended or not, we now have the equivalent of the American system; ill thought out and not yet stabilised, it is true. It follows that we shall inevitably have an elite group of universities, an Ivy League, and the rest. The British elite (the Russell Group) has already organised itself, and neither Sussex nor Brighton come into that. While the VC may point out (in THES) that the 94 Group, which includes Sussex, have Departments, Schools or Groups of great merit, that will not get Sussex a place at the Russell Hotel table unless it can offer a great deal more than Biology and AI as star turns, and a merger could simply pull Sussex further down. I am sure Professor Conway would not want to go down in history as the VC who sold Sussex down the 'Academic Corridor'.

James H. Sang
Emeritus Professor of Genetics

Dear Editor,

What motorist could fail to sympathise with the frustration expressed in Professor Saunders' letter (Bulletin last week). His experience of struggling to find a legitimate place to park his car on campus, failing and then getting a £20 parking fine must be a worry for all campus car users. As a motorist who drives on to campus once a week, I would much rather pay for the privilege of parking than take a chance on the £20 fine lottery.

It is time that the University took the political courage to implement some form of parking control such as a charging scheme. Of course, such a scheme may initially be unpopular, but with a large projected increase in student numbers, the time to act is now. A parking charge would force motorists to place a value on their need to drive and perhaps encourage some to car-share or to come in by cycle/bus/train instead. The alternative of building more car parks is 'environmentally unacceptable' and ultimately self-defeating as they still fill up to capacity.

Finally, I would like to berate Professor Saunders for his churlish comment about public transport and winning 'PC brownie points'. I think it's most unfair to associate popular concern for the environment with the PC Brownie movement! I cycle to campus the other four days of my week not just out of environmental concern but also because I enjoy it and it's cheap. And it's not that far.

Rod Dorrell (ENGG)

MAPS People

Congratulations to Roger Tayler, Professor of Astronomy, who has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for his pioneering work on the evolution of stars. In 1964 with Fred Hoyle he calculated the production of Helium in the first three minutes of the life of the Universe. Subsequently, he worked on plasma physics, and on the structure and chemical evolution of galaxies and stars. He has been President of the Royal Astronomical Society and was editor of the Monthly Notices for two decades.

Two Nuffield Fellowships for Sussex Physics and Astronomy.

Of some eight awarded annually, Sussex has obtained two of these prestigious Science Research Fellowships which release lecturers from teaching for a year to pursue a research project. Peter Thomas will be working on computer simulation of the formulation of galaxies and galaxy clusters, and on the association between quasars and galaxies. All these activities are part of investigations into the origin of galaxies in the Universe, one of the greatest unsolved problems of astronomy.

Sandra Chapman will be working on one of the key problems in magnetospheric physics, the global instability of the earth's geomagnetic tail which can have severe consequences for satellites in earth orbit. One possibility is that this is precipitated by the onset of chaotic behaviour in the charged particles that constitute the near earth plasma environment. She intends to test her predictions with data from the forthcoming ESA Cluster four-satellite mission which is being launched in November 1995, on which she is also a co-investigator.

Dear All,

My apologies and thanks to all those drivers who got out of the way of a white estate car driving at high speed round the peripheral road on the wrong side on Friday 24 February at about 4.00 pm. I had been flagged down outside Falmer House by a lady with a little boy who had suddenly been taken ill and had to go to the Health Centre urgently.

No thanks, though, to the drivers of Volvo A120 AAN and Peugeot 87 27 DT whose stupid and selfish parking on double yellow lines made the job that much harder.

Why doesn't Bulletin run a "stupidarker of the parker" competition?

Geoff Jones (MAPS)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

On-Site Courses

APPOINTMENT INTERVIEWING FOR NON-TEACHING POSTS One-day course Monday 27 March 1995. Places still available

ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING COURSE This was previously advertised for faculty (male and female). Due to the very low response, we are now changing this to a course for non-teaching staff (male and female). Two-day course Thursday 30 and Friday 31 March 1995. Places available

Nominations for the above (via Section Heads please) to Alison Lynner ext 3688 by Friday 17 March.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, call Mylene Powell in the Research Office, ext 3812 (mornings only), email: M.G.Powell@sussex

COGNITIVE ENGINEERING: ESRC programme on the design problems of computer systems, focussing on: Communication; Information storage and access; Education and training. Closing date 28 April 95.

ESRC WHITEHALL Research Programme: applications invited on the organisation of central government departments 1964-92; best practice on consultation and responsiveness; core executive, cabinet and ministers. Closing date 12 April 95.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES new fellowship scheme announced by HEFCE and British Academy Humanities Research Board. Register interest now for details when available.

CHANGING FACE OF CAMPUS

In addition to the list published in Bulletin on 10 February, the following work is being undertaken by the Estates Division. You are requested to take care in the vicinity of the work and to stay outside any safety barriers.

Planned Future Works:
- Facilities for the disabled: MOLS I, access ramp to Computing Centre, Easter vacation.
- COGS, new access door, and various other schemes to be programmed.
- Eastern Ring Road and Lancaster House Road: Essential maintenance to drains. Some traffic disruption will be unavoidable. Early April start.

Forthcoming Planning Applications:
The following applications for listed building consent and/or planning permission are to be submitted to Brighton Borough Council; a copy of the applications may be seen at the Estates Building Reception:
- Gardner Arts Centre: Renewal of temporary planning permission for external storage container.
- COGS: New door to south elevation to provide access for disabled users.
Monday 13 March – Sunday 19 March

CCE Saturday Schools - 1 April

East is East and West is West: Sussex Villages: A comparison of East and West Sussex villages.

Sex, Biology and Culture: An examination of sexual behaviour in a variety of species including humans.

Reduced rates for students/staff. Above events take place at the University. Enrol with CCE on 678527.

CDU Workshops

Briefing Sessions
Tue 14 Mar, 2-4pm Self Employment/Freelancing

Action
Tue 14 Mar, 10-12 Designing & Using Your CV
Wed 15 Mar, 10-12 Preparation for Interviews
Thur 16 Mar, 10-1 Mock Interviews
Pre-booking is essential for all of the above. All in CDU, Falmer House. Contact ext. 8429 for details.

Notices

Housing Office
The Housing Office administers a private residential letting scheme with over 3,000 properties currently on the register. Whilst the majority of these properties will be offered to students and members of staff, we are often approached by landlords or agents with details of properties that are ideally suited for visiting faculty, staff or mature postgraduates.

The Housing Office currently has the details of such a property which is located in a rural setting in Swannaham, near Kingston Village. The accommodation which is fully furnished and centrally heated comprises two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and additional W.C. There is a walled garden backing onto fields. The property is available for renting on a six months assured shorthold basis at a monthly rent of £480.00.

For further details of the property or the agency scheme, please contact the Housing Office on ext. 8220.

Personnel Office
Non-academic vacancies as at 3 March. Closing dates in brackets. Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Office, Sussex House.

Clerical & Related Staff
Secretary, European Programmes Office, (16.3.95)
Clerk/Typist, Postgraduate Office, (17.3.95)
Arts Training South Coordinators, CCE, (20.3.95)
Publications Officer, Students’ Union, (17.3.95)
Manual & Ancillary Staff
Night Porter/Receptionist, Residential Services, (10.3.95)
Domestic Assistant, Children’s Facilities, (17.3.95)
Gardner Arts Centre: Secretary/Admin Assistant Applications with full CV in writing only to The General Manager, Gardner Arts Centre. (20.3.95).

Young Science Writer Awards 1995

The closing date for entries to the Daily Telegraph/National Power Young Science Writer Awards is April 7 1995. Entrants must be aged between 16 and 28 and first prize is an all expenses paid trip to Washington for the 1996 Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (and £2000 cash). For further information contact the helpline on 0171 713 5525.

Miscellaneous

Sussex University Women: Is a Cholesterol-Free Diet Good for You? Lunch and talk by Dr Pat Stevenson. Monday 13 March, 12.30pm. Meeting House. Please bring one dish with you.

Lewes & District Pestalozzi Support Group: The Empowerment of Women in India. A talk by Mrs Susan Conway. Thursday 16 March, 7.30pm, Lewes Priory School, Mountfield Rd, Lewes. Admission £2.50 to include coffee. Proceeds to Pestalozzi Children’s Village Trust.

Small Ads

WANTED: 29-year-old Italian woman seeks position as au pair from mid-March to end August. Contact Janet ext. 8612 or 0444 413159.

TO LET: bedsit in private house (Brunswick area). Share bathroom & kitchen. £55 pw inc. bills. Contact 736025.

WANTED: 2/3 in-house Research Assistants (one an economist) one year from October or poss. earlier. Candidates should have Masters or good first degree in a social science. Contact Rosalind Woodhouse, Admin Office Room, ext. 8266 (IDS). Closing date: 5 April 1995.

COLLECTORS: thinning out your collection? Share a table at local swapmeet. Contact Mark 676596.


FORSALE: Spacious family house in Ringmer. 4 beds, bath, study, large lounge, dining room etc. Require quick sale, hence offers around £115,000. Contact Ringmer 812744 eves/weekends.

FOR SALE: Modern 2 bed cottage in the Courtyard, Falmer. All mod cons, offers around £86,500. Contact Gerald Cole 692143.

Lodger REQUIRED: Spacious double room avail. from 1 April - 1 July. £40pw or £130pcm (+ bills). Brighton. Nr stations/bus routes. Parking space and all mod cons. Male pl/g or 3rd yr pref. Contact Ali ext. 8513 or Mark 609970.


Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday of Term. Copy deadline is 1pm on the Friday preceding publication. Contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: Bulle tin@sussex.ac.uk.