A MAN WITH A MISSION IN BRAZIL

A child scavenges for food amongst the garbage.
Photo by Matt Roper

THE STREET KIDS of Brazil are treated like vermin. In Rio last year the police had a clean-up, massacring a whole crowd of them. Child prostitutes, drug addicts, glue-sniffers and thieves, they roam the towns in packs, an estimated half a million of them.

Matt Roper is a third year Music and Media Studies undergraduate at Sussex. He used his student loan to fund a flight to Brazil, where he spent this summer working with the street kids. Matt, who speaks Portuguese, first flew to Brazil two years ago, when he was funded by his local diocese. This time he was commissioned by the Jubilee Campaign, a parliamentary human rights group, to photograph the plight of the children.

"Brazil’s a hundred years behind us," he says. "It’s only just starting to get a social conscience. Many of the kids are abused at home by their step-fathers. For them, the streets are safer than their families. These children don’t have a childhood. There’s no space for innocence in their lives."

Reports have come from Rio of children eating human flesh. Hospitals dump human remains onto the city’s rubbish pits, and the kids are too hungry not to eat them. In the countryside, children fare little better. Amazonian families sell their young

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MIKE WALLIS’ PROFESSORIAL lecture next Thursday will consider the relation between hormones and growth. Lack of growth hormone leads to retarded growth and short stature, while excess quantities can cause giantism. Children suffering from growth hormone-deficiency used to require hormones extracted from human pituitary glands, but nowadays the hormone can be artificially produced. Mike will discuss the potential uses of growth hormone in medicine and agriculture.

University Public Lecture
Thursday 16 November
6.15 pm
Molecular Sciences
Lecture Theatre
HORMONES & GROWTH
Mike Wallis
Professor of Biochemistry
ALL WELCOME
People

NEW FACES
Theo Arvanitis, COGS
Theo Arvanitis is a lecturer in COGS with a bit of a thing about cacti. “I’ve got about 50 at the moment,” he says. “The flat’s too small to take any more.” Theo is quick to explain his passion for prickles: “Why do I like them? Because they’re weird, strange and exotic ... maybe I’m weird too.” Theo arrived in England in 1990 to start his PhD in biomedical engineering. He only ever intended to stay for six months, but considers England his home now. “My teenage dream was to end up doing research,” he says, “and because I’ve recently finished studying I can relate well to my students.” Truly experimental even in the kitchen, Theo has a talent for inventing unusual (if not entirely successful) Greek dishes which he tests on his unsuspecting fiancé. He enjoys poetry, archaeology and exploring the country, and hopes one day to travel the world. Theo devises computer software to help overcome the problem of ‘ghost artifacts’ in magnetic resonance imaging. MRIs are used in medicine to view the inside of the body on a computer screen. But as the patient moves and breathes, faint replicas of the original image sometimes distort what doctors can see.

John Abraham – AFRAS
Table tennis fiend John Abraham wrote his PhD at Sussex before moving to the University of Reading to teach sociology. Now, although the portacabins have been a bit of a shock, he’s glad to be back at Sussex. “I think Brighton is a wonderful city,” he says, “and there are very few places that compare to it in Britain.” John is interested in the sociology of medicine, particularly pharmaceutical regulation. He’s currently directing two ESRC-funded projects. One studies the impact of the Europeanisation of medicine regulation. The other examines the regulation of a traquilliser called Halcyon. The US tends to have more stringent drug regulations than the UK, yet Halcyon is banned here and permitted over there. John is investigating why this should be the case.

MARATHON WOMAN
A t 9am on 28 October, Anna Hicks and 2000 others set off along the Seven Sisters, 26 miles 385 yards later, Anna, a secretary in CCS, had completed her first ever marathon. Not bad for a chocoholic who took up running because she found diets impossible. “All I wanted to do was lose some weight,” she says. “When I started running I could just about manage 800m before that feeling of imminent death would descend on me.” Anna ran the Seven Sisters Marathon in a little over five hours. “I feel truly privileged to have taken part,” she says. “It was spectacular, one of the best days of my life. I never realised that I’d feel this good about it. It’s been a long time since I’ve felt like this about anything. Four days on – and I’m still grinning!”

GHOSTBUSTERS
Rebecca Griffiths-Mayes, Centre Office Clerk for the Centre for Legal Studies, joined forces with Annette Goodman from the University of Brighton to brave this year’s local Spookathon. The date was Hallowe’en, the venue the Foredown Tower in Portsde. They entertained themselves with ghost stories from sleeping bags inside the tower. The floor where they slept is rumoured to have been used as a dumping-ground for dead bodies from the local hospital. Southern FM Radio and Marie Curie Cancer Care organised the Spookathon, and together Rebecca and Annette raised £144 in sponsorship for charity, although they didn’t see any ghosts.
A Man with a Mission in Brazil

children as sex slaves to the miners who work in the area. There are now 25,000 child prostitutes working in the Amazonian region alone.

Matt’s time amongst the street kids has profoundly affected his future. “After going out there I could only ever live in Brazil now,” he says. “I’ve left a part of me there and I don’t really feel at home here any more. I feel at home where I see a need – and Brazil is the place where I can make a difference.”

Matt intends to return to Brazil after finishing his degree to work with the children’s charity, Signpost International. Signpost has acquired a rehabilitation centre in the middle of the Amazonian jungle which it hopes to encourage street kids from small mining towns to attend.

“Being in Brazil has changed my view of the world,” he says. “But it’s a shame I had to go all that way to put my priorities straight in my life.”

Sussex at BUAC Exhibition

Sussex was represented at this year’s annual exhibition of the British Universities Accommodation Consortium (BUAC), which promotes universities as conference, training and holiday venues. The opportunity was taken to promote both the campus facilities and the Isle of Thorns Training Centre, the University’s year-round venue in the Ashdown Forest.

This year’s exhibition was a special occasion to mark BUAC’s Silver Jubilee and Deputy Business Director, Charles Dudley, a former Chairman of BUAC, joined Tourism Minister Lord Inglewood, and representatives from other selected organisations, including National Heritage and the British Tourist Authority, to exchange views on the future of the conference and tourism industry. Amongst the many benefits to Sussex of conference and holiday lettings is the rent subsidy for university-managed accommodation, a reduction of around £4.50 per person per week.

For further details about conference and meeting facilities please contact Thea Pharaoh on 8676 or for the Isle of Thorns specifically, Centre Manager Paul Knight, on 01825 740283.

In brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

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

MRC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: an opportunity for specialised or further research training in the biomedical field in the UK and to enable outstanding scientists to progress to the MRC’s new Career Development Awards. Closing date: 1 February 1996.

MRC CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS: to support non-clinical scientists to extend their research experience with a view to becoming independent investigators. Closing date: 1 February 1996.

MRC SENIOR FELLOWSHIPS (non-clinical): designed for individuals who have already demonstrated clear ability as independent researchers and who promise to be future leaders in their field. Closing date: 1 February 1996.

EU-TRAINING & MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS - POST DOC/POST GRAD TRAINING GRANTS: for projects of 6 to 36 months in another EU member state. Next deadline: 15 December 1995; Following deadline: 15 June 1996.

EU-TRAINING AND MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS - ACCOMPANYING MEASURES: funding for Euro conferences, Summer schools, training courses focused on any research topic bringing young and senior researchers together. Deadline 15 March 1996.

EU/INDUSTRIAL AND MATERIAL TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAMME: call for proposals: 15/12/95; deadline: 17/4/95.

EU/CO-OPERATION WITH EASTERN EUROPE: deadline 29/2/95.

Letter to the Editor

In reply to Peter Anning’s letter regarding the alterations to access and exits from campus, Mr Anning has obviously never returned to campus via Falmer House Road one lunchtime to be faced with a delivery driver coming towards him using it as an illegal exit. As a motorcyclist I try to avoid head-on collisions with other vehicles, and if this improvement works it is well worth the money in my book.

Incidentally, the recent problems with access and parking seem to have had little impact on my journey times on the bike.

Paul Pickerill. BIOLS
What’s on...

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 13 November
12.30pm CCE Research Forum: Opening the Open University to People with Learning Difficulties. J. Walmsley (OU), Arts D410.
4pm Women’s Studies Seminar: The Missing Link - Why Women Were Second Rate. J. Stonehouse, Arts D520.
4.15pm MOLs Chemical Society Colloquium: In situ Spectroscopic Techniques for Studying Electroactive Polymer Films. A. Hillman (Leicester), MSLT, MOLs.
4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Spatial and Social Organisation of Ant Colonies. A. Franks (Bath), Biology Lecture Room.

Tuesday 14 November
3pm Sussex European Institute Seminar: Friend or Foie? How well has the IMF done in central and Eastern Europe? D. Begg (Birkbeck), A17 in SE1.
4pm Cognitive and Computing Sciences Seminar: Learning to read graphics: some evidence about readership skills and graphical programming. M. Petre (OU), PBSC1.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: A novel DNA rearrangement is required to segregate circular chromosomes. D. Sherratt (Oxford), Biology Lecture Room.
5pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Written Ritual: reconstructing death and dying. L. Hallam, Arts E419.
6pm International Relations Seminar: Western Democracies Meet the Global Political Economy. R. O’Brien, EDB 121.

Wednesday 15 November
12.30pm Environmental Science Seminar: Managing Mountain Environments: Morocco. R. Parish, MOLs MS3.
2pm CREUAI Colloquium: The Ginzburg-Landau equations for Type-I superconductors as perturbations of a one phase Stefan problem. B. Stoth (Bonn), MAPS1, PB2A2.
5pm History of Art Seminar: Painting and Reform in Eighteenth Century France: Greuze’s L’Accordee de village. E. Barker (OU), Arts B151.

Thursday 16 November
2pm Media Voices: Caroline Crawford (Advertising Standards Authority), Arts A1.
4pm Mathematical Analysis Seminar: Scattering Theory for Asymptotically Euclidean Space. R. Melrose (MIT), PB2A2, MAPS1.

Monday 13 November — Sunday 19 November

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Thursday 16 November cont.
5pm History Seminar: Remembering April 25 1914: the construction and use of diaries, memoirs and oral testimony. A. Thomson, Arts A115.
5pm Geography Research Seminar: Soil Erosion and Human Activities: A Review of a Case Study in the South Netherlands. A. de Roo (Utrecht), EDB 302.
6.15pm Professorial Lecture: Harmony and Growth. Michael Wallis, Professor of Biochemistry, MOLs Lecture Theatre.

Friday 17 November
2pm Russian Seminar: Taskhent Revisited. D. Dyker, Arts A155.
4pm Chemical Physics Seminar: Dynamics of the C1+ CH4 reaction. A. Orr-Ewing (Bristol), MS3.
4.30pm Philosophy Society Meeting: The Challenge from the Realm of Stuff. H. Laycock (Queen’s, Canada), Arts A155.

Career Development Unit

Career Planning Workshops
Tue 14 Nov, 2-4pm: General Career Planning

Briefing Workshops
Mon 13 Nov, 2-4pm: Science & Engineering for Women Tue 14 Nov, 10-12pm: Information Technology Wed 15 Nov, 2-4pm: Not for Profit Organisations

Action Workshops
Wed 15 Nov, 10-12pm: Application Forms for Mature Students Thurs 16 Nov, 10-12pm: Making Effective Applications Fri 17 Nov, 9.30-12.30pm: Practice Selection Tests

Autumn Talks
Mon 13 Nov, 5.30pm: Voluntary Work/ Mature Students Jobsheet
Tue 14 Nov, 5.30pm: Working for Charities Wed 15 Nov, 5.30pm: Probation Work Thu 16 Nov, 5.30pm: East European Partnership Thu 16 Nov, 5.30pm: British Antarctic Survey Sign up for workshops and talks in the CDU General Office. A £5 refundable deposit is required for workshops.

Meeting House

Luncheon Recital
Tue 14 Nov, 1.20pm: Newlands Manor School Students.

Lecture
Fri 17 Nov, 6pm: George Bell Association Lecture: Writing about Bankruptcy. R. Williams, Asa Briggs Hall, University of Brighton.

Monday 13 November
11.30pm 2001: A Space Odyssey

Sunday 19 November
6pm Delicatessen
9pm Quasrophonia

Small Ads

ACCUM WANTED: new fac member and spouse seek small house or large flat to rent near university, pref. by sea. From Feb 96 for 6-8m. Non-smokers. No kids or pets. Tel: Carole (USA) 212 854 6814 (2-10pm UK time). E-mail: haswell@tristram.phys.columbia.edu. Address: 629 W. 115th St. Apt. 6D, New York, NY 10025, USA.

LUXURY FLAT TO LET: available from early Dec for short lets up to 3 months. Dble bedroom, stylishly furnished, balcony on Brighton seafront. Rent inc all bills £120pw. Tel: Norma Binnie 542736 or x4257.


CAR FOR SALE: Renault 11 GTL. 1983/4. Excellent condit. 12 months MT. Taxed until 3 Mar 96. £495. Tel: 303990.

CAR FOR SALE: Ford Capri 2000S, 1983 (Y). Light green metallic. Low condit for year. 77000 miles. MTtil Jan 96. 2dr. £525 ono. Tel: Julian Thorne x2683, BIOLS 2C11. E-mail: J.R.Thorpe@sussex.ac.uk.

CAR FOR SALE: Rover 216Si 5-door car. H-reg, silver-beige metallic. Security markings, electric windows/sunroof, stereo, 43000 miles. Excellent condit. £500 ono. Tel: Pat Hensworth x2154, E-mail: P.Hensworth@Sussex.ac.uk.

REWARD OFFERED: for return of lost silver link bracelet with round blue eyes. Tel: 734631 or x8006.

MISCELLANEOUS

VDU Safety Training
Avoiding RSI. A workshop for research and teaching faculty and any others who use a VDU at work. Run by Richard Price, Welfare Officer. Book through Alison Lyon, Staff Development, x3686.

Financial Advice
Sally Bullimore of the Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers Ltd will be available to discuss any financial queries that you may have on Wed 15 Nov, 12.30-1.55pm, Arts D520.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday of term with very few deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, details of events, letters and small ads. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8299 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.