GRANT ALLOCATION

The Higher Education Funding Council for England announced last week the distribution of £3.319 million in funding for the academic year 1996-97 to 141 higher education institutions and 73 further education colleges providing higher education courses.

The total includes recurrent grants of £2.224 million for teaching and £638 million for research, and £73 million for formula capital funding. A further £284 million is being distributed for other-related recurrent activities.

The funding means an overall reduction in recurrent and capital grants of 2.3 per cent in cash terms – 5 per cent in real terms – compared with last year. Formula capital funding will be 29 per cent lower in cash terms than last year.

According to Vice-Chancellor, Gordon Conway, "Sussex has been allocated £28.6m, a 1.6 per cent cash reduction in grant (approximately 4.6 per cent in real terms). This is one of the lowest reductions among the 'old' universities. Nevertheless, the overall cash position confirms the pessimistic view taken earlier this year by the Planning and Management Committees. A comparative analysis of T and QR grants for 1996-97 places Sussex 18th for T and 5th for R among the 'old' universities. We will have to get used to tighter budgets over the next few years unless we can get government to change its policies. In any event, if we are to maintain our excellence in teaching and research we will have to actively seek additional funding through recruitment of postgraduate research, overseas and part-time students and by increasing research income."

Grants have been allocated so that no institution will suffer a cash reduction of greater than 4.5 per cent in accordance with the HEFCE’s policy that no individual institutions would be faced with unmanageable changes in their funding. The Council recognised, however, that reductions of this scale and suddenness are likely to cause difficulties for institutions.

Assessing the impact of the announcement, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) called for a moratorium on any further cuts until the Dearing Inquiry has reported. According to its Chairman, Gareth Roberts, "If further cuts are made, some universities may not survive until the results of the Dearing Inquiry can be implemented in 1999 or beyond."

Sussex unsung heroes

Imagine a chemical explosion, a lab filled with toxic smoke, a student overcome with fumes in a corner... When conditions get tough, the Rescue Team gets going – armed with the same state-of-the-art breathing apparatus used by the East Sussex Fire Brigade.

The University Rescue Team has 16 operational members, each trained by the Fire Brigade to deal with emergencies. From explosions in labs to chemical spillages, heart attacks to broken limbs, these unsung heroes will sort out the crisis. "We’ve seen people walk out of buildings with bits of glass sticking out all over them," says team leader, Jerry Mitchell. "We’re a dedicated band of volunteers willing to risk life and limb to save lives. You can replace a building, but you can’t ever replace a life."

Any full-time member of staff or newly-started postgraduate can become a Rescue Team volunteer. Team members are male and female, young and old, technicians, administrators and faculty. If an alarm is raised, the University switchboard radios the team members, each of whom carries an emergency radio. During an incident, Security log on to the Rescue Team’s frequency so that all their activities are coordinated. Each team member has basic grounding in resuscitation and life-saving, and the team, with its specialist chemical knowledge, has on occasion advised the county Fire Brigade.

The team has just upgraded its equipment with Spiromatic-90 self-contained breathing apparatus. The health centre paramedics already have a defibrillator which was donated by the Students’ Union. It has been used several times to help save lives on campus.

by Tony Fincham
Sussex Centre for Neuroscience

Basic research is being squeezed, if not actually throttled, in new proposals for future EU funding. Calls for proposals under the current Fourth Framework Programme (FPIV) provide evidence that there has been a major shift in emphasis following publication of the Commission’s White Paper, Growth, Competitiveness and Employment. FPIII, running from 1990 to 1994, was driven by ‘Technology Push’ which led to an accumulation of results. FPIV has as its primary aim to stimulate the use of these results. This shift to the applied, demonstration end of the R&D spectrum is the result of applying impeccable EU policy logic: gather results then put them into practice. Unfortunately, science does not conform to a linear model of this kind. All three strands of research – basic (curiosity-driven/blue skies), strategic (practical aims, but applications not yet specified) and applied (aimed at specific products or processes) – need nurturing on a continuing basis. Boom and bust funding in the laboratory is not effective in achieving a stream of “deliverables”, serendipitous or otherwise.

Scientists apply for funding for basic research both from UK Research Councils responsive mode and from industry keen to be in position when innovative ideas flow from research projects. But obtaining EU funding for basic research under EU Framework programmes is becoming increasingly difficult. Madame Edith Cresson, Commissioner for Research, appears to be compounding the problem in recently published Commission policy documents.

Task forces are being set up following discussion with Commissioners Bangemann and Kinnock. These task forces address a restricted range of questions: the car of tomorrow, the train of tomorrow, multimodal transport, new generation of aircraft, multimedia educational software, vaccines and viral diseases, and water resource management. Madame Cresson has made it clear that she feels FPIV has a range of research programmes that is too wide and will be looking in FPV to reduce the number of programmes available. The list of task forces is likely to strike terror into the hearts of any prospective EU researcher not working in the fields of water resource management, vaccines or transport.

During the summer in 1995 the Sussex Centre for Neuroscience Interdisciplinary Research Centre invited MEP Brendan Donnelly to discuss the funding of basic research in future Framework Programmes. A range of issues was explored including the possibility of ring-fencing funds for basic research in the EU. He elicited on our behalf a response from Madame Cresson in which the Commissioner reiterated “...there should be a concentrated funding of areas offering high potential returns on Research and Development ... a dialogue of researchers, producers and user should be promoted at the interface of the life sciences and society”. Whilst one would be foolish indeed not to engage in the dialogue alluded to by Madame Cresson, there remains an undecurrent of unease.

Another issue raised with Donnelly was the possibility of creating a European Research Council. An opportunity to explore this idea further came at a meeting in York in November which tackled the problems of EU funding of life sciences. The idea is actively supported by Science Foundation but received a cautious hearing from the Research Council representatives at the York meeting. They take the view that any additional money for an EU Research Council could be at their expense. In the light of the paucity and worsening position of national Research Council funds, their view needs to be taken seriously.

One solution to the problem would be to ensure from the outset that funding for a European Research Council would be found within the existing levels of EU attribution by member states. The Commission would need to set aside money from the major Framework Programmes (a total of 12300M ECU has been allocated for FPIV 1994-98) £10086M). Predetermined research programmes would of course continue to be funded, but funds would be set aside for responsive mode grants. This change would require legislation in the European Parliament.

As presently constituted the Commission does not have competence to run responsive mode funding. Given the political will such a funding mechanism could be operated by the Commission. It could also provide on a continuing basis, support for curiosity-driven research. Scientists seeking EU funds at the basic end of the R&D spectrum could continue to produce their innovative research ideas without looking continually over their shoulders.
The days of nuts and nectar are over. It seems we are heading for straitened times as the government shifts the education budget about in order to conserve votes. The way in which the cuts are determined is by a funding formula. The formula is about as complex as the Schleswig-Holstein question and has much the same effect. If one can’t understand how it happens it’s difficult to begin to complain. Presumably the point of the formula is that it looks as if no-one is actually doing the cutting and that it is fair because we are all treated equally.

But no. If the person with the purse thinks that the formula is going to make life too difficult for particular friends then he takes some money from someone else and gives it to him. This is called a ‘ration of cash’ or ‘safety net money’ or sometimes simply a ‘windfall’. If one is looking really sick one can get an ‘injection’ from the flexibility fund. However, whichever way you cut it, the cake’s still smaller than it was. And as the Chief Exec. of HEFCE said, a _propos_ the quality of teaching, with seeer-like percipline, “If staff/student ratios go higher, then that interaction is affected.” It’s nice to know that the people at the top understand.

When the portacabins went up once again at the back of Arts D I fell to wondering. Is this a sign that we are so popular that we are bursting at the seams? Or is it that we are so skint that we can’t afford to provide proper teaching space? As I was enjoying an _alfresco_ crocus salad on the IDS lawn I overheard a German V&E student remark that if she wanted to be taught in sheds she’d have gone to Poland. My friends in the Information Office tell me that they recently received an enquiry from an American gentleman anxious to discover the location of a seminar given by Dr. Portacabin C. (C for Clarissa? Or Cyril even?) On receiving the news that Portacabin C was not a quaint British don but a quaint English seminar room, our enquirer expressed great interest, being unfamiliar with the likes of prefabs on his native American campuses. We may well be missing an export opportunity here. Personally, I think Portacabins are quite jolly and if we put in some luggage racks and instal a diorama, with a bit of dry ice outside the window and a little imagination, chug chug and off we all go to Sandy Bay.

Even more homespun are the new seats springing up around campus where a weary cove may tarry a while (see _Green News_ on page 7). These are made from wood felled from campus elms and lovingly hand-crafted by an Estates worker with a chainsaw. The bases are slices of old telegraph poles presumably left over from the anti-car stockades. With such imaginative thrift we will have made our £1.5 efficiency gain before you can say, arboreal rodent.

Should any readers have similarly brilliant insights into how to make ends meet, let me know. A bottle to the most ingenious – as soon as I’ve discovered where Mole stashed the bubbly.

* Cyril Squirrel

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**FAREWELL TO TONY:** Finance Officer, Tony Sims, left the University last week to take up the post of Internal Auditor at the LSE. When he arrived at the University in July 1967, having been made redundant from his previous job, Tony was intending to stay for one year and then to look for a “proper job in the real world.” Twenty-nine years later... Even now, Tony hasn’t actively looked for another job – details of the LSE post simply landed on his desk a few months ago. He proved irresistible because it entails only three days a week, and Tony felt it was timely for him to seek for a different balance in his life between work and home.

In his valedictory speech, the Vice-Chancellor described Tony as “a man of great integrity, greatly respected by his colleagues, who has shown tremendous commitment to the University.”

Tony is pictured above at his farewell party in the Meeting House.

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**Mayor of Brighton**

Ian Duncan has been nominated as the next Mayor of Brighton, to take office in May of this year. Ian, a Senior Lecturer in Politics and Director of the Enterprise Unit, already has extensive experience in local politics. “I’m delighted by the news,” he says, “particularly as next year is the final year of the Mayoralty in Brighton, bringing to an end nearly 150 years of tradition.” Ian is looking forward to playing a part in the creation of the new Brighton and Hove unitary authority.
AROUND THE GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTRES

SCIENCE POLICY RESEARCH UNIT

News

- The Complex Product Systems (CoPS) Innovation Centre is a joint venture (starting in October 1996 and funded by the ESRC for five years) between SPRU and the Centre for Research in Innovation Management (CENTRIM) at the University of Brighton. Led by Dr Mike Hobday (SPRU) and Dr Howard Rush (CENTRIM), the new Centre aims to make a fundamental contribution to our knowledge of high value, complex industrial products and systems. It will also harness this understanding to improve the UK competitive advantage.

- The Director of the ESRCs Global Environmental Change Programme is Professor Jim Skea who is based in SPRU along with a coordination office. The programme includes 80 grants and 20 fellowships which are held at universities and research bodies throughout the UK.

Books and reports

- University researchers working on scientific projects are an increasingly rare species according to a recent report, The Changing Shape of British Science, by Dr Sylvan Katz, Dr Diana Hicks, Margaret Sharp and Ben Martin. Recent trends in UK science reveal that medicine is the fastest growing area of scientific research in Britain and that hospitals are playing an increasingly significant role.

- Gordon Mackerron’s new report, UK Nuclear Privatisation and Public Sector Liabilities, (with Mike Sadrnicki, Independent Consultant) received significant media interest and scrutinises the Government’s proposals for financing significant technological knowledge accumulated across their world-wide laboratories. The report, funded by the EC, also indicates that post-doctoral scientists are attracted to the US to work, but it is not yet clear if this is because of the science or because they are driven abroad by limited opportunities in Europe.

- There is an urgent need for clearly defined policies and funding to address the housing needs of the elderly and disabled. A recent report (written by David Gann, SPRU, and Shigeaki Iwakita, with James Barlow and Liz Mandeville) entitled, Housing and Home Automation for the Elderly and Disabled, examines the use of new technologies which enable people with disabilities to live independently. Such technology is already in production but neither the disabled users or the manufacturers are getting the full benefit from these inventions.

Awards

- Dr Erik Millstone has been awarded the Caroline Walker Trust 1995 Award, in the science category, for his work on the improvement of public health by means of good food. He is currently examining whether or not synthetic sweetening agents and fat substitutes might make a contribution to improving public health. He is also conducting a comparative study of policies in the UK and US to deal with lead pollution.

- The 1995 Roy Rothwell Prize for the best MSc dissertation in SPRU was awarded jointly to Christian Chabot and Andrea Prencipe.

Conferences

- In conjunction with the journal, Nature, and the Observatoire des Sciences, Paris, SPRU held an international conference, European Research Policy: What does the Future Hold? in September 1995. The conference attracted key European science policy-makers and leading researchers in science and technology policy. Among the recommendations resulting from the conference was that the broadening of the research base in Europe will mean a shift of policy focus from generating results to their diffusion. A book based on the conference proceedings is to be published in 1996.

- A one day conference on Superhighways Serving Education: Partnerships Will Make IT Happen, was organised by Joyce Wood (SPRU Visiting Fellow) in November. Michael Heseltine was the keynote speaker and he used the occasion to announce the results of the Education Superhighways Consultation, including £10 million in funding for evaluation of 23 projects.

£4.8 million boost for the IRC

THE BIOTECHNOLOGY and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) has just announced a major award of £4.8 million for the Sussex Centre for Neuroscience, based in the School of Biological Sciences. The award covers the four year period from October 1995 to September 1999.

The Interdisciplinary Research Centre was set up in 1991 to explore how nerve cells or neurons are organised to generate behaviour and how networks or nerve cells acquire and store information.

Welcomeing news of the award, the Centre’s Director, Michael O’Shea said “I am delighted that BBSRC has demonstrated through this substantial award its continued support for the exciting research being carried out here at Sussex. It will enable us to continue our fundamental research programme into the neural mechanisms of behaviour and explore new applications of our work. For example, we are interested in collaborating with computer scientists so that our work on nerve cells can be applied to the design of improved artificial ‘nervous systems’ for controlling autonomous robots. Ultimately machines may possess forms of artificial intelligence inspired by our neurobiological research.”
universe ages two billion years

by Michael Kenward

Earthlings may be coming up for a millennium, but it is anybody's guess when the Universe itself will celebrate its next momentous birthday. The Universe could be 10 billion years old, or 12 billion. The older estimate is where Martin Hendry places his bets, but he admits that he could be wrong. He recently returned from a conference of young cosmologists where, as he puts it, "what I learned was how much we still have to learn".

Martin, in the Astronomy Centre, specialises in statistical analysis of cosmological data. This is increasingly important area of research, as cosmologists try to make the most of the information that they gather from the world's telescopes.

"Cosmological data has to be treated carefully," he explains. "It is sparse, noisy and expensive to get." One way to extract the greatest amount of information out of the data is to employ the techniques of modern statistics. For example, telescopes can see only a fraction of the galaxies that are out there, especially at the outer limits of the Universe. Statistical techniques allow you to make allowances for the galaxies that you can't see.

Martin's estimate of the age of the Universe comes as something of a relief. The idea that it is much younger poses some severe problems because there are stellar objects around that are older than that. Even his older estimate, which is in line with other calculations arrived at by different routes, isn't quite as old as some of the evidence suggests. But it is a step in the right direction.

Martin and Professor Roger Tayler have reviewed the techniques used to estimate the age of the Universe. Their study shows that "if you are going to attempt to estimate the age of the Universe with different methods, you can end up with contradictory answers."

Some cosmologists produce estimates that work from the age of our own Galaxy and dying stars known as white dwarfs. As the Universe expands, the older remnants of the big bang are rushing away from us. Martin Hendry and other researchers calculate how far we are from certain distant stellar objects and work back from that to calculate the age of the Universe, when the 'bang' happened. Cepheid variable stars provide them with much of their data.

The trouble is that these cosmological 'sundials' tell different times. Different techniques deliver different estimates.

Another sign of the public interest in cosmology is the media coverage that surrounds space spectacles, such as the Hubble Space Telescope and its problems. Fortunately, the telescope's operators overcame the vision problems they experienced after NASA launched the telescope. It now provides the data that keeps Martin Hendry and his colleagues busy.

He has applied his statistical techniques to the data from the Hubble telescope to measuring the cosmological distance scale and estimating a key cosmological number, the Hubble constant.

The space telescope got its name from Edwin Hubble, the man whose name is attached to the constant.) It is this work that has given us the new estimate of the age of the Universe.

Statistical analysis should come naturally to cosmologists, says Martin. After all, the work of the 18th century astronomers spurred on the development of statistical methods. But over the centuries the link between the two areas of science weakened and only started to come back together over the past decade or so.

"Astronomers have been slow to take up novel techniques for data analysis," he explains. He is interested because "statistics has a great deal to offer astronomers in squeezing information out of their data."

In his research Martin employs techniques that are also used in medicine. So called 'lifetime statistics' help to analyse the results of experiments on patients, where you can't afford to let people die before you see the results.

Nori can medical researchers afford the luxury of working on more and more patients until they are 100 per cent sure of their result. Analysing drug trials, for example, depends on extracting as much information as possible out of scanty data.

There is even a family connection in Martin's statistical work. He acts as an unofficial consultant to his sister, who is a consultant geriatrician. "She rings and asks me, 'What tests do I apply to this data?',' he explains. So the statistical techniques have gone full circle.
ALL IN A DAY’S WORK

Joan Edwards has driven them all round the bend — Margaret Thatcher, Shirley Williams, Norman Tebbit, Michael Hestetine. Joan, the University’s chauffeur, spent thirteen years as a chauffeur in the Government Car Service. And the things she heard on that back-seat could have brought down several governments... She arrived at Sussex two and half years ago — the only University employee with a car chase technique to rival 007’s.

I was taught by the best, the cream of the country. I started out delivering diplomatic mail, and worked my way up through the Government Car Service until I was chauffeuring the VIPs. I had my terrorist training with the police up at Hendon, so now I know how to manage a car chase. I had to sign the Official Secrets Act when I first left, because of the things I heard when I was driving. I’d know the Budget before anyone else did, and I appear in Alan Clarke’s diaries.

The politicians were all very sweet. Mrs Thatcher was friendly, but she was young then — the Secretary of State for Education. I’d drive them to the Commons and all over the place. You’d have these people’s lives in your hands. We’d see them more than their own families would. We’d chat and we’d know all about each other’s families. I don’t think the public knows its politicians as well as it should. We ought to be properly taught politics at school.

In 1976 I won the Driver of the Year Award, beating the Army, Navy and Air Force. I don’t think women are worse drivers than men at all, but some people still refuse to be driven by women. I once had to drive someone who owned a Rolls Royce and he said to me, “if you can get it out of the garage then I’ll let you drive me”. So I did. Three times.

Once I got a flat tire as I was driving a Daimler full of nine Chinese visitors. They couldn’t believe that a woman could possibly take a wheel off a car and change it. And as I didn’t have an interpreter, it took an hour and a half before I could persuade them to get out of the car. They stood, amazed, as I jacked up the car.

I’ve done just about everything before coming to Sussex. I owned a fish business which supplied the Roux brothers and I ran my own car hire business. I was an ambulance driver, a security inspector at MI5, a florist and a guitarist in an all-girl band. But I’ll never get tired of driving. I’ve driven 67,000 miles already since arriving at Sussex. I’ve never once been late and I’ve never got a parking ticket. But then I do know most of the traffic wardens in London. I know every street as well. If there’s a traffic jam in one street, I’ll just go down another.

Driving is an art and it has to be done properly. When I’m taking the Vice Chancellor to a meeting or picking up an important visitor, I sit down with my maps and plan my route and the petrol carefully. In the Government Car Service, running out of petrol was a sackable offence. I’ve never had road rage — that wouldn’t be professional — I just stay calm all the time.

Changing Face of Campus

The following work is being undertaken by Estates. You are asked to take care in the vicinity of the work, and to stay outside any safety barriers.

WORK IN PROGRESS
- Sussex Innovation Centre: completion due April.
- Campus Lighting: additional work to improve security. East of Science Car Park: upgrade of electricity substation to serve the Sussex Innovation Centre.

PLANNED FUTURE WORKS IN 1996
- Park Village: emergency lighting and replacement fire alarm. Mid March to Mid April, and July to September.
- High Voltage Substations (supplying Arts D & E, ENGG, Refectory, Essex House and Lancaster House): essential maintenance, with some disruption of electrical supplies. Dates during Easter vacation. Building Controllers have been advised.
- Falmer House: infill of courtyard moat. Start on site anticipated April.
- Bicycle racks: upgrade of existing racks (in 24 locations), and new racks (in a further 16).
- East Slope (Phase II): refurbishment. July to October (in both ’96 and ’97).
- AFRC: major repair and refurbishment. May to December, followed by MOLS I.
- Falmer House: essential repair work to Music Practice Rooms. (Listed building consent still being considered by Planning Authorities.)
- Campus Signposting: fingerpost signs for pedestrian areas.
- Student Community Building (east of the Refectory): start on site in August.
- Children’s Facilities Building (north of Lancaster House): start in Summer ’96.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
The following application for planning permission is being submitted, and a copy may be seen at the Estates Building Reception:
- To Brighton Borough Council: York House: Replacement south-facing ground floor window.
LETTERS

Dear Editor,

With respect to the moats that surround many fine campus buildings. Surely the Meeting House moats are the most hazardous, since they are just there in the middle of a grassy area AND usually actually have water within them!

Two possible solutions to the Falmer House Moats problem:

1) The erection of a small fence that runs along the edge of the moat. This would also allow people to use the area on a more casual basis (being able to lean against the aforementioned fencing, it would introduce a good meeting area). I envisage the fence as one of these "2 level" metal bar types usually seen at dangerous junctions to stop pedestrians crossing...

2) The introduction of a small raised ledge (or 'lip') before the actual moat. This wouldn't be as useful as the fence since you can neither lean against nor sit on it, but it would be a useful signal to those with sight disabilities - especially if the warning tactile paving was used around the very edge too.

Something must be done about Falmer House. It isn't lively enough and if the Students' Union does get its own building, then we are going to have an empty, unused Basil Spence creation.

Alan Buxey, Chemistry p/g

PS An alternative! Actually fill the moats properly with water. The splashing, gurgling that would be emitted from an actual moat would be enough warning signal. And if someone DID fall in, they would just get wet and not fall 3ft into a concrete channel.

Research Opportunities

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

LINK INLAND SURFACE TRANSPORT PROGRAMME: to stimulate projects to develop efficient, safe and environmentally acceptable inland surface transport (8M Programme). No closing date given.

LINK AQUACULTURE RESEARCH PROGRAMME: for collaborative research on fish and shellfish farming (8M Programme). No closing date given.

EU Research Funding Opportunities


EU: Non-Nuclear Energy Area III (Renewable Energies) - Deadline 15 May 1996


EU: TMR Research Training Grants - Deadline 15 June 1996 Funding for Post-docs / post-grads to work on projects in another EU country

For further information on the above or any other EU Framework Programme IV research programme, please contact Clem Smith (x8238) E-mail: C.J.Smith@sussex

Development Opportunities

Funding may be available from Staff Development or EHE funds for faculty to attend the following events. Please contact the Staff Development Officer, ext 3849, for details of these and other events.

Designing & Running Workshops Oxford Centre for Staff Development, at Warwick 7 & 8 May 1996


Women as Managers Oxford Centre for Staff Development, at Cambridge 13 & 14 May 1996

Open Learning II: Designing Assignments for Open Learning Oxford Centre for Staff Development, at Warwick 16 May 1996

Open Learning III: Writing Self Assessment Questions & Feedback Responses Oxford Centre for Staff Development, at Warwick 17 May 1996

Research Supervision CHES, at London 16 & 17 May 1996

The SEDA Conference: The Environment for Learning 2006 15-17 May 1996 at Bingley, West Yorkshire

Home or away?: Fees and awards entitlements for international students UKCOSA, at London 23 May 1996

Improving Students' Learning Skills Oxford Centre for Staff Development 23 May 1996, at Reading

STAFF DEVELOPMENT ON-SITE COURSE

Stress Management Course (for non-teaching staff) Monday 25 March 1996, 9.30am-4.30pm, Refectory. There are a few places left on this course. Nominations (via Section Heads please) to Alison Lyner, ext 3868 by return.

GREEN NEWS

When do benches become works of art? When they've been individually sculptured by a chainsaw. Ten new seats have been placed by Estates at strategic viewpoints along the woodland fringe behind East Slope. The seats are handcrafted from wood felled from campus elms and use recycled telegraph poles for their bases. Designed to blend into the natural environment, the seats are already proving popular with students.

Lights, camera, action
Monday 11 March - Sunday 17 March

**Films at the Gardner**

- **Monday 11 March**
  7.45pm Cold Fever
- **Sunday 17 March**
  6.30pm Gone With The Wind

**Easter Playscheme**

The Easter Playscheme runs from Mon 1 - Wed 3 April and Thu 11 - Fri 12 April (Palmer House is closed over Easter). Student registration will be from Mon 4 Mar. Week 1 registration fee from Mon 11 Mar, Week 10. Register at the Students’ Union Welfare Centre.

**Free Eye Tests for Staff**

Free eyesight tests are available for all members of staff from Specavers, who will provide spectacles for under £75 if a prescription is necessary. Tel: Richard Price, Staff Welfare Officer, for details x3598.

**IT Training**

The Computing Service is running a range of training sessions over Easter, primarily for staff. To book places, come to the Computing Centre Reception in person.

- 9.30-11am, Thu 14 Mar: Computer skills for absolute beginners.
- 9.30-12.30pm, Fri 15 Mar: PC Introduction.
- 9.30-12.30pm, Mon 18 Mar: Introduction to word processing.
- 2.30-4.30pm, Tue 19 Mar: Advanced word processing.
- 9.30-11.30am, Thu 21 Mar: Accessing the Internet.
- 2.30-4.30pm, Thu 21 Mar: E-Mail.
- 9.30-12pm, Fri 22 Mar: Introduction to spreadsheets.

**Miscellaneous**

- **No Smoking Day**
  Wed 13 Mar. A meeting for anyone interested in stopping will be held from 3.30-4.30 in the Health Centre with Nurse Val.
- **Current Issues in Food Safety**
  12.30-2pm, Mon 11 Mar: Sussex University Women. Lunch and talk by Erika Millstone of SPRU at the Meeting House.
- **Educational Equality Unit**
  12.30-1.35pm, Wed 13 Mar. A talk by Jan Sellers from the University of Kent about Study Skills. EDB 302.

**Language Centre**

- **Unusual Languages**
  The Centre is considering putting on courses in more unusual languages such as Russian, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Czech and Polish from October of next year. If interested, tel: Alex x8006, or email: lang_centre@sussex.ac.uk.
- **Easter Courses**
  3 day Easter ‘A’ level courses in Spanish, French and German to practice speaking and listening. 1-3 Apr, £60, Closing date: 15 Mar. Tel: Alex as above.

**Small Ads**

- **SAXAPHONE FOR SALE**: Tenor sax, v. g. condition, £300. Tel: Richard Gate- rill 502759.
- **HOLIDAY HOME TO RENT**: Townhouse in foothills of Pyrenees near Perpignan, SW France. Available for weeks beginning 7 and 14 of April and 1 and 8 of Sept. £100 pw incl. Tel: x8736 or 697225.
- **FILING CABINET OFFERED**: Free to collector. Tel: Kay x3258 or 558547 (even).
- **BABY CARRIER WANTED**: With frame that is worn on the back. Tel x2734.
- **ACCOMMODATION WANTED**: Visiting Japanese research fellow requires house or self-contained flat, convenient for University, for 4 months from June for himself & his wife, Tel: x8446 or 703378 after 8pm.
- **AU PAIR WANTED**: for family with 2 children in Hove. Weekends free, own room and TV. Tel: x8446 or 703378 after 8pm.
- **AMSTRAD FOR SALE**: PC W10 with printer, excellent condition, £100. Tel: 400484.
- **MACINTOSH FOR SALE**: 512k, keyboard mouse and MacWrite. No hard disk. Any offers? Tel: 724729.
- **FRENCH CONVERSATION**: offered by native speaker. Tel: Yolaine de Carne 542911.

**Massage Course**

At the Sports Centre for 8 Tuesdays from 23 April to 11 June, 6.30-8pm. Cost £64, £32 payable when booking and £32 on the first evening. Cheques made payable to Alex Baduik. Bring 2 towels and a pillow. Massage oil & hand outs provided. The course will teach basic technique, and develop touch and sensitivity so that participants will be able to give a full body massage. Course will also cover basic anatomy, medication and breathing exercises.

**Easter Sports for Kids**

Places still available on the Childrens Easter Sports Programme at the Sports Centre.
- Cricket 1-3 April, 11-1pm, £12
- Soccer 1-3 April, 2-4pm, £12. Both, with supervised lunch, £20. Tel: Karen x3947.