Pier pleasure

The Palace Pier was heaving with students last Friday for probably the biggest freshers’ ball ever: the first to be held on the pier. Nearly 5,600 tickets were sold for the event, which included six sound stages and unlimited fairground rides. DJs included Carl Cox, Fabio and Sarah Chapman, who provided music for all tastes, from jungle to big beat. Students took full advantage of the rides, which ran on until closing time. According to one reveller, “The music was excellent, with a brilliant atmosphere. Everyone had a good time and the pier was still packed at 2am.”

The event was jointly organised by the Universities of Sussex and Brighton. Marquees were put up at the eleventh hour as rain stopped just four hours before the start.

Afterwards, VP Finance Gabriel Hyman was busy counting ticket sales. Nearly 2,000 tickets were sold from campus alone. “It was a great success, setting a precedent as a joint collaboration between our University and Brighton. It was so successful that we’ll be considering doing the same again next year.”

Behind the Beach Hut

Six recently graduated Sussex History of Art students, Michele Baker, Hattie Gordon, Lizzie Lawrence, Kay Pearce, Charlotte Stokes and Lucy Trussler met at the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Saturday 11 October to attend the opening of the Pavilion’s latest exhibition, Behind the Beach Hut. During their last two years at Sussex the students worked with History of Art’s curator-in-Residence, Eddie Chambers, to organise this exhibition of four artists who use the unique building and its position as inspiration. In his opening speech Art Historian David Mellor (CCS) praised the artists’ recreation of the spirit of the building, and hoped that the show was the first fruits of an ongoing relationship between the University’s Art History staff and students and the Pavilion. The works of Susan Cutts, Matt Locke, Dominique Rey and Esther Robinson will be on display until October 26.

University of Sussex Public Lecture

Jonathan Dollimore, Professor of English
Professorial Lecture

DEATH, DESIRE AND LOSS IN WESTERN CULTURE

Tuesday 21 October at 6.15pm
Chichester Lecture Theatre
(formerly Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre)

No tickets required. All welcome.

The traumatic experiences of change, loss and death have profoundly influenced the intellectual development of western culture. This lecture is about desire’s paradoxical identification with death and the ways it has formed our culture, from Christianity to postmodernism, and in areas as diverse as the formation of subjectivity, and the aesthetic attraction of fascism. Strangest of all is the part it has played in a culture obsessed with expansion, quest and production.
In brief

Postgraduate
Open Day
Thursday 23 October
1 - 3pm, Terrace Room
Refectory Building

Why not consider a Master's degree at Sussex. There will be an opportunity to talk to tutors from the whole range of courses - from philosophy to engineering and to find out about funding and how to make an application. Just turn up on the day, or, if you would like further information, contact Sue Yates on (67) 8384.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS

If you are considering teaching or working with young people as a career, you may be interested in two very successful schemes run by Student Development. The Student Tutoring and Mentoring schemes give you the opportunity to work with pupils in local primary, secondary, or special needs schools. The work either involves assisting teachers or acting as confidants to pupils in local schools. Full training is provided and travel expenses reimbursed. Involves one half day per week for ten weeks. Contact Pia de Souza, Student Development Officer, Arts D421, (67) 8543.

Carol Dalby
It is with great sadness that we record the death of Carol Dalby. Carol, a clerk in the Superannuation Office, came to Sussex in 1988. She died on 8 October after a courageous struggle against cancer. We would like to extend our sympathy to her family at this sad time.

News

Robin Lee Poetry Competition

This week we are pleased to publish Ultima Thule by Fay Marshall, joint winner with Chris Caudron (whose poem we published last week) of the Robin Lee Poetry Competition.

‘Phoebus of the unshorn hair, archer, keep away the plague’.
How many denarii did it cost Demetrius, this pewter medallion, when Londinium was already lost?
Sighting a bowshot down the road, shadow swinging smartly from right to left, we march north.
Civilised values tag at our heels.
We have hypocasts, and the public chariots always run on time.
Avanti! Poised like a javelin the road drives forward, always in a straight line without deviation or dissent.
But our carts bog down in the island swamps, the brashwood thickets clog our elbows.
We never thought the roads slashed to the tribesmen’s heart would prove so useful to our conquerors.

We mastered desert, and the Alpine ranges, the fat, flat farmland; now we come to the furthest verge of our experience; we cower behind a wall, and the fleet of Drumburgh is surely swallowed in the Solway sands.

Somewhere among the lochs and mountains there are dreams that cannot be analysed, bards evading scalped edges of reason, mysteries resisting penetration. Somewhere unplagued among the mists lies Ultima Thule.

Phoebus of the unshorn hair, shoot your arrows. They will plunge into the ground, randomly, and bear terrible fruit.

Leverhulme Fellowships

The Leverhulme Trust announced its individual awards last week. The following Fellowships were awarded to Sussex faculty:

Stephen Bumman, Senior Lecturer in American Studies, for: America in the 90s: national interest and global responsibility.
George Butterworth, Professor of Psychology, for his research: What is special about pointing in babies?
Dale Griffin, Senior Lecturer in Psychology in COGS, for research and writing a book on dyadic data analysis.
Kosmas Prassides, Reader in Chemistry, for new avenues in fullerene research: the heterofullerenes.
An Emeritus Fellowship was awarded to Professor Margaret McGowan for her study: The vision of Rome in late-Renaissance France.

Changing face of campus

The Estates Division is undertaking the following work. Please take care in the vicinity of the work, and stay outside any safety barriers.

WORK IN PROGRESS
- Bicycle racks: upgrade and installation.
- Campus signposting: removal of redundant signs and improvement of building name signs.
- Access for the disabled: Chichester III (used to be MOLS III) and COGS: widen existing narrow connecting doorways on top two floors.
- Library: refurbishment of the original (non-extension) building. Phase A, to facilitate the opening of the extension, due for completion in mid October.
- Chichester II (used to be MOLS II): Level 2: upgrade of new CPES administration area. Planned contract completion in early December.
- Chichester I (used to be MOLS I): major repair and refurbishment. Planned contract completion in early April.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
The following applications for listed building consent (LB) and planning permission (FP) are being submitted. A copy of applications made by the University may be seen at the Estates Building Reception:
- ENGI: installation of security shutters, alarm sounder boxes and chiller units to serve Room GB3. (FP and LB)
- Chichester I: alterations to main entrance area to form new post room and reception counter. (LB)
- Refectory: Lloyds Bank kiosk: renewal of temporary permission. (FP)

PLEASE REMEMBER for maintenance work use white works orders. For others use green.
A schedule of planned future works will appear in next week’s Bulletin.

Class of '72 Reunion

It's hard to believe now, but campus was bathed in glorious sunshine for the weekend of September 20-21 when the University welcomed back its intake of 1972. The programme of events included a panel discussion of Presidents Past and Present at which current President Catherine Copenhagen and Cam Matheson (SU President 1973-4), together with the Vice-Chancellor, reflected upon the differences and similarities between students and student issues now and then. Controversial author Andrew Morton (EAM 1972-75) was among those grooving the night away at the '70s disco. For many of the class the weekend proved an emotional experience. In the words of one member it was "happy, surprising and poignant."
Underpass Transformation ...

The Underpass is one of the less attractive parts of the University (understatement!). However, there are plans to transform this dreary link between Falmer Station and the campus. Just imagine if you were greeted by a tunnel of colourful, original artwork.

Please come and participate in this transformation process to create a mural. We need lots of creative input - everyone is welcome, whether or not you consider yourself to be artistically talented. In addition to designing the mural and painting it, we also need help with fundraising and co-ordination. This is an opportunity to get involved in an exciting arts project and to make a real difference to campus life.

If you are interested in getting actively involved, there will be a series of creative design workshops on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm onwards in the Debating Chamber - this is when we will come up with the design for the mural. If you have got some ideas but are unable to make these dates or you just want to find out more about the project, do get in touch with either Kate Osborn at the Gardner Arts Centre (4254), Catherine Copenhagen in the Students' Union (8555) or Penelope Chapple, Environmental Adviser (8904).

Launch of Friends of the Campus Trees

On campus we have over 100 Elms, 50 of which are the rare English variety - the largest population in the South East. Could you identify them? Do you know how to recognise Dutch Elm Disease? If your answers are "no" but you wish they were "yes", then join the Friends!

In response to an idea which was brought forward and neatly fits in with the Grounds Environmental Policy, John Higgins (Grounds Superintendent) and Penelope Chapple (Environmental Adviser) will be launching the Friends of the Campus Trees on 23rd October. "The trees provide a particularly special feature on the campus" says John Higgins, Grounds Superintendent. "We feel that it's important to give members of the University an opportunity to learn more about our trees and help to contribute to their well-being."

The Friends will be encouraged to take an active role, such as coppicing, survey work and raising awareness - full training will be provided. Come along and find out more at the first introductory meeting, which will include a guided walk of the woodland glade. All staff and students are welcome! Further information from Penelope Chapple, Environmental Adviser (x8904/P.J.Chapple@sussex.ac.uk)

First meeting: 12.30pm, Thursday 23 October in Arts D630.

1 + 1 > 2

It pays to be well connected

Remaining attached to one's offspring has much to recommend it, particularly for plants which produce offspring by cloning. Research on ground ivy (Glechoma hederacea) in BIOLS has shown the value of such strawberry growing, leading to increased output by making better use of resources.

The problem is one which economists will recognise. Few resources, in the real world, are uniformly distributed and this leads to situations in which there may be plenty of one sort of resource, but a deficit of others necessary for its exploitation. Plants prosper when they are able to combine resources, such as nutrients, light and water. As in the human situation, good connections allow division of labour, co-operation and trade. Strawberries and ground ivy, like many other plants, spread by runners, producing extended clones with connections between potentially individual plantlets or 'ramets'. Working with ground ivy, Mike Hutchings and Dushyantha Wijesinghe have found that these connections allow the ramets to swap materials and therefore to specialise by exploiting local patches of abundance while bringing together the necessary mix of resources from a much wider area.

Extended clones of trees, such as aspen, are known to cover more than a hundred acres.

Modern practice aims to provide a uniformly homogeneous environment for each plant. This research, however, shows not only that interconnected clones can cope better with patchily distributed resources but also that they may be able to make even better use of resources when they are so distributed. Total output can be improved, for example, if some ramets are in shady but damp conditions, while others are in positions where, without connections, they would be in danger of drought but where they are now able to make full use of the available sunlight. It seems perverse therefore that the normal practice with strawberries is to isolate ramets by cutting connections.

In brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from Mylene Powell in the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext 3812 or email: M.Powell@sussex.ac.uk.

TEACHING AS A RESEARCH-BASED PROFESSION: The Teacher Training Agency wishes to award a contract to manage and advise on the TTA's programme of activities designed to promote and fund research which secures improvement in classroom practice. Deadline: 6 November 1997.


WINGATE SCHOLARSHIPS 1998: awarded to individuals of great potential or proven excellence who need financial support to undertake pioneering or original work of intellectual, scientific, artistic, social or environmental value or to outstandingly talented musicians in advanced training. Deadline: 1 February 1998.

For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND linked to the Research web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or USIS Home Page, select 'Teaching & Research', 'Research Funding at Sussex'.

NATO SCIENCE FOR PEACE PROGRAMME: To assist Partner countries in their transition towards a market-oriented and environmentally sound economy. The objectives are: to support applied science and technology projects that relate to industrial, environmental or security related problems; to help Partner scientists to increase contacts in the NATO science community, while building a stronger science infrastructure in their home countries. Deadlines: 15 January 1998; 15 May 1998.

HARRY RANSOM HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTRE 1998-99 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: To scholars pursuing post-doctoral or equivalent research based on the Centre's collections. For 1998-99, the Fellowship Committee will be designating a small number of fellowships to scholars whose research concerns writing about the lives of women. Deadline: 1 February 1998.

DTI PRESIDENT'S PARTNERSHIP PRIZES: Call for entries. The President of the Board of Trade is offering prizes to a total value of £100,000, to promote lasting research partnerships between UK universities and industry. Deadline: 6 January 1998.
**Monday 20 October**

2.00 pm Falmer Language Group: Keiko Ozaki, title to be announced. Room A155

3.00 pm Mathematical Analysis Seminar: D Elton, Hyperbolic PDEs with singular coefficients. Room Pevensey 2A2

4.00 pm CULCOM Lecture: Brian Catling, University of Oxford, Talking in the dark: Mammals minds. CCS Common Room

4.30 pm Neuroscience Seminar: Jim Bowman, University College London, Evolution of colour vision in vertebrates. Biology Lecture Room

5.00 pm Sociology/Social Psychology Seminar: Graham Davey, Self concept and pathological beliefs in the causation of pathological worrying. Room D310

**Tuesday 21 October**

10.15 am COGS Open Lecture: Margaret Boden, Are minds machines too? Room C133


4.00 pm COGS Seminar: Margaret Boden, Is metaphorology necessary? Room COGS SC11

4.15 pm Biotechnology Seminar: Gillian Elliott, Marie Curie Institute, Oxsted, Intercellular transport of a herpes virus structural protein - implications for gene therapy. Biology Lecture Theatre

5.00 pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Italo Pardo, Kent University, Elites' projects, ordinary peoples' moralities: mismatched conceptions of legitimacy in Italy. Room D722

5.00 pm International Relations & Politics Seminar: Nigel Howard, Drama theory and the analysis of conflict. Room D640

5.15 pm German Research Colloquium: Johanna Lornskey, Theater der Josefstadt, Vienna, A reading of Thomas Bernhard. Room A155

6.15 pm Professorial Lecture: Jonathan Dollimore, Death, desire and loss in Western culture. Chichester Lecture Theatre (formerly MSLT)

**Wednesday 22 October**

1.30 pm Sussex Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics Seminar: Anne Tropper, Southampton University, Dielectric laser waveguides. Room Pevensey 2A2

2.00 pm USB Faculty Seminar: Janice Orrell, Finders University, Australia, Assessment in higher education: a comparison of academics thinking in assessment and theories about assessment. Room EDB 125

5.00 pm English Graduate Colloquium: Ulf Dantanus, Gothenburg University at Sussex, Antaeus in Dublin: the soil and soul of Irish literature. Room D640

**Thursday 23 October**

4.00 pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Colin Hendrie, Leeds University,