Law Professor Plays Pivotal Role in Sexual Offences Review

It's a long time since the 'sexual revolution' of the 1960s, but attitudes to sexual crimes - both within society and within the law - are undergoing a revolution of their own. In response to these changes, the Home Office has set up a review of the criminal law on sex offences, in which Professor Jennifer Temkin of CLS will be playing a pivotal role. As well as advising on one of the groups which have been set up by the Home Office to carry forward the review, Jennifer is helping to prepare the groundwork which will form the basis for their deliberations.

According to Jennifer the review will be, "A very comprehensive look at areas of the law which relate to sex offences. It is hoped to arrive at a set of sexual offences which spell out clearly the conduct which is being prohibited, which are fair to both men and women and which are in keeping with the European Convention on Human Rights."

Areas of the law which will be subject to scrutiny include rape and sexual assault, homosexual offences, sexual abuse of children and offences of sexual exploitation. "It's recognised that the our present law on sexual offences is rather out of date," Jennifer points out, "It has evolved in a piecemeal fashion over the centuries. Some of the law isn't specific enough. Some of it appears to be discriminatory, particularly where homosexual offences are concerned."

Jennifer is keen to stress that the review is taking place amidst a more wide-ranging governmental review of the way in which sexual offences are dealt with in the courtroom. There is particular concern to protect the interests of vulnerable witnesses such as children and the mentally impaired as well as victims of rape. "Society has become less tolerant of sexual violence. The legal system has to come to terms with the fact that there are all sorts of vulnerable people who have been neglected by the law and who need to be protected. The law needs to promote sexual autonomy and provide proper protection from abuse and exploitation," says Jennifer.

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The unlikely saviour of the Downs

It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it.

The task of restoring a patch of campus to its former downland glory has been handed over to an unlikely set of candidates - a flock of thirty South Down sheep. The sheep can be seen hard at work grazing on East Slope meadows, where they have been for the last few weeks.

Sheep have been a feature of the Sussex landscape for over three thousand years, helping to create the unique chalk turf which makes the Downs so beautiful. In conjunction with the infertile soil, which ensures that no single species of plant can become so rigorous that it suppresses its neighbours, the sheep have nibbled away at the grass to create the largest density of different kinds of plant anywhere in Western Europe. In a square metre of turf, there can be anything up to 40 different types of wildflower - from orchids to violets to wild thyme - all thanks to the chewing power of downland sheep.

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University Music Societies Hit High Note

The recent claim that some of Elgar’s Enigma Variations were based on the melody of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star rocked the world of classical music...and in the spirit of such a revelation, the University’s own musical enigma is set to step out of the shadows and into the limelight.

Thought of as “the University’s best kept secret” by conductor and music lecturer Robert Adlington, the Sussex Chorus and Philharmonia are undergoing somewhat of a renaissance. Although both groups attract large numbers - the chorus alone has over 100 members, and the two bodies are among the largest of the Students’ Union societies - their existence is not as well known as Robert would like.

However, the Chamber Orchestra - which is made up of members of the Philharmonia - recently made a high profile and very successful appearance at the Chancellor’s Installation Ceremony, going a long way towards lifting the musical societies out of obscurity. As a follow-up, the orchestra will be tackling Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 1 in a performance due to take place on 11 March. The work is rarely played by amateur orchestras, and according to Robert, it is “The most challenging piece we’ve ever played.” The chorus will similarly be rising to the challenge with their rendition of the tempestuous Carmina Burana, due to reach our ears in May.

Robert hits a crescendo of enthusiasm when he talks about the Philharmonia and the Chorus. “Since about 50% of the people who take part are from outside the University, it’s a great opportunity for students and locals to interact. It’s also a place where overseas students really play a part. In fact, students sometimes check from overseas to see if Sussex has an orchestra or a chorus - it can make a big difference to their decision about whether to come here or not. Because most people don’t even have to audition - only the wind section does - everyone is really enthusiastic,” he says.

“The orchestra this year is particularly talented, and we are getting great results. But what I really like is the sense that you don’t have to have a lot of experience to take part. We strike a balance between producing work of a very high calibre and ensuring that everyone who takes part enjoys themselves,” says Robert. “I’m struck by the fact that for a University our size, with a small music subject group, we produce something so special. It would just be even nicer if a few more people knew about it.”

Those who wish to join either the Philharmonia or the Chorus can contact Robert on ext 8137. The Philharmonia concert will take place at 8.00pm Thursday 11th March at the Clarendon Centre, New England Street (near Preston Circus), price £5/£3.50 conc/£2.50 Music Federation Members.

British Red Cross sponsors MA student

For the past two years, the British Red Cross has generously sponsored an overseas MA student in the Graduate Research Centre for Culture, Development and the Environment (CDE). This year’s British Red Cross scholar is Grace Mukasa who comes from Uganda where she has worked as Programme Officer for Redd Barna (Save the Children, Norway) for four years. She has had extensive training and practical experience in aspects of rural and social development over a period of 13 years. Grace’s present work in Uganda involves training, planning, advocacy and lobbying and she is particularly interested in issues relating to gender and children’s participation in the development process.

Grace has come to Sussex to study for the joint CDE-IDS Master’s programme in ‘Gender and Development’ and she welcomes the opportunity to ‘stand back’ and reflect on her practical work whilst gaining important new knowledge and skills. After the initial hectic time of settling into a new academic environment, Grace is now finding both her studies and the people with whom she is working very stimulating.

Law Professor Plays Pivotal Role in Sexual Offences Review

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The review will entail maximum consultation. There will be an external reference group consisting mostly of representatives from organisations such as the children’s charities, gay and lesbian groups, women’s organisations and medical, legal and religious representatives. Jennifer will act as an advisor within this group which will work in tandem with a steering committee of officials and lawyers.

A series of seminars and conferences will be held to seek an even wider range of views, and members of the public are also invited to comment on how they think criminal law should apply in the area of sexual offences. The Home Office is keen to receive views as soon as possible.

If you wish to comment on how you think the criminal law should apply in this area, contact Su McLean-Tooke at Room 253, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne’s Gate, London SW1H 9AT (email: sex_offences_review@ho.gtnet.gov.uk) by 19 March. A leaflet about the review is available from the Information Office, Sussex House.
Wake Up and Synchronise for Spring

Now is the time to banish winter blues, to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed in preparation for the joys of spring. Some of us find this more difficult than others but most experience at least a small surge of well-being as the longer and lighter days signal to our flagging hormonal systems.

Much of this, says Mike Jones of BIOLS, depends on our ‘biological clocks’. The short and often dark days of winter, and the mis-named ‘spring term’, allow very little contact with outside daylight, which plays a major part in keeping our ‘clocks’ in time with external conditions. If we don’t get strong enough signals from the outside world, our internal ‘clocks’ drift with their own inherent timing. Human ‘clocks’ tend to run slow and, without suitable time cues to reset them, get about an hour later each day.

Bright light, daylight or the equivalent, keeps our body clocks synchronised and also enables us to measure changes in day length. Light is the main time-signal but general arousal, music, interpersonal relations and exercise can all play a part. All are particularly effective in the first part of the morning, because our ‘clocks’ need to be advanced each day.

Students who lead irregular lives may lose their synchronisation with the external world and their various body clocks may also get out of synchronisation with each other, making their owner feel alienated and unwell. Humans, like cows, thrive best on a steady time-regime and regular ‘wake-ups’ may be the key to academic and social success. Ideally, the University should begin each day, for its massed ranks of faculty and students, with early-morning outdoor aerobic exercise and suitably energising music.

Research Funding Opportunities
This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants and Contracts Office, contact Debbie, ext 3812 or email: D.foley-everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND on the Research Web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or UISIS Home Page, under Research.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has issued a second call for its Work and Family Life scheme. This call focuses on the community and employers and work. Proposals are invited to explore the following: what is known about the nature and patterns of family friendly employment policy; and how will firms respond to the changing work/family framework. Deadline: 19 March 1999.

The Scottish Hospital Endowments Research Trust invites applications for foreign travel grants to support high quality medical research. There are no specific research priorities. Deadline: 31 March 1999.

Proposals are being sought under the Innovative Manufacturing Initiatives Construction as a manufacturing Process Programme for research projects carried out in collaboration with industry. Supported by the EPSRC, ESRC, BBSRC and government departments, research is welcomed in aerospace, construction, road transport and process industries. Deadline: 17 May 1999.

The Royal Society is now accepting applications for grants for selected joint projects in the natural and applied sciences involving a UK group and one other from a central/eastern European or former Soviet Union country. It’s intended that grants will cover international travel and subsistence and small pieces of equipment. Deadline: 15 June 1999.

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science invites applications for various awards for the period 2000/2001, including postdoctoral and invitation fellowships; and scientist exchanges. For more info and deadlines see RGBG.

The MRC and NERC are inviting joint bids from environmental and medical scientists on the relationship between human health and environmental variables. There are no priority areas but topics might include the impacts on human health of: poor air quality, poor water quality and climate change. No Deadline.

The Royal Academy of Engineering is inviting applications for funds to support collaborative research programmes in all aspects of Engineering. Universities can benefit from up to one third funding towards a salary of a personal research chair or funds for equipment and travel to support a senior research fellowship. No Deadline.

The unlikely saviour of the Downs

Continued from front page.

The East Slope sheep are a local breed - the South Down - which was first introduced in the late 18th century by John Eilman, a farmer from Glynde. At the beginning of the last century 30,000 South Down sheep were sent for sale at Lewes Fair, but their numbers have since dwindled to less than 1,500, which means they are classed as a rare breed. The East Slope South Downs are owned by local farmer, Ian Brough.

Introduced by the University’s Environmental Advisory Group, the sheep are only one of a number of measures to improve and conserve the campus environment. As the group’s chair, David Streeter, points out, “The campus is after all part of a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the University is committed to enhancing the high quality of the downland landscape of which it is part. What better way than to graze it in the traditional manner with its own famous breed.” The Advisory Group is also responsible for the hay meadow near the main campus exit, and for an agreement with the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew to introduce certain types of orchids onto campus, as part of a national programme to conserve native species.

Their next scheme is to set up allotments at the north end of campus for students to cultivate. It might be wise to keep the sheep away from their vegetable patches.....
Noticeboard

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 8 March

4.00pm Mathematical Analysis Seminar: B Kaufman (Alabama) TBA. Room 2A2, PEV1.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Guy Tear (King’s College). Finding your way in the CNS: axogenesis in *Drosophila*. Biology Lecture Room.

5.30pm Sussex European Institute EMU Lecture: Willem Buiters (Cambridge, Member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England). Alice in Euroland. C133.

Tuesday 9 March

2.15pm Sussex European Institute Seminar: Sei Plenum. An open forum for all SEI students and staff. A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry & Genetics and Development Seminar: David Beer (Novartis Research Labs, Horsham). Asthma: a brief overview. BLT.

4.30pm Social & Political Thought Seminar: Liz Fraser (Oxford), TBA. D630.

5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Jonathan Long (Durham). Fiction and historicity. A155.


Wednesday 10 March
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Pauline Rose, Gender in education policy: lessons from Africa. Room 221.


Thursday 11 March

1.45pm CLS Research Seminar: Conor Gearty (King’s College). Article 6 ECHR and its impact on domestic law: ethical engineering or irresponsible chaos? D310.

5.00pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling Seminar: David Siegmund (Stanford, USA). Tall probabilities via a change of measure. PEV2A2.

5.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Takeshi Nagashima, Making Brighton healthy: the work of Arthur Newsholme as the town’s medical officer 1888-1908.

Friday 12 March
1.30pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Klaus Miczek (Tufts University), TBA. BLR.

2.00pm SPRU Seminar: John Turner (Transport Research Lab). The future of transport telematics. EDB Lecture Room.

4.00pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: Chemical Physics student project talks. CHI-3R241 (M53).

Laundrette News
Spring is nearly here so why not give your duvets a spring clean! We have purchased a new washing machine for the Refectory laundrette which is large enough to wash single or double duvets or 25 shirts (if you have 25!) The price per wash is still only £1.60 and a service wash for duvets is £4.00.

Small Ads

FOR SALE: Nissan Micra GSX, (89), 73000 miles, metallic green, SH, S/R, St, MOT till Dec 99, very economic car, £1000 ono, 887605 (Aydin).

SHORT TERM LET: 1 bedroom balcony flat in Brighton seafront square. Stylishly furnished. Weekly rent £190 inc bills (ex tel), Contact Norma Binnie, tel/fax 542736, email: norma@britarts.diron.com.

FOR SALE: Clarinet Buffet 12. Recommended by schools. VGC, £180 ono. Communion dress, worn once (as new), £35 ono. Tel. 748346 (eves) or ext 8006.


FOR QUICK SALE: spacious semi-detached house in good condition. Wallands area, Lewes. 3 b/rooms, 2 reception. uPVC DG, GCH, Garage, gardens. £129, 950. Contact 483516.

TO LET: Short-term self-catering accommodation available in Lewes from March 10. Any number of days/weeks considered. Contact 476813 or email mboice@sussexuniv.u-net.com.

FOR SALE: Citroen Visa Diesel 17RD, 1986, 5 door, MOT October, taxed April, cheap car to run. £450 ono. Phone Robert or Carol Hughes on 01444 230645.

TO LET: 1 bedroomed flat with sitting room/full kitchen and bathroom. New attic conversion. Preston Park area. Suit N/S Postgraduate or visiting scholar. Rental: £95 pw inc bills. Use of garden. Contact Antonia on 563173.

TO LET: 2 bedsit available just outside Lewes, 10 mins. from University. £42 and £52 per week. Available from from 12 March. Tel: 483395 or 858099 (evenings).

Miscellaneous

Sussex University Philharmonia Nicholas McKay and Robert Adlington (conductors) - Thursday 11 March at 8.00pm in the Clarendon Centre, New England Street (near Preston Circus). Price £5/£3.50 conc/£2.50 Music Fed. members.

Help Needed: Techy help for ageing chap - I would like to know more about my computer and how all the technology works. It has 64 RAM, 6.4 HDD, DVD-CD-ROM, 56K Modem, 8MB Graphics, Sound Card and speakers, Microphone and loads of software. You could make a man very happy and maybe save what's left of my hair. Tea, coffee or beer supplied, plus any expenses incurred - 1 live in Peacehaven. Please contact arthur@willmer100.freeserve.co.uk.

The Art of Screenwriting: Course taught by Hollywood screenwriter. For more details contact Chris Miles on 731058.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday during term time with copy deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University. Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.