**Law team score moot point**

A team of Sussex law students will face some of the toughest judges in the world when they represent England in a major international law competition this spring.

Third-year undergraduates Louise Bullen and Louisa Ceciara (on the left of the picture), Stefan Albers Brough and Ian Lloyd (on the right), who won a national pre-selection round this month, will be travelling to the Peace Palace in The Hague for the 2001 Telders International Law Moot Court Competition in April.

"The fact that Sussex will be representing England - having defeated Leeds, Essex and QMW - in the first year that the University has entered the competition is a great credit to the students involved," says their lecturer, Paul Eden (in the centre of the picture).

They will be competing against students from more than 20 European nations at the two-day event, which will test their skills in presenting and arguing a case. Judges from the International Court of Justice, the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and professors of international law from all over the world will be assessing their performance.

"It’s incredibly prestigious for Sussex to represent England at The Hague," says Paul. "And it'll be exciting for the students. They have done a course on international litigation and have had to learn about the International Court of Justice. Now they will be arguing before the ICJ in the actual building."

A ‘moot’ is a fictitious legal problem devised by leading international law experts. The annual Telders competition was started in 1977 in memory of Professor Ben Telders, a professor of international law at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. He fought for the maintenance of the rule of law and eventually paid for this with his life in a concentration camp in 1945.

The case put before the team this year involves aerial hijacking and combines international legal issues in the fields of air law, the law of treaties, abduction and the law relating to criminal jurisdiction.

"Whatever the outcome, the experience of speaking in front of others is invaluable for all of us," says team member Stefan. "It’s what we’ll have to do later in our legal careers."

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**Legal eagles strike a hard bargain**

![Picture](image)

Pictured L-R: Matthew Kandela, Mark Leicester, Heidi Copland (from sponsors Donne, Mileham & Haddock), Emily Haslam, Helen Smith and Catherine Berry.

Law students from Sussex have won the regional round of a negotiating competition for the third consecutive year. Catherine Berry and Mark Leicester scored the hat-trick at the Invitational Court School of Law in London on 10 February, when a panel of legal academics and solicitors placed them ahead of 17 other pairs. Emily Haslam, who has trained all three winning teams, modestly puts the Sussex successes down to "very enthusiastic and committed students". More significantly, perhaps, the budding lawyers receive intensive individual tuition and feedback over a six-week period, when they practise negotiating a mock case - settling a commercial dispute or drawing up a contract, for example. Catherine and Mark will now go on to compete in the national round of the competition over two days in March. They’ll be working under pressure," says Emily, "and it will be a test of stamina and perseverance as much as anything else." She hopes that the prospect of a summertime trip to California for the international round might spur the pair to victory. Kate Means and Paula Collingswood also hope to represent England, at the Louise M. Brown International Client Counselling Competition in New Zealand in April. To do so they will have to win the national finals this weekend (24 and 25 February) in London. Kate and Paula won their regional heat, held at De Montfort University on 27 January, following the Sussex final on 19 January, when they beat Jo Monkhouse and Georgie Wiseman.
Bookmark

New books by Sussex authors

Catherine Eschle (Course Tutor, SOC)
Global Democracy, Social Movements and Feminism
Westview Press, £21.99 (paper)

The publisher says: "This book examines the relationship between social movements and democracy in social and political thought in the context of debates about the impact of globalization and in the light of feminist efforts to democratize the polity and the feminist movement itself."

Chris Freeman (Emeritus Professor, SPURU) and Francisco Loeza
As Time Goes By: From the Industrial Revolutions to the Information Revolution
Oxford University Press, £35.00 (hardback)

Vivienne Griffiths (Lecturer in Education, USIE) et al
Primary English: Knowledge and understanding Learning Matters, £14.99

This book has been kitemarked by the Teacher Training Agency as a recommended text for trainee teachers to help them develop their subject knowledge. It focuses on key language and literacy knowledge needed for the effective teaching of English in primary schools.

Nigel Llewellyn (Pro-Vice Chancellor)
Funeral Monuments in Post-Reformation England
Cambridge University Press, £75.00 (hardback)

The publisher says: "This book takes as its subject the most important kind of surviving post-Reformation church art and English Renaissance sculpture, the carved stone funeral monument. These complex constructions, comprising sculpted figures and architectural framing, were set up in huge numbers during the years around 1600 and still survive in their thousands in parish churches across England. This is the first comprehensive account of the subject for over fifty years. The volume is lavishly illustrated with rare photographs and offers a valuable and informative record of one of England's greatest treasures."

Ben R. Martin (Director, SPURU) and Paul Nightingale (Fellow, SPURU)
The Political Economy of Science, Technology and Innovation
Edward Elgar, £165.00 (hardback)

A collection of papers by leading scholars on the role of scientific and technological innovation in modern industry. Topics covered include the historical roots of the subject, the function of science in technological innovation and economic growth, and the climate for innovation in industry.

All titles are available from the University Bookshop. If you are a Sussex author and have a book coming out in March, let us know on ext. 0888 or by email at Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

Research funding opportunities

More details of these and other research opportunities are available from Debbie in the Research Services Division (RSD), on ext. 3812 or email D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, see REFUND on the RSD website, www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research.

Leaverhulme Special Research Fellowships
This scheme will fund a two-year research post for those who have not yet held a full-time established academic post in a UK university. Applicants must have a doctorate and should normally be under 35 years. Applications will be considered in all subject areas.
Deadline: 8 March

Royal Society & British Academy Research Grants
Applications are invited for a post-doctoral research fellowship in the history of science or technology. The award is tenable for three years in the first instance from autumn 2001. Applicants must have obtained their doctorate after 1 October 1999.
Deadline: 16 March

Royal Society Research Grants
Grants of up to £10,000 are available for research projects in the natural sciences and are given to meet the costs of specialised equipment, essential consumable materials, and travel and subsistence. Provision is intended to support those new to research and those moving into a new field of research.
Deadline: 1 April

PPARC Public Understanding of Science
Awards can range from £250 to £10,000 per project and expenditure can go towards materials, salaries and travel and subsistence. Projects must be relevant to publicising or teaching PPARC-funded areas: particle physics, space, ionospheric, solar and planetary science; astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology.
Deadline: 10 April

Social Sciences European Collaborative Research Projects
The European Science Foundation is inviting proposals on any topic within the social sciences that demonstrates an international framework for research collaboration. Project applications must involve collaboration amongst research teams in a minimum of three European countries.
Deadline: 1 June

SQUID and chips

A group of Sussex researchers have won new funding to investigate a theory that could lead to the most important discovery since the microchip.
Professor Terry Clark and his team in the Physical Electronics and Instrumentation Group are looking at how a super quantum interference device (SQUID), about the size of a wedding ring, could form the component parts of circuits working millions of times faster and more powerfully than any computing machine available today.

This new technology is vital because current manufacturing techniques are reaching the limits of what can be achieved using classical physics. In ten years' time the components of existing circuits will have become so small that the electrical currents controlling them can no longer be subdivided. That will spell the end of microchip circuits, which will not be able to offer any further improvements in speed or efficiency.

Terry says: "If it works, the speed of quantum computers will outclass everything available; the jump will be like that from the abacus to the electronic computer."

The award of £66,800 from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) — one of 34 announced on 12 February — is to cover two years' salary for Dr Mark Everitt, the post-doctoral researcher on the project. The first NESTA grant of £63,689, in October 1999, enabled the team to buy the computing resources (hardware and software) required.

The group, which includes Dr Robert Prance and Dr Helen Prance, now aims to exploit the theoretical breakthroughs made during the initial grant period, in which quantum models of SQUID rings interacting with oscillator circuits were developed.

Using new models, the team are confident that their initial success will lead to fundamental advances in the understanding of macroscopic quantum phenomena and to the creation of whole new classes of devices and circuits for use in quantum technologies.

Although it could be another decade until the SQUID comes to the mass market, it "could be one of the most important discoveries of the 21st century", claims Terry.
At the January graduation ceremonies, I spoke about university pay: "It is a scandal — a real scandal — that the salaries of those who work in higher education have been allowed to fall further and further behind other professionals. It is a scandal because of the unfairness to the underpaid individuals. In the longer run it is a scandal because the success of a knowledge-based modern economy depends on a healthy higher education system. If we don't pay decent salaries to academics, talented young people will not be attracted into academic careers and the quality of UK higher education, still very high by international standards, will inevitably decline, and with it the international standing of our country. As a society, we have to ensure that enough of our talented young choose a career, in teaching or research, within the education system. We won't do that if we don't pay a fair wage to the people who work with dedication and enthusiasm in our educational institutions."

Since the publication of the Bett report on university pay, progress has been slow, fundamentally because the government has been unwilling to make funding available to deal with the pay gaps between higher education and other sectors identified by Bett. Without additional government funding, universities simply cannot afford to tackle the problem, however much we would like to.

Following the recent Comprehensive Spending Review, the Higher Education Funding Council has at last made proposals on 'Rewarding and developing staff in higher education'. Additional financial allocations have been made. The Sussex allocation rises from £670,000 in 2001-2 to £1,425,000 in 2003-4. Since our current pay bill is approximately £47 million, even the later allocation is only 3 per cent of total pay.

We are not free to allocate this new money to across-the-board pay rises. On the contrary, the money is tied to the development of a 'human resource strategy' that addresses six priority areas: recruitment and retention, staff development and training, equal opportunities, reviewing staffing needs, annual performance reviews, and action to tackle poor performance.

Some of these priorities are unambiguously welcome: we are already working hard to improve our staff-development programmes; and we need to make progress on equal opportunities both for women and for ethnic minorities. We have to worry, though, whether there is sufficient funding to tackle these issues — it's easy to imagine that we could spend 3 per cent of the pay bill just on tackling equal-opportunities issues, leaving nothing over for retention and recruitment of key staff.

The direction of policy is clear: away from national pay settlements that apply to everyone, and towards individual pay linked to performance. This change will not be welcomed by all, and we will need to think carefully about review mechanisms that are both fair and unbureaucratic. In general, however, I welcome a move towards more local control of pay and conditions. There are current discussions in the University about a local initiative to improve the position of our lowest-paid workers.

But in the end, the laws of arithmetic prevail. More expenditure on pay is possible only if the University generates more income.

Equalising opportunities

Dr Nigel Llewellyn's paper to Senate and Council in December on 'Equality of Opportunity' provided statistical information about the make-up of the staff and student body and announced he would be discussing potential initiatives to improve the representation and participation of currently under-represented groups.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor is now convening a working party on equal opportunities and would like to hear from "anybody who feels positive about the whole thing, people who are prepared to be practical and have got ideas".

One area covered by the figures is the relative numbers of male and female employees. They show that the percentage of females in senior staff positions remains low and, on the other hand, that men are under-represented in clerical posts.

In providing data for the report, several Schools and units highlighted difficulties that both staff and students had faced in obtaining child care provision at convenient hours and an affordable level. In response to this, some units had made provision for rearranged teaching timetables, part-time working and job shares.

While keeping an open mind on job sharing, Nigel is convinced about the potential benefits of the curriculum review he is leading, which will take effect for new undergraduates in October 2003. The timetable will be publishable in the prospectus, two years in advance, which means that potential students in part-time work or students and staff with caring responsibilities will be able to plan ahead.

Overall across the University, female students are now in a very substantial majority. "They're good students," points out Nigel, who sees this particular issue in the national context: "Women are achieving in educational circumstances at all levels, while men are finding it hard to take themselves seriously as scholars. It's not that they're not ambitious."

Men are more likely than women to drop out of their studies at Sussex. "A group has been set up to look at what we call retention rates and we are noticing these gendered biases of various sorts," says Nigel, who argues there may be cultural differences about the ways in which men and women deal with difficulties to do with money, personal circumstances and academic needs.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor is also concerned about the relatively low proportion of non-white undergraduates at Sussex. "We've got to look again at the kinds of ways in which we're engaging with the schools or the areas from which students are likely to come who will represent more of a mix than we currently have."

Finally, the University will also be agreeing a programme of works over the coming months to improve physical access for students and staff with disabilities, who find it difficult to get around a campus that was designed 40 years ago on aesthetic rather than practical grounds.

Gender, ethnicity and disability are of course all covered by legislation, unlike other issues pertinent to equal opportunities such as age, sexual orientation or religion. This does not mean that the working group will have to be constrained in its remit. "We should be thinking creatively," emphasises Nigel. "Certainly I would like the working group to be quite open to discussions."

He's waiting for your call.
In brief

Voice Care and Development Workshop
Does your voice need some rejuvenation? Is it feeling strained? Then sign up for this workshop on Thursday 8 March, 12.30-2.30 pm, Orange Room, Bramber House. Over a light sandwich lunch you will gain support in looking after your voice through considering good posture, breathing, relaxation, resonance, volume, projection and articulation as well as flexibility and control. To book a place, contact Alison Lyner in the Staff Development Unit on ext. 3866, email a.lyner@sussex.ac.uk.

Strategy for sport
The Sport Service would like to invite staff and students to comment on their 5-year strategy before it is submitted for approval. A copy of the executive summary is on the Sport Service website (www.sussexsport.com). For a copy of the full document, contact Sam Fuller on ext. 8229, email samf@sussex.ac.uk. Closing date for comment is Tuesday 6 March. Submit all comments to Karen Dunster, Head of Sport, on ext. 3947, email K.Dunster@sussex.ac.uk.

Showbiz stars support students
Lord Attenborough will host the next Chancellor’s Society reception and dinner on Friday 2 March from 7pm in Bramber House. The Chancellor’s guest speaker will be writer and director Bryan Forbes, who will be accompanied by his wife, actress Nanette Newman. The dinner is to raise funds for the Jubilee Scholarships, which support youngsters with severe physical and sensory disabilities.

Curry in favour
Curry Night in Bramber House is so popular that it is now available twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5pm – 7.15pm.

Empowering the rural poor

Poverty-reduction programmes must be focused on rural poor people and agriculture to meet the global target of reducing poverty by half by the year 2015, argues a new report prepared by researchers in the Poverty Research Unit at Sussex (PRUS).

The report, commissioned by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), was launched this month in New York by UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and in London by the Secretary of State for Overseas Development, Clare Short MP.

It was written by a team of academics from the PRUS, including Professor Michael Lipton, Saurabh Sinha, Rachel Blackman and Dr Julie Litchfield, the unit’s director.

The report aims to put rural poverty – and agriculture in particular – back on the development agenda. Seventy-five per cent of the world’s 1.2 billion extreme poor live and work in rural areas. In Asia, 70 per cent of rural household income is derived from farming, while in Africa and Latin America the figure is 60 per cent.

The last half-century has seen unprecedented progress in rural poverty reduction globally. However, it has been much slower since 1990, in tandem with a substantial fall in real terms in aid to agriculture because of a shift in emphasis to other sectors and urban areas.

Those most affected by poverty include people who live in remote areas as well as ethnic minorities, indigenous populations and women. The rural poor are often disadvantaged in their access to ‘assets’, including land, education and water; to technology, such as improved seeds, fertilisers and irrigation; to markets, for their products, credit and consumer goods; and, importantly, in decision-making processes.

Improving access to these is crucial. Redistribution of land, especially the ‘new-wave land reform’ of decentralised, community-led reforms underway in Brazil and elsewhere is vital in countries where land is unevenly distributed.

Advances in agricultural technology also need to reach the poor. Some of them, such as the use of biotechnology, are quite controversial. “In theory, this offers enormous benefits, because it can increase yields and improve the stability of crops,” says Julie.

“If a vitamin deficiency can be put right by having that vitamin built into a genetically modified crop, you’ll have really clear impacts on health. But that doesn’t necessarily mean it’s the best way to go about improving the health standards of the rural poor. We recognise that these new technologies need to be managed carefully and in a participatory way.”

Other aspects of technology, such as roads and irrigation, need to be brought to the rural poor, argues the report. As Julie points out, “They’re often isolated and living in remote areas, so they don’t have access to information about these technologies. They need to learn what is possible for them to do.”

The rural poor are usually disadvantaged in terms of their access to water, for example. Pressure to shift water from farmers to urban and domestic users is intense. “What we need is a re-examination of where water should best be put to use, improving irrigation and improving the technology of water delivery so there’s less wastage by leakage or evaporation.”

Improved road and telecommunication links can help the rural poor to gain access to opportunities for production and exchange at markets. “For those living in remote areas – mountainous areas, or areas that aren’t well served by adequate roads – the costs they face in accessing these markets can be really high,” says Julie.

Ending rural poverty requires empowerment of the poor as well as economic growth, the report argues. It recommends redistribution of land and access to basic services such as education and health – and emphasises that poverty eradication can be achieved only in partnership with the poor. As Julie says, “It’s also about redistributing power so that the voice of poor people can be heard in decision-making processes.”

During a conference at Sussex on 16 February, the PRUS researchers discussed with representatives of major donors to the developing world, academics and researchers from the UK, other developed and developing countries how the report’s recommendations can help them to refocus aid on rural areas and to identify research priorities and a future research agenda.
Mega BYTE

"What is it to be young in Belarus and Britain in the 21st century?" That's the question that the Belarus Youth Theatre Exchange (BYTE) has been seeking to answer.

Formed in September 1999 by Sussex students Cathy Baldwin and Jon Cohen, BYTE has already organised a successful trip to Belarus (in July 2000) and is now gearing up for the exchange visit this summer.

In the past year, the group has raised thousands of pounds to fund the project and these efforts continue with a fundraising concert - billed as 'A Musical Feast' - featuring the Sussex Police Choir, at 7.45pm on 6 March in the Meeting House.

"Managing a large-scale international project and working with different personalities has been a steep learning curve," says Cathy, who hopes to work for the UN after finishing her anthropology MA at Sussex. "But we have achieved far more than could be expected."

During their visit, the BYTE group collaborated with the Belarusian group New Faces on interpretations of Shakespeare plays that highlight contemporary youth issues. The performance of Hamlet, for example, explored issues of love, respect, and money and featured the Hamlet rap (pictured), performed in both Russian and English. Shakespeare's plays are well known in Belarus and so were used as a useful shared point of reference.

David Pepey, now Publications Assistant for the University, was part of the BYTE group that visited Belarus. As well as playing Laertes in Hamlet, he also conducted a research questionnaire to identify the issues to be explored. "Young people in Belarus don't have the freedom or the money to travel very easily," says David. "And these were just some of the issues that came out of the questionnaire."

The BYTE project seeks to allow participants to explore these and other youth issues and also to respond to the changing situation in Europe. Just over a decade has passed since the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, and while other countries in the region are knocking on the door of the European Union, Belarusian youth still live in a country facing severe economic and environmental problems. Belarus itself has not been officially recognised internationally since President Lukashenko failed to leave office at the end of his five-year term in July 1999.

For the return visit of the Belarusians to Brighton in late August, BYTE is currently looking for performance and rehearsal space, as well as minibus transport. If you can help, contact the group via email on bel_news@yahoo.co.uk. For more information about BYTE, visit their website at www.sus.sh.net/byte. For concert tickets at £3.50 (concessions £3), phone Cathy Baldwin on 685831.

In brief

Campus voicemail
If you've been wondering why you haven't heard that single ring lately to notify you of a message in your voicemail box, here's the answer: a new voicemail system has been installed on campus phones. After a caller leaves a message, you will hear a special dial tone when you lift the receiver. If you have a query about the new system, call the main switchboard on 01.

Save a life - give blood
The National Blood Service has found a new way to remind students to give blood. A trial at five universities, including Brighton, found that sending reminders to willing donors via text messages to their mobile phones increased donor levels by 32 per cent. The scheme is now being expanded at other universities in the south-east and messages will be sent in the days leading up to a blood-collection session on the Sussex campus on Friday 9 March. Students and staff are asked to come to the 3rd floor of Bramber House between 11am and 1.45pm or 3.30pm and 5.30pm. To find out if you can donate, check the website at www.blooddonor.org.uk.

Career advice
Looking for part-time, temporary or vacation work, or a graduate job? Talk directly with a range of employers at the Student Employment Office Jobsday on Wednesday (28 February) in Mandela Hall, Falmer House, from 10am to 3.30pm. Advisory bodies such as the Career Development Unit and the USSU Student Advice Centre will also be there.

Andrea joins SEO
The new Student Employment Officer, Andrea Wall, joins the University from the Brighton branch of Reed Employment, which she has managed for the last four years. Andrea is a graduate of the University of Brighton, where she studied Humanities.

One World Week

Organised by the Students' Union Social Action Federation - a collective of student-run societies that actively promote social change - One World Week (12-18 February) provided a host of activities designed to raise awareness of social, environmental and cultural issues and to celebrate cultural diversity.

People & Planet presented a themed football match, with the First World taking on the Third World in a symbolically uneven contest (despite banner assurances that 'This is a level playing field'). Starting the match 12-nil in the lead, the First World team, featuring NATO in goal, dominated proceedings and even resorted to attacking the Third World team with nuclear weapons and waste.

Following on from the didgeridoo and tabla drum workshops on Monday, Brighton-based band Carnival Collective ran a free samba drumming workshop on Thursday in Mandela Hall (pictured). With novices on a variety of different drums, the workshop quickly built up its participants' confidence before taking its mighty rhythms outside for an impromptu carnival in the sunshine.

On Saturday, People & Planet were back with an all-day teach-in on world trade, and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in particular. "The idea of the day is for people to gain knowledge about the WTO and its activities, so they feel confident to talk to others about it and campaign on issues around unfair world trade," said organiser Lisa Clayden, from SOC.

Many other societies were involved in One World Week, with lectures, discussions and films. Poda Poda tackled the issue of asylum and immigration; Tibet Link highlighted the case of the Chinese occupation of Tibet; and the effects of cannabis prohibition were also explored. Thursday night saw a fundraising club night at the Zap, with proceeds going to the Sussex Migrant Helpline and Sussex Wildlife Trust.
Widening access to arts

Sara McKernan
Widening Participation Officer
Some parts of Brighton and surrounding areas – predominantly within certain spatio-economic sections of the community – have surprisingly low participation rates in higher education.

This problem is being addressed by a new initiative – the HEFCE-funded Sussex Coastal Highway project – which intends to raise the awareness and aspirations of local young people who have no family history of higher education.

The selected target groups have already enjoyed a visit to the Sussex campus and have experienced general aspects of undergraduate life.

Small ads

TO LET: Room in Queen’s Park Road for non-smoker (206/208). £400 pcm (exc. gas, phone, electric). Available from 1 March, viewing from 26 Feb. Contact Brian on 020808, ex. 261 (W) or 728229, email brianb@epic.co.uk.

TO LET: Single, newly decorated room in non-smoking Bn house on 25 bus route. Cleaner once a week. £250pcm inc. except tel. Contact Alison on 670509 or email a.m. chisholm@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Sofa bed, foam 2-seater with 6 cushions. Ideal spare bed. Good condition, £50 ono. Buyer collects. Tel. 419974.

FOR RENT: Luxury holiday villa in Florida. Three bedrooms, with private heated pool, near Disney and other attractions. Sleeps 6 to 8. From £275 pw. See www.villausa.com or call Brian on 678963.

WANTED: Small flat or house for visiting fellow from Konstanz, mid April to mid July. Contact Annmarie Ashley Frank on 368968 or email ashley.d.frank@tinyworld.co.uk.

FOR SALE: Titanium tennis racket, 12 mths old, hardly used so in excellent condition. Cost £200; will sell for £75 ono. Tel. Guillaume on 483424.

TO LET: Holiday villa in Mojacar, Almeria, southern Spain. 2 beds (sleeps six), own kitchen, b/room, diner/lounge and balcony with shared pool. 10 min. walk to beach. Various dates available April–Nov. £100–£300 pw. Details and pictures from Roger on 846380 or email rogeratcutmore @live.co.uk.

WANTED: Sainsbury’s reward points to sponsor the University Creche. For every £10 you spend, the Creche gets 1 point in its account to spend on toys. You do not lose your points. Contact ext. 8356 for a form.

WANTED: Accommodation for senior lecturer (non-smoker) on research leave from New Zealand, 3-6 mths April-Oct. Prefers self-catering, easy public transport to campus and own bathroom, for £400 pcm. Email h.debenham@enf.angstronomy.ac.nz and/ or tel. local contact on 478776.

UNISEX, the sexual health project for the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, celebrated its 10th birthday as part of the Queer About Campus exhibition launch on 10 February. Captain Condom – a character created by former Project Worker, Martin Payne, to promote safer sex within the student community and played here by current Project Worker, Adam Tidball – burst out of an enormous birthday cake in Falmer Bar, much to the amusement of surprised exhibition viewers.

UNISEX is based in the Student Advice Centre, Falmer House, where a drop-in is open to students and staff on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (11am–2pm); Tuesdays (4–7pm); and Thursdays (3–6pm). Information and confidential support about any sexual health or drug-related issue is available, as well as free and low-cost condoms.

Medical school update

Moves to set up an undergraduate medical school for Brighton are due to take a step forward today (23 February) when representatives from the Universities of Sussex and Brighton detail their proposals to a Government committee. Sussex Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, and Professor Sir David Watson, Director of the University of Brighton, will be among a team of eight delivering a presentation to the Joint Implementation Group of the Department of Health and the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which would finance the joint venture.

The presentation, which includes pledges of support from local GPs and health-care trusts, follows a bid submitted last December by the two universities proposing to set up the Brighton and Sussex Medical School in 2003, with an initial intake of 128 students.

The bid was in response to a Government decision last year to increase the number of medical students in the UK by more than 1,000. More than 20 institutions have applied for a share of the places, either by expanding their medical schools or setting up new ones. The outcome of the bids is to be announced in April.

Ivor Caplin, MP for Hove, and Des Turner, MP for Brighton Kemp Town, pledged their support for the medical school bid at a conference held on campus last Wednesday (21 February).
Radio Ga Ga as URF turns 25

University Radio Falmer (URF) celebrates 25 years of broadcasting to campus this year with a three-week stint on 87.9 FM from 19 February to 11 March.

A free party tomorrow night (24 February) in Falmer Bar and the Hothouse is also arranged for URF alumni, many of whom have used their experience of working in student radio to go on to work in the broadcast media.

"URF gives you complete freedom to develop as a presenter and to be creative," says Alison Hulme, an ex-URF member who is now a presenter on Kiss 100 in London. "Thanks to URF, I knew myself as a presenter inside out by the time I got into professional radio, which meant I had the insight to make the right career decisions."

Ali Rezakhani, who presents the 6pm to 8pm show on Brightons-based Surf 107.2, echoes this: "Not being from a radio background, URF was a great way for me to get experience in presenting and producing," he says.

Named Best Student Radio Station in 1997 in the Student Radio Association/Radio One Student Radio Awards, URF suffered a major setback early last year when its campus studios were broken into and essential equipment was stolen. Since then, the studios have been refurbished and the station has been re-launched.

The station has sometimes suffered from technical difficulties, meaning poor reception in some campus areas on its usual frequency of 999 AM. The Restricted Service Licence (RSL) that the Radio Authority has granted URF means that campus audiences will be able to enjoy URF in FM stereo, if only briefly.

Several URF alumni have gone on to work for the BBC, either locally or nationally. "I'm now working at BBC Southern Counties Radio as a journalist - you can't get much better than that," claims Jack Fiehn. "Doing student radio was the most fun I've ever had in radio," says BBC Wales radio producer Steve Austins. "If you've always wanted to have a go, then believe me, you'll never get a better chance."

Others have used their experiences at URF to break into the music business. "I'm now working at Sony Music Publishing and my experience at URF definitely helped me to get my job, as it proved that I was committed to working in music," says Jennifer Willis. "Ultimately, it was my experience as head of music at URF which helped me succeed," says Gavin Kingsley, a producer at Ministry of Sound.

The communication skills honed by presenting shows on URF have also proved useful in other fields. "URF gave me the opportunity to develop my communication skills, which have been very beneficial to me in my post-student career," says Lisa Ingarfield of the International and Study Abroad Office.

As an important part of campus communications and an obvious hotbed of future broadcasting talent, the Bulletin would like to wish URF a very happy 25th.

Swinging Sixties ...

From the Bulletin, 14 February 1963
Union General Meeting: Use of Ashtrays

The President urged that neither cups nor the floors of Falmer House should be used as ashtrays.

From the Bulletin, 16 February 1965
Note from the proceedings of the University Health Service Committee

There is evidence of misinformation amongst members of the University about the physiology of conception and facts of contraception; and there are contraceptive drugs on the market which are potentially dangerous except under professional advice and control. These drugs should never be used without medical advice, and we urge members of the University, most seriously, not to do so.

Members of the University are informed that if they wish for medical advice in this matter, the University's doctors will provide it.

From the Bulletin, 17 February 1984
Scheme for admission of early school leavers

The University has started a scheme by which persons who have been forced to leave school by circumstances beyond their control before they have gained the entrance qualifications for a University will be allowed to apply for admission to the University. The number admitted will be limited (probably not more than six) and rigorous tests will have to be passed by the successful candidates to show their suitability for university education.

Fab sabbs

"No matter who you vote for, the USSU Executive always gets in," as The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band once almost sang.

On the highest turnout for five years (14 per cent), the new USSU sabbatical team were all elected in the first round of voting. With none of the current Executive re-standing this year, and with many of the new group coming into their posts without a background in the Students' Union, this is a fresh team.

The new fromage grande will be Dan Glazebrook, who will hopefully bring what he has learned about winning factions whilst studying international relations in AFRAS to the post of President. Dan's manifesto includes pledges to mobilise students for action against fees, the promotion of high-quality entertainments and regular public meetings on policy changes.

Rob Grace says he was "surprised and pleased" to be elected Welfare Officer and he is particularly keen to tackle housing. "Housing affects everybody," he told the Bulletin. "I've had trouble with housing the past and I would personally like to see the establishment of a Union housing office." Rob is also keen to enhance the visibility of the Union, for example by having the sabbatical team tour the campus residences.

Ensuring everyone knows what the Students' Union is up to will be Communications Officer Jessica Hill, from SOC, who plans "changing the layout of the Badger, including in it more thought-provoking articles ... and surveys on issues such as whether to build the football stadium and tuition fees."

Holding the purse strings will be Finance Officer Al Judge, from CCS, whose manifesto proposes bigger and better entertainments, buying a pub in town, increasing funding for clubs and societies and improved efficiency of financial procedures.

With no other candidates for his post, Al - the current Sports Federation Treasurer - explained to the Bulletin why he wanted this particular job. "Finance Officer is more of a challenge and you get to cover the whole Union. And I want to use my contacts in town to bring in external promoters to run better entertainments."

Footballing violinist Kevin Flynn, from SOC, will hopefully be on the ball and not on the fiddle as Sport & Activities Officer. Kevin has been Chair of the Sports Federation for the last year, which has given him "an idea of the practical and political aspects to pursuing activities at this university," his manifesto tells us.

Education Officer Sukant Chandan wants to see the Union campaign throughout the year for free education, to oppose privatisation of services on campus and to build up relations with other NUS branches.

After a handover period and training, the new team will take over in July, giving them several months to prepare before the fun really hits the fan at the start of term in October. Just like the A Team, if you have a problem, if no one else can help, and if you can find them, then maybe you can hire the new USSU Executive.