Olympic medallist trains at Sussex

Olympic rower Guin Batten, who won silver at the Sydney games, has begun a programme of training in the Fitness Room at Sussex.

A full-time sportswoman supported by the National Lottery, Guin is the first person to take advantage of the University’s newly signed accreditation with the British Olympic Association, which means that it can offer free use of its sports facilities to Olympic athletes.

The University’s Deputy Head of Sport, Simon Tunley, said: “Obviously we are delighted that an elite athlete like Guin recognises the quality of our facilities and wants to train alongside our students.”

Guin was born in Cuckfield and is currently living in Ditchling, a mere 40-minute bike ride from campus. She trains on the water at Haywards Heath and will come to the Falmer Sports Complex two to four times a week to do an hour’s weight training. Perhaps surprisingly, she will not be using any of the rowing machines – because she has her own machine at home.

Like many female rowers, Guin took up the sport as a student. “I’ve done a lot of my training in university gyms,” she said. “There’s a good atmosphere, with a good cross-section of society. The attitude is nicer than other gyms and students take you for who you are. I also believe universities have a massive role to play in the future of Olympic sports.”

Guin and her three team-mates – her elder sister Miriam as well as Scots Gillian Lindsay and Katherine Grainger – made history in Sydney by becoming the first British women to win a medal at an Olympic regatta. They snatched an unexpected silver in the quadrope sculls final, edging out the Russian foursome by a margin of just one hundredth of a second.

Any potential rower who fancies emulating their success might like to use Guin’s times as a benchmark: on the water in Sydney, the quartet covered 2km in 6 minutes, 20 seconds. At full fitness, just before the Olympics, Guin completed the same distance indoors in 6.43. Last month, she still managed 6.53 on the rowing machine.

Now aged 33, Guin will decide at the end of the summer whether to compete at the 2004 Olympic Games to be held in Athens. She told the Bulletin: “After the World Cup series and the World Championships, I will know whether I want to carry on. I need to find out whether the flame is still alight.”

Mr Kipling’s exceedingly good notebooks

The notebooks contain highly detailed accounts of Kipling’s travels in the early 1920s, made as he and his wife Carrie toured France and Belgium in their Rolls-Royce. They were discovered in a desk belonging to Macmillan’s publisher-director Tim Farniloe, when he retired after 40 years’ service with the firm. The desk had been inherited from Kipling’s editor Thomas Mark, who worked at Macmillan from 1913 to 1959.

Amazingly, the notebooks had survived despite the desk being moved three times between offices. Macmillan’s archivist Robert Machesney identified them as Kipling’s work, and this has now been verified by the British Library. Robert and his assistant Alyson Sanders (pictured) visited the University Library last month to compare the transcripts held here at Sussex with the original notebooks. The transcripts are believed to be the only ones in existence and, although they have been in the public domain, they remain unpublished. Kipling biographer Andrew Lycett told the Bulletin: “There’s no great mystery to these transcripts; they were probably made by Kipling’s secretary in the late 1920s or early 1930s.” Mystery or not, many of Kipling’s notes were burned after his death, making the notebooks and the transcripts even more valuable to Kipling scholars.

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) was the first Englishman to win the Nobel Prize for literature in 1907 and is best known for his works The Jungle Book, Kim and If. Despite being a close friend of King George V, Kipling declined both a knighthood and the position of Poet Laureate.
Physicist throws light on cancerous cells

Pioneering luminescence research that could lead to improved detection of cancerous cells has received substantial new funding from the European Union.

Professor Peter Townsend (EIT) is the co-ordinator and originator of a programme that has been using luminescence techniques for many years to study structures in optical materials, in radiation dosimetry, and for geological dating.

Peter, an experimental physicist, was always disappointed with the performance of the detectors in the red and near-infrared regions of the spectrum, so he has proposed and demonstrated ways to overcome some of the problems.

Peter's work in developing more sensitive and faster detectors of low-intensity light will now go ahead with financial support from the European Commission, which has just announced a Framework V contract totalling 2 million euros (worth some £290,000 to Sussex).

Improved sensitivity will open up many new possibilities in medical and biological areas, not least because normal and cancerous cells show different luminescence responses. This should offer direct detection of cancer cells on, say, the skin or within the lungs. There are even some reports that suggest this would aid monitoring of Alzheimer treatments without involving surgery. Equally, the objective of much faster detectors is to optically sense small areas of breast cancer, without the need for X-ray screening.

The manufacturing and exploitation aspects of the proposal will be made with two UK partners: Photek in Hastings, who make imaging devices, and Electron Tubes in Ruislip, who are the largest European makers of photomultiplier tubes. Peter has had strong links with both companies for several years and they are all confident that these new ideas will result in considerable medical benefits as well as major profits for European companies.

Strange signs of life in empty BIOLS

Rosy Eaton
Human Sciences finalist, BIOLS

Fully equipped kitchens, dining rooms and doctors' waiting rooms have been appearing and dissap-pearing in the seemingly empty wing of BIOLS awaiting refurbishment. Is BIOLS infested by aliens or is it, perhaps, the sign of marital discord among the faculty?

Neuroscience DPhil student Ben Tatler saw the vacating of BIOLS as a perfect opportunity to do some large-scale experiments. As soon as the occupants had left, Ben took six of the empty rooms and transformed them into office, kitchen, dining room, waiting room, seminar room and laboratory complete with bottles of (non-toxic) coloured liquid.

"I got funny looks, especially when people saw me setting the dinner table."

The experiments were designed to explore the way people retain visual information about their surroundings. Previous theories suggested that we form an image of the world around us by overlapping a series of photo-like images. However, research in the 1970s showed that this is not the case and vision scientists still do not know what really happens.

Ben's various subjects (undergraduates, postgraduates and faculty bribed with sweets) were shown each room for five seconds and immediately asked questions about the type of room and objects in the room, their position, arrangement, colour and shape. Each subject wore a terrifying-looking device that recorded their eye movements as they looked around the rooms.

"To the surprise of the subjects, but not Ben, they remembered very little of what they had seen. "Some people kept apologising," said Ben. "They felt that they should have found it easier." This inability to remember the details of the room suggests that we retain only a vague, abstract representation of the world around us.

Eye-tracker data should give better clues about the relationship between direction and duration of eye movements and what subjects recall. Subjects seem very good at getting the gist of things but Ben wants to know to what extent they may answer questions by referring to long-term memories of similar rooms. To do this he has to question subjects who have not seen a room but have been told what sort of room it is.

Previously Ben's experiments used natural scenes displayed on computers. He now finds that the results from "real-life" and computer-based experiments are sufficiently similar for computer experiments to be used as substitutes. Sadly this means that he has no excuse to continue with his new-found passion for interior decorating.

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.

France-British Alliance
Bids from pure or applied sciences and applied social sciences are welcome. Preference will be given to projects showing promise for the development of new collaborations, training and travel opportunities for young researchers, impact and innovation of research and potential for subsequent funding from other sources.
Deadline: 1 May

Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorships
This scheme enables overseas academics to spend 3–10 months at UK universities in order to facilitate collaboration with researchers at the host institution. The stipend is paid at a level commensurate with that of a senior professor in the relevant field within the UK. All subject areas are eligible.
Deadline: 15 May

Physics-Engineering Collaboration
The EPSRC wishes to encourage new collaborations between physicists and engineers to work at the interface of these programmes. £2 million has been ring-fenced for this call in which standard research grants, visiting fellowships and overseas travel grants can be applied for.
Deadline: 18 May

AHRB Resource Enhancement
Up to £300,000 is available over a three-year period to meet the costs of improving the utilisation and accessibility of research resources and materials of key importance to the arts and humanities. The aim is to create scholarly editions, catalogues and major databases.
Deadline: 31 May

British Academy Leave
Applications for 2-year research readerships and 1-year senior research fellowships are invited. Awards are designed to allow successful candidates to undertake an approved programme of research while relieved of their normal teaching and admin commitments. The schemes are aimed at established scholars (normally under 55).
Deadline: 31 July
Letters

Dear Editor,

Staff at the Language Institute have been informed by the Director that smoking is no longer permitted in individual offices. I have also read the anonymous notice to this effect in the Bulletin of 26 January. I personally will happily comply with the new rules as soon as an appropriate ‘designated smoking area’ is made available to me – one which permits me to continue working sheltered from the elements, which does not impinge on any non-smokers and does not involve compulsory purchase of unwanted food or drink. A small room, not unlike my office, with telephone, computer access and a desk, would be perfect.

Margaret Khidhayir
Deputy Director,
Sussex Language Institute

Showbiz stars support students

The dinner was held to raise funds for the Jubilee Scholarships, which support youngsters with severe physical and sensory disabilities. The previous Chancellor’s Society dinner, held at Firle Place in July last year, raised over £30,000.

Lord Attenborough’s guest speaker at the Chancellor’s Society dinner last Friday (2 March) was writer and director Bryan Forbes. The two old friends are pictured with their wives, actresses Nanette Newman (left) and Sheila Sim (right), at the reception in Bramber House.

In a somewhat more physical version of University Challenge, Sussex University Kickboxing & Karate Club (USKKC) played host on Saturday (3 March) to the 2nd National Inter-University Kickboxing Championships.

COGS postgraduate Michael Plummer, president of USKKC, said: “The club has grown to the point that we can host this kind of event. Hopefully it will inspire some of the other universities involved to do the same in future.”

A relatively recent but rapidly growing sport, kickboxing combines the punches of Western boxing and the kicks of Eastern karate, making it both dynamic and exciting to watch. USKKC themselves had a team of fighters competing against others from the Universities of Kent, De Montfort, Hertfordshire, Lancashire and Staffordshire.

An audience of around 140 gave strong support to the 43 male and female fighters taking part.

Current world champion light-middleweight kickboxer Jim Caldecourt acted as referee, with Nick Clarke (former world champion welter-weight), Steve Cosier and Keith Collier (USKKC trainer) judging the contest.

Sussex won both weight categories in the women’s contest, with Chrissy Jenson taking the 52–58.8kg category and Purdita Barron the 59.4–kg category. The women’s fights tended to be more thought out and skilful than the men’s, according to club member Lisa Ingarfield. She said: “It was a great day and the women’s fights were particularly good. I really enjoyed myself.’’

Sussex won again in the 71–78kg men’s category when USKKC secretary Zac Etheridge beat Murray Raff from Kent, despite Zac receiving two warnings for holding.

For more details of the club, see www.sussexkickboxing.co.uk.

In brief

West Dean College appoints new Principal

Bob Pulley began work last month as the new Principal of West Dean College, one of the University’s partner institutions. The college offers courses in crafts, visual arts, music and gardening as well as conservation and restoration.

Easter language courses

Practise speaking and listening skills at EURO’s two-day intensive A level courses in Spanish, German and French, on 9 and 10 April (cost £90). Contact the Open Course Assistant on ext. 7258.

Housing lists now weekly

As of Wednesday (7 March), lists of private accommodation offered by local landlords are being produced weekly. The lists can be collected from the Housing Office in Bramber House or via the web (www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/housing) from campus computers only. These lists can also be sent by email: contact housing@susx.ac.uk.

Funding for research students

The University is offering a number of graduate assistantships and studentships for full-time research (MPHil or DPhil) starting in October. They are at least equal in value to a home/EU fee waiver. Research proposals are sought across the full range of academic disciplines.

Disciplinary Panel

At a meeting of the Disciplinary Panel on 2 February, a student in CCS was found guilty of assaulting a member of security staff in November. A previous meeting of the Panel, on 31 January, a student in CCS was found guilty of assaulting a night porter and abusing a security staff in November.
The floods in Bevendean may have subsided, but the problems will persist, as Dr. David Robinson explained on Meridian TV (28 Feb). David, a physical geographer, carried out research on the Bevendean area in 1987 and reported to Brighton & Hove Council that dams to prevent flooding had been built in the wrong place. The story first appeared in the Evening Argus.

More warnings about food substances came from SPRU's Dr. Erik Millstone on Radio 4's Woman's Hour (1 Mar). Erik, a senior lecturer in science and technology policy, was explaining the potential dangers of the artificial sweetener aspartame.

The bomb blast at the BBC in London this week sparked BBC Southern Counties Radio (5 Mar) to call on Irish affairs expert, Professor Norman Vance, to discuss whether this signalled the start of more IRA activity. Norman's response was that the action was "both serious and futile". He said it would put Sinn Fein in a difficult position, but this was clearly a follow-on from the attack on the MI6 building.

In the on-going debate to defend pure science research against the fashion for commercial projects, Professor David Wark (CPES) had a letter published on the Guardian's letters' page (28 Feb). David, an astrophotograph physicist, said he had turned down offers of many more lucrative careers because he believes in the value of pure research. He pointed out that many of the world's most important inventions came through "the wildest of pure science" in the early part of the last century.

Come on, come on! If you're a student, why not take up the University Challenge? Contact Benedict Brook in the Students' Union now.

Just as term is coming to an end and you sense the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, spare a thought for Catherine Stead and her team in the Conference Office, who are gearing up for Easter, one of the busiest periods in the conference calendar.

We've got about 45 events this Easter. In total, we co-ordinate around 50 residential and 300 non-residential events a year. About 60-70 per cent are academic or educational, the majority of them organised by our own faculty.

Residential conferences are possible only during vacations, which is effectively 16-17 weeks of the year. We've already got 60 residential events booked in for this year.

We specialise in residential conferences for 150 to 400 delegates. Some universities can host much larger events, because they've invested heavily in infrastructure, particularly en-suite bedrooms, which are almost a prerequisite now. We've got very little en-suite accommodation, but 250 new en-suite rooms in Lewes Court will be on-stream for conference delegates in summer 2003, which will really increase our appeal. The advantage of Sussex over other universities is its location: outside Brighton but so close to it, in the heart of the South Downs and yet easily accessible from to London and the airports.

Our biggest customer is the Open University (OU), whose residential school takes place for six to eight weeks every summer during July and August. Students come from all over the UK and Europe and Sussex is a very popular site. The OU have been pulling out of campuses across the country over the past few years, but the Sussex residential school is actually growing. This year's will be the biggest ever, with 500+ students a week, for seven weeks. Several OU students have ended up returning as full-time students, and I even know of some whose children have followed them to Sussex.

The number of University-organised summer schools and language courses is increasing and we also work closely with the Alumni Centre on residential reunions. We also offer discounts on self-catering accommodation to Sussex alumni. Between July and September we let around 300 'self-catering beds' to individuals and groups. As well as informal alumni groups returning to their old haunts, visitors range from holiday-makers and visiting academics to cricket teams and hen parties, families accompanying OU students, ramblers, and one group who attend the annual Bridge Congress in Hove.

Non-residential conferences take place all year round, mostly in Bramer House. In the last financial year our non-residential business levels rose by over 30 per cent. We've already got 170 non-residential events booked in for this year, so I anticipate we'll hit the 350 mark, which is effectively one a day.

Almost half of our non-residential conferences are repeat business. Regular customers include South Downs Health, Brighton & Hove Council, the Chartered Institute of Taxation, the Communication Workers Union, Sussex County Football Association, Chichester Diocesan Readers and the Society of Sussex Downsmen.

As well as the regulars and organisers who respond to our marketing initiatives, we rely on word of mouth from people who've been to conferences here and on our faculty bringing events to Sussex. We offer a 50 per cent discount on general teaching space to staff organising events here. If the conference is for educational purposes, the University can also grant VAT exemption on all services (except alcohol!) it provides to the conference, which means an instant saving of 17.5 per cent over any off-campus venue.

The annual income generated by conferences at Sussex is in the region of £1 million. This directly subsidises term-time catering services and student rents to the tune of £5 per student per week in University-managed residences.

The income is also used to refurbish residences and to upgrade teaching rooms and audio-visual equipment. A major refurbishment of level 3 of Bramer House is planned, which will give us a high-quality, year-round non-residential conference facility, with greater flexibility in our use of the space. And a campus-wide cabling project over the next two years will hopefully result in more network points round campus, including Bramer House, and the ability to do videoconferencing anywhere there's a network point.

There is also an element of cash spend by conference delegates and OU students on campus, from which the School tearbars, bookshop, newsagent and supermarkets all benefit.

As well as income generation, conferences also provide continuity of employment for staff in catering and the residences, and better utilisation of resources (particularly teaching space and beds) during vacations. They also assist, perhaps more importantly, in the promotion of the University's reputation as a centre of excellence in teaching and research.
Ain’t misbehavin’

Jim Guild
Undergraduate Office

A survey on academic misconduct among medical students has revealed a startling lack of knowledge about academic misconduct, and a surprisingly high level of unethical behaviour.

The survey, published recently in the British Medical Journal, showed that one-quarter of the students would lend their work to others to copy. One-third would talk about a test to another student who was yet to take it, after which other students would then copy it. One-fifth of the students would look at, or would fabricate results, and over half didn’t think it wrong to copy text directly without proper referencing.

It is important for Sussex students to realise that plagiarism will be detected. Your examiners have read the texts from which you might copy and their recollection of material is comprehensive. One student thought the introduction to a Penguin Classic had a number of points that could not be better expressed but did not realise that the author of that introduction would be marking the essay. The mark was reduced by 50 per cent. Another copied entire events written down from an Internet source. The mark was reduced to zero and they were disqualified from Honours (so the best they could get was a Pass Degree).

The examiners will even detect when you try to use your own work again. One candidate submitted a final-year essay that replicated 75 per cent of the material from a second-year essay. The final-year essay had its mark reduced to zero.

Collusion, or working together on assessment exercises when it is not allowed, is also regularly detected. One student lent a disc with safe work on it to another student, who then copied it and used it in their own work. The first student had their mark halved, whilst the second had their mark reduced to zero.

People attempting to cheat in an unseen exam are always obvious and are regarded very severely by the Misconduct Panel: taking notes into an exam has meant at the very least marks being reduced to zero, and disqualification from Honours, resulting in a Pass Degree.

As those assessments pile up and exam time approaches, how can you avoid being brought before the Misconduct Panel?

- Read your Handbook for Candidates.
- Make sure everything is thoroughly referenced — it is not enough to mention the source in the text and leave it all to the bibliography. Every piece of text used in your essay should be footnoted, and your referencing style should be the one approved by your Subject Group or School.
- When you go to an unseen exam, take just a couple of pens — people with lots of things on their desks get extra attention from our highly experienced invigilators.
- Get advice from your Sub-Dean, your Exam Board Chair, or best of all the Undergraduate Office.

Roll over Beethoven

Sussex music students will present their own work at a lunchtime concert on Thursday (15 March). The composers’ concert is held each term, with the students performing their own compositions. This one takes place at 1.10 pm in the Recital Room in Falmer House.

“Since composition forms a crucial part of almost everything we do, it seems right to celebrate it in this way,” says Martin Butler, chair of the music subject group. “Our third-year students can take composition as a specialist option, and we have a good number of MA and DPhil composers too. All are free to contribute their work to these concerts, and the occasion is always fun, informal and highly illuminating.”

Music fans can also enjoy the Sussex University Chamber Choir tonight (Friday), at 7.45 pm in the Meeting House.

The concert will feature Stabat Mater Dolorosa by Desprez, Monteverdi madrigals, and the Bach Cello Suite, conducted by Professor David Osmond-Smith and with BA finalist Emma Booth on cello.

The Sussex University Chorus and Chamber Orchestra will be in action on Wednesday (14 March) at 7.30 pm in St Wilfred’s and St Martin’s Church on Lewes Road, Brighton. Conducted by Ian McCrae, the programme includes Byrd’s ‘Ave verum corpus’ motet, Vivaldi’s Gloria, and Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No.4.

The following day (15 March), the Sussex University Philharmonia, also conducted by Ian McCrae, will take their place in the same church at 7.30 pm to perform Elgar’s Cockaigne Overture, Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade and Finzi’s Concerto for Clarinet & Strings, with research student Jocelyn Retter (CPES) on clarinet.

In brief

IDS aids Gujarat

The final total for the sale at IDS on 15 February, in aid of the survivors of the Indian earthquake in Gujarat, was £1,700 including donations. IDS would like to thank all who contributed to and supported the event.

Judi Clarke

Judi Clarke, who worked at the University from 1972 to 1993 and was for many years School Secretary in EURO, died on 9 February at the Mortlakes Hospice, aged 62. Judi’s funeral took place privately on 27 February, but former colleagues and friends who wish to remember her may make donations to the Leukaemia Research Fund (c/o Dillistone Funeral Service Ltd, 191 South Farm Road, Worthing). For further information, contact Richard Price, Staff Welfare Officer, on ext. 7712.

Red Nose Day

Wondering how to do your bit for Comic Relief? Join in the Fitness Room’s marathon row on 16 March (8am–10pm) or show your support with a donation. Alternatively, join in the Red Nose Day workout at the Sportcentre from 1–2pm. The class is £2, with all proceeds going to Comic Relief. And finally ... strut your stuff in Mandela Hall on 17 March (7.30–10.30pm) at an evening of line dancing. £4.50 on the door, bring your own food and drink.

Vote of confidence in Politics

Politics at Sussex received a noteworthy 23 out of 24 in the latest Subject Review of teaching by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), conducted in the week beginning 26 February. The QAA praised in particular the subject group for the positive and constructive way they had approached the review, and the students, with whom they were very impressed.
Happy birthday Walter

Professor Walter Ledermann (pictured) will be the guest of honour at a one-day conference on Monday 19 March to celebrate his 90th birthday. Walter, who came to Sussex in 1962 as one of five founding members of the School of Physical Sciences, was Professor of Mathematics from 1965 until his retirement in 1978.

According to Professor James Hirschfeld, who is organising the event, Walter was "widely reckoned to be one of our best lecturers" and he continued to give revision classes for first and second years until last year.

Two eminent mathematicians of algebra – Peter Neumann from the University of Oxford and Martin Liebeck from Imperial College – will speak on finite groups. The lectures will take place in Peverley 1A7 and are open to all.

The day also includes a buffet lunch (with speeches from Walter and the Dean of SMS, Professor Charles Goldie). See www.maths.sussex.ac.uk for booking details. For any other enquiries, contact James Hirschfeld on jwph@susx.ac.uk, ext. 8080.

HEFCE announces funding settlement

The Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) has announced a 2.5 per cent increase in funding to the University for 2001–02, with a total resource of £39,527,630.

The figure includes £26,856,340 for teaching and £12,371,290 for research. The HEFCE settlement provides for a continuing expansion of student numbers, all fully funded, and the University also succeeded in its bid for 248.5 additional funded students.

Extra places are awarded against criteria including quality, demand widening access and consistency with existing university strategy.

Support Officer for Blind and Visually Impaired Students (ref 143)
Apply by 15 March

Bars Manager, Students' Union (ref 115)
Cleaner / Tea Person, EIT (ref 130)
Apply by 16 March
Head of Student Systems, Student Systems Office (ref 131)

Clerical Assistant, Student Systems Office (ref 141)

Apply by 23 March

Project Officer, Library (ref 144)
Contact Librarian's Office on ext. 8830.

For further details, see www.susx.ac.uk/lists/staffing/personnel/vac or contact Staffing Services on (01273) 678706, fax (01273) 877401, email recruitment@susx.ac.uk for details.

Under par underpass

Getting from Falmer station onto campus has sometimes recently required either a snorkel and flippers or an inconvenient trapeze across the road bridge.

The University has been trying for years to get a solution to the problem of the underpass and several outside agencies are involved. The flooding in October (see Bulletin 20 October), which led some to run across the A27, resulting in one student being knocked down by a car – has once again brought the issue to the fore.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, wrote to the Highways Agency (which has a duty of care to maintain the underpass) on 24 October last year, requesting urgent action to replace the existing structure. To date there has been no response to this letter.

More recently, in a letter dated 12 February, Registrar and Secretary Neil Gershon asked Brighton & Hove Council’s Chief Executive, Glyn Jones, to ensure that both the current underpass and any future structure be properly maintained in terms of litter collection and surface-water drainage.

The council’s principal engineer, Marcus Stanton, responded to Neil’s letter on 20 February, confirming that “Reconstruction works are due to commence later this year” and that “The works will include a new surface-water drainage system for the underpass.”

Issues with Southern Water over compulsory purchase of land that have delayed these works are now being handled directly by the Highways Agency. Cleaning of the underpass is performed on behalf of Brighton & Hove Council by a contractor called STIA, while the Highways Agency tram road agents W S Atkins are responsible for drainage. The University is now awaiting a response from W S Atkins about the issue of water drainage.

Neil Gershon replied to Marcus Stanton’s letter on 25 February to say that he awaited clarification on what constitutes “later this year” for reconstruction works to begin and also that he trusted the University would be consulted as to how to keep access open while the works are underway.

Pantomime dames

Although the characters included Richard II, Henry V and other noble persons, Cinderella, Unbuttoned and the rest of the Copulate household, and a team of intergalactic cleaners, there was no discernable plot.

The script editor, Dr Robert Whittle, explains that the performance was a vehicle to allow people to dress up and strut their stuff, and sees it as a way to improve the promotion prospects of anyone who refuses to take part.

The charge for leaving the Biology Lecture Theatre at the end of the performance raised over £200 for the Indian earthquake fund.
University outlines fees policy

A small group of student protestors overpowered security staff and gained access to the Student Accounts Office in Sussex House on the morning of 27 February. A handful of demonstrators also climbed on to the roof of the building.

The police were called and were in attendance for the rest of the day, until the students left the building of their own volition in the early evening.

The action was part of a protest against government policy on tuition fees, and in particular the prospect of non-fee payers at Sussex being denied access to library and computing facilities. Although the Students’ Union opposes tuition fees and the notion of top-up fees, the Executive stated that it did not support the action.

Senior managers said that the University was sympathetic to the financial difficulties faced by some students in meeting the costs of their education and supported the right of any legitimate group to peaceful protest.

However, Neil Gershon, Registrar and Secretary, emphasised: “The University will not tolerate attempts to disrupt its normal business by violent action by any group, whatever their motivation.” He also expressed his concern for the welfare of staff in Sussex House who had been distressed by the day’s events.

Students are required as a condition of enrolment to pay tuition fees due from them to the University. “This is government policy, not something determined by the University,” said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith. Only 170 students out of 9,605 have neither paid nor contacted Student Accounts to resolve their position.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the University would be as helpful as it could to students who, for personal financial reasons, are unable to pay. “It cannot offer any help if those students make no attempt to contact the Student Accounts Office in order to make appropriate arrangements,” he added.

“Students who do not meet their financial commitments to the University and who have made no satisfactory arrangement to do so will not be able to progress from one year to another and, in the case of final-year students, will not receive a degree.”

Sussex Higher Education Fair

During the vacation the University will be hosting the Sussex Higher Education Fair for the fourth consecutive year. Over 100 institutions will be represented at the two-day event, organised by Sussex Careers Services and West Sussex Careers.

On Tuesday 20 March, schools from West Sussex have been invited to attend, with Wednesday 21 March reserved for schools from East Sussex, Brighton and Hove. As many individual visitors are also expected, the fair is likely to attract around 7,000 in total.

The Sportcentre car park and visitors' car park will be reserved for representatives during the event, which takes place in the Sportcentre between 9.30am and 3.30pm. Space in the science car park will also be limited because of coach parking.

Swinging Sixties ...

From Focus, February/March 1969

Race relations

A circular underlining the implications of the Race Relations Act has been issued by the Establishment Officer, Mr J.G. Davies, to various employers within the University.

It ensures that those hiring staff are aware of the provisions of the Act, which defines 'discrimination' as "treatment of a person less favourably than another person on grounds of colour, race or ethnic or national origins in the provision to the public of goods, facilities and services, and in employment and housing."

In fact the University already employs a considerable number of overseas staff, and the issues of the circular has no purpose other than to inform employers of the Act's specific implications.

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

The mean of doves in immemorial elms,
And murmuring of innumerable bees.
(Alfred Lord Tennyson, The Princess, 1847)

The Elm trees on campus have suddenly acquired a kind of reddish haze covering the branches. Like most of our deciduous trees, they are wind-pollinated and flower early to prevent the pollen being trapped among the leaves. If the branches are examined carefully, the tiny individual flowers are found to conform to the conventional pattern, except that there are no petals.

We suspect that it is not widely appreciated that campus boasts one of the most important populations of English Elms left in the country following the ravages of Dutch elm disease in the 1970s and 80s. However, a comprehensive survey of campus trees commissioned by Estates reveals that there are just 22 mature English Elms left. At the height of the Dutch elm disease between 1970 and 1987 we lost about 195 Elms and many more were lost during the 1987 storm.

Rooks, whose black bodies and white throats gave them the local name of 'Parsons', often nest in tall Elms. Their clamour while displaying in the taller Ash and Elm trees in the centre of campus is one of the characteristic sounds of early spring. The Rooks are currently repairing old nests and building new ones, often stealing twigs from each other. The linings of their bulky nests are often recycled from the moss emptied from nest-boxes by Blue and Great Tits. Rook numbers on campus have fallen over the last few years. They had previously doubled in number since 1980 despite the loss of many of the Elms in which they used to nest.

The 1987 storm left behind the upturned root-plates of fallen trees. These create miniature cliffs that were underground until the early hours of 16 October 1987. Many root-plates remain sparsely vegetated 13 years later and are home to some unusual creatures. During February, a nationally uncommon species of Liocerid spider called Scotina celans was found on one of these 'cliffs' in the shelterbelt behind Brighthelm. This strikingly patterned spider is nocturnal and chases insect prey rather than building a web. The adult female was hiding among a mixture of attractive woodland mosses. She will not breed until the summer, when males become sexually mature.

One of the first flowers to appear in spring is Dog's Mercury and it is already out in the strip of woodland along the east side of campus. Like many plants that grow dense colonies, it is wind-pollinated and, in addition, the male and female flowers are borne on separate plants. There is a story that the female flowers are more abundant in shaded conditions while the male flowers favour more open situations. You might like to check that out for yourself and suggest why it might be so!

In bloom: Dog's Mercury is already out along the east side of campus.
BULLETIN board

Details of events also on the web at
www.susx.ac.uk/USIS/now/events.cfm

Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 12 Mar 12.00noon-1.50pm
Sussex Continuing
Education Research
Forum: Steve Williams
(UNISON), Workplace
learning - the trade union
contribution. Arts D310.
1.00pm-2.00pm
Experimental
Psychology Seminar:
Sam Hutton (Sussex),
Saccadic distractibility
in first-episode schizo-
phrenia. Engineering 3,
Room M-18.
3.00pm-5.00pm
International Relations
and Politics Research-
In-Progress Seminar: Sol
Picciotto (Lancaster),
Globalisation and
democracy, C219.
4.00pm-5.00pm
Sociology & Social
Psychology Graduate
Faculty Seminar: Clive
Skeale (Goldsmiths),
The quality of qualitative
research. Arts D310.
4.00pm-5.30pm
Organic Chemistry Seminar:
J. Wilden (Sussex), title
TBA, 3R241 (M3).
5.00pm-5.50pm
Women's Studies
Research-in-Progress
Seminar: Ruth Woodfield
(Sussex), Computers,
communication and
dignity: The coming of
the post-gender world.
Arts A155.
Tue 13 Mar
12.30-1.30pm SPRU
Environment Programme
Seminar: Saleemul Huq
(Imperial), Adaptation to
climate change in devel-
oping countries. Mantell 243.
4.00pm-5.00pm
Experimental
Psychology Colloquium:
Robin Walker (Royal
Holloway), Multisensory
interactions in saccade
5.00pm Media Studies
Research-in-Progress
Seminar: Les Back
(Goldsmiths), On the dark
side of cyberspace, EDB 125.
Wed 14 Mar
10.30am-5.00pm
Nineteenth bible and
literature seminar:
Margaret Barker, Richard
Coggins, Howard Cooper,
Norman Vance, Rev-
elution and rediscovery.
Quiet Room, Meeting
House.
Thu 15 Mar
11.30am-1.00pm
Economics Research-in-
Progress Seminar: Henrik
Wig, Arts D310.
1.30pm-3.00pm SLS
Research Seminar: Colin
Harvey (Leeds), Main-
streaming human rights
in Northern Ireland. A71.
5.00pm History Work-in-
Progress Seminar: Seth
Denbo (Warwick), Maternal
authority and the patriarchal
order: The evolution of an early
modern tale of incest.
Arts A155.
Fri 16 Mar
2.15pm SPRU Seminar:
Frans Berkhout (SPRU),
Social responsibility and
the modern corporation.
EBD 121.

Gardner Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 685861
www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Theatre

Until Sat 10 Mar
7.30pm English Touring
Theatre - Love's Labours
Lost
Four young men get serious and decide
to devote themselves to study. And then four
brilliant young women turn up ... Shakespeare's
comedy has been remixed. This distinctly modern interpretation is
funny, touching ... prickly!
Sun 13 Mar
8pm Jocelyn Poek
Ensemble
Recent works such as
material from Kubrick's film Eyes Wide Shut,
sampled voices and
corrugated iron, and
other material from her
new album.
Tue 13 Mar
6pm Northbrook College
-A Show About Panic
Performed by Physical
Theatre and Dance
students, directed by
Mike Ashcroft (DV8).
Thu 15 Mar
8pm Nigel Charnock
Company - Asylum
A 'musical' as one never
imagined a musical could
be, created by the
unreconstructed bad boy
of physical theatre.
An uncensored mix of dance,
song and speech, Asylum
is a comically disturbing,
ruthlessly fresh offer of
how mad we are to be normal.

Exhibitions

Until Sat 17 Mar
12.30-5.00pm Sculpture from
the Arts Council Collection
Three pieces of current sculptural
work by top British artists from
the prestigious national collection:
Richard Deacon's Kiss
and Tell (1989), Shirazeh
Houshary's Cube of Man (1992)
and Rachel Whiteread's
Untitled: Six Spaces (1994).

Small ads

WANTED: Sunny room in
shared Brighton house,
for IDS Research
Assistant. Contact Paola
on 273638 or email
gptermeine@hotmail.com.

Exhibitions

Until Sat 17 Mar

12.30-5.00pm Sculpture from
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Three pieces of contemporary sculpture
by top British artists from the
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Richard Deacon's Kiss
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WANTED: Accom-
dmodation 9 to 19 March
for research student.
Email Francisco on fpostare@unic
ta.it. Tel. 030908
15495276. Mobile 03090
3498720406.

Exhibitions

Until Sat 17 Mar

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Email Francisco on fpostare@uni
ta.it. Tel. 030908
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3498720406.

TO SWAP: Beautiful 2-bed
seafront 8th floor. Swap for
flat in central New York,
for 2-3 wks in the
summer (pref. June).
Tel. 688658.

Easter vacation
opening times

Minimum service days
Thu 12 April and Thu 17
April.

Springers Complex
Open as usual except
closed Thu 12 April,
open Mon 16 April and
Thu 17 April 9am-6pm.

Sports Centre
Open as usual
9am-10am, except
closed 12-17 April inclusive.

Closed Sat and Sun.
Closed 12-17 April inclusive.

Development Career Unit
Open 10am-1pm and
2pm-5pm, except closed
12-17 April inclusive.

Catering
All catering outlets are
closed 12-17 April inclusive.

Health Centre
Open as usual, except
closed Good Friday and
Easter Monday.

Library
Open 9am-5.30pm
Monday to Friday (til
7.30pm Tuesdays).
Closed Sat and Sun.
Closed 12-17 April inclusive.

Coffee Shop
8.30am-4.30pm
Monday-Friday.
Booth Library
9am-4.30pm
Monday-Friday.
Laines restaurant
Closed throughout Easter vacation period.
Downs Restaurant
12noon-2pm
Monday-Friday
(with a larger selection of food).
Baguette Express
8am-4pm
Monday-Friday.

Bulletin

The fortnightly Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Peter
Simmons, with regular contributions from Jacqui Bealing. We welcome any
news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the
University. The next issue will be out on 23 March (yes, in the vacation!),
with a copy deadline of 1pm on 16 March. Please contact the Press and
Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

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Thursday 22 Mar
Wed 11 Apr
Brighton and Hove
Camera Club
Display from one of the
largest photographic
clubs in Britain.

Delight
Wanted: First British
showing of these large-
scale colour photographs
by Clare Strane, illustrating
the artist's feelings of isolation
in urban environments.

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