Women's views on war with Iraq

The war on Iraq is engendering feelings of anger, dismay and fear among contributors to the Mass-Observation Archive at Sussex.

More than 350 of the voluntary writers from all walks of life are being asked for their views on the current international situation. As the responses arrive, it is evident that the majority feel military action should have been avoided.

"I was born in the first world war, married in the second and shall probably die in the third." (85-year-old woman)

"It is clearly a subject that many of our contributors feel strongly about," says archivist Dorothy Sheridan, who issued the directive.

"The only solution to the rogue state problem is a world government and complete disarmament for all, policed by a global force." (53-year-old woman, former CND member)

"They are responding to the news as it happens and we're getting a sense of profound anger against Tony Blair."

The Mass-Observation contributors, who are mostly women, are regularly asked to write in response to directives issued by Dorothy on a variety of topics. They have previously given their opinions on the Gulf War and the aftermath of September 11 and were asked both last summer and last December how they felt about the situation with Iraq. The most recent directive was issued when military action began.

The identities of the respondents remain anonymous to researchers. Dorothy believes this encourages the respondents to be open and forthright in their opinions.

Mass-Observation was established in the 1930s as a way of capturing and documenting the lives and views of ordinary people from all over the UK. The diaries and manuscripts cover a wide range of subjects, from the personal to the political, and are an invaluable source for sociologists and cultural historians. The archive is held in the University Library on campus.

"As I cycle through the elegant streets of West Coaster, it's difficult to imagine anything disrupting the scene. But I expect other people felt the same during the long hot summer of 1914 and again in 1939." (33-year-old personal assistant)

Carbon kid gets kickboxing crown

An organic chemist at Sussex has swapped carbon for kickboxing and become Britain's national champion.

Zac Etheridge, a final year doctoral student, won the British and International Kickboxing and Martial Arts Association's (BIKMA) middleweight category at the national championships held last month in Buckinghamshire.

Zac began his DPhil in 1999 and at the same time joined the campus kickboxing club, allied to the renowned Sussex Kicks team. "Before I came to Sussex I had all the speed but none of the technique," he says. Zac progressed to become assistant coach to the team and in 2001 won his first medal as UK universities middleweight champion.

Not resting on his laurels, Zac entered the BIKMA national championships as a member of the Kicks group. The contest involved a series of bouts against evenly matched competitors at locations across the country.

Zac, who holds a black/brown belt in the sport, was playing the semi-contact version of the game, in which competitors wear protective headgear and have to hold back on the force of their kicks. Judges give marks for the amount of kicks and the quality of defending. Zac won all of his initial bouts and was rewarded with a place in the final.

"I'm really pleased but slightly embarrassed by all the attention," says the new champion. "But will he go on to grab more medals? I may go after a few more British championships, and aim for my black belt. But in the end, chemistry is what I really want to do and I don't want to knock out all my brain cells!"

Sussex have triumphed to win gold at a national kung fu championships. Bertie Garwell, Matt Gross, Steven Illing and Carlos Saba, all former postgraduate students and still members of the University Nam Pai Chuan club, beat all comers to win the black-belt team sparring contest. About 45 students belong to the club.
Bookmarks

New books by Sussex authors

Nalia Kebebe
(Professorial Fellow, IDS)
Gender Mainstreaming in Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals: A handbook for policymakers and other stakeholders
Commonwealth Secretariat, £12.99
Nancy Spence from the Commonwealth Secretariat says: "The focus of this book reflects our conviction that the collective commitment made at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, to halve world poverty by 2015, will only be achieved when the disproportionate barriers to education and training, health services and productive opportunities faced by women and girls are systematically and completely dismantled. When you read this publication, you will agree that it has provided us with both the critical analysis and recommendations to enable us to 'make a difference' in advancing gender equality, eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

Nicholas Boyle
(Professor of English, EAM)
Jacques Derrida
Routledge, £8.99 (paper), £40.00 (hardback)
The publisher says: "Ranging across such ideas as freedom, the supplement, difference and deconstruction, this volume constitutes a useful bridge to Derrida's enormously influential texts. With a special focus on Derrida's relevance for literary and cultural studies, Nicholas Boyle explores not only Derrida's most striking innovations, but also his colossal impact and unique writing style."

Taking science to Parliament

Dr Natalia Beloff flew the flag for Sussex last month when she took part in a parliamentary showcase of research by Britain's younger scientists, engineers and technologists.

During her trip to the House of Commons, Natalia presented research currently being undertaken at the University's Space Science Centre.

This research involves new techniques for satellite studies of electron density in the Earth's ionosphere and magnetosphere.

It will improve the quality of satellite communications and accuracy of Global Positioning Systems and will contribute to space weather studies.

The annual event forms part of the UK-wide National Science Week and aims to encourage greater contact between researchers from different institutions and sectors, as well as to increase awareness of scientific research among Members of Parliament and peers.

Joining the future at Sussex

Over the coming weeks, many academics from across the country and overseas will be coming to campus in the hope that their visit will lead to a more permanent stay.

This is because the next stage is underway in filling the initial tranche of jobs resulting from the strategic restructuring exercise.

Alongside the external candidates, a number of academic colleagues from Sussex will also be in the running for the new posts.

In February, under the heading 'Join the future at Sussex', the THES and the Guardian carried double-page ads for over 30 academic posts at Sussex. By mid March, the Human Resources department were dealing with hundreds of applications, a great response to the profile the University had chosen to give these new opportunities.

Supported by HR colleagues and staff in the Schools and departments, a number of academic faculty have already started playing their role in the series of appointment committees that will seek to identify the best candidates for the jobs. The Vice-Chancellor and leading external academics also join the committees making chair appointments. Given the number of posts involved, the interviews are likely to continue until May.

The Bulletin looks forward to welcoming a new set of readers in the autumn. For any candidates reading this now, we wish you good luck!
News from the Conference Office

Bramber House conference facilities

An exciting project is underway to refurbish the suite of function rooms on the third floor of Bramber House. The resulting all-year non-residential Conference Centre, due for completion by autumn 2003, will allow multi-functional, flexible use of the space for conferences and events.

Fully inclusive daily delegate packages (with discounted rates for internal events) will come into effect with the opening of the centre. The conference rooms will be decorated and equipped to a high standard, with a new range of lunch menus available as part of the daily delegate rate, and the centre will be serviced by a dedicated Conference Team. For further details, contact Sue Handley at the Conference Office, ext. 8677 or email S.Handley@sussex.ac.uk.

In the meantime, the closure of the Bramber House conference rooms may cause regular users some inconvenience. If you require a meeting room during term-time, you might like to check the availability of the Essex House Conference Room, the Meeting House Quiet Room or the meeting rooms in IDS.

During vacations, meeting space continues to be available within General Teaching Space, where 13 lecture theatres and over 75 seminar rooms are available, with capacities ranging from 10-480 people.

Room bookings during vacations

An online form for booking rooms on campus during vacations is now available at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/soo/stable/vac-room-book-form.shtml.

The Conference Office takes over responsibility for the booking of all General Teaching Space (GTS) rooms on campus during vacations, along with space in other buildings such as Falmer House, all bookable computer rooms/suites and the common rooms in the residences.

In accordance with the published Vacation Room Booking procedure (available at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/conference/vacmbk.shtml), requests for rooms should be received in writing at least 14 days before the date required.

During vacations the Conference Office is extremely busy servicing residential and non-residential conferences and unfortunately cannot accept telephone requests for rooms.

Fun run

What's great about the inaugural University of Sussex Fun Run is that you don't even have to run: you can jog or walk instead.

And even though the route for adult runners goes around Stanmer Park for 5km, the organizers have managed to come up with a course that (almost) avoids the hills.

Children who enter it even easier: they just have to do a few laps of a special route near the Sports Centre.

As if that weren't enough, everyone who finishes gets a medal and the chance of a lucky dip prize, and there are prizes for the first three finishers in all age categories.

And to top it all, the proceeds go to the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton.

So come on: it will be fun! Be there on Sunday 11 May at 11 am. For details and an application form, see www.sussexsport.com.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 7 April

Senior Lecturer in Rheumatology, BSMS (ref 157)

Lecturer in Anatomy, BSMS (ref 159)

Apply by 11 April

Head of Security (ref 161), Security Shift Leader (ref 162), Security Officers (ref 163), Security Team

Apply by 21 April

Synthetic Polymer Chemist, CPES (ref 0158)

Apply by 22 April

Proctor in Anatomy, BSMS (ref 156)

Apply by 24 April

2 x Development Officers, Teaching & Learning

Development Unit (ref 167 / 168)

Apply by 3 May

Leach/RAI Fellowship, Anthropology (ref 107)

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personnel/vacancies or contact Staffing Services on ext. 8706, fax 87401, email recruitment@sussex.ac.uk.

HOLIDAY LET: House nr Loire Valley, edge Brenne National Park. Streeps 6+. Large, safe garden. £150-350 p/w. Contact lagadec@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Room in flat in Compton Ave, Seven Dials. £350 pcm incl. N/S. Tel. 727591, email z.lagadec@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Studio flat in Lewes, available 26 April - 30 June. £425 p/w incl. Use of garden. Contact m.boice@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Family 4-bed house in Lewes, available early Sep. Garage, ref from previous academic tenants. Contact m.boice@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Office in Lewes, available 29 April - 5 May. £500 p/w incl. Use of garden. Contact m.boice@sussex.ac.uk.

Gardner Arts Centre

Box office: (01273) 685661 www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Performance

Tue 8 Apr 6pm Phoenix Dance Theatre
A triple bill of dance showcasing narrative and abstract dance from both sides of the Atlantic.
Save £22 by presenting your Bulletin to the box office: 1 pair of tickets up for grabs.

Wed 23-Sat 26 Apr 7.45pm Starlite Theatre Company – In the Arms of Strangers
The musical adventures of a brother and sister who are evacuated to south Yorkshire during the Second World War, only to experience love, hatred and guilt.

Sun 13 Apr 5pm Metropolitan (PG)

Sun 27 Apr 5pm Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG)

Cinema

Sun 13 Apr

5pm Metropolitan (PG)

5pm Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG)

9pm B-Movie (15)

Flicks for free: for every film in the spring programme, a free pair of tickets worth £9 to the first five Bulletin readers at the box office.

Small ads

FOR SALE: Erde 100 trailer, with top cover 110 x 90 x 36 cm, £130 ono. Contact Brian on ext. 2523, email B.J.Godfrey@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Room in flat in Compton Ave, Seven Dials. £350 pcm incl. N/S. Tel. 727591, email z.lagadec@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Studio flat in Lewes, available 28 Apr - 9 June. £125 p/w incl. Use of garden. Contact m.boice@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 2/3-bed house with patio garden in Kemp Town. July 03 - Jan 04. Suit visiting academic and family. £850pcm. Email j.may@gmul.ac.uk.

TO LET: Family 4-bed house in Lewes, available early Sep. Garage, ref from previous academic tenants. Contact m.boice@sussex.ac.uk.

HOLIDAY LET: House nr Loire Valley, edge Brenne National Park. Streeps 6+. Large, safe garden. £150-350 p/w. Contact lagadec@sussex.ac.uk or tel. 775616.

FOR SALE: Blue Fiat Seicento 900S. 2000 (V reg.). 7,000m. Tax/MoT. £4,000. Tel. 07746 805701.

TO LET: Furnished room in shared house off Lewes Rd (Coombe Rd area). Garden, parking. £300 pcm incl. Call Harri on 277998.

TO LET: Office in Lewes, available 29 April - 5 May. £500 p/w incl. Use of garden. Contact m.boice@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 4-bed house in Lewes, available 28 Apr - 9 June. £125 p/w incl. Use of garden. Contact m.boice@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Studio flat in Lewes, available 28 Apr - 9 June. £125 p/w incl. Use of garden. Contact mboice@sussex.ac.uk.

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Bulletin

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field, Peter Simmons and Benedict Brook. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 2 May, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 25 April. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk. Happy Easter to all our readers!
Administrative and clerical staff should have received letters confirming their posts and job descriptions this week (the week beginning Monday 31 March). Technical staff will receive theirs in the week beginning 7 April.

As all staff in existing Schools will be working in new Schools or Departments from August, academic and other staff will also receive letters in the week beginning 21 April that formally confirm this change.

If support staff have not been spoken to or have any queries, they should contact their School Administrative Manager or Technical Services Manager in the first instance.

**New opportunities in the new Schools**

With all existing support staff allocated to posts in the new structure, there are posts that are still available to be filled. The posts will be available initially to internal applicants only.

Anyone in the University can apply, whether they are on permanent or temporary contracts, including staff who have been allocated specific posts in the new Schools. (If their application is unsuccessful, they would of course retain their allocated job.)

As the *Bulletin* goes to press, the following jobs are expected to be available, but this list is being finalised. The final set of jobs and job descriptions will be available online in the normal way (www.sussex.ac.uk/central/jobs.shtml). Some of these jobs are full-time and some part-time – which will be clearly set out in the information on the web.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 30 April. Applications should be made via Human Resources and using the standard application forms available on the web. Applicants should ensure they address the person specifications and duties of the posts for which they are applying.

Applicants for more than one post may submit only one form, but should make it clear which posts they are applying for, and should ensure that their supporting statement addresses the specific criteria for each post.

Colleagues are welcome to approach any of the School Administrative Managers or their Personnel Officer for an informal discussion about any post.

Interviews will be staggered, but the aim is to complete them by the end of May. The interviews for the Programmes Manager and the Operations Manager in the Sussex Institute will be held on 9 May.

If any posts are still unfilled after this, they would be opened up for external competition.

Some of these jobs are full-time and some part-time. See www.sussex.ac.uk/central/jobs.shtml for further information.
School administrative management

Susan Aldridge became the acting School Administrative Manager for the School of Life Sciences on 31 March. When, as already announced, Laura Flynn stepped down from the post.

Interviews for Laura’s permanent successor are taking place on Friday 4 April, from the strong field of candidates that has come forward. Susan will continue until a permanent successor is appointed and in post.

In the School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, Sam Riordan will be stepping down from her role as School Administrative Manager at the end of June for personal reasons. The Dean (Professor John Holmwood), colleagues in the School, fellow School Administrative Managers and all at the University will want to wish her well for the future.

To ensure that a successor can be put in place as quickly as possible, the University has taken the opportunity of the planned interviews for the Life Sciences post to find a replacement for Sam as well.

All the candidates have been notified that two vacancies exist and the University therefore expects to find successors for both posts from this panel.

Appointment of Heads of Department

The job descriptions for Heads of Department were issued to the University in February. As reported to Senate and Council, Deans continue to work with colleagues to identify prospective Heads for recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor. Appointments are expected to be announced at the start of the summer term.