



13 January 1993

Wollstonecraft Vindicated at Sussex

A successful conference on *Mary Wollstonecraft and 200 Years of Feminism* took place at Sussex on December 5-6. To celebrate the anniversary of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), over 400 people including 70 speakers took part in plenary and workshop sessions. The Conference was held under the auspices of the Centre for Continuing Education, the History Subject Group, the Research Centre in Women's Studies and the Gender and Feminist History Group and the organisers included Gerry Holloway, Pam Roue, Mary Stuart and Eileen Yeo.

Plenaries and workshops were stimulating and wide-ranging. The Vice-Chancellor opened the first plenary in which Barbara Taylor explored "The Fantasy of Mary Wollstonecraft" while Joan Scott spoke on "The Imagination of Olympe de Gouges". In the final plenary on "Futures of Feminism", Beatrix Campbell reflected on the changes in East and West Europe which present a situation of crisis yet possibility, and Himani Bannerjee analysed the need to decolonise knowledge to make feminism and humanism "a reconcilable opposition". Workshops reflected the interdisciplinary interest in Wollstonecraft as well as exploring feminist concerns in different parts of the world including China, Eastern Europe and South Africa.

The conference attracted a wide variety of participants and produced an exciting mix of the local and the international. Joining scholars and activists from abroad were many women from the local community as well as Sussex faculty and students. Financial support for overseas speakers came from the British Academy, the British Council, the European Communities Equal Opportunities Fund, and the Lipman Trust. The Conference is being reported by journals in China, Germany and Korea and other media coverage

included *New Statesman and Society*, *Woman's Hour* and the BBC International Service. Several publishers are eager to produce books from the conference papers.

Accenting the local dimension, the Mayor of Brighton gave the Conference a glittering reception in the Pavilion on Saturday when the Museum also opened the Angelica Kauffman exhibition for a private view. On Sunday, Francesca Annis, Jacquetta May, Juliet Stevenson and others performed a programme of readings and songs. Despite fears that heavy rain might dampen the proceedings, the fireworks went off splendidly and provided a festive finale. The organisers have received comments like "superb", "wonderful", "a magnificent and fitting tribute". Thanks are due to University helpers and hosts for making the conference a weekend to remember.

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RESEARCH TOP TEN

University of Cambridge
University of Oxford
London School of Economics and
Political Science
University College London
University of Warwick
Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine
University of Manchester Institute
of Science and Technology
University of Edinburgh
University of Lancaster
University of Sussex

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The Times Higher Education Supplement on publication of the outcome of the 1992 Research Assessment Exercise. (December 18, 1992.)

Letter from the Vice-Chancellor, page 7.



Peter Simmons, MOLS electronics technician was the winner of a fine spaghetti jar made by glassblower Ken Pike (above, left). The raffle organised by Ken raised £102 for Christian Aid to help children in India regain their sight. The Vice-Chancellor told Ken he had seen eye operations being carried out in India "and there is nothing more heartening than to witness a blind or partially blind child regain sight." Ken raised over £400 earlier in the year for local charities.

Around the Schools

BIOLS

The School of Biological Sciences at Sussex was one of only 9 Biological Sciences groups in the UK to be awarded a "5" in the recent UFC research assessment exercise. This rating also includes the submission from Experimental Psychology which, although not officially given a separate rating, was unofficially given a 5. So Christmas was spent congratulating ourselves, and this report highlights some of the research activities within the group.

TIM FLOWERS has recently been awarded a £1million contract from the Overseas Development Administration to pay for an exchange scheme for scientists here and in India to work on new salt-resistant strains of rice and chickpea (to name just two of the crops being studied). A serious problem in the agricultural plains north of Delhi is that the water table under the ground is quite salty. The water used to irrigate the fields is itself salty, and even if it were not, adding freshwater through irrigation would raise the underlying water table which in turn would increase the salt content of the soil. The work is thus of considerable practical importance.

Closer to home, MIKE HUTCHINGS has been monitoring the orchid populations of the Downs. There are about 50 species of orchid in this country, but the areas in which they can be found have reduced considerably: around two thirds of the species now occupy only a third of the area that they did 50 years ago. On a positive note, it appears that the rarer species are doing better, due probably to recent changes in the climate (e.g. warmer winters and drier summers). This study of native orchids is being carried out in association with work by the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

The last few months have seen the arrival of a number of new staff, including TERRY McGUIRE, on sabbatical from Rutgers, and JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Terry works in Behavioural Genetics, a branch of biology that attempts to understand the relationship between individual differences in genes and individual differences in behaviour. In this case, the behaviour being studied is *Geotaxis*, the movement that an organism makes in respect of gravity. As a concrete

example, there are mutant strains of fruit fly which, when introduced into a kind of vertical maze, will tend to fly upwards, whilst there are other strains which tend to only fly downwards. The fruit fly is a useful, and manageable, system on which basis techniques and theories can be devised which will in the future generalize to other kinds of gene-based behavioural differences.

John Armstrong has joined BIOLS for five years and is funded by the Wellcome Trust. His concern is with *Schizosaccharomyces Pombe*. "Pombe", incidentally, is the Swahili for "beer", and the Latin name translates (loosely) as "fungus that splits sugar", although the organism is more commonly known as "Fission Yeast". John's interest is primarily with how cell membranes are formed, and the yeast cells are important because they resemble mammalian (and indeed human) cells with respect to how membranes are made and the genes that are involved in this. Understanding membrane formation in the yeast will lead to a better understanding of how human membranes are formed, and in turn will lead to a more sophisticated understanding of what can go wrong (as in the case of certain cancers in which cells grow without constraint).

Much of the work within BIOLS has practical application, and this includes work in Experimental Psychology. JENNIFER RUSTED is currently working on the maintenance of daily routines in sufferers of Alzheimer-type dementia. Sufferers of Alzheimer's exhibit severe loss of old and new memories, although their memory of the sequence of actions required to perform the activities of daily living remains relatively intact for some time. By examining the breakdown of these memories over time, the research aims to develop specific strategies which can be used by sufferers to maintain their daily routines as long as possible. A fuller report of this work, which is funded by the Wellcome Trust, will appear in another issue of *The Bulletin*.

And finally, a seasonal piece of research. It is well-established that when a dieter is confronted with food in, for instance, a social situation, he or she may end up eating more than someone who isn't dieting. This is a

finding that has been replicated in many studies, taking all sorts of factors into account. Moreover, dieters tend to show slowed reaction times in a number of tasks. The cause of this is unknown, and may be due to the dieting itself, levels of anxiety in a dieter, or simply because the dieter's attention keeps wandering back to food! MARTIN YEOMANS, in Experimental Psychology, has found out something else: what is there more of at Christmas? Food and people. Consequently, dieters tend to put on more weight at Christmas than non-dieters! So, forget all that dieting - you're going to eat anyway, so you may just as well enjoy yourselves!

MOLS

HAROLD HODSON, Principal Research Scientist and head of Neurotropic Research of the Wellcome Laboratories, has been appointed to an honorary visiting fellowship in MOLS. He gave great assistance to the University in planning the MSc degree in Medicinal Chemistry, and in arranging that scientists from Wellcome and other pharmaceutical laboratories contribute to the course. The success of this led on to the introduction of the undergraduate degree in medicinal chemistry and Dr. Hodson's involvement has been instrumental in introducing a high degree of industrial relevance to the course.

TONY McCAFFERY is in Japan having been awarded a Monbusho Fellowship by the Japanese Government for a period of three months from 1 January 1993.

HARRY KROTO is to give a Royal Society Public Lecture on the new carbon C₆₀ Buckminsterfullerene. Sussex scientists played a major role in its discovery. Five years on, the molecule has been isolated in usable amounts. This breakthrough has triggered an explosion of research into its chemical and physical properties. The lecture, entitled *C₆₀ Buckminsterfullerene, the Celestial Sphere that Fell to Earth* is to be held at 5.30 pm on Thursday 18 February at The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1. All are welcome to attend.

Andreas Bjørnerud

Andreas Bjørnerud, who died from asphyxiation in a house-fire in Berlin on 14 December, had been a temporary lecturer in French in the School of European Studies since 1990. He was 27. He had successfully defended his Oxford doctoral thesis on Céline and Beckett at the end of November, had just seen his contract extended, and was expected to be a strong candidate for a permanent post. Andreas was a brilliant young man who was beginning to publish important theoretical work, and who had brought new ideas and directions to French at Sussex. He was young, but looked much younger still; we will all remember his boyish appearance, his modesty and discretion, the fine acuity of his intellect, the promise now so brutally destroyed.

Geoffrey Bennington

Shawcross Scholarship for South Africa



A new scholarship for South Africa has been established recently for a one-year taught Masters programme in Arts & Social Studies for graduates of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Shawcross Scholarship, named after the University's Chancellor from 1965-1985 will be tenable from October 1993.

Alan Soutter, the University's International Officer, pictured with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor R.W. Charlton, during his recent visit to South Africa to establish the Scholarship, said, "Sussex has many faculty links with South Africa and the University of the Witwatersrand in particular. The timely establishment of this Scholarship will help to consolidate the relationship of our two universities. Indeed, the Head of the Scholarships Office at Wits, Mrs Liz Fick, is a Sussex graduate and will be, in the near future, formally establishing a branch of the University's alumni association, the Sussex Society in South Africa" (details will be in the next edition of *FALMER*).

Part of Alan's visit was concerned with setting up a faculty exchange between the University of the Witwatersrand and the School of African and Asian Studies. Dr. Tony Binns of AFRAS will be visiting Wits from February to April 1993 under a British Council programme. It is hoped to have the first visitor from Wits at Sussex in the course of the current or next academic year.

Space Science

The newly formed cross-school Space Science Centre made a considerable showing at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in San Francisco. The Space Science Centre has two component parts: in MAPS (headed by Sandra Chapman) and in ENGG (headed by Paul Gough) which between them cover the entire spectrum of Space Science activity, from novel instrument design, construction and flight through data reduction and analysis to theory both by computational and analytical methods.

At San Francisco six papers and posters were presented with Sussex co-authors: three papers on the initial results from the correlator flown recently on tether shuttle mission (Gough et al), including a comparison between man-made and natural auroral phenomena: results from the correlator on the CRRES satellite (Watkins, Chapman, Gough et al); results from numerical simulations (Richardson and Chapman, based on one paper in press); and time dependent chaos theory (Chapman). Initial results from the latter caught the headlines about nine months ago and have already resulted in two papers in press.

Barlow Exhibition



A reception was held on 9 December to mark the opening of a new exhibition of the MASTERPIECES OF THE BARLOW COLLECTION. The exhibition at the Barlow Gallery (situated in the University Library) is open, free of charge, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11.30 am to 2.30 pm, and continues until 29 July 1993. The Barlow Collection of Chinese Ceramics, Bronzes and Jades was presented to Sussex in 1974 by Sir Alan and Lady Barlow. They made their bequest to the University "for the benefit of students and all who are receptive to the effects of ceramic shape and glaze." The Vice-Chancellor and Regina Krahl, Curator of the Barlow Collection, are pictured at the reception.

How do you know what people think?

by John Gribbin

What makes us human? The answer has to have something to do with the way we think, and how we view the world. It concerns the way in which we use mental representations not just of the world around us but, much more subtly, of the way other people view the world around them; and it seems to "switch on" at about the age of four.

Josef Perner, who works in Experimental Psychology at Sussex, is fascinated by the whole business of how the mind works, and the variety of different kinds of mental representation that we are capable of. There is a distinct difference, he says, between knowing that something has happened, remembering that it happened and thinking that it happened. The representations are linked with the human ability to understand how other people view the world, and through this to a personal understanding of how an individual views his or her own world.

One of the best examples comes from a demonstration of how three and four year olds see things differently from adults. The children are taught how to work a Polaroid camera, and then use this to take a picture of a doll in a coloured dress. While the photograph is developing, the dress is changed for one of a different colour, and the children are asked what colour dress the doll will be wearing in the photograph. Most get the answer wrong. They are unable to separate the reality of the doll in front of them from the mental representation of the way the doll was when the photograph was taken.

The ability for mental representation of real or hypothetical events, and to picture things from another person's point of view, is closely linked to misrepresentation. It isn't possible to successfully deceive someone unless you have a pretty good idea of what they are thinking, and what they are likely to think in different circumstances.

One way in which the development of this ability shows up is in playing games. Small children generally have no idea what is involved in games where one player wins and the other loses. In a simple game where a toy is hidden in one fist and the opponent has to guess which hand holds the toy, a three year old will repeatedly hold the toy in the same hand, making no real attempt to trick the opponent — and the child will not be disappointed by repeatedly losing the game.

All this changes after about the age of four. For the

first time, the child sees the point of this kind of game. From then on, the road to becoming an adult mentally is largely a matter of practice. The change from age two to age ten is much greater than from age ten to age twenty, and that change in turn is much greater than the change from age twenty to age sixty, says Perner. He has developed this understanding of the way we think in an acclaimed book, *Understanding the Representational Mind* (MIT Press); and although he is quick to disclaim any practical value for his work, describing it as pure research carried out simply out of curiosity, it is not difficult to see practical applications.

First, it now seems to be no coincidence that in most societies children begin formal schooling between the ages of four and six. Empirical experience has shown society that there is no point trying to teach them, in the formal sense, before then, and now we can see why. Secondly, by improving our understanding of how "normal" minds work, it may be possible to help people with certain difficulties, such as autism (although Perner himself says he is pessimistic about the prospects).

Researchers involved in trying to develop artificial intelligence are also interested in this work. Even the most "intelligent" chess-playing computer, for example, clearly does not "care" whether it wins or loses a game, any more than a three year old child cares whether it loses the hidden toy game. The ability to care clearly has something to do with consciousness, and awareness of self; until calculating machines have that, they will be no more than calculating machines.

Finally, there is the intriguing distinction that this kind of investigation draws between humans and other animals. Chimpanzees, our nearest relations, never develop this representational ability. Until the age of three or four, there is really very little difference, as far as anyone can tell, between the world view of a chimp and a human — as fans of Ronald Reagan's *Bedtime for Bonzo* will recall. But between the ages of four and six what makes us human switches on. So the evolutionary biologists are also getting in on the act, puzzling over just when in evolution, and why, this representational ability developed.

Quite a broad range of applications, after all, for a piece of pure "blue sky" research!

Advice on teaching and learning

Computer-based learning, staff development, course packages, teaching assistantships, Open and Distance Learning, and study skills are just some of the issues being considered by a new University-wide committee, the Teaching and Learning Advisory Group (TaLAG). The wide range of areas covered is reflected in the Group's membership: Colin Brooks (EAM) (Chair), Gerald Gazdar (Dean of COGS), John Venables (Dean of MAPS), Carolyn Miller (Director of ICAPE), Adrian Peasgood (Librarian), Alistair Chalmers (Director of Computing Services), and Leo Littman (Students' Union VP Education).

The Group's interests cover four broad areas: monitoring national and local developments, and advising on appropriate action; developing teaching, learning and assessment methods; developing an infrastructure to support and improve teaching and learning; and ensuring liaison between the various committees and groups concerned with teaching and learning.

Staff development has been identified as one priority.

The Staff Development Officer is working with Colin Brooks to introduce a Faculty Induction Programme from this term; the Programme will have three components: an introduction to the University, school-based learning, and teaching and learning methods. As part of the process of monitoring developments and advising on best practice, TaLAG will be meeting with all Deans and Subject Chairs in the Spring, and will issue newsletters about twice a term. TaLAG also has an advisory role in the allocation of the Teaching & Learning Development Fund.

TaLAG can pass on one piece of important information now — the HEFCE will be placing greater emphasis on funding new initiatives in the coming year. It is expected that these will be similar to the recent UFC Programmes to encourage the introduction of educational technology and flexibility in course provision. TaLAG will be inviting proposals when full details are received, and asks that members of the University Community give thought to the matter now.

Dear Editor,

The Isle of Thorns

Readers of *Bulletin* learnt last term that the University has bought the White House and surrounding property and land comprising the Estate which the University will now be looking to develop.

As a trade union representative on the Committee which has responsibility for developing this asset I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has ideas for the way in which they would wish to see the expansion and development take place.

How popular for example is the swimming pool given our British summers? Or, is this a family outing place where staff and students can swim and picnic? If the cost of repair is prohibitive would people object to paying a small sum to use the facilities? (My suggestion, not mentioned in Committee, I promise).

There is a commitment to improve access for people with disabilities, so all in all this under-utilised facility has a good future. Please let me know if you want your views reflected in the report I am preparing for the next meeting of the Committee. Can you please contact me before the end of January in Arts B350, ext: 2208.

Pauline Thorne
Trade Union Liaison Committee

News from the Library

An additional service point for the issue and return of books is now operational 1-3 pm Monday to Friday.

The Library has recently installed two new electronic information sources:

— INSPEC (Physics Abstracts, Electrical and Electronic Abstracts and Computer and Control Abstracts) covers material indexed from 1989 onwards, and although it concentrates on the fields indicated by the equivalent hard-copy titles, it also has a substantial amount of material relating to AI, and some of interest to chemists.

— *The Independent* is the first full-text source in electronic form to be held by the Library, and covers the files of that newspaper back to October 1990.

Both these sources are available via the public PCs in the Information Services area, and are accessible throughout the Library opening hours.

Introductory courses on BIDS are offered by Library staff each Monday this term, 1-1.50 pm in the Computing Centre. If you want to learn how to search the journal literature from most campus PCs contact Information Services in the Library (8440) to reserve a place, numbers strictly limited.

The MOLE

1992 ended on a high note for the University, with the release of the UFC research selectivity ratings, and the deservedly high placing of Sussex University. 1993 is thus off to a good start.

To mark the occasion, and in the spirit of the trivial pursuits endured by the masses over Christmas and the New Year, the Mole offers the following equally trivial quiz.

Not all the alternative answers shown are accurate, and any resemblance to fact, whilst intentional, is in some cases only coincidental.

The Mole's 1993 Quiz of irrelevant fact and irreverent fiction

- 1993 is the Year of the Single Market because: (a) all the others have gone bust; (b) its something to do with the EEC; (c) both (a) and (b).
- Which of the following appeared in the *Times Higher Education Supplement's* Top Ten of research universities? (A fact which, contrary to the title of the quiz, is neither irrelevant, nor fiction): (a) The University of Sussex; (b) The University of Sussex; (c) The University of Sussex; (d) none of the above.
- How many man-hours were spent in 1992 in each university compiling the UFC research selectivity returns? (A man-year is approximately 1800 man hours, not including tea and lunch breaks): (a) more than 100; (b) more than 1000; (c) more than 10000; (d) more than anyone ever imagined possible.
- How many selectivity exercises and audits will universities have to undertake in each 3-year period? (a) your guess is as good as mine.
- How many non-audit hours will be left over, per employee, for the normal running of the University (which, lest you have forgotten, includes teaching and research)? (a) less than the time it takes to make a cup of tea; (b) less than 100; (c) less than 1000; (d) less than anyone ever imagined likely.
- Who audits the auditors? (a) none of the above
- Which government department ended 1992 by saying that "The question remains whether the complexity of national curriculum assessment, recording and reporting as currently conceived is in fact manageable..."? And just in case you doubt it, one of the following is correct: (a) HM Customs; (b) HM Inspectors; (c) HM Prisons; (d) an inmate of (c)
- Which estimable patron of British Education is most likely to be willing to do for Higher Education what he/she has done for the National Curriculum? (a) Chris Patten; (b) John Patten; (c) Margaret Thatcher; (d) Dan Quayle
- What do we have to look forward to in 1993? (a) more of 1992; (b) promotion; (c) The Single Market; (d) A Single Malt
- Who is *The Mole*?

The sender of the most nearly correct answers (or possibly any answers at all, come to that) will be rewarded with a bottle of non-EEC sparkling wine (the French Champagne cartel prevents the precious fluid from being called by its rightful name). Members of the Information Office are, as usual, ineligible for any prize on offer, which is a bit much really, considering they rather kindly presented the Mole with a very nice bottle of bubbly for Christmas.

Tom Bottomore, Professor of Sociology at Sussex from 1968 to 1985, was one of Britain's most admired social scientists, with a worldwide reputation for the intellectual clarity and precision of his work, his intense engagement in the work of the international community of sociologists and his enormous personal warmth and generosity to a huge circle of friends and colleagues.

Tom began his involvement with Marxism at school in Nottingham. After a first degree in economics and economic history, and military service in postwar Vienna, he began graduate work with Morris Ginsberg at the London School of Economics. After a formative year in Paris he returned to teach at the LSE devoting himself to the dissemination of Marxist and other theories of society and to the study of social stratification and of what was coming to be called the Third World, notably India where he made many life-long friends. His edited collections of Marx's work and that of later Marxists, his recently revised books on classes and elites and his very influential textbook gave generations of students a clear, reliable and open-minded introduction to sociology. He was enormously active in developing the International Sociological Association, with a period as its President and a continuing involvement in its research committee on the history of sociology.

Between 1965 and 1968 he taught at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, and on his return to the UK in 1968, taught at Sussex (with short periods in Halifax, Nova Scotia) until his retirement in 1985. His grad-

uate seminars and his personal support shaped the careers of generations of sociologists, several of whom later collaborated in his many writing projects. The placid rhythms of his ubiquitous pipe combined with Tom's own calm and measured analysis, with occasional moments of irritation marked by particularly vigorous gouging out of the spent material. By now philosophy and social theory in Britain had become less backward and parochial, and the kind of theoretically informed sociology which Tom had always encouraged had become widely accepted; he guided us through the conceptual maze with the skill of someone who had already been through it as a pioneer.

He enormously appreciated the good things about the still new University of Sussex: in particular, the freedom to range across disciplinary boundaries in creating new and innovative courses. He was less tolerant of lengthy and inconsequential faculty meetings, especially after smoking was banned, and of the growing bureaucratisation and regimentation of the University.

It was never Tom's intention to found a school of disciples; he took particular pride in the diversity of the work of those who had learned from him, as he stressed at the end of the conference which Gillian Rose organised at Sussex to mark his retirement. This conference was a major intellectual event, as some of the world's leading sociologists presented their own work and showed how much they owed to Tom's influence and friendship. And at sociological gatherings anywhere in the world, an answer to the question 'Where are you from?' invariably led

to the supplementary question, 'How is Tom Bottomore?'.

Tom in retirement was a contradiction in terms. He threw himself into a huge range of intellectual projects and, after the terrible shock of the early death of his second wife Mary, he picked them up again, returning increasingly to topics in economic sociology such as his superb work on Schumpeter and on capitalist and socialist economies. Most recently, as we completed the editing of a major dictionary of twentieth-century social thought, he became editor of the English language edition of the Spanish-based international journal, *Socialism of the Future*, kitting himself out, with his children's help, with the necessary infrastructure of computer and fax machine and travelling regularly to Spain and elsewhere. In the month before his death he was beginning to write a long-planned book on socialist democracy.

Tom's commitment to his characteristic version of Marxism as a form of social theory, and to socialism as a political project, never wavered. At a very successful conference organised last term by Sussex students on the prospects of radical politics he gently chided us for being too pessimistic, just as, twenty years before, he had warned an earlier generation against theoretical or political adventurism. Whether he was interpreting a line of theoretical development, or evaluating current political trends, his judgements were backed by the same combination of historical awareness, careful study and reflection and a concern, as he sometimes put it, to spread around a little clarity and rationality. He certainly did that, and a lot more besides.

William Outhwaite

Getting Money From Europe

Winning research funds from the European Community is a hard job, though usually rewarding when you have cracked the system. To help you, Sussex now subscribes to the UK Research and Higher Education European Office. The Office was formed in 1991 by merging the Research Councils' and the British Council's separate operations in Brussels. Its staff are in regular contact with EC officials, monitor the Commission's publications, and issue one or two e-mail bulletins each week and a bulky printed bulletin each month on the opportunities for research and educational funding. They also give advice to prospective applicants.

Making the formal application for funding requires long preparation, not least because most must involve collaborators from different countries. We should be looking forward now to the Fourth Framework Programme from which funds may not flow until 1995. If you are willing to tailor your research to the specification of an EC programme

and to build up links with potential collaborators, contact John Farrant, Director of Research Administration (ext. 8210) for a preliminary discussion.

The Research Office (formerly RISU) is now the gateway to the Brussels Office. We want to disseminate the information we receive as quickly as possible directly to the people who can use it.

20 February is the expected deadline for a second call under the Human Capital and Mobility Programme, Activities 1 (fellowships via institutes) and 3 (large-scale facilities). We have a few information packs left over from the first call.

R.I.P. RISU News Targetting the EC information in this way will remove one of the mainstays of *RISU News*, so we intend to circulate announcements of UK funding opportunities, as they are received, to the Deans and the Subject Chairs to whom they appear relevant and, from Easter, to print one-sentence summaries in *The Bulletin*. The last issue of *RISU News* appeared in early December.

Letter from the Vice-Chancellor

Last term ended on a note of triumph. For Sussex to gain a place among the top ten research universities was a splendid achievement, made all the more remarkable because so much of our time in recent years has been preoccupied with rapidly rising student numbers.

We now have six "5s" (the top score in the research assessment ranking) and our centre of gravity has shifted to "4s". The growth in excellence of our research since the last assessment exercise in 1989 has been clearly recognised, although, according to our intelligence, in some cases the quality of our presentations helped to tilt the balance. I know that much painful effort went into producing the assessment returns and I am grateful to everyone concerned.

Life at the top will be tough. The next assessment exercise will probably be in 1995 and, as you are no doubt tired of hearing me say, the papers and books being published now will count. Other universities will be eager to oust us from the top ten. We will have to hang on to our 5s and 4s. After the next exercise 2s will not receive research funding and hard decisions will have to be made on the future of research groupings that have not done well this time.

In the coming term we will be asking all subject Deans and Chairs to produce research strategies that will maintain or improve their performance over the next three years. Such strategies will need to address income as well as performance. Our research council income has dropped in recent years and we need to increase income from contracts. One under-exploited resource is the European Commission. John Farrant, Director of Research Administration, is in the process of gathering intelligence on what funds are available. Anyone interested in approaching the EC should contact him.

The second significant event at the end of last term was the government's announcement of a freeze on student numbers, to take effect from 1994. Our intake at Sussex will go up by a small amount this coming October but will then stabilise. In many ways this is to be welcomed. The policy of rapid expansion in recent years has paid off handsomely. We have increased our income which has enabled us to hire new staff who, in turn, have contributed to our research standing.

We have been ahead of the game. Unlike many other universities we will not suffer unduly from the freeze. On the contrary, we are now in an ideal position to benefit from the coming period of

relative stability. We now have a breathing space in which we can examine the fabric and structure of the University – academic, social, economic and physical – and determine what kind of university we are going to be in the 21st century. We need to assess our strengths and weaknesses, identify our distinctiveness and work out our priorities on this basis.

Now that our research standing is confirmed, the next immediate task is to improve the quality of our teaching. We need to do this, of course, so as to maintain and improve the quality of education our students receive. But there is also an economic imperative. Now that student numbers are to be frozen, the government allocation for teaching will increasingly depend on teaching quality. In the future it will be formally assessed, so that eventually we will have both a research and a teaching ranking in the country.

I have asked Colin Brooks to take over the Teaching and Learning Advisory Group and he will be spearheading the development of new teaching approaches. From my visits to the Schools I am aware how much innovative teaching is already being done. We need to share experiences and I know that Colin would welcome your suggestions.

In a period of stable HEC student numbers, extra teaching income will largely come from mounting short courses and from recruiting overseas students. The number of the latter has fallen in recent years, despite our excellent international reputation. We need to make a major effort to increase recruitment and Alan Soutter, who is in charge of recruiting overseas students, would welcome your suggestions.

I have so far not mentioned the Academic Audit which was conducted at the beginning of the term. The report arrived just before Christmas and we have had little time to digest its contents. Unfortunately, some of their comments are based on misunderstandings, particularly from their lack of understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of our teaching. However, one of their welcome recommendations is that we should improve the flow of information.

This letter is a first step in that direction. I will produce a similar letter at regular intervals. Those of you interested in keeping up-to-date with the issues in this letter and other issues affecting the future of the University should read the minutes of the Management Committee which are available through your Dean, or in the Documents Section of the Library..

Rediscovering the Old Testament

The Bible: a book of inestimable value that gives God's word to the human race or a load of fictional drivel that has directly led to the deaths of millions? Today, with Hindus killing Muslims, Muslims killing Sikhs, Jews killing Arabs, and Christians killing everyone including, seemingly, themselves, might it not be time to examine again the book which is crucial to at least three of these faiths? At least, that's what Alec Gilmore, the University's Baptist Chaplain argues, introducing a series of lectures on the Old Testament that he is giving in the Meeting House this term.

"The Old Testament is a vital part of our common European story," he contends, "and so the Meeting House is providing the opportunity for a fresh look at its meaning and message. Old Testament scholarship today provides a new look which is creative, radical and refreshing." The lecture series begins with the traditional approach to the Old Testament and then introduces some different readings and interpretations. "Ever since my college days," he says, "I have had a special interest in the Old Testament, and if people read it more and clergy preached it more then we might have more interesting sermons, a healthier society and a better understanding of Christianity."

The "Rediscovering the Old Testament" lecture series are every Thursday this term, beginning 21 January at 6 pm in the Meeting House Quiet Room.

New Year Honours

Two members of the University Court were knighted for public and political service in the New Year's Honours List. John Freeman Chatfield, former Chairman, Executive Council, Association of County Councils, was made a Knight Bachelor, and the Rt Hon Terence Langley Higgins, MP for Worthing, a Knight of the British Empire (KBE). Also honoured was Peter Jonas (a distinguished alumnus of this University {EAM 1965-68}), General Director of English National Opera. He was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE).

NOTICEBOARD

Vacancies

The following posts within the University are vacant. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Personnel Office, Room 227, Sussex House. List compiled 21 December 1992.

Teaching Faculty

Chair in Development Economics
Chair in Environmental Science
Clerical & Related
Fixed term Nursery Nurse in the Creche
Assistant Building Manager, Grade 3.

Recent Publications by Sussex Authors

SCHRODERS. Merchants and Bankers by Richard Roberts. Macmillan £25.

PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SEXUAL PROBLEMS: new directions in theory and practice. Edited by Jane M. Ussher and Christine D. Baker. Routledge. Paperback £13.99.

HEADSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE by Neville West. Longman £27.50.

MARX'S CAPITAL. A Student Edition. Edited and Introduced by C.J. Arthur. Lawrence & Wishart. Paperback £11.99.

THE LAW AND THE LADY by Wilkie Collins. Edited with an Introduction by Jenny Bourne Taylor. Oxford University Press World's Classics Series. Paperback £5.99.

TECHNOLOGY AND THE WEALTH OF NATIONS: the Dynamics of constructed advantage. Edited by Dominique Foray and Christopher Freeman. Pinter Publishers £45.

DEVELOPMENT POLICY. Edited by Soumitra Sharma. Includes a contribution by H.W. Singer. Macmillan £45.

All obtainable from Sussex University Bookshop

Public Lecture

Issues in Environment Science Series: Dr. J.A. Pickett, Rothamstead Experimental Station, *Agriculture Without Pesticides?* Tuesday 19 January at 6.30 pm in MOLS Lecture Theatre. This is an open lecture. No tickets are required and all are welcome to attend.

Spring 1993 at the Gardner Arts Centre

January

Sat 16 COMEDY NIGHT with Jenny Eclair and Harry Hill
Wed 20 MACLENNEN DANCE CO
Fri-Sat 21 & 22 "SAY A PRAYER FOR ME" AND "HELL" by Steven Berkoff. Performed by George Dillon
Sat 23 JAZZ NIGHT with STAN TRACEY QUARTET
Mon 25 COMEDY NIGHT
Thurs 28 "ONE IOTA" IOU Theatre Co Drama
Fri 29 "GLASS PARTS" from David Glass Mime Theatre

February

Thurs 4 "LETTERS FROM HOME" a life of SYLVIA PLATH
Mon 8 COMEDY NIGHT
Thurs 11 "SELF-CATERING" a black comedy
Fri 12 V-TOL DANCE COMPANY

PUPPET FESTIVAL WEEK

Mon 15 DOO COT PUPPET COMPANY
Tues 16 "DARWIN'S DEAD HERRING" Faulty Optic Theatre
Wed 17 "FRANK EINSTEIN" Green Ginger
Sat 20 "STRINGS & THINGS" Stephen Mottram Puppets

Mon 22 COMEDY NIGHT
Tues 23 OPERA CIRCUS PHYSICAL THEATRE
Wed 24 "DEADLY SERIOUS" Adventures in Motion Pictures
Thurs-Sat 25-27 "BRIDESHEAD REVISITED" Snap Theatre Co.
Sun 28 LONG JOHN BALDRY "St Louis Blues"

March

Wed-Sat 3-6 "THE EUROPEANS" by HOWARD BARKER
Mon 8 COMEDY NIGHT
Tues 16 LONDON BRASS
Mon 22 COMEDY NIGHT

Disciplinary Panel

The Disciplinary Panel met on 8 December 1992 to consider a case referred to it by the Discipline Committee.

A student in MAPS was found guilty of conduct seriously prejudicial to good order and discipline in the University in that he sexually harassed a female student.

The student was bound over to be of good behaviour against the surety of his caution money deposit, which was increased from £50 to £250, and warned that if he were to be found guilty by a Disciplinary Panel of further sexual harassment in the future, he would forfeit his deposit and might incur further penalties.

Open Days for Potential Students

6 March - Mature Open Day
7 May - Sixth Form Open Day
8 May - Sixth Form Open Day
16 June - General Open Day

Further details may be obtained from Kim Rogers, Schools and Colleges Liaison Co-ordinator, ext. 8417.

Computing Centre Hours

The Computing Centre has extended its opening hours during term time to meet increased demand:

Monday-Friday 9 am—11 pm
Saturday 2—6.30 pm
Sunday 2—11 pm

BULLETIN

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* to be published on 3 February, should be received by Pauline O'Reilly, Room 230, Sussex House, by 1.00 pm on Friday 22 January. If you have any news items or ideas for feature articles she would be pleased to hear from you (ext. 8209).

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