



14 May 1993

NUS launches plan for greater student rights

Proposals aimed at giving students more control over their education through a new "Learner Agreement" have just been announced by the National Union of Students. The Agreement would be an individual contract placing obligations on students, tutors, departments and institutions and would avoid treating students as a homogenous mass. It would be negotiated at an individual level between the college, the student, and the union. Individual rights would be guaranteed and, if broken, would allow students to seek redress from a national education ombudsman.

The NUS hopes the agreement will create increased openness giving the student a much better idea of what is being offered by the institutions and allowing them to make a better choice. The University's Students' Union President, Danny Rye, commented, "This is an excellent, positive idea and we are very keen on it. It gives both students and tutors the opportunity to say what they want from a course and what they expect of each other." The plan may be tested at Sussex on the revamped Arts-Science scheme.

Dr Jack Ellis 1943—1993

Jack Ellis suffered a heart attack at his desk early on Monday 10 May, and died shortly afterwards. He is survived by his wife, Carole, and daughter, Sarah.

Jack will be remembered by all who knew him as a man of great personal integrity who had a boundless, infectious enthusiasm for all aspects of his work, combined with a complete commitment to the School of Engineering. His sudden and totally unexpected death is a terrible blow to all of us.

A fuller tribute to Jack will be published in a future edition of *Bulletin*.

Brian Roberts
Dean of ENGG



Potential Sussex undergraduates enjoying the sunshine as they gather outside the Refectory for the Open Day held on Friday 7 May. Kim Rogers, one of the organisers, described the day as a great success with record numbers (over 1,700) of sixth formers attending.

World Première for New Opera

The opera *Inquest of Love*, the latest work by Jonathan Harvey, Professor of Music, is to receive its world première on 5 June at the London Coliseum.

Inquest of Love was specially commissioned by English National Opera, and is, in the composer's words, "a spiritual journey of trials and tribulations leading to a calm reconciliation where love brings resolution, joy and laughter." The story of the opera is of three souls trying to discover through the past a lasting peace. The characters are presented living in a sea of sound where they play and replay actions, each time presenting a different person's perspective. Journeying on, they enter a spirit world inhabited by three contrasting and intriguing guides before finally returning to their point of departure, three utterly different people.

"My inspiration came from many sources, including the nature of suffering,

and both Christian and Buddhist ideas," says Professor Harvey. "The opera's actual origins began some 20 years ago, and after writing some drafts, English National Opera eventually decided to commission it. The work is fairly mainstream in taste, although the large use of electronic music, may be rather unusual for an opera house!". As well as the music, the original libretto for the work was also written by Professor Harvey. However, "I had always wanted a professional writer to help me with it, and ENO found a marvellous librettist called David Rudkin who took my libretto and has turned it into a first-rate piece of writing."

Opera writing is very much in vogue amongst the University music faculty. Michael Finnessey is at present writing one, and *Craig's Progress* by Martin Butler will be premièred at the Kings Lynn Festival in July 1994.

RESEARCH REPORT

by Matthew Ledbury

Halting the decline of the orchid

An ongoing project in BIOLS investigating orchids on the South Downs is not only helping to conserve one of Britain's most endangered flowers but is now also providing data which could play a major role in the wider conservation of endangered flora.

The project, which is being financially supported by the Worldwide Fund for Nature, is being run by Dr Mike Hutchings with research assistance from Kevin Warwick. It involves regular monitoring of the Early Spider Orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*) on a special downland site on the South Downs. Dr Hutchings has been monitoring the orchid there since the site was established as a nature reserve in 1975. The Early Spider Orchid is one of Britain's most endangered flowers and along with other orchids has declined enormously in the last 50 years and is now confined mainly to the south-east. It is officially recognised as endangered and enjoys a great deal of protective legislation. At present rates, the Early Spider Orchid could disappear from the British Isles altogether within 10 years, however, so management of the remaining population is crucial.

Says Dr Hutchings, "there are over 300 endangered species of higher plants in Britain, yet our study is virtually unique in investigating how to conserve one of them." The causes of its decline — its habitat being destroyed at a very fast rate and the effects of climatic deterioration — are also responsible for the disappearance of many other flora. But changes on the Downs site during the study (such as the reintroduction of sheep grazing following the damaging effects that cattle grazing had after its introduction after the war) have helped arrest the orchid's decline. Furthermore the data obtained should contain information which may help to predict how this and other species may respond to climatic change. "The Early Spider Orchid makes a good subject for applying solutions to other endangered organisms," Dr Hutchings adds, "so our results will hopefully have a very wide application."

Learning through Laughter

Q: What's black and white and read all over?

A: A newspaper!

Such classic school jokes are the delight of many young children. While giggling convulsively at such puns, however, they may not understand them at all. Research by Dr Nicola Yuill and Dr Jane Oakhill (BIOLS) discovered that 7 - 8 year-olds are often fluent readers, but have noticeable difficulty with text comprehension. As one child explained to his teacher, "You laugh because it's a joke — you're not meant to get it."

So now Dr Yuill, a lecturer in COGS, is conducting research on whether or not it is possible to use such jokes and riddles to improve the comprehension of 7 - 8 year old children. During the Spring Term, Dr Yuill and her research assistant Kate Easton ran a project with a selection of children from that age group in various primary schools in Brighton, to see whether or not making children aware of linguistic inferences by using word-play and riddles will improve their text comprehension. For the project, children had to look at words with double meanings, how jokes work, play communication games with pictures, decipher puzzling stories, and, hardest of all, make up their own jokes.

"Making up their own riddles seems to give children insight into the role of linguistic ambiguity in humour," Dr Yuill said. "The idea is not just for them to know an answer but to be

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For information on any of the following call Louise Vincent, Research Office ext. 3761 or Email deeb@admin.

TOXICOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY, European Science Foundation fellowships. Closing date 15 October 1993.

EC 4th FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME. A second working document is going to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Enquiries to John Farrant (8609).

BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF SOIL AND WATER. LINK programme just announced with DTI and MAFF funding for collaborative research with industry.

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY. EC invites proposals on bio-economic analysis, protection of marine species and establishing a conservation regime for the Mediterranean.

ARION: STUDY VISITS TO EC BY EDUCATION SPECIALISTS. General information for 1993/94. **PORTUGAL: FINLAND: TURKEY**. Updated notices of British Council schemes for research visits and joint projects.

THE FAMILY: SOCIAL PROTECTION: SOCIAL EXCLUSION. EC is compiling lists of potential contractors for activities relating to family policy and for related sociological, legal, demographic and economic studies; for studies of social security, social assistance, etc; and for EC initiatives to combat social exclusion.

COMPLEX MECHANISMS OF LIVING ORGANISMS. Human Frontier Science Programme, research grants and fellowships, closing date 1 September 1993.

JAPANESE CULTURE & CIVILISATION. Small grants available from the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee.

KNOW-HOW FUND. Up-to-date information on British Government funding of assistance to Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the former Soviet Union.



Kate Easton shares a joke with one of the participants.

able to stand outside themselves and realise how they have worked it out. Thinking about riddles makes children think in different ways and they can then apply this to listening and reading other texts."

The results after the term's work seem to largely confirm the links. Comprehension tests given to all children before and after the term's programme showed that most children in the wordplay experiment improved their comprehension. With these encouraging results, Dr Yuill now hopes to pursue the research further.

Around the Schools

BIOLS

It's been a relatively quiet time in BIOLS since the start of the year (but see *The Bulletin* of 30/4/93 for details of new grants awarded during this period). BRIAN SPRATT, Wellcome Professor of Molecular Genetics, has just recently been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, bringing to four the number of FRSS in the School. Two new lectureships have been appointed: KAREN McCOMB will start in October, and she will be working on mammalian vocalisation. Her fieldwork has included playing tapes of lion roars to African lions in order to study their reaction to different lion sounds (to understand the ways in which lions communicate). Future work will include taking custom-built loudspeakers out into the bush to study elephant sounds. This is no trivial task, as elephants communicate with sounds that are at such low frequencies that they cannot be heard by the human ear, and most normal loudspeakers can't produce frequencies that low. JANE DAVIES joins the School in July, and as a developmental biologist she researches the ways in which the interconnections between nerve cells develop (allowing communication, albeit of a rather different sort, to take place between the individual cells).

ANN BROWN and PAUL RUSSELL, in Experimental Psychology, are busy preparing hardware and associated software for a Wellcome-funded project on hearing. Amongst other things, they will be developing a tool for the preliminary screening of auditory impairment in premature babies. These babies are particularly susceptible to sensory impairments (the auditory system starts functioning at around 7 months of gestation, so a baby that is born one month short of full-term will have an auditory system that is only half as old as that of a full-term baby). In previous research, Ann and colleagues have developed an objective measure of inner-ear function which, in conjunction with other indicators of hearing ability (including measurements taken from the scalp of electrical activity in the brain), should allow a better assessment of hearing ability in babies. Aspects of this project will be described more fully in the next (8-page) issue of the *Bulletin*. JANE OAKHILL, ALAN GARNHAM, and NICOLA YUILL (from COGS) are concerned with slightly older children, and are working with the French Ministry of Education on a study of memory and the development of comprehension skills in children. Frequent hops to Paris are planned, no doubt.

English Nature has established a scheme of bursaries to fund research conducted by students on their nature reserves. The intention appears to be to make this an annual arrangement, but this is the first year it has been on offer. While the amount of money for each student is small, we are delighted that three out of four of our applicants have been successful in a competitive tender for funding. The three — KAREN BATE, VICTORIA CAMPBELL and JOHN NEWINGTON — are in their second year studying Ecology and Conservation in BIOLS.

SPRU

It has just been announced that CHRIS FREEMAN has been awarded the Prix International du Futuroscope — a prestigious prize being given for the first time by the Fondation Prospective et Innovation in Poitiers, France, in recognition of political and economic research distinguished by its originality, rigour and social usefulness.

SONJA BOEHMER-CHRISTIANSEN and JIM SKEA have received funding from the EC's Third Framework Research Programme for the project *Cooperative solutions to environmental problems: the national-international linkage* which will run until mid-1995. It focuses on the regime for the control of acid rain and transboundary air pollution which developed in Europe during the 1970s and 1980s. The aim of the project is to identify the conditions under which effective institutional arrangements might be designed for developing and implementing co-operative solutions to shared environmental problems.

In April Sonja was invited to give a lecture on the role of the precautionary principle in German environmental policy to a symposium held by the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) and the Centre for Environmental Policy, at Green College, Oxford. It is intended that the proceedings will be published as a book.

SOC

Jennifer Platt is spending the summer term touring US libraries and archives for her research on the history of US sociological research methods. On this trip she is looking particularly for material on the impact of research funding, and on the career of the astrophysicist J.Q. Stewart who, in the 1940s and 1950s, had the enterprise of creating a "social physics" which would apply the laws of physics to social phenomena. Her trip is funded by an ESRC personal research grant, plus a small grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to spend a week at its archives.

Jennifer has also just received another ESRC grant, jointly with Dr. Paul Hoch and Professor Colin Holmes of Sheffield, to do work on the consequences of Hungarian intellectual migration to this country after the 1956 upheaval. This will explore the extent to which the migration led to intellectual innovation, and the circumstances under which that was more or less likely.

News for Around the Schools is submitted by School PR reps: BIOLS—Gerry Altmann, COGS—Geoffrey Sampson, ENGG—Lionel Ripley, MAPS—John Venables, MOLS—John Murrell, AFRAS—Tony Binns, CCS—Pauline Thorne, EAM—Bob Benewick and Joan Astill, EURO—Nigel Llewellyn, SOC—Anne Asha.

Discipline

The Disciplinary Panel met on 26 February 1993 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 to discipline in the University in that he physically assaulted two male students on campus. The student was fined £300, required to make reparations by reimbursing the costs incurred by the two students he assaulted and warned that if he is found guilty by a Disciplinary Panel of any further anti-social or violent behaviour he will be permanently expelled from the University. The student appealed against the penalty, and in particular against the fine imposed on him.

The decision of the Appeals Board, which met on 23 April 1993, was to increase the fine to £400 and to endorse the other decisions of the Panel.

WHY COMMUTE WHEN YOU CAN COMPUTE?

In a new series on innovative research Michael Kenward interviews Roger Silverstone, Professor of Media Studies, about the impact of technology on domestic life.

Two days without trains and the media suddenly fill up with articles about "teleworking". The idea even crops up as a way of selling property. Why put up with the uncertainties of commuting when you could sit at a computer at home, leaving it to telephone messages to do the travelling?

Teleworking relieves workers of the daily fight to get to work, with traffic on the roads or the wrong sort of leaves on the lines. Companies can save money on office space. The family has more opportunities to organise its life to suit its own needs.

As you'd expect, it isn't that simple. Which is why Roger Silverstone and Leslie Haddon have just finished a large research study on teleworking. They were amongst the first people to look at this topic from the point of view of the worker, rather than as seen by companies planning to let employees work at home.

Silverstone, who came to Sussex in 1991, is Professor of Media Studies in the School of Cultural & Community Studies. He admits that his can be a confusing title. He does not spend his time teaching students how to make TV programmes, or watching endless sessions of *Coronation Street*. He confesses that he has a "compulsive desire" to understand the impact of the media on domestic life.

It is unwise, says Silverstone, to accept the simple-minded notion that video games spell the end of civilisation as we know it, or that society will collapse if satellite TV shows soft-porn videos at 10 o'clock at night. People are far more sophisticated in their responses to a relentless media bombardment.

Silverstone together with Dr Leslie Haddon, a senior research fellow in Media Technology & Cultural Research in the School of Cultural & Community Studies, look at the ways in which people respond to the flood into the home of what they call "information and communications technologies" (ICTs). Silverstone asks: "What kind of lives do people really have with the technologies at home?"

In their work, Haddon and Silverstone apply the tools of sociology and anthropology. Their research involves

lengthy interviews with family members, individually and in groups, to see how they fit the combination of the broadcast media, telecommunications and computer technology into their lives.

"Information and communications technologies are about control," says Silverstone. And that control comes in many forms. Who gets to point the remote control at the TV set? Who programmes the family video recorder?

Gender stands out as a key factor in the response to ICTs. Men and women do not respond in the same way. "Technologies have been designed by men, sold by men and used by men in general." Response to ICT also depends on class and the structure of a family, the age of the children, are also important.

The group's earlier research showed that computers do not have as significant an impact on families as the numbers of machines in homes would suggest. The computer does not yet fit in with the other ICTs. It is, says Silverstone, "too inefficient a technology to be easily domesticated into households without enormous effort."

Teleworking is one way of injecting ICT into the home. It entails "people using telecommunications and computing to work from home." But that work can come in many forms. And your version of teleworking will colour your attitudes, both to the work and to the technology.

A self-employed teleworker will have a very different view from someone whose job, and the equipment they use, is controlled by an employer. Clerical self-employed teleworkers, especially females who have to fit work in with the family routine, are less likely than companies to invest in expensive equipment.

Employees and the self-employed have to find their own ways of dealing with the isolation that can come from working on their own. Employees often have an office they can go to at least once a week, giving them a network of people to plug into; and companies do try to create systems that keep workers in touch. The self-employed, on the other hand, have to create their own networks, sometimes in the shape of self help groups, where people can share experiences, and perhaps even work.

Once again gender also makes a difference to how a family responds to teleworking. As in many things, women often work part time, bringing a second

income into the family. They have to fit the work around other family activities, like child rearing. In this case, the teleworker can face problems with people who don't think of this as "real work". Indeed all teleworkers run the same risk.

"Teleworking," says Silverstone, "is about the ability to control the use of space and time in the household." And space can be a major problem, with equipment taking over space in the dining room, or even in a bedroom. The spouse of one worker recounted tales of trying to get to sleep while her partner was frantically tapping away at a keyboard.



... equipment taking over space in the dining room, or even in a bedroom.

"One surprise," says Silverstone, "was the extraordinary variety of ways that teleworking was taking place." Sometimes it is very ordinary work – clerical drudgery transferred to the home, the modern equivalent of homeworkers knitting socks to supplement the family income. Alternatively, teleworking can be "an opportunity for self-motivated and self-driven young men, it was usually men, to establish themselves as unfettered operators in a technologically intensive environment of instant communication and decision making."

It is the diversity of patterns of teleworking and the different responses to technological opportunities that interest Silverstone. Telework is, he believes, "a form of social change which can have a profound bearing on the organisation of domestic life." Which makes it an interesting and fruitful area for research.

Michael Kenward describes himself as a science writer who got into bad habits as a Sussex undergraduate in the '60s and never could get into working for a living. After 10 years as editor of the weekly magazine New Scientist he dropped out, again, and now "teleworks" from his cottage in Sussex. He does not own a television.

The MOLE

Feedback, especially of the *literal* kind, is always welcome, and it was thus with some considerable pleasure that an Easter Egg was received by the Mole via the internal mail (albeit squashed beyond all recognition). The Mole has decided that should no-one win this issue's competition, the usual prize will pass automatically to the sender of the egg, a prominent member, as it happens, of the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences.

COGS, as it is more colloquially known, is one of a number of places where researchers are busy constructing the latest in artificial intelligences. Neural Networks are all the rage, and, despite exhibiting complex behaviours previously thought to be uniquely human, they are remarkably simple. You take a handful of simple processors which, in effect, are able to respond "yes" or "no" depending on their input, you join them up in a group, and out pops a complex, and often useful, behaviour. This is quite unlike your average committee, which is similar in composition, but from which pops a complex, and often *useless*, behaviour.

And writing of committees, the CVCP (which does *not* stand for the Committee of Vice, Chancellors, and Principles) has enjoyed much media attention recently with preliminary speculations concerning the outcome of the Flowers Report (on changing the form of the academic year), and a vote which appeared to endorse the idea of switching student support away from a grant-based system and towards an Australian-style grant and graduate tax. Apparently (although this is hearsay, and should perhaps be disbelieved), some newspapers have reported that delegates were not in fact sure *what* they were voting for.... And the alternatives mooted by the Flowers committee seem to consist of just three options: They are (1, 2, & 3) to change the system and cause much havoc in so doing. The fourth option, to keep things as they are, is clearly too radical...

But whilst we wait with baited breath for the outcome of such deliberations, we can at least rejoice (or equivalent) at the news that Falmer House, designed by Sir Baz Spence (1907 - 1976), is now an official Grade I listed building. Why it has been listed as such has been the source of much controversy. A pity though that it isn't quite as it once was. Now that it has been listed, the Mole is starting a campaign to re-instate the original moats (one of which no longer exists) and restore them to their former glory. Letters of support should be addressed to the Mole at the usual address. Also gratefully received will be any rumours (or facts, if any exist) concerning the original inspiration for Sir Basil's designs.

Campaigns of a different kind have been threatening to start on the subject of car parking, a problem which has worsened as a result of a rather large hole that has appeared in place of a part of the science car park. Parking is not a problem, however, for the owner of a rather nice Jaguar Sovereign which has an equally nice parking space reserved for it opposite the entrance to Sussex House. One suspects that anyone else attempting, through desperation, to park in that space will be redirected to that large hole.

Finally, but at the cost of further postponement of anagrams from the CV's office, this issue's competition: In celebration of the Grade I listing of Falmer House, but in acknowledgment of the fact that the moats are no longer fulfilling their original function, the Mole would like to solicit suggestions for future uses/resculpings of the moats. Lateral thinking is encouraged, but any suggestions that they should be used as a repository for surplus moles will not be treated lightly.

Enterprise In Higher Education

Interested in developing research experience or do you want to work in the social work field?

Brighton and Hove Disabled Federation need a student to carry out a research project, monitoring the effects of the changes in community care after April.

Interested in social research or working with people affected or infected by HIV/AIDS?

Our House BP, a Brighton Aids Charity, needs students to research issues concerning Aids for their monthly publication. Help also needed with domestic tasks, office work and complementary medicines used as treatment.

For further details please contact Tessa Gooderson, Arts D422, tel: (67)8543.

Robin Lee Poetry Prize 1993

This annual competition, set up in memory of Robin Lee, a student at Sussex in the 1960s, attracted a record number of entries this year – over 40 in total. All the entries were judged without the judges knowing the names of the author.

This year's winner was Andy Archibald, an English MA student. The two joint runners-up were Merryn Beere, also an English MA student, and Alison Gibbins, a CCS undergraduate. Two other entrants were given honourable mentions: John Chisholm, and Mike Lawrence, both DPhil English students.

The Language Centre

Campus Network: The Language Centre is being cabled to the campus-wide computer network. The prospects for offering an improved service to language learners who want to benefit from computer assisted teaching are exciting but in the meantime, apologies to users, who may experience some slight disturbance of classes caused by work in progress.

Foreign Languages How do you learn a language on your own? The Language Centre's adviser, Mr. Robert Griffith, is here to help you. His speciality is French and Spanish, and he can be contacted in Arts A35, ext. 2020, on Thursdays, 2.30 to 4.00 pm and Fridays 11.00 am to 12.30 pm. You can also make an appointment via the Language Centre Reception, ext. 8006 outside these hours.

English Language Courses: The EFL section of the Language Centre is offering the following open enrolment courses this term:

—Communicating in English (2 hours every morning)

—English for Academic Purposes: Writing (2 hours, Tuesdays)

—Listening and Speaking (2 hours, Thursdays)

—Cambridge First Certificate, Cambridge Advanced English, Cambridge Proficiency, Cambridge International Business and Trade (2 hours per class per week).

—Teacher Training for TEFL a one week intensive initial training course for those interested in teaching English as a Foreign Language (28 June—2 July).

For information on the above and on individual tuition for special needs, contact the EFL Secretary, ext. 2003.

BOLOGNA FULBRIGHT COLLOQUIUM

In the final week of the Easter vacation eight Sussex faculty were at the University of Bologna to participate in the Second Fulbright Colloquium on *Citizenship and Rights in Multicultural Societies*. Modelled on the First Fulbright Colloquium held at Sussex two years ago, and organised by Vivien Hart of EAM, the recent Bologna Colloquium was designed, as the term suggests, to maximise discussion and intellectual exchange between the participants. These included constitutional lawyers, political scientists, historians, literary scholars as well as Africanists and other area-specialists. Key questions concerned the ideological, cultural, ethnic and linguistic underpinnings of the modern secular state. Was it sufficient for the liberal state simply to accept or tolerate religious diversity, for example, or was there a responsibility, even a need to foster such variety in the interest of new and unpredictable socio-cultural syntheses? John Ballance (SOC), delivered a paper on Ireland, North and South, in the larger context of the British Isles; and Kadiatu Kanneh (EAM), addressed gender and religious identities in contemporary English society.



Some of the Sussex Group who went to Bologna. From left: Kadiatu Kanneh, Sussex organiser: Michael Dunne, Stephen Fender, Linda Clarke, Bob Benewick and John Ballance.

A striking feature of the discussion in Bologna was the coexistence of conflicting models of social and political formation. Rhetorically, at least, seventeenth and eighteenth century ideas of natural behaviour and universal values jostled with late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century forms of nationalism and more recent beliefs in moral and cultural relativism. (This typology is, of

course, itself problematical.) Such ideological contradictions were acknowledged but could scarcely be neatly resolved by the session Chairs and the commentators, who included Linda Clark (EAM). A task for the editors of the Bologna Papers (Tiziano Bonazzi of Bologna and Michael Dunne, EAM) will be to determine whether a consensus did emerge at the Colloquium on the definition of the problems of group identities alongside the more familiar individual, political allegiance characteristically required in the modern secular state.

The Third Fulbright Colloquium is scheduled for September 1994 and will be held in Indiana at the Notre Dame Law School. The theme of this meeting, set to coincide with the 125th anniversary of the Law School, will be professionalism in all its aspects. The Sussex co-ordinator is Pro-Vice-Chancellor Colin Brooks.

■ The proceedings of the First Fulbright Colloquium, edited by Vivien Hart and Shannon Stimson, have been published by Manchester University Press as: *Writing a National Identity: Political, Economic and Cultural Perspectives on the Written Constitution*, Fulbright Papers II (1993).

Ending the Destruction



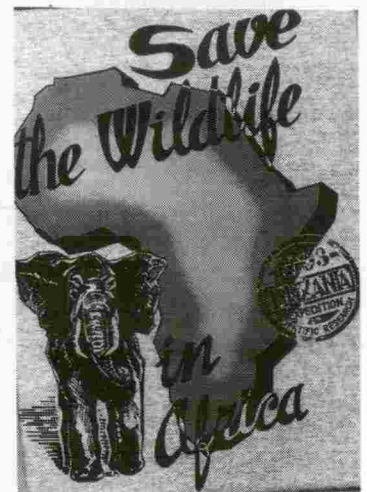
While many people are aware of the rainforests and their plight, most people will never get to see them. Two visiting undergraduates in BIOLS, however, are organising a trip to take part in the fight to save them. Damien Waché and Francois Boudsocq write here of their plans.

Have you ever wanted to save the environment and help increase respect for nature? We did, but we also wanted to turn this dream into reality and we are now on the way to doing it. We have been working for months on a project to save parts of the tropical rainforest of Tanzania. The forests are located south of Kenya along the coast and contain some of the most spectacular wildlife remaining on the African continent today. The forests are disappearing mainly by being

burnt, and when they go, so do their ecosystems.

The rainforests are so rich in life and so biologically diverse, that they have to be preserved from destruction today and not tomorrow. The clearance of those forests has led to local climactic changes and famines. Saving the rainforests means saving not only the biodiversity but also an immense resource capable of providing water, feeding, and sustaining the growing population of Tanzania. If they go, a "treasure chest" of drugs, plants and natural chemicals will also be lost forever.

The expedition will be in the form of a research and conservation project and is the result of co-operation between British and Tanzanian scientists. Its aims are threefold: to establish a biological survey on the flora and fauna and to identify new species; to map the forests in order to control and avoid their destruction; and to change those areas into reserves to save the wildlife.



The expedition T-shirt design: please buy one!

You can help us save the rainforests by making your friends aware of the problem, and support our action by buying our T-shirts to cover the 3-month expedition's expenses. You will soon see us around campus! We would like to thank the University for helping this project to happen.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Each of Sussex's ten Schools of Study has a "School Secretary". Their varied responsibilities include the day-to-day running of undergraduate courses within the School, and maintenance of the School's physical structure such as furniture and heating. Jane 'Espinasse, who has been School Secretary in COGS for three years, talked to Matthew Ledbury.

“I come in at anything between 8.30am and 9.00am and I am usually met by a stream of people asking me questions of varying difficulty: I can't find my teaching, what's the BLT, where's the MSLT, right up to questions on course assessment under modularity, welfare questions — anything in fact. This happens all day long without stopping. I actually quite enjoy meeting people until about four o'clock when I am so up to here with it that I could kill the next person who walks through the door! The telephone seems to ring all day long as well and I haven't got an answering machine as I am the only School Administrative Secretary who actually works in the School Office. I can spend an hour and a half on the telephone without stopping at all, just



Jane 'Espinasse

directing callers to other people in the School — it gets very frustrating.

“School Administrative Secretaries are not really secretaries to anybody. We're secretaries to the notion of the School but I do nothing secretarial at all. I spend a lot of time doing what I call quartermaster jobs around the school, organising painting, decorating, moving furniture, making sure carpets are laid, dealing with contractors and things like that. Last December, for example, an Environmental Health Officer walked through the door saying that he'd just inspected the tea bar and it needed a new floor, so I had to deal with that over the Christmas holiday.

“I like dealing with the students; if I'm not too fraught it's very satisfying, especially if they have a problem that you can help them with. I get most satisfaction out of students I have rescued, who have walked through the door and said "I'm leaving the University now" to which I've said, "Please stop, just sit down and tell me the problem." The sat-

isfaction I get from seeing them smiling on campus afterwards is enormous when I remember that they could so easily have just gone. Often they're mature students (who make up a high percentage of COGS) and they get a domestic problem or some problem at home and they feel they must leave. They don't realise that there are intermission procedures and other devices, and that they can actually be helped and come back again. I like the variety in the job, too. I'm fortunate because I have a lot of contacts around the campus anyway because I worked in Sussex House previously and I was an undergraduate here. It's nice to be able to go and see people in other buildings and actually know who you are talking to.

“The side of the job that I don't like is the lack of consultation in management procedures. We just seem to get edicts we have to operate without getting involved in the construction of any of them, and I would like us to be more involved in that. Given the chance, I would also reduce the amount of my time I spend dealing with trivial queries. I'm always looking at ways of giving the undergraduates the information they want so I don't get 120 people coming in asking me what BLT stands for. Inevitably of course, there's always 10% who can't read the notice you put up straight in front of them. We're lucky, though, that we've got E-mail and we can contact our undergraduate populace and anybody in the School really easily, so I don't spend a lot of time pushing paper around. 90% of our information passing is done on E-mail which is just so much easier.”

What the papers say

Sussex through the eyes of the press

The Charles Read Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr Robin Mansell (SPRU) in London on 5 May is featured in *The Guardian* (6 May). Dr Mansell warns that without a radical switch in telecom regulations, telephone giants, such as BT, will become reluctant to bear public service responsibility. “It is vital”, Dr Mansell argues, “to ensure that a common public network continues to evolve”.

The Lady (4-10 May) carries a page long article on the Mass-Observation Archive housed in the University Library. The article explains why the

archive was established, the nature of the information stored and details of the contemporary stage of the Mass-Observation project.

The THES (30 April) notes that Professor Leon Mestel (MAPS) has been awarded the 1993 Eddington Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, that both Professor Tony McCaffery (MOLS) and Dr Chris Pickett (AFRC) received the Royal Society of Chemistry Silver Medal and that Professor Brian Spratt (BIOLS) has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society. Similarly, *The Scotsman* (3 May) reports that the Open University has awarded an honorary doctorate to Professor Walter Ledermann (MAPS).

In a wide-ranging article on the current state of student broadcasting, *The*

Guardian (4 May) warns that stations such as Sussex University Radio, which do not take advertising, may have no choice but to embrace market forces in order to survive.

Finally, Dr David Mellor's (CCS) exhibition 'The Sixties Art Scene in London', currently on show at the Barbican, is taken to task by Brian Sewell of the *Evening Standard* (29 April). One of Sewell's main criticisms is that Mellor revives “obscure artists who deserve obscurity.” Yet Mellor's intention was “to present the hidden agenda of British art instead of the received history”. (*Independent*). The exhibition has been well received and in the words of William Parker (*Financial Times*) is “fascinating and extremely enjoyable.”

What's on...

Monday 17 May – Sunday 23 May

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 17 May

11.30am **SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: The European Commission and the Third World.** Dr Chris Stevens, (IDS), A70, SEI.

12.30pm **Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Demystifying Adult Continuing Education Research (2) Research Methods: Doing ACE Research.** Al Thomson, Inner Lounge, Refectory Level 1.

12.30pm **Graduate History Seminar: The Popularization of the Concept of Race in Britain 1875 - 1914.** Patrick Brindle, Arts C351.

1.00pm **Experimental Psychology Seminar: Out of the Ears of Babies....** Ann Brown, EP3.9, BIOLS.

1.00pm **IDS Gender Seminar Series: Mozambique – Struggle for Women's Interest in New Phase.** Terezinha da Silva (Secretary of State for Social Action, Mozambique), Room 221, IDS.

2.00pm **Politics Lecture and Discussion: Politics, Planning and Society since 1945: The Transition from Socialism to the Present Situation in Hungary.** Maria Durham and Malgorzata Suszczynska (Visiting Hungarian Professors). Arts A2.

3.00pm **Maths Analysis Seminar: Some Counterexamples in Infinite Dimensional Banach Space Theory.** T. Gowers (UCL), PB2A2, MAPS I.

Tuesday 18 May

12.30pm **Mass Observation Seminar: What's Wrong, and What's Right, with Ethnography?** Martyn Hammersley (Open University), Library Seminar Room.

2.00pm **Condensed State Physics Seminar: Microwave Conductivity of High T_c Superconductors.** Prof John Waldrum (Cambridge IRC), PB1A1, MAPS I.

3.30pm **SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Redefining the Public Sector within the Community.** Francis McGowan (SPRU), A70, SEI.

4.15pm **Biochemistry & Genetics & Development Seminar: Biosynthesis, Targeting and Assembly of the Pyruvate Dehydrogenase and Related Multi-Enzyme Complexes.** Dr Gordon Lindsay (Glasgow), EP4.9 BIOLS.

4.30pm **COGS Seminar: When the Cooperative Principle Fails.** Dr David Good (Cambridge), PB1A6, MAPS I.

5.30pm **Media and Cultural Studies Graduate Seminar: Cultural Identity.** Stuart Hall (Open University), Arts D630.

Wednesday 19 May

1.00pm **IDS Seminar Series: Economics and Institutions.** Dr Geoff Hodgson (Cambridge), Room 221, IDS.

5.00pm **English Graduate Colloquium: THIS WOMAN, NIETZSCHE: the Love that Cannot Speak its Name.** Suhail Malik, Arts D640.

Thursday 20 May

11.30am **Economics Research-in-Progress Seminar: Incentive-Compatible Lindahl Prices for Q-Rationed Public Goods.** Ugurhan Berkok, Arts D610.

12.30pm **Inorganic Discussion Group: Metallophosphaalkenes as Synthons in Organometallic Chemistry.** Prof Lothar Weber, (Bielefeld), MS1, MOLS III.

12.30pm **Gender and Feminist History: Kipling, Masculinity and the Representation of Women in his Writings.** Sylvie Tayler, Arts D421.

4.30pm **Experimental Psychology Colloquia: Belief Bias Effects in Syllogistic Reasoning.** Steve Newstead (Plymouth), EP3.9, BIOLS.

5.00pm **Social and Political Thought Seminar: Marxism and Demography Revisited.** Matthew Lockwood, Arts E419.

5.00pm **History Work-in-Progress Seminar: The Prosecution of Crime in London, 1675-1715.** John Beattie (Toronto), Arts A155.

Friday 21 May

2.15pm **SPRU Seminar: Science Goes Beyond The Market.** Prof Michael Gibbons, Arts A103.

4.00pm **Astronomy Seminar: Hierarchical Galaxy formation.** Dr Shaun Cole (Durham), PB1A7, MAPS I.

4.30pm **Philosophy Society: Kant: An Appetite for Speculation.** Jonathan Derbyshire, Arts A155.

Centre for Continuing Education

Day Schools – Saturday 29 May Pissarro And Impressionism

An examination of the impressionists with particular emphasis on Pissarro, led by Christopher McHugh.

The Adonis, The Ant and The Farmer

Organised in cooperation with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, Mike Jones examines the complex existence of the Adonis blue butterfly.

Fees for each course: £15 / reduced £10 / minimum £4. For further details and enrolment contact Yvonne Barnes, CCE, ext. 8527.

Gardner Centre

Salome

Unmissable opportunity to see Steven Berkoff's acclaimed production of Oscar Wilde's classic *Salome*. The Gardner performances are the only British dates of a major European Tour.

Dates: Tues – Sat 7.45pm. Thurs & Sat mat 2.30pm. Prices: Tues – Thurs & Sat mat £10. Thurs mat £7. Fri & Sat £12. For details and tickets contact the Gardner Box Office, ext. 685861.

British Cinema Conference

Identity Crisis in British Cinema – Day Conference

To complement the Brighton Film Festival season, *Questions of British Cinema* at the Duke of York's cinema, this conference examines how notions of British identity and culture have informed film texts, film policy and film theory. Speakers include, amongst others, Pam Cook (Sight and Sound).

The Conference is on Friday 28 May, 10.15am to 5.00pm in Arts D630 and is free to students and faculty but places must be reserved.

For further details contact Angie Oxley ext. 8019 or Liz Maxwell ext. 2171.

Miscellaneous

Christian Aid Week. Volunteers needed for Campus Collections and Falmer Station on Tues 18 May. Further details contact ext. 8217.

Scottish Ceilidh. An evening of Scottish festivities for international students and friends on Thurs 20 May, 8pm to 12pm. Tickets £3.50, inclusive of Buffet, from the International Office, Sussex House.

Small Ads

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

Two full-time in-house research assistants (one an economist) required for one year from October 1993 or possibly earlier. Closing date 28 May. Contact Rosalind Woodhouse on ext. 8266.

CAMPUS SUMMER WORK:

Person with organisational and word processing skills required to help administer courses for mature overseas students. End June to end Sep, £5p.h., post resident on campus. Also, 2-3 people required to teach basic Word Perfect 5.1 skills to overseas students from 19 to 30 July, £8.50p.h.. Contact Vaughan Leyshon on (0273) 559000 for further details.

TO LET: 2 rooms and own kitchen for woman in quiet, sunny, smoke free house near London Rd BR. Share bathroom with one other. £240pcm. Contact 621872.

WANTED TO RENT: 1/2 bedroom flat for a postgrad student and professional person and dog. Preferably near B'ton station. Will pay up to £100p.w.. Contact Louise ext. 2797 or 688068 (eves).

WANTED TO RENT: House from mid-July to mid-August anywhere in south-east for visiting professor (Duesto University, Bilbao) and family. Contact Jane ext. 2026.

FOR SALE: Electronic Yamaha keyboard, £250. SLR Chinon and Yashika cameras and wide 300mm lenses, £25 to £80. BBC Greek course and cassette, £7. Contact Karin ext. 4355.

Bulletin

Copy deadline for the *Bulletin* covering 31 May – 6 June is Friday 21 May. We welcome news, details of events, letters, and non-commercial advertisements. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209 or E mail:

Info.Office@uk.ac.sussex.admin.

Do remember that communication is a two-way affair: we cannot inform you if no-one informs us.

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