

69

# ROCC

PRESS INFORMATION

M. J. ALDRICH  
-----

P R E S S C U T T I N G S  
-----

J A N U A R Y / F E B R U A R Y 1 9 8 8  
-----

# CHANNEL

**BRIGHTON  
POLYTECHNIC**

15 JANUARY 1988

Spring term issue no 1

## Launch of Percival Terrace Appeal

I had hoped to be able to wish you all a simple, uncomplicated 'Happy and prosperous new year' since this is the first new year for me as the Chairman of your Council.

However, as I am sure you are aware, the problem of the collapse of part of Percival Terrace, whilst fortuitously almost without injury to any occupants, has created significant problems for some of those displaced. These problems are both academic and material. In the case of the academic problems, all staff have been instructed to be as supportive as possible. Specifically, there are regulations under which examination boards may make appropriate compensation for associated adverse academic effects.

Sadly, there are no regulations which allow some immediate financial support for the students; it appears that some of the legal and insurance wrangles may continue for a long time and that many of the occupants will turn out to have sustained a loss which is not recoverable.

The Polytechnic Council has authorised the immediate release of £2,000 towards a hardship fund and East Sussex County Council has generously matched this sum. You will not be surprised to hear that these payments are, in the legal jargon 'without prejudice'. I am now inviting you to make a personal contribution, however modest, to the fund. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable

to 'Percival Terrace Appeal' and directed to me at the following address: Mr M Aldrich, Chairman, Brighton Polytechnic Council (Percival Terrace Appeal), Mithras House, Lewes Road, Brighton BN2 4AT.

Local firms are also being invited to contribute and one firm has already donated £500. I shall let you know of the outcome of the appeal in due course.

*Michael S Aldrich*



- A cheque for £879.32 has been received from staff and students in the Department of Service Sector Management. The money was originally intended to buy a wheelchair for a disabled student who did not take up the offer of a place but returned to his home country. It was sent with best wishes for increased future collaboration between those at Brighton and Eastbourne.

## Corporate Status Debated

At its meeting on 4 February, the Academic Board discussed corporate status, the implications for the institution and the setting up of the Shadow Board of Governors.

Professor Robin Plummer introduced a paper written by staff in the Faculty of Art, Design and Humanities which had been unanimously supported by the Faculty Board. Lou Taylor, Art and Design History, then discussed the paper in more detail. 'The paper underlined the importance of the educational objectives of the Polytechnic', she said. It argued that teaching/educational objectives should come first. The staff had also indicated that they wished to be more involved in the discussions currently being held on the various aspects of corporate status. The danger, if staff were not consulted at all levels, was that they would begin to feel alienated from the management hierarchy in the Polytechnic.

The Board then discussed the setting up of the small advisory group which would offer advice to the Secretary of

State for Education on the future membership of the Polytechnic's Shadow Board of Governors. The Director, in consultation with the Chairman of the Polytechnic Council, had forwarded the following names to the Under Secretary of State:

**Mr M Aldrich**, Chairman of the Polytechnic Council, Chief Executive of ROCC Computers

**Dr D A Jones**, Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

**Mrs J Cumberlege**, member of Polytechnic Council and Chairman of Brighton Health Authority

**Mr D Burt**, Chief Executive Hellerman Deutsch and ex-Chairman of Southtek

**Councillor B Gray**, member of Polytechnic Council and Chairman of the County Council's Education Committee

what was evidently a happy event and a day of celebration, a note of warning was sounded by the Director in his speech. While praising the Polytechnic's extremely high standards - 95 per cent of last year's honours graduates obtained upper second or first class degrees - he warned of the effect of cuts in revenue from the Government. Polytechnic revenue has fallen by 22 per cent in real terms since 1980, while student numbers have grown by 32 per cent. Increasing staff student ratios is one effect of this fall in revenue. However, the Director praised the loyalty of staff which allowed the Polytechnic to achieve the results it did.

Sir Geoffrey Allen urged the recipients of awards to practice the skills, self-motivation and self-discipline they had learnt at the Polytechnic. He then turned to the effects of corporate status: 'Brighton does not have to fear competition. My advice would be to look carefully at the opportunities for offering services or training to the professions, the banks and commerce. You will quickly get used to spotting opportunities and to marketing your new products. You'll find it exhilarating. Most of all when you find the Government unwilling or the local authority unable to support a new initiative at least you will be free to go out and try to do it on your own initiative', he said.

*Uriel Pemberton, about to receive her Honorary Fellowship from Mike Aldrich.*



The Brighton Centre was full to overflowing at this year's Awards Ceremony. Over 1,300 graduates and diplomates attended the ceremony with their parents. They were presented with their degrees, diplomas and certificates by the Chairman of the Polytechnic Council, Mr Mike Aldrich, by the Guest Speaker, Sir Geoffrey Allen, Head of Research at Unilever and by the Director.

*Professor Gian Federico Micheletti receiving his Honorary Fellowship from Mike Aldrich, chairman of the Polytechnic Council.*

INTERNATIONAL PRESS  
CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from:  
CRAWLEY & DISTRICT  
COURIER.

14 JAN 1988

# Sister's second system

A SECOND ROCC multiuser computer system has been bought by PSL Marketing Services of Blackburn from ROCC computers of Kelvin Way, Crawley.

The existing computer handles bulk data for a variety of consumer applications such as coupon redemption for major soft drinks companies.

The new ROCC 2820 will act solely as the bulk processor for the data captured on its sister system.

ROCC Computers have also received an order for a 2805 multiuser system from Greens Data Preparation of Coventry.

This well-established bureau already offers a full data preparation service on ROCC computers from Coventry and Stoke.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
Lancaster House,  
70 Newington Causeway, London, S.E.1

Extract from  
Electronics Times, London

ROCC Computers has won a tender to supply three 2840 multi user computer systems with 120 workstations at the Welsh Pricing Committee, Cardiff.

The contract, which includes a ten year maintenance agreement, is worth £575 000.

EXTRACT from  
Crawley Observer  
February 24 1988

## Price right

ROCC Computers of Crawley has sold a £575,000 system to the Welsh Pricing Committee in Cardiff.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
224-236 Walworth Road,  
London SE17 1JE

Extract from  
Lancashire Evening Telegraph,  
Blackburn

# Flying Start firm's jobs boost

A COMPANY which handles everything from a special offer on a drinks can to vehicle fault recalls has boosted its workforce to 150 in just two years.

PSL Marketing Services Ltd, at Glenfield Park, Blackburn, has just quadrupled its "computer power", taking high-tech investment to well over £100,000.

In the two years it has been operating, the company has expanded from being the employer of a handful of workers in a 1,500 sq ft unit to a workforce of 150 covering three shifts in a 12,500 sq ft unit.

"Even now we are bursting at the seams," said Geoff Jennings, who set up the business with Peta Greatrix to handle mail order work for major national companies.

They have handled large contracts for Coca-Cola GB and more recently took on vehicle recall work for major lorry manufacturers.

The company has just added a second British-made ROCC computer to increase its data capture capabilities and last year put its Granada "Flying Start" prize of £5,000 towards automatic labelling machinery.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS  
CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from:  
THE BRITISH JOURNAL  
OF HEALTHCARE  
COMPUTING

-Weybridge, Surrey-

## Automating prescriptions

Welsh Health Common Services Authority has computerized the handling of more than two million prescriptions a month. Its prescriptions pricing office in Cardiff examines, checks and prices £128m worth of prescriptions a year, an operation now transformed in three months from a manual to computer process.

A new 935 sq m computer room houses the ROCC 2840 data-capture systems which feed 120 workstations.

The problems of excess heat and noise from the air conditioning system were both addressed by Wright Air Conditioning Ltd which installed an integral air conditioning system designed to maintain a balanced environment in the computer room.

The company can supply units ranging from a small wall mounted unit priced at £1000 providing 7kw cooling capacity to a £20 000 65-70kw cooling system.

Excerpt from Computer Weekly  
January 7 1988

# 'Difficult' statistics abandoned

The Government has abandoned some major studies to collect statistics for the videotex industry because of "technical difficulties".

Industry minister John Butcher launched the Government-sponsored studies at the Videotex User Conference a year ago. The Government had hoped that accurate statistics would fuel the growth of the market and speed up the standards setting process.

But the task has proved too much for the Department of Trade and Industry, which was collaborating in the studies with Surrey University and the Science Policy Research Unit. The DoTI statistician in charge of the project left because of extreme difficulties in gathering and classifying statistics.

"A set of proper statistics would help the videotex indus-

try enormously," says Mike Aldrich, chief executive of Rocc computers and chairman of the Videotex Industry Association (VIA). "At the moment it is very difficult to measure how fast the industry is developing or pinpoint which sectors are best to invest in."

But Aldrich believes that the industry will not suffer too much, because it has enough momentum to take it through the year.

He estimates that the videotex industry grew by 15-20% in 1987, creating an £80m market in the UK.

Some progress has been made in setting standards for the industry, says Aldrich. In March a UK standards group comprising users, suppliers and network operators was set up in response to users' demands for workable standards.

The group has so far set a



ALDRICH... "Statistics would help videotex enormously."

standard for 40/80 videotex terminals, which allow more information on screen, and is currently working on a standard for secure printers.

Aldrich believes that the next step forward will be in data broadcasting. At the moment only the BBC and IBA offer data broadcasting services, but VIA is pushing for standards in this area so that independent companies can

compete.

"Multinational companies and large retailers are showing tremendous interest in data broadcasting for applications such as staff training and simultaneous worldwide announcements," says Aldrich. "It is important that we set standards now as the market is poised to take off dramatically in the early 1990s."

■ Gillian Cribbs

Extract from  
Crawley & District Observer, Sussex  
1988

## ROCC'S THREE DEGREES



MIKE ALDRICH wore two hats when he presented degrees to three ROCC Computers employees at Brighton Polytechnic. Mr Aldrich just happens to be both chairman of the polytechnic council...and chief executive of ROCC Computers.

His home-grown gra-

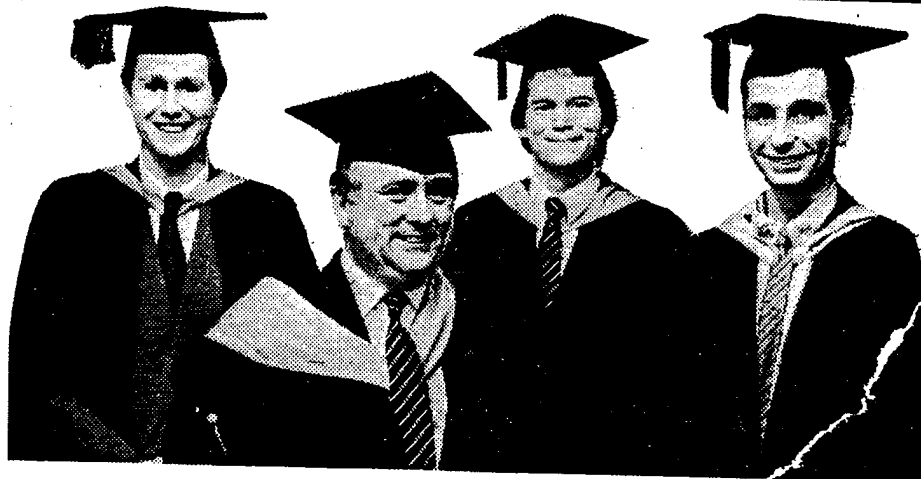
duates to receive degrees were Mike O'Shaughnessy, BA honours degree in electronic engineering; Nigel Bailey, BA honours in business management; and David Foot, BA honours in business studies.

● Mr Aldrich, who presented degrees to 1,300 graduates in all, is also ce-

● "Haven't we met before?" Mike Aldridge with (from left) graduates Nigel Bailey, Mike O'Shaughnessy and David Foot.

author of a major Government-sponsored study into education in the information technology age.

## Cap-and-gown day for the boss...



BUSINESSMAN Mike Aldrich donned cap and gown as chairman of Brighton

Polytechnic to present academic awards to more than 1300 students. Among them

were Mike O'Shaughnessy, from Copthorne, Nigel Bailey, who lives in Brighton (left), and David Foot, of Hove (right), who received degrees in electronic engineering, business management and business studies.

Mr Aldrich is chief executive of Crawley-based ROCC, which sponsored Mr O'Shaughnessy for his four year course, and employed Mr Bailey and Mr Foot after a national recruitment campaign.

The presentation took place at the Brighton Centre.

EXTRACT FROM  
Evening Argus  
22.02.1988

# Videotex User '88

## WELCOME...

Welcome to the Videotex User Show on behalf of the Videotex Industry Association and all our member companies.

There has always been a little confusion surrounding the word "videotex". In common usage it superceded the word "viewdata" but few people really understood the meaning of the new word.

'Videotex' was a term invented by the International Telecommunications Union to describe both teletext (broadcast videotex in ITU parlance) and viewdata (interactive videotex in ITU parlance).

The Videotex Industry Association fortunately has never been confused and has taken a close interest in both broadcast and interactive videotex.

Both have attractive potential and significant commercial opportunities. Interactive videotex continues to expand rapidly in the UK and attention is now concentrated on expanding its application rather than on promoting the basic capability. The VIA is deeply involved in standards issues concerning the evolving screen mode switching and secure printing developments.

With broadcast videotex, it is the basic capability that now demands attention.

The VIA is publishing a pocket guide "Data Broadcasting and Teletext", the more familiar

## VIDEOTEX USER



Michael J Aldrich  
Chairman.  
Videotex Industry  
Association

commercial names for broadcast videotex, to introduce the subject and its terminology. The market is embryonic but the technology is available and the regulatory environment will be clarified in due course if the VIA's efforts are successful.

Videotex continues to lead the way in the new electronic media diffusion race, and the pace of innovation and development continues to increase. There are no pat answers and no certainties as to when and where videotex will intercept other information technologies.

In the meantime, videotex is where the action, excitement and pay-backs are to be found and Videotex User '88 is once again the showground for innovation and creativity.