25 September 1996

Seren

Sabbatical fat cats

THE STUDENTS' UNION sabbaticals have awarded themselves massive pay rises.

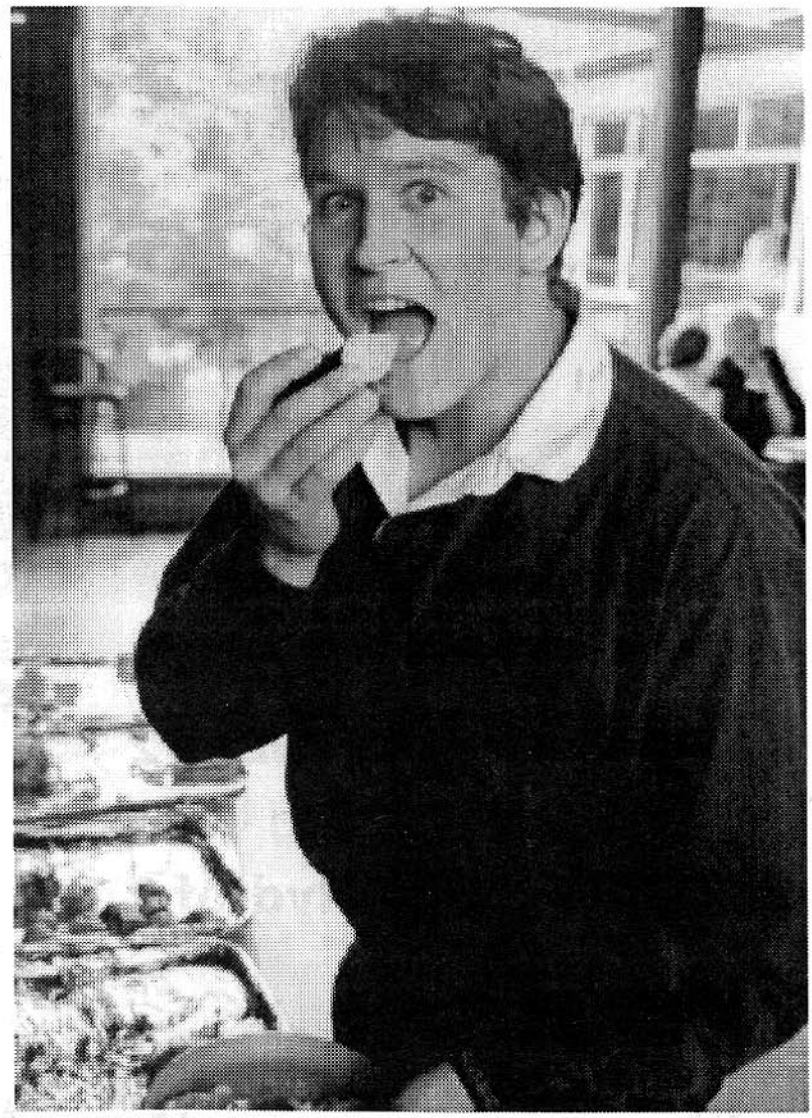
The sum, a complete package of fifteen thousand pounds is a conversion of unwritten 'perks', awarded by previous sabbaticals to themselves, into money. This is because the perks were deemed illegal. The rises have been explained by SU President Math Robbins as 'Not a rise. It cannot be a rise to turn something illegal into something legal. We're only getting, in real terms, 60p more a week than the sabs last year'.

Originally sab wages were equal to grants. But when the grants were frozen in 1979 the wages were linked to low level clerical wages. It may well be that the claim for increased wages is valid, the grant modified for inflation over the last 17 years would be over ten thousand (what the sab's are asking for). But the way the whole thing has been handled has come under heavy criticism.

The original decision was made last academic year but was immediately overruled by the Student Representative Council (SRC). They have the power to delay Executive decisions until General Meetings. This was apparently ignored, as the Sabs still accepted the raise.

The issue threatens to explode at the General Meeting on Thursday when it and its constitutional implications will have to be voted on by the student population.

A former member of bar staff told Seren that 'Many of the student members of staff will turn up to vote down the proposals. They see the rises as unjustifiable considering the few pence raise over the last couple of years they have received'. The SRC also has a point to prove if it is to retain any of its credibility.



Chris Brenchley, AU President, filling his face

Self Defence protect yourself on the streets page 6

Reviews Kula Shaker, Boo Radleys, Billy Bragg Page 12

Listings Complete guide to the week ahead Page 19

Earth moves for Swansea

Swansea, Wales' second city is due for an earthquake according to the latest report by the British Geographical Society.

The report, which took three years to compile also shows that large clusters of earthquakes have occurred in the Bangor and Caernavon areas of Gwynedd, also around the Brecon Beacons, stretching up to east Powys and down to Swansea.

The report's findings may mean tougher standards of earthquake resistance being set in tremor-prone areas.

Bishop's Castle, on the Welsh borders did experienced Britain's worst quake, a tremor of 5.4 on the Richter scale in 1990.

Ironically, just a day after the report was realised there was an earthquake located in central Wales. The quake which measured 2.9 on the Richter scale was felt at 5am last Saturday and awoke dreaming residents with rattling doors and windows.

Joint bust

A joint action between the Students Union and the local police resulted in the arrest of 14 locals for posession and/or intent to supply drugs on Saturday night.

The action was a carefully planned operation, meant to send out the message that Juice, the Union's open access dance night, is not a place for drug dealers.

Matthew Robins, Union President has slated reports by North Wales newspaper, Daily Post, of a drugs raid at the Union last Saturday.

The article alledged that ecstasy, amphetamine, LSD and cannabis were seized with 13 arrests being made at the Juice event.

Matthew wrote to the Daily Post saying he was 'disgusted to see such a blatant mis-representation of the facts'.

He told Seren:

'This operation was done to show that the UWB Students' Union has a hard and fast policy against drugs and our attitude to drugs on the premises is never taken lightly.'

First years are midgets

A Seren survey has this week revealed that Freshers are just too small. A poll carried out at Serendipity asked second and third years what they thought of the new students. A resounding 80% bypassed looks, personality and dress-sense to state simply that the first years are too small.

A second year female student expressed the view for her generation. 'They are too young' she stated, 'I prefer older, bearded men.'

Annwen Jones, North Wales Area Convenor, who must have seen a few freshers in her time, told Seren: 'Some of them are quite nice, I prefer hippys though.'

Mat Jenings, a second year French student gave his views on the fresh intake. 'They're small and specky, although I am attracted to one or two.' His ideal girl would be 'a happy-go-lucky pixie'.

Speculation is mounting as to the cause of this stunted growth. A drought during 1977–78 could be the cause, although certain CND members have suggested a nuclear disaster cover-up.

Photo club restart

7.30pm
Wednesday October 2
SU Foyer/Cyntedd UM
Dydd Mercher Hydref 2
7.30yh

ail-ddechreuad
Clwb ffotograffiaeth

umcb
CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL
ER MWYN ETHOL
CYNGOR NEWYDD

UMCB - Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Bangor

NOS FAWRTH HYDREF 1
LOLFA DRO, UNDEB Y MYFYRWYR
DECHRAU AM 8.30YH

Tryfan attack

A Llys Tryfan student was injured in a knife attack late on Thursday when residents returned to the hall. Tempers flared between two of the group, after an argument over a girl. It is alleged that one grabbed a blunt knife and began a frenzied attack on the other, causing severe bruising.

Gary Edwards, Portering and Security Co-ordinator said: 'security received a call about a disturbance in Llys Tryfan and were immediately dispatched. They apprehended a man, then phoned both the police and ambulance.'

Tony Jones, Ffridd site Warden, refused to comment, fearing biasing legal proceedings.

The police desk officer on duty told Seren 'The offender was arrested by the police and charged with the public order offence of causing affray. The injured student didn't wish to be admitted to hospital but attended a doctor's the next day'. The charge, if proven, carries up to a five year prison sentence.

The accused student has been suspended pending a College disciplinary.

New hall Tegfan

No room for students

Students living in the new Fridd Site Hall, Tegfan, will have been mystified to discover that there was no common room on the ground floor. This despite the Friddoedd Handbook showing a common room in the floorplans.

A joint common/conference room was planned, as outlined in the handbook, built and set aside by the Estates Department.

However Mr John Clayton, Head of Residential Services, has now decided that the room will be a conference room only, to be used for staff training. Tegfan students will have to use common room facilities in Emrys Evans or Plas Gwyn.

Mr Clayton has, once again, shown how high on his priorities students are.

Students to pay the price for degrees

Students may soon have to pay more than £20,000 towards the cost of their University degree. This will be proposed by the Association of Vice-chancellors and Principals this week.

Universities have put forward plans to raise a further £6 billion a year by asking students to cover a third of tuition costs. Typically students would have to pay over £2,400 a year towards the cost of their course. The current system of short-term loans would be scrapped in favour of a long term maintenance loan worth about £4,500 per year. Following a three year course a student would owe more than £20,000.

It is thought likely that the changes will come into force in a few years time with tuition fees being introduced in 2000 at £1,200 and then gradually being increased to £2,400 by 2005.

Students would borrow at just above base rates and would repay the loans through National Insurance contributions via the Collections Agency. The expected cost of the extra Government administration is estimated at £900 million.

Although the number of full-time students has risen by more than 600,000 since 1990, government funding has been cut from £6,858 to £4,365 per student and the Government has already announced cuts of around 7 % this year and continued cuts thereafter including a huge 30 per cent cut in the capital budgets for this academic year. As a result Universities are having to undertake massive cuts in their expenditure. Other problems include a £1.25 billion backlog of maintenance on buildings, equipment, library books, and other requirements. The vice-chancellors estimate that on current trends the funding shortfall will reach £5.8 billion by 2005.

The gap in funding must be financed from somewhere and it seems that ultimately the responsibility will fall upon students.

Mat Davies, NUS Wales President, told Seren 'Paying for tuition fees would be a disaster for students. It will increase student hardship as well as also increasing the drop-out rate, turning Universities into centres for the wealthiest and most privileged in society. Students aren't to blame for the funding crisis in universities, only the Government can be held responsible for the under-funding of Higher Education. If the Government really believes that education is the key to a productive economy then they should put its money where its mouth is and increase funding.'

Higher Education has been put off the political agenda for some time with none of the major parties offering any real solutions to the problem of funding for universities.

A business education tax has been suggested, where large companies would give money to universities in return for well educated graduates who would work for them.

A graduates tax has also been suggested as an alternative whereby graduates would pay back their tuition fees with their future earnings through an increased form of income tax. This could prove viable because it would not discriminate rich or poor students alike.

Whatever the final outcome something needs to be done soon to prevent a major crisis in higher education.

Aberystwyth Welsh-medium education under attack

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, the Welsh language Society, has accused Aberystwyth University of letting it's Welsh language provision slip.

The Welsh Language Society General Secretary, Dafydd Morgan Lewis said 'Neither staff nor students are encouraged to learn or lecture through the medium of Welsh and no effort has been made to extend the use of Welsh into other academic areas.'

Mr Lewis also said that the University had not increased Welsh-medium provision since the 1960s allowing the opportunity to study music and philosophy through Welsh to disappear with the closure of those departments.

Defending Mr Lewis's comments, Aberystwyth college's Vice-chanceller, Derec Lloyd Morgan, descibed the claims as baseless: 'There has been a loss in some areas but also some gains. We have developed continuing education where 1,000 people have enrolled in Welsh-medium courses. It's a question of supply and demand. It's difficult to meet the demand in subjects that are so scientific.'

Emyr Francis, President of UMCA, (Aberystwyth University Welsh Union), said 'There are problems with the teaching of Welsh, especially in the humanities and science departments but it is just not possible to totally enforce the bilingual policy because of lack of resources and lack of funding.'

Bangor meanwhile has made great steps towards furthering opportunities for Welsh-medium education. Following the merger with Coleg Normal, Canolfan Bedwyr, a centre for bilingual education, was established.

Matt Robins, SU President told Seren 'The scope for Welsh-medium education has greatly increased. Hopefully, Bangor will become the foremost institution in Wales supporting Welsh-medium education.

Sarah Martin, UMCB President (Union of Welsh speaking students) highlighted some of the problems that exist at the moment in Bangor. She said, 'In some departments there are no Welsh lecturers. Lectures are given in English and the student is allowed to do coursework in Welsh. The essays are then translated for the lecturer to mark. You can't mark an essay through translation. What if the translator mis-interprets what you have written?' This thought scares a lot of Welsh students so much, they prefer to write their essays in English. 'They are obviously at a great disadvantage' Sarah added. 'Many of these students have come from Welsh schools where they are not taught in English. Their Welsh is bound to be better than their English.'

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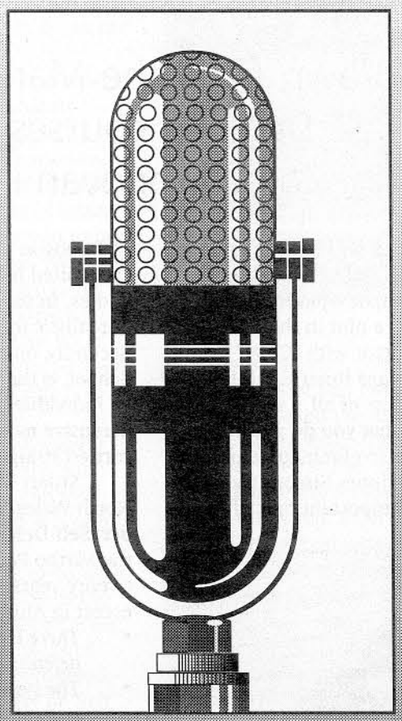
Care for some oral gratification?



Eisiau pleser geneuol?

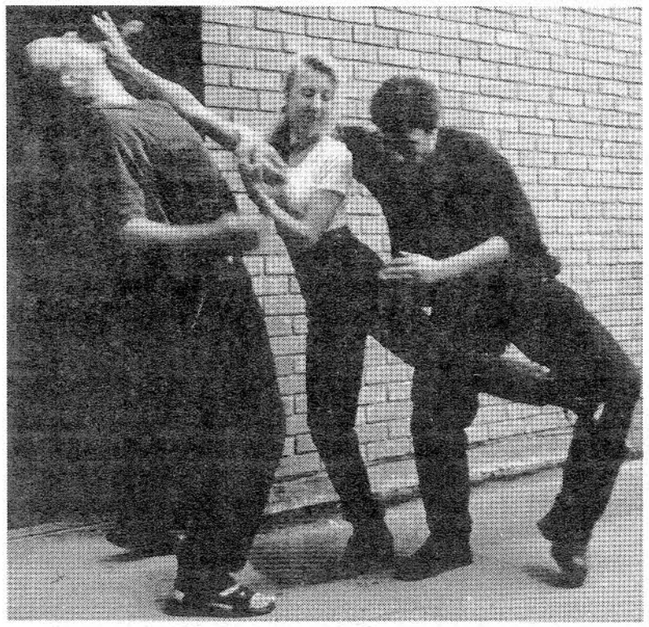
General Meeting
Cyfarfod Cyffredinol

Thursday 7.30pm, Student Union
Dydd Iau 7.30yh, Undeb y Myfyrwyr

Confidence in yourself...

Based on techniques drawn from the Marbo School of Martial Arts and Survival, IC Self Defence courses were established at the Union five years ago. Zoe O'Donovan is In Command

'THE RIGHT OF SELF DEFENCE is no less important than the right of free speech, freedom of religion, or equality,' reckons Simon Pither, over a pint in the Main Bar. Simon is an Instructor with IC Self Defence. I feel quite safe. IC means Inner Confidence, Inner City or In Crisis, but most of all, I see, or I understand. 'You only fear what you do not understand, and these courses aim to eliminate fear through understanding,' continues Simon. 'Self Defence is unfortunately an important part of living



in today's society. The training is important, not just for health reasons, but also because it builds the confidence necessary to deal with any situation that you may come across in everyday life.'

Taught all around the country, from Manchester to Shrewsbury and more recently Bangor, the Marbo school is not sport orientated, and never will be. The techniques taught by sport martial arts such as Tai Kwon Do, Karate, Judo, and Wu Shu Kwan, are limited by the rules of the governing sporting bodies. In some respects the guidelines make them unrealistic for self defence purposes in everyday life. Secondly, one of the main points of the Marbo School, is that everyone is an individual, and being an individual, they will have different attacking and defensive moves that appeal to them - this ideal is carried straight across to the Self Defence courses.

Stuart McGregor, now Chief Instructor for North Wales, established criteria for the 'No Surrender' Self Defence course which he developed from the Marbo Pathwalker training over a period of twenty years, even while working as a bodyguard escort in Amsterdam. The criteria are as follows:

- *There is a need for a sensible, effective, self defence system in today's climate of violence.*
- *The system needs to be able to be taught quickly, and all the techniques should work on all terrain in all weathers.*
- *The techniques should be both simple and effective - how else can they work?*

Simon highlighted some further points which became important in the refinement of the course. 'A crucial point is not to stand up to someone and fight, when it is far preferable to escape the situation,' he said.

'Females feel intimidated, and tend to freeze, rather than resist in a confrontational situation, but once they appreciate how frail the human body can be, they will rapidly become a force to be reckoned with.

'Self defence is becoming increasingly important in today's society, and in the near future, it really should play a role in women's education. Marbo has and will constantly push for this.'

These criteria are just as , if not more, important and relevant now, than they were 20 years ago. Therefore, they form the backbone of the present IC courses.

During the sessions, all the techniques are thoroughly demonstrated and explained to you, after which you get to practise them in slow motion. The speed of the exercise is then gradually increased with you being totally in control, and able to stop the exercise at any point. This is to ensure the safety of the sessions, as well as to ensure the development of your confidence with regard to technique.

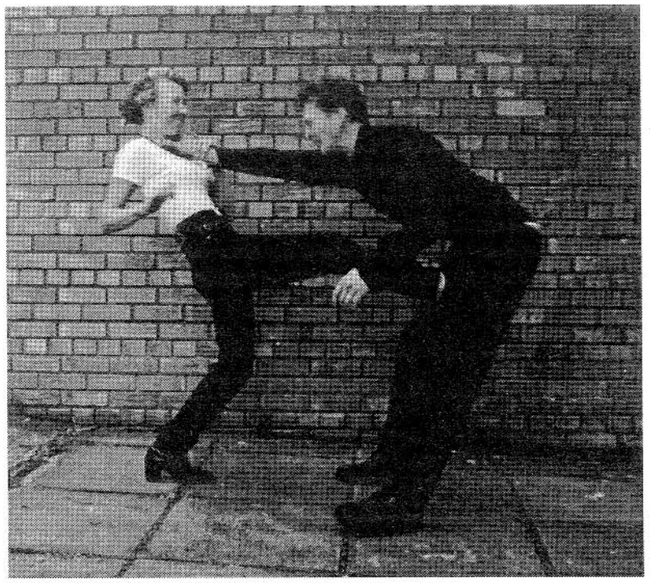
It all sounds very energetic. Do I have to be athletically fit to do this course? 'Hell, no!' exclaims Simon. 'The course generally involves little heavy exercise, however parts of the course involve you becoming physically tired while still having to do effective technique. The reason for this, is that should you be attacked, break away, and then run - you can still, hopefully, function effectively if you are chased and caught, to make your escape.'

It still sounds tiring but the IC Course is most definitely not a fitness regime. The main focus during training is on the awesome array of techniques drawn from the Marbo Pathwalker training, and adapting them to your personal requirements.

'We don't show you one or two ways of hitting someone with your hand and then expect you to be able to do it straight away,' Simon advises. 'What we do show you, is a dozen or so ways; get you to hit the pad for a bit, and decide for yourself which particular ones you feel confident with. This is very important, because without total confidence in your own technique, you won't really be expecting it to work if you have to use it on the street.

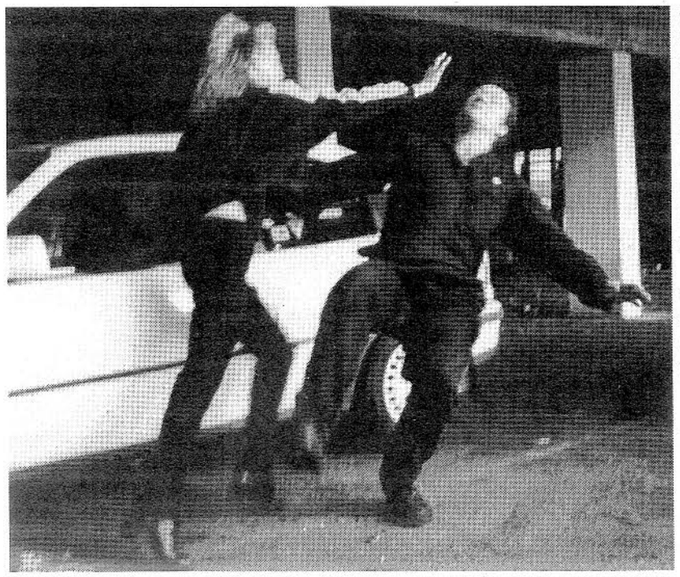
'You must realise that it is not height, weight or physical fitness that matters. Even if you are small and slight, with the right techniques you can still shift someone who weighs a lot more and is bigger and stronger.'

The IC courses, are only about 50% to do with physically defending yourself, the other 50% is the mental aspects of self defence. Mental aspects? 'Yes, the frequently ignored, highly important parts of being a bit streetwise. The mental aspects covered range from how to raise the alarm, the law on Self Defence and what to do if you're driving alone, to how to report an attack, how to identify an attacker, verbally defending yourself, and how to switch on to



situations. We keep completely up to date on all the legal aspects of Self Defence, and as you have probably worked out for yourself, continually refine the courses to make them as comprehensive as possible. The courses take between 8 and 10 sessions, depending on the abilities of the individuals within the group. Each person also has a session-by-session individual progress sheet, to enable the Instructors to keep track of what parts of the course each person has done, and to what degree they have practised them. Should someone miss a session it is not a problem, as the Instructor can look at the progress sheet, immediately see what stage that person is at, and therefore structure the session accordingly.'

The course costs £30 for students (a subsidised rate) and is a bargain considering the high standards and professionalism required of the Instructors and Assistants. Previous students are keen to sing the praises of the course. 'It enables you to react positively when grabbed or threatened rather than going into a state of shock or panic,' said Sarah. Gillian adds 'Now I can appreciate the dangers more, but I feel better about handling it, and maybe how I should have handled past situations. Thanks for the course'



Before we go, Simon would like to thank Dave Wilton (SU President 95-96) for his help and support last year, and also Matt Robins, current President for his continuation of that support.

If you are interested in taking part in the courses, then one of the IC instructors will be available in the AU Office (2nd floor of the Union) from 12-1pm on Tuesdays and Fridays Alternatively, contact Simon on 0374 982 704.

Identity Crisis?

So you've already had a few late nights. You know how it is - a few drinks and some bright spark comes out with the 'meaning of life' questions. Who am I? Who are you? Be ready for the next time with Seren's quiz.

Answer the following questions and tot up your score, and then perhaps you will either know yourself a little better, or commit suicide. Good luck.

1. Out of these four people who would you choose as your best friend?
a) Henry Kelly
b) Govenor of the Bank of England
c) Mark from Take That
d) Hilary Clinton

2. Which of the following would you be most likely to order at the bar?
a) Blastaway
b) Martini
c) Pint of beer/lager
d) Half a lemonade with a slice of lemon, a straw and an umbrella

3. If you could only take one thing to the moon out of the following which would you choose?
a) Your family photo album
b) 1000 fags and a gravity resistant fag lighter
c) Your girl-friend/boy-friend
d) A tin of corned beef

Fly me to the moon? I wouldn't say no

4. Which is your favourite chat-up line?
a) Come and see my puppies
b) Have you got the time?
c) If I told you you had a beautiful body, would you hold it against me?
d) Will you play or pass?

5. Which of the following would you prefer to read?
a) MORE! (especially position of the fortnight)
b) Henry Kelly's 'The Golden Years'
c) 'Have you seen my radishes?' by A Gardener
d) Seren

6. Which of the following would you rather listen to?
a) Happy Hard Core House Jam Mix 7
b) Bongo Bizarre featuring Maria de Los Vos Hos Corros
c) Henry Kelly sings 'Irish Moods'
d) Your own compilation tape

7. You favourite film is...
a) Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind
b) The Rocky Horror Picture Show
c) The 1st 10 episodes of 'Going for Gold'
d) That Sheep Was Mine First! Documentary by A Farmer

8. Your ideal partner is ...
a) Fr Christmas/The tooth fairy
b) Brad Pitt/Michelle Pfeiffer
c) All of Take That/The Spice Girls
d) Henry Kelly/Margherita Pracatan

9. Your favourite dance is ...
a) The Rhumba
b) The Macarena
c) I don't dance, I prefer dark damp corners
d) The Irish Jig

10. A perfect evening would be spent...
a) A nice meal and a few drinks with loved ones
b) Playing with Henry Kelly in front of a log fire
c) A night at the Octagon
d) Drinking in the main bar

How did you score?

	A	B	C	D
1.	4	1	3	2
2.	2	4	1	3
3.	3	2	1	4
4.	3	1	2	4
5.	2	4	3	1
6.	2	3	4	1
7.	1	2	3	4
8.	3	1	2	4
9.	3	1	2	4
10.	2	4	3	1

Now you can ask yourself, 'Who am I?'

35-40: Henry Kelly
If you have attained this high score we don't believe you answered truthfully because YOU are NOT Henry Kelly. Go back and do it again you lying scum you

28-34: Absolutely CRRAAAZY!
Hurrah! Come out for a drink with me! To be this bizarre takes confidence, individuality and a GSOH. Do you write for Seren? If not, why not? You can be happy in the knowledge that you are the person that sets trends and is a natural leader. Well done

20-27: Who the hell am I?
Mmm, yes, who are you? This quiz really was a waste of time wasn't it? Suffice to say you are Mr/Ms Ordinary. You let yourself go on the odd occasion but mostly you try not to stand out too much. Try to be more innovative and recapture that sparkling individualism that is lurking in you

Less than 19: Clever Clogs?
Hahaha! Thought you'd chosen the right answers didn't you? Well, this is Seren not Women's Weekly. Please get a life. If you need help to do this come up to see me in the media room and I promise to sort you out

advertisement

Mature Students Association MSA

Raising Awareness of the Needs of Mature Students

In Student Union life the Mature Students have had to either learn to like Blur and Oasis or have no entertainment facilities available to them. This is an avenue that has never been appreciated fully. As Mature students pay, via their LEA's, for the privilege of SU membership they should get more facilities provided.

As I have been placed in the unenviable position of Rep I aim to address this oversight. After the first fling of Welcome week there will be an Old Farts Nite, hopefully the first of many. There will be more events but I need **help**: Come to meetings; Come to functions.

Other issues to address include the removal of mature student allowances. You have paid this money into the system: Do not allow the Whitehall goons to take it away without a fight! I am not Samson I need help.

Do not be complacent, this grant makes a difference to your standard of living.

Support Your Mature Students Union; We will support you.

Cymdeithas Myfyrwyr Hyn CMH

Codi ymwybyddiaeth o anghenion myfyrwyr hyn

Ym mywyd Undeb y Myfyrwyr mae'n rhaid i fyfyrwyr hyn unai ddysgu i hoffi Blur ac Oasis neu cael dim adnoddau adloniant ar gael o gwbl iddynt. Dyma ardal nad yw wedi cael ei gydnabod yn llawn eto. Gan bod myfyrwyr hyn yn talu, trwy eu AAL, am y frainto fod yn aelod o UM dylent gael mwy o adnoddau wedi eu darparu ar eu cyfer.

Gan fy mod wedi fy ngosod yn swydd y cynrychiolydd, rwyn bwriadu ymdrin a'r diofalwch yma. Ar ol sbri Wythnos Groeso cynhelir Noson Hen Rhechwyr, y cyntaf o lawer gyda lwc fe fydd mwy o weithgareddau ond mae angen **help** arnaf: dewch i gyfarfodydd; dewch i weithgareddau

Pynciau eraill a fydd yn cael sylw fydd atal lwfansau myfyrwyr hyn. rydych chi wedi talu'r arian yma i mewn i'r system : peidiwch a gadael i lembos San Steffan ei gymryd heb frwydr! Nid Samson ydw i mae angen help arnaf.

Peidiwch a bod yn hunanfodlon, mae'r grant hwn yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i'ch safon byw.

Cefnogwch eich undeb myfyrwyr hyn; fe gefnogwn ni chi

A Day in the Life.... By Kel Beeley

FOX PREDICTS...

Everclear: Shhh! Don't mention Nirv*n*

Singles

Monkey Mafia
Work Mi Body

Intelligent Techno garnished with reggae vocals and dubs. It suits chilling out after a hard night of shaking your booty at Juice.

Monkey Mafia are infamous in remixing circles and in many respects could be compared to their more popular cousins, Underworld and Chemical Brothers. Monkey Mafia though has a more relaxed and laid back posture more frequently associated with Manc Dub.

Palatable for both Indie kids and Techno boffins alike. If you feel a need to expand your musical horizons a little and lack a suitable avenue of pursuit this is one that may suit your need.

Gareth Evans

Placebo
Teenage Angst

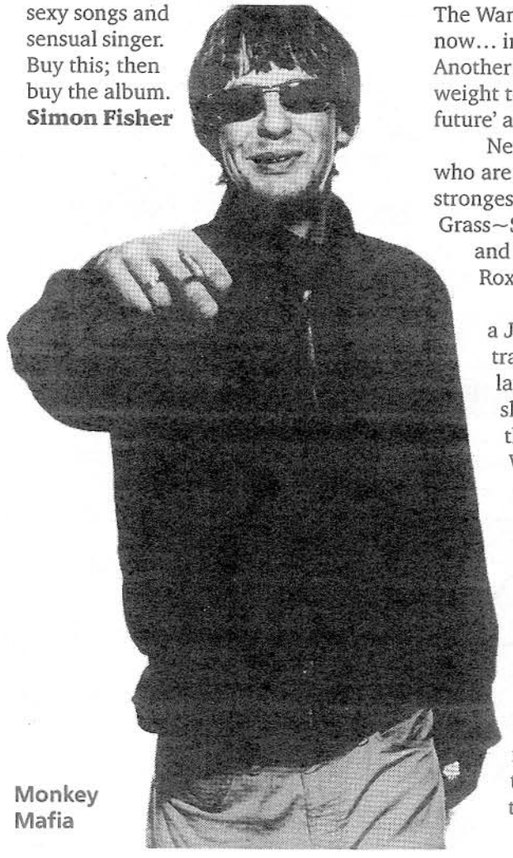
Placebo are one of the most exciting bands around at the moment, and Teenage Angst only serves to underline this fact with a big fat eyeliner pencil.

Here is an ingenious song which, both musically and lyrically, succeeds in portraying the pent-up emotions of youth.

Often coming frustratingly close to exploding, the tormented guitars fade slowly with impotent demeanour, as sexy Brian (as he shall be known) admits defeat: 'Since I was born I started to decay/Now nothing ever ever goes my way'. So be the story of adolescence.

Placebo are sexy songs and sensual singer. Buy this; then buy the album.

Simon Fisher


Monkey Mafia

Everclear
Santa Monica (Watch The World Die)

This is the second release from the band from Portland (Oregon, not Dorset!) who played at Castle Donnington this year. Their attenuated press has been either 'we're not Nirvana' or 'everyone in Portland hates us' - oh dear.

It starts off slowly, which won't appeal to the dance floor, but gets going after the first chorus. This is pleasant bluesy grunge, however it only sticks in the head after the third or fourth play. This should work well on play listed American college radio, but unless it receives similar treatment on British radio, it will die a death.

The lyrics are clever and the song has a sympathetic arrangement and it's an easy song to sing to, as the vocals are clear and not mumbled. The production is good, but the slow start doesn't help at all. Maybe an eye-catching video will do the trick for Everclear.

Jen Phillips

Grass~Show
Out Of The Void

The Wannadies, The Cardigans and now... introducing Grass~Show. Another great Swedish band adding weight to the 'Scandinavia is pop future' argument.

Newly signed to Food Records, who are fast becoming one of the strongest forces in Indie-pop, Grass~Show owe more to The Jam and Blur than they do to ABBA or Roxette. Thank God for that.

Out Of The Void is basically a Jam/Costello hybrid: arrogant trashy guitars run everywhere, layers and layers of vocal ooo's shiver in the background while the lead singer makes Paul Weller impressions sound as easy as sleeping in when you've got a 9 o' clock lecture.

The b-sides emphasise the band's fascination with the Beatles, ELO and XTC more strongly. 'Alice' is a singalong romp, while 'Unreal World' is just plain beautiful.

This record is as much a tribute to Food Records' eye for a great pop band as it is to the band's own pop sensibilities.

Simon Fisher

Albums

ZZ Top
Rhythmeen

If you want to know what's happening to the rainforests look no further - they've been transplanted onto the faces of Billy Gibbons and Dusty Hill. And if you look real close at the photos on the album, you can just about see a small Amazonian tribe looking somewhat bewildered, hanging from Billy's chin. Yeah, ZZ Top:- beards, cool cars, furry guitars and tall women whose legs are connected to their chins (for the sake of decency, I won't make another reference to beards here). It's good time music, not particularly inspirational, but ZZ Top can play fantastic blues and if they choose to, they could go into some shitty studio, forget the image and lay down the law. But this won't happen though - money is a sad factor here. Speaking of money, the £12 you would spend buying this album would be spent far better on a bottle of vodka and a packet of cigarettes. And the evening would be just about as memorable.

Andy Myers

ZZ Top: Good time music and ridiculous beards

Ugly Kid Joe
Motel California

This band have a sense of humour! Their name is a piss-take of a band they once supported; Pretty Boy Floyd, and this new album carries on this tradition, with the first track, *Rage against the Answering Machine*.

This sense of humour is further shown with the song *Sandwich*: 'she was a good witch, she was a bad witch, but all I wanted was a motherfucking sandwich'. The only down point on the album is *12 Cents* - which I found to be dirge like in its general feel.

However, the album as a whole is saved by the interesting, unusual and totally excellent tracks. *Bicycle Wheels* includes a rather unusual drum solo, with an overall 'punk' feel and *Sweeping Up* is a gentle acoustic song with woodwind solo in the middle.

There are several heavier songs on the album - in particular the opening song *It's a Lie*. *Dialogue* and *Little Red Man* also fall into this category.

All in all, this is a well balanced album, with something here for everyone and I loved it.

Jenny Kiernan

Kula Shaker
K

Let's face it, Kula Shaker are the ultimate Sixties tribute band. Take a close look at the facts. Number one; the back end of Grateful When You're Dead (which we will call 'Jerry was there') is a carbon copy of the Doors. Number two; 303 sounds like the Monkees. Number three; b-side to the Tattva single Red Balloon has an identical chord sequence to Norwegian Wood by the Beatles. The list goes on - Rolling Stones, Cream, Pink Floyd, Traffic. If it's from the Sixties and sold a lot of vinyl then Kula Shaker 'borrow' it.

The Indie version of Take That is an apt parody. At a time when the wave of Mod bands are beginning to dwindle, Kula Shaker ride in on a second wave of Sixties and Seventies influenced music. If I was head of a record company and wished to manufacture a band to sell records, Kula Shaker would be the formula I would come up with.

Take four talented musicians (one of whom is a charismatic frontman), feed them on a diet of classic Rock 'n Roll and Pop, add an over generous amount of eastern religion and Sitar (or should I say Tabla) for good measure, and you're guaranteed chart success.

Hats off to Kula Shaker. They are either soul-less puppets of their record company or talented individuals who know how to make music that sells. Perhaps Crispian Mills has read 'How to Get a Number One' by Bill Drummond (KLF) and financed his little project with his mother's vast acting fortune.

Either way it is a good piece of vinyl and if you are a lover of the classics then here you are. A word of warning; too much Sitar can really irritate.

Gareth Evans

The Boo Radleys
C'mon Kids

Let's review the Radley case history. The five albums to date began with the very poor Learning To Walk, then the shoe gazing Everything's Alright Forever. In '93 came the amazing and aptly named Giant Steps, which has to rate as one of the twenty best albums of the decade (so far). Last year they gave us the piss poor pop album Wake Up Boo that made way to their new fame, but left little in the way of classic tunes. And now... C'mon Kids.

Enter a new phase in the morphous life of the most understated band of the Nineties. Martin Carr is, in my opinion, one of the greatest song writers of our time, backed up by the melodious vocals of Sice, and a band who's musical ability sometimes shines with glorious perfection.

This new album is heavier on the guitars than in the past, but retains the amazing guitar and vocal melodies that have always been the Boo's trademark. Several tracks have the addition of dance beats, dub, and drum machines that set the album alive, and show Martin Carr's versatile approach to song writing. If you've heard Lazarus from Giant Steps then you know the depth of quality to which I refer.

The Boo Radleys are back where they belong: more quality and classical as opposed to tacky and transient. Buy it!

Gareth Evans

Billy Bragg
William Bloke

Five years after the infectious single Sexuality, the great Billy Bragg returns with a new album. He's older and wiser as well, not that you'd tell from the stompy momentous first single, Upfield.

As always, the lyrics take priority. Witty, wise, charming, political and warm. It's easy to see how sometimes, songs fall flat on their faces because no-one is capable of writing a melody to match the lyrical genius. And so Brickbat ('I used to want to plant bombs at the Last Night of the Proms/ But now you'll find me with the baby in the bathroom') dies a sorry, subtle, stringy musical death. And A Pict Song's fuzzy guitars can't match Rudyard Kipling's virtuosic libretto.

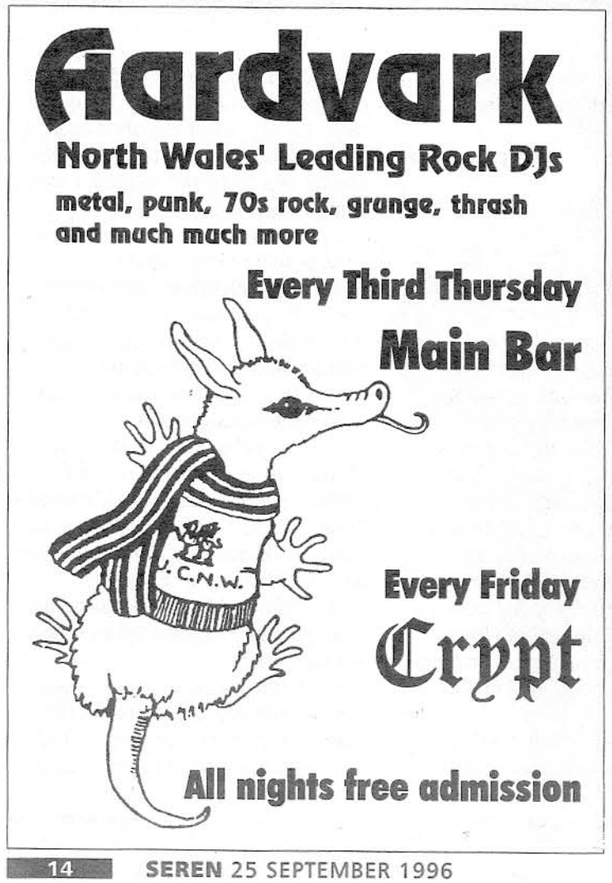
When he gets it right though, you've got to admit, nobody does it better. Goalhanger has an hysterical brass riff to match the slapstick tête-à-tête with a nincompoop: 'He has a lack of humility that defies imagination/ And he hangs around like a fart in a Russian Space Station'. Everybody Loves You Babe meanwhile boasts a sincere music-hall piano twin for the barbed wire text - 'I'd hate for you to go, before I let you know/Everybody loves you babe but me'.

Poetry for the Common People.

Simon Fisher

Dio
Angry Machines

'Angry Machines, an epic 10-track opus, jammed with head-snappin' riffs' *(Press release)*. Crap. This is the eighth Dio album, someone at CBH Records has been conned; worm farts are more musical. It's a pity because Ronnie James Dio (who used to be in Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow and Black Sabbath) is an excellent vocalist, so why stick him in a group who wouldn't get paid £50 for a pub gig?



There is one track that stands out from the others: 'This is your life' is a piano track with some orchestrated strings which shows the rest of the album really could have been good. The band simply doesn't have the strength to back Ronnie up.

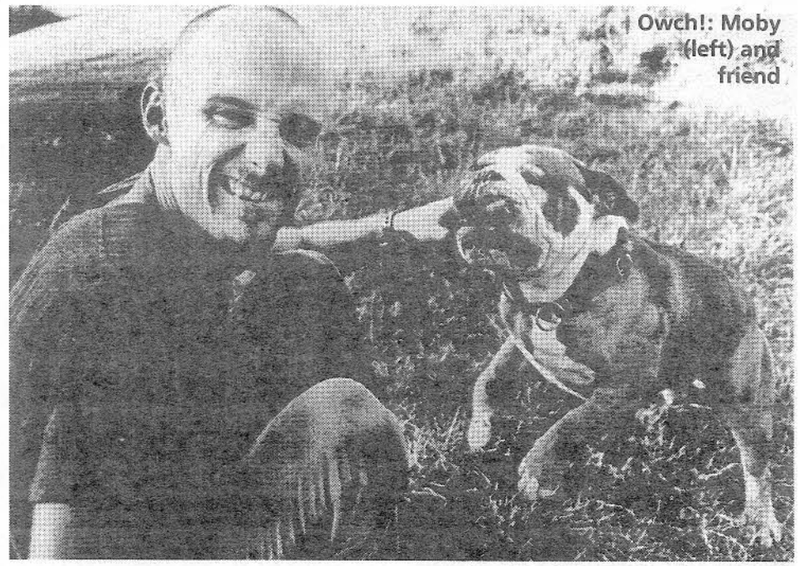
This album is boring and repetitive. If it was a dessert it would be a plain sponge with no topping, and the CD probably tastes better.

My Big Black Coat

Moby
Animal Rights

It seems that Moby has changed. A heroin addict at thirteen (allegedly), then sorting out his act (allegedly) and embracing a life of veganism, Christianity and becoming an 'Eco warrior' and social critic.

In the past he has charmed us with the thumping 'Go' in 92, and on the 'Everything is wrong' album; a beautiful track called 'Into the blue'. The list of classic and well written tracks is numerous, but now the eccentric techno boffin has really gone over the f**king edge.


Owch!: Moby (left) and friend

The album starts with a gentle tune, then Moby's new form of combatting the injustices of an 'eco-unfriendly' universe kicks in. Heavy guitar and poor drum programs seem to be his chosen weapons of aggression. The final result is best described as Sepultura with a Casio drum machine, or to be concise, shite!

Moby, if you want my advice you should start eating dead cow twice a day, fill your body with toxins, develop a healthy abuse of recreational drugs, and come to the realisation that you can't save the planet by standing behind an Apple Mac and a couple of samplers. So there!

Bob Scratchit

BIWRO CYFLOGAETH MYFYRWYR
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Job Mart is Bangor's own Student Employment Bureau. We are here to help you find part time work. We can match you up to any short notice vacancy you are suitable for. We also like to remind everybody who registered with us last year that they will need to re-register with us this year. Below is a selection of vacancies currently available at the Job Mart now. If you are interested in any of them or would like to browse through the vacancies we have please swing by. You'll find us on the 2nd floor of the SU.

Notetakers
Postgrads in all disciplines, particularly sciences, needed to become part of a pool of noteakers for students with special needs. Training provided and negotiable hourly pay.
SUP01

Student Support Workers
Student needed for a pool to provide personal support for the next academic year to students with special needs / disabilities. Voluntary and paid opportunities may be available. Training provided.
SU02

SU Security Staff
Students needed for stewarding duties at evening events.
JM0906

SU Catering Assistants
Students needed to work as catering assistants in the SU fast food outlet.
JM 0908

Police Identification Parades
North Wales Police, Gwynedd Division are looking for volunteers to stand on identity parades at Bangor and Caernarfon Police Stations. A fee of £6 is paid to those who attend on the ID parades.
JM0907

Cleaner
Student needed as cleaner for small offices of a Bangor based charity.
JM 0910

Burger King & Little Chef
Students needed to work in a variety of roles in a fast food/restaurant/travel lodge complex outside Bangor. Experience not necessary as training is provided. Flexible part hours to suit students. Pay starts at £3 an hour, but rises dependeing on performance. Opportunities also available in Menai Bridge and Gaerwen.
JM0911

The Bigger The God

Live Ents

Clwb Cymru
Main Bar, Thursday 19 September

Imagine the scene. 500 punters queuing to get into the Terra Nova for the Hypnotist and we walk straight past the whole herd of you and up into the Main Bar to sample the sounds of Clwb Cymru. Where would you rather have been? Well, let me tell you.

You would rather have been with me. As a non-Welsh speaker, I had my reservations about what I would encounter that night but there was absolutely no need. I was lucky enough to be treated to a night of the best mix of music I've heard in Bangor... ever!

DJ Disco Dawn and regular Mr Groovy turned on hit after hit. The best in Welsh music - Manics, Super Furry Animals, Catatonia etc mixed with chart toppers old and new such as Oasis, Underworld, the list is endless and it was bloody fantastic. The beer was flowing, the clientele were happy and relaxed. All in all it was a damn good night. And it was free, which beats paying £3 to watch some ponse in a suit telling you to relax and shag a rooster or whatever .

Clwb Cymru is to be a regular event at the Union and is definitely worth a visit. See you next time...

The Bigger The God
Terra Nova, Wednesday 18 September

Last Week saw the return to Bangor of the Oxford four piece; The Bigger the God. Their last visit saw them supporting Thurman, where they really shone as a superior band to their Oxford contemporaries. Last Wednesday however saw a less appealing performance. If you have ever seen a band twice then you know that every gig gives a different feel, spiritual radiance dare I say. Lets just cut the Gnostic sermon (leave that to Kula Shaker) and say that TBTG's bulb has blown in the last few months, and now emits a dull gloomy hew.

My favourite song was absent, as well as any of the personality and charisma that once endeared their bland indie tunes. To be fair the sound engineer was poor and the usual Stage Crew sound engineer performs a better job (and works for the price of a meal and a few cans of McEwans). However a good tune is always a good tune, but a poor one is generally poor.

Sadly a disappointing performance vaguely directs us into a new year of entertainment. There is rumour of an appearance by a major Welsh band of notorious rock 'n roll quality. We'll keep you informed, but for now, never mind the bollocks.

Videos

Taggart - The Movie
released

This 1983 first ever Taggart film, has all the tank tops and printed curtains that garnished the era. However, accompanied by the usual Taggart suspense and wit, it adds extra flavour to the meal.

Taggart himself is equally as terse as the greyer haired version we are now familiar with, and in this instance his derision is focused on his blackcurrant and lager drinking, ex public schoolboy colleague, as they hunt for the murderer of a young woman.

Good, and definitely worth a watch, simply to see the wallpaper in Taggart's office.

London's Burning, The Movie
released on

If you are an unconditional fan of London's Burning you may, possibly, be able to stand watching this feature length episode. But its doubtful!

This very mid-80s film featuring false studio lighting, is crammed full of sexist, racist and bigoted, not to mention stereotypical characters. And with a storyline as dramatic as Gardener's World to back it up, the only reason to continue watching is a sadistic desire to see them fail in their jobs and burn to death, as dramatically as they fail in their social skills.

London's Burning has undoubtedly improved beyond recognisability since this 1986 film, and at the end of the video there is a documentary on the making of it. However, after watching the film you really are not interested, to put it printably.

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Competition

Win Videos! Win Videos! Win Videos! Win Videos! Win!

Two weeks in and we've still got that video fever. This week it's the turn of Canadian good-guy, Mountie Constable Benton Fraser in 8 different episodes of Due South

1st **2 Due South videos**

2nd **2 more Due South videos**

3rd **Fantasy Sex (again)**

All you've got to do is sweat over this question for, oooh, 3 seconds. What is the national emblem of Canada?

Answers by pigeon post to Seren by Friday 27 September

Wondrous Wendy and Zany Zoe's Superscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 – April 20
A single action will result in tears for you this week. Keep yourself to yourself and things will be a whole lot better for you in the long run. Ignore this and you will face the consequences.

♉ Taurus
April 21 – May 21
Friends may seem insignificant to you at this particular time. Remember their needs as well as your own, flattering yourself will only make you enemies.

♊ Gemini
May 22 – June 22
Sex has hardly been on the agenda recently has it? During this coming week be prepared for sleepless nights and lots of Lurve.

♋ Cancer
June 23 – July 23
Money makes the world go around doesn't it? However being stingy does not necessarily bring personal happiness. Spread a little joy this week.

♌ Leo
July 24 – August 23
Work commitments may seem the most important issue in your life at the moment, but just think of all that fun you're missing out on in the main bar...

♍ Virgo
August 24 – September 23
One of your close friends is hiding something from you. Tread carefully on an issue surrounding a relationship, we don't want anything to slip out now, do we?

♎ Libra
September 24 – October 23
If you're feeling a bit down at the moment please don't fret. The beginning of term holds many stimulating possibilities for you. Cor, just think of all those new people you'll meet at lectures ...

♏ Scorpio
October 24 – November 22
Free yourself from the pressures you've been under. The key to your much needed release lies behind the bar.

♐ Sagittarius
November 23 – December 22
Whose been a naughty student then? Give yourself a slap on the back of the head and apologise to that poor somebody, you'll need their support again soon.

♑ Capricorn
December 23 – January 19
Spend spend spend, that's all you ever do. Stop it before the bank runs completely dry. Have you ever considered staying in with your reading list?

♒ Aquarius
January 20 – February 19
Go romping in the heather on Bangor mountain. Swim naked in the Menai Straight. Go mad, this is your week to lose control. Please be careful with those brambles though.

♓ Pisces
February 20 – March 20
The answer to that big question is YES! Go on, do it. This could be your only opportunity and you don't want to miss out.

Welcome Week 1996

Samantha Law, Welcome Week Organiser, would like to thank all volunteers who helped during Welcome Week

Thanks for making Welcome Week 1996 the best ever

Special thanks to/Diolch o galon i: Mrs P, Ellie, Matt Robins, Chris Drew, Mike Lawler, Debs Clark, Chris Brenchley, Jackie and Fran, Aldyth, Fran Tate, Annwen, Sarah Martin; Marbo lads: Stuart, Simon, John and Jamie; Richard Singer, Simon Fisher, Alan, Aled, Jim Killock; porters Derrick, Derrick, Dewi and Pete; Huw, Mel, Joan; The Shop, Travel Shop and Bookshop; David Brassington, Kev Parry Jones and all drivers

Hoffai Samantha Law, Trefnydd Wythnos Groeso, ddiolch i bob wirfoddolwr a helpodd yn ystod Wythnos Groeso

Diolch am wneud Wythnos Groeso 1996 y gorau erioed

Wythnos Groeso 1996