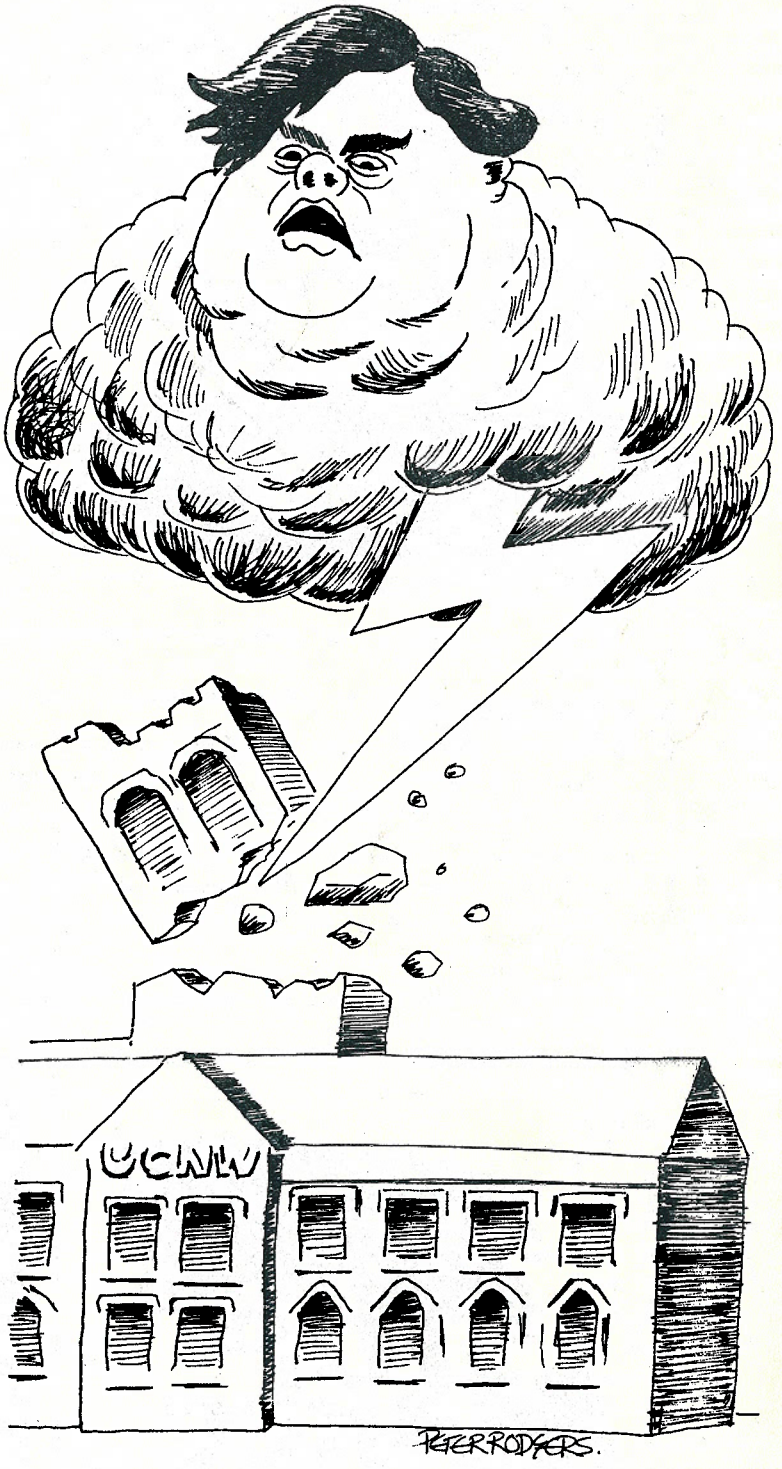
Y SEREN

VOL.3 NO.5

THE FIGHT BACK !



In the light of the Government's recently announced Grant Cuts, students all over Britain have started to fight back.

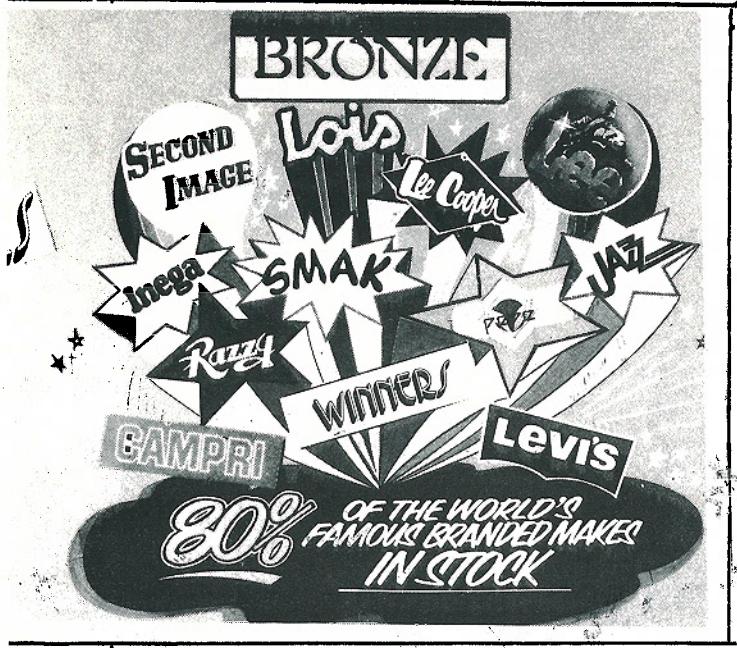
- A national shut-down of every University

- Nationwide protests and rallies

- A massive demonstration through London

In this issue of "Y Seren" we bring you the details of the Cuts, all the recent actions against them, and most importantly, what YOU can do about them.

S & A

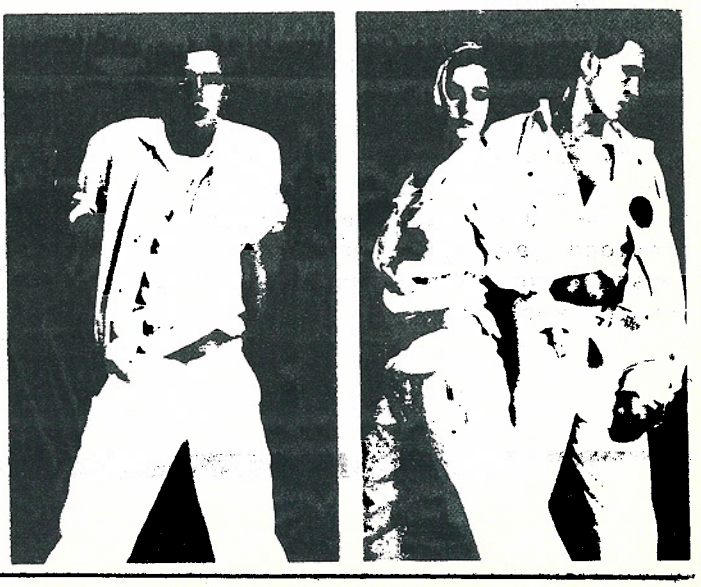


If you are looking for good quality fashion clothing with branded makes, S & A is your answer.
The nearest branches to you are in Bangor, Caernarvon and Holyhead High Streets.

Save this leaflet! Hand it in at any S & A store and we will give you 10% of your next purchase - whether a sale is on or not. Believe me, with our prices already so cheap, this extra 10% will really convince you that S & A is the place to shop.

On our jeans selection, we are £5 cheaper than all the other famous names than all the other High Street stores in Bangor. Not naming any names, we have a full check list of all prices at each of our stores, so that you can be sure you are getting the best possible deal.

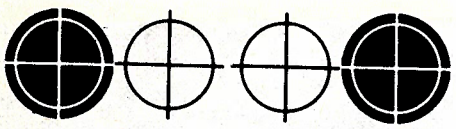
3 floors full of uni-sex fashion clothing and over £½ million worth of choice.

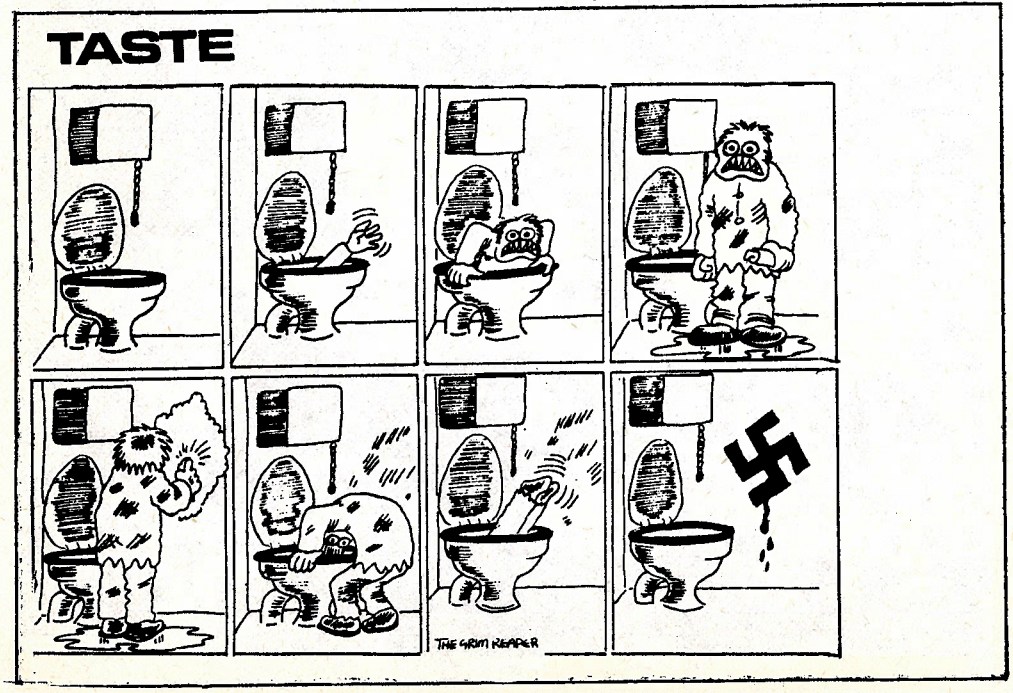


EDITORIAL

On November 21st, there was, as some of you may have noticed, a series of nationwide demonstrations against the Government's ridiculous Grants proposals. Something else you may have noticed was the distinct lack of coverage in the media - half a page in the Daily post (which didn't mention Bangor), five lines in the Mirror (which didn't mention anything much), along with a rather scathing report on BBC Wales. Well, what else can you expect? The main problem was that none of the reports actually mentioned the ISSUES involved. Okay, so they all said that there was a bunch of Leftist hippy students protesting, but they didn't really say WHY. They didn't say that we don't want to see our friends (or even ourselves) forced to drop out; they didn't say that we don't want to be completely dependent on our parents for another three years; they didn't say that we don't want to see small courses having to shut down because of a lack of students.

We ALL know the Government's point of view. Isn't it time someone heard OURS? That is why Y SEREN (and all other Union newspapers across the country) will be giving all the support and coverage we possibly can to the campaign. Students must ALL fight and we must all fight together. We also need a voice to express our views. Y SEREN will be that voice, stating YOUR case, fighting not just for you but WITH you now, in the rest of this campaign and in all campaigns to come.





LETTERS

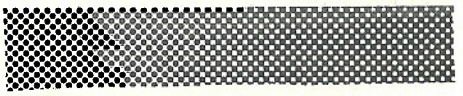
Dear Y Seren

Though I consider myself an open-minded person I feel I must bring to your notice one species of human being unique in its culture and its manner:- THE SOUTHERNER.

To fit the definition you have to live in England south of Coventry. Also complementary to this definition are the attributes of i) arrogance ii) ignorance iii) pretentiousness iv) and generally lack of competence. I am a first year and to my horror I find the expectations which I had been warned of before I came to Bangor of the SOUTHERNER have been fulfilled. My first night in Bangor was marked by the dismissal of Northers by a Londoner as a kind of substandard legacy of primitive man.

I find it shocking that for the majority of SOUTHERNERS, Bangor is for most of them, the northernest point they've been to! How can they classify themselves as a British citizen if they have never experienced the delight of treading the sacred soil of Northern Britain, Scotland and Norther Ireland. Cacooned in their narrow mindedness, these soft-headed pampered people are and embarrasment not only to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and England, but to the whole of Western Civilization.

A Northerner.



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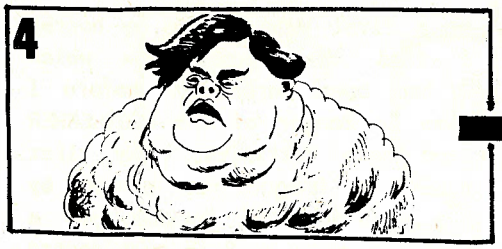
Special thanks to Mrs.P, Mandy, Sue, ENTs and eternal homage to the lord and master.



THE FIGHT

THE FACTS

An announcement was made by Nigel Lawson and Sir Keith Joseph recently of the Govenment's intentions towards Mandatory Awards. This stated that the minimum grant of £205 is to be abolished; parental contribution for the middle/upper income groups is to be massively increased; and that tuition fees of £520 are to be included in the contributions.

The Government aims to save £39m, yet NUS are convinced that this figure is nearer £65.75m It is calculated that out of the 383,500 students in H.E. receiving grants, 183,000 will be affected. The Government argues that they are only hitting the wealthy who can and should pay for their children's education. However, NUS figures show that the new scales will hit the average family. NUS demands at the present that students should be independent of their parents, yet these new cuts will only increase this dependence.

A number of students could be forced to leave University at the end of this session due to lack of funds. These could well include you or some of your friends and fellow students. At present calculations, 54% of students do not receive their full parental contribution, and with parents facing an increase of £725 per child, the situation can only get worse. The only answer is to strike back now while the Government's policy is still in the news.

The views of the Conservatives can be clearly seen in the NUS income/expenditure report stating that the Tories have recently refused to meet with students. On Tuesday November 20th, however, they eventually agreed to a meeting.

The Principal and the College Registrar have issued a statement of support for the students to the press. Both College and the various Trades Unions within the University have all stated their support for the demonstrations on Wednesday 21st November and also their continuing support for the next few months.

THE SHUT-DOWN

The aim of the campaign on Wednesday 21st November was to gain increased media publicity for students throughout the country. Interest in the strike was shown by the involvement of Radio Cymru, BBC Wales and various local newspapers.

The day began with an early start and the picketing of all University buildings by a total of 16 picket lines. This lasted from 8.45am to 1.30pm and involved almost whole-hearted support from both students and staff. These cuts affect virtually everybody in some way and complete support was necessary for the shut-down to be effective.

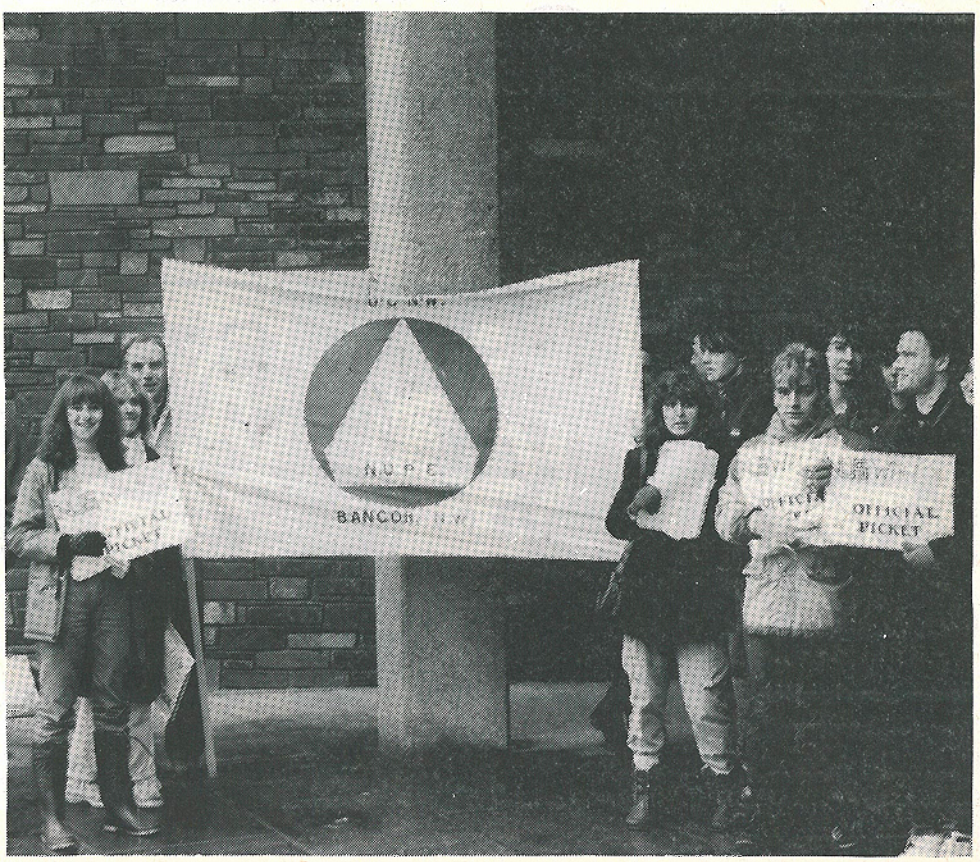
Demonstrations such as the one in Bangor were held all over Britain to varying extents.

- In Cardiff approximately 150 students held a sit-in at the job centre and there was also picketing at the University.

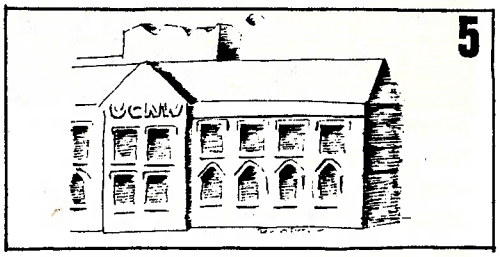
- Co-operation between Swansea University and the West Glamorgan College of Higher Education resulted in a complete shut-down of the High Street and the main road outside the University.

- In Lampeter the whole town was closed off, whilst Coleg Harelch occupied the Conservative offices at Caernarfon.

- There was also continous support throughout the rest of the colleges and Universities in Wales.



BACK !



RALLYING ROUND

Following the picketing in Bangor, a rally was held in the Main Bar of the S.U., in the presence of Radio Cymru. The two speakers were Mr.Roger Roberts of the Liberal party and Mrs.Jo Knight of the Bangor Area Labour Party.

Mr.Roberts stated that at present "the Conservatives' priorites were at variation with those of thinking, concerned people".

Mrs.Knight pointed out that the Tories appear to have no consulatation whatsoever with the education world. The Labour Party is committed to a two year sponsorship training scheme for over 16s to continue in education. They are committed to assissting all those qualified to enter Higher Education. She stated that the Government's attempt at a "back-door" loans system was simply resulting in the privatisation of education.

Mrs.Knight extended several suggestions for further campaigning by our students:

- To instigate democratic procedures for extarordinary general meetings of departments.

- For departments to forward a protest to MPs, Parliament and the College Senate here.

- To gain more support from both academic and College departments.

- To persuade parents to write to their local MPs to show the extreme disadvantages of the Cuts.

- To send a deputation to local authorities who are involved at administration level.

The rally received a message of support from the Welsh Nationalist Party :- they support Wednesday's action and any action taken in the next few weeks. Support was also given by Dafyd Iwan of Plaid Cymru and Ian Evans of the local SDP. They are all planning to speak to the papers and to MPs.

Paul Ashley, the SU President issued a challenge to the Tories of a meeting two against two to discuss this present policy. He suggested that they might be worried that our arguments are much stronger than theirs. The Conservatives were conspicuous by their absence at the rally.

How YOU can help

By the time this issue sees print, there will have been a massive demonstration in London (Wednesday 28th November). Hopefully this will show the Government that we are not prepared t sit back and watch our education system disappear!

The Conservatives' plan at the moment seems to be to establish an elitist education system. In order to stop this ALL students must be ready to campaign - not just a few, but wholehearted support from every NUS member. What we require now is ACTION!

There will be further details of the campaign as it happens in future issue of Y Seren during the next few months.

"With this desperate act, an increasingly desperate government has betrayed thousands of parents and students. Our message to Conservative MPs today, and throughout our campaign, must be loud and clear- if you vote for Lawson's proposals, we and our parents will vote you out of office".

Phil Woolas,
NUS President

XMAS BALL

For those of you who don't already know, the Xmas Ball is the social event of the year. It's the time when everyone goes around being jolly festive...well, maybe 'goes around' is a slightly misleading term, becuase movement is not the easiest thing in the Union that night! There are people everywhere but mostly at the bar when you want a drink.

This year the Ball is only Saturday December 8th and tickets are on sale, price £6 in advance only. For your measly six quid you get entertainment from 7.30ish to the wee small hours, with a bar extension til 11.30. This year the main attractions are:

- BAD MANNERS!! Remember "Can Can" and "Walking in the Sunshine?" etc. etc. This should be good for a laugh.

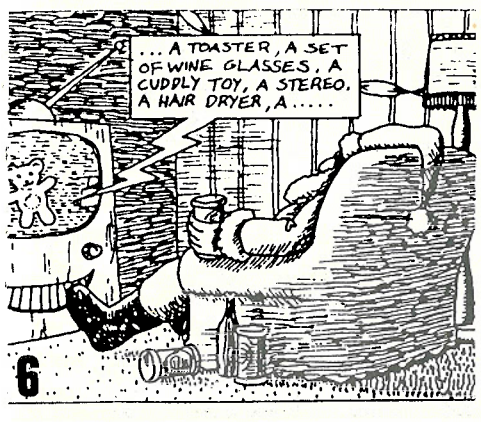
- TOM McEWAN! For those of you who've never seen this gentleman, he's a Scottish singer/comedian and he's very entertaining.

- The DTs! Say no more!

-ROHAN! Another band of perrenial favourites.

-Lots more! (Probably)

Remember it's all happening on December 8th, so get your ticket now before they all go! Be there or be the only one who isn't!



albums

THE SMITHS "Hatful of Hollow"

The Smiths have not sold out.

To put a word in this review of more than seven letters would be out or keeping with the attitude of this record. It is plain and unpretentious (there goes our maxim) - unfussy and terribly trendy. No overcoat should be without it. Indeed, any flat-top worth his checked shirt knows that "Hand In Glove" was beaut stuff. The Smiths are more the Undertones' first LP than Lloyd Cole and we stick our tongues out at anyone who deigns to disagree. Morrissey took his tongue out of his cheek long ago (New York Dolls and all that jazz). So... a big "boo-hiss" to all you who hate his untrendy-trendiness coz the Smiths are about music-music for every mood of your youth.

THE MARC ALMOND - "Vermin in Ermin

Forget the propoganda, Marc Almond (the?) is not smutty- he does not wallow in despair and ear-wax. He's just got an ace voice and a lovely taste in pink lame jackets. Unlike most of that "crumbs, aren't we bad lads" clique (Foetus, Cave etc.) Marc Almond does not take himself seriously. "How can he?" you ask. Well, you can go and take a jump, coz this boy really knows what side his bread's buttered. More camp than the Famous Five- more fey than any Boy George pout; this guy is the real McCoy. If you wear black leather trousers and bog chains then I suppose you'll have to pretend to like this record. We think it's just knock-out. Mascara out,lads!

These two smashing reviews by J.Temperance and R.Totale

SINGLES

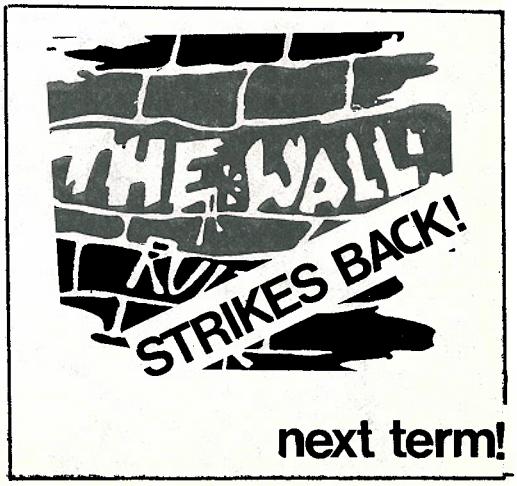
THE ENEMY WITHIN- "Strike"

Apparently no major record company would handle this record. It was up to Rough Trade records to save the day. They shouldn't have bothered - I would imagine that the reason nobody else wanted anything to do with it is because "Strike" quite simply has no musical merit whatsoever.

A word of explanation. "Strike" is a record in favour of the Miners and all proceeds go to the Miners' Solidarity Fund. The Enemy Within want their record to go to No.1 in the Charts so that they can show that the people of Britain still support the Miners. Hard luck. The record consists of extracts from speeches by Arthur Scargill, various other politicians and striking miners, set against what the publicity describes as "the harsh soundtrack of today's streets." It actually sounds like a Depeche Mode reject backing track, but without any of the musical or even interesting bits.

If you fervently support the Miners, then maybe you ought to buy this record. If you buy records for any other reason at all then don't bother. Anyway, if the strike contiues, there'll be power cuts and you won't be able to play it.

Bob Stone



REVIEWS

The Country Wife

What are such trendy looking chaps doing in Bangor? one wonders as a spectrum of stripes, beauty spots, feathers, fluorescence, hair-gel and a rather too a la mode leather jacket adorn the stage. Are some of the cast really into alternative fashion? Seriously, though, despite the apparent incongruity involved in sporting both period costume and way-out get-out in a single play, the vivid visual presentation of the characters more than made up for the slight alienation from a Restoration atmosphere. Both costume and make up infused the play with originality and panache, creating an overall artistic effect.

The play lacked energy at times but gained impetus as the plot progressed and despite occasional hurried speech, attained many comic moments. The intrigue in the play revolves around the character of Mr.Horner who convinces the townspeople that he is a eunuch in order to improve his chances of seducing the ladies of the town. Frank Gilgan gave an impressive performance in this role. Although he occasionally lacked zest, he also achieved moments of considerable sensitivity.

Much credit must go to Alaster Douglas who, flaunting frills and feathers, gave a splendid performance as the bungling fop Mr.Sparkish. Jain Wisher, too, moulting feathers as she went gave a powerful and confident interpretation of the domineering Lady Fidget.

However, the limelight must undoubtedly fall on Simon Bantick who gave an incredibly well-studied performance as the doddery old cuckold Mr.Pinchwife. He portrayed the mannerisms, expressions and gait of his character with perceptive flair and managed to produce a co-ordinated act with his wife played by Jayne Ratcliffe. She, too gave a pleasing performance as the country wife of the title.

The musical accompaniment, though rambling at times, added a further element of interest to the play. Several good lighting effects were also achieved- notably the abrupt switch from candlelight to brightness in the first scene.

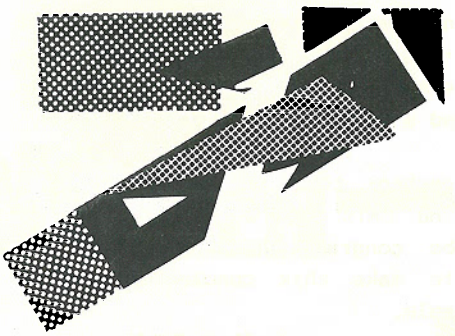
Congratulations are due to the director, Michael Platt for his successful treatment of the play. His close supervision and thoroughness doubtless added vitality and depth to the production.

Debbie Herbert

Scanner

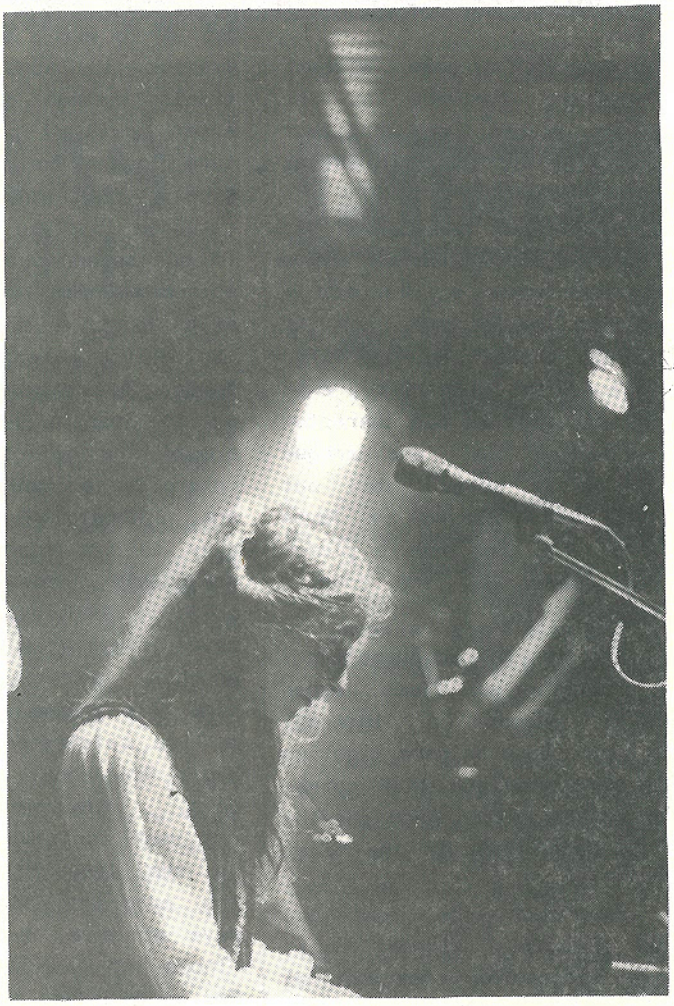
Two highly contrasting programmes with large cult followings have returned this term. First the legendary Star Trek is being shown in its entirety. Followers of the USS Enterprises five year mission will have noticed that the series on BBC Wales is going boldly where it has been about a month previously on BBC1 in the rest of Britain. This is because when the series started this year of homegrown "Opt Out" programmes, leaving bewildered Trekies to wonder at sheepdog trials instead of Sci-Fi! But after howls of protest from culture lovers throughout the principality BBC Wales recanted and returned Captain Kirk and crew to our screens ... from the first episode that most had already seen about a month previously!! So if you weren't here over the summer then the series only started to lose a sense of deja vu around the episode in which the Enterprise encountered some Romulans. Hopefully, Star Trek will stay in its current slot at the reasonably convenient time of 6:50 on Thursdays, but BBC Wales moves in mysterious ways.

Another mysterious move, this time more pleasant, from the Beeb, is the celebrated return of The Magic Roundabout at 12:55 on Sundays. Admittedly one showing per week isn't very much compared to the five times weekly that the programme was screening in days of yore, but it's a start. Those of you whose upbringing was as deprived as to be unfamiliar with this masterpiece could do worse that tuning in - if only to see what inspired Jasper Carott! Last week's first episode saw Dougal standing for parliament on the platform of the four day week, 16 hour day, (and 30 second minute - which could be a better way to remove unemployment than Nigel Lawson's policies!) only to run into unexpected opposition from Ermintrude. This included great cameo appearences from Florence and Mr Rusty and a strong supporting part for Brian but unfortunately no Dylan. Oh well there's always next week. Still until next Y Seren it's time for bed as Zebedee would say BOINGG!!



REVIEWS

SOLSTICE



Paul Hill and Dave Hopewell set the stage for a great night's entertainment in the Main Bar. Their playing was a excellent and proved a foretaste of the aural delights awaiting us.

When Solstice came on they found the capacity audience in a receptive mood (that's one of the advantages of playing in the Main Bar) and capitalising on this they proceeded to give a superb show.

Sandy Leigh's vocals were clear and superbly mixed, Ansy Glass on lead guitar/vocals together with the lilting violin of Marc Elton combined to make a sound which could be compared to a fresher Steeleye Span/ Jefferson Starship, but always retained a distinctive SOLTSTICE sound.

All in all the gig was perhaps this term's best to date and ENTs and Stage Crew are to be congratulated on their work to make this concert so enjoyable.

Mark Royle

I.Q.

Not being really impressed as such by most progressive rock bands I went along to the IQ gig, I must admit, unfairly biased indeed expecting to be bored by Novel Lentl songs, incessently tinkling keyboards, and a Peter Gabriel cloned singer.

The atmosphere in the bar was, to say the least, sedentary; the fact that only about a hundred people had turned up and the fact that they had just had to listen to the statutory million or to 'one, two, one, twos' may have been to blame. The support 'Herbert Eff' didn't help much either, their offering of cliche proof rock although very listenable in small doses became very monotonous after three ten minute epics; the only refreshing element being the extremely talented bass player who managed to lift the otherwise drole sound. I was pleasantly surprised and at times excited by the music of IQ; to catagorize it beyond rock would be impossible, there were influences obviously most noteworthy, perhaps vocalist Pete Nicholls Genesis remeniscent mask make-up and strange theatricals, but they were many and varied and to slap a label on the bands would be unfair. Much of the gig was occupied by the two epic songs 'The Last Human Gateway' and 'The Enemy Smacks' during the latter of which a composition whose subject in Drug induced neurotica, Nicholl's managed to change his costume three times 'Dear Roy, is this a record'. During costume changes the stage was occupied by guitarist and Silly fringe Mike Holmes, who, in what can only be described as a relationship with his instrument, produced melodies of such a languid style that the agressive mood of the music became altered and shortened helped along by Martin Orford's organ keyboard climbing chords in perfect harmony - good to see some 'prog' rock bands aren't obsessed by tinny keyboard sounds of insane complexity.

The bands latest sing 'Berod is in' also proved impressive and agin very different with its echoeing reggae guitar and complex drum rythms - it even managed to rouse some of the crowd to foot tapping (not often seen in Bangor these days).

All in all IQ proved to be a gighly enjoyable band with their individual appoach to their music whatever anyone says about 'prog' rock I'll definately have 'Tales from the Lush Attic' on my christmas present list.

TOG

WOMEN

CENTRE PAGE SPREAD

Fantasies of great swollen breasts
Stark against the glossy page.
Fantasies of pink plumb open thighs
cold plastic open to you.
But this reclining body
inside the girl who is subject to your fantasies
is me. My home is buried within the flesh
you look upon and feel possession. Greedy and gorged.
But I still live here, and I can love beyond blame.

As far as feminism is concerned pornography in any form gives a physical and moral stink. Impersonal nude pictures of the truncated sections from a female form does seem to be playing into the hands of those who see her body as an object to be violated and exploited. Such visions are not morally neutral and something abviously needs to be done about it. But what?

This leads one to ask two important questions regarding censorship and pornography: Is censorship justifiable on principle? If so, how will it work in practice? After all, where do you draw the line between what is and what is not pornography? A paradox arises from censorship. Pornography, it is argued tends to corrupt those who read or view it. It follows from this that the censors who have come into contact with it have consequently been corrupted and are the, therefore, worst sort of person to judge whether something is corrupt or not. The only way out to the defender of censorship is to say that the censor is morally superior to those for whose benefit the censorship is being done. But can one who believes in an egalitarian movement truly adopt a position of moral elite? Surely this in itself is morally repugnant to most people, and those factions who set themselves up as morally superior should be stood up to. If you still think that censorship is a good thing, and can be decided apon by a moral elite, then there is the problem of what is to be censored. When is art pornography? Where is the border between different moral values (to those of the censor) and the depravity? How can there be effective safeguards to stop censoring on non-moral, idealogical grounds, (eg. political)? So where does one go from here if pornography is seen by you to be morally and intellectually repugnant? One must look towards the kind of society that flourishes under such an assault. One should look at them in the light of a decaying society that clearly requires diagnosis and education. As Orwell puts it, it is a "symptom of the world's illness. (...) They are diseased and disgusting, and any investigation ought to start out from that.

WHAT'S ON FOR WOMEN IN BANGOR

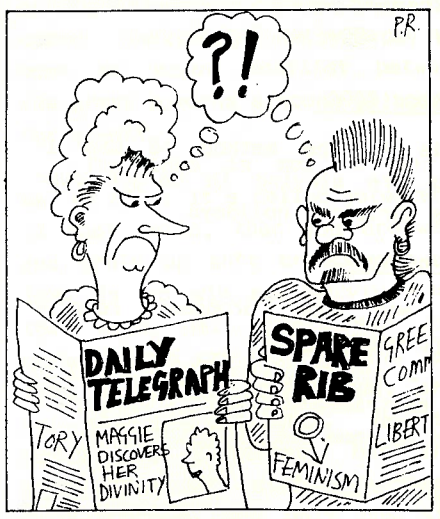
THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER
WELFARE RIGHTS COURSE: 1.30 - 3.30pm. Unemployed Workers' Advice Ctr. 133 High Sr. Bangor 352263.

MONDAY 3 DECEMBER
Women's Spirituality Group.
Discussing Women's Music.
Discussing Women's Music. 2.30pm. 32 College Road.
An Opportunity For Women: This is a new learning group for women and provides free creche. Volunteers are urgently needed for the creche every Thursday 10.00am til noon. Contact UWAC 352263.

Every Wednesdays: Massage and Natural Healing. 4.00pm. Greenhouse.

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER
Bangor Women's Aid Volunteer Meeting 8pm.
Contact D Shotter, Union Letter Rack.

D.C.SHOTTER.



WELFARE

CLAIMING RENT BACK OVER CHRISTMAS

If you are paying rent for your accomodation over the Christmas holidays, there are two methods of claiming it back:

A:Housing Benefit Forms

These forms are avilable from the Welfare Office

Advantages

- you don't have to stay in Bangor over the holidays
- it may possibly be the quicker method
- only one form to fill in

Disadvantages

- you only get 80% (approx) of the rent back
- With these forms you have to supply proof of the grant you recieve
- Also supply proof that the rent has been paid
- It is advisable to get these forms in by the end of term to either Arfon or to Llangefni (if you live on Anglesey)

B:Signing on

This is the method to use if you are staying in Bangor over the Christmas holidays

Advantages

- you will probably receive more money
- if you have worked and paid NI contributions you may be entitled to some unemployment benefit

Disadvantages

- you have to stay in Bangor over the holidays

(But it is acceptable to go away for a few days over Xmas or the New Year)

It has been arranged for representatives of the Unemployment Benefit Office to come to:

MAIN BAR

on MONDAY 17th DECEMBER
from 3.00pm

so that you may sign on then

POINTS TO NOTE

Some people have signed on and gone home for the whole holiday in the past, but we cannot recommend this.

If any more information is needed or clarification of an individual case, please come to the Welfare office and ask questions.

warning!

Are you staying in Emrys Evans over Christmas? If you are,

BEWARE!!

The Halls Management and College Finance Department have calculated that the rent charged for a room in halls is £9.40 per week and have told Arfon Borough Council this, so this is the amount which will be paid to you in Housing Benefit. YOU WILL HAVE TO FIND THE REMAINING £12.60 PER WEEK YOURSELF.

FAREWELL

For the last three years two months Thelma and Jose Luis Diaz de Leon have been working here in Bangor. Thelma has been working with Halabactemas under the Supervisor Nigel Grinter, and Jose Luis under Proffessor Gareth Wyn Jones in Plant Bio-Chemistry. They have been living with their two boys Adrian and Gabriel at 10 Friars Ave. Bangor. Adrian who is nearly four and Gabriel eight months attend the University Creche during term time and will be sadly missed when they return to Mexico with their parents. Neither sets of grandparents have seen the two boys for over three years only photographs have been exchanged - so there will be a big family reunion when they return at the beginning of December. Jose Luis did say they may return to North Wales on short visits on Congress. But they will return to their Institute Centro De Investigaciones Biologicas AC Mexico - to complete their studies.

Adrian and Gabriel will attend their last Christmas party this year when the Creche closes on December 14th. Adrian and Gabriel are both lovely children real little characters. Certainly the creche next term will not be quite the same, when they return to Mexico city. Thelma and Jose have promised to keep in touch with us and send us photographs of the children with their families for the Creche wall.

We wish them a Bon Voyage and a sad farewell from us all in Bangor.

NEXT ISSUE

Special Festive CHRISTMAS ISSUE!!!

In this somewhat less-serious-than-usual issue will be:

- Reviews of The Man Upstairs and the Xmas Ball
- A festive Spilt Ink
- And (on a more serious note) the latest on the Grants Campaign, including a report from the London Demo on November 28th

BUT FIRST!! Your opportunity to be involved in this Yule spectacular!! Yes folks, you too could have your name on the credits of an issue of "Y Seren". All you do is come along to a meeting in the Council Chamber, S.U. Second Floor on Friday November 30th at 1.15pm. Don't worry, we supply the mistletoe! You only have to supply yourselves! If you miss this chance, yule be sorry!

RATTING ON ROLAND

A Few Words to Roland Luke

Roland Luke is terribly upset that the West is buying lost of shiny new nukes to play with, and that means we can't send enough money to the poor and needy in the 3RD World. In a way of course, he's right: Western governments don't do enough for the poor and starving. On the other hand, we do produce enough to feed ourselves, and a handsome surplus which we could send of off to the needy, (if only the EEC would get its ass in gear and cut through all the red tape). Does the Soviet Union? Certainly not, it can't even feed itself, though it has the capacity to feed the entire world. What happens when the Russians seriously contemplate taking W Europe such a great source of energy and food? The spy satellites we send up don't just tell us how may bombs Ivan has got, they tell us how his crops are doing too. The Soviet grain harvest is notoriously fickle, and if the Russians ever have areally bad harvest, and the Yanks do their bit for 'Peace and Democracy' by refusing to sell them grain, then we in Europe are in for a spot of bother to put it mildly. The policy of the UK (let's just leave the Yanks out of it for now, there could come a time when the 'Special Relationship' turns to rat-sh*t, and where's the nuclear umbrella then?) is defence and nothing but defence. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, has built up the most formidable military machine the world has ever seen. We would never attack them first, and they know it. Why then do they continue to spend so much money on military hardware that is not only in greater quantity to that of NATO, but far from being inferior in quality, is in some cases better than that of the Alliance? We can trade with them, certainly, they can buy our surpluses cheap as you like, because we have a standard of living that will not alter by such trade while it improves that of the Soviets. But that food is not theirs for the taking. It's ours to do with as we wish, and if selling it off on the cheap keeps the peace, terrific. It is not for the Soviet Union to walk in and take over the farmland of Western Europe. If we stopped feeding them, our troubles would really start. Human Nature is a wonderful thing, and it is perfectly possible for Reagan to one day decide he won't send food to Moscow. Yanks have Hollywood mentality, as borne out by the Cuban Missile Crisis, when JF Kennedy said 'When we stand eyeball to eyeball, they blink first' What if they don't?

Polaris is ancient, you may as well put it away with the longbow and quarterstaff. The equipment is old, more liable to break down, and costs too much to repair anyway. In the last world war, the Polish cavalry attacked German tanks with lances. They were only very slightly wiped out. Now, I don't like nukes, I would much prefer that the entire world got rid of them altogether, but, and it's a hell of a but, I don't see the governments on the other side of the Berlin Wall in any danger of throwing away their hardware. Roland Luke may want the rest of us to live in harmony and love; shame he's not on the same planet as the rest of us. The best form of defence is not 'You can't hit me, I'm defenceless' (try it next time you get mugged) rather 'Hit me, and I'll hit you back at least as hard : don't do it'.

We don't want to be Communist and those of us with a brain between us defend that view with the notion that we can hit back if attacked (to be killed by your enemy after you've killed him • is not a way most of us are in favour of dying, and it ought to send Ivan scuttling off in a 'shovel-recce' or to the latrine) and the Russian Bear wouldn't like to inherit a pile of radioactive ashes. The nuclear warhead is the gravest threat to Mankind and by that it is also the greatest protection. If money spent on military hardware were spent on peaceful projects (if only it could be!) then we would live in a much better world. As far as I'm concerned nukes keep the peace: the fact that there has been no major conflict between the great poweres since 1945 speaks for itself.

The idea is not to go to war at all : it's called deterrence. If that fails, then you are well and truly up sh*t creek, and the idea is to win and survive, not tear your hair out, rent your garments and cry O woe! The last time a country was nuked, only one side had the Bomb. Now the sides are different, but they both have the ultimate weapon. What happens when only one side has the Bomb again? CND likes to think of itself as taking the threat of the Bomb seriously; anyone that serious isn't taking it seriously. Anyway, I like sticking pitchforks in babies...

PHIL CURLEY

Managing your bank manager

A Bank Manager is your financial doctor just as a general practitioner can over squeeze your balls at the viedical check-up so too metaphorically speaking are you at the mercy of your bank manager when you go in to see him. The moral of this is that if you want your ball when you come out don't tickle his when you go in. (Ladies ... I shudder to think!).

The object of this article then is to enlighten any student reading how to handle your bank manager when you find yourself on his hit list!

A bank manager has many customers and a classification of some kind is always useful. One headache scale. Customers accumulate headache points, which arise from the activities with the bank. Depending on the number of points that they tot up they are classified into groups ranging from real pain in the arses, to angels that sing in heaven.

Students can generally find themselves in the middle somewhere picking up headache points for constant overdrafts, unanswered letters and total lack of financial affairs. Surprise, Surprise!

So, here's what you do when you find yourselves moving further away from those lovely voices in heaven. The important point is that y ou must try not to take your manager for a ride. This may be to your detriment, for if the need arose a bank manager can find out alot about you from your recorded financial transactions at the bank.

He can for instance look at the cheques that you draw to see just what you spent your money on and where the overdraft may have come from. You can always fib to him that it fell into the chunk collection box but he will know that it went galloping away around the track at Doncaster.

Reiterating the point about your bank manager being your financial doctor, he will always have a tab on your personal financial activities and so at the interview will be more interested in such at your goodself. Therefore, you must seek to impress with a smart presentation and an honest and respectable outer shell, at least! If it is your hairstyle that gives you the problems in this repect, then at least try and get colour coordination with the outfit you wear.

The secret then is not to display an array of financial wizardry, but to try and put some respectability into your overdraft. With regards to headache points, a bank manager will realise the students' susceptibility to over drafts and lack of financial control, but you can impress and redress the balance by answering letters and showing participation. You can always take him out to dinner on your overdraft.

Just remember that the key to managing your bank manager is the ability with which you manage yourself. The best of luck.

Prophetic.... not pathetic

Mother Teresa of India writes some powerful words in the midst of her powerful deeds: "The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love, the terrible indifference toward one's neighbours who live at the roadside, assaulted by exploitation, povery and disease."

God wants justice and the transfdormation of society: "Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will testify at once against those who practise magic, against adulterers and liars, against those who cheat employees out of their wages, or oppress widows and orphans or thrust aside strangers - against all who do not respect me". Malachi 3,v.5.

As a recent article in "Buzz" magazine read:- "Jesus ate with business racketeers, moneylenders, bent Inland Revenue Inspectors and made friends with nymphomaniacs and prostitutes".

But Christians so ofter are pathetic. We leave prophetic denunciations of injustice to "political groups"; it is too risky, too disturbing to take sides with the marginalized, the exploited. We are too busy with our prayers to read "New Internationalist" on world development issues to give us a clearer insight into the stark reality of the work environment of theat neighbour whom we are called upon to love. It is easy to be pious - but that is not the way of Jesus. He promises radical action inspired by God: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bvring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim libery to the captives.."

Luke 4, v.18.

This Christmas, will our solidarity be the the 'haves' or the 'have-nots'? Will we be spending our pounds on beer and parties and our pennies in a charity tin on the High Street? Will we take the time to care? Have we got the guts to do the truth? It is in ministering to others, be they in Taiwan or Tredegar that we will discover the extraordinary reality of God. The paradox of Christmas is that God the magnificent is to be found in the marginal; God ther Creator is revealed in those who are cast out. The Wonderful is present in the unwanted. Will we be there with Him?

Revd. Phil Roderick, Anglican Chaplain, U.C.N.W.

fun run

On Sunday 18th November the Bangor Rountable had organised a mini-marathon fun run. It was a sponsored 5.8 mile jog around Penryhn Castle gounds and the surrounding vicinity. The money raised will go towards the Bangor Pier Restoration Fund.

Well Bangor UCNW Rowing Club managed to pound their way into the 'team cup' first place. They obviously took it as seriously as they do those 6am training sessions! Keen lot aren't they. Alot less keen, alot more silly, and alot more fun was the Bangor Rag team. They were dressed as a wedding party: they'd hired top hat and tails with a Mystery Panda Groom and a bride who looked like he'd spent the morning boxing in the wedding-dress. The mother-in-law was very poorly fitted out in a little blue number with the sip undone all the way down his back. His dress only just covered his knees and really the legs were enough to make the groom cringe. (Let's hope no mother-in-law of mine has legs like that or my kids are going to be in dire need of leg transplants!) The Vicar looked very dashing, at least you could oggle him during the sermon. The Rag team also proved to be a very publically spirited lot. When one girl collapsed they went on and got her help, two of the lads then entertained the local kids.

The French Soc. didn't take it very seriously either and they generally ambled around the course - although Sean Murphy and Chris Wright put on a good show with Andy Pilkington coming-up close behind. They ran it in less than forty minutes.

The town pulled together with the Castle Hotel and Nationwide Building Society sponsoring the paperwork. There were 265 competitors of all ages and styles but only £285 was raised for the Roundtable Funds. The over all winner was Tegid Roberts from Llallyfini BUT my vote goes to that Wedding Party - keep it up you Ragamuffins.

Eleanor Ford.

Hello again,

Firstly, an explanation for all those of you who were wondering what a 'KIOS' party was. Well, the word 'KIOS' derives from the greek phrase 'kios us', roughly translated as 'orgy'. No, seriously folks, this was an unfortunate misprint in the last issue of Y Seren and should have read 'kids party'. This will be held on November 30th on the 3rd floor of the students' union. Doors open at 8:00pm, but food (ie. sarnies, sausage rolls, jelly and custard etc) will be served at 9:00pm. So if you wish to return momentarily to your childhood days (or if some of you are still at that stage in your life), come along and have some fun. 'Kiddy' fancy dress is optional, but those in ordinary clothes may find that they've involuntarily entered the 'Jelly Look-alike' competition. Prizes will be given to the winners of our party games, which will include old favourites like pass the parcel and musical chairs (what fun eh?).

Organization of Rag Week is well on the way and by the next issue I, the mystery panda, will probably be able to tell you which band will be playing at THE Rag Ball in February. Oh yes, and don't forget the Liverpool trip this Saturday we'll be staying there until 12:00 so that we have a chance to visit a few of the pubs in Liverpool.

Well, by for now,
THE MYSTERY PANDA

CASTLE SWEET SHOP

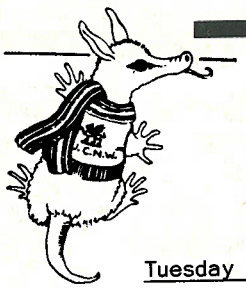
Chocolates: sweets:

Cigarettes: pipe & tobaccos:

Large selections, open 'til 6pm

173 High Street, Bangor

AARDVARK



Thursday 29th November

ATHLETICS 5:15 Sports Centre.
WARGAMES AND RPG's 6:50 Watch Star Trek in the Harp.
GAY SOCS 7:30 Committee Room B
TG 7:30 'To be or not to be' £1.80
CA 8pm North Wales Naturalists Trust. Talk and slides in Greenhouse, High Street.
MUSIC DEPT 8pm University College Singers Conductor Geraint Lewis, John Scott (organ) 80p.
MEN'S HOCKEY 9.15 Sports Hall.

Friday 30th November

ATHLETICS sprint training dry play at the Sports Centre.
POSTGRAD SOC 7.30 Council Chamber Wine and Cheese evening, free to members cheap wine.
REAL ALE SOC 7.30 Main Bar Disco with Cheap beer.
MUSIC SOC 7.30 Powis Hall Orchestra Practice.
TG 10.45 Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars £1.80

Saturday 1st December

ROWING CLUB 9am at the boathouse.
ERISIAN LIBERATION FRONT 5.23 conspiracy meeting Fat Freddies.
ENTS DISCO 7.30 Main Bar.

Sunday 2nd December

GWYNEDD CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS 9.30 Union Car Park.
WARGAMES AND RPG's 12:55 Harp Inn to watch The Magic Roundabout. 2.30 in the Council Chamber.
MOTOR CLUB 2pm Treasure Hunt start Llys Tryfan Car Park.
TG 7.30 Sophie's Choice £1.80.

Monday 3rd December

ATHLETICS 5pm Weights Room.
GERMAN SOC 7.30 Disco with Buffet in the Jazz Room £1.50.
KI AKIDO 7.30 Sports Hall.
TG 7.30 The Lord of the Rings £1.80 Hobbit farming!
MINERS SUPPORT GROUP 8pm Waterloo Inn

Tuesday 4th December

ATHLETICS 5.15 Running at the Sports Centre.
MEN'S HOCKEY 6pm Sports Hall.
RAILWAY SOC 7.30 Railway Hotel.
MINERS SUPPORT GROUP 7.30 Benefit Disco Jazz Room.
G.C.V. 8pm Social Evening Greenhouse, High Street.

Wednesday 5th December

CU 1pm Bread and Cheese Lunch at Penralt School Room, Lower Penralt Road.
ROWING CLUB 2pm at the boathouse.
ATHLETICS 5.30 Circuit Training.
MUSIC SOC 7.30 Choir Practice Powis Hall.
FOLK DANCING 7.30 OSCR.
ENTS DISCO 7.30 Main Bar.
TG 8pm Medici string Quartet £2.50

Thursday 6th December

ATHLETICS 5.15 Sports Centre.
WARGAMES AND RPG's 7.30 Harp Inn.
SLUM 7.30 CA Benefit Herber Eff and QE2 Jazz Bar 75p.
TG 7.30 Pickwick Papers £3.00
FRENCH SOC Xmas Party £1.50: 3rd Floor SU; Fancy Dress; Food.
MUSIC DEPT 8pm Powis Hall University College Trio - Vivaldi; Bridge; Beethoven 80p.

Friday 7th December

FAMILY PLANNING FILMS 10am - 4pm Greenhouse information centre High St. - don't miss it Hazel!
ATHLETICS 5pm Sprint Training Sports Centre.
MERRYDOWN SOC 7.30 Disco in the Main Bar - Neil crawls home 'all sorts will happen'.
RUSSIAN DEPT 7.30 Disco SCR.
MUSIC SOC 7.30 Choir & Orchestra Rimsky Korsekov Berlioz Gershwin.
TG 7.30 as yesterday.
TG 10.45 Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence. £1.80.

Saturday 8th December

CA Women's Aid Children's Party-help needed see Laura in CA Office
SANITY SOC 3pm Flying Pig Shoot.
Christmas Party 7.30 Entire Union v Bad manners and DTs Main Bar Tony Mc Evan, refectory + Rohan £6 in advance only.
TG 7.30 as yesterday.

Sunday 9th December

GCV 9.30 Union Car Park.
WARGAMES RPG SOC 1.30 Harp Inn 2.30 Council Chamber.
Save the Kobold meeting 7.30 Main Bar.
GAY SOC 7.30 Disco in the Jazz Bar.

Monday 10th December

Penralt English Baptist Chapel 3.30 Carols at 'Cynlas'.
ATHLETICS 5.15 Weights Room.
KI AIKIDO 7.30 Sports Hall.
MINERS SUPPORT GROUP 8pm Waterloo.
THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS FELLOWSHIP 8pm SCR Reading Room - Christmas Fellowship.

Tuesday 11th December

ATHLETICS 5.15 Running Sports Centre.
TG 7.30 Dick Wittington - Panto!
LDD 8pm Social Evening Harp Inn.
CA 9pm Christmas Party (Disco) in the Jazz Bar.

Wednesday 12th December

CU 1pm Bread and Cheese Lunch Penralt School Room.
ATHLETICS 5.30 Circuit Training.
FOLK DANCING 7.30 OSCR.
ENTS DISCO 7.30 Main Bar.
TG 7.30 as yesterday.

Thursday 13th December

ATHLETICS 5pm Sports Centre.
GAY SOC 7.30 Committee Room B
SLUM 7.30 Disco in the Jazz Bar - 50p.
TG 7.30 as yesterday.
LAST Y SEREN OF TERM COMES OUT.

Friday 14th December

ATHLETICS 5pm Sprint Training Sports Centre.
POSTGRAD SOC 7.30 Xmas Party - good food, good disco, good fun.
TG as yesterday.
END OF TERM AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Thanks to Russ for giving me lots of information!
PS. It's all quite simple.

SPILT

A Fool in his cups
Went dancing on the Rainbow,
Dreaming of a Vision:
Eyes that would melt a heart
As cold as a step-mother's kiss,
A smile and a Laugh that would stop
A lesser man in his tracks.
The Rainbow wound on over the hills;
And the Fool flew on the Wings of a Storm
To the Gateway to the Stars that only old men know;
The Gatekeeper took pity on him,
For what does a fool know?
One bright Spark in the Cosmic Festival of Light
Took his breath;
The Fool felt his heart flutter, saw his Dream
And wept.

Wall
Beating my head against a wall
Has always given me headaches
Help me break the wall down
So I can beat my head against you

The Divorce

They walk to the previous shore
where love had floated
-on the waves of marriage

Now the tide retreats
blowing sand in faces
where buckets of judgment
gather in pools

Separation is the insect
and adultery the Angler Fish

Love swaying in a lone,
rare, deceiving wind,
to find rejoining -
retrieving a different tide

To sail, sweeping a-way
with someone nameless

Carlton C. Allen

Fool's Paradise

Every evening the so-familiar re-spooling of the film, 'The Fool's Paradise' - with dialogue which might have been concocted by the alcoholic scriptwriter on a day with the wierds behind him: phrases wind-whipped into the consciousness as the back of the heroine's raincoat moves away, the creases becoming blurs beyond the focus.

The set is by the sea, stilted, the drama superficial. The dock is always in dead perspective, a perpetual framework remaining when the action grinds and halts. At first it has the deceptive smoothness of a stage set but on steady inspection (waiting for the actors to reappear with the rest of the script) the rottenness of the structure becomes apparent: wormed and crumbling, it is possible to discern in hallucinatory detail the billion-mouthed and serpentine action of the resident parasites

Martin. A. Hibbert.

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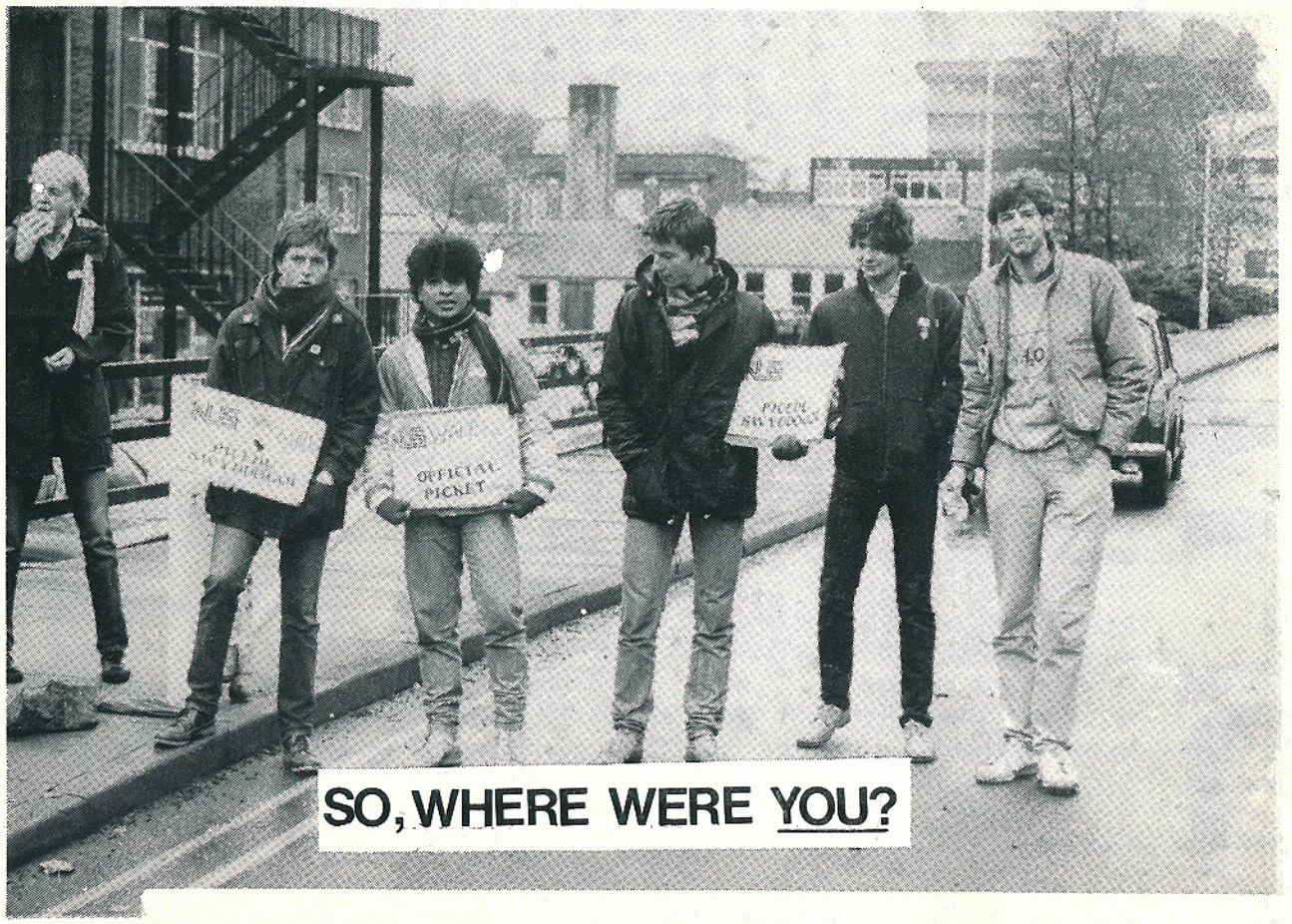
THE FIGHT BACK !