# Y Saren



SEE BACK PAGE

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# EDITORIALI

It has certainly been an eventful three weeks since we last rolled off the presses: thrilling Ents events (and some that never were), cranes collapsing in Menai Bridge and, of course, the business of a finely honed political machine going into action as the Union lumbers to its feet for the next academic year. Along with the Union, 'Y Seren' ploughs on, much as before, retailing news and views with our customary panache and partiality: as they say "'Y Seren', it is, are you?"

As you will see from our credits list we start the year, as always, with a cast of thousands. Most of them, unfortunately, are writers. We still need more layout staff, so all of you who happily signed away your souls at Serendipity because it was free. please come along and join in the fun. On the subject of fun. one last comment on our favourite subject, that is, ourselves: 'Y Seren' will be organising the best disco of the term in the Mandela Bar on Sunday 2nd November: one of the cheapest, too: tickets only 50p in advance or 75p on the door, a bargain of a bop.

As most of you by now ought to have noticed (particularly the second and third years!) Welsh speaking students at UCNW have their own hall of residence and

this are complex, the principle one however is so that they can live and relax in their own language. Contrary to popular English mythology, this living through the medium of Welsh does not entail a complete rejection of the non-Welsh speaking world, nor is Neuadd JMJ a 'no-go' area where English speakers fear to tread.

Proof of this was accorded on

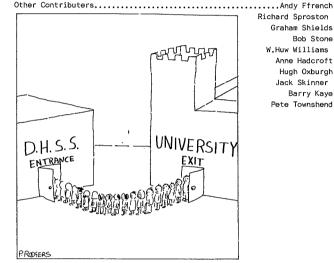
Tuesday 14th when Cymdeithas Llywelyn, the Welsh learners society of UMCB, held an introductory Wine and Cheese evening. Cymdeithas Llywelyn is a friendly and informal way of improving or acquiring facility in Welsh and meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in Neuadd JMJ. For anyone with an interest in the Welsh language it is a useful and enjoyable way of spending your Tuesday evenings. Hope to see you there, and in the 'Y Seren' office!

The opinions expressed in this issue are those of the writers and do not neccessarily reflect the editorial policy of 'Y Seren', or the policy of the Students' Union as a whole.

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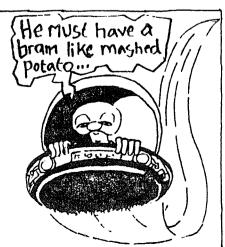


Richard Sproston Graham Shields Bob Stone W.Huw Williams Anne Hadcroft Hugh Oxburgh Jack Skinner Barry Kaye Pete Townshend













## NEW/EREN

#### BARCLAYS~THE ANTI~APARTHEID BANK?

Customers and staff of Barclays Bank in Bangor awoke on Monday and Thursday of last week to find the hank's new frontage despoiled by red and blue painted anti-apartheid slogans reading "Don't bank on Apartheid" and "Sanctions Now"; cash dispensers had also been gagged with alue.

Manager, Mr. David Williams, told reporters "No-one condones vandalism. Barclays branches are the wrong target. Barclays Bank is totally opposed to Apartheid" and that Barclays International, their associated South African branch "is known in South Africa as the antiapartheid Bank".

This stance is reinforced by their decorative handouts "South Africa: Where Barclays Stands" which lists why they are the wrong target for anti-apartheid protest.

Barclays International (a bank "in which we have a minority 40.4% share") is said to be a multi-racial

equal opportunity company - they appointed the first black cashier and the first black manager in the '60s. The bank also "allocates 5% of its after-tax earnings to a social responsibilities programme" and further, they deal with people from all communities, even the black homelands - "suggestions that new branches were opened purely to support the military presence in these areas are untrue".

The cornerstone of their egalitarianism is that in March 1986 (about the time when the world press had begun to take notice and make a real issue of apartheid) Barclavs Bank in London declared "it would commit no new money to South Africa until the regime gains international credibility" and anyway "most of Britain's High Street banks are involved in lending to South Africa".

W. Huw Williams

#### CRANE ACCIDENT

Fears over the safety of building site cranes, since many austerely haunt the city's skyline, were fuelled by an accident in Menai Bridge on Wednesday last (October 15). There was only one injury, the driver, Mr.Owen Brian Jones. 41. of Maesgeirchen, who suffered a broken arm, but there was considerable damage to property. Three houses on St.George's Road (one of which was University owned) had part of their roofs smashed as the crane's arm fell. The occupants of two houses were out, and an elderly couple in the other, Mr.Dennis Jones and his wife Mair, were luckily downstairs. Both were severely shocked.

The crane's owners. Watkin Jones and Sons, employed by the University in work on the Marine Biology buildings, had, no comment on the cause of the accident, though there is strong evidence that it

was human error when the crane was being balanced.

In Central Bangor, an £8 million shopping precinct development (due for completion by Christmas 1987) has similar cranes in operation.

A spokesman for the builders (R.O'Rourke and Son), Mr.Brian Flannery, says the public should have no fear of similar accidents there, since there are rigorous inspections carried out on the cranes they use, once a week by a safety expert. Also, there is ample insurance to cover any accident if any occured. So far there has not been a serious accident on the site. However, it appears that crane operators do not need a licence to drive the machines. They are trained by their employers and do not take any formal examinations of proficiency.

W. Huw Williams

#### UNION ELECTIONS

Delegates needed for: NUS/UK Conference NUS/WALES (UCMB) Conference

November 4th-10th November 21st-23rd

Nominations Box will be open November 4th-10th in the Students' Union General Office.

Nomination forms available from General Office from November 4th

Voting - November 14th

If you are interested -Get yourself nominated

Don't forget to use your vote

#### HANK WANGFORD

recall, one Hank Wangford and accomphyling band were booked to play at this year's Welcome Week festivities. As you will all also recall. come Thursday night and the Union was completely devoid of Hank Wangfords. This is a brief explanation of what happened and what the Union is going to try to do about it.

At about 4.30pm on Monday 6th of October I received a phonecall from Dave Stacy of Hank Wangford's ITB agency to say that the band had been offered two interviews in America for that week and consequently would be cancelling their apperance here. At three days notice this was, unsurprisingly, rather a shock and as there was obviously no way that Hank Wangford could appear I asked the agency for an alternative. ITB offered us Frank Chickens but we decided that they would be unsuitable for that evening. I then took the decision to carry on with the two bands that we still had booked for that night: The Blubbery Hellbellies and The Red Reards From Texas Taking into consideration the reduced line

As you will all, no doubt, up. I reduced the ticket price to £2.50 and refunds were offered on those tickets that had already heen sold

The situation now is that we will be asking for some financial compensation for the loss we made that evening. We will also say that legal action is being considered if we do not receive financial remuneration. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Alan Robinson at NUS, who has been made aware of the situation and is contacting the Agency himself.

I apologise to anyone who turned up on the might expecting to see Hank Wangford and also for the fact that the other bands went on late. This was because the PA Company arrived late. Despite the problems. I think that everyone who was there had a good evening.

Finally, do support your Union for the next year and come along to Ents meetings on Wednesdays in the Council Chamber at 1.15pm. You too can have a say in what entertainments we present.

> Toni Wyld General Secretary

#### **FAT FREDDY'S**

Further to last issue's article 'Unsafe' Freddy's Under Threat", as result of the efforts of Fat Freddy's manageress Sue Thomas and her staff to bring the restaurant's kitchen into line with College Health and Safety standards, Sue has been open for business since Welcome

Sue invited the local Environmental Health Officer to check the kitchen and give a second opinion. He declared that while the floor was

unsatisfactory he could see no reason to close the restaurant. Fat Freddy's now satisfies College's standards. Essential floor work will be done as soon as possible, as will the installation of a third sink. College Safety Officer Sister Stables has since done a spot check during business hours and is convinced that the restaurant is safe and hygienic enough to carry on doing business.

Anne Hadcroft

#### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

I bet there are plenty of you first years out there who are still not sure if you're doing the right courses. Maybe you are just confused as to whether your first year options will put you on the right degree course next year. Or are you just feeling out of your depth or bored by your subjects? Whatever your problem, large or small, there is someone who can help - me!!

My name is Lesley McKay and I'm your Academic Affairs Officer. Please come to see me if anything

is bothering you about your courses, lectures, tutors or anything in the least way academic. I have a pigeon hole on the Second Floor, so if you can't find me in the Union, drop me a note and I'll find you.

PS - I'm hoping to have an Acadenic Affairs Committee meeting on November 5th. Please don't be embarrassed to stand for course representative and come along. Come anyway, the more the merrier! Lesley McKay

#### BOOKBANE

Not much to say about Bookbane in this issue except that I need volunteers to look after the shop on weekly lunchtimes for an hour or so. I am too busy with my academic work and other Union committments to sit in Bookbane every day on my own, so it is up to YOU to ensure that Bookbane opens. If you don't come forward to volunteer, then you can't expect it to open on a regular basis. Until there is a rota of volunteers. I shall be happy to open up on request if anybody wants to have look. One more point I'd like to make: PLEASE bring your books to Bookbane and don't take them to Galloways and the other second hand bookshops in town. We give 90% cash on books, and if the books concerned are course books, then obviously they will sell quickly. Bookbane is a service provided for you and by not supporting it. you are getting yourself ripped off by professional bookshops, so please bring your books to Bookbane. Details of the sale system are available on request from me.

Hugh E. Oxburgh Acting Bookbane Organiser

# YMDEITHA **GWEITHREDIAD**

# YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

Fridays



#### CA PROJECT DETAILS

AS things are now beginning to settle down after Welcome Week, I thought I'd publish a list of the projects which have already swung into action, together with details of how you can get invloved. If you want EVEN MORE up to date info, then please don't hesitate to contact me - I'll be in the CA office on weekdays.

Pete Townshend CA Organiser

#### Mondays

6.00 until 9.00 Ty Newydd: Trips out in the minibus for kids from the Ty Newydd assessment centre. Meet at 6.00 in the Union Foyer.

#### Tuesdays

1.15 CA Meeting: in the CA office, 2nd floor Students' Union. Open to everyone to come along and discuss, plan, praise or criticise the work of CA.

6.00 until 7.30 Splodge Club: arts and crafts for young kiddies age 7 - 11 years. Meet at 6.00 in the Union Foyer.

7.30 until 9.00 Bryn Y Neuadd: Evenings in the bar and general socialising with residents, young and old from Bryn Y Neuadd Mental Handicap Hospital. Meet in the Union Fover at 7.30.

#### Wednesdays

2.00 until 4.00 Plas Hedd: Visits to Plas Hedd old persons home, making tea and chatting. Meet at 2.00 in the Union Foyer.

1.30 until 4.00 Riding for the disabled: horse riding for severely handicapped children from Bryn Y Neuadd Hospital. Meet in the Union Fover at 1.30.

#### Thusdays

6.00 until 9.00 Ty'r Felin: Outings in the minibus for kids from the Ty'r Felin assessment centre. Meet in the Union Foyer at 6.00.

All evening The Slum: alternative disco/local bands night in the Jazz Room. All proceeds to local charitable concerns. No Union card needed.

5.00 - 7.30 Junior Gateway: social and leisure club for mentally handicapped children. Meet the 'Ysgol Treborth' minibus outside Top College Foyer at 5.00.

7.00 - 9.00 <u>Senior Gateway</u>: social and leisure club for older mentally handicapped people. Meet the 'Ysool Treborth' minibus at 7.00 outside the Midland Bank in Upper Bangor.

#### Saturdays

10.15 - 1.30 Fun Club: Mobile youth club for kids from the Maesgeirchen estate. Trips out in the minibus to the mountains, beaches, Llandudno etc. Meet in the Union Foyer at 10.15.

2.00 - 5.00 Maes Tryfan: Mobile youth club for the kids from the Maes Tryfan estate. Similar to the Fun Club. Meet in Union Foyer at 2.00.

#### OTHER PROJECTS

(Times etc. to be confirmed. See CA office for details.)

Girls' Club - Youth club for girls.

Woodround - Collecting, chopping, bagging and distributing firewood for elderly and disabled people.

Treborth - 'Adopting' kids from Treborth special residential school for 2 hours a week.

<u>Visiting Project</u> - Visiting elderly or disabled and housebound people in the Bangor area.

Babysitting - For parents with an urgent need eg referals from Women's Aid etc.

Women's Aid - Running a refuge for women and their children who are the victims of violence.



# MAE GYMDEITHAS EIGH ANGEN

#### Housing Benefit - 1986/7 Changes

From the 1st September 1986. the Government has made major changes to the Housing Benefit Regulations which will affect all students. An outline of these changes is given below.

#### Main Points

1: If you pay your rent to an Educational establishment who own a property or rent it on a long term lease (ie 21 years) you will not be eligible for rent allowance. You may however be entitled to rent rebate if you pay your rent

Educational establishment includes private institutional as well a

private institutional as well as universities, polytechnics, colleges of further or higher education and other state funded establishments. It would also include schools.

2: You will no longer be required to submit separate claims for each short vacation and term time. A single form will be available which will cover the whole period of studv.

Grant income which is relevant to the period of study will be divided equally over that period.

Period of study will in most cases mean the period from the start of each year of the course until the day before the start of the summer vacation inclusive.

Grant income means any kind of educational award or grant from bodies such as the Local Education Authority, Research Council or Government Departments (including a scholarship, studentship, exhibition, allowance or bursary.)

In the case of awards made from public funds any parental or spouses contribution is treated as grant income whether paid or not.

It may be that you receive no actual maintenance grant but your fees are paid by the LEA. The assessed parental contribution will be taken into account in these cases.

3: For the purposes of calculating any entitlement <u>all</u> full time students will be required to meet the first £13.60 of their weekly rent during the period of study. (Previously only public funded students were subject to this requirement). However, there will be some exceptions for a limited period only.

4: There are also changes concerning entitlement during the summer vacations which will be effective from summer 1987.

(Further details are available from the Welfare office, or the Housing Benefit Department -Llangefni 722920)

# LESBIAN & GAY GROUP U.C.N.W.

Bangor Lesbian and Gay Group which meets regularly, is somewhere you can get to know other people, who will have had similar experiences to you in the past. The atmosphere is friendly and relaxed, with no pressures at all. Meetings are to be held this term at the Greenhouse Information Centre, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor (near Kwiks).

If you don't feel able to walk into a room full of people you've never met, don't worry, everyone else there will have done it at some time, and will know

how you feel. If you just want to talk, then the Group can be contacted via the Lesbian and Gay pigeon hole in the foyer of the SU. Nightline has details of the Group's activities, so if you want any information, give them a ring on Bangor 362121 Once you've stopped letting

other people's problems become your problem (not an easy task), being lesbian or gay is brill, heterosexuals are missing out on something really good; if they want to behave like wankers, let them, but don't let them screw VOU UD.

BITOFA

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Fruis

have realised that being a Lesbian or Gay man is a good thing- good. Come along and help with the campaigning done by the Union's Lesbian and Gay group. Our office space is on the 2nd Floor of the Union Building, opposite the Welfare

If you're not yet convinced that being lesbian or gay is one of the best things you can be, read on!

In a world that had got its act sorted out, there'd be no need to write this article. The problems we do have (eq. discrimination

If you're already out, and at work, threats of violence, various bodies telling us what sick people we must be) are not of our making, but it is our lives that are fucked

> Feeling isolated is a major problem most of us have at sometime. Bangor's remote position will in no way help with this feeling either. Pubs and clubs, even if they were to be found in North Wales may not be the best place to get to know anyone; for a start. they're normally expensive, and also they're not the best place to strike up a conversation.

> > AREN'T THEY

SPECIAL

RATHER A SPECIAL CASE ACTUALLY. DEMANDING A

NEW ENVIRONMENT MORE SUITED TO HER NEEDS ... WHICH ARE SOMEWHAT SPECIFIC.

#### PLACES TO GO IN THE NORTH WALES AREA

#### LLANDUDNO

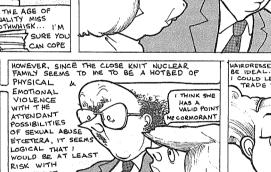
SEAFORTH HOTEL Promenade (0492 76210)

Club open Thurs Fri Sat Mon Bank Holidays 8pm til Midnight

#### RHYL

THE BARREL 37 Water Street

# READY COMMITMENT PARTICULAR LIFFSTYLE



#### YES ... ER. ALL VER GAYS! THE PRESS.. THE SUN. JOHN JUNOR OMY GOD ... CHILDREN FARMED BY SOCIAL WORKERS!

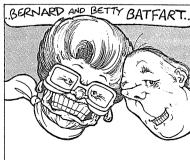


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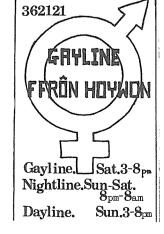


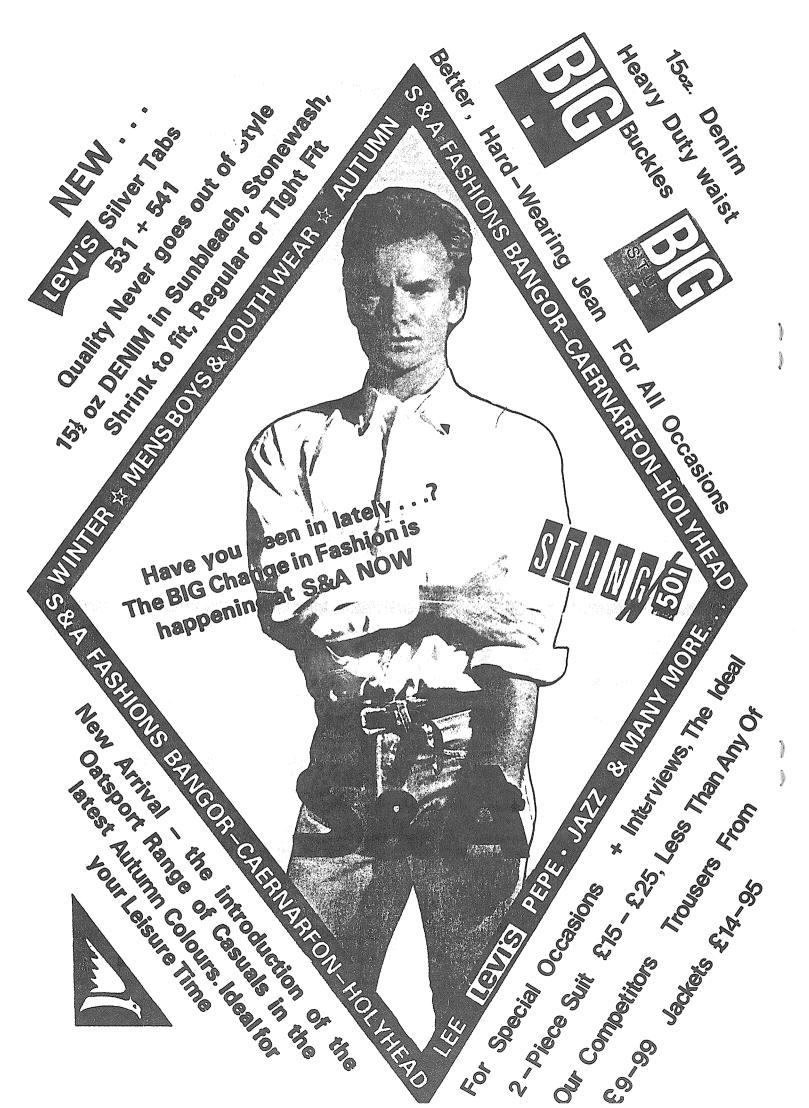




#### CHESTER

OLIVERS (Night Club) Not very far from the station

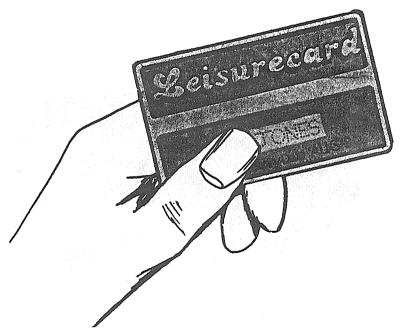




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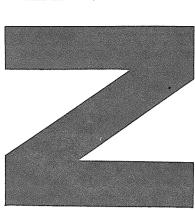
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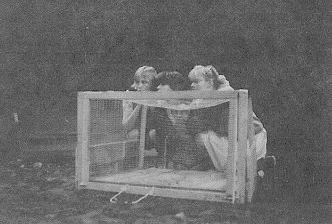
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f six, aided by the supreme natralness of most of the dialogue. filled the Drama Studio with the feeling of the multinationally wned prairie that large sections of rural England have become.

The demands made upon the ast in a play like 'FEN' are daunting; playing several characters and with some spectacular leaps of age and attitude to be performed in split seconds. Julia Damassa and Andy Ffrench shone throughout as the lovers Val and Frank. Rejecting their families responsibilities alienates them from their peers but due to the supreme ordinariness of their lives, they are prevented from rising in staus in their roles as the doomed and rebellious lovers.

'FEN'S' major theme is the lives of ordinary people of all ages, their reactions and emotions. so in this sense one felt it to e a cameo of all life; unrestricted by time or place. The complex system of dependents and friends who unite to tell you a little of their lives and emotions around the drama of Frank and Val's affair, all convinced absolutely. Debbie Rees. Hilary Cooper and Helen Mason all looked and sounded utterly right when playing the three girls; Shona, Deb and Becky, but then only seconds

Cooper's tortured Angela.

Several niggles remain: the device at the beginning of the play when Donna Jones' Japanese businessman represents, by caricature, the efficiency and impersonality of the multinationals, grated in its stereotyped unreality amongst so much consumate spontaneity. In my view, this could quite easily have been cut. The two figures from the Fenland's past also seemed slightly out of place amongst so much of the real human world, although this was not helped by their dreadful 'historic' costuming which gave them the air of refugees from Fagin's Gang.

more sympathy than Debbie Rees sublimely human Shirley and Hilary

The technical side of the play's production was done well enough to remain unobtrousive on the acting (except for the low flying jet!) with the lighting cues carrying the atmosphere over the many scene changes of this enisodic niece All in all this was an impressive offering from the Drama Department, who carried off a difficult project with apparent ease. Well done to all concerned

Rick Peterson.



For their first production of the academic year the Drama Department chose Caryl Churchill's atmospheric cameo of rural life-'FEN'. A difficult work by any standard, episodic and at times verging upon the surreal. However. Director Sue Snowhall and her cast

# Legalized Comedy!

A fatal combination, A Scot. a woman and a Gay man. You could hear the minds shut with a bang. But once Bangor students had recovered that Miberal thinking for which students are renowned. the evening went down a storm.

First on stage was Tom McEwan a familiar figure at Bangor though in a less familiar role as warmup act. Playing to a small (but perfectly formed) audience (one assumed that everyone else was still making their way down the 'EastEnders'). Tom

produced a typically fun set of music and wit, including a coverversion of 'The Walk of Life' and an impression of Level 42's Mark King, and by the end of the foot-stomping 'Down at the Fiddler's Arms', the audience were sufficiently warmed for the rest of the night.

And what a night. First of all, some character who looked uncannily like Jonathan King (but later turned out to be Simon Fanshawe) appeared on the stage to introduce Jenny Lecoat. The official publicity said that she was not recommended for 'children, royalists or Michael Parkinson', though by the end of her act, you could add sensitive or very chauvanistic men and a hippy called Phil to that list. Ms. Lecoat attacked social

and sexual taboos and had the audience in stitches very quickly, though I wonder how many people in her set and Simon Fanshawe's realised they were laughing at themselves. The power of this kind of humour is that you can laugh about it at the time (especially when other people in the audience are being picked on), but you will go away, think about the jokes you've laughed at, then wonder 'do I really think that?' Jenny Lecoat combined a remarkable wit with a perception which was uncomfortably close to home.

later Hilary was back in her role

as Becky's stepmother. Angela.

both chilling and pitiable in her

Ffrench provided the impetus for

most of those sections of people's

lives we were shown, Donna Jones

provided the perfect foil as the

cynical Nell whose rebellious talk

will never amount to anything.

What it does do is enable her to

view Val's emotional plight with

If Julia Damassa and Andy

mental torture and torturing.

This combination was even more apparent in her colleague. Simon Fanshawe. Having 'accidentally' slipped into his monologue that he is gav. he was up against daunting odds to win over an audience who started muttering 'queer bastard'

to their friends (I actually heard this). Mr. Fanshawe is obviously used to this as he has a hilarious line in ripostes to hecklers, most of which are concerned with turning peoples prejudices back on themselves. Having scored this victory over the hecklers, he too launched into a monologue which embarassed certain members of the audience (poor old Phil the hippy got some more stick) but entertained all. I nersonally wish these two talented performers every success in a world which is opposed to them from the start. If just a few of the people who were applauding wildly by the end of the night went home and thought about why they were laughing, there's hope for everyone else.

Bob Stone

### ARTSEREN

# LIWE

#### blubberu hellbellies

After a lengthy technical delay, the bizarre Blubbery Hellhellies hit the stage. Three of the four members sported sizeable beer-bellies, one of whom looked like Uncle Fester from 'The Addams Family' (you remember 'The Addams Family, don't you?), the fourth band member, dressed like a boy scout, was supposedly a child of eight from South Wales. The band didn't quite strike it off with their audience right away with their opening number 'On the Trail'. the band's answer to 'Bonanza'. but the next track, 'Love at 1st' got the crowd's feet tapping. 'Pig Country', a twelve bar dedication to Stuart Adamson of Big Country, received a welcome reaction, and 'Prehistoric' (a raunchy number about the giveaway plastic toys you find in Cornflakes packets) received easily the best reaction yet, largely due to the sharp bass lines and overall speed However the best song of the set was undoubtedly 'Plastic Pony', a tonque in cheek Heavy Metal rendition

and also the London-based band's: latest single (out in three weeks on ID records). A rather original cover version of 'Green Green Grass of Home' and the band's last song 'We Don't Want to Set Thin' went down well, even managing to get a section of the crowd wrecking. All in all, an excellent and very visual band with a sharp sense of humour which I feel would be at least partly lacking on vinyl. Still, I personally hope they come

Richard Sproston

# red beards

Unable to set all of their

A bit of synchronised guitar never hurt anyone, and the band managed to "get on down"during the quitar solos(though I'm sure I've seen this sort of thing be-

The band's third song "Ain't us" sent the audience going and was followed by the band's new single "17" (released 14th November, Receiver Records), which incited several of the crowd's members to pogo madly to the rock 'n' roll/boogie-type music."Automobile"and "Me Baby Bob" followed and then the band were forced to end early with "Good-bye Jane".

The Birmingham band managed to please a wide cross-section of tastes.A sharp on-stage manner well-rehearsed numbers and dinky red lights on their quitar fretboards ensured success for this band-a fitting endto an excellent evening. After talking to the band. I discovered that they are trying to break away from the ZZ Top mouldsomething which I'm not sure they will achieve; especially when their soungs draw so heavily on the ZZ Top sound.Still,a good band who will, I'm sure, feel very welcome should they return-and I think

# from texas

songs due to the technical difficulties mentioned earlier.the Red Beards were still appreciated. The band, who clearly have never heard of ZZ Top, opened with "Complainin'", a song very reminiscent of "Tush", followed by a cover version of ZZ Top's "Party on the Patio".

Richard Sproston

## mungo jerry

Mungo Jerry, who were here in Bangor at Christmas in 1982. were really hot on Saturday night and provided an excellent finale the Entertainments offered all 'Welcome Week'.

The band are based in Surrey and the present line-up has stood for about five years now. They consist of Les Calvert on Bass guitar, Peter Botten on Drums, percussionist Mick Jones with Ken Marshall and Mungo Jerry playing guitar.

After the band had finnished. everyone had departed from the Refectory I got the chance to interview the band, principally Mungo Jerry. As it turned out I spent most of my time talking to Ken Marshall, as Mungo Jerry was knee-deep in ENTS and autograph-hunting Deltones. Anyway, Ken proved a very informative type of person, possibly thrilled to bits at stealing the limelight for a while. He told me that he has been playing guitar

for twenty years, which is probably why he is so good, and also chatted for a while about his equipment: Bass, Overdrive, Chorus, Quick/Slow delay pedals... (does this mean something to you?) Anyway, the overall effect was very good and all who were at the ball seemed to have a very good time.

I have, though, had complaints

from people who were not there.

that the event was somewhat extortionate (not their actual words but something colloquially similar). At £4.50 on the door it certainly could not be considered inexpensive. So why did people (and it was pretty well packed) seem to enjoy themselves so much. One possibility is that all were in the Mungo Jerry Sweaty T-shirt Society.But then most of them only knew "In the Summertime" and were so pissed that the lyrics "yeh, yeh, yeh" took a while to sink in. It must have something to do with the fact that no drinks were allowed in the Recfrectory, and consequently had to be drunk, (or poured depending on quality) just outside in the curved lounge.

my eve over some of the new shows which the networks have treated us to (or inflicted on us depending on your point of view). And that, dear reader, is more or less what I intend to do.

It is a rare thing indeed

in these days of made and packaged for America garbage that a major new drama series appears. The last was probably The Bill, though even that took a series to get off the ground. But the Auntie Beeb has come up with the goods again in the form of the new Saturday night serial Casualty. I watched the first episode partly out of curiosity and partly because I had nothing better to do that night, but now I'm hooked. The show combines believable, attractive characters. all superbly acted, with intelligent storylines, which have only a slight bias which says what a wonderful job the NHS does and what a pity it hasn't got enough funds.

From a new show to the return of an old favourite. Dr.Who has heen under threat for a while now. and it is obvious with the new series that the producers have finally decided to do something about it. I must confess that recently I had been watching the show out of habit, particlarly during Peter Davison's incumbency as the good Doctor. The storylines flagged and there was little attemmt at character development. The new stories are tighter and injected with a wit which is at times quite hilarious. Unfortunately, with

# SCANNER SCANNER

Y Seren 6:2 October 31

ford taking over as the new companion. I won't be able to watch the next series without a sick bag handy. It seems that the BBC has squandered Dr.Who's hard won new lease of life in a blatant attempt to win more viewers.

Finally, before I run out space and steam, a word about the soaps (yes, I do have to!) I'm not going to bother saying that I can't honestly see why the BBC made a new series of <u>Howard's</u> Keel at all, or say that I couldn't care less what happens to the incredibly tedious Tilseys, or that the writers of Brookside need kneecapping for what they've done to Heather, because once again, EastEnders has made the viewing public sit up and take notice. Let's play a little game. Hands up all those who really think Angie is going to die. Thought so. The same people who thought Michelle would actually marry Lofty. It seems a curious fact that Angle says that she's got til April, when the actors' contracts are also renewed in the same month. It remains to be seen, but after the marvellous performance put in by Anita Dobson and Leslie Grantham, if Angle does die, the writers of EastEnders will want kneecapping as well.

That's it for this Scanner. Don't forget, if you've got something you want to say about TV. write us a Scanner and drop it into the 'Y Seren' office.

Bob Stone

Seriously, I think the band would have gone down well without any drink (well maybe just a little bit) and they showed that little touch of professionalism and universal appeal when they got everybody dancing after the Deltones. The repertoire appealed to all and sundry and was easy to dance to or jump on your friends face. which ever you prefer.

Mungo Jerry are just back from Dubai, and will be playing in Denmark and Norway this week. and have left behind a legacy of blistered feet and sweat-drenched T-shirts. They are currently working on a new album which we will hopefully review when it's released.

Clark Kent.

#### deltones

It's really a pity that you nadn't all livened up when the Deltones were on as they were a very good band. They have only been playing for a nearly a year (since November last year.) and so cannot be expected to compete with Mungo Jerry, who must have been playing as a solo artist fro at least 15 years.

Alright some of their numbers

weren't as racy as Mungo Jerry's, and maybe they were somewhat repetitive, but they were catchy and danceable. Very few people did dance although I noticed numerous feet tapping and bums wiggling. I know what it is, you're all too shy and modest to dance in front of all these really intimidating people, and would rather stand serenely in the corner contemplating the thoughts of your peer group (ie what's that ugly bastard looking at?)

Anyway back to the Deltones they are based in london and are all self-taught. They are all interested in the sixties ska/blue beat movement and in particular the music of Toots and the Maytals and the Skatelites (if you haven't heard of them, pretend). There are ten members: three sax. one trumpet, bass, quitar, keyboard (cuddly toy) and the two vocalists. Annie and Amanda.

They have a recording contract but have done a Peelie session (hip abbreviation) and their agent has got them off to Amsterdam this week. I wish the band every success and encouragement for the future - and look forward to any future releases.

Graham Shields.

MODENTAPS

# IART/EREN RECORDS

BILLY BRAGO

"Talking with the Taxman about Poetry."

Good old Billy. He's done it again. 'The difficult third album' Cocky bastard. He wouldn't decorate his album cover with such selfparody if he wasn't sure of his material, and his new LP is well worth listening to. Where he falls down he makes up for it admirably in other places.

The LP deals not merely with government policy, the nuclear industry and American consumerism: observations are also made on social politics, the politics of love and. as is so often depicted on this record, how love breaks down.

Billy Bragg is worth listening to for his so called 'love songs', for this is where he really has his finger on the pulse. He breaks down the barrier of an idealised image of romance and paints instead a much greyer, but nevertheless realistic picture.

Politically orientated material such as 'Ideology', 'There is power in a union' and 'Help save the youth of America' all grate somewhat with their boorish immediacy. 'Ideology' is a basic whinge about the parliamentary system and the hypocrisy of 'uncaring' politicians. Billy displays his lack of insight by singing misdirected cliches - "Is there more to a seat in Parliament / than sitting on your arse".

The rest of the LP, however. rings true and where Billy left off on 'Brewing Up' with bitter-sweet songs about boys and girls like 'The Saturday Boy' and 'A lover sings'. he continues here in the same vein with the tracks 'Greetings to the new brunette', 'The warmest room' and 'The Marriage'.

'The Marriage', in accordance with the rest of the LP, shows a more mature viewpoint than those displayed on previous vinyl. From 'Life's a Riot' to his latest effort it's Billy Bragg from boy to man in three not so easy stages. He's no longer writing songs about leaving school, not getting a job and going to interviews in your old school shoes: he's no longer dealing with adolescent love - a quick bang on



the living room carpet ("and your

tights around your ankles") before

the parents come home. He now comm-

its himself to writing about marr-

iage, people being used, divorce and

love-hate relationships - the incre-

dibly sad 'Levi Stubbs' Tears'. Love

is not all a bed of roses: every

silver lining has a cloud of real-

ism hanging over it, and as Billy's

unique raucous 'Suvern' accent beg-

ins to cut across his accompanying

Tears' takes off the Four Tops tape

and puts it back in its case. Again

and again the poet asks us to take

a similar mood. Billy questions the

value of the family unit and asks us

to question the stereotyped image of

the Kellogs Cornflakes family. The

lyrics suggest something much more

sober, where the family can be a

constricting and stifling place.

There is a war to be fought and the

battle is to break out of the same

listening to because many of the

songwriter's clever linkages of

incongruous images and tonque-in-

cheek observations hit home. If you

don't want to hear about marriage,

divorce, lust, raw sex and broken

hearts, give this a miss: stick to

Andy Efrench

A sad and cynical LP but worth

old rut.

the veil away from our eyes.

The woman in 'Levi Stubbs'

'The Homefront' ends the LP in

strumming, one begins to feel very

WOODENTOPS "Everyday Living"

Five previous singles have had little success for the Woodentops but they seem to have found the right formula since the release of their debut album "Giant". Promising signs were certainly witnessed in the independent chart success of the last release "Good Thing" and the band's new single has already topped the independent charts. "Everyday Living" is the second track to be taken from the album and certainly stands out as a deserving release on 7". Having said this, it is surprising that changes made to the remixed single have removed a little of that which made the song so special. Nevertheless this record is one to take notice of, even if the lyrics are a bit dubious (while most of us just try to get on with

McGinty advocates a 'love affair with everyday living'!) It's always nice to hear an acoustic guitar backing, though the influence of bands like Lloyd Cole and Aztec Camera has made them more the norm than the exception these days. and their use on this record is particularly effective. The flinside "Why" is certainly not just there to give the disc some grin on the turntable (don't you just hate it when it's a live version/ remix?) It is in fact a very impressive number in its own right. So all in all, this record is worth spending a little of whatever's left in the account after Welcome Week, especially as the cover makes an excellent art nouveau addition to any wall. Where you keep the disc is your problem.

Nick Jones

HALF MAN HALF BISCUIT "Dickie Davies Eves."

Hardly obvious chart-fodder, this - it's... well, rude. It would be ironic if the H-Men had their first hit in the same way that Frankie goes to Hollywood did. Having said that, it sounds like the wacky young Scousers have been taught to use their instruments since their last record. I wonder. as a matter of interest, how long it will be before the novelty wears off and people start laughing at records like this instead of with them. Until then, I'll carry on sharing

P. J. Stoat

"Wonderful Life"

If this isn't a hit, I'll never review a record again, or at least sulk for a while. I first heard this track at the 'Liver Aid' gig last year and have waited a year to buy it. It is quite possibly the best pop single I've heard. Colin Vearncombe's voice suits the record's mood perfectly and from the sound of the backing track, these boys can play. Black are going to be massive. Buy "Wonderful Life" and be in on the start of something special.

Bob Stone

ICICLE WORKS

"Who do you want for your love?"

Ian McNabb once said that if he had to he could write a song aimed at the charts. I think this is probably it. Catchy tune, bouncy rhythm, straight-forward lyrics all in all, not one of the Works'

most interesting tracks. All the same, if this doesn't make the charts, then commercial success may elude the Icicle Works. And that despite the fickle nature of the pop business, would be one hell of a shame.

J P Scrote

Oh dear, Rostra! I arrived anticipating a helping of sexism and crudity. Not so. I found a dilute and cloying collection of awkwardly assembled sketches, ranging from the acceptable to the poor.

Criticism aside, a noteable performance came from the 'Fresher' who perhaps captured that naivety from all 'new boys', and amplified the bathos of Welcome Week (Cheese and Wine with the Bishop of Bangor!) The Headmaster's rendition of 'social intercourse' was equally

# tasty

entertaining, taking us through the vital stages of verbal contact.. to the crucial question, effectively ridiculing the 'Discotheque Syndrome'. Despite a few appreciably funny moments, the main was quite disappointing. Sketch one was certainly not uplifting, being a rather vague string of slapstick humour; planks, custard pies, banana skins etc. - obviously designed

to be cliched, but still lacking in humour, However, worse was yet

The poorest performance of evening, came in the satirical game show, which lacked a substantial form of wit and was far too long-winded. To make up for the lack of appreciable material, members of the Rostra crew in this, and other sketches, resorted to a vitriolic

purge of the 'minority' audience Perhaps this, Mr. Director, may seem to give a certain 'punch' to your show, but leaves your artifice in the cold, and seeks to humiliate the audience.

To sum up the quality of the evening's entertainment, we expectantly waited for a climactic finale; but, dear reader, this 'casis of humour' had dried up long before.

Nustin Jeal

## Science

Life is certainly getting a mite confusing down here at the amalgamated centre for the chemistry and anatomy of ecologically stable marine forestry. All part of the most recent cost-cutting exercise on behalf of the UGC - drop the subjects likely to cause the most broo-hah, and save the least money (Physics and Philosophy respectively) and rename everything else, so causing the most god-awful foul

As a result, another shipment hamsters has been misplaced. They will no doubt be returned in the not too distant future. along with what remains of the sellotape...

So the project grinds into fresh academic year. Orders are handed down, debated, lost and found, to be recycled as halls' toilet paper.

After a few, more pointed demands for application (threats and the like), the well-honed analvtical team moves in on the latest problem (of a topical nature, so as to improve the 'Grant Availability Index') and after a few samples, determine that any residual radioactivity from Sellafield/ Chernobyl is likely to cause a lot less damage than the incipient hangover.

Such are the joys of being a research student at Bangor. The never-ending search for that vital piece of equipment, a beaker, all

ready for the next assault on the fronitiers of science. (Too large, too small, cracked, in use (rarely) or DIRTY!) Hours of nerve-wracking hunt, only to be confounded at the final moment by the 'Equipment Liberationist', who snatches up the pristine object from in front of you just as your hungry paw is about to descend on its translucent shape.

After coffee, the search resumes, day after weary day blowing dust from shelves in the bowels the building. Finally, the breakthrough - why not use something else? - an R.B. flask? - a soxlet with some putty down its side-- a fish bowl? - a coffee Unfortunately, research has mua? a bad habit of becoming repetitive and Christmas is approaching.

Life is certainly getting a mite confusing down here. Barry Kave

> RESEARCH @ BANGOR



TRY IT FARTHLING.

#### violence-free science

As the title suggests, this article is going to be give both views in the use of animals in experiments. The Anti-vivisection Society have called on students in schools and colleges to complain to their various superiors about the use of animals for dissection and other 'cruel' experiments. Well, what has happened? So far, various student unions have adopted a new charter on the subject which basically says that the union is 'to support any student who feels that their work is marked down as a result of opting out of dissection or vivisection. and would require the union to mount protest actionif no quarantees were forthcoming from the university'.

The General university council is to vote on this proposal as put forward by Kings College Union on Tuesday 28th October and the debate should be quite heated (though not quite to Enoch Powell standards at Bristol University).

Just taking time out to play 'devil's advocate', if animals were not used, how could we increase our knowledge in the fields where these experiments take place? Surely these experiments are necessary to the aim of producing a 'Panacea'? On the other hand, what gives man the right to cause injury to other animals 'in the cause of science'? In a factual

TACH

article of this nature, personal opinions have no place, so these questions will have to remain unanswered. Two students at Kings have, however, told their tutors that they will not dissect or vivisect in their second year as they are unwilling to use animals to find out what they already know, or to cause live ferrets and rabbits to haemorrhage.

Is this really what students want to do on their causes. or is it what 19th Century thinking

Cherry Gillespie

#### editorial

Well, the Science page has started off in 'Y Seren' for the first time, and without further ado, thanks to everyone who has contributed material. We can still use more articles and I can now lift the restriction of the cleanliness of articles submitted, but I reserve the right to alter words - here and there. We would like to hear views on what has been printed in this issue and are keenly, nay enthusiastically waiting for lecturers to honour this page with a few choice pieces. Til the next one, auf wiedersehen

D.M.Worslev

NOV

# PREUIELL

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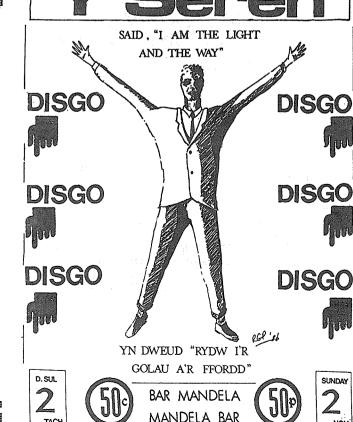
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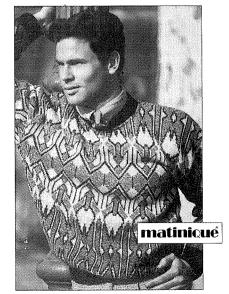
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