

Y Seren

INSIDE ~ COLLEGE CUTS

HELLO BIG
BOY- FANCY
A LITTLE
UNIVERSITY- NO
NASTY ORIGINAL
CRITICAL
THOUGHT HERE
GUV!



PROF. SUNDERLAND DOES HIS
BIT FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM

EDITORIAL

CREDITS

This issue of 'Y Seren' has again reached you later than planned, due to staff shortages on the paper and the cumulative effect of later and later issues. However, we have done our best for you, so please try to help us in the future. We desperately need people to help on the paper. If you have been thinking about writing articles then write them ready for the Summer Term issue (Copy date 8th May 1987). If you want to help on the paper come and see me now.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nick Jones who has raised the general standard of the paper since taking over. He has, sadly, resigned in anticipation of

taking up the post of Deputy President (on which I congratulate him and wish him luck in the future). Also I'd to thank Damian Worsley for an outstanding run as Advertising Manager. Due to his efforts the paper has made a profit over the last half year. He has also resigned, and will no doubt, make an excellent Union Chairperson next year. I hope Nick and Dev will still be frequent visitors to the 'Y Seren' office.

Have a good Easter (third years included!) but just remember this: without your support 'Y Seren' will not survive and I, at least, think that will be a great loss to the Student's Union in Bangor.

The views expressed in articles in 'Y Seren' are the views of those who write them and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of 'Y Seren', or the policy of the Student's Union as a whole.

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THE Y SEREN SURVEY

Below are just a few questions we'd be grateful if you'd answer, so that the student newspaper can serve you better. Just fill in your answers and put the cut out sheet in the Y SEREN pigeon hole in the Union Foyer; or if you live in Halls, you can send it free of charge via internal mail by marking your envelope "Y SEREN, Students Union" and placing it in the hall post box.

1. Which is your favourite regular column or page?

2. Which regular column or page do you like least/dislike most?

3. Is there any kind of column or page you would like to see introduced?

4. Would you like to work for, or contribute articles to Y SEREN?

YES/NO

5. If "YES", is there any specific aspect of the paper you would like to work on? (news, gig reviews, theatre reviews, photography, design, advertising, publicity, science page, feature writing.....)

6. Have you ever submitted a letter or article to Y SEREN?

YES/NO

a. If "YES", please state what it was:

b. If "NO", why not? (tick one or more boxes)

Never felt the urge to (submit material!!!!) ☐

Don't know where to submit it ☐

Worried at the damage it might do to your prospective career in journalism? ☐

Other (say what) ☐

If you have any questions to ask about Y SEREN, or comments and observations to make, please use the space provided below (if you need more space send a separate sheet).

NAME:

BANGOR ADDRESS:

DEAR Y SEREN,

All over the country, very many organization called AIDS ALERT NORTH volunteers are preparing themselves WALES is planning to form a group of for the increase in the number of peo-befrienders and carers. We have called ple who, in the next few months and this a COUNSELLING GROUP, but it will years, will become infected with the undertake a wide variety of activities AIDS virus (HIV). In the metropolitan ranging from simple practical tasks centres the health authorities have like shopping for the housebound, vis-already conceded that without the helping and being generally helpful, of voluntary and self-help groups their right through to caring for and couns-task would have been far more diffic-elling those who are seropositive or ult - some say even impossible. with AIDS itself.

So far our area has been spared, If anyone would like to express relatively speaking: there are only an interest in this sort of work (about ten known cases of people who an interest in this sort of work (in are HIV positive and a couple who are whatever capacity), please drop me developing the full Syndrome. But a note, or give me a ring. we need to be prepared for the incr-ease.

MICHAEL J. JOHNSON
With this in mind, a co-ordinating German Department (New Arts, Room 310; Ext 2133)

DEAR Y SEREN

I am writing about a problem which down College Road without a pair of is of grave concern to all of us who waterproofs on. We pedestrians know daily pound the pavements of College only too well the risk their strategi-Road. Namely the current student fad cally place "boggle woggles" pose to for ferocious and incontinent pets, the soles of our shoes.

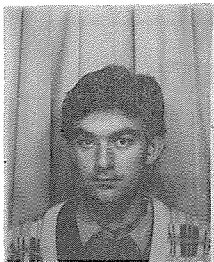
Two recent events have brought Anyway, after some contemplation this most serious of matters to my on the matter, I sought in vain for attention. The first whilst coming our man in the Biology Club, to seek back from the Union one night, involved his advice on the damaging effects a cat in some distress stuck 30 feet all this was having on the delicate up a ladder. Eager to impress the ecology balance of College Road. I young lady by my side, I scaled the mean, we don't see many buds any more, ladder, only to be bitten by the cat, but we do see a lot of exceedingly who treated the whole thing with a mean, we don't see many birds any more, certain amount of hostility. The young but we do see a lot of exceedingly lady involved will now have nothing fat cats strutting around. Myself, to do with me, and I can't help but I would like to remain anonymous for feel the cat was in some way responsible fear of further attacks from the cat for this. The following day, still in no.16, "Psycho". No doubt it will nursing my grievances (and my hand) be no more than a matter of weeks before I was approached by a brown doggy who we have a "Rambo the Dog" in no.28, rolled onto his back for a tickle. a "killer the cat" in no.20, and frankly My faith in animals somewhat restored, then, we'd all be a lot safer in New I obliged - but blow me, quick as a York.

flash, out popped his little zepplin My purpose in writing this letter and I was drenched in pee. My humil-is to warn you all to invite serious iation was further compounded by a public debate within the Union. I smarmy voice behind me which said "I would respectfully ask the editor not trained him to do that". to edit a word of this, as I believe

Now, I'm a patient man at heart, we face here a problem potentially but staggering up to the Ffridd with as big as AIDS. a sopping trouser leg is not my idea Yours sincerely pretty out of hand if a man can't walk A WORRIED STUDENT

NEWS

A.U. ELECTIONS



Geraint Jones, post-graduate P.E. student, has been elected to the post of A.U. President for 1987-88.

He said, "thanks for the turnout for the election, and I hope to fulfill the aims that I had promised, and also to raise people's awareness of the importance of sports in University life". He further added that he "hopes that the A.U. members can co-operate to make next year as successful as the previous years."

Total votes cast = 317 (of which 35 were spoilt).

The votes went as follows:

New Elections - 11

Geraint Jones - 143

Fran Blear - 128

quota was 141

CYCLE SHEDS

Due to the recent numerous thefts of bicycles at the Ffriddoedd site, the college has agreed to build bike sheds at the site. The first shed should be up by October 1987. The cost is estimated at £1,500.

STUDENT HEALTH PLAN

Following a recent request for Student Health to cut its costs by £15,000, a meeting of GPs currently working at the Health Centre drew up the following proposals:

Breakdown of costs (All figures based on a 28 week academic year).

1.a. GPs: Dr. Johnson, Dr. R.Owen, Dr. A.Vaughn, Dr. Evans and Dr. A.Wood, each working 28 sessions of 1½ hours, paid at £24 per session.
28 x £24 x 5 = £3,360.

b. "Family Planning and Counselling": Dr. Rhoda Jones - 56 sessions of 2 hours, paid at £30 per session.
56 x £30 = £1,680

c. Psychologist: 28 sessions of 2½ hours, paid at £30 per session.
28 x £30 = £840

GPs are working reduced hours, and paid at a lower rate.

Saving = £9,942.

2. Transfer of a proportion of Sister-in-Charge's salary to Occupational Health.

£11,675 - £2,124 = £9,551.

Saving = £2,124.

3. Part-time night-sitters for Sick Bay, working 16 hours (5.00p.m. - 9.00 a.m.). Taking the extreme example of Sick Bay being open for the entire of Summer term, at this rate it would cost:

£2.48 x 16 x 56 (days) = £2,222.
Last year the Sick Bay was used for only 21 days, but cost £3,153. If the new rate had been charged last year, £2,320 would have been saved.
Saving = £930.92 (min).

4. Generation of income: rental of 4 rooms in Allt Menai for 28 weeks.
Saving = £2,289.28.

TOTAL NET SAVING = £15,286 (min).

JO HOUSLEY

SYNTHETIC ATHLETICS TRACK

Gwynedd County Council and Arfon Borough Council have decided to site a new synthetic Athletics track at U.C.N.W.'s Treborth playing fields.

Mr F.M. Swann, the college's Estates and Buildings Officer, said that "finances haven't been identified as yet, however, the councils have applied for an Urban Aid grant". If this is approved, work will begin immediately.

On Saturday, 7th March, seven women went down to Essex to play in the National Final of the U.A.U. Indoor Hockey Tournament, having already got through the regional heats.

The journey down, all 10 hours of it, was action-packed. On one occasion the team was faced with imminent death as the mini-bus went out of control on the snow in the Pass. Also, I never knew windscreen wipers

could cause such hysteria, but they did (team joke!)

On Sunday, 8th March, our team drew two games and beat U.E.A. Bangor and U.E.A. got through to the semi-finals on points. Birmingham, as yet unbeaten, were knocked out by U.E.A. in the semi-finals. Exeter (as overheard in the changing rooms) were confident of a win: quote, "looks like it's us against U.E.A. in the final then." But, we beat them 4-2!

So, the final was Bangor v. U.E.A. This time U.E.A. were more together and the teams were evenly matched. The score was 0-0 even after 5 minutes of extra time. This meant that the game had to be decided on penalty flicks. We managed to keep even with U.E.A. until the 6th shot at goal. It was a very unfortunate way to lose, as it was such a close thing - but, although slightly disappointed at not receiving those nice trophies, we felt that we had done really well to get where we did.

The journey back was almost as precarious as on the way down, although the potential death element was greatly reduced. However, the AA man did not relish bringing us petrol at 3am, and the police were disappointed that they could not "do" us for anything when they stopped us.

We finally arrived back in Bangor at 4.30am, exhausted, but knowing that we had achieved much more than we had originally thought possible.

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NEWS

CASH CRISIS: ACADEMIC RUIN

Cuts in the University of Wales's aid, at a level of -0.5 decrease in grant. recurrent grant by U.G.C. and the rationalisation of funds within the University, 7%. The highest increase in grant went has led to a drastic loss of finance to Warwick, at 4% (in real terms, a decrease of 2-3% with inflation). He had no comment to make on Bangor's critical loss.

A report released in March 1987 by a Working Party, set up by the University Council in 1985, shows that over the period 1985/6 to 1989/90, there will be an estimated cut in the recurrent grant of £8,671 million; a cut of around 12.3% for Wales as a whole, compared to 6.7% for England, and 11.2% for Scotland.

The cuts to be suffered at the Constituent Colleges of the University range from a low of 2.8% at the College of Medicine, to a high at the U.C.N.W. Bangor of 18.5%.

The above "cuts" are further exacerbated by academic salary awards of 24% (over 3 years). Nationally, this is an extra £168 million. The Government has promised an extra £71 million to meet this, obviously leaving the Universities with nearly a hundred million to find. For the University of Wales, this could mean an additional cost in the region of £2 - 3 million.

Altogether then, this amounts to a cut of circa £10.7 million to the University of Wales.

A spokesperson for the U.G.C., Mr Joe Dickinson confirmed that U.C.N.W. was one of the worst hit in Britain

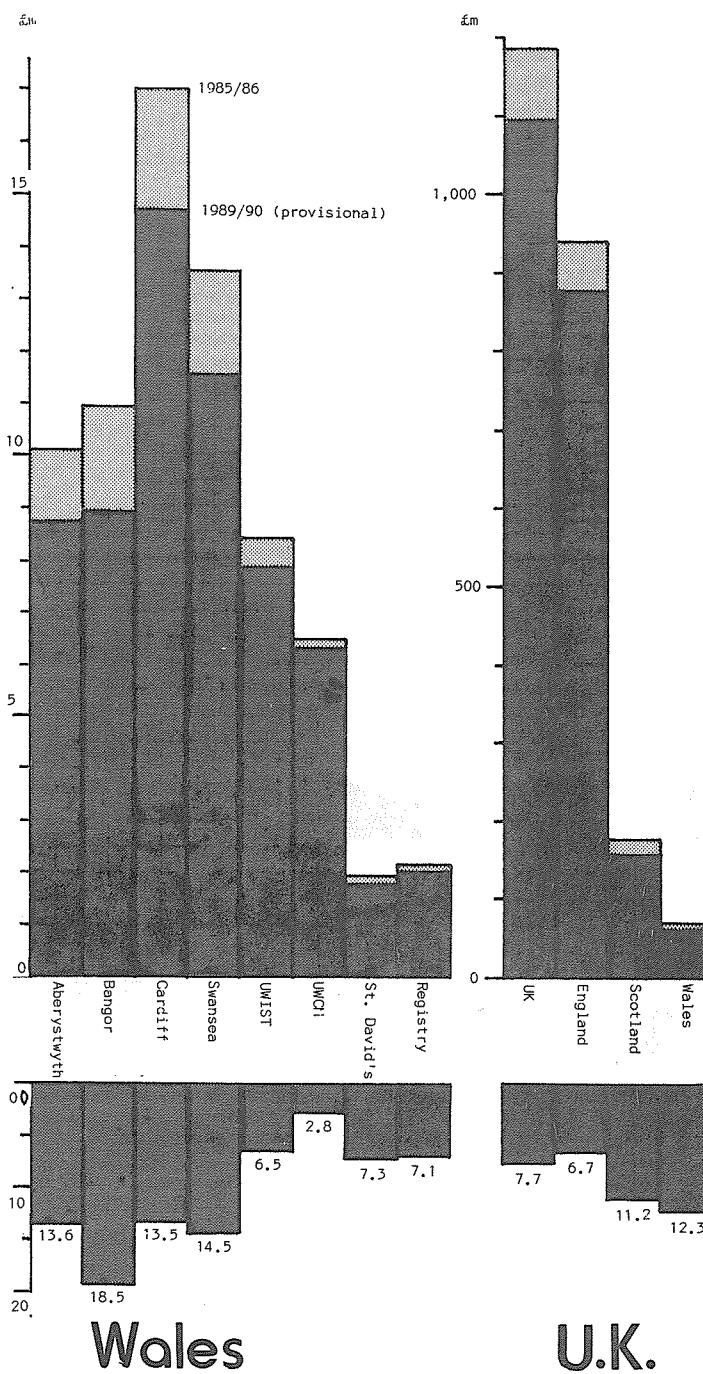
Plans for the rationalisation of the University are generally aimed at establishing "main centres" at various colleges, whilst "streamlining", amalgamating and even closing respective departments at the other colleges, according to the recommendations of the U.G.C. reports.

The most drastic and saddening result of this "dissection" is the loss of two respected departments at Bangor: Philosophy and Physics - two vital organs of academic life.

Archaeology is to discontinue its joint honours courses; History and Welsh History will be amalgamated into a school; French, German, Russian and Linguistics are to be grouped; Drama will be "phased out", but "a presence" will be kept within the Welsh and English departments.

There is some relief, in that Agriculture, which was rumoured to be under threat, will remain at both Bangor and Aberystwyth. Although in a streamlined fashion, whereby a joint liaison group will oversee that there will be as little as possible "over-lap" of courses, and Duplicative appointments.

DISTRIBUTION OF BASIC GRANT



Wales

U.K.

% Grant Cut

by
H. Williams

COGITO ERGO AXED

Professor G. Hunter, head of the 2. The U.G.C. having to put off the consideration of the Philosophy department, exclaimed that deration of "the Philosophy situation this cost cutting exercise will be "dis-across the UK" in 1986-7 for at least another year due to "restrictions on university departments are not singular, the U.G.C.'s own budget". (personal letter they are inter-related, there will be effects across other departments."

Current students of Philosophy, particularly those in their 2nd and 3rd years, will not be affected, since the department is being allowed to "phase in" over the next 4 years. The last assessments will command little respect intake of students will be in October within the profession,"

The professor stated that he was put among the 5 best departments of Philosophy in the UK for either teaching a personal defence of his department, or research by contributors to the Times and that the council "went ahead with Higher Education Supplement's peer review the destruction of the department with no reference to its head". He did however take as much action as he could in the circumstances, such as distributing among the Council members a report in defence of Philosophy at Bangor. His report cast doubt on the validity of the U.G.C.'s competence in assessment, and outlined positive aspects of the department.

He is not alone in doubting the U.G.C.'s research assessments; Laurie Taylor (Times Higher Education Supplement) said that they were "based on misinformation and prejudice".

Points raised by his report are:

1. The U.G.C., when asked by the College to come and see for themselves, replied that it hadn't enough staff to visit a university more than once in seven years.

Dr J.P. Llewellyn, of the department of Physics, also emphasised that Physics was a department with an "excellent international reputation". He said that he could "see the position that they (University Council) have has not yet been received by the department, but Dr Llewellyn stressed has been done, he felt, was "very wrong".

The research interest of the department concentrates on magnetic fluids, and are optimistic that the bulk of and Bangor is the main centre for such the department will not be phased out research in the UK, which is highly during the next three years, and that relevant to one of the world's largest they would retain full honours courses.

FEATURES

ACTION NOT APATHY

Community Action is an organisation which provides a facility for students and local people to become involved in their community on a voluntary level. Through working with local kids, young offenders, kids in care, the mentally handicapped, elderly people, the housebound, and fund-raising, it is hoped that we cannot only make people aware of problems within the community, but, to a certain degree, help counter them.

It is also important in a more general sense for students to integrate with local people and vice-versa, as this helps to break down artificially erected barriers which lead to the "ivory towers" image of University life breeding graduates with little idea about what really goes on in the world.

THIS YEAR IN C.A.

It's hard to say exactly how well this year has gone in C.A. - certainly I've enjoyed it greatly, as have most of the volunteers and most of the projects are running smoothly. Some changes in our environment have hampered or stressed some of our work. The closure of Ty Newydd community home has meant that we have one less project, government enforced cuts in furniture benefits have put great pressure on our furniture project. Real cuts in heating allowances for the elderly have rendered our woodround project of vital importance to some people.

Changes within C.A. itself have also been apparent. We have a new project working in Speech Therapy for stroke patients. This allows volunteers to develop their own skills in linguistics and communication and is particularly suited to linguistics students.

At the start of the year we began leasing a minibus which has meant we have a brand new bus and don't have to worry about maintenance and repairs. The office has been re-arranged giving C.A. a more approachable, efficient base.

Fund-raising has also been on the increase. In November we raised well over £1000 for the BBC Children In Need Appeal, with events such as a world attempt at fitting people into a mini, and a sponsored busk on the High Street. We even prompted live national TV coverage and a radio Wales interview.

The Slum Disco and the C.A. Cloakroom will probably have raised about £15,000 for local charities by the end of the year, which is useful in that we can use Union facilities and our favourable position to help less fortunate organisations involved in work similar to ours. We've organised several successful trips with kids ice skating and swimming, and with elderly people to the theatre.

So far this year we have around 300 members, which is far more than any previous year. This increase has been apparent for the past few years, not just in terms of members but, more importantly, active members. Most projects have been well supported by volunteers who have shown great imagination and initiative in carrying out the work of the project and have used fully the facilities offered to them. The vast quantities of work involved with administration and staffing the office have been aided greatly by an incredibly hard working team of volunteers - many of whom are non-students and by a loyal and well informed committee who have tackled decisions and issues head on.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Think about what type of work you would like/want to do. Work with MENTALLY HANDICAPPED KIDS, YOUNG OFFENDERS, THE ELDERLY, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, PRACTICAL WORK or MUSIC and ENTERTAINMENTS. What sort of person are you? - Someone committed and resourceful who can lead a project, a quiet

person who can develop good one-to-one relationships, someone with practical skills who prefers not working with people, or a mixture of all of these. Would you be shocked by bad language or violence? Can you drive?

Think about the DEGREE OF COMMITMENT you can offer. It is easy to both underestimate and overestimate your own responsibilities and amount of free time available. Would you prefer working in the evenings or weekends? Are you around over the holidays? Remember that continuity is important in building up relationships with other people. Would you be better off doing a project like gardening or painting and decorating which allows you to work for as much time as you like, when you like, rather than a one-to-one project which needs regular commitment.

It is often far better to begin modestly and perhaps increase your involvement later, rather than start with a sudden burst of enthusiasm and drop out after a short time.

Don't worry if you feel a little useless in the beginning. It may take a while, but eventually your full capabilities will be realised. You may even find you have skills you didn't know you had and will undoubtedly develop the ones you already have. Try to take an active part in the running of the project and follow up any ideas you may have to improve the project, as C.A. has a policy of continuously improving its work and moving into new areas. Above all, enjoy what you do, otherwise there is no point in doing it. You can learn a great deal about yourself and other people and become much more fulfilled - this is what C.A. is all about (you don't have to believe this!).

Finally, here's a list of times and places to meet our regular projects:

TUESDAY:
* SPLODGE CLUB (kids 7 - 10, arts & crafts) 6.00 - 7.30, meet in Union

Foyer.
* BRYN Y NEUADD (Social evening in the Bar with residents of B.Y.N. Mental Handicap hospital) 7.30 - 9.30, meet in foyer.

WEDNESDAY
* RIDING FOR THE DISABLED (horse riding with mentally handicapped children) 2.00 - 4.30, meet in Union Foyer.
* PLAS HEDD (Home for the elderly) 2.00 - 4.30, meet in Union Foyer.
* CA CLOAKROOM (for ENTS disco) 7.30 - 12. In table tennis room.

THURSDAY:
* TY'R FELIN (home for kids in care) meet 5.30 in Union Foyer.
* THE SLUM - Alternative Disco in the Jazz Room

FRIDAY:
* GIRLS' CLUB - see C.A. office for details.
* GATEWAY (social club for mentally handicapped at Treborth School) Juniors - meet 5.15 outside Top College Foyer (Treborth minibus)
Seniors - meet 7.00 outside the Belle Vue pub (Treborth minibus)

SATURDAY:
* FUN CLUB (mobile youth club for Measgarchen kids aged 8 - 16), meet 10.15 in the Union Foyer, back by 1.30.
* MAESTRYFAN (mobile youth club for Maestryfan kids aged 8 - 14), meet 2.00 in the Union Foyer, back by 5.00

SUNDAY:
* WOODROUND (collecting, chopping, bagging and delivering wood to elderly and housebound people), meet 2.00 in Union Foyer.
For other projects such as Furniture, Maes T Youth Club, Abbeyfield, elderly peoples home, Speech Therapy project, painting and decorating, visiting the elderly, and the inflatable, see the C.A. office for details.

That's all folks - see you soon.
PETE TOWNSHEND
C.A. ORGANISER

Famous Poofs : I

W.H.Auden - one time Emeritus professor of poetry at Oxford University.

One of the 20th century's finest poets, Auden wrote constantly of his sexuality, and a whole generation pretended not to notice that masterpieces such as the lullaby, "Lay your sleeping head my love" were about....MEN! Like Nelson and his telescope, the literature of the '30s and '40s turned a blind eye to something which they did not want to seem, but nevertheless knew existed. Although tainted with the condescending mark of "tolerance", this attitude seems infinitely preferable to the high-profile media images of gays as, on one hand, a plague - spreading menace, and, paradoxically, on the other, a set of trend-setting superstars.

Perhaps I will surprise you when

I say that the latter view annoys me more than the "plague-carrying" label, and each man (that) / Craves what it cannot have..." (1st September, 1939).

The second point which Auden teach us is that being gay does not make you a second-class citizen (despite the prejudices which are still a major force in our society). It is not my place here to list a large number of famous gays throughout history (suffice it to say there are as many now as ever). The point is that being gay is nothing to be ashamed of. Ever. You are in very good company (though I would guard against the idea of homosexuality as some large, but exclusive club).

Homosexuality is not something you can be tricked into by gays. Homosexuality is not something you can catch: it is not a disease. It is perhaps more something, as Auden wrote,

"bred into the bone/ Of each woman and each man (that) / Craves what it cannot have..." (1st September, 1939).

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If you would like to write a feature on something that concerns YOU - whether it's about student life, the Union, politics, in fact virtually anything that might not be at home on any of the other pages of Y SEREN - please go ahead!

Any articles will be greatly appreciated, so bring them into the Y SEREN office, or put them in the Y SEREN pigeon hole in the Union. Thanks.

JO HOUSLEY

FEATURES

Save Treborth!

The botanical gardens at Treborth are one of the targets in the latest cost cutting measures imposed on the Department of Plant Biology by the University administration in response to central government policy. It has been calculated that £17,000 per annum will be saved if the greenhouses and laboratory areas are closed down. This means effectively, an end to the fascinating and extensive tropical and temperate collection of plants and, to its valuable academic facilities for research and teaching. Although the initial closure is for a five year period, the very real fear exists that after months of deterioration the greenhouses will be pulled down or sold off - never to be replaced.

Because of the abruptness of the decision, no feasibility study has so far been possible regarding ways in which the necessary money can be

generated. More to the point, it seems that no time has been afforded, by the University's board of studies, for concerned parties to explore the many possibilities that do exist for raising such a sum. Instead, the board, in its wisdom, has chosen to strip the University of one of its most attractive features and unique assets, a feature which has doubtless influenced many generations of aspiring botanists and biologists to choose Bangor.

The deadline for the closure seems set at July this year, which allows precious little time to research the alternatives, before the unhappy task of potting up and redistributing the plants becomes top priority. Many specimens may be lost in the process of moving or resettlement. Most will go to other botanical gardens or collections. A few can be housed in a

limited part of Pen y ffridd field station, and the rest must be crammed into the shortly to be reduced space in the School of Plant Biology.

Time is so short, and we need an extension if we are to prevent this drastic and short-sighted step from being taken. Treborth is a prestigious part of the College, with very real academic application. It is under used as a teaching resource and completely unexploited as a potential commercial enterprise. The objective of this notice is to request your assistance in a campaign that will, hopefully, lead to the retention of the greenhouses, with their collections, and to the full utilisation of the gardens in a way compatible with their status. Present and future generations of students can benefit by your action, so help by writing to the Principal of the University, Prof. E. Sunderland,

NOW, to express your concern, preferably adding some constructive suggestions for raising and sustaining the necessary capital. Also, sign the petitions that will be circulating throughout both faculties.

A natural reply to this letter might, justifiably, be that, under the present system affecting higher education in the U.K., all departments, in all universities, are having to dramatically adjust their budgets. However, all we are asking for is time in which to find a more acceptable way of budgeting. With the sweep of a pen the University may needlessly sacrifice a wonderful part of its recent heritage. What a loss to posterity and to the whole of North Wales.

PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

Signed: "The Friends of Treborth".

B.U.C.A.

This term has seen the Conservative Group at Bangor undergo two major changes; the first being the adoption of a new title, that of Bangor University Conservative Association (BUCA), in place of the previous Bangor FCS. The second change was one of personnel, including the election of a new chairman. This occurred not as the result of a take over bid, but due to the resignation of the previous Chairman, Simon Matthews. Unfortunately, due to the pressures of work in this his final year at Bangor, Simon felt it best to relinquish his responsibilities as Chairman - he has not been lost totally from BUCA though, as he has now become President in recognition of the time and effort he has put into his occupancy of the posts of both Chairman and Secretary within the past 3 years.

So now there is a new look to the face of Conservatism within Bangor University. After this year's Annual General Meeting, BUCA now finds itself with a Committee composed entirely of students in their first year at University. This fact ensures that the Association has life in it for a good few years to come - whether you feel this to be good or bad depends on your own political standpoint! At this point however, it has to be said that recent relations between the different political groups within the Union have been conducted in a more cordial fashion than those between the elders in the respective parties at Westminster. Hopefully this policy of "live and let live" will continue in the future: it can only be of benefit to all concerned, encouraging more active participation in politics by all students without the fear of reprisals.

The increase in membership of BUCA at the last Freshers' Fayre casts some doubt on the claims that Conservative support is dwindling amongst the 18-25 year olds in today's society.

Many students may have been put off from joining the then Bangor FCS simply by the recent reputation of Conservative students nationally. The attitude of the National FCS did at times leave a lot to be desired. I hope that the distinction between BUCA and FCS has been made clearer by the change of name, and that any students who may have had doubts about joining FCS will not hesitate to express support for our Association.

KERRY GILES - Chairman

Bangor University Conservative Association is the most exciting club to be involved with in the Union. Don't believe me? Well, it's a little exaggerated perhaps, but not far from the truth.

Earlier this term a group of us from the Association went on a trip to London during which we watched the House of Commons in progress from the strangers gallery and spent the rest of the day seeing the "sights". Four of the members attended a buffet luncheon with the Prime Minister at Llandudno on Friday March 13th, during Mrs Thatcher's recent visit to North Wales. After addressing the assembly, the Prime Minister went on a "walkabout", during which she spoke personally to our four.

We also had a delegation at the Conservative central council conference at Torquay on the 20th/21st March, which was attended by Nicholas Ridly, Norman Fowler, Nigel Lawson and Mrs Thatcher amongst others.

Next term more social events are planned, including a fund-raising event in the Castle Hotel, due to the fact that despite being the largest political group within the Union, we still receive less funds from the Union than the Labour Group.

Finally, we know there is a large "sleeping" Conservative vote amongst

students in Bangor. Whether you want to take an active role in club activities or support us but remain in the background, we would be delighted to hear from any prospective members. Anyone wishing to know more should contact our membership secretary, Phil Sampson at Room 94 in Reichel, or put a note in the Conservative pigeon hole at the Union.

STEVEN MASON

STUDENT LOANS

As you have probably noticed, there has been a great deal of information concerning student loans spread- ing about the campus recently. In actual fact there is no Government policy concerning loans. What is happening is that the Government is reviewing the system of student financing. This roughly means that the methods of financing students in various countries are being studied to see if they are viable methods of alternative financing. Most of these systems are loans or loans/grants.

The British Government provides the world's most generous system of support for students in higher education. The vast sums of money spent mean, however, that Britain also has proportionately one of the smallest number of participants. The present system where the Government pays the cost of tuition for all UK students and the local authorities provide up to £2055 for living expenses is both extremely costly and inefficient. The overnment spends almost £6000 a year to keep one student in full time education and over £400 million a year is spent on grants. A recent survey by the Department of Education and Science shows that in 1979 Britain spent 6 times as much as France, 28 times as much as Italy, 5 times as

much as Germany, and 11 times as much

as America per student on student support.

The increasing cost of higher education has brought expansion to a halt and denies thousands of applicants, who would previously have been welcomed, the opportunity of University or Polytechnic education. With the number of applicants likely to rise until the 1990s, there is almost universal agreement that access to higher education should be increased and widened. This cannot be achieved through the present system without vastly increasing public spending and taxation.

NUS demands that a minimum grant of £35 per week should be introduced for all students over 16 years of age. This totally unrealistic proposal would cost the country £550 million a year.

Student loans, if introduced, could be done so in a variety of ways. Loans would be interest free and could be paid back over a period of up to 40 years. Thus, for a grant of £6000 for a 3 year course, about £2.90 would be paid back a week. Other possibilities are being studied, such as the possibility of waiving the loan should employment for the graduate not be forthcoming or relating to the amount to be paid back to income on graduation.

Despite the strong arguments for student loans, the view of Bangor University Conservative Association is that a system of loans should not be introduced in our country. At our last AGM we voted on the subject and 82% of members voted against them. In the true spirit of democracy this has become our official policy.

I hope that this article will clear up some of the misunderstandings on the subject of student loans and will clarify the position of Bangor University Conservative Association on this subject.

MORGAN DENYER

Vice Chairman, Bangor University Conservative Association

FEATURES

evils of advertising

Bob Stone gave us a follow up to Emma Clayton's disgust at sexism in advertising, in which he told us that the business is "insidious" for its "forget your scruples and make money" motto and practise. But he stressed an end-point to reasonable criticism of advertising: that if we don't like it's images, it is society's attitudes we don't like - all advertising does is mirror the values of society, it sells us things via appeals to our values. I want to reply that this is naive: the ad men sell us our attitudes and values too; they don't just operate to make money at the expense of morality, that mode of operation is among their product range and in their sales pitch. So how does that work?

If a new car is being advertised, the aim is not only to get people who are going to buy a car to buy that one, nor to get people with money to spend to buy a car instead of a washing machine; a major part of it's purpose is to get people to want things like cars and washing machines, just to increase the materialistic craving. This is not aiming to sell us anything by appeal to our wants, it is aiming to mould our wants into a repetitive state for future selling, it is doing the ground work for presenting us with images that appeal to our wants. (Ask the ad man.) Our values and their correlated desires come to us from all our experience, we weigh everything up and come to an idea of what is good for people, then we try to get a bit of that for ourselves. And advertising is there in our experience working like a subversive beaver to direct our consideration towards a certain conclusion. I think it is so effective that there is a certain distrust or tacit accusation of hypocrisy towards alternative ideas: like the belief that owning things doesn't make people happy, it is hard to get this treated as a genuine view - I don't mean it is hard to get people to agree with, just hard to get people to understand others who act like they understand others who act like they believe it.

Let's look at an advert to see if we can notice the different aims of "selling somethin" and "propaganda for a world-outlook". It is good that we focus on this issue since our student newspaper is now financed by advertising, eg. one appeared on February 9th, page 3. I shall comment only on the second aim of altering our attitudes, with respect to the advert illustrated:

The advert invites us to get to know Andrew, so let's have a bash: "I used to try to find a cure for the common cold. Now I make sure TatEast doesn't catch one". When Andrew are so out of touch as to dwell on the common possibilities for bettering the human condition: the two sentence headline is massively morally erosive, and Andrew is a moral delinquent, a bankrupt idealist, a sell-out who is smiling. ("Action Bank", being written up the side

seems an ideal resulting aim from achieving a biotechnology degree - I wonder why Andy took one of those? - he was probably seventeen when he made his choice, he probably had ideas about relieving human suffering and living to that end. But that was before he was in on the "action", "action", "action" "city of London" "£1 million", and customers. (You know, like what "biggest" "professionals" "organisation" you get at the cash desk or with the "project". Before "TatEast had a bank manager. I think if bank staff use for his talents", well actually, really treated the 1001 faces a day when they say they had a use for his like real people, if they attempted talents, they surely don't mean his

the ad is not there to be read, it is there to be registered subliminally: better that way, there is always the danger of one thinking about what the advert stresses the humanity of the banking world, the personal nature of the dealing with colleagues and customers. (You know, like what you get at the cash desk or with the bank manager. I think if bank staff really treated the 1001 faces a day when they say they had a use for his like real people, if they attempted to treat him like one, individuals are

ACTION BANK WHERE EVERY JOB OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

"I used to try to find a cure for the common cold. Now I make sure TatEast doesn't catch one."

Andrew had never dreamed his biotechnology degree would lead to a career in banking. But when he abandoned research into the common cold, TatEast had a use for his talents. Andrew is working in the city of London, helping advise on money. Already he's helped in a £1 million property deal. He has to work with other people, he'd missed that in the lab.

TatEast is one of the world's biggest financial organisations, with active interests in areas as diverse as exploiting every resource of the earth. We deal with large international projects, but the needs of small businesses and individuals are important to us too. Our banking professionals have to deal with the public and with their colleagues. Andrew enjoys his present job, he gets out and about keeping in touch with customers! Banking holds much more opportunity, and we'll treat you as an individual, recognising your needs and developing your talents.

If you want responsibility and the rewards that go with it, enquire about career opportunities with TatEast.

ACTION BANK ACTION BANK ACTION BANK ACTION BANK ACTION BANK ACTION

biotechnological talents, his training to establish personal relations, it in a potential for benefitting the world's sick...no, no, they must mean heads, their facility for personal other talents, perhaps his plastic smile.

Andrew has moved from his idealistic cloud-cuckooland and into the real world of the big deal. Fantastic things like a cure for the cold don't turn up in this world, and if ever they did, there would have to be people like Andrew there to oil the wheels for the nitty gritty of real life - there would be patents, profit projections, marketing campaigns, and law suits to take care of. Only lonely old souls in labs, and students taking time out from "action" "action" "action" are so out of touch as to dwell on the common possibilities for bettering the human condition: the two sentence headline is massively morally erosive, and Andrew is a moral delinquent, a bankrupt idealist, a sell-out who is smiling. ("Action Bank", being written up the side

important to TatEast - you'd be able to pick Andy out from any tube station crowd: just look for the money driven stereotype with the plastic face.

I think it a small part of the purpose of this advert to recruit people for jobs with TatEast, its larger objective is to promote the values and attitudes in which banking (and advertising) prosper: the sort of attitude where our scruples are to make money - and men don't need to forget their other, scruples, Bob, they left them years ago when their own ads got to them. I think Emma Clayton's complaint at sexism in advertising is making for the right target, it is a cause and reinforcer of sexism in society.

NATHAN WEST

Y SEREN



NEEDS

YOU!

FEATURES

the way we weren't: the first in a series (based on past issues of

Bangor student publications) examining student life since 1945.

APATHY OR...

"I HAVE BEEN TO UNIVERSITIES UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY ONE I HAVE EVER BEEN TO WHERE THE STUDENTS ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM."

Cyril Smith M.P. on Bangor.

by J M Lawton

And so say all of us. Cyril was not talking about the vegetating students of today's "New Enterprise Culture" though - he was trashing "the class of '72".

Contrary to popular opinion, apathy isn't the exclusive ethos of the Eighties. Bangor has a tradition for apathy which is as timeless and as worthless at Benedicimus itself. Bangor's revolutionary spirit only ever came out of a bottle, and this is how it seems to have been since the immediate post-war years.

There are no sociological theories to explain this "current" attitude of "couldn't care less" at UCNW. It's not just state induced c/Conservatism that has made Bangor students sluggish, nor is it due to heightening graduate unemployment.

Bangor has been stuck in the wrong groove, regardless of socio-economic changes, since the War. Bangor has, for a long time, been made up of an unusually high proportion of students who are here because they were "cleared" here - especially in the Arts Faculty. This has produced a two-fold grievance in "cleared" students, which has tainted the whole student body. Firstly, very many students begrudge coming (NOT out of choice) to a University which they feel to be "second rate". Secondly, any hope of surrounding oneself with a mesh of metropolitan sights and sounds is dashed the minute the "cleared" student steps off the train.

Forecast

There is, though, always the promise of some kind of "happening" somewhere in Bangor. In October, 1949, Mr Attlee's radical, New Britain was still too freshly prefabricated to be buggered up. This air of hope ushered the publication of *Forecast* - UCNW's own students' newspaper. The editorial in that first issue claimed that *Forecast* was "Great Britain's only unsubsidised student newspaper". The editorial also "cordially invited" all students to contribute in whatever way possible. By the third issue, published on November 11th, 1949, the paper led with the headline "LACK OF COLL. SPIRIT."

Apparently, the pre-Beatnik tendencies were annoying the "whizzo-who-ze" faction by being too cool to participate in anything they considered to

be "non intellectual". The story went on to claim that such "near-frigid" coolness had reduced student support at sporting fixtures and inter college events to single figures. That was considered to be particularly embarrassing because Bangor's opponents were bringing in support by the coach load.

On the Letters page of the same issue, "Politicus" decried the rapid decline of the political society as an integral part of student life. Politicus claimed "We now have only a modest sprinkling of socialists.... the Liberals and the Conservatives have no visible representatives."

By 1957, you'd have thought that Rocking (Round the clock, naturally baby!), cinema-seat slashing and five years of the incontinent and cabbage like Premiership of Winston Churchill, would have spurred the teens into action.

Bangor Unibores, though, were having none of that. *Forecast*, on the first of February, heralded the long-awaited arrival of television in some of the Halls. The Editorial considered the effect this would have on student activity - in light of the fact that the previous week's G.M. had been the worst attended for many years. In the post-election issue on March the 8th, the fears of the ever decreasing few were confirmed. Out of 2,700 students eligible to vote in the Presidential election, little over 500 cast a vote.

"Have you ever wondered how many times the word apathy has appeared this term?" was the question put to a largely guilty readership in the Editorial.

Gerremoff

Five years on, in 1962, they were "twisting the night away" - presumably, as little had changed. *Forecast* carried the headline "Apathy, Or?....." over a photo of P.J.Hall, full of bumless seats. "Give 'em two years", I thought "the Tories will be out for the first time in thirteenn years and the change will do 'em good."

No, it didn't. In the "Freshers" edition of *Forecast*, (Oct.1964), the results of a Poll were published. Students had been asked who they thought would win the forthcoming election and then, who they felt should. An

extremely high number had shown a complete lack of foresight - 67% actually believed that the Tories would win the Union of Students in Wales had and return to office. Worse still - 62% actually favoured their re-election. The "New Conservatism" seems to be old hat in Bangor.

In the same issue, rumours concerning the opening of a strip club 76. After all, the Sixties were over, hair was shorter; - by now glue was the currency in the right drug circles. Politically, Race and Sex had begun to share the top billing with Class as the principal concerns of the Left. The Right had dumped Paternalism in exchange for Ruthless Chaos - Bangor even had its own Punk group, The Inadequates.

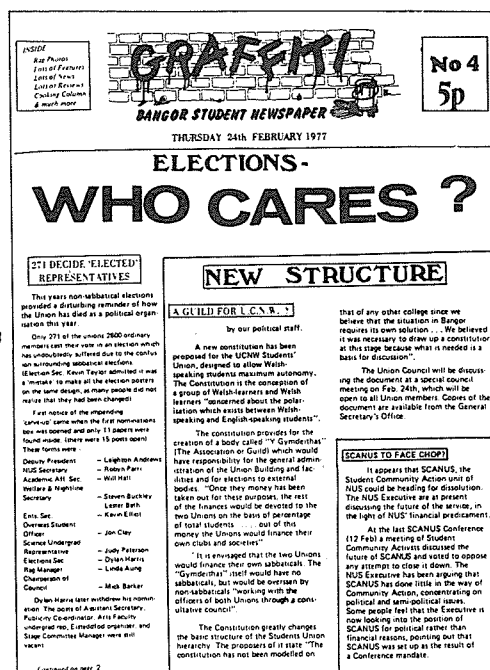
The following June, one student decided to vent his frustration at this state of ennui in verse:

"Best bloody place is bloody bed,
With bloody ice on bloody head.
Might as well be bloody dead
In bloody Bangor."

Stand!

Following the activities of students in Paris in 1968, students all over the world were wielding power capable of rendering governments impotent - that is, except in Bangor. By October, students were aware that the following events all happened within the course of two weeks: sixteen students were shot in the back by policemen in Orangeburg, South Carolina; six students were shot and killed by the security police in Brazil; Japanese security police arrested scores of students during mass demonstrations in London, students at the L.S.E. occupied college buildings for the second time.

Forecast minuted an Extraordinary General Meeting, organized as a result of these events (issue date 27.10.68.)



ARTS GENO!

This year's Spring Ball, on Saturday March 14th, was an absolute treat, entirely due to Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band. The evening started in the refectory with The Jukes, and in the Mandela Bar with Yargo - both were listenable-to bands, but nothing compared to the headlining act. Geno Washington's music is based on rock 'n roll, and is the kind of thing you just can't stand still to getting on down, which, according to Geno, made the gig what it was.

The band suffered a couple of setbacks: their trombone player had been to hospital because of bleeding gums, and the keyboard player was away working on a solo project - but you'd never have noticed. The sax player, on only his second night with the band, was easily as professional as the others, and fitted in perfectly. Their set was a fairly last-minute decision, but songs like "I got my mo-jo working" and a re-working of Benny King's "Stand by me" went down so well that they can't have had any doubt about these choices.

It was clear from the start that all everyone wanted was to have a good time, especially Geno himself, who simply radiates an atmosphere of joy. At 43, he manages to sing and gyrate as sexily as any teeny-boppers' desires, and his aim is to enjoy himself by making other people enjoy themselves. His show appealed to all types of people, partly because of his between numbers chat - basically saying that if you can't enjoy life: Fuck it!

Geno told me afterwards that he was delighted with his reception in Bangor - he knew that hardly any of us would have heard of him, but said, "Oh fuck it; there's gotta be some crazy people to play to in Bangor", which of course there were. American by birth, Geno has lived in Britain since 1961, and for 5 years now has been a spiritual teacher. He explained that he teaches his students to find the force within themselves to make their lives happy and successful, sometimes using hypnosis, or sometimes just by showing them a completely different picture from the image they have in their minds. He seems the ideal person to do this, as everyone who comes into contact with him can't help feeling relaxed and happy.

Most of the time the band plays in and around London, where they have their own following, and they tend to get their gigs elsewhere by word of mouth - so, if we want him back (not that there's any doubt about that), or if you want to see him anywhere else, it's up to you to see that it's arranged. Geno is not likely to hit the charts: he won't conform to either soul or pop, and why should he, if what we heard is what he likes?

I haven't spoken to anyone who didn't enjoy Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band; most described the evening as "brilliant" or "fantastic", which more or less sums up my opinion too. Geno's joyous hour or so can only be described as terrific fun, so if you're one of the "freaks" who boogied on down on Saturday night, you'll know what I mean. May the force be with you!

JO HOUSLEY



THE STAGE

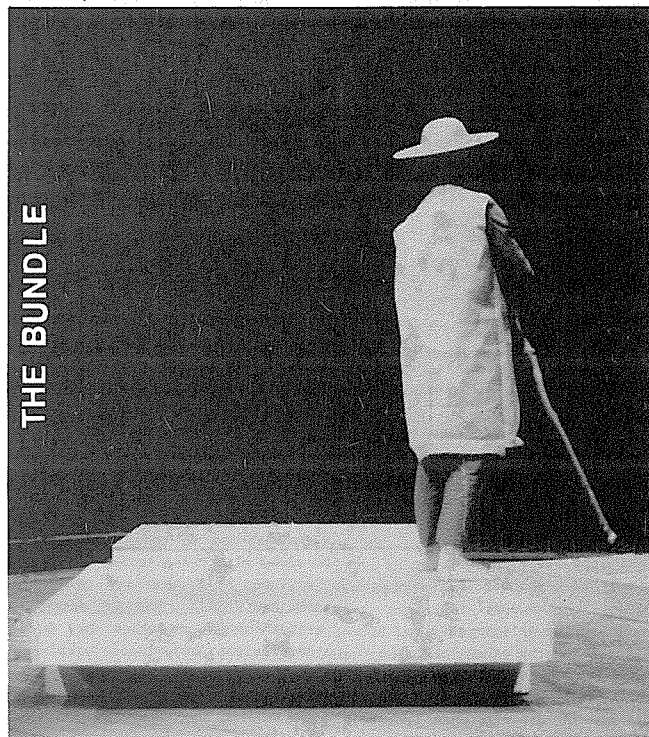
The Mandela Bar bore witness to one of the most poorly attended gigs this term when The Stage came to play, where it was thought that at one point the Stage Crew was going to outnumber the audience. However, what the band lacked in attendance it certainly made up for enthusiasm in performance right from the first song, "Laughing at Love".

The lead singer, Jeremy Williams, possessed a certain "charisma" which encouraged the small audience to applaud as loudly as it could. After a shaky

start the band found it's feet and members of the audience soon found that their own were tapping as they recognised tunes not unlike other bands ranging from Fischer Zed to Cactus World News (although the band claimed not to have heard CWN's music...hmm!).... Although The Stage's material is "all their own work" (apart from a cover version of "Shakin' All Over") I couldn't help having the feeling that I'd heard the songs before, and with lyrics like "How come things are never easy?" and "Now my dancing days are over", you can hardly blame

me. The music lacked originality and any new direction, leaving me thinking that they are likely to do well in the commercial 'pop' music charts. (Well they did win the Saturday Superstore video vote, after all!) Oh well, at least the people who came along enjoyed themselves, and showed their appreciation by dancing at the encore... However, this poorly attended gig partly reflects the lack of publicity that this band was given, with a large number of students there not knowing anything about it until the last minute. How are students expect-

THE BUNDLE



"The Bundle" by Edward Bond.

"The Bundle" is set China and takes as its starting point an incident in the life of the seventeenth century poet Basho, who rejects the chance to save a child abandoned by the river and instead sets out in search of enlightenment.

As you may know, Edward Bond's main aim is to educate his audience, using the theatre to alter our perception of the world in order to improve society, and so it is hardly surprising that "The Bundle" was one of the heavier plays to be staged by the Drama department.

However, despite the serious nature of its subject matter, the play was very compelling, extremely well-acted and despite its complexity the audience was never in any doubt as to their leanings.

Hilary Cooper was forceful and convincing in the part of Wang, who grows up to challenge the landowner's system of government which leaves the people in a constant state of poverty and subordination. It is this system which causes Wang and so many other children to be abandoned, whereby the whole cast appears on stage and chants had a particularly strong impact on the audience, and I congratulate Andy Wiltshire and all involved who made of the four on a very successful production.

bandits who provided such welcome comedy and entertainment in scene five as they gloated over their loot. Tiger's monosyllabic tale of how she lost her hand and Kaka's unabashed glee were particularly entertaining.

Comedy, although sparse, was not restricted entirely to this scene. The shopkeeper's absurd love of his stock, the water-sellers' poetic language as they vied desperately to sell their wares, and several one-liners such as "I wouldn't wash a dead rat's forehead in that" all gave slight relief.

The action of the play is focused on and around the river, which is the symbol of the landowner's tyranny. The people need the river to survive, and yet each time it overflows they lose their possessions and their lives. This tragedy could easily be prevented by building tanks, but of course the landowner will not permit this. In scene ix, however, the revolution incited by Wang takes place successfully and by scene x, the banks have been built, freeing the people from subordination and fear. Thus "The Bundle" and his system of government which is highly distressing on several occasions ends on an optimistic note which is somewhat uncharacteristic of Bond's style. The play's final action many other children to be abandoned, whereby the whole cast appears on stage and chants had a particularly strong impact on the audience, and I congratulate Andy Wiltshire and all involved who made of the four on a very successful production.

ANNE HADCROFT.

This is The Stage's first solo tour to promote their new single, "Not Stranger Than Today" which was released at the end of February. If you want to go and see what you missed at The Rock Garden in Covent Garden, they'll be playing their last date at The Rock Garden in Covent Garden. I can guarantee you a mediocre time.

GILL WOOD

ARTS Poetry

THE SHORE-HOUSE

I. We walked four yards - uncrossable
as an ocean on foot - apart,
silent on the wet red mud
tracking through pasture,
snaking the cliff
down to sand, where we left
socks and shoes.
You splashed straight to knee-
depth
startling shorebirds to rise,
whistle
and pour away; the water
sheathed your legs with cold.
Sand scoured tickling through
your toes,
warmed your smile from a winter
where words failed me.

II. Downslope, squat oaks
umbrellaed with gold,
patient for the sun,
fringe the river's baroque
switchbacks; the oxbow lakes
mirror our separation,
the trace of our passing, fading
hollows in ground once shared.
The skyline now weighs luminous
with snow
- a bare swell of land
shouldering to this ridge,
the bronzed moor wavering
through shower-curtains of sleet,
hold your shape to me.

III. Long muddy lag of slack-
water relaxing ambiguously round
piers
slyly bunches, obscuring the mo-
ment,
strains for the hinterland
- an inundation of salt-
water that reconciles the land.
At our confluence, the same
seconds when all and nothing change
settled to habit;
to drink in the garden dusk
as the sky chars
firing the surf lunar silver,
and lights wink far out, trawlers
moving as I am to high water.

IV. Above the beach
the wheatfield's slicked with
ruin
in the aftermath of wind.
Tankers trail furtive oil;
over far sea
a slow upwelling of light
from depths of cloud
fans to searchlights
that honeycomb the surface
and brush the sky with colour.
White on green, the distant house
an undertow that pulls us back,
on firmer ground we move closer
towards our retreat.

Tim Orrell

THE COLD CLIMBER
He lost his grip
Dissolved into the mountain like
a flake

She sat in the waiting room
They wouldn't let her see.

A hand on her shoulder said it was
sorry.
Tears fell to the rocks of her cheeks.
JEREMY

Scanner

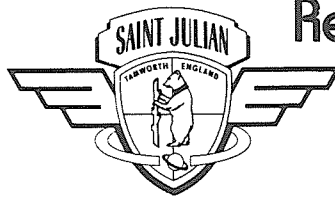
This issue, I'll be turning my attention to something which has been pressing on my mind for a while - the TV AIDS campaign. I won't go into the press campaign in any depth, as it isn't strictly relevant, though the government in their almighty wisdom have apparently made the ludicrous turn-around of aiming the advertising campaign (as seen in Y SEREN) back at the drug-taking and homosexual population, as if to say "Okay, we've told everyone what AIDS is, and how to avoid catching it, now will you idiots STOP SPREADING IT". This is nearly as irresponsible as Edwina Currie's advice to businessmen to take a good book, or, failing that, their wives, abroad so they were not tempted to sleep with prostitutes.

These mistakes mar a perfectly good campaign. The TV ads and the various shows on which Ian Dury and other celebs experiment with condoms are educating enough, and I strongly disagree with other TV critics, like Nina Myskow, who say that we've had too much of a good thing. If each programme or ad prevents just one person from catching AIDS, and indeed, dying of it, then we can't have too much of it. Didn't the Band Aid single get a lot of airplay? We were heartily sick of the song, but it made us think each time we heard it. AIDS is more domestic. Any one of us could catch it, so education is not important, it is essential, even life-saving.

My one criticism of the TV campaign is that it is not powerful enough. Some people, admittedly young children, have wondered if you can catch AIDS by swimming near icebergs, though perhaps the Government should point out that all you can catch doing that is pneumonia. By now we have been told what AIDS is. Anyone with half a brain now knows that it is not a "gay plague", it is everyone's problem, but there is still a common feeling of "I won't get it". We need to be told the symptoms, the pain, the horror of infected babies and wrecked families. The TV ads must be painful to watch because AIDS is such a terrible thing. We are told too often "use a condom and if you don't catch AIDS" or "don't be promiscuous and you'll be okay", when we need telling "use a condom, reduce your partners, or you could DIE and kill other people". The road safety ads are much more powerfully disturbing than the AIDS ads, yet most people realise how much damage being hit by a car will do you.

Rumour has it that Mary will catch AIDS in "EastEnders" and even Pat in "Brookside" is rumoured to be in danger. This is good, much better than the Council's heavy-handed lecture to Mary in the wonderful leaflet she got in the post. As I said, the viewing public need to see the full horror of the disease before they can comprehend the danger. The advertising campaign has educated the ignorant. Now it must shock the complacent.

BOB STONE



Reviews

THE ICICLE WORKS - "If You Want To Defeat Your Enemy Sing His Song"

Get over the title and the saga of the Icicle Works continues. The story so far: once upon a time a band from Liverpool achieved success with a single called 'Love is a Wonderful Colour', were hailed as new psychadelia and were never heard of again. Their first album was interesting melodic keyboard music. Their second album, bearing the remarkably odd title of 'The Small Price of a Bicycle', was a total change of style as the Icicle Works discovered guitars, but no more success. Now, after nearly making it again with three excellent singles, the latter of which, 'Evangeline' ambled towards the bottom of the forty and actually reached no.3 in the Indie charts, the Icicle Works have released their third album and everyone who hears it will doubtless wonder why the record buying public as a whole have not heard of this band.

The Icicle Works have decided to capitalise on their American success by producing an album of what could sound like American rock if it were not so intelligent and, well, musical. The strong melodies are still there, but the guitars have been combined with the keyboards of the earlier album to produce a much fuller sound than a lot of the bands around at the moment. Four singles have already been culled off this album, including 'Evangeline' and the near perfect rock song 'Understanding Jane'. The songs are mainly love songs of one kind or another, though 'Trucker's Lament' could justifiably be described as a lust song. 'Walking With a Mountain' starts like a Chris de Burgh song, but as a ballad develops into something infinitely superior, while the superb 'Traveller's Chest' proves that the banjo is alive and well and still a force to be reckoned with. There is barely a weak track on the album, and if I had to pick a favourite (God forbid) it would be 'Sweet Thursday', an immaculate fusion of everything those of us in the know have come to expect from the Works.

The advertising publicity suggests that once you put this record on your turntable, you won't want to take it off, and I would agree. At the very least, tape this album and discover the Icicle Works. You won't regret it, but then, of you do, I won't be around to blame.

Bob Stone

Despite Cope's lyrical contradictions, musically the L.P. is varied in style without being inconsistent or disjointed. Nothing slips smoothly by like 'An elegant chaos' on 'World shut your mouth' where the impressive orchestration of keyboards, guitars, strings and oboe combine to such an effect that they almost submerge Cope's vocals. There's nothing here as disturbing or committed as 'Reynard the Fox' on 'Fried' although when the timbre of Cope's voice drops on 'pulsar' the raw sixties rock sound is very penetrating.

'St. Julian' is a good album. Lyrically interesting and musically raunchy. Cope takes a straight forward rock format and uses this solid basis as a background for rather more complicated and uncertain thought processes.

Andy Ffrench.

VOICES FROM THE MOON and other stories by Andre Dubus

Andre Dubus is one of America's more prolific short-story writers, and in this collection, published for the first time in Britain, he ably demonstrates his mastery of the medium.

The stories are cameos of American life, rather quirky ideas - for example, the title story is of a child's problems coping with his divorced father marrying his also divorced sister-in-law (with me so far?), and each of the chapters is narrated from the point of view of one of the characters (including the boy's mother, who doesn't even appear in the story) have had their

BOB STONE.

SCIENCE FoE report

A report published by The Friends radioactive Caesium 134, Caesium 137, when is up to the C.E.G.B." an NII spokesman said. The research commissioned by FoE was carried out in November and December of last year, before a scientist who had worked for the C.E.G.B. at Trawsfynydd made his views clear on various aspects of its operation (see Y SEREN 6:7).

The report analyses data collected by the CEBG and Ministry of Agriculture as well as the FoE's own monitoring done in conjunction with Edinburgh Radiation Consultants. It expresses particular concern about radiation levels in the lake from which the 21 year old nuclear power station sends year old nuclear power station obtains its cooling water. Stewart Boyle, 20 year old Magnox stations, but the FoE's energy campaigner, said "There is only a limited amount of water available for dispersion. The build up of

A 20 year safety review will be carried out at Trawsfynydd, as at other Magnox stations, but the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate have denied reports that work has started. "It will start soon, but exactly

science undergrads. get bad deal?

A recent article published in the 'New Scientist' criticises the government for its policy on funding of students at the Higher Education level.

Twenty years ago, a fresh graduate from university in Britain could expect to double their income by taking a job with the Scientific Civil Service. At that time, an undergraduate on the maximum student grant received about £350; a civil servant received twice this amount. Today graduates can anticipate a tripling of their income on joining the UK Atomic Energy Authority, for example.

This growing chasm between students and civil servants is certainly not due to the generosity of the government towards its researchers - indeed, these scientists have fallen behind their peers in industry and elsewhere - rather, it is a sign of the virtual poverty that afflicts many students.

Some sources have reported that more than half of all students leave university with such large overdrafts that they have to take the first job available simply to pay off their debts. Whether this is actually true is open to question, but the fact that after just one term many first-years this year went home complete with overdrafts could be seen to support such a statement.

Graduates can, hypothetically, throw away their hard-earned certificates and enter jobs in finance, for example, which offer salaries of roughly five times the student grant.

This ridiculous situation is crippling Britain's scientific community - there are, quite simply, not enough science graduates to go round.

A sign of this state of affairs is the number of jobs advertised, for example, in 'Forward Vacancies', published by the Graduate Employment Service. Year after year the number of jobs offered increases: from 1985 to 1986 by a staggering 48%, many in large companies.

Although this one piece of evidence cannot be considered conclusive proof, it does give an indication of the present situation within the scientific community. Employers would appear desperate for technically qualified people.

...And the response of our government? To make it increasingly more and more difficult for us, as students to afford the cost of university.

The Department of Education and Science - possibly sulking after the snub from its own backbenchers when it tried to get wealthier parents to give a larger contribution to their offspring's education - has kept the increase in student grants well below the level of inflation.

Perhaps they are under some kind of misconception, believing that parents will thus willingly contribute more towards the education of their children. This strange notion may in actual fact work in a wealthy family - but it blatantly discriminates against those on a tighter budget who simply cannot afford this. So a new dimension is introduced into the whole education policy.

Students who cannot, or do not wish to be permanently in debt to their parents after graduation, per-

haps fearing a long spell on the unemployment register, will therefore not even seek a place at university. Other will fall deeper and deeper into debt.

How convenient for the government, that by employing such a policy the only solution would appear to be the much publicised 'loans' system, in which they so strongly believe, and will not have to lift a finger to operate.

Many issues can be raised from this:- Firstly, why should the banks have to do all the dirty work for the Dept. E & C.? And, if they do take on this role, how soon would it be before some rather perceptive bank manager issued "conditions" before allowing loans?..For example it would seem obvious that a degree in electronic engineering is much more useful to industry than, say, a history degree, and thus in the developing world of industry more likely to land a job for the graduate and bring in a salary which would pay off his/her debts.

The government is "reviewing the whole area of student funding", and gives this as its reason for not increasing grants in line with inflation. Surely this cannot be accepted as an excuse? By stalling in this manner, Kenneth Baker is not only blighting the lives of practically a generation of students, but also in danger of halting British industry by depriving it of the graduates needed to keep it close to the front of modern technology.

SARAH LEECH.

First, SF, here it is good to welcome back Andre Norton to British book stores; two of her novels (*Catseye* and *Beast Master*) have been reprinted by Puffin. Regrettably not the best of her work, but those who remember the halcyon days of 60's SF will want copies to keep, and others would be advised to try them, especially at the rather low asking price of other works in paper-back.

Welcome back? Yes, after rather more than 10 years' absence, still it is rather sad to see reprinted works being recommended over current issues, which are saturated with "swords and sorcery" stuff (read one, read them all!). The only modern work recommended is Lisa Goldstein's *The Dream Years*, a time flight fantasy through Paris from the Impressionist post-Great War period, to the turbulent student rebellion in '68, and on into the future. Fun and rather thought-provoking, with some beautiful imagery. Still, it should be noted that Unwin have promised her Hugo winner, *Red Magician*; its non-appearance suggests that general acceptance of her work has been lacking.

Other works include the final part of the Heliconia Trilogy (*Heliconia Winter*) by Brian Aldis, whose previous best (again many years ago) was *Hothouse*. "Winter" has been strongly recommended to me, but after the preceding two novels my wallet has not felt inclined to stray from its pocket.

Now a little "real" science; here it is nice to see the O.U.P. edition of *Solid State Physics* (J.S.Blakemore, 1985). This should have little difficulty in supplanting Ashcroft and Mermin's book of the same name. I had prepared a nice diatribe against American texts based about this latter effort, fortunately I had the sense to check the nationality of J.S.B. - I guess Oregon is 'State-side, so that blows that one, now all that is left is to find that A & M are in fact English, and that will destroy my last vestige of national pride. I could harp back to Kittel's *Introduction to Solid State Physics*, but that has been out of print for 20 years, and he too was probably American, so it wouldn't do any good. It's a sad epitaph that not only can we not do the science, but we can no longer even write the books...

BARRY KAYE

* The title is a paraphrase from F. Herbert's *Dune*

REVIEW: Friends, books long past review*

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ker, kate rang
was it kate 1?
x kate 2?