

Y Seren

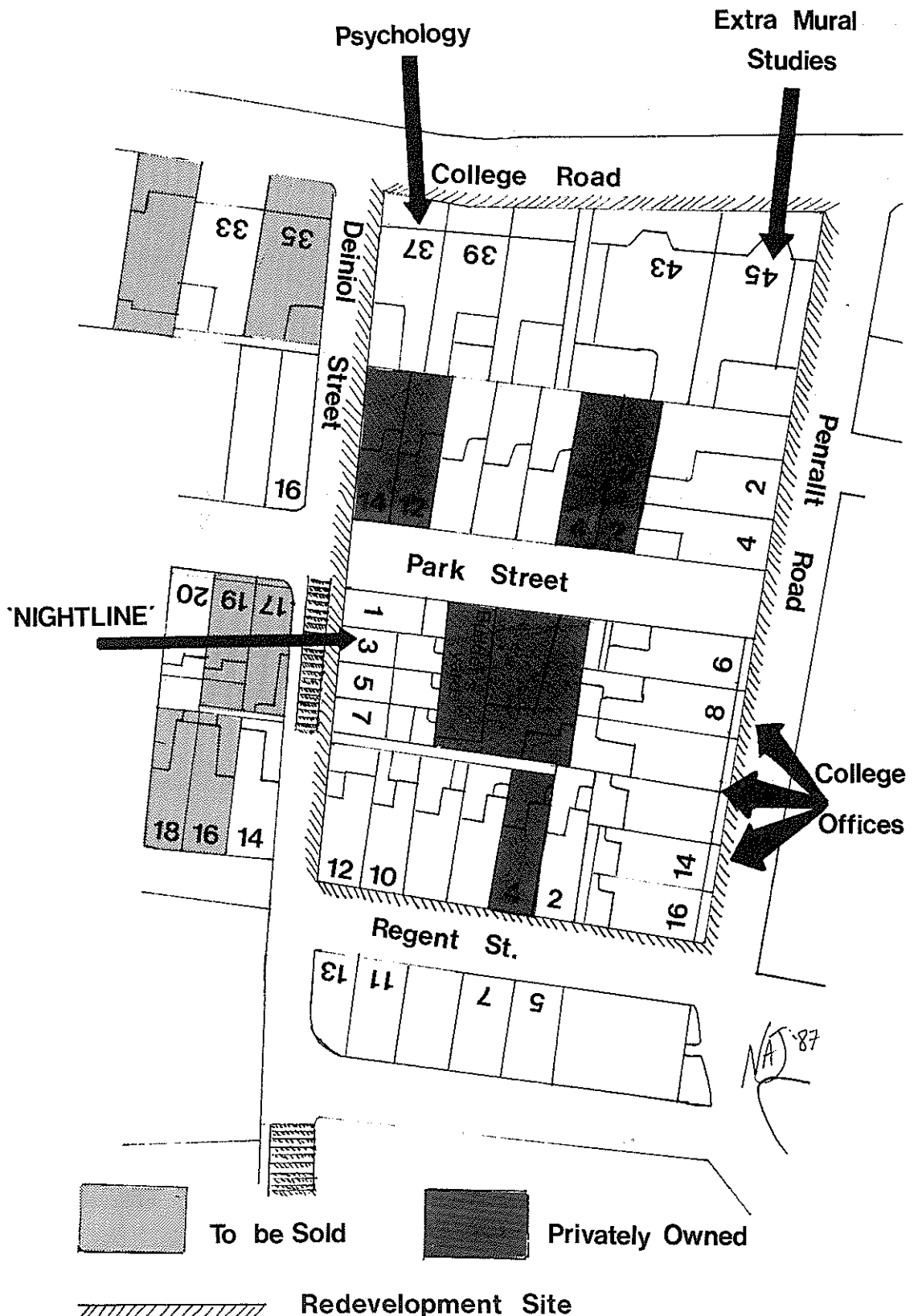
BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE....

At the last meeting of the Accommodation sub-committee, chaired by Vice-Principal, Professor Sagar, a new 'Accommodation Strategy' was announced. This, the latest plan of the College Estates and Buildings Committee, will pay particular regard to providing accommodation suitable for both single and married students, with teaching and research facilities, and will look into the possibilities of accommodation on a commercial basis.

A Working Party provided to look into this matter has identified a long term redevelopment site alongside the New Arts Library (see diagram). This redevelopment may take the form of demolition of existing buildings and the building of an extension to the New Arts Library for residential use. A number of properties within this site are privately owned and many take College considerable time to buy. Consequently, the economic life of College buildings has been arbitrarily set at fifteen years and has been converted to accommodate students in the interim. A number of houses owned by College which lie outside the site will be sold.

Although this is a very long term strategy, it was recommended by the meeting that numbers 1,3,5, and 7 Deiniol Street be demolished "as soon as circumstances allow". Number 3 Deiniol Street is the house used by the Student Union's Welfare organisation, 'Nightline'. I spoke to Estates and Buildings Officer, Mr Swann, who assured me that there would be no question of demolition until an alternative base had been identified, and that the Students Union would of course be consulted.

A number of Academic Department buildings and offices also lie within the site boundaries and Mr Swann explained that "the next phase of restructuring will be to find new and permanent homes for these departments". When asked about the future of the office on Penrallt Road Mr Swann said, "Houses have never been considered by College as long term or satisfactory". The answer, it seems, will be to move these offices into the Arts Faculty buildings within "centrally timetabled teaching space", and convert numbers 6 - 16 Penrallt Road for residential use for the next fifteen to twenty years.



EDITORIAL

CREDITS

This has been a busy fortnight in Y SEREN with a number of stories found within the Union and College which we have taken great pains to follow up. It seems as though our future as a 'newspaper' probably lies in investigative journalism within the world of the Union since any other form of 'news' simply means duplicating the local papers a week late. We feel that it is our duty to ensure that the Union properly represents and serves its members and therefore we will make it our business to keep an eye on the world of the Students Union. It is therefore probably worth explaining how we are made accountable. As Editorial Co-ordinator, and therefore the head of a standing committee, I am obliged to report to the Student Representative Council, which meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.30. Both this meeting and that of the Editorial Board of Y SEREN are open to any student who wishes to come along.

As you will know if you have the Editor's Note on the letters page, we at Y SEREN find certain forms of criticism objectionable for the simple reason that there are fair and unfair ways of criticising the newspaper. It is a very sad fact that when Y SEREN treads on a few toes in pursuit of a story

or prints something that is misinterpreted myself and my staff are attacked both vocally and in print in the severest terms, and yet when, every Friday lunchtime, Y SEREN makes all welcome to its Editorial Board meeting, the response is usually non-existent.

I sometimes think that people believe that Y SEREN mysteriously appears every fortnight, the creation of some invisible, omnipotent, partly illiterate (!) force. The reality is that a group of ordinary students give up a great deal of their spare time to provide a free service with no more reward than personal satisfaction. Constructive criticism is the life-blood of any publication, but if all the energy that some people put into negative, abusive and short-sighted criticism were channelled into helping Y SEREN we would have the best Students newspaper in the country.

However, we acknowledge a mistake when we make one, and so a humble apology to those of you in halls who received the last issue a day late. Having flirted with death in the only form of transport left in the Union, which was not road-worthy, we decided it would be altogether safer to leave deliveries until the next day.

Editorial Co-ordinator.....	Nick Jones
Advertising Manager.....	Danlan Morsley
News Editor.....	Huw Williams
Arts Editor.....	Andy Ffrench
Features Editor.....	Jo Housley
Science Editor.....	Joe Creed
Women's Editor.....	Emma Clayton
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	Rick Peterson
	Angie Williams
	Karen George
Photography.....	Paul Gallantry
Art.....	Michael Smith
Editorial Board.....	Julia Damassa
	Helen Davies
	Toni Wyld
	John Teppitt
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	Dennis Perry
	Jon Wild
	Simon Ellis
	Tim Orrell
	Martin Parry
Printing.....	Copycat

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 students' union as a whole.

'Y Seren' is a publication of the UCNW Students' Union, Deiniol Road, Bangor (Tel Bangor 362075, x14). It is published free every fortnight during termtime.

would also ask Mr. Bob Stone to cast his mind back and ascertain how many members of the Labour Group voted against or even abstained from the acceptance of the SDP constitution. I believe he will find that the Labour Group were in favour of their formation as it would encourage political awareness within the Union.

As far as the next 'startling example' is concerned, it can be dismissed very briefly. I would again ask Mr. Bob Stone to substantiate his accusation of Labour Group opposition to the Conservative Society. Again the opposition came from private members stating no official political links. If Mr. Bob Stone would care to examine the members list of the Labour Group, he would find that the names of these speakers do not appear.

Finally, the Labour Group banner is never officially singled out and invited to be displayed at NUS demonstrations. The Anarchist Collective, the Conservative Society, the SDP Group or any other political organisation have just as much opportunity to advertise their presence. The

absence of their banners has no bearing whatsoever on the Labour Group.

I really do not see how the Labour Group can be accused of desiring absolute rule of the SU political societies. I would like to draw Mr. Stone's attention to a meeting on Monday 1st December between the Conservative Society and the Labour Group. This was arranged as a means for the two to air their political beliefs and as a discussion ground.

Mr. Stone talks about freedom of speech, I would like to suggest that he himself takes this concept too far and believes that he may make false and unjustified statements how and whenever he pleases. He may see himself as the protector of all the oppressed but in this case he has overstepped the mark. The Labour Group has been falsely and somewhat vindictively accused - possibly Mr. Stone has not seen his name in print often enough recently.

I suggest that Mr. Stone abandons his facile attempts at righteousness and bows down from student unionism for good.

Labour Group

LETTERS

DEAR Y SEREN

I would like to protest most strongly about the proposed reduction in portering on the College Road site.

I have been informed that very soon there will be only one overnight porter on the site, who is to be based in Neuadd John Morris Jones, a mixed hall of residence.

The envisaged new security measures for Rathbone (card-entry system and video camera monitored from JMU) are woefully weak and inadequate for an all-female hall.

I surely do not need to point out the risks involved when cards are lost, stolen, lent, and, for obvious reasons, I refrain from stating other ways in which the new 'security' system can be breached.

Already Rathbone, as an all-female hall, attracts peeping Toms and exhibitionists in quite startling regularity for such a small semi-rural city. In the light of these lesser crimes, it cannot have escaped your notice that each day more and more horrifying crimes and assaults are committed against women in a society that, while not condoning such attacks, certainly does very little to deter them (I remind you of the recent Ealing Vicarage rape case).

I would therefore like to propose that if indeed there must be a reduction in portering levels, Neuadd Rathbone should retain the porter on its premises overnight. The porter serves as a deterrent to undesirable visitors, and provides the females of Rathbone with true security, and so should remain easily accessible to them.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Parkinson (Tutor, Neuadd Rathbone)

Dear Sir,

Re 'University - A Great Crack', the reporter seems remarkably ill informed. For not only is J.P. Sartre's 'L'Existentialisme est un humanisme' a set book for first year Philosophy, but Existentialism is studied in more detail in both the French and Philosophy departments. The Philosophy Existentialism course in available is available to any arts student as an subsidiary subject. Careful scrutiny of 'L'Existentialisme est un humanisme' would also show that Sartre is mistaken in many of his assertions. I hope, Mr. Gopher, that this letter has set you right and that you will use your column to help save the Philosophy Department.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,
Simon Raynard

Dear 'Y Seren',

Your last edition again chose to ignore the work of ROSTRA, the Union's own drama society. This is the third consecutive ROSTRA production that has been absent from your reviews pages, in what amounts to a total boycott of this academic year's work.

ROSTRA, who made commendable progress last term deserve better.

Is the victimisation of this group now editorial policy?

John Doone

Yours,

Terry Westwood

Dear 'Y Seren',

I knew this was going to happen. One mistake and I'm an outcast from society. I would ask your indulgence for a moment, while I set the record straight about my disgustingly ill-thought out remarks a couple of issues ago. I have already admitted to, and apologised for the only mistake I believe I made and don't really feel I have to justify my remarks any further, however, I would not wish the readers of 'Y Seren' to get the idea that there was any kind of personal vindictiveness between me and the Labour Group.

One small point, though. When I made my disgraceful remark about the Labour Club banner at NUS demos, the only crime of which I am guilty is, perhaps, not expressing myself clearly enough. Yes, what I thought I implied, was that it is about time other political societies dragged out their banners and made their presence felt. Look at the cover of the 'No Chance Fowler' issue of 'Y Seren', last year. You can't actually see anything identifying the demonstrators as members of our union, only the Labour banner. It's not the Labour students' fault, but isn't that misleading?

As to any accusations of being patronising, I think the feeling behind my initial letter can be summed up by the eminent thinker Voltaire, when he said 'I disagree with your opinions, but I will fight to the death for your right to speak them'. If I am patronising, it's nice to know I'm in such good company.

I eagerly await the flood of replies to this letter, but can I just suggest that before you reply, you read what I've said, not what you want me to have said?

Yours sincerely,
Bob Stone

Dear Sir

I write in response to the article that appeared in the last issue of Y Seren concerning student grants and loans.

The present Government does set great store by higher education because it recognises that those of us who take advantage of the opportunities it offers will benefit not only ourselves, but the nation as a whole, contributing not only to our economy, but also to our culture. It is encouraging to note that there are now more students in higher education than ever before in the history of this country; 25% more than in 1978/9. This welcome expansion brings with it an obvious cost. The Government's argument is that the latest student awards settlement cannot be seen in isolation from the general economic climate and the need to control public expenditure.

Public expenditure on higher education in this country costs the taxpayer around £3,000m for tuition and research alone and over £600m for student maintenance. In 1986/7 the full cost of tuition alone for an arts course will be in excess of £3,500, for science courses it will be around £4,000, for clinical courses it will approach £8,500. By any standard this is a very size-

able subsidy. The Government quite rightly points out that our student support system is very generous when compared with those of other countries in the west, the fact that we spend a much higher proportion of our G.N.P. on maintenance grants than most other, often for richer, western nations, but one must beware of mechanical comparisons.

The argument against a loans policy, which I must stress the Government does not have, whatever the Labour Group might say, is strong.

It is true that the value of the grant has gone down under this government; this is not a new event - it has gone down in value under successive governments both Conservative and Labour since its introduction in 1962/63.

Finally, it is interesting to note that the committee which was looking into student awards was conservative dominated and advocated a substantial increase in the maintenance part of the grant. I myself, whilst being a supporter of this Government in many ways, am not in favour of a student loan system like many Conservative MPs, and have written to George Walden, MP, who is chairing the Review currently taking place, expressing my viewpoint and the reasons behind it. The Review is open to representations and advice from every source and I would like to suggest that all students who feel strongly on this issue do not waste their time, and others', by engaging in futile sit-ins, which in my view do not achieve anything, except disruption of work, and write to the Committee expressing their opposition to such a system.

Sincerely yours

Gareth Jones (student), Chairman
Clwyd North-West Young Conservatives

Dear 'Y SEREN',

I wish to draw attention to an article published in 'Y SEREN' on FEB 9th this year concerning entrance to the union after 10.30pm.

The writer of this article seemed to have the impression that the Union had somehow changed its policy on allowing members and non-members alike into the Union building after 10.30pm. I would like now to inform the writer of some facts which contradict his presumptions.

There has never been or will never be a Union policy on times of entrance late at night, simply because it is ILLEGAL for us to allow entry to ANYONE after 10.30pm. We have a club licence, and the legal restrictions of such a licence, (and indeed, almost all other licensing laws) provides that no-one is to have access to the building after 10.30pm. So you see, dear readers and author, the Union cannot have a policy on admission to the Union building EVEN IF IT WANTED, so the statement that Union policy has changed - and even more the implication that the staff has any influence on such matters - is ludicrous and unfounded. In future I suggest the writer researches the facts behind his presumptions, which would I believe prevent the self-embarrassment

caused by composing such inaccurate garbage.

Michael Saunders

EDITORIAL NOTE

I will begin by pointing out to those who, like Mr. Saunders, suggested that 'the writer researches the facts behind the presumptions' just how Mr. Ffrench went about researching this story in particular. Having been told by several students that a change of policy had taken place he then interviewed more than one Union Bouncer who verified a change in their instructions. Mr. Ffrench then interviewed the General Secretary, who is by definition accountable to the SU on matters such as this, and finally having written his story based upon the information given by these sources he presented it, with all other submitted articles, to the Editorial Board. This Board which, amongst other things, is able to read all articles to decide whether or not they should be permitted, decided that this article was quite acceptable. If Mr. Ffrench or any other many of our staff are expected to do more than this before an article is printed I suggest that he or she be made a sabbatical reporter so that they need not devote any time to their degree.

At this point, with reference to the 'offending article' it is probably worth drawing the attention of those who objected to the distinction, an important one here, between the word policy and the words Union Policy. It is so easy to forget that the Union does not have exclusive rights to this word, and that 'policy' humbly exists in its own independent right. The students and bouncers that Mr Ffrench interviewed did not make this distinction, and he was quite within his rights to voice this misapprehension (the only point in the article at which the words 'Union Policy' are used). Mr Ffrench will be the first to admit that his article does not stress that this policy (not Union policy) is the law, but by informing our readership that nobody will be allowed into the Union after 10.30p.m. he can only make implementing the law a lot easier.

While on this note I would also like to point out that there are ways of making constructive criticisms without stooping to personal attacks or open rudeness. I sincerely believe that by drawing attention to genuine mistakes Y SEREN makes, or observing ways in which we could do better, our readers can only help us provide a better service. However, all too often this criticism is destructive, pedantic and directed personally.

The spirit of free debate lives on in 'Y Seren', though some would say it resembles more of a free-for-all. If there's anything which inspires you to put pen to paper in a rampant fury or rational argument, we want to hear about it. All letters must have your name on them, though we will withhold it if you ask us to.

NEWS

Red Stripe Blues

CHRISTMAS - PARTY - SAT 13-12-86

13 CASES RED STRIPE £237-12
 1/2 CASE WEBSTERS £-7-80
 3 CRATES NEWCASTLE £28-00P
 9 BOTTLES STRONGBOW £13-05P
 4 BOTTLES LEMONADE £-2-40P
 4 BOTTLES COKE £-3-
 £291-45

Karen James

THE INVOICE IN QUESTION

'If some drink has gone missing, it has gone missing clandestinely' said Ms. James. There was still a great deal of doubt whether the Ents Crew actually received the aforementioned 13 cases of Red Stripe, etc. that evening. To quell any doubts the General Secretary and the 'Y Seren' reporters asked Roger Coates, the administrator of the Union, if he would check stocktaking figures to discover finally whether or not this large list of drinks was given out by the bar that evening.

On Thursday the 12th of February, Mr Coates told 'Y Seren' that after looking at Bar paperwork, he found it to be completely in order. All the relevant paperwork tallies with the bar stock reports. Therefore it is now beyond doubt that the Ents Crew received £419.91 worth of alcohol on the evening of the Christmas Ball. Mr. Coates asked 'Y Seren' to state 'anything beyond the bar managers paperwork being in order is pure

speculation'.

One can only therefore speculate where that vast sea of alcohol disappeared to that evening. Due to this abuse of privilege there is now a lager-tight system in operation. The General Secretary now requisitions in advance such refreshments as are required by the bands and bona fide Stage Crew and Ents personnel. There is continual negotiation between the General Secretary and the Stage Manager in an attempt to define a limited crew for the evening. If people from outside the University here about the night the Red Stripe never ran dry this will undoubtedly prove tricky.

On Thursday night Ents brought the excellent 'Michelle Shocked' to the Union. Keep up the good work, but keep the bar bills down. It will take a lot of money to bring her back to Bangor.

A. Ffrench.

Loans Campaign

On Wednesday 4th February six members of the NUS National Executive went to 10 Downing Street to launch the "Living Grant, Not Life in Debt Campaign" and Students Unions nationwide have made their own contributions to the campaign in the Week of Action from February 9th to 13th. Here in Bangor a strike from lectures was held on the morning of Wednesday 11th February, and both Science and Arts buildings were picketed. In view of the importance of this campaign against one of the most regressive proposals yet to threaten Higher Education, the turn out was disappointing. Nevertheless, at the New Arts Building in particular the strike was effective in drawing the attention of the local press.

On the same evening a pre-arranged sit-in at the New Arts Building was successfully carried out by over thirty students who remained in the Richards room from 9p.m. till 10.30 a.m. of Thursday morning. Spirits were kept high throughout the night by video entertainment and copious amounts of alcohol. NUS Wales President, Kevin Holdridge, and Deheubarth Area Convenor, Alan Davies came to lend their support and were able to report the success of the Campaign throughout Wales.

Aberystwyth Students Union decided overwhelmingly to give their support to the march and rally to be held in London on 21st February. In Dyfed over one hundred and fifty students assembled in Carmarthen to lobby Dyfed County Council to pass a charter for Education opposing loans and to support a minimum grant of £35 per week. This was the biggest turn out for a student demonstration in this area for five years and is a clear indication of the strength of feeling against the loans system. Furthermore, in Gorsheiniog and Neath one day strikes took place on 12th February and on the same day students in Cardiff held a demonstration.

All of this is a tremendous encouragement and local authorities have surely got the message, but the final effort will come on Wednesday 4th March when a lobby of Parliament takes place.

With local elections in May and a General Election looming large on the horizon this term is the last chance that we as students will have to affect the way the nation votes. If the Conservatives are re-elected we can expect another four or five years of further attacks. It is almost certain that the loans system will be introduced and a definite possibility that membership of the Students Union will be made voluntary. Since 1979 this government has repeatedly created legislation to weaken Students Unions and to break the spirit of youth if we now allow this to continue we can only look forward to a Higher Education system with no say in its own development, and only available to those able to afford to pay for it. Find out more about student loans and support your Union in its fight to stop them.

Nick Jones

JAZZ BAR - The Full Story

'THE GRAND OPENING'

On Thursday 5th January the refurbished Jazz Bar was given its 'grand opening'. A jazz band were hired to add a little something to the newly-created atmosphere, a 10p price reduction was made on all beers, the President was there, the Union Administrator was there, the General Secretary and various other members of the Executive were all there. Despite this build-up one could hardly describe the Jazz Bar that night as more than moderately filled when one might have expected it to be ten deep at the bar and barely room enough to breathe. The obvious reason for this is that publicity for that night was, to say the least, poor. Ideally an event of this importance, the opening of a completely changed bar at considerable cost to the Students' Union, should have been one of the most important Union publicity campaigns. The actual attempt to attract or at least inform students consisted of leafletting the Halls of Residence the afternoon of the opening day. If this bar is to pay for itself it must attract a great deal more custom than it has done in the past, and if the opening night is anything to go by it is presented with an uphill task. This is not the place to make personal judgements on the aesthetic appeal of the new interior decor of the bar, but questions must be asked about the designs chosen.

'THE FUTURE'

The old Jazz Bar was by no means perfect as a band venue, but at least it was small enough for the Union to be able to afford to invite local bands to play there. The new Jazz Bar creates its own new problems. Firstly, the brass rail fittings that separate the seating alcoves will make watching a band particularly difficult. Also, with the disco turntables moved to the side of the dance-floor, there will no longer be room to store a band's equipment and use the dance-floor in between sessions.

The General Secretary, Toni Wyld, says that there is at present no decision whether or not gigs will be held in the new bar. Local Band Support Group representative Pete Townshend told 'Y Seren', "We're determined to have local bands in the Jazz Bar, one way or another". Though it has to be said that neither Mr. Townshend nor stage crew made any objections to the plans, nevertheless it will be more difficult to use the 'Jazz Bar' for live music.

Not only do these changes threaten to ruin the local and student band scene, but the 'Alternative' discos which used to be so popular in the Jazz Bar will, excuse the pun, have to find an alternative venue too. Whatever your musical tastes may be, and whatever you think of this kind of disco, it has to be said that the Thursday night Slum has always been one of the best-patronised Union events. Though Community Action who organize 'The Slum'

intend to continue this event, the new Jazz Bar atmosphere and look are unlikely to go down as well in this camp.

Despite all this, it has to be said that the decor is of a very high standard and has turned what was a rather bleak place to spend an evening into a bar with pleasant and comfortable surroundings. If it's a quiet drink in an up-market atmosphere that you're after, then this is the place to go.

'THE PRICE'

Last year's Executive approached Crown Suppliers about the refurbishment of the Jazz Bar and in July the plan was put to the new Executive who considered it to be totally unsuitable and too expensive. Crown Suppliers, the property Suppliers Agency of the Government were then asked for a better proposal. Crown Suppliers are on the National Students Supplies list because their enormous purchasing ability enables them to provide equipment at discount prices for publically funded bodies such as the Student's Union. In the past the Union has made use of this, buying office and bar equipment, the laundrette fittings and the mini-buses from this company. Again the quote given in this instance was cheaper than that of any previous company. Happy with the design and the price of £14,500 including VAT, the Executive were able to give Crown Suppliers the contract and allow work to begin.

It was at this point that events took a turn for the worse. Just before the end of last term Mr David Rolands of Crown Suppliers claimed that in the rush to give an estimate before the end of the term, he and his designer had miscalculated on a number of points; £1,500 worth to be exact, and with these few 'adjustments' and 'extras' the new figure was £16,000. With only a matter of days before the vacation the Executive agreed to the change in price so that the refurbishment could be done while the building was empty over Christmas.

Work began on 5th January and the Executive returned at the beginning of term to find another letter from Crown Suppliers. This time their most recently discovered 'miscalculation' was to the tune of £4,000. Mr Rolands claimed that this miscalculation was because of the high quality of the fittings such as the brass rails, formica surfaces and the light track, which added considerably to the original 'round figure estimate'. Understandably the Students' Union Administrator consulted Solicitors and the contractor was threatened with legal action. Though this may seem a clear cut case, and there is little doubt that the Students' Union would have won in court, it was nevertheless considered imprudent to take such action. Government bodies are infamously difficult to defeat in court and taking on such a case would have meant leaving the Jazz Bar half-built for the two or more years it normally takes for a ruling to be made. Even

if the Union had been recompensed for cost and for the loss of revenue from the Jazz Bar, the inconvenience this would cause was enough to deter the Union from suing Crown Suppliers.

Unsurprisingly, Crown Suppliers were also anxious to avoid legal action and so a compromise was offered whereby design and consultancy fees were waived, reducing the final price to £18,500, still £4,000 more than the original estimate. Crown Suppliers would probably argue that without their ability to purchase fittings at very low prices this job would have cost in the region of £30,000. However a company is only as good as its word and in this instance the Students' Union, who spend thousands of pounds a year with Crown Suppliers, were badly let down.

'DAMAGE'

The most recent chapter in the saga of disaster that the Jazz Bar is becoming, is the damage that was caused on the opening night. A metal object, probably a key, was dragged along one of the brass rail fittings; in two separate places, chunks have been cut out of the woodwork; the carpet and the vinyl in front of the bar are both covered in cigarette burns; and a button was pulled out of one of the bench seats. In addition to this damage, cans were deliberately shaken to spray beer on the ceiling, a particularly dangerous act in view of the wiring running to the newly-fitted spot-lamps.

The two fitters and the upholsterer, who had only days previously put the finishing touches to their work, were extremely upset by what had happened and were kind enough to make repairs simply out of good will and pride in their work.

Nick Jones

Rathbone Portering

In addition to the changes proposed in the College portering and security system, as revealed in the last issue of 'Y Seren', we have now received details of the changes in the portering at Neuadd Rathbone. Because only one porter will be available for overnight duties on the Rathbone/JMJ site, the following system is being implemented.

- The Hall will be locked at 11p.m. each night, but each resident will be issued with an electronic pass card.

- Visitors to the Hall who arrive after 11p.m. will collect a card from the porter in MJM on production of a Union card, if a student, or some other identification if a non student.

- There will be a TV camera in the foyer of Rathbone, with a monitor in the porter's lodge in MJM, though no recordings will be made, and the porter will only be able to see the door and foyer.

Wylfa - Safe?

In January the reactor of Wylfa nuclear power station was 'shut-down' for a short period due to a wiring fault. However, the real reason is more complex, and further shutdowns are likely. This negligible incident reveals major problems at the plant, and suspicion over its safety, not only for the workers, but for the whole surrounding area.

The person who alerted the press to the incident was Labour prospective candidate for Anglesey, Mr Colin Parry. After talking to the Central Electricity Generating Board (C.E.G.B.) demanding an explanation, he was placated.

Mr Parry was told that the shut-down was due to a failsafe mechanism, which entailed that when a level of radioactive production is too low then the fuel rods fall into the reactor, causing what Mr Parry called an "operational rather than emergency shutdown".

However, this incident highlights major problems at the plant, typified by a below normal energy production. Mr Ray Razell admitted that "our output is 100 megawatts short", which is 12% short for a station that should produce 2% of the entire national grid; a loss of £1 million a week.

There are two causes for this low level of production. To maintain energy production a radioactivity level in the reactor has to be consistently high. To sustain this there needs to be a constant supply and removal of fuel. However, for the last two and a half years, the fuel handling system has been subject to low availability (defunct occasionally). And secondly, the crane that stores the irradiated waste has been non-operational (defunct totally) for the same period.

In theory the waste is trucked off to Sellafield (Windscale) to be processed. But due to the accidental discovery of cracks in the crane (rendering it non-operational) there's been an accumulation of 800 tons of waste at the site. It is stored inside special containers, of doubtful 'lifetime', according to Mr Parry of anything from 7 to 50 years.

A new crane has been installed but is not in operation as yet due to "sideways movement of the crane rails" (Mr Razell). And removal of the present waste could take 4 years.

The public are now being invited to "look around" the plant. And also there will be videos shown in Anglesey village halls of what would happen at the site in the event of an emergency.

Huw Williams

- An intercom will be installed in the foyer so that residents will be able to talk to the porter in MJM.

These measures are intended to maintain security levels in the halls with the reduction of staff. However, tutors and residents at the hall have expressed concern as to the safety of these measures.

Bob Stone

He was there.....



.....They were there.....Where were you?



When Mr. Jones came to see me about a car loan, he hadn't expected to leave with a school fee plan as well.

When Julie left university, she was looking for a challenging career. One that would allow her to learn while working and help her develop her abilities to the full.

So she approached NatWest. But even then she'd never imagined how interesting banking could be. Less than two years after joining she has a very responsible job, assisting her manager by dealing with personal customers. Soon she hopes to transfer to Marketing, for as Julie says, "That's one of the ways forward in modern banking."

NatWest is one of the world's biggest financial organisations. With active interests in areas as diverse as mining and mineral exploration, travel and communications. Large international projects are important to us. But so are the needs of small businesses and individuals at home. Our banking professionals still spend a lot of time dealing directly with the public and with their colleagues.

Julie enjoys her job. It takes her out and about, meeting customers. And she never knows what each new day will bring. One man came to see her about a car loan, and she ended up helping to arrange his pension, and a plan for his children's school fees as well.

The face of banking has changed. And so have the opportunities it holds for energetic and determined graduates. Whether you're male or female, black or white we offer a highly defined career path, and rapid promotion on merit. Above all, we'll treat you as an individual, recognising your needs and helping you develop your talents. So if, like Julie, you're looking for responsibility and the rewards that go with it, get in touch with us. Write now, and see how NatWest can give you a new perspective on banking.

Nigel Shaw, Graduate Appointments Manager, National Westminster Bank PLC, 6th Floor, 27 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 1AS.



THE ACTION BANK · WHERE EVERY JOB IS OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

WOMEN

My own awareness of the use of sexual discrimination as a means of advertising had existed within the limited framework of the obvious imagery of female decoration, and the 'housewife - inferiority' theme. I recognized and condemned its existence, but had never really acknowledged the damage behind the various themes used.

This was sharpened last year when Marjorie Lee, from the Women's Media Action Group, came to talk to the Women's Group about sexual exploitation in the media. Beginning with a comment on her age, and the fact that she was considered too old for the Liberated Young Woman slot - leading to a refusal of an appearance on 'Watch the Woman' - she went on to illustrate how older women are not usually used as a means of advertising. Any ad using them is more likely to exploit the emotionally unstable position of women during such physical changes as pregnancy or the menopause - when various drug manufacturers can charge to the rescue of breakdown/suicide - than sell the more youthful, physically conventional woman.

The need to generate a greater awareness of the existence of sexism in the media is necessary to enlighten both men and women. Lee recalled how she had had to educate Jenny Lecoat - TV's 'ultra-feminist' - on various areas of media discrimination, simply because its presence is not exposed in a very widespread form. The exploitation is damaging to both sexes, deluding both men and women from birth to death, and its recognition is an important contribution to its erasure.

Although many women are ignorant

of the various ways in which their sex is exploited, the majority of the problem lies with the attitude of men. Ms Lee made a strong point of showing how, because there is a great male shadow overhanging much of the packaging and marketing process of women in the media, the themes underlying much of the advertising show women imprisoned within the boundaries of Male Idealism. The realisation of this in the media results in the selling of Body Posture, showing how fashions designed for women by men place emphasis on vulnerability and sexual availability, where the female form is pleasing to the male eye, (no doubt because she can't escape from him in her high heels). This male conception of female also results in the presentation of 'the women's place', her association with food, and the competitive relationship she has with other women, as well as men.

Ms Lee showed how women are rarely presented standing straight on both feet, producing the example of an ad for a vacuum cleaner, where the model high-kicked in her pink tracksuit while she hovered the floor, adopting a posture impossible without the endurance of some physical inconvenience, such as being wired up to something. This advert was supposed to portray an active, 'modern' female, which although a move away from the traditional, more glamorous use of women as decoration, is just as physically exploitative, since the use of the body is sold just as obviously as it would be if the model were draped across the Hoover.

Lee introduced the idea of amputative images of women, whereby the female body is presented in stages,

or 'broken up' pictures, to focus attention exclusively on the body, completely cancelling out the woman as anything more than meat. The legs used in the advertising of tights and stockings is probably the most obvious of these images, although this is often coupled with the female bent over - as in an ad featuring the caption that the stockings used were 'all a woman needs' - and the origins of this lie in the gesture of inferiority undertaken by the loser of an ape fight! This idea of submission features strongly in ads from chewing gum, where the more-than-semi-naked girl leaps onto the roof of her man's car and puts chewing gum into his mouth; to fitted kitchens, where we are presented with a sleeping, dreaming housewife lying in bed amidst the security of cooker, fridge and washing machine.

Probably one of the most obvious examples of Male Domination in advertising is the description of a heater as 'something slim, warm, attractive and under control', which directs itself towards the woman lying on top of it.

Adverts placing emphasis on competition with other women result in a withdrawal of competition with men, and the messages behind such ads as the careless, silly girl who cuts her leg from shaving because she didn't use a Ladyshave like her friend, or Twiggy using her Little Girl image of the 60s to promote face cream, or the general use of conventionally beautiful women to advertise products, result in a conveyance of inferiority and guilt for target female consumers. Guilt is something the media men pounce on when advertising food, since it is assumed that the average female

is continually dissatisfied with her shape, and therefore any temptation for non-slimming food is wound up with devilish themes of temptation. The woman herself is often portrayed as the 'Dish of the Day', examples of which include the amputative images of a tanned body accompanied by the sound of sausages sizzling and the promotion of suntan lotion with a woman lying among a row of lobsters while she 'browns gently'.

I think the most disturbing aspect of the lifeblood of sexist advertising is the adaptation of soft pornography in everyday ads; stemming from such obvious images as the phallic symbols of chocolate bars and lipsticks, to the less blatant themes of women as food, and sexually available body posture.

Over recent years advertising has become even more open in sexual discrimination and the recognition of and active response to this lies in a more widespread acceptance of how it occurs, for both males and females, particularly the latter in the emergence of pornographic links, since men are more familiar with these than women.

The abolition of a carpet ad featuring pictures of a woman captioned 'simple to strip, easy to lay' is an example of how it is possible to combat the problem. 'Boycotting' any product promoted through the medium of sexual exploitation is an effective method of drawing attention to what is a very harmful area of sexism, since the media influences so many people.

Emma Clayton

C.A.

Well, the strain of being a full-time pillar of society and leader of the community has finally told on our beloved organiser: Pete has been temporarily withdrawn from service to have his organs restored to normal.

A brief power struggle in the office, followed by a coup d'état on the only working pen, (who is stealing our pens?), and here I am bringing you the latest news and views from the centre of the universe, behind Pete's desk.

By the time you read this the speech therapy project will have got going. (Well done Issy!) We could still do with some Welsh speaking volunteers for this though; if anyone is interested contact Isabelle Huggell c/o C.A. office in the Student's Union. The 'Slum' discos should have restarted as well, despite the peculiar physical obstacles someone has put all over the dance floor. Don't forget all proceeds are donated to local community groups, so it's a much better place to spend your money than the Belle Vue.

Well what can a thirty year old unemployed Bangor resident tell you about the community that will match the insight and wit of our (salaried?)

organiser. Voluntary organisations find themselves in a bit of a dilemma under the present government, in that they (the Government) are making some comparatively large sums of money available to voluntary groups, on the tacit understanding that the groups will take on a large part of the work undertaken by statutory bodies and Local Government Authorities. The voluntary work is then used as a 'justification' for cuts in spending on social services, health and education. Since most people who join a group such as C.A. do so because they care about things, they are not normally in a position to withdraw their labour, and can occasionally find themselves in situations far beyond the abilities of people who lack specialist professional training.

There is little that charities and organisations of charitable status, can do to protest this state of affairs as their political activities are severely limited by this state of severely limited by legislation. At present the Charities Act of 1960 permits such groups to "inform and influence political opinion" and little else; and even this limited freedom is threatened by the Local

Government Bill currently passing through Parliament. If this bill becomes law, voluntary groups may find themselves in a position where they cannot speak out on any subject on which a politician has expressed an opinion, for fear of being accused of "ultra vires" activities. Since most such groups are only too happy to accept what Government money comes their way, they can find themselves actually contributing to the decline in standards of living and the inequality of distribution of wealth that we have witnessed over the last eight years.

So, what can we do? The answer, I feel, is to define exactly what a voluntary group's role in its locality can be, and take care not to go beyond that role into areas that require professionals. C.A.'s main role, I feel, and one in which it has made some major achievements, is in the integration of college and town. Three thousand relatively well off young people can cause a lot of resentment in a town with 20% unemployment if they insist on regarding themselves as something special and separate from the rest of the world. Fortunately, this sit-

uation in recent years seems to have consistently improved. Large numbers of children, elderly people, mentally handicapped people and the "disadvantaged" eagerly await their weekly visits from "the students". The C.A. office is as likely to be staffed by non-students as students, "locals" are active in many union societies and standing committees, and discos are, in general, events that everyone enjoys irrespective of their place of origin or social status. The intrusion of a couple of local heavies one week is of no more lasting significance than the attitude of a small minority of the Union hierarchy towards the local music scene. Having myself witnessed a stabbing outside a Union disco six years ago, I find the current state of affairs a "pleasure to behold" and I feel Community Action and its campaigns over the last few years, has played a large part in bringing it about. Hopefully, this level of achievement will be maintained and even increased over the years to come, in spite of the legislative obstacles and the selfishness of minorities. Backslaps all round to the C.A. volunteers and the open-minded majorities: keep up the good work!!

ARTS

book reviews

SARAH KEAYS: A QUESTION OF JUDGMENT
Sarah Keays' autobiographical book is a lucid, well-documented account of her affair with Cecil Parkinson, how he betrayed her in an attempt to save his political career, and of her subsequent ordeal with the Press when it became publicly known that she was pregnant by Mr Parkinson and that she was not going to have an abortion.

The book illustrates the dishonest and unpleasant nature of the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. The day before polling day 1983 he attempts to persuade Sarah Keays to have an abortion. She refuses. He then breaks off the relationship. Sarah Keays' father writes to the Prime Minister to inform her of Mr Parkinson's behaviour towards his daughter. It is only because of this correspondence that Mr Parkinson is not awarded the post of Foreign Secretary. A series of broken promises from Mr Parkinson follow until finally he is forced to issue a statement to the Press about his relationship with Miss Keays. There is intense wrangling over the wording of this initial press statement in order that he should come over in the best light possible.

A great deal of the book deals with the poor conduct of the Press. Almost unanimously they put forward the view that Parkinson's career should not be sacrificed or affected because of his private life, and that Miss Keays should have had an abortion. By not having one she is attempting to stir things up and exact revenge on Parkinson. This was simply not true: Miss Keays illustrates how the good will of her family did everything possible not to damage the Government's reputation.

Newshounds frequently followed Miss Keays from London to her home in Bath and camped outside her

house, waiting for one of the members of her family to appear. The Daily Express on one occasion printed an entirely fictional story about Miss Keays making her entrance into the House of Commons, and standing underneath Gladstone's statue. She was not in the country at the time. This story had been approved by a Government whip. The book interestingly reveals the system whereby ministers brief reporters 'on Lobby terms' to 'tone down' bad news and 'soften up' or colour the public view of certain events or policies.

In attempting to save her reputation Miss Keays came up against the combined forces of Downing Street and Fleet Street. Her house in London was burgled and searched, although nothing of value was taken. The book suggests it is a possibility that the government were looking for incriminating letters which were sent around Polling Day on the subject of Mr Parkinson's conduct and Miss Keays' pregnancy. After Miss Keays' child has been born she endeavours to find out why her name has been removed from the Approved List of Parliamentary Candidates by the Conservative Central Office. Her name is officially returned to the List although she never again hears from Central Office about constituencies which she could stand for.

In writing a well-documented account of the unpleasant affairs of 1983 involving herself and Mr Parkinson, Sarah Keays has succeeded in righting some of the wrongs that were attributed to her character, primarily by the Press, who were being continually briefed by the Government. The book is clearly written and very readable. This stems a great deal from the powerful indignation of Miss Keays when she finds how difficult it is for the individual to fight against the combined powers of the Government and the Press. This book illustrates how she attempts to do this and succeeds in re-establishing a reputation sullied by the national newspapers.

A. FFRENCH

innocently attended one for treatment to his elbow.

Rumpole's unwitting torture of the petrified judge adds to the comedy which is found throughout the book. He relishes the thought of finding out which big wigs were stupid enough to pay for the services of the masseuse by credit card, which almost causes poor Judge Featherstone to flee to Ibiza and open a bar. In Chambers, Rumpole is seen as the member who lowers the tone of their proceedings, what with his representing the ring of Massage Parlours, and seedy criminals such as the entire Timson family. He has no qualms about insulting his colleagues: Soapy Sam Boliard and Hearthrug (Hearthstoke), as they complain more politely about his behaviour. Foremost in Rumpole's mind, if not the consumption of excellent food and drink (preferably paid for by someone else), is the way in which he comes over in court. He works out where he'll get a laugh from the Jury, and where he may get a stern growl from the Judge.

JOHN MORTIMER: RUMPOLE'S LAST CASE

Horece Rumpole may not be your idea of a modern hero - he doesn't drive a fast, snazzy car, have endless glamorous girlfriends or a hunky body - but he does have that valuable knack of being wittily amusing. John Mortimer's *Rumpole's Last Case* is the kind of book that anyone who enjoys a good laugh can really appreciate.

For those of you who don't know anything at all about Rumpole (shame on you!) he is an ageing barrister with the equally unsavoury burdens of a dragon-like wife known as She Who Must Be Obeyed, and a forever expanding overdraft ('you mean students aren't the only people with those?!')

He is definitely a unique, rather eccentric character, ranked with Pickwick and Sherlock Holmes. He is looked down upon by his colleagues at 3 Equity Court for wearing the same old mac and frequently over-indulging in 'Chateau Thames Embankment'. One of the best stories in this latest collection concerns the plight of a judge who sites a case about Health Centres-cum-Hanky-Panky Centres in Greater London, having

PAUL THEROUX: THE MOSQUITO COAST

Have you ever dreamt about getting away from it all? Escaping to an exotic country in the sun? No doubt you have, maybe one day you will - Allie Fox is just one man who tried.

Allie is the eccentric protagonist of Paul Theroux's disturbing and somewhat oppressive novel, 'The Mosquito Coast', published in 1981 when it was named the Yorkshire Post's Novel of the Year. In this, and his many other works, Theroux draws upon his experiences of life in Africa, juxtaposing the civilised but static existence within a modern American city and the primitive yet enticing jungles of mosquito-ridden Honduras. It is here that Allie searches for his dream, after abandoning civilisation and its corruption.

Bursting with optimism he sells his possessions and takes his family across the seas to Honduras. Not even the run-down, miserable town that greets them dampens Allie's enthusiasm, but his son Charlie (the narrator) and the rest of the family are filled with dismay. Allie pushes on, purchasing what he believes to be a jungle town called Jeronimo, which turns out to be merely a group of desolate bush-homes.

Allie immediately sets about the task of building a settlement, sowing seeds and using his inventive know-how to the full. Amid the insects and reptiles Jeronimo flourishes. Full of confidence, Allie presses on with his crazy notion of building Fat-Boy, an ice-making machine in the jungle. Allie reverts to the capitalisation and technology that he has tried to escape and seeks power by trading with the ice. As the ice turns to water Allie's dream also melts - he becomes obsessive and infuriated by his failure. Charlie realises that his father has started to lie in a desperate attempt to maintain control. Even Allie's beloved Fat-Boy fails and under increasing strain he destroys Jeronimo to protect his dream from three gunmen whom he eventually murders. Exciting stuff, eh?

This enjoyable adventure story is tinged with sadness and humour, showing with frightening reality how far Man will go to achieve his dream. Theroux creates strong, believable characters and captures the reader's interest throughout with powerful description and an intensity of action that only relents upon the death of the central character.

Having read the book I look forward to seeing the film starring Harrison Ford, whose highly acclaimed performance as Allie Fox should not be missed.

KAREN GEORGE

Throughout his cases Rumpole - who most of us see as Leo McKern, the actor with the wonderful voice - maintains an air of detachment mocking the system which he is a part of. Having convinced himself that he is an outstanding barrister, he has no difficulty in convincing us that he is an entertaining, satisfying read.

JO HOUSLEY

Poetry

Why is it that neither the College nor the Students Union produces a magazine of poetry written by students in Bangor? After all, the College has produced some fine poets in the past.

In the past. Many people would say that R.S. Thomas is the best poet now writing in English; the same for Gwyn Thomas in Welsh. Both are graduates of Bangor.

This year the Students Union has agreed to provide £200 pounds for a magazine of poetry by students in the college, whether in English or Welsh. Approaches have been made to other bodies, such as the Welsh Arts Council, for the money to produce a magazine this year. We hope to publish it at the beginning of the Summer Term, but contributions are wanted as soon as possible.

If you write poetry which you'd like to be considered for publication in this magazine, whether in English or Welsh, get in touch with Peter Smith, Jeremy Hughes or Julia Demassa, either through the English Department or the Union letter rack: or you can place your poems in Y SEREN's office. We'd like to have them by the middle of March, to leave time for printing.

'...ON SEPTEMBER 1st, SUDDENLY.'

August; you freed blackberries from the barbed cage of stems. I painted late butterflies, but you always took flight before my brush could pin your detail. Then, there was still time.

The bramble leaves curl, reddened, rattling in a hard wind which has strengthened since your death

erasing the country of warmth. High beeches, unleafed, are stark against blue, a batik of copper cloud. Sheltered by the chalk snout of the Downs, our house is quiet under shrouds. A sediment of dust no longer lifted by our energy, records my leaving - tracefossils for others to read. I reduced your letters, photographs, to a whispering script of ash, saw from the crematorium, smoke etch on the clear blue-paper sky, and thought you forgotten, translated by fire.

But one picture I keep: black berries, cream shirt, faded blue against a spectrum of green. I add to it daily - safe, growing inside the studio of my head. Bleached December sunlight

lengthens across the hallway, touches me out of still-life. Tonight as I walk from the house you are everywhere; your print in the mud at the gate, the wind gasps your name, Your face flames in the photogenic sunset.

TIM ORRELL

HACDALENE 11th November 1985

BOOKS SUPPLIED BY

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Drama

Never was a play more aptly named than this one. TIME AND TIME AGAIN Alan Ayckbourn lures his unsuspecting audience into the bowels of Theatr Gwynedd with such exciting little numbers as "The Norman Conquests", "Way Upstream", Theatr Gwynedd's own "Relatively Speaking" and over the years a host of equally pathetic little pieces that at best provide an evening of slight entertainment and at worse bore anyone with a modicum of intelligence absolutely rigid.

Given that this was a production by Ayckbourn's own company, there was the smallest of hopes that this particular outing might have enlightened us on how the man himself liked to see his plays produced. Well the answer was clear if not exactly unequivocal, Mr Ayckbourn likes his plays to appear polished, well acted and stylishly set but he doesn't seem to care that the play itself is pure unadulterated dross.

The trouble with Mr Ayckbourn is that he wrote one average play and since then he has merely repeated the formula a further twenty three highly successful times. The audience laughed but then if you'd paid four quid to see a play you'd laugh or demand your money back at least.

Jack King.

MICHELLE SHOCKED

It seems an impossible task to do justice to what will surely be remembered as the gig of the year. On Thursday 12th February Michelle Shocked walked out into a packed Mandela Bar and introduced herself as our "folk singer for the night". Having forgotten to bring her guitar-strap Michelle perched her tiny frame precariously on a bar stool and with guitar on lap she began her set with '5 a.m. in Amsterdam' (as seen on 'The Tube!') From that moment until the end of the night, barring riotous applause, the Mandela Bar has never been so silent. We followed this wandering minstrel on her life's travels painted in the most vivid colour by her spell-binding lyrics. Michelle had her audience in the palm of her hand as she led us through her 'memories of East Texas' and just about every other land on this planet.

Twelve songs, or let's call them sung anecdotes, later we had been moved, we had laughed, but above all we had been entertained. Though always aware of the social comment behind Michelle's predominantly comic material we at no time felt we were

ZOO STORY

February 16th - 18th saw the first production in the new drama department rehearsal room, a room which is currently half-completed, but demonstrated considerable potential, certainly as a venue for lunchtime drama productions such as this.

The play, Edward Albee's brilliant, though difficult *Zoo Story* was performed by the now-familiar figures of Jack King and Andy Wiltshire, who admirably wrestled with

SCANNER

The television networks haven't made my job any easier recently. In the TV world, about the most spectacular occurrence was the seizure of BBC material by the Boys in Blue, which will mean that the most interesting documentary for years will not appear. Don't be at all surprised when James Anderton is appointed Director General.

After the initial flurry of new programmes in the New Year, all the stations have settled into something of a rut. Still, there are some shows I didn't mention last time. I am occasionally impressed with *Rockcliffe's Babies*, though it is a far remove from *The Bill*. I can't decide if I like the characters or not. Sergeant Rockcliffe, impressively played by Ian Hogg is repellent, and 'The Babies' vary from the interesting to the idiotic. It may be an entertaining series, but it's hardly an advert for the Mat.

I eagerly awaited the next Screen Two presentation, after the sterling start to the season, particularly as it was written by Michael Palin. It wasn't exactly a ripping yarn, but it was amusing enough to while away an evening. On ITV at the time

was *The World According to Smith and Jones*, which is the sort of show which is good as a sketch, but drags on as a series, especially when you use the same jokes from week to week. However, when you compare it with the other 'comedy' shows around at the moment, it's hilarious. Oh for a bit of originality.

One little ray of hope is the appearance of the new Steven Bochco series *LA Law* which, as you might imagine, is *Hill St. Blues* meets *Perry Mason* and comes off better. It has all the essential elements of a Bochco series, even down to a Mike Post theme tune. It looks like being compulsory Thursday night viewing, even though it, *Hill St. Blues* and *St. Elsewhere* all beg the question - why is it that Americans, in whatever job they do, cannot do a full days work without encountering moral dilemmas at every turn? You get the idea they'd all be a lot better at their jobs if they wasted less time sighing into the cameras and wondering 'My God, why am I doing this? Perhaps I'm in the wrong job.'

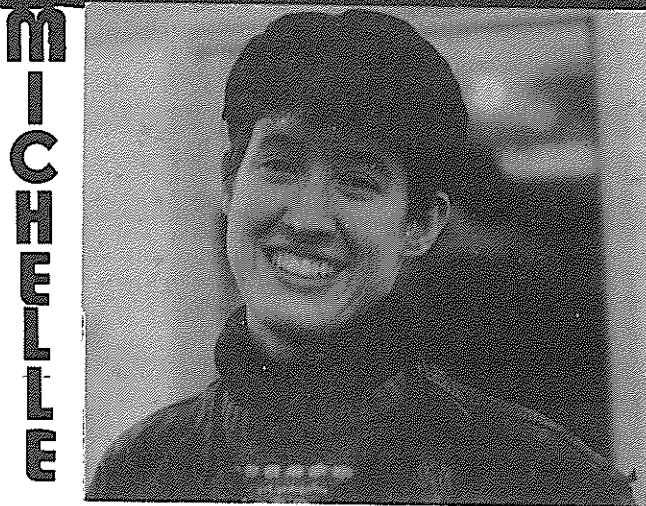
Soap buffs will probably be wondering why I haven't mentioned my favourite subject recently. There's simply nothing to write about. So Gail Tilsley dropped her sprog and it's probably Brian's. I hope they get it all sorted out soon, because

nine months is a hell of a long time to keep a storyline going. I did see the at Mehmet's behaviour in *East Enders*, I do worry about little Annie, and Arthur's scenes are still harrowing, but it's about time there was another death or something. We viewers are so used to sensational stories now, that unless there's a dramatic talking point every week, it gets a bit dull. I suppose we've been spoiled. Funnily enough, one soap which has improved in leaps and bounds is *Crossroads*. Pause while the readers (always assuming we've still got some) fall about laughing. Since the Archers Brigade took over, the stories have picked up, the dialogue has a strong injection of humour ("They're about as organised as a box of frogs" was my favourite line) and even the sets don't move any more when the doors shut. Watch out *EastEnders*.

In the meantime, I'm looking forward to the films due to be shown on Channel Four, including *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Letter to Brezhnev*, and *Company of Wolves*. Look out for them.

Oh, and thanks for all the people who told me why the American Football is on so late at night. Can't say I'd realised...

Bob Stone



being preached to. Instead we were simply treated to the witty, satiric insights of this enormously talented singer/songwriter.

Nevertheless, when I talked to Michelle it seemed obvious that the 'social comment' would dearly love to get the upper hand: she is a woman totally aware that she is representing a liberation movement. Having listened to her expound

at great length about every social, cultural and political problem she and those around her could think of, I asked why this, her more serious side, is subservient to comedy. (When, after all, Suzanne Vega proves that the former is the more commercially successful) "It's in my nature, I suppose," replied Michelle, summing up in a few words what it is that makes an entertainer.

NICK JONES

American accents, rather unreliable acoustics and an occasionally confusing text and produced a highly entertaining lunchtime's drama.

Andy Wiltshire had the more difficult part of the two, I felt, with long, rambling stories to tell, but he held the audience's attention throughout, despite occasional moments of quietness. As the repressed homosexual, Jerry, he conveyed an air of loneliness and semi-insanity, but his performance was restrained and convincing.

Jack King, as the unfortunate

executive, Peter, who becomes the audience for Jerry's stories seems trapped in parts which require emotions submerged most of the time, but exploding in violent passion. This is no bad thing, as he does it very well. However, hearing him speaking in an American accent, I was inescapably reminded on occasions of a young Fred Astaire. Fortunately the part did not require him to dance.

The set, in this first play stage managed by Liz Palmer, was simple and effective, but it is a

pity that the Bangor weather is too unreliable to allow the play to be lit merely by the light coming through the window.

The *Zoo Story* showed the potential for allowing inexperienced performers to cut their teeth on lunchtime productions before moving onto more elaborate plays in the New Studio. Free drama is to be welcomed in any form, but it is nice to see that the Old Studio has been replaced with what will one day become a much better venue.

Bob Stone

ARTS

SCIENCE

WSMGS

"I used to try and find a cure for the common cold..." with a degree in bacteriology? How odd, to think that for all these years I'd thought that colds were caused by viruses (sort of AIDS with an arms limitation agreement) - still, perhaps the Nat. West knows best.

UCNM's very own Dr. Underhill (currently Dean of Faculty) has been cited in New Scientist for pushing back the frontiers in the field of molecular metals. Apparently his phone has been burning with calls from the editorial staff on Tomorrow's World - stardom? regrettably not, apparently the work is not very "visual".

Union elections - I believe that current Union politics is fairly antinuclear. This policy ought to be changed, what with the probability of a Labour government in the next 12 months, the chances are that Britain will do away with nuclear arms, and consequently the "ban the Bomb" movement will become rather unfashionable. More importantly, we may be able to buy a "job lot" fairly cheap (using money saved from department closures etc.). A few functional (if rather shop-soiled) Trident subs moored off the Marine Science pier in Menai Bridge would allow the instant elevation of UCNM to Super-Power status and provide a useful bargaining counter in the next round of UGC talks.

Dear Science Editor, please don't knock molecular microchips, UCNM does have active research inter-

ests in this, where as, to the best of my knowledge, the only experimentation into wind power is at the Union hustings! (there not being enough people at GM's to raise a breeze).

Well, the papers are full of it, even the toilet doors are covered. It is now time that Y Seren's science page faced up to the scourge of our times - irresponsible bill sticking. It is far too high up to read comfortably whilst sat down, and on the wrong side if stood up, what happened to the nice leaflets we were promised in the telly ads? (Does AIDS spell the end of a thriving market in second hand toothbrushes?)

Radioactive sheep? - self roasting lamb! - any chance of a mutation that will get them to roll over in the mint sauce too?

Maintenance people were upset by the implication in the last WSMGS that they weren't working hard enough. Apparently, amongst others, the College employs a staff of decorators. Regrettably, in these hard times, College can only afford paint and materials for them to work for six months out of every year, appearances can be deceptive, I apologise. C'est la vie (or not, as you care to look at it).

PS. WSMGS stands for Word Star Messages, for those Arts students who may not have come across the successor to the ABACUS yet... (or are unwilling to work through ghastly 'computer-speak' acronyms).

Barry Kaye

Tomorrow's Zoos

Dr Michael Brambell believes in zoos. In fact, in last night's U.C.N.W. lecture Dr. Brambell went as far as to say that the zoo was the only thing that could save many species from the action of humans.

Speaking to an audience of about 40 people, the director of Chester Zoo told us of his beliefs current in a well argued and well presented manner.

Assuming that man "should do what it can to enhance its own life", he went on to argue the case that the supposedly progressive step to the concrete jungle is infect not enhancing but is detrimental to human life, in that it nital to human life, in that there is more to life than physical needs. Increasingly mental needs have to be taken into account.

Dr. Brambell argued that as well as the increasing population making demands on ecosystems especially in 3rd World countries, a higher standard of living was demanded (about 12.5 times). To combat this problem he suggested a simple pension scheme, thus effectively stopping the need for people to have children purely to provide financial stability in old age. If it happened in the UK, it could happen anywhere else he argued.

Zoos could be used as a bridge over this 21st century abyss of human environmental catastrophe which Dr. Brambell sees little hope of averting. Genetically viable populations of species most in danger from human action could be kept for the next 100 or so years in zoos,

and reintroduced when humans have finished messing up the environment. The major aim of Dr. Brambell and his colleagues he saw as persuading the public to want such policy in zoos, the major drawback was money. (His zoo made £60,000 clear profit last year but paid £300,000 tax). He argued that if zoos were made tax free, as are educational establishments, then the chances of them reaching their aims would be greatly improved. He also asked Zoologists to be more tolerant of zoos. Its not much to ask, when in return we could be leaving our children's children aesthetically desirable and maybe economically useful species rather than a legacy of death and destruction.

Thousands of people have recently acquired the Amstrad PCW8256 and have been delighted with the range of symbols and accents available on the keyboard. Unfortunately it seems Amstrad has forgotten that one of the languages used on this island is Welsh. People have found that when using their PCW8256 for writing Welsh, they are allowed to put a circumflex on "tân" and "sôn" the Welsh for fire and rumour, but if they want to write "concerning the noise", in Welsh "ynghylch sŵn", the ballpoint once more has to be resorted to as the Amstrad refuses to acknowledge the needs of Welsh and won't allow a "y" or "w" to be circumflexed. I'm sure its an easily solved problem...

SCIENCE

SOCIETY IS A GAS.

Like to play a game?

OK, the rules are society, and the football, -morality. Perhaps that is a little over ambitious, the pitch is rather large, and the ball, to say the least, is unwieldy! To make things a little simpler we shall approach the problem from sociobiology, and morality we shall reduce to two questions, murder, or theft? The terms of victory will be those of survival, and the number of possible progeny (pretty basic huh?).

Being an egalitarian at heart, you may all start off by being alive(!), with the ability, financial or otherwise, to raise one child. This ability may be stolen from you, or you may be killed, in both instances your "baby token" is taken by the victor. Those are the rules, here are the strategies you may adopt:

- 1) You won't murder or steal.
- 2) You will kill in response to the threat of murder or theft, but not otherwise.
- 3) You will steal, but won't murder.
- 4) You will murder and steal.

Choose your weapon...

Now for the potted society, everybody in it uses one of the strategies above, again, being egalitarian, you have a 50% chance of survival if it comes to a fight...

Did you win? The model is very poor, you may wish to modify it considerably, add more strategies, or moral dilemmas, you may wish to change the reward/penalty system (death always seems a little harsh!) As long as you maintain an egalitarian society, however, a "defend if attacked" strategy remains the best on balance.

We shall modify our game a little, now you are in a non egalitarian state, you may start with nothing, will your preferred strategy change?

Homework:

Is it morally justifiable to extract punishment for the crimes considered here in a non egalitarian state?

(Is morality simply a tool of oppression for the haves vs. the have-nots?)

Consider sub sets of the table, do these mirror a proto class system? (For example top right of the table, compared with the rest?)

Answers in the nearest bin please!

Barry Kaye.

	STRATEGY			
MEETS:	1	2	3	4
1	1	1	2	2
2	1	1	2/D	2/D
3	0	2/D	2/D	2/D
4	D/D	2/D/D	2/D/D	2/D/D
SCORES:				
Dead	1	1	2	2
Max. Children	2	6	8	8
Fails	2	0	0	0
Poss. Fails	2	2	3	3
% survival	87	87	75	75

Key:D=dead, 0,1,2=Possible number of Baby Tokens won in encounter.

PROPAGANDA OR PROSPECTUS

The Electronic block's common room has recently been flooded with job prospectuses and leaflets advertising who is coming on the Milk Round and possible overseas jobs. Whoopie, you say, and to most of these I'd say the same thing, but imagine this poor student's horror when he saw a prospectus telling our students about working for the mines in South Africa. The prospectus showed us smiling faces of both blacks and whites working in the perfect harmony we all know exists in South Africa.

Now, on face value this seems like a decent job, but doesn't the Students Union have an anti-apartheid policy? Yes, of course it does, but still the prospectus was put out. Professor J.J. O'Reilly, the head of the Electronics department, said, "There is no policy of reading any job literature sent to the department, and there is no way the department actively encourages students to go to South Africa."

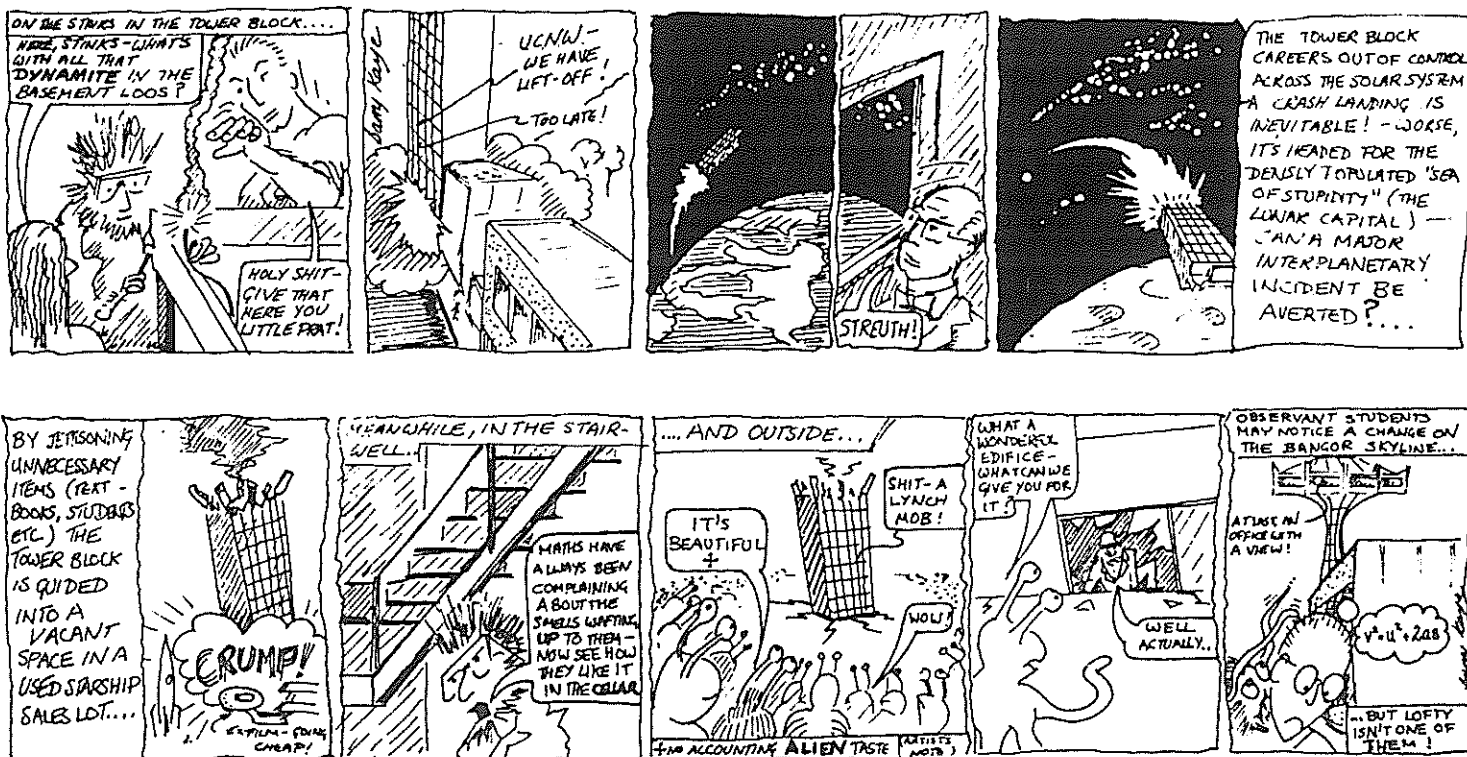
I hope that none of the Electronics students who saw this article even thought about moving to South Africa, and I also hope never to see this type of thing in the common room ever again.

CHERRY GILLESPIE

NEXT ISSUE:

1. BARRY KAYE writes about AIDS.
2. "THE GOINGS ON AT WYLFAR"

THE CHEMISTRY SET. BY BARRY



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SPORT

Basketball

The sport of basketball is becoming more and more popular here in Britain, with its fast-moving pace and dramatic finesse - one can't help getting wrapped up in the excitement and thrill at a well-played basketball game.

Many people now plant themselves in front of their TVs each week to get their fix of basketball on Channel 4; however, there is nothing better than seeing it live. Where can one see it live, though? The answer - the UCNW sports hall where our own team boasts the best team for miles. That's right - UCNW Boys' Basketball team is AWESOME!

The UCNW Boys' Basketball team, well into the 1986-1987 season, have made one of their most impressive starts in many years. After 20 basketball games this year, the team has picked up 17 victories against a mere 3 defeats.

Much of the success of this year's team has fallen into the hands of new-coming additions Denis Perry, Kimber Riley and Justin Walls. "Spud" Perry, at only 5'4" tall, has played a vital role for Bangor. He has been averaging just under 18 points per game, and has been a spark to UCNW's unbelievable defence, with 5 steals per game. "Doctor" Riley has been operating all year, scoring just over 27 points per game. A brilliant shooter, Riley is constantly keeping opponents on their toes. He has also been selected to perform for the Welsh National Basketball Team. Unfortunately for Bangor, both Spud and Doctor are closing their basketball careers this year and won't be returning to action here next year. However, "Beach" Walls, a part-time windsurfer, is a first year out of Blackpool, and is a good indication of upcoming young talent for the team. Although not a stunning player, his consistent all-round play and determination cannot be overlooked in Bangor's quest this year, and his potential will lead only to better things.

Although the new talent is fantastic, the team would not be where it is without its veteran players, including Chris Brown, Phil Maye, John Pates and Captain Nick Parks. "Clutch" Brown has been an influential player underneath the boards, picking up rebound after rebound time and time again. He also sparks Bangor's lightning fast-break. "Mayonnaise" Maye has also been magnificent under the basket and also can be noted for his shooting ability. Many a time has Mayonnaise kept Bangor on its winning ways. "Temper" Pates can be an asset when he can keep his cool. His amazing basketball sense and artistic moves to the basket have made him a major contributor to the scoring scheme. Finally, but not least, "Cop" Parks has proved to be the team's leader both on and off the court. He too is a strong rebounder, both offensively

and defensively, not to mention an outstanding close-range shooter. His coaching ability is impressive, as UCNW's record shows.

The bench reserves are also a key factor in Bangor's success. Players Jim "Tarzan" Abange and Enrique "Nails" Fernandez can always be counted on in times when needed. They have many a time shown their effectiveness when starting players have fouled out or just needed a rest.

The team broke into the New Year with a win against Penygroes on Wednesday Jan. 21. The team picked up where they left off by continuing their winning ways with a 49-23 victory. Spud Perry led all scorers with 20 points and Brown added 18.

You too can join in by going out and supporting the team. More information can be obtained about the games in the Athletic Union office in the Students Union.

Good Luck Boys!

DENIS PERRY

Judo Club

The participation of the University Judo Club in the national students' championships, which were held at Crystal Palace on the 7th and 8th of February was a suitable achievement to mark the efforts of the club captain, Dave Vincent. Three years ago, there was no Judo Club at Bangor and it was largely through his efforts that it has grown into a club with a membership of around fifty people.

But to the competition; the team left Bangor on Friday afternoon and made very slow progress down to London due to the crates of cans we brought and the very weak bladders of certain members of the team.

On the Judo day of the competition, Dave Vincent entered the individual competition, but lost his two fights to much higher grades.

The second day of the competition was the team event and we did much better than we expected, reaching the quarter finals. We also put up a scratch team to fight for Wales and reached the semi-finals, losing to the eventual winners, Scotland. All the members of the team fought extremely well and hard, but Daren Ladd and Mark Moffat deserve particular mention. Daren won all his fights and Mark beat somebody well above his grade. The team was: Jay Peberdy, Dave Vincent, John Judge, Singh Bhandal, John Reece, Dave Walkley, Mark Moffat, Daren Ladd and myself.

Simon Ellis

Piste Again!

Meribel, France, in the Trois Vallois, is the happy winter home of many skiers. Its magnificent snow-covered pistes are a joy to all who ski on it. Right now I'm joined by Niq "Stenmark" Blakesley, an outstanding prospect for the UCNW ski team, who is keeping fit in aspirations to win the British Championships held later this year in Scotland. Niq will be joined by his team-mates Adrian Disney, John Dryden, Dominique Marron and Captain Stuart Wickes.

Disney will be an influential factor in UCNW placings - that is if he can stop schussing straight to the nearest pub. As for Dryden, he'll have to wait to have his renowned drinkfests until after the team finishes their season. And Dom Marron, one can't say much about her, except she is an all-out wegeler. And, Captain Wickes likes to follow in Disney's footsteps by traversing quickly to find a beer.

This season the team participated in Telford Race and placed an inspiring 5th place. The team started out wonderfully by winning

their first 4 races there. But, in the time between their 4th and 5th races the team found it more important to warm up in the local pub, and lost their last 3 races.

All in all, it wasn't too disappointing as they brought home a pink ceramic ballet shoe and a bottle of Megeheapo Drinkio Wine from Italy. Not too bad of a day.

Niq Blakesley seems to be the best bet to win in Scotland. Through the magnificent work of his coach Livvy Blakesley, his manoeuvrability and speed have increased dramatically. Niq has even shown me a few things about skiing and I must say he is breath-taking to watch. He considers his best event is the downhill, but his slalom and grand slalom events are improving greatly.

The team was due to participate in the English/Welsh races at Alpe d'Huez, but because of some technicality, they were prevented from skiing there. Next up is the British Championships in which they will put up a strong fight in the quest for the gold.

Fencing Championships

FENCING U.A.U. CHAMPIONSHIPS

As we were still in the Christmas holidays, only two fencers were able to represent Bangor. For the first time ladies epee and sabre events were held, with Liane Tennant gaining fourth place in the epee. The first two places in this event went to two girls of the modern pentathlon national squad. In the sabre event Liane was not quite so successful, gaining only seventh place.

U.W.A.U. FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TEAM TRIALS

On Saturday 24th January an intrepid group of four fencers left for Aberystwyth in search of the sports hall and of course gold. One of our men was astounded when

his quest for gold happened in the epee event, a weapon of which he had no previous experience. In the next event - the sabre - this man, Ian Eastwood, didn't manage quite as good a result, gaining only third place.

In the only ladies event to be held - the foil - Liane Tennant gained third place and Karen Deighton, who only started fencing in October, was placed sixth.

Unfortunately, due to lack of time, the mens foil had to be postponed, so hopefully we will be able to send more fencers for this event, so that Ian Eastwood and Iain Hibbert will not be the only two representing Bangor.

As Ian and Liane both got into the awards they have qualified to represent the U.W.A.U. in Holland in the Easter holidays.

SPORT

UCNW ATHLETICS CLUB

The athletics season started here in Bangor on 25 October with a race in the North Wales Cross Country League. In the men's race UCNW's highest placed runner was Mark Davis who finished 71st out of 144 entrants while the team finished 12th. Unfortunately Bangor was not represented in the ladies race.

On 12 November the annual freshers' races took place over distances of 3 miles (men) and 1 1/2 miles (ladies). Conditions were extremely muddy, hence a rather disappointing attendance. However, those who couldn't manage to drag themselves out of bed missed an exciting race. Adrian Disney became Men's Champion, while the ladies' event was won by Helen Pedley.

Two teams from Bangor were entered in the University of Wales Relay Championships at Aberystwyth on 19 November. Pre-race training consisted mainly of pushing the minibus out of lakes. This obviously had a beneficial effect as the A team finished 8th out of 25 entered teams, while the B finished a respectable 16th.

On 22 November the second of the North Wales Cross Country

League races took place at Wrexham. Again the men's team finished 12th; the highest placed individual being team manager/coach/secretary/treasurer and general know-all, Ant Bethell, who came 45th out of 180. Although no team was entered, Bangor ladies were represented - highest finisher being Christine Jackson who came 19th.

A week later, on 29 November, a UCNW staff vs students race took place at Treborth. Although the individual winner was a member of staff, Emlyn Roberts, the overall event was won by the students with a margin of 7 points. Highest placed student was Ant Bethell, who came 2nd.

A major expedition took place over the weekend of 5/6 December when our intrepid heroes ventured boldly into the wilds of Yorkshire for the Yorkshire Bank Cross Country Relays at Leeds. Not wishing to reveal the strength of the team until the last minute, Bangor took the precaution of having everyone register under the name of Paddy. This stratagem was not entirely successful, but the team did well to finish 51st out of 91 entrants, taking into consideration the fact

that Bangor was the smallest university represented.

On 13 December the North Wales Cross Country Championships took place at Denbigh. The Junior Men's team did very well to finish 2nd, while Ian Oliver put in a good performance to finish 47th out of the Senior Men.

And so to the most recent event - the Welsh Universities Cross Country Championships at Gregynog on 24 January. Star of the race as regards Bangor was Helen Pedley who finished 7th in the ladies race, considerably boosting her chances of being picked for the University of Wales to compete in Holland at Easter.

So, that's the story so far. Considering the size of the university Bangor has done well this season. However, more support is needed, not least to justify a larger budget which would allow the club to take part in events further afield. The potential is definitely there, so all you budding Crams, Ovetts and Budds come and join in - and be part of a winning team. Circuit training is at 5 o'clock on Wednesday, or see Ant at 106, NEUADD REICHEL

Orienteering

We had a big drive to attract new members at Serendipity and collected subscriptions from about fifty people. The first outing was to an excellent event near Mold and we took a record twenty-five people in two mini-buses. Since then it has settled to a regular ten or twelve enthusiastic characters who delight in early Sunday morning starts especially our secretary, Rob, who always needs a pint of milk from the Garth Service Station to chase away the headache from the previous night's Merrydown.

Although the autumn is usually the low season for orienteering, we went to seven events last term, including sending a team to an inter-University competition, the Churchill Cup, in the Forest of Dean and promoted an open event of our own in the Glyn Forest near Betws y Coed which attracted over one hundred people. There looks to be some very good orienteering coming up over the next few months with the BSSF Championships on Cannock Chase, the University of Wales Championships, the Jan Kjellstrom International in Scarborough and the 'Springtime in Shropshire'. Adding this to the upsurge in interest with the promised T-shirts and sweatshirts and the proposed social calendar, the orienteering club is looking very healthy.

JON WILD

VOTE

UNION ELECTIONS

USE YOUR VOTE

DON'T FORGET YOUR UNION CARD

THURSDAY 5th MARCH
DYDD IAU 5th MAWRTH

PEIDIWCH ANGHOFIO EICH CERDYN UNDEB
ETHOLIADAU YR UNDEB

DEFNYDDIWCH EICH PLEIDLAI

THIS SPACE COULD HAVE BEEN FILLED
WITH YOUR ARTICLE.

WORK FOR 'Y SEREN'

WITCH,
I ♥ YOU -
BUT IT'D HELP IF YOU
HAD A HAIET CHEST" x
Pianosaurus
rule ok

DONT PLAY BRAGG
WITH 'GLINTY'
GUÉRIN - HE'LL
ROB YOU 20 BLIND.

'FIDDLER ON THE ROSE' TAKES
ON A WHOLE NEW DIMENSION!

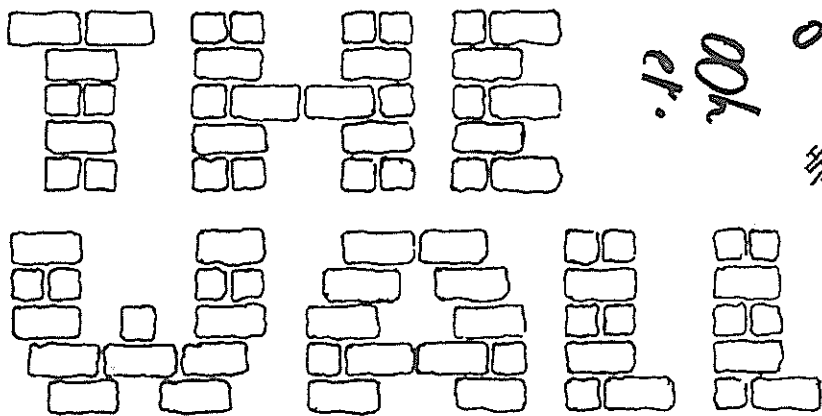
JOE 90. BARGE FOLE
A TIEU FOOT
IS TOO GOOD FOR YOU
DARLIN'. x
(Better luck next time)

THANK
YOU
xxx

I'M JUST FILLING
SPACE HERE.
HELLO BONGHEAD.

"her beauty and her innocence,
a credit to the sun...
mean anything? xx

SAR WOULD LIKE TO
THANK EVERYONE OVER THE
LAST YEAR IN "Y SEEN" - THANK
I CAN'T SAY IT'S BE ALL RUN - IT'S
ALL BEEN MOUTHOUS. THANKS ESPECIALLY
RECENTLY. BUT BEWARE FIVE WILL
RETURN!!



PUBLIC HEALTH
WARNING #427:
MERRYDOWN



STEAM IN COLIN.

Johnny shouldn't have
had that hind bottle...

MEAT
IS TASTY

E1 - "YUM YUM"
- 23.
BACKDOOR
MATE.

1945 SAW V.E DAY
1987 SEES J DAY
GOD HELP ST. MARYS.

Oh go ahead.
Eat your little heart
out. See if I care!

Teddy Bears keep
you warm - so
hug one tonight.

HELLO MINTY BONGHEAD
HELLO PRINTER.

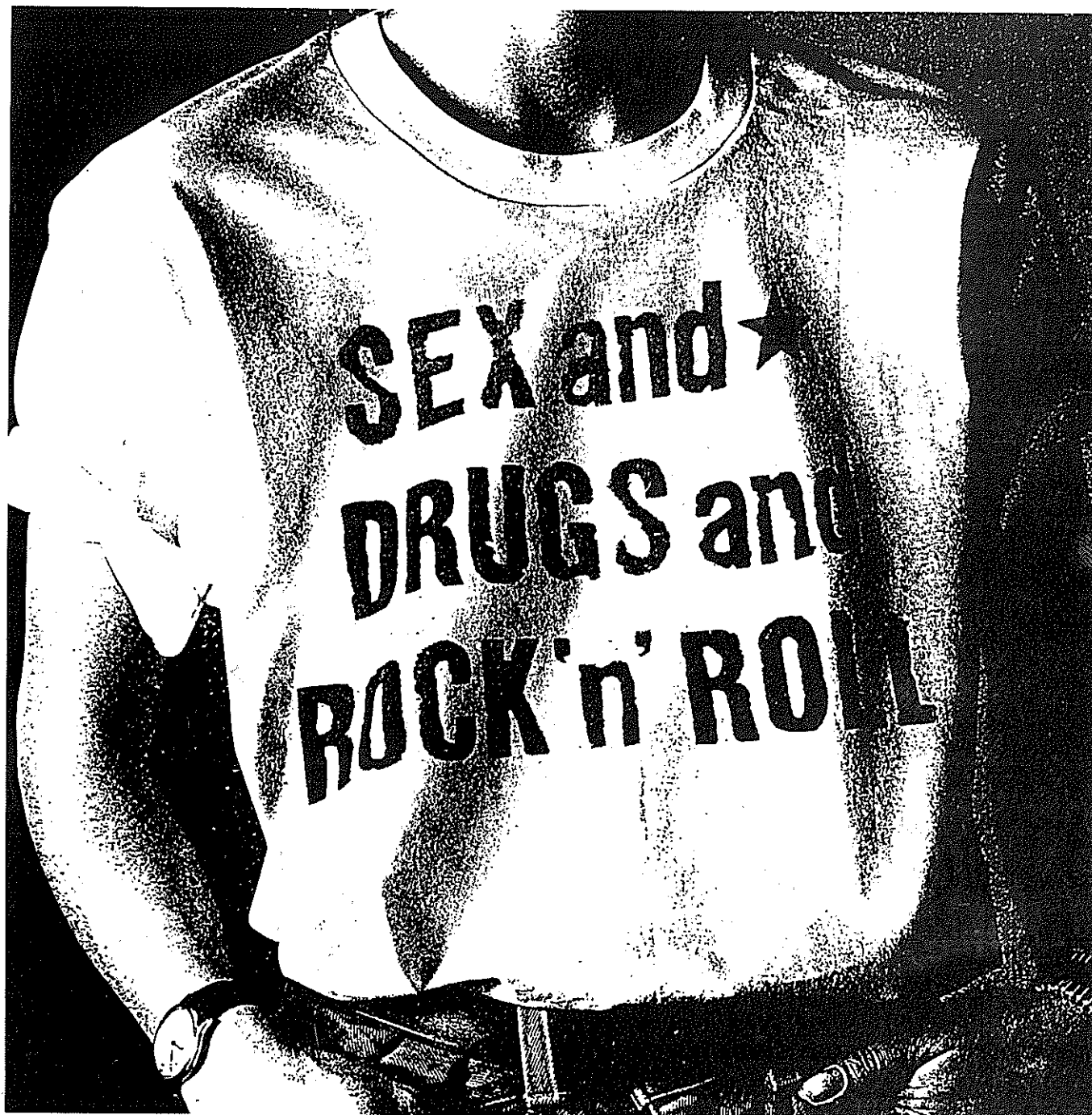
Take to the Hills:-
7 o'clock sound
The hum of a 16 wheeler
Off the ferry, London bound
The town as quiet as a theft in a graveyard
While feet across Bangor Mountain pound
Through Bethesda's foggy veil,
Up into the hills, to look around,
Trypan, yuppy vague-voers at her feet,
On the slopes, green wellies are found,
Pass on by, Snowdon-cosmopolitan
Café + railway, where are we bound?
Where smog and city cannot stain
The Vegetarian, wholefood, Decaffeinated
Mountain!
[Fw the other Musheteers]
Barmy xxx

Best-wishes to all at the Bangor
School of hitching, see you all when
I'm next here
Quirkid
Come to the office
and write on
the wall. Yseren
do not bite.

YESTERDAY'S MEN

Art: Mike Smith Script: Bob Stone





AT LEAST ROCK 'N' ROLL CAN'T GIVE YOU AIDS.

△ AIDS could have you on its hit list. And that doesn't just mean gays. Here it is, once and for all – men and women can and do give the AIDS virus to each other during sex.

A man can carry the virus in his sperm, a woman in her vaginal fluid. They may not know they are infected. And you can't tell.

So don't sleep around. From now on, you need to be very sure about someone you have sex with.

If in doubt always use a condom. It's safer for both of you.

Also on the list is anyone who injects drugs. Using an infected needle is the easiest way to put the virus into your bloodstream.

So don't inject. But if you can't stop, never share a needle or equipment.

For more information and advice please telephone Cardiff (0222) 464121 or 223443; or Freephone 0800 555777.

D O N ' T A I D A I D S

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