

Y Seren

COLLEGE CUTS WHO CARES?

It seems that Mr. Wyn Roberts, Bangor's Tory MP doesn't care very much for the University College of North Wales. In a letter (opposite) to Sean McArdle, the Union's President, he effectively washes his hands of any responsibility to fight for a better grant from the University Grants Committee on behalf of UCNW which currently faces an 18.5% grant cut. Indeed he doesn't even have the decency to reply to Mr. McArdle's letter requesting him to do so himself.

So much different is the reply from Keith Best, Conservative MP for Ynys Mon, that it is hard to believe that these MPs belong to the same political party. Mr Best, (who's letter appears below) unlike Mr Wyn Roberts, has taken an interest in the appalling financial pressures exerted by the UGC on UCNW and the University of Wales as a whole. Almost beyond the call of duty Mr. Best has had talks with the Principal and other members of staff, especially Professor Hunter, Head of the Department of Philosophy. He has gone so far as to write to the UGC in great detail and length about the situation in Bangor; more than can be said for Mr Wyn Roberts.



KEITH BEST TD MP
Aelod Seneddol YNYS MON
Tŷ'r Cylfreith San Steffan
Parliament
11, Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA
13 May 1987

Sean McArdle Esq
President
Bangor Students' Union
University College of North Wales
Deiniol Road
Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 2TH

Dear Sean

Thank you so much for your letter of 29 April about the Department of Philosophy in UCNW. I have pursued this matter as well as threats to other Departments relentlessly recently. Professor Hunter will tell you that he has been in communication with me about it. I share your concern and I enclose a copy of my letter to the University Grants Committee together with the reply from Sir Peter Swinnerton Dyer. I have also written to Professor Eric Sunderland about it.

Sadly, as you may know, I am not seeking re-election on June 11 but I very much hope that my successor will continue to pursue this matter.

Yours sincerely

Keith

KEITH BEST TD MP

HE DOES

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14 May 1987

Dear Mr McArdle

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr Wyn Roberts, has asked me to thank you for your letter dated 14 April 1987 about the effects of the rationalisation of the University of Wales on the College of Bangor.

However, the points you raise in your letter are the responsibility of the Department of Education and Science and I have, therefore, transferred your correspondence to that Department for direct reply.

Yours sincerely

Angela Birch
R D THOMAS
Correspondence Clerk

HE DOESN'T

Sean McArdle
President
Bangor Students' Union
UC Bangor
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Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Chairman of the UGC, in reply to Mr Best's detailed letter claimed that Bangor has not suffered above average cuts, but rather in the previous years it 'suffered' a below average change, and it is the UGC's new resource allocation process that simply makes it seem like we are suffering an above cut. He states that "The details are complicated, but the principles on which the process is based are as follows:-

1) The cost of teaching a student in any particular subject ought not to vary from one institution to another.

2) There should be some selectivity in the distribution of money for research, in favour of those institutions whose research is thought to be strong."

He goes on to say that he thinks that "Bangor has received fair treatment" and partially blames "extra costs...of teaching and administering in Welsh as well as English." Things look gloomy for Bangor and Sir Peter writes that Bangor "must expect to do so" (get worse treatment) "for the next three years." He states that "It will be less damaging to give up a few areas of study than to make cuts on all of them. This applies...to small institutions which have tried to cover a wide range of subjects - and Bangor is a rather extreme example of such an institution."

The best bit, Sir Peter leaves until last, by telling Mr Best that "You do Bangor no service if you give your support to those within it who think that hard questions can be evaded or postponed."

Well, at least Mr. Best does give support to Bangor, even if Mr. Wyn Roberts can't be bothered to do so.

EDITORIAL

This is the only issue this term.

As we near the end of the academic year, my first year at Bangor, I look back into 'Y Seren's' past and like what I see. We have been controversial, usually unbiased, apolitical and above all have, I think, served our readership reasonably, (I say this after having no complaints from the survey of last issue, or maybe its just good ol' Bangor apathy.

However, we are also under a great deal of pressure. Staffing has been a problem recently and I'd like to thank the trusty team as well as the executive and the General Office staff for all their help. Also I'd like to point out that we do need staff for next year, as a number of Editors are leaving.

Y Seren is hopefully going over to computer aided layout in the next issue, which should make things far easier. However the more staff we have the better service we give you. Maybe we could publish more issues, and bring you the news as it happens, not two weeks late. It's up to you.

As this is the last issue of this year, I would like to make one special request. If you are involved with a club or society which you want to continue, or want to write an article for Welcome Week, please let us know soon. As you probably know, space in the Welcome Week issue is at a premium, so get in here with your articles now!

On a different note, I'd like to wish everyone who is taking exams lots of luck, and enjoy the Summer holidays.

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'Y Seren' is published by UCNW Students' Union, Dainiol Road, Bangor, Gwynedd.
Tel: Bangor (0248) 362075 ext 14
Issued free fortnightly during term-time.

The views expressed in articles published 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.

LETTERS

Dear 'Y Seren',

We have information which leads us to believe that a number of people including some with very strong Union connections are involved in a black market racket selling Ball tickets.

Apparently Ball tickets have been bought en masse by these people with the sole intention of selling them on to other students at anything up to £25 a time. Large numbers have also been reserved to be sold on at a considerable profit. Tickets are now all sold out. There is nothing worse than this type of touting, especially when it is in part aided by the negligence of those with responsibility for the proper issue of these tickets.

We sincerely hope that no student will pay more than £12 for a ticket and any persons offering tickets for above this amount should be reported to Y Seren or next year's executive and president.

Although all our information is strongly based on rumours, there are several names which regularly crop up but which we are obviously not at liberty to disclose.

It is a sad reflection that some people would sink so low at the expense of fellow students in pursuit of a fast buck.

If it is too late to put things to right this year, we hope that lessons will be learnt for future years when ticket sales can be properly controlled.

The authors wish to apologise in advance to any parties implicated by this letter but who are completely innocent of its charges. We would also like to say that much forbearance has been exercised in the writing of this letter and that many of the more damaging allegations have been omitted.

Come on lads, give us a break!

Names withheld.

Dear 'Y Seren',

On behalf of all members of that most important of student union institutions, the Rag Committee, I would like to express heartfelt thanks to all Gods everywhere that the time has come around again.

It is with great joy that I am able to announce this.

Magnificent work has been done in this field and so will it be in the future by the Rag Committee.

Great ~~holes~~ challenges lie before us, but secure in the knowledge that due to the superlative achievements of the outgoing Rag Manager - the Great(?) TIM MITCHELL (as may have been) we are a great

power for good (or evil) in this Union. Unite with us Brothers and Sisters, and Uncles, Aunts, and etc. in support for the Rag Committee as a whole and stand behind the new boss: SHAUN GOODE (The great usurper, and vile fiend).

Don't forget - 12/13/14 June - the third major Rag event of the year - the Rag Week-end

-Promotion night-
-Goldfish Gobbling-
-Surfing band-
-Disco-
-Hypnotist-

(All provisional at the moment) Love and thanks to all,

THE MYSTERY PANDA

Dear 'Y Seren',

I am increasingly concerned with the appalling lack of life rafts around the union.

This is an extremely dangerous situation which should be remedied at once concerning the ease with which irresponsible minors are able to purchase quantities of tea (enough to flood the union?) Only last week I witnessed a young gentleman drowned by a half crazed child. Also on

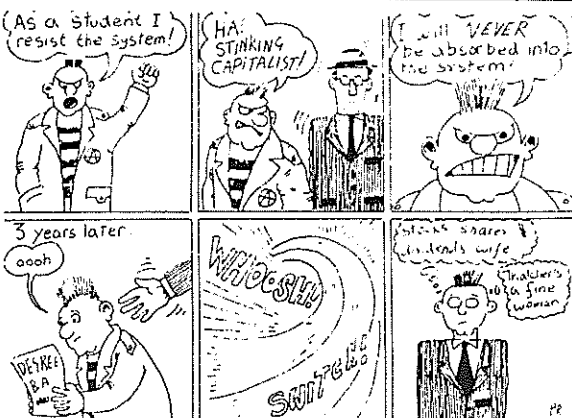
an earlier occasion another young gentleman, a stout, upstanding Rag Manager I believe, was forced to swallow vast quantities of tea to save himself from drowning before making a break for the toilets. Both of these tragic accidents could have been avoided by the adequate provision of life rafts at strategic points around the union.

A person of Some Standing (Ctees).

Dear 'Y Seren',

I am writing to complain about your practice of re-cycling old cartoons to fill up odd spaces in the magazine. A prime example of this is to be found on page 2 of issue 6:9. I feel this reflects very badly on all concerned

Aled Jones



NEWS

UNION plc?

At the AGM on 7th May, possibly one of the most important motions that has ever been put to the Student's Union members was amended and thus effectively postponed, by David Hughes.

The motion was one calling for the Union to mandate the executive to set up and register a limited company on behalf of the Student's Union which would covenant all its profits directly back to the Student's Union. It was proposed by the executive.

David Hughes succeeded in amending the motion so that effectively a feasibility study will be set up.

The need for a company 'owned' by the Union comes in the light of forecasts on profit and loss. It seems that by 1988 the Student's Union will be suffering a financial crisis which, in the current governmental climate will get worse each year. This is further complicated by the possibility that Student Unions may lose their 'closed-shop' status. This will obviously make a great difference to revenue.

In order to offset this lack of funds Sean McArdle and Roger Coates purchased documents from Salford University Student's Union for £100. This is not excessive as Salford paid a great deal more for the original plans.

Student Unions enjoy charitable status. As such they do not pay corporation tax. The disadvantage is that the Student Unions cannot trade directly with the 'outside-world', or they would lose this status. Legally, setting up a company

from which all profits are directly covenanted to the Student's Union is taxing and time consuming. This Student's Union has little such time. Salford nearly had to shut down because it left it so late.

It was emphasised at the AGM that the company would only exist as a shell until such time as it was needed, thus ensuring that the union could always be on a firmer financial footing.

However, certain doubts have come to light. The staff were only given formal notice at their Tuesday afternoon meeting with Roger Coates, before the AGM on Thursday. It seems that they were informed, rather than asked, at least to comment on the proposals. The executive of the Union were not present. It was only at lunchtime on the Thursday of the AGM that details were made available to staff about the scheme. They found a number points in this information that, from their point of view, needed looking into, and as such have sent copies to their Unions - NUPE and NALGO -, in order to obtain more information on just where they stand in the matter. Though the staff were not hostile to the plan, they were a little concerned about how the planned company would affect them.

At the moment then, the state of play is that an independent feasibility study is in progress and staff unions are looking into the plan from the staff's point of view. The most important decision has been postponed.

JOE CREED

UCNW STUDENT'S UNION FORECASTS : 1985-1990

	85/86	86/87	87/88	88/89	89/90
INCOME					
AMALGAMATION FEE	200500	201425	197060	194545	193635
LESS LOAN	-	7000	-	-	-
	200500	194425	197060	194545	193635
EXPENDITURE	216500	234000	243360(4%)	255530(5%)	268305(5%)
OVERSPEND ON GRANT	16000	39575	46300	60985	74670
TRADING SURPLUS	33840	40500	42120(4%)	44226(5%)	46437(5%)
NET POSITION	17840	925	41801	1167591	1282331
EXTRA DEBTOR (LOAN)	-	7000	7000	7000	7000

CASH BOOST FOR CARDIFF
by Huw Williams

The Government are reported to be bailing out the financially crippled University College Cardiff. Promises of a cash injection have been made, but with major provisos attached. The University Grants Committee's

Chairperson, Mr Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, in a visit to both UMIST and UCC, said that the grants committee did not have sufficient funds to bail out UCC's massive deficit, but that funds were being sought from the treasury.

The treasury obliged the Ministers, in what is considered to be an 'Election fever' climate, and have allocated £10 million to the college.

Half of the sum is considered a grant, and the further £5 million is an interest free loan. Two of the strings firmly tied around this bundle are that UCC must dismiss their Principal, Dr Bevan, as soon as possible, and that the two Cardiff colleges merge by the end of March 1988. UCC are also being requested to make a legally binding commitment that the money will be well spent.

It was hoped that the cash boost would de-celerate the job-shedding forced on the college, however over a hundred jobs must be lost by the merger date.

It is probable that, if the UCC cannot re-organise themselves by the end of the decade, it will cease to exist, leaving its financially un-embarrassed neighbour to pick up the remains.



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY MARCH AND RALLY

About 100 people attended the International Labour Day March and Rally in Bangor on Saturday 2nd May.

Marchers assembled by the Town Hall. The route took them round central Bangor, finishing by the Student's Union building in Dainiol Road.

Five speakers talked to about 40 people at the rally on the third floor of the union on a number of topics. Amongst other, such organisations as NALGO, CND Cymru, Anti-Apartheid, Bangor and the Wales Co-operative Centre were represented with stalls.

The Chairman of the meeting, Mr Paul Stroud, Secretary, Bangor and District Local Trades Council, introduced the speakers. He pledged full support to a Labour Government "without forsaking the right to dissent. He also mentioned his worries about nuclear weapons and power. He later attacked the TUC over its support of the government job creation policies, called for an end to private health care and asked why millions of people were on the poverty line, all police have riot training and finally why the British Army was in Northern Ireland.

The first speaker Awei Irene, from CND Cymru, told the meeting of two campaigns her organisation was running. Firstly CND Cymru had asked for the cost of recent advertising campaign for Wylfa and Trawsfynydd to be made public. Also, she called on all present to join a campaign to refuse to pay 20% of Electricity bills (that percentage which comes from Nuclear Power) and redirect the money to a fund for publicising the 'real facts' and possible court battles. She stated the 'lunacy and lack of foresight' of Nuclear Power and called

on the meeting's consent to send a letter of support to New Zealand over its non-nuclear policies, this was mandated.

The second speaker, Mark Serwotka, from the Civil and Public Servants Association, which represents the lowest paid Civil Servants, talked of the Fowler review being the beginning of the end for social security, with the abolition of death and maternity grants and the introduction of Income Support. He also talked of the strike action he and his colleagues were taking in their office.

The next speaker, Martin Eaglestone from NALGO told us of his Union's £1m injection of capital into the TUC's 'Make People Matter' campaign, 'to draw attention to what has happened to the public services'. He talked of housing, education, the NHS (with reference to Ysbyty Gwynedd) and especially attacked the higher education cuts.

The fourth speaker Martine Bonadena, of the Nicaraguan Solidarity campaign talked to the rally about '...dear President Reagan...' (tongue in cheek) and his influence in Nicaragua and gave a highly informed picture of just what was going on in the country.

The final speaker, George Johannes gave by far the best, and most appreciated speech to the rally as a member of the African National Congress. He talked of the South African Government's supposed concessions as 'simply rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic'. He said that in South Africa even white people were beginning to ask questions and he attacked the 'Imperialists' for playing with black South Africa lives. Mr Johannes was given a standing ovation

Joe Creed.

NEWS

AIDS HELP

A meeting of the Student's Union Welfare services was called at the end of last term to discuss the ways in which the Union will deal with the problem of AIDS sufferers in the student community.

The meeting was called for by the Union's Research and Welfare Officer, Ms Fran Tate, who wishes to set up a group of volunteers trained to cope with the special problems of AIDS sufferers.

Ms Tate, who is also a tribunal representative for the Citizen's Advice Bureau, said that the main aim of the group will be to educate the community in order to allay peoples fears about the disease.

"We don't want future AIDS sufferers or students identified as HIV positive to be ignored," she said.

The group will also provide counselling and practical help.

"We want the necessary services to be available when help is needed, and we must get our act together before AIDS becomes a big problem."

"The group will fill in the gaps left by the medical profession by providing counselling and day-to-day help such as shopping," she said.

"We're going to have to live with AIDS, so we'll have to do it sensibly," she added.

Guest speakers at the meeting were Dr Michael Johnson, Chairman of AIDS Alert North Wales' Steering Committee who spoke on AIDS counselling and practical help, and Mr John Stevenson, a local freelance journalist who spoke about the Bangor Swimming Pool ban imposed on AIDS sufferers.

Mr Stevenson said that the ban had been imposed without medical advice, and was pandering to public hysteria.

ANNE HADCROFT

REPERTORY COMPANY FOR THEATR GWYNEDD?

Theatr Gwynedd may become the home of a permanent repertory company in an attempt to solve the long-running financial problems of the theatre and increase its contribution to the locality.

Mr Graham Laker, drama lecturer at UCNW and a member of the theatre's board, said that there was enough talent and enthusiasm in the area to base such a company, and that "it seems to me, at the present level of public funding, what the community gets back from the theatre is limited. But if the money could, say, be doubled, suddenly the whole theatre would be buzzing and

THE PRESIDENT'S WIG IS MISSING

A week before the end of last term, the president-elect, Martin Purcell, was to be seen in his most tasteful clothes, complete with wig. Unfortunately, his tousled

SWIMMING POOL AIDS BAN STAYS

AIDS victims have been banned from using the Arfon Borough Council Swimming Pools in Bangor and Caenarfon, and the ban will stay until the matter has been discussed with the AIDS Campaign Co-ordinator, Councillor Edmund Halliday, who said that "We are the only council in the whole of Wales imposing this restriction. We have had medical advice from everyone in the land, both high and low - we should rethink this."

He then said that they should wait until the visit by the AIDS Campaign co-ordinator before lifting the ban, so as to show that the council is prepared to listen to the other side of the debate.

HUW WILLIAMS

AIDS '87 - SHARING THE CHALLENGE

The 4th National Conference of the Terrence Higgins Trust - "Sharing the Challenge" - will be held at Imperial College, South Kensington, London SW7 from 21st - 22nd November 1987.

A team of specialists from the UK, Europe and the US will be addressing the 750 delegates who are expected to attend, and a series of 20 separate workshops will be devoted to topics as diverse as medical up-dates; caring for people with AIDS; haemophiliacs; drug users; women; ethnic minorities; and the effects of AIDS on both gay and heterosexual communities.

Special closed sessions will be held for the benefit of the medical and care professions.

Further information and registration requests should be addressed to: The Conference Secretary, AIDS '87, The Terrence Higgins Trust, BM AIDS, London, WC1N 3XX.

making a very real contribution".

He believes that it is false economy to bring in visiting drama companies and that, in the long run, a resident company would be more economical.

The nucleus of the company would be bilingual, so as to present three English and three Welsh plays a year. The Welsh plays could also be toured extensively throughout Wales.

Capital to begin the venture could be a problem. One source could be Bangor City Council, who already donate £2,500 a year. Mr George Gibbs, Clerk to the Council, said that the Council would seriously consider an application for money if the idea took off.

HUW WILLIAMS

mop eloped with an alien, leaving poor old Martin heartbroken. For him to be able to perform effectively in his job next year, it is clear that the wig must find its way back home. Any information leading to its return will be rewarded. Contact Y SEREN!

TREBORTH SAVED?

UCNM's Botanic gardens at Treborth have been given a reprieve of unspecified duration, in order that those concerned can try to come up with a financial solution to keep the gardens running. The wonderful response of the Students in the form of petitions and letters, must have had some effect on the Principal's decision, and congratulations and thanks go to all concerned.

POLICE IN UNION

On Thursday 7th May at about 11.00p.m., Toni Wyld, the Union General Secretary, invited police into the Union building. The incident happened during the AGM, when many people were in the Mandela Bar.

It seems that police, who were looking for two suspects who were thought to be involved in painting Panda paw prints on the Deiniol Road, outside the students union, first went into the Jazz Bar, which was also full. It was after this that Toni Wyld invited them into the Union building proper, though would not let them enter the Mandela Bar.

A number of people in the Mandela Bar and many in the Jazz room were very annoyed at the decision. Toni Wyld told Y SEREN that she, in retrospect, had made a bad decision and that she was sorry for any anxiety she had caused.

The police refused to make any comments.

This incident highlights the lack of concern 'authorities' in the union have over their membership. The fact is that the police can't enter the building without a warrant, which they certainly didn't have on the 7th.

DEBENHAMS RAGGED

Debenhams was the latest target for UCNW's Rag pranksters: they covered the Debenhams sign on the front of the building in the High Street with a sheet dawked with "Bangor Rag". This was facilitated by the scaffolding that adorns the shop front. Mr John Clift, Debenhams Bangor Manager, told an Y SEREN reporter that no damage had been caused and that the offending articles had been removed at about 7.45a.m. on Saturday, May 2nd, roughly five hours after the prank had taken place. Mr Clift took the prank in very good faith and gave our reporter the sheet back in a Debenhams bag to pass on to Rag.

Tim Mitchell, the Rag Manager, said that he had no knowledge of the prank, though our sources in Rag heard rumours that an all female squad was responsible.

JOE CREED

TIDDLES THE CAT.

WALES LINK TO CHINA

A new intellectual link has been established between UCNW and the Shanghai University in China.

During a five day visit in May by high ranking officials of the Chinese University, an agreement was signed between the two institutions.

There had been a similar trip in the other direction by UCNW principal Professor Eric Sunderland, earlier in the year.

The two universities will be exchanging teaching and research staff - and it is hoped - eventually students.

BANGOR DWARVES, TIBETANS AND COSMONAUTS IN SALFORD SMASH-UP!

Over the weekend 10-12th April members of the UCNW Wargames and Role Playing Soc. went to Salford University to take part in the Annual Student's National Wargames Championship. We expected to maintain our reputation as a bunch of sporting losers renowned for their exploits in the bar (and the Chippy, and the Offy, and the Pizza Parlour...). However, this year we amazed everyone, including ourselves, by winning the team competition; this presents us with the worrying prospect of hosting next year's competition in Bangor, sometime during the Easter Vacation.

This astonishing victory was achieved largely by our excellent results in the Role Playing section. These were: Andy Hemmingway, 2nd in the "Traveller" category; Nathan Jackson, 2nd in the "Dungeons and Dragons"; and Andie May, 1st in "D&D". The historical Wargames also contributed with Gareth Jones taking 2nd place in the World War Two section, playing a 'late war' German Army, and winning two out of his three games, only losing to the overall winner.

The "D&D" competition was arranged with several games of five players, each game containing the same five characters undertaking the same adventure. Both of our point-winners played the same character, a Dwarfven thief. The "Traveller" section attracted only seven players, although the standard of play was high and was arranged so that each two players from Saturday's game went into Sunday's final, in which our representative played an Ex-Space Marine on a sensitive undercover mission.

In the other period we entered, "Ancients", with armies from Tibet, Persia, Spain and Ireland, we achieved our usual standard of results, with our two highest players coming equal 13th. We also achieved our main objective of having a good time and getting well wrecked.

ANGLESEY - NUCLEAR DUMP?

After recent dumping of the government's plans to bury nuclear waste at one of the four Conservative held areas, where that party's support was sliding fast, plans have been reported that four other areas have been chosen, which include Anglesey to be suitable to site a nuclear waste graveyard.

Nirex (Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive) are investigating the Orkneys, Western Isles of Scotland, the Wash hinterland and Anglesey for such burial grounds.

This follows a report published by the British Geological Society, which outlined possible areas for nuclear waste dumping on geological grounds.

They showed that 35-40% of the British mainland has suitable geological structure; Mr P. Curd, Nirex spokesperson, said that other factors have to be taken into account before a decision can be made.

The 'other factors' are, generally, population levels, transport facilities, and whether or not the area was designated to be of special interest.

Much, approximately 30%, of the suitable areas, geologically, are in the South East of England according to Mr Curd. Areas which are heavily populated, and at the heart of conservative England.

Anglesey is, geographically, central in the UK, with well established rail and sea routes - and is particularly near major nuclear sites such as Sellafield (Windscale), and Trawsfynydd. It even has its own, very much publicised station, Wylfa. The area is not heavily populated, and is not, for the most part, designated officially as of 'special interest'.

Anglesey's Conservative MP, Keith (share-scam) Best (soon retiring), said that he was in favour of an "expanded role" for nuclear power, but there were "no suitable sites" on the island for nuclear waste disposal.

Mr. Colin Perry, prospective Labour candidate, said he was "not in favour of dumping in Anglesey, or of nuclear power". And he further said that there was "No real solution to the waste problem" that the nuclear industry produced, and that those in favour of nuclear fuels should accept the waste it produced.

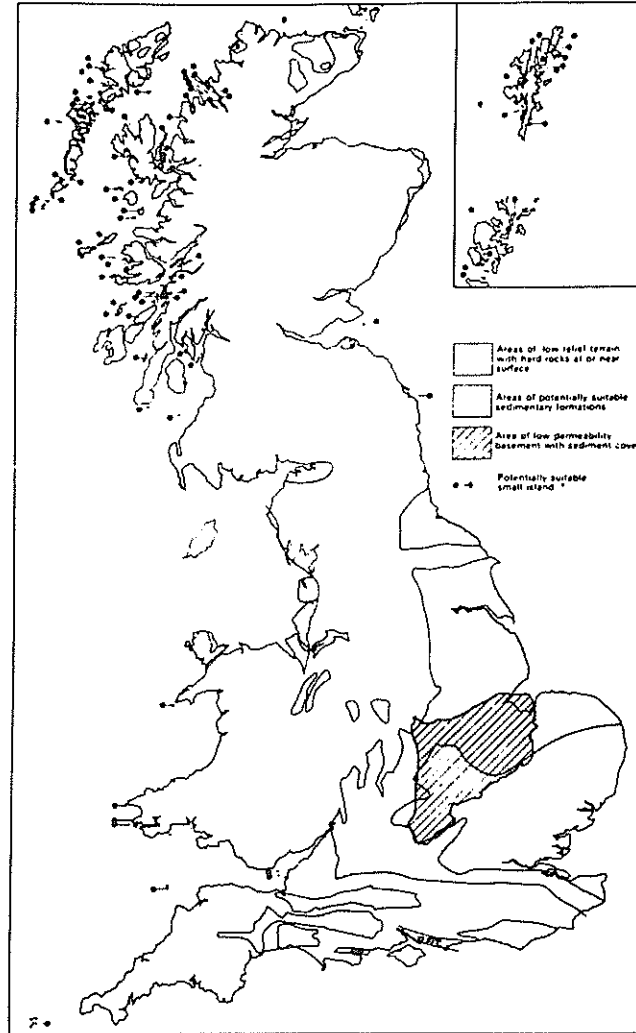
HUW WILLIAMS.

WANTED: WELCOME WEEK VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are requested to help run events in Welcome Week (lift service, course advice etc).

If you are interested, please fill out a form - printed here, or available from:

General Office,
2nd Floor,
Students' Union.
Or: Contact Nick Jones via 2nd floor pigeon holes.



Areas containing geological environments suitable for deep disposal of intermediate level waste

ORIENTEERING

B.S.S.F. Championships, Keele University, 11th/12th April

This time we only got lost on the way to the event, which was held on Cannock Chase! For once we didn't feel out of place in our "extremely bad taste" green and yellow club "pyjamas", most of the other teams were dressed in various shades of technicolour - yawn!

Mike Lates, fresh from a week's training (?) on Skye gusted home to an impressive 3rd place. Tony couldn't find any rivers to jump in and so came 6th, meanwhile Clive nipped a tree-stump but managed to stagger heroically to the finish, and so to hospital for some stitches. Nick and Captain Tony went for fame and glory on the tough (10 miles cross-country) course but had to settle for nothing much.

Keele University is the sort of sickeningly nice, dull place that would drive you out of your mind with boredom in about a week! Their Union bar, which stayed dead even when filled with drunk people, made even the Ffridd seem like a groovy place, so we were forced to walk a mile for a good pint, or six, (or ten, Mike, Rob).

The next morning our relay teams, "Bangor A" and (aptly) "Bangovers" came nowhere and somewhere respectively in the action-packed climax to an enjoyable weekend. A team of "Steve Cram clones" won the main event. Bangor girls' team would have won easily, but sadly there is no such team at present. A great weekend was had by all (except Clive!). Thanks to T.W. for driving "to where no bus has been before!"

For details, contact any club member, easily spotted posing in their new flashy shirts.

TONY CALLOW

WELCOME WEEK HELPERS 1987/CYNORTHWYVYR Y WYTHNOS GROESO 1987

Name/Enw :

College Address/
Cyfeiriad Coleg 86/87 :Home Address/Cyfeiriad
Cartref 87/88 :College address/
Cyfeiriad Coleg 87/88 :Are you over 21?/ Can you drive?/
a ydyh dros 21? : a allwch yrru car? :Courses you can advise on/
Cyrsgiau y medrwch rhoi
cyngor arnynt :

FEATURES

WHICH PARTICULAR BACKLASH?

An article by Mary Stott in the May edition of "Cosmopolitan", entitled "Ban the Backlash!" is briefly summarised in the caption:

"Women aren't slipping back into second-class status. We've come a long way and things are looking good."

I admire her positive enthusiasm and optimism for women's status today, but there is a complacent satisfaction running throughout her feature which teeters precariously on the brink of Pride's inevitable Fall.

Stott argues that there is definitely no backlash today, and that by no means are we living in a "Post-Feminist" period. Backlashes, she writes, have always fizzled out and will do so again. So in the meantime, we grit our teeth and wait until a phase of support for our "cause" appears from the fading out of another backlash, only to watch it diminish slowly beneath a new "temporary" attack on the Women's Movement.

Stott refers to the '60s, when young women had never heard of key figures in the development of feminism in America, such as Betty Friedan and Anne Koedt. The British women of this period, brought up by mothers who had been wound up with the post-war emphasis on the Housewife Role, were ignorant of women's issues affecting them, and their expectations, argues Stott, were predictably low. They had no reason to suppose that the backlashes of the '50s and '60s worked against them, instead they accepted subordination as the norm. Stott stresses that women today have easier access to an understanding of fem-

inism, which is true, and that we've come a long way since the time twenty years ago when a Woman's Place was behind the kitchen sink with a baby perched on her hip.

Obviously, there have been progressions for women since then, both socially and economically, and indeed Stott emphasises improvements in areas like broadcasting, where chances for women have increased since 1970 when there was only one female broadcaster on the radio, and none on TV.

However, I feel that Stott ignores the ugliness of a woman's status today, and instead concentrates on the improvements she has witnessed. I argue that the young women of the '50s and '60s became our mothers, and were just as "uninformed" as their mothers had been, regarding Women's Rights. How many of our mothers have become full supporters of Female Liberation simply because they were growing up at a time when feminism was starting to erode the shores of England from the US when they were approaching womanhood? Influence from their mothers repeated itself in influence upon us. The Women's Movement lacks a great deal of support from women of all ages, and young girls today are no more "in touch" with the danger of backlashes than their mothers had been.

Look around you - we live in a swamp of backlashes. The "pap" fed to teenage girls of the post-war period in magazines of the day exists often in a more blatant form in the stuff they're reading today. Hands up those who were carried through early adolescence on a diet of "Jackie" or "Blue Jeans", with articles like "How to revitalise

your wardrobe to wow your Boy at the youth club" to show us where we stood? Women are put down and humiliated constantly today, and it is a purely ostrich-like approach to suggest that because the past twenty years has seen some improvement in their position, mainly legally and economically, "things are looking good". Stott mentions the large under-representation of women in areas like the medical profession and in various government departments, but does not recognise the existence of wider injustices. Female subordination is present today as a virtual way of life, and it is naive of Stott to outline a specific backlash (such as the one from the mid '70s that she mentions, when a book called "The Female Woman" by Arianna Stassinopoulos was published), since this implies that we're coasting along quite nicely with the odd interruption that we somehow manage to handle. How can she pinpoint the publication of one book as a specific attack on feminism, when the mid '70s also saw an Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Act which failed to have much effective significance and throughout that decade, overlapping into this, we have seen the rising popularity of the Page 3 Phenomena, Beauty Contests, an increase in the amount of rape cases, and a general expansion of the female exploitation which existed twenty years ago. I could pinpoint quite a few more backlashes than Stott seems to want to.

She guides us through her article with a cheerful, optimistic approach that makes me want to share her unyielding positive outlook,

but there are too many forces opposing Women's Struggle in all kinds of areas today for me to feel gushingly grateful for the generally slight improvements. I just cannot accept statements telling me that organisations like the W.I. and the Townswomen's Guild are "broadening their horizons" when I know damn well there are definite anti-feminist streaks running throughout those collectives of women, and I don't believe we have got rid of "that patronising label" - Women's Lib.

Stott ends her article by decrying David Stayt, who was responsible for a "recent backlash" - a journal entitled "Vive la difference!" - because he outlines the woman's role in all areas as necessarily submissive. Yet I can almost hear her support for him when she tells us that, among other wifely tasks, her mother would darn holes in her father's socks, make jams and pickles, and do the weekly wash, and she also managed to hold down a career and interests. Superwoman!

Her article presented the kind of satisfaction that people like David Stayt would love us all to feel with our lives today as women. Instead of displaying a balanced account of women's status, Stott focussed on the Backlash as a frequent interruption to what is generally a smoothly run, "near as dammit" position of equality. I leave it up to you to decide whether or not we're slipping, or have slipped, back into second-class status. "Ban the backlash!" - easier said than done.

EMMA CLAYTON

"NO TITS BUT BALLS"...A new organ for Labour.

A paper that takes a different attitude towards today's news is indeed a good thing. Its best to see an apolitical press, but in the present 'Conservative' climate, being manifestly Socialist may be forgiven as re-dressing the balance.

News on Sunday is said to be "A radical Sunday newspaper...Britain's Bravest and Brightest". Rabidly Socialist it may be, it also champions causes that an apathetic British public may find offensive, depressing or just plain dull.

Isolating it's possible readership is thus a problem for the paper. Revolutionary fervour may further be blunted by the need to appease its financiers. Even though its received around £2 million from the TUC other sources may dry up, especially with the projected readership of 800,000 not even being half met. An editorial 'battle' is supposedly in progress, with a Lancashire businessman, Mr. Owen Oyston, ready to pump more money into the venture but taking an active role in it's management.

Some of the social problems discussed are: inadequate funding of the social services, leading to innocent caregivers being blamed of child abuse; 'trick' questions on unemployment benefit forms to

save government money, and 'doctor' the figures: housing shortages etc. creating, in many people's view a more real image of the erosion in the quality and hope of many peoples lives in Thatcher's Britain.

In a move to look back down the unfocused telescope our press has towards Ireland, the paper leads the recent IRA deaths in Loughgall, with the leader 'Cities riot after SAS Death ambush', and claim that the SAS executed IRA members who had surrendered. Police were also said to have taunted the IRA by daubing their vehicles with 'Eight-Nil'.

Animal liberation issues are also given a 'less-traditional' flavour. Descriptive writing to stir any human sensibilities captures the agony, and helplessness, of the creatures that man mutilates.

There is a 'jolly' side to the 'rag', with a running cartoon on 'the Secret diary of Margaret Hilda', by the author of master mole, there's also "Codd's Mallow", and a vulture. Another funny thing is that they claim to have regional interest at heart. They might include S4C in the telly guide!

Compared to it's competitors it isn't a bad paper, and does, to some extent, question the 'news', but like it's tabloid counter-parts it wallows in sensationalism.

HUW WILLIAMS.

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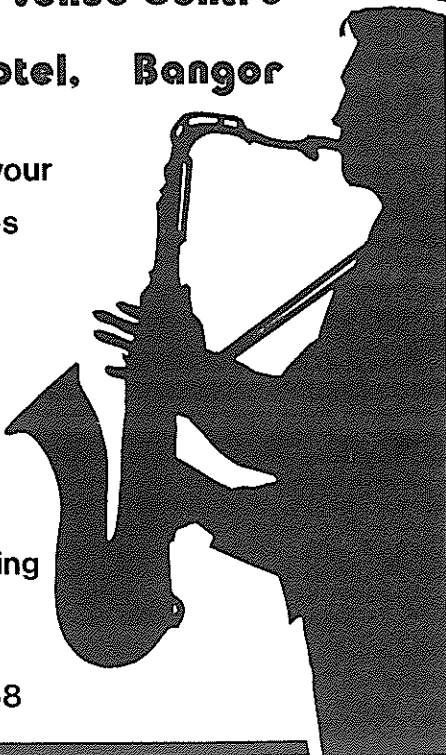
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FEATURES

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THE SECOND IN A SHORT SERIES EXAMINING THE LIFESTYLES

ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIOUR OF BANGOR STUDENTS SINCE 1945

BLOODY STUDENTS

-Another look at Town-College Relations

Taken from 'FORECAST' 22/12/1958

by J.M.Lawton

SOME STUDENTS MAY FEEL THAT THEIR SECURITY IS SUDDENLY UNDER THREAT. THERE HAVE BEEN ATTACKS ON STUDENTS RECENTLY WHICH HAVE BEEN QUITE VICIOUS, AND ANTI-STUDENT FEELING AMONGST THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SEEMS TO BE AT AN UNPRECEDENTED HIGH.

Student-local friction is not, though, a radically new phenomenon. The more paranoid amongst us can take little comfort in that alone, but it may be at least of interest to know that this friction is nowhere near as bad as it used to be.

It's also worth bearing in mind that in the past, the bulk of this antipathy has been caused by a failure, on the part of the student body, to dispel hackneyed and negative images of themselves amongst the local community. Many resent the abuse of privilege which often accompanies student presence, and student behaviour at its most mindless often helps turn this resentment into anger. This particularly happens when this privilege seems to allow them to go unpunished when their behaviour is at its most destructive.

On Wednesday, 27th February, 1957, Bangor University's once-celebrated Debating Society debated the motion: "THAT THE TOWN AND GOWN WILL NEVER AGREE, AND RIGHTLY SO". The debate was ill-attended, and was handled with alarming flippancy. 15 voted against the motion, while 33 actually voted for it. That such a majority should, flippantly or otherwise, accept (and, thus, advocate) a perpetual state of antagonism is disconcerting to say the least. It was, as they say, a red rag to a bull, and was a rag which had been, and was to remain, one frequently and arrogantly waved.

Disgruntled.

"FORECAST", the student newspaper of old, was reporting unsavoury and antagonistic student behaviour as early as pre-Teddy-boy, post-War 1950. In the first issue of that year (11th Oct.), a letter appeared complaining about the unruly and drunken behaviour of a handful of male students. Apparently, Saturday night revellers were returning to their lodging en masse, intimidating the local community. On their arrival, they would "serenade" female students until morning, causing a disturbance which the local community was powerless to stop. The writer of the letter (a "Disgruntled") described it as "mob hysteria" and "Hooliganism...under

the pseudonym of serenading."

The unusual thing about the most boisterous of this behaviour is that it always seems to occur at the same time every year: in, roughly, the second or third week of the first term. The editorial of the issue which was published almost exactly a year later (19th Oct. 1951) tried to explain why this happened. It claimed that after only a short time in Bangor, previously shy freshers gained enough confidence to start copying the behaviour of the second and third years. Freedom for the first time though, led to an annoying over-reaction. "After a couple of weeks in college", according to Forecast, "students quickly go to the dogs."

A feature in the same issue suggested that students should have their own sanatorium built in Britain. Here, tired, ill, or just worried students could work in quiet and comfortable surroundings - funded, presumably, by tired, ill or "just worried" tax-paying locals.

Another letter a year on (again at roughly the same time) complained about an inter-college soccer match between Bangor and Cardiff. A non-University Bangor local was used as the referee, and before, during and after the match, the man was abused and threatened by the Bangorians not for being the referee, but merely for being a local.

Go forward two years - again at roughly the same time - and the letters page becomes the outlet for another puritans' outrage. In a letter headed "Daddy's Pants" (for no apparent reason), one student expresses his anger at a group of freshers who had, apparently, broken into a number of college buildings. In the following issue (12:11:54), a letter appeared headed "Daddy's Pants (again)", in which one of this gang wrote to justify his actions: "After all," he said, "we are students". After all...

Fair games.

A year later (again, almost exactly), two incidents occurred in short succession which led to the portrayal of Bangor students as little more than hooligans who believed that their behaviour fell within their rights as students.

Fair Borth (Menai Bridge Fair) had become fair game for a bit of a ruck between University students and Normal College students. In 1955, though, this "ruck" resulted in a near-riot, leading to the arrest of three students. A gang of students had blocked the road at the

traffic island during the course of the fighting and, at the height of the violence, this gang attempted to overturn a slow-moving car, carrying "non-U" refugees away from the fracas. In the press though, two widely differing accounts of that day's events were given. In the Bangor and North Wales Weekly News of the following week, Superintendent G.W.Brown said that "...Conditions were deplorable, and the police officers on duty had serious difficulty in maintaining public order." Forecast reported the incident with such bubbly frivolity that those who read the student press alone would've mistaken it for a garden party:

"It was most gratifying to find many freshers women take part in the affray, but where were the men? I hope the women will persuade them to come along next year...tell them to bring an adequate supply of fruit and flour...above all, leave valuables and breakables at home."

It was only a week before violence again flared in Bangor. On bonfire night, the fourth anniversary of Benidicimus's untimely demise was celebrated with its usual zealotry, only this year local youths decided to join in. As a result of this "participation", there was widespread damage to University, private and public property.

Sporting life.

Similar incidents probably occurred for the next seven years without much variation, because it wasn't until 1962 that violence flared to such an extent that it was considered newsworthy again.

The 9th Nov. issue of Forecast in that year reported an "unrivalled display of hooliganism which caused the police to be called out on several occasions." 200 members of various Aberystwyth sports teams were in Bangor, and were, along with a handful of Bangor "sportsmen", responsible for a night of violence which included the following incidents:

- sabotage of the Registrars Office.
- the smashing of all doors and windows in the Union House.
- assault of the Union President and of one Forecast reporter.
- damage to the Railway, Gwynedd (now "Garden") and British Hotels following outbreaks of fighting between students and locals.
- the theft of keys to rooms in St. Mary's which led to the severe harassment of women Education students in their own rooms.

Five years later it was Swansea's turn to help promote student-community relations in Bangor.

On 21st October, 1967, Swansea University Rugby Club defoliated Upper Bangor by systematically removing every tree they could find, and then set about casting Bangor into darkness by digging up and disconnecting electricity supply cables. Again all that Bangor received in return was a polite apology.

The incidents of 25th October, 1975 made it seem as if every five years or so, all the other colleges in Wales sent a busload of "delegates" to Bangor to inflame the local community and give most Bangor students a bad name. On this day, well-oiled UMIST students became involved in a three-way fight between Bangor students and locals who were using the Union Bar on that Saturday night. Following some fairly dirty brawling, the UMIST teams beat a hasty retreat to their coach.

This incident was only ten days after Bangor University Soccer Team ran amok in Aberystwyth. One member of the team (aided, presumably, by eleven of his friends) threw a weighing machine through a shop window, after trashing most of the other windows on the High Street. These Twelve Good Men And True were arrested, but only one was charged - with stealing a pint glass.

This article wasn't so much compiled as EDITED. Violence on this scale happened so frequently that to recount it all would prove highly repetitive. It seemed that every other issue of "FORECAST", "GRAFFITI", or "LOOKOUT" dealt with this seemingly perpetual town-gown antagonism.

From the mid- to late-Seventies onwards, though, there seems to have been a lull in events on a large enough scale to provoke very strong anti-student feeling. Perhaps the nature of the student body has changed. Higher education is no less competitive an arena to enter, but the shedding of a lot of prestige and privilege surrounding student life has helped to get rid of a lot of this resentment. Nonetheless, a degree of pressure between the two communities remains. Students still indulge in some archaic rituals which are basically hooliganism under the guise of tradition, and for some reason, academic ability still makes a person less guilty of a crime. Until these facts are no longer true, we will always be face with a degree of student-local antagonism.

FEATURES

Lesbian & Gay Pride '87

As you may know, every year at the end of June lesbians and gay men from all over the country hold a carnival parade and festival in London. It's a day of celebration, with a wide range of social and commercial interests involved, but it's also a political occasion, when large numbers of oppressed and usually invisible people are visible in large numbers on the streets of London.

This year the Pride march takes place against a background of intensified attacks on lesbians and gay

men under cover of the AIDS scare. Denial of our rights is now being justified as a legitimate public health measure, and it's becoming respectable to call for compulsory screening, registration and surveillance. The gutter press, religious bigots and right wing moralists are clamouring for more and more repressive measures against homosexuals, and queerbashers on the streets now have a new excuse. In this atmosphere, it's vital that as many people as possible support the demand for lesbian and gay rights.

Whether you are homosexual or heterosexual please join us on Saturday 27th June for the march - starting at Speaker's Corner - and show your solidarity for Lesbian and Gay Liberation.

Cyngora Gwybodaeth
351263
BANGOR
LESBIAN
LINE
Advice & Information
Ydd Mawrth - Tuesday 6:8pm

If you are interested in the Group's activities and Lesbian and Gay issues, you can contact the Lesbian and Gay Officer via the pigeon holes on the 2nd Floor of the Student's Union outside the General Office.

THE LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP MEETS
REGULARLY AT 3.30pm EVERY SUNDAY
IN THE WELFARE OFFICE, 2nd FLOOR
OF THE STUDENT'S UNION.

Occasionally social events are organised. Watch the Lesbian and Gay noticeboard on the main staircase of the Student's Union.

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Jane's Story

I have been going through a custody case which began in the summer just before I went to Oaklands. After the holiday I took the kids to the seaside, and my ex-husband came and snatched them from the boarding house where we were staying. Soon afterwards I went to court and he was awarded interim custody. I was really shocked by this, because he has a full time job and lives on his own. His mother was expected to look after them.

There was a time when I was thinking of denying that I was a lesbian but it became impossible because he had got hold of my private papers and letters. Also I knew that if I denied it I would always be watched if I did win custody on these grounds.

During the case one of the worst things was being investigated by the court welfare officer. It was constantly implied that I was a bad mother because I left my husband and was a lesbian. I was forced to stop doing anything that might be considered as bad motherhood in their terms. I had to give up my job because good mothers don't work, they stay at home and look after the children. I couldn't go to feminist conferences, because this would be pushing my politics down the children's throats. I was even asked about taking my children on a peace demonstration. The welfare officer kept on trying to get me to say whether I would take a butch or femme role in my next lesbian relationship. Most of his report was about my sexuality, not my relationship with the children, which he never denied was good. He suggested that the children would have problems with their sexuality and all lesbians had dominating fathers.

My ex-husband couldn't accept that I'd left him to go and live and relate to women so he became really vindictive. In the case he implied that I was mad, dishonest, promiscuous and a bad mother. I had to go and get a psychiatrist report from HIS psychiatrist to show I wasn't mentally disturbed.

He drove me into a situation where I almost began to believe what he was saying about me; in that situation it was very important to have the support of other lesbians and lesbian mothers. In the end I withdrew from the court case as it was clear that I wasn't going to win. Fighting through the court was fighting on their terms and as a white middle-class male he had everything on his side. I became worried that I would get bad access arrangements if the hearing continued.

The courts don't care what happened to the children or the effect their separation from me is having on them. I put a lot of energy into caring for my children for five years and the courts totally disregard this. I don't even know if I should be writing this down; it's supposed to be secret. But part of breaking down their power is to be able to talk about what happened to me and to share it with other women in similar situations.

The only way I think things will improve, and what I am fighting for is to make all lesbians accepted, to make ourselves more public as lesbians and mothers and to say we are not going to stop having children because we are lesbians.

LESBIAN MOTHERHOOD

A number of points made by the lesbian in this article are fairly typical of lesbian custody cases. Firstly, when ex-husbands contest custody it is often not with the view to caring for them themselves, but rather for a female relative like a mother or new wife to look after. The glaring inconsistency here is of course that a heterosexual mother would, in most cases, be automatically awarded custody (courts assume that childcare is women's work).

"LESBIAN MOTHERS ON TRIAL" is the title of a survey on the treatment of lesbians in court. It is no way an exaggeration, it is the lesbian who is interrogated about her lifestyle, sexuality and politics, courts still, in the so-

called liberated eighties, on the whole subscribe to the view that lesbians and gay men are sick, abnormal deviants and unfit to care for children.

This of course throws up an enormously misinformed belief that children are asexual beings and the thought that they will be straight when they grow up. Children of lesbian mothers in fact stand to benefit enormously as they have been able to have (understandably) very tolerant views when they are older and a far more informed choice about their sexuality. Anyone who wants to know more about lesbian motherhood, the book "LESBIAN MOTHERS' LEGAL HANDBOOK" is a valuable source of information, or phone Bangor Lesbian Line to be put in contact with the National Lesbian Mothers' Campaign.

FEATURES

EAST - WEST, THE BALANCE OF TRADE

There is a kind of horrible irony about the seriousness with which the British and American governments take the economic war with Japan. Not only have the wicked Japanese been punished for practicing the best free market principles and selling us their goods and services at well under what we could offer. (Leaving the Cable and Wireless row aside for the moment; and what, I wonder, would have been the reaction of this government to the news that a Japanese firm wanted even more of the British Telecom flotation than Keith Best.) The really worrying point is that in the eyes of Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Reagan this is clearly a far more heinous crime than all the horrors of twenty-odd years of Apartheid.

The nub of this sordid matter is that ultimately the government is right. The Japanese and the other Far Eastern countries do undercut the Western industrial nations unfairly. They do it through working conditions even our cowed Unions cannot be forced to accept. Through 'progressive work practices' (progressive feudalism?) and through the cheaper raw material available from Korea and Malaysia, extracted with what is practically slave labour. The exploitation of women and part-time labour, the use of child labour in conditions which, under international law, are technically slavery all contribute to the price difference between Far Eastern and Western radios.

An interesting example of the processes of thought on both sides of this economic Somme is provided

MISS ENGLAND - MISUNDERSTOOD

Picture the scene: thirty two leggy lovelies await their turn on the catwalk; a herd branded with "swimwear" as they prepare to parade for audience and judge. A sturdy, healthy-looking crop this year - the bidding will be high, the competition fierce. But a good time will be had by all: it's harmless peak-time viewing and nobody can object.

The show has begun; Judith Chalmers and friend introduce their delightful studio audience, and the armchair ogles viewing from home, consisting of such well-loved household names as Bruce Forsyth and Jimmy Tarbuck, and musical relief provided by an offshoot of "Bucks Fizz", who could say the messrs Morley haven't done their utmost to delight us once again?

Of course it's all good, clean fun; there can't possibly be anything wrong with an evening spent eyeing the female form as it presents itself to a panel of clapped out TV celebrities. How could anyone feel strongly about the idea of a herd of girls appearing under different guises of "swim", "casual" and "evening" wear, as they compete for the prestigious and much-envied title of "Miss-Most-Sindy-Like-Figure-That-Can-Possibly-Become-Achieved-By-A-Human-Being"? (or is that Miss-Uncanny-Resemblance-To-Bruce-Forsyth's-Sixth-Wife?) The title means an awful lot to these ambitious young girls, since it pro-

vides an outlet from part-time modelling to full time boutique and old people's home opening, and of course there's the bonus of an appearance on TVam before sliding off into complete obscurity. Designer swimwear, orange suntans, leg-lengthening heels, and those natural, completely un-self-conscious smiles revealing perfectly manicured teeth any Osmond would have been proud to own - Miss Regional is set to take the limelight. Released from her pen behind the scenes, she is led through Miss Chalmers' witty but complimentary banter towards her judges, for whom she has a prepared smile, and then we are shown that looks and poise are not all she possesses to claim the crown - Miss Regional has a personality too. Of course this will come as a revelation to those of you cynical enough to dismiss Beauty Competitions as little more than battles of that one asset, but these girls have brains too, and this is exposed to the full during their in-depth conversations with our hostess. Miss Regional is not only a frequent dabbler in part-time modelling, she also loves children and collects Duran Duran memorabilia. Winning the competition would mean everything to her, but, naturally, fame and fortune are not going to change her lifestyle, and she will use her title to help those less fortunate than herself - sick animals, old people, homeless orphans - they will all benefit from her success.

So, she's not just a pretty face. The well-worn cliché opposing her participation in the competition on

by the recent Japanese announcement of their intention to build an international airport on land at present under water. This spectacular, and thoroughly Japanese, feat of engineering has caught the Yen-hungry eyes of various Western consortia. For reasons best known to themselves the inscrutable occidentals decided that Japanese nerve in backing this high-risk venture ought to mean something like ninety percent of the contracts going out West. Not surprisingly, the Japanese told them where to get off. What is both surprising and revealing are their stated reasons for shopping at home. Apparently, only Japanese companies have the necessary experience of this kind of work. (This seems dubious to put it mildly - the Dutch have built about half their nation on land that used to belong to Davy Jones.) The second reason is more revealing: apparently only Japanese workers would get the job done on time and only they would be prepared to risk their lives to get it finished.

It is a horrible thought that even now some British and American companies are probably turning out prospectuses in Japanese explaining how the new style Western workforce is also quite happy to commit Hari Kiri in the cause of the firm's bank balance.

This brings us quite nicely to the Western Market Forces answer to the problem. Quite simply, make sure Western workpractices revert to the fourteenth century and catch up with the Japanese. In the interval of dangerous modern anachronism interfere

desperately in other people's economies (perish the thought that we should interfere in our own), to sell our uneconomically humanitarian goods. That there is another possible solution does not seem to have occurred to anyone - sanctions can be used to change other things apart from Stock Market admissions. The fact that the West has persistently failed to use sanctions to improve the lot of the working population of South Africa does not mean that they won't work in the Far East. Incidentally, if sanctions affect the lowest paid first and hence are immoral against the RSA, how the hell are they supposed to affect the heads of the Japanese capitalist system! What sanctions

should be aimed at is, getting social change; improved workpractices, pay and working conditions for the working people of the Far East. In this case, not only would you legitimise the competition between East and West but you would also humanise the lives of millions of the most savagely economically oppressed workers in the world. I am not saying this is a likely, practical or even possible suggestion. I am just using it to highlight the nauseating bleating of a lot of very powerful hypocrites who find themselves badly beaten at their own sordid game, and who don't seem to like it.

Rick Peterson.

Beat The Examiner At His Own Game

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5

the grounds of degradation and humiliation crumbles beneath the display of bubbling personality and intense conversation. This contest includes all features, and the fact that it involves a conveyor belt of females and a judging system that happens to resemble the selection of livestock, has nothing to do with its undeserved widespread criticism.

No; it's because the cropped-haired, baggy-dungareed plain-Janes that moan on and on about things like "exploitation" and "liberation" can never hope to be as attractive as the array of Sindies you see before you. They're jealous, so they're angry - it's as simple as that.

Everyone enjoys a good Beauty Contest. Don't spoil it by questioning things like values. Women were put

here to wear skimpy clothes and smile for male judges - why else would there be such things as Wet T-shirt competitions and Page 3 Girl of the Year awards? It's when we start to question things that we females find ourselves out of our depth. As Samantha Fox so thoughtfully points out: "They use me, so why shouldn't I use them?"

Our task is to take advantage of the fact that we can sell ourselves, and any objection to this simply has to amount to jealous frustration. After all, we're all harbouring repressed desires to win "Miss Looks/Personality/Suntan/Natural Smile". Aren't we?

EMMA CLAYTON

FEATURES

A.G.M. 7.5.1987

The Union's AGM saw the year out with a bang - although for much of the time the recurring problem of iniquity impeded proceedings. It strikes me as being near futile for a Union to attempt to provide services for its members if such an important - and highly advertised - meeting as this can not even maintain a quorate number of students - 90 only - for the whole proceedings.

However, the quality of debate was high, as usual, and the motions discussed deserve to be transmitted to all the members - so here goes!

REPORTS

Steph Hill, the Welfare Officer, stated in her report, which started the meeting, that student accommodation is still a major problem area in Bangor. It seems then that James Francis has quite a challenge in convincing College authorities and private landlords to ease the situation, although the proposed extension of facilities at St. Mary's are a step in the right direction. Steph further commented on the successful campaign to save the Student Health Centre, thanks in the main to worthy efforts of the Welfare Office in the face of great opposition from within College. Other major developments in the area of Welfare include the appointments of Fran Tate and Mavis Jones as Research and Welfare Officer and Overseas Student Adviser respectively - staff who have proved to be a great source of support for many students already.

The activities of Pete Townshend have been many and varied, as shown in his report as Community Action Organiser. The most notable development in the CA Office this year has been the extension of the role of the CA Committee, which has increased the level of involvement within Bangor. Of particular interest is the campaign to rebuild Mees Tryfan Youth Club - for which CA hope to be able to raise a further £20,000. Pete's report highlighted the wide variety of projects students and non-students can involve themselves in, but the best way to find out more details is to call in the office, which is now attended at all times by a member of the committee.

Jon Wild presented quite a rosy picture from the Athletics Union, with many teams performing well in the University of Wales competitions (the soccer 3rd team winning theirs). The recent hockey trip to Zandvoort (Holland) proved a great success, as did the multi-sports competition in the Spring term. It was quite clear from his report that Jon has been kept very busy in the AU office this year, meeting with several national sports bodies as well as representing UCUW and Welsh Universities on the rugby team.

Colin Campbell, reporting for the last time as Union Chairperson, delivered a scathing attack on the

disinterest shown in Union affairs by the membership, which disappointed him, particularly in the light of the political and financial climate the Student Union movement now finds itself in.

Clive Humphries, the Overseas Students' Officer, stressed the shift in emphasis in his office from ethnicity to catering for the well-being of overseas students in general. He also commented on the successful development of the Overseas Students' Association, which provides a forum both for handling individual's problems and for organising social activities.

Martin Purcell, Deputy Chairperson, commented further on the lack of interest in Union affairs. However he saw "light at the end of the tunnel" in that the executive posts for next year are all full - bar one - so at least that committee can function more effectively.

Toni Wyld, General Secretary, reported on the large range of entertainments provided in the Union this year and explained that the increased cost of the Summer Ball tickets was due to a number of factors - including the clash with Glastonbury which means that we have to hire outside caterers, and the fact that the Pasadena Roof Orchestra are playing - obviously at a cost! Figures presented verbally indicated that the ticket price of £12.00 will in fact make a loss of 1p per ticket!

Much of Toni's interim report stressed her involvement with the running of clubs and societies and liaising with College, while at the same time handling day-to-day enquiries.

The report of Sean McArdle, President, concentrated in the main on new developments in the Union over the year, including the Jazz Room refurbishment, the purchase of a computer and negotiating a tenancy agreement for the S.U. Building with College. He also announced that Hall fees will increase by no more than 2% next year, which was very pleasing. Under questioning, it was stated that the investigation into the missing crates of Red Stripe at the Christmas Ball had proved to be inconclusive due to dubious submissions to that enquiry.

With regards to proposed College cuts, Sean said the rally was relatively successful in gaining publicity, and that he had written to several MPs. In this respect, and in providing a forum for debate, the "improved" 'Y Seren' was praised by the President, who has endeavoured to use the newspaper more this year.

GUEST SPEAKERS

In between these reports, a platform was given to prospective parliamentary candidates from the Labour party and the Liberal/SDP

Alliance. Betty Williams (Lab) gave a brief synopsis of likely changes in government, while Roger Roberts (All) concentrated his speech on local issues. When questioned, both speakers committed themselves to the campaign against College Cuts, and said that if elected they would work with the Union on any further action. This section proved to be an interesting interlude in what proved to be a lengthy meeting.

UNION BUSINESS

There was a constitutional amendment passed, which allows the Athletics Union to receive 22% of all audited income to the Union on top of the 22% cut of the Amalgamation fee. This should allow for greater flexibility in the AU's activities, especially as the Amalgamation fee is effectively being reduced.

Policy motions ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, allowing for light hearted relief from serious issues. In these motions, the Union committed support to the Viraj Mendis campaign (Viraj Mendis has been resident in the UK for 13 years and is "threatened with deportation to Sri Lanka - where he faces persecution and possible death"), and made provision for the election of representative to the NUS women's Campaign Conference in closed women's group meetings.

The constitutions of the English Speaking Union, Bangor University Branch, and the Pagan Society were recognised, while the executive were mandated to have an independent study into the feasibility of forming a limited company to trade with the public to be carried out. A discussion on the price to be charged for laundrette facilities in the basement seemed to favour 50p (although this matter was left unresolved), while the motion highlighting the dangers of alcohol abuse mandated

the executive to co-ordinate a "Stay-Dry Campaign", and a donation of £50 to the Gwynedd Whole body Scanner appeal was sanctioned.

???????

Some of the more "interesting" motions passed mandated the executive to realign the Top College buildings with the Glastonbury-Bangor ley lines, and to raise the level of the Union building. Ugliness was criticized - namely in the shape of the Mandela mural (which is to be painted over by Splodge) and the executive (who have to wear paper bags over their heads at all GMs! In a similar vein, in order that the Union Administrator skip along merrily, it is thought that the Gen Sec should occasionally pinch his bottom!

Motions to be ratified at the next GM include renaming the Jazz Room the Larry Adler Bar, playing "Ivor the Engine" tapes over the PA at suitable points, at the discretion of those fine people - Stage Crew and Rag Managers. Indeed, the Rag Manager is the very same person who under his real name is to be bought a free pint (after ratification) - namely Shaun Goode, and his stooges (sorry lads!) Andy Chipperfield and Matt Haigh. The same people who were elected to next year's GM Steering Committee? I wonder what surprises we can expect from them at next year's General Meetings?!

The only way to find out is to bloody well get down to the Union and see for yourself! If you think this is too frivolous, or seems like good fun, state your case at the meetings and have a total shake-up if needs be. No tutting without some finger pulling - okay?!

THE EAR THAT HEARS
(The left one that is!)

ELECTION RESULTS

Deputy Chairperson: David Hughes.
Exec. Member: John Hill
Women's Officer: Emma Clayton
Ents Co-ordinator: Jen Davies
Stage Crew Manager: Kevin Beare
Rag Manager: Shaun Goode
SRC: Kerry Giles
Robbo
Morgan Denyer
Hugh Oxburgh
Lee Davis
F and GP: Robbo
Vincent Theobald
GM Steering: Andy Chipperfield
Patrick Harrop

Honorary Life Membership granted to:
John Hughes
Michael Fox
Neil Thomas

Summer Ball
Dawns Haf
Pasadena
THE ROOF ORCHESTRA

Friday 19th June
Gwener 19fed
Pritchard Jones Hall
Neyadd Pritchard Jones
Buffet
Buffle
Strawberry & Champagne Breakfast
Brecwa Champagne & Mefus
8pm un
8pm tan y
Formal dress
Gwisg ffurfiol yn unig
Tickets £12
in advance only
Tocynnau £12
o flaen llaw yn unig
Tickets available from Students Union general office
Tocynnau o wyddfa gyffredinol Undeb y Nysfyrwyr

SOLD OUT

« RIVER CITY JAZZ MEN »




ARTS



misty in roots

If anyone is interested in contributing photos, articles, or ideas for a new national magazine, especially concerned with the North Wales area, then could they please contact MARK LAWTON on Bangor 364773.

THE POETRY MAGAZINE: THE GREEN FUSE

The Green Fuse is an anthology of poetry written by students at Bangor University. The collection is very well presented in an attractive red jacket, whilst the poems are sparsely laid out. There are no illustrations to colour readers' impressions of the poems: they are free from visual embellishments. Contributors range from the mysterious Robert Ankers to better known figures such as Andy Cockhead, Jeremy Hughes and Barry Kaye. The standard of poetry is excellent. Naturally the subject matter for many of the poems is devined from love and relationships. Particular favourites of mine are the androgynous Robert Ankers' "Dreamsong - A Journey", Peter Macdonald-Smith's "Reading, re-reading", and Tim Orrell's "On September 1st Suddenly".

Sarah Eason's poem "A Punishable Offence" seems to deal with the more macabre aspects of teacher pupil relationships, but unfortunately in my copy the printers have deemed it necessary to censor the first few stanzas. Page 18 remains a blank, so too does the impact of Sarah's poem. In the foreword the editors express a desire to ensure the continuity of the magazine. New editors will take over at the end of the year, and begin to collect poetry for a new edition which will appear in the first term of next year. They also express a desire to print some poetry in Welsh. All contributions for the next edition can be brought to the Y SEREN office. The next edition of the magazine will coincide with a students' poetry reading, to take place in the first week of December, 1987. This will be organised in conjunction with the English Society.

LOCAL BANDS NIGHT

Over the Easter vacation, the local bands support group presented four local band nights in the jazz room. A variety of musical styles were in evidence, ranging from the hugely talented Joe Soap, and the dynamic Harvey Star, and the Moonbeams on April 3rd, to Yr Anhrefn, Crystallnacht, Nemesis and Soliloquy on April 10th. Also playing were The Lungs, The Tarantulas and Another Perfect Vegetable on April 17th, and Cut Tunes and The Flaps on April 24th.

These gigs were very well supported and provided great entertainment to the lucky fans, and it is to be hoped that the local bands support group will continue to provide more great events.

THE EYE THAT SEES

MERCURY

Tying together Dreams of Massacre
Hiding the Shattering scream deep
Inside me, donning the smiling
mask to
Show to the world.

(Instant Insanity, a powdered product available
Soon at a friendly supermarket near you!)

Allusions of being a God?

Listen to my ego, that petty tyrant
Over the emotion, over
All the Four Humours, ('til
Death becomes immortal and instantly forgettable).

(Offerings of human hearts to higher forms,
Free with each purchase over £5!)

Bolstering myself, I stumble resolutely forward,
Until I come to the end of the tunnel, that

Light that promises, that
Light that reveals, shows indiscretion and shame,
Shines remorseless, judging,
Hiding it away is useless, this message that

I carry, for it becomes obvious to
Those simple enough to stand words on their head.

BLACK: EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES

Black's last single, "Wonderful Life" was, according to A&M, their new record company, "one of 1986's most significant indie hits". In an attempt to turn Black into a "real" chart success, the B-side of "Wonderful Life" has now been released as a single in its own right. And very good it is too, a highly danceable track with a

JESUS AND MARY CHAIN: APRIL SKIES 12", BLANCO Y NEGRO

There's not a lot of feedback on the title track, April Skies (long version), of this most progressive of JAMC slow energy thrashers. Though tense, the guitar is tuneful and...slow motion. Bass monotonously thumps. In essence the ballad oozes a complete lack of urgency, not necessarily typical of JAMC. The vocals of Jim Reid are typical JAMC, always harmonious above anything else that's going on in the

"MOTHER FIST AND HER FIVE DAUGHTERS"
- Marc Almond

At one time Marc Almond's critics could quite rightly say (and they usually did) that he hit a few bum notes, using this as a reason for disliking him/his music. But dedicated Gutterhearts can quite as reasonably maintain that this is one of his warbling charms. However, in this new album, Marc proves that he can sound just as melodic as he can seedy, being innovative all the time.

"Mother Fist" is a more lustful album than "Stories of Johnny" - would Marc ever produce anything that wouldn't cause controversy somewhere? He delights in trying to shock people with things which he and his fans are used to - but with the inherent belief that no-one should really be shocked. He

mean synth riff, and Colin Vearncombe once again proving that he's a vocalist to be reckoned with.

My one minor criticism is the addition of some frenetic guitar playing which tries to be clever and ends up messy. Despite that, I strongly recommend that you buy this single and thus put Black firmly on the road to major success.

SARAH CARTER

band. For a song that's got lyrics like

"Making love on the edge of a knife,
And the world comes tumbling down."
JAMC, in my estimation, are far from faltering. I enjoyed this record a lot, and the double B side "Kill surf city" and "Who do you love?" are both more typical JAMC tracks, but still well worth a few listens. To find out you'll have to buy it!

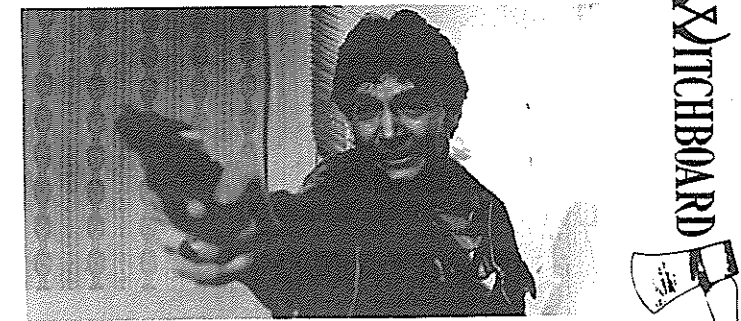
JOE CREED

hates the hypocrisy about the society which we live in, so he writes very honestly about his own attitudes, and always against narrow-mindedness.

There are 12 songs on this album, which makes it well worth the money for a start. Each says something different about the life Marc leads, with no inhibitions. From the sultry "Saint Judy", where he says "It feels good to die for your sins", to "Ruby Red", probably one of the most single-like tracks, you can enjoy all aspects of this new album; not just for Marc's voice, but also Annie Hogan's excellent piano, and The Willing Sinners' equally masterful musicianship. So what if the BBC has banned "Mother Fist"? Buy it and judge for yourself.

JO HOUSLEY

Evil, suspense and horror engulf three friends as they fall under the power of the mysterious Ouija board, in the supernatural horror movie Witchboard. To promote Witchboard, 'Y SEREN' is launching a wonderful competition just for you. We have two gorgeously gory T-shirts with a rubber axe protruding from the heart area and blood dripping down the front waiting to be won by the first two lucky right entries, and badges galore for the runners up.

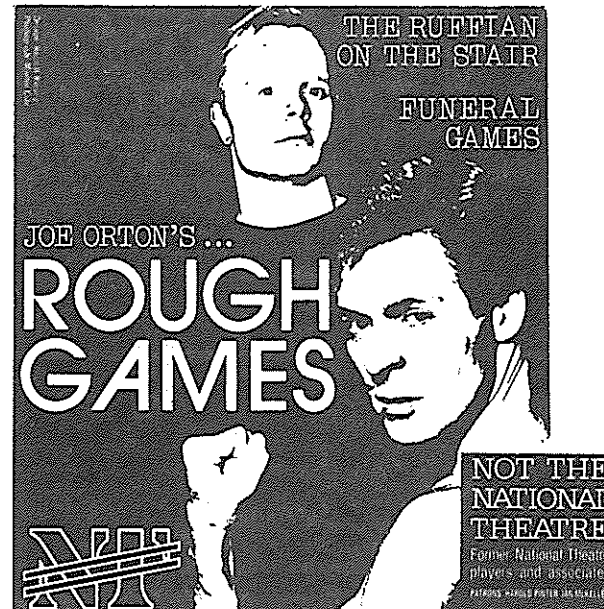


All you have to do is to match the following films to the characters:

MOVIE	CHARACTER
A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET	Christine
THE EXORCIST	Damien
THE OMEN	Jason
CHRISTINE	Regan
FRIDAY THE 13TH	Freddy

Answers on a postcard to the Editor, via the 'Y SEREN' pigeon hole. Winners will be drawn out of a hat. The Editor's decision is final. 'Y Seren' staff may not enter.

ARTS



To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Joe Orton's death, the Not The National Theatre company is touring with two of his plays: The Ruffian On The Stair and Funeral Games, under the collective title of Rough Games. The company of six brought the plays to Theatr Gwynedd on Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th May. NTNT was set up in 1984 by 3 former NT players as a new touring company. Their aim is to present plays in simple "workshop" style productions, which can be staged in any open space with the minimum of decor.

The first play, The Ruffian On The Stair, centred on the relationship of an atypical middle-aged couple, and the trauma caused in their lives by the intrusion of a young, revenge-seeking lad. This lad reveals as he worms his way into their lives that the man is a murderer, and the woman has been a prostitute.

Despite its potentially gripping subject matter, for me this play didn't really work. It set awkwardly between social comment and a kind of dark humour, and didn't succeed as either. Its one redeeming feature was the superb acting of Victoria Little as the woman, terrified by the young man, yet finding no consolation from her chauvinistic lover.

However, Funeral Games was far more enjoyable, being an immed-

iately funny and black comedy. Martin Whitby (the older man in the first play) was now highly detestable as a religious conman, and Victoria Little was no longer a dowdy, ex-prostitute, but his sophisticated, voluntary home-helper wife.

There was murder in this play as well - but on a far more humorous level: an old, de-frocked priest, brilliantly portrayed by Leonard Kavanagh, killed his wife, whose body lies under a pile of coal in his cellar. There are many permutations to the plot, resulting in virtually the whole cast being arrested.

The script was much faster and wittier than that of the first play, and we were in no doubt about the fact that we were watching a first-class farce, with a distinctly morbid taint. Orton is well-known for writing to expose the bigotry in those who have perverted the good to increase their own prestige, and this was evident in both the religious characters in the play.

Not The National Theatre provided a good night's entertainment, and theirs was a wise choice to end with the better, more memorable play. It's definitely worthwhile to make the most of occasions when professional companies visit Bangor, so look out for their next appearance.

JO HOUSLEY

Beethoven, Cocoa and Cats

Donna Jones's production of this collection of Harold Pinter sketches illustrating fractured communication, brought to the Drama Studio an excellent contribution to a week of high activity in the realm of lunchtime productions. Debbie Rees, Andy Wiltshire and John Webb represented the three often anonymous characters in the five sketches.

The scenes became more menacing as they progressed, and reached

a high point at John Webb's sad and disturbing "Monologue". The light of memories of pub and river flood into the dark speech as the man speaks to an empty chair which replaces his absent "friend". "I feel for you even if you feel nothing for me."

The fourth scene involved a parody of the interview situation. An applicant agrees to be tortured by a maniacal Debbie Rees in order to get a job. The surreal situation of a woman standing over a man, torturing him with high

FOR BETTER OR VERSE

This was undoubtedly the most original and inspired performance I have yet seen on stage anywhere, let alone the Drama Studio. Not exactly a verse play, nor a recital, but poems about real life injected with just that: real life. Helen Mason, Director for the first time, certainly didn't make life easy for herself, but chose to dramatise the writings of a friend, an unpublished poet from St. Alban's, Hertfordshire, Rochelle Richards. The poems themselves are, technically speaking, simple, even untidy, and would probably be less appealing in published form; but they are natural, full of vitality, and free from the shackles of academia. The result, in this performance at least, was a living, breathing art form which moved the audience and defies critical description.

Paul Merrick was the epitome of the chauvinistic husband, bringing the very best out of the bitter humour in his lines, and before long he had the audience wanting to throttle him, a tribute to his acting and the infuriating realism. Always the professional, Paul was obviously trying out some method-acting when I later saw him still drinking his on-stage prop of a can of McEwan's Export.

Doe Brannon was just as convincing as the frustrated housewife and managed, with consummate ease, to cross that actor's bane, the gulf between verse lines and realism.

However, for me, the best performance came from Romilly Smith, who switched from infant son, to neighbour, to mother-in-law, and seemed 'right' for each part.

For Better Or Verse paid dividends for the bravery of the Director and cast who must never have been sure if this original production would actually work in front of an audience. It did.

NICK JONES

Beautiful Child

It would be unfair to cover all the recent Drama department lunchtime and evening productions without mentioning Keith Jones's moving production of Beautiful Child, a dramatization of Truman Capote's memoirs, starring John Dryden as Truman Capote and Melanie Stokes as Marilyn Monroe. The performance took place in the rehearsal studio and the actors succeeded in instilling a great deal of atmosphere into a venue which

pitched screeching noises, makes one wonder why the applicant doesn't tell her to "fuck off". He never does. She fires a monologue of questions at him about his sexual desires which he is never allowed to answer. "Are you virgo intacto?" Infra red lighting flashes in time with the dialogue, followed by another torturous burst of screeching.

The final scene, involving a cab controller and an uncooperative taxi driver succeeded best in conveying the message of fractured conversation. John Webb,

LUNCH

After For Better Or Verse the already well-satisfied audience was treated to another perceptive insight into human nature and relationships. While the first play dealt with the archetypal, mundane marriage, Berkoff's Lunch concentrated on a more specific, out of the ordinary situation: that of instant attraction between a man and a woman who meet on a beach.

The play was kept on a high throughout by the compulsive acting of Paul Guerin and Julia Damassa. Julia was originally the butt of Paul's sexist commands, such as "Sit, animal. To heel", which had much of the audience squirming, and his brutal seizing of her. But, after a musical blackout, in which the salesman she'd just met "devoured" her, Julia assumed more control, and she told Paul delightfully that he couldn't break through an ice-cream in a heatwave, completely dismissing his sexual performance by saying "on you it's an ornament".

Paul's acting was compelling to say the least. He portrayed the nervous thoughts of his character as he approached the beautiful stranger as expertly as he gave her the disgusting, brutish, authoritative commands.

Visually, the play used a lot of space for a two-person drama, but this served well by focussing our attention on the actors even more keenly. At times I felt bludgeoned by words, for the play is full of elaborate descriptions and metaphors. But luckily this never smothered the actors.

Siobhan Burgess showed how skillful and exciting a director she can be, and if this production is anything to go by, we can look forward to the play she tackles next.

JO HOUSLEY

had the potential to kill off anything of the kind. At times Melanie bore an uncanny resemblance to Marilyn Monroe. She had evidently spent a lot of time researching the star's voice, history and gestures.

John Dryden was commanding in his role of Truman Capote, his varied tone instilling sadness into the play as the light faded on Marilyn, presumably suggesting that her life was fading too.

A. FFRENCH

DRAMA

SCIENCE

Genetic defence found for AIDS.

London researchers have accidentally discovered a genetic factor which seems to be the main defence against Aids, a report in the Lancet has claimed.

Dr. Tony Pincher and his team at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, appear to have explained why some people repeatedly exposed to the HIV virus remain unaffected.

It may also help explain why Aids has spread more rapidly through Central Africa than through Europe and the US - more Africans may be genetically susceptible to Aids. It may also be the way to a new treatment.

Simply, on chromosome 4 in every cell in the human body, a gene produces a substance called group specific component, which is found in blood cells and helps the body absorb Vitamin D. There are three types of 'Gc's - Gc1, Gc1s and Gc2. Those who produce Gc2 from their own genetic information appear to have some immunity, those with Gc1s have partial protection and those with Gc1 are most prone to catching Aids.

Cystic Fibrosis 'mutant' pinpointed.

The mutant gene responsible for Cystic Fibrosis has been located on chromosome 7 of the human genetic material to within an accuracy of 10,000 base pairs, the building blocks of DNA. The disease, which affects 6,000 children and young adults in Britain, cripples the lungs and digestive systems. A treatment combined with reliable carrier detection tests, could mean that C.F. will be wiped out by the end of this century.

Professor Bob Williamson and his team at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington are responsible for the discovery.

University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff

Three doctors from the department of psychological medicine at the University of Wales College of Medicine in Cardiff have claimed in The Lancet that the tendency of the AIDS virus (HIV) to attack the nervous system may explain the development of schizophrenia in a 27 year old man with HIV antibodies.

Doctors Jones, Kelly and Davies say that other doctors have reported cases in which mental illnesses such as mania have been the first sign of AIDS, but this is the first such case of schizophrenia developing in someone who was mentally stable before developing HIV antibodies.

The man, who was admitted with suspected pneumonia, was known to have HIV antibodies present in his blood previously, and in a week started to develop symptoms of mental disturbance. He complained of hearing voices, birds flying under his bed and fellow patients trying to harm him.

Doctors carried out a number of tests to eliminate other diagnoses, finally deciding that schizophrenia, a mental illness characterised by delusions, hallucinations and the belief that others are trying to

control the patient's actions and thoughts, was to blame. The man at first refused to take drugs for acute schizophrenia, but after being moved to a psychiatric hospital his condition improved.

The patient first noticed symptoms of weight loss and swollen lymph glands while working in the USA six months earlier. According to his father the patient had been exhibiting mental symptoms for two months before admission, and while he was a drug user, he had not been taking drugs for at least a month before symptoms appeared.

It has, however, been known for a number of years that drug abuse can trip off various mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. Whether in fact it is the misuse of drugs that actually causes this deterioration or that the type of people who misuse drugs are inherently mentally sensitive is difficult to gauge. However, whichever of these possibilities may be correct, the added stress of the knowledge of having contracted AIDS could in itself trip off mental illness in mentally sensitive people.

College research jobs up for grabs

Two research posts in the Science Faculty have recently been advertised by University College of North Wales in New Scientist.

The first is for a Post-doctoral Research Officer funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in the School of Plant Biology. The post is "to study the role of oospores of Phytophthora infestans in soil infectivity". The

project entails following the fate of oospores of the potato late-blight fungus in plants and soil and their potential as plant and soil borne inocula.

The second post is for a Post-graduate Research Studentship, again funded by MAFF, but this time in the Department of Agriculture, involving investigation into concentrate supplementation of silage for dairy cows.



Radioactivity still up

Hill farmers are still suffering from the effects of restrictions imposed following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster more than a year ago. They are to get further governmental compensation.

Latest readings show that radiation levels in Cumbria and North Wales rose appreciably over the winter despite predictions that they would fall.

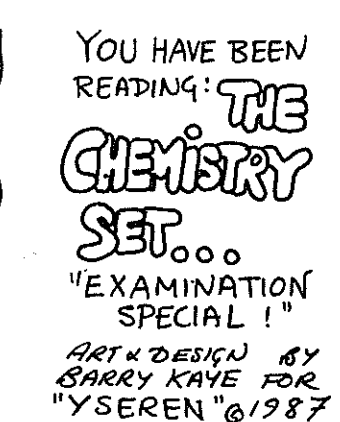
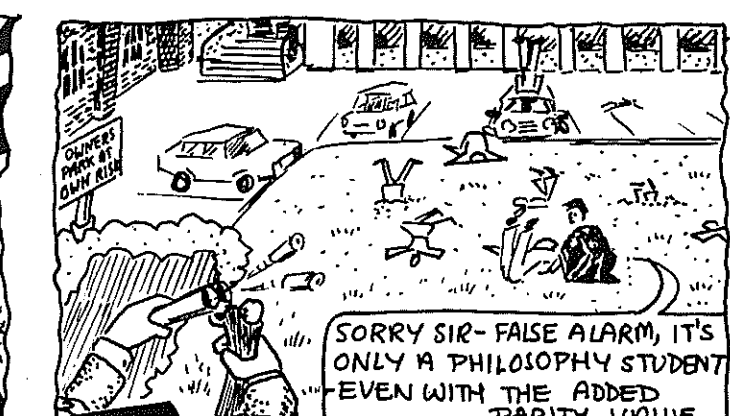
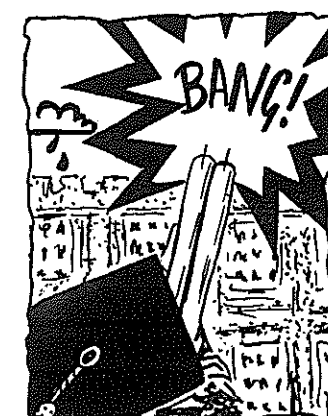
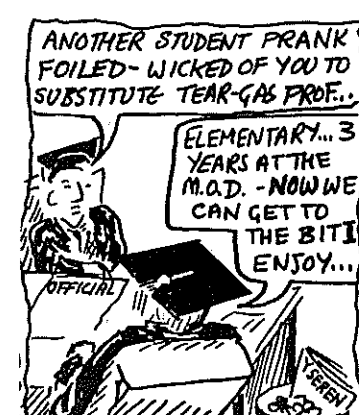
About 450 farms and 300,000 sheep are still affected by movement and slaughter restrictions. This number is going up daily as the lambing season gets underway.

Readings taken last May, after the radioactive rain-cloud passed over Britain showed levels four times higher than governmental safety limits. There are still pockets today where readings are six times higher than these limits, and show no signs of falling.

EEC to take UK to court.

The European Parliament is set to take Britain to court for refusing access to EEC officials to the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria. While the government admits to persistently refusing to allow EEC commission nuclear safety officials access to Sellafield, it denies the committee's charge.

THE CHEMISTRY SET. BY BARRY



Mañana?

Did you know that the Biology departments at UCNW had links with Ecuador, South America? No? Well, I'm not really surprised, the relationship is still at an early stage and has yet to gain much recognition from the outside world. However, it does exist and I think it merits a few paragraphs here.

Now seems to be a useful time to publicise the UCNW-Ecuador connection for several reasons. Firstly, the relationship is in its infancy and could die a "cot-death" - special effort is required to consolidate and strengthen the bonds. Secondly, the College's worsening finances would welcome an input of South American students (with their fees), as money from the "outside world" takes on a greater role in maintaining standards and facilities. By cultivating exchanges of students and staff, UCNW could attract a larger South American contingent, particularly from Ecuador itself. Finally, the staff and students participating in the exchanges would

benefit personally from the experience.

The links began with the arrival of Adrian Barnett, a student on the MSc. Ecology course and an enthusiastic expeditioneer. He had visited Ecuador on two previous occasions as a rodent expert on Oxford University Exploration Club expeditions. The idea for a Bangor expedition to Ecuador began, like most expeditions, in a pub. There hadn't been a Biological expedition from UCNW in over 20 years, but Adrian and I (at that time a Biology undergraduate) were determined that the project should succeed. So it was that in the summer of 1984, four students from Bangor set off for three months fieldwork in Ecuador. The expedition consisted of Botanists and Zoologists who collected information about plants, insects, frogs, reptiles, birds and rodents of a national park in the southern sector of the Ecuadorian Andes.

In 1985 I led a second UCNW expedition to the same area, this time more Botanically orientated. This

proved to be a very successful trip, with five recently graduated students and Ralph Oxley (a lecturer in Plant Biology) participating. A pressed collection of almost 300 specimens of the flora of El "CAJAS" national recreation area has now been incorporated into the largest plant collection in the world at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Several candidates for new plant species were amongst them.

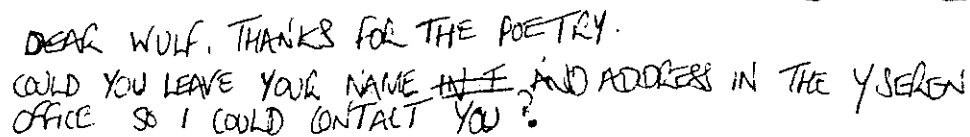
Since the return of that expedition in October 1985, plans have been afoot for the next one, but priority went to the expedition reports (which are only now approaching completion). The latest chapter in this story is the forthcoming six months fieldwork which I intend to begin in a few weeks for my doctorate study of high altitude Ecuadorian grasslands. This expedition, called "Páramos '87" (Páramos is the name given to these grasslands), will also involve Pete Morrow-Smith, a Bangor graduate in Botany.

So that's the history of the relationship between Bangor and Ecuador,

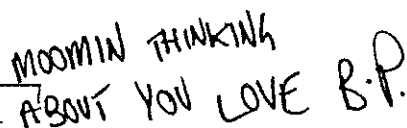
what about the future? That depends, to some extent, on you! So far, everything has been carried out by a small group of dedicated biologists, but more student support is needed to carry the exchange further. This concerns not only Botanists but Zoologists, Agriculturalists, Foresters, Soil Scientists and others. The possibilities for useful research in Ecuador are almost limitless and anyone interested in an expedition to Ecuador should be aware of the recently revamped Exploration Club which can be contacted via its pigeonhole in the Student's Union. An expedition will involve a great deal of work and commitment but it's well worth the effort.

As for Páramos '87, keep reading "Y Seren" for reports from the Ecuadorian Andes. What happens after that is up to you - mañana is there for the taking.

PAUL RAMSAY.



LOVE BITE? HE ALMOST BIT MY HEAD OFF!



WOT NO PERCY

SEXIST
- BASTARDS

Contribute
to your Rag Mag.
All Suggestions to
your Rag Pigeon Hole in
the Uni.

WANTED:
ONE FEMALE
ABLE TO SUCK
MY BONNIVILLE
TACKLE UNION
BAR.

Happy Birthday Simon Smith
Remember Room 9??
Love from your
Mossy Grotto!

EAT,
DRINK
AND
BE MELLOW!

Dear Tree: **CLICK!**

Contribute to Your
Rag Mag
HIGH NEIL ???

more
= love

Good luck and see you
on the 1st of September.
G.C.F. MR

And Mrs. T. 11
will see you
September.

DEAR PIGGY EYES =
HERE'S OINKING AT YOU



M. Goodbye + love + things
X.X

Dear Chicken,
remember coccidiosis
is a fowl disease
cluck!

SHAUN - THE FIRST
MOON ON THE MAN!

Hello!

W. A. E. A. M. T. M.
(Wicked and evil
and a menace to
mankind) etc.

← The guy who has all

NORRBY AND WRITES A MESSAGE TO ME, SO I THINK I'D PUT ONE TO MYSELF. HELLO ME. WHO ARE YOU?

Although you may see far away / I see you everyday
I just close my eyes "ON
ABLE"

I am NOT big and butch
I am SMALL and PETITE!!

Mary + Sparky
Callias "The Hobbs"
FLOC THAT C

23 "YUM YUM" - £1

Whatever happened to
Animal Rights?

Paint stripper wanted.
See rag manager.

✓✓✓✓
✓✓✓✓✓
✓✓✓✓✓

TRY AGAIN DOWN.