

Editorial

Welcome back to Bangor. We would like to use this opportunity to make an appeal. Obviously, in order to produce an informative and interesting magazine, we need contributions from as many different sources as possible: It is nigh on impossible for the Y Seren team to research and write enough articles on varied topics to fill an edition – we have lectures too!

So, this is an appeal to you all – please, please submit articles to us on any subject you feel needs writing about – reviews, comments, opinions, artwork (we need some illustrators) photographs (preferably black & white), the odd short story perhaps as well as political issues affecting Students. All of them will be gratefully accepted, and should be left in one of our pigeon holes, either in the Union foyer, or up on the second floor. In the meantime, we hope you find something of interest in this short issue and don't miss the chance of adding a tenner to your bank account.

Credits

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Cymry or Saeson?

Debbie Shannon

If you are puzzled by the title of this article or even of this paper, you probably haven't noticed yet that you are in a different country. If you have lifted your head from your pint of Merrydown, you may have noticed the strange gabble around you and perhaps have been annoyed by the bilingual signs. If you've really got your ear to the grapevine you'll probably have heard 101 horror stories of how you can't take a trip into Debenhams without encountering at least three bombs – not to mention the bunches of Welsh Nationalists just waiting to pounce on you and send you on a chauffeured tour of Bangor in a white van complete with little blue light and stretcher.

Don't believe all that you hear... yes, you will encounter or hear of the odd incident of violence which of course will be blamed on the Welsh nationalists, but incidents like these happen everywhere. During my time in Bangor I personally have never had any trouble and in fact have grown to love the place.

Nationalism is a serious issue. The Welsh

language is at its strongest in this area and surely it can't be too difficult to learn the odd word whilst you're here. The Welsh do have a strong point – their whole culture and country is being devoured by foreigners who want to render the place a weekend resort. Don't spend three years here terrified and hating the nationalist cause and make an effort to fit in with the Welsh, their language and their culture. Ignorance is the cause of most problems and it is so here – you do owe some allegiance to the country that's providing your education in such wonderful surroundings. It is not a case of them and us on either side but naturally there will be a minority who push towards this attitude. You may be wondering just how it may affect you here in Bangor. Well, unless you provoke you are unlikely to encounter any trouble other than the odd drunken brawl that is common to Universities everywhere. Bangor is a Welsh University though, so instead of enforcing an English stamp on it, fit in with its Welshness. And if you do come across any ugly scenes, remember – you're not English, but simply born again Welsh!

General Meeting

Lesley Alexander

Constitutional and financial matters largely dominated what turned out to be an efficiently organized but rather dull first General Meeting of the Students Union in the Curved Lounge on Tuesday, October 10th.

Despite the absence of 'Stage Crew' resulting in technical difficulties, Julian Bass (the Union Chairperson) began proceedings with relatively little delay.

On the agenda were elections to the Student Representative Council, policy motions relating to the drafting of a new Constitution, and motions pledging the Union's opposition to Student loans and the Poll Tax.

Perhaps most interesting, though, was the welcome admittance of a federation of Plaid Cymru Students into the Union, and a debate between Athletic Union President Claire Temple and the President of the

Student Union, Nick Jones. Jones succeeded in convincing the meeting that the A.U., like other College Societies, should be made to submit an annual Budget for funds.

One welcome feature of the meeting was the provision of a 'Users Guide' to General Meetings, making some sense of the often unfathomable language and procedure on such occasions. This, together with a comprehensive statement of account (detailing the Union's financial circumstances last year) and a Budget Plan for the coming year, is hopefully the beginning of a better organized system of running both General Meetings and the Student Union as a whole.

As part of the NUS campaign against Student loans, a demonstration will take place on Wednesday October 18th in Manchester. Coaches leave Bangor at 9.15am and tickets, costing £2.00, can be obtained from Union President, Nick Jones.

Executive Meeting 10th October 89

Jackie Welsh

Last week I sat in on what at first impressions seemed like an extremely privileged gathering of Bangor's Students' Union hierarchy: Julian Bass (Chairperson), Nick Jones (President), Fraser Platt (General Secretary), Claire Temple (AU President), Lee Davis (Welfare Officer), Frannie Laslett (CA Organiser), Jo McGreal (Women's Officer), Tony Wilson (External Affairs), Andy Swindley (Academic Affairs), Helen Oakes (Deputy Chair), Liam Donnison (Exec without Portfolio) and Nadeem Gulzar (Exec Secretary).

Briefly the issues discussed at the meeting were:

- 1 The fact that there was a definite under-provision of soft drinks in the SU Bar. It was agreed that this should be amended.
- 2 The Exec council meetings on Tuesday always clashed with the Welsh language learner groups. Julian Bass affably suggested to change to Monday. The Committee agreed. This will commence 23rd October.
- 3 The application by Plaid Cymru to become a society of the Constitution was accepted.
- 4 The NUS Wales campaign to boycott Nestlé especially Nescafé. It was decided that the distribution of information from the World Health Organisation would increase evidence of Nestlé's wrong-doings and then the motion would be put before the next GM.
- 5 An application for more parking places for disabled drivers in the Main Arts car park.
- 6 Election to Disciplinary Council was held. The successful candidates were Fraser Platt, Lee Davis, Claire Temple and Jo McGreal.
- 7 Proposal by CA to ask for help from student body with a current national appeal on behalf of cancer research. More detailed information was requested.
- 8 The prices of associate membership to the Union are to be reviewed and then up-dated.

Having never attended a board meeting of

any description, it was quite interesting to view the official proceedings and to hear what our student representatives had to say on very current student issues. I later discovered that we are all entitled to sit in on these meetings and it may prove beneficial if you just make the effort to go to at least one of them.

A meeting of the Executive Committee immediately precedes the General Meeting and its purpose is to brief the heads of each department ie Welfare, Overseas Students, Ents among others, on the points that are to be raised and probably voted on at the General meeting. So although whilst there you do not have the right to speak your mind, you do have the real opportunity of hearing these important people speak theirs, and this could be invaluable in helping you to decide not only whether a motion should be passed or not, but also whether you think these VIPs are competent at their jobs. After all, we as students have the right to be represented justly and in a way that is best suited to our well-being, and this includes the running of the Union, the provision of services and perhaps more importantly in this age of that encroaching evil "the Student Loan", the management of the Union's funds. It was therefore quite sad to see a very poor turn-out at the GM and only enforces the now valid argument that student apathy is a fast spreading disease.

How can we seriously expect any favours from the powers that be in government when we present a picture of complete disinterest in both internal and external affairs? This lethargy can only interpret us as the money-squandering, vacuum in society that blue back-benchers so readily dismiss us as. There is a vast amount of potentially lethal power at the hands of students if they would only make the effort and get involved. Rather than mumbling about the Acts that strangle us and our resources we should use our voice and shout about it. Only by doing this do we have any chance of being heard.

GMs are well advertised and they are sensibly held on a relatively "quiet" night ie not Thursday, Friday or Saturday! I myself am not a strongly political person and was always quite willing to sit back and let others make the decisions for me. However, since being at Bangor I have been made aware of this rare opportunity that we have - after all, once in the outside world the only political say you'll have is to put an X in a box once every four years and do you really want to go through life having your contribution to society reduced to an insignificant cross?

Come along to the next GM when you see it advertised and do what we all have the right to - make up your own mind about it.

A Letter from your President!

Nick Jones

Just a few words introducing myself for the umpteenth time. My name is Nick Jones and I am usually found on the second floor of the Students Union building or somewhere else in this wonderful establishment.

During this term myself and the rest of the executive committee will be getting out to halls and hopefully finding out how you all are, what you want and when you want it! Those of you not in halls - you've no excuse, so start introducing yourself to us!

We will also be asking you throughout the year to support Students' Union campaigns against student loans, the Poll Tax and government attacks on NUS/Students' Unions. I hope you will agree that it is vital that we take a very strong stance on these issues and that you will do everything you can to help the campaigns.

Finally I hope to see you at the next General Meeting on Tuesday 31st of October (Hallowe'en!!) when all sorts of spooky yet democratic things will be happening. But seriously folks, it's your choice to say how the Union is run so use it. Think also about joining the Student Council - It's central to the running of the union and if that doesn't grab you it also looks good on a C.V.

Next time I'll be writing something about what my job involves (I need this amount of time to try and find something). So this is a must, if only for those budding Presidents of 1990/91.

Athletic Union

Claire Temple

Hello there, welcome to Bangor, and what is hopefully going to be a successful year in the AU both "on the field" and off. Over the summer we were awarded the "Winifred Clarke Trophy" from the UAU. This trophy is awarded annually to the University with the 1,500 or fewer female students gaining the highest number of points in team championships. This award reflects the increasing number of women participating in sport in Bangor and the steady improvement that the University is making in the field of sport. The men finished sixth in their respective competition.

The AU membership is well up on last year's figure and this bodes well for 89/90.

Although there are many club members who excel at their sport all standards are catered for and in fact many clubs provide instruction to complete novices. So coupled with the excellent social life most clubs offer, University is an ideal place to try something new - so do get involved!

The Four Brothers/ River City People

Jason Brown

The River City People have come a long way since their formation in August 1987, and judging by their attitude and performance, should be on their way to greater heights before long. Vocalist Siobhan's beautifully clear and tuned voice rises above an original and tight musical background of guitar, bass and drums.

Their music could be described as "atmospheric Rock verging on Folk, but not Folk Rock." Confused? The audience seemed to be, with people listening to the music, rather than throwing themselves around in vague time with the rhythm section.

To end their set they played their new single "Say Something Good", which was out last Monday (9th Oct - Predictably it hasn't reached Bangor yet) and if you were unlucky enough to have missed the gig, I think that a trip down to your record shop will prove to be well worth your while.

The Four Brothers from Zimbabwe cer-

Ents

After the great amount of entertainments during Welcome Week, the evening diversions in the Students' union continue at regular intervals with Ents discos every Wednesday and Saturday providing suitable evening sojourns.

The next major sequence of events is the Rag weekend (a mini Rag Week) starting on Wednesday 1st November with the superb African pop band The Real Sounds of Africa live in concert in Glanrafon Refectory. Tickets are £3 in advance and £3.50 on the door.

"One of the greatest live acts in the world" - Ross, Rag Manager.

On Thursday 2nd November Rag presents Hypnotist Payl Nyles, only £1.50 on the door, and on Friday 3rd November we see the return of the ever popular Mega Disco in the Refec, plus a mystery band in the Mandela Bar, only £2.00 on the door.

Saturday 4th November is the Rag Bonfire Disco at St Mary's. For only £2.00 you get fireworks + food + late bar + disco and if you don't fancy enjoying yourself at this there's an Ents disco in the Mandela Bar for the knockdown price of £1.50.

Hereafter gigs and discos continue throughout the term, highlights including Bliss and The House of Love and the Annual Ents Xmas Party.

"Fun nights out for everyone in your local Students' Union!"

Look out for more details in the future.

tainly lived up to the expectations of their audience, and I think I am safe in saying that about 99% of the audience were dancing to them in one way or another - which is a feat in itself.

Their music is distinctly different to what can be described as "Western" music. It is bubbly, joyous, with ever present high chiming guitar tunes. As their drummer/vocalist told me, the tunes are traditional Zimbabwe music, but adapted to be appreciated by the modern Western audience, and appreciated they were, continuously smiling and playing songs which could seemingly go on forever.

They are not actually four brothers in the flesh, but four brothers in music, from a country where it is "almost impossible to buy a guitar string", let alone a guitar. Despite these problems they are now on tour here, so if you missed them, and want to hear something a little different go and buy their album "Bros". And if you do like that sort of music, watch out for "The Real Sounds of Africa", playing here over Rag Weekend.

Dead Poets Society

Samantha Payne

'Seize the day!' is the theme which runs through the emotive and intense Dead Poets Society. A new and radical English teacher, alias Robin Williams, breaks down the barriers between his pupils created by the austere regimented codes of the prestigious boys' school which they attend. His unorthodox methods of teaching first stun, and then awaken, the boys' sensibilities. They begin, through the revival of the Dead Poets Society, to gain confidence in themselves and their dreams, and the consequence of this is that they question the ideals on which they were raised.

Playing each point to the extreme, the plot tends to wallow somewhat in dangerously poignant scenes which at times transcend sympathy to become mere cliches. Though the boys' final defiant act as a loyal gesture to their teacher is stirring and dramatic, it does give the uncomfortable impression of being too neat a finishing point. Despite all this it was an enjoyable film with some wonderful portrayals of adolescent life which cannot fail to amuse. Good solid acting although Robin Williams himself plays a more subdued role than you might expect.

Recommended for all who enjoy a more thought-provoking film and who are prepared to respond to the questions about identity and fulfillment which it poses.

A Man for All Seasons

Did you manage to catch the Jill Freud and Company production of "A Man for All Seasons" at Theatr Gwynedd last week? If so, you'll probably have enjoyed an evening of entertaining and, at times moving theatre, complete with a number of splendid performances - including a masterful portrayal of the title character himself.

The play covered the last seven years of Sir Thomas More's life, ending in his execution for failing to acknowledge Henry VIII's separation from Katherine of Aragon and his subsequent break with the Catholic Church in Rome.

The Company carefully avoided over-sentimentalizing the story and portrayed Sir Thomas very much as a human being - albeit an intensely wise and spiritual one.

Comic relief was provided in the character of Sir Thomas's butler, who also doubled up, whilst in character, to play roles as diverse as a working boatman and the stern Cardinal Wolsey!

Informative as well as entertaining, "A Man for All Seasons" was well worth seeing!

Scandal

Sharon MacDermot

The Profumo scandal was never this cut and dried, but it seems to have made a decent film anyway. Joanne Whalley looks gorgeous all the time, John Hurt looks smug most of the time, and Bridget Fonda just looks silly - obviously the costume department thought it a scream to make her wear a pink flamingo on her head in the court room.

The overall impression the film gives of the Profumo affair is that it was merely a huge joke which got out of hand. The Old Boy network draws together to save its own, and Stephen Ward goes from playing god in the highest social circles to a pathetic little man wearing sellotaped NHS glasses, accused of being a pimp.

The whole picture was beautifully filmed, but the last few scenes are outstanding, a credit to sensitive directing: a cigarette falls to the floor and a man's life ends.

Dyslexia

The University runs a support and counselling service for any student with Dyslexia or Learning Difficulties, every Tuesday 7pm till 9pm in The Poplars, College Road. Contact Dorothy Gilroy (Tel: 713289) or Unit Secretary, Dyslexia Unit (ext 2203)

Comments

This is a section set aside for you to have your comments and opinions put to print. It must be stated that what appears in this section is not necessarily the opinion or belief of either Y Seren or the Students' Union.

Poll Tax

"I am rarely left speechless, but a particular news report has stuck in my throat for some time. The item included comments by M.T. upon her party's recent slump in popularity. Dangerously confident and frighteningly honest, a reason was given. The exact words fail me, but the gist of it was that unpopular legislation was responsible for yet another well timed bout of mid term blues. Surely this could only be a cruel joke, but as the Poll Tax bears down upon us from its guinea-pig days in Scotland, many realise that yet again in a western democracy such as Britain, the voice of the people falls on deaf ears.

"Meanwhile a limp wretched and repetitive opposition to the Poll Tax hallmarks the Labour Party's evolution into a party of compromise. Sadly the slogan on a T-shirt, 'F**k the Poll Tax' appears to me to be far more constructive than any of the options any of the mainstream parties have to offer.

"So what can still be said about the Poll Tax? More to the point - what can be done?"

"As one who has so far avoided registration, I am informed that from October legal frustration ends and I am legally obliged to register.

"This indicates to me that it is no longer appropriate to encourage people to continue with a campaign of disruption. I think I speak for many Students in saying that a gaol sentence is the last thing I want in the middle of a degree, and a fine would be unaffordable.

"Furthermore I would probably be financially better off if I coughed up my 20% and claimed housing benefit (obviously non registration is incompatible with providing details required by the register to the DSS)

"Perhaps my only alternative lies in persuading the Union to change the name 'Steve Biko House' to 'The Temple of Isis', thereby claiming exemption as a member of a religious sect.

"In the meantime I am encouraged by news from Glasgow that 1 in 3 people have paid nothing so far and by stories of people who have rejected the registration forms and had no response from the local authorities. This sort of news we should all take heart from. Clearly effective disruption of the Poll Tax requires mass action and we should all stand together against what we believe to be an unjust measure. With British bureaucracy being what it is, they may never get round all of us.

"To new students in Bangor especially, the Gwynedd Anti Poll Tax Union (GAPTU) is picking up after a lapse but still requires extra support. An event is being planned for the New Year, so keep your ears open for that. Finally, remember to hassle your landlord for that portion of your rent which will soon no longer be used to pay rates on your behalf."

WW2 - a Celebration?

Sarah Creamer

As students, the majority of the readers of Y seren can barely remember another Britain than that under Thatcherism; the atrocities of the second world war were, fortunately, never known to us.

I, however, find the recent celebrations of the beginning of this war to be appalling. I agree that the holocaust and wilful destruction of so many, both physically and mentally, should never be forgotten. A constant reminder to those of us who have no memory of that time is vital, so that this horrific situation is never allowed to occur again.

My grievance is not, therefore, with the act of reminding but with the act of celebration (which in my opinion is the undoubted underpin of of the media coverage) If we continue to present this time as one of joy, joviality and under a general shroud of the "good old days", then our generation and the generations to follow, will no longer have the powerful determination, given by memories of the barbarity, to stop another war.

If we must celebrate, could we not wait a further five years and celebrate the end of the atrocities and be content to document, ponder and remember the beginning?

AU Results

Aberystwyth v Bangor 11/10/89

| Women | | |
|-----------|-----|-------|
| Hockey | I | 0-1 |
| | II | 4-1 |
| Netball | I | 33-29 |
| | II | 13-30 |
| Badminton | | 2-7 |
| Men | | |
| Rugby | I | 21-12 |
| | II | 11-16 |
| Football | I | 1-0 |
| | II | 2-0 |
| | III | 3-1 |
| Squash | | 3-2 |
| Golf | | 4-2 |
| Badminton | | 8-1 |

Blood Donors urgently needed

If you are in good health and between 18 and 60 years of age (or 65 if you are already a donor) then please give your donation at

The Pritchard Jones Hall
on Monday 16th October to Friday 20th
October at 10.00-12.00 and 2.00-4.15

Y Seren £10 Prize Draw

Name

Address

(Block Capitals please)

Y Seren Prize Draw

Y Seren's prize this week is a £10 note, which goes to the lucky winner of our draw. To enter, simply complete the form opposite and hand it in to one of our collectors. They will be in the foyer of the Union on Thursday between the following times:

10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm

It only costs 20p per entry and you may enter as many times as you like. The winner will be announced in the next issue.