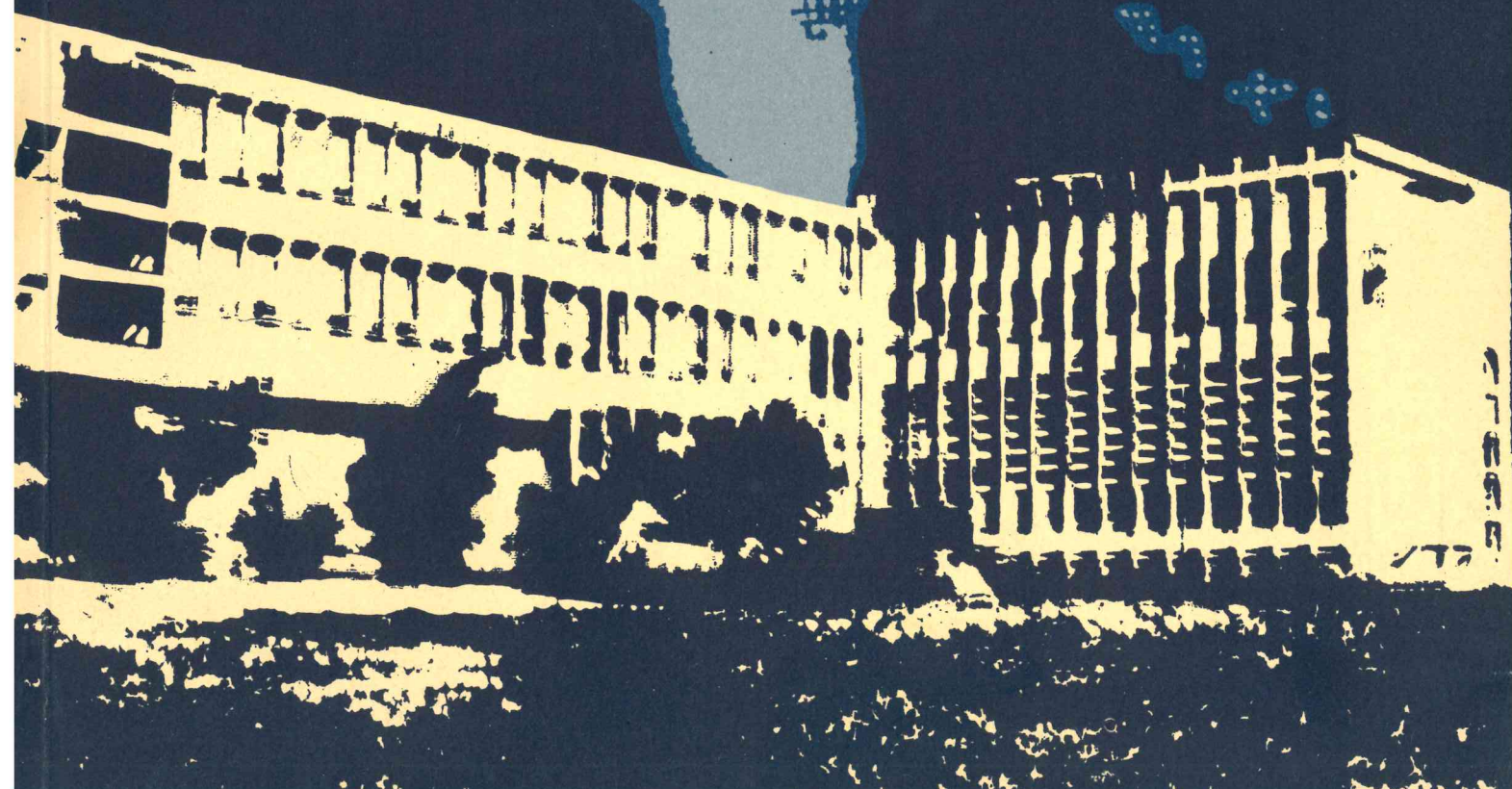
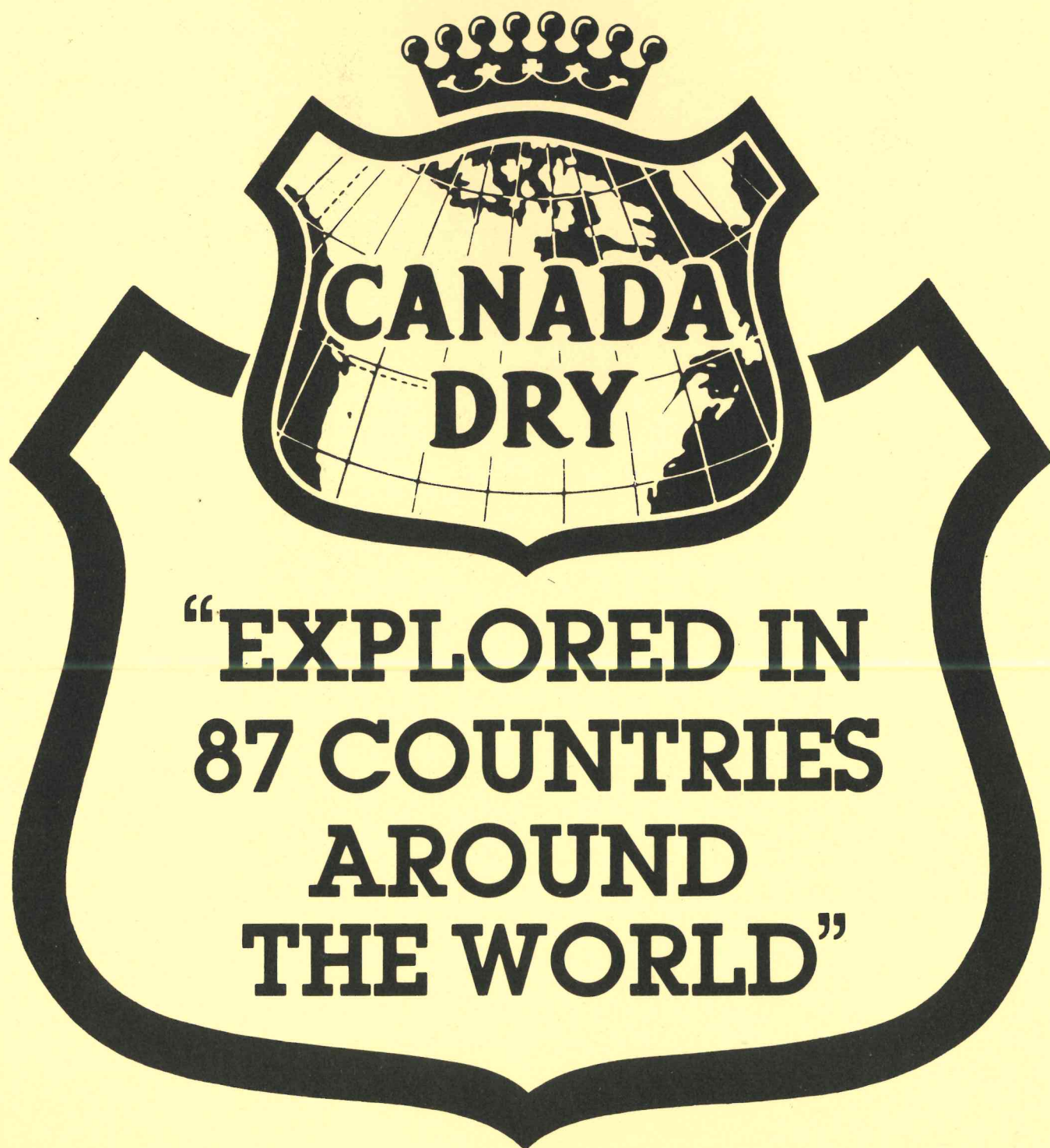


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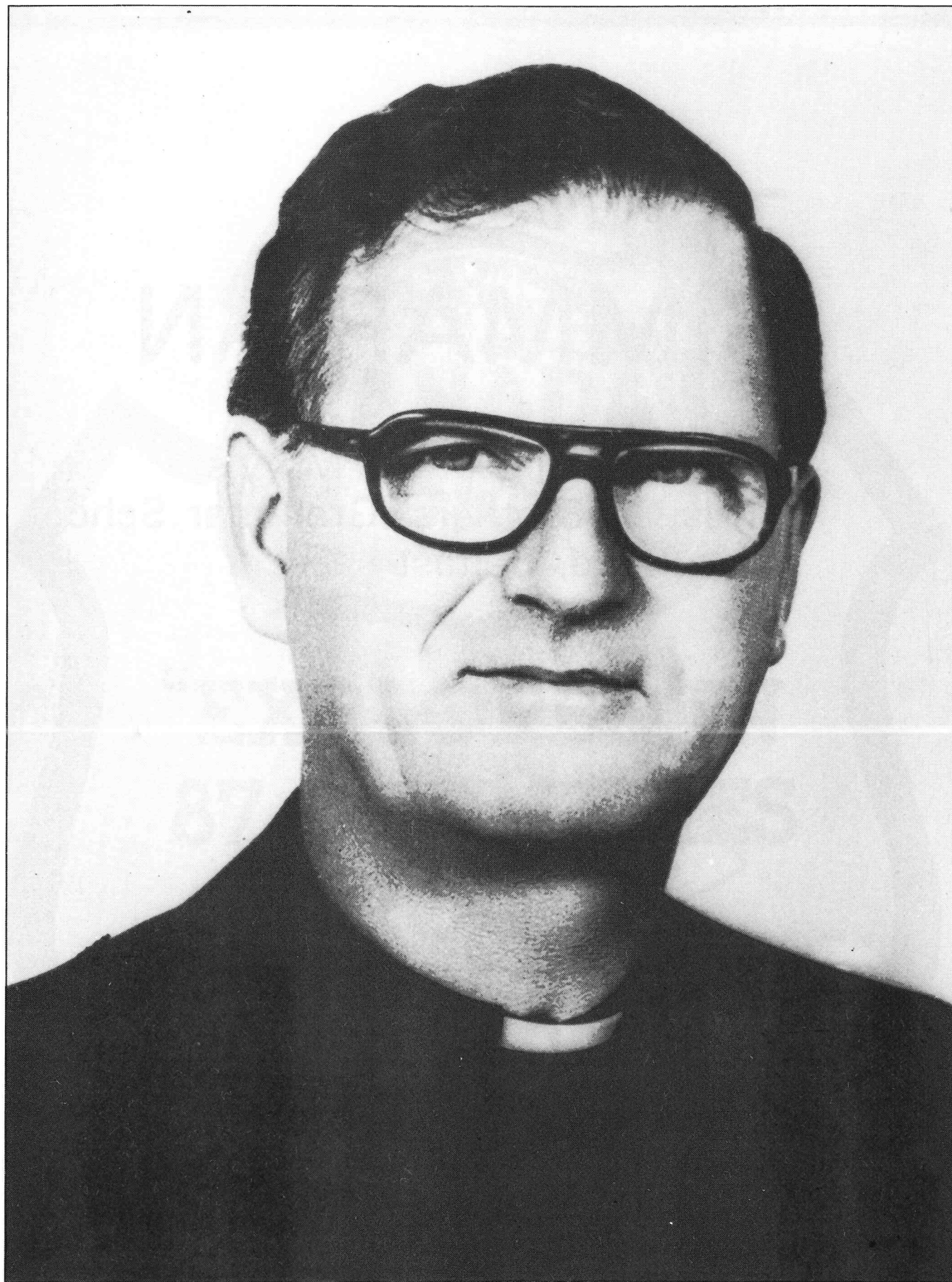
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THE SIMMARIAN

The Magazine of St. Mary's
Christian Brothers' Grammar School
Glen Road, Belfast



1981-82



Rev. Bro. Gerard Gabriel McHugh
Twelfth Superior General.

Editorial Comment

Ever since its foundation in November, 1866, St. Mary's has established itself as one of the most important grammar schools in Ireland. It may have its equals, but it certainly has no superiors. In September, 1916, the then Managing Director of Harland and Wolff, Mr. J. W. Kempster, wrote:

"I hope that time may prove (St. Mary's) to have been one of those bright beacons whose rays have illumined a much needed revival in Irish education."

Time has indeed vindicated St. Mary's.

In 1970, because of the vast demands made upon it, St. Mary's was compelled by circumstances to move from Barrack Street (though not in its entirety) to its present commanding location on the Glen Road. In spite of very severe cutbacks by the Government in this time of 'No-U-Turn' economic austerity the school still manages to cater for the academic pursuits and extra-curricular activities of some 1,200 boys.

While academic achievement and fulfilment of potential is necessarily given the top priority no less effort is spared upon providing adequate recreational and sporting facilities. Students are encouraged to participate in at least one of the many extra-curricular activities currently on offer. At present there are more than 30 flourishing societies and clubs in the school and the number is increasing every year. These societies and clubs

offer activities ranging from the physical rigours of football and water polo to the more sedentary but nevertheless exciting involvement in ornithology and chess.

In compiling this magazine it has been the intention to give the reader as broad a view as possible of the activities carried on within the school and of the many other activities with which the school is associated. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to include everything. Many contributions have been received from students of all classes, but space — or lack of it — has restricted us to including only a modicum of their excellent and most entertaining work.

This magazine is a staff/student production and, consequently, it would be an impossible task to mention all of those involved in the list of credits. However, special thanks are due to Mr. Whitehead and Mrs. B. Woods for their tireless work and invaluable assistance and to Miss Deirdre McCrory, who was responsible for most of the typing. The assistance and encouragement of the English Department, led by Mr. D. Tohill, deserves no less merit. We are, of course, further indebted to our many advertisers and sponsors who made this venture possible and it is our wish that you will support them as they have supported us. Finally, we thank you, the reader, for your support and we trust that you will find this issue of *The Simmarian* both informative and entertaining.

Rev. Bro. O'Connell — Chairman of the Board of Governors

The Irish Christian Brothers came to Belfast in the middle sixties of the nineteenth century. In the social and economic conditions of the time life was frequently difficult for the mass of ordinary people. It was particularly so for the expanding Catholic community which, only just over a generation previously, had achieved some measure of equality before the law. The Brothers had a twofold aim; through an education firmly based on Christian belief and practice they strove to prepare their pupils for the service of God and their neighbour; they also sought to equip them to avail of such opportunities for material advancement as might be at hand. In the course of time conditions in schools and in society at large have changed but those broad purposes remain the same.

To say this is not, however, to say all that can be said about the aims of the Christian Brothers' schools. Their distinguishing feature must be that they grow out of the life of a particular religious community of men and that they seek to embody that community's commitment to following the Christian

way of life. A Brothers' school, in common with schools run by other religious communities, is called on above all to offer a particular witness to the love and saving power of Christ. It must function in such a way that His work is seen to progress in and through the education of the young.

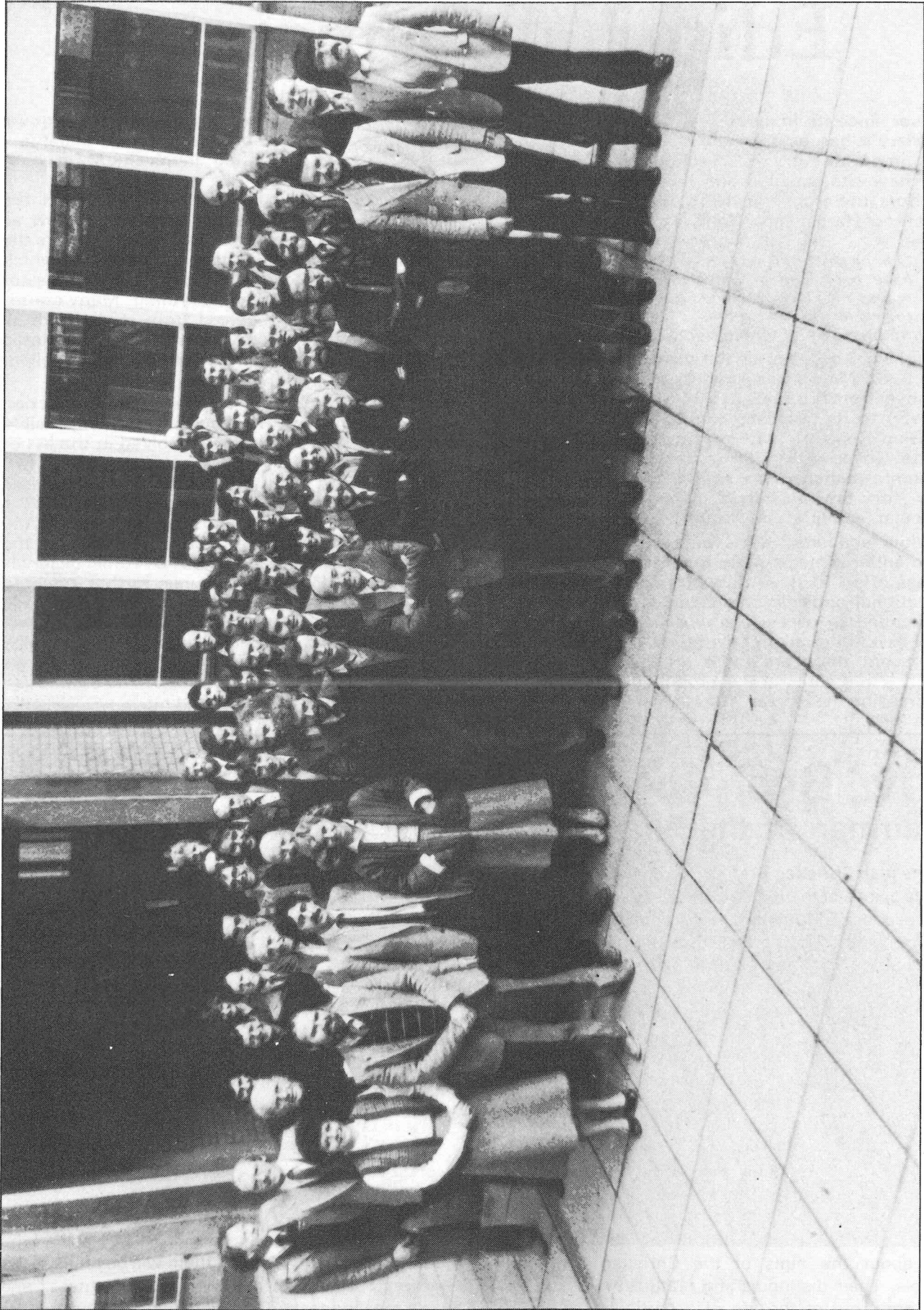
This is a daunting and challenging ideal but it is not in any way exclusive. It embraces the work of both religious and lay staff within the school. It requires the active co-operation and support of parents and it entails identification with the purposes and strivings of the wider Christian community which the school serves. This ideal shows itself primarily in the everyday business of the school and in the relationships between teachers and pupils, between those in authority and those placed in their care. The quality of those relationships will determine the quality of a school. Through them will be realised the enduring virtues of charity, steadfastness and intellectual honesty. The cultivation of such virtues is the work of this school.

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St. Mary's Teaching Staff, 1981/82.

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Miss. S. O'Donoghue	Mr. G. Toal

Staff who died recently (R.I.P.)

Bro. J. B. McGreevy, Bro. M. F. Nannery, Mr. G. Kennedy, Mr. P. Boden, Mr. J. Fearon,
Bro. T. L. Magee (Former Headmaster), Bro. L. Kelly, Mr. E. Shannon (School Caretaker).

COMMITMENT TO CHRIST



COMMITMENT TO YOUTH

In the life of a Christian Brother

For further information about our communities contact:

**BR. T. L. CANTON, C.F.C. (Vocations Director),
AIRFIELD HOUSE, GLEN ROAD, BELFAST BT11 8BQ. Tel. 611358**

Name

Address

.....

.....

The Headmaster's Address

I am very pleased indeed to see the school magazine revived.

Because our school is a large one we — parents, teachers and pupils — can easily become preoccupied with the necessarily small section of school life which affects us daily and lose sight of our common commitment: I think a school magazine can help in this regard by reminding us of all the various activities which form the life of St. Mary's.

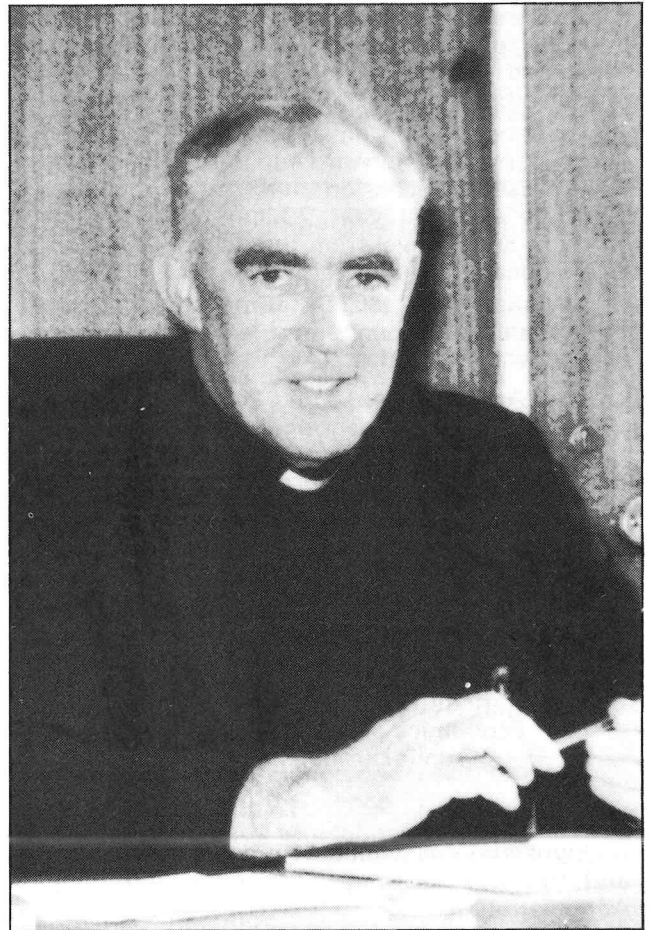
Our common commitment is, of course, to Catholic education — a difficult one at the best of times, but doubly so at present.

First, we have 'the troubles'. Thank God, our school has functioned normally throughout this trying period: certainly, as far as attendance, school activities and examination results are concerned we have not suffered at all; although I suppose all children in N.I. must be scarred by them to some extent.

Second, we have unemployment. It is an added strain on all children nowadays to realise that better and better examination results are required for the position they want.

But there is a third and more insidious threat to our commitment, and that is the growing secularisation of society everywhere. In our natural and healthy desire to ensure that our boys can follow the career that suits them we may forget what a Catholic school is for. "Getting on in the world" is the priority of the secular society and we can be tempted to think that a Catholic school is a place where Catholics can be taught to "get on" too. Such an attitude only contributes to the secularisation we deplore. We want to educate boys who will change the priorities of the secular world — not affirm them. But the secular society cannot be Christianised from "outside"; Christians must be equipped and prepared to take their place in society before they can show that Christianity "works" better than materialism. That, I think, is the main reason why we regard education as a development of the whole person — spiritual, moral, mental and physical; and that is why in St. Mary's we are so anxious to provide facilities which will cater for all these needs.

I think this magazine shows that the spirit of St. Mary's is flourishing in every area of Catholic



THE HEADMASTER

Rev. Bro. L. Ennis

education; and those responsible for producing it — especially Mr. Oliver McCann, Mr. Tony Whitehead, and Mrs. Breege Woods — deserve our congratulations for capturing that spirit so well.

Finally, I want personally to thank our teachers whose dedication is evident in the achievements recorded here; the parents of our pupils who support the school so generously in so many ways, and the boys themselves, who respond so well to the help and guidance they receive.

L. F. ENNIS

Most Rev. Dr. William Philbin, D.D.

Bishop of Down and Connor

A School magazine usually reflects the range of talents and interests and achievements of the school's pupils, past-pupils and staff.

The students of St. Mary's Grammar School are now producing a school magazine again after a lapse of some years. It is to be a mirror of the school, recording what life at St. Mary's is like in 1981. With the passing of time it will become a valuable historical record for students of education and sociology of this era.

Just now it affords an outlet for the burgeoning literary talents and interests of youth. Biographies of many established authors mention their first ventures into print in school publications and sometimes we find there, foreshadowings of things to come. In the broader concept of the responsibilities of educational institutions, the incentive and encouragement of a school magazine are an important factor in bringing to light hidden talent ranging beyond school curricula.

I have pleasure in welcoming the new-school magazine.

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Careers

In recent years the Careers Department in the school has been expanding and it is intended that this process will continue. A fine careers suite has been built and equipped and this has allowed careers resources and materials to be gathered and retained in a purpose built area. As careers education is developed in the school more boys will be able to use this area both for classes and for consultation.

The tendency has always been for the majority of our students to go forward into third level education. The present recession has strengthened this tendency and last year 70 per cent of the 126 entrants at 'A' Level from the school entered third level education. Details of this are as follows:

As usual Q.U.B. took by far the largest proportion —53 students, 52 per cent of leavers. They entered the following Faculties:

Applied Science and Technology for Engineering.....	14
Applied Science and Technology for Architecture	4
Arts—including Computer Science.....	12
Science.....	6
Law.....	4
Medicine.....	3
Dentistry.....	1
Pharmacy.....	1
Agriculture and Food Science ...	1
Economics and Business Administration	7
Total:	53

Eight students went to Trinity; Four are studying Arts and four are studying Economics and Business Administration.

One student went to U.C.D., doing Commerce; one to U.C.D., doing Veterinary; one to U.C.G., and one to the New University of Ulster, doing Arts.

Nineteen students went to the Ulster Polytechnic, Jordanstown, to follow a wide variety of degree and diploma courses in all Faculties of which Business Administration was by far the most popular.

Two students went to St. Joseph's College for teacher training; two students went to English Polytechnics, as the courses there were closer to what they wanted.

It is now statistically much harder to get into a good job than to get into University. Jobs in Banks are at a particular premium although four of our students were accepted. Three students went to other employment.

The above accounts for 95 of our 126 'A' Level candidates and this is exactly 75 per cent. The remaining 25 per cent are either repeating 'A' Levels or seeking employment. Of those repeating a number of them are hoping to achieve grades in subjects needed to enter premium Faculties such as medicine or law. The remainder are repeating as they had a disappointing set of results and there are so few opportunities available in employment that they had to return to study in order to get better grades. Some of these boys are repeating in our school, the rest in a variety of schools or further education colleges.

A detailed list of leavers and their destinations for 1981 follows on opposite page.

SCHOOL LEAVERS 1981

Queen's University

1 Donal Armstrong	Bus. Admin. & Computer Sc.
2 Edward Bradley	Economics
3 Patrick Carroll	Geography
4 Brian McCarthy	Economics
5 Paul Murray	Arts
6 Joseph Reynolds	Arts
7 Seamus Dunne	Electronic Engineering
8 Colin McAllister	Arts
9 James McLaughlin	Arts
10 Timothy McQuade	Arts
11 Dennis Rocks	Economics
12 Noel Burke	Arts
13 Brian Derby	Law
14 John Doherty	Dentistry
15 Sean Doran	Law
16 Brian Durkin	Economics
17 Gerard Killen	Law
18 John Larkin	Law
19 Anthony Logan	Economics
20 John McAlinden	Arts
21 John McCusker	Arts
22 John McGowan	Arts
23 Carlo Angelone	Architecture
24 Paul Cairns	Agriculture
25 Arthur Donnelly	Physics
26 Paul Donnelly	Electrical Engineering
27 Damien Fitzsimons	Aeronautical Engineering
26 Conor Kelly	Arts
29 James Kelly	Aeronautical Engineering
30 Patrick McGuigan	Medicine
31 Damien McIlhattan	Computer Science
32 James McMahon	Aeronautical Engineering
33 James Moylan	Biochemistry
34 Mark Mullan	Chemistry
35 Brian Quinn	Architecture
36 John Steward	Science
37 Damien Barr	Economics
38 Brendan Carabine	Architecture
39 Peter McBrien	Geography
40 Owen McQuade	Chemical Engineering
41 John Vernon	Computer Science
42 Damien Doherty	Pharmacy
43 Declan Grace	Medicine
44 Donal MacRandal	Architecture
45 Conor Mullaney	Electronic Engineering
46 Alan Murray	Chemical Engineering
47 Gerard O'Shaughnessey	Chemical Engineering
48 Bernard Owens	Civil Engineering
49 Andrew Quinn	Medicine
50 David Rea	Chemistry
51 Colm Sadlier	Electrical Engineering
52 Dermot Shearer	Aero Engineering
53 Gerard Smyth	Aero Engineering

Other Universities:

1 Paul Cassidy	University C., Galway — B.A.
2 Aidan Lambe	T.C.D.: Economics
3 Michael McCrory	T.C.D.: Economics
4 Martin Connolly	T.C.D.: Arts
5 Desmond Kirkpatrick	T.C.D.: Economics
6 Declan McCavana	T.C.D.: Arts
7 Damien Magee	T.C.D.: Arts
8 Domnhall Mitchell	T.C.D.: Arts

SCHOOL LEAVERS 1981 *(Continued).*

9 Kieran Maguire	U.C.D.: Commerce
10 John Bateson	T.C.D.: Economics
11 Peter Cassidy	New U.C. of ULster: Arts
12 Anthony Devlin	Univ. Col. Dublin: Veterinary

Ulster Polytechnic, Jordanstown

1 Gerard Friel	B.Sc. Quantity Surveying
2 Gerard McGrillen	Business Studies
3 Seamus Cleary	Business Studies
4 Stefan Cummings	Accountancy
5 Thomas Houston	Business Studies
6 John Gribbon	
7 Charles McStravick	
8 Barry Smith	
9 Kevin Toner	
10 Stephen Hawkins	Science
11 Paul McCool	
12 Liam O'Leun	Business Administration
13 Michael Rooney	Quantity Surveying
14 Anthonly Sands	Computer Science
15 William McAuley	
16 David McCann	
17 Maurice McHugh	Electronics
18 Desmond Nugent	Quantity Surveying
19 Timothy Hopkins	Estate Management

St Joseph's Training College

1 Mark Morgan	2 Eamonn Trainor
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Other Polytechnics in England

1 Eamonn Ferrin	(B'ham) - T. & C. Planning
2 Michael Heery	(M'chstr) - Business Studies

Employment

1 Paul McKinney	Man'ment Trainee, Insurance
2 Vincent McAuley	Bank
3 Kieran Malone	Bank
4 Gregory Simpson	Bank
5 Patrick Devlin	Civil Service
6 Peter White	Radiography
7 Liam Smyth	Bank

Past Pupils recently ordained:

Rev. Fathers: D. Dargan, S. Wales, S. McKeown, G. McShane, J. O'Connor, P. Gallinagh, D. McCaughey, G. Patton, K. Cassidy, D. McNaughton, R. Mitchell, A. Alexander and P. Alexander, D. Glover, D. Martin, B. McConvery, G. O'Callaghan, J. O'Kane, P. Shannon, F. Kennedy.

Among those preparing for the Priesthood are:

T. Lavery, P. Cassidy, C. McClements, N. Lynch, J. Rooney, G. O'Neill, John McKeown (soon to be ordained, D.V.).

Preparing to be a Christian Brother:

Joe McDonald (Novice), Br. Mark Barr (First vows).

FORMER ST. MARY'S STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED FROM Q.U.B. — 1981

Where so many boys are proceeding to university it is important to know how they perform in university. The excellent training for university life provided by St. Mary's can be vividly illustrated by the Queen's list of graduates provided annually. Last year the following achieved degrees or diplomas from Q.U.B. and they are all past pupils of this school. The numbers and, equally important, the quality of the degrees provide the best possible indication of the academic success of our pupils in third level education.

Doctor of Philosophy:

1 Brendan Johnson (Pure Mathematics); 2 Kieran Drain (Industrial Chemistry); 3 Liam Kane (Pure and Applied Physics); 4 Raymond King (do.); 5 Martin Lambe (do.).

Medical Doctors:

Geoffrey Blake; James Kelly; Clement McCrory; Conor McHugh; Conor Neeson; John Simpson; Michael Smyth.

Dentistry:

Paul McCullagh; Edward Mulhern.

Master Degrees:

James McConnell; Gerard Colohan; Sean McIlwee.

Faculty of Science— Bachelor of Science:

Thomas Foster; John Mullan; Paul Cooper; Richard Halleron; Sean King; Niall McCallion; James McCann; Brendan McClean; Paul McCloskey; Stephen McCormick; Brian Murphy; Daniel Rafferty; Alan Weir; James Woods.

Faculty of Applied Science and Technology — Bachelor of Science :

Michael Malone; Paul Muldoon; Brian Mullan; Peter Brown; Anthony Brown; Paul Carolan; Brian Glynn; Dermot McRandal; Edward Vernon; Martin White.

Faculty of Education:

Michael Boyd; Laurence Donnelly; John Finan Terence McManus; Francis Murphy; Michael Wright; Vincent Braniff; Paul Carlin; Hilary Cush; Desmond Donnelly; John De Ornellas; Francis Donnelly; James Fulton; William Martin; Kieran McBrien; Sean McIlwee; Colm McKeown; Peter McQuillan; Edward McToal; Kieran Mellon; Patrick Monaghan; Matthew Morgan; Gerard O'Gorman; Gerard Mulholland; Thomas O'Hare; James Short; Anthony Smyth; Kevin Smyth.

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences:

Desmond Cummings; Bernard Cullen; Henry Johnston; John McCann; John McCreesh; Daniel McGuigan; Seamus O'Reilly; James Savage; Brendan Rauwerda; John Wynne.

Faculty of Arts:

Kieran McBrien; George Caldwell; Peter Connolly; James Henry; James Connolly; Michael Goodall; Philip Johnston; John Malone; Brendan McCann; Thomas McIlveen; Kieran McPolin; Philip Moore; Henry Orr.

Institute of Professional Legal Studies:

Thomas Armstrong; Patrick Eastwood, Paul McGinn.

Faculty of Law:

Michael Flanagan; Mark Lennon; Damien McMahon; Noel Phoenix; Francis Roberts.

Faculty of Applied Science and Technology (Dip. Advanced Architectural Studies):

Kieran Mackel.

Conquering New Continents



By FATHER JOHN MURRAY (School Chaplain)

"Every generation is like a new continent to be won for Christ." — Pope John Paul, Knock, September 30, 1979

The story is told of the poet Coleridge who had listened to quite a vehement argument by a visitor against religious instruction of the young. His caller had concluded with the statement of his determination not to prejudice his children in any form of religion but to allow them at maturity to choose for themselves. Coleridge made no immediate comment, but shortly afterwards asked this same visitor to visit his garden. He then led him to a strip of lawn overgrown with weeds.

"Why this is no garden. It is nothing but a weed patch," said the guest.

"Oh!" replied Coleridge, "that is because it has not come to the age of discretion. The weeds you see have taken the opportunity to grow and I thought it unfair of me to prejudice the soil toward roses and strawberries."

Man needs God. That in itself is a large assumption for the unbeliever, but even Voltaire, the famous 18th century humanist admitted: "If God did not exist, man would have to invent Him." With somewhat more faith St. Augustine put it: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts cannot rest until they rest in you." Once we accept that God exists it is the natural thing to want to discover more about Him. Religious education becomes simply the pursuit of truth, that seeking after the answers to the questions of the universe and the problems of man.

Modern parents must at times feel inadequate before the increasing knowledge of the schoolboy or schoolgirl of the 1980s. This is even more true in the area of religious knowledge. My own mother's response to the questioning of a teenage brother is simply "It's your faith, you've got to believe it." Indeed there are no real arguments, no conclusive proof beyond faith that one can show to stifle the questions of one's 14, 16 or 18 year old. However, I always believe that it is far better to have questions than to smother them or to belittle the questioner.

Adolescence is the age of questioning. Even Mary and Joseph could not understand the behaviour and response of Jesus when He was discovered teaching the Doctors of the Law (Luke 2). Parents

need to understand this age in a similar vein. Like the snake shedding its skin — the analogy is not to be taken too closely (!) — the young person is leaving aside the thoughts and behaviour of the child. He is making St. Paul's words his own: "When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways aside." (I Cor. 13:11). It is always to be hoped that the adolescent rediscovers that parental faith for himself.

Another factor in the adolescent growth in religious values is his search for authenticity. The Irish Bishops were very aware of this in their pastoral letter of Lent 1980, "Handing on the Faith in the Home" — "Young people in their 'teens are very sensitive to the contradiction between the way adults go to church and pray, and want young people to behave in the way they live themselves." Young people hold out to the parents, and indeed all adults, a great challenge to live out the gospel.

Mutual trust and respect between parents and children is of paramount importance. Pope John Paul's words at Galway, "I believe in youth with all my heart" and his fervent "Young people of Ireland I love you" must give any parent, teacher or priest confidence to persevere in their own relationships and dealings with the young adult. We cannot expect young people to love and trust us unless we make the first move. However, the adolescent has responsibilities too, and it is not wrong occasionally to remind them of these. The pastoral letter again has apt words: "Teenagers, you must listen to your parents. You must trust them; you must believe in their love for you. It is selfish to expect to find love in your home unless you are genuinely trying to spread love there yourselves."

May I offer some suggestions? By its very nature religious education does not end with the closing of the text-book and the wiping of the blackboard. It is *par excellence* a living subject. Someone once said that "religion is caught not taught." And that process starts with you, the parents. Again the Bishops: "If children do not find love in the home then something goes wrong with their belief in God. Parents may not realise that the way a husband and wife love one another is a very important part of the religious training of their children."

Mealtimes are important in any house not simply for feeding the body but for that listening and learning and growing from one another. Allowing meals to be dictated to by TV schedules or the whims of an individual can destroy the family atmosphere generated by that weekday evening meal (or Sunday lunch) when everyone is together. It is the creation of happy memories for our children that we pass on the faith to a new generation.

And prayers? Only 25 per cent of Irish families pray together. Undoubtedly many pray as individuals, but do you recall Fr. Peyton's Rosary Crusade and its maxim: "The family that prays together stays together." There's something in it. Church and school are wasting their time to some extent unless children experience a living, prayed faith in the home.

Therein lies the key — a living, prayed faith. If children can see that you believe in what you are saying that is enough. Jesus becomes real for them too. For handing on the faith is something we can never take for granted. Always remember that God has no grandchildren, only sons and daughters!

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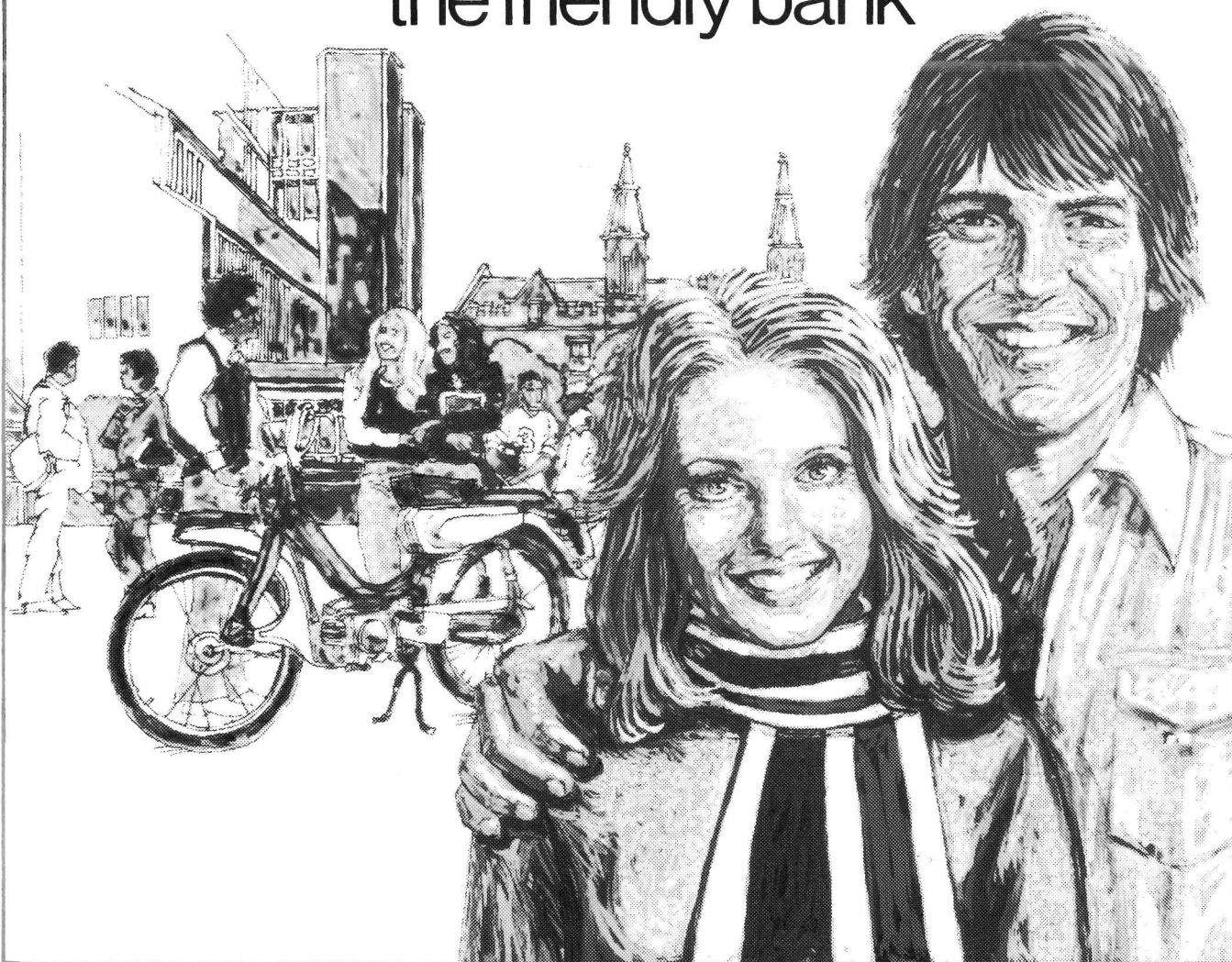
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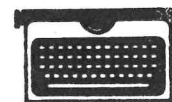
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**OFFICE STAFF**

Front: Miss A. Fitzpatrick, Miss D. McCrory;
back: L. McGoldrick, J. Donnelly.

FREE COMPETITION

'When They Were Boys'

Here are photographs, lettered A to K, of eleven former pupils of the school - all of them are now members of the teaching staff. All that you have to do is to identify each of them! For example if you think that A is Charlie Farley (and it isn't!) then write C.



ENTRANTS NAME

ADDRESS

Farley opposite letter A on the entry form and so on. A £5 book token will be awarded to the first all-correct solution drawn out of a drum by the headmaster Bro. L. F. Ennis, on Monday, February 1st 1982. This is a **FREE COMPETITION**. School Staff and their families are not eligible to participate in this competition. Fill in the entry form and send to:

'When They Were Boys', The Editor, The Simmarian, St. Mary's Christian Brothers Grammar School, Glen Road, Belfast. BT11 8NR.

Entries may be handed to the school office. Do not forget to fill in your own name and address on the entry form. Entries must be in by Friday 22nd January, 1982.

ENTRY FORM

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K

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MUSIC QUIZ

By Liam Donnelly (3B)

- 1 The Specials have had two albums. Can you name both?

- 2 Who was the first group to record "David Watts"?

- 3 Which Mod group has released an album called "Behind Closed Doors"?

- 4 Which famous band started out as The Quarrymen?

- 5 Name the group who released a single about "Lorraine".

- 6 Bruce Foxton is the bass player for which group?

- 7 In what year was Rock Around the Clock released?

- 8 Which group became famous after winning the Eurovision Song Contest with a song called Waterloo?

- 9 Which famous rockstar toured Russia in 1979?

- 10 In what year did Elvis die?

Answers on page 93.

Saol Albatráis

An sóir -eitilt, na tonnta luaineacha,
An bealach uaigneach, an t-uisce préachta,
Seo saol an Albatráis.

Na lúba ríogúla, na sciúrdanna tumthaí,
Ag ardu go neamh, ag titim go muir,
Seo saol an Albatráis.

Na blúirí bia, an spalladh gan chosc,
An ghaoth an-mhór, an chorp bhriste,
Seo bás an Albatráis.

By Niall Ó Riabhaidh (5F)

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Family Portrait — (Polystyrene) 6' by 4'.
M. Mooney (7SC)

The Outcast

by
Jim Callaghan 5A

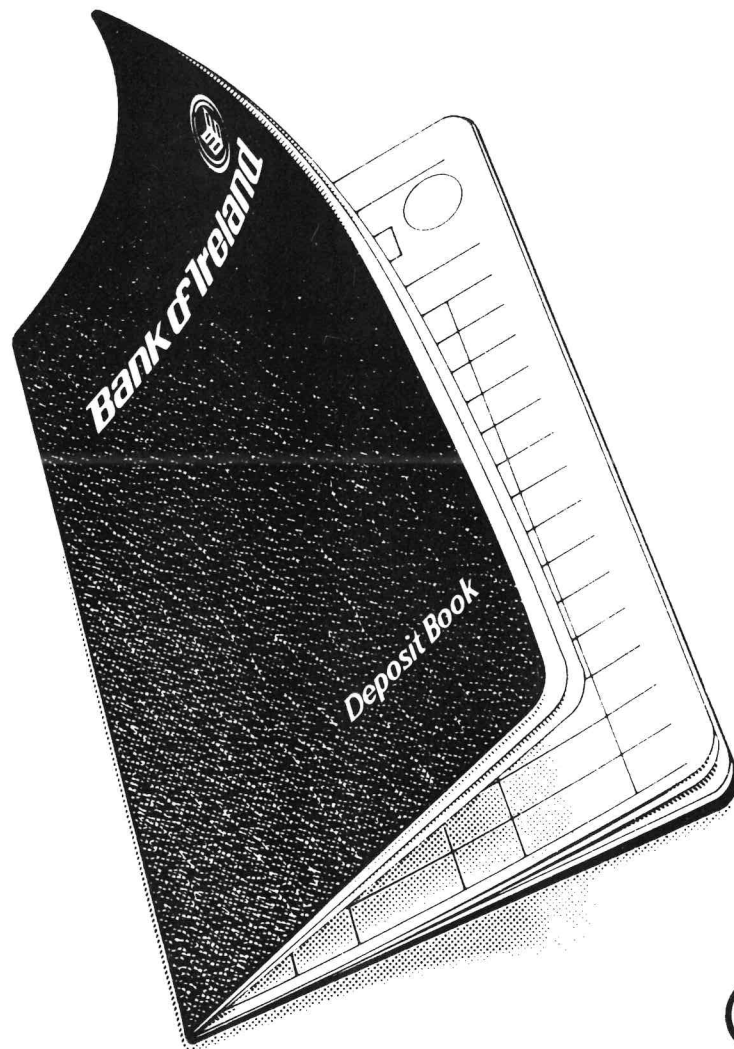
*Memories of warm winter evenings,
Friendship, good times remembered,
The future impossible to perceive,
Benches imprinted on aching back bones,
My very senses dulled by malnutrition,
'Friends' pass me, Yes, faked non-recognition.*

*All shame has left my self-piteous frame,
Dirty cap hangs limply from apathetic hand.
'Poor Sod'. 'Dirty owl' flea' 'Give him a few coppers'.
One time equals now are like Gods,
There is no time now for the individual.
The establishment claims another victim.*

*Each relentless, almost perpetual dusk falls,
The lice bed down among my worn garments,
They are my only friends now.
My stomach cries in embittered anguish,
Another foodless, lonely night looms.
Then tomorrow, Castle Street is home for the
Man with no abode.*

*Remain not thoughtless, my friends,
I once walked with you all,
Maybe tomorrow – you.
I am proof of Society's indifference,
There can be no escape when the reaper calls.
Remember, Remember.*

Book yourself a sound future- save with us.



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COMPUTER STUDIES IN THE SCHOOL

I am sure that many people reading this article have never seen a computer other than in photographs or on television. They therefore will have many ideas about computer technology that are quite untrue. Firstly, many people think that computers are machines with some kind of enormous brain. A computer is a very helpful and extremely useful machine, but it is a machine nonetheless and its capabilities are founded by the skill of its operator. Computers cannot think for themselves. They can only follow programming instructions. A very simple answer to the question, "what can computers do?" is that computers process information.

Computers can process data at extremely high speeds (typically executing one million instructions per second) and they can store vast amounts of data very compactly (thousands of storage locations can now be put on a single micro chip). Secondly, many people think that computers must cost hundreds of thousands of pounds. Some do, and indeed large main frame computers can cost millions of pounds, but a modern microcomputer system can, on average, be purchased for about two thousand pounds. Indeed it is possible to buy a good microcomputer for under one thousand pounds. This is, of course, a very recent development which is due to the great advances made in microelectronic technology. A major breakthrough in computer cost occurred in early 1980 with the production of the first computer to go on sale at a price under one hundred pounds — this was the Sinclair ZX80 computer, and it cost ninety-nine pounds! Early 1981 saw the production of an improved version of this computer called the Sinclair ZX81 — and the price has come down to seventy pounds. (It can be bought at a price even cheaper than this in a kit form, if you want to assemble it yourself!) It is remarkable to think that, given the present economic climate the cost of computer hardware is actually falling while the price of almost everything else is rising. One good effect of this trend in computer costs has been to put computers within the means of many more people. Not only are small businesses and schools able to afford their own computer systems but many individuals are also buying the computer for private use at home. In the near future computers will be just as common in the home as television is at present. And thirdly, a word about the size of computers, which can vary a great deal. Some large computer systems can occupy a whole building whereas the modern microcomputers are very compact systems and therefore extremely portable. The small Sinclair ZX81 mentioned earlier measures only 7" x 5" x 1".

Our school at present has two computers — a Sinclair ZX81 and a Commodore Pet, both of which are cassette tape based systems. By Christmas we hope to have taken delivery of a third computer, a Research Machines 380Z which is a disc-based system. When the new subject "Computer Studies" was introduced into the school last year I was one of the seventeen pupils who decided to take it as one of my "O" Level subjects. We did not really know what to expect and I suppose some of us thought that we would be dabbling in electronics but we were quite wrong. Although part of the course involves a study of the hardware of computer systems it stops short of entering the area of electronics as this is considered a completely separate subject, which might at some future date become an "O" Level subject in its own right, and not considered suitable for a Computer Studies course. To some of our class this proved to be a disappointment. However, there is a practical part of the syllabus which involves learning how to run them on a computer. In fact as part of our "O" Level exam we each have to complete a project, including the writing of a programme to demonstrate some practical application in which a computer may be used. As well as computer programming, the course consists of studying how a computer works, the various ways in which computers can be used to process information, the different areas in which computers are used and their effect on society.

When we embarked on our "O" Level Computer Studies course, our main problem was not having a computer or access to a computer. The problem about acquiring our own computer was to remain a real one for most of the year until, as I shall explain in a moment, fate was to take a hand. In the meantime during the second term our teacher, Mr. M. McGrath, arranged for us to travel to Queen's University where we had access to one of their computers. This proved very beneficial, because for the first time we were able to gain hands-on experience in running our own programmes on a computer. Later on, in the third term, we actually had two microcomputers in the school on loan from the College of Technology and from Queen's. This practical experience gained on the computer at Queen's led some of us to wonder why we could not have our own computer at school. Then in March came an opportunity to do something about acquiring a computer of our own for the school. It came in the shape of a competition being run by a Northern Ireland computer company for which the top prize was a microcomputer system. At first we were hesitant about entering because of our relative

inexperience, but eventually, after a number of exploratory meetings, a group of twelve fourth-form pupils was formed to tackle the competition. The group was divided into three sub-groups each of which undertook to make a study of the uses of computers in the areas of industry, education and the home. The closing date for the competition, April 30, approached and over the Easter Holidays everyone rushed to get finished. The entry was completed and sent off and, to tell the truth, forgotten about because the judging was not to be held until the end of May. Then one afternoon towards the end of that month the Headmaster received an unexpected phone call informing him that the school had won first prize in the competition — and this was confirmed by letter the next day, giving details of the presentation of prizes. In the middle of June we all went to a reception in the Culloden Hotel at which we were presented with our prize by the Minister of Education, Lord Elton.

When the excitement had died down we found ourselves facing the summers exams. For the first time we had to experience a Computer Studies exam in the form of two papers. The first "O" Level examination in Computer Studies to be held by the Northern

Ireland G.C.E. Board is scheduled for 1982. One of the problems this presents is that there are no past exam papers to use as a guide as to what to expect, so we must consider ourselves as pioneers in this new subject in the school.

Finally, a look at the future: there are now three Computer Studies classes in the school — in fourth, fifth and sixth years. The computers we have are being used at the moment exclusively by these classes. Hopefully the Computer Studies Department within the school will expand in the coming years, purchasing more computers and, more importantly, giving more of our pupils the opportunity of gaining some knowledge in this rapidly growing and very important subject. In addition it is likely that in the future other departments in St. Mary's will make use of computers as an aid to teaching. So with the computer destined to have such a big impact on all our lives in the very near future, it seems only right that every pupil should at some stage in his school career learn something about this machine which has been responsible for what has been termed "The Computer Revolution." Like the Industrial Revolution, the Computer Revolution is still going on.

NIALL REA

Projects in Science

For many people, particularly those in grammar schools, their only experience of practical science lies in the rigidly defined and dubiously accurate concoctions which go by the name of "practicals". Unfortunately these bear little resemblance to actual research so that those contemplating a science career, such as engineering, are faced with the unpleasant prospect of being thrown in the deep end without previously having done more than damp their big toe.

Fortunately teachers, industry and Government have become aware of the weaknesses of a purely academic education. Among the remedies introduced was the development of competitions, in science and engineering, with substantial cash prizes as an incentive to entry. Some, such as the Young Engineer for Britain and the Schools Design Prize, deal exclusively in constructed projects, prizes being awarded for the originality and commercial potential of the device. Others, such as the British and Aer Lingus Young Scientists competitions, primarily deal in more descriptive, investigative work with evidence of a sound experimental approach. All tastes are therefore catered for, as the variety of entries demonstrates. A squash ball warmer, an investigation of the biochemistry of spider's web weaving and a multifunctional programmable robotic arm are just a few of the projects which have been successful in the past years.

None of these projects, however, appeared out of thin air, so anyone who fancies his chances of making several hundred "quid" should by now be wondering how to get started. There are, in fact, two ways of doing so. The first is for a brilliant idea to strike you, like a thunderbolt from a clear blue

sky (the probability of the two events being roughly equal). In such an event the next step would be to consider what you will need to develop this idea and to contact either Mr. Crilly or Mr. Manning, who will either advise you how to proceed or suggest some other teacher who might be interested. All the moves from that point on are up to the nature of the idea and how much work you are prepared to put into it.

If, however, you find that brilliant ideas are not being particularly obliging nothing at all has yet been lost. Ideas spring forth more readily as understanding increases so the obvious step is to find out in a general way more about the topic in which you are interested. It is at this stage that the school and the teachers can be of greatest assistance. To begin with, a good selection of books on practical science is stocked by the school library. If, after investigating these, your enthusiasm remains reasonably intact the school may be able to offer further assistance by way of experimental materials, workshop facilities and technical advice. There is at present an electronics group within the school which has been provided with two electronic kits in addition to having the use of school equipment when needed. There is no reason why, if the interest exists, similar groups should not be formed in other fields. As well as providing a springboard to more ambitious projects this kind of work is enjoyable in itself and useful with regard to both school work and future studies and career. In short, the challenge and the opportunity are there and, even if you don't succeed in taking a pleasantly lucrative swim, you have no excuse not to get your feet wet.

STEPHEN WALSH 7SA

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St Mary's first school trip to Germany — Easter 1981

Following the months of planning, consulting and sweating about money being brought in on time, the school party for Germany was finally ready to go. Tuesday, April 14th, was D-Day, and at approximately 1.30 p.m. we got under way for the ferry to Stranraer. Heading the party was Mr. R. O'Prey who came to be known as the "Gruppenfuhrer"; Mr. Crummy, Mr. O. McCann, Mr. F. Rice, Br. Jennings, and the school's maintenance engineer, Mr. Billy Adams, who, I suspect, came along to ensure that the teachers did not break down or blow any gaskets.

On the way to Larne Mr. Adams led the party in a "Happy Birthday" for the Gruppenfuhrer, who was obviously taken aback and extremely embarrassed by the whole affair. The boys opened their packed lunches, diligently assembled by concerned parents that morning, and ate. At Larne ferry terminal the boys ate sweets, biscuits, crisps, chocolate and chips. When we disembarked at Stranraer at 5.45 there was no coach for us. The teachers ate their finger nails. Eventually the coach arrived and off we went on the first stage of a murderous journey through Scotland and England.

At the first stop in Dumfries the boys ate crisps, sweets, biscuits and chips again and we all took advantage of the one and only public lavatory bowl in the town. Back to the bus and off to Leeds, our bus company's H.Q., where a relief driver took over for the second leg to the Dover ferry terminal. Several stops were made at the various large and very well-appointed service cafeterias adjacent to the motorways. The boys ate chips, hamburgers, chips and chips. Some of them took such a great interest in the Space Invader machines that it caused the teachers to wonder why they hadn't spent their Easter holidays in Castle Street or Caesar's Palace. After an all-night journey in the coach, which was without reclining seats, the party finally sighted the Sealink Ferry. We were a bit the worse for wear, but at least the lads had eaten well. Oh, boy! had they eaten well! So had our third coach driver, Richard Smith, who weighed in at about 22 stone, and was immediately rechristened "Little Richard". He proved to be a gentleman who made a major contribution to the success of the trip due to his knowledge of the Continent and his patience and congeniality. He also made a major contribution to the German food and drink effort!

However, onward we went across the English Channel and landed at Calais 1¾ hours later. No doubt about it, there is a lot to be said for short ferry crossings. The restaurant on board the vessel received the now customary flood of Belfast gourmets who dutifully depleted the galley's stock of chips and hamburgers. A short journey via Dunkirk, and we were soon across the border into Belgium, a country where the towns and cities are abundantly supplied with picturesque houses and their multi-angled roofs, cherry-blossom avenues and modern buildings which architects have unobtrusively slipped among the traditional styles of buildings. Farmers here can be seen still using the horse-drawn plough — a stark contrast to other highly mechanised

European countries where such items now repose in the sanctity of folk museums. Our destination in Belgium was a holiday resort called Blankenberge, just a short distance from the major Channel port of Ostend. On the map Blankenberge is a mere dot of no significance. In reality it is about three times the size of Portrush with superb shopping facilities, a marvellous beach, and dozens of restaurants, cafes and souvenir shops where items can be bought at incredibly low prices. Two or three of the lads quickly availed themselves of the latter attraction and purchased fishing tackle for half the price it would have cost here. Cigarettes were also cheap at 65p per 25 pack of American "Pall Mall"; toys were being sold at approximately one-third to one-half our current prices.

After dinner at our Blankenberge hotel (we got chips, would you believe!) the teachers were enjoying a cup of deliciously aromatic Belgian coffee when somebody noticed several "heads" swiftly passing the window. Upon investigation, we discovered that the boys had been very quick to take advantage of another of Blankenberge's attractions — pedal go-carts, which accommodate anything from one to five or six personnel. Of course, they were all carting along the wrong side of the streets. A brake failed, a car received literally a "pinhead" scrape and an irate French-speaking Belgian came into the hotel looking for the person in charge. Mr. Crummy being head of the French Department assumed command and within a short period of time had persuaded the Belgian that his demand for compensation was falling on deaf ears. The Belgian took the hint and departed, never to be seen again. Mr. Crummy was the hero of the hour. The "Gruppenfuhrer" took swift action. The boys were assembled in public on the street, adeptly reprimanded for their indiscretion and all go-cars were ordered back whence they had been hired. A voice from the crowd chirped: "Sir can you hire bikes?" I think Mr. O'Prey's reply was in German. Anyway the rest of the evening passed off quietly and the next morning we were en route for Germany via Brussels, where we visited the Atomium, a huge metal structure built to represent a molecule of something or other.

Several hours later we had crossed the border at Aachen, Charlemagne's capital in the heady days of the Holy Roman Empire, and we made for the Rhineland capital, Cologne, south to Koblenz, where the Rhine and Moselle rivers join, following the course of the east bank until we arrived at Kamp Bornhofen, a Rhine resort boasting a mediaeval Franciscan monastery which receives more than 10,000 pilgrims every summer to visit the shrine of Our Lady, and which is dominated by two mediaeval castles which, legend has it, were occupied by two brothers who spent their entire lives trying to kill each other. The castles are in fact called "The enemy brothers."

As a direct result of the fact that our money had been paid in at a rather late date, our party had to split up into two groups, as another school had sneaked in in front of us and got their accommodation first.

Continued on page 96.

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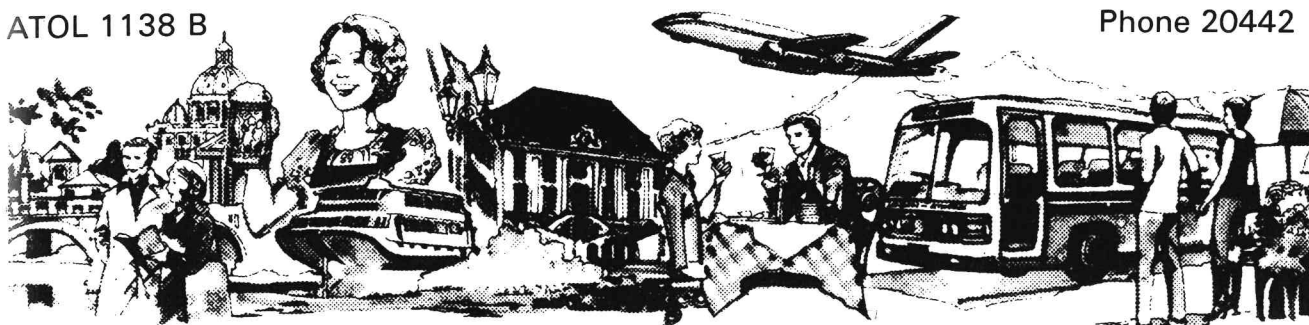
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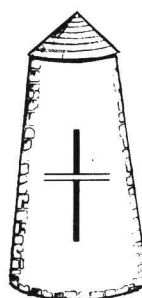
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PAMPOROVO 1980-81

Pamporovo is a mountain ski-resort 5,500 ft up in the Rhodope Mountains in Southern Bulgaria. It is about 50 mls from Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria after Sofia.

Before leaving for Bulgaria all of the members of our group were given ski lessons at Craigavon ski-slope. Some were complete beginners and were taught the basics of skiing. Others like Harry McGowan, Anto Lavery, Cormac McCann, Brian Walsh and myself were taught how to improve our skills by Perry, one of the instructors at Craigavon.

Bro. Gallagher entered us in the Ulster School's Ski League which holds its races on the first Friday of every winter month. Eventually it was time to leave and after the over-long security checks at Aldergrove we were on our way. The flight over, on a Balkan Airways Illusion jet, was a pleasant yet tiring one.

It was 8.00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on a cold winter's day. I was awakened by a loud knocking on the hotel-room door. Bro. Gallagher was informing us in a loud tone of voice that it was 'wakey, wakey' time. We stumbled to our feet and hastily pulled on our ski-suits. It was not our first time skiing so we knew what to expect. After a practically non-existent breakfast we gathered outside the Snechanka Hotel impatiently awaiting the bus that would bring us to the ski-store. The ski-store was a low prefabricated building situated at the bottom of a 'green' ski-run. Ski-runs are colour-coded from green (for beginners) through blue and red to black for experts only.

After what seemed like hours (spot the cliché) we were all kitted out in the latest equipment which for me meant Fischer Cut 70 skis, Koflach boots and ski poles. Each of us made a solo run past, which was supposedly to show off one's skiing skills. We were divided into classes and made the thrilling ascent by chairlift to half-way stage on the mountain side. We stood expectant at the top of the green run. Our instructor Nasco led us through a few swift descents. Lunch came and passed. I won't make any comment on Bulgarian haute cuisine. After a rigorous afternoon's skiing we left our skis, etc., in the ski-store and returned to the hotel for dinner. After this we all went out to sample Bulgarian night life.

Some members of our group, Decky and Tom, got to know some members of a group from Friends' School in Lisburn. Lisa and Sally, who were staying in our hotel. Things started to liven up. Skiing became more and more exciting. We began to take runs at speeds just outside the normal margin of safety. A few of us discovered a naturally — formed ski-jump where Tom Teggart tried out various acrobatic manoeuvres. We all joined the local disco where we learned the art of head-banging.

While all this was going on we couldn't help but notice the stunning scenery all around us. The distant hills just over the border in Northern Greece were blue-white as the sun's rays bounced off their snow-capped peaks. The pistes (ski-runs) were white gashes in forests of evergreens, their tops dusted with snow. When ascending in the chairlift to the summit of the mountain there was a view of the surrounding area that looked as if it had just come off a post card. Picturesque was an understatement.

Finally the last day came. We all got up early and went out to have our free-skiing before the ski-test in the afternoon. We were given vouchers entitling us to lunch in the restaurant at the summit instead of in the hotel. Lunch was hot and filling after which we all went to take our respective ski-tests. Harry and Anto attained the much sought after 'D' whereas I only achieved a 'C'. Bulgarian's rate skiers from terrible 'A' to pretty good 'D'. We all savoured our last runs but eventually had to return to the hotel.

That night there was the presentation of skiing certificates. We all said our goodbyes to instructors and hotel staff and were showered with goodbye kisses from our friends from Friends'. The next morning, 4.00 a.m. actually, there wasn't a happy face to be seen this side of Plovdiv. Whether this was due to over indulgence in Bulgarian Vodka, or to the sad fact that we were returning home. I could not tell. We went by bus to Plovdiv and from there to Aldergrove. The snowless streets of Belfast were not a welcome sight.

Written by
Owen McKiernan (6SB)
and
Anthony Lavery (4F)



"Preparing for the Piste".

School Trip to Venice — Easter 1979

Venice, for most people, conjures up visions of romance, delicate Renaissance palaces and misty canals. As one might expect, the image is shattered somewhat when one is in a party of forty-odd school boys ranging from first years with a passion for space invaders to fifth years with a similar addiction. Added to this was the discovery that we were not in Venice at all but several miles away in a small "Joe Walsh Tours"-type resort rather picturesquely named Lido-de-Jesolo. The initial shock over, however, we soon settled down to enjoy our stay and, with diversions ranging from art galleries to amusement arcades for the less cultural, even the most discerning among us could find no cause for complaint.

Unfortunately the same could not be said for the journey to and from Italy, which was entirely by boat and the rather optimistically named "luxury" coach. It all began on an ominously grey Good Friday with a crossing from Larne to Stranraer, during which all rules of fast and abstinence peculiar to the day were conveniently forgotten in an orgy of crisps, sweets, Coke and soggy sandwiches. The constant stream of sick passengers during the all-night drive through England was taken by many as a sign that the Almighty did not wholly approve.

By mid-day on Saturday we had arrived at Calais and begun our long drive through central France to Dijon, where one night was spent in a vast youth hostel. For many this provided an opportunity to indulge in the dubious delights of foreign cooking for the first time, although an all too vivid resemblance of some tubular pasta to maggots left most of us unable to finish the dish. The more familiar produce of a nearby chip shop saved the day. One naive member of the party ventured farther afield and almost lost his valuables in one of the seedier areas of the city. The news was warmly welcomed by his friends, adding, as it did, that certain touch of excitement so necessary to one's first day on foreign soil.

After Easter Sunday Mass in a small country church (part reparation for the sins of Friday) we sped on to what proved to be the most enjoyable part of our long journey — the drive through Switzerland and the Swiss Alps. The breathtaking scenery touched even the most cynical hearts — indeed one teacher was heard to remark that it almost compensated for the numerous discomforts of coach travel. It certainly gave one something to look forward to on the return journey.

After another overnight stop in Milan, we finally reached Lido-de-Jesolo at lunchtime on Easter Monday. The general feeling was primarily one of relief rather than eager anticipation, but before long natural curiosity and the remarkable discovery that one could still use one's legs, even after three days of sitting, prompted us to take a closer look at our new surroundings. It was about then that we discovered that Easter Monday is a public holiday in Italy and everything was firmly shut in deference to the occasion. The first day of our stay was therefore passed wandering around deserted streets.

The highlight of the week — our visit to Venice — had been arranged for the following day. After an early morning start, a three-quarter hour bus trip and a half-hour boat trip, the object of our travels

was at last in sight and Venice, bathed in sunshine, was indeed a spectacle to behold.

The perpetual appeal of Venice is probably incomprehensible to anyone who has never been there and indeed it is impossible to describe on paper its unique and remarkable charm. Because of time restrictions we did not venture far from the central St. Mark's Square and yet, at every turning, something of unique beauty was there to be admired and wondered at. Every street appeared full of fairytale water palaces of seemingly fragile delicacy yet strong enough to stand the ravages of time and the constant onslaught of the canals' dampness. Sadly, commercialism has also become an aspect of Venice. Souvenir stalls were clustered around every historical building and admission charges were made everywhere — even in certain sections of St. Mark's Basilica, which I found particularly distasteful as it is still a fully functional church. In spite of this Venice, unlike many other European cities, has retained its unique character and many back streets contain amazing little shops and cafes seemingly unchanged for centuries. The gondolas were there too, of course, but, at £16 per hour, we had to make do with plastic replicas at 50p at a souvenir stall. We left Venice that day deeply contented . . . it had risen to, and perhaps surpassed, our highest expectations.

The rest of our stay in Lido-de-Jesolo seemed something of an anticlimax after this and indeed a few of us returned to spend our second last day in Venice and explore some of the areas we had previously missed. This visit proved even more enjoyable than the first as time-tables could be completely discarded and the timelessness of Venetian life experienced to the full. A minor drama occurred when we boarded the wrong water bus for the return journey to the mainland but, after two trips to smaller "islands" and one back to Venice, the boat finally headed in the right direction and we sadly watched Venice fade into the sunset in the true Paramount Picture style.

All too soon it was time to pack and set out on the journey home again. Most of us had become quite attached to the easy-going ways of Lido-di-Jesolo and the kindness and thoughtfulness of the staff in the small family hotel where we stayed will long be remembered. By now most of us were almost penniless, but this was more than compensated for by the rich memories and vast assortment of souvenirs brought back with us. The school trip was an enjoyable holiday for all involved and this article mentions only some of my own impressions and memories of the trip. Venice was indeed a unique experience for everyone.

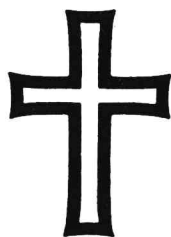
Our thanks to Mr. G. Cullen and Mr. O. McCann, who were responsible for organising the visit, and for their *vigilance* throughout the trip, to Mr. F. Dynan, who dished out sweets (jelly babies) in the most inappropriate places; to Mr. Hegarty for taking most of the juniors under his care; to Mr. E. McFlynn, who confused and surprised some Italian workmen outside the La Scala Opera House at 7 o'clock in the morning; his prowess on the junior karting track at Jesolo was a sight to behold; to Mr. D. Breen who persistently played a record by Blondie on the hotel jukebox and whose quips and witticisms were hilarious.

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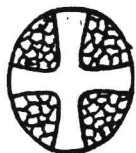


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Renewal Action and Youth

On the 21st September, 1972, the late Cardinal Conway, a past pupil of St. Mary's, unfolded a new movement for youth. In a way it has been seen as a "splinter" group of the Pioneer and Total Abstinence Association. It was to spread throughout the country with rapid success and now only nine years later has extended to places like Hong Kong, California and, believe it or not, the Fiji Islands. The late Cardinal's aim was to have a vibrant and attractive wing of the Pioneer Movement; R.A.Y. workers are striving towards that goal though it is still very much an aim rather than realisation. We in R.A.Y. are concerned with the *abuse* of alcohol. Alcohol is one of the greatest and most pleasant gifts we have, but, sadly, one of the most abused.

Renewal, Action, and Youth, as it has recently been renamed, does not say drink is bad, or do not drink. However, what it does is invite young people to stop and think. To find out more about alcohol, uses and abuses, and then after informing and educating oneself make a balanced decision. It is felt that 18 years or 21 is a time when such a decision should be possible. The R.A.Y. movement as a whole has three main aims: (a) To abstain totally until at least 18 from all alcoholic drink; (b) To inform oneself and others about use and abuse of alcohol, and (c) To provide alternative activities.

The R.A.Y. group in St. Mary's was founded in September 1979, by a group of sixth year students in conjunction with Mr. O'Prey and the permission of Brother McCrohan. There are R.A.Y. groups all over the country, both in the parish set-ups, youth clubs and schools. A school R.A.Y. group is, however, limited in what it can do. The pressure of school work and studies narrows down the amount of time which can be devoted to the group. However, with the help of the headmaster and the adult co-ordination the group has continued successfully.

Last year we visited Shaftesbury Square Hospital for alcoholics. This was very educational from the point of view of seeing the victims of the abuse of alcohol at close hand. As a follow-up to this Father McGuckian, S.J., was invited to the school to talk to fifth, sixth and seventh year pupils. Fr. Bernard is the national director of R.A.Y.

To help us get on our feet financially we did a short sponsored walk of 10 miles, followed several weeks later by a 12-hour sponsored football match. Amidst all this came the birth of the milk bar. The bar immediately became an integral part of the school, and indeed went a long way to lifting the one-time engineering room to the status of lunch/common room. We finished the first year of the group within the school as successful as it had ever been throughout. Three of our members walked from Belfast to Dublin. It was a long and difficult way to raise money, but it was a very enjoyable and memorable experience of endurance for the participants. Over £500 was raised and later presented to Muckamore Abbey for the welfare of the patients. It was a triumphant way to finish an already encouraging first year.

This year has been a somewhat quieter one for the group, particularly because of an imbalance in

membership. We have very few sixth year students to guard the future of the group. It is true to say that the Milk Bar takes up the greatest part of our time, and what with ordering, cleaning, staffing and finance, this is not surprising. However, fortunately enough, the vast majority of our projects have been a success; there have, of course, been minor "hiccups". The resignation of several members, amongst them a secretary, along with the "squashing" of our 1000 club idea were two of our greatest disappointments.

The organization and running of the group now revolves around a small but hard-working core. We have a committee consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer. The adult co-ordinator is always available to advise and assist us.

It was predictable, as it is with most voluntary organizations, that there would be internal disagreements. The R.A.Y. group is no exception. We have had much wrangling, challenging and disagreement, but this is probably due to the zest of those involved. We meet at least once a week, on a Tuesday, at 3.30 p.m. in Q11. Everything has gone fairly well up until now. This year, however, our membership is our greatest problem. The R.A.Y. group—or, rather, being senior members of the R.A.Y. group—has certain advantages and, indeed, is seen by many as prestigious. Unfortunately these have been the reasons for members joining recently and is something which must be guarded against in the future.

Well, the R.A.Y. group continues and *will* continue; it does not take more than a handful to form a group. However, the more the better. Dedication and determination to work for the R.A.Y. are the criteria. The senior students in the group agree that it had been a worthwhile and happy association. In conclusion we would like to thank all the pupils, senior and junior, the staff, teaching, domestic and maintenance workers, and all those who have helped us throughout the past terms. We could not begin an acknowledgement list here.

JOSEPH McDONALD

An Priosúnach

Ag síor smaoiniamh
Ar an saol a bhí agam
Mo theaghlach, mo shaoirse.
Ag síorchaoineadh
Sa phluais ina bhfuilim
Mo ifreann, mo dhaoirse.
Tada le cloisteáil
Faic le feiceáil
Níl éin, ná locha, ná sléibhte.
Go tobann sa deireadh
Scáirt athais le cloisteáil
Redharc álainn le feiceáil
Léim chuig an fhuinneog
Srón ar an ghloine
Ta sneachta ag titim.

le Seán Fagan (6ú Bliain)

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Sponsored Relay Bicycle Ride—Belfast to Lourdes 1981

Easter

On Tuesday the 14th April 1981 at 11.13 a.m. having attended a special Mass offered by the Rev. Fr. John Murray (school chaplain) in the school assembly hall, a party of 6th and 7th year students set out to cycle from BELFAST to LOURDES. The boys (17 in number) were accompanied by 4 adults and two school buses. (The adults were Rev. Bro. C. I. Gallagher, Rev. Bro. Gleeson, Bro. C. Cremin, Mr. John Donnelly).

The object of this relay bicycle ride was to raise funds in aid of the Irish Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust (I.H.C.P.T.) who were flying 250 handicapped children to spend a week at Our Lady's Shrine at Lourdes.

The sponsored relay was a big success; raising over £4,000.

The journey was completed safely and on schedule and all returned home enriched by their experiences. That however is only the bare bones of the story. We could write a book about some of the things that happened to us between 14th and 28th April 1981.

Before the bicycle relay began much preparation had to be made. The routes to be taken; accommodation; booking the ferries; checking the bicycles and spares; packing the gear and equipment; obtaining passports and insurance and French currency — and 101 small details.

The week before we left some of the lads met the Lord Mayor of Belfast and he gave them a plaque to present to the Lord Mayor of Lourdes. The day before we left U.T.V. sent a camera crew to the school to film the boys with their bicycles and to learn the purpose of their trip.

The day we left it was fine and sunny. The first cyclist, John Bateson had gone ahead about 15 minutes before us and the bus containing the 6th formers and piloted by the Rev. Bro. Dennis Gleeson had also set off. The bus with the 7th year pupils left at 11.13 a.m. and picked up the first cyclist after 10 kilometres and deposited another. We stopped at the Abbey in Newry for lunch and we arrived at Emmaus in Swords at 4.40 p.m. We were to spend the night there. The journey had been very pleasant and not too strenuous. A spirit of comradeship and some friendly rivalry between the two mini-bus squads was beginning to develop. The first football match that evening ended in a hard fought draw. That evening we all went into Dublin to the pictures and it was midnight when we got to bed. It had been a long enjoyable day. On our first day we coined a new phrase. We passed a bike lying at the roadside. Its' owner Fred (one of the 6th years) was behind a wall answering the call of nature. From then on it became known as going for a 'freddy'.

Wednesday: Up 6.45 a.m. Mass — Breakfast. On the road for Wexford at 8.45 a.m. The weather was sunny and warm. In Wexford we were met by the Lord Mayor with whom we lunched and then we set off for the ferry at ROSSLARE. The boat sailed at 5 p.m. and was packed with hundreds of school children all heading for different destinations. Before we loaded we were entertained by a girls soccer team from Dublin doing some practice. We gave them a lot of stick.

During the sea trip we rested as best we could. The next morning we met a Fr. McKeown from Belfast and he said Mass in the lounge. As the ship was rolling heavily he had great difficulty and he changed colour several times. Some of the lads were



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1981-82

sea sick and we were relieved to land at Le Harve at 2.15 p.m. We put our watches forward one hour making it 3.15 p.m. and at once set off for Le Mons. The 7th years were cycling first and we had to adapt at once to driving and cycling on the right hand side. The weather was beautiful and continued this way until we reached Lourdes.

We stopped in Liseux and went shopping in a supermarket, buying ham, cheese, butter, milk, minerals, beer and a bottle of wine. The bread was fresh and very enjoyable and we had our first roadside picnic. When we reached Le Mons it was 10 p.m. We were all so tired we could hardly eat our first French meal. Some of our party tried out their knowledge of French and we had a few laughs. Non drinkers who wanted a club orange all received a shweppes tonic. It was a long way. The 7th years lost their first cyclist but eventually caught up with him.

Good Friday: Up at 7 a.m. and on the road at 8.50 a.m., we drove through Tours, a very busy city. The boys were taking to the cycling like ducks to water and the change overs were going like clockwork. We reached our target, Angoulême at 4 p.m. the Hotel de la Bourse. We had plenty of time for sight-seeing here. We kissed the Crucifix, visited and photographed several cathedrals, posted cards home and visited the many shopping arcades. That night we played pool in a local bar. As the pool table kept returning our money we had a couple of hours free entertainment.

Easter Saturday: Up at 8 and left at 9 a.m. Our bus finished its stint at 12 with still one cyclist, to pick up. We made a little detour to a vineyard where we sampled the local products and bought some brandy and liquers. When we caught up with Conor he had cycled 23 kilometers instead of the usual 8 and he was very worried. We stayed in Langon and went shopping and sight seeing and later the 7th years gave the 6th years a football lesson. At 10.30 we went to the local cathedral for the blessing of the Easter candle and attended Mass.

Easter Sunday: Up at 7 and left at 9. The two groups met up at 1.30 outside Lourdes and made tea and sandwiches. With the buses leading the way, the lads, all in their school track suits cycled down into Lourdes. Everyone was excited. For most of us it was our first trip to Lourdes and we were not disappointed. As we came down from a height we could see on our right the river Gave rushing past at a great speed and on the far side of the Grotto, thousands of pilgrims, wearing different coloured sashes could be seen and heard from afar. We parked some distance away and set off on foot for the Grotto. As we crossed a bridge over the Gave it was like stepping back into history — to the time of Bernadette of Lourdes. The statue of the Virgin Mary in the Grotto is beautiful and we all enjoyed our first visit.

We were met by Dr. Seamus McAteer from Newry who took us into Lourdes. Here we all split into pairs and went to different hotels. The rain started to come down. Up to this time we had been having a holiday; enjoying the food, the fine weather and the beautiful towns, villages and countryside as we moved through France. Now we met up with Bro. Ennis and Bro. Lynam from the school who had flown in that day along with the I.H.C.P.T. organisation and the handicapped children. From Easter Sunday until the following Saturday the boys from St. Mary's worked with others in caring for the children. There must be a hundred stories that could be told about that never to

be forgotten week. The weather was appalling. The rain stopped briefly when we were taking the children for a picnic so that the snow could come down. We attended mass in a graveyard up in the Pyrenees and got soaked by the sleet and snow. The children were fabulous and took no notice of the bad weather.

Our group left Lourdes in heavy rain at 8.00 a.m. on Friday 24th and after four Kilometres the sun was back for what turned out to be the hottest day so far. We drove straight to Paris (512 miles) passing through Bordeaux, crossing the river Garonne, through Saintes, Poitiers, Tours (river Loire), Orleans, arriving Paris 8.30 p.m. and spending 111 francs on Toll road.

The De La Salle Brothers had a lovely meal ready and later we took the metro into Paris where a bottle of coke cost £1.

Saturday 25th: Sightseeing. Bro. Gleeson took our group to all the places we didn't want to go and to none of the places that we wished to visit!

Sunday: 10 Mass in Notre Dame. Quite an experience. Back on the road. Visited the Cathedral in Rouens. Arrived Le Harve at 5.45 p.m. The sun was shining, not a ripple on the surface of the water and not a ship in sight, just a notice which read, "owing to atrocious weather in the channel, shipping has been diverted to Cherbourg", 148 miles away. We arrived Cherbourg 10 p.m. but didn't board the ferry until 3 a.m. We managed a good meal in Cherbourg.

Ferry left at 3.25 a.m. and headed into a force 9 gale. Long night and longer miserable day. Everyone was sick. Docked 10.15 a.m. Tuesday 28th having made a brief stop at Emmaus for tea.

STOP PRESS: It has now been decided to repeat the Lourdes exercise next Easter and we hope, through sponsorship, to make the venture even more successful.

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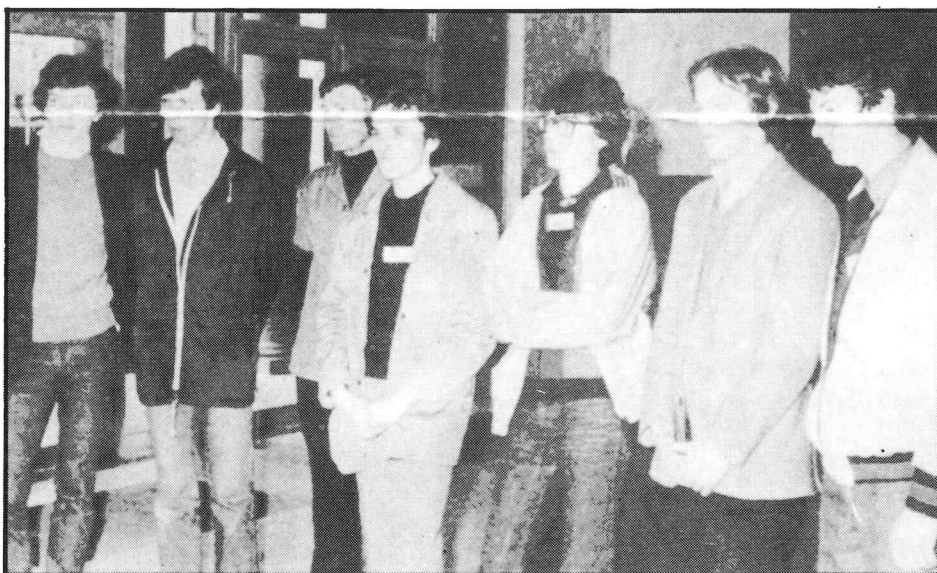
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A VELO DEPUIS BELFAST!



« L'exploit sportif, nous connaissons bien, ici, à Lourdes. Vous n'êtes certainement pas sans ignorer les prouesses de notre équipe de rugby. »

C'est en ces termes que M. Maurice Abad, représentant le député-maire, M. François Abadie, a accueilli, mardi, dans le cadre du Palais des Congrès, un groupe de dix-sept Irlandais de Belfast. Pour ces jeunes de l'HCPT, une association qui œuvre pour faciliter les pèlerinages des enfants handicapés d'Irlande, volonté, qualités de cœur et endurance sportive ne sont pas de vains mots.

Depuis plusieurs années ils réalisent un raid cycliste peu ordinaire. Qu'on en juge. 1 200 km sont avalés en quelques jours pour rejoindre la cité mariale. Point de départ : Belfast. Un exploit qui n'est pas en outre, purement gratuit. Ces mousquetaires généreux, au fil des kilomètres collectent des fonds destinés aux enfants handicapés. C'est ainsi que 250 petits Irlandais meurtris par la maladie pourront connaître très prochainement notre cité et l'espoir. Sur les chemins à bicyclette... pour la bonne cause. Cinq millions d'anciens francs ont été ainsi récoltés.

M. Maurice Abad leur a dit toute son admiration, dans des termes que M. Gérard Ausina s'empressait de traduire en anglais. Mme Mangnez, directrice de l'Office du Tourisme, assistait également à cette amicale réception.

Après avoir reçu une assiette frappée aux armoiries de la ville de Lourdes, les jeunes Irlandais ont rendu la politesse en offrant à la municipalité les armoiries de la ville de Belfast, accompagnées d'une lettre du maire de la cité. Un échange de bons procédés qui s'est terminé par un vin d'honneur. Tout le monde à trinqué aux excellentes relations franco-irlandaises d'abord, entre Lourdes et Belfast ensuite.

Jacques CAZABAN

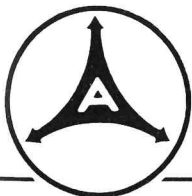
NOS PHOTOS :

- Le groupe des 17 généreux cyclistes irlandais.
- M. Maurice Abad remet au représentant irlandais une assiette frappée aux armes lourdaises.

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Journalism: The Road to Success

Why have I chosen journalism for my career? I take great pleasure in self-expression and journalism gives a person a chance to convey his own personal viewpoint on a particular topic as well as informing the reading public.

In the British Isles 24 million newspapers are sold every week-day. Every week 13 million local weekly papers are sold. If to these numbers you add the millions of magazines and other periodicals sold, then one begins to grasp some idea of how large the national press is. Besides the field of newspapers there is, of course, what is known as the mass media of communication. This world of communication involves television, national and local radio services, public relations and information services. By glancing through the details above one can imagine the many opportunities awaiting someone who has a flair for journalistic skills and takes a keen interest in topics such as current affairs or politics. Journalism can be justifiably defined as "the creative function in mass communication."

To obtain a job in journalism you need to be determined and persistent in your attitude to your work and life. If you are rather introvert by nature then you will find it difficult to secure a place in the extremely competitive world of journalism.

Success at school in appropriate subjects such as English does not automatically mean that that person will become a sound journalist. You must have the right personality and be, capable of meeting various people in particular situations and gaining their confidence. A journalist must never be patronising, he should be persistent but not rude, sympathetic but not gullible, sceptical but not cynical. Cynicism can lead to a situation where the journalist has a distorted view of all events and condemns them without investigation.

When writing a report or an article the journalist should strive to write objectively but he may counter-balance this by expressing his own views if a certain topic may require him to do so. Therefore writing ability alone does not guarantee success in the field of journalism.

It is hard work and can impose severe mental, nervous and physical strain and can even involve sacrifices in your private life. Of course like most jobs, it can become cumbersome and routine but on most occasions journalism is interesting and can contain moments of adventure and excitement. If, in a few years time, I am lucky enough to have succeeded in my chosen career then I will know that I have a career from which I can obtain a tremendous amount of personal satisfaction.

Various ways of entering the world of journalism.

1. Sponsorships by a local newspaper - serving of an apprenticeship.
2. Queen's University - taking a course such as English and Modern History and obtaining a degree in these subjects.
3. Ulster Polytechnic - taking the Communications or Combined Humanities Course.
4. National Institute of Higher Education, Dublin - taking the Communications Course.
5. College of Business Studies - Intensive one year pre-entry Journalism Course.

If you are in anyway interested in journalism then the requirements are as follows:

One to Two G.C.E. 'A' Levels and Five to Six G.C.E. 'O' Levels (including English).

Martin Campbell 7LB

The Straitjacket of Clock & Calendar

Life is primarily ruled by the clock and calendar. No matter what we do, we cannot escape the power of time. It governs our work, our plans our every thought.

The problem that now arises is, what is this strange 'thing' that has such a hold on us? What is this 'thing' that means so much and uses the clock and calendar as its governing instruments. The simple answer to this must be, time is the means by which man breaks down the period between his birth and death, into simple parts which he can understand and make use of.

Until the last few hundred years, man had no need for things such as clocks or calendars. He got up when the cock crowed, and went to bed when the sun set. What happened in between didn't really matter. The only thing he worried about was when the seasons would change, and he would have to plant or harvest his crops. Time-keeping was something for the rich and the scholars — the so-called advanced people of the 'time.'

Now, educated civilized people like us, make an endless use of time. We have a time to get up, a time to go to school, or work, a time to come home, the list is endless. We have even set times to tell us when we are adults, or too old to serve the outside world. At seventeen we are still children, at eighteen we get the honour of being allowed to vote. At sixty-four a man is a working person who plays a part in society, at sixty-five he is a clumsy imbecile, not fit for anything but to spend the rest of his life living off the state.

Time is an unjust thing in life. It forms gradually changing routines for us, which we must keep everyday of our lives from birth to death. People who break down under the pressure of such routines are classed as lunatics, and are thrown into asylums, supposedly so that they may regain the positive thinking of us normal civilized people outside.

The question that must be asked now, is why do we put such a great strain on ourselves? We are all going to die anyway, so why do we complicate ourselves, with this thing time? Would we not all prefer a life of 'butterflies and daisies' where nothing more than dinner time matters? Of course this kind of life would be a little bit boring for most of us, so we must keep living out routines just waiting for the time someone pushes a button and blows our whole civilized world to bits.

Martin Orr 4D

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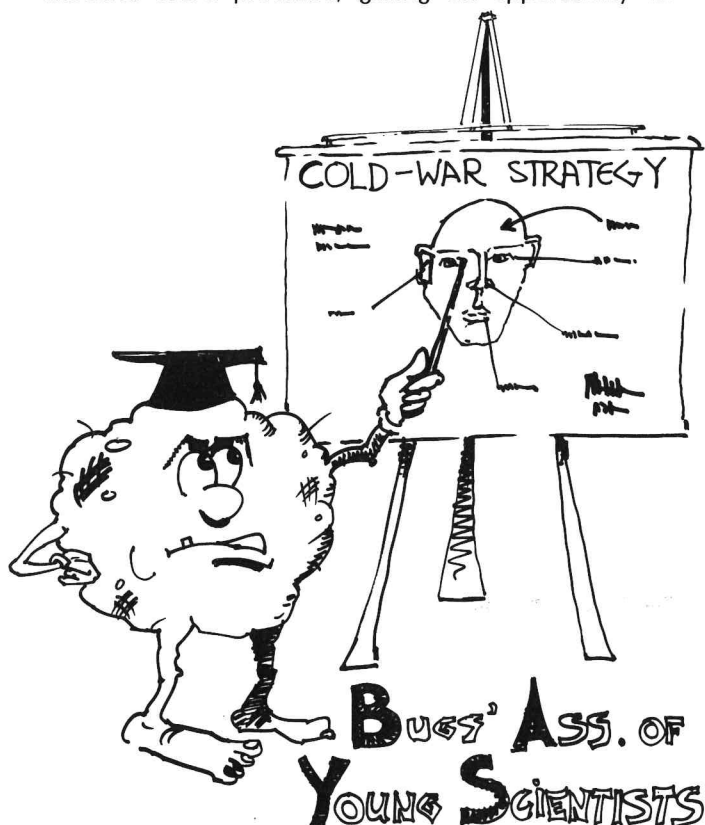
—B.A.Y.S.—

B.A.Y.S.—British Association of Young Scientists—was founded in 1968 by the British Association for the Advancement of Science to provide young people with an opportunity to find out more about science and its role in the world around us. Since its foundation it has grown into the largest organization of its kind in the U.K., with about 10,000 members in its 65 branches.

In Belfast there are about 200 members at present drawn from more than 20 schools which participate in the activities provided. These activities, which are organized by a committee of B.A.Y.S. members, consist of a mixture of lectures, films, trips and dances, and provide an excellent opportunity to mix with people from all over Belfast.

The lectures cover a diverse range of topics which in the past have included drugs, lasers, optical illusions, electronics, crime and spare parts surgery. The lectures are designed to be entertaining, informative and readily comprehensible by a general audience. To this end they are invariably accompanied by slides and/or experiments. Among the lectures last year were: "Lasers and their applications" and "Optical images: are they just an illusion?" The first of these discussed the use of lasers in warfare, fusion, medicine and communications. The lecturer, Dr. T. Morrow, made skilful use of slides, a film, and a ruby crystal laser, to create a highly enjoyable as well as informative lecture.

In the latter lecture we were challenged to pit our wits against a series of optical illusions — and were soon reduced to helpless laughter as our confusion mounted. Most lectures fall within an intermediate position, combining entertainment and information with varying, but usually good, degrees of success. After each lecture, coffee and biscuits were provided, giving an opportunity for



further discussion and informal chat. Precise details of lectures will be posted on notice boards shortly beforehand. The programme planned for Autumn is given below:

- October 1: Science Fiction & Fact—Dr. Burnett.
- October 15: Electronic Pocket Calculators — Professor Ryan.
- October 29: Energy from Ocean Waves — Alan E. Hidden.
- November 12: Ashes to Ashes — Professor MacFadyen
- November 26: Space Astronomy — Dr. Bates.
- December 10: Can Science Save Society? — Dr. D. Cowley.

In addition to lectures, trips may be organized, depending on demand, to industrial or research establishments or simply a weekend away for a break. Several dances/parties are held during the year, which are free to members. Their exact nature again depends on demand and has in the past included barn dances, discos and fancy dress parties.

B.A.Y.S membership costs £1.50 a year and is open to fifth year and above. It is well worth the money whether you join for the scientific and social facilities it offers or simply for a society to fill a space on your U.C.C.A. form. Those interested can join at any of the meetings or by contacting me within the school—

STEPHEN WALSH 7SA

Report on the school play

It is barely believable — in the light of what has since passed — that only a few years ago this school had neither a drama club nor drama facilities of which to speak. Now, three years on, St. Mary's has witnessed the formation of an excellent drama club and the "professional" production of three equally excellent plays by the drama teacher, Mrs. Marie McQuillan.

Two short plays were produced in 1979 and Mrs. McQuillan decided to embark on one major production as the 1980 Yuletide season approached. A selection of plays was considered and the eventual choice was the world-renowned "Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

Auditions were held in early October for the many parts in the play, fierce competition being shown for the primary role, namely, Ebenezer Scrooge. The final choice was Patrick Rocks (4th year) and the other roles were filled by equally fine young actors. Rehearsals began immediately and were continuous throughout the weeks and weekends leading up to the first showing of the complete and unabridged play in just two and a half months.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, competent helpers chosen by Mrs. McQuillan were hard at work. One such helper was John Bateson (7SC), who delighted the audience with his psychedelic and dramatically appropriate lighting sequences. John was also responsible for the hiring of two "super-trouser" spotlights and a dry ice machine for full effect. Other tasks which had to be carried out were the taping of sound effects, synchronization of music and the design of the scenery and props. John Bateson and

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Mrs. McQuillan worked on these together with the help of the art department. The music for the choreographed scene in the production (Oxygene, by Jean-Michel Jarre) was the astute choice of the drama teacher and the superb choreography was assisted by Niall Rea (4th year).

With all the back-stage work completed, lines learned, rehearsals ended and preparations made, the "real thing" was under way and it proved to be extremely successful. There were at least 300 attendances at each of the evening productions and the final night saw the critical appraisal of both the play and Mrs. McQuillan by all members of the cast, the back-stage workers and, most importantly, the audience.

May I finally conclude that the responsiveness of the audience and cast to the creditable and successful efforts of Mrs. McQuillan in the production of "A Christmas Carol" proved beyond a doubt that all the work had been worth while.

John Bateson and myself were proud to play a part in the production of the play and we fervently hope that Mr. McQuillan will receive the same help and appreciation with all her forthcoming productions.

THOMAS REILLY (7SC)

ST. MARY'S INDOOR RECREATIONAL CLUB

The idea to start an Indoor Recreational Club in St. Mary's was first conceived in the Christmas term 1980. Tentative approaches were made to Brother Ennis on this matter, putting forward the argument that such a club would provide a very welcome facility for those pupils who did not participate in the more traditional sports for which the school has become, deservedly, so renowned, and we were delighted to find that he agreed with us.

In recent years the belief that snooker prowess was a reflection of an ill-spent youth has been very much relegated to the background. A new image, with the emphasis on entertainment and public relations, has taken the game away from the pub scene and placed the top professionals in the superstar bracket, with players like Steve Davis and Alex Higgins commanding four-figure sums for exhibition matches. One of the main reasons, of course, for this relatively swift transformation has been the advent of colour television and the fact that the game of snooker lends itself so readily to television coverage. The same can be said of darts, although this is still a game played traditionally in a "pub" atmosphere. However, many of the top professionals — men like John Lowe, Leighton Rees and Jocky Wilson — have been seen on television to show a degree of competitiveness backed by good sportsmanship which would put many other so-called athletes and sportsmen to shame.

After several slight setbacks and delays two full-sized snooker tables were finally installed in the Common Room, along with two dart boards and all the equipment necessary for indoor bowls. St. Mary's I.R.C. was ready for launching and proved an immediate success. The snooker and billiards section is open to all 6th and 7th years, the darts section to 4th and 7th year inclusive, while the bowls section is open to any interested party. The club operates at present for a period of two hours after school, four days a week, and it is hoped that eventually it will

function on every school day, as all sections of the club are proving very popular among a large number of pupils.

As well as the normal day-to-day activities of the club plans are at present under way for a pre-Christmas "handicap" competition and it is intended that these competitions should become a regular feature. If some basic difficulties can be overcome it is also hoped that guest players could occasionally be invited to give exhibition matches, demonstrating the level of skill and expertise which every young player hopes to achieve. Some leading amateur players have already been approached and have expressed their willingness to co-operate in this venture and also to provide some future help in coaching sessions. With expert advice and practice, who knows? Perhaps the first century break in the Common Room is not merely a dream.

All three sections of the club are now fully operational with the indoor bowls being played in the Assembly Hall, and it is hoped that these indoor pursuits will help give a sense of identity with the school to those boys who had hitherto regarded it merely as an academic centre. In caring for the equipment, which is in many cases very expensive, the pupils are also encouraged to show a sense of responsibility and care which, hopefully, will prove an asset in later life, particularly since we are now living in an age when vandalism appears to be the norm and Christian values are regarded as old-fashioned.

In conclusion, let us not forget to pay tribute to the generosity of the school and the co-operation of Brother Ennis for not only giving the go-ahead for such a venture but also for providing in the Common Room a very comfortable and secure setting for the club. At a time when educational facilities were being threatened by a series of cutbacks in expenditure it was a courageous decision which, I am sure, the pupils of St. Mary's will appreciate for many years to come.

MR. P. CULLEN

The Sentinel Club

Our club is for young naturalists from the junior forms. We go out on weekends (usually Saturdays) to study various aspects of nature and wildlife — e.g., insect, plant and birdlife.

Our aim is to find and identify as many of these species as we can. For example, we have learnt to distinguish the common oak from the sycamore, the harvestman from the crane-fly and the curlew from the sandpiper.

The club was formed in September of last year when it was called the "Watch Club." "Watch" is the national environmental club for young persons of eight to fifteen years. When our watch club was formed it was the first of its kind in Northern Ireland and was mentioned in "The Irish Hare."

Later in the year, April, we decided to rename our club the "Sentinel". Our emblem is the heron, a common wader along our rivers and coastline. Often it is seen standing "like a sentinel".

Some of the places we visited last year were the Quoile, the Upper Lagan, Cranfield Point and Murlough Bay, where we had a most interesting tour under the guidance of one of the wardens.

J. MCCARRY (2E)

This page was sponsored by

J. K. FEGAN, M.P.S., Chemist

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Belfast 11

To All Former Pupils Of St. Mary's

In recent years a considerable number of past-pupils of St. Mary's have indicated that they would favour the establishing of a St. Mary's Past Pupils Union. As yet nothing has been done to harness this interest or to make such a Union a reality. Undoubtedly, many obstacles and hurdles would have to be overcome before such a venture might be realised. However, if the energy and enthusiasm of our past pupils is not to be squandered in wistful pondering of *apparent* imponderables then a start ought to be made as soon as possible.

Why have a St. Mary's Past Pupils Union? There are many reasons. While at school, students form very close relationships with their fellow pupils. Unfortunately many of these close ties are lost, in spite of a promise to the contrary, when students leave to take their place in a chosen career or proceed to further education establishments. A successful P.P.U. would avoid the dismay experienced by Charles Lamb:

I have had playmates, I have had companions
In my days of childhood, in my joyful schooldays—
All, all are gone, the Old Familiar Faces.

A P.P.U. would enable ex-pupils to keep in contact with their *alma mater* and, of course, enable the school to keep in contact with their former students and be aware of their progress in life. Many of our ex-pupils have excelled in a wide variety of spheres since they left St. Mary's. Unfortunately many of those notaries are unnoticed by the school simply because we are not aware of them. A P.P.U. would not totally eradicate this problem but it would certainly keep us more informed.

It is a myth, but nevertheless a widely held one, that a school is only interested in its students' welfare while they are in its care. St. Mary's would

very much like to maintain its interest and care in its former pupils in a more organized, yet informal, fashion. Just as St. Mary's endeavours to foster a sense of loyalty among its students we would wish this loyalty to be maintained after their departure. A P.P.U. would enable the school and its staff to maintain strong links with former pupils. The school would like to continue its loyalty to the students just as we would like to think that they remain loyal to the school.

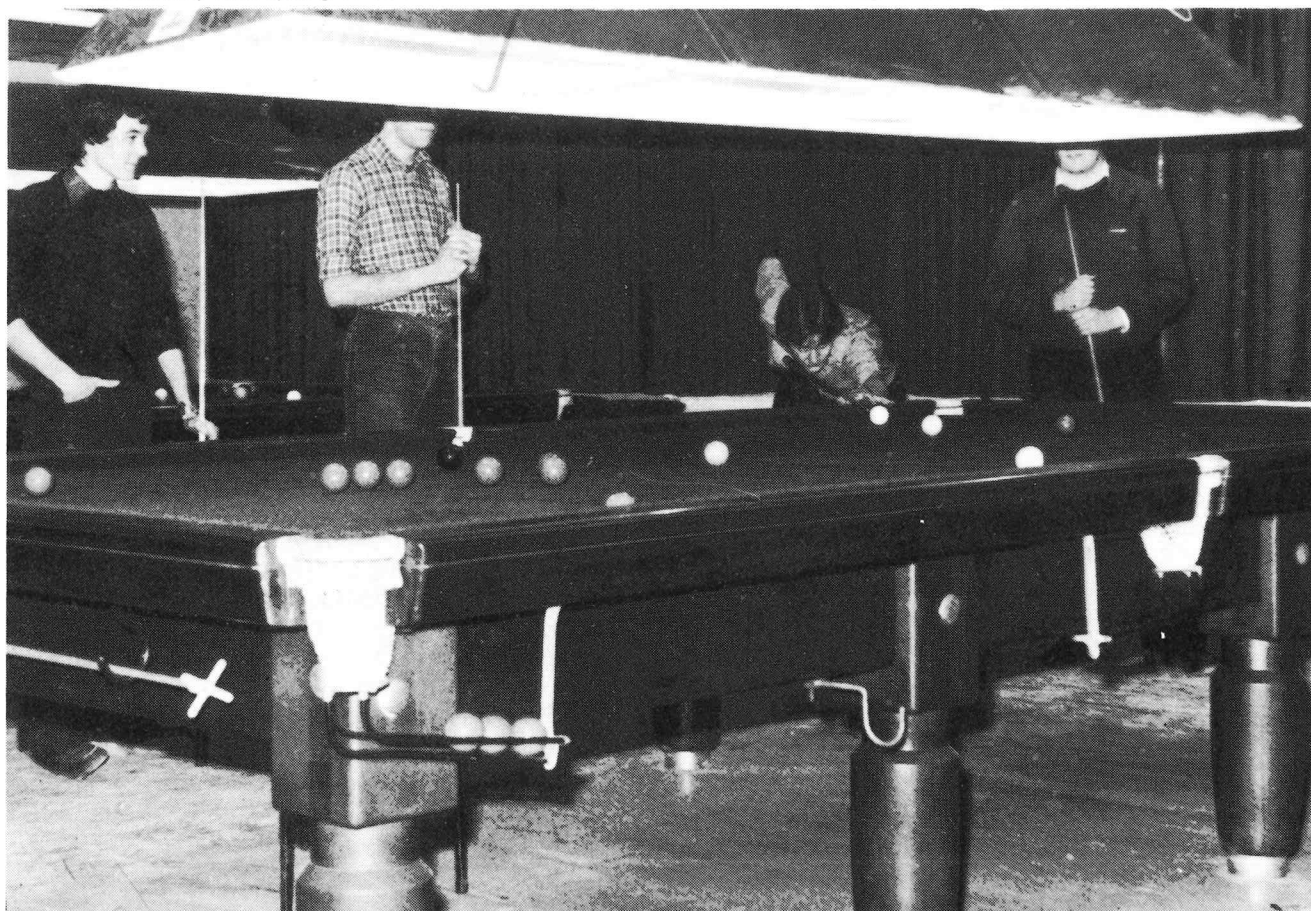
In sum, a St. Mary's P.P.U. would enable the school to keep in contact with its students and vice-versa. It would foster and kindle a sense of comradeship, loyalty and identity. It would provide a facility where former pupils could meet and realise the aim of promoting a spirit of mutual co-operation and camaraderie. All past pupils would find a niche and thereby help to further the Union's objectives — the spiritual, social, intellectual and material welfare of its members. One of the great strengths of such a union would lie in the diversity of background and calling of its members. The only qualification required is that a prospective member is a past-pupil of St. Mary's.

We are aware of the work done by the Christian Brothers Past Pupils Union since its formation in the late 1930s, but, by its own admission, ever since the 1960s it has not been able to attract former St. Mary's students. Perhaps its location on the Antrim Road is the major obstacle. Since the C.B.P.P.U., through no fault of its own, has not kept our former pupils in contact with us or with each other, we ought to try and establish a St. Mary's Past Pupils Union.

If you are a former pupil and if you are interested (and I am sure you are), please let us know as soon as possible by writing to the editor of this magazine or to the headmaster, Bro. L. F. Ennis, at the school address. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

THE EDITOR

E. Rooney attempting to clear the table being watched by C. McClenaghan, L. Crozier and P. McAllister.



1981-82

Debating and Literary Society

Since its renaissance in 1977 by Mr. O. McCann and Mr. S. Haughey debating within St. Mary's has not only equalled its past high standing but has in fact superceded that position. Indeed, St. Mary's has no superiors in Northern Ireland, maybe in all Ireland, in the performance of this highly esteemed art. St. Mary's students have shown that debating is not simply an excuse for indulging in, and thereby becoming, "inebriated with the exuberance of one's own verbosity." Of course this latter is a great asset! Debating is more than an art form; it is a discipline. It creates and then develops the art of public speaking; it enables the participant to publicly express, support and defend his/her particular beliefs in a most articulate, efficient and coherent manner.

Although in 1977 St. Mary's had not actually entered a team in any debating competition since the triumphant team led by Brendan Carson in the Queen's "Open", there has always remained a strong tradition for eloquent and not-so-eloquent oratory within the school. This tradition has been retained by the ever lively Debating and Literary Society whose only ever acquisition was a lectern donated in 1967 by Canon McNamara. Despite this lack of equipment, the society flourished and regularly commanded audiences of 150-200 eager students — eager for argument and the occasional risque joke.

In 1977 Mr. O. McCann and Mr. Haughey adopted the strategy of introducing up and coming "potentials" and in that year a fourth year competition was staged. This produced certain possibilities in Paul Morrison, Declan McCavana, John Larkin and Noel Burke. In 1979 Paul, Declan and a seventh year, Colin McClements joined forces under the direction of Mr. Haughey to achieve the honour of reaching the final of N. Ireland's most prestigious team competition — the Queen's Inter Schools Debating Competition. Their fellow pupils also did themselves and St. Mary's proud when, under the watchful eye of Mr. McCann, they reached the final of the Junior Chamber of Commerce Competition.

The 1978/79 season had been a good one and it was hoped to emulate this performance in the following year. McCavana and Morrison were joined by a Fourth Year pupil, Terry Muldoon. The Queen's competition was the main target, especially after the ignominy of losing out in the first round of the O'Boyle Cup. On this occasion there was no mistake and St. Mary's deservedly won.

The same year Declan McCavana achieved yet another honour for the school. For the first time St. Mary's entered the British Junior Chamber of Commerce public-speaking competition, and through Declan competently took the Belfast rounds and later the N.I.J.C.C. regional final of the competition. In the G.B. National Final in Wakefield, Yorkshire, Declan finished in a creditable fourth place.

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*All-Ireland Schools Debating Competition:
D. McCavana and T. Muldoon*

St. Mary's has had its best ever year in debating but they had not yet regained the O'Boyle trophy.

So it was, that in 1980, despite the great loss of Paul Morrison (academic success had taken him away), St. Mary's entered the debating arena more determined than ever. Despite examination pressures, McCavana, Burke, Larkin and Muldoon, under the guidance of Mr. Campfield and Mr. McCann, swept into the final of the Junior Chamber competition. Victory went to St. Mary's. McCavana and Company brought the O'Boyle trophy back with them. All the effort had been worth while.

But more was to come. From early in 1980 Mr. McCann had toyed with the idea of entering a team for the first ever Bank of Ireland sponsored All Ireland debating competition. Muldoon and McCavana represented St. Mary's and without too much difficulty, because of their excellent teamwork, reached the final in Dublin. After a long and arduous debate of over three hours duration the judges from U.C.D. and T.C.D. made Declan and Terry all-Ireland champions. Part of the prize for winning this competition was a seven-day holiday in New York around March 17th.

The year 1981, from a debating point of view, was crowned by these achievements. It has been hard work, requiring long hours of preparation by both teams and their mentors. It will be even more difficult to retain the titles and honours.

DECLAN MCCAVANA
JOHN LARKIN
NOEL BURKE

An Cummann Gaelach

The aim of An Cumann Gaelach is to cultivate our own culture within the school with particular emphasis on the Irish Language. Glacann Baill an chumainn páirt in eachtraí éagsúla i rith na bliana.

DRÁMA:

"Carthanacht an Easbaig" ("The Bishop's Charity") was the play chosen last year and entered for the Belfast and Newry Irish Drama Festivals. D'éirigh go maith leis agus chuaigh muid ar aghaidh chuig an Fheile Uladh.

In the Ulster Finals however the opposition from throughout the Province, especially Coláiste Cholmáin, Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair and "An Mhainistir", lú Cinn Trá, proved to be a little too powerful, and we did not succeed in continuing on to Baile Átha Cliath for the All-Ireland. Ach b'fhéidir go n-éireoidh níos fearr linn i mbliana.

Is iad seo na daoine a bhí páirteach sa dráma.

"Carthanacht an Easbaig"

The Bishop - Niall Rea	(5F)
Guzman-The Beggar - Donal McCaffrey	(5B)
Br. Ignatius - Sean Moran	(5B)
Br. Aloysius - Richard Gilhooly	(5F)
The Palace Guard - Owen Nevin	(5F)
The Doctors Assistants - Jim Creagh	(5C)
Kevin Armstrong	(5F)

Thug gach moltóir ard mholadh do Dhónal MacGafragh. Local festivals will be held this year in Béal Feirste, lú Cinn Trá, Gaoth Dobhair, Oméith, and An Mhuincille.

Díospóireachtaí:

We participated both at Senior and Junior level in the Gael Linn inter-school debating competitions and in the Craobh Lurgain, Conradh na Gaeilge debates.

The girls from Kilkeel however put a sudden halt to the Junior Team when they successfully argued that television has a detrimental effect on children. The Seniors also convinced the judges that women still had not gained their full rights in society. Girls again, Scoil Bhríde, Dún Gheanain finally stopped the seventh years when they defeated the motion - "gur treise an peann ná an cláiomh." They proved to the judges that the sword was mightier and our lads had to pocket their pens and return, defeated to Béal Feirste.

Na Foirne díospóireachta anuraidh.

Sóisear: Pilb Mistéil

Brian Ó Maolchraoibhe
Conal Ó Bruadair

Sínsear: Pól Ó Maolchraoibhe
Mícheál Ó Dochartaigh
Conor McBrierty

7ú Bl iain: Declan Kavanagh
Dónal Mistéil
Damien Mag Aoidh

An Fáinne Nua

Approximately eighty pupils were awarded the silver or gold Fáinne last year, and it is encouraging to find many pupils making the effort to speak Irish. So, don't be 'shy', don't be afraid to make mistakes - Labhair Gaeilge Linn.

Three pupils were awarded scholarships, one to Árann Mhór, one to Loch an Lúir and the third to Machaire Rabhartaigh.

Congratulations to the twenty five students who won the Sciath Mhic Ghiolla Bhríde for the school. We hope to participate in this competition again this year and remember that there are scholarships to be won.

Because of the civil unrest our participation in feiseanna was greatly curtailed as was Feis Naomh Póil itself. Ach tá súil againn go mbeidh líon mór scoláirí páirteach sna feiseanna i mbliana. B'fhéidir go mbeidh ceann againn féin sa scoil roimh dheireadh na bliana.

By: Pilb Mistéil
Richard Gilhooly
Owen Nevin

Lá an Chluiche Mhoir

Sciarr gath gréine isteach tríd an fhuinneog agus thosaigh ag damhsa ar aghaigh an ghasúir. Chas sé ar leataobh ach ní raibh aon mhaithreas ann - bhí a bhrionglóid imithe. B'éigean dó leathshúil a chaochadh mar gheall ar an solas.

Baineadh geit as nuair a chuala se a mháthair ag scairteadh go mbeadh siad ag dul go Baile Átha Cliath ar ball beag. Ba lá chluiche ceannais na h Éireann é ina raibh Aontraim ag glacadh parte agus cé bhí ina chaptaen ar fhoireann Aontrama ach a dheartháir féin!

D'imigh siad leo i ndiaidh an Aifrinn agus dúirt Peadar paidir bheag go mbeadh an bua acu.

Bhí an áit dubh le daoine nuair a bhain siad Baile Átha Cliath amach. Bhí rí-rá millteanach ann fosta, idir stocaigh ag magadh agus seanfhir ag gearán:

"Ní thig leat 'foireann' a chur ar Aontraim ná ar Chiarraí. Annalód bhí...."

Ach d'ainneoin sin, thosaigh siad ag bualadh bos nuair a tháinig na himreoirí amach. Agus nach ar Pheadar a bhí an bród as a dheartháir, Pól, nuair a chonaic sé é ina sheasamh chomh díreach sin i lár na páirce.

Caitheadh an liathróid isteach. Bhí an cluiche ar fheabhas agus an pheil ag dul a bhun go barr na páirce. B'annamh a bhí an t-am ag Peadar a anál a tharraingt, bhí an oiread sin eachtraí ag titim amach. Ach nár scáirt sé ar bharr a ghutha nuair a chuir Pól dhá chúl isteach.

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Ba ghearr dó go raibh deireadh leis an chluiche agus go raibh Corn Sam Mhig Uidhir ina láimh ag Pól agus focail seo a rá aige,

"A Uachtaráin, a chairde Ghael, tá áthas mór agam inniu....

Tháinig an bhríonglóid ar ais arís in intinn Pheadair. Rinne sé bríonglóid go raibh sé féin agus a dheartháir ag imirt peile i gcluiche ceannais na hEireann. Bhí deora faoina shúile. Mo bhrón, ní bheadh inti go deo ach bríonglóid mar ní raibh ag Peadairín bocht ach an leathchos.

Le Pilb Ó Cuimín (7u Bliain)

An Mháthair

Chonaic me ag sileadh na ndeor thú
Ar adhlacadh a choirp i mbosca,
Chonaic me na deora ag treabhadh claiseanna
Ar d'aghaidh thruamhéileach.
Feicim srutháin liatha an bhroin id'ghrúag feoite,
An áilleacht ag imeacht ó do chnámha.
Phóg an bás do leanbh cíche.
Seasann tú i d'aonar.
Ní thuigeann siad do chéasadh i ndáiríre,
Ní dócha go dtuigfidh siad choíche.

le Pádraig Mac Goill (6LC)

THE VIDEO CLUB

Like other clubs founded within the school in recent years, the Video Club is still very much in its infancy. The joint impetus for the formation of the club came from a group of sixth year students and from Mr. J. Sheerin.

The club caters for sixth and seventh year pupils and the "founding fathers" of the scheme are: Roger Fox (6LA), Kieran Gregory (6LB), Paul McStravick (6SC), Peter McConvery (6LA), Martin Bell (6SC) and Michael McCoy (6SC). They form the current committee and organise the weekly screening in the theatre.

We hope to show up to twenty-five films this year including Superman I and II, Excalibur, The Shining, Apocalypse Now and other major features. Owenvarragh Video Library in Andersonstown provides the films and also provides a link with the school in the person of Desmond Carberry (5F), whose father manages this business. The school technician, Joe McKeavney, has also been an invaluable source of assistance.

The Video Club are taking this opportunity of offering free membership and entrance to all films for the rest of this year to the first pupil to approach Mr. Sheerin with answers to the following questions:

- 1 Who plays Hans Solo in the "Star Wars" film?
- 2 Who won and refused an Oscar for his starring role in "Patton"?
- 3 Upon which foreign film was the Western "The Magnificent Seven" based?

The committee is hoping to become involved in a number of peripheral activities, including quizzes, film reviews, fund-raising and, more ambitiously, an analysis of some aspects of the history of the

"movies". All will depend on pupil patronage, and we trust that the initiative and enthusiasm of the 1981 committee will be matched by future participants.

MARION MORRISON & ARCHIBALD LEACH
(Otherwise known as John Wayne & Cary Grant)

The Botany Club

The Botany Club meets every Tuesday at 3.30 p.m. in E14. We hope to extend this soon to two days per week. The supervisor is Mr. J. McAuley, a science master.

We are assigned jobs like making compost, re-potting plants and taking cuttings. We have got some land down at Airfield House. On this land we hope to grow vegetables and propagate fruit trees which we can then take home. Everything that is grown may be brought home by the pupils.

At the moment we have put total weedkiller on the grass. When the grass dies, we will dig the soil and a patch of land will be given out to club members so that they can grow something.

The Botany Club is very interesting and educational. It also gives you ideas on what you can do with your own garden — e.g., growing a hedge, a rose bush or geraniums.

Mr. J. McAuley and the Botany Club are offering a prize of £5 to the person who submits the best badge, design or crest for the club. Entries should be sent to J. McAuley at the school address.

HARRY MAHER & DECLAN WOODS (3C)

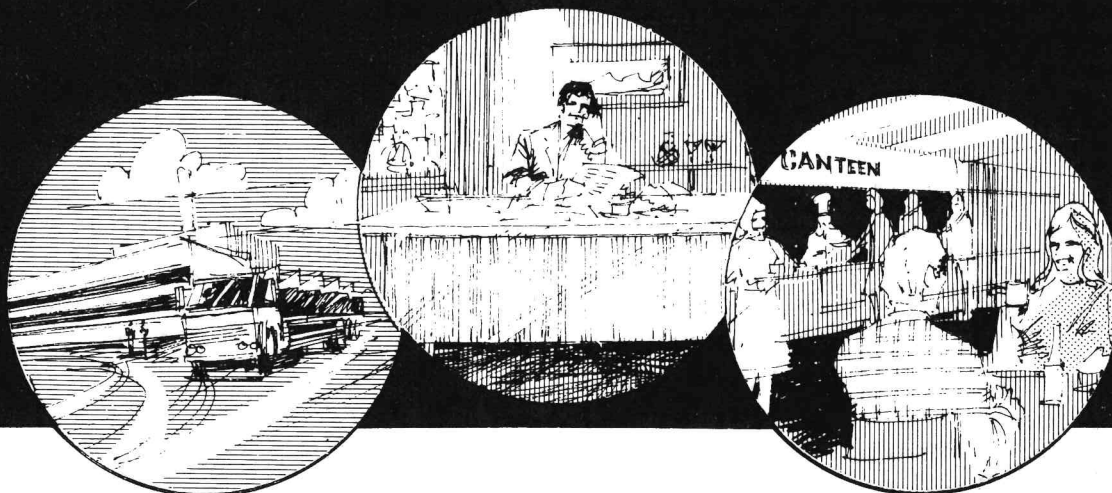
Reflections on a piece of prose

Will I write an essay about a summer day, and in my iron-pressed uniform, submit a smile to the system, exchange a mock for a mark, a smile for a slap? Will I play the pimply pubescent, understanding new ideas, seeking freedom of expression, play the fool, and pass on? Yes I will, so that the new ones will not hear talk of the rebel. It is a type of voiceless convention, founded on fear and the bruises which appear much later.

It is a sunny day. I will go out and play football in the fields, breathe in the fresh air, and feel alive. If I am to write anything for tomorrow, it must flow directly off my pen; and I would prefer to sit and write, and not of the summer day, but of the childish dangers of the play-park; the rougher kids, destroying their homeland, hurling bricks and bottles, in this place, not aiming to miss.

It is a summer day, and the sunlight is squirting out of bits of broken glass. What sort of mental torture is this? — oozing out of my glorious woes like some angry pipsqueak. But at least my fantasy is not hypocrisy. Begin now, and I can still be moulded into misshape, able to take the knocks, and throw back; nothing like a happy, healthy Irish lad with nothing to write about but a summer day, but one, able to turn away and play blind and substitute the helpful myth we have learnt, for a country to love.

The afternoon air is pleasant with the slight smell of chimney smoke. I have just finished "Nausea" again and regret it. Do not read it. I cannot agree with children reading Sartre, and though we learn how at school, to receive a sparkling "A" you must



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know beforehand that he is wrong. This is wisdom, but we get it easier, as knowledge. Search for wisdom, and you will not belong. Conform, and you will never write a piece of prose other than an essay about a summer day.

P. MCCANN (7LB)

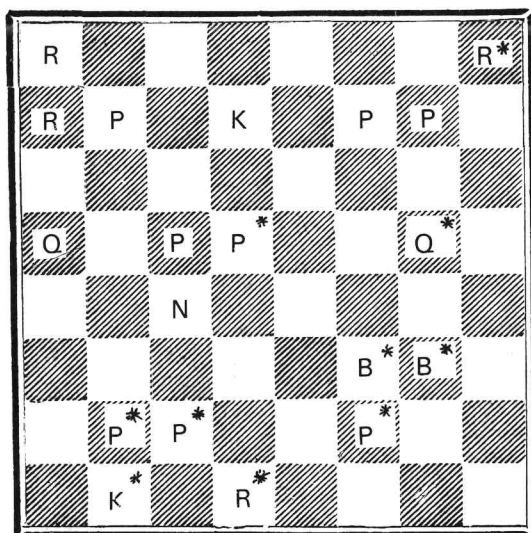
THE CHESS CLUB

There has been a chess club at this school for a number of years now, under the supervision of Mr. J. Mitchell. Previously there had been a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the pupils but this year it is hoped that, as a result of much publicity, inter-school tournaments and hard work by all those involved, there will be renewed interest.

There are several good players in the school, notably D. Artt, K. McCann and D. Haughey, all of whom have had much success in major tournaments. These players form the nucleus of the Division One team, along with G. Kelly (Armstrong and McLaughlin). Other divisions include Division Four, headed by C. McGarrigle, the club secretary; Division Six, headed by B. McLaughlin, and Division Seven, headed by P. Davey.

Anyone interested in joining the chess club should contact Mr. J. Mitchell or go to P.33 any day after school. Entrance fee is only 20p.

CHESS PROBLEM



* Indicates white pieces.

P = Pawn. N = Knight. R = Castle. K = King. Q = Queen. B = Bishop.

If it is black to move, how can he checkmate his opponent in one move?

If it is white to move, how can he checkmate his opponent in one move?

(Hint: White must double check his opponent)

G. KELLY & M. McLAUGHLIN (5B)

Answer to chess problem on p. 93

CHESS CLUB

Our Chess Club, until the inauguration this year of a competition which sought the best team in each year, was rather understandably the Cinderella of the various school clubs.

This was unfortunate when one considers that most of the schools against whom we compete come from the other side of the 'divide'. Campbell College, Methody, Grosvenor High School and Inst are but a few of the schools whose hospitality we have sampled and whose company we have enjoyed.

In these schools the game of Chess is well established and enjoys a high prestige. They collect most of the prizes — in Minor, Junior and Senior Schools' Chess Championships. Our own boys have played as well, and at times, even better than the opposition, in the Individual Championships. Notable amongst these are Damian Artt of 6SA and Kevin McCann of 1B.

Damian was runner-up in the All-Ireland Under 19, which followed his success in the Ulster Championship, where he came joint second. He was picked for the international team which plays in July against seven teams from Western Europe.

Kevin, in his first year here, came 4th in the Under 12 All Ireland Championship. He captained the winning Ulster team in the Inter-Provincial Championship, was joint 1st in the Under 13 Ulster Championship and is the current Minor Champion of the School.

Next year promises to be much better even though we are losing some of our Senior players. The new School Competition has unearthed many good players, albeit in the Minor divisions, who will continue the good work of forging links with all kinds of schools, through the medium of this wonderful game of Chess.

Barrack St. Chess Club

It is now three years since Mr. Mullan restarted the Barrack St. Chess Club. Chess has a long tradition in this school. In the 50's we had a very strong team.

There are now two divisions; one for better players and one for beginners. All matches are played during lunch-time or sometimes after school on Tuesday.

Former winners of those competitions have been:

1979/80

1980/81

Div. 1 and Knockout Cup
Adrian Bryan (3G)

Div. 1 and Knockout Cup
Terry Clarke (3F)

Div. 2
Eamon McCann (3F)

Div. 2
Colm O'Coisneacháin

This year, for the first time since the club restarted, we are entering two teams in the Inter-Schools Leagues; a Form One Team (for 1st years) and a division six team (1st, 2nd and 3rd years). Some of the schools we will be playing against include St. Peters Sec. (Away), Annadale Grammar (away) and Grosvenor High (home).

Let's hope we have a successful year!

A. Collins 2F

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THE CORN NA NÓG

After a poor previous year at D'Alton Cup level, when we won only one match, we were out to do much better (we could hardly do worse!) in 1980-81. Our first game was against Armagh C.B.S. where our mental state had much to do with the game. We expected a very close, hard fought game and went out wanting to play well. It turned out to be a walkover and we won 10-8 to 0-5. There were a number of changes from the previous year and these really paid off.

We went next to meet Downpatrick, who beat us last year and went on to win the D'Alton. We knew we could beat them and went out and proved this by winning 6-5 to 0-5. This was an important game, as Downpatrick were the first good team we met, and the win boosted our confidence. We went to Armagh to play St. Pat's, with revenge for the Rannafast final in mind. We trounced them 8-8 to 0-0 — and revenge was sweet. These first matches were not very difficult, and, apart from one match, from here on our scoring decreased noticeably.

We now met St. Colman's whom we were to meet again. We got off to a great start with a goal from S. Mahon in the early stages, but then we relaxed our grip for a quarter of an hour and they took full advantage. During the second half Jim Hughes was moved back to counter the serious threat posed by Skelton the Newry captain. With ten minutes to go we were four points down and not really playing well. Then a long kick into the penalty area from Jim Hughes was dropped by the goal-keeper and we scored a goal. For five minutes the forwards had chances galore to get one point but failed. We did not start this game with a full team,

with T. McKernan being sick, and we were thankful to Marty Downey and Conor Boyle in the back line.

We then played Abbey, Newry, whom we had beaten easily in the McMahon final, and here again we got off to a good start, but then lost our concentration. The Abbey came right back at us and our backs did well to keep them out. The forwards took some good scores. Jim Hughes was injured and had to be taken off and the injured D. McAneney was forced to come on. There were a few switches and he was moved up forward. He quickly made his mark on the game by scoring a great goal. Then we got a free kick about 20 yards out; we were still one point behind. No one wanted to take it, then J. Walsh walked up and got the point with the last kick of the game. It ensured second place in the table for us and an easier passage to the final.

Our quarter-final was another revenge game, against Cavan, who kept us out of the D'Alton last year with a last-minute goal. We went out determined to win and our forwards' scoring of points was the best it ever was. We won 4-14 to 0-1. This was an important game and set us in a good position for the semi-final against Downpatrick. We needed to prepare well for this match as we may have become too confident after our previous meeting. It turned out a bruising game with a poor referee who took the usual anti-Belfast stand. There was a lot of "needle" as Downpatrick tried to knock us off our game and we needed our support from the line. It was close the whole way and we were only three points ahead for the last 15 minutes and every Downpatrick attack threatened a goal, but it was all sewn up with a goal from our midfielder who thundered the ball into the roof of the net. We were in the final — but against

Corn na nÓg Team.



whom? St. Colman's and Abbey played their semi-final and drew 2 points each. St. Colman's won the replay and we were to meet them again in the final at Casement Park.

They beat us the last time and must have been confident, but we also were confident that we were well capable of winning. Our total commitment and determination won the match as every 50-50 ball ended in our hands. In addition, our physical strength and size told as we outplayed them all over the park. M. Tully played havoc with their defence and was the main man at setting up moves. We got some important scores from frees by T. McKernan — and we needed them, as the referee was hard to believe at times. Nevertheless, we won, and deservedly, by 1-5 to 0-2. We applauded those supporters and the few teachers who had enough interest and school pride to come and support us. They did not go unnoticed or unappreciated. We went on to the finals of the All-Ireland and played St Aidan's from Dublin. We did not play at all well; our forwards' attempts at scoring were abysmally poor and the backs were slow off the mark. The Dublin midfielder, who was at least 6ft. 4in., did not help by catching everything within his grasp. He then drew a man and laid the ball off. Simple but effective. Our first half performance was diabolical. I think we were expecting too much from St. Aidan's, and when we found we were as good as they were we were unable to gain any confidence. Still two late goals, one of which was a superb solo effort by J. Walsh, brought us level at full-time. We completely ran out of steam in extra time and a number of players faded badly. Again we thank the supporters who stayed overnight in Dublin; it is strange that we had more support from Belfast than St. Aidan's had from Dublin, where the game was played.

All credit must be given to Bro. Ennis who trained us hard and spent much time and effort on us, and we are sorry we could not get the bonus of an All-Ireland which we could have. St. Aidan's beat us by a few points after extra time and then went on to walk away with the final by about 20 points. I would just like to add that my player of the competition was M. Downey, who is the steadiest full-back I have seen at junior or senior level.

Apart from M. Downey it is hard to pick out any other particular players. Still, it must be said, our third years in the team were very good and in particular our midfielders of McAneney and Mahon. Certainly a force to be reckoned with in coming competitions.

D. Crummey 3rd M. Downey 4th M. Tully 4th D. McWade 4th
J. Hughes 4th C. Boyle 4th D. McAneney 3rd S. McMahon 3rd
J. Walsh 4th T. McKernan 4th M. Tully 4th B. Morgan 3rd
P. Sullivan 4th M. O'Doherty 4th R. Mulholland — sub

JIM HUGHES (5E)

MacRORY CUP FOOTBALL 1908 - 1981

Results:

St. Mary's	1- 5	Armagh C.B.S.	2-8
St. Mary's	3-10	Downpatrick	3-4
St. Mary's	0- 6	St. Patrick's, Armagh	4-7
St. Mary's	3- 3	St. Colman's	5-6
St. Mary's	1- 3	Abbey C.B.S.	3-9

In last year's MacRory Cup campaign, we recorded an encouraging early victory over Downpatrick, after a rather unfortunate start to the series, when we were narrowly beaten by Armagh C.B.S. in a closely fought encounter. Spirits were high at this stage and players gave total commitment to training

sessions as one victory from our remaining three fixtures would give us a place in the quarter-finals of this elite football competition. However, in the match against St. Pat's, Armagh, our hopes were dashed when the lively Armagh forwards crashed home three very early goals. St. Mary's failed to recover from this early setback and Armagh won through — but by no means as easily as the scoreline suggests.

Perhaps our best performance was reserved for our encounter with St. Colman's, the eventual winners of the competition, against whom we recorded the very respectable total of 3-3.

By now chances of qualifying were slim to say the least, and this was reflected in the players' attitudes to the remaining fixture against Abbey C.B.S. Lack of determination and belief in themselves resulted in St. Mary's being heavily defeated by a team which was never really forced to play to their full ability.

All in all, a disappointing campaign, but out of the gloom emerged a few players who must surely have a good future in Gaelic football. Donal Armstrong, who plays his club football with Rossa, is surely one of the best footballers within this age group in the Province. Another who emerged with his reputation enhanced was Stevie Brady, who has since left the school and will be sorely missed on the present MacRory team.

G. CULLEN

First Year "A" League 1980/1981

St. Mary's v. St Malachy's

As we travelled in the mini-bus towards St. Malachy's College I wondered if we would win this match or lose it, but when the match started I had no doubts about who was going to win because the team got off to a flying start with a couple of goals in very quick succession. Then St. Malachy's got a goal and a point, and this made us eager to get back and add to our total. Scores came in the early part of the second half and we moved more into the lead (5-5 to 2-1). Even after this more scores came from the very sharp forwards and when the final whistle went the scores totted up 7-9 to 3-1 in our favour.

After our comfortable win against St. Malachy's, we felt very confident of winning against our neighbours from across the road, Glen Road C.B.S. However, when the game got under way we were surprised at the speed of our opponents. Although they started full of life our backs had them under control within fifteen minutes and when the backs sent the ball up to the forwards they took their scores well and we soon gained quite a considerable lead (4-1 to 0-1).

When the second half started our backs had very little tackling to do, for the forwards and midfield were noticeably on top of their backs, and we increased our lead. When the opposition forwards did finally break away they got two quick scores to decrease our lead slightly, but it wasn't enough to win the game, and we finally turned out to be the victors 5-5 to 2-3.

Our third match against the boys from the "Rock"

started with both sides taking scores very well and the score quickly became 2-2 to 2-1 in favour of St. Mary's. Although as soon as the match started we knew that this match was going to be harder than the two matches before it. The St. Thomas's midfield seemed to be on top for most of the first half and they pulled away into the lead (3-3 to 4-3). At half time we sorted ourselves out and we started the second half with two goals and a point. At this stage St. Thomas's realised that they were not going to walk away with this game and improved their play. Although they did try, they were not good enough because we then pulled well into the lead and stayed there until the end. St. Thomas's got a couple of consolation scores near the end, but it still was not good enough and we finally won by 8-7 to 6-4.

In our match against St. Paul's we confirmed that we were in search of a title by starting with a quick goal and a point. Terry Park caused havoc in the St. Paul's defence and Jim McBriarty and Simon O'Doherty were always on top in midfield. The defence was very sound and the St. Paul's men found it very hard to get possession of the ball.

By the end of the first half we were well in the lead, but there was even more to come in the second half, and all the St. Mary's players were trying to get their names on the score sheet. Seamus Blaney and Dominic Bradley succeeded in doing this, and two minutes from the end D. McAllister capped it with a fine goal.

Final score 9-7 to 0-0.

Our next league match was against old rivals La Salle. It was windy at Woodlands playing fields that day and definitely not the conditions for good football.

Conditions suited La Salle in the first half, but they failed to take advantage of it during this period. In fact it was ten or so minutes before the first score was recorded, and it came in our favour. A long ball from Kevin McParland fought bravely against a strong wind before dropping nicely over the bar. Within minutes Gerdy (Worzel) McClure had repeated the feat and we led by 0-2 to 0-0.

Disaster then struck when, from a break in defence, La Salle's tricky full-forward took advantage and hand-passed the ball past Seamy Blaney into the net. And if we thought that bad, right from the kickout La Salle gained position and within seconds the ball was again in the net. At half time the score was: St. Mary's 0-4, La Salle 2-2.

The second half saw us pick up a bit and we added another three points and a goal by "super sub" Davy Lowry, but our efforts were in vain because at the end La Salle came out winners by the narrowest margin possible.

Final score St. Mary's 1-7; La Salle 3-2.

"A" LEAGUE TABLE 1980/1981

St. Mary's	7-9	St. Malachy's	3-1
St. Mary's	6-5	Glen Road C.B.S.	2-3
St. Mary's	8-7	St. Thomas's 6-4	
St. Mary's	9-7	St. Paul's	0-0
St. Mary's	1-7	La Salle	3-2
Final at Corrigan Park		La Salle 3-4 : St. Mary's 0-4	

Final — St. Mary's v. La Salle — Corrigan Park

The venue for the final of the Belfast first year league was Corrigan Park, home of the "Johnnies". Our opponents were La Salle, who had beaten us so

narrowly during the league. The stage was set for a clincher or so we thought until it started. The La Salle boys got stuck into their job and although we were not fully trained there was no excuse for their almost winning the game in the first half with three goals and a point to our two dismal points. Half-time: La Salle 3-1; St. Mary's 0-2. The second half saw nothing of La Salle's earlier magic but neither did it show the form which had carried us smoothly into the final. La Salle added to their collection while a late burst from us could not save the day.

Final scores: St. Mary's 0-4; La Salle 3-4. I point out that we had nothing to be ashamed of. The better team had won on the day.

SIMON O'DOHERTY

THE RANNAFAST CAMPAIGN

A phone-call in the warm, lazy days of August announced that St. Mary's onslaught on the 1981 Rannafast Cup was under way. Obviously after our defeat by St. Patrick's, Maghera, in the replayed final of the corresponding under-15 competition, Corn na nÓg, our manager, Bro. Ennis, was determined to secure victory this time.

The telephone call "invited" me to a training session which, after two months of good food and easy living, proved thoroughly arduous. Dazed and fatigued, we sat in the dressing room and contemplated our chances in the forthcoming competition.

We were in group "B" with St. Patrick's, Armagh, St. Patrick's, Dungannon, and St. Macartan's, Monaghan. Our first match was on Saturday, September 13th, and it proved an unlucky thirteen for us. The opposition, St. Macartan's, having started slowly, made rapid headway in the second half. With powerful solo-running and good finishing they defeated us by 3-2 to 1-6. We dejectedly made our way back to the dressing-room where Bro. Ennis presented us with the "disasters of the day" awards. Not wanting to re-appear on that dubious roll of honour, we shook off our complacency and vowed to improve.

And improve we did! On the following Saturday, again in Lurgan, we met a weak Dungannon side and romped home. This facile victory provided much needed confidence, and the Corn na nÓg form was slowly beginning to reassert itself.

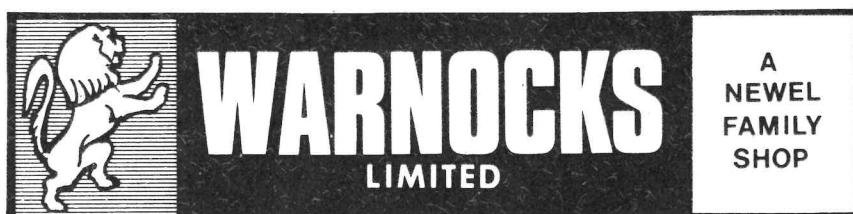
On the 2nd September we were again at Lurgan—it was fast becoming a home venue for us—on this occasion to meet St. Patrick's, Armagh, and their driving force, Fergus Donnelly. However, our captain, Shane Caldwell, contained the little maestro. The match was a tough and close encounter. Larry Smart had his usual good game and was ably assisted by tireless running from the other half forward, Malachy McHugh. In the half-back line, Stephen Mulvenna put on a masterful display. The backs were reasonably effective though we paid dearly for lapses in concentration. The match ended all-square — a fair result.

We were now at the quarter-final stage along with the Armagh and Monaghan boys. St. Patrick's, Maghera, and Omagh C.B.S. emerged from their group and St. Colman's and Abbey C.B.S. and St. Patrick's, Cavan, were the other quarter-finalists.

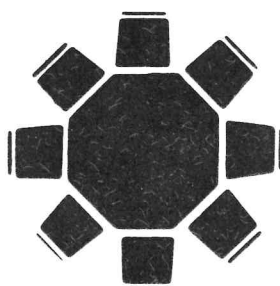
St. Colman's were our next opponents on 4th October — and how tough they proved to be! With five minutes remaining we were trailing by several points, thanks to the speed and accuracy of the

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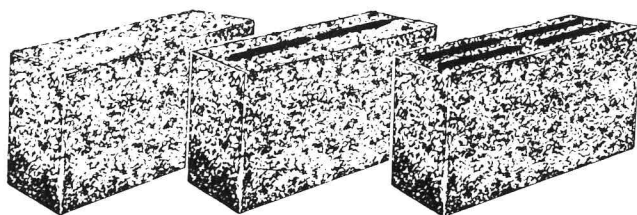
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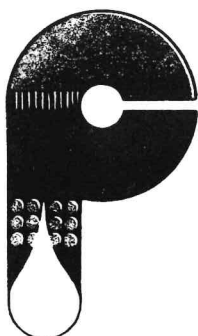
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Newry side. Then our forwards got going on yet another of their now notorious late surges and points from Donagh Finnegan, Mark Murphy and Ciaran Barr plus a scrambled late goal took us through to the semi-final by a scoreline of 2-13 to 2-10.

Back at Lurgan on the following weekend, though unfortunately at a different pitch, we met Abbey C.B.S., who had unexpectedly disposed of St. Patrick's, Maghera. Though under tremendous pressure in the last few minutes of a closely fought encounter, we emerged victorious by the narrowest margin, 1-6 to 8 points. Our goalkeeper, Stephen McPeake, played no small part in keeping us in the competition.

In the final we were destined to meet St. Patrick's, Armagh, and we were confident that we would be victorious. St. Mary's had a dream start when Declan Connolly deflected the ball into the Armagh net. Shortly afterwards tempers flared, and a mid-fielder from each side was ordered off. St. Mary's continued to pressurise the Armagh defence and Shane Caldwell scored a goal from a long-distance free-kick. By half time it appeared that St. Mary's had the game fully under control, leading by 2-1 to 2 points.

Soon after the resumption, however, a good St. Patrick's goal left just two points between the sides and they attacked with great enthusiasm. They were a rejuvenated side and scored a succession of points. St. Mary's were struggling at this stage but were still able to keep one point ahead until Fergus Donnelly of Armagh began a magnificent solo-run in his own half which finally ended in a goal. Our fate was sealed. Although we made one final effort we were unable to penetrate the Armagh defence. On yet another occasion in an Ulster final we were defeated by a single point!

PHIL CUMMINGS

HURLING

In the last few years St. Mary's Hurling Teams have dominated the Ulster Colleges Hurling scene. For as long as I have been at the school, six years, school teams have won every available title from first years to the senior team.

The reason for this success is the number of players from local clubs that play for the school teams. Rossa, St. John's, Sarsfields and St. Paul's are all well represented.

Last season, 1979-80, the senior team won the Ulster title, narrowly defeating Ballycastle by a point at Glenariffe. Ballycastle have always been the team's greatest rival.

With that Ulster success the team participated in the All-Ireland "B" semi-final. St. Vincent's of Dublin were the opponents and inflicted defeat on the school in a hard fought match.

Last year the Under-17 team won the Ulster title, beating Ballycastle in a controversial match that saw one St. Mary's man being sent off and two Ballycastle men being taken to hospital!

This year the senior team has progressed steadily in the competition. It is played on a league basis with five teams entering. We have defeated Downpatrick and St. Malachy's quite easily. Recently we defeated St. Patrick's, Armagh, by two points. This proved to be our hardest match, with St. Patrick's taking the

lead only five minutes from the end. The inspirational play of mid-fielder Donagh Finegan gave us a victory.

This year's team is a very talented bunch. They are also very young, with five fifth years playing in the team. It would be unfair to pick out individuals as the whole squad is very talented, but the experience of C. Cooper, R. Cregan, D. Finnegan and C. McGurk stick out, and the talented youngsters S. Smart, N. Darragh and T. McKiernan also deserve a mention.

The team will be playing Ballycastle in the Ulster Final in the coming weeks and I believe we can win the Ulster Title once again. If we win that match we will play in the All-Ireland competition. With our coach Mr. E. McToal and chief supporter, Bro. L. F. Ennis, we should do well.

C. BARR (Captain)

Handball

The Handball Club had its most successful season to date, and, with the numbers of boys playing, we were able to enter A and B teams in the Belfast Championships. This year, for the first time, two representatives from Belfast were eligible for the Ulster finals, and the boys were determined to be Antrim's No. 1 in each grade.

At U-13 grade we faced strong challenges from St. Thomas's, St. Patrick's, Knock, and Gortnamona C.B.S., but the result was never really in doubt, and St. Mary's A and B both went forward to the "Ulsters". At the U-15 we had possibly the strongest squad ever to grace a court at this level in Belfast. So strong, indeed, that in a pre-Championship friendly the U-17 seniors could only manage a narrow eight points win over five games against them! The Championship itself proved to be almost a formality, with even St. Malachy's receiving a trouncing in an "Old Firm" final. At U-17 we quickly eliminated Gortnamona C.B.S. and again met St. Malachy's in the final. We emerged victorious at 105-34. At U-19 we met and quickly dispatched St. Malachy's A in the semi-finals. St. Malachy's B, however, had narrowly beaten Rathmore in the other semi. A shade too confident after their defeat of St. Malachy's A, our seniors nearly lost control of the final but eventually rallied round to complete the capture of all four Belfast trophies!

At Ulster level we were determined to repeat our Belfast success. The U-15 team predictably made the Ulster competition look almost even with such notable adversaries as St. Patrick's, Cavan, Omagh C.B.S., St. Aidan's, Cootehill, and Carrickmore C.B.S. The U-13 and U-19 teams had equally easy paths to the finals, which ended up as repeats of the Belfast finals. The U-19 team put the memories of Belfast aside and reasserted their superiority with a 105-55 trouncing of St. Malachy's B. At U-17, however, the other schools were not going to allow the Belfast schools simply to cruise to the final. St. Malachy's met their match in the early stages and exited to St. Patrick's, Cavan. We fought our way to a clean sweep of the silverware. In a closely fought match we finally lost out 63 - 86, and one Ulster Trophy eluded us for this year at least.

To round off the season the Staff vs. Student match was played in Mid-May. Unlike last year (when the staff won comfortably) this year's U-19

team looked to be the better of their ageing mentors. However it was not to be so. When the hotly contested age allowance of 3 points per man was added to the staff score the result was a 95 - 92 victory for the staff! Better luck next year boys!

MENTORS**Teams 1980 - 1981**

J. R. Gardner, C. Monaghan, J. McClean, K. Burke.

U-13A

K. McCann 1F
P. Blake 2F
J. Lynch 2F
T. McAllister 2F
C. Hughes 2F

U-13B

D. Mooney 2A
S. Blaney 1D
P. Nicholl 1B
J. McBriarty 1D
L. Murchan 1D
R. McKegney 1D

U-13 C

J. McMorrow 1D
J. Friel 1D
D. Adams 1A
T. Park 1E
D. Toner 1E

M. Caldwell 1F
S. Doran 1E
P. Cunningham 1E
G. Boyce 1B

U-15 A

E. Farrell 4H
J. Davidson 4B
C. O'Hare 4G
B. Byrne 4H
J. Davidson 4B

U-15 B

J. Walsh 4C
R. Mulholland 4H
P. Webb 4H
S. Tallon 2E
M. MacManus 2A

U-17 A

B. McKenna 6SB
P. Rogan 5B
R. Cregan 2LA
C. Dunwoody 4H
G. McCrory 6SC

U-17 B

T. McCormick 4F
E. Greenwood 4F
E. Farrell 4H
J. Davidson 4B
G. O'Hare 4G

U-19 A

D. Armstrong 7LA
B. McKenna 6SB
P. Rogan 5B
P. McGuinness 7LA
P. J. McKenna 7LC
P. Smart 6LD

U-19 B

C. Dunwoody 4H
E. Farrell 4H
G. McCrory 6SC
S. Brady 6SB
C. McGurk 6SB

Staff Mr. C. Monaghan
Mr. J. Gardner
Rev. Bro. D. Gleeson
Mr. E. McCartan
Mr. S. Boyle

HANDBALL IN BARRACK STREET

One of the fastest growing games, in popularity in Belfast, is Handball and no where more so than in St. Mary's C.B.S. Barrack Street. There the architect, very generously, provided numerous walls to practise on and this goes a long way to explain the outstanding success achieved by this section of St. Mary's over the past three years.

The Belfast Secondary Schools Blitz competition has been won, at its youngest level, U-14 and now U-13 solely by Barrack Street (since its inception three years ago). Barrack Street Handballers have also won the Ulster Milk Marketing Board Minor Trophy, the two years that it has been played for, (1980-1981).

This year the St. Mary's (Glen Road Section) U-15 team won the Belfast and Ulster U-15 Trophies, and the team were all ex Barrack Street of the U-19 St. Mary's team which also won the Belfast and Ulster Trophies this year, three of the first five were ex Barrack Street men. So Barrack Street is a veritable Handballing nursery. This is no attempt to detract from the fine work, enthusiasm and effort put in by Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Monaghan and formerly Mr. Burke. Instead it indicates what a force, in sport, St. Mary's are, when both sections are working in tandem.

Last year also saw a successful weekend trip to Athenry, Co. Galway, where the U-15 and U-13 sides played a friendly against the local Handball club for a trophy sponsored by an Athenry business man. It was a highly successful and enjoyable weekend and it is hoped to have the Athenry Team up to Belfast and try to win back their trophy. As a result of that trip we have been invited by the President of the Irish Handball Association, Carmin Jones, to travel to Ennis, Co. Clare for a coaching weekend organised by his club there. We intend to travel to Clare in the spring. It is also hoped to return to Drogheda where we experienced great hospitality at the hands of Newtown Blues, the club of the great Joey Maher. Also arrangements are in progress for a trip after Easter to Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

This year also sees the commencement of a Belfast Secondary Schools League, and we are very optimistic about winning the U-15 League with the aid of veterans Ciaran O'Hare and Martin McDonald and also the U-13 League with the aid of two newcomers to St. Mary's but not to Handball, first years Paul Nolan and Pearse McCormick. What another first, winning these Leagues, would be for the Barrack Street Handballers.

Finally, I would like to thank Bro. Ennis, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Monaghan and especially Mr. McClean for their assistance, enthusiasm and encouragement to us who play this world-wide Irish game.

Written by,
Ciaran O'Hare 3G

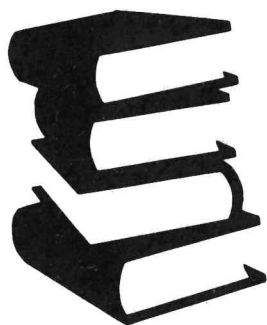
ST. MARY'S OUTDOOR PURSUITS CLUB

The club was founded several years ago primarily as a hill walking and camping club, but has grown into a club which can tackle (and has tackled) all the various aspects of mountaineering, such as rock climbing, snow and ice climbing, to name but a few. Although, because of convenience, the club usually goes to the Mourne, in past years it has had camps all over Ireland, and once in Scotland. Club members have also walked and climbed in many different parts of the British Isles, from the Cairngorms in winter to Wales in the summer.

Last year (1980/81) was a typical year. We started with a few easy walks in the Mourne to break in new members and give the older members a chance to regain any fitness they had lost during the previous summer. The year went on as usual with a walk and a camp every month. Unfortunately, the winter was a bad one from a mountaineer's point of view, the club encountering snow only once despite the many trips in the supposed winter season. Climbers all over the United Kingdom experienced the same problems. It was even possible to do some rock-climbing in February!

As Easter approached, plans were made for a five-day camp in Donegal. However, due to mini-bus

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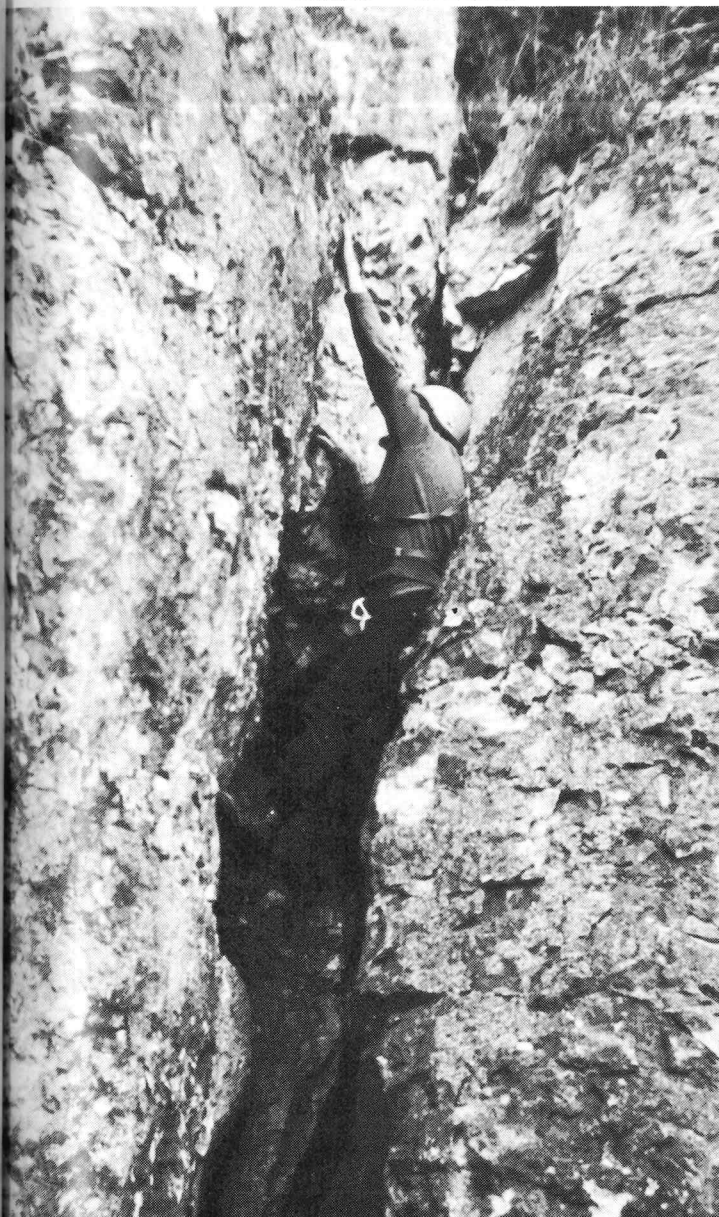
problems, the club had to spend the five days once more in the Mourne. We worked our way across the Mourne from Rostrevor to Newcastle, taking two days aside for pure rock climbing as the weather was superb. Despite the disappointment in not going to Donegal, everyone involved agreed that it could not have been better. Unfortunately, the year tailed off soon after Easter because of the political situation, which affected everything all over Belfast and the Province, and the club lost Mr. Hamill who had practically run the club single-handed since its inception. Despite all the mishaps the club encountered, it is still the most active of its kind in N. Ireland, and the amount of bursaries club members received to attend Outward Bound courses across the Irish Sea is a sign of this. Out of four possible under-sixteens awards the club received three, and the only applicant from the club for a senior place was also successful.

This coming year is a difficult one for the club. The new teacher in charge, Mr. Hegarty, has little experience, but his keenness and the experience of the more established members, should enable the club to remain the successful, enterprising group that it has been in the past.

● The club meets every Thursday in the Theatre at 3.30 p.m. — New members welcome (4th - 7th years only).

C. DUNCAN 7LB
Treasurer

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THE BADMINTON CLUB

Every Thursday night of the school year, streams of dedicated badminton fans (!) trudge their way through all kinds of weather to take part in their favourite sport.

The club was founded in 1979 by Mr. F. Dynan and for one night a week ever since he has shared his undoubted knowledge of the game with sixteen faithful participants.

Although some have fallen by the wayside, the core of the club still consists of the original band who, come rain or shine, make their way to the Assembly Hall each week.

Last year St Mary's was represented, or humiliated, at inter-school level by a four-man squad, carefully chosen from the many applicants eager to participate for the honour of the school and, more importantly, spurred on by the prospect of getting free orange juice and biscuits from opponents from such schools as Methodist College and Crumlin. The latter, however, failed to fulfill the fixture, thus giving us our first points of the season. Nevertheless, the team ended the season with a sparkling performance against a much respected Rathmore side, sending them home without having gained a single point. It was no coincidence that our only home game played resulted in such an overwhelming victory — of which Mr. Dynan was duly proud.

It is hoped that this year's campaign will result in more confident displays away from home and perhaps even a trophy for the school, as we in the team, after a summer of intense training and after our experience gained from last year, hope we can improve our displays.

This confidence was backed up by Mr. Dynan's optimism in entering the side for another league. While not committing himself to open optimism, he said that "the team has a better chance this year to do well."

Finally the gratitude of the club members goes to Mr. Dynan for coaching and perfecting the skills of these athletes and for giving up time to further the pride of the school.

B. KENNEDY (5A)

TRACK AND FIELD HIGHLIGHTS - 1981

One of the most encouraging side-effects of the school's recent domination of the Irish Cross-Country scene has been the upsurge in interest in track and field athletics. Our reputation in the field events in particular has been greatly enhanced by our two high-jumping internationals. I refer, of course, to Paul McKinney (now employed) and Eugene McKenna (7C).

Paul, who set (and still holds) a Northern Ireland native second of 2.06m in 1980, was not quite able to reproduce that form this season, due to examination pressures, but he still turned in a very creditable season's best of 2.00m. "Skin", as he is known, competes for Annadale Striders A.C. (but we'll not hold that against him), and in this "ordinary" season, by his standards, took the South Antrim schools title and finished joint second to Irish record holder Richard Garvey in the Irish Schools in Dublin. The person who denied Paul 2nd outright that day was none other than our second high jumper, Eugene McKenna.

This was the season when Eugene really "made it

big" at national level. After finishing behind Paul in the South Antrim's (1.88m. to 1.85m. in appalling weather conditions), he then beat him on a countback in the Ulster Schools after both had jumped 1.93m. Proof that he had really arrived on the scene came when he defeated McKinney in a jump-off for a place in the Northern Ireland senior team to face Wales, England and France last August at Cardiff.

During 1981 Eugene also added the N.I.A.A.A. junior title to his 1980 Interprovincial one when he set a championship Best Performance of 2.01m. He also represented the N.I. Junior team in Edinburgh, as well as finishing a very creditable 8th in the A.A.A. junior championship at Brighton.

So between the Belfast Olympic athlete and his south Belfast counterpart St. Mary's were well represented in field events last summer. But what about the track men, the cross-country specialists, that I mentioned at the beginning of the article? Of these only two had any real success on the tartan this year, Sean Dunne (7SA) and Ciaran Rogan (5E).

Sean, who never fails to remind me that he has eight Irish cross-country wins to my two, ran the fourth fastest 3,000m. time by a local U-18 athlete this year when he clocked 8.42 mins in May. He also ran 1.57 for 800m.

As for Ciaran, well, he's one to watch out for, but with times of 2.04 mins for 800m. and 16.40 mins for 5,000m. his potential is enormous, especially when you consider that he's still only 15.

MICHAEL SHERIDAN (7SA)

ATHLETICS-OBSERVATIONS

If any lesson was to be learned from the athletics competition this year, it was the obvious lesson that those who put in some measure of preparation tend to succeed over those who don't. Obvious as it may sound, many took part in the School's District Championship hoping for success without effort.

One sad example of this was that of "Tiger" Moylan, who fully expected to fling his javelin into the distance and to victory. Well, he had all the physical credentials of weight and massive compact strength — and he was last year's champion! But during the year his opponents had been busying themselves improving technique, increasing strength, working on speed and their runups and generally learning about their sport. However, with the exception of a few practice days before the Districts, Tiger had none of these; and it was sad on the day to see this potentially great athlete beaten by lesser physiques.

A repetition of this can be expected by anyone who treats his opponents with such neglect. The message is — train some and gain some.

There was one notable exception to this rule — that of Dermot McAneny. Dermot, another strongly built lad, powerhoused his way to superb victories in both the District and Ulster Championships. His style is ungainly to say the least, but such is his speed over 100m. that only the classiest of his opponents — and many were very good indeed — came within a distance of him; and he did all this despite a niggling muscle injury. It was this, though, that finally stopped him in his seemingly unstoppable route to an All-Ireland victory. We can only hope that he has learned from Tiger's mistakes and takes on the 1981 challenge with reasonable preparation.

There were to be no All-Ireland titles returning to St. Mary's this year, but we did expect one. Our senior high-jumpers Paul McKinney and Eugene McKenna were in a class of their own in both the District and Ulster Championships, taking first and second in both. They were so clearly apart from the others that in the All-Ireland they had a shock in store when the gold medal was snatched from them. Silver and bronze are very respectable colours of medals, however, and they are their rewards for some hard unseen work. It was Eugene who finally finished on top between this pair after a slow start to this season. Paul, who learned a great deal on a four-week coaching "holiday" in the U.S.A. this summer, will have to wait for next summer to try to regain top spot.

Although none made the All-Ireland championships, our 800m. runners made outstanding progress in their running this year. Sean Dunne, running with aggression which until now he has lacked, outkicked a strong field in a kickers' race in the Districts. Eventually getting down to 1 min.58 secs. for 800 metres and 4.05 for the 1,500 metres, his best performance was over 3,000 metres which he covered in a remarkable 8 mins. 43 secs.

Ciaran Rogan was left flabbergasted when running 2-04 to fail to qualify for the Ulsters. Flabbergasted by the degree of his improvement and flabbergasted by that not being good enough. He will be consoled to learn that his vanquishers all went on to the All-Ireland Championships at which — on times — Ciaran could have expected fourth.

And Jim McBriarty deserves a mention too, for his 2 mins. 28 secs. for a first year is absolutely first class.

Tim McCarthy, our Cross-Country conqueror of almost all, turned his attentions to the steeplechase where he improved each time out to finish not too far adrift in the All-Ireland Championships.

The Milk Marketing Board sponsored Milk Athletic series serves as an introduction to athletics for a handful of first years from schools from all over the nine counties. Messrs. McBriarty, McAlea, Grant, Keaney and Brady did St. Mary's proud as they won their first round in the event. In subsequent rounds things became tougher, but a sixth place was no disgrace; but the lads had a slap-up banquet awaiting them at the Conway Hotel immediately after the final.

It has been a good year for athletics in St. Mary's. Perhaps 1982 could be even better if it were possible for one particular day to be set aside as an official sports day for all the school. This would lead to greater participation and undoubtedly to even higher standards of performance.

K. MORGAN

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THE KARATE CLUB

The existence of a karate club in the school undoubtedly provides a unique opportunity for senior students to practise a most specialist activity.

Karate is more than an excellent means of self-defence relying on the effective use of the unarmed body. In addition, it is an excellent activity for maintaining fitness, because, in its practice, all parts of the body are exercised. However, the student soon learns that the real benefits are more significant than competence in physical combat. The time reward lies in the improvement of mind, body and character. Without this threefold development mastery of the techniques is impossible.

Karate is thought to have originated on the island of Okinawa where weapons were strictly forbidden. As a result, the art of empty handed self-defence underwent a tremendous development. Indeed, the Japanese word "karate" means empty hand. The style of karate practised by the club is "wado-ryu", which means "way of peace".

The club in the school is linked to the official organisation in Ireland, the All-Ireland Karate-Do Wado-Kei, which is headed by world-class Japanese Masters. Only clubs practising authentic Japanese karate may affiliate to this All-Ireland body. All recognised instructors of this organisation (A.I.K.W.) are in possession of a karate teaching certificate

signed by a Japanese expert and instructor courses are often arranged so that teaching methods may be updated in this rapidly progressing activity. As a registered club, qualifications attained by members are recognised world-wide.

Fifteen members have passed the first examination in Karate under the watchful eye of Y. Iwasaki Sensei, 5th Dan, the most senior authentic karate stylist in Ireland. This Japanese expert is responsible for the development of karate along traditional lines in this country, and in so doing is strengthening cultural links between his country of birth and Ireland. The training programme to black-belt is very strenuous, one requiring several years of uninterrupted progress, and the opportunity to enrol in this programme while at school is open to all senior students at St. Mary's. Thirty members have been consistent in their attendance for the first year since the club's inception and local clubs are open to members who eventually leave school. The club has one formal training session weekly, held immediately following normal school hours and lasting forty-five minutes. Furthermore, members are encouraged to train privately often throughout the week.

Interested applicants should note that karate is *not* a sport, but a martial art requiring more than simple physical fitness.

MR. M. MALLON

The Karate Team



WATER-POLO IN ST. MARY'S 1980-81

Last year was the first year when the water-polo in school was under the direction and coaching of Mr. McClean from the Barrack Street section. The reason for this was that John Kelly, who had coached the teams for the previous six years, moved to Andersonstown Leisure Centre as Assistant Manager and since then has been appointed Manager of the complex. We send him best wishes and every success in the future.

Since Mr. McClean had acted as assistant and understudy to John Kelly for a number of years and since the teams he now had to coach, had been gathered and trained by John Kelly, he found the task comparatively easy and met it with great enthusiasm. These factors, plus the fact that the school has its own swimming pool, certainly produced the goods, because the year was ripe with success.

The greatest achievement was the winning of the All-Ireland Senior Schools Cup after defeating old rivals Marion College of Dublin in the Final at Gormanstown College in March 1981 by a 3-1 scoreline.

The Senior Team also won the Canada Trophy (Ulster Senior Schools) for the seventh year in succession despite only drawing 2-2 in the final game against St. Malachy's at Andersonstown. The main reason that they gave us so much trouble in this return leg was because Conor Mullaney one of the star defenders was cycling to Lourdes and this weakened us at the back.

It was in this department of the game that St. Mary's Senior Team really shone last year. Without wishing to detract from the contribution of forwards Ciaran Barr and David Woodhouse, both of whom have recently been capped at U-17 level in an international in Dundee against Scotland, nor from the contribution of mid-field players Damien Barr and Donal Armstrong, St. Mary's success at Senior Level last year stemmed from superb performances in backs by Dessie Monaghan and Conor Mullaney and in goals, by Paul Mulvenna. Let's hope this year's defence, consisting of Conor McGurk, John Glass and Brendan McCrory, can follow in their footsteps.

At U-14 level also, St. Mary's were successful this year, winning the Ulster U-14 League by fighting off serious challenges from St. Malachy's and Donegall. This was our first victory at this level in five years and we only lost one match to Donegall 4-2 and then only due to some dubious decisions by the referee. Once more much of the praise is due to John Kelly for it was he who assembled the main body of the team i.e. such promising polo prospects as Ciaran and Enda McGurk, Brian Walsh, Peter Murchan, Jim McKeever, Jimmy Heffernan and Damien Armstrong plus Roy McDonald who unfortunately has retired early from the game. Mr. McClean supplemented this group with goalie Mark Donnelly and younger still — Colin O'Kane and also Lawrence Murchan.

At U-16 level in 1981 the Gods did not smile on us. We were unable to travel to Cork for the All-Ireland U-16 cup because of adverse weather conditions in early December last. It was won by old rivals Marion of Dublin. The Ulster U-16 schools cup was not played because of serious civil disruption due to the hunger strike. Hopefully we will have better luck with this year at this level.

What the future holds for us is a mini-tour of East

Scotland for the senior team at Hallowe'en; the All-Ireland Senior in Cork in March 1982; a series of friendlies in Dublin over a long week-end next term and the All-Ireland U-16 in Andersonstown Leisure Centre in November of this year. So play Polo and see the world.

Congrats to Ciaran Barr and David Woodhouse for winning their first cap for Ireland. Congrats also to the three players which the senior team lost this year: Damien Barr, Donal Armstrong and Conor Mullaney. They are all first year Q.U.B. students — so who says sport and study don't mix. Finally congrats and thanks to all players, to Mr. McClean and Mr. Lally, John Kelly and of course last but not least Bro. Ennis who gave us every support and assistance throughout the year.

One final word, if any boy is at all interested in water-polo please come along to the school pool every Monday or Friday at 3.30 p.m. age or ability doesn't matter. Finally congratulations to U-14 Freestyle Relay Team — the only St. Mary's swimmers to reach the final of the Ulster Schools Championships: Ciaran McGurk, Kevan Duffin, Brian Walsh and Jimmy Heffernan — the sixth fastest school U-14 relay team in Ulster and all four are polo players, first and foremost.

Written by,
Ciaran Barr 6LA

Cross Country

If three criteria of success in school sport are achievement, participation, and enjoyment then in Cross Country St. Mary's were highly successful in the 1980/81 season.

Achievement by Michael Rooney (Mickey) and the senior squad as they took their third consecutive All-Ireland title; participation throughout the school from the large base of first years to the ten or so in the winning senior squad; and enjoyment was evidenced by the fact that the runners turned out again and again for training which at times was none too easy!

Upwards of 100 first years were introduced to cross country by the class leagues. By the last race one boy had clearly established himself as both a runner and competitor. Simon O'Doherty won each race showing a tactical sense more akin to an experienced international than to one so young. Fintan Grant pushed him hard on each occasion, but Siggler, as his mates call him, always started cautiously, moved through the field up to the leader's shoulder, and then blasted his opposition with a withering sprint finish to seal his supremacy. He also led his class 1B to a clear victory in the team event.

In inter-school competition the first years proved themselves to be of high calibre — third in the Belfast League, second in the All-Ireland C.B.S. Championships in Dublin and a superb win in the Ulster C.B.S. event, where Simon O'Doherty took the individual title. Dominic Bradley 1A was the only St. Mary's first year to beat Simon in the season, and more will be heard of both next year.

Gerry O'Neill 2F coached by his father (who advises a large group in Olympic A.C.) was dominant among second years in their league races, losing only one to Gerry Kelly 2E. Kelly had the consolation of seeing his class capture the team title. As the season progressed the two Gerrys exchanged the number one spot between themselves. Chris Smart took

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himself and his class to victories in the third year league.

Between them the 2nd and 3rd years did much damage to the hopes of other schools, taking the team titles at the Lisnagarvey relays, the Ulster C.B.S. U-14 Championship and the All-Ireland U-14 Championship. To top that a second in the Belfast District race and a third in the Belfast Schools League raised great hopes for the All-Ireland open. However, four of the top six fell to sickness or injury, dashing these aspirations. Individually, Gerry O'Neill's win in the Ulster C.B.S. U-14 must rank him in the No. 1 spot, while Gerry Kelly was pushed hard by Chris Smart for the runner-up position by the end of the season.

At some schools young talented athletes are spotted in first year and then encouraged (coerced?) to train so hard that they are spent forces within a few years. Clearly, the objective should be to produce talented senior runners who will continue to run in club scene after leaving school. This is the aim of St. Mary's and evidence that the techniques work is shown by the Intermediate and Senior Squads.

Dabbling in the sport, maintaining his interest for a few years, Tim McCarthy then got down to the business of finding out his true talents as a runner. In a short space of time he developed from just another team member to put together an impressive string of first class wins, including three Belfast league wins, N.I. U-16 championship, U.S.C. U-16 championship, Belfast District Schools championship, and the Ulster Sec. School championship. To this he added a superb sixth in the All-Ireland Schools Championship and was selected to run for Ireland in Swansea, where he acquitted himself well.

As a team the Intermediates continued to show development. Easily winning the Belfast Schools (sometimes having the first six finishers) and the Ulster C.B.S. championship, they went on to take 2nd place to St. Malachy's in the Belfast District championships and the Ulster Schools championships before finishing a promising third in the All-Ireland's. And such is the speed of their progress that they look likely winners of the All-Ireland Senior when their time comes.

This year the honour of winning the All-Ireland senior title went to St. Mary's for the third consecutive year. Indications prior to the race were that it would be a tough fought battle with any of around five schools capable of turning up trumps. However, our lads really turned on the power just when it was most needed.

Mickey Rooney spearheaded a crushing attack on the opposition. The back-up was tremendous. Sean Dunne followed Mickey's fourth place with his best run to date in 12th spot. Michael Sheridan and Seamus Dunne also ran far above form to seal a victory, the measure of which is best demonstrated by the score line—

- 1st St. Mary's (69 points)
- 2nd St. Munchins (124 points)
- 3rd St. Benildus 134 points

(The more local threats of B.R.A. and C.A.I. didn't materialise).

Prior to this the team had chalked up an even more convincing win at the All-Ireland C.B.S. championships. This time Mickey Rooney won the race with impressive front running to be followed home, unbelievably filling the next three places, by Sean Dunne, Martin Brownlee and Mickey Sheridan.

Add to that a team and individual — Rooney again — in the South Antrim Districts, and two painfully close seconds in each of the Ulster Schools championships and the Belfast League and you have the credentials of the most successful school team in Ireland. It should be said that no small part in this has been played by Olympic A.C. of which almost all of St. Mary's athletes are members. Thanks are thus due to Olympic A.C.

At the time of writing the track season is just beginning and the measure of how well that long, enduring fitness of the country has transferred to the short, speedy fitness of the track can now be obtained. The Perri-Pac meet at Mary Peters track gave us our first indication that things are very healthy indeed. All of the nine St. Mary's athletes taking part ran faster than ever before! Top of the pile was Sean Dunne who in the U-19 3000m. ran an astonishing 8 mins 43 secs to destroy the school record and achieve a time equalled each year by no more than ten N. Ireland Seniors — not schoolboy seniors, full seniors! This was Sean's best ever run.

At the younger end of the scale Gerry O'Neill destroyed a classy 1500 field to run a time faster than some of our seniors have done. His 4 mins. 42 secs effort was set by aggressive front running, leading the field from gun to tape.

With a first round win in the first years' Milk Athletic series the full spectrum of success seems likely. The boys look ahead now to the Ulster C.B.S. championships and to the South Antrim, Ulster and All-Ireland championships with a justifiable measure of optimism.

K. MORGAN



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Flashback 1973

All - Ireland Junior Basketball winning team.

Back row (l. to r.): P. Garvey, M. White, E. Shearer, P. Johnston, D. Hill.

Front Row (l. to r.): J. Dalzell, P. McCoy, M. Boyle, T. Armstrong, J. Nolan.

BASKETBALL

The school has always enjoyed considerable success in senior basketball and last year the U-19 team continued in that vein winning three titles and being All-Ireland finalists.

The season began when the team made the long journey to Tuam to play in an invitation blitz competition, in which teams from all over Ireland took part. We qualified for the semi-final by beating St. Vincents and Tuam C.B.S. Unfortunately St. Declans proved too strong in the semi-final game.

By Christmas the team had won the Premier League, in which five Ulster teams took part. Each of the opposition had to be played twice, home and away, and St. Mary's took the title by winning all of their eight matches. After Christmas came the toughest test of the season — the All-Irelands which were held in Dublin. The top two teams from each province took part. The teams were divided into two groups of four and St. Mary's qualified for the semi-final by winning their group, beating Tuam, St. Vincents Dublin and St. Vincents Killarney, in three hard-fought and exciting matches. In the semi-final we met North Monastery Cork, and beat them thus qualifying for the final. Alas the stress of playing four tough matches in such a short space of time was beginning to show and St. Mary's were beaten by the home team St. Declan's, Dublin in the final.

After returning home we won the Rosebowl, in the Antrim Forum, beating Annadale in the final. Our last competition was the Ulster Cup. Having beaten Annadale in the semi-final we went on to win the cup by beating St. Pat's Armagh in the final, making it six wins for St. Mary's in the last seven years.

The U-17 team also won the Ulster Cup for their age group, the only competition in which they played last season. Having already beaten St. Pat's Downpatrick in the quarter finals and Hollywood in the semi-final we went on to take the title by beating Annadale in the final. The support for both Ulster Cup finals was excellent and was greatly appreciated by the players. Both teams were coached by Mr. Woods and were selected from the following panel.

P. Cairns (Capt. U-19)	D. Finnegan
A. Quinn	P. Moreland
B. McCarthy	S. Sinclair
C. O'Kane (Capt. U-17)	R. Cregan
E. McKenna	M. Lally
P. McKeever	J. McGarry

The U-15 team coached by Mr. McGrath and the U-13 team coached by Mr. Woods showed they have the potential to become future champions in the matches they played last year. The hiring-out of the court in Andersonstown Leisure Centre has been of great benefit to the senior squad and in a small way compensates for the sports hall that we almost had!

THE FOURTH YEAR INDOOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

St. Mary's C.B.S., Belfast, has an enviable record of sporting achievements in Gaelic Football and Hurling, Basketball, Water-Polo, Handball and Athletics. Just as the school also offers an extensive choice of clubs and societies for non-sporting associations, so similarly, have some attempts been made this year to involve those of our fourth year pupils, who have not been invited to join a school team, in an indoor football competition.

Six teams of more than thirty boys are currently involved in this league, which will last until February, 1982. The team captains are: Dessie Hewitt (4A), John McDonagh (4F), Sean Foy (4D), David Finnegan (4F), Kieran McLaughlin (4E) and Eddie Conlon (4D). The atmosphere at these matches is characterised by good-natured rivalry as evidenced by the captain's comments—

"I am enjoying the league so much that I don't really mind if our team is beaten, as long as we play well. At present we have lost all of our matches, but I can honestly say that I have enjoyed them immensely." — Eddie.

"It is enjoyable and competitive." — David

"A hard competition makes it better. It helps keep you fit." — Dessie.

"It's something do so on a Saturday morning that's worth while." — Kieran

"We are looking forward to winning this league." Sean.

"It's good to play with the outstanding goalkeeper in the league on our side." — John.

Hopefully, in the future, the scheme can be extended to other years. All those involved in the present league deserve great credit for making this series so enjoyable and successful.

Mr. J. SHEERIN

ATHLETICS



The school athletic championships were held at the school track on 2nd June 1981 for 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th years and on the 16th May for the 5th and 7th years. Although the weather had been poor for most of the month of May and the beginning of June the events were run through without interruption. All events were keenly contested and much credit is due to both competitors and officials alike who braved the inclement weather and completed the programmes on both days.

Results

School Championships 1981

			Track
Relays	1st Year	1B	60.2 secs
	2nd Year	2A	57.6 secs
	3rd Year	3E	55.9 secs
	4th Year	4B	53.0 secs
	5th Year	5A	49.6 secs
	6th Year	6LA	52.5 secs
	7th Year	7SC	49.4 secs
			Time
100m	1. 1st Yr. M. McAlea	1C	14.0 secs
	1. 2nd Yr. J. Boyle	2G	13.5 secs
	1. 3rd Yr. D. McDowell	3E	12.4 secs
	1. 4th Yr. B. McAllister	4B	12.5 secs
	1. 5th Yr. M. McHugh	5A	11.6 secs
	1. 6th Yr. S. Caldwell	6LA	12.0 secs
	1. 7th Yr. P. Crossan	7SC	12.1 secs
	2. P. Brady	1B	
	2. P. Campbell	2G	
	2. S. Mahon	3C	
	2. M. McCann	4F	
	2. A. Forte	5A	
	2. P. Mulvenna	6LD	
	2. M. McCrory	7LB	
	3. P. Grant	1B	
	3. S. Brennan	2A	
	3. T. McCrudden	3E	
	3. J. Cormican	4E	
	3. M. McIlvenny	5B	
	3. M. McEvoy	6LA	
	3. P. McKinney	7SB	
200m	1st Yr. M. McAlea	1C	32.2 secs
	2nd Yr. J. Boyle	2G	29.9 secs
	3rd Yr. S. Mahon	3C	26.1 secs
	4th Yr. C. Devlin	4H	27.7 secs
	5th Yr. M. McIlvenny	5B	27.5 secs
	6th Yr. S. Caldwell	6LA	26.8 secs
	7th Yr. P. Crossan	7SC	25.6 secs
	P. Brady	1B	
	P. Fox	2B	
	D. McDowell	3E	
	C. Rogan	4E	
	P. Magowan	5D	
	P. Magee	6LA	
	P. McKinney	7SB	
	P. Grant	1B	
	G. Kennedy	2A	
	T. McCrudden	3E	
	B. McAllister	4B	
	G. Mullaney	5B	
	R. Campbell	6LC	
400m	4th Yr. C. Rogan	4E	60.6 secs
	5th Yr. D. Connolly		61.8 secs
	6th Yr. S. Caldwell	6LA	58.5 secs
	7th Yr. P. Crossan	7SC	60.7 secs
	C. Devlin	4H	
	J. Morgan	6LC	
	M. McAvoy	6LA	
800m	1st Yr. J. McBrierty	1D	2 min 38.5 secs
	2nd Yr. G. Kelly	2E	2 min 28.8 secs
	3rd Yr. D. McDowell	3E	2 min 24.0 secs
	4th Yr. C. Rogan	4E	2 min 9.7 secs
	5th Yr. M. Brownlee	5A	2 min 13.1 secs
	6th Yr. S. Dunne	6SA	2 min 4.1 secs
	7th Yr. H. Mallon	7SC	2 min 20.3 secs
	S. O'Doherty	1B	
	G. Mulhall	2A	
	T. McCrudden	3E	
	M. O'Doherty	4H	
	G. Mullaney	5B	
	J. Morgan	6LC	
	S. Dunne	7LB	
	D. Bradley	1A	
	A. Walsh	2D	
	S. Bradley	3D	
	C. O'Hare	4G	
	J. Lavery	5F	
	J. Harbinson	6LA	
1500m	1st Yr. J. McBrierty	1D	5 min 38 secs
	2nd Yr. G. Mulhall	2A	5 min 28 secs
	3rd Yr. A. Quinn	3E	5 min 28 secs
	4th Yr. C. Devlin	4H	4 min 51 secs
	5th Yr. T. McCarthy	5F	
	6th Yr. S. Dunne	6SA	
	7th Yr. S. Dunne	7LB	4 min 28 secs
	S. O'Doherty	1B	
	G. Kennedy	2A	
	S. Rooney	3F	
	A. Flanagan	4A	
	J. Catney	5G	
	E. McKenna	6SC	
	H. Mallon	7SC	
	D. Bradley	1A	
	S. McCrudden	2E	
	J. Molloy	3F	
	J. Lonsdale	4B	
	M. Brownlee	5A	
3000m	4th Yr. C. Dunne	4F	10 min 38 secs
	5th Yr. D. Deane	5C	10 min 5.2 secs
	6th Yr. S. Dunne	6SC	10 min 15 secs
	7th Yr. S. Dunne	7LB	
	C. Rogan	4E	
	T. McCarthy	5F	
	M. O'Doherty	4H	
	M. Brownlee	5A	

Field Events Results

Distance

Long Jump 1st Yr.			
2nd Yr. L. Tiernan	2B	P. Fox	2B
3rd Yr. P. Notman	3A	J. McCambridge	3C
4th Yr. C. Dunwoody	4H	K. O'Neill	4B
5th Yr. K. O'Neill	5E	S. Moylan	5E
6th Yr. S. Sands	6LD	M. Hamilton	6LD
7th Yr. P. Cairns	7SA	D. Doherty	7SC
		M. Hamill	2B
		D. Armstrong	3A
		P. Webb	4H
		P. Cavanagh	5G
		P. Magee	6LA
		J. Bateson	7SC
			4.51m
			3.84m
			4.54m
			5.19m
			5.09m
			5.20m
High Jump 1st Yr. M. Pettigrew 1E			
2nd Yr. R. Rice	2D	M. Walsh	1A
3rd Yr. S. Fay	3F	S. Burgoyne	2E
4th Yr. M. McCann	4F	P. Notman	3A
5th Yr. K. O'Neill	5E	K. O'Neill	4B
6th Yr. E. McKenna	6SC	M. Cullen	5E
7th Yr. M. Morgan	7LB	S. Dunne	6SA
		P. Crossan	7SC
		D. Magill	1B
		G. Boyle	2G
		D. Crummy	3B
		B. Byrne	4A
		S. Mulvenna	5A
		M. Sherry	6LD
		S. Cleary	7LB
			1.30m
			1.30m
			1.40m
			1.61m New Record
			1.65m
			1.81m New Record
			1.55m
Triple Jump 2nd Yr. P. Boyle 2E			
3rd Yr. V. McCambridge	3C	J. McGuinness	2B
4th Yr. P. Webb	4H	F. Haughey	3B
5th Yr. D. Connolly	5F	M. Trainor	4B
6th Yr. S. Sands	6LD	S. Mulvenna	5A
		D. Malone	6SA
		D. Armstrong	
		B. McAllister	4B
		F. McCaffrey	5F
		D. Caldwell	6LC
			6.9m
			8.7m
			10.05m
			9.47m
			10.43m
Shot 1st Yr. P. O'Neill 1B			
2nd Yr. M. Mallon	2E	V. McBrierty	1D
3rd Yr. D. Crummy	3B	M. Donnelly	2F
4th Yr. R. Mulholland	4H	P. Mervyn	3D
5th Yr. S. Moylan	5F	J. Callaghan	4A
6th Yr. M. Cassidy	6LC	D. Caldwell	5G
7th Yr. J. Duffy	7SB	P. Mulvenna	6LD
		P. McKavanagh	7LA
		P. Mitchell	1A
		D. McCormick	2F
		S. Mahon	3C
		P. Sullivan	4A
			7.86m
			9.95m
			10.62m
			10.65m
			10.86m
			10.19m
			9.49m
Discus 2nd Yr. M. Donnelly 2F			
3rd Yr. P. Mervyn	3D	B. McCormick	2F
4th Yr. J. Callaghan	4A	D. Crummy	3B
5th Yr. S. Mulvenna	5A	P. Sullivan	4A
6th Yr. D. Finnegan	6SC	D. Connolly	5F
7th Yr. J. Duffy	7SB	P. Campbell	6SB
		J. Moylan	7SA
		A. Darragh	2D
		E. Haughey	3B
		J. Mulholland	4H
		S. Moylan	5E
		M. Lally	6SA
		B. McCarthy	7LA
			18.84m
			24.25m
			19.5m
			23.85m
			24.1m
			25.4m
Javelin 2nd Yr. M. Mallon 2E			
3rd Yr. P. Mervyn	3D	G. Armstrong	2G
4th Yr. T. McCormick	4F	M. Bernardi	3C
5th Yr. S. Moylan	5E	P. Sullivan	4A
6th Yr. M. Lally	6SA	S. Mulvenna	5A
7th Yr. J. Moylan	7SA	M. Sherry	6LD
		P. Donnelly	7SA
		J. McGuinness	2B
		E. Rogan	3D
		J. Hughes	4F
		D. Connolly	5F
			21.65m
			26.70m
			27.29m
			47.95m
			30.60m
			34.60m
Hammer 2nd Yr. G. Armstrong 2D			
3rd Yr. P. Mervyn	3D	M. McLaughlin	2E
4th Yr. M. McKenna	4C	E. Rogan	3D
5th Yr. P. McGowan	5D	J. Cormican	4E
6th Yr. K. Cassidy	6LC	S. Moylan	5E
7th Yr. J. Duffy	7SB	D. Finnegan	6SC
		P. McKavanagh	7LA
		C. Nellis	2F
		J. Garland	3F
		P. Sullivan	4A
		D. Connolly	5F
		P. Campbell	6SB
		B. McCarthy	7LA
			18.45m New Record
			24.0m
			24.1m
			24.61m
			25.82m
			31.33m
Pole Vault 4th Yr. D. Thompson 4G			
5th Yr. D. Connolly	5A	A. Flanagan	4A
6th Yr. J. Morgan	6LC	M. Hamilton	6LD
7th Yr. M. Morgan	7LB	P. Donnelly	7SA
		D. Mulholland	4G
		P. Cummings	6SB
		D. Doherty	7SC
			Height
			1.50m
			1.50m
			1.50m
			2.50m

In the South Antrim District Championships eight places were gained in the Ulster Championship Finals at Shaw's Bridge. These were:-

800m S. Dunne (Senior) 1st in a time of 2 min 4.9 secs
 1500m S. Dunne (Senior) 2nd in a time of 4 min 26.6 secs
 5000m Michael Sheridan (Senior) 3rd in a time of 16 mins 47.8 secs
 Steeplechase Tim McCarthy (Inter) 2nd in a time of 4 min 51.2 secs
 100m D. McAneney (Junior) 1st in a time of 12.3 secs
 Long Jump D. McAneney (Junior) 1st at a distance of 5m 31cms
 High Jump P. McKinney (Senior) 1st at a height of 1.88m
 High Jump E. McKenna (Senior) 2nd at a height of 1.85m

Unfortunately due to civil unrest in the city the Inter C.B.S. Sports were postponed twice and eventually had to be cancelled.

Mr. J. Lally

MACARONI WESTERNS INC.
PRESENT...

**THE GOOD,
THE BAD AND
THE DOWNRIGHT 'ORRIBLE!**

(OR "A FISTFUL OF DINNER-TICKETS!")

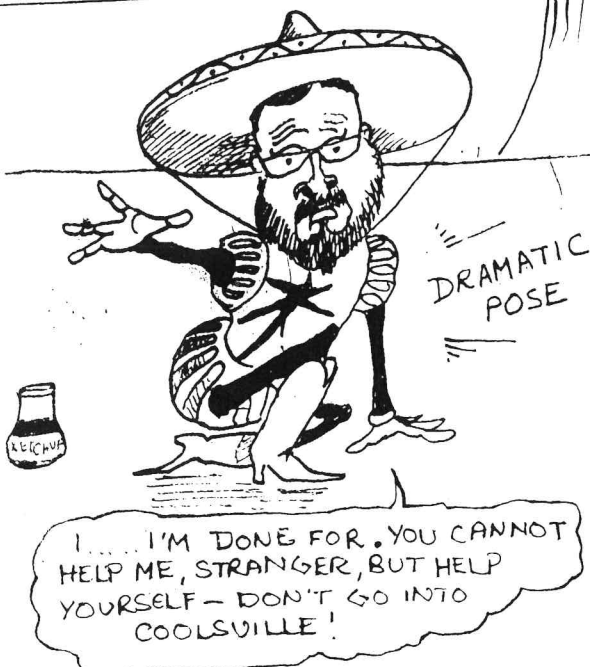
STARRING... **CLINT CAMPWOOD AND
LEE VAN BENNY**
(AMONG OTHERS!)

OUR SAGA BEGINS IN THE ARIZONA DESERT, WHERE THE MAN WITH NO NAME IS APPROACHING THE TOWN OF COOLSVILLE.

ACTUALLY, THE MAN WITH NO NAME HAS BEEN CALLED BY MANY NAME'S.....

.... BUT NONE OF THEM ARE PRINTABLE!!

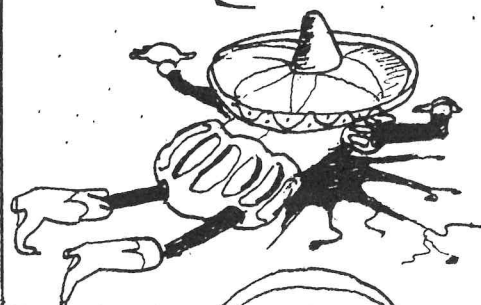
SUDDENLY HE COMES UPON THE MAYOR OF COOLSVILLE....



AS THE MAYOR DIES, HIS LAST WORDS ARE OMINOUS.

BEWARE....

BEWARE BLACK BENNY!



THE STRANGER, HOWEVER, CONTINUES ON HIS WAY (PRESUMABLY HE IS EITHER DEAF OR JUST STUPID!)

GOD, THESE CHERROOTS STINK!



SUDDENLY.....

SIGNOR! SIGNOR!

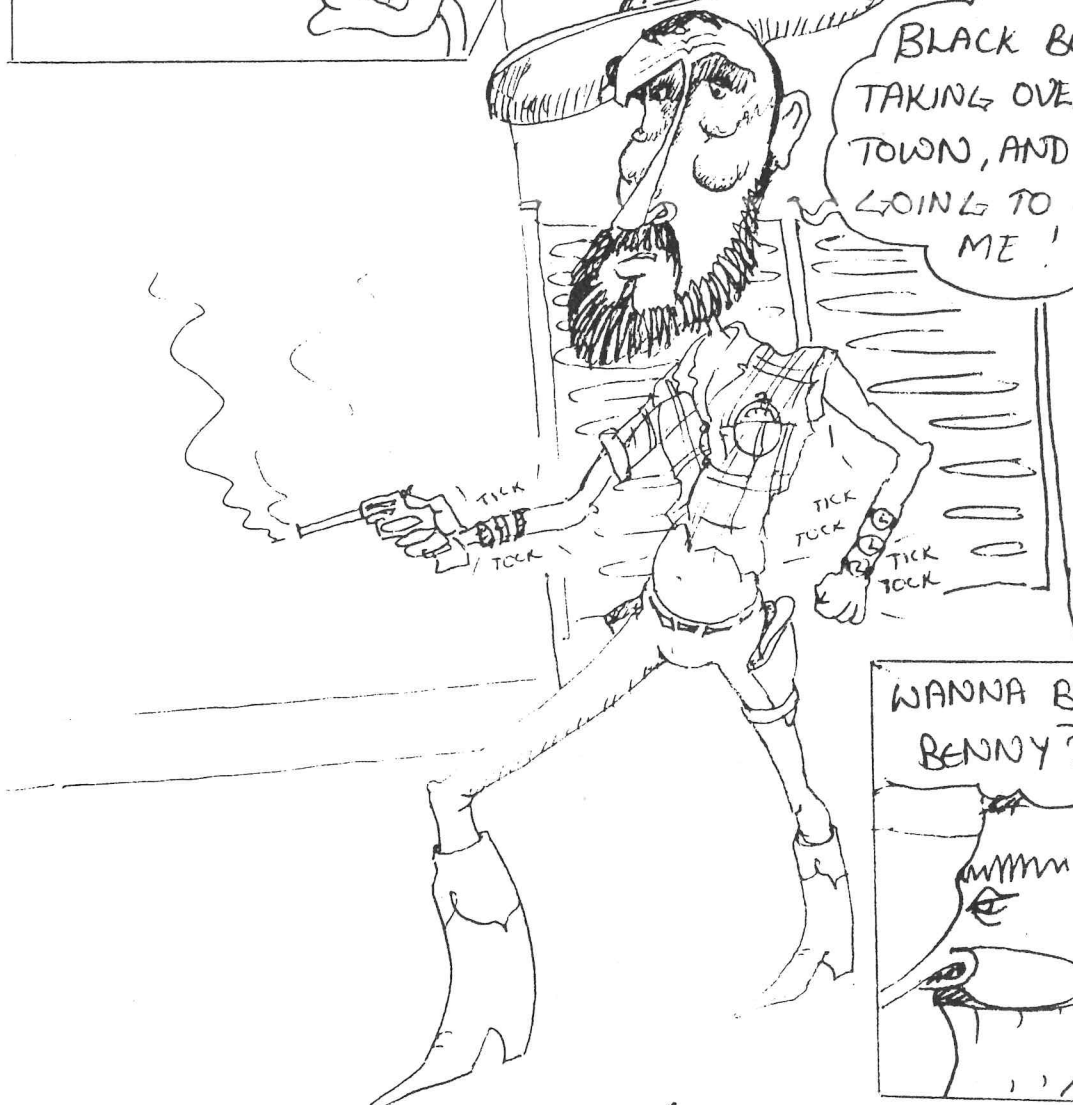
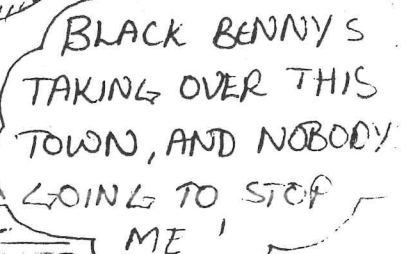
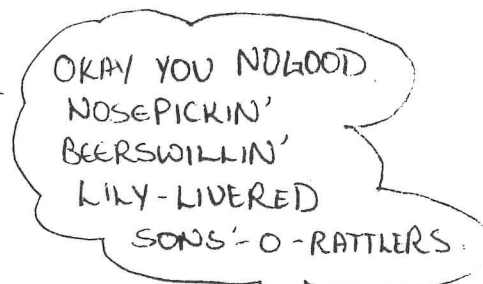


MEANWHILE, IN A SALOON IN COOLSVILLE.....





BUT SUDDENLY...



TO BE CONTINUED.....



"Transport of Delight" — (Polystyrene) Life-size.

B. Carabine

CHARITY

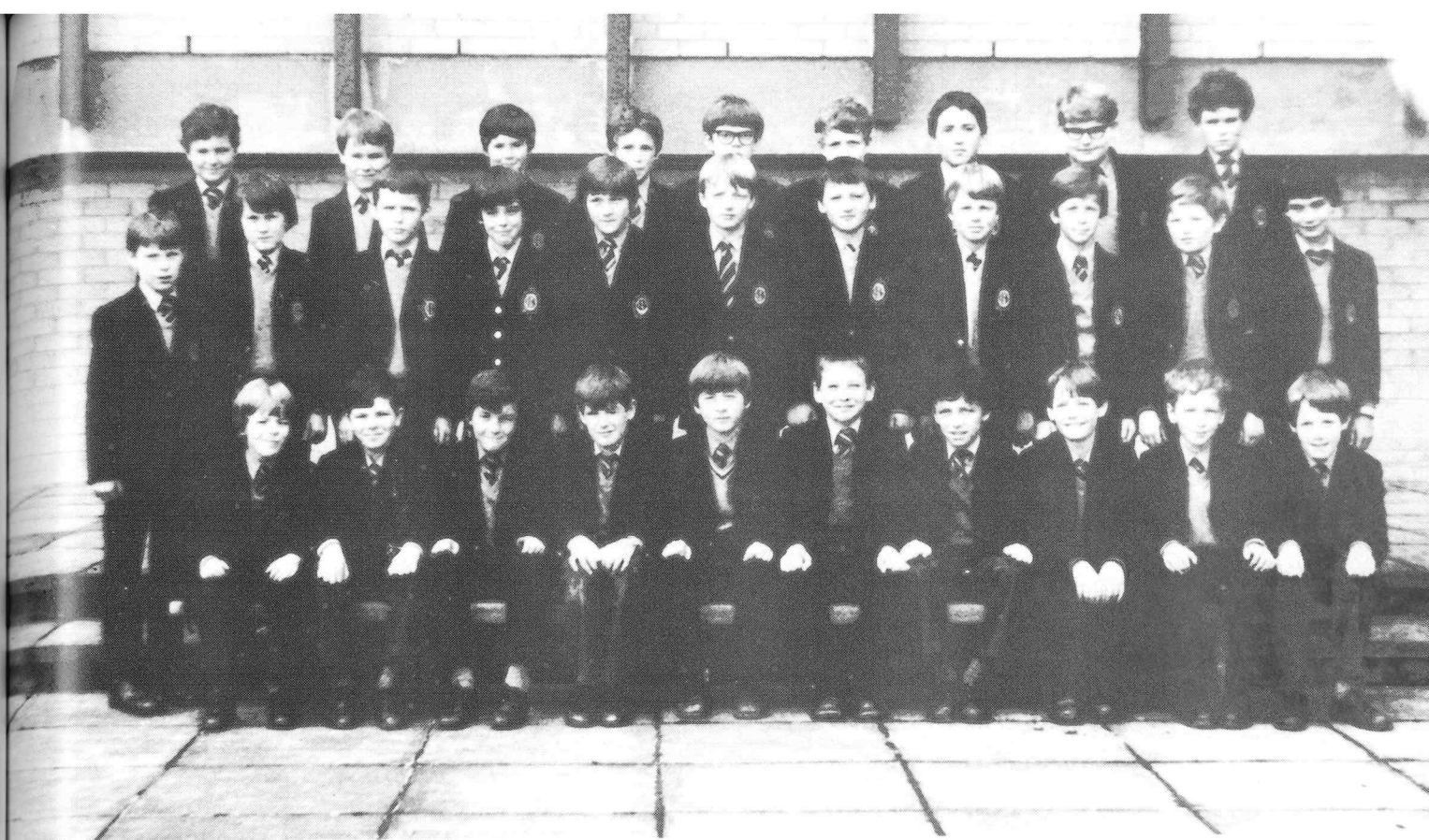
The Second Commandment is like to this —
'Love thy neighbour as thyself!'

Over the years the staff and students of St. Mary's have shown their generosity, to worthy causes.

During the school year 1980-81 a total of £8,882 was raised by various means. Among the charities helped from this sum were:

- (a) The Education of a Kenyan girl.
- (b) The Haemophiliac Society.
- (c) The Christian Brothers Mission schools in Zambia and India.
- (d) The Irish Handicapped childrens pilgrimage fund — (to bring disadvantaged children to Lourdes).
- (e) Save the Children Fund.
- (f) Muckamore Abbey.
- (g) Christmas parcels for Senior Citizens in the neighbourhood.

Class Photos 1981 - 1982



CLASS 1A

Front Row: G. Clark, R. Heenan, M. Hayes, D. Harris, J. Dunbar, P. Conlon, J. Cairns, J. Copeland, P. Doyle, N. O'Neill.
Middle Row: D. Black, B. Flannagan, B. Adams, C. Canavan, J. Kennedy, A. Davey, C. Donaghy, P. Gough, B. Friel, A. Browne, E. Dobbin.
Back Row: T. Corscadden, F. Fox, S. Hamilton, D. Doherty, A. Cunningham, S. Grant, G. Creaney, P. McCormick, T. Ferran.

CLASS 1B

Front Row L. Linton, G. McConnell, P. McDade, C. Kelly, M. Doherty, C. Ward, L. Hyland, P. Davey, G. Kennedy, D. Haughey.
Middle Row M. Lappin, T. McGuinness, B. Hughes, B. Armstrong, K. McGoran, P. McGowan, P. McMahon, S. McGibbon, P. McCarry, K. O'Neill, R. McKenna.
Back Row S. McCann, G. McCormick, A. McGarry, S. Malone, J. B. Gibson, B. Lennon, M. Maloney, P. Kinnaird, G. Hyland.





CLASS 1C

- Front Row* A. Mooney, D. Walsh, A. Grant, M. O'Doherty, R. McVeigh, D. Napier, T. Spence, B. O'Brien, E. Nesson, N. Morgan.
- Middle Row* T. McCormick, D. Mulholland, C. McCann, G. Quinn, M. Meehan, B. O'Loan, C. O'Neill, P. Hepple, P. O'Hanlon, P. McConnell, C. O'Donnell.
- Back Row* K. McQuillan, D. McKenna, A. Nethercott, P. McCoy, P. Maxwell, A. Pendleton, Denis Rogan, O. McMahon.

CLASS 1D

- Front Row* P. Lowry, P. McCambridge, F. Rogers, C. Sheppard, M. Fegan, J. Keenan, M. McKenna, T. McLeish, C. Rooney, F. Walker.
- middle Row* S. McKeever, S. Rogan, E. Mulholland, J. O'Neill, P. Jordan D. MacGlinchey, G. Boyle, G. Turley, C. Toner.
- Back Row* K. Ritchie, G. Hughes, R. Grehan, P. Savage, E. Armstrong, R. Thompson, P. Matassa.





CLASS 1E

Front Row J. Kelly, D. Killen, K. Collins, K. Fanning, G. Ferris, P. Kerr, G. Conlon, P. Burns.
Middle Row D. O'Neill, C. Coyle, J. Connolly, P. Copeland, M. Dougan, P. Lindsay, J. Begley.
Back Row R. Madden, J. McCartney, P. Ireland, D. Donnelly, V. Corrigan, P. McAllister, P. McCafferty.

CLASS 1F

Front Row D. Steele, M. Leith, P. Allen, J. Donnelly, M. McParland, D. O'Neill, J. McGuigan, C. McPhilips.
Middle Row T. Pendleton, C. McCaffrey, S. Tate, B. McKnight, S. Wallace, K. Murphy, S. Muldoon, G. Quinn.
Back Row M. Mohan, C. McIntyre, P. Nolan, P. McCormick, G. Connolly, S. Rooney, S. Toner.





CLASS 2A

Front Row M. Cregan, A. Smith, G. Rice, J. McMorrow, J. McLaughlin, J. Rogers, E. Mallon, G. Maguire, B. Martin, R. McKillen.
Middle Row P. Heery, J. McGrory, J. Lynch, M. Preshaw, T. Lagan, P. McSherry, D. Bradley, P. Grant, S. Cavanagh, C. Brankin, C. MacManus.
Back Row P. O'Neill, P. Dixon, M. McSherry, M. MacManus, M. Walsh, A. Lismore, D. Magill, B. McGorry, K. McGann.

CLASS 2B

Front Row L. Marchan, F. Zubier, G. Lowe, H. Fitzsimmons, P. Misteil, J. McCarthy, D. Hyland, M. McAlea, J. McBriarty.
Middle Row P. Timmons, M. McLaughlin, H. Gribbon, F. Grant, S. McParland, S. Blaney, B. Friel, P. Murphy.
Back Row R. Lowry, A. Doherty, S. Robinson, G. McCarry, M. Cormican, S. Brophy, P. Keavery, T. M. Ervyn, N. Todd.



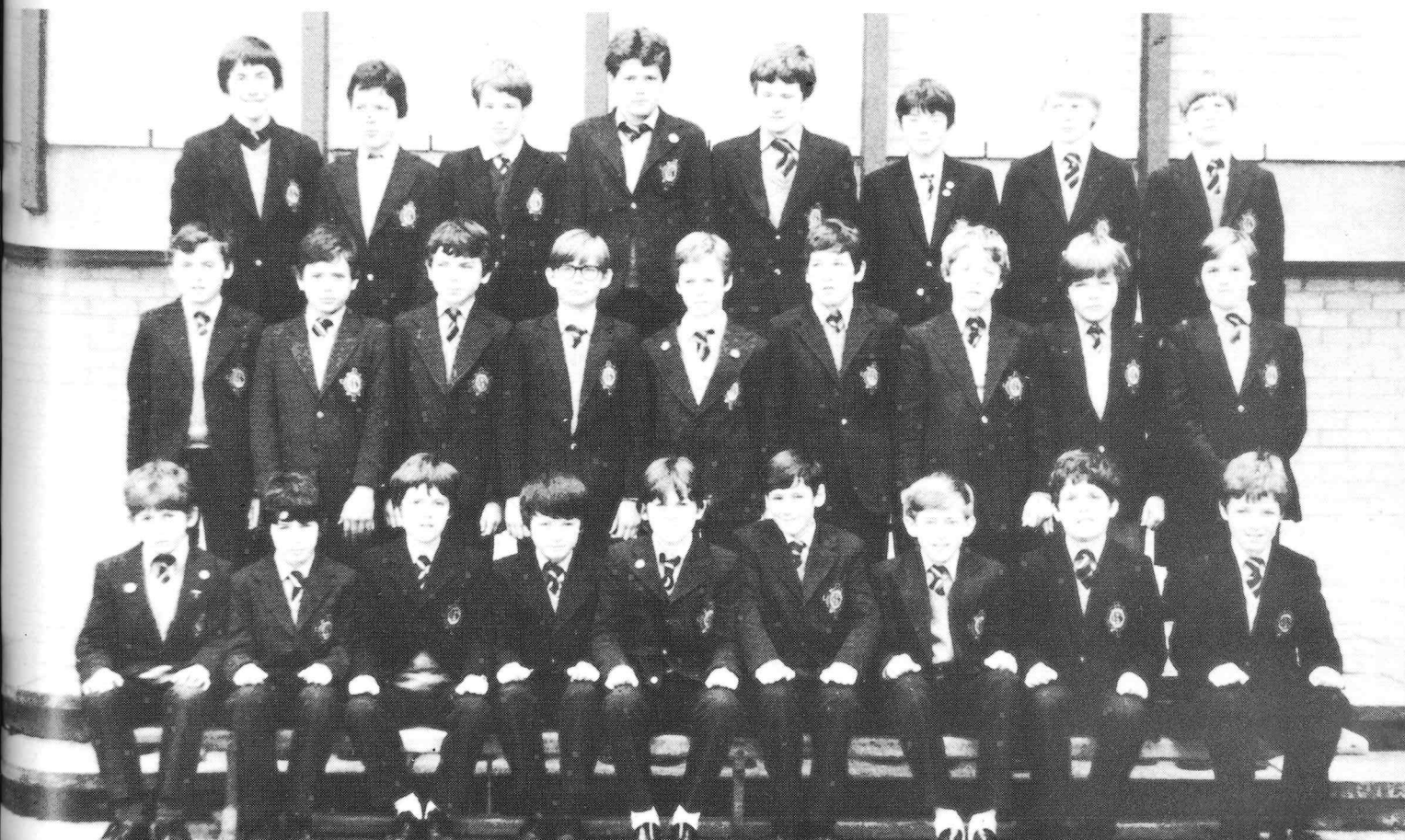


CLASS 2C

Front Row S. O'Doherty, B. Hynes, R. Hamill, S. McMahon, S. Burns, M. Donnelly, D. Lowry, T. Quinn, G. Lynch, R. McKegney, P. McDonagh.
Middle Row M. McCague, B. Gough, J. Magilton, J. Auld, K. McParland, D. Adams, A. Beare, C. Farnan, C. Rice, C. Armstrong.
Back Row B. Johnston, P. Brady, G. Davey, C. Devlin, M. Burns, D. McAllister, J. McAlevey, G. Boyce, J. Murphy.

CLASS 2D

Front Row P. Notman, J. Keane, F. Larkin, C. Monaghan, J. McAlister, M. Shevlin, D. Rogers, J. Giles.
Middle Row F. Gough, J. McCullough, S. Fitzpatrick, J. Doherty, F. Holden, D. McAllister, N. McKenna, C. McGreevy, S. Galbraith.
Back Row M. Crawford, D. Fairley, J. Turner, M. Boylan, F. Corscadden, S. Smyth, T. Love, J. McClean, S. Grieve.





CLASS 2E

Front Row A. Linton, B. Austin, G. Lynch, J. Magill, F. Stacey, B. Carson, J. Corr, E. Kelly.
Middle Row S. MacAindreasa, P. Maguire, D. Davidson, T. Park, S. Doran, F. Mitchell, D. Toner, J. McCarry, P. Cunningham.
Back Row P. McCabe, G. McGibben, G. McCleary, C. O'Kane, C. Hogg, M. MacAinmhire, J. McGuinness, M. Pettigrew, A. McBride, C. Campbell.

CLASS 2F

Front Row A. McCabe, B. McDonald, F. Gallagher, R. McCallen, E. Donnelly, J. Lynn, F. Maginn, S. McCafferty.
Middle Row E. Teague, J. Hillis, J. McGreevy, A. Collins, J. Campbell, E. Gallagher, M. Caldwell, F. McKeown, L. Monaghan, D. Ferris.
Back Row J. Loughran, P. Marshall, C. Sheehan, D. O'Brien, G. Webb, K. McCann, D. Robinson, H. Cosgrove, D. O'Neill.





CLASS 3A

Front Row
Middle Row
Back Row

P. Burns, G. Kennedy, J. McGowan, K. Gilmore, D. Mooney, E. McKenna, M. Burns, E. Sinclair, C. McGarrity,
B. McErlean, J. Huston, S. Finnegan, J. Donnelly, S. Brennan, C. Gough, S. Savage, G. Mulhall, P. Thornton,
M. Donaldson, B. James, M. Burke, J. Shepherd, M. Breslin, M. McKenna, E. Burns, J. Gilmore,
J. Gallagher, J. Hagan.

CLASS 3B

Front Row
Middle Row
Back Row

T. McCoy, S. Ferguson, L. Burke, C. Crozier, C. Ritchie, J. O'Hara, K. Teague, M. Hamill,
D. Nugent, P. McClean, A. McAleenan, P. Hughes, A. Trainor, J. Carlin, R. Gamble, P. Molloy, P. Larkin,
J. McGuinness, G. Lynn, E. McGurk, W. Tiernan, P. Walsh, S. Jordan, L. Donnelly, G. McKeever, F. McCartan.





CLASS 3C

Front Row C. J. Morgan, A. Friel, G. Marley, D. J. Hawkins J. M. McCallum, H. M. Maher, K. P. Dynan, R. H. Finnegan, P. M. Smith.
Middle Row M. Diver, R. Milligan, A. Gordon D. J. Woods, J. J. Hawkins, J. McWilliams, M. O. Kelly, D. T. McCrory, P. S. McLean, U. Matassa.
Back Row M. Murray, C. B. McEvoy, K. Walls, M. P. Sinclair, P. A. Gardner, B. D. McGowan, T. McNiece, M. P. McCurry C. Heatley.

CLASS 3D

Front Row K. Scott, M. Mulholland, G. Armstrong, D. McKee, E. Cullen, D. Keenan, S. Mooney, R. Rice.
Middle Row L. Mulholland, D. McPoland, P. O'Neill, A. Darragh, D. Drain, J. Ewings, S. Tumelty, P. Greer, H. McDonald.
Back Row M. Hayes, A. Walsh, P. Hamilton, P. McGuigan, J. Trainor, E. Morris, P. McGahey, N. McDowell.





CLASS 3E

Front Row S. McCourt, S. Connor, N. Monaghan, B. Rice, M. Grant, J. Dobbin, M. Harris, S. Burgoyne, F. Cormican.
Middle Row B. Vaughan, M. McLaughlin, T. Lacey, D. McDonnell, M. Guiney, C. Nellis, D. Lenaghan, J. McDermott, J. Gilliland, A. Magee.
Back Row G. Ball, G. Kelly R. Thompson, G. Tallon, M. Mallon, P. Weir, P. Heatley, K. Magerr, S. McCrudden.

CLASS 3F

Front Row P. Wallace, S. Logan, S. Rooney, C. Hughes, J. Lynch, C. O'Brien, P. Barr, J. Murphy.
Middle Row R. Reilly, L. McLoughlin, P. Blake, P. Dorrian, C. Curley, G. O'Neill, P. McMenamin.
Back Row M. Donnelly, S. McIntyre, B. McCormick, D. Ferris, N. Stewart.





CLASS 3G

Front Row P. Robinson, C. O'Hare, F. Sewell, S. Lonsdale, M. Norton, E. Killen, V. Gormley, R. Duggan.
Middle Row R. McKnight, P. Campbell, P. Boyle, S. Vernon, J. McAteer.
Back Row P. Dunleavy, M. McDonald, P. McShane, M. Doherty.

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scampi - fillet of plaice or haddock or rainbow trout - roast meat - boiled ham - roast chicken - each dish garnished and served with chips at prices from 90p - £1.75.

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of*

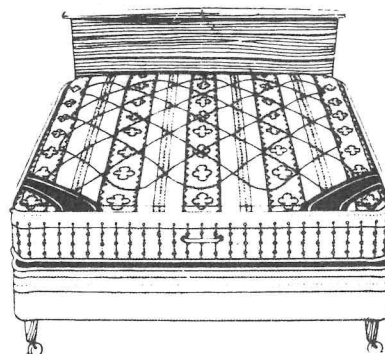
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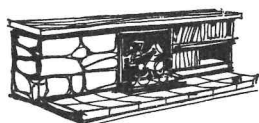
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- ★ *Door Viewers*
- ★ *Patio Door Locks*
- ★ *Wall Safes*

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Telephone: 51440

81 Berry Street, Belfast
Telephone: 29707



CLASS 4A

Front Row
Middle Row

P. Reid, C. Lafferty, C. Mulholland, J. McKeever, E. Mallon, E. Haughey, D. Hewitt, C. Tracey.
J. McAteer, K. Magowan, P. Harte, C. McGurk, C. MacAindreasan, A. Brennan, M. Maycock, D. McAneney,
D. Armstrong.

Back Row

G. McDonnell, C. McMahon, J. Carland, B. Walsh, K. Pelan, P. O'Brien, T. McCrudden, B. Morgan,
M. Flannigan.

CLASS 4B

Front Row
Middle Row
Back Row

S. McGrogan, K. Doherty, P. Smith, C. Shannon, M. Gallagher, T. McCabe, D. Finnegan.
A. Ferguson, M. Hamill, D. McDowell, J. Rooney, M. Salters, A. Quinn, P. Murchan, T. McAuley.
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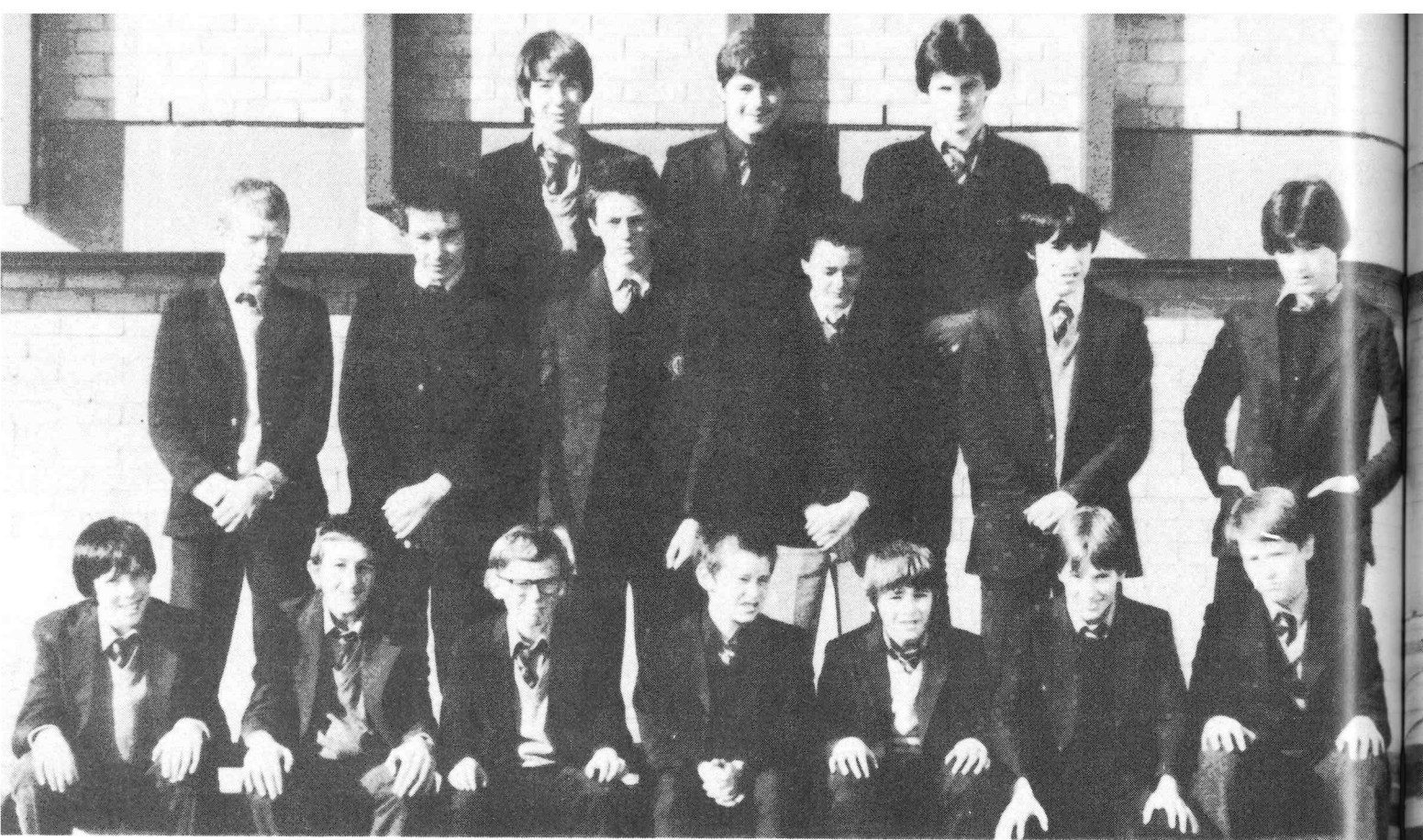
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Middle Row
Back Row

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P. Curran, D. Wallace, C. Boyle, P. Brown, J. Cormican, P. Teer, B. McLarnon.
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Back Row C. McKegney, S. Willoughby, F. McCotter, F. Mohan, C. McMenemy, J. Glackin.





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Back Row M. Cullen, G. McKernan, F. McCaffrey, M. McIlvenny, E. Overend, O. Muldoon, D. O'Neill.

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Back Row M. Spence, M. Grist, J. Reilly, M. Gribbon, C. Barr, P. Hayes, D. Woodhouse.





CLASS 6SA

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Back Row P. Cavanagh, J. Conlon, N. Johnston, P. Devlin, S. Muldoon, M. Murphy, S. Gordon, D. Hanna, J. Catney.

CLASS 6SB

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Back Row M. Cummings, A. Hillan, D. Thornton, K. Kilfeather, D. McBrien, S. Farrell, D. Brady, S. Mulvenna, L. Smart.





CLASS 6SC

Front Row D. Connolly, F. Woods, M. Callaghan, P. McStravick, M. Brownlee, E. Gaskin, M. McCoy, F. Graham.
Back Row D. McConnell, J. Martin, P. Devlin, D. Magill, M. Bell, D. Roberts, J. Carson.

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Middle Row M. McKavanagh, G. Fitzpatrick, S. Caldwell, M. Burns, P. Magee, E. Hamill, K. McErlane.
Back Row A. Greenwood, P. Clarke, R. Cregan, M. Muldoon, H. O'Hare.





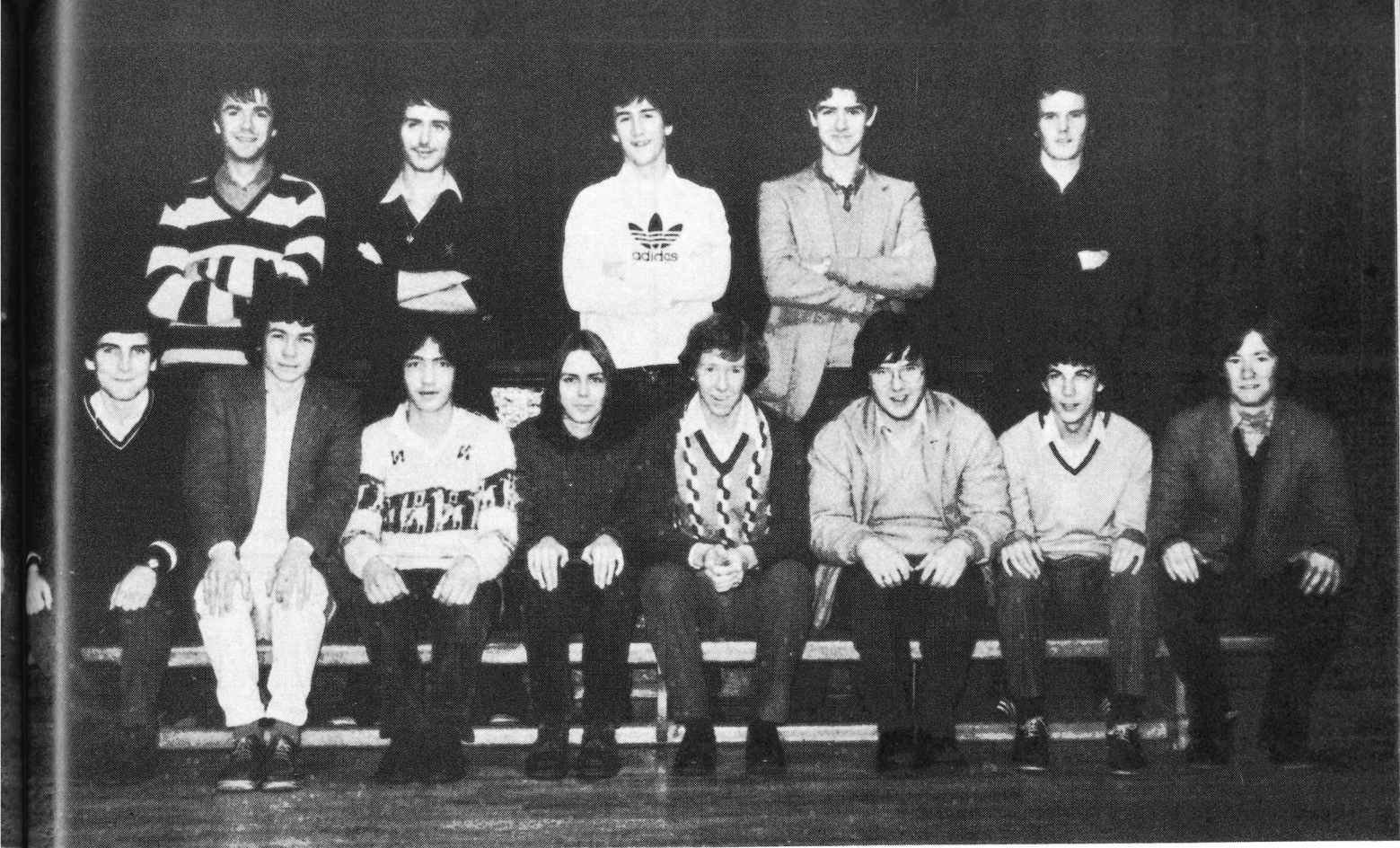
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CLASS 7LD

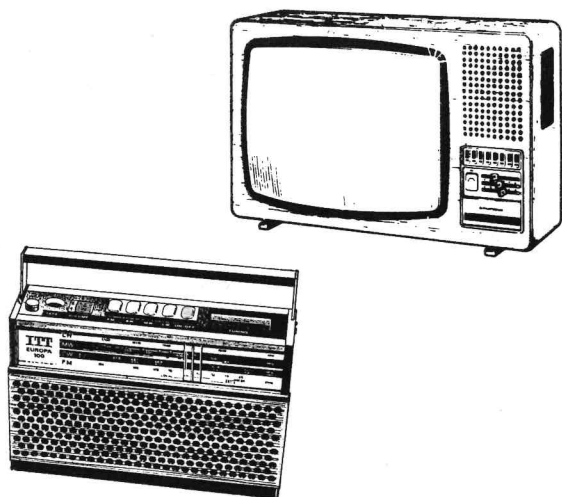
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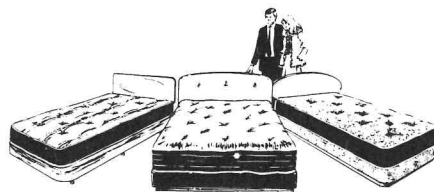
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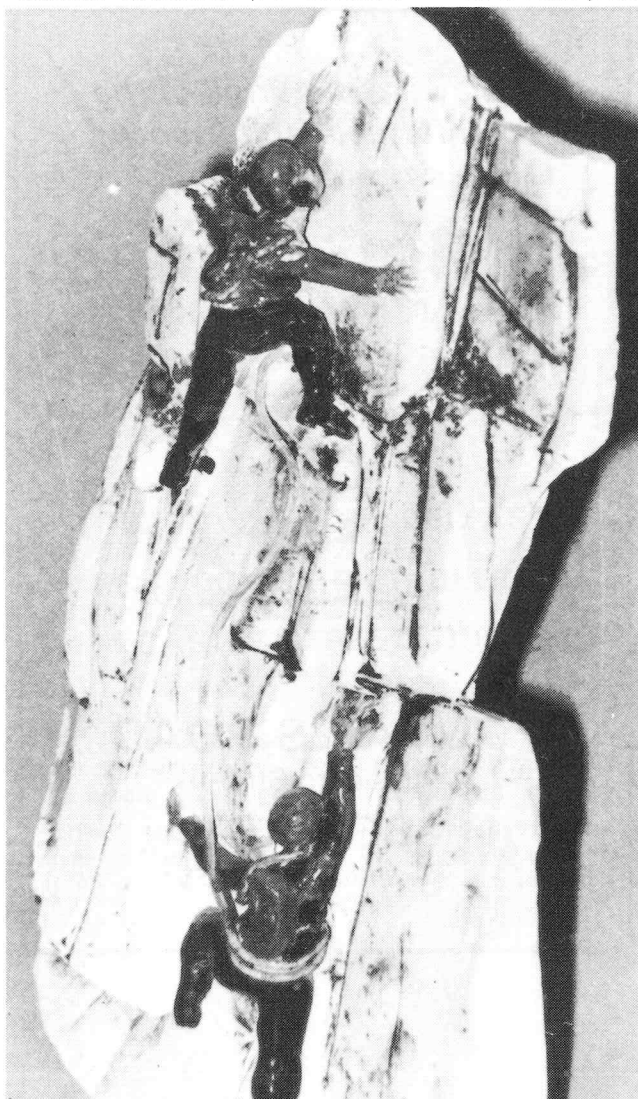
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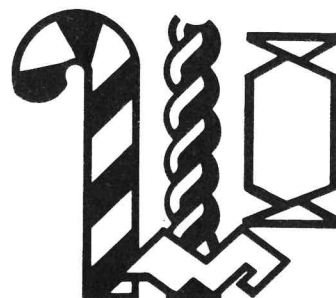
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Muckamore activity

Every Sunday at noon a group of sixth and seventh years travels the eighteen miles to Muckamore Abbey in the school minibus. They go there to do voluntary work with the patients and alleviate some of the work-load of the nursing staff.

Muckamore Abbey is a hospital for the physically and mentally handicapped, and whose patients range from one one year old to late seventies. The idea of the voluntary group was started some five years ago. The small group of seniors responsible for this aimed at having a group of average size but with the utmost determination and dedication which would do the job without complaints. We certainly strive towards that goal. As already stated, the residents are both physically and mentally handicapped, but a very sad fact about a great number of them is that they are neglected—indeed, often forgotten by their own families and relations. The work is genuinely rewarding and worth while. Most volunteers would agree that one can become very attached to many of the residents. One of the great things about this group within the school is that it does not infringe on one's studies. This is a once-a-week sacrifice of free time for mentally handicapped people. It has been the custom that a similar group

of volunteers go from St. Dominic's. This has been an invaluable asset, particularly in relation to the broad spectrum of work we can undertake out there. The girls work very well with all, but particularly the more extrovert female patients.

Six hours on a Sunday is a small price to pay for the satisfaction one gets from visiting Muckamore. We pleased both patients and staff with the cheque of over £500 for the Abbey from the R.A.Y. group. Two of the three walkers are also volunteers.

Thankfully, interest in the group is now widespread in the senior school. Indeed, with this upsurge of interest there has been much exchanging of ideas and opinions. As in most voluntary organizations there has been a difference of opinion, but that is only a sign of the zest and dedication within. The fact that this organization is solely pupil run gives scope for freedom of speech and the use of initiative. There can be no doubt that things have been much more vivacious and serious than in recent years. The most important thing is that the welfare and care of the residents in the Abbey is kept foremost.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the senior pupils involved for their help and suggestions; also those members of staff who so generously gave their Sunday afternoons to drive us both to and from Muckamore. We are very grateful to you all.

KIERAN McERLANE (6LA)
JOE McDONALD (7LC)

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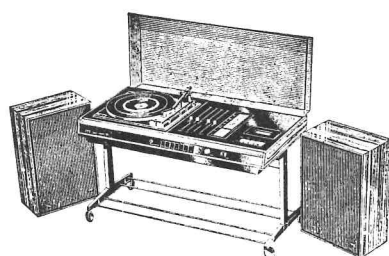
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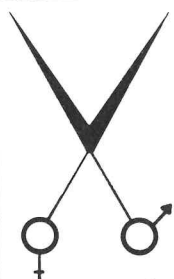
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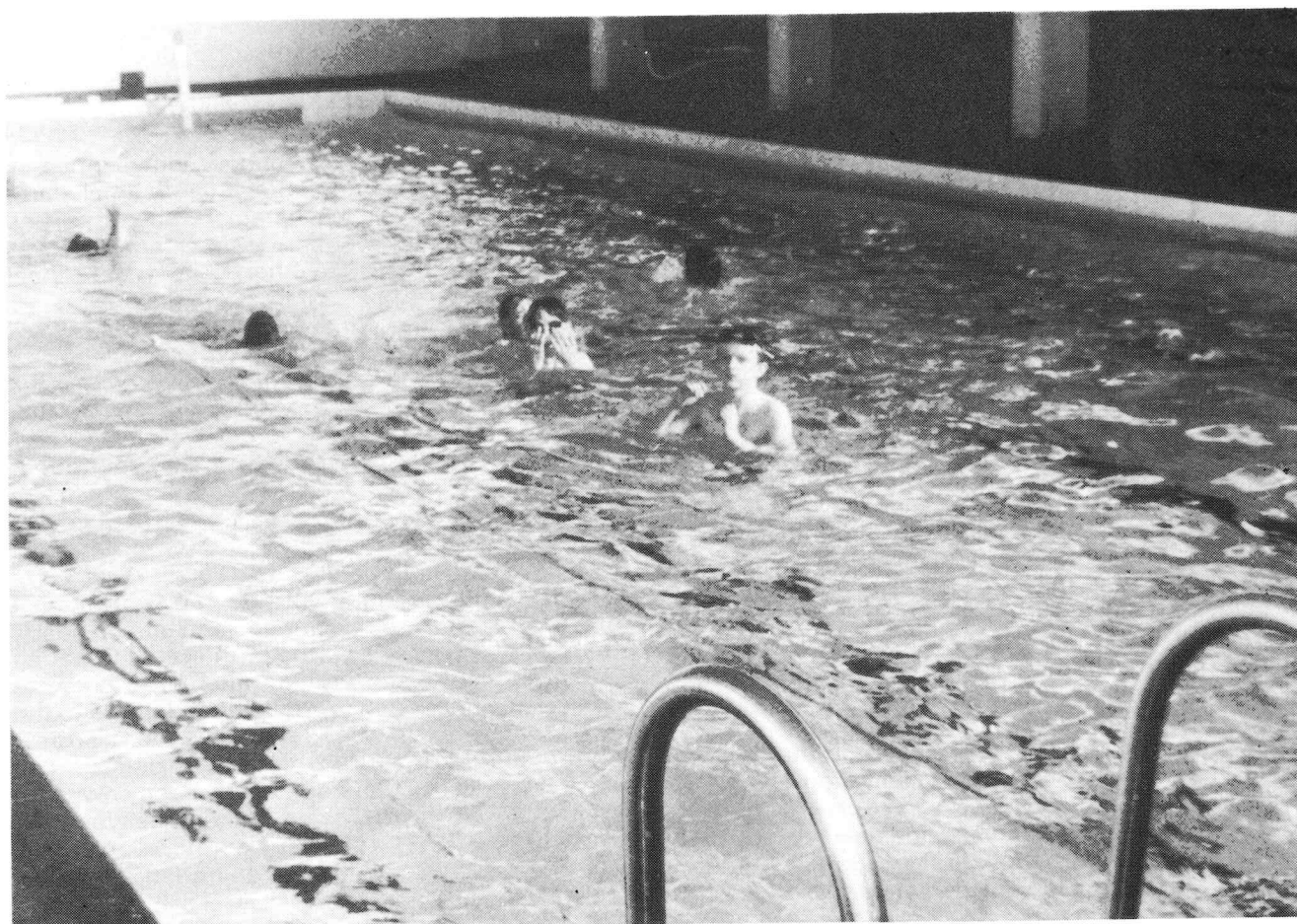
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Some junior boys having swimming instruction in the school pool.



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IMPRESSIONS OF THE LAST SEVEN YEARS

'Impressions of the last seven years' begins with an explanation; it is not a record of the 'important' events in St. Mary's recent history; it is not an iconoclastic expose — if it was, it wouldn't be published and my vanity exceeds any desire for investigative journalism — it is a selection of vivid, personal memories, which attempts to evoke the experiences of one St. Mary's student during seven years of

First year is amusing — in retrospect. The most important objective on one's first day is to assume an air of lordly omniscience; the person who can tell you, "Bro. Jennings is form-master of X class, Room H, is below the Assembly Hall" is wise indeed, looked up to by his classmates and detested intensely. This knowledge, however, can be replaced, by knowing (or giving the appearance of knowing) many people. Calling out cheerily, 'take a seat, Billy!' to someone one hasn't seen in years, is one way of avoiding the fear of being alone in an overtly hostile place. The prospect of being educated as 'a Christian gentleman' (as outlined in the headmasters welcoming speech), made the prospect of pagan serfdom suddenly very attractive.

The year when badness comes out in boys' as second year was so ominously hailed. The repeated warnings we received might have led one to expect a babylonian excess of vice, depravity and copied homeworks. With the exception of the latter category for which accurate figures are unavailable, the year, exploded with two (or was it three?) stink bombs and one case of "misappropriation of the teacher's (female) strap". It is pleasing to have to relate that these outrages did not require a major re-structuring of internal security. The decadence feared by the editorial boards of 'Ireland's Own' and 'Our Boys' was ever present especially, or so I thought, during that subject described in the timetable as Music (Oh injured muse!). The walls of the music room, apart from being graced with those mezzotints which give Mozart and Beethoven the appearance of over-fed cherubs, were punctuated at intervals with photographs of an earlier school choir which had won several important competitions, several years previously. When I looked at the photographs of these immaculate choirs ("These boys touched my soul" is the phrase the adjudicator is reported to have used on one occasion) and looked at or listened to, the present effort, I knew something had gone wrong — it wasn't even a question of attempting the subtleties of Palatrina's Vespers, out of a simple inability to sing 'The Sash My Father Wore' — although I realise now that this inability may have been congenital and cannot reflect on the qualities of the music teachers, who would have been welcomed at Urbino, had they been born during the renaissance — as no doubt they often wished they had.

Examinations characterized the third year in St. Mary's, to a greater extent than any other year, except, of course, the years of 'official' exams. R.E., however, avoided the tensions evident in the other subjects, as witnessed by an attempt at spontaneous prayer, which produced "Dear Lord, We pray for John Frazer, whose shop was bombed and now has to sell his goods at ridiculously low prices". Barely stifled laughter rather than fervent prayer for Mr. Frazer

was the result, and the attempts ceased soon afterwards.

The fourth year was, in spite of official pronouncements to the contrary, a lazy year, which passed quickly in illicit efforts to shed the remaining vestiges of the school uniform. The fifth ('O' Level) year, I remember mainly by exams, sunshine and worry-worry caused by experiences like having laughed uproariously at one of the examiners jokes, during the Irish conversation test, to discover later that I was asked how I should rescue someone who fell into the school swimming pool.

After harrowing experiences of this nature, one entered sixth year; the year of timetable confusion, no fixed classrooms, and the R.A.Y. group. For those who have not yet heard of this organisation or, more importantly, of its unique character in the school, a short study is necessary. The R.A.Y. group was established in the school by J. F. Larkin in October/November 1979. It is still (May 1981) in existence. I have heard the R.A.Y. group described as 'the new Prometheus' by enthusiastic young litterati, I have also heard it described in terms which are hardly printable. The R.A.Y. Prayer runs as follows "For your sake (God's), for the sake of my family and friends, for my own sake, I promise to abstain from alcoholic drink until I am 18/21 years of age". In practise this is a sacred preamble to a period of intrigue and knavery so professional as to make Caesare Borgia seem merely an illadjusted adolescent. Who needs drink anyway, when one can savour the excitement, the tension, the thrill of wondering whether the latest committee meeting has caused the removal of someones name from that list of those divinely favoured, the milk-bar rota. The President of this sinister body (Richelieu) was powerless in the face of the scheming of the wily capuchin, l'emminence grise, pere Joseph, who in the course of a long and varied reign engineered the deposal of one P.R.O. one Treasurer, one Secretary, and, at a conservative estimate, three presidents. The influence of the hearty friar was even rumoured to have extended beyond R.A.Y. circles, skilled observers attribute this to an invectious bonhomie, an incontestable skill at plotting and an ample girth which certain female teachers are reputed to find attractive. Rumours that his reverence was responsible for the bad weather at last years school sports are entirely unfounded.

Those interested in the cyclic theory of history will note with approval how 'worry' makes a reappearance in seventh year. Sixth year passed without any trace of this insidious enemy, except possibly during the last additional maths lesson, when it was too late anyway. In contrast seventh year is (or was? At the end of May '81 it's difficult to decide) a year of worry; at times, particularly severe, at times, quite mild. Seventh year is also . . . more enjoyable. It usually begins with a flurry of extra curricular activity in Sept/Oct an educational equivalent of "the condemned man ate a hearty breakfast. "This year saw the birth of 'the Debating Literary, and Arts Society', an attempt to create a popular movement which would bring culture to the barren wastes of the Glen Road. This year also saw its premature, but entirely predictable demise. The seeds of its destruction had already been sown in a period of post (6th year) exam exuberance when the treasurer drank the financial resources. Nevertheless the D.L.A. limped on until the U.C.C.A. forms had been finished, and several people had had

the opportunity to describe their positions of responsibility in any one of a number of groups and societies, U.C.C.A. forms, provide interesting examples of half-truths or at best of truths which have been highly varnished — I heard of someone who played drums in a small professionally amateurish rock band describe himself as "an experienced percussionist, a member of a group of progressive musicians".

The ability to cover a dreary reality with a gleaming appearance is seen at best advantage in the 'A' Level conversation tests. One is instructed never to reply in monosyllables, to answer in a sentence or more, and to be inventive above all else. Following these precepts dutifully one ought to answer "have you ever been to Munich?" with "No, but I've read, 'Also Sprach Zarathustra' and find Nietzsche's thought very interesting". The result of this method can be imagined and should not be discussed in a period of civil unrest such as the last few weeks before the 'A' Levels.

It is customary to end articles of this nature with wistful sighs for some lost, golden past, for seven years, of bliss and for other inventions of the sentimentality industry, it is almost de rigueur to end with 'a piece of good advice' like "say your prayers" or "do some revision every night" or "join the R.A.Y. group". Avoiding these rules gives the impression either of churlishness or of a nauseating attempt at ingratiating oneself. The last seven years have been both interesting and valuable. I would not wish to repeat them.

J. LARKIN

ANSWERS

To Musical Quiz

The Specials & More Specials	6 The Jam
2 The Kinks	7 1955
3 Secret Affair	8 Abba
4 The Beatles	9 Elton John
5 Bad Manners	10 1977

To Chess Problem

Black plays Q – R8 check – mate!
White plays P x P en passant check-mate!

FOREVER TWILIGHT

*The bloodshot skies open,
And the sun screams morning over Belfast.
People awake into twilight,
Multitudinous minds decaying.
Heartbroken mothers kneel at insignificant graves,
Thousands remembered by a few.*

*A heaven sent voice is tasted but not consumed,
Logic defies as zero plus twelve equals zero.
Still the barbed wire puts
A crown of thorns on a crucified town.
And in the houses of the holy
The faces change, but the words remain the same.*

J. CALLAGHAN (5A)

Mrs. McQuillan with the victorious St. Mary's students at Belfast Festival 1981.



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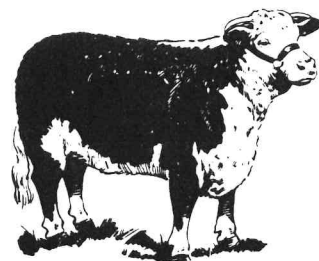
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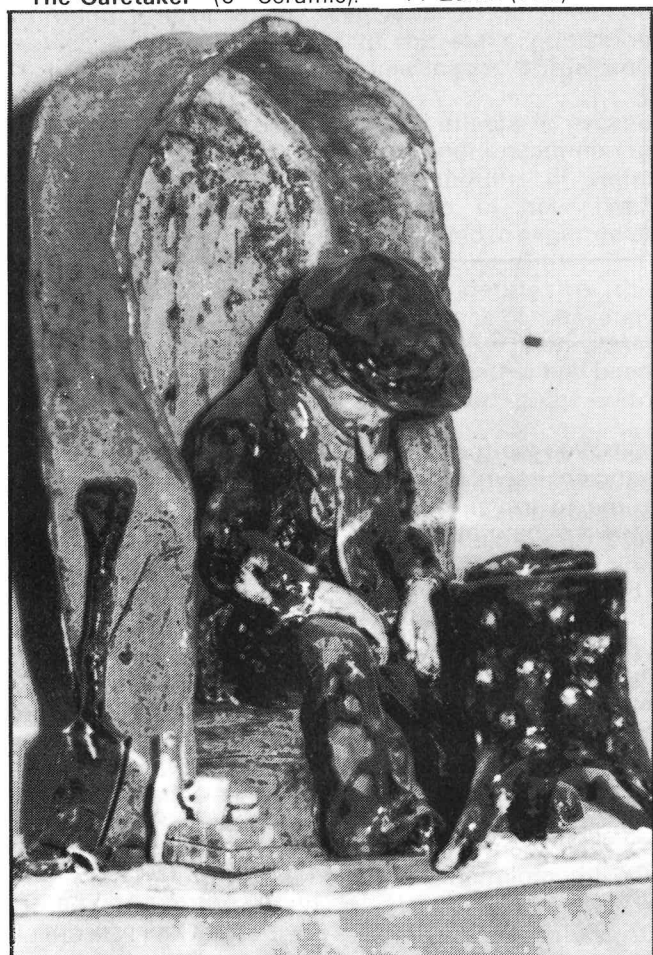
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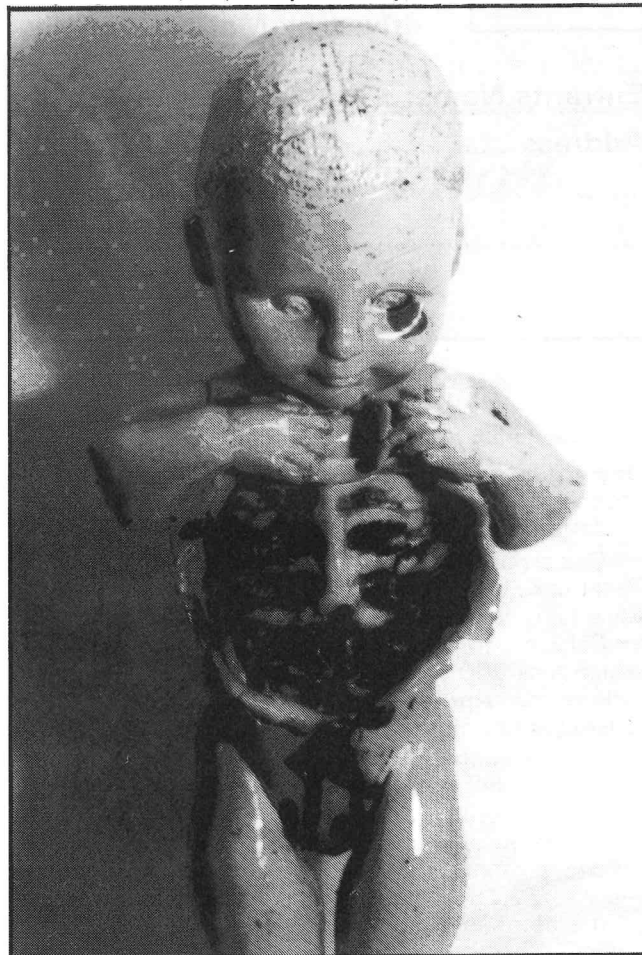
"Owl" (Ceramic, 18") B. Carabine

"The Caretaker" (6" Ceramic). P. Quinn (7LC)



Life-size head — Plaster of Paris. T. Notman

Ceramic Piece (10") "Surprise Surprise" M. Mooney (7SC)



COMPETITION

"Mileage"

In Mr. John Donnelly's article on the school trip to Lourdes he gave an account of the travelling involved. With the assistance of this map which traces the route taken by him we are asking you to estimate the precise number of miles he travelled from Glen Road, Belfast to Lourdes and back again. (Incidentally this was not a miraculous journey so John was not able to drive from Roslare to Le Havre or from Le Havre to Roslare!) We will award a book token of £5 to the entrant who submits the correct answer or the answer which is closest to the actual figure. In the event of two or more people submitting the correct or closest answer, the prize will be shared, School Staff or any of those people who participated in this trip are **NOT** eligible to enter for this competition.

Fill in the entry form below and send it to:

"Mileage" Competition

The Editor,

The Simmarian,

St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School,
Glen Road, Belfast. BT11 8NR

Closing date for entries is Friday 22nd January, 1982. The result will be announced on Monday, February 1st, 1982.

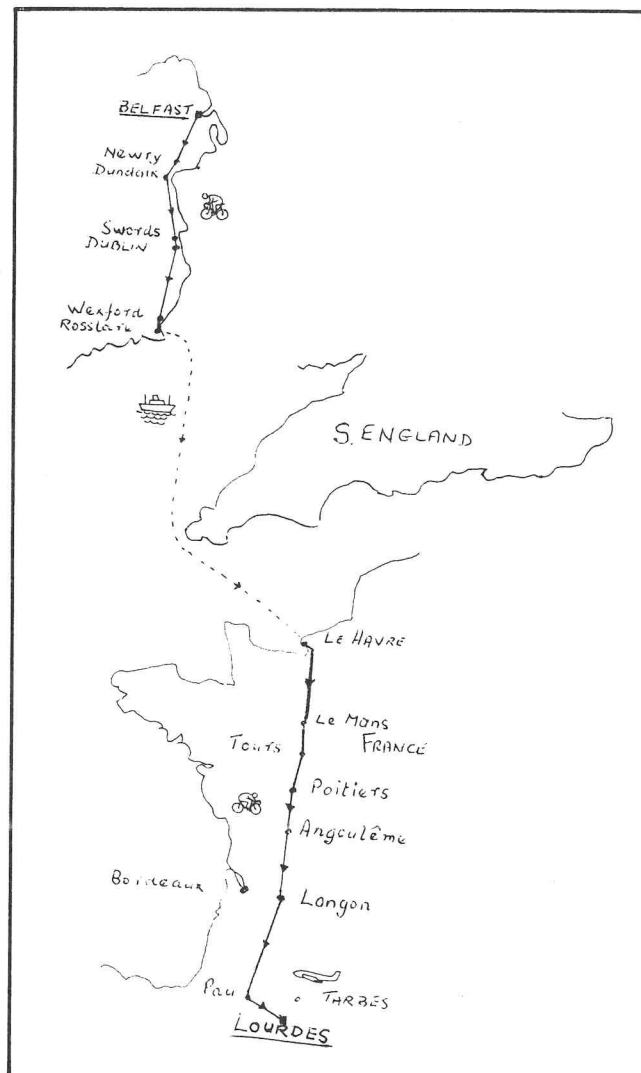
Estimated number of miles
driven by Mr. J. Donnelly.

Entrants Name:

Address

.....

.....



Continued from page 18.

One group stayed at the hotel proper and the other in another hotel about a mile and a half away. Accommodation and food at the hotel were first class.

Our programme was briefly as follows: April 17th - Visit to Koblenz (all shops were shut! - Good Friday); April 18th - Visit to Koblenz (all shops were open!); on to Cologne to visit the superb Gothic Cathedral, which took 600 years to complete, to have a general look round; April 19th - Visit to "Phantasialand," a "Disneyland" type amusement park near Bonn, which had such things as an "Old West" quarter and an "Old Berlin" quarter, a "Pirate Ship", "Tub Boats", a Roller-coaster, Viking ships and, of course, the usual restaurants and cafes. There were many other amusements, too numerous to mention. The entrance fee was £2.25, which entitled you to free access to all the amusements.

We also took a boat trip across the Rhine to the ancient town of Boppard, but unfortunately had no time to travel in the vineyard chair lift, one of the town's main attractions.

April 20th — Head for Belgium, back to Blankenberge, Calais, Dover, Stranraer, Belfast.

In general, I think it can be said that the trip was a very successful one. Everybody *seemed* to enjoy it and certainly the shopping and feeding facilities were used to the full. Presents and souvenirs galore were brought home—and some even brought money back as well! It has to be said that behaviour was very good indeed—there was no evidence of bad language, discontent or truculence. I would be very happy to go abroad again with the same party – I think that is the best compliment to be paid to any group.

THE GRUPPENFUHRER

THE LONELY GHOST

*"Is there not anyone that I can Scare?"
Said the lonely Ghost as he climbed the stairs,
But they all ran away, when they knew I was there,
"Why were they frightened, what did they fear?"*

*"It's a ghost's occupation to frighten and fright,
And glide through the air to say 'boo' in the night,
From the cleverest person, to Tom, the black cat,
They all know it's me that goes Rat, Tat, Tat".*

*"Maybe someday, someone else will move in,
And I won't make a racket or cause such a din,
I'll do my best to be a kind, friendly ghost—
Not scaring, upsetting or annoying my host".*

*So the ghost continued on his lonely way,
Looking for someone, with whom he could play,
But the only ones left in the crumbling old house,
Where the spiders and cobwebs and Jerry the mouse.*

H. Gribbon (2B)

THE SEASONS OF MORNING

*The stars disappear, one by one,
The darkness gives way to the rising sun,
The fluffy light clouds turn from grey into white—
All of these signs mark the end of the night.*

*The radiant ruby of the rising sun,
Lights the horizon with crimson glow,
The grass in the fields glistens with dew—
Now is the morning, born anew.*

*The sheep and the cows graze in the fields,
Birds search for worms, their young to feed,
The farmer, in his tractor, his fields he ploughs—
The morning is almost over now.*

*The sun is high in the azure sky,
Young lambs frolic in the verdant fields,
The farmer stops for his lunch at noon—
It is now not the morning but the afternoon.*

Gavin Boyle (2B)

By The River

The river's, once green banks were now parched by the summer sun which had been beating down on the whole countryside relentlessly for weeks on end. The once mighty river had been reduced to a mere trickle of sordid, muddy water. Long wiry weeds from the bottom of the river were clearly visible and it was impossible not to stop and ponder over how lucky these plants had been to survive such a devastating drought.

Nearby a huge wooden water wheel lay idle in the shade, it's massive wooden beams almost bone dry through lack of water. The parts of the river bed which had been exposed to the sun's punishing beating now resembled a meringue, brittle and cracked.

Nature's own creature's were unable to escape such a drought unaffected. It was not uncommon to find new-born animals at the mouths of setts. Somehow this reminded people of how their ancestors had sacrificed their own kind to pagan gods in such harsh and discordant times.

The rustic image of a slowly meandering river, the kingfisher skimming across the surface of the water, the occasional trout jumping and the lush, green vegetation encroaching upon bridal paths, had been shattered. In it's place was a deep gorge with bleached grass surrounding it.

Still the sun shines down and still animals suffer. In the nearby fields one would expect to find large expanses of green silage but all that can be seen is hay. Nothing short of a godsend would rectify that which had been put wrong. Moses had his staff and rock, today we have nothing.

Reflected through what little water there was left, the blue, cloudless sky looked attractive, in reality, though, it meant the hardship of both humans and wild creatures alike. Moles, badgers and others had been dying either through thirst or diseases contracted through drinking stagnant and dirty water. No animal could escape the unmerciful 'claws' of the drought.

And still the words of the weather forecast echoed through my mind 'It's going to be another hot, dry day in all parts of the country.'

P. Shearer 4D

LEGION OF MARY

In a little over 50 years the Legion of Mary, founded in Dublin, has spread throughout most countries of the world. Its aim is to honour our Mother Mary by special prayers and by giving a helping hand to those in need. The boys in our school branch call to see the old folk in Beechmount and help with the meals, etc., in the Morning Star hostel for the down-and-outs.

Recently, some seniors have shown an interest in helping the sick and the social outcasts. Please God, this interest will continue and develop, but we need more helpers, junior and senior. Why not you?

"As long as you did it to one of these, my least brethern, you did it to me."

The Rev. Bro. P. L. Mallon

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Where Angels Fear To Tread

When Mrs. Kelly told me that my services would be required to "babysit" on Friday night my reaction was that of joy. Possibly this was because I was at a loss to do something on that night, but more probably it was because I was a bit low financially at that time. My wages were two pounds. As I said to my mother, "Two quid for just sitting and telling them when it is bedtime. Great! What could be simpler?" Famous last words! Still, come seven o'clock, I arrived at my employer's residence. Hastily I was shown in by Mrs. Kelly, told to put the children to bed at nine, and then led into the living-room where the children were watching the latest episode of "Buck Rogers" on television. At the first sight of my charges the first shadows of doubt crossed the back of my mind.

Marie, the oldest at seven, was the natural leader of the trio. Next was Jimmy, a grubby six-year-old. The youngest was William, a wide-eyed, easily excitable four-year-old. Still, they all seemed docile enough with their eyes glued to the television screen. So I settled down for, hopefully, a peaceful evening.

I took out my French book and proceeded to do my homework while the children "lived" through the remainder of "Buck Rogers." All to soon, however, it came to an end as "Buck Rogers'" starship sailed into the distance and the music came on. Once this ended Marie immediately jumped up and announced:

"Let's play Buck Rogers. I'll be Buck Rogers."

"No, you did him last time. It's my turn now," shouted back Jimmy.

"I wanna be Buck Rogers" chimed in William.

"I thought of it first, I wanna be Buck Rogers," cried Marie.

"How can you be Buck Rogers when he's a boy and you're only a girl?" pointed out Jimmy.

"Only a girl!" screamed Marie, "mammy says women are stronger and men are weaker."

"...and daddy says not in this house they're not," retorted Jimmy.

"I wanna be Buck Rogers," wailed William above the din. I decided it was time to intervene.

"I think Jimmy should be Buck Rogers and you, Marie, should be Colonel Dearing (Buck's daring female companion) who is just as good."

"What'll I be," whined William.

"Er, you can be Hawk."

And so a miniaturized form of Buck Rogers and his comrades set out on a new adventure, as I sat down again, feeling very pleased with my ingenuity at solving the latest crisis.

I was just finishing off my homework when indescribable noises were heard outside the door. Seconds later the door burst open and in jumped our 25th century three musketeers. Marie, at the fore, was armed with a wooden-spoon, Jimmy, close on her heels, with a cowboy gun and William, at the rear, with my school ruler. These weapons, I was later informed, were "astroblasters."

"There he is," cried Jimmy, pointing at me and immediately all three made in my direction. Marie, putting on a ferocious face, demanded of me:

"Are you a Vagon?"

Terrified, I nodded.

"Get him!"

Jimmy snatched the ruler off William and to my amazement hit me full force across the nose with it. That was it! Fuming, I leapt up, caught Jimmy by the throat and flung him onto the sofa.

"Try that again and I'll break your neck."

Jimmy, instantly transformed into a whimpering child, wailed, "I'll tell mammy on you."

Just then, behind me I heard a tearing noise. To my horror I turned round to see William ripping up my homework. Without looking up he commented.

"These are Vagon secret plans, they must be destroyed."

I made a dive at them and snatched the page off him, but too late. Irreparable damage had already been inflicted upon it. I glared at William but before I could do anything Marie pressed the childrens' advantage,

"We'll tell Mammy."

Feebly I told them to stop playing and to sit down quietly and watch T.V. instead. This was on the cards anyhow, as they were tiring of Buck Rogers and eager to watch Bodie and Doyle of "The Professionals." So we settled down to watch T.V., but not for long. Hearing sniggerings I glanced behind me to see Jimmy clambering over the sideboard and knocking over a plant in a flower-pot. It made an almighty mess on the floor, soil all over the carpet. Furious, I ordered them to clean it up and I went out into the kitchen to prepare their supper.

Minutes later I heard yells and screams and I bounded into the living room to see Marie rubbing William's face in the soil, and Jimmy, still on the sideboard, throwing books and ornaments and anything he could get his hands on, at them. I collapsed onto the sofa and, to add to my despair, I heard Mrs. Kelly, home early from bingo, come in the front door. I wished the ground would swallow me up. I knew for certain this was one job I would not be doing again.

Marcus O'Doherty - 5H

Age

Old, so old,

It hunts me down.

No liveliness left.

My false teeth ache.

The cold, oh the cold!

The fire dimly fades away,

My glasses fall on to the dank floor;

A blurry vision confronts me.

Why am I left alone?

No-one visits me now.

My only possessions are my thoughts.

The milk bottles are left outside the door.

And now I leave this cruel, cruel world.

SEAN MCCRUDDEN (3E)

ROTARY CLUB Business as usual

In June this year the Rotary Club of Belfast organised a Student Study week with the intent of providing a group of students from local schools with the opportunity to gain an insight into the business and commercial life of the Province. The Rotary Clubs are composed of men representing a broad cross-section of trades and professions who come together for the purpose of mixing with their peers and providing a service to their community. Through this Rotary Week they set out to provide a service of information by arranging a programme of visits for sixth formers drawn from twelve of the major Belfast schools. While it is impossible to convey in detail what we learnt I hope in the rest of this article to present some general impressions drawn from my experiences on this week.

The week involved twelve visits in all during which we sampled industry, finance, retail trade, politics, law, social services and the Press. One fact which emerged with considerable force is that Northern Ireland is far from being the technological backwater the media image would have us believe.

The application of advanced technology was widespread, particularly in the field of computers, which we encountered everywhere we went . . . computer-controlled machinery at Shorts, com-

puterised stock taking at Robinson & Cleavers, fully computerised accounts at the TSB, automatic type setting at the Belfast Telegraph . . . an endless succession of computers. It was therefore quite appropriate that the week included a visit to International Computer Services Ltd., at which we discovered that many groups who could not afford their own computing facilities could tap into a central computer through as simple a method as a standard telephone link.

In contrast to this feature my other main impression was of the dedication and interest which many of the people I met showed in their work. This manifested itself in many different ways, ranging from actions, such as nurses organising a bed-push to raise money for vital equipment, to the obvious enjoyment and enthusiasm with which people spoke about their work. Such attitudes while not universal were to be found among every group of people from tradesmen to bank presidents — a fact which offers considerable hope for the future.

The week overall was a pleasant and interesting experience and has left me with a strong and positive impression of the potential for the success of Northern Ireland if only the enthusiasm and ability of its people continue to grow in the face of its present difficulties. Business as usual offers a path to future success if only we have the courage to take it.

STEPHEN WALSH (7SA)

ILL-LUCK

Day dawned over Hunger City. No more did the machines boom out their ceaseless racket — humans ruled no longer. It had been like that ever since the day fire rained from the sky — the day the physicists laid havoc upon the earth. Now the only law was the law of survival. Robert finished the last of his rat and tossed the bones away. It was the first rat he had had for many days. He was lucky to have caught it at all. He stood up and wrapped a rapidly decaying blanket around his stinking clothes which were covered in mud and stiff with sweat. He shouldered his rifle and started out on another day-long forage.

He stood on top of what was once a hotel and scanned the surrounding landscape with a pair of binoculars. Robert knew he was not alone in his ceaseless search for food. He had seen others, several times, and exchanged shots with them. He was about to climb down from his perch, where he sat like a huge bird, when the sun caught something in its rays and made it glint. Robert focused the glasses on the desolate spot — it was a can.

The finding of a can was rare. Finding it without competition was rarer still. He started across the area of wasteland, alert and with his rifle in his hands. He knew better than to head directly for the can. Experience told him to circle around the area, then and only then, approach it. He was about three-

quarters of the way to the can when a rifle barked. Instinctively Robert dived for cover, faking death.

For a while all was silent once more. Then from behind a mound of earth another figure emerged. It was dressed in dirty overalls, with the usual complement of blankets and rugs draped around the main trunk. The figure approached Robert with caution, gun at the ready, to repel any counter-attack. Before making his move Robert waited until the figure was satisfied that he was dead and had relieved him of his rifle, then, while the figure had its back to him he leapt upon it, with his hands around its throat. With his thumbs, he pressed deeper and deeper. The figure's struggles became more and more frantic until, suddenly, all movement ceased. He continued the pressure on the throat until bones popped and cracked — just to make sure. He then retrieved his gun and helped himself to whatever he could carry. While pulling off the overalls he discovered his attacker was a girl, young and beautiful. Her dark hair flowed around her head like a black sea. Robert looked at her for a moment, and then continued his looting. "It was her or me," he murmured, without any trace of remorse.

He then set off at a run for the can still half buried in the earth. He stumbled over concrete slabs and fell twice in his hurry to reach the source of food. Panting he flopped down and pulled the can loose from the surrounding ground. He looked at the label, eager to find what tasty delight lay in store for him. His look of joy turned to dismay. He pulled open the seal and let the Shell multigrade oil trickle out, back into the earth.

Manus Savage

Citizen Band Radio —

An Introduction, an Appraisal and an Appeal

Citizen Band Radio, C.B. to the great majority of people, must surely be one of the most popular crazes to be introduced to this country in the past decade.

One recent survey estimated that there were some 20,000 C.B. operators or "Breakers" as they are known to those who understand the lingo of the airwaves, operating in Northern Ireland alone, not to mention an ever increasing number in the Irish Republic.

To become a "home-based" C.B. operator you will require somewhere in the region of £50 to purchase new equipment. Bargains in secondhand equipment are often available but the purchase of such equipment should be considered very carefully as it is possible to become the unfortunate owner of a set of equipment which has been damaged by misuse or otherwise by its previous owner.

Where possible, purchase new equipment, or if need be, secondhand, from a reputable source. This is what you require. You will need:

- (1) Transmitter-Receiver unit complete with microphone lead etc. (This is your "Rig"). £30 to £35.
- (2) An aerial e.g. a "D.V. 27" (This is your "Ears") £6.
- (3) A power-pack or 12 volt car battery. £10 to £12.

You are now ready to go on the air and hopefully you will have already chosen your "Handle" or code name for identification purposes.

It should be stated at this point that advice should be sought from someone experienced in "setting-up" this type of equipment as serious damage can result from attempting to transmit on a "Rig" which is not properly "S.W.R.'d" or tuned in, to use a more simple term.

Having done this, all you have to do now is to "Key your Mike" and speak your first words to other "Good-Buddies" as C.B. friends are known.

There is another, much more interesting side to C.B. and that is DX-ing or speaking on the air to other breakers in foreign countries. One of the problems with DX-ing is that you need much more sophisticated equipment than usual, but it is better to spend some time becoming familiar with the local scene first.

Like so many other things, C.B. Radio has its good points and its bad points as well.

Thankfully, it is generally agreed that its good points outweigh the bad.

It (C.B.) has been known to have saved lives in the past where it was used as a means of contacting any of the Emergency Services (Fire, Police or Ambulance) in cases of fire or an accident when, for whatever the reason, a telephone was not available.

It has been used to give motorists prior warning of accidents or hazardous road conditions.

Shy people, unwilling or unable to carry on a conversation with others, have been known to have overcome their problem after just a few hours using a C.B. Rig.

As the numerous good points are noticed, there is

one real bad point that is the main source of complaint from members of the public who do not belong to the C.B. fraternity and that is to use its common team T.V.I (Television Interference). Neighbours of C.B.'ers have been known to have lost both sound and vision from their television sets during transmission on a C.B. Rig close by.

Understandably, this can cause annoyance but it is hoped that with more research, a solution can soon be found to eliminate this.

Finally I would appeal to all C.B.'ers, to use your rig in a responsible fashion. Remember you do not "own" any channel on your set.

Always be willing to invite another breaker into the Channel you happen to be on at any time, and always treat either him or her as you would wish to be treated yourself when you want to "break" on someone else's channel.

Lastly, could I say that it is possible to carry on a conversation without "bucket-mouthing" and could I say to the very tiny minority who abuse C.B. in this way, always remember you are a guest in someone's home when you are on the air, so please show the same respect for their home as you would wish them to show to yours.

51's and 73's to everyone, 10-4 and Goodbye.

Dermot Walsh 3B

Crocodile

*Crocodile bathing in the swamp,
Tough green hide and yellow rump.
In water he is swift and smart,
And still he uses his dodgeful art,
Of lying low in shallow water,
Waiting for a deer to slaughter.
His jaws had opened, then they snapped—
What juicy morsel had he trapped?
He dragged his dinner from the bank,
Swam away from the shore and silently sank.*

JIM MAGILL (2E)

Weightlifter

*His scowling features display aggression,
He heaves two breaths in quick succession.
Around the bar his grip he tightens,
And gives a roar as if to frighten.
The bar with metal on each end,
And then his knees begin to bend;
He lifts the weights above his head,
His muscles ripple anxiously but still stay steady
As the mighty metal hunk goes hurtling to the ground,
There are claps and cheers and prompting rising
from the crowd.*

JIM MAGILL (2E)

The Fight for Survival

*Mary had a little lamb,
And John he had a pup,
But Fred he had a great, big lion
Which ate the others up.*

GERARD TALLON

P.S.: I handed this poem to my agent and asked him if I should put more fire into my poetry.
"You should put more of your poetry into the fire," he replied.



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