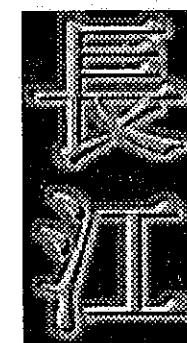
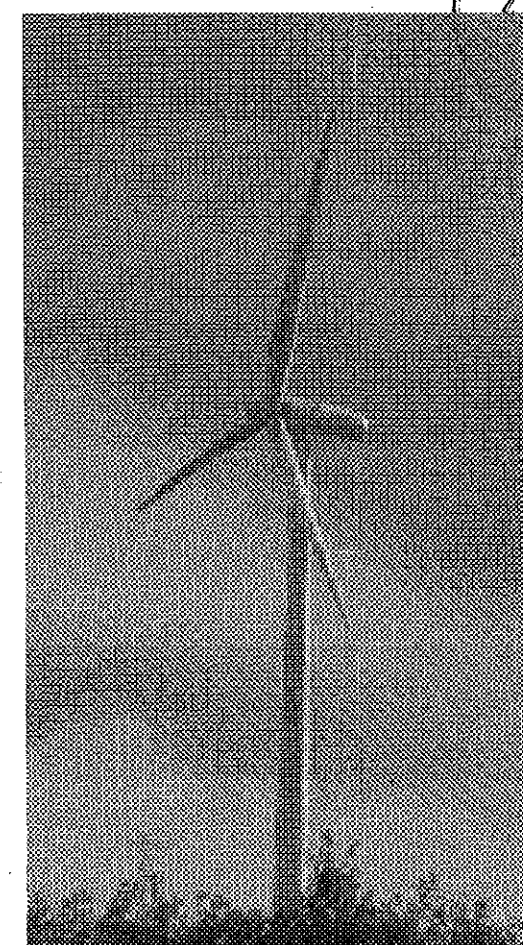
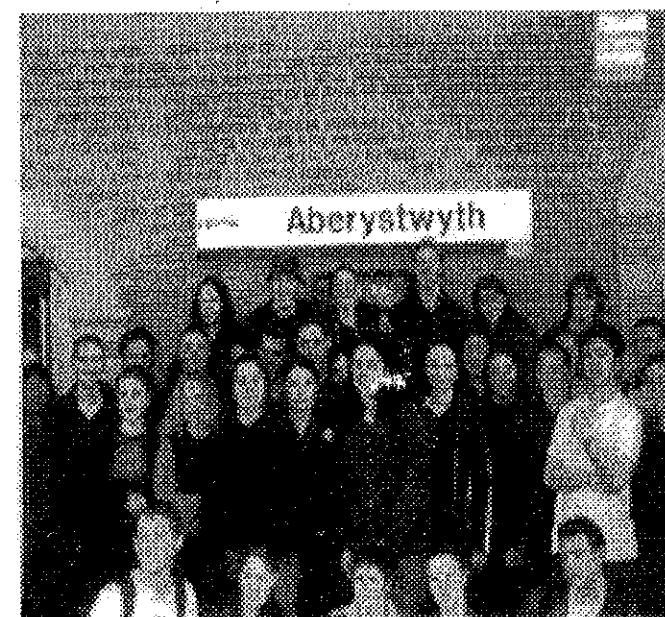


Milieu

1998

23rd. issue



Geography Society
N.U.I. Maynooth

EDITORIAL

Editors - Karen O'Reilly Marcus Gilhawley Karena Cahill

In its 23rd year, 'Milieu' once again has kept up the standard we have come to expect in providing its readers with many articles of wit and wisdom. May we take the opportunity at this stage to thank all of you who took the time and effort to contribute to our magazine. Understandably, not all articles were included due to the limited space. To the reader who may desire to follow up on any of the references included in the articles, they can be acquired from the contributor in person.

1998's publication is no exception in its coverage of many wide ranging subjects. Firstly, we travel with Ramiro Zacarias to Guatemala, 'The land of eternal spring'. From there we cruise with our very own Dr. Shelagh Waddington to China, gaining insight into the impact the 'Three Gorges project' will have on the Yangtsee river and its peoples. Next we move to Lesotho with Jim Nolan, learning of his teaching experiences in a dramatically different environment to that of his own native Banagher.

Closer to home, Padraig Lewis takes us through the geographical implications of migration in Ireland, while Niall McKenna and John Lyons give us a double-sided view of the Celtic Tiger. John McFeely also takes us through the trials and errors of wind farming in Donegal.

On a lighter note, Claire Tiernan gives us her impression of that infamous Antrim fieldtrip, while the 'Bard of Barretstown' takes a whimsical look at the disruption in our very own Maynooth. We also tease your brain with Quizzes and just so you don't feel too pressured we have put the answers in the back.

It was a great experience working with the Geography Society this year and we hope you will enjoy reading this publication. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the best of luck for the future, and above all, enjoy! Happy reading!



GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY COMMITTEE, 1997-98,

Back row, l-r: Martin Whelan, Karen O'Reilly, Andrea Killoran, Gillian Slattery, John, Mc Feely. Front row: l-r, Karena Cahill, Siobhan Kenny, Marcus Gilhawley, Deborah Murphy. Missing from photo: Niamh Adams, Aoibhinne Campbell, Sean De Cuiris.

Designed and Edited by **Gus Worth**. Assisted by **Moss Garde**

Forward by Professor J.A. Walsh



The invitation to write the Forward for this year's edition of Milieu is a timely reminder that the teaching part of another academic year is coming to a conclusion. The current academic year the first for NUI, Maynooth, has seen a number of changes within the programmes provided by the Department. More practical classes have been introduced in first year, a new cultural geography module has been include in second year and more third year students have been given the opportunity to take the module on Remote Sensing following the decision to teach it in both semesters. At postgraduate level, the one year M.A has been given a stronger skills focus and a more flexible arrangement of module selection has been introduced. The current class is the largest since the course commenced in 1994/95. The Higher Diploma Courses in Cultural Tourism (shared with the Department of Modern History) and Applied Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems recommenced in January- Maynooth remains the

only Geography Department providing courses of this type.

Geographical knowledge is becoming increasingly important in relation to a number of debates concerning public policies. The debate on sustainable development and the implementation of a sustainable strategy needs to be guided by a perspective that is capable of tracing the interrelationships in and between 'natural' and 'social' (including economic, political, cultural, etc.) processes and how they impact on the environment and on the communities that inhabit different localities and regions. Similarly, the debate on rural and regional development in Ireland requires a perspective that acknowledges the interdependencies between rural and urban areas and that is also willing to work towards a genuinely new development paradigm which will give greater prominence to devising guiding principles for a holistic, integrated and multidimensional approach. The manner in which these debates are unfolding provide many opportunities for geographers. The particular skills and knowledge in relation to understanding and decoding landscapes (natural and cultural) and their inhabitants (past and present), and the significance and meaning of concepts such as place and space and the range of values that are assigned to them are all central to

The concept of Milieu, the title of this publication, has been given a new role and meaning in recent discourses on sustainable local and regional development. The contemporary understanding of milieu includes not only the natural and human capitals of specific places but also the processes that contribute to social capital formation which in turn influence the range of lifestyle opportunities for different groups in society and in different places.

The contents of this issue and the summary of the programme of activities undertaken by the Geography Society this year provide ample evidence of the broad range of interests shared by geography students. I am reminded of the inaugural lecture by the Minister for Tourism, Dr. McDaid, where he drew attention to the need for careful management of the resource base. Later Mr. McCabe from Ballyhaise Agricultural College alerted us to the rapidity of far reaching changes in Irish agricultural. The recollection of the long distance female travelers in the department brought fresh insights on New Zealand, China and the American Mid-West.

In conclusion it a pleasure to welcome the 23rd issue of Milieu, and I warmly congratulate the editorial team and all members of the Geography Society who have provided us with a very memorable year.



Guatemala

By Ramiro Zacarias

The name Guatemala comes from Goathemala, which in Toltec-Maya means Land of Trees. The Republic of Guatemala in Central America is in a very special location: it is the geographic center of the American Continent.

Its area of 42,072 square miles (109,000 kms²) is flanked on the north and west by Mexico, on the Southeast by El Salvador and Honduras, on the northeast by Belize and the Caribbean Sea, and on the south by the Pacific Ocean. Among its natural wonders are the Caribbean and the Pacific coasts, virgin rain forests, majestic volcanoes and remarkable mountain lakes. This diversity of nature, combined with impressive colonial cities, some of the most outstanding places in the Mayan world, and the warmth of the people give us the portrait of Guatemala: a paradise of tradition, colour and friendship.

Population and Culture

Guatemalas' population is ten million people. The country is characterised by its ethnic and cultural diversity. The indigenous people (more than 50% of the population) are descendants of the Maya and are subdivided into several native groups that form the Maya-Quiche group. The other part of the population is made up of

European descendants and Mestizos.

The official language is Spanish, although in the Indian communities more than 23 Mayan languages are spoken. Quiche, Kaq'chikel, Q'eqchi' and Mam are the linguistic communities covering the greatest geographical area. English is spoken in almost all tourist areas, in the majority of the hotels and in some of the restaurants.

The nation's constitution guarantees freedom of religion. Catholicism is most widely practiced, although in some indigenous areas it mixed with pre-Colombian rituals. All aspects of the Indian's life, from birth of a child to the sowing of corn, are infused with religious meaning.

Climate

Guatemala boasts a wide variety of climates due to its diverse physical features. The average annual temperature is 20°C (58°F). In the coastal areas temperatures of 37°C (99°F) have been reached, while in the highest mountain zones temperatures can drop below zero; the nights are cold at any time of the year.

In most areas of the country the dry season lasts from November until April, and the rainy season from May to October. Typically, during the wet season clear skies prevail before and after the heavy rains, which

occur in the late afternoon hours or in the first hours of the night.

Mountains and Volcanoes

The Sierra Madre crosses the country from west to east, running parallel to the Pacific Ocean and stretching towards Honduras. Further north, the Sierra de los Chuchumatanes extends up to the northern part of the Chixoy river where it splits in two with the Chuchumatanes on the west and the Verapaz mountains on the east.

Guatemalas' thirty-three volcanoes makes it one of the countries in the world with the highest number of volcanoes. Of particular interest are the following: Tajumulco (13,809 ft or 4,210m) and the highest peaks in Central America; the Fuego (12,579 ft or 3,835m) and the Santa Maria (12,360 ft or 3,678m).

Rivers

There are two main hydrographic regions in which rivers flow either into the Pacific Ocean or into the Atlantic. Rivers flowing into the Gulf of Honduras are long, deep and good for fishing and navigating. The most important rivers are the Motagua river, the Dulce river and the Usumacinta, the longest and most voluminous river in Central America as well as forming part of

Land Of Eternal Spring

the border between Mexico and Guatemala.

Flora and Fauna

Naturalists have identified more than twelve different ecosystems within the steep mountains, the forests of Peten and the coral reefs of the Caribbean. Guatemala is a land of Volcanic-black sand beaches, mangrove swamps, floods, lush forests and deep tropical jungles.

On the Pacific coast the Monterrico reserve is the best nature-watching spot. A short coastal strip is a haven for turtles that lay their eggs on the beach, and behind that area is a mangrove swamp that can be explored in boats.

Higher up towards the mountains, moss, vines and orchids can be found spread throughout the forest. The Quetzal biotope lies within Baja verapaz county, and one of the national symbols of Guatemala, the Quetzal (a tropical bird with striking plumage) lives in this region. Ceibas, ebony, mahogany and avocado trees cover the Peten jungle, where toucans, parrots, hummingbirds, ocelots, tapirs, pumas, jaguars and several species of monkey live. In the mangrove swamps along the Caribbean coast there lives a peaceful marine mammal, the manatee. Life thrives in the coral reefs, and among the thousands of species of plant and animal life are the angelfish, coral of fire, several shark species, turtles and salt-water crocodiles.

So the next time you think of going abroad, consider the possibility of visiting this beautiful country in Central America.



Accommodation

1998/199 Applications for University Village apartments & Hostels Closed March 31st. A list of owners for; Rented accommodation. Will be available from May 1st. Students will have to contact owners and arrange leases. All tenants should have a lease and/or rent book.

List for Partial Board & Self Catering, available in early August. For full details contact: Residence Officer Humanity House Old campus Ext. 3826/3827/3099



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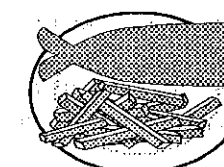
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The Antrim Field Trip

**FRI. 21ST MARCH -
THURS 27TH
MARCH**

**By
Claire Tiernan 3rd
Arts**

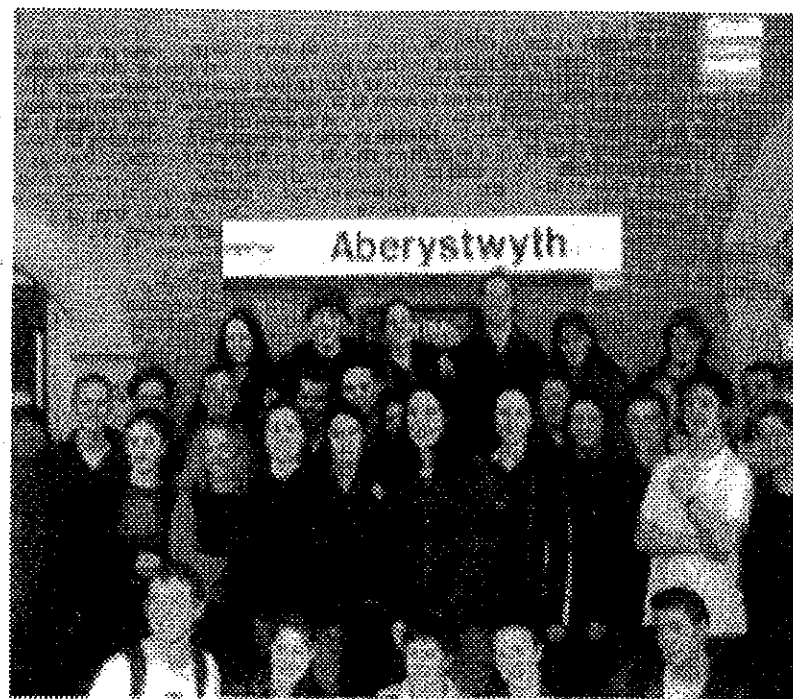
Getting on the bus with a load of complete strangers always seems like a great idea doesn't it? Well it was interesting to say the least. Complete silence, well almost complete, reigns over the bus for the fifteen hour journey, well it seemed like fifteen hours. Nervous glances around at the 'strangers', please don't let me have to share a room with these, they look like they could sniff out an igneous rock a mile off. The dizzying heights of the perilous roads were not at all intimidating as everyone jumps nervously in their seats and clamps their hands onto their seat handles. Some even had their life-jackets on -purely to be on the safe-side.

Finally we get there, so this is Antrim, still silence among the crew. To loosen things up a bit we headed to the metropolis of Ballintoy to get a drink (of coke) to revive the senses after the numbing journey. There begins the best week of the college year, and of course the most work ever achieved by a group of 'similar minded' (that's for sure) 'hard working' Students. The days that ensued brought interesting questions to mind, on rocks of course, they also brought many the late night and the drinking of coffee, purely to work on the

nothing to do with the gallons of alcohol that were not consumed. Of course after all this 'hard work' a little relaxation never did anyone any harm or any good in this case. Karaoke is one night (of many) that stands out in my mind. It was quite surprising that there weren't 'WANTED' signs posted up around the place 'WANTED' - escaped lunatics from the south who think they can sing. One song that I particular loved was sung, crooned, screeched etc. etc. by some boy group, it may have been Boyzone. They sang the glorious and original song, now what was it again?, like a virgin?, like a wellington?, well something like that anyway. I'm sure that Boyzone will keep their obvious talent anonymous (very, I hope) for their own personnel safety. There was a certain Connemara woman, Can't

remember her name?? but her hands must have been made of some sort of magnetic material as the microphone could not be prized away from them. Amazing really, what kind of things one comes across in Antrim.

Due to the fact that we were worked so hard, we were actually 'forced' to relax by Shelagh Waddington and Paul Gibson. One doesn't really think that they encountered such a species of alcoholics, I mean workaholics (oh silly me) before. Another time of been 'forced to relax and enjoy the night' occurred when local musicians were called in to ease the stress of the budding geologists. Oh the fancy footwork that followed, Riverdance move over. My autograph book would have been full (if I had one) with all the signatures of potentially



pity that I didn't have my book, my claim to fame goes down the drain. After dancing our clogs off we headed / absailed down to the beach. Strange how when one is intoxicated (very slightly of course) one feels no pain, or so I was told. Who knows what happened that night, I'm sure it was totally innocent. However I think I personally may have been hallucinating when I thought I was on the set of Baywatch all night. Again my autograph book could have been filled with potential actors names, Oh what a talent group!

A landmark that personally sticks out in my mind is that of the Bushmills distillery, I mean the Giants Causeway. What a spectacular sight of brown barrels, I mean brown rocks, Basalt apparently (see, I did learn something). The air was filled with the sweet smell of (distilling) the sea - now that's what I call high on life. There is by the way one big difference between the Giants Causeway and the Bushmills Distillery, besides the obvious difference (distillery / rocks), no one actually produced a pick-axe and dug out some basalt to fill their pockets with in the Giants Causeway but in the Bushmills Distillery, whisky glasses mysteriously found their way into everyone's pockets, Students / kleptomaniacs, all the same really. The fancy-footwork of the ceiling night however did not compare to the 'professional' disco-dancing that occurred in 'Kellys'. White socks glinting and glowing in the lights, one has never seen the like. You know who you are, white socks anon (w.s.a.). You will not, for legal reasons, be named but I think the hit 'like a wellington' find its basis here.

Anyway, enough of the relaxation stuff. Like the 'Hard Working' people that we are, we trekked across the Antrim coastline, usually into the unknown. Well, its still unknown to me. They

rocks to me and I really did think they were just rocks but Mr. Gibson would always prove my theory of rocks wrong. We finally got to the Giants Causeway near the end of our stay and it was indeed a spectacular sight. It was also a breezy day, 60mph winds I'd estimate. It was quite common to see the lighter individuals of the group being nailed to the ground, and then the week was over, just like that. The scenery, hospitality and company were all excellent. Again back on the bus for the long plod home. Silence again, for different reasons this time, comatose reasons. Overall it was a

great week, new friendships made and old ones made stronger. Of course our knowledge of Geology knows no bounds! I leave you with a motto from the week, it has to be screamed loudly and if you do it in private (!) you will get an inkling to what the Antrim fieldtrip was all about,

**-YEAH, BABY LET THE FREE
BIRDS FLY-
and then there was the reunion.**



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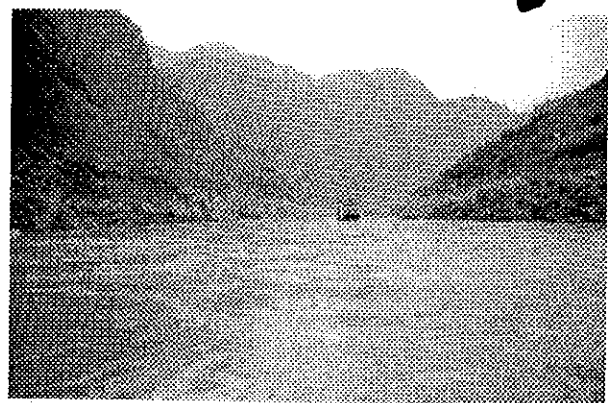
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The Yangtze Three Gorges Project

BY
Dr. Shelagh B.
Waddington.

Since the visit of a few of the "Emperor's Warriors" to Dublin in the mid 1980's from their home in Xian, I have been telling people that I wanted to visit China. The impetus which actually led to my making the trip in July 1997, was not related to the terra-cotta warriors but to the Three Gorges Project and to its effect on the Yangtze River and its surroundings. This river, known to the Chinese as the Changjiang, is the world's third longest river and has the third largest discharge, (1,000 billion cubic meters of water).

The area which will be affected by this project is the part of the Yangtze known as the Three Gorges, where the river flows through the Xiling, Wu and Qutang Gorges. The middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze have experienced a major flood approximately every 10 years during recorded history (from 185 BC to the present). The project is designed to control flow of water downstream and to avoid this flooding. Within the Three Gorges area, the rapid rise and fall of the water makes navigation difficult



and leads to problems with water supply, apart from flooding areas alongside the river. After a flood there are large quantities of mud deposited on the banks of the river. The area has a considerable population. There is heavy industry, particularly coal and chemicals in the area and the Three Gorges are a major tourist attraction. If the region is to develop, further flooding must be controlled and a power source other than coal must be found to enable employment to be developed for the population. The Three Gorges project is designed to address both of these difficulties as the narrowness of the valley and the volume of water in the river combine to facilitate the building of a dam, which will enable the control of flooding and the generation of hydroelectric power. The associated developments would further improve the area by the building of new roads and new settlements, encouraging new industrial development in the area and generally raising standards of living.

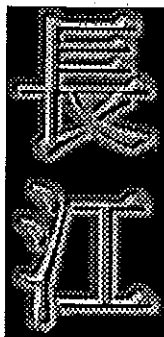
The project is the largest civil engineering project undertaken in China since the building of the Great Wall. When it is completed the dam will raise

water level of the river by 175 m over a length of almost 600 km. Twenty six turbines will generate 84 billion kWh of electricity annually and, it is predicted, will thus end the energy shortage in the region. Official estimates predict that 750,000 people will have to leave their homes and move to newly built

towns above the new water level. These reports also explain that the planning has involved careful study of various possible effects of the dam and of problems which might occur. Many of these potential difficulties are reported to have been addressed during the development of the smaller Gezhouba dam, located downstream of the new development.

The Three Gorges are relatively narrow, creating spectacular scenery and fast flowing water. There are many historical sites along the banks of this part of the Yangtze, some dating back to 4000 BC. These two aspects make the area a major tourist attraction in China, both for foreigners and for the indigenous population. Large numbers of boats

(of varying degrees of comfort) make the trip along the river carrying these visitors, providing a major source of income in the region. A further attraction is a visit to the Lesser Three Gorges. These are a series of narrower gorges on a



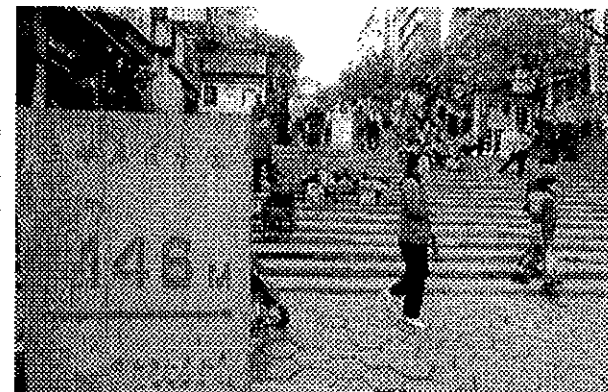
tourists travel in small boats, enjoying the thrill of a very fast return journey through the rapids and rocky stretches. There are also coal mining and related chemical industries in the area as well as farming settlements.

The initial phase of damming the river, the building of a coffer dam to allow the final works to begin, was due to be finished in November 1997 and I was anxious to see the area before it was changed forever, I decided to visit the area in July of last year.

Various concerns have been raised about the building of the dam. These relate mainly to the environmental impact (both local and global), pollution, the possible limited life of the dam, the effects on the local people and the loss of cultural and scenic amenity.

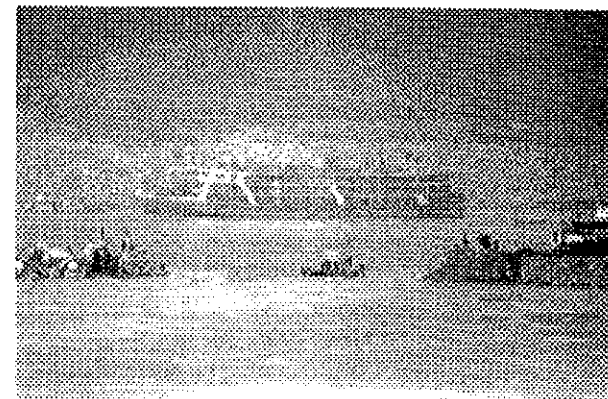
While the Chinese authorities argue that the effects of the sheer weight of water impounded behind the dam will be negligible, others have questioned this, suggesting that crustal instability will result. More locally, the change in the flow regime of a large part of the river may affect agriculture downstream as water supply will be altered. The drowning of large areas of land alongside the river will certainly lead to more restricted habitat for some species of plants and animals. For example some environmentalists have argued that the survival of the Chinese river dolphin will be endangered by this project.

Some experts suggest that the amount of suspended sediment carried by the river will lead to the type of silting problems experienced by the Aswan dam on the river Nile in Egypt. The sediment



of the reservoir and raised grave doubts about its overall success. The mud which was deposited from this was also extremely pervasive - indeed, I am still trying to remove it from my shoes! These deposits do, however, currently supply building materials for a large number of construction projects.

The effects on the local population are already being felt. Some new settlements have been completed, although the dam will not reach its final height until 2009 and people are already moving to these. According to the official statements people are delighted to be moving, again personal observation and reports from other sources, e.g. Zich, 1997, would suggest that this was not always the case. The actual number of people involved is also a matter of debate. While the Chinese Government estimate is 750,000, other suggestions range from 1,250,000 to as high as 4,000,000. Certainly, the official figure would appear to be a considerable underestimate when the total population of all the cities in the area affected is taken



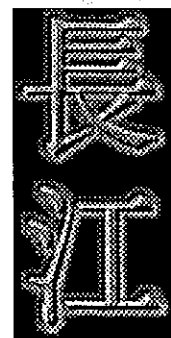
The concern about pollution of the water relates partly to the many industries located in the settlements that will be drowned. Several of these produce waste which is now not in contact with the water, but will be immersed when the level rises.

On my recent visit I noted several settlements where coal processing and chemical industries were sited very close to the present river level. Indeed, there was no evidence that waste products were not entering the river already. The other major source of pollution is the untreated sewage that enters the river (approximately a quarter trillion gallons per year). The ponding of water behind the dam would facilitate concentration of these products. The river is the major source of water for agriculture and domestic purposes and any concentration of pollution would clearly have implications for health. This would be particularly problematic if the current system of extracting water locally using small pumps directly from the river to small reservoirs continues to be used, as it would be unlikely that all of this water could be treated adequately.

The impact on tourism of the development is also a cause of concern to many as it's major source of income in the area and would be expected to develop further as China increases its share of the long haul tourist market. The official government position is that the development will only have a positive impact on tourism as there are currently problems with navigation both when the river is in flood and

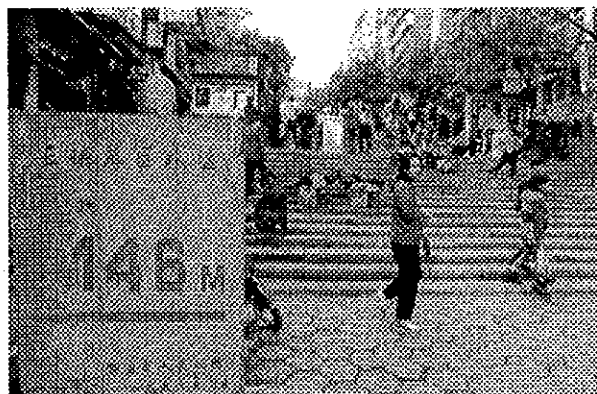
The Yangtze Three Gorges Project Contd.

is particularly low. Just prior to my own visit the river had been in flood and there was some doubt that the party would be able to ravel the whole way. Particularly likely to be affected was the visit to the Lesser Gorges. In the event, the water level had dropped to such an extent that we had to leave the boat during our trip up the Lesser Gorges to lighten its load sufficiently for it to avoid running aground on rapids. This involved walking approximately 45 minuets along a steep and rocky path. It was only after 30 minuets that I realized that it would have been perfectly safe to have left the life jacket (essential in the boat) behind when I was ashore! The scenery was very spectacular and the ride downstream, when the boatmen used large oars at the front of the boat to ensure that it steered clear of the rocks when passing through rapids, was certainly a wonderful experience. I was less excited when the engine broke down as we returned to the main river and we were in danger of drifting away from our boat, but fortunately we were rescued by another boat taking us in tow.



The historic and archaeological remains which can be seen in this area are most impressive, ranging from various temples, the graves of national heroes, burial sites where coffins were

placed in extremely inaccessible sites on cliffs and walkways built along cliff faces to allow movement of troops in the area. There are many sites, some dating back more than 4000 years, which have not been fully investigated and almost all of these will be drowned when the dam is completed. The recurring phrase on each visit ashore from the boat was "This will be under water in 2009". A small number of sites



high on the valley sides will, in fact, become more accessible as they must now be reached by climbing steep hills from the water side. This improved access does not, however, compensate in any way for the Huge loss otherwise experienced.

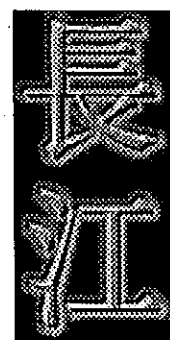
My visit to the area involved a five day cruise on the river from Wuhan to Chongqing which enabled to see at first hand exactly what was being done on the river. We sailed past the site of the new dam and were awe-struck by the scale of construction. The boat provided a very comfortable base from which to view the area which will be inundated. It was the first time that I have been able to sightsee while reclining on my bed! It provided us with a large

included sharing a cabin with a rat (in addition to my husband!), and being woken up each morning by flute music followed by the instruction that "it was 7.00 and the "Leader of the resturant" and his staff were serving breakfast". On a more serious note I was able to see at first hand the area about which I had read so much and heard such conflicting reports about the effects. I am still uncertain about whether the project will ultimately benefit the region or lead to a major environment and social catastrophe, but I left in little doubt that it would certainly have a very considerable impact on the area and change fundamentally the existence of the people of the region and quite possibly of a very much wider area of the world.

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AGE - SPECIFIC MIGRATION - A BRIEF REGIONAL ANALYSIS.

BY Celine Mc Hugh.

Tracking a particular age cohort over inter-censal periods can be an important source of information as to age specific migratory tendencies and indeed the dynamics of settlement and future population trends.

Table 1 Age-specific migration : percentage change in 1986 age cohorts: 10 - 19 years and 20 to 34 years., between 1986 and 1996.

Region	10 - 19 yrs. 1986	20 - 29 yrs. 1996	% Change '86 - '96	20 - 34 yrs. 1986	30 - 44 yrs. 1996	% Change '86 - '96
Dublin	196,938	193,973	-1.5	258,762	229,226	-11.4
Mid-East	62,298	49,448	-20.6	71,207	78,096	+9.7
Midlands	41,053	27,324	-33.4	43,263	42,098	-2.7
South-East	74,964	53,920	-28.1	81,249	80,474	-0.9
Mid-West	61,120	45,975	-24.8	66,601	64,432	-3.2
West	65,677	47,220	-28.1	68,795	69,473	+1.0
South-West	102,059	79,966	-21.6	114,930	113,165	-1.5
Border	76,964	54,573	-29.1	82,745	80,082	-3.2
State	681,073	552,399	-18.9	787,552	757,046	-3.9

Source : CSO Census of Population various years

Two age cohorts are presented here and are tracked over the 1986 - 1991 and 1991 - 1996 inter-censal periods. Taking the 10 to 19 year old cohort for 1986 firstly: by 1996 the state had lost 18.9% of these individuals by the time this cohort would have reached the age of 20 to 29 years. On a region by region basis there is considerable variation taking cognisance of the fact that much of this accountable to inter-regional migration; for example, the Dublin region lost a mere 1.5%, over 17% less than the state figure - at the other end of the scale is the Midlands Region, with the South-East, West and Border regions following close behind. There is possibly a connection here with the propensity of 2nd level school leavers migrating in order to further their education. The Midlands region does not have a University institution, nor does the South-East nor Border regions. However, no region experiences surplus gains over losses, indicating a high level of emigration between the ages of 19 and 29 years of age.

The 20 to 34 year old age cohort is also examined in the table above. Overall change over the 10 year period was 3.9%, indicating that emigration is less inclined to occur among members in this older cohort. Unlike the previous cohort under examination, there is considerable inter-regional disparity. The Mid-East stands out as one of high in-migration of the over 20 year olds. The Mid-East, of course, has become an ever more important suburban part of Dublin city. Young people in their twenties appear to migrate eastwards to take up employment and when they do, chose to settle down within commuting distance of their place of work - in this case the Dublin region. It is worth noting that the highest fertility rates occur among women aged between 30-34 years, implying that further population growth is likely in these areas.

The small figure of change for the state again indicates that inter-regional migration forms a large part of the disparities between the regions. The Midlands, Mid-West and Border regions again figure as losers, this time of a demographically important age group - that which contains the highest fertility rates.

That Lesotho beats Banagher

Jim Nolan, a secondary school teacher from La Sainte Union Secondary School Banagher, taught in a rural school in Lesotho as part of the Lesotho Ireland Secondary Teachers Programme (L.I.S.T.P.), which is funded by the semistate agency A.P.S.O. (The Agency For Personal Service Overseas). He reports here on his impressions after six months on the job.

"That beat Banagher but Banagher beat the devil" as the old saying goes, in my case I might change it to Lesotho beats Banagher, for the present anyway. St. Barnabas high school in Lesotho is a big change from Banagher but it has been an exciting change.

"That beat Banagher but Banagher beat the devil" as the old saying

When I decided to go and teach overseas with A.P.S.O. last October I was both excited and apprehensive in anticipation of a big change in my lifestyle. At that time there were four people recruited by A.P.S.O. to go to Lesotho. There were three teachers and an engineer in our group. A.P.S.O. have an agreement with the department of education, which allows teachers to take leave of absence from their positions to give them an opportunity to teach in a developing country with A.P.S.O. They also recognise the time spent overseas for incremental credit. Our needs were very well looked after by A.P.S.O., every volunteer is provided with adequate housing and furnishing,

further two weeks training in country. Luckily being a geography teacher I had heard of Lesotho before. Lesotho is a small country in southern Africa completely surrounded by the Republic Of South Africa, (R.S.A.). It is approximately the same size as Belgium, however unlike Belgium every point of Lesotho is above 1,000 metres. It has a population of 2.1 million people, the majority of who live in the western lowlands. Lesotho has severe economic problems and is in the top twenty of the worlds least developed nations. The average G.N.P. per capita is \$540.

I was pleased to be going to Lesotho for a number of reasons. The current political situation in neighbouring R.S.A. is very interesting and it is exciting to be in this part of the world when such

Almost every evening you can be guaranteed a spectacular sunset and in the rainy season you may experience an electric storm which will light up the night sky.

momentous change is occurring. The temperate climate is very attractive. We have long hot summers and short dry winters which make a pleasant change to wet and windy Ireland. Lesotho is a spectacularly beautiful country. The Maloti and Drakensberg mountain ranges offer endless opportunities to the hill walker. The amazing waterfalls

attract many visitors. Almost every evening you can be guaranteed a spectacular sunset and in the rainy season you may experience an electric storm which will light up the night sky. Lesotho also has a large variety of plant life and bird life. The Basotho people have a reputation for being friendly and helpful. All of these reasons have

The language, traditions, songs, music and indeed the whole way of life of these highland people is under threat.

lived up to and beyond my expectations.

"Hela uena kloee ke tla oa shapa". If you are in the Maloti mountains of Lesotho you are likely to hear these sounds echoing from the mountain tops down into the deep valleys. This has been used by the "herd boys" as a means of communication for many generations. These herd boys are sent with their livestock to graze the summer pastures on the high mountain slopes. This practice was common in Europe up to the beginning of this century. The practice of "booleying" died out in Ireland but you can still see the ruins of booley huts on the mountains of the west of Ireland. Some might say that this is progress but others might disagree.

Lesotho and other developing countries are in danger of becoming consumed by a global culture whose diffusion is being assisted by I.T. The Lesotho Highlands, because of their

By Jim Nolan

onslaught of Western culture, that is up until recently. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project have just completed phase one of their multi billion dollar project, which in layman's language will divert the flow of Lesotho's rivers through a series of tunnels to the industrial heart of South Africa, the Witwatersrand region.

There is a high drop out rate due to poverty.

This project has resulted in tarred roads being constructed over the Maloti. These roads have brought an influx of; migrant labourers, European and South African companies and change. The language, traditions, songs, music and indeed the whole way of life of these highland people is under threat. Recently there were a number of earth tremors in the region as a result of the water pressure from the rising reservoir. Local people were told by the engineers "we knew this would happen", yet they neglected to communicate this fact to their own P.R. people in this great age of I.T. The water project will adversely affect the population of the highlands, it will hasten the depopulation of these beautiful mountains. For how long will the echoing voices of the herd boys sweeping down the valleys, be heard "Hela Uena".

I teach in St. Barnabas high school Maiste. This is a rural school around 45 km from the capital Maseru. It is an Anglican owned school, although the church have very little direct involvement in running the school. There are 450 students in the school. I had a real sense of deja vu when I saw all the green uniforms in front of me, the same uniforms as L.S.U. Banagher. Substitute 70 black faces for 30

white faces and I could almost be back in Banagher. Secondary education is not free here in Lesotho. The fees in our school are R500 (approximately IR£ 100). This may not seem a lot but for most rural families who live on subsistence agriculture it is a fortune. On top of this parents must pay for; school uniforms, books, accommodation and transport. There is a high drop out rate due to poverty. English is the medium of instruction but the standard of English is very poor. I am fortunate to be teaching maths as the students seem to be able to understand me. Students sit the junior certificate in form C. This exam is set by BOLESWA examination board (Botswana Lesotho Swaziland). In form E, students sit the C.O.S.C. (Cambridge Overseas Certificate). This exam is set and corrected in England.

My first impressions of the school were not good. The buildings are of a poor quality, most of the windows

There are no ceilings in the six classrooms

in the classroom were broken and some doors were missing. There are no ceilings in the six classrooms, as a result you can hear everything from the neighbouring classrooms. A lot of the furniture is broken and there are not enough desks and chairs for most of the students. Teaching resources are also poor. Each room has a big blackboard so "talk and chalk" is the main means of instruction. Class size is large, in junior classes we have up to seventy students in a class.

Looking on the positive side, my colleagues are very friendly and helpful. The students are respectful and we have few discipline problems. The Basotho are sports

mad, every afternoon we all have to go to the "ground" to practise athletics and ball games. Our senior football team have qualified from our district, for the national football

The Basotho are sports mad

finals. I am really enjoying the diversity of the Basotho culture. Our school day starts with beautiful singing at morning assembly. We are given lunch at school. The food is prepared by three cooks. The food is cooked outside under open fires in large black cauldrons. The food takes getting used to but my palate is slowly adapting to the taste. Maize is the staple food of the Basotho diet. I am also getting used to the tongue twisting Basotho names. Seotho is a lovely language and I am enjoying learning and practising it. Some colleagues have even tempted me into some of the "shebeens" to try out the "joala" (home brew). The "joala" takes getting used to but "castle larger" goes Down a treat after a hot day's teaching under a corrugated iron roof.

It took almost three months to settle in properly. During that time I was quite lonely. My A.P.S.O. colleagues provided an excellent support group. Having no electricity takes getting used of. Most of the A.P.S.O. volunteers have become avid readers and swapping books is a regular occurrence on a Saturday morning in "the flat". Overall I have learnt an awful lot in the last six months. I feel privileged to have been accepted into the Basotho community. I am looking forward to the rest of my contract here and I hope I can make a positive contribution to our school. So for the moment, Lesotho beats Banagher.

The Philosophy of Geography

By Karen O'Reilly

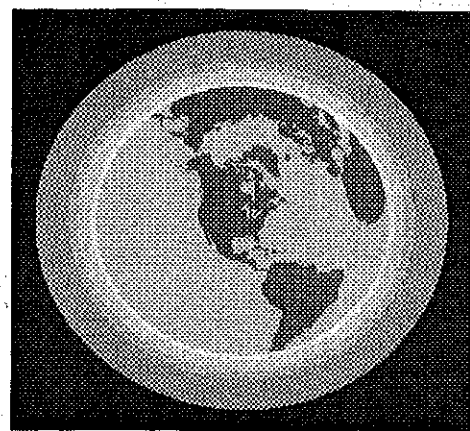
The development of the geographical tradition through the philosophical approaches of positivism, behaviouralism and radicalism.

"If geography is neither a science or an art, it is often seen as a bridging discipline, one that brings together the arts and the sciences, involving an interaction between the subjective human world and the objective natural world." (Unwin, T. The Place Of Geography, 21.) Although regional geography formed the basis for most geographical teaching and research up until the late 1940's, by the 1950's its low reputation for generality and description, its criticism for "non scientific" methodology and analysis, and its overall poor prestige, led to the formation of a "quantitative revolution" in the discipline of geography. The traditional explanatory process was replaced by the more scientific approach of theory testing and law construction. Logical positivism became the foundation of this new revolution, although the fact that it was the driving force behind most if not all its practitioners at the time was scarcely recognised, in the scramble for pride and prestige in what was beginning to look like a dying discipline. This essay will attempt to focus on the development of the geographical tradition through the philosophical approaches of positivism, behaviouralism, and radicalism. Contrasts and comparisons will be made between each in relation to subject matter, methodologies and levels of analysis, in order to gain insight into the strengths and limitations of each, and to trace the

progressing development from each philosophy to the next.

Comparisons can be made in relation to the subject matter of these philosophies, but of primary importance is the fact that each philosophy holds in primary regard the strive towards a new geographic direction based on the search for real truths. As mentioned previously, positivism, which emanated from Austria and the "Vienna Circle" in the 1920's, spread rapidly among the social scientists of the 1950's, to whom it offered, "the prestige of scientific status, the potential for equality with natural science, and a concreteness in the ability to validate and verify, which had previously eluded them" (Jackson & Smith, p45). Each philosophy followed the search for the truths by taking the previous philosophy one step further.

The subject matter within positivism was characterised by the belief that reality was "present in appearances, that objects exist independently of the observers, and that they can be identified through observation and experience" (Unwin, t., p22). This method of investigation was used in the empirical geographic paradigm of its time, in which the communality of all its knowledge was shared among its practitioners. Although this search for knowledge advanced the previous methodologies, they were still not relevant in the context of a real-world hypothesis. Accordingly, unrest and disillusionment followed, which led to the evolution of a more humanistic approach to geography, involving the emergence of a plurality of



investigation.

The subject matter of logical positivism was now mainly used in relation to the physical geographies, as the context of positivist human geography was criticised for its use of theoretical models which did not coincide with real-world events. Humanism now involved a less positivist approach to human and social geography. Opposition emerged from the fact that reality does not exist independently of the observer, as assumed by the positivist approach. According to Ley, 1990, "any geography without man, commits a theoretical error in devaluing the power of human consciousness and human action to redirect the course of events." (Jackson & Smith, p 8) Therefore the underlying subject matter within humanistic and in particular, behavioural geography, was founded on the basis that human action is based on many factors such as learning, perception, cognition, and attitude formation. In this way, behaviouralism tended to be more realistic in outlook, taking more complex variables into consideration, and broadening its approach in dealing with various aspects of human experience and action.

The Philosophy of Geography.

Contd.

By the 1970s again however, criticisms arose in relation to what was felt to be the excessive behavioural concern with the individual and his free will, with little attention given to the structural constraints which are undoubtedly "implicit in the social context of human action". (Jackson & Smith, p 48). Radical approaches broadened the analytical vision again within geography, in order to encompass the influence which global structures such as capitalism empower or inhibit our daily action. Human action therefore, although influenced by perception and experience etc., is inhibited by certain constraining laws, - either written or unwritten, which determine our actions, usually to a greater rather than a lesser extent. "Scientists equate science with truth, but fail to examine the criteria by which both science and truth are socially produced." (Foucault, in Unwin, t. p 27).

The methodologies of each of these philosophies can be seen more clearly from a contrasting rather than a comparative viewpoint. Firstly, positivism, based on the verification principle, uses the method of assumptions and hypothesis testing, in order to produce a set of accepted theories. Models, also used by the positivist tradition, form a representation of the world as the scientist believes it to be structured. The argument that human action can be set against models and theories is built on the assumption that "human behaviour is subject to the operation laws of cause and effect, and the nature of these laws can be identified by the process of hypothesis testing and empirical evidence" (Johnston, R.J. p27).

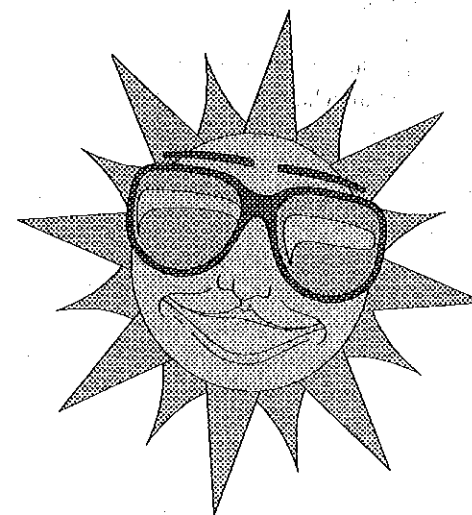
Human geography adopted the positivist approach in the mid

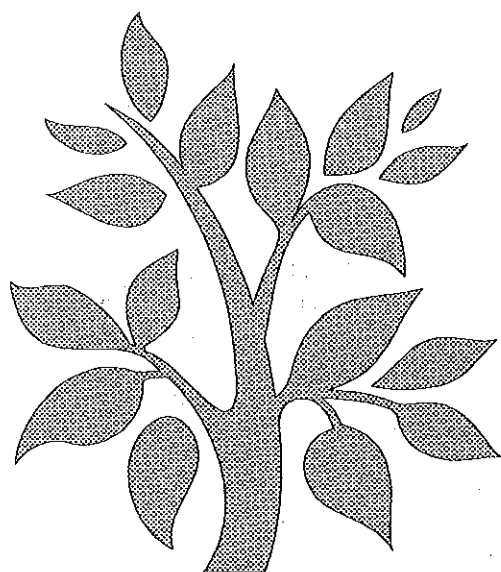
and late 1940's, and the methodology utilised in this case followed from the focus on "space and place". Theories were developed for example, Christallers' Central place theory and Von Thunens' Land use theory, in order to provide models on which human action in relation to their "space and place" could be identified. Testing of hypotheses involved the collection of data and the use of statistical procedures as verification methods. Problems arose however in relation to the basic assumptions of neo-classical economics and the use of the "rational economic man" approach in positivist human geography.

However, behavioural geographers were critical of this central assumption in locational analysis that human behaviour could be understood and predicted as the rational calculations of "economic man". It turned away from neo-classical economics in the direction of quantitative social psychology, looking especially towards the study of human cognition, knowledge and perception. The central idea of the behavioural approach was to discover how people make images of their environment. If it could be discovered how people perceive their environment, it was thought that this would enable a better understanding of why people behave as they do.

A behavioural geography emerged which "included studies of human adaption to the hazards of the natural environment, research on environmental perception and "mental maps", new perspectives on the study of human migration, travel behaviour,

etc. etc." (Jackson and Smith, p48). Behaviouralism introduced human activity into a host of areas as a complex variable rather than a given constraint. Positivist approaches were still used in certain circumstances in relation to techniques used such as factor analysis and multiple regression analysis. Again however criticisms arose because behavioural geography was thought to have been excessively concerned with the individual, and had not given sufficient attention to the structural constraints which are implicit on human action. A radical approach emerged, which again broadened the previous outlook to encompass the structures which might have a major influential impact on human action. "Truth", now became "linked in a circular relation with systems of power which produce and sustain it, and to effects of power which induces and extend it". (Foucault, in Unwin, t., p21). According to Johnston, R.J., (1980), the major contribution to the case for marxist-inspired, materialist theory development within geography was made by David Harvey, notably in his book of essays "Social Justice In The City", 1973. Harvey argues that in





order to understand individual behaviour, we need to place it in a wider context of the capitalist world system. In such a context, geography must move from a purely academic status, to become more politically aware in order to understand the workings of society. This ideology also became very important in relation to urban geography and its study of socio-spatial patterns of the city, the role of public and private sectors, urban planners, city managers, etc.

The level of analysis of each of these philosophies must also be taken into consideration in any comparative or contrasting analysis. Firstly, in relation to positivism, the level of analysis although more scientific and in-depth than the previous regional geographic tradition, still contained many downfalls. Assumptions made in relation to the actions of "rational economic man" meant many theories or models produced did not relate to actual human behaviour. Observation also meant that data was too generalistic, and the overall strive for a quantitative geographical "science" meant theories or philosophies to back up any statements made were ignored to a greater or lesser extent in the overall strive for a quantitative geographical science.

Behaviouralism went one

step further in broadening the analysis of human behaviour by incorporating perception and human will into the equation. Analysis in comparison to the positivist approaches was empirical in many cases, but was more in-depth as it took more complex variables into consideration, and in doing so broadened its approach in dealing with various aspects of human experience or action.

However, behaviouralism did not provide a fully realistic application to real-world situations, as it put too much focus on the individual and his free will, while disregarding a major extent, the structural constraints which influence the social context of human action.

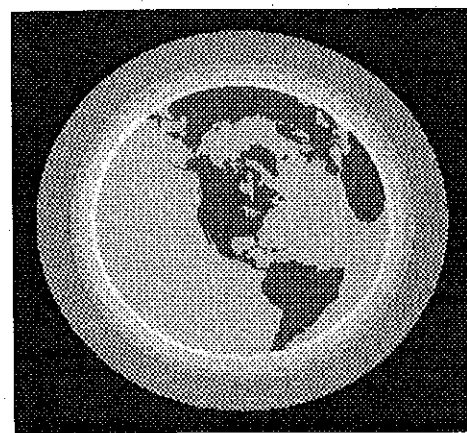
Radicalism, in taking a mainly Marxist approach to these issues, enabled the observer to put the individual and his actions into a global, and indeed capitalist context and superstructure which exists. This provided an analysis which indeed could be applied to real-world situations. Also, with the more recent post-modern assumption that there is no longer one main explanatory truth to events, human geography now has the ability to diverse its focus on a myriad of variations that exist, shape, and influence human action.

Overall it is important to grasp an understanding of the philosophies which shape our stance when researching or studying within the geographic tradition, in order to provide the geographer with greater awareness to his or her actions. It is important to note that although the philosophies mentioned here evolved through from one to the

next, there was no major evolutionary event or date to specify when each emerged. These philosophies evolved over time, and overlapped significantly with each other. In conclusion, therefore, it is possible to trace the dramatic change of philosophies which have driven the geographical discipline over the past century. Using a comparative and contrasting analysis of positivism, behaviouralism, and radicalism, distinctions can be made in relation to the dramatic change in outlook which occurred over this time period. The strengths and limitations of each can be realised when each philosophy is studied in relation to the next.

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Ode to a Landscape 1998

I'm fed up to the teeth with this college and town
 For all round us daily they're knocking things down
 They're diggin' big holes and then filling them in
 And the very next day they dig them again
 There's muck on my new shoes and dust on my gown
 And my lecture notes are all covered in brown
 It's not caused by old age or stress or o' fright
 But due to the brown earth that's blown in at night

O doctor, o doctor o dear doctor Smyth
 For twenty five years I've been taking disturbance,
 - If something 's not done soon, I swear that I'll quit
 And find me a landscape that's finished, complete.

This damned celtic tiger she roars and she prowls
 Disguised as a job out in the wilds
 Of the so-called north Campus she's torn apart
 And there's dust in my ears, nose and throat and not all
 for when I go home there's dust in the hall
 'Cos the bloody celtic tiger has stalked me once more
 And disguised as a builder he's camped at my door

O doctor, o doctor, o dear doctor John
 Should we all go to lectures with wellyboots on?
 And when you go home to your house in Moyglare
 I'm damned if you'll not find a builder camped there

I'm sick of this life on a big building site

At home and at work, all day and all night

There's puddles and potholes and muddy disfunction
 And all around us environment deconstruction.
 You're not out of the woods in your own private room
 Behind your big desk, even humming this tune
 For Brendan discovered that they're up there as well
 Digging holes in his roof, making his life hell

O doctor, o doctor, o dear doctor Ro
 Do something quick to stop this muddy flow
 Get the Physical Lab to do tests
 - Or will it be demolished as well as the rest?

The Bard of Batterstown

BANK OF IRELAND, Maynooth.

In college there's plenty of hard work to do. But there are also lots of opportunities to meet new people and do new things. With so much going on, organising your finances is probably the last thing on your mind. That's why the first thing to do is to open an ASCENT account. ASCENT is an account specially designed to make life easy for third level students. It provides all the financial services you'll need, yet it's simple and convenient to use.

You can withdraw cash 24 hours a day, using your specially designed Ascent A.T.M. card, from over 400 PASS machines throughout Ireland, and even through Midland bank A.T.M.'s in the U.K.

You get INTEREST when you're in credit.

And if you want a student loan, just ask the Bank Of Ireland student officer.



Recently reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Journal, the following are the questions actually asked of witnesses by attorneys during trials and, in certain cases, the response given by insightful witnesses:

1. "Now, doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?"
2. "The youngest son, the twenty-year old, how old is he?"
3. "Where you present when your picture was taken?"
4. Q. "Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?"
A. "No".
Q. "Did you check for blood pressure?"
A. "No"
Q. "Did you check for breath?"
A. "No"
Q. "So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?"
A. "No"
Q. "How can you be so sure, Doctor?"
A. "Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar"
Q. "But it could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?"
A. "It is possible that he could have alive and practicing law somewhere"
5. "Was it you or your younger brother who was killed in the war?"
6. "Did he kill you?"
7. "How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?"
8. "You were there until the time you left, is that true?"
9. "How many times have you committed suicide?"
10. Q. "So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?"
A. "Yes"
Q. "And what were you doing at that time?"
11. Q. "She had three children, right?"
A. "Yes"
Q. "How many were boys?"
A. "None"
Q. "Were there any girls?"

THE ROOST

To All STUDENTS,

Dear Students,

Firstly let me thank you all students for the continual custom that you bring to

'THE ROOST'.

Secondly, and most importantly let me congratulate the students on their impeccable behavior during a very successful years trading for the;

'ROOST'.

Thanking you
Paddy O'Brien.

Wind, Aer and land

It will come as no surprise to anyone who has stood atop any hill of mountain on our

this resource has remained under utilised, seemingly in inverse proportion to the rate at which it blows.

western seaboard on a windy day, to learn that Ireland has one of the greatest wind resources in Europe. Indeed the power of the wind is fully ingrained into our cultural

and literary heritage. Historically however this resource has remained under utilised, seemingly in inverse proportion to the rate at which it blows. Indeed it would seem

that it has been our nearest neighbours Britain and Holland, who have reaped the greatest rewards from the wind. The former in terms of her mastery of the seas and the latter in terms of her ability to use her windmills to help win back land from the sea.

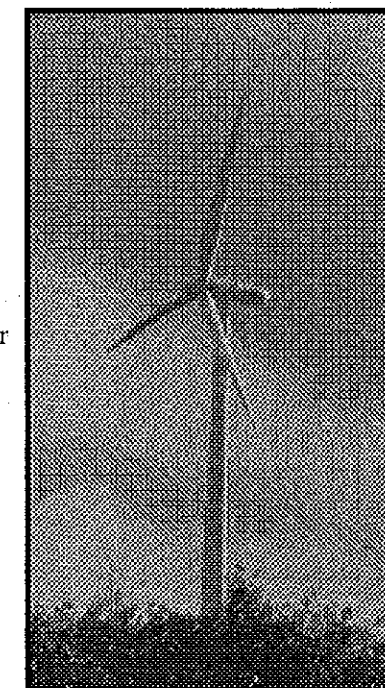
Times however have changed considerably. For although the industrial revolution ensured the demise of the traditional windmill, (in 19th century Britain there were 10,000 alone), it has been the industrial revolution's side effects which have ensured the revival of wind energy in a new form. We

our reserves of fossil fuel have, over the past two centuries led to significantly increased levels of Co2. Which it is generally accepted, is in turn leading to a gradual warming of the stratosphere - Global warming. Since the Oil crisis of 1973 and 1979, we know also of the finite nature and political repercussions of our over reliance on a single source of energy. Hence the political climate with regard to energy has undergone substantial shift in thinking over the past two decades. This has in turn opened the door for previously under utilised sources of renewable energy, one of the most notable of which has been wind energy.

Originally the pursuit of alternative fuel sources to oil was the controlling factor in the development of wind energy. In such areas of the world as Denmark and California, the wind resource, public and political

the industrial revolution ensured the demise of the traditional windmill,

pressures were sufficient to allow an opportunity to develop the then infantile technology of turning wind power into electricity for consumption on a mass scale. However it was not really until the realisation in the 1980's, that in order to combat global warming, political intervention in the global



budget was needed on a much larger scale, and that wind energy came much more clearly into focus as a viable alternative and renewable source of energy. Such an alliance of pressures, have ensured that wind energy is now coming to the fore in the European Union and in Ireland. These developments have lead also to a gradual refinement in wind turbine technology allowing more and more power to be produced by individual turbines. This has a crucial knock on effect in that it lowers the amount of wind turbines per farm and hence lowers capital costs. Hence commercial wind turbines are now often rated at 600kv of electrical output and above and wind farms with 15mw of rated power are now not

By John McFeely B.A

uncommon.

AER:

In Ireland the watershed came about (as it often does in all things environmental), with an initiative from the European union, the 'Thermie' program. This was designed to promote various forms of renewable energy throughout Europe. In Ireland itself, this was manifested in the Alternative Energy Requirement (AER) scheme. Operating since 1992 and worked on a competitive contract basis this effectively broke the E.S.B.'s monopoly on energy production and allowed for the first time private energy producers to sell alternative energy direct to the E.S.B.. It also guaranteed a fixed price for wind energy and substantial government grants for the development of wind energy. This opened the flood gates for the development of wind farms in Ireland.

Spatially it was the North west which was originally targeted by wind farm developers. The controlling reason behind this was it would seem generally one of efficiency since as the amount of wind energy produced by a wind turbine is the cube of the wind power, a modest increase in wind speed will yield a much greater increase in the power produced. Thus despite having an excellent wind resource right along the western seaboard, it still makes sense to site wind farms in areas of the highest wind speed. Such areas are generally found in areas of high relief, proximity to coasts, and proximity to centres of low pressure. In Irish terms the western seaboard and in particular the North West fits this bill. Lately with the results of the AER 3 contract the south west has also

received a large share of the wind energy market, it to enjoying many of the same natural advantages that the North west has.

Thus given natural advantages of upland areas close to our western seaboard and facing all the ravages of the Atlantic, it is easy to understand both why Ireland has the highest wind resource per capita in the EU and why the AER scheme could only hope to succeed. To date there have been 5 AER projects undertaken (wind being only one of the alternative energy sectors being developed), in 3 of which the results have been announced. This will ultimately lead (when all the projects are up and running) to wind energy providing 158mw (Department of Public Enterprise figures) of power or approximately 3.95% of our energy needs in the state. Whilst clearly not being in the league of the power produced by any of our conventional fossil power stations it never the less means that:

- 1) We gain substantial net savings in our emissions of Greenhouse gases, thus helping to put the government on line with it's commitments to stabilise Greenhouse gas emissions to a 15% increase on 1990 level 2010.
- 2) We gain a reduction in the 'so called' external costs of fossil fuels.
- 3) We gain a reduction in state expenditure on, imported oil and coal.

Unresolved Problems:

However it would be wrong to view all such development with rose tinted glasses. Indeed in utilising our wind resource we may endanger other treasured resources. In particular there is growing concern over the fact that wind developers are in particular,

targeting sensitive upland areas. For since it is worked on a competitive basis the AER scheme also ensures that an economy of scale exists. In other words in order to win a contract, one has to bid the lowest price per unit for electricity produced. The easiest way to do after choosing the windiest site is to develop the largest wind farm, since obviously once the initial capital costs are paid off the profit margin yielded there after will be greatest with a larger farm. Thus when we combine these two pressures there is a tendency for

Consequently the siting of wind farms in such areas poses a number of distinct problems.

the development of large farms (consequently by large and often foreign companies) on the sites which possess the greatest wind resource and which are often consequently situated in upland areas.

Our upland areas in Ireland have long been regarded as our areas of greatest scenic beauty and our last areas of wilderness. Consequently the siting of wind farms in such areas poses a number of distinct problems.

Firstly the development of wind farms means the development of service road, underground cables, substations and concrete foundations etc., all of which mean excavations of one type or another and consequently quite often the removal of fragile blanket bog. Although the area actually taken up by a wind farm is only in the

Wind, Aer and land contd.

of 1% its affect on the drainage and possibility of further erosion such an area would

be of a greater magnitude. Secondly and related to the first problem is the issue of the flora and fauna of such upland areas, which is often quite rare and in some cases endangered. In particular bird life is considered by some to be most at risk, there are many now rare upland bird species such as the Henharrier, the Grouse, and the Perigine Falcon, which ornithologists feel are put at greater risk by the development of wind farms. The birds depending on the type of species it is believed, will not breed or nest within close proximity to the turbines. They are further put at risk by (depending on the type of species and their flight plan) to the threat of what is termed bird strike, i.e. actually colliding with the rotating blades. Thirdly there is concern over the noise which mechanically or aerodynamically the wind turbines can actually create. This it would seem however not a serious issue since if located in generally underpopulated upland areas and thus the inconvenience to humans would be minimal. Fourthly and probably most importantly are the perceived impacts on our visual landscape. Whilst obviously it is impossible to quantify such impacts, never the less the very subjectivity of the threat makes it potentially the most harmful. Quite obviously many have no desire to see their time honoured view of the nearest and dearest mountain or hill festooned

soar.

Moreover since as pointed out earlier, the upland areas along the western seaboard make for the best wind farm sites by their very nature they are also the areas which attract tourist to marvel at our unspoilt landscape. Hence we have a classical conflict of interest in the realm of visual amenity.

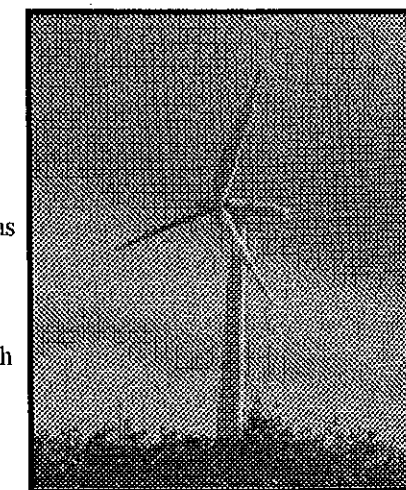
this issue will, like the wind, continue to blow hot and cold for many years to come.

In recognition of the value of such upland areas the government has designed large tracks of upland areas as either National Heritage Areas or Special Areas of Conservation where development is strictly controlled, and in particular where there is a presumption against the development of wind farms. The problem here is that is a limit to the amount of upland area, which can feasibly be zoned as either a N.H.A. or a S.A.C. and consequently large amounts of sensitive upland areas lie outside the remit of such protected areas.

Conclusion

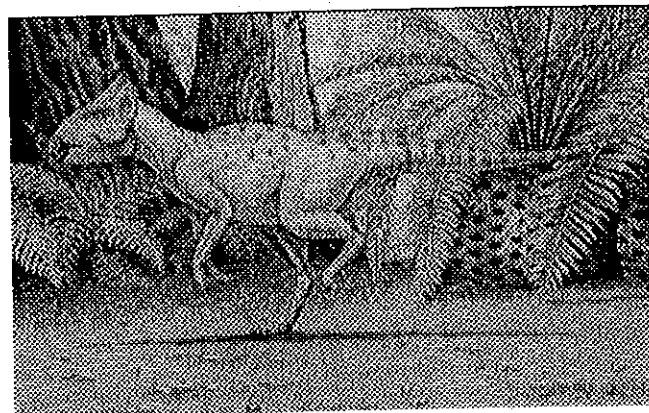
Over the past 7yrs or so wind farms have become new facets of our ever-changing landscape. Just before this publication went to press the fourth AER competition results were announced with 1100mw (Department of Public

bidders (in energy terms) competing for only 100mw of wind contracts. Hence we can see how the demand for wind energy has sky rocketed. If the government had been able to award all the 1100mw worth of bidders a wind contract, then we could have potentially seen approximately 25% of our energy needs in the state (our current electricity demand comes to 4000mw) being catered for. Such pressure for wind farm development however must be balanced against the consideration of preservation of upland areas in the context of preserving the integrity of their peatlands, flora, fauna, and visual amenity. The need for such a balance will only increase as our areas of upland become saturated with wind farm developments. There is now a need for a fully integrated land use strategy to be implemented to take on board all such issues. One thing is for certain however is that this issue will, like the wind, continue to blow hot and cold for many years to come.

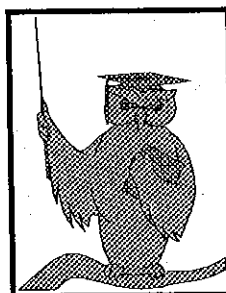


IRELAND GEOGRAPHY QUIZ | WORLD GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

- | | |
|---|---|
| I(1) Where do the Blackwater and the Boyne unite ?. | (1) Where is the ancient city of Babylon located ?. |
| (2) How many Glens of Antrim are there ?. | (2) Where is the city of Malmö ?. |
| (3) Lough Rea is bordered by what three counties ?. | (3) Which tropic passes through Australia ?. |
| (4) In which mountain range is Ben Bulbin ?. | (4) How many provinces in Canada ?. |
| (5) Where is the Purple Mountain ?. | (5) The Great Rift Valley and The Masai Mara National park are features in which country ?. |
| (6) On which river is the city of Derry located ?. | (6) What is Australia's highest mountain ?. |
| (7) The Herdsman family were responsible for the building of which Co. Tyrone town ?. | (7) In which river did the piper drown the rats ?. |
| (8) Which of the Aran Islands is nearest to Co. Clare ?. | (8) Which South American countries do not have a coastline ?. |
| (9) What town in Donegal is known as 'The capital of the Rosses' ?. | (9) Mt. Toubkai at 13665ft (4165m) is the highest peak of which African mountain range ?. |
| (10) Cottage Island and Church Island are on which lake ?. | (10) What was Bangladesh known as prior to its independence ?. |



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10 TOP REASONS WHY CHOCOLATE IS BETTER THAN SEX

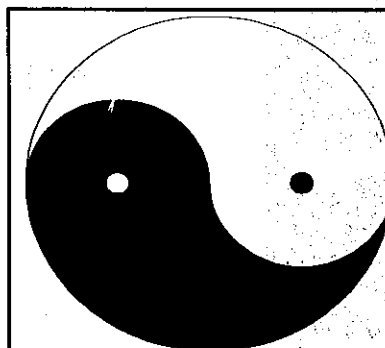
1. You can get chocolate
2. Chocolate satisfies even when it has gone soft.
3. You can safely have chocolate while you are driving.
4. You can make chocolate last as long as you want.
5. You can have chocolate even in front of your mother.
6. If you bite the nuts too hard the chocolate won't mind.
7. The word "commitment" doesn't scare off chocolate.
8. You can ask a stranger for chocolate without getting your face slapped.
9. With chocolate there's no need to fake it !
10. With chocolate size doesn't matter. It's ALL good.

ANSWERS : IRELAND GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

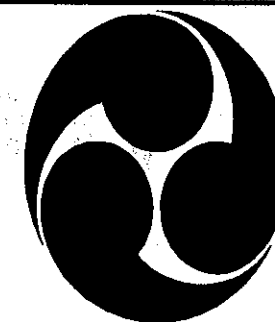
- (1) Navan , Co. Meath.
- (2) Nine.
- (3) Roscommon , Longford , Westmeath.
- (4) Dartry Mts.
- (5) Near Killarney , Co. Kerry.
- (6) The Foyle.
- (7) Sion Mills.
- (8) Inisheer.
- (9) Dungloe.
- (10) Lough Gill , Co. Sligo.

ANSWERS: WORLD GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

- (1) Iraq.
- (2) Sweden.
- (3) Capricorn.
- (4) Ten.
- (5) Kenya.
- (6) Mt. Kuciusko, 7328ft (2234m).
- (7) The river Weser
- (8) Bolivia and Paraguay.
- (9) Atlas Mts.
- (10) East Pakistan.



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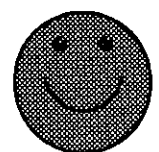
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