

# Bottom of knickers row

ring tight fitting trousers as these are said to be attractive to the girls.

Mr. John Kelland, deputy headmaster at the Coed-y-Lan comprehensive school in Pontypridd said the problem was so great at his own school.

"Parents are told of what problems there may be. We have a school uniform and the staff do their best to see the children are reasonably smart.

"We expect a certain standard but I think we are really reasonable in this," he said.

The Bargoed school also claims it is being reasonable, and say their rules are purely a matter of decency and dress. And according to deputy headmistress Mrs. Gerine Carpentier, blouses were made with buttons and buttons are there to be buttoned.

But according to the report published by the Welsh Office, school rules can work only if they are accepted separately by pupils and staff alike. And schoolgirls forced to wear burgundy coloured knickers are accusing the school of being petty.

The Welsh inspectors are not alone in their desire for reform in schools.

A report published by a group of MPs this week urged schools to move away from gearing all their courses too much to university and higher education generally.

They call for a more general approach to subjects by teachers, and less emphasis on the more academic side.

And a further report, published by the Schools Council, says studies should be more geared towards the needs of the pupils.

# 's in extra dough caught by police

...tuting, told how police watch on the bakery on number 21 and saw two come out at 2 a.m. and read into the back of a

Jones said that since theft had been discovered bakery owner had noticed at deal less flour was used.

Three men made statement in which they admitted bread and cakes from bakery.

par said he would take the bread he took for He said the stealing had going on since August that he used extra water mix to stretch the flour he was sorry for what happened because his brother, Mr. Freeguard, always treated me all

dn Richards spoke of 80 to 90 extra loaves, finger rolls, unbaked cakes, two dozen doughnuts, cakes, baps, etc. He said thefts began when Gaspar d working there.

ards said he used to sell loaves to neighbours for price. Every night he take about four dozen, he said. He admitted John helped but never any money from it. His hours were unaware if stolen bread.

son said, too, that the began when Gaspar to work at the bakery was not smart at first, "I'd go to get more," said Richards, in his statement that his father is doing it. "I didn't like we were doing. I didn't my part of the money, it's bread, every night September."

Representing father and son, Mr. Ossian Jones said he did not want to minimise theft from employers who had been good to both his clients.

Haydn Richards was a man who had worked as a baker for 30 years, he said, and had been at Talbot Green for three to four years before he was sacked because of the offence.

Mr. Jones said it was Gaspar who suggested making extra products for their own use and gradually things built up.

Of John Richards, Mr. Jones said he played only a peripheral role and had no financial gain from the venture.

Mr. Ben Oliver, stipendiary magistrate, commented that clearly the thefts had been escalating. "Who knows how long it had been going on! At least 2,000 loaves a month had been taken," he said.

Representing Gaspar, Mr. Eyn Devonald said if was true there had been no thefts before Gaspar arrived. But, said Mr. Devonald, what had not been said was that Gaspar was the only one with a vehicle.

"He did not supply the ingredients, simply the means", contended the solicitor.

Mr. Devonald told the court his client was "certainly not running a bread mould, it was small scale bartering for goods. He took a relatively small quantity for himself. He had damaged staff."

Mr. Oliver told the three men they had been involved in deliberate theft from an employer who trusted them.

He said the disappointing thing as far as Haydn Richards was concerned was that he involved his son John,

## BY COURT REPORTER

and that out of loyalty, the son could do nothing about it.

Mr. Oliver gave John Richards a conditional discharge for 12 months and did not make any order that he pay compensation or costs.

But he fined Haydn Richards and Gaspar £150

each and ordered that the pay £35.27 compensation to Merlin Bakery, as well as paying £25 each costs.

"I hope you have both been frightened by the fact you could have gone to prison. I will give you a chance", said Mr. Oliver.

RHONDDA Council are to receive the highest allocation in Mid Glamorgan to spend on Urban Aid Schemes.

This week the Welsh Office approved expenditure of £738,000 on five schemes in the borough.

These are for the provision of factory units at the Banana, The Industrial Estate, Ferndale £230,000; factory units at Highfield Industrial Estate, Maerdy £184,000; factory units at Ynywenn Industrial Estate (£184,000); an access road to the industrial site at Williamsdown (£85,000) and the landscaping around Britannia (£85,000).

The reaction from Rhondda councillors to the approval was one of delight. "At long last our need is recognised," said Labour Leader Mrs Mattie Collins. "Let's make sure it's all spent."

Rhondda's high allocation is no doubt due to the high unemployment in the valley and the fact that

## Rhondda cash boost

special provision has been made in the programme for the creation of small factory units to create jobs.

Throughout Wales £18.2m has been allocated in this year's programme, the areas benefiting most being Wrexham Maestri and Delyn Borough Councils in North Wales. Rhondda's allocation is the third highest in Wales.

Other areas in Mid Glamorgan have been allocated the following: Rhymney Valley £245,000; Cynon Valley £204,000; Merthyr £168,000; Gwent £174,000; Taff Ely an equal project. Mid Glamorgan County Council were allocated £11.2m.

## Easier for the mums

CRECHE facilities for children from one to five will be available at the Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad, from March 2.

The crèche, aimed at en-

couraging mothers to use the centre, will be open from 9 until midday every Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

It costs 80 pence a session and for this the parent will be able to use the swimming pool

## Prison ordeal over

THREE and a half years of hell for a Top Centre man ended when he was released from a Spanish jail.

Alan Jones, was arrested on July 11, 1978, by Spanish police and charged with smuggling 23 kilos of hashish across the Moroccan/Spanish border. He has always denied the offence, claiming that drugs were planted on him.

He was sentenced in June the following year to seven years' imprisonment.

But with remission for good conduct, Alan, aged 36, was released from the Madrid jail where he served much of his sentence; on February 4.

He was released as dramatically as he was imprisoned - thrown into the Madrid streets at 8.30 p.m. with a few pounds and his fare home in his pocket.

The first his family, parents Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jones of Wyndham Street, Ton Petre, and brother Norman of Leslie Street, Porth, knew of his release was on February 5, when Norman was telephoned by customs officials saying his brother had been freed.

"He walked through my door at midnight on Friday", said Norman. "The first thing we said was 'Let's forget it all' and then he asked for fish and chips in paper."

Norman said Alan looked in good shape physically but had obviously been under enormous strain. "It's going to take a while for him to readjust", he said.

For Alan's parents, Jim, a retired teacher and Beryl, the release means the end of three and a half years anguish. During his imprisonment, Alan wrote home telling of appalling living conditions, sometimes brutal treatment and the sheer horror of his ordeal.

Despite pleas to the King of Spain, it seemed possible that Alan would have to serve his full seven year sentence. The date the Jones' expected to hear news of his sentence being reviewed was January 14, and when that passed they resigned themselves to the fact that he was being detained.

"The phone call from the customs officers came out of the blue", said Norman Jones. "That was followed by Alan ringing saying he was at Heathrow and he was home within hours. We'd given up hope."

Norman said that Alan knew nothing of his release until the officers told him to bring back his working clothes. "He was turned into the streets and spent that night staying in a Madrid cafe waiting."

After the experience in Spanish jails, Alan, who is single, is now trying to readjust to life at home again. This week he was searching for a job, trying to put the horror of the past three and a half years behind him.

# ot qualify