

Thursday, 10th March, 1988

No. 782 Price 15p

VANDALS TAX

A proposal was passed by the Residential Accommodation Committee (RAC) last Wednesday incurring an extra £30 to be paid by all students applying for places in Halls of Residence (including Leazes Terrace) at the start of the forthcoming academic year. The resulting finances will be 'pooled' to cover the cost of vandalism under the heading of 'caution money'.

This will effectively mean that the University has created a £60,000 (approx.) account overnight, the interest from which will be used to cover administration costs. A similar system existed during the '60s but was abolished through Union pressure in '72, after which vandalism did not increase, there being, therefore, no reason to suppose that this scheme will decrease the amount of existing vandalism.

When first put forward, the 'caution money' was in no way returnable and although that proposal was overturned, the University estimates that students are likely to receive a maximum of £5 in refund, if at all.

As Rob Williams (Accommodation Officer and El Presidente elect) stipulates, "The idea for making residents more aware of the cost caused by needless vandalism is basically sound. However, this represents yet another charge for students to bear at a time of increasing financial difficulty".

This is all too true. With a student poll tax of £60 looming, housing benefit being drastically cut, the new housing bill increasing rent levels in the private sector (limiting the escape route from higher cost hall accommodation), the University have increased the deposit charged on residents' accommodation from £22 to £30. Empty pockets all round.

It also seems to have been the Castle Leazes wardens who have pushed this through and of course it will mean an easier life for them drawing direct from this new account so that searching out the individual responsible need no longer be a priority.

However, rather than a deterrent to vandalism, this new fee may well mean students no longer fearing retribution for their actions and even believing that their payment has given them a license to destroy property in order to 'get their money's worth'. Let's face it, a fire extinguisher looks all the more tempting when you've paid for it.

A sub-committee has been set up to look into the details of complex administration that this 'caution money' will involve and Rob Williams is set to try to ensure maximum concessions for the students involved. The final decision will, of course, rest with the University council. It would be foolish indeed to undermine the importance of controlling the increasing, costly and mindless vandalism inherent in the Union and residential University buildings, but the issue here is the method of control, as Mr Williams concludes "the vast majority of students who are innocent of vandalism will have to bear the cost incurred by the minority who perpetrate it. There is no justice in that."

Clemency Firth



Paradise will now cost £30 extra

MINIBUS MADNESS

Student Union minibus services may be decimated if plans currently under discussion by the Department of Transport are accepted. A consultative document has been introduced ahead of proposals to create a common-format driving licence, and under these anyone driving a minibus would need to qualify for a PSV licence. This requirement poses a serious threat to student users and community groups who rely on young, volunteer drivers.

The cost of training and testing each driver would be prohibitive, around £600, given that the University has 700 drivers registered, the scale of the prospective problem is obvious.

The alternative would be replacing our minibuses and/or hiring smaller ones, but the cost of

operating two minibuses for one would again be prohibitive, and would require an even larger pool of drivers to be available, all of whom would have to be over 21.

This is an essentially non-political issue, on which the Union executive are taking a united stance. A protest package is

being put together, including letters of support and illustrations of the consequences of this proposed change in legislation.

Treasurer Sam Bousfield rightly stated that the Societies and Clubs would be financially crippled. She is compiling a list of the number of times each society has used a minibus from the beginning of the year, and A.U. President Rachel Sims is doing the same for the sports societies.

Both agree that a much greater expense would be incurred by each society, public transport being so much more expensive, and in some instances totally impractical. Sorry, no canoes on this train, love.

Chris Ford, Union President, has undertaken to write to Jim Cousins MP, asking for his support, and the Deputy President, Sarah Bishop, is composing letters to the Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellors asking for their backing. Should the proposed changes be implemented, it would be "to the detriment of the University", said Sarah. She went on to explain that the A.U. would certainly be adversely affected, and this to some students is "the icing on the cake", swinging their choice from another University to Newcastle. Sarah hopes that this "effort to tidy things up" did in fact overlook the implications for community groups and student unions, and wondered whether the Department of Transport had considered the proposition fully.

Philippa Young

LOANLY?

Radical proposals for reforming financial support for students are now being drawn up by Government Ministers. Loans will be made available to all students, irrespective of their parents' income.

Under the present system, many middle-to-higher income families either have to pay a large contribution towards the cost of their children's higher education or receive no help from the State.

The new proposals - yet to be finalised by the Department of Education - would make available a 'top-up-loan' of up to £1000 a year available to all students.

Although the idea of student loans arouses fierce controversy, Ministers believe that supplementing student grants in this way would ease the pressure on parents, while making a new source of finance available to hard-pressed students.

Meanwhile, grants would be reduced, or at least not rise in future years, and entitlement to Housing Benefit would be withdrawn, the proposals outline.

Repayment of the loans would be at low rates of interest over a period of 10 years, with safeguards if students later became unemployed, thus preventing the large debts incurred by students borrowing money from banks with high interest rates.

With indications that the idea of loans is gaining wider acceptance among Tory M.P.s, the idea was attacked in the Commons last week by Mr Richard Livsey, Liberal M.P. for Brecon and Radnor as "totally unacceptable".

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, assured M.P.s that student loans would not be added to the Government's Education Reform Bill now before Parliament, but added that "top-up loans are one of the ways of going forward".

Nigel Vincent

CARRIED-A-WAY

A CAW event ended in disaster last week as the money raised for local charities was stolen.

Havelock Hall held a CAW Benefit disco up on Level 6 featuring the blues band 'The Heavy Feathers'. Despite it's success, the evening failed to provide any money for CAW as the £150 raised was mysteriously stolen from Castle Leazes Halls.

At the end of the event, the organisers took the funds back to Castle Leazes and put them in a locked box which was itself locked inside a room. Despite these safety measures, the money had disappeared by the next morning.

The Porters were unable to comment on the theft, but the Havelock Junior Common Room are said to be devastated and plan to replace the money from their own Committee funds.

Debs Dudgeon

KARD BAR

T SHIRTS AND POSTER FLAGS
Pop, Humour, Union Jack, Stars 'n' Stripes, Confed
Militaria Clothing, 58 Webbing, all bought and sold.
Militaria badges and sew-on patches.
CROSS STREET TELEPHONE 232 8688

6 Days
10-5

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COURIER NEWS

IN BRIEF DROP U.J.S.

Dependence on government grants as part of Universities finances has fallen considerably in the last 20 years.

Figures out last week show the grants now form only 55% of University income, as compared to 77% in the mid 70's. The remainder is made up of money from research projects and business courses.

Last year 49% of all University income came from industry and research, including charities such as 'Cancer Research'.

Government funded research on the other hand, increased by only 7%.

Debs Dudgeon

Amid the current furore over the Palestinian problem, a spokesperson for the Newcastle branch of the Union of Jewish Students refused to comment over a story in the "Jewish Chronicle" claiming that the U.J.S. was planning to disaffiliate from the National Union of Students.

Rumours have been circulating about a possible expulsion from the National Union as a result of the recent escalation in violence on the Gaza Strip.

The Newcastle spokesperson said that there would be a national meeting on the 13th March on the issue and that they could say nothing until then.

Stephen Silk

CLAUSE 28 IN ACTION?

A rather controversial and violent incident took place last week at the famed student haunt "Rockshots" in Waterloo St. Adrian Godd, the nightclubs Managing Director, and his colleague Sean Smith, were both physically and verbally abused by the 'long arm of the law' after the club had closed. Police described it as a case of mistaken identity.

Mr Godd, who suffers from a heart complaint explained that two constables had arrived at the club to deal with a minor disturbance which had occurred earlier in the night only to see them hastily disappear after receiving a radio message. He further described how Mr. Smith and himself followed them outside and were subsequently confronted by 20 police officers, manhandled and verbally abused. In fact, one police officer had to be restrained by a sergeant. The police stated afterwards that Mr. Smith had been mistaken for a suspect under investigation in the west of the City.

However, as Mr. Godd quite rightly pointed out this was no acceptable way to approach the situation.

"A couple of questions would have sorted it all out but, instead, they employed Starksy and Hutch tactics". The matter is now in the hands of Mr. Godd's solicitors.

Indeed, it actually makes interesting reading in the light of the recent debate and demonstrations against Clause 28, and the general attitude, including those of the law to Gay and Lesbian rights.

P. Harbison

NEW!

The Union bars will be introducing a range of new beers in March. In the Cochrane and Men's bars, Real ale enthusiasts will be able to sample the delights of 'Thwaites Beer', a brew from that town of pubs, Blackburn. This is a prize-winning beer, and highly recommended by the catering staff, selling at 80p a pint.

Meanwhile, at 99p a bottle, "the cheapest in the country", in all the Union bars, the Union will be providing bottled beer from the Newquay Steam brewery. Brewed in Cornwall, these are no ordinary ales. In the great tradition of Muesli, yoghurt and Jacket crisps, the sales are ADDITIVE FREE! So if you fancy getting legless, developing a beer belly, ruining your liver and so on, but were worried about artificial ingredients in the brew, you can now drink "Naturally brewed" and "health conscious" beers in the comfort of your own Union. Newquay Steam brew Stout, Lager, Bitter and Brown ales, each of which comes in two different strengths, and all of which will soon be available from Union bars.

Rob Cotterill

F.A.B. DEMO

On Saturday 19th March a final effort to stop Altons Bill will materialise in the form of a march through London culminating with the lobbying of Parliament. In the weeks preceding the march, Newcastle, under the guidance of Hilary Weaver, is having a Week of Action. There will be a stall selling coach tickets up every day and talks by some of the founding members of FAB.

Two coaches will be taken down to London and although the event is sponsored by the TUC and the NUS a massive benefit gig will take place early next term to help pay for their hire.

This is the last chance to stop the Bill from being passed and the demonstration will hopefully ensure that no amendments are made. If you want to stop the Bill make sure you take part in the demonstration on the 19th because you won't have another chance. If you want to become involved there is a meeting next Friday in the TV room where Hilary Weaver will explain everything that will take place.

T. B. Hayes

WEEK IN U.S.

The Daily Telegraph in conjunction with the British Association of the Advancement of Science is running the New Science Writer competition. The competition aims to promote interest in and awareness of science, and is open to 16-28 year olds.

The entrants of the 16-21 category are asked to write 1,000 words on an existing scientific discovery, and the winner will spend a week in Washington D.C. The winner of the 21-28 age group will spend a week in San Francisco, having written 1,000 words on original scientific research.

The 20 runners up will receive prizes of magazine subscriptions. All entries will be judged on their quality of content, continuity and any graphic illustrations used. (A written indication of graphics is required). More details can be obtained from the Courier office.

Philippa Young

NEVER AGAIN

Amazingly enough, the Rugby Club now seem to be campaigning their unpopularity on a national level.

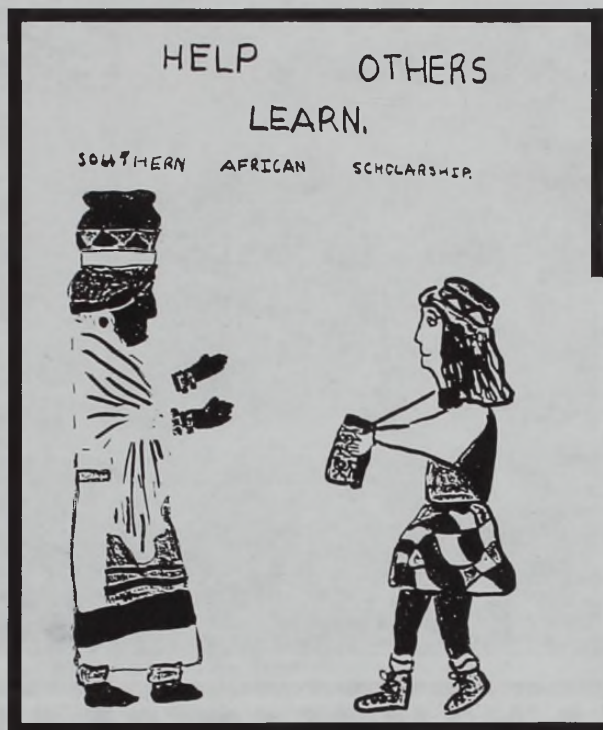
Rachel Sims, A.U. President, has been informed that our brave boys in the V-necked jumpers are no longer welcome (ever, at all... etc.), at Essex University (well known lefties but what do they care). Not only were members of Essex present at the NUS Gay/Lesbian conference to witness the Rugby Club's alternative

definition of the word "host", but were also subject to abuse earlier this term when the R.C. 2nd team went down to Essex to the U.A.U. quarter final.

Ms Sims described these incidents as "nothing out of the ordinary" and added "they had it coming to them really".

Could it be time for these funsters to realise that their 'high spirits' are not enhancing their reputation.

Clemency Firth



WINNER

The winning S.A.S. T-shirt design has been chosen from a disappointingly small number of entries.

The winner of the £30 first prize is 10 year old Usma Kulsum. The competition was only open to the staff and students of the Poly and University, but Deputy President Sarah was taken with the simplicity of the design and the colours, and thought that Usma's design was the obvious winner. This design and the 3 runners up will be on show in Sarah's office.

The T-shirts will be on sale at the beginning of next term, priced at around £4. All profits go the South African Scholarship.

Philippa Young

ISLAMIC WEEK

The university's Islamic Society will be presenting their annual Art and culture week from the 7th to the 13th of March.

The exhibition will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and consists of examples of Islamic cultures, arts, calligraphy and sciences. There will also be public lectures on Islam, details from the Islamic Society.

Philippa Young

FLIP

ALL AMERICAN CLASSICS

HERE RIGHT NOW!

- VINTAGE DUNGAREES..... From £9.99
- BANDANNAS (8 colours)..... £2.99
- HEAVY WEIGHT COTTON TEES..... £4.99
- CHINO ZIPPER JERKINS..... £34.99
- 'WEST BEACH' SURF TEES..... £14.99
- NYLON FLYING JACKETS..... From £34.99
- COTTON ARGYLE SOX..... Pair £3.49
- SUNGLASSES (15 new styles)..... From £2.99
- POLO NECK SHIRTS..... From £9.99
- SURF JAMZ SHORTS..... From £6.99
- "MURRAYS" HAIR PRODUCTS..... From £3.50



NEW RANGE OF BRACES, WATCHES, LIGHTERS, BOLO TIES



★ Plus lots more interesting shit!! ★

12-14 CROS ST, NEWCASTLE 261-8248
9, OLIVE STREET, SUNDERLAND 510-0431

FIGHT ALTON'S BILL

Saturday, 19th MARCH

MARCH + RALLY in HYDE PARK

Our last chance to bring the inadequacies of the Bill to public attention.

It's the end of term so there are no excuses not to be there.

A coach will be provided.

Visit the Stall in the Airport Lounge (March 14th onwards).

Contact Sarah Bishop (Level 6) or

Hilary Weaver (Women's Room, Level 2) for further details.

PREPARE TO FIGHT . . .

Friday, 11th March

1.00 p.m. TV Room - FAB Meeting - All Welcome.

Monday, 14th March

1.00 p.m. Committee Room "A" -

Michelle Carlisle N.U.S. Exec/FAB National, speaking about the next stage in the Campaign.

Wednesday, 16th March

7.30 p.m. - PRINTERS PIE - Public meeting on FAB. All welcome.

TODAY

The last massage class - 7-9 p.m. - not to be missed

★ LOOK OUT FOR ALL THE EVENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK ★

IT'S OUR BODIES, OUR LIVES, OUR RIGHT TO DECIDE.
BE THERE!

NEW HISTORY

October is to see a new certificate in local history starting up at the University. The course will give students a chance to learn the techniques of writing local history as well as interpreting historic sites. They will have access to Parish records, Court registers and school archives and will also do some fieldwork.

The new part-time course was requested by the Association of Northumberland Local History Societies. Its chairman, Captain David Armstrong said, "The new certificate will help us all, especially our young people, to draw on this wealth of local history, to live in appreciation of what has gone before, and to conserve and interpret it for those who will follow us."

The course will last for four terms on a one-evening-a-week basis for the first three terms, while in the fourth term students will research and write a project. The cost will be £100 (payable in instalments) and has an intake of up to 15 students.

The Director of the University's Centre for Continuing Education (which will be providing the course) described it as an "exciting new venture" that would "be a fine example of the University working in partnership with an organisation in the region to meet specific needs."

For further information contact Dr. Jennifer Tann on (091) 232 8511 ext. 2799.

Debs Dudgeon

CAMPUS HISTORY

A "Campus History" is to be written about the 45-acre city site which the University now occupies.

Dr. James Stewart who will be writing the project said it would be concentrating more on the building developments rather than on the institution. Dr. Stewart is a former lecturer in the Department of Town and Country Planning. His consultant will be Professor Norman McCord who is well known for his

studies of the North-East's socio-economic history.

Dr. Stewart will welcome any information about the site, especially on demolished buildings. He can copy photos of documents and return them and will be glad to visit anyone with relevant material.

He can be contacted through the Department of History or on (091) 232 8511 ext. 3230.

Debs Dudgeon

COURIER STAFF

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RAGING INFERNO

Another eventful Agric night last Thursday which Ian Barker (Catering Manager) described as "Bloody mindless vandalism, as usual" and Clive Parry (Secretary) described as "An understandable mistake".

The bone of contention arose with interpretation confusion over the fire alarm system. An, as yet unknown, union member set off the fire alarm on level 3 (what a good jape). Unfortunately, those present in the Porters Lodge had some trouble reading the fire indicator and thought the supposed raging inferno was present on Level 5. The responsible Chief Security Officer had the presence of mind to all but destroy the fire doors leading to 5th Avenue (including the wire-installed safety glass). Mr. Parry sees this as an illustration of "something seeming to be the right thing to do at the time, basically, as far as I can see."

Confused? No one will be when they read the re-issued fire instructions that will be forthcoming and fire practices are lined up for the next couple of weeks. Clive stresses that "when the fire alarm goes off people shouldn't just ignore it" indicating that some were "slow to react" when the deafening bell sounded last Thursday. Still, no doubt a good time was had by all.

Clemency Firth

PERSONAL COLUMN

2p per word - 20p minimum

If Dylan Thomas was a poet, what is A. I. DYLAN COPSON apart from a disease, and does JANE know? GBS.

Love Over Gold - I love you and it's as simple and as wonderful as that!

Ju-Ju. I love you very much. Did AL take the bait in Herrogate? NIGEL: Are long tannoy calls detrimental to your health?

CENTRAL AMERICA 88
WED. 16th MARCH - FRIDAY 25th MARCH
Look out for posters and Details of Events.
The HUGH MOORELESS letter writing award for last week goes to the B.U.A.V.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE STALINIST-STRIKE FORCE (MARKIST-LENINIST) has decided that JIMMY McHUGH, a reactionary Fascist has been in the pay of Paper Tigers since 1952. Shoot the mad dog! LONG LIVE COMRADE NEVER HOXHA!

Was RAE SIMS rushed off her feet last week? V.G. GEORGE B. STEWART, beardless once more, and just as dangerous! GBS. Anyone wishing to alleviate ROY'S INSATIABLE appetite for sex - Contact: 2914220 CLEM: Heard about your telephone capers on Friday!

CAMERA MISSING
from AGRIC BALL
If whereabouts known please at least let me have the film.
Jenny,
1 Tankerville Place,
Jasmond.

Martin MG Wilkes
21 TODAY
Lots of love and sloppy wet kisses
Big Tits and Bubbles x x x

SOMEONE TO TALK TO
Niteline
2612905 8 pm-8 am

Mrs Robinson would like to remind the Graduate that as supervisor and counsel she will always be there.
THE RUGBY CLUB NEEDN'T FRET - I FREQUENTLY AM IN ROCKIES - SHIT-STIRRER.

Where are you?

A Lorra thanks to everyone who helped make C.A.W. DAY a success, especially NO STRINGS, THE BLOOD BROS, THE BATS, ALL BECAUSE THE LADY LOVES LOVE IN THE ASYLUM, STAN, THE JETHRO Q. WALRUS TITI, RAVI AND JONNY LEA.
And thanks to Toby, Simon, Pete, Nigel L., Jimmy and Jen.
Love and hugs,
THE CAW ORGANISERS.

Why does the purple GIRL IN BLACK have Vaseline in her ears?
Have you been assaulted by a LEFT HAND MAN YET - 2, 3 even 4 times a week. To the pseudo - GIRL IN BLACK: It's hideous! What a nightmare! Will never go! Don't know about Bottles of Whisky, but does STEF 'BOTTLE OF WHISKY' HARWOOD know about the Bottle of Vodka, GBS.

FOR HIRE
Very cheap Assassination Service
ACCIDENTS INC. . . .
Girlfriend/boyfriend getting you down, particular lecturer you hate, bosses, parents, no bias Contact Paul or Andy in Level 1. Computing or through the Courier GBS.

It's the BLOOD BROS
To all the cons in all the houses of many slimmers, wrestling with chinchas
Short time boys.
To all the junkies and lushheads in two-bit scotchpeds, and the flophouse grads in morgue iceboxes - RIP.
To the sweettalkers, the gumbastars, the highlivers, out of the gallion for good and never going to take low again.
You got to make it on the 19th March Baby!
To all the hipsters, hustlers and fly cats tripping along the stroll - Keep on scuffling down to the NEW HOUSE PLAYCASTLE and you'll be Bruisin' for a BLOOSIN' (The BLOOD BROS will be there).

RUMBLE-TUM. Let's get noisy together. Love RUMBLE-BUM.
Do copper coloured tops last 5 times as long.
Ems?
The Irresistible Man
Sign your name and clean your teeth I want you to be my scrabble partner!
Get well soon! x x x
To the LADY with the love for Sharp objects, knives etc.
PLEASE don't stick one in me, Because whatever I say or do, I love you lots and lots and lots. (The not so) Ancient Mariner . . .

The Central Committee of the Stalinist Strike Force has convened a People's Tribunal for Revolutionary Justice to hear the case against the servile lackey of imperialism - MARCUS LAUGHTON. He has aided with the capitalist - Trotskyist clique. He must be purged! Kill the Spitters.
Did ANNE-MARIE have a vested political interest in demonstrating something with DAN?
So Jack's been nibbling Gill's pasties and putting his roots in her carrot cake.
** The end of term party **
** Next Thursday, Level 2 **
** Only £1.99 **
** Massive beer promo **
** The Bats **
** The Hipflasks **
** Love in the Asylum **
** The Blood Bros **
** Best me up Scotty **
** Jonny 'Geatar' Lea **
** Whisky 3 shots £1 **
** Moleson/1080/Diamond White Promo **
Lia and Res. - I TOE RAG. Thanks for being a good friend.

GAY SOCIETY meets every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. in the SCAN SHOP, Percy Street ALL WELCOME
A big THANK YOU to All the Ent's STEWARDS All Societies that organised sponsored events Everyone who helped with all events Everyone that came on the Mag Rads Please return hitch-hike cards and all sponsor money to SCAN as soon as possible.
Thanks, CAW ORGANISERS

When the Mon's away the Clem will play!!
Ode to the LODGER
At the start of the term You promised us firm Your stay would only be short But as it turns out We now have this doubt That with you we'll always be caught.

CENTRAL AMERICA 88
WED. 16th MARCH - FRIDAY 25th MARCH
Look out for posters and Details of Events.
A HAPPY EASTER * TO ALL OUR READERS.

Would like to thank everyone who sponsored us and supported us when running across the country for C.A.W. - especially Cleo and other SCAN people for being there. Thanks too to all who participated, especially Bill and Alan for driving us, Thomas and Chris for doing the fast bits and Claire and Keran for being wonderful on the hill. Also thanks for not dunking me in the sea at Tynemouth.
x x x x x PETE

NIGEL would like to point out that he is far more sexy than both LEFT HANDERS put together. AND unlike Dick and Mike is not for hire. MAGS: Happy Birthday for Monday. Lotsaluv LINDA and the Girls of No 25. JELLY HEAD: Is it the hamster wheel which makes those grinding noises? MAINSTREET JAZZMEN, Mainstream Jazz for all functions - parties. Tel Tyneside 2374354. NIGEL: Walt Disney needs you for the remake of Sleeping Beauty. The Larger 149'er denies all that's rumoured.
PANAMA JAZZMEN, Dueland Jazz. Reasonable rates - available for functions - dances. Tel. Blyth (0670) 361930.
Did I really try to kiss IAN 'KEGS' MAC-QUEEN'S feet - maybe we could get a new ANKLE on this one. GEORGE B. STEWART. More D and D (Drink and Debauchery)! The GIRLS IN BLACK will be back! We never lose our bottle!



THE SEARCH FOR AN INTERESTING GRADUATE RECRUITMENT BROCHURE NEED NOT BE UNDULY TRAUMATIC

In fact, a quick expedition to your Careers Advisory Service should enable you to locate one of more than ordinary fascination.

Machete your way through the dusty files and seize a copy of the adventurously-entitled "A Guide to Qualifying as a Solicitor with Freshfields".

Discover what Articles with one of the City of London's leading international legal firms can do for your professional competence and career prospects!

Explore for yourself the challenges and rewards to be found in Freshfields'

Company and Commercial, Litigation, Real Property, Tax and Private Client Departments!

Gaze eagle-eyed upon the panorama of training facilities, starting salaries and post-qualification opportunities!

(Note: if rival expeditions have beaten you to it, simply write or telephone for your own copy to Guy Whalley, the Partner in charge of Articled Clerks Recruitment and Training at Freshfields, Grindall House, 25 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7LH. Telephone: 01-606 6677.)

FRESHFIELDS

LONDON · HONG KONG · NEW YORK · PARIS · SINGAPORE

The 1st International Film and Television Festival on Science, Technology and Medicine programmes.

SCI-TECH

Programme

- Theory of Everything Denmark
- Decrease Haemorrhaging Japan
- Mechanical People West Germany
- Innovation to the Nth dimension and back USA
- Down There Australia
- Titanium - The Third Rising Metal China
- Chernobyl

Sci-Tech'87, the first international film and television festival on science, technology and medicine programmes aimed at mass audiences, attracted nearly 170 entries from 25 countries.

An edited selection of the programmes, to be shown at this university, gives an insight into TV and film techniques from around the world, and vividly shows how science and technology is more than ever in the public domain.

The Curtis Auditorium, School of Physics Building
Admission Free
Tuesday, 15th March at 5.00pm
Under the sponsorship of **British Gas**

COURIER LETTERS



NITE PLIGHT

Sir,
People may be aware of the existence of 'Niteline' - which is an information and listening service for students at the University and the Poly. It is part of a National organisation, run for students by students.

People do use it - how often have you felt that you could do with "Someone to talk to", someone that you didn't know.

We have helped people in the past and hopefully will continue to do so.

The problem is the same old one of apathy - we need more volunteers. It doesn't take a lot of commitment, one night every couple of weeks. You don't have to stay up all night - just wake up when needed. It's good experience and surely it would be nice to think that your time at University wasn't spent completely selfishly.

If you want to know more: ring - 2612905, any night 8.00 p.m. - 8.00 a.m.

Thanks, Niteline

SOUL

Sir,
The following quote from Edward Thurlow seems appropriate re. the argument over the Travel Bureau: "Did you ever expect a corporation to have a conscience when it has no soul to be damned and no body to be kicked". Though it may not always seem like it the Union has a body and soul - its members, led by its student officers. The same cannot be said for U.S.I.T.

By accepting dubious privatisation schemes Council betrays the Staff and Members of the Union, prostituting fundamentals of student unionism for short-term gain. U.S.I.T. may well pay handsomely to take over the Travel Bureau but any cost to them will be passed on to us, the consumers, since ultimately their motive is profit rather than service.

Yours in dismay,
Iain C. Sutcliffe B.Sc

BRAINS

Sir,
I was very interested to see the author of your letter headed "Hue + Cry" in the last issue of Courier decided to "come out into the open . . ." but is there really a student at Newcastle University called "Someone with more than two brain cells"? The letter raises some very important points which amply display just why there has been a 'hue and cry' over the whole issue yet its author - rather than coming into the open hides behind a rather insulting (by implication) anonymity.

The sad fact is that the author of the letter seems to genuinely want the best for the Union (don't we all?) and I could not agree more with their conclusion - "All in all, I wish that several individuals would put the long-term interests of staff and students before their short-term experiences". The thrust of the rest of the letter demonstrates with startling clarity just why I, and a growing number of others, have been creating the hue and cry. Facts which are used in the letter are taken from the documents presented before Council recommending the transfer of operation of our Travel Bureau to U.S.I.T.

This is a document which gives the scantest attention to alternatives and a document which was not given consideration by the constitutionally responsible body in preparation because it was not even informed of the proposal; that body being Service Committee! Due to this fact the document is unashamedly biased, and I'm afraid, contains many inaccuracies and spurious claims. Some of these are taken up by the author of the letter.

On the question of staffing, two points are raised which require answers. Part of the spurious £15,000 saving men-

tioned in the letter is attributed to Salaries and Wages (Administration). This clearly shows job losses as a result - not in the Travel Bureau itself but elsewhere: the finance office. And in reply to the statement concerning the decision of Council to make U.S.I.T. guarantee job security before signing a contract.

Well, the author of the letter must have no more than three brain cells if they think that such an agreement would be legally binding. I cannot see any court upholding the right of a past employer to interfere with the running of a business by a new owner! I ask you seriously - can you?

One myth which I must shatter now, and it's one borne out of the Council document, is that U.S.I.T. take over will mean cheaper fares on rail. It will not. No one can discount British Rail fares - that is a fact. That is one reason why BR cut commission rates - because a large company tried to. Nor were commission rates "cut to the bone". The top rate of commission, which incidentally we earn due to the large volume of our sales, was cut but it is still above the bare commission of 7% by a good way - and that base hasn't been touched!

As for the question of cost-centering, it's a long and complicated argument, but no one is suggesting fiddling! The objection is to the subjective nature of the practice of allocating overheads which leaves the Travel Bureau carrying £14,000 and the Union Shop (by way of example)



£5,000. The call is for a clearer method of accounting which removes this subjective factor. We are not ostriches who bury our heads in the sand and the truth behind unrealistic figures!

The reason I agree with the conclusion of the author of the letter is that some people are looking to short-term expedients: but it is not those who want to save the Travel Bureau - it's those who are rushing it through Council without proper consideration or forethought.

As Chair of Services I have investigated the issue since news of it broke and am now in a position to present the counter-arguments to Council for consideration. This is what should have been done in the first place - but at Services Committee stage. I hope to present the document to next Council (15th March) so that a decision can be taken on the issue after the broadest discussion.

The fact that I was re-elected Chair of Services for next year shows that, despite the fact there have been numerous attacks on me personally in Courier in long articles putting the Executive position, the student body recognise the need for discussion and reasoned decision making. I am sure that the person who 'came out into the open' really has got more than even those brain cells, and would also like to know the opposite arguments. If so - be there on the 15th.

Yours etc.,
Mark Tweedale,
(Chair of Services).

140,000 DEAD

Sir,
In a country where 87% of the population is denied basic human rights it is inevitable that one of the most vulnerable sections of the community will be the young.

On Wednesday, 2nd March the Tyneside branch of the Anti-Apartheid movement hosted a presentation of the documentary "Children in South Africa" by Mr. Bill Spears from War on Want. A combination of depressing statistics, personal accounts and disturbing news reports highlighted the plight of children in South Africa and its neighbouring countries.

When trying to portray a tragic human problem, statistics often seem dry and unimpressive. However, the deaths of 140,000 children under the age of 5 as a direct result of South African military adventurism would undoubtedly shock the most docile of dungeons and dragons enthusiasts.

Even according to the unquestionably modest official statistics the South African history of child treatment is a sinister one. In one year alone (1985-86), over 300 youngsters were killed by the state police and 2016 children between the ages of 8 and 16 were held in police custody. Whilst in custody, the young inmates are often subjected to sadistic bullying AND moreover their parents are often kept ignorant as to their whereabouts for weeks.

The experience of Fanie Goduki, an 11-year old girl imprisoned for 7 weeks in a cell with 13 adult criminals, is typical of police treatment of children arrested in South Africa. Another 11-year old boy had his teeth knocked out during his 2 month detention. The nature of the charges (if the situation was not so serious) would be laughable - for example an 8-year old boy was ludicrously charged with the offence of intimidation!

On release it is clear that the effects of incarceration on these adolescents is long-term and profound. The children may not be politically motivated before detention but their experience in the crowded police cells results in an increased likelihood of becoming hardened and bitter resulting in a greater likelihood of involvement in further unrest. Furthermore, 53% of young detainees need some form of psychiatric treatment to help them overcome their stressful ordeal.

Inspired by the facts such as these, organisations in the Tyneside area are striving to help Southern Africa particularly young victims. The Anti-Apartheid movement is working to increase national awareness. On Saturday, March 19th, the Tyneside branch will be manning an information stall and a gospel choir will be singing between 12 and 2 p.m. On the Sunday a Sharpville Massacre memorial service will be held at St. Thomas Church (by the Haymarket).

Students interested in helping children in this area should also contact War on Want who finance worthwhile projects in Southern Africa to promote health-care education and moral support for young victims of apartheid. The Tyneside Anti-Apartheid Movement meets in the Catholic Chaplaincy on the first Wednesday of each month.

Yours etc.,
Gordon Turner

ALIEN LEVEL

Sir,
The aesthetics of How's Your Love Life is a matter of personal opinion but I would like to point out that Campus Crusade is international rather than US Govt. inspired, and not confined to Tories.

I am a member of the Labour Party and expelled from the US as a "politically suspect alien" when a student in Manhattan, and have risen to the dizzy heights of Newcastle University Chairman. The stereotypic association with Falwell is inaccurate. We aim simply to ask people to contact their diety.

Yours etc.
Mark Surey

Sir,
Isn't it about time "Level Two" conformed to the new language modes of 1988 and deliriously crossed the tracks to the citadels of feverish desire, where it could become a determined club with a determined image?

It is my steadfast belief that its name has to change. May I suggest "TANTALISATION". If you have a more credible alternative, tell me. I am to be found at (where else but) 'Julie's' on a Saturday night.

Yours etc., L. Partington
And Remember:
ME + YOU could
= TANTALISATION

NAKED

Sir,
I wonder if I am the only person who has noticed the following facts:-

- (a) Stotties vary by in size, ± 1 acre, and the big ones have gone by the time I get there.
- (b) The Union has shares in bog rolls, that's the reason why we must have bird seed on our stotties (unroughaged stotties are as scarce as rocking horse shit).

Give me back naked stotties.
Yours etc., A bird lover



FASCIST LEFT

Sir,
There has always been an element within the University who consider themselves representing the true will and voice of other University students. These students you will see constantly supporting, or more to the point, claiming to support, the moral majority and taking on board such issues as apartheid, Nicaragua and so on ad infinitum.

The Fascist Left as I call them do have a right to support such causes, but they certainly don't have the right to prevent the "Freedom of Speech" on issues or subjects not congenial with their own way of thinking. We have witnessed, at this University, demonstrations and football-terrace behaviour when a member of a "right wing" cause comes to speak at the request of some student body.

It was also with great sadness that these tactics were implemented last week at Wolverhampton Polytechnic where a diplomat of the South African Embassy was invited to speak. On that occasion the Conservative students at Wolverhampton assumed that there would be a certain amount of hostility and belligerence displayed towards the visit itself and its subject matter, and therefore took precautionary measures.

There was nothing illegal and clan-

destine about what they were doing as Section 43 of the Education Act 1986 permits the holding of a meeting at a place of higher education providing that it may be held in peace, whatever the subject, and also provided that they are themselves lawful.

The ensuing battle which occurred can only be described as that displayed by a guttersnipe criminal, unfit to hold a claim to civility, let alone any compassionate left wing cause. The terror which seizes the left wing whenever any thought they themselves do not already hold is due to be discussed, and the lengths they will go to ensure that no such thoughts shall be discussed is truly reminiscent of the tactics used by the Nazi right.

Reports from the incident said that about 100 screaming and demented students burst in on the event and began spitting at the speaker and also hurling abuse. The speaker was also kicked and punched to the ground and only managed to escape to safety with the assistance of some courageous stewards. Needless to say the meeting

was unable to resume and the fascist Left had effectively thwarted a legitimate public meeting.

The same criticism can also be cast on the N.U.S., whose so-called "no platform" policy prevents speech on such matters which may appear to be Fascist, Sexist, Racist or Heterosexist in nature. This rather dangerous position in which we now find ourselves is tantamount to creating a quasi-totalitarian state within our own University and Polytechnic establishments and should be very carefully monitored in the future.

I would suggest that Mr. Baker in his Education Bill going through Parliament at the moment, should include a clause making the interference with free speech at institutions of higher education an offence in itself. It would be a terrifying thought that those with the loudest voices, and the biggest fists and heaviest boots and also the profoundest fear of views contrary to their own, were the only ones left to practise free speech.

Yours etc.,
Robert Rowland



University of
Newcastle upon Tyne

PUBLIC LECTURES 1988

Thursday 10 March
Special Lecture in History
THE FIRST CRUSADE
FAMILY TIES AND THE CRUSADE VOW
Professor J. S. Riley-Smith
Professor of History, Royal Holloway & Bedford New College, University of London

Thursday 10 March 5.30 pm
Inaugural Lecture
REINFORCED SOIL - AN UPDATE ON THE BIBLE (EXODUS 5)
Professor Colin Jones
Professor of Geotechnical Engineering

Monday 14 March 1988 5.30 pm
WILSON CAMPBELL MEMORIAL LECTURE
GAS ENGINEERING IN THE ENVIRONMENT
James Marrs
Regional Chairman, British Gas plc (Northern)

Saturday 19 March 11.30 a.m.
Dental School Founders' and Benefactors' Day Lecture
DENTAL EDUCATION OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING?
Emeritus Professor F. E. Hopper,
Dean of Dentistry, University of Leeds

LUNCHEON LECTURES
1.10 - 1.55 pm
Given by the Department of Music
MUSICA TRANSALPINA:
Lectures on the Impact of Italian Music on Northern Europe
Monday, 14 March 1988
EXTENDING THE VOICE: THE NEW BEL CANTO OF LUCIANO BERIO
Dr S. F. Ingham

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WITH

QUENTIN STARGEEZER

"If you want to know the latest exciting sports news, biting critical reviews or back-biting political views: get off this page! I've got more exciting things to talk about."

PISCES: Feb 20 - Mar 20

Yes, I know this is your month Pisces, but you should be channelling all that astral energy into something constructive! Besides, the Library promises a romantic encounter this week.

ARIES: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Remember to change your socks and avoid your big droopy cotton long-johns this week; an admirer will be revealed to you, so make an effort to appear like the sort of person who is used to being admired.

TAURUS: Apr 21 - May 20

This hasn't been the easiest of terms for you, Taurus, but this week you'll be able to see the funny side of life, and maybe even relax enough to do some work.

GEMINI: May 21 - June 20

So you thought last week was tiring? A friend or partner will be downright irrepresible this week, and you'll probably end up being dragged to an aerobics class, or a casual jog to Whitley Bay, if you don't put your foot down.

CANCER: June 21 - July 20

Mars has just bought a bus pass (the extravagant devil) and you'll notice that your travel stars have recently been highlighted, soon it'll be time to fly the coop and journey home, sweet home.

LEO: July 21 - Aug 21

Are your finances making you growl? Take heed, Leo; this is a good week to approach your bank manager about those mislaid pennies.

VIRGO: Aug 22 - Sept 22

Relax, Virgo, you've been munching too much pro-plus and not enough protein recently. This is a week to unwind, so get those carpet slippers on.

LIBRA: Sept 23 - Oct 22

I knew it wouldn't be long before you were back in love, Libra, and this week promises to be as sweet and gooey as a Cadbury's Cream Egg. Expect a treat on Sunday.

SCORPIO: Oct 23 - Nov 22

Talking of Cadbury's Cream Eggs, this could be the week you win one of those little gold ones they've hidden all over the country. This is a lucky week for you, so make the most of it.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23 - Dec 20

Well, you're still not looking too good, are you? Too many Cadbury's Cream Eggs perhaps? You'd better be getting home soon, for some good cooking, before you get spottier than a spotted Dick.

CAPRICORN: Dec 21 - Jan 19

You're so touchy these days, Capricorn! This week you'll be finding those around you particularly irritating and unhelpful. Try to overcome the feeling that nobody likes you...

AQUARIUS: Jan 20 - Feb 19

If you're young, free and single, this could be your weekend. Venus is wearing a lurex body stocking to the Tuxedo Princess this Saturday, and it's definitely an auspicious time for you to go "cruising".

SHIT STIRRER



It's in your own backyard. While we mouth off about world problems we ignore at our peril the war we wage in Northern Ireland. We hide the issues behind foreign distractions and twist public opinions with biased press propaganda. Now the spectre of injustice stalks the land forcing Northern Ireland to our attention.

There is a legacy of cover-up, strip-searching, detention without genuine cause and unfair trial - all perversions of justice and infringements of basic human rights equal to any of the accusations we make against the Soviets or whoever. The Birmingham 6 and the Guildford 4 are simply the best publicised examples of how the Irish can be stitched up when the 'old bill' need faces to keep the egg off their own. There will be many others.

Since its implementation the Prevention of Terrorism Act has been used to detain people on the flimsiest of excuses. 94% of those detained have subsequently been discharged having been kept guilty until proven innocent in the eyes of the British authorities. Yet despite this record of effective state harassment the act and the power it gives to the police have recently been reaffirmed and extended.

Once arrest has been made an easy conviction can be obtained in the Diplock Courts presided over by a judge but no jury and more often than not based on 'confessions'

obtained by police 'interrogations'. The Diplock Courts have been condemned by Amnesty International.

If you are unlucky enough to be a woman awaiting trial there is the prospect of routine violation by the strip search, introduced in 1982 for security reasons and designed simply to break the spirit. Menstruating women are even forced to remove their sanitary towels. This kind of state condoned degradation would not be permitted in a civilised society such as ours claims to be. This Sunday there is a woman and Ireland campaign demonstration at Durham prison as part of the fight to stop strip searches - you would do well to attend.

With the same selective vision we have allowed without comment the deaths, up until March 1986 alone, of 12 victims, including 6 children, and over 2,000 injuries to be caused by rubber bullets. It may sound like Palestine but it's cheaper to get to on the Liverpool ferry. The rubber bullet is the unsavoury tool of deterrence through fear.

Against such a background of martial and institutionalised oppression it is no wonder that reactions such as that at Enniskillen take place, as inevitable as they are regrettable. When placed in context away from the hysterical screams of the media it is a struggle that is easier to understand. Belfast even has its own 'peace wall' separating partisan estates and maintained by our army of occupa-

tion, every bit as powerful a symbol as the Berlin Wall yet one rarely seen because we don't want to face up to our responsibility to the Irish or answer the criticisms we usually levy at others.

We may wear our liberal consciences on our button-badges when it comes to South Africa, Nicaragua, and Palestine etc but we balk at the problems of Northern Ireland. The dangerous stereotyping propagated by the Irish joke allows us to believe the Irish are violent and stupid, incapable of self-government. This is a blatant lie maintained by moral hypocrisy. North Ireland is an apartheid state, a proof of the deep rooted evil that is part and parcel of capitalist intransigence and religious dogma.

Acknowledgement: much of the inspiration behind this piece was provided by the work of various industrious Irish musicians that have a genuine integrity laudably distinct from the bombast of U2.

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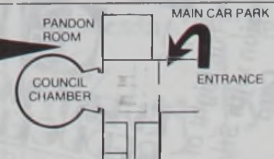
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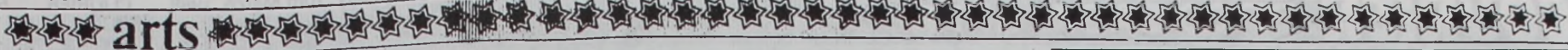
10th March 1988, 6.00pm - 8.00pm, Pandon Room, Newcastle Civic Centre. Refreshments available



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SINGING IN THE RAIN

Debby Waldron braces potential blizzard conditions to report on last Thursday's CAW benefit busking bash at Old Eldon Square.



Pic by Jem Axford

In spite of biting winds, and the threat of snow (which didn't materialise), the universities' hardiest salts were present in Old Eldon Square last Thursday, to support both the bands and the cause. It was an audience which made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in numbers, and those who DID make it were amply rewarded.

First on were **The Bats**. Nobody came up with a word to describe their music - 'Nostalgic' comes close, it's 40's and 50's with a bit of light jazz and skiffle thrown in, and some brilliant harmony singing to credit it further.

Nostalgia seemed high on the bill, as the **Bloos Bros** followed with a more up-tempo set. This is one of the best R&B cover bands around: they know how to entertain an audience AND involve them.

Because **The Lady Loves** stuck with the

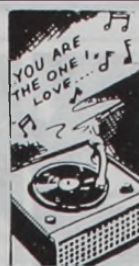
policy of 'simple is effective': just voice and guitar for this two girl band, and it worked. They were original, tuneful and very enjoyable - 'A female Simon and Garfunkel someone was heard to remark (?) Anyway buy the EP.

Love in The Asylum have clearly taken to playing outdoors because there are so few indoor venues which will accommodate their egos. ONLY **JOKING**. As usual, they played a varied and competent set, which

included an excellent cover version of 'Up the Junction', some accomplished guitar solos, and everybody's favourite, 'Twist And Shout'.

Last on in this session was **Stan** - very bravely performing without Wash - who, despite the problem of numb fingers, put on a great show, with a clever choice of songs that were all classics in their own right. (His rendering of 'Faith' I find infinitely preferable to George Michael's).

At this point, there was a break for coffee - and, I have to admit, your intrepid reporter had to leave the scene to go home and cook dinner (with very numb fingers!) However, I'd just like to commend ALL those who played. The cold, problems with the PA, and lack of acoustics didn't provide the best conditions, but it was clear that there is a wealth of musical talent in the university. Let's just hope it raised lots of money for the charities of Newcastle.



SWEAT & LUST

Jez Nobby on this week's new releases

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL - IDLE WILD

Tracey Thorn trembles once again through a melodic album of slow, sad ballads. One could be critical of EBTG for being so predictable, but when your formula is as good as theirs, why change it? The album is, in a word, 'pleasant'; you'll hardly be jiggling around like a schizophrenic monkey when you hear it, but if you like lazy Sunday mornings then this record will prove to be the perfect companion.

KEITH SWEAT - I WANT HER

Well, Keith does and you probably will (sweat that is). This single has been rumoured to be the next big smash on the 'club scene' and it undoubtedly will be because even if you don't want to dance, your feet will. A fact which is pretty outstanding when you consider that there isn't one 'pump up the volume' or 'I

know you're going to dig this' in the whole song.

LUXURIA - UNANSWERABLE LUST

Once you've dragged yourself through the first side, you'll find some nice little ditties on side B which make you think that perhaps this album wasn't such a waste of money after all. Luxuria turn out post-punk, play-dead numbers, with a heavy drum beat thrust in to make them sound like the latest 'dance-ables'. But it does grow on you.

THE FALL - THE FRENZ EXPERIMENT

Somewhere along the line the experiment went wrong and the result was a dull, monotone, durge. Mr. Smith is hardly known for his operatic voice, and the Falls' new album appears to signify an overwhelming lack of interest in their music, due most likely to their failure to reach popular acclaim. Basically I didn't like it.

COURTESY OF VOLUME RECORDS

CINEMA

CANNON Ex. ABC

NUTS (2, 5), 8 p.m. Sun. 4.30, 7.30

FATAL ATTRACTION (1.45, 4.45), 7.45, Sun. 4.15, 7.15.

JESMOND

FATAL ATTRACTION

TYNESIDE CINEMA

EAT THE RICH

(Thurs. 2, 5 & 9 p.m. Fri. 5, 9 p.m. Sat. 2 p.m.)

THE DEAD

(Thurs, Fri. 7 p.m. Sat. 5 and 7 p.m.)

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

(Sat. 11 p.m.)

HOUSE OF GAMES

(From Mon. 2, 6 & 8.30 p.m.)

BETTY BLUE

(Thurs. - Sat. 6 & 8.30 p.m.)

MAURICE

(From Mon. 5.45 & 8.15 p.m.)

Double Bills

COMFORT & JOY

(Sun. 5 p.m. & 8.35 p.m.)

WITH THAT SINKING FEELING

(6.55 p.m.)

SATRICON

(Sun. 6 p.m. with)

ROMA (8.20 p.m.)

ODEON

STAKEOUT

12.35, (3.10), 5.35, 8.10 p.m.

ROBOCOP

(12.45, Not Sun or Sat, (3.15), 5.45, 8.15

TEENWOLF TOO

(12.45)

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME

12.35, (3.05), 5.40, 8.10

THE LAST EMPEROR

(12.50), 4.05, 7.25

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ANOTHER BLASTED GENERAL MEETING
LET US THANK THE GOOD LORD HOWEVER
FOR HIS SMALL BUT TENDER MERCIES
'COS 'TIS THE LAST ONE OF TERM CONCERNING
LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS
1 P.M. - DEBATING CHAMBER

REVOLUTION!

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THAT WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH
- THURSDAY 24TH MARCH IS

CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK

KICK OFF
6.30pm WED. 16th CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY WOMEN IN NICARAGUA
8.30pm LEVEL 6 A BENEFIT DO FOR NICARAGUA

GOAL ACTION!

TWO VIDEOS FROM NICARAGUA

1pm TYNE ROOM, TYNESIDE CINEMA

HITS THE POST!

STREET THEATRE AND STALL

10am - 2pm GREYS MONUMENT

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"SALVADOR" AND "LATINO" FEATURE FILM

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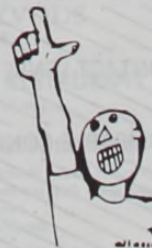
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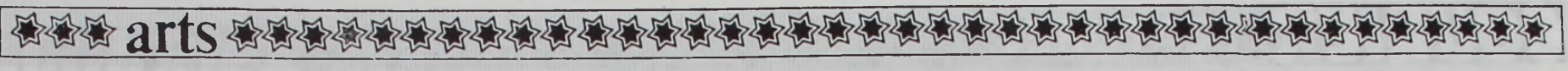
LAUGHING BOY XXX

NU-NEWS



TELLING YOU
WHERE TO GO...





LAST SUPPER

The Dead
Tyneside Cinema

There could be no more fitting film than 'The Dead' as an epitaph for John Huston the veteran director who died last year.

James Joyce's novella, lovingly transferred to the screen by the Huston family centres upon the mutuality and connectedness of all things and all people... the living and the dead. It is also about rebirth and renewal, themes which are gently reinforced in the film's poignant and haunting last scene.

The film is set in Dublin in 1904 and focuses upon a grand after-Christmas party hosted by two ageing aunts. The first three quarters of the film are literally a feast, of wit, recitation, song and plentiful food and drink. The table talk is dominated by the drunken antics of Freddy (Donal Donnelly) and the nervousness of Gabriel (Donald McCann) and it is Gabriel who gives the film its mesmerising conclusion. Gabriel's wife Gretta (Anjelica Huston) is disturbed by a song at the party, and confesses a former tragic love to her husband. It is the thought generated by this revelation that brings the film to its stunning close.

John Huston had a lifelong love of Joyce, and he and his screenwriter son, Tony, stick to the story and detail of Joyce's work. One of the highpoints of the production is the all-Irish cast; flawless acting but more importantly no painful joke Irish accents attempted by American actors! The Dead is a gentle, haunting film and its message will stay with you long after the film is over. It is showing at the Tyneside Cinema until March 12th and there is a John Huston season at the Tyneside until April. **Tim Morton**



Anjelica Huston as Gretta in her father's last film - The Dead.

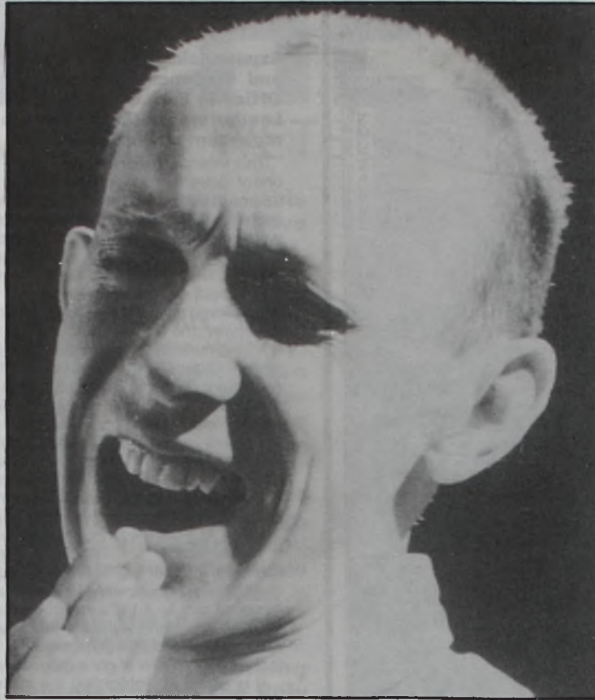
NEWS

DUB RANTING

Benjamin Zephaniah performs his dub poetry in an exclusive one night show at The Gulbenkian Studio on Saturday 19th March (7.30 pm) as part of the Newcastle Literary Festival.



— HOPELESSLY DEVOTED —



Howard Devoto

1st March at the Riverside marked the long-awaited return of Howard Devoto to live performance. Steve Thompson spoke to the vocalist/songwriter once described by NME as "the most important man alive."

Devoto, for the uninitiated, is a unique and widely respected figure in our grand old music biz. A founder member of two of the most important bands of the 70s, he left the Buzzcocks with their irrepressible fusion of pop and punk, only to really find himself in Magazine, a group with a much more challenging and complex musical formula. They became the most perfect blend of energy and intellect in the New Wave and Howard became an eloquently sardonic voice amid chaos and insincerity. When they split in 1981 they left behind them a rich backlog of material but, after an uneven solo LP in 1983, Howard retired from the music scene. A brief set at the G-Mex festival in Manchester, 1986, set the ball rolling once more. Now, in partnership with artful guitarist, Noko, the new band Luxuria begin a tour to promote their new LP on Beggars Banquet, "UNANSWERABLE LUST".

After an unimpressive, powerful and above all, well-attended concert, I caught up with Mr Devoto back at his hotel - gone was the

manic theatricality of the stage figure; the Manchester accent was more than apparent, the words more than carefully chosen.

Although there has been five years between "Jerky Versions..." and "Unanswerable Lust", you have been involved in various projects, haven't you? I found the track on "This Mortal Coil's" first album quite interesting.

"Yes, that was in early 1984. I know Ivo who runs 4 AD and TMC is his, sort of, pet project. Months before the recording he sent me a copy of the original "Holocaust". There's not an awful lot of that album that I like beyond the one that I did, and "Song to the Siren". I didn't actually hear any of the other tracks or meet anyone else who played on it. Ivo just had the piano track for it ready and I went in and it was done in a couple of hours.

Then there was the G-Mex Festival. Did you have Noko playing with you then?

"Yes, yes, but all the other musicians were different. It's been four years away, but for me it's only really been two years. I met Noko in early 1986 and it's basically taken us two years to get where we are. When we did the G-Mex thing we had a handful of songs together and just decided that we should play there. We didn't have the name then because the name actually came from the song which we wrote several months later.

I find the Dostoyevsky connections in your work quite intriguing, what with "Philadelphia", the "Crime and Punishment" EP and also the ambivalent treatment of "Evil" on the new record.

"Yes, and 'A Song From Under the Floorboards' is very directly from 'Notes from the Underground'. I do recommend it - I still recommend it! Last year Virgin put out a compilation CD of Magazine stuff and I put a little passage from 'Notes from the Underground' on the back, because that's where I place Dostoyevsky in my own little circle of things now - I assign him to Magazine. I'm casting dilemmas in a different light on this album. With the Magazine songs, I think in some places, there's more Fyodor in them...

How does your creative inspiration relate to travel; do you gain more from people or places?

"It's... pretty equal really. It doesn't necessarily connect with the gig whatsoever, though; what you feel about a place doesn't necessarily tell you what a gig's going to be like. Travel has played its part, but it's something I've never been really interested in. Some people, almost as soon as they leave home, go bombing around Europe or whatever, but I'd never wanted to travel particularly, and touring did change an awful lot of things. I don't know if it's all good either - there's something about travel that makes you realise all that you're never going to know; to find that you're substantially the same person in a multitude of locations. I think it's an illumination, a sad illumination perhaps, but nevertheless... an illumination.

And... will there be any more albums after this?

"Yes, I think so, I think so. It is... undoubtedly easier to destroy than it is to create. I don't know what's going to be a surprise. Who knows, hopefully to many people this will be an entirely new thing and I will be an entirely new person to them.

We'll see..."

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COURIER FEATURES

"I AM PROUD TO BE EUROPEAN"

The Right Hon. Michael Heseltine MP, who held the Senior Cabinet position as Secretary of State for Defence until he resigned over the Westland Helicopters fiasco, came to Newcastle University to give a public lecture on the "Defence of Europe" recently.

His opening words were "I am proud to be European" and he then went on to spend the next forty minutes explaining why Europe must pool its resources to defend itself. The Americans, he said were beginning to wonder whether it was still in their interest to maintain a large force in Europe, but if we want them to stay we have to convince them that we are serious about real defence as well. At the moment West European countries are no longer threatened, militarily, by each other but commercial rivalry has taken over. He went on to draw an analogy; if every State in the United States decided to have its own pentagon and each its own army, how could it ever properly defend itself. This is a situation we face in Europe for example, eleven firms in seven countries are making tanks and, this is far to fragmentary. Heseltine expressed his full commitment to nuclear deterrents but he had a word of caution "Britain alone cannot defend itself; as part of Europe it can". One step in the wrong direction was the Government's recent decision not to join the European Space Agency.

Afterwards in his car along with the chauffeur and bodyguards, I asked him if the Prime Minister was missing out on a great opportunity for a thaw in relations with the Soviet Union, by her recent antagonistic remarks directed towards the Russians? His reply was direct: Gorbachev has some refreshing ideas but 'She has got it rather right. I think she has earned the respect of the Russians and played a significant role... she is explaining the risks of allowing one arms control agreement to colour the dangers historically of what might happen in Russia in the future.'

Recently a British professor in Washington published a book *The Decline and Fall of Nations since 1500*. It stated that the United States over the next 50 years will no longer be able to maintain its large foreign military expenditure and will therefore become more isolationist towards Europe and its super-power status will correspondingly decline. Mr. Heseltine remained unconvinced, 'I am not prepared to make any judgements on such an assumption. The argument lies in that the United States has the resources and the will to survive the next 50 years as they have the last 50. They are the most powerful nation on earth and anyone who starts making policies on assumptions such as that is jumping into a huge credibility gap.'

And anyway in the short term the most likely winner in the Presidential election 'is the Vice-President who has been carrying out President Reagan's policies.'



PHOTO: JEM AXFORD

Away from defence, the ex-defence minister was decidedly more evasive. A 'Panorama' programme recently interviewed Sir John Nott, Heseltine's predecessor. He had said on the programme, 'Mrs Thatcher was still looking for dragons to slay. Was he surprised at the remark?'

'I don't comment on that sort of thing.' All right, was he surprised so many ex-cabinet ministers criticise the Prime Minister's policies once they lose their posts in cabinet? 'I'm not prepared to get involved in such matters.'

Many commentators have drawn comparisons between Dr. David Owen and Heseltine arguing they are the most talented politicians around at the moment but both in the political wilderness. What did he have to say to that? 'We chose it. You carry responsibility for your own decisions.' Regrets? 'Endless regrets but no doubts.'

Many see Michael Heseltine as a potential future Prime Minister himself and is simply biding his time. At the last Conservative Party Conference there were rumours that he was intending to promote an alternative leadership contest. 'People have always expected me to do things that I have never intended to do.'

Some would argue he did intend to use the conference as a focal point for himself but Mrs. Thatcher saw him as a threat and therefore went on to dominate the conference brilliantly.

'No', he laughed and then left the car to do 'Newsnight'. The lecture had been packed for his arrival but if he is a potential leader of the country, an element of modesty would not be missed. It was hard to avoid a sense of arrogance in his style and a large feeling of satisfied self-importance.

C. C-Bockman

A.I. AND REFUGEES

- Illegal Aliens Space Travelling - A Fair Deal? by DAVID CUTAJAR

Experiencing the dreariness of the Immigration and Nationality departments of the Home Office in East Croydon in Surrey just outside London was definitely not the most thrilling of my recent adventures.

This took place in the appropriately named Lunar House, one of those '60s' stacks which would look more at home as a piece of cosmic waste on Mars. It makes me wonder if the pseudo socially conscious architects of that generation were totally left out of any aesthetic affects of the drug culture or did they turn off, tune into space and fall into the abyss of total lack of imagination and respect for their eyes. This could be a demolition job for Prince Charles' unemployed agrics in the Duchy of Cornwall.

Anyway, the scene is set. I had to wait in an efficient but long number queue. Around me sat mostly Commonwealth citizens, mainly Asian and Afro-Caribbean, some Australians. I had an easier time than most because I was renouncing British Citizenship. However many of these people were waiting for a passport - to confirm them as British citizens, or simply so that they could go and see their families abroad with less potential harassment. They did not have a pleasure-cruise in the process but they are luckier than many of the people in the Immigration department, for example, applicants for political asylum just down the corridor. At least they live here legally.

The applicants for political asylum are the subject of Amnesty International's current Refugee Campaign launched on the 21st January 1988 and lasting till April. It was launched due to A.I.'s concern - at changes made during 1987 to the Home Office's procedures for dealing with applicants for Political Asylum in the U.K. and A.I.'s belief that a major review of such procedures is now called for.

It is aimed at highlighting the inadequacy, injustice and arbitrariness of present Home Office procedures and introduction of a uniform set of procedures for dealing with applications for asylum and an automatic right of appeal against the refusal of asylum for ALL asylum seekers.

It must be noted that A.I. is not campaigning for all refugees. It cannot reasonably do so alone. A.I. shall and does "oppose the sending of persons from one country to another where they can reasonably be expected to become prisoners of conscience or to face torture and the Death penalty."

This is seen as an important measure to protect individuals who might otherwise face serious Human rights violations within A.I.'s mandate.

Many of the refugees refused entry are from third world countries. East Europeans, Russians etc. do not have such a great problem. The implications here are obvious. However not all the applicants are poor or uneducated. Many refugees living here had a better lifestyle at home than they have here.

They are simply glad to be alive and unrepressed by the state (relatively). Examples are students like you and I, from Chile, professors from Africa and many from Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan etc. The list is very long. The POOR as usual suffer the most, and those that do manage to make it have given away everything they have got in the process, and they have no means to defend themselves.

To make matters worse the Government is trying to heavily fine any airlines or anyone carrying in any refugees without the proper documents - even for Humanitarian reasons.

Some Tamils from Sri Lanka made it here last October/November and they were stuffed like prisoners of war on to a floating barge and they were not initially granted any proper representation. When the Government tried to force them onto a plane back they carried out a strip protest at the airport. They were later given proper hearings but it took the hurricane in October to persuade the Government to provide the Tamils with decent accommodation. Some cases are still being heard. There have been reports by refugees themselves that in isolated cases some people have been literally degraded and beaten onto aircraft taking them to other countries. Evidence is available.

There are plenty more examples. We can help by writing to the Home Office, signing petitions, finding out more about the campaign by attending meetings (every Monday at 1.00 p.m. on Level 5 in the Union TV room and looking out for the local Amnesty events). The Home Office has to sort out ALL of its mail as I found out to my misfortune; partly due to A.I.'s campaign it now has a massive BACKLOG. Therefore the government is morally and physically under pressure and we must keep up the pressure. Sign the petitions or at least learn about the problems. This is something we can do something about easily with positive results, unlike many of the other problems this crazy world hurls at us students and everyone else. It is a myth that there is an influx ("massive") of immigrants (let alone refugees) into this country - a myth that is unfortunately widely believed. In fact the statistics show that in total more people have left this country than have entered this country in the last few years. We probably have some of the harshest immigration procedures in Western Europe bar Sweden where they really did have an influx of immigrants. A system that allows Zola Budd (sorry) entry and citizenship and jumping of the massive queue and denies a fair chance to people who may also have British relatives but, more importantly, whose lives are in danger, cannot be fair. Marx, Einstein and Mother Theresa were all refugees once. Support this campaign before it is over. It transcends any political or religious beliefs other than totalitarianism. It is human. Thanks for reading.

UPS AND DOWNS

"Life is full of ups and downs" he grinned. Actually my interview with Dave, lift operator of the Tyne Bridge, had got off to a distinctly bad start.

Q: How long has the lift been working?

A: 60 years now since the bridge was opened.

Q: So you've been working on it all your life then?

A: Howay yer cheeky bugger, I'm only 58!

It turned out Dave had worked for 22 years in the road maintenance department of the city council. Two years ago a pneumatic drill had mangled his toes and he eventually hobbled out of hospital and onto the dole. He laughs as he tells me "in recognition of my services the council gave me their top job and with my bad feet it suits me champion. My mates on the road laugh at me in here, but they've no seat, kettle or fire have they?"

In fact the lift is more like a sitting room: the walls are oak-paneled and covered with paraphernalia concerning the history of the bridge. A cat on a carpet is all that's lacking to complete the scene. But with the declining importance of the quayside, what is the relevance of the lift today? Dave was far from happy when I told him the Tourist Information Centre thought he had shut down years ago!

Q: But who uses it now?

A: During the week it's mainly schoolkids on trips and office staff who go down on the quayside for lunch. Sunday's the busiest with Market people continuously using it.

Q: Has anyone interesting ever used the lift?

A: Well, Sting (I might have guessed!) used it to get to and from work on the Quayside; Oh, yes, and Prince Philip went up it once.

I asked Dave if he had any moans about the job - its monotony for example? He would have none of it:

"No, it's the amount of people who mistake the lift for a toilet that upsets me - many mornings it's really ranky around the entrance. But that's the Council's fault, there's not enough toilets on the Quayside, so where else can people go?"

After my fifteenth ascent in as many minutes up the 90ft shaft I thanked Dave and said I was off. "Send me a picture" he shouts, "the others never come back". I wondered if I would see him again.

Tim Hammond

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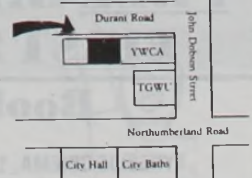
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COURIER FEATURES

C.A.W! THE PHOTOS

HOSPITALS, TEDDY BEARS AND WETSUITS . . . ALL PHOTOS BY J. AXFORD



Jimmy Forsyth opens the proceedings, and mag in hand, looks for someone to tell a dirty joke to.

Friday 5.0 p.m., this year's CAW team have nearly finished counting the thousands collected during the week's events. Helen Voce, Lynne Howey, Helen Briggs, Cleo Robinson and Tim Bailey look a little jaded, and who can blame them.

Starting with the Grand Parade through Newcastle centre and finishing with the disco dancing competition a week later, CAW encompassed a multitude of fund-raising events at both the Poly and University. Hospital visits, Teddy Bear's Picnics, stretchers in Eldon Square; you name it — someone did it.

It's too early to put a final figure on the amount raised, but by all accounts it should be at least as much as last year. Well done CAW people and well done all who raised money.



Religious studies at the CAW parade, show why they want their department moved from next to the Nuclear Physics centre.



The Teddy Bear's Picnic — which one is the CAW organiser?



The hospital visit. "Hello, I wonder if you'd be interested in the new Liberal and Social Democrat Party."



Oh no! Not the Spanish Inquisition.



"We would like to thank everyone who has made this such a successful week.

Especially all who organised events and the bands and sponsors and collectors and . . ."

THE CAW TEAM



On parade, the recent visit of Cynthia Payne has had a lasting effect on some people.

COURIER FEATURES

QUALIFYING

THE VALUE OF LIFE ... BY ANDREW SMITH

What is wrong with the National Health Service? The answer depends, of course, on your point of view, but I doubt if anyone you ask will reply 'Nothing'.

This week I heard an orthopaedic surgeon, describing himself (somewhat proudly, I thought) as 'to the right of Genghis Khan' and a young, left-wing anaesthetist spend three-quarters of an hour arguing over this question, and neither was any the wiser. Confusion reigns, but there seems to be general agreement that the NHS is no longer delivering the service it was designed to.



When the Beveridge Report was produced as part of the Labour Government's post-war plan, it was based on a proposition which now seems laughable. This was: provide a health-care system for everyone where treatment is free at point of delivery, and, after an initial backlog, work will decrease and spending can be reduced accordingly. There was indeed a rush, as many people came forward to have hernias repaired, or spectacles fitted, whereas, previously they had been deterred from getting treatment for these long-standing problems by the cost.

However, Beveridge had not reckoned on the massive

technological advances in medicine over the next 40 years nor in the public's increased expectations. 'Give people an inch and they'll take a yard - it's all part of the Welfare State Dependence Syndrome' my right-wing consultant thundered. Maybe there's some truth in this, but the profession is also partly to blame for giving the impression (and not only on Tomorrow's World) that medical science is conquering all before it, and only one step around the corner is a new Golden Age of painless immortality.

Another problem confounds this - the NHS was designed to treat existing disease, much of which arose from generally poorer social conditions. It was never intended to promote health and prevent disease, and, even today, the money tends to go to the high-tech, high-profile and politically sensitive areas - such as children's heart surgery.



On top of it all comes a Government determined to curtail public spending, and here the problems really begin. Granted that the NHS'

original aim is no longer entirely appropriate, is it time to restructure the Service? Granted that people are generally in better health than in 1948, are we now to direct our attention to improving rather than simply prolonging life? How are these policy decisions to be made? Who is to decide where the money is spent?

The signs are that Mrs. Thatcher may be planning a radical rearrangement of the NHS as part of her messianic vision of a new Britain free from the molly-coddling soft-soap of the Welfare State. Those in the NHS old enough to remember the 1974 restructuring are hardly optimistic - a new tier of administration was added, and life went on much as before.

Over the last few years, however, a new tool has been developed which may help central Government and health authorities to distribute their money to best effect. This is the QALY - The Quality - Adjusted Life - Year. Used in assessing the impact of medical treatments, it represents a year of good quality life which the patient would not otherwise have enjoyed.

However, this does not assume that the treatment was life-saving - mere chronological survival is not the only consideration of

importance to patients. The QALY is an attempt to assess the total value of the treatment - not only in survival, but also in terms of physical incapacity pain, fear, stigma and self-image, these things being assessed by questionnaire. Especially with elderly patients, doctors have been accused of adding years to life, without adding life to these years. Interestingly enough, many people assert their right to die a peaceful death without unnecessary prolongation of life, but I don't believe I have ever heard anyone, patient or relative, plead the opposite case - to be kept alive for as long as possible even at the risk of prolonging suffering.



An attempt has been made, principally by researchers at York University, to express in financial terms the amount which has to be spent to provide a given patient with one year of life of good ('assured') quality. Not all treatments have been studied by any means, but it is possible to compile a rough 'league table'.

Renal dialysis and kidney transplants are tremendously expensive, and six-figure sums have to be expected to provide a renal patient with one QALY. Hip replacements, on the

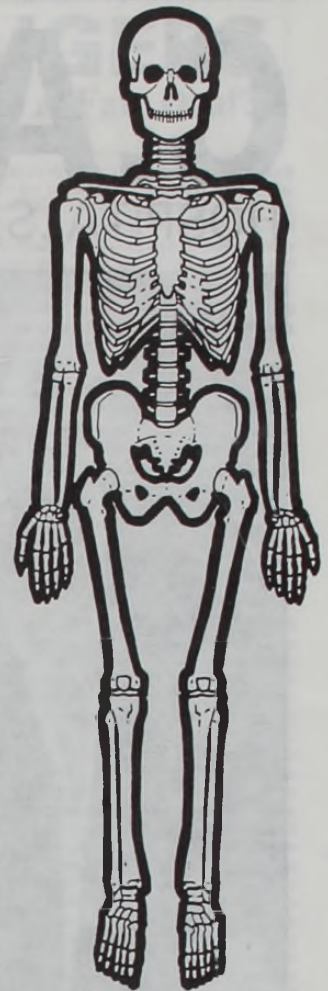
other, come out very well - the operation usually relieves severe and crippling arthritis, and the patient's quality of life is thereby dramatically improved.

However, the cheapest intervention so far found is, predictably, preventative. If a GP can persuade a patient successfully to give up smoking, and, as a result that patient enjoys one extra QALY, this costs in the region of £150.

Objections can be raised to this approach. Isn't this helping governments to pursue cost-cutting policies? On the whole, no, because it draws attention to the often irrational distribution of spending. Also, as Professor Williams of the York team has pointed out, if cost-cutting was really the only important factor, the money could be saved by closing down the NHS entirely.



The old spectres of Nazi Germany will also inevitably be raised - 'surely the old and the sick will be the first to lose out?' This isn't so - hip replacements for instance, are performed almost entirely on elderly patients. And, in any case, the old and the sick have been the first to lose out for many years, a state of affairs which the medical profession



seems to have accepted without further ado.

There are problems with QALYs, but their influence can only be good. Major decisions shouldn't be made on them, but they serve to focus attention on priorities which are otherwise easily overlooked. They can thus only help us to do the greatest good to the greatest number of people - which is what it's all about.

BIG NU EVENTS



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STREWTH

- FRIDAY: THE LAST LATE GREAT LEVEL 2 DISCO**
Trap and tell mum. The last one's of term are always best. Don't miss it!
- SATURDAY: BUGGER OFF AND GO HOME FOR 5 WEEKS!**
Don't forget, first Level 2 of term, is the Friday before the Monday that starts the term. (Confused - Join ents).
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| A | R | E | F | R | E | S | H | I | N | G |
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FOSTERS
COOL
REFRESHING
AMBER NECTAR
AUSTRALIA
CAPTAIN COOK
Please send your entry to Courier, Level 4, Student's Union.
Name Mr./Mrs./Ms
Address

Foster's is often referred to as "Amber Nectar" because.....

Rules: This competition is open to all readers except employees of Foster's and this publication and their families. The prizes must be accepted as offered and there is no cash alternative. The judges decision is final and no correspondence may be entered into.
The closing date for entries is Friday March 18th. Winners will be printed in the first Courier of next term.



AT HER MAJESTY'S PLEASURE



Our roving reporter Chris Bockman went to ACKLINGTON PRISON to look at life inside.

When I asked the bus driver if he would inform me when we reached my stop - Acklington Prison, 25 miles north of Newcastle, he said I couldn't miss it as it was such an enormous complex. He was right, but I was not the only one to alight there, it seemed most of the other passengers on board did. While I was only going to visit the prison, they were there to visit those they knew inside.

An airbase turned prison in the early 1970's, it has an inmate population of 450. 400 are serving a sentence of anything from 6 months to 4 years, while the other 50 are life sentences. In technical terms it is a grade C semi-security establishment with the open-prison system one grade below. Those who are in for life have for the most part been transferred from the high security Durham prison, for good behaviour and could therefore be released early, at the same time the other inmates are on much shorter sentences, this making both categories of prisoner unlikely to try to escape. This is not to say it does not happen - 3 did just that last September but were caught the next afternoon.

Being one of the most modern prisons in this part of the country it has none of the overcrowding problems common to the older Victorian gaols and with the idyllic countryside all around, short of parole it seems inconceivable that many other prisons could be as reasonable. And the facilities on offer testify to this. A year ago there was high prison unemployment here but now what is on offer is surprising, as I found out.

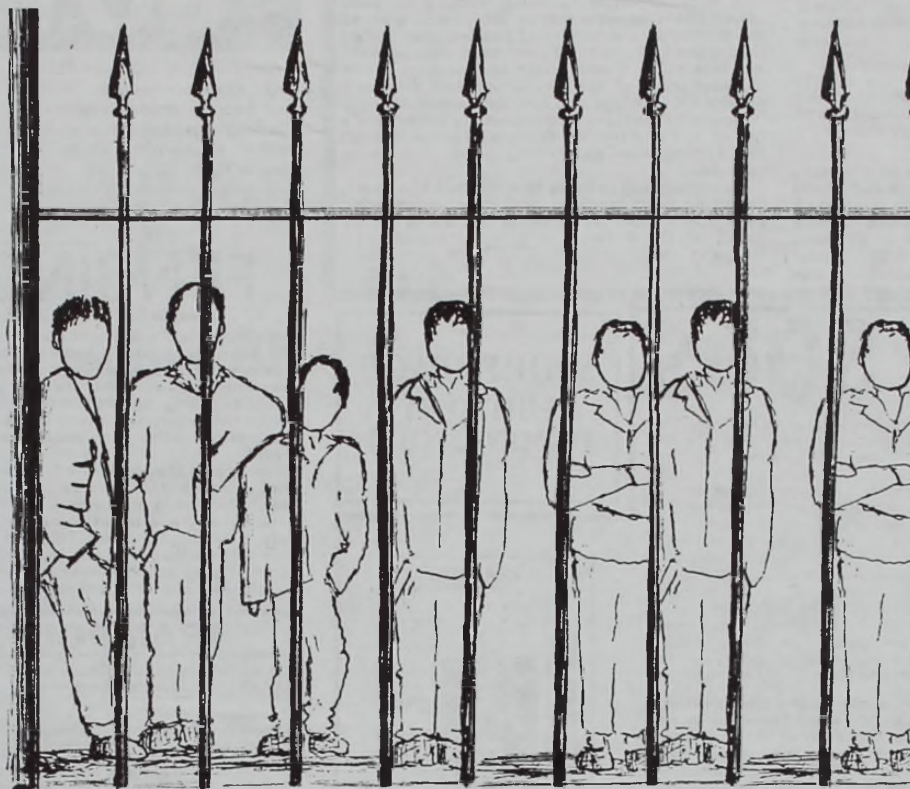
The gymnasium with highly expensive weight-lifting equipment (a very serious sport in gaol as inmates can compete nationally without need of leave from the complex), basket ball

courts, tennis courts and rugby pitches. In all it costs £4,000 a year to run and up to 40% of the inmates use the gym. I was told they form the "hard core" macho image men yet surprisingly are quite dedicated to helping the physically and mentally handicapped children who come to the prison. On the day I was there they were playing with Dr. Barnardo's children without caring about losing their macho credibility.

Away from the sports are the more technical recreations. Courses lasting several months can be taken in metal working and welding. The instructors of both courses told me the machinery is more advanced than most technical colleges in the region. The most creative of these courses was undoubtedly the 'woodwork and furniture design'. The standard of the finished work is remarkably high. I talked to one man serving life for murder who said he had found a recreation which at last he was sincerely proud of.

The question is, however, is it surprising that there is so much resentment that prisoners should have these facilities which are not available in the local vicinity. This is a debate which will almost certainly escalate as considerations to the building of a swimming pool are being made.

Educational courses are run with opportunities to take 'O' Levels (a burglar on a 4-year sentence had just got his 'O' Level in English). Even '9-5' jobs are available by working in the enormous laundry room as part of a team, washing 20,000 pounds (weight) of garments a week. The advantage of this work is once they are released they should be able to adapt to the work environment again with relative ease. Adjusting to



the prison salary may be more difficult - £4 per week.

The most tense part of the day was being shown around the cell blocks. With just one officer and me, while groups of inmates walked nearby unsupervised - it was enough to make me feel paranoid, and I had ample reason to feel so as there were two stabbings last month. There may be no overcrowding but with cells roughly 6'x11' they could hardly be called fortunate. At 8 o'clock in the evening they are locked up for the night, but while it is a legal requirement that they can be outside in the fresh air for one hour a day, in summer they spend the whole day sunbathing.

Drug taking is often associ-

ated with prisons but at Acklington the illicit alcohol is more enterprising as the Governor told me. Currants are taken out of the buns in the dining room while someone steals yeast from the kitchen. The basic ingredients are then left to ferment in the cells - punishment for this is needless to say harsh.

Prison staff are highly paid and primarily this is why most of them are working in the prison system. They were forthcoming on whether they got job satisfaction from their work, but one who is thinking of leaving the service altogether said "of course it's soul destroying, you're dealing with convicts all the time".

If asked could I spot a potential serious wrong-doer now, after my visit, I would have to reply no. However the long term inmates do seem to have some

similarities. Most of them have shy and introverted characters, with a bewildered air about them. Because of this and as a result of studies elsewhere, the prison staff in coordination with the probation service, have developed a rehabilitation course called the "prerelease scheme". Using sophisticated video machinery the group tries to extract everyone's character by almost humiliating them in a verbal and expressionist manner. While no-one on either side expects miracles, many inmates have gained greater confidence and communication skills as a result of the scheme. The prison staff seemed highly keen to stress these new techniques. So what about the idealist argument of the 1960's of reform, do prisons reform? As far as the officers were concerned, they are flexible enough in their own

attitudes to encourage those who want to rehabilitate themselves back into society but some would remain in prison whatever their attitude, but at least if they were locked away they would be away from the rest of society.

Afterwards I spoke to the Governor and asked him if the persistent calls by the "new-right" for a re-introduction of the death penalty should be taken seriously? In his own opinion, when the sentence was still lawful the amount of convicted murderers was a far smaller proportion of the prison population than now. He would not support a "Hang 'em High!" campaign, but discussions on re-introducing the death penalty should be considered. What about the high population, should some be confined to their homes or other similar legislation introduced as in the United States. His reply, there are 3,000 more people in prison now than in June, some are in for not paying fines of up to £200 yet if they were sent to an open prison it would cost £150 per week to maintain them. At Acklington £220 and £600 at high security gaols. With price tags like these some alternatives have to be found.

Did he gain a great deal of satisfaction from his job? "I miss being in personal contact with the inmates now. It is almost as if I am running a business".

Acklington, with a £9m million operating cost, 450 inmates, and 300 staff could indeed almost appear to be a reasonably sized company. Not my sort of blue-chip firm though.

The writer would like to thank the Governor and prison staff for the great freedom of access they gave me.



Student Community Action Newcastle
S.C.A.

National Conference Delegates

See Kevin re

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Fri. 11th - 13th March

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY ACTION WEEK '88



The organisers, in tired disarray thank absolutely everybody who helped, shaking, rattling or rolling to ensure an enjoyable and successful C.A.W.

We've made heaps of money and we're still counting.

TODAY GENERAL MEETING

on
LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS
1.00 p.m. Nelson Mandela
Debating Chamber

ELECTION RESULTS 1/3/88

Chair of Council: J. McHugh
Chair of Disciplinary: C. Cummings
Chair of Forward Planning: G. Dawson
Chair of Buildings: F. James
Chair of Services: N. Tweedale

NUS DELEGATION EASTER '88

Delegates:
J. Meakin, A. Allawi, J. McHugh, M. Tweedale,
M. Ati, C. Bailey, J. Davis.
Observers:
C. Dearden, D. Rigby, C. Ford (ex-officio delegate),
R. Williams (ex-officio observer).

WHAT A ROW

NEWCY'S NOVICES NOTCH UP KNOTS IN NOTTS

On Sunday morning 45 rowers, 5 coxes, 5 supporters and 1 baby left Newcastle en route for Nottingham to take part in the Head of the Trent. As usual the journey was not without incident - a puncture on the minibus and one on the boat trailer, however everyone arrived safely and in plenty of time.

Despite having plenty of time, one of our Women's Vllls was last to arrive at the start and were desperately trying to remain cool, calm and collected as they rowed past all the men's Vllls.

The race itself was over a course of 3½ miles which for most of the way was rough and windy but all our crews survived and were revived by chocolate cake thoughtfully provided by the wonderful Mrs. Craddock. An hour or so later, when the results were announced the crowd went wild - yes, contrary to expectation our

Men's Senior IV had won the fours division overall.

The 1st Men's novice VIII rowed well in their first race together finishing second in their class. The Women's senior VIII rowed well to finish third in a strong field beating their hated rivals, Durham, for the first time that anyone can remember. Commiserations must go to the slowest crew of the day - our 2nd Women's novice VIII - things can only get better.

Mention must also be made of our other Men's novice VIII and the 1st Women's novice VIII, all these crews were also racing in their first races together.

On attempting to leave Nottingham, the coach found its path blocked by 2 cars which were promptly picked up and carried away - the alarm on the Porsche ensuring a speedy exit from the area.

Nick Scott

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

12th March 1988
Sunderland v. Wigan Athletic (A)
Middlesbrough v. Huddersfield Town (H)

NICE

History was made when both the men's and ladies' volleyball teams played in the UAU finals held at Loughborough from the 26th-28th February.

Not only was this the first time that a Newcastle team won a match in the finals, but men played an impressive four matches to take 5th place, coming third in their group on points difference. The ladies played excellently - four victories taking them to the final, where they lost their first sets in the tournament to secure second place.

Ladies: Alison Kent, Captain Eispeth Carnan, Tina Wahl, Brigitte, Trude Ottensen, Sissel Forsmo, Anne-Lisa, Gail Moir, Cathy Bell.
Men: Helge Kastad, Are Larsen, Kieth Maxwell, Jarek Risinski, Captain Paul Williams, Cato Mortensen, Steve Markicham, Alan Yuen, Soji Alanode, Steve Marshall, Andy Smith and Club President Rich White.

Philippa Young

BOYANT

Kevin Boyd, third-year Medic and Commonwealth silver and bronze medal winner is backing Tynemouth's indoor pool's sponsored swim on March 19th.

Kevin hit *Courier* headlines at the beginning of his first year when he returned triumphantly from a

record-breaking summer at the Commonwealth and World Championship games.

The American National Finals in Florida prevent him from being there on the day but everyone who takes part will receive a certificate signed by the swimmer.

Stephen Silk.

FENCING HEART

North Eastern Individual Foil Championships

The venue for the day was romantic North Tyneside College of HE. The four brave young hearts: Bowen, Fraser, Masih and Topping mustered themselves early on Sunday morning pondering on the magnitude of the massacre they would partake in that day.

Mr. Topping, unfortunately, didn't last too long in the main competition but had many more fights in the consolation event, eventually finishing second in the Ladies consolation final (strange that).

Fraser and Masih reached the semi-finals. Mr. Fraser had a tough pool - he battled his heart out and as a consequence died. Mr. Masih, locked in near mortal combat in his fourth fight, battled his back out and had to retire injured. Not convenient, as the final was only a few points away. This left Steve Bowen as the University's only representative in the final. The boy did us proud, winning two of his fights and running his other three opponents to a close conclusion. His eventual placing was 4th.

TRAMPOLINE RESULTS

On the 5th March, the Trampoline Club went down to Nottingham for the U.A.U. Championships. Everyone did very well despite the strong opposition

| | |
|---|---|
| Results: | Men - 7th Klaus Suhling 8th Paul Beynon |
| | Women - 7th Clare Wardle 8th Michelle Hughes |
| Men's team (Nick Neave, Klaus Suhling, Paul Beynon) - 2nd | |
| Lower grade: Women - 7th Diana Palmer 10th Joanne Saunders | |
| Women's team (Alison Primrose, Hilary Binns, Diana Palmer, Joanne Saunders) - 2nd | |

ODDS & SODS

Nothing could possibly go wrong. The money had been safely collected from the boys and the driver was cognizant of his route and destination. The meticulous planning had been centred around a hamlet 30 miles north on the Great North Road and now the scenario was all ready to be fulfilled.

So what went wrong? The horse was a Colossus that stood astride the petty equine competitors. Defeat was out of the question - indeed it romped home to victorious cheers. But an ethereal silence pervaded the chosen spot of S.F.B. and his band of hardy followers.

The aroma of hops that was once so sweet was now tainted by despair. The oldest enemy known to man had intervened and happy and joyous ambitions were crushed under a mountain of excessive alcohol abuse.

The unwavering wind of time has been chilling your correspondent lately (nice one eh?) This last debacle had been immediately prefixed by one of equal ineptitude and stupidity. Is it early senility?

The Bulldog Spirit that made this country a fit place for heroes ("...save our gracious...") demands that you never surrender, never retreat, never admit defeat even if you are patently wrong. And it is this cardinal virtue that I so wronged last week by throwing away a very valuable betting slip because of a misapprehension that it had lost.

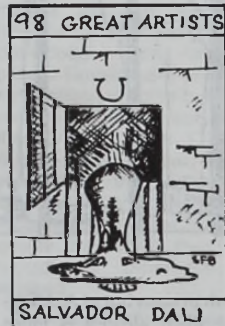
If I become a ranting jingoistic exponent of the militaristic values contained in the fighting spirit - would it make me a better man? Are there superior echelons of society that are maintained by divine favouritism?

In horse racing the favourite is the one most favoured by the race conditions. What are the conditions for the human race I hear you ask. Intelligence or money? Breeding or knowledge. What you know or who you know?

Western Sunset.... 3.05 San (Fri)
Buck Up..... 2.45 San

S.F.B.

SPORTS PAGE EDITED BY DOMINIC NUTT



NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC UNION

SPRING BALL

WINE BAND + DISCO

3 COURSE MEAL PRESENTATION OF ROYALS

CREST HOTEL, NEWCASTLE
FRIDAY 29th APRIL
TICKETS £14.50

ON SALE FROM AU OFFICE LEVEL 6 OR CLUB OFFICIALS AS FROM MONDAY 7th MARCH - GET THEM THIS TERM.

BALL OF THE YEAR

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

CENTRE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

AWARDS

Applications are invited from registered students of the University for the following Awards:

- Doreen Haslewood Travelling Award for Physical Education and Sport**
The award is of an annual value of approximately £100. It is intended that the Award shall be used to defray expenses incurred in consequence of a study visit in connection with sport or physical education, or participation in a competitive or instructional sporting event either in the UK or overseas. Other things being equal, preference will be given to women applicants.
- Close House Sports Bursaries**
Up to four bursaries, subject to the availability of funds, each to the value of £250, are offered to students seeking to achieve national selection in their chosen sport. It is intended that the bursaries shall be used to defray expenses incurred in consequence of training, coaching, or competition in a sport either in the UK or overseas. Awards may be made to individuals or teams seeking to achieve representation at the higher levels of university and national sport.

The regulations for the Awards are available from the Registrar's Office or from the Centre for Physical Education and Sport. Applications, in writing, stating the nature of the sporting event should be submitted to the Director of the Centre for Physical Education and Sport **by 11th March 1988.**