

Thursday, 14th May 1992

No. 859 Price 25p

Ents. Officer faces 'No Confidence' after accusations of blatant disregard for rules

Rabble after Drabble

Ents. Officer Mark Drabble faces the sack if Union Council passes a No Confidence motion in him today. Drabble has threatened legal action against the Union if he is dismissed.

He is accused of "blatant disregard for any rules" by Emma Beswick V.P. Finance because of allegedly failing to comply with the wishes of Finance Committee, that he submit budgets and contracts for live entertainments before they are signed. Union accounts reveal live ents. have made an £11,927 loss in the 9 months to March. Drabble's live ents. budget - projected at the start of the year to lose £9,000 - was frozen on 18th March. The day after it was frozen Drabble assured Finance Committee that no more live ents. would be booked but Beswick claims that

this promise was broken five weeks later.

Drabble - who will be replaced by a full-time non-student Ents. Officer in July - reacted angrily to the accusations. "The Constitution gives me full administration and power over Entertainments budgets. I don't have to submit anything to Finance Committee."

Criticism has also been directed at Drabble holding another job outside the Union, "working 4-7 Monday-Friday filing at the Legal Aid Centre" according to Jason Stamp, V.P. Welfare. "This does not affect my work at the Union at all," Drabble said. "The hours there are very flexible. I am

required to work at least 39 hours a week by the Union and I easily fulfil that commitment. I frequently leave the Union at 4 in the morning."

Beswick and Stamp claim the "last straw" for them was hearing that Drabble had ordered Security to admit students into the Union after 10.55 p.m. last Friday. "This contravenes Licensing Laws and our position as a Private Members Club," explained Stamp. A member of the Security team that night informed other members of Exec. that, "even though tickets had been sold out we were told by Mark to admit people." However, Drabble strongly denies the accusations and claims to have evidence to support his story.

"We did not sell out that night, by 10.55 p.m. we had 14 tickets

left. Four people were admitted after that time who were Medics collecting for the British Heart Foundation, and had made a request earlier in the week for late admission. Because it was for charity I agreed."

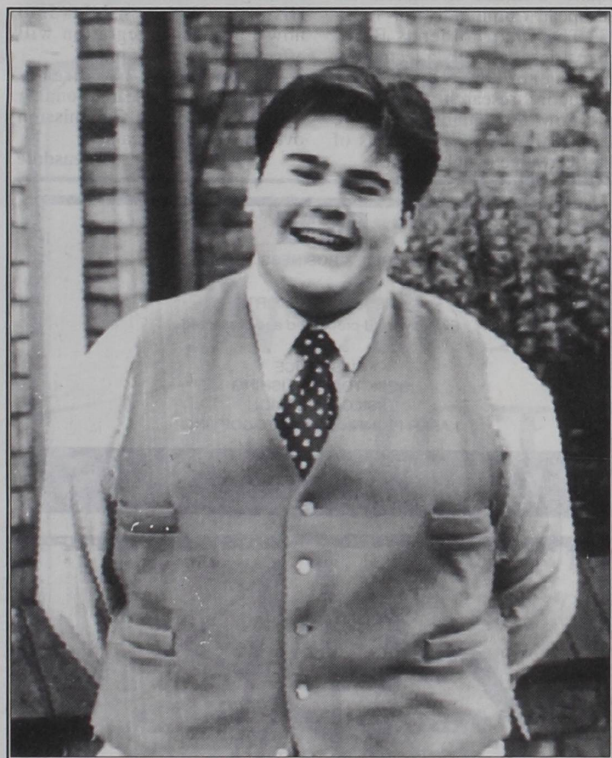
Drabble said: "If I do lose my job then they are on very dodgy legal ground. They have no right to dismiss me. I have done a good job this year and I hope this is acknowledged. Union Ents. as a whole is expected to lose around £5,000 this year, compared with a £25,000 deficit last year. I will take it to a cross campus referendum if necessary and my solicitors say I have a damn good case. But this is a last resort. I hope certain people don't put me in that position."

Simon Bird



Ents Man: Mark Drabble

Pigg takes off



Ian Pigg - newly elected national Secretary for NUS

Iain Pigg, former Sabbatical Secretary of the Union Society, is once again savouring election victory for the position of secretary - this time for the National Union of Students.

At this year's Spring Conference, Liberal Democrat Iain won by only nine votes out of a total of 800, defeating the sitting National Secretary Samantha Peters, someone he described as "cheekless, feckless, hapless, gutless and spineless."

Valuable support came from the Trotskyites, because he

would not make a pro-union reform statement in his hustings speech, thereby capturing the anti-reform vote.

Iain told *Courier*: "I attribute my success to a combination of left-wing dissatisfaction with the Labour candidate and my own personal following." Reluctant to make a career in student politics, he went on to say, "It's a one year job and I shall definitely not be seeking re-election."

Frank Laughton

See Spring Conference Report P4

Farting about at TTANUS

It seems increasingly likely that Newcastle University Union will follow the lead of Durham University and Sunderland Polytechnic Unions and disaffiliate from the Trotskyite-led Tyne Tees Area NUS (TTANUS). Disgraceful scenes at the Annual Conference held at Newcastle Poly last Sunday saw an attempt to wrest power from 'Left Unity' control narrowly fail.

Affiliation, which costs the Union around £3,500 every year, will be discussed tonight at Union Council and Tim Farron, Union President, feels that it is "more likely than ever" that moves will be made to disaffiliate.

The conference was attended by delegates from Newcastle University and Durham University who had hoped to oust 'Left Unity', a banned faction within the Labour Party, and install Tom Hapold, Chair of the University Labour Club as Convener and Emma Beswick, Union V.P. Finance, as Treasurer.

Displaying a marked disregard for procedure, Gill Grain, current acting treasurer of TTANUS, dismissed allegations that the budget left £300 unaccounted for as an administrative error.

Also dismissed were claims by Claire Greener, a delegate from Gateshead College, that she and her fellow delegates had been asked to give false names and colleges at NUS Conferences earlier in the year by members of the TTANUS Exec., who claimed that they knew "nothing about that."

Despite these allegations, Gill Grain successfully contested the position of Convener, beating Tom Hapold by 25 votes to 16, replacing the current Convener, Nick Brereton, who is also a member of 'Left Unity.'

Emma Beswick was elected Treasurer and Daniel Redford President-Elect of Durham University, successfully contested a position as an Executive officer, leaving 'Left Unity' with a

reduced but intact majority of Exec. members.

The conference also passed a motion condemning Newcastle University for its failed disaffiliation attempt earlier this year, despite efforts by the Newcastle University delegates, who described the motion as "outrageous," to secure an amendment.

Tim Farron described the conference as an "absolute farce," adding, "This has just proven their obstructive attitude, we are their wealthiest member and yet they continually attack us. We thought it only reasonable to give TTANUS a chance to change but in the light of our treatment I am increasingly sympathetic to the cries of those who want to disaffiliate."

Gill Grain, elected Convener, said that she had "nothing to hide" regarding the budget and added that she hoped her election would see a new era of "change and compromise, allowing everyone to work together."

Boz Worrall

IRA at MetroCentre

David George, a leading expert on terrorism, and a senior lecturer in the Department of Politics, has suggested that last Saturday's IRA bomb attacks on the MetroCentre may herald a new stage in the recent IRA bombing campaign.

Seven small incendiary devices were found in the MetroCentre last Saturday, on Monday another incendiary device was found and a telephone call was received alleging that a bomb had been planted in Metroland.

David George said: "the IRA have never operated in the North East before and the significance

of this is that they are trying to demonstrate the reach and long arm of the IRA."

Explaining the nature of the latest IRA bombing campaign, Dr. George said: "They don't just target commercial centres - in the mainland campaign they have what I call pick and mix tactics, where they pick and mix different

sorts of targets, sometimes a soldier, sometimes a shopping centre." He added the prestige of the MetroCentre - because it is the largest shopping centre in Europe - made it a target to grab the headlines.

At present 60 officers are working on the case and Police said that anybody who may be able to help with their enquiries should contact the MetroCentre incident room on 091 2323451 and ask for extension 2688.

Dylan Champion

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Cross Campus Biking mad

At a time when ecologically aware councils should be considering the prohibition of motor vehicles in town centres, Cambridge City Council has decided to ban bicycles from its streets. How sensible.

Polling

What do Bill Clinton, prospective Democratic presidential candidate, and some scaffolding have in common? They both pulled one vote in the JCR election at Jesus' College, Oxford.



Nasty

Leicester Polytechnic's plans to become De Montfort University were temporarily halted when it was revealed that it was naming itself after a Jew murdering fourteenth century earl. Fortunately, it was discovered that Earl de Montfort was "nasty to Christians as well as Jews."

Derailed

Durham Students are campaigning for a late night rail service between Newcastle and Durham. At present, students who leave Durham - the happening metropolis - for an evening's revelry in Newcastle can either pay £18 for a taxi, or catch the early-to-bed, 10.40pm last train.

Swan song

"Don't come here!" is the message from Swansea University's Students Union (SUSU) to prospective undergraduates. SUSU placed an advert in the national papers advising candidates not to apply to Swansea in an attempt to highlight the university's shortage of resources, and the high cost of rents and food.

Compiled by
Linda Brady

Discriminating

Most higher education institutions in the North East provide childcare facilities for students with children. A report commissioned by the Students' Union criticised Newcastle University for failing to supply similar services, thus directly discriminating against student parents.

The report came in the light of recent criticisms when universities were told to increase student numbers in particular by attracting more students from a wider range of social groups.

At present the Student Union provides emergency help to student parents by buying 10 places in a local childcare centre and selling them to students at a subsidised rate. There is a maximum subsidy of 60% off the usual £288 monthly fees, thus students receiving the full subsidy still pay £26.50 a week. The places are allocated through a system list of priorities and are available to parents with children under the age of three. "The inadequacy of this

emergency scheme is evident by the fact that this University has 10,000 students each of which are potential parents," commented Jason Stamp, VP Welfare.

The report concluded that, if the University were to set up child care facilities, the initial capital costs would be high but eventually the cost of the over-heads could be absorbed by the University if it were integrated into the existing framework.

The Student Union, who commissioned the report, will continue to push the issue and at present has just set up a further scheme in conjunction with Newcastle Polytechnic. Those needing help should contact Denise Suria, at the Student Services Dept. at the Polytechnic.

The report which was presented to senior University managements and other committees was well received, but as yet no action has been taken by the university to find a solution.

Wladimir Ledochowski.

Library moans

Noise, queues and lack of books are three good reasons for avoiding the Robinson Library, claim some Newcastle students.

Undergraduates complain of long queues at the issue desks, computer terminals promising books absent from shelves and a drinks party like atmosphere as people congregate around desks.

"The library quite simply needs to be bigger," said one English student. "There's never any room to sit down even if you find the book you want."

Chief Librarian, Ian Howat, insists, however, they are work-

ing to irradicate problems mainly due to the increase in student numbers at Newcastle University. Proposed measures include additional library accommodation, and a new computer system to be installed next summer.

Back amongst the shelves, students are resorting to their own measures. While some, having bagged table and books, prepare for a long day in the cafeteria, others prefer the even less 'selfless' approach: "I simply hide the books I need!" said one history student.

Emma Jessop

No April fool

A third year Geography/Computing student thought he was the target of a set-up when he was told he had won the City lottery's jackpot on April Fool's day.

Richard Ormerod decided to buy a few tickets for the first time in his life, and after winning a pound, he bought one more for good measure. Thinking he had only won 25p on his last ticket, he was somewhat taken aback when the 'lottery lady' pointed out that he had actually won the £2000 jackpot.

Richard told *Courier*, "The most amazing thing was that it

was the 1st of April and I didn't believe her when she told me! It was thanks to her really that I was able to claim the prize so I bought her a big box of chocolates."

A large chunk of the money went on paying off his £500 overdraft and taking out thirteen of his friends for a meal on his birthday but he is undecided what to do with the rest of the cash as yet. Richard's luck did not end with that windfall either - he won on the Grand National only a few days later and has since got a job with British Airways for after graduation.

Richard Carpenter

Project Mermaid: To the rescue



Five Biological Science students will be packing their rucksacks and heading west for South America in July to take part in "project Mermaid". The team will travel to North-East Venezuela to study the distribution and behavioural habits of endangered species, in particular, the manatee a walrus-like creature whose habitat is under threat.

The project has been organised to increase biological knowledge of the Paia peninsula, a remote region of the country, by Venezuelan and foreign students.

£7,500 is needed to fund the 3 month expedition. Sponsorships and grants have brought in £4,500 so far. Anyone wishing to contribute to the groups fund, or purchase a Newcastle University Venezuela Expedition 1992 T-shirt should contact Lucy Ward, the team leader, through the Conservation Society.

Linda Brady

Rag round up

Last term's rag events were, all in all, a great success, with more people than ever before participating and a grand total of around £8000 being raised.

This was due in no small measure to the hard work of everybody involved, not just us Rag types, but the Union staff and anybody who was mad enough to agree to our pleas for assistance.

A significant amount of the monies raised will go to SCAN, in order to allow them to repair the damage that Rag Week did to community relations (!) and some to "The Yellow Brick Road" and the Southern African Scholarship fund. The rest will be used to send the committee to Euro-Disney (some mistake surely?)

We still have copies of photos from the Rag Ball (if anyone can bear to look at them!) All that remains is for me to thank everyone who was involved with Rag in anyway, whether they wanted to be or not!

Rodger Clarke

Law Euro-chair

After stiff competition from universities and colleges all over Europe, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne has been awarded a 'Jean Monnet' Chair in European Law and Policy, by the European Commission.

This is one of 45 'European Chairs' awarded throughout the European Community for 1992-93. The Chairholder is Barry Fitzpatrick, currently a lecturer in the school of Law. He is already conducting research for the EC into how sex equality cases are handled in the legal systems of the EC twelve member states.

The position is part of a seven-year funding programme to support the teaching of European integration, and covers teaching at undergraduate level and the supervision of research at post-graduate level. It will particularly benefit students in Law, Political and Social Sciences, Business Management, Economics and History, offering insights into how European integration will affect their own disciplines.

The University has already attracted £5m in research funding from the European Commission over the past four years.

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Newcastle students unemployment blues

According to a *Sunday Times* survey 10.6% of last year's Newcastle University graduates were still unemployed six months after graduation. This statistic puts Newcastle among the bottom twelve University's for graduate employment.

Commenting on the figures, Richard Firth, Director of the University Careers Service said little attention should be paid to the figures because they mask more than they hide. He argued, one of the reasons Newcastle appeared so bad, was Newcastle's data collection was much more accurate than other University's,

and, unfortunately this tended to reflect badly on the University.

He gave little credence to the idea that those students attending the more technological university's were more likely to get jobs than others. He pointed out that traditionally social science students don't get jobs straight away because they are more likely to pursue further studies in subjects such as journalism, law, as well as teacher training.

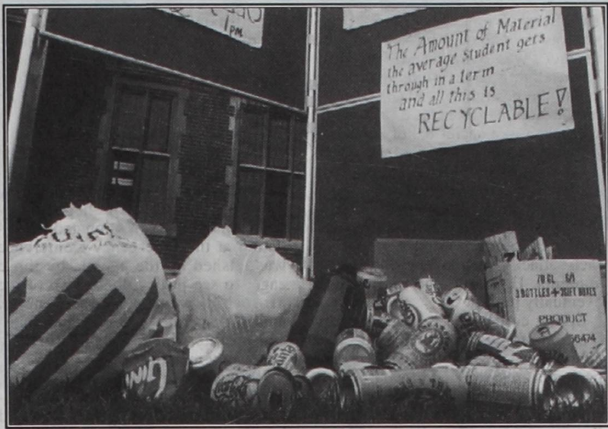
Commenting on the effects of the recession on employment patterns he indicated that last year about 2 or 3% more students went on to pursue further courses in

Higher Education than normal. He discounted the view that there was any evidence to suggest that the number of graduates currently underemployed - those in a job for which they are significantly over qualified - had risen significantly.

This year's North Eastern University's Summer Careers Fair will take place on Monday 22nd June. Though the number of employers attending is currently lower than last year, more are expected to sign up in the next few weeks, and all attending will have jobs they want to fill.

Dylan Champion

Taking the crap



The root of all evil: in more ways than one.

Heads were turned with Earthcare's four part poster campaign last term with posters appearing in the most unlikely of places.

The overall aim of the campaign was to increase awareness among students about current environmental problems, to encourage the use of the can bins and recycling facilities around the University and, above all, to

show that something positive can be done. Proceeds from all the events went to the local recycling company "North East Recycling" and to our recycling scheme.

There will be one more recycling run after the exams, so please keep all your revision notes ready for collection - check our noticeboard on Level 5 for details.

Earthcare

Hacks, Lies and Red Tape

Want to fill in a gap in your social life and C.V. by doing something more interesting and altruistic than fell-walking, ballroom dancing, Tae-Kwon-Do or RockSoc? Then why not become a Union Councillor?

Union Council is your chance to get involved, and hold the prima donnas accountable. It is the 'government' of this Union, consisting of 70 elected and appointed members, which meets once a month in the Debating Chamber to discuss ALL matters concerning the Union. From appointing a cleaner to painting the brickwork,

from Palestine to Question Time...

Above all, it offers a rare forum for debate. Where you come in, is in standing for one of the Faculty Representative positions. Your faculty will have vacancies - Elections are on June 16th - get your nomination forms (available from the General Office, Level 6) in by Monday 8th June.

You don't have to be a politician, or a majestic rhetorician - common sense and impartiality are far more valuable.

Lucy McKeever
Steering Committee

Quickies Smoke hoax

Alarmed students were shunted from the Union last Tuesday morning when choking smoke filled the entrance to the Union shop. The fire brigade was called as Union council members tried to find the source, but it was concluded a smoke bomb was the cause.

Sarah Shannon

Racing ball

The venue for this year's Graduation Ball is a huge marquee on Gosforth Race Course, 1000 students will be bussed to and from the enormous event on Saturday 4th July where a gourmet cold buffet, discos and bands will be provided for exam-fatigued graduates. The tickets are rumoured to be priced at £30; a bit extortionate but it will be your last Newcastle University event before you step out into the working world.

Sarah Shannon

Poet prize

Fancy yourself as the new Keith Waterhouse, then apply for the BBC North Alfred Bradley Bursary award. The £6000 prize, is aimed at encouraging aspiring poets, play-wrights and authors to pursue a career in writing for radio, with extensive guidance from the Beeb itself. Details are available from the "Alfred Bradley Bursary Award, PO Box 77, Manchester M60 1SQ. Material must be submitted by May 31st.

Dominic Casciani

Shake-up

Departmental organisation has come under scrutiny. The University Senate has set up a working party to look at its efficiency. A question-naire, the results of which will be taken into consideration by the working party, is available from the union. Jason Stamp (VP Welfare) explained that "This is an ideal opportunity for students to express their feelings.

Wladimir Ledochowski.

Additional advice

When work on the new improved Welfare Office is completed, a new face will be encountered, offering help to the needy. Namely that of the recently appointed Welfare Adviser - Veronique Peacock.

Veronique arrives from the North Lambert Law Centre, accompanied by six year's experience in welfare rights. She is no stranger to the North-East either, having lived in Stockton for nearly ten years, and a further four in Durham, where she worked at the Citizens Advice Bureau.

She sees the work of the Welfare Office as divided broadly into three areas:

1. Student housing
2. Student finance
3. International students

She is also keen to highlight the problems that can face international students in Newcastle; critical of the University's treatment of them, encouraging study here for the funds it generates, and then to leave them to survive very often to their own devices.



Nevertheless, the changes at the Welfare Office illustrate the urgency to accommodate these increasing difficulties within University life. Even after a few days, stationed temporarily in the 'function suite', Veronique acknowledges that the office is 'busy'. Jason Stamp (VP Welfare) is "confident that she will be a valuable addition to the existing team." Certainly, we need all the help we can get!"

Jason Green

Filched

Two burglaries have recently struck the Union. The first was during the Easter vacation when the silver trophies on Level 4 were swiped from their cabinet.

The police arrived too late to catch the thieves. Staff could find no sign of forced entry and so it is assumed the burglars had remained in the building when they locked up earlier that day. Luckily, all the trophies were recovered except one as the burglars dumped them during their escape.

The second burglary occurred on a Friday night when the Union was heaving with students. Belongings were taken from the Level 2 laundry room by an intruder. Security Guard, Nick James faced the worst loss. Ironically, he had brought his 21st birthday present, an £850 Gold Omega watch to work with him because he was worried that his house was not secure! The thief was not attending Technique. He smashed his way into the room sustaining cuts from the jagged glass.

The police have had no success as yet in apprehending the culprits.

Sarah Shannon

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NUS: Spring is in the air

The birds are singing, the sun is shining and the daffodils are blooming – yup, it's that time of year again, time for another trip to cloud cuckoo land, more formally known as the NUS Spring Conference.

After the chaos and near-rioting of the Emergency Conference held in March in order to continue the reform debate, it was still unclear as to whether reform measures had actually been passed or not, and it looked as though the reform motion would be relegated to the dusty archives of the NUS headquarters for another five years.

Finally, however, some tentative steps towards reform were taken as a vote to establish a National Council to monitor the activities of the National Executive Committee was passed, thus paving the way for a fully reformed NUS "at some point in the future". Don't hold your breath.

The main motions tabled for the agenda afforded few opportunities for bickering between the political factions on conference floor, as delegates seemed to be in general agreement that the NUS should be lobbying the government to provide a better standard of "Employment and Training" (motion one) and that we should be fighting "Racism and Fascism" (motion two) in individual colleges and in society. A challenge to the NUS "no platform" policy which bans

members of Fascist organisations such as the National Front from conference, was overturned. The only other, slightly contentious motion, to create the position of "Black Officer" on the National Executive Committee was taken to a secret ballot, as it was considered that many students faced intimidation from various groups on conference floor. Some people argued that the position of a "Black Officer" in itself was racist as it actively alienated non-black students who face racist attacks, such as Jewish and Irish students. However, the motion was eventually passed.

Spring conference is dominated by elections for the National Executive Committee, as all full- and part-time positions are contested in what invariably leads to furtive wheeling and dealing between factions all eager to "bargain" with one another to get their candidates elected.

This conference saw the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) retain their control of the NUS despite Tim Farron's short-lived victory in his attempt to win VP Education – he gained the highest number of first-round preferences but lost on transfers. The over-confident attempt of NOLS to retain the position of National Secretary was scuppered by Iain Pigg, who won with a convincing majority of second-round transfers.

Independent students were the

overall conference victors however, winning two full-time and four part-time positions, thus hopefully ensuring a watering-down of political rhetoric and factionalist in-fighting on next year's Executive Committee.

The most exciting part of the whole conference was saved right until the end when an emergency motion to no-confidence Trotskyite Left Unity NEC members for their allegedly violent displays of aggression and intimidation at the Emergency Conference was pushed up the agenda by those eager to see justice done. Two of the aforesaid were no-confidenced, amidst desperate cries of 'witch-hunt' and despite time-wasting efforts by Left Unity members.

However, democracy was done, and at last some of the 'cut-and-thrust' of the NUS that we know and love was restored, after the relatively smooth proceedings of much of the conference.

And so to the future. It is highly unlikely that the NUS will fully reform itself now, and it still remains unclear as to whether Winter Conference has been abolished or not. But in the wake of the Conservative General Election victory, it is clear that the role of a National Union is more important than ever if students are to defend themselves against further attacks on Education.

Heather Saville
President-Elect 1992/93

Wonders with Welfare

If you have casually strolled along 5th Avenue recently, you cannot have failed to notice the incongruous presence of builders among fellow students. They signal the implementation of new Union plans in expanding the existing Welfare Office facilities with key personnel additions, particularly the appointment of a third Welfare Officer in the person of Veronique Peacock.

This expansion has been deemed necessary primarily due to the increasing financial difficulties experienced by students in their bid to be educated and live at the same time; resulting in an exhaustive demand on the office for advice and assistance. Concern over the problem ensured further discussions within the Union with Emma Beswick, VP Finance, determined on the development of

existing space to rectify its growing inadequacy to sufficiently accommodate all student demands in spite of all valiant efforts by its staff.

The new office and extra staff comprise the hope to make welfare assistance more accessible and comprehensible to students, with longer opening hours and greater scope of facilities.

Jason Stamp, VP Welfare, pro-

fessed happiness that the Union has decided to expand such a non-commercial section of itself, hopefully representing a needed recognition of the importance of the welfare of its members.

However, characteristic delays in the renovations have prevented the new office from being operational from the start of term as planned, but all should be in working order in 2-3 weeks time. Meanwhile, the Welfare Office continues to run from the Function Suite just around the corner to the builders at the end of Level 5.

Jason Green

Obituary: Chris Pyne

Chris Pyne graduated from Newcastle University in 1989 and was Union Entertainments Officer from 1989 to 1990.

While Chris' life sometimes demonstrated a tendency to make things difficult for him, it should not by any means be portrayed as the brief tale of woe so often posthumously delegated to those who die young. Chris had a lot of fun.

Chris enjoyed life's classic pleasures – 'wine, women and song' wasn't too far off, but food and French art films also played their part, as did squash.

Academically Chris was also distinguished, excelling in the unusual combination of Portuguese and Norwegian.

On a personal level Chris had great integrity. While dedicated to the Student Union as an organisation to serve students, Chris maintained a healthy cynicism towards its wider political pretensions.

He was rare in my experience of Student Union sabbaticals in as far as he never did deals or trade-offs and always voted as he believed correct on each issue. He was also rare in maintaining a sense of humour typically displayed in a wry head-shaking smile which usually rapidly lost the battle to avoid becoming a broad grin.

Chris was instrumental in promoting Newcastle University Union Society's progress towards a more professional way of conducting its business. This year one of his pet schemes, the establishment of Ents. as a permanent management position is being enacted with candidates being sifted at time of writing. This is just one tiny example of his contribution to NUUS' future.

In 1989/90, on an Exec. that had to make difficult choices, Chris was one of the thinkers and



to his eternal credit he stuck by his decisions despite the occasional tough consequences and hard lobbying to change his mind.

Chris gave a lot to our Union but I know he'll think it a good deal because he got a heck of a lot of enjoyment out of it too.

The Union wasn't his life, there was a lot more to Chris than that, but while he kept NUS in context he also put a lot of effort into it. In this sense he is an example to everyone. To detail precisely what I mean would fill far more space than is available here, I will merely say that he kept his head

and it was a good one.

Chris' loss will be felt very deeply and very genuinely by many people, not least those of us who worked with him. It will also be felt, at least as deeply, by many others who only met him briefly because Chris was a big-hearted person who left a warm impression.

Our deepest condolences go to his family and close friends.

Chris Bailey Deputy
President 1989/90

Chris Pyne died during the Easter vacation after a long illness.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FAIL YOUR EXAMS...

Many people believe that if you fail your examinations it's all over. But if you think that there were extenuating circumstances all is not lost. There are two kinds of academic appeals

- **Appeals against the consequences of an exam result.. For example, your results may mean that you are transferred to a General Degree from Honours.**
- **Appeals against the results themselves. For example you may believe that you deserved a 2:2 when you only got a third.**

The first type of appeal is much more common than the second.

The Students Union exists to help you in any appeal you might make, we have copies of all the relevant regulations and can offer help and advice.

The Officer responsible for Academic Welfare is **Jason Stamp (Vice President Welfare)** whose office is on Level 6 of the Union Building.



Working for Welfare

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For forms and additional information contact: **JASON STAMP - Vice President Welfare** or **WELFARE CENTRE (FUNCTION SUITE L.5)**



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The Daily Telegraph

Hard times

Sir,
As the summer vacation approaches students in Newcastle are already facing the prospect of a long period of financial hardship. In the first year since students were denied state benefits, it's no wonder that we've witnessed a huge rise in the number of applications for Student Loans and Access Funds. With the High Street Banks refusing to extend overdraft facilities, students are being forced to leave their courses simply because they can't afford to remain in the Higher Education system. The depressing thought is that with a Tory government returned to Parliament, the situation isn't going to improve. Education is becoming more and more of a privilege - if you can pay for it, you deserve it.

Here in Newcastle the hundreds of applications for the University administered Access Funds have delivered a depressing view of

what it's like to be a student in the present climate of financial hardship: Students being forced to spend extravagant amounts of money on dissertations and course materials; students who genuinely can't afford to eat, let alone have a social life. These bleak realities are enough to destroy the traditional stereotyped image of rich students squandering money on alcohol and cigarettes.

Through the Access Funds we've helped a significant number of students in financial hardship, providing some short-term solutions to the problems they encounter because of a non-existent financial support system. This, however, is not enough. Students shouldn't be forced into debt to get themselves an education.

Yours etc.,
Jason Stamp,
Vice President Welfare and
Member of Financial
Assistance Committee

In the pink

Sir,
I want you to publish my complaint about our Union cards. Firstly, they are pink which embarrasses the shit out of me when I'm out with my Poly mates. Secondly, they are too big to fit in my credit card case. Could we possibly have a campaign for a sensible sized card next season?

Yours in hope,
Nick Keegan
(1st year French Mature
Student)
P.S. My mate Oliver wants
to join your campaign already!

Nameless

Sir,
I've noticed that in the Debating Chamber there are plaques showing names of previous Union Presidents, Secretaries, etc. I've also noticed that these plaques are by no means kept up to date.

I realise that some Sabbaticals are not worth talking about, but I think the least the President could do is get the plaques up to date and kept that way.

Yours etc.,
Elmer,
Dept. of Hard Sums

Book back in anger

Sir,
As a third year student I have only recently begun to visit the Library on a regular basis. For my revision I need access to a wide range of periodicals and books. As is always the case at this time of year, many of the books that are vital to courses are on loan, thus the key sources come from articles in periodicals which cannot be removed from the Library.

Due to the time of year some of the most important periodicals are in use much of the time, so to ensure access to these, getting to the Library for 9 a.m. seemed the obvious solution. However, even at this time I found that some of the periodicals I required were not on the shelves. When I went to enquire at the desk I was told that the books in question had vanished. Today I was surprised to discover

that there are lockers available in the Library for keeping personal possessions locked outside Library hours. This system seems open for abuse unless they are searched each night for books which are not on the card of the owners. This, I have been informed, is not done, thus many books which appear to have vanished may be hidden away in some of the lockers.

I suggest that during exam term, when books are required by all for regular use, that lockers should be abolished. The keys should be recalled and all the books returned to the shelves. This must be done this week so that the benefits can be reaped before the exams this year.

Your in a state of blind panic,
Rory McMullan

Earthcare fight back

Sir,
Taking action on environmental issues does not mean you have to be a 'hippy veggie type'. The success of Earthcare's Environmental Awareness Week proved that all types of student are willing to take an active role when they can.

This, however, is something our caring and forward looking Union Exec. fail or refuse to accept. Their rather inexplicable prejudice against Earthcare caused much distress and hassle for those who organised the events.

Perhaps the Exec. is feeling guilty. Three years ago they ratified a welcome environmental policy and felt terribly pleased with themselves. Since then not one of the proposals have been successfully implemented.

Earthcare have offered both advice and practical help and have taken on many of the responsibilities that

should be the Union's. Rather than work with Earthcare and make a new start, the Exec. seemed to think they are having their noses rubbed in it. They have sulked, bitched and made excuses and a few token gestures.

What is their problem? The environment concerns all of us. The Exec. don't seem to care or understand that what they do now helps set the standards of how we and others live in the future.

As we bid a fond farewell to this year's Exec. we hope that next year's have taken note of the strength of feeling on green issues amongst all students. Please, Heather Saville et al. don't play political hack games like "dodge the issue", "yes means no" and "masturbate my ego", and pull your fingers out. Remember Earthcare is watching you.

Yours etc.,
Sue Ellis

Newcastle University Courier Student Newspaper

Union Society, Kings Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QB
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Richard Johnson
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Miles Gibson
Crossword.....The Alley Cat
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House hunting distress

Sir,

Hey, guess what, I'm looking for a house for four people to live in next year. I've seen a few but I don't want to pay a huge amount of money or live in a sty. Shopping around seems to be the best thing to do.

Isn't it great, therefore, that the University provides a service to help our search for bargain accommodation. Good old Newcastle Uni. - educational establishment and paternal pal. Sad to say, however, that I got a little bit irritated, nay strop, to discover that this Housing Office only publishes its list well into the Easter holidays when most folk are at home and will have to spend lots of cash getting back up to Newcastle to stand a chance of benefiting from the Housing Office's toil.

The Polytechnic, however, publish their list in the Poly's term time - only 3 days after our end of term three weeks before our list comes out. These lists will, as a Housing Office worker told me,

overlap. By the time our list comes out most houses will be taken by our Poly cousins.

Poly Housing Office - nice one, you're on the ball, Newcastle University Housing Office - get sorted you're crap.

Yours, biting my lip in anger,
Neil Sharman

TV heaven

Sir,

How about a pull-out and keep TV listings in our dear old paper? There are no copyright problems any more and although it would be a lot of work for you, we're worth it. Is this a good idea or what?

Yours, a brilliant young Geographer (See, Geographers are useful).

Smashing, sooper, great. An even better idea would be for you to cough up the umpteen thousand pounds needed for us to get the TV listings licence. All students would be eternally grateful, I'm sure. Of course, the idea of TV listings had never occurred to anyone in Courier office. I eagerly await your cheque.

The Editor

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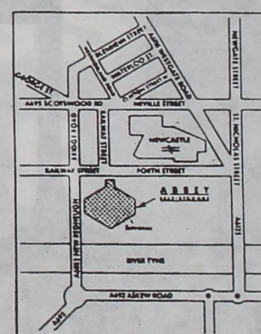
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Forced to flee

The end of the academic year is not far away and many students are resigning themselves to a month of comparative hardship; only going out three times a week, cutting back on the alcohol and, horror of horrors, discovering what the inside of the library looks like. However such "suffering" pales into insignificance when compared to the lives of millions of people have to lead day after day, year after year. For these people are refugees, loved by few of us and cared for by even less. "One group that does care, though, is Oxfam, the British relief organisation that helps many of those who are continually forced to flee.

For Achta and her family the term environmental breakdown has a very personal meaning. They are a very small part of the estimated 13 million people who have been forced to flee their homes and livelihoods because the environment around will not support them. As Achta's husband explains, "when we came here 20 years ago the area was a good one. If you sowed your fields you could find plenty of food. In the past 8 years everything has changed we plough our fields but we can't grow enough food. Now the area is a calamity for us."

"We plough our field but we can't grow enough food. Now the area is a calamity for us."

Achta herself continues, "the sheep don't have milk and we have nothing to feed the children. They're hungry and they'll just go to sleep with their hunger. Isn't that hard? If your husband has nothing and your children are crying with hunger you have to go away and look for a place where you can find food and drink."

Today's estimate of 13 million environmental refugees is only part of an estimated total of 43 million people driven from their homes by causes such as economic pressures or natural disasters as well as environmental breakdown.

With the number of refugees having doubled in the past decade the world is faced with a growing



crisis. A crisis which could escalate even faster, warns Oxfam director David Bryer. With the number of disasters on the increase, threatening to make the 1990's "the decade of disasters."

Throughout its 50 year history Oxfam has worked with refugees, responding to the immediate crisis then helping them to rebuild their lives. This work has brought to Oxfam and its emergency units

a deservedly high reputation. It is now recognised that Oxfam is geared to respond quickly and efficiently in emergency situations, laying on large-scale water supplies, usually in the most difficult of circumstances, or helping to provide shelter, food and basic medical services.

But in spite of all this tireless work, Oxfam believes that only a minority of people are fully aware

of the scale of devastation that is taking place all over the world. "It's as if people in Britain only realise something is wrong when it's highlighted in the press," Mr. Bryer explained. The reality is very different. Oxfam's work and, more pertinently, people's suffering continues 365 days a year. So, in an attempt to bring home to the people of this country the full extent of what it faces in the Third

World, Oxfam is putting its expertise on show on July 11th this year.

In Temple Newsom Park, Leeds, at an exciting and innovative event called Forced to Flee, Oxfam will have on show a fully functioning refugee camp containing all the facilities often found in real life situations. But this will be no mere charity fair. Oxfam supporters and visitors are

not just being asked to visit the camp but to become "refugees for a day," to experience just a little of what the world's 43 million refugees have experienced.

This experience begins with the issuing of a refugees pack including a special Forced to Flee refugee passport. Then on the day itself by taking one of the two refugee trails to the camp where the "refugees for a day" will be encouraged to take part in the life of the camp. The emphasis is very much on experience and participation.

Also on the site will be exhibitions, crafts, video showings and

It is now recognised that Oxfam is geared to respond quickly and efficiently in emergency situations.

a programme of speakers, with the day being brought to a close at a rally to be addressed by leading politicians.

By being sponsored to be a "refugee for a day" and taking up the message of "Forced to Flee" with the new government, supporters can convert experience into concrete help and effective action. So join us on July 11th and make your stand against the decade of disasters.

If you would like to be a "refugee for a day" or would like further details, contact: Oxfam (Forced to Flee), Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE. Tel. 091 221 0518.

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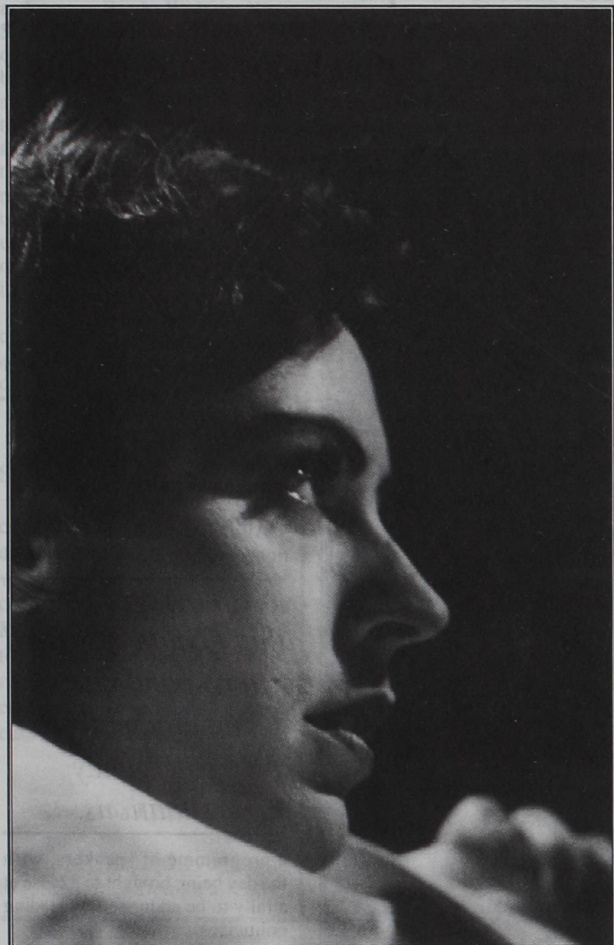
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Profile of Saskia Reeves

After three major RSC roles this season, three leading British film roles ("The Bridge", "September Bride" and the award-winning "Close My Eyes"), the spotlight has finally found Miss Saskia Reeves.



With Jonathan Hyde in " 'Tis Pity She's a Whore "

Not thinking in terms of "Success", Saskia describes her newfound fame as "a realization along the way... a growth in confidence and development of her acting ability." Though a combination of an actor-father, "A Chorus Line" and Maggie Smith prompted her to join drama school at seventeen (Guildhall: 1979-82), Saskia is well aware that "your apprenticeship begins only when you start to work."

"Shy personally", Saskia is a "reluctant self-publicist". Acting, "an electric thing to do", gives her the chance to "splash out" and court attention. But public life - which she enjoys and appreciates - is far removed from the personal. A change to a high-powered agent four years ago marked an acceleration in her career. "This business needs more than talent and a good agent opens doors" - none more opportune than the role of Isobel in "The Bridge".

Saskia may “rarely like what I do on screen” but the audiences, if not the critics, disagree. Despite script problems and a shaky directing debut for Syd Macartney, Saskia sees the first major big-screen role as “undervalued and not seriously reviewed”. Exclaiming “I loathed myself” in the film, there is no hint of false modesty; she assumes a serious and genuine tone whenever talking about her performances.

Cast as Natalie in "Close My Eyes", Saskia dealt with arguably the last taboo - incest (coincidentally, a subject tackled again in the RSC's "Tis Pity She's A Whore"). On sex and sensationalism in her work, Saskia is careful to evaluate the "aims and motives relative to each case. I never give carte blanche until happy with the whole production" ... and the fine line between "Camomile

Lawn" camp and truth to a subject is never crossed.

A "conscious decision" was made to turn to classical theatre and "stretch some proper muscles. It's a world of difference - performing night after night - and a constant process of improvement and development." After criticism of her vocal quality in Stratford, Saskia feels she opened out in Newcastle, with "Tis Pity" her best stage performance to date. "You have to make it work for yourself and the audience."

Still "pushing it" and improving, I caught an intensely self-critical and serious side to Saskia in an aside to her voice coach; "You can't get away with it up here", Newcastle audiences being "more honest" and "less camp" than Stratford or London.

On money and the status of women in showbiz, Saskia is careful but candid. "There are few actresses of high enough calibre to command top salaries" - like Streisand and Streep - but "there are simply more roles for men, more male directors, producers and designers. Society is male-dominated." With Saskia, she is never on a soapbox, just telling it like it is. The RSC are equally guilty of "unsexing" their actresses and, though the two female directors this season are "passionate, intelligent and had to fight, some actors find it a problem." Then again, "female sexuality is frightening", she is quick to add.

"Hardly a coincidence that people fall in love during a play; acting is a process of trust, vulnerability and exposure. This is a people business" and you get the feeling Saskia loves it! Handed a red rose during the interview, she had a knowing smile and a slight blush. "Stardom is a question of semantics": awards and accolades are not Saskia's definitor or ambition, but she will certainly have her share before too long. "Respect from her peers, sound work and happiness to be working" is Saskia's aim; can't say fairer than that.

So, where does she go from here? "On the brink" of approaching actors and directors she admires (Trevor Nunn and Ingmar Bergman among them), Saskia would ideally like to chop and change between theatre and film - but not Gold Blend ads and soaps. After October, Saskia reaches a crossroads: "I don't mind not knowing and will deal with it when it comes. Maybe it will mean more time to concentrate on myself." Photography, the Alexander Technique and jitterbugging are all short-term ambitions to fulfil, "Oh, and *Lady Macbeth*". As to where she will be in five years time, Saskia replies with a smile, "Who knows?" Watch this space.

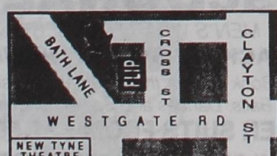
James Sherwood

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WHAT IT IS

The Southern African Scholarship is a scheme run in co-operation with the University to enable black students from Southern Africa to study at Newcastle. It is very similar to schemes run at about 30 other Colleges of Higher Education throughout the country. The cost of the SAS is met jointly by the University (who agree to waive the academic fees) and the Students' Union which meets the cost of travel and accommodation using a variety of fundraising ideas and events.

WHY WE RUN THE SCHEME

The government of South Africa discriminates against black students, giving them an inferior role in their society. The SAS serves to help black people to help themselves now and to prepare them in some small way for majority rule.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Contact the Vice President Welfare (Level 6) for details of other events being organised in support of the Southern African Scholarship Fund.
If you want to help, or if you have any ideas, see Jason Stamp Vice President Welfare or ask in the Executive Workroom.

Film

VOLERE VOLARE

Tyneside, 18 -24 June

How predictable: due to its mixed media usage of both animation and live action, "Volere Volare" has been compared to "Roger Rabbit". Above and beyond the obvious, the two films couldn't be more different nor could "Volere Volare" be less predictable.

Maurizio's job is his hobby, his life revolving around dubbing cartoons and tracking down ever stranger sound effects. Martina's spare time is filled by weekly visits to try on bridal dresses and sleeping alone in bed at night. Not that she's boring - far from it. It's just that she spends her irregular working hours fulfilling other people's psycho-sexual fantasies, her own revolving around good old-fashioned romance. And then they meet, to the accompaniment of Maurizio's latest sound effects....

In the world created by "Volere Volare" it's not the need for necrophilia or voyeurism that's depicted as weird but Maurizio's fear of intimacy and commitment which leads him to be re-created in the altogether safer form of a cartoon. Well, the guy obviously has some pretty abnormal psychosomatic problems to actually metamorphose into a drawing in order to avoid sex, right?

The film may be Italian but it's universal cinema. It relies heavily on the visual gags both of the animation, the slapstick style of the live action and of the eccentric appearance of Maurizio himself. Although director and writer Maurizio Nichetti could so easily be taunted with cries of 'egocentric', the film works as a coherent whole precisely because of his portrayal of Maurizio. The comic quirkiness of his performance is nicely offset by Angela Finocchiaro as Martina - practical and business-like when working, binging and vegetating when depressed.

Technically faultless, "Love and Rockets" with people.

Claire Pickard

BASIC INSTINCT

Showing at Warners and Odeon.

Riding on its wave of courted controversy, the bones of "Basic Instinct" must be fairly familiar by now.

A man is murdered with an ice-pick (most gruesome). Enter trigger-happy cop Nick (Michael Douglas), himself under investigation by Internal Affairs due to his unfortunate tendency to kill innocent bystanders by accident due to his predilection for booze, cigarettes and cocaine. The dead man's girlfriend, Catherine, is a writer whose novels have this uncanny way of coming true but why write a novel about a crime and then commit it? She'd be the first suspect. Or maybe it's a double bluff. Nick thinks it is. But Catherine's latest novel is about a trigger-happy cop who falls for one of his suspects and Nick finds himself drawn into a lethal psychological game in which he is only an increasingly expendable pawn.

So far so obvious - lots of raunchy sex and er... Well, that's largely it, I'm afraid. The

Congratulations are due to Newcastle-based collective Amber Films who recently picked up two prestigious film awards in France.

Their 1989 drama, "In Fading Light", was awarded L'Ancre D'Argent (The Silver Anchor) at the Festival of Maritime and Marine Exploration films in Toulon. A teenage girl joins her estranged father aboard his fishing boat only to be faced with male chauvinism, female jealousy, and the despair of running a traditional small business in the face of corporate investment.

"The Writing In The Sand" (1991) picked up Le prix du documentaire European at the "Cinema du Reel" festival of documentary films at the Georges Pompidou Cultural Centre in Paris. The 45 minutes film is an experimental mixture of photomontage and action, memory and fantasy. When a forewarning is ignored, an urban family's day out on the beach turns unexpectedly into a

film relies to an amazing degree upon Sharon Stone (in case you haven't read a newspaper all year, playing Catherine) and her 'reluctance' to wander round semi-naked and jump in bed at the drop of ... well, you get the picture.

Actually, the weak spot of the film is Michael Douglas. The film could be sold as a very female movie as there are three strong female performances, the aforementioned Catherine, her lesbian lover Roxie and the police psychologist Elizabeth with whom Nick is having a useful affair. But each woman is defined according to her sexuality - Catherine as bisexual, Roxie as lesbian and jealous. Even Elizabeth has slept with a woman and is given the incredibly dodgy line "So what? It doesn't make me gay". And so what if it did? The whole film is based upon a extremely dubious ideology. It exploits the sexuality as a means of displaying immoral and abnormal attitudes, linking it to homicidal tendencies.

Sensationalistic indeed; otherwise, it's an entertaining film with a fairly guessable ending. Presumably, it needed the controversy.

Claire Pickard

nightmare. The sea breaks into an awesome display of fury and pain, and a strange metamorphosis takes place on the shore. A reminder, perhaps, of our interdependence with the natural world.

PLUG...PLUG... PLUG...

Though it's the summer term the University's arty-farty types are still going strong. This term NUTS is offering two plays for your delectation, Alex Goldfinch's "The House of Apollo" and Arthur Miller's "An Enemy of the People". Both well worth a look-see.

And Bean Bag return with three one-act plays written by their own playwrights - I'm told by a reliable source that the plays are better than even the founders anticipated. Strong, sexy and vibrant.

See the Gulbenkian for details.

COMPETITION

Thanks to those scrumptious people at the Theatre Royal we have free tickets for the visit of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre (see advert). The first six people to produce a copy of Courier at the theatre Box Office will get a pair of tickets each for the Company's first programme (20 May). So hot foot it down there...

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WEDNESDAY 20 - SATURDAY 23 MAY AT 7.30PM

SPECIAL STUDENT DISCOUNTS!

* Save £3.50 off any £10.50 or £8.50 Stalls or Circle seat - bookable in advance or on the door.

* Book 6 seats together and save £3.50 off any £12.50 or £10.50 Stalls or Circle seats.

* Book 10 or more seats together and buy any available seat for just £4.00.

FREE PRE- AND POST-PERFORMANCE TALKS

LCOT likes to maintain the closest ties with audience members. Do join us before the show on Thursday 21 May at 6.30pm, or after the show on

Friday 22 May at 9.40pm, to meet and talk with Artistic Director Nancy Duncan and members of the company.

Admission to both talks is free to anyone holding a ticket for any performance during LCOT's season at the Theatre Royal.

THEATRE
Royal

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

BOX OFFICE 091 232 2061

TYNESIDE CINEMA

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday 17th May

Relive your childhood nightmares about dogs with eyes

as big as saucers in...

THE TINDERBOX (U)

1.30pm

Sunday 18th May

Robert De Niro double...



TAXI DRIVER (18) & KING OF COMEDY (PG)

6.30pm

See where Levi's got the idea for their jeans advert from in
THE SWIMMER (PG)

and Esther Williams in

DANGEROUS WHEN WET (PG)

7pm

TYNESIDE CINEMA, 10 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Tel: 232 8289 Recorded information: 232 1507

Voice plus minicom 5

TECHNIQUE EVERY FRIDAY

THE PRIMITIVES

+ HUG



THURSDAY 14TH MAY, 8PM
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' UNION

Tickets £4.50 (adv) from Box Office (Tel: 232 8402) & usual outlets.
Members & Guests Only

Phil McIntyre presents

TREV & SIMON

with Special Guest
PAUL MOROCCO
World Tour 1992



TUESDAY 19th MAY
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
Tickets £5.00 (adv) from Reception

The Graduation Ball

Saturday 4th July 1992

to be held at
Newcastle Race Course
Gosforth Park

See posters in Union for
further details

spiritualised

Spiritualised & Verve – Riverside – 5/5/92

Recent darlings of the music press, Verve take to the Riverside stage with confidence and energy. The lead singer dominated their performance with body contortions and facial movements aplenty. But this does not belie the fact that Verve are essentially a dull mêlée of current musical trends (a tad baggy, a smidgeon shoe-gazerlike) and overwhelmingly unexciting.

Now Spiritualised definitely have that certain special something. They may not be on the cutting edge of 90s pop with their adamantly psychedelic vibes (man) but in this case that's not a bad thing as they are awesome. Their debut album was an achievement in itself but live it is transformed from bedroom introspection into something utterly compelling. The music is controlled and carefully measured but at the same time unrestrained, spontaneous and, what's more, loud. 'Feel So Sad' which was a bit too understated and lethargic on record is tonight spot on while 'Run' is a crunchier more excitable happening than before.

The brass section parps and trumpets splendidly, guitars are used most advantageously and even the usually glum (but entirely attractive) Jason Spaceman manages to smile once during '200 Bars'. Excellent.

Sarah Rognath

Fabulous – Riverside – 7.05.92

Fabulous are necessary. So necessary that if they didn't exist you'd think the NME would have to invent them. The NME did invent them and maybe it's the still lingering suspicion about this that keeps the Riverside so sparsely populated tonight. It's time to explode all such suspicions and hesitations, because tonight Fabulous were the most visceral, unnerving, necessary, (keep that word in mind) electrifying band I've witnessed in months. Months of seeing Ride, The Cure and Morrissey all give fatted, half-hearted shows that were an insult to their fans' dedication.

This isn't the case with Fabulous. There are less than 50 people in here, but there could be thousands for all the fury and passion that born-wild singer Simon Dudfield gives it. Then again if there was one person, himself, you get the feeling it wouldn't be much different. He's doing it all for himself, someone just moved the mirror that's all. Bare-chested, draped in a full-length fur coat, and sporting distinctly yellow, distinctly corduroy trousers, he peacock-struts like Jagger, writhes on his back like a guitarless Nigel Tufnell, hurls the mic stand every which way, and finally tumbles from the stage to where the audience should have been to catch him. Slightly more charismatic, slightly more beautiful than Mega City Four or Kingmaker, that's for sure.

They played a few songs of course, there are drawbacks to everything. They're still slightly ropey but nowhere near as inept or Lurkers like as I'd been led to expect. They'll find their feet one day, whether they find their heads is a different matter. The season of wit, camp exhibitionism, and dandy posturing is upon us. Embrace Suede, embrace Catwalk and most of all embrace Fabulous. There's a riot going on and you'd be a fool to miss it.

Ian Bland



"Entirely attractive"? How very not wrong you are, Miss Rognath.

Björn Again – Union – 7.5.92

Seventies kitsch ruled the day last Thursday as flared trousers, platform shoes, daffodil wielding hordes descended to Level 2. The spectacle they were eagerly awaiting was the return of the Aussie Abba rip-off band. The night started well with funky seventies tunes provided by the Poly's RIPE DJs. By the time Björn Again appeared on stage the atmosphere was positively electric, fuelled by screaming girls and flower throwing. The band, clad in full seventies regalia, stormed through such timeless classics as 'Waterloo' and 'Dancing Queen'. The highlight of the evening had to be their rendition of 'Money' with "the girls" sporting dandy panama hats and throwing chocolate coins into the crowd. Although they sported bad wigs and painful put-on Swedish accents they really sounded like the real McCoy...the Björn Again (sic) Abba fans loved it... and so did I.

Kate Jarman

Velvet Crush – Newcastle Polytechnic – 7.5.92

What an odd gig. More like going to the Poly for a swift jar and then at 10.30 a band appearing, rather than a proper gig. The room was huge and Velvet Crush sat in the corner with about 20 people around them.

Although the atmosphere was peculiar they played some special songs complete with raw emotion. Sadly they also played some very ordinary obviously Velvet Crush type songs. The small crowd, though, dominated the gig by bullying for some very old songs indeed which upset the band somewhat, especially as they were songs from the drummer's previous band's set.

Their sound had an obvious Big Star/Byrds influence, so I was quite amused when they replied to the audience's requests with "Hey, it's a dawning of a new decade now."

The drummer, Ric Menck, however, attempted to appease the audience with a solo guitar strum of a Big Star song "September Girls" at the end of their set. Unfortunately he could no longer play the guitar, and disappointed the audience by stopping half way through to say how shit his old songs were. Certain members of the audience took this personally and shouted about how shit Velvet Crush's songs were in comparison. Ric Menck stormed off stage, and everyone cheered and clapped, which leaves me with nothing more to say except, phew, punk pop.

R K Holborow

turntable

Inspiral Carpets – Two Worlds Collide – 12"

Inspiral Carpets are from Oldham. Well aren't we all? A couple of years ago, Oldham was in Manchester, whereas now it is just in Oldham. Such is life!

'Two Worlds Collide' their latest stab at clawing their way back into our affections is, it saddens me to say, inconceivably lame.

Yet another non-mover at number 22. It's another of their oh-so adult offerings in which Tom broods meaningfully whilst at the same time managing to do that stupid dance on TOTP, one trusts. The lyrics are cloyingly self-pitying. The tune got left on the 182 (joke reserved for the benefit of our readers in Oldham only) and the whole thing is agonising in its studious need to be taken seriously in a way I thought only George Michael could be.

I didn't peg school to get tickets to see them at the Ritz for this. One Planecrash EP going cheap. Any offers?

Ian Bland

Mega City Four – Shivering Hand – 12"

How bizarre - this record begins a bit like a Status Quo pop hit before plunging into that familiar Mega City Four formula: quirky fast guitars, explosion drums and gargly vocals.. I quite like this band but unfortunately 'Shivering Hand' is really rather average. 'Everybody Loves You' is a bit better because the drums are even faster and 'Disturbed' begins in quite an angst Manic Street Preachers-like way, and continues with further guitar squealing and an ending full of appealing whoo and waah noises. A disappointing record but the bold etching on its reverse is quite smart.

Levitation – Need For Not – LP

This album sieve is gorgeous: holography art, I do declare. This is perhaps by the by though. Musically, Terry Bickers sounds like some chimera of Seal – Bowie – Dave Essex cross but then again in 'Embedded' Levitation sound like bloody Clannad. There's a sense of maturity directing the music. There is a sense of innovation and chaos there also. At times there just seems to be confusion and angst. In fact the whole of the first side at least is a fabrication of confusion and angst. And let's not forget the indie prime mover – despair. 'Need for Not' also has its fair share of despair. Given such a formula, though traditional, it definitely is a winning combination. 'Need for Not' is certainly decent enough.

Despite all this innovation and angst and stuff in the music, the most intriguing thing (while stocks last) is the 'etching' (etch city – CH) on the reverse side of the free 7" single. Engraved in the vinyl is a smashing diagram of a heart – vein, lobes the works.

Alongside the masterpiece are the words "without grief, without rage, without fear, without age." Levitation by Levitation. The words opposite are "We are the One in You", a message there for us all.

S Teasdale

Half Japanese
Fire In The Sky – LP

Half Japanese are essentially Jad Fair, a shambling American lunatic who is actually exceptionally charming, and a host of not entirely sane friends, Don Fleming included. How could this album be anything but a work of pop genius?

Indeed it is a marvellous musical experience in the extreme: 'Tears Stupid Tears' is gently funky, 'Eye of the Hurricane' features guitar thrashing galore while 'It's a Clear Night' is full of dark twanging and 'Hangar 18' is afloat on organ elegance. This record has a distinctly American flavour ('Magical Kingdom' is a tribute to Disneyland!) - cool, cool, cool pop sprawl with the added ingredient of Jad Fair's inspirational yet enchantingly simple lyrics. 'Fire in the Sky' is how boyfriends should be: provocatively mad with a tender underside.

Sarah Rognath



wish all students
good luck
in their exams
and thank them
for their support

Grand Hotel, Percy Street,
Newcastle Upon Tyne

CREDITS

Records supplied by
Volume Records
(Chill Bill – you were great.
See ya, bye.)

*a tribute: apparently
the greatest record ever
made (not)

Newcastle Polytechnic Presents

cabaret
reds bar £1.50

bob downe 16th may
stewart lee 30th may

Feral tuesday 19th May
Helicopter
The Percey's

gunshot
saturday 23rd may free
the orb
28th May
the riverside presents

Marianne Dreams tuesday 26th May
Procession
Faith Healer
Spit the Pips

moving in
the right direction
saturday 6th June £2 entrance
Galliano
thursday 4th June £6 – £6.50

voice of the beehive
11th June
£6.50 / £7.50
tuesday 9th June Poppyfield
Trofi
Sleepy People

Courtney Pine
saturday 13th June

Listings

radical happenings



Sean from 'Sean's Show'.

UNION

Thurs. 14th May
THE PRIMITIVES + HUG
8 p.m. £4.50
Fri. 15th May
TECHNIQUE
Tues. 19th May
TREV + SIMON
8 p.m. £5.00

MUSIC

Thurs. 14th May
THE BUTTER MOUNTAIN BOYS
Wallendene, 8 p.m. £1.50/£2/£3
GHOSTS OF SOUL
The Chillingham, 8.00 p.m.
THE LYN SISTERS
Dog & Parrot, 8.00 p.m. £1.
THE ALLIGATORS
Mayfair Ballroom, 8.00 p.m.
THE PRIMITIVES
Union, 8.00 p.m. £4.50
THE FAMILY CAT + BILL PRITCHARD
Riverside, 8.00 p.m. £3.50
ARCHIE BROWN AND THE YOUNG BUCKS
Tilley's Bar, 8.00 p.m. Free
SMOKIN' BEAGLES + RUBENS VASE
Broken Doll, 8 p.m. £1.
Fri. 15th May
TONY O'DIAMOND AND THE FIVE TOPS
Live Theatre, 8.00 p.m. £2.50
RAZORBLADE SMILE
Dog & Parrot, 8.00 p.m. £1.
CONNIE LUSH + DJ SONIA
Newcastle University
FUGAZI + CRANE + PUPPY FAT
Riverside, 8.00 p.m. £4.50
ERIC LEWIS
Tilley's Bar, 8.00 p.m. Free
QUAGMIRE
Broken Doll, £1.
Sat. 16th May
THE LURV
Cumberland Arms, 8.00 p.m. £1/£2
ACRYLIC TONES
Dog & Parrot, 8.00 p.m. £1.
THE REAL PEOPLE
Riverside, 8.00 p.m. £3.50
THE BROADCASTERS
Tilley's Bar, 8.00 p.m. Free
THE BLUES BURGULARS
Broken Doll, 2 p.m. Free
LAND OF BAA
Broken Doll, 8.30 p.m. £1.
Sun. 17th May
THE HEADCOATS
Cumberland Arms, 8.00 p.m.

ROUND-UP

Mike Harding had them rolling in the aisles at the Tyne Theatre last night and your chance to cheer up in this traditionally work-stressed term is tonight. Alternatively there is some good music on our own premises tonight, and make the most of it because they won't be back to Level 2 in a hurry.

On the left is Channel 4 cult star Sean Hughes, performing at the Tyne Theatre on Sunday, by which time another long run of Delicatessen at the Tyneside will have ended.

For the intelligentsia there are some interesting plays this week: 'We' is an 'anti-Utopia' masterpiece, by another cynic of this fallen world, and 'Shakers' is a 'bitingly witty' comedy about waitresses with false smiles which takes us on the 2x2 visits to the

Ladies. 'Hound', about guide dogs, is written and performed by blind people (but I expect if there's any dogs in it they can see).

During this term there will be the Lesbian & Gay film festival at the Tyneside (starting on Sunday with 'Give Aids the Freeze'), Galliano and McCallum amongst probably many other bands, and the unmissable Sound of Music on stage.

Don't watch this space, since this is our last issue - and from now on I might have

the time to actually go and see some of these things instead of just telling everyone else about them.

Apologies to anyone who was caught out if I got the times and prices wrong: the scope for practical jokes was great, but the most unreasonable-seeming instructions by the big boss are there for a reason I suppose.

Dan Lamb

SINGERS NIGHT
Cullercoats Bay Hotel, 8.00 p.m. £1.
STOCKTONS WING
Tyneside Irish Centre, 8.00 p.m. £2.50
KITCHENS OF DISTINCTION + THE WEREFROGS
Riverside, 8.00 p.m. £4.
LAUGHIN' SAMS DICE
Broken Doll, 1 p.m. Free.
THE INFADALS
Broken Doll (UP), 8 p.m. Free.
GREGGSON + COLLISTER
Playhouse, £6.50.
PRESS
Broken Doll, 8.30 p.m. £1.
KISS
Whitley Bay Ice Rink.
Mon. 18th May
THE ALLEYBRATS
Fat Sam's, 8.00 p.m. £1.
LOWRIDER + VAN GIGHS EAR
Maddison's, 9.30 p.m. - 2.00 a.m. £2.
DAN TO DAN
Broken Doll, 8 p.m. - Free.
SIMEONS
Broken Doll (UP), 8 p.m. - Free.
Tues. 19th May
GEORGE WELSH'S FOLK CLUB
Cumberland Arms, 8 p.m. - Free.
TRACY ISLAND
Dog & Parrot, 8 p.m. - £1.
TREV AND SIMON
Union, 8 p.m. - £5.
THE MOONFLOWERS + SANDKINGS
Riverside, 8 p.m. - £4.
DEAD PAN JOY
Broken Doll, 8 p.m. - £1.50.
Wed. 20th May
IRISH FOLK NIGHT
Cumberland Arms, 8 p.m. - Free.
BITTER END FOLK CLUB
Broken Doll, 8 p.m.
BENSHAM CILA
Dog & Parrot, 8 p.m. - £1.
JAKE
Tilley's Bar, 8 p.m. - Free.

WARNERS CINEMAS AT MANORS
Times for Week Commencing 15th May
STARTS FRIDAY
Free List Suspended
MEMMOIRS OF AN INVISIBLE MAN (PG)
Fri. 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.20, 11.40
Sat. 11.50, 2.20, 4.45, 7.00, 9.20, 11.40
Sun. 11.50, 2.20, 4.45, 7.00, 9.20
Mon-Thurs. 2.20, 4.45, 7.00, 9.20
Free List Suspended
BASIC INSTINCT (18) (Two Screens)
Thurs. 12.30, 2.00, 3.10, 5.00, 6.10, 8.00, 9.00
Fri. 12.30, 2.00, 3.10, 5.00, 6.10, 8.00, 9.00, 11.00, 11.35
Sat. 2.00, 5.00, 6.10, 8.00, 9.00, 11.00, 11.35
Sun. 12.30, 2.00, 3.10, 5.00, 6.10, 8.00, 9.00
Mon-Thurs. 12.30, 2.00, 3.10, 5.00, 6.10, 8.00, 9.00
HOOK (U)
Thurs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Fri. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Sat/Sun. 11.30, 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Mon-Thurs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
CAPE FEAR (18)
Thurs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Fri. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Sat/Sun. 5.30, 8.30
Mon-Wed. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
(not showing Thurs.)
THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE (15)
Fri/Sat. 12.45, 3.15, 5.50, 8.45, 11.20
Sun/Thurs. 12.45, 3.15, 5.50, 8.45
STARTS FRIDAY
SCORCHERS (18)
Fri-Sat. 1.10, 3.10, 5.10, 7.20, 9.30, 11.30
Sun-Thurs. 1.10, 3.10, 5.10, 7.20, 9.30
FINAL ANALYSIS (15)
Thurs. 2.40, 5.30, 8.15
Fri. 2.40, 5.30, 8.15, 11.15
Sat/Sun. 5.30, 8.15, 11.15
Mon/Thurs. 2.40, 5.30, 8.15
GRAND CANYON (15)
Fri/Thurs. 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15
MY GIRL (PG)
Sat/Sun. 11.45, 2.15
SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS (U)
Sat/Sun. 1.10, 3.20
Late Night Special
TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE (18)
Fri/Sat. 11.40
Thursday Special 21st May
THE FISHER KING (15)
1.45, 4.50, 8.00
£2.25 before 6.00 p.m. Students £2.50 after 6.00 p.m., with appropriate ID

CINEMA

ODEON, PILGRIM STREET
Please note that times are for complete programmes.
Commencing Friday 15th May until Thursday 21st May (inclusive)
BASIC INSTINCT (18)
Every day 2.10, 5.05, 8.00
HOOK (U)
Every day 1.30, 4.40, 7.45
HOWARDS END (PG)
Every day 1.30, 4.35, 7.40
THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE (15)
Weekdays & Sat. 12.20, 3.00, 5.40, 8.20
Sun. 3.00, 5.40, 8.20
Students £2.40 any time
Programme information - (0426) 950527

TYNESIDE CINEMA (232 8289)
Thurs. 14th May
FRIED GREEN TOMATOES (12), 3.45, 8.15
DELICATESSEN (15), 6.15
LOVE MANUAL (18), 4.00, 8.30
J'EMBRASSE PAS (18), 6.00
Fri. 15th May
DELICATESSEN (15), 4.15
FRIED GREEN TOMATOES (12), 8.15
LOVE MANUAL (18), 6.00
J'EMBRASSE PAS (18), 3.45, 8.30
Sat. 16th May
THE TINDERBOX (U), 1.30

THEATRE

Playhouse (232 7079)
SHAKERS
18th-23rd May, 7.30 p.m. Mo-Fri., 7 p.m., 9.30 p.m. Sat. £5
Theatre Royal (232 2061)
SIENNA RED
11th-16th May, 7.30 p.m. £5.
Gulbenkian (232 9974)
WE
15th-16th May, 8 p.m. £3.
TERRA AMATA
19th-20th May, 8 p.m. £3.
Tyne Theatre/Opera House (232 0899)
IOLANthe
19th-23rd May, 7.15 p.m. £3.75
Live Theatre (261 2694)
HOUND
14th May, 2 p.m. £3/£1.
FAUSTUS
20th May, 7.30 p.m. £3.50/£1.50.

OTHERS

MIKE HARDING
Thurs. 14th May, Tyne Theatre, 7.30 p.m. £8.
(Middlesbrough Town Hall, 15th & 16th)
COMEDY CAFE
Sat. 16th May, Toscas, 8.30 p.m. £5 inc. Supper.
SEAN HUGHES
Sun. 17th May, Tyne Theatre, 7.30 p.m. £5.

Personal Column

EARTHCARE
would like to thank ALL who participated in the events of ENVIRONMENT WEEK, and to all those who didn't, please start thinking - it DOES affect you.

When it comes to PACE what criminal evidence has Mad Jilly got?
Sancha says: sun, snogs, sangria and salsa - what more do we need except you kids?
T.E.A.M.S. Ball was fab, brill, and the best. 1st years don't know what they missed!
EM - IT'S BEEN UNREAL. THIS LAGER SWILLING, CHAIN SMOKING, NOLS-Y

Thank you to all staff - it's been fun working with you!
Richard Bennett, Sabbatical Secretary, 1991/92

QUEER WILL MISS YOU - LOTS OF LOVE
- JASE.
Ola Geordie, Senoritas dos canyanas por favour!

STEVE
Hope you like the "tribute".
RICHARD.

Thanks to all in EARTHCARE who helped with organising the ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WEEK and for making it such a success.

Er says: I'm missiny my ash. And my Helen, and Jason, Chris, Iain, Tom, Emma, and Pete, and Dave, Claire, Ange, Joy and Jerry, and my Print Shop Girls and Fat Ents Boys and Nick, and Davey and my security. And everybody. Loads of love to you all.

Id like to PUBLISH a large UNIT of good wishes and goodbyes to you both, A.M.

To all my friends on Union Staff - thanks for the time of my life - you're all mad, bad, unpredictable and gorgeous - JASE.

The last fat tart - well we're still here - Camp bastard.

Undergraduates wanted to help for Holiday cruise to Hebrides and St. Kilda. Comfortable private yacht - no experience necessary - unpaid but all provided.

Wilkinson, c/o Post Office ONICH Fort William PH33 6RY

SAB, SEC. A POTTED HISTORY
Last year the man was large and GREAT. A move to the right carried much less weight. Now with the Tories the position is linked. Tonight Sab. Sec. will become extinct?

It's been purr-fectly divine, in fact it's been a Cabaret. I'm minibus-ing to tell you how sad it is I can no longer sit down next to you.

CHRIS - Seven months, not bad eh? Love you loads and always will - J.

I KNOW THEY'LL BE DEEPLY DIPPY ABOUT YOU IN HOLLOWAY ROAD, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE TOO SEXY FOR THE JOB.

Frazza says: Spain is different.

JASON - it's been great - strange - A.

SOMEONE TO TALK TO

Niteline

261 2905 8pm-8am



Sad-man with partial hair-loss draws inspiration from his pal McEwan.

Thanks very much to all my colleagues at Courier for a fantastic year - I love you all! Cheers to all our contributors, advertisers and readers - we couldn't manage without you. Special good luck and kisses to all who are leaving this year. Best wishes to next year's Editor/Communications Officer whomever it may be. Mon you've been a star and saved my life too many times to detail.

Remember my motto, kids - jobs aren't everything. Congratulations to Santana for releasing such a popfabulous record years ago.

Lots of love,
Richard Carpenter

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Entertainment on nearly all day, every day
Ring 2240444 for details

ODEON 0426 950527 (Calls charged at a local rate)

PLEASE NOTE THAT TIMES ARE FOR COMPLETE PROGRAMMES COMMENCING FRIDAY 15th MAY UNTIL THURSDAY 21st MAY

BASIC INSTINCT (18) Every day 2.10, 5.05, 8.00

THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE (15) Weekdays & Saturday 12.20, 3.00, 5.40, 8.20
Sun. 3.00, 5.40, 8.20

STUDENTS £2.40 ANY TIME

Licensed bar open every evening from 7 p.m. Programme information 0426 950527
Advance Booking 091 261 7816 ODEON VIDEO SHOP - All Top Ten Titles in Stock

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NEWCASTLE At Newcastle Playhouse 7.30pm

9th Barney Kessel
Oliver Jones Quartet

10th Stan Tracey
Bobby Wellins

11th Helen Shapiro
Humphrey Lyttleton

12th Jean Toussaint
Jason Rebello
Peter King

13th George Melly/John Chilton's Feetwarmers

14th The Dirty Dozen Brass Band

At Live Theatre, Quayside

Billy Jenkins Voice of God Collective (6th, 9pm)
The Kent Moped Orchestra (7th, 12.45pm)
Sandi Russell & Race Newton Trio (7th, 8pm)
Kenny Wheeler & The Creative Jazz Orchestra (8th, 9pm)
Trevor Watts' Moire Music Drum Orchestra (11th, 9pm)
The Big Mo Band Blues Night (12th, 9pm)
Ashley Slater's Microgroove (13th, 9pm)

FESTIVAL

6 - 14 June 1992

BOX OFFICE
(091) 232 7079

RADIO NEWCASTLE Supported by Newcastle Leisure Services

Doves, Burgers and Newyorkers

To many Ecstasy is little more than a myth. In an effort to reveal some of the drug's deeper secrets, *Courier* junkie Sarah Shannon went on a trip and came back with disturbing results.

Will we be remembered as the E Generation? The effect of this drug on our youth scene is unquestionable. In whatever forms it has been taken; doves, newyorkers, burgers, yellow californians, Ecstasy has combined with dance music to create a whole new club culture which has swept Britain since the late 80's. Newcastle's Drug Squad say the phase is not over but rather on the increase. The drug's use is now so widespread that it is impossible for them to predict how large a proportion of the student population are users.

Chemically known as Methylenedioxymethamphetamine or MDMA, Ecstasy was created in 1898 and first marketed by a German drug company in 1914 as an appetite suppressant. They withdrew it when other strange symptoms were noticed. Ecstasy is now a Class A illegal drug. It affects the brain by increasing the release of Serotonin, a neurotransmitter which controls emotional stability. As Serotonin levels rise, people experience euphoric feeling, but if taken on too regular a basis, Ecstasy depletes Serotonin and leaves the user feeling depressed and irritable.

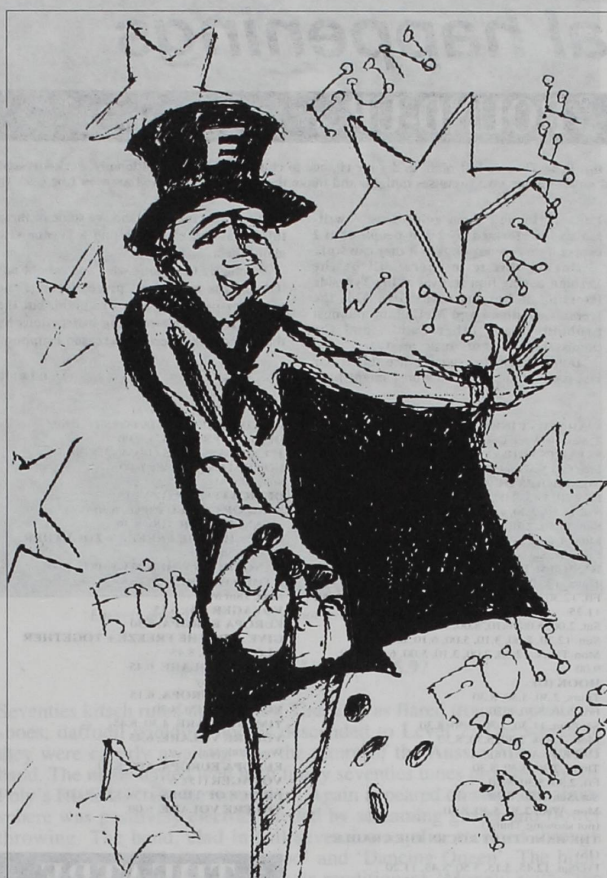
A major worry about this drug is the total lack of scientific knowledge of its effects. The drug was made illegal in Britain in 1977 after a laboratory in the Midlands was found to be producing huge quantities. Since then little research has been done on this

illicit drug's effects. What is known is fairly obvious to every Ecstasy user. For between £12-£20, a tablet of Ecstasy will raise your heart rate and body temperature, dilate your pupils and give you about 5 hours of pure escapism.

The bad side to Ecstasy has been widely reported by the press; 10 related deaths in the UK so far. But users point to the much larger number of deaths caused by other drugs, for example that apparently benign, legal drug, alcohol. The fact remains that although Ecstasy

For £12-£20 Ecstasy will... give you about 5 hours of pure escapism.

is not physically addictive or hallucinatory, you can overdose on it or experience an extreme allergic reaction. That is what happened to 16 year old Claire Leighton in the Hacienda 2 years ago. There are basic guidelines as to who should not risk taking the drug, namely those with heart disease, high blood pressure, epilepsy, asthma or women with genito-urinary infections as the drug can activate them. The effects that most users know about are the ones caused by hours of dancing in a stuffy club followed by a lack of sleep and food. Symptoms such as twitching, backache, kidney problems and bad complexions are common problems affecting the



most regular users.

The legal position against Ecstasy means that the maximum sentence for dealing is life imprisonment,

plus an unlimited fine. The maximum sentence for possession is 7 years plus unlimited fine. Many clubs have strict anti-

drug policies with bouncers making detailed searches of entrants, from their cigarette packets down to their shoes. Other club owners take the opposite attitude, seeing it as an opportunity to make a quick buck. Door prices are rarely below a tenner and soft drinks are about £1.50 a can, more than the alcoholic drinks which have the undesirable effect of bringing you down. There have been frequent reports of clubs turning off cold water supplies to toilets so that their thirsty clientele will have to buy more from the bar. This

... twitching, backache, kidney problems and bad complexions... affect the most regular users.

means that teenagers who have blown their cash buying Ecstasy and getting into the club cannot buy a drink. After hours of energetic dancing they collapse from dehydration. Another problem arising in the clubs themselves is violence between competing drug gangs.

Newcastle Police treats Ecstasy in the same way as any other illegal drug, trying to discover suppliers and make arrests to cut down its use. In the North West of England authorities seem to have adopted the attitude that if youth culture inevitably involves drug abuse, then Ecstasy is preferable to other Class A drugs which cause more violent behaviour.

Local Councils have produced pamphlets targeted at teenagers on safer use of Ecstasy. One such leaflet is entitled "Chill Out - A Raver's Guide".

A close relative of Ecstasy which is suggested as the latest craze is Ketamine. Essentially an anaesthetic, this drug was first used in the U.S. under the name Vitamin K. In Britain its nickname is Special K which led Kellogg's last month to ask the press not to use this streetname in case it made the drug seem "user-friendly"! Newcastle Drug Squad say they have found no existence of the new drug in this area. It seems to predominate in Glasgow and the North West at present.

The production of Ecstasy is a dodgy process to say the least. Many duffs may be released onto the market by illegal chemical laboratories until the pure Ecstasy formula is hit on. Probably half of the E's on the market are not the real McCoy but contain other drugs including hallucinatory amphetamines. Newcastle Police do not believe Ecstasy is produced in this area but is smuggled in to the country, probably from Amsterdam. They have made significant recoveries from Ecstasy dealers though. Their best success was the discovery of a 2000 tablet stash in Gateshead.

But this is clearly just a drop in the ocean and as Ecstasy's use continues to grow and grow, the prospect of police control over distribution becomes ever more remote....

 **GOOD LUCK!**

to all students in their forthcoming exams

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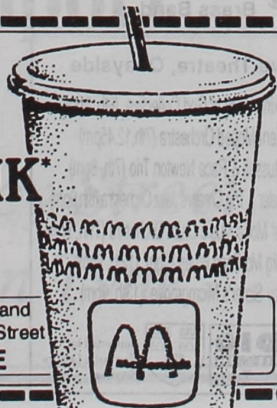
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STATE OF THE UNION:

What does the future hold for 1992-93? – Emma Beswick (V.P. Finance) considers the possibilities . . .

After making a loss of over £60,000 last year (1990/91) Union Council will tonight discuss a budget which estimates a profit of over £100,000 for this year.

But before everyone starts clamouring for more money for their particular department it should be made clear that this in no way reflects the state of the Union balance. Last year the Union Society incurred incredible costs: £100,000 and over for the new shop, toilets and leisure centre revamp on Level 3. Also the incompetence and the spend, spend, spend attitude of the present and previous Entertainments Officers regardless of profit. Live events are simply put on to satisfy these Ents idiots' sad egos, regardless of loss. The building improvement, though agreed by Union Council, were not actually budgeted for. Such expenditure is not shown in the accounts as one of cost, but as the cost of depreciation over the years.

Unfortunately this does have to be paid for straight away, using this year's profits.

Finance Committee, known as F-off committee to all Union high-spenders, includes the VP Finance, Sabbatical Secretary, President and four student members. Not surprisingly it is budgets controlled by students Exec. members which have overspent.

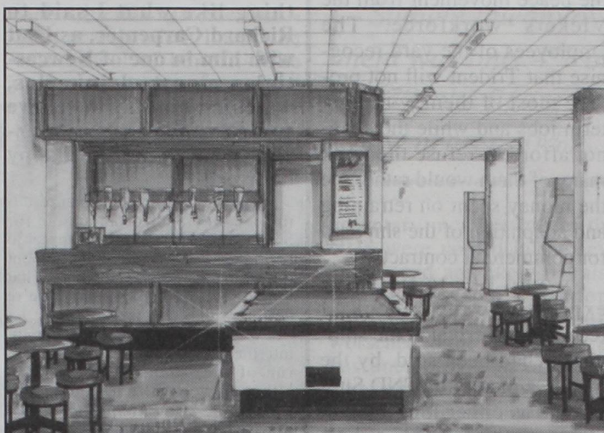
The Labour Club controlling F-committee has had to act fast to stop the competent frenzy of overspending by the three stooges . . . Tim Farron, Jason Stamp Richard 'Gordon' Bennett, by capping their budgets.

Students have a role to play in continuing the Union way on the road to sound money by not voting for any silly fool standing in an election promising the impossible – cheap beer. Labour Club Sabbatical VP Finances (Matt Terry, Pete Marsh and myself) are the only members of the usually gutless gang of Sabbaticals with the courage to press ahead with a money-saving Union Management restructuring and budget-cutting.

Plans are afoot for a major redevelopment of Level 2 of the Union society building.

Apart from its annual splash of paint each summer level 2 has been neglected for years. The need for a drastic improvement has long been recognised, but despite plans being drawn up last year nothing has happened due to lack of funds and lack of suitability of the designs.

In the document entitled Union



An artist's impression of the proposed Games Room.

Society Strategic Plan for Redevelopment and repair passed by Union Council last year it was agreed that the major development of Level 2 and 6 (Spiney Normans) should take place this year.

At present Level 2 is utilised mainly at lunchtimes and is only used as an evening Ents venue/bar once or twice a week. We need to create a venue that is a comfortable atmospheric alternative to other bars in the Union Building which can be used for bands and discos in the evening and as a daytime eating area. Several quota-

tions and designs have been obtained from architects and interior designers suggesting everything from the usual annual coat of paint to a set from Bladerunner!

The most realistic design suggests converting the old shop area into a pool room and games area and refurbishing the main area opening up the bar and increasing the capacity from 900 to 1,600 people.

The final decision will be taken by Joint Union Council on 23rd June.

Until then wait with baited breath.



CATERING SPECIALS

Mini Stotties New Fillings

Red Leicester Cheese/Spring Onions
and Iceberg Lettuce 85p

Vegetarian
Soft Cheese/Celery/Banana/Iceberg Lettuce 85p

Chicken in Mayonnaise/Sweetcorn
and Iceberg Lettuce 95p

Plus Your Favourites

Coronation Chicken with Iceberg Lettuce 95p

Chicken Tika with Iceberg Lettuce 95p

Crab Salad with Iceberg Lettuce 85p

.....
The Readers Lounge Catering Outlet will be open on Monday, 25th May
(Bank Holiday), from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and until further notice from
9 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays.

ELECTIONS !

FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS :

1992/3 SABBATICAL:

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

1992/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

POSTGRADUATE & MATURE STUDENTS OFFICER

1992/3 OFFICER:

RAG ORGANISER

1992/3 UNION COUNCILLORS:

FAC REPS FOR EVERY FACULTY

INTERESTED? HERE'S WHAT YOU DO :

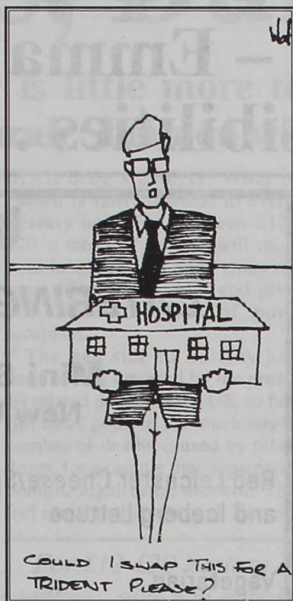
- 1) Get a nomination form from reception
- 2) Get twelve signatures
- 3) Hand it in by 1.00pm, Monday 8th of June
- 4) Design some posters and stick them up
- 5) Make an irrelevant speech
- 6) Get all your friends to vote for you on the 16th of June

**IT'S EASY! (AND THINK HOW GOOD IT'LL LOOK ON
YOUR C.V.)**

TRASH TRIDENT!

My motivation for writing this article was to put the record straight, in some small way, after the obscene distortion of events surrounding the naming ceremony of the first Trident submarine on the 30th April, by the local and national media.

The first point I should make is that I am not a unilateralist, I recognise that Britain requires a nuclear deterrent. What prompted me to join members of Durham's Peace Action Group, in spending 4½ hours (on wooden benches in a mini bus with no windows) travelling to the Vickers shipyard in Barrow was my belief that Trident is simply a colossal waste of money (the total cost estimated by Greenpeace last week was £31 billion for the first 3). This is extenuated by the disarmament currently being undertaken by other major nuclear powers in the face of the collapse of the Soviet block and the co-ordinated nuclear threat it represented. The US cancelled the order they placed for Trident (although the British Trident is equipped with loaned US missiles); we are also the only major power updating our nuclear technology when we



could be reaping the benefits of the long talked of peace dividend.

This belief is not, as I have said, my reason for writing. I was distressed, not to mention rather shocked, when I read in a local newspaper that only 100 protesters had attended. I am aware that the press had a history of "underestimating" attendance at events such as these but I am positive that there were between 700 and 1,000 protesters present and authoritative estimates were as high as 1,500 protesters.

The interviews conducted

with local people were also misleading, none of the growing number of local people who oppose Trident were given a hearing and there was no indication of the support for the peace movement from the Vickers workforce. The employees of the yard recognise that Trident will not provide most of them with long term jobs and while they cannot afford to refuse the work many of them would rather see the money spent on retraining and adaptation of the shipyard for commercial contracts.

I would like to finish by expressing the shock I received on arrival at the shipyard. I had been sold, by the media, a picture of CND Supporters as either long-haired, hippy students or "Greenham Common women" - Millie Tants in their twenties wearing tea cosies on their heads. No one told me of the large number of pensioners involved in the Peace movement as well as the large number of Christian CND supporters. I ask readers to bear all this in mind when reading reports in either the local or national press - after all, how can you trust a paper (The Mirror) when it asks questions like "What if the peace protester who got to Princess Di's car had been carrying a gun?"

J. Lyons

Why are you reading 'The Courier'??

"The Courier is a sad and wrinkled rag floating deep beneath the grimy waters of the Union Exec." was something like what I said to Richard Carpenter, as I sat with him in one of Newcastle's many drinkeries, watching him try to relieve some exam stress by guzzling copious pints at happy hour prices.

I talked myself into a corner resulting in a demand for an article for Soapbox: If this item should appear to be in any way complimentary about the Courier, then we'll know what kind of editorial stranglehold we're dealing with, won't we?!

I would, however, like to congratulate the Courier on its middle class run-of-the-mill articles, which, although well written, conveys an image of an uninspired clique enslaved by a Union whose communal boot stamps out any hope of spontaneous or catchy subject matter.

"Drunken Agric Animals" is the best we've come up with this year - that's o.k. I suppose, since Agrics can be persecuted without offending any of the Union's growing minority groups. Without too much stress we could have headlines like "Students are crap dancers!" followed by a personal slander attack on certain key party animals, and a succession of geeky piss heads in all too typical positions around Newcastle nightspots, and without resorting to tabloid fiascos like "Fifteen students perish beneath Geordies arse" we could have a paper that's much more entertaining to read, preferably free and containing more than just rehashed local news and items about sad pipe smokers who pick their noses in the pub.

However, we don't have to move too far to provide a better read to an already good wipe. The staff are all

clearly competent and sometimes even witty, all we need is, hands off from the Union, a bit less news and a bit more gossip. The letters page shows with its Disgruntled from Dingley bits of tit-tat. I'm sure this is much closer to what the punters really want, for example, if you sit all day in the bar trying to read some unintelligible photo-copied notes on a subject you

able to hint far more than the paper can write but doesn't.

Next year let's launch a new paper that has a stronger reaction than mere pH paper and a more pungent, hard-hitting flavour than baby kangaroos, and more cliché's than Only Fools & Horses. Who'd like to bet that people would actually start reading it!

Anonymous

Thank you very much Paul Phillips for such an eloquent and highly informative article. One feels slightly saddened that you did not have the guts to reveal your name next to your highly perceptive rantings but then again it's easier to criticise from relative obscurity.

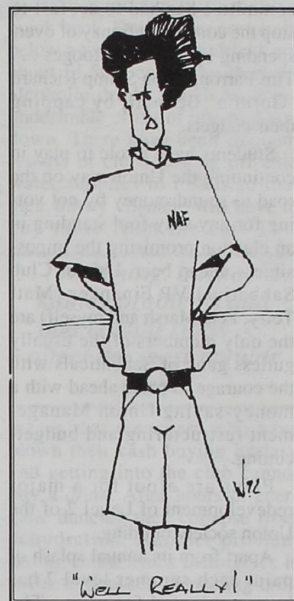
Surprisingly enough I do agree with one of your main points - the paper is enslaved by a Union whose communal boot most definitely stamps out a lot of subjects we would like to cover. Working in an atmosphere of supreme political correctness undoubtedly constrains us in our tasks to inform, educate and above all entertain. But then again without the Union we wouldn't have a paper.

Anyone who's worked on Courier this year will know that I've tried hard to ensure that the office is not a cliquey gang of sad hacks and I hope this continues in future years. Contrary to your claims Courier is widely read across the campus and we are certainly a lot less reverent to the powers that be than we have been in previous years. Sorry we can't please everyone but I'm sure if we turned ourselves into a student version of the Sun we'd come in for a lot more criticism.

If you want to change something, get off your arse with a couple of your mates and kick the sad political cliques out of the Union - that is where the root of the problem lies.

Your obscure reference to your cartoonist pal was sycophantic and chunder-inducing to say the least. If you're gonna kick arse at least do it with a little style.

The Editor



can't even spell, the last thing you want to know is the results of some survey about religion - unless God wrote it himself of course. Also the very name "The Courier" inspires me to yawn, why can't it be something downbeat and grubby like "Scrap" or "The Scab"? The only real beacons within the paper at this moment, are the wonderfully obscure cartoons which are

**BORED WITH REVISION? COME
TO A FEW MEETINGS TO TAKE
YOUR MIND OFF THINGS**

**GENERAL
MEETING**

1.00 pm

**UNION
COUNCIL**

5.15 pm

**THE PLACE TO BE:
DEBATING
CHAMBER, LEVEL 5**

WELFARE

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We are open Monday-Friday during term time and operate a limited service during the summer vacation.

(details to be advertised in the Union)

Richard Hilary + Veronique

That was then...

Unless you visited another planet over the Easter holidays, you can't have failed to realize that the Tories are back in for a fourth term. Looking back through the mist of time (or back copies of *Courier*) I ask what student life was like in 1979, and what, if anything, has changed during thirteen years of Conservatism?

Courier headlines in 1979 tended to play down the impending General Election and centred upon more important issues like the legislation of cannabis debate that was raging at the time. Things soon changed though. The new government introduced programmes to revise funding for universities and student

"Meanwhile ... student twenty-four hour fasts suffered from a lack of student participation"

unions in the early eighties. Cut backs and redundancies resulted, which in turn pro-

voked sit-ins and strikes. Nationally, students were marching *en masse* to protest against nuclear weapons, apartheid and education cuts. Meanwhile, student protests at the University, such as sit-ins at the library and twenty-four hour fasts suffered from a lack of student participation.



Throughout the eighties funding for the University and the salaries of academics dropped. Many departments faced severe cutbacks and staff redundancies, and the future of several, including the music school, hung in the balance. Some academics took industrial action, refusing to

set and mark examinations in 1986 and 1989. In 1988 the Vice-Chancellor announced that the University was on the verge of bankruptcy. For students, the late eighties and early nineties saw the introduction of student loans, the withdrawal of benefits, the poll tax, and a freeze of

grants. The National Union of Students (NUS) greeted these measures with campaigns and marches, which again were poorly supported by Newcastle University students.

So what's changed then? Flicking through yellowing copies of *Courier*, it appears

not much. NUS disaffiliation debates were kicking around in the seventies and still abound now. Tory calls for

"Student unemployment was only 4% in 1979; the figure is now nearer 30%."

voluntary membership of the NUS were voiced in the seventies, and are likely to raise their heads again. Student hardship has undoubtedly worsened in the last decade, as has unemployment of graduates, which was only 4% in 1979; the figure is now nearer 30%. The University is still desperate for cash and has to cope with an increasing number of students. Student apathy is still, sadly, a fact of life.

On a more general note, things aren't that different. Agrics had as much a liking for showing their bottoms in the seventies as they do now; people moaned about beer prices (45p a pint in 1979), and members of the Executive engaged in scandalous slanging-matches (although no-one was interested then either).

Some things never change.

Kate Jarman

Election. What Election?

Apathy. It's only a little word but seems to loom large in many Newcastle students' lives especially when any sort of voting is concerned. Give them a voting slip and you'll get a paper aeroplane in return.

Even the thrill of going into a polling station on General Election day for the first time held little attraction for your average Cochrane Bar punter, and even less for those who prop up the Mens Bar.

"Well, it wouldn't have made any difference how I voted up here, would it. I mean the whole area's painted red from top to bottom," - an opinion from one student who'd clearly put a lot of thought into his decision not to vote. Others were equally open about why they hadn't bothered to trouble the vote counters. Apathy last term had resulted in them not bothering to register up here and then they'd gone home to a seat "bluer than the Danube is or ever was."

Some students, though, had to wait until the local election (the what?) last week to reveal how apathetic they really were as annoyingly efficient parents had made sure that not only was Tommy registered but that he actually went down to the polling station to cast his vote. Oh, the bliss of a term-time election!

And then there was the Paddy Pantsdown factor. The UK is, thankfully, still in the minor leagues compared to Uncle Sam's ability to uncover a political sex scandal. But in spite of such an interest-arousing titbit (literally) that brought a little life to the election campaign, student voters remained unimpressed.

However, there were occasional exceptions to the norm, in that a few students (probably on their way to or from Level 6) confessed to having gone out of their way to vote. The desire to see an end to Conservative rule had been enough of a stimulus to galvanise the least radical into interrupting their holiday TV viewing, while others didn't want Daddy to have to pay another £10,000 in income tax which would have been the case if Labour had won.

But at the end of the day, nothing seems to have changed at all (except for the Tories capturing Jesmond!) Mr Grey is still in Number 10, the Blues are still in office, the Reds are in disarray, and the Orange-yellow are aren't really anywhere. When all the analysis is over, people will come to realise what an awful waste of time the affairs of the last two months have been and that apathy once again has been the real winner.

John Aglionby

...this is now.

Diary of Union Events this term.....

**Week 3
Thursday 14th**

General Meeting
1.00pm

Union Council
5.15pm

**Week 6
Friday 5th**

General Meeting
1.00pm

**Week 7
Monday 8th**

Nominations close for all elections
1.00pm

**Week 8
Monday 15th**

Hustings for Elections
Level 2, 1.00pm

Tuesday 16th
Elections

**Week 9
Tuesday 23rd**

Joint Union Council
2.15pm

**Week 10
Tuesday 30th**

Special General Meeting
1.00pm

TODAY & TOMORROW

PLEASE
GIVE
BLOOD

Examinations Hall
Medical School

from 9.30am to 4.30pm

During November 1991, students
at Newcastle University donated
1,123 units of blood, a
remarkable achievement.

**Students never let us
down.**

New volunteers are urged to join
the University's Donor Family
and donate during the
forthcoming sessions.



On top of ...

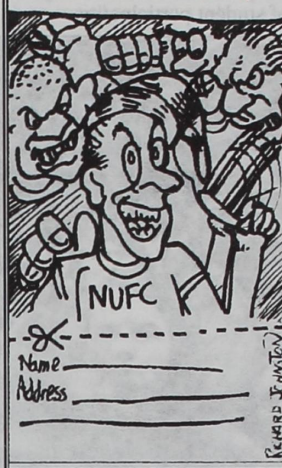
Oh no, it's here again, the time of year that every self-respecting student dreads. It's something that's experienced every year by most people since the very first year of school. It's something that tests character and resolve. That's right, it's the end of the football season.

No longer will Leazes Terrace be surrounded by thousands of black and white clad football junkies, shouting "Keegan, Keegan" in some form of tribal chant. No longer will Ricky Road flats rumble to the roar of the crowd as the Magpies position the small defenceless spherical object firmly in the back of the net.

Undoubtedly there are many people at the University who have no interest in football whatsoever. These people fall into two distinct categories. Firstly, sad bastards (usually leather clad bikers, or heavy metal freaks), and secondly Sunderland supporters. As Freddie the dolphin has already had the experience of human masturbation, then it's no wonder he's going to make for Sunderland harbour, he's waiting for all the wankers from Roker Park.

So what does happen between now and the middle of August when the new season starts? Fortunately, the University have kindly offered to give exams, to help avoid withdrawal symptoms, but even these only last till the middle of June, so then there's a couple of weeks of celebrating/comiserating over the

PLAY "SPOT THE
STUDENT AT
ST JAMES" IN
THE COURIER!!



results, and looking for a job (along with over three million other people).

But wait, what's this on the horizon. Oh thank fuck for that, it's the European Football Championships. Phew! Just as side effects were starting to set in, a little respite comes our way. Plus, of course, a little sweepstake, on how many times England will be humiliated by some pathetic third rate under-

dog team.

By the time that's all finished, there's not too many weeks left to the start of the new season; but there's still too many. Saturday afternoons become as drawn out as sociology lectures. Normal human beings start taking up farty pastimes such as playing Trivial Pursuit and even then, only answering the sport questions.

Then at last things start to happen. Fixture lists are published, transfer market deals are announced, and local papers start to make up stories about a top international player who's about to sign for the Magpies. The fanzines start to appear, and everyone is full of confidence about the club getting promoted, winning the cup, etc., etc., until of course the first game of the season when Newcastle get thrashed at home!

Personally I shall take the footballing break slightly differently from most people. I shall cry at being thrown out of University because I failed my exams. I shall go on the dole, or worse still, get a job standing outside the Eldon Square shouting "RONLL."

Seriously, though, as this is my last Top to bottom" I'd just like to say a few thank you and goodbyes. Thanks to everyone who's given me a beer/fag/shag/stottie (delete as appropriate) and "fuck you" to those who haven't.

Good luck to everyone in the exams, especially those doing their finals.

... the bottom

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All Bars 5-8pm

Cricket

Storming through...

Newcastle v. York 29/4 - won
v. Sheffield 3/5 - won
v. Leeds 6/5 - won

Newcastle Uni are storming to qualification to the last 16 of the UAU on the back of 3 solid bowling performances. While the batting has tended to be a bit fragile, there are signs it is beginning to pick up.

Against York the speed of the wicket frustrated quick scoring and NUCC opened to 129-9 (top score Tim "the mouth" Selby, 36). However resplendent in their new jumpers (available to order in most sizes) our boys ripped into York and bowled them out for a paltry 65. Last Sunday once again tight bowling restricted Sheffield to 139 all out and despite a good start, Newcastle scraped home with only 1 wicket intact. By far the best performance so far came last Wednesday against Leeds

where on being put in, Newcastle amassed 199-8 in 55 overs. The highlights of the innings being a fluent 53 by young opener Nick Hunter and a late flourish by Jim Herdman and John Gleasure, this included a huge 6 by Herdman and some audacious running by the sex bomb Gleasure. A fine opening spell of bowling by Herdman and Darren Hendleman saw Leeds reduced to 41-4 after 24 overs at tea and the spin twins in Gleasure and Marvel finished the job to demolish Leeds for 84. Leeds were not helped by the fact that according to that immortal Guru Selby, "They didn't know whether they were coming or going on what was not a left handers wicket".

Bring on Durham!!

Results

1st XV - Played 27 Won 17 Lost 10
2nd XV - Played 22 Won 16 Lost 6
3rd XV - Played 22 Won 16 Lost 6
The 1991/92 season was, a successful one for the Rugby club. With the University out of the local leagues due to an early start to the season, the fixture list continued with friendlies against local clubs, and also included more student opposition. For 25 players, the beginning of the season saw a sojourn to Sicily, which improved pre-season fitness, and created foundations for the rest of the season.

The 1st XV were the most successful side, reaching the quarter finals of the UAU, only to succumb to Durham whom they had beaten in the qualifying rounds. Each members of the side deserves credit, none more than Tom Seymour who completed his 3rd season with the club. His spartan training programme of Silk Cut and Exhibition

is a lesson to all aspiring slob.

The Second XV was particularly strong, reaching the Challenge round of the UAU, with many of the players pushing 1st XV representation. The AU president, again convinced the selectors that he was capable of lasting 80 minutes in the front row, whilst Mark Dawson, proved admirable company on coaches to away matches.

The Third XV record speaks for itself, again reaching the Challenge round of the UAU, and they were assisted by two stalwart pack members in Nick Fuller and Charlie Warburton. As ever the Fourth and Fifth XV continued to flourish, proving the strength in depth of the club.

As a whole the club behaved fairly well, with a successful dinner, a joint bash with the Poly and the inevitable Rugby Ball. Apart from one slip up at the expense of a Derwentside coach, the club once again proved itself to be one of the biggest and most successful

Season Reviews Men's Hockey

The University's Men's Hockey Club has had a season of considerable success on the pitch and great enjoyment off it. The first eleven with Paul Gyles as captain, eventually had a successful season after being disappointedly knocked out of the UAU competition at the regional group stage. However, in the North East League division 2, only one match was lost and as a result the team gained promotion. Prospects for next year look good with only one member leaving. Seven of the team were rewarded by selection for various county teams.

The second team were, of course, the University's most successful team in the UAU, reaching the semi-finals. Along the way, Universities such as Sheffield and Liverpool were beaten, causing the whole club much entertainment. Again, prospects for next season look good with only Jon Griffiths, who had an outstanding season in goal, taking his particular brand of stropiness elsewhere.

The thirds, led by the indomitable Harvey Emms, had an outstand-

ing season. The team had the misfortune to draw Loughborough in the UAU but took the champions all they way in losing 3-0. In the North-East league, however, the team swept division 5 in their first season, and were unbeaten champions. Special mention must be made of Henry Wells, who scored over 30 goals, and of Matt Doggett, Martin West and Paul Cronin who are leaving to play Fizz-buzz in other places.

All in all, then, a successful season which was a good laugh, and considering the number of players returning, one which bodes well for next year.

Individual Honours:

Northumberland County: Paul Gyles
Northumberland County Under-21:

Simon Fitch
(Manager)
Richard Beatty
(Captain)
Paul Gyles
John Brisbane
Kwasi Nicholas
Richard Sheppy
Adam Jones

Royal Navy Under-21:
Cumbria County Under-21:

Paul Rendall

Rugby Union...

sporting clubs within the University, which augurs well for next season.

Certain individuals were responsible for these successes; Andy Graham, the club captain, returned fresh from a placement year and with his own brand of Blackburn charm and bull-shit, put the wind up nearly everyone by trying to convince them he had electric pace. The wallpaper industry has no idea what it is letting itself in for. Alistair Meadows took on the leadership of the 1st XV, and with his curious warm up techniques and articulate speeches, certainly led the side with aplomb. He must be congratulated on gaining selection for England U21, a fact which has not escaped him as he parades various sweaters around the University. Ben Beech and Bruce Thompson were captains of the 2nd and 3rd XV's respectively, and with scarcely a full head of hair between them they somehow convinced their men that their seniority and experi-

ence was without question, and led their sides with distinction. Andre Calder, this year's treasurer, graciously embezzled only half the clubs funds, and leaves having given two years hard service to the club. Finally, the tireless secretary, Johnny Kinnear, held the whole club together with his efficiency and organisation. I have noticed that his accent has become more anglicised too; it is now possible to understand half of what he says without an interpreter.

So all in all it was a thoroughly enjoyable season, which produced some fine rugby, and with many players remaining for next season, all bodes well for next season. Final thanks must go to our coach Bernard Jones, who after many years of service to the club, has moved on, he assures me, to better things. Without him, none of these results would have been possible. We wish him well.

Giles Morgan

Orienteering



Jen Leonard, Kate Thomas and Sue Lates, winners of the UAU Women's Relay Trophy.

The Orienteering Club had a busy Easter this year, with BSSF (British Students Sports Federation) on April 11th and 12th, and the Jan Kjellstrom (J.K.) Trophy, the biggest British orienteering fixture of the year, over the Easter weekend. Both events were in the southern Lake District.

University and Polytechnic orienteering clubs from all over the country converged at the southern tip of Lake Windermere, for the annual British Student Championships. Newcastle University was there in force. The strategy of strength in numbers paid off with a triumphant women's team (Jen Leonard, Kate Thomas and Sue Lates) winning the UAU relay. In the individual race, Jen had a good run, and was 7th overall (3rd in UAU category).

The J.K. was held on the Bigland Estate, near Ulverston, and provided some very physically and mentally challenging courses for the 4,500 competitors. There was individual races on Saturday and Sunday, with different courses for every age group from 10 to 70 years old, and on the Monday there were relay races for teams of 3 or 4.

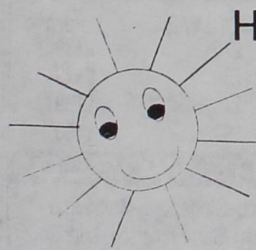
Notable performances in the individual races came from Sue Lates (8th), Kate Thomas (20th) and Tim Higginbottom (19th) in their respective classes. In the Ad-hoc relay class, Evan McDonald, Jen Leonard and Phil Harvey were 5th, although they would have done even better if Jen hadn't been in the loo queue instead of the waiting-pen at the hand-over!

S. Lates,
J. Leonard

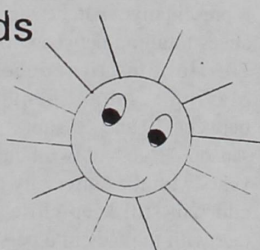
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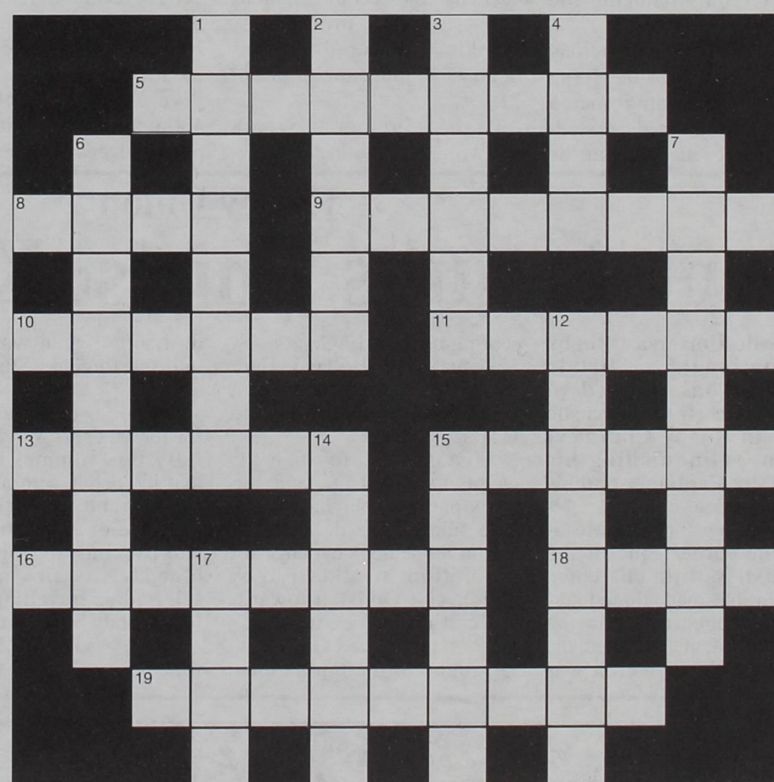
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COURIER PRIZE CROSSWORD

Crossword compiled by The Alleycat



ACROSS

5. Sunderland player (4,5).
8. Latin American currency (4).
9. Not seemly (8).
10. Arithmetic system (6).
11. Hatred (6).
13. Complicated (6).
15. Deny (6).
16. Weather patterns (8).
18. Canvass (4).
19. As 5 (5,4).

7. As 5 across (9).
12. It laments death (4,4).
14. Component (6).
15. Flee (6).
17. Wail (4).

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 12th MARCH 1992

ACROSS

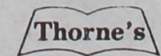
1. Amin. 3. Leemings. 8. Tart. 9. Stairway. 11. Rat Catcher. 14. Intact. 15. Poorer. 17. Elaine Page. 20. Nineteen. 21. Lilt. 22. Stardust. 23. Enid.

DOWN

1. Asteroid. 2. Irritate. 4. Entice. 5. Maiden Over. 6. Newt. 7. Soya. 10.

Calculate. 12. Creation. 13. Arrested. 16. Diners. 18. Onus. 19. Anna.

Crossword entries should be returned to the Courier Office by 5 p.m. on Friday, 15th May 1992. As this is the last edition of the academic year, this week's winner's name will be posted on the Courier door, on Monday 18th May 1992. The prize is a £5 book token donated by:



Last term's winner: Simon Ward, 39 Oakland Road, West Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Many thanks to all the
Sports Clubs and Societies
who have contributed this year.
Keep those reports rolling in
next academic year.
Cheers,
Sports Ed.

SUBSCRIPTION DRAW

1369 wins a dozen cans of beer donated by Vaux Breweries.
255 wins a £10 voucher donated by Kard Bar, Cross Street.
1527 wins lunch for two (value £10) donated by the Barley Mow, Sandgate.
781 wins a £10 voucher donated by Flip, Cross Street.
922 wins 2 cinema tickets donated by Warner Cinemas at Manors.
691 wins LP or tape (value £7) donated by Volume Records, Ridley Place.
366 wins 2 tickets donated by the Tyneside Cinema, Pilgrim Street (by arrangement).
842 wins meal (value £5) donated by Burger King, 24 Northumberland Street.
543 wins 2 tickets to a Union Event (see Mark Drabble, Ents Officer) (by arrangement).
1257 wins £5 voucher donated by Bookhouse, Ridley Place.
105 wins a haircut and style donated by Top Style II for Men, 142 Northumberland Street.
2602 wins a meal for 2 (value £10) donated by McDonald's Restaurant, 64/68 Northumberland Street.
1187 wins 2 Technique tickets to Level 2 Friday night disco. (See Mark Drabble, Ents Officer).
217 wins lunch for 2 (value £5) Mon-Sat. donated by Rupa! Restaurant, 6 Bigg Market.
68 wins 2 cinema tickets donated by the Odeon Cinema, Pilgrim Street.
278 wins film developed (1 hour service) donated by Quick Picks, Nelson Street.

Prizes to be collected by Monday, 18th May, 1992

Medal run for sprinters and Cricket 1st XI on way to last 16 ...

Relay boys claim UAU Bronze medal

A Bronze medal winning performance by Newcastle University's 4 x 100m relay team was the highlight of the Commercial Union UAU/BUSF Athletics Championships last weekend. A club 100m record and a near missing of a medal in the high jump also encouraged the Newcastle athletes.

The 4x100m squad of Chris Earl, Dave Storey, Phil Abel and Jason Urron recorded a time of 43.48 seconds beaten into third place by Birmingham Uni. (42.82s) and gold medalists Loughborough - 42.46s. Having qualified from the heats with the fastest time, Newcastle were well placed for a medal. With all three change-overs "going like clockwork" after meticulous practice on Wednesday afternoon - a bronze was claimed with former Great Britain Junior International Jason Urron anchoring the team home.

Urron had earlier in the day reached the final of the 100m despite only training once a week due to his medical studies. He proceeded to run the

Athletics - by Sports Editor - Simon Bird

fastest time ever by a Newcastle University athlete recording 10.80 seconds, close to his 10.73 personal best set whilst in full training. *Courier* reported on Urron and the 4x100m relay teams potential last term.

Disappointingly Urron's run was only good enough for 7th place, in a top quality men's

castle's UAU indoor medalists - placed fourth only 10cm behind the victor. His best of 1m 90cm was below par and he must be looking at the championships as a missed opportunity. The 2.0m jump that he achieved in the UAU Indoors for silver would have claimed gold at the Outdoor championships.

MEDAL TABLE								
	Men				Women			
	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Loughborough	5	3	2	10	7	4	3	14
Birmingham	3	4	2	9	2	1	0	3
Oxford	3	2	4	9	2	1	0	3
Cambridge	2	2	2	6				
Nottingham	2	0	0	2				
Glasgow	0	4	0	4				
London	0	2	2	4				

sprint. Steve Gookie (Nottingham) broke the UAU record with a time of 10.43s and will challenge the best in Britain as the summer progresses. Gookie completed a sprint double, winning the 200m in 21.95s.

High Jumper Simon Fitzwilliam - another of New-

Several other Newcastle athletes excelled reaching semi-finals in hotly contested track events. Chris Earl and Dave Storey both got through the 200m heats recording 23.0 and 23.5 respectively. 400m man Pike excelled reaching the 400m semi-final with a 52.6 personal best. Team captain

and organiser Richard Wilcox was eliminated in the 400m heats. The 4x400m squad of Wilcox, Ord, Abel and Pike failed to emulate their sprint colleagues and were defeated in their heat, as was John Ord (65.93 400m hurdles).

Newcastle's sole female representative ran both 800 and 1500m clocking 2.33.88 in her 800m heat.

Loughborough's traditional dominance of student athletics came up against a spirited challenge from Birmingham and Oxford. With 5 golds, 3 silvers and 2 bronze medals they were just ahead of Birmingham (3, 4 and 2) and Oxford (3, 2 and 4). However, their strength in depth, with representation in all finals, consolidated their position.

Other spectacular performances came from De-Freitas (Loughborough) 3m 46.61 1500m, Walker (Oxford) a 7m 09 Long Jump, and Hatton (Oxford) 70m 04cm Javelin.

In the women's events there were few national standard performances with Loughborough Ladies claiming 7 golds, 4 silvers and 3 bronze medals.

with his University Club and representative matches appearances totalling between 60 and 70. He aims to reduce his playing commitments to between 30 and 40 games next season. "I've had two fantastic years with the University club, and will still keep close contact with the lads in a personal and coaching capacity. I would be delighted to play UAU matches next year but selection policy is that if you don't play on a Saturday then you don't get selected on Wednesdays".

Simon Bird



Jason Urron back in action.

Results ...

Men:
100: 1. S. Gookie (Notts) 10.43; 2. K. Ferguson (L) 10.56; 3. O. Dako (Salf) 10.66; 7. J. Urron (N'castle) 10.80.
200: 1. S. Gookie (Notts) 21.95; 2. C. Henry (Lon) 22.09.
400: 1. B. Darby (Read) 48.02; 2. G. McMillan (Glas) 48.23.
800: 1. Knight (Soton) 1:50.82; 2. McFadyen (Strath) 1:50.89.
1500: 1. M. De-Freitas (Loughbro) 3:46.61; 2. G. Stewart (Glas) 3:38.52.
5000: 1. L. Harkness (Cams) 14:34.43.
10,000: 1. L. Mathews (Ox) 30:00.84.
3,000SC: 1. D. Lee (Lough) 9:49.92.
110H: 1. Bovell (Carl) 14.86; 2. Smith (HW) 15.41; 3. Harbour (Lough) 15.54; 4. Keppel (Lough) 15.66.
HJ: 1. A. Hodge (Cams) 2.00; 2= B. Walsh (Birm)/A. Ferrand (Lough) 1.95; 4= A. Simpson (E'burgh)/S. Fitzwilliam (N'castle)/M. Mowbray (Oxford) 1.90.
PV: 1. L. Black (Strath) 4.00.
LJ: 1. S. Walker (Oxf) 7.09; 2. P. Akwaboah (Birm) 7.04; 3. M. Lawrence (Lon) 7.00.
SP: 1. B. Walsh (Birm) 14.41.
DT: 1. B. Walsh (Birm) 47.58.
HT: 1. J. Pearson (Lough) 62.68.
JT: 1. A. Hatton (Ox) 70.04.
400H: 1. M. Briggs (Birm) 52.54.
4x100: 1. Loughborough 42.46; 2. Birmingham 42.82; 3. Newcastle 43.48.
4x400: 1. Loughborough 3:19.06.

Rugby Union

Captain quits Uni 1st XV

Newcastle University Rugby International Alistair Meadows has decided to commit himself to Newcastle Gosforth Rugby Club next season, relinquishing his University Captaincy and his 1st team place.

Second-row forward, Meadows, the cornerstone of the University's title challenge this year, has made three international appearances in the England students U21 side, the most notable of which was

scoring a try in England's 48-12 defeat of the Holland senior side. He also appeared against Irish exiles and Scotland U21's.

Alistair aims to push his claims for a full England students place by playing for top club side Newcastle Gosforth - who he helped challenge for promotion to the Rugby Unions 1st Division towards the end of this season. "It's clear that you need to be playing rugby in the top national

divisions if you want to get into the England Students set up".

A look at the England side for the students World Cup in Italy this summer confirms that his belief with all but the Oxford and Cambridge students belonging, not to Uni. Rugby, but to top league clubs. Alistair has been selected as travelling reserve for the Italy bound squad.

The pressures on Meadows this season have been great

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