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WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2000

25p

INSIDE



Who the feck is that?

Newcastle
Comedy Festival
Preview p9

TODAY

Sports: Football lads victorious over arch rivals Crewe

RIFT DEEPENS IN JESMOND

Tempers fray in Jesmond as the rift between students and local residents hits breaking point - just who is to blame?

by Jacqui Butler
and Olivia Richwald

AS TENSIONS in Jesmond reach crisis point, *The Courier* investigates the real issues behind the stormy arguments between residents and students.

With incidents of vandalism, theft and rowdy behaviour students are rapidly becoming the target of resident's frustration and anger.

Alison Clemett, Assistant Accommodation Officer said: "Students have been jumping on cars, breaking windows, scratching cars and stealing things from gardens."

Students affected

But it's not just permanent residents who are affected by this anti-social behaviour. Stuart Hatton, 3rd year computing science told *The Courier*: "The other night at about 3am, I heard six or seven guys singing and shouting in the street. I was just about to tell them to shut up when a woman went out and told them to 'shut the fuck up'."

"They were quiet for about a minute and then they came back out of their house and started

smashing bottles and breaking glass."

The danger now is that all students will be tarred with the same brush, encouraging unjustified accusations of noise and unacceptable behaviour.

One student has spoken out over exactly this problem.

Geraldine England, 3rd year English student talked to *The Courier* about what she feels is unfair victimisation from her neighbours.

"There's four of us and we're not noisy. In fact, we're hardly ever in. Since we moved in this year, we've had one or two complaints a week. Our neighbours have complained to the landlord, the police and the council".

Geraldine defended herself: "We had one party - a housewarming. We told all the residents and everyone was fine with it. One or two of our neighbours even came to it".

Accusations

The housemates feel angry about what they describe as their neighbours 'petty accusations'. Particularly, they explained, as the landlord had taken measures to have the floor soundproofed.

"They have come to the door and

demanding that we listen to our music on headphones, as well as complaining about my flatmates bangles jangling when she takes a shower in the morning."

The situation came to a head when they received a letter from the Environmental Health Department complaining about excess noise.

She explained: "I know about 3 of 4 other houses who have had letters from the council. Apparently if this carries on, not only could we be evicted we could lose our honours."

Badly behaved

It appears to be a case of the minority spoiling it for the masses. One resident, Mrs B Robinson explained: "I'm not against students. I have one in my family. But some of them living in Jesmond are badly-behaved young people who have left home and feel they can do what they can do what they want, when they want".

Some students agree. Peter Taylor, 3rd year politics student said: "I think that sometimes students forget they don't live in halls anymore and residents live in Jesmond too".

Turn to page 2

NOW THEN, NOW THEN



Jimmy wishes luck to the massive throng of runners in this year's Great North Run. See page 6 for more details.

AIESEC CAREERS FAIR 7th Nov. University Ballroom

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SEA CLUB BOSS DENIES HOMOPHOBIA CLAIMS

EXCLUSIVE

By CATHERINE BRUCE and
BRIAN MOHER

NEW QUAYSIDE club Sea has denied being homophobic after two male students claimed they were thrown out of the club for KISSING.

Andre Cooke, a third year Genetics student at Newcastle Uni alleged he was forcibly removed with no explanation after being followed by one of the bouncers.

Andre told The Courier: "I met a guy I know. We went to talk on the stairs, one thing led to another, and we ended up kissing."

He went on to describe how the bouncer followed them into the toilet and stood watching them while they used the facilities.

Andre and the other student, a second year who asked not to be named, were later approached by the same bouncer who demanded to see their tickets.

"We explained that they were in our jackets, which we didn't have with us," Andre said.

"Instead of letting us get our jackets and wallets, he marched us to the door and literally threw us out, then slammed the door in our faces."

He added "He gave us no warning and

no explanation. I was really pissed off. It was the first time I had been to Sea and it will be the last. I've kissed blokes in Ikon and Chase before and nobody has batted an eyelid."

Outraged LGB officers Lisa Harvey-Smith and Geoff Frost slammed the club, saying: "This is the year 2000 and we're supposed to be a civilised nation. Why the hell can't two consenting adults have a bit of a snog on a night out?"

"We'll be writing to the management of Sea, and if we're not satisfied with their response, we'll be organising a mass boycott. Watch this space."

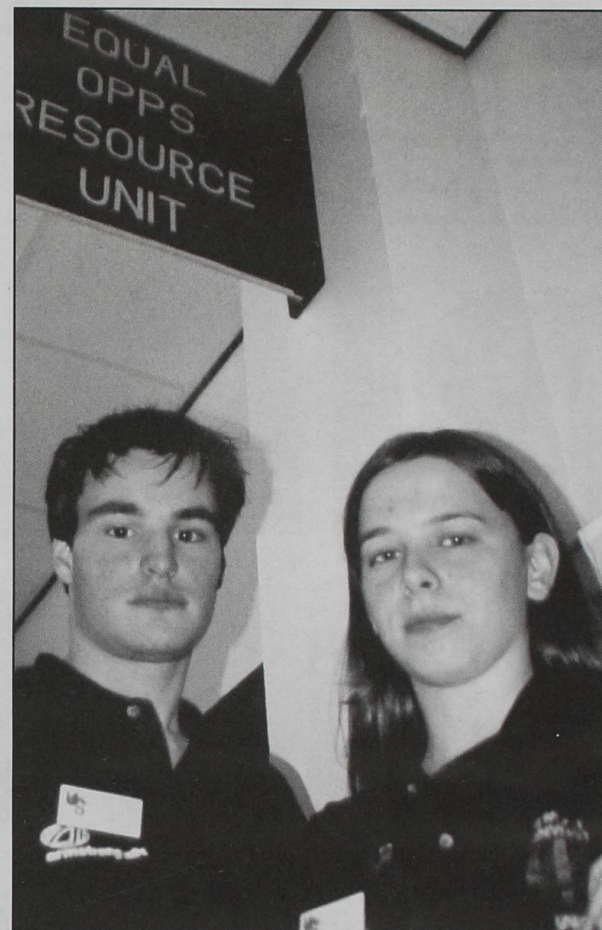
Cooke went on to say "He shouldn't have had a problem with us kissing at all, but if he'd said "People are uncomfortable with what you're doing, can you please stop", I would have accepted it."

"We weren't doing it to piss people off. It's an absolute joke to throw us out with no explanation," he blasted.

Bob Senior, the managing director of Ultimate Leisure, the company who owns Sea, was adamant that the club had no homophobic policies.

"The Architect who designed Sea is gay and we're happy that he is. I don't know about the incident and neither does the manager of Sea," claimed Senior.

This incident comes only weeks after Sea made the news for denying admission to two people because they were bald.



OUTRAGED... LGB Officers Geoff and Lisa will contact Sea

Continued from front page

Another Jesmond resident, Brigid McCarney complained: "I have suffered shouted abuse from the street after politely requesting that music be turned down."

Ian Kitchen, Communications Officer said: "The new developments on Osborne Road haven't helped - it's turned Jesmond into a new Bigg Market. And unfortunately it's always the students that will be blamed. It's sad that the bad things are always highlighted because most students are capable of both enjoying themselves and getting on with their neighbours."

Geraldine contacted the Accommodation Office and said she found them "extremely

helpful".

Alison Clemett talked about their attempt to tackle the problem: "It's almost big-brotherish to say don't do this or don't do that but there are real issues of criminal damage and intimidation. We don't want residents to pre-judge students. A small minority are the problem when they get drunk".

"We're holding fortnightly surgeries in Jesmond Library, residents, students and landlords are all welcome - we try and resolve the conflicts. We've held two so far, but no students have come. I think the scheme will work, we've had some really positive feedback".

Derek Nicholson, University bigwig wanted to make the point:

"This is not a student-bashing exercise on the part of the University, but we are determined to work closely with students, residents and agencies to tackle this issue."



Election info

If you want to get involved with the Union elections, then now's the time!

Even though FYC is still fresh in the memory for most, if you think you can do it better then come and have a go!

There are a number of positions to be filled, including Disabilities Officer and Anti-Racism Officer, as well as the coveted FYC posts.

So should you want to get involved in the running of your Union, then pick up an election pack from the General office on the top floor of the Union, or go and see Ian Kitchen, Communications Officer, for more info.

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SPIKED DRINKS DANGER

Student's terror as drink's spiked with possible date-rape drug

By ANN CLIFFORD

NEWCASTLE students are again being warned of the dangers of spiked drinks after a fresher was drugged in a Quayside nightclub.

The victim, who does not wish to be named, was in the club on a Wednesday night earlier this month.

The female student, who was "not particularly drunk", was upstairs in the club when she began to feel ill some time after 12.30am.

"I don't remember having a drink, let alone who gave it to me," the terrified fresher said.

Her symptoms included

deteriorating eyesight and violent spasms. Her eyes rolled back in her head and she was unable to hold her head straight.

"I couldn't feel my body," said the victim.

"The music seemed to be slowing down. None of my senses were working properly. I could have walked into a wall and not noticed."

"Half of my brain was OK, but the other half just couldn't react. I thought, my God, I'm going to pass out and that's it."

The student was able to reach the ladies toilets, where she collapsed. She told The Courier: "People were laughing because they thought I was so drunk."

Fortunately the victim

was found by a friend who recognised her symptoms and managed to help her out of the club, where bouncers advised phoning for an ambulance.

She was taken to the RVI, but no blood tests were carried out to determine the nature of the drug.

She was discharged later the same night, but felt dizzy and light-headed for the next two days.

She is still unable to remember most of what happened but would like to thank the friend who found her and the Baja bouncers.

Northumbria Police believe that 'date rape' drugs such as Rohypnol may have been a factor in a number of assaults reported last year.

"You're pulling my leg, Jenny"

By PAUL CROSTHWAITE
NEWS EDITOR

A UNI table tennis star surged to BUSA victory last week, despite being on CRUTCHES!

Jenny Allen had damaged a ligament in her knee in an earlier competition and had not intended to take part in the match against Hull.

But she was drafted in at short notice to make up the numbers.

And Jenny stunned her opponents by coming out on top in all three of her matches, as Newcastle cruised to a 9-1 victory.

Jenny said: "The Hull players could have taken the piss, but they were really friendly. They were nice about it when they lost, too. They said: 'You played really well.'"

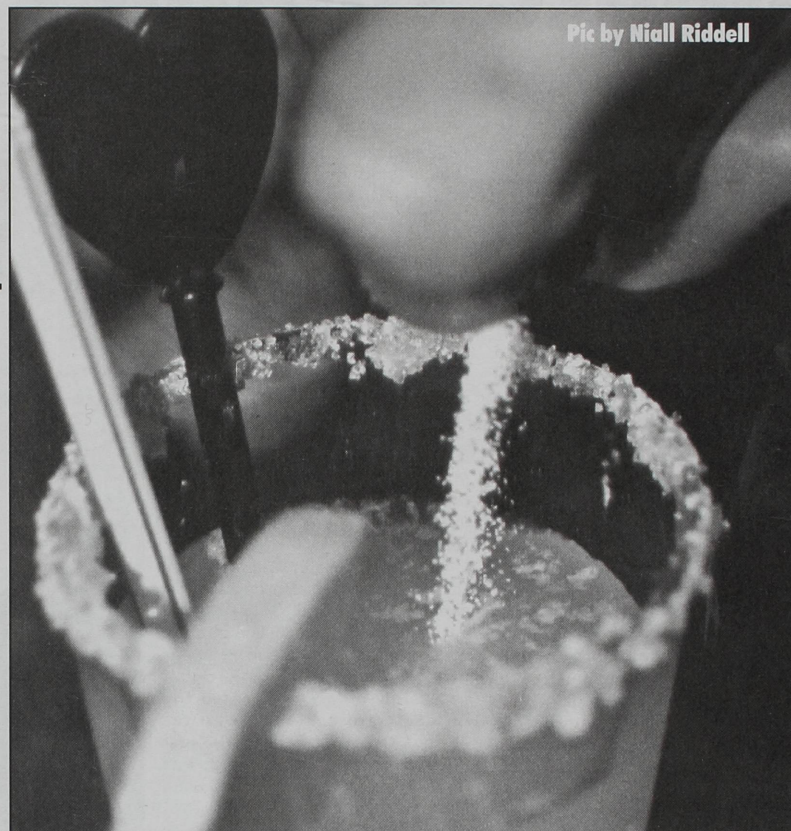
Jenny managed to play by holding her bat in one hand and her crutch in the other, whilst keeping her feet planted to the floor.

She said: "I coached disabled people in Spain over the summer, so that gave me an advantage. It's perfectly do-able, but I wouldn't usually expect to win."

"It was a bit of a stupid thing to do because I might have made my injury worse, but I wasn't in pain while I was playing, and I haven't had any ill effects since."

Jenny won't be fully fit for another few weeks, though, and in the meantime she's planning to stay out of competition.

She said: "Hopefully we'll have a full team next time - all with two legs!"



Pic by Niall Riddell

**This Halloween,
are you
crazy enough to...**

...venture into the Careers Service?

In a recent survey, 8 out of 10 Newcastle University students said that the Careers Service was more spooky than the Blair Witch. The myths that surround the ghoulish residents of the 2nd floor of the Armstrong Building are similar to those surrounding the disappearance of Heather, Josh and Mike on October 21st 1994 in the Burkittsville Woods: every year, hundreds of Newcastle students and graduates enter the Careers Service for reasons best known to themselves, only to be discovered—often months later—with the career or the course they were seeking...What happened to them? Where did they go? Who did they see?

- Some found out about vacancies or work experience and registered with Vacancies on-line at www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/vacancies

- Some signed up for employer presentations. This fortnight's include: Goldman Sachs and PricewaterhouseCoopers Management Consulting Services on the 31st, IBM on the 1st, Northern Foods and Merrill Lynch on the 2nd, Arthur Andersen on the 6th, Sema Group on the 7th and UBS Warburg (IT & Operations) on the 8th November

- Some unearthed information about events like the AIESEC careers fair on 7th November (Ballroom 11-4) at www.careersfairs.org

Exorcise your career demons

Rooftop antics shot down by police chopper and gun squad

By VICTORIA MUNRO
and GERALDINE ENGLAND

TWO STUDENTS were arrested last week after a rooftop prank with a loaded air pistol.

Neil Brant, 19, an Environmental Biologist at Newcastle University and Simon Turner, 20, a student from Newcastle College were firing pellets at bottles and cans on the roof of Neil's girlfriend's Bigg Market flat on the afternoon of October 16.

After approximately twenty minutes of rooftop antics the two gunmen looked up to see a helicopter, reasonably close, circling the roof.

They jumped up and down, waved and shouted, and joked about being on 'Five Live'. "We were two seconds away from pulling a moony!" said Neil.

Looking down, they were amazed to see they had drawn an audience of armed police officers, two journalists and anxious afternoon shoppers.

The police arrived on the scene after a complaint was lodged by a neighbouring woman. Simon said: "She actually thought we were well evil, about to kill someone!"

The police gestured to the lads to put the gun down, and then summoned them downstairs.

They were arrested and taken to Newcastle Police Station, where they were put in separate cells.

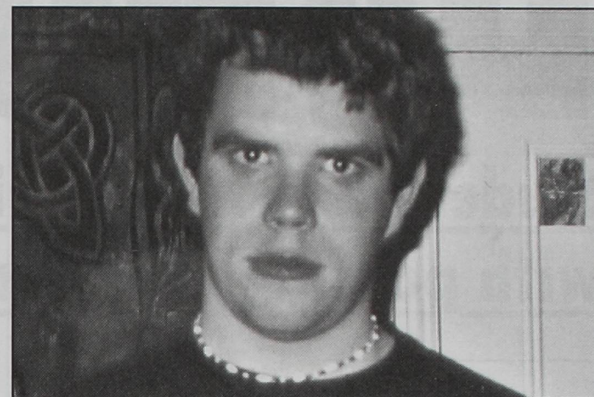
They were later officially cautioned for disrupting public peace.

Their gun was also confiscated.

The police were annoyed by the waste of time and money. The cost of deploying the helicopter was estimated at £6000. One policeman described them as "typical students".

Simon and Neil couldn't believe their tomfoolery had been taken so seriously. Neil said: "What started out as harmless fun turned into the most entertaining experience of our lives!"

A student who witnessed the incident agreed. He said: "It was obvious to me that they were just messing about. I thought it was hilarious when the cops turned up and took them away."



MUGSHOT... Neil Brant was cautioned for disrupting public peace



WEB OF DECEPTION

by LOUISE BATY
and ALICE TAYLOR

LAZY STUDENTS are being given the chance to spend even more time snoozing thanks to a new website that sells essays and lecture notes online.

The creators of www.zarr.com say their aim is "to stimulate by sharing ideas". Students can sell their work through the website, earning up to £5 commission per essay with some even earning up to £1000 a year.

Cash-strapped swots from top universities all over the country including Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Newcastle have submitted work.

Other students can simply log on and download material for a small fee.

But the website has come under fire from university bigwigs. They claim material may be misused. Some universities have even threatened to ban the site.

Hannah Reynolds, co founder of Zarr, defended the site, saying: "Our role is purely to administer the flow of information between students submitting and buying material, rather than policing the contents."

She added: "The techniques for detecting plagiarism are becoming

increasingly advanced, but if someone chooses to pursue that route then there are all sorts of sources of information available to the potential cheat, both on and off the internet."

Students at Newcastle seem enthusiastic about the prospect of buying lecture notes, instead of actually going to lectures.

Dave Kinghan, a 2nd year Mechanical Engineer, approved of the scheme, saying: "It has the potential to make a lot of money, so I would sell my work through it. I'd

also buy other people's notes so I could go out on the piss instead of staying in to work."

Third year English student, Kathryn Leeming enthused: "I would definitely sell my essays. To be honest, I've done a lot worse for a fiver in my time. At least this is educational!"

But a 2nd year Architect who asked not to be named said: "I'm not sure this is a good idea. I bought an essay from a website last year and only got 40% for the work I handed in. I was well gutted."

Competition Food for thought

As we all know, cooking for yourself can be difficult to fit into a hectic student lifestyle.

With such commitments as lectures, seminars, (erm, getting pissed...) it's sometimes hard to maintain a healthy diet without a little help.

And that's where The Courier comes to the rescue.

We have five New Zealand Lamb Famous Family Food cookbooks to give



Famous Family Food



away. Each book contains the favourite recipes of fifty

celebrities and with delights such as Vanessa Feltz' Sticky Chops who could resist?

We also have five runner's up prizes of Cheat's Guides to Cooking with New Zealand Lamb.

To win, just let us know your favourite recipe.

Bring your answers, along with your name and contact number, to The Courier office by 1st November.

GRANTS NOT FEES DEMO 15TH NOVEMBER

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KEEP ON RUNNING!

THIS YEAR'S Great North Run, which took place on Sunday, was the biggest ever.

Almost 40,000 competitors took part in the 13 mile race, which starts near Exhibition Park and finishes in South Shields.

Event Organiser Nigel Gough said: "The race is now the world's biggest half marathon, and it's as big as it can go. It's been a great success so far."

Olympic triple-jump champion Jonathon Edwards, who started the race, described it as "fantastic". But when asked if he had any plans to run himself he replied: "No way - I'm not allowed. I can't run!" Hmm...

Newcastle Uni was well represented in the race, with many of our students taking part. But not all of them were in peak condition. Richard Stannfield, a third year Maths student, said: "My mate went to a 21st birthday party last night - he's been sick four times already and we haven't even started yet." Just tell him to run it off...



STRETCHING AND WRETCHING... Richard and pal warm up



SMILES TO GO... Comms. Officer Ian Kitchen (back) and mates at the start



RUNNING OUT OF TYNE... Competitors in the Great North Run pass through the start on their way to the finish in South Shields



LET'S HAVE A GOLD OF IT... Editor Gregson medals with a dubious Jonathon Edwards

What are you doing during the
HOLIDAYS?

madfoundation.com

Ghana, Kenya, Uganda or
Tanzania?

Fancy spending time working on an **AFRICAN VILLAGE**
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Slide Show Session in the Union
7pm
Thursday 26th October
Committee Room A



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ALL NIGHT FROM THE STUDENT UNION

Monday, Wednesday
& Friday

Tuesday & Thursday

9pm and 10pm from
the Library

9.30pm from
the Library

9.15pm from the
Medical School

9.45pm from the
Medical School

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET A TUTOR WHO CARES?

Tutors have got their priorities all wrong says JAKE LEE

by JAKE LEE

"YOU should feel free to turn to him or her at any time for advice and help on all matters, both academic and non-academic".

Wouldn't it be nice if that was how the tutor system worked, as it's lavishly boasted about in the glossy university prospectus? Because for many, that statement can seem laughable as the tutor system increasingly fails in its objectives, being outdated and in need of urgent reform.

Cath, a 2nd Year Biology Student is still waiting for a reply from her tutor, having e-mailed him to meet more than 3 weeks ago. Similar sentiment is found with a dentist who wishes to remain anonymous who describes her tutor as 'not really caring', 'insincere' when they do finally meet, and 'not approachable'. In asking around, students from different years and different faculties all too often expressed such negative feelings. Few are happy to give their names all too fearful of rocking the boat. As one student said, 'your tutor must be kept happy at all costs'.

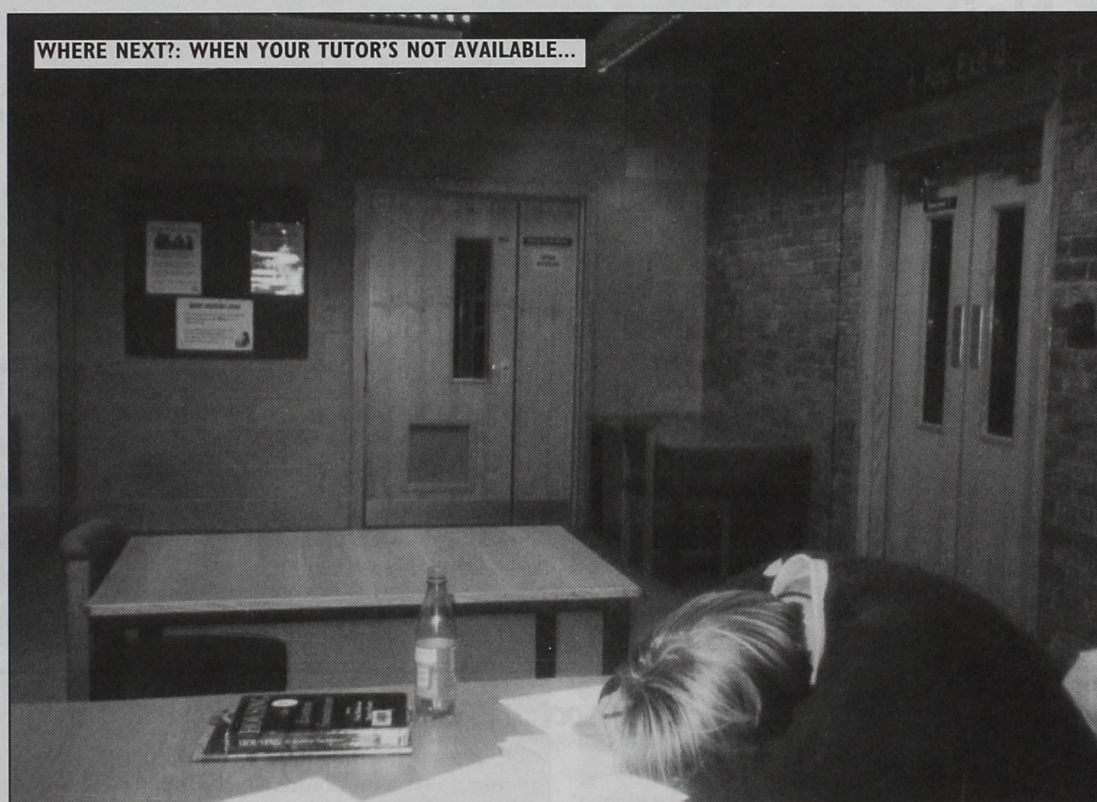
"if some departments can manage it why can't others?"

What to do? Sadly the university has you firmly by your balls. The complaints system is a joke, as when you finally leave university, a reference from a tutor is vital. Make complaints about your tutor and say goodbye to your reference. We're told 'In exceptional cases it may be possible for a students tutor to be changed'. What constitutes an 'exceptional' case? Anyway, it just leaves the

remaining others to be lumbered with a hopeless tutor.

In a rational and reasoned world we might expect that £1000 tuition fee to help matters. Maybe relieve the pressures of lecturers and tutors, perhaps some extra spending in priority areas? Not a chance, for matters seem only to go down hill. In line with the current trend, the government has announced there will be a further 1% cut in spending per student.

"the complaints system is a joke"



WHERE NEXT?: WHEN YOUR TUTOR'S NOT AVAILABLE...

So the truth emerges that tutors simply don't have the time to deal with us. If it seems that some would like nothing more than to lock themselves in a room and bury themselves in research, then it is probably because they have to. The pressures to win research grants are immense.

It's obligatory to meet your tutor each semester. For many that's a mere 10 minutes each year, 5 minutes each semester. This hardly makes them a 'source of sympathy

"the tutor system is outdated and in need of reform"

and help' as stated in the Departmental Handbook. These meetings tend to consist of bureaucratic procedures. For freshers, it is often their first time away from home up in the barren north-east, and a little more caring would be appreciated. Signing up for a 5 or 10 minute slot wedged between many other nervous first years isn't enough.

But many do not have the inclination or desire to deal with

undergraduates can be found throughout some departments - but not others. Field trips can be an excellent opportunity to get to know your tutor, but for subjects that don't have these the problem remains. It's infuriating to look at your friends in other departments who are whisked off on departmental trips, swamped with departmental wine & cheese evenings, enjoy a strong student society, have seminars with

"tutors simply don't have the time to deal with us"

lecturers who genuinely want to be there while it seems your department does zilch. If some departments can manage it, why can't the others?

Not all tutors are bad, in fact, many are frighteningly good. For every person who moans about the system, there's one who finds it does a lot for them. Yet it's a lottery. A lottery we never signed up for, and shouldn't have to take part in.

the undergraduates. Including myself, many students are fortunate to have experienced a far better tutor system back at school. Yes, at school we were there longer than 3 years, and had far more opportunities to get to know them. But the essential difference is that those teachers would choose to become tutors. Academics, are foremost academics, and tutoring can be a nuisance that comes with the job.

This indifference to

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS?

GAZ WANTS TO HEAR IT.

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The Masked Monkey

Setting the world to rights on your behalf

Flyers. Otherwise known as litter. Unnecessary bits of paper forced upon us by chirpy looking people outside the Union.

The Monkey would like it to be known that bits of paper thrust in face are no longer required.

No matter how many times someone gives you an advert for a cruise, it's pretty damn

obvious you aren't gonna go on it.

And even more annoying is the looks they give you when you refuse to pocket the fifth one of the day.

It's not as if we do anything with them except throw them in the bin anyway, as soon as we've got to the top of the steps.

The only flyers that are any

use are the ones for The Jazz Cafe cos you get so many you can use them as wallpaper.

Can't these people see that if you've got a handful of them already, you don't want another one?

It's no use moaning about how cold it is out there - you get paid to give them out. Your choice, your problem.

Leave us out of it.

Music: Catch this week's Pie Light and new reviews

Dear Gaz



the voice of a generation...

Hello and welcome to this week's bumper-packed letters page.

My letter sack has quite literally been bulging under its own weight this week, so sorry if yours didn't get in, but keep them coming to the usual address or drop them into the office and I'll do my best to get them all in. This week...trouble with bouncers, trouble with sloanes and a famous person writes...

Til next time, take care of yourselves.

Croc of shit, Nail

Dear Gaz,

I am a famous actor and chart topping rock star. Your readers might remember me from the hit Tyne-Tees television series, Spender, or as the cheeky but lovable geordie brickie from Auf Weidersehn Pet

My main gripe is that someone seems to have stolen my personal diary, I wouldn't normally be that arsed but I was planning to turn them into a highly revealing series of memoirs to revive my flagging career.

If they're not returned I might be forced to release another album of crap country songs to make some money.

Yours Desperately,
J.Nail

Gaz says: And we wouldn't want that would we? Seriously, if anyone knows anything at all about this let us know. The last thing I need at this difficult stage of my life is another fucking series of Crocodile Shoes.

Sloane rage

Dear Gaz,

Imagine my surprise when I opened last week's Courier to read that Newcastle University has been ranked one of the countries most socially elite universities.

After turning down offers from Oxford and Cambridge, I too was under the impression that the university was a respectable institution. Now, after being here since September I have realized that the place is colonised by people from common comprehensive and grammar schools.

If the university is so elitist I would love to know where all these people are hiding because as yet the only people I've met are badly dressed, lager-drinking, middle-class types.

I feel my status is under threat: I can't walk five metres in the Union without fearing that someone will take my well-invested inheritance away from me.

Gaz, please help me find some like-minded people from the right schools.

Best Wishes

1st year Agricultural Student

Gaz says: For a start you could fuck right off back to where you came from, or at the very least piss off down to Durham. If this is not an option, don't worry, there are still some places in Newcastle where you can find suitable students to converse with. At first I'd check out the second floor of the library, where you should find some pink-shirted friends talking bollocks loudly to no-one in particular. Make yourself known and respected in your new environment by shouting louder than them about shite. Alternatively, try any staircase or corridor in the union that actually leads somewhere, here you're sure to find some sloanes taking a well-earned rest. If your problems persist feel more than welcome to write back to me at the usual address.

Security blast

Dear Gaz,

I am writing to complain about the Union 'security', who I think have too much power for their own good.

They are not a protection system, they are a fucking liability. They don't scare me at all.

No offence to women but what the hell are they doing as stewards? How can a women tell 10 lads to be quiet unless she's really got the arse for some reason.

Get rid of the stewards and get some real hard bastards in who will maim you with a frying pan if you step out of line.

Yours,
Sideez

Gaz says: O.K mate, its a fair argument. I mean, what's the fucking point of them asking for your Union card when they saw you walk out 5 minutes before to pop to the bank.

Mind you, you've got to admit that our lovely stewards are preferable to the puffa jackets, sour faces and inverted elitisms that greet you at the doors of most of the the Toon's less celebrated pubs and nightclubs (see the story elsewhere in this week's Courier)

And lets face it who else could be arsed to stand in the rain and the cold all night for shite union wages while other people go in and get pissed, why do you think they're so keen to collect everyone's half full glasses at the end of the night?

**Got something to say?
Get it in print.
E-mail Gaz on:
Courier.News@ncl.ac.uk**

NIGHTLINE

For information or a chat
RING

261 2905

"We don't sleep 'til you
do"

8pm to 8am

Gaz's personal bits - the coolest place to let it hang out

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society

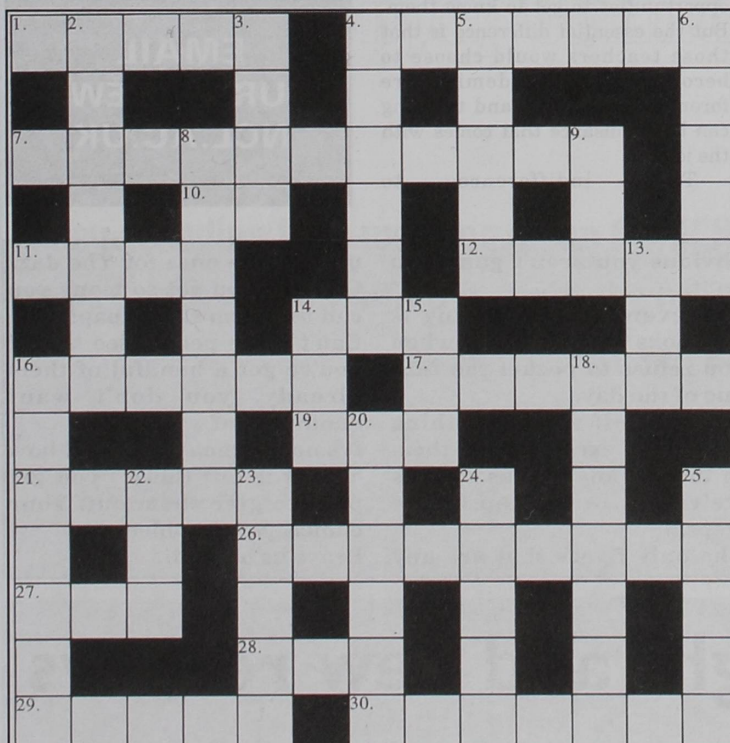
Meets 7.30pm Thursday, MLK Room, 1st floor
Union Building.

For more info contact Lisa Harvey-Smith or
Geoff Frost, LGB Officers, Equal opps unit 1st
floor Union.
Tel: 239 3996

Well, well, well Kitch, how
did you do it? 2 hr 12mins
with no training. I suppose
you think you're BBB now
don't you? You shit.
Ed.

Claire, Laura & Romans,
Well done for doing the
Great North Run
Congratulations, 'cos
we're very proud of you...
Love Sue, Simone, Lou and
Jacqui x

N,
Happy Anniversary.
Love you lots
Lx



Across

1. Perceptive. (5)
4. To dispute a will. (7)
7. Not needed. (11)
10. Sport lessons at school (abbr.). (2)
11. ___ Bunny and the Master Mixers. (4)
12. Temporary lodgings. (5)
14. Robbie Williams has a massive one. (3)
16. Vauxhall saloon. (6)
17. A colour of the rainbow. (6)
19. El ___ (3)
21. Pre-historic dwellings. (5)
26. A fierce attack. (9)
27. ___ on the Toon. (3)
28. Digit. (3)
30. A garden arrangement. (7)

Down

2. To the point. (7)
3. To relieve pain. (4)
4. Old school punishment. (6)
5. The noise a horse makes. (5)
6. Petrol station chain. (5)
8. Ghoul or ghost. (7)
9. Alight. (3)
13. Credit card company. (3)
14. Mange (fr.). (3)
15. Lubricant. (3)
16. 1966 was English football's greatest. (7)
18. Classic John Lennon hit. (7)
20. Christian holiday. (6)
22. Evaluate for suitability. (3)
23. ___ Korea. (5)
24. Sudden fear. (5)
25. To deviate from one's path. (5)

GET RINGED IN THE MENS BAR

(GREAT NORTH RUN SPECIAL)



Every week The Courier will take some pics around the union bars. If you're the one circled then you've got lucky. You have won 10 drinks vouchers to be used in anyone of the Union bars and is worth £15! So to claim your prize then come into The Courier office on the ground floor of the Union. It's that simple.

LAUGH UNTIL YOU DROP

CREATIVE CAKE COMEDY FESTIVAL

2 - 19 November

WHEN you came to Newcastle you probably already knew about the nightlife and the football.

Yet not many would know that the city boasts one of the best comedy festivals in England.

In its eighth year, the comedy festival has attracted arguably its best ever line-up to entertain the Geordie public.

And with 70 shows, 200 performers and artists at 15 different venues there is no excuse for not attending one of the performances at the 18 day festival.

As well as names that would be familiar to regulars at the Hyena Cafe, on Leazes Lane, the festival has also attracted some of Britain's best known comic acts.

Jo Brand, Lee Hurst and Craig Charles are just some of the outstanding talents on display, but

the beauty of the festival is that is not just about stand-up comedy.

For example, Tyneside Cinema will be showing some of our favourite comedies from recent years while Waterstones will host a book signing from the cast of the League of Gentlemen.

And even if you aren't impressed by the talents on show, there is the opportunity for you to become one of the stars of the future via the free BBC Comedy Workshops which take place on every Saturday of the festival at the Hyena Cafe.

Festival Co-ordinator, Gillian Wilson, is delighted to have secured such a talent field which appeals to all tastes.

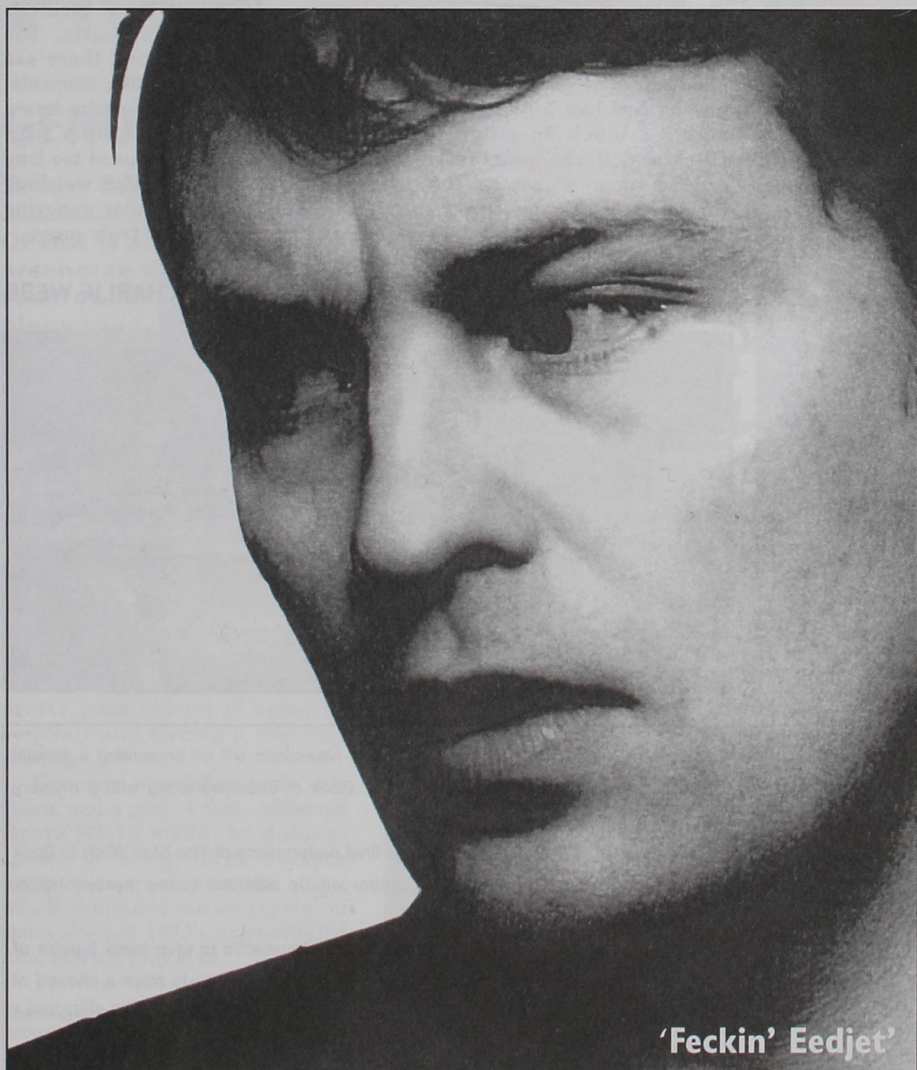
She said: "The 2000 Festival is the most ambitious to date with a programme to cater for all tastes, ages, budgets, cultures and styles."

And she encouraged students, who may not be willing to fork out for the more expensive acts, to come and support Britain's best new acts.

"Make an effort to get out to some of the lesser known shows, they'll be the bigger shows of the future, but above all have fun."

The festival starts on the 2nd November and runs till the 19th of November, when it concludes with the Last Stand, at the City Hall.

CHRIS HURST



'Feckin' Eedjet'



Omid Djalili

COMEDY HIGHLIGHTS

WIN two flights to Amsterdam in the Johnny Vegas gameshow on Sunday 5th.

IF you're a fat chuffer, go to see Jo Brand on the 13th, even if she's not funny you'll feel better about your figure.

SEE Iran's best (only?) stand-up, Omid Djalili on 10th.

JUST be plain scared by League of Gentlemen on Thursday 9th.

OF Father Ted fame, Ireland's premier comic, Ardal O'Hanlon on Friday 17th.

ALTHOUGH he presents the rather suspicious Robot Wars, Craig Charles is the business in the Union Basement on the 16th.

IN FACT, go to any of the acts and I personally guarantee you will laugh so much you will cry.

DON'T CRY FOR LITTLE & ARG

SHOOT ME IN THE HEART

Gulbenkian Theatre

THE HIGHLY acclaimed, 'Told by an Idiot' Theatre Company returned to Newcastle last week, kicking off a nation-wide tour of their new production *Shoot me in the Heart*.



Under the direction of Paul Hunter and Hayley Carmichael, this colourful, energetic adaptation of a South American short story is set in 1930's Argentina. Presented 'In Traverse', with the audience on opposite sides of the stage, the action unfolds on a set that is strikingly simple. This seating arrangement in fact becomes central to the play. Questions of perspective arise, as each half of the audience sees slightly different elements of the performance. Set designer Naomi Wilkinson was keen to stress the importance of simplicity in the set design: 'The audience is supposed to engage their own imagination - You have to do some of the work yourself!'

Shoot Me in the Heart introduces a widowed mother, whose teenage daughter has grown up in every way but physically. As the play progresses it becomes clear that tiny Carlotta wants more from life than her protective mother will allow. The narrative follows an unlikely romance between Carlotta and an older man, on his return to the village from his travels. This taboo love affair causes tension amongst the two-faced, narrow-minded villagers.

Feelings of both disgust and amusement come into play during the cruel but hilarious mockery of the bizarre couple. Opinions are voiced on stage by a 'chorus', using exaggerated comment, expression

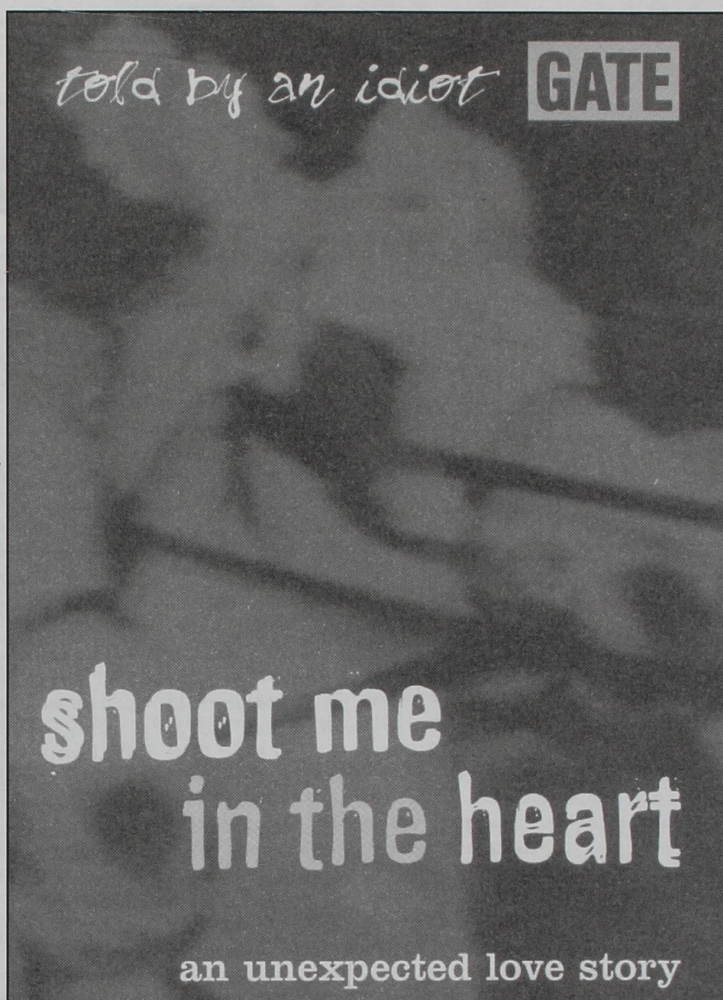
and song. This forces us to consider our own personal prejudices. As emotional and moral ambiguities continue throughout the play, it is often difficult to tell whether characters are actually laughing or crying. In spite of such difficulties, the lovers achieve happiness by learning to embrace life with all its idiosyncrasies.

The alternative, of refusing to confront prejudice and fear, is shown to bring only misery. The magical realism of a circus is used to represent the diversity of life, whilst simultaneously treading the boundaries of taste. Director Paul Hunter justifies his use of a certain amount of 'shock-factor' as part of his effort to avoid sentimentality.

The true success of *Shoot me in the Heart* is achieved by the top quality acting. Through the cast's pure energy and comical pace, a good deal of positive light is thrown onto an otherwise dark fairytale.

The play explores a localised consideration of what is 'normal', extends it to universal proportions, then questions our position to judge what normality is anyway. Thought provoking material, presented in an original and passionate way. If you get a chance to catch this production elsewhere on the tour, grab it, 'cos it's well good

**TOM NORTHEY
AND HELEN ALDER**



Due South

Gordon Southern

Global Cafe Tuesday October

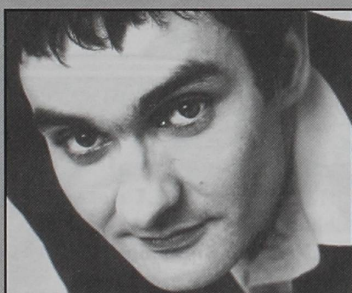
"SEVENTEEN?" mutters Moz, a.k.a. Tim Barnes, as he surveys his meagre audience in disbelief.

He shakes his head. "Seventeen..." he says again with a different, more resigned intonation. "How many of you are staff?" Approximately seven people nervously raise their hands. Moz shakes his head again. The audience shuffle awkwardly, wishing they had all brought more friends.

It is the second week in the Carlsberg Ice Comedy Network tour held every other Tuesday in the Global. The headline act, Gordon Southern, is sat behind me, occasionally chuckling as his colleague does an admirable job of warming up the pitiful turnout.

He is almost unremarkable in appearance; tall(ish), young(ish), with spiky dark hair, and dressed in combats and trainers he fits right in with the rest of the audience. His large eyes are constantly moving, giving him a slightly manic look.

When he hits the stage, Southern's delivery seems as casual as his appearance. Adapting well to the challenge of performing in front of so few, the atmosphere



feels cosy and friendly. Then suddenly, almost schizophrenically, his demeanour changes and he's off, like an excitable child trying to impress his mates after two litres of Coca-Cola, and his enthusiasm is infectious.

His material is as diverse as it is bizarre, with topics ranging from kidnapping children in Ikea to the masturbation habits of the Queen. Very occasionally his jokes fall flat but his endearing charm sees him through.

Gordon Southern's real strengths lie with improvisation and interaction with the audience. He deals out witty observations and good-humoured insults at lightning speed without humiliating or patronising any of the assembled crowd.

There is no doubt that the evening would have benefited from a larger, more enthusiastic turnout. So get down to the Global on Tuesday's. If tonight's performance is anything to go by, the rest of the tour will be well worth the effort.

GEZ DARING

KILLER THRILLER

What Lies Beneath

Out Now

WHAT LIES BENEATH, starring Harrison Ford and Michelle Pfeiffer, is a scary supernatural thriller, released just in time for Halloween.

The story is based around a family so perfect that it has to suffer. The troubles begin when their daughter goes away to college and the lonely mother (Pfeiffer) starts hearing strange noises and goings on in their idyllic lakeside home. Initially her husband (Ford) is highly sceptical but does he know more than he is letting on?

The success of the film lies in the way it skillfully builds up tension and then startlingly releases it to make you jump. To achieve this it relies on many devices associated with the genre.

There are doors that open by themselves, picture frames that keep falling over, dogs that bark at invisible menaces and dead characters that just don't want to die.

The down side is that all this has been done before. In places it doesn't feel like a film in its own right so much as a homage to Hitchcock (Harrison's character is called Norman etc.) as well as other thrillers such as *Fatal Attraction*.

However the film's real weakness is the screenplay. The early stages tend to drag and rely on well-worn devices as opposed to

plot and the ending comes dangerously close to being laughable.

Despite all this the film has many redeeming factors. Pfeiffer's performance is fantastic, the direction is classy and there are some truly spine chilling moments. As well as all this the film has a special practical use. Just take along flatmates who spend too long in the bathroom and after watching this film, that particular annoying habit will be well and truly cured.

CHARLIE WEBB



ODEON

**WIN TICKETS TO A
HALLOWEEN DOUBLE
BILL**

On Saturday 28th October, Odeon Newcastle will be presenting a special Halloween Double Bill - *Blair Witch 2: Book of Shadows* along with a mystery horror classic.

Anyone who buys a ticket for the final performance of *The Blair Witch 2: Book of Shadows* on Saturday 28th October will be admitted to the mystery horror special for only £1.50.

The Courier have teamed up with Odeon Newcastle to give away 5 pairs of tickets for the Halloween Double Bill. All you have to do to have a chance of winning a pair of tickets is tell us what date the Odeon Newcastle Halloween Double Bill will be showing.

Around the Underworld

EAST-END GANGLAND

James Morton

BIOGRAPHIES, autobiographies and any other 'ographies' you care to mention surrounding the violence of the East End underworld are plenty in number.

But, this really adds to the current collection of 'Kray' type books in more ways than one.

East End Gangland is a comprehensive collection of the characters and gangs that have terrorised and 'protected' the streets of London's East End over the past century. Charting the criminal activities from robbery and extortion to the modern day phenomena that has become organised football violence and drug dealing, this is as comprehensive a detailing of the East End underworld as can reasonably be expected.

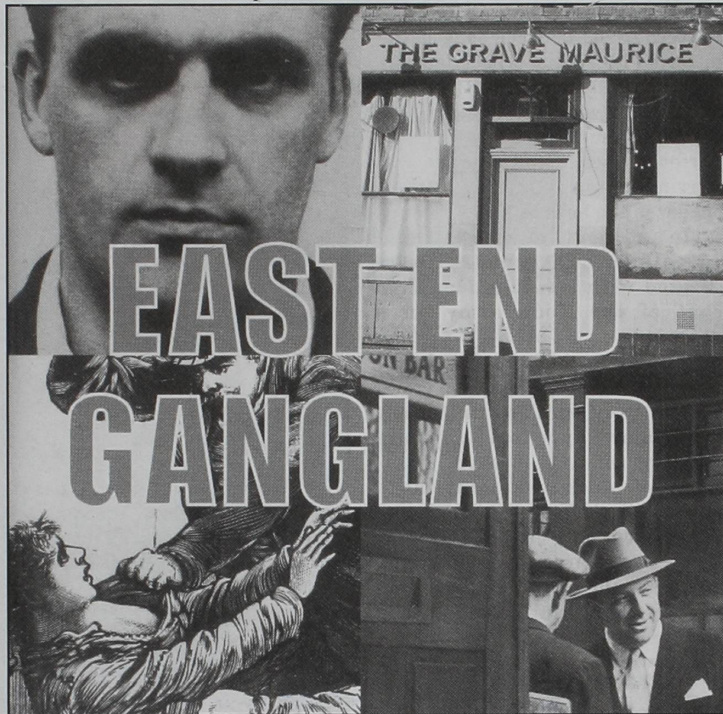
In short, the clear, in-depth knowledge of the author, James

Morton is notable, especially when it is considered that he co-wrote the autobiography of underworld villain Frank Fraser - certainly giving him a real incite into the intricacies of the East End.

But, and it is a 'but' that is not related to the quality of the book - more a 'but' related to the possible

readership, because only those people who have a genuine interest in the East End history would really want to read this book, as good as it is.

So if you want well researched and well written, then give it a try. If you want "Lock, Stock" then don't bother.



PLOTLESS WONDER FROM GENOVEVA

GENOVEVA

Theatre Royal

OPERA is a bunch of poncey arseholes dressed in old-fashioned costumes, cleavages heaving, and singing in falsettos no-one can understand. Well? There's some truth in it.

And I'm not going to deny that a significant proportion of the opera-going public are, to be blunt, pretentious fuckwits who, I have a sneaking suspicion, only go because it sounds impressive at soirees and black-tie functions.

But, bitterness out of the way, and ignoring the 'society' idiots harping on about how 'absolutely warnderful' opera is, you stand a pretty good chance of enjoying yourself and having a cracking evening.

Genoveva was Schumann's only opera, and a gem at that - although Opera North made the dubious choice of using large perspex barriers as scenery on the stage, which reminded me strangely of some obscure 1930's existentialist film, and hurt my eyes.

Patricia Schuman was blinding in her title role as Genoveva, who is accused of cheating on her husband Siegfried by his best mate Golo who

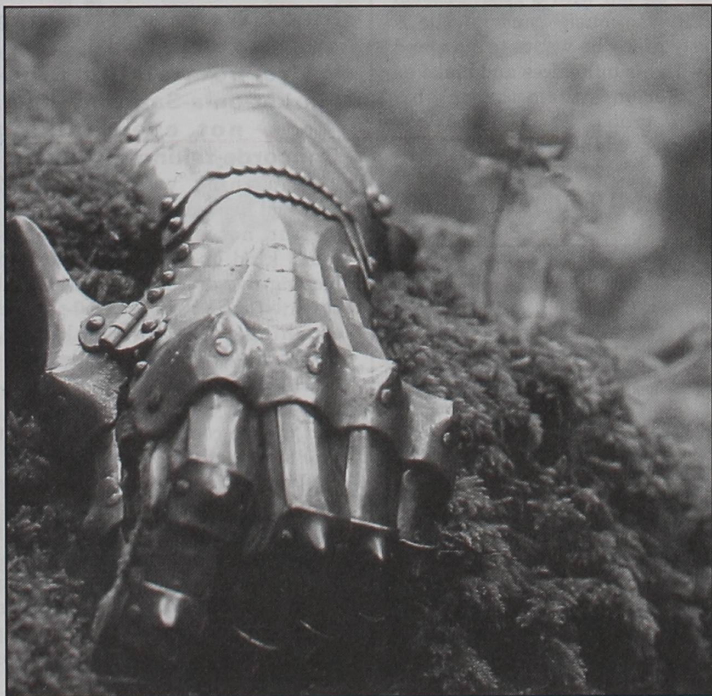
has a crush on her (followed by the expected labyrinthine plot twists we all love and expect).

I had a few problems with the plot - (what was the dumb guy there for?) and was a little confused about the minor characters until it was explained to me (that's not specific to opera though).

I've had little (if none counts as little) success in convincing any of the editorial staff to back up my

particular penchant for the 'tuneless wailing' (Paul) and I'm not going to try to convert the heathens (is that elitist of me?) but I say there's nothing better than going to see poncey arseholes dressed in old-fashioned costumes, cleavages heaving, and singing in falsettos no-one can understand.

WYL MENMUIR



GRITTY ROYLISM

NASTY NEIGHBOURS

Out Now

BIG BROTHER?... Real life?... My arse!... Where Big Bro. was fabricated, Nasty Neighbours is refreshingly real.

Where Big Bro. was about attractive twenty-somethings running around in their pants, Nasty Neighbours is a fresh and hilarious microcosm of real people living real lives.

For those of us who know what it's like to grow up in a cul-de-sac, the thought of a British film about two sets of quarrelsome neighbours living in a quiet bywater in Birmingham is not exactly inspiring! Au contraire.

Debbie Isitt's debut feature gleefully peels away the apparently cosy veneer of cul-de-sac life to reveal the anxiety, frustration, anger and jealousy festering away underneath.

In a trademark performance, Ricky Tomlinson plays Mr Peach a failed double glazing salesman who goes head to head with his loutish

new neighbour Mr Chapman, played with superb menace by Phil Daniels (of Parklife fame). Mr Chapman is scornful of Peach's attempts to draw him into the cosy community of the close and Mr Peach focuses the bitterness of his career failures and mounting debts on his new neighbours until matters escalate into a true battle royale.

Daniels and Tomlinson in particular superbly epitomise everything that is English suburbia. The cinematography is original and Isitt's voyeuristic approach is undoubtedly an integral part of the film is success.

The action has immediacy and edge yet at times I sensed there was something disturbing and all too familiar going on in the film. This may be a low budget film but it makes you think, feel and most importantly it will make you laugh.

Final Verdict: This is a jet black comedy with razor sharp wit. It received a standing ovation at the recent Venice Film Festival where, amongst others, new films from Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese were previewed. What more need I say? Or... you could come and watch me feeding chickens in our backyard?

GEOFF ALLEN

Mirth My Arse

THE HOUSE OF MIRTH

IT MIGHT have mirth in the title, but it is not in the movie. Don't see this film unless you want to be mortally depressed or long for a boring 2 and a half-hours.

Gillian Anderson fails miserably as a posh old-fashioned American, the plot sucks and the dramatic music really starts to piss you off after a couple of hours. This was the poorest film I've seen in a long time. Gillian Anderson is quite horrific, looks wise and acting and all the way through I expected an alien to ooze from the elaborate art deco clock.

The House of Mirth is a tacky American version of one of our British specialties, the costume drama. It is worse than a miserable "Sense and Sensibility" or a depressing "Pride and Prejudice" and I just wouldn't recommend anyone go see it.

Admittedly the film is unpredictable and you never know what is going to happen in the end. It is a sort of will she won't she top herself scenario - but after an hour you wish she'd just get it over with.

Lily Bart (Anderson) is on the hunt for a husband, the most important thing a woman can have in high-society, turn of the century New York. She fancies the pants

off Lawrence Selden (Eric Stoltz) but he's just not playing. A few bad choices later and Lily has lost her reputation and social position.

Ostracised from her social circle, Lily is soon a member of the poor working class, fighting for a job. That is about the sum of the plot it's just a shame the movie couldn't have finished in that time.

The film makers have gone for an arty feel and you get more than one lingering camera shot of water glistening with the sun. That is fair enough but when the film lasts an incredibly dull 2 hours 20 minutes, you find yourself shouting at the screen "Get a bloody move on, enough of the clever show off shots!" I guess we're used to decent Victorian novel adaptations, but it is not just that.

As far as I can see, the main flaw in House of Mirth despite its length, is the fact all the characters speak so funny you can't see past their acting. It is like a school play - honest!

OLIVIA RICHWALD



COLDPLAY TURN UP THE HEAT

EXCLUSIVE

LIVE:

COLDPLAY

@ UNION: 12/10/00

COLDPLAY ROCKED The Toon on the 12th October by delivering both a stunning gig AND a blistering assault on ex-Oasis boss Alan McGhee during an exclusive Courier interview.

In what was their first retaliation to Creation legend McGhee's "bedwetters" jibe, frontman Chris Martin joked: "Alan McGhee is weird - I hear he eats babies. He chases horses...he steals cars, do you what I mean? The guy's a criminal."

Relations with McGhee's sometime crony Noel Gallagher could not be more different, as shown by the time they met recently. "Noel is not the same as McGhee", says Chris. "He told me

he likes our songs and I told him I liked his. There was no problem at all."

Now that these days the band have a number one album under their belts, mixing with superstars must be like having a dump in the morning. But chief songwriter Chris seems determined to play down their amazing success so far, dismissing any notion of an arena tour in the future and insisting: "I'm not a millionaire or anything."

"Who knows whether we'll stay in the top 10?", he queried, "and where I'll be in 5 years time?"

But the singer was keen to open up about his disillusionment with British politics. "I'd probably vote Lib Dem 'cause they seem to talk sense," he opined, "but I don't actually trust them to do what they say. I don't really trust any politicians." But will his desire to increase tax on the rich falter when he becomes absolutely minted? "I hope not". Hmmm.

While punters in the Bassment enjoying the gig later didn't give a monkeys about their hero's

ideology, they did seem to appreciate his between-song patter and even his special school dancing.

Not surprisingly, the atmosphere was greatly aided by a series of crisp just-like-the-cd performances. The audience was purring instantly after a glorious opener in the form of 'Spies'.

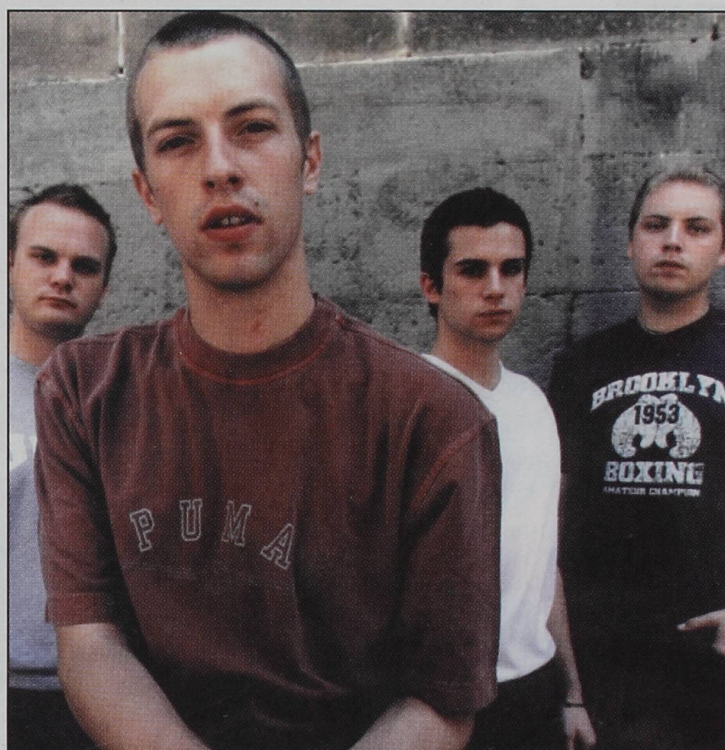
Indeed, most tracks from recent 1st album "Parachutes" were greeted with a roar louder than that of the Toon army on a Saturday.

The Lennonesque wonder of new single "Trouble" had the crowd singing every word and melancholy hit "Yellow" appeared to inspire mass orgasm in the moshpit.

All of which makes our trusty music editor's damning preview of the gig, which I cheekily read to Chris, even harder to understand. "Why should I waste my time on people like him?" asked the bemused star.

Answers on a postcard. (Knowing me MS sacking you AM - aha! music ed.)

AL MILLAR



JAMES & THE GIANT BEATS

ECLECTIC
FEAT. JAMES
LAVELLE

@ UNION: SATURDAY

To most self-respecting music fans, this man requires no introduction.

But for those of you who don't know (shame), here's a quick resume.

In 1992, at eighteen, James Lavelle borrowed a grand off the owner of the record shop he worked for and set up his own label - Mo'Wax - formed for original artists to put together uncategorisable, trippy music.

Around 1996, Lavelle started his own music project - UNKLE - with Josh Davis/DJ Shadow, who had just completed the stunning, dark "Entroducing".

They recorded samples from a pre-"Urban Hymns" Richard

Ashcroft and a "Bends"-era Thom Yorke, along with a whole host of other vocalists, including the then unknown Badly Drawn Boy.

DJ Shadow brought together these diverse styles together with his twisted, Twin Peaks style music, creating "Psyence Fiction".

Lavelle was responsible for the album's overall concept, wanting to "fuse the innovation of Massive Attack with the unifying spirit that surrounded the glory days of the Stone Roses and Oasis".

The album was what Lavelle described as his own "Blue Lines".

Mo'Wax ran into difficulties after the demise of A & M, its parent company, but was picked up by Beggars Banquet's XL records in Nov '98.

Since then, Lavelle has put UNKLE on the creative back burner and has concentrated on the regeneration of Mo'Wax and his own DJ career, including a residency at London's hip club Fabric.

His DJ-ing at the big festivals have shown that turntables can be just as exiting as a rock star's guitar. A meeting point can be found between music styles.

So, just how will Lavelle sound live on Saturday? Well, dirtiest of all dirty words much over-used, I'm going to have to say it: Eclectic.

As a man with a great passion for diverse music - and Lavelle is surely that - he wants to surround us with his influences and make us re-experience them through his interpretation.

Godspeed the man.

EMILY YOSSARIAN



(C'MON) 'FIELD THE NOIZE

LEFTFIELD

@ POLY: 4/11/00

So you think you know loud? We're not talking electric drill loud, here. We're not talking Bigg-Market-on-a-Saturday loud. We're not even talking Concorde-taking-off loud.

You think you know loud? Leftfield live is loud.

And not in a "crikey, that's loud" kind of loud way. Leftfield playing live are, to use a technical term, fucked-up loud - head crushingly, organ shakingly, Concorde-exploding-inside-your-forehead loud.

They're very loud, basically - and they're coming to Toon in just over a week.

That's right, get cooling your ears in ice water now - you're going to need the rest. Those gods of pounding bass, thunderous beats and ocean-deep dub are hitting Newcastle hard, still hot from their European tour, and dragging along the phattest sound system on the planet.

Did we mention how loud they are?

Okay, so their basslines can knock small aircraft out of the sky, and they certainly aren't allowed to play any gigs on the west coast of America.

But just sheer loudness isn't your sole reason to see them - after all, Def Leppard are pretty loud, and you can probably get tickets for those bastards for about fifty pence these days.

No, Leftfield are the modern ronin of the decks, masterless samurai cutting into their foes with lethally sharp beats.

They've worked with everyone from old-skool rave MCs like Cheshire Cat, to collaborations with cutting edge UK rapper Roots Manuva.

They're twenty-first century dancefloor ninjas - except while their ancient counterparts moved on and killed silently...well, you get the idea.

Hearing be damned - Leftfield are loud, fast, hard and utterly brilliant, and you'd be a fool to miss this rare chance to see 'em live.

See you there.

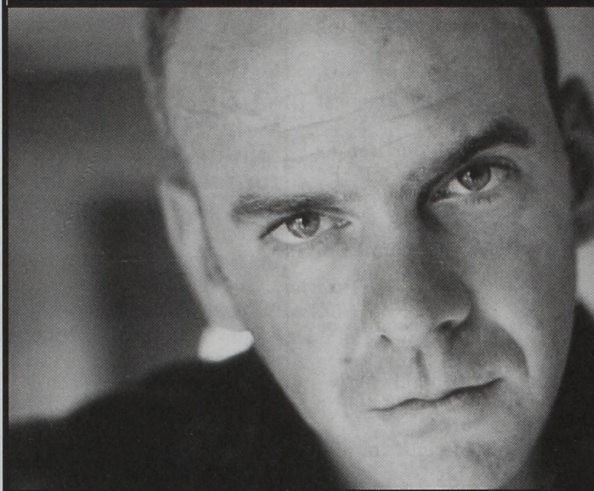
CHRIS DAVIES

ALBUMS...

EMILY YOSSARIAN



CHRIS DAVIES



The three 3D pie charts represent the distribution of the 1990 U.S. population by age group. The first chart, labeled 'Total', shows the overall distribution. The second chart, labeled 'Male', shows the distribution for males. The third chart, labeled 'Female', shows the distribution for females. The age groups are: 0-14, 15-64, and 65+.

TOM FENWICK



CHRIS SMITH

GAZ NEWHALL**GAZ NEWHALL**

SINGLES...



CHRIS DAVIES

The Secret Diary Of Jimmy Nail (aged 42 and a third)

FRIDAY: Freedom! So this is how Mandela felt. I must liberate my people! I must return to Tyneside. 'Wait 4 hours on kerb of A1 then picked up by students. Why don't their coats have arms- weird? Move onto Castle Leazes- only place cheap enough to take me. Reminds me of Prison. Fill in application form for Celebrity Big Brother. Its time to bounce back. Here comes Nasty Nail!

GIRLS TRIP UP

THE women's tennis team crashed to a disappointing opening day defeat to arch rivals Northumbria at Jesmond.

But even though the team went down 4-2 it was nevertheless a brave performance by a makeshift side.

Captain Lynsey Davison was absent from singles absent from the singles due to academic commitments on a Wednesday, while Sally Knight was missing through illness.

Lindsay Rawling put up an outstanding performance to win her singles match and then teamed up with Davison to win 6-4 7-5 in the doubles.

But there was disappointment for the rest of the team as Sophie Wright, Jill Markwell and Katie Pickles all lost their singles matches.

There was brighter news for the men's team as they got their BUSA campaign off to a successful start.

With a strong influx of first year talent,

good things were expected in their game with Sheffield and these hopes were realised with a crushing 5-1 demolition of Sheffield.

New number one Matt Parry struggled against the most consistent opponent in the history of the men's game, eventually going down 6-4 6-0.

The remaining singles were won with ease, with AU Officer Ben Stanbury amongst the winners.

It was a bit of a family affair for Ben as his brother, Matthew, was one of the opposition's players.

Andrew Hawke, playing at number two, deserves particular credit for the manner in which he demolished his opponent 6-1 6-2.

Captain James Tilley was delighted by the performance and has every reason to be optimistic about the coming season.

Tilley said: "A result like this against one of the strongest teams in our league shows just how hard everyone has worked."

"The new lads have settled right in, and are playing some immense tennis."

SMOG ON THE TYNE AS UNI WOMEN LOSE

DESPITE losing their opening BUSA fixture 4-1 to Teesside University, the women's football side have cause to be optimistic for the remainder of the season.

Promotion to Merit League One has meant the Royal Blues have had to adapt to the tougher skill levels required.

Louise Rice demonstrated the full array of her skills and opened the scoring with a crisp 20 yard drive which left the Teesside keeper flailing.

Newcastle were unfortunate not to

capitalize on their territorial dominance as they twice hit the woodwork, and created a number of good opportunities.

But the home side, who tired on the heavy pitch at Cochrane Park, in the end couldn't cope with their visitors who played excellent football in the second-half.

The week before, the side came runners-up in a six team tournament that was hosted by Newcastle University.

Scottish star Beth Murphy was the outstanding player for the Royal Blues as she netted three times in the competition.



Volley Good

BOTH of Newcastle's volleyball teams got off to a winning start to their BUSA campaigns.

After a rocky start saw Durham take the first set in their local derby, Newcastle gathered themselves together and took the match 3 sets to 1.

Captain Ed Pinguey said: "The team didn't play together at all and we weren't pleased with how we played."

"But the fact we won shows that the skills are there we just need a little training to put them all together."

The women's side had a rather easier time at home to TASC with a straight set victory.

But there were mixed fortunes for the men's side in their latest national league match, which provides the side with excellent practise for BUSA games.

The first match against Hollderness saw a very impressive performance by the Newcastle side take the match in three sets in just 48 minutes.

However, the match against Preston was a much more intensive match which saw Pinguey's side crash to a 3-1 defeat.

Despite the defeat Pinguey was delighted for his side to register their first points of the season.

He said: "I am overjoyed to have made a win and got us three points on the table."

Continued from back page.

The second half started much the same as the first had finished, with Newcastle defending against a series of Durham attacks.

Unfortunately for the Royal Blues, points did come this time, despite a committed effort from the Newcastle 15.

A seventh minute penalty by James King put Durham in the lead 10-7 before a try by Stephen Briers extended this lead to 15-7 in the 60th minute.

With Newcastle spending much of this half pinned on their own line, it looked as if it was going to be Durham's day, but they came back strongly in the last 10 minutes.

A scrum taken against the head saw

Newcastle attack out of their own 22 in a sequence which ended with a line out on Durham's line.

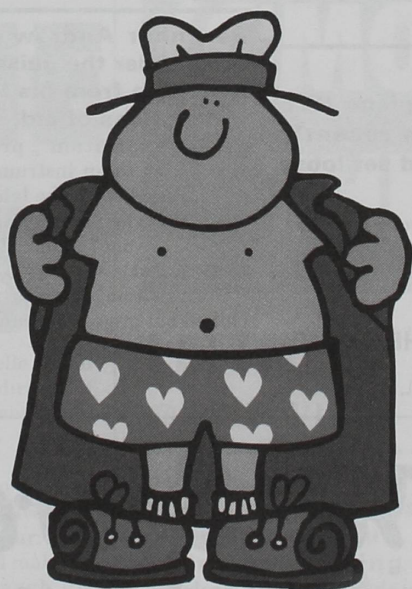
Durham were then penalised for killing the ball, allowing Will Spriggs the chance to go for goal and haul Newcastle back into contention at 15-10.

The Royal Blues then attacked straight from kick off stealing the ball from Durham's lineout to start a movement which saw James Beck dive in for a try in the corner and level the scores.

The missed conversion from the touch line by Spriggs denied Newcastle a victory, but in a match where they had made the most of their opportunities but suffered from a lack of possession, this was definitely a good result.



REACH FOR THE STARS: Newcastle and Durham fight for the ball in their 15-15 draw at Cochrane Park



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YOU BLUE-TY

BY CHRIS HURST
CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

SUPER sub Denis Barbe was the Newcastle hero as the Royal Blues got their campaign off to a cracking start.

Despite being outplayed by Crewe and Alsager at Cochrane Park, the Seychelles born student popped up 17 minutes from time to give the Uni a fantastic 1-0 victory.

This was not a vintage performance from Newcastle and to get full points out of this game says a lot for the strength of this year's team.

But coach Alan Brown will make his players well aware that they won't get away with playing that badly too often this season in the BUSA Northern Premier.

The game started with a lively opening, although admittedly without too many chances, with both sides playing attractive football.

Crewe and Alsager, who are likely to be one of the favourites for this year's competition, should have opened the scoring on ten minutes but luckily for Newcastle their player pulled his shot wide of the post.

The game threatened to boil over soon after when Mark Batty, who wouldn't exactly win a

popularity contest at Crewe and Alsager University following his antics in last season's BUSA Cup Final, made a late tackle but the referee stepped in to ensure the pushing and shoving between the two teams didn't develop into anything too serious.

The visitors were certainly playing the better football and it was only a good save at his feet by Uni skipper Rick Sellers that kept the score even.

Indeed Sellers was called into action on a number of occasions as the Newcastle midfield failed to win the battle in the centre of the park.

This pattern was repeated in the second-half, with the defence being put under unnecessary pressure as Newcastle struggled to keep possession.

Crewe and Alsager should have opened the scoring on 55 minutes after their midfield dynamo showed off his silky skills, but unfortunately for the visitors the finish by his colleague didn't match the approach work.

Mark Batty and Ben Chesters are normally two of the stars for the Royal Blues, but for whatever reason their performances in this game were well below par.

Chesters in particular seemed intent on focusing his energy on berating his team mates, rather than chasing back to help his team.

Yet the midfielder showed why he is so highly rated, when a

wonderful cross field pass on 59 minutes found Batty whose finish only just went over the bar.

After the visitors missed yet another golden chance when a free header was put over the bar, it was time for substitute Denis Barbe to take centre stage.

Jon Hall, who worked tirelessly all afternoon to hold the ball up despite being under pressure from the opposition's strong defence, burst through on the left hand side and crossed perfectly to leave Barbe with the simple task of knocking the ball into the net.

Although Crewe and Alsager missed another two excellent chances, Rick Sellers was in such assured form in the slippery conditions even if they had found the target there were no guarantees of goals.

And the Uni skipper was left to reflect on a fantastic start to their Premier League campaign for his side.

He said: "The performance wasn't anywhere near our greatest ever, but we're definitely very happy with the win.

"For a lot of the game we didn't get hold of the ball, but like a typical Newcastle side we battled hard and a breakaway got us a goal.

"All Newcastle sides always battle hard. We've got a couple of good centre-backs and even I managed to save a couple today."



HALL WORTH IT: Jon battles against Crewe & Alsager defence in 1-0 victory

Men put up brave performance despite Loughborough loss

NEWCASTLE put up one of their best performances in recent years even though they lost 3-1 at Loughborough.

Playing arguably the strongest university side in the country, the Royal Blues put up a rear guard performance to keep the score down to a very respectable level.

But the result could have been even better as the Uni took a shock 1-0 lead in the East Midlands.

From a short corner Chris Standage's strike was deflected into the net by James Nicholson.

The goal led to massive celebrations and their minds were still on their shock goal when Loughborough equalized just one minute later after slack marking from the Royal Blues defence.

With two minutes to go in the first-half Loughborough took the lead after a goal mouth scramble and it was only brave defending from the Uni that kept the score down to 2-1 at half-time.

Chances for Newcastle in the second-half were extremely limited, as efforts were concentrated on keeping themselves in the game.

But Tristan Craddock could have equalised for Newcastle but unfortunately he lost his composure in front of goal.

Brad Davies was in outstanding form in the Uni goal and it was his efforts, pulling off a number of incredible saves, that kept the score down to 3-1.

Davies himself was delighted with the performance.

He said: "It was definitely a great display. People didn't give us much of a chance but we played really well and deserved the result.

"There is still a lot of work to do though. Our play in this game was mainly defensive. We've now got a lot of work to do on showing we can score goals as well."

Defensive lynch pin, John Naylor said: "It's not often that you're pleased to lose, but when you play against Loughborough, 3-1 is a great result."

The second team got their campaign off to a winning start with a 4-2 defeat of Leeds Metropolitan.

Nick Hutton and Alex Lees were both hat-trick heroes for Newcastle's third team as they crushed South Shields 7-0.

HOCKEY GIRLS SELF-DESTRUCT

By CAMILLA TABOR
HOCKEY CORRESPONDENT

A DISMAL second-half performance by the Royal Blues saw them crash to an opening day 4-3 defeat against Nottingham.

The fact Newcastle were 3-0 up at half-time against a side ranked fifth in BUSA last season will give encouragement to the team that they can compete at this level.

But to concede four goals has fired a warning to the side, if they didn't already need it, that no game is ever won at this level until the final whistle is blown.

The side had been going under extensive pre-season training to cope with the higher standard and it looked like it was going to reap its rewards when they put up a wonderful first-half display.

Attacking with a confidence that showed them to be worthy of a place in the Premier League, in the first twenty minutes both sides looked pretty even.

Newcastle's break came in the 20th minute when Lucinda Insall-Jones finished off a short corner

with a decisive strike into the back of Nottingham's goal.

An intense period from thirty minutes onwards saw Newcastle take five short corners before Jenny McDonough produced a great second goal which left Nottingham's goalkeeper floundering on the floor.

Two minutes later, fresher Marie Bailey, who only spent ten minutes on the pitch scored a cracking goal on the half-time whistle to pull Newcastle way ahead.

But this was to be Newcastle's high spot of the game as their fortunes turned sharply around around the break.

A complacent Newcastle in the second half allowed Nottingham to fight back and in the 41st minute they scored.

Nottingham had most of the possession and Newcastle's feelings quickly turned to panic as their opponents found the goal again in the 50th minute.

Having seized the initiative, a successful short corner saw them soon draw equal.

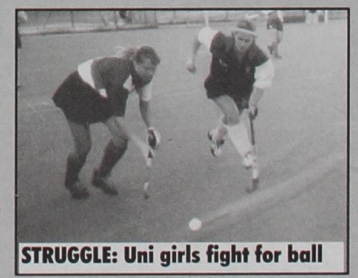
Newcastle tried to retaliate but they were out-fought as Nottingham sealed victory in the

65th minute.

A brilliant save from Newcastle's goalie took her off the goal line and in the ensuing scramble Nottingham were able to put the ball away.

Such a narrow defeat would have seemed a respectable score to Newcastle beforehand, but the fantastic achievement in the first half, which Laura Stone very happily found 'unbelievable' and drew the admission from Nottingham's captain that she 'didn't think they would be so good', made it a painful defeat when victory had seemed attainable.

An exciting season awaits if they can maintain the high standard they produced in the first half of the game.



STRUGGLE: Uni girls fight for ball

WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2000

RUGBY LADS SEAL DRAW

Newcastle 15 Durham 15

By JO JOHNSTON

NEWCASTLE's rugby team grabbed a dramatic 15-15 draw against Durham with a last gasp try.

Following their excellent opening day win at Leeds, the Uni are now well positioned to win a place in next season's National Premier League.

The Royal Blues were trailing 15-7 going into the last 10 minutes before a penalty and late try levelled the score.

Captain for the day, Rowan Brown, was satisfied with the result.

He said: "Under the circumstances, I think we'll take

the draw. The conditions in the second half especially made it very difficult and we were under serious pressure for long stretches of the game. It was a very physical, hard match for us."

"It's still early in the season and there are obviously things for us to work on but we soaked up a lot of pressure and defended well so there's a great belief that we can do really well this year."

The Royal Blues were put under pressure immediately from the kick off. Durham launched several attacks within Newcastle's 22 before a penalty kick into the corner resulted in their first try under the posts from Will Mawby, the conversion taking the score to 7-0.

Newcastle rallied soon after in

an effort to get themselves back into the game, despite lacking quality possession.

A line out in Durham's half showed how dangerous Newcastle could be on the attack with James Beck cutting straight through the Durham midfield.

A similar move a couple of minutes later, saw Matt Cupitt touch down, with the conversion from Brown tying the scores.

Much of the rest of the half belonged to Durham as they attacked the Newcastle line continuously but failed to score from any of their pressure.

Both sides missed penalties and the sides went into the interval at 7-7.

Continued p14

Denis the menace is better late than never



THE BUSA football Champions got their season off to a fantastic start with a 1-0 defeat of Crewe and Alsager.

Substitute Denis Barbe was the hero as he scored the winner in the 73rd minute.

Football skipper Rick Sellers

revealed Barbe would have started the game had it not been for his late arrival.

He said: "He turned up late and didn't get here for the start of the match. He was supposed to be starting, but he came on and scored the winner. What more can you ask for?"

