

Courier

Newcastle University Student Newspaper

Thursday, 17th May, 1990.

No. 821. Price 20p

HIGH-RISE

Hall fees are set to rise by 9.6% next year, at a time in which loans are introduced, housing benefit withdrawn from students, and the grant increase stands at just under 5%. All this despite a staggering history of University profit-making in an area in which it has always assured students that no surplus will be made.

The decision was passed at a meeting of University Council on Monday, to the dismay of Union representatives Rob Williams and Graeme Mitchell (President).

Earlier, they had presented a document to the Residential Accommodation Committee (RAC), describing the 9.6% hall fee increase proposal as "unacceptable... given the other detrimental changes in student financial support".

They drew attention to the following major issues:

Community charge: with introduction of the Poll Tax all students are liable to pay £78.12p. per annum (in Ethel William Hall - which falls inside North Tyneside Borough - this may be more).

Income Support: All students have now been totally excluded from the State Welfare system (except disabled students and certain single parents).

Housing Benefit: Regulations have been amended so that all full time students (except those mentioned above) will be excluded from Housing Benefit with effect from 1st September 1990.

Rob Williams told *Courier* "That he was "extremely concerned that students will actually have less income than in the current year. I believe the University must recognise the inability of students to provide for a large increase in hall fees from a diminishing income."

Inevitably the vote to implement the Bursar's recommendation for a 9.6% rise was passed by 11 votes to 5.

For the records, University accommodation surpluses in recent years:

- 1982/83: £118,000
- 1983/84: £60,000
- 1985/86: £50,000
- 1986/87: £160,000
- 1987/88: £100,000

Tim Hammond



Henderson Hall

Plans ditched for new health service

Plans for the University's new health service building have been ditched at the last minute. Its current site, on Claremont Road, is scheduled for "extensive redevelopment".

There were plans to build a combined Medical and dental centre, with Sick bay, administration and welfare and counselling in one building, on the site of the car park outside the physics building. The decision to build had been passed through finance and estates committees, and university senate and council. Tenders were put out, and returned, all within the specified

price range. The University then decided that it could no longer afford a new health centre.

Dr. K. Norbury, Senior Medical officer, said "We are all very disappointed. It's a great blow to morale, because we had been putting off all the changes that we could have initiated this last year, expecting to be moving. It's very sad, because the building is no longer good for our

purposes. It was not designed as a medical centre, but grew bit by bit."

He explained how this decision had made it extremely difficult for the service to implement the changes in staffing and computerising records, which are necessary with the new G.P.s contract. He bemoaned what he saw as a decision taken on purely financial grounds.

Mr. Howard Farnhill, the University Bursar, explained the reasoning behind the decision. Although stressing the University's commitment to maintaining the health service, there was such a climate of uncertainty

that the plans had to be shelved. He cited the changing of rules which followed the disbanding of the Family Practitioners committees, by the "Clarke" health bill. These were replaced by Family practitioner service and contract agencies, which have much stricter rules on the allocation of funds. This meant that the health service, acting as an independent medical practice, may not be able to pay enough rent on the new building. The current plan is to expand the health service in its present building, either relocating it totally when the time came to rebuild the Claremont road building or to re-

house it on the same site. The events prevent re-location of sick-bay from Castle Leazes, which had been suggested as a site for the accommodation of the increased student numbers expected in the near future. Mr Farnhill assured *Courier* that this was but one of many such plans that were being considered.

Chris Bailey, the Unions vice president, Welfare, said that "without criticism of existing services it is unfortunate that the University can not provide the increased service it had promised."

R. Cotterill

No one to benefit

Student entitlement to claim housing benefit will be stopped as from the beginning of the next academic year as part of the Student Loans Bill.

The section of the Bill covering social security benefits ensures that students will no longer be eligible to claim housing benefit, income support or unemployment benefit. The only exceptions being single parents, the disabled, pensioners and student couples with dependent children.

There was a degree of confusion in late March as to whether this part of the legislation would be passed, when the Lords tabled an amendment to allow students to continue claiming housing benefit. However, the Lords' decision was rejected when it returned to the Commons in early April.

The Lords amendment was an attempt to reduce the regional disparities in accommodation cost for students thereby keeping a reasonable option open to choose study in London and the South East without facing severe financial difficulties.

Despite this, the Government remains adamant over its objective to cut students out of the benefits

system altogether. The 1988 Student Loans White Paper states that, "it is undesirable that students should learn to depend upon a wrong understanding of the reciprocal obligations of the student and the state."

In response to this, the NUS issued a brief pointing out that, "it is easy to foresee a situation where students vote with their feet... The withdrawal of housing benefit will mean that colleges in London and the South East will face major drops in applications." This fact is already evident in PCAS and UCCA applications for next year.

Hilary Dawson, of Welfare, says that they will be issuing a leaflet later this term explaining all the changes in legislation and what this will mean for next year's finances. An average student in Newcastle paying approximately £20 per week rent can expect to lose about £3.50 per week in housing benefit. Students paying rent over the summer can still apply for housing benefit and will be assessed according to their situation, as is currently the case.

Richard Carpenter

Resort Shuts

A decision was made in Council last term to close the Last Resort at the end of June. Despite a promising budget for 1990/91 it was felt that Council could not recommend supporting this service which has not earned the Union any income over the last few years.

Refunds will be provided to existing members whose membership extends after June 1990. The rebate will be proportional to the time left on their membership against monies paid. Details of where the refund will be available from will be listed in the Last Resort in due course. Any monies not claimed will be used to counteract the fitness centre's current deficit.

Old news perhaps, but a sad end to a service appreciated by over 600 members, not including daily visitors. A mention for Gerry Fisher and Sandra Lowes to thank them for their efforts during this difficult period, and to wish them success in the future.

Smithard bows out

After being Warden of Eustace Percy Hall for the last four years, Ron Smithard will be leaving Castle Leazes at the end of this term.

Mr. Smithard explained why he was leaving the Hall after the University had asked him to stay on by saying: "To be a Warden, you have to have a freshness in your approach which tends to flag. If you can't maintain that freshness then it's better for all if you move out".

As Senior Warden he had general responsibility for all residents of Castle Leazes. Speaking on the subject of students, Mr. Smithard said that he found "nothing to support adverse generalisations one hears made about young people", adding that of all these residents, he only

considered three to ever have been 'malevolent', whilst the approximate 4,500 others he described as 'responsive and responsible'.

Considering that Wardens receive such a small amount of money for the hours they put in it is difficult to see the motivation for overseeing a large number of predominantly first year students. However, Mr. Smithard counters this by saying that his stay has been a fantastic and refreshing experience, during which I and my wife have grown considerably younger".

Junior Common Room President, Rupert Cole, said he would be "sorry to see him go".

Chris Wood

Inside

Page 2 News

Page 3 News

Page 4 Fourword

Rag Rant
+
Letter from China

Page 6 Letters

Page 7 Space Cadet

How to pass your exams with flying colours:

Page 8 Stage and Screen

Donald Sinden IS
Oscar Wilde

+
Joe Orton

Festival

Page 9 Eurotrain

"One Train
One Youth
One Europe
One Future"

Page 10 & 11

The academic year
1989/90
reviewed

Page 12 Feature
Highway to Hell

Page 14 Music
Reviews and Discs

Page 15
Competition

Page 16 Feature
Tony Benn Interview

+
Stress

Page 17 Feature
Cycling for Charity

Page 18 Interview
Martin Jacques -
A Marxist Today

Page 19
Sports News

Page 20 Listings
+
Personal Column

+
"Annabella"

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Brief

Campus

Campus Travel, the South African Scholarship Fund, and the Ents Committee are to give a large travel package in a draw at the end of term Extravaganza. The Extravaganza, on Friday, 22nd June, will involve events all over the Union building, including a big disco on Level 2. Kevin Jennings, Conferences and Marketing Officer, is currently finalising the exact details of the travel package, with Campus Travel, and further details will be available shortly. The draw, which will include many other smaller prizes, will be drawn at the Extravaganza. Anybody buying a ticket for the Extravaganza will be included in the draw free of charge. Proceeds from the Extravaganza will be split between the South African Scholarship Fund and the Ents Committee. **Dylan Champion.**

Romania

Ex-Courier Editor, Chris Holt, is to accompany a Relief Mission to help Romanian children. Chris Holt, now working for *The Journal*, will travel with a company of vehicles carrying food, clothing, toys and medical supplies to children's homes in Northern Romania. The convoy, originally planned by the Northumbria Police Force, has been made possible through charity events and an appeal for cash. £28,000 has been raised. Local haulage firms have donated lorries and drivers for the 12-day journey. The 12-day, 5,000 mile round trip to Transylvania left Newcastle on Saturday, 12th May. **Dylan Champion**

Geology

The University Geology department sees its last students graduate this summer. Geology undergraduates will now be taught at Durham, while Newcastle will teach the North-East's geophysicists.

N.E. "mecca" for pubs

A new emphasis to pub life has arrived in Newcastle to provide "a Mecca for people who like real pubs, not plastic pubs."

The 18 new-look pubs have recently been bought from Scottish and Newcastle Breweries by ex-Newcastle University students Tony and Carole Brookes. The couple were both undergraduates and postgraduates here, and like so many other ex-students, acquired a taste for Newcastle and ended up staying.

Most of the pubs under the Brookes new ownership are in unattractive areas and have rough reputations. But the Brookes' aim to change their image and eventually provide a more entertainment based, family orientated 'centre of the community'.

O'Dwyers is the new name for the old King's Arms behind the Newcastle Breweries. With a new Irish landlord, the pub is to provide a distinct Irish flavour, reflected in its music, live entertainment and the full range of Irish spirits. Red Stripe is on tap and there are steamed potatoes behind the counter.

On Elswick Road, the Chesterfield is to be re-named 'The Independent' and have a totally new look and atmosphere about it. Pubs in Byker and Gateshead (including The Borough) are also to change.

Another of the pubs is the Royal Archer in Sandyford. Soon to be renamed 'Legendary



Tony and Carole Brookes: Legendary Yorkshire Heroes.

Yorkshire Heroes', the pub is to have a complete refurbishment, with much more emphasis on the family facilities. It serves a full scale English breakfast from 8-10 a.m., and like all other pubs sells tea and coffee, as well as all the usual and some more unusual beverages. Each cup of tea sold contributes to the replanting of trees in Ethiopia.

The emphasis in on entertainment and atmosphere and the choice of drinks on sale is unusually varied. For the non-drinkers there is a vast range of fruit juices including mango, passion fruit and some organi-

cally grown juices. Carrot juice is on tap and low alcohol beers are in abundance.

Fruit wines (rhubarb, elderberry, damson etc.) are also available, but these taste less than authentic, to say the least.

An ambitious idea, perhaps over-optimistic, the pubs do at least provide an alternative to the drinking den and the plastic palace. With all waste being recycled, and fund raising schemes for the Third World a regular feature, they bring a new "socially aware" emphasis to the local pub. **Debs Dudgeon**

U.S. Corruption

A string of indecent phone calls and a separate incident involving a massive pay increase have recently led to the resignation of two top college leaders. Both, quite understandably, have left office amidst a mass of controversy and scandal.

Ann Reynolds, Chancellor of the Californian State University awarded herself a massive 43% increase, pushing her take-home pay to \$185,000. In a further wave of generosity Ms. Reynolds gave her presidents a 17% pay rise. Unsurprisingly, the move sparked a row amongst the more lowly professors whose rise this year stopped short of the 5% mark. Even more unsurprisingly, the Trustees revoked her decision. Meanwhile security forces at Washington's American

University were being asked by local police to trace a series of obscene phone calls. The trace led all the way to the office of Dr. Richard Berendzen, the University's 51-year-old president. Dr. Berendzen has had a stormy 10 years in office. Amongst his controversial moves was the acceptance of a £5 million gift from Adnan Khahoggi, that notorious Saudi arms dealer. Unsurprisingly, Dr. Richard Berendzen has resigned and is now undergoing treatment at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore which has a unit specialising in sexual disorders.

In statement released this week Dr. Berendzen said: "I cannot begin to convey my embarrassment or turmoil." It is unclear as yet if charges will be made.

Liza Poole

Mike Parkin

A thousand people attended the service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mike Parkin, Professor of Clinical Paediatrics, which was held in Durham Cathedral on Sunday, 6th May. John Webb, Emeritus Professor of Child Health, paid tribute to Mike as a clinician, teacher and as a person. Al Aynsley Green, Professor of Child Health, announced that a memorial fund would be set up to enable medical students to develop links with the Third World and to create an essay prize in the Medical School.

Bryan Vernon



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UNION NEWS

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ELECTIONS —

Thursday, 24th May —

Don't forget to vote

Nominations and publicity should have been in yesterday.

See posters around the building for hustings and ballot box positions

Now here are some inners and outers

IN	OUT
This year's Ents Officer	Next year's Ents Officer
Brian Higgins	Brian Higgins
Dunhill	Tea Rose
Trapping off at the A.U. Ball	Jumping
International holidays and	Union Society's Profit
Rolex watches	Margin
Sleeping Pills	Work
Sport for All	The money to do it with
Hairy Chins	Street cred
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WELFARE

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12 noon-2 p.m.
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(Details to be advertised in the Union).

Fourword

Rag Rant

Jake Chambers, Rag Organiser, and the future of Rag?

Fourword is Courier's viewpoint page. Articles of approximately 500 words are invited, and should be submitted by 5pm on Friday.

Rag shattered cliques, helped strangers work in unison, and gave those who bothered to attend a fantastic time. By the estimations of our invaluable treasurer, Colin Smith, when all sponsors cough up, we will make a net profit of five to six grand.

Many successes were achieved; the hitch-hike, Rag Raids, head shave and battle of the bands, and many failures were met; the final of the endurance challenge, too many T-shirts printed, bad P.A. at Blind Date. Mistakes will be avoided in the future, as all of our knowledge will be passed on in a highly detailed file.

We looked at other universities and saw the institution that Rag is, the way of life it is, how people did anything and everything, not caring how they looked or sounded, to have a good time, and all because it was for an excellent cause. Naively, we thought this is what the students of Newcastle would want. Instead, we felt robbed. After the months of work we put in for your enjoyment, nothing else, the massive indifference you gave in return was positively insulting.

Are students here too fucking super-hip or trendy to get involved? Or, back to the old excuse; are they too apathetic? If so, I am sorry for them: what memories can they have of University?

The heart of the matter; it's no good pointing a finger at the students. Their attitude is the product of a decade of the devastatingly uninspiring Community Action Week. Ten years of noble gesturing and trying to give the people what they don't want has killed off all interest and left the return of Rag almost friendless.

This is a fundamental problem. Constitutionally, Rag barely exists. The sabbaticals and politicos of level six pay it minimal attention - it has no room to develop and grow. Idle waffle and petty squabbling has filled the void CAW has created. This is understandable, but the high level blocking tactics are not.

Is it a fear of being upstaged by "ordinary" non-sabbatical students, or is it bloody-mindedness that makes the Executive hinder Rag? These people, elected by you, feel Rag is so important that it does not even warrant an office telephone in the Union Building next year. The SCAN shop is totally impracticable; Rag '91 will

not exist without that office.

This top level abuse of, and negativity towards, Rag permeates all of our work; they even make us pay - and take this as proof of the institutional attitude towards Rag - they make us pay to use Ents. disco equipment! Who foots the bill? Only the people who gave money for Rag charities, not for the fucking Ents. Officer!

Until all this changes Rag will fight to exist, never mind fight to establish annual events. Are you embarrassed by the Newcastle Rag? Unless you act it will always be the same.

The answer; if you really want this change; recognition and a firm power base by the creation of a Rag Sabbatical officer - a student elected and paid to do a year's work, with an office and telephone in the Union and plans for all year events.

Achieving this aim; support the campaign at all times, and take decisive positive action; stand for election as a faculty representative this term.

Why? Union Council has the audacity to claim it is representative of Union membership. Bollocks! It has a majority of ego-feeding political bigots who are in power only because no-one else bothered to stand.

These inconsequential pedants masturbate to Marx and oppose the wishes of most students. They constantly deny you what you want; it was the

hard left politicos, not the students, who fought the return of Rag. They thrive on pointless argument and will obstruct the creation of a Rag sabbatical purely to piss you off. If only they understood what idiots they are.

The answer; stand for election as a faculty representative. Being elected is unbelievably easy and there is very little work in the post. Go to the General Office for details, but do it quickly - elections are early this term!

This is a call to arms for all apolitical, sensible people. When elected, not only will you give Newcastle a Rag of which it will be proud in the near future - a Rag, which draws in all students of all years and raises huge amounts of money, but you will scrub Council of its pathetic, destructive little hacks and restore order and commonsense to this Union. You have the power to give this Union back to the majority of people who use it - you are these people.

Jake Chambers



Rag '90. The people; a million thanks to the Committee, Sarah Bryson, Cathy Simms, Colin Smith, Steve McNicol, and Simon Power, and many thanks to the team, especially Nigel Keys, Paula Thomas, Richard Foster, Debbie Patterson, Claire South, James Brown, Shihara Kalegne, Nicola Stanford, Myles Gibbins, Paul Wallace, Griff and a thousand others. A crate of thank you's to Mon, Bette, Eileen, Steve, Joolie, Heather, Sheila, Anne, Lee, Claire, Davy, Ian, Andy, Angela, and all of the porters.



東海大學
Tunghai University
TAICHUNG, TAIWAN 400
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

TIM HAMMOND,
THE UNION SOCIETY,

Letter From China



Leaving Kunming, provincial capital of the western province of Yunnan, the traveller embarks on a tortuous bus ride over meandering mountain roads, finally to reach the town of Dali. Pushed up to the banks of Lake Erhai by a snow-capped mountain range, this ancient capital of the Kingdom of Dali, epitomizes romantic visions of China. While the city walls have long since decayed, the surviving city gates welcome you into a labyrinth of cobbled streets and traditional half-timber dwellings. On the lake, fishermen engage in the age old art of cormorant fishing. This is an ingenious method whereby cormorant birds dive for fish with rings attached to their necks to prevent them from eating their catch. The fisherman has only to turn the bird upside down and the fish drops into a basket.

However Dali does not completely escape the crudeness of today's China. Foreigners are constantly pursued by Bai womenfolk yelling that ubiquitous call heard from Canton to Kashgar; "Hello, change money?" (A reference to F.E.C., the foreigner's currency that enables the purchase of luxury consumer goods.)

The Chinese tourist board has attempted to portray Dali as "the Switzerland of China", with its spectacular mountain scenery and marble mines. Travellers here prefer to talk of the "new Kathmandu" and are arriving in their droves to sample the local hashish. The focus of activity is Jim's Peace Cafe, fast becoming a rival to Istanbul's Pudding Shop, start of the old "hippy trail". Inside, Purple Haze drones through the speakers and Rusputin-look-alikes studiously construct make-shift bongos out of Coke cans.

Another bus ride further north and higher up takes the traveller to Lijiang, a small town nestled under the towering Mt. Satseto. Close to the Tibetan border, the locals here are more likely to pester you for a picture of the Dalai Lama than F.E.C. Lijiang is divided into two. The new town has the familiar drab and uninspired post-1949 architecture and is inhabited by the majority Han Chinese. The old town is a fascinating jumble of old buildings and bustling alleys and is inhabited by the Naxi minority. The Naxi are of interest as one of the few matriarchial societies in the world. According to Naxi custom, the woman rules the home and inherits property. This female superiority has even penetrated the local dialect with the word for "female" being added to a word to inflate its importance. The Naxi women are a fearsome bunch of leather-faced grannies dressed in traditional blue capes and buffalo hide capes. In the old town they pass their time playing poker and puffing on enormous roll-ups.

Cycling through a village some distance from Lijiang we are flagged down by an elderly figure in a white lab coat sporting a wispy Confucian beard. This is the famous Dr. Hu, self-taught herbal doctor and curer of all ills. While his wife serves herbal tea, the doctor is keen to show you articles that have appeared about him in publications all over the world.

While obviously a quack, visitors cannot fail to be charmed by this little herbalist and always succumb to giving a healthy "donation" to the clinic. "Open door policy is No. 1" exclaims the doc with a toothless grin.

Highlight of a stay in Lijiang is to attend a Naxi concert held in the old town. Frail old men ply their erhu's (two string Chinese violins) and blow their bamboo pipes to produce an enchanting mixture of imperial Chinese and Naxi folk music. The Naxi are a proud people and there is clearly no love lost with the neighbouring Bai people. They are keen to recall how their ancestors guided Ghengis Khan's army through the mountains to destroy the Dali Kingdom. Resentment towards their Han Chinese masters is strongly evident. Memories of the day the Red Guards came and attempted to crush Naxi culture remain clear in the minds of many.

James McKee, Tunghai University

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Letters

Palestine debated

Sir,
On the afternoon of Monday 19th March, I attended what had been advertised as a 'debate' on the Palestinian question. Being an American Jew, the son of a father who escaped Nazi Germany and a mother who emigrated from Israel, I am naturally quite interested in this subject. What I expected was an intelligent discussion on the Palestinian problem with both views on the issue represented. I had hoped for insight into the resolution of the conflict, a rational expression of the Palestinians plight and Israel's right to exist. Unfortunately this was not the case.

The two speakers did not represent both views, but focused specifically on the military occupation. The 'moderator' was not a neutral participant, as is the case in most professional debates, but was decidedly biased.

The content of the speakers' lectures did not contain any means of resolution, but focused on three issues, the closing of schools, the infant mortality rate of Palestinian settlements, and the medical attention available in the occupied territories.

It would be naive to suggest conditions are not abysmal in some areas and that individual civil rights have not been abused. No one can condone these acts whether they occur in Israel, South Africa, Iraq, or any nation of the globe. However, I take serious offence to the conclusion drawn by one member of the panel that the Palestinian situation is akin to that of the Jews during the Holocaust.

The policy of Nazi Germany was a systematic elimination of all members of the Jewish faith. This was conducted in a grotesquely efficient manner, removing six million men, women and children from existence. This policy was expressed frequently and with pride by the leaders of the government. Unlike the Palestine situation, there was no organised vocal opposition to these policies. Unlike the Palestinian situation, the military occupiers did not commit suicide or desert the army or actively refuse to obey orders. Unlike the Palestinian situation, heinous medical acts were performed on the population.

In the occupied territories, men have not become living skeletons; babies have not become lampshades. Unlike the Palestinian situation the crisis does not cause the downfall of the government.

The peace plan proposed by Secretary of State, James Baker, and accepted by the Labour Party was completely ignored by the speakers. According to the debate the only American involvement in Israel is maintaining a base of American foreign policy. According to the speakers, the main support for Israel is only the 'powerful American Jewish lobby'. Conspiracy theories of Jewish control of financial and political resources belongs buried in the past, not fomented in the present.

The only instance of a solution to the situation was the mention of an economic boycott. Presumably, this would involve everything from Jaffa oranges to flights on El Al. Anything homogenous to or manufactured by Israelis would be excluded from world markets. This would not resolve the conflict but further it. All the people of Israel would be hurt: Arab, Jew and Christian.

The final point I take issue with concerns what seemed to be the panel's rejection of the State of Israel. The "Impartial moderator" stated that the Israelis kicked out the Palestinians. This is contradicted by the statements of a Palestinian women in the audience who exclaimed that the land was for Palestinian and Jew to live together in peace. I would be quick to add that the lands the Palestinians now want to claim; i.e. the West Bank; was refused to them by the original possessor, Jordan. If Israel does give back the occupied territories, which would not be occupied if not for the attack of Arab Nations, where does the line end. Surely, Germany would have justification in the return of the Polish territories, even though they had been lost in war.

My personal view is that a peaceful resolution is attainable by negotiation of all parties involved. This may not involve a 'land-for-peace' deal but maybe simply a return of civil rights and equal share in the government. However, I would be very cautious of reducing a state of Israel to 14 miles wide in populous areas. I would be wary of nations surrounding Israel who would dare wage war on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. How would Christians feel if they had been attacked on Christmas Eve? Would the Arab States rest easier knowing they were surrounded by hostile nations?

The solution is a difficult one but engaging in serious debate without the views of all parties is foolhardy.

Yours etc.,
R. F. Feiner

of mice and (wim)men Sport Short?

Sir,
What an exciting Easter it's been in Newcastle, what with all these N.U.S. Conferences in Leazes. First we had the delights of the 'Wimmin's Officers', and what a lot they were, complete with Doc Martens 'n' skinheads forcing their own brand of smug men hating sexism on the rest of us for a week.

Then we got the Services lot, who would have been an improvement if they'd stayed sober and hadn't spent the entire week in a 'you show me yours and I'll show you mine, but let's make sure the Kommies get back again first' session.

Both Conferences managed to make Agric night look tame. We didn't really mind the threesome romps in the bloody showers too much (Wimmin's) but smashing down locked doors, fighting in the corridors and bashing in the pool table was a disgusting way for elected N.U.S. Reps to behave. To crown it all they flooded out Marley and pissed in the corridors, although at least that's halfway to the bogs and a bit better than shitting in the bins like the Wimmin. And what have 'Baron Greenback' or 'Joe Crow' done about all this? Nothing. Bugger All. Not a sossage. That's what.

Agrics get £50 fines and four week bans so why shouldn't the N.U.S. get the same, unless, of course, "The Barons" too busy crawling up to 'em all, but he wouldn't do that, would he?

Yours etc.,
Danger Mouse

Sir,
After attending the last meeting of Union Council I thought it would be appropriate to inform the 2200 active members of the Athletic Union of the attitude of Union Council to student sport.

The reader is probably unaware that average Council members are either porcine liberal/tories or emaciated pinko's who love to spout political rhetoric. Sport to them is scoring ideological Brownie points over their opponents on the floor of the Union Council.

This probably explains why Council feels it can squeeze the budget of the largest Sub Council in the society to breaking point whilst flashing big bucks on wasteful luxuries. It justified these cuts by that magical word SPONSORSHIP. The idea is that the many cuts should be replaced by sponsorship which sounds wonderful in theory but alas in reality is a crock of fools gold. If B.U.S.F. the national body for University sport with full time staff cannot attract sponsorship what chance does our AU have which is run by one Sabbatical and a group of volunteers with no experience and few contacts.

Surely this Union should prioritise services which are unique, such as welfare, sport, SCAN, rather than wasting money on other facilities, i.e. exotic catering, which can be easily obtained elsewhere.

Yours etc.,
Dominic Franey,
AU Male Vice President

Apology awaited

Sir,
A few weeks ago the *Courier* featured an article on the Student Loans Demo coach fiasco, in which three students who had purchased tickets for the coach were left stranded in Newcastle. I was one of that lucky number.

In the same article Chris Bailey (our industrious Vice President) extended his apologies and stated quite categorically that 'written apologies would also be forwarded'. Poor Chris, he must be suffering from amnesia (brought on by over-working no doubt) as it's over 2 months since that promise was made, and I still have not received that apology.

Chris also forgot my requests for an investigation into the matter, in order to establish whose fault the fiasco was. I hope Chris recovers his memory and I hope perhaps one day I will receive that apology I was promised.

Yours etc.,
S. King

Curt alteration

Sir,
I wish to protest most strongly with the harshest verbosity and indignation that my letter which I slaved over for long and sweated hours to the *Courier* last week was grossly altered and defaced.

I refer, of course, to the despicable deletion of my true name - S. Cuntfeatures - and the insertion of the heinously insulting signature - Mike Shallcross.

How long do we, the honest students of Newcastle have to suffer these abominations and perpetual defamation? We demand an immediate and unqualified apology for every sentence ever written in the *Courier* and will consider legal action if this is not forthcoming.

Your obedient servant,
S. Cuntfeatures

Courier

Newcastle University Student Newspaper

Union Society, Kings Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QB
Telephone: (091) 232 4050

<p>Editor..... Tim Hammond</p> <p>In Depth..... Debs Dudgeon</p> <p>Music..... Rob Cotterill</p> <p>Stage & Screen..... Iain Pigg</p> <p>Sport News..... Andy Weatherston</p>	<p>Sport Features..... Kevin Rincey</p> <p>Listings..... Rebecca West</p> <p>Business Manager..... Rob Cotterill</p> <p>Permanent Secretary & Advertising Manager Monica Doughty</p>
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★ Special thanks to Rob ★

Cuthbert under fire

Sir,
I enjoy reading about the continuing saga of life at Newcastle University which you so carefully report in *Courier*, and I often work myself into a right old paddy when I see how the union conducts its affairs and spends its money.

But, as an ex-hack and student I can remember my own stupid mistakes, so it always seems inappropriate to write in and tell you all to behave like good little boys and girls.

'Cuthbert', however, has forced me to break my own rules.

Whether or not the union needs to be "engrained into the public's memory" (God help us!) isn't up to me to decide, but who the xxxx authorised £3,000 to be spent on a new logo?

I have spoken to two top advertising contacts in London, both of whom have produced logos for stock exchange quoted companies as well as numerous small businesses, and they were appalled by the sum of money the union society paid for this work.

They both said that for a normal project - sit down with the client and take a full brief, conduct research, produce some initial sketches for discussion and then come back with several logos for the client's choice - they wouldn't expect to charge more than £1,000, although the fee could be as low as £500 in some circumstances.

They did agree that the sky's the limit for such work since major companies will spend tens, even hundreds of thousands for a new logo. They didn't feel a Student Union quite fell into this category.

So, did the union ask the designer/agency to conduct extensive research - enough to justify the fee of £3,000 - and if so, does the finished product justify this expenditure?

Two points spring to mind:

1. In another article last term it was pointed out that the S.C.A.N. budget had been cut by £3,000 this year.
2. If the union had asked its members to design a new logo and put up a prize of £300/£400, wouldn't one of the many talents in the fine art department or architecture have been able to produce a comparable (if not better) logo than the article that will now appear on everything the union produces?

I hope that someone will ask the union's executive to produce a report explaining:

- How an agency came to be chosen for this task.
- The criteria used for selecting the agency.
- Whether a quotation was sought in advance.
- Who recommended that executive employ this agency on the union's behalf on the basis of a £3,000 quote/no quote at all.

The answers should be printed in *Courier*.

Yours,
Tony Hay,
Ex-Editor of *Courier*

NUS Conference

Sir,
NUS SPRING CONFERENCE 1990

I was elected as a Delegate to the above conference on the promise that I wouldn't vote 'Labour' in any of the National Executive elections. As such, it is with regret that I write to inform the Union's members that Labour swept the board once more.


Talented individuals such as Richard 'Cosmo' Hawkes, Tim Farron, Rebecca Packwood, Jane Marshall and Naomi Cohen were sloughed off in favour of left-wing stooges such as Stephen Wigg, Lorna Fitzsimmons, Steve Mitchell and Emma Colyer. The election results have betrayed ordinary (sic) students and produced a National Executive with little to offer students except the promise of a Labour government: itself a poisoned chalice.

So how was this *coup* achieved? Labour, terrified of losing the Presidential election to Cosmo Hawkes entered into an election pact with Socialist Organiser, a repellant Trotskyist faction, to ensure the victory of candidates in both groups. Elections over, the traditional carping between the two factions will once more commence; and the NEC will be paralysed, unable to take any actions on behalf of the student body.

Surely this must show students at Newcastle what they were voting for when they voted for Labour in the NUS elections. If 'more of the same' is what people want, they can have it; but I'd rather see a representative, relevant, democratic Union which has a willing and an involved membership. There are others like me; and we keep on winning the arguments, even though we keep on losing the elections. But one day, we will win; because we are right, and Labour are wrong.

May the backlash continue.

Yours etc.,
Iain Pigg
Delegate to NUS Spring Conference 1990



Period Clothing: 50's-60's tops, blouses, dresses, shirts, 40's jackets, waistcoats, tailcoats.

Indian Clothing: embroidered, white, bright, black, purple, silky, long, large, mirrored, fringed, tassled, tops, shirts, skirts, saris.

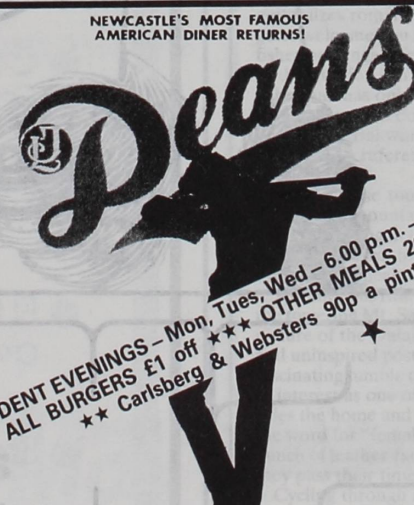
Luggage: vintage leather suitcases, attaches, briefcases, music cases, hat boxes.

Accessories: cufflinks, tie pins, cigarette cases, zippo lighters, original 50's ronsons, sunglasses.

Lots More: postcards, quantum jewellery, 30's chrome & bakelite, 50's & 60's kitsch.

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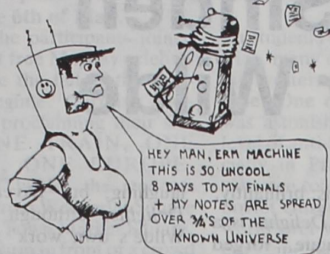
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Farewell

Space Cadet is the pseudonym of an exchange student from a redbrick university on the planet Mars. Every week he presents his thoughts on Life on Earth



Been in the Library lately? Ha! You haven't and you're feeling bad about it already, but if you had you'd know what I mean, a scramble for seats, the place packed from morning till night, people sitting there all day until it closes. Well that's the Reader's Lounge this time of year, but the rest of the Library is pretty full too. The Day of Judgement looms, and on that day a winged figure will part the clouds with a sword, blow a trumpet and say "What have you been doing for three years? How come your sister managed to get a 2:1? and stuff like that.

Well readers, worry no more. Hot on the heels of my house hunting guide comes the Space Cadet revision timetable.

11.30 a.m. Get up, slowly. Remember that you need plenty of sleep.

11.40 a.m. Time for a bath, use bubble bath, have a shave, if you're a big hunky virile thing like me, above all take your time. You can't revise if you don't feel nice and fresh.

12.40 a.m. Brunch, you need your strength. Have plenty of food with lots of coffee. Watch plenty of TV Australian soap operas or, even better, Sesame Street; the example of Grover, the speed freak monster with wobbly eyes, will show you how futile it is to run around doing too much.

2.00 p.m. Laundrette, it's no good trying to revise if your clothes are dirty. Don't tire yourself get a service wash.

2.15 p.m. Time to get down to it... well, not quite. Tidy your bedroom, try and find some of the notes from the five lectures you went to. This is traumatic, time for a...

4.00 p.m. Teabreak with plenty of telly. Good bets are 'Scooby Doo', 'Rolf's Cartoon Club' and Starsky and Hutch (Tuesdays BBC2).

5.00 p.m. Time to go to Presto, buy plenty of nice food, the last thing you want to do while you're revising is to keep running to the shops.

5.30 p.m. Phew! Carrying all that shopping up the hill was exhausting. Never mind, time for another teabreak.

6.30 p.m. Pick you washing up from the laundrette. 6.50 p.m. Cook tea.

7.30 p.m. Bastard flatmate suggests a drink. You hate him, he's headed for the scrapheap and wants to drag you with him. He knows that he can't get a 2:1 and you can, well he won't catch you like that!

9.00 p.m. Start your third pint of Becks with a panic. You've wasted your life, you haven't tried, you're degenerate; even that tenner granny slipped you at Christmas went on a bottle of Smirnoff, or worse. Drink some more, you'll feel better.

1.30 a.m. Somehow you're in bed. You want to die,

these exams are really getting to you.

Dostoevsky once wrote that the bravest soldier in the world would rather spend the rest of his life crouched on top of a rock than face the mental torture of a death sentence, students feel the same way about revision. We'd do anything to avoid it. Last weekend I hoovered my bedroom, today I'm writing some crappy column that three people are going to read. It wouldn't be so bad if I was doing something interesting like rehearsing for my job as a dancer on Paula Abdul's forthcoming world tour, or plotting to break General Noriega out of jail. Revising is a bit of a misleading term anyway, hands up if you haven't even got round to revising yet.

My problem is that I was never really cut out for the academic life, I was really meant to be a fabulously rich and sexy playboy, who idled his days away in disgusting opulence. (Make no mistake about it, I wouldn't be one of these John Mortimer characters, if I was rich there's no way I'd be left-wing). However, alas and alack, fate dealt me a cruel hand. For one, I was put in the wrong body, and then the rich auntie who was going to die at an unspecified point in my mid-teens leaving me with a luxury spaceship moored off Venus and enough ready to indulge my every whim never emerged. What was I to do? It was this or a proper job, perish the thought.

This is the last time I will write anything to amuse you, my dear fluffy ickle readers. (When was the first time? I think I missed it I hear you cry). Sad really, there were so many things left to slag off, Vaclav Havel, The Stone Roses, plastic pint glasses, anarchists, dangerous Fenham pubs, 10.00 a.m. lectures, Newcastle D.J.'s who think they're brilliant and the end of the Cold War.

Well I'm off to elope with Zeinab Badawi from Channel Four news, and don't worry, as my old mate Mikey Shallock might say: 'Something equally unpleasant will be along very soon.'

Many thanks to Tim and Monica for being patient and Phil my brilliant cartoonist, and if I offended anyone, I'm deeply sorry I was only joking, I think. All right everybody, you can relax now.

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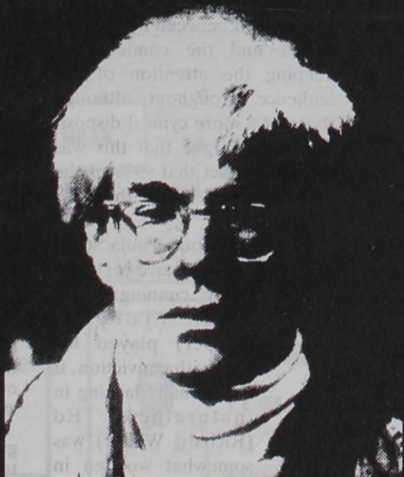
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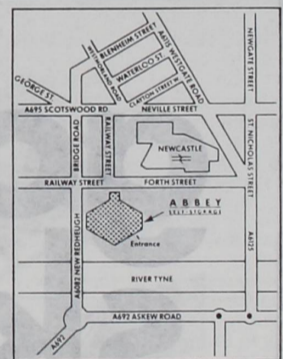
everybody will be famous for fifteen minutes....
(ANDY WARHOL)

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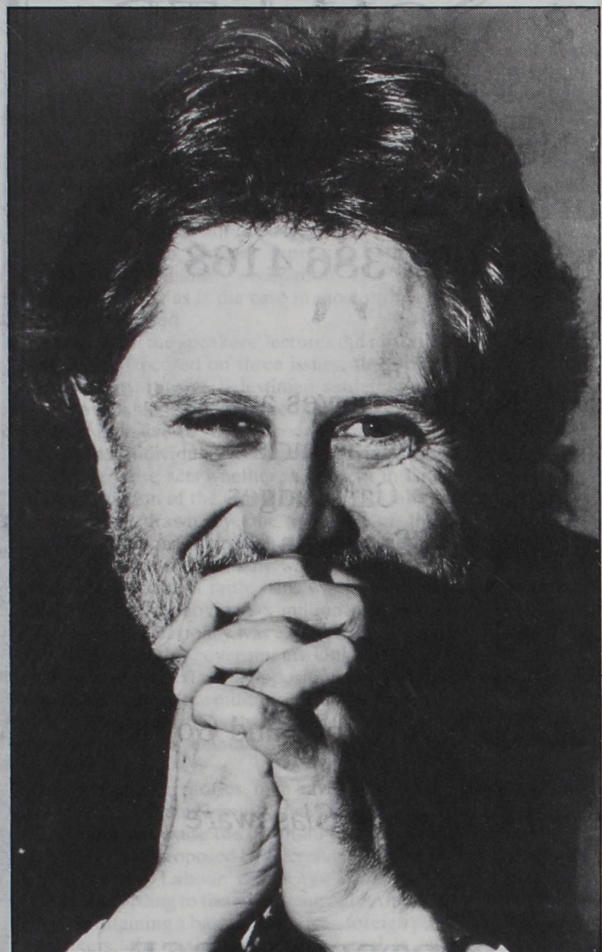
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Stage and Screen



Donald Sinden is Oscar Wilde

Donald Sinden as Oscar Wilde
DIVERSIONS & DELIGHTS/
JOHN GAY
Theatre Royal

During his lifetime, Oscar Wilde was renowned, adored, lionised and ultimately rejected by fashionable society: art and wit gained him access to the salons of the rich, the famous and the royal; and public disgrace caused him to be shunned by all after a spell in Reading Gaol. Donald Sinden, by contrast, is more usually thought of as a twee, slightly dull sit-com star of mean

"The seamy side of Wilde is fascinating"

degree. It is television, rather than wit, which brings him into the nation's sitting rooms; and an irritating vocal quirk which sets teeth on edge. So how does a man like Donald Sinden portray a man like Oscar Wilde? The

unexpected answer is: brilliantly.

Divisions and Delights is a dramatic monologue, forged from the works of Wilde, and presented as a public lecture given by the disgraced Wilde, while in Paris. It is of course superlatively witty; it is also unexpectedly moving; and offers original insights into a side of Wilde usually shunned by writers.

The seamy side of Wilde is, if anything, more fascinating than the superficial glory: both are brought out in Gay's text; and Sinden proved himself more than equal to the task of bringing the text to life.

The text has Wilde leaping between pinnacles of wit over occasional chasms of misfortune. Wilde in Paris never quite recovered his original panache—two years of hard labour blunted him irrecoverably; and Sinden played his part with sensitivity, and unexpected ability.

It would be hard to listen to two hours of Wilde without

laughing; but *Divisions and Delights*, although it is 'all Wilde's own work' is not just funny; it is poignant; and Sinden's warmth and charisma shone through the brittle witticisms to make Wilde a human being, rather than just an author-on-stage.

"Excellent stuff—more of the same please"

I was pleasantly surprised by the whole experience: I had expected tack, and was given consummate style; I had expected twee pathos, and was given tragedy; I had expected cheap laughs, and was given incisive wit. Sinden's status as a second-rate actor is shaken by this play: and Wilde's status as a god in the literary pantheon is confirmed once more. Excellent stuff: more of the same please.

Iain Pigg

Stage and Screen

The year 1989-1990 has been a good one for arts coverage in *Courier*. The decision to split Music and Drama has proved a difficult one to work with; but has ultimately been fruitful, allowing more expansive and imaginative treatment of both.

I have been pleased at the increased interest shown by first years in writing for *Courier*, and have tried so far as possible to give prominence to them. I am grateful to Elena Antinou, Philip Best, Alison Boughen, Rachel Murphy, Romilly Scragg and Emma Walker for their enthusiasm and interest. I hope their involvement will continue next year.

Regular columnists Simon Evans and Gary Ross are deserving of thanks; as are occasional contributors Joanne Casey, George W. F. Dawson, Philippa Dunn, Chris Losh and Terry White.

I should like to put a final nail in the coffin of the controversy surrounding Philip Best's review of NUTS' production of *After the Fall*. As Mr. Best's editor, I stand by his every word (having seen the play on the same evening as he) and by my decision to print his article. I have been disgusted at the vitriolic griping which has ensued, and at the verbal and physical intimidation which Mr. Best has since suffered at the hands of disaffected readers. Hopefully he will not be discouraged from writing honestly; and next year's editor will not be discouraged from printing his work.

My job this year has been made immeasurably easier by the co-operation which I have received from local and national theatre companies, and from Newcastle's theatres themselves. The National Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet, The English Shakespeare Company, The Renaissance Theatre Company, The Northern Stage Company, The Theatre Royal, The Playhouse, The Gulbenkian, The Tyne Theatre, The Live Theatre and the Tyneside Cinema have all been most gracious in admitting myself and my reviewers into performances, previews, press sessions and photocalls.

Particular mention should be made of Penny McPhillips and Phillip Lofas at the Gulbenkian, who have been generosity itself in their allocation of tickets to *Courier* reviewers; and to Shelagh McGouran, of the Theatre Royal, who has treated *Courier* with the same respect as she accords to papers with far wider circulations, and to critics with far greater influence. These are professionals, with whom I have been privileged to work.

Next year, my involvement with *Courier* will be, at best, minimal; I shall not be in a position to write a great deal, and hopefully, as Sabbatical Secretary, will not find myself greatly written about either. I sincerely hope that whoever inherits my position, my (uncomfortable) chair and half-share in the Arts desk gets as much out of his or her time with *Courier* as I have done.

To conclude, I reserve my most grateful thanks for the *Courier* team: for my colleagues Rob Cotterill, Debs Dudgeon, Kevin Rinchee, Andrew Weatherston and Rebecca West, who have been supportive workmates this year; for Stephen Silk, Clemency Firth and Dominic Nutt, who last year encouraged and sustained me; for Tim Hammond, who has been an exemplary Editor and friend; and for Monica Doughty, without whom *Courier* would not be produced (and without whom I should not wish to see it produced).

NAM FUTURAM PROGREDI!
Iain Pigg
Stage & Screen Editor, 1989-1990

Waiting for Godot

Northern Stage Company
WAITING FOR GODOT/
SAMUEL BECKETT
Newcastle Playhouse

Created only last September, the embryonic Northern Stage Company made a profound impression with their production of Beckett's bleak and dispiriting play, which is a major landmark in the Theatre of the Absurd.

Estragon and Vladimir, with their respective broad Scottish and Yorkshire accents, successfully established an aura of futility and despair in the

timeless landscape which was depicted with sparse simplicity.

But their hopelessness and existential musing was alleviated by many scenes in which the impish clowning of Vladimir brought some light relief, varying from witty asides to virtual slapstick. In such a lengthy performance, the humour did not go amiss, although importantly, it did not undermine the ontological issues addressed in the play. I predict a rosy future for the NSC on the basis of this early showing.

William Carmichael

DAVID PUTTNAM

Did you enjoy watching CHARIOTS OF FIRE? THE KILLING FIELDS? THE MISSION? Now is your chance to hear David Puttnam, producer of a series of popular and artistically successful films, speaking in the University on Thursday, 17 May, 1990. Mr. Puttnam will be giving a Public Lecture on the topic, 'Cinema and the Environment of the Mind', in the Curtis Auditorium, Physics Building at 6.00 p.m. Don't miss this unique opportunity to meet an internationally renowned figure in the world of film. Admission is free and all are welcome.

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JOE ORTON FESTIVAL

Newcastle College
ENTERTAINING MR. SLOAN/
JOE ORTON

Gulbenkian Studio Theatre
The Newcastle College's performance of *Entertaining Mr. Sloan* marks the opening of their Orton festival—a feast of comedy, incorporating seven of Orton's plays.

Sloan is the story of the obstreperous Mr. Sloan, who moves into the Kemp household, impregnating the sister, killing the father and eloping with the brother. Black comedy indeed!

There was only one set, the Kemp's living room, which consisted of a suitably tacky three-piece suite, tacky ornaments and effectively used French windows. The lighting was used to give the room a warm, homely feel, and this worked well.

The action was well directed by Gerald McNally as the movements choreographed were natural but the cast didn't always put them together in a fluent manner resulting in somewhat stilted acting. Also, sometimes

the pace was too slow and some of the comedy was lost. This in not to say the performance was without potential. The cast contrasted well between the intense scenes and the comic ones, keeping the attention of the audience throughout, although those of a more cynical disposition might argue that this was due to the fact that 99% of the audience consisted of their fellow students.

In a cast of four, Paula Stone

Joe Orton—the Oscar Wilde of Welfare State gentility

played a credibly naive yet eventually cunning Kath, Sloan (Toby S. Cooper) played his part with conviction, if occasionally lacking in 'naturalness', Ed (Richard Winter) was somewhat wooden in places, but this changed as he got into his part, and finally Michael Doran as Kemp, who added pathos to the play with his realistic and quite touching portrayal of the abused elderly father.

The festival continues until May 26th, and, if the first night was anything to go by, is well worth a visit.

Rachel Murphy



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Eurotrain

"Eurotrain Express '90" the special train carrying over 100 students from 27 countries, a pan-European project sponsored by the European Year of Tourism, returned to a triumphal reception in Brussels on Sunday night the 6th of May.

"The journey was an amazing and emotional experience for all" Antonio Brandi, leader of the group told a large gathering in the famous Grand Place. "We visited leading cities of the East, talked to students and professors and learnt that although we are all looking forward to a united Europe it should be a linguistically, culturally and ethnically diverse Europe. It is the richness of our different traditions belonging to the same cultural background that spiritually unites us!! Unity in diversity!!"

On the day chosen to visit East Berlin, the German guards were operating a jackhammer to knock the Wall in front of the Brandenburg Gate. The students joined a huge crowd of silent Berliners to witness this historic happening. The students also planted a tree for Europe using soil brought from all 27 European countries, in the Friedrichshain Park.

In Prague, where the train was welcomed by the Mayor of Prague, Dr. Koran and by representatives of Mr. Vaclav Havel's

cabinet, the participants joined in the first free Mayday celebrations since the fall of the communist regime. Carrying banners and proclaiming their slogan "ONE TRAIN, ONE YOUTH, ONE EUROPE, ONE FUTURE" the students marched from Wenceslas Square to the old Town Market Square. On a platform in front of a crowd of some 60,000 Czechoslovakians enjoying the Mayday sunshine and live to a national TV audience, Antonio Brandi, gave the students' message of hope for a united Europe in peace and freedom.

"Our unity is in those supreme values that do not divide us but unite us" Antonio Brandi, said, quoting the President Vaclav Havel.

In Budapest the train arrived as the first free government after 43 years of communism was being formed. Eurotrain Express '90 participants stood in silence opposite the Parliament in Kossuth Square to witness this historic moment.

The train journey was exciting

for students of the Eastern countries, many of whom were visiting western cities for the first time. One commented that he was astonished to discover the level of anti-Soviet feeling, especially in Prague and Warsaw. "We are told by our media that Soviet citizens are regarded the world over with admiration and envy" he said. "It's not true. We need to tell our young citizens of the real thoughts of our young colleagues in other countries; we need to avoid both information given from on high and politics. We must have more student exchange".

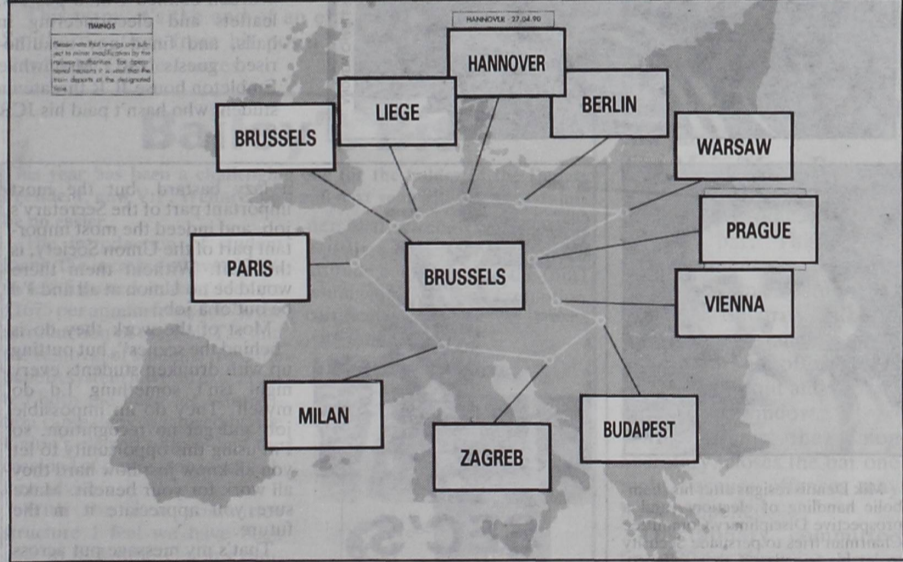
Western students on the other hand were impressed by the sincerity and genuine feeling of the people from Eastern Europe. "Perhaps as they suffered under an oppressive regime for 40 years, they have acquired a unique moral strength". "We in the West have a lot to learn from our Eastern brothers" said some participants.

Tim Hammond.



A Prague student celebrates the Communists' downfall

[Pic: Tim Hammond]



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PUBLIC LECTURES
EASTER TERM 1990

Thursday, 17th May,
6.00 p.m.

Cinema and the Environment
of the Mind
David Puttnam C.B.E.
Film Producer

Friday 18th May,
1.10 p.m.

Understanding Urban Church
Decline

Robin Gill
William Leech Professorial Fellow
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That was the year

CUTHBERT, MIK &

It was the year of the killer London, and the RAG/CALLENCE seemed to be increasing were closed, and Loans bills tax entered our lives, as did lion. Read on . . .

Violence

October - A student couple are beaten up by muggers, late at night in Fenham.

November - A student is attacked and slashed with a razor, while walking back to Henderson Hall. He needed seven stitches in his forearm.

- Bouncers at the Studio nightclub are accused of violence against students.

December - A student is raped in Leazes Park.

February - Three students were beaten up, returning home up Stanhope Street on a Friday night.

The Union was shocked by the murder of Ann Davison, a popular member of staff.



Break-ins:

Leazes Terrace is burgled repeatedly in October.

Sixty Fenham houses are broken-into over Christmas.

Three weeks into Lent term, the Bursar of Leazes Terrace had her car broken into when she was stationary at a junction. The Terrace's thieves snatched her handbag. Students were on shifts, twenty-four hours a day, guarding entrances; extra security staff were employed and students were assured that they would be completely safe by Easter.

Richardson Road becomes the latest target for burglars.

Academic life:

Mining Engineering freshers were told, a week before coming to Newcastle, that their courses had been transferred to Leeds. Meanwhile, Newcastle's last Geology students graduate this year.



Polytechnic students protest at being made to pay for all materials, and at staff cutbacks.

The Geography library is shut down.

Bernard Ingham is appointed as a visiting professor of Politics.

The new chancellor, Lord Ridley, is inaugurated. The U.F.C. issues guideline prices for courses - Politics and Law faculties are alarmed at being under-priced.

Social Policy lecturer Robin Humphrey's non-appointment causes protest. A Physics Professor leaving for the States. Kate Adie and Lord McKie are awarded honorary degrees.

The Union - Term 1

Disabled access becomes an issue as the disabled entrance is found to be bricked up. Mark Crowhurst tries to get around the Union in a wheelchair. The Union starts to go green, and Ents try to charge for entry on a Friday night, to be stopped by a very large petition. Council refuse to allow The Women's Officer to be elected by women only.



The Union runs out of toilet paper.

Sport

Athletic Union 1989/90

Notable victories and achievements this year:

Clay Pigeon - B.U.S.F. Champions.

Rugby - Victory over Durham first time in 23 years.

Netball Club - two teams in U.A.U. semi-finals.

Indoor Cricket - reached finals, eventually finishing third.

Canoe Slalom - third at B.U.S.F. competition.

Orienteering reaching the final stages of J.K. competition for the first time.

Parachute - winners of Topcliffe Challenge Shield.

Sailing - B.U.S.A. men's and women's quarter finalist.

Volleyball - reached U.A.U. finals.

Basketball - reached U.A.U. and B.S.S.F. finals.

There have also been awarded 13 FULL ROYALS this year for



representation at English Universities level.

Women's Intra Mural has run smoothly this year with the help of Jenny Watt, the results being as follows:

Squash - Dentists.

Badminton - Agrics.

Netball - Medics.

Overall league winners - dentists.

There was also the revival of



Hanson Day being won once again by the dentists.

Membership of clubs has increased greatly this year; it is sad, however, that we don't have the funding to keep on promoting them.

The first two terms were hectic, to say the least - Wednesdays in particular when, after Christmas, you find yourself with 15 teams playing different universities, 10 of those away matches in locations around the country - one coach did a round trip to Birmingham, Cardiff and Swansea - and no one got left behind!

I'd like to say a big thanks to all those people who have taken time to help this year: club captains, AU Exec., Standing Committee and Ann - it often can be a thankless task.

And now the Union . . . Bureaucratic, back-stabbing, petty politics and bickering

whereby those with the biggest egos exercise them in order to get things done their way - if some people cared about the Union a bit more instead of their own egos, the future would look a lot more promising than it does at present.

I'll take this chance to wish Vicky well for the coming year - and remember, be careful when choosing your mates.



JENNY CARTER Athletic Union President

"Security are . . ."

The biggest innovation in the Union's security force this year was the song "Security are Wankers", sung to the same tune as "We won't pay the poll tax" and popularised by sports clubs and agrics. Agrics started sporting red T-shirts, in the sincerest form of flattery, with the lyrics on the back. The new Main (Mens) Bar, with its posh, vandal-friendly fittings, caused resentment at first, but that had died down by last term.

The year's main features:

1. Security has worked as a united team, proving effective in times of crisis.
2. Security has had to face more antagonism than ever before from groups within the Union.
3. Vandalism has been down this year.
4. The number of culprits taken before disciplinary committee is up.
5. Contrary to the popular belief of the agrics, Security are not wankers.
6. The stiff fines imposed at the start of the year by disciplinary committee has led to fewer

acts of petty vandalism.

7. The deviousness of the agrics has increased to an all-time pettiness.

There have been problems liaising with the Ents crew on gig nights, and Fridays. Walkie-talkies proved very useful in controlling gigs and packed events; although they appear to be too expensive to buy, we'll carry on renting them. Unfortunately, a small group within the agrics, and various sports clubs on their off-nights, have behaved abominably. The real-ale bar was wrecked by Armstrong Rugby club; The Medics under-21s attempted to rip down the University notice boards in the Main Bar; light brackets and seats have been ripped out and thrown out of the window. Security stewards and ordinary drinkers have been intimidated by flying beer, enclosed by a glass or not; before or after entering the thrower's mouth.

Security: despise them, scorn them or ignore them, we can't do without them.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Bloody pissed off! That's how I feel at the moment - this place is really starting to get to me. The year started off quite slowly, working myself into the job, but it has snowballed and now everything seems to be happening at once - there's not enough time.

As the pressure increases (and your amount of sleep decreases) small cracks appear in what were originally sound ideas - the floodgates open, everything seems to be going wrong, you pick up the pieces and run. SMACK - you've hit a brick wall. You bounce off and run the other way only to run into another; vitality and confidence seeping away each time. That's how I feel at the moment - bloody pissed off!

I've been accused by the left as a 'fascist', I've been accused by the right as a 'leftie' - does anyone else have any suggestions? I'm not too sure myself now. All I know is that I'm a student. We're in a Catch 22. Newcastle University students do not, at the moment (as a whole), get involved. You don't

vote in elections, etc. The majority of people who do vote have some political allegiance and so usually the people elected do as well. You cannot then complain about this place being too political



GRAEME MITCHELL President N.U.S. and External Affairs

cal - if anything, it's your fault that it is.

You see:

Too political

don't vote don't participate

As for our National Union - it is quite capable of providing the

government with enough ammunition to blast it out forever. It doesn't need any help. Until 'ordinary' students get involved at local level and then at national conference, NUS will remain unrepresentative.

I've had a mixed year; I don't think any Level 6 barriers have been broken down, participation is at its lowest ever - we seem to be pissing into the wind. I've been proud to represent you at the inauguration of Viscount Ridley as our new Chancellor and on many other occasions - hopefully putting forward to the media a positive image of students rather than a negative one.

All that's left is to thank everyone, both staff and students, for allowing me this great opportunity and to plead with you all to get involved - respect the Union (building and staff) - together we can make it a great place to come.

Good luck to next year's Exec. (you'll need it!) and apologies for the language.

Yours having tried, Graeme Mitchell

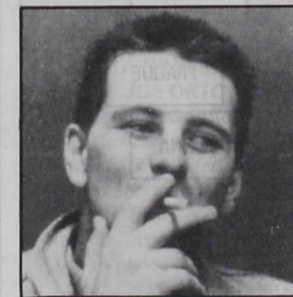
The Stories that ran and ran Part 1: Fort Leazes

The Union's accommodation officer, Mark Crowhurst, surveyed the feelings of students in halls. Findings: Hall food was abysmal. Leazes rules were draconian and JCR committees were on "power trips". JCR presidents wrote and complained.

The name "Fort Leazes" was coined, as Ron Smithard, head Warden banned Union posters, leaflets and electioneering in halls, and fined any unauthorised guests £10. Meanwhile Embleton house JCR threaten a student who hasn't paid his JCR fees.



PICTURE BY ANDREW CHARLESWORTH



SEC'S TALK

Mik Dennis resigns after his shambolic handling of elections, and a prospective Disciplinary Committee Chairman tries to persuade Security to let his friends off their offence. The Communist Society are found to have fraudulently made up their membership list. The Union building runs out of toilet paper.

Brian Higgins is elected Secretary and applies his 'individual style' for the job. The Union has an Aids Awareness Week, the Christian Union advocates sex inside of marriage, and helium-filled condoms fly. The Henderson Sloanes become the focus of the letters page.

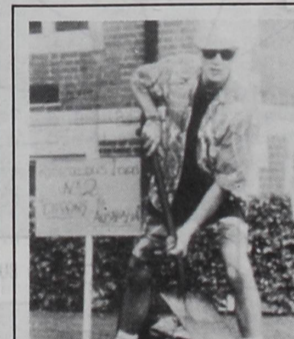
Price Waterhouse were "not re-appointed" as the Union's auditors because of their South African and student loans links.

Term 2:

A mini-beer festival filled the bars. Politicians slugged it out over how to spell "Ceaucescu".

Space Cadet called 'C. Talbot c.t.' and was then surprised 'that his name was not "Curt"'. Elections happened: 1,200 people vote. Mike Shallcross is next year's (Communist Society) President. Iain Pigg debated his victory as Secretary in the Letters column for weeks. Pete Marsh is our (Labour) V.P. Finance. Natalie O'Neill our V.P. Welfare. Andy Seel our Ents Officer, and Vicky Sunter our A.U. President.

Meanwhile, various candidates put sheets over their heads. Tim Farron is elected onto the N.U.S. Executive.



SEC'S TALK

Apparently I've got four hundred words to tell you what I've been doing all year.

Well . . . I could lie through my teeth and use all 400 or I could tell the truth, in which case I've finished already - bye!!

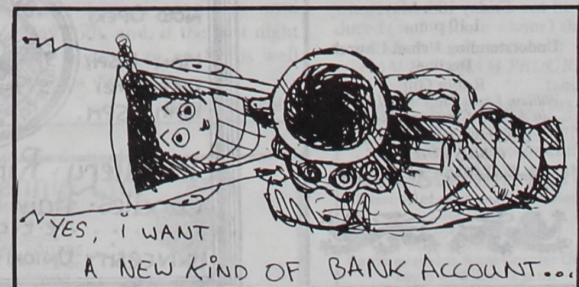
But seriously, all I want to say is that coming into the job last December with no training at all was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. I can't thank the rest of the sabbatical team enough for all the help they've given me, even if the President is

a lazy bastard, but the most important part of the Secretary's job, and indeed the most important part of the Union Society, is the staff. Without them there would be no Union at all and I'd be out of a job.

Most of the work they do is "behind the scenes", but putting up with drunken students every night isn't something I'd do myself. They do an impossible job and get no recognition, so I'm using this opportunity to let you all know just how hard they all work for your benefit. Make sure you appreciate it in the future.

That's my message put across - all I need to do now is award the five "SECRETARY'S AWARDS FOR GREATNESS", the prizes for which can be collected from my office.

1. Best SABBATICAL OFFICER - myself of course!
2. Best SONG OF THE YEAR - "Security are Wankers".
3. Biggest BUNCH OF WANKERS - Security.
4. Most INJURED PERSON - me, when this is published.
5. Biggest JOKE OF THE YEAR - next year's Executives!



That was

THE KILLER FLU

flu, of arrests in
AW debate. Vio-
ling. Departments
passed. The Poll
"Cuthbert" the

A year may be a long time in student politics, but it is frustratingly short for this Sabbatical.

The financial position of the Union is not at its best, and as V.P. Finance it has been my dubious honour to keep the old tub afloat. It is already May, and all the grand ideas and schemes that I had on election night have remained just that.

Nevertheless there have been successes: the redevelopment of Level 4 and the Main Bar, although greeted with little acclaim at the beginning of the year, have resulted in more people using the bars and catering facilities than ever before.

Although the bulk of my work has been financial, I am probably better known as the provider of minibuses. This part of my job is boring, tedious and difficult, but at least it gives me a chance to meet students and ask for their contributions on the running of the Union.

My other nightmare is the Women's Nightbus, and I would like to thank all those who have driven this year and am proud to say that only a handful of nights have not been covered.

It only remains for me to thank those with thankless tasks: the other members of Executive and Council and all members of staff. Until I started this job I didn't realise quite how much work went into providing me with so many services. Finally, good luck to next year's officers.

Matthew Terry
Vice President Finance



The Sun invented a mob of students outside the Union, as Kenneth Clarke arrived incognito with an ambulance crew.

Nescafe coffee is banned, along with all Nestlé goods.

Agrics market new ideas in food in the Union. A 'killer' pasta machine is found in the Main Bar.

Mr. S. Chester's signature is altered to "Twat features", Mike Shallcross is accused.

A medic saves the life of an elderly man in Eldon Square.

The University Theatre Society gets a bad review. Courier can't move for the 'outraged' letters.

Campaigns:

Loans: Despite protests in Glasgow and London, large petitions and the Vice-Chancellors' proposed graduate tax, Student Loans look set to arrive next September. They will be administered by a Scottish Company, after all the banks pulled out of the scheme.

Fees: Vice Chancellors proposed that students may have to be charged for part of their course fees, which they "assured" that the Government would fund.



Evil student militia prepare to face Angel of Mercy, timid Kenneth.

Poll Tax: The Government proposed a Poll Tax of £324, the Council set it at £390.60, thousands of students refused to register or pay.

Ambulances: Large demos passed through Newcastle.

The stories that ran and ran part 2.

RAG/CAW
In the very first issue of Courier, Jake Chambers, the Community Action Week (CAW) organiser reckons that it might be an idea to have a Rag week instead.

Two weeks later the opposition reply, in verse peppered with four letter words.

The letters page moves into top gear. A general meeting is called, tempers rise, it's Jake vs Pat Gordon and Brian Higgins and Jake wins. A cross-campus ballot calls on council to change the name, and they call a constitutional general meeting to replace references to CAW with RAG.

All eyes are on Jake and the boys, who had to prove that students would be more excited by Rag than CAW. RAG flee from their base in the SCAN shop, and eventually settle in the excc. work room. They sign a "contract in blood" that RAG will be a success. Posters spring up everywhere. Two RAG hitch-hikers are arrested in Somerset. Agrics allegedly "danced naked" at the Hitch-hike party, the Hit squad humiliates people for money. A Japanese-style "Endurance" competition ends in acrimony. RAG mags can't be sold in York.

But RAG is a success, raising £6,000 for charity.

Now Jake moves on, trying to install a RAG/First Year Conference sabbatical officer—we'll keep you posted.

The stories that ran and ran part 3:

The Main/Mens Bar:

Matthew Terry, the Union Treasurer introduces the new "Main" bar. This £50,000 refurbishment is promptly vandalised and a student is injured. Security take a "tough new stance", filing reports for all offences. A seat is ripped out and thrown through the window.

Mik Dennis, the Union Secretary, closes the bar one night because offences may have happened.

Disciplinary committee fine £20 for throwing glasses and £40 (and a ban) for pissing in corridors.

Letters attack (and defend): The new name, the decoration, the unfinished state. Mid November, and ex-hockey players spark-off a riot, surrounding security and bombarding them with beer and glasses. Security pull-out and close the bar, to reduce the ammunition. Security morale hits rock bottom. Iain Pigg explains the origins of the "Mens" bar.

Disciplinary fines £40 for a moonie.

The second term, and the focus of violence moves away from the Mens bar and down to Agric nights on Level 2. The Agric society is to be disciplined—then it isn't.

The Airport Lounge, which disappeared into the Endsleigh office is to be recreated. Moves are afoot to rename the bar.

The University makes a sixth massive surplus in seven years from Hall rents, an area which is supposed to be non-profit making.

Next week Smithard explained his actions, and Leazes food was compared favourably with that in a "Strange cultural background". . . The letters page hotted up . . . JCR fees were criticised and defended.

By February it's getting serious: Hall inmates are being refused the right to drink milk at breakfast.

By March it's: "Play by the rules or no puddings."

The students strike back: Led by the "Fort Leazes Escape Committee", Havelock diners en masse . . . leave their trays on their tables and refuse to tidy up.

This term, it's the end of an era, as Ron Smithard retires from his position as head warden of Castle Leazes.



Bailey's Bit

This year has been a challenging one for the holder of the Deputy President, now V.P. Welfare, post and next year will almost certainly be no easier.

The introduction of student loans, the increase of over 175% in self financed student fees (to £1675 per annum from £607), the introduction of the Poll Tax and the removal of students from the benefit system have all exacerbated both the need for information campaigns organised by the Union's elected officers and the caseload of our professional welfare advisers.

With the new committee structure I feel we have been able to make the Union's campaigning and welfare branches more open to the suggestions, needs and demands of the membership, this process has to continue.

Information campaigns such as the AIDS Awareness Week, Housing information stalls, environment and health weeks have set the tone for future welfare provision as a service to the members with the emphasis on choice and variety of information to meeting different needs.

We have to make our welfare side increasingly accessible since it is my belief that this (in its broadest sense) is the main, if not only real justification for the existence of Student Unions.

On the more nitty gritty side I have seen the usual insensitivity (and I say 'usual' with a great degree of disappointment) exercised by the University towards cases of individual misfortune specifically in the areas of appeals for academic concessions to retake or reassess studies in the light of unfortunate

personal circumstances, and equally a regrettably pigheaded attitude being taken to the (not) issuing of Poll Tax exemption certificates to students paying part-time fees.



CHRIS BAILEY IS TOLD HOW TO RUN A BATH

I trust that our 'good relationship' with the University is not going to develop into a situation where we cease to complain while both students individually and the Union collectively are left to financial starvation and increasing powerlessness.

I feel that our biggest failure this year has been our inability to communicate to our members at large—as opposed to those in the Union—the variety of the services and opportunities—not least to hold elected office—which we offer them.

Money:

As the Union Society continues its drive towards bankruptcy Safair International goes bust, owing the Union £1,000 for its rent on Level 5.

Janet Scott is employed to "attract funding from commerce and industry". The Union's new logo costs £3,000, £1,900 is granted to buy walkie-talkies for Security.

R.P.M. and Design concept had not signed any contracts by February 1990.



UNION SOCIETY
University of Newcastle upon Tyne

trying to look cool in a Talbot van in shades.

Hairiest legs of the Year: Jenny Carter.

Embezzlement of the Year: Mat Terry in Singapore.

"Caught in the Act": Chris Bailey.

Direct gig of the Year: The Notting Hillbillies.

Record of the Year: "Bust a Move" Young M.C. "Loaded" Primal Scream.

Average ticket price: Five sheets.

Biggest Flop of the Year: The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

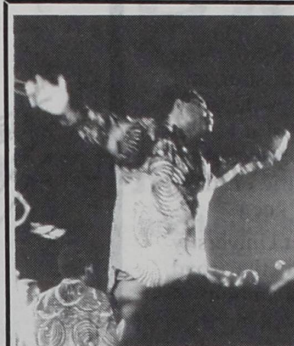
Biggest comeback: Nelson Mandela.

Crappiest slogan: Bus Stop—The place to get off at (cos nobody did!)

Anti-climax of the Year: RAG.

Goordie Lass of the Year: Jooliey/Hevva.

Thanks to: THE Ents Crew, Mike, Dave and to all those who supported us this year. Good luck to Andy next year—you'll be good Son.



Gig of the Year: The Real Sounds of Africa with Norman Cook.

Novelty of the Year: Smoke, sell outs.

Accessory of the Year: Hooded tops, travel fox.

Joke of the Year: The Ents Officer's attempt at a beard.

Sex of the Year: The Travel fox Brothers.

Sex accessory of the Year: Earthshaker.

Poseur of the year: M. Rayner



Steve Phillips, Mark Knopfler, Guy Fletcher, Brendan Croker

Students' Year

The academic year is coming to an end. First years have now completed what may well have been their first 'memorable' year at Newcastle University. What are their impressions of the Union Society?

Courier questioned a cross section of first year students on their views of the Union's activities, services and executive's work. They were found to have somewhat mixed views.

Asked what they thought of "Ents", whether there has been a good cross section of gigs and other events, most said that they thought Ents did a good job. However, it is felt that not enough fringe bands play in the Union, especially in the Main Bar. It is thought that more fringe bands, such as local jazz or 'R and B' bands should play regularly.

When asked "In your view are the Welfare Services satisfactory?" many students had very little to say apart from looking bemused. Students did not seem to be aware that Welfare services actually exist. Once informed that this includes services such as the late-night minibus a more positive response was provoked.

Students were then asked if they could recollect any of the campaigns or awareness weeks

that have taken place. Most students were hard pressed to remember. When they did remember they did not feel that any real impact had been made. Some thought this could be rectified if a higher profile were given to these events. Generally it was felt though that awareness weeks were not a waste of time but needed to reach out to more people.

Most students said food and drink throughout the Union was "not very cheap, but not overpriced". Some did say that the food is cheaper outside the Union. This was not thought to be the case with the Union Shop.

The question of whether the Union informed students of its events and activities was also raised. Some did say they thought publicity was adequate. However, the majority said publicity could be a lot better and more extensive, especially concerning elections. Those living in Castle Leazes said there was virtually no publicity and they complained of empty notice

boards.

Finally students were asked if they thought the Union Sabbatical Officers did a good job. Most said they were not really aware of the Sabbatical Officers. This suggests two possibilities—that the Sabbaticals work hard enough to go quietly unnoticed doing a satisfactory job or that they are not at their jobs as often as they should be. Some did complain about not being able to see the Sabbatical officers when they needed to. The view that the Sabbaticals simply do the job to improve their "C.V.'s" was also expressed.

It was surprising how often comparisons were made with the Polytechnic. It appears that most first years have been more impressed with the Polytechnic's Union notably their building, it was said to be better suited, prices and Friday night bop. Does this mean that our Union Society and next year's officers should take a leaf out of the Polytechnic's Union book?

Enver Solomon

Road Runner

"HIGHWAY TO HELL"

Regulars at the Strawberry and the Broken Doll, two popular Newcastle pubs, could lose their drinking grounds if plans to build a controversial new road go ahead.

By taking traffic off the Tyne Bridge and over Redheugh Bridge instead, the scheme aims to ease traffic congestion in the City Centre, but under its path will fall the Strawberry, the Broken Doll and two listed buildings, one of which houses part of the old city walls.

Les Russell, Chair of the Development Planning and Highway's Commission, and a supporter of the scheme, says the road will be attractive, in the style of a boulevard. The residents of Leazes Mews, who will find the four lanes of traffic on their doorstep, may not be quite so keen.

The scheme is likely to affect University Students dramatically. With the road ending up in Percy Street, the amount of traffic in the Haymarket area will increase substantially, producing a need for pedestrian subways or equivalent facilities. But what about disabled students?

Mr. Russell stresses that the road will be 'pedestrian friendly' and very safe. Admitting that it will be very busy, Mr. Russell commented: "All roads are barriers, even the one I live on. They all have to be crossed, to get to the other side".

But are the advantages that the road aims to provide worth the problems it threatens to create? Mark Corner, Labour Councillor for Kenton has serious doubts. He says that of the 80,000 vehicles that use the Tyne Bridge at present, this number would only be reduced by 8,000 if plans to build the road go ahead. Although the traffic jams would probably be relieved around Blenheim Street, they will simply be transferred to St. Thomas' Street and Haymarket.

The road forms part of a plan to completely change the West of the City. At St. James' Metro Station there are plans for a shopping concourse to be built, with the road flying overhead. In the Haymarket area, the small shops near the taxi ranks will be demolished in favour of a covered walkway extending Eldon Square from the Monument to Haymarket Metro.

Opposition to the road is growing. The Asian Traders in Blenheim Street are

angry about the loss of their shops, local residents are anxious about the quality of life in the area once the road is built. Mark Corner thinks the road is unnecessary, "We're the only city in Europe now building a major road through the centre of the city".

Where the emphasis elsewhere is on schemes to reduce the number of cars in city centres and rely more heavily on public transport systems such as 'Park and Ride', Newcastle Council seem to be favouring a different approach.

According to Les Russell 'the road will serve the needs of those people who want to go into the centre of the city'.

But questions are in the air as to where the traffic is headed for after it arrives in Haymarket. Large multi-storey car parks are evidently the idea, a sure way to attract more people to park in the city centre, rather than on the outskirts.

Alternative routes have been suggested. A road skirting the city along Barrack Road, Grandstand Road and joining the Great North Road would provide a suitable bypass over Redheugh Bridge for those wishing to avoid the city altogether, an option the West Central Route fails to take account of.

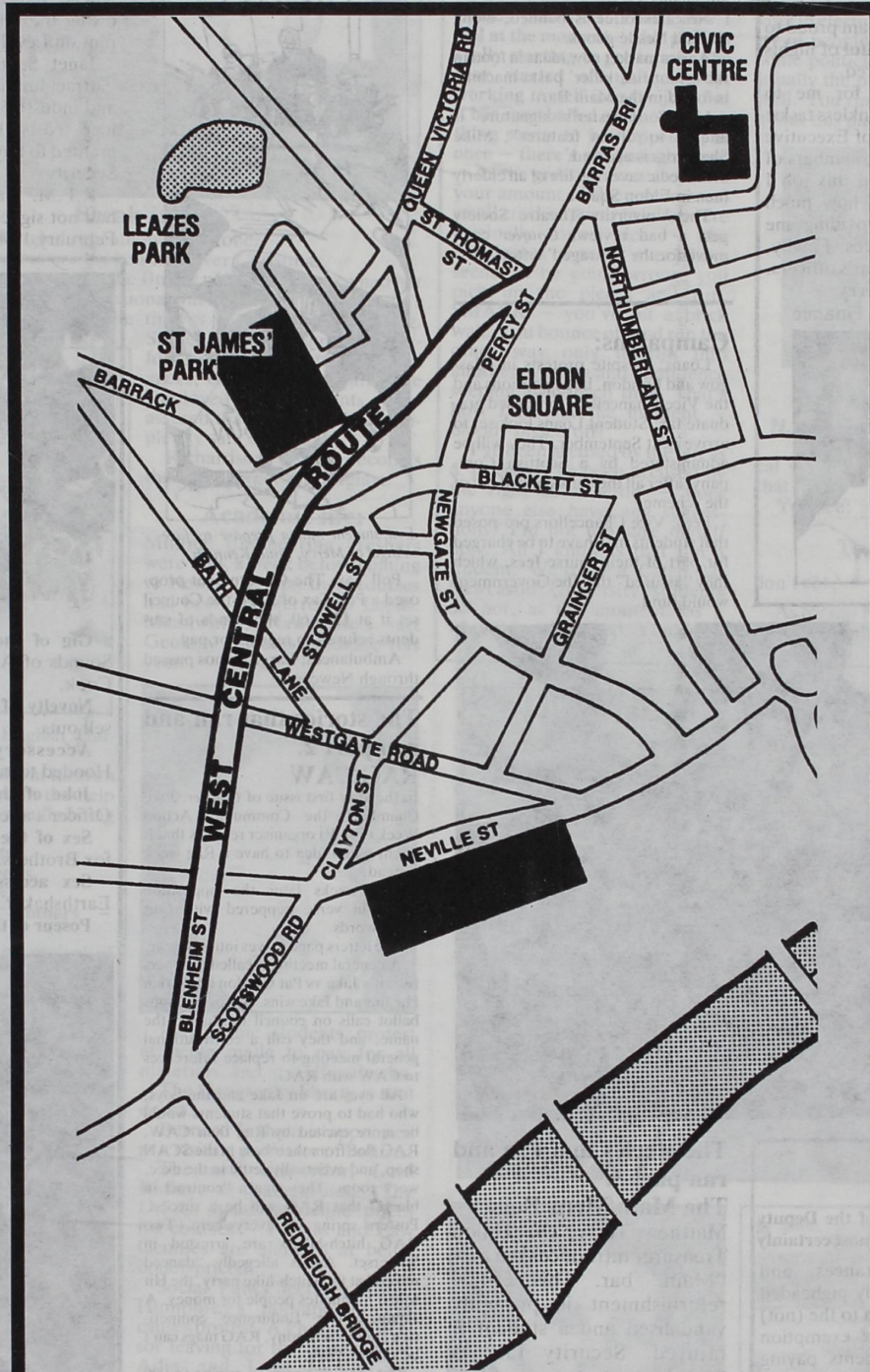
One of the advantages the proposed route aims to bring about is to 'free the historic core of the city'. The little metal castles embedded in the City's pavements recently, point a path towards the University, suggesting its historical interest to the city. But evidently this is not part of the "historic core" as the West central Route in effect isolates the University from the rest of the city.

Les Russell believes that opposition to the scheme is natural "I think people always resent change, no-one more so than I".


Mark Corner does not object to change as such, simply to change in the form of the West Central Route.

Although the road has already received approval from the City Council, it has yet to obtain planning permission, and a public enquiry seems likely.

Debs Dudgeon.



A map of the proposed route for the highway


 UNION SOCIETY
 University of Newcastle upon Tyne

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We'll sell your books for you.
 Contact: Margaret
 Extension 289—Level 3
 11.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.

RAG '90
 Please help us finalise the figures

There is a lot of uncollected sponsor money about; we know this is exam term and time is short, but could everyone try and get in all or some of the money to the

General Office,
 Level 6,
 by Friday, 25th May.

Cheers,
 Rag Committee
 ○ ~ ~ ~ ○

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sale



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ON THE DECK

Inspir Carpets - Life

It would appear that this band have a different view of "life" than most. For them, twelve virtually identical sequences of 60's crappy organ, mixed with meaningless droning lyrics and incessant tedium, would seem to suffice.

Realising just how trendy the 'Carpets' are, I desperately tried to find something to compliment, but I'm afraid that their music is as derivative and objectionable as their haircuts.

Summerhill - West of Here

Summerhill are incredibly bland I'm afraid and what's worse, I can't even imagine who on earth they would appeal to. Their songs are Adult-Orientated soft rock-outs but whereas contemporaries like Phil Collins and Wet Wet Wet have a certain idiosyncratic charm, these lads have nothing but inoffensive melodies anaemically produced. You will not like this!

The Mean Fiddler Live Acoustic Album

12 tracks recorded at London's celebrated 'new folk' club. Sometimes haunting, other times amusing this album at least showcases people willing to resist the pop clichés of the Kylie brigade. For that quiet night in writing poetry (ahem!).

Whitehouse - The Cream of the Second Coming

If you ever wondered why Big Black and Butthole Surfers sound the way they do then check out this double-LP of material from early 80's noise merchants Whitehouse. Sheer unadulterated pain!

Urban Dance Squad - Mental Floss for the Globe

I was very pleased with this mix of rap with "real" instruments. Whilst sometimes tending to sound like Red Hot Chili Peppers/Fishbone, UDS managed to be very innovative on their funk/soul/Ragamuffin experiments, mixing in Pedal Steel guitars and acoustic basses to great effect, introducing previously unused aspects to what is becoming a slightly stagnant form of music. Interesting.

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds - The Good Son

Not to everyone's taste, the new album from Nick Cave and the lads is a pretty gloomy affair, but what else would you expect. Nick's sullen vocal is perfectly complemented by the dark rhythms, piano strings, sorrow, death and lament are all dealt with in a way Nick and the seeds have become very practised.

On the whole it's a very good album, if not terribly cheery, which should be worthy of your attention.

Ravencathaus - Brothers in the Sun

Hang on, what's this? No, could it be long lost sisters Of Mercy demo tapes complete with a real drummer to keep the drum machine company?

Apparently not, but it does a very good impersonation of one. A consistently dull LP which is badly produced too. One wonders why they even bothered. Perhaps the drum machine could consider a solo career.

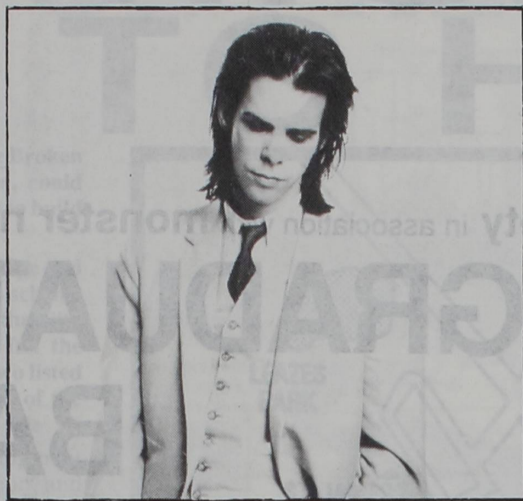
The walking seeds - Bad OrbWhirling Ball

Liverpool's finest, one of the few British rock bands actually worth bothering with. A curious LP probably best described as Americanised psychedelic grunge rock in a similar vein to B.A.L.L.

This LP shows an improvement over their previous outings having a more varied sound, it conceals some gems plus a manic version of 'She Said, She Said', which would probably see J. Lennon trip in his grave. They are, however, still at their best in their fuzz-frenzied rock outs. Worth playing loud!

Records reviewed by Colin, Chris and Phil. Records supplied by Volume Records.

DECK PICS



Nick Cave. (Record reviewed left.)



Urban Dance Squad.

PRE-VIEW De La Soul

De La Soul sold out Level 2 last term, now The ENTS Boys have branched out to promote De La Soul at the Mayfair. It's guaranteed to be one hell of a night, as this lot are the most 'different' rap band around. They sample anything (including Darryl Hall and John Oates!) to provide the backing to their softer, non-ranting rap... As they say: "We are public speakers, not M.C.s".

HILLBILLIES

The Notting Hillbillies
The Union - Level 2
28th April 1990

Brilliant! From the opening notes to the very last echoes of the second encore, BRILLIANT.

Not a bum note or wrong chord from any of them - a few false starts, but even Homer sometimes nods! Messrs. Knopfler, Croker, Phillips and Fletcher ably backed by a drummer, bassist, steel guitarist and us, rock and rolled their way through nearly 3 hours of superlative blues and rock and roll style music.

Some were well known; Knopflers "Why Worry" and the classic "Shake Rattle and Roll" had us imitating a massed Welsh Choir or a packed St. James' Park. Others weren't but still had us tapping our feet. I don't think I've ever seen Level 2 so crowded; judging by the response it was well received. There was a mix of Straits Hillbillies and Brendan Croker songs and tons of classic tracks too. As I said, BRILLIANT.

Dani

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TOMORROW'S MUSIC TODAY.

Ride, Tull, Cats and Carpets

Ride/Charlottes - Riverside 10th May 1990

The Charlottes are all right if you like My Bloody Valentine, and, as I like My Bloody Valentine, they were all right. Ride, though, are a different proposition. Over the last few months these boys have become something of a pop sensation. They do seem a shade 100 percent: a cute singer; all scarily adolescent and two blistering EP's behind them.

The opening chords of Seagull clearly distinguished Ride from the inexperienced Charlottes. Andy and Mark (guitars and vocals) seemed to unleash melodic noise with ease and the audience responded with equal energy. Then we were treated to an awesome encore of "Drive Blind" and "Chelsea Girl". Just as we thought the set had finished, the guitars exploded back into life, sending the crowd back into a frenzy - Ride couldn't have left the stage better. If you missed this, expect to pay £6 next time.

After the gig, a bit of quick thinking and name dropping saw us safely backstage for a somewhat important interview. Singer Mark, after telling us the band's next moves (LP out October, kids!) says he finds Southern audiences boring and he wants to play Newcastle more often. On the evidence of tonight, Newcastle would sure as hell like them back.

Beginning and End, Rick. Middle bit - Kash.

Jethro Tull - Sunderland Empire 6/5/90

As part of a nationwide tour of "places we used to play 20 years ago", Tull came to Sunderland. Let's face it, after 30 million album sales they didn't have to, but thousands of letters from provincial fans (Sunderland ones too, presumably) inspired them.

Playing songs from their 1968 inception to their most recent (1989) material, a 2 hour professional, but informal show ensued. Ian Anderson's banter often being as entertaining as the music itself, an electric mix of jazz, blues, hard rock, folk and even Bach!

This was no tacky greatest hits show, however, the perennial rock classic 'Aqualung' and 'Locomotive Breath' were aired as usual. The new, harder-edged songs were welcomed as warmly as the old ones by the capacity audience.

Unlike The Who or The Stones, Tull can still actually play, and they're not just peddling the same wares. Not really living in the past at all, in fact.

Mike Chavez

The Family Cat Newcastle Riverside - May 9th

The Family Cat must be one of the most under-rated, under-promoted bands in Britain. While their contemporaries, Lush, are playing the main stage at Glastonbury, and The Senseless Things are causing stage-diving riots at the Riverside, there's only a largish handful of those in the know here.

They play "indie" rock guitars with intelligence and energy, their singer can sing and be heard, while the rest of the band complement, but don't drown out, the words.

The band played a couple of encores after a great set, promoting their new EP, and the excellent mini LP "Tell 'em we're surfing". Not quite up to the standard of their autumn tour, but good nevertheless.

Just think, if they hadn't had to pull out of the Buzzcocks tour, because of 'flu, they might be playing the Union by now, and not have to live off sales of their excellent T-shirts.

Rob

Inspir Carpets Mayfair - 30th April

The Mayfair was packed to capacity to see the unassuming lads from Oldham. Never before in the history of Newcastle has there been such a concentration of flares, hooded sweatshirts and naff hats. The average Inspir Carpets fan is about 14 and looks a pratt. The band look similar.

The music started promisingly with "The Real Thing". Unfortunately at their best, the Inspir Carpets are only average. Many songs merely sounding like poor early Stranglers. Any sentiment or meaning in the songs was lost by the lead singers inability to sing intelligibly. The lads, pre-empting the boredom of the odd critic, laid on a lovely slide show on the back cloth.

For all this, the Inspirals can play well, and clever use of keyboards is a welcome relief from the more usual indie guitar dirge. Couldn't help thinking, at the end of the night, that their initial intentions from inception wasn't to play in front of 1,500 sad fashion clones screaming 'Moo!' at every interval with all the intelligence of the animal they were trying to mimic.

Howie & Craig

Thanks to all the reviewers and interviewers who have written this page week after week. Special thanks to Colin Swift for being in the Cochrane when I needed to shift some records; to Simon Wood for reviewing everything that moved; to Sarah and Rachael, Phil Best, Richard Foster, Chris Wood, Chris Bailey and Michael X. Thanks to Helen for putting up with being a *Courier* widow, and to Carol and Jeremy for putting up with me.

Thanks to Volume for the records, Graham at the Riverside for the tickets, Chris Pyne for the same, and Peter Brennan at the City Hall.

Thanks to Ian, Andy, Debs, Becky and Kevin - what a team. Also, thanks y'all for reading this.

Finally: cheers Tim, you've been a brilliant editor; I hope I can keep up the good work next year.

Rob

*Special thanks to Mon - we couldn't do it without her.

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Interview

Still Going Strong

Tony Benn talks to Enver Solomon

The infamous pipe and red tie made Tony Benn easily distinguishable amongst the crowds gathering for the Tyneside May Day Centenary March and Rally.

At 65 years old Mr. Benn is still going strong, travelling up and down the country to attend political rallies. His diet of vegetarian food and numerous cups of tea (Mr. Benn is tee-total) seems to have kept him fit and healthy.



Anthony Wedgewood Benn, the Debating Chamber, 1971

Unlike most politicians today Mr. Benn is quite happy to wander amongst crowds chatting to anyone and everybody. He did not mind having his picture taken with a screaming, blubbery baby in his arms. His friendly, approachable character has made him many friends all over the world.

Between various conversations I managed to have a few words with Mr. Benn before the march began. He is a great believer in talking to the public. He told me that he has learned many things that books could have never taught him from simply chatting to people.

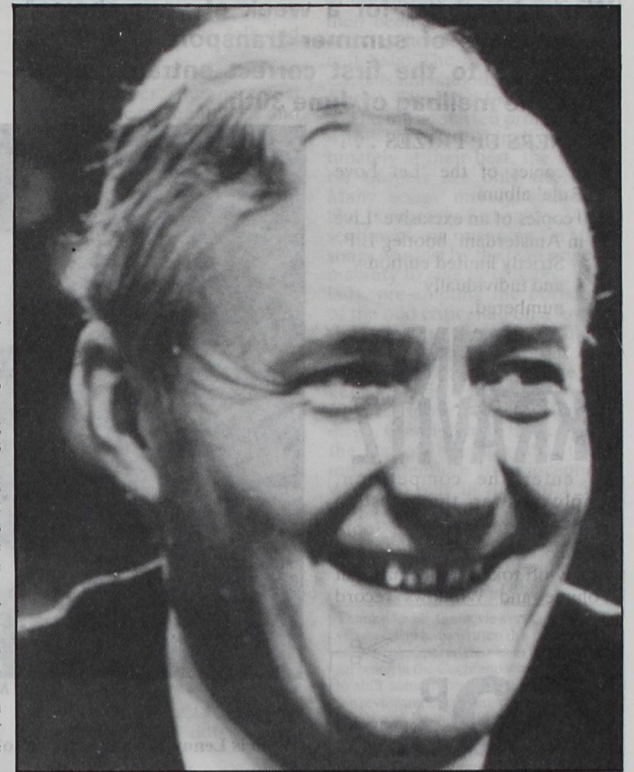
I asked him if he supported non-payment of the community charge. "I am not telling people to pay," he said. "It is a personal decision... those who wish not to pay should be supported."

He described the local election results as "very good and most promising for the Labour Party." However, the loss of Ealing Council (Mr. Benn's son is deputy leader of the Council) and Brent Council was a "great shame."

I then asked Mr. Benn if he agreed with Mr. Kinnock's recent statement that Mrs. Thatcher will be forced to resign before the next election. "I'm not interested in such talk of Mrs. Thatcher resigning," he replied. "What is important is shifting people's attitudes and changing their ideas." But is the Labour Party doing this? "The Labour Party is like an army going into battle at the moment, it is more concerned with winning the next election."

Mr. Benn has never been reluctant to voice his criticism of the Labour Party. He is clearly not entirely happy with the present state of the party. "The Labour Party is becoming more like the Democrats in America which means you ditch the left, ditch the Unions, ditch politics so that it becomes all balloons and stage management."

Despite this scepticism of the present state of the Labour Party Mr. Benn believes the tide is now turning against Mrs. Thatcher. "The Thatcher nightmare is coming to an end" he says, "1990 is a time of hope for the future."



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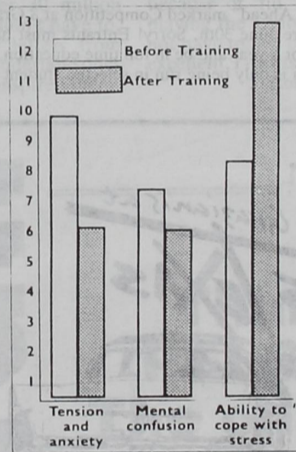
It's late May. Exams loom. You've probably just spent a marathon session in the library (provided you found somewhere to sit). You've taken up smoking again. And there's been an atmosphere of tension and anxiety in the flat as of late. Solution: a few jars in the pub? Definitely not, according to Professor Steptoe of St. George's Hospital Psychology Department in London (that's 071 don't forget).

"Scientists have proved that dramatic improvements in levels of stress and anxiety can be made quite simply by a change of lifestyle," he claims. "The answer lies in establishing a regular exercise routine."

Experiments carried out by Professor Steptoe's team involved volunteers doing 20 minutes of vigorous exercise three times a week with stress levels being measured before and after the programme. The completion of the exercise programme saw a marked decrease in levels of tension, anxiety and confusion.

"Psychologically, an active lifestyle will help clear thinking and make it easier to cope with stress and depression," is the Professor's conclusion. He has set out a five-point "beating stress" plan:

STUDYING STRESS



- 1 Try to walk or cycle rather than catching a bus or train.
- 2 Play sport after a period of study instead of going to the bar.
- 3 Use stairs rather than lifts or escalators.
- 4 Try to exercise for 15 minutes three days a week.
- 5 Check on University notice boards to see what sports are available.

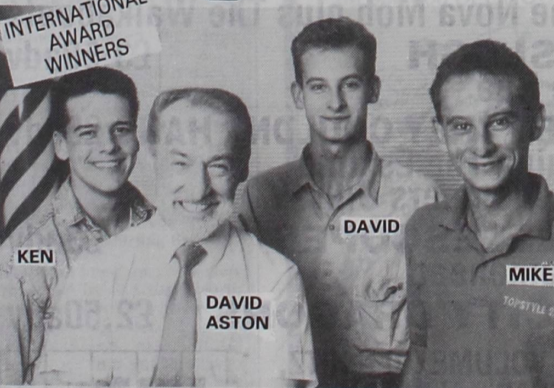
Practitioners at Claremont Sports Hall, Richardson Road, however, have long been wise to these tips and for a nominal 85p fee run lunchtime aerobics sessions anytime from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Alternatively, you can "Wake up and Shake up" with Marion Turner for only 50p at her 8.15 a.m. sessions in the sports hall on Wednesday and Friday or partake of the innovative Jazzercise sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. And it's not just women who go along to "feel the burn."

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So, remember Professor Steptoe's five point plan and exam blues could be a thing of the past.

Gary Ross

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Cycling East

Newcastle Medical Students Sarah Bucknell and Matt Howse set off cycling for the Save The Children Fund, this summer. Destination Prague.

The idea on paper may at first glance seem rather simple. In the summer of 1990 we intend to cycle from Rotterdam firstly to East Berlin and then to Prague. The trip will be in aid of The Save The Children Fund.

2,100 miles, not an insurmountable distance perhaps, but as you can no doubt well imagine the project would probably not have been possible a few months ago.

The project also involves contacting beforehand the student unions in both Berlin and Prague to arrange a meeting place where we could talk about the dramatic changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe. It will be a fantastic experience to link what we have seen in the news here to what has and is actually happening in Eastern Europe. It would be interesting enough to see the changes from our point of view but we will find out first hand how the changes have affected the young people and their aspirations for the future.

Perhaps you are wondering why we find it necessary to traverse the greater proportion of Europe in an attempt to raise money for charity. Most ordinary folk find their fund raising appetite more than accounted for by the occasional day spent out in the rain shaking a red plastic money box. The collectors might well be shouting 'unclean' judging by the frantic attempts to avoid parting with money. People as much as a hundred yards away can be seen to cross the road in avoidance of a collector. If nothing else we will find out if the rest of Europe react in the same way to charity fund raising.

What are our qualifications for the job? All of us over the years have spent a lot of time abroad in various ways, shapes and forms. The most relevant voyage undertaken was in 1987 when we cycled 2385 miles through 10 countries, France, Monaco, Italy, Yugoslavia, Germany, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Belgium and Austria. We are therefore no stranger to punctures, buckled wheels, wood ants and the most dangerous Italian drivers.

We have already been promised full coverage in our local newspaper and radio. BBC North West have also shown interest in the expedition, we shall be contacting the BBC again in the near future.

So all that I need to do is to crawl to all you beautiful kind generous people and ask you to help or sponsor us in any way you think possible. If you do want to help us please contact Sarah Bucknell or Matt Howse, 'medics' through the students' union or directly in one of the many public houses they frequent on a regular basis.

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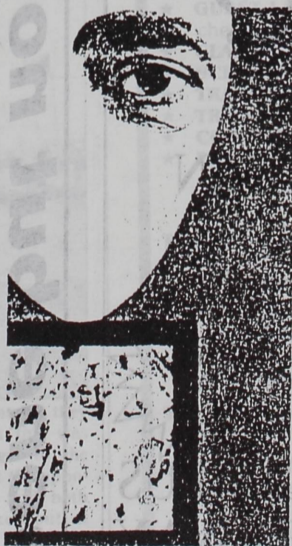
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Interview

A Marxist today

It was probably Bismarck who first defined politics as the "art of the possible" but for Martin Jacques, yuppy editor of the glossy magazine Marxism Today, politics should be about making the impossible actually happen.

And why not? Who would have thought that a few months ago the citizens of East Germany would literally walk away with the Berlin Wall in their handbags to show their grand children or that Lech Walesa would be wandering up and down Wall St. selling Poland to the highest bidder?

For Martin Jacques, a member of the Communist Party (CP) since 1964, all this is wonderful. Three years after joining, as the Soviet tanks began rolling into Prague, he began to reassess his orthodox Marxist roots – a process he says has continued to the present day.

"It's a funny way of looking at it I suppose, but the present disintegration of the Communist world is something I began to feel in '67 and '68. That's when I first began clocking it".

Martin Jacques has disavowed the Stalinist legacy bequeathed to him by his parents who joined the Communist Party at the end of WWII – the era of good old Uncle Joe, then framed as the saviour of the West.

In fact this disavowal has gone so far over the years that it is not altogether clear to the casual observer whether Martin Jacques is really a Marxist at all.

In the CP's recent *Manifesto for New Times* which Jacques helped to write, there is no mention of key words such as 'dialectics', 'vanguards' or 'industrial proletarians'. And as for revolution...

"I have nothing but contempt for socialists who would seek to say they know better than what people think, what people want,

what they decide and who have won that right to decide over decades of struggle from societies who tried to deny them that right".

Martin Jacques is a designer Marxist; he is economy-sized at about 5'7", mostly bald and what hair he has is cropped. He drives a Peugeot 205 GTi 1.9 – the ultimate yuppy car – drinks only wine and lives almost in Islington.

Born in Coventry to "upper working class/lower middle class" parents, he was brought up in a "discursive environment" and started his university career

at Manchester as a mathematician.

However, already a member of the Young Communist League, by this point he was becoming "pretty political". He soon moved into the social sciences gaining a first-class degree in economics followed by a spell studying for a PhD at Cambridge during the heady days of student revolt in the 1960s.

Subsequently he taught at Bristol University before becoming the Editor of *Marxism Today* in 1977. He took over from the elderly James Klugman who had been a friend of the

called Rusty. By virtue of its name, it could be said that the cat is actually redder in hue than its owner. Jacques admits that the word 'communist' is important to him only in an oblique sense.

"It's got to be important in that I've been a member of the communist Party for 26 years, I've worked for the Communist Party for the last 12 and *Marxism Today* is published by the Communist Party. So in those sorts of ways it's awfully important to me.

"But while I think of myself as a member of the Communist

Party, I don't think the Communist Party has a future. I distinguish between the Communist Party as an existing political form and a lot of things that have come from the Communist Party over the past ten years.

"It has been dynamic, creative and imaginative and has had plenty of impact outside itself, whereas the Communist Party itself has been declining rather rapidly throughout this period.

"I am still a communist but the real question is: what does that mean? For me personally it doesn't mean very much except in an historic sense".

It is a testament to his virtuosity and hard work that while the membership of his publishers, the Communist Party of Great Britain, stood at 26,000 and the circulation of *Marxism Today* at 3,500 when Martin Jacques took over in the late seventies, today the CP claims only 7,500 members and his magazine sells 15,600 copies a month.

Marxism Today is Jacques' baby and exclusively his creation. In 1977 he worked alone with a 75 year-old part-time typist but he has now built up a dedicated collective of about 11 paid editorial staff and a large number of volunteers.

Martin Jacques is nothing if not eclectic in his choice of contributors and interviewees. The latter have included Kenneth Clarke, Esther Ranson and Andrew Neil. A somewhat startled Mr. Clarke is quoted thus: "I hate to begin by agreeing with every word you say, but yes".

It is generally agreed that he is an excellent editor and a driven



Martin Jacques

man. He works long hours for a salary of only £12,000, including freelance work as a columnist for *The Sunday Times* ("a sort of left-wing house pet" as Peregrine Worsthorne, Editor of the *Telegraph* describes him).

He is always in demand for T.V. appearances on programmes such as 'Newsnight' and he broke off our interview for a few minutes so that we could listen to him on BBC radio's 'File on Four'.

He loves being courted by the

media and watching himself on television and does not intend to edit *Marxism Today* forever. It is said he would have been a millionaire by now if he had gone into business.

However, despite the eulogies bestowed on him from sections of both left and right, Martin Jacques still says his ambition remains "to modernise the thinking of the left to break with Philistine labourism".

Dominic Nutt.

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UNI-CYCLISTS!

L'ENFER DU NORD
Newcastle University Road Club once again triumphed over adversity (Union minibuses) and entered a six-man squad in the tough Keld four-day cycle race.

Day one saw the fearless riders brave freezing conditions and the big shock was the team's No. 1 rider Andy "I'm not an invalid" Dumbill cracking on the final ascent of the day. Fortunately Anthony

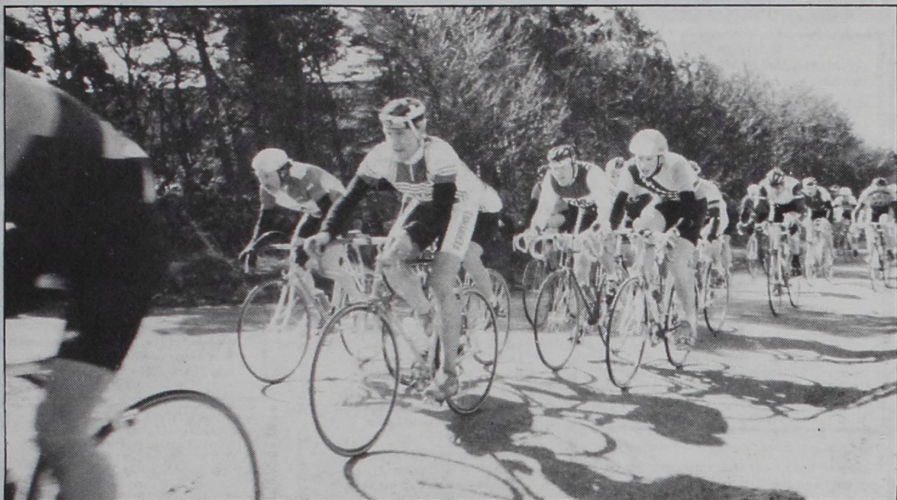
Mills was on form to keep the team in contention.

Over the next three days the weather improved but the terrain grew worse. Jon Hilsden suffered a spectacular crash during the mountain

bike stage in which Ted Sarmiento took first place.

Neil McLoughlin attempted a heroic solo breakaway on Tan Hill, the final climb of the race. However, he was caught by a thirsty peleton headed by Simon "Agric" Pearson with only a few metres to go to the bar.

OVERALL RESULTS
King of the Mountains
Andy Dumbill
Sprints Jon Hilsden
Best Under 21 Anthony Mills
Best Veteran
Neil McLoughlin
Best Newcomer
Simon Pearson
Lantern Rouge
Ted Sarmiento



Jon Hilsden putting in a strong performance in the 50-mile Tranwell circuit race.

Ethel Girls Stuffed

UNIVERSITY LADIES 7, ETHEL WILLIAMS HALL 0

The reputation of the University Ladies football team was at stake as they stepped out to play Ethel Williams Hall, on Sunday, March 18th. Undaunted by the large number of Ethel's supporters, shouting verbal abuse from

the sidelines, the University team soon took the lead, due to a brilliant goal from Lucy, and by half-time were 2-0 ahead.

During the second half the University totally dominated the match scoring five more goals,

one from a penalty. The final score was 7-0, Cheryl, our goalie, was bored and let's face it Ethels — you were crap!

University team and goalscorers—Cheryl, Marie 2, Sarah 1, Janet (penalty), Lucy 2, Sharon, Jilly, Wend, Elaine, Stella, Nel.

Medal Madness

Were it not for controversial disqualification of the mens 4x400m team from the U.A.U. bronze medal, the 1990 B.U.S.F./U.A.U. athletics championships in Antrim, Northern Ireland, would have ended perfectly.

Still, some good performances shone through, even on a rain soaked second day. Andy "Butch" Pemberton gained a hard worked for U.A.U. bronze in the 400m.

Rob Leonard tactically out-jumped better athletes on paper in the pole vault to gain the B.U.S.F. & U.A.U. silver in the worst of the weather.

Keith White narrowly missed medals in both the high jump and the 400m hurdles (4th and 6th respectively) the latter being a great achievement as the standard of this event was arguably higher than any other.

On top of this, many personal

bests were set and quite a few progressed beyond the preliminary rounds.

Some were less fortunate, our chief scapegoat Murray "It's your fault" Seddon failed to progress in the 200m by 0.15 seconds, but did an admirable job as team captain. Thanks Murray, Tom Payne, the rest of the team and the Irish for making this year's champs successful and most importantly, an enjoyable one.
R. Leonard

Sailing Success



On the 3rd April, two teams from Newcastle Sailing Club descended upon London for the team racing event of the year. The British Universities Sailing Championship is the biggest event of its kind with 60 teams of six competing. This vast crowd of mostly inebriated sailors all stayed in one of the host's (City University, London) Halls of Residence in the heart of that

great metropolis.

The weather, apart from the odd snow storm, astounded itself providing us with three days of sun.

The first team qualified for the quarter-finals as the best runner-up on points having carelessly thrown away first place in their league.

In the ladies event, Newcastle were involved in a three-way tie at the top of their

league. Unfortunately they lost on points but this was good enough to get to the quarter-finals. But the opposition was better and both teams were knocked out at this stage.

The first team, however, must be given a special pat on the back as only eight teams out of 40 made the quarter-finals.

RAGGED RUGBY ROMP!

Henderson v Ethels
Rag Week rugby match—
11th March

A sunny Cochrane Park played host for the season's second confrontation between rival Halls — Henderson and Ethel Williams. From the kick-off it was clear that the 300 m.p.h. winds were to play a major role, with the banana kicks coming in thick and fast. Both teams settled down quickly, but the opening play revealed the superior agility and blinding pace of Henderson's five props, who included the veteran 'Dusty' Phelps, who once achieved six caps for East Molesey Under Nines.

This initial pressure led to Adam Jeffrey swooping into the corner like a blood-thirsty sparrow. This was followed by good Henderson rucking and handling which allowed Banksy and his fish-like capabilities to swim through the sea of blue shirts to add another four points. 'Dusty' Phelps then demonstrated his immense skills at place kicking by putting all his weight behind the successful conversion. Then there was a punch.

Ethel's strong recovery featured gazelle-like running throughout the whole of the 22, but penetration was consistently blocked by the 12-year-old centre, Andy 'Buster' Douglass. This possession proved fruitless as Henderson's oversized leprechaun, Lauren Stewart,

stormed through like a bull in a shoe shop to make the half-time score 14-0.

As expected the second half followed the first and Ethels came back with strength and determination, obviously encouraged by Jake Chamber's Hare-Krisna-style dancing and singing. Ethel's masterful dominance began to grow as they whipped Henderson with some fleeting runs. This pressure was augmented by constant pack support, with the half-time substitution of their Warden proving as valuable as his string vest.

Outstanding running by Ben Beeches and Jamie 'le dix' led to two crucial tries — 14-10. Trojan-like defensive work from those good looking Henderson boys (and Mike Cox) created a turn around which led to a final 10 minutes of sensational rugby.

Despite Neil Welsh's strange tactical kicking, Henderson held on and a final surge was rewarded by a successful penalty kick from a monstrous 14 yards, which surely must leave Simon Hodgkinson in doubt about his England selection.

A game is never over until the final whistle so when it was blown, it was over. Captain Mike Cox, seemed over the moon and, when interviewed, remarked "I'm over the moon." In contrast, Ethel's seemed as sick as those proverbial parrots.

At the end of the day everyone had given at least 110%, if not more. The crowd also did us proud by raising a splendid 59p for Rag Week. It must be said that, apart from Henderson of course, rugby was the real winner. Better luck next year girls. **Guy Timewell**



Jake Chambers?!



Real Pubs

Legendary Yorkshire Heroes operates 18 pubs in the North East. They are pubs that will appeal to YOU because

They are DIFFERENT

They specialise in:

- ★ **REAL ALES** — several types of classic and "guest" beers from 150 breweries.
- ★ **GUEST LAGERS** — a range of lagers, including **DRAUGHT Red Stripe!** — cheaper than cans, better tasting and less posey!
- ★ **CLASSIC IMPORTED BEERS** — e.g. Belgian Trappist beers.
- ★ **SCRUMPY CIDER.**
- ★ **TRADITIONAL FOOD** (including breakfasts at the Royal Archer).
- ★ **TRADITIONAL SURROUNDINGS.**
- ★ **COMMUNITY JUKEBOXES** — bring your own records!
- ★ **ENTERTAINMENT.**

Near the centre of Newcastle are:

THE ROYAL ARCHER (to be renamed "Legendary Yorkshire Heroes")
Archbold Terrace, Jesmond

Breakfasts from 8 a.m. Huge range of real ales and lagers. Pour out of bed for your Sunday dinner here.

O'DWYER, Diana Street, behind Newcastle Breweries

A classic bar with Irish feel, Irish real ales, stouts and spirits, Irish music and food. A belter!

THE PLOUGH (to be renamed "Legendary Yorkshire Heroes"), **Byker Bank, Byker**
On the Byker "real ale circuit".

THE INDEPENDENT, Elswick Road

Big Lamp Elswick Ale at 60p a pint for a while! A classic traditional bar in the making.

Search Them Out — You'll Be Glad You Did!

RING 224 0444 FOR DETAILS

Real ale in polypins and casks available for parties.

Listings

What's on and Where

SUBSCRIPTION DRAW

115 wins a dozen cans of beer donated by Vaux Breweries.
 334 wins a £5 voucher donated by Kard Bar, Cross Street.
 53 wins lunch for two (value £5) donated by the Barley Mow, Sandgate.
 1468 wins 2 complimentary tickets donated by the Gulbenkian Studio (by arrangement).
 778 wins a £5 voucher donated by Flip, Cross Street.
 176 wins an LP or tape (value £6) donated by Volume Records, Ridley Place.
 218 wins 2 complimentary tickets donated by the Tyneside Cinema, Pilgrim Street.
 1082 wins a meal for 2 (value £5) donated by Wimpy, 24 Northumberland Street.
 456 wins 2 free tickets to a Union Event. (See Chris Pyne, Ent. Officer) by arrangement.
 579 wins bottle of wine donated by Gilbeys Vintners.
 1137 wins Sunday lunch for two, donated by Luckies Corner Bar, St. Mary's Place East.
 842 wins lunch for two or Happy Hour meal (value £5) donated by the Rupali Indian and Vegetarian Restaurant, Bigg Market.
 629 wins T-shirt donated by Vaux Breweries.
 976 wins a £5 Book House voucher, Ridley Place.
 95 wins a meal for two (value £5) at Spiny Normans, Level 6, Union Society.
 1572 wins a haircut and style donated by Top Style II for Men, 142 Northumberland Street.
 20 wins 1 Bus Stop pass to Level 2 Friday Night Disco.
 595 wins Free Session for two persons in Last Resort (by arrangement).
 30 wins film developed (1 hour service) donated by Quick Pics, 37 Nelson Street.
 Prizes to be collected by Monday, 21st May, 1990.

Since this is the last edition of *Courier* this term, we have not been able to fit all the listings for the rest of this term on this one page. But we have done our best to include as much as we can, for those of you able to tear yourselves away from your books for the odd evening. See Space Cadet for words of wisdom.

UNION

Thurs. 31 May
PSI GENERATION. Rave on Level 2.
 Sat. 9 June
THE CHARLTANS. £4.50.
 Wed. 20 June
DE LA SOUL. £7.00 at the Mayfair.
 Fri. 22 June
THE SUMMER PARTY "CARNIVAL".
 Sat. 23 June
AND WHY NOT? £5.50.
 Mondays
BINGO
 Tuesdays
COCHRANE QUIZ
 Fridays
BUS STOP DISCO.

THEATRE

THEATRE ROYAL
 May 21-26
"BLUES IN THE NIGHT"
 (Jazz/Blues musical, starring Stephanie Lawrance).
 May 28-June 2
"ON THE PISTE"
 (John Godber comedy).
 June 5-9
LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE.
 June 11-16
"HENCE FORWARD"
 (Alan Ayckbourn play).
 June 25-30
RENAISSANCE THEATRE COMPANY
KING LEAR/MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM
 (Kenneth Branagh, Richard Brinsley).
GULBENKIAN
 Until Saturday 26th May
THE ORTON FESTIVAL
 May 21-23
LOO
 May 23 & 25
FUNERAL GAMES
 May 24-26
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW
 June 1-3
VENTURE THEATRE COMPANY
RESCUERS SPEAKING
 June 15-16
SAILMAKER
 by Alan Spence
 June 20-23
NUTS: THE WATCHMAKER
 June 26-27
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY
G & S REVISITED

MUSIC

BROKEN DOLL
 Thurs. 17 May
THE BASTIONS
 £1.50 8.30 p.m.
 Fri. 18 May
THE ALIGATORS AND THE PLEASURE THIEVES
 £2.00 8.30 p.m.
 Sat. 19 May
DAKOTA PLAINS & SUPPORT
 £1.50 8.30 p.m.
 Sun. 20 May
CANDLEMAN SUMMER
 Free 1.00 p.m.
THE UGLY BROTHERS
 Free 9.00 p.m.
THE WENDY HOUSE (UP)
 £1.00 8.30 p.m.
 Mon. 21 May
DAN TO DAN (UP) GLASS PLACE
 Free 9.00 p.m.
 Tues. 22 May
SAID LIQUIDATOR
 £1.50 8.30 p.m.
 Wed. 23 May
THE DANGEROUS DINING CLUB
 £1.00 8.30 p.m.
 Thurs. 24 May
LAUGHIN SAMS D'CE & OUT OF CONTROL
 £2.00 8.30 p.m.
 Fri. 25 May
M.A.G. (Bands to be confirmed)
 £1.00 8.30 p.m.
 Sat. 26 May
THE LEAPIN LIZARDS & MEAN MR. MUSTARD
 £2.00 8.30 p.m.
 Sun. 27 May
RAY STUBBS ONE MAN BAND
 Free 1.00 p.m.
T.T. BLUES BAND
 Free 9.00 p.m.
BAD SAMARITANS (UP)
 £1.00 8.30 p.m.
RIVERSIDE
 Thurs. 17 May
THE RAILWAY CHILDREN
 £3 adv.
 Sat. 19 May
MEGA CITY FOUR plus THE THINGS plus CHINA DRUM
 £3 adv.

Mon. 21 May
AN EMOTIONAL FISH plus THE RYE plus THE HISTORY CHAIR
 £1 mem. £1.50 guest
 Wed. 23 May
THE FARM
 £4 adv.
 Thurs. 24 May
HANK WANGFORD plus FRIENDS OF HARRY
 £4 adv.
 Sat. 26 May
THE CHUFFINELLES plus ALL BECAUSE THE LADY LOVES plus POUT
 £2.50 adv.
 Sun. 27 May
ULTRA VIVID SCENE plus MAZZY STAR
 £3.50 adv.
 Mon. 28 May
KITCHENS OF DISTINCTION plus THE POPINJAYS
 £3 adv.
 Tues. 29 May
FUZZTONES plus MOURNING AFTER
 £4 adv.
 Wed. 30 May
DRIVE SHE SAID
 £5 adv.
 Sat. 2 June
NORTHSIDE
 £4 adv.
HARAMBE! AFRICA at the CORCHSIDE
 Wed. 6 June
ABDUL TEE JAYS TOKOTO plus JOHN CHBADURA
 Thurs. 7 June
THOMAS MAPFUMO
 Sat. 9 June
PK CHISALA plus MASASU plus KING MASCO
 Sun. 10 June
SPIRITUALIZED featuring SPACEMEN 3 plus DEEP
 £4 adv.
 Mon. 11 June
THE BLACK CROWES
 £5 adv.
 Tues. 12 June
CUD plus THE SUNFLOWERS
 £3.50 adv.
 Wed. 13 June
RIVERSIDES 5th BIRTHDAY WITH FRANK SIDEBOTTOM plus BIG FUN DISCO and BIG DRINK PROMOS.
 Strictly members only. £4 adv.
 Thurs. 14 June
NEW MODEL ARMY
 Strictly members only. £6 adv.
 Sat. 16 June
GARY CLAILS ON-U SOUND
 Sun. 17 June
TAD plus THE FLUID
 £3.50 adv.
 Mon. 18 June
GRANT HART (Ex Husker Du) plus THE NOVA MOB plus THE WALKABOUTS
 Wed. 20 June
YOU SLOSH plus LE RUE
 £3.50 adv.
 Thurs. 21 June
THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG plus QUINN THE ESKIMO
 Strictly members only. £5 adv.
 Tues. 26 June
THE TELESCOPES plus FLAMEHEAD
 £3 adv.
 Thurs. 28 June
KILL CITY DRAGONS
 £2.50 adv.

FILMS

Other events at The Live Theatre, Playhouse Foyer, Newcastle Arts Centre, the Corner House Heaton, Lonsdale Pub West Jesmond and Toscas Bistro next to the New Tyne Theatre.

TYNESIDE (Tel. 232 1507)
 Thurs. 17 May
 Jesus of Montreal (18) 8.15
 Strapless (15) 3.45, 6.15
 House of Bernarda Alba (15) 3.45, 8.30
 Steel Magnolias (PG) 6.00
 Fri. 18 May
 Jesus of Montreal (18) 6.15
 Strapless (15) 3.45, 8.45
 Steel Magnolias (PG) 3.30, 8.15
 House of Bernarda Alba (15) 6.00
 Sat. 19 June
 Explorers (U) 1.30
 Shirley Valentine (15) 4.00
 Jesus of Montreal (18) 6.15
 Strapless (15) 6.15
 House of Bernarda Alba (15) 3.45, 8.30
 Steel Magnolias (PG) 6.00
 Sun. 20 May
 Jesus of Montreal (18) 6.15
 Shirley Valentine (15) 4.00-8.35
 Strapless (15) 4.30, 2.25
 Entertaining... (18) 6.30
 Mon. 21 June
 Torrents of Spring (PG) 5.45
 Born on the 4th of July (18) 8.00
 Strapless (15) 6.15
 The Summer of Aviya (PG) 8.30
 Tues. 22 June
 Torrents of Spring (PG) 5.45
 Born on the 4th of July (18) 8.45
 The Summer of Aviya (PG) 6.15
 Strapless (15) 8.30
 Wed. 23 May
 Torrents of Spring (PG) 5.45
 Born on the 4th of July (18) 5.45
 The Summer of Aviya (PG) 4.15-8.30
 Strapless (15) 6.15
 Thurs. 24 May
 Torrents of Spring (PG) 3.45/8.45
 Born on the 4th of July (18) 3.00, 8.00
 The Summer of Aviya (PG) 4.15-8.30
 Strapless (15) 6.15
 Fri. 25 May
 Torrents of Spring (PG) 5.45
 Born on the 4th of July (18) 3.00, 8.00
 The Summer of Aviya (PG) 4.15-8.30
 Strapless (15) 6.15
 Sat. 26 May
 Pee Wee's Big Adventure (U) 1.30
 A Month in the Country (PG) 3.45
 Torrents of Spring (PG) 5.45
 Born on the 4th of July (18) 6.00
 The Summer of Aviya (PG) 4.15, 6.15
 Strapless (15) 8.30
 Sun. 27 May
 Born on the 4th of July (18) 4.00
 A Summer Story (15) 7.00
 Revolution! (Gateshead MIG) 8.45
 Strapless (15) 4.30
 Brother from... (15) 6.45
 Hollywood Shuffle (15) 8.45
 Mon. 28 May
 My Left Foot (12) 6.00
 The Fabulous Baker Boys (15) 8.30
 Romero (15) 6.30, 8.45
 Tues. 29 May
 The Fabulous Baker Boys (15) 6.00
 My Left Foot (12) 8.30
 Romero (15) 6.30
 Lenny, Live & Unleashed (15) 8.45
 Wed. 30 May
 My Left Foot (12) 3.45, 6.00
 The Fabulous Baker Boys (15) 8.30
 Romero (15) 6.30, 8.45
 Thurs. 31 May
 My Left Foot (12) 3.45, 6.00
 The Fabulous Baker Boys (15) 4.15, 6.30, 8.45
 Fri. 1 June
 My Left Foot (12) 6.00
 The Fabulous Baker Boys (15) 8.30
 Romero (15) 4.15, 6.30, 8.45
 Sat. 2 June
 Charlotte's Webb (U) 1.30
 Beverly Hills Cop (15) 3.30
 My Left Foot (12) 6.00
 The Fabulous Baker Boys (15) 8.30
 Romero (15) 4.15, 6.30, 8.45
 Sun. 3 June
 Coming to America (15) 4.00
 Beverly Hills Cop (15) 6.05
 My Left Foot (12) 8.30
 Pursued (PG) 4.15
 99 River Street (PG) 6.05
 Lenny & Hardy (U) 8.00
ODEON
 Pretty Woman 12.45, 3.15, 5.40, 8.15
 The Krays 12.45, 3.15, 5.40
 (except Sunday) 8.40
 Look Who's Talking 2.10, 4.20, 6.30, 8.40
 Leviathan 2.00, 4.10, 6.20, 8.35

JAZZ FESTIVAL

NEWCASTLE JAZZ FESTIVAL 1990
 May 26-June 3
 Sat. 26 May
NEWCASTLE PLAYHOUSE
JULIAN TUCKER BAND AND BILL SMITH/ ROLY VEITCH QUARTET
 Tickets £3.12 noon-2 p.m.
 May 26
STAN TRACEY BIG BAND
 Tickets £8.50 7.30 p.m.
 Sun. May 27
DON WELLER—BRYAN SPRING QUARTET
 Tickets £3.12 noon-2 p.m.
 May 27
MIKE STERN/BOB BERG BAND
 Tickets £8.50 7.30 p.m.
 Mon. May 28
CHRIS BARBER'S JAZZ & BLUES BAND
 Tickets £8.50 7.30 p.m.
 Tues. May 29
TOMMY SMITH GROUP
 Tickets £7.50 7.30 p.m.
 Wed. May 30
ROBIN JONES 'KING SALSA'
 Tickets £7.50 7.30 p.m.
 Thurs. May 31
'CHAMPION' JACK DUPRESS AND OTIS GRAND AND THE DANCE KINGS
 Tickets £8.50 7.30 p.m.
 Fri. June 1
COURTNEY PINE BAND
 Tickets £7.50 7.30 p.m.
 Sat. June 2
THE GREAT GUITARS, BARNEY KESSEL, CHARLIE BYRD AND MARTIN TAYLOR
 Tickets £8.50 7.30 p.m.

FILMS

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GALLERY

11 May-9 June
IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN THE ART AND COLLECTION OF FRITZ GROSS.

Sponsored by THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT

Personal Column

WANTED!
 Ethel's ITALIAN HAMSTER requires female for meaningful overnight relationship.
 Any offers taken, just ask for NICO!!
 All kinks catered for.

Love, happiness and Socialism for everybody. **The Fleet Boy**.
 Au Revoir, G. W. F. Dawson: God's Wonderful farmer? Green-Wellded flibbertybibbet?

8 out of 10 Camels say they prefer COMPUTER-GENERATED HUMPS.
 Contact: Dave Gibson, Department of Archaeology.

To my fellow 39ers I'll miss you gurlies—N.
 Thanks to Mike, Sid, Chris, Iggy, Brocky for your help and support. Love Chris.

Sir Butten Dawson (Con, Twinbeds & Cufflinks) 1987-1990
 Gone but not forgotten

To all SCANNERS,
 Many thanks for all your help, dedication and everything else for the last year. Keep coming down to the shop—I'm still around.
 Good luck in all your exams.
 See you in October
 Caroline

Gorgeous Winsome Fellow?
 Who was Burrows snogging on Tues?
 Find me an inflatable turnip!!!

TYNESIDE beware!
 The Fourth International shall rise again!
 Forward to the World Socialist Revolution!
 (Gateshead MIG)

Have the women's toilets been painted for the good of students—or was it for N.S.S.O. Conference?
 Is it true or was it just a rumour that one of our Sabbaticals was found compromisingly positioned on his desk?
 Exec—cheers Chris.

Is anyone running the GREAT NORTH RUN?
 Looking for a group to sponsor
 Why not choose SCAN?
 We need your money NOW!
 Interested? Come and see me in the SCAN SHOP.
 Caroline.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THIRD YEAR ACRYL BOLS IN THEIR FINALS:
 Ruth Hotlips Sutcliffe
 Bob Wanton Swanton
 Andy Machoman Lake
 Uncle Rob George
 Caroline Barbie Doll Fowler
 Marie oi be Devonian Stowell
 Johnny Fartpants Boucher
 Lorry Tequilahead Cattigan
 Kate Biker Myton
 Anne Innocent Purvis
 Lisa Agric Roberts
 Ruth Spacedout Williams
 Trevor Chunder Wonder Parker
 Phil Scousegit Smith
 LOVE TO YOU ALL
 (WELL, SOME OF YOU AT LEAST!)
 RICH (MAVERICK)

Gyles Mibbins: in for a third year if he's in for a day.
 To M. Mc Mo Unity is Strength. Love is Power. Action—Life.

SOMEONE TO TALK TO
Niteline
 ☎ 261 2905 8pm-8am
 Gropes Wanton females?

ODE TO J.C.
 Oh, JAKE! JAKE!, with you I wouldn't have to fake.
 In the morning we could wake in a wet patch as big as a lake
 And indulge in wine and chocolate cake...

How will Union Council cope when Sir Butten Dawson (Con, Pebmarsh & Twinstead) applies for the Children Hundreds?

Dolin Cawson—scratch my willy and I'll scratch yours.
 Hot chick patrol crew down to one due to the other flying nest.

LATE ENTRIES FOR THE EUROVISION SONG CONTEST BY THE MENS BAR MOB
 SUKY—I am a Cider Drinker
 ALY—Any old iron
 JEZ—Annie, I'm not your daddy
 PAUL—Onward Christian Soldiers
 ALY—Long Haired Lover from Skipton
 JEN—Another one bites the dust
 RUTH—I get around
 SAM—y viva Espana
 ANGIE—How much is that kitten in the window?
 ANNE—I am the Music Man
 HENRY AND RICH—Ruth's an Agric and she's O.K.
 TAPOLI—It takes Two
 BOB—Living in a Box

LUCY—Beware your French is letting you down!
 Coq au Vin literally means "Fxxk in a truck!"

HOLD IT!
 The weekend isn't finished until you've seen the JERICHO HORNS
 Bridge Hotel
 (next to the Castle Keep)
 ON SUNDAY NIGHTS
 8.00-10.30
 Well Jazzy way of seeing the week off, and spending any excess money!

THIS IS THE LAST PERSONAL COLUMN OF YOUR University careers. There can be no revenge. Thanks to everyone for creating the scandal, especially RUTH.

Thanks to all who helped with campaigns, info., etc. Let's hope students don't get too badly screwed by H.M. Government next year. My apologies to those who didn't get to demo's due to coach chaos (i.e. those who didn't pay and kept quiet), but think we had a generally successful year.
 Good luck next year.
 Yours,
 C. Bailey (V.P. Welfare).

Fenham 39ers enquiry: A—was it for a new set of tyres, or was there another reason for pulling the Mitchell-in-Man—Vroom vroom?

Is anyone running in the GREAT NORTH RUN?
 Looking for a group to sponsor?
 Why not choose SCAN?
 We need your money NOW!
 Interested? Come and see me in the SCAN SHOP.
 Caroline.

Ethel's JCR—it's been a pleasure working with you—except the tenth member.
 Is it true or is it a rumour that one of next year's Sabbaticals was caught in the act?
 B.F. good luck in the exams—Love you lots—GF.

MJB
 Carry on the good work.
 I'll always believe in you, even if you only just scrape a degree!
 All my love forever,
 ALB.

Gallivants With Foxhunters?
 Fenham 39ers
 To H and N—Happy revision!
 But remember all work and no play will make H and N very dull gurlies.
 And GOOD LUCK IN THE FINALS!

Gets Wildly Flustered?
 The World's Fastest Communication System, also known as BELLA BENWELL
 would like to thank his Comrades, brothers and sisters, drinking partners and powerhouse cronies for a wonderful year. Have an outrageous Summer, see you for an even more outrageous year in the Autumn.
 GAMT.

PANAMA JAZZMEN
 Dixieland Jazz available for functions * Parties * etc.
 Reasonable
 ☎ Blyth (0670) 361930
 or
 Tyneside (091) 2374354

SEX BOMB—GOOD LUCK, RABBIT xxx.
 Good luck to all those who bought Ents. tickets this year for your exam.
 Fenham 39ers announcement:
 The little room has now been "Christened" or was it Steved?
 O. How many Estate Managers does it take to change a light bulb?
 A. Five—Ian Davey to change it and four others to watch.
 MASCARA, DOLMIO, BIGG MARKET, NOVOMURA, QUANTAS Poppadam Zastava Are You?
 THE BIGG MARKET is here now. WHERE ARE YOU?

Thanks to:
 Rich, Andy, Bev, Paul, John, John, Eddie, Ash, Helen, Bev, Bernie, Caroline, Joff, Neil, Mark, Rup, Ken, Ade, Andy, Aidan, Janet, Annabel, Chris, Peter, Iain, Alex, Gibbo and Tim.
 Love Chris

Cheesy Biscuit and Colin's ex didn't get it on last Friday, an 18th isn't enough incentive for him to get it up!
 Is Donegal on the way to Rome?
 In close encounters of the pre-curdular kind with G. W. F. DAWSON, always remember to use a Constitution!

Matt Terry late back from Singapore obviously neither of his Rolex watches were working.

To the Sit Squad/Mad Sax III
 Adrina, Rico, and T.C.
 To 7F, for the birthday tea.
 And all who play with Big Nurse:
 Even in Cockney—where to start.
 When your turned "Cool" into art.
 For the Chair, and all your parts,
 I thank you—with all my heart.

BRIAN—we'll miss you!
 COLIN SMITH—a real treasure to us all. We owe you it all.
 Carter the unstoppable sex machine—show her a Smirnoff label and she's anyone's.
 CLOUD NINE—TALENT—CLOUD NINE—TALENT—TALENT.

SOME SAY SHE'S REVERTED TO BEING A HOME-CANNIES 'LASS...

SHE'S REPORTEDLY BEEN SPOTTED IN A BUDDHIST COMMUNE IN NORTH WALES

IN FACT, SOME DO SAY THAT SHE'S BEEN SEEN HIDING OUT IN LEVEL 6 (WHERE ELSE?)

LAST TERM, ANNA BELLA DISAPPEARED FROM THE UNIVERSITY. SOME FEAR ALL IS LOST. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGHTINGS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

AND, ANYWAY, I SAID YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME OUT IN THAT HORRID FIESTA...

OH, ANW, YOU'RE SO BRAVE...

WHY DON'T THEY GET A BLOODY SPINDRYER INSTALLED HERE, THIS IS DOING SIMPLY NOTHING FOR MY MANICURE

IF YOU DO SEE ANN, DON'T BOTHER TELLING COURIER, COS WE'VE PUT UP WITH HER FOR A YEAR, & IT'S GETTING US DOWN.