

Courier

Newcastle University Student Newspaper

Thursday, 22nd November, 1990.

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Archives 23/11/90

NOT TO BE REMOVED

THE BEST PUBS IN TOWN

- ★ **Legendary Yorkshire Heroes, Archbold Tce., Jesmond**
 - ★ **The Independent, Elswick Road, Elswick**
 - ★ **Plough Inn, Byker Bank, Byker**
 - ★ **O'Dwyer, Diana Street, Arthurs Hill, Fenham**
- Come and walk on Syd's new Carpet at the Plough! —

UNIVERSITY PUBLICATION

No. 829. Price 20p

£170 on Rents

University Council makes students pay for new halls with across-the-board rent rises

Proposals to increase hall fees to help pay for the cost of new housing were passed in University Council on Monday, despite considerable opposition from student representatives.

As reported over the last few weeks in *Courier*, the University is attempting to expand residential accommodation to cope with the expected rise in student numbers over the next few years. These plans were initially welcomed by the student body as a positive step towards alleviating the chronic housing shortage. However, it was revealed last week that the likely outcome of these proposals would be a surcharge on all University accommodation rents next year.

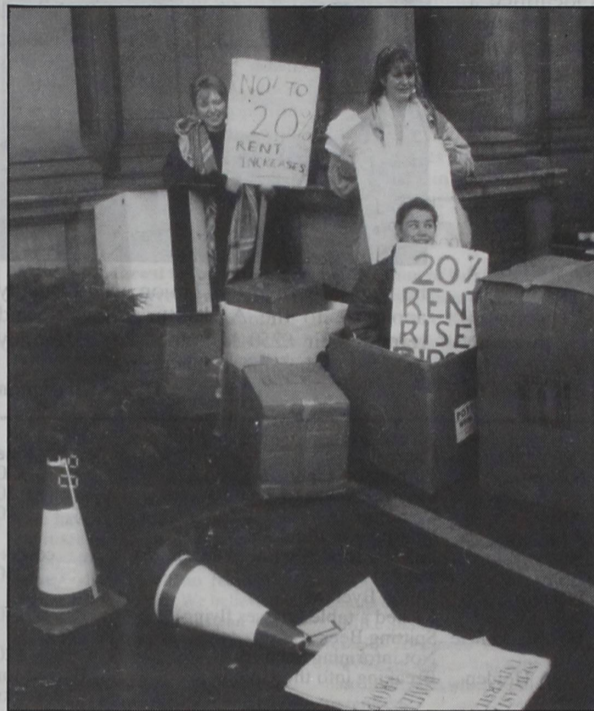
The building plans include the Marris House development on Richardson Road, renovation of the Grand Hotel (above Thornes Bookshop) into student family flats, a self-catering block in Windsor Terrace, and a £350,000 Lodge for the Vice-Chancellor. The cost of financing these schemes was to have come from the sale of the Deneway post-graduate flats and Vice-Chancellor's Lodge in Jesmond, but an increase in student rents was also suggested as an alternative means of income in the long term.

University Council voted these proposals through on Monday, choosing to ignore the plea that students would be unable to afford the increase in accommodation costs without suffering severe financial hardship. The cost is calcu-

lated to add approximately 5% on to University rents next year which, when inflation is accounted for at a conservative estimate of 8%, implies that a 13% rise is not unfeasible. This would mean, for example, that students in Castle Leazes will be paying nearly £170 more per year without any increase in grants to cover the cost. This almost certainly forces students into taking out a loan.

Mike Shallcross, Union President, told *Courier* that University Council had spent virtually no time at all considering other possibilities for financing the expansion in accommodation. The Council also ignored complaints that the Grand Hotel site was not suitable for family accommodation due to its position in the Haymarket. Mike warned that unless something is done to change the situation, the University might have to face a rent strike at the beginning of next year similar to those which occurred earlier this term at eight other higher education institutions. "Unless the University realise that we can't afford these rent increases the same thing will happen here. It's about time that people acknowledge the fact that we have a national crisis on our hands. The student accommodation problem is a time-bomb."

Richard Carpenter



Students demonstrate in cardboard box shanty town.

Pic: Fran England

Inside

COURIER TEAM AT AGRIC NIGHT

pg 10

Pissed Off Again

— News, pg 2

Top-Up Fees Update

— News, pg 3

RSC Newcastle

— Arts, pg 6

Trouble Brewing

— Feature, pg 8

Boz Worrall joins the Hunt Sabs.

— Insight, pg 10

U.A.U. Newcastle v Hull

— Sport, pg 11

Also

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| My Friend | pg 4 |
| Viewpoints | pg 4 |
| Letters | pg 5 |
| Music | pg 7 |
| Crossword | pg 10 |
| Listings | pg 12 |
| The Outcasts | pg 12 |
| Personal Column | pg 12 |
| Subscription Draw | pg 12 |

Demonstrate?

As soon as it was discovered that the University was planning to partly finance the building development schemes by increasing rents next year, the Union's "Campaigns and Protests" machine swung into action.

The Union was notified of the proposals last Tuesday and so had a relatively short time to organise any opposition. An emergency meeting was organised on Wednesday at which it was agreed to go ahead with a sleep-over outside the Armstrong Building on Sunday night, followed by a mass demonstration on Monday lunchtime to coincide with the start of University Council. Jim Cousins, Newcastle Central's MP, was invited to attend on the Monday morning, along with the press.

As it turned out, only a few stout-hearted student protesters arrived on Sunday night to brave the cold and it was decided to cancel the sleep-over and make placards instead. This brave bunch appeared again on Monday morning to lobby Jim Cousins and face the Press. Mr. Cousins dutifully turned up and agreed to present the problem to Parliament. However, the MP's beaming face failed to attract the television cameras and only the *Journal* and *Chronicle* bothered to cover the story.

Further excitement was to come on Monday lunchtime when the few willing demonstrators who arrived outside the Union at 1.00 p.m. were greeted by a definite lack of banners, placards or similar paraphernalia. These finally appeared fifteen minutes later, by which time most of the "protesters" had drifted inside for a stottie and a pint. The result was that there were only 21 protesters to unleash their venom on the University authorities at the start of the Council meeting.

Criticism has been levelled at the lack of publicity for the demonstration, which doubtless contributed to the small turnout (even by Newcastle's standards). David Holmes, a member of Socialist Worker Student Society (SWSS), told *Courier* "We welcomed the Union's decision to fight the proposed rent increase... but their approach was half-hearted to say the least."

Defending the Union's role, Mike Shallcross, President, argued that the short time available limited the level of the campaign that could be mounted. Confusion over taking down the wrong posters in the Union building over the weekend also contributed to the problems. Despite the drawbacks, Mike insisted that the protest is not a short term affair as hall rents are not finally set until next April. He added: "We have certainly succeeded in putting the issue on the agenda."

Richard Carpenter



Armstrong building, 1.40: five minutes before the demo (due at 1.30) arrived.

Students Beaten Up

Two Newcastle University students sustained serious injuries when falling victims to vicious, unprovoked attacks at a local nightclub on Thursday, 8th November.

Deep cuts to the head, a perforated eardrum and a fractured to the forehead were some of the injuries acquired.

The assault took place in Rockshots Club at around 12.30 a.m. whilst two research assistants and a post-graduate

student were "enjoying a quiet drink" on the Thursday night — a student night. One of them, totally unprovoked and without warning, was attacked within the club. He suffered a deep cut to his head which required stitches, a perforated eardrum and superficial cuts and bruises.

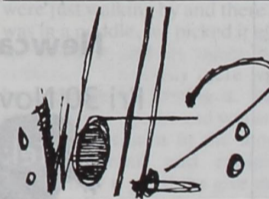
Worse was yet to come... Whilst he was being cleaned up in the cloakroom, the other research assistant told the bouncers what had happened, then went to see where his mate had gone, unaware that he was still inside the club. The next thing he remembers is waking up in casualty at the General Hospital.

When the ambulance arrived to see the first victim, they found him on the steps at the entrance to the club suffering from head injuries... he had a fractured forehead which ruptured his sinus, broken jaw, broken cheekbones, stitches in his lip, black eyes and various cuts and bruises.

He was detained overnight in the hospital but was discharged on Friday afternoon, whilst "in no state to be released" according to his companions.

Meanwhile the search for the two attackers continues. Northumbria Police are believed to have two leads on the case. It can only be hoped that the attackers are arrested, but for now the victims have issued a warning to fellow students: "We are not scare-mongering — go out and have a good time, but be on your guard against the possibility of such attacks".

Simon Bird



Protest? They couldn't organise a piss-up in a brewery!

KARD BAR

HARLEY DAVIDSON

T-SHIRTS (15 diff.) • BELT BUCKLES (10 diff.)

BASEBALL CAPS • HEAD SCARVES (15 diff.)

CROSS STREET (off Westgate Road)

6 Days 10-5

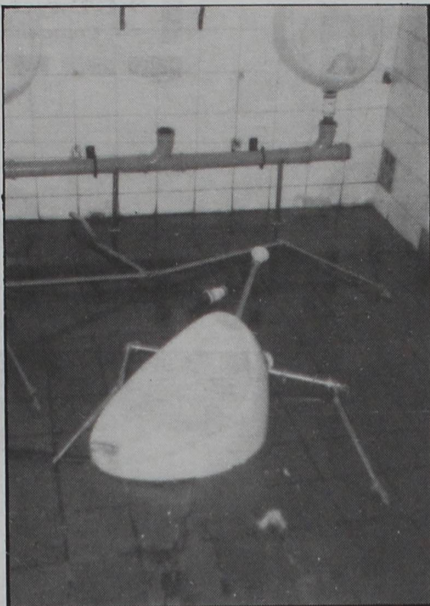
Telephone 232 8688

Vandalism mars Agric night again

The Level 2 men's toilets were heavily vandalised last Thursday night. One urinal and the pipework for two sets of urinals were ripped off the wall and several tiles were smashed. The cost of the repairs is expected to run into several hundred pounds.

The vandalism, which took place late in the evening marred a successful Agricultural Society Children in Need Night which raised £222. Security, Porters and the Agricultural Society are united in their belief that the culprit was not an Agricultural student but someone who went down to Level 2 to cause damage and discredit the Agrics. A member of staff explained: "the Agrics identified a person leaving the toilets immediately after the damage took place, then stayed on the main door to identify him but he escaped out of another door." Tim Furbank, Agricultural Society President said: "We know what he looks like, we will catch him, and when we do we will take him straight to security and hopefully he will pay for all the bloody damage. There was some damage last week and we believe it was the same bloke." He added "we pay for five security staff on a Thursday night and we want to know why there was no security in the loo."

If the offender does prove not to be an Agric and he does admit to causing the damage over the last few weeks it remains to



be seen whether the Union will formally apologise to the Agricultural Society and refund their £250 lost deposit and money paid for such damage this term.

Dylan Champion

Disciplinary Committee

To the right is a list of the results from the Disciplinary Committee meeting of 5th November.

| Defendant | Charge | Fine |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|
| N Vout | Turning on Lights in Level 2 | £20 |
| | Physical Abuse to Security | £50 |
| | Contempt | £10 |
| Also Armstrong Rugby | Smashing of fire door | |
| | Leaving Real Ale Bar in unsanitary state | costs+ £250 |
| L Smith | Union Byelaws | |
| | Kicked a table (glasses flying) | £40 |
| GD Mackenzie | Spitting Beer | |
| | Not informing Security | £20 |
| CDA Holden | Breaking into the Union | Barred for 2 weeks |
| Agricultural Society | Breaches of Byelaws | costs+ £200 |

Ben Thompson

Poly Lecturers' Pay Confusion

Money docked from Polytechnic Lecturers' wages after a recent half-day strike has resulted in confusion, malaise and the threat of court action.

The problem stems from the failure of employers to use a uniform method of calculation by which to make the deductions. Instead employers have chosen a whole collage of methods which has resulted in a variety of amounts being deducted. Trent Polytechnic and King Alfred College have made deductions based on 365 days. Others, including Polytechnic South West, have preferred to use 260 working days as their basis for deduction. By contrast, the Polytechnic and Colleges Forum (PCEF) advised 1/90th to be deducted from wages based on 180 working days (70 working days less than used by Polytechnic South West) which has been used by institutions in Newcastle and Sunderland.

The P.C.E.F. chief executive Roger Ward insisted he had urged employers to take a flexible approach to the half day strike "but the 1/90th calculation was based on the old contract." The irony in this ridiculous fiasco is that part of the reason for the strike in the first place was a protest against charges in the aforementioned old contract.

The Union, National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) is advising members to respond by meeting employers, but if no agreement is reached to take legal action in the small claims courts. Members considering making claims at court include staff at Luton College and those militants from across the road at Newcastle Polytechnic.

Bob Weatherley

Women's Own

At the meeting of the Union Council last Thursday, it was unanimously agreed that only women should be eligible to vote at the elections for the post of Women's Officer on the Council.

In an exact repetition of last year's amendment, that failed to be passed by one vote, Sacha Haywood persuaded Council to exclude men from the next election for the Women's Officer. As Iain Pigg, Sabbatical Secretary, pointed out, "It's a question of constituencies. The women in the Union are the Women Officer's constituency and so they should elect their representative." He went on to say that this was justified in the same way that faculty reps are only elected by the members of their faculties.

Fran England, Equal Opportunities Officer, and a member of the women's group, said "Who is better to determine who is to represent women than women?" She believes that, "No matter how sympathetic, sensitive or caring men are, they can't completely appreciate what it's like to be a woman and so they shouldn't be allowed to vote for the Women's Officer."

The fact that the recently started self defence classes are only open to women has also caused some controversy especially since the person attacked on Richardson Road was male. However, this decision was defended by those concerned who said that the classes are being run and financed by the women's group.

J. Aglinby

Caged

A man in a cage outside the Union building during lunchtime is no cause for alarm—only Amnesty International Society highlighting its awareness week.

Between 3rd to 7th December, Amnesty will be outside the union (with the man in the cage) promoting its human rights operation through petitions, its letter writing campaign and information about Amnesty's mandate.

Topical debates on the death penalty (Monday 3rd, 7 p.m., Debating Chamber) and the case for Sri Lankan refugees in the U.K. (Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th, 1 p.m.) are planned: all ranters welcome. And there's a mid week "Christmas Party" on Level 6 on Wednesday 5th: tickets £1 available from the Amnesty stall or on the door.

For further information, contact Jonathan Sandyford on 222-6000 ext. 8429.

Gary Ross

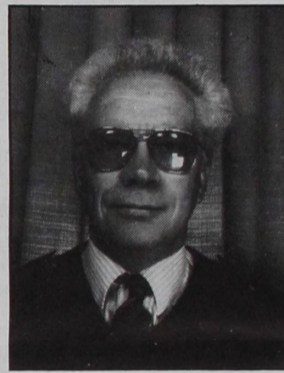
Travel Man

Ray Scott took over from Vi Hannay as the manager of Campus Travel on Level 3, last month.

Ray, whose previous experience was with high street retail travel, has a favourable impression of the friendly Campus office so far. His plans for the future include longer opening hours with an initial experiment of Saturday opening from 10 till 2 until Christmas, to test the market. New technology available from next year should make it easier to stay open during the week.

Ray has both a son and daughter in higher education and says he enjoys working with students.

Rachel Cope



Racism

Allegations of racism directed at the Newcastle Evening Chronicle have been made by The Anti-Racism Action Group, who organised a picket of the Chronicle offices on Monday.

A spokesman claimed that the Chronicle had printed "a number of racist articles and letters" and pinpointed the fictitious columnist Cliff Graham as being at the centre of the controversy. The article "Black Crime Busybodies" which was printed earlier this month was cited

as containing particularly contentious and racist material, and it was accused of terming the Community and Race Relations Group a "misguided organisation." The Anti-Racist Group said that they are concerned about the general tone of the Chronicle.

The editor of the Evening Chronicle, Graham Stanton, vehemently denied the allegations, claiming that all letters criticising the Chronicle, unless totally libellous, are published and given equal attention. He said that the Chronicle was certainly "Not racist in any way."

Heather Saville

Therapy

A new scheme planned to help those with speech difficulties is being pioneered in Newcastle.

By using volunteers, Speech Therapist, Philippa Robinson, hopes to give support to those who have just received a communication aid but lack the confidence to use it in the real world. Volunteers would be required to visit them for 2 hours a week, for up to 10 weeks. (Travel expenses reimbursed).

Volunteers would receive specialised training before meeting the

person they will be working with. An initial meeting with a speech therapist present, ensures that everyone is happy.

Philippa is looking initially for 12 volunteers. She is looking for people who are sensitive to the needs of others, willing to meet new and different sorts of people, and have, most importantly, a sense of humour. Anyone interested should contact Philippa Robinson at the Dene Centre, telephone 284 0480, or Keith Richardson at Communicate 213 0320.

Rachel Cope

Budget

Last week's (Nov. 15) Union Council passed a budget without the strict cuts of recent years. The meeting was without the usual attempts by particular groups to secure more funding and predicted a small surplus of £8,000.

Mike Shallcross, Union President, said "Executive feel that the financial problems of the Union cannot be solved by merely cutting Student Services."

"Realists" on executive point out that the surplus is subject to a large margin of error (give or take about £20,000) out of £3 million turnover. The surplus is mainly due to a 5% increase in the expected University block grant.

Optimists point out that that A.U. funding had increased for the first time in years. Realists point out that the £1,000 rise is still a cut in real terms.

Ian McDonald

IBBERSON & STACEY

Can't Get Enough
a novel approach to life's little problems

Newcastle Arts Centre

Fri 30 Nov & Sat 1 Dec 9.30pm

Tel: 091 261 5618

Remember at Newcastle's Gulbenkian Studio Theatre
Fri 23 & Sat 24 November at 7pm
A multi media performance inspired by art history, mythology & psychology

Yolande Snaith Dance Quorum
Court by the Tale

Tel: 091 232 9974



Festival Information
091 261 0505



UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



PUBLIC LECTURES

MICHAELMAS TERM 1990

Thursday, 22nd November
RIDDELL MEMORIAL
LECTURE
5.30 p.m.

REASON AND REALITY

THE NATURE OF PHYSICAL
REALITY
Rev. Dr. John Polkinghorne, FRS
President Queen's College,
Cambridge

Thursday, 29th November, 5.30 p.m.
A FANCY-DRESS SHAKESPEARE?
THE POET OF THE SONNETS
Emeritus Professor
E. A. J. Honigmann, FBA
Emeritus Professor of
English Literature,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne

CURTIS AUDITORIUM
PHYSICS BUILDING

Topstyle 2

INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

DAVID
DAVID ASTON
MIKE

Colouring, Perms, etc.,
and all traditional
styling
Discounts to students
(term time only)
on production of union card
142 Northumberland
Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne
Tel: 261 8336

TOP-UP FEES - Update

Students are hopeful that the prospect of top-up tuition fees can now be avoided after two decisions at London Universities last week not to go ahead.

University College London has thrown out the idea on principle, while the London School of Economics has rejected the proposal, at least for 1990/91. Philip Agulaik of the University of London Union sounded optimistic: "I hope the UCL and LSE decisions will scotch any plans other universities may have."

However, LSE's announcement seems to suggest that they have only postponed the idea until a later date, and other universities are known to be

considering the same plan, although Newcastle University's Registrar, Dr. Nicholson, told *Courier* that top-up fees were "not being considered at Newcastle."

Student leaders have denounced top-up fees as Higher Education only for those who can afford it, and University officials complain of "a mismatch of objectives and strategy" by the government, who want to increase the level of students without increasing their spending.

Dan Lamb

The Listening President

It can sometimes seem as though those persons employed to represent us on Level 6, are somewhat detached from the real world, exercising their power in what can sometimes seem as very autocratic.

This however is about to change, when Mike Shallcross, President of the Students Union, plans to meet students who are willing to "put forward some constructive criticism" as he hopes to get feedback on any issues bothering students.

He will be available for discussion on Monday, November 26 at 1 p.m. at the Medical School Refectory, and on Tuesday, November 27 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the main bar. If for any



Mike Shallcross, President, in the days before Executive stress took its toll.

reason, you cannot attend these dates, then see him on Level 6 where he will be open to your views. Remember, his allegiance is primarily to students and to their views.

Wladimir Ledochowski

Durham's Superstars

Two colleges at Durham University have elected some rather strange intellectual superstars as Honorary Members.

Hatfield College, which is renowned for its rugby playing and beer drinking tradition, has elected George Best as a new Honorary Member. The previous holder of this privileged position was the now defunct Daphne Clarke of 'Neighbours' fame, however it was decided earlier this term that she could no longer fulfil her role adequately as no-one has seen her around for a couple of years. Consequently, a new ballot was held and George-Boy came out tops. The other main candidate in the race for the top was Jim Bowen, of the cult TV game show 'Bullseye'.

Tom Barton, Hatfield College's JCR President, commented after the election result was announced that he believed it was George's striking performance on 'Wogan' which guaranteed him the place over the other candidates. It is hoped that the famous boozing soccer star will make appearances at the college in the near future as part of his new role.

Collingwood College, not to be outdone by Hatfield, elected pop megastars ABBA as their new Honorary Members. The Swedish foursome, whose previous achievements include winning the Eurovision Song Contest and becoming multi-millionaires, were rumoured to be flattered by their new surprise appointment in Durham. Despite this, no date for their debut appearance at the college has yet been agreed. We wait with baited breath.

Richard Carpenter

Funding Increase?

News that the Chancellor is increasing Government spending on higher education by almost 10% has been greeted sceptically by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP).

The revised budget, came in the wake of the near collapse of the controversial "Bidding system", set to guide universities and polytechnics in the 90's.

The CVCP feels that the increase, which will push spending over the four billion mark and allow the universities to take on up to 5% more students, artificially masks the real problems of a declining staff/student ratio.

"The sums are not as bright as they may at first appear," said Ken Davis, head of finance at the CVCP. "They could mean not only a squeeze on unit funding but also on overall funding in the system, continuing the cuts."

This could obviously have serious implications for the higher education system which is already struggling to maintain standards in the wake of increasing numbers and restrictive funding.

Boz Worrall

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

LUNCHTIME LECTURES
MICHAELMAS TERM 1990
EDUCATIONAL ISSUES
AND CONTROVERSIES

This series of lectures is part of the commemoration of one hundred years of teacher education at this University. Each lecture deals with a currently controversial issue which has also been a perennial problem in educational policy and practice.

WEDNESDAY 28th NOVEMBER
Payment by Results?
Rewarding School Performance.
Gordon Hogg.
1.10 p.m. - 1.55 p.m.
CURTIS AUDITORIUM
PHYSICS BUILDING

Elections: NUS

Turn-out in last week's elections for NUS Delegates and observers was only 5% of the student body. According to Ashleigh Megson, Publicity Officer in charge of these elections due to sabbatical secretary, Iain Pigg, standing as a candidate, "This figure is no worse than last year." Though Ashleigh stopped short of referring to the turn-out as 'apathetic', Iain Pigg, speaking on behalf of himself and Tim Farron, both elected candidates, said, "Such an apathetic turn-out is why the NUS has fallen into such disrepute."

The elected candidates are:
Delegates: Tim Farron, Mark Wagner, Robert Connacher, Rhoda Martin, Iain D. Pigg, Thomas Hapold, Camilla Blackburn.

Observers: Ben Coffman, Daniel Hilton, Fiona Smyth.
Claire Pickard

FYC

Newly elected freshers conference leader Angie Purcell was bubbling last week after the election. Thanking everyone who voted for her for making sure next year's first years will have a good time, she said she was available every Tuesday afternoon in the rag office if other students had any ideas.

Keen to leave their mark, her team, so far comprising of Fran England and David Piner, have decided to do more for foreign and mature students, and have already received very positive interest from sponsors.

Dan Lamb

Burford Resigns

Inviting parallels with the current political tempest raging in Westminster, last Thursday's Union Council meeting ratified the resignation of Andrew Burford from his post as part-time Equal Opportunities Officer.

Mr. Burford, in the final year of a Maths degree, tendered his resignation to Iain Pigg, Sabbatical Secretary on 9th November, explaining "unforeseen circumstances" had caused an unexpected drain on time and personal resources.

Mr. Pigg fully accepted that whilst holding a part-time Executive office, "it is very difficult to balance course responsibilities and executive duties. . . ."

Mr. Burford's resignation continues in the chequered history of the equal opportunities office. Fran England, the remaining officer was last year prevented from continuing in the post, not being a registered student at the time. A by-election to fill the position is expected before the end of term.

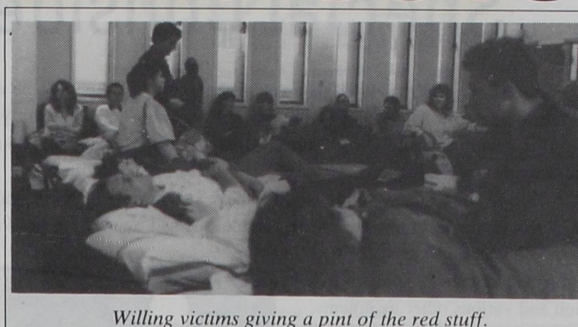
Dominic Casciani

BLOOD and GUTS

Last week, students eagerly queued outside Room 27 of the Union Building to donate their blood to the National Blood Transfusion Service.

Inside, volunteers lay on beds, some staring at the needles in their arms with ghoulish pleasure, others looking distinctly sick. Afterwards, they had a short lie down and then were given free tea and biscuits and the chance to discuss how much it hurt and whether they felt giddy or not. The nurses reported that many more students faint when giving blood than other members of the public!

The Blood Transfusion Service were pleased with this year's response from the University; 881 units of blood (.75 pint per unit) were donated in the first 4 days, compared to 870 for the whole week last year. This was in spite of having to close down early on Wednesday due to a powercut. Newcastle's donation also compares favourably with other universities such as Leicester. However, with 8,000



Willing victims giving a pint of the red stuff.

students at the University, the figures can definitely be improved upon.

Some students are nervous to give blood because of fear of the AIDS virus, but there is no risk to them as the syringes are sterile and used only once. It is in fact the nurses that have the most reason to worry because of their regular contact with the used needles. However, it has been found that there is only a million to one chance that a person donating blood will have AIDS.

The nurses and doctors taking the blood in Room 27 came

from Fenham Barracks where the Blood Transfusion Centre is situated. The centre serves Northumberland, Durham, Cumbria and part of Yorkshire, the largest area covered by any centre in Britain. The blood is sent away to be tested for infections and then registered on a nationwide computer so that in emergencies certain blood types can be located and sent for by the hospital concerned.

The service will be visiting the University again in May 1991.

Sarah Shannon

Union Autonomy Threatened

A potential threat to the autonomy and direction of British student unions has again emerged in the shape of a government investigation into their organisation and function in the higher education system.

The proposals for a repeat of the 1989 Department of Education investigation, which have come with the full backing of right-wing groups such as the 'Freedom Association', have been warily received by a "somewhat mystified" National Union of Students (NUS), who are "waiting to see developments".

A spokesman for the NUS explained, "We haven't had any details as yet, but it seems that the Government is simply doing a rerun of the 1989 survey which found no reason for change in the system. We believe the NUS and student unions can stand up to the scrutiny of a government survey."

"However, we consider the issue to be extremely important and have

sent a letter to Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Education, asking for an immediate meeting to discuss the issues."

The Government is being, perhaps wisely, somewhat vague about the precise nature of the survey, but Alan Howarth, junior minister for education, announced that the Government would be seeking to discuss "issues relating to student unions", including the controversial matters of compulsory membership and financing, with the unions and their representatives.

Mike Shallcross, Union President, remains convinced that the Union provides a unique and wide-ranging base of services which would be hard to replace.

"We've nothing to hide, I'm very proud of our union and the services it provides. I'd be more than happy to talk to them about it - perhaps then they would realise how underfunded we are."

"Although it's by no means reached the formal legislation level, we will be watching developments closely as we are a little worried by the Government's unhelpful attitude in the past."

Clearly the results of this survey could have extremely serious implications for the NUS and individual unions who could ultimately face deregulation or at least stringent controls over their influence, something which the NUS will hope to avoid at all costs.

Boz Worrall

Sabbs. Reviewed

At the now infamous Union Council meeting of October 16th when the Sabbatical Pay rises (or increase in emolument) were approved, a motion was proposed to establish a Sabbatical Review Body.

The Review Body has been set up according to the principle that an increase in pay requires an increase in accountability. This increased accountability of Sabbatical Officers means that they will now have to sign in every morning, fill out a timesheet and are committed to working a 40 hour week, though most if not all work longer. These imposed conditions will be assessed by the Sabbatical Review Body, the members of which were voted in at last Thursday's Union Council Meeting.

The Union building is owned by

the students but held in trust by trustees. As such the Review Body comprises one trustee and four students: Fran England, Ashleigh Megson, Rachel Fox and Jason Stamp. Three of these students, Fran, Ashleigh and Jason, are members of the Part Time Executive.

Termly reports will be submitted by the Sabbatical Officers to the review board for scrutiny. Any action taken would stem from this body, which can submit reports and recommendations to Union Council.

Lisa Poole

MONEY FOUND

Two honest students - yes they do exist - have found, what they describe as, "loads of money" in a puddle outside the Ridley Building last Friday lunchtime.

Commenting on their lucky find, Mike Fountain, one of the students involved, said "We were just walking by and there it was in a puddle, we picked it up, we dried it and its ready for collection. Obviously there will be a charge for ironing it. But seriously if it's yours and you are able to describe it in the most intimate detail and explain exactly how it got there give me or Pete Brand a ring on 221 0791".

Dylan Champion

Face the day with a

LEVEL 2 BREAKFAST

Juice
Beans, sausage, bacon & egg
Tea or Coffee
1 toast and butter
£1.50

VEGETARIAN BREAKFAST
Juice
Tomatoes, Beans, mushrooms & egg.
Tea or Coffee
1 toast and butter
£1.10

Campus TRAVEL GROUP

ACROSS THE GLOBE WITH CAMPUS TRAVEL

COMPLETE TRAVEL SERVICE FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER

- Competitive fares by plane, boat and train
- Round the World flights
- Overland/Adventure holidays
- Great value travel insurance
- Student Discount Cards

OPEN SATURDAY
10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Dec. 1st, 8th & 15th

Britain's Largest Student Travel Specialist

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
UNION BUILDING
KINGS WALK
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE1 8QB

Tel: 091 232 2881

TWO PUBS

THE BARLEY MOW · THE EGYPT COTTAGE
CITY ROAD · NEWCASTLE

ONE STREET

"Special Considerations"

The university portrays itself as a caring and considerate one towards people with disabilities, but from a friend of mine's experience, (Jenny), this portrayal is a facade.

During her first year Jenny began to have severe trouble with her right leg, due to this trouble, she had to have a year off to have an operation, acupuncture, a spinal injection and various other treatments. She spent eighteen months on crutches and three months in a wheelchair.

Returning to her caring college, equipped with a specially adapted car (that her mother had to give up for her, as now walking causes her severe pain), she applied for one of the Union's seventy parking spaces. These are places for students with "special considerations".

After a long struggle four months after returning, she managed to get a permit. This year, on re-application, with the pain continuing, unabated; Iain Pigg allocated Jenny a place from one of the seventy places allocated to the Students Union. (Which was just as well, as the University only have two free parking places for disabled people).

This was when the University bureaucracy stepped in and mismanaged a simple job.

Having being allocated a place in October, Jenny duly handed over her £30 cheque and log book for the car. The Student's Union quickly cashed the cheque whilst the university stalled her application.

This "stalling" process caused Jenny much further trouble as she had to walk from office to office, pursuing her claim and although lifting heavy weights causes her more pain, during the university prevarication, Jenny had to lift her bike in and out of the car from the nearest parking space that allowed her a flat cycle ride into college! As we know the nearest bus stop for college from Stanton Street is half a mile away.

The University would not give an allocated place to Jenny because of one rule - the car was in her

Mum's name and not her own. Her Mum lives a hundred and thirty miles away, therefore she is hardly in a position to take advantage, or abuse Jenny's allocated privilege.

Jenny had made it clear on her original application that she was *not* applying for one of these two free places for disabled people. Although this was made clear, her application was sent to the Doctor for further scrutiny, as if she was applying for 50% of the University's free parking places.

The doctor was not impressed by this as she had already recommended that Jenny had one of the Students Union's seventy paid for places.

Following several heated discussions between Jenny, her head of Department and the University authorities, it became clear that the only way she was going to be able to use her allocated place, would be if she changed the ownership of the car, on paper, from her Mum's name to her own.

Against this wall of indifference, Jenny had to capitulate as by now she desperately needed the place.

Thus needless capitulation cost her £300, in a change in insurance policy.

We demand that in the face of this waste of money, time and limited physical exertion, that the Students Union fights for the following changes:

- 1) **The bureaucratic rule of car ownership is changed or made more human.**
- 2) **The University should widen the classification of "physically disabled"**
- 3) **That there should be more than two places available for a University of 8,000 students. As the doctor said to Jenny "There are people far worse than you who cannot get places." Well if there are God help them!**

We demand a reply to the possibility of these changes. Student representatives, please represent us.

Jamie Dibdin
Jenny Wright



SKY

IS THE LIMIT!!

I do not pretend to suppose that it is particularly original to call for Margaret Thatcher to stand down as Prime Minister, assuming she still holds the office as she did at the time of going to press.

However, in the shadow of all the leadership fever in the Conservative party, a serious scandal has been overlooked. Not only has a flippant breach of a recent parliamentary law been overlooked by the Government, but Mrs Thatcher DOES NOT EVEN DENY that she knew in advance what was going to happen.

Rupert Murdoch, whose vast newspaper empire unashamedly supports even Maggie's outrageous opinions, seems to have been allowed to flout a law specifically designed to prevent over concentration of media ownership and has merged his Sky satellite company with BSB without informing the IBA.

So what? Well, to you and I this merger will probably mean nothing more than a proliferation of mini Jodrell Bank lookalike flying saucers on peoples' houses.

But either she didn't understand, or tacitly allowed him to break the law, inferred Roy Hattersley: in either case, she is not fit to govern; never mind Westland, what about Skygate as a sequel to Watergate?

Never mind Maggie's own Euro-nightmare on economic policies to the effect of "Why have a parliament if it cannot make the laws?", why have laws if we will not enforce them?

And presumably it is coincidence that the owner in question is a privileged dinner party guest of Mrs

Thatcher seen as instrumental by many commentators to her success in three General Elections. I cannot picture her being quite so understanding if Jacques Delors ignored one of our laws, when Europe is mauled for following the letter of her own Single European Act.

Meanwhile, it is clear that she is not fit to decide our stance on such a monumental matter as Europe, with all its far-reaching consequences, when she cannot command a convincing majority in her own party let alone amongst the electorate. Europe is another debate entirely but it's not even being debated because neither major party knows what it wants yet and are hiding divisions as wide as Kenneth Baker's smarmy smile.

At the very least, we should have a referendum like we did in the 70s, and preferably with as little involvement as possible by the major politicians so we can hear clearly both sides of the argument without prejudice and decide our own future.

Even as a prerequisite to this, Maggie must go. What's more, although she is too obstinate to leave voluntarily, resigning over Sky would provide better poetic justice than the St. Francis of Assisi she quoted in 1979: for having contributed to her ascendancy, the business manoeuvres of Rupert Murdoch would have caused her downfall.

If the self-appointed defender of sovereignty will not stick up for her Parliament's laws, she must go. As she may well have prophesized herself, the sky's the limit.

Ringsider

Readers are invited to submit Articles, Views, Rants to this page. Viewpoints should be up to 500 words. The views expressed on this page are not necessarily the views of Courier.



UNION SOCIETY ELECTIONS

Notice is given that the following positions will be contested on Thursday December 6, 1990:

Part Time Executive:
Equal Opportunities Officer (1 Place)

Faculty Representatives:
Education (1 Place)
Dentistry (2 Places)
Engineering (1 Place)
Agriculture (1 Place)

Nomination papers may be had from the General office on Level Six, and should be returned there, together with publicity, by 10am on Wednesday November 28th 1990.

Ballot boxes will be placed :
Main Bar 10am-8pm
Library 11am-3pm
Halls 4pm-7pm

Iain Pigg
Sabbatical Secretary

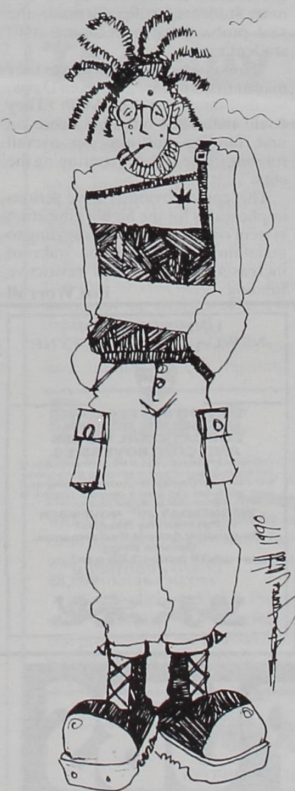
My Friend

My Friend comes from ...

Deepest Fenham

Round about now, students all over the country are beginning to wish they could move out of their rented flats and houses. The people who seemed perfectly reasonable in Halls and who you chose to live with this year, have undergone a dramatic transformation.

You can't blame yourself. How were you to know that your best friend had the personal hygiene problems of a decomposing corpse? Nothing you were ever taught at school will prepare you for toe-nail clippings in the bath and someone else's pubic hair on your soap. Paranoia slowly takes hold as pens, toothpaste and slices of bread mysteriously disappear. Every day a new fungus is added to the thriving ecosystem that used to be your fridge, and the grill pan is nothing more than a lake of lard. The person you looked up to in



apparent poverty does not stop them getting pissed every night, coming in at 2am with seventeen SRS interviewees and watching the Hit Man and Her at full volume.

Someone should tell these people that student bedrooms are not soundproofed. It is not easy to enjoy breakfast while being subjected to the grunts and slurps which herald the arrival of yet another vacuous bimbo from level 2.

Unfortunately there is no solution to your nightmare. There is no known cure for the medical condition that makes them unable to wash-up. Your only hope is that his parents may visit, and the sense of panic will force a superficial re-arrangement of dirt and a change of underwear.

And if you have read this but do not recognise this person in your house, then it must be you. So do us a favour, stop washing your socks in the sink and start writing down in the book provided all those short phone calls that you think we don't know about...

your first year is now someone to be despised. Constantly unable to contribute to the mounting bills, they are nevertheless the major drain on the national grid. Everything they own seems to have a plug on it. However, their

The Price of Beer: Di Bona Replies

Sir,
I am writing in reply to your front page article on beer prices in the last issue (15/11/90). There were a number of points omitted which I feel should be taken into consideration.

Firstly, the prices charged will now remain unchanged until next September (excepting any change in tax on beer in the budget). This is not the case at a number of institutions where prices can vary from term-to-term.

Secondly, it is recognised that we have THE WIDEST RANGE of beers at any Students' Union in Britain. For instance, currently the Union is putting on a beer festival: getting through 101 different beers. By having this many beer pumps (in particular hand-pumps for real ale) in service, costs are increased.

Thirdly, the staff in the Union are paid decently which does have the visible effect of our Union having some of the best, friendliest and most loyal bar staff around - a positive asset for our Union.

Fourthly, your survey did not take into account the Union's Happy Hours. We currently have 4 Happy Hours per night, 4 nights per week. 16 Happy Hours per week is greater than the vast majority of other Students' Unions in Britain.

However, these points notwithstanding I do realise that bar prices do give some cause for concern. One of the main problems with this Union is that many services tend to be left to "tick over" from year-to-year, without

prioritisation of efforts into any spheres. Currently under consideration is a Business Plan, which I hope, will enable members to prioritise specific areas for development. This should enable us to concentrate on, say, the bars: allowing a direction of new resources towards them, possibly allowing prices to be kept down.

I do believe that we, as a Union, can and should learn from other Unions around the country. For instance, at Edinburgh University, every year students vote on which aims their Student Association should concentrate on. They choose from "Provision of social and recreational facilities", "Provision of future needs and requirements", "Development of extra-curricular activities", "Advisory and other welfare services", "Properly representing students to Edinburgh University and beyond" and "Provision of goods and services to students at the best possible price". With this system they find they need concentrate on bar prices for one year in three or four, and this keeps prices down, and likewise when a bar needs re-developing this can become a priority for that year.

Lastly, I would just like to say that if anyone has any constructive suggestions, please let me know.

Yours etc.,
Richard Di Bona
Chair, Services, Marketing and Development Committee.

Land Of The Free

Sir,
"A Slice of Mom's Apple Pie"
The *Courier* of Thursday, 15th November, was the first that I had bought this term and having read the "Over the Pond" article I now realise what I have been missing (?)

Of all the problems that America does have it is lucky to be rid of the rule of a nation that fosters such a degree of xenophobia as is reflected in the pathetic, frustrated ranting of 'My Friend'. He presents the same time worn arguments that he probably heard from his father and grandfather before him.

Surely it is a credit to the American nation that it has developed in such a short time from an Indian slaughtering continent to a bastion of democracy and liberty? I would argue that America's involvement in the World Wars not only showed a willingness to defend liberty but unfortunately showed Britain's inability to cope with its own affairs (and if I were to descend to "My Friend's" level of journalism I ought to point out that maybe the women of Europe were made pregnant by Americans because the English were not up to it! But that is not the main 'thrust' of my argument).

As for the present predicament in the Gulf I only have this to say. If Britain is involved purely due to its 'special relationship' with the 'Big Mac gobbling nation over the pond' then it is to her detriment. Am I to assume that 'My Friend' does not believe in Kuwait's right to freedom? Does he realise that perhaps he owes his freedom in part to the many Americans who fought in the two World Wars!

As an American as well as British Citizen I have to admit that there are many features of American life that I find repugnant; however, I do not feel that a so-called 'Special Relationship' prevents me from turning off my T.V. or ignoring the fast food chains. And anyway the rule of fast food and soap opera empires is a lesser evil than the tyrannous rule of the British Empire which disestablished more countries than America could ever hope to and yet, it is still championed and harkened back to by such half witted bigots as 'My Friend'.

Happy Thanksgiving Turkey!
Yours etc.,
R. T. Turner.

Thursday night, attempted to continue their policy of intimidating and haranguing Hunt Saboteurs at the University, with groups of Neanderthals in green v-necks waiting outside the Union building for people leaving the Reggae Club.

We resent also the implied allegation that members of the Hunt Sabs Society or the Reggae Club were in some way responsible for the damage to Level 2. As Mr. Carpenter himself points out, this was not the first incident of vandalism to occur outside the Union Shop in recent weeks and it clearly bares the hallmark of an Agric attack. We find it significant that vandalism of this kind has never occurred at a Reggae Club or Hunt Sabs event before.

Yours etc.,
Marcus McTurk
President, Hunt Saboteurs Society.
Eleanor Tallis
President, Reggae Club.

Sir,
When will the Executive learn that the only way of preventing the wanton vandalism of the Union building by the likes of the Agrics and the rugby players is stopping it from occurring in the first place? Banning them is the only solution!

How much money has been wasted on the repair of the

Courier

Newcastle University Student Newspaper

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Editor..... Rob Cotterill | Crossword..... Bee Ward |
| News Layout..... Richard Carpenter | Business Manager..... Susan Tavener |
| Viewpoint Layout... Dylan Champion | Photographers..... Andy Charlesworth |
| Arts..... Philip Best | Benjamin Ridd |
| Music..... Chris Wood | Gary Ross |
| Features..... Gary Ross | Computer Layout..... Mark Warnes |
| Sports Features..... Boz Worrall | Ben Thompson |
| Sports..... Jonathan Brewer | Copy Entry..... Alia Sheik |
| Listings..... Heather Saville | Helen Barlow |
| Cartoonists..... Richard Foster | Steve Watt |
| | Permanent Secretary & Advertising Manager..... Monica Doughty |

Beer . . . Sir, As a mature student I would like to add my voice to the growing protest against the over the top beer prices in the Union. 99p for a pint of bitter is a disgrace. When I were a lad I could go out of an evening, have twelve pints, go to the flicks to see a George Formby picture with the lass I were courting, buy a hundred cigarettes, a three course meal in the Ritz, catch last tram home, buy me mother a time share chalet in Bognor Regis and still have change from sixpence.

Of course in those days we had none of these new fangled padded chairs in our bars. It were strictly sawdust on the floors and if you were any sort of man you'd stand up. And these plastic pint glasses, have you seen them? Christ on a bike! I used to drink out of a silver plated tankard, engraved with a picture of local cotton mill, which were presented to me on the occasion of my twenty-first birthday by my father, and it were his father's before him and his father's before him, being given to his dad when he retired as head bobbin changer. I'll tell you something, it did me no bloody harm. Perhaps if these rugby player people had to have their drinking utensils handed down four generations to them they'd be less quick to throw them around the place.

Another thing, the other night the Security officer wouldn't let me bring my whippet into the Union. Well I told the soppo wet cabbage that of course he couldn't sign in because he can't write because he's a dog. And another thing, this beer festival may well have over one hundred guest beers but where's Crustybottom's Old Crap? I were brought up on the stuff and it did me no bloody harm I can tell you!

You youngsters don't know you're born. Working in the pits since I was 18 months old did me no bloody harm. I sit there in my Astro-Physics lectures and see lads with hair down their back and girls with short back and sides. Honestly, these days you can't tell the difference. Bring back national service. It did me no bloody harm I can tell you!

Yours etc.,
Clayton's Sunbed's Grandad.

Sir,
It has come to our attention that there has been a large amount of discussion over the prices in the Union bars.

We would like to suggest that there is a simple solution to this problem - if drinkers are unsatisfied with prices in the bars, then why do they give them the privilege of their custom.

In the city there are many fine pubs/inns/taverns/hostelries/biker havens/dives which purvey a wide selection of fine ales and spirits in superior condition and at comparable prices to the Union, whilst also providing more atmosphere and real glasses in the evenings. Another benefit is that they are ninety per cent agric/rugby player free, aside from "Inventions" of course.

If people consumed less of their alcoholic substances in the Union then the society would be forced to provide better beer at better prices to attract drinkers back.

Indeed the only reason to be in the Union at all are the excellent Rock Society Discos every other Wednesday which usually have drinks promotions and a late bar.

Yours etc.,
From the back room of 'The Percy' Damage Case and Mr. B. F. Speed Rock Soc. Extreme Terror Wing a.k.a. Serious Drinking Squad.

Ents . . .

Sir,
Following on from the letter by Clayton's Sunbed (8.11.90) I too would like to voice my opinion on the apathy of our Ents. officials.

Let's take a look at the bands we have playing in the Union this term:- The High (for 5 minutes), Ocean Colour Scene (Who?) and Sam Browne. Wow! What a line-up. The High and Ocean Colour Scene have one record each; they just rely on their acquired Manchester sound.

"But we've got the LA's" I hear the Ents. Officer cry. Well, who hasn't? They're even playing Exeter University. Now, the one decent band we did have is Lush. But due to poor promotion (posters only went up on the day of the gig) there are few people there. Yet the place should have been packed for the

band with the Number One Indie single at the time.
So let's have a look at what bands other Universities get. Taking a trip to the West Country, we find Exeter. "Where?" Exeter. They have: The Pixies, The Charlatans, Gary Clail, Del Amitri, Pop will Eat Itself. All this down South, at Exeter. This puts us to shame. Let's swap Ents. Officers, hang ours from the top of the Union, or get him a taste in music for Christmas.

Yours etc.,
The Face.

Sir,
Re: Still Incompetent Ents. (*Courier*, 15th November 1990).
How dare Rock Soc. knock Ents. They, after all, have bought some new lights and are going to give us a Fashion Show. What more could anyone want?

Yours,
Nr. Satisfied.

Letters . . .

Sir,
For some years I have been mistaken into thinking that this Letters Page was the sounding board for student views and opinions.

No; it would appear that our ideas have been relocated to the "Views" column - six hundred words to speak your mind about what really matters to you.

Over the weeks the articles have amused me, but last week's Winnie the Pooh effort had sad tears welling in my eyes. Not tears for the article, you must understand, but tears for the sad demise of the page.

Yours etc.,
The Ayatollah.

Sabbatical Pay . . .

Sir,
I hope that you will allow me to correct some of the inaccuracies and untruths that appeared in Emma Beswick's letter of last week.

1. The ruling of last year's Executive Committee that the question of an alteration in Sabbatical Terms and Conditions should be placed on the Staff Personal agenda was not unconstitutional. It was, at worst, procedurally irregular, but there is no question that it was a sound, legal, constitutional decision.

2. The incident which she refers to in which it was discovered that two members of Part-time Executive were ineligible to take office was a clear breach of the Constitution. Legal advice was taken on both issues from the same solicitor, and any attempt to draw a parallel between the two events to shore up some absurd allegation of Executive's 'double standards' falls down flat (it should be stressed that Executive accepts that the two individuals involved acted with the utmost propriety and attaches no blame to either of them in this respect).

3. The increase in the F.Y.C. Honorarium this year was from £700 to £850, a rise of considerably more than 10%. When the F.Y.C. budget was presented to last year's Executive, they cut the honorarium to £750, however the relevant member of Executive failed to advise F.Y.C. of this decision. When this fact was brought to the attention of this year's Executive, we accepted that F.Y.C. had not been treated fairly and voted to give them the additional money which last year's Executive had initially cut. Thus I cannot understand what Emma is complaining about.

4. In answer to Emma's question "What gives you the right to award yourselves this amount of money?" I would state that Executive have no such power, nor would I wish them to have such power. The decision to change the method by which the Sabbatical wage is calculated was taken by Union Council.

5. Emma wonders why no-one has stood for F.Y.C. Organiser this year. I think she will find that Angela Purcell has stood, been elected, and appears to be extremely enthusiastic about doing the job. I am sure that she will do an excellent job and she has the support and good wishes of Executive in doing it.

I am willing to explain and justify to anyone, the reasons for the variation in our wages and working conditions, and why I feel the Union will benefit from it. What I am sick of is the sort of misinformed personal attacks of a hard-working Executive, of which I am proud to be a member, perpetrated by people such as Ms. Beswick.

I am willing to accept that Ms. Beswick's letter was prompted by ignorance rather than malice, but then as she herself says, "Ignorance is no excuse".

Yours etc.,
Mike Shalleross
President (in a personal capacity).

Sir,
I would like to apologise for certain inaccuracies in my letter concerning the Sabbatical payrise.

I am very pleased that someone did actually stand for F.Y.C. organiser (although no-one was standing at the time of writing) and would like to congratulate Angela Purcell on being elected.

The other inaccuracy was numerical, sorry people, the payrise is gonna cost the union an extra £12,750 per year (£9,000 was optimistic!), money which would be far better spent on student services, welfare, facilities for the disabled, childcare, entertainment, subsidising beer prices etc. . . . the list is endless.

Yours etc.,
Emma Beswick.

Vandalism . . .

Sir,
I would like to thank the *Courier* for printing the article last week on Armstrong's victory over the Agrics; it was a welcome change to have some good publicity.

I was appalled however, to read in the *Courier* the week before about the riot on Level 2 after "The High's" concert. In the report it was stated that Armstrong R.F.C. "smashed several windows of the Main Bar" whilst security were otherwise engaged on Level 2.

Having carried out extensive internal investigations into the matter, I would be interested to know how Armstrong came to be blamed for an incident entirely caused by an old boy Agric rugby team. In the whole Main bar only one member of Armstrong R.F.C. was present, and he witnessed the incident from across the room.

Armstrong have a history of accepting responsibility when it

is due but in no way can Armstrong be connected to this incident. I am sure however, that despite the club's innocence, the club has been brought into disrepute by the *Courier's* reporting of the alleged incident.

The report was especially damaging as on the following Monday, Armstrong had to appear before a so-called "Executive Committee" over another alleged incident. I can not help wondering if the *Courier's* report, days before the trial, could have inadvertently swayed the opinion of the Committee.

The question of the Union's Security Team as a reliable source of information must be raised following this incident. I do not consider it beyond the realms of possibility to suppose that the Security Team are using Armstrong as a scape-goat for their inadequate policing methods of the Union.

I ask the *Courier* to avoid

Sir,
At the same time as proposing the Sabbatical payrise it was proposed an *ad hoc* committee of Union Council be established entitled Sabbatical Performance Review Body, to ensure that Sabbatical Officers were justifying the increase in their pay by the amount of work they were doing. The committee would be able to help the Sabbatical Officers by making constructive criticism of them, but would also be able to recommend strictures, such as the withholding of wages, against them.

How fair and just this all sounds! How honest and democratic our Sabbaticals must be! How noble of them to be prepared to take criticism and be answerable to their constituents! There is nothing I would like more than to believe this. But we should know our Sabbaticals by now, if something seems so fair there must be a catch.

On Thursday, Union Council voted who would sit on this important committee, but were severely limited in choice. The committee must consist of 2 PART-TIME EXECUTIVE OFFICERS and 2 MEMBERS OF STAFF COMMITTEE which consists of 3 PART-TIME EXEC. and one of the SABBATICAL SECRETARY'S HOUSEMATE!! Hence council, including the Sabs., voted 3 PART-TIME EXECUTIVE OFFICERS and the SABBATICAL SECRETARY'S HOUSEMATE as THE SABBATICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE!!!!!!

It is outrageous that the S.R.C. be so constituted however honourable and democratic the committee are as people, which I do not doubt, their actions as committee members are bound to be swayed by their positions. These people have to work closely with the Sabbaticals, and obviously it would not be in their best interests to make decisions that the Sabs. did not like. Of course it was Exec. which proposed the constituency of the committee, and they obviously thought about it very carefully. How nice it would be if out colleagues and flatmates assessed and awarded our degrees, because that is the parallel. It's time we stopped these people abusing their positions of power.

Yours etc.,
'Pissed off Union Council Member'

libellous statements about Armstrong in the future and I look forward to a printed apology to help rectify the injustice we have suffered.

Yours etc.,
James Honeyborne (Club Sec.).

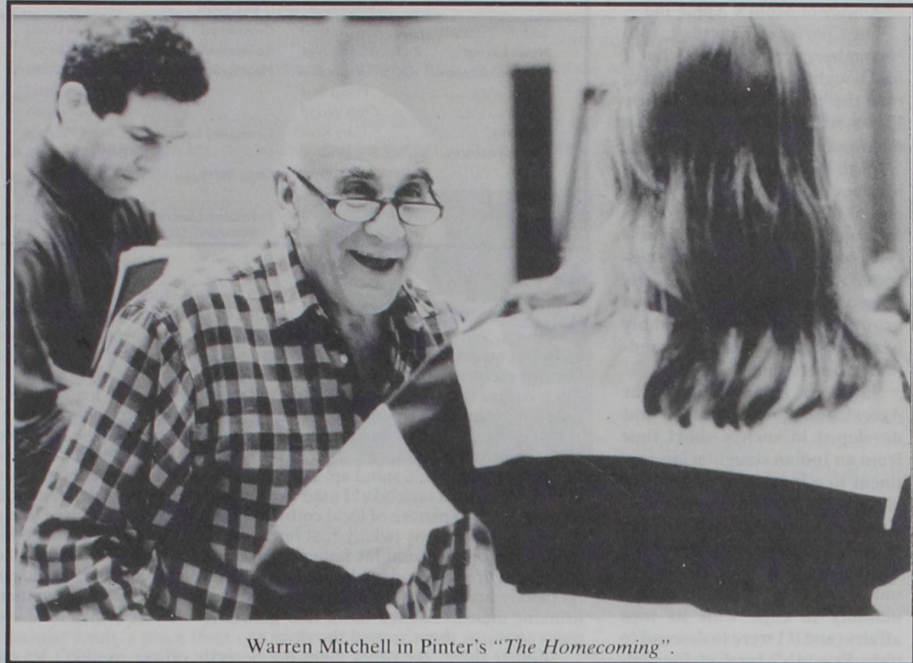
Sir,
We write with reference to Richard Carpenter's headline article in last week's *Courier* on vandalism in the Union building. In it he claims that security were "braced for a showdown" between the Reggae Club/Hunt Sabs Benefit and the Agrics last Thursday night.

We would like to make it clear to Mr. Carpenter that members of the Hunt Sabs Society and the Reggae Club are not in the least interested in having a "showdown" with the Agrics and we very much resent his insinuations. We were there simply to enjoy ourselves whilst raising money for a good cause.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the Agrics who, on

PREVIEW / Sir Peter Hall directs Pinter

Coming Home



Warren Mitchell in Pinter's "The Homecoming".

Sir Peter Hall makes a welcome return to Newcastle with a new production of Harold Pinter's "The Homecoming" at the Theatre Royal (Mon. 26 Nov.-Sat. 1 Dec.). With him he brings Warren Mitchell (perhaps best known as TV's Alf Garnett) and Cherie Lunghi (C4's *The Manageress*).

Hall directed the original production of the play in 1965 at London's Aldwych Theatre and has subsequently produced every one of Pinter's full-length plays. His relationship with Pinter has been a very happy collaboration. "It is a classic, I do honestly think so . . . the times are different; and our apprehension of the play is

subtly different just because it's a different time. So I haven't tried to reproduce it the way it was - instead I've tried to find the play again with this group of wonderful actors".

Mitchell shares his director's enthusiasm: "It's so wonderfully ambiguous. So many different interpretations are possible. It's precisely the same discovery about life that the play makes, and the actors have discovered this while rehearsing it . . . We came to the conclusion that there is no absolute truth. It all depends on which standpoint you're watching from. We are all totally subjective in our lives".

Pinter's play focuses upon menace and manipulation in the

family. Cherie Lunghi plays the one outsider to this group, and as it happens, also the only woman among them. She finds playing Pinter a complex but rewarding experience; "He is a style unto himself. To begin to understand and to obey the indications within the text, you must not lose the truth of what you're doing".

Newcastle is indeed privileged to witness Peter Hall's return to Pinter and the Theatre Royal have generously donated two pairs of tickets for the first readers to answer by 12 noon, Monday the following question:

Who did Sir Peter Hall succeed as Director of the National Theatre in 1973?

Philip Best

THEATRE / Elena Antoniou on the RSC in Newcastle

Farewell to Hands

The Royal Shakespeare Company will be in Newcastle for their fifteenth season from 11th February - 16th March 1991. This is Artistic Director Terry Hands's farewell season in which ten productions will transfer from Stratford to Newcastle's Theatre Royal and the Playhouse before moving on to the Barbican.

Touring on such a scale by a major subsidised theatre company is not a commercial operation but in Hands's view a "perfect example of the proper uses of subsidy". Unlike the Stratford and London audiences which depend on a high proportion of tourist sales, the Newcastle season provides a much needed focus for North-East theatre-goers, and an opportunity for actors to respond to an "immediate, honest reaction".

Last year the RSC attracted audiences to 90% of capacity. With advance priority bookings 20% up so far this year, early booking is advisable. Tickets are available from today at the box offices of the Theatre Royal and the Playhouse. There are special reductions on matinees, and student standbys on the night of performance are £1 at the Theatre Royal, and 75% off normal price at the Playhouse.

In the 1991 season *King Lear*, Ralph Fiennes

plays Edmund, the bastard son. A role which he enjoys for its demanding combination of deceit towards the court, direct addresses to the audience, and an evil but sexually exciting energy. A quality which Ralph Fiennes condensed in a remark to me that Edmund is basically "very good at fucking".

Fiennes also takes the part of Troilus in Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* which he described as "a play in which Shakespeare tackles issues of honour, romantic love and morality from a particularly cynical attitude". Values which are debated after the abduction of Helen from Troy, when there is still a possibility of avoiding war. A possibility which is rejected on the tenuous grounds of honour. This situation the actor sees as "cynically modern" with the taking of Helen and its consequences resonant of, and "almost Kuwait".

As well as Shakespeare, this season includes Christopher Marlowe's rarely seen *Edward II*, *The Last Days of Don Juan* by de Molina, Chekhov's *The Seagull* directed by Terry Hands, and *Two Shakespearean Actors*, a new play by Richard Nelson. Which as its title suggests, gives an account of a personal and professional rivalry with its violent culmination from the actors' perspective.



Ralph Fiennes and Amanda Root in "Troilus and Cressida".



Simon Russell Beale as King Edward II.

RAMBERT

WORLD
PREMIERE

PLUS

4 NEW WORKS

in 2 varied and
dynamic programmes

Save £6 with our
DOUBLE TICKET OFFER

Ring Box Office
(091) 232 2061
for details

Tues 4-Sat 8 December 1990

THEATRE
Royal

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Pure
& simple

MASTERCLASS TOUR

NEWCASTLE

FF
dance 90

JULIE ANDREWS

Del Amitri, City Hall, 11/11/90

After admirable support from fellow Glaswegians "Bloomsday", Del Amitri entered to cheers and the surprising strains of "The Hills are Alive". Justin Currie established himself as a fine frontman during the first few songs which included a Neil Young cover.

There followed, however, a slight hiatus in the quality as it became apparent that the lead guitarist was not fully in control of his senses Quaffing a bottle of wine throughout the gig, his state became particularly ironic during "Stone Cold Sober". In between songs, he appeared to

be perfecting Hendrix licks and he achieved piercing feedback for much of the performance. Overall his over-the-top demonstration drew attention away from the lyrics and the rest of the band — "You're Gone" included a major cock-up.

Things got better towards the end with the classic "Nothing Ever Happens" and the fusion of "You Can't Always Get What You Want" a la George Michael on to the end of "Jimmy Blue". Covers from the Beatles and the Faces ended what was a competent performance, lead guitar and lack of new material excepted. **Sam White**

Teenage Fan Club/Gumball/Bluebirds, Poly, 12/11/90

The first thing the Foster/Best Combo noticed was a severe lack of Stone Roses T-shirts and Bowl cuts. Oh well, we were in the Poly; Newcastle's equivalent to the Clothes Show. The next thing we noticed were the Bluebirds — who looked good: especially the singer's rather fetching Eddie Cochrane impersonation.

Gumball were on first — headed by Don Fleming, culled from Dinosaur Jnr. Gumball all pissed, very nearly stole the show — sending the select Poly audience into some type of madness. We state our approval.

Next was Douglas — ex BMX Bandit — playing his nu ni

organ. Everything was mimed — even speech. How can you describe something like this? Surreal.

Then Teenage Fan Club — destined to be Student band 1990. Yes, they were shambolic — which only made them better. Norman Blake wise cracked, the audience freaked, and the songs issued forth. "Everything Flows", "Too Involved" the new single "God Knows its true" blah blah — all brilliant.

The only thing spoiling it were the security — obviously on leave from the Gulf. If bouncers show more discretion, then maybe some of the audience won't stand outside demanding money back. Think on lads. **Rich and Phil.**

The Wedding Present 12/11/90, Sunderland Poly

Dave Gedge is inevitably the focus for attention in the band with his . . . well, eccentric singing and frantic guitar thrashing, and he is supported in an utterly unpretentious way by the rest of the band.

Tonight, the Weddoes concentrate on newer material — no "My Favourite Dress" or "Give My Love to Kevin", but that is made up for by the mixture of intensely personal lyrics from Gedge and harsh guitar from Peter "Grapper" Solowka that is

the hallmark of all good WP material, old and new. The as yet unreleased "Niagra" and "Heather" are received perhaps a little uncertainly by the rather young and extremely un-baggy crowd, and predictably "Everyone thinks . . ." gets the biggest cheer and most enthusiastic slam-dancing response of the evening. "All the songs sound the same", proclaim the T-shirts. Perhaps, but when most of them are also witty, funny, and above all, exciting, then does it really matter? **Matthew Merritt.**

Kreator/Death 7/11/90, Riverside

I expected Death to knock me flat, however, frontman and second guitarist Chuck Schuldiner, recently hung up his six-string grunge thing in the middle of the tour, and the emergency replacement looked like one. Best thing about them, their drummer, Bill Andrews, one of the best.

Thankfully, all the members of Kreator were present and they went through a very tight and well executed set. Musically up to scratch, the lighting was the best I have ever seen with any small venue gig, not too much hassle from the security, but somewhere, somehow, something was missing and I haven't the faintest idea what it was, but the crowd never got going, which may have been due to a general not in the moodness from them, or a fault in the band's performance. The former of the two is more likely as usually thrash crowds at the Riverside really go for it whatever is on the stage. Millie (vocals) got rightly pissed off after the decidedly lacking requests for an encore, and actually came out alone to ask, "Do you want some more or not?" **Piers Burgoyne**

Rob Bell, November 14, Broken Doll

An hour-and-a-half of enchantment. Rob Bell performs with a passion unrivalled, his songs haunted by melancholy, sardonic of broken-hearted affairs ("I hope you know", "You've earned the sadness in your eyes"). Influenced by Dylan, Rob's own imaginative songs reflect a touch of folk and he sings with an excellence comparable with Dylan himself.

Rob plays at the Bitter End Club in the Broken Doll most Wednesdays. **Alia Sheikh.**



TIME'S UP

Five-Thirty, 12/11/90, Riverside

Tonight is a very strange, almost ephemeral experience. This band have been Melody Maker/NME favourites for a while now and its quite hard to see why — yes they are loud, noisy and sometimes quite happy but if you ask me they rely on their wah-wah pedal far too much for even a band of the 90's (cliche!).

Moving on, the energy that the guys on stage so vigorously display seems to stay right with them — the audience seem almost restrained for the Riverside, with only the occasional stage dive.

However, the encore is certainly the high point and makes it all worth it. Massive chords beat the willing throng in further extremes of senselessness whilst one's eardrums positively throb under the awesome might of the manic guitar attack. **Lethal.**

Chris Wood

Gaye Bikers on Acid, 13/11/90, Riverside

First on were Scat Opera, quite impressive for a support band. The lead singer, clad in shorts and baseball cap, did his best to entertain the audience with their funk-style thrash. However, a few more rehearsals are needed.

For GBOA's entrance to the stage was adorned with green, seaweed-like material whilst some inane American voice counted down to zero on a backing tape. This band are crazy, wearing wild wigs and dayglo red sunglasses that clearly indicate their love for bad taste. The music was a turmoil mix of metal and dance with a manic combination that the crowd lapped up with enthusiasm.

After a thoroughly dramatic and well-played set the band returned — just when the crowd thought it was all over they launched into a spasmodic orgasmic thrash riff that sent heads banging and sweat flying. Wow, this band knows how to keep a crowd hooked. **Emma Marks**

Martin Stephenson and Friends at the Jumpin' Hot Club, The Bridge Hotel

Martin Stephenson smiled his way onto the small stage of the Jumpin' Hot Club. This was more of an evening with friends than a gig as such. Joined by various musical friends he took us through his more distinctive and personal songs which are strangely timeless in this fashion-driven age. He is a performer. Clearly at ease with the small local audience he joked happily between the songs creating an atmosphere you simply don't get at most gigs. If there was ever a small man who should be bigger this was it. That night though, small was beautiful. And we smiled back. **Craig Dearden**

33/45

Blue Pearl — Naked

Halfway into this glitzy, commercialist, post-Acid excursion Blue Pearl manage to prove that it is pointless to attempt to cover a Kate Bush song — the utter other-worldliness of "Running Up that Hill" is transformed into a crappy soul ballad imitation. Despite this and other major failures this is a very upbeat, danceable album which sometimes does deal with interesting subjects (guess what "Chemical Things" about Acid fans). The heavy Ottowan/Chic influence usually works to the album's advantage but in the end this is a classic example of a victory of style over content — good whilst the night lasts out, but what are you and it going to talk about in the morning?

World of Twist — The Storm 12"

Now this is a bit more like it. Dance/rock with an intellectual (dare I say it?) twist that makes excellent use of repetition, piano and strings that takes the Soul II Soul drumbeat places where it's never been. The eccentricism of the band's approach is typified by their cover of the Stones' "She's like a Rainbow" — weirder than weird. Forget the rest, listen to the best.

Echo and The Bunnymen — Reverberation

This first album without Ian Macaulough differs greatly from the old stuff. Sickly sweet rhythms that are reminiscent of the Mighty Lemon Drops abound. Everything sounds too nice; what happened to the wild moanings and weird deep melodies of the past. Fair enough its very listenable, but "Cut and Dried" (one of the song's names) says it all. It's just like they've decided to take a certain formula, everything's in a certain order and the presence of a sitar is the only relief from the tedium and originality.

Gumball

From the Sub Pop stable of Mudhoney, Galaxie 500, etc. come some ex-members of Dinosaur Jnr. and Kramer. "All the Time" provides a likeable mesh of guitars which is totally spoiled by drony vocals and the gradually slowing-down effect is just boring. "Yellowpants" on the other hand is great, a wild self-indulgent amount of noise with aggressive vocals and a catchy rhythm. Gettysburg and its twister mix is an anarchic mixture of sounds that is apt to annoy your neighbours. Hendrix type guitars with wild drumbeats and spaced-out vocals create a sound that is both original and awe-inspiring.

Svervedriver — Rave Down 4-Track E.P.

A bit of a grower this one, initially it comes over as yet another bunch of Dinosaur Jr. copyists but it has a hard, raw edge to it which sets it apart from their rivals. A refreshing record containing some fine melodies combined with noisy fuzzed up guitars and a splattering of feedback. Well worth a listen.

Tom Reilly and the Buffalo Club — Temptation

A fairly ordinary AOR record which would be very much at home in the American Album charts. Its main problem is that there is nothing unique on this record, no originalists only blandness. Not one single song is particularly memorable, every one is extremely average. During one song he sings "I try to overcome my mediocrity", it's obvious he didn't succeed. *Records reviewed by C. Swift, C. Wood and E. Marks. Records supplied by Volume.*

WATCH OUT FOR THE BIG BANG

Gulbenkian -
STUDIO THEATRE
 NEWCASTLE
dance 90
 Tickets: £2.50
YOLANDE SNAITH DANCE QUORUM
 23 & 24 November
Court By The Tale
A multi-media performance inspired by art history, mythology and psychology — performed with witty precision.

(091) 232 9974

SUNDAY JAZZ AT
THE LIVE THEATRE
 THE BEST JAZZ IN TOWN, EVERY SUNDAY LUNCHTIME ON THE QUAYSIDE
SUN. 25th NOV: UNDERCURRENTS
 ALL BANDS £2.00 (UNDER 14's FREE * FOOD LICENSED BAR * DOORS OPEN NOON
 THE LIVE THEATRE, BROAD CHARE, QUAYSIDE, NEWCASTLE
 TEL: (091) 261 2694

Volume RECORDS
 NEW COIL 12" PICTURE DISC

 30 RIDLEY PLACE
 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
 Telephone 091 232 1678 **AVAILABLE NOW!**

WARNER CINEMAS AT MANORS
 ADVANCE BOOKING Tel: 091 221 0222
 PROGRAMME INFORMATION Tel: 091 221 0202

| | |
|--|--|
| * STARTS FRIDAY * EXORCIST 3 Cert (18) Fri/Sat: 1.50, 4.10, 6.30, 9.00, 11.20 Sun/Thur: 1.50, 4.10, 6.30, 9.00 | BIRD ON A WIRE Cert (12) Thur: 2.00, 4.15, 6.20, 8.30 Fri/Thur: 2.00, 4.15, 6.20, 8.30 |
| * STARTS FRIDAY * BLUE STEEL Cert (18) Fri: 2.20, 4.30, 7.00, 9.15, 11.25 Sat: 7.00, 9.15, 11.25 Sun: 7.00, 9.15 Mon/Thur: 2.20, 4.30, 7.00, 9.15 | MY BLUE HEAVEN Cert (PG) Fri/Sat: 2.00, 4.10, 7.10, 9.25, 11.30 Sun/Wed: 2.00, 4.10, 7.10, 9.25 |
| * STARTS FRIDAY * SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM Cert (15) Fri/Sat: 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30 Sun/Thur: 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30 | GOODFELLAS Cert (18) Thur: 2.10, 5.10, 8.10 Fri: 2.10, 5.10, 8.10, 11.10 Sat: 8.10, 11.10 Sun: 8.10 only Mon/Thur: 2.10, 5.10, 8.10 |
| GHOST Cert (12) Thurs: 3.25, 6.05, 8.45 Fri: 3.25, 6.05, 8.45, 11.20 Sat: 12.45, 3.25, 6.05, 8.45, 11.20 Sun: 12.45, 3.25, 6.05, 8.45 Mon/Thur: 3.25, 6.05, 8.45 | LITTLE MERMAID Cert (U) Sat/Sun: 12.30, 3.00, 5.30 only |
| FLATLINERS Cert (18) Thur: 1.30, 3.50, 6.25, 9.10 Fri/Sat: 1.30, 3.50, 6.25, 9.10, 11.30 Sun/Thur: 1.30, 3.50, 6.25, 9.10 | WITCHES Cert (PG) Sat/Sun: 12.45, 3.15 only |
| DARKMAN Cert (15) Thur: 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15 Fri/Sat: 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15, 11.20 Sun/Thur: 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15 | * SPECIAL SHOWING * COOK, THIEF, WIFE, LOVER Cert (18) Thurs 29th Nov. at 3.00, 8.00 |
| | ROCKY HORROR SHOW Cert (18) 23rd & 24th Nov. at 11.00 |

Students £2.00 anytime
We are the movies!

Trouble Brewing...

Tony Brookes, BA, MSc, MCIT, as his calling card proclaims, could be described as a graduate from the Brian Glover School of Charm: a robustious, "spade's a spade" caller from Yorkshire. His goal is simple: to change the way the "Pub" rather than the pub, as a concept, is viewed.

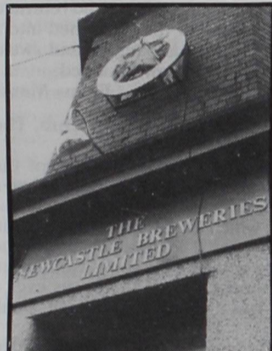
A Geography graduate of the 60s, Transport post-graduate of the 70s here at Newcastle, he returned to Tyneside with fellow student, now wife and co-director, Carolyn, in the 80s after a brief uneasy encounter with Birmingham as a Bus Service Planning manager. There being no need for transport managers in Newcastle, he turned to his private passion, real ale, to scratch a living.

Now, aged 42, he's co-director of Legendary Yorkshire Heroes (LYH), a real ale wholesale operation, as well as owning 18 real ale pubs, bought in March this year from S&N as part of their grand sell-off to circumvent Monopolies and Merger (MMC) restrictions. Tony now has the outlets to achieve what was near impossible as a wholesaler alone: "We see pubs as being a Community Resource, like a church is, and not to extract what they can from people's pockets without giving anything back."

Legendary Yorkshire Heroes Pub, originally the Royal Archer, in Sandyford is a prime example: out came the video screens, S.A.&W. pap music and plastic plants to be replaced with real oak tables, 70s music, air purifiers and seven real ale pumps. The result: a 50% increase in trade compared with the same time last year.

"We're trying to make it an environment which suits a range of people rather than just the one commercial kind." Similarly, at other outlets, such as the aptly named Independent on Elswick Road, reverted to its bare-brick and floorboard decor, Tony and Carolyn are challenging the chrome and brass format of the Big Breweries.

The task has never been easy, though: starting out as a purely wholesale operation in 1979, it was near impossible to break into the monopoly of the large national brewers, intent on squeezing the independents out of the market. Then in 1987, Government took the unprecedented step of referring the industry to the MMC to investigate "restricted practices." Their report last year, much to the dismay of Conservative MPs spurned



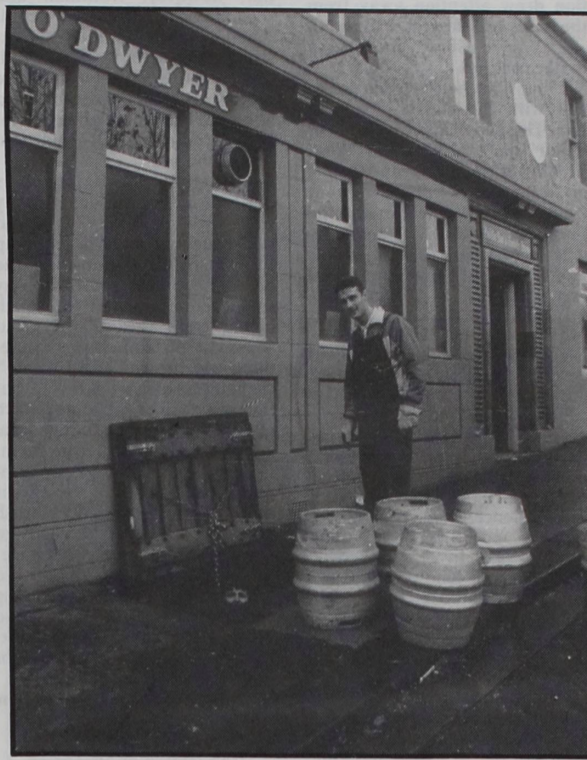
No Real Beer please, we're S&N

on by brewery paymasters, concluded that the industry should be changed and "opened out": those

"...an environment which suits a range of people, rather than just the one commercial kind."

breweries with more than 2000 outlets should allow their tenants, without penalty, to take on a traditional guest beer to push trade more towards a regional independence and give the customers more choice.

"The MMC report was watered down considerably," complained Tony. "A lot of the nice things they proposed got whittled out." Progressive recommendations were not converted into hard legislation; those that were could be loosely interpreted by the owning breweries. According to Tony, tenants were tacitly discouraged with threats of future refurbishment cancellations, proposed reviews of rent levels, and even the imposition of rents on the cellar floor space occupied by the guest beer



Taking stock for the week: Draymen supplying LYH's O'Dwyers Pub, Diana Street, a former S&N Tenancy.

casks. "The legislation's there, but very few of the tenants have got the guts to stand up against the brewers. I'll almost defy anyone to find a big brewery tenancy in the North East that's got guest beers."

What the breweries do instead is for Brewery A to tell B they will put them on their guest beer list provided B does the same for A, keeping the independents out of the market while only paying lip-service to legislation.

Ironically, it was the MMC's "2000-outlet" ruling which has given LYH a chance to establish a market on its own terms. Before the report, S&N owned 2,300 outlets; by selling off 300, they bypassed legislation to prevent in-house competition.

Yet S&N weren't stupid: they disposed of the 300 least inspiring pubs, of which Tony bought 18. A possible cause for concern? "Some of the pubs are in very poor areas

such as Jarrow and Hebburn," admitted Tony. "No matter what you do other than give the beer away, it's going to be very difficult to trade profitably."

Yet despite this, Tony is intent on applying his own unique marketing strategy: extensive sales of low alcohol beers (less profitable than alcoholic as they go off quicker), with Websters XL at 79p a pint, provision of Cochrane-style no-smoking lounges, a vigorous policy of recycling all waste and use of environmentally-friendly cleaning products, even the sale of tea and coffee during hours to help with tree-planting projects in Ethiopia.

It's a question of time as to whether the Newcastle post-grad can realise his "concept-pub" goal. He'll know within a year whether or not it will take off seriously. The Big Breweries monopoly may actually prove to be his saviour: many believe their grip on trade will force a revolution in the industry, akin to a pressure cooker bursting its tight seal. Yet, in an industry with friends in high political places, revolutions often prove to be few and far between.

Gary Ross

Courier welcomes ideas from readers for feature articles. Contact the Courier office

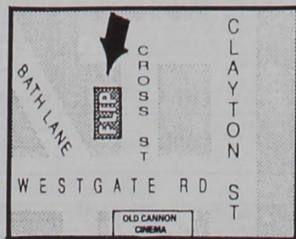
EXCLUSIVE TO

FLIP

FOR WINTER 90/91

IMPORTED: Schott goose down and classic leather jackets ★ leather sleeve baseball jackets ★ Lee / Russell / Hanes heavy fleece sweatpants and tops ★ hooded and crew neck sweatshirts by Converse and 100% Mambo ★ also rails and rails of our unique vintage clothing ★

**12-14 CROSS STREET
NEWCASTLE
TEL: (091) 261 8248**



UNION NEWS

Come in please...

Hurray!!! No elections this week! Instead it's

Sex in the 90's Week

Starting on Monday

**Monday 26th Nov Debate -
DOES SAFE SEX PROMOTE PROMISCUITY?**

**Tuesday 27th Nov
COCHRANE SEX QUIZ**

**Wednesday 28th Nov Discussion -
NEW MAN - MYTH OR REALITY?**

**Thursday 29th Nov
An orgy of fun at the
BIG BANG
9.00pm on Level 2**

**Friday 30th Nov
Condoms & Cucumbers!!
1.00pm on Level 2**

Are you up to it?

Roger...over and out!

Ash

Tomato Juice and Tampons!

In the ultimate assignment, the Courier SWAT Team was sent down to experience for themselves the full "horrors" of farmyard frolics in the Real Ale Bar with the Agrics...

Lets face it, we were scared! The prospect of spending an entire evening with a bunch of pissed and potentially "vandalistic" Agrics was enough to have us quaking in our waterproofs. Following an invitation from the President of the Agric Society, we three brave Courier reporters took our lives in our hands and descended to the depths of The Real Ale bar last Thursday night.



Singalonganagric

"Row, row row your boat gently down the stream. Boots off trousers down isn't life a dream....- WOOF!!"

This little "ditty" greeted us as we trooped downstairs and was almost enough to tempt us to abandon ship immediately, but we pressed onwards. A huge, raucous cheer went up as we entered the bar, and we were drawn into the singing and beer swilling throng. Pints in hands, we stood back to observe. Empty barrels were rolled in and an impromptu table was set up, around which the infamous Agric games began to take place.



Coiffure Agric

Gathered around the "Charity Wellie", the participants launched into a game of "Fizz-Buzz" as the Society President, Tim Furbank, took charge of the proceedings brandishing an iron bar and initiating the sponsored forfeits. From his bag of goodies, the "Weights and Measures" man produced a

fantastic array of the most repulsive edible substances known to man! The first of these was a large jar of enormous pickled cucumbers. We watched in horror as a number of poor unfortunates downed pints of beer and chewed enthusiastically on the green monstrosities. Next came the raw chillies which produced streaming eyes

"Boots off trousers down isn't life a dream..."

and a great deal of salivation, followed by a headlong dash to the bar! Jars of baby food were next on the list, and then... the tampons. Soaked in tomato juice, these had to be sucked until dry, when the remaining half-pint of tomato juice was tipped unceremoniously over the head of the unwilling offender. All in the best possible taste of course.

Our role as spectators soon came to an abrupt end, as we too were "invited" to join in the fun.



Boots off, trousers down, beer-bellies out

Reluctantly we downed pints (!), chomped cucumbers and gobbled chillies. Mysteriously, the Courier Team did not fare too well, and the evening soon deteriorated into a boozy haze. The scissors appeared as if from nowhere and several

drunken volunteers had their golden locks sheared for charity accompanied by cries of "Viiiiiiiiidaaalllll". Even the Courier Editor lost his prized pony-tail, for the sum of £50. Several Agrics have since been spotted sporting baseball caps to conceal large bald patches!!

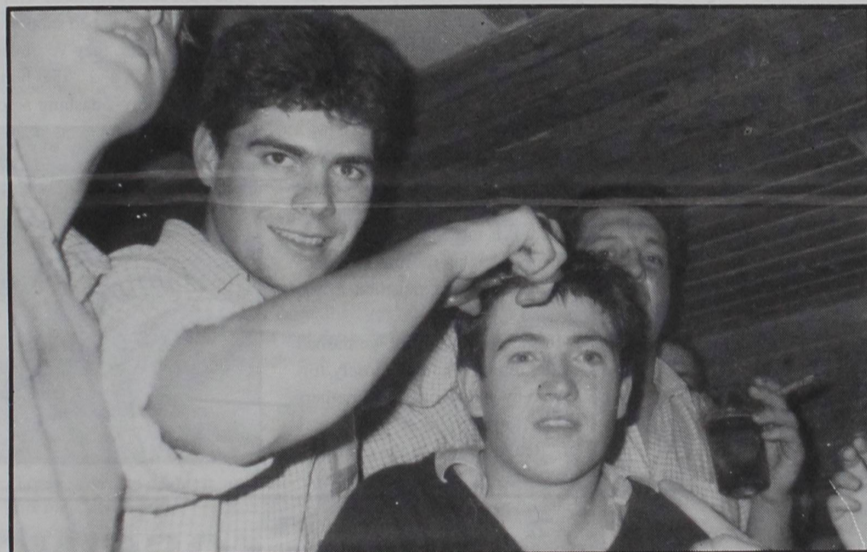
By 10.00pm the Real Ale Bar was a mass of heaving bodies and raucous songs, the lyrics of which *"we downed pints, chomped cucumbers and gobbled chillies"*

prompted several of the more daring members to strip down to the bare essentials. The female member of the Courier team jumped in eagerly to get some close-up photos, assuring us later on that close-ups were definitely needed due to the miniscule size of the subject matter! Worse was still to come however, as the scissors were recalled for an encore and directed towards hair of the pubic variety.

The general opinion of the Courier Team was that a good time had been had by all, with a good all-round atmosphere of merriment. Everybody joined in and had fun, even the bar staff, who were doing their bit to raise money for charity. The night was somewhat male-dominated, but the many females present did not seem to object, preferring instead to get more quietly inebriated, watching gleefully as their male counterparts did everything that was expected of them.

At the end of the night, the bar looked relatively tidy, due to the efforts of the more sober individuals to clear up. In total, £220 was raised for Children In Need as the Agrics dug deep into their pockets for a worthwhile cause. The Courier Team have been invited back and look forward to another night of unadulterated fun and licentious behaviour.

Heather Saville
Richard Carpenter
Dylan Champion



£50 for a haircut: Tim Furbank, Agric President gets the chop for Children in need

ocean colour scene ≈

sat 24th november,
8pm
newcastle university
students union
tickets £3.00 from students
union (232 8402),
volume, RPM, old hitz
MEMBERS & BONAFIDE GUESTS ONLY

Be a Gazza for a day!

Sunday 9th December

Rag 5-a-side Football Tournament

10am Claremont Sports Hall
£5 entry per team- At least 2 Girls

Prizes

Entry RagTable Main Bar 1-2

ALSO, Rag CHRISTMAS BASH
TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER
LEVEL 6 - TICKETS SOON

Results of Rag Race in Personal Column!

Death AND Gory...

Boz Worrall joins the Hunt Sabbs in their quest to save a fox's life.

The ritual hunting and slaughter of foxes, part of man's "role in the natural cycle" as John Gummer, conservative MP, recently claimed, is what the Hunt Saboteurs are all about preventing.

So, bearing this in mind, I reluctantly dragged myself out of bed on Saturday morning to meet the 'Hunt Sabbs' (not to be confused with the Union's very own 'Secret-Pay-Rise Sabbs') at 8 am in Newcastle Central station.

I was greeted by the sight of about 45 assorted misfits eager to sacrifice their Saturday to save a fox from probable death at the hands of the North's finest and richest, a strange but understandable desire.

As I talked to Marcus McTurk, President of Newcastle University Hunt Sabbs Society, it soon became clear that these people were far from the chaotic anarchists which members of the far right would have us believe, but rather a set of caring individuals to whom a

fox's life was worth far more than a days enjoyment for the local aristocracy.

The Sabbs were a mixture of students from the Poly and University with a smattering of local activists, working together to undermine one of Britains oldest and most elite traditions.

The seasons run from August to November when fox cubs are hunted and November to May when the main season is on, resulting in the death of some 25,000 foxes every year.

Watching the local motorcycle-policeman waiting in the station car park, intent on following the Sabbs to the hunt, Marcus explained,

"He's always there, it seems like a completely pointless exercise. He's only there to give us an escort to the hunt then he comes all the way back again".

In many ways this is typical of the 'cat and mouse' game which is central to hunt-sabbing. When we finally left for the hunt after some delay, in 2 cars and 2 vans, one of which was provided by the Polytechnic Union, we spent almost an hour trying to find the 'meet' while the hunters and their supporters did everything they could to trick and mislead us.

Finally, having bumped into two

horse boxes, we decided to leave the main group, who were heading for the big 'Tynedale' hunt, and follow them to a smaller hunt near Hexham.

Using their CB's, the supporters attempted to send us the wrong way, lose us and even overtake the van and slow down to a crawl to put us off the scent, typical of the

As we moved away, the mounted hunters galloped from the adjacent field, causing some of the Sabbs who had hunting horns to try and draw the 'pack' towards us, and, to my surprise, being an inexperienced and young set of dogs, they were soon gleefully bounding towards us, all their lust for the kill forgotten.



I say, jolly good hunt today.

strange symbiotic relationship between the hunters and the sabbs.

However, despite their efforts we finally arrived at the meet, crossing a field near some woodland which the hounds would 'draw' for a fox. Walking along the public footpath, which crossed the field adjacent to the woods, we were accosted by a burly farmhand and his alsatian who threatened to "set his dog on us" if we "didn't get off the field in 5 minutes."

However, Marcus called us to "stay together and move away" when a group of rather ominous looking "terrier men" began to follow us, telling us to "F**k off" and threatening nearby sabbs. As we walked towards the top of the field I gradually began to feel uneasy, we were pushed, shoved and even assaulted by the angry farmhands who began to get increasingly violent in their efforts to remove us.

One of the Sabbs, Liz, was punched after shouting at a farmhand for pushing me in the back and, as I turned around, I saw Murray, one of the more experienced Sabbs, get punched to the ground.

In the ensuing panic we dashed to the top of the field, closely followed by shouts of "Your mothers are f**king scrubbers" and threats of "Real assault", to the comparative safety of the police escort.

As some of the Sabbs tried to lodge assault charges, it became increasingly clear that the police were intent on turning a blind eye, justice was clearly breaking down in the face of tradition.

Marcus pointed out that although the police had been unhelpful they were better than usual, though the farmhands were generally not as violent perhaps something to do with the fact that this hunt had not been 'sabbed' for some time.

The day continued in much the same fashion, the hunt spending much of their time trying to outwit the Sabbs, helped by their hired 'hands' and the harassment of incredibly pedantic and zealous policing, while we careered around the country lanes trying to find the 40-odd hunters.

We finally caught up with them, some as young as 4 years old, mounted on small Shetland ponies, and I was, for a moment at least, fooled by their disarming geniality. Offering us everything from a tot of brandy to a chunk of Yorkie it was difficult to believe that they were responsible for our constant harassment and the barbaric murder of foxes.

The hunt soon continued with us ignoring the flat-capped supporters cries of "too late, they've already killed the fox" and "the hunt's heading that way", dashing across

fields to try and stop what turned out to be a decoy 'dig out'.

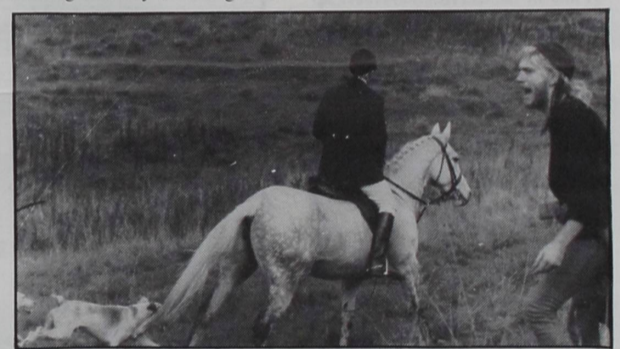
As the Sabbs began to decide that enough was enough we moved to the final stage of the hunt with the pack making one final search of the brush before heading back to the kennels. The Sabbs drew the hounds away with their rival horn-blowing to the great annoyance of the red-jacketed hunt leader and his supporters (why DO they bother to stand in a field for 5 hours every Saturday I wish I knew).

All seemed well until our old friend Pc Barton decided that assault was one thing but horn-blowing was quite another.....Murray had his horn confiscated and was reported under the conveniently flexible 'Section 5' harassment and disorder law, the bane of Hunt Sabbs across the land.

I pressed Pc Barton to explain exactly what offence had been committed, to which he replied,

"This is a matter between me and him. He was causing distress and harassment". In an empty field?

So, after a hard day of sabbing we finally got back into the van, happy to have stopped the hunter's getting their beloved kill without anyone getting seriously hurt. Why, we even managed to get Murray's horn back off the amicable Pc Barton.



A sabb calls the pack away from the hunter.



Tally Ho! Sabb feels the call of nature

**FED UP WITH THE UNION?
FEEL UNREPRESENTED?
THINK THE BEER'S TOO EXPENSIVE?**



Tell Him Why!

**Mike Shallcross, Union President
will be available for Interrogation and Criticism**

ON

Monday 26th November

1pm Medical School Refectory

Tuesday 27th November

1pm Outside Main Bar

5pm Outside Main Bar

Courier Crossword

ACROSS

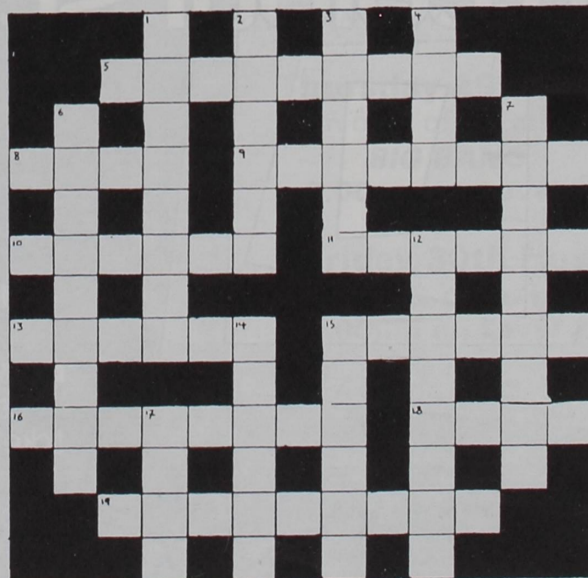
- 5. Measures time (9)
- 8. Potato (4)
- 9. Abroad (8)
- 10. Member of hawk family (6)
- 11. Break free (6)
- 13. Caress (6)
- 15. Football (6)
- 16. Top actor/actress (4,4)
- 18. Fish (4)
- 19. Karate expert (5,4)

DOWN

- 1. Thought about (8)
- 2. Religious building (6)
- 3. Jasons was golden (6)
- 4. Snakes (4)
- 6. Fitful (9)
- 7. Rude noise (9)
- 12. Drink (4,4)
- 14. Tempt (6)
- 15. Disco light (6)
- 17. Soften (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Far Fetched; 7. Recorder; 8. Hunt; 9. Tote; 10. Pinched; 12. Hard Hearted; 14. Convert; 16. Trot; 19. Cell; 20. Actually; 21. Paper Money. **DOWN:** 1. Fleet; 2. Rooster; 3. Eddy; 4. Cardigan; 5. Ethic; 6. Indeed; 11. Shortage; 12. Hooker; 13. Terrain; 15. Villa; 17. Tally; 18. Stem.



WATCH OUT FOR THE BIG BANG

SOCCER

Newcastle 1 Hull 0

After last weeks calamity against Durham, the first XI got back to winning ways against Hull. The victory was far from convincing, although very welcome, ensuring Newcastle's place in the play-offs.

JOHN O'DONNELLS second-half goal, following neat touches from WILL HARRIS and PAUL SMITH, was enough to separate the two teams.

Hull never really threatened their

attack being likened to a powder puff. Their cause was made even more difficult when football league referee, KEITH HACKETT, showed a red card to Hull's right back for a malicious foul on PAUL SMITH, the poor lad was nearly snapped in two.

With the one man advantage, Newcastle created several good chances. That man JOHN O'DONNELL (you could mortgage your house on him scoring) fluffed the lot, meaning our goal advantage is still in the red.

Newcastle II 1 Hull II 3

After a very disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Durham the previous week the second team took to the field at Hull in a very determined mood, but disaster was only seconds away!!!

From the kick off, the ball was played back to the right back who allowed himself to be closed down by the keen Hull front line. The rushed backpass went wide of the stranded keeper who could only get fingertips

to the ball and a Hull forward pounced to make it 1-0 after only a minute. With half-time closing in, Newcastle gave away a silly free kick which resulted in another sloppy goal conceded. A floated free kick was met by the unmarked Hull forward and was powered in easily into the bottom corner.

After the disgraceful first half performance things could only get better. Twenty minutes into the second half a flare of individualism by Damian Barnes ended with the ball rocketing into the Hull net, the lads were back in

the game. Too many chances were wasted by Newcastle and 10 minutes from the end they were punished. A quick break from from Hull's defensive line left two Hull players clear and despite a strong suspicion of off-side the ball found its way, into the goal again and Hull were 3-1 up. Newcastle's heads went down as they had pinned Hull in the back third of the field for most of the half.

After this 3-1 defeat the seconds need a convincing win away to York. **Coconut**

MEN'S HOCKEY

Newcastle I 0 Hull I 3
Newcastle II 0 Hull II 1
Newcastle III 2 Hull III 1

Bad pitches, appalling umpiring and missed chances condemned two out of the three teams to defeat.

The various excuses were only partially responsible for the results as neither the firsts nor the seconds played well.

Dave Richardson proved he was capable of elevation to the firsts, but he was the only bright light in a dismal performance; Chris Barker was sin-binned for dissent and Nick Peet should have been.

The seconds went down to a disputed goal after pressurising for a good deal of the match. Simon Taylor missed a penalty flick late on, after the keeper had held the ball.

Goals from Billy Brown and Dave Scurving saved some Newcastle pride as the thirds ploughed to victory on a municipal cow field! Hull piled on the pressure to score in the second half but keeper Jon Griffiths managed to hold out for the last fifteen minutes.

Saturday November 17

Newcastle I 1 Guisborough I 1
Newcastle II 2 Guisborough II 1
Newcastle III 7 Tynedale III 0

Once again the firsts conceded a goal with only seconds to spare. But overall this was an improved performance against a reasonable Guisborough side.

Nick Peet hammered in an early second half short corner and missed another later on. That miss seemed to give Guisborough the faith to press on, equalising thirty seconds from the whistle.

Rob Lawrence scored twice for the seconds in their final league fixture of the term, taking his personal tally to eight!

Guisborough scored a late face-saver but the seconds held on for victory in a match not helped by the pitch.

Target practice for the thirds was provided by Tynedale. Dave Scurving knocked in four of his side's seven. Hopefully his scoring form will continue for the UAU match at York.

main partners in crime.

When the boys can win by this kind of margin when they are off form, its a horrifying thought what might happen when the green steam-roller finally clicks into top gear.

Newcastle 12 Hull 7 *Our Guys 'n' Gals come out on top!*

UAU v. HULL 14/11/90

| | | Hull | Newcastle |
|-----------|----------|------|-----------|
| Football | I | 0 | 1 |
| | II | 3 | 1 |
| | III | 1 | 2 |
| Badminton | I | 4 | 5 |
| | II | 2 | 7 |
| | Women I | 6 | 3 |
| Hockey | I | 3 | 0 |
| | II | 1 | 0 |
| | III | 1 | 2 |
| | Women II | 2 | 3 |
| Netball | I | 33 | 44 |
| | II | 13 | 23 |
| Rugby | I | 14 | 17 |
| | II | 12 | 8 |
| | III | 12 | 71 |
| Squash | I | 1 | 4 |
| | II | 3 | 2 |
| | Women | 2 | 3 |
| Fencing | | 11 | 16 |

LACROSSE

Newcastle 10 Leeds 5

After some confusion as to which day the match was actually to be held on, a team was thrown together on Friday night when Leeds announced that they were going to claim a walk-over if we didn't turn up the next day. Short of five of the normal first team players, we arrived to find Leeds short of three players and wanting their umpire to play for them!

We agreed but soon discovered that someone can't umpire fairly and play at the same time. This was highlighted by the umpire barging and elbowing her way through our defence to score Leeds' first goal!

In the first half, our attacks appeared unable to find the goal despite numerous attempts. Tara saw a lot of play, mainly chasing failed goals! At half time we were losing 3-2.

In the second half, the umpire no longer played and one of our players was removed from the pitch to compensate for this. During the second half, we began to settle down and got used to Leeds' rather unconventional way of playing with all their players crowded down one end of the field. Our attacks did very well to find holes amongst the multitude of Leeds' players and the England U21 goalkeeper to score five goals in 20 minutes.

Liz, Bee, Tara, Jes and Georgie all kept the pressure on Leeds with Georgie scoring a particularly impressive goal. With an extra player in defence, Leeds were kept from scoring many in the second half.

Thanks to our sole-supporter (who must have been cold!) and to Liza, who yet again drove the minibus without smashing it and who also consumed a huge amount of winegums.

Now for the quarter finals!

**INTERMURAL
SOCCER**

Surveyors 4 Henderson Res 1

After the shock cup defeat last week, the Surveyors had something to prove and they did so with a resounding victory over Henderson, Fat Freddy and all. The pure domination of the first half should have led to a comfortable goal margin, but instead the Surveyors had to be content with only two goals.

The first, a Wimbledon like goal clearance, saw "Fash the Bash" Ollie clear the goal. The second, from a corner, saw the ball coming back off the cross bar, and who

CROSS COUNTRY

Newcastle Cross Country Club created history last Wednesday when for the first time in recent memory they beat Royal Grammar School over a tough 5 mile course around the town moor.

RGS, a talented young team were finally put in their place by a solid Newcastle performance.

RUGBY

Newcastle II XV 16 Hull II XV 6

Hull was supposed to be Newcastle's easiest UAU match but missed opportunities and stupid penalties given away at the wrong times meant it would always be a close game.

In the first half Newcastle made use of playing with the wind and as a result most of the time was spent in the Hull's half and so the opposition never really looked like scoring. Thankfully Rich Marsden was on good kicking form and so put on 12 points by penalties by half time. Newcastle should also have had a brace of tries by this stage but the moves always broke down at the last moment.

At half time Hodgey replaced 'Brown Lad' as he really didn't know where he was or what was going on, and so adding much pace to the pack?

In the second half Hull come back fighting and after a few minutes had got three points from a penalty and more stupid penalties gave them much of the possession. However strong tackling, particularly from Ed Langfield and good defensive work in general ensured Hull never scored. Hull increased their points tally to 6 with another penalty and Newcastle increased their lead by a try scored by Steve Readdy from a push-over scrum.

Newcastle III XV 71 Hull III XV 12

The University 3rd XV continued their UAU winning streak last Wednesday when they stuffed Hull out of sight 71-12. Starting the game somewhat less coiled than a panther's (panther's what Biffie) thanks to an inspirational warm up by JABBA (who by the way scored - the first in a long time (the 3rd team boys hope that you've sorted out your personal life, now Richard)) it was not long before Rugby instinct, ability and us having the fattest pack ever to take the field began to dominate.

The backs pissed about too much showing much "indiscipline", and Woodford pissed off those eight men good and true with too many kicks in the "wrong" direction. Hatricks were scored by Frank "it wasn't a hatrick, I only scored two honest guv", Herbie "I'm going to eat this K-Bals if it kills me", and Lauren, one man team, "nobody's touching it because its mine and I don't care if there is a 14 man overlap" Stewart. Other tries were scored but nothing as exciting as Jabba's tackle falling out and Tim having a piss on the field. (During the warm up!)

Biffa and Jibber

**Action photos?
Bring them in with your reports.**

was there but the boy Marcus to get a deserved goal on his debut.

The second half saw the Surveyors defending magnificently. In fact they can consider themselves unlucky(?) to concede the last two goals, since Fat Freddy obviously preferred to talk to his mate than play in goal! The goals that sealed the match came in the last 15 minutes, another from our star striker Ollie and a 50 yard screamer from the Hit-man.

Simon & Rob

Politics 4 EPH 1

The politics walked over the useless Eustace Percy side, although the scoreline perhaps

more aptly reflects the number of players each team should have had sent off. The politicians proved themselves less than diplomatic as the game disintegrated into a shouting match over every disagreement fit for the House of Commons, and neither team actually played well.

Politics took an early 2-0 lead which EPH hardly threatened in a scrappy contest which given the chance might have put Arsenal v Man Utd to shame, and brutally dealt with three EPH players.

And although 4-1 was a fair enough score-line it does not reflect the EPH sour grapes which were on par only with a bottle of Beaujolais Nouveau.

member and past member. This scratch team finished 8th overall-smashing Durham in the process, thus maintaining Newcastle's position as the rising stars of the North East. Prospects for future results look promising.

Congratulations to James Douglas for qualifying for the UAU Championships.

Jon Earp

of all who stand in the way.

The scoreline however bares about as much resemblance to the match as Saddam Hussein does to peace in the Gulf. The Agrics created and squandered chances with the front two and skippy being the

SOCCER

Agrics 6 Poly Computers 1

The Green Machine following up last weeks Cup triumph, returned to the league this week to continue the merciless massacre

SQUASH

Successful season so far for the women's squash team with only one defeat in the local league and with a good chance of promotion. As for UAU, well, no mercy has been shown to Leeds, Durham or Hull. Three easy victories and confident that our winning streak will continue in York.

Last week, the women's team (Cath Kenyon, Tina Squires, Diane Jobbie, Sue Black and Louise Warrack) and only TWO of the men's team (Dave Smith and Nathan Ward) participated in the UAU individual championship at Sussex University. A fair distance to travel, some may say, but it was worth it for the trip, for the fun of nearly losing a leg, for the visit to Cambridge and Brighton, and, of course, the squash.

The standard was extremely high and impressive to watch and, under the circumstances, we performed well. Dave and Nathan both reached the third round (out of 100 entrants) and the girls all played impressively, Cath reaching the final of The Plate.

Let's just hope the victories continue all season.

Special Promotion

Beaujolais Nouveau

est arrivé

Only

**£3.95 per bottle
90p per glass**

**Available in the Main Bar and
the Cochrane Lounge - Level 4**

Enjoy

