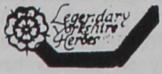


# Courier

Newcastle University Student Newspaper

Thursday, 31st January, 1991

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## FLOWER POWER

**Flower-wielding students, close down Tyne bridge in Gulf War sit-down protest.**

Traffic on the Tyne Bridge was brought to a grinding halt on Monday afternoon when about 100 peace campaigners occupied the road blocking the main route between Newcastle and Gateshead.

The demonstrators from Peace Action Newcastle, sat down across the road singing peace songs and holding flowers as part of their non-violent protest against the war in the Gulf. A stream of cars and lorries stretched back in both directions for nearly quarter of an hour while the police at the scene worked out how to deal with the protest.

The protesters eventually moved out of the way as an ambulance attempted to get through the blockade. Other drivers stopped by the demonstration made no attempt to force their way through the human blockade, but a few lost their patience and began sounding their horns in frustration, urging the police to move in.

No arrests were made, despite the heavy police presence and the campaigners dispersed without any trouble shortly after the demonstration had ended.

The campaign group were made up from students at the University and Polytechnic plus other organisations in the city including CND and the Green Party. Although there was a general reluctance to reveal the name of any organisers, the demonstration was well co-ordinated with a plan of action being circulated beforehand and leaflets giving details of the protest handed to the stranded drivers on the bridge.

The leaflets stated "This action is an individually motivated, non-violent spontaneous event to bring home the realities of the war to people on Tyneside . . . We believe that half an hours pause in the traffic is negligible compared to the



environmental and military catastrophe being waged in the Gulf."

Angela Webster, a 2nd year medic who took part in the demonstration told *Courier* "This is a peaceful protest against the mindless deaths in the Gulf. War is costing money and lives unnecessarily".

Lee Richardson, from the Socialist Worker Student Society and Peace Action Newcastle, said he believed the extremely quick arrival of the police was due to a tip-off after the Press were informed earlier in the day. A policeman was on the scene as the protesters gathered before occupying the road and five or six police vans arrived just minutes after they sat down.

Richard Carpenter

## Newcastle Students in Gulf War detention

Iraqi nationals studying at Newcastle University are among 65 students currently being held in detention, awaiting deportation by the British Government. Due to the sensitivity of the situation the Registrar would not release names and precise numbers, however Welfare Advisers believe at least three, possibly five Newcastle students are affected. The students are being detained in Pentonville Prison with two "more serious cases" being held in military custody. The Home Office stated "we consider their presence here not conducive to the public for reasons of national security." None of the detainees have been told precisely why they represent a security risk and many are appealing against their imprisonment. Several unsuccessful appeals have already been made to a panel of three independent advisers which makes a representation to the Home Office.

Thirty of the students initially defied their deportation notices because of their fear of returning to Iraq where they may have opposed the Ba'ath Party.

National Union of Students (N.U.S.) President Stephen Twigg said "NUS is deeply concerned about the situation facing many Iraqi students in the UK at the moment. We are fearful that if war is prolonged and casualties grow there may be a groundswell of anti-Arab racism. Only a dialogue between all interested parties can ensure a lasting peace in the area."

Union Society President Mike Shallcross believes "Arabic students wanted to take part in anti-war demos but were frightened to do so." He added that he thought the measures employed to detain the Iraqis, and the lack of legal representation permitted at appeal hearings were "draconian". The Registrar's Office stated that any Iraqi students would be allowed to continue their studies at a future date so long as the Home Office allowed and other University conditions were met. Last week's Emergency General Meeting passed a motion condemning the detention and deportation of Iraqi students. MP Chris Mullen and Richard di Bona are also campaigning on behalf of the Newcastle students.

Simon Bird

## Carlisle Poly?

**Poly Union caught unawares as Newcastle Polytechnic plans to open a campus in Carlisle.**

Newcastle Polytechnic is planning to open a new campus in Carlisle by September 1991. The plans which are being opposed by Cumbria County Council involve the provision of high quality business and management courses at both undergraduate and post graduate level.

Alison Steele, Polytechnic spokesperson explained, "this is not a case of expansion for expansions sake. Our plans are in response to invitations within Cumbria from individuals and organisations representing both employer and local interests. We hope to start running courses by September 1991 as long as we manage to sort out a number of practical problems." The key problem though is opposition from Cumbria County Council who favour a scheme put forward by Lancashire Polytechnic. They have refused to rent the Polytechnic the building capacity it requires to set up the Campus. However the Polytechnic may still be able to lease the land because it belongs to St. Aidan's County High School whose parents are currently voting on whether to opt out of local education authority control. Other problems include; funding and the finding of sufficient student accommodation. Alison Steele stresses that, "September 1991 is a realistic starting date for courses, the polytechnic is prudent in its planning and such a date would not have been set if we did not think we could achieve it".

Confusion seems to exist though between the Polytechnic and its Union body. Commenting on the proposals Newcastle Polytechnic Student Union President, Mark Lickley said, "Its the first I've heard about it. I've never been informed of such a plan, nor have I seen it in any minutes, nor has it been discussed at any meetings. The idea of a greenfield site was discussed but it was rejected. I personally am against a greenfield site since students would be isolated and existing resources would have to be split. Quite frankly the idea of a campus in Carlisle seems a bit bizarre. As to the proposed starting date of September 1991 it seems impossible since all funding for this financial year have been set and a new campus did not form any part of these proposals."

Dylan Champion

## VOTE:

Next Tuesday and Wednesday sees the Student Union's Sabbatical Elections. YOUR chance to decide the future of YOUR Union.

See all the candidates and their manifestos inside!

## Women's Officer



Sita Balasuperamaniam is the Union's new Women's Officer. In the election, last Friday, she won by 162 votes to 43, beating Helen Eagleton to the post.

She told *Courier*: "Obviously, I'm pleased. I hope I can work together with the rest of the women's group, but, crucially, give women's issues a higher profile within the University".

Asked what her first action in the post will be, she replied: "I am looking into doing a mail shot to all women in the Union, to include a health awareness fact sheet."

Sita will be in the post until July, when a new Women's Officer, to be elected on the 19th will take over.

## Inside

**ELECTION SPECIAL**  
The Candidates and what they stand for.

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**"DEPRAVITY"**

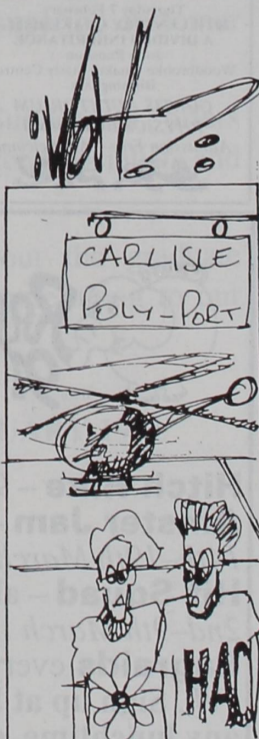
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**PENALTY SHOOT-OUT**

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"120 mph round trip - just to sleep through a lecture"

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## Time Running out for Access Fund

Last week the University's Financial Assistance Committee was informed that by 31st March any Access Fund money, above 15% of the sum awarded, is to be returned to the government. The Access fund, set up last year to help students in the light of student exemptions from social security and housing benefits, was due to be spent by the 31st May.

To date only 30% of the £130,000 grant has been spent with only 66 students having claims awarded and a number still in the pipeline. The University's Financial Assistance Committee is taking steps to ensure that all departments are informed of the Access Fund in the hope that more students will apply before the deadline. However, as the Deputy Registrar explained, although the University has been able to help all genuine cases, applicants must have explored all other options first, including the student loan system.

The scheme had a slow start in Newcastle due to appeals against

the figure of £130,000 as other universities of a similar size received more. Also there were problems of advertising the scheme as it is part of the government's Student Loan package and the University did not want to be seen to be advertising a scheme associated with debt.

Hilary Dawson, Welfare Adviser criticized the timing of the deadline, stating that it should have been nearer the end of the academic year. "Summer vacation is a time of great financial stress unless the students are earning or have rich parents," she said. She went on to say that this year would be particularly stressful because of students' exemption from social

security and housing benefits. The Deputy Registrar presumed the government's reasons for "changing the time goal posts half way through the session" were based on the fact that few universities had spent much of the allowance in this first year. However, other universities have also been thrown by 31st March deadline and the fear is that the amount spent will be a marker for future years of the Access Fund. It has, been put to the UFC that the first year of any scheme can never be typical. Natalie O'Neill, V-P Welfare, is also anxious that this first year does not set the level of funding for fu-

ture years. She urges people who feel they are in financial hardship to apply for a grant from the fund. "People tend not to claim because they feel there are always people more hard up than themselves," she said, "but in the final analysis all students are hard up." Natalie emphasizes the need for prospective students to act quickly. Any students who feel they are in financial hardship and think they would be eligible for a grant should seek advice from Natalie O'Neill on Level 6 or the Welfare Office. Application forms can be sought from the Welfare and Registrar's Offices.

Rachel Cope

## Raiders of the Lost Ark

As burglaries in Fenham hit an all-time high, (as reported in last week's Courier) the University Boat Club has also suffered at the hands of thieves.

Their boat house in Newburn on the Tyne was broken into on Tuesday evening, resulting in the loss of an engine from the launch, worth about £1100, and also of new equipment valued at around £1000 which was to be sold to members. The motor from Durham University's launch, which was also new, was stolen at the same time, resulting in an unpleasant surprise for Durham Boat

Club members when they arrived at Newburn on Wednesday.

The Boat Club have appointed a member, Phil Harrison, to deal with the theft from start to finish. While the stolen items were not insured on the Athletic Union's insurance policy, the Club expressed hopes that they would be covered by the policy for University grounds and premises.

M Merritt

## Gowns Gone

A major campus retailer has sadly been forced to end its traditional business due to university policy.

Robemakers Gray & Son, with a clientele mostly of graduates, are no longer to be allowed to sell their goods in the University and have found the replacement offer of an outlet in the Museum of Antiquities financially unworkable.

Dan Lamb

UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



### PUBLIC LECTURES EPIPHANY TERM 1991

Thursday 31 January - 5.30 p.m.  
**VELAZQUEZ'S LAS MENINAS:  
THE THEOLOGY OF PAINTING**  
Professor Richard Verdi  
Department of Fine Art  
University of Birmingham

**BLACKADDER LECTURE**  
Monday 4 February - 6.00 p.m.  
**TOWARDS 2000:  
IMO'S NEXT DECADE**  
Mr. W. A. O'Neill  
Secretary General  
International Maritime Organisation

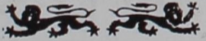
**SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES**  
**George Fox Tercentenary Lectures**  
5-7 February - 5.30 p.m.

Tuesday 5 February  
**GEORGE FOX AND TOLERATION**  
Christopher Hill  
Balliol College, Oxford

Wednesday 6 February  
**FRIENDS OF THE REGION -  
QUAKER CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
COMMERCE AND CULTURE**  
Percy Lovell  
Formerly Newcastle University

Thursday 7 February  
**20TH CENTURY QUAKERISM -  
A DIVIDED INHERITANCE**  
John Punshon  
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre,  
Birmingham

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## NUS Slammed By Tories

Stephen Twigg, NUS president has reiterated the NUS support for the anti-war movement in the face of criticism by Conservative M.P.'s who consider the stance to be irresponsible. As a result of the NUS policy over the Gulf War, Alan Howarth, Junior Minister for higher education, has ordered an enquiry into the Union's functions and activities.

Stephen Twigg said that the NUS would persist with its anti-war stance, claiming that as a result of hasty action by the US and its Allies, "the death toll... is likely to run into hundreds of thousands and is of great concern for the student movement."

Conservative backbenchers claim that the NUS is acting recklessly in lending support to the anti-war movement, emphasizing that it is now impossible for the Allies to withdraw until Saddam Hussein has been ejected from Kuwait. The Conservatives also accused the

NUS of being out of touch with the opinions of the majority of students who, they claim, are "in favour of the military action now being taken to liberate Kuwait."

Martin Milne, NUS Scotland slammed the Tory criticism, and said, "Students and youth are deeply worried about the war in the Gulf."

They know this war is all about oil and has nothing to do with democracy and international law."

Heather Saville

## SAS Search for Cooks

The South African Scholarship Fund (SAS) is looking for budding chefs interested in displaying their culinary skills for a very worthy cause.

From the 4th February for one week, a lunchtime cake stall will be operating outside the Union, the proceeds of which will go to providing a maintenance grant for a

black South African to pursue studies at Newcastle University.

The scholarship, organised by World University Service, is a project on which the University and Union collaborate. Tuition fees are waived, but the Students' Union has the responsibility of providing financial support - a particularly heavy burden since for the first time Newcastle welcomed

an undergraduate on a three year course. This is a unique chance for someone who would otherwise be denied the opportunity, so the SAS fund are hoping to fill the coffers.

Other fund-raising projects will include a jumble sale and a raffle. All donations or offers of help to Natalie O'Neill, V-P Welfare, Level 6.

Deirdre O'Brien

## Disappointing Expansion

The Universities Funding Council (UFC) is likely to announce plans for student expansion for next year which will fall well short of the level desired by universities, it was revealed last week.

Universities have put in bids for a 19 per cent expansion in student numbers but the UFC is reported to be proposing only a 7 per cent rise.

The relatively small increase in student numbers is likely to be broadly spread around the country. Some lower status institutions may only receive funding for a 1 per cent expansion programme compared to as much as 18 per cent for the higher profile universities.

However the UFC is expected to allocate more funds to arts and social sciences than universities had originally bid for.

Although the level of expansion is disappointing in the light of recent calls for increased funding for higher education it is generally viewed as "acceptable" when considered in relation to last year's public expenditure statement.

Richard Carpenter

## Bloody Good Response

Due to the public's great response from recent publicity on the Gulf conflict, the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre do not need to hold emergency sessions at the moment.

However, as the Gulf situation develops more donations may be needed so potential new donors are asked to leave their name and address so they can be contacted in an emergency. Anyone wishing to become a future donor should contact the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre at Fenham Barracks on 2611711.

Rachel Cope

## Constitutional Overhaul

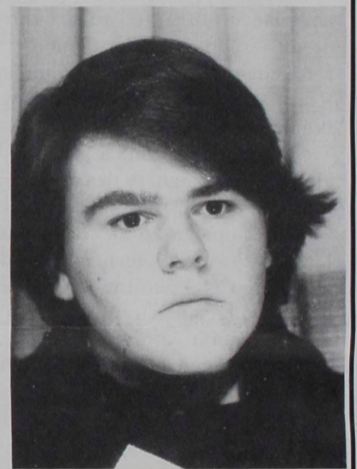
Only a few years ago, the constitution was reviewed and major changes made. So why, then, has much constitutional business been delayed while various people tried to interpret its contradictions? Time for an overhaul: a big job but somebody had to do it and finally, after starting work on it last Easter, the Sabbatical Secretary, Iain D. Pigg, has completed the draft of the new constitution.

The revision has largely been of the wording to clear up the problems created last time but there are several innovations: notably, to make the Union Council smaller in order for it to work more efficiently; to hold General Meetings less often but hopefully with more impact; and, the revision of the standings orders (rules governing the conduct at meetings) so meetings may be conducted more fairly and openly in an orderly fashion while remaining flexible in order that business can proceed under most circumstances.

Pigg believes a constitution should be responsive to the needs of the student body yet he hopes it will not need changing every few years, as "the Constitution is the legal hoop which binds together the staves of the barrel which is the Union Society."

The draft of the constitution was presented to Union Council on 24th January and a working party set up: it will be voted on on 19th February.

Claire Pickard



Iain Pigg, Sabbatical Secretary, contemplates his constitution and success at NUS conference

## Election Success for Pigg

For the first time since 1958, a Newcastle university Sabbatical Secretary has been elected to the NUS Steering Committee, which runs NUS Conference and interprets the constitution during conference. Iain Pigg came 3rd in the elections out of eleven candidates with a respectable showing of 100 votes. The basic tenet of Pigg's campaign was impartiality; in the past year he has dismissed one of his housemates from Union Council and a close friend from the Exec. due to constitutional irregularities in their elections.

Claire Pickard



Sign up now at **Rag Table** (in Main Bar 1-2) for following events:-

**Hitch Hike - 9th Feb**

**Amster Jam - cultural weekender**

14th-19th March

**Hit Squad - all during Rag Week**

2nd-9th March

**Ragraids** every Saturday from 9th Feb. Sign up at Main Bar Rag Table any lunchtime, or at New Rag Office, Level 3 opposite SRS.

Also sponsored **parachuting & skinnydipping** planned!

**Rag Week - for fun sports, mad races, Battle of the Bands, Hall Parties, Big Parade, Rocky Horror.**

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Frankfurt	38	76

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News

# Main Bar Attack

A student was attacked with a glass bottle and had to receive stitches on the first Wednesday night of term. The attacker lashed out and threw a bottle at another student who had to receive first aid in the porters' lodge.

According to the security officers report, "three unsteady customers staggered into the table. A Rugby Club Member reacted by throwing a bottle" at one of the three students "hitting him on the forehead and cutting him". Phil Supple, duty member, commented "this bloke was obviously drunk - you would have to be pretty silly to take the Rugby Club seriously - I can only congratulate the injured student for not reacting other

wise a major incident could have occurred".

Friends of the attacker though tell a different story and claim, "we were generally rejected and picked upon all night because we were obviously not "rugby boys" and then four rugby lads smashed into our table . . ."

Playing down the severity of the attack duty officer, Phil Supple, explained "what is important about this incident is it highlights the pointlessness of the Union policy of serving beer in plastic glasses when it is also available in glass bottles. I hope as a result of this that beer bottles are banned too".

Disciplinary Committee will be hearing the case at their next meeting.

Dylan Champion

# Byker Burgers

The Union narrowly escaped being home to "Byker Burgers" and "The Jarrow Bar" last Thursday, when the renaming of the Main Bar and the Burger Bar came before Union Council. The casting vote of Chair, Matthew Dufford, scuppered the renaming, proposed by Services Marketing and Development Committee.

However, the Bars (not yet officially named) will still face renaming in the near future, according to a new policy, passed at the same meeting. From now on, all new areas of the building will be named "In a manner which reflects the local heritage of Tyneside".

Viewpoint

## VIEWPOINT SPECIAL

# STOP THE WAR!

**"If the flattening of Kuwait is the liberation of Kuwait, I would have that" - so sayeth Sheikh Ali al-Sabah, a minister and member of the Emir's family, speaking about his country. And I do mean HIS country, because the Sabah family feel they own Kuwait, to do with it as their wish and whim desires. It appears that his wish will indeed soon be realised, as the Leviathan of war edges towards Kuwait, and towards a land war in which thousands and thousands of people - yes PEOPLE, not British, not Iraqis, not Kuwaitis, but people - are going to be dismembered, disembowelled and destroyed.**

During the First World War, Winston Churchill commented that, "a nation at war must surround itself with a bodyguard of lies." The war now raging rests also upon such a foundation of untruth, disinformation and propaganda. We continuously hear of the "surgical precision" of the hi-tech video games being played in Iraq. We are also told of the equivalent of two Hiroshima bombs so far, having been dumped on Iraq, with hardly any mention of casualties. This is patent nonsense and a huge insult to any thinking-being of intelligence above that of an amoeba. Surely it is obvious that for every Roman Candle of this "pretty fireworks display" people are being maimed and killed. How much horror does it take to convince you of the reality of war? Of course, such bloody facts are conveniently hidden or sanitised and then glorified beyond belief. Barbaric savagery cannot be glorified, and, sentencing another generation to be cannon-fodder for the political aims of our so-called leaders, is THE war crime.

Sadly though, it seems that the bullshit does work. In Newcastle alone, the recruitment offices of the armed forces have doubled their intake in recent weeks. At last, people have something to live for and a way of proving

their self-worth - by dying! A recent statement in the Financial Times read thus: "Put a map of the army's best recruitment areas over a similar chart of Britain's unemployment black-spots and their is an almost perfect fit"; must we consider it rather fortuitous timing, then, that unemployment is increasing at a rate of around 2,000 per day.

It may seem somewhat perverse to attempt any financial quantification of this war, but when we consider that the £1,000,000,000 being spent every day on this, free-market, enterprise initiative, could wipe out the whole of Sudan's national debt in six days, or at least avert the imminent famine with five and a half hour's expenditure, a new perspective arises. Closer to home, every hour's expenditure is equivalent to three new hospitals, or the repair of every school in Britain; yet in the name of "democracy" there are only thoughts of destruction and all true priorities are forgotten. Of course, democracy has no part in this war. When the Frankenstein of the moment is disassembled, then another will be put in his place, with less rebellious circuitry and a more effective leash to prevent the masters being bitten.

There is not, by any means, unanimous support for the cur-

rent dose of psychotic self destruction. Millions of people from Italy to the U.S.A., from Australia to Algeria; in Spain, Greece, France, Germany, many African countries, Japan, India, Pakistan and elsewhere have been on the streets telling their government that this war is not being sued in their names, demanding that sanity prevails and that a cease-fire is called immediately. In this country also, there is a burgeoning anti-war movement that includes anti-Saddam Iraqis and Kurds, who, despite being persecuted by the Baghdad regime, see no solution or way forward in the present bout of hypocritical butchery. Anyone who shares such feelings of horror should take heart from these universal condemnations, and realise that the "unanimous" support for the war is a complete fallacy. Rather than feeling paralysed into acceptance, I would urge that you join the Anti-War Movement becoming active in any way you see fit, and then, together, we can be confident and proud to say that not only do we recognise the madness for what it is but that we are doing something to end it. As a start, there is a national demonstration in London this coming Saturday, 2nd February, with coaches going from Newcastle, and obviously it needs to be huge. Also keep your eyes open for any other activity advertised around the city.

M. H. Lawton,  
3rd Year,  
Combined Studies  
Committee Against War  
in the Gulf

## COURIER CROSSWORD

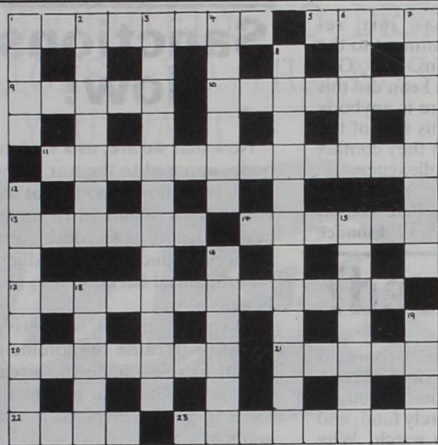
### COURIER CLUES

#### ACROSS

1. Soaked (8)
5. Ravine (4)
9. Ceramics (5)
10. Intestinal Infection (7)
11. Vivacious (4,8)
13. Tenants Fee (4)
14. Aircraft (6)
17. Electrical Generator (5,7)
20. Mass of Frozen Water (7)
21. Young Female Pig (4)
22. Advocate (8)
23. Belittle (5)

#### DOWN

1. Harbour (4)
2. Issue (7)
3. Road Safety Device (5,7)
4. Bolt (6)
6. Alarm (5)
7. Typical (8)
8. Governmental Body (5,2,5)
12. Meat Fat (8)
15. Rich Fabric (7)
16. Produced (6)
18. Pivot (5)
19. Inflamm (4)



### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Same, 3. Mindless, 9. Instant, 10. Eject, 11. Lodge, 12. Rascal, 14. Postgraduates, 17. Alumni, 19. Infer, 22. Alarm, 23. Neutron, 24. Stencils, 25. Fete. DOWN: 1. Ski Slope, 2. Mused, 4. International, 5. Dress, 6. Elegant, 7. Site, 8. Bad Egg, 13. Estrate, 15. Retrieve, 16. Unique, 18. Mimic, 20. Farce, 21. Mass.

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Letters

# Gulf War 1 Gulf War 2

Sir,  
I would like to bring to your attention and to readers about the setting up of an Anti-Gulf War Group within the University Union. This group, with approximately 70 members already, aims to promote and involve itself in any local and national anti-war activities, such as peaceful protesting, debates, discussions and general publicity.

We are a broad coalition of groups and individuals who have come together solely on the basis of our opposition to the present bloody and destructive war in the Gulf.

We believe this war is not about freedom and democracy and the "liberation" of Kuwait. Kuwait itself, before the invasion by Iraq, was by no means a democracy. Kuwait under the Emir had only a 60,000 electorate out of its 1.9 million people. No women were allowed the vote. The "guest workers" also in Kuwait were denied all rights as well as any share in Kuwait's enormous oil wealth.

The present war is actually about the securing of oil interests and profits, mainly by the U.S.A. in the Middle East. Hence, we are opposed to the sacrificing of ordinary lives in the pursuit of these interests.

I would like to urge students to join the anti-war movement and the Anti-War Society within the University. Oppose this war, which will only lead to further death and destruction in the world.

Yours, against the war,  
Safina Siddique,  
Chair,

University Union Committee Against War in the Gulf

Sir,  
Re: "Engulfed" - Courier, 24th January 1991.  
Andrew Weatherston has every right to disagree with Union Society policy on the Gulf: and I would be the first to defend his right to do so in the pages of Courier.

However, what I am not prepared to countenance is his utterly negative carping about Union democracy. The General Meeting is the basis of representation in the Union; and every member has the right to vote in a General Meeting. The fact that not every member turned up to the Emergency General Meeting which decided the policy to which Mr. Weatherston objects is irrelevant: that meeting was better advertised, better attended and better debated than any which I have witnessed in three years at this University.

If people disagree with the Union's policy, they should try to change it by calling a General Meeting themselves instead of simply whingeing afterwards. It ill behoves a member of the Union Society to discredit its democracy so unconstructively.

I remain, Sir,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
Iain D. Pigg,  
Sabbatical Secretary

## Justice??

Sir,  
I hope you will allow me this opportunity to highlight a recent decision by the British justice system. Early last year a child was adopted by a woman in Newcastle, the child having previously been in the care of a temporary Foster parent.

Several months later there was a storm of protest sparked off mainly it seems by *The Chronicle*. Why? Because the woman who after going through all the vetting processes was declared by *The Chronicle* and by the previous Foster parent as being an unfit parent due to the fact that she was in a stable and loving relationship with another woman.

And of course the High Court have decided to take the child from the Lesbian couple, and of course the decision had nothing to do with their sexuality.

This is the latest example of this country's homophobic and heterosexist Justice system and press. Along with this the Tory government are about to try and

push through Clause 25 . . . but the press have probably kept so quiet that you won't know about this one.

The Union has just reaffirmed its commitment to the Rights of Lesbians and Gay men. And perhaps I can use this space to ask if there is anybody interested about this side of the Union's work, that they contact me or any of my colleagues.

Yours etc.,  
Pete Marsh,  
VP Finance

## Confused?

Sir,  
I still remain rather confused - why is the University so het up about a trivial game played by old men. Golf is rarely fatal, and most enjoyable to watch. Why don't you leave Mr. Faldo and Co., in peace?

Yours etc.,  
Sheik Pastill Rowntree,  
Chief Adviser to the  
Ayatollah Winegum

# Courier

Newcastle University Student Newspaper  
Union Society, Kings Walk, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8QB  
Telephone: (091) 232 4050

## Lose your card's virginity

Brace yourselves, this is another "please vote" message. The importance of these Elections cannot be under-estimated as their result will determine how students at Newcastle University are represented and catered for. The six people who will be elected on Wednesday night are prepared to work long hours and suffer abuse for what is, after all, a low rate of pay.

Last year only 1,200 students from a student body of over 8,000 got a hole in their Union card. Many who were not involved have seen fit to complain about the current crop.

Is a few minutes thought and the virginity of your Union card really worth having no say in your future at University?

Check out the candidates overleaf and make an effort on Tuesday and Wednesday.

This week's 'My Friend' and several letters submitted this week has been withheld as being possibly prejudicial to the Election. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

Editor	Rob Cotterill	Crossword	B. Ward
News Layout	Richard Carpenter	Business Manager	Susan Tavernor
Viewpoint Layout	Dylan Champion	Photography	Andy Charlesworth
Arts	Philip Best		Benjamin Rodd
Music	Chris Wood		Heather Laycock
Features	Gary Ross	Computer Layout	Mark Warnes
Insight	Boz Worrall		Ben Thompson
Sport	Jonathan Brewer	Copy Entry	Alia Sheikh
Listings	Heather Saville		Helen Barlow
Cartoonists	Richard Foster	Permanent Secretary & Advertising Manager	Monica Doughty
	Steve Watt		

## Sanctions Now!

Sir,  
Now that we are, as a student body, opposed to the war in the Gulf, I ask, nay demand that the Union Society and all its members boycott all goods and services produced by, the Allies, their financial backers, Iraq and Israel.

This no doubt effective boycott will cause the forementioned to re-evaluate the situation in the Gulf and eventually force all parties involved to kiss and make up.

I don't care how long we go without anything to eat or drink, just the time that it takes sanctions to work.

I remain Sir a misguided fool,  
D. R. Opthebomb

## Free Speech

Sir,  
I read with disgust of the actions of those xxxxxxxx xxxxxx that comprise the Union Council. How dare these jumped up xxxx's propose that words like xxx, xxxx, xxxxxx, xxx, xxxx, xxxx and xxxx cannot be used in this newspaper on the grounds that they are "... racist, sexist, hetrosexist or otherwise offensive ...".

All I can say to you dear Union Council is xxxx off you bunch of whinging little xxxx's.

Long live freedom of speech.  
Yours etc.,  
Roger Mellie

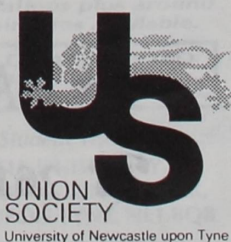
# PART-TIME EXECUTIVE & EDITOR OF COURIER ELECTIONS

All nominations and Publicity to be returned by 1.00 p.m. Friday 1st. February 1991

Accommodation Officer, Chair of Representation, Welfare and Campaigns Committee, Chair of Services Marketing and Development Committee, Editor of Courier, Equal Opportunities Officer (2), International Students Officer, Publicity and Marketing Officer, Societies Officer, Women's Officer.

HUSTINGS LEVEL 2  
1.00 p.m. Fri. 8th Feb.  
Mon. 11th Feb.

VOTING  
Tues. 12th Feb.



# THE SPEAKEASY

"NEWCASTLE'S HOTTEST INDEPENDENT DANCE CLUB!!"

THE ONLY DANCE CLUB WHERE YOU CAN DRESS ANY WAY YOU WANT! (ABSOLUTELY NO DRESS RESTRICTIONS) TO THE MUSIC YOU WANT!



THE HIPPEST OF 1930'S ART DECO BUILDINGS, SITUATED JUST OFF WESTGATE ROAD IN THE HEART OF NEWCASTLE'S "THEATRE VILLAGE"

## THU, FRI, SAT 10-2

### FREE ENTRY

### AT ANY TIME!

WITH A VALID S.U. CARD!

### 3 BARS & 2 POOL TABLES

IF YOU, OR ANYONE YOU KNOW, WANTS TO JOIN THE SPEAKEASY, SIMPLY FILL IN THE FORM & TAKE IT TO THE SPEAKEASY! EASY!

To: The Membership Secretary  
**SPEAKEASY**  
15 Bath Lane  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 5ST



APPLICATION FORM  
Office Use Only

I wish to apply for FREE membership of the Private Members Club. If elected, I agree to abide by the current Club Rules, an up to date copy of which I understand will always be available for inspection at the reception and will be provided on request.

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

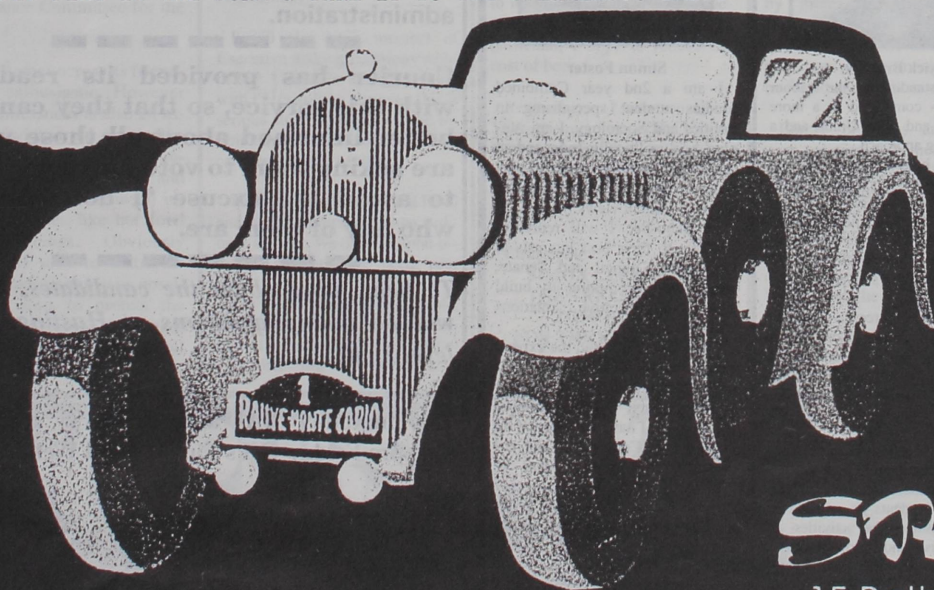
Mr/Mrs/Miss: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## SPEAKEASY

15 Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne

Elections '91

# SABBATICAL

## PRESIDENT



**Simon Evans**

Simon is standing in this election on his record in the Union as a campaigner and is backed by the Labour Club.

This year Simon has been the Union Accommodation officer, campaigning for new accommodation, better food and facilities in Halls, better security and for fair rents. He has gained practical experience of working on behalf of students for a better deal in Housing.

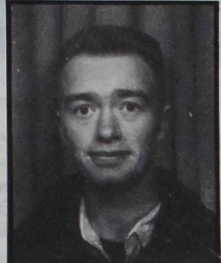
Simon wants to see more information about the Union given to students. Publicity in Halls and Departments as well as in the Union.

He also wants to see greater opportunity for people to be involved in the Union and less elitism and bureaucracy. Union campaigns should be open to all and reflect the REAL needs of students such as housing grants and benefits.

Simon Evans is the practical choice for a committed and experienced President.

If you want a democratic, campaigning and progressive Student Union, then vote

**SIMON EVANS FOR PRESIDENT**



**Tim Farron**

The President represents students in dealings with the University, N.U.S. and the media as well as being the political leader of the Union.

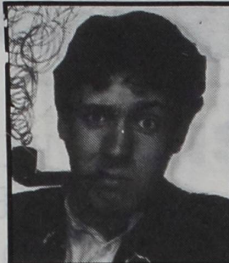
I've been a delegate to five N.U.S. conferences and I've been a member of the N.U.S. National Executive. I understand N.U.S. and I'm not intimidated by the extremists who run it!

As a former member of University Staff-Student committee and Universities' National Committee, I know how to deal with the University - to get them to do what students want **without ranting**.

I want this Union to expand its services. I want to see this Union controlled by the students to whom it belongs, rather than by an irrelevant clique.

I want to see a President who puts in fifty hours a week, who enjoys the job and does it well.

For experience, hard work and common sense,  
**Vote Tim Farron for President.**



**Dan Hill**

HELLO! Mr Dan here, your Pipesoc candidate. As Pipesoc President since 1990, it was inevitable I'd go for the big job one day. Here's a few ideas....

\* A £5,000 tobacco allowance to replace grants, which in turn will replace lectures.

\* The Socialist Workers to have their own Union Shed on the Moor, incorporating a George Bush Bar.

\* Castle Leazes to be converted into fox hound kennels (should be easy).

\* The Polytechnic to be abolished under an obscure Union Constitution clause, and converted into much needed halls of residence.

\* A special "OINK!" Hooter in the Union for calling Iain P\*\*\*

\* Paul McCartney's pro-pipe (not anti-war) song "Pipes of Peace" to be the Union's anthem.

So, to all you 15% who vote, remember Mr Dan stands for Pipesoc, and Pipesoc stands for liberty, truth and war. The other 85%, feel free to vote. Voting is sexy.  
**Operation Smoke Storm has begun!**



**Tublu Mucherjee**

The world is in turmoil. The new year brought with it a bloody war in the Middle East. We are told that this is a war for freedom and democracy. The hypocrisy becomes self-evident when you remember the invasion of Panama and how they backed the dictator Saddam Hussein.

It is obvious that this war is about oil and power. Another example of how our rulers put profits before lives.

At a time of famine in the 3rd world, education cuts and underfunding, they spend £1 billion a day on the war. The Labour party stand is deplorable, there is only one organisation which has the untethered principles to make a stand against the war and against all the ills of our society from the poll tax to the greenhouse effect.

I urge you to vote for me, the S.W.S.S. candidate, an organisation fighting untiringly to make the world a fairer place.



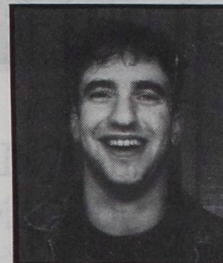
**Fiona Smyth**

Fiona Smyth is well qualified to take on the job of President of the Union. Not only is she enthusiastic and committed; she has a long history of working in a team, being a Youth and Community leader in Scotswood, working with underprivileged children.

She is also President of Newcastle University Theatre Society, and was first year representative of the Combined Studies department.

She is involved in many campaigns, and is especially committed to giving women a voice in the Union. The last woman president was in 1987. She sees the War in the Gulf, the Poll Tax, Student Loans, Housing, racism and homophobia all being priority issues in the year ahead. Issues that only a strong united Union can fight and win.

She has the charisma to unite the many strands, for an executive not hampered by petty rivalries and careerists; but working for and being accountable to the Students of Newcastle University.



**Phil Supple**

I'm a second year Archaeologist and have, during my time here, used and worked in the Union.

It seems to me that many people are less than happy with the way they are represented by the Sabbaticals.

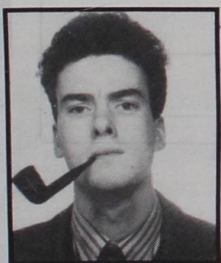
This Union is **NOT** a platform for extreme views. The Union is here to serve students, and it's the President's job to represent them in the Community and amongst various University Committees.

I feel that ordinary students need a candidate who will not take advantage of his/her position. Politics only enter into the President's job when issues like housing and Loans threaten the quality of life of present and future Newcastle Students.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

**Phil**

## SABBATICAL SECRETARY



**Richard Bennett**

Hello, I am Richard Bennett, a first year Agric and member of the growing pipe society.

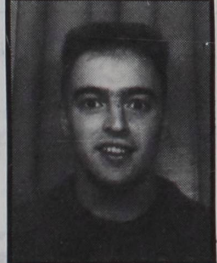
I believe there should be no party factions in these important elections.

**The Pipe Soc. stands for**

- 1) Liberty, Truth and War.
- 2) Removal of the Civic Centre and the creation of a large croquet lawn, where we can hold Intervarsity Bowls and Croquet championships.
- 3) An ultimatum against the Polytechnic to clear out of Newcastle so that we can use their buildings as much needed Halls of Residence.
- 4) Free tobacco to all Pipe. soc members and sale of tobacco behind the Main bar.
- 5) The pro - pipe - not anti war "Pipes of Peace" as the Union's anthem to be sung at Graduation ceremonies.

So remember, keep party politics out of the election,  
**VOTE FOR NON POLITICAL PIPE-SOC**

**VOTE FOR OPERATION SMOKE STORM AND VOTE FOR OPERATION SMOKE STORM. VOTE BENNETT!**



**Dave Bentley**

**Who the Hell is Dave Bentley?**

You might have seen me in SRS dealing with interviewees who want accommodation. Perhaps you've seen me driving for SCAN on a Wednesday dropping people off at various projects or even in the Union doing a **DUTY MEMBER** night

**What should the Secretary be?**

The Secretary should be impartial and willing to listen to all views.

Uphold **UNION POLICY** and not party policy because its **STUDENTS** not a party that counts.

To be patient with everybody and most of all be **ENTHUSIASTIC**.

**What does the Secretary do?**

Chair of Staff Committee, dealing with all staffing matters. Take minutes of all meetings that happen and ensure circulation to the relevant members. Maintain the Constitution with the help of Steering Committee. Be around for everybody to speak to.

I'm not a political campaigner, but the Secretary's job is not to campaign but to keep things running smoothly.



**Nick Brereton**

Nick is standing as the Labour Candidate - committed to a more democratic and open Union and a campaigning approach.

Last year he took a year out from his Maths and Psychology degree to serve as Convenor of Tyne Tees N. U. S. - a job which needs a lot of dedication, a clear understanding of how Student Unions work, and what can go wrong; and skill in bringing people together.

Despite the resources available to the Union, we seem unable to involve our membership. I want to see the Union move out of the confines of the building - publicity in the departments, halls and library. We must:

- democratise Union Council, increase accountability.
- strengthen the Union by involving as many students as possible in campaigns and other activities.
- Fight elitism and Union cliques

Nick is the experienced candidate, and has a track record that proves his ability.

**Vote Nick Brereton - For a Democratic Campaigning Union.**



**Simon Foster**

I am a 2nd year Combined Studies student specialising in Politics and Sociology. I am running as a politically Independent candidate as I believe that this post should reflect the widest possible range of student views.

As Sabb-Sec I will represent students to their best interests at University Council and Senate, whilst also attempting to build good administrative relations within the Union.

I feel that I have had the experience necessary to undertake such a position, I am the longest serving Union Council member running for the post, I have also served on Registration Committee, and am currently the Vice-President of Freeman's Hall. I believe that these responsibilities have given me the experience to work within a team and to deal with student concerns.

So - vote for an experienced Independent candidate prepared to represent everyone's views in a positive open-minded way.

Sabbatical Elections take place on Tuesday and Wednesday. All students have the right to vote. All you need is a Union card. The post-holders become the most powerful voices in the Union, responsible for everything from Ents, to Bars, from staff, to sports, from money to campaigns, from Exam appeals to administration.

Courier has provided its readers with this service, so that they can be better informed about all those who are asking them to vote for them, and to avoid the excuse "I don't know who any of them are."

To hear more about the candidates, they will be taking questions at Hustings on level 2, at:

- 1.00 pm today (AU and Secretary)
- 1.00 pm Friday (VPs Finance and Welfare)

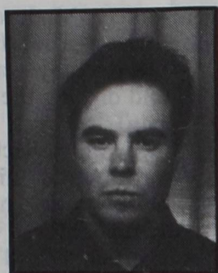
Sunday Afternoon / Evening  
Ethel Williams & Henderson (all candidates)

Monday Evening Castle Leazes (all candidates)

Elections '91

# ELECTIONS

## VICE-PRESIDENT WELFARE



David Holmes

"Welfare" has become a dirty word under the Tories. Why? The reason is that they want to free capitalists from the burden of paying for it. For Tories, there is only one class to care about. Against this profit and loss mentality, socialists stand for a more equitable and caring society. For S. W. S. S. this doesn't just mean helping people with "individual" problems. It means tackling many of these problems at source. It means fighting the poll tax, student loans and general cuts. It means fighting to change the whole nature of this rotten system. You see, unlike the Labour party, we haven't sold out.

It is organised people that have the power and ability to fight injustices. S. W. S. S. are just one part of this process. But we have the determination, the organisational know-how and above all, the principles, to be a very important component part.

A vote for S. W. S. S. is a vote for principled socialism.

Jason Stamp



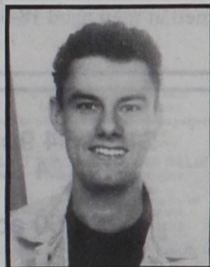
With the looming housing crisis and the rapid increase in student numbers, the day to day welfare of the student body has never been more important. Issues such as a lack of childcare facilities and disabled access must finally be resolved and campaigns must now be co-ordinated on a broader, more accessible base.

With my experience as Societies Officer, and as an active participant in the Representation, Welfare and Campaigns Committee, I feel that I have already displayed some of my enthusiasm and firm commitment to a wide range of welfare issues.

Welfare is an issue that concerns us all, uniting the diversity of the student population, and as Vice President Welfare it is my aim to involve as many students as possible in the campaigns and issues that directly relate to them and to achieve the positive results they demand.

JASON STAMP — THE FIRST CLASS CHOICE FOR WELFARE

## VICE-PRESIDENT FINANCE



Andy Baines

Andy is a second year Maths student. He is not trying to portray himself as a financial "Whizz - Kid"; He has abilities and interests that will aid him in the position of V.P. (Finance). He has travelled widely, worked with children and helps out in S. C. A. N. He has managed a retail outlet with turnover of £250,000. He has also been asked to sit on the Finance Committee for the Union.

Andy comes across as friendly and enthusiastic. However his relentlessness is also an asset. He is impartial politically. He aims to keep down or reduce the price of food and beverages in the Union; to increase facilities like hot food in the evenings. Obviously Andy will seek to distribute Union funds as fairly as possible and aims to protect the funding for SCAN. Any other ideas - suggest them to Andy! He is willing to listen



Emma Beswick

The job is not about politics or campaigning. It's being available to the ordinary students; to book a minibus, or authorise a society grant.

Duties include chairing Finance Committee (I am already a member and am confident I can do well) and services, such as catering and bars which need improvement (the more sales, the better the service, THE CHEAPER THE PRICES.....)

I will also be a member of Executive making decisions within the Union. In an organisation with £2 1/2 million turnover, this is serious stuff! Level 6 can be intimidating, but at under 5 ft tall, I can't be accused of that!

I was involved in FYC and RAG and most importantly as an ordinary student. We depend upon ordinary students; We need your vote.

For an unbiased, approachable, competent, committed, enthusiastic and experienced V.P. (Finance) Vote "Big" Vote Beswick



Simon Clerehugh

This is my second year in Newcastle. I started a Chemistry course in 1989 and have now changed to first year Physics. I am a Christian and an Exec member of Havelock Hall.

I believe that V. P. (Finance) is a non political post. I will treat all requests for money et cetera impartially, even if I personally disagree with them. I will do my best to improve Union services, especially catering and the bars. In particular, I hope to reduce the cost of beer.

Remember - I want to serve YOU, the members of the Union! I have no political affiliations, and I am NOT standing for a year out, or because it would "Look good on my C.V."

Please vote for me:  
**SIMON CLEREHUGH**  
**THE TREASURER OF**  
**TOMORROW**  
**FOR THE STUDENTS OF**  
**TODAY**



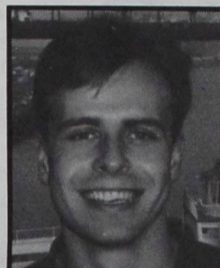
Richard Di Bona

With a high level of inflation and further attacks on individual student finances and University funding over recent years, our Union has been hit hard.

We have an increasing number of students, an increasing demand on our facilities and our University Block Grant income falling in real terms. Clearly we are in a time of financial squeeze; this can only be solved by increasing efficiency. As Chair of Services, Marketing and Development Committee I have seen where savings have to be found and extra money made.

Empty promises and short-term solutions are meaningless. We must thoughtfully, collectively and carefully plan for our Union's long term financial success: maximising our full potential at every stage. Only by understanding the diversities of our Union and the realities of our position can we ensure that funding is available for our student services and campaigns, not only today, but in years to come.

## A.U. PRESIDENT



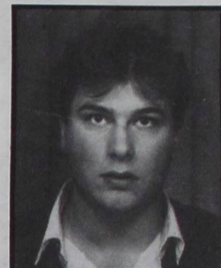
Alan Bain

One of the problems with any sabbatical position is continuity. I believe, over the last two years I have built up a sufficient working knowledge of the Athletic Union to best provide a measure of continuity as A. U. President.

For the last two years I have been a member of the A. U. standing committee and I have also represented the A. U. at Union Council. Through this I have gained a valuable insight into how the Union as well as the Athletic Union is run.

As the Athletic Union's U.A.U. / B.U. S. F representative I have also gained an understanding of where our University stands in the national context, particularly important, considering our geographical position.

Through the experience of working on various committees, attending council, representing our University nationally as well as running the University Soccer Club, I believe I have the expertise to deal with the variety of tasks involved in running the Athletic Union.



Richard Hunter

I'm a second year history/politics student and have played for the University at both rugby and cricket. I am secretary of the cricket club, and A. U. representative on the standing committee for both sports.

What I would really like to see is a much wider participation in sports by the student body. I don't think a lot of people realise the range of facilities open to them. I would like to see different levels of sports, competitive or otherwise, from the deadly serious right down to the social sides, so that no one feels left out, whatever their ability or limited time.

I have the enthusiasm, personality and dedication to further student interests as A. U. president.

## ENTERTAINMENTS OFFICER

BIG NU EVENTS PRESENTS...  
**MARK DRABBLE + SUPPORT**  
TOUR DETAILS...

- 3rd year Science student.
- 3 year experience on Entertainments crew.
- Assistant to Ents Officer 1990/91.
- Provide a more professional dynamic and responsive organisation able to cater for all needs within the Union.
- Continue the upgrading of equipment and the quality of service, looking closely at level 2.
- Solve the problem of passouts on L 2 Friday nights.
- Actively strive for better drinks promotions.
- A six-day, all week entertainments program.
- Push towards a permanent Entertainments manager, helping to bring the Union back on course, generating the support that it previously had.
- A return to the days when big name bands wanted to play the University in Newcastle, putting the Students Union back on the Entertainments map.

Members and Bona-fide Guests only



## Voting:

Feb 5/6	Main Bar	10-8 pm
	Library	11-3 pm
	Medical School	11-3 pm
Feb 5	Henderson & Ethel Williams	4-7 pm
Feb 6	Castle Leazes	4-7 pm

**TWO PUBS**  
THE BARLEY MOW · THE EGYPT COTTAGE  
CITY ROAD · NEWCASTLE  
**ONE STREET**

**Topstyle 2**  
INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

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

THEATRE/Brecht's *Happy End* and "Waterland"

# Kiss Me Kurt

Eastern Angles Theatre Co.'s "Waterland" at the Gulbenkian (1-2 Feb.).



It would seem that in Brecht's "Happy End" (Venture Theatre Company at The Gulbenkian 23-26 Jan) the German genius of political theatre decided to let his hair down - metaphorically of course.

This tale of hoodlums and holy rollers is something of a thinking thesp "Guys and Dolls" - Brecht meets Broadway and discards the dance routines.

Actually I'm fibbing to you, dear readers because Brecht only wrote the lyrics for this drama (with Weill composing the score) but then "Dorothy Lane (who?) meets Broadway" isn't a very snappy phrase

so I mislead you. Brecht gets star billing anyway in this history of gangster and God-squad stalwarts, love, suspense, and a decided lack of alienation techniques in evidence.

The amateur players didn't seem to be taking the proceedings too seriously and gave relaxed, convincing portrayals of their cartoon characters. Sets, lighting and effects were minimal, but with all profits going to Christian Aid (would Brecht be amused?) there may have been reasons for this.

Ultimately this is closer to "popular theatre" than any of Brecht's masterworks, inferior though it may be. Fun rather than high-art, it was a pleasing bit of show-business which

revealed to its audience that Brecht does not always equal theatre for a coterie; he liked the odd plunge into cliché too.

Melanie Duignan

Hettie Macdonald's ambitious production of Graham Swift's Booker-nominated "Waterland" arrives at The Gulbenkian (1-2 Feb). Just how well Swift's complex and haunting tale of provincial life translates to the stage remains to be seen, but early reports are good. Set in the East Anglia fens this dank melodrama weaves through three generations and such staple issues as rural incest, murder and abortion. Tickets are £2.50 and performances begin at 8.00 p.m.

## CINEMA/Beautiful Dreamers

If somebody combined *Dead Poets' Society* and *The Mission* (the film, NOT the band) and set the resulting plot in a lunatic asylum, the end-result would not be unlike *Beautiful Dreamers* Tyneside Cinema. However, the film manages to stand on its own because it's true.

In 1880, Doctor Maurice Bucke, superintendent of an asylum in Canada, (*Colm Feore*) found a kindred spirit in the freethinking poet Walt Whitman (*Rip Torn*) and their friendship inspired him to implement his radical ideas for the asylum; instead of shock-treatments, he promotes communication of feelings, leading onto the abolition of restraints for the inmates. Local society is scandalised, not least of all Bucke's wife Jessie (*Wendel Meldrum*), for this liberality threatens all that 19th century convention usually represses, including sexuality. The two freethinkers must stand up against the condemnation of local politicians who believe their actions to be atheism in the highest degree.

Sounds bleak? Well, it's not. The film manages to largely avoid cliché while remaining emotive and the overall effect is uplifting. Though not fast-moving, there are enough surprises to retain interest for which credit is due to a relatively unknown cast and to beautiful directing, photography and music. I personally feel it's a pity the film will not enjoy a wider release because it deserves a lot of success. If it had a box-office star in one of its leading roles, it certainly would have got it but I can't think of any actor who would have done a better job. Wonderful film, uplifting experience. Claire Pickard

## BOOKS/Lester Bangs R.I.P.

# Headbanger

Lester Bangs - 'Psychotic Reactions and Carburettor Dung' (Minerva £6.99).

Music journalists must possess certain qualities. They must know what to say, they must know how to say it, and above all they have to mean it. Steven Wells aside, not so today's performing circus of hacks. The virtues of honesty and passion that course through this collection have all but dried up today. Modern rock journalism amounts to little more than a pose, slick wordplay with no heart, journalists desperately wanting to be seen doing the right thing and digging the right scene (then promptly burying it again).

That's an indication why this collection of writing (by "the greatest rock 'n' roll writer this world has even known" as the cover blurb wrongly has it) is so timely. Wrongly because Bangs is a writer to whom rock 'n' roll is everything. He isn't a rock 'n' roll writer. It matters not that many of Bang's subjects mean nothing to us, the writing alone is enough (does it bother you who the Mona Lisa actually was?).

Bangs is aware of the need for rock, a need which hasn't changed over the years even if the faces to fill it have. It's this which makes his criticism as relevant now as when first written (between 1971 and 1981) and makes this book essential reading for anyone who wants to know more about music than what trainers Pop Will Eat Itself are wearing this week.

Ian Bland

## COMICS/Philip Best puts the squeeze on Zit (groan!)

Issue 1 of *Zit* claims to be "probably the funniest comic in the world", hmmm... - highlights(?) include 'Salman Rushdie - Master of Disguise' (the jokes are certainly well hidden) and 'Madass Hussein' (with a script so inane that one could be moved to sympathise with the old git). My gripe with this magazine is not that the strips are poorly drawn or that the material is puerile, sexist and almost entirely scatological; no, the major problem with *Zit* is its complete and utter lack of anything remotely approaching wit or humour. The press release claims that the comic is 'aimed at men aged 18-35', is that months or years I wonder?

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# RIVERSIDE

# Kinky Boots

## Believe in the Power Ecstasy MotherF\*\*\*ers

POWER OF DREAMS  
RIVERSIDE 22-1-91

With the critically acclaimed first album, "Immigrants, Emigrants and Me" and a support slot with The Mission, behind them, it appeared that things were really going to start happening for this young Irish band. Playing to only about a hundred people at the Riverside they attempted to prove their credentials.

For a while they live up to expectations. The songs are full of jangly guitars and angst ridden lyrics in a genre slightly reminiscent of The House of Love. The pace is, however, unrelenting and ultimately proves their downfall as songs merged without gap as if POD are anxious to get the whole ordeal over with. The promising songs from the album become pale shadows of their recorded versions. Not all is bad, however, with "You bring me flowers", a grim contemplation of a dead man's thoughts being best of the night.

After less than an hour POD depart without encore and nobody, save the lobotomized teenies at the front, wants them back. Before the gig, I thought this lot were going to be the next big thing. 45 iconoclastic minutes later and I'm not so sure. My advice to them is slow down and get rid of that terrible name.



Power of Dreams - fashion victims?

Howard A. Bell

DESMOND DEKKER 23/1/91 - RIVERSIDE

"Are you ready for Desmond Dekker?" "Yeah!" roars the crowd. On he stalks wearing tight black leather flares and a flowery polyester shirt - a man with style! Still going after all these years Desmond proves himself to be a true artist. He plays all the old classics with style, enthusiasm and true professionalism. He has the ability to bring together people from all walks of life and all ages and create an atmosphere of pure happiness. "The Israelites" was the last song and everyone shouted down Des in the excitement as he handed the microphone over to the audience.

Desmond Dekker is an experience not to be missed.

Emma Marks

### Naffall on in the City shock!!!

It may amaze you to learn that there are virtually no famous bands playing in February. However, this is an opportunity to go and see all those local bands you've always wanted to see.

Tonight at Riverside the new Sonic Blue record label launch party features Deep, Dead Flowers and Octafish, whilst every Saturday the Woosh Disco will feature local indie bands. Finally, Courier recommends you "bleep out" at (coincidentally enough) Riverside for the "Not the Rave Festival" on the 20th.

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Thu 7	DREAM WARRIORS	£5.00
Fri 8	THE BLESSING	£2.00
Wed 13	FATIMA MANSIONS	TBA

## Christmas Cracker!

Last week Courier caught up with local musician, and Union Xmas party perennial, Martin Stephenson. As well as a hardcore student following, Martin and his band the Daintees have released three universally acclaimed albums. Pop, politics and more besides were discussed over tea at Roy's café in Tynemouth.

**Courier:** The Daintees' music is very eclectic Martin, where are its 'roots'?

**M.S.:** Everywhere, from blues onwards - 60's, punk and new wave which is when the band came about. Recently I've been listening to a lot of Irish music, whistles and the like.

**Courier:** What do you make of the rave scene?

**M.S.:** It's good, yes, everything moves in a big circle...

**Courier:** The late 60's, the Byrds etc. (nods)... Is it becoming

EMF / STEREO MCs 24/1/91 - RIVERSIDE

The only bad thing about this gig was the blatant money-making aspect - the merchandising stall must have been as wide as the Riverside stage and almost everyone seemed to have their EMF sideways-on baseball cap. Hmm.

STEREO MCs are white boys with skinhead cuts and a genuine passion for rap in all its forms. Instead of just being a bandwagon to jump on dance music is almost a religion for them and they laid down a blistering set which even had the (stereotypically bored and beer swilling) mixing desk men jumping. Excellent.

Before EMF came on their DJ took the stand for a good 30 minutes of hardcore techno dance tunes (no, NOT the KLF) which created an atmosphere quite unlike any gig I've attended since the Shamen. The band took it even higher with their first few songs - very fast, very hard and almost decipherable through the distinctly muddy sound system. By this time the audience are going absolutely wild, but quite rightly refraining from the moronic pushing and shoving that characterises packed out Riverside gigs normally.

Summing up, EMF may be about as musically original as Showaddywaddy but they sure know how to throw a good party.

Chris Wood

THE SUNFLOWERS - THE BROKEN DOLL 20/1/91

Upstairs at the Broken Doll looks more like a squatters lounge than a music venue, and thus is not the ideal arena in which to judge the ability of the local talent, but I can safely say that talent is what the first band, Goose, were lacking. The singer, doing a poor impersonation of Mark E Smith, was as incomprehensible as Roy Hattersley and might as well have been singing in Norwegian. Combined with a guitarist who know fewer chords than Status Quo, this lot were laughable. The second band, The Ingersolls, had a distinct advantage over their predecessors—they could play. Their sound was distinctly melodic and if anything were slightly reminiscent of The Jam. However, they too were usurped by the headlining band, The Sunflowers who must be one of the best local groups around. Their contemporary sound shook the venue more than an Iraqi Scud missile, and would surely shine in a venue with better acoustics than a shoe box.

Bob Weatherley

more difficult to write an original song?

**M.S.:** Yeah, there's only so many notes but there's always different arrangements so it sounds new.

**Courier:** Didn't George Michael rip off your own 'Crocodile Cryer'?

**M.S.:** No comment! (Yes he bloody did - Ed.)

**Courier:** You played an anti-Poll tax gig at the Poly a couple of months ago, how did you get involved with that?

**M.S.:** It was set up locally and was going to feature Billy Bragg and some others, but the organisation was poor and so it ended up with really just us and 'our' audience,

which I didn't mind, it's a good cause.

**Courier:** A cause to which many students have pledged support, what do you think of student involvement in politics?

**M.S.:** I think it's good people are interested, but they shouldn't bully or be bullied. It's not just young people who are under-represented, pensioners are too. In Germany there's a Grey party representing them, otherwise they'd have no clout.

**Courier:** And finally Martin, what's on the cards for the future?

**M.S.:** We'll be recording a new Daintees album in the summer, and I've been asked to write for Joan Baez, and we'll also be recording a Leonard Cohen song for a tribute album.

Mike Chavez

Low boots, high boots, kinky leather thigh boots.

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## 33/45

J.J. - IF THIS IS LOVE 12"

The female singer has a fine voice obviously influenced by the likes of Carole King and Joni Mitchell. The song itself, well it jogs along at a jolly pace and, despite some rather banal lyrics, is certainly situated at the better end of that slightly shitty Midwest FM sound. A surefire hit 15 years ago.

THE ASSOCIATES - JUST CAN'T SAY GOODBYE 12"

A ruthless and insistent acid dance mix revolutionises this reissue of this really 80's classic. The wonderfully camp vocal brings passion to an otherwise unimaginative lyric, fitting in perfectly with the theatrical grandeur which is characteristic of the Associates' sound. Sounds a bit like The Word by 808 State though.

FRONT 242 - TYRANNY FOR YOU

Nothing new from Front 242. Still the exact same "menacing" bassline that runs through ALL of their material, still the same hackneyed old subjects like pleasure of pain and the benefits of oppression, etc. ad nauseum. Weedy vocals and mindless repetitive grooves combine to make bands like The Farm seem almost attractive.

NAKED CITY - TORTURE GARDEN

A good deal of the tracks begin like run of the mill modern jazz, then after a few seconds it is as though someone has speeded up the tape and you're hearing a musical frenzy; with the vocals used to create the effect of an instrument.

You get forty two tracks for your money, but I wouldn't describe Torture Garden as a bargain. Its novelty value is short lived.

HARD-ONS - YUMMY

Sounding like a "beefed up" and punky second rate Ramones imitation, the Hard-Ons churn out completely forgettable guitar driven tracks with lyrics which amount to utter bilge. If you enjoy jumping up and down and shaking your head violently (when you're pissed), you'll probably like Yummy.

As the final track on side one says, it just "Goes on and on and on and on..."

Records reviewed by C. Rogers, C. Wood & M. Chavez. Records supplied by Volume Records.

# THE DEPRAVITY OF BRITISH SOCIETY

BBC Television's *Review of the Year*, broadcast at the end of 1990, reminded me of some of the most horrifying aspects of British society which came to light last year. The year saw, among the cases making headline news, allegations of ritual Satanic sexual abuse of children, rising numbers of reported cases of the sexual abuse of children within families and the deaths of boys which are suspected to have been caused during the making of pornographic films. Incidents of this kind occur in a society which, of the modern civilisations, has one of the most embarrassed reactions to sex. It is obvious, therefore, that having such a prudish attitude does not prevent the state of mind which leads to such wildly deviant behaviour.

No excuses can be made for those who inflict violence, humiliation and fear upon others, but I would contend that the British attitude to sex is a major cause of deviant behaviour in our society. Sex, though, does not stand by itself. It is part of a loving relationship, and although everybody has a desire for sex, this desire is encompassed by the need for love, which is fundamental to the mental health of everyone. Sex is not as important as the loving relationship of which it is a natural part. Nonetheless it is common for public figures to be exposed in various forms of "perverted" sexual behaviour and the cases that are reported must be but a representative sample of what takes place. "Perverted" sexual behaviour is commonplace in our society, our society which considers itself at the height of moral superiority. The sole conclusion that can be drawn is that our society's attitude to love and sex subverts sexual behaviour and causes the expression of sexual desire in its various deviant forms. It certainly does not encourage the formation of stable relationships where, as is widely reported, one in three marriages fails.

It is a depraved society which attempts to deny the natural desires of all its members: which goes so far as to frown upon the display of affection in public. It is even considered shameful to expose the body. Solely by a more open-minded attitude to love and sex is it possible for our society to shake off the depravity with which it is cloaked.

British society's attitude to sexual relation-

ships is at its most depraved where people of the same sex are involved. It is a society which considers it acceptable for people in positions of authority to make arrogant and insulting pronouncements such as those to which the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, James Anderton (now Sir James), gave vent in 1986:

"People are swirling around in a cesspit of their own making. Why do homosexuals continue sleeping with each other? Why do they still engage in sodomy and other obnoxious practices?"

It is intolerable that anybody with any power at all should be allowed to display such ignorance and bigotry in public and keep his job. If Sir James had had the presumptuousness to question, for instance, the formation of relationships between people of different race, the resulting uproar would have ensured his swift departure from office.

Our's is a society in which *One in five lesbian and gay teenagers commits suicide* (Source: a spokesman of OutRage, campaigning group against lesbian and gay discrimination, quoted by *The Pink Paper*, issue 153, week ending 15 December 1990, page 1:) because they find unbearable the pressure society places upon them. Everybody is taught from an early age that sex is wrong and that homosexuality is a

humorous affliction suffered by a few unfortunate men who find gainful employment playing pantomime dames.

Is it, therefore, any surprise that many lesbian and gay teenagers find it impossible to come to terms with the desires they feel and the opinion of them that society will hold? The tragedy is that very many gay people are unable to turn to their families for support. It is not unusual for gay people to be disowned by their parents when they learn of their child's sexuality.

*The Review of the Year* also showed the celebrations of the Royal Air Force's victory in the Battle of Britain. British society continues to glorify war, and if there were any subject from which we would protect our children, then surely we would rather that it were not the subject of love and sex while we demonstrate to them that you can achieve glory by killing people. The Second World War is not a period in our history in which to take pride so unrelentingly, nearly forty-six years after its end. The sole reason we continue to pat ourselves so unrelentingly on the back is that the Allies won, but the celebration of victory in war has little relevance for modern generations and none to the current state of foreign affairs. Has it crossed anybody's mind that so immodestly to revel in such self-congratulation might be offensive to modern Germans?

Our society is one in which violence is commonplace: men still consider it necessary to prove their masculinity in drunken brawling. Crimes involving sex are also commonplace, and violence and sex combine more and more often in vicious attacks by men upon

women. Our society's depraved attitude to sex does not suppress this sort of behaviour, but fosters it.

Society needs to change its attitude to sex, with more open-mindedness, and to change the way children learn about the subject. "Sex education", though, is by itself no way forward. This still restricts the subject of sex to something about which children giggle behind their books while their teacher scowls upon them. Children should learn about love and sex (and all the related issues of contraception, sexually transmitted diseases and everything else) from conversation with their parents, their teachers and each other, from books, television and all the media, and most importantly from their parents' loving, sexual relationship.

Is it any surprise that adolescents have enormous problems (such as unwanted pregnancy) with their first sexual encounters when society teaches them nothing, and they have to learn everything as they go along?

Perhaps we should teach our children that to love another person is the most noble thing you can do, that it is perfectly natural to have sex with them, and that war is not a sensible pursuit with which to occupy your time.

The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society of Newcastle University exists as a support group which organises social events and introduces its members to the city's gay scene, and as a discussion group. Some of its members have a more political interest. The Society's meetings are open to all gay men, lesbians and bisexual people. For more information please send a s.a.e. to:

Gay Soc, Union Society, King's Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QB.

The views expressed by the author are his own and represent neither the collective opinion of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society nor necessarily the opinion of any member of the society.

Michael J. Holland, January 1991.

*"I would contend that the British attitude is a major cause of deviant behaviour in our Society"*

Readers are invited to submit Articles/Views/Rants to this page. Viewpoints should be up to 500 words. The Views on this page are not necessarily those of Courier.

newcastle university students' union events present  
**DATES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

**jan - feb 1991**

thursday 31st

friday 1st

- 'somebody famous' level 6 - free

the basement club

saturday 2nd

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# Sport News

## MEN'S HOCKEY

Newcastle Uni I 3, T'mouth II 1  
Newcastle Uni II 2, T'mouth III 2

ONE-WAY traffic sums up the first match perfectly, Newcastle played crisp hockey from the start, resulting in a goal halfway through the first 35 minutes.

One of Newcastle's German imports, Peter, slotted home his debut goal after some scintillating centre-forward play. Jonny Hirst scored the second shortly after the restart with 'Peter' adding the teams third and his own second. Excellent performances from Alan Irwin, Chris Lodge and Nick Peet weren't

enough to prevent Tynemouth scoring a consolation goal. On the whole, the only interruption to Newcastle's flowing hockey was the failure of the floodlights, 15 minutes from time!

Despite the lack of captain Simon Taylor, the seconds put up another good display of controlled hockey. Marcus Reed-

man hammered in the first from a short corner after some superb passing down the right.

Tynemouth put themselves back on level terms just before half time only to see Nick Jackson flick past a prostrate keeper 10 minutes after the restart.

As Newcastle threatened to run amok, Tynemouth's influential first team recruit caused mayhem in the Newcastle 'D', presenting his centre-forward with an unmissable chance; he duly equalised, Richard Charlesworth umpired with a style all of his own in a pacy and unpredictable match!

## MIXED HOCKEY

Newcastle Uni 3, Medics 2  
Third team keeper and club captain Jon Griffiths scored the first goal of the match and the first of his long and chequered hockey career.

Piers Peach equalised for the Medics, sending in a rasping shot which beat first-time keeper Marcus Reedman on the near post. The University piled on the pressure, with a determined run from Gillian bringing an atrocious foul out of the Medics' defence. Umpire Charlesworth pointed to the spot without any prompting and Lisa Nellis expertly netted the resultant flick.

A sweeping second half move saw Paul Cronin hammer in a cross from the right which Jon Brewer lashed in for the University's third and his first for two-and-a-half seasons!

Medics' centre-forward John Barrett broke a similar duck as he scored his first for his team since arriving in October but it wasn't enough to prise victory away from the valiant University team. Thanks to rugby player Frank, and Rachel's cycling shorts, for the supportive forward runs!

## GOLF V LEEDS

Following last week's disappointing position of being unable to raise a team or transport to play York, the lads turned out their most accomplished performance of the season. Leeds were easily beaten 4½-1½ by a side eager to qualify for the Championship.

Dave produced a performance of quality by holding the Leeds captain to a half and in so doing beat the No. 1 spot-losing-jinx. Chris "Chunder" then followed up with a convincing 5 and 3 win.

Hot on his heels was Nige who simply destroyed his opponent 6 and 5. Sko kept the momentum going with a display of awesome strength to win 3 and 2. Colin, who so often has been disgusted at his efforts was again upset to have only won by 4 and 2. Charlie... well he drove us there and back in superb style.

So Newcastle are through and looking forward to progressing further. The Championship may well be ours yet. **Tetty**

# SPOT ON!

## Penalty drama sees seconds through

### SOCCER

Hull 2nd XI 1,  
Newcastle 2nd XI 1  
(after extra time)  
(Newcastle won 4-3  
on penalties)

AFTER going out in the last 16 to Hull last year and having lost 3-1 at Hull in the group match the seconds were determined to overcome their bogey team.

The Hull pitch was in good condition despite a heavy frost and Newcastle had the better of the opening 10 minutes due to some crisp, sharp, accurate passing. Hull came back at the seconds but the very effective sweeper system employed by Newcastle restricted Hull to a few speculative long range efforts. The first half became a little scrappy as the two opposing midfields battled for dominance. The first half ended 0-0 with Newcastle again creating the better chances.

The second half was classic cup football and a joy to behold for the small crowd. With Jason Reeves and Graham Ellis enjoying their attacking full back roles courtesy of the sweeper system Newcastle again dominated. A lovely interchange of passes between Dean Watson and Steve Appleton saw Watson in a one on one situation but his well struck shot flew over the bar.

From the resultant goalkick,

Steve Appleton brought the ball down under control and chipped the despondent Hull goalkeeper from 35 yards in true John Salako fashion. This must rate as one of the best goals scored for the University.

The second eleven, now buzzing with confidence, created chance upon chance but failed to finish. Peter Cresswell must consider himself unlucky when his curling shot caressed the Hull bar. As the game drew into the last 15 minutes it was Hull's turn to exert some pressure.

After some good defending from centre backs Mark Woodhead and man of the match Andy Bull, and some effective sweeping from Lee Gerrard, a dipping 30 yard drive from the big Hull midfielder looked certain to be bringing the tie level until goalkeeper Ian Cameron appeared in full flight to divert the ball over the crossbar.

The resultant corner was cleared and victory became closer. With just five minutes to go Hull's pressure forced a series of corners, from the fourth of these the ball was scrambled into the Newcastle net after one goal-line clearance by Graham Ellis. Both sides settled for extra time as the final two minutes petered out.

After an inspirational talk from captain Andy Murray Newcastle dominated the first period of extra time, creating three chances needing just a touch for

a goal to be scored. Andy Murray himself coming the closest.

The first five minutes of the second period of extra time again saw Newcastle in control due to the work horse like Steve McNicol. Hull were the better team in the last 10 minutes and forced two saves from the Newcastle 'keeper in the dying minutes. The whistle blew and penalties were now to be the decider.

Hull decided to take the first kick. The ball was struck well towards the bottom left hand corner but Cameron in the Newcastle goal was equal to it and pushed it around the post — the advantage was with Newcastle, the pressure slightly eased.

Newcastle's first four volunteers (Andy Murray, Stephen Appleton, Lee Gerrard and Peter Cresswell) all coolly slotted home their spot-kicks, leaving Newcastle 4-3 up after four penalties. The last Hull player nervously stepped up to try to keep Hull in the U.A.U.

The weakly struck penalty was again saved by the Newcastle 'keeper, much to Dean Watson's relief and Newcastle were the worthy victors with a penalty to spare. The celebrations started on the pitch and carried on well into the night.

Again thanks to the terrific attitude of the substitutes, who again were unused — Jon Rowlands, Tim Selby and Phil Lynch. Now for the quarter-finals.

Coconut

### Hull University 1st XI 3, Newcastle University 1st XI 2

THE first XI's U.A.U. odyssey is over for another year and for nine of the 13 players it is the end of the road as far as U.A.U. is concerned. But the lads went down fighting.

Any uncertainty there may have been before the match was dispelled by the boot of Steve Boyd. The tenacious Scot, brought up on Iron Bru, let rip with a speculative shot-cum-cross in the first half. The long-haired goalkeeper (Rock Soc. Sec.) slipped on a patch of frozen jism and the ball sailed past him.

Gavin Oliver of Hull pounced before half time to equalise. For long spells of the second half Newcastle

seemed to be in control, Jim Worrall hit a bar.

But the teams needed an extra half-hour to separate them. Hull grabbed the chance with both hands. A quick one-two and the home team were 3-1 up (the third goal looked suspiciously offside).

John O'Donnell (hampered by a torn hamstring) showed real Dunkirk spirit. The British Bulldog was upended in the box, dusted himself down and struck the penalty shot home. With a minute to go the cheeky Geordie was again through on goal. It took a fine save to prevent the game being decided on the lottery of penalties.

### U.A.U. RUGBY

Newcastle 3rd XV 16,  
Durham 3rd XV 13

Despite encouragement from the touchline, the thirds, led by Jabba, started badly, and trailed by a penalty goal, before Marcus Marvell found his touch and fired two penalties over to bring the score to 6-3 to the home side.

Durham equalised three minutes later and then took the lead with another penalty to take the score to 9-6 at the interval.

The bookies were giving no hints as to the outcome of the game, until Turner scored off a line-out in the 55th minute, which Marvell converted to bring the score to 12-9. Durham failed to score from three obscene penalties, from the scantily clad ref. five minutes later, which cost them dear, since Herbie scored a thrilling try in the left hand corner, and was only not converted as the

posts were moved, by the divine powers of the devil.

There then followed a spirited attack by the Durham seconds (oops thirds, apologies, Ed.) which resulted in an impressive unconverted try from Durham which brought the score to 16-13, which Newcastle managed to hold onto until the referee's final whistle at full time.

Giles Morgan

### U.A.U. FENCING

Liverpool University 4,  
Newcastle 23

Complete annihilation: The foilists won six from nine, the sabreurs won eight — Young Jonny dropped his customary fight, while the epeeists won all of theirs.

We packed up early for fear of crossing Mr. Golf Pro, so we charitably gave Liverpool the remaining fights. Third round next week. J.W.

## ELECTION NEWS

# HUSTINGS FOR SABBATICAL OFFICERS

Thursday 31st Jan  
Friday 1st Feb  
Monday 4th Feb

1.00 pm Level 2

Sun 3rd Feb  
Monday 4th Feb

HENDERSON / Ethel Williams  
(Times T.B.A)

## VOTING FOR SABBATICALS

Tuesday 5th Feb  
Wednesday 6th Feb

MAIN BAR 10am—8pm  
MEDICAL SCHOOL 11am—3pm  
LIBRARY 11am—3pm

TUESDAY ONLY CASTLE LEAZES 4pm—7pm

WEDNESDAY ONLY HENDERSON & ETHEL WILLIAMS 4pm—7pm



Nominations for PART-TIME EXECUTIVE  
Close TOMORROW at 1.00 pm

## University of Newcastle Upon Tyne CENTRE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT - AWARDS

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

### 1. Doreen Haslewood Travelling Award for Physical Education and Sport

The Award is of an annual value of approximately £100. It is intended that the award shall be used to defray expenses incurred in consequence of a study visit in connection with sport or physical education, or participation in a competitive or instructional sporting event either in the UK or overseas. Other things being equal, preference will be given to women applicants.

### 2. Close House Sports Bursaries

Up to four Bursaries, subject to the availability of funds, each to the value of £250, are offered to students seeking to achieve national selection in their chosen sport. It is intended that the Bursaries shall be used to defray expenses incurred in consequence of training, coaching or competition in a sport either in the UK or overseas. Awards may be made to individuals or teams seeking to achieve representation at the higher levels of university and national sport.

### 3. Alan Phelps Memorial Prize

The Prize, valued at £50, is open to all regular users of the P.E. Centre and shall be awarded annually to the person who has made a significant contribution to those activities, university and community, based in the P.E. Centre building.

The Regulations for the Awards are available from the Registrar's Office or from the Centre for Physical Education and Sport. Applications in writing should be submitted to the Director of the Centre for Physical Education and Sport by **28th February 1991**.

