

# Newcastle University Courier Student Newspaper

Thursday, 28th November, 1991.

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## Students across the country protest against rent-rises and education cuts

# We've had enough!

### Newcastle Polytechnic

Students at Newcastle Polytechnic are staging a sit-in over the imposition of an £80 fee which students in the Lovaine Halls of Residence, the Lovaine Flats and the Jesmond Halls of Residence have been asked to pay in order to secure their accommodation over the Christmas period. The sit-in is also partly due to an across the board increase in rents of 10% this year and the poor quality of the library facilities at the Polytechnic.

Following a mass meeting and a march last Friday lunchtime, attended by around four hundred people, students took over the Polytechnic Directorate offices and have been in occupation ever since. Attempts were made by one of the Directors and a number of security staff to enter the offices on Friday afternoon but were prevented from entry.

Last Monday, a meeting was held by the students involved in the sit-in to elect hall representatives to meet with the Polytechnic directors in order to attempt to resolve the situation.

Support for the students

action has been flooding in from organisations all over the country. Newcastle University Students Union has also sent a message of solidarity and has made a donation to the emergency food fund. Polytechnic sit-in representatives went collecting at the Quayside market on Sunday to raise more money for the food fund. They collected a substantial amount and also received support from a large number of locals.

Tom Robbin, Campaigns Officer, said to *Courier* that, "It was a real kick in the face for students that they are being

forced to pay this £80. In the current climate of financial debt and acute financial crisis it is really inconsiderate of the Polytechnic". He added, "Overall, students are sick to their back teeth of education cuts". Newcastle University Student Union President Tim Farron said: "We sympathise with the actions of the students at the Polytechnic. I think it is an outrage that students are being asked to pay rent for rooms they will not be occupying. It is an action we support and I would urge as many university students as possible to support it also".

Dylan Champion



A student is carried out by bailiffs at Lancaster University as police keep back the crowd.

### Middlesex Poly

Students have staged a dramatic occupation of Middlesex Polytechnic's Cathill site in response to cutbacks by the authorities.

Nicola Killen, a student taking part, said "The situation now stands that there is an indefinite occupation of the Cathill site". The occupation started on the 19th November and is now spreading to other parts of the Poly campus.

The students are protesting against the Poly directorate's large wage increases, while teaching hours are being cut and students packed into severely restricted spaces. The Fine Art course has been drastically cut with 3rd year students having to perform tasks normally done by

technical staff.

The students are therefore demanding an improvement in staff to student ratios (to 1991 levels at least); repairs to the studio and workshop facilities; adequate heating; less overcrowding; an increase in childcare facilities in line with equal opportunities rulings, and no further cuts in teaching hours.

They feel that government cutbacks in students' income - abolition of housing benefit and summer income support and the introduction of loans and frozen grants - has meant that students are forced to choose between creative output and everyday necessities. Their occupation continues.

Sarah Shannon

### Lancaster University

More than 150 students at Lancaster University were removed from University buildings by bailiffs in the early hours of last Saturday morning after a peaceful occupation which lasted for ten days. The students took over University House, an administrative block in the centre of the campus as a protest against this year's rent increases of 13%, a rise of 50% in real terms over the past three years.

The sit-in followed a campaign to encourage students living in University accommodation to pay their rents directly to the Student Union rather than to University authorities, a move which, it was hoped, would force the University to meet students' demands and

lower rents to an acceptable level.

According to sources within the Students' Union at Lancaster, the Vice-Chancellor of the University claimed that he would close down the Union if it continued to disagree with him on rents. Newsletters and posters distributed around the campus urged students to join the occupation. These were countered by University propaganda which claimed that individual students risked losing rent paid to the Union and faced charges incurred by the occupation. Rumours also abounded that the University had tried to 'bribe' the Union with a pay-off of £1,000 to be given to the 'Children in Need' Appeal if they vacated the building.

At approximately 7.30 a.m. on Saturday morning, sirens which had been rigged up inside the building to alert students living in nearby University colleges were sounded as bailiffs and around 50 policemen arrived. The bailiffs proceeded to carry students out as the police surrounded the building to prevent anyone else from entering. Meanwhile a large group of students had gathered outside to cheer those being carried out.

After the last student was brought out at 10 a.m., all those present marched around every college on campus, urging others to join in the campaign. Plans for re-occupation were being drawn up on Sunday.

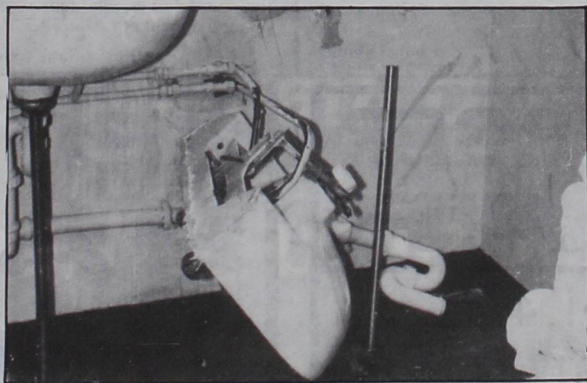
Heather Saville

### Edinburgh Agrics trash Union

A group of Edinburgh University Agrics caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to the Union last Wednesday in a series of incidents as security staff lost control of the building.

Two fire alarms were set off; the disabled toilet on Level 3 was wrecked; a hand dryer was pulled off the wall and dumped in the urinals and a sink was pulled off the wall in the Men's toilets resulting in extensive flooding on Level 3 and beneath in the Wine Bar. On Level 2, two fire hoses were let off causing water to seep into the cellar, endangering electrical equipment, and two fire extinguishers on Level 4 were also ripped off the wall.

Chief Security Officer, Mauro Cagol, told *Courier* "Trouble started at about 5.30 p.m. when only two security staff were on duty. It was not until 7.00 p.m. when the rest of the security team arrived that it was possible to put some order back into the building." "He explained that it was lucky the second fire alarm went off because it was only when everybody was outside the building that security could evaluate what damage had been done. A meeting was then held, between Mauro, the bar managers, Tim Farron, Union



The sink ripped off the wall in the Level 3 toilets.

(Pic: Olivia Watson)

President, and Richard Bennett, Sabbatical Secretary, where the possibility of shutting the building was discussed. It was decided that security should seal off Levels 2, 3 and 5 and re-open the building.

Last Wednesday was the second week in a row that serious damage had been done to the Union building. Mauro Cagol explained: "It was something we couldn't predict. We thought it was going to be a normal Wednesday night. We had absolutely no way of knowing

that the Edinburgh Agrics were coming, or that they would smash up the building". Commenting on their behaviour Richard Bennett Sabbatical Secretary said: "What happened was absolutely disgraceful. For Edinburgh Agrics having been invited into our building to show such flagrant disregard for our hospitality is despicable. We will be contacting Edinburgh University to outline our disgust and attempt to recuperate our expenses".

Dylan Champion

### Sick times at Leazes

Health inspectors were called into Castle Leazes last weekend to check kitchens and water supplies after a mystery illness swept through the halls affecting a reported 125 students.

Dr. Bill Stewart, Senior Warden, expressed doubts that the food was the cause of the illness, as all three halls within Castle Leazes share the same central kitchens and the majority of cases are confined to Havelock Hall. Nick Lawton, Havelock Hall President, claimed that the affair "smacks of a cover-up" by the authorities. Symptoms of the illness are vomiting, diarrhoea and in some

cases a delirious state which lasts for approximately 24 hours.

Despite the large number of students suffering from these symptoms the sick-bay at Castle Leazes is empty and staff there have been given no information about the illness. Only four students have been admitted to the sick-bay this term, compared to 167 last term. This is linked to the fact that the University Health Service became an independent NHS practice at the end of last year. Students from Castle Leazes can no longer be treated in the sick-bay unless referred to it officially by their doctor.

Heather Saville

### Ricky Road thugs

An unprovoked attack on a group of students took place at the Richardson Road flats early on Saturday morning. The four male and two female students were walking between two flats when they were attacked suddenly and without provocation by three male students.

The two female students, were punched and head butted, and sustained bruising, shock and a bleeding nose as a result. Another member of the group expressed his amazement that three people could attack a group of six, without any reason. He

said, "It all happened so quickly, the attack was so sudden that we had no chance to defend ourselves".

The Police were informed and have taken details although nothing can be done until the assailants are found. Earlier on the same night, other students reported that they had been woken by repeated banging on their door and by eggs being thrown and smashed against their windows and this disturbance is thought to be connected to the attack.

Heather Saville

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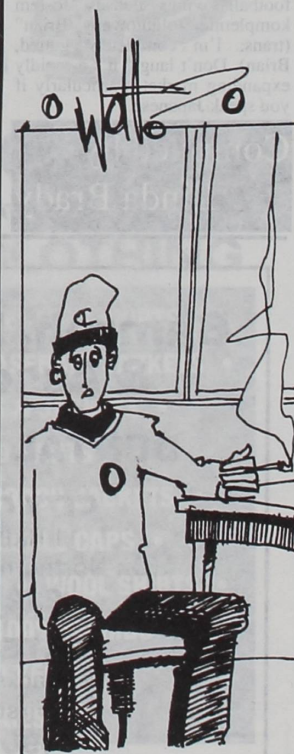
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## Cross Campus Robber

Is nothing sacred? The vulnerability of students using toilets at Leeds University Union is being exploited by ruthless thieves. In one incident, a hand appeared under a cubicle door, grabbed a bag and made off with it before its unfortunate owner could react. The Union has warned its members to be extra vigilant.

## Kisser

Sad days indeed. "I just get sick and tired of trying to make ends meet on my student grant. The job is a real eye opener and a learning experience in itself." - Donna Holloway, a student at Walsall College of Art, on her part-time job as a kiss-o-gram girl.

## Traitor

Protesters at Glasgow University were thwarted in their attempts to stage a shock sit-in against student hardship in the principal's office after a blabber-mouth had informed the authorities of the group's intentions.

On reaching the main building, they found their path blocked by the fore-warned security staff. The would-be revolutionaries then decided to occupy the less high-profile School Liaison Office to make their feelings known, causing no disruption to the University as had been planned.

## Spoiler

Rag week at Birmingham University will not be the same this year: that king of comic pranks, the flan-attack, has been outlawed by the vice-chancellor. The disturbance and mess in lecture halls caused by the foam pies was thought "a bit too much."

## Translator

Paul Savco, a Liverpool University graduate, will have a whole category to himself when the next graduate destinations survey is published - that of football club translators.

Mr Savco, an Everton fan, has been called in to help the club communicate with new Polish signing, Robert Warzycha, and especially with those all-important football sayings such as "Jostem kompletne zolgotowany Brian" (trans: I'm completely gutted, Brian). Don't laugh, it's a rapidly expanding market. Particularly if you speak Japanese.

Compiled by  
Linda Brady

## NUS: disaffiliation worry

Trouble looms for the N.U.S. this week with the news that Durham University and Huddersfield Polytechnic are both actively considering disaffiliation from the N.U.S.

Students there feel that the N.U.S. has "completely lost touch with student needs." They also cite the considerable involvement of the N.U.S. in party politics as a further cause for concern.

Newcastle University's V.P. Welfare, Jason Stamp, agrees with this view up to a point, questioning whether the £40,000 it pays each

year to the N.U.S. "There is far too much political in-fighting," he states. However, he is not in favour of disaffiliation because he feels that the N.U.S. is "our only nation-wide united voice."

Tim Farron, Union President, is in favour of the N.U.S.: "Although the N.U.S. may kill itself at this December's conference if it doesn't reform," he said, "until then all colleges should fight for change in the N.U.S. from within." It remains to be seen whether or not his words will be heeded.

Edward Elstub

## "Safe and Sure"?

Following a recent fire, safety has been questioned at Richardson Road flats. The Head Porter had to enter an adjacent flat in order to get a fire extinguisher to put out the fire because the one in the burning flat was insufficient!

Asked whether the extinguishers were adequate, Mr. Wright, University housing manager (Flats), replied that the company concerned - "Safe and Sure" - who provided them, were currently servicing them. Fire is a particular hazard in the old Richardson Road flats because neither are fitted with smoke or fire alarms. In addition fire drills are only held once a year.

Jason Stamp, V.P. Welfare,

expressed his concern over the inadequate safety procedures and assured *Courier* that the issue of security - fire or otherwise - will be addressed. The matter will be raised at the next Resident's Advisory Committee, and the University Bursar will be contacted for a report on the situation. This results from a petition signed by 400 students, pressing for new security measures, due to the recent increase in burglaries.

Mr. Wright, responsible for safety and security, admitted that some door locks "need attention", but denied police and resident fears that the current measures were wholly inadequate.

Tanya Thompson

## Fighting sexism

The Women's Officer, Fionna Smyth, in response to anonymous letter writers in *Courier* who had felt threatened by the presence of a Women's Room, had decided to hold an Open Meeting to explain why its existence was justified. Unfortunately the gathering turned into a case of preaching to the converted as only a handful of the "Sexist, homophobic drunkards" bothered to turn up.

Janine Booth, NUS Women's Officer, opened the meeting by describing the underrepresented, stereotyped situation facing women students. She said the way to fight inequality was not by pretending it doesn't exist but admitting there is oppression and having a women's officer.

The bottom line she concluded was women get a bad deal in education and society and need to unite to change the situation. The debate was then opened by Ms Smyth saying, "Feel free to express yourself but don't be ignorant."

Other than a few people who wanted to raise their own individual concerns, much of the debate hinged around what, if anything, could be done about the frighteningly hostile atmosphere that many women feel pervades the Mens

Bar. Some speakers believed positive action should be taken, such as going into the bar and talking to people there. Fionna Smyth believed that as no one would listen because all the men would be drunk with women sitting on their knees cooing into their ears her time could be better spent elsewhere. When accused of having reversed prejudices by advocating this she smiled broadly and agreed.

Perhaps the best point of the discussion was made by a second year who, while liking her department, course and personal tutor, felt that only having men around meant she was uneasy about approaching them with certain problems. The existence of a women's officer comforted her in that in this male dominated society there was someone she could turn to in times of difficulty.

Bringing the meeting to a close Janine Booth explained that this had not been a meeting about women being victims but wanting to play an active and equal role in the running of the Union. Everyone then left feeling something had been achieved. Time will only tell if they are right.

John Aglionby

## Dawn raids at Lake

Irregularities and conflicting stories surround the systematic searching of rooms in Leazes Terrace Student Houses which took place last Tuesday morning.

According to Miss E. Ableman, Warden of Leazes Terrace, two people of 'dubious character' stopped a general assistant on Barrack Road at 6.30 a.m. asking for directions to Leazes Terrace. The two are reported to have stated that they had a card key - the only way to enter the building.

Around 10 a.m. students were woken or disturbed by general assistants opening their doors as they searched the building on the instructions of the Warden.

Many students were deeply upset by this action and a spokesperson complained to the Warden. The students voiced concern that the method of searching was completely out of order, being an invasion of privacy, without warning, early in the morning and smacked of something more sinister. One student told *Courier*, "We were given no true reason for the search and I was disgusted by the disregard for our privacy. One girl was naked when they opened her door and many of us were too shocked to think how to react."

When a student complained to Mrs. Downey, Leazes Terrace Secretary, she is reported to have



"Like a boarding school" pic: Paul Seddon

said that any member of staff has the right to enter the students' rooms at anytime without notice in order to search for visitors. This has compounded the theory that Lake House, known by residents for its strict visitors policy was actually conducting dawn raids to check up on students' night-time guests.

As one student pointed out, nowhere in the house rules does it explicitly state that staff have the right of absolute access to private rooms at anytime. Furthermore, given the time difference between

the alleged incident on Barrack Road and the searches, the potential thieves could have cleared half of the building before staff would have noticed.

Miss Ableman did offer her apologies and an explanation for the searches via a letter to each student but this does not seem to have altered many of the students' perceptions of why they took place. As one former resident observed, "Living in Lake House is like boarding school, and worse than living at home."

Dominic Casciani

## Teacher testing

Debate over proposals on new academic standards for higher education staff have brought to a head the continuing controversy over the practical relevance of academic teaching.

In a meeting this week the National Association of Teacher in Higher Education criticised the government funded "Further Education Unit Report" carried out by the Training and Development body, a group originally created for "in company" training. The report emphasised the need for performance-related standards amongst lecturers similar to those operated in business. This follows criticism that has been directed at lecturers for promoting in subjects an academic bias of little relevance to the work world.

Mike Granger, FEU Deputy

Chief Officer, said that field trials in 20 institutions had proved that standards proposed by the report were applicable to lecturers teaching on a range of courses.

However Sue Berryman, secretary for National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, felt an education, rather than a commercially led body was the appropriate organisation to develop standards. Only it would "recognise from the outset the nature of a lecturer's job."

Whatever the pros and cons of arguments proposed by industry and lecturers, the real issue must be the future of graduates who face extremely competitive job markets armed with all too often irrelevant qualifications with value confined to purely academic fields.

Joanna Bulkeley

## Rowing for Yellow Brick Road

The University Boat Club has raised a pot of gold for the Yellow Brick Road Appeal. Between stints on the rowing machine and hoarse-making cheers of encouragement, members of the Boat Club managed to cajole the public and student community in to parting with £827.21 on behalf of the worthy North-East children's charity. Congratulations to winners of the challenge, Bas, Harks, Rowda, Tariq and James, who managed to row the furthest in five minutes, winning a meal at Le Sorelles.

Sam Todd-Young and Anne-Marie McCallum

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### Door fun for everyone (yawn)

#### Plain Piggery

Sir,  
"Setting the door straight"  
(Emma Beswick, *Courier*, 21.11.91)  
To say that Miss Beswick's (badly written) letter was ill-intentioned, malicious and (frankly) sad, would be unconstructive, although it would also be true. Far better, then, and equally true, to say that it is as inaccurate, defamatory to the point of being actionable at least, and in my opinion, more than just a little desperate.

Since, Miss Beswick, chose not to attack my record as Sabbatical Secretary while I was still in office - and hence accountable - I fail to see why I should respond to her irrelevant attacks upon it. My record speaks for itself. I would query two things however:

#### Masked Piggery

Sir,  
Emma Beswick (*Courier* letters page, 21 No. '91) asks to be allowed to get on with her job in peace. She should be wondering whether she will be allowed to continue in it at all - for public opinion is very firmly against her, and she does nothing for herself by the sort of bitter, personal attacks she has started making on Mr. Pigg and others.  
Indeed she is doing a far better job of discrediting herself and her Labour colleagues than Mr. Pigg could ever hope to!

- (i) if the so-called "pay rise" is still so offensive to Miss Beswick, why is she allowing herself to be paid at the increased rate? and
- (ii) does Miss Beswick really think anyone will forget what she has been accused of (breaking down a door!) just because she slaps off an old has-been Sabb whom she was too gutless to attack while in office?

Miss Beswick is mistaken if she believes that I care enough about a few poxy NUS delegates to bring down the torrent of abuse which I and my friends have had to suffer at her hands and those of her cohorts. What is more, she is mistaken if she believes that I shall resign from the Chairpersonship of Union Council as a result of her bitter attacks!

If Miss Beswick's idea of democracy is simply to launch a campaign

of persecution against the first person to speak out against her corruptness and try to hold her accountable, it is not surprising that the vast body of students now hold her in such contempt.

The fact remains that Emma Beswick, Jason Stamp, Pete Marsh and Tom Happpold stand accused of vandalising the building they were elected to run: and not one of them has denied the allegation convincingly.

When Miss Beswick's windy rhetoric is spent, and one looks into her dusty soul, there is nothing there but abject surrender. Time, meanwhile, moves on apace. The noose tightens.

I remain, Sir,  
Your obedient servant.

Iain Pigg,  
Chairperson of Union Council

#### Common sense

Sir,  
As a non-homophobic, non-sexist, non-rugby playing, couldn't-give-a-toss-where-I-drink, non-political, and normally apathetic student, I am compelled to write to say a big "Fuck off" to the members of Executive who will not shut up about that bloody door business.

Let's face it folks, we've had enough political bickering to give us all Post Traumatic Shock in our graduate years.

So Emma, Tom, Iain *et al.*, give us and *Courier* a break, kiss and make up and get on with the jobs you were elected for.

I remain, Sir, sick of politics,  
The Student Pulse

Yours etc.,  
N. S. J. Stevas

### Access Funds: Clarification and Desperation

Sir,  
After reading the recent article entitled 'Postgraduates in Access Funds Squeeze' (*Courier* 21.11.91), I thought it only appropriate to offer further clarification on this issue. As the elected officer responsible for helping decide how the Access Funds are distributed, I was much surprised that Ms Dansey-Smith failed to contact me about this matter. Had she done so I feel a number of misinformed inaccuracies in the article could have been avoided.

Certainly, part of the criteria for awarding Postgraduate students money from the Access Funds is proof that they have explored all possible means of financial assistance, specifically sponsorship and the option of a Career Development Loan of up to £5000. Students on the MSc Quality Engineering Course, whom Ms Dansey-Smith claims are in 'severe financial difficulties', are realistically far better off than most students. Not only do they receive 52 weeks of Income Support and Housing Benefit (which other students cannot claim), but they also claim a training allowance.

Any student who feels they are suffering from financial hardship should apply for the Access Fund, obtaining forms from either the Welfare Centre on Level Five of the Union Building, or the Registrar's Office, Kensington Terrace. As an individual who spends a

considerable amount of time considering applications for financial assistance, could I urge everyone who applies to provide as much information about their personal circumstances as possible. This may make a difference between your application being successful or rejected.

Any queries about Access Funds should be addressed to me as I'm in a position to offer advice and explanation about what has been decided. It's a shame that Ms Dansey-Smith's desire for sensationalism got in the way of the facts.

Yours faithfully,  
Jason Stamp,  
Vice President (Welfare) and  
Member of Financial Assistance  
Committee

Sir,  
I read with interest the article in last week's *Courier* outlining the difficulties Postgraduate students are having with the Access Fund. In particular, I felt obliged to comment on two points:

When I contacted the DSS (twice!) I was told that I was not entitled to income support or housing benefit, despite the article saying I was. Could someone please explain how Quality Engineers are entitled, but

EPDP students are not? You're not on the fiddle boys, are you?

Secondly, when I recently applied for an Access Fund grant, despite having a large surplus of expenditure over income, I was told No Way José and reminded of other forms of finance available to me. So, with having borrowed the money to pay for my fees, and with a large bank overdraft, am I seriously expected to take out a Career Development loan for probably about £2,000, with a fixed repayment timetable (regardless of whether I get a job next autumn?)

This subject becomes all the more galling when I hear of undergraduates last year receiving hundreds of pounds even though they were probably in healthy financial positions. This letter is not intended simply as a moan, or a gripe at the Registrar and his team, who I am sure have a difficult job in deciding who really is in need. But to suggest I further increase my debt levels in a depressed graduate employment market really isn't cricket!

Hands up those who think they've been hard done by. Me!

Yours etc.,  
A Down and Out EPDP Student

### No smoke without fire

Sir,  
As I was sitting enjoying a drink in the Cochrane Bar last Wednesday night, I noticed our illustrious Union President come in with a few friends. Nothing special, you may say - except that one of these friends was smoking a cigarette in what is meant to be a non-smoking bar.

I went over and, admittedly, rather impolitely told the miscreant to stub out his fag, which he did immediately - no problem. However, 10 minutes later the same person lit up again along with another of Tim Farron's little gang. Not being one to cause a

scene I went up to our President, politely checked that he was indeed Mr. Tim Farron and that the Cochrane Bar's in fact non-smoking, informed him of the actions of two of his friends and asked him to leave, he duly obliged.

This may seem petty but I find it very disappointing when our own Union President cannot enforce the rules where his friends are concerned. What would happen if your average student lit up in the Cochrane? So come on Tim, get your house in order.

Yours etc.,  
Phil Buckley

### Christian love?

Sir,  
Does the Rev. David Holloway think it "proper and responsible" that people should die from AIDS? Or am I inferring incorrectly from his statement last week, that the free distribution of condoms is "improper and irresponsible".

As, on a previous occasion I heard the Rev. David Holloway, Vicar at Jesmond Parish Church inform his congregation that "AIDS is a judgement from God", sadly I fear I have inferred correctly. What supreme arrogance and fanaticism he shows in expecting people who don't believe what he believes, to be bound by his moral code. To me his attitude is, from as much as I understand of Christianity to be extremely unloving and unchristian.

Yours etc.,  
T. Jenkins

### Entertained

Sir,  
The "Through the Round Window" column on Robert Maxwell's death was as tasteless as it was humorless. Why you persist with this column we do not know.

Yours etc.,  
W. Hare,  
K. Latham

### Fuckwit family comes to town

Sir,  
I've just been to the Kard Bar (as advertised in *Courier*) but when I asked for a pint of Kard, I was refused. Why can't I get a drink in this town?

Yours thirstily,  
Fuck Wit (Ms.)

Sir,  
With regard to your recent article promoting the new laundry service offered by Regional Railways (Nov. 21st pg 5), and I quote: "It's easier doing your washing by train". Well, I took my laundry to central station, placed it into the aperture of the washing machine, inserted my 20 pence pieces and settled down to watch the laundering process. To my horror, however, the washing machine proceeded to speed away into the distance



never to be seen again. What did I do wrong?

May I use my unfortunate experience to warn my fellow *Courier* readers about the dangers of these vicious con-artists and ask that in future - your newspaper thoroughly investigates its anonymous journalistic entries.

Must go - I'm off to the Salad Bar to order a pint of lettuce.

Yours sincerely,  
Fuck Wit (Mr.)

Sir,  
As a practising pacifist I really must protest (though it is against my nature) about the new statue in Northumberland Street "Wor Jackie". Wouldn't "Peace Jackie" be more appropriate?

Yours lovingly,  
F. Wit (Mrs.)

### Fionna: Not sitting on the fence

Sir,  
I am only too aware that to answer personal criticisms in the *Courier* can lead to nothing more constructive than a slanging match.

Yet I feel that due to the uninvited criticism of myself, I deserve the right to reply.

If these criticisms were of my performance at my job I would not complain. Instead people I have never met on a personal level, accuse me of not only being a loudmouth, but of being a member of the Labour Club!! It is the Labour Club who probably feel more insulted by this claim than I do.

It is ironic that the people who criticise me for expressing an opinion, are doing the same themselves and using the same medium. I am accused of being humorless, well I don't find the

crimes of rape or sexual harassment funny. Anyway have any of these people been out for a drink with me on a Friday night.

If I truly felt that I got women's rights a bad name, I would resign my position, but unfortunately no one else is either foolish enough or committed enough at this time to spend at least 20 hours a week in the Union to the detriment of my course, negotiating with the University over Childcare facilities - trying to get campaigns on date rape off the ground, organising self-defence classes for women, giving advice and counselling to women who have experienced sexual harassment to name but a few of my duties while feeling I must constantly justify my position, being told I am only a feminist because I must be either ugly or a lesbian.

I am not always right; but I am genuinely concerned over the issues affecting all students. It is not Liberals sitting on the fence and condemning others from there, who do the work in this Union, but 'lefties' like myself who believe in freedom for all to express themselves, in a world environment which is not constantly threatened with destruction, in a student environment free of prejudice and debt.

So I heed the criticism, but fortunately I will not sit on the fence, but will continue to be loudmouthed - for surely in our great liberal democracy even I am entitled to my opinions.

Don't ever forget: United we stand divided we fall.

Yours etc.,  
Fionna Smyth

UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
  
PUBLIC LECTURES  
Inaugural Lecture  
Thursday, November 28th, 5.30 pm  
INTELLIGENT MOTION(S)?  
Professor A. G. Jacks  
Department of Electrical and  
Electronic Engineering  
CURTIS AUDITORIUM  
HERSCHELL BUILDING  
Admission Free - All Welcome

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### The real majority?

Sir,  
Whilst not wishing to prolong the Stonewall/Mens Bar debate any longer than is absolutely necessary, I feel that the Mens Bar lobby should have its say. I along with many others resent the fact that the Stonewall supporters have tried to label us homophobes just because we wanted the name changed back to the Mens Bar.  
The name Stonewall Bar with all its connotations is now obviously going to cause a backlash (it certainly has!) and for those who voted for the change to the Stonewall Bar to whinge, smacks slightly of sour grapes. Let's face it the Labour Club couldn't fill a 'toilet cubicle' with its members let alone a Debating Chamber, but let's just say hypothetically they could, I

don't think there would have been accusations of being undemocratic.  
We also stand accused of not being the 'real majority'. Yet I think those who packed the Debating Chamber are the majority. They don't really give a toss about Union politics. Can you blame them? With all the petty backstabbing and door breaking recently, Executive have more resembled a kindergarten than a supposedly responsible group of 'adults'. Was it the real majority who changed the name in the first place? - I don't think so - I think it was Scott Butterworth and his real minority.

Yours etc.,  
**Rich Hunter,**  
A.U. President.

### Tampon temper

Sir,  
Whilst in the Union this lunch-time, I purchased from the Shop one box of Tampax (Regular) (65p). I placed the box on the table where I was sitting. To my astonishment several people; friends and strangers, both male and female, expressed surprise, disgust, and even offence at the presence of these harmless items.  
"Never in the field of human menstruation has so much (distress) been caused by so few

(Tampax) to so many (bigots)."  
The moral of this letter? If one box of Tampax can cause so much offence in a supposedly enlightened environment, is it not time that the voice and views of the Women's Officer and her supporters are heeded rather than denigrated...?

Yours etc.,  
**E. J. (With a little help from her friend)**

### Bloodthirsty

Dear Mr. or Mrs. Editor,  
There has recently been a trend in your organ of attacking members of the Executive and I feel that I must join in. The ever popular Mr. Bennett (our Sab. Sec.) is in fact a blood-sports supporter who cannot even spell. "Résumé" has two accents spazmo!  
Love from a clever French student (not a thick Agric).  
p.s. Why didn't the Prospectus tell us that it's so cold in Newcastle?  
p.p.s. The condoms sold at Castle Leazes have no Kite-mark.

### Simple Simon

Sir,  
Your Armchair fan, Simon Bird, knows buggler all about football. There was NOT a World Cup Final in 1988. With a brain like yours, Simon, you should support Sunderland.

Yours etc.,  
**Mackem Basher.**  
Simon says: "European Champs 1988, World Cup Finals 1990. We never win them anyway, so what difference does it make?!"

### Beermaths

Sir,  
The other week I read with interest the most informative letter about the formula to calculate the relative effectiveness of different drinks. I feel that students often ignore another important consideration in how to spend their 'entertainment' money. It's not just important to reach the shangri-la of shitfacedness as cheaply as possible, it's also important to stay there for as long as possible.

I, therefore, feel the hours pissed per pound spent (or HAPPIER for short) should be calculated. For example, Student A. (let's just call him Bartholomew, or Barth for short) is in the Androgenous bar at 8.00. Barth quickly necks ten pints (which if the Union bar was properly subsidised) would cost £10. The beer hits Barth as the Security politely ask him to piss off at 11.30. Barth goes and buys a kebab, as you do, and then throws most of it to the ducks, as you do if you're smart, on his way back to Castle Leazes. By 12.30 he's tucked up in bed dreaming of proper food.

Barth's HAPPIER is  
£ spent = £10 = 10  
hr's pissed = 1

If Barth was a more wily old bird, he'd be in the Union at 12.00 and rangooned by 3.30. He could then spend the rest of the day topping up the beer level (a pint an hour's about right) and asking to use the Union photocopier. If he goes to bed at 12.30 his HAPPIER is:-

$$\frac{18}{9} = 2$$

Earlier starts bring the HAPPIER nearer to the perfect one and, therefore, the enlightened to the bar at midday.

Yours etc.,  
**The one happy family gang.**

## Through the Round Window

Christmas (or should I say 'Xmas?') - a time of peace and goodwill to all men. A time for reflection, reconciliation and Fenwick's. In many people's minds, it is also, of course, a time for the end of December: not mid-October, which seems to be when the festive fun begins these days. (Freshers, don't be tempted to dismiss this as a quaint Northern tradition - the moves to merge Easter and Christmas with the August Bank Holiday have national support!)

Since I lose my soapbox in mid-December when Courier stops printing, I thought I'd follow the fine example of our friends at Fenwick's, and try to get you in the mood with a few suggestions of gifts you might like to ask for (selfish bastards!) - as well as gifts you might like to give because, you know, giving is what it's all about (vomit!)

Things to ask for from Mums and Dads and suchlike:

1. *Louis Waterman 24-carat £800 fountain pen.* Sounds *suffisement educationelle* for your doting parents to be fooled by the suggestion that you might fail your degree without one. You won't be at home often enough to witness the poverty your family has to undergo as a result of buying it.

2. *Fur coat (genuine fox/mink/polar bear etc.)* for wearing at grand functions (and to keep you warm in your poxy, horrible, damp Fenham flat!)

3. *Fake fur coat (genuine polyester, acrylic etc.)* for wearing to the Labour Club/swimming pool/Nicaraguan Solidarity Society etc. Just the thing to make your statement about animal rights and why it's the government's fault that people go hunting.

4. *Bleach/detergent/Non-scratch cleaner* - this gift request will have one of two possible outcomes:

(a) Your mother will decide you have finally taken a responsible attitude to personal and communal hygiene and you will consequently rise in her estimation (although if she decides you're actually good at cleaning things you may also rise on her housecleaning rota and find yourself doing many a menial chore while at home.)

(b) She will decide you obviously live in a hovel (in Fenham, probably) and will bully your father into buying you a much nicer house in Jesmond (like what mine did). Of course, this is only likely if your dad's as rich as mine, which he probably isn't, so tough.



I wish they'd stop ruining a perfectly profitable commercial venture with all this religion.

5. Diamond studded corset with gold lamé trim and crushed velvet padding. Boys may have difficulty in persuading parents of the merits of this invaluable social accessory: but as long as they think it'll help you fit in and make University the worthwhile experience they know it should be... BUT if they start crying and saying "We've always known - it was just a matter of time before you told us - where did we go wrong?" You should think again.

Things definitely not to ask for:

1. Socks (too sensible).
2. Aftershave/Perfume (they will buy you Old Spice - whatever you ask for).
3. Multipack Condom collection with choice of flavours (you will ruin their image of you as their little boy/girl!)
4. Handcuffs with ropes, chains and accessories (they are unlikely to get the sort of price deal I could get - 'phone me on 0898 222 6000) to discuss...)
5. Anything you actually want or which might be useful to you. (This would break with the greatest of Christmas traditions - having totally crap presents which are fit only for the dustbin).

Things to buy others:

Damn! I've run out of space - just as you've run out of money.

SCAN presents

# Christmas Charity Ball

at the

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**COMEDY**  
**BANDS**

**BUFFET**  
**DISCO**  
**FASHION SHOW**

Wednesday 11th December • 7pm 'til 2am • Formal dress only  
Tickets £15 from SU reception and SCAN shop

# Bastardhead

Live Theatre, 21-23 November.  
"Bastardhead" is the City. "Bastardhead" is Steve Cotterill's provocative and entertaining poke at the pretensions and insecurities of contemporary society. "Bastardhead" was, despite its episodic and obtrusive structure, a remarkably assertive and successful production for a first-time writer/co-director who even managed a hilariously pathetic cameo role as a gameshow contestant/social reject.

The main protagonist is Homeboy (Jon Slater), a cynical newcomer to the City's corruptive world of socialites and brilliantly portrayed substance abusers whose 'help' he rejects as we follow his Pilgrim's Progress toward a suitably violent demise at the hands of the City, a metaphorical skinhead.

The themes of the mainstream action are impressively echoed in Homeboy's at times confusing secondary role as the casting director of his own fate and the bawdy subplot revolving round the bickerings of gameshow host and hostess, Bobby Showbeam (John Lightbody) and Cynthia del Fuego (Gillian Wilson) as they allow personal differences to come between them and their glamorous social roles on the gameshow, cheaply named "Social Paranoia".

Cotterill has obviously drunk deep from the waters of his age. "Bastardhead" is a real collage of familiar stereotypes and sketches held together by some refreshingly angry social satire and first rate comic acting. The play uses a barrage of shocking imagery and dialogue, set amongst a wacky cartoon set, to raise issues as diverse as whether the individual can remain independent of projected norms of



Destruction of the male sexual ego:  
Gillian Wilson goes to work on John Lightbody

behaviour and our preconceptions about the older generation. The result is an extremely blatant yet demanding play which is very much aware of the problems facing young people in the 90s. What came across most strongly in "Bastardhead" was the sense of personal isolation among the characters seeking solace in the escapism of drugs and afraid to be themselves lest they be judged too harshly.

What it lacked in narrative thread and complexity of character, the drama more than made up for with a wit, dynamism and sense of purpose which would credit far more experienced directors. Though he was in the main just too annoying to win the sympathy of the audience which he needed in order to compete with the increasingly compelling subplot, Jon Slater's brash adolescent angst gave just the right weight to what might otherwise have leant towards cabaret. But this is the mark of good, balance writing. What "Bastardhead" proved in spite and perhaps because of its overly self-conscious format is, firstly, that theatre at its best is a radical art form for adults (not a nice night out for the mealymouthed and well-dressed) and, secondly, that if you've got something to say, theatre is still a thoroughly effective medium.

P.S. Where was Miss Society? Was she ill?  
Jonathon Merrall

## UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA, 20th November

If, like mine, your impressions of King's Hall revolve principally around the daunting prospect of facing an examination in an atmosphere redolent more of a court-room than a seat of academe, you could do a lot worse than to attend a concert by the University Music Society.

Wednesday's concert began with an effervescent rendition of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, ably conducted by Tahlia Cantrill. Despite a rather nervous start (the court-room atmosphere, perhaps), the musicians rapidly warmed to their task to produce a performance which surprised me with its virtuosity. Particularly impressive were Ailsa Forsyth, playing solo violin, and Joanne Aitkenhead, who brought to the trumpet score a rare subtlety and sensitivity, coupled with an exhilarating sense of joie de vivre.

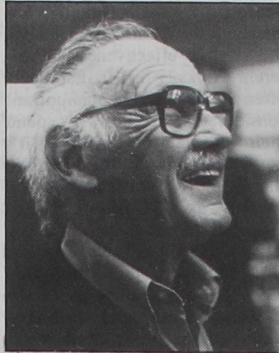
Ms. Cantrill concluded the first half of the concert with Ralph Vaughan Williams' "In The Fen Country".

This piece contrasted well with the first and, while Vaughan Williams may awaken more antithetical feelings among some audiences than Bach, no-one could deny the flair and professionalism of the performance.

After the interval, Mandy Pike conducted the Chamber Choir in a rendition of Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols". Although performing to the same high standard as the Orchestra, the Choir was let down a little by its general appearance. With the male singers in evening dress, a little more uniformity among the ladies might have been appropriate. Little could distract, however, from the power and scope of the music nor from the exquisite solos of soprano Jeanette Brass. This was my first experience of the University Choir and Orchestra: it shall certainly not be the last.

Steve Bowen

# STAN THE MAN



pic: Paul Seadon

Last week, Stan Lee came to town. Any comic fan will understand the hysteria associated with his 8-day tour of the UK signing copies of the new £30 hardback "Marvel" which tells the story of the US comics company (noted for Spiderman, the Hulk, Iron Man and X-Men) that Lee is responsible for shaping into the world leader that it is now, selling over 7 million copies in one issue alone. It would be so easy for Stan Lee to be an egotistical bastard but he's kind and gentle, an eager comics fan more than anything else.

Credited as publisher of Marvel Comics, Lee is now involved with translations of comicbooks into other mediums such as film. Disappointed by previous examples (Spiderman, the Hulk, the Punisher, etc.) he has got James "Terminator" Cameron to write, direct and produce a new Spiderman film. Cameron says that he wants it to be the biggest movie he's ever done which means topping the "Terminator 2" bill! It should be released in 1993. Other projects in the works include Universal Studios' "Iron Man", Tri-Star's "Elektra Assassin"...

So what makes Marvel what it is? Lee believes in good characterisation and empathy with the characters. Unsure about the current trend of violent characters, he is of the opinion that it could merely be writers and artists trying to top those that have gone before by using bigger artists, bolder expressions and big guns. Lee's favourite stories tend away from this, though he admits that when thumbing through present books he is time after time blown away with an artist he has never heard of before.

His love for comics is apparent: he seems to bear no malice for his competitors and is simply in it for the fun. At 67 he has lost none of the eagerness that a 12-year old would have.

Lee is now working on a new project, "The Tomorrow Chronicles", set in the Marvel universe 100 years in the future using descendants of present characters and immortal characters such as Thor.

When asked what he would want to be remembered for in a couple of centuries, Lee grinned "For being over 200 years old and still looking young." I wouldn't be surprised.

Richard Johnston

# Film

## POISON - Tyneside until 30/11/91

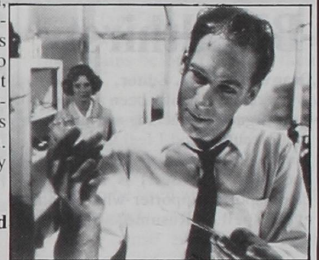
Before Todd Haynes' "Poison" even opened in America, it was condemned as repulsive and obscene. There were further complaints because the film, made on a budget of \$255,000 (cheap by today's standards), was edited on a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts which, say conservatives, shouldn't have been given to such an inappropriate film. Demands have been made for the dismissal of the NEA chairman and the dismantling of the entire scheme.

So, why all the fuss?  
"Poison" follows three stories concurrently: "Hero" gives a mother's account of the events that caused her seven-year-old son to shoot his father; "Horror" is that of a scientist that seeks to discover the source of the sex-drive and unfortunately does; "Homo" shows an inmate who becomes sexually obsessed with another prisoner. Yes, these are tales of Deviancy with a capital 'D' - homosexuality, homicide... Mary Whitehouse would've left clutching her bag for protection within the first few frames, I'm telling you!

Considering this is Haynes' debut feature film, it's cinematically accomplished. Despite the interweaving, the three plots remain distinct through the use of different styles: "Hero" is a mock TV documentary, giving neighbours, social workers, teachers and fellow pupils the chance to say how they each, individually, without help from anyone else, saw it coming; "Horror" is B-movie heaven, all weird angles, distortions and atmospheric music; "Homo" intercuts between the blue-black prison to a Jarmanesque idyll of flowers, pastels and homosexual brotherhood.

The obvious reason this has caused such moral outrage is that Haynes manages to infer both the negative and positive sides of each case: "Homo" is heavy on sensuality (lots of hands and touching) but indicates the oppressive nature of 'queerbashing'; "Horror" is the sort to make your skin crawl but emphasises isolation; "Hero" shows humour in murder (!!!). As the three stories become progressively closer entwined, the sensations become uncomfortable because of conflicting emotions which lead you to examine your own reactions - the eroticism of "Homo" leads into the menace of "Horror" and you start to wonder if perhaps you're just as attracted by the sinister qualities.

"Poison" is an excellent film in any terms but it is unreservedly not for all. It's not easy to watch, largely because it is a total experience that raises questions some will not be prepared to face. Dodgy ethics, maybe, but Todd Haynes makes some perceptive and disturbing points about the nature of man. Intentional or not, it completely deserves all the controversy.



Claire Pickard

## JUNGLE FEVER, showing at the Tyneside.

Flipper (Wesley Snipes) is an architect, comfortably married, enjoying his upwardly-mobile life. Angie (Annabella Sciorra) is a put-upon Italian, appointed as his secretary. Her homelife is also secure but less happily so: her lot is to tend to the needs of her domineering father and two brothers, her only kind of freedom coming when she's with her downtrodden boyfriend, Paulie (man of the match award going to John Turturro).

The film hinges on the love affair that ensues between Flipper and Angie and this is where the film hits rickety ground. Ostensibly about Flipper and Angie, Lee's film is really about New York, a volatile, ghetto-city that has ceased to communicate with itself, where ignorance reigns. One city has divided into several and most of its inhabitants only know other districts by name and by myth. Flipper and Angie, so Lee seems to say, have an affair merely to test some of these myths.

Lee's politics are on shaky ground here. Is Lee really saying that black and white can only be drawn together by mutual curiosity? Yes and no. Flipper wants to know if success tastes any sweeter lying next to a white woman. Of course, this is no basis for love and Flipper finds out that no it doesn't. She isn't testing a myth: desperately trying to seize the reins of her life, she is exploited and then flung aside like a jacket that doesn't fit any more. "Jungle Fever" is a film with a cold heart and a central premise that doesn't convince. Is it just Flipper or does Lee himself take the same pessimistic line that interracial love can be nothing more than a diversion, a passing whim? "Jungle Fever" can be a confused film.

Lee is on surer ground in his deft depiction of the disintegration of the black community at the hands of crack, embodied in Flipper's brother Gator (an unpredictable and disturbing performance by Samuel L. Jackson).

Don't go in expecting to come out feeling happy, light and trouble-free; its thought-provoking agenda means "Jungle Fever" isn't palatable to all but, though it can be confused, it does merit investigation.

Ian Bland

# Coming up at TYNESIDE CINEMA

Sunday 1st December  
As seen in Empire Magazine!!  
Kevin Costner's bottom in...  
DANCES WITH WOLVES (12)

From Monday 2nd December



The original Dirty Dangerous Liaisons  
VALMONT (15)

Dennis Hopper & Gary Oldman star in  
a tale of a bizarre suicide  
CHATTAHOOCHEE (15)

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Monday  
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★★★  
The best cask conditioned beers in Newcastle  
★★★  
HAPPY HOUR SPIRITS BY REQUEST  
★★★  
All day opening

# Listings

radical happenings

## ROUND-UP

There's actually some life-shattering stuff to go to this week, and I don't mean the Pogues concert, if you want to see grown people doing a jig.

Reinhard Bonnke is an evangelist who is partly responsible for the massive growth in the African church in recent years, and will be in town tonight; I know that an invalid old lady walked out of a wheelchair at one of his rallies in Birmingham a couple of years ago.

Meanwhile, big-name English Christian John Stott is speaking at Christian Union on Friday evening addressing the subject of freedom: How can Christians obeying the Ten Commandments claim to be more free than everyone else? If it sounds stupid, listen to his explanation.

Fudging from the last time the Farm were here, never mind Status Quo who don't actually win the prize for repetitive music in concert, go to the City Hall on Monday for an exhibition of live cardboard.

Make some time for the next NUTS play, and 'RIOT' - Tyneside Youth Theatre performs a black comedy about the West End Riots - the Geordies themselves will get away with being disrespectful and close to the bone. For challenging intellectual stuff though, skip a few lectures to see the Really Wild Show, whose stage show should be right on the student level.

Tonight - Don't miss the Battle of the Bands - Union - Level 2 - 8 p.m. £2.00.

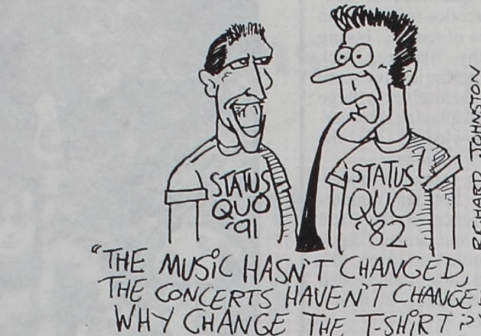
Dan Lamb.

## UNION

Thurs 28th Nov.  
**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**  
Fri 29th Nov.  
**TECHNIQUE**  
Union, 7 pm. £1.50  
Mon 2nd Dec.  
**CHALLENGE BINGO**  
Main Bar, 9 pm.  
Tues 3rd Dec.  
**COCHRANE QUIZ**  
Cochrane Lounge, 9 pm.

## MUSIC

Thurs 28th Nov.  
**KINGMAKER**  
Poly, 8 pm. £1.50  
**LEAVE HEAVEN ALONE**  
Dog & Parrot, 8.30 pm. £1.  
**DICK GAUGHAN**  
Wallsend Buddle, £3.50, £2.50.  
**HUG + P.S.I.**  
Riverside, 7.30 pm.  
**LAUGHING SAM'S DICE**  
Broken Doll (downstairs), 9 pm. Free.  
**NO RECIPE**  
Cumberland Arms, 8.30 pm. £1.  
**7 TO MIDNIGHT**  
Tilley's, 8 pm. Free.  
**THE VIEUX CARRE JAZZMEN**  
West Jesmond British Legion Club, 8.30 pm. £1.  
**THE HOLLIES**  
Sunderland Empire, 7.30 pm. £6.50.  
Fri 29th Nov.  
**THE BABY LOVES**  
Dog & Parrot, 8.30 pm. £1.50.  
**EMPERORS NEW CLOTHES**  
Arts Centre, 8 pm. £3/4.  
**DICK GAUGHAN**



THE MUSIC HASN'T CHANGED, THE CONCERTS HAVEN'T CHANGED, WHY CHANGE THE T-SHIRT? RICHARD JOHNSTON

Wallsend Buddle, £3.50/£2.50.  
**SKIPRATS + DIRTY RIVERS BAND**  
Broken Doll (upstairs), 8.30 pm. £1.  
**STATUS QUO**  
South Shields Temple Park, 7.30 pm. £14.50.  
Sat 30th Nov.  
**LAUREL AITKEN & HIS BAND**  
Arts Centre, 8 pm. £5/£5.50.  
**THE DEAD MESSENGERS**  
Dog & Parrot, 8.30 pm. £1.  
**JAZZ - THE PLAIN TRUTH**  
Wallsend Buddle, £3/£2.  
**DAVE BLACK**  
Tilley's, 8 pm. Free.  
**BOB MOULD**  
Jesmond Cinema, 7.30 pm. £4/£5.  
**MOOSE**  
Riverside, 7.30 pm. £3.50/£4.  
**THE HIPHURSTERS**  
Broken Doll (downstairs), 2 pm. Free.  
**DRY LAKES BLUES BAND**  
Broken Doll (upstairs), 8.30 pm. £1/£1.50.  
**THE PIG STEALERS**  
Legendary Yorkshire Heroes, 8.30 pm. Free.

**THE COMMITMENTS (15)**  
Weekdays 12.25, 2.55, 5.30, 8.10  
Sat: 2.55, 5.30, 8.10  
Sun: 5.30, 8.10  
**THE FISHER KING (15)**  
Every day 2.05, 4.55, 7.50  
**POINT BREAK (15)**  
Every day 2.35, 5.30, 8.05  
**THE RESCUERS DOWN UNDER (U)**  
Saturday at 12.35 only; Sunday at 3.10 only  
Students £2.40 any time  
Programme information - (0426) 950527

Sun 1st Dec.  
**MO HARROLD AND ROD SINCLAIR**  
Legendary Yorkshire Heroes, 9 pm. Free.  
**LIZZIE WOULDN'T LIKE IT**  
Live Theatre, noon. £2 (under 14s free).  
**THE ACME BLUES BAND**  
The Broken Doll, noon. Free.  
**AIDS DAY BENEFIT** Riverside, 9 pm. £3 adv.  
**BLUE PRINT**  
Broken Doll, 8.30 pm. Free.  
**CRANE**  
Broken Doll, 8.30 pm. £1.50.  
Mon 2nd Dec.  
**NO CHASER**  
Joe Wilson's, 8.30 pm. Free.  
**INTRIGUE IN TANGIERS**  
Broken Doll, 9 pm. £1.  
**DAN TO DAN**  
Broken Doll, 9 pm. Free.  
**THE FARM**  
City Hall, £8.  
**NIRVANA**  
Mavair.

**WARNERS CINEMAS AT MANORS**  
Times for Week Commencing 29th Nov. 1991  
\* Starts Friday \*  
**SWITCH (15)**  
Fri-Sat: 1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.30, 11.15  
Sun-Thur: 1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.30  
\* Starts Friday \*  
**ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS (U)**  
Fri-Thur: 1.15, 3.30, 6.05, 8.10  
\* Starts Friday \*  
**OMEN IV (15)**  
Fri-Sat: 4.00, 9.00, 11.10  
Sun-Thur: 4.00, 9.00  
**POINT BREAK (15)**  
Fri-Sat: 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.15, 11.00  
Sun-Thur: 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.15  
**FISHER KING (15)**  
Fri: 1.30, 4.45, 7.50, 10.45  
Sat: 4.45, 7.50, 10.45  
Sun-Thur: 1.30, 4.45, 7.50  
**DROP DEAD FRED (12)**  
Fri-Thur: 1.40, 4.15, 6.45  
**SHATTERED (15)**  
Fri-Sat: 9.10, 11.20  
Sun-Thur: 9.10

Tues 3rd Dec.  
**TIGER TAILZ**  
Riverside, 9 pm. £4.50 adv.  
**RAMONES**  
Newcastle Polytechnic, 8 pm.  
**THE POGUES**  
City Hall, £10.  
**LEAVE HEAVEN ALONE**  
Dog & Parrot, 8.30 pm. Free.  
**AL DICKENSON**  
Free Trade, 8.30 pm. Free.  
Wed 4th Dec.  
**BOTTLE BLOND**  
Dog & Parrot, 8.30 pm. Free.  
**THE LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR**  
Sunderland Empire, £2.50-£6.50.  
**MICHAEL BLACK**  
Tilley's, 9 pm. Free.  
**BITTER END CLUB**  
Broken Doll, 9 pm. Free.  
**NO EXIT**  
Corner House, 8 pm. £2/£2.50.  
**NO RECIPE**  
Broken Doll, 9 pm. £1/£1.50.

**THE COMMITMENTS (15)**  
Fri: 1.20, 3.50, 6.15, 8.45, 11.15  
Sat: 6.15, 8.45, 11.15  
Sun: 6.15, 8.45  
Mon-Thurs: 1.20, 3.50, 6.15, 8.45  
**ROBIN HOOD: PRINCE OF THIEVES (PG)**  
Fri-Wed: 1.15, 4.30, 7.45  
**CITY SLICKERS (12)**  
Fri-Thur: 1.20, 6.35  
**DEAD AGAIN (15)**  
Fri: 1.30, 3.45, 6.30, 8.50, 11.10  
Sat: 6.30, 8.50, 11.10  
Sun: 6.30, 8.50  
Mon-Thur: 1.30, 3.45, 6.30, 8.50  
**TEEN AGENT (PG)**  
Sat-Sun: 1.15, 3.40  
**RESCUERS DOWN UNDER (U)**  
Sat-Sun: 1.00, 3.30  
**LATE SHOW**  
**SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (18)**  
Fri-Sat: 11.05  
**SATURDAY SPECIAL**  
**SPIDERMAN (U)**  
Sat: 12.30, 2.35  
**THURSDAY SPECIAL**  
Sat Dec. 1991  
**DANCES WITH WOLVES (12)**  
Thur: 12.40, 4.15, 7.40  
Students £2.25 with appropriate I.D.

## CINEMA

**ODEON, PILGRIM STREET**  
Please note that times are for complete programmes  
Commencing Thursday 28th November until Thursday 5th December (Inclusive)  
**ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS (U)**  
Every day 2.15, 4.25, 6.35, 8.40

**TYNESIDE CINEMA**  
Thurs 28th Nov.  
**JACOB'S LADDER (18)** 3.45, 8.30  
**JUNGLE FEVER (18)** 6.00  
**POISON (18)** 6.30  
**AFTER DARK MY SWEET (18)** 8.15  
Fri 29th Nov.  
**JACOB'S LADDER (18)** 6.00  
**JUNGLE FEVER (18)** 8.15  
**AFTER DARK MY SWEET (18)** 6.30  
**POISON (18)** 8.45  
**THREE MEN AND A BABY (PG)** 1.30  
**JACOB'S LADDER (18)** 3.30  
**JUNGLE FEVER (18)** 5.40  
**GALA EVENING** 8.30

**AFTER DARK MY SWEET (18)**, 6.30  
**POISON (18)**, 8.45  
Sun. 1st Dec.  
**JUNGLE FEVER (18)**, 4.30  
**DANCES WITH WOLVES (12)**, 7.15  
**AN INNOCENT WITCH**, 3.45  
**DEATH OF A TEAMMASTER**, 6.00  
**THE LAST METRO (PG)**, 8.00  
Mon. 2nd Dec.  
**STEPPING OUT (PG)**, 5.45  
**VALMONT (15)**, 8.00  
**DR. PETIOT (12)**, 4.25, 6.35  
**CHATTARHOOCHEE (15)**, 8.45  
Tues. 3rd Dec.  
**VALMONT (15)**, 5.45  
**STEPPING OUT (PG)**, 8.30  
**CHATTARHOOCHEE (15)**, 4.25  
**HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR (18)**, 6.30  
**DR. PETIOT (12)**, 8.30  
Wed. 4th Dec.  
**THE PROMISE**, 1.35  
**REBELLION (18)**, 3.50  
**VALMONT (15)**, 6.05  
**STEPPING OUT (PG)**, 8.45  
**CHATTARHOOCHEE (15)**, 4.30, 8.45  
**DR. PETIOT (12)**, 6.35

## THEATRE

29 - 30 Nov.  
**SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER (NUTS)**  
Gulbenkian, 7.30 pm (Matinee Sat. 2.30).  
£3.50/£2.50.  
28 - 30 Nov.  
**JAWS + CLAWS (Really Wild Show)**  
Playhouse, 11 am, 2 pm.  
29 - 30 Nov.  
**RAMBERT DANCE CO.**  
7.30 pm.  
2 - 4 Dec.  
**RIOT (Tyneside Youth Theatre)**  
Live Theatre, 8 pm. £2.50/£1.50.

## OTHERS

Fri. 29th - 30th Nov.  
**THE RUBBER BISHOPS + SUPPORT**  
Tosca's, 8.30 pm. £4.50 inc. supper.  
Thurs. 28th Nov.  
**REINHARD BONNKE (Evangelist)**  
Northumbria Centre, Washington, 7.30 pm.  
Sat. 30th Nov.  
**ROCK & DORIS CABARET (gay & lesbian)**  
Live Theatre, 8.30 pm. £2.50/£1.50  
**PUBLIC LECTURES**  
Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building  
Thurs. 28th Nov.  
5.30 pm.  
Inaugural Lecture  
**INTELLIGENT MOTION(S)?**  
PROFESSOR A. G. JACKS  
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

## SOCIETIES

Fri. Nov. 29th  
**AMNESTY Sri Lanka Human Rights Speaker**, Committee Room A. 1 pm.  
Sat. 30th Nov. - Sun. 1st Dec.  
**N.E. STUDENTS TRAMPOLINING COM-PETITION**  
Spectators Welcome.  
Fri. 29th Nov.  
**CHRISTIAN UNION**  
Curtis Auditorium, 7.30 pm. till 9.00 pm.  
"WHO'S FREE?" - John Stott.  
Fri. 29th Nov.  
**ROCKSOC EDINBURGH TRIP**  
1-2 pm. £2/£3. Book Level 2.  
Other Societies:  
If you have any events coming up which would be of interest to Listings readers.

## BOOK NOW

Fri. 29th Nov.  
**STATUS QUO**  
South Shields Temple Park. £14.  
Nov. 29th - 30th  
**SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER (NUTS)**  
Gulbenkian.  
Dec. 5th - 7th  
**GOD AND DEATH (NUTS)**  
Gulbenkian.

## Personal Column — 3p per word — 30p minimum



For indepth information see Shaun 'hung like a baboon' Daly. HENDERSON HALL  
**RICHARD** - I had the time of my life, Love R.  
Has anyone found a **ZIPPO LIGHTER** with a **UNION JACK FLAG ON IT?** If so please contact the Sabbatical Secretary, Level 6, to receive a reward for its return.  
**SISTER CUDDLES** - Thanks for a night to remember Wednesday - TTCHL.

Dirty Dancing or side-stepping to flavour of the month.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **SIMON** -  
\* Where's the kiddies??  
\* We know you want to accost them!!  
\*\*\*\*\*

Well Done! Dan and the Exec.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**SHAG BLOCK X**  
Freshers sex orgy will it ever end?  
Hope not.  
Tel. 0898 3666 123  
For Penthouse Passion and Top Floor Teasing  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**BEN** - heard you had a smashing time on Saturday! - GET WELL SOON - M.

**PUKIN OLD SHAG**  
Alias Mr. TELETEXT of Felling, Love, The Anti-Agric Soc.

Saturday 30th - Meditate to alleviate.  
**SOMEONE TO TALK TO**  
*Niteline*  
☎ 261 2905 8pm-8am

Let's face it  
**HYACINTH**  
You've got plenty of bottom to have Kenetic Movement with.  
Love  
Tom + Bill

Many thanks to all the teams who took part in the **CHARITY BASKETBALL** on Sunday. Congratulations to the quality team - well done Gail!! Chris and Darren thanks for reffing, and finally love and hugs to Clare for calming me down in my moments of stress. **RICH.**

Grease my squeak.  
**FOR SALE**  
One return ticket to York. Use before 15th December, with railcard. £7.50. Contact: 281 6291.

**AGRICs, etc.** - Anyone going to the **ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE BALL** please see me - **RICH BENNETT, SAB. SEC.**

**RAG '92**  
RAG PUBCRAWL - PRIZEWINNERS  
Festive team: Kate Thope (150 words)  
Best Fancy Dress: Simon Perry + Richard Foster  
Sweetest of the night: Diana (Brides for writing her body!)  
Sharpest of the night: Gail 'She read over' Sullivan  
Scavenger of the night: Karna 'It's my birthday - hey me a drink' Alderson  
Credible member of the night: Philip Wood (who wasn't even competing)  
Thanks to everyone who took part, especially the Stewards - you were brilliant! Best event - QUARTER 20 W/L (early next term)  
**RAG WEEK**  
1st - 8th March 1992  
Come and see us on Level 6, Union Building and get involved!

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**CALLING ALL GOPHERS**  
New and exciting events have been organized including:  
Trip to a Bingo Hall,  
Eton College and a Skirmish Extravaganza - see notice board for details on Level 5.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**FREDDY**  
Another one bites the dust and we'll all miss you. But, hell the Show Must Go On. and Who Wants to Live Forever.

**AUTHENTIC FREEDOM**  
A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE with **JOHN STOTT**  
Institute of contemporary Christianity  
Curtis Auditorium: Fri 7.30, Nov 29  
Admission free

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**THE COMMITMENTS (15)** Weekdays: 12.25, 2.55, 5.30, 8.10. Sat: 2.55, 5.30, 8.10, Sun: 5.30, 8.10.  
**THE RESCUERS DOWN UNDER (U)** Saturday: 12.35 only, Sunday: 3.10 only. Students £2.40 any time.  
Licensed Bar open every evening from 7 p.m. Programme information 0426 950527. Advance Bookings Tel. 2617816.  
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**THE LIVE THEATRE**  
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**WARNER CINEMAS**  
AT MANORS ADVANCE BOOKING Tel: 091 221 0222 PROGRAMME INFORMATION Tel: 091 221 0202  
\* STARTS FRIDAY \* Cert (15)  
**SWITCH**  
Fri/Sat: 1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.30, 11.15  
Sun-Thur: 1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.30  
\* STARTS FRIDAY \* Cert (U)  
**ALL I WANT FOR XMAS**  
Fri/Thur: 1.15, 3.30, 6.05, 8.10  
\* STARTS FRIDAY \* Cert (15)  
**OMEN IV**  
Fri/Sat: 4.00, 9.00, 11.10  
Sun/Thur: 4.00, 9.00  
**POINT BREAK** Cert (15)  
Fri/Sat: 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.15, 11.00  
Sun/Thur: 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.15  
**FISHER KING** Cert (15)  
Fri: 1.30, 4.45, 7.50, 10.45  
Sat: 4.45, 7.50, 10.45  
Sun/Thur: 1.30, 4.45, 7.50  
**DROP DEAD FRED** Cert (12)  
Fri/Thur: 1.40, 4.15, 6.45  
**SHATTERED** Cert (15)  
Fri/Sat: 9.10, 11.20  
Sun/Thur: 9.10  
**ROBIN HOOD PRINCE OF THIEVES** Cert (PG)  
Fri/Wed: 1.15, 4.30, 7.45  
**COMMITMENTS** Cert (15)  
Fri: 1.20, 3.50, 6.15, 8.45, 11.15  
Sat: 6.15, 8.45, 11.15  
Sun: 6.15, 8.45  
Mon/Thur: 1.20, 3.50, 6.15, 8.45  
**CITY SLICKERS** Cert (12)  
Fri/Thur: 1.20, 6.35  
**DEAD AGAIN** Cert (15)  
Fri: 1.30, 3.45, 6.30, 8.50, 11.10  
Sat: 6.30, 8.50, 11.10  
Sun: 6.30, 8.50  
Mon/Thur: 1.30, 3.45, 6.30, 8.30  
**TEEN AGENT** Cert (PG)  
Sat/Sun: 1.15, 3.40  
**RESCUERS DOWN UNDER** Cert (U)  
Sat/Sun: 1.00, 3.30  
**LATE SHOW** Cert (18)  
**SILENCE OF THE LAMBS**  
Fri/Sat: 11.05  
**SATURDAY SPECIAL** Cert (U)  
**SPIDERMAN**  
Sat: 12.30, 2.35  
**THURSDAY SPECIAL** Cert (12)  
5/12/91  
**DANCES WITH WOLVES**  
Thur: 12.40, 4.15, 7.40  
STUDENTS £2.25 WITH APPROPRIATE I.D. / UNEMPLOYED £1.50

# turntable

## The Sunflowers - 'It's Only Everything' 7"

'It's Only Everything' starts with a lumbering plod through bass, drum and floaty guitar lines, but the song is soon pulled together by wailing vocals and a hint of distortion and then made by feedback. It's the kind of song that dwells on you, the title just sticks in your head whether you want it to or not. I can just imagine myself in one foul, drunken mood thinking "where the fuck's that Sunflowers single?" 'Too Far To Fall' is a bit faster, heading towards (dare I say it?) Mega City Four, happily without the '1-2-3-go' count-ins. If I was stuck between buying this and Michael Jackson's new single I know which one I'd go for. At least you stand a chance of the lads signing it.

## Nirvana - 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' 12"

One of the best singles of the week, year, decade even? Possibly not but it comes damn close. 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' has all the ingredients which every great tune should have, quiet mellow bits, slabs of metallic guitar in the uptempo bits and a great singalong chorus. Entertaining stuff indeed. Of the other tracks 'Drain You' is another one of Nirvana's growing catalogue of pop songs whilst 'Even in His Youth' hints back to their previous riffing existence circa 'Bleach' complete with sloganeering lyrics and wails of feedback. The down side of this is there's only one track not on their excellent 'Nevermind' album but if you don't already own that (why?) this provides a great taster of one of the best rock outfits around today.

## Intastella - 'Family of People' LP

Stella's dreamy, swirly vocals float softly over dancey drum beats and mellow keyboard melodies, often a tad cheesy. This, their debut LP, purports to be a spacey, hip, psychedelic dance record, but ends up sounding like pretentious indie dance music for the 'E' generation. The songs are nice, but bland, Stella drifting into self indulgency, and the music sounding tacky. It's a vague, wishy-washy affair overall. Intastella overdrive?! Hmm, perhaps not.

## U2 - 'Achtung Baby' LP

It's very good of U2 to include a lyric sheet with this record, that way I can tell it's crap without actually having to listen to it. Unfortunately I did listen to it, only once though, and I'm not listening to it again. "When I was all messed up and heard opera in my head, your love was a light bulb hanging over my bed". What?! That little pearl of wisdom came from

'Ultra Violet', a song which ends with Bono singing "Baby baby baby baby..." etc. in a manner which reminds me of Baldrick's war poem in Blackadder which went "Boom boom boom..." This is a truly ridiculous album where every song is about 10 years long, each one slowly building up to a rousing ending, utilising the cheapest trick known to man to make the listener think it's a great song. It's not. The whole album's absolute drivel. It might be funny if it weren't for the fact that millions of people will buy this and love it.

## My Bloody Valentine - 'Loveless' LP

The new My Bloody Valentine album. Now that is exciting. The first song, 'Only Shallow' begins with about six of those weird tinny drumbeats then the guitars start, wildly, sounding as if they're fighting, as if something's happening backwards. Then there's Bilinda's voice, barely there, fragile, cold and separate. Recall the extent of the sexiness of the (dead dead rude) first song on the last album, 'Soft as Snow (But Warm Inside)'. Now that was sexy. So is this.

My Bloody Valentine must be absolute nutters: how do they make those ridiculous noises? Weird, warpy noises with guitars that put together make some of the most passionate, entrancing music ever. 'Touched' is brilliant and sounds like an orchestra having the weirdest of weird experiences: 'To Here Knows When' is still a bit wank. The most beautiful song in the album is 'When You Sleep', as it should be being about something so lovely as seeing someone asleep. The two voices blend dreamily, murmuring indistinguishably about 'when I look at you...' and there's an amazing keyboard bit recurring throughout that sounds like a theme tune to a programme on Radio 4.

On Side 2, 'Sometimes' is sweetly sad. Surprisingly, the last song is the angular, stark 'Soon'; still sounds excellent though. Its a brilliant album, looks like the vast amounts of money and time spent on it paid off, they're still amazingly creative.

## CREDITS

Records supplied by Volume Records. Reviewed by Fil, Colin Swift, Steve Heavyboots, Mike Lumberpunch and Cath Harris.

## Monthly chart compiled by STREETS AHEAD

## Ozric Tentacles

Riverside 18/11/91

Sounding somewhere between Gong, Hawkwind and Yes on a bad trip, Ozric Tentacles tonight were to live performance what John Major is to charisma. Setting the tone of this review somewhat to the negative, on record the Ozrics can be quite an interesting proposition. Unfortunately the culture of dreadlocks, patchouli oil and large quantities of hallucinogenic narcotics translates on stage into a sea of tedious, boring and overlengthy 70s prog rock guitar solos. The Ozrics live seem to have done themselves a large disservice by displaying an over-extensive knowledge of the Hawkwind back catalogue.

Subtlety was trampled underfoot until the last ten minutes when the presence of the local digge players and some (shock horror) inventiveness from the band produced some well-needed variation. Unfortunately by then it was far too late.

Sadly the band don't yet seem to have come down from a bad 70s trip - however more of us, who have, saw the band for what they were: safe monotonous and unoriginal. "We're going to bore you with one more" said the manic flute player - many a true word spoken in jest. Hmm.

Matty & Si

## Feral: local pop stars interviewed

(First in a cut out 'n' keep guide to regional pop)



Feral: Left to right: Stu ("asked to leave"), Felix, and square-jawed Arlo Lapworth

There are a number of things that Newcastle is famous for, from Gazza to the Bigg Market, but as yet Feral aren't one of them. They're a post-My Bloody Valentine guitar band from the region and at present have their first single 'Change You Leaving' out on Lust records. Arlo (guitar and vocals), Steve (drums) and Felix (bass) are not especially enamoured of the single as it began life as a demo and developed into a "badly mixed" single. Still the NME and Melody Maker must have been sufficiently impressed by it because in recent weeks Feral have frequented the pages of the music press and that's not a bad start at all. For a debut the single's been doing pretty well and the band can claim to be big in Belgium, where they've even had radio play, and fairly famous(ish) in Japan. Now that would be enough for me to exclaim "Wow!" at the top of my voice but it seems vinyl fame is not everyone's cup of tea: Steve (who incidentally "is not all there") hadn't even told his parents about it and it was left to Arlo to tell them that their son was now indeed an aspiring pop icon. As for Felix's mum, she obviously has her walls plastered in platinum discs because she merely said "well, it's not a proper record is it?" Tsk, some people.

Far more shocking is the revelation that only the day before the interview, they parted company with original member Stuart - 'Feral in sacked guitarist shocker', then? "No, no, we asked him to leave" rephrase Steve and Felix. Hmm, sounds a bit like hairsplitting to me, but why? "He was holding us back in writing more songs but we're still friends." Fair enough, and despite the temporary lack of a second guitarist, Feral have plans for an album in the New Year, possibly some dates with Bleach who they've already supported three times and a gig at the Christmas Union Event before the end of term. Sounds slightly more illustrious than their first gig ever - Arlo's dad's 40th birthday bash. Even the great have to start somewhere.

But how great do Feral want to be and how quickly? "Yeah, we want to follow things through but not instantly. Bands that get famous quickly disappear just as fast. We want to build up gradually, with a loyal base of fans." Arlo, in fact, has a healthy disinterest in the Home Counties scene listing one of the advantages in being from the North-East as being far from the shoegazing crowd and therefore not lumped in with the Chapterhouse/Blur/Ride set.

Anything else? "You've got to say that we want to know who threw the chair at Chapterhouse at the Union gig because we want to shake his hand." Oh alright then.

Sarah Rugnath

## TDK CAMPUS CHART

NOVEMBER '91

1. INSANITY - Oceanic  
Dead Dead Good
2. THE ONE I LOVE - REM  
Warner Brothers
3. AFTER THE WATERSHED - Carter USM  
Chrysalis
4. PROGEN '91 - The Shamen  
One Little Indian
5. EVERYBODY'S FREE - Rozalla  
Pulse-8
6. GET READY FOR THIS - 2 Unlimited  
PWL Continental
7. MESMERISE - Chapterhouse  
Dedicated
8. DIZZY - The Wonderstuff and Vic Reeves  
Sense
9. CHARLY - Prodigy  
XL
10. PEACE - Sabrina Johnson  
East/West
11. SUCH A FEELING - Bizarre Inc.  
Vinyl Solution
12. WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ME? - Utah Saints - FFRR
13. GO - Moby  
Outer Rhythm
14. ENTER SANDMAN - Metallica  
Vertigo
15. DOMINATOR - Human Resource  
R & S
16. OH NO WONT DO - Cad  
A & M
17. HEAD LIKE A HOLE - Nine Inch Nails  
Island
18. WALKING IN MEMPHIS - Mark Cohn  
Atlantic
19. I THINK I LOVE YOU - Voice of the  
Beehive - London
20. SUNSHINE ON A RAINY DAY - Zoe  
M & G

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Students Union

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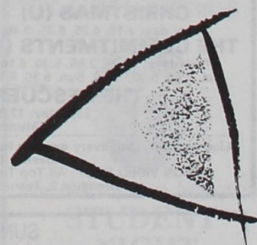


## RPM MUSIC A QUESTION OF MUSIC

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Where can you get My Bloody Valentine?  
Where can you buy Concert Tickets?  
Where can you get Record Tokens?

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Impersonator)
- \* Swerve
- \* Mickie Hutton &  
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The Geordie Boys
- \* Feral
- \* loads of bar  
promotions
- \* top sound system
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Students' Union**

Members & Bona Fide Guests Only

# Student Strife in Beijing

For students in Chinese universities and colleges, socialising is a serious offence. *Enver Solomon*, who is spending a year in China as part of his Politics course, reports on the Government's treatment of students in the wake of the Tianamen Square massacre in April 1989.

It is a bright sunny afternoon at Beijing University. By the lake, one of the most picturesque parts of the campus, couples are found strolling along holding hands or arm in arm. Giggles can be heard from behind the trees of couples at play. Such behaviour, however is a violation of the university regulations. If caught, the students could be subject to criticism or re-education and possibly a fine.

Kissing, hugging and holding hands are not the only activities banned at Beijing University. Unorganised gatherings of groups of students are banned too. Also forbidden is bottle smashing, a

powerful symbol of protest in China where the name for "little bottle" sounds the same as that of Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman.

These regulations are only one of the methods the authorities use to make campus life a lot less fun for the students. Since the army crushed the pro-democracy movement all new students at Beijing University have been required to spend a year at Shijiazulung Military Academy.

Life is much the same for students at the other universities and institutes in Beijing. Students at People's University have to do one month of military training. They are allowed to show affection in public but if caught spending one night

with another student they would be in serious trouble, most probably expelled.

Student's living conditions on campus do not make life much better. The poor conditions were a main complaint of the revolting students in 1989. Nothing has changed since. Undergraduates still spend their years at university sharing eight to a room. Eight bunks and a few desks are squeezed into each room. The dormitories are more like a prison than students halls of residence. They are dirty, dimly lit and the smell of damp hangs in the air. There are no facilities for washing clothes. Students are, however, granted the luxury of having central heating, but this often leaks, flooding the rooms.

One wonders why students' life in Beijing is more like a prison regime. The apparent reason for housing students in such cramped and poor conditions is that there are too many students. Moreover, a room per person is a rare luxury in China. Once graduating, unless married, students will continue to share rooms.

The reason given for banning hugging and kissing on campus is that such behaviour corrupts public morals. The main aim of compulsory military training is to strengthen students resistance against "bourgeois liberalism", a codeword used by the Chinese leadership for Western political ideas. To prevent students at Beijing university being exposed to such ideas subscriptions to Newsweek and Time magazine were not renewed after the June 1989 protests. The intention is clearly to try and control each student's thoughts.

Violating university rules can result in varying



Student marches Chinese style - since Tianamen Square military training has become compulsory

degrees of punishment. Being asked to write a self-criticism or being fined are the most common. However, implementation of the regulations is said to be arbitrary. Students continue to kiss and hug in public at Beijing University and groups gather to chat in the park at night at People's University.

Students at Beijing University said the regulation against kissing is pointless since everybody ignores it. They also said that they felt this particular regulation was not important but that maybe one day an example will be made of somebody. Only some rules such as attending military training and not sleeping with another student were considered important and not to be broken.

One student was bold enough to comment that no rules is the same as many rules and that students will ultimately do what they want regardless. Perhaps he is right. Only the future will tell.



Crowded times in Beijing's dormitories - but it's not all doom and gloom!



## QUESTION TIME

with

**Jim Cousins MP**  
(Labour - Newcastle Central)

**Lembit Opik**  
(Liberal Democrat PPC for Newcastle Central)

**Cllr. Ian Gordon**  
(Conservative PPC for Newcastle North)

**Rev. Andrew Rollinson**  
(Minister of Westgate Road Baptist Church)

Thursday 5th December 1991

7.30pm

Debating Chamber

All Welcome!

# “Beanz Meanz Health?”

Do students care about what they eat? Is the phrase “balanced diet” ever mentioned, let alone understood? In an attempt to address these problems a Dietetics Department has been set up at the Royal Victoria Infirmary. John Aglionby went along to find out what we should be eating.

“Wee student Tommy went to the cupboard, to get himself something to eat. He opened the door and found it was bare. So went off and ordered a take away pizza and garlic bread.” Now while Tommy probably enjoyed his meal and was glad not much effort on his part had been necessary to prepare it, continually eating out is not something students are advised to do.

Student dieticians Rachel and Janice explained that allowing oneself to get into the habit of not cooking regularly means that you slowly lose control over what you eat. They clarified this sensationalist remark by saying one is never really quite sure what goes into fast food meals. Therefore, in the long run you cannot be certain that you are getting a balanced diet. What this highlights, and what the dieticians came back to time and again was the importance of variety in eating. “It would be equally unhealthy to live on a diet of green salad and raw carrots as takeaways all term,” Rachel said. This is what the Dietetics Department is all about; to raise the awareness that it is vital to have a regular balanced diet. “If you can eat well then you’re much less likely to suffer from other problems such as depression or fatigue,” added Janice.

The theory of all this seemed fine, but is your average student really going to sit down twice a day to a hearty meal, when there’s football on the telly, parties to go to or even work to be done? For the majority of students, cooking and eating is merely a means to an

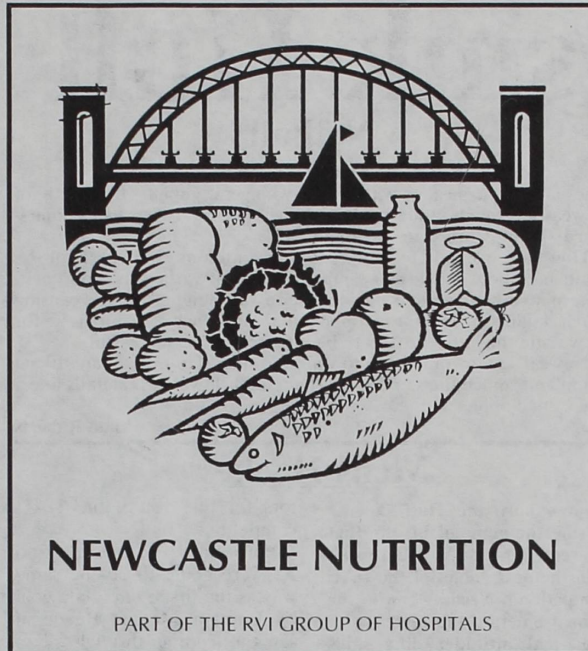
end, not one of their priorities. “I mean, who can be arsed to start cooking after a hard day?” Rachel herself admitted: “You’re more likely to go to the pub before thinking about food.”

This is where the Dietetics Department at the RVI is trying to change attitudes. Research has shown that many students eat well at the beginning of term as their bags are full of goodies from home. However, when the cupboard starts to empty or Hall food gets a little too stodgy, it is common to adopt the “occasional binge” policy, punctuated by a visit home and then for the last week or so to struggle by, safe in the knowledge that a tasty meal will be awaiting your homecoming.

*Students are pretty set in their ways when it comes to eating, so cans of beans and pizza boxes will continue to fill many a dustbin.*

Indeed it is from the home that most people’s problems stem. Research dietician Anne Johnson explained that it was harder for people to live well at college if they have never cooked at home, or never had to due to being at a boarding school. They are also less likely to try and learn. This has resulted in the team at the RVI targeting schools more than the University or the Poly. But the situation is by no means beyond repair for those wanting to improve their diet.

But in that lies the crux of it all. The motivation to eat more healthily has to be self-induced. It’s no good relying on someone else to do it for you because, as Anne



pointed out, the problem is then being pushed to one side rather than solved. This is especially true for vegetarians, vegans and others on special diets, although dieticians believe these people are more easily likely to be clued up about healthy eating anyway. The general advice the Department offers comes in four stages. The first thing to think about is what you are actually eating. From this list the best thing to do is work out

where you’re going wrong. If this seems too terrifying the dieticians recommend people to pick out the positive aspects of their diet and then work on these to change the situation. I was impressed with all I was being told but when I looked at my list of questions, the word staring at me was “money”. It’s all very well for the Roux brothers to produce fine meals but things are rather different for students. Most

people at University have little time to wander round shops and markets to discover where the cheapest potatoes can be bought or which stall sells the best-priced mushrooms.

The dieticians admitted this was true and advocated super-market shopping at regular intervals rather than popping round to the probably more expensive local corner shop every day. Also, pre-packed meals should not be shunned or looked down at. As long as they contain enough of everything you need they’re fine. However, there is a tendency to go for low calorie meals. These obviously don’t contain as much fat, but the professionals stress that fat – along with carbohydrate and protein – is just as crucial as fruit and veg. The problem with low calorie meals is that often they don’t fill you up for very long, which can result in further bingeing.

So what it all seemed to come back to was balanced meals at regular intervals. But however much students are educated there is little fear that the takeaway restaurant or kebab centres will ever go out of business. Students are pretty set in their ways when it comes to eating, so cans of beans and pizza boxes will continue to fill many a dustbin, especially as term is coming to an end. Mummy’s parting words of “remember to eat properly” as the train pulled out of the station at the beginning of term, seem a million miles away now, and will probably do so for years to come.

The following recipe is from a poster produced by the RVI Dietetics Department. Simple to make, even the least experienced cook should have few problems with it.

**SHEPHERD’S PIE**  
Serves 4  
Cooking time: Approximately 45 minutes.  
Temperature: Gas Mark 5, 190°C, 375°F.

**Ingredients**  
One quantity of basic mince mixture:  
450g (1lb) British minced beef  
1 onion, chopped  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
2 tablespoons tomato ketchup or puree  
397g (14oz) large can tomatoes, roughly chopped  
Salt and black pepper

**Method**  
(for basic recipe)  
1. Place the mince, onion and garlic in a saucepan and heat gently, increase the heat and brown the mince.  
2. Add the remaining ingredients, bring to the boil and simmer for approximately 20-25 minutes. (NB British lamb or pork mince can be substituted in the recipe.)  
1 tablespoon plain flour  
150ml (½pt) stock  
1 teaspoon dried mixed herbs  
Approximately 15 button mushrooms, quartered  
4 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped  
2 large carrots, peeled and chopped  
Knob of margarine  
A little milk  
Salt and black pepper  
Grated cheese

**Method**  
Boil the potatoes and carrots in water until softened. To basic mixture, stir in flour, stock and herbs. Bring to the boil and simmer, stirring for approximately 15 minutes until thickened. Add mushrooms and season. Transfer to an oven-proof dish. Drain and mash the vegetables with margarine and milk. Season. Place on top of the mince mixture, sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake in a pre-heated oven for 25 minutes until golden. Serve with seasonal green vegetables.

## WORLD AIDS DAY COLLECTION

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30th 1991

Body Positive North East, a charity which works with people affected by HIV and AIDS, needs volunteers for a street collection to mark

## WORLD AIDS DAY

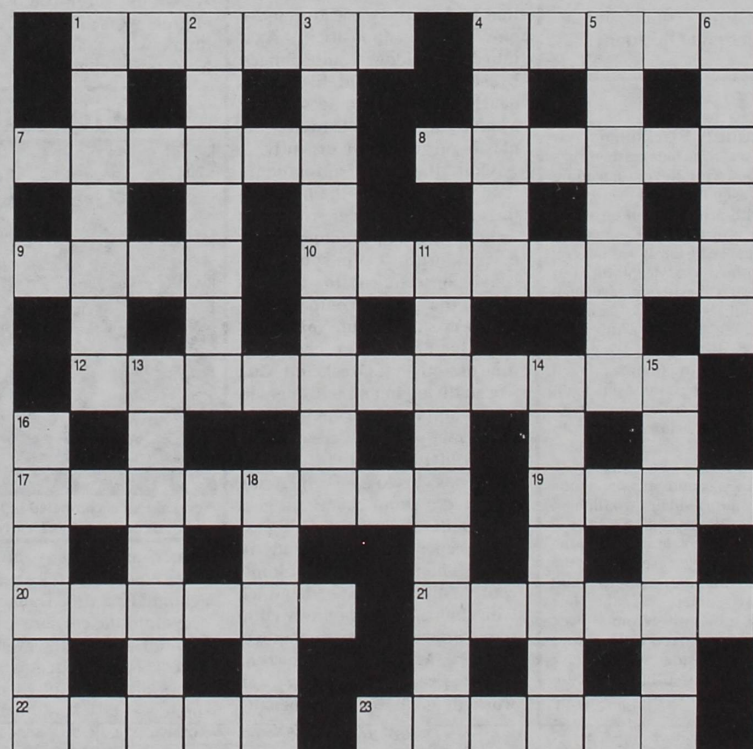
If you're interested in volunteering and want more information contact:

**JASON STAMP,**  
Vice President/Welfare (Level 6)

**MEET THE CHALLENGE**

## COURIER PRIZE CROSSWORD

Crossword compiled by *The Alleycat*



- ACROSS**
- Celestial body (6)
  - Eat greedily (5)
  - Bicycle for two (6)
  - Thin covering (6)
  - Prophet (4)
  - Intimidating (8)
  - Coppers? (5, 6)
  - Grazing pasture for Castle Leazes students? (4,4)
  - Layer (4)
  - Culpable (6)
  - Bull's eye (6)
  - Greenfly, for example (5)
  - Small bullet (6)
  - Province in the Pyrenees (7)
  - Insect-eating mammal (9)
  - Flock of wild geese (5)
  - Aperture (7)
  - Scrounge (6)
  - She shows one to one's seat (9)
  - Soppy (7)
  - Krypton, for example (7)
  - Inborn (7)
  - Dispensed (punishment) (5)
  - Talisman. 5. Entails. 6. Brake Pedal. 9. Serpentine. 12. Generate. 14. No place. 16. Tended. 19. Indus. 20. Dean.
- Crossword entries should be returned to the *Courier* office by 1 p.m. on Monday, 2nd December. The prize is a £5 book token donated by
- Thorne's**
- Last week's winner: Jennifer M. L. Beevers, 107 Wingrove Road, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**  
ACROSS: 1, Cigarettes. 7, Rounded. 8, Laths. 10, Kite. 11, Fleshier. 13, Pander. 15, Hassle. 17, Depleted. 18, Pict. 21, Lhasa. 22, Dresden. 23, Dependants.  
DOWN: 1, Crust. 2, Gide. 3, Riddle.



Shooting Stars - Clay Pigeon Club indulge in apres-shoot celebrations.

### SUBSCRIPTION DRAW

2793 wins a dozen cans of beer donated by Vaux Breweries.  
426 wins a £10 voucher donated by Kard Bar, Cross Street.  
1364 wins lunch for two (value £10) donated by the Barley Mow, Sandgate.  
2611 wins a £10 voucher donated by Flip, Cross Street.  
1171 wins 2 cinema tickets donated by Warner Cinemas at Manors.  
981 wins LP or tape (value £7) donated by Volume Records, Ridley Place.  
391 wins 2 tickets donated by the Tyneside Cinema, Pilgrim Street (by arrangement).  
281 wins meal (value £5) donated by Burger King, 24 Northumberland Street.  
1296 wins 2 tickets to a Union Event (see Mark Drabble, Ents Officer) (by arrangement).  
1668 wins £5 voucher donated by Bookhouse, Ridley Place.  
630 wins a haircut and style donated by Top Style II for Men, 142 Northumberland Street.  
1001 wins meal for 2 (value £10) donated by McDonald's Restaurant, 64/68 Northumberland Street.  
592 wins 2 Technique tickets to Level 2 Friday night disco. (See Mark Drabble, Ents Officer).  
85 wins lunch for 2 (value £5) Mon-Sat. donated by Rupali Restaurant, 6 Bigg Market.  
1200 wins 2 cinema tickets donated by the Odeon Cinema, Pilgrim Street.  
1114 wins film developed (1 hour service) donated by Quick Pics, Nelson Street.

Prizes to be collected by Monday 2nd December 1991

## Victories all-round as Newcastle A.U. teams win 17, lose 1 and draw 2

# Newcastle sink Hull

### Football

Newcastle 1st XI 2  
Hull 1st XI 0

Today Mummy took us to the football match and it was sunny and it was really good because the blue team won the other team and scored more goals than them. All of the players were so happy that one of them said he was very happy.

One man with a funny voice called Pete got one goal which was very good and exciting and another player called Lee who had a funny voice, scored and jumped up and down a lot.

The game ended when it got dark and everybody smiled and a fat person called Al said that if I didn't smoke tabs and drink beer

I'd only be good enough to play for Henderson Hall A.

One of the blue players was sad at the end and Mummy said this was because despite a commendable consumption it was improbable that his team would proceed to the subsequent denouement of the championship.

I think the blue team were the best team in the world and the big player with the red hair was dead brill. Then I woke up and it had been a dream.

Tonight me and my best friend are going ram-raiding in the Meadow Well Estate.

Andrew Bull

### Netball

Newcastle University 1 33 . . . Hull University 15

The afternoon began with Hull whingeing about the state of Newcastle's courts, and ended much the same way. They had a point - sturdy 'pumps' were an essential item.

However, instead of adapting to the conditions Hull opted for the 'prancing about meekly and making ice-rink witticisms' approach. Alternatively Newcastle decided upon the 'feigned dodge causing much falling over of the opposition' approach. Fortunately for Newcastle the latter proved to be infinitely more successful.

Newcastle now only have to wait and see if Hull put in an official complaint, much the same as Durham did last week. It sounds like a bag of bad apples to me!

Anna Roberts

### Mens Hockey

It was only the Hull 'keeper having the game of his life that prevented the 1st XI progressing into the next round of the UAU competition. Needing a win, the team went into the match with the right attitude; silky skills combined with controlled aggression saw Hull having to defend from the start.

Chris Lodge and Paul Gyles combined well time after time to give the forwards plenty of chances but no matter what Dirk, Barry and 'Spudder' tried, they couldn't put the ball into the net. The half-time break saw the team get a stern talking to, but the game seemed destined not to go Newcastle's way.

Then suddenly Newcastle got the scoreboard ticking over when 'Barry' Randall converted a difficult chance after more good work down the right from Dirk and Gylesie. Were the floodgates at last about to open? Alas they weren't and to make matters worse Hull scored a late breakaway goal to consign the Newcastle team to mere specta-

tors for the rest of the UAU competition.

For a time it seemed the 2nd XI were going to go the same way as the firsts, but a late goal by Captain Marcus Reedman saw the team go through 2-1 to the next round. It was a scrappy performance, memorable only for the two goals, the first of which had been scored early on by Andy Bole, and the life-saving clearance off the line by Jamie 'Rusty' Salmon. The team came off the pitch relieved to have won and fully aware that if any success is to be gained, improvements will certainly have to be made.

The heroes of the day though were the 3rd XI. Again needing a win to be certain of qualification, Harvey's 'Band of Drunkards' could hardly put a foot wrong and romped home 10-0. The standard of their play was so proficient, the watching 2nd XI left at half-time because it was so embarrassing for Hull.

By then Newcastle were 6-0 up with goals coming from 'Penny'

### Rugby Union

Newcastle University R.U.F.C. vs. Hull University R.F.C.

1st XV - Newcastle 38 Hull 4

2nd XV - Newcastle 48 Hull 7

3rd XV - Newcastle 52 Hull 0

Newcastle clinched second place in their U.A.U. group after comprehensively beating Hull in a fairly one sided affair at Cochrane Park last Wednesday. Durham despite having lost to Newcastle last week managed to beat Sheffield 17-9 which means that Durham went top of the table with a points difference of 58, whilst Newcastle and Sheffield who also only lost one game have point differences of 56 and 26 respectively.

Had Newcastle not conceded their one try then they would have claimed top spot, but the draw means that Newcastle play their next U.A.U. match at home on the 29th January which if anything is an advantage to them.

The game itself was a formality in terms of victory, but Newcastle put on an extremely competent display of running rugby which effectively ground their opponents into the ground. Tom Wilcox got Newcastle off to an early lead with a penalty, and then Andy Goldsmith scored in the left hand corner minutes later to take the score to 7-0. The Club Captain and Wallpaper adviser scored a dubious try which he has since informed most of Rugby Club about and then Paul Fourie and Tom Seymour both scored to take the score to 21-0 at the interval.

Another penalty straight after the break took the score to 24-0 when Hull scored a give away try in the 55th minute. Newcastle took that personally and systematically decimated the opposition with Tom Wilcox. Tom yes well done Tom, 'I won't forget to mention it' Seymour and the lovesworn skipper, Ali Meadows. A well deserved drubbing which stands the side in extremely good stead for the next round of the competition.

Team: A. Goldsmith, A. Graham, T. Stephenson, M. Ellis, P. Fourie, T. Wilcox, J. Hughes, D. Phelps, J. Anderson, M. Hollaway, G. Watson, A. Meadows (Capt.), T. Seymour, T. Reins, S. MacGuire.

Congratulations to Ali Meadows, Andy Graham, Tom Seymour and Mike Hollaway who were selected to play in the North East U.A.U. side against the North West on the 24th December. Dan Phelps, Ed Longfield and Jim Anderson were selected as reserves.

Giles Morgan

### Fencing

Newcastle 14 . . . Hull 13

Due to the absence of one of our distinguished foilists we beat Hull 14-13 in what was quite a close match.

However, one person stood alone in his sheer brilliance and natural sporting ability. After his performance this term, then surely sponsorship and a TV programme will not be far away. Who is this unknown hero, you ask? It is in fact Young Julian - 'the fencers nightmare'.

Fencing all 3 weapons, he won 7 from 9 fights (two in the sabre which he had never done before). Heroic stuff I think you'll agree. The rest of us won a few also.

Thanks to: Young Julian, Ivan, James and Old Jonny.

Y.J.

### United

Newcastle 0 Blackburn 0

This game saw a curious clash of rags versus riches with Rovers parading costly new signings and Newcastle replying with a side reliant on youth policy. The afternoon was something of a let down. To be fair it was never a boring continental style nil-nil, but neither was it a West Ham/Liverpool type of nil-nil.

Blackburn kicked off with some lovely football showing Daglish's Liverpool past with patient, relaxed build-ups. Their shoot on sight policy, contained little threat with Newcastle looking more dangerous on their occasional attacking breaks. There was a tinge of bad blood with several bookings and Speedie acting like a pantomime villain, winding up crowd and players alike. In the second half Newcastle were looking jaded. The best was reserved for the end with ten minutes not for the faint hearted; scrambles, off the line clearances, a bad miss from Howey and a fine save forced by Livewire Sellars. Either side would have kicked themselves to have lost this one.

John Cottrill

### Ladies Hockey

Newcastle 2nd XI 0

Hull 2nd XI 0

Knowing that they had qualified before the match had begun, the 2nd XI wanted a good result to ensure they finished top of their group. Unfortunately this game was plagued by a high 'Ken Barlow' factor. Not much happened of note and so I won't bother describing it.

Anyway, well done the 2nd XI for going through to the next round unbeaten and good luck in the rest of the competition.

Mrs. Mops

Newcastle 1 3

Hull 1 0

Having been ordered to win at all costs it soon became apparent that to do this we had to remove one of the opposition, Axemurderer, Madge kindly obliged by slicing a hole in her opponent's cheek - I would say that Madge herself still needs the plastic surgery more urgently.

That incident, unfortunate though it was, and the break in the game it provided, seemed to wake the team up and they began to play with the purpose and conviction required for them to stay in the U.A.U. competition.

However, the Hull goal withstood the pressure up until half-time despite that Greek and Kate Anson diving in on their knees in an attempt to convert at least one of the many chances created.

Just after half-time the deadlock was broken when Arnie mounted a sumo charge on goal eventually sliding the ball past the 'keeper to put the Reds in front. The play was then almost continually Newcastle in attack with the team combining well in some impressive passing movements. Madge reappeared, minus axe, to strike a well worked goal from a penalty

### Charity Basketball Tournament



Several teams competed in the Charity Basketball Tournament last Sunday, at the Claremont Sports Centre. The overall winners were the QUALITY TEAM.

corner and shortly afterwards that bloody Greek reared up again to first time Danger dyke's cross into the corner.

In all, a well-deserved victory that keeps the teams' U.A.U. hopes alive. About bloody time too.

Jenny Tills

could Ashton perform without the Daysh midfield - without the Silver Service of Brealey, Gough, Kyriadis and Kristiansen? No! And nor could E.P.H. last Wednesday. 'The Daysh' created the chances and then finished clinically. That was the difference.

Graham and Martin got the other two for Daysh and Spooify Boy McGrath was a colossus in goal. I could string out cliches till the cows come home so remember - the Daysh whirlwind is strengthening every week and after every match the storm damage gets worse. One defeat in the last five - you can't argue with that.

Pete Brealey

E.P.H. says: Just wait - when our strikers learn to hit the net and not the post with pinpoint accuracy, and John is out of bed to mark Brealey the Traitor out of the game, we'll be back.

### Athletico Daysh

Athletico Daysh 6

E.P.H. 1

"Oh to be a Daysh Boy"

If the press are currently speculating on future successors to Gary Lineker, then I suggest they go no further than to peer into the realms of Intra-Mural football and in particular, the dressing room of Athletico Daysh. Ashton Davies after bagging four great goals, must now surely be a strong contender for Sweden '92.

But let's not forget that the Daysh certainly are not a one man team - but rather an integrated unit - a power pack of potential. The question begs -

could Ashton perform without the Daysh midfield - without the Silver Service of Brealey, Gough, Kyriadis and Kristiansen? No! And nor could E.P.H. last Wednesday. 'The Daysh' created the chances and then finished clinically. That was the difference.

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### Clay Pigeon

The clay pigeon club charged North on Friday afternoon to compete in a three way shoot with Hull and the hosts St. Andrews.

The first test for the club was how to put up with wind patterns emanating frequently from the back of the bus at regular intervals and to which no defence could be found.

The shooting ground was excellent if somewhat difficult to reach and the scoring matched the location. Congratulations to Simon for matching the national Universities record, only to lose in a shoot out and also to Jon "I don't like to shoot them too quick" Hooper who performed some remarkable backbending on his way to 32 (perhaps you should get some lessons Emma).

With the shooting over it was back to the socialising. After the sit down meal and stand up antics of James it was back to the singing corner in the union and then home in the rear wind powered bus.

Polo

