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The Courier

The Award-Winning Student Newspaper of Newcastle University

Thursday, April 24 1997 | 25p | No. 956

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General Election Special - Pages 6&7

Detectives launch witness appeal after student is sexually assaulted

PLEA OVER SEX ATTACK

By HELEN TITHER

DETECTIVES have issued a plea for witnesses after a sex attacker subjected a Newcastle student to a terrifying daylight knife assault

The student was attacked on her way home to Fenham as she passed the BBC Television Centre.

And Police believe the attacker -who **BOASTED** to his victim about past attacks - could be as young as **THIRTEEN.**

Det Insp Steve Wade told *The Courier:* "I cannot believe this was done in broad daylight in the middle of the street and no-one saw what was happening and came to help."

The attacker is described as 5ft 4ins tall, of slim build with a fair complexion and freckles. He was wearing a dark green coat and a NY baseball cap.

Indecent

The youth made indecent suggestions to the student before producing a knife and sexually assaulting her.

But the police were unable to find records of any other similar attacks and said: "Often crimes like this go unreported and we would urge anyone who has suffered a similar experience or saw the attack to contact us".

Risk

Adrian Smith, Union VP Welfare said: "We are aware of the problem and do all we can to minimise the risk to students by providing attack alarms and a safety bus."

Anyone with any further information on this or any other attack should contact Northumbria Police on 0191 214 6555.

Pioneering scheme comes to Newcastle



By LISA GOODFELLOW

Bob Milan: Walksafe co-ordinator

A PIONEERING new escort service has been launched to help improve student safety across campus.

And the scheme, called Walksafe, is the first of its kind in the country. Scheme volunteers will provide an escort service for students after dark so they can travel safely from one campus location to another.

Continued on page 2

Fine Art

Concern over Uni gallery future

EXCLUSIVE

By BEN SADLER

A REVIEW of the museum and gallery space in the University has left the future of the Hatton Gallery in the balance.

Fine Art students, who use the gallery to exhibit, have voiced concerns that the discussions could result in the space being used by the Museum of Antiquities.

Confident

But while the University is confident of preserving the space for art, it cannot rule out the possibility of its reallocation.

Head of Department Richard Bailey was upbeat



Hatton: Under threat?

about the prospects of the Hatton, he told *The Courier*: "I am working on a proposal to ensure that what is a good exhibition space will continue to be used as such.

Review

"However, we get no funding from the Government for our museums and art galleries so we have undertaken a review which will make a decision within the next six weeks."

Continued page 2

buy one . . . get one free

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Racism

Concern over new racist hate campaign

EXCLUSIVE

By CHRIS DOWNS

FASCISM is on the march in Newcastle, claim anti-racism groups.

Activities include stepping up homophobic and racist campaigns to the possibility of a BNP candidate standing for election in Newcastle.

Activity

The first signs of Nazi activity increasing in Newcastle started with sticker and poster campaigns in various areas of Newcastle a couple of months ago, including the city centre and the west end.

Branch Secretary Garrett Mullan told *The Courier*: "There have been sticker campaigns in North Shields, Whitley Bay and Wallsend."

There are also reports that the BNP have been considering the idea of putting forward a candidate in Newcastle, part of a national campaign to provide 50 candidates for the coming election.

VP Welfare Adrian Smith was worried about these developments, he said: "It is important to address the issue of why facism is increasing in popularity, rather than trying to crack down on it."

NUS: *Annual conference ends in farce as students storm stage*

Abrupt end angers conference floor

By BEN SADLER

CONTROVERSY surrounded the end of the NUS conference as delegates brought proceedings to an early finish.

Delegates were angered when the national conference, held in Blackpool, was cut from four days to three by national executive.

Halt

Leeds students voiced their annoyance with an hour left of the conference, and many other delegates joined them, bringing the conference to a halt.

And the NUS were further embarrassed when a streaker ran in front of the stage.

Police were called and Shelly Wright, NUS treasurer, had no choice but to abandon the conference as students stormed the stage.

Leader

Fridey Messenger, Union President and Newcastle's delegation leader told *The Courier:* "It was reasonable and understandable that delegates wanted to protest about the cut in conference time from four days to three."

There was an air of dissatisfaction from many delegates throughout the week as the Labour-dominated Executive pushed for a revised system of loans rather than grants.

And the Asylum Bill, which denies asylum seekers basic human rights, was also supported.

"Frustration"

"It was sad and frustrating to see so many student delegates who weren't representing the needs of the average student", said Messenger.

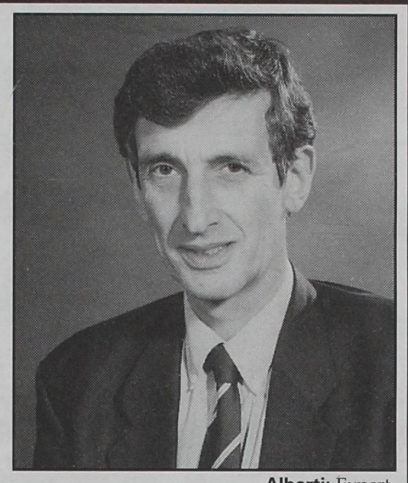
Top post for academic

By RICHARD THOMAS

A TOP Newcastle University academic has been appointed to one of the most illustrious academic posts in the country.

Prof Kurt Alberti, currently the Dean of Medicine here at Newcastle, has been appointed the President of the Royal College of Physicians.

Taking up his post on 1 August Alberti is regarded as one of the world's leading experts on diabetes having published over 800 papers.



Alberti: Expert

University

Church service marks change

By JAMES JORDAN

SUMMER term saw an important change in the University Chaplaincy.

Associated with the University, the chaplaincy changed into a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

This makes official and constitutional the all embracing nature of the Chaplain's work, which has been collaborative for many years already.

Church leaders from around the area came to Newcastle on April 16 to mark this important change which was marked by a short service in the King's Hall.

SWATCH COMPETITION WINNERS

The winners of the Swatch competition are Don Wilson and Kirsty Darbyshire, who both receive Swatch pagers. Contact *The Courier* office for your prizes.

Walksafe

Continued from page 1

It is hoped that the pilot project, the first of its kind in the UK, will prevent late night attacks on students.

Although Walksafe is initially aimed at students, if it is successful it will be extended to include members of staff and anyone else who is on campus at night.

Each escort, two volunteer students, will receive training in self-defence, and carry a radio with a link monitored by Northumbria Police.

Bob Milan, a Walksafe organiser, told *The Courier*: "This is a very good idea. There isn't a single project like it in the UK, but it will catch on.

"People are looking to us to see how successful Walksafe will be and with a view to implementing it elsewhere."

The Courier

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Newcastle student takes legal action against government over brother's death

STUDENT TO SUE OVER CJD DEATH

By SIOBHAN ALMOND

A NEWCASTLE University student has won legal aid to sue the government over the death of his brother due to CJD.

Peter Hall, a Sunderland University student, died shortly before his twenty-first birthday last year. The coroner said the death was probably due to a beef product that the student ate ten years ago.

Inquiry

Now his elder brother John, who will return to sit his final year at Newcastle in October, is preparing to take the government to court to get a public inquiry into the matter.

"This is our last hope", said his mother Frances Hall, "We want to instigate an inquiry in the interest of everybody.

"Hopefully the government will grant one before we go to court and the money will be saved, but so far they have given us no chance at all."

Mrs Hall and husband have just returned from Brussels where they spoke to British MEP's about the case.

"Condemnatory"

"The European Parliament published a report about the handling of the crisis in the UK and Europe and it was very condemnatory.

"The government laughed it off though. They are the only ones that can be held responsible - they've been in power for the past eighteen years."

Speaking to *The Courier*, Mrs Hall explained that they would now work with other families of CJD victims in the legal process, which may take up to two years.

Great North Run charity appeal

BY LUKE EDWARDS

A CHARITY has appealed to students to raise much needed cash for research on children's diseases by entering this year's Great North Run.

Projects

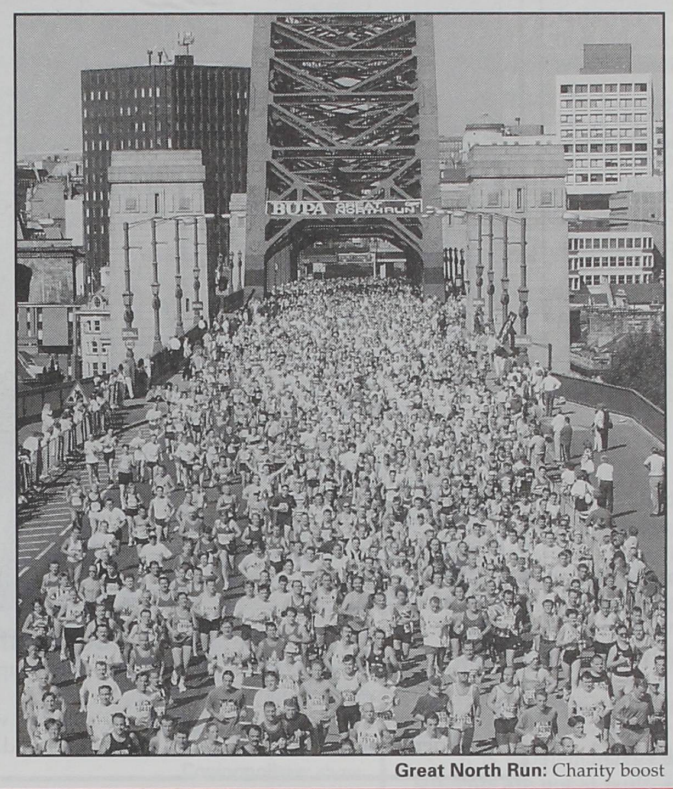
Since 1991 Sparks has pledged over £.5 million to medical projects throughout Britain, including research into premature birth and Down's syndrome.

The charity aims to raise a further £1.5million during 1997 - with large scale participation in the run essential to this objective.

Luxury

And the runner raising the most for charity will receive a luxury weekend break while others with sponsorship of over £1000 will get surprise sporting goods.

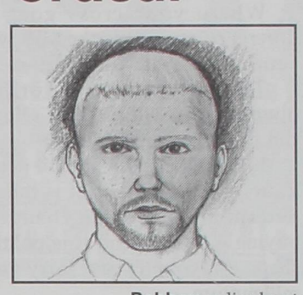
Application forms are available from Bupa Great North Run, Temple Park Leisure Centre, 1 Leisure Court, South Shields, NE34 8QN



Great North Run: Charity boost

Attack

Student in gunpoint robbery ordeal



Robber: police hunt

By RICHARD THOMAS

POLICE have issued a photofit of a man who carried out a terrifying gun-point attack on a student.

Befriended

The Newcastle student was befriended by the attacker while walking into the city centre from Fenham.

Crossing Nun's Moor, the attacker pulled out a hand gun and forced him to withdraw cash from the Halifax cashpoint on Dobson Street.

Stocky

The gunman is described as 20-23 years old and about 5ft 8ins, stocky with fair, cropped hair and a ginger goatee beard.

Anyone with any information about the attack, which occurred at around 10am on Tuesday April 15, should contact Police on 0191 214 6555.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

PAID TEMPORARY WORK FOR ONE WEEK
- EARLY SUMMER TERM, 1997

NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

STUDENT INTERVIEWERS REQUIRED

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

CEL is a management services company who specialises in higher education. We provide research, consultancy, training and project management to Universities, students' unions and private organisations interested in higher education.

We have conducted the National Student Survey for the past six years. It is sponsored by a major financial institution. The survey aims to highlight the financial situation of students and is widely publicised in the national media. It is conducted at Universities in England and Wales. Your students' union is supporting this survey.

We now want to recruit students to work for us for one week early in the summer term to conduct the research amongst students at their institution.

We hold a briefing session for approximately 2½ hours where you would be given full information about the survey and an opportunity to ask questions and practice using the questionnaire. Students are paid for both the briefing session and completed interviews.

Ideally, we would prefer to recruit students who have some experience of market research, either as part of their course or as part time work.

If you are interested in applying to conduct this research, please pick up an application form from Student Union Reception.

Alternatively, you can fill in an application form at our website at:
www.cel.co.uk/jobs.htm.

Or you can phone CEL requesting an information pack:
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Applications are welcomed by Friday 2nd May 1997.

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GUINNESS

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Courier Comment

Democracy

DEMOCRACY is the cornerstone on which our society is founded.

Be it Conservative, Labour, Lib Dems or any of the others candidates for power you have a duty to use your vote.

Where your cross goes does make a difference, not just to the MPs whose jobs are in your hands but to your future.

The party that forms the next government will directly affect your life for the next five years<None>

It is politicians who will decide how much, if any, grant you get. It is the politicians that determine how much change you get after buying a round. And it is politicians who will shape this country and carry you into the next millennium.

And it is not just your future, you must make decisions that effect everyone you know and indeed everyone you don't.

To say that it doesn't matter is wrong.

If you are a floating voter then make the effort and find out which party represents you the best.

There are differences between the main political parties so listen to what they have to say.

Don't be silenced by apathy.

Safety

SAFETY is at the forefront of everybody's mind following the recent spate of attacks on students.

But Newcastle remains by and large a safe city for students to live and study in.

Schemes like Walksafe can only improve the situation and deserve support from students.

On the whole the University and the City have a good relationship here in Newcastle

This should be protected at all costs.

Court: *Former manager's career left in ruins after Crown Court verdict*

'Dishonest' ex-College union chief convicted

By EMMA COX

A STUDENT Union boss has been found guilty of four charges including theft after a six-week hearing.

Mike Thiru of Jesmond held the high-profile position of Newcastle College Students' Union manager and had stood for local government as a Tory councillor.

Reputation

But his reputation as a respected member of the community was left in ruins after he was convicted of false accounting, theft and two counts of obtaining property by deception at Newcastle Crown Court.

Thiru was accused of stealing £433 from Union funds and falsifying a petty cash voucher.

The court also heard how Thiru defrauded the Economic Insurance Company twice by making false claims against 'stolen' computer equipment.

Intention

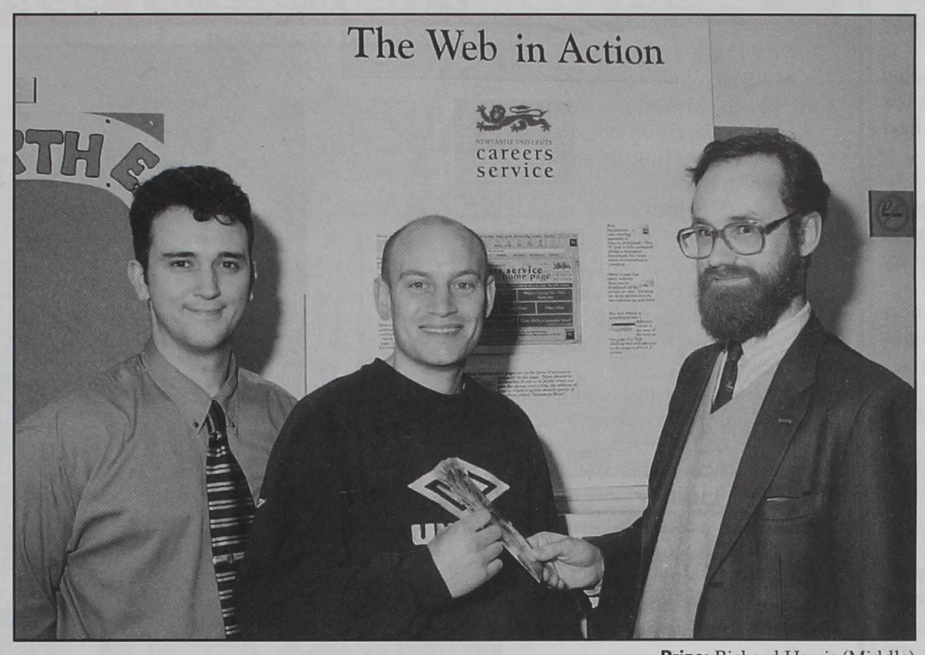
The judge, David Woods, told Thiru; "I am satisfied it was not your intention to defraud the Union, but the way you ran it gave way to a justifiable and obvious concerns from students."

Judge Woods instructed Thiru to pay £433 compensation to the students' Union plus £5 a week until the total amount of £2800 is paid off.

After the case John White, a Newcastle City Labour councillor said; "I am satisfied he has been found guilty and will probably never again get back into a similar position."

Seven other charges of dishonesty were dismissed by the jury on the judges advice.

Student scoops Careers prize



Prize: Richard Harris (Middle)

By COURIER STAFF

CIVIL Engineering student Richard Harris picked up a cheque for £50 after winning a recent Careers Service competition.

The competition was based around the service's web site, which offers careers information for students and graduates. The web site can be found at www.ncl.ac.uk

angry about oppression

Because lesbians, gay men & bisexuals are discriminated against in housing & employment & because how we act is more important than who we are & if we get harassed it's our problem & if we get attacked we provoked it & if we raise our voices we're flaunting ourselves & if we enjoy sex we're perverts & if we have AIDS we deserve it & if we march with pride we're recruiting children & if we want or have children we're unfit parents & if we stand up for our rights we're overstepping our boundaries & because we are forced constantly to question our worth as human beings & if we don't have a sexual relationship with someone of the opposite sex we haven't got a chance & if we have a sexual relationship with someone of the same sex it's not recognised & we are told our love is not 'real' & if we come out of the closet we're just going through a phase & because lesbian and gay history is virtually absent from literature because homophobia is sanctioned by the High Court & because our right to organise collectively in Student Unions is under threat...

stamp out homophobia

Be safe...



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The safety bus is a service provided by your students' union which aims to offer a safe journey home for anyone who would otherwise be at risk. When the service is busy priority will be given to lone female students.

Runs from the Library at 9pm and 10pm and from Union Reception until closing time

Leazes Park

Residents bowled over by footie-mad students

EXCLUSIVE

By ALAN J. SOADY

A LOCAL resident has sparked a row after blowing the whistle on cheeky Newcastle students.

The students are alleged to have broken a Bye-law which would have Sir Francis Drake turning in his grave - playing football on Leazes Park bowling green.

Crime

Tackling the crime head-on, William Wilson wants to show the red card to the footballers, who he believes are from Castle Leazes halls.

He told *The Courier*: "I have visited this park since I was a boy, and have never seen anyone playing football on the bowling greens in the past."

Defence

But a key player in the University's defence, Castle Leazes Bursar Helen Dolder, is crying foul. She says: "One can't make the assumption they're students."

But Dolder warned that if Castle Leazes students are found indulging in the beautiful game on bowling greens, they could face some hard penalties.

IRAQI STUDENTS IN UNPAID FEES ROW

Students unable to graduate unless government pays up

UNIVERSITY bosses could prevent several international students from graduating for non-payment of course fees.

The Iraqi government has failed to pay fees for seven students with debts mounting to tens of thousands of pounds.

And the Engineering students, all studying for Phd. degrees, have been unable to register for the last two years but have continued their studies despite the lack of library access and welfare support.

EXCLUSIVE

By BEN SADLER

Release

David Buck, Senior Assistant Registrar, told *The Courier*: "The students are in the final stages of writing up their degrees and we have allowed them to continue.

"But it will not be possible to award their degrees or release marks for submitted work.

"It is problematical when students are not at fault, and we have done everything possible to make the students fully aware of the situation."

The problems have escalated since the Gulf War, and there have been similar difficulties in the past with the Sudanese government.

Anxiety

Adrian Smith, Vice-President Welfare expressed anxiety and said: "It's a worrying situation and our paramount concern is with the students."

Top fashion show back in May

By STELLA McCARTNEY

THE Cosmopolitan Show returns to Earls Court next month.

The show will feature leading fashion designers as well as stars of the hair and beauty world.

Also present will be pop star Louise, who will be singing live on stage. The event runs from May 2-5, and thousands are expected to attend.

And to celebrate *The Courier* have **TEN** pairs of tickets to give away to this unique event.

All you have to do to is drop your name, address and telephone number into *The Courier* office by Monday, April 28.

■ Dedicated followers are in for a treat later this month as Newcastle University braces itself for this year's Charity Fashion Show.

Strutting their stuff in the Union Bassment, on April 29 and 30 are the members of the Rugby Team looking at their hunky best in some top gear provided by some of the hottest designers in town.

Tunes will be provided by dance station Ice FM and everybody can get down while looking fresh.

Tickets are on sale from the Union at £4.50 or £3.50 with NUS.



Cosmopolitan: show

Green Festival 1997

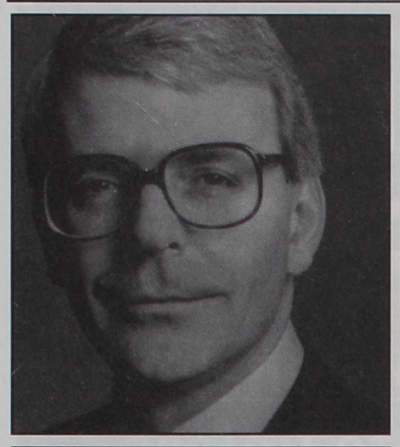
Organic Beer tent, Solar Cinema, Leeds Alt. Tech. Stalls, Workshops Sunshine, Dub Sound System, Poet's Corner, Speakers, 7 Marquees.

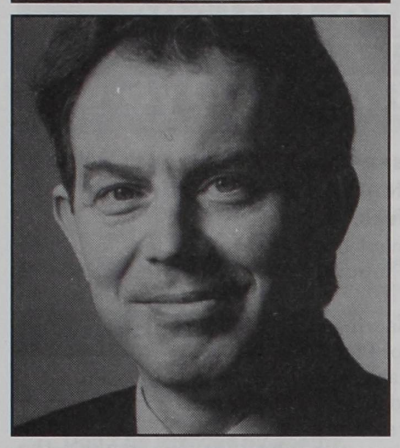
GREEN FESTIVAL 1997

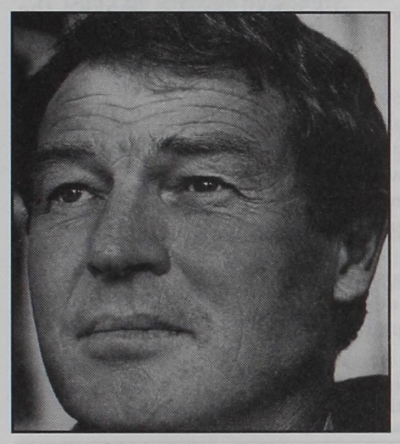
In the Main Marquee: 2 Cafés and 12 Live bands. Including the Baghdaddies, Rubber Zoo, Loon, and Sleepy People

Leazes Park

Sunday 4th May, 12 noon-9.30pm







Election 97: *Labour leader Tony Blair and Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown speak to Nick Wallis from NUS. Conservative leader John Major declined to be interviewed*

Blair and Ashdown interviewed

Why do you think so many young people opted not to vote in the last general election?

Tony Blair: Young people have always been less inclined to vote, it's just a fact of life. They've got other things, they're not so interested in politics, but this is a very, very important election. I mean we have been discussing issues of higher education that are the absolute essence of the future not just of the country but of young people. There are hugely important questions on jobs and job security and many graduates are finding it difficult to get jobs when they leave university. All these questions, the development of British industry and Britain's relations with the rest of the world, issues of environmental concern, whatever people may think of politics, however boring they find it from time to time - and I did a lot of the time when I was a student - they are nonetheless important decisions. They matter.

Ashdown: "People are walking away from political parties because we speak a language they don't understand"

Blair: "It's as well to be honest...we are not going to be able to do this simply through returning to the old grant system"

The only people who ever gain through cynicism and apathy are the Tories. The Tories will always come out and vote because they know that politics matter and they are very happy to encourage everyone else to be apathetic but they are not apathetic themselves.

Paddy Ashdown: Because we're failing them. I mean they have done no more than their seniors are doing. The big fact of politics today is that people are walking away from political parties because we speak a language they don't understand, because we are pompous, because we are cut off, because we don't do things that are relevant to their lives and we are fascinated by things that are our enthusiasms but that nobody else out there gives a damn about. The big thing you must do now in politics is reconnect our politics with our people and if we don't we will begin to see, I use the word carefully but advisedly, a democratic crisis in this country. So the first thing we need to do is start behaving in a way that enables people to understand we're their servants not their masters, that listens, that is connected with the reality of people's lives, and the second thing we need to do is instead of hiding behind a screen, a positive spray of sound bites and spin doctors, start discussing the issues that really matter.

NUS has recently announced that 250,000 more students are on the electoral roll than in 1992. Is the student vote important to you and why would you want students to vote for your party?

T.B. Yes, the student vote is important and we would want people to vote for us because the Labour Party is the party that believes in extending opportunity right throughout society, it stands for the many not the few and the future not the past. Now we are coming up to a new millennium and there are massive new economic challenges in the world. It's a different world of technology out there, it's a different type of society in which we live and are we really going to carry on in the same old way in a one-party state with the Tories or are we going to have the courage to change? And I think young people can give a great lead to the whole of the country.

P. A. I am not going to treat the student vote differently. I was a youth worker before I came in here. Everybody knows Paddy Ashdown the ex-Royal Marine, nobody knows Paddy Ashdown the youth worker and that's what I was, and the one thing I know they taught me is the fact that being patronising, the youth vote, running rock concerts and that kind of thing, okay we all like rock concerts, but I think most of the young people would rather we addressed issues which worried them. I am not going to ghettoise the young people's vote in this country. So I congratulate the NUS and I congratulate Rock the Vote, they've done a tremendous job in increasing young people's registration, that is a very good thing, but you know you can lead a horse to water but you can't make them drink and the fact is that unless we make politics interesting to young people, unless we are going to open it up, take risks and involve them in the process, you can have all the young people you want registered to vote - they ain't gonna vote and they're not going to vote for parties who are not speaking a language they understand.

What would make it easier for students to cope financially while they are studying?

T.B. As I say I think the only way of doing it in the end is to change the student loan system and until you do that we are faced with the present problem. The bottom line has got to be that whatever new system or grant contribution we have, you cannot have the means of the student or the means of their parents being a deterrent to their going into higher education and that is the basic principle.

P.A. I think you need to reformulate the whole mechanism by which we fund students in higher education. Now I'd like to be able to say to you that we could return to the grant system, I'd like to be able to say to you that we can uprate grants back to 1979 levels. We can't, the cost is £7 billion to do that. We've grasped this nettle, itís a tough one but we've grasped it and I'm glad to say that the scheme that we've put forward has had the approval and support of a wide variety of those in the higher education sector including in the NUS. It consists of an individual learning account and that learning account is a framework for lifelong education from the year 16 onwards. It treats every individual student - whether 16, 18 or mature - on the same basis. It has three inputs to it, one made by the State, which would be the sum of money which will assist with higher education, we set that at a level at a very minimum to provide the total cost of tuition fees and if we can go further we should. The second element is an income-contingent loan system, different from the one we've got, and the third element, perhaps for use in later life, perhaps for adult education, is one in which the employer can contribute.

Some vice-chancellors are proposing top-up entrance fees of up to £1,000 per student. Is this the only solution to funding problems on campus?

T. B. I certainly hope not because we must ensure that we don't have a situation where people are unable to go to universities as a result of their means. this would obviously create a greater problem if there are fees for tuition. We made a submission to the Dearing Committee, which is looking at how higher education is funded, that we need to replace the loan system with a proper system with a longer pay-back where we are using the National Insurance system and where it is geared to the ability to pay, because otherwise people are going to find that they simply put off going to university. It's as well to be honest with people - we are not going to be able to do this simply through returning to the old grant system. There is going to be a mixture of grant and maintenance contribution and it can be done in a far better and far fairer way than at present.

P. A. No are we are opposed to it.

Looking for Private Accommodation in 1997/98?

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Education, education, education

Election 97: *Siobhan Almond takes a look at the three main parties policies on higher education*

IN THE WORLD EDUCATION League, Britain is ranked 42nd. Universites and departments do battle over precious funding. Staff wage increases are currently below the rate of inflation, while the bosses enjoy healthy pay rises.

The student grant is a dying breed, and currently doesn't even cover Castle Leazes accommodation. The sad facts about our cherished seats of learning are ones we know only too well.

There is a brighter side though; graduate employment is on the up (marginally) and now some one in three school leavers go to university compared to one in eight in 1979.

The point is that if we like the system or loathe it, now is the chance to make ourselves heard better than ever before. A demo with a difference.

So take your pick from the big three and their plans for higher education. Has the death knoll sounded for the student grant? Are tuition fees a probability or possibility? Can we expect a graduate tax?...

CONSERVATIVE: "we will continue to create new opportunities for more people to participate in higher education" Any further detail? "we will ensure consistently high standards and will consult on the development of higher education when we receive the results of the Dearing Review". Don't make a commitment now lads.

LABOUR: "education, education, education", "our number one priority" and what do they have to say about higher education?? Remarkably little. They too will adhere to the Dearing review for university funding. As for students, we will pay back our maintenance costs on an income-related basis, and payback periods will be longer. Oh and there will be a new University for Industry. Shall we start the cartwheels now?

LIB DEM: How much of their lauded 1p on the pound on income tax will be spent on higher education? Well, one thing you can credit the yellow corner for is their sums - we are apparently "other monies" in their costings supplement, and £20m will be devoted to higher education in their first year. Their 'bright idea' is an Individual Learning Account, which the state, employers, and students themselves will contribute to. More specifically, the Student Loans Scheme will be replaced by a salary-linked system and top-up fees are a no-no. And "We will ensure the funding of university teaching and research, safeguard academic freedom and standards" Maybe there's a poet in all of us.

And so there you have it, an in-depth account of how you or your younger siblings are going to pay yourselves through university in the coming years. What? I hear you say, But you haven't explained anything? Don't blame me, blame the manifestos.



To vote or not to vote?

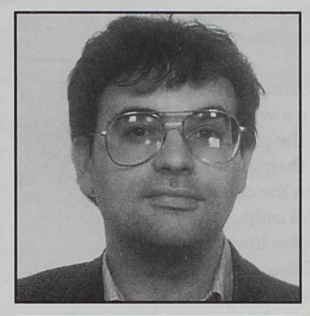
Election 97: *Richard Thomas has the answer..*

THE ELECTION LOOMS EVER CLOSER. A week today the polls open. You've already endured five weeks of saturation coverage by the media (even *The Courier* has election specials!) and you want it all to end. In fact, you're so bored by it all that you just might not even bother. For starters it won't make any difference; Labour will win (just like they were going to in 1992). Politicians are all the same; corrupt and sleazy. Major? Blair? Ashdown? You couldn't put a king-size Rizla between them. Admit it. You're apathetic.

At every election people talk about how apathetic the modern voter is. At every election the turnout holds steady at 75 per cent. But young people (for want of a better term) are voting less and less. In 1992 nearly half of all eligible 18 to 25 year olds failed to vote. We are constantly hearing why the youth of today don't feel inclined to vote.

Democracy may not be perfect, but it's the best system anyone's come up with. Take a trip to Iraq and see if Saddam addresses your concerns any better than Major or Blair. You'd soon be gagging for the opportunity to cast your vote. All (except the politicians, of course) are agreed that the parties are closer together in terms of policy than they have been for years. But to say that the election is pointless ignores a wealth of policy differences between the parties. The Liberal Democrats are pledged to raise income tax . Conservatives and Labour aim to reduce it. Labour plan to create 500,000 jobs for young people. Jobs that, the Tories say, would be lost by the introduction of a minimum wage anyway. It's not exactly the Cavaliers v The Roundheads but it would make a difference to our lives.

If these differences aren't enough for you then vote for really radical change. The Green Party, The Referendum Party, The Natural Law Party. If you feel too marginalised by the political process for even that then spoil the ballot paper. At least you'd have told them what you thought . But whatever you do, get out for a short stroll on May 1st. If nothing else, it'll give you the right to moan for the next five years.



Dylan Griffiths

USUALLY at this point in the campaign, four weeks in, it would all be over. The governing party would have been returned or defeated and, in any event, the musical chairs of Cabinet appointments, the Westminster gossip of who's up, who's down and who's down and out would be the stuff of news reports. However, thanks to the longest campaign since the beginning of this century, there is still one week of headless chickens, British bulldogs and, of course, kissing babies to go.

The long, long campaign has not worked for the Conservatives. John Major had clearly hoped that a long campaign would exhaust Labour and expose the weaknesses in New Labour. Instead, Labour has at times seemed irrelevant to the campaign as it has centred on sexual sleaze (Piers Merchant, a fomer MP for Newcastle Central exposed by the now Labour-supporting Sun), financial corruption, Tim Smith and, notoriously, Neil Hamilton, (who thought Ken Barlow could restore his public reputation) and Tory disunity and disarray over European integration. The long campaign has exposed the division over Europe at the heart of the Conservative party and Major's inability to control his wayward, increasingly eurosceptical, party.

Not that Labour has been able to lie on its laurels, whatever the consistently astonishing poll figures suggest. On the trade unions, privatisation and Scottish devolution the slick message of New Labour has threatened to come unstuck, and in the final days of the campaign the Conservatives are bound to return to (some of) these issues. More damagingly, Labour's campaign has been accused of a scripted dullness, a fear of spontaneity, which may be safe, and apparently plays well in Middle England, but does not create much hope or enthusiasm among those intending to vote Labour. Labour is still scarred by the consequences of spontaneous exuberance at the Sheffield rally in 1992 and is certain to prefer a huge poll lead and 'safety first'.

This election campaign is a decisive return to two party politics. There is little talk of a hung parliament and thus little attention paid to the Liberal Democrats this time round. In addition to the Greens, the Natural Law party and the BNP, europhobes can vote for the UK Independence party or Goldsmith's Referendum party and there are altogether almost two thousand more candidates in this election than in 1992.

Initially, this campaign promised to be different from all those before as it seemed that a televised leaders' debate was a real possibility. Wrangling by the party spin-doctors meant that, in the event, it never took place and all that remains are the recriminations and accusations of whose fault the talks broke down and who was really 'chicken'. Sadly, the bad tempered bickering and name-calling that that event started has marked the whole of the campaign so far. I would like to say it will get better, but I doubt it will.

Dylan Griffiths is a lecturer at the Department of Politics, Newcastle University.

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- ❑ *somewhere to chat to friends*
- ❑ *a place to eat lunch*
- ❑ *books and academic journals*
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Thanks for the felony

Interview: *Matt Clarke went down to the Smoke to talk to New York's finest*

FUN LOVIN CRIMINALS CAME TO UK prominence last year with their Radio One friendly hit "Scooby Snacks" and the follow up album "Come Find Yourself", from which the latest single "King Of New York", a motley tale of prison heists and Mafiosi was taken. After forming from the ashes of Fast and Steve's techno band, they added bartender Huey, who was working at the Limelight club in New York where they all hung out.. After finding a shared love for black humour, hip-hop and gangster movies the band started playing live and were signed to EMI after the MD checked themout at their regular live spot at the Limelight,. Taking in a visit to these shores which included TFI Friday, a tour with techno/rock darlings Republica and a 16 hour stint in a police cell for drummer Steve, the guys found time to slot *The Courier* in their busy schedule.

For the uninitiated Fun Lovin' Criminals, like all innovative bands of the 90's, take a whole bunch of different influences from the past; funk, jazz and more, and turn them into their own distinctive brew, a result of living in the cultural melting pot atmosphere of NYC. Not only inspired by music the band draw upon literature and movies as a source. They use Dostoevsky and Joycean ideas in their tunes as well as infamous Tarantino samples, Huey explaining, "We're members of the Tape and Book of the month club. Nah, I read cos TV just sucks, TV steals your soul".

You've all seen Cheers? Well imagine that but with the buddy-buddy cosiness replaced with beanie hats, hip-hop patois, underworld edginess, a liberal dose of humour and lethal cocktails like Liquid Crack, a deadly mixture singer and guitarist Huey served us up. One sip and you're dead, punk! They share the same wrong-side-of-the-tracks-kids done good attitude(and partiality for certain dried plant leaves!) as British soul mates Black Grape; "Shaun Ryder? A very funny guy", which gives a clue to the funked up hotchpotch cool music found on "Come And Find Yourself".

Both on the album and at the packed to the rafters gig they played at the University in the Easter holidays, the band presented a set of songs both immediately addictive, like the bounce-a-long hits and more laid back soulful songs, best illustrated by their cover of Louis Armstrong's, John Barry penned hit "All The Time In The World". As was obvious from the reactions of over 1000 grinning punters, Fun Lovin' Criminals are gathering an enormous amount of support from their UK audience, perhaps more so than in the States, I asked Huey why, "You guys know bullshit when you smell it, right. Well the USA don't. They're out to sell Coke and Pepsi.... There's an underlying attitude in Britain where people laugh in the face of adversity. You don't let shit get to you. That's a lot to do with the make up of the people and how you see life. I can speak for the three of us that we think that way. I mean there's a lot of weird shit that we went through and what got us through was the fact that we could laugh at it and put it into perspective". The band see this cross-Atlantic success as something to cherish, to keep them going when faced with adverse redneck reactions back across the pond, Huey explaining, "We thought we were alone in the world. The success thing is knowing that there are people in the world who look at things in a similar way".

Their name and lyrics are littered with references to the shadowy underworld of the gangster, something they all grew up witnessing in their neighbourhoods, but at the risk of labouring an obvious point, the band do not live the life, Huey: "If I was a criminal you wouldn't know my name. I'm a musician", Steve adding further "We use crime as a metaphor. The lyrics we have aren't meant to be taken that seriously. We're not gangsters but we like the way that life is built around the family and respect", Fast interjects, "And it's funnier than Woody Allen movies too". Enquiring whether their explicit references had upset any of the cities less legal citizens, Huey told me, "They love it, they think we're hilarious". Fun Lovin' Criminals are completely separated from the macho ideals that brought about the recent shootings of Tupac and Biggie Smalls, preferring to rely on the strength of their music, without any male posturing. Huey describing a situation he knows all too well about, "You live by the sword, you die by the sword. Everybody bleeds. I've seen friends of mine get their heads blown off, it's fucking ridiculous. Maybe someone's fucking hero should get killed to show them that's not the way to go".

So there you have it, a band that have witnessed the downside of the gangster life and who can use the tough beats of hip-hop but still keep a refreshingly intelligent and humorous attitude to their world. A band who manage to fuse a splintered post-modern 90's attitude with the cool laid-back charm of a young Robert De Niro. Smooth, funny, genuine fellers who happen to hold some of the best tunes and grooves to come out of NYC. As Huey says, "Cooler Headz will prevail".

"I've seen friends of mine get their heads blown off, it's fucking ridiculous."



Our man on da scene(third left)

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NEWCASTLE UNITED COMPETITION

THANKS to Newcastle United and Green Umbrella Productions we have three copies of the latest Black & White video. Issue Three includes a feature on the Tyne/Wear derby, as well as a full round- up on events at St. James' Park. The video is available in the shops now but to win a copy simply tell us if Sunderland will ever fill their new stadium.
Drop your answers into *The Courier* office by Wednesday, April 30.



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The brothers work it out



CHEMICAL BROTHERS/DEATH IN VEGAS
Newcastle University

JUST by looking around the audience when the Chemicals play you can tell that they have got this music lark absolutely sorted. Their appeal extends from indie kids to sections of the drum and bass fraternity and takes in just about every youth sub-culture along the way.

This makes for a unique atmosphere that is enhanced by the kind of PA (quadrophonic sound!) that could probably demolish medium sized buildings in it's spare time.

Death In Vegas played the part of support act just about perfectly. Their dub and cinematic soundtrack set, complete with authentic Skankin' Roger MC, gathered momentum and pace keeping the crowd bubbling over, eagar with anticipation for the main event.

The Chemicals wandered on stage looking anything but rock and roll stars, but in the next two hours they made the Union rock more than I had seen it do before. 'Block Rockin' Beats' 'Leave Home' and 'Loops Of Fury' were all thrown in quite early and the crowd absolutely loved it, lapping up the slabs of deep-fried techno.

The thing that sets these two apart from the rest of the indie/DJ scene is that they take genuine pleasure from what they do, punching the air and coaxing the crowd on to further debauched heights and it's this enthusiasm that means you are guaranteed a barnstorming performance every time they play. Close to two hours later they left the stage to reflect on a job well and truly done. The Chemical Brothers. Pure Genius.

Rich Downey and Matt Clarke

NICE COMPETITION

Nice Nice

Thanks to those top housers at Ice Fm we have two pairs of VIP passes (including drinks vouchers) to give away to their Saturday night bash at Rockshots. All you have to do is drop your name and address into *The Courier* office by Monday. Easy.

preview

Matt Clarke has a look at the coming term's ents...

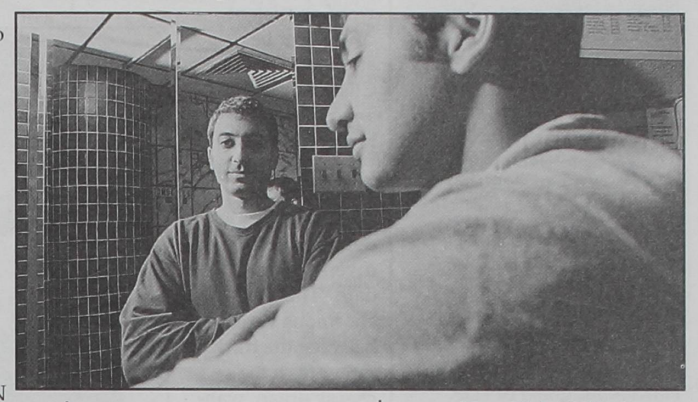
AT the Union they have a cornucopia of delight and fun just for you, kicking off on the 26th with ORANGE INCENDIAN, with bangin' techno for all the family. After casting your vote you can mosey on down to the ELECTION SPECIAL with SPEEDY J playing live and DARREN EMMERSON (Underworld mainman). On the 3rd you can make like you're in Goa and with PLEXUS's BIRTHDAY PARTY. The 7th of May gets technotastic with prestigious London club ANALOGUE CITY with BILLY NASTY and COLIN DALE.

The best way to see off the year with the customary amount of style is ARCANE on Wednesday 11th June this time with PAUL OAKENFOLD, resident at Cream, DJ DIDGIT and a FLYING RHINO records party hosted by the Plexus lot upstairs.

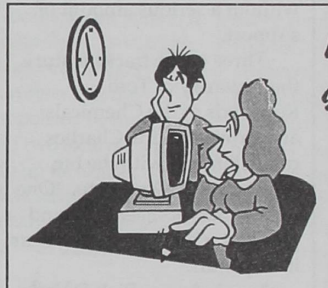
To round off the term Budweiser presents the NYCD experience. They are bringing over the cream of the crop from New York, Chicago and Detroit. But the real treat is TODD TERRY, the house originator and DEEP DISH the underground darlings who charted with their remix of De'lacey's 'Hideaway' playing all in the same night! What a way to go!

Over at the transformed RIVERSIDE they have MY LIFE STORY (28th April), KENICKIE(2nd May), Carter USM (6th May), SUPERNATURALS (Mon 12th) and THE WANNADIES (Sun 18th), proving that the Riverside is still keeping things indietastic alongside their bevvy of clubs.

And speaking of brilliant, innovative downright special clubs, here's the listing for SHINDIG. On Saturday they have a MINISTRY OF SOUND tour with BORIS DLUGOSCH and PAUL DALEY (Leftfield) and a live PA from SERIAL DIVA. On the 3rd of May it is the THIRD B'Day special (£10) with GRAEME PARK, DERRICK CARTER and PHIL MISON . On the 10th we have GUSTO and STACEY TOUGH, following onthe 17th with CHRISTIAN WOODYAT and ERIC POWELL. The 24th brings ANGEL and LOVELY HELEN and LUKE SOLOMON and KENNY HAWKES. The end of the month biggie is DEEP DISH for FIVE HOURS ON THREE DECKS('kin hell!) and upstairs TERRY FARLEY and PETER HELLER. Get there early!



Deep Dish: Dubby housers



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elections

There are places on Union Council, for **Faculty representatives**. Fac Reps, are an integral part of the representational process, they form the link between the Union and the University. They also sit on the body which decides on the major business decisions made by the Union Society.

Union Officers are also needed

Deadline for nominations is April 29th. Election to be held on May 6th.



april	wed 23	hullabaloo	£7
	thur 24	rivers of dub	£2
	sat 26	orange ascidian	£4
may	thur 01	speedy j + darren emerson	£6
	sat 03	plexus	£6
	wed 07	analog city: billy nasty	£6
	thur 08	rivers of dub	£2
	fri 09	chunes @ positive	£1.50
	sat 10	megadog: monumental	£7
	thur 15	the tour of the unknown dj	£5
	fri 30	chunes @ positive	£1.50
	sat 31	fluke	£7
june	wed 11	arcane: paul oakenfold	£6
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bass

Chris and Nik pass up an opportunity to swim with dolphins in order to review this weeks releases....

There's nothing like a new **Sasha** remix with which to welcome in a new term. **Horse** "Careful" (Stress) is originally a vocal tune, however Sasha ignores this fact and creates an epic trance specimen of his progressive style. The vocals do appear on the Brothers In Rhythm Soundtrack, which cops out with a now too familiar breakbeat. Reprise Records give us **TDF** enflagrante with **DJ Pulse** "Rip Stop" and **Nicky Blackmarket** "Seven-Roll out". Two nice'n'easy drum'n'bass tracks for lazy occasions. Both producers create cool vibes with the Pink Floyd esque guitar of TDF. The recently released **Laurent Garnier** album "30" (F Comm.) has the wide range of sounds familiar to his "Laboratoir Mix", but all with the delicious Garnier twist to them! "Crispy Bacon", released last year , is one of the full-in-ya-face type tracks you'd expect from Garnier. This contrasts beautifully with his mellow side, which comes out in the aptly named "Last Winter In Alaska". If you've been to Shindig recently, you may have heard "Freak it up!" by **Coby Johnson** (School). A dark and moody house track that begs you to turn up the volume, our pick of the week.

Chilli Bean + the BouyAnt

albums

THE CHARLATANS
Tellin' Stories

(Beggars Banquet)

There are a lot of people who say that the Charlatans have been consistently the best British band over the last seven or eight years. I personally don't think the word consistent could ever be applied to the Charlatans and anyone who has heard 'Up to Your Hips' will probably agree with me.

'Tellin' Stories' is definitely their most diverse album to date. There is enormous variation between the tracks rather than the cheesy organ, wah-wah guitar, whiny vocal combinations of most of their previous albums. 'You're A Big Girl Now' is an acoustic track that show that Tim Burgess' voice is at last strong enough to carry a tune without a serious amount of support.

Three of the tracks feature the wizardry of Tom Rowlands of the Chemicals and prove that the Charlies can still mix it with the big boys when they want to. 'One to Another' is sheer class and gets better every time you hear it. Top stuff.

Rich Downey

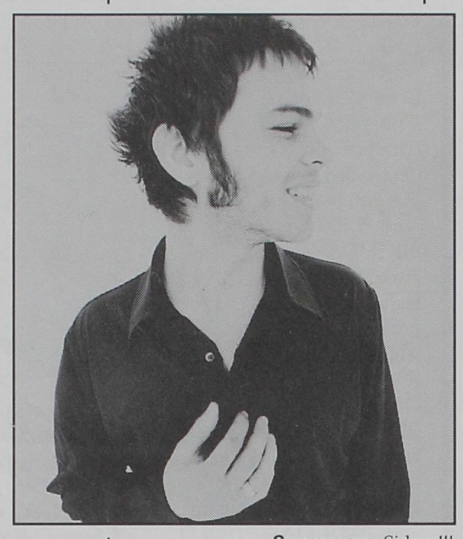
TRANQUILLITY BASS
Let The Freak Flag Fly

(Astrelwerks)

SERVING Suggestion. (with apologies to Ms Fletcher!) Take one American baldy longhair, one set of 30 year old subcultural ethics, innumerable cigarettes of the jazz persuasion, one trip-hop, Lavelle endorsed 'classic' ('We Come In Peace') and an odd assortment of samples, live instruments and beats.

Preparation: Stuff in an old box covered with pseudo-psychedelic graphics, wait 'till mixture awkwardly congeals and then serve on an unsuspecting public. Yucky.

Matt Clarke



Supergrass: Sideys!!!

SUPERGRASS
In it For the Money

(Parlophone/EMI)

SUPERGRASS obviously want to shake off their image as Britpop darlings and get more people to take them seriously. They attempt to achieve this by drawing from a large number of influences as diverse as the Charlatans, with new emphasis on electric keyboard, to the Monkees, with a slightly psychedelic sixties feel which pervades most of their tracks.

This coincides with a change in image, what with lead singer Gaz Coombes new haircut and a meaner look to match their more hard-edged, skinnier guitar sound.To their credit, all the tracks on the new album do sound slightly different, unlike 'I Should Coco', which sounded good at first but lost its lustre after playing it for a while.

From the Rock-with-organ 'Richard III', through the near-ballad qualities of 'Late in the Day'; bouncy, slow-paced 'G-song' to the downright bizarre 'Sometimes I make you Sad' the album shows a lot more versatility than it's predecessor.

There are also a couple of surprises - 'Sun Hits the Sky' almost sounds like a decent stab at a Echo and the Bunnymen track; whilst 'Going Out' is a throwback to "vintage" Supergrass - not surprising as it was released donkeys ago.

In a nutshell, the new music of Supergrass is not the complete transition we were led to believe, but a firm, polished step in the right direction.

Chris Downs

singles

PRIMAL SCREAM
Kowalski

(Creation)

EVER since the defining never-bettered magnum opus that was Screamadelica, the Primals have been flying the flag for dance infused rock for substance abusing scum the world over, and Kowalski (named after a speed paranoia road trip film) takes the artform to it's logical conclusion. Dirty big bastard beats slam into a bassline straight from the grave of King Tubby while warped vocals and sound effects play games with your poor, little mind.

The most fucked up, burnt out single of the year from the last rock band worth listening to.

Matt Clarke

ESPIRITU
Man Don't Cry

(Heavenly)

ESPIRITU deliver a gorgeous angelic babe of a ballad destined for those star-crossed 4am moments. Encompassing Southern American influences, heart warming strings and light ambient drum and bass touches 'Man Don't Cry' is an evocative classic, typical of Heavenly's far reaching roster. Added to this PFM do their thang to stunning effect on the remix. I recommend you grab this little treasure immediately and stick it up their with 'What's Going On' and 'Unfinished Sympathy'.

Matt Clarke



Espiritu: Divine

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The best chilled out, laid back tunes with: Dean Whitehead (Cafe Del Mar, Mambo: Ibiza) & Steve Conron (Ice FM, various Manchester).

8pm-midnight in Reds.

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Thursdays

All Funked Up

An evening of cool funk, jazz and hip hop.

8pm-12 midnight in Reds.

Happy Hour prices all night.

Free entry.

Saturdays

Wiggle Wiggle

the best in chart, commercial dance and mainstream with DJ TC Best. Look out for drinks promos and prize giveaways.

8.00-2.00am in Reds.

Entry £1.50.

theatre

OUTCRY
Newcastle Playhouse

THE Newcastle Playhouse was last week honoured with the Cheek by Jowl production of Tennessee Williams' Outcry. I knew that the company was supposed to be excellent, it was hailed "one of the great theatre companies in the world" by Time Out magazine, but I was not prepared for the mastered intensity of this production. Jason Merrels, currently playing Matt the receptionist in BBC's Casualty, played Felice, and Sara Stewart, recently in bed with Jimmy Nail in Crocodile Shoes, played Clare.

Outcry takes place in a theatre, with the stage set for opening night. But the supporting cast and crew have disappeared leaving only two actors, brother and sister, Felice and Clare. In front of the expectant audience they enact The Two Character Play- but their performance becomes linked with their own obsessive relationship, leaving the viewer in the challenging position of detecting which are their real and which are their performing characters. As the play continues, the disturbing details of their background unfurl and their double characters intertwine in an atmosphere of increasing horror, provoked by the knowledge that a revolver is concealed somewhere within the house.

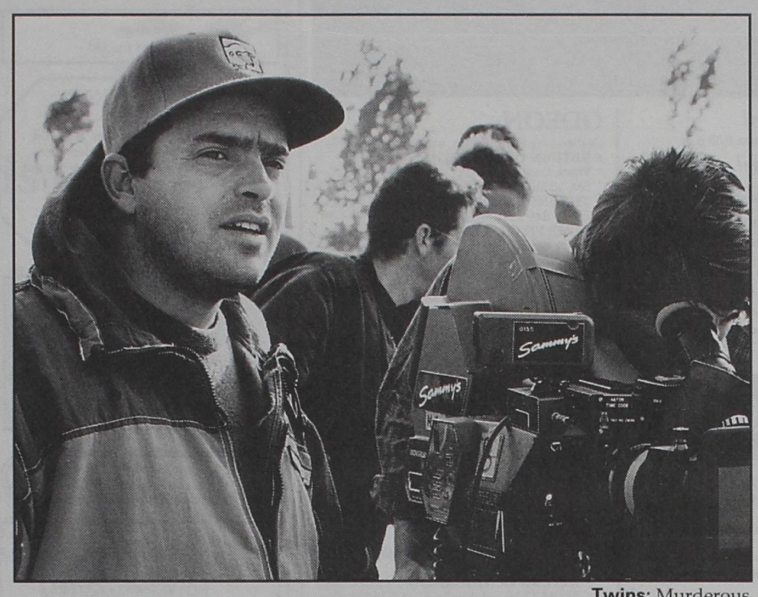
The sense of imprisonment was stifling, the brick walls of the Playhouse being particularly appropriate. To use the words of Williams "To play with fear is to play with fire" and indeed the tension was excruciatingly volatile. Most striking was the massive, menacing statue always looming in the background, which represented the presence of their father.

I have always had difficulty during plays trying to lose the acute awareness that the actors are only actors. This was present at the beginning of the play, but total submersion was not long to follow. The particular skill of the actors was revealed when they began to perform their two character play, they carried their double characters off utterly convincingly. Clare, in an inebriated swagger before they perform the two character play, boasts "I hope the press is ready for me, because I'm ready for it."

Apparent here is William's self awareness and anxiety about the reception of his play. Cheek by Jowl should entertain no such insecurities - their production was disturbingly compelling and impressively accomplished.

Mr. Causaubon

To live and Dai in Swansea



Twins: Murderous



Allen: On the set

Miles Starforth talks to Twin Town director Kevin Allen on his feature film debut

THE Director of Twin Town, Kevin Allen, is only days into a lengthy press tour and he already looks exhausted. Worse still, he is already sick of the "Welsh Trainspotting" comparisons.

Allen is sitting with the film's real life twins in a plush Newcastle hotel lounge. Stretched out in front of him are several weeks of interviews, appearances and screenings to promote his full feature debut, a murderous black comedy set in his native Swansea, which has so far received a luke warm reaction from the critics.

This is where the Trainspotting tag comes in. "It's really getting on my tits now", he states bluntly, "Trainspotting was not a blueprint for Twin Town in any shape or form.

"The film has been marketed hook, line and sinker as that and there has been a backlash from certain sections of the press who don't take too kindly to this." Thankfully the comparisons are wide of the mark, with Twin Town and it's dark but comic look at revenge proving to be one of the films of the year so far.

Twin Town follows the wayward sons of local handyman Fatty Lewis on a revenge mission after Fatty is injured while working for local entrepreneur and Rugby Club Chairman Bryn Cartwright. With Cartwright their main target, the Twins get more than even. But the revenge is not monopolised by the Twins, with Cartwright and two local detectives more than willing to up the stakes.

In short Allen has scripted a film full of unsympathetic characters. While there is nothing brave in that, a film full of unsympathetic *Welsh* characters certainly is. Allen believes the stigma attached to the Welsh in London has not helped the film's receipts, which has so far fared better in the regions than in the capital. "Taffs aren't popular", says Allen. "Geordies and Northerners suffer the same alienation. It just shows narrow-mindedness, people can't watch something for what it is", adds Jeremy Lewis, Rhys Ifans in the film.

As well as the trainspotting comparisons, Twin Town has also been bracketed with the social realism school of Ken Loach and Mike Leigh, something Allen is not unhappy with. "They are great film makers, but you don't have to be that flagwaving. I still identify with them, but things have moved on.

So how did Allen, veteran of everything from Absolutely Fabulous to documentaries about Glasgow's housing schemes, adapt to the role of film maker? "I really enjoyed it. But as a director you've got to make decisions or answer questions every minute of the day. Actors spend most of their time in the make up wagon."

Another film is the next step for Allen, "I want to make something in West London. Something longer and more character based.Or perhaps I'll fuck off to California." For the American Trainspotting perhaps?

■ We have three Twin Town soundtracks, featuring the Manic Street Preachers, Dodgy and DJ Shadow, to give away as well as three signed pictures. Drop your name address and telephone number into *The Courier* office by Wednesday.



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Manors, New Bridge St., Newcastle
From Friday 25th April to Thursday 1st May
Starts Friday
Return of the Jedi (U) (11.45 12.15 Sat only) (2.45 3.15 Sat/Sun only) 5.45 6.05 8.45 9.15 (11.30 Fri/Sat late)
Starts Friday
Eddie (12) (11.05 Sat only) (1.35 Sat/Sun only) 4.05 6.50 9.05
Starts Friday
Twin Town (18) (11.55 Sat only) 2.20 Sat/Sun only) 4.45 7.10 9.25 (11.40 Fri/Sat late)
Empire Strikes Back (U) (12.55 Sat/Sun only) 3.55 6.45 9.35
Star Wars (U) (10.50 Sat only) (1.40 Sat/Sun only) 4.25
The Saint (12) (10.45 Sat only) (1.30 Sat/Sun only) 4.20 7.00 9.45
Space Jam (U) (11.50 Sat only) 2.00 Sat/Sun only) 4.10 (6.25 not Thurs)
The English Patient (15) 8.30
Romeo & Juliet (12) (12.45 Sat only) 3.45 6.15 8.55
Metro (18) (7.10 9.55)
Matilda (PG) 10.40 Sat only
Dantes Peak (12) 11.20 Fri/Sat late only
Fever Pitch (15) 11.55 Fri/Sat late only
Kids Club 26/4/97: **Fly Away Home** (U) Sat only
1 to Watch 1/5/97: **White Man's Burden** (15) 6.25 Thurs only
Paid Preview 26/4/97: **Donnie Brasco** (18) 11.25 Late Sat only
Paid Preview 25/4/97: **Scream** (18) 11.45 Late Fri/Sat only
Card Bookings 0191 221 0222

tyne out 24.04.97

seven day listings

unions

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Thursday 24th April
- **RIVERS OF DUB,** £2

Saturday 26th April
- **ORANGE ASCIDIAN,** £4

Thursday 1st May
- **SPEEDY J + Darren Emmerson,** £6

Saturday 3rd May
- **PLEXUS,** £6

Wednesday 7th May
- **ANALOG CITY: Billy Nasty,** £6

Thursday 8th May
- **RIVERS OF DUB,** £2

Friday 9th May
- **CHUNES @ Positive,** £1.50

Saturday 10th May
- **MEGADOG: Monumental,** £7

Thursday 15th May
- **Jackpot Records presents THE TOUR OF THE UNKNOWN DJ,** £5

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA

Mondays
- **GET CUT UP.** Various bar games and special promotions from 7 p.m.

Tuesdays
- **ELECTRIC LOUNGE** 8pm–Midnight

Wednesdays
- **FOOTLOOSE,** 8 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Thursdays
- **ALL FUNKED UP,** 8 p.m. – midnight

Fridays
- **INNOCENCE,** 8 p.m.–2am

Saturdays
- **WIGGLE WIGGLE** 8pm – 2am

clubs

 # denotes a one-off club night

Mondays
- **HOUSE NATION,** Bliss, Newcastle, with Tony Hutchinson and Little Hutchy. 9.30 p.m.-2 a.m. £1.
- **80's NIGHT,** Planet Earth, Newcastle. £3.00 (NUS) £1.50
- **NUSENSE,** Barcode, Newcastle. House, Techno, Drum 'n Bass.
- **DRAG,** Rockshots. 80s-90s. £1

Tuesdays
- **THE CARWASH,** Planet Earth, Newcastle. DJ's Huggy Bear and Starsky
- **CHERRY,** Hope Village, Newcastle. House and Dance.
- **ACROSS THE BORDERS,** Barcode, Newcastle. Jazz, funky, hip hop spices.
- **#CURIOUS YELLOW – 29th April** Riverside, Newcastle. 9 p.m.-2 a.m., £4
- **#FRESH,** Riverside, Newcastle. Chart/general music for people with disabilities and their friends. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. £4
- **WAX ON WAX OFF,** World Headquarters, Newcastle. 10.30 p.m.-2 a.m. £3

Wednesdays
- **WESTWORLD,** Planet Earth, Newcastle. Student Night, Indie, Pop and Dance. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. £1
- **70's NIGHT,** Tuxedo Royale, Gateshead. £3.
- **PLAYERS BALL** Barcode, Newcastle. Soul, R&B, Rap, Electro.
- **DANCE/POP,** Rockshots, Newcastle. Drink as much as you like, any drink! £5 with flyer/£7 without
- **#SUGAR SHACK IN THE CITY SERIES 5 30th April.** Legends, Newcastle. Seb Fontaine. 9 p.m.
- **#LAZYITIS,** Riverside, Newcastle. £2
- **#JUBILEE** Riverside, Newcastle. 7.30 p.m.-midnight. £2

Thursdays
- **#OUTERMISSION** Egypt Cottage, Newcastle. Hip hop/electro
- **BITCHIN'** Bliss, Newcastle. £3 adv (£1.50 NUS).
- **THE GARAGE,** Tuxedo Royale. Progressive Dance, Garage, Commercial House.
- **FUTUREWORLD,** Planet Earth, Newcastle. Indie (upstairs), techno/trip hop (downstairs). £1.50
- **ROLLERCOASTER** Hope Village, Newcastle. Indie/Rock.
- **STEPPAZ** at Rockshots, Newcastle. Room 1 - Drum and Base. Room 2 - Garage. £6.
- **STATE OF PLAY,** Riverside, Newcastle. Drums'n'Bass. £3 B4 11, £4.
- **#BING BONG ROOMS,** Riverside, Newcastle. Jazzy beats with Ashley Beadle, Kemistry + Storm + Hidden Agenda. 9.30 p.m. £8
- **SOULUTIONS,** Jakks Bar, Westgate Rd, Newcastle. Garage, disco. 7-11.30 p.m. Free

Fridays
- **THE PALACE** Riverside, Newcastle. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. £3 B4 10.30 p.m., £4 after.
- **VIVA** Riverside, Newcastle. 9.30 p.m.-2 a.m. £4 B4 10.30 p.m., £5 after.
- **ROCK CLUB** Mayfair, Newcastle. 9.00 p.m.-2.00 a.m.
- **GEARBOX,** Mayfair, Newcastle.
- **BOP TIL YA DROP,** Bliss, Newcastle. Commercial Dance and Party. Happy hour 9.30-1.30. 9.30 p.m.-2 a.m. £3 before 11 p.m., £4 after.
- **CARWASH,** Hope Village, Newcastle. 70's and 80's. £1.50
- **THE FORTH,** Barcode, Newcastle.
- **TOO FAR NORTH** The Telegraph, Newcastle. Free
- **FUNK INFECTION** Newcastle Arts Centre. Hip hop, funk & jazz. Live set & DJ. 8.30 p.m. £2
- **POSITIVE** Newcastle University. Student night. £1 adv
- **#2097** Rockshots, Newcastle. £5 B4 11 p.m., £7 after

Saturdays
- **SHINDIG,** Riverside, Newcastle. Residents Scott & Scooby. £7 before 10.30 and NUS, £8 after. 9.30 p.m.-2.30 a.m.
- **SCAMMING SATURDAYS** Planet Earth, Newcastle. £5.
- **THE MAIN EVENT** World HQ, Newcastle. £3.50/£4
- **TRADER JACKS,** Tuxedo Royale, Gateshead.
- **CLUB EUROPA** Tuxedo Royale, Gateshead. Progressive Dance, Garage and Commercial House.
- **LOOSE BOOTY** Barcode, Newcastle. Deep House DJ's, Mark Dawson, Michael Haswell, Paul Giocoichea.
- **DO YA WANNA PARTY?** Bliss, Newcastle. Until 2.00 a.m. £5
- **BEATNIK,** Hope Village, Newcastle. Indie, Dance. £2
- **TOO FAR NORTH** Egypt Cottage, Newcastle. Free
- **NICE** Rockshots, Newcastle. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. £7, £8
- **#STOMP** Newcastle University Students Union, £2.50

Sundays
- **DELIRIUM – Saturdays Dance Bar** Planet Earth, Newcastle.

music

Thursday 24th April
- **BIG JOE LOUIS (Jamaica) & The Blueskings** Jumpin' & Hot Club, Bridge Hotel, Newcastle. 8.30 p.m. £6 adv

Friday 25th April
- **GABRIELLE** City Hall, Newcastle. 7.30 p.m. £11.50
- **STICKY FINGERS** Star Inn, Newcastle. 8.30 p.m.

Saturday 26th April
- **KAVA KAVA + Sleepy People** Cumberland Arms, Byker. 8.30 p.m.
- **JAMES LAST** Newcastle Arena, 7.30 p.m. £16.50-£25

Sunday 27th April
- **STAN,** Trillians, Newcastle. 8.30 p.m.

Monday 28th April
- **MY LIFE STORY** Riverside, Newcastle. 7.30 p.m. £7

Tuesday 29th April
- **BABY BIRD,** Northumbria University, Newcastle. 7.30 p.m. £8
- **CHARLATANS** Mayfair, Newcastle. 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 20th April
- **IRISH FOLK,** Cumberland Arms, Byker 8.30 p.m. Free

comedy

Saturday 26th April
- **JUNIOR SIMPSON & The Bastard Son of Tommy Cooper** Comedy Cafe, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

Wednesday 30th April
- **THINK NO EVIL OF US . . . My life with Kenneth Williams** Newcastle Playhouse, 8 p.m. £9/£8

cinema

TYNESIDE

Thursday 24th April
- **IRMA VEP** (15), 4.30, 6.30, 8.45
- **SELF-MADE HERO** (15), 6.15
- **TROMEO & JULIET** (18), 8.30

Friday 25th April
- **BOX OF MOONLIGHT** (15), 3.45, 6.10, 8.35
- **SELF-MADE HERO** (15), 6.15, 8.30

Saturday 26th April
- **FLY AWAY HOME** (U), 1.30
- **BOX OF MOONLIGHT** (15), 3.45, 6.10, 8.35
- **SELF-MADE HERO** (15), 4.00, 6.15, 8.30

Sunday 27th April
- **BOX OF MOONLIGHT** (15), 3.45, 8.35
- **SELF-MADE HERO** (15), 6.15

Monday 28th April
- **BOX OF MOONLIGHT** (15), 3.45, 8.35
- **SELF-MADE HERO** (15), 6.15

Tuesday 29th April
- **BOX OF MOONLIGHT** (15), 3.45, 6.10, 8.35
- **SELF-MADE HERO** (15), 4.30, 8.30
- **CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE** (15), 6.45

Wednesday 30th April
- **BOX OF MOONLIGHT** (15), 6.10, 8.35
- **SELF-MADE HERO** (15), 4.45
- **CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE** (15) 7.00, 8.45

Thursday 1st May
- **BOX OF MOONLIGHT** (15), 4.00, 6.15
- **CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE** (15), 8.45
- **MANDELA** (12), 1.45
- **SELF-MADE HERO** (15), 6.15, 8.30

ODEON

Commencing Fri. 25th Apr. until Thurs. 1st May
- **RETURN OF THE JEDI** (U) Weekdays & Sun. 1.55, 4.55, 8.00 Sat. 10.55, 1.55, 4.55, 8.00
- **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15) Every day 2.00, 5.15
- **FEVER PITCH** (15) Every day 8.30 only
- **THE SAINT** (12) Fri. & Mon.-Wed. 12.55, 3.25, 5.55, 8.25 Sat. 3.25, 8.25 Sun. & Thurs. 3.25, 5.55, 8.25
- **SPACE JAM** (U) Sat. 10.40, 12.40 Sun. & Thurs. 12.40 only
- **THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** (U) Weekdays & Sun. 2.25, 5.10, 8.10 Sat. 11.30, 2.25, 5.10, 8.10

Special Screening – Sat. 26th Apr.
- **DONNIE BRASCO** (18) Sat. only – Doors open 5.45 Feature 6.00

Saturday Morning Family Show, Sat. 26th Apr. Everyone admitted for only £1
- **MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND** (U) Doors open 10.50 a.m. Feature 11 a.m.

WARNERS

From Fri. 25th April to Thurs. 1st May

Starts Friday
- **RETURN OF THE JEDI** (U) (11.45 12.15 Sat only) (2.45 3.15 Sat/Sun only) 5.45 6.05 8.45 9.15 (11.30 Fri/Sat late)
- **EDDIE** (12) (11.05 Sat only) (1.35 Sat/Sun only) 4.05 6.50 9.05
- **TWIN TOWN** (18) (11.55 Sat only) 2.20 Sat/Sun only) 4.45 7.10 9.25 (11.40 Fri/Sat late)
- **EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** (U) (12.55 Sat/Sun only) 3.55 6.45 9.35
- **STAR WARS** (U) (10.50 Sat only) (1.40 Sat/Sun only) 4.25
- **THE SAINT** (12) (10.45 Sat only) (1.30 Sat/Sun only) 4.20 7.00 9.45
- **SPACE JAM** (U) (11.50 Sat only) 2.00 Sat/Sun only) 4.10 (6.25 not Thurs)
- **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15) 8.30
- **ROMEO & JULIET** (12) (12.45 Sat only) 3.45 6.15 8.55
- **METRO** (18) (7.10 9.55)
- **MATILDA** (PG) 10.40 Sat only
- **DANTES PEAK** (12), 11.20 Fri/Sat late only
- **FEVER PITCH** (15), 11.55 Fri/Sat late only

Kids Club 26/4/97:
- **FLY AWAY HOME** (U), Sat only

One to Watch 1/5/97:
- **WHITE MAN'S BURDEN** (15) 6.25 Thurs only

Paid Preview Sat. 26/4/97:
- **DONNIE BRASCO** (18), 11.25 Late Sat only

Paid Preview Fri. 25/4/97 & Sat. 26/4/97:
- **SCREAM** (18), 11.45 Late Fri/Sat only

The *Courier* Prize Crossword will return on May 22 with a bumper £10 prize

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UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

PUBLIC LECTURES

EasterTerm 1997

SECOND SEMESTER

Thursday 1st May
1:00pm Curtis Auditorium
Engineering Faculty Lecture
ENGINEERING EDUCATION: WHERE NEXT?
Professor Tony M Ridley CBE
Department of Civil Engineering (Transport), Imperial College, London

Thursday 1st May
Enid Muir Memorial Lecture
'PC DIXON AND COMMISSAIRE MAIGRET': SOME MYTHS AND REALITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL POLICE
Professor Clive Emsley
Professor of History, the Open Univesity

All PUBLIC LECTURES will take place at 5:30pm in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building, unless otherwise stated. **Admission is free.**

ODEON NEWCASTLE
Programme information
01426 950527

STUDENTS WITH NUS CARD £2.60 ALL DAY EVERY DAY
PLEASE NOTE THAT TIMES ARE FOR COMPLETE PROGRAMMES
ALL PERFORMANCES BEFORE 12 NOON – EVERYONE ADMITTED FOR ONLY £1.95
COMMENCING FRIDAY 25th APRIL TO THURSDAY 1st MAY (INCLUSIVE)

RETURN OF THE JEDI (U)
Weekdays & Sunday 1.55, 4.55, 8.00
Saturday 10.55, 1.55, 4.55, 8.00

THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15)
Every day 2.00, 5.15

FEVER PITCH (15)
Every day 8.30 only

THE SAINT (12)
Fri. & Mon.-Wed. 12.55, 3.25, 5.55, 8.25
Sat. 3.25, 8.25 Sun. & Thurs. 3.25, 5.55, 8.25

SPACE JAM (U)
Saturday 10.40, 12.40
Sunday & Thursday 12.40 only

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (U)
Weekdays & Sundays 2.25, 5.10, 8.10
Saturday 11.30, 2.25, 5.10, 8.10

SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING – SATURDAY 26th APRIL

DONNIE BRASCO (18)
Saturday only – Doors open 5.45 Feature 6.00

SATURDAY MORNING FAMILY SHOW Saturday 26th April Everyone admitted for only £1
MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND (U)
Doors open 10.50 a.m. Feature 11 a.m.

Licensed bar open every evening from 7 p.m Advance Booking 0191 261 7816

personal column & classified ads

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GENERAL MEETING

1 p.m.
1st May

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Tel. 281 4854

NIGHTLINE
for information & conversation
Tel. 261 2905
8 pm-8am – every night of term

UNION COUNCIL, 1st May, 5.15 p.m.

Here's to the A.U. Ball.
Let's get P*****D!!!

Caroline & Ashley –
Many congratulations.

UNION HAIRDRESSING
9.30 am – 5.00 pm
Mon.–Fri. 1st Floor
Appointments not Always Necessary

BUDDHIST MEDITATION

with Buddhist Monk Kelsan Chönden at Jesmond Methodist Church Hall, St Georges Terrace, Jesmond
Thursdays, 7.30 – 9.30 p.m.

Self-contained talks and meditations which emphasise the practical application of Buddha's teachings to our modern Western lifestyle, and include invaluable advice on how to meditate. These classes are ideal for beginners and those who are just curious. They are informal and there is plenty of time to ask questions. Drop in to any of them.

TONIGHT – 24th April
What is Meditation?
Also, why, where, when and how do you do it?

1st May
Peaceful Mind, Peaceful World
Improve your experiences and your relationships

For further information
Tel. Compassion Centre
(0191) 284 6315

LESBIAN, GAY & BISEXUAL SOCIETY

Meets 7.30 p.m., Thursday, Women's Room, 1st Floor, Union Building.

For more information please contact Camila and Victor,

LGB Officers,
Equal Opps. Unit, 2nd Floor, Union Building.
Tel. 232 8402. Ext. 136.

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21
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

THE TRENT
Friday, 6 p.m.
See you there,
Miles

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Harry Collinson Travel Scholarship

The Harry Collinson Travel Scholarship was established in 1993 in memory of Harry Collinson, Chief Planning Officer of Derwentside District Council, a graduate of the University. The Scholarship is intended to enable a student or students to pursue a project on an environmetal topic in the Third World.

The total value of the scholarship for 1997 will be of the order of £500.

Students from any Faculty may apply.

Copies of the Regulations for the Scholarship and application forms may be obtained from:

Reception
Registrar's Office
6 Kensington Terrace

Closing date for receipt of applications: **31st May 1997**

FYC '97 Stewards and Drivers

Stewards

Emma Alder
Gilly Allcock
Nicholas Allen
Nick Allenby
Mary Ardill
Georgina Arnold
Bethan Ashcroft
Martin Askey
Helen Astley
Anna Baillie
Steve Baines
Angus Bannerman
Joe Barker
David Barnard
Paul Barnard
Kathryn Barton
Louise Bauman
Abigail Berthou
Gillian Bethell
Gabby Betton
Jay Beverly
Kris Black
Robbie Blakeman
Kate Boardman
Hannah Bolton
Lu Bound
Liam Brady
Patricia Brettle
Nicholas Briggs
Libby Bromage
Alison Brown
Julie Brown
Kate Brown
Simon Burmeister
Simon Burthem
Caroline Burton
Ross Carr
Nick Charteris
Beth Cheeseborough
Flavia Cheshire
Emma Christopherson
Chloe Cina
Mat Clark
John Clow
Anarella Clay
Nick Cole
Natalie Connell
Claire Connolly
Anna Cook
Laura Coverdale
William Cowell
Rob Crane
Pippa Crear
Marianne Creswell
Stuart Cronin
Vicki Cullingworth
Adam Cummins
Sandra Dailey
Kate Dewsbury
Frances Ditchburn
Bob Dixon
Rachael Dixon
Janet Donaldson
Gillian Dunglinson
Catherine Dutton
Andrew Edgar
Zoe Elliot
James Ellison
Tarek Elmaghrabi
Joe Elsdon
Claire Elsey
Amara Ezednyedji
Scotty Fawcett
Hugo Fitzjohn
Laura Fitzsimon
Caroline Flisher
Craig Forrester
Sharon Foster
Adrian Franklin
Fiona Gammell
Tom Garrett
Helen George
Ben Gibson
Katriona Gibson
James Gilbert
Grant Glarabrook
Orla Glassey
Phil Glaves
Nina Gomell
Ross Goodall
Catherine Goodwin
Nick Graham
Andrew Grunstein
Caroline Guest
Stuart Harris
Kelly Harrison
Richard Harvey
Glenn Hayes
Gemma Heath
Tor Helmsley
Lucy Henderson
Vicki Hennessy
Louise Hewitson
Lucy Higgins
Liz Hill
Hugo Hills
Sam Hilton
Martyn Hodson
Rich Holme
Anna Howard
Keri Howitt
Caron Humfress
Becky Jackson
Kethryn Jeffery
Phil Jerry
Emily Johnson
Kathryn Johnson
Troy Johnson
Ben Jones
Laura Keely
Claire Keenan
Leanne Kerr
Sarah Kittle
Katie Knass
Steve Land
Ali Large
Michael Lavender
Tim Lavers
Tom Lawerence
Jenny Lewis
Nathan Loong
Steven Lydiate
Louisa Mashepherd
Katie Mather
Zoe Maylock
Nicola McAlpine
Karol McCaul
Laura McGillycuddy
Kathy McGivern
Michael McKaig
Steohen McKenny
Euan McLennan
Angela McNally
Lov Mesens
Vicki Montgomery
Ian Morris
Kate Morris
Michelle Morrow
Neil Morton
Nick Mouton
Alan Murdoch
Steve Musisi
Kirsty Myers
Johnathan Noble
James O'Brien
Michelle Ogle
Rob Orr
Siobhan Owen
Lucy Oxtoby
Jamil Parapia
Mandy Parry
Mark Pearsall
Tony Pine
Jessica Pollock
Emma Poole
Francesca Rannard
Oliver Reed
Felicity Richmond
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Sarah Riddick
Tim Rishworth
Shona Robb
Graham Roberts
Richard Robinson
Debbie Rooney
Stephen RossBailey
Paul Rouse
Nathalie Rush
Gemma Satterthwaite
Keeley Saunders
Gail Savage
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Jany Sharpe
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Richard Shaw
Lucy Smallbone
Alex Smith
Vicky Smith
Katherine Speller
Liz Stanfield
Judith Steel
James Stephenson
Catherine Stone
Nicola Stoney
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Deborah Stringer
Mark Suggitt
Claire Summerfield
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Jayne Tetlow
Lorraine Thomas
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Nicola Tweedie
Andy Waddington
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Michelle Warden
Sophie Warner
Catherine White
Emma White
Fran White
Greg Whitton
Sarah Wilding
Kate Williams
Greig Wilson
Sam Wilson
Sarah Wilson
David Winterflood
Nick Woffenden
Abdul Zubairu
Dom
Pablo

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Nick Brooks
Steve Brown
Ed Dawson
Benjamin Dean
Tom Derry
James Garratt
Rich Gordon
Helen Lally
Andy McHarg
Carl Mort
Stuart Orange
Chris Peck
Andrew Pickles
Colin Riches
Clare Saxon
Milly Svenheim
Rich Talbot
Paul Tricket
Ben Walker
Mick Walsh
Jeremy Ward
Donald Wilson
Andy Wood
Matthew Wright
Blayney
Hughsy
Jed
Sharpy

A huge thank you to everyone who applied to FYC '97 to be a steward or driver.
Unfortunatley, as much we would have liked to take everyone, the limitations on numbers made it impossible.
Could all those chosen please send two passport photographs with your name clearly written on the back, along with an address where you can be contacted over the summer.
Senior stewards will be selected from the above list and notified during the summer vacation.
You will be required from Wednesday 17th September.

Enjoy the rest of the year...
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Please hand your photos into reception.

Tori  Fletcher

The woman to keep up with - every Thursday

You can contact Tori Fletcher at *The Courier* office or by e-mail on ncourier@ncl.ac.uk

Voting Virgins...



...(it's time to) close your eyes and think of England

YOU CAN START TO RELAX. WE'VE almost made it through unscathed and unruffled. The only problem has been Repetitive Strain Injury to right hands across the nation, clenched permanently around the TV remote control. And with an aim more accurate than 007 and a draw faster than Clint Eastwood - you lift, point and press as soon as the word 'election' burst forth from the screen.

As far as a generation go, I am impressed by the determination and success with which we have avoided the election run-up. It's been a perfect time to launch a new TV channel as the slightest hint of Dimbleby, Frost or Paxman have forced us to retune and take a fresh interest in Wowfabgroovy or Family Affairs. Politics is, for most of us, just poo. Once in a blue-moon, a lull in conversations about Jo from Eastenders or which the best Spice Girl is, will allow a ten minute discussion about politics. Facts used in arguments are usually totally invented, most information being obtained from the fountain of all political knowledge - Dad - and the person with the loudest voice who uses long words like 'exchange rate mechanism' the most times, will eventually be agreed with just so he shuts up and passes the joint.

I've got to come clean actually. I've been following the election run-up for the past three weeks in a hopeful attempt to educate myself on which party stands for what. I'm a voting virgin and had a rather romantic image of finding a party whose sweet election promises won't vanish as soon as they've seduced my political values and secured my vote. I've tried to listen to the issues about education, employment, tax and privatisation. I've tried to understand what Europe will do to Britain, but so far, EMU is still a retired ITV puppet that has had Rod Hull's hand up its bum.

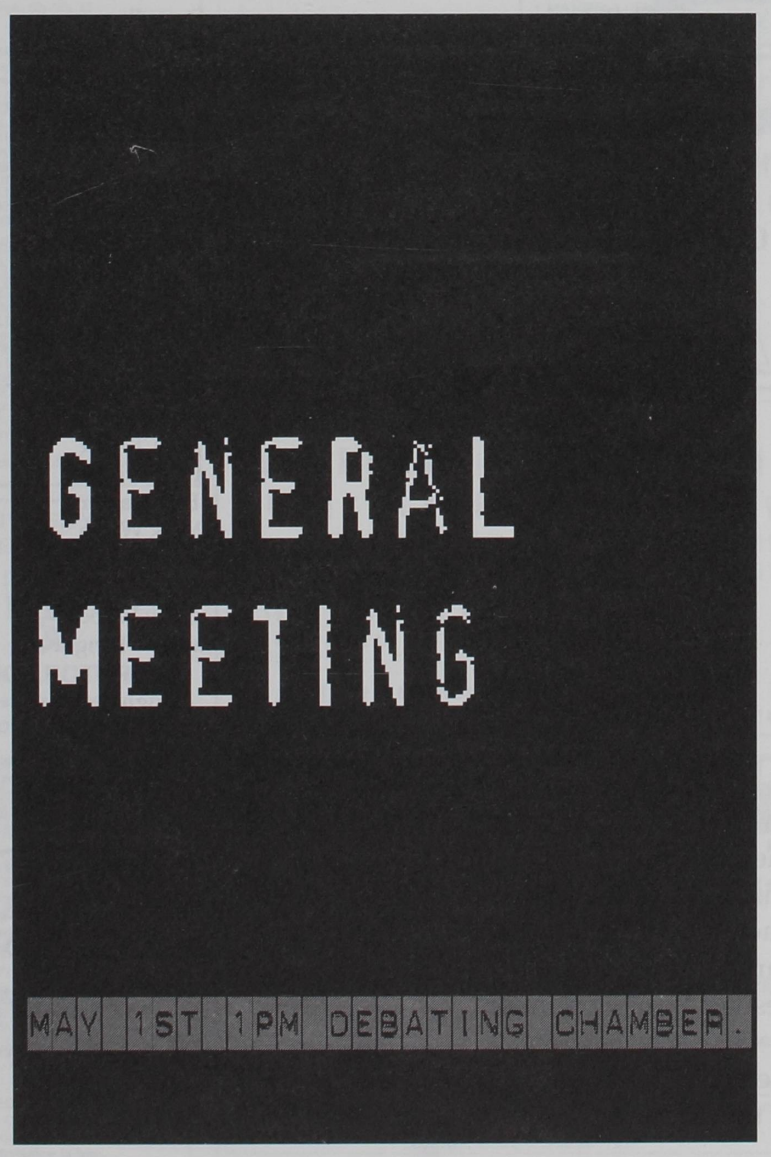
Rather than the issues, this campaign has instead focused on a Tory MP who allegedly shagged a 17 year old table dancer, and an ex-BBC foreign correspondent now facing political missiles as the new anti-corruption candidate. And that's not to mention the 2 chickens, fox and a plastic rhino which have added to the political stew. When the party leaders have actually stood up to answer questions, it has reverted to no more than a competition between the politician and interviewer as to who can talk loudest and use the longest words. Mmmmm - not much more sophisticated than our own student discussions, really. It's enough to put even the most determined political wannabe off and head for a British brewed, well taxed pint.

The thing is, as hard as it is, I'm not going to give up on this voting thing. If I don't vote, I have no right to complain when the price of that pint goes up, or when it's replaced by bottles of foreign lager, or whether the bottles are recycled or even whether my education will be good enough to allow me to translate the label into English. Generations fighting for the right to vote and two world wars to protect our ability to use it are worth a flick through the papers and short walk to the polling station. In the end I've just got to go for it, make my choice, put a cross in the box and lose my voting cherry. And anyway, once in the squishy bed of a 5 year term in office, whoever I chose will fumble around with various policies, but never quite hitting the right spot, those manifesto promises will turn out to be little more than a premature ejaculation and their overall performance will be less than satisfying. But in the end, even if they are just in and out, I guess it's better than nothing.

Serving Suggestion

How to make 4 plus 1 equal nothing.

Take one empty set of airwaves. Add 5 colours across the top of the screen, failed cable presenters and 'way-out' camera angles. Garnish with occasional good film, Spice Girl opening and lack of election clog-up. Place in spotlight for at least 2 days until interest dwindles, ratings reduce drastically and the only audience remaining are in the 12-15 years age group of spotty, wannabe quiz show hosts.



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Picture courtesy of Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Limited

The forbidden fruit

Sex: *Karen Kennedy asks why prostitution has become a perverse form of 'service' of 90s Britain*

WHAT SPRINGS TO MIND WHEN the word 'prostitution' is mentioned? Perhaps it's Amsterdam and Soho, fishnet tights and white stilettos, Julia Robert's and 'Pretty Woman', steamy boudoirs and massage parlours, or dirty prossies and fat-sexually frustrated-menapausal-old blokes.

Yep, those are the normal images associated with prostitution; the smutty and the slightly absurd. In fact we make a mockery of the subject as well, turning prostitution into the butt of obscene jokes. But isn't this just because we are brought up in a culture where anything deviating from the norm or the clear cut black and white is swept under the carpet and classed as taboo?

The fact is that the people of Britain are very awkward and coy when it comes to matters such as sex. Indeed , for the stiff-upper-lipped Brits, sex may as well be under the Official Secrets Act, it's never referred to directly and if it is, hysterical giggles rapidly follow. So, how are we ever going to address serious issues such as prostitution when 'socially accepted' sex between two consenting adults can cause farcical 'Carry On' like scenarios?

I'm not suggesting that we chain our nipples together and cook in the nude like the Swedish, I'm merely proposing that we open up our minds and stop behaving like ostriches.

Last week, the Channel Four programme 'Witness', featured a special documentary called 'Men Who Pay For Sex'. It approached the issue of prostitution from a whole new angle. Instead of focusing on the prostitutes, it looked at a group of around 250 men who regularly visited prostitutes and asked that all important question "why do men pay for sex"? The results are quite surprising.

The survey found that over half of those who pay for sex are married or in long term relationships; that nearly all of the married men described themselves as happily married; that three quarters of the married men said paying for sex benifited their marriage; that one in five of the married men thought their wives would understand why they pay for sex; and that one in five of married men said their wives knew they paid for sex.

By just reading a few bare faced facts, I wonder how many of you will react by sympathising with the wives of the married men, willing them to perform a Mrs Bobbit style crime? I wonder how many of you will think of the prostitute first and the reasons why she has to offer her body for sexual gratification in return for payment or reward? But, I wonder how many of you will genuinely sympathise with the clients?

The thing is that prostitution is a vicious circle. For society to deal with the issue open mindedly and without a bias of moral judgement, all sides of the coin have to be recognised and dealt with. Apart from dealing with the social reasons that force prostitutes onto the streets; unemployment, poverty and drug addiction for example, we also have to look at the mentality of the people who go to prostitutes.

'Witnes' found some of the men who visited prostitutes don't just pay for sex out of pure lust and the sheer want of sexual gratification. One in ten of the men had actually been emotionally involved with a prostitute.

Indeed, as the facts of the survey emerge one begins to realise that prostitutes may actually be providing society with a service. For example, one in five of the men in the survey only got sex by paying a prostitute. Quite a high figure. Men clearly need their oats; but if prostitutes were not freely and readily available to them, how would they vent that sexual frustration? It's worth bearing in mind that if this 'service' were denied them, some may actually resort to rape or abuse.

Again, do we not come back to that same starting point, that the people of Britain are just incapable of dealing with sex, or worse still, incapable of forming relationships? The 'Witness' survey found that one in ten of the men they asked had their first sexual encounter with a prostitute.

Love and affection are still shrouded in darkness with us Brits. For example, a retired government officer in the 'Witness' survey seemed to think that his impotency and addiction to prostitution was caused by his strict upbringing, his boarding school education and his isolation from females. The poor dear is probably right...we are at our most impressionable in our youth.

Mind you, we are all different. Society cannot solely be the cause of all our problems. Some people are just not able to experience love and sex together. Monty, a rock D.J. admitted that this was the case with him. This is the reason why he pays for sex. Indeed more than two thirds of the single men in the 'Witness' survey said that they wouldn't pay for sex if they were in a long term relationship. Not all men are callous then.

But what of those married men who paid for sex? Some of them don't feel any guilt for their wives. Many consider it merely as an animalistic act; all physical and no emotion. Some of them feel it adds excitement to their sex lives. Some are addicted to illicit sex. One man pawned his wedding ring to afford a trip to Amsterdam. One man feels that the shock of revealing his exploits with a prostitute killed his wife.

So, prostitution; it's another one of those ethical and moral dilemmas. Is it right or is it wrong? Are the prostitutes dirty sluts or are they the product of a disfunctional society? Are the clients deviant exploiters or are they merely lonely people incapable of striking up meaningful relationships? Whatever your view, there's no denying that there are a whole load of complex issues hiding behind that single, simple word 'prostitution'.

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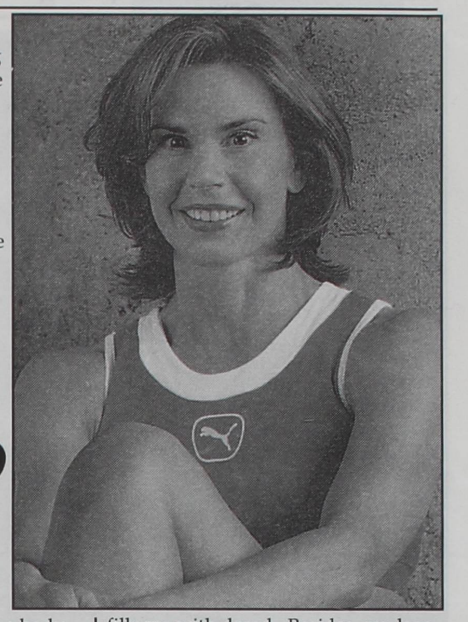


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No pain - no gain?

Health: *Laura Smith binned the choccies and donned a leotard to discover if fit is always better than fat.*



I AM PEAR-SHAPED. MY MOTHER is and her mother is. I am genetically destined to have thunder thighs and an arse that blocks out the sun. Cheers ma.

But do you think that I can just sit back and accept it? Hell, no. There must be something I can do to get rid of the fat. Bum clenches (fifty a day, just like John Claude Van Damme does), leg raises and stomach crunches beckon. Sounds painful...is painful.

Spending everyday having to look at models in magazines with matchstick legs does nothing for my confidence. So I decided to go on the dreaded 'D'; a diet. There, I said it.

"...things got a tad harder when she tells me I MUST NOT snack between meals."

Rosmary Connelley says that to achieve a 'beach body' for the summer, I must do the following things. Firstly, drink up to eight glasses of water a day to cleanse the body. Great, I bloody hate water - but I'll do it for you Rosemary.

Secondly, I'm allowed to drink tea and coffee as long as I don't exceed the milk allowance. So far, so good. Then things get a tad harder when she tells me I MUST NOT snack in between meals. Oh Lordy. No more chocolate, crisps or a quick biscuit or six in the afternoon. If I must snack, then I have to opt for fruit. Chomping on a nice apple is a great substitute for a Snickers. Yikes, my resistance is getting low already.

She advises me now that instead of getting the escalator, I must take the stairs to boost activity levels. So I walk up twelve flights of stairs in Claremont Tower and end up nearly giving myself a hernia. "Never again", I gasped under what little breath I had left in my lungs.

"...God made me this shape and who am I to argue with his judgement?"

The inevitable happens when I get home. I sin. I eat a cake. No, not just a thin slice; a whole bloody cake. Then I do what I'm sure we've all done. I try to run off the calories by jogging on the spot for five minutes and doing a few sit ups. Trying to convince myself the damage has been repaired, I make a mental note to do some more sit ups in the morning.

In the morning, I do no such thing and try another method of dieting. I detox. To all those diet novices out there, this means cleansing your body of all impurities by drinking nothing but water and eating nothing but fruit for a couple of days. I managed it...just.

"I tried to run the calories off by jogging on the spot for five minutes and doing a few sit-ups."

However, no one told me of the side effects. All the impurities certainly do come out: on my skin. Looking in the mirror, I was greeted by something not to dissimilar to a twelve inch pizza. Bugger the detox, I thought. I'll settle for being impure and normal than pure and acne-fied.

I examine my cellulite for signs of improvement. The orange peel is still there, in fact a whole orchard is taking root. There is only one thing for it, I will have to make regular visits to the gym. Shit.

What a mistake. As soon as I go in, I'm greeted by very unpear shaped people who think cellulite is some kind of light weight mobile phone. I do a few token miles on the exercise bike and slink off ashamedly into the changing room. "Hey, change my arse in here can ya?", I feel like asking.

Another day, another action plan. I'll do my exercise at home in the comfort of my front room where I can feel free from the stares of the people in lycra. Cher's step video had been recommended by a mate, so when everyone is out I have a bash at it. Cher is a gravity defying cow. She must be at least seventyfive and yet has a body to die for. And I literally did die in the process of trying to complete her video.

Things looked dodgy from the start. The instructor had muscles where there shouldn't be. All the people in the background are similarly toned to perfection. Just block them out, I told myself.

The warm up was pretty easy, but this was only to lull me into a false sense of security. I immediately felt out of my depth when she started jumping over the step with her arms going in five different directions all at once. "The arms are optional" she patronisingly informs me. I hope she will tell me the legs are optional, but, alas, she never does.

By the time the warm down happens, I've had enough. Cher is put back in the video draw, in between 'Game On' and 'Monty Python'. Best place for her.

So what do I do now? The thought of doing Cher every night fills me with dread. Besides, my legs have gone on strike. What have I to show for all the pain I put myself through? A spotty face, injured limbs and a strange aversion to Claremont Tower.

Anyway, God gave me this shape and who am I to argue with his judgement? I could always resort to drastic measures. Liposuction, perhaps? But for a start I have not got £3,000 to spare and I'm simply not brave enough to go under the surgeon's knife, chainsaw, hoover or whatever instruments they use. (Where do they sling all that fat anyway?)

Besides, apart from all the hassles of dieting, I've not been a happy bunny these past few weeks. I'd rather be happy and a little large than spend all my time pining for a burger and chips. So, forget dieting. You are who you are. Anyway, bigger people have better sex lives. But that's another story altogether.

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Mika Finn-ishes Euro champion

Tennis

By RICHARD SHAW

FINNISH star Mika Leskinen clinched the title for Newcastle at the Lascoste's 10th international tennis tournament.

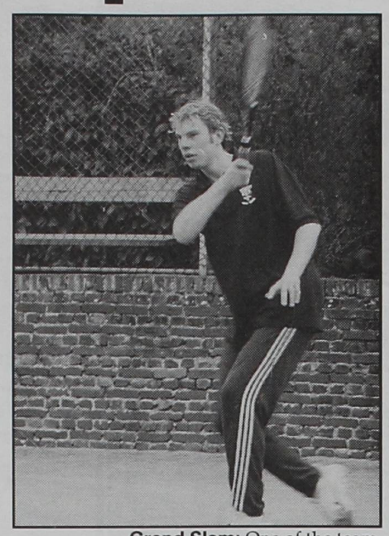
Squad

The squad of Alistair Chalmers, David Naylor, James Belchamber, Mika Leskinen and Richard Shaw made the long trip to the Netherlands along with several other British universities for a hectic week of tennis and socialising.

Three squad members had been knocked out by the end of the third day, leaving David Naylor and Mika Leskinen fighting for glory. Naylor bowed out in the quarter-finals of the third division, but Leskinen won through to the final.

Rival

Leskinen was rested and ready for his match against much talked about opponent Rudlof Nauta. Leskinen dominated and outclassed his Dutch rival 6-2, 6-3, clinching the title with an ace.



Grand Slam: One of the team

In Brief

Orienteering

THE orienteering club competed at Sheffield this Easter, having a very successful BUSA both on and off the competition field.

Over a particularly tough course, there was real competition for the lead places on the A course. Captain Chris Smith, won his course, whilst Rosie Kift and Claire Heppenstall finished well in the women's course.

An excellent effort saw the men's relay finish in 9th place. with the women also finishing well in 13th.

Football

THE university 1XI kept up their promotion challenge with a fine 4-0 win at Coxlodge, and are now certain to be promoted from Norther Alliance Division Two, ensuring a higher standard of local league football next season.

Cricket

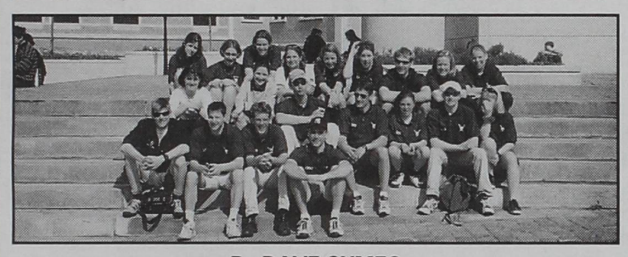
THE first team face both the Poly and University cricketing giants Durham in the space of four May days, and need a good start if they are to qualify from a tough Northern section.

Captain Ollie Mathias was in confident mood, describing his squad as 'like Australia, in that we have lots of people who can contribute importantly with both bat and ball'.

The Second team who face somewhat mixed opposition ranging from Durham to minnows Sunderland, must fancy their chances of making progress in their competition.

Rowing

Durham Race crew decided



By DAVE SYMES

THE boat club returned last weekend from a training camp held at Ghent in Belgium, where the Senior men and the Novice Men and Women had a week of intensive training.

Seven of the eight for the first Boat Race against Durham University were decided in trials at Ghent - Andy Messum at stroke, followed by Rich Muncer, captain Ed Coode, Mark Johnson, Jules Bury, Ed Lane-Fox and Tom Knowles, with one position still to be decided between McEvoy, Burrell and Symes.

The week culminated in an international regatta attracting crews from all over Europe. The senior eight finished with a good overall placing, with Ed Coode, the club's national squad member coming third overall in the single sculls..

Next day, the Novices bravely lined up against a field of international crews. Despite coming last they gained a good time and valuable experience of regatta racing.

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RUGBY BOYS PUMMEL POLY



By LUKE EDWARDS

NEWCASTLE'S 1stXV secured a famous victory over Northumbria in the Trytime Varsity Rugby challenge in aid of Oxfam, held last term at Newcastle Rugby Club.

Over £1000 was raised as the team ended a ten match losing run against the Poly with a superb 23-16 victory.

Favourites

The Poly, pre-match favourites despite missing key players on international duty, started the better, scoring a penalty after just three minutes, leaving Newcastle to wonder if the losing streak would be extended.

Newcastle found it difficult early on, but began to dominate both the scrum and the line-out, where Vyvyan and Le Rou were having a great game.

A tough penalty chance went begging, but the power of the pack let Newcastle crash over the line five minutes later to gain a narrow 5-3 lead.

Newcastle began to rise to the occasion, and Coddrington made no mistake with a penalty after 36 minutes to extend the lead, but Northumbria pressed forward before the break and only some desperate defending saved the Uni before the break.

Pressure

But, continued pressure gave the Poly after half-time gave them a deserved try and the conversion put them 10-8 ahead. Tempers flared with a mass brawl, and Northumbria extended their lead with another penalty. But, winger Mike Wood turned the tide as he picked the ball up inside his own half and showed an amazing turn of pace to dart down the right for a try.

Coddrington, kicking into the wind, missed the conversion to tie the scores at 13-13 as the tension mounted. The miss looked as though it might prove costly as Northumbria scored yet another penalty with time running out.

Delight

The Uni did not accept defeat though, with Nicholson stopped by a last ditch Poly tackle. The pack pressed forward from five yards out, piling over the line. The ref took a close look at the mass of bodies, before eventually giving the try to the delight of the Uni followers.

The missed conversion gave the Poly some hope with the score at 18-16, but Graham Tinkler made the game safe with a last minute try.

Hard-fought victory ends ten match Uni losing streak

American Football

Mariners net Plate trophy in record season

By COURIER STAFF

THE Newcastle Mariners ended a fine season by securing the first trophy in the club's history.

Newcastle dominated the Plate competition despite injury and work commitments limiting them to only fourteen players.

In the semi-final against the Staffordshire Stallions, the Mariners always looked comfortable and touchdowns from James Waite, Tim Walton and Quarterback Noel Monks capped an impressive performance in which the Newcastle defence suffocated the Stallions for a 20-0 victory.

Final

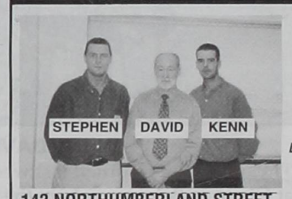
Thee final against the Nottingham Outlaws followed a similar pattern to the semi as Waite and Walton scored again in the opening phase. A Monks pass found Marsh Mokhtari in the end-zone for a third touchdown, and the defence shut out the opposition once again to secure the 23-0 victory.

Success

Newcastle's success is a testament to team effort with the Mariners' dominant offensive line allowing Newcastle to march up and down the field at will, and credit must also go to the defence which never looked like being scored upon.

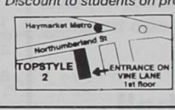
The performances and winning of a trophy were a perfect way to end an excellent season.

Topstyle 2 FOR MEN



MEN'S HAIRSTYLING
INTERNATIONAL STYLISTS
Discount to students on production of Union Card

142 NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



Telephone: 261 8336

courier subscription prize draw

1342	Wins 12 cans of beer donated by **Vaux Breweries**.
0261	Wins £5 of photocopying donated by **Spectrum Image Works**, 8 St Mary's Place.
3217	Wins £10 voucher donated by **Kard Bar**, Cross Street.
0150	Wins two cinema tickets donated by **Warner Bros. Cinema** at Manors.
0497	Wins a Whopper Meal donated by **Burger King**, 24 Northumberland Street.
1726	Wins £10 food voucher donated by **N.E. Co-op**, Newgate Street
0118	Wins two tickets donated by **Tyneside Cinema**, Pilgrim Street (by arrangement).
0563	Wins a haircut and style donated by **Topstyle 2 for Men**, Northumberland Street.
1492	Wins a £5 voucher donated by **Flip**, Cross Street.
0002	Wins a meal at **Spiny Normans** (Value £5) donated by the Union Society.
0059	Wins a two free A4 colour laser photocopies donated by **PDC**, Pilgrim Street.
1236	Wins a record bag donated by **Trax Records**, 67/69 High Bridge.
1500	Wins Sunday lunch for two (Value £10) donated by **Akenside Traders**, Dean Street, Quayside.
1694	Wins two tickets donated by the **Odeon Cinema**, Pilgrim Street.
0017	Wins two happy hour meals Mon to Wed to the value of £5 donated by **Rupali Tandoori Restaurant**, Bigg Market.
2333	Wins six bottles of Sub Zero donated by the **Union Society**.
1306	Wins £5 voucher donated by **Forbidden Planet**, 59 Grainger Street.
0700	Wins manicure donated by **Clinic 54**, 17a Saville Row.
0014	Wins meal for two to the value of £10 donated by the **Komal Balti House,** 16 Brentwood Ave., West Jesmond
0319	Wins tickets to selected Ents. event donated by **Ents. Manager**, Union Society
1237	Wins one mixed grill stottie donated by **Breadcrumbs,** St. Mary's Place
1567	Wins hair trim donated by **Long, Short and Curly**, second floor Union building
0821	Wins Whopper Meal donated by **Burger King**, 100 Clayton Street
0360	Wins case of beer donated by **Idols,** Newgate Street (below Swallow Hotel)
1876	Wins A3 cutting mat (value £9.95) donated by **Details,** 57 Westgate Road
0098	Wins 5 bottles of Cobra Indian lager donated by **Head of Steam**, Central Station
0101	Wins Sunday lunch for two donated by **Carriage Pub** Jesmond

Prizes to be collected by 5pm, Monday, April 28

Exclusive student offer from
Brough Park Greyhound Stadium
The Fossway Newcastle NE6 2XJ Tel: 0191 265 8011 Fax: 0191 265 1452

5 for £5

1	Admission
2	Programme
3	Snack bar meal
4	2 drinks vouchers
5	

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