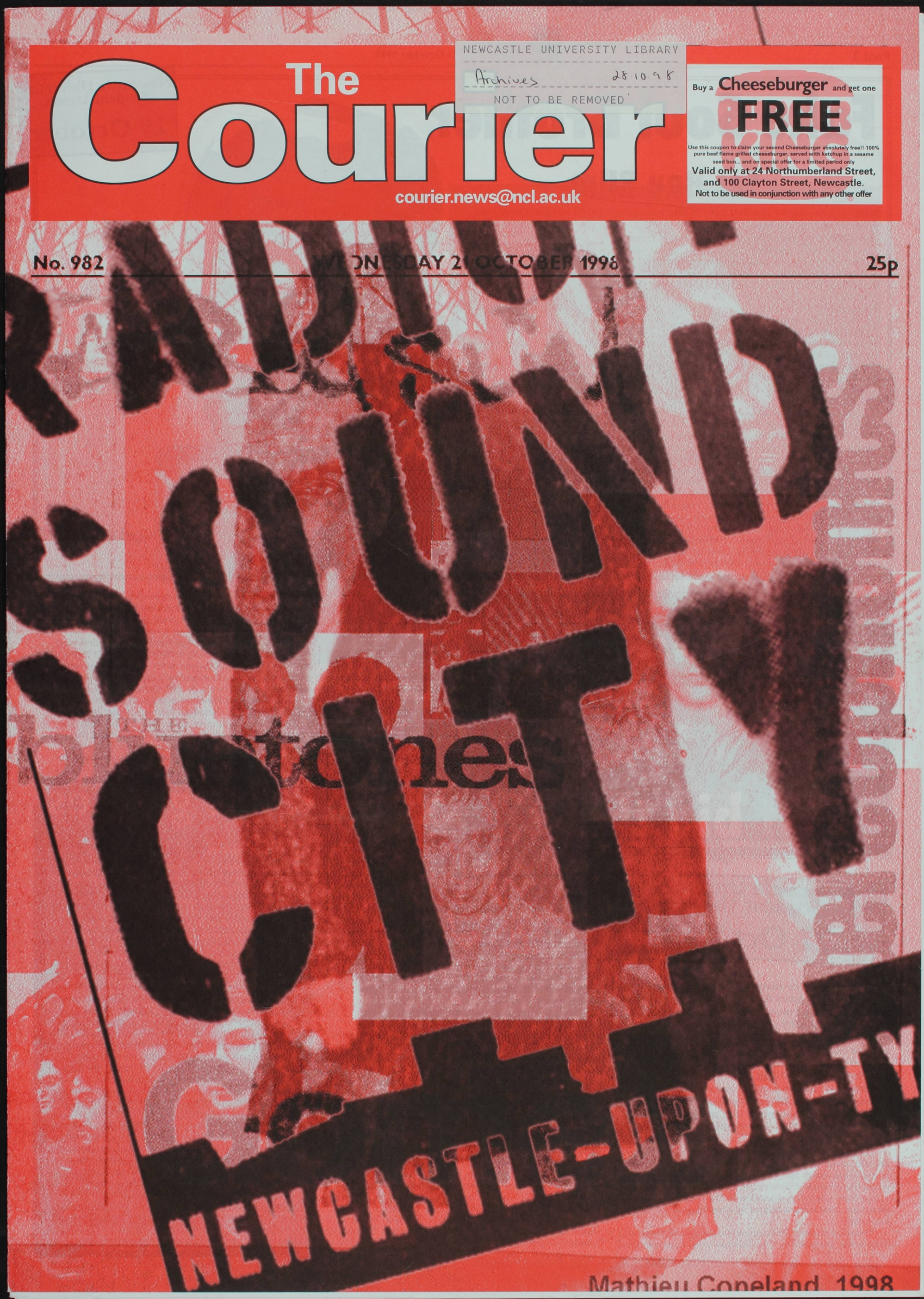
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No. 982 WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 1998 25p



Fake Soul Brother

Fat Boy Slim

Soup of the day at the moment is the revelation that Norman Cook, the man behind the Slimster used to be the bassist in the Housemartins, alongside The Beautiful South's Paul Heaton.

In fact, if you look closely at TBS's album 'Quench', you'll notice that Cook has produced the album - so he obviously likes to keep in touch with his spunky Northern jangle politico-pop roots.

Cook insists that he was into dance music way before all that palaver, back to his early days as a student DJ in Brighton, which must have given him his instinctive sense of rhythm. The Press Release says that he left the Housemartins because he loved dance music too much. Maybe, maybe not, but it was an impotant move as his life took off on one hell of a tangent after the drudgery of easy listening.

He kicked off his suprisingly varied dance music career by forming Beats International, which reached No.1 with "Dub Be Good To Me". Unfortunately all the excitement, coupled with a divorce led to a mental breakdown and a downward spiral that lasted two years.

The pheonix rose from the flames after a night out on Ecstacy listening to 70s cheese, ultimately resulting in the formation of Freakpower (remember those weirdos?), and another No.1 with "Turn On, Tune In, Cop Out", along with an album which flops more than Vanessa Feltz's butt.

Norman then graduated from a stock mental breakdown to an identity crisis, releasing articles under a variety of alter-egos; Pizzaman, Mighty Dub Kats and Fried Funk Food, all pretty trashy dance, but original and catchy all the same. Finally, in 1995 the identities converged and Fatboy Slim, originally the name of a 1940s Blues singer, was born.

The style became uniform, too - from the Handbag/House/Hip-Hop of his respective aliases, to "trip-hop records played at 45". His first single "Santa Cruz" was the first release on the Skint record label, soon to become a real force with Bentley Rhythm Ace and the Lo Fidelity Allstars.

A few cult singles later, Norman began to do remixes, starting off with Wildchild's "Renegade Master" then an astonishing transformation of Cornershop's turgid "Brimful Of Asha", which reached No.3 and No.1 respectively in the British charts.

Finally, Fatboy began to mix his own shit, hitting the heights with "Rockafeller Skank" and more recently "Gangster Trippin". Norman Cook's second album is out around now, and the title "Baby You've Come A Long Way" could hardly be more apt. From bass-player in effete pop combos to the father of the Big Beat revolution and remix wizard. Genius!

Newcastle University Student Union

29 October





Last big thing?

Newcastle University Student Union

27 October

Hmmm... if you've read NME or the Maker recently, you'll have Gomez coming out of your arse, so I guess I won't be telling you how Crazee they are, and I'll try and keep the Biography to a minimum. Even before Gomez scooped a certain Mercury Prize not so long ago, they caused major ripples, even amongst my grubby Courier music staff last year. The band themselves caused a major record label stampede, with A&R lackeys pushing and shoving each other much like my reviewers were to get at "78 Stone Wobble", their first single.

The main attraction to Gomez is not that they are original, which they are, or that they are genius songwriters or musicians, which they might be, but the fact that they sound like a bunch of blokes busking in the street and having a good time, a band not dissimilar to The Commitments, except not Irish and not fronted by a big fat sweaty bloke with a ponytail.

There is a tenuous Irish connection though; all those with links to the Emerald Isle (like Ballykissangel fans) may recall that every now and again, folk will congregate in pubs, bringing along various musical instruments, get pissed and, for example, someone will start tapping their feet. Someone else will start drumming their fingers on the bar. Then some big Irish bloke will whip out a penny whistle and start tootling, another will produce a drum, then a violin, then a guitar, and the next thing you know, you're having a blarney - an impromptu but magical live music performance, and that to me is why Gomez are so class.

Another reason for Gomez's popularity is their recent live performances at all the festivals, which supports my rather crap blarney theory - they take on another dimension live, as unlike so many bands they are 100% genuine. Chris Evans you ginger twat, take note and tell Queen's drummer where to stick his zimmer frame. If TFI Friday took any pride in live performances, Gomez would have been on many many times.

But who are Gomez? The best news about them is that they are five ordinary blokes - they are not a bunch of dollies like Boyzone, nor are they chimps like Oasis. The first is Tom Gray, who plays guitar, keyboard and sings vocals. His musical tastes are... normal, and he unashamedly admits to buying INXS's 'Kick'. And liking it. He describes himself as "Quite clever but very silly".

Next is Paul 'Blacky' Blackburn, Bassist/Guitarist extraordinaire, and again bereft of the malodourous pretentiousness you associate with such bands. He manfully admits a penchant for embroidery and knitwear, and unashamedly admits to purchasing a Rocky IV Soundtrack. I think he's the fat one.

Who's this? It's Ben Ottewell, who does Vocals and Guitar! Ben is a bit of an intellectual, having just read Hello Angels by H.S. Thompson and he hates eating Cod. Again, refreshing honesty raises its head - he cheerfully admits buying his clothes from Marks and Spencers.

Next on is Olly Peacock, who hits the skins with Drums and Percussion. Olly is by his own admission the sleaziest member of the band (a certain blonde FYC Steward should take note!) and the first album he bought was 'Let's Get It On' by Marvin Gaye. However, even a lounge lizard can confess with his head held high - he bought the Morcheeba album, and has recently read Paul McCartney's biography.

Last but not least is Ian 'Bally' Ball, who does Vocals, Guitar and the Harmonica. Describing himself as "Frisky", he admits to buying Duran Duran's 'Rio', and gives Barry Gibb's 'Nightime' album as his best-ever purchase. So there you go, I don't know about anyone else but they impressed the hell out of me; any one of those people could be my best mate.

Oh yeah, and another thing; have you seen the interesting artwork on their album and posters? It was the first paid work for the talented young British artist Reggie Pedro, a graduate of the Royal College of Art. Apparently he was just given a copy of the album and told to get on with it - I don't see what the cover has to do with the album, but it looks nice.

Little snapshots like these make it all the more heartwarming that Gomez got Mercury rising... when you consider that they were up against the likes of Pulp, The Verve, Massive Attack, Propellerheads and Asian Dub Foundation, there really is little doubt that their set supporting the Bluetones is the one to sell your granny to white slavery for.

Past glories

GOMEZ Bring It On

Appearance and reality immediately spring to mind when you first hear, then see, the potage de jour that is Gomez.

Whilst listening, a vivid mental picture materialises of a bunch of hard-bitten American bluesters, with Ben Ottewell in particular sounding like a leather-clad 40-year-old redneck covered with tattoos and smoking about 60 tabs a day, using his extensive life experience to inspire his hard-hitting lyrics.

This hypothetical hoary old swamp-dweller is obviously cynical after his colourful life, and doesn't give a flying toss, with the whole mood being that of a slacker piss take not unlike Jesus and Mary Chain's last album.

But I digress. The happy daydream is smashed when you see a bunch of normal blokes from Southport, doing their first ever work.

This makes it even more amazing as a debut, as it is one hell of an achievement to cram such a lot of self-assured worldly wise Blues that is actually enjoyable to listen to.

Of course, Blues purists will scoff at this album, and call it stuff like 'R&B lite', but they're missing the point. The songs are immersed in a skunk lovin' slacker attitude with a hint of the soccer casual, as apparent in "Get Myself Arrested", and the busker in the street stylee apparent in "Whipping Picadilly".

Then you have the 60s Psychedelia of "Rie's Wagon" and the Blues band feel of "Bubble Gum Years"...

A top album, which you won't regret buying just because it won the Mercury Music awards.

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Presentation
26 October 1998, The County Thistle Hotel, Newcastle, 7.00 pm

Editor's note

SOUND CITY IS coming and there is a buzz in the air.

Finally, Newcastle is getting an event that mirrors its energy and lust for life.

An event that will allow the city to stamp its own identity on a nation's listening.

Because of this, *The Courier* has devoted many of its pages to Sound City.

News has been shifted back with music bursting from the centre pages onto the front.

We think it is worth it and hope you do too.

The Courier
Union Society
King's Walk
Newcastle
NE1 8QB
tel: 0191 232 4050
fax: 0191 222 1876

Editor: James Jordan
Deputy Editor: Alan J. Soady
Music Editor: Chris Downs
Features Editor: Liz Todd
Sports Editor: Luke Edwards
Arts Editor: Helen Tither
Letters Editor: Martin Stafford
Chief Reporter: Lisa Goodfellow
Staff Reporters: Duncan Woodside, Rosalind Malthouse, Katie Knass, Nick Wells, Ross Smith, Becky Owen
Design: Mathieu Copeland
Photographer: Steve Haynes, Rich Macey
Technical Support: Tom Wrobel
Advertising Manager: Jonathan Munro

e-mail us on:
courier.news
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BUFF REBUFF

Rugby Medics get cold shoulder (and a lot more besides)

By ALAN J. SOADY

CHEEKY pranksters who turned up to the Union naked have given the bums down to security staff who refused to let them in.

Drinkers rushed to the windows as two members of the Medics rugby team made their bid for glory last Saturday night.

But they were tackled by security staff who said no one can come in the Union building without any clothes on.

Earlier all 50 Medics rugby players had been in a private room at the North Terrace pub, Claremont Road, with their kit off.

They were playing 'nine-by-nine,' where everyone has to drink nine pints by nine o'clock.

Andy Roy - one of the pair who arrived at the union naked - said: "We got some funny looks on the way down from the North Terrace.

"There was only me and this other bloke who didn't put our clothes on. I'm not really sure why."

Team mates sponsored the nude duo £100 if they managed to get into the union - the cash would have been given to a breast cancer charity.

But the pair were forced to get dressed on the steps of the Union before security would let them through the door.

Roy blasted: "I don't see why people shouldn't be allowed in the Union with no clothes on. I don't think it does anyone any harm, quite frankly.

"Personally, I don't like to look at people wearing body warmers and pink shirts, but they let them in."

Union Communications Officer, Nick Mouton, said: "Indecent exposure in the Union is not particularly allowed.

"If they want to change that they should start a naturist society."

Security staff took the situation calmly. One female steward told The Courier: "I've seen it all before."



Medics with kit on

The Courier leads way

THE Sun & THE TIMES left trailing by Courier scoop

THE Courier is making the news - and that's official!

Two weeks ago we broke the story of how Ethel Williams residents had tapped into Uni phone lines to run up a bill of over £3,000.

And last week our World Exclusive made it into The Sun and onto page 3 of The Times.

Students at Ethels found that by dialling '9' on the payphone before the number they wanted, they could make calls for free.

Freshers phoned mobiles and international numbers as far afield as New Zealand, Malaysia and Dubai.

And in a new twist it has emerged some students rang sex chat lines from the faulty phone.

So, keep an eye on your super soaraway Courier - where you can read tomorrow's news today.

How The Courier lead...

ETHELS PHONE FIASCO

International and mobile calls ring up £3,000 bill as students crack Hall's phone code

...and the rest followed

STUDENTS' £3,000 PHONE BILL SCAM


Idyllic Ethels

Students learn to run up £3,000 payphone bill

Top: The Courier runs the story on October 7
Left: The Sun follows over a week later on October 16
Above: The Times, also from October 16

The Courier No.1 for news

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Pages 4 to 6
- Newcastle's new radio station
- Henderson fire prank
- Dalglish sorrow

TYNEOUT
Pages 7 to 10
- Sound City Special
- Win South park goodies
- A run-down on the RSC season in Newcastle

sport
Pages 14, 15 and 16
- BUSA kicks off - all the results and reports.
- Football special
- NUNS back in the habit


Henderson hall: Prank left chiefs foaming

FIRE FIGHTERS IN HOT WATER

By TOM FENWICK

TWO would-be firefighters got a roasting from Hall bosses after a blazing row.

The duo were given their marching orders from Henderson Hall after a fire-extinguisher fight got out of control.

Both water and foam covered the kitchen of C House, and the fire blanket was wrenched loose

Fuming Hall Supremo Dr Philips said: "It is true that two students have been expelled after breaking University regulations."

But he was quick to extinguish rumours that he too was dragged into the fight and ended up drenched.

A University spokesman said: "By abusing fire prevention devices, the two students were endangering their fellow residents."

Despite a fiery fax from the anguished parents, Dr Philips refused to allow the freshers back in.

Party pooped by Mary's crooks

By ANN CLIFFORD

SHOCKED second years were left startled as thieves pushed past them after raiding their flat.

It happened as the students returned home to St. Mary's College, Fenham, after a night out to celebrate a flatmate's birthday.

Two intruders ran past the group. They gave chase but failed to catch them.

One of the students, Matt Trayner, said: "They passed us in the corridor. If we'd come in two minutes earlier they would probably have been in our flat."

It is thought the burglars stripped off anti-vandal paint to allow them to climb a drainpipe so that they could reach the window of the first floor flat.

They made off with a pile of CDs, but were interrupted before they had the chance to snatch anything else.

Students have been warned to be on the alert, and told not to let anyone in unless they are personal callers.

Dull Durham

By ALAN J. SOADY

CRUSTY Durham Dons are up in arms after plans were revealed to open an "It's A Scream" pub in the city.

It is feared the pub - so called because of its use of Edward Munch's famous painting, 'The Scream' - could risk giving Durham toffs a nightlife.

One lecturer, Dr Douglas Pocock, described the plans as "debased."

He said: "Munch's well-known tormented figure was shown with speech bubbles containing inane comments.

"Other distributed literature was an offence to civilised intelligent people. It was urging them to get drunk."

■ *The Courier condemns this attitude - it might mean that more Durham drones come to Newcastle in the desperate attempt to have a good night out.*

Leeds laugh

By JACQUI BUTLER

STUDENTS at Leeds University treated Friday night drinkers to the full monty when they tied their naked friend to a lamp post.

Phil Curley, a second year Events Management student, was celebrating his 20th birthday when friends decided to strip him.

After a pub crawl, the pranksters tied their naked victim to a lamp post strategically located in the city centre.

With only cling film to disguise his modesty, passers by enjoyed maximum exposure.

Mature hard cheese

By COURIER STAFF

THE GOVERNMENT has admitted that there has been a decline in the number of mature students after the introduction of tuition fees this year.

The news is a blow to the commitment to 'lifelong learning', with figures showing a decline in places accepted by the over 25 age group of 15-20% against last year.

The news also comes against a background of record numbers of applicants overall.

But Tony Higgins, head of the University and Colleges Admissions Service, reckons fees aren't solely to blame for the plunge.

He argues that there are fewer potential mature students because the market is alreay saturated.

But David Blunkett has also admitted that "there is a real danger of mature students being turned off. It is a challenge for all of us."

The problem shouldn't be as bad next year because the government plans to provide tuition to part time students on benefits for free.

Got a story?
Call the newsdesk:
0191 232 4050

University faces drugs clamp-down

By LISA GOODFELLOW

A CAMPUS crackdown on drugs is on the agenda - with a campaign based on awareness.

Uni bosses are rewriting the existing drugs policy in a bid to bring home the serious effects of drugs.

The University, currently in talks with Northumberland Police and student bodies, is planning a series of seminars and lectures, and a possible drug awareness week.

It is hoped that the new policy, due out next year, will make students aware of the legal and medical implications of drug abuse.

George Westwater, University Security Manager, said: "The University recognises that it has a duty to care for its members, to promote an awareness of drugs, and refer those who need help to the appropriate bodies.

"Given the environment and young age of students the temptation to buy drugs from outside sources is there. Dealers will go to any lengths to get people to enter into the habit.

"At the end of the day we are hoping that students are aware of the consequences of drugs and how to deal with them."

Mr Westwater, who is drafting the new drugs policy, appeals to anyone approached by drug dealers to contact the University or Police.

Union Welfare Officer, Clare Proctor, said:

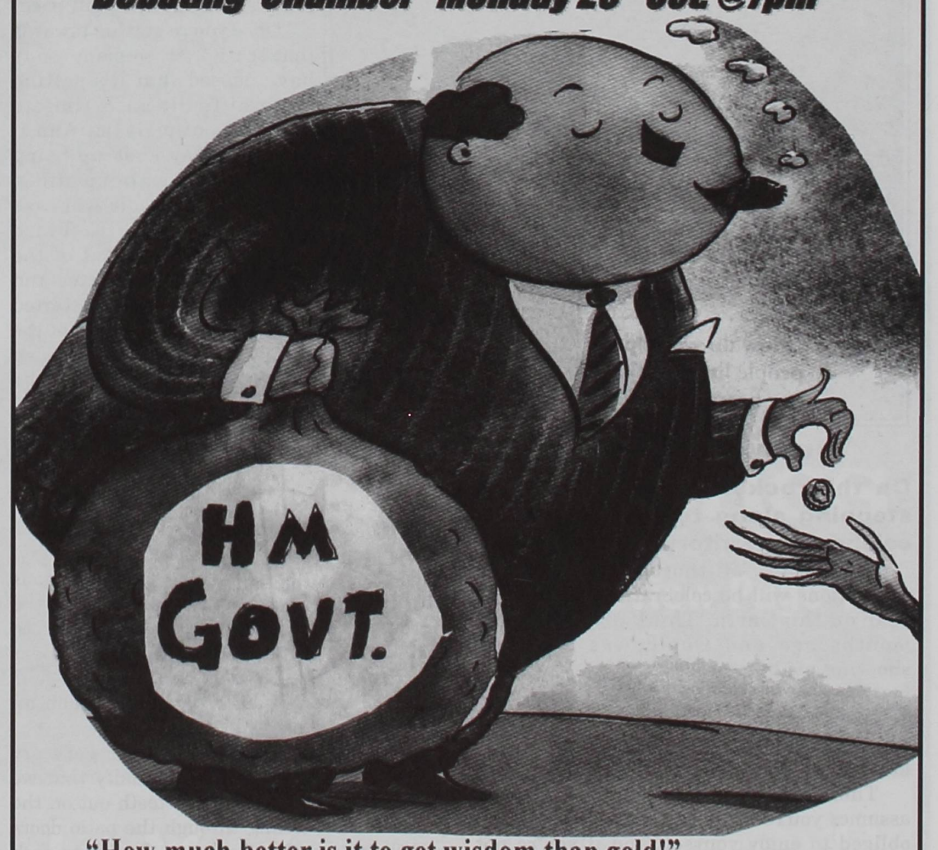
"It is good that the University is thinking about drugs. Getting information to students in this way will be very pro-active and beneficial.

"People will be better educated in making decisions about drugs."

"Fools despise wisdom & instruction . . .the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them!"

The Great Education Debate

Debating Chamber Monday 26th Oct @7pm



"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold!"

This House Believes in Grants NOT Fees.

SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR GALAXY FM

By LISA NANDY

DANCE station Galaxy FM has won the battle to hit the North East airwaves.

Several bidders tried to grab the new radio licence, and the decision brings to an end months of speculation.

Galaxy - which has stations elsewhere in the UK - vowed to provide "creative music with a cutting edge."

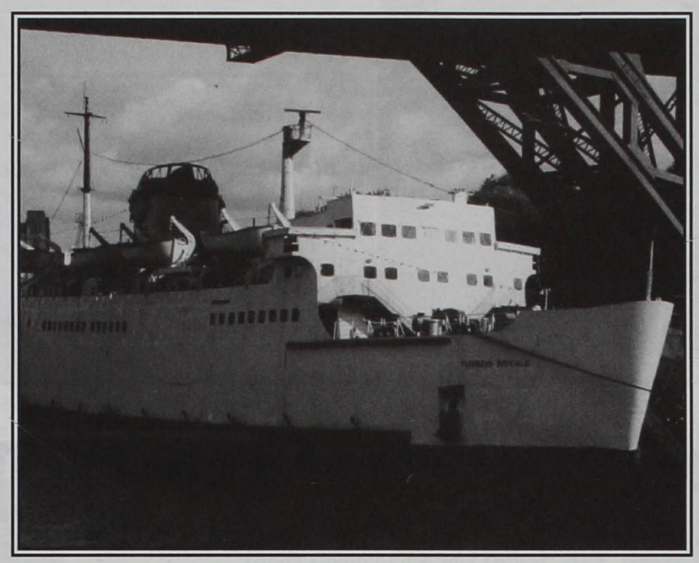
Last summer Galaxy had a four-week trial run in the North East and attracted publicity by basing their studios on The Boat.

Phil Riley, the Director of Chrysallis who backed Galaxy FM, said:

"We always thought that Newcastle was a party city and if ever there was an area that deserved such a station it was the North East."

But student run station Ice FM - hotly tipped for the licence - lost out.

Stephen Parker, Managing Director, said: "We seemed to enjoy a high level of support, so it is disappointing we were not successful."



THE BOAT: Galaxy played music on decks

Sorrow for soccer star at funeral

By JANEY BRANSCOMBE

EX-UNITED manager Kenny Dalglish was among the mourners at the funeral of Poly student Jim Ganley.

The 22 -year-old sports science student died of natural causes three weeks ago, after being found unconscious in his Heaton home.

Ganley, who hoped to become a professional footballer, was friends with Kenny's son, United player Paul Dalglish.

The pair had been pals for years, after meeting on holiday in Spain.

Making his Scottish under-21 debut the night of the funeral, Paul Dalglish dedicated the goal he scored for Scotland to his tragic friend.

Happy Sloane Coming for Uni

By MATTHEW COX

NOBILITY will soon be attending Newcastle University, when the daughter of the Duke of Westminster arrives here next autumn.

Lady Tamara Grosvenor is the 19 year old daughter of the Duke, who is reported to be the richest person in Britain.

Tamara will read religious studies when she returns from her gap year in New Zealand.

Reports that she will be living in Richardson Road have not yet been confirmed.

Scan Corner

MINT, Mediation in North Tyneside, is an area charity that assists local people in resolving neighbour disputes of all shapes and sizes from noise levels to property damage.

Volunteers are trained to act as peaceful mediators between disagreeing parties, and work to help them come to successful mutual agreements. Training is expected to begin by the end of November, and involves a minimum 35 hours of role plays, negotiation skills, and conflict management

Scan is on a search for persons with good listening skills, and a non-judgmental approach to participate in the MINT project. So far, student response has been favourable, but as Scan's reputation builds, so does the demand for enthusiastic volunteers. Project manager, Clare Penny, will give an informal talk about MINT on Thursday, October 22nd at 5:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Contact us by email at Scan@ncl.ac.uk or stop by the local Scan office.

Liz Todd



The word of TODD...



You only live once...

On the rocky road of life we're stepping along towards birthday celebration territory.

Next month all those Valentine's day conceptions will be celebrating yet another year on this earth. Think about it, nine months ago and Cupid was certainly shooting off his arrows. Birthdays can be fantastic events, especially if it's your own. You're the centre of attention all night, free drinks from even the tightest of mates and loads of presents as an added bonus.

There's a downside though. Everyone assumes you're having a great time; you feel obliged to enjoy yourself and if you're not then you're made to feel like a right miserable git. After so many years of receiving presents it can get a bit dull to feign surprise at yet another pair of socks/box of chocolates/Body Shop gift pack.

Once you're getting towards that scary 21st, so many years have passed that it's getting more difficult each time to build up enthusiasm. And if your birthday ends up being really shit it's extra upsetting. Pity the poor medic who was out last week in Pizza King...he'd walked out of the house after his flatmates and friends from home had started a fight on his birthday. Not the best way to spend an evening when you should be celebrating.

In twenty some years what exactly have we achieved though? When you ask yourself, it's a bit worrying that the last two decades of your life have slipped by practically unnoticed. Granted, the first five or six are undoubtedly a little bit hazy, unless you can remember the trauma that is your first day at school. Left all alone at the tender age of five, with no mummy to comfort you and a pathetic Paddington Bear lunch box...there's no wonder we all fear rejection after struggling through such an ordeal so young.

Then there are vague recollections of scary incidents involving trips to casualty that we can all retell. Knocking your teeth out on the park see-saw, falling through the patio doors and slicing your hand, or even chucking a rock and splitting someone else's head open. Those first memories always hark back to an afternoon in A and E. And you're spoilt by everyone around you who thinks it's cute to have a piece of lego shoved up your nose.

Fast track to adolescence and nation-wide it's the same story. Five years of secondary school spent agonising over what people think of you. Peer pressure? It's a wonder more teenagers aren't crushed to death on the dangerous path through GCSE's. And if there's only Clare Rayner around to help I've got serious doubts anyone will make it through.

What a relief when we get to sixth form and are assured we'll be treated like adults. But such empty promises are soon exposed and we have to take the same crap that we endured through school. Only this time there's the stress of A levels added to it, with parents and teachers breathing down your neck. "A-levels are harder than doing a degree" we're reassured over and over. Yeah, but that's no consolation when you're in the midst of such a mammoth workload.

Finally, somehow we scrape through and find ourselves dumped at Uni ready for, erm, well, whatever really. By now, it's close to the two decade mark. That's a quarter of your lifetime finished already, and when you put it like that it's certainly a sobering thought. Peter Pan was onto a winner in his determination never to grow up. Suddenly such aversion to getting older is becoming clearer. It's the terrifying thought that once you reach 21 there are no more excuses. The concept of being a grown-up is more than a little bit worrying. How can we reach the lofty heights of adulthood when acting maturely is one of the last things we think about?

Nobody wants to be reminded that as time ticks away to graduation, responsibility is looming ever closer. The idea of being a real life member of the public strikes terror into just about any student. And all those other responsibilities are just as frightening. Are we really supposed to have some idea of our future career and job prospects? Surely I'm not alone in thinking that it's ages before a trip to the Careers Advisory Service is necessary. But come Graduation 2000 I've a sneaky feeling that even then no important decisions will have been considered, never mind made. Maybe I'll just cruise along for now like every other student and wait for that flash of inspiration in the vocation department.

Tight Arse/Sloane Farce

Tight Arse

Desperate for a fag? Pity this poor individual who was too tight to nip down the shops and buy another packet. Instead he grovelled around in the ashtrays to salvage all the butts and have a DIY fag instead. That's just a little bit disgusting.

Sloane Farce

We all say yes at the bar when offered ice with a drink, but this house of sloanes took that to the extreme. Not content with sipping gin at home one night (what's wrong with a can of lager anyway?) they popped out and bought ice. It's bad enough to be making cubes in a tray, but to go out and buy the stuff is practically unbelievable.

E-mail Liz Todd on:
courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

Arts Ligger

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...the essential guide



THE bluetones

Sound City Preview Page 10



WIN South Park Videos!!! Page 8

H20
Released 23 October

TWENTY YEARS ago John Carpenter's low budget horror flick, 'Halloween', shocked audiences around the world and established Jamie Lee Curtis as legendary scream-queen Laurie Strode.

The film went on to spawn five remarkably inferior sequels and countless imitations. Now, on the eve of the film's twentieth anniversary, Michael Myers (Chris Durand) returns to inflict his bloody reign of terror upon a whole new generation of terrified teens.

Laurie (or Keri Tate as she is now known) is headmistress of an exclusive Californian school and has managed, in between popping pills and swigging vodka, to raise her now seventeen year old son. Haunted by the past, the heroine still has visions of her slightly deranged brother returning to find her - and this Halloween he does.

If 'Scream' paid tribute to the original Halloween, then 'H20' more than returns the favour, with in-joke references and a finale which allows Curtis to do all the things horror movie heroines aren't supposed to. But the film's build up takes a good hour and the suspense of the original is sacrificed for the cynicism associated with the Nineties horror revival.

Supporting characters are of little interest, and the masked villain just seems to be going through the numbers (although his vision has considerably improved since having his eyes shot out in 'Halloween 2'). Taken as a sequel to all the other sequels, the film is fine, but as a worthy inheritor to the original it cuts little ice.

CRAIG THOMPSON





A PERFECT MURDER
Out now

A DANGEROUS LOVE triangle, sex, greed, betrayal, murder...sounds like the perfect plot for a thriller doesn't it?

Well it was the first time round but this 90's remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* doesn't quite hit the mark, *writes Helen Tither*.

When Steven Taylor (Douglas), a ruthless businessman, discovers his beautiful heiress wife Emily (Paltrow) is having an affair with a young painter he thinks he can pull off the perfect murder.

Blackmailing Emily's lover with £500,000 to carry out her murder, Taylor waits to collect the fortune except, predictably, it doesn't quite go to plan and as Emily becomes trapped between her husband and her lover an intense psychological thriller develops.

You do have to admire director Andrew Davis' slick production in this film; the wealthy uptown New York setting is an impressive attempt to capture some of the class of the 50's original but deep down you can't help but notice the lack of originality. There is a bit of tension towards the end as the plot takes a few twists but it's just all been done before.

Michael Douglas is the star of this show by a long way, he plays the silently scheming villain without flaw, delivering the expected cheesy lines with relish, while the gorgeous Viggo Mortenson smoulders as the deadly lover.

The big disappointment has to be Gwyneth Paltrow's weak performance as the supposedly intelligent heroine. For a woman who can interpret countless foreign languages with no problem at all, she really is a bit too dim, WHY CAN'T SHE SEE WHAT'S GOING ON?!

This isn't really an awful film, it's just not particularly good either. If you want to go and ogle at Paltrow or Mortenson, feel free, if you want to see a good old frighten-the-pants-off-you thriller, don't bother.

Chinese model army

MULAN Out Now

SORRY to sound like I've been brainwashed by the magic of Disney, but this is such a good film.

Now I want to dress up as a boy and fight with the Chinese army to destroy the Huns and save my father. Which is, funnily enough, what happens in 'Mulan'.

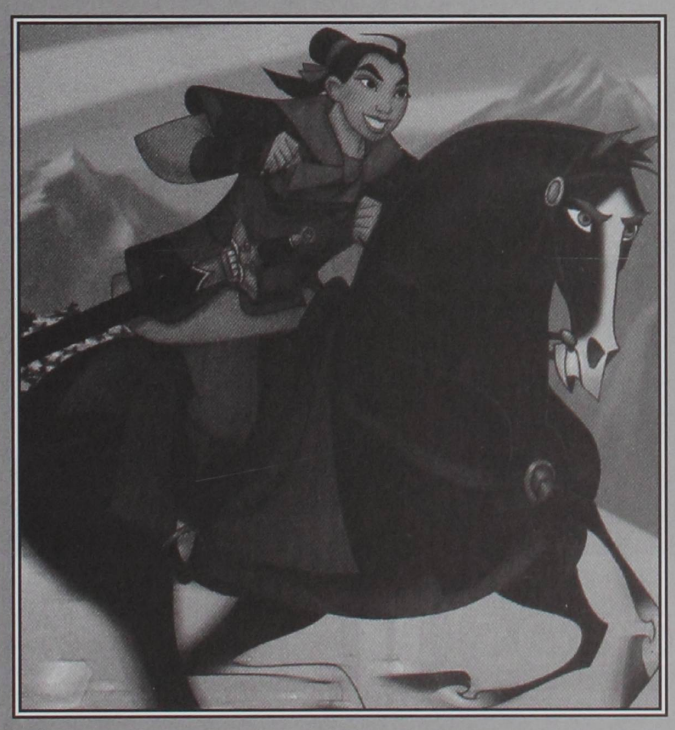
The story is basic enough but it proves that you don't need a complicated plot to have a great film. In a move away from it's other films Disney has gone for a much darker approach this time. The villain is not a wise-cracking Hades as in 'Hercules', but a vampiristic Hun with glowing red eyes and a bad temper, showing much more menace than other Disney baddies.

As you would expect the animation is superb, with breathtaking scenes of the army in the winter mountains and crowds with Chinese lanterns softly glowing in the Imperial City at the climax.

There are some laughs though, mainly provided by Eddie Murphy as Mushu, a social climbing dragon with a superiority complex! Dark, mysterious, and fantastic, Mulan is one of the best Disney's yet; stunning animation and an evocative plot make it one of my absolute favourites.

Go queue outside the cinema now, now I tell you!

KATY RICE



Win an anal probe!!

SOUTH PARK
Warner Vision International (VIDEO BOX SET 1 OUT TO BUY NOW)

FOR ANYONE who has somehow missed the phenomenon that is 'South Park', now is the chance to redeem yourself.

Stan, Cartman, Kyle, and Kenny, the not-so-loveable twisted little kids have finally made it to video so now you can enjoy their refreshingly sick humour to your hearts content.

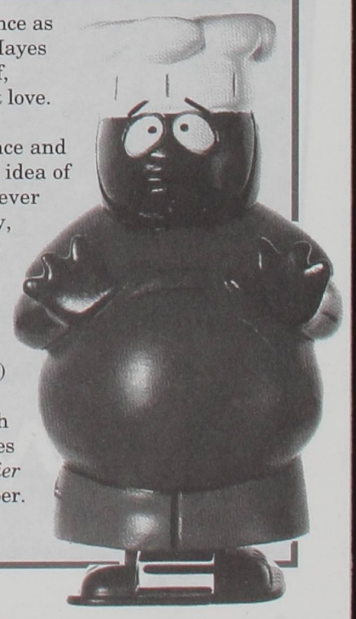
Box set one contains such classics as 'Cartman Gets an Anal Probe', 'Weight Gain 4000' and 'An Elephant Makes Love to a Pig'; all good clean, wholesome fun, honest.

Growing up in South Park is never easy, especially not for Kenny who manages to get killed in every episode, and now you can relive Kathie Lee Gifford's visit to town, the alien cow-mutilators and the time the boys confronted death.

Special guest appearances include George Clooney giving a stunning performance as Sparky the dog, and Isaac Hayes as the sex-mad singing Chef, always ready to make sweet love.

If farting, completely gratuitous swearing, violence and all things sick are not your idea of good entertainment then never mind there's always Disney, if on the other hand you do then this is the competition for you....

To win a coveted 'South Park' box set (worth £34.99 from all good video stockists) all you have to do is draw a picture of yourself as a South Park character, easy. Entries to be handed in to *The Courier* office by Monday 26th October.



COOLER SHAKER

Radio Times

TALK OF THE CITY RSC at The Playhouse

'TALK OF THE CITY' can only be described as a theatrical explosion, an amalgamation of music, stunning costume and skilful acting.

Written and directed by Stephen Poliakoff, the play portrays the sparkling world of entertainment and variety as it collides with realities of pre-war Europe.

Set in the glamour of the late 1930's, 'Talk of the City' is a reflection of the insular and authoritarian world of the Broadcasting House, and its blindness to the growing atrocities of the Second World War. Robbie, the frantic star of the nations favourite radio show, manipulates his media power in a stimulating attempt to highlight the growing trend of fascism and anti-Semitism across the channel.

The production is a paradoxical mixture of comedy and tragic realism. We, like the assumed listeners, are spoon-feed a slice of history, sugar coated by the vibrancy of the songs and the spectacle of the radio. The stage is a "feast for the eyes" with the glittering costumes and dancing showgirls, while the seamless scene changes set a fast moving pace.



But this play is not merely a spectacle, the relationships between characters are electric, brimming with sexual tension and conflicting agendas. David Westhead in particular plays the mercurial Robbie with intense vivacity.

Poliakoff has created the ultimate combination, comedy and fact. His play exposes serious issues yet retains its sense of humour. As the BBC celebrates 75 years of broadcasting, this performance explores media control with poignancy and comic drama.

ELLIE WATTS-RUSSELL.

Full Measure



MEASURE FOR MEASURE RSC at the Theatre Royal

HOW do you choose between your virginity or your brother's life?

In Shakespeare's Measure For Measure, Isabella's vows of chastity are put to the test when faced with her brother Claudio's impending execution.

Set in Eastern Europe at the end of the last century, the RSC's production focused heavily on the oppressive regime brought about by over zealous officer Angelo. With austere army uniforms and sharp choreography, the many soldiers were arranged in packs, and created a clear sense of menace. Stephen Boxer as Angelo was convincing as the deputy, quick to promote hypocritical laws to the extreme.

Comic turns from Jimmy Chisholm as the very camp Pompey were a favourite with the audience as he strode about on stage and strutted his way through the play and Lucio, played by Adrian Schiller, wouldn't have looked out of place in Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels. After a weak beginning Clare Holman's Isabella improved dramatically until she took centre stage in a powerful performance.

The sparse set was fantastic, with Ikea inspired blond wood from Tom Piper completed by minimal lighting and lengthy shadows. A huge, spiral staircase curved along the rear wall and scores of trapdoors completed the effective use of depth and height.

Did the RSC sell out at the end? After Isabella's determination to remain pure despite her brother's death sentence, her quiet acceptance of the Duke's marriage proposal seemed a disappointing interpretation of an otherwise excellent production.

ALTHEA TODD and LIZ TODD

Arts Ligger

with Becky Owen

SOMETHING about sitting in the Tyneside cinema makes you ache to have been among the first cinema goers back in the early 1900's, where you "courted", "walked out with people", "wooed or were wooed."

Sat in the plush, classic seating, flicking through the 'programmes' to whatever feature it is you're feasting upon, no matter what you go to see, whether it's an obscure French flick, a new release or a Cary Grant double bill, it feels like a proper film, an occasion. We take so much of our entertainment for granted and get bored so easily that it's a refreshing change when you find a place that makes things seem timeless and extraordinary.

This month The Tyneside collaborates with the musical marvel that is Sound City by bringing us a series of films associated with the industry and its legends.

Nick Broomfield's "Kurt and Courtney" (15) opens this gaggle of gems on the 21st & 22nd of October, documenting the destructive relationship of the King of Grunge and his missus. Aptly enough, this is followed by "Sid and Nancy" (18), which stars Gary Oldman and charts the destructive relationship of the king of Punk and his missus. This hands the big-screen baton to "Velvet Goldmine"(18), the much hyped, sequinned elegy to the 70's drug-ridden farce that was Britain's Glam Rock era.

My personal must-see is "The Man With the Golden Arm" (18), a disturbing tale of the heroin addiction of big band drummer Frank Sinatra (Elmer Bernstein provides the stunning Jazz score).

Maybe I'm just being sentimental, but surely these cinematic rarities beat the plastic offerings, not to mention popcorn, of the multiplex.

Water good book

SOME RAIN MUST FALL IS the first collection of short stories from the Dutch author, Michel Faber: the title story of which won him the 1998 Ian St. James award.

What he gives us are very simple stories, but with surprises and dark secrets around every corner. Faber strolls along with tales of everyday life, but each time shocks us at the conclusion.

His style is skilfully cinematic in his ability to zoom in and out of people's lives. We are taken all around the globe (Australia; Scotland; Poland; Somalia), examing the cultures of the Bharatani tribe or communist Poland, in decline against a western convenience lifestyle. While his portrayal of the world is a bleak one, his tales remain consistently comic and surprisingly heart-warming.

'Accountability' is a hilarious tale of youthful naivety and aspirations, but sad in the harsh reality of loneliness and abuse. Cruel paralysis connects each character in the book, but their struggle to carry on provides the empathy and the dark comedy; they are very real individuals.

His genius humour is modestly understated and plays with your emotions, making you feel guilty for laughing at these "fuck-ups"; the book is a 'tragic' comedy of the human condition.

In the very false world that the author provides us with, Some Rain Must Fall is a truly honest, loving and captivating look at life.

TIM JEFFERSON

Gorman have a go

DAVE GORMAN

Global Cafe Labbatt Ice Comedy Network

DAVE GORMAN blended into the relaxed studenty environment of the Global Cafe straight away.

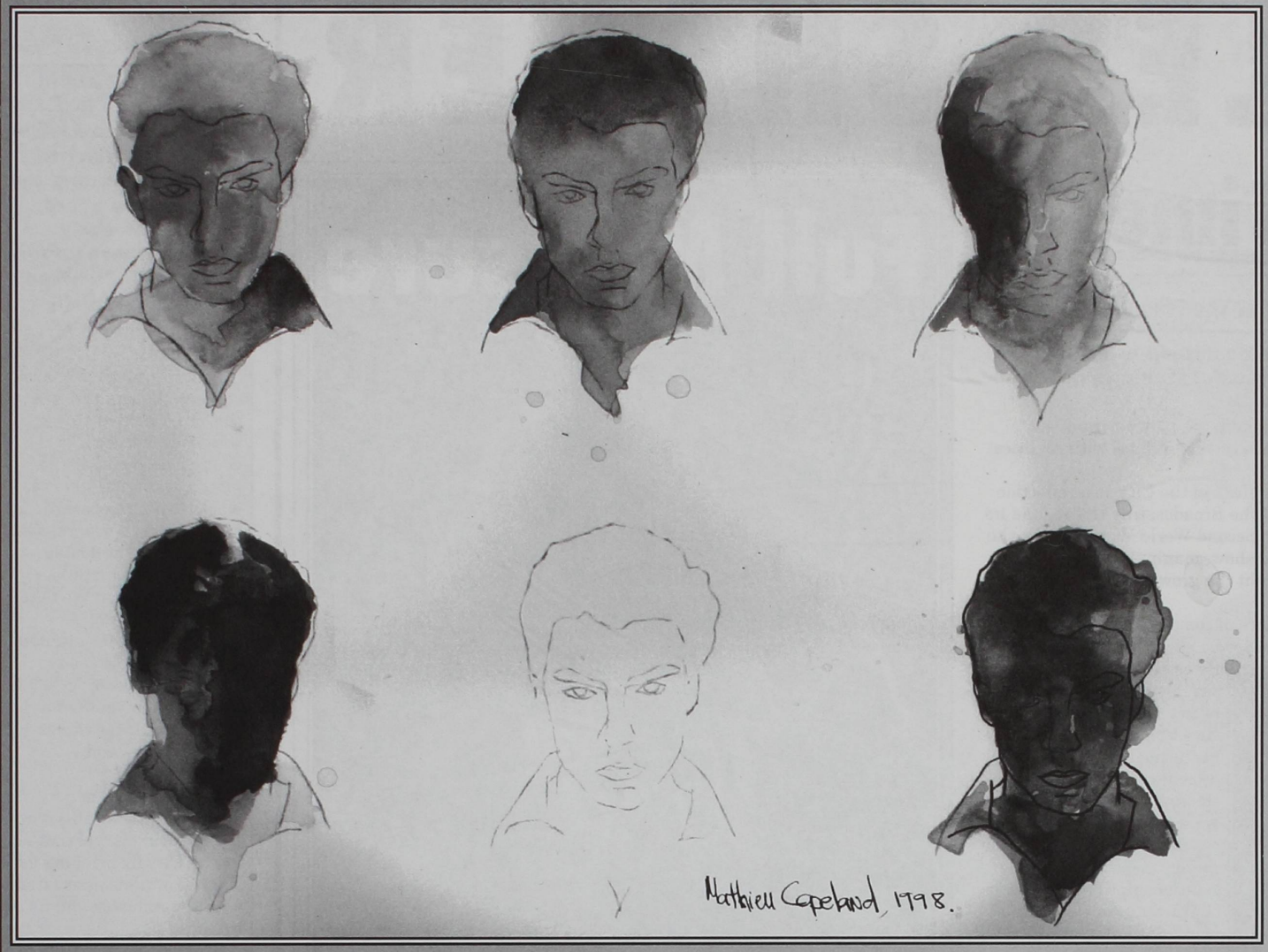
His slightly scruffy but stylish appearance could easily have had him mistaken for any average student type and the whole evening felt like a good night out with your funniest friend; the kind of night you walk home from still chuckling about what happened.

It was a relief he was so entertaining after being disappointed by the warm-up acts. Support act Robin Ince, a sarcastic ex-fat kid, had his moments but generally seemed to try too hard to be funny. Newcomer, South Shields man, Lee Fenwick's alien act was original but slightly too weird. Dave Gorman, the double BAFTA award winner followed to show his class.

Gorman was at his best when sharing the adventures in his life. A tale of tandem sky-diving in New Zealand with an instructor who got very sexually excited by the experience went down well, while the drunken episode in a Las Vegas lift with embarrassing consequences was hilariously told. His anecdotes sauntered along but always managed to keep the audience captivated.

After his banter with the audience you couldn't help but like Dave Gorman and his relaxed, matey style. He's like one of us but funny.

ANGELA McNALLY



CHIC SHAGGERS

Stereophonics Preview

28 October - Radio One Sound City

The Stereophonics are quite simply one of the most exciting bands to have emerged from the post-Britrock era. Winners of Best Newcomer Award at the 1997 Brit Awards, it shocked many to learn that this vibrant rock trio have been around since 1992, supporting such quality outfits as The Who, Skunk Anansie, Ocean Colour Scene and most predominantly their Welsh counterparts the Manic Street Preachers.

Hailing from the small South Wales village of Cwmathan, the three members, lead singer and lyricist Kelly Jones, bassist Richard Jones and percussionist Stuart Cable have been friends since the age of three, all growing up and witnessing the idiosyncracies of life in a small welsh village, observations that provide the core theme throughout their hit debut album "Word Gets Around", a homage to the life they have experienced there.

The 'Phonics sound is rather more diverse than a few over-critical music journos would like to credit them for. From the all-out Rock anthems of "A Thousand Trees", "More Life in a Tramp's Vest" and "Local Boy in a Photograph", all played with fantastic energy live, they display a more tender side to their musical creativity with the touching ballads of "Traffic" and "Bill Dowey's Daughter", all laced with the bands humourous take on the activities of small town life.

The new songs demonstrate that even greater success awaits the Stereophonics over the coming year, with the new album set to be released in Spring 1999, and they are sure to be one of the highlights of this years' Radio One Sound City.

MIKE SEATON

Past glories

THE BLUETONES

Expecting To Fly
(Superior Quality)

YOU'D expect the Bluetone's album to have lost it's lustre after the media frenzy it inspired, but in the cold light of day three years later it still retains a quiet dignity.

It shows its age with the sentimental songs of bitter love, along with ornate, sweeping guitars and acoustic anachronisms like 'Fountainhead' Also, we have the retro charm of 'Cut Some Rug'; mentioning the "blitzkrieg and the doodlebug", which is bound to appeal to grandparents.

NICK DAMERE

Return To The Last Chance Saloon (Superior Quality)

This album they've changed tack and given the songs a Western flavour - allegedly due to Morriss's penchant for tequila and watching Cowboy films when he was 'between albums'.

The songs are a bit more abrasive as well; lines like "Wednesday... got pissed" and christening one of their songs "Sleazy Bed Track" makes them look a bit more laddish, but doesn't sit well with a band who look and sound like they should be guesting on Rainbow.

THE BLUETONES Preview

Union - 27 October

THE Bluetones are most noted for their glittering debut on the music scene back in 1995 with their album "Expecting To Fly", and fly they did, bringing critics to orgasm with Indie-pop classics such as 'Slight Return' and 'Cut Some Rug'. The album went straight to No. 1 in the charts, and they became the darlings of Radio 1's evening session.

Appearances on MTV with suprisingly good videos and vastly popular live tours, with hundreds of tearful fans being turned away helped to cement the name of The Bluetones to even the most ardent music fan as one to watch, and one that would be around for a long time.

However, a fairly vitriolic backlash and the bourgeoning Britpop scene affected the band more than expected; the fact that the band sounded more than a little like the Stone Roses and their generally wholesome image took precedence over their musical credentials and a hundred 'next big things' swamped their area of expertise, the vast majority of which were grossly inferior.

Last year, the 'Tones released their second album, "Return To The Last Chance Saloon" was not subject to the 'Bluemania' of the first, but still sold comfortably and went gold. Their slightly harder sound now aspires more to the La's than the Roses, but still manages to remain wholesome even with the tequila-loaded theme and tunes like 'Sleazy Bed Track'. The long-term prospects of the band are slightly more muddied after their initial Blitzkreig of the music scene, but their cult following is very strong.

From being the next big thing in pop to a cult easy listening group is more of an achievement than it sounds; by creating their own niche with cerebal musings on children's tales ('Solomon Bites The Worm') and rediscovering OAP slang ('Cut Some Rug'), the 'Tones have managed to keep their credibility without becoming stock Britpop toss, an



Slight Retune

achievement Gallager and Gallager should take note of.

It is easy to mock their soft, fancy-dan new man image, but harder to attack them at a musical level as they have managed to grab their piece of the pie and get people to take a bite. Who cares if they sound like The Stone Roses for the pipe-and-slipper brigade? I challenge anyone not to feel a little smile coming on when they hear one of their songs, even a wry one.

Their reputation for decent videos continues; last year, the gang got people's attention in the 'Marblehead

Johnson" when they all dressed up in the same 'fat suits' as Eddie Murphy wore in The Nutty Professor, and in the video for 'Sleazy Bed Track', with Morriss and co being represented by PG Tips-type chimps.

A look at the band's roots gives them even more depth - the band (guitarist Adam Devlin, lead singer Mark Morriss, Eds Chester on drums and Scott Morriss on bass) formed in 1990, and ended up sharing a house with a then-unknown band called Dodgy, practising feverishly up until 1993, when an NME review caused an A&R feeding frenzy.

Unlike most Britpop bands, The Bluetones took their time, because as Devlin says "We wanted to do things at our own pace and make sure that when we did play live we were good". Another anomaly is that all of the band contribute to the writing of songs, with the exception of Mark Morriss's lyrical input there is no creative force such as a Noel Gallagher or Jarvis Cocker, thank God.

So hail The Bluetones, forefathers of Britpop and World-wide cult favourites. After close examination, they're almost good enough to headline the Gomez gig.


Mogwai

Exclusive Repulica Interview

PUT aside the critics' negative opinions on Republica for one moment and you'll discover a band who can produce great songs and who can pull off an equally awesome gig.

On top of all that guitarist and vocalist Jonny, keyboard player Tim and new drummer Pete are a bunch of friendly and approachable blokes who are willing to talk to the press, or at least to student newspapers, despite the slagging they have recieved from the pens of music journalists.

Tim and Jonny have a strong dislike for certain journalists. "We were at a party held by the Sex Pistols not long ago and I had a run-in with a NME journalist", says Jonny violently, "In an article he completely slated Saffron, then compared her voice to some animal which makes weird noises. Remarks like that are unpleasant and out of order".

Republica are modest and do not claim to be anything more than a 'pop' band. "We know that we are a band who play pop songs. We admit that 'Ready To Go', 'Drop Dead Gorgeous' and 'From Rush Hour With Love' are three-and-a-half minutes of pure pop with cartoon sounds", says Jonny. The band do not hold any illusions about who they are, and this is why they find bad press hard to take. "Unlike other bands, we don't really jam. We do a lot of work with computers. We understand that we are fallible, and have to work harder to be successful".

The band are currently on a big promotional tour, having already played at Edinburgh. Their latest album, Speed Ballads, is at No.18 in the charts. "Obviously, we would like it to be at No.1, chart positions are important to us. 'Ready To Go' entered the charts around the twenty mark, but then went on to spend six weeks at No. 4" says Tim.

The band were a big success in America before they made it in the UK. They enjoyed their time there but are glad to be back in Britain, and that they've made it here. "The American critics are so nice but I prefer to be in Britain. Even if the papers are good to read but bad to be written about in" says Tim .

Jonny, however, says that their success in the stage is relative. "At the time we were big but that was before the likes of Oasis and Blur made it here. You have to put it into context".

CIARAN HUGHES

Blast from the past

Mogwai

Young Team (Chemikal Underground)

FROM the label that brought you the nightmare on wax that are Arab Strap come Scotland's Mogwai and it's without any exaggeration that I say it is nearly impossible to describe just what the hell they sound like.

Mogwai , you see , deal in what Mojo writers would describe as "epic soundscapes", to you and me that means feedback, Led Zep type riffs (you know, like on Puff Daddy's record) and the prospect that at some point in the foreseeable future your ears will start bleeding.

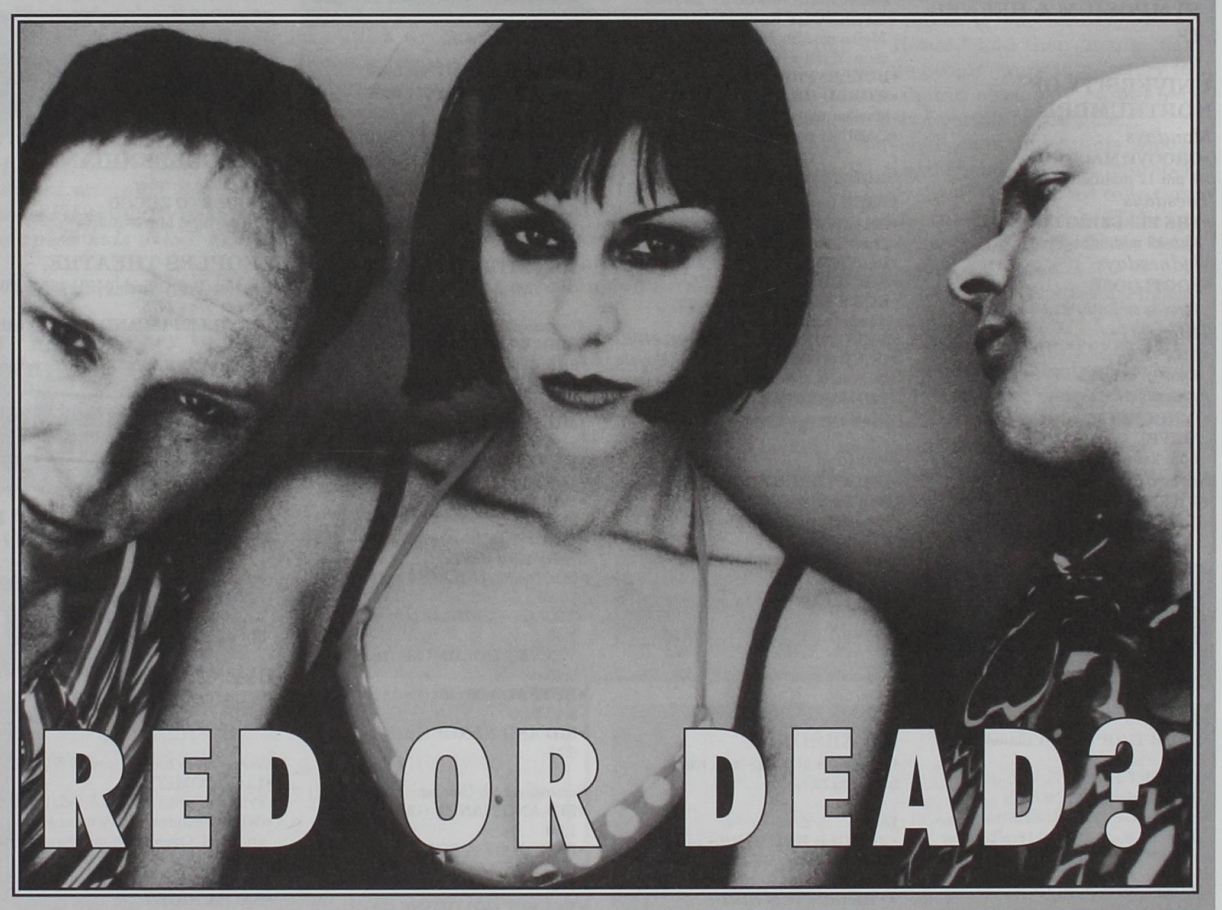
Their music is (in the main) vocal-less and to most would appear to have no visible structure beyond 'loud bit , quiet bit , louder bit' but incredibly it actually SOUNDS FUCKING AMAZING.

If The Gremlins were ever allowed to watch a Black Sabbath soundtracked 'Nudey Beach Volleyball' , drink 12 pints of economy lager and go out and make a band , this is what they'd sound like .

Now quickly climb into your little pink remote controlled car and get down to the Riverside because you know that such a band would be far too good to miss.

IRV

■ Mogwai will be playing at the Riverside as part of Radio One's Sound City on Tuesday 29 October.



S22 Mini Preview



NATURALLY, it is no coincidence that one of the most promising local bands which feature in the Sound City fringe Festival comes from our very own University.

S22 (Scott McCormick - Lead Vox, Mark HUme - Bass Guitar, Lukas Wooller - Keyboards, Toby Cann - Guitar, Simon Gozy - 303, Samples and Matt Watson - Drums) are set to take the city by storm and are hotly tipped to seal a lucrative record deal on the back of their appearance at Bierrex at 11.30am on the 29th October.

The band eschew the familiar old indie-pop band format in favour of a more up-to-date electronically enhanced sound using samplers, mixers, Moogs and drum machines to give lavish soundscapes which, as they so eloquently put it, "Gives British music the kick in the arse it deserves".

Their strong melodies, guitar effects and big beats certainly do add an extra scary dimension to their songs, good examples being "Jubilee" and the psychedelic "Down The Light".

As last year's top music writer Rich Bevan said "[S22] talks from the speakers in language that is retro in basis, but more experimental in appearance". Quite!

CHRIS DOWNS

The Courier
No.1 for music

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Friday 23rd October 6-8pm in The Global Café

twenty-one...ten_ninety-eight

weekly listings

unions

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday 21st October
•**FORCE** £tbc

Saturday 24th October
•**THERAPY** £7.50

RADIO 1 SOUND CITY
Monday 26th
•**SUPER FURRY ANIMALS, GORKY'S ZYGOTIC MYNCI & CLINIC** £8

Tuesday 27th
•**THE BLUETONES, GOMEZ & SIX BY SEVEN** £8

Wednesday 28th
•**STEREOPHONICS, SYMPOSIUM & HEFNER** £8

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA
Mondays
•**GROOVE MACHINE**
8 pm-12 midnight. Free.
Tuesdays
•**THE ELECTRIC LOUNGE**
8pm-12 midnight. Free
Wednesdays
•**FOOTLOOSE**
8pm-2am. Entry £1.50 all night.
Thursdays
•**BOVVER**
8pm-12 midnight. Free.
Fridays
•**INNOCENCE (with FRI'ED ALIVE)**
8pm-2am. £1.50 adv./£2 door.
Saturday
•**WIGGLE** 8pm-2am.
Entry £2 all night.

clubs

Mondays
•**CLUB TROPICANA** Planet Earth Upstairs
•**PLANET POP** Planet Earth Downstairs £3/£1.50 NUS
•**BRIT HOP** Ikon, Newcastle. Free B4 9pm/ £2 B4 11pm/£3 after
•**STUDENT PARADISE** Tuxedo Royale, Quayside. £1 with NUS Card.
•**LURVE SHACK** Stage Door £3/£2
•**TO DIE FOR** Riverside

Tuesdays
•**70's FRISKY FEVER**
Pacha, Newcastle. 9.30pm-2am. £2/ £1.50.
•**TRINITY** (House & Hard Techno) Rockshots, Newcastle
•**DJ STARSKY'S 70S NIGHT**
Planet Earth. £1.

Wednesdays
•**SWITZERLAND** (Eclectic mix) Egypt Cottage, City Rd. Newcastle.
•**JOINED AT THE HIP**
Pacha, Newcastle. 9.30pm-2am. £1.
•**STRAWBERRY FIELDS** Planet Earth £3/£1 with NUS card.
•**70S AND 80S DISCO** Tuxedo Royale, Quayside, G/Head. £1.50.
•**FUEL INJECTED** (Indie/Rock) Riverside, Melbourne St.

Thursdays
•**STEPPAZ** (Drum&Bass/Jungle) Rockshots. 9.30pm. Once a month.
•**BING BONG ROOMS** Riverside Last Thursday of every month
•**ROLLERCOASTER** (Indie) The Village, Newcastle. 10pm.£1.50.
•**BLUEPRINT** World Headquarters, Marlborough Cresc., Newcastle.
•**CLUB CLASSICS** Legends Newcastle.
•**ALL CHANGE.** Pacha, Market Street £1.50/£3.
•**TFI THURSDAY** Planet Earth, Low Friar St. £3.50.
•**FOAM PARTY** Tuxedo Royale Quayside, Gateshead.
•**80'S NIGHT** Buz, Market Street, Newcastle. £2.50
•**BONKERS BAR** Tuxedo Royale, Quayside. Free.
•**CLUB NITE** Julies.

Fridays
•**FUNK INFECTION** (Live Funk & DJs) Black Swan Bar, Newcastle Arts Centre. 8pm.
•**HYPE NIGHT** Mayfair 9.30pm.
•**CHANNEL D** (60s Surf, Psyche) Egypt Cottage, Newcastle. Free.
•**DJ STARSKY EXPERIENCE** (70sClub Classics) Planet Earth Newcastle. £3 NUS.
•**STAKEOUT** Riverside Melbourne St. Newcastle. 9.30pm-3am. £5/£4 with NUS card.
•**BULLETPROOF** Rockshots £3.50
•**WORLD HEADQUARTERS** Marlborough Cresc. £3.50.
•**CASINO** Legends with ICE FM

Saturdays
•**NICE** Rockshots. With ICE FM £8.
•**BEATNIK** (Indie Dance Classics) The Village, Newcastle. 10pm. £3.
•**DO YA WANNA PARTY** Bliss. £5.
•**SHINDIG** Riverside £7/£8.
•**ROCK NIGHT** The Mayfair, Newgate St. £3.50.
•**DEVOTION** Planet Earth. £2 NUS
•**CLUB STOWAWAY** Tuxedo Royale Quayside, Gateshead. £2/£3.
•**THE MAIN EVENT** World HQ Marlborough Cresc. £3.50.£4.50

Sundays
•**SMOOTH GROOVE** (Hip Hop/D&B) Rose & Crown, Newcastle.

music

RIVERSIDE
Riverside 24 hour info line: 0336 421729

Wednesday 21st October
•**JUNGLE BROTHERS plus Peanut Butter Wolf & Rasco @ The Ballistic Rocket** £8
•**THE MUTTON BIRDS** £6

Thursday 22nd October
•**BLOATED with Andrew Weatherall, Nick Denton, Nicola & Kelly Lumley** £6

Friday 23rd October
•**LIVE & GIGGING** with Pansy, Shore & Crippling Jack £2
•**Club Night: STAKEOUT** Alternative Songs & Chemical Beats £3/£4/£5

Saturday 24th October
•**THE BALLISTIC ROCKET ALTERNATIVE SOUND CITY** with Ninja Tune-IRRESISTABLE FORCE (Mixmaster Morris), Clifford Gilberto, Roots & The Manuva with M.K., Amon Tobin, Neotropic & Hextatic Visuals £7/£8

Sunday 25th October
•**STEVE LAMACQ'S PRIORITY NIGHT with CHINA DRUM, SOLAVOX & BOOTHACRE** £3

Monday 26th October
•**TO DIE FOR** with Scott Bond & Nigel Cairo £4
•**ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT & TIGER** £8

Tuesday 27th October
•**TERRORVISION & 3 COLOURS RED** £8

Wednesday 28th October
•**GENE & MAGOO** £8

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cinema

TYNESIDE CINEMA
BOX OFFICE 0191 232 8289

Wednesday 21st October
•**LOVE IS THE DEVIL** (18) 4.30
•**BABYMOTHER** (15) 6.30
•**KURT AND COURTNEY** (15) 8.30
•**MEN WITH GUNS** (15) 5.30/8.00

Thursday 22nd October
•**MEN WITH GUNS** (15) 3.15
•**LOVE IS THE DEVIL** (18) 6.00
•**MICHAEL COLLINS** (15) 8.00
•**KURT AND COURTNEY** (15) 4.00/6.15
•**BABYMOTHER** (15) 8.30

Friday 23rd October
•**MICHAEL COLLINS** (15) 10.30/1.30
•**THE GOVERNESS** (15) 5.45
•**VELVET GOLDMINE** (18) 8.15
•**BUFFALO 66** (15) 3.45/8.30
•**SID AND NANCY** (18) 6.15

Saturday 24th October
•**SID AND NANCY** (18) 1.00
•**BLOOD OF A POET + ENTR'ACTE** () 7.00
•**VELVET GOLDMINE** (18) 11.00pm
•**DRAGONHEART** (U) 1.30
•**THE GOVERNESS** (15) 3.45/8.30
•**BUFFALO 66** (15) 6.00

Sunday 25th October
•**THE GOVERNESS** (15) 1.00/6.00
•**BUFFALO 66** (15) 3.30
•**YEAR OF THE HORSE** (15) 8.30
•**VELVET GOLDMINE** (18) 3.15/5.45/8.15

Monday 26th October
•**VELVET GOLDMINE** (18) 4.00/8.20
•**WILD STYLE** (15) 6.30
•**THE GOVERNESS** (15) 3.15/6.30
•**BUFFALO 66** (15) 5.45

Tuesday 27th October
•**THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN ARM** (18) 3.30
•**VELVET GOLDMINE** (18) 6.00/8.25
•**LOVE IS THE DEVIL** (18) 6.15/8.15
•**THE GOVERNESS** (15) 3.15/8.30
•**BUFFALO 66** (15) 5.45

UCI METROCENTRE
24hr Programme Information: (0191)493 2022
Phone for information on the following features:
•**EVER AFTER: A Cinderella Story**
•**SAVING PRIVATE RYAN**
•**LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS**
•**LAND GIRLS**
•**LETHAL WEAPON 4**
•**THE TRUMAN SHOW**
•**MERCURY RISING**
•**DIVORCING JACK**
•**THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY**
•**MULAN**

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other

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Every Monday from 8pm
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personal parts and classifieds column

3p per word - Min charge 30p
See Jon in the Courier Office

LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL SOCIETY

Meets 7.30pm Thursday, Women's (MLK) Room, 1st Floor, Union Building.
For more information please contact Victor Grayson, LGB Officer, Equal Opps. Unit 1st Floor, Union Building, Tel 232 8402 x.1036

Reception ask Who the F* are 'They'....?**

Alan J. vs the Rugby Team. Bets now being taken...

I NOMINATED JAMES

Katie - Hope your recovery time is as short as you are.

By day, mild-mannered journalist..
By night Kung Fu Ninja Hong Kong Soady!

Get your own back or start some banter!

The Courier's personal column is the cheapest way to do it in Newcastle!

Photos can be scanned in if amusing enough...

Free Ads Section

Next week The Courier, in conjunction with the Enterprise Society will be introducing a new classified ads section. You will be able to place advertisements in The Courier every week to sell virtually anything. Hopefully it will save fellow students money and ease the financial worries of others. And for a trial period, this service is abso;utely FREE!

Perhaps you would like to sell course books, offer car sharing travel to reduce costs, sell events tickets, bicycles, records, cd's, computer equipment etc.(Seethe sections listed below).

To place an advertisement fill out the form in this weeks Courier and drop it at our office. Remember to include your student number and e-mail address. Only your e-mail address or telephone number will be shown in the advert to reply to. The deadline for an advert to be included will be the Wednesday prior to the issue in which it is to be included

Free Student Advert Form

[ ] Section A: Computers
[ ] Section B: Events Tickets
[ ] Section C: Household
[ ] Section D: Music
[ ] Section E: Study
[ ] Section F: Transport and Travel

Student Name:
Student Number:
Email Address:

Advert text (Maximum 50 Words):

YOU can e-mail us on:courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

Dear Martin



Staffordshire Bull...

HELLO and welcome to another page crammed with your deranged offerings.

This week we have the great sloane debate, more fashion tips and other such stuff. The most bizarre death threat ever is also featured just to show what kind of weird stuff I get sent.

If you want to comment on anything write to me - either drop off your letters at the office or E-mail. It's that easy.

Military ban?

Dear Martin,
In response to discussion at the last General Meeting and a recent anonymous letter in *The Courier*, I'm writing to put forward some more arguments around the Armed Forces current ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual service personnel.

The ban is based not on practicality, but on a bigoted assumption that LGB personnel would be more coercive and promiscuous than their straight counterparts. MoD bigwigs seem to think that queers will bring disaster to the Armed Forces, despite the fact that several countries, including France, Austria and Germany reported no problems following the lifting of similar bans.

The MoD has never presented any solid evidence to suggest problems would arise from scrapping the ban, and appears to be ignorant of the fact that vast numbers of queers alrady serve.

Hopefully the Armed forces' ban, which exists in spite of all common sense and respect for equality, will soon be lifted.

Victor Grayson, LGB Officer

Martin's reply: If you don't understand any of this, I'll explain. Last year the Union banned the armed forces from recruiting in the Union and on Thursday the ban was overturned. Two weeks ago we printed a letter endorsing the ban and this is the opposing view.

WARNING: The following two letters are genuine and were both sent separately. They are more than likely to offend and if they do offend you, I'm sorry. No I'm not really. This is free speech, If you don't like it write in - all abuse gladly received.

Sloane Rage

Dear Martin,
Having just completed a four year course, I must now head off back to Lancashire to find a job and start life in the real world.

I will miss Newcastle, but there is one thing I will not miss - the sloanes.

I will not miss the hockey or rugby playing pricks "hooraying" their way around the Mens bar on a Wednesday. I will not miss the vacant, blonde haired, fleece jacketed females chatting away on their mobiles in the Cochrane Lounge. Most of all I will not miss the loud social gatherings they hold in the Robinson Library at exam times.

To those of you who went to a comprehensive school and only have one surname then thanks, I'll genuinely miss you. To all the half-wit posh kids JUST FUCK OFF.

Richard Holme (Graduate)

Martin's reply: Well its easy to slag sloanes isn't it? As such they represent a soft target. And some of them definitely are top class shitheads. But these shitheads are very much the minority and while they give students a bad name there are other students more deserving of your rage. In general I happen to think sloanes can be annoying at times but they're basically alright and I'm sure that professional northeners like myself have often caused offence to sloanes; some deserved, some not so. It takes different sorts to make a Uni.

Sloane Rages

Dear Martin,
It has come to my attention that there has been a larger than normal influx of students this year. What a pleasure it is to observe that so many of them are not only from the South but have also been educated at some of this country's finest Public schools.

I feel aggrieved at having to live under the cycle of depression enforced upon me by "Left-wing Pinkos" spoiling my ideal of an upper class educational institution. So called quips about "Sloanes" and "Shandy drinking Southern softies" are an uneducated response to inadequacies raised from initial contact with their social, educational and financial superiors.

It is a fact of our society that financial wealth represents social advancement, but too often we see the proletariat masses squander their state funded income on such material "assets" as "Kappa" tracksuits and alloy wheels.

Some may view this letter as mere provocation. However, it may be felt to highlight the inability of certain social elements to amalgamate into an effective educational institution. It seems to me that the problem derives from the university's inclusive rather than exclusive form of education.

A fellow student.

Martin's reply: This letter had better be a joke. Listen fuck off back down south you whinging shite if it's so much better, or does the burden of being an Oxford reject prevent you from that? This pretentious drivel is stereotypical and boring. It's a shame your upper class education seems to be of no use in writing a readable letter.

Beefcake!

Dear Martin
Never mind your mother, I saw you on the front of "Crack Whore" magazine . How far are you going to go in your egotistical attempt to put your photo everywhere?
Eric Cartman

Martin's reply: Great letter from someone so sad that they want to be a South Park character. Look just fuck off. I hope that you get the anal probe you richly deserve.

Fashion victim

Dear Martin,
I have to say that in your recent fashion report, there were a few glaring omissions.

For example: denim. This highly fashionable piece of industrial equipment was first invented many years ago to provide hard wearing work material for the workers of Northern France. It was initially called "fabrique de Nimes," and then "denim" for short. So unless people work in a factory in Lille, denim should obviously be banned from the hallowed portals of the Union.

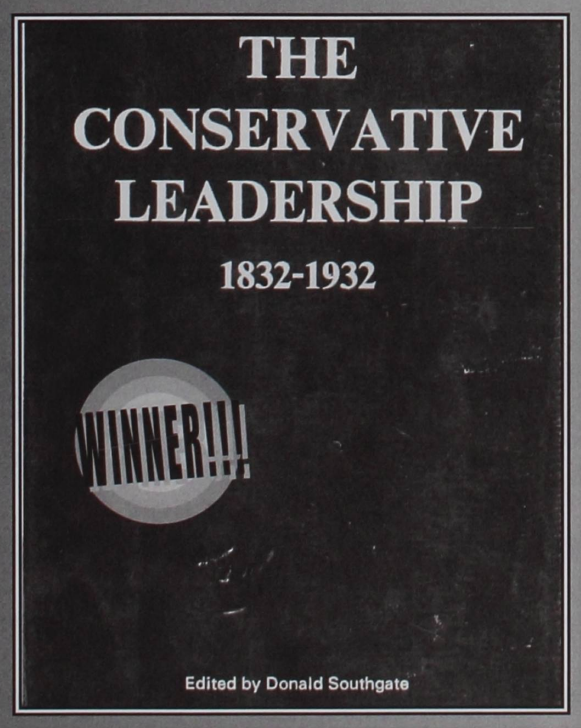
As for baseball caps and tennis shoes, they should also be banned due to improper usage. I eagerly await the Stafford collection of authentic lecture and drinking wear, because we're all going to be damn cold walking around naked till then.

Alasdair Matthews , Fenham

Martin's reply: Thank you for your useful addition to the list of shit clothing. I'm still hoping for a letter from someone who happens to think that body warmers, puffa jackets and the other shit I mentioned are cool. But then as writing a letter would require an iota of originality I doubt I'll get one.

E-mail Martin Stafford on: courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

BORE & WIN!!



BULK: Only a lightweight 270 pages. 5/10
GEEK FACTOR: Well only a geek is likely to want to read this book about dead Tories which is fascinating to people like the geek meister himself,William Hague. 8/10
COST: A bargain £2.50, though that was in 1974 when this book was stillborn into the literary world. 5/10
QUALITY: Every page covered in dense type with nothing to break up the monotony of reading boring tripe about boring men. As this heavy tome is now over 20 years old, the pages have a lovely yellow tinge to them; extra marks for that and the musty smell.7/10
RANDOM QUOTE: "I took the line that the dyed-in-the-wool Tories, although the Praetorian Guard of the party, were a wasting asset." I pity anyone who has to read more than that seriously dull extract. 7/10
TOTAL: 32/50
A noble effort there. If you want to win the fantastic prize we have on offer, (**BEER!!!!!**) then bring in the most boring book you can find to the Courier office and we'll assess it and you never know, it could be you.

SEE YOUR AURA!

AURA VIDEOGRAPHY & PHOTOGRAPHY AURA READINGS

Auras have been seen by mystics and psychics for millennia. They are often shown in paintings of saints. In fact, everybody has an aura, some people's are brighter and more powerful and hence easier to see. They are the vibrations from the soul.

When we work to improve our inner and, correspondingly, outer lives, through positive thinking, meditation, herbs, pure food, crystals, natural therapies, science has finally shown us a way to monitor our progress. Aura videography enables us to see colour changes in our electro-magnetic energy field, according to changes in our thoughts. It is a print-out of our mind, body, soul, and each colour has a different meaning. It shows personality, level of evolution/consciousness, health, emotions, intelligence, talents, where we have been, past lives, what is coming into our lives and where we are - this depends on the position of the colours.

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Round the Captain's table



with Luke Edwards

STEVE BARKER, for those who know him a mild mannered and friendly guy, for opposing forwards a ferocious competitor who doesn't give an inch.

It is these latter qualities that the ginger-haired supremo of the football club will need if he is to whip a group of young and inexperienced Freshers in to a winning formula.

For he and coach Alan Brown have been left a perplexing task this season with the loss of ten of last year's Shield winning first team.

Barker describes this season as a "transitional one". He went on: "In all we've lost about half of last years squad and we only have Shaun Kavanagh left from the first team."

"I've been fairly pleased with the Freshers we've brought in, but they have no experience of BUSA competition. Obviously we'd like to win something this season and with a lot of hardwork and if everything clicks it could well be possible."

He describes his coach Alan Brown as a "hard taskmaster" but Barker, with his Gordan Strachan like enthusiasm for the job, has a pivotal role to play.

But what of his reputation on the pitch? It is interesting to note that he is slightly bashful about his "fiery" reputation, but he does eventually tell me his opinions on the matter:

"I play with all the enthusiasm I expect from the other players, that means being hard but fair.

Adding with a chuckle: "If I don't get that level of effort then I'll have to whip them into shape"

He is keen to stress that the Uni team is still looking for players but highlights an increasing problem of losing players to Intra-Mural sides.

He said: " People look at the University side as a clique, you know, that people play their mates and so on, but this is not the case at all, selection is on ability not who you know."

"But players are simply not coming from Intra-Mural teams for whatever reasons, perhaps they just want to play with their mates, but it is a problem we're trying to address. We're still short of a couple of central players, especially in midfield, so the door is certainly not closed."

Perhaps this difficulty can be overcome with players like Kevin Spencer, a former intra-mural player, who returned from a year out to score a hat-trick on his return to first team action in a local league match

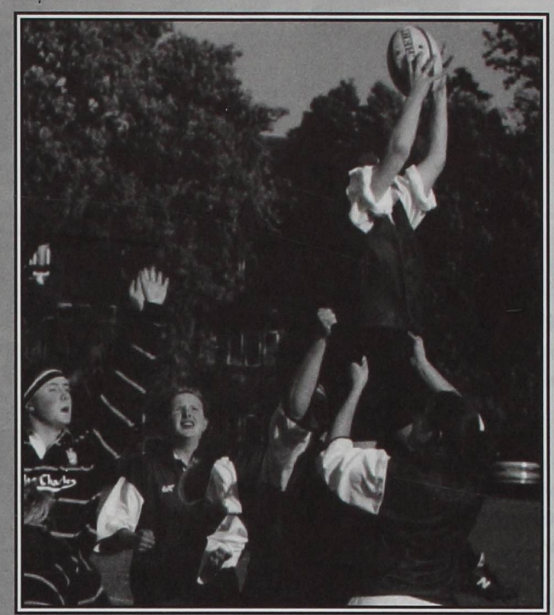
The first team look to have a strong attack for the present campaign with Spencer's partner, Mark Batty, being a former Sheffield Wednesday reserve striker.

Barker is obviously determined to hold on to the former Owls man: "With him and Spencer up front we're certainly looking dangerous up-front, with their pace and skill they should trouble any defence."

"Unfortunately Batty has had a trial with Gateshead and if they want him then we'll have to let him go - he'll get paid for playing for them after all."

But it is in Irishman Shaun Kavanagh that the real star of the squad is to be found. Arguably the team's most consistent player last year the "ironman" of defence has made an unexpected return to Uni action. His hunger for further trophies and experience of BUSA competition could prove crucial to the team's chances.

Uni girls lead the way



SCRUM-half Katie Knass led the way to a resounding 77-0 victory over York as the women's Rugby team enjoyed the best possible start to the new season.

Knass scored three tries in the rout as did winger Katy Davis and number eight Abbie Armstrong. Jenny Grindley and Jenny Donkin also got in on the act claiming a try each as York heads started to drop.

Helen Greenwood bagged eight points in conversions and Donkin added to her try with a further two points from the boot.

■ Mandy Williamson's Basketball girls also enjoyed an excellent start to the season beating Hull 45-32. Williamson was delighted with the result saying: "I was impressed with how the team gelled, especially how the new players contributed to an excellent team performance. A great way to start the season."

BUSA RESULTS

Sport	Opposition	Result
Badminton MI	LMU	8 - 1
Badminton MII	Bradford	6 - 3
Badminton W	Teesside	5 - 4
Basketball M	Sheff. Hallam	59 - 63
Basketball W	Hull	45 - 32
Fencing M	Hull	15 - 12
Fencing W	Hull	12 - 6
Football MI	Sheffield	5 - 1
Football MII	York	2 - 2
Football MIII	Hull	7 - 1
Football WI	York	6 - 0
Golf	TASC	Pending
Hockey MI	Humberside	7 - 1
Hockey MII	Sheff. Hallam	6 - 0
Hockey MIII	Hull	9 - 1
Hockey WI	LMU	1 - 3
Hockey WII	Leeds	1 - 0
Hockey WIII	Leeds	1 - 2
Netball I	Ripon & York	48 - 23
Netball II	Hull	36 - 11
Rugby MI	Hull	92 - 5
Rugby MII	Hull	68 - 0
Rugby MIII	Sheff Hallam	66 - 8
Rugby W	York	77 - 0
Squash MI	Hull	4 - 1
Squash MII	Hull	4 - 1
Squash W	Hull	5 - 0
Table Tennis M	Northumbria	Walkover
Table Tennis W	Northumbria	Walkover
Volleyball M	Sunderland	Walkover
Volleyball W	Leeds	1 - 3
Tennis M	LMU	Pending
Tennis W	York	6 - 0

Humberside humbled

By CHRIS HURST

NEWCASTLE University's mens hockey firsts trounced Humberside 7-1 in their latest BUSA League match at Longbenton.

Humberside were disorgainsed in all departments of their game, most notably the fact they arrived at the match with only ten players, and it was surprising that it took until the 7th minute for the home side to open the scoring through Guy Edwards.

Newcastle missed a succession of excellent chances and were punished for their profligacy on 24 minutes when Humberside's tall striker, Dieter Aufrey, bundled his way through the Newcastle defence with all the elegance of a giraffe on ice skates and forced the ball home.

Newcastle regained control a minute later when Glynn Austen-Brown converted a penalty flick and took further command when the same player added his second, eight minutes into the second-half.

Paul Adams made it four with a stylish finish on the reverse stick side and further goals from Crowther, Edwards and French in the latter stages confirmed Newcastle's superiority.

In all honesty Newcastle should have easily reached double figures in a match against woeful opposition, squandering a succession of brilliant chances, and the team will know that they will have to raise their game in future weeks for the tougher challenges that lie ahead.

Club captain Glenn Hayes admitted: "We were playing a poor side with only ten players, luckily we didn't manage to drop completely to their level."

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*To win a crate of Virgin Hi-Energy, all you have to do is answer the following question:
Name three of the magic ingredients in the Virgin Hi-Energy drink.

*To win Virgin phone cards worth £100 please answer the following question:
What is Virgin Hi-Energy otherwise known as?

Please post your answers to Virgin Hi-Energy Competition, NUS Ents, PO Box 1199, London, SW2 1QH.

Centre for Physical Recreation & Sport

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Please note that beginners must enrol for three instruction sessions, the etiquette & rules lecture and the mentor session.

Date	Venue	Time
First Course		
9/11/98	Claremont Sports Hall	12.00-1.00pm
9/11/98	Claremont Sports Hall	1.00-2.00pm
Second Course		
23/11/98	Claremont Sports Hall	12.00-1.00pm
23/11/98	Claremont Sports Hall	1.00-2.00pm
Third Course		
30/11/98	Claremont Sports Hall	12.00-1.00pm
23/11/98	Claremont Sports Hall	1.00-2.00pm
	Etiquette & Rules Lecture	
16/11/98	King's Walk Sports Centre	12.00noon
	Mentor Session	
2/12/98	Close House Golf Club	1.30pm

Enrolment: King's Walk Sports Centre
Total Cost: £6.00

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football special

FOOTIE ON HIGH 5



by NICK WELLS
NEWCASTLE MENS 1ST 5
SHEFFIELD MENS 1ST 1

A WIND swept Cochrane Park saw a new look Uni team thrash Sheffield 5-1 in their first BUSA fixture of the season.

Newcastle's slick passing was forever a problem for a Sheffield side, who finished 2nd in last season's Northern University League, while the new strike-duo of ex-Sheffield Wednesday professional Mark Batty and Kevin Spencer, was a constant thorn in the side of the Yorkshire team.

The royal blues started the first half kicking into the strong wind, which seemed to help their short passing game. From the outset it was obvious that first-year Mark Batty's pace would cause problems for Sheffield's square defence, nearly scoring in the very first minute of his BUSA's debut.

Therefore it was of little surprise when Batty broke free in the seventh minute to set-up his strike partner Spencer, who scored his first goal since his returning from Sweden.

The goal stifled Sheffield's early flurry ,and within five minutes Newcastle doubled their lead when Ben Chesters finished emphatically.

The impressive Batty was once again the provider.

Despite their early failings, Sheffield's defence continued to push up to play off-side. This played into the hands of Newcastle's crisp short passing game, with midfielders James Felham and Joachim Harding linking up well with the potent Newcastle attack.

Harding himself scored the third goal, getting on the end of a Carl Booth clearance, before rounding the keeper to slide the ball into the empty net.

Little seemed to be able to stop the momentum of the impressive home side. When Sheffield failed to clear a corner, the ball fell to Booth who was delighted to lash the ball home from close range.

In the second half Newcastle found it harder to play with the wind at their backs, but were able to sit back on their four goal lead.

Nevertheless, Batty was repaid for his tireless work with the fifth goal, storming down the left wing before cooly placing the ball past the advancing keeper.

Despite being outplayed, Sheffield continued to push forward and were rewarded for their persistence with a consolation goal.

Manager Alan Brown was very pleased with the result; "We have lost a lot of players from last year's Shield winning team but this performance shows what a good team-spirit we have, and I have high hopes for this side."

football firsts

Team: REEH, FREER, BIELBY, BOOTH, HARDING, KAVANAGH (C), CHESTERS, FELHAM, BATTY, SPENCER, CRYER. Subs: JEEFFREY, DUNCAN.

Star player: MARK BATTY

York gain a point

THE football seconds started the new season by throwing away three points against York.

Newcastle could have wrapped the game up by half-time but missed chance after chance through a mixture of poor finishing, the woodwork and some inspired goalkeeping. These misses were to prove costly as York twice came from behind to expose the homeside's defensive frailties.

The game started superbly for Newcastle with their first attack resulting in a goal An excellent move down the right wing - virtually from kick-off - saw John Baxendale's cross met firmly at the near post by Nigel Davis whose header flew into the roof of the net.



After quarter of an hour a Peter Harvey corner was met by Tim Manuel and Davis should have done better with his volley.

Davis was once again involved after Harvey had put him through with a delightful ball, but he elected to shoot rather than play the square ball to the unmarked Harvey.

York equalised via some poor defending as their number ten waltzed through the centre of defence to rifle a shot beyond the despairing reach of Sullivan in goal.

Newcastle bounced back but again chances were wasted, Davis sliced wide before Mason saw a back heal cleared of the line and then hit the post with a low shot all in the space of a minute.

The breakthrough came five minutes later when, on the stroke of half-time, Manuel's cross caused problems for the keeper whose punch fell to Baxendale who blasted into an empty net.

Newcastle tooke their foot of the pedal in the second period as York slowly became more threatening. Defensive frailties were again exposed when York snatched a dramatic equaliser on 75 minutes with a near post cross turned in by the unmarked forward.

Hodman leads the sexy six

By Liz Hill

THE Women's football firsts carried on with the successes of last season with a commanding 6-0 victory over York

The girls took charge straight from the kick-off with central defender, Flo Hodman, scoring after just five minutes with a long range effort.

Playing against the wind in the first-half Newcastle never gave the visitors a look in and they rarely failed to find any penetration of the well organised defence.

Hilary Williams scored a well deservd second goal just before half-time to ease any nerves that may have started to settle in.

With the wind advantage in the seond half Newcastle charged forward with wing wonders Clare Wood and Charlie May grabbing a goal each.

Substitute Kate Gordon then put the icing on the cake with two goals, the first after some fine work from Beth Murphy in midfield.

In brief

■ **GOLF: The Golf team started the season with a near whitewash of last year's beaten Shield finalists, Leeds Trinity & All Saints.**

The team ran out five-and-a-half to half winners to set themselves up for what promises to be promising season ahead.

Newcastle -5 1/2
Leeds Trinity - 1/2

■ **HOCKEY SECONDS: Newcastle over-ran a strong Sheffield Hallam side with an all round quality performance.**

The strength in defence and skill at the back provided a solid foundation for the strikers to do their stuff.

Carlisle, Shooter, Sadler, Smith (2) and Waters gave the finishing touches but it was a real team performance from the moment Richard Grimer had made a diving save on his own goal line.

Newcastle - 6
Shieffield Hallam - 0

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE: The Rugby League campaign got off to a strong start last weekend with a comfortable victory against Whitley Bay**

Ben Walker scored a try straight from kick-off and another minutes later. Two tries each for Wood and Haywood gave the Uni an impressive lead by half-time.

Dobbs, Holland and Croftes-Martin also added their name to the lost of scorers making it nine tries in all.

But coach, Rob Jones, stressed that their is still a lot of hardwork to do saying: "We will have to play a lot tighter when we meet stronger opposition.

Newcastle - 46
Whitley Bay - 18

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Sports teams- You can e-mail us your match reports on:
courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

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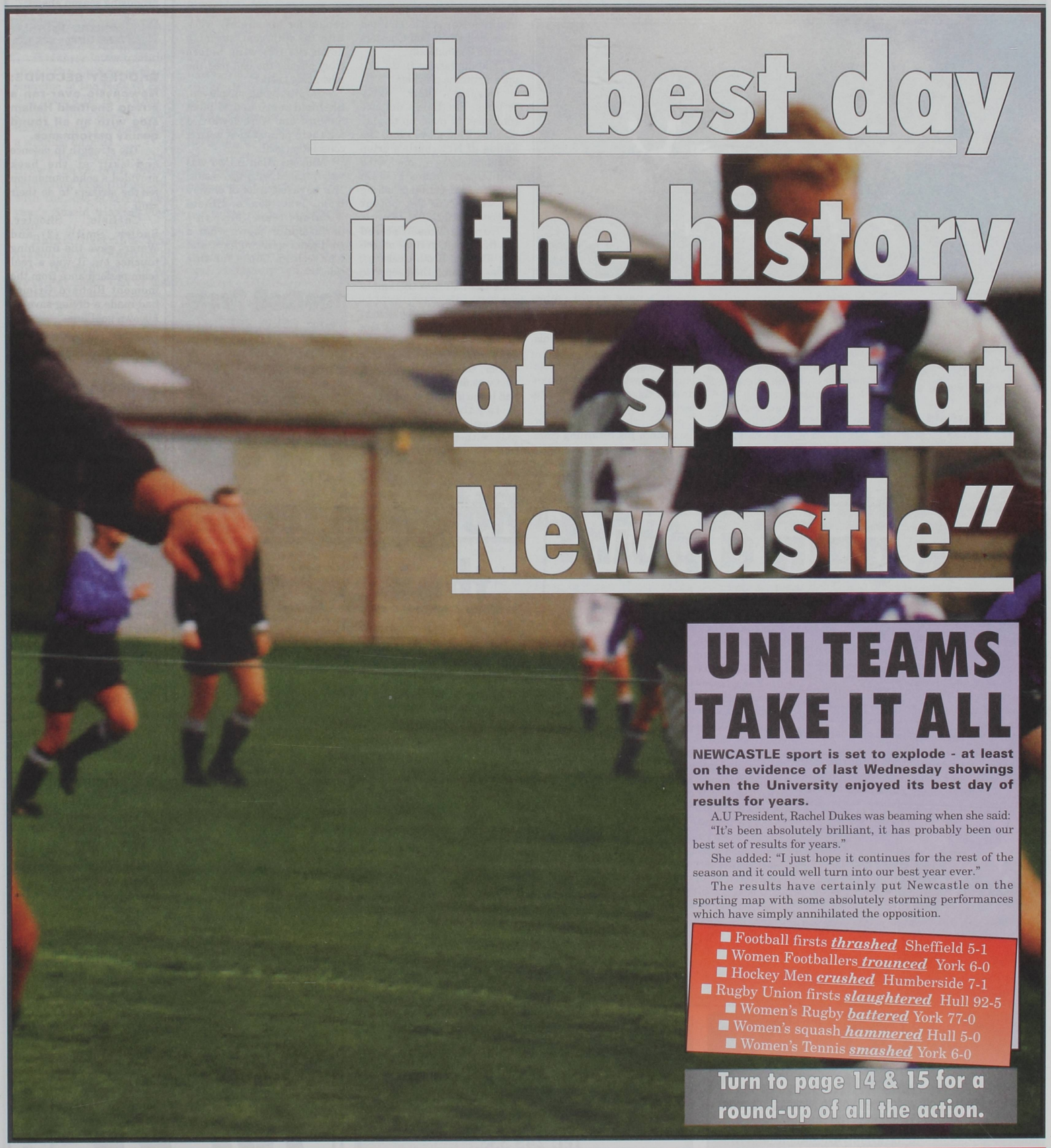
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courier sport

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 1998

"The best day in the history of sport at Newcastle"



UNI TEAMS TAKE IT ALL

NEWCASTLE sport is set to explode - at least on the evidence of last Wednesday showings when the University enjoyed its best day of results for years.

A.U President, Rachel Dukes was beaming when she said: "It's been absolutely brilliant, it has probably been our best set of results for years."

She added: "I just hope it continues for the rest of the season and it could well turn into our best year ever."

The results have certainly put Newcastle on the sporting map with some absolutely storming performances which have simply annihilated the opposition.

- Football firsts ***thrashed*** Sheffield 5-1
- Women Footballers ***trounced*** York 6-0
- Hockey Men ***crushed*** Humberside 7-1
- Rugby Union firsts ***slaughtered*** Hull 92-5
- Women's Rugby ***battered*** York 77-0
- Women's squash ***hammered*** Hull 5-0
- Women's Tennis ***smashed*** York 6-0

Turn to page 14 & 15 for a round-up of all the action.



Seventy-seventh Heaven for NUNS: pg 14

SHEEP THRILLS

Newcastle University Student Union
26 October

Super Furry Animals

Oh yes... this is it. Writing about the Super Furry Animals is about as close as I can get to having a wank in print. Apologies for my lusty crudeness, but I still can't believe that my favourite band are coming to our very own Union on the 26th October, ably assisted by Zorky's... and Clinic, *writes CHRIS DOWNS*.

I had never even listened to these swashbuckling pop terrorists until last year; of course I'd heard of them, buzzing around in their blue tank around all the festivals, the fact that they're Welsh, and that they used to write dance music. Perhaps that is why I never listened to them, who knows?

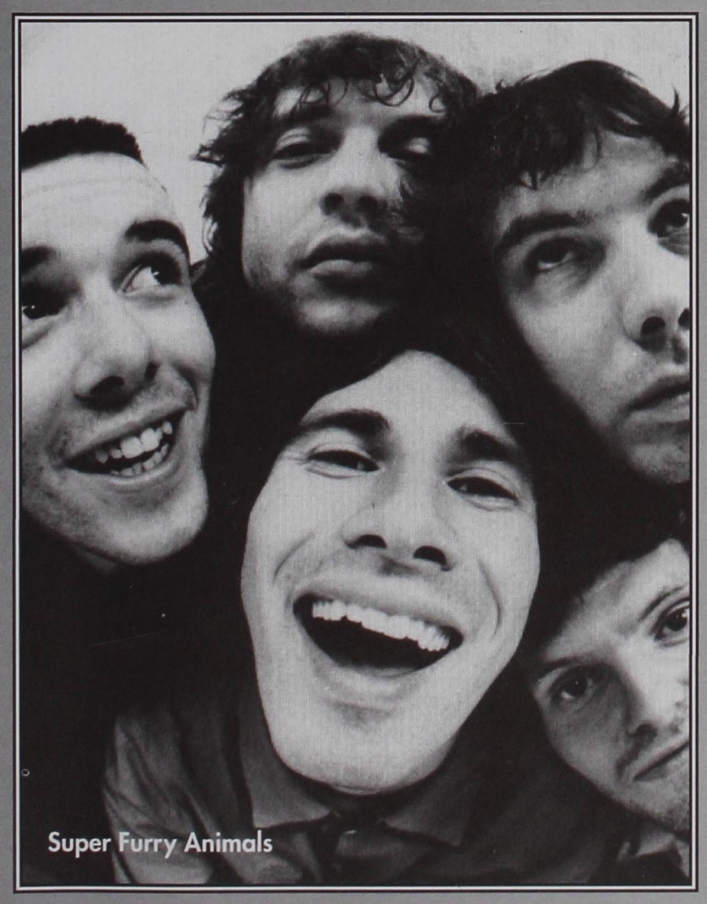
However, the breakthrough came when I went to see them at the Riverside last year, at the insistence of Mr Jordan, now my boss. I remember being slightly intimidated by the crowd, who were nearly wearing SFA T-shirts and leaping around like chimps, appearing to me like some over-enthusiastic cult with a mental age of 12. Then I heard the music, and for the first time ever I was converted to a band instantly.

It is surprisingly hard to describe what the Furries sound like; The Rough Guide Encyclopedia of Rock come close with "Music history collapsing on itself, fooling around with some new instruments and trying to play the anthem of the fourth dimension", but that's more likely to put people off. The key is in their instant appeal; from the off you can tell that there is some substance to the blistering riffs, all the bizarre noises, all the almost scary chants you are hearing, even if you can't tell whether they are English or Welsh. It's like a bunch of hyperactive kids being let loose on top-notch instruments, and somehow they home in on the hyperactive kid in us all.

Then again, for every 'Man Don't Give a Fuck' or 'God! Show Me Magic', there's a 'Hometown Unicorn' or a 'Mountain People'; relatively slow-paced pastoral ballads that Wordsworth himself would be proud of. Whichever way you approach the band, they definitely have a lot to offer, with their techno experience combining well with their lyrical whimsy and ability to kick arse musically. The band (Gruff Rhys - Vocals, guitars, analogues, claps; Dafydd Ieuan - Drums, percussion, vocals, piano, claps; Cian Ciaran - Keys, analogues, vocals, claps; Guto Price - Bass, hammond, claps, analogues and Huw Bunford - Guitars, vocals, e-bow, cello, claps) came apparent on "A night no-one remembers" in the year of 1993, after two years of informal demoing and DJing at raves together. By 1995 they had morphed into a rock band with 40 songs, getting snapped up by Creation records.

In 1996 their first album, "Fuzzy Logic" was released, containing the incredible track "God! Show Me Magic". 1996 was also the year of their worldwide tour, including a stint supporting the Manics in Europe. This was also the year that the controversial 'Man Don't Give A Fuck' was released, climbing to No.24 in the charts despite a radio playlist embargo.

The Furries have to be the most underrated band in Britain at the moment, going full pelt but sadly lacking in any real recognition in the way of sales. However, they have a rabidly cult following which is slowly becoming a movement and with any luck, if they do make the big-time, they won't become the pathetic puppets that their label-mates Oasis have become. Catch them this time around so you can bore your Grandkids about how you were there when you're a pedantic fat old bastard with no life.


Super Furry Animals

Past glories By CHRIS DOWNS

SFA - Fuzzy Logic (Creation)

As a great man once said, everybody loves a maverick. And this, the Furrie's first album, puts them firmly on the map as the best. Their playing style is best described as organised chaos, where they manage to replicate the 70s 'big sound' of Queen and glam rock, bringing it kicking and screaming into the 90s with synths and techno trickery.

What genius! Whilst the likes of Oasis, OCS and Kula Shaker continue to worship the 60s, Gruff and co are off like a rat up a haystack doing music that is catchier, cleverer and kicks arse.

Check out the sublime "God! Show Me Magic", weep at the sentimental "Hometown Unicorn" and carry on rocking with "Something For The Weekend", there's even a bit of sycophant studentism with "Hanging Out With Howard Marks", who features on the album cover.

A storming debut for Britain's best rock band.

SFA - Radiator (Creation)

I don't think I've come across a second album which posesses more zeitgiest and polemic than it's predecessor, but these loveable Welsh rogues have managed to get away with it with style.

This came out straight after 'Man Don't Give A Fuck', which is now worth £100 a pop in some trendy record stores, but this little beaut should be worth double that for the sake of its pop perfection.

From the anthemic "The International Language Of Screaming", through the twitchy paranoia of "She's Got Spies" and the hedonistic "Play It Cool" to the polemic of "Chupacabras", this has to be the best album of 1997.

There's also evidence of the band's techno roots during "Mountain People", where a lovely sentimental journey descends into electronic mayhem.

If you think all Indie music is utter shite, or if you're despondent about the depressing state of the rock scene, buy this and change your life forever.

Gorky's Zygotic Mynci - Barafundle (Fontana)

This little cracker proved to be a real eyebrow-raiser - I was almost scared of listening to it, with all the connoctations of them being some kind of weirdo druid cult role-playing freaks who hide behind their hideous music by calling it experimental.

But I was pleasantly surprised; these freaks don't sing about chopping orc's heads off and drinking goast's blood, rather the rising dawn in 'Diamond Dew', wildlife tales in 'Better Rooms...', and OAP's china ('Heywood Lane').

They do talk in silly voices, and use every possible type of vocal harmony and more, favouring Super Furry-esque 'La-la-la' s with Moogs and snatches of psychedelia ('The Wizard And The Lizard'), managing to sound like they were written by a mentalist child.

Add to this quirkiness like a Jew's Harp solo and a healthy undercutting of darkness, and what you have is something that is not so much weird than the compete opposite of the contrived shite that I'm used to, and that IS scary.

Gorky's Zygotic Mynci

GORKY'S ZYGOTIC MYNCI (pronounced 'Monkey', I've been told) must be well sick of the stock music press response that they are a bunch of Dungeons and Dragons role-playing sheep-shagging Welsh wierdos whose songs are gobbledegook with fucked-up weirdo melodies, *writes CHRIS DOWNS*.

Of course, they didn't help matters much by dressing up as druids and wizards on their record sleeves, forming in the back of a chemistry class when they were 14 years old and getting their dad to play medevial instruments on their fourth album "Barafundle". Their songs DO sound weird, one minute laid back, breezy and blase, the next jumping, shouting and screaming all over the place, but far from being weird, it's more to do with them being original. O-R-I-G-I-N-A-L.

One of the most refreshing aspects of the Gorks (stock Indie bands take note) is when they reel off their list of influences, which are not only kooky but most importantly diverse, and bereft of stock answers like the Beatles, the Stones, the Stone Roses, the Jam...etc. No, here we get Captain Beefheart, Soft Machine and Maurice Sendak, a well-respected author of kiddie's books. Hardly the fodder of unwashed, shoegazing whiny-voiced manic depressives.

In fact, Gorky's Zygotic Mynci (Euros Childs - lead singer, John Lawrence - guitarist, Richard James - bassist and Megan Childs - Violinist) look like you or me - malnutritioned, rag-clad students whose stage manner is not unlike a startled rabbit caught in a car's headlights. Where they differ, though, is in their obsession with making music - Euros started in his bedroom aged 14, when the only thing most 14-year-old boys make is love. With themselves. The interesting thing about Child's prodigious talent is that he didn't produce wanky self-centred agnst, and he didn't throw it in the bin, where most prog-rock should have stayed with the soiled Kleenex. Instead the work was published, and provides an impressive account of youthful exuberance; people, places and experiences with a healthy dose of imagination.

It seems that a number of factors are contributing towards Gorky's road to success - the fact that the people who matter have stopped shouting "Heretic!" and started to smile in their direction, there are so many piss-poor bands about, Super Furry Animals and Catatonia are making Wales fashionable and most importantly, that the band themselves are mellowing into a slightly eccentric pop band with genuine appeal. They have been together for eight years now, so they have to get it right sooner or later, and the straightforward, easy listening straight-laced lo-fi pop of Gorky 5, their fifth and latest album suggests that they have.

That and the fact that they have managed to crowbar their way in with the funky gang - the music press love them, they've gained the patronage of Messrs Peel and Lamaq with fairly regular radio appearances, and trendy Channel Four japesters Adam and Joe directed the video for the single "Sweet Johnny", which if you listen carefully, has a healthy dose of Xenophobia with it's "Heil, Heil" chorus and the use of "Heather" to sound like Hitler. See also "Kill all Americans!" in 'Llad Eich Graig' - how can you hate that ?

The most telling statement comes from the band, when asked what people's greatest misconception of them is; "That we're shit". Indeed my Welsh lovelies, and I for one can't wait to discover that first hand, on the 26th of October.

TYNEOUT_Sound city special

...the essential guide

By GUY DEEMING

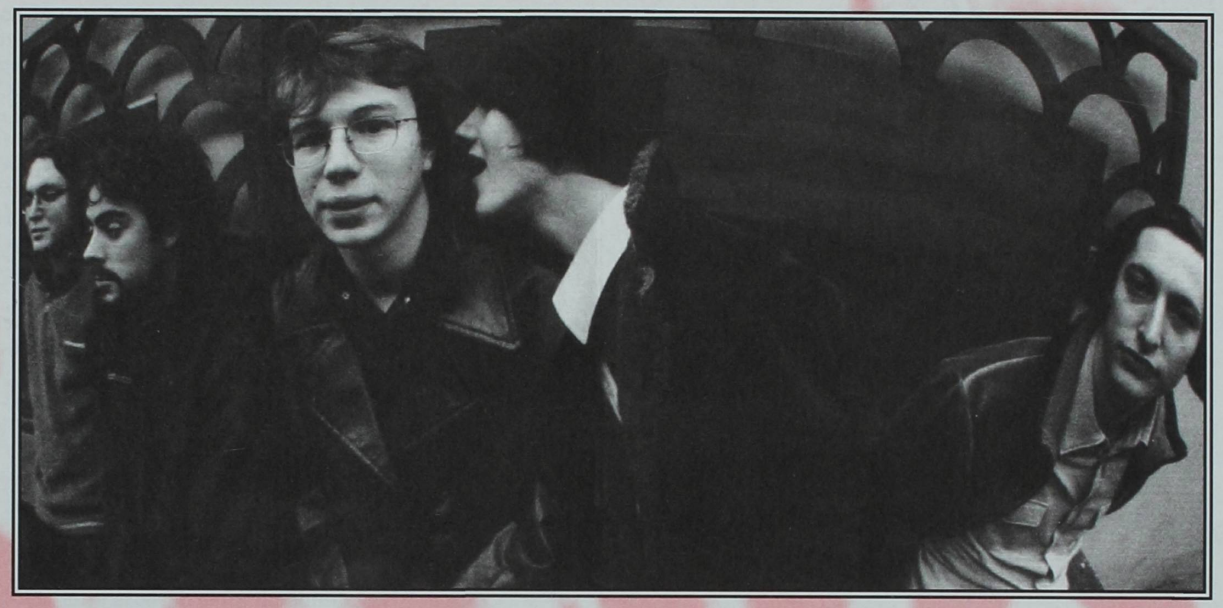
By some glorious stroke of luck the top bods at radio one have chosen our lowly town of Newcastle to be Radio One's Sound City. Big wow!!!

Big wow indeed if you look at previous years events featuring the likes of Embrace, Supergrass and the mighty Radiohead it gives some idea of the magnitude of the event.

The line up this year promises some equally magnificent bands, with at least one absolutely essential evening's music whatever your taste.

The ball is now rather in your, the glorious public's, court, as in Sound City there is a selection of the most vital and exciting music this side of the millenium, all it takes to make it happen is for you to make a choice and get off the sofa, you may even hear something you like.

One glance at the schedule is enough to show you can't go to everything, so here to help you make your choice is the indispensable Courier guide to what's arse and what's class.



Monday 26 October
Newcastle University Student Union

■ Clinic

Massively tipped band, inspirationally titled debut single IPC Sub Editors Control Our Lives promised much and the two follow ups failed to disappoint. Go see them for their unique take on Jesus and Mary Chain drone rock only with more tongue in cheek and full surgical dress.

■ Gorky's Zygotic Mynci

Possibly one of the last chances ever to see the now tragically labelless Gorky's. Their last album, "Gorkyís 5" was a real melting pot of influences brought together by Eros Child's off the wall vocals. Go see them for the sweetest melodies and tales of traffic jams.

■ Super Furry Animals

The inexplicably underated Super Furries have the enviable ability to make all but the very best sound like tedium itself, marking out a path between dungeons and dragons prog and spanking pop splendidness they are a must for anyone with a passing interest in music of any kind. Go see them because they don't give a fuck.

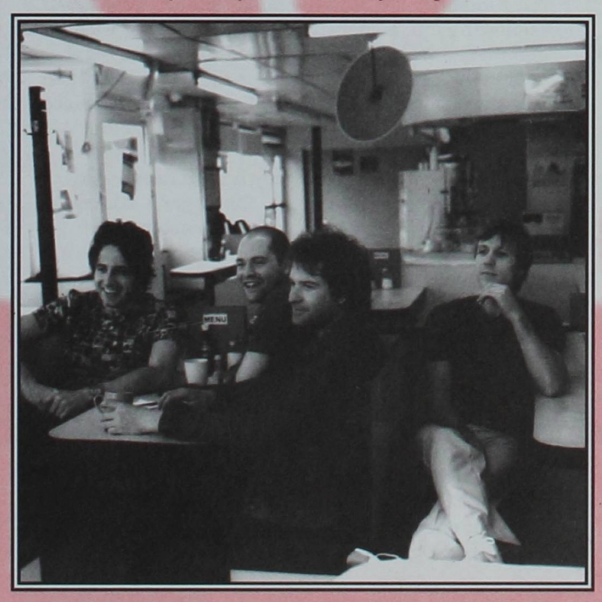
The Riverside

■ Tiger

A return to the fray for the mulletted indie types, this time perhaps they will gain the attention the press keep telling everyone they deserve, grimy indie shabbyness for those who know what they like. Go see them because they have extraordinarily unpleasant hair.

■ Rocket from the Crypt

Greasy rockabillies from the scary states of the US, featuring genuine dancers,a horn section and a singer called Speedo. Expect a neck breaking On a Rope at the very least Go see them because they want your soul (and your quiff).



Tuesday 27 October
Newcastle University Student Union

■ Six by Seven

Old men from Nottingham sounding rather good, My Bloody Valentine and Sonic Youth spring to mind, they could well be that good. Go see them because they will not fail to surprise.

■ Gomez

No comment really, Mercury Prize winners and worth the ticket on their own. Go see them because theyíll be playing arenas in a month.

■ Bluetones

Old indie trojans put their greatest hits through their paces, expect the mexican flavour from the Return To The Last Chance Saloon album to have the tequila slammers flowing. Go see them because one of them came to University here.



The Riverside

■ 3 Colours Red

Old school rock guaranteed to have very long guitar straps and massive riffs, watch out for some kick arse new material. Go see them for the leather trousers.

■ Terrorvision

Barking mad gonzo boogie from the cheeky Bradford tykes, new single Josephine is a good guide to what to expect. Go see them because theyíll have you singing along whether you like it or not.

Wednesday 28 October
Newcastle University Student Union

■ Hefner

Intense emotional bursts and a delicate edge lends itself to the more sensitive ear, debut album Breaking God's Heart is a great record and should be even better live.

■ Stereophonics

The great success story of last year, pure soul and guts canít fail to move and impress anyone who hears them. Go see them in an anthemic mood.

The Riverside

■ Magoo

Marvellous Chemical Underground signing and John Peel fave, new single Swiss Border Escape makes them sound like saviours of all things slightly lo-fi and guitary. Go see them because Chemical Underground can do no wrong.

■ Gene

First chance to see them for a while due to them having babies and a new album to write. They give the Smiths a new edge for the nineties with plenty of their own dynamic twists and turns. Go see them for Martin Rossiters' new barnet and because they're bloody ace.

Thursday 29 October
Newcastle University Student Union

■ Dub Pistols, Freestylers and Fatboy Slim

Hottest ticket in town for those of you with a penchant for dancin'. Fatboy Slim will doubtless turn in a stormer leaving a trail of big beat destruction behind him. Go see them because it'll rock in a different groove.

Riverside

■ Wagon Christ and Plastikman

Dancy post rock vibes for the discerning ear, great if it's your thing and definitely worth checking out if all this "indy shit" gets you down. Go see them because it will make you think twice next time you try to buy a Dario G record.

■ Mary Anne Hobbs Breezeblock Special with F.C. Kahuna, Campag Velocet and Mogwai

Absolutely essential if only for the visceral sound scapes of the impossibly wonderous Mogwai, who will make you cry tears of blood before sapping the last remnants out through your ears. God given for the knowing believers and an absolute treat for uninitiated ears. Go see them because you will die happier.

Friday 30 October
The Riverside

■ The Aloof and Faithless

Tonight the Riverside is their church and the congregation is on their knees, gloomy atmospherics and pulsing beats make a class act on record an absolute stormer live. Go see them with a clear conscience.

■ Local Boys

Throughout the week there will be over 90 local unsigned bands playing in various venues about town. Watch out especially for S22 (Bierrex, Friday), Kodiak (The Archer, Friday) and Spraydog (Bierrex, Wednesday) all of whom have the potential for incendiary live shows and could well seal a deal of the back of their performance.