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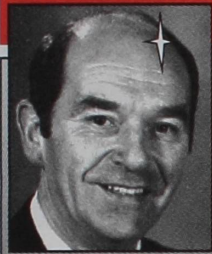
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Are we being run by a bald headed mafia? page 13

13

Cricketers set for a new season and hopes are high for BUSA success

pg 14



No. 999

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 1999

25p

MENINGITIS MERCY DASH

"There wasn't anyone who didn't get on with him. It's really strange without him here, even now."

EXCLUSIVE By LISA NANDY and LAURA THACKRAY

SHOCKED friends of a fresher killed by meningitis have this week spoken for the first time of their mercy dash to save him.

Castle Leazes was put on full alert at the end of last term after Agriculture student Harry Welch was struck down by the lethal bug.

Harry, from Freeman's Hall, thought at first he was just suffering from a hangover. But friends raised the alarm after he was missing from lectures that day.

They called a doctor who believed it was probably not serious, but warned it was possible Harry may have meningitis.

Just hours later he was found in his room much worse and unable to talk.

A close friend said: "It was awful. He couldn't walk, he was almost unconscious and his legs were covered in bruises.

"It was really bad so we decided to put him in the car and drive him to the hospital."

Harry was put on a ventilator but died just hours later.

Castle Leazes was blitzed with leaflets in an attempt to calm the fears of terrified students.

His close friends were given antibiotics but neighbours voiced concerns that they had only been given a phone number to call if

they were worried.

Communicable Disease Control Nurse, Maria Farrow, said: "The risk of transmission to others in the university is extremely small and secondary cases in such settings are extremely rare.

"All close contacts were identified, contacted and given appropriate advice and treatment."

The funeral was held over the Easter holidays and his friends made the trip to Darlington to pay their respects.

Fellow agric Tom Gribble said: "There wasn't anyone who didn't get on with him. It's really strange without him here even now."

Another close friend said: "He was just a normal lad having a good time. I'd never have thought this could happen to him. It was just so sudden.

"No-one had a bad word to say about him."

Students have been warned to increase their alertness to symptoms of meningitis which include a high temperature, rash and severe pains in the limbs and back.

Poll position for Toon talent

By OLIVIA RICHWALD

WOMEN at Newcastle Uni have been given a massive thumbs up in a recent internet poll.

Lads ranked the toon talent third in the country when asked to rate the standard on offer by the Red Mole student website.

Only the Lancaster lookers and the sexy Scots at Edinburgh finished ahead of our own girls.

But the local lasses once again thrashed the Durham toffs who could only manage to scrape tenth place.

Eight of the top ten unis are north of Birmingham, although Hull is Hell according to its students who slammed their uni into last place.

Opinion seems to be divided as to the actual state of affairs. "I'm not convinced, unless all the sexy ladies keep hiding from me," was the opinion of one sceptical third year.

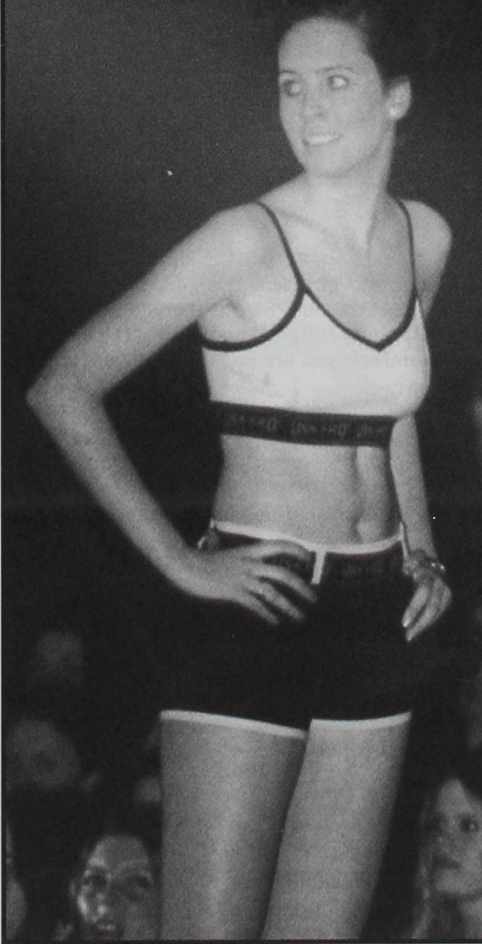
But one first year was much more enthusiastic, "I completely agree with the poll, in fact I voted on it!"

And another third year said: "The quality of talent is definitely top drawer; especially in the library. I've got my finals coming up, and its just impossible to concentrate."

But it seems that the fairer sex are less impressed with the blokes on offer.

A disgruntled second year said: "It'd be interesting to see the results of a poll on the male talent."

"I can tell you, Hull would have to have some absolute horrors to come below Newcastle in that one."



You wanna meet our little friend?

The
Courier

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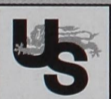
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UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



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We've got a beat for ya mama!
Get back to nature this May Day
weekend with the annual Green Festival
- page 6

**When the going gets
tuft, the VCs get
combing**
Cor! Turn to page 13 for a
closer look at these stud-
muffins



**Newcastle bowls over
opposition**
Spare a second and strike
out for the back page

ATTACKER BEHIND BARS



STAB SCENE: Garage on Stanhope Street

By LISA NANDY

A NEWCASTLE College student who escaped death by inches after a vicious knife attack last term saw his attacker jailed for six years.

Drug addict Peter Higgins, 19, admitted 'wounding with intent' after stabbing Ben Frost outside a late night garage on Stanhope Street, Fenham.

Plunged

After arguing with his girlfriend, Higgins plunged a knife into the student's heart "because he was there."

Sentencing Higgins, Judge Wood said: "It is frankly nothing short of a miracle you are not standing here charged with murder."

The teenager was brought to justice by a new fast-track system being tried out by the Northumbria area Crown Prosecution Service.

Behind bars

It took only six weeks from the stabbing to him being put behind bars.

Ben is currently recovering at home, and is set to return to Newcastle to finish his HND in Music.

His parents this week spoke of their relief. They said: "It has been a horrendous experience for the whole family. We are pleased this is all over."

Poly... You're going daaan

By ALAN J. SOADY

NEWCASTLE has clawed its way back into the Premier League of Universities, according to a new league table.

After being relegated to 42nd place by the Telegraph last term, The Times has put Newcastle in a much healthier 19th place - just one behind Durham.

The poly, meanwhile, is reeling after plummeting to a ranking of 62nd - 43 places behind Newcastle.

That means it can no longer claim to be the best 'new' university.

The other main shock was at Oxford, which is no longer one of Britain's top two universities.

It's been beaten into 3rd place by Imperial College, with Cambridge still in pole position.

Sex death riddle at inquest

By OLIVIA RICHWALD

A BIZARRE sexual act led to the death of a student on industrial placement in Newcastle, an inquest has concluded.

The body of the Loughborough University student was discovered in his flat in Hazlewood Avenue, Jesmond, in January.

Returning a verdict of accidental death, coroners reported that 20-year-old Mark Jones was found "hanging by a neck tie surrounded by magazines of an adult nature.

"There were no suspicious circumstances, no note; he just accidentally asphyxiated himself."

•Another student, Newcastle postgrad Paul Blacklock, 36, was also found hanging in his Jesmond flat in January.

The inquest into his death is currently pending and the conclusion is expected in the next week.

Courier - number 1 for news

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GAY RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SLAM STUDENT CHURCH

By ALAN J. SOADY
DEPUTY EDITOR

A POPULAR Newcastle church, which has hundreds of students among its flock, is this week at the centre of a gay rights storm.

An activist group claims that the Jesmond-based Christian Institute is now the national headquarters of a homophobic campaign to wreck government moves to lower the gay age of consent.

Jesmond Parish Church - which regularly has over 200 students in its congregation - is closely linked to the Institute through its vicar David Holloway, who is a leading member.

Rev. Holloway is a well-known hard-liner on gay issues in the church who has criticised those advocating a more accommodating view.

He told The Courier: "It's not me saying homosexual sex is wrong, it's God's word."

"Most homosexual behaviour is promiscuous. When you get into that culture it's hard to get out of it, so there is a case for inequality in the age of consent."

The House of Lords recently rejected a government bill to lower the gay age of consent to 16. Baroness Young, a patron of the Institute, argued that "vulnerable young men would be put at risk".

The rejection was supported by Rev. Holloway, who said: "When you start changing the law you give certain signals."

Gay rights group Stonewall has claimed that the Christian Institute bankrolled peers to oppose the bill.

Spokesperson Mark Watson said: "The Christian Institute is a small organisation, but obviously has influence with a number of lords."

"The Institute is similar to right-wing fundamentalist groups in America."

But Rev. Holloway denies any money has changed hands. He said: "The Christian Institute has no money apart from donations. We have absolutely nothing."

The row comes in the same week as an opinion poll found 75 per cent of people in the North East were in favour of an equal age of consent for homosexuals and heterosexuals.

That's the highest approval rating in the country, compared to a national average of 66 per cent, although some wanted equality at 18 rather than 16.

Union Communications Officer Nick Mouton said: "I think the vicar's views are outdated and going in completely the wrong direction - not towards the millennium but towards the Stone Age."

"Taking into account many of his congregation are students he needs modern ideas, modern opinions and possibly he should take a leaf out of their book."

French stick up at Bierrex

By DUNCAN WOODSIDE

POPULAR student watering hole Bierrex has been targetted by a gang of four armed robbers.

The masked men struck after closing time, forcing the duty manager and another female member of staff to the floor before demanding cash. Armed with an axe and a

baton the robbers then forced the shocked staff to give them money from the safe.

They made off with what a police spokesperson called a "substantial sum of cash."

The robbery occurred at 11.45 pm on April 7, and the four men are thought to have made their getaway in a white Citroen.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to call (0191) 214 6555.



Elections will be popular, says Mouton

By ROSS SMITH

THE POLLS are to open again in the union as five part-time posts are contested next week.

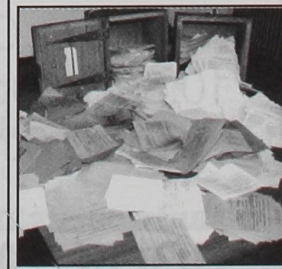
May 7 sees elections for the positions of Societies Officer, Executive Officer, Anti-Racism Officer, Convenor of Disciplinary and International Students Officer.

Communications Officer Nick Mouton is hopeful that the turnout will arrest the poor trend of this year's previous ballots.

He says: "There are some highly contested positions, so turnout should be great. We're also trying out a stall in the Mens Bar as a new initiative."

"I hope people will go for the positions to extend their great transferrable skills."

The closing date for nominations and publicity is April 29.



Students' Secondhand Bookshop

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By LISA GOODFELLOW
CHIEF REPORTER

A PROPERTY agency has this week denied misleading two grieving students.

As *The Courier* exclusively revealed last month, Roseworth Property Management failed to return deposits worth £500 after a tenant died from meningitis.

Former tenants Rich Usher and Nick Mills were still coming to terms with the death of their flatmate Ian Clarke when the wrangle with Roseworth began.

But in a statement to *The Courier* the company insist they have done nothing wrong.

Roseworth Chief Geoffrey Walton denies withholding damage deposits to cover Ian's share of the rent. He argues that they were required to cover damage to the house.

Mr Walton said: "I clarify that we did not lie, nor did we try to deceive or mislead the students.

"We did state before the landlord took over the file and all outstanding matters that in our opinion the security deposit bonds would be required to cover the dilapidations."

But the students say this is unfounded.

Nick Mills said: "We immediately responded to this insisting that the house was left in no worse a state than when we moved in."

The company have also played down their responsibility to find another tenant, despite promising to contact the students about the unhappy task of filling Ian's room.

Mr Walton said: "Surely the onus was on the existing tenants to help themselves and be proactive within their circle of friends and educational establishment to find a suitable tenant and mitigate their potential loss as much as possible."

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BOOK TABLES OF 10, 12, or 14

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT UNION SOCIETY RECEPTION

Park flash fears remain

By GAZ NEWHALL

AN UNDERCOVER police operation has ended with the arrest of a man suspected of a series of indecent exposures in Exhibition Park.

Police stepped in following a number of reported incidents in the park which many students use to travel between Jesmond and the University.

But this has failed to quell further reports of people acting suspiciously in the area.

In a worrying turn of events since the arrest, a female was confronted by a man who jumped out in front of her and appeared to pull something from his pocket.

The girl was unharmed but the identity of

the male remains a mystery.

And the incident has led to calls for police to reconsider stopping their surveillance of the area.

Speaking on behalf of the University police, estate security manager George Westwater said: "It would appear that this sort of criminal act has stopped and therefore police surveillance has also stopped. I am sure that if there was a reoccurrence they would act accordingly."

He also urged to exercise caution: "As with any area where there is a reduced volume of vehicular traffic, people should be alert at all times."

Mr Westwater is helping to produce a safety booklet, which is to be distributed in the near future to students and staff.

Student throws a paddy

By ROSS SMITH

A NEWCASTLE student is on the campaign trail after deciding to stand in next week's local elections.

Architecture and Planning student Graham Sout will be the Liberal Democrat candidate for Moorside - in which almost half the voters are students.

Castle Leazes, Leazes Terrace, Ricky Road and Windsor Terrace all come in the Moorside ward, and Graham is determined to capture their votes.

He says: "I want to make sure that students know they can vote here in Newcastle, and their vote can make a real difference in deciding who will represent them on the council."

The Henderson Hall resident has a number of student-friendly policies, including safer streets, liberal licensing laws and a 24-hour bus service, but he has a battle to improve on last year's 11.9% turnout.

He claims: "Of course students care, but much of the fault lies with the politicians who do nothing to inspire our generation of voters. I want to give students a positive reason to go out and vote for me."

Watch out for The Courier's
1000th birthday issue on 12th May

YALE BE SORRY



LEAZES: Keyless freshers

By JAMES TAYLOR

TWO Castle Leazes residents are under lock and fee after being hit with fines for losing their door keys.

Firstly, one student - known only as 'Christie' - has had to pay a total of £150 after losing his keys FIVE times.

Meanwhile, fresher Alex Cosgrove faces a £100 bill for changing his locks after his keys were swiped from the door when he was inside his room.

Staff have latched on to the problem, which is common among freshers who can't handle the responsibility.

And porters have been wondering if the students are unhinged. "It seems to happen all the time," said a spokesperson for the Halls. "It's unbelievable."

But Christie is keeping the whole thing low-key, and can offer no reason for the disappearances.

"I just go out, have a good time, and lose my keys," he explained. "I'm just hoping that they don't go missing again."

Dillon villain

By ROSS SMITH

MONICA mad third year Kris Wilkinson sparked a major security scare when his attempt to get an autograph backfired.

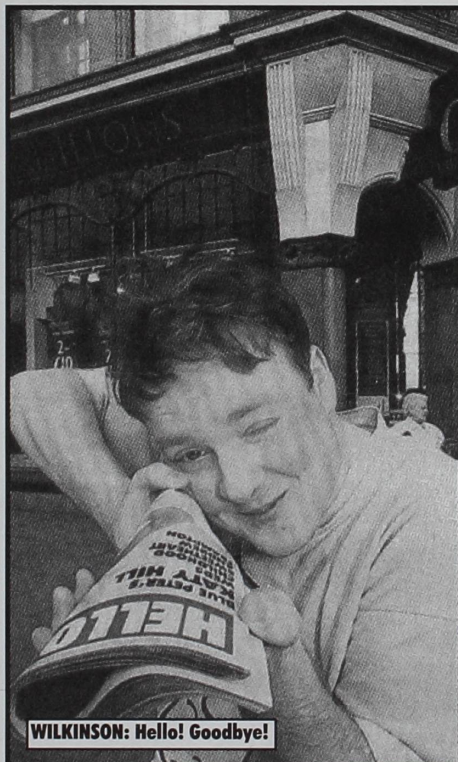
The History student couldn't afford to buy a copy of Monica Lewinsky's book at Dillons' signing session, but when he treached for a copy of Hello magazine from under his shirt, security guards pounced to throw him out.

Minders for Bill Clinton's ex-mistress were worried that Kris was about to pull out a gun, and promptly frog-marched him out.

Kris, who had queued for four hours, explained: "I was worried they would not let me see her if they knew I only had a mag for her to write on."

"So I rolled it up and put it into my front trouser pocket and under my shirt. I never realised they'd think I had a gun or something."

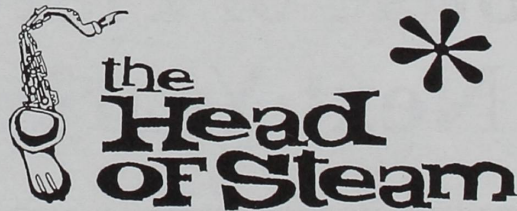
But Kris was full of remorse later on. He said: "I'd like to meet Monica again to tell her how sriry I am. I never meant to scare her."



WILKINSON: Hello! Goodbye!

The Courier - 1000 issues young
May 12... Watch this space!

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Democracy? No thanks - VC

By ROSS SMITH

STAFF and students have hit out at shocking claims from the Vice-Chancellor that democracy is unworkable in the university.

During an interview on Newcastle Student Radio, VC James Wright slammed calls for debate over Chris Patten's appointment as Chancellor.

In a vicious polemic against *The Courier*, he asked: "Do they really think that the university could attract a senior public figure if we had a tremendous internal public dogfight with several names being bandied about?"

And in a tense Senate meeting he was later heard to moan: "My cronies don't always do what I tell them."

The comments have provoked anger across campus with calls for greater democracy coming from all quarters.

Rebel lecturer Bruce Charlton claimed: "University democracy needs increasing, not destroying. Universities must be democratic institutions or else they soon stop being universities."

"They become universities in name only - although they usually try to disguise the fact by investing heavily in public relations, advertising and propaganda."

And one student blasted: "I find it incredible that the head of a university in a democratic country can have such contempt for the views of the people that make this institution thrive."

Communications Officer Nick Mouton said: "The more democratic things are, the more smoothly the university will work."

Students left in a spin after hire firm's shock ban

By **DUNCAN WOODSIDE**
CHIEF REPORTER

FOUR students were driven round the bend after a car hire firm barred them from renting a car.

The group were planning to drive to a mate's 21st birthday bash in Liverpool and booked a car from Woods Car Hire.

But the firm delivered the car thirty minutes late... and then told them the company doesn't rent to students.

That meant the four had to go to the party in Liverpool by train instead - leaving them £150 poorer and three hours late.

One of the students, Chris Jones, said: "If they'd told us 'No, we don't like students' when we rang up, it would have been fair enough. But they blatantly didn't."

"Instead, when we opened the door to them, the first thing they said was: 'Are you students? We don't hire out to students.' Apparently they don't like actors either."

A spokesman for the firm

said: "It is company policy not to rent to students, because of our insurance arrangements."

"They booked over the internet, and it is certain they will have been asked their occupation."

But the students denied these claims.

Chris added: "We didn't book over the internet - we only saw the advert there. We booked over the phone, and at no point did anyone ask about occupations."

"Because they said we could have it, we didn't book anywhere else."

"When we confronted them, they said they have a series of set questions they always ask potential clients, and that they keep a record of the responses."

"But when we asked them where they'd written down our supposed response, they just blanked us."

Union Communications Officer Nick Mouton said: "This is very closed minded and patronising towards students. Putting students in the mode of being untrustworthy has to be stopped and these people must stop."



THIS May day weekend sees the return of the annual Newcastle Green Festival.

Organisers of the event hope that over 8000 will flock to Leazes Park to help celebrate nature and discover new ways to save the environment

There will be everything for the budding eco-warrior from demos of the latest in solar power to sets from DJs and live bands like the mighty Bagdaddies.

Would-be greenies can calculate how environmentally friendly their day to day life is with a computer programme (solar powered of course) called eco-cal.

There will also be an opportunity to access the green-web and do some eco cyber-surfing.

The weekend will end with a bang with a spectacular fire show finale with a fire circus and a chance to have a go at fire juggling with workshops running throughout the day.

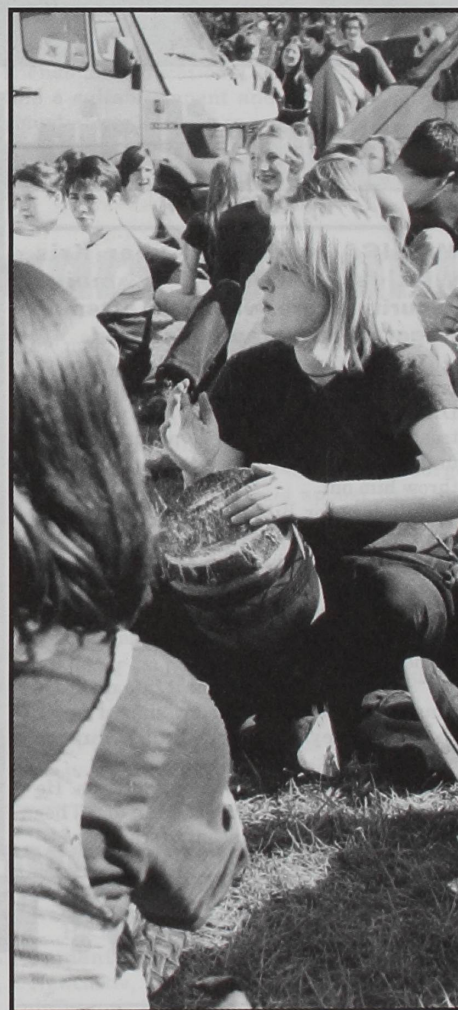
Organisers hope that a new generation of environmentally aware students will have been created by the recent GM food scares.

Tim Gray, an expert on green issues said: "The green movement reached its peak about ten years ago."

"Since then it seems to have been put on the back-burner again - perhaps the latest worries over GM foods will wake some people up."

The Newcastle Community Green Festival is on Saturday 1 May from 12 noon until 6pm.

It continues on Sunday 2 May between 12 noon and 11pm.



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I'm Ghanin' away

By **DANIEL BOFFEY**

THIRD year John Lawler - recently 'enstooled' as the chief for the African village of Shia - is to embark on the ambitious project of building a new junior school.

Chief Lawler's duties are to foster development in the village whenever he is in Ghana, and he intends to return to the country in July.

He is urging other students to join him

and help him in the new project.

On his year out last year, Lawler taught English in the village, but finding it with no resources he used his own cash to fund the buying of textbooks.

The efforts he made impressed the locals so much that three thousand gathered for a ceremony in which he received his 'stool' name of Torgbui Mottey, meaning "Chief Pioneering Pathfinder through the Forest."

Anyone who is interested in joining John in Africa this summer can contact him on 261 2015.

TYNEOUT...arts...music...listings...

...the essential guide

THE MOFFATTS

The Way You Love Me (Chrysalis)

THE OPENING chords of this song give a vivid first impression; they are perky, twangy, incredibly quick and precise, which would be lovely if it hadn't been done a million times before by such luminaries as *The Rembrants*, *Hanson* and *Hootie and the Blowfish*. And *New Kids on the Block*.

Yes, I'm afraid that this is from that repugnant genre, 'Friends-rock', and from the very beginning *The Moffatts* are pissing in the wind as far as this reviewer is concerned.

From this picture, you can probably discern that *The Moffatts* have been assembled to look just like

Hanson, and therefore to appeal to pre-pubescent girls and deviants alike.

However, the twist in *The Moffatt's* tale is that they actually sound WORSE than *Hanson*, all four of them having nasal, tinny voices like the whole single was recorded in a toilet.

It's probably because their balls have just dropped and their newly-broken voices have trouble managing the dizzying highs and lows required of them.

I think we're meant to believe that 'the guys' have written their own lyrics and tunes, and whilst the technically perfect guitar playing is way out of their league, the lyrics are just about within their capabilities.

Take, for example, the chorus of "The way you love me/Love me/La-la-la-la!". Need I say more?

Classic, unadulterated shite.

CHRIS DOWNS



NEW KIDS TO BE MOCKED

MISH MASH MISHKA



MISHKA

Mishka (Creation)

MISHKA really is a bit of an enigma.

The press release which accompanies *Mishka* reads like a romantic novel, describing a man who was brought up on a ship in the Caribbean, spending his childhood swimming around with dolphins and listening to the on-board radio to diverse gems like *Bob Marley*, *The Beatles* and *BB King*.

However, it wasn't all so idyllic.

Mishka tearfully recalls being caught in a tropical storm, getting tossed about on the waves like a rag doll in his little boat. Awww.

Anyway, for all the schmaltz about how he has "A story

like no other", how he ended up in a hostile High School, fending off jocks and seducing the girls with his beautiful and unique music, etc, we learn that his sister is no less than redneck temptress, "I'm not touched/ But I'm begging to be" *Heather Nova*.

How exactly does this equate with his pastoral biography, and why does Heather never mention HER unique upbringing? All very strange. But I digress.

Anyway, the music... Mishka must have listened to a LOT of Wailers on his little ship radio, as he sounds scarily like Mr. Marley, and tries to look like him as much as possible.

If he went on TV's 'Stars in Their Eyes', he'd win outright, and is very pleasant and chilled to listen to. Suprisingly fly for a white guy, despite the questionable past.

CHRIS DOWNS



TRANS AM

Futureworld (Thrill Jockey)

Pointless ironic rock or a wry comment on the musical redundancy of the late 90s?

Trans Am have always lived off this quandry, splicing huge rock anthems with very old blip keyboards for our merriment and it's always worked - just.

It retains the hilarious diversity of previous albums, conquering all areas of 1981-sound over the space of ten tracks (including stadium rock on *Sad and Young*), all executed with a straight face that makes 'Police Squad' look like one of those curious Yorkshire gurning contests that reveal new ways of contorting the human face.

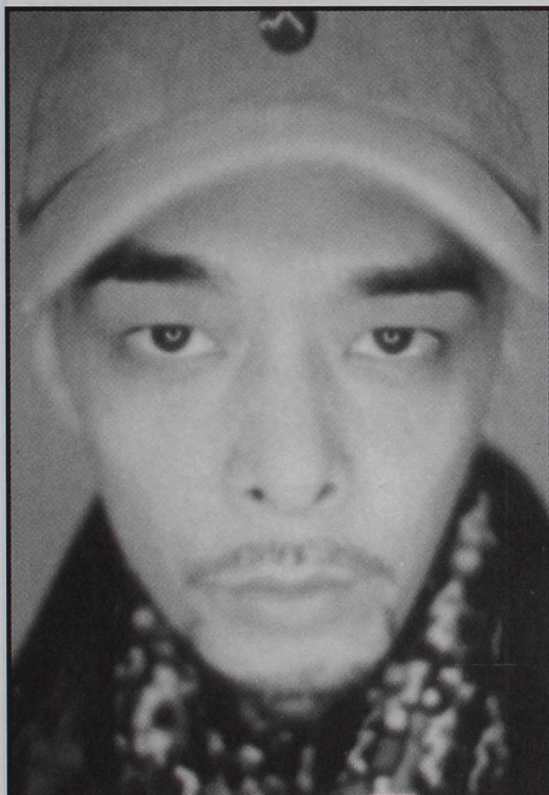
If this was in any way a self-righteous stab at 'art' then it would be utterly contemptible but this band just loves to wear it's favourite acts on its collective sleeve and create a lovely mess in the process.

Even *Runners Standing Still*, which sounds a hell of a lot like *Vangelis*, manages to fall just this side of endearment.

Once again, *Trans Am* give pious schmindie 'critics' the bird with a real sneer, playing what the hell they like without giving a fuck what anyone thinks about it.

Their call.

JOHN GIBSON



DJ KRUSH FEAT. ESTHERO

Final Home (Sony)

KRUSH is a Japanese beat boy with a taste for musical minimalism, a rather natty goatee, like a harder and darker DJ Shadow, a bit like *Portishead* without the crooning.

I'm a fan, to be honest since his uber-funk album *Miasmo* which allied wicked beats with wickeder rapping - it was devilish.

Krush has quit Mo'Wax and joined Sony,

and now there is crooning from doubtless bisexual Esthero, and an attempt to really sell the record.

It's just so disappointing, a squelchy bassline and lyrics that lost something in translation.

I'm sure it'll be Big In Japan, and those keen on late night "cups of tea". Can do better.

TOM FENWICK

THE HERBALISER

The Riverside (Thursday 29th April)

THEY have mad names: *Funki Porcini*, *London Funk All Stars*, *Coldcut*, *Up Bustle and Out*, *DJ Food*, *the Herbaliser*: they are Ninja Tune.

Why Ninja? it means cool, stylish, razor sharp cuts, the funk-hop fusion of de delicious bass and the rudest of rappin' and scratchin.

Fans of *The Wiseguys*, *Fatboy Slim*, *DJ Shadow*, *Freestylers* or lovers of *Blaxploitation* and *Shaft*, late night funk; this is the edge of trip-hop. I can't recommend this record label enough. It's genius.

But why not describe it in The Herb's own words; here is just a snatch from one of the many samples on his latest album, *Very Mercenary*:

"This is real shit."
 "Its good shit right?"
 "I mean bad shit."
 "Bad shit like, the shit is bad?"
 "Its shit shit, this shit isn't worth shit.
 Anyone caught on the street with this will get killed. This is real shit."

Steps dance routine unlikely. Funk-fucking-tastic.

Doors open 9.30 and it's £8 on the door.

TOM FENWICK

PLAYSTATION CORNER

News, Reviews and Games supplied in association with

Official UK PlayStation Magazine

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Eidos, £34.99

THE YOUNG urchin's eyes glistened as their grubby hands reached for my precious gift, the expressions on their faces reminding me of piglets fighting to get at their mother's teats.

The squeals became real as they grabbed hold of their prize, ripping open the packaging with lust-filled anticipation, making a low groaning sound usually associated with sexual gratification.

But enough about how much my housemates wanked over this game when I first brought it into our life.

After the flawed brilliance of the *World League Soccer* games, Eidos might just have cracked it on this occasion.

UEFA Champions League has been made to look exactly like ITV's televised matches, complete with classical Italian opera music, lavish introductory sequence and 'live' commentary from Brian Moore, Bob Wilson and Ron Atkinson.

This all gives the game an amazing atmosphere, but of course that would mean nothing if the game was wank.

Thankfully, with the much-improved control system and the fluid movement of the players, the opposite is the case - it is indeed class.

The game soon becomes second nature to play, whilst retaining the right level of difficulty to keep you coming back time after time.

In two-player mode, the game brings on

a whole new level of entertainment, with dramatic near-misses and spectacular saves getting the blood boiling to a level never achieved by other footie games - yes, even FIFA.

There are some minor blemishes, though; the referee is a bit erratic and all of the players look like deformed chimps, but the former does little and the latter none to effect the game's incredible playability, and any criticisms are pretty piffing.

Definitely one to buy after the exams.



Competition

Eidos have kindly donated a copy of this fantastic game to give away. All you have to do is name the LAST time Manchester United were in the Finals of the European Cup. Answers in a postcard in *The Courier* office before Friday the 30th April.



CHIC CHICKS



FASCINATING AIDA

Theatre Royal

WHAT do you get if you cross Jerry Springer, Fergie, and Viagra?

A hilarious new show from the mad trio 'Fascinating Aida', that's what.

For nearly two decades this unlikely threesome have toured the world with their outrageous singing act, managing to acquire something of a cult following. Their charm lies somewhere in their unique concoction of opera-style glamour and filthy-minded smut, well that's what I liked about them anyway.

'Barefaced Chic', the latest show, is basically a collection of all their latest musical compositions but with a theatrical edge that lends itself towards cabaret and West End glitz. The first half treated us to a behind the scenes style routine set in the girls' dressing room while the second half focused on their more show-stopping numbers.

Written and composed by the group's founder, Dillie Keane, the songs combine classical piano-

based music with witty and downright dirty satire on anything from viagra and Monica Lewinski to tabasco and beetroots, very strange. One of the highlights had to be their tribute to Fergie, subtly titled 'On the Piste', where they proceeded to ski around the stage in their evening dresses. Other classics included 'Kiss and Tell', 'Mr. Springer' and their extremely funny attack on New Labour's groupies, 'White's Blues'.

Definitely one for the girls, the show was all about a group of women having a good laugh at themselves, the famous, and most importantly, men - I don't think the male members of the audience truly appreciated 'Getting It', the viagra song, they certainly weren't laughing as loudly as the women.

Completely mad is perhaps the best way to describe these three songstresses, and for me that was their appeal. Chic chicks with their mouths in the gutter - I like it.

HELEN TITHER

EXPOSED

Laing Art Gallery

ONCE you get past the bollocks that surrounds modern photography and the shit that critics are wont to use to impress others with, what you are left with is actually a truly accessible art form.

'Exposed' is a refreshing, unpretentious exhibition of contemporary work from the MAG collection, collected specifically for public use. There is a tendency to believe that the work is meaningless without some text to accompany it but, beyond a brief introduction to some of the work, you're free to take this exhibition where you will without being confused by endless talk of negative signified space and the suchlike.

I've always thought that if it provokes a reaction, it's good art, and this collection will certainly do that. From Oliver Ricon's severed fish head

through to Harriet Fuller's disturbing 'Void of Will' compositions of Charles Manson, David Koresh and Jim Jones, there's something to the taste (or distaste) of everyone. There are some touching pieces in the form of David Buckland's 'Lesbian Rule' compositions, while the more recognisable pieces include Gillian Wearing's innovative 'Signs that say what you want them to say...', as seen on TV.

British talent shone out of the collection which consisted entirely of British work, mainly by women, from the last two decades. Avoiding the restrictions of two dimensional work, the exhibition has pieces in bottles, light boxes and in one case on a silk canvas. As an introduction to

photographic styles and techniques it works well, and gives as yet unrecognised artists space alongside established names.

The exhibition runs until June 20th, admission is free and there are workshops with the artists running throughout May and June. Arts without the bollocks, go and see it.

WYL MENMUIR



Arts Ligger with Becky Owen

A tepid welcome back to ligger-land dear readers for more cultural delights as championed by our very own canny city.

After last term's appearance of that delightful old camper Reg Holdsworth in The Rocky Horror Show, yet more cultic stowdents luminaries are being borrowed by the stage from the telly in the form of Channel 4's Mel and Sue.

The Tyne theatre hosts a brand new show by the queens of comic kitsch on the 1st of May. Although they are best known for the chat-cook bonanza Light Lunch the affable pair began their waggish road to the small screen at the Edinburgh Festival (The Naked Brunch, Kittens Go Grrr! and other hits).

In between this the duo have made fleeting contributions to the French and Saunders series - two fellow female comedians they have been compared to in the past. Secrecy surrounds the contents of the show, as sponsored by Superdrug, but rumours are circulating about free, live bikini-waxes and mucho laughter.

■ Mel and Sue appear at the Tyne Theatre, Westgate Rd, 1st May. Tel: (0191) 232 0899

Courier - No 1 for arts

ODEON

FANATICAL ABOUT FILM

ARE YOU FANATICAL ABOUT FILM?

On Saturday 1st May, the ODEON Cinema is hosting a special night for all of you film buffs out there. In collaboration with the Union's own resident quiz guru there will be a film quiz with piles of extra special movie related prizes and a star prize of a cinema pass for a whole year! As if this wasn't enough, the quiz will be followed by a special screening of **8mm** (18), the new film directed by Joel Schumacher (*Batman Returns*), written by Andrew Kevin Walker (*Seven*) and starring Nicholas Cage. **8mm** looks set to cause controversy, whether you love it or hate it, as it charts the descent of a respectable and decent family man into the darkest and most sordid corners of society. It's disturbing subject matter takes in pornography, murder and the sexual underworld in America after a seemingly innocuous reel of film turns Cage's character's life upside down.

At once graphic and disturbing and packed with thrills, **8mm** is guaranteed to satisfy those who like their films to walk on the wilder side. And it gets better. The lovely people at the ODEON have given the Courier **8** free tickets to this cracking event. So you can not only get to enjoy the film for free, but also be in with the chance to go and see any movie you want to free for a whole year. We want to give these tickets away to teams who want to enter the quiz, so get together with your mates and try your hand at answering this celluloid related question.

For his performance in which film did Nicholas Cage win an Academy Award®?

Get your heads together, get the answer, and get it to the Courier office as soon as you possibly can, and the first entries win the prizes.

The Odeon Film Quiz Night is on Saturday 1st May at the Odeon Cinema, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle. Doors open at 10.45pm. Normal entry to the quiz and film is still only £2.70. & THE BAR IS OPEN ALL NIGHT! with special drinks promotions.



weekly listings

unions

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday 28th April
•ECLECTIC with DJ PUNK ROCK £5 adv.

Friday 30th April
•POSITIVE £1 adv.

Saturday 1st May
•SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER £2/£3

Wednesday 5th May
•HYBRID £3.50 adv.

Friday 7th May
•POSITIVE £1 adv.

Saturday 8th May
•SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER £2/£3

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 FRIED ALIVE)
 8pm-2am. £1.50 adv./£2 door.

Saturday
•WIGGLE 8pm-2am.
 Entry £2 all night.

clubs

Mondays
•CLUB TROPICANA 80's Night
 Planet Earth £1.50 NUS
•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 NUS.

Wednesdays
•SWITZERLAND (Eclectic mix)
 Egypt Cottage, City Rd. Newcastle.
•JOINED AT THE HIP
 Pacha, Newcastle. 9.30pm-2am. £1.
•STRAWBERRY FIELDS 60's Night
 Planet Earth £3/£1 with NUS card.
•CLASSIC CUTS Tuxedo Royale,
 Quayside, G/Head. £1.50 with flyer
 (Request on 0191 477 8899).
•FUEL INJECTED (Indie/Rock)
 Riverside, Melbourne St.

Thursdays

•STEPPAZ 1 (Drum&Bass/Jungle)
 Rockshots. 9.30pm.
•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
•FOAM PARTY Featuring
BREAK THE BANK Tuxedo
 Royale, Quayside, Gateshead.
 FREE with flyer (Request on 0191
 4778899).
•80'S NIGHT Buz, Market Street,
 Newcastle. £2.50
•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.
•'GET WET' On the Boat Four
 separate rooms of music
 Tuxedo Royale
 £1 B4 11.15 (with flyer. Request on
 0191 4778899)

Saturdays

•NICE Rockshots. With ICE FM £8.
•NEW LOOK-NEWCLUB-NEW
WORLD Planet Earth £4/£3 NUS
 B4 11.15.
•DO YA WANNA PARTY Bliss. £5.
•SHINDIG Riverside £7/£8.
•ROCK NIGHT The Mayfair,
 Newgate St. £3.50.
•DEVOTION Planet Earth. £2 NUS
•A TOUCH OF CLASS Tuxedo
 Royale, Quayside, Gateshead.
•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 28th April
•KAIOS with Cameron Dante
 (Radio One), Justin Thomas & Matt
 Sokell £4/£5

Thursday 29th April
•THE BALLISTIC ROCKET -
NINJA TUNE with The Herbaliser
 (live) plus DJ's Mr Scruff, Dynamic
 Syncopation, & Gus Gus plus Ben &
 Has in the back room £7/£8

Friday 30th April
•LIVE & GIGGING £2
•STAKE OUT Classic indie, 60's and
 70's grooves, ballistic beats and latin
 vibes with DJ's Big Niall, Andrew
 Cameron, Nik Barrera and Chris
 Brooks £3/£4/£5
•STUPID PUMA with
 Squarepusher, 2nd Gen (live) &
 Curious Yellow DJ's (Doors 11pm)
 £5/£6

Saturday 1st May

•SHINDIG'S 5TH BIRTHDAY AT
RIVERSIDE with Alister
 Whitehead, Graeme Park, Andrew
 Weatherall, Scott Bradford, Scooby,
 Craig 'Disco' Dewson & Henry
 Smithson £13.50

Tuesday 4th May

•AFRO CELT SOUND SYSTEM
 plus special guests £7

Friday 7th May

•STAKE OUT £3/£4/£5

Saturday 8th May

•SHINDIG with Norman Jay, Scott
 Bradford & Scooby £6/£7/£8

RENDEZVOUS JAZZ CAFE

Pink Lane
 Open every night except Sunday for
 Jazz music.
 Thursday, Friday & Saturday
•SALSA DANSA
 Hot tropical Rhythmn
 Open 8pm 'til 1am. Admission £3/£4
 (price includes supper)

cinema

TYNESIDE CINEMA
 BOX OFFICE 0191 232 8289

Wednesday 28th April
•AN IDEAL HUSBAND (U)
 6.15/8.30
•WAKING NED (PG) 6.45
•DANCING AT LUGHANSA
 (PG) 8.45

Thursday 29th April
•AN IDEAL HUSBAND (U)
 4.00/6.15/8.30
•DANCING AT LUGHANSA (PG)
 4.45/6.45
•WAKING NED (PG) 8.45

Friday 30th April
•PAINTED ANGELS (15)
 10.30/4.00
•EXISTENZ (18) 6.15/8.30
•AN AUTUMN TALE (PG) 3.15/8.15
•PERDITA DURANGO (18) plus
 Psyche Out 5.30

Saturday 1st May
•THE RAILWAY CHILDREN (U)
 1.30
•PERDITA DURANGO (18) plus
 Psyche Out 3.30
•EXISTENZ (18) 6.15/8.30
•AN AUTUMN TALE (PG)
 3.45/8.15
•PAINTED ANGELS (15) 6.00

Sunday 2nd May
•AN AUTUMN TALE (PG) 1.00/6.15
•EXISTENZ (18) 4.00/8.30
•FEAR OF FEAR (15) 3.30
•PERDITA DURANGO (18) plus
 Psyche Out 5.30
•PAINTED ANGELS (15) 8.15

Monday 3rd May
•EXISTENZ (18) 6.30
•FEAR OF FEAR (15) 8.45
•AN AUTUMN TALE (PG) 5.45
•PERDITA DURANGO (18) plus
 Psyche Out 8.00

Tuesday 4th May
•EXISTENZ (18) 4.00/6.15/8.30
•AN AUTUMN TALE (PG) 5.45/8.00

Wednesday 5th May
•EXISTENZ (18) 6.15/8.30
•AN AUTUMN TALE (PG) 8.15
•BREAKING THE WAVES (18)
 5.00

Thursday 6th May
•EXISTENZ (18) 5.15
•AN AUTUMN TALE (PG) 6.00/8.15
•BREAKING THE WAVES (18)
 2.00/7.30

ODEON

PILGRIM STREET
 BOOKINGS & INFORMATION
 (24 HOURS) 0870 50 50 007

•8MM (18)
 2.40/5.30/8.10
•MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (15)
 2.30/5.25/8.05
•SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)
 8.10
•THE FACULTY (15)
 6.00/8.20
•RUGRATS (U)
 12.30/2.20/4.10/6.10
•MIGHTY JOE (PG)
 12.50/3.20

theatre

NEWCASTLE PLAYHOUSE
 BOX OFFICE 0191 230 5151

April 28th - May 8th
 Northern Stage presents
•A FACTORY ROMEO AND JULIET
 Created and performed by the
 Northern Stage Ensemble.
 On May 1st featuring the sultry,
 seductive cocktail 'jazz' of **BECKY**
AND BARRY in the Playhouse Bar
 TICKETS £6/£10/£12/£14
 DISCOUNTS £6.50/£8/£10

PEOPLES THEATRE HEATON
 BOX OFFICE 0191 265 5020

April 27th - May 1st
•THE STEAMIE
 By Tony Roper

May 11th - 15th
•TAKING SIDES
 By Ronald Harwood
 Tickets £6/£4

other

COCHRANE LOUNGE
 Every Monday from 8pm
•QUIZ NIGHT Sponsored by Odeon
 & Windows, with mega prizes
 including 32 pints of beer. Free
 Entry

MUSIC IN KINGS HALL
 Thursday 29th April at 1.10pm
 Programme includes:
 Franck: Violin Sonata
 GINA McCORMACK (violin)
 REBECCA HOLT (piano)

Saturday 1st May at 7.30pm
THE HELEN FERRIBY
MEMORIAL CONCERT
 Prabowo: Requiem For Strings
 Walton: Viola Concerto
 Ginastera: Suite Estancia
 Poulenc: Gloria
 NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
 ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR
 AGUSTIN FERNANDEZ (conductor)
 STEPHANIE GRIFFIN (viola)
 Tickets £6.00 (£3.00 concs.)

Tuesday 4th May at 1.10pm
 JAMES MOONEY (violin)

ODEON CINEMA
 Saturday 1st May at 10.45pm
 Film Quiz Night with lots of prizes, a
 showing of 8MM and the bar open
 late
 Tickets £2.70

Personal parts and Classified Column

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

WANTED

Undergraduate to help
 on small motor sailer for
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 during summer holidays.
 Wilkinson, Plemmeller,
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 01434 320970, Reverse
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Could the 'four great minds'
 please take their heads out
 from up each others arses!

127 - the story continues
NIGHTLINE
 For Information or a Chat

Ring
261 2905

"We don't sleep 'til you do"
 8pm to 8am

LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL SOCIETY

Meets 7.30pm Thursday,
 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

TYNE & WEAR
MAY DAY '99
 Saturday 1st May 1999
 Stalls ■ Live Music ■ Beer Tent
 Assemble 11.00am Forth Street
 (Behind Central Station)
Rally: 12.30pm Exhibition Park, Newcastle
 Organised by Tyne & Wear May Day Committee

GREEN FESTIVAL

1st - 2nd May
 Leazes Park

Stewards Wanted

Please come to a meeting at
 5pm in Committee Room A
 Or contact Clare Proctor
 (Welfare Officer) at Top
 Floor, Union Building.
 Tel: 239 3900 ext. 1017

Liz Todd



The word of TODD...

Holiday reading

SO MUCH for the start to a summer term, we've already had snow and it's still as cold as ever.

When April showers are freezing hail storms it does seem like a northern uni is not the best of choices. A fortnight of debauchery anywhere often sounds appealing, but with the addition of sun, sea, sand and sangria it's taken to another level. For everyone with a holiday booked the countdown has already begun.

First you need to put the cost to the back of your mind. Don't think of it in terms of rent or the size of your overdraft. The guilt vanishes if you start to add up the cost of a standard night on the piss. There's the taxis, drinks, drinks and more drinks, kebab on the way back...and then a mysterious vanishing twenty quid. See? Suddenly everyday spending at uni can add up to a guilt free fortnight in the sun.

Once the cheques have been written there's all the stuff that needs to be bought. Surely it's not just a girlie thing to go on major spending sprees? No matter how full the wardrobe already is, you never have anything to wear. Last year's foolish holiday bargains are destined to remain screwed up in a drawer somewhere. And when every shop is full of summer bargains the temptation is just too great to resist. A shopping trip into town is crucial well before you go. Otherwise in the last few days you'll be stuck trying to squeeze into the only bikini left in the shop (size six) or a pair of shorts that would look baggy on Mr. Blobby.

There's one slight problem when it comes to me going off on a holiday in the sun. Being a northern girl, the chances of seeing the sun for the other fifty weeks in the year are to put it plainly, totally non-existent. Pale and interesting? I'm so white I could practically advertise Daz. Certainly better than Shane Ritchie and his cheesy grin at any rate. Yes, in this safety conscious age we should all be wearing Factor 20. But doesn't everyone want at least a little bit of a tan?

Welfare aside, the City Pool are already onto a winner with their special deals on sun beds. The holiday countdown has begun, and now it's just eight weeks until miserable weather can be well and truly ditched. Surely it was a stroke of genius to stage a netball tour to Barbados for a fortnight? Newcastle's netballers are raring to go. And it's great to have something to focus on instead of cacking our pants that exams are in less than four weeks.

Obviously we'll be playing plenty of netball (well, Newcastle did win in Barcelona last year), but then the spectator sport of talent spotting will be somewhere on the sidelines. And with British football and cricket teams taking part in a huge tournament too, there'll be plenty of opportunity to socialise.

Maybe I'd better shut up. There's

nothing worse than someone who witters on about their holiday, except of course people who won't keep quiet about it once they've come back. We never seem to learn that really, no one's interested, although superficial gory details can often provide a bit of entertainment. It's just that once back to the dull reality of rainy Britain we get kind of wistful. After all the build up and anticipation it's over a bit too soon. It's not like there's even time to get any kind of tan. Well, every Brit abroad goes the typical lobster red in the first few days, but by the time we've got our photos developed it's all peeled off.

Alright, so rent normally takes priority and it's not like we all jet off to the Caribbean every year (this is my first holiday abroad for five years, honest). But there are ways of skanking a vacation without forking out a fortune. Everyone remembers the mortal embarrassment of Holidays With Your Parents. That phrase strikes fear into the heart of students everywhere as we all recall cringe worthy incidents. Arguments with siblings, dads who dredge up hideous childhood anecdotes, or step families who'd rather go to war than go to Spain. It's no wonder we all break out into a cold sweat just remembering it.

But now we're responsible adults who've fled the nest it's an entirely different matter. It's the perfect opportunity to relax and not have to make any decisions. We don't have to decide what to eat that night, or decide how to get there, or even decide whereabouts we're going in the first place. And best of all, we don't have to pay.

It's the simple fact that it'll be cheap, or even free if you play your cards right. Fellow students may scorn, but at the end of the day, it's a free trip to India/Portugal/America...when air fares like that are being paid for, it's rude to complain.

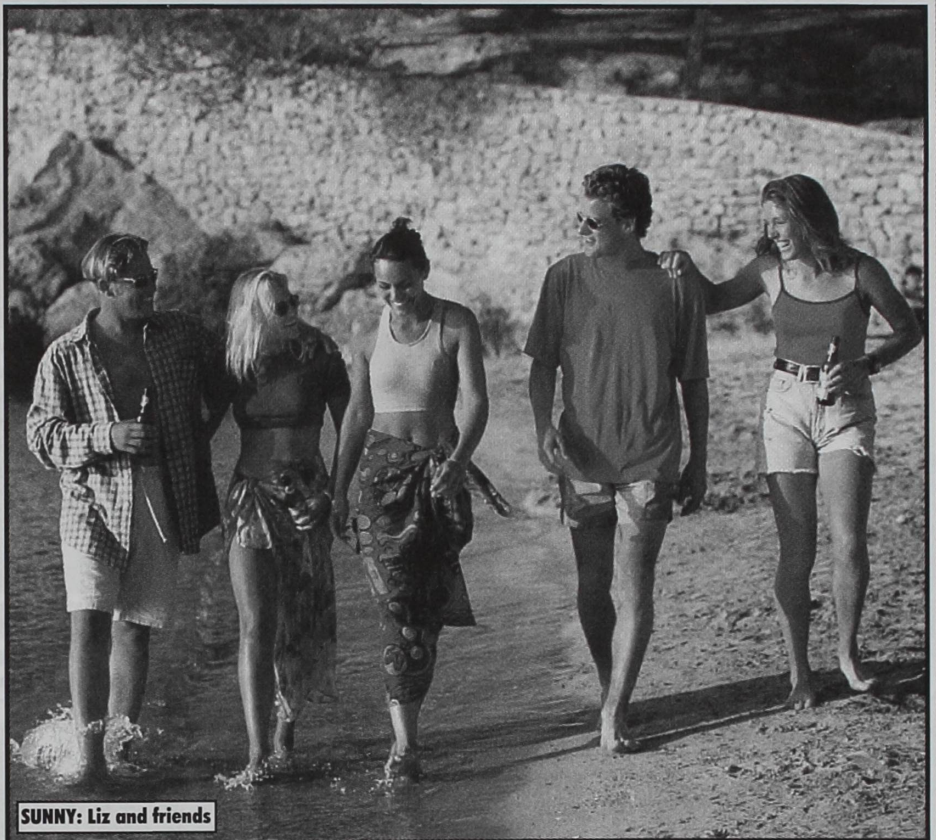
Tight Arse/Sloane Farce

Tight Arse

Our team of *Courier* hacks were shocked at the actions of a fellow reporter recently. On a trip to Burger King (using our trusty *Courier* vouchers of course) this particular bloke truly qualified as a tight arse. After scoffing the burgers he pocketed the unused tomato sauce packets to take home. But it was when he sauntered round the empty tables in search of more sauce that he started to look a bit silly.

Sloane Farce


We all remember getting lost in the supermarket when we were little, but these two sloanes take it to the extreme. On a shopping spree for food at M&S they managed to lose each other amongst the aisles. So as only sloanes can, one little rich girl phoned her sloaney friend to find out where she was.




SUNNY: Liz and friends



JET SET: Escape Jesmond



GENERAL MEETING



WHY?
To decide Union policy.

Who will it affect?

TOM

DICK

HARRIET

Anyone can put across a policy.
YOU are the decision makers.
Have a hand in **YOUR** Union.

Deadline for motions:
12pm, Thursday 4th May.
For more information contact the
Finance & Admin. Officer (Kate Vicary)
Top Floor, Union Building. Tel: 239 3900 ext. 1064

Dear Martin



Staffordshire Bull...

WELCOME to the penultimate "Dear Martin". Next weeks page is set to go out with a bang, so if you want to get something of your chest hand it in before Thursday or else forget about it. This week we have a letter that I lost months ago but really should publish, a twisted romance and some shocking allegations about favouritism in the Freshers stewards selection process. Until next time take care of yourselves and each other.

With a little help from my friends

Dear Martin,

As one of the hundreds of people dying to experience another piss up in "Freshers Week" under the guise of a "Steward", I was slightly pissed off, to find out that the process of filling out an application form and going to an interview, can be totally by-passed if you know one of the selection committee, or if you are a friend of a friend on the committee or even a friend of a friend of a friend... get the point? [YES GET ON WITH IT! Martin]

Whilst investigating this selection process I discovered, much to my horror, a dreadful Crime. A certain female, who shall remain nameless, handed in a list of fifteen (suddenly acquired) friends to a member of the committee. To my absolute amazement (!) they have all been "selected" as stewards for next year!

Well done to everyone who got in without kissing arse!!

Anon

Martin's reply: Favouritism and nepotism in our Union? Never! Such things are almost unheard of, honest! The problem here is that you all voted in this lot as FYC organisers and if they are guilty as charged then its your fault for voting them in! What you said is probably true and does this really surprise you. If you were in charge of FYC wouldn't you get a few of your mates involved? I know I would...

Photo love story

Dear Martin,

Help, I have a serious problem. I met someone in the library a few weeks ago and they helped me copy up some notes for my dissertation. I'd never noticed this person before. But since our first meeting I have had numerous late night liaisons and now after all the help they gave me I think I'm in love.

The problem is that this person is a photocopier. You might laugh but a photocopier gives unconditional love, it helps and asks for little in return. The only problem is that

It's costing me a fortune to send my true love cards, at least £1 a time this relationship is more demanding than most.

Things came to a head last week when I caught someone else massaging the pure glass surface on my beloved, then discovered when it was my turn that she had run out of toner and had a paper jam. I could handle this relationship were it not for the fact that my love seems keen to use everyone and anyone, my love for a bi-sexual photocopier is driving me mad and she's stopped running out of toner on me, does this mean my relationship is over?

Copy Boy

Martin's reply: To love a photocopier is a dangerous thing to do. Everyone knows that they are the most promiscuous of office appliances. If you must continue with your love of electrical appliances, may I suggest a liaison with an electrical blanket or something slightly more personal. Alternatively go out into the real world and discover other people.

The Lost letter

Dear Martin,

Following the (justified) complaint from one of your readers in *Courier Letters* (25 November), and his accompanying (unjustified) complaint about Twix bars. Not to mention the intemperate rant from Martin Letters Editor (which I recognise as being a professional attempt at defeating apathy in the readership) ...

How about you come and see us one day next term? We'll show you a little of what we do, and explain why we have such dreadfully Draconian rules, and give you some background to the University's computing services. Being an Arts graduate myself (and from this very venerable pile) there's no fear of your being geeked out...

Kind regards,

John Law

University Computing Service

Information Officer

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

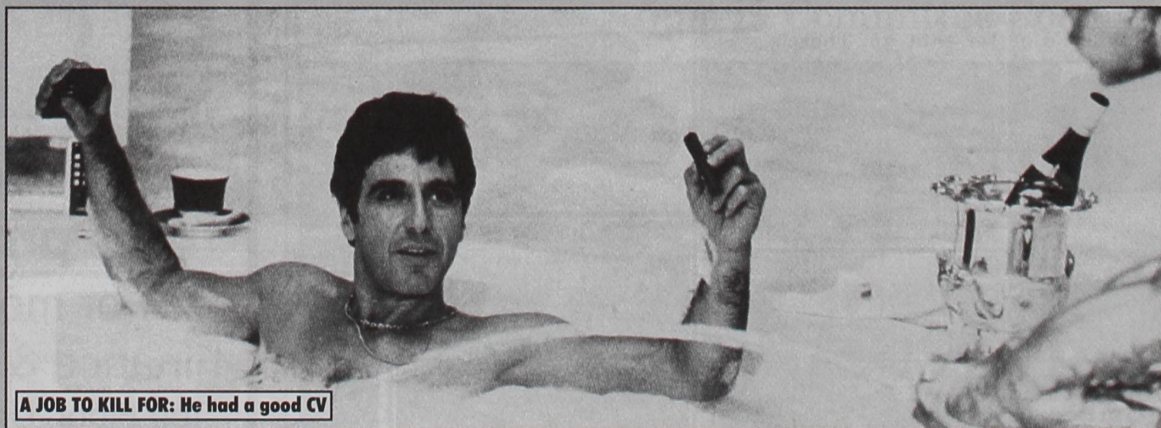
Martin's reply: This letter was lost amongst a pile of discarded fag packets pint glasses and other crap but I feel that I should include it as its a nice attempt by the UCS to seem human. They are however quite obviously mad as nobody has ever called me professional before. The original letter was a complaint about not being able to eat chocolate and use a computer at the same time amongst other things. I don't really care, until alcohol and smoking are allowed near computers, the ordinary student will struggle to use them.

doubtless find the transition effortless. Unfortunately the chance of any of us becoming media celebs are very slim (unlike Robbie). But don't worry. As with the current steaming pile of docu-dramas on TV, sooner or later all of us will have our fifteen minutes of fame. We'll get to launch spin off careers. Note: learning to drive, working on airlines, pest control and shop assistants have all been done. Try making docu-dramas for a living because sooner or later they'll run out of ideas and have to make a series about the pressures of making a TV programme about boring gits who think being on T.V justifies everything they do (see *Parking Wars/ Neighbours from Hell* etc etc)

5) Win the Lottery: Self explanatory really. Live like a student for the rest of your life with the added pleasure of watching bank managers grovel to you. Indulge your sadistic side by getting begging letters and writing back to everyone telling them to fuck off and buy a lottery ticket themselves. Especially if they want the money for a life saving operation for their kids.

6) Crime: Deal drugs or sell your body, indulge, extort, by any means necessary. The most appealing thing about a life of crime is that if you do fuck things up and get caught, you'll have no bed and board worries for the rest of your prison sentence. Plus the chance to do all that reading that passed you by at University. Even better, if you don't get caught, retire to the Costa Del Sol and get fat and old.

However you must remember being a big shot criminal gang lord will either get you killed or even worse get you in prison where you may be forced to make new best friends in the showers. *The Courier* in no way advocates... blah blah blah.



A JOB TO KILL FOR: He had a good CV

Students

Cheap food
cheap drinks
at Casa Antonio

PHONE :-0191 2702421

Monday to Friday 6pm-10pm

FOOD

All food 10% discount on production of an NUS.

DRINKS

MORETTI - £1.40

LAGER - £1.40

BITTER - £1.40

BUDWEISER - £1.70

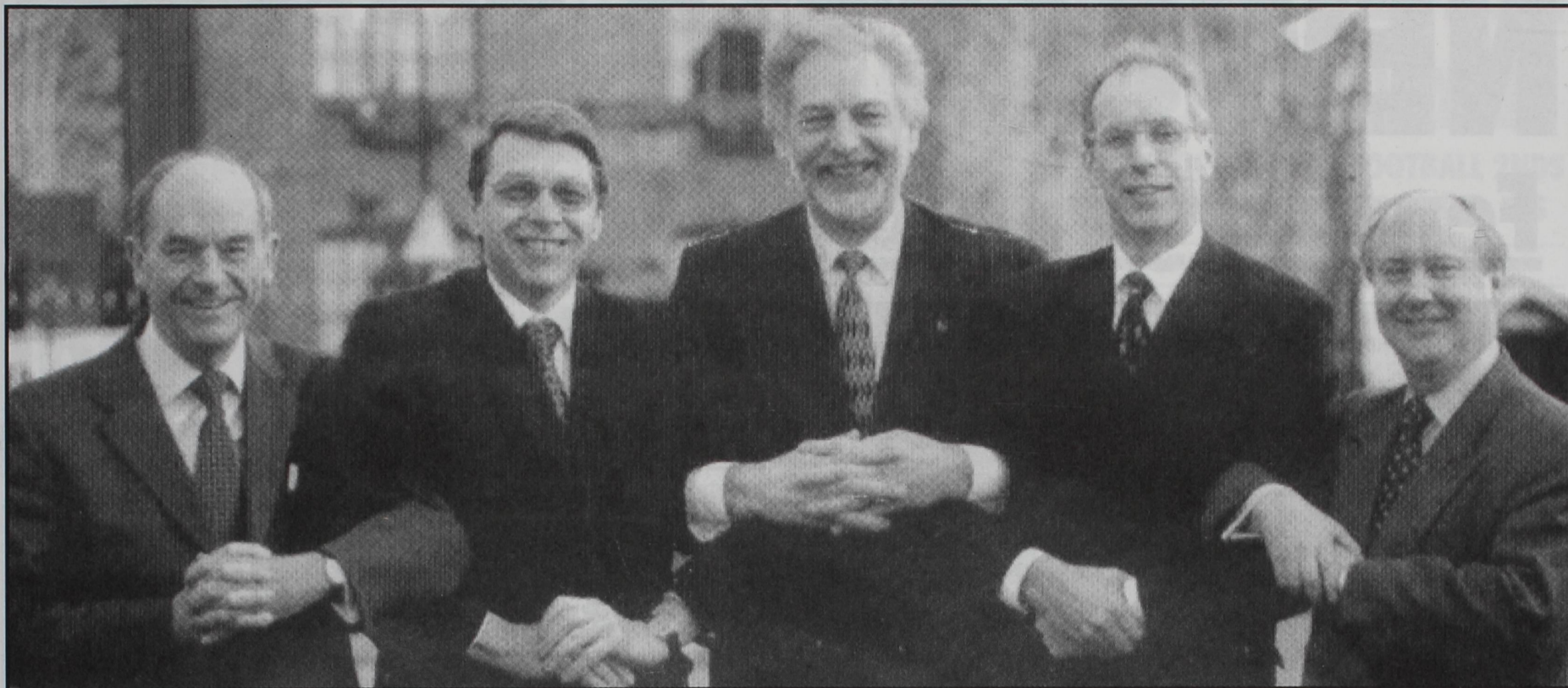
COCKTAILS - £2.50

PARTIES- 10% DISCOUNT 7DAYS A WEEK

CONTACT JOSEPH FOR DETAILS.

Nr. Ethel
Williams and
Henderson Halls

Hair've we got news for you!



SLAP-HEAD!
Wright - Newcastle University

GROOMED!
Brown - Sunderland

BUSHY!
Fraser - Teesside

AT RISK!
Smith - Northumbria Poly

COMB-OVER!
Calman - Durham

By THE COURIER NEWS TEAM

RIGHT Said Fred and Kojak could be among the next generation of University Vice Chancellors, according to a shock *Courier* investigation.

But they'd be BALD out if they tried to take over a poly, where they demand hairier bigwigs.

The *Courier* combed the country's campuses in what is thought to be the biggest such investigation ever undertaken.

Our results are set to send shockwaves throughout the academic world.

They reveal for the first time how higher-profile Vice-Chancellors have had toupée the price of prestige.

A massive 83 per cent of the polys we surveyed had V-Cs with full heads of hair.

In contrast, 71 per cent of their posher counterparts are bald - with only 29 per cent boasting luscious locks.

Newcastle's James Wright's bare bonce shines in the sunlight compared to the full-haired Professor Gilbert Smith at Northumbria.

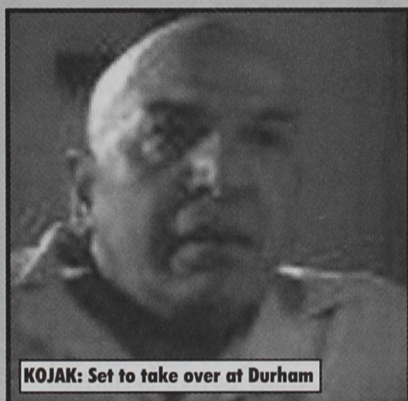
And elsewhere in the North-East the heads of Sunderland and Teesside are far less follically challenged than Sir Kenneth Calman, the dome-headed V-C at Durham.

The trend continues throughout Britain, pulling the rug from underneath those who argue older seats of learning are not Head and Shoulders above the 'new' universities.

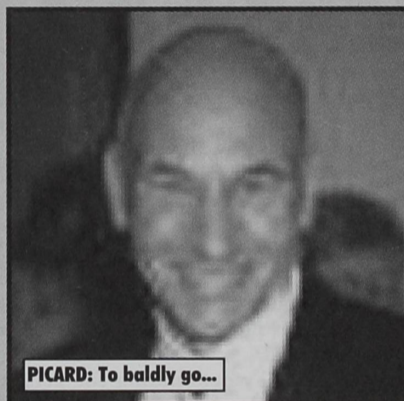
Sheffield, Hull, Birmingham and Liverpool are among other examples of older universities with baldies at the helm.

Meanwhile hairdressers close to Leeds Metropolitan, Huddersfield, Bradford and many more 'new' universities up and down the country can tend the split ends of the poly elite.

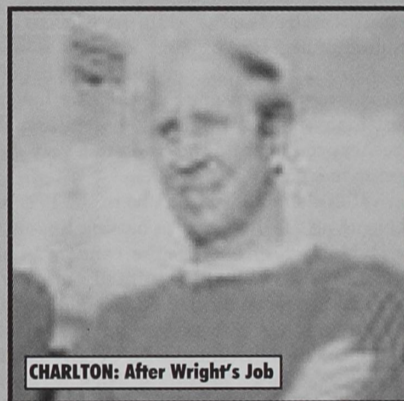
But bald James Wright's naked scalp could be the key to boosting the University's applications - experts agree with Right Said Fred that bald men ooze sex appeal to the average punter.



KOJAK: Set to take over at Durham



PICARD: To baldly go...

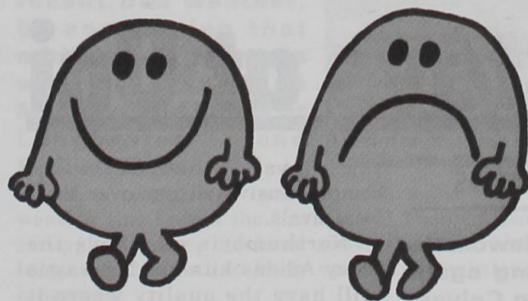


CHARLTON: After Wright's Job

AT A UNIVERSITY NEAR YOU SOON?

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

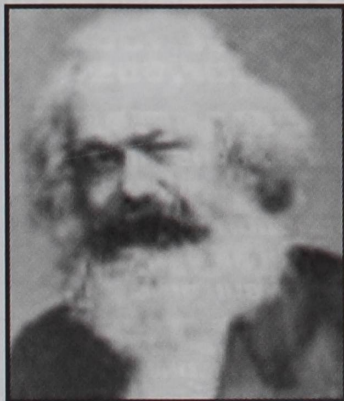
Mr. Happy or Mr. Miserable



Which one are you?

- Each year one in four people experience mental health problems
- Depression can affect anyone at any age
- Over 4000 people take their own lives in the UK every year
- If you feel depressed for over two weeks you should contact your doctor

Contact Welfare.union@ncl.ac.uk for more details or pick up leaflets from the mental health information stalls



MARX: New Poly VC?

NEWCASTLE FOILED

Fencing girls edged out by Kings in

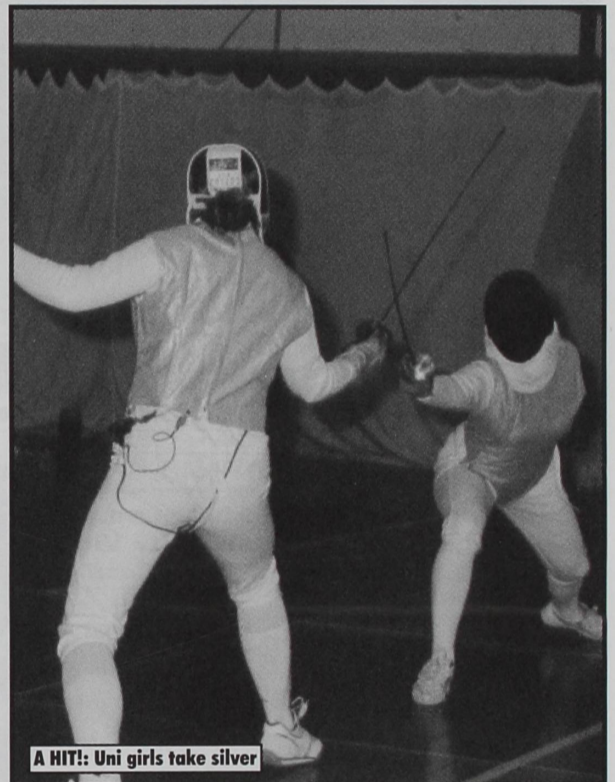
BUSA shield final

By MARIA CRYER

AFTER a close shave with Leeds University in the semi-finals of the BUSA shield, Newcastle Ladies Fencing Team won a well deserved place for the first time in years at the finals in Birmingham on the 6th March. In a hard-fought contest, Newcastle lost to King's College London by 10-8.

The three team members of Kings College London, beating their way to the final with 3 walkovers, strolled confidently onto the piste one by one in the foil stage of the competition, only to end the first stage three points down (3-6). Team Captain Maria Cryer fenced strongly against two KCL team members, only to be beaten by the third. Similarly, Jo Conybeare and Carmel Boylan performed well, winning all but one bout each.

In the epee stage of the competition, the Newcastle ladies fared well, but not well enough. Aimee Lawrance, Boylan, and Conybeare put up a strong and noble fight against a



A HIT: Uni girls take silver

very strong epee team but with one team member down (Louise Hampton), they couldn't quite make the points.

The whole competition hinged on the last two fights, but the sabre, KCL's strongest team weapon, had been kept till last and the final score was 10-8 to KCL.

Team Captain Cryer was stoic in defeat, saying: "There's no shame in a result like that, the whole team fenced extremely well and after an enthralling and often knife-edge competition, sadly missed the shield by only two points. It was a thriller till the end."

Batmen Return

CRICKETERS SET FOR SUMMER

RAIN and snow apart, the 1999 season looks set to be one of the most memorable in recent memory for Newcastle's cricketers.

Despite their relegation from the Northern Premier League, the squad have set their sights firmly on promotion back at the first attempt, in doing so, hoping to emulate the tennis girls in claiming the BUSA shield.

Club Captain Martin Pollard is hopeful for the coming season. He said, "We haven't lost many players from last season, and the freshers coming into the club are a very good group indeed."

"It is a shame we won't be in the Premier League as I feel we have a batting line-up to match the very best in the country. That said, we'll be very disappointed not to win both promotion and the BUSA shield."

Newcastle's batting line up this season will include two freshers with County 2nd XI experience, Rick Sellers and Nick Kay, and the pair will augment an order that includes last years top run-makers Henry Dixon and Matt Mountain.

Bowling duties look set to fall mainly upon Pollard himself and the experienced James Thomas, but the duo look set to be supported by a number of promising pacemen coming up through the



CRICKET SQUAD: Up for it

ranks. Newcastle will face Bradford, Leeds Met, York and Teeside in their group, with the crunch fixture likely to be at home to Leeds on Sunday May 2.

■ A youthful University XI travelled to local club side Ashington for a friendly last Sunday. Batting first, Newcastle amassed 212-7, with top scorers Engelen (51) and Sellers (55) being supported by contributions throughout the order. In reply Ashington looked in command with their Aussie professional

Scott Kay dominating the attack, but once he was removed their reply petered out, finishing on 174-5 from their 45 overs. Friendly fixtures against Manchester and Hull have been washed out by last week's torrential rain, leaving the side a little short of match practice ahead of the start of the BUSA season today, when the 1st team travel to Bradford

UNI 20 - 14 POLY

Cup stays at Uni

By LUKE EDWARDS

THE Blue half of Newcastle was out celebrating again after claiming Stan Calvert victory for the third year running.

Although BUSA results have been slightly disappointing in a season which promised so much early on, the 20-14 victory over the Poly provided a timely boost to the University's sporting reputation.

Although not all the sports were played this year, the most notable absence being the Men's Rugby fixture at Kingston Park,

the Royal Blues scored a comprehensive victory over their local rivals.

Northumbria may have the fancy Adidas kits but Newcastle still have the quality where it matters - on the pitch.

A.U officer Rachel Dukes was distinctly upbeat about claiming the coveted trophy for the third successive year.

She said: "It was a resounding victory and I'm delighted with how things turned out."

"Obviously it was unfortunate that not all the games could be played but to retain the silverware for the third year running is a superb achievement."



CALVERT: If the cup fits...

Union Catering

Stotties of the Week

Week commencing 26/04/99

Egg & Cress

Week commencing 05/05/99

Cottage Cheese

Only 65p

Check out these food outlets for various

- THE BASSMENT**
UNION BUILDING DOWNSTAIRS
- COCHRANE LOUNGE**
GROUND FLOOR UNION BUILDING
- MLK ROOM**
LEVEL 1 UNION BUILDING
- GLOBAL CAFE**
LEVEL 2 UNION BUILDING

The Courier

MILLENNIUM SPORT AWARDS

It's that time of year again. The second annual Courier Sport Awards. To win a gilded plastic statuette with your name on, you'll have to be entered in one of the following categories:

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Last year's winner: Mens Rugby 1st XV

Man of the Year

Last Year's Winner: Rich Ward

Girl of the Year

Last Year's Winner: Nathalie Passeven

Most improved team

Last Year's Winner: Swimming

Best Result

Last Year's Winner: Ju Jitsu

Courier Millennium Sport Awards

Team of the year.....
 Man of the Year.....
 Girl of the Year.....
 Most Improved Team.....

 Best Result.....

 Your Name.....

Why?.....
 Why?.....
 Why?.....

 Why?.....
 Why?.....
 Team/Sport.....

cut along dashed line

ATHLETICS

ATHLETES HIT FINAL HURDLE ON THEIR TRIP TO GLASGOW



ON TRACK: Newcastle Athletics Squad

By LISA GOODFELLOW

UNIVERSITY Athletes travelled to Glasgow for the annual BUSA indoor athletics championships at the end of last term.

With highly credible performances all round, and a good team spirit, Newcastle competitors made their trip to Kelvin Hall worthwhile.

Elite athlete Cicely Hall put up a brave battle to win an 800m semi-final place, narrowly missing out on the final.

Tim Davis ran a strong 3000m, but despite a quality

run it was not enough to secure a final place.

Competitors included Oystein Brattetaule in the 60m and long jump, Ben Williams and Will Greenly in the 400m, Lisa Goodfellow in the triple jump and 60m, Sarah Randles in the pole vault, Cicely Hall in the 60m hurdles, Alys Matthew in the 400m, and Monica Christiansen in the 800m.

FLOODLIT

Night games

put Intra-Mural back on track.

THE Sport Centre for has responded to the recent bad weather, by announcing that additional fixtures will be played on Mondays and Friday at Longbenton and Redhall Drive.

As a result of poor weather this season the Intra Mural Football League has struggled to keep its head above the mud, the lack of league fixtures has been very disappointing to all concerned.

The new Head of Recreation, Bess Evans, who had taken over the running of the leagues says "sport is all about taking part and this certainly hasn't been the case so far this season."

To solve the problem, evening fixtures are to take place at Longbenton and Red Hall Drive on Mondays and Fridays at 6.00pm to catch up on the backlog of league games. There will be a meeting to organise Intra Mural Football on Monday 26 April in the Lecture Room at Kings Walk Sports Centre.

■ for up-to-date results keep an eye on the web pages <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/~nprs/> any comments e-mail the Recreation Department on i.m.sport@ncl.ac.uk



INTRA MURAL: Get in

Jeffrey inspires cup final win

LOCAL VICTORY FOR FOOTBALL 2NDS Newcastle Seconds 3-2 Walker FOS

By JAMES MASON

IT WAS a case of second time lucky for the Mens Football Second XI when they claimed a 3-2 victory in the North Tyneside Amateur League Cup Final last Monday. Steve Barker's side fully deserved this win, especially after crashing out of the BUSA Shield on penalties.

After losing to Gosforth Kosa in the final at Gateshead Stadium last year in what was a low key performance by the Uni side the boys were determined to make amends this time around.

Captain Steve Barker clearly had his side fired up and full of confidence having already beaten Walker in the league the week before.

But this was no misplaced optimism with the University going 2-0 up after just twenty-five minutes.

Man-of-the match Peter Jeffrey had a hand in both. He superbly rounded the keeper to put his side 1-0 up before slicing open the Walker defence to create the second for Outsides who made no mistake from six yards.

With the midfield pairing of Tom Murgatroyd and Tom Onions providing the flare and some stubborn defending gave Newcastle had the better of the early exchanges.

Nonetheless, Walker pulled a goal back when Allen was harshly

judged to have handled in the box.

With Walker pressing for an equaliser the second half was full incident. A peach of a goal saw the local side draw level when Sullivan was caught on the backfoot by a superb thirty yard lob to send the Walker fans into ecstasy.

But Sullivan was soon to redeem himself when he pulled off a match winning point blank save during the course of some relentless Walker pressure.

Buoyed by such heroics Newcastle looked set to comfortably force extra-time until 'Sir' John Hall provided a moment of inspiration.

More good work from Jeffrey provided the opening and Hall beat the keeper from an acute angle to secure a splendid victory.

the team

MENS FOOTBALL 2ND XI

Sullivan Clarke, Barker, Johan, Allen, Murgatroyd, Onions, Raeside, Outsides, Jeffrey, Hall.

Centre for Physical Recreation & Sport



Close House Golf Club

Fast Track Induction Courses 1999

Our non-resident Golf Professional, Marcus Webb, who has been conducting the Induction Courses, will be running Fast Track Induction Courses for the novice/improver or intermediate that will replace the beginner's induction courses that took place in the previous two terms. The cost will be the same as the induction course, £6.00.

The Courses will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 5th May (Students & New Members)
- Wednesday 12th May (Students & New Members)
- Wednesday 19th May (Students & New Members)

All the courses will be held at Close House Mansion and the format will be the same for each occasion.

- 1.15pm Rules and Etiquette Lecture held in the Mansion House.
- 2-3.00pm 1st Tee Reserved. - 6 groups to play in threes. Marcus to play 3 holes with each group.

There can be a total of 18 places available each week. Enrolment: King's Walk sports Centre.

Please note: If transport to and from Close House is required(students only), you must book this when registering for the course.

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 1999

Ladies Tennis cruise to Shield victory

SMAASHING

Newcastle 6 Leeds Metropolitan 0

Student Strike

Collinson's girls sweep away feeble Tyke challengers

By LUKE EDWARDS

LADIES tennis completed their recovery from a disappointing start to the season, cruising to a 6-0 victory over Leeds Met in the Shield Final at Loughborough.

Hannah Collinson's side had been expected to challenge for BUSA top honours in the Cup, but a slow start to the campaign left them short of the top strand of qualification.

But, led by the two Lynseys - Davison and Rawling - who have been in scintillating form since Christmas, the girls belatedly showed the sort of ability that could have seen them have a real chance of finishing as national champions.

But that is not to take away from their superb performances in the Shield, which were clearly evident in the final against Leeds Met.

Both Lynsey Davison and Catherine Risebro managed to overcome viruses to help their team through, and even though they both lacked full fitness their play was simply too strong for the Tykes.

Davison justified her number one position and standing as a senior county star with an overwhelming destruction of Leeds' Yvette Leonard 6-0 6-1.

But it was her namesake Lindsay Rawling who stole the show. The ever determined Rawling, who also plays first team hockey, vowed not to lose a match in the final. In the end not only did she not lose a match, but in an outstanding display she only conceded two points in just twenty-five minutes of action taking both sets 6-0.

Captain Collinson looked slightly out of sorts in her match, taking the first set 6-4. In the second set her strength of character was tested to the limit, as she fought back from 5-3 down, saving one set point, to win 7-6.

Risebro completed a singles whitewash 7-5 6-0 with her opponent falling apart after a close first set.

Unsurprisingly, the two Lynseys thrashed their opponents 6-0 6-0 in the doubles, even though they spent most of the match looking like they were on a day out in the country rather than playing in a BUSA final. Collinson and Risebro wrapped things up 6-2 6-4 in the doubles.

"It was an excellent team effort with very solid individual performances" claimed star girl Davison.

Collinson summed up the feeling that this side could have done so much more when she said: "The fact we won so convincingly in the final highlights that fact that we should have been in the Cup and would have every chance of doing well in that."

"But that shouldn't take away from this win, it has been a wonderful end to my year as captain."

The twenty year old Combined Studies student was also quick to stress the importance of the whole squad in achieving this result: "Credit must go to all sixteen members in the squad who have all represented the team at various occasions and put in a great level of effort and commitment over the past nine months or so."



OPPONENTS BOWLED OVER

JIMMY Wiltshire broke his personal best twice in one event as Newcastle Ten Pin Bowling Club secured a surprise third placed finish at Hull on March 20.

Although the tournament was the second in as many weeks the Toon boys looked far from jaded as they re-affirmed their growing reputation at University level.

Led by an outstanding individual performance by Wiltshire the black and whites nonetheless felt as though they hadn't done enough to qualify for the final, only to do so by the closest of margins.

With nails bitten to the tips Newcastle slipped through ahead of hosts Hull by just

three pins to qualify in fourth place.

Boosted by this Wiltshire went on to smash his earlier best of 182 by an incredible 21 pins, a tournament high. A team total of 913 pins was also a tournament best and led captain Dan Wymer's men into third place above Leeds much to their obvious delight.

■ Anyone interested in getting involved with the club should contact Dan Wymer on 0958 790552 or by e-mail: ten.pin@ncl.ac.uk.

AC
Andersen
Consulting

Freephone recruitment helpline

0500 100 189