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down memory lane

20
pages

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21: reveal our team of the year



Pages 22, 23 and 24

No. 1000!

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 1999

25p

UNHOLY WAR

EXCLUSIVE

By **ALAN J. SOADY**
DEPUTY EDITOR

GAY rights activists have this week picketed a Newcastle church after comments made to *The Courier* by its vicar.

David Holloway from Jesmond Parish Church - which has over 200

students among its flock - caused outrage with his comments against gay people.

He was speaking two weeks ago, in the wake of the House of Lords' decision to boot out a bill which would have lowered the gay age of consent to 16.

Gay rights group Stonewall accused the Jesmond-based Christian Institute - where Rev. Holloway is a founding member - of bankrolling peers to reject the bill.

At the time the outspoken vicar told *The Courier*: "It's not me saying

homosexual sex is wrong, it's God's word.

"Most homosexual sex 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."

On Sunday morning student campaigners staged a peaceful protest outside the church to urge the congregation to take issue with their vicar.

Scores turned up to help give out leaflets, and the protest made headlines in the local media.

Union LGB Officer, Victor Grayson, said: "We managed to talk to a lot of the congregation and explain the impact of the Christian Institute and David Holloway's views on our lives.

"He and the Christian Institute have willingly been involved in a campaign which will bring about so much misery and cause so much harm to the welfare of young gay and bisexual men."

But not all of the congregation felt the same way. One church-goer said: "I'm a Christian and I believe in the teachings of the bible."

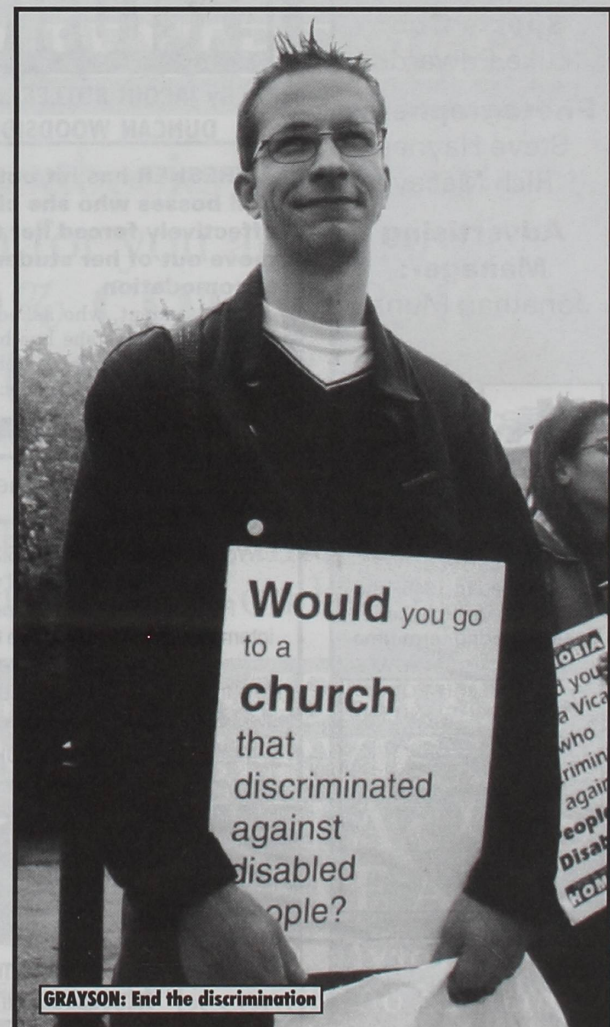
Another staged an argument with demonstrators claiming homosexuality was a "social problem."

David Holloway emerged after his Sunday morning service to talk to the waiting media, but then snubbed protesters by refusing to speak to them.

He said: "I'm saddened at the way this is being conducted, but I was expecting it because of Stonewall's campaign launched this weekend in the light of the London nail bombings."



HOLLOWAY: Faces the media spotlight



GRAYSON: End the discrimination

GENERAL MEETING...THURSDAY 1PM...SEMESTERS

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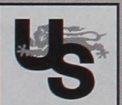
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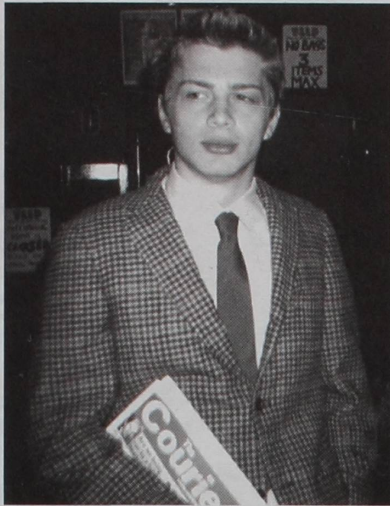
The Courier is the independent newspaper of the

Student Union at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Established in 1948, The Courier is published weekly during term time

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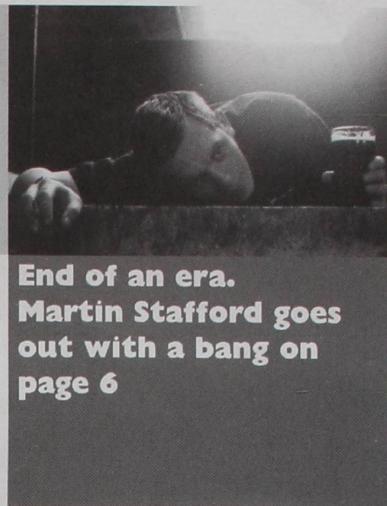


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Celebrate our very own millennium
A look back over the last 1000 issues of the country's best student newspaper (that's us, by the way...)
Centre pages

Our luvvies of the year
Go all of a quiver with Tither and her chums, Cameron and Jason on pages 16 and 17



End of an era.
Martin Stafford goes out with a bang on page 6

STUDENT'S HALL HELL



EXCLUSIVE

By JACQUI BUTLER and
DUNCAN WOODSIDE

A FRESHER has hit out at Hall bosses who she claims effectively forced her to move out of her student accomodation.

The student, who asked not to be named, claims she has been the victim of unreasonable behaviour after a Hall bigwig allegedly:

■ **HAMMERED** on her door at 7.45 in the morning;

■ **BELLOWED** at her from barely a foot away; and

■ **CHALLENGED** her to take her grievance further.

The furious first year has already fired off a letter detailing her gripe and she is now considering lodging an official complaint with the University.

The sequence of events is said to have been triggered after the student forgot to pay a £1 overnight fee for a friend who stayed with her.

When it was drawn to her attention she paid the charge

straight away, but claims certain staff at Ethels would not let the issue drop.

Now she has moved to an address in Heaton - leaving her £500 out of pocket in pre-paid rent.

The first year told The Courier: "The way I was treated made me feel entirely uncomfortable living in Halls, so I decided to move out.

"It is a shame because up until then I had really enjoyed my stay in Ethels. Most of the staff are very friendly."

Halls boss Quentin Campbell refused to comment on the complaint.

Ethels is no stranger to controversy in its dealings with students.

Two years ago the Hall made the headlines after **EXPPELLING** two residents for taking a shopping trolley from Asda in Gosforth into Ethels.

Mr Campbell even threatened to pass on details to Asda to help them prosecute the hapless duo.

But the offer backfired when Asda bosses said they wouldn't dream of launching a prosecution over something so trivial, and even asked the University not to throw the lads out.

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New inquest riddle

By OLIVIA RICHWALD

CIRCUMSTANCES surrounding a tragic student suicide in Jesmond remain a mystery.

A coroner's inquest into the death of Paul Blacklock, 36, revealed he did kill himself, but his motive remains unsolved.

The Coroner also failed to find the exact date Paul hanged himself.

The Marine technology postgrad was last seen on New Year's Eve but he was not missed until almost a fortnight later when he was found hanging in his flat.

The inquest revealed, "Paul had been depressed on several occasions in the previous year, yet what triggered him to hang himself remains a mystery."

Paul was found by two other postgrads from Eskdale flats after he failed to turn up for one of his exams.

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Summer exams under threat as lecturers go to vote over cash

By DUNCAN WOODSIDE

EXAMS could be in turmoil this summer, as students and staff await the result of an AUT ballot on strike action.

The lecturers union balloted members in reaction to what it blasted as "finger in the dyke salary settlements."

A 10% pay rise is being demanded, to reverse what the AUT cites as a 36% plunge since the early seventies.

The result of the ballot is expected between Thursday and Saturday of this week, and will be announced at the AUT's conference in Scarborough.

Nick Coleman - head of the AUT at Newcastle - said: "If there is a national strike there is no doubt that Newcastle would be part of it."

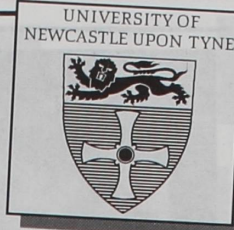
"There is a feeling among my colleagues that we have been ripped off. In my opinion, there probably will be a strike."

If strike action is called, it will take place before the end of the summer term. This will almost certainly mean disruption to exams.

One third year said: "I find it worrying that my finals could be affected, but there isn't a great deal we can do. To be honest, although it could mean inconvenience, I can empathise with their grievances."

But Communications Officer Nick Mouton said "Exam time is stressful for all students and their lecturers should be aiding them and supporting them over these taxing weeks of term."

83% OF UNI SENATE SAY NO TO SEMESTERS



as Courier campaign builds momentum

By DUNCAN WOODSIDE

SEMESTERISATION could at last be on the verge of the chop, as plans are afoot to put a motion to senate for its abolition.

Nick Coleman - senate member and AUT rep at Newcastle - is set to forward a motion at the June meeting of the Uni's decision making body.

And if the results of a Courier survey of senate members is anything to go by, any motion proposing to abolish semesters stands a good chance of success.

A massive 83% of respondents said they would support a motion calling for a return to a term based system.

And only 6% believed that the decision to introduce semesters had been beneficial to their departments.

The Courier has so far received replies from 35% of the members of senate.

"I would encourage students to lobby the UTC with their own concerns and views as to the best alternative to the current system."

Nick Coleman - AUT rep at Newcastle

Alternatives to the current system are already being considered by the University Teaching Committee (UTC).

Nick Coleman said: "I would be happy to propose a motion proposing a change, so long as a consensus can be established amongst staff and students as to the best way forward."

"To ensure such a consensus is established, I would encourage students to lobby the UTC with their own concerns and views as to the best alternative to the current system."

Any students who would like to put their views to the UTC can contact its chairman, Jerry Paterson, at: J..J.Paterson@ncl.ac.uk

■ The Courier campaign against the current structure of the academic year has already claimed one success.

The Christmas vacation has been extended to a month after our survey showed 86% of students thought the break did not give enough time for revision.

Computer cock-up bad timing

By LAURA THACKRAY

STUDENTS were left fuming this week over the computer cock-up which claimed nearly half of the machines in the Robinson Library.

The Barn Cluster was closed to the public for two weeks until last Thursday whilst upgrades were done on dozens of computers.

But this shortage of computers falls at the worst possible time, the end of the academic year.

First year student Graham Brown said, "It's disgraceful that this is happening at a time when we all have essays to do."

Nick Mouton, Communications Officer, adds, "They couldn't have chosen a worse time. The last thing students need is a lack of computers. They should have at least waited until after the exams."

A Spokesperson from the Robinson Library placed the blame upon the computer suppliers who failed to deliver the goods during the Easter break.

He defended the UCS's decision to upgrade the computers at the busiest time of the academic year.

"It's a bonus in the first place that students can use the Barn Cluster as it is primarily a teaching area."

"We're providing an extra 35 machines and therefore we're not eating into UCS cluster machines."



Newcastle campaign goes national



By LESLEY TOUGH

THE UNI'S Jubilee 2000 campaign team have been nationally recognised this week for their 'forward looking' and positive approach to the problem of third world debt.

The team, dedicated to the programme that aims to eventually cancel out the debt, have gone straight to the top to promote their cause.

They recently wrote a letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair, and their efforts have been noted by the Guardian who praised their outlook.

Newcastle University is a member of the Jubilee 2000 Coalition, whose leaders aim to hammer home their message at the annual summit of the world's economic powers in June.

Chaplaincy Visit to the Farne Islands Thursday 3rd June

leaving University at 11.00am
back by 5.00pm

featuring a spectacular boat trip around the islands and an act of worship in Inner Farne Chapel (weather permitting!)

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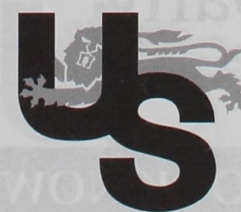
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CHIEF DENIES ENTRY SCAM

Another Courier exclusive

By LUKE EDWARDS

SPORTS boss Graham Rayner has this week denied that he is introducing a policy to lower entry grades for students if they are good at sport.

But the University Sports Centre chief did admit Newcastle already has a method of letting in thick sportsmen by the backdoor.

He told The Courier: "If we were interested in an individual we would give them the necessary assistance to find an appropriate course."

Translated this implies that undersubscribed courses at Newcastle will be filled by students the Sports Centre has a vested interest in.

Rumours are rife that the sports supremo - under pressure from the Newcastle Falcons - had been planning to turn Newcastle into one of the country's top sporting institutions by reducing grades for talented applicants.

If such a proposal passed through the Uni's bureaucratic

channels it would mark a further step towards the Americanisation of Newcastle University.

It would also be a step towards discriminating against brainy students in favour of less intelligent egg chasers.

But Rayner has slammed such reports: "We simply wouldn't enter into any discussions of that nature."

"If the Falcons want to use a University as an official feeder then they can go to the Poly. That goes for any sport, as well as Rugby."

"We don't need to resort to such measures as we already attract students of a high sporting pedigree."

But ambitious Rayner is still determined to stamp his mark on University sport and has consistently stated his objective of raising Newcastle firmly into the national elite.

He said: "I think Universities are starting to realise the benefits of having a good quality sports programme, which is something we have here at Newcastle."



RAYNER: Helps sportsmen find 'appropriate' courses

Mosque in race row

By ANN CLIFFORD

THE UNI's Islamic Society has been left stunned by the refusal of a Geordie mother to allow her daughter to visit the University mosque.

Ten year old Mica Williams was due to take part in a trip to the mosque, situated in the King Edward VI building, organised by Moorside Community School last week.

Her mother claims that Mica became upset when pupils were informed that because of Islamic rules, they would have to take their shoes off and cover their heads inside the mosque.

Girls are also required to wear trousers or long skirts, but the mosque did offer to allow Mica to enter without wearing a headscarf.

But her mother, Erica threatened to keep Mica away from school rather than let her go on the outing. She has since moved all five of her children to Byker Primary, although she claims this is unrelated.

The president of the University Islamic Society, Abdoula Albloushi, said; "Not everyone will agree with or understand these teachings but we try our best to convey the message."

Killers to face death

By ALEX HAZELL

THE ISLAMIC extremists who kidnapped and murdered a Durham prof are to face a firing squad.

Maths lecturer Dr Peter Rowe was shot dead in Yemen during the hostage crisis last December.

And his wife - a lecturer at the poly - was also injured in the attack.

Yemeni pair Zein Al-Abidine al-Mihdar and Abdullah Saleh al-junaidy, and Algerian Saluh Abu Hurairah

were part of a gang of thirteen charged for the massacre.

Sixteen tourists were kidnapped and four shot dead as authorities bungled a rescue attempt.

But only four have so far been caught, and experts claim the death penalty may never be carried out due to fears of extremist reprisals.

Al-Mihdar is so far the only one to have confessed, calling on Arabs to turn on the west even before his sentence was passed, saying: "The only dialogue should be with bullets."

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**GOOD LUCK
TO ALL
STUDENTS!**

Kate
Kate Vicary, Finance & Admin. Officer

James
James Jordan,
Editor of The Courier

Clare
Clare Proctor,
Welfare Officer

RODENT RAGE

Goggle wearing snipers blast rats with semi-automatic guns

By LISA GOODFELLOW

SIX Jesmond students came up with a novel battle plan to deal with an invasion of rats... by recruiting mercenaries to SHOOT them with a semi-automatic air pistol.

The lads recruited the services of some "rat experts" who travelled up from Bradford, took up positions in the house at nightfall, and then waited for the rats to appear.

Wearing night vision goggles, and poised with their semi-automatic pistols and rifles, they shot at several rats as they emerged during the night.

The lads enlisted the Bradford crew after putting up with the infestation for twelve weeks.

Furr-ious tenant Chris Adair said "We persistently asked the landlord to get rid of the rats, but her efforts were dimunitive and futile."

The rats were attracted to the Manor

Road house by a blocked drain, where they remained undisturbed until the snipers shattered their peace.

Another tenant, Mark Lee, was at pains to add: "We're six of the cleanest and most hygienic finalists you would ever meet. Obviously we were flabbergasted when Roland and his mates decided to move in.

"Eventually the rats departed, but we don't know whether this was due to the efforts of our friends from Bradford, or later efforts by our landlord and the council."



HOUSE TRAP: Mark and Chris with their victim

Freshers to take the kiss in F.Y.C.

By LISA NANDY

PLANS for FYC are hotting up, with several new ideas including a mass "snogathon" and bungee jumping to welcome freshers to the city.

The daytime events from last year are to be added to, and mini-competitions will be held throughout the week with prizes awarded for participation.

The winners will then be given tickets for bungee jumping on the final day of the week, which will run from the 17th to the 21st of September.

Although bands for the week are yet to be arranged, the band night is set to return and the organisers are hoping to hold an event in Ikon on one night.

Plans also include a hypnotist, a dance night in the Bassment and a 70's extravaganza.

Organiser Anna Cook said: "We're going to get as many big names as possible - we want everyone to join in."

The week will culminate in "world record day" on Sunday with a "snogathon" where as many couples as possible will snog for 10 seconds.

Security is also to be stepped up after a number of second and third years got hold of wrist-bands at last year's event.

Organiser Olly Reed explained: "This year we're just going to give out the wristbands to senior stewards to distribute so hopefully they'll be a bit more responsible."



FLASH: Kate had unlucky streak

Boys aren't bacon town

By ROSS SMITH

A POLY student was left pig sick after a TV streak failed to net her a new man.

Saucy Kate Knill stripped down to a g-string and crop-top covered in bacon for a sizzling stunt when the Big Breakfast came to Heaton.

And millions of TV viewers saw her middle and back as she trotted through the streets.

But the experience turned sow-er as she failed to pull any blokes as a result.

She s-whined: "I'm single so I thought it would help my chances if any gorgeous blokes out there saw me, but knowing my luck it will only put them off."

Any interested blokes should know that she would be butty in their hands if she likes their sty-le.

Elections see high turnout

By ROSS SMITH

TURNOUT was on the up in Union elections as three part-time positions were filled.

Communications Officer Nick Mouton's great prediction proved correct as numbers from February's ballots more than doubled.

James Hecker ended up cheesed off as he was wedged out of the Executive Officer post by "Cheesy" Gareth Trainer.

Over five hundred voted in the ballot, leaving Trainer grinning like a Cheshire cat, whilst Hecker couldn't brie-lieve it.

More students voted for Mee than anybody Else, as Tony Mee defeated No Frills pair Sean Kelly and Christopher Else to become Societies Officer.

Suzanne Allott and Helen Dawe breezed in unopposed as Anti-Racism Officers, after missing out as Environment Officers in February's polls.

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GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 13th May

1pm in the Debating Chamber

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT SEMESTERISATION?

HAVE YOUR SAY



Have a hand in
Your Union

Dear Martin



Staffordshire Bull...

WELCOME to THE END. The final ever "Dear Martin". I hope you all enjoyed it. I did, sometimes. If you really hated it, then thank you, because knowing I've pissed someone else off is heady job-satisfaction.

Thanks to all the contributors and the editor who was foolish enough to create the monster that has been "Dear Martin". As a parting gift I have left you a small piece of advice, inspired by and plagiarised blatantly from Baz Luhrman's nauseating "Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)".

God Squad Squabble

Dear Martin,
We are writing in response to the article "Gay Rights Activists Slam Student Church" (28/4/99) in which Communications Officer Nick Mouton suggested that Rvt David Holloway should "Take a leaf out of their (i.e. the students in the congregation's) book" when defending his position with regards to the homosexuality legislation.

The article made it sound as though the students in the church would disagree with his view. However, as Christians, no matter what age we are, "Our Book" is the Bible,

lovingly given by God to human beings, and while we are entering a new millennium, God never changes and his word will always remain the truth.

In the Bible, God says:

We were created primarily for a relationship with Him

-We should not pass judgement on others (Romans 2 V 1-2)

-We were not created for homosexual sex (Romans 1 V 26-27, Genesis 2 V 24)

Nick Mouton's comment failed to acknowledge that all Christians of all ages look to God's word to discern his will for us.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Ulley, Maeve Jinks & John Barker (Students at JPC)

Martin's reply: That's a first for the letters page, biblical quotations! Now I can't be bothered to check the accuracy of them and as serious Christians wrote the letter they are probably correct, but I would point out that "We should not pass judgement on others".

LGB v JPC

Dear Martin,
It's sad that members of Jesmond Parish Church's congregation still maintain the view that, in the eyes of God, homosexuality is wrong.

Whilst much of what the bible says about life is based on common sense (thou shall not

kill, don't rob, etc) there is also a lot of stuff in there that's either dated or downright bizarre- I wonder if the Rev David Holloway and his flock rigidly stick to the bits in Deuteronomy which say it's wrong to wear polycotton shirts or disobedient sons should be stoned to death?

Other Christian organisations have concluded that the Bible is time conditioned, and firmly believe that God has no problem with queers. It's a shame that all Christians can't see things the same way. It's even worse when the likes of David Holloway and the Christian Institute take it upon themselves to block moves towards equality for non-heterosexuals.

I only hope that students will think twice before attending services led by someone who has helped bring misery to the lives of countless lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

Victor Grayson LGB Officer

Martin's reply: Thank God that this is the final issue of the year otherwise there could be a barrage of letters on this point and God himself would have to write in and clear up the accuracy of his reported quotes. My favourite bit is "Thou shall not covet thy neighbours oxen." Without such sound advice think of all the hideous freaks we would have to put up with (see Welshmen).

FYC Fury

Dear Martin,

If only FYC was a matter of getting in by kissing arse (as alleged last week). In fact there's been a disappointing lack of attempts at bribery in the form of beer and fags. If it was as simple as being a friend of a friend of a friend our jobs would have been a lot easier and we could have saved ourselves at least a solid week that we took out of our final years to read and file forms, interview and select 300 people (whilst making enemies of the other 300).

Basically, anyone who applied and had a top form and interview got in. Whilst of course we chose some of our friends (well what would you do?) We know most of them through previous FYC's and involvement in other areas (Radio station, Ents, etc) making them prime steward material in the first place. We will be paid for making FYC a success which we are not going to jeopardise by choosing shit people because they are friends 10x removed. As for the list.... news to us

Lucy, Anna, Olly, Monty

Martin's reply: Well that's that mess cleared up, apparently it was all fair and equal and everything is OK, so we can all go back to sleep/beer/fags. If you are still aggrieved about not being a steward, then tough, you got to moan last week and the organisers got to moan this week, moaning over, on with the banality and swearing.

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Everybody's Free (to be a student)

Martin's advice to the Class of '99. After Baz Luhrman

Ladies and Gentlemen of the class of 99, DRINK

If I could offer you only one tip for the future, drink would be it. The long term benefits of drink have been proved by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering drunkardness.

I will dispense this crap now.

Enjoy the power and beauty of your student loan. Oh never mind you will never understand the power and beauty of your loan until it's paid back. But trust me, in twenty years you will look back at photos of yourself and recall in a way you can't grasp now how much debt lay before you and how drunk you really looked. You are not as poor as you imagine.

Don't worry about the overdraft, worrying is as effective as trying to pay it back by working in a pub. The real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind, like the pubs closing too early on a Sunday.

Do one thing each day that pisses someone else off. Wank.

Be reckless about your university attendance, make friends with people less reckless. Flush.

Don't waste your time on revising, sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind.

The race is long and in the end, it's only with yourself and the bastard examiners

Remember insults you receive, so that you can use them to offend others.

Keep your old love letters: so you can use them for blackmail purposes later. Smoke.

Don't feel guilty if you don't know what to do with your life. Those that do are geeks, dead and buried by 22. They wake up at 40 wishing they'd lived a little more and were not married, divorced and mortgaged. Get plenty of cannabis.

Ruin your body, you can't take it with you when you're gone.

Maybe you'll get cancer, maybe you won't. Maybe you'll have children, maybe you'll be lucky. Maybe you'll die at 40, maybe you'll wake up on your 75th wedding anniversary crying tears of anguish and regret. Whatever you do, don't play with yourself too much or too little either. Your choices are half-arsed so fuck everybody else.

Abuse your body. Use everything you can. Don't be afraid of it or what other people think of it. It's the greatest instrument you'll ever own. Drink. Even if you have to do it on your own.

Do not read porn magazines, they will only make you aspire to sexual feats beyond you.

Get to know your parent's secrets. You never know when you will run out of money. Be nice to your siblings they are the best witnesses for the defence. Unfortunately also the most likely to rat on you in the future.

Understand that friends are nought but a pain in the arse. Work hard to bridge the gaps between income and expenditure because the older you get the more you owe and the more you will spend trying to stay young.

Live in Newcastle once, but leave before it makes you bankrupt.

Live in London once, but leave before it makes you a c***. There's nowt so queer as folk.

Accept certain inalienable truths; People are bastards, politicians are perverts, you too will get old and die. You'll fantasise that when you were younger, you could drink more and pull anyone and didn't reek of piss. Ignore your elders.

Don't expect the state to support you. Hopefully you have a rich old relative whose time is nearly up, hopefully you'll have a wealthy spouse, but chances are they'll fuck off. Don't play with yourself too much or by the time you're 40 it will look eighty-five.

Be careful whose drugs you buy. But be patient with those who supply it.

Advice is a form of bullshit. Dispensing it is a way of imposing your sanctimonious fucking third-rate doggerel upon the rest of us long-suffering, over-worked poor bastards.

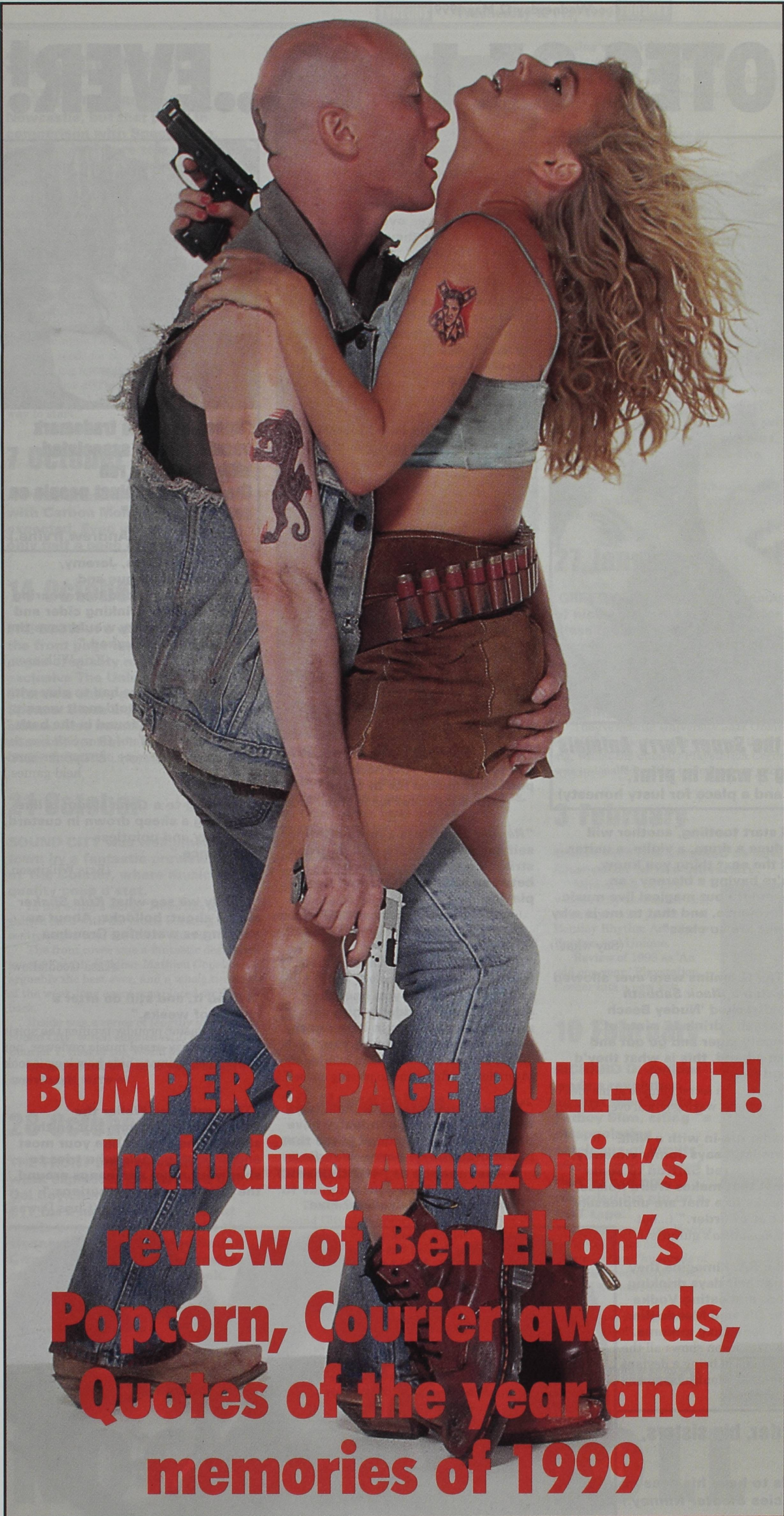
But trust me on the drinking.

Thank you and goodnight Newcastle; "Dear Martin" has left the building.

thirty...nine...ninety-eight

TYMEOUT...arts...music...listings...

...the essential guide



BUMPER 8 PAGE PULL-OUT!
Including Amazonia's
review of Ben Elton's
Popcorn, Courier awards,
Quotes of the year and
memories of 1999

BEST QUOTES OF 1999...EVER!



"Oh yes, this is it. Writing about the *Super Furry Animals* is as close as I can get to having a wank in print."

(Chris Downs forgets there is a time and a place for lusty honesty)

"Cheers of devotion are conspicuously absent as *The Audience* take to the stage, replaced instead by cheery cries of 'C**ts!' and the like. The silver-tongued Northern charm starts here."

(Guy Deeming, Sound City Launch)

"The allegedly 'haunting lament' which is *Summer's Over* sounds like *John Lennon's Jealous Guy* with none of the Lyrical genius and in its place pure pretension."

(Eric Cantona performs a flying kick on *Rialto*)

"The blurb on the box boasts that the collection is guaranteed to make your stomach churn, and it does exactly what it says on the tin."

(How could Richard Jenkins ever take a dislike to 3 CDs of *Master Max Bass Selection*?)

"Ah, that'll be Tom's Diner then... at least she didn't call it 'Greatest Hits'"

(Jenny Riches puts *The Best Of Suzanne Vega* in its place)

"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, a violin, 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"

(Say what?)

"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."

(IRV gives us a secret glimpse at his idea of heaven whilst waxing lyrical over *Mogwai*)

"I had a run-in with a NME journalist," says Jonny violently, "he compared Saffron to some animal that makes weird noises. Remarks like that are unpleasant and out of order." (...but true, *Republica's* guitarist)

"I like *Bis*. I imagine they spend their days drinking Kiaora and eating Vodka Jelly. Oh, and Manda-Rin is still one sexy momma."

(Kris Wilkinson shows all the signs of being a deviant before the *Monica Lewinsky*

"Rocking out like *The Corrs*' harder, big sisters, and just about as foxy."

(Gaz Newhall needs to have his eyes or urine tested if he fancies *Sleater Kinney*.)

incident...)

"Now I know how some of my ex-girlfriends felt - what was on offer wasn't satisfying enough, didn't hit the spot and was over far too quickly. Except they didn't pay £8 for the privilege."

(Chris Downs on Sound City.)

"In these songs (*Kent's Isola*) you discover a deeper significance through the little things in life that nobody talks of, but we all think about."

(Mathieu Copeland - not so much another country, but another planet.)

"Sitar Funk? The name alone sounds too close to some hideous nasal deposit."

(Jenny Riches.)

"The resulting record is a brick through the record of pop."

(Guy Deeming on *Battleflag* by *The Lo-Fi Allstars*)

"I have to say, give me a *Clint Boon* CD and I'm as happy as a Belgian in a creche."

(Kris Wilkinson.)

"I defy you to sit still the first time it graces your ears."

(Richard Jenkins gets galvanic over *Freq-A-Zoid*.)

"*Beverley Knight's* voice is beautiful not synthesised - the harmonies perfect, it moved me to tears."

(Sharkie shows his feminine side.)

"*Render Bandits* is a mind-altering, self-sampling update of Krautrock striking a superior balance between studio effects and live playing."

(John Gibson dances along the fine line between precision and bullshit.)

"*Roy Ayers* is one of those music legends that you're never quite sure who they are until you hear their music. Then it suddenly hits you, and you're swept up in its warmth, and vibe running through you."

(Lissa Pelham seems to liken hearing *Roy Ayers* for the first time to pissing oneself.)

"Those money-grabbing jackals at the top of the music industry have decided to flog the dead horse that is *Deborah Harry. Sorry, Blondie*."

(Chris Downs.)

"Remember *The Levellers*? Five



"Space have the trademark vocals usually associated with those who rub themselves against people on crowded trains."

(Andrew Irvine.)

normal kids - Giles, Jeremy, Sebastian, Montague and Peregrine, convinced that wearing crappy clothes, drinking cider and destroying industry would save the world. How we laughed."

(Kris Wilkinson.)

"The best thing I've had to play with since my Mummy told me it wasn't really a sausage I found in the bath."

(Yes, we do like *Metal Gear Solid* on the Playstation, but some of us prefer hand-held games.)

"Listening to a *Gene* album is like watching a sheep drown in custard, an empty and pointless experience."

(Kris Wilkinson.)

"Finally we see what *Kula Shaker* are all about: bollocks. About as exciting as watching *Grandma knit*."

(Lisa Goodfellow.)

"I liked it, and still do after a couple of weeks."

(Mike Pastor proudly typifies the spirit of the lazy-arsed music reviewer, not even bothering to hide how long it took to write the review.)

"They call *Paul Weller* the Godfather of Britpop, but on this showing he's more like your most embarrassing uncle who tries to shag your mum and hangs around the kids at family gatherings."

(Chris Downs.)



30 September

A 'FASCIST TERROR' hit Newcastle, but that paled in comparison with Space, who scoused over here to a mixed response. A rare Luke Edwards music interview calling them "the most approachable and friendly band you would ever hope to meet." or as Martin Stafford saw them, a bunch of hubcap-stealing twats who "abused roadies, ordered a ridiculous amount of towels and treated everyone with contempt."

Rolf Harris was christened 'Rolf-a-poo' by irate Brummie Dele Adebola, and the first ominous seeds for Sound City were sown with a launch gig featuring Shed 7 and Theaudience at The Riverside. As Guy Deeming noted, a "painful and embarrassing way to start."

7 October

A POLY student was found dead, with Carbon Monoxide poisoning expected. Even worse, there was only half a page of music!

14 October

THE BLOW of a vicious mugging on the front page was softened by two pages of quality music, with an exclusive The Unbelievable Truth interview and a preview of John Spencer Blues Explosion's new album. Also notable for the headline above Silver Sun's latest album, 'FISH & SHITS'. Harsh but true.

21 October

SOUND CITY was welcomed into town by a fantastic preview edition of The Courier, where music held a quality coup d'etat.

In the editor's words "News has been shifted back with the music bursting from the centre pages onto the front." Hurrah!

The front cover was a fantastic design by insane French designer Mathieu Copeland, arguably the best ever, and a whole timetable of the week-long event was placed on the back.

Inside was a series of lengthy previews for Sound City, which shamed ALL local rivals. Courier 1, Rest of the World 0.

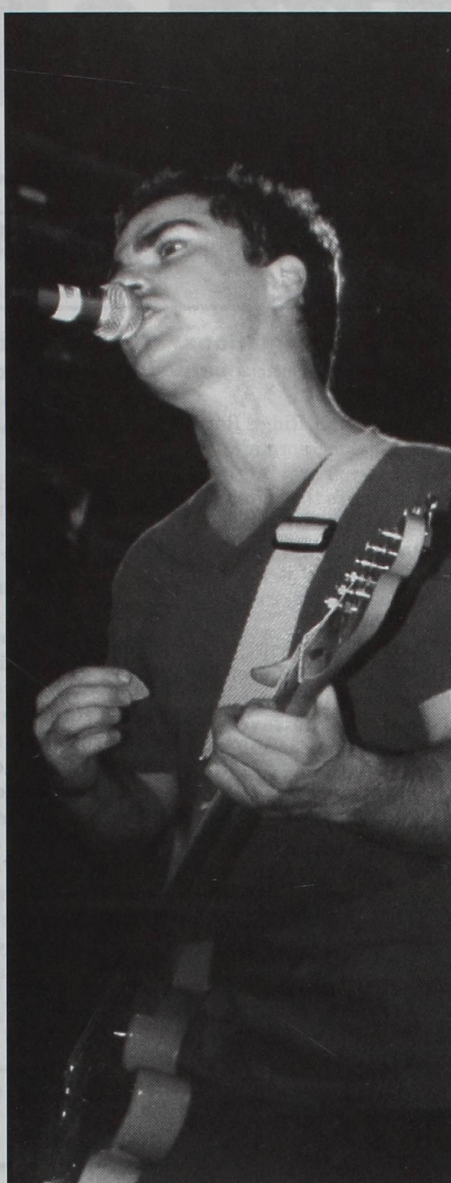
Shame Sound City itself was a bunch of arse though.

28 October

THE FRONT page news story this week expressed disgust at a Uni Del Boy charging naive freshers £17 for a night at The Boat, but music was more disgusted at the sloaney wide boys behind Sound City. But, the vitriol was mostly stored for the following week.

4 November

NOMINEES for the world's stupidest twats, Theo Trikalakis and Mike Bush, courted



controversy when they decided to pose with jewellery, guns and bags of basil in a pathetic attempt to look like their gangsta rap heroes.

On reflection, Boots the Chemists probably wasn't the best place to get said photos published, and a visit from armed police squads and subsequent detainment provided light relief for everyone at their expense.

The music pages soured the jolly mood with constant carping about the 'fucking travesty' of Sound City.

99% of the time, students were charged £8 to see half-an-hour and no encore of their favourite bands and a couple of sub-standard support acts then turfed out.

Only Fatboy Slim, Rocket From The Crypt and The Stereophonics resembled actual value for money, with decent encores which allegedly broke the terms of their contracts. Nice one!

18 November

FOR ONCE, the Arts section had the best headline for miles, 'SUCKED OFF', to adorn a review of vampire flick Blade.

There were more lamentations about Sound City, and praise for Rockshot's Bez City, where Happy Mondays/Black Grape wacky dancer Bez and Primal Scream/Stone Roses bassist Mani hosted an evening of alternative delight.

25 November

A CRISIS of confidence at the University and a mad notes thief made the headlines, whilst Paul

Weller's position as 'The Modfather' was challenged.

Super Furry Animals and Afghan Whigs albums released to critical acclaim.

2 December

THE CRISIS deepened between rebel lecturers and the Vice-Chancellor but who cared? The South Park album was released, and tipped for a Christmas No.1 - Great!

9 December

BIT OF an arty theme this week. Front page of Tyne Out dedicated to a national exhibition of the nation's artists, prompting the classic question 'But is it art?'. The music scene took a cult turn with the fantastic Roy Ayers concert, and an exclusive interview in The Courier.

Radiohead's video rockumentary was claimed to show them in a 'genuinely human' light.

27 January

'GREEDY UNI Chiefs' were accused of nicking our money to pay for 1st Class rail travel around the country, whilst greedy record companies unleashed a way past-it Blondie on us with their latest album. Rest assured, it got a right slagging off.

The Newcastle University Jazz Orchestra (NUJO), had a storming review of their latest gig, whilst the dubious Playstation Corner was unleashed on the unsuspecting public.

3 February

CHRIS PATTEN installed as new Chancellor of the University.

Mini-article on how venues only host dance acts nowadays, with previews of Bentley Rhythm Ace, Space Raiders and Unique.

Review of 1998 as 'An odd pop year.' Playstation Corner hits a new low.

10 February

RICHARD D. Jenkins leads a revolution against the almighty Fatboy Slim, citing "a disappointing catalogue of insults" after it was revealed that he had pre-recorded his gig on a DAT tape.

A wide-eyed Tom Horder reviews a night out at Plexus, where "hundreds of multicoloured people jump around in sweet-smelling smoke."

Swedish rock-gods Kent reviewed live.

24 February

FRONT PAGE urges students to rebel against the semester system. Music page urges students to decide whether Tender, the new Blur single is "an epic of biblical proportions" or "droning on with its chanting crap."

Gaz Newhall defends Fatboy Slim and record label skint, whilst Playstation Corner reviews the most pointless game ever - pinball simulation Big Race USA.

3 March

GENE interviewed, along with those well-known favourites The Working Class Heroes and Seven. A lean week.

10 March

FRONT page calls for a revolution; Tyne Out calls for PJ and Duncan to eat less pies and exposes them groping Courier staff.

Desert Eagle Discs interview and exclusive peek at Playstation 2 in Playstation Corner.

17 March

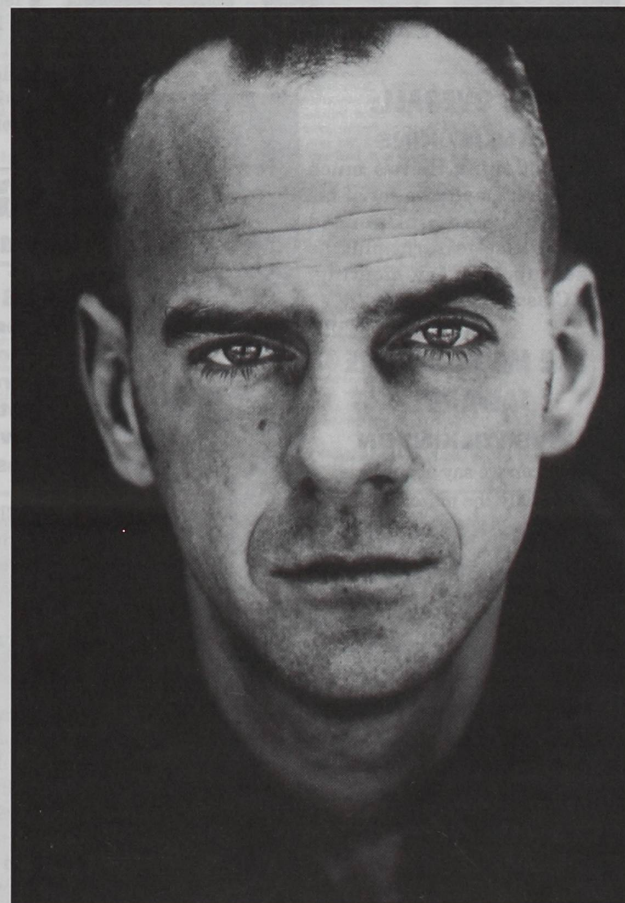
FRONT cover of Tyne Out featuring Jason Donovan in drag proves that men CAN get cellulite.

University production 'Fat Lip' reviewed, and Playstation Corner exclusively reveals that it has nothing to publish. Oh dear.

28 April

BEST football game ever, UEFA Champions League, helps to redeem Playstation Corner.

Bizarre Bob Marley sound-a-like Mishka exposed as Heather Nova's brother, and The Moffatts' questionable international debut is headlined 'NEW KIDS TO BE MOCKED'.



ROCK AND ROLL YEARS



THE 1999 WRITER AWARDS

COURIER MUSIC The Good, the Bad (?), and the Editor. Courier Music awards its own prestigious grammy-type awards...

It's no coincidence that the writers below make up most of the year's best quotes - they've worked the hardest, submitted the most stuff and written the most memorable sound bites.

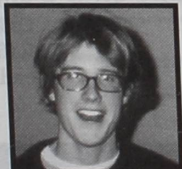
This isn't a roll-call of my best mates or anything like some publications will be doing, it's genuine respect to those who deserve it.

Sorry if you feel you should included, but hey, it's not like anyone's getting a prize or anything!

BEST NEWCOMERS:

GAZ NEWHALL
TOM HORDER
TOM FENWICK

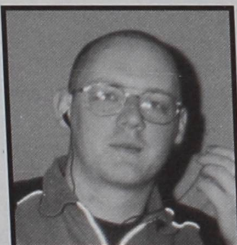
All three joint winners started well and just kept on coming back with decent shit. Impressive!



BEST OVERALL:

DAN JENKINS

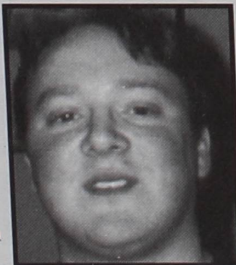
I don't think there's much doubt here; Dan did a lot of his own stuff and influenced everyone else in turn, plus he turned up to every meeting. Pure Class.



THE MEDIA WHORE AWARD:

KRIS WILKINSON

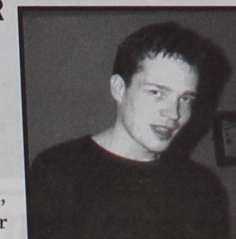
What can we say about Kris, practically the mascot of the music team. He didn't get into University Challenge, but this comedy Manc did manage to get thrown out of Dillons on suspicion of trying to assault Monica. Mr Wilkinson, I salute you sir.



THANK-FUCK-IT'S-OVER AWARD:

CHRIS DOWNS

Spare a thought for the babysitter who didn't get paid. He missed out on becoming the big boss of Courier by a whisker, so I'm afraid there'll be no swear words in the headlines next year. Chris wishes everyone who did stuff for him in years past the best of luck, and is sorry if he slighted anyone unjustly - he was just ripped off his tits with overwork and fatigue for two years.



PLAYSTATION CORNER

MONACO GRAND PRIX 2

Ubisoft (£39.99)

Why do accurate Formula 1 racing simulations exist? Surely only the risk of doing a Senna can make the real thing barely interesting.

The reason why Driver, Gran Turismo and Ridge Racer Type 4 are so popular is that you can race along normal roads in normal cars, or at least make it look like you are. But in F1 racing, it's a case of "Cars, Circle, Mmm!" What's the point?

Of course, there are people who still own Scalextric sets and rabidly watch racing every week on BBC2 and the like, contemplating the monotonous circle "action" as if it was high philosophical thought. If you're one of these people, cast away your jazzmags, you will need them no more.

What sets this game apart from others of their genre is the wealth of options it provides. It allows you to connect two Playstations together to play four-player races, it is compatible with analogue and vibrating pads, and you can save your achievements on a memory card. There are sixteen different tracks, and 22 cars with a name-change option so you can either be yourself or a famous driver. If you're a real masochist, you can also choose to play the painfully accurate simulation mode, that is if you like skidding about on gravel and grass all the time.

Luckily arcade mode makes it just about enjoyable. The graphics are very, perhaps too, accurate and the movement is spot on - so it's really a case of buy if you like Formula 1 racing.

RIDGE RACER TYPE 4

Namco (£39.99)

Ah, this is more like it; normal cars, nice backdrops and tons of eye candy. Welcome to Ridge Racer Type 4.

It's easy to compare this to Gran Turismo, but there is one major difference. RRT4 totally ignores all of that wanky "realism" car physics stuff, and concentrates on the atmosphere create by the "fun" car game - remember those?

There are two different modes of play - Grip and Drift. With the former, you can control the car effectively and easily, but in the latter you can look like a maniac at no extra charge. Drift allows you, after a bit of practice, to hurl yourself around corners by flooring the accelerator and then flooring the brakes, letting you skid and slide your way around bends like you're in a Bond movie car-chase.

The cars are eye-poppingly gorgeous and the movement incredibly fluid, giving GT graphics with old skool controls - a winning combination which makes this game vital to any collection.

GTA LONDON TAKE 2

interactive (£19.99)

Grand Theft Auto was a decent idea, but brilliantly publicised - the publicity bods managed to whip up the national press into a frothing frenzy about the latest game where you have to steal cars and kill people to get points, and that it would drive anyone playing it into a life of crime as a result.

The media furore got so bad that publicity guru Max Clifford, of Mandy Allwood and eight dead babies fame, got involved and the game ended up getting an "18" certificate and getting loads of free advertising due to the media fuss it created. Naturally, it sold like hot cakes.

Luckily it wasn't shite, and Take 2 have decided to go for another bite of the cherry by creating another media first, the first "mission disc" for the Sony Playstation.

This means that the game is cheaper than a full-price version, but you have to have the first game to play it. So if you haven't got GTA, the two together will cost you the same as one full-price game. Like in the first version, you start off as a petty thief and have to carry out a series of missions to climb up the criminal network.

Unlike GTA, all the action in the game is set in 60's London, in a Austin Powers/The Sweeney/The Professionals/Get Carter style, with the odd criminal "celebrity" thrown in for good measure. The dirty reggae/ska soundtrack adds to the retro criminal atmosphere. Crime isn't what it used to be.

The graphics have been improved, but the best feature, the gameplay has been retained and this is what makes it worthwhile, along with the idea of stealing cars and killing pedestrians, a career choice I could well have chosen if I had made it into the "cool crowd" at school.

News, views and reviews in association with:

Official UK
PlayStation
Magazine

CIVILISATION II

Activision (£39.99)

The Civilization series is typical of games that look complicated, boring and nerdy, but if you are stupid enough to play it for any length of time, you become sucked in and end up playing for hours.

It's very hard to pinpoint the initial appeal of this game 'cos it's no oil painting to look at, but once you start making a bit of progress, it becomes horribly addictive. Civilization is a manifestation of a host of earlier games, the genre that started off with Populous and Sim City, but petered out when everyone got sick of them.

Activision managed to encompass all the appeal of these games by simplifying the controls and broadening the aim; to build your very own civilisation. You do this by negotiating issues such as exploring your area, building cities, fighting off barbarians and finding food. Once your people are settled and content, then they begin to advance and the state of play gets trickier and trickier with complex issues like economy, scientific advances, research, foreign diplomacy, military expansion, the list is endless.

The secret of the game's success is that it manages to do this without becoming harder to play; you just get more engrossed. Exactly how this is achieved is a bit of a mystery.

If you fancy yourself as a bit of a politico world leader, then buy this game and get it out of your system. It may sound boring, but it's a hell of a lot more fun than Union politics (no it isn't, ed.).

YO YO'S PUZZLE PARK

JVC (£34.99)

Yet another bizarre Japanese cutesy puzzle game, Yo Yo's Puzzle Park involves a midget with a massive head (presumably the titular hero) pattering around a room with three platforms on either side of the screen.

On and around these screens are little blue bombs with smiley faces on them, which stay still, and nasty little squelchy things, like snots or God knows what else which move around after Yo Yo. If Yo Yo touches the squelchy things, then he jumps a mile into the air and dies. After three deaths, he floats up to heaven replete with wings as a fat-headed little angel.

To prevent this dreadful outcome, you must get the little squelchies near a bomb, then jump on the bomb and peg it. To facilitate this, Yo Yo is armed with a pointy little stick (well, I bloody hope it's a stick) which he can prod them towards the smiley-faced bombs.

And, er, that seems to be it.

Saying that, it's very reminiscent of Bubble Bobble with the two-player option, and we know how addictive that can be. Addictive, pointless fun.

WING OVER 2

JVC (£34.99)

Christ, what a boring game.

The blurb presents it as the only serious flight simulator for the Playstation, but in practice, the only thing serious about it is the frustration you feel whilst playing it. Anything with crappy American incidental music playing when you're trying to do a "serious" mission has to be pushing its luck.

In order to "train" you to use any of the 25+ aircraft featured in the game, you have to complete six missions, like retrieving some fat bastard General's lunchbox from a park, or delivering parcels.

Whilst in real life this would be easy even without a plane, the missions are marred by sluggish controls, crap training planes and a diabolical radar which makes no sense at all.

It really boils my piss when I remember "real" simulations like Bomber, Mig 29 Fulcrum and F16 Falcon on my old ST, which were more realistic AND easier to play, and now, eight years on things have deteriorated to this.

I won't even mention the frightful cheesy American voiceovers or the horrible cartoon characters representing USAF staff - they're all massive blokes apart from the large-breasted cartoon secretary.

Yank wank at its worst.

CHRIS DOWNS



MEMORIES OF FINISHED YEARS

NICK GATES - Editor 1987/88
News Writer, Daily Star



"SEX STARVED student scoops top paper post" That's how I would write it now (at the Daily Star). Its hard to believe that only 11 years ago I was desperately struggling

to write, edit and lay-out my first few issues of Courier.

If I had spent as long in the Library as I did in *The Courier* office I would have got a first. It was quite hard work but preferable to the Politics essays I was supposed to be doing.

We used big headlines to boost sales and I now realise that, even then, I was destined for the *Daily Star*.

We succeeded in upsetting every student group, from the Socialist Workers to the Agrics. But that was the point of it all - even the death threat I was sent from the Agrics, I took as a compliment.

Courier was a great training ground. The student Union is an incestuous world full of backstabbing politicians and as with MPs the best advice is to wonder "Why are they lying to me?"

I look back on my time with great pride but like the last 1000 *Couriers* its all chip paper now.

STUART PREBBLE - Editor 1972
Chief Exec, Granada Sky



AT MY age, the familiar memory of youth is that summers were longer and beer stronger. But I can fairly say that my strongest memory of being Editor is of being cold.

I guess it wasn't always cold, but my dominant mental image is of driving a transit every week to Consett where the paper was printed, and I have a permanent image of snow-covered roads and hillsides with brakes that were never wholly reliable.

The printer's shop was noisy and huge and open to the elements. I would read every word of every page checking for typos, but most were caused in translation, and I frequently wondered what the printers, huge men of calloused hands and hearts of gold made of the contemporary language of drugs and psychedelia.

Our task, then and now was to change the world. We blasted then Education secretary Margaret Thatcher - the milk snatcher - and were against landlords, homelessness, elitism and the Vietnam war.

Our task was made harder by the remarkable degree of political hostility in the Union. Being of the 'soft left' myself, I was an arch-enemy of 'Soc-soc' and their rival publication "Pravda", which found more to fault in us than the robber barons of Capitalism. I was also accused, no doubt fairly of using *The Courier* to support my campaign to be Union President.

STEVE LEVINSON - Editor 1968 Economics
Correspondent, C4 news



EVEN then, Newcastle students were never among the first to man the barricades. It was hard to get them worked up about anything.

The late 60's saw the world going through big changes - students were revolting in Paris, rioting in London and laying down in front of tanks in Prague.

In Newcastle they were drinking Brown Ale. The nearest thing to anger was directed at a moribund team at St James Park, and a marginally better one at Roker Park. The nearest thing to militancy was a weekly punch-up on Agric night.

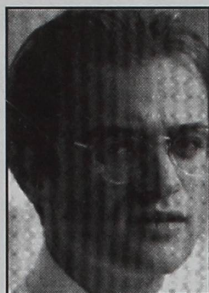
Like many others I spent a great deal of time in the *Courier* Office. My tutor in fact once returned an essay to me with the words.

"You'll never write a good essay again, because of all this newspaper lark." He wasn't complaining about the amount of time I spent on *Courier*, but that I had begun to start essays with the Conclusion and not worry too much

about the rest of it - this was a skill I learnt from printers who literally threw away the last paragraphs if the article was too large for the allotted space.

Courier kindled my love for journalism. When I arrived I had a vague idea that I might end up being an accountant. *Courier* saved me from that fate and introduced me to the world of journalism. For that I am eternally grateful.

STEVE SILK - Editor 1988/1989
Reporter Channel 5



I NEVER got an issue of Courier banned and that's my only regret from my time at the helm.

We exposed scams and lambasted politicians, committed horrendous libels, but also embarrassingly enough, ran dreary features on Middle-Eastern politics.

And I even covered half the front page in Black Ink in a pretentious protest against the government stopping Sinn Fein leaders talking on TV. Not so bad you might think - a genuine and eye catching gimmick to mark the end of free speech in the UK.

But, we didn't actually explain why we were doing it, and ahem, the decision was made late in the day when we had no choice - we'd run out of stories.

And though I didn't get an issue banned, I did get sacked and that was some consolation. In those days *Courier* Editor wasn't a sabbatical (full-time) post but I made it one by taking a year off and not telling anyone. All was fine til January when someone grassed me up after various political rows in the Union. I was rewarded with a front page headline by my successor screaming "SACKED! SHOCKED EXECUTIVE FORCE SILK OUT". I was banned from the *Courier* office and there was even wild talk of me being sued for fraud.

I loved my time on the *Courier*, spending hours there, writing, editing and taking pictures and then laying out pages til the early hours of the morning.

It's a great institution and for my money one of the most consistently good student papers in the country. It comes out every week for a start, whereas other universities only bring them out when they've got news, time or money. But the super soaraway *Courier* is there in the newsstands every week.

SUE CRAWFORD - Editor 1984
Deputy Editor Sunday People

CONGRATULATIONS on reaching the 1000th issue - here's to the 2000th!

I started work on the paper intent on becoming a P.E. teacher - my ambition since the age of 10. Within weeks of joining *The Courier* I had changed my mind.

It's great to have a paper that uniquely represents and portrays the lives of Newcastle's student population, and *The Courier* has always done that.

I'll always remember it as a fun place to work, and I'm sure it still is.

Good Luck and Best Wishes.

From Kings to Geordies

Helen Tither on the early days of the University from when we were a Medical college through the dark days of being a Durham college...

FREEDOM, individuality, independence, at last. Newcastle's long-awaited split from Durham University has to be the biggest landmark in the Courier's illustrious history.

In true *Courier* style, our intrepid reporters were there with all the details as Newcastle University cut the chord with Durham and was granted full University status in 1963.

Our beloved University, founded way back in 1834, began life as King's College Medical School, part of nearby Durham University. Not exactly born into a burst of excitement though, the College only merited a small announcement in the local Chronicle.

But body-snatching never fails to get you noticed and the Medical School really hit the headlines in 1840 when it was fined £100 for just that.

The unfortunate corpse involved belonged to an Irish woman, Sophia Quinn, who was rescued from dissecting labs by her ecstatic family who then took her home for a celebration 'wake'.

More controversy was to follow as the College site grew. Conflicts between the Medical School and the newly founded Armstrong College began to cause a stir.

But, not surprisingly, the age-old rivalry between Newcastle and Durham became the biggest news story.

As early as 1914 the Times Education Supplement called for Newcastle to be given full University status but it took nearly 50 years for that to become a reality.

Newcastle's growing independence meant that it was finally given its own Coat of Arms in 1937. The foundation of *The Courier* in 1948 was yet more evidence of the College's desire for individuality.

As King's College gained popularity and grew to twice the size of any of the Durham colleges, the split began to look inevitable.

While Durham followed the old-fashioned traditions of Oxbridge, King's showed an innovative flair which was more in line with the newer Universities.

According to *The Courier* of October 10 1963, "This difference in temperamentmade the break with Durham inevitable."

Since the momentous split of 1963 Newcastle has gone from strength to strength. The past 35 years have seen the last halls of residence converted to mixed sex, significant improvements in the facilities offered to students and a growing academic reputation for the University itself.

Newcastle University now demands respect in its own right. The split with Durham has given our University an identity of its own and a reputation that students can be proud of.



PRE MILLENNIUM FASHION

By ROSS SMITH

AS WE blow out the candles on our 1000th birthday cake, we decided it was time to celebrate the unsung heroes of Courier Towers - YOU, the readers. Using hi-tech reconstruction techniques, we roll back the frontiers of history to discover what makes the typical Courier reader tick.

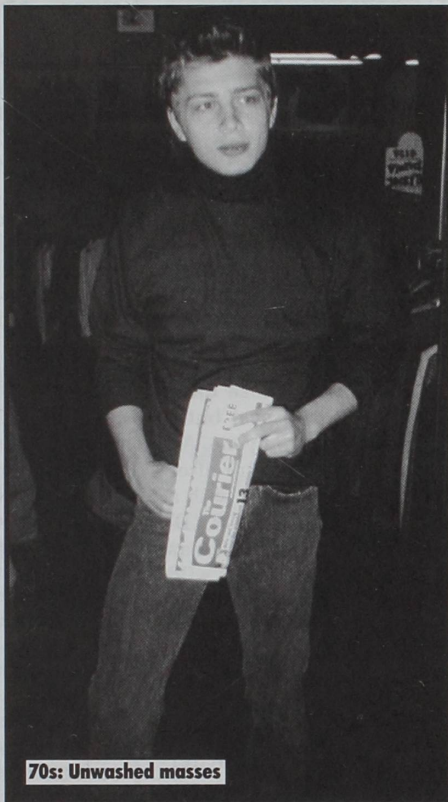
1948 saw the *Courier* launched onto the Newcastle scene. Those were the days when students came to university to pursue bizarre interests such as coursework. The businesslike appearance of students reflected their obvious passion for their studies, interrupted only by the odd jolly jaunt at team sports, and of course keeping up with affairs in the *Courier*.

Sartorial elegance was certainly the order of the day. The natty checked sports jacket was customary attire, usually worn over a rather fetching brown tie. But of course, undergrads dressed for work, not pleasure. There's no time for going out on the pull - there's nine o'clock lectures to think of!

The *Courier* reached its halfway mark in the early 1970s. By now, students had learned that academic pursuits must take a definite second place to political activism. With Mrs Thatcher as Education Secretary, it was the peak of activity for the unwashed socialist set. Yes, hard to believe, but this was a time when students turned out for union elections, marched in demonstrations, and devoured political articles in their *Courier*.

But come the evening it was a different story. See how our exhibit shows off his drainpipe jeans and sexy rollneck - he's ready to take advantage of the legacy of free love still lingering from the sixties.

Of course, though, women must not get in



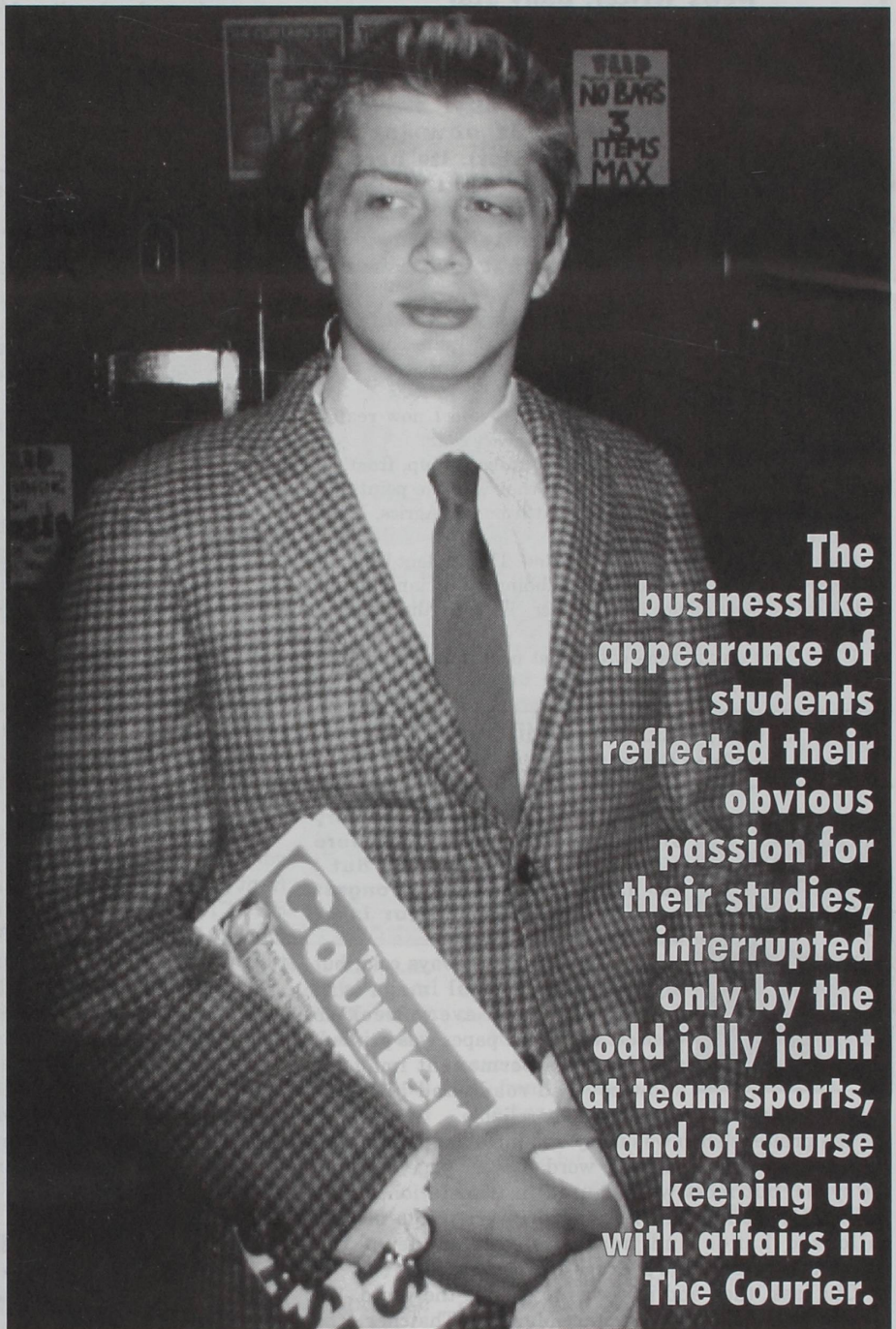
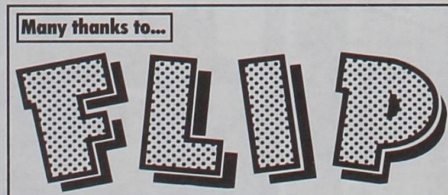
70s: Unwashed masses

the way of the crucial pastime of listening to Dark Side of the Moon on an hourly basis, as the era of sex, drugs and prog rock began to take a hold even over the greatest minds of the nation.

Nowadays, the main passion of the modern affluent student is, of course, consumerism. The *Courier* reader of the millennium makes sure to keep up with the latest fashions. And, living in a time when trainers are getting huger, trousers baggier, and hats increasingly ridiculous, be warned not to take things too far - the logical conclusion, as we can reveal, is a frightening prospect.

The reader will take a break from Richard and Judy/Jerry Springer/Home and Away for a brief period to look through the pages of the modern *Courier*. Meanwhile, academic and political pursuits have both made way for the more challenging activity of getting leathered on vile combinations of vodka and red bull.

Who knows how our readers will turn out in another thousand issues' time?



The businesslike appearance of students reflected their obvious passion for their studies, interrupted only by the odd jolly jaunt at team sports, and of course keeping up with affairs in The Courier.



90s: Keepin it real



80s: Better best forgotten

1962: When King's College was going to become Newcastle University. The Courier went out and about and asked the town their views.

What is your general opinion of students?

- "Not bloody much."
- "I like them, they're jolly souls." - barmaid
- "Students are pseudo - intellectual warmongers" - 2 gents in a pub
- "I like to see the students wearing their gowns."

Are we worth the money spent on us?

- "NO!! It's time some of you got out and did an honest day's work for a change."
- "It's better than spending it on hydrogen bombs."
- "I'm only a working woman; I don't know what goes on."

1998: During a rally against tuition fees The Courier asked various people's opinions on students and tuition fees.

- "It doesn't bother me, I've got a job. I've done my time as a student." - A council worker clearing drains.
- "Fucking Students" - An old bloke in a flat cap
- "It's a big collection of Labour students campaigning against themselves." - John McEvoy
- "It's 11:00 - if you want to go on the demo you can, and we'll have the lecture at a later date" - A lecturer in the Medical School
- "No, we'd rather have the lecture."
- "Well if there are less students there'll be more jobs." - a student (who did not wish to be named)

I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER Out Now

IF IT'S Jennifer Love-Hewitt's boobs bouncing across the screen that you want, then this is the film for you.

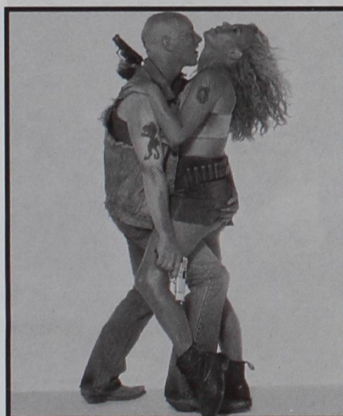
It's a year since Julie James (Hewitt) was dashing around narrowly missing death in teen horror flick 'I Know What You Did Last Summer', and this time the action is set on a remote island in the Bahamas where her college mate (Brandy) has won a holiday. Sounds ideal, but we know everything is going to go wrong, and the tropical paradise turns into the Island of Dr Moreau as the college kids are left deserted on the island with just a maniac for company.

Jennifer Love-Hewitt is good as the lead character, although I am informed by male friends that it is her body not her acting that entertains. It's like "oh look, I'm wearing a very small bikini and jumping around a lot". Brandy even manages to be slightly less annoying than in *Moesha*. But all in all she and Hewitt give off a feeling of wholesome all-American girls.

'I Still Know What You Did Last Summer' is a carbon copy of 'Scream' and 'Scream 2', but I suppose that if a formula is good then you may as well squeeze it for all it's worth. And this is a good entertaining film, just don't expect it to surprise you. Having said that, I was still worried about jumping and showering my cinema-mates in my popcorn.

But, due to some disturbing news recently about two Agriculture students from Kent murdering, mutilating and burning a fellow student who was 'irritating' them, and who apparently had in their rooms copies of 'Scream' and 'Shallow Grave', I'm not sure it's such a good idea.

EMILY HOLMES



Arts Ligger

with Becky Owen

SINCE this is the last Arts Ligger this term, and indeed ever, I've no scruples about previewing a few essential events happening over the next few months, perhaps a little prematurely, or indeed about indulging in the nepotistic brothel that is the arts world.

In fact some would say I have no scruples at all, and they'd be right, but what I do have is the shiny cutting-

YOU ALL KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN...



Leaves you hungry

POPCORN Theatre Royal

COMICAL but serious, light-hearted but intense, Ben Elton's 'Popcorn' is a view of the world from a top stand up comedian's perspective.

The play is set in a top film director's Beverly Hills Mansion, where the occupants are taken hostage by two serial killers seeking to make the director publicly blame himself for their killing spree.

"Blame" is the intriguing but rather over-emphasised focus of the play. Is society always looking for someone to blame when things don't go to plan? 'Popcorn' addresses this from the American perspective, a country where even hot coffee has been a basis for a successful damages claim, surely setting a precedent in this "blame" field.

Elton's smart quips and quibbles about

human nature are cleverly entwined into his characters, who at times will surprisingly contradict your expectations of them.

Clara Salaman plays a very convincing "Scout", the impressionable serial killer, who one minute you want to befriend and the next minute put in the nearest cell.

Despite a few dodgy American accents, especially the dire effort from John Bowler as the lead male, Bruce Delamatiri, the rest of the cast are very entertaining. But once the story begins to develop it's possible to forget such short-comings. Emma Noble's omission from the cast in Newcastle was unfortunate for a certain male acquaintance, but her under-study managed to fill the role of glamorous Brooke Daniels without too much disappointment on his behalf!

'Popcorn' was witty and clever, but not quite as hilarious as expected. Nevertheless it will no doubt make you giggle while the enthralling climax will leave you with a burning moral question...

LOUISE BIRCHALL

edge stuff (i.e. the press releases) to know exactly what you should be spending the dregs of your loan on when exam hell is finally over.

BEHOLD! The mighty Northern Stage is apparently "thrilled" to welcome back the renowned St Petersburg-based ensemble, reputed to be a REAL ensemble (which means they do pretty much everything themselves, which includes cleaning the theatre toilets), to the Playhouse. For 2 nights only their inevitably startling version of Shakespeare's compelling play *The Winter's Tale* hits the Playhouse as a climax to a UK tour of various fine theatre venues. For tickets call the Playhouse box office on (0191)232 5151.

Prices range from £8-£16

A more immediate delight is available to the discerningly arty in the form of Mathieu Copeland's work, a fine art student and *The Courier's* own crayoning continental. Taking violence and drugs as a focal point, this young artist has produced an impressive book of art that cleverly depicts, in visual puns, the word 'shoot' and what it connotes. Go to his forthcoming exhibition created with Erna Rijdsdijk, a Phd politics student, at the Architects Café in the Architecture Dept. on the 17- 21 May. Alternatively a copy of the original book can be yours for a mere £7.50p. Anyone interested should e-mail <MatheiuCopeland@ncl.ac.uk>

Personal parts and Classified Column

LEEDS STUDENT:
Say Hi to LIZZIE for me.
TW.

The Courier team
1000 EDITIONS!
GREAT!
Cheers for all the
support and those bloody
annoying photos. Moot.

Thanks everyone who came
to the party - that was just
a warm-up...Prepare
yourselves for September

Congratulations Courier
on your 1000th issue.
Please bring back
Sandy's Sumptuous
Supper Suggestion. Love
from LGB Sub Council
and Society.

My dear arts luvvies,
thank you for putting up
with my dithering and
insane behaviour all year.
It's a good job that you did
some work...cos I never do!
Love Helen xxx

Spy Andy - We know who
you are...

THE COUCH IS OURS

Would Rod Sharp please
stand up?

KATE, JAMES, HELEN,
CLARE and RACHEL.
We started strangers but
we have finished friends.
Cheers for the year.
Nick.

DOWNNS. I may be a
dominatix, but you'll never
feel the crack of my whip.

LUKE - Thanks, it's been
a laugh. TW.

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

NIGHTLINE
For Information or a Chat

Ring

261 2905

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

Marky - I'm sorry, it's over.
I've found someone else.
When do you want to collect
your clothes? Liz.

Christopher Price - The
cult lives on...

Farewell Newcastle!
Thanks for the four years of
fun and frolics. NM.

All members of NUTS...
Nick Mouton says,
"Carry on the quality
work!"

You'll have to wait till Sep
for the boat race...get in
training.

LGB SUB COUNCIL -
you're all gorgeous.
Thanks for your hard
work and support over
the last year.
Love, Victor.

JAMES
(my favourite dominatrix)-
thanks for keeping my arse
warm with your lavish
discipline - a stroke with the
finest bamboo for every
Courier kept me on the
straight & narrow. But I
digress... Congratulations
on getting this far, and
winning my respect on the
way. Love Chris xx

MUSIC KICKED ARTS
THIS YEAR!! Cheers to
all my helpers, Downnsy.

Don't worry Louise,
The evil has gone (for) now

A big thanks to everyone
on Welfare & Campaigns
this year. Love Clare x.

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**Huge thanks to everyone
involved with The Courier this
year. You've all helped to create
a newspaper to be truly proud of.
Best of luck next year, Al. If you
have a team half as good as
98/99 you'll be laughing.**
James

Forget the Oscars, the Golden Globes, and the Baftas, they're fixed. After much deliberation, soul-searching and bribery Newcastle's very own luvvie, Helen Tither, can EXCLUSIVELY announce the winners of this year's Courier Oscars.



ZETA JONES: Great actress

BEST IMPERSONATION OF A TRANSVESTITE ON STAGE

SURPRISE entry, Jason Donovan, managed to beat all the competition for this most prestigious of awards. Ditching his Scott Robinson mullet and ripped jeans, Jason stunned the panel with his original ensemble of basque, suspenders and glittery red platforms along with his faultless performance of 'The Timewarp' in 'The Rocky Horror Show' at the Theatre Royal in March.

The panel would like to make it clear that any suggestion that no acting skill was needed on Jason's part in order to play a camp transvestite who acts as though he's on drugs is completely unfounded.

WORST IMPERSONATION OF A TRANSVESTITE ON STAGE

KEN Morley (best known as Corrie's Reg Holdsworth) won this category hands down. Reg Holdsworth, in stockings and suspenders. Even animals shouldn't be made to see it. Downright filth.

MOST BORING INTERVIEWEE

FUNNY? Rob Newman? We think not. This so-called comedian stole this award with his uncanny ability to talk about politics and his 'serious side' at any given opportunity.

Slightly bitter at the fame and fortune of former partner, David Baddiel, Newman impressed the judges with his witty repartee such as, "Yeah, we see each other sometimes" and "It's hard to make serious issues funny". It'd be a surprise if he could make anything funny, boring has-been that he is.

MOST ANNOYING ACTRESS

GWYNETH Paltrow stole this award for her performances both on and off screen.

Appearing in both 'Shakespeare in Love' and 'A Perfect Murder', Miss Paltrow managed to irritate with seeming effortlessness by continually using her one and only frowning expression, moping about with a miserable face in whatever role she plays, and breathing. Not to mention that oh-so-realistic crying while collecting her awards. Very convincing.

MOST ANNOYING ACTOR

IF YOU missed the comedy classic that was 'Patch Adams' then you missed what was perhaps the height of Robin Williams ability to be annoying. In fact the panel were so irritated by the trailers for this showcase for Williams' 'original' talent that they couldn't be bothered to go and watch it either.

But the brief snippets they did see of Williams wearing a red nose and falling over proved forever their suspicions that he is not funny and never has been.

BEST BIG SCREEN DEBUT

BRIT FILM, 'This Year's Love', boasted several impressive performances but Kathy Burke stole the show with her first film appearance.

Best known for playing the sophisticated Waynetta Slob, Burke's comic-timing couldn't be better and her portrayal of a thirty-odd year old's love-life dilemmas was hilarious. This performance more than proved that she's way too good to be Harry Enfield's side-kick forever.

FLOP OF THE YEAR

DESPITE this page's valiant efforts to convince everyone that 'Meet Joe Black' isn't all that bad, on the whole, people just hated it. It's a disappointment to say the least that anything associated with Brad Pitt could be thought of as flopping, but this award was decided by the viewers who were obviously not impressed by the rather stylish shot of Brad naked. Philistines.



JASE: Great buns, apparently

HOUSE-HUNTING ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SHOULD RUSH INTO...

Get your student house

lock, stock PART II
& two smoking housemates

Moving In & Moving On

Thursday 20th May
Friday 21st May
Wednesday 26th May
Thursday 27th May
Tuesday 1st June

Wednesday 2nd June
OUTSIDE THE UNION 1PM -3PM
LOOK FOR THE TENT



WELFARE AND CAMPAIGNS

BUNCH OF ARTS

MOST BUCKLING SWASH OF THE YEAR

ANTONIO Banderas and a whip. Need we say more?

'The Mask of Zorro' managed to win the swashbuckling category with its old-fashioned adventure, its unashamed cheesiness, the fact that it was actually a good escapist-style film, and, yes, Antonio and that whip might have swayed the judges. But only due to the sense of added realism, or something.

POPPET OF THE YEAR

A VERITABLE poppet explosion in the Toon this year made this a tough decision but Jeff Green, with his cheeky cherubic charm, was too cute for the rest of the competition.

A definite highlight of the highly successful Comedy Festival that exploded on Newcastle in November, Green wooed the judges (not to mention this arts ed. Swoon!) with his easy-listening but guffaw-inducing routine. Watch this poppet, he'll go far.

THE DRUNKEN STUDENT AWARD FOR BEST USE OF BIN LIDS

ANYONE who missed 'Stomp', the highlight of Newcastle's Dance Festival last term, missed a good 'un. With more initiative than the Wombles, this ingenious cast made sweet music with anything from binlids to brooms and still managed to look cool. Any resemblance to a Pringles advert was apparently purely coincidental.

PIE EATERS OF THE YEAR

TOON legends, Ant and Dec, managed to fit The Courier into their hectic schedule earlier this year at the opening of the new UCI cinema. Despite gaining international stardom as the cutting edge rap act, PJ and Duncan, and attracting critical acclaim for appearing in the cult hit, 'Byker Grove', the Geordie rogues claim to be unaffected by the pressures of fame.

The panel were particularly impressed by their incredible ability to eat as much popcorn as their adoring agents could ply them with. Cheeky Geordie chappies.

BEST USE OF A BLOW UP DOLL

NUTS proved yet again that student drama is alive and well with some impressive performances throughout the year. 'Two Gents' and 'Marisol' were among the highlights.

But 'Fur Coat and No Knickers' stole this award for the pure comedy value of watching our beloved Communications Officer, Nick Mouton, cavorting with a blow-up doll while playing a drunken Irish priest.

BLAGGER OF THE YEAR

Couldn't be anyone else but Helen Tither. While most of the Courier staff and reporters know her only as a caffeine-addicted work-shy slacker, underneath that dithering exterior beats the rapacious heart of a true mercenary.

Not content with

ingratiating herself with the RSC and so gaining free (top class) tickets to their entire season, complete with champagne shmoozing and canapé guzzling, she then went on to pursue her own personal celebrity fixations, using her position to stalk and corner Jeff Green, Jason Donovan and most of the cast of Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels. Oh how we laughed when she ended up meeting the North-East's most famous lard asses, Ant & Dec.

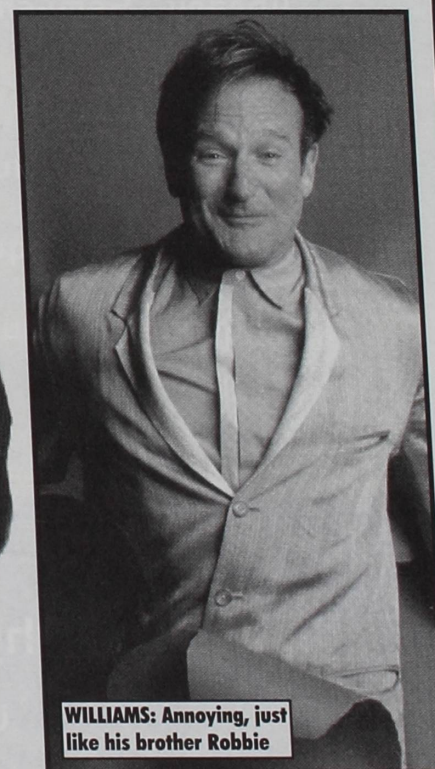
Rumours abound that she may be returning for another 'season' at the Courier. The male theatrical world trembles...



ANT 'n' DEC: Chubby cheeks and Helen

SURPRISE HIT OF THE YEAR

'Something About Mary' may have looked like a weak and predictable comedy in the trailers but people flocked to see this film. Maybe it was the infamous hair-style gag that attracted the hordes or maybe, just maybe, it was the fact that the entire male population fancies Cameron Diaz.



WILLIAMS: Annoying, just like his brother Robbie

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Liz Todd



The word of TODD...

THE millennium *Courier* and the end of the year. It's the end of an era and a time for looking back through a soft focus camera lens to the sound of violins.

Hang on a minute though, why are we getting so nostalgic? It's not even as if we're all leaving uni for the scary big wide world. Most of us will be back in September, determined to do a bit more work and with a thousand good intentions. We all know plenty of final year students are quite rightly cacking their pants. But the rest of us don't need to get so choked up with emotion. After token condolences about the trauma of looking for jobs, careers etc, we hardly need to be on hand twenty four hours a day with emotional support.

It might be a cliché, but at the end of it all everyone moves on. It's just that being faced with your replacement is always a bit unnerving. One poor geography student came back after three months in Chile to discover a lodger had moved into her house. But what upset her more was having to sleep on the sofa as the lodger had moved into her room. Surely that goes beyond adding insult to injury.

Luckily here in the world of *The Courier* I won't have to meet my replacement. There's no way someone is writing the Word of Todd without consulting me first. We all have friends who'd relish the prospect of dishing

the dirt, and none of my house mates are coming anywhere near *The Courier* office. For the whole of the second year I've resisted the temptation to include a few of the juiciest details. And seeing as though we're all living together next year too, I'm not about to start.

It's all very well typing away week after week in the Union cocoon, but it's crucial to remember that once stuff goes into print there's no going back. When I'm deciding what to include it's sometimes easy to forget that other people aren't amused to discover they've got a starring role. Obviously the standard pursuits don't normally merit a mention. Drinking, smoking, socialising and sleeping can't exactly count as hobbies. And whilst the antics of Joe the average student might contain the occasional amusingly sordid details, not all of them are appropriate for printing.

Everyone's mates get up to the same drunken exploits, but some of my acquaintances take it to the extreme. Falling out of windows and ripping their bollocks open (nine stitches in one testicle), setting themselves on fire in the throws of passion (accidentally of course) and a whole host of other incidents too gruesome to mention.

Unfortunately, my life really wouldn't be worth living if certain incidents were recounted. It's all very well letting information slip when you're pissed. At least then you can hope everyone else was so legless that they don't remember it. But

when stuff is set down in print for all to read it's a lot harder to erase. There's been a few too many times this year when this column has been taken down and used in evidence against me. And taking sole responsibility just means that; I'm in all the hot water by myself.

It's all very well trying to pass it off as a joke, but it seems there are a few people out there who have had a humour by-pass. And since when do we believe everything we read? Do people really think Serb gunmen have nothing more pressing to do than shoot random TV celebs? Exactly. Certain stories do have to be taken with a pinch of salt.

No one is claiming *The Courier* doesn't check facts religiously. But if I really wrote what I wanted to every week, then there'd be a lot more complaints. Then again, that's only if people check up on what's being written. Plenty of my house mates have been lulled into a very false sense of security, and it seems a shame to waste such an opportunity.

After complicated sums with the aid of a calculator it has been revealed that I've written more than twenty thousand words for the paper this year. So perhaps a general slagging of the people around Uni wouldn't be a wise idea. We all saw what happened after one little interview and a certain ill chosen comment on Newcastle women being dogs. 20,000 words can't really be swept under the carpet. It's well and truly more

than a major dissertation. It's a ridiculously large amount of column inches. It's more than twice the amount I've written on my degree since coming to uni. Well, maybe that kind of confession is best kept quiet, especially if the profs in the Percy building are avid fans of *The Courier*.

Tight Arse/Sloane Farce

Tight Arse

One of our *Courier* reporters was the victim last week of some exceptionally tight behaviour. Visiting a friend's house for dinner she enjoyed a lovingly-prepared meal. Little did she know that the food had, a mere hour earlier, been consigned to the bin, deemed unfit for human consumption. Faced with the prospect of no food, the host had decided to recover the mouldy meat from the bin, rinse it and serve it up to the unsuspecting guest.

Sloane Farce

Even on a day out on the coast it's impossible to escape those sloanes. Frolicking in the surf, this chinless-wonder lost sight of her pink-shirted chums. Panicking, she reached for her mobile phone and rung them. It was only then that she realised that they were only 50 yards away, well within sloane whispering distance.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES RESOURCE UNIT



..... what can it do for you?.....

The Equal Opportunities Resource Unit (commonly known as the 'Equal Opps Unit') exists to help students make the most of their time in Newcastle and is staffed by Student Union Officers. If you experience any problems or have any queries whilst at university, feel free to pop in or ring anytime for confidential advice and information. We should be able to help, or will certainly know where else you could turn to if we can't.

..... what resources are available?.....

The Unit has a vast array of leaflets and materials relating to sexual health, racism, disability, personal safety, mental health, sexuality, contraception, support groups and many other topics. A collection of cuttings, books and videos are available for students to make use of, and the Unit also has a limited supply of condoms, lube, dental dams, red ribbons and attack alarms for students to take away.

..... where is it?.....

The Equal Opps Unit can be found on the first floor of the Union Building, and is staffed most lunchtimes.
Phone: (0191) 239 3936
or visit the Equal Opps website:
www.ncl.ac.uk/~nunion/equalopps.html

..... SWD and PGMS.....

The Students with Disabilities Officer and Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer positions are currently vacant - pop in and we may be able to help, otherwise contact Clare Proctor (Welfare Officer) on (0191) 239 3917, or e-mail: welfare.union@ncl.ac.uk

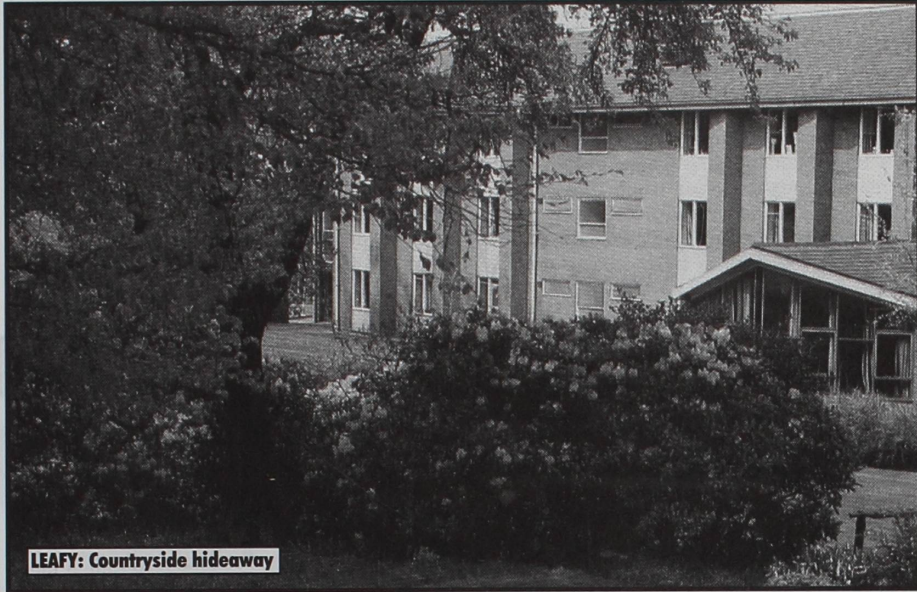


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IT'S HALL OVER AT



LEAFY: Countryside hideaway

Who the f***k is Ethel?

WAY BACK in time, before even *The Courier* existed, Ethel Mary Nucella Williams was certainly a feisty character. Born in 1863, she was a suffragette and active member of the university's Women's Federation.

She got her medical degree in London but had to travel to Paris and Vienna because women weren't allowed hospital work experience then. Our friend Ethel was one of the first female GP's in the country, and worked in Newcastle between 1896 and 1924.

Clearly a role model for aspiring Spice Girls everywhere, proving that barriers won't come down until they're challenged. And she worked with the UN too. She died in 1948, and too years later came her namesake, the hall we know and love.

By LIZ TODD

IT'S QUITE literally an institution. But this year's students will be the last ever to leave Ethel Williams's once it closes at the end of term, so *The Courier* went along to reminisce.

Brothel Williams, as it's affectionately known, has been open nearly fifty years. Since it opened it has been home to more than twelve thousand students. Nervous A-level geeks have developed into upstanding members of the community and spawned their own rebellious teenagers. In fact there must be a whole host of those grandparents out there who have grandchildren at uni now. Who knows, there could be a third generation of ex-Ethellers somewhere out there somewhere.

But after nearly half a century why is it finally going? It seems that in these money driven times the uni is selling up and cashing in all they can. Ethel's is a prime land site and has been bought by Miller homes for property development. Mysteriously, none of the staff seem to know quite how much it went for, but the deal is signed and it's guaranteed to be larger than anything most of us will dream of earning.

Receptionist Chris Parkin said, "It's like a little bit of the country. A lot of the students think it's a crying shame, it's a nice place to live and we're quite homely". The well kept gardens are not what you'd expect to find surrounding nearly 280 students, and once the freshers have gone the outlook is bleak for the hundreds of rabbits that live on the site.

The demolition gangs will be moving in after everything has been cleared out, although the listed buildings, including the bar, will remain. But there's a lot more to Ethel's than bricks and mortar. The forty-five staff will all be made redundant, and several of those have to find somewhere else to live too. Warden Quentin Campbell told *The Courier*, "My family have lived here for eleven years and my daughter grew up here. We're very sad to be leaving, although we have somewhere else to live."

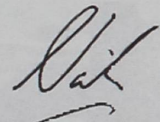
Feelings throughout the hall are the same as staff face the reality of leaving. Cleaners Eileen and Margaret, who have worked at Ethel's for nearly twenty years between them described how upset so many people are. Margaret said "We just want to stay, we all get on very well. It's a great bunch of girls and that's what we're going to miss. There'll be more than one tear shed".

At less than a quarter the size of Castle Leazes, many staff are worried that the unique atmosphere at Ethel's will be lost forever. Eileen explained, "I think most of the students who've been here will say it's like a family." Communications Officer Nick Mouton, himself an old resident and JCR vice president, summed up the feelings of many students. "It will be a great loss because it was a good little community. There were only around 270 of us so we were forced to like each other."

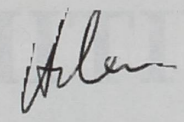
In the kitchens, the saviours of student starvation were hard at work on one of the last suppers. Joan, who has worked at Ethel's for twenty seven years explained how she felt. "There are six of us who've worked together in the kitchens for fifteen years. We're devastated, it's just a sin that we're going to close." Colleague Sheila added, "We're all putting it off because we don't want to leave."

It seems that in the race to save cash, staff feel as though the university has neglected people's feelings. "It should have stayed open, it's a little place on its own and everyone will tell you how sad they are", blasted one cleaner, who has worked there for over twenty years. Hall secretary Diana Compton pointed out, "Everybody worries about where the students are going to go next year."

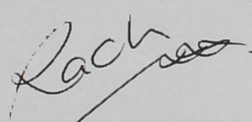
Hopefully the accommodation deficit will have been solved by September. If Ethel's is shutting, where are all the freshers going next year? Unless a brand spanking new hall is about to be unveiled, it makes you wonder where nearly three hundred freshers are to be housed. Fending for yourself in Ricky Road flats is even less appealing than hall food. And Castle Leazes doesn't exactly lend itself to twin rooms.



Nick Mouton,
Communications Officer

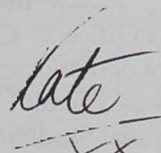


Helen Grayshan,
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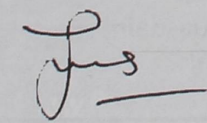


Rachel Dukes, AU Officer

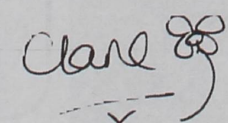
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all the staff!



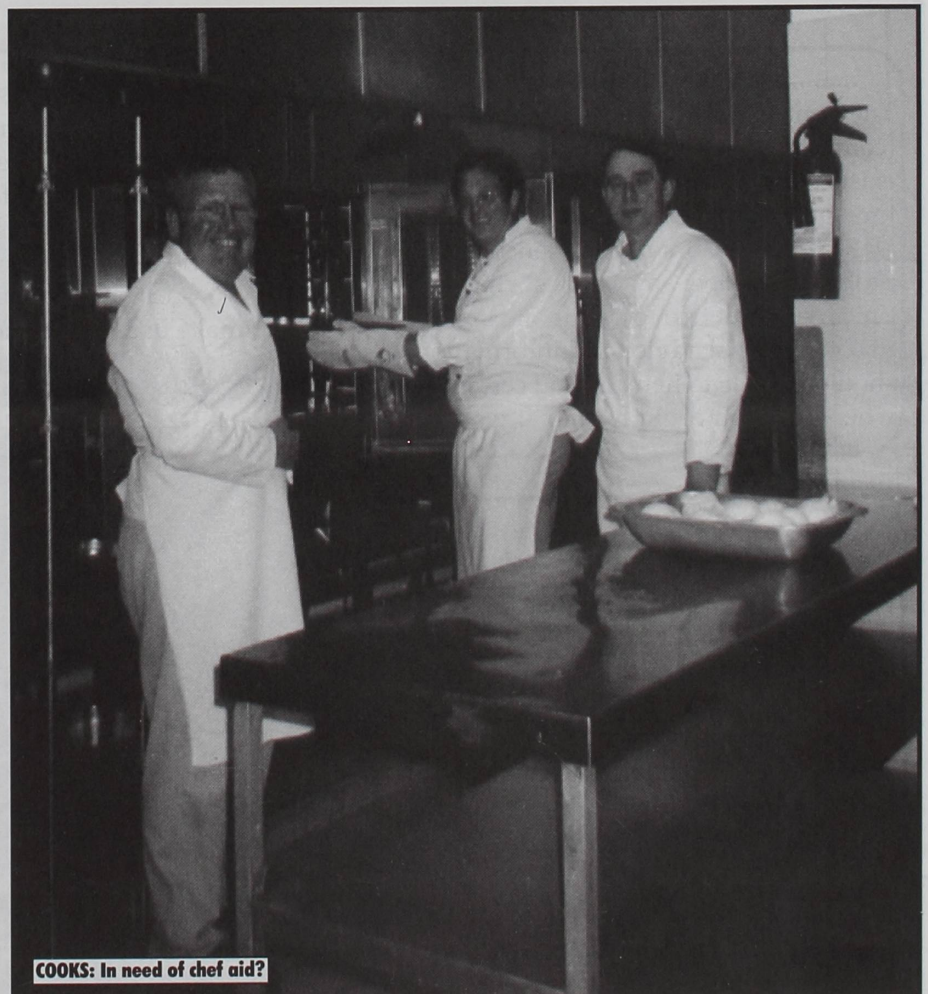
Kate Vicary, Finance & Admin. Officer



James Jordan,
Editor of *The Courier*



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ETHEL WILLIAMS...



CLEAN BREAK?: They just want to stay



YOUNG GENTS: Great!



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The Courier

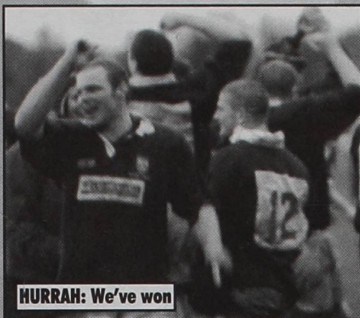
MILLENNIUM SPORT AWARDS

Team of the Year: Men's Rugby

WE'RE sure that cries of bias will be thrown at us but when you look at the facts it is pretty hard not to give the Rugby lads the award for the second year running.

They went one step better than last season by winning the English Premier Trophy against Imperial College, superbly captained by Johnny Marston. They beat Durham for the third successive year, Loughborough twice and although they lost to the Poly they finished as Northern champions for the second year running.

Furthermore, they have excelled as individuals as well as a team, claiming a total of eight Full Royals. Paddy Seymour has been a regular for West Hartlepool this season. Meanwhile, the Newcastle Falcons have built virtually their entire development squad on the Royal Blue first XV. Jimmy Cartmell and Hugh Vyvyan have been prominent, while Simon Best, Jimmy Rule, Hall Charlton and Tom May are starting to make their presence felt. Tim Southall has also featured in the first team squad.



HURRAH: We've won

Best Result: Newcastle 3-2 Loughborough

A SECOND award for the men's footballers with the nailbiting 3-2 victory against the mighty Loughborough in the first round of the BUSA Cup.

Loughborough, who had finished top of the Southern Premier league played Newcastle who had to qualify for the Cup through a play-off with Northumbria.

BUSA in their wisdom continue to put the Toon army in Division Two of the Northern section even though they have won the Shield twice in a row before this season. With any luck this result against the midlanders will have awoken a few fat cats at BUSA HQ.

The game itself was an absolute beauty. Newcastle certainly rode their luck in a match that by all account should have been the Cup Final. Irishman Shaun Cavanagh produced a display right out of a Captain Marvel comic. He was superb in defence and was then on hand to score the crucial injury time winner. But, in Newcastle's traditionally inconsistent style the boys then went out to Edge Hill College, an institution with little or no footballing pedigree.



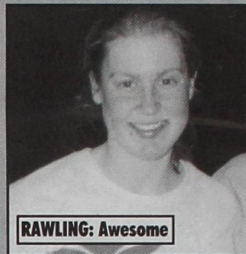
JOKERS: FA Cup next?

Woman of the Year: Lindsay Rawling

SECOND year medic Lindsay Rawling has had a year to remember rising to become one of the most prominent figures in Newcastle University Sport. Her tennis power has helped sweep the Ladies tennis team to a comprehensive Shield triumph alongside her namesake Davison.

Rawling has completed an almost 100% record of whitewashes since BUSA competition moved into its knockout stage. But she saved her best for the final completing a 6-0 6-0 victory against Leeds Met, conceding just two points in the entire match which lasted little over twenty-five minutes.

Her achievements for the Tennis team are more than supplemented by her performances for the Ladies Hockey firsts who she almost inspired to promotion to the BUSA Premier league last weekend. A Half-Royal adds yet more glory to an action packed campaign.



RAWLING: Awesome

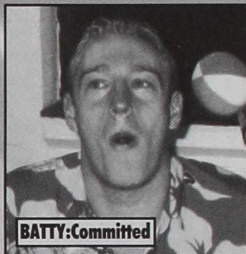
Man of the Year: Mark Batty

FROM Sheffield Wednesday reserves to Cochrane Park, striker Mark Batty has had an eventful season to say the least.

He was sent off in one of his first matches for the Royal Blues, missing much of the early BUSA exchanges through suspension.

A rich vein of scoring form saw him catch the *Courier* headlines for all the right reasons, but this Gascoigne-esque personality still proved he could hit the self-destruct button.

Last term the pacy forward was pictured celebrating his twenty-first birthday in some what extravagant style. Pictures exclusively made available to the *Courier* showed the Tyke gallivanting around Richardson Road in his birthday suit and then proceeding to throw-up in a bucket kindly supplied by his flatmates. The fact this was the day before the British University trials, in which, unsurprisingly, he played like a twat, failed to knock this party animal out of his stride. Nonetheless, the former Owl slipped in through the back door when coach Alan Brown appealed against his exclusion from the squad. If only he'd known!

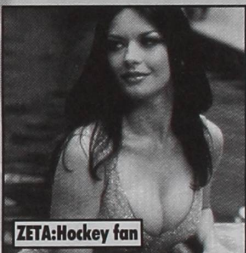


BATTY: Committed

Most Improved Team: Women's Hockey

THE competition for this award was perhaps the most fierce but after some serious deliberation it goes to the Hockey girls.

Not only did the first team qualify for the BUSA Cup this year instead of the Shield but they only narrowly missed out on promotion to the BUSA Northern Premier League. Victory over the arch-enemy Durham also gave them a few bonus points. A second place finish in the Northumbrian league was also a tremendous achievement and a marked improvement on last year.



ZETA: Hockey fan

AN AWARD A DAY...

We're not the only people giving out the prizes this week, the Athletic Union has also announced its awards of the year. Congratulations to all those teams and individuals involved

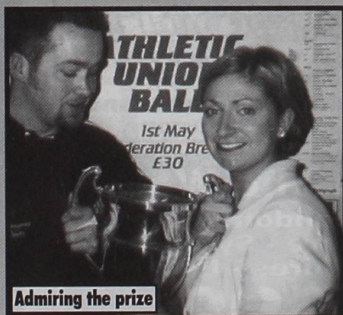
Team of the Year:
Mens Football

Administrator of
the Year: **Jared
Thornton**

Safety Award:
Caving

Full Royals

American Football: Tim Watton
Badminton: Sam Wadsworth
Football: Mark Batty
Judo: Christoph Freyer
Orienteering: Will Hensman and Ed Nash
Rugby Union: Hall Charlton, Mark Lee, Tom May, Hugh Vyvyan, Patrick Seymour, Simon Best, James Cartmell and James Rule.
Ski-ing: Laura Westmacott
Snowboarding: Vicky Miller
Swimming and Water Polo: Michael Downes, Nivk Jackson, Robert Whittle, Louise Roberts.



Admiring the prize

Half Royals

American Football: John Stoddard and Guy Wilby
Archery: Jared Thornton
Badminton: Steve Swan
Cricket: Matthew Mountain
Fencing: Tom Simon and Jon Gosling
Netball: Alston Brown
Orienteering: Rob Palmer, Vegard Brox, Susan Fridd, Claire Heppenstall
Rugby Union: Pete Steadman, Guy Beaumont, Chris Armitage
Ski-ing and Snowboarding: George Stoy
Swimming and Water Polo: Dave Baldwin
Womens Basketball: Many Williamson
Womens Tennis Lynsey Davison and Lynsey Rawling

GET YOUR HANDS OFF! Students question new pressures on club

By LUKE EDWARDS

Graham Rayner's frank denial of any backroom dealings to lower grades for top young sports stars cannot hide the fact that some University sides are already coping with external influences over selection.

The University Rugby team has already developed intimate links with the Newcastle Falcons with the first team squad bearing a distinct similarity to the Falcons so called Development Squad.

Rob Andrew, the Falcons' Director of Rugby has openly professed his desire to move Uni-Club relations in this way in a candid interview with the *Courier* last year.

But Rugby Club supremo Justin Crick and first team captain Johnny Marston are known to be firmly against any infringement on their independence, from either the Falcons or the Sports Centre.

Marston was adamant when he said: "The Rugby Club, like other clubs, is run by students for students, that's the great thing about it."

"It would be disastrous if the club lost its independence over team selections and tactics and would almost certainly damage team spirit which has been such a crucial factor in our success."

Indeed, the situation over at the Poly already indicates some of the problems Marston has envisaged with Falcons allegedly exerting pressure

for their players to be put in the first team even though there are better players ahead of them.

About greater ties with the Falcons, Crick blasted: "You have to ask what exactly do we get out of it?"

"This year we lost our BUSA Cup quarter-final by two points whilst two of our best players (Jim Cartmell and Hugh Vyvyan) were standing on the sidelines due to their Falcons commitments."

There is a clear belief that such an arrangement simply saves the Falcons' money as they have to spend less money of their development programme, relying on the University to provide its youngsters.

Rayner is no stranger to controversy, even though membership numbers at the Centre have virtually doubled since 1995. He has come under fire in the past for the Sports Centre's fondness for temporary contracts, many of which are not renewed, as in the case of former Women's football coach John Mills, as it is cheaper to employ a flexible labour force.

His decision two years ago to make it difficult for local sides to play in Intra-Mural competition, some of whom had been playing in the Uni league since 1966, was also greeted with derision in some quarters.

But these latest controversial rumours appear not to have any foundation. Rayner can also point to an impressive track record over the past few years.

As well as a doubling of membership to almost 7,000, the Sports Centre is currently involved in expansion talks with the University and plans to erect a new building adjacent to Claremont Tower in the foreseeable future.

PROMOTION FAILURE MARS HOCKEY SEASON

Promotion failure for 1999's most improved team

By TOM WROBEL
SPORTS REPORTER

NEWCASTLE Ladies Hockey team failed to win promotion to the BUSA Northern Premier league last Saturday after firing blanks in their three play-off matches

Two defeats in their opening two matches left them with too much to do. The first, a mediocre performance against De Montfort and a bout of poor luck appeared to knock the stuffing out of the girls.

Although Alison Bomford's side equipped themselves far better in the second match against a skilful Ulster side a controversial penalty flick and a carding for goalie Fiona Holmes proved their undoing, with them finally going down 3-0.

A battling draw against Crewe & Alsager restored some pride but the team



were desperately disappointed not to have performed better on the day.

Club captain Alex Horner summed up the mood of the camp when she said: "We didn't do ourselves justice and we know that we can perform a lot better than that but it just wasn't to be

"I'm sure the Easter break had a lot to do with it but we were up against a lot of good quality sides."

■ But there was some better news for the club last week when they were confirmed as intra-mural champions.

CRICKET 1ST XI

All square

By STUART HALL

NEWCASTLE'S cricketers have every chance of BUSA success this Summer after an exciting start to their campaign.

Following a comfortable 123 run win over a weak Bradford side, the 1st XI entertained Leeds University at Close House.

The clash between the two strongest sides in the league was billed as a championship decider and it was clear from the outset that both sides were keen to impress.

Imperious against Bradford, Newcastle's top order crumbled against some aggressive bowling from the Tykes who were aided by a green, uneven wicket and some inspired fielding.

Things were looking bleak until Captain Martin Pollard stuck in and with a mixture of sharp running and merciless pulling took the Newcastle score beyond the hundred mark.

Chasing a paltry 108, Leeds rode their luck but looked in control, collecting 40 runs for the loss of only one wicket.

But a spell of disciplined military medium from James Thomas saw the visitors pegged back and as the pressure increased so the wickets began to fall.

Sweet fortune was in fickle mood though and the destiny of the game swung back and forth with strokes as forceful as a Bradman cover drive.

A sharp piece of ground fielding from the cat-like Mike Mortimer saw Leeds' challenge falter as they were reduced to 92 for nine, 17 short of victory.

But the wound was not fatal and the Tyke tail-enders brought the scores level thanks to some lusty hits, each like a nail in Newcastle's cricket coffin, against a tiring attack.

With a heavy heart, pace-man Nick Kay took the ball with the scores level at 108 each. Summoning up one last effort he released a ball that was promptly flicked airily to fine-leg. The end to Newcastle's summer dreams of glory?

No. With fox-like cunning, skipper Pollard had moved fine leg James Chadwick up to save the single and the ball stuck safe and true in his hands. A tie!

The dream lives on.

the team

LADIES HOCKEY 1ST XI

Fiona Holmes, Rachel Crawther, Ann Thornborrow (cpt), Martha Harvey-Jones, Zoe Ballontyne, Clare Martin, Alex Horner, Ruth Glodowski, Laura Stone, Harriet Ingles, Alexa Birt, Lindsey Rawlings

ATHLETICS



Greasing the pole

By LISA GOODFELLOW

UNIVERSITY athletes made a successful start to the outdoor season at the annual BUSA championships in Bedford last weekend.

Leading a strong Newcastle team, Neil Jennings clocked the fastest time in his 400m heat. The elite athlete and junior international stormed into the final to achieve a respectable fifth place.

Cicely Hall and Suzy Rutherford, also elite athletes and junior internationals, ran strong races to secure final places in the 400m hurdles

and 1500m.

Andrew Marshall leapt to a lifetime best in the long jump, narrowly missing out on the final.

In the men's 4x400m relay John McCole, Andrew Marshall, Oystein Brattetaule, and Tim Davis, rounded off Newcastle's track success.

Athletes included John McCole: 800m and 1500m, Sarah Randles: pole vault, Tim Davis: 1500m, Oystein Brattetaule: long jump, Rob Leaman: javelin, Nick Morgan: 800m, Lisa Goodfellow 200m and 400m.

With credible performances all round, and the prospect of most athletes returning to compete indoors, next season promises to be a good one.

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WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 1999

Brownlee goal inspires promotion win

ROYAL BLUES GO SEVEN-UP

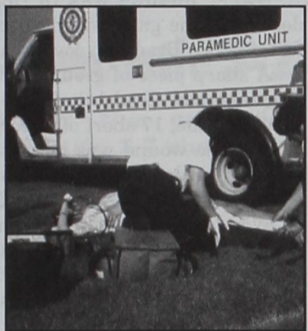
The dramatic fall of Rome

SECOND year Rome Woodley is recovering at home after an operation to fix a broken leg sustained during a football match last week, writes Liz Todd.

The accident happened as his team Chem. Eng. took on Phats Dynamo in the intra mural league.

The teams had only been playing for fifteen minutes when the left back was injured and rushed to North Tyneside Hospital.

Doctors discovered the second year had broken both his tibia and fibula. After keeping him in for two days they decided to operate and fix metal pins through the break.



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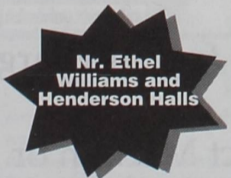
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SPENCER: Hat-trick hero chases another goal.

Newcastle 7-1 Gosforth Coxlodge

By **SHAUN CAVANAGH**

RICH Brownlee scored the goal of the season as Newcastle ran riot against their promotion rivals.

The wing wizard skipped around five Coxlodge defenders before finishing emphatically past a stranded keeper. This second goal for the Royal Blues proved the catalyst to arguably their performance of the season.

After a couple of poor results recently the performance was a great boost and they now know that three points on Saturday will mean promotion to the Northern Alliance Premier League is virtually secure.

If so the University side will only

be one division away from potential F.A Cup qualification, a remarkable success story which has seen two successive promotion campaigns.

Last Wednesday, Newcastle got off to the perfect start when Kevin Spencer scored on the ten minute mark after being released by Murgatryod.

Brownlee then weaved his magic to make it two and soon after Mark Batty latched on to a defensive mistake to claim the third.

Coxlodge, forced to attack at all costs, were inevitably susceptible to the counter-attack, which Newcastle performed to near perfection.

The Royal Blues consistently hit their opponents on the break and it was from this that they all but finished the game as a contest.

Strike duo Spencer and Batty linked superbly, with Batty storming down the left before crossing superbly to Spencer who struck a sweet volley to make it four.

The second half equally belonged to Newcastle. Two great strikes from midfielder Ben Chesters brought the tally to six with Coxford snatching a consolation in between. Spencer completed his hat-trick and the scoring when he headed in Tim Manuel's pin-point cross.

the team

Sullivan, Manuel, Olofson, Cavanagh, Beilby, Brownlee, Murgatryod, Felton, Chesters, Batty, Spencer. Subs: Onions, Jeffrey

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