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**Flasher in park
balls up - page 5**

**Cracking good guff as
Mr Methane blows his
own bugle - Page 8**



No. 1006

WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 1999

25p

TRAGEDY AFTER BRIDGE DRAMA

Mum tells of 'kamikaze' streak

BY ROSALIND MALTHOUSE
CHIEF REPORTER

A BRILLIANT physics student has died after plunging from the Tyne Bridge.

Philip Donnelly was in a cab to Newcastle after spending the evening with his family at a pub in his home town of East Boldon, South Tyneside.

But the third year asked the taxi driver to stop on the Tyne Bridge before jumping out of the car and fleeing across building rooftops.

Stunned

Minutes later he fell more than 60 feet to the Quayside, as the stunned taxi driver



HORROR... Physics student plunged from bridge

looked on in horror.

And his heartbroken mother believes it was suicide, as he had become withdrawn and depressed in the last 10 days of his life.

She said of her sensitive son: "He was an extremely loving and giving person, who couldn't hurt anyone, but he couldn't understand why the rest of the world wasn't the same.

"I don't want to think of him in the murky depths, but in a better place."

Injuries

Police tried to revive the 24 year old but were unsuccessful as he had suffered massive head injuries.

Shocked physics lecturer, Dr Moss, said: "He was genuinely a very nice guy and a good student.

"Philip had missed a few lectures in the week before his death, but he seemed bright and not depressed about it."

Speaking after the funeral, a friend of Philip's told *The Courier*: "There was a lot of disbelief when the news went round.

News

"At first we heard a rumour that a 2nd year had died, but then Professor Crowe, the head of department, announced the news that it was Philip.

"I think everyone in the department knew him, and there was a good turn out at the funeral."

The third year, who held a black belt in judo, was described by his mother as "fond of the Orient and the Japanese way of life.

She added: "I came to think he must have had a kamikaze spirit."

An inquest into his death has been opened and adjourned.

We truckin' won



ELECTION winners FYC2K now know they have a van that can after the veteran truck helped them to clinch victory.

Hundreds of students backed the four-strong team in the race for the job of organising next year's freshers week.

The campaign hit the road at the beginning of last week in the build up to Friday's poll.

And budding FYC stewards have already torn a strip off the opposition by seizing a banner from election rivals Fine Young Candidates to show at their interview.

FULL STORY & RESULTS: PAGE 4



Safety week kicks in - P. 4

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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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DOUBLE TROUBLE

Unlucky medic Winnie in injury shock - TWICE!

By LIZ TODD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A BRAVE medic is recovering this week after cheating death TWICE in a fortnight.

Second year Winnie Hamilton was dashed to hospital on two separate occasions within ten days.

First, he broke his neck on the rugby pitch in a match for the Medics against the Poly.

And then just days later lecturers rushed to his side after he collapsed in a medical practical.

The first incident saw Winnie stretchered off and carried away in agony before being kept in hospital over the weekend.

The hapless second year told The Courier: "I was supposed to be in the starting line up but was too hungover from the night before."

"But the lad who went on instead of me cracked a rib and we called an ambulance for him."

Stretcher

"Then I went on and went in for a tackle and broke my neck. They took me off on a stretcher and we shared the ambulance."

Doctors warned Winnie was at risk of having a stroke. And as a precaution he must wear a neck brace for six weeks.

But the unlucky medic was back in hospital a week later after a dramatic Tuesday afternoon lecture.

Winnie was left writhing in agony as air filled the space between his lung and ribcage. His lung decreased in size by a sixth as Senior house officers and other medical lecturers raced to help him.

Morphine

The jinxed second year confessed: "I was in so much pain they gave me two shots of morphine."

"It was worse than breaking my neck and that was really painful."

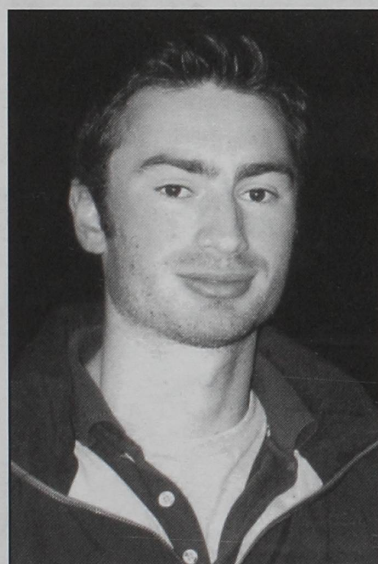


GET WELL SOON... Hapless Winnie braces himself for the weeks of recovery ahead

As Winnie lay in his hospital bed the hero rugby player kept his spirits up by continuing his sterling efforts for the Medics' team.

"I was sat in the hospital organising a rugby match that night, and then collected all the kit and cheered them on the next day," he told The Courier.

But the dedicated sportsman now faces a lengthy lay-off before he returns to the pitch himself.



REGRET... Captain apologises for capers

Mens Barred!

SPORTS CLUB SLAM BLANKET BAN FROM UNION

By ROSALIND MALTHOUSE
CHIEF REPORTER

THE entire Mens Hockey club was banned from the Union last week, due to the actions of only five members.

The uni players caused havoc in the Mens Bar following their match on Wednesday.

One member leant over the bar and started pulling his own pints, while his team mate fell into a pile of glasses.

He then smashed the glasses that had remained intact.

Another scaled a partition wall at the entrance to the bar - and fell from the top of it.

A fourth member was staggering around drinking the hallucinogenic spirit absinthe that he had brought into the union.

And he had the cheek to ask the bar staff for shot glasses to drink it out of.

As a result the entire hockey club was banned until Monday.

Second teamer Chris Steele blasted: "It's scandalous. I wasn't even there but now bar staff have refused to serve me"

And indignant player James Lancaster said: "I am aggrieved at the blanket punishment. Sixty innocent men have suffered due to the antics of a handful of people."

"It is very harsh and is the result of the Finance and Admin officer's power trip."

But Finance and Admin officer Kate Vicary explained: "There has been a history of trouble with sports teams, including the hockey club, and by banning the entire club we are making an example of them to try and stop this unacceptable behaviour."

Club Captain Andy Fry said: "We have disciplined the people involved and we are very sorry about what happened. We intend to make sure it never happens again."

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TYNE TO PARTY!

By RACHAEL STEAD

PARTY-GOERS are being warned that if they want to have a happy new year... they'll need a ticket!

Newcastle City Council has put a cap of 36,000 on the number of people to be allowed onto the Quayside for millennium eve.

The area will be cordoned off, and only those who have the right piece of paper will be allowed through.

A massive riverside street party is being planned, with fireworks organised to illuminate the Tyne Bridge.

Around 15,000 tickets are already on sale at pubs and clubs near the Tyne, and buyers will automatically get area access coupons.

The other coupons will be free to anyone wanting to stand on the Quayside.

They'll be distributed by a local newspaper.

Agric boozers ate my goldfish



PLAICE OF TORTURE... Fish had their chips after carping it in the Mens Bar

By ROSS SMITH
DEPUTY EDITOR

JUST when you thought you could sleep peacefully in your bowls, the Agrics are back.

And this week a recent spate of cross-campus goldfish gobbling has made its way into their notorious initiation ceremony.

The Courier recently reported that Glasgow students had eaten the fairground favourites to win free booze in a freshers' week stunt.

And in a gruesome copycat killing, Geordie goldfish were drowned in beer before becoming Agric newcomers' supper in a Mens Bar booze-up.

A spokesman for the RSPCA said: "There are precedents for us taking action over ill treatment of fish. If this is true, we would certainly consider looking into it."

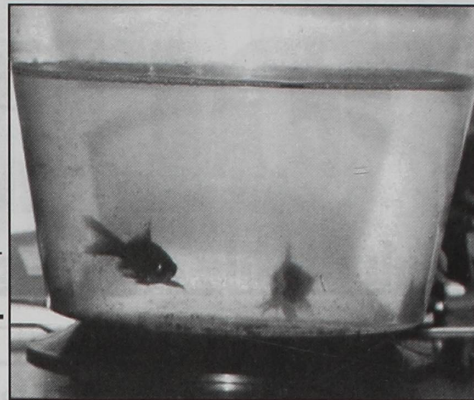
"It's a pretty disgusting initiation ceremony that uses and kills animals for the sake of enjoyment."

An Agric claimed: "We've got a really bad reputation, but it's blown out of all proportion."

"Nobody's ever made to do anything against their will, it's just that some things seem a good idea when you're pissed."

"As for the goldfish, what a way to go - anaesthetised by alcohol!"

Coy Union Environmental Officer Andrew Bickerdike declined to comment.



BATTERED... Fish were killed and guzzled by agrics

ROAD RUNNER'S A1 BOOB

He ran the wrong way from Durham

By ROSALIND MALTHOUSE
CHIEF REPORTER

A NIGHT out in Durham proved to be too much for one third year who fled the city by running down the A1 the **WRONG** way.

The boozed up student had been to a friend's Austin Powers party, followed by a visit to a local nightclub. As he staggered out of the club he fell down the stairs in the first of a night of drunken catastrophes.

His friend then challenged him to a race to the top of a hill: "I started off up the hill, but when I reached the top I just kept running for some reason."

"I got lost and the next thing I knew a paramedic was putting me in an ambulance. I think I fell over or got beaten up. I can't remember which."

The psychology student was taken to hospital with a bruised shoulder and cuts to his face.

He was left alone in a cubicle for a couple of minutes: "but I got bored and ran out. I thought I was in the RVI and was going to walk home."

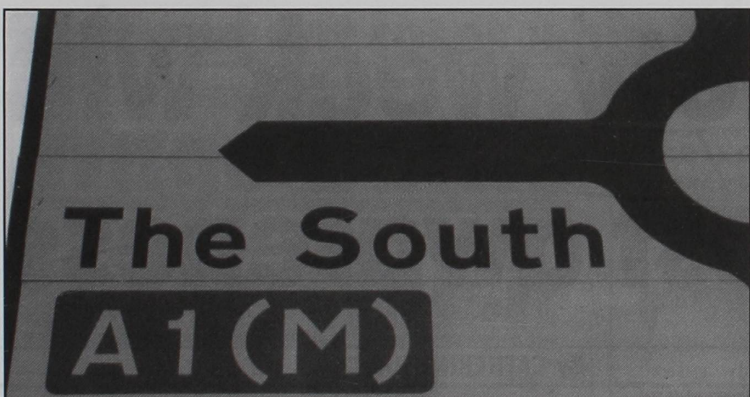
The third year, who took part in this year's Great North Run, started running and ended up on the South bound carriageway of the A1.

He eventually came to a garage where he tried to phone a 5-star cab, and realising he had the munchies, bought some Frosties and Sunny Delight.

The merry wanderer finally spotted a police car and dashed across a busy roundabout and begged them to take him back to Durham.

Having then spent £30 on a taxi back to Newcastle the psychologist was particularly pissed off when he woke up the next morning and realised he had left his car in Durham.

The Jesmond resident explained: "I had had a lot to drink."



HEALTH SCARE ROCKS BOAT

By ROSALIND MALTHOUSE
CHIEF REPORTER

THE Tuxedo Princess, due to replace floating nightclub **The Tuxedo Royale** last Friday, has been closed before it even made it up the Tyne.

Government officials stopped the £2 million refit when they discovered blue asbestos on board.

This fresh blow comes after the opening of new beach

club Baja has already dragged punters away from the former student haunt.

But owner Michael Quadrini insists that the disco ship is completely safe.

He said: "We have got tests that say there is nothing whatsoever on that ship that's a danger to anybody."

"There's no asbestos in the air, there's no asbestos in the carpets, so there's no danger to anyone."

But the grand opening on Bonfire Night had to be cancelled and there is no indication of when the Princess will make it to Newcastle.



OH, SHIP... Health chiefs aren't overboard about new boat after discovering asbestos during £2 million refit before Tyne launch

A bloke wot farts for a living - page 8

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FYC2K ROMP TO POLLS TRIUMPH

High profile campaign pays dividends in fireworks night election

By OLIVIA RICHWALD

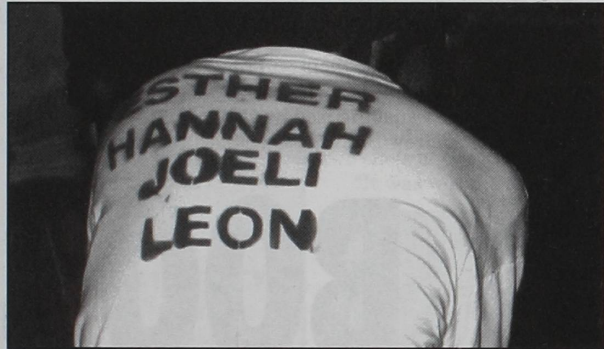
RUMOURS and sabotage failed to stop the popular FYC2k team storming home to victory as election fever hit the union.

Over 1000 students voted in this year's FYC election, almost doubling last year's turnout.

FYC2k will be responsible for a budget in excess of £100,000, which will go towards making next year's freshers week the best yet.

The election race saw FYC2k and Fine Young Candidates competing for votes using banners, posters, stickers and popular student haunts to promote their teams.

The high profile FYC2k team was given help from both



I'M BACKING THE WINNERS. . . T-shirts were the ticket to victory

IKON and Legends. IKON gave a laser display and the DJ and bar staff wore FYC2k T-shirts.

Logo

One of the victorious candidates, Esther Brown, said: "Ikon were really helpful - we have had some really good support and everyone liked our logo."

The logo was designed by another FYC2k candidate Leon McQuaid and endorsed by French Connection who said that they were really impressed with the work that the team had put in.

Leon admitted to being shocked at the lengths a couple of girls had gone to: "These two girls admitted to us that they had ripped down the other team's banner because they wanted to be stewards so badly. Now they're planning to bring it to their interview and impress us."

Fellow candidate Hannah Eyres said: "It is fucking amazing. I don't know what to say, really. But we're going to make FYC legendary - no-one will regret voting for us."

FYC2k stormed home with a resounding victory, securing double the votes Fine Young Candidates gained.

This was despite allegations of foul play against the Fine Young Candidates, which saw a volunteer working at a ballot desk removed from her post.

Deserved

Fine Young Candidate Alex Rose said: "They deserved to beat us because their campaign was so good."

Rachel King, from the same team admitted: "I would love to hate them but I can't."

And Slate mate Dave Summerhayes added: "I feel a bit

shit at the moment but it is what I thought would happen.

"It's really a popularity contest coming down to the effort you put in on the day. I still think that our poster and banner campaign was better though."

Lotfy Azaz was elected as Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer beating Stuart Laws by just 22 votes.

The only other contested post was for Convenor of Disciplinary; it was won by Alex Bruce, beating Brian Wilson by 43 votes.

Vincent Grimm was elected as International Students Officer and Luke Busfield has been voted in as Students with Disabilities Officer.

Executive Officer was won by James Hecker.



HALF MAST...Keen girls tore banner



WE DID IT...Joy as FYC results are announced

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Safety week will boost awareness

By CATHERINE BRUCE

A HIGH profile drive has been launched to raise student awareness about safety.

The campaign - masterminded by Welfare Officer Sarah Wilson - aims to increase the vigilance of students after a spate of indecent exposures, attacks and burglaries.

'Safety Week' will include a stall in the Bassment and leaflets throughout the Union to highlight the problems students face.

The women's office will also be giving out attack alarms and students will be warned of the dangers of the date rape drug, Rohypnol.

There are even plans afoot to launch special self defence classes.

The initiative comes after a series of indecent exposures around the Uni sparked safety fears among students.

Second year Maths and Accounting student Jane Atherton told *The Courier*: "I always make sure I'm with someone when it's dark because I'm scared of what could happen to me - especially after the recent stories about flashers."

Welfare Officer Sarah Wilson said: "We're looking at a drive to raise awareness about all aspects of safety."

"The most intense focus will be on personal security - but housing issues are also a concern. Aside from burglaries, we also want to concentrate on raising awareness about carbon monoxide."

PC Terry Gilroy of Northumbria Police explained: "Students are particularly vulnerable. People are aware of what is student accommodation and realise it often isn't very secure."

"A lot of students don't use the locks and alarm systems which are provided."

Many students fear for their safety after the catalogue of crime which has recently plagued the campus.

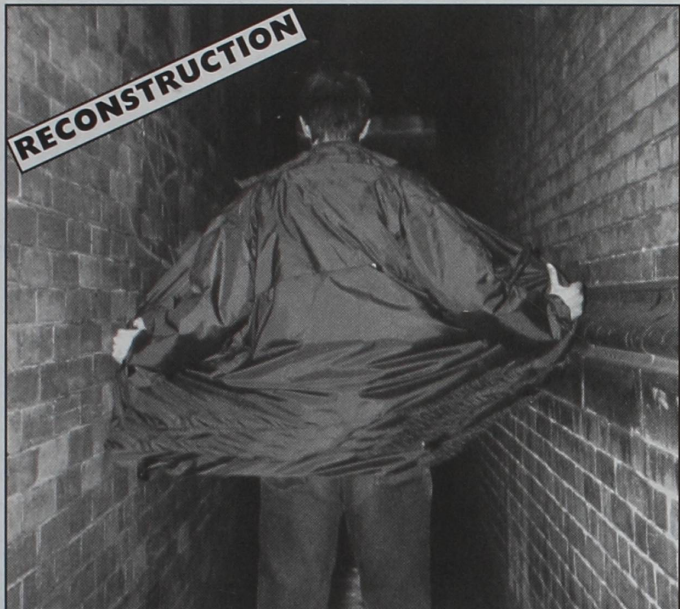
Anna Pickles, a second year Rural Environmental Management student, fumed: "In the street next to my house in Jesmond, lots of people have been answering the door to find no-one there."

"We suspect it's thieves checking to see if the house is empty as there have been a couple of recent burglaries."

PC Gilroy also advised students: "Don't let yourself be in a situation where you are alone. If anyone exposes themselves to you, don't laugh at them since it will only antagonise them. Just walk in the opposite direction."

Anyone wanting to know more should contact Sarah Wilson in the Welfare Office (second floor of the union) or the Women's Officers.

Flasher goes nuts in todger shocker



DICK OR TREAT... Girls terrified by flasher ask where WILLY strike next?

By LAURA THACKRAY

THE PHANTOM flasher has once again made a dramatic appearance, this time in Exhibition Park.

A second year Psychology student, who wishes to remain anonymous, was walking towards West Jesmond when she spotted a man approaching her.

Bollocks

She said: "At first I was listening to my walkman and I took no notice but as he neared me I realised that he had his flies undone and his bollocks were hanging out."

The student took one look before bursting into laughter and rapidly moving away from him.

She said: "He just glared at me and carried on walking. I don't think I reacted how he expected."

She added: "It was the highlight of my morning!"

Hair

The flasher is described as being in his late thirties with dark hair and wearing jeans and an anorak.

The lunchtime incident follows a spate of similar offences around the area.

Students are again being warned to be on their guard until the flasher is caught by the police.

YOU ARE SNAKING THE HISS



SHOCK...Nick and Vicky saw reptile roaming Newcastle streets

By MATT COX

A GROUP of students had the surprise of their life when they found a SNAKE on Westgate Road.

Kate Hayler, third year Plant Biology, Nick Hanley, second year Economics and Vicky Harding, a second year at the Poly, were heading for a night out and a bit of SNAKE, rattle and roll, when they saw the creature.

"We ADDER right shock," said Kate, "We thought it was a big rock and I nearly stepped on it."

"It was about four foot long, very thick and it had black and yellow stripes. It was SERPENTly something we didn't expect to see."

"Loads of people then crowded round and started poking it. It nearly bit one onlooker. The police came to the scene eventually but seemed clueless as to what to do with it."

It turned out that the snake had escaped from a nearby house and its owner eventually came to reclaim it.

Claims that the girls were wearing feather BOAs that night are as yet unconfirmed.

DEMO MARS NESTLE'S JOBS BOOST TIME OUT

Fruit and nut cases whip company on Uni visit

By ALEX HAZELL

PROTESTERS descended on a Nestle presentation at the Uni to hit out at the controversial company's baby food.

The presentation, part of the careers service 'milk round', was disrupted throughout by demonstrators campaigning against Nestle's baby food.

Lethal

The campaigners claimed the company promote bottle feeding, which they say causes a death every 30 seconds from unsafe water.

The presentation was disrupted by a barrage of questions fired by the demonstrators who repeatedly ignored pleas by both students and Nestle promoters to leave their questions until the end.

Tempers

Tempers frayed and the campaigners began to hit out at the students themselves calling them "privileged rich kids" and suggesting that they "should go down the job centre like everyone else".

A student then tried to forcibly remove one of the ringleaders amid threats to call security and police.

Disgraceful

Stavros Roberto, who attended the presentation, blasted: "I feel these tree dwellers obviously had a valid point to make, but the way they went about it was both despicable and disgraceful as they were repeatedly asked to raise their concerns at the end."

Fellow student Jessica Bell added: "Had they executed their display in a more civil manner, people would have taken more notice of the issues they were raising."

Wage battle set to finish

By PAUL CROSTHWAITE

A SIX month industrial dispute at the Uni looks set to end this week after lecturers and employers finally reached agreement.

Lecturers at Newcastle and other universities have been refusing to cooperate with teaching quality and research assessments since May.

But this week negotiators from the Association of University Teachers (AUT) have reached an agreement with the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) on pay, gender discrimination and casual contracts in higher education.

Under the agreement, both sides would recognise a pay rise of 3.5 per cent and the UCEA would be required to set up working parties to address concerns over gender inequality and casual contracts.

In return, teaching staff would be required to resume normal working procedures.

The AUT still says the pay rise is too small, but welcomes moves to address the other problems.

Malcolm Keight, assistant general secretary of the AUT, said: "We have spent many years pursuing issues of casualisation and discrimination against women so elements of the paper to move forward on that were very positive."

"Assuming the agreement is delivered then the action will be suspended."

A UCEA spokesman said: "The memorandum has been under discussion for some time and we would hope the AUT would accept it and industrial action will cease."

He added that universities had already paid out the 3.5 per cent pay rise and "there will be no further negotiation on pay."

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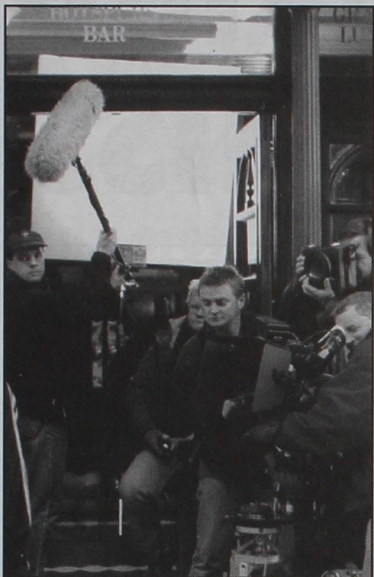


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Glass act Caroline in shift swap film snub



ACTION... The film crew rolls into Toon

By JANEY BRANSCOMBE

A STAR-STRUCK student has narrowly missed out on a part in local film Season Ticket.

Part of the film is to be shot in popular toon nightspot Liquid, and three of its employees have been chosen to appear as bar staff in the movie.

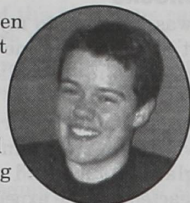
But History student Caroline Jones, who works part time in the Bigg Market pub, lost out after she swapped shifts so that she could finish an essay.

When the film crew came to select the lucky three, Caroline had the night off.

But she is now being considered for a smaller role in a couple of scenes.

She told The Courier: "I've been looking for a job for next year, but the Careers Service didn't ever suggest I might become a film star."

"It's all quite exciting - and there has to be one perk to working in the Bigg Market on a Saturday night!"



NO ROLE... Caroline

Poetic justice

A UNIVERSITY poet has scooped the UK's top poetry award, worth £10,000.

The English Department's Northern Arts Literary Fellow, Jo Shapcott, has won the Forward Prize for her third published collection, 'My Life Asleep'.

Jo beat off over two hundred competitors for the prize, which last year was won by the then poet laureate Ted Hughes. Judges called her work "witty, sensual and erotic."

Hero tribute

TRIBUTE was paid to a former agric last week when a plantation was set up in his name.

Timothy Goggs, 23, was killed by a landmine in Afghanistan while trying to save the life of a friend.

The University has dedicated a wood and hedgerow to him at their Cockle park farm, calling it 'Tim's Wood.'

Tim has also been posthumously awarded the George Medal for bravery.

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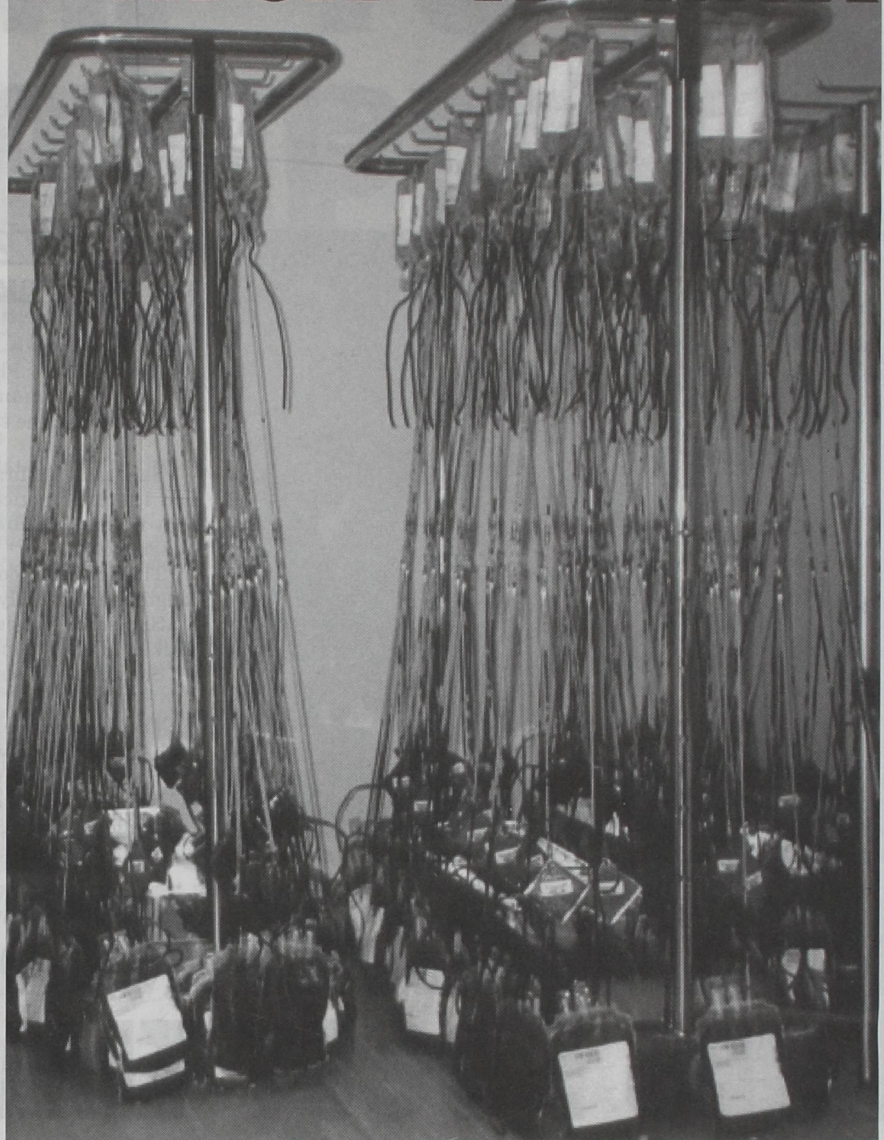
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PRICK 'N' MIX



As the National Blood Service sweeps onto campus LIZ TODD finds out what happens when you donate

All this week we're being urged: "Do something amazing today. Save a life." But have a go heroes need not apply - the National Blood Service have swooped down and are after your blood.

Excuses are at the ready - I don't like needles, I haven't got time, they won't want my blood. Well, as always we're being reminded that the Service is continuously looking out for new donors. And if you've done it before then they want you back.

So, for the uninitiated, what goes on? First there are plenty of questions to check it's safe for you to donate. And crucially, staff must know that your donation will be safe to use.

Anyone who is classed in a high risk category will be rejected, as Angela Brazier of the Blood Transfusion Centre told The Courier: "We have a very strict questioning process to eliminate risks. We test for immune reactions to a virus, not for the virus itself." Questions are designed to prevent infected blood getting into the system.

Next they'll check you're not anaemic by pricking your finger (think Sleeping Beauty), and if you get the all clear then you're ready for action. 450ml is pumped out, which is about three quarters of a pint.

Finally it's time for some biscuits, once you've had a lie down for quarter of an hour. So, all in all, a fairly relaxing process. And if you're going out that night there's no need to take much money - you'll be drunk after about two pints (of beer that is).

But once you've done your bit, what happens to the blood? The transfusion

centre for the north is right outside Castle Leazes, and every day they deal with five to six hundred donations. That's over 20,000 gallons of blood every year, which would probably feed a very large family of vampires.

As soon as blood gets to the centre the testing is underway. If it's okay to use then the processing begins. Angela Brazier is the donation testing manager, and she explained how crucial it is to work quickly. "Some of the blood products can last less than five days, so we have to get them out to the patients."

"We have such a short time to process the components. Blood is very rarely left whole anymore. If somebody just requires one aspect it's best to give them exactly what they need. And we can use one donation to serve several patients."

Production manager Dave Lander said: "We check off the donations and they are selected into pack types." Once the blood components are separated each product is stored according to type.

Plasma is frozen down to -40 degrees for use in transfusions, and can be kept for up to a year. But platelets are kept in incubators at 22 degrees and have a shelf life of just five days, so rotating the stock is vital.

Twenty two northern hospitals rely on the centre for supplies, although as Angela Brazier emphasised: "We do exchange products nationally to keep the service afloat. It's a very difficult product to keep."

Clearly more blood donors are always needed, and with the National Blood Service working in the ballroom all week, now is the chance to do your bit.

"You'll be drunk after two pints (of beer!)"

Dear Lisa

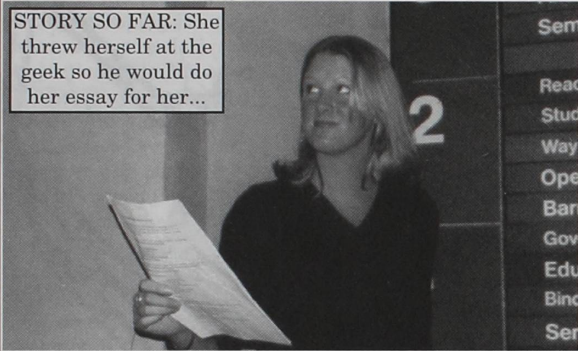


the woman who likes a bit of hot mail...

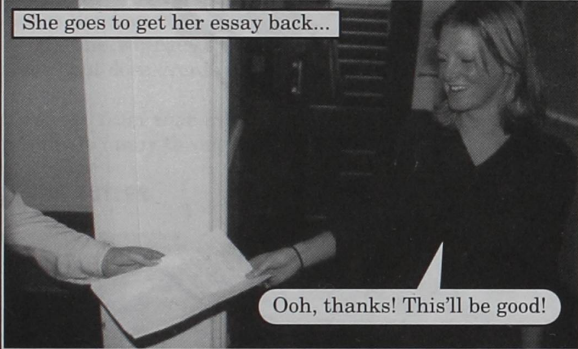
LISA'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

I can't do my essay - week 2

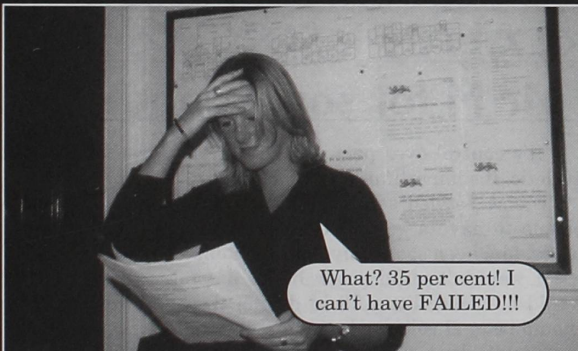
STORY SO FAR: She threw herself at the geek so he would do her essay for her...



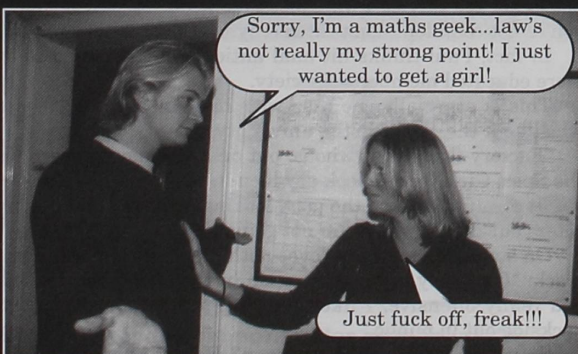
She goes to get her essay back...



Ooh, thanks! This'll be good!



What? 35 per cent! I can't have FAILED!!!



Sorry, I'm a maths geek...law's not really my strong point! I just wanted to get a girl!

Just fuck off, freak!!!

LISA'S WORDS OF WISDOM: Clearly she should have checked what subject he did before she rashly embarked on such a cunning plan.

Although it's worth noting that geeks aren't necessary clever, often they're just friendless. The cleverest people are usually found in the Mens Bar, not the library.

The real moral of this tale though is that cheating just isn't a worthwhile investment cos by the time you've found a geek, snogged him and persuaded him to do your essay you might as well have done it yourself.

If YOU would like to star in Lisa's photocasebook, e-mail <courier.news@ncl>

Photo casebook pics by Steve Haynes

The Union takes a bashing this week from some freak who likes to have his sausage and eat it, and agrics start gang warfare around the Union. Six weeks into the term somebody seems to care about the tuition fees issue. Which makes a nice change. Oh, and there are still no fit men in Newcastle...

Get orf moy case

Dear Lisa,
I am writing in response to the thoroughly ignorant and totally narrow-minded comment by Burt the Blackburn bastard.

Being a second year Agric student myself, who is not from the South and couldn't "RAH" my way out of a paper bag, I am thoroughly offended by the insinuation that Agriculture is a pisstake course.

Yes, we party, yes we drink but we have to fucking work too. So Burt, darlin' get your facts right next time, you arrogant tosser!

From a Northern Agric
(with 30 points from 3 A-Levels. What did you get Eh Burt?)

Lisa says: Clever letter, but you made one mistake. If you really are an agric how did you write this letter? Trying to pull the wool over my eyes eh? - don't play me, you won't win. To be fair though I can see why you had a problem with Burt but to describe him as a bastard gives him a bit more credit than he deserves after his lame attempt to slag off as many people as possible in the space of 5 minutes. Let's start an agric war and see who wins. My money's on you lot.

Fee education

Dear Lisa,
I noticed a sign in the Union recently promoting a demonstration in London against tuition fees.

I do not see how making students pay to listen to a lecturer reciting from a text book can be justified even by the most extreme of capitalists.

What next, pay per view? March on!

From a non-fee paying student.

Lisa says: I take it you're going on the demo then. It's strange how so many people are prepared to mouth off on the fees issue but appear to be busy when they're asked to get off their arses and do something about it. If you've got a problem with tuition fees stop talking, and get on the bus.

Men are wankers

Dear Lisa,
Is there something wrong with the men at Newcastle, or are they just all complete wankers?

Throughout our years here we have not yet come across a remotely decent man (trust us, we've had 'em all!) Help us...
Love the Heaton House (minus one love-sick chick)

Lisa says: Men at Newcastle? They're all boys. The best plan is to join Freshers Week Geek Soc quick. I'm sure there's enough of the geek to go round. If not, the library remains an unexplored source of talent and you know what they say - if you can't beat em, join em.

Union brek-down

Dear Lisa
I wish to expose to your readers a ridiculous anomaly in the Union.

I was delighted the other day when I noticed the Global Cafe has started serving all-day breakfasts.

Imagine my horror, then, when at 11 o'clock in the morning I was informed that they don't start serving all-day breakfasts until lunchtime.

But the Cochrane lounge stops doing bacon, egg, etc at 11am. We're in the bizarre situation where one can purchase a breakfast at 4 o'clock in the afternoon but not at 11 in the morning.

What are the starving, stodge-loving rascals of this so-called "Students" Union to do? It really is a bad egg.

Yours disgustedly,
Porkie

P.S. Lisa, you can share my sausage anytime!!!

**Lisa says: What sort of student are you? I've never come across anyone who gets up before midday, perhaps cos I don't drag myself out of bed in time to observe reptiles like you slithering around the Union. Do yourself a favour, stay in bed and eat with the rest of us at a decent hour (like 4pm). One can't be that desperate for Union sausages.
PS: If I hadn't been a vegetarian before I would be now.**

Got some good banter?
You can e-mail Lisa on
<courier.news@ncl.ac.uk>

LISA'S PERSONAL BITS

LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL SOCIETY

Meets 7.30pm Thursday,
MLK Room,
1st Floor, Union Building.

For more information please contact
Gemma Massie or Paul Johnston, LGB
Officers, Equal Opps. Unit, 1st Floor,
Union Building,
Tel: 239 3936

What's happened to Blackpool? I heard some slappers on tour had a BRIEF encounter!

Aaaahhhh, good luck in the seminar
...MMMET! We'll be watching!!!

STUDENT IN SHOCK AFTER
FOUNTAIN ANGUISH
...Brolly good show-er!

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TEL: 0191 209 2856

NIGHTLINE For Information or a Chat

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There's always room for one more in Lisa's Personal Bits...

Just drop your message into The Courier office by Thursday afternoon. 3p per word - Min charge 30p

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THE RIGHT GUFF

Mr Methane

Out now on video



Bizarre. Very, very bizarre. The idea of a man being able to fart along to the likes of Blue Danube and other classics cannot really be described any other way.

The problem is, that I laughed. We had a little preview here in the Courier and we all laughed, lads and lasses alike.

I guess it's that school kid humour that we never can quite get away from.

But in fairness, some highly rated comedy shows, such as Reeves and Mortimer and more recently The Royle Family, have used this for a guaranteed laugh, whatever the situation. And so we shouldn't be quick to write this off.

Ultimately you get what you expect, some fella who can fart at will, with varying degrees of pitch, tempo and for differing lengths of time.

I for one, really didn't know that this kind of thing could be done, though you understand I have never tried.

However, not only does he fart your favourites, he also runs up to random people in the street and then lets a ripper go whilst exclaiming "you've been methaned!"

I was certainly chuffed when I saw the intro to this on-street mayhem: 'Mr Methane's Candid Butt Pipe Shockers!'

Mr M's other real party piece, if you're not convinced already that farting Blue Danube is enough of a party piece, is firing a dart from his arsehole purely by wind to a near-by balloon.

He's assisted in this by Albert - the midget he claims is his brother. In real life Albert has no trouble blowing his own trumpet, given his past as Ewok in Star Wars and an Umpalumpa in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Whether other people will find this amusing I don't know, but I reckon the little kid inside of us will see the funny side.

I guess this is a video that you'll watch and say this is 'fucking stupid' or you will laugh for a while and then say "this is fucking stupid."



DAN GREGSON
FARTS EDITOR



Top of the Parps

The Wind Beneath My Ring
My Fart Will Go On
Pumping on your Stereo
Colon Feel The Noize
Listen to your Fart
Parplife
In the Air Tonight
Blowing In The Wind
Don't BLOW Breaking My Fart
Total Ec-LIPS of the Fart
The Hole of the Moon
Always Breaking My Fart
I just pried in your arse tonight
Pumping Jack Flash
Ooh... Aah... Just A Little Rip

With gas mask firmly attached, ALAN J. SOADY sniffed out the sphincteral superhero Mr M for some good crack

We've all dropped a bombshell or two in our time. But the king of anal voicing, Mr Methane, has blown out audiences by dropping much more than that.

He's not talking out of his arse (contrary to usual) when he admits to accidentally "going all the way" live on stage.

But being the kind of bloke he is, he didn't get the wind up after shitting in front of a packed crowd. Like Celine Dion, he decided: My Fart Will Go On.

"There's an old saying in showbusiness, something like 'The blow must go on,' so I did," explained Paul Oldfield - the man behind the methane.

"I carried on to the end of my act, then made quite a sharp exit from the stage. Wiping myself down in the car afterwards was the worst part.

"Now I always 'clear the throat' before going on stage."

Paul is a pro of eight years' professional experience of playing the 'back door bugle,' as he calls it.

And he's been proudly parping in public since the age of 15 when he discovered his hidden talent while practising the Lotus Position.

"My sister did Yoga and I went along to a few classes with her. That's when I discovered I could breathe both before and aft."

Since taking it up professionally, Mr Methane has been the star of stage and screen in Britain, and even has an international following.

But the question remains: how does he keep it up?
"There's no special diet," he revealed. "It's all muscular - the expansion of the sphincter and abdominal muscles.

"It's control over part of your body, so in that sense it's athletic. It's important to keep farting fit!"

The self-styled sphincteral superhero thinks it's good for people to have a go at HUMMING along to their favourite tunes, and even says Universities should offer courses in it.

"I wouldn't mind a few hours a week as a lecturer - it would be a nice little fill in during the quiet months. There should be anal voicing classes at every college.

"We all do it. Even the Queen lets rip. But it's important not to get too carried away, just take it one step at a time. If you're not confident don't catch crayfish in the net."

In fact, Paul thinks hit anal antics are best suited to the more educated members of society.

This is especially the case with his female fans: "Women who like it the most are the university types.

"Factory-floor types who go out on a weekend dressed like the Spice Girls tend to look down on it.

"It also tends to be the good looking girls who like it - if it filters out the ugly girls I'm not going to worry."

On stage, Mr Methane loves nothing more than some good crack: "It's lovely to have a person in the audience who finds you really offensive. I like annoying people and getting my backside out in public."

So where next for the gas man? He's chuffed at his new video, and already has a CD and a website. But he says if he gets bored, that's it.

"There will be a day when I hang up the underpants one final time."

One thing's for sure - whenever his career goes on the skids, he'll certainly have left his mark.



WIN!



A COPY OF 'MR METHANE LETS RIP'

Because our illustrious editor seems to have struck up a particularly good rapport with Mr Methane, the great man himself has exclusively given The Courier two copies of his video as prizes for our readers. YES! You too can now MARVEL at his anally-voiced renditions of classic songs. THRILL to his amazing butt-pipe stunts. And BE STUNNED that a man can do so much with his back passage.

All you have to do to become the proud owner of one of these delightful items is write down your favourite fart gag on a postcard and drop it into The Courier Office. The two that make us laugh the most will win the prizes and get their joke in print.



RSC's Bottoms Up and Puckin' Good

Midsummer's Night Dream
RSC Theatre Royal Monday 1st Nov

If Shakespeare floats your boat and you're feeling cultural, the RSC season is back and its production of 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' should be right up your street.

This performance of one the Bard's most popular plays manages to retain the bald ones genius, whilst refreshing the well-known plot by stamping it's own distinct mark upon it. All of the central characters are delivered with a confident kick that gives the production style, life and energy.

The 'Players' who perform the diabolical play within the play, are a definite highlight and they bring home the production in it's final scenes. Daniel Ryan, who plays the character of 'Bottom' gives a very strong performance and when he wanders around stage in his undies, you just can't help noticing he's hung like a donkey.

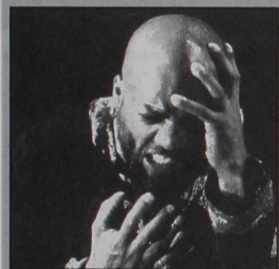
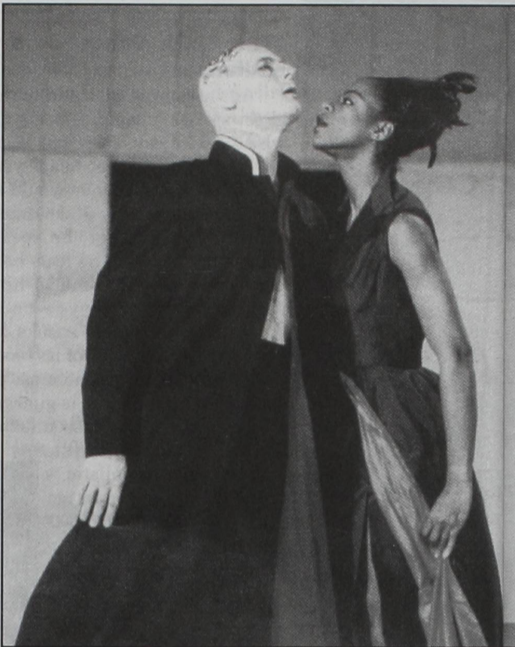
The spirit behaving badly, 'Puck,' (Aidan McArdle) is done with a clever balance of childish enthusiasm and knowing wit that brings the stage to life - that boy can do great things with his watering can.

Those clever sods at the RSC seem to have successfully combined a traditional understanding of the characters, with new energy and style. For the modern audience, there are sideswipes at James Bond and the A-Team with a dance that borrows a lot from the All Black's Hakka.

My one whinge is Fairy Peaseblossom, (Sirine Saba). This relatively minor character begins very well in the opening scenes but does overdo it a bit after that. She not only verges on nymphomania but also seems in danger of drowning in her own cleavage.

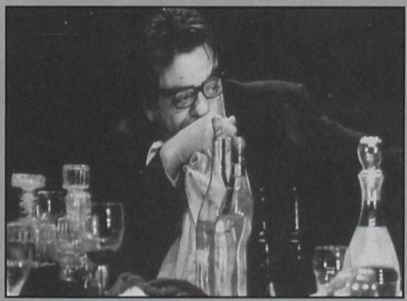
Apart from that minor moan (and it is a little one), this production very rarely puts a foot wrong. It is user-friendly, genuinely funny throughout and sharp in delivery. If you like a bit of the boy Bard, then this is not to be missed.

JACQUI BUTLER



•If you fancy indulging yourself in a little culture the RSC has a special offer available for students and young people. The Under 25's Standby is available on the day of performance from 10am (6.30pm for Saturday evenings), when all remaining tickets will be sold for half price. All you have to do is call at the Theatre Royal or the Newcastle Playhouse with some proof of entitlement. Coming up they've got *Antony & Cleopatra, Othello, Oroonoko, Don Carlos and Timon of Athens*. Check em out if you can...

•On Wednesday of this week the Gulbenkian Studio at the Playhouse is host to the world-famous Theatergroep Hollandia. Their piece *Voices* promises you the chance to enjoy an extraordinary vocal and physical performance by Jeroen Willems, who plays all six characters and offers observations on moral and social responsibilities in an age of corporate globalisation. Phew! The word is, though, that this is something rather special, and student discounts are available. Further information is available from the Playhouse Box Office on 230 5151.



Who's The Lord of the Skies?

PUSHING TIN 

Film: Out Now

Being an air traffic controller means you're in a profession with one of the highest indexes for stress, emotional problems and suicides. It also means you have more lives in your hands in one shift than a surgeon does in his whole career. Don't know about you, but that scares the shit out of me.

The film concentrates on air traffic controllers in New York, that most hectic of cities, with three major airports sharing the same airspace. Nick Falzone (the ever-charismatic John Cusack) is the Zoner, the King of the Skies, until mysterious loose cannon Russell Bell (Billy Bob Thornton) arrives on the scene. He pretty much minds his own business, but in Cusack's eyes he's undermining him and showing him up at every turn.

The two start a spiralling game of one-upmanship, starting off with basketball competitions, but swiftly moving on to sleeping with each others' wives, until both Falzone's home and work life are going down the tubes. Both actors are

at the top of their trade and you could watch them, Cusack particularly, for hours.

When concentrating on the air traffic control aspect, the film is tremendously entertaining, demonstrating effectively the superhuman pressures the job places on the characters, and the camaraderie and illusions they have to put in place to cope with it. The ability to do the work is not so much based on skill as on lunatic confidence. They really do have to treat it just as if it's a computer game. It is when Falzone loses this outlook and starts thinking too much that his problems start.

Where Tin breaks down, though, is when it deals with Falzone and Bell's personal lives. The film's rather slow-building plot relies heavily on the rather tired turf of marital infidelity, rather than the territory of unfamiliar cinema. Indeed the interesting setting has almost no bearing whatsoever on the last half-hour of the film, which culminates in a predictable, Hollywood ending. The film's initial originality cries out for something better than is delivered.

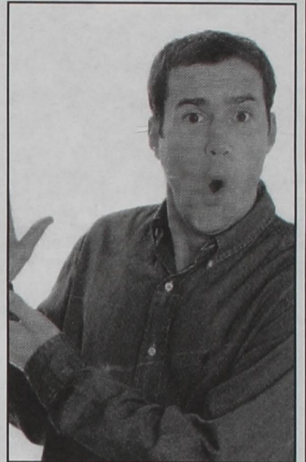


Charles Williams

Up for it!

Johnny Vaughan's All The Rage

Video: Released
15 November



Shit, bosh - did you see that?

That is basically the line that fits this video, as we see the most absurd and unlikely people take it upon themselves to fight, or as Johnny would like to say "get the handbags out."

Vaughan gets together a collection of clips from the sports world to, surprisingly, the arena of politics. As MPs scratch, wave arms, gouge eyes and throw missiles of varying severity. One bloke, and bear in mind that he is helping run the country, even hides behind a seat then jumps out and throws a couple of bits of metal, and then hides again. It's pathetic. So much so that you can't help but laugh.

A classic effort at 'handbaggery' can also be witnessed as two cyclists dismount their bikes and contrive to miss each other with every possible swing they throw. It was like a fight off of Jerry Springer, i.e both looking really upset, but lacking in any ability to make use of such anger, ending up just looking like a couple of knobs.









Naturally, there is lots more from the sports grounds. Aussies commentating and showing replays of the fights on the rugby field, rather than just cutting to a different camera angle like the British producers do. There's also a couple of 20 on 20 as football teams and their coaching staff have running battles with each other.

It's all a bit silly, but boys will be boys and will laugh at this - probably whilst shouting 'bosh,' 'av some' and the like. I'm not deliberately being sexist, it's just I honestly think lads will 'respect' the finer points of the video more than girls will, but watch it and see what you think. It's childish, immature and I liked it.

DAN GREGSON



Pie fart

-  A follow through!
-  Silent but deadly
-  In off the brown
-  She's a floater
-  Top dollop
-  Let's rip!

Ratings

James Lavelle live at the Union
Exclusive Review on Page 11

THRILLER IN EVERY SENSE



The Sixth Sense



Film: Out Now

"The Sixth Sense" is a psychological thriller absolutely destined to chill its audience.

An intriguing plot and mammoth twist raise this film above more shallow, over-the-top and gory ghost stories, examples being the special effects which ruined "The Haunting" and the inflated hype which destroyed "The Blair Witch Project".

"The Sixth Sense" keeps you riveted and scared until the twist right at the end. To explain why this film is so ingenious would ruin it for everyone, you'll have to go see it to find out.

Cole Sear (Haley Joel Osment) is nine, yet he is haunted by a terrifying secret so scary he cannot even tell his mother; he sees the dead. Child Psychologist, Dr Malcome Crowe (Bruce Willis) counsels Cole until he feels he can reveal his haunting. Crowe's role is then to help Cole understand why these ghosts come to him. In return for his help, he awakens Crowe to his own personal nightmare.

"The Sixth Sense" spooks its audience while utilizing the classic music and bangs which make your popcorn leap out of its box.

Currently the second most popular film in America, and the 13th highest grossing film ever in the US, "The Sixth Sense" is guaranteed to be a massive success here.

The final twist is so unexpected and creepy it reaches heights better described as a Spaghetti Junction than a twist.

Intrinsically unrealistic - one of the only negative aspects of the film, it is only after you have seen the film that you start to question it.

As long as you don't know the secret of the film, this chilling Hollywood offering is a "must-see." Are you intrigued yet?

The final scene of this film takes it from a good film to a great film.

Everyone will be talking about it!

OLIVIA RICHWALD



Titch Out

The Titchborne Claimant

Film: Released 12 November



In 1866 Sir Roger Tichborne, heir to one of the largest fortunes in England, disappears while sailing around the world, and is presumed dead. Ten years later, following reported sightings of Sir Roger, the Tichborne's send their trusted African manservant, Bogle, to Australia to find him.

Bogle returns with an unlikely Australian butcher, who he trains to be the Tichborne Claimant in return for half of the inheritance. Mad Mother Tichborne instantly recognises her supposed son, but everyone else sees him as a fraud and there is a lot of shouting "you sir, are an imposter" from bearded wrinklies in funny trousers (that's melodramatic rahs for you). The film then follows the inevitable court case of Sir Roger trying to get his hands on his estate.

Despite the fact that this is based on a true story, it seems a little unbelievable, particularly that the working classes would rally behind this wannabe sloane and in fact finance his court case, as they seem to in this film.

Full of standard British actors, Stephen Fry, Sir John Gielgud and Robert Hardy, if period dramas about upper class snobs is your kind of thing, go and see it. If not don't bother, unless you're really bored on a Sunday afternoon. It's a bit of a slow film, not funny enough to be a comedy and not tense enough to be a thriller. Neither here nor there really.

ROSALIND MALTHOUSE



FREE TICKET GIVEAWAY

"EDtv follows the often hilarious and sometimes painful predicaments suffered by the members of a quirky family when the youngest son, Ed, an unambitious video clerk, is plucked from obscurity and becomes the blockbuster hit of the season when he agrees to have his life aired on cable TV 24 hours a day. With a star-studded cast including Matthew McConaughey, Woody Harrelson, Ellen DeGeneres, Rob Reiner, Denis Hopper and Elizabeth Hurley, EDtv's brilliant cast make this quirky comedy a must-see movie". Yeah yeah yeah...Enough of the sales bullshit. Do you wanna see the film?

We've got 30 pairs of tickets for a special preview screening in Newcastle on the 14th of November. All you need to do is call into The Courier office with a copy of this week's paper and we will give you a pair of tickets. First come first served, so be quick. We've also got some EDtv goodies to give away. Drop us a postcard before the 17th November and if you get chosen from random the goodies are yours! Unbelievable!

Losing Heart

Random Hearts



Film: Out Now

Harrison Ford is looking old. He's no longer Indiana Jones or Hans Solo but he still insists on playing disillusioned hero characters.

What Mr Ford has retained from his hey day is the cool voice that 'made' Blade Runner. A voice that just gets deeper and sexier with age, and a unique talent for playing the bitter and disillusioned. He has played parts in some of the greatest films ever and is an Oscar/Golden Globe/People's Choice Award winner. If that's enough for you, then go and see this film. But a great film this is not.

The plot basically consists of Dutch, a sergeant in the Internal Affairs Division of Washington PD (Harrison Ford) and Kay Chandler (Kristen Scott Thomas) a Congresswoman. Both are playing 'How well did you really know your partner before they died

in a plane crash?' game, after their respective spouses tragically die in mysterious circumstances.

Dutch is intent on getting to the bottom of the deceit, and finding the truth surrounding his partner's death. Chandler tries to claim that ignorance is bliss and wants nothing to do with Dutch. Until of course they inevitably get it on.

Ten minutes into this film and I'm bored. Two hours later, Dutch and Chandler are still bumping into each other and I'm still bored. Only now I'm wondering if I couldn't have done something better with the best part of my day (like my hair perhaps?) Now I sound as bitter as Ford, but then that's what the film has done to me.

If this film had been three quarters the length and a lot more gritty, it would have been great. But as it stands, the gloss and sickly smooth dinner-jazz soundtrack is a little too much to stomach. My conclusion: mainly a chick flick, only then for those with a lot of time on their hands.

WYL MENMUIR



JAMES AND THE GIANT BEATS

Let's get F-U.N.K.L.E. for big Jim

LIVE: ECLECTIC FEAT. JAMES LAVELLE & SPACE RAIDERS @ UNION

Rapidly growing in size and scope, the latest Eclectic evening brought us Skint's Space Raiders and a scorching DJ set from Mo Wax label boss, James Lavelle.

The much-hyped night, now replete with chill-out section and the usual drum n' bass rooms, is attracting an ever-growing fanbase - and tonight provided the biggest and best buzz yet.

The Space Raiders took to the stage adorned in Red Indian head-dress, superhero outfit and top hat, and a large green teddy bear suit. Krazy kats!

Looking much like a 90's Captain Beefheart and crew, they acknowledged a fanatical welcome, punching the air and bouncing around like the maniacs they are - and all for our benefit.

They also just happen to make some of the grooviest and hard-hitting dance music of the moment, punched through with 50's samples and shouted slogans.

"Do you like house music?" they mocked, before bursting the house bubble before our very eyes.

Comedy, it seems, definitely does have a place in dance.

They culminated their show with a huge-sounding blast of a Marilyn Manson tune, with one member of the band leaping around and playing air-guitar with a toy light sabre, before knighting various members of the audience with it.

It was over in seconds, as the Raiders eventually bowed

out thesp style, stumbling off the stage to a hero's cheer.

Following on, James Lavelle took to the decks to present Eclectic with one of its most individual mixes yet.

Staying true to form, Lavelle's swells and shifts merged each genre into the next. He raced through hip hop, trip hop (a phrase coined by the man himself upon discovering Portishead), big beat and techno, with generous splatterings of the Beastie Boys and various Unkle and DJ Shadow classics such as the Money Mark collaborating 'Organ Donor'.

Not satisfied with bringing us the album version, the Mo Wax supremo followed it with its funkier remix, much to the pleasure of all present.

Determined to please and stay true to creative diversity, the mix culminated in the Charlatans, the Chemical Brothers' 'Private Psychedelic Reel' and - in the biggest shock of the evening - tailed off with Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit".

How refreshing.
How...Eclectic.

STEPHEN ELLIS



LISTINGS: CLUBS// GIGS

Wednesday 10th:

Neon @ Toon Arts Centre (Musical moods and Digital Grooves) - £3

Decades of Dance @ Ikon - £2

Rest My Soul @ Legends - £1/£2

80s Night @ Julies - £2

Footloose (80s Night) @ Poly - £2

Britainnia (60s/Britpop) @ Planet Earth - Free with Flyer

Classic Cuts @ The Boat - £1.50

Thursday 11th:

Force featuring Cash Money @ Union - £6

Club Classics @ Legends - £3/£4

TFI Thursday @ Planet Earth - £2

Steppaz (Drum and Bass) - £5

Foam Party @ The Boat - £1 NUS

Friday 12th:

Elvis Costello @ City Hall - £18

Positive @ Union - £1 adv/£2 door

Bulletproof (Indie) @ Rockshots - £4

Lacuna (House) @ Legends - £8

Shaft (70s Night) @ The Poly - £2

Saturday 13th:

Shindig featuring K-Klass @ Union - £9

Turbulence presents Revolver @ Union - £3

New World @ Planet Earth - £4/£2 Flyer

Sunday 14th:

Vodka Bar @ Planet Earth

Northern Soul @ Head of Steam

The Sunday Papers (Jazz and Dub) @ Egypt Cottage - Free

Monday 15th:

Resonate @ Rockshots - £3- 1st B'day Party with Blu-Peter

Club Tropicana @ Planet Earth - £3

Student Night @ Julies - £1/£3

Student Paradise (Chart 'n Cheese) @ The Boat - £1 NUS

House Nation @ Pacha - £1

Tuesday 16th:

King Prawn @ Cumberland Arms - FTBA

Blondie @ Telewest Arena - £21

Lets go Disco! @ Legends - £2

Ladies Night @ Julies - Women Free!

BEST OF THE REST... WITH GAZ NEWHALL

KING PRAWN @ CUMBERLAND ARMS: Tuesday

Those wild Roc-Soc boys must think that Christmas has come early to Newcastle this year.

First, "hardest rocking bastards in the business" Groop Dogdrill visited the Union. In December Therapy? will do more of the same. But this week it's the turn of Kerrang favourites King Prawn to fry-ten the living shit out of the toon's leather-clad masses.

Everything is in place for a night of serious rawk: a) They have great facial hair, b) they have stupid names (their drummer is called Devil Hands) and c) scary song titles ('No peace' and 'War Cry' give you a flavour of their lyrical agenda).

Formed in the East End of London in 1995, they have been touring pretty much consistently since then, releasing a handful of vaguely catchy singles along the way.

According to frontman Bitchin' Al (probably plain Al to his mother), the name King Prawn "don't mean shit - if we could have no name that would be good.

"We prefer the minimalist approach." Well that's cleared up, then. The lads' self-dubbed "fucked-up mongrel sound" is a psychotic mix of ska, punk and funk with a bit of metal mixed in.

Think Asian Dub Foundation with the drum n' bass taken out and more threatening lyrics put in place ("we'll fuck you up with unprovoked reaction").

Lets face it, you wouldn't want to spill a pint over any of these lads.

If you thought that the summer of love happened last year in your tent at Donnington, then you'll love this sort of stuff...everyone else may be a little suprised.

Hell yeah!



PREVIEW

Blondie Bomb-swell

BLONDIE! @ NEWCASTLE ARENA: Tuesday

It is said that the best music is always timeless.

Citing John Lennon's classic 'Imagine', Travis guitarist Andrew Dunlop recently told The Courier: "the artist may fade away, but it doesn't matter - the melody will remain forever."

But hang on a minute - can all this really apply to that most visual of bands, once 70s icons and now ageing 90s wannabes Blondie?

You see, ask grandad and he'll be sure to tell you: vintage Blondie was always a theatrical phenomenon, something that demanded to be seen as well as heard.

Vocalist Deborah Harry was pop's original superstar vixen, a punk Madonna exuding sex appeal, the pin-up for a generation.

Her appeal trod that finest of lines between white trash and bewitching glamour - a female equivalent, if you like, to the contrived persona of a Parklife-era Damon Albarn.

The pairing of this sight with the band's perfectly complementary sound, fittingly synthetic yet seductive, left a powerful impression.

Yes, a unique act: sweet... and menacing. But what about Team Blondie '99? Oh dear.

Sure, the song remains the same, with this year's comeback album 'No Exit' retaining many of the New Yorkers' post-punk hallmarks (pure guitar, headlong choruses, diverse muso-isms).

But if the music continues to merge the transcendent and the tacky, its once sassy human face sadly now sags like the mother it is.

For the passing of time has been cruel to Harry - the iconic goddess who gave us 'Dreaming' and 'Heart of Glass' now resembles Cindy Beale on steroids, a fading flower dying in the spotlight.

No longer enchantingly glamorous - just white trash. Not that any of this would matter if Blondie simply accepted time-machine travel as impossible and came up with a new approach, one less reliant upon visual impact.

But catch this band at the Arena next Tuesday and you'll witness a sad sight.

You'll see Harry plied with make-up, prancing like a tit, squeezed into pants that don't fit.

Attempting seductive eye-contact with an audience with ears open but eyes wide shut, dreaming of the real thing from another age.

A victim by public execution to the laws of nature.

MIKE SEATON

MUSIC EDITOR

MAKE YOUR BALLS GO WITH A BANG!

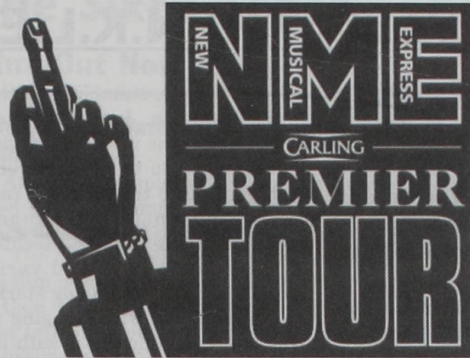
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DEATH IN LIVE... MUSIC

This was darkcore...



LIVE: NME PREMIER TOUR - DEATH IN VEGAS @ UNION

In the space of just two years, Iggy Pop faves Death In Vegas have mutated from big beat also-rans to seriously innovative renegades.

Before now, they seemed content feeding on the scraps left by the brothers Chemical - now Death In Vegas seem to be calling the shots.

New album 'The Contino Sessions' is certainly one of the best albums of the year, if not the decade (it pisses on 'OK Computer' anyway), but how well does the album translate to a live situation?

The visual aspect of the DJ duo has always been first rate, no messing.

But bearing in mind that Richard Fearless and Tim Holmes (new member and ex-Chemicals producer) locked themselves inside a studio for nine months, it seemed possible there may be some problems ahead in performing the material to an ever-unforgiving public.

Emerging to an understated round of applause, the darkcore phenomenon launched straight into album opener 'Dirge' - a song that defines the word "epic" - and the gathered throng were quickly swept into the universe of DIV devilry.

After such a blistering start things could surely only get worse, and true to form the London two-some never seemed to scale such heights again.

Could it be that they're simply not used to playing live with their touring band?

While Death In Vegas may have crafted a twisted masterpiece on record, they still seem 303-mad acid-house kids at heart, seemingly more in control when playing older crowd pleasers such as 'Rekkid' and 'Dirt'.

But the long-term forecast for Death In Vegas can only be positive.



The NME, on the other hand, could do with pulling their socks up a bit - £7 for a half hour set, one DJ and no Iggy Pop guest slot - we was robbed.

GAZ NEWHALL

UP AND RUNNING!

LIVE: UP & COMING @ GLOBAL

With the sad demise of the Riverside's starmaking Live and Giggling event over the summer, it was all the more fitting that the first 'Up & Coming' of term two Sundays ago should be a night to remember.

An eclectic mixture of wannabes, gonnabes and noise entertained an enthusiastic and lively crowd. First up were **Skinner**, with their own unique take on granny-scaring thrash metal. If the crowd looked puzzled it certainly didn't deter them. Next time just a little less reverb please, eh lads?

Then came the surprise ticket of the night, **Goldtop**. Deckered out like Quadrophonia-style mods, their set ended violently after just ten seconds.

Big attitude followed from the cocky leader of the pack, as he brashly commanded the stunned sound staff to "twiddle some fucking nobs!"

Blimey, we feared, they'd better be good to get away with this.

And good they most certainly were, pouring out fresh, soaring and ever-inventive tunes.

Truly, this lot would prove themselves only band to really send the crowd ballistic.



Goldtop? Goldust!

Triggerfish had a hard act to follow, yet their groovy style of laid back rock and Gomez-like vocals gave the audience a chance to sit back and tap their feet. For what they lacked in stage presence, they redeemed with an increasingly rare asset these days - a little bit of soul.

Marbaker were the stars then, right? They have after all just triumphantly claimed Melody Maker's 'Single of the Week'.

And yes, they were the most polished and professional act. Mixing haunting yet powerful vocals with purposeful synth-ed rhythms and breaks, the chaps clearly have muso nose.

But something was missing - this act lacked the raw youthful energy of Goldtop or the laid back 'give-a-shit' stance of Triggerfish.

Perhaps they were just trying too hard...

TOM HORDER

TRENDY WENDY Trance Chix...

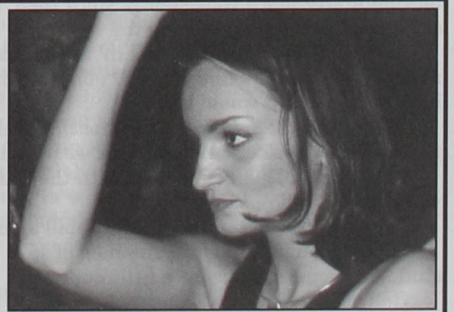
"Welcome to an adventure in melodic psychogenesis featuring sonic saucery from cosmos diplomat, piped through a 38K-turbosound floodlight PA complete with fluoro-delic decor, twisted teabag cafe, tribal bonding games - and a spirit zone."

What the fuck? The millenium dome prospectus? Could this possibly mean anything to anyone?? Sadly yes - for this is the language of the Hampshire hippies and trance sloanes. Fake nose studs, skirts over trousers and bare feet are all 'de riguer', darling.

Ditch the mobile phone (just for the evening), swap stories of Thai magic mushrooms and reminisce over full moon parties.

Bounce up and down, hug everyone - ok, not those evil trustafarians with real piercings over in the corner - and when asked, describe the music as "trippy".

Then it's back to Jesmond for a cappachino comedown and organic orange juice...



NEXT BIG THING?

NEMO @THE GLOBAL

Student bands are dangerous ground.

It's all too easy to fall into traps, to not see your horizons clearly enough. To not want it enough. To not be prepared to break boundaries. Do the band with no name pass the test?

This was the warm up gig before the BIG ONE at the Black Swan on November 18th. The CD, 'Breaking The Waves' was pressed and ready, and it sounded good. It almost sounded like a finished product.

It was a cosy audience, ready to cheer along this home-made band, this local team.

A little too cosy perhaps. Some of the songs, notably 'Firefly', really have an edge, making good use of a funky element in the band and the singer's raw voice.

There was a bit of experimentation, a bit of decks, a bit of dancing on the stage, but overall a feeling that they still need to connect.

Nemo are a band who still seem in search of a sound - in search of a soul. They can surge, at their best moments they can soar.

But at their worst it's too generic, too Pearl Jam. This band needed to be tested.

Despite the rock posturing and the polished playing they need to set it all alight. They can. See you on the 18th.

TOM FENWICK

Rugger Me!

Uni lads get arses whipped
BACK PAGE

REVIEWS ALBUMS...

BARRY WHITE



STAYING POWER

As Mr White quite literally thrusts himself upon the listener (ok, not literally, that would be hideous), it's instantly apparent that resistance is futile - the walrus of love is back.

The man is a legend - but how? The songs remain the same, and if you ever said what he says to a bird you'd be slapped (I know, I tried last night).

But this is one artist untouchable in matters of the heart, a true pioneer of passion.

As seductive sorcerer Barry puts it: "I learn how to make everything I touch work for me". All credit.

PAUL COWELL

VARIOUS ARTISTS



DEFCON 1 (DEFECTED)

While its status as Mixmag's 'Buy of the Month' doesn't necessarily bode well, the 'Defcom 1' compilation offers more than the Ibiza same old.

This taster charts the progress of Defected Records, whom for the uninitiated have delivered the likes of MAW's 'To Be In Love', Paul Johnson's 'Get Get Down' and Onephatdeeva's 'In and Out Of My Life', no less.

CD number 1 plays it straight, offering strictly the original versions, but the second CD is a much tougher and challenging workout.

A collection of past, present and future classics - definitely worth a look.

DAVE HARE

SOULWAX



TOO MANY DJs (PIAS)

Reaching what must be an all time low, Soulwax are a Soundgarden tribute band who cover the Backstreet Boys in their songs.

Hey, what startling post-ironic eclecticism! Give it up lads, it's not funny big or clever - it's utter shite.

Absolute Farce.



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PIE-LIGHT OF THE WEEK



BLUR



NO DISTANCE LEFT TO RUN (FOOD/EMI)

This captivating and emotionally resonant work presents Blur at their unbridled, unrivalled best.

As arguably the most heartrending moment of latest album '13' (itself an embodiment of human fragility from start to finish), the decision to issue 'No Distance' as a single is surprising but brave.

With King Coxon's bluesy guitar work underpinning Damon's broken utterances, the predominantly two-track affair is far removed from Blur's mockney-fied antics of old. Half a world away...

PAUL SMITH

SINGLES...

SHACK



PULL TOGETHER (LONDON)

In the past ten years Mick Head from Shack has apparently been close to hell and back.

This may in some part account for the visceral bombast of 'Pull Together'.

Taken from the HMS Fable album, this is an antidote to swaggering rock egos, sounding less contrived but infinitely more affecting than a whole flock of Embraces.

GUY DEEMING

DILLINGER



COCAINE IN MY BRAIN (JOE BOY RECORDS)

Substance-free, you'd probably dismiss this as one sonic shit sausage of a single.

But hang on a minute - add copious quantities of your favourite intoxicant and it magically becomes a head-nodding funk classic, snare drums rolling over stoned guitars. 'Cocaine In My Brain', eh? - never has a title been more apt.

CHRIS DAVIES

KIRSTY MacCOLL



MAMBO DE LA LUNA (V2)

The embarrassing MacColl attempts to clamber onto the cod-Latino bandwagon with an overblown ballad.

But it's less Ricky Martin than Ricky Butcher. Complete with the compulsory "Hey kids, I'm with it" attitude, this betters watching your drunken mum breakdancing at a wedding in the cringe stakes. Hilarious.

CHRIS DAVIES

STEREOPHONICS



HURRY UP AND WAIT (V2)

The Welsh indie superstars return to Planet M.O.R. with yet more of the same - dad-rock, sad-rock, bland-rock, BAD-rock.

As we've come to expect with the 'Phonics, there's the usual nice tune, plaintive lyrics and definite airtime qualities, but together the finished product is all too vacant.

But it isn't all bad - the B-side of drummer Stuart Cable singing 'I Wouldn't Believe Your Radio' is well worth a listen.

BECKY HOLLOWES

BOB MARLEY FEAT.

LAURYN HILL



TURN YOUR LIGHTS DOWN LOW

Enlightened Fugees-esque rap breakdowns, pure-sex swinging soul sounds, laid back lyricism...it's all systems 'blow' in this Marley/Hill dream-team duet.

The Bobster's typical funky grinds fuse seamlessly with diva Lauryn's heavenly vocals throughout, flying the listener to the heights of soul vibe heaven.

A mellow delight to relax to, smoke to or make slow grinding lurrve too.

SOPHIE KERR

THUNDERBUGS



ITS ABOUT TIME YOU WERE MINE (EPIC)

Following that tried and tested boy/girl band formula, The Thunderbugs second single release is the slow, seductive one to show the pop kids that, yes, they have a heart.

And yes, it's fucking shit. "The Thunderbugs are swarming over the country, and soon the world", they holler.

Fuck me, I may as well end it all now.

GAZ NEWHALL

ROBBIE WILLIAMS



SHE'S THE ONE / IT'S ONLY US (CHRYSALIS)







'She's the One' requires little introduction - everyone's heard the bloody thing already, and needless to say you'd even buy it if it resembled a collection of wet farts (which it does).

The brazen 'It's Only Us', however, marks a significant change in direction for the undisputed king of mock n' roll - the farts aren't wet.

But farts they most certainly are...

STEPHEN WALLACE

PIE CHART

-  I'm blue dah be dee..
-  The one and only
-  That don't impress me much
-  viva la radio!
-  Live four-ever
-  Perfect moment

RATINGS

League star slams Uni

RUGBY-LEAGUE SIDE COMPLAIN ABOUT INFERIOR TREATMENT

BY CHRIS HURST
SPORTS EDITOR

ONE of the Uni's leading rugby-league stars, Paul Hollands, has hit out at the poor treatment that his sports club is given by the university.

Attacking both the allocation of pitches and union grants, this outburst is just the latest in a series of complaints that the rugby-league side have had against the university since the club formed four years ago.

Hollands, whose side have enjoyed an excellent start to the season, including their 48-16 crushing of the Poly, slammed the contrasting treatment given to the rugby-league and rugby-union teams.

"I think the overwhelming feeling is a lack of support from, dare I say it, the university. The club's now in it's fourth year and whilst it's admittedly a young club it has developed at a massive rate.

Grants

"Financially it's a bit tight every single year. Some other sports club, tennis for one, receive absolutely massive grants.

"If next year we got into the National Conference, there is between a couple of us a feeling of 'Christ, what's going to



FURIOUS... Hollands demands improved support from Uni chiefs

happen.' We'll be travelling every other week down to London or South Wales.

"You see the rugby-union sides going off down to Birmingham, staying in a hotel overnight and then playing. We played Birmingham last year and we had to travel down and back again in one day. Strictly speaking we should be able to go down next year and if we were to play the Welsh sides, go down and stay overnight. We don't think it's going to happen."

Although Hollands' frustrations are understandable, one has to feel sympathy for AU officer Ali Brown who is responsible for distributing union funds to the numerous sports clubs at the university.

With a finite amount of resources it is inevitable that some teams are going to complain about a lack of funding. Unfortunately in this case, it is rugby-league.

Seething

Hollands is also still seething after the university announced earlier in the season that rugby-league matches would take place at Close House instead of a more local venue such as Cochrane Park, as requested in a letter to the sports centre last May.

The playing of matches at Close House has already created embarrassment amongst the squad, as on several occasions last season the team were left to rely on the opposition to give them lifts back into Newcastle, as the official university buses had left without them.

"It happened frequently and it's not really creating a good impression. In the past Teeside have had to give us a lift into town on their coach, drive back and pick up their players."

Graham Rayner, Director of Sport, acknowledged the fact there are many clubs competing for the prime pitches at the university's premier sporting venue, Cochrane Park, but argues the rugby-league side are better served by having their own specialist pitch.

Dedicated

"The centre's view in supporting rugby-league is to do it to the best of our ability and as with American Football, as with Gaelic football if we had one, I believe the sport should be played on a dedicated pitch" said Rayner.

Rayner, who is responsible for overseeing pitch allocation, added: "We try to treat all sports equally, but unfortunately there comes a time when we have to prioritise pitch allocation and look at the people involved in the two codes off rugby football. I think it would only be reasonable and fair that if there was such a thing as prioritisation then perhaps rugby-union may be seen to be given a higher prioritisation



SPORTS CHIEF... Says he does everything he can to help students

in the centre than rugby-league."

Although the rugby-league side would argue that they should be allowed to play at Cochrane Park on a Wednesday afternoon instead of the rugby-union second and third teams, it was decided that the university would be better served by keeping the rugby-union club at the same venue.

Passion

Hollands believes Rayner, whose passion for rugby-union at the university is well known, is to blame for his side's poor treatment.

"Graham Rayner is possibly a source of a lot of problems given his involvement with rugby-union" said Hollands, and argued he could never envisage the sports chief coming to watch Newcastle's rugby-league side. "It would be entertaining. I don't know whether he could take it really. I think he's too happy in his office."

Rayner, who is in fact a regular spectator at Cochrane Park, and any student keen to catch some action from one of the fastest growing student sports in the country will have a chance to see the rugby-league side in action today. They will attempt to complete a league and Cup double over Northumbria.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Newcastle Uni's Elite Athletes squad bigger and better than ever for new season

By MICHAEL WALSH.

A TENNIS champion, a British skiing champion, a British Judo Squad member and a Great Britain under twenty-three athlete are just some of the sports stars making up Newcastle University's team of teams - the 1999/2000 Elite Athletes squad.

This year, the squad is larger and stronger than ever before with a record twenty-one members.

The squad supports high class athletes financially, medically and academically to help them achieve their full potential both in their athletic and academic endeavours.

The strength of the University's swimming team is reflected in the squad, which contains a total of five swimmers.

Mike Downs, Nick Jackson and Louise Roberts were all medallists at last years BUSA championships and have been joined in the squad by Welsh under twenty one international swimmer Melanie Blackford and the BUSA 50m butterfly champion Rob Whittle.

Women's hockey star Lucinda Insoll-Jones and Irish under 21 international Jenny McDonagh both join the squad for their first year.

However, athletes do not have to compete in the major sports to be included in the squad. The 1996 BUSA archery champion Isla Lillie joins the squad along with the British Lacrosse player Emma Davies.

The case of tennis and hockey player Lindsay Rawling proves that excellence can be achieved in both academic studies as well as sport.

Last year in-between finishing runner up in the Guardian Direct National Tennis tournament and competing for the Universities hockey team, Lindsay still managed to find time to achieve a distinction for her year in medicine.

Lynsey Davison has been rewarded with a place in the squad following victories in three international tennis tournaments and at the Scottish hardcourt championships.

Those ski Sunday fans amongst you may soon be seeing University international skiers Gillian Frasier and Laura Westmacott on your television screens, if the squad proves to be the success for them which it was for rower Edward Coud.

Coud is a world champion and is currently preparing for the Olympics along with team mates Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent.

Vince Mayne said: "Even if we've only played a 1% part in his success then the effort was still worthwhile."

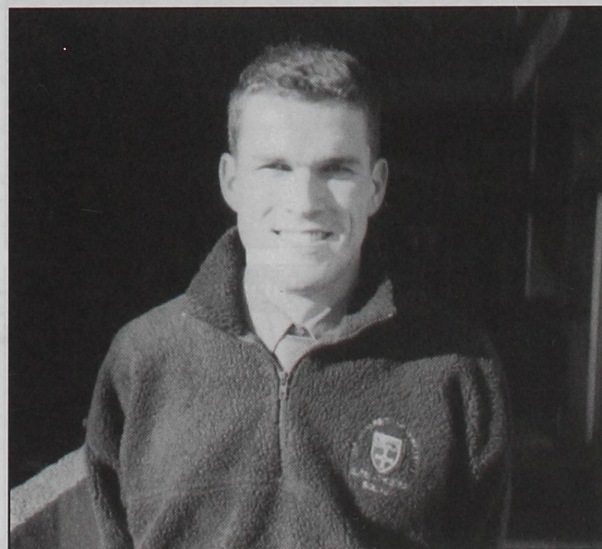
International's can also be found amongst the universities Judo team. Alex Waddington is a member of the Great Britain Senior squad and Gemma Hutchins is ranked fifth in the country.

400m runner Neil Jennings said: "The best thing about the squad is the fact it gives you some form of financial support from the University."

In total, the university hands out around £30,000 in sports bursaries a year, funds which are crucial for any athlete to compete financially in modern sport.

It is this support which has allowed Neil to become the North of England Senior Champion and gain three GB under-23 vests.

Susie Rutherford, Ed Nash, Colm Towan and Ross Carslake make up the rest of the squad.



JENNINGS... Delighted with the financial support he gets from Uni

DAVISON BOOKS BUSA CUP PLACE

CATHERINE Risebro's women tennis team have almost certainly booked their place in the BUSA Cup, following their fourth, consecutive victory of the season against Sheffield.



SKIPPER...Pleased with team's top start

Lynsey Davison completed victory in typically decisive fashion, 6-0 6-1, whilst Sophie Wright edged out Sheffield's number two 6-4 7-6.

Risebro showed excellent spirit to win her singles match, despite having trailed 4-1 in the second set.

To be a good team, excellence and sheer determination is not only needed by your top player but by your lower-ranked members as well and once again Sally

Knight was a star.

She held her nerve trailing 3-5 in the final set and came back to take the next four games to clinch the match.

Stability

"The team we had this week was good. We are starting to feel more like a team than we have done over the last three years" said Risebro. "There is stability in the team rather than rotation."

"With Lindsay Rawling in the side I would have to favour us to make the Premier League. However, I still think we have a chance without her."

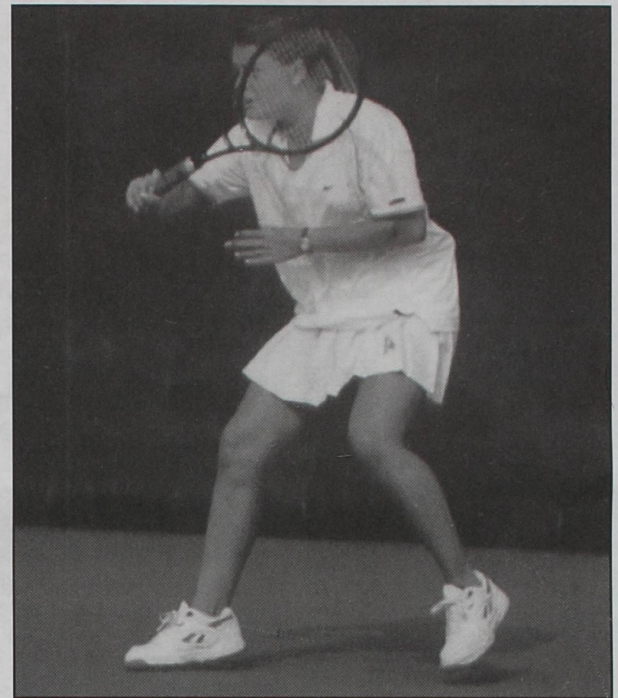
The men's team lost their important tie with Sheffield, but still remain top of the league.

Outstanding

Ingo Rojczyk produced an outstanding performance to narrowly lose to Andrew Ford, whilst captain Ben Stanbury would have been disappointed to lose 7-5 6-2 in his match.

Rich Brownlee overcame a wrist injury to win 6-0 6-4, whilst Tom Harris lost 6-4 6-3.

Although Rojczyk and Harris lost their doubles match to give Sheffield the match, the final doubles match still remained vitally important as the number of rubbers Newcastle have won this season may help them clinch a place in the BUSA Cup.



SPEEDY VICTORY. . . Davison wasted no time in chalking up win

In a controversial final match, Stanbury and Brownlee did wonderfully well to win 7-6 6-3.

Newcastle's pair overcame some horrific calls from the two Sheffield players which threatened to change the course of the match.

This defeat leaves Newcastle's men needing two victories to seal their place in the BUSA Cup.

They will have a better idea of their fate when they take on group favourites Leeds today, although they will be hopeful of beating Leeds Met and York in their last two ties.

Sheffield hand Uni the points

By COURIER SPORTS STAFF

NEWCASTLE'S netballers couldn't emulate their brilliant opening day performance against Durham in their local derby against Northumbria, but collected full points in their match against Sheffield as they were handed a walkover.

Northumbria fielded an unusually strong side and were quick off the mark to secure a 15-7 lead in the first quarter.

Misery

In the second quarter, the Poly compounded the university's misery and registered a 31-13 score-line.

Natalie Steiner, netball captain, would have been delighted with the way her side responded in the second-half when the side could easily have folded.

Newcastle transformed their game to narrow the Poly's lead. The attacking players fought hard against an imposing pair of Poly defenders, and shooter Naomi Harrison gave an excellent performance until the final whistle.

The final score, 54-30, did not reflect Newcastle's excellent performance but there was no doubt Northumbria were the deserved winners.

Newcastle's second team came up against an equally impressive Northumbria side and also lost their first match of the season, 35-21.

Strongly

The Poly started strongly, leaving Newcastle struggling with an 18-8 goal deficit after the first quarter.

Newcastle lifted their game in the second half of the match with some solid defending, but the Poly held onto their lead.

By the final quarter the damage was done, but Newcastle kept their heads up with Emily Swayles playing some fine centre court netball.

Crashed

Newcastle's first-team took full points against Sheffield last week as the Yorkshire side were unable to provide umpires. However, in a friendly match Newcastle crashed to a disappointing defeat.

The Newcastle second team also crashed to 21-18 defeat against Sheffield.

Newcastle struggled to get off to a good start after a long

journey, but excellent shooting from Kate Mulvana and Alison Glass helped to draw the visitors back into contention.

Newcastle's defence were superb throughout the match and worked tirelessly to try and keep Sheffield out in a dramatic second-half.

However, the last quarter saw Newcastle slip behind once again and they were unable to pull back the few goals they needed for a win.

Dramatic

Newcastle's third team grabbed a dramatic draw in their game in their Tyne and Wear Local League match against Stocksfield.

There were only seconds remaining when Suzanne Low scored to give the Uni a 28-28 draw.

The women's first team return to action when they travel to Leeds today, then take a week off, before completing their campaign at home to Leeds Metropolitan University.



DELIGHTED. . . Captain Steiner happy to collect some easy points

Williams wins it for Uni girls

BY KERRY STEAD

LADIES FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE women's football team continued their fantastic start to the season with a 1-0 victory over Sunderland.

Sunderland started well and indeed enjoyed much of the possession in the opening ten minutes.

Newcastle suddenly regained their composure and began to apply some pressure on the home team, even if they couldn't get any shots on target.

After the half-time break, Newcastle consolidated their position as the better of the two teams and were rewarded with their pressure five minutes after the break when Williams fired the ball into the back of the net.

Newcastle should have extended their lead, but Totland rattled the crossbar.

Sunderland could and possibly should have equalized, but were denied on several occasions by some brilliant goalkeeping by Eimer.

This excellent win follows on from their 2-0 triumph over Bradford, with Howarth and Murphy grabbing the goals.

Newcastle are away to York today where they know a win will guarantee them a place in the knock-out stages of the Shield.

Brilliant 4th for runners

BY NICOLA MURRAY

NEWCASTLE'S cross-country teams enjoyed mixed fortunes at the Manchester relays - the club's first major event of the year.

The two women's from Newcastle deserve most acclaim with a brilliant 4th and respectable 33rd finishes.

Fielding three men's teams in a field of 65, the club came 15th, 32nd and 39th, with Sale Harriers taking top honours.

WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 1999

RUGGER ME!

Uni lads go down as Poly score late



MOODY BLUES. . . The Poly strangles a Newcastle attack as missed kicks cost home side dear in a dramatic derby clash at Cochrane Park last week to leave the Uni searching for their first win of year

By CHRIS HURST
SPORTS EDITOR

FIRST-TEAM rugby-union captain Paddy Seymour hailed his colleagues as heroes, despite suffering the heartbreak of a last gasp 15-13 defeat against Northumbria in front of a passionate crowd at Cochrane Park.

After Newcastle established a 10-0 lead in the opening twenty minutes, the Poly clawed their way back into the match and sealed victory in injury-time with a close-range penalty kick, leaving Seymour and his side to reflect on a second BUSA league game which has been lost late on this season.

"It's devastating to be honest. What can you say? The lads gave their heart and soul out there and once again we were pipped just at the end" said Seymour.

"I can stand here and pick out the little faults, the basics we did wrong today, but at the end of the day I can't fault the lads. They didn't break our line once and they didn't score any tries. They won on penalties.

"We came forward and they came forward. The bounce of the ball, the kick of the ball - it's where the game is won and lost. I just hope we can react more positively as that shows the metal of a man."

Newcastle stormed into an early lead and indeed enjoyed much of the possession in the opening stages of the match.

After 5 minutes, Northumbria attempted to clear their lines when pinned deep in their twenty-two but the kick was brilliantly charged down and Tim Southall did superbly well to touch the ball down before the ricocheting ball went out of play.

Newcastle	13
Northumbria	15

Newcastle extended their lead fifteen minutes later when Guy Beaumont got on the end of a cross-field kick to complete a brilliant try.

The home side should have extended more of their first-half pressure into points, but it was the visitors who were next on the scoreboard as they converted a penalty three minutes before the interval.

Horrific

The second-half was only three minutes old, when the game had to be halted for over half an hour to deal with a horrific injury.

Northumbria were close to the Newcastle try-line, when the Poly's Stuart Lamb suffered an injury to his lower-back which left him requiring an air ambulance to transfer him to the nearest hospital.

Although Seymour wouldn't go as far as blaming this stoppage for his side's defeat, this injury had a significant impact on changing the course of the match.

When the game resumed, Northumbria were suddenly a much more determined outfit and pressurised the Newcastle defence into giving away stupid penalties, as tempers in a surprisingly mild-mannered match began to become a little frayed.

However, Newcastle extended their lead with half an hour

to go with a penalty, although a failure to convert another difficult kick was in the end to cost them dear.

Northumbria reduced Newcastle's lead with a penalty fifteen minutes from the end and narrowed the margin to just one point as the game entered what turned out to be a tense and dramatic final ten minutes as the large Cochrane Park crowd began to really get behind their respective teams.

Dramatic

In the same way England's World Cup rugby hopes were ended by a drop-goal, it looked like Newcastle's derby chances were also to suffer the same fate when Northumbria's fly-half was presented with a pass to complete a drop goal, but luckily for the home team the Poly player fluffed his kick. However, minutes later a kick from a Poly player did indeed pass through the posts to seal a dramatic victory.

"I think definitely we've got something to prove. The lads are getting better and better every week. Durham was a hitch in the game but today we showed we can do it" said Seymour.

"This team next year and the year after are going to be a fantastic team. Right now we're struggling a bit with the older teams, but by the end of the season this team's going to grow and grow and be firing on all cylinders.

"I look round this changing-room and all I see is lads who want to be playing for this university and want to do well. That can only be a good thing, Results will come."

Seymour and his team-mates won't have too long to wait to get a chance for revenge as the Stan Calvert match takes place at Kingston Park on December 8th, with a crowd of nearly 2,000 expected.

"We are playing them again at Kingston Park in four weeks time and hopefully we can put a few rights wrong.

"If the lads struggled today with the crowd then they're going to get a bit of a shock in four weeks time."