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Who will be the next
Uni boss? Get the full
form on page 4

New Bond movie has
a licence to thrill -
review on pages 8 & 9



No. 1009

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 1999

25p

ACCESS NO AREAS

They put STAIRS to disabled loo

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

By OLIVIA RICHWALD and LAURA THACKRAY

DISABILITY Officer Luke Busfield fears students may quit the Uni if they were forced to use a wheelchair, after taking part in an exclusive Courier investigation.

After being taken around campus in a wheelchair, Luke claimed: "If someone had an accident and had to use a wheelchair, I wouldn't be surprised if they moved to a different university because getting from building to building can be so difficult."

Inaccessible lecture halls, awkward kerbs and unwelcoming entrances are just some of the faults encountered in the probe.

And worst of all, wheelchair users must descend TEN stairs to get to the disabled toilet in the Ballroom.

But despite being granted nearly £150,000 to improve provisions, the Uni say they're NOT planning on using the cash to install ramps.

Luke, recently elected to a post that has been vacant for three years, knows he faces an uphill struggle to improve the situation.

He admitted: "Three years without a Disabilities Officer has allowed a lot of facilities to deteriorate. Quite a lot of work needs to be done."

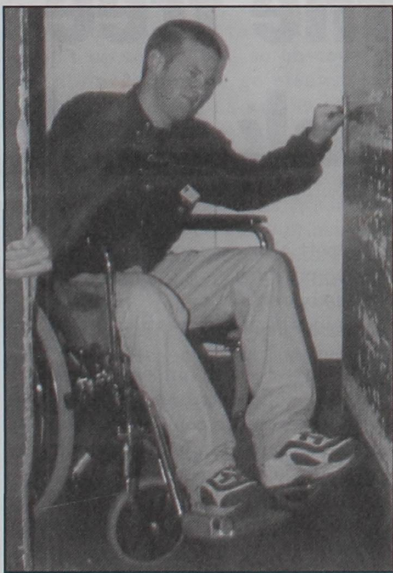
The situation in the Union is little better, with the lift too

Turn to page 3



PICTURES: Steve Haynes

LUKE HERE...Busfield bursting for the loo but wheelchair won't go down stairs



ANGRY... Luke wants better access at Uni



Santa: What WILLY bring? P. 13

The
Courier

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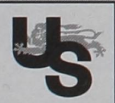
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DEMO MAN ARRESTED AS 15,000 MARCH ON

By ANN CLIFFORD

A FORMER Social Policy student was arrested for threatening behaviour during last week's NUS demo against tuition fees.

Bank clerk Dean Martin Adcroft - who was on the London demo with Newcastle students - was charged and is due to appear before Horseferry Road magistrates tomorrow.

Adcroft, 30, who left the Uni this summer, was one of a number of students who staged an impromptu sit down protest on Waterloo bridge as the demo fell into disarray.

The protest delayed the march for 20 minutes and forced NUS officials to call in the police.

Another group left the march to take the protest to the Houses of Parliament, but were prevented by the police.

But NUS bigwig Andrew Pakes still claimed the demo was a success, saying he was "proud" of the turnout which made it the biggest student protest in ten years.

An estimated 15,000 took part in the demo. Pakes said: "Today is the day when we

students say to Tony Blair and David Blunkett, enough is enough.

"There is one simple truth in this education system - if we work together, we can win this battle."

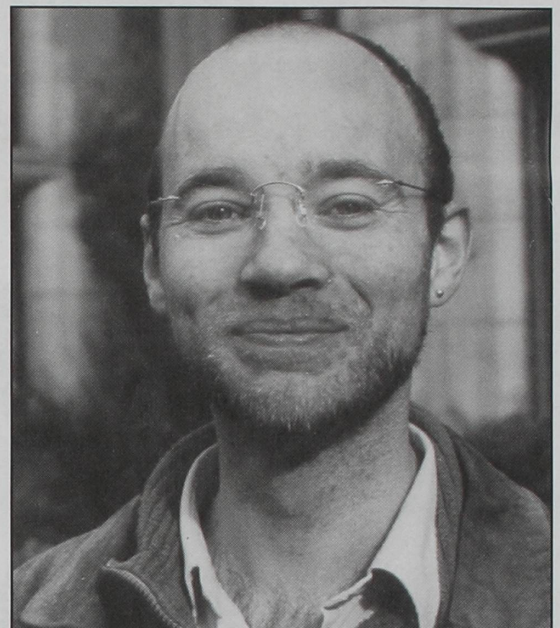
The march, which called for the reintroduction of grants, an end to tuition fees and better pay for university staff, halted traffic as students and teaching union representatives marched from Malet Street to Kennington Park.

Around 70 students from Newcastle Uni and the Poly made the journey south to demonstrate against New Labour's changes to higher education funding.

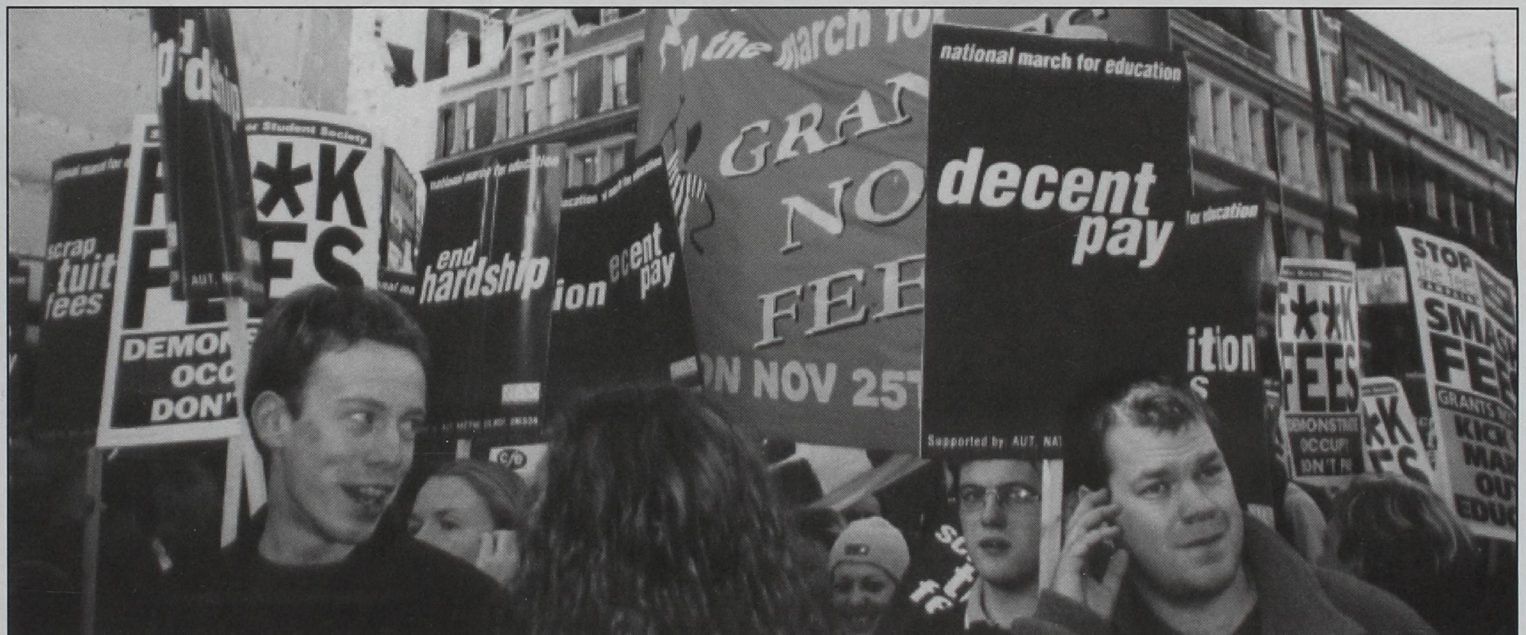
Sarah Wilson - Welfare Officer at Newcastle - said: "It was great that so many people were there. There was a really good atmosphere, highlighting the vibrant and diverse culture of uni life.

"Sadly, of course, such diversity is now under threat as a result of the scrapping of grants and the introduction of fees."

But Communications Officer Shelley Ogle said: "I'm disappointed that such a successful event was tainted by a minority of students."



CHARGED... Police accuse Adcroft of threatening behaviour



IT'S GOOD TO WALK... Newcastle demonstrators join thousands of students on the march through Central London in the official NUS campaign against tuition fees



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Put fees in the free market - Think tank

By DUNCAN WOODSIDE
NEWS EDITOR

A CONTROVERSIAL new report could pave the way to universities being allowed to charge as much as they like for tuition fees.

Radical right wing think tank the National Institute for Economic and Social Research recommends that the £1,025 per year cap be lifted.

The report concludes that higher fee income is the only way top unis in the UK can raise enough cash to keep up with international rivals, especially in research.

Martine Weale, Director of the Institute, said: "First-division universities have to allow their costs to rise in terms of staff salaries.

"If we say the state cannot afford to do this then, effectively, we are imposing a gradual decline in the higher education

system."

The report also recommends scholarship schemes be provided as a condition for unis receiving public funding.

But students at Newcastle blasted the proposals.

Psychology student Lindsay Alexander stormed: "It's ridiculous and appalling that such a move could be considered when so many students find it difficult enough to pay the tuition fees at their current level."

Shauna Doherty, Union Education Officer, said: "It is essential that at the very least the cap remains in place.

"If it does not then the leading unis will inevitably charge what they want, pricing many potential students out of a decent education.

"Of course it is important that universities excel at research, but it should also be remembered that they are here to teach as well."

Just the ticket for sailor

WHAT A LOTTO TELLY FAME FOR CAPTAIN CERI

By MATTHEW COX

SAILING CLUB members may well recognise the starter of tonight's National Lottery draw, as it could be their president Ceri Lewis.

Ceri, who is studying for a PHD in Marine Biology, will be one of three contestants in the quickfire general knowledge quiz "Third Degree" which precedes the midweek lottery draw.

Whoever gives the most correct answers gets to press the button to start the draw, which is eagerly awaited by the millions hoping to see their numbers come up.

Each contestant represents a different organisation which has benefited from the National Lottery and Ceri is

representing the uni's Sailing Club, who received a grant to buy new boats from the Sports Council, one of the many good causes funded by the lottery.

Viewers will also see footage of the sailing club in action, which the BBC filmed recently.

When asked how she felt about appearing live in front of millions this week, Ceri admitted: "I'm quite excited but also absolutely terrified."

"I hope the questions in the quiz aren't too hard and also that my friends won't blame me if they don't win!"

"Seriously, it's a great honour for a member of the Sailing Club to appear on TV and the lottery has been brilliant to us. The £11,500 sports grant we received allowed us to buy six new boats for the club to use."



SEA YOU LATER...Ceri will be on the telly tonight after lotto bid

UNION CHIEF IN DISABLED ROW

from front page

small, aisles in the shop too narrow, and bars too high.

After spending a day in the wheelchair, Luke blasted: "The facilities are badly laid out: distances between buildings can be trebled for wheelchair users."

"It would be lovely to see a wheelchair user around the Union and campus."

Unfortunately, facilities just aren't up to scratch, so obviously people are going to go elsewhere where the facilities are so much better."

But although the Uni was granted £149,000 from the HEFC after a bid led by Pro Vice Chancellor Madeline Atkins, there are no plans to use the money to help wheelchair users.

Director of Estates Claire Rogers said: "The money will provide facilities mostly for dyslexic students and those with impaired hearing and sight."

"We're not really going to use the money for putting in ramps."

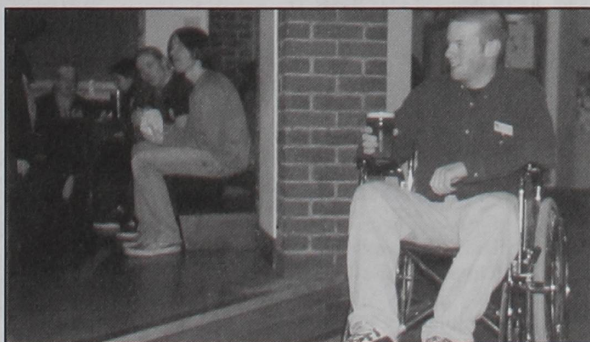
But the Uni is advertising for a full-time Disabilities Officer, and an audit has been carried out, which Rogers claims puts Newcastle "ahead of the game".

Luke Busfield's first plan as the Union's Disabilities Officer is to improve signposting. He also hopes to get stairs painted to help the visually impaired.

He added: "If anyone has any problems or suggestions they should feel free to contact me anytime and I'll try and help."



KERBING THE PROBLEM... There aren't enough ramps onto road



BARRED... Luke has a pint but finds steps even in the Mens Bar

Meningitis alert

By RACHAEL STEAD

EXPERTS are warning students to be on their guard after a spate of meningitis outbreaks across the country.

Three students at Cardiff uni and another at Cambridge have now been struck down by the killer brain bug this year.

The outbreak at Cardiff comes three years after two of their students died from the illness.

All three cases this year involved students living in private rented accommodation, dispelling the myth that only freshers in halls are at risk.

Newcastle has also been struck by meningitis several times in the last few years.

Second year Ian Clarke died in December 1997 when he became the first of two victims in the Geomatics department.

And in April of this year Castle Leazes fresher Harry Welch died of the

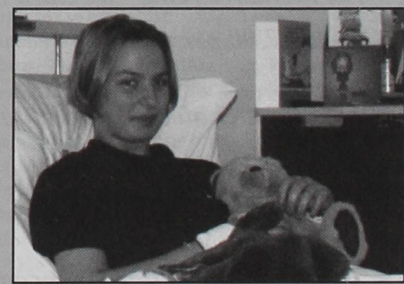
fatal virus.

Fortunately, several other students have been luckier and been saved in the nick of time.

One of them - Jude Moore - was rushed to hospital by pals who recognised the symptoms of meningitis.

Since vaccinations only reduce the chance of contracting meningitis, all students should be aware of what the symptoms are.

More information can be found out by contacting the Meningitis Trust on 0845 6000 800.



LUCKY...Jude Moore got to hospital in time



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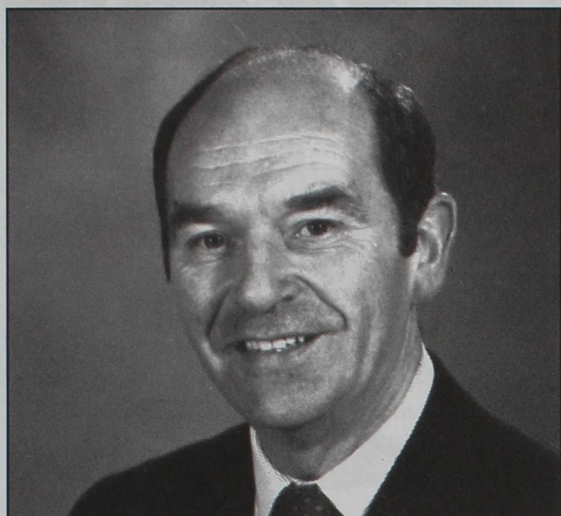
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Wright stuff



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE UNI'S RETIRING CHIEF, JAMES WRIGHT

- James Wright was educated at a fee-paying school in South-West Scotland.
- After obtaining his degree the Vice-Chancellor then spent thirteen years as a Latin lecturer at Edinburgh University.
- After this Wright became Secretary-General of faculties at Cambridge.
- In 1992 he was made an Honorary Fellow of St Catherine's College, Cambridge.
- In 1999 he received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law from University of Abertay, Dundee.
- He has been a member of various committees during his career as VC, including Director of UCAS, and Director of the Newcastle Gateshead Initiative.
- In 1995 he was made Deputy Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear.
- James Wright is 60 and is married with two daughters.

REBEL BOFFIN BLASTS CHIEF

Lecturer slams retiring Vice Chancellor Wright

By ROSS SMITH
DEPUTY EDITOR

REBEL lecturer Bruce Charlton this week lashed out at retiring Uni chief James Wright for bad management during his eight-year reign at Newcastle.

The Psychology boffin was last year at the centre of a campus war of words after launching a scathing attack on declining standards.

And now Dr Charlton, a firm opponent of semesters, has slated the departing Vice-Chancellor's record in charge.

Pleading

He claims that Wright has made himself richer while standards suffered, and is now pleading with the Uni not to make the same mistake twice when selecting his successor.

After the news of Wright's intention to leave at the end of next year broke, Dr Charlton blasted: "I am only sorry that it did not happen several years ago."

"James Wright has done very well out of Newcastle University, consistently awarding himself above-inflation pay rises.

Semesterisation

"Meanwhile the University has suffered serious damage from his bad management - for example, semesterisation, modularisation, the so-called 'devolution' of finances, and so on.

"Over the past years, the university has lacked any sense of direction, and has instead grovellingly responded to the latest half-baked policies from government, no matter how inappropriate or self-contradictory."

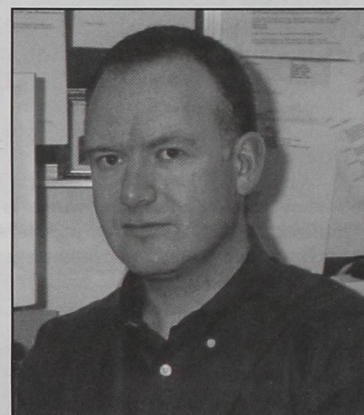
Praised

In response to Wright's shock announcement, Chairman of University Council Nigel Sherlock praised his efforts, saying: "James Wright has been an outstanding Vice-Chancellor."

"He has steered the University with great skill and energy through a period of substantial progress and achievement."

"Under his active leadership, the University of Newcastle has continued to strengthen its position as a major higher education force, internationally, nationally and regionally."

But Dr Charlton said: "The important thing now is to think of the future, and make sure that the next VC is a person better suited to the job."



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WHO'S NEXT FOR TOP JOB?

UNI bosses this week turn their minds to the appointment of the next Vice Chancellor, who will take over when James Wright retires next December.

And with a panel of Senate members to be elected this week to consider the issue, several names are already being mentioned in connection with the top post.

Senate member and Psychology lecturer Dr Bruce Charlton says: "He or she should be a committed scholar of substantial academic achievements - someone who can inspire respect and provide leadership by

example and inspiration.

"He or she should also be someone who has the interests of Newcastle University at heart - preferably someone with personal links to, and affection for, the University."

"It should not be just someone parachuted in with no knowledge or love of the place - it's the only way you can ensure it's not someone who's out for themselves."

AUT chief Nick Coleman said: "We would hope for a front-line academic with some sympathy for the problems facing the University, and a certain amount of administrative flair."

Six of the best... THE COURIER TIPS THE FRONTRUNNERS

SIR JOHN GRIMLEY EVANS 7/2

For many years a very popular Professor of Geriatric Medicine at Newcastle. Currently at Oxford and at the pinnacle of his profession. Described as a brilliant lecturer and teacher, deep scholar, and a superb doctor.



PAUL DAVIES 16/1

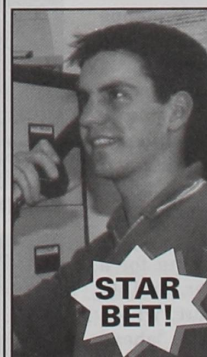
Former Theoretical Physics lecturer at the Uni, who was described by the Washington Times as "the best science writer on either side of the Atlantic." Won the prestigious Templeton Prize in 1995 for his work on the relationship between science and religion.

ROGER DYE 10/1

Newest of the Uni's Pro-Vice Chancellors. He scored a massive whammy in successfully heading up the Smatcard Taskforce. Decent chap, listens to students.

BRUCE CHARLTON 50/1

Maverick Psychology lecturer noted for scathing attack on current VC James Wright over declining standards last year. Took his degree at Newcastle. Tough on semesters, tough on the causes of semesters.



NICK MOUTON 250/1

Much-loved former Union Communications Officer, particularly hailed by students for his GREAT work last year. He says: "If given the post I will venture on to represent not only the university, but student issues in the highest order."

JAYNE MIDDLEMISS 1,000/1

Local lass renowned for sterling work in the Ricky Road freshers' "Free Matt Rose" campaign. If fit profs raise standards, Uni will surge up league table.



That's the way I bike it!

By ALAN J. SOADY

ADVENTUROUS fresher Katherine Wilkin is gearing up for the trip of a lifetime... but this is no cocktail-sipping Caribbean cruise.

For she is set to cycle 175 MILES across Cuba, and all for a wheely good cause.

The psychology student will be swapping semester one exams for the Pacific island this January in a bid to raise more than TWO GRAND for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Challenge

Katherine, 21, decided to take up the challenge after spotting an advert looking for volunteers

But raising cash wasn't her first motivation.

She said: "During my two years out I was determined I was going to travel but in the end I didn't, so when I saw the advert I set my heart on doing it."

Cause

"At first the only reason I wanted to do it was to go to Cuba, but then when I got involved with Guide Dogs

For The Blind I realised it was a really good cause."

She'll begin the bike ride in the middle of Cuba before travelling up the West Coast.

After an average of 35-40 miles per day, she'll finish up in the capital Havana.

Rainy

The only cloud on the horizon is that it'll be the rainy season, which means she'll not only face wet conditions but also the likelihood of strong winds.

It's the first time Katherine has taken up cycling, and she admits she's not exactly a health freak.

"People can't really believe I'm doing this because I'm not really a fit person."

"When I first started training for it I didn't think I'd keep it up, but now I'm so excited about it I'm kind of making myself keep going."

Envy

And the first year has become the envy of her department, but not because she's about to cross the globe.

She gloated: "I think everyone's jealous I'm going to miss the January exams."



PEDAL POWER... Katherine brakes in the cash for charity while pals sit exams

JOBS COULD HIT DEGREES

Costs forcing students to work, say NUS

By PAUL CROSTHWAITE and MATTHEW COX

A SHOCK survey has found that students are falling behind with studies as soaring costs force them to take on more paid work.

The NUS survey found over 40% of full-time students have to take on jobs during term time to support themselves financially.

Half of those surveyed claimed their studies were suffering as a result.

Stress

Acting Head of English Claire Lamont said: "With no grants available from this year financial worries are everywhere and students don't need the stress of debt."

"I'm concerned about students who face financial pressures and have to take jobs during term time, thus detracting from their academic time."

Accumulated

"It would be different if graduates were guaranteed a good job to pay off the debts they have accumulated, but this is not the case."

The survey also claimed that students are being poorly paid for the work they do.

Students work 13 hours a week each on average in term time, rising to 26 hours during academic vacations.

Loss

Shauna Doherty, Education Officer, agrees that "With the loss of grants this year, the university has realised students may need to work to finance their degree."

"The university is adapting and becoming more sympathetic to students' new needs and are contemplating take into account the increasing need to work, when future timetables are being sorted out."

Concern

Responding to claims made in the survey that students are being poorly paid and treated at work, she said: "Obviously it's a concern to us if students feel they are being poorly paid or treated, however we don't feel this is a problem for our university."

"We find the wages advertised in our job shop are adequate for students' demands, but conditions are frequently monitored and if students aren't happy with their place of work they should approach the university."



MONEY MONEY MONEY... It's a poor man's world around universities though, according to survey

Burning Issue



WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH... Union's Environmental Officer backs calls to investigate waste plan

ANDREW PRESSES FOR BYKER INQUIRY

By JACQUI BUTLER

UNION Environment Officer Andrew Bickerdike is backing a public inquiry into Newcastle City Council's new proposals for the Byker Incinerator.

The Council is considering increasing the amount of waste burnt at the plant by up to eight times.

Newcastle as a whole produces approximately 200,000 tons of waste per year and the new plans would lead to 160,000 tons being burnt at the plant.

Although the Council has claimed that any changes would comply to the latest Euro

regulations, the 'Campaign against Incineration of Refuse' have raised concerns about health problems in the area as a result of emissions from the plant.

Bickerdike told The Courier: "I think it's important that students are aware of the issues surrounding the plant as they do make up a large number of Tyneside residents. It's important that there is informed debate about it."

He added: "The Environment and Ethical Group will be discussing it and hopefully it will go to a general meeting if students are interested."

"I am trying to raise the issue in order for students to hear both sides of the issue and make their voice heard".

I'M OFF SAYS TOFFS' PROF

A TUTOR at Durham has resigned after claims that he slept with students.

He was suspended after an anonymous letter was sent to a bigwig alleging that he had affairs with a string of students.

The residential tutor quit his student welfare post four days after the suspension.

A spokesman for the toffs' uni said: "Those in authority took the view that the letter, combined with student opinion, meant suspension was appropriate."

"The tutor felt he couldn't carry out his duties and resigned."

Courier

A BOOZY snoozy student was found asleep in the Cochrane Lounge after a heavy session last week.

Security were called in to rouse the dozy lad, who'd been propping up the bar for nearly twenty minutes before anyone noticed his nocturnal leanings. Bar staff deny claims that customers often get tired of waiting.

Quip

FURY AT PLOT TO STOP TOP PROFS TEACHING

By **DUNCAN WOODSIDE**
NEWS EDITOR

STAFF and students are up in arms at controversial plans to prevent top academics from teaching students.

A Newcastle lecturer has warned that new teaching-only contracts could slip in through the back door as a new human resources strategy comes into force.

The plan - put forward by the pro-vice chancellor's office - was due to go to senate, the uni's decision making body, this week.

Senate member and AUT chief at Newcastle Nick Coleman blasted it would be "anathema" to separate teaching and research at the

university.

He said: "All our mainstream staff carry out teaching and research, that's what sets the calibre of academic life here. Without that the best brains will simply leave."

Dr Coleman - an electrical engineering lecturer - added that students would also suffer if the plan came into force.

He believes undergraduates would be denied access to the best minds and would instead be offered lecturers who the university regard as failed researchers. He argues teaching-only staff would also feel resentful.

Students reacted angrily to the proposals.

Third year Psychologist Natasha Graves said: "I feel outraged that the uni can put

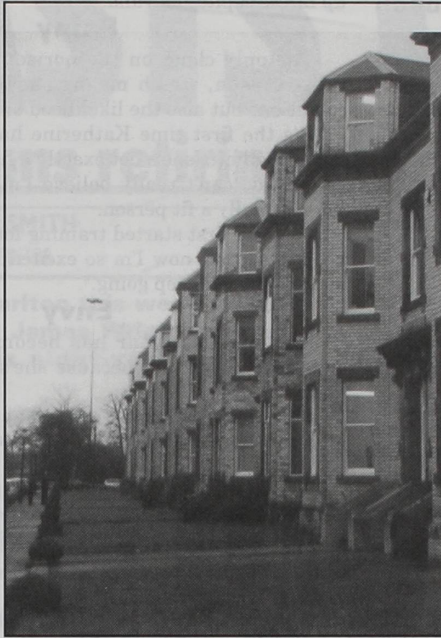
forward such a proposal without consulting students when it is likely to be us who are most severely affected."

And Economics student Andrew Boyle blasted: "How are we supposed to improve our standing in the league tables if we're to be taught by second rate lecturers?"

Pro Vice-Chancellor Madeline Atkins denied that the plan would prevent top academics teaching students.

She said: "The vast majority of academics will continue to do research and training, but from time to time it may be agreed that some individuals can shift to, say, a teaching and administrative contract - with their consent."

"This is part of a necessary evolution towards flexibility."



STUDENT ANGER... Kensington Terrace proposal

Student sues over 'blunder'

By **EAMONN RUANE**

A FORMER student at Swansea is to sue the University for its alleged failure to provide a tutor for his dissertation.

Edwin Del Wolert came over from America to do a Philosophy PHD after being persuaded by departmental boffins.

They convinced him that "several of us would be perfect for the job" of supervising his £20,000 doctorate.

But the Philosophy department is accused of failing to provide an academic with suitable qualifications.

The claim is just one in a series of allegations to curse the department.

Three part time members of staff recently quit.

And a Pro-Vice chancellor refused to be in the same room as any staff of the department at a recent meeting for "legal reasons."

TLC on the cards for fyc2k

By **ANN CLIFFORD**

THE ORGANISERS of next years' freshers week are planning an FYC of TLC for terrified Toon newcomers.

The FYC2k team, who claimed victory in the recent elections, are concerned that Newcastle's new arrivals aren't given enough reassurance during their first days at uni and don't have the opportunity to meet many new people.

"Most freshers tend to stay with the people they live with during the first few weeks," team member Hannah Eyres told The Courier.

"We want to make events more mixed and bring people out of these groups."

One idea is to have 'floating' stewards without specific

duties to socialise with freshers and act as ice breakers, especially on the Thursday night.

The group also plan to encourage more collaboration between stewards and senior stewards.

And they intend to provide freshers with more information about the events taking place by putting up poster boards in halls and student flats.

"Loads of people don't know what's going on until three days in," fellow organiser Esther Brown said. "Everyone goes to the night events and stays in their bedrooms all day."

The group aim to combat this by organising events to set off from halls rather than from the Union.

They also plan to send first years more information before they pay up their cash for FYC.

Another organiser, Leon McQuaid said: "Thirty quid is a lot

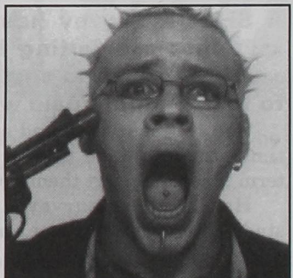
of money if you don't know what you're getting - we could at least explain that there will be a good band on band night."

The group are considering ways in which the event could be better publicised and how to boost attendance at the annual societies fair.

"Every year they pay a lot for their spot and no-one turns up," Leon added.

And the group are eager for suggestions from current students on how previous FYCs can be improved on.

"We welcome any sort of input," said Hannah.



BAND NIGHT... Bangin' tunes

Want A House For Next Year?

DON'T PANIC! DON'T PANIC!

IF YOU WANT A

Get To A

HOUSING ROADSHOW



Not A



Henderson Hall- 6 December- 5-7pm
Castle Leazes- 7 & 9 December- 5-7pm
Student Union Bassment- 13 & 14
December- 12-2pm
Robinson Library- 15 December- 12-2pm



TOFF GAY OUTRAGE

By **ANNE MARIE PICKUP**

FEARS are rife that toffs at Oxford University are running a campaign of active homophobia in one of their colleges.

Problems began at Oriel College when a series of anti-homophobia posters were torn down from around the campus.

And the situation worsened when a student at the college received one of the torn down posters and an abusive letter accusing him of being gay.

The college reacted by immediately putting up new posters but again these were ripped down.

Oriel JCR condemned the action, claiming it was an isolated incident.

But there are increasing fears that an anti homosexual "atmosphere" exists amongst some of the undergraduates at Oriel.

**Trendy Wendy's Christmas Cack-er:
Get into the festive spirit - page 11**

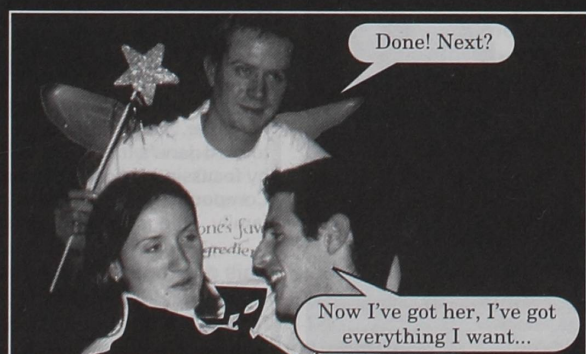
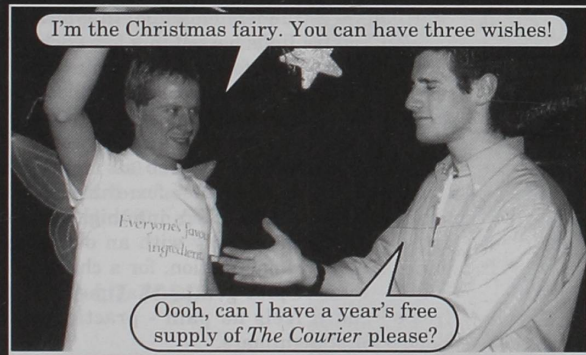
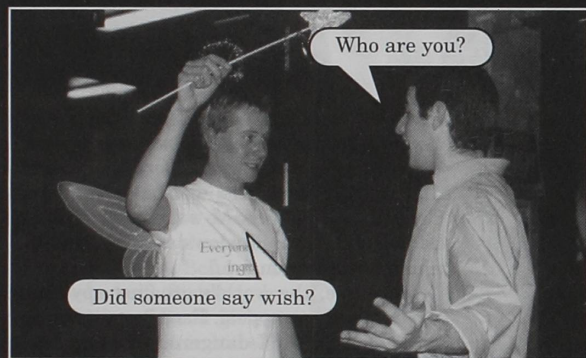
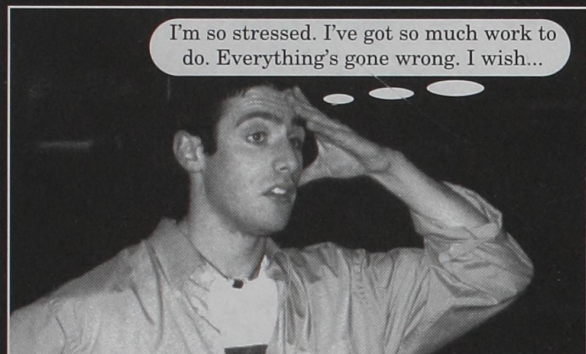
Dear Lisa



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

LISA'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

The Christmas Fairy - week 1



Story concludes next week...

Photo casebook pictures by Steve Haynes

A lot of people seem to have problems this week: rah's are overrunning the global, militants are attacked for their unusual dress-sense and there's a man in a bungalow who can't find anything upstairs. Will all the normal people please put pen to paper and restore some sanity on this page? For a much nicer slant on life check out the photocasebook Christmas special.

I'm a FAN Miguel

Dear Lisa,
Will you join me in hailing the return to the forefront of British politics of the man who will save this country from it's neo-socialist inspired decline - namely Michael Portillo?
I think we can all sleep peacefully in our beds once more.
Yours ever,
Joe Public

Lisa says: Well the Tories haven't provided as much amusement as usual recently - Jeffrey Archer's idiocy is beginning to lose its entertainment value. But don't think you're dragging me into a debate on this one. It isn't the fucking ridiculous views expressed in your letter that led me to think you were taking the piss. You slipped up well and truly by making out you had some kind of political viewpoint. Everyone knows students don't do that kind of thing anymore.

I can't stanza rahs

Dear Lisa,
I wrote you a little poem darling, sweetie, etc entitled 'To a Rah':
I am a Rah (or so they say)
and also known as Bint
My hair is messy, quite a state
and of the blondish tint
My daddy's quite obscenely rich
Now that's of use to me
Cos living like a Rah my friend
is a costly thing, you see
My mobile phone is always on
to take those vital calls
'specially when they're coming from
within the same four walls.
The Global is my daily haunt
Baguette, perhaps some broth
but if you've got my sofa pal
you'll have to face the wrath!
The guys all line up at my door
They just don't do cheap shags
I'll stay the Queen of Newcastle
I'm riches me, not rags!

By a non-Rah Global frequenter

Lisa says: Almost as annoying are those people who sit in The Global checking the ringing tones on their phones (incase they've changed since yesterday). But what sort of lame rant is this? I, personally, have never found myself without comfy seating over lunch. Stop waxing lyrical and fight for that sofa!

Thanks a trot

Dear Lisa,
I am writing to express the incredible amount of joy I had the misfortune to experience today. I'm currently on a coach on my way back from a demonstration in London, and having been here for 11 and a half hours so far (without a toilet and with an unhelpful bladder condition) I am overjoyed!!
Now I know it's all for a good cause (otherwise I wouldn't have put myself through this torture!) but I really don't see the need for the militant merry men (and women) who attempted to kidnap me and storm the Houses of Parliament.
I said, "Oi, you sweaty, smelly, scruffy, scraggy-bearded, long-haired, wannabe working class spawn of 1 lawyer and 1 teacher...NO!! Go and shear your barnet! And make haste!"
All in all I think everyone who was there will feel pleased with themselves for doing something worthwhile with their day (not unlike bunking off that delightful concurrency lecture) but isn't it always the case that a few complete dicks would have to go and spoil it?!

Lovingly,
Eva Tory

Lisa says: Well no wonder you were so keen to hop on a bus to London if you had a concurrency lecture. Don't give me all this "If feel so worthwhile" crap - you blatantly leapt at the £6 trip to London and then got gutted cos you had to do something when you got there. And if you'd been on a bus for 11 and a half hours I bet you were as sweaty, scruffy and bearded as the rest of them. March on!

Girls going down

Dear Lisa,
I'm a 20 year old 2nd year and have a query I hope you can help me with.
Girls keep coming up to me and asking me if I have a lot downstairs.
You see, I think they must have found out that I live in a bungalow, so OBVIOUSLY everything I have will be downstairs.
They also say I don't have much upstairs. Please help me, I'm so confused.
Perplexed,
Alex Millar

Lisa says: You've done well actually, in describing every bloke at this Uni. Which is why girls keep asking you about your 'bungalow' cos that's the only basis on which we can choose. But you haven't answered the question: do you have a lot downstairs or have you got something to hide?

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

LISA'S PERSONAL BITS

Wuf - Nix little sister's little mate.
You know what I mean...ho ho.

To Homo Simmons - don't let the fame go to your head darling.
Love, Weak & Milky

Dunx - learn to spell people's names properly. The Boyzzz.

Steve - clean your hamster, Met!

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

You're all twunts.
Honest.

NIGHTLINE
For Information or a Chat

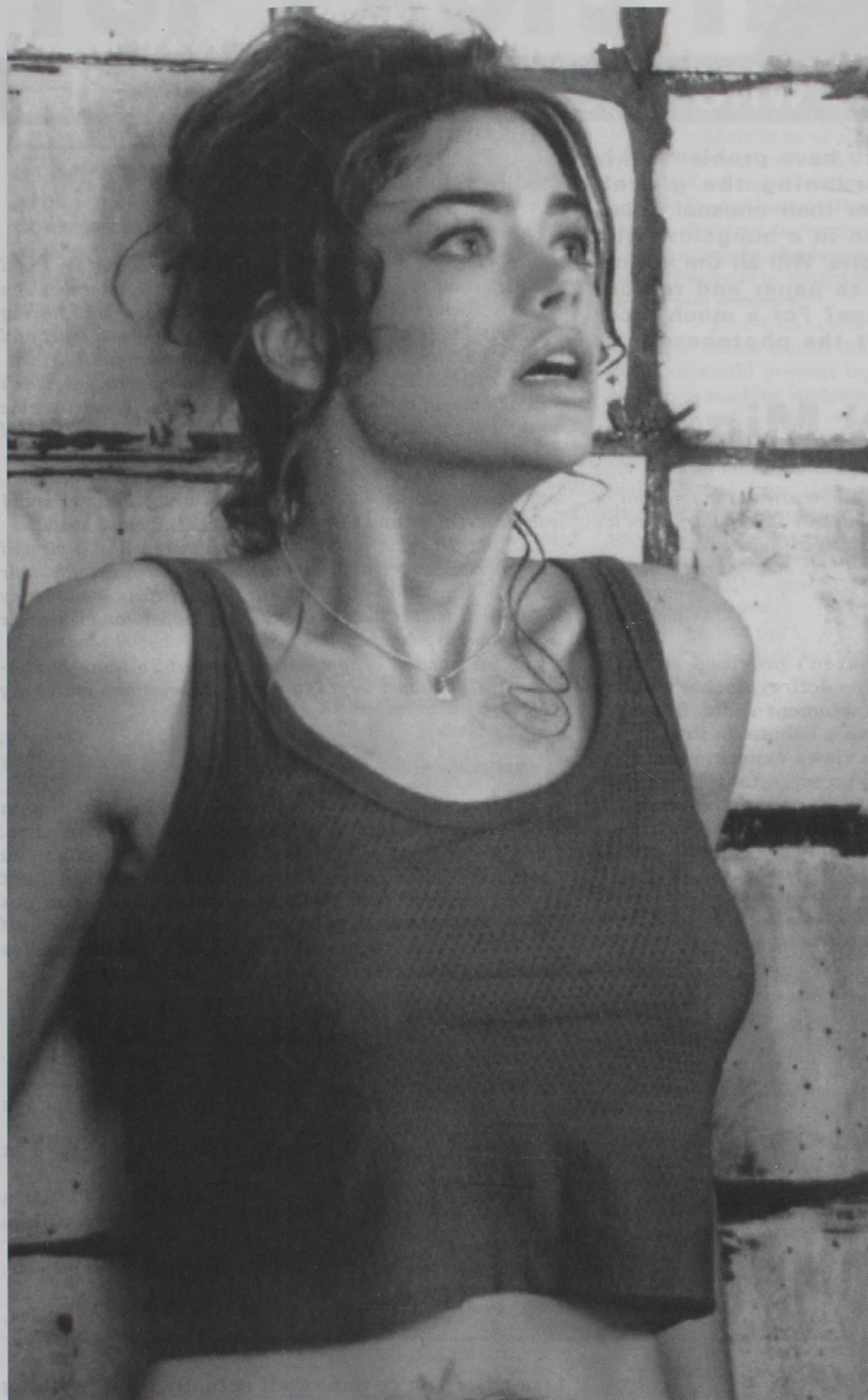
Ring
261 2905

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

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

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING



The World is Not Enough

Film: Out Now

FROM the moment that music kicks in, you know you can sit back and enjoy the ride. (Bond girls for the past 37 years have!) It's time for the smoothest of double agents to glide through the latest Bond offering.

Okay, so we all expect the standard Bond formula: explosive opening sequence, beautiful love interests, brand new gadgets, suitably sinister baddies and some sort of threat to civilisation as we know it. That doesn't matter. The World Is Not Enough is escapism in its purest form.

Obviously from a plot point of view there's a crisis that only Pierce "the best

we've got" Brosnan can sort out. But there are more hitches along the way than ever before. With one of the best Bond storylines so far, girls everywhere will be screaming: "Careful James!". As M warns: "This is a shadow operation. Shadows stay in front or behind but never on top."

Of course, the world's greatest spy has always oozed sex appeal. Face it guys, Bond is a real man. And dangerously attractive Elektra King (the stunning Sophie Marceau) is a true femme fatale. In typical fashion Elektra finds herself in a few tricky situations but don't forget, she's a nineties girl. When she's kidnapped by terrorists she doesn't sit tight and hope to be rescued. Oh no, this Bond lovely shoots her way out.

Robert Carlyle is superb as master criminal Renard (French for fox: think sly, cunning, underhand...). He's into high tech terrorism in a major way with an overall outlook on world domination, for a change. It's a stroke of plot genius that medical freak Renard feels no pain - practically Bond's worst nightmare.

Of every Brosnan nuclear Jones. as a r boys t then s part o yes, th but no At in Bon want h worst sexy B The escape uni li terrib have b

KATE

Ooooh la la, I fille like rumpy pumpy

Romance

Film: Out soon

This subtitled French-language film tells the somewhat sordid tale of a primary school teacher who is physically rejected by the man she loves. This comes as a bit of a blow and she seeks sexual fulfilment elsewhere. Lots of it.

She descends into a seedy world, which borders on nymphomania, embarking upon a series of affairs with a variety of men, one of which is the headmaster at the school she works at.

The director, Catherine Breillat, claims that 'within this structure and overlay of philosophical commentary, the central

character exchanges emotional subservience to her boyfriend for increased personal independence.' But when it comes down to it, the girl just wants a bit, and has little to do with the difficulty of separating sex from love.

Although there will be differing opinions as to the depth and quality of this film, I would seriously question the director's assertions about this film. The film seems just a little obvious; many of the plot twists (though somewhat improbable in reality) are decidedly predictable in the context of this film.

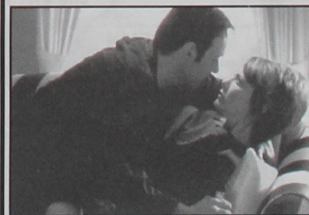
It's all relatively mundane. Even the numerous explicit sex scenes, which are tantamount to pornography, fail to maintain the audience's attention. It falls between two stools of erotic and intellectual, failing to achieve either.

EAMONN RUANE



...fancy a date with an American

'Cos we've got FREE tickets to



which is even more maddening to his daughter, Jane (Thora Birch - especially toward Jane's friend, the sultry Angelina Jolie). Compounding the chaos is the arrival of a new family. Things can only get stranger.

This dark comedy has already been nominated for Oscars and we're offering YOU the chance to see it MONTHS before the national release. In our office here, we've got 20 pairs of tickets for a screening of the film in Newcastle. It's first come, first served, folks. So hurry to this paper and we'll give you

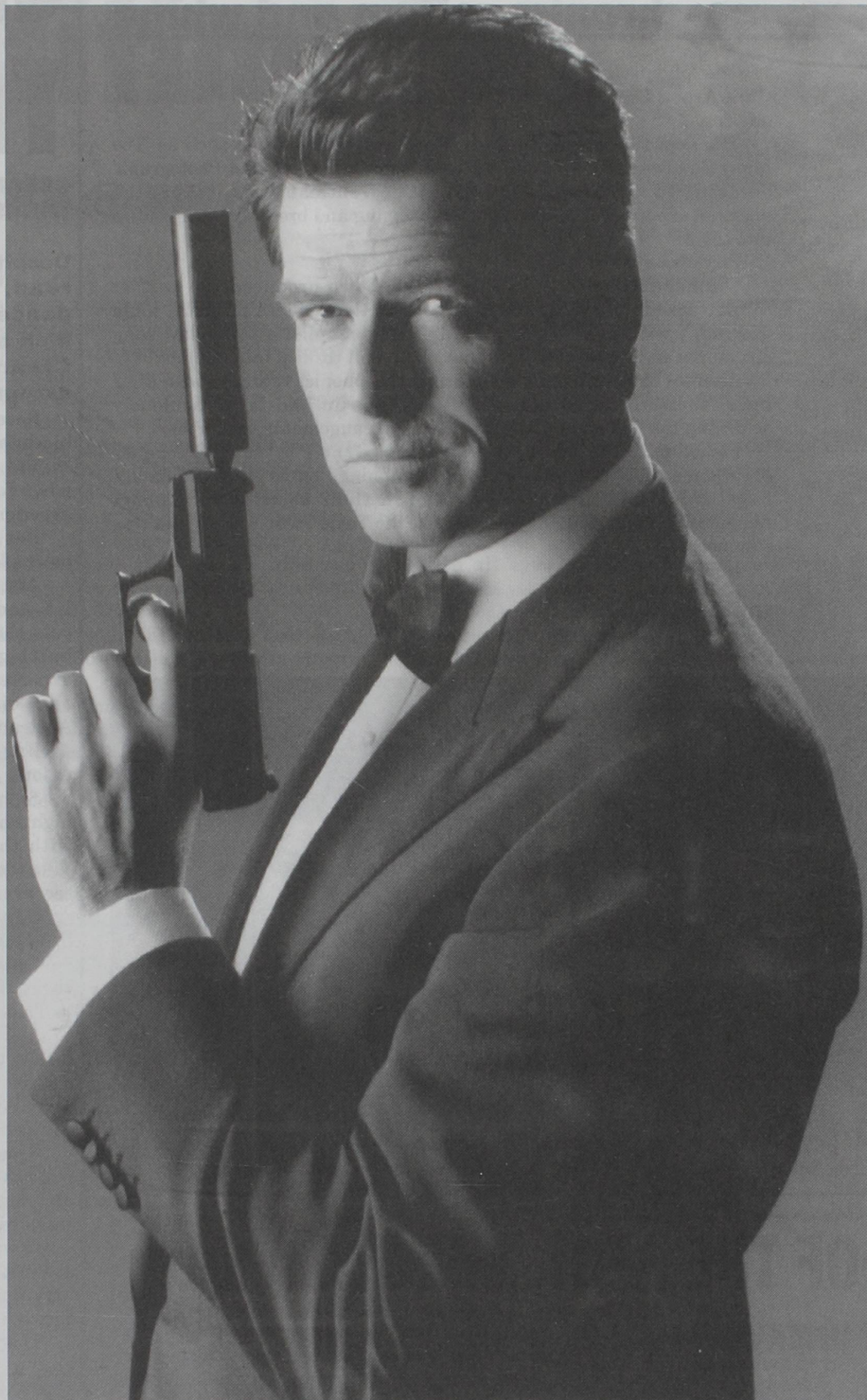
YOU MR BOND



course, it's not just Elektra (and woman in the audience) who falls for an. Step forward Denise Richards as ar weapons expert Dr. Christmas. She storms through the plot dressed real life Lara Croft (that'll please the hen), requires rescuing by Bond and saves a few lives herself. Richards is of the new generation of Bond girls - they're gorgeous and get their kit off, w they've got brains.

the end of the day we all want to be d's pants. Boys want to be him, girls boys to be him and so on. At the very we'd settle for a ride in the sleek, BMW Z8, James' latest wheels. e World Is Not Enough is the fastest route away from the monotony of fe. But watch out for the terrible, le pun at the end of the film. You been warned.

BOSANQUET & LIZ TODD



Rik's Bums Down

Guesthouse Paradiso

Film: December 3rd



It's strange that Rik Mayall claims that "Guesthouse Paridiso", the new film starring him and Adrian Edmondson, isn't a "Bottom movie", especially considering the main characters are called Richie and Eddie and it's a completely over-the-top slapstick fest.

Perhaps Rik's done himself a favour though, in disassociating the name of his and Ade's classic sitcom from this poor attempt at a feature film. There's not really much to say about Guesthouse Paradiso. Most of the jokes are as lame and desperate as Richie, and the script is totally dependent on ridiculous and often grotesque slapstick. This isn't always a bad thing, but there's only so much you can take of watching Richie and Eddie going at it like a live-action Itchy and Scratchy show.

Eddie gets his head run over, Richie gets his balls squashed in a pair of pliers, Richie gets a pencil stuck up his arse, and so on, and so on, for over ninety minutes. One of the other characters gets lifted up by a fishing rod hooked to his nipple ring, and by the end of the film almost everybody is puking up green slime, Exorcist-style, in a scene reminiscent of the river of blood in "The Shining".

There is some kind of plot behind all this - something about Richie and Eddie being owners of the worst hotel in Britain, making their guests' lives misery, and leching over an Italian movie star who improbably takes refuge in their hell-hole - but it's all really just an excuse for having maniacal fun with motorbikes, rubber underwear, gas ovens, and radioactive fish. Still, it's more fun than being hit round the face by a frying pan seventeen times. Only just, though.

DAN CHERRY

Beauty

Then keep tonight free!

to an exclusive preview screening

American Beauty introduces us to the chaotic world found on the tree-lined street of Robin Hood Trail, Anytown, USA. Provoked by forbidden passions, Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey) decides to make a few changes in his rut of a life, changes that are less midlife crisis than adolescence reborn! The more liberated he feels, the happier he gets, his wife, Carolyn (Annette Bening) and finally when he turns his lustful gaze to Angela (Mena Suvari). Carolyn responds to her husband's real estate colleague. Oo-er! Next door of an equally turbulent f...

been tipped to do big things at the chance to see it **TWO** release date. Stored in *The Courier* of tickets for a special preview **TONIGHT** (1st December). So. Come to the office with a copy the tickets.

Och, the Jock's cocky

Bob Doolally

Hyena Café - Saturday 20th
November

After enduring the torment of a European Championships qualifier that inspired me about as much as a weekend in Rhyll with the Krankies, I needed something to lift my battered spirits.

What better than a demented and foulmouthed Scotsman? No, I wasn't watching a bitter Graeme Souness kicking off in a post match analysis but Bob Doolally, the wee funnyman from across the border.

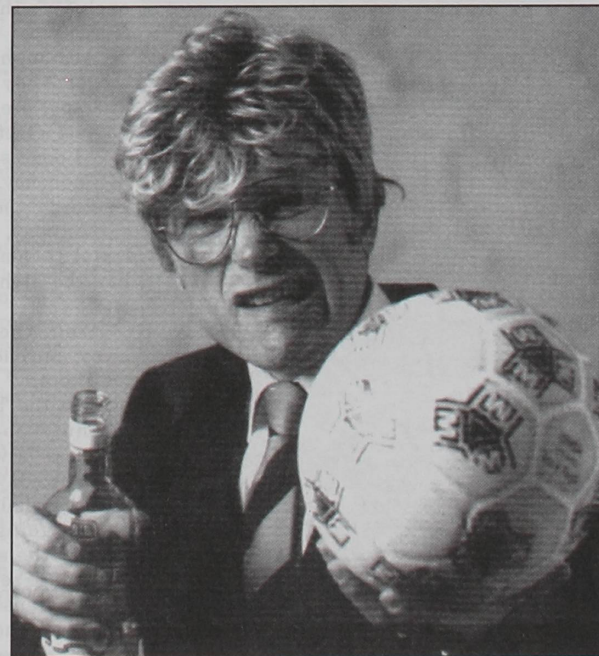
Bob, described as 'the self proclaimed Scottish footballing legend who has developed a reputation as a playboy and a bit of a ladies man' was more like Jimmy Hill on speed as he bombarded the audience with a barrage of footy gags and...well, even more footy gags. This was not a show to entertain the ladies unless, of course, you are Gabby

Yorath or the blonde haired goddess off Soccer AM. What a thought.

As he stood on stage religiously throwing vodka down his neck and the occasional meat pie, I found myself strangely drawn to his brand of toilet humour. Funny that. Doolally acknowledged that his performance was heavily football orientated but was adamant there were no other quality sports, backing this statement up with a hilarious A-Y of bad sports. There are no sports that begin with Z...think about it.

The audience loved him but, to be honest, if a comedy show based on football wasn't a hit in a room full of pissed geordies then it has to be absolute shite or presented by a Mackem. I had my doubts at the interval but was suitably impressed by the end as Doolally invited questions and then deflected them with ease like David Seaman in the dying minutes of a crucial qualifier at Wembley. A decent night's entertainment without the need for extra time or penalties. ThankGod.

MARK SOWERBY



LEEK-POWER!

Pick a BAAA-r that's new as Stereo-chronics roll up and whine

STEREOPHONICS @ NEWCASTLE ARENA: SUNDAY
The Stereophonics have spent the last couple of years quietly making shit-loads of money.

Never a band to inspire tabloid frenzy or to rock n' roll with it, you suspect Kelly Jones et al prefer beans on toast to cocaine on cornflakes.

But word gets around - at the dawn of a new millenium, the Welsh rockers have been touring like maniacs, selling out arenas all over Europe, co-headlining a host of summer festivals, performing twice at Wembley Stadium and entertaining 50,000 taffs at this year's Morfa Stadium homecoming.

So how can three of the most terribly ordinary, bland-looking blokes since Let Loose have caused such an almighty rumpus? Presumably they're letting their music do the talking, right?

If only.

You see, the 'phonics are lottery winners, a half-decent but essentially unoriginal set of corporate also-rans larging it while the big players take a backseat.

Imagine a mid-nineties universe minus the likes of 'Parklife' and five dream weavers named 'Oasis' - it's just possible that York horrors Shed Seven may have come and conquered in such circumstances (unrealistic, granted, but you take my point).

Today things aren't quite that bad, but Oasis remain down the Met, Blur aren't really anywhere and Radiohead are busy saving Tibet - so happy bunnies the Stereophonics and Travis are left to fill the void before it swallows the British rock industry whole.

The 'phonics phenomena first kicked off with debut album 'Word Gets Around' (1997), a cliché-ridden and so eminently infectious offering.

The depiction of small-town experiences within songs such as 'Too Many Sandwiches', 'A Thousand Trees' and 'Local Boy in a Photograph' bordered on the unique, with lyricist / frontman Kelly taking the personal experiences of his village upbringing and breathing dragon fire into them.

Pity about the music, then.

Unimaginative to a hilt, the valley boys' produced the perfect soundtrack for the bedroom activities of the readers of metal bible 'Kerrang', with raw vocals, grinding riffs, simplistic pop metal song structures and a pedestrian rhythm section all thrown into the mix.

After an extensive period of touring, the 'phonics returned with their huge follow-up 'Performance and Cocktails' in March, miraculously achieving the feat of dumbing down their arrangements yet further.

Listening to the record, it feels designed, note by note, to conquer MTV-generation America - and any remaining doubts as to the band's fiscal intentions surely evaporated in their decision to support Aerosmith (alongside Lenny Kravitz) at the Toxic Twin Towers Ball this summer.

Hell yeah!

MIKE SEATON
MUSIC EDITOR

PREVIEWS

CREAM TEAM

CREAM @ THE UNION: THURSDAY

Despite what you might have read, not everything in dancelife is guaranteed to kick ass - but Brit superclub Cream is a welcome exception.

Recently celebrating its seventh birthday, the scouse boys and girls behind the scenes constantly provide what for many is the best clubbing experience in the country.

But the Cream experience is by no means limited to its Liverpool home.

Attracting the best DJs from the UK and beyond, Cream consistently cuts the mustard in the hard-fought battleground of Ibiza, and has exported its very own house, trance and big beat sounds to Cyprus, Australia and the USA.

But now they're coming to the union.

So cross off any prior engagements, nights at Legends or games of Scrabble with the girl in the flat below - for Thursday at the Bassment is a must-see event.

DJs on the night will be residents Seb Fontaine and Paul Bleasdale.

Fontaine follows in the hallowed shoes of a certain Mr. Paul Oakenfold as THE big-name Cream resident.

And he's filled those size ten's quite nicely, thank you very much, recently coming sixth in Mixmag's 'DJ of the Year Awards' and third in its 'Best Resident' chart.

Bleasdale has an equally loyal following in the northwest, and - although lesser known nationally - rocks with the best of them.

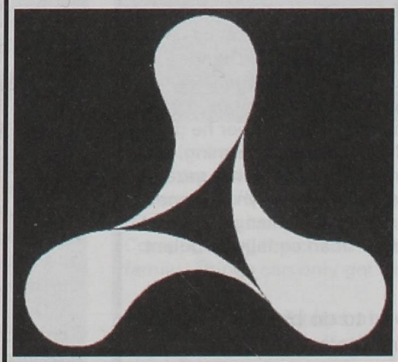
It was he who pioneered Cream's assault on Ayia Napa this summer, attempting determinedly to break through the eminent garage scene.

The toon trip follows on from the club's visit to Loughborough on November 18th, where Boy George provided some much needed entertainment for the fun-starved residents of the sleepy Leicestershire town.

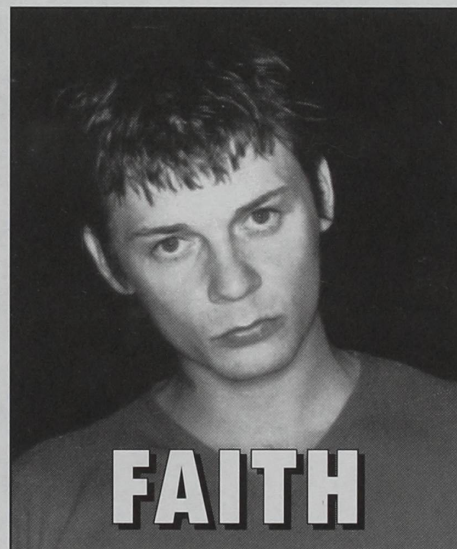
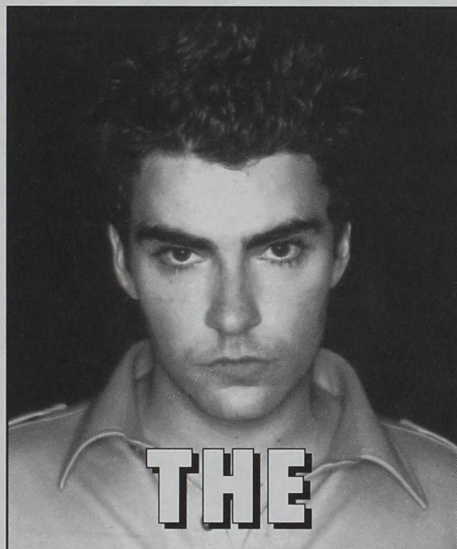
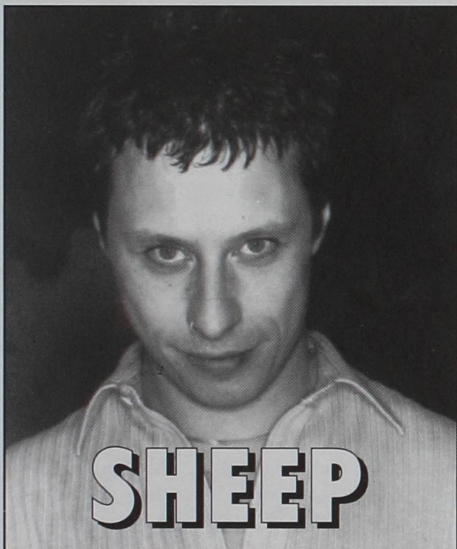
So stop simply listening to those CD's and dancing in your room - it's neither big nor clever.

Instead, get yourself down to the union, and witness the culmination of the sensational series of this term's dance promotions.

DAVE HARE



**More sheep
thrills - page 13**



LISTINGS: CLUB/GIGS

Wednesday 1st December:

Steps @ Arena- £17.50
Decades of Dance @ Ikon- £2.50
Footloose (80s Night) @ Poly- £2
80s Night @ Julies- £2
Rest my Soul @ Legends- £1/£2
Britannia (60s/Britpop) @ Planet Earth- Free with Flyer

Thursday 2nd:

Cream Feat. Seb Fontaine/Paul Bleasdale @ Union- £8
Steps @ Arena- £17.50
Club Classics @ Legends- £3/£4
Steppaz (Drum and Bass) @ Rockshots- £5
TFI Thursday @ Planet Earth- £2

Friday 3rd:

Positive @ Union- £1 Adv/ £2 Door
Lacuna (House) @ Legends- £6
Shaft (70s Night) @ The Poly- £2
Bulletproof (Indie) @ Rockshots- £5

Saturday 4th:

Giant Bass Staxx @ Union- £3
Nice @ Rockshots- £7/£8
New World @ Planet Earth- £4/£2 Flyer

Sunday 5th:

Stereophonics @ Arena- £17.50
Vodka Bar @ Planet Earth
Northern Soul @ Head of Steam
The Sunday Papers (Jazz and Dub) @ Egypt Cottage- Free

Monday 6th

Resonate @ Rockshots- £3
House Nation @ Pacha- £1
Groove Machine @ Poly- Free
Club Tropicana @ Planet Earth- £3/ £2.50 NUS
Student Night @ Julies- £1/£3
Student Paradise @ The Boat- £3/£1 NUS

Tuesday 7th

Flava (Soul/Acid Jazz) @ Huxters- Free
Lets go Disco! @ Legends- £2
Ladies Night @ Julies

BEST OF THE REST...WITH GAZ NEWHALL

THERAPY? INTERVIEW PART 2

Next week beardy pop stars Therapy? will be visiting our union to unleash their peculiar brand of indie-rock on the people of Newcastle.

In celebration of this fact, your trusty Courier brings you the second part of our exclusive interview with bassist Michael McKeegan.

Although perhaps most (in)famous for singer Andy Cairns' comedy facial growth, Therapy? are determined to show that they're not just a metal band for indie kids:

"I don't see any difference, I like listening to Mudhoney, Simon and Garfunkel and Chris De Burgh" [he must be joking kids].

"Anyway, I quite like being in Kerrang and Metal Hammer because I don't think we look like the archetypal rock band, or sound like one"

Well, the beards sort of give the game away, Michael.

Therapy? also seem to be on the warpath against the 'baggy shorts brigade', those pale malnourished kids that have a strange fondness for wearing black.

"Nowadays, it seems like 400 white kids with baseball hats, baggy shorts and wallet chains going mental to a band that looks exactly the same... Its all getting a bit 80s, huge stage sets and everything"

Mr. Manson watch your back- Therapy? are after you and they're angry. Bearing this in

mind, what can we expect from Therapy?'s toon show. I've heard several songs on the new album were recorded completely naked- will this aspect find its way to the gig?

"We did it once in France, the audience were really into it. There was some photographer almost breaking his neck to get to the front of the stage to get a picture of our, should I say, worse-for-wear penises. I don't think the Newcastle weather will do us any favours, though"

And if they do, I hope someone phones the police and gets them incarcerated for good.

Therapy?- a case of hair today, gone tomorrow? Get down to the union on the 15th of December and see for yourself. Just Don't take them back to your halls. Their new album "Suicide pact-You first" is out now on Ark 21 Records.

INTERVIEW BY ROBIN FOXON



What the world is waiting for...



Giant Bass Staxx

PREVIEW

Newcastle University Student Union
Saturday 4th December

An upcoming night at the Union, Eclectic in association with Big Daddy's Turbo Beatbox presents Giant Bass Staxx.

Featuring Eclectic DJ's Andi Fenner and Simon Bonnin, this night of big beat berserking - last held on November 6th - is, through word of mouth and a pictorial ad campaign, becoming as popular as the Eclectic night itself, where both DJ's regularly warm up the now guaranteed good vibe.

Unsurprising, since Andi is a regular DJ with Nice/Stuntnuts @ Rockshots and Simon frequently spins at the Positive night @ the Global on Fridays. Starting at 10pm, following the National Student Music Awards, this is quite possibly the best option for your Saturday night.

STEPHEN ELLIS

LIVE IAN BROWN @ POLY

The omens weren't good.

Ian Brown is as infamous as he is loved - notoriously bad at singing live, out of swaggering-rock-prophet practice following a stint at Strangeways and with no gig-to-gig experience since his legendary Stone Roses' final tour ended in the tuneless farce of Reading '96.

But for all his faults - and in part because of them - Brown remains one of the few genuine stars in British music today.

His life reads like fiction: beginning the decade at the creative heart of arguably its most influential group, the affectionally-named King Monkey seemed destined to amble into the new millennium dethroned, defrocked and at an all-time low. Forgotten by history...

The venue was by no means sold out, but this seemed fitting.

Everywhere stood the dwindling core of Roses veterans and Brown-diehards, quietly willing him on, yet ready to accept disappointment with arms outstretched.

Support act and skunk rocksters Regular Fries didn't bode well, resembling a satirical send-up of the Roses' fellow baggy-era Happy Mondays.

It seemed likely that ginger jester Chris Evans might appear on stage at any minute, congratulating the pie-eating lager lout in the dirty mac on his Fat Bez Lookalike impersonation.

Was this some sick joke? A light-hearted dig at the loyal twenty-something gathering, replete in faded flares and beanies?

No matter - then came Brown.

Truly inspirational.

To burst onstage in an ill-fitting, Ron Manager Manchester

United coat would leave lesser men open to ridicule and - at a toon gig - to a fair amount of abuse.

But aside from the attentions of one chump's single, well-aimed Adidas sneaker (to which our hero responded with the obligatory wanker sign), crowd and artist stood as one, the audience willing victims of Brown's spellbinding star quality.

He hardly moved, striking the same arched pose from start to finish.

Yet his subjects were hysterical, fighting for a stare, a personal acknowledgement of their existence at the gig.

What's more, the voice was awesome.

Always a soothing authority on record, Brown finally banished the ghost of Reading with a controlled vocal performance, belting out the ecstasy-drenched recent single 'Love Like a Fountain', then whispering a perversely excellent version of Michael Jackson's 'Billie Jean'.

With all eyes on HRH Monkey, his band were anonymous personalities yet vitally superb musicians. Brown was clearly stoned, yet the occasional missed cue never mattered, such was the seamlessness of their actions.

Ex-Fall drummer Simon Wostencroft's clean authority should be well noted - a welcome respite to his employer's cool-as-fuck delayed delivery.

Gleaming with a new-found creative zeal, and proudly displaying the dance-rock crossover that the Stone Roses once promised but never delivered, it seems that the time spent 'inside' has done the man unimaginable good.

The 'born wina' is ready to lead again - Roses fans should cast aside the corpse of retro guitar sounds and nail their colours to the next decade, finally forgetting the disappointments of the last.

Jazz...Ummm...Nice

...AND IT'S ALL IN THE NAME OF SHOW-JIZZ!!!

LIVE EQUAL INTEREST @ LIVE THEATRE

Jazz was the name, but jazz wasn't the game.

Three musicians spanning three generations took to the stage at Live Theatre last Wednesday to present the most pretentious performance the toon has ever seen. Your money was well saved.

More contemporary classical than modern Jazz, this was raw avant-gardewank at it's worst. That Jazz guy off 'The Fast Show' would have had a field day doing his 'Jazz ...ummm... Nice!'

The American trio spent the first half in a world of their own; dramatic pauses, strange improvisation techniques, a total lack of interaction and a bizarre tendency to swing like human pendulums. All it lacked was some kind of naked tribal dancing to really finish it off.

Jazz is all about having fun. They took it all so seriously that

we didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Occasionally a glimpse of harmony was found, as they tackled an energizing repertoire of jazz, blues, classical and folk. I'd surge forward in my seat, naively thinking they'd struck gold before they returned to the tired inaccessible music they thrived on.

Admittedly the second half picked up, as they were joined by a British-led sextet. The Britannia boys didn't let us down, playing some wild solos. However they eventually succumbed to the powers of these weird Americans. They began to use wind charms forced upon them, and hesitantly took part in the climax as all instruments fought for presence, playing as loud as they could, to create a monstrous sound.

Without the free burger and chips provided at the Jazz Cafe this was a truly unrewarding experience. Newcastle suffers from a lack of jazz, and the likes of this, doesn't help its case!

JAKE LEE
JAZZ CORRESPONDENT



GEE JIZZ: Myra Melford yanks the Joanna

TRENDY WENDY: Christmas Cacker

The Yuletide countdown has begun and the stars are already staking their claim for music's greatest prize - the Christmas Number One.

Who will follow in the illustrious shoes of Orville, Mr. Blobby and The Teletubbies?

In the running stand scrawny Male Spice (AKA Mel C) with a heart-rending ballad, the usual shite from Boyzone, dodgy disco from Steps and Robbie's very own David Essex number - 'She's the One'.

But where's the novelty single?

No glove puppet covering 'Agadoo'?

What's CBBC's Otis

doing?

Surely the time is ripe for a Smurfs comeback?

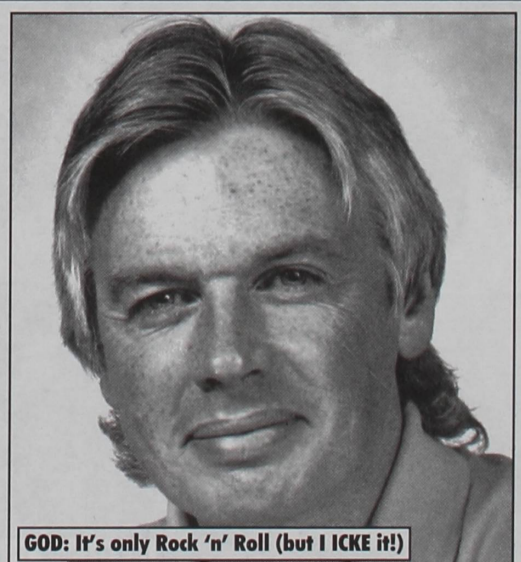
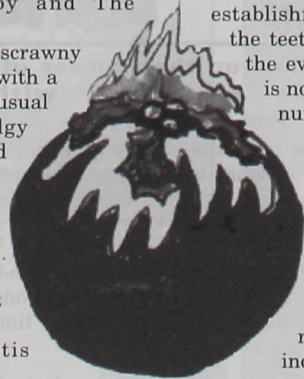
Fear not, for God has entered into the running, via his musical manifestation on earth - Sir Cliff Richard.

Ridiculed by the musical establishment, mocked by Radio One, the teetotal fifty year-old virgin with the ever-immaculate white brogues is now set for his 100th Christmas number one.

How can anyone resist the Lord's Prayer sung to the tune of 'Auld Langs Ayne'?

It's the musical masterpiece currently rocking congregations nationwide.

Buy this - or leave your record collection forever incomplete.



GOD: It's only Rock 'n' Roll (but I ICKE it!)

REVIEWS ALBUMS...

TASH:

RAP LIFE (LOUD)



This Sony hopeful's debut is misogynistic, abrasive and nauseatingly self-righteous gangsta-crap - and ultimately a bit dull.

The influence of labelmates Wu Tang Clan is strongly imprinted upon the sound, and the roster of guest stars is certainly impressive.

But it's not enough to lift 'Rap Life' above the mindnumbingly mediocre.

STEPHEN ELLIS

LEN:

YOU CAN'T STOP THE BUM RUSH (COLUMBIA)



Len consciously move from genre to genre, taking in hip hop grooves, chilled-out rock and electro-disco along the way.

But these guys should buy a decent rhyming dictionary, or else forever remain in the Dog Eat Dog division of lyrical prowess.

The production might be glossy, but the band should let it ride.

STEPHEN ELLIS

FUN LOVIN' CRIMINALS:

MIMOSA (EMI)



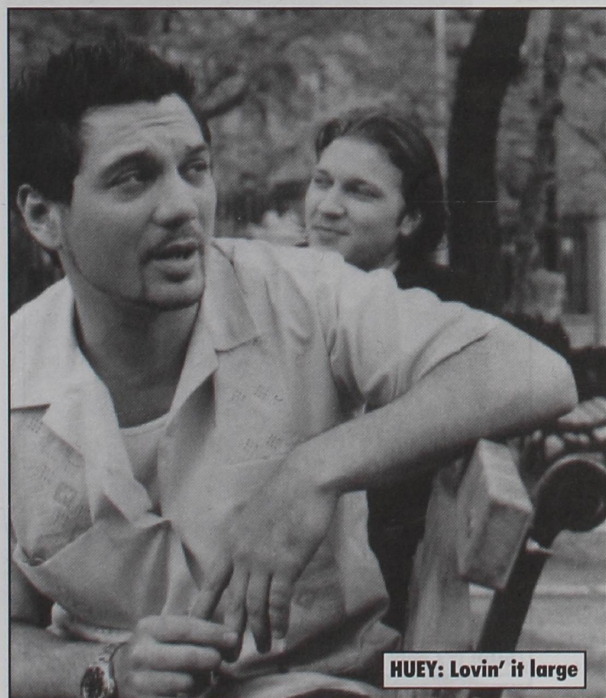
"Everything's cool and everything's schmoove... hey that's schmoove" sang the Fun Lovers on that musical chocolate milkshake, Scooby Snacks.

The band love mellowin' out- Huey has been caned pretty much consistently for the last 18 months.

Hence this album; rare off-takes, re-recordings and herbal covers drenched in a morphine madness groove, whispering lyrics of the old crooners, Nat, Frank and er... 10 CC.

It's not their best stuff, and hardly worth the full price. But see it as a cheapie, get it and bliss out. "Barry White saved my life..." - all riiiiiiight.

TOM FENWICK



HUEY: Lovin' it large

PIE-LIGHT OF THE WEEK



THE DUST BROTHERS:

THIS IS YOUR LIFE (BOILER HOUSE/RESTLESS)



Taken from the 'Fight Club' soundtrack, this overlays the dogmatic speech of Tyler Durden (one Brad Pitt) onto rumbling basslines and the Spector-esque majestic of a '90s Morricone - and that's just the glorious A-side.

As Pitt's character bellows: "It doesn't get any better than this."

STEPHEN ELLIS

LIGHTNING SEEDS:

TILT



A hairy back. A tendency for not using toilet paper. An uncle who married your sister. We all have guilty secrets - and the Seeds are mine.

I like 'em because I feel I shouldn't - they are cheesy sugar coated pop-lite, they are friends with Alison Moyet. They're scousers for crying out loud.

So it's no wonder that in this album they've nicked all their tunes. Sorry - I mean sampled.

It's all just too artificial, and whereas 'Jollification' was all good times, strawberry-jam music. 'Sweet Soul Music' will rule the radio.

This is Fleetwood Mac redigested by M People. Good, bad, but mostly ugly.

TOM FENWICK

SINGLES...

LONGPIGS:

THE FRANK SONATA



The Longpigs follow up the success of their comeback single 'Blue Skies' with the wonderfully titled 'Frank Sonata'.

The second release from the simply stunning 'Mobile Homes' LP is typical of what we've come to expect from Sheffield's finest. It's a dark, awkward affair, complete with spiky Suede-style guitar riffs and Crispin Hunt's soaring bitter-sweet vocals.

It's a bold choice for a single, certainly not a radio-friendly pop anthem. But what more can you expect from one of the most ambitious and intelligent guitar bands of our time?

TOM HORDER

REMY ZERO

PROPHECY



American five-piece Remy Zero first came to our attention supporting Travis on their sell out U.K. tour.

They've been much hyped recently by the likes of Michael Stipe and Courtney Love, and new single 'Prophecy' is taken from their 1996 eponymous debut album, never released over here. It's a typical slice of lo-fi American post-grunge rock - minimalist, dull and wholly uninspiring.

Considering the cult following they have found themselves in America, we can only hope for better things to come. Don't believe the hype.

TOM HORDER

HEAVYWEIGHT

CHAMPION:

A MILE TO YOUR FIRST (HURRAH)



Sounding oddly like Nick Cave wading through the seedy underbellow of a Lou Reed soundscape, 'A Mile To Your First' is unpleasant but straight-ahead indie.

Telling the tale of singer Gary's night of passion in an illegal Soho den with a cross-dressing builder, you'd expect much - but it's just not as sordid as it should feel.

STEPHEN ELLIS



WEIGHT FOR IT: Fat's the way we like Tom and Cerys

TOM JONES AND CERYS

MATTHEWS:

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE (GUT RECORDS)



Imagine the scenario... Your most embarrassing auntie and uncle pissed up and singing woeful songs at a really shitty family gathering.

This is the sound of Tom Jones and Cerys Matthews. When will people get over the idea that Tom Jones is some cool icon? Once and for all he's not.

He's greasy, he's sweaty and he sings like my uncle after a few pints of mild. Utter shite.

GAZ NEWHALL

PIE CHART

The baddest...BOO-YAKA

One Love To My Crew...

Big Up to the Homeboy

Notorious, Street

Phattest, Massive

Nuff Respect

RATINGS

LET IT BLOW!

We check out Santa's big sack for the ADULT toys which could find their way into your stockings this XXX-mas

WHY was Christmas so much better when we were kids?

Was it because of Santa? Or the school nativity? No, it was TOYS: dolls, all kinds of battery operated goodies, and so on...

But what about now we're 'adults'?

Well, as The Courier found out, where we left behind kiddies' toys we can pick up ADULT dolls and battery operated goodies.

We convinced six helpers to overcome their ELF-consciousness and let some XXX-mas gifts stray into their own, private LAP-lands.

For our three lads - Dancer, Prancer and RUDE-olph - stuffing animals was certainly

on the menu, with an inflatable pig and sheep as well as Latex Lucy the kinky doll.

Meanwhile our Crimbo lasses - Carol, Holly and Ivy - set to work testing those great stocking-fillers: VIBRATORS.

The six sexperts found the festive season is certainly a time for good FILL to all men AND women.

And today you get our Christmas CRACK-er as we give you the full blow-by-blow account of the packages YULE love to find under your bush this XXX-mas.

Only problem is, we wouldn't recommend Santa COMES down your chimney to drop off this intimate load.

BARGAIN BUST-ER

'Aspen Love Doll'

Verdict: Pretty basic, so leaves a lot to the imagination. But our reviewer said "At least she didn't get a stroop on 'cos I didn't spend about 2 hours on foreplay. And she didn't moan on about the wet patch all night." Good value at less than £20.

SQUIRTING SQUEALER

'Milk Maid Fantasy Love Doll'

Verdict: This one boasts: Jumbo squirting breasts, vibrating vagina - and much more you're probably better off not knowing.

But you'll need to thrust deep... into your pockets, that is. She'll set you back \$150.

BIG WAD BLOWER

'Latex Lover - Realistic sex doll'

Verdict: 'An incredibly Realistic Doll - Soft Realistic Skin, Luxurious Blonde Hair, Painted Finger and Toe Nails...'

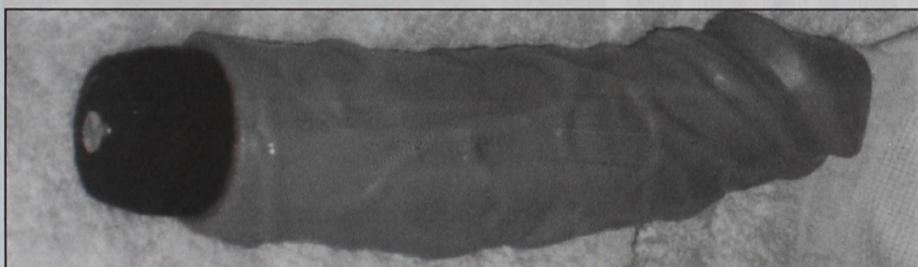
You'll have to have a big wad to blow before you get to grips with this one though - she costs a whopping \$366.



DOLLY GOOD...Prancer comes to conclusion in Latex Lucy



SHEEP AND CHEERFUL...She's not baaaaad



VERY CHEAP THRILLS

'Promise'

Verdict: It's pink and glittery so lots of appeal for girly girls. User-friendly and simple to work - great for first timers and technophobes as you just flick the switch and get going. Cheaper than a night on the toon, and satisfaction is guaranteed at just £11.99.

USE THE MIDDLE MAN

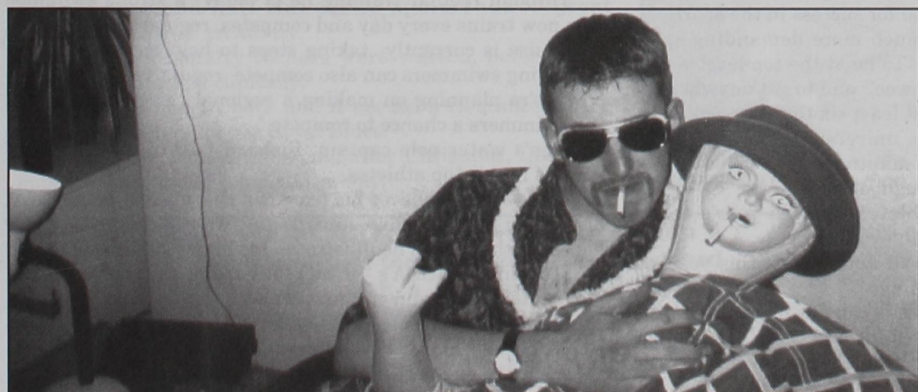
'Purple Pulsar'

Verdict: "This is amazing" raved our reviewer, "very practical". Waterproof for use in the bathroom, multi speed for complete orgasmic control and it boasts realistic veins. This one is definitely an impressive alternative to relying on your shower head. It's a v. good £13.99!

ONE OF THE BIG BOYS

'Heaven'

Verdict: This one will quickly become your new best friend. At the base is the clitoral stimulator, and inside it are little pearls that rotate while the whole thing vibrates - an altogether different sensation. Demand that Santa puts it in your stocking. Twenty quid.



FAGS FOR THE MEMORIES...Prancer enjoys a post-coital ciggy with Latex Lucy after the steamy sesh

WHERE SANTA GETS HIS...

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- Sven Adult Books, Scotswood Road
- Magic Box, Percy Street (and other joke shops)

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GAME, SET AND MATCH!

Tennis stars clinch title with five-star performance

By CHRIS HURST
SPORTS EDITOR

LYNSEY Davison helped Newcastle's women's tennis team to the North East Merit One Division title with a crushing 5-1 defeat of Leeds Metropolitan University and then called for fellow elite athlete, Lindsay Rawling, to play in all the team's Cup matches after Christmas.

Rawling is one of the most talented athletes at the university. Her excellence at both hockey and tennis, along with the fact she has strong academic demands put on her by her medicine degree, has limited her to just two appearances for the women's tennis team so far this season.

But Davison believes it is imperative that Rawling is part of the starting line-up if they are to be able to compete with teams such as Loughborough who include former British number one, Lizzie Jelfs, who once boasted an impressive world ranking of 205, amongst their ranks.

"It is very important to have Lindsay when we are in the Cup," said Davison.

Vital

"I think if we hadn't had her for any of the league games, we could still have got away with winning the league as she only played a couple of matches, but it's vital we have her in the Cup.

"Obviously in singles you can't just have anybody. It's an individual thing and obviously the competition is going to be a lot harder in the Cup so we are going to need her."

Whilst Rawling won her singles 6-0 6-0 before having to rush off from the Sunderland tennis centre to fulfil other commitments, Davison was outstanding in her 6-0 6-0 win over Anna Gorringe.

Having overcome the initial problems of losing the first point of the match on a double-fault and then being disturbed by the ringing of her opponent's mobile phone when preparing to serve, Davison never looked like dropping a game in the opening set.

Gorringe struggled to come to terms with a remodelled Davison serve, returning the ball back into play on only four occasions in the first three service games from Newcastle's number one.

Two double faults from Davison in the opening game of the second set threatened to let Gorringe back into the match, but two unforced errors from the racket of the Leeds player quickly restored normality.

Last year Davison sometimes could have been accused of sitting back and waiting for her opponent to make a mistake.

But in this encounter she was often looking to force the pace and showed excellent aggression when she completed two smashes to set up a 5-0 lead.

Fizzing

A fizzing forehand and a beautifully played volley, combined with yet more unforced errors from the hapless Gorringe in the final game of the match, sealed victory for Davison in just 38 minutes.

Davison, who had lost her last BUSA encounter two weeks previously in a match against Leeds, was just happy to get back on the winning track.

"It is nice to win and I'm glad I won love and love as well, so that loss is behind me now," confessed Davison.

Sophie Wright swept through her first set 6-0, lost her second set 6-4 before finally completing victory 6-1 in the final set, whilst Sally Knight put up another solid performance as she fought off Leeds Metropolitan number four player, 6-1 6-1.

Davison and Wright then combined in the doubles to beat Gorringe and Leonard 6-2 6-4, whilst Knight and Katie Pickles went down 6-4 7-6 in another dead rubber.

Focus

Much focus will go towards the BUSA individual championships in Bath which take place in the last week of term.

Eight of Newcastle's players are expected to travel down to the West Country for the annual championships. However for Davison, who will be hoping for a strong performance to press her claims for a place in the British BUSA team, preparations will be far from ideal.

Davison said: "My knee is injured at the minute and I'm not going to play next week. I'm going to practise the week before the tournament and hopefully I will be all right. I hope I do well."

The men's team won their match against Leeds Met with a walkover, leaving the team to wait and see which competition they will be in after Christmas.



DESTRUCTIVE DAVISON...Lysney leads women's team to BUSA win

Swimmer takes it all

WATER SPORTS HOPE HARD WORK GETS RESULTS

By MICHAEL WALSH

THE universities swimming and water polo club may not only one of the best known teams in the university, but is definitely one of the hardest working.

Women's swimming captain Louise Roberts believes extreme commitment is essential for success in the sport:

"Generally swimming is a much more demanding sport than other sports" said Roberts. "To be at the top level you've got to be training eleven times a week and to get anywhere at all you're going to have to train at least six times a week."

The dedication of many of the universities swimmers who are willing to give this level of commitment, has helped make them, "the best team north of Loughborough."

With a record five elite athletes in this year's team, prospects are better this year than ever before.

"Last year we got ninth overall and I think this year we can definitely get sixth or something."

"Every one of the elite athletes is capable of getting in the top three at the BUSA championships and there are another four or five who stand a really good chance of making the finals."

The ambitions of the elite athlete swimmers do not end at the BUSA championships.

Speaking of Mike Downs, Louise says: "If he carries on the way he's going he's going to be aiming for the Olympics."

All the elite athletes, including Louise herself, are currently preparing for the forthcoming British Nationals at which they are expected to feature strongly.

So far this year, the squad has finished fourth at a friendly meeting in Durham and second at the BUSA league division one meeting in Birmingham.

But the squad is not only about those who compete at the highest level.

One of the squad members, Andy Smith, joined the team as a fresher who could not swim.

Through regular training he is today a strong swimmer who now trains every day and competes regularly.

Louise is currently taking steps to help ensure that the improving swimmers can also compete regularly.

"We're planning on making a regional league to give all the swimmers a chance to compete."

Men's water polo captain, Richard Larkin, is hopeful of success for his top athletes.

This year he believes his team can chase a ball better than any other team in the country, and when asked about his hopes for the season he illustrated his high ambitions.

"To win the BUSA's - if we really train then we've got the players to do that and of course we want to beat Durham."

Women's team captain Juliette Croone accepts that BUSA victory may be beyond her team this year.

However, she is still pleased with the improvements being made by one of the universities youngest teams.

"We've got potential. This time last year we played Durham and we lost 32 - 2 and we played them two weeks ago and lost 8-3, so that shows improvement."

If both the swimmers and the water polo players can fulfil their potential this year, the results for the squad could be their best in its history.

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Late try for Blues keeps run going

Nottingham 20
Newcastle 22

THE men's rugby team's changing fortunes were illustrated again last Wednesday, when they defeated Nottingham in a dramatic injury-time victory.

Newcastle, who themselves have been on the receiving end of two late defeats this season, were grateful for a dramatic try from Guy Beaumont and a brilliant touch-line conversion from Tom May to hand them victory.

Nottingham, needing victory to keep them in the Premier Division, got off to a brilliant start against a sluggish Newcastle team.

Two tries handed Nottingham a 12-0 lead with some brilliant forward play.

Facing a side who was full of confidence, it was vital the visitors got themselves back into the match. A try from Tom May did just that.

Newcastle only really started playing some of their best rugby in the last twenty minutes of the match.

Tim Southall, playing fly-half for the injured Sam Hanks, brought the Uni back into the match before Guy Beaumont's 60 yard try in injury-time brought the scores level.

To the dismay of his team-mates, instead of placing the ball under the posts, Beaumont put the down near the corner. This left May with a testing touch-line kick to win the match and to the dismay of the heart-broken home side it passed through the posts.

First-team captain, Paddy Seymour, who missed the match through injury was far from happy about the



GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME...Uni rugby side grab dramatic win

performance.

"We didn't play well. We struggled up front a bit and didn't get the ball out to the backs" said Seymour.

However, with three wins on the trot, Seymour is positive about his side's chances in the Cup.

"We've got to be confident as we can take anybody on. Loughborough won the group but we could have beaten them."

Newcastle's excellent form should set up a fascinating clash against the Poly at Kingston Park next Wednesday.

UNI SLIP IN TIGHT GAME

NEWCASTLE'S netballers were unfortunate to slump to a 33-29 defeat against Leeds Metropolitan University.

The home team took a 16-14 lead, with consistent centre-court play from Rachel Jones and Natalie Steiner helping the attacking partnership off Ali Brown and Sara Hopley overcome a strong Leeds defence.

Vital interceptions from the whole team, notably in defence, combined with some high quality shooting from substitute Naomi Harrison extended Newcastle's lead against a side that was getting stronger all the time.

The fresh legs of Jo Petrie at centre for the last quarter were not enough to fight off the Yorkshire outfit, as a tired looking home side made some unforced errors.

The visitors moved into the lead for the first time in the match, where they remained until the final whistle.

Newcastle's second team couldn't maintain their winning form of last week, when they slipped to a 30-28 defeat against Leeds Met's second team.

Although temporarily outclassed by the visiting side, the half time score of 18-14 to Leeds was a poor reflection of the effort exhibited by the Newcastle squad.

The third quarter saw Kate Mulvana in top form at goal attack and in combination with Alison Glass, helped bring the score back to 23-22.

Despite their valiant effort, the Uni's late comeback was ultimately beaten by the clock.

WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT!

KATE WOOD'S women's volleyball team sealed the league title in the North East Merit Two Division after a 25-29, 25-18, 23-25 win over Hull.

The match was only played over three sets due to problems with travel arrangements, but it has been confirmed that this match will be classified as a competitive match.

Kate Wood has been delighted with her side's campaign.

"We've done very well. We've won all our matches and played some very good volleyball as well," said Wood.

"We're really pleased. The whole club's done really well. Compared to last year when we had a few problems, we're doing really well and we've won all our matches so we're on a real high."

Like the men's volleyball captain, Ed Pinguey, the women's skipper was also keen to give credit to the Athletic Union for their financial investment which will hopefully provide them with success after Christmas.

"We've had a lot more funding this year. We've been able to buy new balls and the men have been able to fund a coach. We're still looking for a coach, hopefully we'll find one eventually, as at the moment we're not using the funds as well as we could."

"After Christmas we're in the knock-out rounds. Unfortunately we are losing a star player as she is only on a six month placement at the university, but even without her I hope to succeed and go right through to the final."

The men's volleyball team have also won their league, after their final match against Ripon and York was cancelled.

Having won all ten BUSA and local league matches this season, Pinguey's men most be hopeful of some silverware.



HOPEFUL... Uni men's volleyballers have great chance of success

GIRLS MERIT TITLE WIN

THE ladies hockey team completed their BUSA league campaign with a 2-1 win over Leeds Metropolitan University, which leaves them top of the table in the North East Merit One Division.

It finishes a brilliant campaign for Keri Craig's women hockey club, who have done well to finish top of the table after their disappointing opening day draw against Durham when they were lucky even to get one point.

Injury

Newcastle started the match cautiously with a number of key players missing through injury.

Leeds threatened to come away with all the points when they scored a goal on a counter-attack, but luckily for Newcastle this goal seemed to spark them into life.

After 20 minutes of pressure and a succession of missed chances, elite athlete Jenny McDonough finished superbly to peg the teams level.

Creativity

In the second-half Newcastle again showed great determination and creativity.

Numerous penalty corners were wasted, before Ruth Glodwinski finished clinically.

Leeds Met fought back and it needed a clearance off the line to seal victory for the Royal Blues.

If the team have a full squad after Christmas, this team must be confident of going all the way.

Newcastle 2
Leeds Metropolitan 1



CREATING SUCCESS...Short corner sets up 2-1 win over Leeds Met

**Uni
men
net
win**

NEWCASTLE University men's basketball team improved their record to 4-3 with a convincing 95-75 win over Leeds Metropolitan.

In the first-half, Newcastle shot to a 25 point lead with some good defence and excellent shooting from Alex Spondylidis.

In the second-half Leeds Met fought back strongly, but Luis Izquierdo's shooting meant that the visitors never looked like defeating Newcastle.

First-team basketball star, Chad Lockard, was delighted with the win.

"We started out pretty well, winning our first two games. Then we dropped three in a row, went through a slump, but now we're picking it back up with a two game winning streak going into the play-offs" said Lockard.

"We're starting to pick it up quite a bit and getting the intensity there. We're starting to play quite a bit better as a team. We've grown as a team as the year has gone on."

"We have a lot of players who come from this background. There's a few Erasmus students on the team and we are just getting use to playing with each other."

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 1999

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Leeds Met hit for six as Uni seal title

Newcastle 6
Leeds Met 2

By **MICHAEL WALSH**
CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

WITH an amazing one hundred per cent record, Newcastle's footballers were this week crowned champions of the BUSA North East Merit One League.

And they clinched the title in style with a 6-2 drubbing of their closest rivals Leeds Metropolitan.

Their fifteenth consecutive victory this season came courtesy of a Mark Batty hat-trick, as well as two goals from Baz Cryer and one from Ben Chesters.

Baz Cryer believes the teams success can be attributed to: "Team work, hard work and coach Alan Brown's leadership"

Alan Brown added: "We're strong throughout the side. We've got a strong defence and we are very fast going forward."

Satisfying

Brown also thought it was especially satisfying to clinch the championship with a performance far better than he had expected:

"I expected a good start to the season but not such a good performance today.

"Leeds are an excellent team - second in the division and unbeaten in the division yet still we've managed to win our fifteenth game on the trot."

Injury problems meant Newcastle had to field four second team members in their starting line up and move midfielder Baz Cryer up front.

Scored

The effect of this move could not have been any more instant, as within one and a half minutes Cryer had scored not once but twice.

The first goal continued the teams habit of very early goals, coming after only twenty seconds.

After the match, Cryer said he was not surprised

to be scoring so early, saying: "I knew I was going to score, the second I got on the pitch."

After such a good start Newcastle relaxed slightly, allowing the visitors to pull a goal back after twenty minutes from a short corner.

Before the break, Mark Batty took advantage of a weak Leeds defence to strike twice.

A penalty gave him his first goal and his second came when he chipped the keeper after brilliantly beating two defenders on the edge of the box.

Spectacular

In between his two strikes, Declan Toyeth kept Leeds in the game with a spectacular thirty yard strike.

Newcastle started the second half as strongly as they had finished the first, with their dominance making them good value for their 4-2 lead.

Both Batty and Chesters narrowly failed to add to the lead as the Leeds team began to fear attacking themselves, given the speed at which they knew Newcastle could counter attack.

On the hour, the move of the match ended with Batty playing through Chesters, who then finished well down to the keeper's right.

Hat-trick

Five minutes later, Batty beat his striking partner Cryer in the race to be the first to claim his hat-trick.

His looping header ended another great display from the British Universities player.

The Yorkshire side understandably lost heart, given the fact they hadn't been beaten before this season, and Newcastle were unlucky not to increase the margin of victory before the final whistle.

However, their coach is not letting the team's excellent early season form make him get to carried away with their chances for the rest of the season.

Capable

Although Brown thinks they are capable of becoming BUSA champions nationally, he knows there is a lot of hard work still to be done:

"How we do from here depends on the class of the opponents we are drawn against and the contributions of the players.

"Of course the priority is to get promotion to the BUSA Premier League."

Having already walked away with the regional league this year, his team certainly appear to be ready for it.



PICTURE: Rachel Godschalk

TOON CRYER... Two early goals from Baz helped Uni on way to stunning victory

And it's not just football...

SEE INSIDE FOR TITLE TRIUMPHS FOR:

■ TENNIS ■ VOLLEYBALL ■ HOCKEY

NEXT WEEK: Stan Calvert special